

JUDGES'S CRITIQUE
THE STAFFORDSHIRE BULL TERRIER CLUB OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA
SATURDAY 11TH NOVEMBER 2006

Judge: David Lowe

Firstly, I would like to thank those people responsible for my invitation to judge at this show for arranging for me to undertake this appointment. Despite my good fortune as a judge to have had the opportunity to judge at some prestigious events around the world, to return to my original club to judge at its Championship Show certainly is a top highlight in my judging career. Secondly, the exhibitors are to be congratulated on their sportsmanship and conduct. It is an impossibility as a judge to send everyone home happy, but the spirit in which my decisions were taken was excellent. I also pass on my thanks to my steward.

Overall, I found the quality of the class dogs entered to be quite good.

Overall there were only 2 points that I noted that were of any concern.

The first problem was large, thick and heavy ears. I view this problem as quite serious as it affects the soundness of the dog. A dog that is sound demonstrates that he/she has all the physical and mental capability to perform the function for which the breed was evolved. Whether we like it or not, our breed was evolved to fight and large, thick and heavy ears represent a major handicap for a fighting dog as they give the foe something to very easily grab. As such, I take the view that a Stafford with large ears as presenting a dubious level of soundness. I would recommend that breeders in South Australia aim to breed away from this trait wherever possible.

The second problem I observed was that too many exhibits were overweight. Our standard calls for the breed to be active and agile, and an overweight dog has no way of demonstrating this to a judge.

Having dealt with the 2 main concerns I saw, I must also add that I saw some very good heads, and the breed seems in good order in this department, especially given the importance of a good head in our breed.

Baby Puppy Dog

1st BROOMSQUIRES JIMMY RUSS – Black brindle, 5 months old. Whilst not keen on moving today he was a class above his competition in construction so he was given every opportunity for me to see him move. Very nicely balanced strong head with correct bite. Excellent chest and ribbing, good lay of shoulder and excellent bone. Well angulated front and rear, correct tail set and carriage. Nicely padded and compact feet.

2nd SHADOWSTAFF BOYA – Black brindle, 4 ½ months old. Not quite the strength of head of the one ahead of him but well shaped all the same, with ears that he needs to grow into. Nice muscular neck, with excellent lay of shoulder. Very good chest and ribbing. Good bone, and feet. Well angulated in the rear. Tail set on a little low, but carried well. Moved well in profile and coming in, but could be better going away.

3rd VIPERSTAFF KING COBRA – Brindle, 4 ½ months old. Balance of head upset by large full drop ears that hopefully he will both grow into and rose with age. Head of equal quality as the boy ahead of him. Well muscled neck on well laid shoulders. Not quite the ribbing of those ahead of him and slightly longer cast also. Despite good angulation in the rear did rise over the loin slightly. Moved well.

Minor Puppy Dog

1st WAURSTAFFORD MIGHTNPOWER – Brindle, 7 months old. Shorter, compact style of dog carrying too much weight. Good strong well balanced head with lovely round eyes that could be a whisker darker. Good bite. Nice sized well set ears. Well laid shoulders, good ribbing, coming to hand well. Good bone and feet. Correct length of back, level topline. Acceptable turn of stifle, good tail set and carriage. Moved very well in profile and coming in, could be better going away.

Puppy Dog

1st KNIGHTSKY DREAM MACHINE – Red, almost 11 months old. Another shorter, compact style of dog. Very nice well balanced head, with good depth of skull, nice round dark eyes, distinct stop, good sized ears well set on, flush bite. Good muscular neck. Shoulders a little upright. Well ribbed, although a whisker too wide in front for my liking. Excellent bone. Correct length of back, rising over loin slightly. Correct tail. Moved well in profile and coming in, but could be better going away.

Junior Dog

1st RIVERHAVEN BLAZE AGAIN – Brindle, 17 months old. This dog's head is his virtue. Very well balanced head, deep through, with distinct stop. Lovely round eyes, that (to be picky) could be a whisker darker. Excellent ears, well set on. Good strong bite. Well laid shoulders, good bone, tidy feet. Would prefer to see better ribbing by his age. Very poor topline dipping steeply behind the shoulders as a result of a rise over the loin caused by poor hind angulation. Good tail set and carriage. Moved quite well coming in, but not otherwise.

