



Report from the WAFDAL judges committee, Liliane De Ridder

I have to tell you that my committee has a good number of members, but I never hear anything from them, so this branch stays with a very low activity.

After the introduction of the new standard in 2011, there was a lot of rumour and comments on several breed websites, but the storm has passed and now we have a rather relaxing period.

We need to think about which qualifications judges need to appear on the national specialist breed judgeslist, which we transfer to Wafdal. This needs to be the same for each country.

We can't put everybody on this list, who is allowed to judge our breed. We think it is fair to conclude that the judges must have owned the breed, have had some good shows results and also have bred the breed. It is a bit like the English expression: before you apply to become a breed judge, you must have shown a champion and you must have bred a champion. That means: to be deeply involved with the breed and not only with the few pages of the standard. Buying a good dog is not too difficult, but to breed your first champion, that can take some time.

With Facebook becoming so popular, I am able to watch quite a lot of pictures of winning dogs I never should be able to see. But I also remark a lot of dogs that don't merit the titles they collected and some of them are even untypical for the breed. Being a popular judge does not mean you have to be Santa Claus with your qualifications.

Recently there was a lot of commotion about spotting and coats of some LUA dalmatians.

I remark that in different breeds there is the tendency to introduce some other breeds, with the hope some health problems will be solved. I don't think it is correct or necessary to use these dogs frequently, because this can have serious consequences and big influence on the breed for the next decades.

Fortunately we are involved with a breed, that has a big population and we are in the possibility to correct where necessary. Some problems are not covering the whole world, but more local, and with a strict and good breeding programme you can eliminate a lot of misery without eliminating too many dalmatians for breeding purpose.

In the dalmatian compendium, published some years ago by the European Cooperation of Dalmatian clubs it was written that "Colour and spotting must never be given such weight that a dog being excellent in these respects is preferred to a dog of better type, confirmation and temperament".

I must admit I am not always so happy with the spotting I see nowadays in the ring and this never can have been the intention, as spotting is an unique characteristic of our breed. Not alone spotting, but also the right colour and the spots must be clean and not with fading colour.



More attention must be given to a good front, a good topline, a correct position of the croupe and some tails are rather short, which destroys the elegance we have to see in the breed. We have to watch that muzzles are not becoming too short, normally this is combined with a deep stop and a rather rounded skull.

Fortunately regarding temperaments I have to admit there are very few remarks about poor temperament or aggressive attitude. For this merits I have to thank all breeders that are creating their litters in the most optimal circumstances and attach great importance to a correct education and welfare of their puppies.

Liliane De Ridder – Onghena