

Northern SBT Club 23rd April

Critiques by Erica Schelfhorst

Thankyou for the opportunity afforded to me to judge the Northern Staffordshire Bull Terrier Club show. I was more than pleased to accept the invite and thoroughly enjoyed my afternoon of judging.

Thanks to my steward Mel who kept the ring running smoothly. To Kimberley who took pictures of my class winners, you did a wonderful job. To Toni who ferried me to the show, and to the committee who are the backbone of the show.

In general I thought there was more depth of quality in the bitches presented on the day. I was impressed with the very large teeth most exhibits had but was concerned to see a number with converging canines. I like a Stafford to be fit for function. On the day I found very few dogs that I would consider show fit and hard to the touch. Some very nice staffords went unplaced as they were carrying too much weight, with no tuck and soft under hand.

Overall I had some lovely dogs and some of the decisions were tough. I was very pleased with my final placings and felt my Best in Show and Runner up in Show were two high quality virtuous staffords who excelled in breed type. Thankyou for showing them to me.

My final thanks goes to the exhibitors, for your support, your entries and sportsmanship shown on the day.

The critiques provided are based on my interpretation of the SBT standard.

Baby puppy dog

1. Trueblend Dark Storm (AI) (imp Aust). Black brindle baby just on 3 months. Large dark round eye, neat enough ears. Head developing at the moment however has a strong underjaw and enough depth to skull, tight lip. Correct dentition. Square outline, well balanced baby that held a level topline on the move. Showed drive from behind from correctly angled hindquarters. Made the handler work hard for his place.
2. Mysticstar Mr Bang. Red 5 month old. Of good type, More mature than first with much more substance. Stronger head than first, due to maturity with correct proportions of skull to muzzle. Dark round eye, ears ok. Short strong neck leading into compact body. Strong bone with depth and width to brisket, well ribbed back, a tad longer in back than first, pump handle tail. Would prefer more turn of stifle. Moved and handled well.

Junior dog

1. Aldoushire Future Invader. Black brindle dog of top size. Extremely strong head, short muzzle, round dark eye, neat ears, ample depth and broadness to skull. Round nostrils. Scissor bite. Short strong neck leading into muscled body. Plenty of substance on this dog. Straight front with width and depth to brisket. Level topline held on the move. Well ribbed back, short loin, enough turn of stifle. Preferred the front and movement on this dog compared to second. Opposite junior in show
2. Ch Kaylajaz Ace of Spades. Brindle dog. Preferred the overall size and shape of this dog to first. Compact dog with correct weight to height ratio. Nice head with dark eye, distinct stop and pronounced cheek muscles just not the depth or broadness in head compared to first. Would prefer more depth to brisket and length to rib. Correct turn of stifle and pump handle tail. Moved ok. Would like to see in harder condition.

Intermediate dog

1. Ch Kaylajaz Just a Swagger. Black brindle, Excellent breed type that looks fit for purpose. He has a head with strength without being overdone. It has depth and broadness, pronounced cheek muscles and a square blunt muzzle. Dark round eye, very neat ears. Big nostrils. Strong short neck leading into well laid shoulders. Depth to brisket and width of front are spot on. Well off for bone and has neat compact feet. Well ribbed back with short loin and tuck up evident. Good turn of stifle and he has a pump handle tail. This dog moves with purpose and is parallel for and aft. In hard condition. A dog I liked. Handled well. Pleased to award him RDCC and Intermediate in show
2. Pitshaft Sprinagar at Loggerheads. Black brindle. A taller boy than first. Pleasing head with a distinct stop, pronounced cheek muscles and correct scissor bite. Not the strength of first which I preferred. Adequate bone, well ribbed back with good spring of rib. Short in loin with tuckup, enough turn of stifle. Topline rises slightly both on the move and stack. Preferred the overall strength and balance of 1st.

