

Dachshunds in Australia –

Where are they from?

Bill Weston

Few of us are aware that Dachshunds, or at least the Smooth variety, have been in Australia since the late 1800s, 1885 to be specific when the first Smooth-haired Dachshunds arrived in Victoria from Germany. But it was not until after the Second World War that the breed with its varieties really took off as far as breeding and showing is concerned.

Several imports of Smooths, some from Germany, arrived between 1885 and the 1930s, with a break during the First World War. A few appeared in the dog ring, and the variety gained some popularity as pets in the 1930s. As would be expected, showing and breeding ceased during World War II, and we understand the early Dachshunds died out, with their influence on the breed thus ceasing.

Emergence of the “modern” Smooth-haired Dachshund

Soon after the War the “modern” Smooth-haired Dachshund appeared on the scene when very important and much admired imports arrived from England. The first, in 1947, were two from the Berneray kennels, bred from **Ch Silvae Zebo**, leading sire in England at that time. In the same year Reg Mitchell in Victoria received **Barkesvale Merry Boy**, and saw him gain Best in Show at the 1948 Sydney Royal. In 1950 a most significant English dog arrived at Wally Johnston's Landeck kennels in Victoria: **Ch Silvae Query**.

This dog is claimed to have had the most influence on the breed, bringing it to a very high standard and popularising them as show dogs and pets in the 1950s. We knew Wally Johnson well in the '60s. He was disabled and required handlers for his dogs. But with his walking stick he trained them to stand in the show ring like no Dachshunds had stood before; and his breeding was much sought after.



Silvae Query

(Unfortunately, his head is slightly cut off in the original picture)

In the '50s and '60s there were major imports of Smooths to almost all States. These included the famous **Ch Silvae Keepsake** (who won 16 BIS, and the Hound Group at the 1958 Melbourne Royal), **Ch Zilla of Weyher, Rouge D'or Von Der Howitt** (a red dog, the progenitor of many red dogs right up to today), and **Ch Womack Wright Royalshow**, a 1964 import to NSW which achieved the top honour for the Berge Phillips' (Lohengrin) of winning the 1966 Melbourne Royal Show.

In the late '60s Mesdames Matthews and Mackinolty of Dubrovnik kennels in Sydney acquired **Ch Dachswan Phantom** who became famous for siring the great **Ch Leura Liberace**. I say “great” as this dog, owned by Tommy Knight (Leura), was virtually unbeatable in the show ring and gained the long-standing record of winning over 100 Bests in Show. He was behind at least one major NSW kennels, Heinton in Goulburn which bred many champions and won numerous best in shows with various dogs in the 1970s.

The various lines created by these and other productive imports have intermingled in the various States and resulted in many other successful kennels from the '60s onwards, such as Dubrovnik, Korbach, Tandom, Heinton and Nicholyev (NSW), Romalo in SA, Nillbua and Millewa (Vic), and in today's kennels such as Jumarnic in Sydney.

Long-haired Dachshunds

The Australian history of the “Longs” is shorter than for their Smooth relatives although their background as show dogs in England goes back to about the same date. It commenced in Victoria in the early 1940s when Cecily Crozier and Sylvia Green were partners with some Long-hairs, recessives bred from Smooth-hairs carrying the gene. Mrs Crozier established her long-lasting Longlo Kennels at Croydon, outside of Melbourne, in 1943, and at the end of the decade imported the first of this variety into Australia, some dogs from the Hilltrees and Primrosepatch Kennels in England. From these she bred **Ch Longlo Wald Madel**, the foundation bitch for the first successful Long-haired kennel in Australia, and played a big part in popularising the variety. Another well known Long-haired kennel in Victoria in the 1960s, but not as successful as Longlo, was Ann Banks' Lowlane kennels near Mordialloc.

In 1953 Ruth Simon (Simeon kennels in Sydney) imported **Consort of Stutton** from England and two NZ bitches, commencing a successful Long-haired line in NSW. Mrs Simon's breeding did well and in fact she gained bests in show at NSW Dachshund Club shows, but to my knowledge did not sell any of her breeding to other exhibitors. About 1962 Mrs Simon brought in **Eng Ch Red Rock of Albaney**, and in 1964 **Ch Simeon Coffee Bean** (her prefix had been registered in England). The latter was the son of the big-winning and prolific sire, **Ch Imber Coffee Bean**, and a bitch that was a recessive LH from two smooth hairs. We used Red Rock and Coffee Bean to two of our LH bitches, and obtained a litter of eleven (a record) from the Red Rock mating. Coffee Bean's arrival resulted in the production of a number of champions by various kennels in Eastern Australia, and for us it provided a successful son, **Ch Fanfare Dr Livingston** who was the first Long-haired Dachshund to win a Best in Group at a Royal Show (Melbourne 1972).

Other Imber imports came to Australia in the following 30 years, and historian Jean Davs claims “...the best in the country... all carry Imber bloodlines”.

