Features Editor:
Helen Davenport-Willis

A to Z of breeds: Bearded Collie

The early history/origins of the Bearded Collie

The Bearded Collie is a breed which has evolved naturally over the centuries and is not one created in the relatively recent past. Working dogs with thick, shaggy, coats and hairy faces, valued for their hardiness and ability to work sheep and cattle have existed in Scotland for centuries under such names was the Scotch Sheepdog, Mountain Collie, Highland Collie or Hairy Mou'ed Collie.

by **Major James C Logan**

Similar hairy faced pastoral breeds are also be be found distrubuted over the world from Tibet to the Hebrides, generally seen in mountainous country or in countries subjected to severe winter conditions. Except in one or two cases, where the breed is of comparitively recent origin, I do not think that any one of these breeds can claim to be the ancester of any of the others and I also think it unlikely that all of them had a common ancestor, though those in a particular region, such as Central Europe, Iberian Peninsula or the British Isles, may have had such an ancestor in the remote past.

In her book, *The Bearded Collie*, Mrs Willison describes how three Polish Sheepdogs (PLS) were brought into Scotland in 1514.These dogs may just possibly have had some slight influence on the development of the Bearded Collie, though if they were mated at all it would certainly have been to local dogs. To describe the PLS as the "ancestor of the Bearded Collie" is quite unjustified. At the very most it may have contributed in a small way to the ancestry of the Beardie. Present day Bearded Colies do bear some resemblence to the PLS, although in many respects the latter more closely resembles the OES. Beardies in the late 19th and early 20th centuries look quite different. Interestingly, Doggie Hubbard in his book " Dogs in Britain" (1947) suggests that some Russian Owtcharkas may have reached Scotland via the Baltric trading routes, where they were crossed with the Bearded Collies or similar dogs and used to establish the make up of the Old English Sheepdog. All this, is, of course, sheer speculation.

Little or no attempt to fix type, was made until late in the 19th century, working ability being the only criterion. As late as 1924 John Buchan in his novel "John Macnab" describes the dog Mackenzie as "A mongrel collie of the old Highland type known as Beardies" and well into the 1970s it was not uncommon to meet farmers or shepherds who owned or who had owned Beardies who were amazed to learn that the breed was recognised by the Kennel Club and was being more and more popular as a show dog.

There is a strong tradition that the Bearded Collie was amongs the breed of dogs used in the great cattle drives which took place from about the time of the Union of 1707 until the 1880s. The cattle were driven from the North and West Highalands to the markets or tyrsts as they were called then. At first to Crieff and later at Falkirk. Unfortunately, written evidence to support this is completely lacking and the standard work on droving mentions little about drover's dogs. After the cattle had been sold they would be driven down to England, mostly going to Yorkshire or East Anglia where they would be fattened before going on to the meat markets in the Midlands or at Smithfield. Beardie like dogs are to be found algong this route, such as the Smithfield dogs of SE England. It is said that these dogs resulted from Rough Collie / Old English crosses but it seems more than probable that Beardes also played their part. Paintings and prints of the period show that a number of different breeds were used by the drovers.

The closing years of the 19th Century saw something of an explosion of interest in the Bearded Collie as a show breed, starting with its classification at the SKC Edinburgh show in 1897. The President of the SKC, Mr H. Panmure Gordon, a Beardie enthusiast who was reported always to have respresentative of the breed in his kennel.That year he suggested to the SKC committee that Beardies should be classified at the show and they should be judged by a shepherd. The committee accepted the first part of his suggestion but not the second and tactfully solved the dilemma by inviting Pamure Gordon himself to judge the classes! During the first decade of the century Beardies were regularly being shown, many undoubtedly from working stock and it is probable that many of them themselves worked. Among the exhibitors at the 1913 Edinburgh show was Dr J. Russell Greig who came from Leith. He wrote that a Bearded Collie club had been formed in Edinburgh under the presidency of Balie Dalgliesh. This club seems to have come to nothing, but a more promising venture in which Dr Greig was the moving spirit took place about 1912. The outbreak of the war in 1914 brought these activities to an end before the club had actually proceeded to registration although at the SKC show in 1913 a trophy was offered for the best Bearded Collie owned by a member.

By 1923 Beardies were again being classified at the SKC shows and although the breeders and exhibitors included some who had been exhibiting or breeding before the war, no further attempt seesms to have been made to form a breed club at that time.

The application to register the title of The Bearded Collie Club was approved by the KC on 5th April 1955 and next year the club celebrates its Diamond Anniversary.

No official standard was in existence before 1955; the standard adopted then was drawn up from that used by the abortive club formed before the First World War. In 1964 a new standard was drawn up which was concerned mainly with height. The previous standard had given a height range of 20 to 24 inches for dogs with bitches rather less, the new standard set an ideal height of 21 to 22 inches for dogs and 20 to 21 inches for bitches

Separate classes for Bearded Collies were held at Crufts in February 1955

The first challenge certificates in Bearded Collies were awarded at Crufts in 1959 to Mrs Willison's Beauty Queen of Bothkennar (bitch CC & BOB) and Britt of Bothkennar (dog CC).

1969 saw the first breed specialist judge award CC s in the breed when Jenny Osbourne "Osmart" judged the breed at Blackpool ch show.

The Bearded Collie club of GB held its first ch show in 1972.

Extracted from Talking about Beardies *by K Suzanne Moorhouse – copies of this book available from the author*

NATTERJACK

NATTERJACK DWARKA'S DREAM

Int Ch & Ch Ramsgrove Borkason X Ch Malandex Xploits with Natterjack

Margo is following in her mum Lula's footsteps, Lula is the breeds youngest ever champion. Margo is currently top puppy in breed and was best puppy in show at Midshires bearded collie championship show. Puppy Group 2 at Bath and City of Birmingham. And has qualified for pup of the year.

thanks to all judges concerned and fellow exhibitors.

David Hyde Hyde149@aol.com

The Bearded Collie "look alike" that saved the life of British seaman in the First World War

On New Years Day in 1915 the RN battleship, HMS Formidable was torpedoed by a German submarine off Start Point in Devon, with a loss of 500 lives. A life raft picked up the bodies and brought them to shore. A female Collie dog belonging to the landlord of a local pub in Lyme Regis, began to show an interest by licking the face of one of the men. She stayed with him for half an hour, nuzzling up to him, keeping him warm and much to everyone's surprise the man, Able Seaman John Cowan showed signs of life. He was taken to a local hospital where he made a full recovery. Our photograph shows him reunited with the little Collie bitch who had saved his life. Their story inspired the Lassie books/films which have delighted generations of children and adults alike.

A to Z of Breeds: Bearded Collie

The Bearded Collie – constructed to move

THERE IS one unarguable fact when it comes to Bearded Collie construction what it is born with it continues with throughout its life..

by **Bryony Harcourt-Brown**

All my life, (certainly since I was 10), I have been asking the question 'Is it right?'. 'Right' means, in my family, a dog is constructionally balanced and 'Not Right' means it is not. By balanced, I mean throughout the construction of any individual dog; back to front, front to back, back end throughout all the bones and angles, front throughout all the bones and angles, length to height, neck to back, tail set, all of it, everywhere. That is for that dog, not another dog, just that one; as each dog is assessed as right or not right for itself. Magic simply does not happen as a dog grows up; either a dog is balanced in construction or it is not, it is that easy. How does a dog prove it is balanced in construction? The answer is that it proves it in its movement. So how should a Bearded Collie move? How should it be constructed to show the movement it should have for the job it was intended? That is what this article is about.

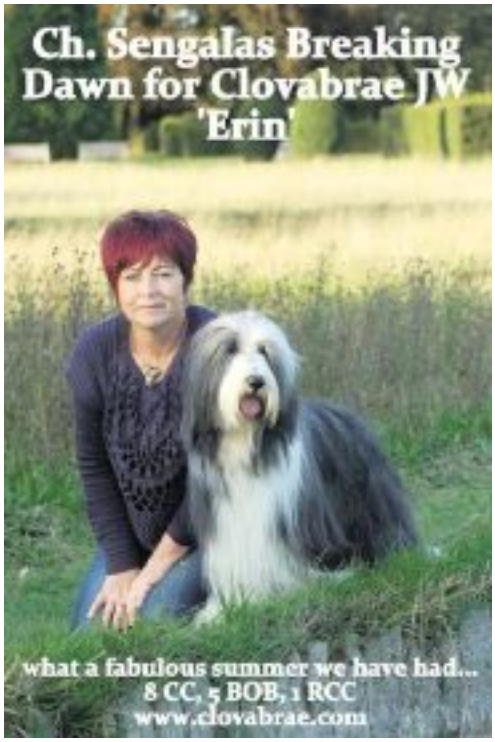
I have been lucky enough to have lived for a lot of years with a large number of dogs. Lots have been champions. I have loved them all, but I have been completely satisfied with the construction of very few. That is realism, and realism is the only way to make dogs that are 'right'. You can believe what you want, but belief does not make dogs 'right'.

