

Boxer Club of Canada Inc 2007 National Specialty

(Critique by Judge: Mrs. Shirley Bell)

After a long anticipated wait, the 2007 Specialty has now come and gone. I wanted to write this while all the details were still fresh in my mind.

I had a new toy, a Digital voice recorder which I used for the first time during my assignment. I used this recorder to comment on each of the winners for my own personal use. These recorders are great assistants for writing critiques following a judging assignment so intense. I was truly amazed with the way the playback sounds and had no idea that voice activation would pick up comments from far and near when it was laid on the table.

First, I want to thank the BCC members for giving me the opportunity to judge an excellent entry of beautiful Boxers. I was extremely pleased to see the overall quality of the entry this year.

The 2007 National was indeed truly a National, with entries from all across Canada, from BC, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Ontario, Quebec and Nova Scotia as well as from some US states.

There were several classes this year that were so chock full of quality that anyone of the first 4 on another given day could have been first. The 9-12 puppy dog and the 9-12 puppy bitch classes were most challenging to judge for exactly this reason.

My WD (Aracrest Cinderella Man) and RWD (Zaracon's Rais'n the Stakes) both came from the extremely competitive 9-12 puppy dog class. Both puppies are excellent examples of this wonderful breed and it will be interesting to watch them mature and continue their show careers in the future. Winner Dog went on to be Best of Winners and Best Puppy in Specialty. This dog loves himself and wants the world to know that he is 'there'. He has a beautiful head and expression, as does the RWD Both dogs moved and showed well. I really had to do some nit picking between these two dogs. My final decision between the dogs was maturity. The winner dog was a bit more mature being at the top end of 9-12 class and the RWD just barely 9 months old.

It was exciting to me as a breeder judge to see this kind of quality in up and coming young boys. Usually the bitches are stronger than the dogs at most specialties, but this year, I would have to say the boys were a bit stronger than the girls.

My WB (Diamondaire's Classy Sassy) came from the open bitch class. She was lovely, smooth, with pretty head and moved well, and so full of herself. My RWB (Boxrmor's Out of the Fire) came from a small but very strong bred by exhibitor class. She was also full of herself and made her handler work for the win. Again this was a difficult class with a quality entry.

The Specials class was a joy to judge. With so many nice Specials it is difficult to have to make cuts. After making my final cut and taking one last look at those Specials I was about to excuse, I wished I had more awards to hand out.

There can only be one BOB and one BOS.

My BOS was a brindle dog (Ch Tickitbou's Laredo). This dog didn't put a foot wrong and looked powerful and elegant. He covers ground beautifully while moving and looks like a stallion when standing. He is a very nice boy with a pleasing head and expression.

My BOB was a brindle bitch (Can/Am Ch Dorado's Roses and Chrome). This bitch is truly beautiful. She was breeder/owner/handled to perfection. She takes my breath away. She floated around the ring on a loose lead. She has a lovely clean well proportioned head, excellent bite, gorgeous expressive eyes, neck, topline and tailset. All this flowed together to demonstrate the good example of the breed that she is and my choice for the top award on the day.

My Awards of Merit (Can/Am Ch UpperCut's Shadow Boxer, Can/Am Ch Lynbary's Savoir-Faire, and Can/Am Ch Boxarmor Double Trouble) were all good examples of the breed. As I said earlier, I wish that I could have given more awards of merit as some good examples of the breed had just left the ring in my final cut.

Now, the veteran classes: I love the old ones. I sorted through the veteran dogs and believe me when I tell you it was not easy to arrive at the winner (Can/Am Ch Logan Elm Runs at Heart Acre). The veteran girls were even harder to do. I found it difficult to judge with tears in my eyes. My first and second placements in veteran bitches were and still are beautiful girls, both BIS winners in their younger days. The final decision was not easy. The 1st place winner (Can/Am Ch Lynbary's Savoir-Faire) won on the final go round with her ground covering movement.

I would be remiss if I didn't mention the strengths and weakness and areas for improvement. Overall, as I mentioned earlier, the quality was good, classes were strong. There were, however, some bad mouths and even a few wry mouths. Ground covering effortless movement was more apparent this year than in some previous years. We still need to work on fronts, shoulders, and length of loin.

In closing, I would again like to say thank you to BCC members and all the exhibitors for give me the honour of judging this quality entry of beautiful Boxers.

The breed that I love is in good hands. Don't rest on these laurels; continue to strive for better and healthier Boxers.

Shirley Bell