New Zealand Bred Dog

1. Takoda Halos Amulet. Black brindle. Top sized dog but not overdone in any way. He has good height to weight ratio. Nice head with enough depth and broadness, dark eye, neat ear, correct dentition, square front, ample bone but I thought he was a little soft in pastern, well ribbed back, holds a level topline on the move, correct turn of stifle, pump handle tail. Shown in good condition. Awarded New Zealand Bred in Show
2. Ch Dacaho About to Rock. Brindle. Standard size compact dog that is clean throughout. Good head shape just not the strength compared to first, dark enough eye, distinct stop, scissor bite. Nice square front with depth to brisket, feet ok, enough turn of stifle, level topline on the move. Moved ok but would like to see more drive from behind. Well muscled throughout. A happy boy, his tail never stopped wagging. Shown and handled well.
3. Ch Oakstaff Jetstream. Black brindle dog. A heavier dog with more substance than the first two. Head ok with correct proportions. Lovely dark round eye, pronounced cheek muscles. Huge teeth, so rare on many staffords now. Short neck leading into wide front. Plenty of bone, pasterns were a little soft. Good turn of stifle and moves ok. Would like to see this dog fitter.

Veteran Dog

A pleasure to judge these older boys

1. Spr Ch Rojeme Pop Gun. Brindle. 8 year old. What a lovely stafford with a make and shape I liked. Fit and in hard condition as staffords should be. Clean throughout. Correct weight to height ratio. Pleasing head with correct proportions, dark eye, neat ear, scissor bite, distinct stop, blunt muzzle, square front with width and depth to brisket. Adequate turn of stifle. Compact boy who moved well. This boys overall balance and spark won him the class. Considered him strongly for the top honours during the final lineup as he had that can do attitude. Best Veteran in Show
2. Rojeme Rhythm N Black. Black brindle 7 year old. Top sized dog. Pleasing outline. Nice head with strong blunt muzzle, pronounced cheeks, a little light in the eye given his colour, neat rose ears. Huge canines in the correct spot. Enough width to front, up on leg, well ribbed back, short in loin, drops off a little at the croup, moved ok, in great condition.
3. Ch Rojeme Tarbuck. Black brindle 12 year old boy. What a pleasure to judge this boy, so happy, his tail did not stop wagging. In wonderful condition given his age and moved around the ring well. Not the strength in head compared to the first two dogs, he has lost the muscle but he has a distinct stop, dark eye and correct scissor bite. More leg compared 1 and 2, level enough topline on the move, handled well.

Open Dog

1. NZ Ch Highbourne Entrepreneur (Imp Aust). Black brindle with white chest, top size dog full of substance without being course. Presents a nice outline on the stack and move. He has a cracking head with correct muzzle to skull proportions. His head has plenty of depth and width. Very pronounced cheek muscles, square blunt muzzle, perfect scissor bite with large teeth, dark round eye finished off with neat rose ears. Strong short neck leading into a straight front. Compact feet. Width and depth to front evident. Well ribbed back, although I'd like to see more tuck up which would come with a higher level of fitness. Topline is held level on the move and he shows good rear drive when the owner lets him move forward. I liked his overall balance, level topline and movement and for that I was pleased to award him DCC and Open in show.
2. Ch Takoda Mastermind. Black brindle. A top size dog of a lighter style than first. A lot to like about this dog. A dog in fitter condition than first. A clean head of correct proportions without being overdone. He has a dark eye, very neat ear, correct dentition, tight lip, depth and width throughout the head. Straight front with adequate bone, feet ok, well ribbed back, light in loin, enough turn of stifle, well muscled. A quality dog which called for a tough decision between him and 1st. I just preferred the movement on 1st.
3. Ch Westwood Amarilla Moonshine. Brindle. A super fit dog. Head ok just not quite the strength compared to 1 and 2 which I preferred, round eye, correct front with straight well boned legs, width and depth to brisket, neat feet that turned slightly, compact body, enough turn of stifle, moved ok.

