

Rhodesian Ridgeback Club of Qld Inc

Specialty Show

8 June 2013

First of all, let me say that it was a great honour and a thrill for me to be invited to judge my first Specialty Show in Queensland, and I'd like to thank the Club and its members for giving me this opportunity

I'd like to share some general observations with you, but please remember, these are only my opinions, and, as was quoted at the end of the show, 'we all take the best dog home' and I firmly believe this.

My Best of Breed was a terrific example of what epitomises the Rhodesian Ridgeback – 'strong, muscular, agile and active'. He excelled in breed type and exhibited the heart and lung capacity without which the Ridgeback cannot do his job. This is something that is very important to me as a breeder and now as a judge, and many of the dogs that were unplaced did not exhibit this essential characteristic. I'm sure many of you would agree that we are in danger of losing the forechest and fill in front across Australia, and I judged several dogs that had almost cathedral fronts, which I penalised heavily.

As I mentioned on the day, breeders need to be aware of the size of their dogs, as some were very tall, or tending towards the 'massiveness' that is discouraged in the breed standard – this breed is meant to be active and agile, so a balance between elegance and strength should be sought after. Bigger is not better in this case.

On the positive side, not once did I have to worry about the temperament of a dog, and you should be proud of this achievement. All dogs were in good show condition, very few were overweight, and overall, very few were poor movers, which certainly made Best Gait classes interesting! The dogs that I placed higher were those that moved true with a free and active gait. Almost all had correct scissor bites, but watch this carefully as bad bites are very difficult to eradicate. I also saw quite a few weak underjaws, which spoiled an otherwise pleasant head, but saw hardly any poor feet – again, the Best Footed class was a challenge with so many to choose from!

Finally, while the dog does not run on his ridge, and I did not penalise any for correctness or otherwise (many were incorrect), this is the hallmark of our breed, and if we do not pay attention to this feature, we run the risk of losing good ridges, as has happened in other countries, where they are now struggling to get it back – food for thought.

I'd like to thank my ring steward Janet McGregor, who kept me in line, and my ticket writer, Ellen Nan-Kivell, both of whom did an awesome job. Congratulations go to the Committee for a well run show that ran smoothly - and a beautifully produced catalogue. Thank you also to exhibitors who took my decisions with good sportsmanship and grace, although none can match the excitement of the Challenge bitch winner!

Lesley Fairhall

BABY PUPPY DOG

1st HOMERIJ CONCEALED WEAPON

14 week old brown nosed dog, well boned, well balanced head, little lacking in length of rib, beautifully angulated, good strong feet. Moved true.

MINOR PUPPY DOG

1st CAPRIVI LETS GET FAMOUS

9 month old dog, well over size, good angulation front and rear and strong topline, balanced head, eyes could be a little bigger, lovely length of neck, well set on tail, slightly loose in front, excellent long ridge, little long in hock, extended well on the move.

PUPPY DOG

1st RIGINAL TURN THE PAGE AI

7 month old dog, well angulated hindquarter although a little short in upper arm, with chest to elbow, visible forechest and good fill in front, well set on tail. Head planes not level and muzzle could be longer but lovely expression and good ear set. Good length of neck, ridge slightly offset. Moves a little close behind but true in front. A promising youngster.

JUNIOR DOG

1st UMKIMZULU SAFARI BYRALPHLAUREN

9 month old strong boned, well balanced dog, very tall, chest to elbow, well ribbed back and good fill in front, little bit roman nosed, would prefer more stop and length of muzzle, ridge offset, a little longish hocks but moved true coming and going, extended well on the run but rear slightly high. Acquitted himself well at his first show.

2nd ADBESARE THE POWER OF THREE AI

16 month old red wheaten dog, black through the coat, chest not quite to elbow and could do with more fill, balanced head better than first dog and pleasing expression, ridge a little short, crabbing badly on the day so couldn't really assess his gait, good feet.

3rd LIONVELDT JAMAA EL TARINO

13 month old light wheaten dog, very tall and strong boned, short in upper arm and lacking angulation front and rear, very strong head with square muzzle, very broad ridge which doesn't taper, moved reasonably well, but a little high in rear.

INTERMEDIATE DOG

1st CH OZRHODE RAISE YOUR GLASS

20 month old red wheaten dog of lovely breed type, excellent depth of chest with visible forechest, balanced head with level head planes and elegant length of neck. Good feet, moved a little close, but otherwise a lovely specimen.

2nd CHILOLO SHHA SHARP SHOOTER AI

22 month old wheaten dog, good bone, short in upper arm but balanced front and rear, ribs a little barrelled, balanced head and level head planes but would prefer more stop, good feet, good ridge, little long in hock but moved reasonably well and held his topline on the move.

