

## **Show Results – The National Show, Calf Heath, 24<sup>th</sup> March 2013**

### **Judge: - Stephen Helmore**

We had been clear of snow in Devon but temperatures were close to zero all the way up the M5 on the morning of the show. However, things dramatically changed when we joined the M6, all the countryside turned white and the motorway went down to 2 lanes, with the outside lane white and icy. At junction 12 the A5 had been cleared as had the lane down to Calf Heath Village Hall but the car park had a 70mm covering of crisp white snow. Several members had exited at junction 11 and were not so fortunate and needed the assistance of the locals and their 4 x 4's to get them back to us in one piece. Understandably, we were down on entries but we still had a good cross section of exhibitors from the regions with James Buchan and Steven King managing to venture down from Scotland.

With a warm hall and having been fortified by two bacon sandwiches, the show commenced after colour phasing the young standards. The first class of 5 Medium Dark young standard females came to the table at 11.35a.m.. 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> ribbons went to Kerry Bradburn. The 1<sup>st</sup> had a dense strong upright fur with blue colour priming over the hips with the younger 2<sup>nd</sup> ribbon chin having better conformation but at 5 months didn't have the fur strength of the 1<sup>st</sup> that became our Reserve Best Young Female. A class of 6 mediums followed with a 1<sup>st</sup> to Denise Oaten's 5 month chin, bright and reasonably strong fur type that was breaking in the neck, with 2<sup>nd</sup> to Kerry's 4 month chin that had slightly bluer colour but a softer and more open baby fur. The Best Young Female came from the class of 4 darks. Kerry's 1<sup>st</sup> had good size and conformation, good colour with a silky fur type and excellent veiling coverage with a 2<sup>nd</sup> also from Kerry a similar type but at under 5 months was younger and smaller. There was 1 extra dark female with a 3<sup>rd</sup> ribbon from Kerry.

The Young Standard Males started with a class of 5 Medium Darks. The 1<sup>st</sup> was a 5 mth chin that had a good colour and strong silky fur that was slightly open on the flanks, 2<sup>nd</sup> was a larger blocky chin that wasn't as blue as the 1<sup>st</sup>, both from Kerry. The Dark class of 4 had a 1<sup>st</sup> from Kerry that was older of the group with a longer and strong dense fur type with good veiling. The younger 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> chins were both slightly bluer than the 1<sup>st</sup> which became Reserve Best Young Male and Reserve Best Young Standard. The Extra Dark Class had a clean sweep of 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and HC for Kerry. The 1<sup>st</sup> at 51/2 months was well grown and a really good chin, slightly out of prime on the hips he had very good blue colour and a strong silky dense fur type. He became our Best Young Male, Best Young Standard, Reserve Best Standard and Reserve Show Champion. A single medium male received a HC ribbon.

We then colour phased the Adult Standards before commencing with a class of 9 Medium Dark Adult Females. The 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> ribbon winners all from Kerry, none of which were in top condition with the 1<sup>st</sup> a good blocky female, good colour and tight dense fur breaking in the neck and shoulders. Then followed a class of 7 Medium Females. A 1<sup>st</sup> for Sandy King's chin, a good blocky type with dense tight fur, blue colour and well finished that became our Reserve Adult Female. 2<sup>nd</sup> from Kerry was also blocky with long fur type but badly out of condition. A class of 4 Dark Females also brought a 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and HC with the 1<sup>st</sup> going to a very bright but smaller female just over 7 months from James Buchan getting the decision over Kerry's chin with a better fur type and veiling that was dull in comparison. James's female was our Best Adult Female.

