

JUDGING IN SWEDEN

Vida Vättern Borzoi Ringen Specialty Show

Judge: Dr Kevin T Shimel, Phaedra Borzoi, USA
www.phaedra-borzoi.com

Photos by Conny Croneryd and Kevin Shimel

The Sun was shining, the Wind was blowing, and the BORZOI...well...all out of COAT! For me, perfect weather and the perfect way to see the real dog...not just it's HAIR! I also judged Silken Windhounds and really enjoy the breed...the quality was equal to that of the Borzoi!

Having the opportunity to be asked to judge in another country was a dream come true! As well as interesting; after judging so much here in the USA! With my first introduction into Borzoi, nearly 30 years ago, by mentor (Both Carol's and My Own), Linda Cole Switt, Pickfair Borzoi, I was encouraged to look at pedigrees and pictures of dogs from all over the world. Now, being so fortunate, to have traveled to many countries to see many dogs with one highlight, seeing the origins of the breed in the Caucasus and on the Steppes. AND THE OTHER...having judged in Sweden. It was an honor I will smile about for years. THANK YOU!



Sweden...home of many of my favorite dogs of the past and present! To my surprise, ALL of the LINES I love and respect were represented very well! With an Entry of 58, I got to see the best in Sweden. The hospitality and warm manner of the Swedes is truly humbling. Many drove 4 or 5 hours to show to me...to show a Foreigner he is welcome in their country and they respect outside opinions who may not know who is on the end of the leash...who will just judge the dogs in front of them!!! Hats off to your culture!

The dogs...

To begin with, I was shocked when I saw the catalogue after the show! I picked littermates in many classes within and across sexes with their half siblings being selected in older or younger classes...then selected their parents as my favorites too! I guess one can say I am consistent! I was WOWED when people introduced themselves to me afterwards! It was like being at a masked ball (masquerade) for me...I never dreamed some of the people showing were the ones I had read the names of in magazines and books! After many years, I know what I like, so it was easy to find it with my lovely entry!

When judging I look for a strong ground covering sidegait with power and balance. Lots of rear drive and hock flexion to go with lots of front extension with elbow, front leg and pastern, and paw in a straight line with the toes to the tip of the extended nose. Rear leg replacing the exact spot of front leg as it takes off. With equal distance between front toes and rear toes at full extension with their offside counterpart. To include movement of all of the epaxial muscles at once...from occiput to tail end, not just from the elbow down! I want a clean single tracking down and back coming to a good 4 square stop (NOT rocking at elbows or pasterns or cowhocked, even when turning towards a squeaker toy sound)!

I like a strong, well muscled, arched neck, flat on sides, set into the withers, not on the withers or up from the sternum. With the withers fine between the shoulder blades and coming above the spine. Nice width and spring of rib is essential with depth of chest to the elbow and a good strong loin. I like a prominent sternum and good width through the front, never pinched at the elbows. The topline should rise (HAVE TO TOUCH THESE TO SEE THIS WITH AGE AND COAT PATTERNS AND GROOMING ALWAYS) coming from the tilt of a wide pelvis not from a dip in the back or drop in croup. Overall, a nice length of leg to body proportion with good bone to body proportion. Meaning...not long or too low on leg...although well set down into the front and hock! And not toothpick legged on a Borzoi body. I like a pleasing expression, either soft or hunt like, but never sharp or round eyed. WITH BLACK EYES AND PIGMENT! A strong squared underjaw, with a good clean bite, and full dentition. Despite what I had heard and seen of SOME Swedish Stock, I found the dogs I judged to have exceptional mouths!

Of course, conditioned, coated, trained and handled to perfection doesn't hurt either!

It was wonderful to see my young puppies, 4-6 months. The placements were made up of 2 litters Valthalia and Everhill...BOTH new BREEDERS...with both litters showing great quality and promise. Of course some handled and trained a bit better than others on that day!

Valthalia's Very Irresistible



(Ch Tarasov's Designed By Nature x Radoga's Wild Rose)

THIS BOY really caught my eye! What a nice puppy!
Great mover, perfect side gait fluidity, balanced and clean down and back, given all his angles and age! He moved with every muscle in his body in motion at once.
Topping it off...a fantastic head and expression. A good strong neck, set on properly, and wide powerful loin, with a subtle and flexible topline, showing great proportions of neck to back to loin onto croup, all on nice leg, with good bone and body.

