



## Critiques of the

# 2009 Championship Show

SUNDAY 7<sup>TH</sup> JUNE, KCC PARK

### JUDGE

*Mr A Burt (Vic)*





## *From the President*

I am sure that everyone who was able to attend our 8<sup>th</sup> Championship Show would agree that this show was a great success and all had a wonderful day. Events such as this take a great deal of work and organisation. To everyone who contributed, even in the slightest way, my hat goes off to you and I am sure that I can take the liberty of thanking you on behalf of everyone that attended. Without the many helpers, and supporters, there would be no show.

This year, the honour of judging our show was given to Mr. Andrew Burt.

Mr Burt has been involved in the dog world for over 30 years and has been judging at Championship Show level for almost two decades both locally and overseas. The BMDCV was very fortunate to have had someone of his standing in the dog world adjudicate this show for us and make it such a wonderful day.

Mr Burt has kindly agreed to supply us with an overview of those dogs present, and a critique of all his placegetters. He has done this with an insight that is usually reserved to the breeder judge or specialist. Hopefully by reading his overview and critiques, everyone will get an idea of how he came up with his decisions on the day, and even pick up a little more knowledge on our wonderful breed.

Whether you won a ribbon, or were towards the end of the line, there is one thing that everyone at the show will agree on.

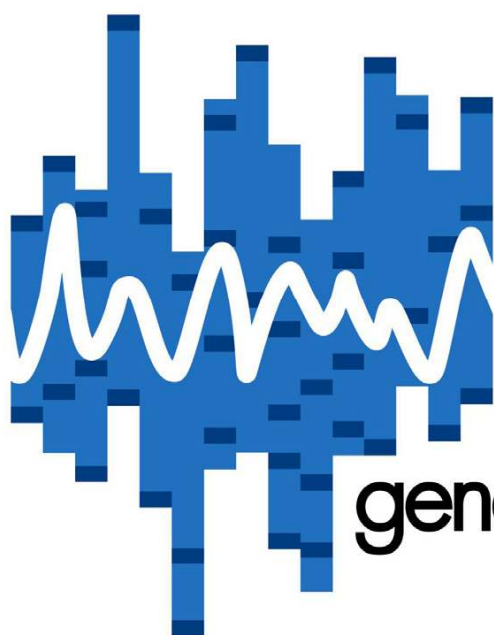
You still take home the best dog and the best breed in the world making us all winners.

Craig Phillips  
PRESIDENT

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# **BERNESE MOUNTAIN DOG CLUB OF VICTORIA CHAMPIONSHIP SHOW**

**June 7<sup>th</sup> – Judge Mr Andrew Burt (Vic)**

Firstly, I would like to thank the Club for the opportunity to judge this wonderful entry, which is indeed an honor and a challenge. I have had a long standing interest in the breed and enjoyed the appointment immensely. It was great to judge quality dogs, and work out my priorities when determining the placings in quality classes.

It was also interesting to note that there were very few exhibits which I had previously judged, so it was great that this was the first time that I had had my hands on the vast majority of them and made an evaluation.

Thanks very much to the Club for their arrangements and to Len and Jim for so kindly looking after me and also stewarding so efficiently for me.

Well done to the Club on a wonderful day, the decoration of the ring, and a great array of trophies. It certainly was impressive!

I want to congratulate exhibitors on their sportsmanship and presentation of the exhibits. Exhibitors were polite, friendly and accommodating of my instructions in the ring. Generally the dogs were presented in spotless condition. It was not a big ring, but exhibitors followed my instructions carefully, and we were able to make the most of the space provided. Generally, the dogs were well trained and socialized, thus giving themselves the best chance of presenting to their very best.

I was very pleased with the quality, and the breed can certainly hold its own. For me, it was great to see improvement in the overall standard of exhibits, demonstrating that breeders are generally heading in the right direction. Similarly, temperaments seemed excellent, with dogs being easy to handle and generally exhibiting the easy going, friendly nature that the Bernese is renowned for.

I did not find all classes easy, and there was continual weighing up of my priorities and the hallmarks of the breed. I tried to be absolute in my quest to find dogs with the correct striking color, plenty of leg under them, partnered with good reach and drive. I was looking for dogs that then finished the picture off with a typical head and expression.

