

by Joan Harrigan

A REMARKABLE LIFE IN DOGS

Cindy Vogels

Cindy Vogels grew up in Rockville Centre, Long Island with parents divided on the subject of dogs—her mother loved them, and her father did not. Jackie Gottlieb prevailed, and the family had acquired a backyard-bred poodle bitch when Vogels was very young. “When she passed away, I was in junior high, and my father agreed that we could get another dog,”

Vogels recalls Eugene Gottlieb had conditions, however; the dog had to be medium-sized and non-shedding. And, he added, “For heaven’s sake, if you are getting a dog, get a decent one this time!”

A remarkable career in dogs for mother and daughter all began with an ad in the Sunday *New York Times*. In the 1960s, the sports section of the Sunday Times contained a treasure trove of classified ads for pets. There were ads for every breed imaginable—the perfect place for a teenaged “dog-crazy” girl to dream about a new addition to her family.

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Vogels found a puppy ad for a breed that sounded perfect—Soft Coated Wheaten Terriers. Jackie Gottlieb agreed, and they purchased their first Wheaten. Most families don't immediately begin showing their pet, but "this was 1968; Wheatens were a Miscellaneous breed, and everyone was encouraged to show," Vogels recalls. Miscellaneous classes in those days were huge—in addition to the appealing Wheatens, Akitas, Shih Tzu, Bichon Frises, and Cavaliers were all working toward full AKC recognition.

Jackie Gottlieb made it her mission to gain full recognition for the breed she quickly came to love. "A diligent group of breeders who were and still are friends all worked together," Vogels says. The Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier gained full AKC recognition in 1973, and Jackie Gottlieb was instrumental in its success. In fact, she's known as "Grandma Wheaten."

The next year, the Gottliebs moved from Long Island to Colorado. "My father retired as an orthodontist and had started the *Journal of Clinical Orthodontics*, which he could publish from anywhere," Vogels says. "Colorado was the perfect choice of a place to live." Vogels attended the New England Conservatory of Music in Boston and earned a Masters in music history from the University of Colorado. She was a professional flutist who says her career "went by the wayside" in favor of time spent with her family and dogs. She met her husband, David Vogels, in graduate school, and they settled in Greenwood Village, south of Denver.

ANDOVER KENNELS: ALL IN THE FAMILY

Vogels is quick to point out that Andover Kennels were a joint effort by her mother and herself. They may be best known for their homebred dog Ch. Andover Song 'N Dance Man ROM. In 1989, he won the Terrier Group at the Garden—still the only Wheaten to achieve this honor. "Harry" was an outcross to Gay Dunlap's Ch. Gleanngay Holliday ROM out of Ch. Andover Hootenanny ROM. Sally and Mark George campaigned him, and together they won three national specialties at Montgomery; Vogels handled him to his fourth and final national specialty win from the Veterans class.

When Harry turned seven, he came home to Colorado, where he transitioned from show dog to house dog with ease. "He was



Ch. Andover Fiddlin' Tambo with handler Sally George

a wonderful show dog, producer, and companion," Vogels says. "He set every record for his breed, and except for Best in Show wins, all his records stand to this day."

Together, Vogels and Jackie Gottlieb produced more than 100 champion Wheatens. In addition to Harry's achievements, their Ch. Glenworth Andover Answer remains the top-producing Terrier bitch of all time. As her mother has done, Vogels became active in the national club. She is a past president of the SCWTCA and has also served as its AKC delegate. Though she is no longer actively breeding, she remains involved in judges' education.

FROM TERRIERS TO SPORTING BREEDS —AND TOYS, AND HOUNDS

Many fanciers remain devoted to a single breed—however, Cindy Vogels is not one of them. After she "fell in love" with Norfolk Terriers, her handlers found her a dog bred by Anne Rogers Clark. Ch. Surrey Shore Leave went on to win the breed at the Garden, and Vogels had her start in Norfolks. Two imported Norfolks from the illustrious English Jaeva kennels of Martin Phillips added to the mix. And, "if you have Norfolks, then you have to have Norwich," Vogels says. The Georges found her a male that Vogels calls "almost a great dog," Ch. Ji-Ro's Seabee, who became another Garden breed winner. Vogels and Jackie Gottlieb also have produced generations of Andover Welsh Terrier champions, combining domestic and imported lines.

Along the way, there were also Kerry Blues—"I was fortunate to breed a bitch to 'Mick,'" Vogels says. "I consider him the greatest dog I ever saw and later had the privilege to judge." And while Terriers were her first love, Vogels was never blind to the attractions of other groups. Andrea Jordan, a "brilliant Brittany breeder" in Vogel's words, came to live with



Ch. Ji-Ro's Seabee with handler Mark George

them for six months after the death of Jordan's husband. When Jordan left, the Vogels had a Brittany bitch, Ch. Jordean's Deliberation, who went on to produce multiple Andover champions. For 40 years, David Vogels wanted another sporting breed—an English Cocker. "I said 'why?' for 37 years before giving in. I wish I'd done it long ago," Vogels says. Now "Jack," (Ch. Smith-

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Multiple World Champion Homebred AMHF I've Got A Secret
World Champion Gelding twice along with Multiple World Harness Titles.

wood Shades of Harlem of Charmaron) a black and tan English Cocker is a treasured addition to the family.

"I had Pekingese, too, before I stopped showing," Vogels says. "Ed Jenner used to have wonderful match shows at Knolland Farms. He loved trophies, and this was a great way to repurpose them." At one match, Vogels idly asked Jenner what Pekingese were like to live with. Jenner, who had won Westminster in 1990 with his Ch. Wendessa Crown Prince, assured her that they were "so wonderful."

