

Judges Report – Southern Region Show
Chieveley Village Hall
Sunday 6th December 2015

I was delighted to be asked to judge the Southern Region show, and had a pretty good clear run down the 180 miles of motorway to the venue which was new to me. Storm Desmond had caused havoc over the Friday and Saturday before the show but we had no issues on the journey down other than a few cloudbursts and some buffeting due to high winds, all was well.

I was pleased to find a really nice hall with excellent facilities, in what looked to be a very nice Oxfordshire Village. There was much activity on entering the building with lot of exhibits (over 80) and plenty of people which was great to see...

We started by colour phasing all of the Standards and placing them back on the benches ready for judging... The first class up were five Medium-Dark Young standard Females and a 1st for Andrew Lee's female which was of good size and conformation, white belly and clear colour, but a little open over the hips. This girl became reserve Young female.

No second but a third for another of Andrews' chins which wasn't in the same condition or up to the level of the winner. Next came a large class of ten Medium Young females... Unfortunately these as a class were pretty poor and I was only able to award a third and a HC. The remaining eight chins which didn't win an award were weak furred, off colour and had poor density... I don't know if the bulk of these were carriers for recessive mutations or not but even chins of this type must be of quality and win good awards if the Violets, Sapphires, Charcoals or recessive Whites that they are bred off, and that you hope to produce from them in future, are to flourish and be any good.

Finally came the Dark class and a 1st for Heather Bonceys' female. This girl was just under the age limit and was a mature, large, blocky chin of good fur quality, fair density, white belly colour and good clarity. She went on to become Reserve Best Young Standard...

Two novice young females both showed promise and won a 2nd for Hannah Mitchell and a HC for Kayleigh Barber.

Onto the Young Standard Males. Three colour phases with class sizes of 2 and 3 chins brought a 1st in the Medium-Darks and a 1st in the Darks. The Medium-Dark was from Heather Boncey and was large and blocky, clear in colour but not that required blueness, and a little open furred especially over the hips. It was only 4 ½ months old so time to prime through and develop... This boy became reserve young male... The Dark 1st from Andrew Lee had some eye appeal, silky fur of good density with a white belly, acceptable size and good conformation, and showed well on the day. This boy went on to become reserve best Standard – very nice!

The Adult Standard females numbered five and were a disappointment. There was a 2nd awarded for Annie Thickins' small but extra-blocky chin which had some fur qualities but was down in clarity of colour. I think it is worth noting that a large animal must have length to the body as well as fullness of shape... A good test of this is to take a large or extra-large chin and place it on a table top. Hold the base of the tail flush with the edge of the table and as the chin stretches out, make a note of the length to the tip of the nose. We should be measuring towards 12" or 30cm for the largest, mature animals or more!!!

Three Adult Standard males came next, all colour phased as Darks. Just one 1st and no 2nd in this class, going to Sian Allcoat's chin which was of fair size and good conformation, silky fur type, reasonable density, well prepared and with a whitish belly. This chin looked very well on the day and deservedly went on to win Best Standard and Reserve Show Champion – Well done Sian!

The girls in the kitchen were preparing a Christmas Turkey lunch for everyone which was delightful, albeit a little delayed so I pressed on with the mutations.

In the youngsters we had 26 main show and 7 novice show entries which yielded 6 classes, Main Show;

Wilson Whites (6)

No first but a 2nd for Heather Bonceys' very young chin which had a lovely white belly, lots of standard veiling but was suffering with baby fur and a soft cotton-woolly coarse fur in the back which cost it a ribbon.

Beige (5)

Again a 2nd for a 4 month old chin from Georgie Busher which was well prepared, with fine strong fur type which was a little open but very good veiling. This chin was slightly down in colour with a creamy belly hence the 2nd place but has time to develop!

Sullivan Violets (7)

A large class giving a spread of five ribbons – nice to see! 1st for Andrew Lee's chin which was well prepared, of good size and conformation, good fur length in the neck, bright in clarity and eye appeal but with a slightly creamy belly. This chin became best Young Mutation.

Second went to another of Andrews which had very good veiling, fine dense fur and good size and shape, but again with a creamy belly and not the clarity of the winner. Other good awards for Stephen Helmore in this class for good animals beaten on the day...

AOC (4)

Just one first for a brown Velvet from Sian Allcoat. This chin had good size and conformation, very even veiling coverage, a reasonable fur type, perhaps slightly coarse in texture as you often see with this mutation, clear and bright colour, very well prepared but again with a slightly creamy belly. This chin was nice and in good show condition and became Reserve Young Mutation...

Black Velvet (4)

No first but a 2nd award for Lorraine Prince's youngster which had the best clarity and intensity of colour on the table, but the veiling wasn't as developed over the hips as I would have liked. Size and shape were OK and on another day perhaps could have done better as show condition improves.

Novice AOC (7)

All of the exhibits in the novice class deserved commendation and all got awards which was great to see. The best of the bunch were a 2nd ribbon for Collette Harris which was of good size and shape, well-groomed and of very even veiling coverage, but quite tinged which stopped award of a 1st. Another 2nd ribbon for Barber/Pearson's Self Black which was very nearly "every hair shiny black", bright in colour with good clarity, good veiling and intensity but soft fur over the hips and flanks which again cost it a place.

The Adult Mutations brought four colour phases in the main show;

Wilson White (4)

Four entries brought a 1st and eventual Best In Show for Andrew Lee. This chin was large and blocky, good fur length in the neck, strong stand-up fur of good density, attractive even veiling aside from a splotch of standard fur in the shoulder, and in good clean show condition – sharp white belly colour and very well prepared – Well done Andrew.

Sullivan Violet (4)

First and Second to Andrew Lee in this class in what was turning out to be a very successful show for him. The 1st was clear and bright with good conformation and reasonable size. This chin became Reserve Best Mutation. The 2nd ribbon winner was also a good chin but not so clear as the winner.

Black Velvet (3)

No first or second, but a third for Sian Allcoat's chin which wasn't of the desired intensity or veiling for an adult Black Velvet.

AOC (2)

Two beige chins made the AOC class, both from Georgie Busher. These chins weren't in top show condition on the day but had lovely sharp white belly colour and clarity which was good to see in Adult Beiges which so often oxidise...

Novice AOC (3)

Of particular note was Cameron Holmes' Sullivan Violet which gained a 1st on the day. This chin was large and blocky, with plenty of fur in the neck, good veiling coverage and well prepared, in very good clean show condition with a nice white belly. Clarity was acceptable and this chin won out to become the "Judges choice Novice Award" winner – Well done Cameron.

The eventual Best In Show was the Wilson White for Andrew Lee, closely followed with the Adult Standard male in Reserve for Sian Allcoat.

I would like to offer my congratulations to Andrew Lee who put in a huge effort in running the show (as did all the team) and also walked away with GSC and also 1st Standard AND Mutation Breeders Awards. Also congrats to Sian Allcoat for 2nd Standard Breeders Award AND Third mutation breeders award, and finally congrats to Heather Boncey and Georgie Busher for their breeders Award prizes.

Heather won the Exhibitors Award on the day, just pipping Sian Allcoat by a point, and all in all I think the ribbons and awards were shared around most if not all attendees.

Finally I would like to thank the Southern region for staging a highly successful event and would like to thank everyone in attendance for bringing your entries and hopefully for enjoying the day... Lunch was excellent with some fancy cup cakes for added sweetness, and I brought home a fantastic cake hand-made and decorated by Hannah Mitchell which I was delighted to win in the auction!

Richard Crutchley – NCS Senior Judge

