

SBTCA Parent Specialty 1
Friday, July 2, 2021
Wilmington, OH

Judge: Damon Folmar

Allow me to say thank you for the privilege of being asked to judge this specialty show as part of the SBTCA National Specialty weekend. I am humbled and honored to have had this opportunity.

A word about how I judge the Staffordshire Bull Terrier. It's always my goal to fairly and honestly evaluate Staffords in an unbiased way to identify those dogs who are both typey and sound – balanced in as complete a way as possible. There are always dogs who have outstanding “parts” (i.e. an incredible headpiece with excellent bone) but if all the parts don't work and blend harmoniously together then there is not balance within the dog, therefore the dog cannot himself/herself be considered balanced and complete.

A word about the breed as I see it today. When I started in the breed a bit over 2 decades ago we saw both a lot of different styles of headpieces and a lot of weak headpieces and a lot that were stuffy and overdone. Breed type was sorely lacking in many dogs. Good toplines were rare to see. Currently I see an abundance of strong headpieces and excellent bone and type is much more prevalent today than in years gone by. We have many – MANY – excellent breeders today who have built their foundations on excellent breeding stock, importing semen and exceptional dogs to build foundations for all of us. You are to be commended. The things I see that we, as breeders need to concentrate on now are wrapped up in two words: proper structure. We are still seeing too many unbalanced dogs whose “parts” don't work together to produce a harmonious blending and working together for that “complete” dog that we all strive to produce. Good movement can and should be produced with every beautiful typey dog with that exceptional head, great bone, and correct proportions. Rear movement as viewed from the rear is a rare commodity in the ring and I think it needs to come into conversations about breeding more. It starts with a well-constructed front, a strong and level topline, short coupling, and correctly angulated rear with a croup and tail set and carriage. Our standard calls for movement that is “free, powerful, agile with economy of effort” – I believe this is a vital virtue that we all must strive to have in our dogs and it entails far more than those 7 words or a few outstanding features that look impressive while a dog is standing still.

Dogs shown in proper condition were plentiful and less that were too fat/spongy, poorly conditioned, etc. I encourage everyone showing and breeding Staffords to show them in proper flesh/condition even at all-breed shows – but especially at specialties.

To the many outstanding breeders we have – evidenced by the highest quality overall of any specialty I've ever been to – keep on keeping on – breed excellent Staffords with incremental improvements in structure every chance you get.

Following is the critique of those dogs who placed and won in the show.

Thanks again to the member of the SBTCA for allowing me to judge the show. It was an honor I will not soon forget.

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4-6 Puppy

1st - McCullough's *BULLWARK I'LL ALWAYS BE YOUR GIRL*

Beautiful Black Brindle Bitch puppy bitch possessing a cracking headpiece with lovely ears, strong foreface, and good underjaw. Excellent short coupling and correct proportions throughout for a puppy this age. Loved the rear assembly of this pup as well as the correct strength of chest/forechest. While she was the only puppy in the class she could stand quite a lot of competition now & in the future I predict.

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Regular Classes

6-9 Puppy Dog

1st - Cassidy & Lavender's *IRRESISTIBULL'S SHINING DREAM*

Smart Red pup with white markings with no exaggeration. Pleasing expression on a well-constructed headpiece evidenced by dark round eyes well set and alert with a lovely proper short neck flowing into a nice front assembly. Good dentition. Excellent topline and rear angulation and nice feet. Good tail set and carriage. Correct construction from nose to tip of tail showing a pup with a lot of promise for the future.

2nd - Yost's & Lavender's *IRRESISTIBULL'S RHAPSODY ON FIRE*

Red Smut pup with a strong headpiece evidenced by developing cheeks and strong muzzle and underjaw. Moved properly, particularly from the rear, evidence of his good front & correct rear angulation. Well balanced body on this pup.

3rd - Reser's *FLYIN CALICO JACK*

Handsome clear red dog with more maturity in head than most in the class and on his way to maturing overall at an earlier age, I believe. Good topline and coupling just the way it should be. Most excellent well-padded feet and moved easy, agile and with purpose, showing himself off to his best advantage. Would have liked more tidy ears.

