

The Northern Staffordshire Bull Terrier Club (NZ)

Judge's Critique

Dr David Lowe (Seighford, NSW) 18 March 2017

I would like to take the opportunity to thank the club for the wonderful opportunity to judge in New Zealand again, 21 years after my first appointment. I have travelled extensively in New Zealand for business over the years and always look forward to visiting, however to come and judge my chosen breed of dog is especially enticing.

Whilst the numbers entered today were similar to the last time I judged the breed in New Zealand all those years ago, the quality today was a leap of several quantum's and as a result there were a number of unlucky exhibits today with a number of decisions coming down to minor points. Top awards were particularly close and difficult decisions as there was enough quality in our midst to satisfy a breed purist to a high degree.

The most noticeable change across the years for me were mouths. Last time there were far too many bad mouths and some extremely bad faults in that area. Today there were only 3 dogs where I noticed dentition issues and even then they were very mild and two of them were associated with the fact that the dogs in question carried a virtuously strong under jaw that had just developed that fraction too far so therefore were easily overlooked.

Those that have either been judged by me in the past or have seen me judge will know that I place a strong emphasis on fitness for function and whether we like our breed's evolutionary foundation or not, this is a fighting breed. That being the case, for a Stafford to be well regarded by me he/she needs to be able to convince me he/she can go the distance in a fight. With this in mind, there are two issues that I identified on the day that I specifically want to mention:

1. Some dogs could have been presented in a fitter state, the Standard carries the important phrase "active and agile" which, in reality, any fighter must demonstrate and I simply do not accept that an overweight dog satisfies this phrase.
2. I noticed on a small number of exhibits quite small "slitty" nostrils. I would definitely breed away from this trait if I had it in any of my dogs and recommend the same to those who do have this. When a Stafford has hold of his foe in a fight he would surely not be able to breathe effectively through such nostrils and almost certainly would be a candidate for unconsciousness very quickly in that situation. This is very definitely a serious soundness issue in my opinion.

I thoroughly enjoyed my day with the members and exhibitors and want to thank them all for the manner in which they accepted the decisions made. Particular mention goes to some that I am aware travelled long distances to exhibit, thank you for making the effort.

I look forward to coming back again one day to see your dogs again.

Junior Dog (7 entered, 1 absent)

1. Kaylajaz Gangsta Nothin On U – 12 month old black brindle with extensive white marking. Good strong young dog of correct size with a headpiece of the highest order. Excellent through the muzzle with pronounced stop, excellent skull and cheeks housing beautifully dark round eyes. Lovely ears finishing off the head to give great expression. Good strong neck settling into shoulders that if I had to be really picky may be just a tad upright, bone a plenty. Very good strong and deep chest with a lovely short coupling connecting to a well angulated rear. Correct tail set and carriage. Moved really well in all directions and held his topline perfectly in doing so. A really nice specimen of the breed, handled very well and a pleasure to award Dog CC and Best In Show.

Junior Bitch (5 entered, 1 absent)

3. Aldoushire Got The Force – 15 month old black brindle pied. Presented in very fit form, looking quite athletic. Another excellent head piece and competing strongly with both ahead of her in this area. Where she has been beaten today is in the body stakes. Whilst she is well constructed her competition carried better substance throughout their bodies. This girl is a whisker longer also upsetting the correct balanced view that I prefer. Moved well.

New Zealand Bred Bitch (4 entered, 2 absent)

1. Ch Aldoushire Burlesque Babe – 61/2 year old black brindle with white blaze. Yet another of these lovely heads I am seeing today, in fact reminding me of the Challenge Dog a lot in this department. Expression amongst the best on the day set up by lovely dark round eyes and near perfect ears in all ways. Nice strong muzzle with good bite and excellent stop. Correct length muscular neck. Shoulders a little upright on this girl, great bone. Well ribbed, good coupling and well angulated rear. Good tail. Moved well.

