

## “Britain’s greatest showdog of all time was bred in Australia”

YOGI the Hungarian Vizsla from Australia has broken the record for BIS wins at UK general championship shows which has stood for more than 70 years.

At Manchester ShCh/AustCh Hungargunn Bear ltn Mind won his 17th such award which put him ahead of the Scottish Terrier Ch Heather Realisation, who won his 16th BIS at the National Show in 1937.

Yogi has achieved this record with at least one BIS each year since he arrived in the UK in 2005. In addition he is the breed CC record holder, was Top Dog all breeds in 2006 – by an astonishing margin – and 2007, top Gundog in 2008 and was still among the top ten of All Breeds last year.

He has also made a big impact on the breed as a stud dog, was Top Stud Dog all breeds in 2009 and runner-up the year before.

### Champions

He was bred in New South Wales by Naomi Cragg, is co-owned by her with Kathryn Armstrong, lives at Kathryn and Moray Armstrong’s Bitcon kennel near Carlisle and is handled by John Thirlwell or by Moray.

Naomi and husband Andrew started in Vizslas in the early 1990s and their small kennel has produced many Australian champions. Naomi has shown an English Springer as a teenager and some years later returned to the ring with Yogi’s grandfather Aust Ch Humeden Rousett Roland ET.

Yogi’s pedigree combines Australasian lines descending from British exports with, on his sire’s sides, two American males. He is by Aust Grand Ch Hubertus Dealers Choice ex Aust Ch Hungargunn Unforgettable.

Among the UK dogs who appear close up in his pedigree are AustCh Pitswarren Judah of Hubertus, AustCh Gardenway Kedvenc Andes, AustCh Gardenway Chekov and AustCh Russetmantle Goosander, and further back there are imports from the Galfrid, Gamelands and Saline kennels.

Yogi’s first show was at 12 weeks at the NSW Specialty where an American judge gave him Baby in Show. He won his first CC and BOB among adult champion competition at six months and was titled in one weekend of showing after his first birthday. He was Puppy in Show at the Spring Fair weekend in 2003 and took many other age awards and Group 2s.

In 2004 they returned to the Spring Fair, where Yogi won the Group under Moray Armstrong as well as Junior in Show under a judge from Uruguay. Next weekend he took a RUBIS and a BIS from Australian judges.

Moray, whose Bitcon kennel has owned and/or bred many titleholders in Cocker Spaniels plus Flat-coated Retrievers, Vizslas – including the previous CC record holder – and Welsh Springers, and John Thirlwell, who has been highly successful with the Ferndel Welsh Springers and has also has titleholders in Cockers, Pointers and Irish Setters, were on a judging trip to Sydney, and it was John who first noticed Yogi from the ringside.

Moray was equally impressed when he went over him, and asked to buy him, feeling he had much to contribute to the breed in the UK.

At first Naomi was not interested but after considerable discussion agreed to let him go to the UK on lease, shown in her name and that of Kathryn Armstrong. Initially this was for just two years but was subsequently extended.

He made his UK debut at National Gundog ‘05 days after his arrival, where he was BOB under Martyn Elliott with RUBIS from Pat Rhodes. Two outings and 22 days later he had his UK title, from Doreen Armstead and Terry Thorn, and two more Group 2s.

At Richmond he won his first UK Group, judge Chris Atkinson who then gave him the CC on at Manchester. His first BIS award came at Driffield under Jill Peak.

In 2006 he won no fewer than seven BIS: Manchester, (Eleanor Bothwell); Windsor, (Stuart Mallard); South Wales, (Steve Hall); Bournemouth, (Dennis Coxall); Welsh Kennel Club, (Frank Kane); Scottish KC, (Geoff Corish); and Belfast, (Jill Peak).



