

Labrador Owners Club Specialty Show 2009
Regular, Veteran and Sexually Altered Class Critiques
Judge Margaret Brown Ramsayville , Scotland

Thank you to the committee of the Labrador Owners Club for inviting me to judge and to my capable stewards who worked so well with me. Also, thanks to everyone who contributed to such a lovely entry. My appreciation to all the exhibitors on the sporting manner in which they accepted my placings. It gave me great pleasure to take part in what I enjoy most in life, Labradors.

It is well documented that the most distinguishing features of our breed are coat head and tail and it would be irresponsible for a judge to overlook these particular characteristics while making their assessment of an individual dog. We must also bear in mind that the Labrador *is* and always *has* been a working dog. This means he has to be able to cover the ground effortlessly and therefore will require to be capable of moving freely without exaggeration. The question of weight in Labradors has produced a considerable amount of debate between both exhibitors and judges for some time. However, we have to accept that a dog may vary in weight according to the function or task it is asked to undertake and it is simply down to personal preference whether we choose to have our dogs presented overweight or otherwise. For me it is much more important that the construction of the dog is correct for it is this which ultimately will determine whether they are truly fit for purpose.

I was delighted to have so many quality dogs to judge and I was really impressed by the standard of presentation. I have tried to give an honest view of how I saw the dogs on the day but it is to be remembered that this is only my opinion. Thanks again for the opportunity to judge your lovely dogs.

My sincere apologies to everyone for the lateness of this critique

JUNIOR PUPPY DOG

1st BLACKOAKS MAPLELAKES BURTON - such an impressive youngster beautiful balanced head with lovely expressive eyes and good length & depth of muzzle, he really excels over the neck & shoulders & has ample length of neck to keep him looking balanced in profile, lovely puppy who I am sure has a very bright future, I was delighted my co judge thought he was as equally impressive.

2nd CASTLEGAR MAXIMUM BRONZE –good overall balance & sound construction, a little up in the rear at the moment but when he stretched himself out looked good in outline, steady mover but lacked the positive action of 1, this should come with a few months under his belt.

3rd EASTHILL WINSOME FRIAR TUCK – this youngster has a good balanced outline, excellent coat and tail, has good angles front and rear, promising puppy

4th BEARSTONE MIDNIGHT COMET –young dog who just needs time to grow into his frame, well off for bone, kind head and expression, lovely soft temperament, moved well, has time on his side.

SENIOR PUPPY DOG

1st HAMPTON N OAKSILL BALANCED IMAGE AT BEADOG –, lovely chocolate, wins on type and construction, such a kind masculine head & expression, very alert and attentive to his handler, has excellent depth in forechest, strong over the quarters with good width in second thigh, excellent otter tail and correct coat, for me this puppy was right in size and body weight for his age and frame., sound and confident on the move, really pulled out the stops in the line up for winners dog, very interesting young prospect.

2nd SAMPHIRE STARGAZER, black, shorter coupled than my winner, kind masculine head, excellent front with good lay of shoulder, well off for bone and substance, firm level topline, carrying a good coat of the correct texture and length, another promising youngster.

3rd EAST HILL TOUCHDOWN - good overall conformation and certainly a dog of quality in outline and structure, excellent well clothed tail, although this youngster had lots of coat I would have preferred it to have been shorter in length, having said this there was indeed lots to like about this boy

4th STAGHORN'S HIDE AND GO ZEEK – nicely balanced chocolate youngster with a lovely head, kind masculine expression, well bodied, with good bone and substance, carries an excellent coat of length and texture.

12-15 MONTH DOG

1st NYROCA'S SON OF A WITCH – yellow who excels in head & expression, has a strong neck with the correct layback of shoulders & good depth & spring of rib, another with excellent compact feet & strong pasterns, is well developed in quarters and is very sound on the move with good driving action behind, tail of the correct shape & carries a dense coat, a promising youngster

2nd GRANDRIVER'S START ME UP – chocolate who is very striking, stands four square with a good balanced outline, has a kind masculine head & intelligent alert expression, is short coupled with firm topline & correct tailset, moved out well & was in excellent condition, carried a good double coat

3rd CITADEL MAKE IT SO – nice balance to this young dog, masculine head, well set ears, perhaps a darker eye would have been more attractive, however this fellow has the correct length and depth of muzzle which is so often overlooked, moved out well

15-18 MONTH DOG

1st CATILLEJA'S LINCOLN - yellow who has a kind expressive head with good length and depth of muzzle, excels over the neck with long sloping shoulders, has the required length of body to give him balance for his size, has good width to his quarters, hocks well let down, moved around the ring comfortably, still has some maturing to do but given time will be very striking

2rd STAGHORN'S BLAME IT ON BECKHAM – chocolate who was very different in style to 1, maturing along well & has a lovely balanced outline, has

such a beautiful head, for me this is where he scores highly, he is masculine with a kind alert expression & has a good layback of shoulder, is strong & clean through the neck & has excellent depth of brisket, not as positive on the move as 1 today but earned his place on his lovely breed type.