The Bearded Collie is a Pastoral breed, they worked sheep and cattle and should display a very defined and specific movement for the job, long, low, reachy movement. As they move about, they should be able to raise and lower themselves easily. They need to be balanced since this allows them least resistance in their construction and the highest chance of continued soundness throughout a working day and a working life. They have to expend minimum effort for maximum efficiency.

But more is not better. More in one place than another makes weakness. When assessing movement we should look everywhere on the dog. Not just the legs alone, since all parts of the dog give clues to that individual's construction. The biggest clue to a Bearded Collie's construction when moving is in the topline i.e. the entire top line of the dog, from the tip of the nose to the tip of the tail. When it moves it utilises its entire spine to adopt a distinct line. The nose which is aerodynamically utilised to appear to lead the dog forwards is the first thing to show. (The dog uses its head and eye to check the handler occasionally for instructions.) The head and neck is held out and forwards and slightly above or sometimes level with the back. We have the dog almost reacing forward like a javelin and being an aerodynamic type creature. The neck should be slightly arched, but it is subtle and probably a little more in a dog than a bitch.

Bearded Collies that are moving can raise their head and lower it as they move, but it is not typical of their movement to hold the head high. Not when a dog is working and showing should be considered "work" to our Bearded Collies because we are not assessing them working sheep or cattle when they are in the ring. We are unable to say, in the show ring, that any dog is 'capable of doing the job for which it was intended' because that is dependent on other things that we cannot assess in a show ring. What we can assess is "construction that is typical, sound and balanced and will therefore benefit the dog if it is asked to do the job for which it was intended".

When I began in the breed we knew that there were two sorts of Beardie, ones that were suited to work with sheep; they were smaller, a bit lower and nippy, they worked by darting about and nipping sheep heels. They were quick and agile but still Beardie type. Then there were those clever, bigger dogs, the ones who were famed for droving cattle on their own down the country, down the known trails. Those dogs were also Beardie type, they were longer in the leg, they were strong and dependable, with independent personalities, they had stronger heads and controlled the cattle with a butt to the hindlegs. Initially I always kept the two distinct types and mixed them. Geneticists seem to me to advise that by utilising different 'looks' you can be sure different genes are coming in. We should not forget that there are these two options to the breed in their history. However, the typical movement, in my opinion, is always the same.



I have watched the breed change over the years I have shown Beardies and I have not always thought the change has been for the better. I believe one of the causes of this change has been through subtle, but significant, changes to the wording of the Breed Standard. For this reason I am going to mention these to allow others to consider this option too. I am not saying that the new standard is faulty, I am opening up debate, as I believe debate is always healthy. So, with regard to Neck: in the 1964 Standard this was the wording; 'Neck: Must be of fair length, muscular and slightly arched.' In the current Standard, we have 'Neck: moderate length, muscular and slightly arched'. This has been a subtle change in one way, fair and moderate, they could seem similar, but the result has been to create a dumpier dog than the Bearded Collie used to be. Some people take 'moderate' to mean 'not a lot'. The Bearded Collie needs a good front which is well angulated to be able to move its head and neck about efficiently. You cannot get good front angulation in a lithe and longer than it is high dog, without creating a 'fair length of neck'. The term 'moderate neck' could make those reading our standard think this is a breed with odd proportions. It is not. It is a dog shaped dog with dog shaped, basic, balanced construction. A short neck impedes the dog at work. In movement, a longer shoulder blade and a longer upper arm allows a Bearded Collie a more supple and long reaching movement. It is the word "supple" that I think typifies the Bearded Collie. A major aspect of producing supple forehand movement is the suppleness of the pastern which can at times, be overlooked. The breed used to have longer pasterns, they were never 'up on their toes' they used their pasterns to flex and drop down into their fronts.

In movement, the typical Bearded Collie foreleg drifts forward with the pastern flexing, so the oval foot, almost touches the ground with the two front toes, then extends fully with the upperarm coming into play and reaches, touches the ground and uses the toes, the foot and the strength in the forehand angulation to actively pull the dog forward. I think of this as impulsion where as the hind end achieves the propulsion. These two should be equal and both should propel the dog forward, not up and down in any way, moving in a forward dynamic, not a bobbing or flamboyant, energy wasting dynamic.

When we look at shoulders you can tell what they are doing, just by watching the dog move. The shoulder should be slightly below the top of the spinous processes. The upper corner of the scapula, (the cranial border of the scapula) should be the first thing your hand feels when touching the shoulder area of the withers. If the shoulder and the upper arm are 'Right' the Bearded Collie will not have a very defined wither, just a slight moulding of the wither. The line of the topline therefore, should not dip behind the shoulder, it should rather continue in a graceful degree of level, into the level back that is correct for the breed.

There is a great deal of consternation about length of loin amongst Beardie people. Well this is a dog that should be 'Longer than it is high in an approximate proportion of 5:4 measured from point of chest to point of buttock. Bitches may be slightly longer.' And 5:4 is not, actually, 'a long dog' and all that the standard says is that 'length of back should come from length of ribcage and not that of loin.' This is reasonable as it does not say 'Loin should be as short as possible' and it does not say 'ribcage should be as long as possible.' Yet, shortest loins possible and longest ribcages possible often appear to be considered desirable. A Bearded Collie needs a loin in an approximate proportion of 2:1 (2 is ribcage and 1 is loin). Conversely you can say 5:3, where 5 is point of shoulder to rib end (floating rib included) and 3 being from there to point of buttock. Point of shoulder in any dog is, of course, the joint of the scapula with the humerus, and point of buttock is the angle at the lower point of the pelvis. Also, contrary to popular belief, the loin length is not what determines level topline. Level topline is determined by front to rear constructional balance.

Hindquarters start with the pelvis which is pivotal and suited to produce movement that is supple, long reaching with minimal lift of the hind feet. Hipbones should not be prominent; they should not be above the general level of the topline. The pelvis should not tip up nor bob about it, should offer a gentle slop, and have a gentle set on of tail which is utilised as a downward rudder. The tail, sits within the croup, integrated seamlessly and if set too high, (the pelvis is flatter) it cannot be used efficiently and if too low, (the pelvis at a sharper angle), the hindquarter will tuck under the dog. The hindquarters, are, of course, covered with hair and nowadays that is ever so bushy so it is important to fix your eye and mind on the position of the joints and angles on the move to assess the rear. The 1964 standard called for 'Hindquarters: Legs muscular at thighs with well-bent stifles and hocks, free from exaggeration.' This is in keeping with a dog that has a neck of fair length, muscular and slightly arched'. It goes with a dog that is unexaggerated, with reasonable length and it makes a balanced dog.

Our current Standard states, 'Well muscled with good second thighs, well bent stifles and low hocks.' Which is fine, (although in point of fact a longer pastern should also be balanced by a slightly longer hock to ground measurement and lowest hocks are therefore not something to strive for in Bearded Collies) but it continues: 'Lower leg falls at right angle to ground and, in normal stance, is just behind a line vertically below point of buttocks.' Essentially this is fair, but it is in 'normal stance' that should be highlighted here because, I am afraid, it has been taken to mean…'at all times'. In some stances, the very most useable and strong hind angulation is that which can extend somewhat beyond this imaginary line and still maintain a strong topline and that is what makes good movement. Here I would like to use this photograph of my own dog, Ch. Orora's Frank, since it is easier to use my own dogs then no one is put out!. His movement was wonderful. Pretty much everyone agreed. He could extend his rear legs until they were right out as he ate his dinner and still stay rock solid! That was one of the things that made his movement wonderful and typical. Sadly, if we bow constantly to the hock to ground part of the hind leg always being placed 'just behind a line vertically below point of buttocks'. we will never get the right back ends for the breed to move correctly. To accommodate the rear, the dogs are either overstepping or bobbing up and down or flick flacking their hind legs out and up or out without definition, to cope with what is all wrong in the hind leg. If the front has to be one thing, the rear cannot be another in a balanced, dog shaped, sound dog.

