

Slovak Do Khyi Club Champshow 2018

The Slovak club, looking from a global perspective, certainly belongs to those Tibetan Mastiff associations which are highly committed to preserve the true Tibetan Do Khyi. This is definitely worth mentioning (even more so: It is a reason to congratulate!) as it is not a given (some might even ask whether we are talking of a minority here) and this is why I have actually accepted their invitation to judge this year's club championship show.

Having chaired the FCI working group in 2003/4 which is responsible for the current FCI Breed Standard of the Do Khyi and which is clearly defining and describing this unique Tibetan mountain breed against the toxification through systematic bastard breeding, it was very encouraging for me to see that there are still dedicated and ethical Do Khyi breeders around who love the correct Tibetan type and haven't given up to honour it.

Of course, there were also some lippy Bloodhound-heads (with long narrow skulls and underjaws and long low set ears) entered for the show as well as flat and broad Rottweiler-skulls and expressions, as the Slovak clubshow traditionally has an international entry (nearly 60 dogs this year).

And of course, I also had the painful 'pleasure' to see the latest mixed-bred fashions of Newfy-overangulation behind or long reaching-movement or high-legged and almost square bodies.

The desastrously untypical as well as unsound 'charicatures', though, which one could see some years ago in more than a couple of countries were luckily not present at the Slovak clubshow.

What might have helped to improve the global status of the Do Khyi lately is probably the fact that mediawise the commercial mass-production of bastards seems not as dominant anymore in China as it used to be in the past. Talking about China, even educative and selective means among the breed fraternity have been reported lately (with European support) to step by step cure the damage which has been caused. This comes as good news! May-be China turns out to be faster in getting back on the right track than some other countries which have built-up their reputation of welcoming bastard types (often combined with an unfair and even militant behaviour of the respective exhibitors!) in the Do Khyi.

But is it really progress, when the toxifying blood of other breeds is nowadays much more discretely creeping into the public perception of the ancient Do Khyi, so that now and again these wrong types are actually even taking the chance of winning top honours? I don't know! Even more so as the unethical mixed-breeding has lead to some very wrong temperaments (and colours of course) in the breed.

My message here, though, is meant be a positive and motivating one as the Slovak Do Khyi Clubshow 2018 was clearly ruled by the

winning spirit of the serious and ethic Slovak aficionados of the breed: There were some fantastic dogs present - full of type and fitness and full of Do Khyi charisma as it is clearly defined in the FCI Breed Standard.

It was a heartening pleasure to see my final line-up for BOB, BOS and Best Junior. If the photos are doing justice to the quality of the dogs, they will show the authentic breed type of the winners.

Christofer Habig

VDH/FCI Do Khyi Judge since 1981