4th - Crawford's *TWILIGHT NIGHTMARE BEFORE CHRISTMAS*

Handsome black brindle pup showing particularly good promise in overall structure with especially good forechest and rear assembly with proper rear angulation, well let down hocks, tidy feet.

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12-18 Month Dog

1st – Wickel's MAGICGEM MANHATTAN MAULER

Brindle that catches one's attention immediately upon entering the ring with his overall type and pleasing headpiece. Strong head with correct skull, prominent cheeks, thin ears, and powerful underjaw. Large teeth and scissors bite. His expression is top shelf with correctly placed dark, round eyes. Excellent depth and width of chest which provided a foundation of proper proportions throughout. Well padded feet and well boned he exuded strength and type in a male his age. Short coupled and well angulated fore and rear. Some rise to the loin on the move.

2nd – Gatliff's HOMEBREWED TUNED FOR TORQUE

Smart, classic and stylish Black Brindle dog. Similar in quality to the 1st place dog. This sharp young dog pushed hard for top honors in this class, losing out only because I'd love to have seen a broader muzzle which I believe will come with maturity. Possessed a lovely headpiece overall and a correct round eye with thin, well placed rose ears. I loved his movement where he held his topline perfectly, good tuck up/loin length and proper croup with a tail carriage and set which only added to his balance and harmonious working together of all his parts. I look forward to seeing him at full maturity as I think he has the promise of an exceptional dog.

3rd – Gregor's and Porcher's CIERA THRASHERS SHOOT TO THRILL

Top sized Red & White dog that was well boned and moved well from the side view. Deep skull and pronounced cheek with rose ears. Beautiful neck flowing into a correctly structured shoulder and front end assembly with proper depth of brisket and good topline. Rear quarters well developed for his age. I wish his coupling had been shorter.

4th – Porter's GORDY'S RUNNING WITH LIGHTS & SIRENS

Red & white dog with the overall proportions in body that we are looking for in height, length, coupling. Well constructed skull with distinct stop with proper muzzle/backskull proportions. Would have liked a more correct front and a more round eye.

Bred-By Exhibitor Dog

1st – Caswell's WAVEMAKER NONESUCH

Typey Black Brindle dog with a lovely head shape and abundance of volume of skull, cheek and muzzle. Lovely dark round eyes and well placed thin rose ears. Strength exhibited in correctly constructed chest and forechest, well boned with correct feet. Lovely neck flowing into a nice shoulder. Good coupling. Excellent rear angulation. Could have carried his tail a tad lower to be ideal. This dog embodied power and strength without being overdone. Went on to BEST BRED-BY Exhibit in show.

Open Dogs – an excellent class of dogs that was a pleasure to sort through.

1st – Gubler's DYNASTAFFS JUST MY IMAGINATION

Classically constructed Black Brindle dog that caught my eye as soon as he came in the ring. Completely balanced and as perfect a blend of bull & terrier as one could hope for. Clean, well-constructed skull, proper length of muzzle, well placed and round dark eyes coupled with the most exemplary placed ears providing near perfect expression. Correct bite. Strong neck led to a correctly constructed front assembly evidenced by shoulder layback and plenty of chest/forechest and a ribcage/loin that provided the foundation for a perfect topline and excellent tuck up leading to a correct croup, and correct tail set which was carried properly when moving. Speaking of moving, this dog could move in an exemplary fashion – light on his feet but moving with purpose and strength. Went on to WINNERS DOG.

2nd – Kendall's HOMEBREWED IRON FIST OF CIERA

Excellent quality Black Brindle that even a cursory look would allow that he is balanced and well boned with excellent feet and a properly balanced blend of bull and terrier, a dog full of strength and athleticism. Head was good with proper balance of muzzle to backskull and a scissors bite. Beautiful expression. Masculinity evidenced through his powerful, short, correct neck leading to a body constructed to work together in harmony in movement with a properly angulated front and rear. His placement behind the 1st place dog was a precursor to his final placement as RESERVE WINNERS DOG.

3rd – McKinney's FLYIN FLASH BANG

A typey Black Brindle dog that showed himself off better than any dog in the class. He was determined to be noticed and showed off his considerable virtue readily for anyone who was paying attention. An easy moving dog with good width throughout, starting with his lovely forechest and carrying through well sprung ribs and plenty of width through the rear end. Good headpiece with proper proportions, well boned and a good blend of bull and terrier. I would have preferred a shorter coupling and a darker eye but he followed the 1st two dogs well with this placement.

