

Thoughts On Showing And Judging

Marjorie Heward (Carrlea) (written 1988)

It is the aim of every breeder to produce an exhibit which is worthy in every way of the title of champion.

To do this involves much thought and planning. The first step should always be to study the pedigrees. If one has a good bitch it is essential to identify a suitable stud whose bloodlines coincide with hers – even if it means travelling a great distance to attempt the pairing. It's no use using the dog next door, just because he is near, if his bloodlines don't tally with those of the bitch. In our breed most of our pedigrees go back to the same dogs and bitches. It's only in the last three or four generations that the lines could differ. This is where one has to be careful, so try and fix your sights on whichever line nearest to the bitch is the right one for you

Nowadays most people try to breed to the right size – which as everyone knows is the desirable height of 10-12 inches and 6-8 lb in weight. However it does not mean that the dogs have to be of that size and weight, it is simply a guideline to be as near as possible. We have not yet come to the stage where our dogs are subjected to the scales and measures – indeed I think that a lot of our dogs and owners would object. Particularly the dogs who would not like a stranger placing a measure over their back.



**Ch Carrlea Lavendar Lady of
Reeberrich**



Ch Carrlea Royal Robin

As one breeds and shows, in time, one develops an experienced eye on size and weight. And judges accordingly. A good larger specimen should always be considered ahead of a tiny weedy specimen who should perhaps have been sold as a 'pet'. Nowadays there seems to be something of a 'witch-hunt' against the larger dogs. Why I don't know as in almost every litter there will be a biggish pup – and often it's the best in the litter

So I would say be tolerant in your breeding, showing and judging. And give all of the dogs a fair crack of the whip. Do not penalise the small or the big just because of their size – just take them on the all round principle and look for the good points – every dog has them! Do not seek out faults – every dog has these as well. So let's all have a bit of give and take and be happy for those who have won on the day even if

the dog or bitch might not be your cup of tea. Your dog will eventually come through if you have the right dog – and the right judge for your type – and of course the right weather to show to best effect.

To the newcomers entering the breed. I would say try and try again and don't get disheartened if at first you don't breed or show a champion. It has taken us older breeders many years to get to where we are. We too have had our failures and it is only dogged perseverance, and the love of the breed, for many people over their lifetime, which has got us where we are today. And remember we old ones have still not given up !

Marjorie Heward