3rd CHIBOA SHOW N SHINE

20 month old balanced dog, chest not to elbow and lacking fill in front, well balanced head and intelligent expression although head planes not level, good ear set and lovely length of neck, moved reasonably well but runs up a little at the rear.

AUSTRALIAN BRED DOG

1st SUP CH BALLAHOND MOOLA BAYOU ET (*RESERVE DOG AND RUNNER UP BEST IN SHOW*)

6 ½ year old wheaten dog of excellent breed type, well balanced clean lines, excellent topline, well boned, chest to elbow, excellent fill in front and ribbed well back, good length of neck flowing smoothly into well laid shoulder. Lovely head and expression, strong underjaw. Ridge a little short, little long in hocks, true coming and going, excellent reach and drive on the go around and covered the ground with ease.

2nd GR CH KYSARIDGE CEVARDA JUPITER RN ET

3 ½ year old well balanced red wheaten dog, some black through coat, good angulation front and rear, visible forechest but would prefer a little more fill, good depth of chest and ribbed well back, level topline. Strong balanced head and level planes, good feet, well let down hocks, moved a little wide behind, excellent reach and drive, looks like he could go all day.

3rd CH KIPSIGIS KZ ZUKA

3 ½ year old, well balanced dog, a little upright in shoulder chest to elbow, visible forechest and ribbed well back, well balanced head but would prefer stronger underjaw, good length of neck, good feet, ridge a little short, moves a little close behind and drops his topline on the move but covered the ground well.

OPEN DOG

1st CH REX VENTORS RARE EDITION (IMP SWD) (*CHALLENGE DOG AND BEST IN SHOW*)

5 year old, powerful red wheaten dog, well proportioned and of excellent breed type, well up to size. Visible forechest, lovely depth of chest and ribbed well back with good fill in front, well balanced head with good ear set and lovely dark eye and expression. Strong level topline held on the move, moved true front and rear, covers the ground effortlessly with strong reach and drive on the go around. An eye-catching dog, he had my attention as soon as he went around the ring.

2nd CH CHIBOA CAHAN GUIRE

6 year old finer boned brown nosed dog, chest to elbow. Correct amber eye harmonising with coat, level head planes, good length of neck, would prefer a stronger scissor bite, excellent topline, tail set a little low. Moved true coming and going and covers the ground well. Good ridge.

3rd CH STARRIDGE KOZAR LEGACY AI ET

6 ½ year old well boned, balanced dog, chest to elbow but would prefer more fill in front, well balanced head with good dark eye and intelligent expression, lovely ear set, good ridge, moved a little slowly and wide behind, looked like he'd rather save his energy for chasing rabbits.

VETERAN DOG

1st CH KYSARIDGE ALIA CAESAR RN AD JD SD

10 year old red wheaten dog in excellent condition, good shoulder angulation and length of upper arm, good depth of chest and ribbed well back, lovely balanced head and expression coming from correct round dark eye, good depth of muzzle. Little bit out in elbow but an older dog, topline level on the move and still covers the ground well at his age.

2nd GR CH RIGINAL SVGUNAVAGOODTIME AI

9 year old well boned dog, well up to size, good depth of chest and well ribbed back but a little long in loin, upright in shoulder and long hocks, well balanced head, loses topline on the move but otherwise a sound dog.

BABY PUPPY BITCH

1st BALLAHOND WHITE SATIN BAY

16 week old wheaten bitch, well put together at this age, well balanced, excellent topline, good fill in front and visible forechest, excellent feet, lovely balanced head and expression, correct ear set. Moved well. A lovely little baby and one to watch.

2nd HOMERIJ SECRET WEAPON

15 week old bitch at her first show, well boned for this age, balanced head, lovely dark eye but a little less stop than first, good ear set, moved reasonably well when we could see it!

3rd HOMERIJ HIDDEN DIMENSION

15 week old brown nosed bitch, well balanced with good layback of shoulder, well boned, little longer in body than first 2, good ear set, good length of neck, held topline well on the move, another promising youngster.

MINOR PUPPY BITCH

1st RIGINAL NIGHT MOVES

7 month old bitch, lovely clean outline, well boned, chest to elbow, good fill in front and well ribbed back, lovely dark eye and appealing expression, could do with longer muzzle, but otherwise a pleasant head. Good feet, moves a little cow hocked and stands the same, but still a promising puppy overall.

PUPPY BITCH

1st CHILOLO EBY OSHUN OF GOLD AI

11 month old bitch of good breed type, lovely clean outline on this bitch, well balanced but would prefer a little more angulation front and rear, good depth of chest, good fill in front, but picture would be improved with a little more forechest, well boned, appealing balanced head and lovely expression coming from correct dark eye, ridge offset. Moved well.

