

Miranda Blake's Collie (Rough) profile



Miranda moving Corydon Pol Roger at London & Provincial Ch show 2019, where he won BPIS

I had no escape from my life in rough collies – my parents met and courted at shows in 1959 and married in 1960. They went on to have one of the most successful rough collie kennels world-wide – Corydon.

I was due to be born on Crufts weekend 1968 – so mum jumped up and down a bit and I came 3 weeks early and was deposited with my nan, while my parents went and secured their first overseas export.



The first show I attended was an EACA show when I was 4 months old – and now I am Secretary of the club!

My first win was a Best In Match above a pub in Newark, handling Corydon King Hector – and he was way bigger than me! I was 4 years old. I was a useless junior handler and did very poorly in the few classes I attempted. My other childhood triumph was winning the fancy dress at our village fete – all the other mums had spent ages on paper mache – my mum pinned rosettes on my dress, gave me the biggest silver trophy and made a banner saying “I am the Champion”.

As a youngster I was not interested in the shows – I got terribly car-sick and hated travelling to them. I also did not like the fact that only the beautiful dogs could be shown – I preferred the ones with character. So, with that in mind, my parents let me keep my first collie – a tricolour bitch called Corydon Qui Va La, who was born in 1978. Both her parents were champions, but she would never be – she was the runt of the litter and had been ill as a tiny pup, but I loved her. I used to show her in the huge puppy and junior classes of the time, with 50 or 60 exhibits present. Her best ever result was 2nd in Junior bitch at East of England Ch 1979 under John Parrott (Larkena) – I still remember to this day that Terry Taylor (Cathenbrae) tried to push in front of me in the line-up and the judge told her “Madam, you are third!”



Corydon Qui Va la
(Ch Little Caesar at Corydon ex Ch Corydon Qui Vive)

My parents never forced me to be interested in the dogs, and that is probably why I have stayed involved. I saw so many second-generation children resent the time and attention their parents spent on their dogs, and they decided not to follow suit. My mother’s father was the same – he would not have dogs after spending his childhood playing second fiddle to his father’s (my great-grandfather’s) collies – so maybe my mum learned from that.

I officially joined the Corydon kennel as a “separate interest” in the affix in the 90s, though had been involved since before I could walk.

My first UK Champions, Corydon Gold Star and Corydon Gold Spur, were shown by my parents whilst I was at university (although I did show Gold Spur for his 4th CC).

After I graduated and started work as a primary school teacher, I became more involved with exhibiting and judging. I was on the committee of British Collie Club in the early 1990s, and I have been secretary of the East Anglian Collie Association since 2008. In the UK I award CCs in Rough and Smooth collies.

I have been fortunate to judge, exhibit and watch the breeds all over the world. I have made DVDs about grooming collies and about the rough collie, and I have edited two books about rough collies that my father has written. I have also conducted judging education seminars for the UK Rough Collie Breed Council and the Kennel Club. I am currently working on the Rough Collie content for the Kennel Club Academy.

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