

Back to Dachshunds. So many of them – and who do we really remember most? By universal vote, that and our friends, the most beautiful of them all was the lovely Ch Longreach Katie. Unfortunately, she was also lazy, greedy and not terribly bright! My own favourite was the SS Ch Windswept Solitaire – who had the most fantastic Dachshund temperament, as well as beautiful outline – and, a dog I bought from unfortunate surroundings, the lovely Standard Longhaired, who became BIS for us, Ch Longview Romany, he sired a lot of stock, which can be found behind present day bloodlines.

My husband fell in love with Flaunden Lady Sara (UK). She was possibly eight pounds of shining clear red Dachshund cheek – fully grown. She had been sadly spoiled by the captain on her voyage over with her sister, and, indeed, it was hard to resist her. She was bred to Ch W Mighty Mouse and produced a litter of 3, one of whom became a champion sire for us. This tiny stock has stood for us as a reminder that small Minnies can be bred from successfully, and what is more, breed on.

He also had a very soft spot for the Mini Wire Ch Windswept Dragonette, who was the first really big winning Mini Wire. She was a wheaten red, nice size – and had some very handsome wins.

Somewhere along the way, we sandwiched in a few Standard Wires – we found these fine to live with, and the puppies were easily placed. It is my hope to see them as popular as the other varieties in time.

Skipping over – how many years? Here we are, still judging, breeding (mating our best Mini bitch just recently, crossing



**Ch Windswept Ladybird,
Standard Wire,
dam of 3 champions**

fingers!) These days, we find it hard to keep breeding (our first interest) with shows, although there is a young red dog around the place who is BIS material in anyone's language.

It is always our particular joy to place a dog with a new exhibitor and put whatever knowledge we may have gleaned through the years at their disposal. We have had such fun looking out old memories for this article – luckily, Robin Hill has a copy of most of our slides, but so much of this early stuff will probably be junked one of these days.

How about an official archivist – or, just maybe, this magazine will prove to be a potted history of the dog world?

Sheridan Pausey

Harry Spira

Some forty five years ago a new veterinarian appeared at an All Breeds Dog Show to do the 'vetting'. In those days all dogs had to be examined by a qualified veterinarian before they could enter the Show Grounds. This very new, just out of University graduate was about to embark on two important missions in his life. The first was marriage, the second, and probably the most important, was to make a living. Of course I am writing about Harold Roger or HR or as I prefer, Harry Spira, BVSc, MACV SC, HDA.

Before I get too carried away, my task is to write a short article on Harry's involvement with Dachshunds and The Dachshund Club of NSW, so back to the beginning.

On this particular day, when the vetting was over we stayed on to watch the show. We really had no idea of what was happening but it held our interest for quite a while. Eventually Harry looked at me and said, "Margaret, I've just had a good idea – you should show and breed dogs".

Just why or how he decided on a Dachshund I can't remember, nor can I remember why they had to be Miniature Long Haired when there were so many good Standard Smooth Haired around. However four Miniature Long Haired Dachshunds arrived from England. I do remember the excitement of their arrival, but somehow I also felt I was being pushed into the deep end.

Harry couldn't do things by halves so We joined the Sporting Dog and Hound Club. At that time Dachshunds were classified as one breed regardless of

variety. The Dachshund Standard Smooth was a very recognised breed and usually did extremely well in Group or Best in Show line ups. So it looked rather ridiculous as each class of Dachshunds entered the ring – Standard Smooths with one Standard Long and me with a Miniature Long tacked on the end. We, with the 'lesser varieties' felt we were not getting a fair go (typical), but looking back I must admit that some of the quality was not that great.

Not satisfied with the Status Quo, Harry got together with some of the more established breeders of 'The Dachshund' and so the Dachshund Club of NSW was born, to be followed soon after with the recognition of each variety in its own right. Although the interbreeding between varieties had to be forfeited I think we all won in the long term.

At this point, I must mention that Harry was NOT an exhibitor, in fact he was only seen in the Show Ring handling a dog twice and on both occasions he came last. I don't think he really blamed the judging at the time, but just felt he could do better and so he turned his skills to becoming a dog judge and administrator. Just as well really, otherwise a good idea would not have turned out to be a lifetime of dedicated involvement!

Margaret Spira

Editor's note: *We were advised of an error in the article on page 43 of the last issue, as the Mornnyvarna imports in 1950 were imported by Dr and Mrs Spira and not by Mrs Katie Olver as reported by Bill Weston.*

Dr Spira was a world pioneer in the use of frozen semen, and the accompanying article would no doubt please him greatly.

