

CENTER STAGE WITH ZENA THORN-ANDREWS



UK Breed record holder Ch. Drakesleat Kyak

Jeff Horswell & Zena many years ago & still partners!



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Most people find an eye for success with the support of money, credibility, or friends of a friend, however, Zena did not rush into the spotlight so quickly. Zena comments "As a breeder and exhibitor firstly you must read all you possibly can on your chosen breed. Watch carefully the successful people and do not be afraid to ask a lot of questions."

Therefore, after a few years of studying the breed as much and as thoroughly as she could, Zena bought her first show dog in 1967.

This was the Irish Wolfhound, UK Champion Edgecroft Simon (Shea). A great starter for Zena, even though it was tough for her to be accepted as a newcomer, 'Shea' gained for her overall – two Championship Hound Group wins, 14 Best In Shows, and he was also the top winning dog in his breed for four consecutive years (based on points). Zena's first Drakesleat litter of Irish Wolfhounds contained just one dog, French Champion Drakesleat Sir Francis. He is still their top winning Irish Wolfhound to date amassing a total of 25 CACIBs. It was due to the excitement and success of both Shea and her homebred 'Sir Francis' that Zena now had the bug and continued to do well. By the late '70s, Zena had become notable for her top winning hounds. She bred a great grandson of 'Shea' in the early 1980s by the name of Ch. Drakesleat Kyak. 'Kyak' is still the UK breed record holder amassing 41 CC's, Ten Hound Group wins, Three All Breeds Best In Show, and Top Hound in 1981 & 1982. He was also a producer of Champions. In fact, Kyak's great grandson, Ch. & South African Champion Drakesleat Odty, became the Top Hound all breeds in 1992, winner of 11 CCs, Four Hound Group wins, Three All Breeds Best In Show and in 1993 at Crufts 'Odty', handled by Zena, took Reserve Best In Show with nearly 23,000 entries. Odty also won Best In Show at his first appearance at an all breeds championship show in South Africa. Zena's Drakesleat Irish Wolfhounds are still the second top winning kennel ever.

In the early '70s she decided to add an-



Ch. Jap./Ch. Drakesleat Jest Dis Once,
the first Miniature Wire to gain an All Breeds BIS
at a Championship Show.



Zena with Ch. Edgecroft Simon after winning his
3rd CC at Blackpool Kennel Club.

other breed to her kennel, Miniature Wire-haired Dachshunds.

Her first Drakesleat Dachshund Champion was Ch. Drakesleat Hussy, born in 1971, who went on to produce four UK Champions and a further 2 Champions overseas. Hussy produced a top brood bitch (for several years) in Ch. Drakesleat Kalamity Kate, who was born in 1973 and was Best of Breed at Crufts in 1975. One of Kalamity Kate's progeny became the former UK record holder, Ch. Drakesleat Ai Jail, winner of 29 CCs, and top "Hound Bitch Of The Year" three times from 1979 to 1981. Ai Jail went on to produce the current record holder Ch. Drakesleat Ai Jinks, born in 1982 and a winner of 33 CCs. She was the top Miniature Wire for 1983, 1984, 1986 and 1988 with a Reserve BIS all breeds, five Group 1s, and Best In Show at the Hound Show.

Drakesleat's first male Dachshund Champion was Ch. Drakesleat Klunk Klick of Andyc, brother to Kate, sold to a fellow breeder. He is still the UK male record holder with a total of 27 CCs, Top Hound in 1976, and still remains the top winning male ever. His mother was, of course, Ch. Drakesleat Hussy. Many Champions followed with the dachshunds now on 98 bred or owned, and with two more on 2 CCs, it can't be long before another milestone for the Drakesleat's comes along!

Another record was achieved for Zena in September, 2006 when her Ch. Jap./Ch. Drakesleat JP Jest Dis Once became the first Miniature Wirehaired Dachshund ever to win an All Breeds Best In Show at Darlington Championship show. He was also the first Japanese bred dog to win a UK Best In Show. He is totally Drakesleat breeding though.

A notable record for Zena was when her very own Ch. Drakesleat Otto Bahn won the Purina Pro Plan Pup of the Year competition, back in 2004, the first of the breed to do so ever in UK history. "Banner" beat over 10,000 entrants through the year to achieve this merit which also added to his 11 CCs, and Top Dog in 2005.