

Travels Highlight

Australian Influences

Part 2

KELPIES AND CATTLE DOGS IN SWEDEN

To be invited to judge at the 30th Anniversary of the Swedish Kelpie and Cattle Dog Club was a great honour. There were two shows to be held over two days as part of a week-long all encompassing convention on these two Australian breeds. My co-judge Iain Hinde from Victoria and myself travelled to Sweden early in July to officiate. This event saw the first four days being taken up in mental, temperament and obedience tests – by which much greater store is held in Sweden than their so-called “beauty” classes.

For this week-long anniversary the Club had taken over the Kosta Military Barracks in close proximity to the towns of Kosta and Kosta Boda, world renowned for their glassblowing (and making a serious dint in my Visa card). All attending lived in the barracks and just to feed 150 people three times a day in the mess hall was no mean feat. Additionally the Northern Hemisphere was baking in a heatwave making life difficult for man and dog as they are not used to such hot, humid conditions. Both Kelpies and Cattle Dogs are used in Sweden by the police for personal security and person-search after proper training, in addition to their more traditional use as herding dogs and for obedience. We found the mental tests very well thought out and quite taxing on the dogs’ abilities; many of these tests have a base not unlike the temperament testing currently being used by DOGS NSW in temperament evaluation but they have been much embellished in the Swedish version – for example when casting from the handler in a designated direction a number of dark coloured effigies rise from the ground to confuse the dog, or when walking with the handler through forest, white-clad dummies drop from pulleys just in front of the competitor, even confusing to the spectators! All is performed in the natural heavily wooded forest areas where, as you follow the competitors, you can bend, pick and eat the wild blueberries which grow in profusion under foot, and very sweet they are. It is interesting to note that all forests in Sweden are unfenced (apart from highway fences to stop moose wandering on the roads) and available for members of the public to wander through at will.

The conformation events began on the Friday with Iain Hinde judging the Kelpies and myself the Cattle Dogs - we were to judge the “in Show” events together each day. The Club was delighted with the entry of 61 Kelpies and 35 Cattle Dogs. Iain gave his Best Dog award to Tjh Korad SU Ch Almdalens Largo with Reserve to his son, Korad Almdalens Pepper, and Best Bitch to NV-05 NU Ch Glimmergruvans O-Blaze (sired by Largo’s litter brother) with Reserve to Korad SU Ch Sbch Lpi Vickulas Ettra – Largo went through to BOB.



Friday’s BOB & BIS Tjh Korad SU Ch Almdalens Largo



Best Bitch NV-05 NU Ch Glimmergruvans O-Blaze and BIS Saturday



Friday’s BOB & Best Bitch and Opposite in Show Oakhill Valley Gaia Opposite Sex & Best Dog Red-Alert’s Fricko

In Cattle Dogs I made Red-Alert’s Fricko Best Dog (he is a grandson of Multi Ch Landmaster Ushow Themhow, bred in SA) and Reserve to the Australian import Korad SU Ch Hobnoch Im Wildbout Harry. Best Bitch went to Oakhill Valley Gaia with Reserve Red-Alert’s Hera (a granddaughter of Ushow Themhow) – Gaia going on to BOB. BIS on the Friday went to Largo with Opposite Sex to Gaia. Quite a few of Harry’s offspring were shown and they demonstrate lots of promise also.

On the Saturday the judging order reversed, with me judging the Kelpies, giving the final nod for Best Dog to Korad Almdalens Pepper (the son) and Reserve to the father Tjh Korad SU Ch Almdalens Largo; in bitches the Best Bitch again went to NV-05 NU Ch Glimmergruvans O-Blaze with Reserve to Aliborgs Konomoola Kelis, another member of this amazing family. I gave BOB to Blaze, with Pepper Opposite Sex.



Saturday’s BOB, Best Bitch and on to BIS NV-05 NU Ch Glimmergruvans O-Blaze & Best Dog & Opposite Sex Korad Almdalens Pepper

In Cattle Dogs Iain gave his final nod to Red-Alert’s Fricko and Reserve to Intuch Nuch Dkuch Wanhanfarmin Arcticblue. In bitches, he repeated the placings of the day before with Oakhillvalley Gaia Best Bitch and Red-Alert’s Hera Reserve. BIS on the Saturday went to Blaze with Pepper Opposite Sex.



Saturday’s BOB and Best Bitch Oakhillvalley Gaia Best Opp Sex and Best Dog Red-Alert’s Fricko



Opposite Sex in Show Saturday Pepper seen here with BOB Cattle Dog Gala



Best Veteran In Show



Best Breeders’ Team



#2 Breeders’ Team

On the Sunday morning the Agility Trials were held and here I had a great thrill, the judge for these owns, trains and trials the Swedish All-Champion Agility Dog for 2006 (an event recently held) – a Papillon! At the conclusion of the trials this tiny, glamorous and enchanting butterfly showed us all why she is the Swedish Champion, we were all spellbound as she enthusiastically flew around the course with the greatest precision – a moment in time to be long remembered. On the Sunday afternoon we said goodbye to Army Life (with relief) and travelled to the home of our host, Ulla Hemmings and her husband Enar in Vegby a small town on the outskirts of the City of Gotteberg where we spent a few days sightseeing and Iain, tutored by Enar, learnt to drive a giant Caterpillar Bobcat and assisted in the building of a farm dam – as well as doing a spot of fishing (and here are the photos to prove it).

Julie Dickinson-Franks



Best Puppy Saturday



Puppy winners Saturday



Progeny Group and at right the winning dam

