

National Australian Shepherd Association 13th Championship Show and 25th Anniversary Weekend.

Sunday 5th September 2021

It was a pleasure to have been invited to judge at the 25th Anniversary weekend. I feel for any breed judge to be invited to a club show is something we should all cherish and that I certainly will. My applauds to the committee for sticking their necks out to get this underway during what's been trying circumstances for us all. The whole weekend was well thought through and I feel they laid a platform to other breed clubs celebrating anniversary shows.

My entry was one of the best for some considerable time and was well above the general show average at this moment, hopefully we can see the entry numbers begin to increase again.

However, I'm somewhat disappointed and must highlight some of the negatives I found during the day with a hope that the breeders and enthusiasts take note and hopefully look to improve on within the near to medium term. Heads are a disappointment now losing width in skull, snipe muzzles and lack of strength in the jaw especially under-jaw. We are also losing fronts, some being very straight almost terrier like, steep upper arms which we then lose that free flowing and agile movement we so desire. I also have concern over how fine in bone some exhibits were today and not moderate as called by the breed standard. My final negative comment is with regards to overall presentation, I know they are a working/herding breed, but we are presenting our exhibits for the judge's opinion and I felt that some today weren't to the mark with this.

With the negatives comes the positives and my main winners were exceptional and typified for me the Aussie Shepherd as the breed we know and love. I must also applaud the exhibitors that presented their veterans today for keeping them in the condition to be in the show ring they were all a joy to see.

It's been a difficult 18 months for us all and my thanks to the exhibitors for turning out and the way the class results were applauded, and the atmosphere around ringside made it a very enjoyable day indeed. I hope the ringside atmosphere continues at other shows it was lovely to be a part of. I must also give praise to my super-efficient stewards Tim, Stephen (Your waistcoats were amazing!) and Reagan for keeping things moving during a very warm and busy day.

I start my reports with junior handlers, and I always look to judge the juniors in how they would present their dogs in a breed class. Personally, I do not believe in asking the juniors to do something different or away from the norm. They are the future of our hobby and they must and should be encouraged to remain.

Junior Handling Association (6-11 Years)(3, 1A)

1st Nicole Oliver, Age 10. This young lady was so impressive with the way she controlled her exhibit today. Everything I asked her to do was done in such a calm and controlled way so not to get flustered in what was being asked. In moving her lines were straight and controlled when standing it was also done in a way that made it look like this was second nature to her. I feel an exciting future if she feels like continuing with handling. I also had no hesitation in awarding best overall junior handler on the day. A massive well done.

2nd Harrison Holden Smith, Age 9. Again another young handler that was also calm but, on the day,, it was just the overall finish from my winner that was the deciding factor.

Junior Handling Association (12-16 Years)(4,1A)

1st Lauren Bridges, Age 14. A very competent handler of most breeds and again the overall finish like my younger class was the deciding factor today. Her exhibit was well presented with not being overawed. On moving the lines and use of the ring were well made, even at this young age, there are many mature handlers that should take note in how exhibits should be presented. Well done.

2nd Jake Walsh, Age 16. Again, another young handler who is doing exceptionally well within the breed. Today I just preferred the finer finishing of the winner, but overall, still impressed with how this young man's exhibit was presented and handled.

3rd Eilidh Mackenzie

Minor Puppy Dog (2)

1st Zettin - Almond Cookie Of Moon And Stars, 8 month and such a lovely pup full of breed type. Super head with good width of skull. Correct eye and ear placement which gave a lovely expression. Good front with good depth of chest along with reach of neck. Good bone and level top line. Rear angulation was pleasing. Movement was sound coming and going, movement in profile was excellent for such a young male, was pleased to award Best Puppy Dog.

2nd Holden Smith & Holden Smith - Milwyr Sundance Kid, Head was ok though just preferred width of my winner today, good front with adequate reach of neck, level top line and moved soundly.

