

Golden Retriever Club of Quebec
Regional Specialty 2007
July 15, 2007

I wish to thank the Officers and Committee of the Golden Retriever Club of Quebec for inviting me to judge their Regional Show on Sunday, July 15, 2007.

It was indeed an honour and I thoroughly enjoyed my assignment and time in Quebec. Everyone was gracious, kind and considerate and the exhibitors displayed good sportsmanship throughout the day. They accepted my decision on placings graciously.

My general comments are, as follows, and are given in the hope that they will be helpful.

The overall quality of males far outweighed the quality of females and this was throughout the classes. There was a lot of variation in the females – it was difficult in some classes to find a well balanced golden that had no exaggerations. A number of the females were overdone and I caught myself a couple of times wondering whether they were males or females. I realize the Canadian standard for females starts at 21-1/2” and finishes at 22-1/2”, and in the UK the range is 20” – 22”, indeed, variance at each end of the scale. However, when their head and expression looked masculine as well, it was something that I had difficulty with when making allowances.

Overall, neck and shoulders have improved since I last judged in Canada twenty years ago, but in some cases careful consideration needs to be given by some breeders when mating their females. Some shoulders were so upright they had terrier fronts, not the desired front of a Golden Retriever. This type of front affects the movement a great deal – there is little extension and length of stride with upright shoulders and there is no free flowing effortless movement. I would suggest that you identify a golden with the correct layback of shoulders and a golden with very upright shoulders – move them individually and watch them go around in a circle, go up and down, or in a triangle, and note the differences between the two. There is one. Watch carefully, remember, and then strive to make a difference. It will not be an immediate one – it will take several generations to move from bad shoulders to better shoulders.

Quarters were good overall – in fact I don't think that I identified one golden with a poor stifle. However, there were a number of goldens that were over angulated and their hocks turned inwards and they did not move soundly. This also affects the topline – it slopes downward and gives the impression of a setter's topline. Add very upright shoulders to this and it accentuates it even more. This is totally incorrect – a golden should have a square level outline.

Bone and substance were good and in most cases not overdone at all. In the UK I have noted lack of bone, particularly in females, and I find this most unattractive.

There were a number of “gay” tails which is not appealing on the move. Several Golden Retrievers with “gay” tails had a hooked/bent tail at the tip and usually Golden Retrievers with this carry their tails over their back on the move.

There were several dogs and champions that had an incorrect bite. Your standard says scissor bite with lower incisors touching the inside of the upper incisors. This did not happen with several dogs – there were several level bites, one overshot mouth, although the dog was older, and several undershot mouths. These are serious faults and if bred from usually reproduce this fault. I ask myself, “why would a breeder want to perpetuate a fault like this?” and I also ask myself “why do judges put up dogs with incorrect mouths?”. There is a breed standard to follow and Golden breeders/exhibitors should want to guard this standard zealously.

There were several Golden Retrievers with light eyes which gives a much harder expression. For me, one of the most important aspects of our lovely breed is a soft gentle expression which is achieved by melting dark brown eyes that are the correct size and that are set well apart.

There were also several dogs that had “calf licks” – ridges of hair growing the wrong way from just between or above the eyes down the foreface to the tip of the nose. This too spoils the expression for me and is something that is not desirable. Puppies that are born with “calf licks” in the UK are usually sold as pets.

On the plus side I was impressed with the temperament of the Golden Retrievers at this show. Throughout the day, there were a large number of dogs in the collecting ring which was quite a confined area, and I did not hear one growl amongst any of the dogs.

Handling of the dogs was excellent although I prefer not to see them “strung up” on a tight lead. It does affect their movement.

Today with the world becoming a much smaller place, there are so many opportunities to use the world’s “gene pool”. You can easily ship your dog to the UK or Scandinavia which gives the chance to use some of the top dogs in the world or use artificial insemination. The possibilities/opportunities are endless.

Think carefully when mating your stock, don’t always pick the “flavour of the month”, i.e., the stud dog that is doing all the winning. There is much more to think about. Consult breeders that have a consistent success record under many different judges.

If you think that I can help you in any way at all, you need only ask. I would be happy to do so.

I wish each and every one of you success and happiness in breeding/showing your Golden Retrievers.

