



Marked varieties at the Breedspecific European Show in Twello.

The marked varieties were very well represented in Twello; for now these included the Tans and Foxes as well. Tans and Foxes are realistically speaking colour patterned cavies. Each cavy in a patterned breed carries the same markings as opposed to e.g. Dutch, Tort and Whites, Dalmations etc. Whose markings never turn out the same way. We class the Himalayan under marked varieties, too, although strictly speaking again, these are also colour patterned cavies. Perhaps the classification for these breeds can be adjusted for the next Breedspecific European show.

I was delighted to be able to judge this fascinating section and I thoroughly enjoyed myself. Marked varieties have to be judged with finesse with regard to the degrees of difficulty in breeding the correct markings. If some minor fault are not overlooked, marked varieties will never score highly at any shows. They need to have the correct type, head and coat qualities to start with, though.

In the C-class Gerrit Kwakkel scored 95½ points with his dalmation sow; S. Wester's tan also won with 95½ points. The winning fox in the C-class was exhibited by Comb. Mischa and in the B-class I. Tenwolde won with a sow scoring 96 points.

The best cavies in my section were in the A-class. The dalmations were a sight to behold: a real European battle evolved here with Kwakkel, Heise and Baumans trying for the highest honours with Gerrit Kwakkel's adult boar eventually coming out on top, scoring 96½ points. It was a great pity that Gerrit Kwakkel's adult sow had slightly damaged ears, as she would have attained a higher score.

The Himalayan classes were won by a sow, exhibited by Comb. Parkzicht – a truly excellent Himalayan excelling points' colour. She could have had a broader head, preventing her from getting the 97 points, but this sow was definitely the best in my section.

A very good fox was shown by M. Calze from Spain with 95½ points. Anneke Vermeulen showed some very typy tans, but they were lacking in head points.

Finally

Most of the cavies handled by me were well presented and fit, although some improvements can still be made in these departments. It is the presentation and the fitness of any cavy that can make the difference between 'taking part in the show or winning the show'.

I had a fantastic day amongst like-minded people and quality cavies..

Gerrit Grooten.