Intermediate Dog

1st SHADOWSTAFF GUNN BOYA – Black brindle, 19 months old. Very nicely balanced head in all aspects, especially strength and cleanness about the muzzle. Excellent well set on ears. Excellent dark, round eyes of the highest quality. Excellent bite. Very strong neck on well laid shoulders. Well ribbed, excellent bone, near perfect feet. Correct length of back with table top level topline. Very well angulated well muscled hind quarters. One of the best movers of the day in all directions. RESERVE CHALLENGE.

2nd HOTPAWS SNOW STORM – White with dark markings, 21 months old. Carrying a little too much weight. Very pleasing head of sufficient balance. Lovely dark round eye with dark rims. Lovely well set on rose ears. Good bite. Nicely muscled neck sitting on well laid shoulders. Not quite the ribbing of the boy ahead of him but sufficient all the same. Good bone, although would prefer greater strength in the pasterns. Level topline. Angulation in the rear, whilst acceptable, could be better. Excellent tail set and carriage. Moved well

3rd ISHIROSS PRINCE OV TROY – Black brindle, 20 months old, shorter and lighter style of dog. Very nice well balanced head with strong muzzle, good bite. Good depth through skull, with good rose ears well set. Nice round and dark eyes. Shoulders a little too upright, Good bone and feet. Could have better ribbing. Level topline of correct length. Rear angulation could be better. Good tail set, not carried well. Not demonstrating the drive of those ahead of him on the move.

State Bred Dog

1st WAIITI FIRENICE – Red with white blaze, 27 months old. Very strong head with corresponding muzzle housing good bite. Good depth through skull, distinct stop and good

round dark eye. Ears too heavy even for this strong head upsetting the overall picture of the head. Nice muscular neck on well laid shoulders. Very good body and chest displaying the ribbing we seek in a mature male, ample bone, good feet. Level topline that could be a whisker shorter. Acceptable angulation in a well muscled rear quarters. Tail set on could be a whisker higher, but carried well all the same. Moved well across and in, but not as well going away.

2nd RIVERHAVEN LATE ARRIVAL – Red, 17 months old giving away maturity to the boy ahead of him. Head not of the strength ahead of him, but good strong muzzle. Depth through the skull good, but cheek muscles lacking, this being one area where the maturity of the boy ahead of him told out. Nice round eye and good ears well set. Well laid shoulders and reasonable ribbing, Sufficient bone. Good length of back although rising slightly over the loin, despite good angulation in the rear. Lacking rear musculation compared to 1st. Moved well.

Australian Bred Dog

1st SUPASOUND CANT NOT – Pied, 15 months old, giving away some maturity to his competition, but held the edge on quality. Deceptively strong head. Very distinct stop, strong through skull and good strength of muzzle. Good bite, excellent dark round eye. Excellent ears. Good neck on well laid shoulders. Good bone, very good feet. Ribbing whilst sufficient is an area where his lack of maturity showed but should improve with age. Correct length, strong and level topline. Well angulated and muscled rear. Correct tail set and carriage. Lovely mover.

2nd ISHIROSS JUST TRY ME – White with black eye patch, 20 months old. Would have strongly pushed for 1st if he was carrying slightly less weight. Good strong head, showing good depth through and powerful muzzle housing good bite, distinct stop. Good dark round eye. Large ears somewhat spoil an otherwise very pleasing head picture. Good strong neck on fairly well laid shoulders. Good bone, feet a whisker untidy. Very good body, coming to hand well, and well ribbed back. Good level topline albeit a whisker long. Well muscled, correctly angulated hindquarters. Pump handle tail carried well. Moved well.

3rd VALOURFORCE POSEIDEN – Red with white markings, 2 ½ years of age. Good strong head with depth through, strong muzzle, good bite, distinct stop and good dark round eyes. Head picture spoiled slightly by loose skin across skull and ears slightly too big. Well laid shoulders, good body well ribbed back. Sufficient bone and good feet. Level topline, however slightly too long in the coupling. Acceptable angulation in the rear, well muscled. Tail set slightly high but carried well. Could have demonstrated more drive on the move.

