

Northern California Bearded Collie Fanciers
Regional Specialty

Friday April 20th, 2007

Judge's Critique

DOGS

6-9 Month Puppy Dog

I had two delightful puppies to choose from. Both were quite different in type and personality. **Harvest Highland Hocus Pocus** was a very "typey" Beardie puppy. A little reticent at first but very quickly got over it. I liked his balance of head to body and he presented a very correctly angulated front. My first place in this class, **Brigadoon Showstopper C. Scott**, made quite an impression on me. I found him to be very well balanced in front and rear angulation as well as within himself, head to body. For such a young dog he quickly developed self-confidence in the ring and demonstrated his correct structure with his coming, going and lateral gait. This puppy would later be my selection for Reserve Winner's Dog.

9-12 month Puppy Dog

This was a single entry class. The entry, **Fivefields Kanga Roux at RMR**, was typical of a puppy his age. Obviously an adolescent, he was at the coat changing stage. His resultant shortage of coat somewhat accentuated his length but allowed a clear view of his clean movement when gaitting.

12-18 Month Dog

This was too was a single entry class. **Melita Miro Hooligan Hoopla**, the lone entrant, was also demonstrative of his adolescent age. Being a few months older than the previous class, his coat was showing comfortable advancement towards being a correct adult coat. I particularly liked the structure of this dog and was impressed by his coming and going movement. A strong head, a little too strong in muzzle but an otherwise a very well balanced dog shown completely naturally.

Bred by Exhibitor Dog

One of the entry of four was excused for inability to examine. The remaining three were all very worthy of being proudly shown by their respective breeders. The winner, **Meadows Imagine That**, bred by Larry A. & Kathryn L. Haas & Claudia McNulty, is an excellent example of the breed. Still a young dog, he appropriately needs more time to develop into what he will be at maturity. I found him to be properly proportioned, well balanced front and rear and very clean in his movement coming, going and laterally. Although still young, his coat texture was evidently present. The second place dog, **Risa to The Spindrift Spirit**, bred by Gayle Dozet, Jana Dozet & Pamela Harris, was the youngest in the class at one year of age. He is appropriately at an out-of coat stage but shows clearly that it's coming! He is a well proportioned dog and displays strong drive in the rear for his age. The third place dog, **Willowisp Never Say Never**, bred by Kitty Hasle & Candace Hepner & Beryl de Borba was also quite young in age but had no shortage of coat. This is a large dog with good bone and a strong head. He is proportionately well-balanced and reveals clean coming and going movement.

Open Dog

The Open Dog class was represented by seven worthy entrants. The first place was awarded to **Aellen Good Vibrations**. This dog epitomized good balance in all senses. He is of correct size, well proportioned and equally angulated front and rear. Even his temperament is well balanced. He behaves himself well in the ring but reveals the presence of the required Beardie impishness. Coming into maturity, he has a well developed chest and bone structure. His movement is excellent coming, going and laterally. Not a flashy dog and very true to breed type. This dog was later to be selected as Winner's Dog and Award of Merit. Second place was awarded to **Tiffany's Harvest Tuxedo**. This dog too, demonstrated excellent breed type. Well proportioned and substantially balanced in angulation this is a very clean and purposeful moving dog. In third place was **Aellen Homeward Bound**. This well moving dog sports a very correct coat. Is of good size and a pleasing head and shows good breed type. Fourth place winner was **Lonetree Turn BackTime**. He, too, sports a correct coat. This is a freely moving dog, well balanced in angulation.

Winners Dog and Reserve Winner's Dog.

As previously described:

Winner's Dog was awarded to **Aellen Good Vibrations** out of the Open Dog class.

Reserve Winner's Dog was awarded to **Brigadoon Showstopper C. Scott** out of the 6-9 Month Puppy Dog class.

Veteran Dog (10yrs & Older)

Ch. Skyedance Lord A-Leaping RE,PT,AX,MXJ,AXP,MXP,NFP stormed into this class at the misleading age of almost 13 and a half years old. Apparently, nobody had discussed graceful aging with this young man who is still very active in performance events. His energy, movement, personality and enthusiasm belied his age. It was such a pleasure and an honor to have him in the ring.

BITCHES

9-12 month Puppy Bitch

This class had a single entry being **Springhill's Bootscootnboogie**. This young lady, a little reticent to start with was soon showing her stuff quite ably. She is of good breed type and balance with a quality puppy coat.

12-18 month Bitch

First in this class was **Springhill's Isabelle**. She is a very "typey" bitch with equally typical Beardie personality. Very well proportioned between head and body she also is well balanced front and rear. Her movement is strong both coming and going.

Second place went to **Breaksea Another Song**, a well-coated young bitch with pleasing personality.

Kellyn Pick of The Crop was in third place. A little timid but well able to be examined, she demonstrates good breed type in appearance. She is well coated and balanced in structure.

Fourth place was awarded to **Nonesuch Geta Risa Outa Ewe**, a happily spirited young lady with good coat qualities.

Bred by Exhibitor Bitch

Harvest Sugar & Spice CD, RN bred by Brenda M. Cox was the first place winner of this class. This bitch shows excellent breed type. She is well proportioned, balanced in angulation and displays good coat. A little hesitant in her movement, she carries herself well around the ring.

Second in the class went to **Risa's Bonnie Tam O'Shanter**, bred by Iris Berry, Jana Dozet, Pam Harris and Pat Palozzola. This is a bitch of good breed type. She is little on the shy side but moves very well.

