

## **RAGGMOPP Kennel**

**Carol Gold**

**Introduction.** My name is Carol Gold and I live in Toronto Ontario Canada. My kennel name is RAGGMOPP and it is permanently registered with the Canadian kennel club.

**Prelude.** I grew up in Toronto and was a pop journalist from my teens on, interviewing just about every teen idol who came to Toronto, even Dick Clark. I went to Los Angeles to attend UCLA because it had a tv/movie department and I wanted to be in broadcasting. There I wrote about the LA scene for a Toronto newspaper. A publicist contacted me to interview a so-far-unknown British singer and I managed to make him look like a pop star in waiting. That led to writing a syndicated column with interviews of more well-known bands, including the Beatles.

When I graduated from UCLA, I wanted to go to swinging London, so off I went in 1966. I had arrangements to write columns and interviews for publications in the States and Canada. When my roommates and I were able to move into a flat with a garden, I got my Rough Collie puppy; when he was old enough I started showing him. That brought me to the beginning my life with Beardies.

I saw my first Beardie at Windsor championship dog show in 1967 where I was showing my Rough Collie. She greeted me as though I were her long-lost best friend and I was very flattered. Beardies were in a miscellaneous class then. I think there were 5 or 6 of them, shaggy and unkempt. The old song R.A.G.G.M.O.P.P came into my mind right away. The judge had a towel in his pocket, which showed he knew the breed because every one of them jumped up and gave slurpy kisses all over his face. I was hooked.

**History with Beardies.** After my overwhelming introduction to Beardies, I knew I had to have at least one. It was 1967, so I had to hunt around to finally find The Bearded Collie Club. The Secretary at that time was Wendy Boorer. She was delighted to find someone who was interested in the breed as they were hardly known then. She took me under her wing and introduced me to the few other breeders in the London area, including Trudy Wheeler of the Cannamoor Beardies and Toni Teasdale of the Tonsarne Beardies, and several others whose names I can't recall right now. (But I'll never forget meeting Big John!)

Some of us would drive to any nearby Open Show with a Miscellaneous class to show their dogs and see if there was an unknown Beardie there. As we were driving to a show one day, Wendy slammed the brakes and, pointing out the window, shouted "Beardie!" We all piled out of the car and surrounded a bewildered woman with a dog that looked very much like a Beardie. "What kind of dog is he?" "Where did you get him?" "Is he purebred?" She was kind of vague, but she thought it was a Bearded Collie. We were vague about him too, and we all got back in the car and headed off to the show.

Going to a lot of shows and being taken under the wings of people who knew so much about Beardies — conformation, character, history — and who took me to see some of the best Beardies of the time, it was like a Masterclass in the breed. It was also a lot of fun. I was hunting for a puppy because I had always wanted to breed dogs and this was the breed I wanted. Everybody was hunting for litters for me but nobody was breeding much, because they weren't well-known and there were few buyers. There was one breeder everyone warned me away from because she wasn't reliable about selling her dogs, particularly what she charged. They all thought she had great Beardies, dirty and unkempt, but they said it might not be a good experience, so guess who I bought my first Beardie from? And it was the best Beardie thing I ever did. A strange experience, definitely a lot of stories to "dine out" on, but this isn't the right forum for them.

I returned to Toronto in 1969 accompanied by Chevy the Collie, Gael the Beardie pup, and cat Sitar.

We crossed the Atlantic on a ship making its last trip of the year. It was like a rowboat compared to cruise ships of today.

**How many litters have you bred and mentors?** Twelve and several others that were co-bred. After I got home with my first Beardie, Gael (Wishanger Marsh Pimpernel) I still had a mountain of things to learn.



**Wishanger Marsh Pimpernel**

So I created form letters with lots of questions and sent them to some of the well-known breeders, such as Jenny Osborne, Suzanne Moorehouse, Jackie James, Joyce Collis, and of course, Wendy. I asked about conformation, head shape, expression, movement, coat, exercise, and much more. It was interesting to learn their differences in opinion and that helped me form my own ideas and philosophy. I was also mentored by knowledgeable breeders of other breeds. They taught me a lot about construction and breeding and developing an ‘eye’ for a dog.

