

SIAMESE & ALL BREEDS CAT CLUB OF IRELAND (GCCFI) Dublin, 21.10.2012 Margaret Baker

I was happy to be called on as an emergency judge to fill a gap in the breed classifications and thoroughly enjoyed the show, presented by the Republic of Ireland's oldest cat club. Congratulations to Ronnie and her team on an efficiently run and friendly event, and many thanks for the hospitality. There was a shortage of stewards, always a headache for show organisers when there are not enough willing hands, but it led to an opportunity for five charming veterinary students to step in with assistance. My helper was Dana, whom I thank for her support and interest.

BREED CLASSES

HAVANA ADULT

CNH, Mrs P Sharp-Popple's DENSON GRACE KELLY, F, 1yr. 6mths. A most frustrating start to the day! How disappointing when a girl as lovely as this develops an aversion to show business, having done so well already in England. She was thoroughly unsettled as I even approached and struggled so wildly when brought out of the pen that I had to replace her quickly and leave well alone. I noted that she had a long fine head, brilliant green eyes and a long muscular body that she proved was extremely strong!

HAVANA KITTEN

1& BOB, Mrs P Sharp-Popple's DENSON BRUCEGRAHAMNUTT, M, 4mths exactly. A healthy developing kitten, nephew of the above, though frankly of

moderate type. Large pricked ears held rather high, slight curve on profile, deep well aligned chin, good enough bite. Small kitten pinch to muzzle. Oriental eyes which could be brighter and more definite green. Firm well proportioned body and legs, long fine tail. Warm brown coat with a good shine, not too dark and acceptable for soundness. A really cute character who was so easy to handle, but not up to the standard of Auntie, who was having none of it. That's life!

MISCELLANEOUS CLASSES

AV NON BREEDERS ADULT 6 entered.

1, Ms E Lastauskiene's ROGUS MAMMA CASS (33a 36), F, 1yr 6mths. Gorgeous little Devon Si?Rex with a touch of tortie, beautiful wide based pricked ears, good stop and whisker break. Broad muzzle, excellent cheek bones, chin could be stronger but bite was perfect. Large appealing golden eyes. Well rexed firm body.

2, Mrs M & Mr T Dunne's MIKKAK ARIZONA FAIRY (23), F, 1yr 2mths. Balanced medium sized Usual Aby girl, head had the desired gentle rounding with large cupped ears. Lovely large almond shaped eyes of greenish hazel. Lithe muscled body, elegant legs, tapered tail. Smooth coat lying well, had good ticking on a rich warm golden background.

3, N Matjugova's DOBSHANGRILA WILSON (76 30), M, 1yr 2mths. Handsome Bengal, making the most of his voice but very good to handle. Strong head with correctly shaped ears, muzzle and jaws well set. Eyes rather light green, mascara lines. Powerful neck, curved profile. Markings very good with clear M and head tracings, defined stripes and bold rosettes on warm toned background.

These three were difficult to separate.

4, R Stanitz & P Pudiliszewski's BELLA SZAFIREK*PL (16a), F, 2yrs 5mths. Russian lady with the essentials, good ear placement, rather large wide open eyes of medium

green. Gentle curve to profile, excellent bite, graceful body and balanced tail. Soft double coat, a sound silvery blue. All the placed cats had won their CCs and Best of Breed.

AV NON BREEDERS NEUTER 5 entered.

1, Mr C Grassick's GR PR FAUNESE TRINA CHEILE (27e), FN, 6yrs 6mths. Delightful brown tortie Burmese carrying her years lightly. Excellent profile and nose break, firm chin, rather flat top of head. Wide wedge, ears of appropriate medium size with the slight tilt. Chartreuse eyes which may have faded just a little. A dark tortie with excellent firm body, tail of good length with tiny paintbrush tip. A beauty, and affectionate with it.

2, R Murphy's ATARIQ CAVACHE (24a), MN, 1yr 7mths. Lovely blue point Siamese, unfortunately he was a bit upset. Long wedge, almost straight profile. Oriental eyes with a wide awake look and beautiful intense colour. Ears well shaped but ideally could be a bit larger. Elegant limbs, nicely tapered tail, smooth close coat with a moderate degree of shading. He became a Premier, congratulations.

3, Mr J Archer's HOBBERDY SOMATIR SAFFRON (27d), FN, 2yrs 3mths. Red Burmese who did not give me much chance to appraise her, but on looks a very decent cat. Good head with width at cheeks, even chin, not a very definite break. Rather pale chartreuse eyes of good shape. Excellent coat of smooth even texture.

