

Old Smuggler Bearded Collies **Charlotte Laning Vrethammar, Granberga, Tystberga, Sweden**

Introduction.

I registered my kennel prefix in 1985. My Mom bred a litter in the 70's and decided to name the puppies after Scotch whisky. I wanted a puppy to be called Old Smuggler but she thought otherwise. The name stuck with me and ended up as my third choice when registering my prefix with the Swedish Kennel Club (SKK). My first choices were not approved, likely because they were too similar to someone else's name.

History

In the late 60's, my Mom found a photo of a Beardie in a magazine. She wanted a dog like that, but my Dad (who said no to a lot of things) thought one dog was enough and we already had an English Cocker. In 1970, we went to a dog event in Vallentuna, outside of Stockholm. I don't remember what the event was, or if we were just visiting, but at the nearby kennel there was a puppy pen with the most adorable puppies. At the time, we didn't know that they were Beardie puppies, but it later turned out that it was a litter from Ch Osmart Bonnie Black Diamond, the first litter at Jarlabankes Kennel.

Shortly after, my parents' marriage was falling apart and when the divorce was final, one of my Mom's first decisions was to get a Bearded Collie. We ended up at Bifrost's kennel and were invited to see the puppies when they had just begun to open their eyes. The breeder, Elsa Edgren, presented four bitch puppies and asked us which one we wanted. We pointed at the one with a full, white collar. I was ten years old and the puppy was Bifrosts Bianca, sired by Ch Rowdina Main Attraction (Ch Bracken Boy of Bothkennar x Ch Wishanger Crab Tree), out of Ch Bifrosts Barbarella (Filabey Hamish x Bifrosts Bonetta).



Bianca - 5 months

Pedigree Certificate

BIFROSTS BIANCA

Sex: Bitch
 DOB: 03/11/1971
 Inbreeding: 13.4%

Parents	Grandparents	Great Grandparents	Great Great Grandparents
Sire ROWDINA MAIN ATTRACTION	Sire BRACKEN BOY OF BOTHKENNAR	Sire BRAVO OF BOTHKENNAR	BLIMBER OF BOTHKENNAR
		Dam BLUE BONNIE OF BOTHKENNAR	BEAUTY QUEEN OF BOTHKENNAR
	Dam WISHANGER CRAB TREE	Sire WISHANGER CAIRNBHAN	BANNOCH OF BOTHKENNAR
		Dam WISHANGER CELENDINE	BOND OF BOTHKENNAR
Dam BIFROSTSBARBARELLA	Sire FILABEY HAMISH	Sire BLUEBOTTLE OF BOTHKENNAR	WISHANGER BARLEY OF BOTHKENNAR
		Dam CANNAMOOR FRAUCKIE	WILLOWMEAD MY HONEY
	Dam BIFROSTS BONETTA	Sire HEATHERMEAD HOT CARGO	WORKWAY DROVER
		Dam BRYNHILDE OF BOTHKENNAR	WISHANGER WYSTERIA
		Sire BRAVO OF BOTHKENNAR	BURNS OF BOTHKENNAR
		Dam BOND OF BOTHKENNAR	HEATHERMEAD MISS BRONZE
		BRITT OF BOTHKENNAR ▲	
		BRADDEE OF BOTHKENNAR	

Produced by Bearded Collie Foundation for Health

Where we lived, nobody knew what Bearded Collies were and there was nobody around to help my Mom get started in breeding. It was a trial and error kind of thing. She bred about 40 litters under her prefix Trollflöjten (named after the opera The Magic Flute) between 1972 and 1998.

Although we agreed on most things, I decided that I wanted to breed with my own prefix, so registered Old Smuggler's in 1985. It was a bit of a coincidence that I started with Trollflöjtens Carmencita - she came from a litter my Mom bred and was sold to a family where one family member became allergic. She was returned after just a week or two and I decided to take her. She was a mediocre bitch conformation wise but had the most outstanding, super stable temperament. She was bred to Ch Farmarens Zinzano Zam and from that litter I got Ch Old Smuggler's Surfing on a Dream who in turn became a wonderful brood bitch with several champions in both Sweden and the US after our move there in 1994. There are now seven generations of Old Smuggler's and if counting all dogs bred by me or my Mom the total is eleven generations in a straight bitch line, coming down from our first.

