

Crufts 2023

Thursday 9th March 2023

Flatcoated Retrievers: Dogs

Judge: Miss Louise Jones

Firstly may I thank the stewards who kept my ring running smoothly and all the exhibitors who made the day so special. A very well-known gundog group judge told me the night before Crufts that I would be disappointed in the quality of the dogs, well I am pleased to say that I wasn't, however I have known and lived with the breed for over 40 years and feel I understand what the essence of a flatcoat is. The dogs are there, not always obvious and you just have to look carefully.

On the whole I was often spoilt for choice, remember it is very much the dog on the day, and I have tried my best in the individual critiques to explain as much as I can.

I thoroughly enjoyed judging with my co judge Val Orme and whilst we agreed on the best of breed and veteran we both each preferred our own puppies, and called in the services of Liz Cartlidge the referee. Calling the referee is never a bad thing as we should have belief in our own judging.

Veteran Dog (19,abs 3)

1st & RDCC Lundquist & Persson & Ostman Se U(u)ch Caci's We Are The Heroes Jeuw-16 Nouch Dkv-16-17-18 Finv -17

What a start to the day, a quality dog that flows in a beautiful line from tip to tail, moving effortlessly around the ring on a long stride, showing plenty of reach and drive and holding the correct topline throughout. Long well moulded masculine head, the darkest of eyes and the correct expression. Good reach of neck, well laid-back shoulders and a moderate upper arm. Good depth and length through the ribcage, strong well let down hocks. Standing true and square all round on good feet and bone, with front legs well under the body. Moving sound and true both fore and aft from powerful hindquarters which clinched the RCC in the challenge.

2nd Blains Sh Ch Caci's Just a Gigolo at Steelriver (Imp Swe)

Another top quality dog, with a classical head, good length through the muzzle, the correct infill, the darkest of eyes and that naughty twinkling expression. Overall he is well balanced with all of the correct proportions being slightly longer than he is tall. On the move is really where he excels, moving parallel both fore and aft on a long stride, showing reach and drive, holding his topline. Adequate shoulders and upper arm, good depth through the ribcage, well angulated hindquarters. Excellent bone and good feet, just missing some of his feathering on his hindquarters today.

3rd Mullins Sh Ch Seaheart Byron

A well-proportioned balanced dog of the correct size and type, in excellent coat and condition and moving soundly and with verve. Well laid-back shoulders, and good upper arm showing a defined brisket, good depth and width through the chest, short coupled, good strong hindquarters, standing square all round. Good typical head, good length through muzzle, darkest of eyes and kind expression, just preferring the reach of 1 & 2 on side profile movement.

Minor Puppy Dog (3)

1st Ashcrofts Gunoak Ora's Myth

A very neat, moderate, well balanced puppy. Excellent bone and feet, soundly moving when settled, correct topline and short well set on tail. Adequate shoulders and upper arm, good depth through the body, moderate head, well filled in but lacking a little length in muzzle for me. Lovely temperament with a happy disposition.

2nd Bowens Clandrift Bring Me Sunshine

A rangier type of puppy and just needs to settle on the move. Good head, well filled in and good dark eyes. Good bone and substance, lovely outline when standing, stifles a little long at the moment and hopefully as he grows into his frame this will all balance out .

3rd Tinkers Kelvincross Smokey Joe

Liver boy who just needs a little more depth and width all through. Good dark liver colour, in good hard condition, presents a very racy appearance and needs to become more settled on the move.

Puppy Dog (8, abs 1)

1st, BPD & BPIB Wilds Bitcon Alliance with Bluewaters (ai)

A quality young dog and the best mover in this class today, in super coat and condition, excellent bone and feet, classical head with the darkest of eyes, having the desired length and being well filled in both between the eyes and under the eyes giving that correct moulding and one piece head shape. Good front construction, good topline and tailset, stands square all round with legs where they should be.

2nd Campbell and Browns Ronevorg Firefly Fantasy

A moderate dog all through of the correct size and in good coat and condition. Good bone, good reach of neck, good shoulders and upper arm, holds his topline on the move and moved soundly but just needing to strengthen in hindquarters which may improve as he develops further. Masculine, moderate head with good dark eyes.

