

GWPCA National 2011

It was my privilege to judge the conformation classes at this year's GWPCA National Specialty. The show was held indoors. The ring was more than adequate size with decent matting providing ideal conditions for both myself and the exhibitors. The show was very efficiently run and I had an excellent steward, which always make my job easier.

Overall Impressions

I was impressed with the overall quality of the entry. As is common, the quality was deeper in the bitches than in the dogs. The quality in the specials class was excellent. Heads, eye color, and correct coats were consistent. There were very few missing teeth. There were more shallow and narrow chests that I'd like to see. This was often coupled with a little too much leg which ruins the "slightly longer than tall" balance I would like to see. There were zero temperament issues which is very impressive in an entry of this size. Croups and low tail sets were another area of concern in some of the exhibits.

Winners Dog

My winners dog, from the Open class, was a mature, well balanced dog with a decent coat and correct head and eye. He had sound running gear and carried a good topline on the go-round. He was expertly presented and moved at the correct speed.

Winners Bitch

My winners bitch, from the 15-18 month class, was surprisingly mature and well-proportioned for her age. She possessed a nice head and an excellent coat. Again, I was impressed with how pulled together she was on the move, for a dog her age. Once again, her presentation was excellent.

BOB/AOM

My BOB dog and AOM dog were both outstanding representatives of the breed. Both possessed excellent coat and heads. Both carried excellent top lines when moving with proper reach and drive. Both were expertly presented. Both were in superb condition. One could make a pretty good argument for placing them in either order.

BOS/AOM

My BOS Bitch was probably the prettiest dog I saw all day. Hopefully she produces as good as she is. Beautiful head and balance. Nice coat. Very sound. But the males presented a little better picture on the go round. The veteran bitch was also beautiful in her own right, in great shape not only for her age but for the fact that she had whelped a litter just a few months before the show (as I was later informed by her handler). Both exhibits were expertly presented.

In conclusion, while entry numbers are small compared to many other breeds, the overall quality is excellent. Moreover your field dogs can compete in conformation and your show dogs can compete in the field, an achievement that few other breeds can still claim. I think German Wirehaired Pointers, as a breed, are in great shape looking towards the future.

Thank you for the opportunity to judge your show.

Elliot More, D.V.M.