

CLEVEDON SHOW
19 March 2011
Judge: Doug Connor

This was a lovely show to judge and the atmosphere was cheery and light-hearted throughout the day. My steward, Lois Mattsson, was very efficient (as always) and Fiona Coull stepped in to scribe for me on the day. The entry was just the right size to be able to spend a bit of time talking with them about the rats as well, so we all enjoyed a bit of a rat 'seminar'! Estelle Sanford provided her usual top quality show sec'ing so we were all well-organised during the show!

My congratulations to the winners on the day! Best in Show went to Comis Stud (Jem and Michelle Quarry) for their cinnamon doe, who was very fit, in great condition, and had both lovely coat colouring and nice, even ticking – a lovely rat! Reserve Best in Show went to Aquarius Stud (Phil Neate) for his agouti doe who was both excellent on the standards and, again, had great fitness and muscle tone. Best Opposite Age (and third overall) went to Milo Stud (Sarah Stevens) for her Russian blue buck. Mercury Stud (Rebecca Hinson) took fourth place overall with her Russian dove doe, and Best Stud Buck with her Russian blue. Best Novice went to Lois Mattsson and second place went to Fiona Coull – so I had the day's best novices assisting me on the bench! Finally, Best Juvenile went to Hannah Coull for her self dumbo – well done, Hannah!

There were 43 entries on the bench, including several that I had seen and judged at the Oxford Show in January. It is unusual to judge two NFRS shows so close together so it was an interesting opportunity to compare my critiques for some of the same rats I saw then. In general, I am happy to report that the major characteristics of the rats I saw in January are reported again here! Beyond that, two months is a fairly long time in the show life of a rat, so some of the differences may be due to normal maturation changes in condition, conformation, colour, etc.

Once again, it was a pleasure to judge this show, and my congratulations to all who won rosettes and stars. Keep up the good work!

NEW VARIETIES (2): 1 (01) Sue Neate. Wheaten Burmese doe. Good head. Very good eye. Good type. Lovely condition. Good tail. Good colour. Good nose point. Tail point fair. Foot points fair. Tiny nick in left ear – too bad. Ears fair but a bit tubular. Nice rat. 2 (02) Milo. Bareback dumbo. B. Fair head. Small eye. Fair type. Good condition. Good tail. Head marking correct. Colour absent from shoulders, legs and chest but clearly demarcated. Good under. Good attempt. Ears good – no creases – slightly tulip-shaped.

Self section

BRITISH BLUE AD (2): 1 (501) Aquarius. D. Good head. Very good eye. Good ears. Good type and condition. Good tail. Good colour, some silvering, but rusted at sides. Some rusting on back. Nice rat. 2 (502) Aquarius. D. Fair head, eye and ear. Good type, fair condition. Good tail. Just slightly baggy. Good colour, heavily silvered.

BLACK AD (1): 1 (701) Symphony. D. Short head. Excellent eyes. Fair ears. Good type. Large for a doe. Good condition. Good tail. Good colour but rusting on back and belly. Lovely temperament.

BLACK KIT (1): 1 (801) Jackie Dook. D. Fair head – a bit narrow. Good eye and ear. Good type and condition. Good tail. Good colour, some silvering. White toes.

SELF ADULT CHALLENGE: 1 – 501. 2 – 791. 3 – 502,

SELF KITTEN CHALLENGE: 1 – 801.

SELF ALL AGES CHALLENGE: 1 – 501. 2 – 701. 3 – 801. 4 – 502.

Marked section

BERKSHIRE/BADGER AD (2): 1 (1301) Fiona Coull. Agouti Berkshire doe. Good head and ear. Fair eye. Good type, condition and tail. Colour demarcation ragged. Spots on belly. Tail stop absent. Foot demarcation correct. Lovely temperament.

BERKSHIRE/BADGER KIT (1): 1 (1401) Fiona Coull. Topaz Berkshire doe. Good head, eye and ear. Good type and condition. Tail slightly square. Good colour, slightly darker on dorsal ridge. Demarcation slightly uneven. Nice rat.

VARIEGATED KIT (1): 1 (2001) Fiona Coull. Agouti doe. Good head and eye. Fair ears. Good type, condition and tail. Good colouring on head and shoulders. Markings even but splotchy on back. Colouration absent on sides. Tail stop present. Nice rat.

CAPPED KIT (1): 1 (2201) Milo. B. Fair head. Good eye and ear. Fair type and condition. Slightly square tail. Good colour across head. Good head spot. Drag lines extend to neck and shoulder. Good attempt.

MARKED ADULT CHALLENGE: 1 – 1301.

MARKED KITTEN CHALLENGE: 1 – 2001. 2 – 1401. 3 – 2201.

MARKED ALL AGES CHALLENGE: 1 - 2001. 2 – 1401. 3 – 1301. 4 - 2201

Russian section

RUSSIAN BLUE AD (3): 1 (3101) Mercury. D. Good head and eye. Fair ears. Good type. Lovely condition and tail. Good colour. Some rusting in undercoat. Nice rat! 2 (3102) Mercury. B. Good head – nice and broad though a bit short. Good eye. Fair ear. Nice large type. A little bit overweight. Needs nails trimmed! Good colour but substantially silvered. Some rusting in undercoat. Sweet guy! 3 (3103) Comis. D. Fair head – a bit short. Good eye. Fair ear. Large type. Good tail. Nice even coat, but dark. Rusting in undercoat.

