

Danish Chesapeake Club Show  
10<sup>th</sup> May 2009

It was a pleasure and an honour to be invited to judge the Danish Chesapeake Specialty and to visit Denmark again.

Everyone was very friendly and obviously loved their dogs and I think that your Chesapeakes are lucky, not only for this, but in the fact that most of the dogs seemed to get the chance to hunt and were not just show dogs.

All of the dogs at the show had good coats, some having excellent coats, and there were none of the smooth sided coats with just a wave on the centre of the back that we used to see. Texture in most coats was good with the crisp, harsh outer coat and the soft woolly undercoat.

All of the dogs had good temperaments in the show ring, and all moved reasonably well, remembering that this is not a breed that moves as many show judges would like. I found my best movers in the working dog classes where most moved with drive and enthusiasm.

A few spoilt an otherwise great picture by moving too close behind, and a few did likewise by carrying their tails too high and with a curl in the end but these were just one thing in otherwise nice dogs.

All heads were good Chesapeake heads, no harshness, no snipyness, and no overdone heads with a lot of lip. Most had good bone and most had good angulation although often more in the rear than in the front and I would like to see both matching to provide the length of reach in both forequarters and hindquarters to provide the power for the swimming machine that a Chesapeake should be.

A few did not have a good barrel chest and some were the opposite and were too heavy and could not be described as athletic. A Chesapeake should not have the cobby body of a Labrador. The perfect dog has not been born and I make these comments only as, if we can look at our dogs with an objective eye, then we can be more educated when choosing a sire or dam to try to improve on those points that are not ideal.

My best in show bitch I would like to have had more angulation in front and rear, and I would like to see more tuck up underneath, which would have been more noticeable if she was carrying less weight, as, to me she was far too well fed! She had a lovely feminine head, a good well set neck, and good barrel chest, a strong back, well set and carried tail and everything was in proportion. She was well balanced and moved well although I would prefer more drive, her legs were straight from front and rear, and she had a really excellent coat.

My best dog provided more of an athletic and workmanlike picture, being slimmer. He had a lovely head with ears well set, although I would have preferred them very slightly smaller. He had a lovely length of neck and

leading into a good front and excellent depth of chest, equal to his length of leg. He showed a good tuck up underneath. He sloped a little in croup due to his hind end being slightly over angulated but he moved straight from front and rear and presented a picture in profile of a true Chesapeake. His coat was good but he did not have the undercoat of the bitch and it was this and her better rear end which gave her the top honour.

My two baby puppies were lovely, and should grow into really good ones. The earliest we can show puppies in England is at 6 months and so these babies in a show are always a novelty to me, but interesting to assess. I bred my first litter of Chesapeakes a long time ago in 1977 but animals have taught me that we never ever stop learning and trying to decide which puppy to keep in a litter is always a hard decision.

Thank you for inviting me to your beautiful country with it's abundance of wildlife, and beautiful countryside, and thank you for the friendly greeting

Christine Mayhew  
Arnac Chesapeakes.