4th – Erickson's L-BELLE'S FIDELIUS CHARM

Black Brindle dog that possessed tremendous bone and excellent rear angulation at first look. Moderate headpiece with broad muzzle, correctly placed eye, scissors bite and good underjaw, well placed ears and good expression. Proper proportions throughout. Good mover and handled well. Would have liked to have seen more of a waist/tuck up on him.

6-9 Puppy Bitches

1st – Lavender & Steinle's IRRESISTIBULL SIENE SUNBURST WITH AMBITION

Red smut bitch with a lot of correct type and excellent movement to discuss. Moved freely and with economy for a puppy her age and kept her topline while stopping perfectly each time I watched her. Pleasing eye and strong muzzle. An easy 1st place in this class.

2nd – Her's BRZUSTOWICZ'S BEAUTIFUL IN PINK

Typey Black Brindle puppy that was correct in proportions with a feminine head, ½ prick ears, and nicely angulated in the rear. Moved well and nice overall view from the side when stacked or moving. Followed the first bitch in placement quite well.

3rd – Osborn's OZSTAFF'S NEVER MORE

Top sized brindle pup with heavy bone and lots of volume in skull. Was showed to her best advantage today being handled well – her tail carriage and more correct rear movement carried her over the 4th place bitch.

4th – Kendall/Kendall's PASSON RED CARPET RENEGADE

Beautiful black brindle pup with a lovely head – plenty of correctness in proportion of the head & skull and eye placement leading to a lovely expression and correct, thin, well placed rose ears. I wish her tail and rear movement would have been different.

9-12 Puppy Bitches

1st – McKinney & Walsh's KRONSATERS SOLAR

Brindle bitch who excelled with movement and overall structure, particularly in topline and rear assembly – side movement was really nice for a pup this age. A neck that flowed into a nice shoulder and proper ribspring for a pup this age, followed by a lovely loin and rear end, tail carried nicely. Handled exceptionally well. I would have liked a different expression. Went on to BEST PUPPY IN SHOW

2nd – Monestina's BULLSPARK FULCRUM BY ITCHEBOREN

A beautiful and completely type-filled black brindle bitch that catches your eye when you see her walk in the ring. The most lovely, feminine and correct head structure with a depth of skull, skull to muzzle proportions, lovely eye and overall, very pleasing expression, small, well placed rose ears. She lost to the 1st bitch on movement and topline.

3rd – Boyer/Made's SEQUOIA FROM THE REDWOOD COAST

Flashy red & white puppy bitch that was well boned with lots of Stafford attitude. Feminine headpiece and lively expression. Short back with a nice spring of rib. Very good rear angulation. Would have preferred tighter feet and a more correct layback of shoulder.

4th – Huhn/Keetch/Hornberg-Wilson's TRAWDEN SNOW DAY AT DYNASTAFF

White bitch with a red eye patch. Pleasing feminine headpiece and expression, rose ears, nicely proportioned front/shoulder, excellent forechest and rear assembly. Carrying a lot of flesh for her size and age and this kept her from being more competitive today.

12-18 Bitches

1st – Ringle & Lasher's SUPERB'S TELL ME HAVE YOU SEEN HER

A Black Brindle bitch that catches one's eye immediately. Possessing a lovely and most feminine headpiece with correctly placed thin rose ears, clean lips, scissors bite. Correct length of neck flowing into a nice shoulder, proper tuck up and loin length, well let down hocks and correct rear angulation. Lovely proportions and blend of bull & terrier. Strong and correct rear assembly. This bitch comes alive in her movement showing just what a bull & terrier breed should look like in the 12-18-month class.

2nd – Fabrizio/Craig/Porcher's CIERA THRASHERS MISS-ADVENTURE

Top size pied brindle pied bitch that was similar in overall style to #1. Feminine head and nice enough ears. Strong construction from the shoulder to the loin, up on leg and quite capable in overall movement and was very pleasing on the move. Handled exceptionally well. Lost to 1st place bitch on her strength/style of head and croup.

