

Critique for Puppy Sweepstakes

I want to thank the club for inviting me to judge their Puppy Sweepstakes. I also love the original Sue Gilson portrait given to me as my Judge's gift. Also thank you for the hospitality IW bag which contained my favorite white wine! I especially want to thank all the exhibitors for bringing their puppies for me to evaluate.

On the positive side, I found none that I would have said: "take your dog home and love it"! Where you placed was not because I did not like your puppy but I liked the others more. I told many of you privately why I placed you where I did. Often it came down to some fine points. Some general comments. While teeth are not per se in our standard, I noticed several base narrow bites which is something to watch out for going forward in the breeding. There were several that were close behind, and a few with disturbing fronts some of which might be related to their youth and immaturity. I was looking for a slightly heavier dog with easy side gait and sound coming and going. It was a tradeoff in several of the classes. I had to walk the bitches in several classes as some classes were very close where placements could change on another day. Walking lets you see the movement faults at a slower pace! I tried to look at the entire dog and reward the positive rather than fault judging. As you may see from the placements, I like a slightly heavier dog. I noticed that some of my "puppies" settled down and moved better in the regular class!

Junior Dogs 6-9 Months (3)

1. Taliesin's Beul-Aithris of Sceolan – a tall lanky puppy in his 'underwear' who needs to settle into his curves. Was a bit nervous being examined. Best coming and going. I liked his length of leg.
2. Red King of Mangialupi – a slightly more compact puppy but not as confident on the move. I would have liked a bit more substance on him but that may come with time as I see from the catalogue that he is the youngest in the class. Not enough air under him currently.
3. Starkeeper Witcher of Remington – I liked the substance of this puppy, but his side gait had a bit of a hitch which hopefully will resolve as he ages.

Senior Dogs – 12-15 (1)

1. Nuallain Magh Itha's Hyde of Kelly Hill – a singleton in this class he had lovely curves and good side movement. His tight bite may resolve as he matures.

Senior Dogs 15-18 Months (2)

1. Monty Lismore of Aerie – stunning dog who was a clear winner. Sound coming and going and great side gate. Tall male with curves Spring of rib. Nice head.
2. Mari's Biff Ionmhain – while a clear 2nd in this class, he had some lovely points but was more uncertain on the move and moved with his tail up. Once he settles into his shape, he should go a long way.

Junior Bitches 6-9 Months (6)

1. Aelwen Aerie at Shancarrick – a lovely compact bitch with beautiful side gait. While I would have liked more leg under her, she was the best today.

2. Starkeeper Witchflower Wicca at Silver Thorne – a slightly more rangy bitch with leg under her but while her side gait was lovely, she was running slightly downhill today which is why she placed second.
3. Taliesin's Baintighearn – a lovely typey puppy but found her a bit on the finer side for my taste
4. Allaire of Aerie – while a lovely shape and with the substance I liked, she did herself no justice on the move. Needs to settle.

Junior Bitches 9-12 Months (4)

1. Eirian Padraic Cassidy CGC - very nice side movement and expect she will go places as she matures
2. Fleur Magnus Cor – very nice but gait thrown out slightly by her hygroma
3. Walela Carnasserie Mists of Hibernia at Bellarosa – a nice shape but on the fine side
4. Draconecrome Agatha – nice shape but not as confident on the move

Senior Bitches 15-18 Months (6)

It was very close between 1 and 2 – walked this class as well to compare them one to the other. This was the best bitch class.

1. Muse Lismore of Aerie – nothing negative to say about this bitch! Lovely side gait, sound coming and going.
2. O'Lugh's Truly – same comments here except she was a little less steady on the side gait when she showed to me. Pushed number 1
3. Enaceilte Across the Universe – another lovely bitch but a bit more on the finer side
4. Valerie Calorien Starkeeper of Aerie – another strong contender and pushed number 3.

Best in Sweepstakes was Monty Lismore of Aerie who had the maturity that the other males have yet to achieve. He went on to get Winners Dog in the Regular show.

Best of Opposite Sex was Muse Lismore of Aerie who I found later was the litter sister to the Best in Sweepstakes.

Both lovely dogs but the male had that slightly extra sparkle.