

Show Report – W. Mids & Wales Show, Gaydon, 11th Nov 2012

Judge: - Stephen Helmore

Everything seemed to be going well on the morning until Sian and I went to set up the show lights and the realisation that I had left the light tubes in Devon!

However the day was saved by Eddie Crutchley who did an about turn having already travelled half way to Gaydon and meeting up with Richard and his wife somewhere in between who brought the North Region tubes to our rescue!

The young standard females and males were colour phased but when brought up for judging we did not have more than 2 chins in any colour phase to make a class and all were judged under A.O.C class rules.

To continue with the unusual we started with 2 Medium Dark Novice young females. A 2nd award was given to Annie Thickins for a bright but smallish chin with a clean white belly and reasonable fur type and strength. We then moved to a Medium young female, which also had a 2nd ribbon award for Kerry Bradburn, with good size for just 5 months, clear but not bright colour and a weaker fur strength with slight tipping at the ends. Two Medium Novice females produced 3rd and HC awards.

We then went onto 2 Dark colour phase females with our first 1st ribbon for Kerry with a 6 ½ month nicely developed female with good size, dense strong fur with good veiling and clear white belly. A 2nd ribbon for Barry and Sue Thornton with a smaller chin at 4 months and 1 day with strong fur in the back but much softer baby fur on the flanks; a bit narrow in the shoulders which hopefully will develop into a good chin.

Our best 2 young females came in the Extra Dark colour phase, both brought by Kerry, with the 1st being a large full necked chin with excellent veiling coverage, strong dense fur and clear colour – she also became Best Young Standard and Reserve Show Champion. The 2nd was a younger chin at 5 months; she was a brighter colour, intensely dark in the back but faded over the sides with immature softer fur. She will develop to be a very good chin.

The 5 young males divided into 3 colour phases were also judged under A.O.C class rules. All 5 were shown by Kerry producing three 1st ribbons and two 2nd's.

2 Medium Darks were divided by their age and maturity with the 6 ½ month having good size, strong fur with good veiling and clear colour with 2nd at 4 months was slightly brighter in colour and excellent size for his age but the fur was a much softer baby type.

The 2 Dark males also split with similar age difference but the 4 month and 3 day chin received 1st ribbon for his excellent blue colour, strong silky fur but not finished in the neck having the decision over the older blocky chin with strong dense fur but he was a grade down on brightness of colour. These 2 chins were Best and Reserve Young Standard Males with the 1st becoming Reserve Best Young Standard. The single Extra Dark male was also 4 months and 3 days, had a bright colour, with strong fur type that was still finishing over the sides and hips.

The Adult Standards were also colour phased but with only 4 females and 5 males all were judged in respective A.O.C classes.

The one Medium female from Barry and Sue was only 7 months and 1 day received an HC for her best attribute having clear colour and will hopefully develop.

Two Medium Darks had a 1st and 3rd for Kerry. The 1st had very good size, clear colour with strong dense fur and clear white belly. The 3rd dropped away on the 1st in all departments except for a good strong silky fur type. The Dark female from Kerry was the best of the adult females and Reserve Best Adult with very good size, bright colour, strong and dense fur type with good veiling coverage down the sides.

The Adult Males had a 3rd for Barry and Sue in the Medium colour phase, not as big as the females he was bright and clear but the fur was open and not as dense and strong.

The 2 Darks had a 1st for Kerry and a 2nd for Richard Lowe. Two similar chins being divided in finish with Richards' still priming over the hips. The 1st had strong dense fur, good size and better than clear colour – he became Reserve Best Adult Standard Male. The 2 Extra Dark chins – both from Kerry, had a 1st and 2nd Ribbon Awards with 1st being a very large excellent chin - really strong silky dense fur with veiling coverage right down to a clear white belly. He became best of everything to become our Show Champion. The 2nd was also a good chin but breaking in the neck with the fur not as dense as the 1st.

A single Novice entry from Andrew Lee had a 3rd award for a smallish male probably just over 7 months that was clear but with a weaker fur that was tipping at the ends.

After a filling buffet lunch we progressed to the Young Mutations that started with a class of 5 Pink Whites. 1st and 2nd in the class were both from Kerry. The 1st was a large “white” colour that had really strong fur type with 2nd a young 4 ½ month blocky chin with good fur strength and bred from a Brown Velvet had a pleasing “almondy” colour.

We then had a class of 5 Beiges with 1st, 2nd, 3rd and HC ribbon awards. The 1st was from Lisa Proctor and 2nd from Kerry - both had excellent fur type with plushy strong silky fur with Sandy King's 3rd place being the better colour of the three but had a weaker open type of fur. Lisa's Beige went on to become the Best Young Mutation.

A class of 6 Black Velvets also had a 1st, 2nd, 3rd and HC ribbons but Sandy's 1st was very much superior with very good black mutation fur coverage down the sides with an intense black colour and a strong fur type that became our Reserve Best Young Mutation. Georgie Busher's 2nd had a very good plushy fur type with reasonably good coverage and intensity.

The A.O.C class had a 1st for a Sullivan Violet from Kerry, a good type with good colour but could be blockier and stronger furred. A 2nd went to Barry and Sue's Self Black with good wrap around black coverage and clear colour, narrow shoulders but good for its type. Also a 2nd for Sandy's Wilson White with good size and blocky conformation and having an attractive silver tipping coverage.

In the Novice Young Mutations we had a class of Wilson Whites with Denise Oaten receiving a 2nd award for a good type of chin that also had a silver tipping coverage, however the fur strength was not that strong with Annie's 3rd having a stronger fur type and blocky conformation, but it had a large grey area with a creamy white patch. Denise also had a 2nd for a Pink White that again was a reasonable type of chin and needs to be bred to a good standard.

With 3 Adult Main Show Mutations in an A.O.C Class — A 1st Ribbon and Best Adult Mutation and Best Mutation went to Kerry's Pink White for a large chin with beautiful strong plushy fur, a slightly creamy “white” rather than the beige “almond” but still a very good chinchilla. A 2nd for Sandy's Beige with clear colour and plushy fur type that was soft down the flanks and probably just over the 7 months. A 2nd for Kerry's Black Velvet – A very

large chin with an intense black mutation fur and coverage but down on colour and dull on the day with no brightness.

In the Novice Adult Mutations we had a class of 3 Pink Whites with a 1st to Diane Bingham, with a good plushy fur type and reasonable size and conformation with just a slight tinge to its colour. Annie received a 3rd award for a reasonable chin but not as good a fur type or strength to the 1st. A class of 4 Sullivan Violets had a 1st for Andrew Lee for a good chin, large size , a clear colour with a sheen and reasonably strong fur type that was slightly soft on the flanks - this chin went onto compete with the main show chins and was Reserve Best Adult Mutation and Reserve Best Mutation. Cameron Holmes had a 3rd for his smaller chin with good colour and fur type but lacked condition and preparation which will come with experience.

Congratulations to Kerry for bringing both Show and Reserve Show Champions. Thank you also to all those that helped and brought their chins to make a successful day! Again my special thanks to Eddie for saving the day – I don't think I will leave the tubes at home again!!

Stephen Helmore – NCS Senior Judge