

Potomac 2013

I want to send my sincere thanks to the Potomac Show Committee for taking such a good care of me, to the dog owners for excellent showmanship and to the weather for being so lovely during my visit at Potomac.

Labrador is such a nice breed so easygoing dogs who love everybody - we all who have Labs know it and the same atmosphere was in this world famous Lab Show.

I was also very pleased of temperaments and not just well shown dogs they were dogs in which I could sense the joy being at the show. I do not like dogs shown like statues so jumping once or twice do not bother me.

Most of the dogs had excellent coats, super overcoats with proper undercoat and such lovely otter tails. Movement was excellent from the side but in front and rear movements quite many could have had something to improve...

My biggest concern was the unbalanced huge dogs - i.e males who had enormous bodies, quite many also very fat/obese and with very deep chest and too short legs.

I am sure many other judges have said the same but now it really should be a wake-up call for breeders to think if this really is how Labrador should be. Are the proportions at all as they should be and how much substance this kind of a working breed should have?!

That brings me nicely to a strange phenomena which has bothered me for some time. Especially in US can be seen photos where dogs are shown in the grass and year by year the grass gets higher and legs shorter...we all know that part of legs are there but it really fools the eye and I am sure especially beginners that do not really understand it all gets used to this kind of proportions and I wouldn't be surprised if that would mean that we see more and more short-legged Labradors in the ring...

However, I was very pleased with most of my winners and especially my Winners dog and my Reserve both being very typical, excellent males with such nice masculine but not heavy heads, correct, not overdone bodies, excellent coats and effortless movements.

I started on Tuesday with very light work but some difficult choices in generations, such nice producers in these classes. Winner of the Generation class was group of yellows, led by their super grandmother Ch Lobuff Puffin at Hollyridge: excellent group with nice heads, bodies and coats. A very even group.

2nd also very smart group - all blacks - excellent type with super coats. Led by Ch Tabatha´s Gala.

*My Wednesday started with regular classes, first in the morning **B.B.E Black dogs**. Winner: Trinity´s Summer Storm at Big Whiskey of excellent quality, nice strong male, strong body with typical, correct coat. Moved well from the side.*

2nd *Smokey Hollows Dallas Cowboy*, quite a heavy dog with very nice head and expression, balanced angulations, not in his best coat today.

B.B.E Choc dogs, only two dogs in this class winner being *Chablais Chocolatier*, big impressive dog with nice body and bone, correct in front. I would like to see a bit more hind angulation, excellent coat.

2nd *Sea Willow´s Ocean Potion*, very nice proportions, strong skull, excellent topline. For his size would prefer a bit more bone.

B.B.E Yellow Dogs. Quite uneven group with big very heavy dogs and then dogs who would need more bone and body. Winner of this class was *Kowalski Buffalo Bill*, excellent proportions with nice body and correct bone for his size. Good mover.

2nd *Sunchase Ania´s Rigamarole*: nice size, good head with kind expression, nice angulations and excellent coat.

15-18 Mo Black Dogs. 1st *Chablais Farouk*. Big impressive dog with correct proportions, plenty of body for his age, strong head. Excellent coat and moved very well.

2nd *Fargoridge Spitfire at Citadel*, again dog with correct proportions, very nice masculine head, nice angulations. Not in his best coat today. Moved ok.

15-18 Mo Choc Dogs. Another *Chablais* dog, called *Chablais Wildbrook Calypso*, quite strong for his age, beautiful coat and tail. Typical angulations, nice body and bone. Was probably affected by the warm weather, could have shown more enthusiasm in his movement.

2nd out from this class of three dogs was *Stonecrest´s American Tourister Ben Travlin*, looked immature compared to the winner but had very nice proportions, excellent head and correct, typical coat.

15-18 Mo Yellow Dogs. 1st *Honadore´s Drum Roll*: Strong bodied yellow who moved with excellent drive. Not in his best coat today. Excellent showman.

