

Report of the Associated Rottweiler Fanciers 2011 Specialty

By Steve Wolfson



On Saturday, October 22, 2011, I adjudicated the Associated Rottweiler Fanciers 2011 specialty in Pleasanton, California. Last year I was unfortunately not able to judge for the club because of my son's auto accident and had to cancel. The club, however, understood my circumstance and decided to invite me back this year.

The weather - always a major factor in the success of a show - was warm and sunny and the show had respectable entry of 92. I extend my appreciation for the assignment to Karen Page, Bill Ward, Lorie Dewe, Susan Freitas, Roberta Martin and all members of the club. The hospitality they provided was generous and thoughtful.

The quality of the exhibits was good, their presentation and handling excellent. The classes, open, am-bred puppies etc. had a healthy entry and the champion



class, which was exceptional, had a superb entry of 30! It was impressive with many excellent champion dogs and bitches. The class that is always of great interest to me and most exciting to judge is bred-by, yet often does not get the respect it should. Breeders - who are the backbone of the Rottweiler - can spotlight their accomplishments in this class and should consider it as most special. The bred-by bitch class had a strong entry of five. However, it



was disappointing to see only one exhibit in the bred-by dog class.

Generally, breed type among the exhibits was good. Most had dark eyes, correct length of back, correct color and markings, good front and rear angulation and very good dark gum pigmentation. Dentition was also good with all having scissors bites. Some exhibits possessed double P1's, there was an extra M3 observed and some had marginal scissors bites.



Head type was generally correct with good skull to muzzle ratios. There were some with muzzles that exceeded the correct ratio of 3 to 2. One trait that I observed on most exhibits, which needs improvement and requires attention by breeders is the pronunciation of zygomatic arch and width of muzzle at the base. Many exhibits were shallow in this area and therefore, possessed an incorrect conical shaped muzzle instead of "broad at base", which is specified in our standard. Another trait that should be addressed is bone mass. Some exhibits were fine

in bone mass and lacked a general power and substance in the body. These aforementioned traits are hard won, yet easily lost.



The ring size was good for a Rottweiler specialty and I understand there was an expectation that I would run the dogs a bit more than usual. However, since the day grew warm, I decided

that it was unwise to move the dogs more than twice around the ring to assess locomotion. In the up and back movement, all were very good with the exception, that a few of the exhibits demonstrated “out at the elbows” and loose shoulders. In the side gait, all had good reach and drive.

Most impressive were the beautiful quality of dark eye color and gum pigmentation on exhibits. It was gratifying to know that very few possessed light eyes or pink gums. Also observed on exhibits were excellent coats, good markings and good front and rear angulations. All breeders and owners should be pleased about these admirable traits.



At the show grounds, after the event, we held a short impromptu Q&A with members of the club and spectators concerning aspects about the Rottweiler. One of the questioned I posed was: “What is the trait that separates the Rottweiler

from all other breeds?”

The Associated Rottweiler Fanciers conducted a well organized, efficient running specialty. All members of the club can take pride in knowing this. I also thank the exhibitors and spectators for their entries and support and hope to see all in the future.



Sincerely,
Steve Wolfson