

Malta Canine Society Double Championship Show – 1st & 2nd June 2019.

Thanks to the committee for the invitation to judge at their Championship show, the hospitality and being well looked after. To the exhibitors for entering the lovely dogs and the sporting way they accepted the decisions, there were lots of close ones to be made. Starting the shows late afternoon seems to work well and there was a buzz around the rings.

I started on the first day with the Junior handling class, 5 impressive youngsters with ambitions of qualifying to represent Malta in the handling at Crufts next year. Each handled their own dog first, then changed dogs to show their skills with another and then back to their own for the decision.

Winner today was Paula Cuschieri, handling a Pointer with excellent style and balance, she then adapted easily to the WHWT who was not playing the game on the move with his own handler, then back to her own dog to continue the total handling skills and empathy she has with the dogs. Impressive performance, well done. Runner up was a skilful and confident Mariah Manicaro, with a Basenji she showed with a good balance and blend, showing her skills to the full, then the Beagle a harder proposition as he was being stubborn but she worked to get him moving and did well, then back to her own dog to finish in style.

My first Group the **Terrier Group** and this was won by a strong boned well muscled and powerful Bull Terrier, Unique Passion Casper owned by M.Cassar. He has the head, strong backend and he can move with the stride when he wants.

Reserve Best Terrier was Mallia's Veteran Staffordshire Bull Terrier, Ch. Silent Brawler Bora pleases in head and outline, she's strong in front and rear, goes well on the move. She was also Best veteran in Group

Best Puppy Terrier was the lovely Stafford of 6 months owned by H.Vella, Neterex Gates Of Heaven, with lots of promise to build on as she grows, strong balanced shape and outline good muscle and excellent coat condition.

The **Working Group** was a strong well represented and competitive group with the handsome, strong and powerful male GSD owned by E.Manicaro, Ch. Manicaro Dux coming to the top, he has a beautiful masculine, typical head and alert expression, he carries the bone, muscle tone and a balanced outline, he has a powerful stride on side gate and his handler did well to control this to take the Group. Into **Reserve** place came the exciting, impressive and square balanced Bonello's Boxer, Berwynfa's Maltese Falcon, lovely, typically strong head, good ratios and strong jaw, he has the flow through his crested neck, top line and body, could fill in loin and muscle up in rear quarters to finish the picture, won a strong open class to progress to he Group.

Working Junior Group. Impressive Workmanlike, Ambrogio's Siberian Husky, Merrick Gummy Bear, youngster with the leg and body proportions, appeals in skull, with the attractive head and ear set, he's a good mover on side and rear, good coat cover to finish the picture. **Reserve** here was a solid well muscled Boxer owned by C.Vella, Naxos Della Gens Clodia, lovely head type, balance of skull to muzzle, good powerful performance on the move.

Working Puppy Group. Winner of this group was Cardona's typical eleven month old Cardigan Corgi bitch puppy, she has the typical balance and length, lovely overall body and shape at this stage, quality development in head and ear set going well on the move with a positive action, will be interesting to see her progress.

Reserve Best Puppy Working was Galea's strong well balanced exciting GSD, Momer Vom Funken Spiel, she's lovely for type typical head and expression, she carries a good front, rear could tighten as she grows, good on the side gate with power in the stride.

Next for me was the **Hound Group**, and my winner of the Group was Hili & Rathmell's Bassett Hound, Int. Port. Ch. Apple Jack Dos Sete Moinhos, a quality four year old bitch in her prime, she has the strength balance and shape with lots of power and muscle tone, good bone firm body and good length to her make and shape, she has excellent action front and rear and is so powerful on side gait, she took the Group and the BIS first day under Mr Tom Johnson.

Reserve Best Hound was Mercieca's beautiful Whippet bitch, Ch. Chebec Georgia On My Mind, a top quality specimen of the breed with the shape and size, she has the working ability with excellent muscle tone and fitness, good front and rear action she was presented with style to show her at her best.

Hound Junior Group was won by a young Pharaoh Hound owned by D.Borg, Freund Vom Mir Cleopatra, she was pleasing in action and overall outline, going through growing stages at present so time on her side.

Hound Puppy Group, won today by the beautiful Long Haired Dachshund owned by A&L.Hili, Danadri Hurricane Golden Boot, with good balance and length, has the overall promise and goes well on the move, carrying an excellent coats of good quality, has the muscle tone and firmness through top line and rear quarters, Went round the ring with a positive attitude.

