

# Home Front



*Reserve CAC female C'Sakura Ollada Arien Santa house Feldmann.*

***Massimo Inzoli comments on one of Italy's highest-profile Cane Corso shows***

*Interview by Massimiliano Stefano*





*Putting a class through its paces.*

**This show was the Raduno S.A.C.C. (Società Amatori Cane Corso) in Emilia Romagna on November 14, 2010. You're a young judge for a breed that was recognized officially only 10 years ago. What's your impression of the Cane Corso?**

Thank you very much for the "young" part! I saw my first Corso almost 20 years ago, when I became interested in the Dogo Argentino. Perhaps a taste for the exotic at the time drew me to the Dogo rather than the Cane Corso. Today, I confess to perhaps regretting my choice back then.

I remember Dr. Guido Vandoni, who was part of the committee that administered the practical exams at my first application to become a judge, asking after he administered mine which breeds I would like to take on next. I replied without hesitation: the Cane Corso and Neapolitan Mastiff!

Today the Cane Corso seems to be a healthy breed with an increasing popularity worldwide that has few precedents in other recently recognized breeds. Naturally, when the numbers increase exponentially in this manner, we

must ensure that this does not hurt the general quality of the breed. The Italian breeders have a great responsibility on their shoulders, which is that of being the genetic font of the breed at a global level. As a result, their primary objective must be the exporting of typical and sound breeding stock. Only by starting with a solid foundation of type and health can overseas breeders move forward correctly in the work of selection of the breed in their countries. Don't be tempted by easy sales, given the huge demand for dogs outside your borders, but instead be conscientious in the selection of the dogs you export. When I go abroad, I see Cane Corso fanciers who wear T-shirts that say "Italy" on them and who have a passion to see our breed really move forward. This love of the breed translates into a love of our Italianness in general. Therefore, Italian friends, take care of these passionate fans of the breed. They are our ambassadors overseas. Support them by giving them the best material to work with, continuing to love the Cane Corso and reflecting on our nation.

**The Italian parent club tries to choose judges that have similar judging criteria so they can have more uniformity in future champions. Do**

## **you think this is the correct way to improve the quality of the breed?**

This should be the dictate of all parent clubs that care about the fate of the breeds that they cherish. To have only a few judges for the specialty, or *raduno* points – which are necessary to earn an Italian championship – is not popular, but if you want to do animal husbandry in a serious way, it has to be done without thinking of popularity for its own sake. It of course would be easier, from a political point of view, to have large numbers of judges and as a result more diverse judging criteria, with yardsticks that are less rigid, to “satisfy” as many breeders as possible. I am not sure that this is the best way to advance the breed, if your goal is having a homogenous group. That is only possible with uniform judging from breed specialists who collaborate with the breed club.

I have worked for a long time, with pride and enthusiasm, with the SACC on this key point, which I think will be continued for some years. I have judged various specialties and club shows over the last five years, and even if I have not been perfect (apologies, readers, but I am not the kind of specialist judge who thinks he has a monopoly on that word), I hope and believe that I gave a worthwhile contribution to the breed, in particular in the many shows that I have judged abroad, from the U.S. all the way to Israel, and passing through half of Europe along the way, where the ideas of breeders are a little less clear.

## **Do you feel the responsibility of having to do a good job in “reading” the Cane Corso?**

Certainly, I feel the responsibility of doing a conscientious job, and I bring passion, enthusiasm and sacrifice to it. Certainly to go here and there, doing what you please, gives a certain degree of satisfaction, but the world doesn't end there. I do it because I believe in what I am doing. I don't ever stop studying and deepening my knowledge, searching for differing opinions and trying to obtain knowledge from those who know more than I. Only by beginning with questioning and critiquing one's work can one achieve a level of superior knowledge.

My judging method is simple. I look first at the overall dog, to get a first impression of balance and substance. Then I examine his head analytically, looking very closely at his face, to see if he has the typical expression of the breed. I have a mental image of this correct expression, and when I examine the entry I see if he has it. From this reference point I

identify head faults as well as strengths.

The linchpin of the assessment is naturally movement, where we compare what we saw when the dog was stationary to the dog in motion. Finally, I rank the dogs according to a valuation of their faults, but above all according to the virtues present in the entry. All dogs have their faults, but not all have virtues. It's easy to see a fault in another dog. And it's difficult to instead weigh the traits both negative and positive of a given dog.

