

It was a pleasure to judge the Championship Show of the Rhodesian Ridgeback Club Inc. on October 1<sup>st</sup> 2023. I would like to thank the organisers, exhibitors, and their dogs for putting on a great performance under quite difficult conditions due to the weather. In particular, thanks go to my very efficient ring steward Tony.

I would like to thank most of the exhibitors who appreciated that bearing in mind the hot and windy conditions, I attempted to keep the judging as brief as expedient. I know you all wanted to get home as soon as practical. For that reason, I dispensed with the usual triangle exercise – as dogs enter the ring I get to see their movement from the side, and the away and back in a straight line (or as straight as possible, in some entrants!) adequately shows front and back movement. Nobody missed out on the opportunity to show their dogs to their best advantage.

It is nearly twenty years since I last judged your Ridgebacks in New South Wales - and interesting to compare the entrants with my memories from that previous occasion. Most noticeable to me was the greater consistency in the style (or as many people refer to it, type) of Ridgebacks being displayed. In the past I saw wildly differing styles

from smaller to massive exhibits clearly well over top height; from heavily boned individuals to lighter boned flimsy ones; some with massive heads too short in face with heavy “wet” necks, to very narrow snipey heads with poor strength in jaws; some with very straight fronts, some acceptable fronts with completely over angulated rear quarters - sometimes appearing both together.

To the breeders I say, well done. I think you have brought your Ridgebacks to the desirable moderate dog that I certainly appreciate and admire. In the larger classes the top few dogs and bitches showed admiral depth of quality, making some of my final placings very difficult indeed.

I noted a great improvement in feet – with only a very few being slightly shallow and a bit flat, but not approaching some of the thin “hare feet” seen in the past. Also lacking (and a good thing too) were any very round feet so tightly arched with short bunched thick toes to appear to be almost knuckling over in front, as I saw in Europe when I judged last year. Toes should be arched, of course, but with a length to each digit allowing flexibility to turn at high speed, to grip and scabble over rough terrain and to allow an alert dog to hold his ground or nimbly move away.

In general heads were masculine or feminine according to gender. Gone are the effeminate heads on some males, or the massive heavy heads on some bitches. Gone too are some of the very heavy necks or long thin ones lacking strength. A return to moderation seems to have prevailed. I generally found substance of bone to match overall proportions of the mature exhibits, with only a few exceptions.

In movement your exhibits display efficiency and economy of gait; I hope we have moved away from the desire for and admiration of the “tremendous reach and drive” so often rewarded in the past, and in my opinion more suited to the dressage ring. I look for the low daisy cutting movement that denotes endurance and economy, head held in line with the back (unless scenting) and with no interference from the handler. Speed has nothing to do with this equation. A few exhibits flapped their feet around a bit coming toward, and a few were rather hocky or too wide going away, but not in an alarming proportion.

The majority of exhibits displayed correctly angulated rear quarters with desirable muscle expression. Some of you will note in my critiques a

comment on lack of strength in the second thigh (the width of the stifle at the bottom end of the lower thigh/gaskin). Please watch that. I also noted a few exhibits who displayed less than desirable front quarters, in terms of depth and width when viewed from the side or the front, or both. I do not look for the fad of the bulging fore chest or “fill” advocated by some enthusiasts – in my opinion it serves no purpose or benefit to our breed. I look for sufficiency and moderation. I also noted a few rather loose elbows and commented on that accordingly.

A little bit about ridges. I saw only one ridge where I considered the offset to be sufficiently pronounced to penalise. I saw one or two slight “slips” but insufficient to penalise. I saw no extra crowns or ridges far too short. Ninety-nine percent of the ridges I saw fell into the acceptable/correct range. However, I did not see the proportion of long, tapering and clearly defined ridges which I think has been a hallmark of the Australian Rhodesian Ridgeback for many years. Many overseas judges share this opinion. Obviously, the ridge is cosmetic, and we have in our standard a broad acceptance of what is correct and what is not. Breeders do not have to concentrate disproportionately on ridges only.

