

Judge's Critique

Afghan Hound Club of Victoria Inc.

46th Specialty Show

Friday 5 March, 2010

at the Calabria Club-Bulla Exhibition Centre, Bulla

JUDGE: Mr Steve Fisher (USA)

STEWARDS Vic Hewett and Max Morris
Photographer Sally Stasytis
VCA Rep Mick Lindsay

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Photos by Sally Stasytis

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DOGS!!

Baby Puppy Dog

1st Place # 1. *Karakush Takin The High Road*

A lovely leggy puppy with a more open side gait than the second place puppy. Expected to find that both puppies were littermates as their movement and balance were quite similar with both having a very nice follow through and kick in the rear.

2nd Place #3. *Karakush The Road Runner*

A nice puppy but more moderate than the class winner in most every way. Both puppies were and narrow with slightly loose fronts as you'd expect at this age.



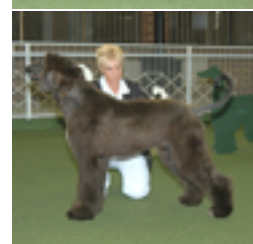
Minor Puppy Dog

1st Place #5. *Kjavu Blacktie Affair*

Both puppies in this class are at a stage where they are quite leggy and short backed which that their movement is more underneath them. I suspect that this will change as they get a little older and their bodies will lengthen allowing for a more open stride. Head shape and balance on the class winner was nicer than the second place puppy.

2nd Place #4. *Kjavu Is It Sweet*

Leggy masculine puppy with nice balance but not as good in the topline as the class winner.



Puppy Dog

1st Place #7. *Karakush U Turn*

This lovely puppy struck me immediately with his beautiful proportions and gorgeous detailing. Neck/shoulder flow, topline, croup, all were excellent. The puppy was very jazzed up at first but his handler did a nice job of settling him down and he came together nicely coming and going. When viewed from the side he came off the ground in a very easy balanced manner.

2nd Place #8. *Tahkira Take A Chance On Me*

Domino dog. Beautiful neck, pretty type, and a lovely long tail with a perfect ring. Like the class winner this dog too was a prettier mover once he slowed down a bit. A very nice puppy overall.

3rd Place #6. *Kjavu Just Beat It*

This puppy showed flashes of having a pretty side gait but for the most part it was hard to see as he moved rather "bunched-up" underneath himself. Very pretty look.



Junior Dog

1st Place #11. Kingsleah Paradis Latin (Imp Swe)

Blue Brindle. Beautiful type with an excellent topline and short back. Moderately angles front rear. A very nice mover once he settled down.

2nd Place #12. Khandhu Ratta Tat Tat

Cream dog who was more moderate dog than the class winner in most respects. Beautiful eyes and a lovely head profile. Nice outline but would like to see a bit more neck.



Intermediate Dog

1st Place #18. Ch Karakush Lyle Lovett

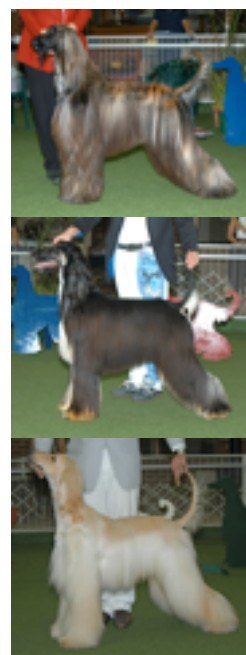
A beautiful dog in so many ways. Superb balance, perfect topline, well set under front, excellent side picture moving in both high style and ease of gait.. Strength of kick lovely. Very nicely bodied.

2nd Place #16. Tahkira High Flying Hellion

Pretty, up on leg Black and Tan dog. Flashes of extraordinary side gait but not always as rhythmic as I sensed that it could be. Would like for him to have been a bit more bodied in the front.

3rd Place #17. Kjavu Inya Dreams

Cream dog. Pretty side gait but hard to see as he was fighting his handler somewhat. Nice static outline. Somewhat steeper through the wither and not as strong a topline as the 1st and 2nd place dogs.



Australian Bred Dog

1st Place #24. Grand Ch Khandhu Andretti

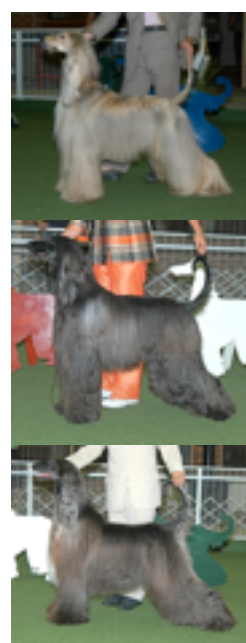
Brindle dog. Very reminiscent of Abraxas in both type and balance. Lovely balanced side gait. neck. Could have been a bit leggier.

2nd Place #25. Ch Aviva Man In The Moon

Lovely dog overall with nice breed type, but wish that he had put out a little more when on the move as I think that his gait would have been stronger.

3rd Place #27. Ch Karakush Banjo Blues

This dog had so many lovely things about him including his side gait. His topline was the only thing that kept him from placing higher and some of that I feel was a stacking issue. Really nice on the move with a great style about him.



Open Dog

1st Place #39. Grand Ch Kjavu How Sweet It Is

Dark Blue Dog that won the class because he was the easiest and most open mover, having almost every aspect of movement that I look for. Amazing kick. Very pleasing type. Masculine yet elegant, though not the prettiest outline in the class.



2nd Place #36. Grand Ch Gengala Super Trooper(AI)

Black and Tan dog that was absolutely gorgeous on the stack. He was a very nice moving dog with exceptional balance. Not quite as “lofty” moving as the class winner, but superior in outline.