Pedigree Certificate

TROLLFLOJTENS CARMENCITA

Sex: Bitch
 DOB: 01/08/1983
 Inbreeding: 24.5%

Parents	Grandparents	Great Grandparents	Great Great Grandparents
Sire TROLLFLOJTENS MOONLIGHT MENUETTE	Sire TROLLFLOJTENS CHARLIE MINGUS	Sire HILLGROVE EAGER BOY	BRIARIDGE BLACK ACE
		Dam TROLLFLOJTENS ELLA JENKINS	HILLGROVE BLACK ANGELICA
	Dam BIFROSTS BLUE BROCADE	Sire MYSTIQUE OF WILLOWMEAD	FARMARENS TOPPEN
		Dam BIFROSTS BOTILDA	TROLLFLOJTENS LITTLE SCHERZO
Dam TROLLFLOJTENS GIRLFRIEND	Sire BRAIDS FELIX	Sire BUCKBEAN NORTHERN STAR	BRAELYN BROADHOLME CROFTER
		Dam BENEDICT MORNINGSUN	WILLOWMEAD JUNO OF TAMBORA
		Sire FARMARENS TOPPEN	ROWDINA MAIN ATTRACTION
	Dam TROLLFLOJTENS ELLA JENKINS	Dam TROLLFLOJTENS LITTLE SCHERZO	BIFROSTS BEE-HONEY
		Sire DAVEALEX ROYLE BARON	DAVEALEX ROYLE BARON
		Dam FARMARENS QUANTAS	BEAGOLD RENA
		Sire BIFROSTS BIANCA	OSMART BONNIE BLUE BRAID
		BROADHOLME BETTINA	
		BRACKEN BOY OF BOTHKENNAR	
		JAYEMJI CLUNIE	
		FARMARENS QUANTAS	
		BIFROSTS BIANCA	



SE UCH Old Smuggler's Surfing On A Dream

Pedigree Certificate

OLD SMUGGLER'S SURFING ON A DREAM

Sex: Bitch
 DOB: 05/22/1988
 Inbreeding: 20.8%

Parents	Grandparents	Great Grandparents	Great Great Grandparents
Sire FARMAREN'S ZINZANO ZAM	Sire FARMAREN'S BROWN BERRY	Sire TAMEVALLEY EASTER HYMN	PEPPERLAND LYRIC JOHN AT POTTERDALE
		Dam FARMAREN'S SILVER QUEEN	DUTCH BONNET OF WILLOWMEAD
	Dam FARMAREN'S HIGHLAND BLUE HENRIETTA	Sire TAMEVALLEY EASTER HYMN	ROSSBOURNE CALUM AT DEANFIELD
		Dam FARMARENS EMILY BLUE	TAMBORA'S PENNY BROWN
Dam TROLLFLOJTENS CARMENCITA	Sire TROLLFLOJTENS MOONLIGHT MENUETTE	Sire TROLLFLOJTENS CHARLIE MINGUS	PEPPERLAND LYRIC JOHN AT POTTERDALE
		Dam BIFROSTS BLUE BROCADE	DUTCH BONNET OF WILLOWMEAD
		Dam TROLLFLOJTENS ELLA JENKINS	OSMART BONNIE BLUE BRAID
	Dam TROLLFLOJTENS GIRLFRIEND	Sire BRAIDS FELIX	TAMBORA'S PENNY BROWN
		Dam TROLLFLOJTENS ELLA JENKINS	HILLGROVE EAGER BOY
		Dam TROLLFLOJTENS LITTLE SCHERZO	TROLLFLOJTENS ELLA JENKINS