3rd Jackson & Wright Glamour Shine Adrenaline Rush at Lascar (KC),

Loved the type of this dog, strong upstanding, excellent bone and feet, in good coat and condition, lovely topline and tailset. Super head and the darkest of eyes, he just let himself down on the move, being a puppy this will improve as he matures and develops and I'm sure he will have a promising future.

Junior Dog (14)

1st Nielsens Starworkers He's Simply Unstoppable

Correct sized male of excellent type and construction. Beautiful long, well moulded head, well filled in, dark eyes. Good substance and bone for his size, well laid back shoulders, adequate upper arm and well defined brisket, good deep chest, good topline and well set on tail, well angulated hindquarters, moving soundly , freely and with drive. Overall he presented a balanced picture, slightly longer than he is tall , he will have a bright future.

2nd Ricketts Windyhollows Nordmann

Beautiful type of dog, excellent bone and feet, good layback of shoulders and good upper arm. Long well moulded head with the darkest of eyes and correct expression, super topline and tailset. Presented a racy appearance and held his topline and tailset on the move. Moving sound and true. Preferring the overall balance of the winner at this stage.

3rd Colsons Windyhollows Ragged Robin

Litter brother to 2 and very similar remarks apply, just preferring the head and eye of 2. Good body construction, good deep chest, excellent bone and substance throughout, a strong boy who moved soundly and true when settled. In super coat and condition, another who will have a good future.

Yearling Dog (20, abs 2) –

1st Lundquist & Persson & Ostman Caci's Hot Amigo

One of a lovely trio of boys and won on a combination of his movement combined with his true flatcoat type. Excellent topline and well set on tail carried correctly, plenty of bone and substance, good depth, and length through the ribcage, well made dog throughout. Classical head, long and well moulded and the darkest of eyes, Strong well angulated hindquarters which he used to advantage on the move. Not overdone in any way.

2nd Nicholls, Nicholls & Price Llantrussa As Big As The Ritz

A beautiful type of liver dog, with a long well filled in head, giving that correct one piece shape, eyes set correctly and of the correct almond shape. A moderate dog all through showing no signs of exaggeration, excellent bone and substance, good topline and tailset, correctly angulated hindquarters, moving soundly with plenty of rear propulsion, just moving a little wide in front today as he came towards me, but he was rather excited!

3rd Lendaro's Dakotaspirit Dog Days Are Over

A very upstanding young dog, needing a little more time to mature into his frame, however he had a long well moulded head, a lovely dark eye and kind expression, good bone and feet, excellent topline and tailset, presented a rather graceful racy appearance, moving soundly both fore and aft.

Undergraduate Dog (14, abs 3)

1st Harveys Moontorn Black Magic

A very moderate dog of good type all through, everything in the right place, excellent bone and feet, good layback of shoulders and good upper arm, good deep chest, good tight elbows, well angulated hindquarters and correct tailset. Good head, enough length and a good dark eye with a kind expression, moved well when settled.

2nd Varty Lindsay & Vartys Levliann Waited For You

I loved this liver boy, his head had good length, being well filled in and a good dark eye. He had well laid back shoulders, a good upper arm and a well defined brisket. Good depth and length through the body, moved well covering the ground with ease. He was a shade on the larger side for me but could deny his placing on his overall type and construction.

3rd Broomes Benvellyn Amur Falcon of Evingbriar

Correctly sized male, well balanced through out with everything in proportion. Not overdone in anyway. A good head, with good length and well moulded, good dark eyes. Nice through the body

shown in good hard condition, when settled he moved sound and true, just tending to fly his tail a little on the move, but overall a very neat moderate dog.

Graduate Dog (11 abs 1)

1st Wilsons Hameldowntor Pedro Ximenez

A rather no nonsense sort of upstanding dog who is now coming into his own and filling his frame. Good bone, feet and substance in excellent coat and condition. A good masculine, long head, dark eyes and kind expression. Good layback of shoulders and adequate return of upper arm, good deep body. Topline well held with the correct tailset. Moving sound and true both fore and aft, and in profile with a good reach of stride.

