

Maja Čosić

International judge for FCI group X., some breeds from group V. and lure coursing

I live in small Northern Croatian town called Varaždin with my husband and our borzoi Bart, that comes from my breeding. Spending my childhood around animals and with dogs, my love for them was always bringing me forward into the world of cynology. My family always owned various breeds of dogs, and since 15 years also borzoi.

After I graduated at university of law, I started working with international social benefits, but dogs were always my hobby that I very much enjoy. In my free time, I love to write articles about sighthounds for both Croatian and foreign magazines. Some of them describing sighthounds in sport, history and art were translated into English, German and Italian language.

Reading books about different breeds since my early age, I noticed the elegant hunting breed from Russia – borzoi, the dog of the Tsars. I fell in love with the breed's specific appearance and character, and decided to own one in the future. My dream came true in 2009, when I imported my first borzoi. Two more females were imported from their native land, Russia. In 2013, I registered a kennel name under the prefix *Allrussian* and bred my first borzoi litter in 2015. At the moment I cannot call myself a breeder, since my dogs got older. In January we lost our beloved Zara who would have been 12 years old in March.

As an active member of Sighthounds Club of Croatia, I am involved in organising almost every sighthound event in over a decade. Working with a great team of enthusiasts, I have spearheaded the recognition of *lure coursing* as an official sport in Croatia. Today, I am a head of Lure Coursing at Croatian Kennel Club and a Croatian delegate at FCI Commission for Sighthound Sport. I am also a long-time member of the Croatian Kennel Club's Disciplinary commission.

Earning my judging licence in 2017, I had an honour to judge shows and lure coursing events across the EU, mainly in my native Croatia, Hungary, Sweden, France, Austria, Slovenia, Norway, Denmark and Germany.

During my judging I look for soundness and type, the dogs that seem both beautiful, but also fit for function. I like to see strong fronts, something we are losing in the breed. Fronts are one of the most important part of borzoi, keeping the dog stable in the chase and in taking fast turns, so narrow and loose ones I consider bad for the breed. I hope for large and dark eyes, a pleasure to see in borzoi, the ones that are creating that soft and intelligent expressions. Judging the coat, I expect to see nice patterns, not too heavy coat, with just enough curls in the right places. I like to see strong loins, covered with muscles and creating correct topline. I do hope to see nice movements and nicely presented dogs, although I never expect dogs to behave like robots - it is not the way our breed is. For me it is a pleasure to see happy owners showing their beloved dogs, their family members. I always try to be as gentle as possible with unexperienced and young ones. We should all keep positive memories attending shows, with no stress, and return to the sport as much as we can.

I am really looking forward to the show in Finland, and hope to see many sound and happy dogs in my ring. This will be my first judging in your country, hope to see us again.