In the past, your “best ridge” competition showcased some truly outstanding ridges and I did not encounter “merely correct” ridges in this competition last time I judged in NSW. This time, the proportion of the exhibits in the ridge classes presenting with slightly too short, slightly less tapering and somewhat less clearly defined, was more obvious and numerous than I expected. Not a massive problem (we have for more serious issues to contend with) but something for you to think about. Perhaps we have to accept a greater proportion of ridges in more moderation, too... as long as they fall within the parameters of correctness, and all other factors are improving.

In conclusion, I would like to reiterate how greatly improved I found our breed in your capable hands and I congratulate you. It was a pleasure to officiate.

Linda Costa

## **RESULTS**

### **VETERANS SWEEPSTAKES 7 AND OVER**

1<sup>st</sup> Ch Ballahond Oceans Bilu

A very impressive dog with great balance and a perfect size. A most impressive masculine head and great expression with a good dark eye. Apart from some trauma to lower front teeth, bite was correct and jaw strong. Length of body was balanced by strong bone, correct front and rear with good under ribbing carried well back. Great feet. I noted correct muscling in rear quarters with strong second thigh. Movement was excellent, being fluid and athletic without being extravagant, and able to move in this way without restraint from handler – just what I love to see. Very good feet and good ridge. In fantastic shape at over eight years of age.

## DOGS

### 1. BABY PUPPY

1<sup>st</sup> Cedarrose Kijani Oba of Ardhi

A lovely puppy with a great expression, super ridge, well balanced front and back and moved very smoothly for his age. Strong bone and feet. He displayed a very good attitude in the ring and shows great potential.

### 2. MINOR PUPPY

### 1<sup>st</sup> Lionslea Versace On The Floor

A very well grown puppy with a good ridge, balanced body proportions and a masculine head. Very good shoulder angulation. Lovely round dark eye. Moved very well. Feet a little flat in front.

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Cedarrose Stand And Deliver

A very happy puppy who when he settles down will improve in the ring. He has a lovely dark round eye, correct ridge, strong bone and tight feet. Very level topline and balanced quarters.

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Juzrival Phunk Q Up

Another lovely pup with a good ridge, lovely head and expression, balanced body with good topline and good feet.

## 3. PUPPY

### 1<sup>st</sup> Uberidge Valhalla Can Wait

This is a well grown, very balanced youngster with a lovely front and correct ridge. Moves well. Would prefer a slightly stronger second thigh.

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Caprivi Halloween Spicyapplepie

This puppy has a lovely head and expression, good mouth and bite, correct ridge and strong feet and bone.

#### 4. JUNIOR

1<sup>st</sup> Kuvutia Echoes Of Rain

This dog has a lovely masculine head and expression, a super ridge and while his movement is good he is rather inclined to carry his tail in a high position, somewhat spoiling his otherwise good outline. I would prefer to see more strength and development in his second thigh. While there was depth and width to the chest, I would prefer to see elbows held a bit tighter to the chest.

#### 5. INTERMEDIATE

1<sup>st</sup> Chilolo BM Gold On The Moon **Challenge Dog**

This is a very sound dog of correct size with excellent movement. Good head of excellent proportions with good length of neck. Very good topline and correct ridge. Proportions overall are correct. He has very good bone and feet and a terrific front. I would prefer to see more strength in his second thighs.



## 2<sup>nd</sup> Kysaridge Aurum Kei

A strong moving and impressive dog with a very level topline, good bone and feet. Correctly proportioned head with wonderful dark round eye. Would prefer to see greater depth of chest and ribbing carried further back. Good ridge.

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Kysaridge Aurum Ector

A somewhat lighter boned dog who moved very well. Nice expression, eye is slightly light for his pigment. Correct ridge. He has decent bone with good feet and balanced proportions. Correct ridge.

## 10. AUSTRALIAN BRED

### 1<sup>st</sup> Ch Sanyati Morning Star **Reserve Challenge Dog**

A compact and well-balanced dog with a lovely head and expression. Very good front quarters. He displayed very sound movement. Correct ridge.