3rd PINEBANK TANNERFORGE NACHO MAN- youngster with good balanced outline, kind masculine head, good bone and substance for his frame and size, moved soundly with good front reach

CANADIAN BRED DOG

1st GAFF'S DOC WALKER –good balance from nose to tail, strong firm neck, lovely bone & substance, topline held well on the move, liked his head and expression, good turn of stifle and well let down hocks, in full coat & moving soundly,

2nd KERYBROOK'S MARITA'S BRODIE – good conformation and outline, kind head and expression, well off for bone and substance, correct coat

3rd STAGHORN'S LOUIS ARMSTRONG – chocolate with a lovely kind head of the correct proportions, well angulated front, adequate quarters, correct length and texture to coat.

4th SHANBRO'S CHARISMA – well off for bone, kind head, presented well and balanced in outline, moved out strongly

BRED BY EXHIBITOR DOG

1st CASTILLEJA'S HOT SANKA- well balanced chocolate dog of excellent type and construction, kind head with well set ears, good length and depth of muzzle, overall this dog is balanced and shows an unexaggerated outline, good angles front and rear, moved well covering the ground with a good stride and forward reach, difficult between these two dogs, both of excellent type and construction

2rd ADVENTURE'S PULL THE TRIGGER – black with a lovely balanced head, again good length & depth of muzzle, intelligent expression, excellent over the neck & shoulders, good width in second thigh, losing his coat but still carrying enough to show correct texture and density, moved soundly

OPEN DOG BLACK DOG

1st CHESTNUT'S COUNTRY JOE- upstanding black who is so well made all through, masculine head with correct ear set and expressive eyes, has the correct length of muzzle to give his head balance, superb over the neck & shoulders, really outstanding here, has good bone & substance, excellent depth of brisket & spring of rib, strong over the quarters with well let down hocks, really covers the ground on the move with good driving action behind, I really liked this dog of excellent quality, reserve winners dog in strong competition

2nd BLUESOUTH'S CAN YOU SEE ME –won his place on his overall confirmation & construction, good honest Labrador with such a kind and

beautiful head & expression, clean & strong over the neck with good front assembly, short coupled with enough strength over his quarters to balanced him in profile, lovely feet & pasterns, well let down hocks, moved extremely well and handled without fuss letting the dog show off his qualities.

3rd TABATHA'S ADVENTURE SCORE – lovely dog who was just carrying a bit too much weight today which showed in his front movement, most beautiful masculine head and expression, good bone and feet, sound strong rear movement.

4th CASTLEGAR LUBBERLINE THE EAGLE – unlucky to be in such a strong quality class, dog of lovely type and construction, correct size for me, sound and true mover, excellent angles front and rear, carrying a good coat

OPEN YELLOW DOG

1st CASTILLEJA'S CHRISTO - although I felt this dog was carrying a bit more weight than would be my ideal for his size and frame I thought his outline in profile was superb, could not hide his quality, really liked his head and expression, good shoulders with excellent depth of brisket, balanced body proportions, ample quarters with good turn of stifle & width in second thigh, sound dog on the move,

2nd CASTLEGAR BONFIRE BINGLEY – such a lovely kind head on this 4 year old dog, really scores in this department, a sound honest Labrador who carries a first class dense coat, ample quarters well let down hocks, well handled and presented

3rd SUMMERSUN DASHING HUGO BOSS – masculine head, perhaps a shade light in eye but good length and depth of muzzle, balanced outline, strong clean neck, well off for bone and substance, good depth of brisket, coat of correct length.

