

Golden Retriever Club of Scotland Guisachan Gathering Championship Show, July 20, 2018

Judge: Ainslie Mills, Surrey, BC Canada (Bitches)

It was an honour and a pleasure to assess 182 bitch entries at the GRCS championship show held in conjunction with the Guisachan Gathering. I was very happy with the quality of the dogs critiqued below. The majority of bitches had good to excellent coat quality, with correct texture and sufficient undercoat and only a few shedding or having lost most of their coat in the recent summer heat. Overall, heads were pleasing in expression with broad skulls and strong muzzles in correct proportion, lovely dark eyes and correct ear set. I was pleased to see mostly balanced and correct angulation in both front and rear and generally correct tail carriage on the move. Correct scissors bites were the norm with very few missing teeth or misaligned incisors. Feet were generally compact, well arched and round. The bitches that placed met the above qualities and also had: correct proportion of body with sufficient length of leg; good spring of rib and depth of brisket; correct easy movement both in profile, with good reach and drive, and strength on the down and back. Some bitches were moving a bit close in the rear going away but were not cow-hocked, so I considered this a minor deviation.

An important consideration in judging Golden Retrievers is fitness for purpose, including proper weight and conditioning, with evidence of good muscular development and maintenance of a strong level back line on the move. Many exhibits fell short in this area, carrying excess weight and lacking muscle tone. Too many topline were bouncing and rolling to a considerable extent. This action is detrimental to efficient, easy movement, and demands more energy-consumption in a breed that should be capable of a full day's shooting in the field.

Veteran Bitch (15 entries present, 3 absent)

Both first and second place bitches were beautiful examples of the breed although different in style. Both were outstanding and difficult to fault overall.

1. SH.CH. Ronjalee Roxy Lady for Sandti ShCM

A beautiful 8-year-old pale gold bitch with a well-proportioned head with pleasing expression, correct skull and muzzle. Correct body proportion with moderate bone and good, balanced angulation front and rear. Good forechest and depth of brisket with a dead level topline. Correct double coat with good texture, resistant to the rain that was falling. Moved well in

profile and on the down and back, although slightly closer than ideal in rear going away.

2. Am. GRCH Shadowland's Paws for Applause at Tristar Am. CD RE SH WCX SDHF

A lovely 10 year-old dark gold bitch who moved beautifully both in profile and on the down and back with a solid topline, and possessed good forechest, depth and spring of rib and nice feet. She had nicely balanced angles and defied her age with her ring presence and was fit and in good condition. The first-place girl had slightly better front assembly and head type, as well as a more natural coat presentation.

Special Working Bitch (4 entries present, 1 absent)

Two excellent breed representatives. Both bitches presented lovely heads and expression with black pigment and lovely reach and set of neck. Both were balanced with lovely angulation front and rear, moderate bone with good depth of brisket and spring of rib. Coat texture was correct and wrapped the body.

1. Multi CH. Legendary of Sunshine's Valley JW

This bitch was in great condition with a hard, level topline and good length of leg to body proportion. Movement was good, with correct reach and drive.

2. Xanthos Givenchy JW

Very feminine and slightly more refined in head. Her bite was not perfect and she was slightly longer in loin but beautiful in type and nice moving.

Minor Puppy Bitch (13 entries present, 1 absent)

This class reflected varying stages of development and maturity, as can be expected in this age group. Some toplines had not settled and there were many that rolled and bounced. Both these bitches had pleasing heads and expressions, good black pigment and moved easily around the ring and on the down and back.

1. Rigerin Merrie Melodies at Torcarhian

A 9 month-old with good body development for her age. Lovely front quarters that balance with the rear although perhaps lacking a bit in fitness and conditioning and not holding her topline as well on the move. Pleasing head and expression with black pigment and good movement going around. Slightly better length and return of upper arm than the second-place bitch.

2. Glitters Rainbow Over Drumkilty

A fit 7 month-old with lovely proportion and balance, not quite as developed in body as the older first place bitch. Solid topline, moderate bone. Lovely head and expression.

Puppy Bitch (15 entries present, 2 absent)

Both these girls had lovely balanced angulation with moderate bone, lovely heads with black pigment and good forechest. Both had correctly textured coats.

1. Terra Di Siena Are You With Me Berrymeade

Lovely bitch with correct head structure and pleasing expression. In better condition and fitter than the second-place bitch and strong in movement. Nice length of neck with good blend into a level topline. Very good forequarters with lovely length and return of upper arm and good forechest. Lovely balanced angulation with moderate bone, lovely head with black pigment.

2. Rigerin Merrie Melodies at Torcarhian

Junior Bitch (11 entries present, 5 absent, 1 withdrawn)

Both bitches in this class had good angulation, balanced front and rear with good spring of rib and body depth for their age. Reach of neck and blend into the backline was very good on both. Coats on both were correct texture and both had lovely black pigment. Both moved well going around and on the down and back

1. Drumkilty Lisdoonvarna

A lovely bitch that had great front quarters balanced with good rear angles and was in good condition. Good coat, nice pigment with a pleasing head. In comparison to the second-place bitch, she was slightly stronger in muzzle with a more solid, level topline and slightly better proportioned.

2. Strathlon Sweet Sensation

This bitch consistently placed in four classes due to her overall quality, balance and movement. Slightly longer in loin and overall length, I would like to have seen a bit more leg and length and return of upper arm. She had correct coat texture, black pigment, lovely reach of neck with blend into backline, good spring of rib and depth of brisket.