♦ Ch Orora's Frank

In movement the Bearded Collie should bringing its hindleg forward, step into the footfall of the front foot, not over reaching, just enough, then using its typical oval rear foot and strongly arched rear toes to grip into the ground, and push it forward. It should then follow through with its rear foot, which should, at all times, have minimal lift from the ground. This is not a breed for the flying trot or for flamboyant movement, this is a breed with fluid, ground-covering movement so its rear foot is not upwards off the ground because this would not be sound, strong, energy efficient or typical of the breed. The tail should be used to guide and strengthen the movement. It can be held low or slightly higher and out, (but not above the level of the back). The most ideal is a tail that a dog uses itself and does not have to think about keeping lower than the handler wishes. The tail should have an upward swirl at the tip but it should not have any degree of 'kink or twist', meaning it should retain a straight line (if viewed from above) throughout the spine. AND, if it is 'right' its topline has stayed level throughout this process. It has not had to hinge in the middle to accommodate whatever imbalance is causing bother. The topline is the key. The dog must be using all its angles to reach since this is a breed that needs its strength of movement and length of stride.

It is not always easy to spot where a dog is wrong. It is easy to spot if a dog is right. That is where you start and that is where you develop 'an eye for a dog'. Never assume that because a dog wins it is right. Never assume someone else knows construction better than you. Make up your own mind and then, constantly, constantly, constantly, challenge your own mind. Lock your eyes and brain onto the entire top line, take in the key joints and the length of stride, train yourself in parts but end up knowing you can see the whole; the whole of the dog is what matters, by the time you are ready to properly assess any dog you must be able to treat all as a whole and divide any dog into separate parts. Lots of people used to have an 'eye for a dog'. Some are born with it, some do develop it. But you either have it or you do not. An eye for a dog is essentially about proportion and symmetry. Bearded Collies need symmetry. That is what is, essentially, unexaggerated about them.

There is one area where the current Standard omits a key feature that was in the 1964 Standard. I can see how it happened it concerns Ribs. In our 1964 Standard was an ambiguous description, reading 'flat ribs'. Flat ribs described the distinct Bearded Collie ribcage that is well sprung but with flatter formation to the sides of the ribcage than many other breeds. This allows the elbows to be set close to the ribs and give a specific, not narrow , but not wide, front. They should single track so the elbow set on the correct rib is absolutely vital to make form the typical movement. Bearded Collies should be a lithe breed; able to turn and dart about. Bearded Collies, are not a square breed. So, in my opinion, taking out the clause about the correct rib, describing ribs as: ribs well sprung but not barrelled' allowed a cube like construction to creep in.

Good construction is not confined to certain breeding lines, it is not confined to dogs owned by people we get along with, nor is it confined to our own dogs. It can crop up indiscriminately. Colour and markings and coat density, can all distract the eye. Bearded Collies are masters of disguise; markings and coat density have a definite impact on the perceived proportions. However, if you can recognise good, correct, balanced movement all of those things disappear and only constructional balance is left.

So please let us stop trying to create generic show dog types. Let us, in Great Britain, do what we used to be famous for and that is producing dogs that are fit for purpose, dogs that are fit for their own breed purpose. Let us show the world what is right, especially in British breeds. In Bearded Collies, basic, correct, long reaching and ground covering, fluid, supple, sound movement, with minimal energy expenditure is what is right.

And nothing else.

A to Z of breeds: Bearded Collie

Judging the Bearded Collie

THE BEARDED Collie's history shows that it has been used for many, many years as a general-purpose herder/drover, capable of working all different kinds of stock.

by **Lynn Dumbrell**

Bethlyntee Bearded Collies

♦ General purpose herder/drover

♦ Bright, enquiring expression

As a drover's dog it was an endurance trotter with the capability for fast bursts of speed. If we wish to maintain this heritage then the phrase "fit for function" should be uppermost when we judge this intelligent and versatile member of the Pastoral Group. If we are serious about maintaining the working ability of Bearded Collies then, as judges, there are certain things we need to address.

One of the first things that attracted me, and many others, to the Bearded Collie was its temperament. The standard states quite clearly, with no hesitancy that the Bearded Collie is a "steady, intelligent working dog, with no signs of nervousness or aggression". As judges I would ask you to pay particular attention to this part of the standard.

The first words of the standard talk about a "lean, active dog, longer than it is high in an approximate proportion of 5 to 4". The word that gets forgotten when this proportion is quoted is "approximate". The only way the length should be measured is from point of shoulder to point of buttock, not how much ground the dog is standing over, as this can be deceptive, with misplaced front assemblies and over angulated rear ends. Please do not make the mistake of thinking you cannot have too long a Beardie! For a Bearded Collie to be able to stop from a gallop and turn, all at the same time, requires strength throughout the body, but in this particular case the strength over the loin is paramount; a long loin will not have the strength associated with a shorter and more muscled loin which helps the dog to change direction at speed with the stability required. It is the angle of the pelvis (ideally thirty degrees) which indicates turnaround efficiency, enabling the Beardie to bring its hind legs forward under its body in order that it can 'dig in' and pivot. This thirty degree angle will also influence the top line and give the correct Beardie outline, as opposed to a flatter angle which causes the undesirable "ironing board" look.

There are a number of things our standard does not describe and one of these is the proportion of leg length to depth of body. In pastoral breeds it is accepted that the leg length to body depth should be at least equal. Legs which are shorter than the depth of body cannot produce the "long-reaching" and effortless movement called for in our standard. However, short legs can give the wrong impression when a judge is looking for length of dog.

The front assembly is important in pastoral breeds and it is vital that it is correct. Pressure plate tests have proved that during the trot, the front has the greater braking force, greater weight to support and almost the same forward propulsion as compared to the rear. In fact the front does the greater amount of work. When viewing a Bearded Collie from the side, the legs should be in a direct line below the highest point of the shoulder blade, which lies just below the level of the first and second vertebrae. Not half way up the neck. A correct prosternum (forechest) is in a line between and just in front of the point of shoulders and will tell judges if the front assembly is correctly placed. Beardies with incorrectly placed fronts will not display the correct top line, and this will become more evident as they get older. The correct placement of the front assembly is vital, but is something that is disappearing. Back in 1998 Anne Roslin-Williams asked the question "Has forechest gone out of fashion?" and in his book An Eye For a Dog, published in 2004, Robert Cole dedicated a whole chapter entitled "The Forgotten Forechest".

Movement is described as "supple, smooth and long reaching". The reach should be measured to the point at which the dog places its foot on the ground, not how far it flings its feet in the air in front of it. A hindrance to this "supple, smooth . . . minimum of effort" is unbalanced construction, with a lack of angulation in the forequarters with straight shoulders and short upper arms and exaggerated angulation in the rear, causing interference under the body whilst on the move. Dogs get around this problem by either crabbing (not moving on the same plane) or kicking up at the rear, something highly undesirable. Although our standard talks about "well bent stifles", it does go on to say that in normal stance the lower leg "is just behind a line vertically below point of buttocks". This would indicate that there was no thought of an over-angulated rear end when the standard was written. A dog in good muscular condition will not only move in a more positive manner but will also hold themselves better on the stand.

If you look into the eyes of a Bearded Collie and you are lucky enough to see staring back at you that "bright, enquiring expression", then it means that those eyes fit the "set widely apart and large, soft and affectionate" description in the standard. Although not a 'head' breed as such, it is easy to lose the specific proportions found in the "head and skull" paragraph and with it that part of the standard, which describes the above expression as "a distinctive feature".

The neck is "moderate length, muscular and slightly arched", not long, nor as I have heard it described, "swan like"!

The 'ideal' size is given and for dogs this should be 21-22" and bitches 20-21". It does state that the overall proportions and quality should be considered before size, but "excessive variations from the ideal height should be discouraged". The trend has been for a decrease in the sizes of both dogs and bitches and this needs to be watched. It should be evident in mixed classes which sex is which!