Baby Puppy Bitch

1. Aldoushire Got The Force (AI). 4 month old white bitch with black patches. Cracking head shape on this baby girl. Feminine clean throughout, strong blunt square muzzle and cheeks starting to develop, dark eye, neat ear. Neat compact baby with short neck leading into correct square front, neat compact feet, well ribbed back, level topline held on the move, correct angles front and rear finished off with pumphandle tail. I really liked this baby and wish she were mine. Best of luck with her. Best baby puppy in show
2. Aldoushire Goody Gumdrop (AI). Black brindle with white front feet. This girl has a nice developing head shape, dark round eye, tight lip, and neat enough ears. I just preferred the strength in 1st. She presents a nice outline being clean throughout. More leg under her at this stage. Moved well with level topline with plenty of drive from well angled hindquarters.
3. Aldoushire Geisha Girl (AI). White girl with a lovely head, dark eye with plenty of pigmentation starting, neat ear, square muzzle. Good bone, Stronger head than 2nd. Compact baby with correct square front, feet ok, enough turn of stifle, moved ok. I preferred the movement and topline of 2nd.

When writing up the critiques I saw that I placed all litter sisters, all very nice, congrats to the breeder

Puppy Bitch

1. Takoda Dream Weaver. Black brindle 6 months old. Very feminine bitch with super clean outline. Head still developing but has correct proportions with depth. Correct scissor bite, clean tight lip, dark eye and neat enough ear. Short strong neck leading into straight front, depth to brisket, well ribbed back with short loin, neat compact feet, moved well with level topline, correct turn of stifle. Nicely muscled. A very nice bitch that has strength and agility throughout. She took my eye and I did consider her in the final lineup. I think she has a bright future to come. Best puppy in show
2. Battleaxe Harmony Storm. Black brindle. Super strong head, stronger than 1st but still feminine. Short blunt foreface, depth and width throughout, dark enough round eye, large teeth, square front with width and depth to brisket, good bone throughout, feet ok, well sprung ribs, tuck up evident. Enough turn of stifle. Preferred the topline and overall balance of 1st.

Junior Bitch

1. Ch Aldoushire Fairest Of Th Ball. Black brindle. Standard sized girl that has strength, is well constructed and sound. She has a feminine head with strength without being overdone, pronounced cheek muscles, correct muzzle to skull proportions, round well shaped dark eyes with that soft expression that is so very appealing, scissor bite. She has a strong neck leading into straight front, ample bone, compact well padded feet, depth to brisket, well ribbed back with good spring of rib, short in loin, enough turn of stifle. Moves well with a level topline. Handled well. Would like to have seen her in harder condition. Loved this girls expression, her overall balance and outline. Very pleased to award her BCC followed by Best in Show. She is a lovely example of the breed.
2. Ch Rojeme Baby It's a Screamer. Black brindle girl standard size that presented a clean compact outline with plenty to like. A stronger head than 1st with more depth, short foreface, square blunt muzzle, dark enough eye, compact strong body with ample bone, straight wide front, brisket to elbow, good spring of rib, short in loin, good turn of stifle, presented in fit, well muscled condition that was hard to the touch. Really tough to pick between this girl and 1st as both are of excellent breed type. In the end I just preferred the expression on 1st. Pleased to award her RBCC and then followup with Runnerup Best in Show. Another super example of the breed.
3. Anevay Fire Danger. Red. A bitch that is clean with no exaggeration. She won her place due to her overall balance and movement. A nice clean feminine head with dark round eye, pronounced cheek muscles, scissor bite. Not the depth and strength compared to 1st and 2nd. She has a strong neck leading into well laid shoulders. Straight front with good bone, neat feet. Well ribbed back and good turn of stifle. She holds a level topline on the move which is effortless and shows good drive from well muscled hindquarters. In good condition and handled well.

Intermediate Bitch

1. Ch Kaylajaz Obi One Kenobi. Black brindle very clean standard sized bitch with enough bone for her size. Very feminine head with gorgeous expression, very dark round eye, prefer smaller ear, scissor bite, neat feet, width to front, brisket to elbow, well ribbed back, moves well with a level topline, enough turn of stifle. Would like to see her fitter. Opposite Intermediate in show
2. Ch Sladestaff Atomic Fireball. Black brindle with white chest. Taller more substantial bitch than 1st. Nice head with pronounced cheek muscles, dark enough eye for colour, neat ear. Strong short neck leading into straight well boned legs. Good turn of stifle. Preferred the strength of head and topline on 1st.

