

CHAMPIONSHIP SHOW JUDGES CRITIQUE 2005

Mrs Sandra Patterson (NSW)

Thank you to the GRC of QLD for the opportunity to judge your championship show. It is always exciting to judge a breed so close to one's heart and one that has played such a large part in my life. I thoroughly enjoyed the day and despite the wind trying to undo some of the best laid plans, everyone managed and hopefully had a good day. Well done to the committee in trying circumstances!!

I particularly enjoyed the opportunity of being there with long time friend, Shirley Sullivan ,and for the both of us to be able to present the Ch Buffalo Woodbuff CD Memorial Trophy to the BIS winner. A special occasion. Also present was another long time friend, Judith Walder, who was judging obedience. Judith and I go back probably over 30 years when I chose her first golden retriever for her. That dog went onto win many trials, including Sydney Royal. Therefore it was rather special that we could all meet up together at such a large golden gathering.

Thank you also to all those who entered and for your support. I enjoyed and appreciated all the entries on the day and was particularly pleased to be able to stand beside some very good representatives as my finalists.

Now some constructive comments on the dogs generally:

We have a moderate breed, not exaggerated in any way. The General Appearance calls for a well balanced symmetrical dog and these words have often been described in many publications as meaning a dog which is pleasing to the eye in all respects, where no part appears out of the proportion to the other. I was pleased to be able to find dogs that fitted this criteria at your show.

Temperaments on the whole appeared good although there were a few which appeared a bit "up" in nature. Our breed is not a "busy" one, but one that is "cool, calm and collected" and takes everything in its stride. Busy movement and behaviour is not correct for a golden. It is the golden's easy going nature which sets it apart from every other breed and it is something that should be kept in mind at all times when breeding or judging. The faster doesn't mean it is the best. A dog of calm demeanour with a free easy stride is what we need to aim for. That is correct breed type not a fast flashy hard to manage dog - regardless of how many cc's or trials it may win for you.

One thing which did concern me was the number of poor front assemblies during the day. Fronts are a problem worldwide and therefore an area we should all watch to improve in our breeding programs. In the future we should all try and combine dogs and bloodlines that are strong in this area. If we all do this, an improvement can be made. There are many excellent publications which detail the correct front assembly (which consists of a number of parts, not just one or two). These make great reading and should be in every enthusiast's library and regularly revised helping us to understand what a good front assembly should consist of and look like. Sometimes I don't think people fully understand just what they should be aiming for.

Now to my main winners:

DOG CC AND BEST IN SHOW

M Rennie's Ch Winterlea Son of a Kiwi (imp NZ).

A very typical and "honest" 4 year old Golden who would appeal to judges from all spheres. He was shown in full bloom, groomed, presented and handled to perfection and that together with his lovely balance in all areas took him to the top today. He has a classical masculine balanced head with kindly expression. Balanced angles fore and aft with good length of leg, sufficient bone to balance his frame, correct spring of rib with plenty of heart and lung room, adequate forechest, short couplings, sturdy neck flowing into a strong level topline, which he held both standing and on the move and was a picture to watch with his free easy ground covering gait.

Res CC DOG**Smith/Woodcock's Ch Stanroph Shared Assets (imp UK).**

A 2 year old cream, not yet fully matured but one heading in the right direction to finish into a very nice boy. His strong masculine and well balanced head was also enhanced by his kindly expression. A well boned dog ready to carry his mature frame, he too presented a pleasing balanced outline with sufficient angles fore and aft, a broad chest, good spring of rib, depth of chest and length of leg. His muscular neck flowed nicely into his topline. He moved purposely around the ring covering the ground well. Not quite the finish and furnishings of my winning dog today but one I am sure will do well in the future.

BITCH CC AND R/UP BEST IN SHOW**J Dulke's Ch Goldtreve Camrose Tango**

One I have often admired since I first saw her as a baby puppy and so pleased to be able to award her today. Another handled and put down to perfection. Feminine in every way and once again presenting a pleasing outline in all respects. Attractive balanced head, enhanced by her dark eye and an expression to win your heart. A strong neck leading into well laid shoulders and level topline maintained on the move. Well sprung ribs, short coupling, good depth of chest, sufficient forechest, good length of leg and well turned stifles all combined to give a very pleasing picture. Her coat was of sufficient length and correct texture, enhancing her outline. She too covered the ground with a free and easy gait. A close call for Best in Show.

Res CC BITCH**O'Sheehy/Mackendar's Grand Ch Alubyc Georgia.**

At 9 years "young" her quality does not diminish with age. A lovely type and one that was also presented and handled beautifully. A heavier style than my CC winner but with the solid bone throughout to balance. A stronger beautifully balanced head, was enhanced by her kindly expression. Her long neck lead into a shoulder blade of good length with adequate upper arm and hindquarter angles to match. She excelled in topline both standing and on the move and she was a pleasure to watch as she gaited freely around the ring. Not in full bloom today but coat texture was still correct. A real credit for her 9 years.

Sandra Patterson