Puppy Dog (5)

1st Boerland - Steeltime Shake Your Booty, 11-month red tri with a pleasing outline. Good masculine head, with good bone. Good length of neck. Top line level with adequate rear angulation. On the move he was sound and gave a pleasing profile.

2nd Lee - Aoristar Hunters Moon Over Amenbury (Imp Ire) Another Puppy with a pleasing head, with good front and bone. Moderate length of neck. Top line was firm, and movement was sound, though found to be close behind going away.

3rd Hunt - Shepwood Grey Knight.

Junior Dog (3, 1A)

1st Harvey - Weather The Storm TAF. 14-month black tri. This black tri could not be denied his masculinity. Good strong head with width of skull and adequate muzzle ratio. front was ok with depth of chest and strong bone. Strong top line with rear angulation that overall was well muscled. Movement was good though on profile would prefer more reach in front. Deserved the class win today

2nd Stopford- Amberslade Catch The Dash. 13-month black tri. Today was overawed for both dog and handler being new to showing. Head type I would prefer a little stronger, front was ok with good length of leg. Top line appeared slightly arched on stance. Movement when settled was sound

Yearling Dog (4)

Two super young dogs in my first 2 placing

1st Timperon - Triforce Alchemist, 20 months black tri and such a super young male with an exciting future. His head typified Aussie male so clean with good ear and eye placement which gave such a super expression. Super front with deep chest and ample width. Good firm topline which ran into strong rear angulation over a moderate croup, which was seen on moving and using to his advantage. Presented in excellent coat and condition. Was in my shortlist for top honours and though missing out today I'm sure he will have his opportunities in abundance.

2nd Fort - Shulune Dirty Little Secret, 19 months Red tri. Masculine head, with pleasing almond eye shape and ear placing that was well set. Slightly bigger than 1st but overall outline was pleasing. Good front with strong neck into a good level topline, well-muscled. Movement was good in all directions. Another presented in good coat and condition.

3rd Milligan & Marley Allmark One For The Road With Alfsden

Novice Dog (1)

1st Fort - Shulune Secret Wizard, 19-month black tri and litter brother to my second in the previous class. Moderate head with good front and length of leg. Good depth of chest, level topline with good rear angulation. I would prefer not to have the wavy coat over topline which detracts overall outline. Movement was sound once he settled.

Post Graduate Dog (6)

1st McKinnon - Dialynne Enzo Ferrari, 3-year-old red tri. Super masculine head with good stop, good shaped eye and lovely ear placement. Front was good with depth and width of chest, shown in profuse coat. The handler does need to watch him on the move as he tends to become lazy and this was seen in the challenge though in the class today, he did move with purpose and was sound in all directions.

2nd Hellewell - Franmar The Thriller. 2-year-old blue merle. Moderate head with pleasing outline. Good length of neck with good front. Level topline with adequate rear angulation. Movement was good coming and going and also in profile.

3rd Hawkins - Glamour Aussie Addicted To You TAF

Limit Dog (2)

1st Virgo - Aoristar Supernova (IKC) 5-year-old black tri. Moderate head though would prefer more width, lovely almond shaped eye, good front and length of leg. Adequate length of neck lay of shoulder into level topline and pleasing rear angulation. Movement overall was good with pleasing side profile.

2nd Downes - Damani Dream Give Me Five At Milwyr TAF, 4 year old black tri. Again, like my winner a moderate head though would prefer more masculine, almond shaped eye with pleasing ear set. Pretty well balanced in construction. Movement was overall ok though preferred the side profile of my winner when going around.

Open Dog (6)

1st Harlow, Birkett & McDowell - Birkcross The Dance, 3 year old black tri. Everything about this dog just typified breed type. Masculine head yet not overdone, good ear placement and eye shape. His front was excellent with plenty of width deep chest, good bone and lovely compact tight feet. Good reach of neck, strong topline with well sprung ribs. He had bone substance which we seem to lack now and was well muscled throughout. His movement was purposeful in all directions yet appeared to cover the ground so freely. Very well presented in fantastic coat and condition and well handled. I consider him to be one of the few good Aussies out there at this moment in time and pleased to award him the DCC and Reserve Best In Show for day 2.

