

Cardigans in Southern Africa

Although Rhodesia and South Africa are both large countries, Rhodesia almost twice the size of the entire British Isles and South Africa over five times the size, the pedigree dog owning population is, in comparison, extremely small, spread over some 110 breeds. Consequently our All-Breeds Championship Shows are very small in comparison to those held in Britain, the maximum number of dogs on show in South Africa being approximately 900 and in Rhodesia approximately 500. South African dogs come to compete in Rhodesia, so do Rhodesian dogs compete in South Africa, but to no great extent. Both countries are governed by one body, the Kennel Union of Southern Africa.

The first Cardis to arrive in Africa were Withybrook Clipper of Whoberley, Withybrook Flora of Whoberley and Withybrook Fiona of Whoberley, all owned by Ray and Les Sparrow. They arrived in South Africa in 1947 and thence to Rhodesia in 1954.

In 1960 Kentwood Cledwyn of Ballyvoreen and Kentwood Essyllt of Ballyvoreen arrived in Rhodesia and in 1963 Elkay Meriman of Tegwyn, Elkay Merival of Tegwyn and Rozavel Blue Eyes of Tegwyn arrived, these five for myself. All but Merival and Cledwyn became Champions out of the eight imports.

Flora and Fiona had a few litters to Clipper, but regrettably through lack of interest only one bitch stayed in the show ring. The remainder were purchased as pets and were seldom seen in the ring.

The one bitch that did stay in the ring was Whoberley Castiog of Tegwyn (Clipper x Flora) and she soon attained her title. She produced 21 puppies of which only two entered the ring — Ch. Tegwyn Bachgen (half brother/sister mating) and Ch. Tegwyn Calico Cowgirl (daughter of Cledwyn).

Cledwyn was only shown twice, both times winning CC and BOB but was prematurely retired due to a back injury. Essyllt produced two litters but neither of them of the required quality, but she did well in the show ring and was shown until she was 13 when she was retired. Both Essyllt and Blue Eyes won Best Corgi in Show, winning over the Pembrokes.

Breeding from Blue Eyes and Cledwyn improved the standard markedly and the show ring saw Ch. Tegwyn Impressive, Tegwyn Blue Glacier, Tegwyn Knave (sent to South Africa in 1968), Tegwyn Kirsten (also sent to South Africa in 1968), Tegwyn Knight, Tegwyn Keepsake, Ch. Tegwyn Blue Jacaranda (grand-daughter), Greyling Alaricus and Greyling Arian-wen (grandsons). Meriman gave us Ch. Tegwyn Eminent and Tegwyn Claudius of Coldomo (black and white), both assets to the breed.



Ch. Tegwyn Blue Jacaranda

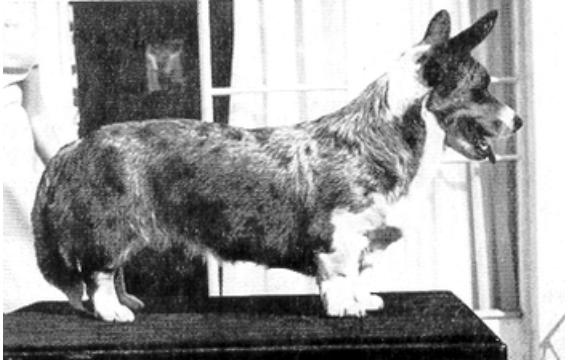
Merival only produced one litter, which was not to be commended. I never bred from her again and she became our house pet.

Tegwyn had problems of course, basically soft ears appearing in various litters and coats not up to standard, but general confirmation was good with consistently typical feet, shoulders and good tail carriage.

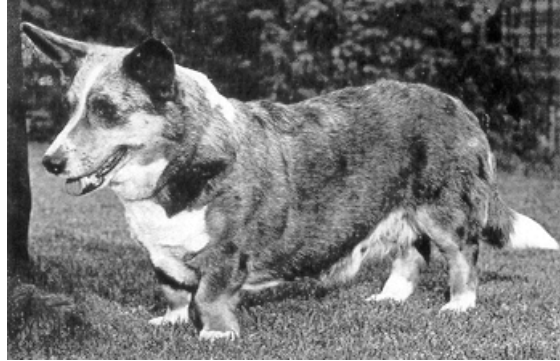
There are three working dogs, one in Malawi and two in Rhodesia, basically Kentwood/Rozavel breeding.

We campaigned the breed throughout Rhodesia, Northern Rhodesia (now Zambia) and South Africa and in South Africa great interest was shown.