POPSICLE PUPS

Debbie Clarke

Tekalhaus Long Hairs, England,



Mention Artificial Insemination to any dog person and they shake their heads in horror. A lot of people involved in my breed in the UK (Standard Long Haired Dachshunds) are of the opinion that it is not necessary as the gene pools have sufficient stud dogs available. That as maybe, but new blood should always be welcome in any breed.

The Kennel Club governs AI in the UK. First you have to submit an application outlining the reasons why you want to use the chosen dog from another country. This application is then submitted to two separate committees for approval. The time scale for this is anything from two months to five months. Once the application is approved, it is returned to the breeder, from the date of approval you have two years to complete the respective mating.

Now you have the approval you may go ahead and have the semen collected. In the USA the semen must be stored on official premises for a period of six months. The chosen stud dog will have undergone a medical and the kennels he resides at will also have had to be inspected and a certificate duly issued by the Vet stating no rabies is present or has been. Once the six months has expired, the stud dog is required to undergo a further medical to ensure that during the six months period he has not contracted rabies or any other disease.

Armed with the two medical certificates you now have to apply to the Ministry of Agriculture, Food & Fisheries for an import licence. This takes approximately 10 days provided the documentation is correct.

From there select a good shipping company who deal with livestock and you are nearly there. The company will require all the documents from you, the import certificate, medical certificates for the animal and a canister to transport the semen in. (obtained through your Vet for a small charge).

The shipping company then deal with everything from here and will even take the semen to the designated Vet for storage.

Sounds easy, doesn't it. Believe me, having now been through this twice, AI is not for the faint hearted. The two years deadline given is barely enough time if obtaining semen from a country that has rabies.

My first experience was importing from the USA. The semen was collected from the stud dog and stored at an approved facility. This took quite some time to be arranged and the clock was ticking. Unfortunately, Am Ch Boondox Ziggurat was being exported to Australia. I had to apply to MAFF for permission for the this to take place and they finally agreed provided a health certificate could be obtained after the six months period from the Vet over in Australia. Our close friends Judy & Alan Poulton were fantastic and arrange this in double quick time.

The paperwork is endless and the storage facility has their part to play in getting the papers correct to prevent further delays. Once at the Veterinary College you sit back and wait for your bitch to come into season. Our Bronte chose on this one occasion to be late! I had already enlisted the services of Senior Professor Gary England who is renowned as the top Veterinarian in obstetrics and reproduction in the UK. Bronte could not have been in better hands.

Finally in season, Bronte was inseminated 48 hours apart and scanned at 4 weeks to show she had six pups developing. At birth Bronte produced six healthy pups, three bitches and three males. This was the start of out new line at TEKALHAUS.

So delighted were we with this litter that having kept a

bitch and male, we decided to do it all over again. The reason you are all asking, having used an American dog and the lines were absolutely fantastic, so as not to lose this, we chose another outstanding male from the USA Am/Sth Afr Ch Siddachs Maestro. This time the dog was now resident in South Africa with Gerard Robinson.

We followed the same procedure, but the added complication we had in SA was that the Veterinarian Gerard was using had his own private storage facility at his home address. I contacted MAFF who insisted that the MAFF in Sth Africa check the facilities before they would issue a certificate for the use of private facilities. Yet another fly in the ointment. Again the clock was ticking and it all takes time. Finally they agree and Gerard then goes ahead and has the semen collected from Maestro. The same rules apply; six months storage, then further checks and issuing of certificates. We used the same shipping company and arranged for the flask from Gary England. I left it all in their hands and flew to the USA for The Dachshund Club National. I fully expected to return and find the semen in the safe hands of the Royal Veterinary College. How wrong could one be? There had been a hiccup with the paperwork and because I was not in the country everything ground to a halt. The import certificate had not been sent to the Shipping agents as was promised.

Christmas is now on us and I had a feeling we would have to wait until after the festive season. Persistence on my part, and probably driving the shipping agent to total distraction, the semen arrived before Christmas.

Dion came into season on time, unlike her mother, but Foot & Mouth had struck, one day before her first insemination and the Royal Veterinary College was closed to everybody. I was in a state of panic as time was now not on our side. After great deliberation Gary England arranged for permission to carry out the inseminations for us, but we did not have the luxury of having a 48hour gap between them. A farm was infected two miles from the College and the College had to be cautious. I was just grateful Gary England was able to perform the insemination.

The photograph in this article is the result of two generations of AI breeding from dogs originating from the United States. Tekalhaus Kruggerand aka Cally is now 14 months old and has just won her first Challenge Certificate. Cally requires two more to be made up to a Champion.

Had it not been for Judy & Alan Poulton and Gerard Robinson for allowing us to use their fabulous dogs none of this would have happened. We have truly established a line to build on for the future of the breed in Std L/H Dachshunds.