

Show Report – Midlands & Wales Region Show, Gaydon

13/11/2011

Judge: - Lyn Gardner

62 Entries, 35 Standards (5 Novice) & 27 Mutations (6 Novice) +5 Xclass

The village hall in Gaydon was the new venue for this show and proved easy to find with good access from the M40.. A pretty, very old building met the needs for this show, but only just! The entry of 66 chins was benched behind the judging tables, and left a reasonable amount of room for the exhibitors, but I fear that had the entry been higher, it would have been a tight squeeze!

The judging began with the colour phasing of the young standards, and the first class was of 5 medium dark young females. I awarded 5 ribbons. The 1st ribbon was well prepared, with even coverage and good size and conformation, and took Best Young Female for Kerry Bradburn. The 2nd ribbon was sharp in colour but was priming noticeably, but good enough to take Reserve Young Standard Female, again for Kerry.

The medium phase class followed, again 5 animals. No 1st award, the 2nd was priming and light over the hips. It also had comb lines left in the fur which didn't help.

There were 3 Novice young Females, and again no 1st award. The 2nd was okay for size, but light over the hips and dull.

The medium dark males, 5 in number came next. The 1st ribbon had good conformation and condition, with nice even coverage, and took the awards for Best Young Standard Male and Best Young Standard, once again for Kerry. The 2nd ribbon was light over the hips and smaller in size.

There was just 1 animal in the dark phase and I awarded this a 1st. It was in lovely condition with good veiling right down the sides, and won the award for Reserve Young Standard Male and Reserve Young Standard, also for Kerry.

There was just 1 Novice Young Standard Male, colour phased medium, and I awarded a 2nd. I remarked that this animal will improve with time, but was light over the hips and priming badly.

There were 7 Adult Standard Females in 3 colour phases. The 1 medium was awarded a 2nd ribbon and was dull and out of condition. The 1st ribbon medium dark was big and blocky and in reasonable condition, the 2nd award had a quantity of loose fur over the back but was a reasonable colour. The Best Adult Standard Female and the Reserve both came from the dark class for Kerry. The 1st ribbon was sharp with good coverage and conformation and was ok for size; the 2nd was not so sharp for colour and was a little open in the centre back. Again just 1 entry in the Novice Adult Standard Females, and I gave a 2nd ribbon. This was a good novice female but a little on the small side.

There were 6 Adult Standard Males, in 2 colour phases. The medium dark did not obtain a 1st award, but merited a 2nd for a smallish adult male, with fairly tight fur, the 3rd award had better conformation, but was open furred and dull.

A 1st and 2nd award for the 2 entries in the dark phase, both for Kerry. The 1st was a large clear bright chin, and long furred, which unfortunately was way out of condition on the day. The 2nd award had tighter fur but was priming and the fur was breaking quite badly. The 1st award however was a lovely male and took all the top standard awards, right through to Reserve Show Champion. The 2nd ribbon also took Reserve Adult Standard Male.

After a break for a splendid buffet lunch and a chat, we resumed with the first class of Young Mutations, the Wilson Whites. I gave 3 awards to the 4 entries. The 1st, for Kerry had good even coverage, with good size and conformation. The 2nd ribbon was a longer furred animal, bright but a little open furred and woolly.

6 black velvets followed and I gave 5 of them an award. The 1st, for Lisa Proctor, was a well covered young black, sharp for colour and won the award for Reserve Best Young Mutation. The 2nd ribbon also had good coverage but was not so sharp for colour. 6 AOC entries came next and I awarded a 1st to a lovely Ultra Violet that was in just about perfect condition on the day. It had lovely, tight fur, good size and conformation. Sadly, as with almost all the entries on the day, it had no blueness to it, which is something I really would like to see more of. This chin went on to take the top award of Show Champion for Rosemary Paxman. I also awarded a 2nd ribbon to a self black that was a little narrow in the shoulders and not fully black, and a 2nd award for a brown velvet that was in good condition, long furred but not great colour. There were 4 Novice Young Mutations. I awarded a 1st ribbon to a black velvet from Annie Thickers. This had reasonable coverage and good colour, but was still a little light on the sides. The 3rd award black velvet, from Andrew Lee needed more coverage, but was a reasonable colour. The Sullivan violet gained a 2nd award for Andrew, with good colour and size, but it had long fur with a tendency to lay back.

5 entries in the Adult Mutations, classed AOC was the penultimate class of the day. A 1st Wilson white from Kerry was large with good conformation, but was a little grubby and slightly past it's best, but did take the award for Reserve Best Mutation. A 1st black velvet, again from Kerry was a good size and had even coverage, but was out of condition and breaking badly in the neck. I gave a 2nd award to a self black that had good coverage but was very narrow across the shoulders.

2 adult Sullivan violets in the Novice Adult Mutations brought the show to its last class, and a 1st and 2nd award were given to Andrew for two animals with good conformation and reasonable colour.

The damp conditions we have all experienced lately contributed to the out of condition comments on nearly every animal, and I'm sure that with a cold, dry spell, many of them will look so much better, and this will be reflected in the awards.

I must congratulate Rosemary on her very first win, and it was a shame she was unable to be at the show due to ill health, but well done to Annie Thickers who groomed the ultra violet for her and made an excellent job of it!

I would like to thank the West Midlands organisers for a good show, and look forward to the next one.

Lyn Gardner