

## OPEN FORUM

After interesting discussions concerning the SWOT-analysis, the Open Forum gave room to the audience for questions of all sorts with regard to the breed. In a very interesting interactive setting under moderation of Michael Canalizo who also gave relevant input, the following items were collected. Due to a lack of time, not all could unfortunately be discussed:

- Are there problems with the proportions, i.e. length of legs?
- I beg for a voting to the statement: Is it the duty of a judge to disqualify a handler in the ring for extreme and in the regulary not allowed methods?
- When did the standard set: “low set ears”?
- What are the views of opening the Stud Book again to enable importation of new lines from Afghanistan? Should this be requested to governing bodies for consideration to increase the gene pool and diminish or prevent our breed from becoming an afterthought (extinct)?
- How about an international federation of Afghan Hounds like the FIWC (Federation of Irish Wolfhound Clubs)?
- Is sickelhocked appearing in the breed?
- Who is responsible for the problems in our breed; the breeders, the judges and who can solve it?
- How do we get the message to judges that flash/dash/high kick behind & bounce is WRONG?
- Why are the handlers holding the head and tail high in the ring standing for the judge? The standard says that the tail is resting on the heel in rest and in action hold up high.
- What is the next step in formulating a single breed standard for the Afghan Hound?

- Severe questions from someone outside the breed. As a judge, some items I would like to hear explained to me!
- In the beginning, the ear setting is higher than I see now on the Afghan Hounds. Also in the Tazi film they are higher. When did we decide they must be lower?
- How important are complete teeth? A lot of Afghan dogs have them not complete. (They must have a strong jaw)

## **SWOT-ANALYSIS**

Many congresses disapproved extremes, exaggeration and basic standard discrepancies showing up in the breed and declared that it is time to do something about it. However, on many showgrounds it could be noticed that these good intentions have not been transferred into breeding reality and showmanship.

In relation to that, the words 'breed modernization' were used a lot, but what did this all do to our beloved Afghan Hound? How far are we away from basics which must remain in any case in the breed? The congress committee decided to develop a SWOT-analysis (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats).

In various brainstorm sessions, all upcoming issues were judged and put into a Pareto chart. You will, according to the Dutch team, find the top 4 per category hereunder and these can be discussed in the Open Forum. No doubt however that other breed issues are welcome as well. Michael Canalizo will lead the congress through the Open Forum process.

### **Strong points:**

- 1) Characteristic physical features  
Typical movement
- 2) Character  
Athletic functionality

- 3) Unique construction
- 4) Appearance

**Weak points:**

- 1) Occurrence of extremities
- 2) Loss of typical anatomical points  
Loss of natural attitude and appearance
- 3) Lack of base knowledge at starting breeders level
- 4) Coming into existence of caricatures

**Opportunities:**

- 1) Better (breed) training of judges  
More specialist judges on shows
- 2) More breeder meetings
- 3) Openness of breeders about experiences
- 4) World Congress website

**Threats:**

- 1) Insufficient study of the breed by owners
- 2) Loss of breed quality
- 3) Loss of blood lines with unique qualities
- 4) Inadequate accompaniment for starters

Note: In case of two items in a ranking number, an equal score occurred.