

I would like to thank the EOLBA for inviting me to judge at their 2011 Specialty. The hospitality was superior and I thoroughly enjoyed the exhibitors and their dogs. The day was hot, but everyone seemed to 'keep their cool' and the dogs were warm but delightful. I do wish that more of the handlers would have taken advantage of the fact that I specifically told them to feel free to bring the dogs into the ring wet as I feel some of them would have shown much better had they been a bit cooler.

6-9 mo. Puppy Dogs

1. # 410. A wonderful scopey young dog with good bone, type and angles front and rear. Coat was really good, especially for the middle of the summer. There was a bit of puppy 'looseness' on the move but overall a nice boy.

2. # 409. Another pup with good type, nice coat quality especially for summer and good front angles. This boy lost to number 1 merely because he was a bit high in the rear at the moment and that caused him to be a big straight in the rear as well, something he could easily outgrow.

9-12 Puppy Dogs

1.#137. A nice substance to rear, good topline, head and coat. This pup had wonderful depth of body appropriate for his age and more than adequate bone for a youngster. At this point he was a bit straight in the front end but this can change several times in a young growing dog.

2.#72. A real sweet pup, with good length of neck and a nice top skull to set off the head. Today he lacked coat and bone and at the moment his tailset is a bit low and eye color could be a bit darker.

12-15 Dogs

1. # 490 A lovely young dog with excellent bone, overall substance, excellent coat quality, head perfect for his age, with a sweet soft expression. Even at this age, this boy had a good topline. He also had a good tail with proper tailset.

15-18 Dogs

1#135 This boy had a good topline and nice reach of neck. Unfortunately there was a lack of coat today giving him a tail that was not properly clothed, and there was also a lack of bone.

Canadian Bred Dogs

1#204 This Canadian bred dog had good reach of neck, proper rear angulation and a nice topline. His eye color could be a bit darker and due to a bit of a straight front, he lifted his front a bit too much on the move. Although he was out of coat today one could see that he normally does carry a good coat.

Bred By Dogs

1.#119 This nice dog had a lovely head and coat. He had a nice muscle to his second thigh which I appreciate in a male dog and do not always see. He had excellent type. This boy could just use a bit more angle in both front and rear but one could say he was well balanced.

Open Black Dogs

1.#035 Lovely balance on this boy. I really fell in love with this young dog and liked everything about him. He is absolutely lovely on the move. This boy has so much potential. One could tell this was a young dog by his head which was obviously not fully mature yet. This was my Reserve Winners Dog and he pushed the Winners Dog hard and almost won the ultimate prize this day. Only his lack of maturity stood in his way but as time goes by and he continues to become an adult, nothing will stand in his way.

2.# 201 Another nice boy. He is very nice standing, with a good topline and nice set to his rear. He is a very showy dog always setting himself up properly. His coat was a bit less correct than dog no. 1.

Open Yellow Dogs

1.# 302 This dog has a beautiful profile. There is a perfect line that runs from the back of his skull down his neck over smooth withers, across a solid topline and right out to the tip of his tail. I tested this with more than my eyes as I took my hand and ran it from skull to tail tip. He has a lovely rear, lovely head. He was only partly in coat today but enough to see the coat quality which was good. The only slightest fault I could see was a slightly forward forearm.

This was my Winners Dog

2.#397 This dog was very close to no.1. He had a beautiful head, lovely shoulders, rear, bone and was nicely short backed. He pushed dog no. 1 very hard. He only fell behind the other dog in that his croup was a bit short and downward giving a slightly low tail set, but a very lovely dog

Open Chocolate Dogs

1.#497 This nice chocolate had wonderful eye color, a very nice front end assembly, good coat quality, a nice short back, not being in full coat he falls off slightly at the rear. What I mean by that is that there is more bulk and weight to the front of the dog than the rear. This is often the indication of a dog just going out of coat or just coming back in so that all the coat is still in the front and not the rear yet. A lovely dog non the less.

Veteran Bitches : I would like to make a comment on the Veterans class. This past year I have noticed that we have beautiful Veteran classes, really outstanding Labradors. I was recently at a specialty where every bitch in the Veterans Class was a past specialty winning bitch. That is wonderful to see. This, too, was a beautiful Veteran class. There are never enough first place ribbons for this class.

1. #429 A lovely girl with wonderful neck, type, and lovely rear angles. She had a beautiful head.
One to be very proud of.
2. # Another lovely girl, what gorgeous shoulders!, a wonderful disposition. Could possibly be a bit more typey but still a great old girl.

6-9 mo.Bitches

1.# 206 This young girl had good balance, coat, a very lovely head - a very very nice girl. Today she was lifting her front a little bit when she moved but I think more out of celebrating being at the dog show with her owner than actual structure!

2.#378 Another pretty little girl with a really lovely shoulder, beautifully balanced front and rear, a darling head and really pretty coat. Again this one really pushed number one hard and almost won over her.

