

Curriculum Vitae

I have been involved with dogs, dog breeding and showing dogs nearly all my life as my parents were already showing and breeding German Shepherds and Newfoundlands long before I was born.

My first 2 Old English Sheepdogs were born in 1974 and 1975; they came from the then very famous UK OES kennel 'Rollingsea'. Both girls attained their Champion titles easily.

By the time I moved from Germany to the UK in 1985, I had bred or owned already 13 OES Champions under the 'Zottels' affix. The most well known was probably Int., Ned., German, Swiss, Ch. Zottel's Estee Lauder, who was Top OES in Europe in 1984. She, together with 6 other OES, moved with me to England and these seven OES were to become the foundation of the successful 'LamedaZottel' kennel and then again in 1995 for just my own affix 'Zottels'.

Since then I have bred 32 UK Old English Sheepdog Champions, including Ch. Zottel's Miss Marple of Lameda, the UK Female Breed Record holder with 51 CCs and her son, the UK Breed Record Holder, Ch. LamedaZottel Flamboyant with 57 CCs, who was the Top winning Dog of All Breeds in the UK in 1991 and 1992. Flamboyant's last son, Multi Ch. Zottel's You Don't Fool Me with 49 CCs was UK's Top Dog All Breeds in 2002.

Worldwide, with very limited breeding, I have bred well over 170 Champions, many of which are record holders in their own countries. The total amount of UK CCs won by my dogs stands at well over 300 with many Group wins in the UK & in Europe, including the Pastoral Group at Crufts in 2002 & 2nd in the Pastoral Group at Crufts in 2005 (both with 'You Don't Fool Me') and many Best in Show wins at General Championship Shows & Club Championship Shows in the UK and in Europe. Two other highlights during my showing career of which I am very proud of are winning Best In Show with 'Miss Marple' at the Centenary OES Club Show in 1989 under the famous late Ferelith Hamilton with an entry of 250 OES entered and BOB with 'Flamboyant' at the Crufts Kennel Club Centenary Show under the late Norman Harrison, again with an entry of 250 OES entered.

In addition to showing my own and a number of 'borrowed' OES successfully, I have also campaigned a lovely Bearded Collie to her UK Champion-title.

In 1993 my book 'The Complete Old English Sheepdog' was published by Ringpress Books Limited. It was dedicated to the late Mrs H.F.M.E. Backx-Bennink, breeder of the famous 'Reeuwijk' fame, who was during her lifetime the most influential & successful breeder of Old English Sheepdogs in Europe. I was truly lucky to call her a friend and mentor. Apart from 'Backxi' as she was lovingly called by her admirers, I should also mention one other close friend and mentor: the late Caj Haakansson of the 'Bahlams' fame. He taught me a most valuable lesson with regards to judging "Your eyes lie to your hands, so therefore if at all possible go over the dogs with your eyes closed"

For the best part of 10 years I was part of a team in the x-ray room of a veterinary x-ray clinic, which is probably the only clinic in the UK specialised on hips, elbow and spinal problems.

I have also worked for the FCI for a number of years translating breed standards from German into English language or vice versa. Both of the above mentioned 'jobs' helped me to further my knowledge and to understand key aspects of pure bred dogs and their purpose.

I have been judging all breeds at Open Show level in the UK since 1984. Apart from my regular judging appointments in the UK, my judging career has taken me all over Europe, the USA and Canada, officiating at many National Specialities, Club Shows, World Shows and General Championship Shows. I am also very proud to say that I am one of only a very few select judges, to have judged OES at Crufts twice, namely in 2002 and 2020.

In addition to the OES, I am passed to award CCs in Border Collies, Bearded Collies, Rough Collies and Shetland Sheepdogs. I am also passed to judge the Pastoral group in the UK and am very much looking forward to judge Border Collie males at Crufts in 2026.

Christina Bailey