

## Linda Vousden's Judge Critiques for Tonkinese Breed Club Show 24-May-2014

The back to back Tonkinese Club's show was my first engagement since becoming a PJ and what a joy that it should be at my own breed show. I am grateful to the exhibitors for trusting me with their cats. Very many thanks to Kathy Wilkinson for inviting me. It was a busy day for all, especially as so many of our new coat-patterns were out in their Assessment classes. Everyone appeared to have a good time. Thanks to Coral Macey & her team for a great lunch and a special thank you to Karen Durden for giving me her day off to steward for me and for handling the cats so gently. I had a wonderful time and the show was an absolute credit to Kathy and her team!

**BREED Class 17 – Red, Cream, Apricot or Tabby Kitten Male - One in class.**

**1<sup>st</sup> & BOB - Richards's TONKAHOLICS LIGHT FOOT (TOS e 32, 74f) M 24.01.14.** First impression was overall a nicely balanced young kitten. Bright, alert and playful. Head of correct shape and balance, teeth a little untidy and muzzle a little pinched but he was showing signs of teething - chewing his litter tray etc., otherwise his bite was level and his chin of moderate depth was firm and level. His nose break was a little shallow. His top of head was nicely rounded with ears of good size, shape and set. The head was the desired shape and proportions when viewed face on. The eyes were a fraction small but of a lovely almond shape with more rounded lower line; good greenish/blue eye colour coming in. The body shape was of good type and length with firmly toned muscles. The limbs were straight and firm with neat oval paws, the tail a little slender but not whippy and balanced the length of the body. The coat was soft and close-lying. The coat-pattern was a good example of the TCR pattern with the warm rather than cool-toned cream points merging well with the lighter body colour. The points matched in tone, as did the warm pink leathers. The coat was clear and without any undesirable shading or barring. I will be interested to see how his colour develops. A sweet natured kitten in good condition and easy to handle, well presented.

**BREED Class 18 – Red, Cream, Apricot, Tortie, Tabby or Tortie-Tabby Kitten Female - Two in class.**

**1<sup>st</sup> – Borman's LILYPUT JAFFA CAKE (TOS g 32, 74g) F 31.08.13.** This attractive female was sitting boldly upright in the middle of her pen, but appeared to be quite disturbed by the male cat in the pen behind her. She handled easily enough but preferred to be in her pen. A good size and weight for her age, with a firm feel to her body and overall balance and elegance. Her head was the desired modified wedge, but the top was only just rounded. She held her ears low but was better in her pen and they appeared well spaced and set to follow the outer line of her head down to her chin, and of the correct size to balance the rest of her head. Her chin appeared to recede slightly but otherwise she had a good profile with the correct gentle nose break; she had a very slight bump in her nose. Good sized and well-shaped muzzle. Eyes were lovely, good size and correct almond shape with rounded lower line, a pale bluish green. She had an elegant body with firm straight limbs and neat oval paws, a well-shaped, gently tapering tail that balanced the length of her body. Her colour was a beautiful soft greyish- blue well mingled with varying shades of clear cream; showing a good expression of the TCR pattern, the fur was soft and close lying. Well presented. A very pretty kitten.

**2nd – Singleton's TONKYWAY TUREIS (TOS n21 32, 74t) F 30.01.14.** What a wonderful temperament this little tabby kitten had, playful and a bit of a wriggler. She had a good firm body, well-toned and the right weight for her age. My overall impression was that she was a little too slender for type. Her head was generally well balanced with good ear set and shape but her rounded muzzle was rather narrow and the whisker pinch quite strong, her profile was good with a rounded top of head, the correct nose break and firm chin of good depth, her nose had a very slight roll-off at the end. Her body was firm and lean, her tail was quite fine and tapering but not whippy and it balanced the length of her body. Her lovely alert eyes were well shaped, almond with a rounded lower line, and the correct size for her head, they were a typical muddy kitten colour at present showing green tones in the middle. Her warm brown tabby markings were very clear on the points with a good scarab, cheek ribbons, whisker-pads spots, thumb prints clear on the back of her ears, an almost

complete necklace and well defined stripes on her legs and tail. The point's markings were just a little darker than the clear ticking on the body, which was laid over a warm ivory ground colour. Her fur was fine, soft and close-lying with a lovely sheen. I hope to see her again when she has had time to mature and I'll be interested to see how her coat-pattern develops. A very sweet baby, in lovely condition and well presented.

