

## **WELSH CORGI CLUB OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA P.M. SHOW -SATURDAY 13TH SEPTEMBER 2014**

JUDGE: MRS LOIS EVANS -TREHILYN CARDIGAN & PEMBROKE WELSH CORGIS- WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

My warmest thanks to the WCC of SA for an invitation to judge at one of their two breed specialty shows, held on Saturday 13th September 2014. Thank you also to everyone who brought along their beautiful, happy and very healthy dogs. It was a privilege to go over them and all were presented and shown to perfection, well done. A very special thank you to my delightful steward Joan who at short notice did a sterling job of helping out and wrangling the dog classes in and out of the ring, plus marking all the catalogue placings.

In both the Pembrokes and Cardigans I was looking for and found, some excellent examples of correct breed type and soundness which was most satisfying to see. It must also be remembered that apart from the external packaging, an essential component of breed type is the correct temperament and true character for the breed and once again, it was a joy to find both of these in abundance. For anyone interested, I would like to share one person's view and expectations in judging these two breeds.

### **GENERAL - CARDIGANS:**

In the Cardigan, the first two indications of breed type are the headpiece and the overall outline of the dog. In the Cardigan head itself, breed type comes from several things; the correctly proportioned head with a muzzle to skull ratio of 3:5 ; a moderate yet stronger stop than the Pembroke due to the slight doming of the foreskull above the eyes as required by the Cardigan breed standard, and one of the main differences between the Cardigan and Pembroke head.

The backskull should be broad and flat between the ears which are larger, fuller in width at the base and should be set slightly wider than a Pembrokes. The strong muzzle with good underjaw and no loose flews or overt lippiness, tapers moderately towards the slightly projecting nose. There should be sufficient chiselling of the foreface under the eyes and in the cheek area to eliminate blockiness and enable the required foxy shape and appearance of the head. Due to the correct shape of foreskull eyes are required to be wide-set, preferably dark, or can be blending with coat but rims must always be dark. Teeth must be strong and a scissor bite is required, this is a Welsh cattle dog, a heeling dog. In most dogs it is rare to find teeth set square to the jaw as per the standard although there was just one exhibit with this requirement. The last and most important part of the head in establishing breed type, is the frank, alert, intelligent and watchful expression of the Cardigan Welsh Corgi.

The Cardigan outline is long and low, well ribbed back but also has sufficient ground clearance with daylight showing underneath from the slight tuck up of underline. The outline of the Cardigan has no sharp angles but is a series of curves which flow from the slightly rounded curve of the foreskull above the eyes, across the large, erect ears and down the neck of good length to the withers, then follows the level topline until encountering and curving over the very slightly sloping croup and down to the lower set tail which while the dog is standing, falls in a sweep behind the body. The true Cardigan hindquarter is rounded, muscular and when viewed from above shows a distinct waist between the well sprung ribs and rounded hindquarters. Unlike the Pembroke with its flatter set croup and minimal underline tuck-up, the Cardigan body does not taper evenly from front to rear

when viewed from above nor does the Cardigan hindquarter in profile view have a 'squared off' appearance to the rump.

After head and outline, the next essential to Cardigan breed type is its **unique front**. As a breeder I know firsthand how important this is and how hard it is to breed the correct and totally sound Cardigan front. It starts foremost with the correctly shaped ribcage which is basically an inverted pear-shape and is relatively broad across the upper forechest. (Nb. The width of forechest must not be between the front legs which would give a boxy appearance to the chest with elbows tacked on the outside.) Around this essential foundation of a correctly shaped forechest the bones of the forelimbs will shape and under the influence of multiple dwarfing genes, unique to each dog, create the curvature of the upper arms around the chest and a SLIGHT turnout of the forefeet. - Note: foot only, not the whole pastern. Body well clear of the ground is a requirement and this part of the breed standard is a safeguard against doubling up on too many of those dwarfing genes, which can give tendencies towards joint and skeletal problems and disproportionately large heads.

True Cardigan feet are plush, tight, well padded and rounded in shape. The shape comes from the strong and rounded bone typical of the Cardigan skeleton. Although a substantial dog in comparison to the lighter built and oval shaped boned Pembroke, the Cardigan should still present as an athletic and overall capable working dog of moderate build. The weatherproof coat of the Cardigan should be of firm to hard texture, dense and of thick undercoat. A slightly longer topcoat which is not soft and open but instead tight, functional and waterproof is acceptable for the job. Preferably straight, it may carry some very slight marling or wave.