Open Dog

1st WAURSTAFFORD DRIVINFORCE – Lovely rich red, almost 3 years of age. The quality of this dog struck me as soon as he entered the ring. Excellent headpiece with plenty of cleanness about it, showing great depth through, distinct stop, strong muzzle, perfect scissor bite. Lovely round dark eyes, ears that balanced out the look of the head. Black muzzle on the red colour adding that finish to the overall look of the head. Whilst he wasn't keen to show expression, when he finally did the picture of an outstanding head was completed. Good muscular neck that settled into shoulders of correct angulation. Ribbing excellent, very good bone, good feet and plenty of strength about the pasterns. Excellent topline of correct length. Would have preferred just a whisker more angulation in the rear. Well muscled hindquarters, correct tail placement and carriage. This boy's primary asset is his movement, he moved around the ring effortlessly but with drive, outstanding in all directions. CHALLENGE DOG AND BEST IN SHOW.

2nd CH VERYSHARP PRETTY BOY – Black brindle, 3 years of age. Smaller in stature than many today. Very good head, deep through, good cheeks, distinct stop, strong clean muzzle, Good bite displaying unusually good breadth of jaw. Excellent dark round eyes, very good rose ears well set. Good neck, correct shoulder placement, very well ribbed, coming to hand well. Slightly excessive lightness about the loin for me, just minimally upsetting the balance of the body. Correct length. Would have preferred slightly more angulation in the rear. Good tail set and carriage. My preference would have been for more tone to his muscle. Moved well in profile and coming in.

3rd GADKEYS BOGGERT (IMP UK) – Black brindle, 4 years of age. Shorter compact style of Stafford with excellent head. Very good skull, cheeks, stop, strong muzzle although a little excessive in the flews. Good strong bite. Lovely dark and round eye. Ears well set and of correct size although a little thick in the leather. Nice muscular neck, correct shoulder angulation. Well ribbed, sufficient bone. Some weakness in pastern, good feet. Level topline of correct length, good tail set and carriage. Better angulation in the rear than the 2 ahead of him, but today his movement let him down badly going away.

Baby Puppy Bitch

1st VIPERSTAFF RED VENOM – Red, 5 ½ months old. Very well constructed young bitch displaying plenty of promise. Excellent head for her age. Good bite, strong muzzle, good depth through. Nice dark round eye. Ears a little big for the head at this stage, but I suspect with time she will grow into these. Excellent neck, shoulders very well placed, good bone. Feet a little untidy and need to tighten up. Excellent body, good level topline of correct length. Correct rear angulation. Excellent mover all ways.

2nd VIPERSTAFF BLACK VENOM – Brindle, 5 ½ months old. Quite literally a carbon copy of her litter sister ahead, albeit brindle in colour. Lost to her sister on movement.

3rd SHADOWSTAFF TIGER DREAM – Black brindle, 5 ½ months old. Considerably lighter on for substance than the 2 ahead, particularly about the head. Very good body, well laid shoulders, strong pasterns, good feet. Level topline of correct length, very well angulated rear, correct tail set. Wasn't that keen to move to day, and movement therefore difficult to assess.

Minor Puppy Bitch

1st ISHIROSS MISS ELOQUENCE – Black brindle with white markings, 8 months old. Shows plenty of promise. Lovely well proportioned feminine head, showing strength in the muzzle, good depth, nice stop, lovely dark eye that could be a whisker rounder, good bite. Ears a whisker big for the head they are on. Front angulation correct, Good bone and very good feet. Very well ribbed. Level topline. Could have slightly more angulation about the rear. Correct tail. Moved well.

2nd JEDASH TIGER LILY – Brindle bitch, 7 months old, Nice head, good depth, stop and muzzle. Good bite, nice round eye and good ears. Nice neck, but shoulder placement unfortunately too shallow, causing the overall appearance of the bitch to diminish starting with a severe dip in her topline, contributed to further by being quite straight in stifle.

Puppy Bitch

1st VERYSHARP MADAM FOO FOO – Black brindle, 11 months old. Plenty of quality about this one. Very nice clean head. Good depth, excellent stop, clean strong muzzle. Lovely dark and round eyes, excellent ears in all ways. Correct placement of shoulder, very good body, well ribbed and coming to hand also. Good bone. Short outside toes on front feet not her strong point, but overall only detracted slightly from an otherwise quality bitch. Good

length of back, level topline. Very good rear angulation. Correct pump handle tail. Moved well all directions.

