

2027 BCCA NATIONAL SPECIALTY PRELIMINARY JUDGES BALLOT BIOGRAPHIES

NINA BRUSIN (FIN, Memorylane)

Number of Years in Dogs: 44

Are you currently licensed to judge Bearded Collies: Yes

Number of Years Judging Bearded Collies: 7 (Open Show level)

Have you attended a BCCA National Specialty as? Exhibitor

If you have judged a BCCA National Specialty previously, when? n/a

How does coat, movement, outline, structure and temperament influence your evaluation of a Bearded Collie?

When someone asks me what is your type in Beardies, my answer is always Movement! That is my passion hands down. There is nothing more beautiful than a Beardie who glides along with an effortless, smooth ground-covering action, getting just better and better as they run on. This tells me they are fit-for-function, just what our standard asks for. Correct 5:4 body shape & balance are also very important. A showy dog vs. more of a working model are both ok for me, if they have the aforementioned qualities. Coats can be longer or shorter, if the quality is correct. I also believe that it's important to judge a Beardie in accordance with age and maturity, as our breed develops slowly, like a fine wine. Finally, the typical whimsical Happy Beardie temperament is the cherry on top. A few bounces here and there is a plus for me and exactly what makes the Beardie, Magic.

Experience: I have had Beardies nearly my whole life and I have been breeding them for over 30 years. For 23 years straight now, Memorylane has been Number One Beardie breeder in Finland and out of those we've also taken top 1-3 honours of our country (all-breeds) many times. In addition, we've had multiple World Winners, European Winners, BIS- & BISS winners as well as countless champions all over the world. In UK our breeding has resulted in multiple times top stud dog, a huge honour for a non-British dog. As Finland is in far-away Scandinavia, I have always found it important to engage in active international co-operation, to keep on top of our game and always do our very best for our breeding & lovely breed. I am pleased to be able to say Memorylane Beardies have had a positive impact on many breeding-programs worldwide. As I have first wanted to give 110% to my breeding work, I have just recently started doing more judging, which I find very rewarding.

JESSICA BUCKLEY (AUS, Stylwise)

Number of Years in Dogs: 40

Are you currently licensed to judge Bearded Collies: Yes

Number of Years Judging Bearded Collies: 13

Have you attended a BCCA National Specialty ? Exhibitor and Observer

How does coat, movement, outline, structure and temperament influence your evaluation of a Bearded Collie?

Nothing pleases me more than to see a Beardie moving smoothly and effortlessly around the ring, covering the ground with minimum lift. The correct structure makes it possible, and a good harsh coat completes the picture. A sound temperament is also important to me when judging, and more so when living with the breed. At the end of the day, I'm looking for a long, lean, active herding dog with the ability to work. I appreciate all stages of coat development and have no colour bias.

Experience: I have been involved in the sport of purebred dogs for over 40 years & have spent my weekends at dog shows since I was a child. I grew up in a family of Gundog enthusiasts before deciding on Bearded Collies as my own breed. I have successfully exhibited & bred Bearded Collies for almost 30 years, with Stylwise prefixed Beardies winning Best in Shows at both All Breeds & Specialty level, as well as #1 Bearded Collie in Australia multiple times. I've also had the honour of being #1 Bearded Collie Breeder in Australia over a number of years. I've bred dogs which have titled in conformation, herding, scentwork, tricks, sprintdog & agility, and have also owned and titled Greyhounds and a Wire Fox Terrier. I've been on the executive committee of breed clubs and have delivered breed lectures to trainee judges on behalf of the Australian National Kennel Club (ANKC). I am currently ANKC licenced to judge Utility, Working Dogs, Hounds, Gundogs & Terriers at Championship Show level.

DANA CLINE (GA)

Experience: In the late 1960's, my parents gave me my first Great Dane and from that moment I knew that I would have a lifetime of involvement with this breed and with dogs. As a young child I exhibited in 4H, training in both obedience and conformation. I found the dog show world in my teenage years, spending nearly every weekend traveling to shows, helping professional handlers and handling dogs for friends with other breeds as well. While my main interest was always in Great Danes, I worked hard to learn about other breeds and to become more active in all breeds. All of my weekends spent at dog shows eventually led me to a career as a professional handler, where I specialized in Danes and sight hounds, but also handling various other breeds along the way. Breeding has always been a favorite aspect of this sport for me and I currently breed and exhibit Italian Greyhounds. I have bred over 100 champions in a numerous breeds, primarily Great Danes, but also Borzoi, German Wirehaired Pointers, Miniature Bull Terriers, Bull Terriers, Beagles, Italian Greyhounds, and Tibetan Mastiffs. I am also a Breeder of Merit. I was a long-time member of the Great Dane Club of America and a member of the Italian Greyhound Club of America. I am an All-Breed Judge and have judged in a number of foreign countries, multiple National Specialties, as well as many of the country's top shows. I was also the recipient of the 2017 AKC Judge of the Year. I have judged many groups at the AKC/Royal Canin National Championship Shows and was the 2021 Best In Show Judge.