HOUSEHOLD PETS (NON-PEDIGREE)

BLACK & WHITE CAT

1, E Kennedy's MOGGIE, MN, LH, 6yrs. Lovely massive boy, he had a strong head, a white face with whimsical patches of black over eyes and nose. Sweet benign expression in his

green eyes, the left eye was filmy. Beautifully contrasted piebald body and a well prepared long coat with a full tail. Very relaxed and friendly, as a pet should be.

GREY (BLUE) OR GREY & WHITE CAT

1, Mrs J Frizelle's SMOKEY, MN, SH, 3yrs 3mths. Another large and handsome boy who obviously owed his looks to a British Blue somewhere along the way. He had the wide cheeks and small neat ears. Rounded yellow-green eyes with a "frown" above them. Powerful body and legs, tail thick and slightly tapered. Coat smokey grey and soft to the touch. Very amenable and impressive in his diamante studded collar.

TABBY OR TABBY & WHITE CAT, MALE

1, S Cleary's MYSTERY, MN, LH, 5yrs. A huge armful of magnificent cat, who showed how glamorous and rewarding the Non-Peds can be! Described in the catalogue as a "mixed tabby", I would have called him a dark brown classic tabby, in a splendid long coat. He had a beautiful head with ear tufts and furnishings, a ruff and long plumed tail. Strong black markings on a warm buff undertone. Friendly, rubbing against my hand and purring. He was making his show debut and won the Debutant class.

2, Mr G & Mrs L Hughes' SIMBA, MN, SH, 13yrs. Attractive boy, looking as alert and toned up as any young fella. Lovely open face with bright expression in yellow eyes. Brown tabby with strong stripes along spine and spotted sides. At first he hid behind his (appropriate) Lion King backdrop, but when persuaded to come out he showed well and had a nice steady temperament. His coat quality was excellent, the fur thick and deep enough to keep him warm in winter, and had a grand polish to it. He won the class for "Best Groomed Cat."

3, Miss E Flood's BOBBY, MN, SH, 1yr 2mths. This was an

interesting colour, bluish tinged tabby with lots of lovely clean white. Wide rounded head, neat furnished ears, round light green eyes with an innocent expression. Large body of comfortable proportions, shortish black striped tail. Not keen on coming out of the pen.

GINGER OR GINGER & WHITE CAT, MALE

Two absolutely charming bicolours. 1, Mrs J Frizelle's GIZMO, MN, SH, 2yrs 3mths. A practised showman! Lovely face on his medium length head, hazel-green eyes. He had gorgeous marmalade markings on an excellent even coat, a white bib and four white socks, as if made to order. A little shy at first, he was a delightful character and so happy with his jewelled collar and collection of toys.

2, N & A O'Galligans' TIGGY, MN, SH, 4yrs. Most unusual red self and white, his beautiful close fitting coat had not a suspicion of a stripe on the body, though there were stripes over the forehead, and eyelines. A lovely boy with shapely head and ears and a gentle expression in large light green eyes. Super relaxed temperament, he lay on his back on the trolley and delighted in being stroked. What a pity there could not be two winners!

ANY OTHER COLOUR CAT

1, N & A O'Galligans' ROCKY, FN, SH, 4yrs. Most unusual and very amenable lady, dying to come out into the limelight. She was a tricolour, had a lovely smooth chocolate brown mantle with black ears and trimming on the face surrounding a white blaze. Wide set tranquil eyes of lovely light aquamarine. Her white parts were immaculate. Large strong body and surprisingly dainty paws. She had lost part of her tail. Very sweet and relaxed.

ANY COLOUR KITTEN (4 - 9 months)

1, Miss E Flood's SWEETIE, F, SH, 6mths. Lived up to her name as she was a sweet little lady, and pure chocolate box. Pretty head with a straight nose, large golden eyes, white bib and white feet. Growing a thick coat, tail was like a semi longhair, with mackerel tabby markings on a cream background. A little unsure of herself but beautifully behaved.

2, M Walsh's SIRI, FN, SH, 4mths. Charming black & white, round light green eyes, mostly white face and ears. Lovely clean white parts contrasting so well with jet black patches. Very approachable inside the pen, but she discovered she was not so happy out of it!

3, C Hayde's MISSY, F, SH, 4mths. Delightful little girl, though smallest in the class she was well able to hold her own. Round golden green eyes, coat had greyish tinged black markings of a mixed pattern somewhere between mackerel and spotted. Compact body with neat paws "making bread." She had an adorable temperament and was my obvious choice for "Friendliest Cat." She won many friends through the afternoon as she was also voted the Public's Favourite Non-Pedigree.

BEST IN SHOW

There were serious contenders, some having a unique feature, colour or pattern. The temperament must be right too, but in the end it is a feline beauty contest, and the final accolade went to one of the most beautiful cats in the show - S Cleary's long haired tabby MYSTERY.

Congratulations and thanks to all who took part in the show.