

Show Report – 2011 NCS NATIONAL SHOW
10th April 2011, Coven, Senior Judge: - Eddie Crutchley

Just prior to the date of the show I was informed that several unnamed people had indicated that they would not show if another member was showing their animals. I was further informed that the member in question had been asked not to enter in order that the show would not suffer from a lower entry. We have rules which govern our shows and we all enter our animals in the belief that they are healthy, indeed we enter them declaring that they have not knowingly been in contact with any disease for the previous 28 days. These rules have served us well for many years past, relying on the trust between members. When we enter animals we rely on trust for both the sex and age of each animal. What has happened to that trust? Why not contact the person in question and ask about the health of their animals? If that had been done, reassurance would have been given that no animal in that establishment had been unwell for at least two months, which complies with the rules. I must say that this episode appalled me and I did consider very carefully withdrawing from my undertaking to judge. I spoke at length with the person in question who, although deeply hurt by the inferred allegations, did wish me to fulfil my appointment. This I did in the sincere hope that the majority of members would be showing in good faith.

Regrettably, due to the late date of the show and the unseasonable weather, very few animals were in good condition. Many animals were in such poor condition that they were returned to the benches almost immediately, but I thank you for entering them. Most animals were not in show condition so I endeavoured to look passed this and searched for the qualities which were partially hidden. It was difficult and time consuming to try to decipher level of award and I apologise for the length of time taken to achieve this aim.

Colour phasing was achieved with minimal fuss, and the Young Standard Females started the judging. The Medium-Darks were headed by a nice blocky clear animal with good conformation which went on to become Reserve Std. Female. Second in the class was similar in all respects but more out of condition. A large class of Mediums, all lacking in condition, followed. A second ribbon was awarded to a nice animal with strong almost silky stand up fur which was clear and blue. The third in the class was big and blocky but rather dull. There was only one Dark which became the Best Young Std. and Reserve Std. Animal she had good size and conformation with well veiled silky strong fur just paling on the flanks.

The Medium-Dark Males proved to be a good class. The first animal was a lovely youngster with good size and conformation with strong, stand up fur, showing like a trouper and although lacking a little in coverage went on to become Best Young Std. Male and Reserve Young Std. Animal. The second was very similar in all respects was a little older but just dropped further in condition but was good enough to become Reserve Young Std. Male. The Medium phase again only produced a second for a clear blocky well covered animal with plenty of dense fur but unfortunately the tips of the fur were lying back. The Dark colour phase animals showed a further drop in condition. The first and second were good in

size and conformation with good coverage and strong fur, however the first was clearer and bluer. On another day perhaps!

The Medium-Dark Adult Females were next and regrettably they were all down in condition. A first was awarded to a big blocky animal with strong stand up fur with reasonable clarity which might well improve with better condition. She was good enough to go on to Best Adult Female and Reserve Best Std. Animal. The second animal in the class had silky strong fur in the middle of the back, though the tips were slightly woolly. Third in class had the best density but was further down in condition. The Mediums were led by a big blocky animal with very good coverage and dense strong stand up fur which was clear but could be bluer. She deservedly took Reserve Best Adult Female and I was later informed that she was an Afro-Violet carrier. The Dark colour phase was disappointing as they showed much more lack of condition, as dark animals tend to do. Two very similar animals were given a second and third, both had signs of silkiness in the middle of the back where the fur was strong and upright. The higher award went to the slightly clearer of the two.

The Medium-Dark Males brought forward a most pleasing animal with eye appeal. It had silky strong stand up fur together with good clarity, size and conformation. However it had to pay the penalty for a cage stained belly fur but did gain Reserve Best Adult Male. The second in the class had good size and conformation with strong blue upright fur which could be longer. No awards were given in the Medium colour phase. The Dark males were much better, the leader had good size and conformation with dense strong upright fur and great coverage of clear bluish colour. I thought at the time that I had found my overall winner, as it was he had to pay the penalty for quite a lot of breaking in the neck and shoulder. Nevertheless this is a quality animal and gained Best Adult Male, Best Std. Animal and Reserve Show Champion. Second in the class had good size and conformation and lovely coverage of blue strong upright fur which could be denser. The Adult Std. Male prevailed over the Young Std. Female on conformation and density of fur for Best Std. Animal.