Males

Veteran

1. ***Brown & Grant's Ch Maltcairn's Digby Shines.*** Dark golden dog, good bone, head a little plain for me, but he is so sound, excellent topline, neat feet, good bend of stifle, moved well with good front extension. **Best Veteran.**
2. ***McAuley's Ch Chrys-Haefen More for the Mony.*** Not the scope of the winner, smaller dog, good rib and topline, well bent stifles, moved well, but not the front angulation of the winner. In good coat and condition.
3. ***Chapman's Ch Meadowpond Grand Beaujolais, CDX, AGI, AGIJ, CW, VCI.***
4. ***Klouman & Barr's Ch Kyon's Passionate Sheaster.***

Junior Puppy Male

1. ***Landry's Sagagold R Deux d Deux.*** It was a close decision – could change places another day. Very together, nice size, good bone, lovely head and expression, well placed eye, but would prefer it to be slightly darker in colour, straight front, good rib, topline and well bent stifles. Moved well.
2. ***Pelletier's Sagagold Obi Wan Kenobi.*** Very happy youngster, longer in body, adequate front angulation, scored over #1 in rear angulation. Never stopped wagging his tail, lots of loose skin on the move so lots of growing and maturing to do yet.
3. ***Chapman's Autumn Grover's Silver Bullet.***
4. ***Gauthier's Goldriver Grand Topgun Mavrick.***

Senior Puppy Male

1. ***Norrie's Lazyriver Shi's Grand Slam.*** Good sized dog. Excellent bone and the most beautiful head and expression, gorgeous eye and super pigment, adequate front angulation, good bend of stifle but his quarters need to strengthen which will improve his topline and rear movement. I would suggest regular roadwork and with time I am sure this will come. In the most beautiful coat and condition. I am sure “a star in the wings”.
2. ***Rintoul's De La Vega Goldensports Vegas.*** In lovely condition, more compact than winner, excellent bone, good angulation. Preferred winners, head, eye and expression. Good topline and moved well.
3. ***Bramhall's Stoneledge Beau Geste Luv Me Tender.***
4. ***Sowerby's Ambertru Tri N Hard 2B Modest.***

12 – 18 Months Male

1. ***Martin's Ashmar's Tygers Eye.*** I liked this dog as soon as he came in the ring. Strides out well. Well grown youngster, well boned straight front,

good front angulation, well ribbed, good topline and strong quarters with well bent stifles. Good head and kind expression although would prefer a slightly larger eye. Just coming into coat and in excellent hard condition. Very well handled. Delighted to award him **Winner's Dog**.

2. ***Hamel's Kalshan Free Lander.*** Darker coloured dog, excellent front angulation, well boned straight front, good topline and quarters. Moved well but not with the drive and purpose of the winner. Preferred winner's head shape but I liked #2's eye and expression. **Reserve Winner's Dog.**
3. ***Paterson & Mueller's Conquerer's Bobby McGee.***
4. ***McLane & Greenbank's Verdoro's Bobsleigh Brakeman.***

Canadian Bred Male

Mixed types in this class.

1. ***Klouman & Barr's Kyon's Rolling Stone.*** Very nice type, lovely outline, good head and expression, excellent topline, good bend of stifle, neat feet, moved well. Handler needs help to make the most of this dogs attributes.
2. ***Lalande's Youngcountry Sir Charles.*** Another nice type, but needs more time. Not as good in front as winner, deep through the heart and good bend of stifle. Moved well, Kind dark eye.
3. ***Dube's Peridor Audacieux Tristan***
4. ***Bloom's Goldnlus Dream Come True.***

Bred by Exhibitor Male

1. ***Enright's Manistee Boadcious Maxinius.*** I liked his size and type and the way he moved around the ring. Front not as tight as I would like, good neck and adequate front angulation, deep through the heart, well bent stifles and kind expression.
2. ***McAuley's Chrys-Haefen Unforseen Chance.*** Very nice type, smaller dog, front angulation not as good, good rib and topline, adequate bend of stifle, moved well going, but a little wide in front movement.
3. ***Miele's Cross Creek Snow Idol.***
4. ***Acheson & Tuominen's Blackpool's One n Only McDuff.***

Open Male

1. ***Ego & Bisette's Ellyest Knight's Fee.*** Very nice type, good forehead angulation, straight front, deep through the heart, good topline and quarters. Nice head shape and kind eye. Moved well on good tight neat feet.
2. ***McAuley's Chrys-Haefen Explorin with Dora.*** I liked him a lot and it was a close decision but his front angulation was not as good as the winner's and this was apparent on the move.
3. ***Miele's Cross Creek Brigadoon.***
4. ***McKibben's Gorefinadan Young American.***