As the years have gone by the presentation seems, with all the products available on the market, to have become more important. Let us not forget "length and density of hair sufficient to provide a protective coat and to enhance shape of dog, but not enough to obscure natural lines of body." Words such as "soft, furry and close" describe the undercoat, whilst "flat, harsh, strong and shaggy" are used to describe the outer coat. One sentence which is not open to misinterpretation is "coat must not be trimmed in any way". Trimming has gone on to some degree, but usually confined to the feet. However, we are now getting dogs in the ring that have been trimmed to shape and this has to be penalised, otherwise we shall end up with a breed where presentation wins over soundness every time. Do not be afraid to get 'hands on' a Bearded Collie, as clever presentation and handling can hide any number of faults.

To sum up, when judging this breed, take a good, hard look at the dog in front of you. Think 'type' and is what you see a Bearded Collie? Is the dog correctly 'standing over itself' or are the front feet in a line directly below the ears? Does the dog slope off on the stand? Is the top line correct and does it have a rounded croup as opposed to the undesirable flat square croup? Is the neck being pulled out of the shoulders? Are the hind legs too far back or too wide apart? On the move, is the dog sloping off? Is there a noticeable up and down movement instead of the effortless forward propulsion? Is the dog kicking up at the back? Ask yourself, does this dog in front of me, have all its breed physical and temperament characteristics functioning properly, in order to carry out the tasks for which it was originally bred? In other words, "is this dog sound?"

♦ Correct topline

♦ Ch Benjie of Bothkennar

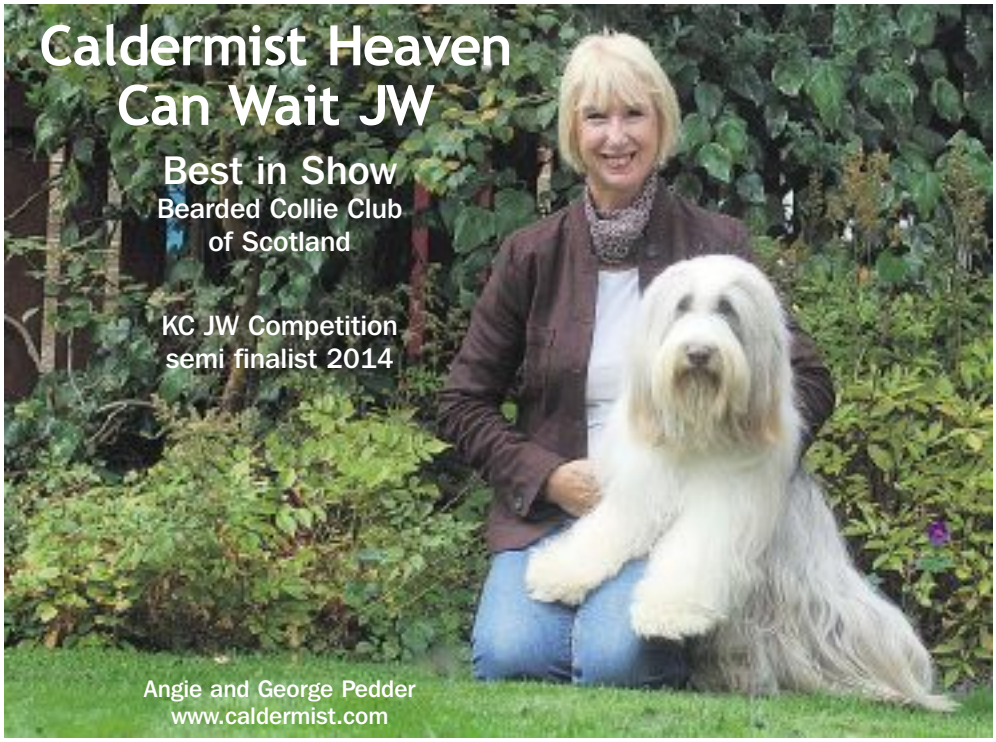
BETHLYNTEE

Bearded Collies

CHAMPION BETHLYNTEE SUMMER BREEZE (Meg) at 6 years of age

Meg followed on from a long line of Bethlyntee Beardies who all played their part in the day to day running of our dairy/beef farm here in the Sussex Weald countryside. Like the others, when Meg wasn't in the show ring she was a more than willing worker with our livestock. Her three champion certificates were all from breed specialists, when she was six, seven and eight years old. Meg also qualified for the Pedigree Chum Veteran Stakes Finals. Every one of our Beardies have shared the temperament called for in the standard and all have lived in harmony in our home.

Lynn and Dave Dumbrell ♦ Honeybridge Farm, Ashurst, West Sussex



A to Z of Breeds: Bearded Collie

Bearded Collie Club of Scotland

Founded 1978

The Club holds three shows each year. The two Open Shows are held in March and June at Alva.

The Open Shows have a wide selection of classes to entice and encourage new Beardie owners to start showing. We also hold a Fun Obedience competition in June.

Our Championship Show is held in October at Lanark Agricultural Centre. This year will be the Club's 32nd Championship Show.

All our show judges are selected by Members' ballot.

Our newsletter – Beardie Tails – contains Club reports, show results, health issues and members' stories and is distributed to members each year.

We hold topical seminars to meet the needs of our members.

We have a well stocked Club stall available at Club shows and via our website.

For more information and contact details, see our website: www.thebeardedcollieclubofscotland.com

Midshires Bearded Collie Club

The Club originated from an idea hatched by our founders, circa 1989, the late Garth Nicholls and Maureen Reader that there was the need for a Bearded Collie Club to cover the Midlands area circa. To date we still have many of its original founder members, committee and officers.

The Club is registered with The Kennel Club and we run an Open Show in February (a handy pre Crufts practice slot) and the only outdoor Breed Club Championship Show in August each year, weather permitting. There are also educational events and members can enjoy lovely tea parties and rambles. Our magazine, "Midshires Tails" is produced for members with articles, poems and stories as well as details of forthcoming events. The club works in conjunction with the Bearded Collie Club to hold joint educational events - this year we are holding an assessment for up and coming judges of the Bearded Collie on Sat 18 October. We also hold events to cater for our non showing members; this year we held a successful Fun Day with fun dog classes and games for all, with a "high tea" for the human guest! For more information please contact any member of our committee.

Jane Palmer, Secretary, Midshires BCC
www.midshiresbeardedcollieclub.com

Eastern Bearded Collie Association

After breeding, showing and judging Bearded Collies for many years, Joyce Collis(Beagold) instinctively felt there needed to be another Bearded Collie Club; a club that would cater for an ever growing faction of Bearded Collie enthusiasts in East Anglia. So it was that in 1984, ably assisted by Felix Cosme and after months of careful planning and organisation, the Eastern Bearded Collie Association (EBCA) was formed and formally recognised by the Kennel Club.

The first committee included, Joyce Collis, Secretary-Dave Critchell, Chairman-Helen Irving, Treasurer-Felix Cosme, Roger Fletcher, Ray Warren, Charlie Corderoy, Glynis Chambers, Cyril and Sylvia Croot, and Shirley Holmes was the Association's first president.

Over the years the Association has been ably run and supported by numerous long term members, in fact too many to mention but gratefully thanked by all. Committee meetings were originally held at Joyce's home and most of the open shows were held in the Langford Village Hall, until the entries became too numerous to be comfortably accommodated there. In November 2014 the Association will hold its 31st breed and limited obedience Open Show and in 2015 the 28th Championship Show. Also planned for next year is another of our successful breed specific seminars.

Honorary Secretary: Barry Canty
Email: easternbeardies@hotmail.co.uk

Bearded Collie Club

The Bearded Collie Club (BCC) was founded in 1955 and has worldwide Membership of around 800 Members.

In the UK, the Club is divided into six geographical areas each served by a Branch Committee who organise various activities attracting local members, their Beardies and Beardie friends alike. Activities include fun days, rambles, obedience, agility, treasure hunts and Christmas parties etc. Working Tests were introduced in the late 60's and continue to take place at various Club events.

Gaining Championship Show status in 1972, the Club holds one Championship Show each year in December and two Open Shows, one in April organised by the main Committee and the other in September in Scotland organised by the Scottish Branch.

The Club manages a Rescue and Welfare scheme for Bearded Collies.

