

IWAGS – Critique

The club members of IWAGS once again exhibited their unparalleled talent for fulfilling the expression “the show must go on.” Reminds me a little of the stories I have heard about the old Pony Express – no weather can stop them! Despite Hurricane Sandy, the show did, indeed go on – and in style! Though the weather resulted in a few absentees, the majority of exhibitors showed up and took advantage of the wonderful hospitality this show has become known for. Thankfully, everyone made it there and back safely, with the only inconvenience being extra time and, for some of us, loss of electricity in the hotel for the last couple of days.

Thank you IWAGS for allowing me to be a part of a wonderful show and thank you to the exhibitors who brought their puppies and veterans to the sweepstakes classes. Results may have been different on a different day, and no matter the results of the day, no one should ever let one person’s opinion shake their belief in themselves or their hounds. It is all about learning and improving and continually keeping one’s eyes on the standard.

As I have said before, there is nothing more wonderful than being able to go over puppies (the hounds of the future) and veterans (the backbone of our breed who represent where we have been). I was honored to be able to do that. There continues to be controversy about dividing the veteran classes; I continue to believe, in a breed with an average lifespan of 6 years, we need to celebrate veterans while being realistic. Dividing the classes is one way to do this, while at the same time, creating a fair system for all. Kudos to IWAGS for continuing to provide the opportunity to show wolfhounds in divided veteran classes! Kudos to all who brought their veterans – especially nice to see such happy hounds in the Gold classes.

Karon L. Volk

PUPPY SWEEPSTAKES

Puppy Dogs

6-9 months

- 1. ROCKHART TREASON. (Simon). This puppy had presence galore and drew the eye continually. Did not disappoint standing or on the move. A rangy boy, full of confidence, strong and well-muscled with nice head, topline and free and easy movement. His front was not perfect, but he used himself wonderfully. In excellent condition. My Best in Sweeps, despite his young age, he did not put a foot down wrong today. I wanted to steal him! Best in Puppy Sweeps**
- 2. O'LUGH'S FLYING DUTCHMAN AT HOWLING HALL. (Meyer & Scelso). Good sized puppy, likely going through a growth spurt. Lacking curves at this time, not helped by his occasional puppy stubbornness. His rear improved on the move as he settled into himself a bit.**

9-12 Months

1. GLENAMADDA WOLFHOLM J HENDRIX. (Boldok, Prokopenko & Brumpton). Nice solid male, good size and substance. Moved out well. Less angulation in rear?
2. CRIONNACHT CARRICKANEENA HEANEY. (Carney). Nice, rangy puppy with decent shape, a little awkward at this point in time; not as fluid on the move as class winner. A tough age for boys!
3. REDTOPS LATE NIGHT RIDE OF THE HOT ROD LINCOLN. (Williamson). Another puppy that needs time to settle into himself. Nice long legs, nice head, sweet, old time expression; could use more depth of body. Nicer set of neck into shoulder than second place, but appeared more awkward on the move at this time.

12-15 Months

1. IERNE'S SALTIMBANCO. (Ritzenthaler). Very handsome boy, balanced front and rear with curves in the right place. Nice easy movement in profile and on the down and back.
2. EIRIAN'S ALL JAZZED UP, RN. (Coen & Shriver). Masculine dog with nice outline and shape. Not as strong in front as class winner.

15-18 Months

1. CUGEIN ORTEGA OF CASTLEKEEP. (Tomson & Yorke). Nice outline and topline, good head, not perfect in front, but used himself very well on the move.
2. MISE EIRE CALLAN AT KENMARE. (Smith & English). Nice shape, nice expression, good depth of chest. Well-muscled and in good condition. A little awkward on the move at this point in time.
3. MISE EIRE DAITHI. (Heyboer & English). Stronger in rear than front right now and could use more length of back. In good condition, but awkward on the move front and rear.

Puppy Bitches

6-9 Months

1. O'LUGH'S AMARULA. (Dormady). Lovely bitch with nice curves, deep chest, soft expression. Movement was easy and active, without effort.
2. LAISLINN PERFECT POUR O STELLA. (Hopf-King & King). Very pretty, shapely, red bitch with good size and substance. Lovely side gait, a little close behind right now, but pushed hard for first place.

3. ARAHU'S GREAT QUEEN HATSHEPSUT. (Wood). Pretty, balanced bitch with decent movement. Not as much size and substance as those ahead of her and being a little stubborn on this day which made her appear high in the rear.
4. ROYELJOKER BRYAN ADAMS TRIBUTE. (MacLeod). Feminine bitch with soft expression. Could use more curves and did not use herself to advantage on the move today.

