

## RIDEAU TERRIER CLUB

I have been looking forward to being in Canada and judging the Rideau Terrier Show for a number of years. This is especially true given that my original assignment was cancelled due to COVID and the borders being closed. Many years ago I travelled to Canada to show and finish my Scottish Terriers so I decided to drive from Massachusetts as I had done in the past.

Saturday morning arrived with the forecast of rain but mild temperatures. I have long advocated for terriers showing outdoors on grass thus the moisture was of no particular concern. By the start time the light rain had appropriately lifted but the gray skies and intermittent moisture remained as the green grass of ring four awaited the terriers. Since so many of our terriers emanated from the British Isles the dogs appropriately shone in the mist on a carpet of green. The afternoon heavy downpour gratefully held off until after the Rideau Specialty.

Rideau Club members held a memorial ceremony for departed members. I was gladly included and fondly remembered Jim Mabey of whom I had been friendly for decades. Many teared up with fond memories with the close terrier community. This ceremony set the tone for kindness and comradery of Canadian terrier-lovers and friends.

Belle Severn was my contact for this event – no one could have been more efficient and helpful throughout the planning and execution of the show. While we all enjoy the show, we all should know the tremendous amount of work that individuals do to make our shows a reality.

Across the many terrier breeds entered there were some that seemed stronger than others in quality. Airedale, Miniature Schnauzers, Staffordshire Bull Terriers, and Scottish Terriers were among these,

The single entry in Soft Coated Wheaten Terriers was outstanding and ultimately awarded Best in Specialty. This is a bitch that I believe I have judged before in the States. Today she shone in structure, coat and SCWT temperament (happy, alert, steady and with an air of gaiety). Her flowing coat covered her square outline.

I have long enjoyed the breed and on this day the five Staffordshire Bull Terriers were a pleasure to see and to examine. All were of appropriate size, bone, and length of leg. I sought appropriate width of front, with deep brisket. None were overly exaggerated and the majority with an outgoing Staffy nature. Breeders here are doing something very right.

Scottish Terriers are my original breed. The two Scottish Terrier specials bitches were of very good, true type. They were sturdy, cobby, with plenty of forechest and butt. Their heads were

clean with powerful jaws. The decision today was on the balance of skull to muzzle, coupling, and topline. BOB looks down her nose with the confidence of a true Scot.

The entry of four Airedales consisted of all champions (1-3). There are few breeds, if any that are better viewed as dominating the earth they walk upon with size, demeanor and expression. Ultimately the dog prevailed with maturity and movement. An outstanding bitch was Best of Opposite. Her size, conditioning and superb textured coat portends well for the breed future. The three champion bitches were promising in future breeding.

Miniature Schnauzers were the largest entry with many good quality specimens – likely due as well to the national specialty in the afternoon with a breeder judge. The terms robust, square with a sloping topline are among the breed essentials for me. Having bred, exhibited and hand-stripped dogs for decades the proper coat is important to me. I found too many dogs cut or razored for appearance. I was happy with my young puppy, winner's dog. He may not have been masterfully handled, however even at his very young age he 'handled himself' well. His natural ear, square body and balanced head carried the day. I hope he continues his promise. Winner's bitch and best of winners, was also balanced, well-proportioned in body and head. She moved well and was considered for breed. BOB was contested by the ultimate winners of BOS and BOW. Each stood square had sloping toplines, rectangular heads, with good expressions. This breed with numbers and quality should do well in the future.

The Cairn Terrier entry of ten dogs and bitches were somewhat eclectic differing in size, presentation, proportion. A number of the entries were somewhat 'blown'. It is difficult to obtain the correct hand stripped coat length for the breeds 'ragged' appearance. Head to muzzle proportions were mostly correct however broadness and strength of skull continues to be an issue in both countries that greatly effects expression, even with coverage of hair. The size of some exhibits were too large for me. All entries were obviously well-loved, and most were the prerequisite 'game and hardy small working terrier'. Best of breed on this day was a bitch of correct coat and proportion. She had an adequate skull and her expression was smart, alert and somewhat hard-bitten. BOS was a larger dog however he was proportional and carried a lovely level topline. BOW was again an exhibit with good skull breadth for size, level topline standing and on the move, and a well-prepared coat.

The entry of two Parson Russell Terriers was a class bitch and a specials bitch – one of a smooth coat the other broken coated. The champion bitch was best of breed. She was a typical, small bitch with proper medium bone, almond dark eye, both entries were spanable.

A number of breeds had a single entry of which most were finished champions:

The Border Terrier was a class dog with good muscle and presented in good coat. He was a substantial dog and although large for the breed he was spanable and had the prerequisite loose hide upon lifting. He had a definite Border temperament and could do work.

The Wire Fox was a champion bitch shown in excellent broken coat. She was bred appropriately impish and 'on tiptoe of expectation at the slightest provocation' She was of correct height, temperament and coat but on movement she was not exhibiting the breed specific pendulum front movement.

Glen of Imaal specials dog possessed the breed's unique and antique front features and wore a well worked coat. His flat skull and 3:5 head were all Glen.

I was delighted to have the entry of Lakeland Terrier as I have bred a couple of litters and shown this breed if briefly and long ago. She is a small feminine bitch in excellent terrier coat. Impish in expression and petite in type, she would be very able to fit in any aperture that her head and shoulder could fit through.

Manchester Terrier was a well-muscled specials dog. His eye was bred typically 'sagacious' slanting up and dark. His coat was a rich black and tan coloration.

A Russell Terrier is always a welcome entry. The breed is delightfully cute while being intrinsically terrier! This specials dog was brought in an excellently worked double coat. His dark almond eye was full of the devil. On this day he was a bit overweight (who could resist giving him a treat?) for the working terrier he is to be.

The Welsh Terrier entry was a class bitch; She was well groomed and with a discernable broken coat coming in, although short on this day. Even as a bitch she hopefully will grow into being the sturdy, compact black and tan terrier.

It is admirable that so many owners and breeders choose to enter the Rideau Terrier Show. I thank and appreciate all the club organizers and especially all the terrier breeders and owners on this day. As we are all reminded as exhibitors, we all go home with the most wonderful and best dog – especially if it is a TERRIER.