

Eastern Ontario Labrador Breeder Association Specialty

Regular & Unofficial Classes Critiques ~ Judy Chambers (Ghoststone)

I would like to thank the EOLBA Club for their kind invitation to judge at their Specialty. The show chairperson Joanne Fernall was so kind, well organized and a wonderful hostess. Many thanks to her as well as Brent and Wendy Harrison who chauffeured me between the specialty and hotel. I would also like to thank the people who entered dogs under me. It was wonderful to go over dogs that I would not have had a chance otherwise to see since I come from the other side of the continent. Last but not least a big thank you to my fantastic ring steward Leah Addy...she had a harder job than I did.

Just some general comments first. I was pleased with the overall quality of the dogs. I was especially happy with the heads. Lovely expressions without being overdone and the eye shapes were excellent...not round and Spaniel like. In many cases the difference between class placements can down to small details like being in coat or out of coat. Yes, I know it was July I could tell they had correct coat, and had just shed but there were also dogs of equal quality that were in a little better coat. At a Specialty with the depth of quality in the classes it comes down to small things that are the difference between placements.

Junior Puppy Dog

1ST A lovely yellow puppy with lots of promises, just what a junior puppy dog should be. Beautiful head, lovely movement. I like his size for his age. Excellent weight and condition.

2nd Beautiful front on this puppy very sweet expression, a little high in the rear, probably age related.

3rd Very similar to puppy that got 2nd. A little less muzzle.

4th Nice puppy. A little more rear angle than front angle caused his movement down and back to not track correctly. May also be age related.

Senior Puppy Dog

1st Nice short back . Good angles, well balanced front and rear. Lovely head.

2nd Very similar to 1st place with more moderate angles. Full of himself, gave his handler a workout!

12-18 Month Dog

1st Beautiful head and expression. Lovely level topline. Guard coat a little longer than I like.

2nd Nice short back, his expression is not quite as soft as the first place dog.

3rd Nice puppy had a little more rear angle than front angle.

Bred By Exhibitor Dog

1st Lovely expression and head. Nice short back and level topline. Very balanced and correct yellow coat.

Canadian Bred

1st Lovely head and expression with a beautiful neck to shoulder connection. Topline a little soft on the move.

Open Black Dog

1st I love the type in this black dog. Wouldn't change a thing except I wish he was a little bigger.

2nd Again lovely type in this black dog. His topline was a little less solid today than the 1st place dog. Heat could be affecting him today.

3rd Nice type black dog, beautiful outline. Seemed a little less mature than dog 1 and 2.

4th Again very nice type black dog. Lovely neck to shoulder connection. Tail came up a little on the move and affected his outline.

Open Yellow Dog

1st Nice clean outline. Good movement. Sweet head and expression. A little lacking in coat today, but it is July looks like it will be there when it's cooler.

2nd Again nice clean dog with good movement. I just liked the head on 1st placed dog better.

3rd I liked this dog a lot. Excellent type. Nice coat particularly for a yellow. He was a little heavy and out of condition today and suffered for it in the heat.

4th Moderate yellow dog, clean movement. Pleasing expression. Gave his handler a workout.

Open Dog Chocolate

1st Good coat with is a nice dark chocolate color. Lovely front, could have a little more second thigh in the rear to balance with the front.

WINNERS DOG: Came from the Junior Puppy Dog class. Truly a lovely young dog. Was just what he should be, lovely head, expression, structure and movement. A showy boy who was exhibited beautifully.

RESERVE WINNERS DOG: From the Open Black Dog class. A classic black Labrador.

Veteran Dog

1st Lovely black type dog. Nice expression, excellent coat, good condition very sound on the move.

2nd Similar dog to the 1st place winner. A little less substance. Excellent condition, just a little lacking in coat today.

3rd Yellow with excellent type. Little more dog than first 2 placements, not quite as fit as first two.

Bitches

Junior Puppy Bitch

1st Lovely black bitch. Lots of type, beautiful expression and coat. Well balanced, lovely movement.

2nd Beautiful yellow puppy bitch. Has more moderate angles front and rear than 1st place. Has a wonderful neck to shoulder line.

3rd Very similar to 2nd place puppy. Beautiful movement. Like head on 2nd puppy better.

4th Very similar type to first place puppy, just a smidge long in the loin.

Senior Puppy Bitch

1st Nice yellow puppy with good coat. Moderate angles, but well balanced front to rear.

2nd Nice black, very similar to first place, but a little out of coat today. (*Looking at my catalogue now I see they are litter sisters*)

3rd This yellow girl had a lovely rear. She had a little more leg under her than the first two.

12-16 Month Bitch

1st Lovely black bitch. Nice type, good head and expression. Could have used more coat today.

2nd Yellow similar in outline and type to 1st bitch. Had a little less substance.

3rd Black bitch in excellent hard condition, with a beautiful solid topline. Can't believe I'm saying this as many think the dogs in the show ring are too fat, but I would have liked to see her carry just a pound or two more.