Other activities include producing a Bearded Collie Club Yearbook, a Club magazine and a Calendar, maintaining a Puppy List, Club Stall and arranging regular Education and Training Seminars.

The Club works closely with other Breed Clubs as part of a Joint Breed Liaison Committee.

The BCC is celebrating its 'Diamond Jubilee' in 2015 and will be celebrating at its Shows and Branch Events throughout the year..

More information about the Club including Rules, Code of Ethics and Membership etc can all be found on our very active website: www.beardedcollieclub.co.uk

Southern Counties Bearded Collie Club

The Southern Counties Bearded Collie Club was formed in the 70's to bring together owners & admirers of Bearded Collies and we try to cater for all devotees of the breed whether they are pet owners, show exhibitors, breeders, obedience and/or working enthusiasts. The Committee organises a variety of events each year for Beardie owners including 3 Beardie fun social events, a championship show, open show and limited obedience show plus an educational seminar - this year we are holding a Grooming Workshop in November.

We also encourage all members to enter the Club's Working Tests, which amongst other things, are designed to encourage all owners to train their Beardies to be well behaved. Beardies are clever, funny, versatile dogs who love learning new skills. We also hold the KC Good Citizens Tests when possible.

The Chair and the Secretary are active members of the Beardie Joint Breed Liaison Committee where all the Beardie Breed Clubs work together ensuring the future well being of the breed. All Members are kept in touch by regular newsletters plus our twice-yearly glossy magazine full of the stories and photographs of the antics our happy beardies get up to, and also featuring health issues, advice and a variety of other topics. We also have our own website – have a look at www.scbcc.co.uk It is currently being updated and we would love input on its future content. We also have a busy Facebook page (search for SCBCC)

We offer a helpful Puppy List passing on potential new owners to Member breeders who comply with our Code of Ethics and Breeder Guidelines, and our Beardie Rescue organisation Southern Beardie Aid endeavours to help or rehome any Beardie in need, and aims to help any owner in difficulties..

Please contact the Honorary Secretary Belinda Steer at secretary@scbcc.co.uk or call 01691 658797

North of England Bearded Collie Club

The NEBCC or "NEBCOL" as the club is know was formed in 1985 and officially recognised by the Kennel Club on 21st March 1986 and was given Championship status in July 1989 with the first Championship Show being held on the 24th November 1991.

The club celebrates its 30th anniversary in 2016.

Each year the club stages 4 events, we have a Bearded Collie Championship Dog Show in May at the Richard Dunn Sports Centre, Bradford, a Single Breed Open Show in September at Grenoside, Sheffield interspaced with a Club Fun day in July open to all breed of dogs. The fourth event each year varies to suit the chosen topic, in November 2013 we held an open breed seminar and in November 2014 we have a Dog Christmas Party organised.

The Fun Day in July is open to all-comers and is very well attended by both show and pet people who all enjoy the events being games, fun dog show, fancy dress and agility and of course the BBQ food and cakes and has the added attraction being set on a raised elevation with wonderful views of the surrounding Peak District landscape. This year we held an novice agility competition on the day where participants had practice sessions before the competition and then ran the course as a "head to head" knock out eventually with the final clear round being the winner – proved to be great fun especially with the younger exhibitors.

The Club has all the information on the web-site at www.nebcol.co.uk including breeder information, rescue, re-homing information, puppy lists and advice.

Our magazine "the Outlook" is on a yearly distribution to all NEBCOL members and includes pictures from events through the year, illustrations, information and topics of interest for Bearded Collie owners

For any further information please contact the secretary Eddie Hardy on 01246 824665 or email: christine.hardy33@btinternet.com

A to Z of breeds: Bearded Collie

Taking the lead with Mike and Janet Lewis "Potterdale"

Helen Davenport-Willis asks the questions

Our photographs depict famous Potterdales from the last 40 years, each dog 10 years apart in time, yet the type still remains the same!

♦ Ch Pepperland Lyric John at Potterdale, "Winston": 30 CCs; sire of 17 UK champions

♦ Ch Potterdale Privledge, "Eric": 43 CCs; Breed Record Holder

♦ Ch Potterdale Prophet, "Rudi": 42 CCs; Top Dog All Breeds 2000

♦ Ch Potterdale Platinum Plus: the latest "star" at 20 months

Janet and Mike, since you first became involved with the breed in the early 1970s, what do you think are the biggest changes in evidence today? Are they for the better?

All breeds change over time. The Standard tries to keep us all pulling in the same direction, and obviously breed type is the difference exhibited by the different kennels. I would say the breed has become a lot more uniform in size and markings, coats have become longer, probably better in quality in terms of harshness etc. Many Beardies in the early days had quite fine top coats with poor undercoats. You often saw overshot bites which don't seem to be such a problem today. One of our dogs, Ch Pepperland Lyric John at Potterdale who was born in 1975, would still win as much today, and this applies to lots of the old Beardies. Worrying trends could be the height to length ratio, some Beardies are getting shorter on the leg but their overall body depth is the same giving a low, long, dog appearance.

Why do you think Beardie KC registrations have declined in numbers compared to 20 years ago? Do you think the breed is still as popular as it was and it is just that some breeders do not register their stock with the Kennel Club?

The breed peaked in registrations during the eighties and nineties. These have slowly declined over the years and appear to have plateaued out to around 500/600 a year. The breed is still very popular and many of the original fanciers are still involved. I think people tend to keep fewer dogs these days also the designer dogs are in vogue and these tend to be on the smaller side. Most breeders still register their dogs. There are a few working kennels that don't register with the Kennel Club, but not many.

Constructionally what aspect of the breed have you found the most difficult to breed for and maintain, generation after generation?

This is a tough question, I think the front assembly/geometry is probably the hardest thing to maintain over time., I tend to split the standard into two categories subjective and non subjective, markings, size, mouths etc are all non subjective, you can see them or measure them. Construction and movement are more subjective and more complicated to measure. It is what you learn over the years that determines your experience in understanding good dogs, it is not something you can learn from a book.

Do you think the breed in the UK is still a major player on the world's stage?

Yes the breed in the UK is still a major player on the world stage; without the UKs breed pool the other countries would not have the diversity to maintain the breed type. Numerically the UK is still by far the largest breeding pool. Other countries have established strong lines and lots of UK breeders have gone back to these lines to increase diversity. The sharing of these breed pools may change the relationship in time, maybe another country will take the lead, but not for some time yet.

Have you incorporated any overseas / foreign lines into your breeding programme at any point? If not, do you see yourselves doing so in the future?

We have incorporated another line into our breed pool although parents came from the UK, We have tried to use stud dogs with different lines in several matings and we will continue to do so.

What continues to strengthen and motivate you both, year in year out?

We just love Bearded Collies and could never imagine our life without a least one. We envisage having them even when we are very old, which sometimes feels like that now! The satisfaction of breeding sound healthy dogs that people enjoy having for show, agility or a pet is a great motivator. People tend to keep in touch so it is lovely to still see the dogs that we bred and sold at eight weeks, growing into adults, getting old and being an integral part of people's families and lives.

Do you ever envisage a time when you could walk away from the dog world and just own Beardies as companions, without competing?

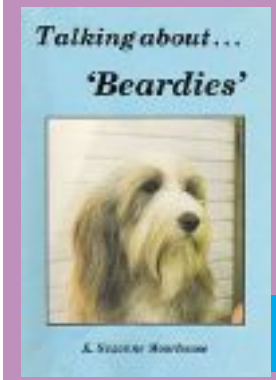
Yes, the competitive side of dog showing can be very tough and more so if you are successful. Hearing detrimental things said about your dogs is not pleasant and it is becoming much worse with the advent of social media since you now get it from around the world, as well your own country, I think the KC and the authorities should start taking more action against some of the vitriolic remarks, it all becomes too personal.

Is your book, "Hairy Moments" still in print? How does one obtain a copy?

Our book "Hairy Moments" is no longer in print but I do have approx 50 copies left. The price is £20 plus £3 for postage. I can send them out if people ***e-mail me potterdale@btinternet.com***. I think we sold about 300 copies, so it was quite successful. It was conceived as an autobiography and very well written by Judith Le Roy in the States who also has Beardies.

