

Comment of Elena Balázsovits – Judge of Milan's Collie Club Show

First of all, I am very grateful to the Italian Collie Club for inviting me to judge the Collie Club show in Milan.

35 Collie were entered in catalogue and 30 have passed the judging.

In my opinion most of the dogs deserved the excellent qualification. There were no collies, which had any disqualifying faults or some severe faults, by reason of which it was necessary to punish or reduce the qualification. Most dogs have shown good or enough good temperament. The dogs were well presented; everyone had a standard coat, with a good or fairly good grooming.

The dogs were of different breed types, but generally they fit to the requirements of the breed standard. Most dogs had the heads of good quality, good size and well set eyes. Although I have some remark concerning the quality of heads, there were many dogs with heads with sharp muzzles and weak underjaws, the whole shape of their heads more like a fox than as a wedge. Usually the dogs, which had this form of the head, had small teeth. I think that breeders should pay attention to it.

Most dogs at the show were in the standard size and had medium strong bones. But some dogs were visibly small. I did not measure these dogs, and I did not reduce their qualifications, but I think that every breeder should properly measure his dog to know what the real size is and take account of it in breeding. Unfortunately nowadays, in general, the Collie became significantly smaller than the breed standard asks.

Speaking about the anatomy and movements, unfortunately, I can not say a lot of compliments. Only a few dogs at the show had the physical structure and movements, which I really liked. Most dogs had certain faults in anatomy, which showed negative impact on the movements.

The most common fault was - straight angles of the shoulder-blade, which are as a result of too short and straight upperarms. These dogs can not show the movements with wide strides of the forelegs. Besides that many dogs had weak, not stable elbows, so the movements were not free and easy. Another common fault was - narrow and turning in hocks.

Among all presented dogs I liked the two, which got titles CAC and Res.CAC. Young dog from the intermediate class Pensiero Stupendo Della Buca Delle Fate, which eventually became the Best of Breed, I liked him at first sight. First of all, he looked very masculine, strong bones, good length of neck, excellent hindquarters. He has an excellent, wedge-shaped head, well set, dark eyes with a pleasant expression. At the moment his chest is slightly narrow, but I am sure that this will improve with age. He showed excellent movement with strong drive. In some areas of the ring he lacked confidence, but as I knew after the show, he made his debut on this day. Despite these details, for me he was the best Collie on this day.

Winner of open class Esagerato di Cambiano, who got Res.CAC also made a big impression on me. He was very strong in bones with great substance, with a broad and deep chest, strong back, intensely colored, catchy dark sable. He had a good quality head and he strongly pretended for CAC card, but in the movements he little lost to his competitor.

There were more excellent quality bitches. Especially I liked the open class bitches, where there was a really strong competition. Folie d'Amour of Lowlands Green Valley - beautiful, stylish, bitch confidently won open class and became Best Bitch at this show.

In conclusion I would like to note what unusual, very original gifts were for the winners.

I would also like to say a special thanks to the ring steward and secretary for very coordinated and fast work.

Thanks to all the exhibitors for their excellent preparation and handling dogs in the ring.

Elena Balázsovits