

The World Dog Show Buenos Aires 2005

The 2005 World Dog Show in Buenos Aires will inevitably be remembered for the disgraceful behavior of some exhibitors of the Dogo Argentino, Argentina's only recognized indigenous breed. Several days of tension at the Dogo ring culminated in the release of several tear gas canisters at ringside. The gas quickly spread into the grooming hall, resulting in the need to evacuate people and dogs and the stopping of judging for three hours. Several exhibitors and spectators were injured when they broke through glass windows and doors to escape the gas. What also needs to be remembered was the reaction of the general Argentine dog fancy to these events. To a man, the locals expressed their disgust and shame at the actions of a few, in spoiling what was a superbly presented showcase for the dog showing community of Argentina. When the announcement was made that the Dogo Argentino was to be thrown out of this show and likely to be banned from the show ring for a considerable period, all the exhibitors burst into spontaneous and sustained applause. Every local exhibitor we spoke to after the event expressed remorse for the behavior of the few bad apples and took it on themselves to apologize to any and all the overseas visitors they could find.



Fine dining at a Ringside Café

were stunning head study portraits of all the prominent breeds. They were specially commissioned for the show and all done by the same artist. The show organizers were inundated with requests from exhibitors to buy the portrait of their particular breed but unfortunately for the exhibitors they were not for sale.

A separate ring was set up for group and BIS judging; this came complete with temporary stands for spectators and even extended to a light show with laser holograms of the FCI logo and that of the Argentinean Kennel Club. One area that the organisers could have improved was the public address, where, with a few exceptions, announcements were only made in Spanish. If the show is to lay claim to the title 'World' Dog Show, announcements in English and Portuguese would really be appreciated.



Ch Glahms Golden Legacy

The main announcer was clearly not familiar with the dog show scene, as he incorrectly identified a number of breeds entering the main ring or that had won a group prize. The record entry of 3000 plus dogs, particularly on the last two days for the Americas and Caribbean Section Dog Show and the World Dog Show, meant that BIS judging didn't finish until extremely late into the night. After the first night we left after the completion of the Terrier group. We did see BIS on the first night and were interested to see four hounds in the best in show line-up: a Basenji from the Spitz Group, a Standard Longhaired Dachshund from the 9 breeds in the Dachshund group, an Afghan from the Sighthound group and a Beagle from the Hound group. This is possible because FCI Shows have 10 groups. They have some interesting variations on in which group a particular breed is placed. Can you imagine the Min Pin in with the Bullmastiff and the French Bulldog in with the Toys? There were a large number of breeds not recognized in the USA or Australia.

We naturally concentrated on Airedales in particular and Terriers in general. An American bred Airedale, Arg Ch Terrydale Spin the Wheel (owned: Roberto and Patricia Alsina) took BOB at the World Show where Mareth Kipp officiated. Over the four days three different Airedales took BOB, which was indicative of a good depth of quality in the breed in South America. A beautifully prepared, mustard Dandie Dinmont, Ch Glahms Golden Legacy (owned/bred: Mike McBeth, Canada) took the group on the first day and placed again the next. We didn't see the group the second night but believe that it went to a very nice black and white Coloured Bull Terrier. Ferelith Sommerfield of the UK judged the Terrier Group at the Americas and Caribbean Section show and chose an outstanding Smooth Fox Terrier, Coming Back Boris Del Retorno, for Group first. This dog, bred in Uruguay and owned and shown in Brazil, also took the group at the World Show under judge Damir Skok of Croatia. After watching Smooth breed judging several times over the weekend, it was our opinion that the Smooths were the strongest breed in the Terrier group with several dogs worthy of BOB. Even in very strong competition, the Uruguay bred dog was a clear winner for breed type, soundness and showmanship. He would, in our opinion, be a dog who could win anywhere in the world.



Ch Cordmaker One Spy Too Many

Despite this unfortunate event, the four days of shows that culminated in the World Show included some exceptional elements that would be a welcome addition to a show site anywhere in the world. There were cafes in each of the four main exhibition halls where you could sit at a table enjoy an excellent meal and wine while overlooking the show rings. The carpeted rings were beautifully set up, with some thought given to the sizes appropriate for the breeds being exhibited in them. Each of the exhibition halls had a different colour carpet to make ring identification very easy. Arranged around each of the halls



We joined all these travellers to sample the fabulous restaurants of Buenos Aires where beef is central to the menu. We did wonder if anyone purporting to be vegetarian would be shot on site at the border. The only Australian representative at the show was Sue Huebner's top winning Puli, Ch Cordmaker One Spy Too Many, who took both a second and third group placing. Philby was taking time out from his current campaign in the USA. At the Terrier ring we met the Mackness family who are South Australian Westie enthusiasts. I'm sure we all agreed it wouldn't be our only trip to this amazing country.

RON & ANNE SORRAGHAN

World Dog Show Incident

Concerning the gas bomb at the World Dog Show in Buenos Aires, there are a lot of rumours going around the world. This is what I, and other reporters there, have experienced and found out.

No dogs died at all or were harmed by the gas. I don't know about a fight with the judge but there was a fight between two handlers. There was a lot of panic but everyone helped each other to bring the dogs and people out. The gas used does not affect dogs or horses, as it is used at demonstrations on the street.

I can tell you it hurts a lot to people (to me too) but I could not see any dog with any kind of problems. All around there was panic and people rushed out to the streets. Fortunately, only 7 people went to the hospital.

Many handlers needed to look for their dogs but the committee arranged a rescue area for unidentified dogs and all dogs were found again later. People were really concerned and helped to get the dogs out ASAP. As they did not know whose they were, lots of dogs were supposed stolen or dead right after the attack. This was a first reaction from many people and handlers but looking around for some time after, they found their dogs back in the rescue area, all alive and well.



The committee took measures against the club and managed to get the judgements to continue after the police declared everything safe again. This took 4 hours.

I must say that this is not a problem of the committee but of only a few irresponsible handlers who can be considered as terrorists. However, the Argentina Dog Show was very good, the people were very nice and the committee very efficient. They all cried at the press conference and felt so ashamed of what had happened. They worked so hard for two years, especially over the last months, and were so tired and then this happened. It was very emotional.

This could have happened in any country.

The press had a splendid Press Room available with a big buffet every day and drinks, Internet and even lockers! Every day there was a press conference and the interaction with the committee was excellent. Marcella Nestler was our Press Officer and was really devoted to her job.

The only minor point was that the Main ring was very long and rectangular and everything happened far away from us while we were sitting at the other end. This also made it difficult for taking pictures of the dogs while judging. We were allowed into the main ring and the results were on the Internet every day. An example for many other shows. Adolf Cabane and myself had a speech before BIS in order to thank the committee for their efforts for us.

The incident was nothing that the committee deserved. Notwithstanding the fact that the incident had already started on Saturday and measurements were taken to prevent further incidents as a lot of extra security was provided at the Dogo Argentino ring, nobody could predict that some irresponsible and dangerous man could go so far as to throw gas bombs in a crowded area and create such a panic. Even with 100 extra security people, this would have had the very same reaction.

This was an act of one person and a few of his friends only. We can only hope that justice will be done and that this man will end up in jail for many years, as this could have resulted in serious casualties or even deaths.

KARL DONVILL

The World Dog Show Press Team

