



Sirrocco's Private Rhapsody and
Sirrocco's Private Love Song

Diane R Mallett -

Sirrocco Boxers, AKC Reg Est 1968

Please tell us how you got started in boxers? |

I received my first boxer in 1968 as a wedding present purchased from all places a pet shop. He was a Red & white male name Surfside Mountain Rambler, CD, called Major. Major taught me everything I needed to know about the breed. I found his pedigree originated here in the USA from by a dog named Rainey Lane's Sirrocco. This dog



Surfside Mountain Rambler, CD,
"Major"

was exported to England in the late 50's purchased by well known English breeder, Marion Fairbrothers of Summerdale Kennels. Little did I know then, the impact this would have in my life with Boxers and so my kennel name was chosen . I showed him in both obedience and



Surfside Mountain Rambler, CD,
"Major"

breed myself, and completed his CD with high honors. He was a great ambassador for the breed as I would take him to schools to interact with the children, he loved it as much as they did. I continued to work and studied in all fields of training and later hired as Master Trainer for Service, Assistance and Hearing Dog program at Red Acre Farms.

I contacted Bob & Betty-Jo Phillips of Brettendale Kennels about a young stud dog Cody and to my surprise he was also for sale, so I

bought him. He was then campaigned by Carmen Skinner and in 1985 was an American Boxer Club Top 20 Contender, and finished his Companion Dog Title the weekend before our new move to Europe.

Now living in Italy, I travel throughout Europe showing Cody but found to become an official Champion (FCI) a dog must also have a working title. So, we began to train in the sport of Schutzhund with the best trainers. This Test consists of 3



Am Ch Brettendale's Love Maker, CD SCHH1
"Cody"

parts, Obedience, Tracking and Protection. In 1987, Cody, Am Ch Brettendale's Love Maker, CD SCHH1 became the 1st American Bred Boxer to be awarded the Schutzhund 1 title with pronounced courage.

I then purchased a bitch from Portugal, named Amadora otherwise known as Tootsie before returning to the states. Her pedigree consisted of Salgray and Wilvirday fame. She is the foundation of my present pedigree of today. In 1990 we returned to USA, bought a home and built a kennel in New Hampshire. I started training and handling dogs professionally. I finished many breeds from Working, Hounds, Sporting and Non-Sporting groups. I retired from handling in 2005 but still continue on with my breeding program.

Who was your mentor? In my early days, Massachusetts was considered home and there were plenty of top breeders and handlers there who graciously offered advice on showing, training and breeding. I could depend on anyone of them for sound advice, and I did. I met Kathleen Gould who actually bred boxers for many years in England. She attended the Westminster dog show looking to buy a PET Boxer and admiring my dog my Am/Can Ch King's Rise and Shine from afar. She not only became the proud owner of Molly, Sirrocco's Kiss' N Tell, DOM but a longtime partner in the Sirrocco breeding program of today. Molly was bred to AM CA CH Golden Hazen Tuxedo, SOM and produced many notable winners, the highlight of our success. Kathleen with her love graced each puppy with an identifiable name taken from each Shakespeare play.

What was the name of your 1st Champion?

The 1st Champion whom I purchased was Cody, CH Raj-R's Brettendale Love Maker CD SCHH1 and handled by Carmen Skinner. However, in 1992 I finished CH Sirrocco's Up 'N Adam from the 12-18 month class as owner/breeder/handler. He was a stylish youngster and finished quickly.

It was hard to finish your own dog back then but I was determined to learn and do it myself. I took many handling classes with George Alston and read every book I could find. I wanted to be as good as any professional handler and worked very hard. I never gave up

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



BIS - Am/Can Ch Sirrocco's Kiss By The Book,
"Jillian"

I had my share of special dogs in my 40+ years of breeding and I'd like to honor two. First, is Jillian, BIS - Am/Can Ch Sirrocco's Kiss By The Book. She was awarded The American Boxer Club National - 1995 Futurity Jr Puppy winner. In 1996 - American Boxer Club "Top Twenty Winner" - and 1st Owner/Breeder/Handler to win this honor. She finished 1996 - #1 Boxer USA with handled by Chris Baum. She beautifully represented our breed with her quality, stature and headpiece with "eyes" that stole your heart.

The dog is “ the Maestro”, who also proved himself as an outstanding example of the breed gaining 12 Championship titles. In the 2004 American Boxer Club National he won Best Opposite Winner, under judge Mrs. Stephanie Abraham handled by Oscar Hernandez and co-owned with Javier Ramirez & Luis Diaz. He was a “in your face” dog, full of attitude and a great showman. He is officially known as, Multi-BIS Am/Can/Mex/Gua/Sal/GCM/Central & Latin Am Ch Sirrocco’s Sing It To Me, TT SOM and the #1 Dog (All breed) in Mexico



Multi-BIS
Am/Can/Mex/Gua/Sal/GCM/Central &
Latin Am Ch Sirrocco’s Sing It To Me, TT
SOM "Maestro"

Were there any particular dogs that you admired or thought represented what you wanted to breed or own?

Yes, while living in Europe, attending a dog show in Monaco, the French Riviera, this stunning dog entered the ring. He was Netherlands, Belgium, Int Champion and Atibox Sieger “Bandelero”, owner by breeder/judge, Leo Van Oz of Sweden, who just recently judged the 2011 Atibox in Venice, Italy. I was so impressed with this great dog that I tried to bring him back to the USA with no luck. They had bigger plans for him in their country. He was an exceptional example of our breed.



