

Belgian Chihuahua Club 02 December 2018

Thank you to the Committee and Officers of the Belgian Chihuahua Club for the kind invitation to judge their speciality. I have attended this show before years ago and was so excited and honored when I received the invitation to judge it. For me it has to be one of if not my favourite ever club show to have judged. The whole show is on another scale. For a speciality, it has so much to offer! Each exhibitor placed in top 4 received dog's beds, whilst those in 5th or unplaced still received cute Chihuahua gifts. The prizes for the BOB winners and BIS etc were so well thought of. The one thing that will always stay in my head about this show is the Raffle (tombola). I have never seen one with such an arrange of gifts on one the tables, as I have here.

The venue is first class. Not only was the ring well laid out but it looked so festive, with the red carpet ring and Poinsettia that adorned the ringside adding to the Christmas atmosphere. The Committee of this show do so much not only for the Judge etc but also the exhibitors. The food available was first class. Rolls of various fillings made fresh and the most beautiful looking pastries. With Liliane at the help, along with Christa and the other Committee members, this show knows how to run not only a good show but makes everyone feel welcome and friendly.

My job as a judge was made so much easy thanks to my stewards Conny and Annika. Conny in particular went the extra mile by translating to many of the exhibitors in not only French but German!

I would also like to thank each of the exhibitors for their entries and receiving my placings and grading's in a sporting manner. I was so pleased with the entry and I had some beautiful dogs to choose from, and looking from the catalogue quite a few travelled some distance to get here from different countries.

Below I have a few points of praise and concern in relation to what I found from the show:

Patellas

I can gladly say that when examining the dogs on the table and whilst they moved around the ring, I was very pleased to find hardly any if any at all. This is a great tribute to the breeders as it shows that they have obviously been working on these issues to ensure they are approved upon. Very good to see as it can be quite a common issue in Toy breeds.

Mouths

I am not so strict on bites and will readily accept a scissor or level bite as long as it doesn't affect the expression of the dog. I cannot justify under shot winning as for me they look to strong in bottom jaw with an undershot bite, giving a hard expression. I am pleased to say that all the bites from the dogs I judged were acceptable, with the exception of the odd open bite, but again these didn't affect the expression too much. Well done! As I have read it's an issue at present in the UK long coats according to recent judging reports.

Temperaments

In relation to temperaments I have seen both good and bad aspects. In relation to good aspects, there were no cases of aggression either nervous or due to anger. I was very pleased with this, as I have judged the breed in multiple countries, and almost each time there has at least been a few individuals which have had temperament problems resulting in growling and or snapping round trying to bite.

Unfortunately, there were a number of individuals that seemed very shy. Not only were they uncertain of the table, but they were also unhappy on the floor. I understand babies are unsure especially when young, but this should come with age. And that females can be funny after seasons, but please pay attention to temperaments as there is nothing more disappointing in seeing a beautiful dog carried into the ring, only for it to not show when it needs to. With time and patience most of the dogs affected can be fixed. Believe me I have been there!

Size

Everyone has their own type, but remember that this shouldn't mean that we see dogs that are large or tiny. There were a few individuals that were larger than I prefer, however it could not be denied they were sound and had many attributes that I appreciated but remember the breed should be small. In contrast, there were some small dogs that also lacked in bone and substance. This may not be an issue so much in males, but females ideally they should be a little larger and with more substance purely looking from a breeding aspect. Although a small quality bitch who has the wow factor should not be passed for one larger but not as good.

Finally, I would like to give a brief description of my ultimate winners:

Dog CAC, BOB and BIS - Smooth Coat

Multi CH Exciting Future Clear My Angels. This dog had it all in such a small package. He is small and refined, yet had substance. His black and tan coat is in first class condition gleaming! He has the most wonderful saucy expression, excellent ears that are set at 45 degrees, large round dark eyes, short muzzle with an excellent bite, all of which created the type of head that I love! He has a lovely chest and front, excellent top line and tail set and moved like a dream. His profile both on the move and when standing is so typy. This along with his showman temperament and constant attention to his talented handler, allowed him to win Best In Show over the stunning cream Long Coat.

Bitch CAC and BOS – Smooth Coat

CH Ortie Des Petits Mickeys. This cream bitch is an ideal size for me, she has a beautiful soft feminine expression due to her large round dark eyes which were so appealing. She too has a lovely chest and front as well as a short back and correct set tail which is carried well over her back. She is of excellent type and shows herself to the full. Again her profile both standing and moving is excellent, and what you would want for the breed. Another beautifully handled.

Dog CAC, BOB and RBIS – Long Coat

Multi CH Idylliums Showman. This cream boy was exactly all I hoped for on examination as I had hoped for when I saw him walked into the ring. He is of ideal size and exudes glamour. He has a beautiful head with excellent set ears complimented by a wealth of fringing, beautiful large round dark eyes which stand out against the pale cream coat, and excellent muzzle which contained a perfect bite. He has a lovely neck and chest, excellent front and rear giving him the desired movement, an excellent top line and tail set and a great show temperament. On the stand he looks amazing, and the profile is held on the move just as well.

Bitch CAC and BOS – Long Coat

CH Next Stop Venice My Pride And Joy. I have seen this girl before and always admired her. After judging her I still admire her. This girl for me would easy pass as a smooth coat if her beautiful black and tan coat was shaved off her! That is how tppy she is! She has such a pretty expression with a hint of arrogance when staring at you. Her lovely large round eyes are so appealing. She has an excellent mouth, a great chest, lovely neck with perfect front and rear assembly helping her move so well. Her top line and sickle tail only help create her beautiful profile even better.

Best Baby Puppy In Show – Smooth Coat & Best Puppy In Show – Smooth Coat

Oxbow Limited Edition of Midget Angels (BBPIS) and Ready Or Not (BPIS) are two very exciting youngsters. Both possess the head and expression I love, have excellent bites, great bodies and temperaments. On the move both these youngsters have beautiful outlines and moved so confidently for their age. I am sure they will be ones to watch in the future!

Best Veteran In Show

CH Misty Meadows Papageno. This male does not show like a veteran! The ultimate showman every second he is in the ring. He has a beautiful head and expression with excellent earset, beautiful large dark round eyes and a great mouth for his age. These features come together to give a saucy arrogant expression that is so hard not to love. He still has a beautiful body condition and moves with such ease around the ring. He truly is an amazing dog and expertly handled as you would expect from this exhibitor.

Judge Mr Gordon Gault (IRE)