Talking About Beardies

by K Suzanne Moorhouse



First published in 1990 this book contains everything you ever wanted to know about the Bearded Collie. Written by a world authority on the breed and breeder of many champion "Willowmead" Beardies both at home and overseas

Signed copies available from the author £16.95 including p&p

Also by the same author

Little Dog Lost **£9.95 incl p&p**
The Adventures of Ruisa **£7.50 inc p&p**

"Willowmead", Kerswell Green, nr Kempsey, Worcestershire WR5 3PE
Tel 01905 820 327

A to Z of Breeds: Bearded Collie

Colour genetics in the Bearded Collie

BEARDED COLLIES are born in four basic colours: black, brown, blue and fawn with white markings. The pigment of nose, eye rims and lips should always follow the coat colour.

The greying effect, that is the gradual lightening of coat colour as the dog grows from puppy to adult, is the result of the gene Greying G whih makes black Beardies turn slate grey and brown Beardies fade to cream. Puppies can also be tricolour but the tan always change to a cream/white at adulthood.

Leaving aside the greaying factor, tricolour/tan-markings and the white markings, we will look at the basics.

Genes

All charateristics, including colour, are inherited through genes, which are located in pairs on microscopic structures inside of cells, called chromosomes. They are found in the nucleus of every cell, and made up of strands of DNA. Genes exist in pairs. All mammals get one of each gene from the mother, and one of each gene from the father, ending up with a pair for every possible charateristic.

The genes for colours are written with different letters in the alphabet, with the dominant genes in capitals and the recessive genes with lower-case letters.

The different letters for dogs are: A, B, C, D, E, G, M, P, R, S and T and they mean:

A (agouti); B (brown); C (albino series which may not be in dogs at all); D (dilution); E (extension); G (greying); K (dominant black or brindle); M (merle); R (roaning); S (white spotting) and T (ticking).

We are going to concentrate on B and D which represent the four colours in Beardies. Black and brown are the basic colours and blue and fawn the diluted versions.

Dominanat and recessive

Some genes are dominant and others are recessive. The dominant gene is more common because it only takes one parent to pass it on.If a trait is dominant, then as long as you inherit that trait from either of the parents, you will possess that trait. If a trait is recessive, you will only possess that trait if you inherit that trait from both of your parents. A recessive gene is a gene that can only be expressed when no dominant genes are present. As already stated, the dominant one gets a capital letter and the recessive one a lower-case letter. In Beardies black is dominant over brown and lack of dilution is dominant over dilution so it's written like this:

B = black
b = brown-factored
D = non-diluted
d = diluted

Phenotype and genotype

Most people know that you get half of the genes from the father and half from the mother and of course the same can be applied to colour inheritance. When you talk about genes you need to know what phenotype and genotype are. It's easiest explained like this: phenotype is what your eyes see, the actual colour of the dog, ie the strongest/dominant genes. Genotype is the genes that we cannot see but they still play an essential role when it comes to what colours the dog can produce.

So let's have a look at how it works in real life. The genotype of the black ones is the hardest to establish but we will get some information from its parents and if they have produced any progeny we can get more.

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www.bcx-uk.co.uk

Alistair's hope and Glory for Malandex is a black boy with black parents so that doesn't give us much information. His father produced black and blue and his mother black and brown so there's a possibility that Larsson will carry those genes too. Looking at what he aready produced; though he mated brown bitches the puppies were all black and it may be that the bitches he mated didn't carry any dilute genes but it looks like Larsson is a dominant black, BDBD and will only produce black puppies.

Ch Philemon Moonshadow of Moonhill is another black boy but he has a blue father and with that we already know that he has a dilute gene. But does he have a brown? When we look at what he produced it's safe to say that he has the genotype BDBd because although he mated brown bitches all his progeny are black or blue.

Ch Potterdale Pisces is black so we know one of his genepairs is BD. His father, Potterdale Paddington was brown so that means Bertie must have a brown gene, b, so fare we have BDb for Bertie. His father produced blue so he was carrying the dilute but the question is: did Bertie inherit it? Looking at what he already produced we can guess. He had a litter with a blue bitch but the puppies were all black and brown and he had one litter with a bitch who produced blue with another male so it could be a coincidence but he probably has genotype BDbD and will only produce black and brown.

SE UCH Ramsgrove Ragthyme JW. Another black boy but with a brown mother so we know he will produce brown, His father, Tolly seems to have been a dominant black but his mother produced all colours and you just have to look at what Jack already produced to realise that he is genotype BDbd and his puppies have all four colours.

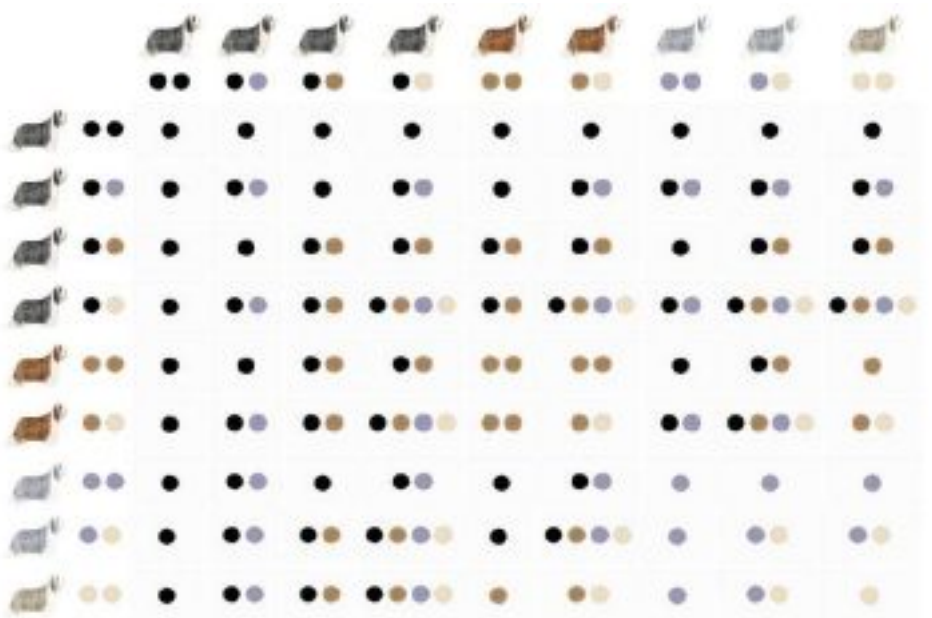
So how do we know what genotype a dog has if it hasn't produced any puppies? We don't! We can guess and assume with information we have from the parents but there is no way of knowing. Unless it's fawn because then the genotype is given.

What about brown mated to brown? Well it's pretty obvious that there won't be any blacks or blues since brown is a recessive gene, which means that the only thing a brown dog can pass on is a brown or a fawn gene depending on the genotype. And what would happen if we mated blue to brown? Depending on the genotype of the dogs, everything is possoble

BD = black/non-diluted **bD = brown/non-diluted** **Bd = black/diluted** **bd = brown/diluted**

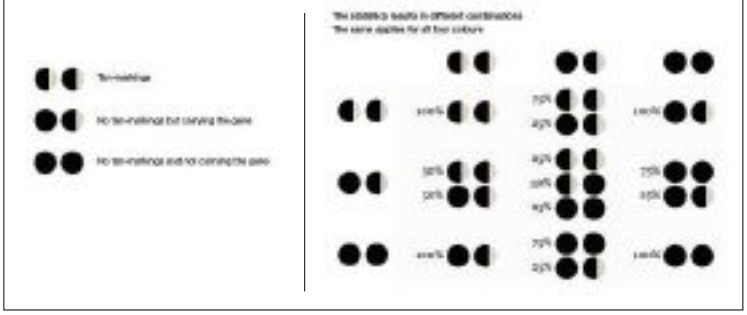
Phenotype	Genotype	Genes
Black Beardie	BDBD	This dog has double genes for black/non-diluted. No matter what colour this dog is mated to it will only produce black
	BDBd	This dog carries the dilute gene, it's not shown in the dog but it will be able to produce dilutes depending on the partner
	BDbD	This dog has got one gene for black and one for brown but no dilute. It will only produce black and brown
	BDbd	This dog (depending on the partner) will be able to produce all colours
Brown Beardie	bDbD	This dog has double genes for brown/non-diluted and can only give a brown gene to its progeny. However, mated to a black or a blue it will of course produce black, since brown is a recessive gene
	bDbd	This dog carries a gene for dilute. It can't be seen in the dog since dilute is recessive but it will produce dilute if it's mated to a partner also carrying dilute
Blue Beardie	BdBd	This dog has double genes for black/diluted, it won't be able to pass anything else on but a blue gene. It will not produce any browns
	Bdbd	This dog has a double gene for dilute but will be able to give a fawn gene as well
Fawn Beardie	bdbd	This dog has double genes for brown/diluted and can only contribute with a fawn gene in any mating

Colour chart
The possible results in different combinations



A to Z of breeds: Bearded Collie

Tan gene graphic



♦ Slate puppy with tan markings . . .

