

**THE WHIPPET CLUB NSW**  
**Friday 29 March 2013**

I would like to thank the committee for the invitation to judge, thereby allowing me the opportunity to visit your lovely country which I probably would never have done without a 'raison d'etre'. My thanks also to the exhibitors for entering, I felt honoured by the super entry.

Before I begin my individual critiques I would like to make some general observations. I think the majority of the handlers must attend the same ring training class because you all handled in exactly the same fashion! It seemed more 'professional' than is normal in the UK and although most of the dogs were presented to their best advantage, there were a few who would have benefitted from being handled more sympathetically to their needs. I very much disliked the use of clippers on some of the dogs, **especially** the removal of whiskers and I was also very surprised at the number of dogs with dirty teeth.

With regard to the dogs themselves, I was basically looking for a balanced dog with a flowing outline and 'a leg at each corner' (i.e. well angulated fore and aft without exaggeration), ribbing that extended well back and 'hand-span' coupling to allow for flexibility of the loin whilst galloping. ! Size, on the whole, was good and there seemed to be very few incorrect ears. I did notice though that a lot of bites, although scissor, were quite tight. I was pleased to see that the majority of the entry had proper 'houndy' feet, very important in a running dog, unlike the cat feet that are becoming prevalent in the UK.

The dogs varied more in type than the bitches so my dog line-ups may have seemed more random to those viewing from the ringside because how they moved would have been my deciding factor. Movement is paramount for me, Whippets have to be 'fit for function'; I do not look for TRAD (Tremendous Reach And Drive) but, in profile, I want to see their hind foot falling into their front pawprint and to & fro they should move straight and true. My pet hate is steep upper arms and upright pasterns with consequent poor front movement. The fact that the ring sloped down towards the judging table disadvantaged dogs with this fault!

## **DOGS**

### **Baby Puppy 3 - 6 months**

1. Winder's ARGOWAN CALIFAWNICATION. 14 weeks fawn brindle. Stood out in this class. Lovely head and expression, well constructed and balanced all through. Moved soundly in all directions. I liked him very much and hope he continues to fulfil his early promise.
2. More & Griffiths' BYERLEY DAVENPORT. 4.5 months black brindle particolour. Has all the essentials but didn't have the balance of the winner and his handler tended to overstretch him behind. Moved well.
3. Barrenger's ISILWANE BOOM BOOM BOOM. 4.5 months blanket marked particolour. Another well put together puppy although I preferred the head and front angulation on 2. Moved well enough to deserve his placing.

### **Minor Puppy 6 - 9 months**

1. Rule-Steele's TAEJAAN FIFTY SHADES OF GREY (AI). 7 months blue brindle. Good head with correct bite and strong underjaw. Fine coat. Good length of neck, layback of shoulder and upper arm. Well boned, straight front with depth & width of brisket. Good topline for his age and strong, well angulated hindquarters. Moved straight and true from all angles.

2. O'Keefe's ISILWANE EVERY LITTLE THING. 8 months fawn particolour. Long, lean head and I liked the flow of his neck into his topline. Good depth of brisket and well ribbed back with correct length of loin. Layback of shoulder OK but unfortunately very upright in upper arm and pastern which reflects in his front movement. Much better angulation in rear. Very fine coat.

### **Puppy 6 - 12 months**

1. Rule-Steele's TAEJAAN SET FIRE TO THE RAIN (AI). Litter brother to the previous class winner and very similar in construction although I thought this young lad has slightly more elegance and stands naturally over more ground. Moved very well and I liked him very much.
2. Buffalo Kennels' BUFFALO FIRST OFFICER. 8 months fawn particolour. Lovely glossy, fine coat. Lots to like about this puppy, flows in outline, good depth & width and has strong hindquarters. Moves soundly enough but has not the profile movement of the winner.
3. Farish's DREAMWORK HERE TO STAY. 8 months dark brindle/white trim. Attractive puppy who is good for balance but rather lacks depth at present. Sound on the move.

### **Junior 9 - 18 months**

1. Stephenson & Downing's DANESON DARCEZ ARTFUL DODGER. Fawn lad who just squeezed into this class as he is 18 months tomorrow! Won this class on his overall balanced construction and good movement. Nothing flashy about him but a classic workman-like Whippet, very English in type.
2. Jennings/Birse's JENRANA TALK LIKE THAT. 17 months darkest blue brindle I have ever seen ... amazing colour! Rather too strong all through for my liking, good front assembly on him but too short in rib and consequently falls away in topline. Extremely strong hindquarters. Did not move as well as the winner.
3. Cunningham & Searle's KNUSPRIG EMBARKATION. Almost 18 months black masked fawn. I preferred his make and shape to 2<sup>nd</sup> but this lad was not at all enjoying being shown. However, he is sound on the move and in lovely condition.