**Misc. Class 38 – Debutante Adult** - Two in class.

**1<sup>st</sup> – Beckett's INDIGO OLYMPIA (TOS n 32, 74) F 17.10.2012.** This beautiful brown female was one of my favourites of the day. A good weight and size for her age. She had a well-proportioned head for type with a gently rounded top, good profile with a gentle nose break, even bite and firm chin. Strong muzzle that was neither pointed nor square. Her ears were well spaced, set and pricked forward with the size balancing the lines of her head, just a fraction more pointed than oval at the tips. She was just a little nervous and held her eyes wide open, but when relaxed in her pen they were a good size for her head, nicely almond shaped slanting down toward the nose with a correctly rounded lower line. The eye colour was even-toned blue-green. Good, firm, medium length body with rounded chest, straight limbs and oval paws, her tail balanced the length of her body well. Her coat was a dark warm brown with an excellent TCR pattern expression - the points merging very gradually into the lighter, toning body colour. The coat was soft, close-lying and shining. She had a lovely temperament and enjoyed a cuddle from both my steward and me. Beautiful condition, well presented and I very much look forward to seeing her again.

**2<sup>nd</sup> – Goodburn's TARJIKA HYLILY TOSKANNA (TOS n 31, 74q) F 27.12.2009.** Overall Tonkinese type, possibly a little small for her age but with a good weight and firm feel to her. Generally well-balanced head, muzzle well-shaped although appeared to be just a little short, good whisker pinch, holding her ears a little high but of a good shape and size and better set when she was more relaxed in her pen. Correct eye size and shape, colour was green with slight blue tones. Her coat was a rich even-toned warm brown, as required for a BCR pattern, just showing some faint barring on her forelimbs and some brindling over the back and shoulders. A lovely temperament, in good condition and well presented.

**Misc. Class 42 – Special Limit Adult** - One in class.

**1<sup>st</sup> – Macey's IGR CH FEHELDEE DAISIEMAY (TOS km 32, 74p) F 01.12.2006.** A distinctive and mature lady looking younger than her age, and very feminine. Overall very good type. Her head, on an elegant neck, was a moderate wedge, a little flat on top now. In profile she has a very small bump on her nose that makes her gentle nose break look deeper than it actually is. She has a level chin of moderate depth and a level bite. Correctly rounded muzzle and defined whisker pinch, neither fine nor square. Moderately large ears well-spaced and shaped, with oval tips pricked forward. Correct eye size and shape, gently slanting almond shaped slanting toward the nose with rounded lower line, colour was a good bluish green. Slender body of good size, weight and firm feel, with slightly tapering tail to balance. Slender strong limbs with neat oval paws. A soft close lying coat, the colour being a definite fawnish-grey caramel well mingled with clear apricot and although she is a tortie her TCR pattern is obvious, showing a gentle merging of the darker colouring on her points to a lighter tone on her body. A sweet natured cat, easy to handle and in good condition.

**Misc. Class 64 – Special Limit Kitten** - One in class.

**1<sup>st</sup> - Mee's AMORCATZ BRUNO MARS (TOS c 32, 74c) M 10.12.2013.** A superb example of a Tonkinese. Lovely head of good balance, bite level, firm chin of good depth. Very good muzzle neither pointed nor square, with correct moderate defined whisker pinch. Desired nose break depth, top of nose without bumps or roll off. Rounded top of head with ears of good shape, pricked forward and set well to give the head the overall impression of an equilateral triangle when viewed face on. The eyes were a good size for the head, held a little open at the start of the day but beautiful when more relaxed - almond with a slightly more rounded lower line as desired. The eye

colour was a good balance of light blue/green enhanced by the dark lilac eye leather that matched the nose leather and toned with the slightly pinker paw pads. The body was firm and a very good size and weight for his age, rounded chest, straight firm limbs, neatly shaped feet and a tail of good shape tapering slightly to a rounded tip and balancing the length of the body. The coat was sleek, soft and close-lying. The coat-pattern was a good example of the TCR pattern with the pinkish-grey points merging gently with the lighter toned body colour. The colour was clean and without undesirable shading or barring. A little nervous to begin with but very easy to handle and purred all the time. Lovely condition and well presented. I look forward to seeing him in the future.