New Zealand Bred Bitch

1. Rojeme Scream Till You Pop, Brindle. Clean standard sized bitch that had no exaggeration and was hard to the touch. Head feminine, not the strength of 2nd yet she had a dark eye, scissor bite, pronounced cheek muscles, distinct stop, wide open nostrils. Strong muscular neck leads into a straight front with good depth to brisket, ample bone, compact feet, level topline held on the move, very fit and hard to the touch, correct turn of stifle. Full of animation and spark. I liked her overall balance, fitness and attitude. Opposite New Zealand Bred in Show
2. Ch Aldoushire Burlesque Babe. Black brindle with white chest. Top sized bitch that was well constructed with ample bone. I liked this girl. Very feminine head that was clean through, dark round eye giving a wonderful expression, neat rose ear, prefer the strength in this girls head to 1st. Straight leg with wide front and depth to brisket, compact feet, well ribbed back, good turn of stifle, level topline held on the move. Muscular well defined hindquarters and rear.

3. Ch Battleaxe Surestorm Lass (AI). Black brindle. Standard sized girl with strong head. Ample depth and width, strong short square blunt muzzle, pronounced cheek muscles, round dark eye, very small and very nice thin neat rose ears. Good bone, strong short neck, compact bitch, well sprung rib into adequate hindquarters, moved ok. Slight rise over the topline. Preferred the shape and balance of 1st and 2nd.

Veteran Bitch

Thankyou to all exhibitors who brought these older girls out to show. It was such a pleasure to go over them.

1. Ch Renegade All About Brew. Red 10 year old. Wow I would not have guessed that this girl was 10. She moves around that ring like a youngster, she owns it and says look at me and how could I deny her. Strong feminine head with correct proportions, dark round eye, neat rose ear, scissor bite. Very nice square front, ample bone, correct depth to brisket, longer cast, correct turn of stifle, moved really well given her age. Thanks for showing her to me. Opposite Veteran in Show
2. NZ Ch Valglo Belle Of The Ball (Imp UK). Black brindle. Top sized girl 8 years old. Lovely clean feminine head on this girl, with more strength than 1st, dark eye, neat rose ear. A little narrow through the front, brisket to elbow, well ribbed back. Moved and handled well and presented in good condition.
3. NZ Ch Pepstaff Makem Cry (Imp Aust). Black brindle 8 years old. Top size girl with a lovely clean outline showing no exaggeration. Not the strength in head compared to 1st and 2nd but a feminine head that is clean with a tight lip, short strong neck leading into straight front. Enough depth to brisket. Well ribbed back and had enough turn of stifle. Presented in fantastic condition and handled well.

Open Bitch

Some quality bitches in this class but was disappointed with the lack of fitness in some of the exhibits.

1. Warfare Enchanted Princess. Brindle with white chest. Standard sized girl that took my eye. She is very clean throughout and in top condition. Strong feminine head with depth and width. Square blunt muzzle, dark round eye that gives her a wonderful soft expression, neat ear, large nostrils, scissor bite, depth and width to her straight front, well ribbed back, short loin, enough turn of stifle, moved well although she presented with a slight rise across the topline both on the move and stack. Very tight close fitting coat. Well muscled hindquarters and presented in great condition. A bitch I liked. Handled well. Opposite Open in Show
2. Ch Dacaho Praise The Shadow. Brindle. A very happy girl. Clean very standard sized bitch that I liked. She has a nice feminine head, not overdone with a dark eye and neat ear, tight lip, correct dentition. She has adequate bone for her size, a square front with depth to her brisket. She was well ribbed back and I preferred her level topline held on the move and stack to 1st. Adequate turn of stifle and pump handle tail. Moved and handled well. I just preferred the strength of head on 1st.
3. Impalagrove Great White. White. This girls higher level of fitness and effortless movement won her, her place. She has a nice feminine head, it just doesn't have the strength or depth of 1st and 2nd. She has a dark eye, correct scissor bite with big teeth. Strong neck leads into straight front, neat feet. Well ribbed back and short in loin. Correct angles front and rear that enabled her to move effortlessly around the ring showing plenty of drive from well muscled hindquarters, finished off by a pump handle tail. Handled well