We started the Adult males with a class of 3 Medium Darks with 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> ribbons to Kerry. 1<sup>st</sup> had good size and conformation, good clear blue colour and strong but slightly coarser fur type. The class of 3 Mediums had 2<sup>nd</sup> for Kerry, bright but fur was quite open and out of condition with 3<sup>rd</sup> for Sandy's chin that had a much better fur type but was markedly down in colour to the 2<sup>nd</sup>. The Dark class of 4 had a 1<sup>st</sup> for Steven King with good size and conformation and good colour with 2<sup>nd</sup> for Paul

Spooner's smaller and probably just over 7mths chin that had a better finish and tighter fur. Steven's chin became our Reserve Adult male and Reserve Best Adult Standard. The single Extra Dark Male from Kerry came up with the 'WOW' factor. An excellent chin, big and blocky, loads of long dense fur with prominent guard hair absolutely sparkling with good blue and bright colour. Quality oozing from every strand of fur- I quite liked him! No hesitation in giving him a 1<sup>st</sup> ribbon and he went through the whole selection procedure at a stroll to become Best Adult Male, Best Adult Standard, Best Standard and our Show Champion.

We then broke for lunch that was organised and mainly prepared by Sian ably assisted by her daughter Devon and my daughter and son, Laura and Michael, in the kitchen. This was much appreciated by all. The Young Mutations started with a good class of 4 Wilson Whites. 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> to Kerry's chins. 1<sup>st</sup> had good conformation and clear white colour, the fur was reasonably strong but slightly open with a good even silver tipping coverage. 2<sup>nd</sup> was a large mosaic type with loads of fur, but with slight creaminess to colour. The class of 4 beiges had a 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> with extremes of colour phasing the two were very similar types in size and fur qualities but the lighter one from Barry and Sue Thornton had slightly tighter denser and stronger fur than Kerry's darker beige.

The class of 4 Sullivan Violets also had a 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>. 1<sup>st</sup> from Paul Spooner had very good fur strength and density, good conformation but smallish for 5 months, a bright clear colour but little sheen. The 2<sup>nd</sup> from Lisa Proctor had a much better sheen and also clear colour but lacked conformation with quite narrow shoulders.

The 1<sup>st</sup> from the class of 5 Black velvets for a young chin that had good coverage and a blue black intense colour and strong fur shown by Lisa that became Reserve Best Young Mutation. Sian Allcoat's 2<sup>nd</sup> was more mature and wouldn't sit down, it had good fur strength and conformation but was down in colour and coverage to the 1<sup>st</sup>.

The AOC class had a 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> for two Brown Velvets that were quite different in their fur types and colour. The 1<sup>st</sup> had an excellent plushy fur type, good conformation with a clear blue light brown colour with even veiling coverage. This chin became Best Young Mutation and Best Mutation. The 2<sup>nd</sup> to Sian was much darker, clear colour with veiling coming right down the sides but the fur was much coarser and open. Sian also had a baby Pink White that received a 3<sup>rd</sup> ribbon.

The Adult Mutation also had a class of 4 Wilson Whites. 1<sup>st</sup> for Sandy, a large blocky chin with strong plushy fur—the colour could have been a clearer persil white. Class of 3 beiges with 3<sup>rd</sup> for Chris Galt with clear colour and a plushy strong fur type but small for 8 months. The Class of 6 Black Velvets was a good class with all the chins winning a ribbon. 1<sup>st</sup> to Sandy had a very strong dense fur that had a real velvety look and intense black colour—coverage didn't come right down and slightly small for over 7 months but the quality was good enough to become Best Adult Mutation and Reserve Best Mutation. 2<sup>nd</sup> to Lisa's chin, not big but with good conformation and slightly brighter colour than the 1<sup>st</sup> was not so intense a black as the 1<sup>st</sup>, became our Reserve Best Adult Mutation. A class of 3 Self Blacks had a 2<sup>nd</sup> for Denise- Black wrap around coverage and clear colour, the size and conformation let it down from a 1<sup>st</sup>. The AOC class had 2 Pink Whites that received 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> ribbons. 1<sup>st</sup> was a good size with a clear almondy colour and a plushy strong fur type with 2<sup>nd</sup> showing a more creamy colour and open fur, both chins from Kerry. Andrew Lee received a 2<sup>nd</sup> for his Sullivan Violet with clear colour and some sheen but for over a year old was lacking size and conformation.

Congratulations to Kerry for winning both Best in Show and Reserve with two beautiful Standard Chins and for also bringing the Best Mutation. My thanks to all who organised and worked so hard

and to all who attended, given the adverse weather conditions, that made the day a success.  
**Stephen Helmore**