

## West Midlands & Wales Region Show at Bugbrook December 9<sup>th</sup> 2012

Richard and I set out with high hope of reaching Bugbrook in plenty of time. We unfortunately were delayed considerably by a slow moving wide load on the M1 which caused a monumental build up of traffic which resulted in us being only a few minutes before scheduled start.

After a very welcome warming coffee we started the judging.

The Young Standard Females were disappointing with only the dark colour phase entry taking a 1<sup>st</sup> ribbon. This animal went on to become Best Standard. She was big and blocky with good size and conformation with sharpness of colour to the strong upright fur.

The Young Standard Males were even more disappointing as there were no animals worthy of a 1<sup>st</sup> place. A 2<sup>nd</sup> ribbon was awarded to a big blocky Med. Dk. male with plenty of nicely covered fur but it was quite dull. The Novice animals in this section had 2<sup>nd</sup> ribbons awarded to the Med. Dk. which had similar properties to that described above but was on the small side and the fur showed patches of wooliness. The Med. animal was of good conformation and reasonable size with very strong upright fur supported by guard hair which was rather too long. This tended to detract from the overall appearance. Strangely, with such strong guard hair, the fur was quite open.

Adult Standard Females were given a 2<sup>nd</sup> for a Med. Colour phase animal which was quite clear with a nice blueness showing through. Whilst it was ok for conformation it was down in size and its fur was rather choppy. Novice animals in this section fared somewhat better as 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Dk. colour phase became Best & Reserve in section. The 1<sup>st</sup> had good size and conformation with fine fur of good colour but I felt it could be even better if it filled more in the shoulder. The 2<sup>nd</sup> animal was very similar to the above but was not quite as clear and was breaking a little on the flanks. Well done to you both.

Only one Adult Standard Male was shown of any quality which was a Dark having nice size and conformation with good quality fur of correct

colour but it needed to be sharper which will perhaps come as it nears to finish prime. This animal went on to become reserve Standard animal.

*To say that I was disappointed in the standard animals is an understatement. The backbone of any herd of chinchilla is the STANDARD and to that end it is important to have good quality animals to support any mutations you may care to breed. Pairing mutations together will eventually lead to reduced fur quality which is of paramount importance in quality chinchilla.*

Young Mutations began with a class of Beige animals the 1<sup>st</sup> of which was a clearly coloured blocky type with really good coverage but the fur was somewhat open. Third in this class was another of similar fur quality and density but was shorter, it also lacked in size.

There were three Black Velvets of reasonable quality. The 1<sup>st</sup> had strong fur of an intense blue-black which spread well down the flanks and whilst it had good size it did appear slightly hippy. Second in the class was reasonable in size and conformation but had less intense colour on rather denser fur. The third was similar to the former but was less intense again and only along the back. One other animal of note was an Ebony awarded a 2<sup>nd</sup>. It was not every hair shiny black which is what we aspire to but it was very close, indeed when it primes further it may well have that quality. It was of good size for its age but conformation was not its fortune, as in so many of this colour.

Novice animals were represented in this section by a class of Sullivan Violets where I awarded a 3<sup>rd</sup> to a nicely coloured animal without that classy sheen. Conformation good but could be larger.

Adult Mutations had only two first winners. A Black Velvet of really good quality having dense fur of intense black colour with good size and conformation together with eye appeal. The 2<sup>nd</sup> to this animal was indeed enormous and if anything was the bluer of the two but was unfortunately breaking down the sides. The other 1<sup>st</sup> ribbon was awarded to a lovely Beige which was big and strong and had dense but somewhat coarse fur but the quality could not be denied. The Black Velvet went on to Best in Show and the Beige to Reserve Best in Show,

richly deserved. Novices also came to the fore in this section notably a Black Velvet with intense black colour which unfortunately didn't extend far enough down the flanks. The fur quality was good as was size and conformation. Also a Sullivan Violet which was big and blocky with silky strong stand up fur, an attribute not often seen on this day, had it been brighter it would have been a real contender for honours.

I was very pleased to see so many new faces at this show and hope that my comments during the show which were intended to be constructive were acceted in the same manner. Thank you for inviting me.  
Eddie Crutchley.