



*Global Shelties
Magazine*

March 2012 Edition



VETERANS TO BE PROUD OF



Forever Young... Honoring Graying Muzzles

By Linda Kunicki: Starlite Shelties

There is a saying “like a fine wine, I get better with age” and when it comes to the veteran age Shelties of Starlite, this really has described them.

We have had the privilege to have many Shelties live to a ripe old age. However there are three very special ones that continued or restarted their show career as Veterans. Two of them did a good share of winning in the conformation ring considering their age and being against the much younger competition that was also in the ring. The other one is just starting his veteran show career at 9 years young!

All of these wonderful guys have been owned and loved by Starlite Shelties which consists of Linda Kunicki, Illinois and Christy Calkins, Wisconsin.
The present...



We are proud at Starlite Shelties to have produced older dogs that can compete well into those veteran years. Our newest veteran to hit the ring is Ch. Starlite He’s All That- Royal, who is 9+ years young. Royal has not been in the ring since 2006 and we think his quality should be shown off, so now it’s his turn. His head qualities and movement have always been great and gotten even better with age.

In limited showing he has won multiple Best of Breeds and Select Dog wins. It was a very special honor, recently, for Royal to win a BOB under breeder-judge, Linda C. More, who is the Chairman of Judges' Education for the American Shetland Sheepdog Association.

The past...



Grand Ch. Starlites Cast in Red (Rudy) - June 20, 1998-December 13, 2011

Rudy was the reason Linda was contacted by Global Shelties Magazine about this issue featuring veterans, as he had made history in the AKC. Rudy had earned a Grand Championship at age 13. This made him the oldest AKC dog of any breed to accomplish this as of August 2011 and as far as we know he is still the oldest to date.

Rudy was not a reserved sheltie at all. Everyone was his friend and people around the ring his audience. We said he was a Sheltie ambassador making fans wherever he went. He drew fans at public venues and around the ring too as he would 'talk' as he gaited to let everyone know 'I'm here'. He did this at the 2011 National and after he passed away people I don't even know said how much they enjoyed his attitude and they cried with us, for they felt the pain of his loss.

He also had a nice career as a youngster, a 3rd place at ten months old in the American Bred class at the 1999 National, and many Group placements through 2002. However, due to life circumstances there was an interval where we did not actively show until 2011. Linda and husband, Len, were planning to go to the ASSA National in St. Louis to enter Rudy in the 12+ Veteran class, but first thought they'd take Rudy to a show in Chicago to dust off their show skills. That was February 27th, 2011 and Rudy won Select Dog. The judge said this guy deserves his Grand Championship. Rudy went on to win 2nd place in the 12+ Veteran class and others reiterated he looks so young he deserves his Grand.

So we hit the road and gave it a try! Rudy proved he was 'Forever Young' he raced around the rings always "talking". He finished his Grand Championship in just under 5 months, with his first win at age 12 ½ and finishing at 13, with BOB wins over much younger specials.

His last Select Dog win was on December 8th, 2011 and he left us suddenly on December 13th. He left us looking like a 7 year old Sheltie and even the vet stated "you will remember him as 'forever young' and that is what he wanted, never to be an 'old' dog".



Ch. Starlites Sportin' Ruler (Ryan) - June 17th, 1984-May 2, 2000

Ryan started his specials career at 6 ½ years old shortly after he came to live with Linda in Illinois to enjoy the couch more. No one thought a 14 ¼ inch male could win as a special. Linda thought they would just go out to have some fun. Needless to say their first show out together in October 1990 garnered Ryan a Group 4. The team went on to other Group wins to make the Sheltie Pacesetter top 40 twice. Some special memories include a Group 1 at age 7 ½ and a Group 4 under breeder-judge Charlotte Clem McGowan at age 12!

Our sweet little guy's final show was at the Chicagoland SSC specialty at almost 15 yrs old after recovering from a minor stroke. It was a special moment for Linda and Christy having all his fans over the years cheer for him and he relished every moment.

We cannot keep our special Shelties forever but each distinct memory whether in the show ring or special time at home stays in our hearts and puts a smile on our face even if it also brings a tear to our eye.

We'd like to thank Global Shelties Magazine for having this celebration of graying muzzles and veteran virtues.

The Plaque above (see page 22) was very kindly made by Diane Troese who said - "He had my respect and it was an honor to make it for him". Diane owns 'Pinta'- Ch. Emprise Silver Lining. She is just precious at 13 years old and has just won an Award of Merit at the ASSA National in Florida. I did not go but I was rooting for her to win her class, she then received the AOM - http://www.sheltiesonline.com/ad_archive_2011/emprise_121711.html.

Linda & Lennie Kunicki, Glendale Heights, IL and Christy Calkins, Oshkosh, WI have been friends since 1987 when Starlite's On the Move (Cory), jumped in Lennie's lap and went home to Illinois with him to later become a Champion. Linda and Christy have co-owned, co-bred and finished shelties ever since.

www.StarliteShelties.com USA



Ch. Lynnlea Forever Amber CD won Best of Breed from the veteran's class at the 1983 American Shetland Sheepdog Association National specialty. She had in fact, just finished her championship a few weeks before the show. She carries down today to most of our dogs including a sixth generation Grand Champion Lynnlea's Sparkle Plenty who finished both titles this year.
Dorothy Christiansen. USA

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Ir. Ch. Colroy Crystal Girl (Zoe) won Best Veteran In Show at our Shetland Sheepdog Club of Northern Ireland show in 2010 under Judge - Mrs. I. Cummings (Altnareagh), at the age of 10 years old. Not exactly an 'outstanding achievement' but decided it was a nice way to finish her show career. She was an absolute joy to show and I know if she had her way, she would want to be back in the show ring once again!

Valarie Kyle. Ireland

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In Poland, Veterans (dog) are really rare in the show ring, so I write something about my darling Boy.

DARK Kolyba u Grapy, tricolor, male, d.o.b. 21-03-2002

(Sire: Ch.PL, JCh. PL ABSOLUTE MAN Kropelka Oceanu + Dam: JCh.SK EVITA Szym-Tom)

Breeder: Helena Skorupa

Titles, awards:

Polish Champion

Veteran Champion of Slovakia

Central-East Veteran Winner

Best in Show Veteran I (x2: all breeds, pastoral British breeds at special club show) and Best in Show Veteran III (all breeds)

CACIB, resCACIB, CACs and resCACs winner, Best dogx2, many times BOB Veteran

Companion Dog (1 degree), Herding Tested (positive).

I am very proud to own him.

Anna Jagielo. Poland

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## Latest on DM Research

(Dermatomyositis)

From Clemson University

We are collecting blood samples from DM affected Shelties and Collies and we have funding to pay for shipping the samples to our lab. At this time, we do not have a deadline for collecting the samples. We are willing to ship from anywhere.

The current flyer can be found at the following link:

<http://www.clemsoncaninegenetics.com/Dermatomyositis/Flyer2012.pdf>

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