2nd KNIGHTSKY INYA DREAMS – Red and white pied, 11 months old. Good strong feminine head, strong about the muzzle although not as clean as the one ahead of her. Good depth, distinct stop, dark round eye, well placed ears of correct size. Good neck, well laid shoulders, good bone and feet. Correct length of back, although rose over loin slightly. Good hindquarters in both muscle and angulation. Correct tail. Moved well.

3rd KNIGHTSKY WILDEST DREAMS – Brindle, 11 months old. Slightly lighter in substance to the 2 ahead of her. Carrying some sort of skin problem today. Very pleasant well proportioned and constructed feminine head, good bite, nice dark round eye, good ears. Correct angles in the forequarters, well ribbed, good bone and feet. Level topline, although would prefer it to be slightly shorter. Could have slightly better angulation in the rear. Moved well in profile and coming in.

Junior Bitch

1st ALADAR AS IT SHOULD BE – Black brindle, 15 months old. Very well constructed head showing all the correct proportions, good skull depth, stop and strong muzzle. Good bite. Round eyes that could be slightly darker given coat colour. Good ears. Well laid shoulders, excellent ribbing and bone. Very good feet. Good level topline, to be picky could be just a whisker shorter. Well turned stifles and muscled well in the rear. Tail set could be a little higher, carried well. Moved quite well in all directions.

2nd KNIGHTSKY CHASING DREAMS – Red, 11 months old noticeably giving away maturity in this class. Very good head, depth of skull impressive, distinct stop, strong muzzle, good bite. Round dark eyes and good ears. Very well laid shoulders, excellent bone. Good feet, but down a little in pastern. Not the ribbing of her competition and this is where maturity was against her. Correct length of back, level topline. Good tail set and carriage. Sufficient angulation in the rear. Moved well.

3rd SUPASOUND WISHING WELL – Brindle with white markings, 15 months old. Another lovely head with good depth of skull, distinct stop, strong muzzle, correct bite, lovely dark round eye, ears could be a whisker smaller for the head. Nice muscular neck, correct lay of shoulder, very well ribbed and came to hand well. Excellent bone, good feet. Correct length of back, but lost her topline somewhat when moving and this cost her a higher placing today. Good hindquarters, tail set and carriage.

Intermediate Bitch

1st WAURSTAFFORD DAME JULIE – Red, 20 months of age. Showing balance throughout, especially the head. Good depth of skull, distinct stop, strong muzzle, good bite, round dark eye. Lovely ears in both set and size. Neck of correct length and musculature. Shoulders possible a little upright compared to some. Beautiful body, with excellent ribbing and chest. Very good bone, strong pasterns. Feet could be more compact. Good level topline of correct length. Very good rear angulation. Excellent tail. Moved particularly well.

2nd BROOMSQUIRES BODDINGTON – Black brindle, almost 3 years old. Outstanding head proportions especially depth of skull. Good stop, excellent muzzle, very good bite. Hard to tell if her eyes had sufficient roundness as she squinted the whole time in the ring, which unfortunately spoiled expression and went against her. Eyes dark. Very nicely set on ears. Neck a whisker short affecting balance. Very good shoulders, excellent bone, good feet. Very well ribbed, Level topline, but perhaps a whisker long in back. Very well angulated and

muscular hindquarters. Good tail set and carriage. Moved well, but would have preferred more drive when moving in profile.

3rd SHADOWSTAFF HARMONY DREAM – Black brindle, 19 months old. Carrying too much weight and may have done better today if not for this. Very well balanced head of correct proportions but not quite to the quality of those ahead of her. Nice round dark eye, ears perhaps a little large for the head. Lovely muscular neck that sits well on correct shoulders. Excellent bone and feet. Very good, possibly best in the class, in the ribbing & chest areas. Correct length of back, lost topline slightly on the move which is probably more to do with her weight than anything else. Well angulated and muscled hind quarters. Moved well.

