

Penkridge 19/11/23 Judges Report

Judge Hannah Whiteley

There was a reasonable turn out for Penkridge show, many familiar faces and a couple of new ones. We started with the standards, and on colour phasing the standards I found that the standard were tending more towards the lighter colour phases, with mediums and medium darks dominating a few dark/extra dark animals except in the adult males. Whilst this doesn't impact on the shows other than the colour classes, it was quite interesting to me, as the last few years we seem to have seen a shift to the darker phases.

The standards on the day were of excellent quality and whilst condition was not at its best given the recent fluctuating and damp weather, it was apparent the exhibitors had put in a lot of effort to ensure their animals were presented at their best. Kerry Bradburn's beautiful standards were of course to their usual exception standards giving Kerry a full sweep of the special ribbons in the standards classes. There were also some strong firsts from Denise Oaten, Heather Arnstein and Stephen Helmore, along with some close seconds.

Of particular note from the standards was the best young standard, a dark female, who was incredibly sharp with bags of eye appeal. Reserve to this was a very young exceptionally sharp extra extra dark young male – this young male was only just 4 months on the day but had incredibly strong fur and very sharp black tipping – whilst he couldn't compete with the older animals on the day, he is certainly one to keep an eye on as he grows as he may be tough to beat a few months down the line.

The best Adult standard male went on to win Grand show champion, this exceptional extra, extra dark from Kerry, had it all really – excellent size and confirmation, a clear blue-black colouration and strong silky fur, a truly remarkable Male. He was followed to reserve standard by a lovely medium dark standard again from Kerry which was incredibly clear colour, strong fur and very well presented on the day.

Moving on to Mutations there was a good turn out with 24 young mutations and 9 adults and plenty of top quantity chinchillas amongst them giving 1sts for Kerry Bradburn, Denise Oaten, Stephen Helmore and Heather Arnstein.

Best young mutation went to Denise for a beautiful young pink white which was clear in colour with dense silky stand-up fur which went on to win reserve mutation in show. Reserve to this in the youngsters was a lovely beige from Kerry with exceptionally blocky confirmation and good clarity.

The Adult mutations gave our best mutation in show which went on to win Reserve Grand Show Champion, a black velvet from Kerry with clear and sharp black colouration, excellent veiling coverage - an all-round beautiful animal – well done Kerry. Reserve to this was again from Kerry a beautiful Wilson white with excellent fur strength.

Well done to everyone who came along and exhibited and thank you to everyone who helped out on the day.