"About five minutes later, he presented me with a dog (Knolland Carmen), carrier, and her papers," Vogels says. "When my husband met me at the airport, he took one look at the carrier and said, 'what is it?'" Dinner plans were canceled in favor of driving straight home with a breed that David Vogel had always thought resembled a toupee. When "Jade" came to Colorado, she had only three single conformation points, but Vogels took her everywhere, and subsequently finished her title in straight shows. Jade may have been the first Peke in Vogels' home, but she wasn't the last. "They are like potato chips—you can't have just one!" Vogels explains.

Scott Thompson's Greycott Kennels are only a mile from the Vogels' home. "I got a wonderful

Greyhound bitch from him, Ch. Sportingfield's Greycott Joie who was bred by Debbie Butt," Vogels says. "I think that it took 30 years for us to realize that we were really sighthound people from the beginning! Since our kennel facilities were gone by that time, I only had two Greyhound litters, but we have multi-generation Andover champions."

GIVING BACK

Vogels has certainly produced and shown winning dogs in a variety of breeds—and groups—but that is far from the extent of her contribution to the fancy. "The Canine Health Foundation (CHF) has been a really big part of my life for the last 10 or 15 years," she says. Vogels was a founding member and has been a board member for 20 of the organization's 25 years of existence. She's also held offices—first as vice president, then president in 2008, the year that the CHF transitioned from a board-run to staff-run organization. "The CHF had outgrown its infrastructure—it's the largest funder of canine research in the world," Vogels explains. She is now the CHF treasurer.

During the transition, Vogels spent weeks at a time in Raleigh, North Carolina, and she's proud of what the CHF has accomplished. "We now have Dr. Diane Brown, a veterinarian/PhD at the helm. She's smart and personable—it's very hard for lay people to explain science, so her background is essential," Vogels says. "Twenty years ago, I was on the Grants Committee—now I can't even pronounce the titles of the grants." Vogels believes that the CHF serves a crucial role not only in raising funds, but in coordinating and directing the dollars that go into research. "Lay people can't do this effectively on their own," she says. "It is very difficult for breed clubs to go off on their own and make decisions about what research should be given priority in funding."

"In the last five years, the CHF has reached out beyond the fancy," she continues. "We are for all dogs, and it's important not to go after the same worn wallets year after year.

The same year that she became involved with the CHF, Vogels was asked to join the board of Take the Lead. "This is a people-to-people organization," Vogels says. Take the Lead began 25 years ago, originally conceived as a way to help members of the fancy stricken by AIDS and needing financial assistance. Since then, the mission has expanded; most recently, reaching out to those affected by natural disasters such as Hurricane Katrina. Take the Lead has only a



2012 Westminster with David, Jackie, Megan, Philip, Izzy & Cindy

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single paid employee at its Watertown, New York offices. The vast majority of its work is done by volunteers—“if you are on the board, you work,” Vogels says.

A committee of three evaluate applications for assistance. “I was on the board for years before I knew who the committee members were,” Vogels says. “Take the Lead doesn’t give money to individuals; we pay their bills, and it’s all anonymous. No one outside the committee knows who has applied for or received help.”

“Starting from the top, there’s a lot of love and passion here,” Vogels says. “And, we make a lot of money from small donations!”

FROM BREEDER TO AKC JUDGE

Today, Cindy Vogels is a well-known and sought-after judge. She’s one of the elite group who has judged Best in Show at Westminster: in 2012, she gave the award to the Pekingese, GCh. Palacegarden Malachy. She is approved for all of the terrier, sporting, and toy breeds, as well as poodles, junior showmanship and Best in Show. Not content to stop there, Vogels is provisionally approved for 15 hound breeds. However, as a judge, she is firm in her belief that she should not produce and show breeds that she also judges.

Vogels had considered judging for a long time before she first applied, but was having such a good time showing that she was reluctant to take the step. Her point of view changed after a day stewarding for Dee Hutchinson at the Flatirons Kennel Club show. “She had such a good time judging, and people had such a good time showing to her!”

Vogels says. Becoming a judge may have closed the door on breeding and exhibiting, but it opened a new one—breeding and showing Morgan horses. “There was a Morgan farm adjoining our property in Colorado,” Vogels explains. “And I always thought that if I ever had a horse, it would be a Morgan...” Under the AMHF prefix, Vogels and her husband have produced and shown many world champions.

As Vogels turned to judging, she placed the dogs in her kennel or brought them into her own home as companions, believing that no show dog should live out its years in a kennel—all deserve to be someone’s pet.

Vogels has clearly mastered multi-tasking—she also has a Maxwell award from the Dog



Ch. Katiewell's Touch of Class was an English import.

My mother and I bought her out of the junior puppy class at Crufts.

Writers Association of America for her column on breeding in the *AKC Gazette*. She’s determined to contribute her energy and talents to the fancy. She is a lifetime member of Flatirons Kennel Club, and she serves as show chair for the Evergreen Kennel Club. The Wheatens that she and her mother bred will be remembered not only for their wins and records,

but for their descendants. Beyond that, her work with the Canine Health Foundation and Take the Lead benefit humans, as well as canines. She’s not paid for this work—she does it because she loves dogs and our sport.

“The worst thing about judging is disappointing people,” she says. “It’s hard to award only X number of ribbons when people really believe in their dogs. I know that there is a lot of love and commitment behind every dog that walks into the ring. I know that as judges, we can look stern—but we all have lives and loves, too.”

Cindy Vogels is someone who has not forgotten where she started in the sport, and what it means to compete as a team with a dog you love.



1989 Ch. Andover Song N Dance Man

