

**Labrador Club of the Potomac April 2009**  
**Critique on Regular Dog Classes**

It was, indeed, an honour and a privilege to judge the Regular Dog Classes at the Potomac 2009 - truly, it is an amazing showcase for the Labrador breed. Credit must be given to the entire committee and the organizing team who worked indefatigably in order to have everything so well organised and run to a professional standard over four days; even the weather gods kept the rain away for the duration of the show - congratulations to all for a first rate job!

To my mind, a good Labrador is an unexaggerated animal who is 'moderate' in all respects. The three essentials of head, coat and tail constitute that it is a Labrador and no other breed. The head should be broad in skull but must have no trace of Rottweiler (fleshy cheeks) or Pointer (an over-deep stop) - the muzzle should be long in order to carry heavy game and the ears correctly placed in order to give a true expression. The coat is an essential feature of any water dog - it should be a short, dense, double, weather resistant coat - rather too many that I saw were thick but they were too long and open which is not correct. The true double, close-fitting double coat lends itself to the otter-like tail which is so desirable - many tails were just thick due to the fact that they were not clothed in the correct, close-fitting, tight, double coat. I also feel that a Labrador needs to have sufficient daylight underneath it in order to be balanced, it must be short coupled but not necessarily short backed and it must be a good, sound mover who is fit for function. With this sort of balance, the dog is capable of the purpose for which it was originally bred and a clumsy, cloddy appearance is avoided. Hopefully, the above 'musings' will explain my placings and what I tried to reward over the three days of judging.

I must say that to judge the Stud Dog Class and the Brood Bitch class was a truly wonderful experience. I was truly impressed by Ch Wiscoy Robin and his two excellent sons as well as by the second placed dog, Ch Boradors By George with two most promising young pups - treasures indeed. I noticed several winners and placings being sired by this lovely dog. Similarly, the brood bitch class winner, Ch Tabatha's Pristine was not only a superb Labrador herself but had present two delightful black baby daughters of the highest quality who were like clones - I loved them both!

**6-9 months Black:-**

1 Heim, Russell and Da Ross' HySpire Singular Sensation, I really liked this puppy who is full of promise for an excellent future, full of breed type and quality, well constructed all through with correct size and balance for age, pleasing head, good eye colour, super double coat of correct texture and well shaped tail, short coupled, deep ribbed body, moves on a very good stride and is accurate fore and aft;

2 Arbuckle and Volette's Hunt Club Clayview Whiskey Smuggler, another lovely puppy who pressed 1 all the way, really liked his head shape and kind eye, good coat and tail, lovely hindquarters, already has a great side profile gait and is accurate fore and aft, one to watch;

3 Norgren's East Hill Touchdown, another good puppy with many breed virtues including strong bone, good short coupled body and correct topline, not quite the showman of those above but a lovely pup whose future, I am sure, will be rosy;

4 Huntzinger and Chambers' Riverlane's Ghoststone Blue Angel, promising, quality pup with correct outline and overall balance, correctly angulated forequarters, excellent body properties, sound mover, just needs to develop a little more strength in muzzle;

#### **6-9 months Chocolate:-**

1 Skiba's Epoch's Captain Kidd, most promising puppy who stood out to me and took my eye immediately, very good type overall with excellent head shape, clean neck let into well placed shoulders, strong topline and good tailset, he has a double coat of the correct texture and is a sound, true mover, should have a future;

2 Shearer and Sullenberger's Harlequin's Dustin of BonaVenture, a real baby (as he should be!) and very nice overall, again, lovely type and unexaggerated, has the essentials of head, coat and tail as well as being a sound, true mover;

3 Robertson's Accolade's Chocolate Surprise Apollo, another pleasing puppy with many virtues including pleasing head, good bone and feet and correct body properties, just preferred front and tailset of 1 and 2;

4 Mariscal's Toblerone De Bocalan, good overall type who moved soundly and was shown in good condition, just preferred overall picture of those above but has the promise to develop well;

#### **6-9 months Yellow:-**

1 Creamer's Belquest Gentleman's Quarterly, this quality baby stood out for style, showmanship and correct construction, made in one piece, good bone, topline, hindquarters and tail, sound free mover, would prefer better feet but has all the promise for an exciting future;