US CH Old Smuggler's Her Highness

Pedigree Certificate

OLD SMUGGLER'S HER HIGHNESS

Sex: Bitch
 DOB: 09/15/1993
 Inbreeding: 21.9%

Parents	Grandparents	Great Grandparents	Great Great Grandparents
Sire POTTERDALE ILLUSION	Sire POTTERDALE CONCLUSION	Sire POTTERDALE ANDERSON AT RAMSGROVE	PEPPERLAND ANDY PANDA AT RAMSGROVE
		Dam BLUMBERG HADRIANA AT POTTERDALE	POTTERDALE PRELUDE
	Dam GILLABER CALEDONIA AT POTTERDALE	Sire PEPPERLAND LYRIC JOHN AT POTTERDALE	BLUMBERG DE ROOS ERASMUS
		Dam GILLABER HIGHLAND LAMENT	CHLOE OF BLUMBERG
Dam OLD SMUGGLER'S SURFING ON A DREAM	Sire FARMAREN'S ZINZANO ZAM	Sire FARMAREN'S BROWN BERRY	WISHANGER BUTTERTUBS PASS BY QUINBURY
		Dam FARMAREN'S HIGHLAND BLUE HENRIETTA	PEPPERLAND PANDAMONIUM
	Dam TROLLFLOJTENS CARMENCITA	Sire TROLLFLOJTENS MOONLIGHT MENUETTE	POTTERDALE PHILOSOPHER
		Dam TROLLFLOJTENS GIRLFRIEND	DEARBOLT LADY EMMA
		Sire TROLLFLOJTENS CHARLIE MINGUS	TAMEVALLEY EASTER HYMN
		Dam TROLLFLOJTENS ELLA JENKINS	FARMAREN'S SILVER QUEEN
			TAMEVALLEY EASTER HYMN
			FARMARENS EMLY BLUE
			BIFROSTS BLUE BROCADE
			BRAIDS FELIX
			TROLLFLOJTENS ELLA JENKINS



US CH Old Smuggler's Firecracker

Pedigree Certificate

OLD SMUGGLER'S FIRECRACKER

Sex: Bitch
 DOB: 07/03/1998
 Inbreeding: 23.3%

Parents	Grandparents	Great Grandparents	Great Great Grandparents
Sire NONESUCH IRISH TRACE MORGAN	Sire DIOTIMA FORTUNE SMILES	Sire POTTERDALE ENCORE	POTTERDALE PHILOSOPHER
	Dam SHEILING'S D'ARQUE SUGAR	Dam DIOTIMA DREAM BABY	TAMEVALLEY EASTER SONG AT POTTERDALE PEPPERLAND LYRIC JOHN AT POTTERDALE BLUMBERG DIOTIMA STEEL
Dam OLD SMUGGLER'S HER HIGHNESS	Sire POTTERDALE ILLUSION	Sire SAMMARA STANDING OVATION	POTTERDALE ENCORE WILLOWMEAD SIMPLY SUPER
		Dam BENBECULA'S CRYSTAL D'ARQUE	ALGOBRAE STERLING SILVER ALGOBRAE CHELSEA BLUE
	Sire POTTERDALE CONCLUSION	Sire POTTERDALE CONCLUSION	POTTERDALE ANDERSON AT RAMSGROVE BLUMBERG HADRIANA AT POTTERDALE
		Dam GILLABER CALEDONIA AT POTTERDALE	PEPPERLAND LYRIC JOHN AT POTTERDALE GILLABER HIGHLAND LAMENT
Sire FARMAREN'S ZINZANO ZAM	Sire FARMAREN'S ZINZANO ZAM	FARMAREN'S BROWN BERRY FARMAREN'S HIGHLAND BLUE HENRIETTA	
	Dam TROLLFLOJTENS CARMENCITA	TROLLFLOJTENS MOONLIGHT MENUETTE TROLLFLOJTENS GIRLFRIEND	



SE UCH SE JV-19 Old Smuggler's Jazzkatten

Pedigree Certificate

OLD SMUGGLER'S JAZZKATTEN

Sex: Bitch
 DOB: 04/10/2018
 Inbreeding: 22.7%

Parents	Grandparents	Great Grandparents	Great Great Grandparents
Sire OLD HIGHLAND'S JOYFUL JOKER	Sire WOOLPACK'S JAMES DEAN	Sire ALISTAIR'S MASTER OF THE GAME	CHRISCARO CAGNEY
		Dam WOOLPACK'S ZWEETIE PIE	MAGICBROOK PRETTY MAID
	Dam OLD HIGHLAND'S FLOWER-POWER PEACE	Sire WOOLPACK'S NO MATTER WHAT	CHRISCARO CONNERY
		Dam OLD HIGHLAND'S DREAMS OF ADVENTURE	WOOLPACK'S FLASHDANCE
Dam OLD SMUGGLER'S JUNE MONSOON	Sire GOONIE'S HIGHLANDER LAD	Sire FIRSTONE AUS DEM ELBE-URSTROMTAL	ALISTAIR'S LONESOME COWBOY
		Dam GOONIE'S GOLLY MISS MOLLIE	TAILDOWN'S MARRIED TO THE MOB
	Dam OLD SMUGGLER'S HAT TRICK	Sire OLD SMUGGLER CAROB XS BAGGAGE	POTTERDALE EXCELLENCE
		Dam OLD SMUGGLER'S FIRECRACKER	OLD SMUGGLER'S ON HIGH HEELS
		HEATHER MIST EVERYBODY'S BUSINESS	
		OLD SMUGGLER'S IMAGINATION	
NONESUCH IRISH TRACE MORGAN			
OLD SMUGGLER'S HER HIGHNESS			