**Breeding.** The first Beardie I bred to was an unbeatable choice. He was the only male Beardie in the country! A young couple saw Gael and Chevy tied up outside the grocery where I was shopping. It was okay to do that back then. Now I’d carry them around in a backpack if I had to (just imagine that!) They took one look at Gael and saw Dougal, the shaggy red dog from *The Magic Roundabout*, a BBC cartoon kids’ show. They’d loved that dog and always wanted one like him. After a longish conversation I told them I’d find them one in England. And I was successful. I wrote to Jenny Osborne and told her the story and she picked out a gorgeous red-brown male puppy, of complementary breeding and send him off to the couple (the McLennans) to be the founding sire of Canadian Beardies with Gael (Wishanger Marsh Pimpernel) as founding dam. He was Osmart Brown Barnaby who went on to become Champions in both Canada and America. Several of the first litter went on to be the foundations dogs of other Canadian kennels. Gael had three more litters, each of which produced more champions and more foundations.



**Osmart Brown Barnaby**

Now on to the original question. How did I select a mate? It's hard to explain because I was breeding in the very early days. I stopped in the 2000s for several reasons, mainly my health; I felt I couldn't give them everything they needed other than love. When I was breeding the first priority was a dog that overall said "Beardie!" to me. Then conformation, which also had to be "Beardie" with a grass-cutting gait, a smooth topline on the move, excellent shoulders and accompanying head carriage, wagging tail streaming out behind.

I didn't care if the dog had ever entered a show ring or had famous, winning parents. In fact, I preferred not, since the winners were the ones other people were flocking to. I found off-the-track Beardies, dogs who didn't win because they didn't look like the others in the ring. There was nothing wrong with those Beardies, but when you've got a ring full of pink dogs and there's one grey, the latter looks like it must be wrong, even though it may be the best dog there.

I located dogs who had come with their families from England, dogs imported by people who'd heard about the breed but couldn't find a breeder here. Even Beardies in pet shops, brought in from the UK. One of those was a blue bitch found in a Montreal pet shop by my best friend, also in dogs. She went into the shop, found out the Beardie was Kennel Club (UK) registered and brought her home to me. Her registered name was Polacca My Beauty; we called her Shandy.



**Polacca My Beauty**

She was a working Beardie type, not the look of ‘show’ Beardies, yet she won BOW at the Canadian Specialty, standing on her hind legs, I might add, except when gaiting or being examined.



**What activities are you involved in with your Beardies?** None right now since I don’t have a Beardie. But the Beardies and I were busy. The most important activity we did was to get the breed recognized in Canada. Without Gael, it would have taken a lot longer, I believe. She was a natural politician. I gave talks at breed clubs and judge’s groups and she worked the room. As I blathered on, she would go from person to person giving a wagging greeting to one, offering her paw to another, a Breadie ‘look’ to the next. If anyone doubted the intelligence and persuasiveness of beardies, Gael made them believers.

We did obedience (and do I have stories about that!) and agility and flyball before they became recognized sport. A couple of my Beardies joined SuperDogs for a while. My Rough Collie, Chevy, and I belonged to our Obedience Club Drill Team and when Gael got old enough, she joined in, alternating with Chevy. We performed at a variety of places, including some of the big, benched shows. A benched show is one where the dogs are required to stay at the venue for the full show.

There is an arrival and an exit time and during the day, benches are set up for the dogs to stay on. The best part was that our unrecognized Beardies were allowed into the shows as part of the Drill Team. Unregistered dogs couldn't otherwise come into the show grounds. So people from other breeds could see the Beardies.

Two of my Beardies were therapy dogs and several were in TV and print advertising. Mostly, we walked in Toronto's vast ravine system, played ball, visited friends, chased squirrels (Beardies did that, not me; I just chased the dogs), lay on the couch, watched TV and slept on my bed. These were the best activities of all.