♦ . . . and the same dog at 10 months

♦ Grand Champion Dreamchaser Strathearn Soulmate, bred and owned by Debra Quadland, Thomas Dixon and Graeme Burdon (handler); judge Kathleen M Pavlich

Owd Bob

by **Alfred Ollivant** (c 1898)

Should you wile wandering in the wild sheep land
happen on more or in market upon a very gentle knight,
clothed in dark grey habit,
splashed here and there with rays of moon;
free by right divine of the guild of gentleman,
strenuous as a prince, lithe as a rowan,
graceful as a girl,
with high carriage, motions and manners of a fairy queen
should be have a noble breadth of brow,
and air of still strength born of right confidence,
all unassuming; last and most unfailing test of all,
should you look into two snow-clad eyes, calm,
wistful inscrutable,
their soft depths clothed on with eternal sadness - yearning, as it is aid for the soul that is not theirs - know then that you look upon one of the line
of the most illustrious sheepdogs of the North.

Living with Beardies

IF THERE is one word to describe Beardies it would have to be 'joyful'. These highly intelligent dogs thrive on human companionship and love nothing better than to be with their owners, whether that means they are snuggled under a desk as the owner works or walking miles over hills and dales on exciting walks. Few breeds share such a deep bond with their families and this makes them perfect family companions for those prepared to meet these needs.

by **Wendy Hines**

Ramsgrove

Beardies are not the dogs for everyone, however, and if the new owners lack the time or inclination to share their lives with a dog then the partnership will not work. The Beardie will become unhappy and bored and will turn its considerable intelligence into antics such as redecorating the house and landscaping the garden, not usually to the owner's tastes. Beardies would be disastrous in homes where both partners work full time but would be happy where one member works only part time.

Beardies need some activity to keep their brains active and to develop the bond with their owners. This activity can be anything from learning party tricks to organised obedience, agility or working trial sessions. These dogs are the consummate all-rounders, they can turn their paws to any activity that takes their owner's fancy.

Grooming

Grooming is essential but is not as daunting as first appearances might suggest. There are two parts to the coat, the soft and furry undercoat and the harsher, longer top coat. A slicker brush, pin brush and wide toothed comb are essentials in a grooming kit and care must be taken to ensure the coat is groomed right down to the skin. Grooming is much easier if the pup is trained, right from the start, to lay down on its side for grooming sessions and a dedicated grooming table will be worth its weight in gold. Spray the dog with a good grooming spray before starting the session, then ensure each layer is thoroughly groomed. Pay special attention to any areas where friction causes knots to form, in particular behind the ears, behind the elbows and along the insides of the hind legs. Once the coat has been brushed through a final use of the grooming spray will help prevent knots and mats forming too quickly. For the average pet dog a thorough weekly groom taking about two hours should be sufficient to maintain the coat in good condition.

ramsgrove@btinternet.com

Registration figures

Year	Dogs registered
1994	1,337
1995	1,467
1996	1,318
1997	1,286
1998	1,119
1999	1034
2000	952
2001	721
2002	901
2003	668
2004	821
2005	650
2006	720
2007	606
2008	643
2009	528
2010	572
2011	547
2012	480
2013	552

Breed registrations provided by the Kennel Club www.thekennelclub.org.uk

Bearded Collie health

Beardies are generally very healthy dogs and new owners can look forward to sharing their lives with their new puppy for 12 – 15 years. Most Beardies remain active and do not show signs of old age until their last few months. It is not at all unusual for a 13-year-old to expect and to enjoy hour long walks every day.

by **Wendy Hines**

The breed, like many others, does have a predisposition to develop auto immune diseases such as Addison's Disease, Thrombocytopaenia and Auto Immune Haemolytic Anaemia. It is vital that owners are aware of this problem as if the dog receives early treatment it can go on to live a near normal life, but if the disease is not recognised it can rapidly prove fatal. These disease are relatively rare and unless vets are given a pointer, they may not make the diagnosis in time to give essential treatment. One of the commonest auto immune diseases is SLO, Symetrical Lupoid Oncodystrophy, which causes the dog's nails to split, crumble and eventually fall off. New nails will grow but these are often dystrophic (malformed) and unless the dog is receiving treatment the disease process will continue, causing great pain and discomfort to the dog.

Health screening, via schemes run in conjunction with the Kennel Club is available for Hip Dysplasia, (HD) Elbow Dysplasia (ED) and Colie Eye Anomaly (CEA). Although these conditions rarely cause problems for Beardies responsible breeders will ensure their dogs have been tested before being allowed to produce litters.

A to Z of Breeds: Bearded Collie

Kennel Club breed standard

A BREED Standard is the guideline which describes the ideal characteristics, temperament and appearance including the correct colour of a breed and ensures that the breed is fit for function. Absolute soundness is essential. Breeders and judges should at all times be careful to avoid obvious conditions or exaggerations which would be detrimental in any way to the health, welfare or soundness of this breed.

From time to time certain conditions or exaggerations may be considered to have the potential to affect dogs in some breeds adversely, and judges and breeders are requested to refer to the Breed Watch section of the Kennel Club website here: http://www.the-kennelclub.org.uk/services/public/breeds/watch for details of any such current issues. If a feature or quality is desirable it should only be present in the right measure. However if a dog possesses a feature, characteristic or colour described as undesirable or highly undesirable it is strongly recommended that it should not be rewarded in the show ring.

General Appearance

Lean active dog, longer than it is high in an approximate proportion of 5 to 4, measured from point of chest to point of buttock. Bitches may be slightly longer. Though strongly made, should show plenty of daylight under body and should not look too heavy. Bright, enquiring expression is a distinctive feature.

Characteristics

Alert, lively, self-confident and active.

Temperament

Steady, intelligent working dog, with no signs of nervousness or aggression.

Head and skull

Head in proportion to size. Skull broad, flat and square, distance between stop and occiput being equal to width between orifices of ears. Muzzle strong and equal in length to distance between stop and occiput. Whole effect being that of a dog with strength of muzzle and plenty of brain room. Moderate stop. Nose large and square, generally black but normally following coat colour in blues and browns. Nose and lips of solid colour without spots or patches. Pigmentation of lips and eye rims follows nose colour.

Eyes

Toning with coat colour, set widely apart and large, soft and affectionate, not protruding. Eyebrows arched up and forward but not so long as to obscure eyes.

Ears

Of medium size and drooping. When alert, ears lift at base, level with, but not above, top of skull, increasing apparent breadth of skull.

Mouth

Teeth large and white. Jaws strong with a perfect, regular and complete scissor bite preferred, i.e. upper teeth closely overlapping lower teeth and set square to the jaws. Level bite tolerated but undesirable.

Neck

Moderate length, muscular and slightly arched.

Forequarters

Shoulders sloping well back. Legs straight and vertical with good bone, covered with shaggy hair all round. Pasterns flexible without weakness.

Body

Length of back comes from length of ribcage and not that of loin. Back level and ribs well sprung but not barrelled. Loin strong and chest deep, giving plenty of heart and lung room.

Hindquarters

Well muscled with good second thighs, well bent stifles and low hocks. Lower leg falls at right angle to ground and, in normal stance, is just behind a line vertically below point of buttocks.

Feet

Oval with soles well padded. Toes arched and close together, well covered with hair, including between pads.

Tail

Set low, without kink or twist, and long enough for end of bone to reach at least point of hock. Carried low with an upward swirl at tip whilst standing or walking, may be extended at speed. Never carried over back. Covered with abundant hair.

Gait/movement

Supple, smooth and long-reaching, covering ground with minimum of effort.