In 1968 Peggysmill Black an' Blue arrived in South Africa, the first import since the three in 1947 to that country but she suffered a fatal accident. She came to Jill Copping and was closely followed by Peggysmill Blue Mink to Sheila Carter.



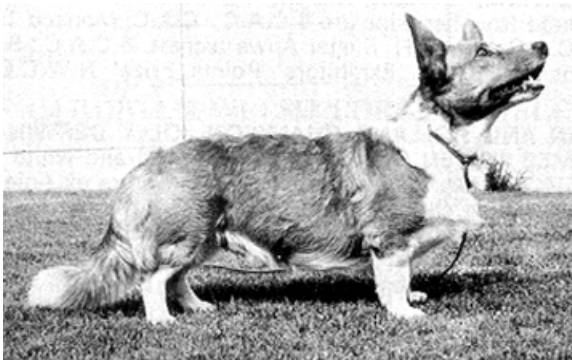
Peggysmill Blue Mink



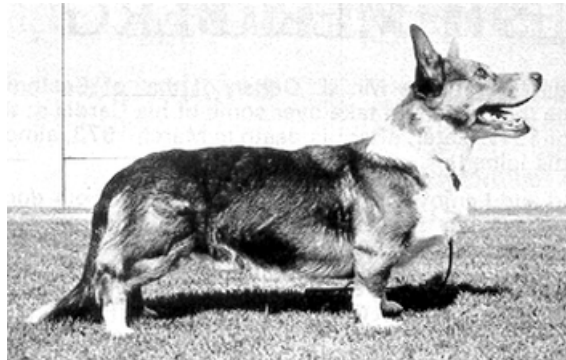
Peggysmill Smoke Signal

In 1969 Sheila Carter brought out Fairmead's Peggysmill Smoke Signal, Fairmead's Jezalin Jacana, Gwenlais Gleghornie Earl and Fairmead's Vennwood's Black Knight and for Jill Copping Smoke Signal's mother, Peggysmill Glassaid Cynlun in whelp. The year 1970 saw Dilwel Rosina, English Ch. Rozavel Blue Glynt (half brother to Blue Eyes) arrive for Sheila Carter, Downholme Ginger Maid of Trenance (in whelp) and Downholme Judith of Trenance for Win and George Day. In 1971 the Days brought out Downholme Bellorophon of Trenance and in 1972 the Carters brought out Fairmead's Vennwoods Black Cavalier and Larazel Vennwoods Black Velvet for Mrs. Clark. In 1973 Sheila Carter brought out English Ch. Dilwel Tony of Fairmead.

Most of the imports were shown and had no difficulty in attaining their titles. Ch. Fairmead's Tornado of Rhoswynne (Earl x Jacana), Trenance Gaiety Girl of Tegwyn (Ginger Maid), Zaavans Bagheera (Cynlun) and Fairmead's Supreme Rose of Rhoswynne (Tony x Rosina) all came to Rhodesia.



Ch. Trenance Cowboy



Ch. Trenance Brimaru

A great number of the progeny of the imports have been seen in the show ring, Ch. Trenance Brimaru and Ch. Trenance Cowboy (sons of Ginger Maid), bred by Mr and Mrs G.C. Day of Transvaal, S.A., are extremely good representatives of the breed, and many others far too numerous to mention have gained their titles.

The progeny of these locally bred are now appearing in the show ring and many of them are carrying the flag high for the breed. Regrettably the public see far too few representatives as is the case in many parts of the world, the Cardigan is not as popular as the Pembroke, and only a very small percentage reach the show ring.

It is early days yet to give an opinion on the true local breeding, but with careful and selective breeding the breed can only go ahead, as the imports are all carrying good blood-lines and the assets should outweigh the liabilities.

To give an idea of how the Cardi population has increased, here are a few figures on registrations: 1948, 3; 1955, 5; 1958, 8; 1965, 19; 1967, 21; 1975, 45.

