

## Borzoi

### WOMEN IN BORZOI

Recently a 90-year-old historical Borzoi publication came into my possession. In reading through the text, I came across a page listing the principal challenge trophies of the time. In the Russian Wolfhound Club of America's 1924 publication of *The Ideal Borzoi*, there is mention of two trophies at the club show: the Ladies Challenge Cup, presented by the Valley Farm Kennel for "the best Russian Wolfhound exhibited by a lady"; and the Ladies Challenge Trophy, presented by E.M. Lockwood, Esq., for "the best Borzoi owned by a lady to have won twice at Westminster."

Based on those specific accolades in *Borzoi*, a short history of some of the contributions by women in the establishment and promotion of the Borzoi is in order. The first pair of Borzoi presented outside of Russia was to Queen Victoria in England. Her Grace Kathleen Duchess of Newcastle, using the Notts Kennel name, was established in 1890 and was patroness of the Borzoi Club at the time of her death at age 63. In the U.S., Miss Lois Kellog partnered early on in O'Valley Farm, and later (1931) established her own kennel, Perchino. Zenovia Kennels was owned by Nellie Martin, who later authored one of first breed publications, *The Russian Wolfhound*, published in 1931 by Judy Publishing. Eileen



*Women in Borzoi: Borzoi Club of Greater New York, 1980; Best of Breed Ch. Majenkir Lorelei, breeder-owner-handled by Karen Staudt (Cartabona)*

Worthing, of Malora Borzoi—a prefix in many pedigrees today—established her kennel a decade after World War II.

There are several women who continued on after their husbands, such as Grace Connelly, with Vala Rama Kennels, after the death of

Dr. Charles Connelly. The same is true for Sylvia Sohr of Twin Elms. The Tam-Boer Kennels was carried on by Lena Tamboer long after her mother and father. A major contribution was the book *The Complete Borzoi*, by Borzoi breeder Lorraine Groshans of the

historic Loral Kennels. Isabell Walton started another prominent kennel, Llebasei, in California in 1948.

Two of the great foundation kennels were established by Priscilla White-Lineker, with her Petrikov kennels in Maryland, and Pat Murphy, of Oaklara Kennels in Illinois. A kennel that led to several top dogs was Bruna Henry, who established the Volga Kennels in California.

First located in Brooklyn, New York, Karen Staudt-Cartabona established one of the kennels with the biggest impact on the breed today, Majenkir Kennel, and is still very active in New Jersey. The Crescent kennels, with the popular sire of Ch. Cresent's Arctic Glacier, was established by Rose Gregg. In Colorado was the Rising Star kennels of Nadine Johnson, a respected AKC judge. In Washington state, Phyllis Brettell, with her daughters, ran Phantom Lake kennels and had a large operation for many years.

In Canada, you cannot mention prominent women breeders without mentioning Sirhan kennels, who's dogs were foundations for many lines. Sirhan was operated by (and the dogs were often shown by) Audrey Benbow, also a frequent judge. In other countries, Frau Hanns Muller, with Bergland in Assenhausen. In Scotland, Mrs. Kathleen McNeil, of Barnaigh, and in England, Miss Betty Murray,

a pioneer Doctor of Veterinary Medicine of Fortruge fame.

Winifred Chadwick, of Winjones Borzoi, was also another author of a key breed book, *Borzoi's*, published in 1971. Another woman who contributed to the Borzoi was Miss Robinson, with the Mythe Borzoi—a kennel of great influence in England and elsewhere.

These pioneering women are just a few of the breeders who helped promote and establish the Borzoi breed we have today. The ladies mentioned above, and many other women today, have made great contributions to the Borzoi community, whether as prominent kennels, authors, or patrons of the breed. There are many, many more who have added their vision and contributions to a sport and a breed that should recognize the considerable talents of these pioneering women.

—Jon Steele,

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[Borzoi Club of America](#)