

Border Terrier Club of Ontario Specialty Critique.

As the judge elect for the BTCO Specialty show, Ruth Anne Naun had to give up the appointment due to the ill health of her husband Bob, I was asked to step in and judge the entry. I did so gladly, while sending all good thoughts to Ruth Anne and Bob.

The entry in numbers was not large, however there was quality to be found, and in some of the dogs this was to be found in spades. When judging I look at the whole dog, wanting type, with correct construction which in turn gives balance and a free action. I want a pliable pelt covered by a harsh double coat, showing both under and top coat. The head to be moderately broad, the eye bright, intelligent with the hint of the varmint about the expression. Mouth to be full of big teeth, the muzzle strong, and with a good underjaw. Ears small and well set, lying close to the cheek. I want the neck to flow nicely into well angulated shoulders, allowing good reach. Ribs narrow and carried well back, the loin, short and strong. Hindquarters racy with well defined muscling. A short thick carrot tail finishes the picture. Of course I won't always find these things in the one package, but when I do, it is a true joy. Today I did find dogs that carried all the qualities of a good border terrier, and these dogs were truly super examples of our lovely breed.

My main worry was that quite a number of the dogs had shorter ribs than I would like, or that is asked for in our standard, this makes the loin weaker, the rib rounder and the dog less able to function in his work. We as breeders need to keep an eye on this and not allow it to creep in.

Movement on the whole was good, with some that was excellent. With plenty of reach drive and free extension in front. Some though, paddled in front, or had no drive behind, going up and down without driving forward. Again, this is detrimental to the dogs ability to work, and looks unsightly in the conformation ring. We must remember when breeding that "form follows function" whether or not our dogs ever see a fox or not, he is bred to be "essentially a working terrier" and as such we need to keep as close as possible to the breed standard.

Coats were good, with only one or two who were out of coat or whose coats were blown. Remember we need that ticking throughout our blue and tan coats.

Size in males needs to be watched, this was only a small entry, however there were some males that were simply too big, I was not able to span some, and they were too heavy.

Thank you so much for bringing your dogs under me to be judged, I love judging and am ever grateful to “get my hands” on border terriers. There is always something to be learned and I hope to give the dogs as well as the exhibitor and good experience in the ring.

WB BOW BOB. Kirn’s Brightrain Towzie Tyke Gloria.

This young lady came into the ring and just oozed confidence, she has type, personality and charisma. She is a grizzle and tan of quite lovely proportions, feminine yet strong and active. Pretty head, with good fill under the eye, strong muzzle with good bite. Her expression was super, clever, bright and cheeky. Neck flowed well into her shoulders, which for me, were a shade too upright, but in no way did this impede her movement or make her wide in front. She spanned well, has a good length and shape of rib and a short strong loin. Her racy well muscled hindquarter drove her around the ring with great purpose. Her jacket and pelt were of the highest order and her tail was short and carrotty. Very pleased to award her BOB.

BOS WD.. Kirn’s Towzie Tyke Tartan.

A well balanced dog of good proportions. He is narrow all through with a well laid back rib, he spanned easily. Stands over the ground well on good legs and feet, he moves with drive. He has a good head, his bite is good, and he has a strong muzzle. Unfortunately today he left most of his coat at home.

RWD. Henning’s Faireview Mile Marker.

A very masculine male with a very good head, super expression well filled under the eye. Good strong muzzle and has plenty of underjaw. He was in excellent condition, his jacket was in top form, and he has a good pelt. Moved well both ways. I would prefer less of him.

Best Puppy. RWB Holder’s Redgate Beacon of Light.

My best puppy was a charming young lady. Feminine head, coming along nicely, strong muzzle, well filled under the eye. Good dentition and has a good underjaw. She looks at you with a sparkling eye with a varmint expression. She has a lovely front and stands on good legs and feet. Well ribbed back and spans easily. Short strong loin and a racy hindquarter, I would prefer a tad more angulation behind. Her jacket and pelt were as they should be, respectively harsh and thick and pliable. She was a pleasing picture all around.

JAM & Best Bred By. Kolb & Lechten's Ch. Duet's About Last Night.

A superb bitch, light red, feminine all through. This bitch pushed very hard for BOB. It could have gone either way at this point, I was nitpicking between the two. Her lovely head is balanced, she has a good bite, strong muzzle and plenty of fill. Her expression is pleasing. She carries her ears well. Her neck flows well into her shoulders which blend into a narrow easily spanned rib. She was produced well and her jacket was in great condition, she has a thick pelt. Moved around the ring happily and with purpose, driving well from the rear. I was very pleased to award her JAM & BBB.

Best Otter Head. Parker's Fernside's The Thyme of My Life.

Both Norm Baker and I agreed that this lad had a super otter head, with fill, strength and that gorgeous expression.

Judge.

Jane Pa.rker