BRYONY HARCOURT-BROWN (UK, Orora)

Number of Years in Dogs: **60**

Number of Years as a Judge: **46**

Number of Years Judging Bearded Collies: **50**

Have you attended a BCCA National Specialty ? Observer

How does coat, movement, outline, structure and temperament influence your evaluation of a Bearded Collie?

When judging, I put emphasis on the overall qualities of each dog as a whole, so all points of the breed standard are important to me. However, I have always had a special interest in construction and movement. I am committed to overall proportions and balance, giving the soundest and most economical movement. I judge by eye and hand so I pay a lot of attention to all areas of construction. I do love a good head and expression, but I would never expect myself to prioritise this over construction. I admire a quality coat, but I do pinpoint angles under the coat, so coat does not really influence my judging. I love a happy temperament but Beardies, by nature, can be noise sensitive so I would allow, especially a youngster, a little if this. However, I would penalise aggression. My aim is to really 'see' and appreciate each dog present and so I would never judge on the best behaved or the best handled/trained.

Experience: I have owned and shown Beardies since I was a child. My aim has always been to improve with each generation and I have bred a great many UK Champions and Champions in many other countries. My own first Champion (not my first Beardie) was CH Mignonette of Willowmead at Orora, Top UK Ch 1975 and 1976 and Best of Breed Crufts 1976. Notable amongst my home bred Champions is CH Orora's Frank, Top UK Bearded Collie 1983 and 1984 and Best of Breed Crufts 1988. Frank was instrumental in breeding on his outstanding movement into Beardies and was sire of Crufts Supreme Best in Show, Cassie. This year two of my dogs have become UK Champions. As well as Beardies, I have owned and shown top UK award winning Afghans. I have given lectures on the breed, trained and mentored student judges and written extensively about various aspects of Beardies, especially construction and movement. I have judged in many Countries for over 45 years. I would love to judge your National Specialty.

CATH MOFFAT (UK, Kyleca)

Number of Years in Dogs: 40

Are you currently licensed to judge Bearded Collies: Yes

Number of Years Judging Bearded Collies: 22

Have you attended a BCCA National Specialty? Observer

How does coat, movement, outline, structure and temperament influence your evaluation of a Bearded Collie?

In evaluating the Bearded Collie everything should be considered as a complete package, my ideal is a free moving dog who could only move in such a way with the correct construction, a lovely lay back of shoulder, good length of upper arm and matching rear angulation to give overall effortless and driving movement, a 'busy' movement with little drive isn't an economical gait and certainly wouldn't be fit for function. Coat plays an important role and shouldn't be excessive as it spoils shape and outline. Temperament must be excellent, we live with this breed daily, they should be outgoing and very friendly and above all be an excellent example of a devoted family dog, in my opinion our lives would be poorer without them sharing our adventures and everyday life.

Experience: I have judged the Bearded Collie since 2003 and awarded 6 sets of CCs in this breed, my 7th being in 2026. I am approved for another 29 breeds throughout the Working, Pastoral and Gundog Groups at Championship level, I am also approved to judge both the Working Group and the Pastoral Group. I judge the other 4 groups at open show level, Utility, Hound, Terrier and Toys.

CHARLOTTE LANING VRETHAMMAR SWE, Old Smuggler's)

Number of Years in Dogs: 50

Number of Years licensed or Approved to Judge: 16

Number of Years Judging Bearded Collies: 16

Are you currently licensed to judge Bearded Collies: Yes

Have you attended a BCCA National Specialty? Exhibitor and Observer

If you have judged a BCCA National Specialty previously, when? 2001 Sweepstakes at the National.

How does coat, movement, outline, structure and temperament influence your evaluation of a Bearded Collie?

Outline is a very important part of type and is the first thing you see in the ring. It must show a breed typical silhouette with enough length of body. Sound structure that allows the dog to do the job it was bred for, neither too fine nor too coarse or heavy. I want to see a typical temperament, a happy or content dog that is comfortable with himself, his handler and the surroundings. Movement should be effortless and ground covering with long, easy strides and no kick-up or exaggerations. I like to see a dog that does not carry too much coat, but texture is more important. I expect show dogs to be clean and in good condition, shown in a natural stand and not excessively styled.

Experience: I have bred around 50 litters of Beardie puppies over 40+ years. I grew up with the breed since my Mom started breeding them in 1972. Together we have bred 11 generations of Beardies, several champions in different countries and seven generations of herding certified dogs. I have judged some independent specialties in the U.S., the Canadian National, Swedish and Norwegian specialties. Today I live with seven Beardies, all home bred.

JUSTINE WALDRON (UK, Snowmead)

Number of Years in Dogs: 43

Number of Years licensed or Approved to Judge: 19

Number of Years Judging Bearded Collies: 35

Have you attended a BCCA National Specialty?

How does coat, movement, outline, structure and temperament influence your evaluation of a Bearded Collie?