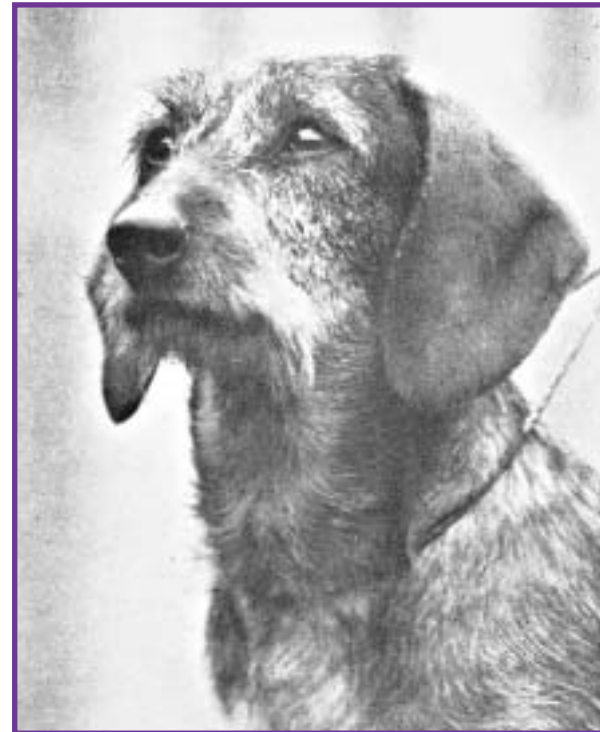
A number of other successful Long-haired kennels were established throughout Australia from the 1960s onwards such as Dachelheim, Dawnwood and Heulen in NSW. Lohengrin (Sydney) emerged in the 1970s as a very strong LH kennel at that time and later until Rhonda Berge Phillips' death. A Coffee Bean son and prominent sire, **Ch Lohengrin Espresso**, was a big winner for the kennels and appears in the extended pedigrees of many champions.

Since those days a number of Long-haired breeders have obtained dogs from England, New Zealand and in recent years, USA. Kennels which have imported or benefited from the injection of overseas and mainly English blood in past decades include Nicholyev and Imlay from NSW, Garrod (SA) and Millewa (Vic). Keaton (SA) which used Lohengrin stock and the imports behind it in the last decade or so have bred some of the best Long-hairs in Australia,

Mornoble, established in Western Australia for some years now, recently won best in show at Perth Royal. Sandra Mundt, long established LHD breeder in Queensland, imported valuable British stock into that State in recent years and has had considerable success with breeding and showing there.



Ch Fanfare Dr Livingston



Ferdle of Seale (imp UK)

Wire-haired Dachshunds

This variety is seen everywhere in Europe as a firm favourite there, on the streets and in parks on leads, and sometimes on knees on public transport. But not so in Australia where the Wire-haired's progress as a popular variety has been unwarrantedly slow. Perhaps it is to do with the coat preparation. Who knows?

Anthea Cunningham of Urangeline Kennels in Victoria, and now retired in Queensland, has been a stalwart of the breed.

In 1955 she imported the first Wire, **Ferdle of Seale**, from a major English Kennel, while Mrs H Mackinolty of Dubrovnik in NSW gained a bitch, **Miss Deeds of Wytchend**. These two breeders joined forces forming the Zan Haairig Wire-haired kennels. Other imports came in the '50s, but they appear to have had no effect on breeding.

The Dalton Kennels, staunch adherents to the breed, were established in Sydney in 1959. Over the years they and others have imported some dogs and bitches into NSW, WA and Tasmania, but although individual dogs have been admired, their attraction has been insufficient it seems to produce more entries at the average show, and other than a very small number at Royal Shows.

Miniature Smooth-haired Dachshunds

Once the poor relation of the Smooth-hairs, they have now gained a significant place in the Dachshund hierarchy with often, in fact, more entries at shows than their bigger brothers.

Audrey Randall (Vic) owned the first registered MSH, her 1950 import **Ch Fritz Probus**, the foundation dog for her late well-known Minidach Kennels, and the first of the breed to become an Australian Champion. More were imported by Mrs Randall and some other Victorians in the next few years, including her **Ch Avonrise Great Stephanie** who won Best Opposite all varieties at the 1956 Melbourne Royal. The early type steadily improved with the imports, and particularly heads which, in the 1960s had some way to go, to reach the quality of today.

Audrey Randall's friend, Lorna Freyberg of Weedach Kennels (Croydon, Vic) was also a successful MSH breeder, competing with Minidach from 1954. She imported **Ch Charlotte of Bettmark** in 1958, and her kennels flourished. Another Victorian breeder, ex-ballet dancing teacher Miss Clare Aytoun of Ashintully Kennels, imported a red dog, **Ch Challenge of Wendlitt** in 1959, and also bred and exhibited some dapple dogs in the 1960s. Heather Guy of Longview Kennels, Eltham Victoria, was a prolific breeder of Dachshunds who based her MSH breeding on Weedach and Windswept lines. Another Victorian breeder, Phyl Fredricksson of Phylben Kennels, started in the 1960s with NSW stock and continued for about two decades, eventually transferring to Miniature Wires.

Sheridan Pausey commenced her Windswept Kennels in Sydney in the 1950s, and bred MSH Dachshunds in addition to her other breeds. She brought in dogs from England, and a famous import for her was **Ch Annersley Magic Flute** whose descendants included **Ch Windswept Love and Kisses**, Best Opposite Sex at the 1963 Sydney Royal.

From the 1960s Queensland contributed strongly to the MSH advancement through the Bela, Delargy and Saint Barbara