

Critique : Bull Terrier Club of South Australia Championship Show

19 March 2011/ Adelaide

Jannie Lubbe- Lubjan Bull Terriers/ South Africa

I big “thank you” to all concerned for the invitation to judge this prestigious show. It was an honour and privilege. We were treated like royalty and your hospitality was just outstanding. We need to express our appreciation to Albert and Gail Reading who went out of their way to make us feel welcome, drive us around and answer our many questions.

We were particularly impressed with the lovely, relaxed atmosphere and enthusiasm of all the exhibitors- a true reflection of the tranquility at the venue.

I need to mention Kerry King (Club President) as well as Mari Lowden, Club Secretary, for their utter professionalism and proficiency- right from the signing of the contract two years ago. Thank you!

We had an entry of 65 of which 50 were Standards and 15 Minis- most of whom were present. The Standards’ Baby Puppy Dog –with 9 exhibits and the Baby Puppy Bitch Class with 8 (7 present) were very impressive and the quality of those babies spelt out a very promising future.

Miniature Bull Terriers:

Baby Puppy Dog (One entry):

1. Shrinkabull Power House (1) (DOB 5/11/2010): Head nicely filled with good expression and ear placement. Shoulders still loose and he moved close in front. Good angulation behind .

Puppy Dog (One entry):

1. Spreiread Patroclus (2)(DOB 3/8/2010): Head well turned and filled. Perfect mouth. Good angulation behind- perfect tailset. One ear still soft. Fair movement both sides.

Junior Dog: (One entry):

1. Caitsam Mini Moonglow(3) (DOB 6/3/2010): Gave his handler a very hard time, but movement was fair –when he moved. Mouth level. Good expression but I would have liked more fill and turn.

Intermediate Dog: (One entry):

1. Ch Minibrook Eye Seeyou ROM(4): (DOB 9/06/2009): Good layback of shoulder. Mouth fault-undershot. Showed in hard condition and a fair mover both sides. **Winner of the RCC.**

Open Dog: (One entry):

1. **Kahmins Harvest Moon (5): Winner of the Reserve Best in Show, CC Dog and Best of Breed :** (Ch Stardom Up Boyz x Kerkens Strawberry Kisses) bred and owned by **K Hellsten** DOB 12/02/2010.

He was presented in hard condition and pulled himself from the pack with lovely, free flowing movement (for a Mini). Minis tend to move with a short, chopping gait, but his was confident and with balance and freedom-and unrivaled on the day as far as the Minis were concerned.

His head was nicely filled and with ample turn-without being spectacular. I liked his expression- his mouth was perfect and he gave me the impression of overall soundness- albeit that he was just over size. There were those with better heads, but in my opinion he was the better mover by some margin and his balance and soundness and also his ring presence and confidence pulled him through.

Baby Bitch Class: (One entry):

1. Shadbraye Picture Perfect(6): DOB 21/10/2010: High quality colored with a turned head and perfect bite. Good ear placement and a good mover coming and going. Still a bit down on the pasterns.

Minor Puppy Bitch Class: (2 Entries)

1. Spreiread Pure Bling(8): DOB 3/8/2010: Striking profile and great eye placement.Perfect mouth. Lovely bone and substance.Fair movement in front and good angulation behind.
2. Prefurabull Only One(7) : DOB 23/7/2010: Beautiful expression. Good tailset and a good mover both sides. Not the same substance as the winner.

Puppy Bitch Class: (2 Entries)

1. Nobul Littlebitabing(10) : DOB 21/7/2010: Good head with a perfect bite. Fair mover both sides and she won the class with her movement in the critical phase.
2. Minibrook Queen Ofth Action(9) DOB 2/4/2010: She had the better construction in the class but didn't show her front movement. Not the same quality in the head department than 10.

State Bred Bitch: (One Entry)

CC Bitch and Reserve Best of Breed was awarded to the State Bred Bitch **Speiread Noughts N Crosses (11)** (Speiread I Dream A Lot ROM X Speiread Fire Cracker): DOB 06/11/2009. **This Brindle and White lady owned a cracking head – turned and filled. Unfortunately it came with a mouth fault: she did have a scissors bite but the canines were in standing. She was shown in hard condition and was a fair mover both sides, although she lacked the drive and freedom to challenge the BOB winner. Her striking head, correct size and overall balance made her my choice before number 12 and 14 below.**

Australian Bred Bitch: (3 Entered)

1. **RCC Bitch** was awarded to **Shrinkabull Hot Gossip (AI) ROM(12)** (UK CH Bilston Blackjack of Emred x Ch Speiread Cherry Bomb): DOB 06/05/2009 owned by the **Shrinkabull/ Stardom** Kennels. Again – this was a very sound mover with good substance and construction- but oversized. Her head could have been longer- and she has a slight mouth fault- canines correct.
2. **Ch Glenric Mini Hurricane (14)** DOB 03/09/2006: a type and substantial red of more correct size- but she lost a closely contested class because of her front movement-which was not parallel. Like number 12 above, she also lacked in length of foreface. This class presented me with easily the most difficult decision of the day.
3. **Kahmins Electric Tango(13)**: DOB 12/02/2010: Another good, type lady – who was unfortunate to come up against the two above. She had a mouth fault and moved close behind and could not on the day match the other two.