Outline: a balanced dog, longer than tall, with a level topline. The overall picture should be of an athletic, well-balanced dog capable of moving all day, with nothing exaggerated. Structure: well laid-back shoulders, good length of upper arm, and sufficient depth of chest to provide heart room. Front and rear angulation should be well matched, with well-angulated stifles and hocks. The head should be of correct proportions, displaying the typical soft, inquiring expression so characteristic of the breed. Movement: poor structure cannot be hidden on the move. Free, effortless, ground-covering stride with good reach in front and strong drive from the rear. Coat: must be weather-resistant, but this doesn't mean the longest or straightest coat is best. Correct texture, natural presentation, and condition are key, and a Bearded Collie should never be trimmed. Temperament: essential to breed type. A Beardie should be confident, outgoing, and alert—never nervous or sharp.

Experience: As a family we have owned Beardies for more than 40 years. I have been active in the breed all this time, both showing and breeding. I consider myself fortunate to have achieved great success with our kennel having bred or owned dogs with 98 CCs and 8 Champions. A highlight of my showing career has to be winning the group at Crufts in 2015. I have judged Beardies at Championship shows 8 times in the UK and have also judged extensively across Europe including Scandinavia, France, Belgium, Czech Republic and I have had the honour of judging the National Capitol BCC specialty in the US.

2027 NOMINEES FOR SWEEPSTAKES

PATRICIA CAHILL (CA, Starlight)

Number of years in dogs: 29

Number of years in Bearded Collies: 29

Number of years involved in AKC activities: 29

How long have you been a BCCA member: 29

Number of Bearded Collie litters bred: 3

Number of Champion Bearded Collies owned or bred: 15

Number of judging assignments in the past: 16 All-Breed Sweepstakes, 1 BCC of NWPS

I have attended BCCA National Specialties as an Exhibitor and Observer

How does coat, movement, outline, structure and temperament influence your evaluation of a Bearded Collie?

All should be considered when judging our breed as you need to evaluate the total dog. If you have correct structure, then you should be able to see free flowing movement and outline. The bearded collie temperament is a must also. Nothing nicer than to see that Beardie bounce in the ring. Coat should be double coated and natural.

NICOLE CONNER (TX, Jenuwin)

Number of Years in Dogs: 34

Number of Years in Bearded Collies: 25

Number of years involved in AKC activities: 34

Number of Years as a BCCA Member: 19

Number of Bearded Collie Litters Bred: 11

Number of Champion Bearded Collies Owned or Bred: 17

Number of Judging Assignments in the Past: 10 Sweepstakes for multiple breeds including Bearded Collies, Havanese, Springer Spaniels, Cocker Spaniels & PGBV National Top 20

I have attended BCCA National Specialties as an exhibitor

How does coat, movement, outline, structure and temperament influence your evaluation of a Bearded Collie?

It's difficult, but sometimes you must divide what you see in the ring and what you know needs doing/correcting in the whelping box, I try to walk the fine line between them when I judge. While coat is a critical aspect of the breed's functionality and ability to withstand harsh conditions, it is not as genetically complex or influential on long-term soundness as structural integrity. As a breeder I would personally prefer to see a well-proportioned (outline) and structurally sound Beardie with three hairs of correct texture, than a dog with lots of coat, improper structure, and poor body condition. Movement is the tell of a well-balanced dog, demonstrating both the efficiency and stamina needed to perform the work for which they were developed. Temperament is a hallmark of the breed, I'm not expecting every dog to be a cheerleader in the ring, but they should exhibit overall confidence, alertness, and a cordial disposition.

CHRISTA McCHANCY (MD, Blessings)

Number of Years in Bearded Collies: 35 **Number of Years Involved in AKC Activities:**32

Number of Years as a BCCA Member: 12 **Number of Bearded Collie Litters Bred:** 8

Number of Champion Bearded Collies Owned or Bred: 10

Number of Judging Assignments in the Past: 1, BCCA regional specialty, July 2024

I have attended BCCA National Specialties as an exhibitor and observer.

If you have judged Sweepstakes at a BCCA National Specialty before, what year(s) did you judge? 2003

How does coat, movement, outline, structure and temperament influence your evaluation of a Bearded Collie?

At first glance, the dog must have breed type with a long/lean outline and correct proportion of leg under the body. There should be free flowing movement and the ability to cover ground with little effort and the structure to match. Temperament is also very important; even tempered nature or even a bit naughty, but an overly shy dog makes for a difficult exam, and this is improper for the breed. Coat is the icing on the cake, but it should not be so profuse that it obscures the beautiful outline of the dog. The coat should have proper texture; a nice harsh, easy to maintain coat.

MARYANN SZALKA (KY, After Dark)

Number of Years in Dogs: 40

Number of years in Bearded Collies: 30

Number of years involved in AKC activities: 30

How long have you been a BCCA member? 25

Number of Bearded Collie litters bred: 5

Number of Champion Bearded Collies owned or bred: 10

Number of judging assignments in the past: 3

I have attended BCCA National Specialties as an Exhibitor and Observer

How does coat, movement, outline, structure and temperament influence your evaluation of a Bearded Collie?

To me, a dog moving correctly is poetry in motion. Temperament is as important as movement, since a dog must be mentally and physically able to perform at its best whatever the venue. Having said that, many things make a Beardie a Beardie, and the dog must be judged looking at the whole picture – gait, temperament, and physical presentation