All of these components combined with the correct attitude for a Welsh Corgi Cardigan, which is kindly and fun loving but reserved and tending to be dedicatedly loyal to its owner, make this a handsome and most capable Welsh working dog.

#### **GENERAL - PEMBROKES:**

Again the first two main indications of true Pembroke breed type are also the first to smack you in the face when you look at the dog - headpiece and outline. To this I would add moderation because like in the Cardigan, we are not looking for extremes as this would detract from true breed type. The Pembroke is a strong, sturdy, active and workmanlike - but moderate breed.

As with the Cardiganshire Welsh Corgi, the correct Pembroke head **must** have the 3:5 muzzle to skull ratio as heads which verge on 5:5 lose breed type and suggest a collie, and in a more rarely seen but extreme expression of dwarfism, the muzzle may be actually shorter than the 3:5 ratio and usually accompanied by an incorrect, pronounced stop. Both of the above variations detract from good breed type. The stop in the Pembroke must be MODERATE. It is not a pronounced stop like a Border Collie, nor to the other extreme sliding as in a Collie Rough. Ideally, from the side the head planes of the skull and muzzle should be level and parallel with each other, the **\*moderate\*** stop defining the break between them. A moderate stop combined with level head planes means that there should be a total absence of doming over the eyes in the Pembroke and this is one important breed difference between the Pembroke and Cardigan Welsh corgi. The backskull should be wide and flat (not apple-headed or domed) and an imaginary line running between the eartips, down through the eyes and meeting at the tip of the nose will form an equilateral triangle. In immature puppies there may be some doming of the skull between the ears (not above the eyes) but this will

level out to the correct width of skull at maturity. The Pembroke head should be foxy in shape and appearance with a tapering, strong, but not heavy muzzle and lips tight with complete absence of any loose lippiness or flews. A scissor bite is required and underjaw needs to be strong with good, sound teeth as once again, this is a heeler, a Welsh cattle dog and needs its mouth to work. Eyes are preferably dark (or blending with coat colour) with complete and dark pigmentation of eyelids, nose and lips. The Pembroke appears alert, kindly, happily confident and intelligent. Its attitude is active, ready for anything and workmanlike.

Although never cobby nor short-coupled as this would affect its suppleness and manoeuvrability, the Pembroke with its straighter lines and sharper angles (not curves) and the flatter croupset, will appear slightly more squared-off in overall outline and less tucked up in underline than a Cardigan. Although, still with sufficient ground clearance for a working dog and legs as straight as possible after allowance for the moulding of the upper arms around the broad, oval shaped forechest which should also be well let down between the forelegs. I think most capable breeders understand the relationship of structure to movement. There were some very well structured exhibits in the classes and some beautifully laid shoulders, (scapula) but one thing I did notice is that there were none with upper arms of really good length. This attribute can be bred for and when present will aid really efficient, energy conserving and ground-covering forehand reach.

Minimal expression of dwarf characteristics are required in the Pembroke, less so than the Cardigan which has a different set of dwarfing genes and thus their expression through the characteristic doming of the skull over the eyes and 'bowing' or curvature of the Cardigan front with feet out-turned. The Pembroke has strong but oval-shaped bone and thus oval feet which with its less dwarfed and straighter long bones are aligned directly towards the front. In a correct Pembroke front there should be **no** turnout of the forefeet.

The topline of the Pembroke appears level from withers to tailset. The croup should be of good length and with the dog's muscling and coat to fill it in, has the appearance of being set flat and level with the topline. The base of the tail is set aligned with the level topline and croup. The Pembroke should not have a break in the topline due to a noticeably downward sloping croup nor a lower-set tail as in the Cardigan. The tail itself may be legally docked, naturally bob-tailed of varying lengths or, full and fox-like. Tail types may vary from sabre shaped (a gentle curve like a Shetland Sheepdog) to strongly curled as in an Akita. Tail types run in families with the curled tail tending to be dominant and at this stage provided the tailset is correct (whether full, docked or nbt) the appearance of the tail is of low priority in judging the overall dog. Natural bob tails should be **natural** and not illegally docked. In full or bobtails natural carriage may vary from high to streaming out straight behind, depending on the mindset of the dog at the time and whether it is at play, showing off to other dogs, or mentally focussed on the job and working steadily ahead. Unlike sabre tails, naturally curly tails tend to be up all the time unless the dog is actually ill.

The coat of the Pembroke is dense and firm of topcoat, with a thick undercoat and is virtually dirt and waterproof. A combination of the above components coupled with quality of type, overall soundness and the bright, friendly, outgoing outlook and confident attitude of a true Pembroke completes the picture.

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