2nd Colborne - SA CH Mysticlight I'm So Handsome (Imp Zaf). 5-year-old blue merle and again I can see why he's done so much winning in returning to our hobby as he also typifies a lot of breed type. Good masculine head, ear placement and eye shape were also good. Front was pleasing on well boned legs and good tight feet. Topline was level and strong, along with good rear angulation with moderate croup, which he used on moving around this large ring. Like my winner presented in good coat and condition. My deciding factor today was he was heavier on his foot timing and not as free and easy as my winner, yet still enough quality to award the RDCC.

3rd Cowley - Sparkaway Talk Of The Devil JW

Veteran Dog (3, 1A)

1st McTaggart - Jack To A King Des Terres De Khairyaca SH CM (IMP FR). 7-year-old black tri. I judged this dog a few years ago in Scotland and awarded him best dog. Though now a veteran a lot of my remarks still apply.. Top size male with masculine head and expression. Good bone and substance, straight legs and good feet. Strong top line. Movement was sound with his topline being held on the move.

2nd Knott - Lyveden Rairock Rebel, 10-year-old, still with a pleasing head, front was sufficient and overall presented a well-balanced outline. Moved well in all directions retaining his top-line.

Special Open Dog - Blue Merle (2)

1st Knott - Lyveden Texas Ranger, 6-year-old male. Again, pleasing to see an exhibit with good bone and substance. Masculine head with correct front into level topline with adequate spring of rib. Was good and sound on the move

2nd Hunt - Shepwood Grey Knight, 10 month and was 3rd in the puppy class. Head proportions were pleasing, straight front with good depth of chest. Level topline into rear angulation that will develop as he matures which showed when moving.

Special Open Dog - Black (6, 1A)

1st - Aoristar Supernova (IKC), 1st in Limit Dog critique applies

2nd Bothwell - Ewbell Pure Dead Brilliant At Norcis SH CM, 4 year old with masculine head, good eye shape though ear placement detracts for me. Good body with spring of rib. Movement was fluent and sound.

3rd Such - Soloyal Valentino

Special Open Dog - Red (2)

1st McKinnon - Dialynne Enzo Ferrari, 1st in Post Graduate Dog critique applies

2nd Knott - Shalakos Come Hellr High Water, 18 month old. Mature head with correct eye and ear placement. Front and rear angulation was good with a pleasing movement.

Special Open Dog - Working (1)

1st Knott - Lyveden Rairock Rebel, 2nd in Veteran Dog critique applies

Minor Puppy Bitch (2)

1st Zettin - Awesome Honey Bunny Of Moon And Stars, 8 month old Red Merle and litter sister to my Minor Puppy Dog winner. She had the most pleasing feminine head and expression with correct eye and ear shape. Correct front with adequate bone and substance. Presented a pleasing picture in outline and was very sound in moving for such a youngster. Was pleased to award Best Puppy Bitch and Best Puppy In Show and then Supreme Best Puppy In Show. Well done.

2nd Herraty - Razkiah Fizzing Whizzbee, 6 months old. good eye and ear placement though narrower in width of skull to my winner. good bone and feet with level topline. Moved well.

Puppy Bitch (4)

1st Bassett - Dialynne Leave Your Mark At Starlink, 11 months red tri. A lovely feminine bitch with pleasing head type good ear placement and almond shaped eye. Good front angulation with adequate chest. Strong topline which also lead to adequate rear angulation. Tended to give her handler a hard time on the move, but once settled displayed soundness that was free and easy which won her the class today.

2nd Newell - Altussi Rhapsody Over Kristalriver, 10 month and heavier built than my winner there was still much to like at this young age. Good head proportions, neck length and pleasing front with correct shoulder placement. Ample chest, level topline and adequate rear angulation with turn of stifle. Movement was good viewed in all directions.

