

## Mary Williams Dog World Profile

As I reflect it is evident I have lived in a household where there were dogs almost all my life. The breeds I have owned have usually been a minority breed and I have loved them. I didn't own my own dog until 1975 after our marriage when we bought our first French Bulldog Diwali Beau Pierre, fondly known as Beau.

We had moved into our own home and decided it was time to have a dog. I went searching for a British Bulldog and acquired a Frenchbulldog puppy. I bought Beau as a pet. When I visited the local Pet Store for supplies Dianne Bremner (the proprietor) invited me to bring my puppy to Obedience classes and to show him. We joined GDOC and began Obedience classes, our instructor was Barry King. We also joined Clarence Kennel Club and became involved in breed showing, we are still members of both clubs to-day.

Beau was very faithful and protective of me even though I trained him following the old training principals. We failed 18 Novice Obedience Trials, then Ron took him in and he achieved his first pass, followed quickly by 2 more and gained his CD, being the first Frenchbulldog in Australia to acquire an obedience title. Beau also acquired his Australian Championship in the show ring, we then decided to buy a little fawn bitch Suzette. I also trained and showed Suzette. She was a very willing worker and she also gained her CD. I trialed her at the Spring Fair in Sydney and achieved a standing ovation for her performance as we left the Novice ring, when she was placed 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Novice Bitch class. We gained Australian Champion titles for four of our French bulldogs .

We tried our hand at breeding French bulldogs, but this was a complete disaster. At 5 years of age Suzette became extremely ill and soon died. We persevered with the breed and had a succession of French bulldogs losing 2 fawn bitches and a young fawn dog all very young to a similar disease. We eventually established they had a genetic leukaemia , which caused their deaths. Then ceased all breeding with this breed.

In the late 70's Ron and I became involved in the Executive of GDOC, my first position was treasurer. We also became involved in instructing with the club. In 1981/82 we participated in the Canine Council's Instructor's course. Having completed the theory our practical exams were scheduled for April 1982 at this time I was pregnant with Josh and was unable to do my practical exams as I was in hospital with complications, Ron passed his test. I completed mine later in the year.

We remained involved with GDOC over the years and still had French bulldogs. Then in 1992 Leisa gave Joshua a Staffordshire puppy she had bred, Stonehead Chism to be known as Chism. As time passed I walked and trained Chism, she was an amazing little dog, would do almost anything for me. She achieved her CD and two passes in Open Obedience before suffering a horrendous back injury, which left her paralysed for at least 3 months. Despite being advised to put her down we persevered with her and thanks to a complex program involving physio, acupuncture and T-Touch we got her walking again. She eventually went in the back again in old age and had to be put down.

In 1996 we lost our last French bulldog, we still had Chism but I wanted a puppy to train and show. We completed a questionnaire from Select-A-Pet to determine what breed best suited our lifestyle, we were recommended a Border Terrier an Aussie Terrier or either of the Corgis. Further research led us to the Border Terrier. Ron bought Corrie as my Christmas present in 1996. What a great little gift she turned out to be. Corrie lived to a wonderful age of 17 years. We still have Banquo her son and Conan her grandson. We have achieved great success in the breed ring with our Border Terriers, Corrie is a Grand Champion, Altair , Annike Banquo and Beatrice, Conan, Bronte, Phryne and Poppy Australian Champions, Corrie and Altair have been judged the best of their breed at both Sydney and Brisbane Royals. Beatrice was judged best bitch of her breed at the Ekka in 2010. My greatest thrill was 2003 when Altair was awarded Best of Breed and Corrie runner up at the Sydney Royal..

Corrie Altair Annike Banquo Conan Bronte and Phryne also all have their ET's, Corrie technically was the first Border Terrier in Australia to achieve her ET, and another qualified for his 2 hours later than her on the same day. Corrie and Conan achieved their CCD in Obedience. Phryne, Bronte achieved their RN and Conan his RA in Rally-O. We have also enjoyed tracking with our BT's all except Corrie have achieved tracking titles, we have achieved 14 tracking titles, with three of these being Tracking Champions . Conan has also passed his TSD giving us one Track and Search title.

I have dedicated many hours to the continuing success of the GDOC. I have been an Instructor and served on the executive over the years. Also been the cook in the canteen and at tracking trials. I have learnt a lot and continue to learn whilst witnessing many changes in the methods used for training dogs. I achieved my accreditation in CGC Certificate IV from the Delta Society. I continue to enjoy attending workshops with the most recent being Tricks and Track and Search. I have also recently completed a couple of workshops on line including Scentworks. My goals are to continue in the dog activities we currently enjoy, obtain another Obedience title and a Tricks Title with at least one of my Border Terriers and continue to achieve Tracking and Track and Search and Rally-O titles and become involved in Scentworks and Earth dog work with them.