## **Looking at the numbers, this show was a success beyond all expectations. What did you find in the ring, in terms of the general strengths and weaknesses of the entry?**

Considering diminished entries at dog shows in recent years due to the economic downturn, I'd have to say this show was a grand success. It was very well organized, with an appropriate venue and it was very professionally run.

It was a beautiful Sunday spent doing the thing that I like best, surrounded by many breed enthusiasts, all of them well educated and well spoken. Above all, there was foreign participation that exceeded all expectations. That's another reason why I want to stress that the responsibility we have in Italy as judges, breeders and organizers is a truly great one. The whole Cane Corso world looks to Italy as an important influence.

In the ring, I found average quality. Few entries really rose to the level of superior quality. The heads were almost all of good type. Some had incorrectly parallel planes and stops that were not well defined enough. Others had too much difference between the width of skull and width of muzzle, at times also a cause of masseter muscles that were too developed. The Cane Corso should not be missing the squareness of the skull, which in some cases can assume too rounded a shape.

Some bites were scissor bites, and as a consequence, some of the muzzles lacked chin. One of my pet peeves is the underjaw, which in a catching dog should be wide enough, with the canine teeth positioned a good distance from each other. A wide jaw is an essential requirement for good muzzle width – we don't want this to be determined solely from thick or swollen flews. Other bites, by contrast, were excessively undershot, and too visible against the chin, with a nose that is a trifle too far back from the anterior-lateral profile of the muzzle. Worse still, when there is an excess of prognathism, it is associated with a narrow jaw, and when one opens the

mouth one finds a space that resembles a teaspoon.

Regarding construction: Some dogs had upper arms that were too short, as well as croups that were too short and backs that were too weak. The croup is the driveshaft of the dog, where the drive from the rear is transmitted to the front assembly. If these two components, the bone segments of the hind legs and the spine, are not well connected by an efficient back, the dog will lose rear drive. There were some dogs with sufficient front angulation, but when moving they lacked extension, which was another common fault among the dogs exhibited.

As for strengths in the entry, most had a good ratio of skull to muzzle, and in general most of the dogs had good substance. Other than one bitch who wanted to eat my hand, there were no aggressive dogs, and very few timid ones.

I'd like to make a particular mention of the Best of Breed dog, who I understand is of Russian breeding. He is a lovely young dog of a good make with good overall substance, a beautiful head with correct expression, and a nice neck that gave him a lovely finish and presence. He had wonderful movement, with exceptional front reach and rear drive, which completed his merits. To be fair, a chest that still needed maturing, a slightly obvious withers and a longish loin were among the small areas of improvement for this dog. The perfect dog, as I said, does not exist.

## **What's the main difference between the dogs you judged at this Italian show and the ones that are typically presented to you abroad? Is it true that the foreign dogs are qualitatively better than the Italian ones?**

The principle difference between the dogs abroad and those in Italy is certainly the variability of the dogs that are shown. In Italy, for good or for bad, they are all typey, but overseas this is not always the case. The range of departure from the standard, from a qualitative level, is greater. One will still find muzzles that are too long with divergent style heads, non-typical expressions and dogs that revert back to other closely related breeds.

There are however, in almost all of the many countries abroad where I have judged, some dogs that could be competitive in Italy as well. I'm referring in particular to Holland, Israel, the United States and the many nations of Eastern Europe. Certainly a specific mention should be made of the breeders in Russia. I have judged many Russian-bred dogs, and I



am not just talking about Cane Corsos. In almost all the places where I have found these Russian-bred dogs, these dogs have won the majority of the classes in which they participated. I found myself discussing this with some friends from Eastern Europe, breeders and fellow judges, and the explanation they gave me was this: They are able and professional breeders who don't discriminate against certain bloodlines, who aren't influenced by whether they like or personally dislike another kennel. They lived for many decades behind an iron curtain where they had to work with the materials they had at hand. As a result, they are able to get the most out of what they have, at the shows they support each other, they present their dogs professionally, and they work hard before the show to prepare their dogs.

Returning to Russian fanciers of the Cane Corso in particular, they have purchased and imported a little bit from everyone in Italy, and today they have set themselves to the serious work of advancing their breeding programs.

It's true that the breed is and will always remain Italian. But the history of dogs is full of breeds that, though they were safeguarded by one country, were better bred abroad. Boxers, German Shepherd Dogs and Dachshunds come to mind, as well as many others. Among this group is even my own breed, the Dogo Argentino, which today many breeders (tired of being swindled by their Argentine friends) import from Brazil, Spain and Slovakia, where there are breeders that work better and more professionally than in the

breed's country of origin.

