

Critique – Crufts Dog Show

Judge: Miss A Gates

I remember my first outing to Crufts as a 10 year old, taking the sleeper train to Olympia with mum and our beautiful Weimaraner. Since then it has always been an ambition to judge this beautiful breed at Crufts, so a heartfelt thank you to the Kennel Club and Crufts Committee for this prestigious invitation. Sadly my mum could not be with me, but I still had the best of days; beautiful dogs (many I would have gladly taken home) and wonderful, sporting exhibitors. Thank you for making the journey to Crufts, I know it was perhaps not an easy decision, due to the global crisis we are all in the midst of, but you made my day unforgettable. Finally, a thank you must go to my two wonderful, efficient stewards.

Veteran Dog (5) 1 Mutlow's Risinglark Hawk Wing JW ShCM: I have judged this super dog several times; elegant and medium sized who oozes quality. Beautiful silver grey colour. His expression exquisite, kind and intelligent and a true aristocratic head. Clean neck, straight, strong front and correct shoulder placement, good depth of chest and well sprung rib, correct proportions throughout and all in moderation. He is just starting to show his age on the move, but he is nearly 11! One of my favourite dogs and one I would have loved to have owned. **2 Brown & Filby's Desjiem American Pie JW ShCM:** Nice type, correct head proportions, moderate stop and kind expression, good front and super tight feet. Level topline and correct, slightly sloping croup. Moderate angulation with good turn of stifle. Nicely presented. **3 Maclaine & Dickson's Sh Ch/Ir Sh Ch Greyspirit Royal Scot at Trilite ShCM:** Bigger and rangier, but lots to like. Loved his beautiful head, masculine, moderately long and such a kind expression. Liked him for his type and quality. Beautifully presented and moved well.

Puppy Dog (6) 1 Alcorn, Davidson & Johnstone's Gunalt Hendricks: What a super young dog and one of my stars of the day. Full of presence, correct proportions throughout and he just demands attention. Best of heads, masculine yet remaining aristocratic and the kindest eye. Clean neck, correct shoulder placement. Good length of rib. Level topline, with correct slightly sloping croup. And then he moves...free, effortless and ground covering with an energy and cadence seen in few. A striking young dog and totally at one with his handler. He pushed hard for top honours and I have absolutely no doubt he is a future super star. Best Puppy. **2 Kerr's Kalimor Hudson:** Another lovely puppy, again with a promising future. Liked him for type and quality. Loved his head and expression, which is so typical of this prominent kennel. Appealing colour. Good front, straight forelegs to firm, compact feet. Good bone and correct proportions. All in moderation. So well constructed, which was evident as he moved around the ring. Well handled. **3 Fielding's Gunalt Speaksman:** Another lovely puppy, developing beautifully. Presented in superb condition and well handled. At this stage, I preferred the proportions and front of 2.

Junior Dog (6) 1 Rayner & Maskell's Kalimor Accolade to Raystans JW: Promising young dog, full of quality and so typical. Beautifully presented and

handled. Good bone, appealing colour, scores in head and expression, front and feet, correct proportions and length of rib. Won the class for his attributes, but was topped off by his ground covering, free movement. **2 Levitt-Smillie's Silberliss Secret Squirrel:** A smart, young dog who presents a picture of power and balance. Good front and feet, well constructed, correct topline and moderate angulation, fore and aft. Nicely handled. **3 Cordeiro Prieto's Nicolai de la Gioconda Great Success from Septemcolles (ATC AW02124UKR):** Attractive dog, masculine yet elegant and beautifully handled. Like him for his type and substance. Well-developed chest, strong straight forelegs, good feet. Striking outline. Preferred movement of 2.

Yearling Dog (2) 1 Morris & Randall's Kalimor Parker JW: Elegant young dog and litter brother to the winner of Junior, and unsurprisingly has the similar attributes. His head and expression are exquisite, correct set, long, lobular ear which perfects the picture. Moderately long neck. Best of fronts and super tight feet. Correct length of rib and proportions throughout. Moderate angulation, well turned stifle and let down hocks. Moved and shown well. Superb dog. **2 Johnson's Astraios Be Still:** Longhaired dog and a lovely type. Aristocratic head and kind, intelligent expression. Clean lines and correct proportions. When stood, presents a pleasing picture, but was unfortunately not too settled today.

Post Graduate Dog (5) 1 Hawkins's Smilek Massachusettes: A quality, eye-catching dog of correct proportions. Well developed. Masculine, yet elegant. Good head and kind, intelligent expression, correct length of rib. Striking outline when stacked, level topline, which was held on the move, moderate angulation. Beautifully presented and well handled. **2 Burgess' Greyspirit Rock Star from Hantzburg JW:** Another quality dog, appealing colour, balanced head. Clean lines. Moved well, covering the ground effortlessly. Well handled. I preferred the front and body proportions of 1. **3 McMahon's Silverkelvin Jupiter:** Beautiful young dog. Aristocratic head, moderate stop, clean neck to well laid shoulders, straight front. Level topline, moderate angulation. Really liked this dog, but he gave his owner a really hard time and was not showing himself off to full effect today.

