

THE CHANNEL ISLAND DOG OF THE YEAR COMPETITION 2025

What an absolute privilege it was to be invited to judge the prestigious Channel Islands' Dog of the Year for 2025!

A huge thank you to the Officers and Committee of the Kennel Club of Jersey for the invitation and the opportunity to visit the wonderful island.

A huge thank you also to all the exhibitors, steward and helpers too for making me so very welcome and for their such sporting attitude throughout the hotly contested event.

The overall winner for the adult competition was a sensational Newfoundland, CH/JSY CH ZENTAUR THIS IS JAM HOT (AI) JW ShCEx OSW who at 7 years old also took the BVIS award.

This outstanding example of her breed had to pull out all the stops to beat a whole host of tough competition to clinch the top spot by a close margin. She excels in breed type and is ultra feminine with a wonderful head and expression. I loved her overall balance, her strength and presentation. Her front construction is textbook, and her outline and top line are simply breathtaking. Compactly made and with excellent lay of shoulder with matching angulation she moved with precision and style on the up and down and covered the ground with ease in a mesmerising profile action. I am not surprised to now learn of her titles and previous successes for she is pure quality, through and through and was handled to perfection.

Close up and pushing the winner all the way was the BSD, Terveuren, CH DOMBURG NEW DEMAND PD'H. I loved this dog's well-chiselled and totally balanced, masculine head, long and with parallel planes and with no hint of coarseness. His expression is truly captivating, intelligent and demanding attention. He has excellent dentition. He presents a picture of perfect balance, well-muscled and in tip top condition he 'screams' quality and is very stylish on the stack and on the move where he exudes economy with total precision. He was another who I am now not surprised to learn is titled and has had a wonderful show career to date which I am sure will continue for the future. I loved him.

Emerging from a strong contingent of youngsters was the winner of the Puppy of the Year in the form of a thrilling future prospect, the Whippet, SOUTHPOINT YVES SAINT LAURENT AVEC PETWALK (IMP PT). He is a picture of balance and elegance whilst exuding power and strength at the same time. What a total eye-catcher this young male is! His head is refined yet masculine without a hint of coarseness. His eye is mesmerizing and kind. He has complete and perfect dentition. He has the 'shoulders of the day', textbook in every way, smooth and very well laid back. His front legs are well-boned and totally straight with wonderful pasterns and well-arched feet. He just needs to fully mature in body but most definitely has time on his side and this will complete the 'perfect package'. I loved his balanced outline, and his movement was a joy to behold, such grace, precision and ease in every direction. I would have loved to take this youngster home with me and wish him well for his undoubtedly exciting future career. He won this part of the competition with some to spare.

Runner up Puppy of the Year was a very impressive Shetland Sheepdog RIBANS LIVING THE DREAM. She is the picture of femininity with a totally balanced head with real refinement and elegance. I loved her expressive dark eyes and her neat and perfectly set and well-carried ears which complete a wonderful and impressive image on initial examination. Her dentition is complete and perfect and her teeth were clean. Underneath her profuse and harsh textured coat is a body to behold. She has superb shoulder placement, good angulation and such depth with well-sprung ribs making for a strong and level topline. She is well-muscled and her driving movement was virtually textbook, eating up the ground in profile with consummate ease whilst always maintaining her outline. She, like the Whippet must have a rosy future show career.

Veteran of the Year was CH/JSY CH ZENTAUR THIS IS JAM HOT (AI) JW ShCEX OSW, the Newfoundland who was overall Dog of the Year.

Runner up Veteran of the Year was a beautifully presented and handled 11-year-old American Cocker Spaniel, FIELGAR FLYING THE FLAG. Quite a find, I thought, my own breed, a dog that I don't recall seeing before. He has a balanced and masculine head with no hint of coarseness for a Buff which is hard to find these days. I liked the work and chiselling and his dark, expressive kind eye. Well-bodied and in hard condition, he has a good topline and was presented to perfection in full jacket. His tail is set well, and he carries it correctly as a continuation of his back, slightly raised, in no way terrier-like, a dreadful flaw which has unfortunately crept into this breed and is for me an anathema. On the move he was accurate on the up and down and in profile showed just about enough forward reach to take the runner up spot over a lovely Pug which pushed him all the way.

Brace of the Year was won by quite a distance by an exemplary pairing of the GRANROSE Cocker Spaniels. Here was a great match in appearance with complete harmony and accuracy on the move and tip-top presentation to complete the picture.

Runner up for the Brace competition was the Czesky GAYTECKELS pairing. They also presented a very good degree of harmony, balance and style on the move and were a great match in outline and topline in profile, just not quite the strength of presentation in comparison to the winning pair.