Coat

Double with soft, furry, and close undercoat. Outer coat flat, harsh, strong and shaggy, free from woolliness and curl, though slight wave permissible. Length and density of hair sufficient to provide a protective coat and to enhance shape of dog, but not enough to obscure natural lines of body. Coat must not be trimmed in any way. Bridge of nose sparsely covered with hair slightly longer on side just to cover lips. From cheeks, lower lips and under chin, coat increases in length towards chest, forming typical beard.

Colour

Slate grey, reddish-fawn, black, blue, all shades of grey, brown and sandy with or without white markings. Never merle/dapple. When white occurs it appears on foreface, as a blaze on skull, on tip of tail, on chest, legs and feet and, if round the collar, roots of white hair should not extend behind shoulder. White should not appear above hocks on outside of hindlegs. Slight tan markings are acceptable on eyebrows, inside ears, on cheeks, under root of tail and on legs where white joins main colour.

Size

Ideal height: dogs: 53-56 cms (21-22 ins); bitches: 51-53 cms (20-21 ins). Overall quality and proportions should be considered before size but excessive variations from the ideal height should be discouraged.

Faults

Any departure from the foregoing points should be considered a fault and the seriousness with which the fault should be regarded should be in exact proportion to its degree and its effect upon the health and welfare of the dog and on the dog's ability to perform its traditional work.

Note

Male animals should have two apparently normal testicles fully descended into the scrotum.

See more at:
www.thekennelclub.org.uk/services/public/breed/standard.aspx?id=5109#sthash.0ZRwTmFa.dpuf

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www.beardedcollie.club.co.uk

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Email: june.weir@ntlworld.com www.thebeardedcolliesclubofscotland.co.uk

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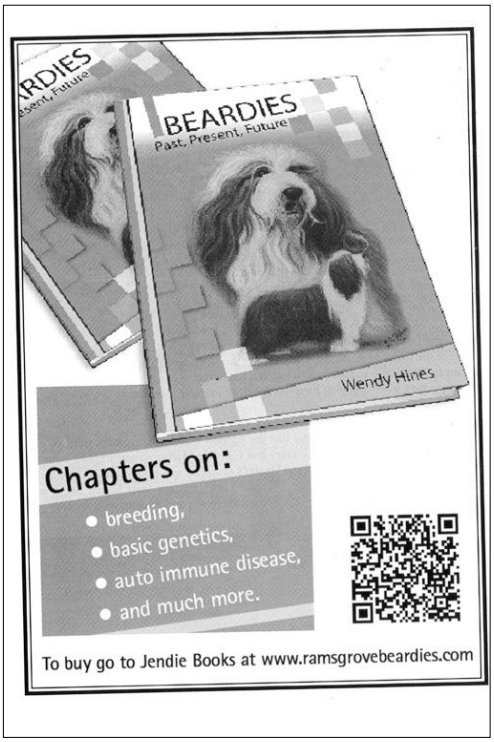
www.scbcc.co.uk



The British Bearded Collie Connexion (BCX)

THE BRITISH Bearded Collie Connexion (BCX) first came into being in 2010, run by Gertie Björklund, Kristina Holmqvist and myself. Gertie and Kina both live in Sweden and I was persuaded by them both to join the team as I lived "on site" in the UK.

by **Mo Sewell**

The idea for the website had been in Gertie's head for a long time as she held a huge database of Bearded Collies and really wanted to utilise all this information, and so it was that in August 2010 we saw the launch of the website, it went live and we all held our breath as we had no idea how it would be received, we need not have worried, BCX was embraced not only in the UK but around the world and achieving over 20,000 visits a month. Now four years later it has proved itself to be a valuable source of information and has excelled our wildest imagination. At the moment our database contains over 73000 bearded collies with their pedigrees going back as far as "Jeannie Of Bothkennar" born in 1943, the site has 80,000 show results, and we have all available Stud Book numbers,Hip and Elbow scores and recently we have added the CEA results.

You can visit the website at bcx-uk.co.uk where you will find an extensive menu covering the breed, health, articles, show results, plus critiques going back to the 1970s, although we have many critiques still missing and are constantly on the hunt for them! The latest addition has been our new and very popular show diary. There is a menu on Navigating BCX as the website is very extensive and we are updating it all the time, and recently we needed to change to a new web hotel as we had so much traffic using the site and had reached the permitted level. Alongside the show results in 2013 we implemented a Points Award for Top Youngster, Dog, Bitch, Veteran and Breeder, its an entry based system which has proved popular, so much so that for 2014 we had sponsors come forward for all the awards in this our second points year. Another great addition was the opening up of our Facebook Group, although Gertie, Kina and myself may be the "workers" on the website we like to think of it "everyones" and the BCX Facebook group has made it possible for all to be involved. It also allowed us to add to the team with our "Roving Reporters" at the shows who kindly upload the results onto the group page as they happen!

We have many articles on BCX some of which "Our Dogs" have included in this feature. We endeavour, when writing articles or doing projects, to explain them in a non too scientific way, it is important that when they are read one can "take it all in". Information and education is our main aim, so writing articles that achieve this is very important to us.

We are, all three of us, passionate about our breed and channel this passion into the website, we are immensely proud of what we have achieved, The British Bearded Collie Connexion is totally unique, no other breed or website out there can offer what we do for Bearded Collies, that said we could not do it without the help of all you Beardie folk out there and thank you for this and your support over the last four years. Without you BCX would not work. Now its onwards and upwards, as we have many new ideas and projects in the pipeline and hope you will all continue to be involved and enjoy BCX for many years to come.

A to Z of breeds: Bearded Collie

♦ Ch Potterdale Classic of Moonhill (Ch Orora's Frank ex Ch Tamevalley Easter Song of Potterdale) born 6/11/83, bred by Mike and Janet Lewis, owned by Brenda White. This painting of "Cassie" by Mandy E Shepherd, appeared on the front page of the Working/Pastoral catalogues at Crufts 2013 and was also included in the "Treasures" of the Kennel Club monthly series in May 2013

Versatile Bearded Collie

Although the main emphasis in the Bearded Collie Club is on showing, it also supports other Kennel Club approved activities such as Agility, Obedience, Working Trials, Flyball and Heel Work to Music.

A Beardie has gained a Gold Warrant in Agility. Frequently a Beardie is seen at Crufts in Heel Work to Music. There are a number of Bearded Collies taking part in Working Trials. The Club in partnership with Southern Counties Bearded Collie Club administer the Bearded Collie Working Test. There are 4 levels - Primary, Junior, Intermediate and Senior, to gain a Senior pass requires a lot of hard work and training.

The majority of BCC members are pet owners who love their animals and enjoy the rambles and activities that the branches put on during the year.

So as you can see, although Beardies enjoy showing they also like doing the other activities

by **Alan Hards**

Bearded Collie Club - Working & Obedience representative

ORORA *Bearded Collies*

This year's show team

ORORA' S MAGNIFIQUE

2 CCs (at 18 months)

ENIGMA AT ORORA JW

1CC

ORORA' S ENTERTAINER

(Dog World / Pet Plan Pup of The Year Finalist – SKC August)

Bryony Harcourt-Brown ● 01670 783015

Thank you to all the contributors, advertisers and Our Dogs *production artist, Darren Moore, for your assistance in producing this 10-page breed feature on the Bearded Collie*

It has been a most enjoyable experience

Helen Davenport-Willis

BEARDED COLLIE CLUB OF AMERICA

The Illustrated breed standard is available from **Lori Wolbach, 36, Howard Street, Pompton Lakes, New Jersey 07442, USA**
Email: smokeybd1115@hotmail.com
Cheques/money orders payable to Bearded Collie Club of America. For non US members please be sure your cheque can be collected in US dollars through a correspondent bank located in the US. For multiple copies please contact Lori for cost. The easiest way to order from outside the US is by PayPal. You will be invoiced by the BCCA Treasurer from the BCCA's PayPal account.
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Indy
CH SENGALAS INDIANA JONES
Top Bearded Collie 2011 and 2012

Eva
CH SENGALAS INDIAN MOON
Top Brood Bitch 2011, 2012 & 2013

We would like to thank the owners of our extended 'Sengalas family' for loving and taking excellent care of the beautiful Beardies we have bred. We send all our congratulations on their considerable success in the show ring to date and are, as always, tremendously proud of them all

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