Open Bitch: (One entry)

1. **Ch Prefurabull Cherry Ripe(15)** DOB 3/09/2006: She had a good head with a level bite. A fair mover both sides.

Standard Bull Terriers:

Baby Puppy Dog Class: (9 Entries)

1. **Jacamar The Hurricane(20)** DOB 27/09/2010: A substantial white puppy with a short back. Type. Lovely head-great fill and good profile. He holds great promise.
2. **Brasshead Fu Man Chu(21)** DOB 7/11/2010: Elegant with beautiful length of skull. Compact.
3. **Brasshead Kimbo Slice(22)** DOB 7/11/2010: The litter brother-and with equally impressive length in head. Still very immature-but holds great promise when filling up in body.

Minor Puppy Dog Class: (2 Entries)

1. **Bullroy BK Johnny(26)** (Bullroy Rok Posta x Bullroy Baggy Britches) : **S&S Humphrey** : DOB 03/09/2010.**Reserve Challenge Certificate. This well marked brindle and white impressed me with his excellent movement and overall soundness. I have seen dogs of his age with better substance and I would have loved to have seen better spring of rib and power/fill in the head – but that will improve with maturity. Some of his more mature challengers for RCC indeed had better substance, but their faults will not improve: bad bites and weak under jaws and also some very mediocre movement. His mouth was perfect, the head long- with good eye placement and ears on top. His had a good topline and good turn of stifle. He just lacked in substance and width of scull-but won me over with his sound movement.**
2. Starstruck Charro(AI) (25): This boy unfortunately ruined his chances by never settling down.

Junior Dog Class: (2 Entries)

1. **Bullroy Sumrnuts (29)**(Bullroy Urban Icon x Bullroy Gunnedoo) :Bred and owned by **S&S Humphrey** : DOB 30/11/2009: **Challenge Certificate for Standard Dogs as well as the Runner-up BOB. A substantial boy with lovely Breed type. He was substantial, yet compact with good layback of shoulder and deep and wide chest and enough bone. He showed a striking, eye-catching profile but the muzzle was not wide enough to produce the egg shaped head we should be striving for. Mouth correct and he used his ears well. Unfortunately he was not presented in hard condition. He was flabby and overweight on the day and had too much loose skin over the body. He also did not move freely at any stage under me– a prerequisite for assessing true movement- and was either strung up or pulled back. I had to reward his superior type, substance, striking profile with correct mouth and elegance in the CC line-up as there were just too many positive virtues to ignore, but his condition and (lack of) movement cost him dearly in the BIS line-up- as there were two worthy competitors in perfect show condition waiting for him! It must be mentioned that he was still very young and I suspect that as he mature and grow into his skin- things might turn out very favorable for him, as he holds great promise.**
2. Datoneis Big Ben(28) DOB 28/12/2009: Good head and although a fair mover, he was tied at the shoulder-not the best movement in front.

Intermediate Dog Class: (One Entry)

1. Hulia Watutsi(32) DOB 24/04/2008: An upstanding Black and White. Nicely filled and turned head. Would have loved more bone for his size. Moved well with ample drive. Lovely small ears. Mouthfault.

State Bred Dog Class: (2 Entries)

1. Barkinot Nitrous Oxide(34) DOB 16/01/2010: Very tall brindle, but lacked power and needs to body up. Head long-with excellent eye placement. Fair Mover.
2. Brasshead Robin Hood (33) DOB 28/02/2010: He did not give his best- due to a very sore toe nail.

Australian Bred Dog Class:(One entry)

1. Barkinot Pirate Patch(36) DOB 16/01/2010: Well balanced dog with fair head and excellent drive behind.

Open Dog : (One entry)

1. Bullroy Rok Posta(37) DOB 30/05/2009: Big brindle and white. Head turned nicely-but I would have preferred more fill. Moved good behind but paddled in front. A substantial dog.

Baby Bitch Class (8 Entries):

A Superb Class brimful of very promising youngsters!

1. Brasshead Bewitched (45) DOB 07/11/2010: a classy lady: Lovely smooth head with gentle curve and just enough fill for her age. Perfect dentition. Clean elegance-lovely topline. Fair mover, but I am confident that it will improve as she matures.
2. Jacamar Mrs Jones(42) DOB 27/09/2010: Another very promising puppy: balanced –with a lovely profile and also sound movement.
3. Sirram Kinder Surprise (46) DOB 05/10/2010: Smallish and very busy- but also a lovely, sound, balanced puppy. Another very good, clean head.