OPEN CHOCOLATE DOG

1st KLASIKROK RIDERS ON THE MOVE – nicely balanced dog, masculine head with alert intelligent expression and kind eye of good colour, clean strong neck with good shoulder angulation, enough quarters to keep him looking balanced in profile, carrying a decent double coat of the correct texture, feet could perhaps be tighter, moved soundly

VETERAN DOG

1st CH TABATHA'S HUNTERLEIGH TIMBER - this would be the one I would have no hesitation in taking home with me, a beautiful dog in type and temperament and one who could never be overlooked in any part of the world, wonderful to look at in profile and so effortless on the move, excellent bone & substance, short coupled without being too short in body, has the correct length of rib to allow him to move with reach in front while still maintaining his excellent topline, strong over the quarters with sound driving action behind, tail right off his back, won a very strong class of quality dogs, but then I just adore this dog, saw him some years back when he was but a youngster and thought him beautiful then, I have not changed my mind about

his quality, few dogs give me goose bumps, this one does, I was delighted to be given the chance to judge such a fabulous dog, to my mind he thoroughly deserved BOB and I was honoured to give him this award.

2nd CH GINANDER'S BLUE SUEDE SHOES – another of top quality and such a lovely dog to go over, beautiful head and expression, short coupled, strong over the neck with good layback of shoulder, excels in coat, excellent bone and substance, a dog of sound construction, liked his size and scope, so unlucky to meet the winner,

3rd CH CITADEL HOOK LINE AND SINKER- black who reminds me so much of my own Rogue Trader, quality dog, masculine kind head, good body proportions, strong positive mover. All round a lovely Labrador

4th CH NYROCA'S INSTANT MESSAGE – spoilt for choice in this strong class, lovely yellow with the kindest of heads, excellent conformation overall, eleven years old and can still show the youngsters a thing or two on the move.

JUNIOR PUPPY BITCH

Puppies can sometimes be the most difficult classes to judge. They all appear to be at quite different stages of development and a couple of months to a puppy can make such a difference to their topline and movement.

1st PARADOCS DRUSY - this pretty black won on her overall balance and I felt today she just had the edge over 2 in topline, she is well constructed with the correct bone and substance for her frame, lovely tight feet and good strong pasterns, she has such a pretty head with well set ears and enough length of muzzle to keep her head balanced, she flows over the neck and shoulders with an excellent topline and has such a good otter tail set correctly, this bitch is short coupled and carries a first-class double coat, and although perhaps a little wide in front coming she has enough reach and drive going around the ring and moved today with purpose, a very promising puppy

2nd PARADOCS NANI'S JADE – lovely puppy with the most gorgeous head so very balanced, she has excellent bone which continues right down and through her pasterns, has such a good layback of shoulders, while the sister has the advantage in topline at the moment this will no doubt change as these puppies mature, she has the correct angulation behind and this coupled with her excellent front assembly allows her to move with drive and even at this very young age she is an excellent positive mover.

3rd CAWARRA'S MAYBE YES MAYBE NO – much more mature than the first two puppies, short coupled with good depth of forechest, this bitch has a very pretty head with kind alert expression, was in good coat and condition and handled very well, moved soundly

4th EASTHILL WINSOME TUCK ME IN AT NIGHT – good topline on this yellow, feminine head and expression, nicely balanced outline, carries a good coat and tail, moved well with good drive in rear.

SENIOR PUPPY BITCH

1st SAMPHIRE STARLIGHT – I really liked this bitch for her excellent construction and sound free movement, she has such a lovely head and expression, so kind and gentle, her front assembly is superb starting with excellent bone, tight feet and strong pasterns, she has the correct layback of shoulders and a clean strong neck, well ribbed body with sufficient length of loin and enough width to her quarters to allow her to move freely and without restriction, a bitch with lots of scope but everything about her fits so well, I have yet to see a puppy who moves around the ring with such free striding action and no exaggeration, I was delighted to make her my Best Puppy Bitch

2nd HAMPTON HIFLIGHT NEEKO – youngster of quality and another I liked very much, a really lovely bitch who won her place on excellent construction & substance, good over the neck & topline with long sloping shoulders, shorter in rib than 1 but enough length of body to allow her to move freely, looked so good in profile going around the ring, a bit less muscled in quarters than one but one who showed good driving action behind, excellent coat, feet and tail.

3rd KERYBROOK MARITA'S HEAVEN SENT – well balanced pretty headed bitch, well angulated front and rear, maturing along nice lines, very feminine and with all the right angles and conformation, not as forward in development as the first two bitches and has lots still to come, promising

4th KERYBROOK'S O'JAUNENOIR – litter sister to 3rd placed bitch and very similar in many ways, good angles and outline, perhaps not as balanced on the move at present but I am sure these two will change places as they develop and mature.