2 Burns' Paddington's Clearly Satisfying, this youngster had good size and scope, liked his head, excellent topline, body and hindquarters,

3 Hope Love's Brooklands Mr "D", a real baby with good body who is a sound mover, just thought his coat was a little open;

4 Forsyth and Hummel's Lochiel's Chances R, pleasing head, good body and topline, not the bite of those above;

#### **9-12 months Black:-**

1 McCarthy's Piccadilly DreamWorks, this young dog is very well balanced, full of breed type and a most pleasing size, pleasing head shape, good front angulation, good bone, strong short coupled body, correct topline held on the move, sound true mover;

2 Senfield's Allegheny's Shade, another very nice, quality black built on clean lines, although a scopy youngster he is short coupled, good clean neck set into pleasing shoulders, strong hindquarters, good tailset and moves on a pleasing stride, sound, just thought 1 was more "together";

3 Craver's Ghoststone's Otterly Fantastic Hollywood Kid, another of correct type and shown in lovely condition, full of fitness, short coupled, excellent coat, free sound mover, just preferred shoulder and hindquarters of 1 and 2;

4 Stinehelfer's WhiteWing Tail of Adventure, this dog had a very good coat and was shown in exemplary condition, slightly shorter on the leg and preferred tail of those above;

#### **9-12 months Chocolate:-**

1 Willumsen's Willcare To Fly Under The Radar, stood out in this class, this youngster immediately strikes you as a lovely, typey, real quality pup, liked his head

shape, strong clean neck, superb coat, pleasing bone, excellent coat, topline and tailset, well angulated hindquarters, a very good mover in all directions, should have a future, later went on to BPIS, congratulations;

2 Bennington's MoonLit's Charmed Again, another most pleasing pup of good overall type and shape, very pleasing head, just preferred neck and shoulders of 1;

3 Juvera's Chablais Alldans Café, another well constructed youngster of good type, preferred eye colour of 1 and 2;

4 Chapput-Brennan and Luckhart's Highcaliber Labradale Espresso, same remarks apply as 3;

#### **9-12 months Yellow:-**

1 Severni and Sneider's Aquarius Stonewall Stuart, this dog stood out as soon as he came into the ring, correct size, balance and well constructed throughout with excellent strong clean neck set into well placed shoulders, good bone, correct topline and tailset, strong hindquarters and sound true movement;

2 Blais and Charest's Chablais Harold, another quality dog with many virtues whom I admired, good head with correct length of muzzle, good bone, topline and strong hindquarters, sound true mover, as yet not quite the balance of 1;

3 Czerwinski's Broadway's South Pacific, handsome pup with pleasing head, bone, topline, slightly longer cast and just needs to gain more confidence to reach his full potential, full of promise;

4 Heidi and Nivera's Rocheby Goldsmith, smaller dog who is well constructed and sound, clean outline in profile which he keeps on the move, slightly bitchy in outlook and would preferred ear set and carriage of those above;

#### **12-18 months Black:-**

1 Harmon's Pucketts Super Charged, lovely type, kind, gentle head with correct expression coming from correct length of muzzle, eye shape and dark brown eye colour, has a good double coat of the correct texture and a good tail which is clothed properly by the correct coat, presents an outline of a quality animal which he keeps on the move where he goes soundly;

2 Bennington and Patterson's Fenwyck's Moonlit Knight, another good type of youngster with a good deal of quality, very pleasing outline overall and sound on the move, another with the correct short, dense double coat, slightly longer cast than 1 whose head I also preferred;

3 Ciprian's Beechcroft Blind Justice at Lake Pine, again, very close to the winner, a sound, well conditioned dog who shows well, moves on an even stride, preferred the coat of 2;

4 Cimerman's Dicroft Vitto, similar remarks to those above

#### **12-18 months Chocolate:-**

1 Van Schoic and Stearns' Ark Angels One Night Stand

2 Cravener's Crystal's Makin' Bud Wiser

Only two in this class and of similar type and standard making the decision close, both were of pleasing type and sound;