Old Smuggler's Movie Star

Pedigree Certificate

OLD SMUGGLER'S MOVIE STAR

Sex: Bitch
 DOB: 05/13/2021
 Inbreeding: 19.0%

Parents	Grandparents	Great Grandparents	Great Great Grandparents
Sire OLD SMUGGLER'S SUBZERO HERO	Sire SPINDRIFT BEND IT LIKE BECKHAM	Sire NONESUCH H'AIR JORDAN	NONESUCH ARLIN TOO MUCH FUN
		Dam SPINDRIFT SOMETHING ABOUT MARY	NONESUCH UNCHAINED MELODY
	Dam OLD SMUGGLER'S TICKLED PINK	Sire ALISTAIR'S JOLLY GOOD FELLOW	HIGHLANDER WILDEST DREAMS
		Dam OLD SMUGGLER'S HAT TRICK	SPINDRIFT CHARMED I'M SURE
Dam OLD SMUGGLER'S JAZZKATTEN	Sire OLD HIGHLAND'S JOYFUL JOKER	POTTERDALE STAR ATTRACTION	
		ALISTAIR'S CHEEK TO CHEEK	
		OLD SMUGGLER CAROB XS BAGGAGE	
	Dam OLD SMUGGLER'S JUNE MONSOON	Sire WOOLPACK'S JAMES DEAN	OLD SMUGGLER'S FIRECRACKER
		Dam OLD HIGHLAND'S FLOWER-POWER PEACE	ALISTAIR'S MASTER OF THE GAME
		Sire GOONIE'S HIGHLANDER LAD	WOOLPACK'S ZWETIE PIE
Dam OLD SMUGGLER'S HAT TRICK	WOOLPACK'S NO MATTER WHAT		
OLD HIGHLAND'S DREAMS OF ADVENTURE			
FIRSTONE AUS DEM ELBE-URSTROMTAL			
GOONIE'S GOLLY MISS MOLLIE			
OLD SMUGGLER CAROB XS BAGGAGE			
OLD SMUGGLER'S FIRECRACKER			

Breeding. It is important to remember that as breeders, we are creating a “whole” dog. Every puppy in the upcoming litter should look and act like a Beardie, be healthy, have a long life and function well in its new home. An occasional “star” does not mean much if the rest of the litter is not healthy and happy. When selecting a male to breed one of my bitches to, the first requirement for me is that the dog appeals to me. As far as conformation, I can excuse small details, as long as the dog is “my type” of Beardie, which of course includes temperament. The pedigree is very important to me. I have an extensive database and have tracked Beardie pedigrees since I was basically just a kid.

I have been very lucky with health and do not knowingly breed to dogs with close relatives with health problems. I also try to avoid popular sires as much as that is possible, something I have learned more about in the last couple of decades. Consequently, a “middle-aged” or older male with a good health history that has not been used extensively is what I hope to find. Finally, the dog has to “match” the bitch so that you do not double up on weaknesses or faults. Temperaments are very important and I value both temperament tests and herding instinct tests, especially if I do not know the dogs so well personally.

Avoiding popular sires is the most important thing we can do for our breed’s diversity. Using popular sires (and bitches, for that matter!) may be a quick way to success in the showing, but it is also a fast lane to more drastic measures like cross-breeding since it drains the gene pool of diversity, something that is already starting to become a problem. Unfortunately, it is a little bit like climate change - we know about it, we see consequences from it, but we don’t make a lot of changes. And of course, there are always some who choose to ignore science completely.

Health Testing. We don’t do as many health tests in Sweden as in many other countries. This has both upsides and downsides. The upside is that dogs are not discarded from breeding for minor discrepancies that will never cause a problem and that may not even be genetic. The downside is, of course, that we may unknowingly pass on defects that could have been detected. I score hips and elbows on my dogs. Most Swedish breeders only do hips since that is the only thing required for breeding. I think it is very important to do elbows, but with relatively few stud dogs scored it is almost impossible to have it as a requirement when selecting stud dogs. ED is hereditary and causes more pain and suffering to the dogs than HD - suffering that in some cases lead to euthanasia. We have a good system for hip scoring here - all hip x-rays are sent to the Swedish Kennel Club for scoring and all results are public. Anyone from anywhere in the world can access them with a few clicks. Since 2018 we also have EBV (estimated breeding values) for hips. This helps us breed for good hips, but unfortunately not all breeders take advantage of the system.