9-12 mo. Bitches

1.# 144 This youngster had a very nice topline which you don't always see in pups of this age, a lovely shoulder and wonderful rear angles. She is a tiny bit forward in the forearm right now which can change with age and little bit sloping in the croup.

2. # 108 Great coat and beautiful pigment, pretty, pretty head, good topline and pretty reach of neck, a tiny bit straight in the forearm and moderately straight in the rear but again often just a growing stage in a youngster.

15 -18 mo. Bitches

1#279 Overall nice bitch , with good coat, topline, and bone. She was feeling the pressure of being on stage today and was a bit shy but did easily warm up to me with a bit of coaxing. As she gets out more she'll be fine and wagging and posing for that little bit of food with the best of those girls.

Canadian Bred Bitches

1.# 181 This is a magnificent bitch that Canada can be proud to have in the Canadian Bred class. She has gorgeous shoulders, a wonderful rear, topline, coat and bone. She is very much my kind of dog. She does have a little bit of length of back and could be a bit doggy for some, but she was fine for me. It was too bad that when she returned for Winners class she was really feeling the

heat and not giving her best performance. I was hoping she would come into that class good and wet and cooled off but she did not and it showed both when she moved and was standing. Still beautiful enough to easily become my Reserve Winners Bitch.

2.#33 This girl had a super topline. She lacks maturity, coat & bone and could use a bit better forearm.

Bred By Exhibitor Bitches

1.#254 Nice short back, good topline. Wonderful coat, head, neck and forechest. Very good bone. Only lacked a tiny bit in rear angulation. Very very nice bitch.

2.#352 Lovely shoulders, and beautiful rear angles. A very good reach of neck and lovely tail and tailset- three things so important to our breed. She could use a bit more bone and she is a little bit long backed and will occasionally drop her topline but who wouldn't in that heat.

Open Black Bitches:

1.#48 This girl had a lovely head and ear set, wonderful shoulders and forearm which is something we don't see enough in our breed. She had a nice short back and a very good coat. She had moderate rear angles and would occasionally drop her topline but not always and again, it was hot and these were mature bitches some of which were still in coat.

2. #352 A very nice mover, with a good topline that held on the moved. She had a nice coat and good rear. She did have a bit of a long back, a straighter forearm than no. 1 and could use a little bit better ear set.

Open Yellow Bitches:

1.#449 Absolutely lovely girl. Wonderful front, good bone all the way to the ground, a rock solid topline and tailset. She was beautifully balanced with good reach of neck and although I would like to see a bit more stop, she still had a wonderful soft typical Labrador expression. She is moderately angulated front and rear but plenty enough angles to be my Winners Bitch for the day.

2#143 This girl had a very nice head with good coat today. She had good bone and also a very nice tail. She could do with a bit better shoulder placement and at this time has a slight rise over the loin.

Open Chocolate Bitches: This was a really nice class. These girls were so different but both so nice. Later when the sire of my first place bitch came into another class I recognized him instantly as her sire as their structure was so similar.

Very nice girls.

1#255 Cute is a perfect description of this girl. She was short backed and just as showy as a dog could possibly be. She had a lovely neck, topline and good turn of stifle which I love seeing in

chocolates. She had a really cute head and expression. The only improvement I could make on her would be a tad more bone. What a doll!

2.#399 This girl had wonderful bone, fabulous angles front and rear, loved those angles! She had a really nice topline. She had a tiny bit of a low tailset but not much off the proper set. She could use a little more width to her top skull but if she is young that will come and if she is not it doesn't matter because the rest of her is so nice. She does lift her front a bit when moving and that was the deciding factor between the two girls.

Judges Award of Merit

180 A really nice dog with a rock solid topline, just a beautiful outline that would immediately catch anyone's eye. It was only too bad that today he had left his coat at home, but admirable that even out of coat he was so impressive.

#256 This boy as it turned out was the sire of the winner of my Open Chocolate bitch class and it was obvious where she had gotten her structure and showy attitude. This guy was short backed, great topline, a good mover and fortunate enough to still have much of his coat. A real eye catcher.

Best Opposite Sex

36 This yellow dog was truly handsome; a lovely head and expression, a wonderful yellow coat which we cannot always easily come by. It had a solid undercoat and a harsh outercoat. A lovely topline, short back, good depth of body. Just overall a nice boy. The only thing I would change on this dog would be to see him drive off his rear a tiny bit better on the move.

Best of Breed

#99 From the moment this lovely black girl crossed my field of vision on the first go around I knew she was going to be almost impossible for anyone to beat. She is everything I was looking for. She was in beautiful coat, had a lovely head and a wonderful outgoing temperament. As she went around the ring, she had perfect reach and drive and everything on her stayed perfectly in place with no rolling.. Her topline stayed steady with no sagging, her tail was straight out from her back with no lifting or curving. Even on the move she was still the perfect outline of a Labrador. She had wonderful bone and literally oozed type. This girl was truly everything you could want in a Labrador and in fact the only thing I could fault about her is that she is not at my house.

Congratulations to all the winners. I loved seeing your dogs and saw many that I will always remember and smile a little when I do.