He was Best Puppy/BIS 4-6 and his sister
BOS
Valthalia's Codie Donna



Type and SOUNDNESS with FLUID Sidegait

{SEE FULL RESULTS PRINTED FOR PICTURES}

Breeder Annette Möller
GOOD JOB ON HER FIRST LITTER

Everhill's Stretching Out (Ischyma Heiduck x Brassok Emmy Hennings) Breeder, Anna-Paris Wirén and Valthalia's Euphoria Blossom (Sister to BIS BOS, love the strong type and bone, a breeder's bitch) in the 4-6 bitch class really had exceptional movement as well.

The 6-9 BITCH class was a tough one. All the ones I liked moved very well, Lynx Littermates as it were. So I got to pick on type a bit!

Lynx Miracle of Love



(Ch Lynx Spirit of The Tiger x Ch Lynx Dark Lady)

Bred and Owned by Elisabet Jonsson
WOW...the PACKAGE

Lots of body and bone with a great topline and powerful sound movement, perfectly balanced front to rear top to bottom! Well muscled and STRONG. Topped by a great headpiece, with wonderful ancient expression, and black pigment. She is well let down into her front and rear. The ideal hare foot with wonderful coat. And shows like a Champ!

And at
just under 9 months...
Best PUPPY

One of
ANOTHER GREAT LYNX LITTER
Lynx Forbidden Love
Lynx Love in A Mist

These two, on their way to the UK! What a special treat to meet their new owners and a few other Islanders that came over for the show! CHEERS!

BOS 6-9
Lynx Easter Parade

A lovely large young self brindle dog
Bred by Elisabet Jonsson
Owned by Yvonne Nilsson

Junior classes can give you a headache. Such a hard age to judge but my Best Male made it very easy! He had it all together already and I knew he would set the standard for best male as soon as I saw him go around the ring even in his young class.

Ulfur Aeglos



(Ch Tarasov's Designed By Nature x Ch Ivegill's Lady Tequila)

At just over 9 months of age he was a **SHOWSTOPPER**

Movement, type and flash

Bred by Susanne Holmström

HER FIRST LITTER AS WELL

WONDERFUL!

He went on to be

BEST MALE

And

BOS IN SHOW

Susanne is also a great handler! Aeglos will be a good size dog with good bone and body and his movement is ground covering, well balanced, and strong, yet ever so fluid. He is perfect down and back as well. Super topline! A boy to watch for!

This boy's litter sisters were exceptional as well! With the lovely Red Brindle Ulfur Amulett (**BALD BUT GREAT BODY AND TOPLINE**) and Ulfur Astra (**ULFUR** Kennel; Susanne Holmström) both showing just perfect movement and type. In the end, I did put the charismatic strong mover and typey Lynx Midnight Sun (**BEST BITCH 5**) over them in Best Bitch class...**TRAINING...**and Pizzazz, **PIGMENT** with a fine soft coat texture! **AND** showing (behaving) in this class...with equally good movement...really super stride, full of energy! She exploded around the ring in the Best Bitch class.

Lynx Midnight Sun
Best Bitch 5



(Ch Lynx Magic Stone x Çh Hinschkas Unique at Lynx)
Bred and Owned by Elisabet Jonsson

Ulfur Amulett BOS Jr



Owned and Bred by Susanne Holström

Ulfur Astra
Best Jr Bitch 3



Bred by Susanne Holström
Owned by Helene Ahlgren

Intermediate classes produced a lovely Bitch in strong consideration for a best bitch ribbon.

Angel-Eyes



(Double Diamonds Schwartzwald x Iron-Azkhjae)

Bred by Mats Kjellin, Owned by Lars-Göran Christiansen
Best youngster and a great sidegait with strong breed type and good length of leg!

BOS Intermediate was a powerful young boy with lots of body and bone
and a super character
Tarasov's French Vanilla



(Ch Tarasov's Emir x Tarasov's Delightful Surprise)

Bred and Owned by Susanne Persson (Best Male 6)
A breeder with an outstanding eye for a dog!

