

AMERICAN CHESAPEAKE CLUB NATIONAL SPECIALTY SHOW 2013

For a judge, the highest honor is to be invited to judge a National Specialty Show for one's breed. With this honor and privilege in mind, I focused on the qualities from the standard that are important to making our breed distinctive, create type and that are essential for its work. For me, proportions, substance and coat and balance of angles create the outline that defines the breed. Selections were based on this as much as was possible.

First I want to say thank-you to the exhibitors for the opportunity to evaluate their dogs. Your support with entries makes the show a valuable experience for all. Not everyone wins or gets a ribbon but the idea of a NSS is to show your fellow CBR lovers the dogs with their different backgrounds. Second, an air of good sportsmanship was very evident among the exhibitors and spectators. This is not always the case at Specialty shows not just in this breed but in many, so it was very nice to see. Third but not last or least, a big **Thank-You** to Renee Wolfe and her committee members for all their hard work in putting together and pulling off the show.

In general, bites and temperaments were very good. If anything some dogs were overly enthusiastic but none exhibited any undesirable behavior. Our breed is not a "cookie cutter" breed with only one style that is preferred or fits the standard. Good coats of varying styles were consistently evident. Most dogs have sufficient length of muzzle so important for the retrieving work of the dogs. While there were still some big and lower set ears, there was an overall improvement in the ear set, size and shape. Most tails were carried in an acceptable manner-again a good sign. There were areas for improvement-proportion of height to length to body depth; length of loin; substance for size; shoulder and rear angulations. We have a wide size range for the various working conditions and with only a couple of exceptions, the entries were in the standard size ranges. The biggest area of concern to me was the leggy animals without enough substance or depth of body and long in proportion to height.

BOB- Just a wonderful bitch in all aspects for me. She had correct proportion of height/length and depth. Her bone fit her. She has a good coat with undercoat and somewhat harsh outer coat with waving that was not excessive. She moved with ease, soundness and power. Congratulations to her breeder for producing such a lovely specimen. It was also great to see that she had her JH title (and later earned her WD) and that her sire is a Ch/MH/** ! Not many other retriever breeds can find their NSS BOB bred as this.

BOS- A fully mature male in tip top physical and coat condition, he moved easily and soundly. Different but acceptable head style. His bone fit him. Good depth of chest-below elbow and nicely sprung ribs. Tail carried well. Would make him a bit shorter in loin.

SELECT DOG-A handsome headed youngster who was beautifully presented. Eye catching on the move especially. Very good coat. Not as deep in body as the BOB or BOS but a well made dog. Liked his rear angles. Tail carriage was lovely to see.

SELECT BITCH- An old favorite. Gorgeous coat, with that elusive correct proportions of depth, length and height. Bone fit her. Proper angles. Strong top line even as a veteran. Age was showing a bit in her rear musculing but still moved with power and ground covering stride.

AOM All the dogs here showed the proportions & substance that the standard asks for; had pleasing heads of various styles; moved well and had good balanced angles.

BEST OF WINNERS/WINNERS DOG- His outline was outstanding-correct proportion ratios; substance; good angles that were balanced; correct underline; good tail carriage; short loin; coat had a harsh outer jacket with plentiful undercoat-waving appropriate. Pleasing head piece with small and nicely set ears. For me perhaps a tad less stop. Wonderful dog and a real credit to his breeders.

RESERVE DOG-Lovely dog with good bone and balanced angles. Moved with power and carried his tail well. Head not as clean in the lip as the winner. A bit longer in loin than ideal.

First 6-9 mos. Puppy Dog-Pleasing eye and nicely made head. Correct length of body and well coated. Moved with power from the rear and soundness all the way around. On standing he presents a straighter look in angle when stacked but better angles when relaxed & moving.

Second-A bit longer in proportion than #1 in class. Longer through the loin. Not as powerful when moving especially off the rear. Pleasing head and quality coat. Would like more bone to him.

Third-Good bone and coat. Needs to learn to show himself to his advantage as his inexperience on the lead gives him a roached top line and hard to really evaluate gait.

First 9-12 mos. Puppy Dog-Overall a nice package. Good headpiece-would like smaller ears. Liked his second thigh. Front could have more development but when he moved, he moved well with good reach and drive off his rear. Held his top-line.

Second- Fabulous coat here. Again, I would like smaller ears and better set. Very nice dog. Nicely ribbed. Not as trained on his feet as the dog that won the class.

Third- Lovely front piece on this dog. Head has the best ears and set of the class. Moved with power on side. Great coat. Strong top line. Right now though moving too close in the rear which cost him a higher placement.

Fourth-Again a super coat on this pup. At this age he is a bit long in the loin. I would like a bit more in the front on this dog. Nice headpiece and good ears. When moved he covered ground.

First Bred By Exhibitor Dog- Ideal proportions for me of height/length and depth. Balanced front to rear in correct angulations. Excellent coat depth and texture. Masculine head without coarseness, not overdone and proper lip. Loved his size. Bone fit him. Good movement and in BOB his front and rear extension was clearly evident. BEST OF WINNERS/WINNERS DOG

Second-A slower to mature dog. Excellent movement coming and going and on the side. Correct proportion of leg length to body length but differently cast in style than the class winner. Good front and rear angles. Coat was the shorter type with good undercoat and correct texture. Proper ears in size and set.

Third-Head a bit too strong for me and lippy. Good bone. Proportions not as correct as the two dogs ahead of him. Good coat. Powerful picture when moving. Tail carried properly

Fourth-Not in his best coat. Pleasing angles. A bit long through the loin. The high tail carriage spoiled his overall picture.

First Open Dog-Very typical in outline-correct proportions, desired angles and good bone. Proper coat. For me head a bit heavy and I would like smaller ears. Covered ground with power especially from the rear. Correct tail carriage. Took the 1st place on his better tail carriage. RESERVE WINNERS DOG

Second- Very much the kind of dog I like. Like #1 in class, he had correct proportions; was well coated and proper angles. Good length of loin. Very pleasing and nicely shaped head piece. He has the small ear that was set correctly. Moved soundly and with power. The high tail carriage cost him this first place.

Third-Beautiful coat texture and undercoat. Would like a bit more length of upper arm. Good rear angle. Used himself to his advantage when moving. Bone fit him. Good proportions. Again a high tail carriage spoiled the overall picture.

Fourth-A dog with very good coat, bone for his size and well angled. Moved a bit wide coming at you but he was not comfortable moving with his handler. Powerful gait on side. Good tail carriage.