2nd *Tamba Bay&Snobo Gusty Seas Batten Down The Hatch*, nice size, medium bone and head, excellent construction. Good, effortless movement.

12-15 Mo Black Dogs. 1st *Valcar´s Midnight Rider*, a bit difficult to assess this dog - maybe not so used to be shown - but he had some excellent breed features, such as a very nice correct head, proportionate body and angulations. Excellent mover.

2nd *Tableau´s Intrepid Chief*, longer in body than 1 but had good angulations and strong body. Moved ok.

12-15 Mo Choc Dog only one in his class was *Atlantic´s Ace of Cake´s at Big Sky*. Nice headed dog with strong, quite long body, excellent coat and moved with ease. Needs to grow on legs and I would prefer a bit better topline.

12-15 Mo Yellow Dog. 1st *Zarock Delmar Gainsborouhgs Blue Boy*. Nice size, typical angulations, correct, not overdone body. Excellent mover. Correct texture of his coat.

2nd *Nipntuck Happenstance*. Big, very ready for his age, nice head and strong bone. Quite long in body. Excellent coat.

Open Black Dogs. My Reserve came from this class: Tabatha´s Sunfest Dunnybrook, just two years old, excellent proportions, well constructed. Good neck and topline. beautiful coat and in correct condition, very much the type I like!

2nd in this big class was Hyspire Bohemian Rhapsody from Breckin: very typical male with nice construction and shape of his body. Nice head and moved ok. Would prefer him carrying less weight.

Open Choc Dogs. 1st Hunt Club Clayview Strats. Big, impressive male, strong head, excellent neck and topline when standing. Strong bone and beautiful, correct coat. Could have better topline when moving.

2nd Epoch´s Groogrux King, a bit smaller male with excellent construction but very balanced and moved with ease.

Open Yellow Dogs. 1st Belquest Kit´s Gonna Do It Tucker: excellent male with very nice construction. Strong body and good coat quality. Moves with ease.

2nd Linjor Rock Knight. Excellent body with correct topline. Moved with ease. Preferred the head of 1.

In puppy classes I had some very nice ones, all behaved so nicely and showed perfectly. I was also very pleased to see that puppies had correct shape of bodies and most of them were shown in good condition, i.e. not with excess weight.

Puppy 6-9 Mo Black Dogs. Barra´s Saturday Knight Special. Very promising puppy, pretty head and correct body and bone. Excellent coat. Such good movement for a puppy. Should have a bright future.

2nd Devanley´s Semper Fidelis, another excellent puppy with very nice head and lovely topline. Excellent coat, moved with ease.

Puppy 6-9 Mo Choc Dogs. Nipntuck Bootleger, worthy winner of this class of three. Nice head, a bit light eyes at the moment, excellent body and bone. Beautiful coat. Needs to grow on legs with age. 2nd Picadilly Bonaventure Frederick, smaller male in "summer coat colour". Nice bone and body. I would prefer a bit more angulations both front and rear.

Puppy 6-9 Mo Yellow dogs. 1st Bellwether Finch, very promising puppy who later was chosen BIS-puppy. Excellent proportionate body with strong bone. Very nice head, just correct for his age. Beautiful coat and moved with ease. Should have a bright future.

2nd Piccadilly´s Citius Altius Fortius. Another nice puppy with correct proportions, strong, nice body for his age. Nice angulations, typical head, but maybe should have a bit more stop. Moved ok.

In my first class on Thursday I found my Winners dog from Am-Bred Black Dogs. On the whole this was also my best class of males. **Am-Bred Black Dogs** 1st and Winners Dog and eventually also BOW Ancroft´s Gentlemen Preyer was very much my type of a Labrador. Excellent breed features, beautiful, not overdone head with correct expression, so beautiful neck and topline. Typical, excellent coat and a true otter tail. Icing of the cake was his movement, such an easy mover with correct Labrador attitude. Not an easy dog to handle him being so energetic, happy-going dog.

