

European Kerries



Almost all articles about terrier breeds in Europe begin with the past and move forward in time; however, I would like to start from the present history of the Kerry Blue and work to the past.

Kerry Blue Terriers are present in almost all European countries today. There are high-quality breeders across Europe, whether a Kerry club is in that country or not. About 10 to 15 years ago, Fritz Wilke (v.d. Canis-Burg kennel, Germany) told me, “Not so long ago, to get a Best of Breed it was enough to groom your dog and go to the show. Well-prepared dogs for the show ring could hardly be seen in most central and eastern European countries. However, today, the situation has changed. An exhibitor should prepare his dog as well as possible, handle him the best he can, and then hope that the other competitors have a bad day! Even then, I’m not sure about going home with the Best of Breed ribbon.” Since that time, the situation has changed; quality is more homogenized, and it is reasonable to expect that in near future there will be no differences between Kerries worldwide.

The three biggest canine federations, FCI, KC and AKC, are working on unifying breed classifications, as today all breeds that are recognized by one organization are not always recognized by others. Differences in breed standards for Kerries are not significant, so breeders have a similar ideal Kerry in their minds. It is worth mentioning that the Kerry Blue Terrier is one of oldest FCI registered breeds and that the standard has FCI num-

ber three.

Technically speaking, Europe is the cradle of the breed, but the British islands could be considered as a “subcontinent.” The story says that a radio speaker once read in the news, “There is a terrible storm in Lamanche. Due to that, the rest of Europe is isolated from Brittany.” In the Kerry world it is more or less true that the rest of the world has had a small influence, or no influence at all, on the British/Irish breeders. Quarantine regulations was, and still can be, the biggest problem for importing dogs in to the United Kingdom. On the other hand, the exporting of dogs was possible and, thanks to that, many important dogs came to Europe. To name a few: Louisburgh Moving the Wind, Louisburgh Tur Ceatha, Louisburgh See Spray, Louisburgh See An’ Notice, Louisburgh Peigshin Gogo, Kamaghan Prima Donna, Kamaghan Thriller, Torum’s Jo El Ray, Torum’s Stormin Norman, Arigna Oscar.

I have been told by an eyewitness, Ms. Renate Dolz (Elredo’s kennel, Germany), that West European countries, especially small breeders from France and Germany, played key roles in maintaining and in the “regeneration” of the breed in Europe during and after World War II. The German breeders could be considered most important for

the development of Kerries in other European countries, especially Mr. Fritz Wilke and Mr. Walter Pfenning (Penny’s kennel, Germany). Viceroy v.d. Canis-Burg became one of most used stud dogs in Eastern Europe in his time, and even today it is hard to find any quality Kerry that isn’t related to Viceroy. One breeder from former Yugoslavia joked that Viceroy mated everything except himself.

Kerry breeding in the region where I live is connected with two American dogs. After “native European” Viceroy, the next important stud dog came in 1986 from America to Germany, to Penny’s kennel. His name was Paxon’s Penny’s Pit, bred by Ms. Aileen Santo, owned, groomed, and handled by Mr. Pfenning. Penny Pit ruled show rings in the late 1980s. He won club shows, the European show, and twice the world show, as a junior in Israel and as adult dog in Peru. In addition, he was an outstanding stud dog. Among his 225 descendants there were several very important dogs for the Kerry population in some countries.

Austrian kennel v.d. Birkenheide, owned by Mr. Hrdlicka, based its breeding on Pit’s daughter, Penny’s Lana. Kordes kennel, owned by Mr. and Ms. Bedsted from Denmark, also based its breeding program on Pit’s descendents — Penny’s

Lara, Penny's Marco, and Penny's Meggy. Pit's son, Penny's Nico, a fourteen-year-old-plus Kerry, who is laying beside me while I am writing this article, became the most important show and stud Kerry in the Balkan region. Edgy v. Herzogschloss Celle, who came from Germany into Hungary, (Badacsolyaja kennel) was another Pit son, influencing stud dogs in Hungary. Pit's offspring is spread all over Europe from Moscow on to the east! At this point it would be interesting to mention that Ch. Penny's Oliver of Lunabrook was exported from Germany to England and gained both the English club champion and the English champion title.

