



Ingrid DEDKOVA

Interview with THE *owner* of *Bohemia PLATINA* kennel, from CZECH *Republic*, one OF the *most* SUCCESSFUL today *breeders* in Eastern EUROPE

When & where did you first become interested in Yorkshire terriers?

I first become interested in the breed in 1989. I had been training dogs since I was 11 years old. I started with German Shepards, I was awarded Golder trainer, I achieved over 50 obedience exams and finally become a obedience judge. Of course, my history with Yorkshire Terriers is a different story. I

got my first one, a bitch, as a present from my dear husband Pavel who has been very supporting over the years and I would never achieved what I have without him. I fell in love with her and wanted another one, not only as a pet but with show qualities. With these two animals my passion for the breed begun and it never left me. I started to study the lines, found out what I like in the breed and have been breeding for the best ever since. The success came later,

INTERVIEW



Pictures: • 1: Ch. Everest Bakarar (left) and World & Multi Ch. Champion Lafit Bohemia Platina (Ch. Hunderwood Royal Societe x Ch. Exreait De Jeunesse Bakarar) in Poznan 2006 • 2: Ch. Champion Lafit Bohemia Platina (Ch. Hunderwood Royal Societe x Ch. Exreait De Jeunesse Bakarar) in Poznan 2006 • 3: Ingrid Dedková (left), Radek Blažo and Jitka Ernestová with 9 dogs at the Club Speciality show • 4: Ch. Society Angel of Padawi's • 5: Ingrid with Ch. Champion Lafit Bohemia Platina

with my first imports.

What attracted you to this breed? What do you enjoy most about owning this breed?

Of course, the first thing that everybody notices on a Yorkie is a long, shiny, silky coat. I was no different. But one of the features that kept me with the breed is the sweet character and temperament. When it all comes together with a nice body structure, angulation, strong level topline and a nice expression, you get the most elegant animal that takes everybody's breath inside the show rings as well as outside.

You have achieved considerable success in the show rings, what is for you personal the greatest achievement?

One of the greatest wins I have achieved is the World Winner title in Poznan 2006, when we had the largest Yorkshire Terrier entry in the history – 301 dogs. I won with my Multi Ch. *Champion Lafit Bohemia Platina*. He is Champion in 13 Countries, multiple Group and Show winner. He retired after the World dog show. It is a bit funny for me looking back at all the success this dog has had, because, when he was a puppy, people was coming to my house and nobody liked him. Nobody would want to buy this puppy; he even didn't have a name until 4 months old. But I saw his qualities and had always faith in him. He will always be the special dog in my heart. Another great success that I appreciated so much is my Specialty BIS with *Extra Bonus Bohemia Platina* (a daughter of Champion Lafit). It was her third show and she was only 15 months when she got it, defeating 105 yorkies entered at the show.

It is also a great joy for me watching my dogs winning in hands of other breeders. I just mention *April Fun Bohemia Platina*, owned by Jitka Ernestova, and *Pablo Picasso Bohemia Platina*, who took Russia by storm gaining in limited showing BIG and BIS titles.

Nonetheless, I appreciate very much the awards I got with dogs I imported. Ch. *Everest Bakarar* won a big Specialty in

Czech Republic and he was vice European Winner in 2007; Int. Ch. *Society Angel of Padawi's* won a huge class at the World Dog show in Poznan and gained several Champion titles; Int. Ch. *Miss York Bakarar* is a top winning bitch with multiple Championships, BIG and BIS. She is also producing very well in my breeding program.

I am very proud that so many different judges all around the world have prized my dogs with highest result. I want to thank to each one of them! I would like also to thank very much my good friend and amazing breeder Anna Zwolińska of Bakarar prefix, who has helped me over the years and trusted me with her dogs. I thank also my dear friend Radek Blažo. We have been friends ever and after he was trained by professional handlers abroad, especially by the greatest Barbara Beissel in the US, he became an important member of Bohemia Platina show team. I am grateful for Radek's help with exceptional grooming and handling, and very fond of our friendship.

What grooming hints or tips do you feel work best for keeping a dog in great show condition?

When it comes to grooming yorkshire terriers I strongly believe in genetics. The best silky coats are never gained by any cosmetic products. Of course good quality products are very important when keeping dogs in condition. But it is also important to work with coat constantly, keeping it untangled, know how to wrap or dry the coat correctly without breaking the hair. I think a good technique is much more than an expensive product.

What is the greatest health concern to breeders today?

Health is one of basic and greatest concerns for me. My males mate bitches naturally and females deliver puppies themselves with no special help, even though I am always helping and watching. The females who are not able to deliver puppies naturally or has to have C-sections are not used in my breeding program.



Do you think our current standard is adequate? What changes do you feel are necessary?

I think the current standard is adequate for the breed. I think the breeders should always keep in mind that the yorkshire terrier is not only the coat and a nice topknot, but a true terrier with a structure as described in the standard. Nowadays we see many yorkies with a wrong coat texture. It is important to keep and breed dogs with silky, shiny coats of the correct colours.

Do you feel the size being shown today exceeds the standard?

I feel that there is more to judge than just the size itself. It is important to judge the type and features described in standard than just to look at the size. Good strength of bones is important and does not necessarily mean an oversized dog.

What bloodlines do you work with? Do you inbreed linebreed or outcross?

I started and have kept working with dogs linebred on the Millmoor, Delle Antiche Mura and Penghibur. I like working also with Hunderwood, De La Pam Pommeraié and Bakarar dogs. In my breeding program I mostly linebreed. Over the years I have done just a few outcross, needed to say with nice results too.

How do you prefer to keep your dogs (together, separate, in runs or pens)?

We live in the countryside in a big house with a big yard and we keep dogs in constant touch with us and visitors. They can run outside during the whole day. At night they all have a separate place to sleep in. Of course, puppies and females in season are apart from other dogs.

How and when do you determine a show quality puppy?

During the first 5 months, just by watching them play when the good temperament and the structure show. A careful puppy socialization is also important for every show dog and this is one of my big concerns.



At what age do you begin training? Do you have any sharing tips for training?

I start training with puppies at around 6 weeks just by playing. What every breeder gives to puppies in the first weeks influences them most in the future. The show should be a fun experience for each dog and so should the training. My dogs love every single show and can even feel the exciting emotions when winning. My major tip would be to motivate dogs and make showing an enjoyable experience for them.

If you were starting a kennel today, what considerations would you make? Would you buy first, a bitch or a dog?

Every newcomer should keep in mind that by choosing a puppy we also choose a breeder. And that person should be knowledgeable enough to help and guide them in their beginning. I think it is very important to watch experienced breeders, visit different kennels and then decide.

A good quality female is a basic to a future success. I never understood some breeders who try to make up for the missing qualities on bitch just by mating her to a top dog. Only two exceptional animals can produce something better.

What tips or advice can you share with a newcomer?

I would like to advice the newcomers, do not get disappointed if you loose at show or something goes wrong. We were all beginners and everybody have done mistakes. The success in breeding or at shows takes time and there is a lot of hardwork behind each and single one of the wins. Still, no matter what the show results are, we always have to be critical and see qualities and faults in our own dogs. Even though, we should never forget that the dogs we work with are our beloved friends who look up to us as their leaders. They should live a comfortable life, even after the show career and be loved until the end.