12-15 MONTH BITCH

1st JAUNENOIR'S JIMMINY CRICKET, a striking yellow who has great ring presence for a youngster, stands off her handler and displays such a balanced outline, she has excellent construction and must be a dream to show as she has the ability to set herself up four square with little need for any adjustment to her stance, feminine head which is maturing along nicely, with an alert but kind expression, she is so well made over the neck and shoulders, excels in topline with a tail straight of her back, is short coupled but has enough length of rib to enable her to move freely with style and purpose, not in the best coat today but this was the only point I could find on her that might have been better and the great thing is that it will grow back, this was a stunning class that surely holds a few future champions, with maturity this bitch cannot be overlooked for further top honours

2nd GRANDRIVER'S JOLIE O'JAUNENOIR this chocolate is another stunner, she has a feminine head which is well balanced with a good length of muzzle, she has kind expressive eyes and also uses her ears well to show an alert expression, one who has a good length of leg to body proportions, ample bone which continues right down and through her pasterns giving them strength and resilience, neat compact feet with well arched toes, so clean over the neck with a good lay of shoulders and excellent topline, sound free mover

3rd MIRON PRECIOUS PRECILIA – short coupled chocolate who is well off for bone and substance, balanced outline, first class coat of the correct texture and length, feminine head with good length of muzzle, strong positive mover, presented well and good rapport with handler,

4th APPLEMEADOW SCOTIA MAC – good outline on this young bitch, well proportioned head, very feminine with kind eye, she carries the correct coat and moved off well to gain a place in this strong class.

15-18 MONTH BITCH

1st WINSOME EASTHILL CAWARRA CHARLIE – what a lovely chocolate youngster this is, she stands out for construction and presentation, her head has a good length and depth of muzzle and is very feminine with kind expressive eyes, she has the correct shoulder angulation with a clean neck which flows into a strong topline, she carries a good double coat of the correct texture, her quarters are well muscled and strong with good width in second thigh, moved soundly holding her topline well.

2nd ASKLAR CORHAMPTON SMARTY PANTS – good balance to this yellow, she is short coupled with a good length of rib, her coat is of the correct texture and shows good undercoat, on the move she carried herself so well, I really liked her clean strong neck and the overall construction of this bitch

3rd CASTLEGAR CALYPSO – bitch with a good balanced outline, feminine head and uses her ears well to show a kind alert expression and expression, handled very well and moved around the ring soundly

4th CASTILLEJA'S JIFFY POPPY COCK – kind feminine head on this bitch, enough bone and substance to fit her size and frame, I liked the way she looked at me, very appealing, moved soundly

CANDAIAN BRED BITCH

1st KELDEA TL PIPIN CASTILLEJA – sweet black, won this class on her balance, good proportioned feminine head, excellent bone and feet, shown to advantage, calm and steady, she has good shoulders and is short coupled with good depth of brisket and lovely otter tail, would not like to see her carry any more weight as she is not a big bitch and more would spoil her outline, liked her on the move, sound and positive

2nd HUNTERLEIGHS PARADOCS GWEN – was difficult to split these two bitches as they were both of lovely quality, just felt 1 was better balanced on the day, nevertheless this youngster has such a lot to like about her, is very eye-catching and is handled to get the very best out of her, she is all Labrador with a sweet head & expression and good overall confirmation, she has a free and easy stride on the move.

3rd IRONRIDGE TYEKHON'S DEVIL BE ME – strong upstanding yellow, she has good overall balance with sufficient bone and substance for her frame, held herself well in profile on the move.

4th GINANDER TAYLOR MADE FOR FARGO – nicely balanced bitch, very feminine with kind head and expression, strong clean neck, good topline and well balanced quarters, pretty bitch.

BRED BY EXHIBITOR BITCH

1st PARADOCS TABATHA'S PEBBLE – the outline on this youngster is excellent, she has a beautiful topline and is so well constructed in front, short coupled but with sufficient length of rib to give her balance both standing and on the move, she is very feminine and uses her ears well to show her kind alert expression, she has many qualities and these all come together when moving, I was really taken with this bitch and strongly considered her for the top awards.

2nd ADVENTURE'S SPICKET –.feminine head on this yellow with a good length and depth of muzzle, strong and clean over the neck with well angulated shoulders, elbows well under the body, good topline and well set on tail, excellent coat both in texture and length showing correct undercoat, liked this bitch very much

3rd CITADEL SWEET TEA – well balanced outline on this lady, still very young and gave way to maturity in this class, kind head of good proportions, sound free mover.

