

## **Western Afghan Hound Club Open Show – 26 April 2024**

Many thanks to the WAHC for inviting me to judge this show and to my two stewards for keeping the ring running. Thank you also to all the exhibitors for entering and for taking my decisions with good grace.

Baby Puppy Dog: no entries

Veteran Dog: (1,1)

Puppy Dog: (7,0)

1 Gray's Rhajikhan Walking On Water. 9-month-old brindle dog. Balanced head with dark eye. Long neck into good front and good depth of chest. Level topline with prominent pin bones and good fallaway. Well angled rear with good tail set. Well-boned and in good condition. Moved well for his age but needs to tighten throughout. BPIS

2 Phillips & Smith's Xenos Kai Zhaqqari (imp ITA). 9-month-old brindle who is still very raw at this stage but has plenty of time on his side. Good head and eye, long neck and well-constructed throughout but very much needs to fill his frame. Level topline with correctly set ringed tail. Moved with good carriage, just needs to work out how to control his legs!

3 Kirk & Williams' Istani Michael Jackson Among Dominguez.

Junior Dog: (3,1)

1 Lancashire & O'Donnell's Drishaun Baby's In Black JW. 14-month-old black and tan. Well-balanced head with good eye shape and excellent expression. Long neck into well laid shoulders and return of upper arm. Good depth of chest and spring of rib. Level topline, with good fallaway and tail set. Good rear angulation with great length from hip to hock. Presented a very balanced and impressive outline on the stack and moved with excellent reach and drive, covering plenty of ground. Presented in superb condition. Liked him a lot, will follow his career with interest.

2 Kirk & Williams' Istani Davidoff the Game. 17-month-old up to size black and tan. Masculine head with good eye and good length of neck. Not the angulation of one, but he is balanced front and rear. Has a level topline, prominent pin bones and good croup and tail set. Moved well and was sympathetically handled to get the best out of him.

Yearling dog: (2,0)

1 Gunn's Katanga's God of Thunder. 22-month-old black and silver. Masculine head with good eye. Balanced angulation front and rear, short loin, prominent hip bones, good fallaway and ringed tail. Still very immature in body and needs time to mature but would benefit from more muscle. Used himself well on the move, once he settled.

2 Gunn's Katanga's God of Mischief. Black and silver litter brother to 1. Similarly built to his brother but he lacks confidence and isn't keen to be gone over. Very unsettled on the move so hard to assess. Sympathetically handled.

Graduate dog: (5,1)

1 Gizewski's Shahfoladi Thunderbird (AI). Black and silver of good type. Pleasing head and eye giving a good expression. Good length to his neck with well laid shoulders and return of upper arm. Good depth to his chest, spring of rib and well-muscled loin. Ringed tail and presented in excellent condition. A steady mover with good reach and drive which won him this class.

2 French's Sitana Moon Knight at Zalmeerah JW. Black and tan who presents a balanced outline on the stack. Masculine head with good eye. Long neck into good front assembly. Level topline with prominent pin bones, good croup and tail set. Balanced rear angulation, with good length from hip to hock. He showed good reach and drive but at times was a touch erratic on the move, which cost him the class.

3 Kirk & Williams' Istani Davidoff the Game.

Post Graduate dog: (2,1)

1 Dunstan & Waterhouse's Shimalma Disaronno at Tazkindi. Self-masked gold boy. Balanced head with good eye and expression. Good length of neck. Balanced angulation front and rear but, for me, lacking in substance. Used himself well on the move.

Limit dog: (1,0)

1 Hills & Thornton's Absolute Afghans Djbouti at Karnak JW (imp NOR). Shaded masked gold. Masculine dog with good bone and substance. Good head and expression with good length of neck. Balanced front and rear assembly, good depth of chest and level topline. Prominent pin bones with good fallaway. Moved well but would like a little more extension.

Open dog: (7,4)

A wonderful class, I really was splitting hairs and had to be super picky in choosing between them. They could easily change places on another day.

1 Gardner's Ch Drishaun Said Tiger To Lily. Brindle who I have done well for before and my opinion hasn't changed. He has an excellent head and expression, which is masculine without any coarseness. He presents an excellent outline on the stack and your hands just flow over him. Excellent front and rear assembly. Excellent spring of rib, correct, strong loin, level topline and correctly set tail. He was presented in immaculate condition and had a fabulous rapport with his handler. He comes alive on the move, covering the ground with a light, effortless gait. Couldn't deny him BD and BIS.

2 Lewis & Bacich's Sup.Ch Aviva Vampire Tetra (AI). S/m cream dog who presents a balanced outline on the stack. More compact than 1. Beautiful, well chiselled head with good eye and expression. His long neck flows into excellent front assembly. Good depth of chest and well ribbed, strong loin and level topline. Sweeping rear quarters with good length from hip to hock. Presented in excellent coat and muscle condition and superbly handled. Moved well but I felt the ring wasn't quite big enough for him, which was my deciding factor between these two. Would love to see him go outside in a big grass ring. A very worthy champion. RBD.