**Health Screening Tests.** When I started, Beardies were considered one of the healthiest breeds in the world, so health was kind of taken for granted. Within a few years a Bearded Collie was diagnosed with hip dysplasia and everyone became aware that it was in the breed, so conscientious breeders (which were most) checked for hip dysplasia clearance. Peer pressure was a big factor, including breed publications requiring a dog's hip status in an ad, in returning hip dysplasia to being "not a problem in Beardies". However, because of the narrowing of the gene pool, there were more inherited problems and I would use every test available before breeding, and require it for the mate. I believe this is an obligation. But the tests are only information. The hard part is balancing the health information and genetic diversity. It's like walking a tightrope. Frozen sperm is such a blessing, allowing overcoming the limits of geography.

**Prioritizing traits such as structure/movement, temperament, intelligence, etc.** The only two I would prioritize are temperament and health because living happily forever with your dog requires both.

**Important lessons learned.** One: if you want to live with a Bearded Collie you have to have a good sense of humour. Two: Beardies have a great sense of humour.

**The Bearded Collie Breed.** The more people use the winning dogs, the less genetic diversity the breed has. Since Beardies didn't have a large genetic diversity to start with, the fewer dogs are used, the narrower the gene pool becomes. There were some Beardies that I thought were outstanding examples of the breed. Among the Beardies that stayed in my mind's eye was Tambora of Edelweiss. She was a dark red-brown with the wave that you rarely see any more. She floated when moving.



**Edelweiss of Tambora**

Osmart Bonnie Blue Braid was another wonderful Beardie with that flowing movement and the beautiful head as in the picture. He was regal in the ring but a cuddler at home.



**CH Osmart Bonnie Blue Braid**



**Bronze Javelin of Tambora**

And then there's CH Wishanger Cairnbhan. The first time I saw him he was moving on the other side of a hedge. All I could see was his head and back; his topline never moved. He might as well have been on a moving sidewalk. Mary Partridge (Wishanger) didn't take care of her dog's coats and so you couldn't see his body well. I took this picture when he was 10 years old (1972). He went on to win BOB at Crufts in 1973 (his CH was achieved in 1964).



These last photos are of Raggmopp Rhapsody in Black (40 years after the start of Raggmopp Kennel) alongside Wishanger Marsh Pimpernel (the start of it all). It is a pleasant memory to have retained the type for that long a period.



Raggmopp Rhapsody in Black (Chloe)



CH Wishanger Pimpernel (Gael)

# Pedigree Certificate

## WISHANGER MARSH PIMPERNEL

Sex: Bitch  
 DOB: 07/16/1968  
 Breeder: MISS M.PARTRIDGE  
 Inbreeding: 21.4%

Parents	Grandparents	Great Grandparents	Great Great Grandparents
Sire  WISHANGER RIVER HUMBER	Sire ALASTAIR OF WILLOWMEAD	Sire RUAIRIDH OF WILLOWMEAD	WILL O' WISP OF WILLOWMEAD
		Dam WILLOWMEAD BARBERRY OF BOTHKENNAR	SWEETHEART OF WILLOWMEAD
	Dam WILLOWMEAD MY HONEY	Sire WILL O' WISP OF WILLOWMEAD	RIDGEWAY ROB
		Dam MERRYMAKER OF WILLOWMEAD	BRA' TAWNY OF BOTHKENNAR
Dam  WISHANGER CREEPING TANSY	Sire WISHANGER CAIRNBHAN	Sire WISHANGER BARLEY OF BOTHKENNAR	BRITT OF BOTHKENNAR ▲
		Dam WILLOWMEAD MY HONEY	WILLOWMEAD BARBERRY OF BOTHKENNAR
		Dam WISHANGER BARLEY OF BOTHKENNAR	BOBBY OF BOTHKENNAR
		Dam WISHANGER JESSICA OF MULTAN	WILLOWMEAD BARBERRY OF BOTHKENNAR
	Dam WISHANGER WYSTERIA	Sire WISHANGER BARLEY OF BOTHKENNAR	RIDGEWAY ROB
		Dam WISHANGER JESSICA OF MULTAN	BRA' TAWNY OF BOTHKENNAR
		Sire WISHANGER BARLEY OF BOTHKENNAR	WILL O' WISP OF WILLOWMEAD
		Dam WISHANGER JESSICA OF MULTAN	MERRYMAKER OF WILLOWMEAD
			RIDGEWAY ROB
			BRA' TAWNY OF BOTHKENNAR
			BRITT OF BOTHKENNAR ▲
			JENNIFER OF MULTAN ▲