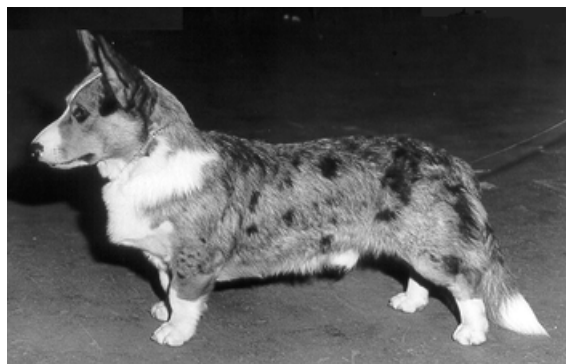
Jean F. Schreiber

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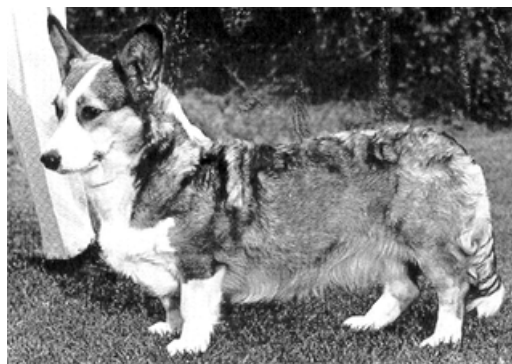
From the late 1960s to the middle of the 1970s one of the most active and successful kennels in South Africa was "Fairmead" owned by Mrs Sheila F. Carter who imported many Cardigans from well known British kennels.

In the CWCA 1970 Mrs Carter writes:

Ch. Rozavel Blue Glynt and Dilwel Rosina have recently joined our happy family. Not forgetting our blue merle, Fairmead's Peggysmill Smoke Signal, holder of 1 C.C. and now temporarily retired to bring up a family of five beautiful puppies sired by S.A.Ch. Gwenlais Gleghornie Earl, she will during this year continue with her show career.



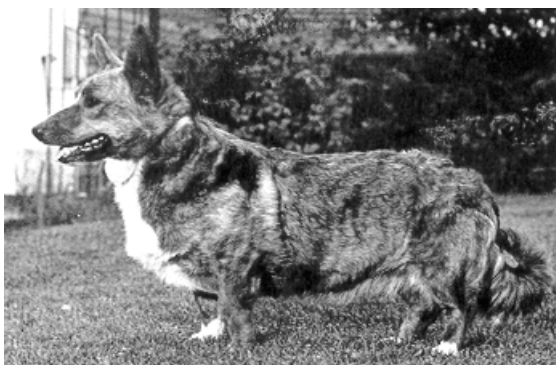
Ch. Rozavel Blue Glynt



Dilwel Rosina

Last but not least Fairmead's Vennwood's Black Knight, who at the age of 10 months has already gained 5 C.C.s and 3 B.O.B., being Best Corgi Puppy on the recent Goldfields Show; this included Pembrokes as well as Cardigans.

We have retained one little girl, Fairmead's Junita, sired by Earl out of Ch. Fairmead's Jezalin Jacana, and one little boy, Fairmead's Ringleader, sired by Earl out of Fairmead's Peggysmill Smoke Signal, so we are relying on these two to carry on the good work.



Fairmead's Junita



Fairmead's Ringleader

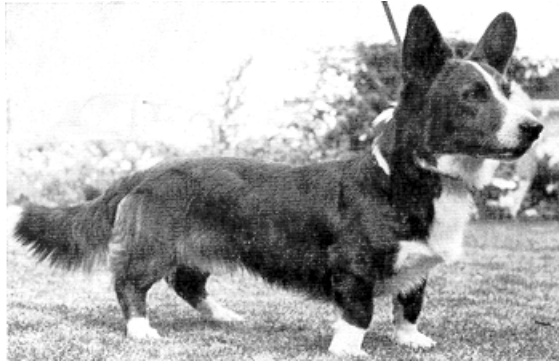
And the story continues in 1972:

Fairmead is very proud to announce that 5 Homebred Champions have been made up in the Republic and Rhodesia. Now the Cardigans are going from strength to strength. Of the seven Cardigans originally imported, all are now South African Champions, while our latest import, Vennwood's Black Cavalier, a tri-colour who recently arrived from Miss Sally Rich-Lenthall and is a son of Int. Ch. Rozavel Springdale Gregory, promises to rival his predecessor, S.A. Ch. Fairmead's Vennwood's Black Knight, who was

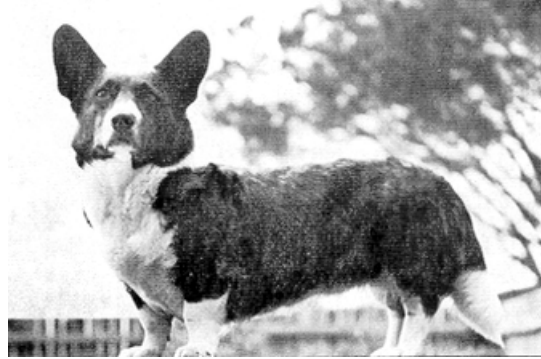
unfortunately killed in an accident last July after winning 9 C.C.s and 6 B.O.B. in his short but brilliant show career.