3 Gosling's Ch Ayoubkhan Silk Road JW. Another worthy champion completing this lovely trio. Was very unlucky to meet 1 & 2 today.

Baby Puppy Bitch: no entries

Veteran bitch: (2,1)

1 Gizewski's Ch Saxonmill Zan Zan. 7-year-old Black and silver. Lovely head with good eye and expression. Long neck leading into good front assembly. Prominent pin bones with good fallaway. Complimentary rear angulation with good sweep from hip to hock. A little soft in topline on the stack but held it better on the move. BVIS

Puppy bitch: (3,2)

1 Cook's Grace Kelly. Pretty 8-month-old baby. Balanced head with a wealth of monkey whiskers and reasonable length of neck. Balanced angulation front and rear with good depth of chest and level topline. Lacking in confidence on the move and seemingly a touch overwhelmed with proceedings, but I believe this was only her first show. She is only a baby and has plenty of time on her side. BPB

Junior bitch: (3,2)

1 Lancashire & O'Donnell's Drishaun What Baby Wants. 14-month-old self-masked gold. Appealing, feminine, well-balanced head with excellent eye and expression. Good length of neck leading into well laid shoulders and corresponding return of upper arm. Good depth of chest, level topline, correct fallaway and tail set and good length from hip to hock. In excellent condition throughout, with good bone and substance for her age. Impressed on the move, displaying reach and drive, and covering the ground with ease. RBB

Yearling bitch: (2,0)

1 Callard's Katanga's Black Widow at Shimonay. Feminine black and tan bitch with a pretty head and expression. Presented a nice outline on the stack with good length of neck, level topline with good croup and ringed tail. Balanced angulation front and rear. She moved well, although was a touch erratic at times. Won this class on her overall balance.

2 Bellringer's Prayma Keep Your Eyes On Me (imp FIN) JW. Black masked gold. Feminine balanced head with good expression. Would prefer a slightly longer neck and better lay of shoulder, but she has a good return of upper arm and good depth of chest. Good rear angulation, ringed tail and in excellent condition. Longer cast than 1, she has a habit of dropping her topline on the stack, but she held it well on the move and moved with good carriage.

Graduate bitch: (3,1)

1 Lancashire & O'Donnell's Drishaun What Baby Wants.

2 Lawson-Ball's Sitana Mystique at Zarcar. Shaded masked gold with a balanced head, dark eye and lovely chiselling. Good length of neck, into level topline with good croup. Good lay of shoulder and depth to her chest with lovely big feet. Corresponding rear angulation with a good length from hock to hop. She is carrying too much weight at the moment, and this reflected in her movement.

Post Graduate Bitch: (2,0)

1 Humphreys' Ayoubkhan Porcelain Dove Ultra-feminine self-masked cream bitch. Lovely head, eye and expression. Good length of neck, leading into correct front assembly. Level topline, well-muscled loin, correct fallaway and ringed tail. Good rear angulation with good sweep from hip to hock and she is in excellent muscular condition. I'd prefer more substance throughout and she still needs time to mature throughout but she impressed on the move covering the ground well and with light springy steps.

2 Fisher's Shimalma Campari Goes to Ifmaraf Another super feminine cream bitch of a different type to 1, but with many similar attributes. Pretty head with good eye and expression. Good front angulation and corresponding balanced rear angulation. Nice depth to her chest, level topline and strong loin. She covered the ground well on the move but lacked the enthusiasm and spring of 1.

Limit bitch: (5,1)

1 Cullen's Cloudside Sevillana at Eweyisska (AI). Black bitch who stood out on the stack for her overall balance. Feminine head with excellent eye and expression. Lovely length to her neck which leads into a well laid shoulder with good return of upper arm. Good depth of chest, level topline, strong loin and good fallaway. In excellent condition throughout. Moved well.

2 Parson's Ayoubkhan Honeysuckle to Shukriya JW. Self-masked cream and litter sister to 1 in PG. Very similar to her sister in outline and construction, just a touch bigger throughout. Lovely feminine head with good eye. Good front and rear angulation, level topline and fallaway. Much like her sister, she needs time to mature. Was quite reluctant to put effort in on the move today and to raise her tail but pulled out enough on the final go around to deserve this placing.

3 Gleed's Saviour And My Salvation at Ksiadz

Open bitch (3,2)

1 Ch Drishaun Faith Is Like A Lily for Javidan JW. Brindle and litter sister to my BD, she stood out in the bitch entry for her overall balance, construction and maturity. Excellent feminine head with good eye and expression. Lovely long neck into correct front assembly with excellent depth of chest and spring of rib. Level topline, prominent hip bones, good croup and correctly ringed tail. Excellent rear angulation with good length from hip to hock. She is in fabulous condition and her coat was presented immaculately. Covered the ground effortlessly on the move. Pushed her brother hard in the final challenge BB and RBIS.

**Judge: Vikki Cannon (Zushkhan)**