

Town and Country German Shepherd Dog Club

Town and Country GSDC Specialty Show – June 28/15 - Judge: Janet Lobb

First off, I'd like to thank all the club members and exhibitors who helped make the day an enjoyable one even though the weather was not co-operative. I'm sure many of the workers, handlers and dogs were tired and well drenched after two days of wind and rain but all appeared to be in good spirits for the last event of the day. I tried hard to give all exhibits and equal amount of evaluation time in the ring in the tough conditions and most handled it well. Good job all!

I had some excellent quality entries in many of the classes with particular strength in the bitches. For the most part I saw good dentition, sufficient condition in spite of the time of year and wet weather effect on coats. Most displayed clean movement on the down and back and I'm pleased to see the improvement in this area over the last few years. Watching side gaiting was a real pleasure in more than a few exhibits, likely attributed to improved angles and overall balance.

The dogs with the major awards on the day were as follows:

Senior puppy #67 (Paravels's Long Black Train) - Black dog with a very pleasing outline, nicely boned, adequate body and muscling for his age. Sufficiently angulated on both ends and moved cleanly and effectively. At times exhibited a 'bit of give' over the loin on the go round but showed strong reach, drive and follow though on most of his passes. He was well considered for 'Winners' and was definitely my 'Best Puppy' on the day.

Open dog #74 (Billyjo's Hurricane Stonewall) – A well angulated and balanced individual showing sufficient masculinity even though he was truly 'standing out there in his underwear'. Displayed correct character and workmanship and was well handled. Nicely boned and muscled in a correct sized package. I would definitely like him to have more fill in front but he had sufficient depth, was well ribbed back and strong in loin and top piece. He was an effective mover down and back and on side gait was a pleasure to watch. This was my deciding factor in giving him the nod for 'Winners' and then on to "Best in opposite sex".

Select Dog #92 (Ch Kennelwood Kobe Elite Design) – He was a little difficult to evaluate, but standing provided a good masculine and balanced outline overall. On the move he was not being co-operative and eventually displayed enough 'moments' of efficient movement to be given the award.

Bitches of note on the day as follows:

12-18 and Reserve Winner #82 (Caretts Disorderly Conduct) – A feminine, strong and well balanced outline with pleasing proportions and in sufficient condition. A little reserved on my initial approach but displayed a strong willingness to please and work for her talented handler, particularly while on the move. She maintained a strong outline and provided correct reach and drive. At times displayed a little lift in front but settled down nicely for most of her passes. All of her fine qualities took her through to Reserve Winners.

Canadian bred, Winners, Best of Breed #86 (Raylex's Isles Moda Chablis) – This gal displayed 'Star' qualities from the first moment she entered the ring. All the correct angles and proportions in a feminine package. A youngster with sufficient body and condition, displaying strong character, confidence and a willingness to work with her handler. An excellent team! She was nicely clean on the 'down and back' and provided everything I look for on the 'go round'. I don't believe she had a bad pass. An individual who could maintain a correct outline standing and moving and a real pleasure to have in my ring. She earned the top award of the day in strong competition and in spite of handler change for breed competition. She appeared to give him a look as to say 'just stay with me and we'll get this done'

Open #88 (Kismet's Anne-Isle Hold On To The Memories) – A very pleasing picture with sufficient angles and balance overall. Maybe a touch short in upper arm but she moved well from all vantages and was a willing worker. I might like to add a 'smidge' more length to her bones to fulfill my template for this breed but I can certainly appreciate all of her fine qualities. She had a proficient handler and the team pushed hard for Winners and Reserve on the day.

Select Bitch #94 (Ch Billyjo's Arberlour) – A beautiful example of the breed in a feminine package and a very strong contender for the top award. She was expertly handled and it was evident she enjoyed the game and showed a willingness to please and work. She may have been carrying a little excess weight on the day but moved strongly and effectively both down and back and from the side. She yielded slightly to the winners bitch while on the move.