A/V locally Bred, was won by Ellul Debono's Boxer, Cilemm Man In Black (2nd in the strong Open dog class with ten present) He has the Power, muscle tone and strength, good head type, muzzle and jaw, good neck, going well on the move his balanced and powerful stride, great honest working dog.

Best Veteran today was Mallia's Staffordshire Bull Terrier, Ch.Silent Brawler Bora who was also 2nd in the Group.

Day 2, I started with the **Toy Group**, a pleasing line up to decide from, My Winner was the exciting cobby Pug owned by K&C. Galea, Deandra Maltese Joe, a junior dog with good character and attitude, lovely head type with the width of skull, good body build and moved with purpose, enjoying himself and putting in a great performance.

Reserve Best Toy was Tabone's well presented Yorkshire Terrier, Ivanka Iz Dom Grimaldi, in gleaming silky coat with the typical head and neck, firm and muscled body, lovely action on the move, pushed hard for the decision here.

Next was the **Junior Toy Group** and taking top places again the Pug and the Yorkshire Terrier, same winners of the Toy Group. The Puppy Toy Group Went to Micallef's beautiful Papillon, Sweet Candy, good shape and style with the typical head and ear, lovely shape and moving easily with the handler. **Reserve Best Junior Toy** was Zammit's Cavalier King Charles Spaniel, Nala, liked the head and expression, body development so far and was moving with a good stride around the ring.

The Utility Group, Won by a stunning top quality Junior Keeshond owned by V.Gatt, Samkees Gold Digga, beautiful outline and balance, superb coat, typical wedge head with the eye and Specs, she's compact with the body and chest development Handled with style to take the Group, the Junior Group and Reserve Best In Show. **Reserve in the Utility group** was Azzopardi's Standard Poodle, Nord Forest Mustang, upstanding elegant with the balance and shape, lovely head, strong neck, body with the chest and rib, she moved to cover the ground with ease.

Junior Group Winner was the Keeshond, Samkees Gold Digga. **Reserve** went to Schembri's Akita, Ray Of Sunrise On Pearl River, Large sized boy, sturdy with much substance and good bone, good head with muzzle strength, has the development in body and goes with a good action.

Utility Puppy Group was won by Ciappara's impressive square shaped well presented Miniature Schnauzer, Spirited Away Nero Shakotan For Taxiro, good body and build in frame, typical head, neck and sloping top line, goes with the required drive.

Reserve was Formosa's American Akita, Hericate Take My Limits, with the development in head, neck, body, chest and rib, muscle tone coming through and has the power in the stride with the moderate reach and drive required.

The Last of the Groups was The **Gundogs**, a well filled Group with lots of promising youngsters, the winner was Cuschieri's Gordon Setter, Sh.Ch.Rom Ch. Ontario Black Lofty, stylish and balanced in confirmation with long and deep muzzle, arched neck, deep brisket and well ribbed back, steady true and free moving with plenty of drive.

Reserve Best Gundog was Chetcuti's American Cocker Spaniel, Barkun King Of Diamonds Max, with a compact sturdy body, lovely head type, good balance to head and skull, lovely flow through neck and top line, good over the backend and tail set, goes well on the move with a stride to cover the ground. Also the winner of the junior group. **Reserve Best Gundog Junior** was topped by Loughborough's Labrador retriever, Loughlab AJ Maverich, strong and sturdy this young dog has bone substance and a lovely top line, good quarters and rear back end, shown in good coat with an excellent action, close in the decision.

Winner of the **Gundog Puppy Group** was Cuschieri's stunning Spanish Water Dog, San Fernando Di Isca Augusta, of lovely size and shape, strong in body and bone, good rear quarters, lovely water proof coat, has the angles and was positive with a good action front and rear, with the drive on the move. He looked stunning with his performance in the **Best Puppy in Show** to take the Top Award this evening. **Reserve Best Puppy in Show** the lovely Miniature Schnauzer, Best Junior went to the beautiful Keeshond, Samkees Gold Digga, with the Pug pushing all the way, to take Reserve Best Junior In Show.

Best in Show gave me a pleasing line up, The Pug, Keeshond, Gordon Setter, Bassett Hound, Bull Terrier and Alaskan Malamute. After going over them and checking the Movement I felt the superb, strong, typical Bassett Hound Bitch, Int. Port. Ch. Apple Jack Dos Sete Moinhos, put in an outstanding performance to take the Best In Show award for the second evening, thoroughly deserved and worker for by the handler, Congratulations.

Reserve Best in Show the excellent Keeshond Junior, Samkees Gold Digga, should have a great future.

Jeff Luscott – Judge.