Females

Veteran

1. ***Gosselin's Majesty's Valid Promise, CD, CGN.*** Ten years young, very fit for her age. Lovely outline and type, coat in beautiful bloom. Would like a little deeper foreface but very feminine head and kind expression. Straight front with good bend of stifle. Teeth worn, but at this age, I am prepared to forgive this.
2. ***Norrie's Arizona Shawnee Scout, CDX, CGC, TDI.*** Extremely nice type, eldest in the class at thirteen and a half years old. Balanced and moved well. Coat quite grey but this is veteran and at her age, acceptable. So very typical and well made throughout. Lovely neat feet.
3. ***LaRose's Avonrose Charlottee's Web CDX, WC, JH.***
4. ***Maydan's Ch Gowrielea Donamor Romance.***

Junior Puppy Female

Difficult class to sort out – varying sizes and types.

1. ***Theberge's De La Framboisiere Una Querida.*** I liked her overall outline, balance and movement. Very much a baby, front angulation could be better, good topline, well ribbed and good bend of stifle. Moved and handled well.
2. ***Dumais' Perigold Deesse Osiris.*** I liked her but she is very tall for her age. Attractive eye, good rib, well bent stifles and in good coat. Preferred overall balance and movement of winner.
3. ***Kobler's Redgold's Reason to Believe.***
4. ***Bramhall's Beau Geste Around Tanera Beg.***

Senior Puppy Female

Different types and dogs in different stages of development.

1. ***Fryer's Braefeild's Butterfly Wishes.*** Elegant with no exaggerations. Very attractive head and eye, super pigment. Excellent neck and adequate shoulder angulation, deep through the heart, good bend of stifle and moved well.
2. ***McDermott's Hollyemere's Had To Be You.*** I really liked her outline but head not as balanced as winner – a little bit snipey and needs a longer muzzle, good front angulation, shorter in body than winner, good topline and quarters. Moved well.
3. ***Grant's Maltcairn's Gifted Maddy.***
4. ***Greenbank's Verdoro's Kiss N Tell.***

12 – 18 Months Female

1. ***McPherson's Brevmacs Gift of Seadar.*** Elegant, lovely type, very pretty balanced head, lovely eye and expression. Straight front, good bone, little longer in body but with time and maturity will be fine, excellent topline and quarters. Moved well, but not with the animation of #2.
2. ***Theberge's De La Framboisiere Anis Etoile.*** Completely different type, I liked her conformation, very animated, lovely coat and condition, excellent spring of rib, good topline and moved well but a little wider in front than winner. Her head was too overdone for me – she just didn't look feminine at all.
3. ***Robert's Laurel's Meadowlark at Lynwood.***
4. ***Sung & Lee's Chrys-Haefen Hodu Lee-Sung.***

Canadian Bred Female

1. ***Taylor's Skylon Eatmore Bar None.*** Very attractive outline, adequate neck and shoulders, lovely soft expression, kind eye, straight front, good rip, topline and quarters, moved well.
2. ***Crevier's De La Framboisiere Rising Star.*** Kind eye, good bone, rib and quarters, neat feet, moved well and with animation. Preferred winner's head, expression and front angulation.
3. ***Dube's Rikigold's French Vanilla.***
4. ***Kettenacker's Kyon's Blue Jasmine.***

Bred by Exhibitor Female

1. ***Greenbank's Verdoro's Yeg to Lax.*** Good forehead angulation, well boned, well sprung ribs, deep, mature body, good topline and well bent stifles. In good hard condition and moved well. Her head was quite strong, but more so when looking front on. I forgave this because of her other qualities.
Reserve Winners.
2. ***Taylor's Skylon Wisteria.*** Lovely puppy, elegant, gorgeous type, good bone, excellent topline and quarters. Moved well. I preferred her head and expression but she is a real baby still at 9 months. Her day will come.
3. ***Miele's Cross Creek Ain't Misbehavin'.***
4. ***Tuominen's Blackpool's Blind Bet.***

Open Female

When I first went around the ring and had a glimpse of the dogs as a class, I was impressed, however, a lot did not move well so did not live up to my initial expectations which was disappointing.