Minor Puppy Bitch Class (2 Entries)

1. Revhead With Out A Doubt (48) DOB 15/07/2010: Substantial, upstanding- yet elegant. A good mover behind. One ear still down- but lots to like.
2. Bullroy BK Malibu(47) DOB 03/09/2010: Good head- but the eyes a bit in the middle. Very good hindquarters- but shoulders are loose.

Puppy Bitch Class (3 Entries)

This was a very close class with just a little bit between them.

1. Azonax Rosie o’ Grady (51) DOB 28/05/2010: Not the smoothest mover, but a stunning headpiece with a perfect mouth. Overall- a typye lady.

2. Alunday Shez Totally Awesom(50)(27/05/2010: Heavy, tall Dalmation type- with good movement. Not the same quality in the head as 51-but then again –the better mover.
3. Shirvin Voodoo Doll(49) DOB 12/04/2010: Tri with another absolutely striking head: filled and turned and beautiful. She moved without drive behind and that cost her against the smoother movement of the others in the class.

Junior Bitch Class(5 Entries)

This was a very closely contested class. On any other day the order could have switched around. No clear winner.

1. Bullroy BK Baggy Pants(52) DOB 20/12/2009: Well balanced, typye white with good mouth and a good head . Not the best movement behind.
2. Shirvin Unforgettable(53) DOB 16/03/2010: Very nicely turned and well filled head. Her hind movement let her down.
3. Barkinot Sweet Mallee(55) DOB 16/01/2010: Best mover in the Class. Perfect mouth. Lacked in profile.

Intermediate Bitch(One entry)

1. Evildouer Picture Puzzle(57) DOB 10/02/2009: Good front with good bone and gun barrel straight. Great fill and turn of head with good eye placement. Mouth Fault. Not the best mover behind.

State Bred Bitch (3 Entries)

1. Ch Brasshead Bear Wolf(59) DOB02/08/2008: Elegant with striking clean lines. Not the best head –but lovely ears. Showed herself to the best advantage.
2. Evildouer Bossy Boots(58) DOB 10/02/2009: Cracking profile with a good mouth. A bit unsure of herself and that made a difference on the day.
3. Barkinot Cider Rules (60) DOB 16/01/2010: Good turn in profile but lacked fill. Fair mover.

Australian Bred Bitch (One entry)

1. **Bullroy Chick Chick Boom(61) (Ch Bullroy Reco x Bullroy Dream Catcher) owned and bred by S&S Humphrey: a THE Bitch CC, BEST OF BREED and BEST IN SHOW.** Born 30/05/2009, she was just short of two years of age, matured and in top condition. **This well marked Black Brindle lady was in a class of her own- nothing in Show even came close to challenging her. She was brimful of virtues and there was not a lot to fault her on.**

She was typye and balanced-with just the right blend of power and elegance and was handled expertly- she didn't put a foot wrong the whole day!

She owned a quality head- long and powerful, but also smooth and feminine. The mouth was correct- although her canines looked strangely thin: could she be wearing them down by chewing, I wondered?

I have seen darker eyes, but the eye placement was correct-lovely expression. She used her ears well. The brisket was deep and wide, enough bone and tight feet. Her layback of shoulder was exemplary- with a short back and well angulated hindquarters. I have seen better movement in front (she didn't 'cut daisies') but she is a good mover and moved with drive and purpose.

Overall a top quality bitch of the highest order and could I add to that: World Class and definitely the one I would have like to take home with me.

Open Bitch Class (One entry)

1. Jacamar Miss Jackson ROM(63) DOB 20/01/2008: This was very much 'my kind of bully'! A powerful, bullish type with lots of power and substance and good bone. She owned a good head- strong and wide and deep and moved with good drive and parallel behind and also good in front. Slightly long cast. She was full of herself and lively and I liked her a lot! A very worthy **winner of the Reserve Challenge Certificate.**

In Summary:

As can be deducted from the above, I do judge dogs as a whole- whether it is in the ring or for breeding purposes. Important as the head might be, I will never put up a dog with a cracking head, but who is unsound- if I have any choice. Substance (maximum dog in the available space) and soundness (as reflected in movement) is in my opinion just as important as a good head. Just remember that a good head can never only be about curve alone- but very definitely also about fill and power! If a dog has all that and also a sound temperament- he is balanced and will be rewarded accordingly.

I am glad to say that I found one like that on the day: Bullroy Chick Chick Boom! My congratulations to the breeder and exhibitor of this gem!

My best wishes to all the lovely people whom we met at the Show. May we meet again, soon!