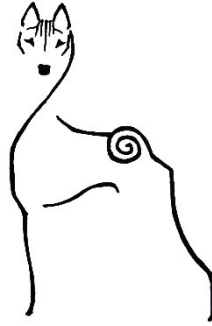


Basenji Club of NSW 52nd Championship Show

Critique from Judge Wendy Slatyer



Firstly, my thanks to the club for a really enjoyable day and my compliments for continuing the traditions of a great breed club with great shows. Thank you everyone for entering.

General comments:

This was quite a difficult entry for me to judge, there was a big variation in type and adherence to the hallmarks, with which the breed drips.

Your club logo – I think the best I have ever seen – defines these hallmarks SO clearly!

ALERT, long legged, GAZELLE LIKE elegance, relatively short backed, distinctive “SHELF” which governs tail set, TIGHTLY CURLED tail, LOFTY head carriage, ALMOND eye rather INSCRUTABLE expression, fine but definite WRINKLE on forehead, and small, pointed, slightly HOODED ears.

So that’s perfection and the judge has to in very short time weigh up all the positives and decide where to prioritise those against the less than perfect other features which of course all dogs possess.

Now to my general assessment:

Please take these comments in the spirit they are offered, breed appreciation not criticism.

Breed typical outline was overall good, but not as many “gazelles” as I would have liked, quite a few were hefty with heavier bone than I believe is called for and tending to be heavy footed on the move, quite a few were too long in back and those were also mostly soft in topline.

Temperaments were excellent as we have come to expect in Basenjies nowadays.

Overall, heads disappointed me, forgive me for being repetitive in the next few paragraphs. Too many were long and lean and therefore lacked the requisite taper, and there were SO many large and pointed ears, some even approaching the “candle flame” asked for in the Manchester and English Toy Terrier, and some more Pharaoh-like.

Once judges constantly see untypical ears they begin to regard them as - and think they are - “the norm” so the small slightly hooded beautiful Basenji-special ears become the odd ones out. Incidentally tall pointy ears fairly narrow at the base contribute to the whole appearance of the head being altered, including eye shape and the expression.

I have noticed this trend with concern for the last few years but not judged the breed at Specialty level, so now it was more apparent.

And while ears were mostly set well forward and on top as required by your Standard, many heads in my opinion actually lacked sufficient breadth of skull, resulting in those long lean incorrect heads.

Forefaces should be SLIGHTLY shorter than skulls and quite a number were the opposite, with forefaces longer than skulls, and when teamed with a narrower skull this results in a longer leaner head overall, without the requisite taper, and usually therefore also less underjaw.

The “shelf” where the posterior curve of the buttock extends beyond the root of the tail (see your logo above) is SO important for a correct Basenji, an absolute hallmark, not only for correct outline but also essential for the correct hindquarter and therefore for the way the breed should move.

Without a correct shelf, correct tail set is impossible. Also there should be no “stalk” at the set on and the tail should lie close to the body with the curve sitting down on the hip on either side.

I was also concerned that several exhibits possessed TOO MUCH rear angulation for the breed, and this results in an untypical outline and incorrect rear movement. “Legs carried straight forward with a swift long tireless swinging stride.” This is NOT a traditional reach and drive moving breed, the phrase “A racehorse trotting full out” was formerly in common usage, and a racehorse trotting full out does NOT display reach and drive, those terms apply when a racehorse (any horse of course) is GALLOPING full out, not when it is TROTting. The trot is an energy conserving reconnaissance gait, showing the ability, agility and co-ordination to instantly break into a gallop.

Too many also were moving FROM THE ELBOW and not from the shoulder, that means they pick up their front feet and sort of “hurl” the leg forward which looks eye catching and as if they are covering ground, but they are not. The foreleg on the move should form a straight column from the shoulder to the foot, not at all flashy but smooth and efficient. Moving from the elbow is an all too common fault in Whippets with which of course I am very familiar.

Coats on many were of concern to me, “Coat: Short, sleek and close, very fine. Skin very pliant”. Sadly, in many they were not fine, some were in fact quite thick, harsh and untypical, and in almost all these cases the skin was not pliant as it should be but very tight and close fitting. Pliant skin is required in this breed to allow for the constant twists and turns needed for the terrain and the way it hunts. It is therefore a very important breed characteristic.

