

JUDGES' SEMINAR IN PRAGUE ON 15. - 17. MARCH 2013

The 2013 Judges' seminar was organised splendidly by the members of the Czech Cavy Club, headed by Petr Tejml, in a former wine estate turned into hotel only 12 months ago. The lectures took place in the former wine cellar, making it a very cosy environment. We had a record participation of 33 judges from 10 countries!



The majority of the delegates arrived on the Friday, although quite a few came one day early to take in some of the sights in Prague. Petr had planned the perfect icebreaker for the Friday evening: a bowls match between all the participating countries; the overall winner was Thomas Brunner from Switzerland, who was presented with a huge cake, which he shared amongst all present.



The Saturday morning started off with a word of welcome by Petr Tejml and Evelyne van Vliet, who took the opportunity to announce the first ever EE trained judge, Rita Ribeiro from Portugal who successfully

absolved her exam at the European show in Leipzig in December 2012. Evelyne presented Rita with her official certificate of proficiency. Following this, the President of the Standards Committee, Christian Koch, held a small talk on the judging at the recent European Show in Leipzig as well as the quality of the exhibits, followed by some questions from those present.



After this, we were treated to a fantastic presentation on the Satin breed by Andreas Reinert from Germany with excellent slides and drawings on the structure on the individual hair, hair shafts etc.. Naturally, OD which affects Satins was extensively discussed. Every country representative told the meeting how many Satin breeders were in their country and what varieties of Satin were bred and whether or not there were any problems with OD. It appeared from this discussion that Satins in all affiliated countries are bred in rather small numbers with most breeding them carrier to carrier. Some research into OD had taken place in a few countries, but nothing conclusive had been achieved. The majority of countries reported no or very limited problems with OD, whilst Sweden will ban all Satins from exhibition as from April 2013, on the recommendation of all Swedish Satin breeders. Christian Koch in his capacity as a veterinarian said that OD seems to be linked to the Satin gene, irrelevant how the Satin has been bred and should possibly be banned from being bred as well as standards and exhibition. Andreas felt that more research needed to be done into OD before decisions to ban the breed should be taken.



The Satin presentation was followed by the practical session. 7 multinational groups were formed to judge some Satins. My personal feeling was that these Satins were rather small and slightly unfit and most had coat faults of one description or another. Most had dark colours, so did not show much sheen. Lena Tysk [S] then spontaneously co-ordinated the discussion on the judged Satins and their points' totals. The end result: the points' totals and the points given to all individual positions within the various groups were very close this time.



Denisa Vitkova, a breeder and judge of long standing in the Czech Republic did a fantastic and extensive Powerpoint presentation on Cresteds on the Sunday morning. Denisa told us how best to breed an American Crested so as to achieve as full a crest as possible, but also talked us through the English and AOV Cresteds. The practical session followed this presentation. The same groups of multinational judges from the previous day were maintained, but this time each group judged one cavy in front of the rest of the groups, creating a super dialogue per position on the comments' card. The quality of these practice cavies was very high and we were even presented with the European champion of the Leipzig show.



Our grateful thanks go, once again, to our hosts from the Czech Republic, who provided us with such a fantastic seminar!



A special

“thank you” also goes to Melanie Polinelli CH), our splendid interpreter!

Evelyne van Vliet