Traveling around the world, I have noted with disappointment that today, many avid fanciers do not look only to Italy to import Cane Corsos, but also to some emerging nations.

I hope these reflections are a warning to my friends the Italian breeders. Nothing is divinely mandated, and things do not stay the same forever. The popularity of the breed has exploded all over the world, and the consequences could be far reaching. For we Italians, the most unfortunate thing would be in the upcoming years not to be the nation of reference for the breed. 🇮🇹🇮🇹



## Winners Circle

**Raduno SACC (Società Amatori Cane Corso) of Rimini**

**November 14, 2010**

**112 entries**

**Judge M. Inzoli**

MP = Very Promising

P = Promising

ECC = Excellent

MB = Very Good



### Baby Dog Class

- 1 MP Achille (Nerone x Dama) Breeder and owner: R. Castrignano.
- 2 MP Eros (Jimmy dei Martinotti x Diva)
- 3 MP Josè del Rosso Malpelo (Zar del Rosso Malpelo x Fiona del Rosso Malpelo) Breeder: S. Tanzarella. Owner: M. Mazzoni.
- 4 P. Diablo (Axel x Mambogirl) Breeder: A. Russo. Owner: L. Safina

### Intermediate Dog Class

- 1 ECC Iran (Cassius Clay della Porta Dipinta x Shila) (CAC) Breeder and owner: F. De Cato.
- 2 ECC Ugo (Primo x UCLA) Breeder and owner: M. Quitadamo.
- 3 ECC Kann Edimark (Lapo x Daniela) Breeder and owner: E. Pribul.
- 4 ECC Argo (Matis della Porta Dipinta x Heydi della Corte degli Olivi) Breeder: M. Pollarini. Owner: T. La Rosa.

### Junior Dog Class

- 1) MP Morgan Freman des Dunes des Sages (Ugo Boss x Odessa degli Elmi) Breeder and owner: A. Guerin.

### Youth Dog Class

- 1 ECC Aragon Ollada Arlekin (BOB) (Tsefat iz Dynasty Champion x Ollada Arlekin Tsolli) Breeder: I. Gravitova. Owner: I. Fernandes.
- 2) ECC Caronte (Demon x Corafrasia) Breeder: I Corsi di Savoia. Owner: C. Simoncelli.
- 3) ECC Butch (Idem della Porta Dipinta x Divina della Porta Dipinta) Breeder: B. Cecconi. Owner: M. Sancisi.
- 4) ECC Timoniere Zion (Cesare x Giselle della Porta Dipinta) Breeder and owner: B. Margitan.

### Open Dog Class

- 1 ECC Aspide del Rosso Malpelo (Reserve CAC) (Arn x Bora) Breeder: S. Tanzarella. Owner: A. Aquili.
- 2 ECC Black Marvin (np/np) Breeder: M.J. Jopseph. Owner: G. Laue.
- 3 ECC Ollada Arlekin Zorro (Don Juan del Rosso Malpelo x Bravo Corso Verona) Breeder: I. Fernandes. Owner: A. Olenzv.
- 4 ECC Morlando (Adolfo x Lisa) Breeder: V. Chinni. Owner: F. Conforti.

### Champion Dog Class

- 1 ECC Brando 1 della Porta Dipinta (Aldo x Persia) Breeder: M. Di Chicco. Owner: M. Ghinassi.
- 2 ECC Cesare (Chenò x Jenin Heredom) Breeder: C. Maggioli. Owner: B. Margitan.
- 3 ECC Hitch (Nico degli Elmi x Geisha del Rosso Malpelo) Breeder and owner A. De Angelis.
- 4 ECC Arthur (Zar del Rosso Malpelo x Babette) Breeder: G. Farabegoli. Owner: P. Roi.



*The CAC-winning bitch Mafalda del Roso Malpelo (left) and the Reserve CAC, C'Sakura Ollada Arien Santa house Feldmann.*

### Working Dog Class

- 1 ECC Z Brutus Mazurksdiego (CAC) (Bayron Mao dao x Nana Las Vegas) Breeder: Doguslav. Owner: R. Duchaussoy.
- 2 ECC Orso R. CAC ACS (Zeus x Dafne del Rosso Malpelo) Breeder and owner V. Taibi.
- 3 ECC Arturo (Nik-Dea) Breeder: A. Mangano. Owner: L. Lo Prete.
- 4 ECC Eros del Rosso Malpelo (Romeo dei Dauni x Gelsomina di Villa Andreina) Breeder and owner: S. Tanzarella.