**Misc. Class 66 – Over 6 Months Kitten** - One in class.

**1<sup>st</sup> – Borman’s LILYPUT JAFFA CAKE (TOS g 32, 74g) F 31.08.13.**

**Misc. Class 72 – AC Non-Certificate Neuter** - One in class.

**1<sup>st</sup> – Richards’s TONKAHOLICS BUFALOBIL CODY (TOS a 33, 74av) MN 20.06.2007.** A large, muscular blue-pointed male who really enjoyed being cuddled. Wedge-shaped head of moderate type, nicely rounded top of head, well-balanced masculine muzzle and correct whisker pinch. Good profile with level bite and firm chin of moderate depth, nose break slightly shallow. Ears of moderately large size balance the length of his head, held a little high but when relaxed in his pen they were better and set well to give the head an overall impression of an equilateral triangle when viewed face on. Gentle expression in his lustrous eyes, which were of correct size for head, gently almond shaped with rounded lower line, clear strong blue colour. Coat fairly plush but soft and close lying and shining. Although his coat shows the rather heavy colouration common in a mature blue, his points were correctly distinct from the slightly warm-toned lighter body colour of his neck, shoulders and chest. The slender legs, neat oval paws and tail were a little paler in colour than the mask but matching in tone. His dark slate-grey leathers matched in tone. Well shaped gently tapering tail with a rounded tip, which balanced his body length. A good example of a blue Tonk, a lovely natured cat in good condition and well presented.

**Misc. Class 83 – Junior Neuter** - Three in class - one of each of the Tonk coat-patterns.

**1<sup>st</sup> – Spencer-Fleet’s TONKAHOLICS ZIGGYSTAR-DUST (TOS n 31, 74q) MN 30.09.12** Very glamorous. A good sized, firm muscular body of good overall type with moderate wedge-shaped head. The ears, just slightly longer than wide, were well-set to give the head the correct balance for type. Nicely rounded top of head; good profile with gentle nose break, level bite and firm chin of medium depth. Strong but not exaggerated muzzle with good whisker pinch. Eyes are correct size for head and a well-shaped, gentle almond with lower rounded line; a clear golden yellow colour. A lovely example of a BCR pattern with a dark, even-toned warm brown coat, very soft, close lying and shining like patent leather. A beautiful cat, a little upset by his neighbours but confident and easily handled. Lovely condition and well prepared.

**2<sup>nd</sup> – Capeling’s TONKAHOLICS MICKEY BLUEYES (TOS b 33, 74bv) MN 30.09.12.** A large, weighty cat with a firm muscular feel about him and of good overall type. Head a moderately long wedge, ears a little longer than wide but set well to give a balance for type. In profile gentle rounding to top of head, slight nose break and medium depth of chin with a level bite. The typical chocolate facial colouring made his muzzle look a little more prominent than it actually is, good shape with properly defined whisker pinch. Eyes a good shape and well-set, clear strong blue eyes that appeared to have a very slight squint in the left eye. Strong body of good length with rounded chest, and well-shaped slightly tapering tail to balance. Straight limbs and large oval paws. Good CPP pattern, distinct warm dark chocolate points, cool off-white body colour that now shows heavy chocolate shading on his flanks, and a little brindling over his back, the colour on the forelimbs slightly lighter in tone than the other points, which is typical in the chocolates, the points all match in tone. A hefty male but easy to handle, very good natured and well presented.

