

Rhodesian Ridgeback Club of the United States National Specialty - 2009

I want to thank all the members of the Rhodesian Ridgeback Club of the United States for having me as their judge at the 2009 National Specialty, and to everyone who presented their dogs. I so enjoyed judging this breed that is so dear to my heart.

There were many very good puppies shown. I was pleased with their soundness, great temperaments and overall balance. It's great to know the future of the breed is insured.

The overall quality of the class dogs and bitches was equally impressive. Most were well-balanced, of proper size, with strong headpieces, and good movement. Temperaments were excellent which was expected and especially pleasing. It speaks well of the breed.

The Field and Altered Dogs, Brood Bitches and Stud Dogs are always fun to judge and the Veterans classes, of course, brought tears to everyone's eyes as they moved about the ring.

Choosing the Best of Breed and Best of Opposite dogs was exciting to say the least, and not an easy task. As I observed all the specials I was overwhelmed with the depth of quality. It was very difficult to go through the "elimination process" because so many good dogs were left out.

My Breed dog was so soundly made and well balanced, that he literally floated around the ring, as did my Best of Opposite. Winners Dog and Bitch were also very sound good moving dogs, certainly worthy of their awards. They complimented my BOB and BOS. I was so pleased to be able to place 10 Awards of Merit, as there were so many deserving of recognition at this show. As I observed the final lineup, consistency in type and soundness prevailed.

It was a great three days. Everyone seemed to be enjoying themselves. The club can be very proud of everyone who organized and presented this National Specialty. It was so well done, with many dedicated people who worked together to make this a very special event.

Paula Hartinger