

Whippet Club of Queensland
2016 Championship Show Judge's Critique

Judge: Mrs Barbara Ruth Smith (Sweden)

Judge's Critiques, Memories and Appreciation

I honestly don't know where to start, which is a first for me 😊

To be invited to visit Australia was a dream come true and to be able to judge my "heart" breed during that trip was icing on the cake.

The flight was long but really not as bad as I expected and upon my arrival began a series of days which allowed me to see the best side of Australia's people, hospitality and beautiful countryside... and then there were the dogs. Some of the most beautiful whippets I have ever seen. My "heart" breed is certainly being well-taken care of in Australia.

I would like to thank the Whippet Club of Queensland for a fantastically well-organized show with beautiful prizes for the winners and a very accomplished photographer, thank you Stephen Uebel. I would also like to thank Pat Adam who was so kind to donate one of the judges' gifts, a beautiful antique opal and diamond ring. As well as my ring steward Ainsley Carius who was the embodiment of organization.

I cannot forget to mention my accommodations either. Erin and Penny were the most gracious of hosts allowing me to live with them for almost 2 weeks. The food was scrumptious and the interesting discussions we had were enlightening to say the least. I learned much about salukis and cats. Their home was an oasis to come back to each afternoon after my many daily adventures.

Thank you also to all the exhibitors who picked me up each day after the whippet speciality was over, taking their personal time to show me the best parts of the Brisbane and surrounding areas, even doing a bit of shopping and getting a wonderful facial and body massage!

Before I begin my individual critiques I would like to again mention the extremely high quality of virtually all of the exhibits and the high competence of their handlers. With the exception of the high speed by which some were shown, all exhibits were presented in a very professional manner allowing me to examine and evaluate each one to their best advantage.

I decided not to critique each dog right after placing them because there were such small things which I ended up using to make my placement decisions that I felt would be better understood and in overall context when written down.

When looking over the dogs at the beginning of judging the class, I look first for the type I feel is what the breed standard calls for, as well as using my 40 years' experience in this breed, I also take into consideration and give some extra priority to those attributes I feel we are losing in the breed and need to retain. For example elegance and "S" curves, (deep long brisket and correct rise over the loin) and so I prioritized those things in most of my final placements. When looking at my final line-ups, (I took photos of every class in placement order) I think this shows, even if it couldn't always be seen from outside the ring.

After I find the type I believe is correct, I concentrate on correct whippet movement. Flying around the ring is NOT correct for a whippet as it is not a trotting breed but a double-extending one. To double extend and make quick turns, when hunting, they must be able to get their front legs (feet) under themselves and to meet the back legs (feet) under and then fully extend those legs. Dogs that don't have balanced MODERATE angulation both front and back are not able to accomplish this effectively which often causes accidents and injuries. Also dogs that have too much shoulder angulation can't get their heads down between their front legs to capture and break the neck of their prey while still running. Moderate angulation is the answer to produce an effective sighthound hunter.

The above being said, It was a joy to see so many well balanced and curvy dogs in my ring and that made my decisions all the harder. Now for my critiques:

Baby Puppy Dog: (8 entered, 6 shown)

1. Junabeez Hush of the Night (BIS baby puppy)-A well-developed puppy with angles and curves, lots to grow into. Moves well for his age. A bit of a happy tail.
2. Alarves Baileys On Ice-A well balanced puppy with a delightful temperament, balanced handsome head, moving a bit loose in front but nice rear and side movement.
3. Alltalk Strike Me Lucky- A well balanced puppy with a beautiful head and expression, moving a bit loose in front.
4. Calahorra Oscietra Caviar-Well balanced and pretty shaped puppy. Needs training and maturity.

This was a beautiful class which meant I had to use small things to make my placements. For the most part, they were placed in order of maturity. Those placed towards the end were because the ones placed in front were more "together". There wasn't a bad one in this class!

Minor Puppy Dog: (3 entered, 3 shown)

1. Ridgesetter Rhythm of the Rain-Handsome dog that just needs to mature a bit. Lovely curves and moves well
2. Taejaan Blue My Mind-A well balanced handsome dog that needs to mature. Well-developed brisket. Could be a little cleaner coming and going with a bit more drive back from the side.
3. Zipalong Unconditional Love-A happy young man with great temperament. Needs to develop and mature. A bit straight in front from shoulder to pastern.

Puppy Dog: (2 entered, 2 shown)

1. Alltalk Wild Irish Heart-Puppy BIS-An extremely well balanced good moving young dog with a lot of potential. Well balanced angulation and very balanced movement for his age.
2. Piaffe Balmain Boy-Handsome head, long neck and harmonious top and underline. He came second in this class because of his rather straight pasterns.

Junior Dog: (4 entered, 4 shown)

1. Calahorra Once In A Blue Moon-Very mature and well developed with beautiful top and underline, balanced angulation front and rear and a very pretty head. Moves well and balanced.
2. Ch. Ozrhode Celtic Simply Class-A very mature dog with a beautiful head and whippety expression. A bit straight in pastern but moves well in spite of that.
3. Ridgesetter Triumphant-A pretty head and expression. Nice front and underline. Could use more balance when moving
4. Mchumba Pulp Fiction-Pretty head and expression. Rather long in body and flat topline. Moves well.

