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Thanks to PVIWC for asking me to judge the sweepstakes. I truly enjoyed it. Peter Van Brunt is a treasure and a real asset in the ring. Long may he reign.

I look for the same traits in a horse or a hound, long shoulder, long hip, long legs, with a deep heart girth. I found these traits in many of the puppies.

A few of the puppies got what I call a case of "stage fright" when they had to be singled out alone. More confidence is what they needed, and hopefully what they got.

Personally I think it's a very bad idea for a judge to be putting their hands in every dog's mouth at a show. Especially with some of the pop up viruses that can go around. Overall bites were excellent as were coats.

Being a horse person I know how important good feet are. No hound with splayed, shallow, or a small foot will withstand real work in the field. Long nails force

a hound to pick its feet up higher. Over time they will also make the foot flatter.

I did my best to be decisive, and keep the classes moving, so as not to exasperate the handlers, and overwhelm the young hounds.

Thank you for bringing out your hounds on an Easter Sunday. It was my pleasure seeing them all.

Here is the critique.
Berne Smith

6- 9 month dogs

1- #7 Carnasserie Vandeventers
Fiery Aidan

Up on the leg with moderate angulation. Deep enough, while still growing in all directions. Good side movement. True in front, closer in rear. That will change as he gains muscle and maturity. Nice rangy puppy.

2 - # 5 Cornasserie Tarsa

Both of these puppies show potential, but it will take awhile.

This puppy didn't show as much extension in side movement today.

Both are straight legged with hard coats, and a lot of growing ahead of them. Both are galloping hounds.

12 - 15 - ~~13~~ month dogs

1 - # 11

Quinlan Brunswick Stew

This puppy has very good proportion. Up on the leg, deep, with a definite tick up. His movement is long and true. He is in excellent condition and a joy to watch.

15-18 month dogs

1- # 19 Cruinnacht Carrickaneena
Synge at Armagh

Over all this is a nice young
hound. Good body, depth and rib-
spring. Moderate, but energetic
side movement. Masculine head,
rich black color all through. Tail
could be lower.

2- # 13 Cruinnacht Carrickaneena
Ollam Erenn.

This young hound has size and
substance. He is up on the leg
with very good shape. He has a
strong masculine head. He has a
ground covering stride and his
tail is carried correctly. His
color is a type fault.

3- # 17 Redtops Late Night Ride
of the Hot Rod Lincoln

Up on the leg with depth and

decent angulation, I know this
hound is a better mover than he
was allowed to be. Galloping free
enhances rib spring and builds
bone and muscle. Different lines
grow in different ways. Your
hound has the height and leg now
work to put the substance and
muscle on him. You'll both enjoy it.

6-9 month Bitch

1 - #12 Dun Myrica No Nonsense
of Eagle

Leg, shape, proportion and beauty
put her at the head of the line. I
Good movement kept her there.

2 - #16 Dun Myrica November
of Eagle

Up on the leg good proportion,
nice mover.

3 - #8 Dun Myrica Nov of Eagle

Very strong and correct through the body. Good width for this age. Calm and assured of herself. I hope her legs have a growth spurt because over all she is very nice.

12-15 mo bitches

1- #20 Temair Saol An Turas
of Quinlan

This puppy has very good proportion up on the leg, deep, long hip and good tuckup. She is a long, true, mover.

2- #18 Quinlan Piece of the
Pattern

This puppy has the same good qualities as #1 but in a slightly smaller version. She is also very good on the move. But because this is a giant breed I went with more size.

3-#22 O'Lugh's Amaraula

This puppy is shorter in leg and long bodied. She has a good head and neck that she carried well. She also has good feet. More leg and shape may come as she grows. She wanted to move and was game to go, but her right hind leg was bothering her. She wasn't really lame, but she wasn't right either. I thought she might have hit herself sometime during the morning. When you judge puppies, you are seeing a "freeze frame" in their development. That doesn't mean things can't change later.

4-#14 Carrickaneena Me Fein

This happy puppy had a long lovely head with a strong muzzle and a ^{an} aquiline nose. She had a more short coupled body and a great attitude. She was enjoying EVERY THING! Hind feet that were not her fortune, put her fourth.

15-18 month bitch

1- # 36 Hound Hill Vale of Aerie

First of all the handler gets an award of merit, running her legs off to stay with this ground covering beauty. Dont kid yourself, it takes ^{correct} conformation, strength, and coordination for a hound to move like this, and make it look easy.

In addition she has a long head. Deep girth great tuckups straight legs tight feet and harsh coat. She is also true as a die coming and going.

2- # 38 Mor Regal War Admiral of Elkhorn

Another hound of quality, upon the leg, deep, good legs and feet. beautiful shape, and proportion.

Another good true mover but with a little less ability to track up from the rear.

3-#42 Mor Regal War Emblem of Elkhorn

For me this young hound could easily move up the line. She has alot of quality. She is also taller than #1 & 2 and stands over more ground. A poor rider can make a good horse look very bad. So this young hound has only one problem, her handler. Get her three feet away from you, turn her loose to take herself and get going to stay with her. If you can do this I guarantee she will give #1 & 2 a real run for their money.

4-#34 Jeppers of Aerie

This is the hound you will go to, to maintane the substance in a line so they dont get tall and flimsy. Three more inches on her front legs would increase her extension. She has a wide strong rear. She has rib spring, depth, and alot of shape.