

A Happy and Productive life with Dogs.....

My life with dogs started as a child when the family owned two Welsh Pembroke Corgis. We lived in the hills in Dunbartonshire, Scotland and life growing up there was all about dogs and horses.

But it was some time before I had my own dogs and this is when my love affair started with Shih Tzu in 2001. Like most of us I started with a lovely little boy called Benji as a pet but his breeder convinced me that he would probably do quite well as a show dog. So that is where my hobby started, Benji and I had a lot of fun and he did do very well gaining his place in the UK Kennel Club Stud Book. Benji (Bakalo Shayna Punim at Shanitau) was joined by Sasha (Superlion Miss Dorothy at Shanitau) and so the hobby grew.

I was fortunate to have a litter sired by Ch. Hashanah Lock Stock 'n' Barrel from the well-known UK Hashanah Kennel bred by Mrs Judy Franks and lovingly owned by my dear friend Mrs Glenda Gilkes. From this mating with my girl Layla (Bakalo Arriva La Diva at Shanitau) came my very special boy Baxter (Ch. Shanitau's Mane Attraction JW) who ended his showing career in 2019 at Crufts having won the Utility Veteran Group at East of England Championship Show a couple of years earlier. This is an excellent achievement for a Shih Tzu in the UK. Baxter is enjoying his retirement with me now and will be 14 in January, He has sired two Champions for Mrs Glenda Gilkes and they have gone on to have champions to my young dog William (Shanitau's Obsession) so we have had a good deal of success from two special boys.

My current show kids are William (Shanitau's Obsession) and daughter Katie (Zeeva Double Take

with Shanitau). Sadly I have had to take a back seat from showing currently as an injured knee has prevented me doing it justice. So I have been concentrating on being Secretary of the Manchu Shih Tzu Society for a few years now and I do enjoy stewarding for other Tibetan Breeds, and at General Championship shows in the UK. Also involved with rescue and rehoming.

My career also became totally focused on the Dog World as I was Manager for Education and Training with the Kennel Club for nine years looking after the work of the Judges Training Board and the Kennel Club Accredited Instructors Scheme for Dog Training and Canine Behaviour. It was a fascinating job in establishing a Judges Training system for all the Canine Activities and taking the Accredited Instructors Scheme to a National Qualification.

I started judging Shih Tzu 20 years ago and I have been judging Shih Tzu at Championship level since 2018. Other breeds I am learning to judge are Tibetan Terriers and Tibetan Spaniels. So I have lots of studying to do and seminars to attend.

So now I am very much looking forward to meeting everyone on 19 th May 2024 and having the great honour to judge Shih Tzu in Norway.

Dorothy McIntyre- 'Shanitau' Shih Tzu