

The Estonian Club Show has been a lovely surprise to me. First of all truly nice people, from the welcoming club officers, to the great owners, exhibitors and handlers! Then, not less important beautiful dogs.

The ring and the location itself were just perfect and the weather also: what a sunny day but with a fresh air.

The number of the entered dogs was also very good and I had the right time to look properly to each dog, giving them the time they all deserved.

I was impressed by the good quality of the Leonbergers and happy to know, at the end of the show, that many of the prized and winners dogs were bred in Estonia, such a lovely but quite small country, where now I can say that the quality of the dogs gave me the idea of being higher than the average.

I tried to be very direct and judged loud voice, explaining every final placement.

Again, in general I saw a good quality of bitches and dogs, with lovely expressive heads, good stucture and average bone, fluent movements, excellent coats, lovely temperament.

Because of this it has been hard to decide, it has been challenging to eveybody to obtain a placement.

For this reason I want to avoid now single descriptions but only say that in the BOB winnig bitch I saw an energy and a movement that were really impressive; in the BOS a good type, with the good body/legs proportions and masculine imprint even if he is still a young dog, but with lot of potentials.

What I penalized were mainly the anatomy faults like the soft backs. I also saw a few dogs with not well aligned legs.

While standing the most common fault is the large number of not enough angulated rears. What surprised me was the extrmely common good tail carriage also in motion.

On the other hand the up and down movement was generally quite unsatisfactorly. This is an amazing tag: most of the show dogs are able to have a lovely, fluent and long step "side" motion while both front and rears legs are often not well correct when seen from the back to front straightaway movement. Too many close each other hocks and not well kept and parallel front feet. Some long and hare feet were visible as well.

The movement problems, I guess, are partially coming out from the tendence to consider the "show" part of an exhibition as the most important. Cinema!

Another point I would like to underline is related to the type. There is, more and more, the tendency to prize big and spectacular dogs, despite the good type of head. I see more rounded, apple shaped heads, with small and narrow eyes, often light in color. This is not the right type, even if I have to admit that myself, often, I prized this speciman into the show ring. This type is now becoming a "type into the type" and this is wrong (even if it is sometimes successful) since we risk to create another Leonberger, distinguished by certain blood lines, nowadays easily recognizable. If I can be happy with good, strong, well built and good moving dogs with a "certain" look, on the other hand when this look becomes "charged", with too round skulls, not well aderent eyelids, round and/or light and quite narrow eyes, heavy lips or skin at the head...then we should be more strict, choosing maybe less spectacular but more respectful of the standard wording dogs.

About the coats: generally speaking the coats were really nice! Only a few are showing a new promint fault in the breed (to pay attention to!) the short coat especially on the body. No bad colors that day in my eyes.

About the character: lovely, friendly Leonbergers as always. Only one or two cases of slightly shy or too much reserved dogs.

Thank you again for such a great day.

With all the best,

Guido Perosino