

Australian dogs did well at Turku

Traditionally, the Turku International show is one of the first shows of the year. This year it was called the Top Dog Show, as it is every second year. Next year it will be the Winter Dog Show again. This is because there are two combinations of local clubs who are responsible for organising the show in turns. From the beginning, both the organisers have been very ambitious, and the show is particularly known for its very international panel of judges. It has caused a lot of discussion when only a handful of Finnish judges have been invited. Somehow it seems to be more attractive to invite judges from all possible countries but not the native country. However, the Finnish judges are well respected all over the world and many of them travel a lot, so maybe this makes it even in the final count.

This time the Turku judges were perhaps not quite as exotic as in some earlier times. Most were well-known here and have judged in Finland before and there were many familiar Scandinavian faces. About 4300 dogs were entered. This may not be the record entry, but Turku is always one of the biggest shows in the country. The main ring was decorated with colourful Marimekko design textiles and the crew was dressed in the same pattern. It is interesting to notice once again that even when judges come from far away, they end up placing the "same old ones", even if they represent odd breeds for the judges. An experienced judge can always recognise a quality dog, even if they are not very familiar with the breed.

The BIS judge was our own, experienced, allrounder Rainer Vuorinen. It was a pity that the Sighthound group winner, the Afghan Hound Gengala Just Like That was absent, because this group was judged on Saturday and the Swedish exhibitors were not prepared to stay for Sunday's finals. This beautiful black and tan bitch is, of course, an Australian import, bred by L Hickey (Gengala Total Eclipse – Gengala Just Imagine) and is already an International Champion.

Most of the nine remaining group winners were our well-known top winners. The extremely successful French-born Bearded Collie Int Ch The Show MustGo On de Chester won the Herding group, while the famous Giant Schnauzer Stablemaster's Northern Hope once again won the second group. The 8-year old Skye Terrier Int Ch Finnsky Xcalibur won both the group and Best Veteran of the Day. He has been around, as he is co-owned by Mr Zaphiris in the US, and after returning from his American years he has been busy in the European rings. To make the day of the Dahlbom family perfect, they also won Best Breeder's Group with their Finnsky Skye Terriers. Then was the Wire-haired Dachshund Freckle-Face Freeman, whose owner-breeders the Lampero couple were the other big spenders of the show, they took the three first places in the group with their Dachshunds, different sizes and coats.

The Japanese import Akita (and that is the real Japanese Akita, as we call the American-type Akitas the Great Japanese Dogs) Int Ch Fujimaru Go Seaside Nakagawa is no youngster either at eight years, and he has been very successful after coming from Japan a couple of years ago. The Rhodesian Ridgeback Ch Tarujen Mabaruru belongs to our consistent winners, too; likewise the Italian Bracco Heinäaron Giorgio Armani. The Portuguese Water Dog Ch Tajmadoran Hulahlula is a new name, this must be her first big win, although her breeder Eija Suomela has done a lot of winning with several dogs bred by her. The young Bichon Frise Jitterbop Under Control is still too young to be a Champion but I remember having seen him at least once already at the group winner's stand. His uncle Ch Jitterbop After Me Please is surely well remembered for his two BOB wins at Crufts.

Like so many times before, the black Giant was unbeatable. As always, he was in perfect condition, never put a foot wrong. It may be boring that one dog is winning so much but that is not a reason to put him down when he deserves to win. The little white snowflake, the Bichon, was happy to be second, and the Beardie was third. Fourth placing went to the Dachshund. Among the placed ones in each group final there were many our top winners of the recent years, and also several Swedish dogs went home with big rosettes for their group placings.

Another successful Australian-bred dog was the Corgi. Dianne Baillie has sent several excellent Pembrokes to Finland, and this time Int Ch Dygae Wild Night (Dygae Wild Side – Dygae Silver Glow) was only beaten by the Beardie in the Herding Group, as he was second.

PAULA HEIKKINEN-LEHKONEN



**Best In show
Giant Schnauzer, Stablemaster's Northern Hope**



**Sighthound Group Winner
Afghan Hound, Gengala Just Like That**



**Herding Group
Winner: Bearded Collie Int Ch Show Must Go On de Chester
Runner Up: Welsh Corgi Pembroke Int Ch Dygae Wild Night**