Veteran Bitch (2 entered, 0 absent)

1. NZ Ch Valglo Belle Of The Ball (Imp UK) – 83/4 year old. A quality bitch holding her age very well. Her head is of the highest order, showing great strength throughout whilst still very clearly one belonging to a bitch. Her eyes in particular are of the highest quality and when combining with lovely well set and carried ears gives great expression. Good strong muzzle and bite. Lovely muscular neck sitting on well laid shoulders. Good bone. Well ribbed. A whisker long in the coupling and a little straight in the rear. Level topline, well set and carried tail. Moved well.

Open Bitch (3 entered, 1 absent)

1. Ch Aldoushire Fairest Of Th Ball – 23/4 year old black brindle. Fantastically presented bitch of high quality. Loved her head, strong yet feminine, of the correct proportions and structure in every department giving rise to excellent expression. Good strong muscular neck of correct length. Great angulation both ends, excellent bone. Nice tidy feet. Excellent ribbing and a chest that came to hand as required, great strong level topline despite perhaps being just a whisker long in the coupling. Well set and carried tail, one of the best movers of the day. A great package to round out the day. Reserve Challenge bitch.

The Northern Staffordshire Bull Terrier Club March 18th 2017
Judge Kirsty Summerfield – Canakey

What a true honour it was to be asked to Judge this well-respected club's championship show. The entry was good and exhibitors took my decisions in a sporting manner. There were very few faults worthy of mention. Movement overall was good as was overall presentation of the dogs.

JD - (7-1a)

1ST KAYLAJAZ GANGSTA NOTHIN'ON U – B/wht. Caught my eye on entering the ring. Very smart young dog who is going places. He has a lovely classic head, with dark eye excellent ear carriage that enhanced his expression. Clean lipped with strong under jaw which house good teeth. Lovely front, with enough width with good straight legs with slightly turned out feet which were super neat. Short compact body shoulders well placed with strong neck leading into a level top line, tidy waist and good tuck. Rear end was strong and powered him along the mat with effortless drive. Like this young boy a lot. My notes said CC/RCC?? and he did push hard all the way. Very pleased to award him **RCC**, he is a star in the making.

JB (5-1a)

1ST ALDOUSHIRE GOT THE FORCE - Wht/Blk pied. And boy she took this class by force. Beautiful head shape with classic blend, nothing overdone. Lovely round dark eyes, well placed rose ears, clean lipped, with no fleshiness. Strong wide underjaw housing very good dentition. Beautiful front ample spacing between, with feet well-padded and turning out slightly. Well placed shoulders. Well sprung rib, good depth to brisket with great tuck up. Short coupled, level top line, rear end to die for, very well-muscled without bring overdone. Well let down hocks good bend of stifle. Moved with effortless drive. Shown in fit, hard muscled condition. **Pleased to award her CC and BIS.** She is a credit to you and good luck in the future. She moved like a dream.

NZ Bred. (4-2ab)

1ST CH ALDOUSHIRE BURLESQUE BABE - Br. This girl's keen expression draws you to her. Strong head, nice round eye, lovely rose ears enhancing the picture. Mouth good with clean tight lip. Lovey fore chest and straight front, feet well padded. Level top line held on the move. Good bend of stifle, moved well. Handled very well.

Veteran Bitch (2-0a)

1ST NZ CH VALGO BELLE OF THE BALL (IMP UK) – Blk. This 9-year-old girl oozes quality. She has a cracking expression, lovely round expressive eyes, beautifully position rose shaped ears. Excellent underjaw, housing age related teeth. Lovely front nice neat feet. top line good, moved well both ways with drive. Strong rear end with well let down hocks and good bend of stifle.

Open Bitch (3-1ab)

1ST CH ALDOUSHIRE FAIREST OF TH BALL – Blk/br. Top size girl but all in the right place. Lovely expression, round eye big nostrils, ears carried in correct rose shape. Good front, lovely feet well-padded and tight. Moved well top line level and held on the move. Strong rear end. Well-presented and handled.