

Earthdog Results

Introduction of Quarry, Judge: C W Givens (13 Starters)

A few words of thanks to the Border Terrier Club of America, its members and all the exhibitors at the 2006 National Specialty Earthdog test. It meant more than I will ever be able to express to be asked to judge IQ this year. After Rocky's untimely passing three years ago it's been kind of tough for me to be around any large gathering of Border Terriers and this was an opportunity to spend some time with a bunch of wonderful dogs and I think to finally come to terms with Rocky's death.

Anyway, enough of sadness and on to the joy of watching the beginners get a taste of earthdog. I love doing IQ because I like watching the first tentative steps of the dogs new to the venue. No training to speak of and the instincts are just turning on one by one as they explore the den area and finally the den. We had some great work from those that made it through to the rats and there were none that didn't show potential.

Keep at it and I'll see you around the dens. Thanks again for a great time.

Curt

Junior Stakes, Judge: R Sebastiani (34 Starters)

Qualify CH Eclipse Admiral Perry, S Gillen/C Kane

Qualify CH McHenry's Hammin It Up Of Tafkan, K Sarvinas/M Ensor/M Ensor/C Giese

Qualify No Autographs Please, K Nelson/E Nelson

Qualify CH Riverside Gamlyn Rebel Rouser RN, M Kosan/B Novak

Qualify CH Towzie Tyke Laird O'Glenmore, M Ensor/M Ensor/C Giese

Qualify CH Tyneside True Grit, G Hill/J Worstell

The experience of judging Junior Earthdog at the 2006 BTCA Ohio Specialty at Gem City was fantastic for me. It was an honor to be selected as an Earthdog Judge for this year's BTCA Specialty trial.

It was interesting to me to see that all of the Border Terriers that I judged had natural earthdog instincts and prey drive. It is commonplace at a national specialty to have many inexperienced dogs trying earthdog for the first time. This year was no exception. I had six qualifying dogs and four earning Junior Earthdog Titles, but I also had many dogs that passed one or two portions of the test. As stated, the inexperience did not deter the determination of the Border Terriers entered in Junior Earthdog. I am of the opinion that with practice, many if not all of the dogs could earn a Junior Earthdog title at the least. The handlers showed an expertise in earthdog and worked their dogs well. It is gratifying to me to see that our Borders still can be so beautiful in the show ring and get down and dirty two days later. Exhibitors should not be disheartened by the fact that their Border did not pass but should build on the positive performance in certain areas and work on the negatives such as staring at the quarry or being a little too cautious causing the dog to go over the time requirements. These issues can be corrected with practice, training, and gaining experience. I am of the opinion that many of the dogs suffered from specialty lag that could have had an effect on performance on Friday. Also we have asked our dogs to be quiet all week at the hotels and ringside than hope that they will give mouth at the quarry on Friday. This was the only negative trait that I experienced, not barking as much as I would like to see. Overall, it was a successful morning.

Thank you for bringing you dogs to me and thanks to the wonderful Earthdog Committee, chaired by Carol Mock for having me judge. Get your Border Terriers out there and get down and get dirty in Earthdog.

Junior Earthdog 2006 BTCA Specialty, Judge: Ron Sebastiani

Senior Stakes, Judge: C Moon (20 Starters)

Qualify CH Dixieland Geordie Lass CD RE ME, N Mullins

Qualify Towzie Tyke Dumfries OA OAJ JE, D Sapp

I was delighted to be asked to judge Earthdog at the Specialty again. It is especially enjoyable judging dogs of the breed one loves. It is also very satisfying to see Border Terriers doing what they have been bred to do. Earthdog is the event at which they excel and where Border instinct truly comes into its own. The site of the Senior test was nice and shady, with good earth layout. The day was cool, pleasant and dog-friendly. I'd like to congratulate those who qualified and to say that the dogs, in general, performed well. There was some reluctance to enter on the part of some. A few of the usual "What you want me to LEAVE?" difficulties also arose, but then, these are Border Terriers!

It was good to see everyone that day. Thank you to the Earthdog Committee for inviting me to judge
Camilla Moon, Senior Judge

Master Stakes, Judge: P Dyer (24 Starters)

Qualify CH Dixieland Geordie Lass CD RE ME, N Mullins

Qualify CH Dunraven Cuddy's Crag Bandit CD OA NAJ ME, R Kensler/J Kensler

Qualify CH Kenswith Neeps And Tatties ME, J Kensler/R Kensler

Qualify Lothlorien Thorncroft Chase NAJ ME, B Stephenson

Qualify CH Meadowlake No Regrets NA NAJ SE, T Van Niel

Qualify Teaberrys Kona Espresso CDX MX MXJ ME, K Schrimpf

Qualify CH Todfield Elizabeth Tartan OA NAP OAJ NJP SE, T McCarthy

It is a privilege to judge at our National Specialty and my assignment to judge the Master Earthdog Test was no exception. Carol Mock and the rest of the committee and volunteers are to be congratulated on a job well done. The site was great; all the dens were located in the woods on the perimeter of a hay field meadow - a very natural situation. Efficient stewarding had the braces ready and waiting and my Rat Steward Russ Wischover managed the den area in his usual quiet, efficient manner. Bill Kastings apprenticed and I thoroughly enjoyed his perspective on the braces. He is demanding but objective, dedicated to the sport and very fair - I look forward to running a dog under him when the opportunity arises. In deference to the weather and the adjacent Agility Trial, my walk up was on the shorter side but sufficient to evaluate nose work and teamwork. As might be expected a large percentage of entrants were already titled and this was reflected in the results which are printed elsewhere in this issue and speak for themselves. For me the highlight of the test was the seniors (10yrs plus) who ran - not all were successful (by AKC standards) but most had a good run and came away having succeeded on their own terms. Two did qualify and the business like way in which they worked the field, marking the random scent trails, their responsiveness to their owners who let them do their job but were obviously in control, and their enthusiasm and solid performances were a joy to watch. Kona, Cuddy - may you enjoy more good days in the field. On the "things to watch" side, I had to be patient to get what I consider to be an acceptable mark from the majority of the dogs. It was obvious that a minimal mark is being accepted either by handlers or judges. In many instances the dogs checked the main entrance then looked at their handlers as though seeking confirmation. It is the dogs that must give the confirmation - not us! Sure enough, most became frustrated and finally went down into the main entrance, gave a definite mark and stayed there as required by the rules.

Respectfully submitted Pam Dyer