

sized. I also found it interesting that they wicket a lot of dogs that look slightly tall, but didn't really wicket those that were small. (I felt I saw a number that would have been under 34cms). But even these smaller PBGVs had good leg under them. They all seemed to have proportions of wither to elbow, approximately the same as elbow to ground. They were slightly longer than high at the wither and all had wonderful length in the ribcage, with short loins. Over there they are looking for a dog which is not too heavy or clumsy in bone and I don't think I saw one long muzzle and especially not a long ear or tail on any PBGV at the show.

Before I finish, the comments made to me by one French breeder who is well respected in the PBGV breed, was most interesting and although I personally know is not now quite as apt as I guess it used to be, it does have some merit which is worth thinking about.

He says – "The PBGV is a hunting dog first and foremost and this is the most important thing about the breed. He must be bred in conformation, to be able to perform his function that is, not too heavy or long, like his cousin the GBGV. If he cannot hunt, he is of no use to the French breeder/huntsman and



Petit Basset Griffon Vendeen

so is disposed of, therefore the type stays correct in France," but with a smile he says "it is good now, because if they breed pretty ones that can't hunt, they just sell them to America!". He then says "The English have no idea, all they have done has bred a GBGV and shortened its legs!" Obviously he has not been to the UK of recent times, but after seeing the consistent balance and type in almost all of the dogs at the Nationale, one realises this French Huntsman does have a right to some of his comments.

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Grand Griffon Vendeen



Beginning May 24 and culminating in the FCI World Show on the Sunday, with titles being awarded for Mexican, The Americas, International and World Championships, the Japanese bred white Toy Poodle Ch Smash JP Talk About was the winner at the grand finale under Dr Jose Luis Payro, president and CEO of the Federacion Canofila Mexicana, host club for this dog show spectacular, breeder-owner-handled by Mori Oyama.

Second was a bulldog Braco Malfoy, owned by Rocha Abreu Renato, Mexico, while third went to Tizoc, a Xoloitzcuintle -- a sleek, hairless Mexican breed also known as Xolo, owner Maria Guadalupe

Arena Escoffie, Mexico. Best Puppy was a Fox Terrier Smooth, Overwhelming Amethyst of Brazilian, owned by Luiz Claudio Gama e Silva.

Seventy judges from 18 countries presided over 211 of the 350 breeds recognised by the FCI. Forty-seven countries were represented, and independent Specialties were also held for 280 German Shepherds, 170 Labradors, 180 Neapolitan Mastiffs and 75 Bull Terriers. The outdoor rings played host to the German Shepherd Sieger and working trials, agility, obedience and herding competitions. Huge rings covered in Astroturf were in the center of the famous horse race track that is part of the Las Americas International Exhibition Centre, Banamex Center.

right, Best Puppy Overwhelming Amethyst of Brazilian (Fox Terrier)
below BIS, Ch Smash JP Talk About (Toy Poodle)
2nd Braco Malfoy (Bulldog)
3rd Tizoc (Xoloitzcuintle)



Zagreb

the European Winner Show

Best in Show at the FCI European Winner Show at Zagreb, Croatia, was the three-years-old harlequin Great Dane bitch Sun Della Baia Azzurra, owned by Silvana Marcolina, Italy.

Over 10,000 dogs were entered for this three-day event. The BIS judge was Damir Skok, who is also the President of the Croatian Kennel Club and an FCI all-breeds judge. His choice for 2nd place was the Old English Sheepdog Reata's Jimbo, owner Istvan Szetmar, Hungary, and 3rd the Afghan Hound Awbari Confetty Rain, owner Madeleine von Rosen, Switzerland.

(In the pictures the handler of the Dane is Ante Lucin, the handler of the OES is his Croatian breeder Davor Javor and the handler of the Afghan Hound is Marc Linner from Sweden)

Other Group winners were American Akita Redwitch Turning Heads, o. A Johanson & H Thomsen, Denmark, the Dalmatian Bell-a-Mirs Elegant Envoy, o. Helle Hoie & Ivarsson & Jacobsen, Sweden, the Wire Fox Terrier Strozavolpe

Goldeagle, o. Calonaci & Valli, Italy, the Longhaired Standard Dachshund Nobel v d Taunushöhe, o. Jens Witter, Germany, the Wire-Haired Hungarian Vizsla Zoldmari Iram, o. Zsofia Micsek, Hungary, the English Cocker Spaniel Gallinacos Knoc Out, o. Dusko Piljevic, Serbia, and the Miniature Poodle Kalina s Tsvetochnoi Poljany, o. O Arkhipova, Russia.

There was very hot sunny weather during the show days, which caused problems. Some dogs, which were left in the cars, were reported dead, although the organisers had patrols in the parking areas and they had smashed some car windows to save the dogs.

The European Championship competition in Obedience was also held, both the gold medals in individual and team competition were won by Finland. **Paula Heikkinen-Lehkonen**



Sun Della Baia Azzurra



Reata's Jimbo



Awbari Confetty Rain