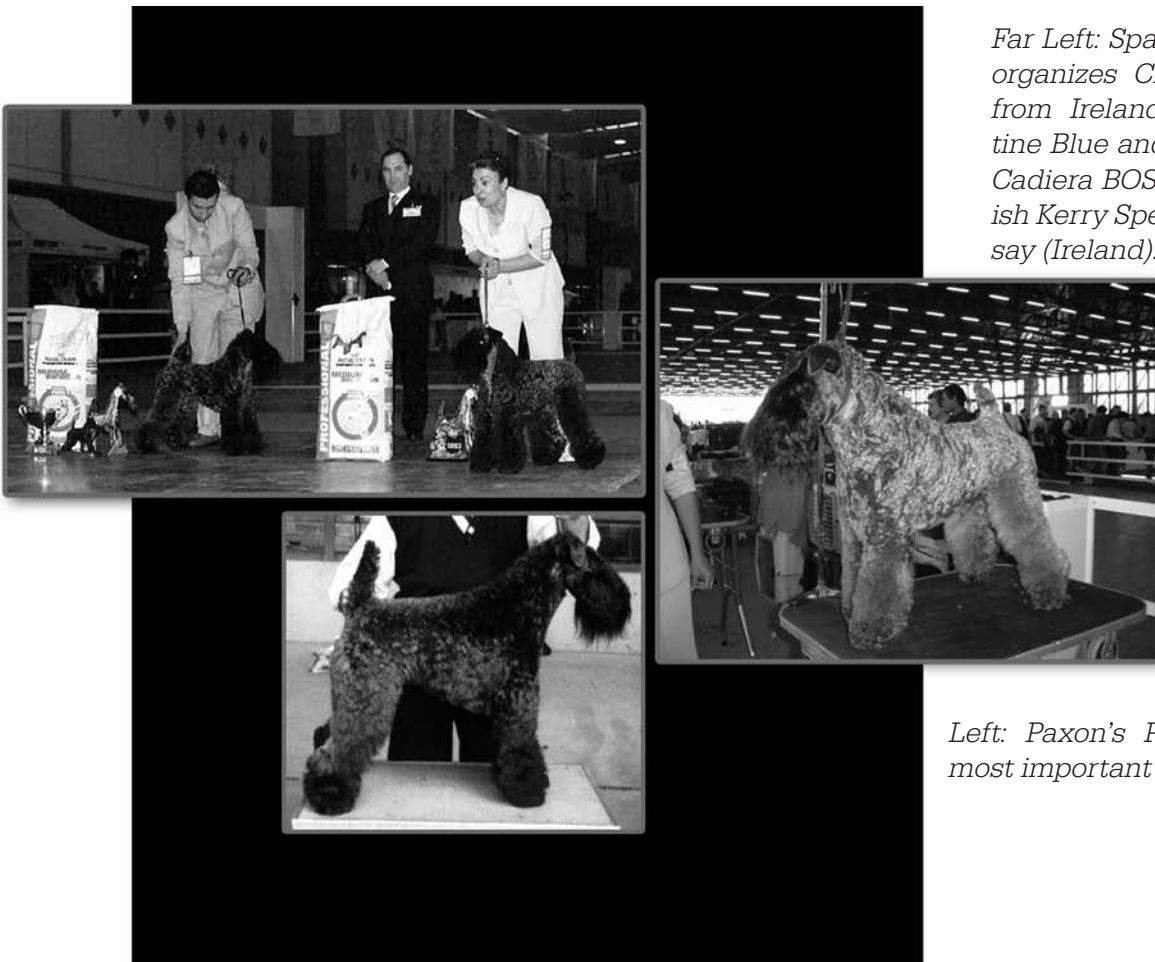
Maygate's Bogy Blue is another American Kerry who became an important stud dog in Europe. His offspring, from Kerrydom Court kennel (Slovakia), became successful in shows and later in breeding programs. Today those dogs and their progeny from Hungary, Slo-

vakia, and Czech Republic, are still in the top placements at bigger shows.

There are a number of high-quality kennels in other European countries that are not so closely connected with American Kerries, which can be written about in another JustTerriers issue. Scandinavian countries have high-quality dogs in practically every terrier breed, and Kerries certainly are not the exception. Kennels such as Gaeltacht, Rollick's, Schyloch, Lingus and others, are a guaranty that Kerries will have a prosperous future in northern Europe. On the southern side, Italian kennels Balboa and Aran will take care of quality Kerries. In central Europe there are a number of smaller and newer kennels – Dinnyesvarosi, Abracadabra from Hungary, Kerrydom Court from Slovakia, Blue Ivanhoe, Braudag from Czech Republic, that will have nice results in the coming years.

Our beloved breed is also insured from the west with kennels Cha-peau, La Cadiera and others from Spain and, in the east, the Goluboy legend, Triumph and other kennels from former Soviet Union.

At this very moment there is a tendency of close collaboration among breeders in Europe, and it is very nice to see competitors at shows working together in breeding. However, I am sure that it is not the most important step for the future of Kerry Blues in this part of the world. In my opinion, what's most important is that most breeders are not professional breeders and they have the goodwill to breed healthy dogs with good temperaments. It is worth mentioning that the clubs being formed are becoming a more important integration factor.



Far Left: Spanish Club traditionally organizes Club show with judge from Ireland. Headhunter Byzantine Blue and Scarlet O'Hara de La Cadiera BOS and BIS at Last Spanish Kerry Specialty under Ron Ramsay (Ireland).

Left: Spanish-Yugoslavian connection with American background Headhunter Byzantine Blue, Pit's grandson

Left: Paxon's Penny's Pit, one of most important studs in Europe.