3rd Myall - Altussi Crazy Diamond

Junior Bitch (4,1A)

1st Zettin - Astrea Moon And Stars Hope From Haylofts, 12 months blue merle. An attractive bitch with a lovely head and expression. Good leg length with plenty bone and good tight feet. Moderate neck length with a strong level topline and good spring of rib. Good movement and covered the ground well. Well-presented and handled.

2nd Harvey - Whistle Down The Wind At Gemthorne TAF, 14 months black tri. This bitch displayed a strong head but not overdone, good eye and ear placement. Good reach of neck with a pleasing front, good bone and feet. Good height to length proportions and moved well.

3rd Coutts - Amberslade Catching Angels

Yearling Bitch (7,1A)

1st Brown - Shulune Secret Storm Over Shepwood, 19 months black tri and my clear class winner. Lovely head proportions with a beautiful expression, Adequate reach of neck into a strong front with enough chest, good bone and substance, adequate spring of rib. Moved very well which won her the class today. Well presented in good coat and condition.

2nd Fitches - Triforce Hocus Pocus, 20-month red tri. More feminine than my winner. Good head proportions and lovely expression. Front was adequate with a strong level topline retained on moving. In lovely condition

3rd Milligan & Marley - Allmark On One Hand With Alfsden

Novice Bitch (3)

1st Zettin - Dark Side Of Moon And Stars, 14 months black tri. A very feminine bitch who gave a pleasing outline in profile. Good head with a gentle expression. Good length of neck, ample body length with spring of rib and well-muscled rear which was shown in moving which was good and sound.

2nd Harvey - Whistle Down The Wind At Gemthorne TAF. Critique from 2nd in junior bitch applies

3rd Downes - Milwyr Upsy Daisy

Post Graduate Bitch (7,1A)

1st Turnbull & Clegram - Jenkova To The Other Side, 2 year old red tri. My star of the day and again one of those presented, that for me just typifies Australian Shepherd. She is a lovely feminine bitch with the sweetest of expressions. Correct eye and ear placement with enough length of neck, strong front and just the right depth of chest. Lovely topline with spring of rib with rear angulation that was good and well-muscled. She excels on movement and makes it look so easy and covers the ground very well. Tail at all times was also carried well. Presented in fabulous coat, condition and very well handled, I had no hesitation in awarding her the CC which at the time was her 2nd and Best in Show for the second day. It was also good to see her awarded Supreme Best in Show against the day 1 winner. Congratulations.

2nd Coutts - Amberslade Santa Ana Breeze, 4-year-old black tri. Finer in bone than my winner, but still showed a lovely feminine head and expression. Good front with adequate chest. Overall gave a good outline in profile with good length and body proportions. Movement was good and free.

3rd Bassett - Trijem Star Of The Snow At Starlink

Limit Bitch (6, 3A)

1st Roberts - Magical Love Elvikam JW (Imp Pol), 4-year-old red merle. A strong bitch with a lovely outline. Pleasing head with good width and enough muzzle which gave a wonderful expression. Slightly longer than tall, with strong front, depth of chest. Level topline with good spring of rib. Moved well with good stride.

2nd Harlow - Birkcross Reign Of Fire, 12 month old black tri. Though slightly unsure on examination this young bitch still showed enough qualities to deserve the placing. Very feminine throughout with a wonderful expression. Good front with adequate bone and substance. Level topline. Movement for this youngster was sound and free flowing. She should do well once settled.

3rd Milligan & Marley - Allmark Sapphire With Alfsden JW

Open Bitch (9,3A)

1st Collins & Uden - Birkcross Georgie Girl At Jazdaze, 3 year old black tri. Another exhibit that just oozes breed type. She has the sweetest head with the kindest of expressions with good ear and eye placement. She has ample neck length into good front and chest proportions. Good body type with length of loin and super turn of stifle which is lacking in the breed. She won the class with her movement another that made it look so free and easy yet so correct. Presented in wonderful coat and condition. Shame there was not 2 CCs to hand out but definitely enough qualities in abundance to award the RCC.

