

San Angeles Saluki

I'd like to thank the San Angeles Saluki Club for the honor to evaluate the Salukis at their April 2023 show. I'd judged it many years ago and it was amongst my favorite of judging assignments. This year's show was right up there. Great ring size, large entry and interesting and beautiful Salukis. What's not to like?

My recording device failed me so much of this is on my memory. Please excuse if not as detailed as one would like.

Class dogs started with a very promising fawn puppy (Persepolis Zane) who I think will go places in time. Handsome head and sound mover. Topline should eventually tighten.

A grizzle young class dog (Freespirits Freddie Mercury) was a lovely mover but needs time and body.

They were considered for Winners and Reserve but ultimately the choice was between the beautifully balanced and sound American Bred dog (Timaru Gryfalcon) and the handsome open dog (Sadik Catch the Wind of Akhtar), a golden palomino color who had beautiful expression, type, soundness. On top of that, he was extremely fit, physically and mentally. He made an impression.

Bitches had quite a few that made a mark. I'd be wrong to not name many, but eventually the challenge was between the stunning buckskin colored 12-18 bitch (Qirmizi Utelle), the elegant and sound cream white open bitch (Albion's I Square I Am the Chosen One) and the 9-12 month fawn puppy (Pania Sadik al Djiibaajah). All, including a couple others, were of very high quality and my mind changed a couple of times. When it landed, the puppy earned the award due to her type, construction and the way she was able to move in such an effortless, light footed yet athletic manner. Reserve to the open bitch.

Coursing and veteran classes were anything but give away. The tall red coursing dog was fit and formidable. The black and tan feminine veteran bitch, though appearing more frail, was feminine and of beautiful type. She reminded me of a canine version of an Arabian mare. The cream white coursing bitch had perfect shape, expression and balance. All of them were impeccable on the down and back.

Best of Breed had range and some challenges. My eye instantly went to a stunning black and tan bitch who unfortunately had topline issues. I couldn't use her but wanted to mention her. That one hurt...

Eventually, it came down to 2 dogs and 2 bitches, my coursing bitch winner and the puppy. The select dog (GCh Issibaa's Llicketysplit) is a grizzle of excellent quality, moderate but not common. Excellent mover in all directions. The run off between him and the winners dog was exciting to watch. I will admit that the golden dog's tail can be a bit distracting, but when he hit his stride, he seemed to float. He was awarded best male, select to the excellent grizzle.

The two bitches held their own in quality. I will follow this puppy with interest but this was not her day. The coursing bitch conveyed great elegance and composure. Of beautiful type and balance and impeccable soundness. She was my Best of Breed (GCh DC Khiva's Jondee Evenstar of Queeba, BN, RI, MC).

In looking at the catalogue afterwards, I realized she was over 10 years old. What an unbelievable breed.

Dr. Jerry Klein