

The Maltese National Canine Federation – Championship Show

10th & 11th November 2018

Many thanks for the invitation to come and judge at this well organised show. Whilst the number of entries is not large, there is most certainly a lot of quality to be found here. There was also a wonderful atmosphere from the sporting ringside applauding the classes.

Terrier Group: Best Terrier was N.Scicluna's WHWT, Rain Harbour Ruffo, 2 yr old male with pleasing outline, well-proportioned and well-furnished head. Nice dark eye and pigment. Angulation is well balanced, he also has good muscle & bone. Movement looked very easy with smart stride, good front & rear.

Reserve Best Terrier: R.Bonnici's Bull Terrier, Evergreen Mithgard, only 11 months old but he also has a good outline, strong bone and muscle. Head is good for age with good shape to front skull and forface. Angulation not quite balanced but correct for his age as is his free action and drive from his hocks.

Terrier Puppy Group: R.Bonnici's Bull Terrier, Evergreen Mithgard.

Working Group: Best In Group was R&C.Farrugia's Alaskan Malamute, Ch.Rivendell Mals The Return Of The Prodigy, just over 2 years not yet mature but so much to like. Super masculine head and expression, strong neck flows into good topline with strong loin. Moderate angulation, balanced and excellent muscle especially on his thighs. His movement is quick, easy and powerful.

Reserve Best Working: R.Bonello's Boxer, Ch.Berwynfra Stare If You Dare, beautiful and very feminine bitch, 4 years old, so mature, she has good firm muscle, quality bone and well balanced angulation. Neck has nice crest and is strong. Head is well proportioned with lovely expression. Moving she has drive & reach and covers the ground well, close decision here between 1 & 2.

Working Junior Group: Best Working Junior was C.Cilia's Boxer, Mejeric Made You Look, just over 12 months, head coming on well, topline is firm. Muscle tone, bone and depth of chest all ok for age as is his angulation. Movement has reach & drive but will get stronger as he grows.

Working Puppy Group: Best was E.Ambrogio's Siberian Husky, Merrick Gummy Bear, well balanced and muscled for age, good topline, strong loin and well-muscled thighs. Good tight feet. Head is ok for age but still to finish. Movement has drive and reach, should make up well.

Reserve Best Puppy Working was J.Formosa's Bullmastiff, Ardhub Ohh La La, 10 month old brindle bitch with size and substance appropriate for age. Angulation not yet balanced but good for age as is her ground covering movement.

Gundog Group: Best In Group: J.Aquilina's Sieger's Madly Yours, just over 1 year. Top size youngster with handsome head, good expression with dark eye. Outline & balance are very good for age as is his movement. Excellent presentation.

Reserve Best Gundog was W.Chetcuti's Irish Setter, Ansaldo Vitesse. Only 15 months old, lovely flowing lines from the top of his well-proportioned head through his firm topline to the tip of his tail. Good depth of chest, firm muscle and balance all good for age as is his easy flowing movement. Just not quite the drive of 1 today.

Gundog Junior Group: Best Gundog Junior and Reserve were the ESS & Irish Setter, same dogs from the adult group.

Gundog Puppy Group: G.Loughborough's Labrador, Loughlab AJ Maverick. 7 month yellow dog with excellent construction, muscle & balance for age. Good bone, tight feet and wonderful temperament. Movement has obviously to firm up all round but he has reach & drive enough for his age.

Reserve: N.Fenech's Canyonn Magic Moment, 8 month Cocker Spaniel of rich black coat, head coming nicely with good dark eye & well set ears. Balance again is correct for age as is muscle & movement. Just not yet quite so settled as 1 but this will come with time.

Toy Group: Best Toy was V.Fenech's Ch. Mimi Dog Doll Jamiroquas, 4 year old Chinese Crested and wow what a good one! Super head & expressive eyes, firm body, strong topline, excellent chest, rib & bone. Angulation perfectly balanced so movement is a joy to watch with reach, drive and stride. Furnishings are good and does look like a little smart "painted pony".

Reserve Best Toy was C.Galea's Pug, Montes Auri Treisy Fan-Fan Favori, 9 month old yet again so much to like here too. Lovely head, excellent eye & dark pigment. Good shape overall as is balance of angulation & muscle tone. Movement for age is very good but could not match the Crested here today.