Intermediate Dog: (6 entered, 6 shown)

1. Ch. Elmaro Hard Act To Follow (Dog Challenge and Reserve BIS &Intermediate BIS)-An extremely balanced dog with a beautiful head and expression. At times could give the impression of a bit of flatness over the loin and a bit of extra length but at his best, moving and standing, he showed excellent whippet type and movement.
2. Rosiel Royal Magician-A well balanced dog with beautiful curves and movement.
3. Ch. Aslan Swede Patience Rewarded-A real eye-catcher. Well balanced and moves well. Nice short hocks and correct pasterns.
4. Ch. Shawthing Legend In My Time-Handsome headed dog. Moves well but a bit long in body and flat over the loin.
5. Ricoshade The Potters Tiger-Nice balanced dog, good top and underline could move with more drive back from the side and was a bit narrow coming at you.

Australian Bred Dog: (7 entered, 6 shown)

1. Alarves Wham Bam Thank U Maam (BIS Australian Bred)-Well balanced dog with handsome head and breed typical expression. Harmonious top and underline. Balanced mover.
2. Ch. Lysnagah Jameson-A handsome and well balanced dog, correct proportions and bone. Deep brisket a touch flat over the loin. Moves well.
3. Ch. Jordeaux Summer Rain- A pretty head and expression. Nice front and underline. Rather straight in pastern. Could use more overall-balance
4. Pressage Jacob-Pretty head and expression. Good hocks and pasterns, rather straight in upper arm and flat over the loin. Moves well.

Open Dog: (9 entered, 8 shown)

1. Ch. Pressage Clancy (Reserve Challenge)-Masculine head with breed typical expression. Correct proportions and excellent balanced moderate angulation. Beautiful long neck. Moves well from all sides.
2. Ch. Karnabay Jimmy Choo-Masculine well balanced head. Well-developed underline, correct topline. A bit straight in pastern. Moves well.
3. Ch. Aslan A Day At The Races-Correct proportions and underline. Masculine head. Good size. Rather straight in shoulder causing fore-chest to be exaggerated. Moves well.
4. Ch. Sheberghan Like My Dad-Handsome dog with correct top and underline. A bit straight in pastern. Could have more balanced movement.

Veteran Dog: (2 entered, 2 shown)

1. Sup. Ch. Shenace All In At Hogarth (BIS veteran)-Masculine well balanced dog of excellent quality, type and condition. A touch flat on the topline but a lovely mover from all sides.
2. Sup. Ch. Peperone New Sensation- A handsome dog of excellent quality, balance and type that was just not giving anything today when moving

Baby Puppy Bitch: (6 entered, 6 shown)

1. Junabeez Nightingale-A lovely, feminine well balanced baby bitch with lots of attitude and great mover for her age. Already showing off her lovely top and underline and well balanced movement.
2. Wyldchase Witchery-A very lovely feminine bitch of exquisite type with somewhat longer lines. Very promising.
3. Alarves Beautiful Amazing Grace-Pretty feminine bitch with everything in the right place, just needs to mature.
4. Pressage Lolly-Curvy feminine bitch with correct proportions and topline. Long neck and balanced angulation. Moving like a baby which she is. Should be a stunner when she matures.
5. Ricoshade Imagine Pilyps Girl-A full-bodied feminine baby bitch who needs training to be able to get the best out of her.

Minor Puppy Bitch: (entered 5, shown 5)

1. Ridgesetter Looks Like Rain (BIS Minor Puppy)-Beautiful head and expression, nice mover a bit on the long side but uses everything she has to advantage.
2. Aslan No Undies Sundees-Lovely feminine with beautiful curves. Nice balanced rear angulation a bit straight in upper arm and pastern.
3. Piaffe Barangaroo-well balanced feminine head with breed typical expression. A bit straight in upper arm and pastern, nicely angulated rear. Pretty top and underline.
4. Blakriva Justabitmore-feminine, moderate and of correct size. Pretty head with breed typical expression. Balanced mover.
5. Ridgesetter Just A Little Rain-feminine head with pretty expression. Nice proportions and moves well. Harmonious over and under-lines.

This was another beautiful class which meant I had to use small things to make my placements. For the most part, they were placed in order of maturity. Those placed towards the end were because the ones placed in front were more “together”. There wasn’t a bad one in this class either!

Puppy Bitch: (4 entered, 4 shown)

1. Piaffe Bertana-A well balanced feminine bitch of excellent type and angulation. Occasionally she could look a bit flat on the top when standing but she usually held her top-line on the move. Nice mover when not moved too fast.
2. Aslan She Knows How To Use EM-Pretty and well balanced. Nice proportions. Could have stronger rear angulation. A bit straight in upper arm. Needs to mature. Balanced mover.
3. Bundoon Sky Fall- Feminine and nice proportions. Could have stronger rear angulation. Correct top and under lines. Balanced mover
4. Blakriva Splitdecision- Feminine head and expression. Correct proportions. A bit straight in pastern. Needs to mature. Balanced mover.