### **Intermediate 18 - 36 months**

1. Barrenger's ISILWANE ON THE PROWL. Black brindle particolour. Very stylish and elegant. Lovely head with strong underjaw. Flows in outline and well constructed throughout but without exaggeration. Very fit and sound. Super coat and condition. Dog CC winner.
2. Buffalo Kennel's CH. BENBRIDGE ANGEL OF FAITH AT BUFFALO (Imp NZ). Fawn brindle particolour. Lovely head and expression. Well constructed little dog who is as sound as a pound on the move. Reserve DCC.
3. Wills' CH KARNABAY ALEXANDER McQUEEN. Blue fawn brindle who has lots to like about him. Lovely head and expression and moved soundly. Completed a trio of three good Whippets.

### **Australian Bred**

1. Quinn/Comerford's CH KARNABAY JIMMY CHOO. Fawn boy who is rather more elegant than his litter brother (3<sup>rd</sup> in previous class). Built on flowing lines with good angulation fore & aft. Moved soundly. Well handled and presented which made him stand out in this class.
2. Albert's CH GOODWILL DON'T TOUCH MY DUCO. Strangely named black brindle/white trim. Another elegant dog with lovely head & expression, well constructed but not quite the balance of the winner. Sound and fit.
3. Beasleigh's BELLENDENE JACK SPARROW. Fawn brindle particolour. Slightly stronger all through than the first two but a well made attractive dog who moved well once he settled.

### **Open**

1. More & Griffiths' SUP CH BERLEY LONGINES. Blue brindle particolour. Good head with strong underjaw. Best of fronts with good depth & width and well sprung pasterns. Correct top and underline, just a little too much hind angulation for my liking but he moved true and well in profile.
2. Elmaro Kennels' SUP CH PEPERONE NEW SENSATION. Fawn particolour. Another well constructed dog, a little more moderate than the winner. Moved well.
3. Slatyer/Farish's CH CALAHORRA THE SUN ALSO RISES. Fawn of different type to the first two. Slightly taller but elegant and stylish. Moved soundly.

### **Veteran**

1. Barrenger's CH ISILWANE JOLLY ROGER. 9 years pale fawn particolour. My notes read "Battle scarred but still fit and sound" and this is what he won the class on!
2. Barrenger's GR CH TEZER FEEL FREE TO STARE. 10 years fawn brindle particolour. Totally different in type to the winner but sound enough.
3. Carroll/Tuck's SUP CH SWIFTHUND PISTOLS AT DAWN. 9 years fawn brindle. I liked his make and shape but he is not as sound fore & aft as the first two although he moves well in profile.

### **Neuter**

1. Comerford's CH RIDGESETTER MADE IN USA (IID). Fawn particolour. Elegant dog who was more settled and moved a little better than the second.
2. Comerford's RIDGESETTER CHRIS COLUMBUS. Fawn particolour. Stronger all through than the winner and not as sound on the move.

## **BITCHES**

### **Baby Puppy**

1. Rule-Steele's TAEJAAN THIS GIRL IS ON FIRE. 4.5 month red brindle/white trim. Very attractive and well made throughout. Confident and sound on the move.
2. Barrenger's BONNEYMEAD IANTHE. 4.5 month blue brindle/white trim. Also a lovely well constructed puppy who moved well. Could have done with two 1<sup>st</sup> prizes here as I was splitting hairs on this decision!
3. Bugges/Bettis' ARGOWAN YOU HAD ME AT HELLO. 14 weeks black brindle particolour with all the essentials. Completed a trio of three very promising puppies.

### **Minor Puppy**

1. Rule-Steele's TAEJAAN IT STARTED WITH A KIZZ (AI). 7 months blue brindle. Well constructed all through. Moved soundly and confidently. Litter sister to my MP & Puppy Dog winners, what a superb litter!
2. Buffalo Kennels' BUFFALO FIRST EDITION. 7 months fawn brindle particolour. Very feminine, well constructed with good balance. Rather unsettled and unlucky to meet the winner. Moved well.
3. Carroll's MERRIROSE LITTLE WHITE LIE. 7.5 months black & white. Very elegant and Whippety, I liked her overall shape and outline but unfortunately her front is not her fortune.