**3<sup>rd</sup> – O’Shea’s PR MIMAPERKS BERLINGTON BERTIE (TOS a 32, 74a) MN 13.11.2012.**

A well grown cat of Tonkinese type looking just a little fine boned compared with the other cats in this class. Rather wriggly but good tempered and easy to handle once he could feel his feet on the table. Head a moderately long wedge but balanced for type by his medium large ears that were well spaced and correctly set to follow the line of the head down to the chin. Good profile with a gentle nose break, well balanced muzzle and whisker pinch, firm level chin and level bite. Strong fine body of good length with slender limbs, neat oval paws and a slender tapering tail (but not whippy) just balances the body length. Eyes were not easy to assess as he was holding them quite open, predominantly light blue but green tones were noticeable. Very nice TCR coat-pattern expression with quite dark toned blue points that merge very gradually with a paler warm toning body colour. Coat sleek and close lying, very soft and shining. Sweet natured and beautifully presented.

**Misc. Class 94 – AC or Coat-Pattern Adult** - One in class.

**1<sup>st</sup> – Singletons’ TONKYWAY CHERTAN (TOS n21 33, 74 40 11) M 25.04.13.** I really liked this large well-built young male, another favourite of the day for me. Excellent overall Tonkinese type and a good expression of the colour-pointed pattern. Slight jowls that don’t detract from the good medium wedge-shaped head, with a gently rounded top, beautiful profile with the correct slight nose break, firm chin of good depth and level bite. His medium large ears were well-spaced and correctly set to follow the outer line of his head down to his chin. A strong muzzle, neither square nor pointed with a well-defined whisker pinch. His alert and lustrous eyes were the right size for his head, beautifully almond shaped with a rounding to the bottom lid; the colour was a clear light blue ringed by the dark brown eye leathers and further framed by the almost white tabby spectacles. His body was large and well-balanced for type with a rounded chest, strong limbs and oval shaped paws. Tail tapering gently to a rounded tip, nicely balances the length of his body. His coat was plush but short, soft and close-lying (there was a small dark area between his shoulders that was slightly coarse, possibly an inoculation reaction). He has warm seal-brown, ticked tabby markings over his torso with well-defined darker points and good tabby markings - a balanced scarab on the forehead, clean spectacle markings around the eyes, spotted whisker pads and thumb prints on the back of his ears; his legs have paler toned brown stripes with darker seal colouring on the underside of his paws and up his hocks, his tail is ticked with rings toward the end and a solid seal brown tip. Good natured male and in lovely condition.

Later in the day I was very pleased to award him BIS Adult for the Tonkinese Cat Club.

**Misc. Class 96 – AC or Coat-Pattern Neuter** – Four in class. What a class of very handsome males, and a joy to see all three Tonkinese coat-patterns together.

**1<sup>st</sup> – Bernard’s MIMAPERKS PERKINS SATURNUS (TOS n 31, 74q) MN 08.09.2007.** I’ve admired this cat for several years and I’m delighted that he is finally able to be shown, so glamorous and easy going. An elegant cat of good Tonkinese type, deceptively weighty but trim and with good muscle tone. His head was a moderate wedge with a rounded top, gently rounded muzzle and a correctly defined whisker pinch. In profile he had a gentle nose-break, a level bite and level chin of medium depth. His ears were well-spaced, shaped and a moderately large to balance the size of his head, pricked forward and well-set to follow the outer line of the head to the chin giving an overall impression of an equilateral triangle viewed face on. The eyes were a good size to balance his face, nicely almond shaped with the inner line curving toward the nose and the lower line rounded; the colour was a strong green-toned yellow. The body was well-balanced overall with a rounded chest, strong limbs and oval paws. The tail was a good shape and tapered slightly to the rounded tip, long enough to balance the body. His coat was fine, close-lying and had a high sheen - a very good example of a BCR pattern, evenly coloured overall with an almost imperceptibly darker colour to the points. His coat colour was a rich, warm dark brown and his leathers matched. He was not especially happy as he appeared to be disturbed by a noisy cat in the pen behind, but he handled easily. Excellent condition and beautifully presented.