Junior Handler of the Year is an important competition as the future of our sport is most definitely in the hands of the youngsters. The winner was Everlynn Stewart-Smith showing a Papillon to perfection. Everlynn was attentive to the task in hand and made the utmost of her charge from the very first minute. On the table she made the most of the dog's attributes and correctly showed me the dentition in every direction with no fuss. She corrected the false placements that were made discreetly and in a controlled fashion. She listened to my directions regarding movement and in total harmony with her dog, she, quite frankly, didn't put a foot wrong. Congratulations and all best wishes for a very successful future career.

Runner up was Logan Cupit, handling a more difficult to control charge but he made an excellent effort to allow me to see his and the dog's attributes. Logan just needs to make sure that he always keeps an eye on the judge as well as on his dog to ensure that he knows in which direction to move to maintain clear vision between the dog and the judge. Congratulations.

PUPPY SEMI-FINALS

(two qualifiers from each group were selected to compete in the Grand Final later in the day)

UTILITY

The first qualifier was a Xoloitzcuintle, Mexican Hairless SANGREREAL BLACK FOREST. The quality of this youngster is apparent and cannot be ignored. Unsettled to begin with I gave him a chance to move on his own and to gain his confidence which eventually did the trick. His head is masculine with a definite wedge shape with strength and balance. Well-bodied and with a decent topline he moved with some drive and forward reach. When he fully settles in temperament, I think that he will do well in future competition.

MICADOR STEADY EDDIE, Toy Poodle. He has a good male head with chiselling and balance with dark and expressive eye. Dentition could, however, most definitely be cleaner and baby teeth need to be removed. He moved quite well but needs time and body and improved presentation to complete the picture.

GUNDOG

The first qualifier was the Bracco, GUNSYN SUPERTROOPER SUR MAJIKISLES. This youngster has a great head and a fabulously intelligent and kind expression. He is a lovely type and brims full of quality. He has excellent bone, good depth and a firm top-line. He was the best mover here, especially with his reachy and effortless side-gait. Once he just gains that little bit extra confidence he will do very well.

DE LAS NAVAZUELAS EMILIA AVEC RIENMOUR (IMP ESP), Pointer. She's a good type and was shown and presented in good hard condition with a balanced and feminine head. I would just prefer a touch more layback to allow more freedom in front in her profile action and she was also just a little stiff on her rear left going away today.

HOUND

The sole competitor was the outstanding Whippet who went on to win the Puppy Final SOUTHPOINT YVES SAINT LAURENT AVEC PETWALK (IMP PT

WORKING

The only competitor here was the Leonberger BEDEBURN GAN CANNY, alone but totally worthy of his place here. I loved his head shape and masculinity with no hint of coarseness. He has a good straight front with excellent depth for his age with good ribs and a firm enough outline. He moved OK.

TOY

Two great examples here going forward, the lovely Papillon and the equally lovely Powder Puff.

Papillon IVANSE ONLY FANS RAF. This youngster has an exquisite head which is totally balanced with a clean expressive and dark eye. His dentition is spot on. A sound and free mover, just a touch at that 'in between' stage and tended to roach on the table. With maturity and once he fills his frame completely, he will definitely be a contender.

Chinese Crested (Powder Puff) PETWALK JUST PUFF OFF. Here was another fabulous head and dentition too was spot on. Her quality cannot be overlooked and once she settled kept her tail up and moved well. Similar remarks to the above apply and she too just needs to balance up and mature on to complete the picture.

PASTORAL

The first qualifier was the Shetland Sheepdog who ended up Runner up overall RIBANS LIVING THE DREAM

Pushing all the way was the other qualifier, the lovely and very promising Australian Shepherd LOVE ME LIKE YOU DO OF MOON AND STARS (IMP ITA). A superb quality youngster who demands attention and certainly has ring presence and was shown and presented in superb jacket. His head is excellent, totally balanced, male with nothing overdone and his expression is keen, intelligent and alert. He has a textbook lay of smooth shoulder and a decent length of neck. His topline is firm and his length to height ratio perfect. He just needs to spring his rib a touch and fill his frame, and he also needs to straighten up in front coming towards to finish the picture. With maturity he should have a very bright future.

There were no TERRIER qualifiers present.

ADULT SEMI-FINALS

(two adults were selected from each group for the Grand Final competition)

UTILITY

Although standing alone, the Lhasa Apso JSY CH PETWALK INSPIRATIONAL (KCJ) was a worthy qualifier for the final. She is brimming full of quality and has excellent ring presence and is a solid and easy mover in all directions. She is ultra feminine with a lovely balanced head which sits on a strong arched neck and flows into well-laid shoulders. Her body is deep and she is sturdily put together. I would just prefer a slightly more level topline leading to the croup and tail set. Her coat and presentation were simply fabulous and she was well-muscled, driving away with real propulsion and accuracy. She made the final 6 cut for DOTY.

