

My sincere thanks to Shelagh Heavens, Ketill Game and the Show Committee for my invitation to judge at this back-to-back show with the SLHCA. The hall had been decorated well, with both shows having their own distinct areas, and there was a wonderful buzz around all day. My steward today was Saffi Rabey, the human slave of the fabulous multi-titled Dairymaine Sarnia Cherie, who was at the show today, looking as gorgeous as ever! Many thanks for your company today Saffi, and your expert handling across the breeds. It was a long and challenging day, which we both thoroughly enjoyed and I hope we can work together again soon!

CLASS 17 SORREL SOMALI KITTEN MALE
1ST WITHHELD, 2ND TO FRANCIS' NAINASUS SPITFIRE, 9.11.09

This delightful young man was so gentle and relaxed, giving the impression that he wouldn't know how to behave like his name might suggest! His head shape forms a moderate wedge, shallow indentation forms the muzzle, but as he is still developing, the muzzle contours need a little more roundness to complete the picture of the smiling Somali. His profile shows a slight nose break, chin is firm but his bite is mildly overshot, which I did have confirmed by the duty vet, who felt this might correct with time - I do hope so - but of course I can only judge him as I see him on the day, and this was my reason for withholding first place. His ears are slightly out of proportion just now, being slightly large but he will grow into them, they have good breadth at the base, are cupped and have delicate wispy tufts, gentle crescent shape when viewed from behind. Expressive and bright green eyes, set obliquely and apart, large and almond shaped, with a dark surround encircled by lighter spectacle markings, with strong pencil lines at the edges. Well grown and well proportioned lad, of medium build, with muscular tones to the long limbs, oval delicately tufted paws. Long tail is broad at the base and tapers slightly, fairly full brush. His coat is soft and fine, albeit still a little short, the coat lies flat along the spine and, as yet, the ticking is only really strongly evident around the neck and shoulders, where bands of cinnamon ticking can clearly be seen, majority of coat is pale copper with just a hint of apricot ticking developing, heels are almost completely cinnamon in colour. Wonderful nature, and I was sorry that because of the veterinary withholding fault, I had no option but to place an otherwise promising kitten second.

CLASS 18 SORREL SOMALI KITTEN FEMALE
1ST, JAMES' BRIZLINCOAT CASSANDRA, 5.9.09

A pretty and feminine looking six months old girl, with a gentle nature. She looks well balanced, with a lovely head shape, broad and showing gentle contours, cheeks are broadening and she shows a shallow indentation to form the muzzle, firm chin and level bite. There is a slight rise from the nose bridge to the forehead, just a hint of a very slight bump towards the tip of the nose. Very well positioned ears, they are set wide apart and are broad at the base, well cupped and pricked, gentle crescent shape is obvious when viewed from behind, delicate cinnamon tufts. She has such an alert expression, the eyes are large, almond shaped and set obliquely and apart. The colour is slightly two tone green at the moment, but very bright and the eyes are accentuated by the dark surround encircled by lighter spectacle markings, with pencil lines at the edges of the eyes. Well grown and well proportioned girl, her body feels well toned and muscular, long legs and neat oval feet, cinnamon toe tufts and heels, long tail is well furnished and broad at the base, cinnamon tip. Her coat is growing well, and is fairly soft and fine around the head and shoulders, unfortunately parts of the coat looked and felt greasy, particularly on her lower back, tummy and chest areas, and more attention to presentation was needed, hence my decision to reluctantly withhold the best of breed. The coat shows warmth to the rich copper colours, the apricot base is well ticked with cinnamon bands already. Very relaxed girl.

CLASS 86 AC SOMALI LIMIT NEUTER
1ST, CHILCOTT'S EMANAN NANUQ, 63e, FAWN MALE, 9.6.09

A very stylish looking young man, who certainly knew how to smile, very relaxed and friendly. Good head shape, broad and curving to form a moderate wedge, gentle rounded contours to the cheeks and shallow indentation to form the muzzle, that could be a fraction wider for perfection, firm chin and level bite. Good nose break when viewed in profile, slight rise from the bridge to the forehead which is high, good width between large ears that are spaced wide apart, broad at the base, pricked and cupped, with delicate tufts, inner edges are well furnished. His almond shaped eyes are set obliquely and apart, vibrant green colour, and the eyes are framed by lighter coloured spectacle markings encircling a dark surround. Well grown and well balanced youngster, lithe and muscular with firm long legs, oval feet with delicate tufts between the toes. His tail is long and well furnished, broad at the base and slightly tapering, lovely full brush with a fawn tip. He was wearing quite a full and properly prepared soft coat, lovely ruff framing the head and defined fawn ticking, base coat is pale oatmeal, his fawn spine line is clear and defined.

CLASS 103 SOMALI WITH THE BEST EAR TUFTS
1ST, BURNS' SOMANTIKKS IZZADORA-BELLE, 63, USUAL SOMALI FEMALE, 20.9.09

Just a baby and the only exhibit in the class, but she has the most delicate black tufts on the tips of her large ears, so she's my winner!! Love her personality too!