

## *Tina Lewis - Ragoosa Lhasa Apso's*

Having been elected as the Patron of The North of England Lhasa Apso Club I would like to say how pleased I was to accept this position, having been involved in the formation of the club from the very beginning and also being the clubs first chairman.

It is 10 years since I left England, and moved to Spain and I thought perhaps the newer members may want to know a little about my time within the breed, which spanned over twenty years.

Having first been involved in Shih Tzu's for some 3 years, I found myself more and more round the Lhasa ring at shows, and becoming more and more attracted to the breed, both in looks and temperament. It was on the 1st. March 1979 that I became the proud owner of Saxonsprings Amarillo, who I had on breeding terms from Jean Blyth.. She was out of the first litter sired by Eng. & Am. Ch. Orlanes Intrepid who, in my opinion, was not only a worthy champion but provided the new blood lines much needed in the breed.

Brillo, as she was known at home, was the dam of my first home bred Champion. Eng & Int. Ch Ragoosa Mitoyah who later became a Multiple Group and Reserve Best in Show winner, and top Lhasa 1984. She was later exported to Denmark where she continued her winning ways into veteran - a real show girl.

Although a very successful exhibitor over the years, I always saw myself as more of a breeder than exhibitor. I was fortunate enough to breed dogs who many judges, both breed and all rounder's alike, felt worthy of top honours, which was very satisfying. I mated Ragoosa Ain't She Quaint to Saxonsprings Swift Eagle and out of a litter of four produced three Champions - Ch. Ragoosa Masta Rasta, Ch. Ragoosa Do Wot and Ch. Ragoosa Live Wire.

Some of today's breeder/exhibitors first champions came from my kennel, and that too was great, and I know from the many thanks I received they were much appreciated by those concerned.

It was a great honour to be asked to Judge the breed at Crufts in 1999 and I thought that I would then retire from judging, but it was with the greatest of pleasure that I was asked to judge the first North of England Championship Show in 2001. My love of my dogs and the pride I felt in them was a big part of my life, for 20years.

One of the nicest things I remember and is a treasured memory for me was when I heard people say, "You can tell that's a Ragoosa." To breed to type is what all breeders should aim to do. I also think it was not only appearances, but the happy, sometimes mischievous temperaments my beloved dogs also had. One person once said I only bred from dogs with a sense of humour, many a true word.....

I would like to wish the club, and all its members, old and new, much happiness, and success in the breed, but as you all know, win or lose you are taking the best dogs home, of course.

When next in England, I hope to attend one of the clubs shows, and catch up with old friends, and hopefully make some new ones.

Best Regards

*Tina Lewis*

