

Molosses experience in the Baltic Sea

by Rafael Malo Alcrudo

Back in Tallinn to judge the specialty molosses show, run by the enthusiastic members of the Estonian Mastiff Club.

Always is a pleasure to visit this beautiful city, specially when you know that you are going to meet excellent people, old and new friends, and all of them, without any exception, real molosses lovers, excellent organizers and always giving you warm hospitality.

This year, there was a bit of overbooking in my previous entries, so I went to Estonia with my good friend Daniel Llorens Guerrero to judge some of the breeds.

The biggest entry was got by the Tibetan Mastiff and I must say that, in average, this was the breed with higher level in the whole show. Some of the dogs was really fabulous and they can to compete and to win in any ring around the world.

Of course, there was many different types and some of the dogs was not in a perfect coat condition, but quality was there, in practically every class.

I remember with special satisfaction two young dogs, brother and sister, that take my heart. In the case of the female, perhaps I would have appreciate some few centimeters more of size, but both of them has type, charm and soundness. The male, moreover, has this characteristic that I appreciate so much in the Tibetan Mastiff as is "eastern mystery". In any case, both dogs are still very young and they only can improve in the future.

Concerning the "special prizes" I misunderstood one of them, because I thought I should selection "expression" but in the end I did realise that the prize was "Head". As you can imagine, both things are very different, in my opinion, but it was just a small story by the end of the judgements.

Champion Class males was really gorgeous. The first one, afterwards the Best of Breed and the Best in Show-1, an adult dog, was a substantial and full of type specimen, with top level quality, attractive, masculine and full of dignity and distinction. Together with that, he is a very sound dog with excellent gait for a dog of his weight. An international level Champion Dog.

After him it was another fantastic dog, with excellent coat quality, mountains of type and mystery. His movement was a bit less powerful than my Best in Show, but still is a pleasure to watch him. Another real CHAMPION.

Concerning the females, the level perhaps was even more homogeneous. There was two champion sisters really impressive, full of glamour and genuine tibetan type. One of them was the Best Female and the other one could have a better temperament but morphologically she was really outstanding. But there was more stunning bitches of international level and it was a honour for me to have the possibility to judge them and to enjoy myself with their really first class qualities.

Another breed was the Cane Corso, more heterogeneous but, no doubt, I could see some really typed expressions, something VERY important to give the correct breed type to a dog. My first female was really charming. She was a young bitch moving as a cougar, full of type and charm. But my Best of Breed and Best in Show-2 was her brother, a fantastic young male, shown in super condition, with all the music of his breed: expression; head; size; substance: not too heavy and not too light; mountains of class and sound gait. Another International level dog.

I had also the pleasure to judge my own breed, the Pyrenean Mastiff. Together with the local enthusiastic breeders, some finish friends did cross the Baltic Sea to join us in Tallinn and that was, as always, a great joy. The level was correct, but there was a surprise waiting for me. A first class male, still very young, who can compete everywhere, including Spain, of course. He has a practically perfect construction that allows him to move in gorgeous and spectacular way. The only thing he needs is two years more to complete himself, but in this moment you can see his top quality. He was my Best of Breed.

Opposite Sex was a substantial female, very much in the type and with excellent bone. Some other dogs were very nice, some of them with excellent heads. You have to work a little bit more training your dogs...!!!!

A wonderful experience, where I did enjoy every minute of my time. As I am afraid to forget someone, I will not mention the names of all of you: President; members of the Club Committee, exhibitors from Estonia and from abroad, friends in general.

Thank you, Thank you, Thank you.

Yours friendly

Rafael