Now, I have thought long and hard about writing this, but I feel it HAS to be said. The breed as I saw it at this show is in danger of becoming a ring full of “energiser bunnies”. Full on attention fixated on the handler for bait, and erect ears ALL THE TIME. Hounds should NOT be bait dependent, they should have brains and dignity and an innate desire for some personal space. Yes, the Standard calls for forehead to be wrinkled WHEN ALERT, but independent hunting oriented hounds are not naturally alert ALL THE TIME, they should have moments of relaxation while thinking about their environment and situation at that particular moment, and then should come alert, wrinkle their foreheads and use their ears at the slightest thing which attracts their attention. When as I always do in any breed, I asked for the exhibits to face me, I was very disappointed to find that hardly any of them showed any different “aspect”, they did not re-assess this different angle to what they are used to as I would expect them to do, and hardly any eyes changed expression or showed any “new” interest at all when I “tested” them with my crystal.

RESULTS

CLASS: 1 BABY PUPPY DOG

1ST DUZZIE WELCOME TO THE FUTURE (OPPOSITE BABY PUPPY IN SHOW)

Brindle, overall well balanced and proportioned, good angulation, shelf, tailset, very typical movement. Good head, ears, eye shape, wrinkle, strength of muzzle

2ND EURABBIE BIN TAHARQA

Tri, very impressive, would like a little more length of leg, good mover, good shelf and tail, a little short in head, eyes a little too frontal, needs to firm up in topline.

3RD KITOKO DEEP BLUE

Tri, nice overall, and good mover, good head and eyes, ears a little large, tail a little high set and would like a tighter curl.

4TH NAYEMBE SARABIS KENDI

Red and white, a little loose all over, nice head and eye, ears a bit big, tail is loose and lacks sufficient shelf.

CLASS: 1A BABY PUPPY BITCH

1ST (9) NAYEMBE SARABIS MALIA (BEST BABY PUPPY IN SHOW)

Super red and white, elegant, exactly my interpretation of gazelle-like, lovely and very typical movement, excellent head, eyes, ears, good topline and tail set with sufficient shelf.

2ND (14) ZANDEENA LOOK WHO POPPED UP

Red and white, just three months, very good mover, a fraction short in leg, and I worry she may finish a little dumpty, good head, eyes and ears, lovely shelf and tail

3RD (7) WAZAZI I AM LEGEND

Red and white, lovely overall, a bit heavily marked, good head, eyes, ears, topline, shelf and tail

4TH (12) DUZZIE SHES EVERYTHING

Brindle, a bit lacking in elegance, and a little short in leg, but pleasing overall. Good shelf and tail, a bit plain and strong in head and lacking chiselling.

5TH (13) KITOKO ENIGMA CODE Red and white, a bit hefty overall, good head, eyes, ears, topline could be better but shelf and tailset good.

CLASS 4—JUNIOR DOG DOG CHALLENGE

BEST JUNIOR AND BEST IN SHOW

1ST Challenge and BIS (15) ZANZIPOW BRASIL SIXTYSIX

Tri, upstanding, a stallion, very typical, very balanced, lovely bone and substance but still so elegant, strong topline, good shelf and lovely tail, good head, eye, ears, pliant skin. Would like better feet and a bit stronger in pastern, could do with just a little more turn of stifle, however very typical effortless movement although I would like to see him travel just a fraction more swiftly.

2ND (16) BAYENZI JOSE GUERRERO

Red and white, good balance and proportions, topline, shelf and tail. Good head eyes and ears, but a little long in foreface. He could have better feet and stronger pasterns, moves well but would like him a bit stronger in rear movement.

CLASS 5—INTERMEDIATE DOG

OPPOSITE INTERMEDIATE IN SHOW

1ST (19) CH WAZAZI PLAYING WITH YOUR HEART (OPPOSITE INTERMEDIATE IN SHOW)

Red and white, elegant, typey, good length of leg, head and eye, ears could be smaller, and would like skin more pliant, good mover but I found him a little "stiff" on the move (ie not flexible)

2ND (18) CH REMWIN WRINKLE IN TIME

Red and white, good type and very good size, lovely shelf and tail but a bit soft in topline. Nice head and ears but median furrow a bit too pronounced and a little "cheeky". Would like skin more pliant.