RUSSIAN BLUE KIT (2): 1 (3201) Milo. B. Fair head – a bit narrow. Good eye and ear. Good type. Very good condition. Good tail. Good colour but distinct silvering across back. Very nice, fit kitten. 2 (3202) Milo. D. Good head. Very good eye. Good ears. Good type, condition and tail. Good colour – slightly silvered. Very lightly boned – needs more substance.

RUSSIAN DOVE AD (1): 1 (3301) Milo. D. Good head but 'bucky' in proportion. Very good eye. Fair ears. Good type but large for a doe. Good thick tail. Good condition but slightly baggy - watch her weight! Very good colour. Undercoat to standard. Very nice rat.

RUSSIAN BLUE AGOUTI AD (2): 1 (3501) Mercury. D. Good head and ear. Very good eye. Good type, condition and tail. Nice even colour across back. Good shading on sides and belly demarcation. Nice rat. Wins on conformation to standard. 2 (3502) Mercury. B. Good head and eye. Fair ears. Large type. Good condition but a bit baggy. Very nice tail. Colour correct across head and shoulders. Mottled across back. Probably past his best in varieties. Lovely temperament.

RUSSIAN ADULT CHALLENGE: 1 – 3501. 2 – 3303. 3 – 3101.

RUSSIAN KITTEN CHALLENGE: 1 – 3201. 2 – 3202.

RUSSIAN ALL AGES CHALLENGE: 1 – 3501. 2 - 3202. 3 - 3301.

Shaded section

HIMALAYAN KIT (1): 1 (4001) Symphony. B. Good head - a bit narrow but may improve with time. Good eye. Fair ears. Somewhat lightly boned. Good tail. Good nose point. Fair tail point. Foot points not well expressed.

SIAMESE AD (2): 1 (4101) Lois Mattsson. D. Lovely eyes! Slightly narrow head. Good ears. Good type, condition and tail. Somewhat lightly boned. Good nose point. Slightly irregular. Fair tail point and foot points. Colour gradation from rump fair. 2 (4103) Mercury. B. Good broad head, but short. Good eye and ear. Nice large type but overweight. Good nose and tail points. Foot points fair – not well expressed. Good colour gradation from rump but mottled. Lovely temperament.

BLUE POINT SIAMESE AD (2): 1 (4301) Lois Mattsson. D. Good head – a bit narrow. Good ear. Fair eye. Good type. Fairly good condition. Fair tail. Good nose and tail points. Foot points fair. Colour from rump fairly good – some splodginess. 2 (4302) Mercury. B. Good broad head – a bit short. Fair eye and ear. Good large type. Good condition but overweight. Nice big, thick tail. Good nose and tail points. Fair foot points. Fair colour up from rump, but mottled.

SHADED ADULT CHALLENGE: 1 – 4301. 2 – 4101. 3 – 4302. 4 – 4103.

SHADED KITTEN CHALLENGE: 1 – 4001.

SHADED ALL AGES CHALLENGE: 1 – 4301. 2 – 4101. 3 – 4302. 4 – 4001.

AOV section

SILVER FAWN KIT (1): 1 (4901) Comis. D. Good head and eye. Fair ear. Good type and condition. Very good tail. Lovely colour – some moult marks. Chew mark on back. Clean under. Nice rat.

SILVER KIT (1): 1 (5201) Milo. Black buck. Good head – a bit narrow – may improve with time. Very good eye. Good ears. Good type and condition – very fit. Good tail, slightly squared. Lovely even silvering – very distinct and even across back and onto flanks – stops at shoulder. Lovely kitten – great potential! Keep putting him in!

AGOUTI AD (2): 1 (5301) Aquarius. D. Good head. Very good eye. Fair ear. Good type. Lovely condition and muscle tone. Good tail. Nice even ticking. Slight dorsal ridge. Good ticking to sides. Mid-coat very good. Nice belly colour. Lovely rat. 2 (5302) Aquarius. B. Fair head. Good eye and ears. Good type, condition and tail. Ticking forms dorsal stripe but fairly even down sides.

CINNAMON AD (1): 1 (5501) Comis. D. Very good head and eye. Fair ears. Very good condition and tail. Nice even ticking – slightly heavy across mid-back. All colour to standard. Very nice rat.

BRITISH BLUE AGOUTI AD (4): 1 (5702) Aquarius. D. Good head, eye and ear. Good type, condition and tail. Nice even ticking – slightly heavy across back. Wins on fitness and condition. 2 (5701) Jemima Gibson-Wyer. D. Good head but a bit small in proportion to body. Good eye and ear. Good type and fairly good condition – watch her weight. Good tail. Nice even ticking across back and carried well down onto sides. Mid-coat correct – slightly pale. Belly to standard. 3 (5703) Aquarius. B. Good head and eye. Fair ears. Good type. Very good condition. Good tail – slight bite mark at end. Ticking heavy on dorsal ridge – not carried down sides. Mid-coat colour correct. 4 (5704) Milo. D. Good head, eye and ear. Good type and condition. Good tail – nice and thick. Ticking mottled. Mid-coat fair. Scabs on back. Chew mark on rump.