9-12 Months

1. WOLFHOLM GLENAMADDA MATA HARI. (Boldok, Prokopenko & Brumpton). Lovely, shapely, feminine bitch with happy, soft expression, great ear and nice length of neck. Pretty shape, well balanced and effortless on the move.
2. CRIONNACHT CARRICKANEENA BRIGHID. (Carney). Nice shape, and curves and in well-muscled condition. Not quite as balanced front and rear, as first place, at this time. A little stubborn on the move today.
3. CRIONNACHT CARRICKANEENA UALLACH. (Purvis & Carney). Nice outline. Less substance than those ahead of her, but sound on the move.

12-15 Months

1. HOUND HILL VALE OF AERIE. (Marx & Benjamin). Beautiful bitch – a pleasure putting hands on her. Well-muscled and nicely put together with everything in the right place. Lovely, curvy outline, nice depth of chest, good substance and free and easy movement. Another hound I wanted to take home with me. **Best of Opposite Sex to Best in Puppy Sweeps.**
2. KELLAMORE STARKEEPER EMMA. (Brown & Gagne). Very pretty shapely bitch, with long, strong neck and curves in all the right places. Pleasing side gait and covered ground well.
3. IERNE'S FAIRE LA NOUBA. Bitch. (Ritzenthaler). Another pretty, feminine bitch in good condition – gave her handler a bit of a time though! Nice shape, not as curvy as those ahead of her but well balanced and pretty on the move when she settled in.

VETERAN SWEEPSTAKES

Veteran Dogs

Bronze (6-8 years)

1. GCH & CAN CH STARKEEPER MCENROE OF LIMERICK (Gagne). Lovely shape and substance, curvy, masculine and extremely sound and energetic on the move. Beautiful expression and in excellent condition and commands attention when he is in the ring. Rear movement going away was not perfect on the day, but he made up for it in every other way. **Best in Veteran Sweeps**
2. CARICKANEENA ARD MACHA (Lydon & Flanagan). Well balanced boy with good length of neck and depth of chest. Stronger in rear than in front on the move on the day.
3. CH KELLAMORE BRAEMAR OF FITZWICK (Fitzgerald). Another well balanced dog with good depth of chest and nice curves. Not using himself to advantage on the move today.
4. CH GREYMIST REDTOPS BORN A REBEL (Williamson). Tall male with nice shape, good length of neck, but showing signs of being weak in the rear on the day.

Gold (9+ years)

1. CH. CARRICKANEENA PADDY CLANCY (Walker & Flanagan). Nice sized boy with good length of neck. Despite his rear not being as strong, he displayed enthusiasm going around the ring and put in a great effort, showing more energy than many younger dogs!
2. AOTEAROA TOAKEA CASTLEKEEP (MacLeod). Not a large dog, but he makes up in personality what he lacks in size! Nice head with lovely rose ear and good effort and energy on the move.

Veteran Bitches

Bronze (6-8 years)

1. GCH DC CARRICKANEENA CRIONNACHT DARCY, SC (Flanagan). Rangy, curvy bitch who moves with more energy than many youngsters. This bitch moves like the wind; effortlessly with no indication of needing, or wanting, to stop! A pleasure to watch and a delight to feel the condition and muscling on this bitch. **Best Opposite Sex to Best in Veteran Sweeps**
2. CH GLENAMADDA STARKEEPER U R ZADA (Prokopenko & Gagne). Pretty bitch with lovely shape and nice strong neck. Well balanced but was not using herself to her

best advantage on the move on the day.

3. CASTLEKEEP'S LIVONIA (Tomson). Lovely bitch in good condition. Pretty shape and well put together. Nice sound movement, but was being rather stubborn coming and going and not using herself to advantage.
4. CH GLADSTONE'S COME FLY WITH ME (Johnson). Nice bitch with good size and shape. Unfortunately she was not co-operating on the move.

Silver (8-9 years)

1. CH IERNE'S SORCHA NI SHIREY (Ritzenthaler & McCreery). Very pretty, feminine bitch. Well put together, nice curves and sound on the move.

Gold (9+ years)

1. JADZIA FREESOUL OF CASTLEKEEP (Wood & Tomson). Shapely bitch, lovely on the move – active and easy movement at over 9 years of age – something we should all strive for! Wonderful! In addition, this bitch is in great condition with good muscling.
2. CH CARRICKANEENA AOIFE CLANCY (Flanagan) Good sized bitch -still strong and active despite her 10 plus years. Soft, sweet expression that melts the heart. Though no longer perfectly sound, she had energy and attitude and was in great condition.