

Show Report, Northern Region, Birdwell 06/02/22

Judge: Hannah Whiteley

I was pleased to see a good turnout at the North region this February for my first Appointment as a qualified judge – Thank you to everyone who came along and exhibited and thank you all for your patient whilst I deliberated and took notes.

A- Young standard females

We kicked off the show with an AOC class of 4 young standard females. A pair of Mediums gave a first for Sian Allcoat, this female had good size and conformation, excellent veiling coverage and strong dense silky fur. A third was awarded to Andy Marshall's Medium which was well presented with good size and conformation, however, could have been clearer in colour and the fur was slightly open and weak over the hips which may improve with age. A medium dark from Kerry Bradburn was awarded a first, Reserve Young Standard Female and Reserve Young Standard, this female had excellent size and conformation, clear colour, and strong silky dense fur. A single dark, again from Kerry, gained another first having excellent clarity of colour and veiling coverage, strong silky dense fur, excellent size and very blocky conformation. This stunning female went on to win Best Young Standard Female and Proceeded all the way to Grand Show Champion – congratulations Kerry!

B- Young standard males

We started off the Young standard Males with a class of 4 Mediums. The first from Sian was a good allrounder having good size, excellent conformation, strong silky fur and was presented well on the day. Second to this from Andy was slightly down in size and conformation from the first ribbon winner, however had similar strong silky fur and a good clear colour. A third was awarded to Andrew Lee for his animal which was of reasonable size and conformation, whilst this animal did have strong silky fur in the centre of the back, it was a little open over the hips and slightly down in colour compared to the top 2 animals. Finally, a Highly Commended was awarded to Andrew Lee for an animal which was sadly in very poor condition on the day having very choppy fur from priming, -despite its poor condition it was clear to see this animal had a lot of potential with clear colour and great fur strength, I would love to see it on another day when condition is more in its favour.

We then moved on to AOC Young Standard Males. The Medium Darks gave a first for Kerry with a very clear blue animal with exceptional veiling coverage, dense silky strong fur and excellent size, this male went on to win Best Young Standard Male – well done Kerry. Second to this from Sian had a longer fur type but still silky and strong, and whilst this animal had clear colour it did not have as much sparkle as the first ribbon winner. A single Dark gave another first for Kerry having exceptional size and conformation, dense silky fur and a lovely blue-black colour which extended evenly over the flanks giving way to a beautiful bright white belly, this male was awarded Reserve Young Standard.

C – Adult Standard females

We started the Adult standard females with a class of three mediums. First in this class went to Sian for her female which was a good all-round female with bags of eye appeal, strong silky dense fur and excellent conformation – this beautiful female went on to win Reserve Adult Standard Female – Congratulations Sian. Second to this from Andy was a very blue female having slightly

coarser fur than the first ribbon winner which was a little open over the hips. A Highly Commended was awarded to Andrew's female which had a strong silky fur type but was sadly casty in colour and in poor condition on the day, although had been very well prepared.

Next, we had two novice medium adult standard females. Joanne Rycroft was awarded a first for her female which had good conformation and size and a very silky strong fur type, this animal was not in the best condition on the day however had been exceptionally well presented. Anita received a Highly commended for her standard female which again had strong silky fur but was smaller and narrower.

We finished the adult standard females with two medium darks. A lovely female from Kerry was awarded a first, Best Adult Standard Female and going to eventually reach Reserve Grand Show Champion – this female was exceptionally blocky with good size and plenty of eye appeal having good even coverage of sharp black tipping of the fur and strong dense fur – congratulations Kerry on another exceptional female. A 3rd was awarded to Andrew for his very clear coloured blue female which was just a little narrower in conformation than we would like to see and was sadly down on condition with the fur breaking in the neck area.

D – Adult Standard males

There were no full classes in the Adult Standard Males so we had an AOC class comprising of 2 Darks, 1 Extra Dark, and one Medium Dark along with one Medium Dark Novice entry. The Darks gave another 1st for Kerry for her male which has outstanding size and conformation, excellent veiling coverage and long silky stand-up fur, this male won Reserve Adult Standard Male – well done Kerry. Second to this from Sian had very clear colour good veiling coverage and was of a reasonable size and conformation, again having silky fur which was shorter in length than the first ribbon winner but not overly short. The Extra Darks gave another well-deserved first for Kerry which went on to win Best adult Standard Male and Reserve Adult Standard – this male was of excellent size and had blocky conformation with sharp clear colour and plenty of eye appeal – well done Kerry! Finally, we finished the adult males with a Medium Dark from Andrew Lee which was awarded a second, having clear blue colour and a strong silky fur type however this male was slightly narrower than I would like to see.

A single Novice entry from Anita Parrott was awarded a First - this male was clear in colour, a good size and had blocky conformation, sadly this animal was priming a little over the hips however had been very well prepared by Anita on the day.

E – Young mutations

Wilson White

We started the mutations with the Wilsons whites. The main bench gave a first for Kerry, for her very attractive silvery Wilson white which had good size, excellent conformation and a strong plushy fur type. Second to this from Andy had silkier fur than the first ribbon winner, however, was slightly creamy in colour and the fur was a little open over the hips. The third ribbon winner, again from Andy, was the clearest in colour in the class with a nice sparkle to it, however it was slightly narrow, and the fur was somewhat weaker than the others in the class, showing openness over the hips. A single novice Wilson White from Gemma Halliday was awarded a second, having reasonably strong and silky fur, however, it was a little dull in colour and the fur was slightly open over the hips.