Limit Dog (7) 1 Thorne's Mabanika Stetson JW: Elegant, young dog who presents a picture of power and balance. Clean neck, correct shoulder placement, strong, level topline, held well on the move. Muscular and presented in superb condition. He won the class from 2 for his free, ground covering movement. **2 Mutlow's Braefell Goshawk JW:** Medium sized, balanced dog. Love him for type, bone and colour. A head I would not tire off and so typical. Well-constructed throughout. Moved ok. **3 Snaith's Skilaki Move on up to Bifonda JW:** Another quality dog. Appealing head, expression and colour. Presents a striking picture when stacked, but not settled as he could have been today.

Open Dog (12) 1 Rayner & Maskell's Sh Ch Gunalt Academy of Raystans JW ShCM: Eye catching, masculine, quality dog full of presence and whom I have admired for some time. Beautiful colour, good bone, he presents a true

picture of power and balance. Well-constructed and moves with freedom and reach in his shoulder movement, effortlessly covering the ground, with drive. I have never seen him looking better and today was his, CC. **2 Evans &**

Pavey's Sh Ch Gunalt Undeniable at Joneva JW: Another quality, young dog who I love, having previously awarded him a CC; kind, intelligent expression, beautiful head, clean lines and correct proportions throughout.

An elegant, masculine dog presented in superb condition and so beautifully handled. Moved with power and drive, just losing out to 1. RCC. **3 Perez-Powell's Sh Ch Gunalt by Ek at Soncaro (AI):** Quality, well-constructed l/h who was unfortunate to meet 1 and 2 in such form. Exquisite head, kindest of expressions. Clean, moderate neck, to good shoulders. Level topline, held on move. Moderate angulation. Super coat and correct feathering. Presented in superb condition. Moved well.

Field Trial Dog (1) 1 Byrne's Ch Enryb Singles Party JW: Super dog; loved him for quality, type, and bone. Presented in the best of condition. His head is beautiful; masculine, aristocratic and elegant, good front and tight feet, well developed chest. Well muscled, correct proportions. Moved and handled well.

Special Working Dog (1) 1 Fendrich-Walter's M Ch Magic Star du Tango des Neiges Eternelles WW'2019 (ATC AU02284FRA): Beautiful l/h in lovely coat, who looked to be enjoying his day. Full of energy and presence, and his lovely temperament shone through. Good head proportions and kindest of eyes. Well-constructed, presenting a picture of power and balance on the move.

Good Citizen Dog (3) 1 Mutlow's Braefell Goshawk JW. 2 McMahon's Silverkelvin Jupiter

Veteran Bitch (16) Super class. 1 Yewdall's Gunalt Adoptable to Ladwey ShCM: A gorgeous bitch I have long admired. Good bone, appealing colour and well constructed throughout. Love her head and gentle expression.

Super front and tight feet, good turn of stifle and good hocks. Clean lines, correct proportions. Moved well. Presented in beautiful condition. **2**

Rowbury's Sh Ch Minama Movin on with Stormdancer (IKC): Beautiful, stylish bitch and a very worthy champion. Quality head, clean lines, striking outline and level topline, which was held on the move. Presented and shown to perfection. **3 Rayner's Sh Ch Gunalt The Look at Raystans JW ShCM:** Another beautiful bitch, feminine with good bone. Beautiful colour. Correct proportions. Attractive outline and stood out for type, soundness and balance. Moved well.

Minor Puppy Bitch (1) 1 Burgess' Robricci Florence by Nemrac:

Promising, eye catching puppy who appealed for type, quality and colour.

Exquisite head and kindest expression, straight forelegs, nice feet, striking outline, good turn of stifle and moderate angulation. Moved well and is very showy and animated on the move.

Puppy Bitch (8) 1 Morris' Kalimor Gem: Gorgeous bitch; liked her for quality, type, substance and proportions. Feminine head and the gentlest of expressions, super front and the best of feet; striking outline and all in moderation. Maturing beautifully and I would have gladly taken her home. Best Puppy Bitch. **2 Ingram's Gunalt Chattering:** Another super bitch, well constructed and very stylish. Good bone and proportions. Beautiful outline. I liked her for type and quality, but she was a little unsettled on the move. **3 Bloemen's Winter's Graceful Special Edition (ATC AX00414BEL):** Sweet, feminine bitch. Like her for type and construction. Superbly handled and presented in top condition, moved effortlessly. Smart, showy bitch just not the substance of 1 and 2.

Junior Bitch (7) 1 Hostler's Kalimor Daisy: Medium sized bitch, appealing colour and in beautiful coat. Quality head, kindest of expressions, clean neck to correct shoulder placement. Super outline. An eye-catching, stylish bitch who is maturing nicely. **2 Phillips' Rivertone Head Above Water:** Attractive bitch, who was well handled and shown to best effect. Similar attributes to 1, just not as mature, but plenty of time for this. Splitting hairs and I went for the movement of 1. **3 Dennis' Silverweis Sparkler:** Sweet bitch and a lovely type. Appealing silver, grey colour. Beautiful head and expression, correct proportions and nothing exaggerated. An attractive, feminine bitch, but I would just like to see her chest and overall musculature develop further, I am sure this will come as she matures.