Produced by Bearded Collie Foundation for Health

# Pedigree Certificate

## OSMART BROWN BARNABY

Sex: Dog  
 DOB: 01/02/1969  
 Breeder: MR & MRS K. OSBORNE  
 Inbreeding: 27.7%

Parents	Grandparents	Great Grandparents	Great Great Grandparents
Sire  YAGER APLOMB AT OSMART	Sire BRAVO OF BOTHKENNAR	Sire BLIMBER OF BOTHKENNAR	BALACHAN OF BOTHKENNAR
		Dam BEAUTY QUEEN OF BOTHKENNAR	BRONZE PENNY OF BOTHKENNAR
	Dam YAGER YEALAND CHRISTABEL	Sire WISHANGER CAIRNBHAN	BRAVADO OF BOTHKENNAR
		Dam CANNAMOOR CARLOTTA	BAIDH OF BOTHKENNAR
Dam  OSMART BONNIE BLACK PEARL	Sire BRAVO OF BOTHKENNAR	Sire WISHANGER CAIRNBHAN	WISHANGER BARLEY OF BOTHKENNAR
		Dam CANNAMOOR CARLOTTA	WILLOWMEAD MY HONEY
		Sire BLIMBER OF BOTHKENNAR	BRAVO OF BOTHKENNAR
		Dam BEAUTY QUEEN OF BOTHKENNAR	CANNAMOOR BRIGHDE
	Dam BLUE BONNIE OF BOTHKENNAR	Sire BANNOCHE OF BOTHKENNAR	BALACHAN OF BOTHKENNAR
		Dam BOND OF BOTHKENNAR	BRONZE PENNY OF BOTHKENNAR
		Sire BANNOCHE OF BOTHKENNAR	BRAVADO OF BOTHKENNAR
		Dam BOND OF BOTHKENNAR	BAIDH OF BOTHKENNAR
			RIDGEWAY ROB
			BRA' TAWNY OF BOTHKENNAR
			BAILIE OF BOTHKENNAR ▲
			BESS OF BOTHKENNAR ▲