1. ***Taylor's Skylon White Oleander.*** Very nice type and so sound throughout, attractive head and good expression, lovely neck and shoulders, deep through

the heart, good topline and well bent stifles. Moved adequately and well, but would have preferred a bit more animation. In very good coat. **Winners Female and Best of Winners.**

2. ***Brechbill & Savary's Shaynedoro Finally at Omara.*** Elegant and very nice type. Preferred winner's head, front and forehand angulation, good topline and well bent stifles.. In good coat and condition. Moved well.
3. ***Tuomimen's Blackpool's Ajax.***
4. ***Brechbill's Shaynedoro Mistress of Magic.***

Best of Breed

Taylor's Ch Giltedge Traveller

Such a sound well made quality dog that stood four square and was so typical. All male, masculine head but not overdone in any way, lovely dark eye and soft kind expression, straight well boned front, good layback of shoulder, well balanced, short coupled, deep through the heart, well bent stifles, good turn of hock, moved well fore and aft on good legs and feet. In good hard condition and his pale golden wavy coat was in good order. Sympathetically handled to get the best out of the dog. Showed and presented well. A pleasure to award him BOB.

Best Opposite Sex and Best Canadian Bred

Norrie's Ch Lazyriver Sweet Sasha, OD, SDHF, CGC, TDI

This 9 year old moved so well, in fact, put some of the youngsters to shame. Yes, she is a little grey in the face and coat, but who wouldn't be at 9 years plus and it shows more with her dark gleaming gold coat. She is so balanced with no exaggerations at all, enjoying her day out, and in beautiful coat and condition – there was nothing to touch her. Feminine head, dark eye, soft kind expression, good neck flowing into a well made forehand, good bone, deep through the heart, good topline especially on the move, strong quarters and good turn of hock. Showed her heart out and is a credit to her owner. Expertly handled. Delighted to award her BOS and Best Canadian Bred.

I gave four certificates of Merit and my understanding of this award is that it is given to the dogs that the judge considers worthy of honourable mention after awarding the main prizes. I think this is an excellent idea and one that was not in place when I judged twenty years ago. It also gives owners encouragement when entries are so high.

Ashmar's Tygers Eye. *My Winners Male. Did not have the coat or maturity of the Best of Winners and I wanted to encourage the owner to persevere with this dog as he is young, but worthy of his award and I believe in time will do very well.*

Unfortunately did not take notes of the following three certificates of merit but I do remember them and will mention the points I noted mentally.

Faubion, Kocher & Shorten's Ch Dauninge's Maximus Auerus. *Balanced, stood four square, kept catching my eye when I went around the ring, lovely clean outline, level topline that looked great on the move, masculine head that was appealing and had a kind soft expression. Well boned straight front. Moved well. His coat was my one query – he did have a good undercoat, but the top coat appeared very long and I am not referring to just the feathering and to me, that is something that is not typical for me.*

Norrie's Ch Lazyriver Starlite o'er Sydney. *I discovered a daughter to my BOS, Ch Lazyriver Sweet Sasha and I see other of Sasha's progeny were in the Ch class and which I shortlisted. Of all Sasha's progeny, I liked her head and expression the best – and I knew she was a female, well boned, balanced, in good coat and condition and moved out well although I would have liked slightly better front angulation.*

Greenbank's Ch Verdoro's Itsakadoozie. *Masculine, strong well made dog in excellent hard condition, in beautiful coat, moved well and with drive from strong quarters Head overdone for me but had a good dark eye and forgave the head because of his other attributes.*

Stud Dog

1. **Taylor's Ch Giltedge Traveller.** My BOB. Passes on his qualities to his stock – quality, well made dogs of lovely type with no exaggerations and good heads with that typical lovely soft expression.

Brood Bitch

1. **Norrie's Ch Lazyriver Sweet Sasha, OD, SDHF, CGC, TDI.** *Progeny are so similar in body properties. Very nice type, good bone, balanced, moved well and so sound. I particularly liked the young male puppy's head – he has the most beautiful head, eye and expression whereas her daughter's heads are all very different but not unattractive.*

Field Dog Class

1. **Ch Amberwood Winter Wonderland JH, WCI.** *Nice looking dog, good topline, excellent bone, good layback but short upper arm. Good bend of stifle, in good hard condition and moved with drive.*
2. **Carsfaddam Lochinvar.** *Lots of fun, lovely type, front angulation could be better, deep through the heart, moved with drive.*

F Jennifer Johnson
Judge