

Profile: Christian Manelopoulos, USA Professional Handler and ex-patriate Aussie



Ch Cotian Style and Splash winning BIS at the PCA 2004

Erica Thomas-Howe interviewed ETH: Congratulations to you and Rachel on another very successful PCA. BOV Standard two years in a row with the same bitch is quite an achievement, especially as she won BIS last year and took BIG at Westminster 2007.

I know you were born and grew up Melbourne, Victoria, but can you tell us a little about your family background and when you become involved with dogs and dog shows?

CM: My father was a Greek immigrant and my mother was an English immigrant. My family always had Toy Poodles when I was a child, but the first dog I showed seriously was a "Taraglen" Irish Setter that Keith McCarthy bred. While living in Australia I mainly concentrated on showing the three Setter breeds, my own Irish Setters and English Setters from Bev Watts and Gordon Setters from Robin Wallis. I also showed some of Bev Watt's Pointers, as well as Golden Retrievers and Greyhounds for Lyn Watson. I also co-owned a Toy Poodle "Bernhard" with Alayne Hanson.

ETH: When did you go to the USA?

CM: I moved to the USA in 1992 to pursue my dream of becoming a

professional handler. I initially worked for Joe and Pauline Waterman, primarily concentrating on Bichon Frise. I lived in Los Angeles for four years and then moved to Seattle to work for Tim Brazier, where I was exclusively involved with Poodles.

ETH: How long did you remain in Seattle and where did you go from there?

CM: I worked for Tim for five years before moving to North Carolina where I live today.

ETH: Your partnership with fellow professional handler and presenter extraordinaire, Rachel Corbin has been very successful, can you tell me when you first met and when you set up on your own as a handler?

CM: I first met Rachel in 1993 at a dog show in New Mexico. We were friends for many years but finally got together in 1999. We were married in 2000. This coincided with our decision to set up on our own as handlers. We moved to North Carolina in late 2000.

ETH: You have an amazing track record at PCA, having handled Best in Show on three occasions.

CM: Yes, I handled BIS at PCA in 2000, 2004, 2006 and BOV in 2007. BIS 2000 with Miniature Ch Penhurst Just Shoot Me. Owners Penny Dugan and Christine Feldman Bartnick. BIS 2004 with Standard Ch Cotian Style and Splash. Owners Zuleika Torrealba and Debbie Cozart. BIS 2006 and BOV 2007 with Standard Ch Brighton Minimoto. Owners Cindy Coggin, Don Rochow & Zuleika Torrealba. In addition to these wins Rachel and I have also handled 8 Winners Dogs or Bitches at PCA.

ETH: Apart from your many PCA successes what would be your other most memorable win or achievement?

CM: I think the most memorable win to date, other than BIS at PCA, would be Group First at Westminster 2007 with Ch Brighton Minimoto.

Rachel and I have won around 70 Best in Shows in the USA and have finished over 250 Poodle champions. We have shown dogs from around the world, including poodles from Sweden, Denmark, Brazil, Mexico, Canada, France, England and of course Australia. I try to do my best to promote Australian Poodles in the USA. Ch Cotian Style and Splash, for example, was bred in Western Australia, and was No1 Standard Poodle 2004 and Non Sporting Dog of the Year winner in 2004 in America.

ETH: Thanks for your time Chris and all the best for next year.

Kusa Nat Dog 07 SA Ch Marechal Positive Accent (imp Aust)

"Usher" was bred by Erica Thomas Howe and Roslyn and Edwina Thomas of Marechal Standard Poodles, out of Grand Ch Marechal La Vida Loce (daughter of Am and Aust Ch Picardy My Marechal (iid USA)) and sired by Aust Ch Brammarps Accent on Marechal (imp Sweden). Edwina, who lives in South Africa saw Usher as a small baby and suggested to Jane Kiefer that he should come to South Africa as a potential mate for Jane's top winning Standard Bitch Ch Stelizane Thandi Girl. In partnership with Tracy McQuarrie, Jane imported Usher and the rest is history.

The last 12 months have been very exciting with Usher ending up Top Dog All Breeds in SA for 2007. Along the way he was crowned KUSA National Dog 07, and this win saw him selected as SA's representative for the Eukanuba World Challenge in Long Beach, California, in December.

Usher has many All Breed Best in Show and Reserve Best in Show wins to his credit, perhaps the most prestigious of which include Best in Show TKC 2005, Res BIS SALKA 2006, Res BIS TKC 2007 and BIS SALKA 2007. TKC and SALKA are the two biggest shows in South Africa. He also won TKC Supreme Dog this year, which is a competition for all the BIS winners from the previous 12 months.

Usher is also ready to compete in Agility but has had a year off as tearing down the ramps tends to wear all the hair off on the back of his hocks! He lives with Jane and her three children and plays cricket and soccer with the kids every afternoon. They all want Usher on their team! "Team Usher" consists of Jane (handler and best friend), Tracy and Markus (cheer squad), Thembi (bather) and Edwina (scissorer). His success has really been a team effort.

At the time of going to press Usher is in America with Jane and Tracy preparing for the Eukanuba World Challenge, and has already won his two necessary "majors" towards his American Championship, owner handled by Jane.

Edwina Thomas



(A tongue-in-cheek look at doodle crosses)

the ponydoodle

With the recent tremendous marketing of Poodle crosses, we thought a cross that had unique qualities not already found in the Poodle made more sense.

After long hours in the lab tinkering with the DNA, we have created a "doodle" which does not lessen the original.

(Note: A couple of "My Little Pony" toys accidentally fell in the gene splicer, hence the neon-pink hair.)

In addition to the traits of the Poodle, the Ponydoodle can be ridden by small children, mow your lawn, and can be maintained on either a meat-based diet or on hay and grain - thereby cutting the cost of feed.

Original Ad by Carole Beresh
www.dogsinstyle.com

It would be wise to reserve your Ponydoodle now... this will be the hot new pet of the century!!



Chii, our new brown Ponydoodle foal fresh from the cabbage patch.

Kitty's daughter Winnie (Carole Jones' Tails I Win) is maintained on pasture grass, kibble, and grain (with an occasional raw chicken wing)



Reserve your Ponydoodle now!!!

Our Ponydoodles are between 21-24 inches tall. They have great dispositions and are patient with small children. They are highly intelligent, learn quickly, and are eager to please.

Ponydoodles are athletic and excel in such events as jumping, driving, obstacles, halter, and 'liberty' classes (where the Ponydoodle is turned loose in a ring to perform to music).

Being somewhat stronger swimmers than their Poodle counterparts (occasionally wild Ponydoodles have been seen swimming the bay between Chincoteague and Assateague), Ponydoodles have also done remarkably well in duck retrieving trials.

Best of all, after a day in the pasture or working in the performance ring, Ponydoodles can curl up beside you on the sofa to watch TV.

