

from Paula Heikkinen-Lehkonen at the World Show  
**The Norwegian Poodle did it!**

To win Best in Show both at Crufts and the World Show in the same year is something no-one in the dog world dares to dream about. These two shows can be considered the most important dog events in the world. There were 20 000 dogs at Crufts, somewhat less in the FCI World Show at Amsterdam, but anyhow, 14 000 dogs from all over the world is a remarkable figure. And it is not just ANY dogs. Most of the participants belong to the absolute elite of the dogdom.

The name of the Norwegian Standard Poodle "King" Int Ch Topscore Contradiction, will stay forever in the history of the dog world. He did the impossible and won Best in Show in both these huge and prestigious shows. The Glenna family certainly could not, in their wildest dreams, have any idea what was coming, when three years ago they bought the white male puppy from Astrid Giercksky. Astrid is known to be one of the most talented Poodle breeders in the world, and has bred numerous big winners during the years. However, King is out of her first litter of Standard Poodles, all her previous breeding has been smaller sizes. The Glennas are total newcomers in the show rings, they have just had one dog before King, and that was not a showdog.

**You only need a good dog**

The Poodle is not a breed a newcomer can just take, walk into the ring and win. First, the coat preparation needs professional skills. Especially in the Scandinavian countries the overall level in the breed is high, there are always many high quality Poodles in the shows, so it is not easy to win Best of Breed. The dog must be in perfect condition, and the groomer and the handler must know exactly what they are doing. So, the Glennas have trusted the showing to the capable hands of Mikael Nilsson, a skilful young Swedish-born Poodle breeder and groomer and a good friend of Astrid's. This team has turned out to be invincible. First they conquered Crufts, the Mecca of dogdom. And now the World Show.

The story of King proves that you don't need to be a big name in the dog world to be successful, nor particularly wealthy. What you need is a good dog, and then take good care of it. King is a very typical Scandinavian showdog. He does not live in a kennel but as a member of the family. He is a happy dog, goes walking every day and does all the usual things dogs do. I am sure the Glenna family would love him just as much even if he had never won anything. Of course it is nice to have success, but it is not the main thing. Showing dogs is just a hobby. This is the way the dogs are kept in the Nordic countries. King also comes from a typical Scandinavian breeder, who has never had large numbers of dogs, but always quality. The breeding is planned very carefully. King comes out of a combination of Scandinavian, British and American lines, which is quite typical for the unprejudiced Scandinavian breeders.

The whole World Show was quite a triumph for Scandinavia, as the Reserve BIS, the Puli, comes from Denmark. Two of the Group winners came from Sweden, the Flat-coated

Retriever and the Irish Terrier. As a matter of fact, all the three placed ones in the FCI Group 9, Toys and Companion Dogs, came from Norway. In the Terrier Group all the placings went to Scandinavian dogs, too. The Best Veteran of the Show winner was a Swedish Whippet, and out of the four Best Breeder's Groups of each day two came from Sweden, one from Finland, and many other final placements were occupied by the Nordic dogs. The Northern dogs are not just beautiful, but clever, too. The Obedience World Cup, which was held in conjunction with the World Show, was another big triumph for the Scandinavians. The winning team was the Swedish one, while silver medals went to the Finnish team and bronze to the Norwegians.

**More and more international**

Actually, on occasions like the World Shows, it is not so important who wins. It is a big international meeting-point. There were dogs from 63 different countries entered, and spectators from even more countries. It is a brilliant opportunity to the breeders of different countries to meet, make acquaintances,

see each other's dogs and compare them. This hopefully also gradually makes uniform the ideas about breeding, correct breed type, breed standards, judging procedures and so on. To judge and to compete internationally would be much easier, if for instance all the countries had the same rules and qualifications, same breed standards, same Groups etc.

Some other regulations, which we dog people are unfortunately not responsible for, cause problems in the international co-operation. In the Netherlands, like in many other European countries nowadays, is not allowed to show docked and cropped dogs (born after certain dates), and that inevitably limits the number of entries. The dog owners of those countries, where docking and cropping is still legal, feel very disappointed when they cannot take part. There are also many countries with strict quarantine regulations, and for them it is practically impossible to go.

Nowadays it is possible, although complicated, for the exhibitors in the EU countries to show their dogs in England. This year the British dog scene was shocked by all these foreign dogs who came and won at Crufts. One could expect that "the Empire strikes back" and that British dogs would come in numbers and beat the Continental ones, especially when the Netherlands is not far away. Well, about 300 dogs from the UK were entered and some of them did very well indeed, but somehow one could have expected even more.

The biggest number of participants came, of course, from the host country. But again, one could have expected more dogs from a country of short distances and good roads, like the nearest neighbouring countries, Belgium and Germany. The entry fees were quite high, and may be many breeders were satisfied to enter just one or two dogs instead of more.

**The top ten list:**

The Netherlands	3845	Sweden	702
Germany	1864	Russia	597
Italy	1035	Finland	528
Belgium	967	Denmark	490
France	91	Spain	424



(Above) BIS the Standard Poodle Int Ch Topscore Contradiction and (Left) RUBIS the Puli Napfenyvarosi Csahos Josag

(Below) The Obedience World Cup. Gold to the Swedish team, silver to the Finns and bronze to the Norwegians. (Bottom right) Winner of the Junior Handlers final (Bottom left) Best Puppy in Show Pekingese Become a Star Dragon Aleks Runner up Chow Chow Tin Pan Alley A Chilly Pepper