3RD (17) CH NAYEMBE YAAMAS JARRAH

Red and white, nice head and eye, good shelf and OK tail, coat harsh and skin not pliant.

CLASS 8—LIMIT DOG

RESERVE CHALLENGE DOG BEST LIMIT AND RUNNER UP BEST IN SHOW

1ST, Reserve Challenge and RUBIS (22) ZANZIPOW IN LIKE FLYNN

Red and white, great presence, lovely type, size and proportion, Good bone and substance but correctly elegant. Very good head, almost hooded ears (I think the best ears so far), excellent

wrinkle, super fine coat and skin very pliant. Would like just a little more rear angulation but moves very correctly.

2ND (20) NAYEMBE YAAMAS MIDNIGHT KITO

Black and white, very nice overall but just a little hefty, very good front, good head and eye, good ears, topline, and shelf, tail OK but a bit stalky.

3RD (21) TEEEEFOO HUNNYS RED FLAME

Red and white. OK everywhere, typical, good shelf but tail is stalky and doesn't sit down nicely. Would like him stronger in front.

CLASS 9— STATE BRED DOG

OPPOSITE STATE BRED IN SHOW

1ST (23) ZANZIPOW TIME TRAVELLER

Red and white, up to size and too heavy in condition, but very well balanced and typical proportions, and very good mover. Good head, ears, and eyes. Good shelf but tail stalked and doesn't sit down nicely.

2ND (24) CH XALMES MAN OF COLOURS (AI)

Tri, lots to like, good head and eye, good shelf, but tail a bit "open", a bit soft in topline and too upright in shoulder and moves with a short stride.

CLASS 10—AUSTRALIAN BRED DOG

BEST AUSTRALIAN BRED IN SHOW

1ST (27) CH ZANDEENA LOOKS GOOD IN MY SHIRT

Red and white, very typical overall, balanced and with good angulation, moves well, good expression, nice head but would like him a little stronger in foreface and better in feet.

2ND (26) CH EURABBIE ZUES

Black and white, overall very pleasing, nice size, good shelf, tends to lose his topline on the move, typical movement but a bit short striding, would like a bit more head and more pliant skin.

3RD (25) CH NAYEMBE YAAMAS KIPEPEO

Red and white, typical but a bit too wide in front which affects his movement, nice head but ears are a bit big and too wideset, coat rough and skin not pliant.

CLASS 11—OPEN BRED DOG

BEST OPEN IN SHOW

1ST (30) SUPREME CH LOMAR HAT TRICK

Red and white. Nice size, typey and stylish, flashy mover but would like a firmer front, well balanced, good topline and shelf, tail a little stalked, head typical with ears well set, coat not in best condition and skin not pliant.

2ND (28) CH NAYEMBE SAFIYAS ARAALINKUBA

Red and white, a bit hefty and over muscled, good shelf and tail, nice head and eyes, ears well set but a bit long and pointed, would like a stronger topline and would like him to move out more.

CLASS 4A—JUNIOR BITCH

OPPOSITE JUNIOR IN SHOW

1ST (34) REMWIN TIME TRILOGY

Tri, very typical overall although I would like just a bit more of her. Correct angulation, head, topline, tail and shelf, moves very well.

CLASS 5A—INTERMEDIATE BITCH

BEST INTERMEDIATE IN SHOW

1ST Reserve Challenge (35) CH NAYEMBE YAAMAS KYIRRIE

Red and white, very typical, feminine and a gazelle, lovely stance and carriage, good head and expression, good ears properly set, and mirroring the curve of the neck, good topline, good shelf and tail, fine coat and pliant skin, very nice mover, light on her feet, swift and ground covering.