Amateur Owner-Handler Bitches

1st – Keetch's FOYLEOAK DERRY MAID

BB on the lower end of the standard in size. Pleasing eye and expression with tidy, well placed rose ears, strong front and nice rear angulation. Was handled well and had nice side gait. Could benefit from carrying a little less flesh on the day.

Bred-by Exhibitor Bitches – A very strong class with the top 3 vying for the 1st place nod and at least 6 bitches in the class worthy of a placement.

1st – Pawson's MANORVIEW'S ARE YOU READY FOR THE SEQUEL?

Red & White bitch – a strong but feminine headpiece with lovely lip line, proper underjaw, dentition, backskull and proper Stafford ears. Lots of width through the front and beyond with plenty of depth of brisket. Beautiful neck flowing into a correct shoulder with proper loin length and correct croup, pelvic girdle, and rear assembly including tail set and carriage. . Moved with ease showing off her proper construction from forechest to tip of tail.

2nd – Diaz/Kilkenny's BLACK COUNTRY'S I FEEL FOR YOU

Typey brindle bitch with a beautiful headpiece – strong, yet feminine with proper ears and eye shape, placement and expression – all very similar to the 1st place bitch. Strong and fit from tip of nose through rear assembly, well sprung ribs, correct loin length, would have liked a different croup. Handled very well.

3rd – McGrew/McGrew's PINNACLE'S TWICE AS NICE

Lovely black brindle who will catch your eye immediately with her correct profile view of headpiece proportion and absolutely beautiful and proper neck flowing into her shoulder. Thin rose ears and correct dark eye. Broad chest and well sprung ribs, and well let down hocks. Presented professionally and was quite responsive to her handler.

4th – Collins' REDWOODCOAST ANNIE GET YOUR GUN

Beautiful, typey strong red bitch with lovely proportions and balance throughout, creating a pleasing overall picture/outline when viewed from the side. Feminine enough head and lovely neck flowing just right into her shoulder. Well sprung ribs, correctly coupled in the loin and moderate rear angulation. Would have liked a darker eye.

Open Bitches – Another quality filled class as evidenced by Winners and Reserve coming from this class.

1st – Kerner/Caswell/Caswell's WAVEMAKER HELLO LOVELY

Typey BB Bitch who exudes almost everything it means to be a Stafford bitch. Proper balance, proper blend of bull and terrier, exemplary movement and overall structure. A feminine, yet completely strong headpiece with proper ears and dentition, strong underjaw. Her exceptional overall structure was highlighted by the fact that she was in excellent shape showing off her superior musculature throughout. Proper shoulder, loin length, tuck up, rear assembly, including proper angulation and well let down hocks, providing one of the better moving dogs in the show when viewed from the rear. Strong topline which she kept in movement and stationary status. Handled very well as she was full of herself and Stafford attitude which could be a challenge for some handlers. I was happy to award her WINNERS BITCH and BEST OF WINNERS.

2nd – Nicolai/Craig's HOMEBREWED CIERA YOU CAN'T MAKE ME

A black brindle bitch who immediately impressed me the moment she walked in. Lovely headpiece with proper proportions of muzzle to skull, plenty of strength to underjaw, proper neck. Correct abundance and shape of bone throughout. The tightest of feet – an advantage over the 1st placed bitch. Following in the pattern of the first place bitch excellent structure, balance and proper movement – holding her topline and tail to perfection whether in motion or stationary. I would have liked a darker eye and a bit less flesh being carried today. She was a natural fit for RESERVE WINNERS BITCH today.

3rd - Craig/Berry/Berry's WILLABY'S RUBY TUESDAY

Top Sized Black Brindle bitch with exceptional overall type and shown in absolutely fine condition – a very pleasing bitch to examine. Proper head with plenty of volume and yet still feminine. Nice ears. Lovely neck and shoulder, good rib cage. Would have preferred a shorter loin. Excellent rear quarter.

