

# 15th Highland Cattle Show

## Sports Hall of Wichtrach BE, Switzerland

'Continuous improvement in the international ranking'



Judge Robert Philipp (left) and commentator and club president Walter Schluap inspecting the listed animals.

The Swiss Highland cattle breed has made a huge improvement in the last years (and don't forget: the Swiss Highland Cattle Society was founded only in 1995!). Judge Robert Philipp was delighted about the quality of the shown animals.

A remark that every Swiss Highland Cattle breeder loves to hear: "With your animals presented in this show you could keep up internationally to every show in every country!" Be it the testimony of a Scottish, German, Danish or English Judge: at least in this point, the experts – whom we invite from abroad especially for judging our show - agree. And this, although the Swiss Highland Cattle Society has existed for only 19 years: in the early nineties, intensive breeders would laugh about the Highland Cattle in Switzerland, but slowly this modest animal has conquered its space in the recent years especially in conservation areas and bogs, abandoned Alps, which threaten to revert back to steep slopes and areas with a poor supply of food, where every other cow would starve miserably. In the meantime, 10,000 of these beautiful shaggy horned animals live on a few hundred Swiss farms and their number is increasing constantly: they have become an economic and satisfying alternative for those emerging from dairy farming and switching to a beef breed.



Her cow HR-Evita was female reserve champion and she also won the award for the best group of animals from one breeder: lovely Rita Horat of Schwyz (with her father Robert (from left to right), breeder Ruedi Heger and brother Plus).

### Difficult choice for the Judge

This year, Judge Robert Philipp from North Yorkshire was particularly impressed by the females: when he had to honor the female champion among the seven female category winners, he was very impressed by their qualities and had a hard time to make his decision. But eventually he chose the three year old heifer "JGO-Corona" of Sepp Gisler from Oetwil am See ZH, a feminine and very beautiful animal. Reserve Champion was "HR-Evita" of Rita Horat from Schwyz; she also won the trophy for the best group of animals from one breeder, because her animals were a very harmonious and homogeneous group.

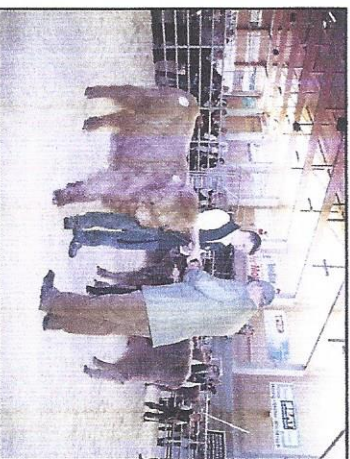


The trophy for the male champion was won by Ernst Bamert with "Urquhart of Broomrigg".

Male champion was the very impressive, mighty and beautiful five year old bull "Urquhart of Broomrigg" shown by Ernst Bamert from Gibswil ZH: "THIS is what I call a Highland bull; he shows character and all the breed characteristics that we want to see, his size and format make him a jewel", he gushed. Reserve Champion was "Peter" by Sepp Gisler who was very close to the champion said Robert Philipp, but: " Sometimes it's just a very small, fine detail that makes me decide, it can be a movement, the attitude - and within a split of a second I can tell the winning animal", he specified. He often praised the typical head shape of the breed, which emerged as one of the criteria for the winner. Among the almost 80 animals in the ring of Wichtrach the Judge has not seen one bad animal that should not have been taken to the show: a gratifying proof of the strong Swiss breeding status.



He won the award for best young bull under 30 months which was donated this year for the first time: "Destino" of Wolter Schluap, presented by Mr. Bravelheart Casey Vegetlin.



Our young breeders are our future: Noel Burger won the Young Breeders Cup with Burger's Califf 2.



A rare ceremony: Martin Braun from Goldwil (left) and Sepp Gisler from Oetwil were honored for participating EVERY Swiss Highland Show ever (15 times)!!!

### Première: the Young Bull Trophy

Sepp Gisler from Oetwil am See near Zurich has donated an award for the best and most promising young bull under 30 months which was won by the spirited white yearling "Destino" of Wolter Schluap from Reinach BL. The "Bantiger Award" for the best young cow was won by "Amira" of Ueli Rufer from Kirchenthurnen near Berne. It took some years to award an "Old Lady" again, a selection of cows that had more than 10 calves: "Well check out these strong, healthy and impressive cows at this age: they are the best proof of the quality and durability of the Highland Cattle! Which other breed can do the same?" said enthusiastic Robert Philipp. Best Old Lady was the 16-year-old "Anastasia" of Ueli Jost, Krauchthal BE, closely followed by "JGO Alice" (15) of Sepp Gisler, Oetwil am See ZH. Seven brave young breeders from 8 to 15 years showed with obvious pleasure the result of their training with the cattle: winner was the well experienced Noel Burger (15) from Les Prés d'Orvin (with the best male yearling "Burger's Califf 2") a youngster who probably started from the cradle with the Highland Cattle breed and who has been showing his motivation and enthusiasm for these animals for many years: several times he quietly and calmly presented the animals of his father Andreas. Every year a jury of children from the audience is asked to choose the nicest female animal, this time "Alina" of Werner Schiesser-Kalapos from Masein GR was "Miss Highland Show 2014".