### **Puppy**

1. Slatyer's CALAHORRA SUNSET BOULEVARDE. 7.5 months lemon brindle/white trim. A lovely quality puppy. Pretty head, well made throughout and very feminine. Lacked confidence on the move at first because she didn't understand what was required but moved soundly once she got going.
2. Skene's SHEARWIND SILVER SECRET. 10 months blue brindle. Well constructed and balanced but rangier throughout than the winner. Moved well.
3. Buffalo Kennels' BUFFALO FIRST CLASS. 7 months blanket marked fawn particolour. Good outline and shape, well angulated throughout. Moved well

### **Junior**

1. Rule-Steele's TAEJAAN STEPPIN OUT. Red brindle particolour who certainly did step out! Lovely head and expression, so feminine and sound. Very shapely and flowed in outline. Won this class on her "Look at me" attitude both standing and on the move.
2. Slatyer's CH CALAHORRA BELUGA BLACK CAVIAR (AI). Black brindle/white trim. I thought this bitch was lovely and would be my winner but I just preferred the head and the ring presence of the winner.
3. Comerford's RIDGESETTER DONTRAINONMYPARADE. Blue brindle/white trim. Another well constructed bitch who moved extremely well, just not as feminine as the first two.

### **Intermediate**

1. Slatyer's CALAHORRA HILL OF GRACE. Red brindle. Nothing flashy about her but a lovely size, pretty head and well constructed throughout. Moved soundly.
2. More & Griffiths' BYERLEY URBANE. Blue brindle. Again, not a flashy bitch, but so sound and well made. Splitting hairs on this decision.
3. Skene's CH KANA-KA MARKED FOR EXPORT TO SHEARWIND (NZ). Red brindle, very similar in make and shape to the first two. I am sure they will all change places on a regular basis as they headed a huge class of lovely bitches!

### **Australian bred**

1. Boyd & Slatyer's CALAHORRA SALOME. Black brindle who headed yet another strong class. The more I looked at her, the more I liked her. Well made, nothing exaggerated about her and she had good muscle tone, moved soundly and with cadence. Res BCC & RBIS
2. Rule-Steele's SUP CH TAEJAAN BIRD ON A WIRE. Red brindle particolour. Pushed hard for 1<sup>st</sup> place, a really lovely bitch, another tough decision!
3. More & Griffiths' BYERLEY JENNY BANNISTER. Dark blue brindle with white trim. Yet another super bitch, sound as a pound, completing a lovely line-up.

### **Open**

1. Fleming's CH MEILANDINA LA DE DA. My star of the day, quality red brindle shown in pristine condition. Took my eye as she came in the ring and didn't disappoint on the table. Beautiful head with lovely expression, strong underjaw and sparkling clean teeth. Good front assembly with correct depth and infill, well sprung ribs, correct topline, well angulated hindquarters with good width of second thigh. Moved effortlessly and soundly from all angles. Bitch CC and BIS. I would happily have taken her home!  
*I would say at this juncture that I was very disappointed having to make a decision not to place what I now see from the catalogue was this bitch's equally lovely litter sister in an earlier class, purely because, despite being well and sympathetically handled, she clearly wanted to be anywhere other than in the show ring. A real shame.*
2. More & Griffiths' CH BYERLEY ALANNAH HILL. Dark blue brindle. Not flashy but a sound, well made bitch who was unlucky to meet my winner.
3. Henderson/Rule-Steele's NZ GR CH/CH BEESHOLME TYGER TYGER (IMP NZ). Fawn brindle. Very pretty, well constructed, slightly longer cast than 1 & 2 but another quality bitch.

### **Veteran**

1. Barrenger's SUP CH/AM CH RIDGESETTER FLY THE FLAG ET SC. 12 years young, brindle particolour. She still retains a lovely flowing outline, good front and hind angulation and moves soundly. I see she is the mother of the Veteran dog winner and the 2<sup>nd</sup> in this class, a real credit to her owner.
2. Barrenger's CH ISILWANE FLAG BEARER ET. 9.5 years brindle. Lovely head, make and shape, a little more moderate in angulation than the winner. Moved well but outshone by her mother!
3. Cunningham/Searle's CH CALAHORRA EMBER. 7 year old red fawn. Not as well constructed in front as the first two and stronger all through. Clearly likes her tucker!

### **Neuter**

1. Telford's SSASP MOVIN ONA CLOUD. Sorry, no notes for this bitch. Stood alone but won the challenge for Best Neuter.

**Caroline Osborne (judge)**