Toy Junior Group: Winner of the Toy Junior was A.Rodo's CKCS, Blue Moon Cavaliers Charlotte, very good head & eye, good substance, size, bone and chest for age. Angulation is almost balanced and movement has enough reach, drive and stride for age. Very promising.

Reserve best Toy Junior was E.Meli's Yorkshire Terrier, Irish Jazz Cha Cha Cha, pleasing overall make and shape. Nicely proportioned head, coat coming along well with good colour. Movement is positive for age too.

Toy Puppy Group: 1st: The lovely Pug from the Toy group.

Reserve: J.Joyce's Long Coat Chihuahua, Cragarnat Magic Touch Gingi, very smart puppy with very good head, straight topline and appropriate bone & muscle for size. Movement for age has reach & drive and certainly covers the ground well.

Hound Group: Best Hound was Hili & Rathmell's Basset Hound, Apple Jack Dos Sete Monhos, 4 year old mature bitch with lovely head and expression, well set and held ears. Strong topline, good depth to chest, also pro-sternum, strong muscle throughout and used her hocks so well on the move, which she made look so easy.

Reserve was the 3 year old Saluki bitch owned by K.Galea, so elegant in structure yet well-muscled and good bone. Good hind angulation & correct shoulder. Good depth to chest. Enough furnishings to complete the picture. Good springy gait on the move.

Hound Junior Group winner was W.Ellul Bonici's Pharaoh Hound, Qaxxuri Rusty, 14 month old dog of good overall size, make and shape for age. Angulation is correctly balanced but not yet completely so. Head also coming on well. Very well handled on the move to get the best from him to show the true easy "springy" action.

Reserve Best Junior Hound was B.Bonello's Beagle, Olenob Mint Euro, tri bitch just one day short of 18 months of good size & balance for age. Head is well proportioned with good leathers. Firm topline with well-set stern and easy action with drive and reach.

Hound Puppy Group: Best was Cachia & Chetcuti's Whippet, Chrisoli Careless Whisper, just 2 days short of 12 months, fawn/brindle bitch with good head, nice planes, correct topline, strong loin, good muscle & quality bone and tight feet. Depth of chest ok for age. Angulation well balanced for age also and she moves with drive & front action which is good also.

Reserve Best Puppy Hound was O.Manicaró's Beagle, Manicaró Emily. Good head proportions and size, bone and balance all ok for her age. On the move she also has good stride and appropriate reach & drive for a puppy.

Utility Group: Winner of the group was P.Pellegrini's French Bulldog, Ch.Jewels Of Patrial Diamond Dice. Loved his head and expressive dark eyes. Good nose, well set and held ears. Super substance for size and balanced angulations so he moved with style and drive to win.

Reserve Best Utility was M. Aquilina's Shih Tzu, Yachtman Di Casa Corsini, well balanced gold & white dog, super head & expression. Well bodied & boned, nice chest and presented in full coat which hardly moved when he was moving.

Utility Junior Group winner was E.Meli's red Chow Chow bitch, Belatriss Betty Ursula, good head, well set eye and neat ears. Depth of chest and angulation balanced for age although she already shows good breed type movement.

Utility Puppy Group: Winner of the Utility Puppy Group was V.Gatt's Keeshond, Samkees Gold Rush, excellent 9 month old dog with breed type, good head, topline & depth of chest for his age. Presented in full coat with good texture. Balance once more right for age as is his movement which has enough drive & reach for his age.

Reserve Best Puppy Utility was J.Formosa's Akita, Harley Tavo Svajone. Nearly 12 months of age, well grown youngster with strong bone & muscle. Good feet and appropriate balance so on the move has enough reach & drive to cover the ground. Also has a well-proportioned head with well-set ears held forward.

When the **Best in Show** line up was called in, the quality was obvious but I can only choose one plus the Reserve and today my choice for BIS was the fabulous Chinese Crested, Ch. Mimi Dog Doll Jamiroquas, very closely followed by the Alaskan Malamute, Ch,Rivendell Mals The Return Of The Prodigy.

Best Puppy In Show line-up also had quality and this time the best was the Siberian Husky, Merrick Gummy Bear followed by the Whippet, Chrisoli Careless Whisper. **Best Junior In Show** was the Boxer, Mejeric Made You Look with the Pharaoh Hound, Qaxxuri Rusty, Reserve. I would also like to mention all the wonderful young handlers on both days.

Christina Chapman.

Judge.