The Star of the Kennel is still S.A. Ch. Fairmead's Jezalin Jacana (Pids), who rules the rest as the true Queen she really is, helped of course by Rosie (S.A. Ch. Dilwel Rosina of Fairmead), who at the last Championship Show on November 20th, 1971, beat all S.A. Cardigan Records, winning C.C. & B.O.B. and going on to win the Trophy for the Best Working Dog on Show in a class of 161 working dogs. The Judge was Mr. George Leatt, to whom Rosie was no stranger, he having given her her first C.C. at Birmingham in November, 1968. Who said judges were not consistent? Thank you, Mr. Dilwel Jones and Mr. George Leatt.

Finally in 1974 Mrs Carter writes:



Ch. Gwenlais Gleghornie Earl



Ch. Jezalin Jacana

Fairmead has gone from strength to strength, being represented at all the major shows in the Republic by a younger generation of Cardigans, Fairmeads Illice (Home Bred gained 1st C.C. at nine months and one day old, another at two years and B.O.B. over Rose and Tony. Fairmead's Supreme Rose first show out at six months and one week old, C.C. and B.O.B. over Ch. Fairmead's Tornado of Rhoswynne, holder of 14 C.C.'s, have lost count of his B.O.B., he is a son of Ch. Jezalin Jacana and Ch. Gwenlais Gleghornie Earl, Supreme Rose is a daughter of Ch. Dilwel Rose and Tony. Several other very promising youngsters, all home-bred, were short of a couple of C.C.'s or waiting to make their first appearance in the Show rings.



Ch. Dilwel Tony



Ch. Venwood's Black Knight

Ch. Dilwel Tony and Ch. Dilwel Rosina are a couple that are really cleaning up all other breeders' stock at the show. Rosina is top-winning Cardi Bitch at the moment, never fails to win, no matter who the judge is or where they come from, and Tony is always making his presence felt; he has been three times Best Corgi on Show of both types.

Our grateful thanks go to the following English, Welsh and Scottish Kennels who have supplied us with our lovely foundation stock:

Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Jones of Dilwel Kennels.
Miss Pamela Walker of Jezalin Kennels.
Miss Sally Rich-Lenthall of Vennwood's Kennels.
Mrs. Thelma Gray of Rozavel Kennels.

Mrs. Mair Jones-Edwards of Gwenlais Kennels (Wales).
Mrs. Molly Banks of Peggysmill Kennels.

We regret that owing to my ill-health during the last two years, and the petrol restrictions, we are not always able to attend all the Championship Shows in all the different provinces but do go to as many as we can, and when we do we are pleased to see that the Cardis are holding their own against their Pembroke cousins and that both Breed and All Round judges are really giving them a fair deal.

In March 2007 Mrs Jean F. Schreiber (Tegwyn) of Zimbabwe kindly wrote an update to her account of 1976.

If I may digress for a few paragraphs, merely to demonstrate the impact the Cardigans had on the public in both Zimbabwe and South Africa, perhaps covering old ground but useful and hopefully interesting data. Only mentioned are those whose names do not appear in the previous articles.

November 1972 litter born to Ch Fairmead's Tornado of Rhoswynne and Drusilla bred by Mrs M Jackson [Zimbabwe].

July 1973 Mrs N Atkinson [Nylason] litter sired by Ch Fairmeads Prince Staccato of Nylason ex Ch Fairmeads Dellvereen of Nylason [SA].

March 1974 Fairmeads Golden Monarch and Larazel Venwoods Black Velvet produced a litter for Mr J A Steenkamp [SA].

December 1973 Mr & Mrs I Jones bred a litter from Fairmeads Tornado of Rhoswynne and Rhoswynne Amynedd [Zimbabwe].

June 1974 litter for Mrs E A Baxter [Colynkei] Lee's Jaunty of Clynzei and Fairmeads Red Rosetta [SA] another litter was bred from these two in September 1975.

September 1974 litter for Mrs L Webster [Kilburnie] Fairmeads Golden Monarch and Larazel Venwoods Black Velvet [SA] these two had another litter in March 1975.

September 1974 Mrs J Basson [Helderview] bred a litter from Ch [SA] & Ch [Eng] Dilwel Tony of Fairmead and Fairmeads Sable Queen [SA].

April 1975 Mrs S du Preez [Cavall] bred a litter from Ch [SA] & Ch {Eng} Dilwel Tony of Fairmead and Ch Fairmeads Juliana [SA].