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Ch. Juzrival Arkan Up

This dog is an active and very sound mover with good head and expression, correct bite, lovely length of neck, strong bone and feet and a level topline. Ridge correct. Excellent rear quarters with

correct angulation, but in my opinion his front is a little too wide for correct balance.

3<sup>rd</sup> Lionveldt Okapi Impala

A somewhat heavier dog who has a good depth of chest with a strong head and masculine expression. Correct ridge. Rather wide movement behind and inclined to toe out in front.

#### 14. BRED BY EXHIBITOR

1<sup>st</sup> Grand Ch. Ballahond Oceans Bilu **Best Headed Dog and Best Gaited Dog**

Comments as above – Veteran Sweepstakes.

2<sup>nd</sup> Macumazahn Paint It Black

A rather tall dog in my opinion. Very happy dog with excellent bone and very good feet. I would prefer to see greater depth of chest and more strength in second thighs.

Correct ridge.

#### 11. OPEN

1<sup>st</sup> Ch Veldthund Disco Say It Loud

A strong masculine dog with good bone, balanced proportions with an excellent front. Very deep

undercarriage carried well back. Correct ridge.  
Very sound mover.

2<sup>nd</sup> Ch Schlau Realta Falkor

This dog has a very strong masculine head with a great expression. Correct ridge. Very good depth of chest with elbows held firmly by their side. However, in my opinion a little bit hocky in movement when viewed from behind.

3<sup>rd</sup> Ch Nkazimlo Heaven Sent A Copy

A strong boned and masculine dog, excellent top line, good feet and excellent ridge who moved well. In my opinion, the skull is a bit domed and face is a little bit "cheeky" - foreface could be longer.

BITCHES

1. BABY PUPPY

1<sup>st</sup> Cedarrose Ardhi Spirit

Pretty feminine puppy with lovely head and expression in her dark eyes. Strong feet, correct ridge, good bone and moves freely.

2<sup>nd</sup> Lionslea She Has Sass

Cheerful puppy showing great promise. Pretty head and expression, good bone and feet, balanced quarters and moves well. Correct ridge. Hopefully will develop more strength in her front pasterns.

3<sup>rd</sup> Lionslea Pretty Flamingo

Very similar puppy in quality and consistency to above, being a litter sister.

## 2. MINOR PUPPY

1<sup>st</sup> Chilolo Gold On The Ceiling

A very well grown youngster with a pretty feminine face, lovely topline, good bone and strong feet. I liked her front shoulder angulation but would prefer more width in the chest when viewed from the front. Moves very well.

2<sup>nd</sup> Juzrival Poppn Kandy

While a little bit unsure of herself in the ring, this puppy has potential. A pretty feminine head. She is well boned throughout, with a very good front and lovely rear quarters. Correct ridge.

## 3. PUPPY

1<sup>st</sup> Uberidge Ridin With Valkyries

Very smart looking puppy with a clean outline. She has a great ridge and good feet. In movement she showed soundness although at the moment she is a little loose in elbow.

#### 2<sup>nd</sup> Sanyati Bettin On A Dream

This young bitch has a lovely head and expression with good bone throughout. Correct ridge. While the angulation of her front construction is correct, when viewed from the front her chest is a little too narrow. Otherwise, movement was sound.

#### 4. JUNIOR

##### 1<sup>st</sup> Sanyati All Eyez On Me

A bitch with a pretty head and feminine expression, showing correct bone, good feet and correct ridge. I would prefer to see her elbows held a little more closely to her chest in movement, her rear quarters were strong with a firm turn of stifle. Sound mover overall.

##### 2<sup>nd</sup> Macumazahn The Sugar Hit

I would prefer to see more depth and width to the chest, and better angulation in the front quarters. Good length of body, correct feet and bone, correct ridge and a good mover.

## 5. INTERMEDIATE

### 1<sup>st</sup> Cedarrose Vegas Showgirl

Feminine and elegant bitch with a very tidy outline. Beautiful head and expression, lovely dark eye. Moved very soundly and efficiently. Correct ridge.

