

2023-04-08

It was a huge honour to be invited to judge at the Swedish Tibetan Spaniel speciality show. I had been looking forward to coming to Sweden for several years, thanks to Covid causing cancellations in 2020. This was my first time judging in Sweden, and only my second experience of judging using the FCI system, so I apologise for any small errors I may have made. I must say a big big thank you to my two able and very helpful ring stewards, who kept the ring flowing without a hitch all day.

The Swedish Special Club for Tibetan Spaniel's hospitality was second to none. We were treated like royalty from the minute we arrived. The show venue was beautifully laid out with a large ring giving plenty of room for the dogs to move out and there were a wealth of prizes for exhibitors to win, including not only the most beautiful rosettes but toys and gifts for the Tibbies and bags of dog food. The whole arrangement made for a very special 'feel' to the show. There was a good atmosphere ringside, with many exhibitors meeting up and exchanging news, as Tibbie folk love to do.

I was very happy with my entry, and I send huge thanks to everyone who brought their Tibbies for me to judge. There were many beautiful examples of our wonderful breed, temperament was excellent in all exhibits. Presentation was superb across the board and most exhibits were in full coat.

As with all breeds, there are always areas for improvement and in my humble opinion I would like to see more uniformity of breed type. I was pleased to see all exhibits were moved at the correct pace, allowing me to see the movement. On the whole the exhibits present moved soundly, with a 'busy busy' gait so typical of our breed.

It was great having many promising puppies, this is always a good sign. My winner was the baby dog, a beautiful sable with already a ring presence, at just five months of age he moved with great confidence and was good to go over, I liked him a lot.

The junior competition was also exciting, with the final pair being litter siblings, both very 'typy' and hard to split. In the final challenge the junior bitch pulled out all the stops to take the win. I am sure both of these youngsters will be stars of the future and I will watch their progress via the internet with great interest.

For my Best In Show I chose a stunning 4yr old black and tan dog of the highest quality. As soon as he entered the ring he caught my eye and I knew he was the one to beat. He excelled in breed type with the most handsome, masculine head, beautiful balance and perfect conformation which was reflected in his smooth, flawless movement. In full mature coat, for me he epitomises the breed standard and could not be denied the top honour today. There is only one fault with this dog - he is not mine! The Best Bitch, who was also Best Junior, was from the same kennel as my Best Puppy and Best in Show. I offer my congratulations to this breeder for breeding such typical Tibetan Spaniels. Keep up the good work.

Progeny classes were a new experience for me, and I found it very interesting to see and judge. It would be great to see these classes in UK shows, alongside the breeder competition which I enjoyed also.

I would like to say once more a huge thank you to the officers and committee for giving Tina and I such a wonderful experience, we both thoroughly enjoyed our visit to Sweden. Also of course a big big thank you to all the exhibitors for the sporting way in which they accepted my decisions. The greatest honour, of course, was the Tibbies themselves that allowed me to have hugs and kisses after judging had finished. The perfect end to a perfect day!

Gary Quest

Gary & Tina Quest
Chenrezi Tibetan Spaniels
<http://www.chenrezi.co.uk> Tibetan Spaniels