JUNIOR BITCH

1st ADBESARE THREE TIMES A LADY (*CHALLENGE BITCH*)

17 month old well balanced, red wheaten bitch of excellent breed type who caught my eye immediately. Chest to elbow, adequate fill and well ribbed back. Very pretty balanced head, good ear set, lovely dark eye and expression, elegant neck, good bone, strong level topline, little low in tailset, covered the ground well with good reach and drive, true coming and going, very pretty bitch.

2nd CHILOLO EBY KALAHARI GOLD AI (*RESERVE CHALLENGE BITCH*)

11 month old well balanced bitch of good breed type, lovely clean outline, well boned with good depth of chest matched by good fill in front and well ribbed back, a little shorter in upper arm, balanced head, but not quite as pretty as first, would prefer a little more stop, ridge a little short, covered the ground really well with excellent reach and drive. Overall a sound well balanced bitch.

3rd ADBESARE CHOCO BOLO AI

14 month old dark red wheaten bitch of good breed type, well balanced with nice clean outline, good depth of chest, muzzle could be a tad longer, moved well. Couldn't put her up on the day due to her coat being very patchy and irritated, otherwise overall a pleasing, typey bitch.

INTEMEDIAE BITCH

1st CH MARMATIA TZARINA TAKIRA

3 year old feminine bitch, well up to size, lovely elegant outline to this bitch, correct depth of chest and well ribbed back, but would prefer a little more fill in front, well angulated front and rear, strong level topline, good feet. Pretty balanced head with correct level planes and elegant length of neck, good tail set, ridge a little short, not wanting to move out today, which was a shame. A pretty, quality bitch.

2nd CH SCHLAU LIONS DREAM

2 ½ year old moderate bitch, visible forechest, chest to elbow and well ribbed back with lovely underline, well angulated with good turn of stifle. Well balanced head, good ear set, lovely dark eye, good length of neck, slightly low tail set. Moved a little close behind.

3rd KENJALA GIVE IT YR BEST SHOT

2 ½ year old red wheaten bitch, good depth of chest, well ribbed back, but would prefer more fill in front, moderate angulation but used it well on the move. Ear set a little high, but good head planes and a correct dark eye with intelligent expression. A handy moderate bitch.

AUSTRALIAN BRED BITCH

1st CH KENJALA STARZ INHER EYEZ AI ET

6 ½ year old dark red wheaten bitch, clean outline, well boned, deep chest well ribbed back, adequate fill in front, but would like more forechest, lovely dark eye and expression, correct ear set and good length of neck, tail set a little low, good length to ridge, standing slightly eastwest in front, covered the ground well with good reach and drive and held topline on the move.

2nd CH KODUST CUZ I CAN AI

6 year old balanced bitch, well boned, chest to elbow, well ribbed back, head not as good as the first, would prefer more underjaw but lovely dark eye and expression, good feet, sloping croup with lower tail set, moved out well.

OPEN BITCH

1st CH RIDGESETTER MAGIC BERRI

5 ½ year old well balanced bitch, well up to size, good fill in front and well ribbed back, good feet, balanced head, good ear set, lovely dark eye and beautiful expression, good length of neck, could have tighter underline, well let down hocks, moved true coming and going and covered the ground well.

2nd RIGINAL WITCHY WOMAN AI

4 year old bitch, well boned, short in upper arm resulting in forward placed forequarters not matching better angulation in the rear, balanced head with correct ear set, intelligent expression and good depth of muzzle, elegant length of neck, good feet, shorter ridge. Moved reasonably well.

3rd CH ADBESARE MIDNIGHT MIST

5 ½ year old red wheaten bitch of good breed type, well boned, topline a bit soft, visible forechest and good fill in front, moderate angulation, balanced head with level planes, topline drops on the move but true coming and going with good reach and drive.

VETERAN BITCH

1st GR CH RIGINAL SV HARLEY N ROSE AI ET

9 year old balanced bitch in excellent condition, well boned, strong level topline, good depth of chest with adequate fill in front but would like to see more forechest, and well ribbed back, pretty balanced head with lovely round eyes and expression, good feet, covers the ground well moving true, shorter ridge. Still in great shape for her age!

NEUTER DOG

1ST GR CH BALLAHOND KADA PHANTOM ET (*NEUTER BEST OF BREED*)

10 year old light wheaten dog, in great condition, excellent topline still, good bone, excellent forechest and fill in front, elegant length of neck, well proportioned head with lovely dark eye and pleasing expression, great reach and drive on the move.

2nd CH ADBESARE REMA BORIS

10 ½ year old dog, also in excellent condition, stronger build than the first, little bit high in the rear, good fill in front, level head planes, ridge offset, steep in croup, moved really well coming and going.

NEUTER BITCH

1ST CH/NEUT CH KYSARIDGE TALIA VARDA ET

10 year old strongly built bitch, well boned, quite steep in croup, lovely front good strong forechest and fill, and well ribbed back. Good length of neck, lovely dark eyes, good ear set.