His 2007 wins came at Bournemouth, (Brenda Banbury); Darlington, (Martin Freeman); and Driffield, (Jeff Horswell). In 2008 he won at Manchester, (Ellis Hulm), and Richmond, (Zena Thorn-Andrews) and 2009 at Three Counties, (Jane Lilley), and a few days later at Border Union, Ken Sinclair.

This year he has topped the first two championship shows, Boston under Michael Quinney and now Manchester under Derek Smith.

He also headed the first Eukanuba Champion Stakes final, and won the Group at Crufts last year. He also has 13 RUBIS awards, 45 Group wins and 63 CCs.

In Australia he left several titled progeny in the show ring, obedience and agility, while in the UK he has sired nine titleholders, one of them a full champion.



## YOGI on the cover of National DOG Annual 2008

John and Moray said this week: *“As a dog Yogi is the same at home as he is in the ring, happy and full of life, always up for whatever you ask him to do. He mixes well with the other dogs, and enjoys his daily routine of a run down to the river with Flatcoats and other Vizslas – a pleasure to live with.”*

*“We spoke to Naomi on Sunday night. She was delighted – it was early morning in Australia. She was due to work from home, but didn’t expect to get much work done! We are sure the corks were popping and her telephone hot all day.”*

*“After seeing Yogi and deciding to bring him over, we never anticipated the records he would achieve, and can only thank everyone who helped him achieve these records for appreciating the qualities we saw in him.”*

Naomi commented: *“How do we feel? – amazing! I wish we were there to celebrate with Moray, Kathryn and John and to give Yogi a huge cuddle.”*

*“We still miss him terribly but find comfort in the success he’s had, the pleasure he brings us all and the progeny we have here. The son we kept, born from just one natural mating the very day he left Australian shores – we delayed his departure by a day to get this mating – is Aust Ch Hungargunn Hyperno, and he like his dad is an all-breeds BIS winner. Yogi also has grandkids here and they are shaping up very nicely.”*

*“We’re extremely honoured to have achieved such a record with our homebred Aussie Vizsla and thankful to Moray, Kathryn, John and for all the support we’ve received from friends in the UK as well as here in Australia and internationally. We’re truly grateful.”*

<http://www.dogworld.co.uk/News/04-front-cover>

Here is Yogi’s critique from Vizsla doyenne the late Gay Gottlieb of the famous Russetmantle kennel . . .

**This Vizsla is surely the blueprint! His conformation is outstanding, all that I have read about it and studied about shoulder and hind angulation is seen in this dog. All the proportions and angles are there, the measurements are correct. Well laid shoulders, the distance from withers to elbow to floor equal. His body slightly longer in length than his height. All through he answers the standard; a medium sized dog in appearance, distinguished, robust but lightly boned.**

**As his conformation is so correct, when he moves he takes the breath away, his balance and the ground he covers demonstrate his qualities as he elegantly flows around the ring, sound as a bell. On top of all this, his fine Gundog head has the kindest of expressions. He is a gentleman. I do indeed feel we are privileged to have the chance of sharing this handsome Vizsla with his Australian owners, we may never see another so good! All praise for his excellent condition and happy disposition.”**  
Gay Gottlieb (Russetmantle Kennels UK)

From the Dog World website:

Posted at 20:04 on 28 Jan 2010 by jemimaharrison | Report as inappropriate

*I feel this comment by Jemima Harrison about Yogi, on the Dog World website, is inappropriate.*

Beautiful dog, but in my view he’s being used too much at stud - I understand more than 10 per cent of registered vizsla puppies have been fathered by Yogi in the past two years. The above article contains the news that his son is a big winner too and will no doubt be used extensively. However fine one individual dog is, I do not think this is great news for the Vizsla gene pool.

Jemima Harrison made the BBC documentary Pedigree Dogs Exposed . . .

Reader’s comment: As far as most people “in the know” are aware, she has never bred a litter, but it doesn’t stop her being the ultimate authority on genetics and animal husbandry. Prior to the documentary, most people also “in the know” had never heard of her.