2nd McDevitt - IR CH Silverdreams Aussies Creamy Caramel Caronlea JNR CH (IMP HUN), 3 year old red tri. Heavier built than my winner but still a lot to like about this girl. Lovely head proportions, with strong neck and super front with depth of chest. Good bone, strong topline into well moulded croup and well-muscled rear angulation. She was another that made her movement look easy and moved so soundly. Well handled.

3rd Cowley - Sparkaway Talk Of The Town

Veteran Bitch (6,1A)

1st Turnbull & Clegram - Jenkova Brite Like Diamond, 8-year-old black tri. My clear class winner who never gave the appearance of being a veteran. Feminine head with such a gentle and kind expression. Enough bone with good leg length and on good feet. Good spring of rib with level topline and moderate rear angulation. Overall, she gave a pleasing outline which was also displayed on the move which was free flowing. I had no hesitation to award her Best Veteran in Show for day 2 and Supreme Best Veteran In Show. It wasn't until later in the day that I was informed that she was the Dam of my CC winner, very clever breeding indeed.

2nd McTaggarts - IR CH Sangosands Seashell, 11 year old black tri. A quality bitch over the years though now showing her age. But applauds to the owner for keeping her in general condition to be shown. Still a very alert expression, with a good front and deep chest. Strong topline which was retained on the move and was still very good for her age. Well handled.

3rd Morley - Silvarcea American Smooth For Jochurra

Special Open Bitch - Red Merle (3)

1st Challenger - Lyveden Texas Rose, 6-year-old. A very feminine bitch with the best of expressions given from her correct eye and her ear placement. A strong neck, good front with ample bone. Her angulation is correct both front and rear with good body length which gives her a pleasing outline. Moved well in all directions

2nd Blyton - Wispafete Light My Fire, 16 months. A lovely young bitch and shame to come up against the class winner today. Lovely head and expression with well-placed ears. Correct front with depth of chest, strong topline and well-rounded croup into strong rear angulation with adequate turn of stifle. Moved well and well handled.

3rd Burt - Vilanyda Flaming Hot With Aussiane (IMP ESP)

Special Open Bitch - Blue Merle (1)

1st Woodhouse & Woodhouse - Bollinchip Coloradoblue, 13-month feminine bitch with good head expression. Well placed ears with moderate neck length. Well placed shoulders with level topline. Would prefer more spring of rib. Movement was free and easy.

Special Open Bitch - Black (5,2A)

1st Gibbons & Spencer - Wispafete Once Upon A Dream, 2-year-old. Another lovely feminine bitch with a gentle expression. Strong neck onto a pleasing front with good shoulder placement and adequate chest depth. Strong level topline, well-muscled all thorough which was used to advantage on the move. Presented in excellent coat and condition. Well handled.

2nd Coutts - Amberslade Santa Ana Breeze, critique from 2nd in post graduate bitch applies.

3rd Summerley - Scullymadra Green Hill

Special Open Bitch - Red (2)

1st Bothwell - Diallynne Sophia Loren Of Norcis, 3-year-old. Pleasing head and good expression. Good length of neck, moderate bone and adequate length of leg with good front and shoulder placement. Good topline and spring of rib She gave an overall pleasing outline and her movement was free flowing.

2nd Such - Soloyal Secret Romance, 4-year-old. Lovely feminine bitch with good head proportions and good expression. Good front with ample bone, level topline with ample body length. Movement was good in all directions.

Special Open Bitch - Working (2)

1st Wiley - Trijem Mischief Managed, 19 month black bi, Gave a look of femininity all through with good expression though would prefer stronger muzzle. Adequate leg length and good feet. Level topline with good front and rear angulation. Moved well and soundly.

2nd Bassett - Trijem Star Of The Snow At Starlink, 3 year old black tri. A girl that gives good balance throughout. Good head proportions, good front and depth of chest. Good spring of rib with good rear angulation. Movement was very sound in all directions.

Judge - Paul Routledge