There were a couple of areas of concern generally for me:

- Fronts were my largest concern. Whereas generally, hindquarters were good, I found many fronts with short upper arms and narrow chests, and this of course affected the movement. For me, front assembly is vital – it leads the dog, and all else follows, so please take a critical look at your own animals' fronts, and when choosing breeding partners, choose accordingly.
- Eye shape and tightness of lids varied in exhibits and I found that rounder eyes and looser eye rims did affect the overall expression of some exhibits. There was a great preponderance of what I consider to be eyes that were more round than almond in shape, and I consider this an area requiring work by breeders. Light eyes also detracted from the correct expression.

- Tail carriage, and associated set on of tail and angle of the pelvis remains a general area of concern, and one for the breeders to work upon.
- Grooming – I was surprised, and a little put off to find that some exhibitors have altered and trimmed coats. For me, apart from a clean up around the feet, and maybe muzzle, I would not expect to find trimming. I noticed quite a lot of chest trimming – presumably to increase the emphasis on the cross marking, and/or to highlight the tan chest markings. For me, I much preferred the natural look, and I was ready to explore the chest to find the necessary markings.
- I did spot a few bad mouths – either level, or slightly undershot, and these were of course a concern to me. A level mouthed dog would have to have some pretty outstanding attributes before I would incorporate such an animal into any well thought out breeding program which aimed to produce quality specimens.

My awards, and subsequent comments, are based on my observations on one day in the development of these exhibits. Obviously interpretation of the standard is sometimes subjective, but each and every exhibit was given detailed consideration and evaluated according to my interpretation of the standard.

Congratulations to all the winners, and best wishes for all future ring and breeding pursuits to all exhibitors and breeders.

Andrew Burt

June 2009

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## **2009 General Special Winners**

Best Exhibit in Show	Ch Cloudforest Kallistemon
Runner up in Show	Ch Branbern Royal Nigel
Challenge Dog	Ch Branbern Royal Nigel
Challenge Bitch	Ch Cloudforest Kallistemon
Reserve Challenge Dog	Saterhundens London Paddington (Imp Swd)
Reserve Challenge Bitch	Bernation Juneau
Baby Puppy in Show	Swisskiss Secret Agenda
Minor Puppy in Show	Malicloym Against All Odds
Puppy in Show	Bernation Juneau
Junior in Show	Saterhundens London Paddington (Imp Swd)
Intermediate in Show	Ch Cloudforest Kallistemon
Australian Bred in Show	Gr Ch Zanzebern Sir Tristram
Open in Show	Ch Branbern Royal Nigel
Veteran in Show	Ch Branbern Just Formality
Neuter in Show	Ch Zanzebern Talisker



**professional dog photography**

*Photos of the BMDCV Championship Show can be found at  
<http://bmdcv.jalbum.net/>*

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**Best Baby Puppy in Show**  
**SWISSKISS SECRET AGENDA**

**Opposite Baby Puppy in Show**  
**SWISSKISS BABYFACE**

<b><u>Baby Puppy Dog</u></b>	<b><u>Baby Puppy Bitch</u></b>
<p><b>1<sup>st</sup> Swisskiss Secret Agenda</b>            5 mths. Although this pup had a little trouble getting into his stride, he had correct proportions, plenty of leg, correct color and a typical head and expression.</p>	<p><b>1<sup>st</sup> Swisskiss Babyface</b>            5mths old bitch of correct body proportions and colouring. She was not trained and did not really perform in the ring, but the basics were all present. Little roached in topline at this stage.</p>
<p><b>2<sup>nd</sup> Swisskiss Jumanji</b>            5 mths. Heavier pup of the same age. Also with some difficulty getting into a stride, but first time in the ring. Little roached in topline at this stage.</p>	<p><b>2<sup>nd</sup> Bernation Secret Rendezvous</b>            3.5 mths old. Younger, heavier bitch. Lower on leg at this stage, and more extensive white markings.</p>
<p><b>3<sup>rd</sup> Zanzebern Fabulicious</b>            4 mths. Less leggy, younger pup with pleasing bone and expression. Moved quite well. Early days yet.</p>	



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**Best Minor Puppy in Show**  
**MALICLOY AGAINST ALL ODDS**

**Minor Puppy Dog**

No Entries

**Minor Puppy Bitch**

**1<sup>st</sup> Malicloy Against All Odds**

Young bitch of 7 mths with pleasant head and expression. Well proportioned body, well boned for age, and moved quite well. Nice front construction, well angled front and rear. Lovely tan markings, but ideally I would like stronger white markings. Hard to determine size at this age.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Zollikon Obsidian Pearl**

7 mths old. Little nervy on the day, but moved around quite well. Fairly typical head, well balanced and correctly marked.