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# Pedigree Certificate

## POLACCA MY BEAUTY

Sex: Bitch  
 DOB: 06/06/1971  
 Breeder: MRS EJ DAVIES  
 Inbreeding: 15.2%

Parents	Grandparents	Great Grandparents	Great Great Grandparents
WESTERNISLES BLUE TERN	Sire WESTERNISLES BLUE MOON AT OSMART	Sire BRAVO OF BOTHKENNAR	BLIMBER OF BOTHKENNAR
		Dam BLUE BONNIE OF BOTHKENNAR	BEAUTY QUEEN OF BOTHKENNAR
	Dam WESTERNISLES WISHANGER CLEMATIS	Sire WORKWAY DROVER	BANNOCH OF BOTHKENNAR
		Dam WISHANGER WYSTERIA	BOND OF BOTHKENNAR
WESTERNISLES BEAUTY	Sire WESTERNISLES LOCH BHREATAL	Sire ALASTAIR OF WILLOWMEAD	RIDGEWAY ROB
		Dam WESTERNISLES WISHANGER BEECHMAST	BREMHILL BETTY
	Dam WESTERNISLES WISHANGER BEECHMAST	Sire CANNAMOOR BAILIE	WISHANGER BARLEY OF BOTHKENNAR
		Dam WISHANGER WYSTERIA	WISHANGER JESSICA OF MULTAN
	Sire ALASTAIR OF WILLOWMEAD	Sire WILLOWMEAD BARBERRY OF BOTHKENNAR	RUAIRIDH OF WILLOWMEAD
		Dam WISHANGER WYSTERIA	WILLOWMEAD BARBERRY OF BOTHKENNAR
Sire CANNAMOOR BAILIE	Sire JOHNSCROPE OF SWALEHALL	CANNAMOOR BAILIE	
Dam WISHANGER WYSTERIA	Sire BRASENOSE ANNABELLE	WISHANGER WYSTERIA	
		Sire WISHANGER BARLEY OF BOTHKENNAR	JOHNSCROPE OF SWALEHALL
		Dam WISHANGER JESSICA OF MULTAN	BRASENOSE ANNABELLE
			WISHANGER BARLEY OF BOTHKENNAR
			WISHANGER JESSICA OF MULTAN

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# Pedigree Certificate

## WISHANGER CAIRNBHAN

Sex: Dog  
 DOB: 07/12/1962  
 Breeder: MISS M PARTRIDGE  
 Inbreeding: 17.4%

Parents	Grandparents	Great Grandparents	Great Great Grandparents
WISHANGER BARLEY OF BOTHKENNAR	Sire RIDGEWAY ROB	Sire NEWTOWN BLACKIE ▲	
		Dam BRIERY NAN OF BOTHKENNAR	BOGLE OF BOTHKENNAR
	Dam BRA' TAWNY OF BOTHKENNAR	Sire BAILIE OF BOTHKENNAR ▲	BESS OF BOTHKENNAR ▲
		Dam BUSKIE OF BOTHKENNAR	DANDY
WILLOWMEAD MY HONEY	Sire WILL O' WISP OF WILLOWMEAD	Sire BRITT OF BOTHKENNAR ▲	BAILIE OF BOTHKENNAR ▲
		Dam WILLOWMEAD BARBERRY OF BOTHKENNAR	JEANNIE OF BOTHKENNAR ▲
	Dam MERRYMAKER OF WILLOWMEAD	Sire BOBBY OF BOTHKENNAR	JOCK
		Dam WILLOWMEAD BARBERRY OF BOTHKENNAR	MOOTIE
	Sire WILLOWMEAD BARBERRY OF BOTHKENNAR	Sire RIDGEWAY ROB	RIDGEWAY ROB
	Dam WILLOWMEAD BARBERRY OF BOTHKENNAR	Sire BRA' TAWNY OF BOTHKENNAR	BRA' TAWNY OF BOTHKENNAR
	Sire MIRK	MIRK	
	Sire BOND OF BOTHKENNAR	BOND OF BOTHKENNAR	
	Sire RIDGEWAY ROB	RIDGEWAY ROB	
	Sire BRA' TAWNY OF BOTHKENNAR	BRA' TAWNY OF BOTHKENNAR	

