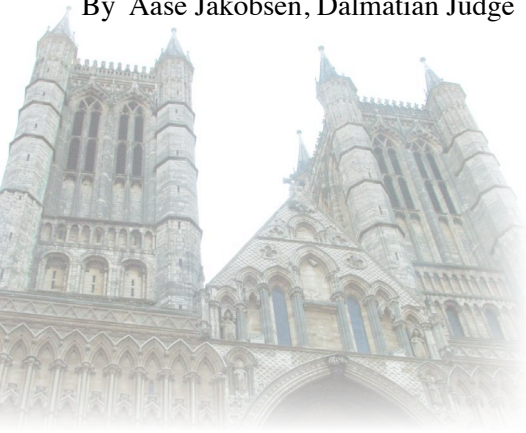


Crufts - The world's largest dog show!

By Aase Jakobsen, Dalmatian Judge

Photos by Åsa Fagerlund



The first Crufts dog show was held in 1891. The biggest entry was in 1991 with 22,993 entries. This year nearly 22,677 dogs were entered making this the third highest entry ever.

This year, Crufts was held at the NEC in Birmingham. This is a very convenient arena with the airport within walking distance. Over 28,000 dogs were at the show, 1,186 overseas dogs from 34 different countries & 187 different breeds of dog competed. Over 2000 cross-breed dogs competed in obedience, heelwork to music and agility competitions, alongside the pure bred dogs.

This year I went to Crufts as a reporter for the Norwegian Dalmatian Club, along with my photographer Åsa Fagerlund. Crufts is worth a visit, not only for the Dalmatians, but also as a huge dog equipment shop. What you can't buy at Crufts – you can't buy anywhere but here comes a warning: You need to have an American press Platinum Card, and you need good shoes!

212 Dalmatians were entered at Crufts this year. The breed was judged by Mrs. P. E. J. Kindersley, a well known Dalmatian breeder under the prefix Knightstone. The breed started at 8.30 am and was finished around 4.30 pm.

The first class is always the veteran class dog. The winner this year was CH TOLLWOOD LIONEL AT KILNDANDY JW. This is a dog I really enjoyed seeing again. I had the privilege to judge him at the Belgium National last autumn, and I also placed him as number three in his class. He is moderate in all parts and he has a wonderful side gait, a gorgeous elderly gentleman! The happy owner is Mrs. K. McCarthy (*pictured top left*).

The CC male came from the special puppy dog class. CANDIDALS THE FIRE STARTER. He was also a very good dog, with good colors, good markings and conformation. It might have come as a surprise for many seeing the judge choose such a young dog, only 10 months old. Owner is Mrs. K. I. & Mr. G. M. Pascoe (*pictured bottom left*).





The reserve CC went to CH WASHAKIE CHIEF AS GREAT AS JW, owned by Mrs. K. Goff-Leggett. (*pictured left*).

The bitch classes were quite more numerous than the dog classes, and the quality varied here also. We saw some very good and also some less good representatives of the breed. Last year I saw a lot of bad feet, but I am happy to say that they have improved & was not seen this year.

The CC winner bitch this year was the same as in 2006, 2007 and 2008, CH DVOJICA VOODOO JW. She also won BOB. Very proud owner is Mike Dunnachie (*pictured to the left below*).

The Reserve CC went to BOVAL BUDVICCA, owned by Mrs. V. Black, a liver bitch with good substance (*pictured on the right below*).

At the end of the day, my impression is that the colors and spotting were perfect as always and the same for temperament. I felt that this year's entry had improved since last year, especially with the girls.

What is there to improve?

Well, if I was going to point out a "problem area", it had to be the fronts. I personally would prefer more fore-chest. After talking to breeders at the show, I understand that this is also an issue in Great Britain.



It was a very educational and enjoyable trip to Crufts & I look forward to visiting & learning or more every year.

Congratulations to all the winners!

See you again next year!