**3<sup>rd</sup> Nightmyst Seven Up**

This 9 mth old bitch was quite nervous and not confident. Well balanced bitch. Expression marred somewhat by light eyes, and I would like a longer stride – she appeared somewhat “busy” on the move around the ring.



**Best Puppy in Show**  
**BERNATION JUNEAU**

**Opposite Puppy in Show**  
**ZANZEBERN EXTROVERT**

**Puppy Dog**

*This was a difficult class for me. I found trouble finding what I was looking for, and there was a lot of weighing up to do in order to place these exhibits.*

**1<sup>st</sup> Zanzebern Extrovert**

Dog of reasonable balance, but a little shorter in neck than my ideal. Heavier style than I would expect at this age. Correct markings, reasonable expression, and a free, easy gait around the ring. Front legs a little shorter than desired, and top line not as level as expected.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Bernation Brady Bunch**

Well presented young dog of 9 mths. Correct body proportions, but expression affected by loose eyelids and he was also a little loose in flew. In the gangly stage, and a little uncoordinated on the move at this stage.

**3<sup>rd</sup> Zanzebern Buzz Lightyear**

This exhibit was a little more “houndish” in his expression. Reasonable balance, bone and markings. Moved quite close behind at this stage.

**Puppy Bitch**

**1<sup>st</sup> Bernation Juneau**

Very typical 10 mth old puppy with a nicely made head and a typical expression, but I would not want any more stop. Well balanced with correct markings. Correct boning and substance for her age. Front and rear angulation were correct, and this bitch moved true coming and going, with a nice easy side gait, whilst holding her topline, around the ring. She is young, but I found all the hallmarks of the breed, together with an excellent, happy temperament, and was pleased to award her **RESERVE CHALLENGE BITCH.**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Malicloy Aint Misbehavin**

7mth old bitch, looking very young in a class of older ones! However, she was well balanced, well constructed, but a little nervy on occasions. She moved well and possessed a good flow around the ring. Hard to determine size at this age.

**3<sup>rd</sup> Zanzebern Cosi Fan Tutte**

11 mth old bitch. Pleasant proportions and bone. A little more “houndy” in expression and not the flow when moving around the ring.



**Best Junior in Show**  
**SATERHUNDENS LONDON PADDINGTON (SWD)**  
**Opposite Junior in Show**  
**SATERHUNDENS MERLOT QUINTESSA (SWD)**

**Junior Dog**

**1<sup>st</sup> Saterhundens London Paddington (Imp Swd)**

17.5 month old dog of excellent quality. Still immature at this stage. Reasonable body proportions, but just slightly longer in loin than my ideal, His head was typical, with a very pleasant expression, although I would have liked slightly more strength in the muzzle. This dog probably possessed the best front construction on the day – correct angulation and length of upper arm, with good, strong chest development. His boning was correct, and markings very typical. Topline was strong. He moved out and back with a true, balanced gait, and was at his very best around the ring with an easy, uninhibited stride. He pushed the Open winner hard for the Dog CC, but was beaten by a more mature dog, slightly more compact and with a stronger muzzle. However, this dog will feature in future awards, and hopefully his construction, angulation and movement will be an asset to the breed in the future.

**RESERVE DOG CHALLENGE**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Branbern Baracca**

A well balanced 15 mth dog with a typical head, but expression slightly marred by more white head markings than my ideal. Well boned, but not as well angulated in front or behind as the winner. Strong topline, moved out and back fairly truly, and around the ring with good reach and drive, but not to the extent of the winner.

**3<sup>rd</sup> Branbern Sugar Ray**

Similar to the second place getter, 15 mths, but a little longer cast, and more slope over the croup. He possessed some good head qualities, but more white head markings than my ideal. Not as true as I would like coming towards me, and not quite the flow around the ring

**Junior Bitch**

*Lovely class of eight bitches and I found this a difficult class to sort out.*

**1<sup>st</sup> Saterhundens Merlot Quintessa (Imp Swd)**

17 mths old bitch. Correctly balanced with typical bone and substance. Reasonable head qualities, but expression slightly affected by larger white markings, and I would not want any more stop. Slightly loose in flew, Well angulated in front, with good chest development. This bitch did little for herself on the stack, leaning back into herself, looking a little “bum high” and losing her outline. However, on the move, she was true out and back, possessed a nice easy extension around the ring, and her topline and outline improved. Thus, I forgave her shortcomings on the stack, and her attributes won her the class, but in the Challenge line up, I was less forgiving on the stack.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Kraigoaks Carleigh**

14 mths old. Slightly longer cast than the winner. Good head shape, but expression slightly marred by lighter eyes. Well boned and well marked. Moved well around the ring with good reach and drive.

