

## A true fairy tale:

# MULTI CH San Jo All Gussied Up ROM

August 12, 1996, was the beginning of a new era in my life with Lhasa Apsos. On that very day CH San Jo All Gussied Up ROM took our home in possession.

I had been working with Lhasa Apsos since 1982, had owned a few, had done a bit of showing and had produced one or two litters, probably like most Lhasa owners start - and end - if nothing special happens.

In 1994 my husband, Kristian, was going to USA to visit a business connection in Bellevue, WA. We studied our American Lhasa books to see if we could find any Lhasa Apso kennels in the Pacific Northwest. And did we?! I shall spare you the details but Marianne Nixon, San Jo, was extremely kind and helpful. Through her we got further contacts and met with Bobbie Wood when she came to Denmark to judge our Club Show in November 1994.

Leslie Ann and Marianne Nixon had sent dogs to Juha Kares in Finland. One of them was CH San Jo All Gussied Up ROM. Gus was shown once in Denmark in 1994 and we were deeply impressed - we had never seen a dog of this quality in Denmark. Later we learned that Gus had sired a litter in Sweden and decided to buy a boy from that litter. Walkie came to us in September 1995.

When Gus in 1996 was offered to us we didn't hesitate, although he was supposed to have ended his show career - after all he was almost 8 years old.

Gus was the first Champion I have ever owned. He had had an impressive career with a long BOB and BIG list and held the titles American, Finnish and Norwegian CH when he came here.

In 1997 the European Dog Show was arranged in Copenhagen. I decided that this was the occasion for Gus to resume his show career. Well, he didn't win. Probably, his coat still wasn't ready for it - or perhaps, I wasn't ready!

But Gus was an excellent teacher. This immensely experienced show dog literally took me by my hand and guided me through the following shows. And what people believed was the end of a great career was only a new beginning. The Lhasa World has probably never seen such active pensioner! On August 17, 1997, Gus won CAC and finished as

Danish and Nordic Champion.

The next 2½ years brought a lot of wins together with Gus. With his agility and wonderful, fluent movements he was almost unbeatable as a veteran and his BVIS victories are numerous. This culminated with the Danish Kennel Club title All-Breed Veteran of the Year 1999 in Denmark.

1999 was a great year and the culmination came shortly after Gus' 11 years birthday. At the Copenhagen International 1999 the Lhasa Apsos were judged by highly respected breeder judge Pamela Cross-Stern, England. Out of 55 entered dogs Gus won BOB and the title Copenhagen Winner 99. Furthermore he continued to the final competitions and won BVIS. An impressive achievement of an 11 year old dog.

My show team those days consisted of Gus, his son Walkie and a bitch of my own, Ariyanta's Yo-Jana. During three golden years this impressive team won in total more than 20 national European and international Champion titles plus a handful of winner titles.

Gus' two grandchildren, Ariyanta's Ya-Ma and Ariyanta's Mari-Yana (Walkie x Yo-Jana), gradually took over and added a further 10 titles to the collection. When Gus finally ended his show career his list of titles said: American, Finnish, Norwegian, Danish, Nordic, Swedish, International and Luxemburg Champion, Copenhagen Winner 99 and a number of BIGs from his American career.

Unfortunately, we have never been able to get any puppies from Gus but the good fortune helped us. Back in USA Gus' children had been used and Bobbie Wood, Sarah Fitzgerald and Mary Powers had produced a litter from which we were offered one of the boys, CH Anbara Alasara Smart Stuff. And at the same time our good friends Debi and Cheryl at Free Spirit's offered another boy, Free Spirit's Christmas Comet.

Both these wonderful great-grandsons of Gus came to us in 2000. Stuff already had his American title whereas Comet came here just 4 months old. They have now entered the Ariyanta winning team and have had a lot of wins in several countries in Northern Europe this year: Both of them have added 4

CH titles to their list of merits.

And the future seems quite promising. Yo-Jana was bred to Comet and produced in February 2001 a most remarkable litter. Three of these dogs have been shown in the Nordic countries since puppy class.

Young bitch, Ariyanta's Yo-Ga, was almost unbeatable in the Puppy and Junior Classes with several impressive victories. In August she won BOS from Junior Class and her first CAC in Finland.

Young dog, Ariyanta's Yu-Ha, who has inherited Gus' beautiful golden coat, has performed well in the early classes - although often runner-up to litter sister Yo-Ga. But on his very first International show after being 18 months he won Danish CAC and reserve-CACIB.

The most successful of the litter is, however, Ariyanta's Yo-Hana. She had just one appearance in Puppy Class before having her international debut in March 2002. At the Malmö International in Sweden she won BOB from Junior Class just 13 months old. And within a short period she won 2 x BOB and 2 x BOS out of 5 shows in Sweden and BOS and CAC in Finland also. In June she was entered for the World Winner Dog Show 2002 in Amsterdam, Holland. This was one of the peaks of my show life: Yo-Hana won World Junior Winner 2002.

The importance of Gus to me and my kennels cannot be overestimated. We have travelled thousands of miles and have had glorious wins together. And the winning ability is passed on to his descendants.

Each and every day with Gus has been a pleasure. He has spent half his life with us and we have enjoyed every minute. We fear the day - in a not so distant future - where we shall no longer be allowed to see his beautiful head, his clear eyes and his divine look.

Gus is really one of a kind and we shall forever be indebted to Marianne Nixon for her brilliant and skillful breeding that has made all this possible!

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