OPEN BITCH BLACK

1st PADADOCS HUNTERLEIGH FREDDIE – liked this bitch for her balance and scope in body, very feminine head with good length & depth of muzzle, lovely expressive eyes, clean strong neck with long sloping shoulders, really excels in topline which just flows from the shoulders, has good length of rib but is short in couplings, has depth of brisket and maturity, in good condition and coat, tail right off the back, moved freely around the ring to win a lovely class and is a quality bitch, fought off some strong competition for Winners Bitch

2nd MAR-JO'S POPSICLE CITADEL – fully deserved to be placed highly here, very feminine well proportioned head, strong over the neck, perhaps not the shoulder angulation of 1 but not short in upper arm, good depth of brisket, strong over the quarters, moved extremely well and is another quality bitch

3rd BLUESOUTH'S DESTINY ABROAD – nicely balanced black with a good head, neck and shoulders, well off for bone and substance, good depth of brisket and carrying a good double coat.

OPEN CHOCOLATE BITCH

1st APPLEMEADOW PAULA RED – lovely bitch who won this class on her sheer unexaggeration and beautiful breed type, a little broader in skull that would be my ideal but she has a lovely outline and is well constructed from nose to tail, excellent over the neck & shoulders, strong firm topline which flows from the well structured front, just the correct degree of angulation over the quarters, really excels in outline with the look of quality, sound on the move and covered the ring well with good driving action behind,

2nd STAGHORN'S QUEEN OF SOUL – this bitch is well constructed overall, she has a feminine head and expression and beautiful round bone which continues right through to her pasterns, a good layback of shoulder and excellent spring of ribs, she carries a very good coat and tail and is another who moved extremely well, presented and handled well.

3rd BRALEX'S DISH THE DIRT – such a beautiful head on this bitch, this is where she really did excel for me, perhaps a little straight in shoulder but good overall conformation

4th ASKLAR HOPE'S SWEET SURPRISE – feminine head with kind expression, good overall body shape, good sound mover

VETERAN BITCH CLASS

1st TABATHA'S CONFETTI – excellent for breed type and construction in such good coat and condition, she has a feminine head, well balanced with a kind expression, is well constructed overall with the correct degree of angulation front and rear, another who is all Labrador and one who really did not out a foot wrong here, standing or on the move, lovely mature bitch

2nd CH CASTLEGAR AUSSIE SUMMERSUN – lovely head and expression on this yellow bitch, good bone & substance, moves around the ring soundly, I like her size and strength in body, she has good depth of brisket and spring of rib, has excellent bone which continues down and through her pasterns, she carries a very good coat and tail and is another who is strong but still remains very feminine

3rd CATILLEJA'S JIFFY POP – excellent showgirl, strong but feminine, really scored for me over the neck and shoulders, correctly balanced with well angulated quarters, good overall body shape and construction, excellent on the move.

4th CH DEVONSLEIGH'S MISS INDEPENDANT – beautiful head neck and shoulders on this bitch, perhaps losing her topline slightly but a real quality bitch who scores in overall conformation and quality, lovely bitch.

OPEN BITCH YELLOW

1st– TAPEATOM DREAM A WHILE - beautiful outline on this pale yellow, she has an ample length of neck and enough layback of shoulder to give her balance and unrestricted front movement, her quarters are well muscled and she moves with good drive and reach, a lovely bitch, first class coat.

2nd– PARADOCS BELLWEATHER JIGGLE although I felt that this bitch was completely out of coat, she won her place on her overall sound conformation and her sound positive movement, kind feminine head, excellent to handle.

3rd TABATHA'S WINK – another of lovely breed type, just losing her topline when standing but sound impressive mover, carries an excellent coat and tail

4th GINANDERS MADABOUT SHELBY GOOD – lovely shape and outline on this bitch, for me perhaps a little short on leg but of sound construction and lovely breed type.

SEXUALLY ALTERED MALE

1st CH PINEBANK'S LIMITED EDITION – upstanding dog with good overall balance, kind masculine head and expression, ample bone and substance for his frame, sound mover

2nd ADAMSWAY MR TRIP TUCKER – presented well, masculine but without coarseness, kind head, good length and depth of muzzle, body of good overall proportions, moved off well covering the ring with a strong stride.

3rd CH LINDENHALL 'S SIR BRUICHLADICH – quality dog, well balanced overall with good angles front and rear, liked his head and expression,

SEXUALLY ALTERED FEMALE

CH PINEBANK'S ONE OF A KIND – sweet feminine head on this girl, balanced in outline, I really like the size and overall construction of this bitch, she has plenty of scope and is strong without losing any femininity, moved soundly