**3<sup>rd</sup> Branbern Rebel Raiser**

15 mths old. Well balanced bitch with good bone. Reasonable head qualities, but I would not want any more stop, and the wider blaze detracted slightly from the overall expression. Would prefer more width in front, and a little more length of upper arm. Well boned. Good substance.



Boundy Photos

**Best Intermediate in Show**  
**CH CLOUDFOREST KALLISTEMON**  
**Opposite Intermediate in Show**  
**CH SWISSKISS SOUTHERN LAND**

**Intermediate Dog**

**1<sup>st</sup> Ch Swisskiss Southern Land**

Reasonably balanced, well angulated dog, however I would not want any more bulk, and in my opinion slightly more leg would improve overall balance. Well shaped head but expression a little marred by slightly loose eye. Correct markings throughout. This dog moved out and back very well, and possessed a lovely, easy gait around the ring.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Zaanx Fashion Assassin**

Reasonable head shape but expression affected by a rounder eye compared to the winner. Quite well proportioned, but slightly longer cast. Correct bone and substance, although somewhat narrow in front. This dog moved with good flow around the ring.

**3<sup>rd</sup> Zaanx Romance Was Born**

More rangy dog, with a lovely side gait. However, rounder eye tended to change the expression. He was narrower in front, and lacked substance at this stage. Temperament was also much less confident and outgoing than I would expect. Coat was not in the best of bloom on the day.

**Intermediate Bitch**

*Some of the exhibits in this class were carrying too much weight, and thus they lose any definition of their waist, and overall shape is affected. The Bernese should be a sturdy, active working dog, and maintenance of fitness and shape is very important.*

**1<sup>st</sup> Ch Cloudforest Kallistemon**

WOW. As soon as she entered the ring, this bitch took my eye. This bitch isn't perfect, but she is not far from it! 21 mths old. Well balanced bitch, although a touch less compact than the Dog CC winner. She had lovely bone and substance, yet retained her femininity. Beautifully marked throughout, with excellently positioned white markings and reasonably dark tan markings. Her coat was in lovely condition. Well shaped head, with correct balance of skull to muzzle. If I was to be super critical, she was just very slightly 'cheeky' for me. Her angulation front and rear was just what I was looking for, and she possessed a nice broad front. Well ribbed back, a good topline, strong hindquarters, and the lovely smoothly rounded rump that the standard calls for. This bitch was true out and back, and she made a picture round the ring – a free, graceful, easy stride that would be hard to beat. This was capped off with a lovely, easy, friendly temperament. For me, this bitch had it all, and I was honored to be able to award her

**BITCH CHALLENGE AND BEST IN SHOW**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Ch Zanzebern Undeniably**

2 years old. Well balanced, but too heavy and losing her shape. Very pleasing head and expression. Well boned and well marked. Moved reasonably true out and back. Quite a good stride around the ring.

**3<sup>rd</sup> Ch Branbern Royal Sapphire**

2.5 years old. Similar to the one ahead of her, in terms of being too heavy and losing her shape. Narrower in front, and needing more chest development. Narrower in muzzle than the second place getter. Quite true out and back and a reasonable stride around the ring.



**Best Australian Bred In Show**  
**GR CH ZANZEBERN SIR TRISTRAM**  
**Opposite Australian Bred in Show**  
**CH BRANBERN SATURNS MOON**

**Australian Bred Dog**

*Another class that I did not find easy, and was forced to weigh up my priorities.*

**1<sup>st</sup> Gr Ch Zanzebern Sir Tristram**

4.5 years old. Typical dog with a reasonable head and satisfactory expression, although I would like more strength of muzzle and a cleaner eye. Slightly more rangy in neck and body than my ideal. Bone was very good. Reasonable front and rear angulation good width of chest. Moved around the ring with a free, easy gait.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Ch Branbern Royal Salute (IID)**

5.5 years old. Another typical specimen. Well proportioned overall, but shorter in neck. Reasonable head qualities, but slightly rounder in eye and also slightly lighter. Excellent coat and condition, and pleasing bone. Well marked. Moved well, but didn't hold his topline as well as I would have liked on the move. A little steeper over the croup.

