

Total Dog Challenge

The idea for The “Total Dog Challenge” grew from a desire to demonstrate that so many of our wonderful, LBD’S (That would be Little Brown, and Little Blue Dogs), participate in a variety of activities, switching from one to another with enthusiasm and success. A few, other breed clubs have a similar event, specific to their breed, but nothing as elaborate as our “Challenge”.

Armed with information from several of these clubs, and with the help of Elaine Brown, Paula Pavlik-Douglas, and Kathy Henning, I put together the “bones” of what was to become the Total Dog Challenge. The events to be included were: Obedience, Rally, Agility, Earthdog, Barn Hunt, and new to the Specialty this year, FastCat. One point to be awarded for entry in the event, and one point for qualifying. This was to be an owner handled event, with each dog entering a minimum of 3, different, events plus the TDC conformation. At this point, Tracey Anscombe (Orangebox Border Terriers), was delighted to make the trip across the Atlantic to judge the conformation; with the emphasis on working structure, and type, of the working Border Terrier. Spayed, neutered, dogs, and bitches were all eligible. (Please see Tracy’s comments following This article.)

As soon as the competition was announced, we were inundated with questions, which was wonderful! We had not expected such an enthusiastic response. As the weeks went by, we dealt, with the unexpected, Premium List, entries, trophies, ribbons and lastly, arm bands. OMG wherever does one go to buy arm bands? With the help of Cyndi Olson and Mel Miners we had a computerized score sheet, and entries were pouring in. By the closing date, we had 40 entries. I was told, by very many, competitors that they entered, and started practicing for events, even ones in which they had never before competed.

The challenge started slowly, with people being very serious about earthdog, and barn hunt. That evening, as scores were published, excitement began to build; and we were off! Fast Cat was great fun, with people waiting impatiently, for scores. Agility, produced many questions and much anxiety, but all was well at the end of the day. Obedience and Rally were well

supported, and the judges kind to those new to the events.

Finally, only the Conformation remained. Competitors were excited, and lined up, wearing arm bands; thanks to, Chief Ring Steward, Margaret Henning. Most of the competitors treated this like a regular Conformation class and were dressed for the ring. It was splendid. Judge Anscombe had all the dogs, and bitches, in the ring, giving each one a careful “look”. She then, very, thoroughly, on and off the table, examined all the dogs, cutting half, and repeating the process with the bitches. Dogs and bitches who made the cut came back into the ring for another serious scrutinizing. Then lo-and behold we had a winner.

Total Dog Conformation Placements

1st - “Rosie” GCH Ch
Gemstones Guns ‘Roses @ up ’N Downs
SEBCAT RATS CGC TKI,. Linda
Steinoff

2nd - “Jamie” GCH Ch
Greywoode Verdin BCAT Jayne Christie

3rd - “Ditty” Topshelf’s Little
Irish Ditty Dianne McFarlane

4 th - “Fizzle” GCh Ch Rangle
Fizzing Wizbees JE CA RATO DS DJ

Total Dog Challenge Placements

1st - “Boyse” Jandr
Boysenberry of Rowan RE OAP OJP
NFP ME EE2 CAA BCAT FDC CGC
TKA RATCH CZ8B. Ruth Bromer
2nd - “Ditty” Topshelf’s Little
Irish Ditty, Dianne McFarlane
3rd - “Shyre” Sunkist Sharriets
O’Fyre BN RE TDX FDCAX MJX AXF
T2B ME EE4 CAX BCAT RATCH,
Laurits Dixon

4th - “Luna” Ch Joix Luna
Eclipse RA OA OAJ NF ME EE CAA
BCAT TKA FDC RATC, Ruth Bromer

Such excitement! Everyone congratulating winners, fellow competitors, the committee etc. All competitors received a ribbon, and a lovely, diamond shaped, stained-glass paw print to, hang in their window.

The ribbons were splendid, and the stained glass trophies made by “Mungo Works”, truly magnificent.

I should like to thank all competitors for entering, and making this a truly, memorable event.

Philpa Sahiner.

Chairman. Total Dog Challenge

Total Dog



Reserve Total Dog



Conformation Total Dog

Judge Tracey Anscombe

Thank you so much to the committee for the invitation and opportunity to judge at the first Total Dog Competition. This is such a simple yet brilliant idea that truly embraces the many virtues and versatility of the Border terrier. It was great to get the opportunity to find out what each of the dogs favourite pass time was, from hunting rats to asleep in front of a fire.

I had a quality selection of 35 dogs to 'go over' on the Wednesday evening. Because of the nature of the competition I have a wide variety in age and type, from retired

show dogs to ones that had never been in a show ring before.

I judged the class very much based on the first line of the British Breed Standard 'Essentially a Working Terrier'. These dog are already proven in a wide range of disciplines – Earth Dog, Barn Hunt, Fast Cat, Agility, Obedience, Rally etc. So I was looking for a good all round border terrier that I felt could follow a horse and do a day's 'work'. Therefore I did not penalize a neutered dog or missing tooth and fully appreciated the older veterans. (I hope that as this competition grows the

amount of awards will also increase in order to be able to fully show appreciation to the wide age ranges that are entered) I judged the dogs and the then bitches with a final short list of four in each sex.

Best Bitch and Best in Total Dog Conformation

Rosie - GCH Ch Gemstones Guns 'Roses @ up 'N Downs SEBCAT RATS CGC TKI, owner, Linda Steinoff

Grizzle and Tan bitch who caught my eye from the offset. Attractive head piece with a true otter like appearance and a good scissor bite still evident. She was a lovely size, narrow with a good lay of rib making her very easy to span. Well-proportioned and covered the ground well on the move, she very much looked like she could go all day and I would happily have her in my kennel at home.

Best Dog and Reserve Best in Total Dog Conformation

"Jamie" GCH Ch Greywoode Verdin BCAT owner, Jayne and Mary Christie

Grizzle and Tan who I though made a great partner to the bitch. Strong masculine head piece with varminty expression. Well-muscled rear quarters from which he moved out well from. Again I could span this dog due to his proportions and lay of rib. Very little between these.

It was an absolute pleasure to have the honour to get to find out a bit more about all the exhibitors' dogs.

Thank you.

Tracey Anscombe, Orangebox



Conformation Total Dog



Conformation Total Dog Reserve