

Finland Griffon Club Championship Show September 2018

Thank you to the Griffon Club of Finland for inviting me to judge their very well organised and friendly club championship show, and to the sporting exhibitors, thank you for the complimentary entry of 78 Griffons. The venue was spacious with a large ring and very good lighting. My Steward Tarja Ihalainen was invaluable. It is always interesting and challenging to have a Trainee Judge with you, which was most enjoyable. The entry in depth was both numerically, and in quality, type, and soundness, excellent.

The Griffon Bruxellois breed: being particularly strong in depth displaying some of the most beautiful large typical heads, with lovely "open" faces. Strong, square, broad deep and mostly short bodied with level top lines, correct short loins making them square or almost square all in all COBBY, which we do not often see today. Bone, substance and coats were of good texture and colour. Tails need some work as some were far too curled over the back; ears need watching in respect of size and carriage; these issues applied to all three breeds.

The Belge breed: followed on strongly with many very good type and cobby dogs. Soundness and good movement was evident as was typical temperaments. Coats were again of excellent colour and pattern in the black and tans, the texture of most were harsh. A pleasure to Judge and my super, young black male Best of Breed won through to Best in Show 1 came from this breed.

The Petit Brabacon: was very well represented with 37 dogs entered. My best male and female being very good representatives of the breed. In "general" and taking into consideration the smooth coat this breed was not quite as cobby nor had the bone of the above breeds, a number being a little longer than ideal in loin. Showmanship and show condition was excellent. I also observed that a number of black and tans did not have the required Standard tan pattern/markings on the head, and in some cases no tan at all on the head. This is obviously an issue which is not a matter of the judge's preference as the required specific head markings are clearly dictated by the Standard however, on balance the overall dog is always what matters in decision making.

Best in Show 1- Shevilan Fanfan La Tulipe

A very pleasing Belge/ black male who I feel will still mature more. He caught my eye as soon as he entered the ring; having a classic outline which he maintained on the move. His moderate angulation and muscular hocks, cobby body, level top line and set on and carriage of the tail completed picture. His head is large enough and masculine with all the desired Griffon features which make for the correct expression. Very harsh black coat, which was well presented and in keeping for the breed. He showed enthusiastically to win over a lovely G B bitch and due to his better croup and his perfect degree of coat.

Best In Show 2- Monkeylike Kiwi's Red Tiara

A fabulous dual purpose cobby GB bitch with a large feminine head. She has depth and width and is sound all through which shows in her strong movement. Her coat is a good colour/texture but on the day it was a little end of season in length. I would have loved to have taken her home.

Best in Show 3- Shevilan Lifestyle Icon

Red smooth all male who has a large typical head and nicely arched neck giving a masculine appearance. Strong bone with excellent cobby body, good tail carriage and sound on the move. He does not however, have the shortest of smooth coats but his many typical qualities won through to a well-deserved group position.

Best Veteran in Show- Walliants Eric the Red

What a great Red Rough male he is, from his large masculine head to his well carried tail. He has great substance, bone and clean out- line; he looks so typical on the move. I would have loved to have judged him when a young dog.

Best Puppy in Show –Juulilaakson Lumehine Malanja

Black rough, super stylish puppy with good conformation, feminine head and lovely type. She has a very good harsh coat which was beautifully presented. Showed and moved with confidence. She won this closely contested award over a lovely dual purpose red rough puppy due to her more finished performance.

Alison B Price (Mrs)