The SKK (Swedish Kennel Club) does not get involved in which dogs are used for breeding, as long as they have passed the necessary health exams which, for Beardies, means they need to have their hips scored with either A, B or C. The recommendation is that the EBV should be at least 100. SKK also has rules regarding at what age a bitch can be bred, how many litters she can have (maximum of five) and how much time needs to pass between each litter. Breeders are subjected to random, unscheduled kennel inspections to make sure dogs are well cared for.

All breed clubs in Sweden need to have a written breeding strategy for their breed. It is quite an extensive document that covers the status of the breed when it comes to health, temperament, conformation, genetic diversity, use of breeding animals, etc. The document

is called RAS and is published online at both SKK's and the breed club's homepage. It is updated every year and revised every five years.

Puppy Families. My favorite puppy buyer is an active family, people who like to be outdoors and want to keep their dog like a family member and take it on trips and activities. I don't have set requirements but like the family to come visit, see them with the dogs and make sure we feel comfortable with each other. Usually people have visited before the puppies are born, then come visit at least once while the puppies are growing. Depending on distance, some families can come more than once which I appreciate. I want to get to know them and also enjoy having them watch the puppies develop. Around six weeks or so we pick out which puppy should go where. Although I have the final say, I listen to what people prefer and sometimes they can have a few to pick from. Somehow everyone ends up being sure that they got the best puppy!

As members of the Swedish Kennel Club, we have to use their contracts.

We stay in touch through email and social media mostly. We have a Facebook page for puppy people and friends. Each year I send out a holiday letter by mail to all the puppy people, with a summary of the year, news of what's going on etc. We also arrange get-togethers for puppy people, usually with some activities like tracking, rally obedience, ring training and grooming. We have also had a few herding events for our puppy buyers, sometimes ending with a herding instinct test.

I have had two puppies returned to me since I moved back to Sweden from the U.S. in 2009. One was rehomed because of personal circumstances and the other, more recent one, was returned to me because he was too active for the owners. Both were rehomed to wonderful, new homes.

The Bearded Collie Breed. There were some wonderful Beardies in the 70's and 80's that would still do extremely well today. Very sound with beautiful breed type. However, in those early days there were also a lot of not so great dogs - tall and narrow with shallow chests, high hocks, tails curled over the back etc. Not pretty and not fit for purpose. I think the 90's were the absolute best decade for the breed. The quality ran deep with superb dogs from many different breeders. Let's admit that it was partly a result of extensive use of some superior stud dogs and concentration of some very successful bloodlines. Their puppies were exported, mainly from the UK, to all parts of the Beardie world. However, years later that same strategy has caused problems. We lost a lot of diversity and finding stud dogs is more difficult. Combined with fewer registrations in most (all?) parts of the world, the quality is not what it once was, in my opinion.

When I came to the US in 1994, I didn't meet anyone who knew anything about Swedish Beardies. "Where is Sweden? You mean Switzerland? You have Beardies there?" Today, more Beardie puppies are exported from Sweden than from any other country. It is a testament to the excellent quality we have here, but it makes it very hard for us to find anything interesting to import since so many dogs all over the world are at least part Swedish. Some breeders manage to incorporate new lines into their breeding program without losing what they have, but too many chase after the same dogs and forget where they came from. When that happens, bloodlines are lost.

Today we also see a new "type" of Beardie in certain parts of the world which is most concerning. Dogs win that do not have the correct proportions. They are short in body but often have super long necks which completely throws off the balance of the dog. I also

have to mention coats which have increased a lot over the years. Owners must have misunderstood what a Beardie is when they try to grow as much coat as possible on their dogs. As a longtime Beardie person it make me shudder seeing photos of Beardies with wrapped whiskers, braided bangs etc. I have to wonder if people ever read the standard or care what it says.

I have not judged Beardies outside of Scandinavia in the past few years. What I see here is that we have a very high quality in general and it goes across the breed with lovely dogs from many different breeders. I think, though, that we need to pay more attention to heads. Many dogs lack stop which gives them the wrong expression. Quite a few also have a bit pointy skulls, narrow muzzles and lack fill under the eyes, often in combination with narrow jaws. While some dogs in the US are too light in bone, we have some dogs that tend to border on being a bit too much. The Beardie should be strong, yet lean and agile.