3rd Place #41. Ch Kjavu Bishi Bashi

A very square balanced cream dog with a very easy side gait. A lovely dog that in any other competition would be exceptional.



Dog Challenge and Reserve

The Challenge Certificate was between the Puppy dog #7, the Intermediate dog #18, and the Open dog #39. As a judge, my final decisions are often based on movement, but in this case all 3 dogs were exceptional movers in their own right so the decision came down to much more. I concluded that the puppy and open dog were closer to my interpretation of breed type in general, and the Australian standard in particular. In the end I gave the CC to the puppy dog because his top, overall balance, and outline created a wonderful picture standing and when moving, his picture from the side was elevated, easy, and powerful.

The open dog went reserve and was a remarkable mover as well who was defeated not on the move but the stack.

When making the serious decision to put up a puppy in this kind of competition, he had better be a pretty remarkable puppy. This one was!



BITCHES!!

Minor Puppy Bitch

1st Place #45. Kjavu Express Yourself

Black puppy bitch. Pretty type with nice details, but balance is off a bit at this age. Easy, balanced gait with nice follow through.



Puppy Bitch

1st Place #51. Kjavu Its All About Me

Highly patterned Black masked Red. Won the class largely because of overall quality and she had the easiest gait in the class. Not as pretty a head as the 2nd and 3rd place puppies.

2nd Place #48. Kjavu It And A Bit More

A bit leggier than the class winner with a prettier head, but not quite as open moving or as long necked. A nice moving puppy nonetheless.

3rd Place #47. Suliman all That Glistens

A very stylish puppy with beautiful balance. She's at a stage where her front was doing some funny "puppy" things but largely excused that due to age....



Junior Bitch

1st Place #53. Karakush Kattitude

Black masked Sable bitch with amazing outline, balance, and side gait. Great style but a little too excited which caused her to throw her front off a bit. Would like for her to be more set under in the front. Lovely withers and topline. Beautifully bowed rear without being overdone.

2nd Place #52. Transwind So What

Pretty type with an unusual and striking partially shaded mask. A gorgeous coat and a balanced mover though a bit long in the body. Would benefit immensely from improved head carriage.

3rd Place #55. Shinwari Deserts Black Pearl

Black bitch. A little leggier than the 2nd place bitch but not as nice from the side. Gorgeous rear angles and a perfect tail.



Intermediate Bitch

1st Place #58. Ch Kalutara Cashmere Mafia

Beautifully balanced in every way with a perfect combination of type and movement. Flawless neck/shoulder/topline flow. Elevated and lofty from the side without being overdone. Nothing objectionable about this bitch and lots that was remarkable.

2nd Place #64. Ch & NZ Ch Karakush Green With Envy

A gorgeous bitch with a lot of quality that wasn't quite as open and elevated moving as the class winner but a stand out nonetheless. Beautiful head and expression. Gorgeous outline with sharp croup and rear angles.



Intermediate Bitch cont.

3rd Place #66. Ch Kjavu Penny Lane

A pretty bitch with a very pleasing side picture on the move. Would like to have seen a stronger topline. Beautiful tail.



Australian Bred Bitch

1st Place #72. Karakush Patsy Cline

This bitch was breathtaking when on the move. She was light on her feet, beautifully synchronized, and had amazing extension and follow through. Leggy, feminine, and great topline. I would have liked to have seen more width and substance in the front.



2nd Place #71. Dzum Butterball Brown

Very pretty elegant outline, pretty type, pretty face, lovely tail. Somewhat upright in the shoulder and would like to have a stronger topline, but the picture on the move was very nice.



3rd Place #67. Ch Quom Mignonne Mirabeau

Leggy short backed bitch with a long neck and very nice balance both standing and moving. Not as open moving as 1st and 2nd in the class.



Open Bitch

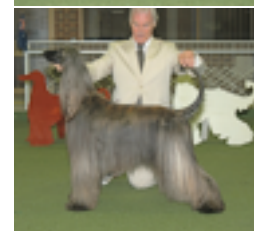
1st Place #83. Grand Ch Kjavu A Bit Of It

Pleasing on the stack but this bitch really shined when she started to move. Overall balance both standing and moving was lovely. Wonderful style and carriage. Exceptionally strong side gait with remarkable kick.



2nd Place #78. Ch Dzum Devil Wears Prada

A very dynamic moving bitch with a great topline and very pretty type. Did everything right, but side gait not quite as nice as the class winner.



3rd Place #73. Am, Can & Aust Ch Polo's Grand Am(Imp Can)

What a gorgeous outline! Perfect balance both standing and moving. Very feminine in spite of being a slightly bigger bitch. Not as open from the side as the 1st and 2nd place bitches.



Bitch Challenge and Reserve

The Intermediate bitch # 58 was a standout from the onset. Some Afghans have beautiful breed type, some have great outlines, a few have a wonderful high style, and even fewer have fabulous movement. This bitch had all of those qualities and was the challenge winner. The Australian bred bitch was reserve because of how lovely she was on the move. This bitch epitomized the word "float"!



Best Exhibit in Show and Runner up to B.I.S.

When the dog and bitch challenge winners went around the ring together I was taken with how beautiful they both were moving. On the stack, the balance on both was superb with the dog being a little more up-short. Both had a beautiful erect carriage without being "Poodley". The bitch did everything right and nothing wrong, and had the advantage of being more mature and finished, with all the elegance and body fill that comes with that and was my breed winner. The gorgeous puppy dog was runner-up.



Thank you for the opportunity to judge at your lovely show. I thought that the site and indoor ring were great and the ring turf allowed for excellent traction. At first I was apprehensive about judging in an oval ring but rather liked it once I got used to it.

Steve Fisher