### **12-18 months Yellow:-**

- 1 Sullenberger and Stephanson's Harlequin Quarterback Sneak, a quality dog whose outline appealed instantly, very pleasing head shape, correct strong, clean and powerful neck set into well placed shoulders, correct bone without being overdone, good upper arm angulation, very well angulated hindquarters, overall presented a most appealing outline, would just prefer him to be shown with slightly less weight;
- 2 Saldana's Zinfandel Brigham, another pleasing dog with a correct double coat of the right texture, well constructed all through and very well muscled which showed on the move;
- 3 Arbuckle and Volette's Hunt Club Clayview Bungie Jumper, smaller yellow who was fit and shown in good condition, pleasing head shape, correct balance, short coupled body of the right depth, excelled behind where he used his hindquarters to truly drive forwards;
- 4 Mischou's Caer Bren Mr Fezziwig, pleasing outline on this youngster, excels in body and hindquarters, shown in good condition and had a kind look to his expression, preferred the coat of those above him;

### **Novice Black:-**

- 1 Cimerman's Dicroft Quarterback Star, good type all through, has a look of style and quality, correct size and scope, pleasing head shape with correct length of muzzle, good bone, very good double coat of correct texture, strong well angulated hindquarters, a sound true mover in all directions, would just prefer a less high tail carriage but still a clear winner here;
- 2 Jessup's Ballyjamesduff of Blackamoor, good type overall who excels in legs and feet, shown in good condition and a sound mover;
- 3 Fontaine and Bolduc's Journeys Bush Tucker Mystery, this dog was shown in super condition, very well muscled indeed and with the correct type of coat;
- 4 George's Finchingfield Quinn RN, another shown in good condition with a pleasing outline, could just be a little stronger over the loin

### **Novice Chocolate:-**

- 1 Meadows and Walker's Piney Creek's Amos Is Famous, thought this dog had the best overall shape in the class which he maintained both standing and on the move, good neck and shoulders, firm topline and the best hindquarters in the class which was apparent on the move, would prefer a darker eye colour;
- 2 Dagley's Chablais Wildbrook Ourson, another good type dog who excelled in body and bone, again I would prefer a darker eye colour;
- 3 Doucette's Doukare's Little D, this dog was shown in super coat and condition, his excellent coat went with a typical tail, just a little stronger in head than 1 and 2;
- 4 Jessup's Browning of Blackamoor, a great extrovert who I am sure will do better when he becomes less "wriggly" in the ring!

### **Novice Yellow:-**

- 1 Dagley and Morton's Janlon's Chasing Waves at Wildbrook, good type youngster shown in excellent condition, short coupled body and very free movement which won him the class, would just prefer a stronger topline;
- 2 Shearer's BonaVenture's Vanguard, smaller dog of very good overall type, liked his head but not quite the movement of 1;

- 3 Barnett and McInnis' Tulgeywood's Theo of Fox Hedge, nicely constructed all through, a sound true mover and a good showman, preferred the short coupled dogs above him and lacked a little coat;
- 4 Grasso's Forestwoods Starboard Buoy Oh Buoy, another most pleasing dog overall of correct type and temperament, sound moving, would just prefer a more typical tail shape;

**Bred By Exhibitor Black**

- 1 Ickowski's Wiscoy's Stone, this top class dog took my eye straight away for his close adherence to the breed standard, has a look of real quality and immediately impresses with his carriage and outline both standing and on the move, typical head with correct eye colour and length of muzzle, clean strong neck set into well placed shoulders, good round bone, correctly balanced all through, superb double coat of correct texture, short coupled, deep ribbed body, well angulated hindquarters with good width of thigh, his tail is truly otter-like and he is a sound, true mover in all directions, a most impressive dog who well deserves to be a champion, a pleasure to award him RWD which he thoroughly deserved;
- 2 Silva's Shadowbrook's McSteamy, pushed 1 all the way and similar in so many ways (I see both have the same sire, Am Ch Wiscoy Robin who impressed me in the wonderful Stud Dog class which he deservedly won), correct head shape, clean neck set into well placed shoulders, correct bone, deep body, strong topline, good hindquarter and tailset, a sound true mover, just preferred the size and scope of the winner;
- 3 Hawk's Smokey Hollows Dallas Cowboy, another very nice quality dog full of breed type, good outline and a sound mover, preferred the more typical coats of those above (e.g. tighter and less open);
- 4 Helmers and Grisell's Paradocs Nani's Plaxico, another quality, well constructed dog shown in good condition and making a good impression, just preferred the head shape and tail carriage of those above him;