AOC

We then moved on to the AOCs, starting with violet related mutations. A Sullivan violet from Heather was awarded a second, it had reasonable size and conformation along with reasonable clarity of colour and strong albeit coarse fur which was slightly open over the hips. An Ultra violet, also from Heather, was also awarded a second, having a silkier fur type than the violet however it was slightly narrower in the neck, the colour again was reasonable although I would have liked to see a little more sparkle. Another second for Heather with a violet wrap, this animal had the best fur of the 3, which was strong and silky, and this animal had good conformation, the colour however was a little casty. We then moved on to a novice blue diamond from Joanne which was awarded a first and went on to win Reserve Young Mutation, this animal was a little small however had a lovely clear blue colour and plenty of sheen giving it excellent eye appeal and a lovely strong plushy fur type - well done Joanne for breeding a lovely example of this hard to breed double recessive mutation and congratulations on your first special ribbon – you will be on the main bench in no time!

Next, we moved on to a pink white from Andrew Lee which was awarded a first, this animal had reasonable size and conformation, good clarity and a strong dense plushy fur. A black pearl from Kerry was awarded a first having clear sharp black colour, exceptional size and conformation and a silky strong fur, a stunning animal with loads of eye appeal -This excellent example of this relatively new mutation went on to win Best Young Mutation and Best Mutation – well done again, Kerry!

We had two self-blacks – one main bench and one novice. The main bench entry from Heather was awarded a second, this animal was an excellent size and had excellent conformation with a full wrap of colour which was reasonably clear, however I would have liked to see a sharper black, the fur was silky and long although slightly weak over the hips. The novice self-black from Joanne was also awarded a second, however was quite the opposite of the main bench entry, having sharp black colour which paled slightly over the hips and a strong silky fur however it was slightly small, and I would like to see it blockier. We finished the mutations with a Black velvet from Andrew, being of good size and conformation and having strong silky fur, it was clear in colour however lacking in intensity of black fur and I would have liked to see better coverage in the neck.

F- Adult mutations

We kicked off the adult mutations with a class of adult pink whites. The first ribbon went to Kerry which was big and blocky with silky strong fur and good clarity. Second to this from Andrew was clearer in colour however the fur type was more plushy and was not as strong or dense as the first ribbon winner. Finally, a highly commended was awarded to Andrew for his other pink white which had excellent fur strength however was a little narrow in conformation and a drop in clarity from the top two.

Next, we moved on the violets. On the main bench we had a second for Andrew with his blocky violet that had a good sheen, however the fur was a little weak over the hips holding it back from a first. We had 3 Novice violets all from Joanne. The First ribbon winner was a good all-rounder, with good size and conformation, reasonable clarity of colour and sheen and strong dense fur, although a little on the coarser side. Second had more sheen than the first along with silkier fur however had a drop in clarity of colour. Completing the group was a highly commended for an animal with a strong silky fur type however it was sadly very tinged in colour, and I would have liked to see it blockier. Joanne also had an Ultra violet, which was awarded a first for its nice blocky conformation and strong dense fur however I would have liked the fur a bit silkier and the colour could have been clearer.

Next up we had a class of Black Velvets. The first went to Sian for her chinchilla with sharp black colour, strong silky dense fur, good size and conformation and excellent veiling coverage. Second to this from Heather was similar to the first ribbon winner, again having sharp colour and a dense silky strong fur, however the veiling coverage whilst reasonable was not quite as good as the first ribbon winner. Heather was also awarded a third for another black velvet only just into the adult class, this animal did not have the same intensity of black colour as the first 2 animals and the veiling coverage needed improvement although this will hopefully come with age. A novice Black velvet from Anita was awarded a second, having good veiling coverage and strong silky fur, the size and conformation were reasonable however much like the third ribbon main bench entry it was lacking intensity of the black mutation fur.

We next moved on to a class of the 3 black pearls. First in this class was awarded to Kerry for another excellent example of the mutation which was a good size with blocky conformation, sharp black colour and a strong silky fur, this lovely Black pearl was awarded Best Adult Mutation and Reserve mutation in show. Second to this from Sian again had lovely sharp black colour and a strong dense fur however the fur was a little weaker over the hips and the animal was slightly down in size compared to the first ribbon winner. Third in the class was awarded to Andrew with his animal having stronger fur than the 2nd ribbon winner however, it was a little small and I would have liked to have seen it blockier in conformation.

We finished the adult mutations with an AOC class. A self-black from Heather was awarded a second – this animal was a medium colour phase ebony but had reasonable clarity of colour, strong silky fur and good size, the conformation was reasonable however could have been better. A beige from Andrew was awarded a first, this animal had good size and fur density along with a silky fur type, the colour was reasonable showing just slight oxidisation as may be expected on an adult but still showing reasonable clarity. A pair of Wilson whites from Andrew were awarded first and second ribbons. The first ribbon winner had excellent conformation, strong plushy fur and good clarity however the second ribbon winner as brighter in colour with coarser weaker fur. Finally, a pearl (beige Violet) from Andy was awarded a first having clear colour and good conformation, the fur was a little coarse but strong and I would have liked to have seen a little more of the violet sheen on this animal.

Congratulations to everyone on their awards and thank you all for coming along to exhibit at my first appointment as a qualified judge.

Hannah Whiteley