

Bill and Marie Hargreaves

Interview with Breeder Judge Mr. Bill Hargreaves Denbar Boxers

How and when I got started in boxers is hard question. Guess it depends on the criteria for “started”. I bought my first boxer in the 7th grade with my paper route money, so that would be around 50 years ago. I went to my first dog show about 45 years ago, it was at the Veterans Stadium in Long Beach, CA, I believe it was a benched show. Bred my first litter 40 years ago and finished my first champion maybe 30-35 years ago. In the process of breeding that first litter, I came in contact with a wonderful lady named Margaret Deeds. Margaret was my mentor, she taught me so much. She talked to me about basic structure, about different types. She told me of different breeding theories and strategies. She guided and encouraged me with things related to dog shows and ethics. That first breeding that we did was a bitch out of her breeding and she helped us pick a stud dog. When Margaret came to see the litter we did the usual analyzing of each puppy and all that goes with it. Before leaving, she looked around and saw a very young couple with two young children, obviously living with very modest means and she said something like, “you know, you have two young children, your just starting out maybe you should put this dog show thing on hold for a while. Get yourself settled and established then maybe later on you can get involved”. We followed her advice for about five years. We moved to Denver, CO to open a business and our relationship basically ended.

Once established in Denver, I got the bug again and eventually finished our first champion,



Ch Barisle's Miss Pris

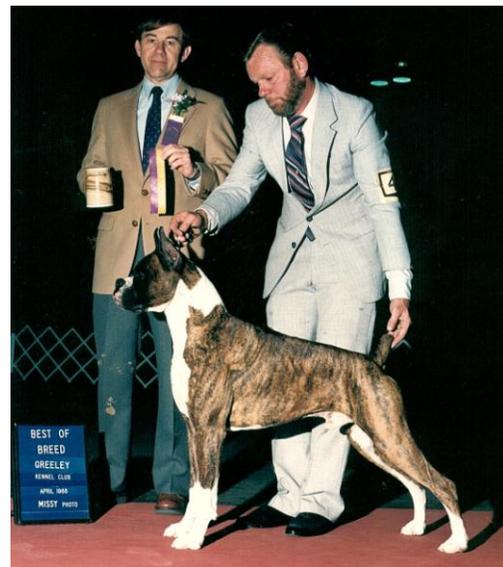
Ch. Barisle's Miss Pris. Margaret Deeds was no longer breeding or showing at the time and she agreed to let us use her Barisle kennel name. We changed to Denbar Boxer a few years later. Finishing that first champion, while very exciting, was quite an ordeal. So we decided to seek out the best bitch we could find and start over from there. We contacted several breeders around the country. We got lucky when I called Rufus Burluson of Marburl boxers in Texas. At first he didn't have anything, we talked awhile before he confided that well he had done a breeding. There were two female puppies, one fawn and one brindle they were watching. The dam of this litter was the two time ABC National Specialty winner, Ch. Marburl's Rahab of Wesan. We talked a little longer, finally he said, “we can only keep one”. I asked once he decided on the one to keep, would the other one be available TO ME? Rufus said yes, and that

actually they had decided on the brindle. Wanting to seal the deal, after we hung up, I put together a packet, life history,

family info, family picture, business info, I mean everything but birth certificates and a P & L statement. The next phone call, the deal was done and in a couple of weeks we had what would be our foundation bitch. She would be Ch. Marbur's Scarlet Cord DOM. Just getting her has to be my greatest accomplishment. I can't tell you how many times I thanked Rufus for trusting in a newbie from Denver, I continue to thank Mary Frances. Somewhere in the above sequence of events, we got started. No matter how you count, it's been a while.

As a breeder, have you bred a particular dog or bitch you thought was special over others?

No, I don't think I could name just one. There have been several that would stick out in my mind, but for entirely different reasons. For example: Ch. Barisle's Just Right (JR) he was our biggest winner. Before there was a Top Twenty, back when the working & herding were one group, he was winning. But then there was Ch. Barisle's Dash of Magic he was a cookie cutter. Didn't matter what you bred to him, they all came out the same beautiful kind. Boy! was that fun.



Ch. Barisle's Just Right

pleasing is a dog that is good in all its parts, but the parts don't come together properly?

Have you ever seen a trend (good or bad) in the boxer ring?

The trends that I see are not new trends. Poor fronts and long bodies seem to be the norm. I seldom see a really good front there are so many things about the structure that can be incorrect and throw the whole assembly out of sync. In my opinion, some seemingly small changes in the Boxer Standard over several years have made it increasingly difficult to attain the quality fronts we seek.



. Marbur's Scarlet Cord DOM

How long have you been judging and what breeds are you licensed to judge?

I have been judging since 2004. I am licensed to judge Boxers and Great Danes, seriously doubt I will apply for more.

What do you think we need to improve in our breed?

Concentrate on the basics first. The general appearance, a medium sized square dog. A dog that is balanced in every way. Then we can move on to the individual parts. Each breeder may have the need or desire to concentrate on some different part they feel is more needed in their breeding program, but first attain the general appearance. How

Your greatest challenge?

I think the greatest challenge for any breeder is to maintain a high quality in their program over an extended number of *years*.

What advice would you give to someone just starting in Boxers?

Study the standard first. Do research on different lines and breeders that have the look that you like. Then and only then, go out and get the best bitch/bitches you can find.

What do you consider your greatest success to date?

Right now my successes are not what brings me the most satisfaction. It is the successes of a few of the people I have had the privilege of sharing my experience with that brings me the greatest joy. Some of these people, who have become dear friends, have achieved things way beyond what I ever did. When I shared with these friends, I tried not to tell them what to do, but to give the information, knowledge and perhaps theories or strategies they could use to make their own informed choices. As an example, on a few occasions, one or another of these friends has consulted with me about a possible choice of stud dogs. I never told them what to do, just gave them some things to think about. They made their choices, the breedings turned out great, and they did it themselves. Many times their choice would not have been my choice and I wouldn't have thought they would turn out as well as they did. They made a better choice than I would have and that brings me great satisfaction. It has often been asked, "What makes a good mentor?" my answer is, "a great student!"

Finally, I would like to pay tribute to the late Johnny Johnson. I had great admiration for Johnny his wit his knowledge and understanding of the breed he was a friend. He was willing to help the novice but he had a way of laying his little tidbits of knowledge, between the lines. If you were a good student he was teaching you valuable lessons. If you were not a student you would have no idea of the things he was teaching.

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Boxerdaily.com would like to thank
Mr. Hargreaves for taking the time to visit with us.