**Bred By Exhibitor Chocolate**

- 1 Cerny's Serendipity's Minute Man, I thought this dog was a clear winner, liked his correct size, balance, and that rare combination of substance with quality, excellent bone, short coupled body, barrel rib and strong topline, sound true mover;
- 2 Willumsen's Willcare's Always Ready To Party, another good type dog with correct head, short coupled body, good coat and tail and sound mover, just preferred the size and scope of 1 who was cleaner in the neck;
- 3 Knox's Hanova Iragorri Master Blend, I liked this dog's head and expression with correct eye colour and length of muzzle, strong bone without being overdone, just preferred the topline and tail carriage of those above;
- 4 Sobasz and Patterson's Gretsals' Dublin Mudslide, this dog was shown in great condition - a credit to his owner, excellent short coupled body and deep rib of correct barrel shape, just preferred the forequarters and movement of those above

### **Bred By Exhibitor Yellow**

- 1 Harvey-Major's Linjor Xfactor, this quality dog with a pleasing outline was shown in very good condition, excels in correct bone, topline, well angulated hindquarters and free, easy movement especially in profile;
- 2 Morton and Grannemann's JanLon's Invincible, pushed 1 all the way, another quality dog shown in excellent condition, short coupled body and strong, well muscled and angulated hindquarters, true mover;
- 3 Blais and Charest's Chablais Basil, well balanced cream dog shown in good muscular condition, just preferred the less strong head and better hind angulation of 1 and 2;
- 4 Flaherty and Levine's Hedgelawn's Sharper Image, a lovely dog who appealed in outline greatly both standing and on the move, good to go over with correct proportions, short coupled body and good topline and tailset, disappointed on the move where he was wide in front and close behind, a pity;

### **American Bred Black**

- 1 Black's HiView Baron's Boothill, a lovely, typical dog shown in most lovely condition, really admired his head with correct eye shape, colour and length of muzzle, good front and feet, correct bone, strong topline, well angulated hindquarters and really good coat and tail, one to be proud of;
- 2 Kirschner's Big Sky's Heaven Scent From Trinity, another dog of lovely type and balance creating a most typical overall picture of a handsome Lab in his prime, strong topline, short coupled body, barrel rib, well angulated hindquarters and sound true movement, just preferred the shoulder of 1 in a close decision;
- 3 Sobosz's Gretsals's Jamaican Me Crazy, another good specimen of the breed shown in super condition, has a correct head shape and expression, particularly good through the body, free mover;
- 4 McDermid's Tabatha's Autumn Rustle, very stylish dog who is a great showman, slightly longer cast and not quite the movement of those above;

### **American Bred Chocolate**

- 1 Pierce's Snowden Hill Rompin The Garden, good type dog who excels in correct balance, good bone, tight feet, big ribs, correct double coat of right texture, sound mover, would just prefer a darker eye colour which would enhance the expression;
- 2 Segedi's Devanley's Grand Canyon, well constructed and shown in hard, muscular condition, good topline and well angulated hindquarters, just a little shorter on the leg so not quite the balance of 1;
- 3 Smith and Harmon's Startop's Fire In The Hole, another good type dog shown well in good condition, pleasing outline overall but failed in head shape to 1 and 2;
- 4 Arnold and Willumsen's Twin Cedars Cutlass Treasure, well constructed dog of pleasing overall type, good balance and sound, true mover, just preferred the coats of those above;

### **American Bred Yellow**

- 1 Anthony's Robnie's Net Asset, very stylish dog with a clean, correct outline where everything flows, strong clean neck set into well placed shoulders, excellent topline and tailset, head appeals when he uses his ears and will hopefully develop further, excels on the move where he has a sound stride with good reach and drive;
- 2 Beal's Conclusion's Foster, pushed 1 all the way, a good type dog full of Labrador characteristics, liked his kind, gentle head and eye with correct length of muzzle, excellent topline, short coupled body and barrel shaped rib, strong sound mover, just preferred tailset of 1;
- 3 Endless Mt's Shakin' Things Up, another with a look of quality, excels in body with adequate bone, sound mover;
- 4 Clark's Everwoods Sly Dog, this dog is of very good proportions and overall balance, shown in lovely condition, not the movement of those above, especially behind;

