

Ibizan Hound Club of the United States

First Specialty Show

March 25, 1993

Judge's Comments by Russell L. McFadden

Being asked to judge a breed's first specialty show is an honor that very few judges can ever hope to have bestowed upon them. I want to take the opportunity to thank the members of the Ibizan Hound Club of the United States for granting me the honor of being a participant on this day that has now become a part of their breed's historic record. Regardless of what else may happen in my career as a judge, this assignment is one that I will never forget.

When judging any breed, I ardently believe that one has to have a basic understanding of the purpose for which the breed was originally developed. This, along with an in-depth understanding of the breed standard, allows one to judge an entry of any size fairly. I also firmly believe that soundness is an integral component of type. It is with these beliefs in mind that I set out to judge a breed.

My entry on this day, albeit a bit lopsided with only 21 class entries in comparison to 29 specials (if one counts the 11 veterans - all of whom were champions), was very impressive. I think this speaks very highly for the breeders who have obviously been diligently working to improve the overall quality of the breed. In general, I was looking for those animals who best typified the breed and possessed clean movement in all directions (i.e., going, coming, and from the side) as well. I found some of the younger dogs, in particular, were still moving a little close in the rear and some of them were just ever so slightly crossing over in the front. I hope this was just part of being a puppy and something that as they mature and fill out will correct itself. I also noticed that, although the movement was correct with respect to each foot fall, some of the mature dogs were moving with a hard, driving motion that I feel is more a working dog's movement than that of a sighthound. Sighthound movement should be effortless.

I found all the attributes for which I was looking in each of my class winners. In a couple of instances placements in the classes were a very tight decision. I felt the first two placements in my Open Bitch class were very comparable animals. I liked both of them very much and on another day the placements could just as easily be reversed. My Winners Dog class was not an easy decision either, however, the 6-9 month puppy whom I was considering had just been through the Puppy Sweepstakes and by the time we got to the Winners class, was much more interested in being a puppy than letting this judge see how really nice he was for more than two seconds at a time. So, the Open Dog ultimately one the class.

Winners Dog: Windriver Point Blank - This is a nicely balanced dog. He has correct shoulders, a good topline and is very clean moving, covering a lot of ground without any wasted motion. A very masculine dog, exhibiting no sign of coarseness, he is very correct in breed type.

Best of Winners, Winners Bitch: Hemato's Conchita Tobita - This bitch is a beautiful young lady. If she were two inches shorter in body length she would be near perfection. She has beautiful expression, a lovely neck that fits into very correct shoulders, and a very nice topline. She has very correct, clean movement that allows her to cover ground effortlessly.

Best of Opposite Sex: Ch. Lykan's Popeye Spinnaker - This is a very impressive dog. He has a very pleasing balance of type and soundness. His movement is very easy and free, covering the maximum amount of ground with no apparent effort. He is very masculine without any sign of coarseness and has a very correct silhouette.

Best of Breed: Ch. Lykan's Keresa de Kantina - I found in this bitch everything I think an Ibizan Hound should be. She is as sound as she is elegant. She has a very pretty head and correct ear set that give her lovely expression. She has correct shoulder set, a lovely topline, and she is very balanced. Her movement is flawless and she has a presence in the ring that cannot be denied. I was thrilled to have an exhibit of this caliber to whom I could award the Best of Breed ribbon. (Note: I was privileged to be able to watch this bitch once again establish breed history when she won Best In Show at the Clovis-Portales Kennel Club show on April 17, 1993. This is the first time an Ibizan Hound has won an all breed Best In Show in this country.)

Best of Breed class