GUNDOGS

The first qualifier was the excellent G.S.P. CH/IR SH CH/JSY CH QUINTANA DIAMOND DUST AT FRIARSBELLE JW ShCEx OSW. I loved this boy who exudes quality in virtually every aspect. He has a glorious balanced, masculine head. His outline is just perfect, and he flows from nose to well-set tail. In tip-top hard condition with a harsh textured coat his side-gait is mesmerising. He is totally at one with his expert handler. He pushed so hard for top spot today in the final 6 for DOTY and was just so very unlucky to meet and be pipped by the Newfoundland and BSD on such form. I loved him.

Irish Setter TIROEN THE SKY'S THE LIMIT. Here was another good one, just as feminine as the GSP was masculine. Her head is an absolute joy as is her soft and expressive intelligent eye. She has great balance and good depth, and she presents a great outline on the stack. Moving true both ways, she just couldn't quite match the freedom and extension of the GSP in profile. I liked her very much.

HOUND

The first qualifier was the outstanding Whippet JSY CH SILKRIDGE JEAN GENIE FOR PETWALK. I loved the outline and exceptional side-gait of this ultra feminine Whippet. She flows from nose to tail and has an exquisite head and expression and a lovely straight front with good depth to fore-chest. She moved away with precision but was not so happy coming back today, pulling to one side, which cost her when splitting hairs for the final awards. She did really impress me for breed type and super quality.

The Beagle FALLOWFIELD RHETT WITH BIRYBARN was the other qualifier who thoroughly deserved his place. All male and totally balanced he is very hard to fault. He has a lovely head and eye with good depth and a well-boned straight front and tight feet. He moved with precision and some reach in profile.

WORKING

The first qualifier was the overall winner, the Newfoundland CH/JSY CH ZENTAUR THIS IS JAM HOT (AI) JW ShCEx OSW.

The brindle Great Dane FONTANAROSSA EQUATOR was another excellent qualifier and she screams breed type. Her head is the perfect shape, and her dentition is spot on. I would just prefer a slightly tighter eye to be critical. She has a long, well arched neck, superb depth and a totally level and fabulous top-line. Her front legs are wonderfully boned and her feet first-class. She is balanced all through in outline with lovely angles fore and aft and is a picture of strength, powerfully muscled. She was, I must say carrying enough weight and I would prefer to see a waist. On the move she was flawless in all directions. I really liked her a lot and she made the final 6 for DOTY.

TOY

The first qualifier was the Papillon JSY CH FOREPAWS DUTCH COURAGE FOR INVANSE. I loved this dog's exquisite head, ears and expression, so masculine and so expressive. He is well-bodied and was shown in excellent jacket. On the table he just seemed a touch unsettled and tended to roach a tad which spoilt his overall outline. He moved well in both directions and showed some good profile action.

The Pug RIENMOUR GULLY GAUCHE PDH was another good qualifier with a cheeky expression and a lovely masculine balanced head. He has a super dark round eye and lovely thin ears. His forequarters are strong and straight, and he has a firm strong top-line. He moves with accuracy coming and going with good action in profile. Out of coat today this just spoilt the overall picture.

PASTORAL

The first qualifier was the overall runner up, the BSD Terveuren CH DOMBURG NEW DEMAND PD'H.

The other qualifier was the Australian Shepherd LOVE ME LIKE YOU DO OF MOON AND STARS (IMP ITA).

TERRIER

The first qualifier was the Irish Terrier CH/INT CH/PL CH AMBERVILLE NO ONE LIKE YOU. She is so correct in outline that she simply demands attention. I loved her delicately chiselled and ultra feminine head and her dark expressive eyes. She has excellent dentition. Her shoulders are fine and well-laid, and her brisket is deep and strong. She is firm in topline, is well-ribbed back and was shown in hard, well-muscled condition. She did, however, at times, drop her well-set tail which cost her in the ultra-competitive final 6 competition. I really rated her a lot and am not surprised to see that she is multi-titled.

The other qualifier was the Cesky Terrier JSY CH GAYTECKELS MUSICAL MELODY PD'H. I liked this dog's head shape, relatively long with a slight arch and a keen and expressive eye. Her dentition was good. Her outline is rectangular as called for in the standard and her top-line exquisite, just perfect. I would just prefer slightly straighter front legs to finish the picture. She is an excellent side gaiter and uses her well-muscled quarters to advantage.

Once again, a huge thank you to all for a memorable and thoroughly enjoyable time in Jersey.

Jonathan B Daltrey (JUDGE)

