

Dear members of the Rhodesian Ridgeback Club of Queensland.

Firstly, I would like to thank you all for such a wonderful day I had judging your speciality - I was pleasantly surprised that there were so many dogs of both sexes which oozed quality - to Ian Rasmussen, Philip Bennett, Mr. C.H. Jenks and Miss Cyndy Burton, you made my day run very smoothly.

Before starting my critique I would like to make a few observations both positive and negative - On the positive side, I found there were a number of dogs with excellent movement, well muscled bodies and good attitude when on the move. On the negative side, watch out for level bites, straight stifles with no width of first and second thigh, short tails, and the hallmark of the breed - the ridge, was incorrectly positioned in many cases.

Baby puppy dog (3 entries)

1st Marmatia Donala Yoda

Super little puppy, very sound when gaiting with lots of style, but lacking a bit of underjaw.

2nd Illbek As A Mate

A tad loose on the move, well proportion body, a tad short in leg.

3rd Illbek As The Boss

Similar to his litter brother above except his tail a tad short.

Minor puppy dog (1 entry)

1st Annabarh Pieter My Boy

Not a bad side gait, his temperament was reserved.

Puppy dog (3 entries) All three puppies could have had better heads.

1st Azania Sams Son

On the move not bad side gait, but when excited tends to swing out with a slight flicking action, needs to body up.

2nd Padmuri River Dancer

Average movement plain head.

3rd Padmuri Lion Dancer

Litter brother to above, restricted front and rear, first and second thigh needs development.

Junior dog (4 entries)

1st Starridge Rohans Pride

Good length of body, excellent side gait but tended to flick slightly, excellent feet.

2nd Usakose Maitai Montezuma

Also good length of body, tad short in leg.

3rd Mufudzi Mombasa

Head could be better, restricted side gait.

Intermediate dog (6 entries)

1st Ch Ozhode Ari Mystic Fate

Well bodied dog, excellent height to length ratio, head could be slightly better, would like to see this dog with better attitude on the move.

2nd Ch Riginal Lightnin Jack

Very close decision between these two dogs, same good points as above, tad short in leg, tad straight in stifle.

3rd Rothridge Tiger Eye

Not a bad side gait, this dog was short in leg with a short upper arm.

Australian bred dog (4 entries) Hard class to judge.

1st Ch Bearstar Doulen Ko

The more this dog warmed up when gaiking the better it became, masculine dog with deep chest and well sprung ribcage, very good head. Reserve dog challenge.

2nd Gr Ch Skiska Solitaire Jest

This dog had endless attitude when standing and moving, quite a large dog overall, a bit over the top for me, head average and out in elbow.

3rd Ch Apanina Sablez Askaris

Not a bad mover, a tad feminine and needs to body up.

Open dog (7 entries)

1st Ch Starridge African Knight ET

My dog challenge winner, another masculine dog, strong and upstanding with attitude when gaiking, could have a tad more turn of stifle and also well bodied and very good height to length ratio.

2nd Ch Kargniulan Im Too Win. Different style of dog than No 1. Well bodied and good proportions to body, very flashy mover, head a tad short in muzzle, could have been more masculine with better boning, turn of stifle could be better.

3rd Amashutu Wild Geese

6 year old dog unfortunately out of condition, side gait excellent.

Baby puppy bitch (4 entries, 1 absent)

1st Marmatia Donala Milika

Another beautiful baby, litter sister to baby dog, very good head, very good balance of body, narrow hindquarters when moving.

2nd Simjhar Maple Syrup

A close decision for the number one spot, same qualities as the above but unfortunately paced on the move today and her handler did not notice.

3rd Ozhode Dia Jungle Magic

What can I say, this bitch is going through the ugly stage.

Minor puppy bitch (5 entries, 2 absent)

1st Umkimzulu Goddess O Fire

A tad sluggish on the move as this bitch was just coming out of a season, good head, body proportions quite good also.

2nd Crownlodge Desire

Lacking in leg, needs more turn in stifle.

3rd Hatari Wild Child

When on the move she paced, body not bad, short on leg and had blood shot eyes.

Puppy Bitch (2 entries)

1st Riginal Patience

My Runner Up to Best In Show - I was thrilled to give her this award. Very mature for her age this bitch presented an excellent picture on the stack or free standing. This bitch was quite a good package, her balanced movement was outstanding for her age.

2nd Kargnieulan Burning Love

Length of body quite good, turn of stifle could be better, and a tad leggy.

Junior bitch (5 entries, 1 absent) Not a good class at all. All three bitches needed more turn of stifle.

1st Starridge Kamili Zenith

The best of the three, short in leg.

2nd Rijstone Sinioa Ndebelle

Similar to above, temperament off today.

3rd Jomeja Touch Me Twice

Short on leg, topline on the move could be better, flanged out in the ribs.

Intermediate bitch (8 entries, 1 absent)

1st Ch Skiska Warrior Princess

A very feminine bitch, excellent balance, good turn of stifle, and good neck into shoulders. Her angles front and rear are a tad under angulated which gave her a slight upright movement.

2nd Ch Kettleridge Karla Kierra

Another close decision for the number one spot, not as balanced as above, and a tad more turn of stifle.

3rd Kargnieulan Fallen Angel

Length of stride very good, slightly out of condition, turn of stifle not evident.

Australian bred bitch (12 entries) This was a quality class overall.

1st Azania Samsara

Body proportions very good. Good turn of stifle, excellent mover, was a tad over exuberant on the move and tended to overstride.

2nd Rothridge Red Panther

Another close decision, very good mover, quality bitch.

3rd Ch Tanyanika Jedda

This bitch had a litter not long ago which made her a bit maternal on the move, needed to tighten up, quality bitch.

Open bitch (10 entries, 1 absent) Another quality class of bitches and the first three placegetters all were excellent movers, had strong muscular hindquarters and well muscled bodies.

1st Ch Ozrhode Ari Mystic Gypsy

This bitch took my breath away when she first went into the ring, and did not let me down all day. Such wonderful movement, steady with strength and attitude without overdoing it, she definitely had a purpose today and her handler was in harmony - what team work. Correct boning, expression and body to match. This bitch was Challenge winner and my Best In Show.

2nd Gr Ch Rothridge Sassy Nala

Quality bitch would like to see her in tighter condition, another bitch that just had a litter.

3rd Ch Rothridge Lions Courage

Very smart mover, topline could be better.

On viewing my challenge Dog and Bitch line up, I was quite taken back as I have always found this breed to be a breed you judge on the move but seeing these dogs stacked was a sight to behold.

Warmest regards

Tony Kyman
Talkabout Kennels.