Working Bitches! WOW, congratulations...super class with a lot of strong competition! I loved all of them! GOOD STRONG bitches with great sidegaits...so nice to see. I enjoyed this class a lot. All were well balanced front to rear, leg to body, bone to body.
SICCH Ivegill's Lady Tequila



(Ch Pierre-Maitre de Tchesskaia x Ivegill's Lady Autumn Birch)

Bred by Birgitta Bäckman
Owned by Susanne Holmström

GREAT JOB BREEDER AND HANDLER/OWNER

She was best working...she not only moves to perfection with breed type and depth and body set down into herself...with a low hock, and well set front, and strong wide powerful flexible arched loin, but has the thinnest best little ears I have ever felt on a BORZOI! For years you read the standard...thin ear leathers etc...well not before did I touch REAL ONES UNTIL HER!

Interestingly, she is mother to my 6-9 winners and to my BOS Match!

Open class males went to

Scheztaya Blindmandreams



(Ch Darbaschan's Super Strike x Saheev's Adinatstaja Metel)

Bred by Helena M-Håkansson

WHAT A HANDLER HELENA IS

SO IMPRESSED ME with her SKILL

Was a pleasure to watch her show a BORZOI! SILKEN TOO!

He went on to Best Male 3 and BOS Open

The Rich Mahogany Brindle Boy

Sebranova's Rambrizco



(Ch Sebranova's Ramirez x Ch Sebranova's Rich Money Penny)

Bred and Handled to Perfection by
Susanne Leifors

Owned by Annelie Björklund

Took Best Male 2 in Best Male class by really turning on and moving out for his handler!
His is of lovely type with super pigment head and expression, would like to see a bit freer
movement, but a very nice package overall.

Open Bitches had 2 Girls that really took my attention.

Both well built...good bone to body proportions! Elegant but strong heads...fantastic soft
coats with proper body coat to feather coat proportions, and texture to dream of! Both on
great amount of leg with good strong toplines! Sidegaits strong and ground covering, with
the first bitch a bit more balanced front to rear. That and the expression, head and neck,
and neck set, on my Winner and Best Open and Best Bitch 3 did her winning justice! She
powerfully covers so much ground around the ring without effort. Her win photo BIS
Open with ribbon shows her length of leg properly.

LCCh Sebranova's Rich Moon Star
Best Bitch 3



(Ch Cordova Tovarich x Ch Sebranova's Rich-Mistress)

Owned Bred and Shown SUPERBLY by
Susanne Leifors

Double Diamond's Mansikka



(Anuschka's David x Tichvin Balabina)

Bred by Maria Ringh
Owned and Shown very well by
Lars-Göran Christiansen (BEST BITCH 6)

Champion Class BOS and Best Male 5
is the sire/grandsire/uncle/half brother of many of my favorite youngsters shown

Ch Tarasov's Designed By Nature



(Ch Teine Fiddler at Tarasov x Ch Tarasov's Chenya Clarissa)

Bred and Owned by
Susanne Persson

This dog is a clean mover with great substance, a super topline with a pleasing head and eye and outstanding pigment with a great mouth!

BEST MALE VETERAN AND BEST BITCH VETERAN WERE VERY NICE!

Both being wonderfully typey dogs. Its always nice to see OUR dogs hold up with age! It has a lot to do with moderation of angle and type, as proven by these two winners.

**BEST Male 4 BIS Veteran
Ch Sebranova's Ramirez**

**BOS Veteran
Tichvin's Bibinova**



The highlight of the show was the CHAMPION BITCH CLASS! I really enjoyed watching my best girls move and watching their expert handlers show their STUFF! I cannot say enough glowing remarks about these bitches. They embody the exact wording of my description of what I was looking for on that sunny day in Sweden!
All three were superb.

Int, Multi Ch Lynx Dark Lady
BIS/BEST BITCH ONE/BEST Ch



Bred, Owned, TRAINED, CONDITIONED and
HANDLED PAR EXCELLENCE
by
Elisabet Jonsson
She really is near my IDEAL BORZOI!
To feel her strength and watch her move was a pleasure
AND HER HEAD EXQUISITE!

She is also the mother of my BEST PUPPY!

Best Bitch 2
Ch, LCCh Sebranova's Rich Marked Banjenka



Bred and Owned by Susanne Leifors
Handled to HER BEST by her owner/breeder
Sidegait, leg, bone, head and type all in one a strong leggy bitch!