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Ch Schlau Uncanny X Statix

This bitch has strong bone and a balanced body with excellent rear quarters. Dark eye and good expression, although I would prefer planes in head to be parallel. Excellent mover. Correct ridge.

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Ch Adbesare Defying Gravity

This correctly sized and proportioned bitch was equally balanced and correct front and back; she displayed excellent movement. Front angulation was very good. When viewed from the front, I would prefer a bit more width in chest. Lovely head and expression with good length of neck. Strong bone and feet.

## 10. AUSTRALIAN BRED

### 1<sup>st</sup> Ballahond Sager Lakes

An eye-catching feminine bitch of correct size and proportions. Lovely head and expression. Very

elegant in her sound movement. Good feet and bone, correct ridge.

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Chilolo BM Gold Moon Rising

A very balanced bitch with excellent front construction. Beautiful head and expression. Acceptable ridge. Good length of body and sound mover. Toes could be stronger in front.

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Sanyati Justice Prevails

Another lovely bitch with a great feminine head and expression, good length of neck, excellent front construction, great feet, and a super ridge. Good topline and excellent mover.

## 14. BRED BY EXHIBITOR

### 1<sup>st</sup> Ch Kysaridge Aurelias Gaia **Reserve Challenge Bitch**

A correctly proportioned and balanced bitch who showed moderation in all things. She has a lovely head and expression, good bone and feet and moved extremely well. To me, she is of a classic Ridgeback style. Hard to find any glaring fault.

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Ceddarose Jumping Jewelry

Impressive brown-nosed bitch with great pigment. Good feminine head and expression, although

lower jaw could be stronger. Good length of body, correct proportions and moved very well. Very good front angulation.

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Jusrival Keepin It Real

Another very impressive bitch with pleasing proportions, good bone, head and feet and lovely rear quarters. Elbows could be a little firmer. Excellent movement.

## 11. OPEN

### 1<sup>st</sup> Ch Juzrival Eye Kandy **Challenge Bitch and Best in Show**

What a pleasure to judge this bitch. Speaking as a breeder, she is not a style of bitch I have bred myself but she truly stood out as being the most correct exhibit of the day, from her tip to her toes – and everything in between!

She has a very pretty feminine head and expression with a lovely eye, correctly pigmented to her coat colour, with a very clean neck blending into her shoulders perfectly. Very balanced front and back quarters – both excellent with strength and correct angulations, a lovely body with good topline and correct ridge, very good feet and in



movement was efficient and effortless. A worthy winner and a privilege to judge.

2<sup>nd</sup> Ch Nkazimlo Heaven Made Xena

A very balanced bitch with correct angulation in both front and rear. Good bone, lovely head with strong expression and a super ridge. Moves well.

3<sup>rd</sup> Ch Macumazahn Totally Worth It

Another very balanced bitch in excellent company. Feminine head and expression, a lovely front with good strong feet and bone and moves very well. Would prefer to see a little more strength in second thigh.

## 18. OPEN NEUTER DOG

1<sup>st</sup> Ch Schlau Spirit Warrior

A strong and well-balanced dog with a good ridge and feet. Good topline and moved well.

2<sup>nd</sup> Ch Nkazimlo Carbon Black

Masculine dog with good head, length of neck and great ridge. Moves very well. Would prefer to see a little more width in chest when viewed from the front.

## 18A. OPEN NEUTER BITCH

### 1<sup>st</sup> Ch Ballahond Tarn Bilu

A very balanced bitch with strong bone, good feet, correct ridge and a very good front. A most attractive head with feminine expression and a lovely length of neck. Very good rear quarters also, and moved soundly.

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Ch Kysaridge Gold Aurelia

Lovely athletic looking bitch with beautiful dark eye and expression. Fantastic ridge. Balanced proportions and moved very well.

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Cedarrose Promises of Injabulo

Feminine bitch with good length of body and excellent quarters front and back. Very sound mover. Good bone and strong feet, correct ridge.