

# **SUNDAY CONFORMATION**

**Judge: Beverly A. Vics**

I want to thank you for an AMAZING experience judging the PVBMD C Specialty. The dogs were wonderful, as were the people. I had an exceptional quality in the entry. The breed has improved so much in the 20 or so years I have been learning about it.

The issues I found were the following (in order of how frequently found):

1. Tails too curled over the back or simply carried too high

1. Standard states "carried low when in repose. An upward swirl is permissible when the dog is alert, but the tail may never curl or be carried over the back." I mention this first because it is the most consistent fault I was presented with all day. It seems that tails carried high is becoming more the norm than tails carried low. Too many dogs brought the tail up and over, not simply with an upward swirl, when they moved.

2. Coats getting too "wavy" bordering on curly

3. Light haws

1. Totally distracts from expression

4. Dogs too tall

1. The standard calls for 25 to 27 1/2 inches. Although I believe the dogs were mostly within/ under the 27 1/2 inches, too many were at that mark, some over, I believe.

5. Poor fronts

1. Overall, fronts have improved tremendously in the last 10 years, but still, I found that old weaving and/or paddling

6. Heads inconsistent in type

1. Some heads were beautiful; correctly broad with what I consider to be proper proportions. The standard does not clarify proportions of muzzle to skull, only that the skull is broad, without an exaggerated stop. Some heads are longer overall. The length, then, minimizes the breadth. Two heads can be the same breadth, but the longer head will make the skull appear less broad. Without clarification from the standard, I did not "fault" the longer head, but dogs with what I consider to have more acceptable proportions I considered more correct.

7. Poor rears

1. Not many, but some narrow or long rear pasterns

8. Incorrect markings

a. White tip on tail lacking or only a couple of hairs

b. White too high on leg (some with all 4 feet marked well above the pastern)

c. White incorrectly encompassing around flews

d. Tan lacking or not enough, on chest

NOTE: Color and markings are of utmost importance in this breed. You have a DQ and a serious fault predicated on color. This tells me how important it is.

Qualities I found

1. Lateral movement (overall balance)

1. Much better than I had anticipated. Most of the entry had good balance for the dog. Not many straight shoulders or short upper arms (only a few).

2. Temperaments

1. Not much to say here. Only a couple (maybe 4) shy dogs. Absolutely no bad attitudes.

3. Bone/Feet

1. Bone is only mentioned in the standard as to be "sturdy." I found the dogs mostly to have very "sturdy" bone. Strong, heavy without making the dog appear or move cumbersome.

2. Overall, beautiful, correct feet (round, compact and well arched)

4. Condition overall was excellent

5. Coat, Color, and Markings...

1. although I have this under "Issues" as well, I want to comment on the fact that most of the dogs were extremely correct in this area. The coats were shiny black and most markings were extremely correct.... beautiful

6. Fronts

1. Improved tremendously over the last 10 or so years. Although there were a few poor fronts, there were also many correct fronts; good shoulders and appropriate width across the chest.

7. Rears

1. Again, much improved over the years. Most were strong with parallel rear pasterns going away and strong drive on the lateral.

8. Bites/teeth

1. Most were perfect. I had no problems with bites, most scissors, a few level.