Yearling Bitch (12 entries present, 3 absent)

1. Faithful Heart Leona Lewis

Lovely gold bitch with wavy coat of correct texture, good overall proportion, short-coupled with nice angulation and balance. Very good front quarters with excellent length and return of upper arm and good forechest. Very sound moving in profile and down and back. Lovely head and expression with good depth and breadth of muzzle. In good condition with decent muscle tone.

2. Strathlon Sweet Sensation

Maiden Bitch (11 entries present, 5 withdrawn)

1. Terra Di Siena Are You With Me Berrymeade

2. Rigerin Merrie Melodies at Torcarhian

Novice Bitch (16 entries present, 1 withdrawn)

1. Terra Di Siena Are You With Me Berrymeade

2. Rigerin Merrie Melodies at Torcarhian

Tyro Bitch (12 entries present)

1. Terra Di Siena Are You With Me Berrymeade

2. Strathlon Sweet Sensation

Undergraduate Bitch (9 entries present, 1 absent, 1 withdrawn)

1. Garline Echo's of a Dream

This bitch moved well in profile with good angulation, correct proportion, nice length of neck blending into a level topline. Good forechest. Correct coat texture. Lovely head with black pigment.

2. Strathlon Sweet Sensation

Graduate Bitch (8 entries present, 2 absent)

Both these bitches ideally could use a bit more leg under them. That being said, they were both quality bitches with lovely heads with correct skull and muzzle, necks blending well into shoulders, good quality coats and lovely bone. Both moved well showing good reach and drive.

1. Rojillair Evening Magic of Odarla JW

This bitch had a bit more rear angle, more length of neck and firmer topline than the second place bitch

2. Carolake Remember Me JW

Slightly longer cast than the first place dog, this medium gold bitch also had good depth of brisket and spring of rib.

Post Graduate Bitch (10 entries present, 3 absent)

These two bitches both had balanced, correct angulation, correct coat texture, pleasing heads with good length of neck blending into shoulders. Both had good body depth and spring of rib. They moved well in profile with good reach and drive and correctly on the down and back.

1. Nedlezah Hey Jude JW

(RCC) A lovely light gold bitch very well put together, with a lovely head and expression, good forechest, correct proportion, solid topline and in in fit condition.

2. Corrievern Bonnie Heather

A medium gold bitch with lightly less forechest than the first bitch and slightly longer in body proportion but with the above listed good qualities.

Mid-Limit Bitch (13 entries present, 1 absent)

1. Crobeag The One N'Only

A lovely light gold, wavy coated, moderate bitch with excellent body proportion and short underline. Beautiful head with strong skull and correct muzzle. Nice forechest with good depth of brisket to the elbows and lovely balanced angles. Used herself well on the move.

2. Summeramba Milady JW

Slightly longer through the body, this bitch had nice length of neck and blend into a solid topline. Nice angles, especially good length and return of upper arm, good forechest and depth. Lovely head and expression.

Limit Bitch (14 entries present, 2 absent)

This class was challenging in that many of the entries were longer in body proportion and not in fit condition. Many entries were rolling and/or bouncing in topline. The first two placements reflected better proportion of body length to height with good leg length and better conditioning. Both had pleasing heads and expressions with strong muzzles and good pigment with lovely length of neck. They had moderate bone and forechest with balanced angulation. Coat quality and texture was good on both bitches. Both had good body depth and spring of rib.

1. Castlegolden Classy Lady JW

This light gold bitch was a bit sounder and fitter on the move as reflected in the solid topline with nice tail set and carriage.

2. Dailuaine All in One

This medium gold bitch tended to roll over the topline a bit when moving and was not quite as fit. Slightly longer in body length.

Open Bitch (10 entries present, 3 absent, 1 withdrawn)

1. SH. CH. Linirgor Violets Are Blue JW

(BCC) This bitch caught my eye right from the start. A beautiful, moderate bitch with correct proportion, lovely angulation and balance with solid topline and lovely blend of neck into shoulder. Nice head and expression with black pigment. A correctly textured quality coat and wonderful carriage and movement. Nice well-knuckled feet.

2.Ch. Blueberry From Arian Hill

A bit more substantial in bone and body than the first-place girl. Lovely balanced angles with good body development and depth. Correct coat texture and a pleasing head and expression with good pigment. Moved well but had a slight tendency to toe out when standing.

Bitch CC- SH. CH. Linirgor Violets Are Blue JW

Reserve CC- Nedlezah Hey Jude JW

Best Puppy Bitch- Terra Di Siena Are You With Me Berrymeade

Best Veteran Bitch- SH.CH. Ronjalee Roxy Lady for Sandti ShCM

Special Open Bitch (5 entries present)

1. Giogan Golden Celebration

Moderate, compact medium gold bitch with pleasing head, correct, slightly wavy coat, nice body with correct depth and rib spring with elbows set well in. Nicely balanced angulation and sound moving. A bit more substance than the second-place bitch.

2. Gareloch Golden Legacy

A moderate, compact bitch, in summer coat. Pleasing head with black pigment. Well proportioned. Nicely balanced and good on the move, holding a level topline. Body depth not quite to the elbows but good rib spring. Ideally, I would like to see a bit more length and return of upper arm.

Special Breeder's Bitch (4 entries present, 1 absent, 1 withdrawn)

1. Gareloch Golden Legacy

2. Leynosk Glitter N' Gold

Nicely angulated with lovely coat and a pleasing head with black pigment. Moderate forechest with nicely balanced angulation. Longer in loin and overall proportion and topline not as solid on the move.

Thank you again for this wonderful opportunity to judge Goldens in their ancestral home.