4th – Diaz/Kilkenny's BLACK COUNTRY'S THE GLAMOROUS LIFE

A proper sized fawn and white bitch shown in the most athletic of condition. Having received top honors at another show under my judging she ran into much deeper competition at this show. Feminine to a high degree while maintaining a beautiful blend of bull and terrier showing plenty of athleticism while keeping plenty of excellent quality muscled quarters in the front and rear. Beautiful headpiece and ears and well-placed round eyes that provide a nice expression. Beautiful neck flowing into a nice shoulder and rib cage. Loin is the proper length. Would like to see a little neater front and she was holding her topline a bit incorrectly today to place any higher.

Veteran Dogs

7-9 Year Old Veteran Dogs

1st – Carter/Bryant's GCHS SHORTYROCKS THE VINDICATOR

Top Size Bindle dog that still shows what a Stafford should be. Cracking head shape and lovely ears and expression, good topline which he held on the move, and beautiful round bone. Exceptional spring of rib and loin coupling and croup. Proper proportions insuring what I saw as he moved – effortless movement with the most economy – every foot put where it should be in movement and when standing. An impressive picture of a dog in overall outline and still showing the business. Went on to BEST VETERAN as well as BEST OF OPPOSITE SEX

2nd – Burwell/Schwoeble's PAWGATE'S LEIPREACHAN AN CARA

Red dog of good type and excellent construction throughout. Well boned and exceptional feet, still a strong headpiece with lovely expression, half prick ears, and lovely well sprung rib. Short coupled and showed/handled well. He was veery happy to be in the ring and it was a joy to judge him. Great to see a dog of his age maintaining such good condition.

3rd – Lasher/Krejci's GCH MK'S TRUE GRIT CAX FCAT

Brindle dog also shown in excellent condition for a gentleman his age. His head was showing his age a bit as was his attitude – preferring to be doing something else today, I think. Strong moving from the side with excellent rear angulation. Well boned dog. Would have liked to have seen more width through the front end.

Select Bitch:

Walsh's GCH FLYIN TORPEDO THE ARK CGC

Black brindle bitch – exceptionally correct skull / headshape with beautiful expression. Tidy ears, beautiful feet, gleaming coat. Well-constructed rear and proper tail set and carriage. Moved well from the side and was always standing correctly and dialed into the happenings in the ring with typical Stafford inquisitiveness. Handled to the best possible advantage and in good weight.

AWARDS OF MERIT:

Khlaponina's BLOCKBUSTER JAMAICA SUNSHINE

Red and white bitch pulled straight from the top shelf. Followed the type of our Best of Breed winner nicely. Lower end of the standard in size but full of Stafford type and correct construction. Skull proportions were nice and rose ears. Would have liked a cleaner foreface. Excellent movement resulting from her proper construction of front end, topline, loin and rear assembly with correct proportions. There were many competitive bitches in the Best of Breed ring. Her type and movement propelled her to contention for top honors today and I was happy to award her the first award of merit.

Pawson/Sorbera's GCH MANORVIEW LUCKY CHARM BCAT CHC TKN

Brindle pied dog who was highly competitive in the ring today. Very correct in body showing proper proportions, correct angles – excellent really in front and rear. This provided another really sound moving dog that also possessed quite a high degree of breed type, particularly in body. His headpiece could have a cleaner lip line but possesses nice balance and beautiful round eyes and tidy enough ears providing a very nice expression. Short back, strong ribcage and nice round bone and clean movement.

West/Berry's WILLABY'S SOUTHERN CROSS

Beautiful top sized black brindle bitch who absolutely excelled in head properties and overall expression, lovely eye, the most correct of ears – rose and thin, followed by strong neck flowing into a lovely shoulder and following through with a well angulated rear with well let down hocks. Correct dentition, tidy feet, and lovely round bone. I'd like to have seen a shorter loin but I predict a very bright future for this lovely girl.

Keetch/Keetch/Wilson's GCH SAMROSS AMERICAN DREAM DCAT CA

A handsome black brindle dog of excellent overall quality. Carrying perhaps the most beautiful and correct expression of any male dog I saw today it was a pleasure to go over his headpiece which was perfectly balanced and not in excess at all, framed by perfect ears and eyes, lovely muzzle length, fullness, and correct Stafford temperament – definitely ready for whatever life brings him. Excellent front and shoulder assembly construction. Exceptional forechest/brisket, good topline and moved clean, particularly from the front and side view. I'd have liked a different tail carriage and a little less weight.