



Harri Lehkonen - Finlandi

Harri's first dog, a Rough Collie, was born in 1957. His second dog was a Longhaired Standard Dachshund, but he was not a show quality dog. He became really involved with show dogs and breeding after he got married in 1973. He became a judge in 1981. Besides Finland, he has judged in 26 countries. The most important shows have been the World Show in Dortmund in 1991 (Cairn Terriers) and the European Winner Show also in Dortmund in 1990 (short-legged terriers). He has been in the judging panels of the Champion of Champions, Veteran of Veterans contests both in Finland and Sweden, and has been a Terrier & Dachshund hunting trial judge, but retired recently from that. The Staffordshire Bull & American Staffordshire Terrier Club of Finland gave him a scholarship to study American Staffordshire's in America, and he visited the Specialty Show in Jeffersonville in 1995, having also an opportunity to judge the Sweepstakes there, as the first ever foreign judge. After that he has judged Amstaffs elsewhere in USA: in Chicago, Milwaukee and Hawaii. He has also judged Amstaff specialty shows in Russia and given lectures about the breed, also Amstaffs and Bull Terriers in several all breed shows in Russia.

Harri has been board member and vice-chairman of the local Dachshund Club for several years, board member of the Fox Terrier Club and a member of the Lahti International show committee. He has been a member of the computing committee of the Finnish Kennel Club and made programs for making show catalogues and results. At present he is a member of the Standard Committee and the Committee of Future Plans. He has been an auditor of the regional Kennel Club and some other canine clubs. Some articles written by Harri and lots of his photos have been published in the dog press. He is a member of the World Dog Press Association. Harri has been in charge of the education and examinations of the new judges for some breed clubs, especially Staffordshire Bull and American Staffordshire Terriers. Harri was decorated by the Finnish Kennel Club (silver medal), the Finnish Terrier Club (silver medal) and the Finnish Dachshund Club (bronze medal).

All the dogs and breeding has been in his wife's name (Paula Heikkinen-Lehkonen - see below), so all the credit of this goes to her, but actually they have done it together. They have bred and owned several Champions in Smooth and Wire Fox Terriers, English Springer Spaniels and Longhaired Standard Dachshunds. By profession Harri is a teacher of computing, and because of his work commitments he hasn't been as active in the dog world as his wife. He speaks English, Finnish and Swedish.