Junior Bitch: (7 entered, 7 shown)

1. Lysnagah Tullamore Dew (Bitch Challenge and BIS and BIS Junior)-A bitch of the highest quality. Excellent head and expression, beautiful breed-typical proportions. Deep brisket and correct top-line which she kept standing and moving. Strong rear and correct balanced shoulder and pastern angulation. A beautiful mover from all sides.
2. Parnew I Can See Your Halo-Well balanced and stable with balanced, feminine head, nice underjaw. Correct underline, could be a bit flat on top standing but held her top-line while moving. Balanced mover
3. Jordeaux Serene Illusion-Feminine well balanced head with whippety expression. Moves well, just needs to mature.
4. Pressage Jenna Lee-A pretty well balanced bitch who was making her handler work this day. Beautiful underline, a bit flat on top both standing and moving. Balanced mover.
5. Jordeaux Pure Illusion-Pretty type and balanced construction. A bit straight in upper arm and pastern. Balanced mover.

Intermediate Bitch: (13, 11 shown)

1. Elmaro Hey Little Girl –Beautiful head and expression, beautiful deep brisket. A bit flat over the loin standing. Nice top-line when moving. Strong movement from all sides.
2. Ch. Ryeford My Immortal-A bitch of excellent type, size and proportions. Pretty head and expression. Elegant neck. Deep and well developed underline, matching top-line, well angulated front. A bit over-angulated rear. Nice mover but could use a touch more finish to her rear movement.
3. Ch. Ridgesetter Follow The Dream-Well balance feminine breed typical head. Balanced angulation and movement.
4. Ridgesetter Dark N Delightful-Feminine head. Elegant neck, Deep underline. Nice front angulation a bit too much rear angulation in comparison to her front.
5. Blakriva The Bosses Daughter-Pretty, feminine head. Nice neck. Correct proportions. Moved a bit narrow front and could have a bit more drive from the rear.

Australian Bred Bitch: (entered 10, shown 10)

1. Piaffe Anastasia – Reserve Challenge-A lovely, well-balanced and breed typical bitch when shown at the right speed and when willing to stand properly.
2. Ridgesetter Summer Loving-Well balanced feminine head and breed typical expression. Beautiful top and under-line. Balanced angulation front and rear. Somewhat longish body. Moved well from all sides.
3. Ch. Shalique Jee Nie In A Bottle- A top quality bitch standing. Beautiful head and expression. Lovely proportions and size. Harmonious top and under lines. Rather straight in front construction which affected her movement.
4. Phoenway Fifty Shades Darker-A lovely bitch with markings on her show side that tended to give a wrong impression of her top-line when moving. Balanced angulation and nice proportions. Moves well.
5. Ryeford Devil In Disguise- Feminine head and expression. Excellent underline and proportions. Rather straight in upper arm and pastern. A touch steep in croup but moved well from all sides.

Open Bitch: (entered 6, shown 6)

1. Ch. Ridgesetter Dark N Desirable (BIS Open)-Well balanced rather substantial but feminine bitch. Well-balanced head. Nice underline a touch flat over the loin. Nice mover.
2. Ch. Shawthing Thatza Sparkla-Beautiful head and expression. Pretty neck and shoulders. A bit straight upper arm. Nice pasterns and hocks. Well angulated but moderate rear. Excellent underline. A bit sloping top-line.
3. 3. Ch. Shalique Ive Got You Babe-Feminine head with breed typical expression. Nice proportions. A bit straight in upper arm and pastern. Could have stronger rear angulation. Balanced mover.
4. Ch. Isilwane Lie To Me-Beautiful head and expression. Long elegant and strong neck. Deep brisket. Rather long in the body and over-angulated rear. Moved well but could have stronger rear drive.

Veteran Bitch: (3 entered, 3 shown)

1. Ch. Lysnagah Autumn Belle-Well balanced feminine head and expression. Balanced angulation and movement.
2. Sup. Ch. Shalique Catch My Kisses-Feminine head and expression. Nice neck and harmonious top and under lines. Balanced angulation. Moved well.
3. Ch. Cheshunt Crème Tequila-Pretty head and expressions. Beautiful underline. A bit straight in pastern. Moderate rear angulation. Moved well when not moved too fast.

Neuter Dog: (1 entered)

1. Neuter Ch. Wildhare Simply Scherzando SC- (BIS Neuter)- A strong and mature dog with nice proportions. Well balanced head, breed typical expression. Correct top and underline. Could have a touch more second thigh angulation to balance his front. Balanced mover.

Neuter Bitch: (3 entered, 3 shown)

1. Sup. Ch. Ridgesetter Etain-Feminine, well balanced angulation and movement.
2. Neut Ch. Calahorra Sun Lizard ET-Feminine and elegant. Moved well.
3. Ch. Shalique Jee Look At Me.-Feminine, excellent proportions. A bit straight in pasterns. Balanced mover.