2nd Nielsens Black Amandas Xcuse Me Ladies

A liver boy with a classical head, well filled in, kind expression with eyes of a good colour. Presented a very racy appearance and just needs a little more time to mature. Good clean neck, good shoulders but would prefer a little more return of upper arm, strong topline and tailset, well angulated hindquarters, moving sound and true. Lovely type throughout.

3rd Brights Hopevalley Morning Phantom

A moderate, well balance dog throughout, not overdone in any way, in excellent coat and condition. Typical head with the kindest and darkest of eyes, good bone and excellent feet, good strong hindquarters and correct topline and tailset. Presented a very neat appearance, moving sound and true just preferred the reach and drive of no 1 & 2 today.

Post Graduate Dog (9, Abs 2)

1ST Slades Hightyne Fly Me to the Moon

A super type of dog, who could easily be overlooked. Excellent bone and feet, a heavier coat than many, however underneath that, he has well laid back shoulders and good upper arm, good deep body, well angulated hindquarters, good topline and correct set on of tail. He has a classical head, correct length, well filled in and the correct eye shape and expression. Moving sound and true when settled, with his owner just needing to have a little more confidence in him.

2nd Mays Ronevorg Dark Angel at Lussac JW

A very stylish dog on the move, in super coat and condition and handled to perfection. Good reach of neck, good front construction, well let down hocks and strong well-muscled hindquarters, good topline and tailset and showed reach and drive on the move. For me I would prefer a little more refinement through the skull, but he has good dark eyes and presented a very racy appearance.

3rd Protheroe's Manteauplat Tom Putt

A lovely type of dog who reminded me of some of the older dogs from the past, good balance throughout, good depth through the chest, good brisket and upper arm, front legs standing well under the body. Enough bone for size. Long well moulded head with the darkest of eyes and kind expression. Overall would prefer a little more reach and drive on the move.

Mid Limit Dog (7)

1st Mullins Everblack Booze Cruise at Dexanluc

Upstanding dog shown in good hard excellent condition, never put a foot wrong, excelled on the move moving parallel both fore and aft driving from strong hindquarters, showing both reach and drive. Typey head, with a good long muzzle, well filled in, dark eyes and kind expression. Good reach of neck, well laid back shoulders, adequate upper arm. Held a good topline on the move. Overall, he had the correct proportions, showing slightly more length than he is tall, moderate all though and not overdone in any way. A strong contender towards the end.

2nd Huytons Hightyne When I Fall in Love

Moderate dog all through, loved his classical head, darkest of eyes and naughty expression. Very active medium sized dog on the move, driving from the rear but moving a little wide in front today. Nicely put together all through, enough bone and substance for size, excellent bone and the best of feet, in good coat and condition. Stood four square and held his topline.

3rd Hollands Flatcharm Mayhem Miller

Another classical type of dog, with a beautiful head, long well moulded and filled in, coupled with the kindest of eyes. Correct size, good bone, good reach of neck into well laid back shoulders, presented a racy appearance but just tended to just drop off when standing and needed to settle on the move to gain higher placings for me today.

Limit Dog (15, abs 2)

1st Lundquist & Persson & Ostman Caci's Hey I'm Mr Green

The winner of a strong class, and pushed very hard towards the end for higher honours. Beautifully balanced male of the correct size, and proportions, being slightly longer than he is tall. Super strong topline and tailset which he held on the move, long well filled on one piece head, with good dark eyes. Excellent bone and feet, good layback of shoulders, good upper arm, good deep body with a good spring of rib, legs well underneath the chest. When standing just tend to turn his hocks ever so slightly inwards, however when moving he moved out on a long free stride, showing drive and propulsion, with good forward reach. Loved him.

2nd Walkers Lizzlog Shotgun Harry JW

A dog of the correct size, substance and balance, presented a very moderate and balanced outline, not overdone in any way. Excellent bone and feet, the best of hindquarters and won his place today on his very sound footfall and correct driving rear movement. Just preferred the head of the winner and whilst he has a masculine head, it is not overdone, and in balance with the rest of him. Stands true all round, with well-constructed good deep body, tight elbows, short coupled, and good level topline and tailset.

