

Show Report –West Mids & Wales Show, Calf Heath, 30th Jan 2011

Judge: - Lyn Gardner

This WMW show was held at Calf Heath near Wolverhampton for the first time, and attracted 88 entries, the second largest entry of the season so far!

After a leisurely cup of coffee and very tasty bacon rolls courtesy of Stephen Helmore's daughter Laura, I began with the Young Standard Females Medium-Dark phase. All were out of condition, but the 1st ribbon from Rich Huxley had nice tight fur, with reasonable colour. The 2nd was a good size and conformation and the 3rd was also good colour but not so tight fur.

The Medium phase was next with no 1st award. The 2nd was open furred and a little on the woolly side, the 3rd ribbon being very similar.

The Dark phase were much better! The 1st ribbon from Kerry Bradburn was lovely and sharp for colour with strong stand up fur, and took the award for Best Young Standard Female and Best Young Standard. The 2nd award had short fur that was also tight and won Res Young Female again for Kerry.

The Novice Young Females were awarded 1, 2, 3. The 1st from Annie Thickers was of a lighter colour phase and lacked a little condition, but a nice female. The 2nd was also a good youngster, this time from Lisa Proctor, with very open fur, that will also benefit from time to condition.

The Young Standard Males began with a class of Medium-Darks. The 1st ribbon went to Kerry for a chin with clear colour and tight fur that was of good size, with the 2nd also from Kerry which was a really jumbo sized youngster with less veiling coverage than the 1st.

The Dark phase produced the Best Young Standard Male for Kerry, a good sized animal with tight fur. The 2nd this time from Barry Thornton was also tight furred but not such a good colour.

The Medium phase produced a 1st for Kerry that was big, blocky and blue!, and good enough for Res Young Standard Male.

The Novice young males produced 2 HC's both for Alan and Carole Mills.

Adult Standard Females were next up and the Medium-Dark phase gave a 1st for Heather Boncey which was breaking and very choppy. The 2nd was very out of condition, but should make a good breeding female as should the HC which was a little grubby but good size.

The Dark phase was a little better and produced the Best Adult Female for Barry Thornton. This chin was out of condition, but was big and blocky with strong upright fur. The 2nd from Heather Boncey was even more out of condition but had tight even fur and took Res Adult Female.

There were no awards in the Novice class.

The Adult standard males, Medium-Dark phase were all out of condition and I did not award a 1st ribbon. The 2nd was a little small and the fur was choppy and the HC was large in size but the fur was breaking badly.

In the Dark phase the 1st ribbon winner took the penultimate Res. Adult Standard honour for a superb animal. It had short but strong fur with a clear white belly. The 1st extra dark,

had really plushy fur, like velvet, excellent veiling and lovely colour. It thoroughly deserved the top honour of the day for Kerry. Unfortunately the novice males were not up to scratch and I did not award any ribbons.

We then had a break for lunch, a superb buffet, and resumed in the early afternoon with a Young Mutation class of Wilson Whites. The 1st ribbon from Heather had good guard hair, which made it attractive was a good size, with no 2nd award. The 3rd was rather creamy in colour and appeared to have slightly twisted fur in the centre of the back, and the HC was a clear colour but on the small side and narrow in the shoulders.

The AOC class came next, just 2 Beige animals. The 1st was a good size, lovely neck and well prepared, taking Best Young Mutation for Kerry. The HC ribbon was a very pretty chin but very young, small and not ready for the show bench!

The 1st in the Sullivan Violet class was a reasonable colour and had tight fur, with the 2nd slightly down in colour to the 1st - both exhibited by Stephen Helmore.

The Black Velvet class produced the Reserve Show Champion for Kerry, with a lovely 5 month old chin, sharp for colour – a blue black, coverage very good for such a young black, and I look forward to seeing this chin in the later shows. The 2nd ribbon, again from Kerry also had good coverage, but a light halo in the neck, and the 3rd was not so well covered and was open furred.

A class of Self Blacks followed and gained a 1st, 2nd and HC ribbon, all for Jacci Shaw. The 1st was a good size and shape with a lack of coverage around the sides, the 2nd was the characteristic “shiny black” but was small and the HC was wedgy and dull.

The Novice Young Mutations began with a class of Beige animals. No 1st award, with the 2nd being small, but had a small amount of strong fur in the middle of the back, and the 3rd award was quite gingery in colour, which I believe was off colour, not oxidisation, due to the animals young age. The 2 animals in the AOC class both had 2nd ribbons. The Wilson White from Lisa Proctor had strong guard hair, was well prepared but a little creamy in colour. The Self Black from Alan and Carole Mills was a good size but was not black all over.

The Adult Mutations were few in number with 1st and 2nd Wilson Whites taking top awards for Barry Thornton. The 1st was a clear colour with strong guard hair; the 2nd was a little woolly on the sides and open in the neck. The Black Velvet from Rich Huxley gained a 2nd award, was small and a little necky, but had good colour - the mutation coverage needed to come further down, and will improve as the animal ages.

The 1st Sullivan Violet from Stephen Helmore was well prepared with tight fur, but flat colour. It also had a grubby line under its chin which stopped it from taking a higher award! The show finished in good time and was much enjoyed by all. I had a great day and according to recent feedback, didn't upset too many people.

Lyn Gardner – NCS Judge