4th Nice chocolate girl with an excellent front and topline.

Bred By Exhibitor

1st Nice black bitch with a lovely front. Her neck flowed to her shoulder and continued straight down her back with a lovely solid topline. Nice type, her breeder should be proud.

Canadian Bred

1st Nice neck to shoulder connection. Beautiful ease of movement. Melting expression and perfect eye shape and color.

2nd Very similar to first place. Has a little more rear angle. I like the eye of the first bitch better.

3rd Smaller black bitch with nice type. Not very excited about showing so didn't "sell" herself. Probably do to the heat today.

Open Black

1st Lovely type black bitch. Beautifully balanced. Moved fantastic. A real show girl.

2nd Another lovely type bitch. Very difficult decision between 1 and 2.

3rd Very similar to 2nd place, just a hair longer in the loin. Lots of type.

4th What can I say another beautiful type black bitch ...just needed her party dress (coat) today to be higher placed.

Open Bitch Yellow

1st Nice well balanced girl. Moved cleanly down and back. Heat affected her show attitude today, she wasn't selling herself.

Open Bitch Chocolate

1st Well balanced chocolate girl. Good movement down and back with good reach in front. Pleasing expression.

2nd This girl was very similar to 1st, just a little lacking in coat today.

3rd Another nice chocolate girl. A little less substance than 1 and 2.

The depth of quality in the bitches made my decision for Winners and Reserve very difficult.

Winners Bitch: From the Open Black bitch class, a truly lovely Labrador Bitch, won with lots of beautiful girls competing against her.

Reserve Winner Bitch: From the Open Chocolate Bitch class, another lovely bitch. What a good chocolate should be...a good Labrador that happens to be chocolate.

Veteran Bitch Class

1st Beautiful veteran bitch, kind expression, well balanced, lovely sound movement.

2nd Another lovely type veteran bitch with lovely sound movement. A little longer in the loin than the first place.

3rd. A lovely type yellow bitch, with a head and expression that is so sweet it brings tears to my eyes. Obviously the oldest of the three today, her age cost her 1st. (*as I look in my catalogue after the show I see that her sire is the same as several of my foundation bitches who are no longer with me...no wonder she touched my heart.*)

BEST OF BREED

CH Calabria's Classic Black.....a perfect example to my eye of what a Labrador Bitch should look like standing and moving. Lovely head and expression.

BEST OPPOSITE SEX

CH Journeys Thai One On... a beautifully balanced black dog with the type to match my BOB winner. I like his size and masculinity along with his type.

BEST OF WINNERS - Winners Bitch

JAM'S

Of the 4 JAM's I had 3 went to bitches, any one of who could have been my BOB winner, The 4th JAM went to a lovely yellow dog, who had fantasist type as well as being masculine. If I had 2 more JAM's to give they would have gone to my Veteran Dog and Veteran Bitch. Both lovely dogs, just a little older so it's more difficult for them to compete against younger dogs. (Think Sean Connery and Sofia Loren VS Brad Pitt and Angelina Joli)

CH Hyspire Caught You Lookin (bitch)
CH Nyroca's Water Witch (bitch)
Rockycreek Delightful Dilemma (bitch)
CH Tormentil Labradale Primetime (dog)

Working Dog Class

In the USA this class is eligible to go on to BOB. In my opinion they should in Canada as well. A Labrador should look like a Labrador Retrieverand work like one as well.

1st Lovely type yellow dog. Was competitive with the other males entered as Specials in BOB

2nd Nice type, excellent working condition

3rd Again nice type in a dog that can do the job as well.

Stud Dog- CH Calabria's Blue Moon

A lovely producer with not only WB standing behind him but other lovely offspring as well.

Brood Bitch- CH Kriscoland's Purify Me Claire, WC

A lovely black bitch with puppies that were very much like her behind.

BEST PUPPY- Junior Puppy Bitch. This bitch was in strong consideration for RWB. The Junior Puppy dog (who was WD) gave her a run for her money. The depth of quality in the bitches was so great however it tipped the scale in her favor.

COSTUME CLASS- Thinking about this class as I write my critiques brings a smile to my face. It not only shows the creative talent of the people who entered it, but the fabulous temperaments of the dogs they dressed up. Some of the entries were thoroughly embarrassed by the outfits, but being good Labradors they tolerated it because their people asked it of them.

Just some overall comments on the costumes and placements:

1st “The Bathing Beauty” I hope your dog doesn’t really need the inner tube around it’s waist to swim?

2nd “The Bride” I know I’ve made the comment “always the bridesmaid never the bride” when I keep going RWB again and again...why didn’t I think of a brides costume to clue the judge in?

3rd “The Dinner Table” OK so this is taking the comment “a table top, topline” a little too far...they don’t mean there should be place settings up there.

4th “The Butterfly Hunter” No offence...but I think she would rather catch ducks.