### **Open Black Dog**

- 1 Stanley's Endless Mt's Mack Truck, this dog took my attention from the very start, a most typical Labrador all through with a look of quality as well as being a great showman, his head is correct with correct eye shape and colour, earset and length of muzzle with no hint of coarseness or cheekiness, strong neck sent into pleasing shoulders, excellent front, correct round bone going down to strong pasterns and compact feet with well arched toes, excellent topline, deep body with barrel rib but maintaining the correct amount of daylight beneath him, strong, well muscled hindquarters, a correct, tight-fitting, short, dense double coat of correct texture and an otter-like tail which he uses gently both standing and on the move, an excellent mover in all directions - fore, aft and in profile where he maintains his outline superbly at all times, he screams 'Labrador' in type, temperament and balance and is one I would be proud to show myself, a pleasure to award him WD which was well deserved;
- 2 Moneghan's Chestnut's Country Joe, another lovely black full of breed type, correct head shape with pleasing eye, well set ears and correct length of muzzle, very good balance all through with correct length of leg, strong clean neck, good topline and tailset, short coupled body and well angulated hindquarters, a sound, true mover, one to be proud of, pushed 1 hard but just lacked his overall presence;
- 3 Russell, Heim and DaRoss' Arlon Hyspire Bohemian Ink, another super type black who immediately strikes you as being workmanlike, unexaggerated with pleasing head and length of muzzle, strong, clean neck, pleasing overall balance, deep, well ribbed body and strong, well muscled hindquarters, sound mover, carries a good coat which had been slightly nibbled by one of his kennelmates!;
- 4 Silva's Shadowbrook's I Am A Doctor, same remarks apply to those above, black of correct type and construction, pleasing forequarters, hindquarters and short coupled body, good coat and tail, not quite the balance of those above as shorter on the leg;

### Open Chocolate

- 1 Shearer and Bowers' Stone Cliff's Another Fine Mess, this is a most typical, honest, correct Labrador of lovely type, beautiful head shape with correct broad skull, stop and length of muzzle, his eye colour and pigmentation is correct for his colour, clean, strong neck set into well placed shoulders, excellent depth of body which is short coupled with strong loin, correct double coat of correct texture and a well shaped tail, he is a very free mover in profile and sound both ways, he was very much in the reckoning in the final analysis, on top of all this his lovely calm temperament was displayed in an exemplary fashion when his delighted handler performed acrobatics when he won!;
- 2 Crosby's Venetian's Copy That, good type, masculine dog of quality, pleasing head and eye colour, strong topline, barrel ribs, short strong loin, well muscled hindquarters, to be critical not quite the tail and tailset of 1;
- 3 Reich's Wilcare Leisure Suit Larry, this dog is full of breed type and has many virtues, masculine head and correct eye, very good body properties - short coupled, deep ribbed and strong in loin, good topline and hindquarters, well muscled but for me looked rather heavy, maybe less weight would help;
- 4 Poppiti and Day's Keepsake Dixie Rebel Rouser CDX, good type dog of pleasing balance, shown in good condition, strong topline which he held on the move, not quite the front movement those above;

### Open Yellow

- 1 Arbuckle and Volette's Hunt Club Clayview Jetsetter, this dog is a real showman - an extrovert but certainly not a fool (which is a virtue in my book!), has a quality look, pleasing head, correct balance, strong neck set into well placed shoulders, short coupled body, good topline and tailset, whilst he was losing coat it was clear that it was a correct, double coat, scored a narrow victory over 2;
- 2 Dederling's Folklaur Ghostwriter, another very good dog full of breed type and quality, correct balance and well constructed all through, shown in super condition and moved well, just had a slight preference for the head of 1;
- 3 McCormick's Keepsake Red Star Rising, very dark dog shown in superb condition and a great showman, liked his balance, topline, bone and feet, excels in body, rib and loin and is a strong, sound mover, not quite the upper arm of those above whose tail carriage on the move I also preferred;
- 4 Wolston, Quigley-Smith and Weiss' Hollyridge Lobuff Fine Troy Ounce, another very nice dog of good type with good neck and shoulders, strong short coupled body, good topline and hindquarters, sound mover, just preferred the head of those above;

**David R Craig (Judge)**