

CENTER STAGE WITH ZENA THORN-ANDREWS



Zena Judging Crufts in 2009 - Saluki CC Winners

continued from page 184



Zena judging Best In Show at the 2007 Crufts

ZTA: Poorly muscled dogs, thin dogs with big coats that hide it, over exaggerated breed features.

KR: Has there ever been any advice given to you over the years about the code of practice for judging. If so, what was it?

ZTA: Percy Whittaker explained the mystery of shoulder placement to me when I was about 18. I have never forgotten his advice. Also, Mrs. Florence Nagle was a great mentor to me over many years, and gave me so much of an insight into the working machinery of the dog. That has proved invaluable.

KR: Aside from the world of dogs what other hobbies do you have?

ZTA: I collect early dog books, and have a vast number of books about all breeds! I also keep foreign Finches and Canaries, which are soothing to watch.

KR: If you never got into showing or judging dogs, where do you think you would be now?

ZTA: Probably a backing musician as I used to play bass guitar in pop groups.

KR: Tell us where you would like to be in 15 years time?

ZTA: Hopefully not in my box!

KR: Have you any advice to pass on to breeders, handlers, and judges for the future of their careers, coming from your many



years of experience?

ZTA: As a breeder keep at it, don't let early disappointments stop you from going forward. If something doesn't work, don't be afraid to re-try! You never stop learning, and don't think you know it all after a few years in dogs! I still

don't. As a judge keep your ego under control,

think first and last of the exhibitors. As a handler, recognize that each dog may need a different approach & style of handling. They are all individuals and need sympathy, as well as training... and never plead with your eyes to a judge for a win!

As we celebrate the year 2010, we can review the life of Zena in just one paragraph:-

Breeder of over 120 Champions, 700 Challenge Certificates won by the kennel to date, a judge of all breeds UK and the only UK judge to do so, the first breeder in the UK to breed or own 100 Champions since our records began in 1873, and still going strong. A true saying goes – 'Records can be broken, but the facts will remain the same'.

We are proud to have Zena Thorn-Andrews represent the UK as the number one breeder of all times to produce champion after champion and still be the only person in the UK to award top honors as a judge in every recognized breed.



Ch. Drakesleat Odyt - Crufts Reserve Best In Show