2nd Buttonwoods Just wild About Harry, only 19 months old, very ready for his age, such a nice head with gentle expression. Excellent construction and coat. Shown in excellent condition.

Am-Bred Choc Dogs. *1st Harlequin Like A Rock, not a big dog and shorter in body than most of the males, very nice shape in his body. Nice head and excellent coat. I would prefer just a little more length to legs.*

2nd Bonaventure´s Oscar, looked a bit immature for his age, I would prefer more body and a stronger head. Very nice topline, hindquarters and moved ok. Excellent coat.

Am-Bred Yellow Dogs. *1st Windswept Day In the Sunshine, a proper name for this chap because he won this class with ease. Excellent type, nice masculine head, just a bit big eyes. Excellent topline and hindquarters. Typical, correct coat. Moved with ease from side, a bit wide in front.*

2nd Startop´s Cowboy Casanova. Typey male with correct topline, masculine head. Again very nice coat. A bit too proud of his tail on the move.

Novice Black Dogs. *1st La Moro´scha WXJ Gracco Damien. Excellent construction and bone, quite a heavy dog. Nice head and expression. Excellent, correct coat and tail. I would prefer shorter body and a bit more length to legs.*

2nd Buttonwood Briarpatch, very nice type, needs more time, looks a bit immature at the moment. Nice head, medium bone. Good mover. Not in his best coat today.

Novice Choc Dogs, *two dogs in this class, winner Asklar´s Choice Copy of Scarlaw. Big impressive dog, quite nice head, good angulations. Strong body, I would prefer to see him carry less weight. A bit soft overcoat.*

2nd Marshland´s Lucky Seven Mac, looks immature for his age, needs more body and I would prefer more angulations. Nice shape in head. Not in his best coat today.

Novice Yellow Dogs. *1st Coldwaters Playboy from Kinglet. Darker yellow, excellent type with nice topline. Correct body, enough angulation front and rear. Correct, typical coat. Moves very well.*

2nd Galway Waterborrys Grady at Brookeridge. Nice proportions, masculine head, would prefer stronger muzzle. Quite a lot hindquarters. Very strong, quite a heavy body. Could move better in front.

A-O-H Black Dogs. *1st Plainshadow Do It Again. Excellent type, nice masculine head, strong body without excess weight. Excellent coat. Moved a bit close behind.*

2nd Campbell Yard´s Gray Goose. 2.5 years old big dog but needs more time to develop. Strong head, nice body. Narrow in front, quite strong hindquarters. Needs to improve his movement.

A-O-H Yellow Dogs. *1st Upland´s Trotwood Copperfield. Nice typey dog, masculine, correct head and good body. Excellent coat. Moves quite wide in front.*

2nd Forestwood´s Undeniable Elroy, nice proportions, quite deep in body, good angulations. I would prefer better head. Good coat.

9-12 Mo Black Dogs. *1st Zinfndel´s Life Elevated. Excellent type. Big impressive dog, good angulations. Nice head for his age. A bit long in loin but correct shape in body. Excellent mover.*

2nd Glacieridge Tabatha´s Granite. Excellent type, very nice construction with good front and strong rear. Quite ready in head. At the moment a bit short legs.

9-12 Mo Choc Dogs. *1st Erinhill´s You Had Me from Hello. Big, impressive dog, quite ready in body and head for his age. I would prefer a bit shorter body . Nicely angulated. Moves very well.*

2nd Tequilabs Poker Po. Strong bodied male with excellent coat, needs to grow more legs.

9-12 Mo Yellow Dogs. *1st A darker yellow with very nice masculine head. Balanced angulations, correct coat and good mover. Very nice, honest Labrador type.*

2nd Banburys High Crimes n Misdemeanors@Amigas. Quite strong body for his age, nice head and angulations. Excellent coat and mover.