Yearling Bitch (8) 1 Burgess' Kalimor Olive for Nemrac JW: Quality, well-constructed bitch with plenty of bone. Well-developed chest, strong, straight forelegs, correct shoulder placement, striking outline. Muscular hindquarters, good turn of stifle and strong, well let down hocks. I would not want her any bigger, that said she stood out in this class for me. Moved and handled well. She is the litter sister to my Junior Dog and Bitch and Yearling Dog winners and my CC winner is their sire! What a fantastic litter for her breeder. **2 Cain's Schonhund Show Tallulah:** Beautiful, medium sized bitch, feminine and elegant and she was presented in the best of condition. Loved her quality head and expression. Clean neck, of moderate length to well laid shoulders. Super topline, which was held on the move. Moderate hind angulation. Moved and handled well. **3 Dennis' Silverweis Sparkler**

Post Graduate Bitch (15) 1 Batty's Almoor Macey Grey JW: Soundly constructed, quality bitch. Appealing colour. Her head is stunning and her crowning glory; moderately long and aristocratic, correct proportions and the kindest of eyes. Well-developed chest, straight forelegs, good feet. Well sprung, correct length of rib and short, firm loin. Good turn of stifle, moderate angulation. Presented in the best of condition. Moved and handled well. **2 Maclaine & Dickson's Greyspirit Hopes N Dreams JW:** Another lovely bitch whose quality and type shines through. Medium sized, good bone and beautiful outline. Stunning head and expression, clean lines and correct proportions throughout. Level topline, held on the move. Everything in moderation and presented in superb condition. Moved with drive, covering the ground with freedom and ease. **3 Bradley & Gavan's Akwamar Moonlight Sapphire:** Stylish, quality bitch who presents an attractive picture

and is correct in all ways. She gave her handler a hard time, but nevertheless her attributes were rewarded with a worthy 3rd in this strong class.

Limit Bitch (15) 1 Hunt & Robert's Joneva Hollywood Glamour JW:

Feminine bitch who pulled out all the stops to win this super, strong class.

Loved her head and kind, alert expression, good front and feet, clean neck to well laid shoulders. Super topline, held on the move. Muscular hindquarters and presented in superb condition. Correct movement, fore and aft, effortlessly covering the ground; one of the best movers of the day and this ensured she won this class. **2 Thrasivoulou's Skilaki Born to Move JW:** An elegant bitch, beautiful colour and utterly feminine. Aristocratic head and kindest of expressions. Well-developed chest, good front and feet, correct length of rib and correct proportions throughout. Presented in super condition. Moved and handled well. **3 Maclaine & Dickson's Greyspirit Purdue JW ShCM ShCEx CJW17:** Smart bitch. Nice type, correct proportions throughout, muscular, balanced with good turn of stifle. All in moderation. Moved with drive and covered the ground with ease. Beautifully presented and handled.

Open Bitch (13) 1 Hesford & Campbell's Sh Ch Gunalt Move it to Pipwell:

Gorgeous bitch and full of presence. Feminine, aristocratic head and kindest expression. Cleanest of necks to well-placed shoulders, strong, straight front, firm feet, well sprung rib, level topline, moderate angulation, strong hocks and correct proportions throughout. Presented in top coat and condition and handled beautifully. It was her presence and movement, which won her this class and top honours; effortless, with freedom and reach through her shoulder movement and drive from her quarters. She is the complete package, of elegance and femininity, balance and power. I could not take my eyes off her and it was an absolute honour to award her the CC and BOB. I was delighted to watch her in the Gundog Group, showcasing the breed and still showing her heart out at the end of the day. **2 Croft's Sh Ch Gunalt Shugarush:** Elegant bitch and one I hold in high esteem, having previously awarded her a CC. Presented in the best of condition; exquisite head and expression, clean neck to correct shoulders, good front and feet, correct length of rib and strong, muscular quarters. She is a perfect example of this breed and a very worthy champion. RCC. **3 Robson's Sh Ch Kalimor Armani at Robricci JW:** Yet another beautiful bitch from this kennel and worthy champion. Liked her for her quality, type, bone and colour. Correct proportions throughout. Nothing exaggerated and so beautifully handled, moved with drive, presenting an elegant picture of power, stamina and balance.

Special Working Bitch (2) 1 Klimek's Int Ch/Multi Ch Draka Grey Passion (ATC AX00509POL):

Stylish bitch, presented in superb condition and perfectly handled. Loved her head and expression, clean neck to correct shoulders, level topline, well-turned stifle and moderate angulation. Muscular, with good bone. Super showy, moving around the ring effortlessly, with presence and totally at one with her handler.

Good Citizen Bitch (9) 1 Dennis' Silverweis Sparkler. 2 Holt's Meinweg Christmas Fuddle: Really smart bitch, nice type and super outline. Good head proportions and sweet expression, well developed chest, good front and feet, strong topline, with slightly sloping croup, nice turn of stifle and well let down hocks. Moved and handled well. **3 Dobbs' Oakswarren Ice Maiden:** Feminine bitch, lovely type and appealing colour. Stylish outline. Well handled