

# CENTER STAGE WITH ZENA THORN-ANDREWS



A young Ch. Drakesleat Runen, sire of the breed record holder, Kyak.

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The record of top breeder nearly every year since 1975 in one or both breeds has never been bettered by anyone in the UK. In August 2007 the VDH (German Kennel Club) chose Zena, amongst other German breeders & judges, to be awarded the Baron Von Gingins medal for her contribution in breeding Miniature Wirehaired Dachshunds. Only one other person outside Germany has also been so honored. Zena was also awarded the Tom Horner award in '95 for her contributions to the world of dogs.

## JUDGING CAREER

In the 1970s, Zena decided to take on judging. She started judging hounds, especially Dachshunds, Wolfhounds & Bassets, and progressed through this group as a specialist before branching out into the other groups. It was 1974, aged 26 when she first awarded CCs to Irish Wolfhounds at the Welsh Kennel Club. Her first group judging appointment was in 1984 at Bournemouth.

Zena is now the only judge to award CC's in all breeds, and is currently the number one top judge in the UK. She is also approved by the FCI as an all breed judge in all FCI countries. Although involved in judging, Zena still shows with the help of her partner Jeff Horswell, another top UK judge, who is currently the youngest Best In Show judge in the UK.

For most UK judges, their ultimate judging appointment would be to judge Best In Show at Crufts. In 2007 Zena was appointed for this prestigious job, awarding top honors to the Tibetan Terrier, UK Ch. & Am. Ch. Araki Fabulous Willy. Willy is one of the UK's Top Dog All Breeds of his time, and the top winning Tibetan Terrier of All Time Ever in the UK.

Now in 2010, as Zena is the only UK



Zena Judging Windsor Kennel Club - 1976



Zena awarding Crufts Top Honors - Best In Show to the Tibetan Terrier, UK Ch. & Am. Ch. Araki Fabulous Willy Handled by Larry Cornelius

judge to be passed to award CCs in all breeds recognized here, and an FCI judge, I asked Zena some questions about her life in dogs.

**KR:** From all of your judging experiences, is there anywhere in the world that you haven't judged that you would like to judge?

**ZTA:** I do enjoy the atmosphere of the World shows. They have an air of excitement about them and all the world's top dogs do try to attend, so the quality is excellent. I have been lucky enough to judge at many of the World shows, and as they are held in a different country each year, it always makes for a different experience.

**KR:** Do you have any forthcoming exciting appointments? Please tell us.

**ZTA:** I always look forward to both Monte Carlo in April, and Barbados every few years! I am lucky enough to have been invited for a second time to judge at the AKC/Eukanuba World show, so I look forward to that also.

**KR:** What has been your biggest thrill in the world of dogs.

**ZTA:** I think being the first breeder in the UK to breed or own 100 Champions since our records began in 1873 has been my greatest achievement.

**KR:** What has been your biggest disappointment in the world of dogs.

**ZTA:** Losing my husband Terry Thorn who was loved and admired by so many people throughout the world. We were a great team!

**KR:** How would you advise an upcoming kennel to progress to the level you have with breeding winners, healthy dogs, and many champions

**ZTA:** Read all you can about your chosen breed. Watch carefully the successful people and ask lots of questions!

**KR:** When judging do you have any pet hates?