Produced by Bearded Collie Foundation for Health

# Pedigree Certificate

## EDELWEISS OF TAMBORA

Sex: Bitch  
 DOB: 04/06/1967  
 Breeder: MISS J VROOME  
 Inbreeding: 14.1%

Parents	Grandparents	Great Grandparents	Great Great Grandparents
WISHANGER CAIRNBHAN	WISHANGER BARLEY OF BOTHKENNAR	RIDGEWAY ROB	NEWTOWN BLACKIE ▲
		BRA' TAWNY OF BOTHKENNAR	BRIERY NAN OF BOTHKENNAR
	WILLOWMEAD MY HONEY	WILL O' WISP OF WILLOWMEAD	BAILIE OF BOTHKENNAR ▲
		MERRYMAKER OF WILLOWMEAD	BUSKIE OF BOTHKENNAR
BURDOCK OF TAMBORA	BEAUSANT OF BOTHKENNAR	RANGER	BRITT OF BOTHKENNAR ▲
		SYMPHONY	WILLOWMEAD BARBERRY OF BOTHKENNAR
	AMBERFORD BRACKEN	BANTER OF BOTHKENNAR	BOBBY OF BOTHKENNAR
		MUSICAL MAID OF WILLOWMEAD	WILLOWMEAD BARBERRY OF BOTHKENNAR
			PETER II
			COLEEN
			JOHN II
			HEATHER (STEELE)
		RIDGEWAY ROB	
		BRA' TAWNY OF BOTHKENNAR	
		WILL O' WISP OF WILLOWMEAD	
		MERRYMAKER OF WILLOWMEAD	

Produced by Orkney Collie Foundation for Health

# Pedigree Certificate

## OSMART BONNIE BLUE BRAID

Sex: Dog  
 DOB: 12/01/1965  
 Breeder: MR & MRS K OSBORNE  
 Inbreeding: 14.3%

Parents	Grandparents	Great Grandparents	Great Great Grandparents
BRAVO OF BOTHKENNAR	BLIMBER OF BOTHKENNAR	BALACHAN OF BOTHKENNAR	BRITT OF BOTHKENNAR ▲
		BRONZE PENNY OF BOTHKENNAR	BRA' TAWNY OF BOTHKENNAR
	BEAUTY QUEEN OF BOTHKENNAR	BRAVADO OF BOTHKENNAR	BRUCE OF BOTHKENNAR
		BAIDH OF BOTHKENNAR	JENNIFER OF MULTAN ▲
BLUE BONNIE OF BOTHKENNAR	BANNOCH OF BOTHKENNAR	RIDGEWAY ROB	BAILIE OF BOTHKENNAR ▲
		BRA' TAWNY OF BOTHKENNAR	JEANNIE OF BOTHKENNAR ▲
	BOND OF BOTHKENNAR	BAILIE OF BOTHKENNAR ▲	RIDGEWAY ROB
		BESS OF BOTHKENNAR ▲	BRA' TAWNY OF BOTHKENNAR
			NEWTOWN BLACKIE ▲
			BRIERY NAN OF BOTHKENNAR
		BAILIE OF BOTHKENNAR ▲	
		BUSKIE OF BOTHKENNAR	
		DANDY	
		BOBBY	
		BETT	

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# Pedigree Certificate

## BRONZE JAVELIN OF TAMBORA

Sex: Dog  
 DOB: 03/04/1970  
 Breeder: MISS J VROOME  
 Inbreeding: 13.3%

Parents	Grandparents	Great Grandparents	Great Great Grandparents
OSMART BONNIE BLUE BRAID	BRAVO OF BOTHKENNAR	BLIMBER OF BOTHKENNAR	BALACHAN OF BOTHKENNAR
		BEAUTY QUEEN OF BOTHKENNAR	BRONZE PENNY OF BOTHKENNAR
	BLUE BONNIE OF BOTHKENNAR	BANNOCH OF BOTHKENNAR	BRAVADO OF BOTHKENNAR
		BOND OF BOTHKENNAR	BAIDH OF BOTHKENNAR
EDELWEISS OF TAMBORA	WISHANGER CAIRNBHAN	WISHANGER BARLEY OF BOTHKENNAR	RIDGEWAY ROB
		WILLOWMEAD MY HONEY	BRA' TAWNY OF BOTHKENNAR
	BURDOCK OF TAMBORA	BEAUSANT OF BOTHKENNAR	BAILIE OF BOTHKENNAR ▲
		AMBERFORD BRACKEN	BESS OF BOTHKENNAR ▲
			RIDGEWAY ROB
			BRA' TAWNY OF BOTHKENNAR
			WILL O' WISP OF WILLOWMEAD
			MERRYMAKER OF WILLOWMEAD
		RANGER	
		SYMPHONY	
		BANTER OF BOTHKENNAR	
		MUSICAL MAID OF WILLOWMEAD	

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