3rd Fox's Satinbaze Cracksman for Blacktoft (ai)

A racy dog put down in excellent coat and condition and well-muscled throughout. Excellent bone and feet, standing true all round. Good reach of neck, into good shoulders and good upper arm, lovely flow into a level topline and well set on tail, good strong hindquarters. Good male head, the darkest of eyes, moving sound and true, didn't put a foot wrong.

Open Dog (33, abs 4)

I would just like to say that this was the hardest class I have ever judged and really represented the very best from across Europe, I had to take a very deep breath before I started and it was a pleasure

to do. My shortlist was quite large and reflected those that really were at the top of their tree and deserved further consideration. Many excellent dogs went without cards and that's a tough call.

1st DCC & BOB Genco's It/Int Ch Diamante Blu Chilkoot

A dog of the correct size, balance and proportion and for me fits the standard as being power without lumbar and raciness without weediness. He had that very essence that is a flatcoat, with beautiful flowing lines. It all starts at the head and this dog has a classical male head, the darkest of eyes and that twinkling expression, it is long, well filled in both between and under the eyes, the correct almond shaped eye, set correctly. This gives the classical one-piece head I was really looking for. He exuded quality with good oval bone right down to good feet. Good reach of neck into well laid-back shoulders and adequate upper arm, well held topline and good tailset. Good strong, well angulated hindquarters. He stands four square with legs well under him on good tight elbows, good rib and good short loin. On the move he really excelled, moving freely and soundly, no overreaching, no back kicking, moving true both fore and aft. His true flatcoat disposition showed him at his very best in the Gundog Group.

2nd Macdonalds Sh Ch Deringwood English Oak.

A dog I have admired before as a puppy, having the correct size and balance, a very racy quality dog, not overdone in any way having a refinement all through which won him his place today. Head long, well moulded and filled in with a kind expression Quality bone and the best of feet. Good length of neck and good reach of neck into adequate shoulders and upper arm, good spring of rib, tapering nicely into a short loin, correctly angulated hindquarters, strong level topline and correct tailset, good rear propulsion when moving flowing effortlessly around the ring on a long easy stride. Pushed hard for RCC.

3rd Janickova's Se U(u)ch/cz/sk/pl/grandchcz Diamante Blu Nella Mia Stanza Jchat Jchsk Jhcw'18 Cw'19 Gjw '17

A dog of the correct size, type and balance throughout, good reach of neck into well-constructed fore quarters with a good return of upper arm, good topline, and correct tailset, good bone and feet, stands four square all round, excellent well angulated hindquarters which he used to advantage on the move. Lovely one-piece head with the darkest of eyes and kindest of expression. Moving soundly both fore and aft with the correct reach and drive. A pleasure to go over him.

Special Working Dog (11, Abs 2)

1st Zuberbuehler & Schneiders Multi Ch Cib Cie Almanza Secret of Success

Very smart, balanced, typey dog, excellent bone and feet, good long well moulded head and a good dark eye, plenty of substance for size. Good reach of neck into adequate shoulders and upper arm, good topline and correct tailset, good strong well angulated hindquarters. I liked his overall racy lines and not being overdone in any way. Moved with drive and purpose and full of enthusiasm.

2nd Reynolds Telurn Cant Touch This Sgwc

A larger type of boy, with a beautiful front construction, excellent bone and feet, good depth through the body, good strong hindquarters, moving sound and true, holding his topline. Good long masculine head with a dark eye. In excellent coat and condition. Pref

3rd Hewisons Casblaidd Island In The Sky Sgwc Kcwg

An older type of dog with a lovely one piece head and a good dark eye and kind expression, plenty of bone but not the best of feet, good reach of neck , good depth and length through the ribcage, moving soundly on an easy stride, In excellent coat and condition.

Good Citizens Dog Scheme

1st Slades Hightyne Fly Me to the Moon

2nd Hewisons Casblaidd Island In The Sky Sgwc Kcwg

3rd Mcconnells Feldkirk Fearghal at Torweaving ShCM

Substantial dog with excellent bone and feet, in good coat and condition, adequate shoulders and upper arm, masculine head and good dark eyes, moving soundly.