The Young Mutations were headed by quite a nice class of Beige animals the first of which had lovely clear blue colour. It had nice size and conformation and nice fine fur which could be longer. Second was a darker colour phase with very similar qualities to the first animal but the fur which was dense and upright was rather short.

Black Velvets again had two really nice animals in the top places. First was a good size animal for five and a half months with plenty of eye appeal. It has quality fur of a lovely blue/black colour and nice coverage. The second could have been a brother as they were so similar but the coverage was not so good in the neck. They well deserved to take Best and Reserve Best Young Mutation. A Pink-White of good size and conformation had a first. It had plenty of fur but there may be a need to watch the colour as there was a hint of creaminess. The other Pink-White had lovely colour but was rather small and narrow. I gave a second to a Brown Velvet which had good coverage of a lovely blue/beige colour but felt it lacked a little in size and conformation.

Quite a nice group of Wilson-Whites were presented as the first class in the Adult Mutations. Heading this class was a really clear Persil blue-white animal with strong upright fur of good length and good size and conformation. The second animal had lovely fine fur

but lacked the blockiness of the first and there was a slight creaminess about it. The third was similar to the second but the fur was not so fine.

Three Pink-Whites were next, the first and second were difficult to separate and were of high quality. Both were good in conformation but could be somewhat larger, the fur was strong and upright and both were clear and blue. The first had that lovely hint of peachiness so desired in this colour group which gave it the edge over the second which had rather more, but was still acceptable. The third in the class was a good big blocky animal with plenty of strong fur but could not match the two above for colour, as it appeared quite dull beside them.

A nice sized blocky animal with plenty of strong stand up fur of correct Blue-beige colour headed the Beige class. Second was similar in size and conformation and had silky strong stand up fur which was blue but did not have the clarity of the first. The third animal had similar qualities to those above but was hippy.

First in Brown Velvets was a short very blocky animal with dense well covered lovely clear blue-beige mutation fur underlined with the necessary black, would be better with a little more length in the body. Second was a very similar animal but the fur was rather woolly.

Sullivan Violets produced a first for a dense tight furred animal well covered with lovely violet-blue fur and necessary velvety sheen, I would have preferred it a little larger. Second in the class was similar to the first but was not so clear in colour, though the fur was longer.

A Deutsch Violet received a second award, it had good size and conformation with good strength of fur in the back and had a lovely clear blue colour however it showed lack of condition being rather open on the sides and flanks.

A Self-Brown gained a second ribbon, it had good size and conformation with dense fur in the back. The colour was good with some blueness and was well wrapped around but it too had very open fur on the flanks. The Self-black was given a third having similar qualities to the Self-brown but was even further lacking in condition.

Black Velvets proved to be the best class of the show, they were all of very high quality and I could have given firsts to at least the first four in the class. First was a lovely blocky animal of acceptable size which never stopped showing himself to the best. With good dense silky strong upright blue-black fur well covered right down the flanks he was a very worthy winner. Second in the class ran him very close, not quite as blocky but with very intense dense black fur with a hint of blueness he held first place for a while. However he was slightly dirty in the belly with cage stain and had to give way. I understand that he had been taken out of breeding to take part so he acquitted himself very well. The next two animals in line were like peas in a pod having good size and conformation with really clear blue colour but they lacked in extension of the black mutation fur compared to those above. No doubt they will have their day next season.

The Adult Black Velvet went on to Best Adult Mutation, Best Mutation and Show Champion. Reserve Adult Mutation and Reserve Mutation was the Pink-White which was another which never stopped showing. The Pink-White was narrowly pipped for Reserve Show Champion by the Dark Adult Std. which had deteriorated during the show but which could not be denied his great quality and density of fur.

In general the mutations had much better condition than the standards which did give them the edge and best condition of all was in those from Scotland by the looks of the results. As a general comment I would say that the late date of the show and the rather unseasonable weather which we have all experienced this year have combined to produce a very difficult show to judge.

Eddie Crutchley – NCS Senior Judge