There were no further litters bred that were registered in either South Africa or Zimbabwe until February 1978 when Miss R A de Villiers [Alwinrosalie] registered a litter from Ch Rocco of Cavall and Ch Cavall's Caprice.

June 1978 Mr P H Holliday bred a litter from Ch Jezalin Beaubrandy of Fairmead and Fairmead Fairytail.

July 1978 Mr D D Leppan bred a litter from Zaavans Kermion of Cartrill and Colynkeis Ginger Girl.

September 1978 Mr M G Spencer [Deheubarth] out of Ch Colynkei Monarch and Zaavan Muffin.

All born in South Africa.

In October 1980 Mr B S Davies [Whiteoak] bred a litter out of Ch Jezalin Beaubrandy of Fairmead and Ch Fairmead Rosanne of Whiteoaks.

March 1981 the same breeder had a litter out of Ch Jezalin Beaubrandy of Fairmead and Ch Fairmead Interlude of Whiteoak.

July 1982 Mr Davies' Beckrow Bionic Ben of Whiteoak and Whiteoak Angeliqu produced a litter.

In February 1983 Whiteoak Angeliqu and Fairmead Interlude of Whiteoak both produced litters from Beckrow Bionic Ben of Whiteoak (UK imp.) Angeliqu had another litter to Bionic Ben in September 1983.

September 1984 Mr D G Hulley [Dhuley] had a litter of Whiteoaks Dannyboy of Dhuley and Whiteoak Sheba of Dhuley.

Up to the end of 1986 which is as far as my personal archives go for the South African scene, there were no further registrations.

April 1981 Rhodesia ceased to exist and Zimbabwe was born. At that time all matters canine were handled in South Africa by the Kennel Union of Southern Africa for Zimbabwe and South Africa. During late 1982 it became obvious that Zimbabwe would have to take the reigns into her own hands to manage all canine affairs due to both financial and political pressure. Zambia had already become autonomous.

Unlike Zambia Zimbabwe could not send a representative to Cape Town to learn the ropes, therefore we had to rely on the good graces of KUSA to assist. They went above and beyond the call of duty and gave us assistance asked for as well as unexpected assistance, all of which we shall be eternally grateful.

Other than the few Cardigans that were re-registered with Zimbabwe Kennel Club, there were no other Cardigans registered from 1984 to date.

Having read the above statistics one is rather left with the picture that the Cardigan game has rather been like a contagious relay race. One person ran with the baton and some one else wished to join in, and then there were several players, but the players then got rather tired and footsore and dropped out until the baton was left unclaimed once more. Why?

The question is easily answered for Zimbabwe, there was only a very small nucleus of enthusiasts, and basically only two dedicated to the breed. When new blood was required the possibility of getting money out of the country to buy a dog was a non starter. There was nobody who had external funds to help either. The demise was a simple as that. By the time funds could be sourced the breeding stock was too old and it would have meant starting again from scratch. By that time the very few enthusiasts had moved on to Pembrokes.

In South Africa we see a much bigger gene pool and many more players. A great deal of money was spent in bringing in some incredible breeding backgrounds and with clever orchestration the breed should have prospered to the envy of the outside world. True, South Africa is a big country but it is one country, there are no borders to cross, and travelling with a bitch to visit a good stud dog would surely have been worth while. Instead the breed came, it conquered and it died.

However, with the Pembrokes, as a breed, suffering under the yoke of the docking ban, it would not surprise me to see a great number of enthusiasts finding that discarded baton and picking it up. If the new Cardigan fraternity can knit a close web in South Africa they certainly can go out and conquer the world. Once having owned a Cardigan the heart will always yearn for the return of those days together.

As to the Zimbabwean scene, until such time as there is peace, stability and the economy has recovered I very much doubt we shall see the re-introduction of the breed. At this time in Zimbabwe very few people are breeding, certainly none of the Pembroke breeders, the show rings are sparsely covered with mainly veterans who year after year proudly and graciously attend the shows that their owners can afford to patronize. The main criteria is to keep the shows and clubs going.

Tegwyn will certainly be looking to a Cardigan breeder once the country has settled, but it will merely be for a house pet and showing, not breeding, as the owner is now beyond the age of outliving puppies brought into the world, and one does like to keep a weather eye on those carrying one's affix.

Jean F. Schreiber

In 2006, a blue merle bitch, Chaos' African Queen, from the USA was sent to Debbie and Peter Buchan in South Africa.

Only South Africa is a member of FCI.

09.03.2007/ANo