Ryderwood Dream Weaver, bred by Robert Ryder IV & Karen Ryder. Showed good personality and moved quite well. She was obviously in coat transition.

Fourth place winner was **Springhill's A Blaze N Grace**, bred by Pat Palozzola & Meagan Withrow. She carries a coat of good texture and is a pleasing mover.

Open Bitch

Of all the classes this was my strongest in overall quality and depth.

The winner of the class was **Legacy's Keys to my Heart**. This is an overall very pleasing bitch. She shows good breed type, good quality of coat if not quantity and is well balanced in proportion and angulation. She has good ribs but could use a little more front. Her movement coming and going and lateral is very clean and proper. This bitch was later to be awarded Winner's Bitch.

Second in the class and ultimately, the Reserve to Winner's Bitch was **Caledonia's Magie Noire**. She is another "typey" well-balanced bitch with good coat qualities. Her coming and going movement is pleasing and her lateral movement showed good reach and drive.

Risa's Starburst O'Spindrifft was third place winner. She is well proportioned and balanced with correct movement.

Fourth place went to **Britannia Card Trick**. This pleasing bitch has a pretty head, good body proportions and is well balanced. She was somewhat reticent in her personality and hesitant in her movement. Once this is overcome she will do well.

Winner's Bitch and Reserve Winner's Bitch

As previously described.

Winner's Bitch was **Legacy's Keys to My Heart** and

Reserve Winner's Bitch was **Caledonia's Magie Noire**.

Both came out of the Open Bitch class.

Veteran Bitch (7years & under 10 years)

There were two entrants in this class. Both were excellent examples of the breed and, as is often the case, a small difference in quality makes a big difference in result. The two grand dames in competition were of similar age. I am referring to the notes I made on the

day as I write this. Under the first bitch I wrote but 4 words. **Type! Proportion! Movement! Attitude!** Under the second bitch I only wrote 2 words. **As Above!**

The winner of the class was **Ch. Brittonia Made You Look**. She certainly did! I loved the femininity, the personality and her movement was excellent. It was the second time that I looked at movement that I used that as my tie-breaker over her worthy competition **Ch Gemstone Pearl of a Girl AX,AXJ,HT,RN**. And she certainly is! She too is of pretty breed type and proportion. Her personality and appearance were every much that which should be found in the breed. Her movement is good and demonstrates a balanced structure. Unfortunately, I only had one first place ribbon to give.

Best of Breed

The breed was very well represented in the Best of Breed competition. There were many worthy contenders and I tried to sort them out judiciously but quickly so as to prevent them from getting too hot in the early afternoon sun. I made a couple of cuts and soon had my choices narrowed down to a few.

My final cut was designed to leave me with my final award winners.

My Awards of Merit (in catalog # order) were;

Ch Sebring's Black Velvet A bitch with excellent breed type. Good proportions, well coated, balanced, sound and a graceful mover.

Ch. Melita Aeynsley T. Cup. Very typey. Good mover. I think she was feeling the heat.

Ch. Melita Yankee Doodle Sweetheart. Great type! Good proportions and balance . Moves well. Seemed to be distracted.

Ch. Woodsong Summer Wind. Another bitch with good breed type. Clean movement. Sound structure.

The remaining Award went to the Winner's Dog, **Aellen Good Vibrations**.

The decision as to who would win Best of Breed fell to the choice between the dog, **Ch Fivefields Reckless Abandon PT,RA,OA,AXJ** and the Veteran Bitch, **Ch. Brittonia Made You Look**.

The dog is of excellent proportions, and displays well defined breed type. He is in correct coat and is a beautiful mover. However, so is the bitch and I came to the conclusion that she as a bitch was a little more typical than he was as a dog and so Best of Breed was awarded to **Ch. Brittonia Made You Look**. and Best of Opposite Sex was awarded to , **Ch Fivefields Reckless Abandon PT,RA,OA,AXJ**.

Best of Winners was won by the Winner's Dog **Aellen Good Vibrations**.

General Comments.

First and foremost, I would like to say "Thank you!"

My thanks go to the members of the Northern California Bearded Collie Fanciers for the honor of being invited to judge their Regional Specialty for their kind hospitality to me and Katie, my wife, to whomever arranged the weather, and most importantly to the exhibitors who supported the Club and entrusted their beloved Beardies to my interpretation of their breed standard.

With regards to the entry, I was very pleased to see that all the dogs were shown, for the most part, naturally. I abhor the use of artificial coat conditioners and hair sprays.

Some of the younger dogs were a bit reticent about participating in the process but I only had to excuse one dog as a result. I would encourage breeders and owners to work on temperament and socialization. After all, Beardies are supposed to be "self-confident, showing no signs of shyness or aggression." Personally, I would prefer a Bearded Collie to be obnoxiously outgoing rather than the opposite. It was also interesting and gratifying to see how many of the entry were involved in other forms of competitive activity. Some impressively so!

All of the dogs which were shown to me were of correct size. I interpret a big dog to be so untypical that I probably could not reward it in the ring.

As my awards indicate, I found the quality of the entry to be predominantly within the bitches. This is very encouraging as I believe that the future of any breed lies within its bitches. One good dog can service many quality bitches but a quality bitch only has one litter at a time and usually only then once or twice in a lifetime.

All in all, I would say that the future of our breed is safe in the hands of the good people of Northern California and their fellow breeders.

William J. "Bill" Bailey