

ISTVAN NAGY —

FCI JUDGE AND PRESIDENT, HUNGARIAN KENNEL CLUB

Mr Istvan Nagy traveled from Hungary with his delightful wife, Zsuzsa, to judge the conformation classes at the 4th German Shorthaired Pointer National Show in Adelaide in August/September. On the Monday after the show, Istvan and Zsuzsa told me all about themselves and the dog world in Hungary. They are a delightful couple who met each other 10 years ago when Zsuzsa was exhibiting a Hungarian Vizsla and Istvan was the judge. They have been married for 6 years and share their love of dogs and the fancy. They have no children but Zsuzsa told me with a twinkle in her eye that they are working on it. Istvan has 2 grown daughters from his previous marriage.

Istvan is half way through his 4-year term as President of the Hungarian Kennel Club (MEOE) which has 18,000 members from a total population of 10 million. It was established in 1899 and has functioned continuously since then, including the time when the Soviet Union occupied Hungary. In 1936, the MEOE was a founding member of the FCI. In 1971 and in 1996 (with Austria), the MEOE hosted the World Dog Show and in 1993 the European Championship Show. Hungarian members are very successful in European and World Shows, out of proportion to the size of their country. Istvan credits this success to the high quality of the dogs bred in Hungary. At Amsterdam this year, there were 240 Hungarian entries, which yielded 25 World Champions. The best result was achieved by Malomkozi Treff, bred, owned

and handled by Istvan and Zsuzsa, who won First Place in the Pointing Group. The judge was none other than FCI President Hans Muller.

Istvan is licensed to judge 5 FCI groups – Terriers, Dachshunds, Scenthounds, Pointing Dogs (English and Continental) and Spaniels, Retrievers and Water Dogs. His first group was Pointing Dogs, which he has judged for 25 years in 30 different countries. He achieved his 3rd group ten years ago, entitling him to judge Best in Show (FCI). This is his first time in Australia.

Istvan founded his kennel in 1968. He has bred 12 International, 2 Reserve European, 4 European, 3 Reserve World and 7 World Champion dogs. His first breed was the Hungarian Vizsla but the breed closest to his heart is the German Shorthaired Pointer. He started his Shorthair breeding with German lines from Rothenuffeln and Uphuser Kolk. He then introduced Osterberg blood from Albert Lemmer's kennel. They have a very promising solid liver youngster, Malomkozi Dekeg, who was the junior breed winner at Amsterdam and who is better than Treff in Istvan's opinion. Currently, they have GSPs, Labradors, Dachshunds and Vizslas in their kennel but have also bred Bassets and Cocker Spaniels. Their prefix "Malomkozi" is the name of the street in their hometown, Kecskemet, where Istvan was born and where his parents still live. He is a dog person through and through, interested in all breeds of dog and the qualities they exhibit.



hare but pheasant, duck, deer and boar are also hunted.

Istvan said that he was very surprised by the size of the entry (187) at Adelaide. In Europe, he would expect 70-100 dogs at a specialty show for any breed. He was impressed by the number of people who are active in the GSP breed in Australia, which indicates to him that the breed is a popular Gundog here. He complimented the exhibitors on their beautiful presentation of the dogs who were all in excellent condition and on the presentation of the exhibitors themselves (comments were made here about the interviewer's hot pink socks). He found the sportsmanship of the handlers unbelievably good, irrespective of their dog's placing, and their attitude excellent; all of which generated a very friendly atmosphere in which to judge the

dogs.

In his opinion, some of the male dogs were overdone with too much bone and bulk. He likes a male to be elegant and refined and he thought that this was missing in some males. The heads were consistently short and broad with too much flew and light eye colour. He did not find any nice, dark eyes. The bodies were good and compact with well-angled hinds and fronts. Movement was very good, typical, elegant and sound although some were close behind. Pigmentation was very good which, for Istvan, is very important in a Shorthair. He thought length and size of ears needed improvement as the ears of both males and females were not sufficiently rounded being too pointed and too big and heavy. The size of dogs was in the ideal range although bitches were approaching the higher end of the standard. About one third of the bitches were too heavy and masculine in appearance. On the other hand, there were very few feminine looking dogs.

On the whole, Istvan thought the bitches were better quality and were developing in a better direction than the dogs. They had elegant dry heads with proper balance and length and better eye colour. The front construction of the bitches was very good with well-muscled necks flowing into shoulders. This is lacking in dogs in Germany at present. There were many good chests and good front leg placement. About 10% were too straight in front and this must be corrected. Teeth were excellent, given the number of dogs exhibited. Only 3 animals had a close bite, 2 had a double P1 and one was missing a P4.

Hindquarters were good, well muscled and nicely angled but breeders must improve short and steep croups and the tendency to an upright tail. This has a bearing on close movement behind and lack of drive, which detracts from the whole of the dog. By comparison fronts were very good both standing and moving.

Istvan and Zsuzsa expressed their heartfelt gratitude to the German Shorthaired Pointer Club of South Australia for the invitation to judge the Australian National specialty show. They regarded it as a very special privilege. They were enjoying their time here and the company of Victorian breed stalwarts Michael and Margaret Starow ("Althof" prefix) who acted as both chaperones and interpreters. And they were looking forward to sitting on the sidelines at the Adelaide Royal the next day to watch and enjoy the GSPs without the pressure of judging them.

CHRISTINE CUNNINGHAM

He has been a member of Keskemet's All Breeds Kennel Club for more than 30 years and served as its President for 15 years. The club holds an all breeds show every year and held its 10th CACIB show in 2000. Hungary hosts 5 international shows each year. The first and last shows are held in Budapest and the other 3 are each held in a region of Hungary. In addition, 12 National all breeds shows are held as well as breed specialty shows. The Hungarian GSP Club, which includes Wirehairs, has existed for 26 years and has an active membership of more than 300 who show and work their dogs regularly. Istvan was the Secretary of the Club for 10 years until he became President of the MEOE.

Dogs can attain various titles in Hungary. Junior Champion is awarded to a dog which achieves 3 first places in the Junior (9-18 months) class under 2 different judges, one of which must be at an international show. Hungarian Champion is awarded to a dog, which wins 3 CAC titles under 2 different judges, one of which must be at an international show. There must be not less than one year and one day between the first and the last win. The dog must also be awarded first prize at a working test. The working test comprises 24 different tests for fieldwork, water work, retrieving, tracking, style and speed. 6 of the tests are for water work and the remaining 18 are on land. If the dog receives a Pass certificate then it is qualified as a dog with working ability. Istvan has been qualified to judge these tests since 1976 and judges them throughout Europe on a regular basis.

The Hungarian Grand Champion title is awarded to a dog who wins 3 first places in the Champion class under 2 different judges and one Best of Breed. Again, there must be not less than one year and one day between the first and the last win. This year Hungary introduced a new title, Hungarian Show Champion, which caters to a need expressed by exhibitors who did not work their dogs. The dogs must win 6 first places in open competition under 5 different judges, 3 of which must be at international or specialty shows but they do not have to pass a working test. This change recognised the fact that there are some breeds in Hungary who do not work and was introduced to keep the exhibitors of these breeds interested and involved in the fancy.

Istvan has hunted with his dogs for 28 years. There is no organised hunting in Hungary and guns are the usual weapons. Bows and crossbows are only now being introduced. The game is primarily rabbit and

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