### Veteran Dog Class

- 1) ECC Portos (Simon x Nada) Breeder and owner: S. Tanzarella.

### Baby Bitch Class

- 1 MP Faith (Byron di Latorre x Tea) Breeder: M. La Torre. Owner: I Corsi di Savoia.
- 2 MP Liù (Matis della Porta Dipinta x Heydi della Corte degli Olivi) Breeder: M. Pollarini. Owner: P. Fancellu
- 3 MP Divina (Duce dell'Anteler x Awerol) Breeder and owner: L. Schifani.
- 4 MP Oliva Edimark (Lapo x Luisa) Breeder and owner: E. Pribul.

### Junior Bitch Class

- 1 MP Glamour dell'Antica Abulia (Pascià x Hera della Vigna della Corte) Breeder: R.Giannuli. Owner: F. Polverigiani
- 2 P. Alfa (Conan dei Dauni x Maya) Breeder: F. Durante. Owner: M. Bartoletti.
- 3 P. Nella (Dioniso x Ela) Breeder and owner: M.Scoscia.
- 4 P. Nike (Dioniso x Ela) Breeder: M. Scoscia. Owner: S.Carlini.

### Intermediate Bitch Class

- 1) ECC C'Sakura Ollada Arien Santa house Feldmann (Reserve Bitch CAC) (Zeus x Tosac dell'Antico



*The winner of the Youth bitch class, B. Kali.*





*Inzoli greets some enthusiastic puppies.*



*Open dog Ollada Arlequin Zorro doesn't let the pressure get to him.*

Cerberus) Breeder: Fel'dman. Owner: I. Fernandes.  
2 MB Agata (Matis della Porta Dipinta x Heydi della Corte degli Olivi) Breeder: M. Pollarini. Owner: M. Brighi.

#### **Youth Bitch Class**

- 1) ECC B. Kali (Idem della Porta Dipinta x Divina della Porta Dipinta) Breeder: B.Cecconi. Owner: M. Pollarini.
- 2) ECC Barbara (Idem della Porta Dipinta x Divina della Porta Dipinta) Breeder: B.Cecconi. Owner: C. Pedoni.
- 3) MB Wigelinda (Gennarino di Casa Fiore x Janet) Breeder and owner: E. Paglialonga.
- 4) MB Iole della Porta Dipinta (Legolas della Corte degli Olivi x Romina della Porta Dipinta) Breeder: M. Di Chicco. Owner: A. Ventura.

#### **Open Bitch Class**

- 1) ECC Mafalda del Rosso Malpelo (**Bitch CAC**) (Conan dei Dauni x Iris) Breeder: S. Tanzarella. Owner: A. Vastola.
- 2) ECC Gheisa del Rosso Malpelo (Portos x Malù dei Martinetti) Breeder: S. Tanzarella. Owner: A. De Angelis.
- 3) ECC Alma della Porta Dipinta (Diro x Gemma della Porta Dipinta) Breeder: M. Di Chicco. Owner: M. Clementoni.
- 4) ECC Greta (Endy x Zaira della Porta Dipinta) Breeder: L. Gentile. Owner: M. Testa.

#### **Champion Bitch Class**

- 1) ECC Awerol (**Best of Opposite Sex**) (Ares dei Silvanbull x Enna) Breeder: D. Torsani. Owner: L. Schifani.
- 2) ECC Quare (Orso x Piperitapatty) Breeder: A. Bigozzi. Owner: E. Pribul.
- 3) ECC Estrelita del Rosso Malpelo (Zar del Rosso Malpelo x Zara del Rosso Malpelo) Breeder: S. Tanzarella. Owner: A. Aquili.
- 4) ECC Eva (Yannick Noah x Atte) Breeder: N. Palazzo. Owner: V. Pellerin.

#### **Working Bitch Class**

- 1) ECC Elisabeth (no CAC) (Aldo x Lola) Breeder: E. Caprio. Owner: L. Baldassarri.

#### **Veteran Bitch Class**

- 1) MB Teti (Tuono x Ambrosia) Breeder: A. Veronesi. Owner: S. Rosati.
- 2) MB Saba di Del Jay (Nabucco degli Olmi x Tanza) Breeder and owner: A. Guerin.