Best Bitch 4
Ch Hinschka's Unique at Lynx



Bred in France by
Tomas Miralles
Owned by Elisabet Jonsson

A FANTASY IN WHITE

With perfect coat texture to go with all the rest of her package. Her strong body and sidegait is eclipsed only by her lovely type! A very POWERFUL GIRL!
AND I do love the white ones...alabaster in motion

The Champion bitch class was a lesson in perfection! It was very difficult to split between these three girls. I did ask at one point for these three to be moved on a loose leash with handler only holding the end of the leash and go around one at a time then stop for exam. The handler of Lynx Dark Lady said ok fine, took off the leash and collar completely and this bitch moved the whole ring along side her owner...came back to me to a dead stop 4 square and stacked like and ARAB HORSE SHOW MARE...and showed me her own bite and teeth...on her own!!!!!!!

...THAT IS WHEN SHE GOT FIRST...
FIRST IN EVERYTHING INCLUDING
...I SEE NOW...
THE WHELPING BOX

The Silkens, 5 of them, were of Excellent Quality and I appreciate the chance to judge this new exciting breed! I have gotten the opportunity to judge them here in the USA as well and they are really coming on with some good dogs and a good sound DISEASE FREE breeding program! We should learn in BORZOI!

GENE MARKERS!!!!!!

My winners BIS/BOS were Bred by Francie Stull, USA
and
owned by

Susanne Stjernborg of Starcastle Silken Windhounds

Susanne also showed me some excellent youngsters of her own breeding! With strong proper movement and correct type and size with great leg to body and bone proportions and nice furnishings and STRONG Flexible toplines with proper rise and croup with good balance between back, loin and croup. Her dogs exhibit excellent shoulder layback with wonderful ground covering strides! This breeder has a very good eye, and after seeing other young pups of hers after the show, I believe she is breeding a very consistent type, body, size and movement that is correct to the Standard! She understands movement and genetics, and the importance of health and uniformity...and Breeds some great Silkens! Susanne is breeding SILKEN WINDHOUNDS not Toy Dogs, or Terriers, or Hairy Whippets or Small Borzoi...

Truly A SILKEN WINDHOUND!
Very Well DONE!
STARCASTLE HOUNDS...BREEDER TO WATCH!
Best Male 3
Starcastle Hounds Netscape



(Kristull Northern Lights x Kristull The Surprise)

Starcastle Hounds Sunrise
Best Open Bitch/Best Bitch 2



(Kristull Rowan x Kritull Omniscense)

Along with my best Male 2
Windspirit Brendan Renaissance



(Windspirit Austen x Kristull Elvira Winspirit)

Bred by Lucille Meale, USA
Owned by Susanne Stjernborg and Ann-Kristin Hjelte

Great shoulders! Pretty faces! Strong TOPLINES! Fantastic TYPE!

I especially appreciate a Silken that moves with its Epaxial Muscles not just the legs... seems to be hard to find in the breed! It was nice to see my entry excelled in this trait, as well as being typey and STRONG!

My Best Male/BIS was exemplary! NEAR PERFECT!

Kristull Rowan

And my Veteran Bitch/BOS/Best Bitch ONE showed it all
EXCELLENT SHOULDER LAYBACK MISSING IN THE BREED IN MANY!

Kristull Omniscense

(over 11 yrs)and still moving so



well!

In closing I would like to thank my Ring Stewards Brigitta and Gisela for all the help and pointers keeping the FCI system straight in my mind! AND WRITING MY CRITIQUES... WOW...that was a job...if you have questions ask me please...They were super stewards as was the whole show committee! And cooks afterwards! Gotta love those meatballs with lingonberries and gravy!

I would also like to thank my wonderful hosts, Lillimor and Conny Croneryd (Leicro Borzoi), who forfeited showing so I could be a guest in their home and get turned on to eating Vit Saltgukers : White Salt Cucumbers! YUMMY!

The trophies that have been retired by this kennel and the winners they have produced are overwhelming! Leicro...setting the standard for Borzoi and Hospitality world round! What an enjoyable stay. Thank YOU!

Most Importantly, I would like to thank my dearest friend and Professional Partner in Phaedra, Carol Kubiak-Zamora, who is always taking such great care of our dogs, allowing me to go over to Sweden to judge!

I would also like to thank The Club for the invitation and the wonderful breeders, owners and spectators that came to the show beside the

LONG DEEP LAKE in SUNNY SWEDEN

Vita Väattern, September 15, 2007



Stockholm