State Bred Bitch

1st NUKLNOZ DUCATI MONSTER – Black brindle, almost 4 years old. A bitch of good quality throughout, especially her head which is her key virtue. Excellent depth through, very good stop, excellent strength of muzzle, to be picky would like to see slightly less lip. Excellent bite. Wonderful dark round eyes of correct size. Beautiful ears. All this provided wonderful expression. Well balanced muscular neck. Correct lay of shoulder, good bone. Feet could have been a whisker tidier. Very well ribbed, good level topline of correct length. Stifles of sufficient bend, but to be picky would have preferred a bit more here. Good tail set and carriage. Moved well across and coming in. RESERVE CHALLENGE, and may have gone 1 better if she had displayed more presence in the ring.

2nd POWERFORD EYE CANDY – Brindle, almost 3 years old. Well put together bitch with a good head piece, although ears a little untidy which slightly spoiled to overall picture. Muzzle particularly good, excellent bite, nice round dark eyes. Well laid shoulders, good bone, slightly untidy and flat feet. Excellent ribbing, good length of back, although topline not as level as I prefer. Well muscled hindquarters with reasonable angulation. Moved quite well.

3rd WAURSTAFFORD FASCINATION – Red, 2 ½ years of age. Very pleasant feminine head well proportioned in all departments although muzzle could be stronger. Lovely dark round eyes. Ears just about perfect for the head in question. Very well muscled neck of correct length. Shoulders good, good bone and feet. Well ribbed, good chest. Topline not great in terms of being level, and also being a whisker long. Very good tail set and carriage. Good hindquarters. Moved well.

Australian Bred Bitch

1st RIVERHAVEN HATTIE – Red, 18 months old, not that happy about being here today. Very nice head, good strong muzzle with good bite, good stop, and depth through, well formed cheek muscles. Round eyes of colour acceptable in this coat colour. Very nice ears in both set and size. Correct length muscular neck sitting on well laid shoulders. Excellent bone and feet. Well ribbed, level topline of correct length. Would have preferred slightly better angulation in the rear. Moved well in all directions.

2nd BILSTONWAKE SHIRLEYWICH – Black brindle, 4 ½ years old. Well constructed head of good proportions. Good strong muzzle with good bite. Good cheeks and depth through skull. Eyes dark but inclined to be off round spoiling the expression. Good ears. Correct length neck. Shoulders a little loaded up giving a foreign look to the forequarters. Very good bone and feet. Topline not level and a whisker long. Well angulated and muscled rear.

Open Bitch

1st GR CH VERYSHARP REFELCTIONS – Black Brindle, 4 ½ years old. Took my eye pretty much straight away, and presented in excellent condition. Head of the highest order of quality. Excellent skull, cheeks and strong clean muzzle. Great dark round eye of correct size. Very tidy ears well set on and of right size. Perfect scissor bite with great breadth of jaw. Excellent neck of correct length and musculature. Well laid shoulders. Ribbing and chest excellent. Good bone, good feet, but could be slightly more up on pasterns. Good length of back, level topline. Well angled and muscled hindquarters. Correct pump handle tail. Movement away was slightly disappointing, (which in the end cost her when competing for Best In Show), but good in other directions. CHALLENGE BITCH AND RUNNER UP TO BEST IN SHOW.

2nd BROOKSTREET PENDERYSWAY – Red with white markings, 3 ½ years old. Outclassed today by carrying a bit too much weight for me. Lovely head, showing depth and good strong muzzle, excellent cheek development. Distinct stop. Good bite. Lovely dark round eyes. Ear leather a little thick, but well set on. Very well laid shoulders, and very good body provided by quality ribbing. Good bone and feet. Level topline (until it fell away a whisker over the croup) of good length. Good hindquarters. Moved well.

Neuter Bitch

1st SEIGHFORD SHOOTING STAR – Brindle, 3 years old, recently spayed due to Pyometra. Beautiful head of good proportions in all areas. Excellent depth through, good stop, excellent muzzle, good bite with adequate breadth of jaw. Nice round dark eyes, and good sized ears well set on. All provide for lovely expression. Correct length neck. Very well laid shoulders. Excellent bone. Pasterns a little weak, good feet. Good ribbing, maybe a whisker long in back, topline acceptable but does rise slightly over loin. Rear angulation acceptable, but not great. Very good tail set and carriage. Moved quite well in all directions.