**3<sup>rd</sup> Ch Branbern Dark Windsor**

3 years old. More solid dog with a typical head and expression, but lower on leg. Well coated, and typically marked. A little narrow in front for me, but moved reasonably.

**Australian Bred Bitch**

**1<sup>st</sup> Ch Branbern Saturns Moon**

5 years old. Well balanced bitch with pleasing head qualities. Forward set front, needing more length of upper arm, and a little too broad in chest for me. Good substance, and well marked throughout. I had trouble with her movement, and determined her as being stilted and not free moving in her front, which I attributed to her front construction. Still, she won the class on her good overall balance and type. However, moving into the challenge line up, I became more aware that she was probably favouring her offshow front leg.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Branbern Duywana Piece Of Me**

15 mths old. Longer cast bitch, and finer throughout. I preferred the skull to muzzle balance and muzzle strength of the winner in comparison to this bitch. Well boned, with reasonable substance. Front not as well developed as I would like, and topline not quite as strong. Good reach and drive around the ring.

**3<sup>rd</sup> Ch Branbern Royal Spy Pt**

4.5 years old. Another longer cast bitch. Pleasing head and expression. Needed more chest development and length of upper arm. Well marked, and moved around the ring quite well.



**Best Open in Show**  
**CH BRANBERN ROYAL NIGEL**  
**Opposite Open in Show**  
**ZANZEBERN VERONIKA**

**Open Dog**

*Now this was an exceptional class and not easy to sort out! Lots of quality specimens and a real pleasure to judge. This was my favourite class of the day!*

**1<sup>st</sup> Ch Branbern Royal Nigel**

4 years old. This dog took my eye as soon as he entered the ring. I liked his type very much. He possessed a great attitude and striking color markings. His tan markings were beautifully rich. Well proportioned dog with excellent substance and bone, and lovely feet. He was well marked and his coat in excellent bloom. I was impressed with his strong, broad skull, and the strength of his muzzle. Slightly rounder than my ideal in eye, but still a very nice expression. This dog was probably my ideal in balance – just longer than high. His front assembly was slightly more forward than the ideal, and a slightly longer upper arm would enhance his front overall. Strong topline, and good strength of hindquarter. This dog was true going away, but could be neater coming back to me. His gait around the ring was satisfactory, but I would prefer a smoother gait. Although the Reserve Dog Challenge winner possessed a more free style of gait, this dog won the Challenge on his maturity, and excellent breed type, with compact proportions, excellent head qualities, boning and substance.

**CHALLENGE DOG AND RUNNER UP TO BEST IN SHOW.**

**Open Bitch**

**1<sup>st</sup> Zanzebern Veronika**

22 mths old. Substantail bitch with reasonable body proportions and lots of bone. Head with correct proportions of muzzle to skull, but lacking the expression I was looking for. Little bit of loose in eye. Well angulated front and rear. Topline could be stronger. Moved with good reach and drive around the ring.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Ch Zanzebern Idyllic**

3.5 years old. Well balanced bitch with good boning and substance. Less front angulation than the winner. Would prefer a little more neck to enhance her outline. Reasonable head qualities. This bitch lacked flow in her movement around the ring.

**3<sup>rd</sup> Kraigoaks Aurilia**

4 years old. Well balanced bitch, again a little shorter in neck. Well boned. Reasonable head but rounder eye shape. Good substance. Would prefer more rear angulation. Higher set tail, and tail carried high.

## Open Dog cont.

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Ch Branbern Black Ice**

4 years old. Slightly finer in bone compared to the winner and not as strong in head qualities. A lovely free mover around the ring. Not quite as compact in body proportions. Narrower between the eyes, and not as strong in muzzle as the winner. Well marked and in excellent bloom. He was a joy to watch move around the ring, keeping an excellent topline, and very well handled.

### **3<sup>rd</sup> Gr Ch Callahan v Ritter Burkart (Imp Gmy)**

Another typical specimen of very good quality. Strong dog for his size, with good boning and chest development. His angulation was quite good. Excellent markings. His head was broad, with a strong muzzle, but expression compromised a little by a rounder eye shape. His overall proportions were a little too compact for me – needing slightly more body length, and a little more leg, and he needed more neck to improve his outline. This dog was a true mover with a reasonable reach and drive.




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### **Best Veteran in Show** **CH BRANBERN JUST FORMALITY**



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### **Best Neuter in Show** **CH ZANZEBERN TALISKER**