

Judges Report West Midlands & Wales Region
Calf Heath 12/10/2014

Had a pleasant journey down despite the foggy conditions and was greeted warmly by Sian, my JUI, and John Bradburn. I was ushered into the kitchen and presented with a bacon and egg butty cooked by John's fair hands. Delicious and very welcome washed down with a lovely cup of coffee.

All the standard animals were then colour phased and we began in the usual way with the young standard females. **Med. Dk. class** was the first class with five entries. The first was a nicely coloured animal with dense strong fur but veiling not complete. Second had similar fur quality but was not so well coloured and lacked a little at the shoulder. **Med class.** was headed by a very nice animal, big blocky with dense, strong stand up fur with clear colour but which could be a little brighter. This animal went on to become Best Young Std. female and Res. Young Std. The **Dark class** winner was a promising animal with good blue colour and quality fur but was out of condition, one for another day perhaps, though did get Reserve in section. The second was of similar quality but was also out of condition.

Young Std Males - Med.Dk class brought forward a very bright blue animal just over 4 months which showed good strong fur quality, and which went on to become Reserve in section. Second, was another well furred animal which was not so bright but had similar fur type. The **Dark class** was headed by a lovely animal of quality which went on to Best in Show despite being slightly out of condition (most animals were out of condition). He has lovely colour and coverage and showed himself very well. Second to him came a sharp, not so blue, animal with fine dense fur of high quality.

Adult Std. Females. Only 4 animals shown. This came down to a conflict between the Dark class winner and the Med Dark. Both had good size and conformation with strong stand up fur but the dark animal had better colour, brightness and veiling coverage, it also had better condition. She went on to become Res.Best in Show.

Adult Std. Males. This again came down to a struggle between the Med.Dk. and the Dark. The Med. Dk. animal was big and blocky with silky strong stand up fur, which had very nice colour and seemed to me at this stage to be my top winner but he failed against the brightness and extra blueness of the youngster. The Dark animal had dense rather shorter fur and didn't have the conformation of the Med. Dk. so was Reserve in Section.

Young Mutations - Beige Five were shown but only one of quality I am sorry to say. It did however become the Best in Section and then go to Res. Best Mutation. A nicely coloured big blocky animal with plenty of dense strong stand up fur, it should have a good future. **Black Velvet.** The winner and Reserve in Section had good size and conformation with well covered clear blue/black mutation fur. The second had similar qualities to the first but was intense black thus lacking that elusive blueness but with reasonable brightness. **Self Black.** A nicely covered black wrap around animal led the class. The fur was of good quality but somewhat short and it was a little narrow at the neck and shoulder. Second was an animal which was not so intense black, but showed to be blue where the black mutation fur faded on the flanks. **Sullivan Violet.** A good class of animals. Leading was an animal of good quality, which has strong stand up fur of a lovely deep colour and sheen. I felt it needed to be a little brighter. The second had more open fur which was a clearer blue but not so intense as the first.

Prominent among the Novice Young Mutations were a nice, though small, Black Velvet which I guess is related to the Reserve Adult Mutation shown by Lorraine Prince. Also a rather nice Pink White shown by Cameron Holmes, which had reasonable colour.

Adult Mutations. Black Velvet. A very large class in that the first two animals placed first and second respectively were huge. The winner had a conformation which transcended what is considered ideal, however, it did have many other excellent qualities in abundance. It went on to become Best Mutation. Second in the class was very similar but not so bulky as to spoil its outline. It had good quality fur and excellent mutation fur coverage but it wasn't in top condition. **AOC.** Only one animal of high quality here was a Pink White which had lots of strong upright fur but its colour was just a little too peachy. A nice animal, with good size and conformation.

Novice Adult Mutations. Black Velvet. Two animals here of quality, the winner was a lovely shape but somewhat small. It was absolutely bang in condition and had tight dense strong upright fur with excellent mutation coverage. Showed to its absolute best, it went on to become Res. Best Adult Mutation. The second animal from the same herd was also of similar quality but hadn't the finish of the winner. Well done Lorraine. I awarded a third to a wraparound **Self Black** which was small but with reasonable shape and fur type.

I enjoyed the show and the company of Sian, who contributed and received information readily. Thanks Sian and thank you all for exhibiting to make it a successful show.

Eddie Crutchley