**2<sup>nd</sup> – Richards’s TONKAHOLICS BUFALOBIL CODY (TOS a 33, 74av) MN 20.06.2007**

**3<sup>rd</sup> – Capeling’s TONKAHOLICS MICKEY BLUEYES (TOS b 33, 74bv) MN 30.09.12.**

**4<sup>th</sup> – Spencer-Fleet’s GR PR TONKAHOLICS ANGELITE-BLUE (TOS a 32, 74a) MN 24.09.09.** An attractive blue male looking a little more slender than the others in the class, but of good weight, firm muscle tone and overall of Tonkinese type. Medium-long wedge shaped head that looked narrower than it was because of the set of his ears. Good rounded top of head, slight nose break, level bite and level chin of moderate depth. Well shaped moderately large ears set a little high. Good muzzle and defined whisker pinch. Nicely expressive eyes of good size for head, almond shaped with lower line a little more slanted than round. Lovely greenish-blue colour. Well-proportioned body and limbs with neat oval paws. Slightly tapering tail of medium length with rounded tip. Coat was sleek, fine, close-lying and shining. Good expression of the TCR pattern - the darker bluish-grey of the points merged gradually with the lighter, warm toned blue of the body, the points all matched in tone and depth of colour. His leathers were the correct shade of blue for his coat-colour. Preferred to be in his pen but handled very easily and purred while being held, in lovely condition and well presented.

**HHP, Misc. Class 150 – Cat or Kitten Never Shown before.** - Two in Class, one absent.

**1<sup>st</sup> – Simpson’s MANDY (SH Classic Tortie-Tabby) FN 5 Years 1 Month.** I have to say this little girl stole my heart and just oozed charisma, especially considering that this is her first time being shown. Very feminine, chatty and friendly. Her fur was plush and soft, with the lovely warm chocolate and brown classic-tabby pattern with very subtle tortie mottling in an almost apricot colour – all set-off with bright golden eyes. She handled beautifully, she was relaxed and made a fuss of my steward and me. In excellent condition and well prepared. She has a lucky owner.

**HHP, Misc. Class 152 – Any Cat Under 3 Years.** - Three in Class, such a lovely class!

**1<sup>st</sup> – McRoberts’s MR PEACHY KEEN (SLH Red Colourpoint) MN 11 Months.** A large male for his age and of such good weight and firm tone that I couldn’t hold him long enough to cuddle him properly, and he purred the whole time. A lovely head, strong legs and large tufted feet. Good clean white and bright red colours, beautifully groomed – his fur virtually floated. His gentle eyes were a lovely rich gold colour. A very relaxed and manageable cat, beautifully presented.

**2<sup>nd</sup> – Robinson’s MC FERDINAND MIKA (SH Lilac) MN 1 Year 9 Months.** A lovely male with a slightly dark-toned lilac pointed coat that gave him an almost diffused look, matching his gentle nature. A very nice wedge shaped head with pale clear blue eyes. Coat was plush soft and beautifully prepared. He felt weighty and well-toned when I held him. Relaxed, easy to handle and well-prepared.

**Extra 2<sup>nd</sup> – Richardson’s GMC ALBERTOS (SLH Blue-Point) MN 2 Years 10 Months.** I really couldn’t choose between this male and the Lilac male. Another lovely cat, almost too pretty to be a boy. A very alert cat, most interested in his surroundings but also very easy to handle, and cuddle. Lovely blue eyes with a sweet expression, beautifully prepared soft flowing coat of a misty blue and ivory colour. Excellent condition and well prepared.

**HHP, Misc. Class 164 – Cat or Kitten Living with a Pedigree Cat.** Three entered, one absent.

**1<sup>st</sup> – McRoberts’s MR PEACHY KEEN (SLH Red Colourpoint) MN 11 Months.**

**2<sup>nd</sup> – Mee’s MC CRISTAL (SH Blue & White) FN 5 Years.** A good size and feel to her with a very kittenish expression. Large, lustrous eyes, slightly more slanted than round, of pale blue. The combination of her soft blue colour, the clean white plush fur and the pastel pink of her nose and inner ears gave the impression of a Neapolitan ice-cream – a very pretty cat. Calm and gentle she was easily handled and it was a pleasure to do so.