

ACT BTC Championship Show

6-7-19

Thank you for inviting me to adjudicate at your show. The hospitality of this club's committee was exceptional. Thank you also to my steward, Liz, who kept the ring organised & ensured that I was able to complete my task efficiently. Though the numbers were low, the quality of dogs was still of a high standard. I am saddened at the toxic attitude of a handful of breeders, and we can already see the effect this is having on the breed, with even experienced breeders leaving the hobby. If this does not change soon, I despair for the future of the breed in Australia. We must encourage new exhibitors, as they are the future of the breed.

Bull Terrier (Miniature)

Intermediate Dog

1st: Tidy brindle dog. Head of pleasing shape & well filled. Dark eye of correct shape & placement. Ears could be smaller & set closer together to improve overall expression. Substantial, straight bone in front with tight feet. More angulation in his forequarter would improve his overall outline in profile and alter his Terrier front movement. Reasonable rear with decent drive. Presented beautifully.

Open Dog

1st: Substantial white boy. Lovely small deep set eye which gave him a wicked expression. Broken profile but head of good length with strength. Ears well placed. Mouth incorrect. Straight front with quality round bone. Good reach of neck with quite good fore angulation. A tad long coupled in body. Moved close in rear. Both dogs were oversize to my eye.

Baby Puppy Bitch

1st: Fabulous length of head with slightly broken profile. Great expression thanks to small dark eyes & correctly placed ears. Somewhat loose in front at the moment, well developed forechest with pleasing fore angulation. Well turned rear- she got the nod over number 2 on being shorter & more compact.

2nd: Again, lovely length of head with good fill down to muzzle. Also very pleasing expression. Straight bone in front- perhaps not quite the fore angulation of number 1. Shapely body for a youngster. Close decision.

Junior Bitch

1st: Strong powerful bitch. Pretty profile- just broken a little by brows. Dropped away marginally around the muzzle. Small dark eye. Adequate shoulder angulation with straight front. Shapely body & moved well off her rear quarters. Short hocks. Tended to drop her topline a little on the stand.

Open Bitch

1st: Tidy, shapely bitch- compact & of good size. Feminine but slightly browy head. Eye of correct colour & shape. Straight front with tight cat feet- could have a little more bone. Reachy neck with satisfactory angulation in fore. Well developed rear with short hocks- parallel movement both fore & aft.

2nd: Pretty bitch with correct egg shaped head- filled through. Good dark eye, though a fraction smaller would give her a more varminty expression. Very strong bone with strapping forechest and shapely body. Tended to drop her topline on occasion. Her movement, though close, still displayed a jaunty air.

Bull Terrier

Baby Puppy Dog

1st: Strong pup. Very short in head- the results obvious upon inspecting his mouth, sadly. Smooth unbroken profile, with dark, deep set eyes. Good front with substantial bone. His angulation, both fore & aft, was not exemplary.

Minor Puppy Dog

1st: Powerful, but immature pup. Head of good length & shape, but could have a bit more strength around the muzzle. Large, widely placed ears marred his expression. Good straight front with average fore construction. I would like to see him a tad shorter in back. Well turned rear & moved quite well off it.

Puppy Dog

1st: Strapping, powerful, masculine dog. Correct head with pleasing profile- packed through. Ears of good size & placement- one was still a tad soft. Wicked eye, level mouth. Great depth of chest. Reachy neck with soundly constructed & angulated shoulder. Compact body lines- tail set correctly but carried a little high. Moved with a jaunty air and good, parallel lines, both fore & aft.

Intermediate Dog

Difficult decision, with 2 quality boys of different types- where do you put your emphasis?? As a breeder, my personal preference was with the type of 2, but as a judge, I am required to 'weigh up points'. This was how it 'fell' today!

1st: Beautifully shaped head & profile- filled through. Small ears set very well, dark eye, but could be shaped better to improve expression. Straight bone in front, but feet not his virtue! Well laid shoulder- could have a little more reach of neck. Short, compact body with adequate turn in rear. The benefit of short hocks was evident on the move.

2nd: Eyecatching black dog. Not the style of head of number 1, having 2 planes to his profile. However it still had strength. Good dark eye, but ears could be a tad smaller to improve his expression. He was certainly on the tiptoe of expectation though! Lovely straight front with good quality bone. Pleasing reach of neck with good body lines. To be picky, he could be a little closer coupled.

Australian Bred Dog

1st: Powerful, substantially boned dog. Good length of head with quality profile, only slightly broken by brows. A little more packing around the muzzle would completely balance his head. Dark eye of correct shape- perhaps could be a tad smaller. I would prefer a slightly better ear placement. Good strength of neck with adequate fore angulation. Bone in front straight. Could be a little closer coupled, but this may be less noticeable as he matures more. This maturity was also evident in underdeveloped 2nd thigh- though he moved quite well, there was a 'lightness'- a lack of that 2nd thigh 'drive' that should hopefully disappear as he develops.

Open Dog

1st: Attractive red dog- overall very pleasing to the eye as a cobby, compact style of dog. Good head length with dark eye. Ears of good size – to be picky – could be further up on top of the head. Straight, round, quality bone in front. Much power in forechest & neck, though a little more reach would be good. Fore angulation reasonable. Short in hock- moved with a jaunty air.

Minor Puppy Bitch

1st: Shapely & stylish with a lovely length of head. Perhaps a little plain in profile but with roman finish. Very small, dark well shaped eyes. Fill dropped away a fraction under the eye. Ears a little large- but we need to make allowances for that at this age. Straight front with quality bone. Powerful neck. Forequarter angulation could be improved, which accentuated a longer body. Strong rear.

2nd: More petite style of bitch. Sweeping profile- perhaps a little overdone for my personal preference. Small dark eye. Fill dropped away under the eye. Ears set a little wide which marred her expression. Front not the quality of number 1. Again, fore angulation not her virtue, which is evident in her dropping topline. This also ran onto giving her an elevated rear.

Puppy Bitch

1st: Quality bitch with a slightly exaggerated profile. Pleasing eye- dark, correctly shaped & placed. Fill dropped a little under the eye. Her ears were not of good size or placement, which was to the detriment of her overall expression. Powerful forechest, front just average. Reachy neck with good body lines. Low set tail with well developed second thigh & short hock.

Intermediate Bitch

1st: Lovely bitch with very pleasing overall lines- without exaggeration. Head with gently sloping arc with sufficient fill to maintain balance and that pleasing egg shape. Dark eye, correct mouth. Straight bone in front, with quite acceptable fore angulation. She was well ribbed back with the desired slight roach over the loin which usually is coupled with correct tail set. Moved well off a well muscled & short hocked rear.

2nd: Strong bitch. Well turned profile- only slightly broken by brows. Head packed through. A little more length would give better balance. Expression affected by wide set ears. Tiny, dark eye. Round bone in front but slightly turned at pastern. Strong forechest & neck. Topline was affected by shoulder angulation. Rear strong, but close. Moved with a jaunty air.

Australian Bred Bitch

1st: Lovely length of head with reasonable shape, though drops away marginally under the eye. Dark eye, ears could be set a little higher on her head, which would add to her expression. Straight bone in front with a good strong neck. Shapely body, with correct tail set (which does much to give correct outline). Sadly this girl has terrible feet- both fore & rear, which marred her movement considerably.

Open Bitch

1st: Stylish well profiled head- no exaggerations- combined with good length. Typical expression from her correct eye & ear. Straight front bone with forechest well evident. Adequate fore angulation. Tended to drop her topline on occasion. Moved well off a pleasing rear.