CCan Ch Sirrocco' Dream Catcher

What do you consider your greatest success to date?

I would say, that I was able to continue on with my passion for over 40+ years, enjoying every moment. I am fortunate to have had many friends and an understanding family. I met so many wonderful people in my travels with my dogs which opened up so many opportunities for me that I never could imagine. My success is confirmed by one door closing and another one would open. The

opportunity to travel and study dogs of many pedigrees, meet many notable Boxer breeders throughout the world was amazing. My breeding success was not only my doing, but all those people who surrounded me with positive energy, love and support. All the honors, and awards were certainly appreciated but the real success as a breeder is the one time you provide a family with “a bundle of joy” and their very first Boxer. It doesn’t get any better than that.

Your greatest challenge? That is, as a breeder judge I am expected to award the best dog that day. I accept that challenge in order to protect the future of MY breed. It is up to the breeders to bring such a dog to me. The other challenge is that we still today, face many health issues in our breed. We are fortunate to have many new health tests available that breeders can afford to do and should, to improve our breeding programs in the future.

What do you think we need to improve on in our breed? I would be concerned about the size of our dogs. There seems to be an increase in height in the dogs being shown today. We

do not have a disqualification on height however, bigger is not always better, nor correct. I have also found some headpieces lacking muzzle and falling off under the eyes. This is a head breed and judges must consider the overall dog when making their selection. The job of a judge, using our breed standard, is to select the best dog that day from what stands before him/her. My interpretation of the standard - a medium size, square, working dog.



Ch Sirrocco Mercurio

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

The first recommendation would be to read and research everything you can about our breed history and standard. I would then encourage them to find a mentor, a longtime Boxer breeder (15+ years) who not only helps you to understand the breed but who will also spend time answering questions (even if you think it may be stupid, ask anyway). That is, a person who will help you find attributes in the breed. Then get your hands on as many dogs as possible. Sit ringside at shows with a reputable breeder/judge and train

your eyes to see good shoulders, good top lines, etc., and forget the bad. Sometime, you will not agree with a judge as you watch from outside the ring, but what the judge see's up close maybe a deciding factor that you cannot see from afar. Remember, we all started out as newbie's and there is NO perfect dog.

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

I received my judging status in 2009 and I am presently approved for Boxers, Junior Showmanship, and Provisional for Dobermans. The process to become a judge of multiple breeds take time and effort but I do plan to continue the process for the working group and other breeds that I have owned; Ch Saluki, Ch Whippets, Ch Boston Terriers and Ch Cairn Terrier. I have been fortunate to judge many Boxer Specialties here in USA, Mexico National and Canada Regional. I have also been invited to judge in Australia and Italy.

What do you think about the new Grand Champion Title. Will you give SD and SB points?

Yes, I've had the honor to award Grand Champion points in my assignments. I believe the owner/handlers will gain the biggest reward by showing their own dog and completing the Grand Champion title themselves.

What do you think about the idea of reserve Best In Show?

I think that it is just another award placement for attraction or gratification. I don't believe it will be well received by those professional handlers with multiple top competitive dogs who continually compete show after show. In any type of competition, no one ever remembers the runner up.



Amadora, aka "Tootsie"

Was there ever an embarrassing moment in the ring? Yes, this one was in Obedience Trial with my friend, Laurie La Valley as we entered our Boxers in an Obedience trial in Syracuse, NY. I was competing in Novice B with Tootsie and was doing the figure 8 exercises, walking around the post (a man) and Tootsie, leaned over and stuck her face in his crotch, snorting and sniffing as Boxers do. As embarrassing as it was we didn't DQ!!....leave it to a Boxer. Note: This was long before the ABC award "Grand Slam or Forever Young Award". Boy, I could have clean up on that award consecutively, for sure.

Have you ever seen a trend (good or bad) in the Boxer ring? In the past, color was a trend referring to "plain". Today, we now find both plain fawn and brindles being show and in the spotlight. I'm one who appreciates seeing them in the ring (even uncropped) for I was one who struggled to finish a plain "frindle" in my day. That was Tootsie who became my BY Champion, (backyard Ch), from my kitchen window she looked beautiful. I also had a PHD, too (perfect house dog). So, yes, I am a judge who will consider plains, if everything else is present.

How do you feel about being approached after judging to discuss your placements? I have no problem in discussing my placements as long as I am able to do so at that time. Sometimes my breed assignments are schedule back to back and in that case, I would talk to them after the completion of all my assignment.

The question always comes up in breeder circles. Do you want to see the photos of the dogs you put up? Ok to send Thank you cards of gifts? Yes, I

love to receive or see photos of the dogs that I award honors. I have sometimes requested photos for my own portfolio for future reference. Yes, I do appreciate receiving Thank you cards. As for gifts, I would never expect one but know that this does happen and would not want to insult their kindness.



"Phouka"

Sirrocco's Private Party in the garden with Shakespeare roses

What is your biggest Pet Peeve when judging? I

would say, handlers sometime do not have enough ringside help when they have many class dogs. I say this because, as judge we are on the clock and can be penalized. Sometime the confusion outside the ring is understandable but good planning prior to the winner's class would be appreciated by this judge. Using bait is another, but if you use it, please pick it up.

What other hobbies do you enjoy? I created Live Online Dog Training while living in California and hope to have it up running soon. Now living back on the East Coast brings us closer to family and old friends. Since we live near the ocean and spend a lot of time there, maybe a new boat is in our future. Or maybe a new puppy....

Boxer Daily would like to thank Mrs. Mallett for taking the time to share with us.