AOV ADULT CHALLENGE: 1 – 5501. 2 – 5301. 3 – 5702. 4 - 4901.

AOV KITTEN CHALLENGE: 1 – 5201.

AOV ALL AGES CHALLENGE: 1 - 5501. 2 – 5301. 3 – 5702. 4 - 5201

Dumbo section

SELF DUMBO AD (1): 1 (7501) Hannah Coull. Black doe. Good head. Very good eye. Large type for a doe. Good condition and tail. Good depth of colour – some silvering, especially on flanks. Good ears – tulip-shaped, but uncreased.

SELF DUMBO KIT (1): 1 (7601) Symphony. Black buck. Good head and eye. Good type. Fairly good condition and colour very silvered. May do better in AOV dumbo. Good ears – slightly tulip-shaped. Nice kitten.

MARKED DUMBO AD (1): 1 (7701) Mercury. Black Berkshire buck. Fair head. Good eye. Good type. Very good condition. Fair tail. Belly markings ragged. Very good ears – slight crease in right ear but nice shape.

RUSSIAN DUMBO AD (4): 1 (7901) Mercury. Russian blue agouti doe. Fair head. Good eye. Good type. Fair condition. Good tail. Fair ticking. Some unevenness up back. Mid-coat good. Good ears – uncreased – good shape. 2 (7904) Comis. Russian blue buck. Good head. Very good eye. Good type, condition and tail. Good colour – slightly silvered. Good ears – uncreased – slightly tulip-shaped. 3 (7902) Mercury. Russian blue agouti doe. Fair head and eye. Good type. Fair condition. Good tail. Ticking even but light. Overall appearance more fawn than blue. Ears fair – creased and tulip-shaped. 4 (7903) Mercury. Russian blue buck. Very good head. Good eye. Nice large type. Good condition – watch his weight. Good tail. Good colour – coat a bit long. Very fit. Fair ears – slightly tubular – crease in left ear.

SHADED DUMBO AD (1): 1 (8101) Milo. Burmese doe. Fair head, eye and ear. Fair type and condition. Good tail but bite mark near tail root. Fair nose, tail and foot points. Colour light. Lightly boned – needs more substance. Good ears – uncreased but tulip-shaped.

AOV DUMBO AD (1): 1 (8301) Mercury. Black silvered buck. Good head and eye. Good large type. Good condition but overweight. Fair tail. Good silvering but uneven and not well expressed. Fair ears – creased and tulip-shaped.

AOV DUMBO KIT (1): 1 (8401) Hakuna Matata. Black silvered doe. Fair head and eye. Good type but lightly boned. Good condition and tail. Good colour – silvering not well expressed (better in Self?). Good ears - uncreased but tulip-shaped.

DUMBO ADULT CHALLENGE: 1 – 7901. 2 – 7904. 3 - 7501. 4 - 8301.

DUMBO KITTEN CHALLENGE: 1 – 8401. 2 – 7601.

DUMBO ALL AGES CHALLENGE: 1 – 7901. 2 – 7904. 3 – 7501. 4 – 8301.

Guide Standard section

GUIDE STANDARD AD (2): 1 (8703) Mercury. Russian topaz dumbo. B. Fair head. Small eyes. Large type. Fairly good condition – but overweight. Good tail. Colour a bit pale. Long guard hairs. Fair ears – slightly tulip-shaped. Nice temperament. 2 (8701) Sue Neate. Golden Himalayan doe. Fair head and eye. Good type, condition and tail. Fair tail and foot points. Good nose point. Top colour very pale – not to standard. Ticking not observed. Fairly good ears – slightly tubular.

BEST JUVENILE: 1 (7501) Hannah Coull.

BEST NOVICE: 1 (4301) Lois Mattsson. 2 (2001) Fiona Coull. 3 (4101) Lois Mattsson. 4 (1301) Fiona Coull.

BEST STUD BUCK: 1 (3102) Mercury. Russian blue. 2 (7903) Mercury – Russian blue dumbo. 3 (5302) Aquarius - agouti. 4 (8301) Mercury – black silvered dumbo.

KITTEN CHALLENGE: 1 (3201) Milo - Russian blue buck. 2 (5201) Milo – black silver buck. 3 (2001) Fiona Coull – agouti variegated doe. 4 (8401) Hakuna Matata - black silvered doe.

ADULT CHALLENGE: 1 (5501) Comis - cinnamon doe. 2 (5301) Aquarius – agouti doe. 3 (3501) Mercury – Russian blue agouti doe. 4 (3301) Milo - Russian dove doe.

SUPREME CHALLENGE: 1 (5501) Best in Show: Comis - cinnamon doe. 2 (5301) Reserve Best in Show: Aquarius – agouti doe. 1 (3201) Best Opposite Age: Milo - Russian blue buck. 4 (3501) Mercury - Russian blue agouti doe.