CLASS 8A—LIMIT BITCH

CHALLENGE BITCH OPPOSITE LIMIT & OPPOSITE SEX IN SHOW

1ST Challenge (40) EURABBIE APHRODITE

Black and white, very typical overall, although ideally I would like just a bit more of her, gazelle like and elegant, balanced with excellent angulation and correct topline, good shelf and tail. Nice head with correct sized small ears, a bit wide set but hooded and reflecting the curve of her neck as they should do. Fine coat, pliant skin, good movement.

2ND (38) WAZAZI TEMPTING FAITH

Red and white, very typical with good outline, nice head but a bit lean in muzzle, shelf and tail satisfactory, a bit narrow in front and would like to see her more positive on the move.

3RD (36) NAYEMBE SAFIYAS TUKIO JC

Tri, good type overall, nice head with good ears, would like a stronger topline, and she is a bit too wide in front, tending to pin in, feet could be better and tail a bit stalked.

CLASS 9A—STATE BRED BITCH

STATE BRED IN SHOW

1ST (42) CH NAYEMBE SAFIYAS SARABI

Red and white, lovely size, lovely head, very sound and really typical on the move, holding topline, good shelf, tail a bit stalked, fine coat in great condition skin pliant.

2ND (43) CH EURABBIE SCARLETROSE

Red and white, very typical. Lovely size, good topline and shelf, good head, ears a bit pointy, shelf quite good but tail a bit stalked.

3RD (45) CH ZANZIPOW BOWIES REBEL REBEL

Red and white, typey, very nice head, good earset, a bit soft in topline and would like a longer upper arm as she moves a bit short and this makes her carry her head a bit too high, lovely fine coat and pliant skin.

CLASS 10A—AUSTRALIAN BRED BITCH

OPPOSITE AUSTRALIAN BRED IN SHOW

1ST (47) GRAND CH XALMES SHAKE IT UP SISTER (AI)

Red and white, lovely rich colour, overall very good, nice size, pleasing head with well placed ears but a bit pointy, good mover. Pliant skin.

2ND (50) SUPREME CH ZANZIPOW BOWIES CHINA GIRL

Red and white, very typical, good shelf but would like a more correct tail set and tighter curl, Nice head, ears a bit pointy, good on the move.

3RD (49) CH REMWIN NEVERGONNABREAKMYSTRIDE

Tri, very typical, pleasing head, nice angulation, a little long in back and a bit soft in topline, good shelf and tail, and good mover.

CLASS 11A—OPEN BITCH

OPPOSITE OPEN IN SHOW

1ST (52) CH WAZAZI THE WOW FACTOR

Red and white, good type overall with beautiful shelf and tail, strong topline, proud carriage and swift movement, heavily marked which can be misleading as to actual construction, pleasing head and eye, ears a bit pointy.

2ND (53) CH REMWIN ITSALLABOUTME

Black and white, very typical. Good topline and shelf, tail a bit stalked, but well curved. Pleasing head but ears large and wide set, good mover.

3RD (54) AM/AUS CH MEISTERHAUS STRIPES R THE NEW BLACK (IMP USA)

Brindle, nice size, good shelf, soft in topline, feet could be better.

CLASS 18—NEUTER DOG

RUNNERUP AND OPPOSITE NEUTER IN SHOW

1ST (57) GRAND CH REMWIN CHEEKY LIASONS

Red and white, lovely size, good shelf, lovely head, ears and eyes, fine coat and pliable skin.

2ND (58) GRAND CH & NEUTER CH REMWIN LITTLEBITOFCHEEK

Red and white, nice overall, good outline and topline, a bit strong in head, coat not in best condition.

3RD (59) DUAL CH [LC] WAZAZI DIAMONDS WILL DO IT

Up to size, good tail and shelf, would like stronger topline, nice head and eyes, ears are a bit large and pointy, coat in beautiful condition and skin pliant.

CLASS 18A—NEUTER BITCH

BEST NEUTER IN SHOW

1ST (61) SUPREME CH & NEUTER CH REMWIN KISSMYCHEEK

Red and white, lovely size, good topline, lovely shelf, would like a better curve in tail, pleasing head ears and expression, moved very well. Fine coat and skin pliant.

2ND (62) ZANZIPOW MOULIN ROUGE

Red and white nice overall, good shelf and lovely tailset, a bit long in body and loses her topline on the move, good head and eye, ears a bit big but well set.