

PRESENTATION – Jens Karlsson, kennel Art-Wave's

**"I rather see a dogs advantages than looking for faults"**

Text: Ariana Carlén.

It started with newspaper clippings of breed descriptions at a young age, continued with a train trip among English kennels during adolescence and then the dog breeding has been tough on Jens' life.

In a beautifully decorated, yellow villa among evergreen fields, Jens Karlsson lives with his partner Alexis and their dogs of the breeds English Springer Spaniel and Griffon Petite Brabaçon. The home is located in the heart of humid Skåne and the landscape is very reminiscent of a country that has had a great influence on Jens' dog life: Great Britain.

- It is Alexis who likes to decorate but I am also artistic and creative, says Jens. My passion is to create beautiful animals in terms of breeding. If there's anything I'm good at, it's dogs. And cooking!

Jens has Kennel Art-Wave's whose first litter was born in 1987, when Jens was only 17 years old. Although he started breeding at a young age, he does not come from any dog family.

- My interest in dogs started when I was 3-4 years old, says Jens. Mom used to cut out the presentations of dog breeds that were in every issue of Aller's weekly magazine and put them in a photo album. I think it was for some kind of educational purpose and that was where it all started.

For years, Jens was nagging about getting his own dog and it was not just any dog he wanted, because at the top of the wish list was a brown Newfoundland dog. At the age of 13 he was allowed to buy his own dog but it was not allowed to be too big or have too much fur. The choice then fell on Welsh Springer Spaniel Ingema's

Seline who became Kennel Art-Wave's foundation bitch. Jens tells nostalgically about the bitch: - She started strong! When she was 4 months old, we participated in a club show in Örebro where she finished fourth in the class. Later she did take a couple of Cc's but she was not always liked by the judges because she was a little too careful and reserved in temperament. We also competed in junior handling and obedience.

Long before Kennel Art-Wave's had seen the light of day, Jens was an enterprising young man. As a teenager, he wrote a letter to the British author and welsh fan John Phillips, who wrote the book *The Essential Welsh Springer Spaniel*. The Britt answered him and welcomed him to Great Britain and this was the start of a train trip, where Jens visited 15 British kennels in 12 days. He wanted to learn everything and as a result he later imported several dogs from Kennel Dalati in Wales. - It was the passion for dogs that made me dare to write the letter and make the journey, says Jens with a smile. One thing gave the other and I was sent on among the breeders and also got to go to a show.

It was not only British breeders who characterized Jens but also Swedish. In his teens, he worked for wise, old breeders, as he puts it, who taught him how to breed. This time gave him a lot of insights and one of them is that it is not only enough with a great deal of knowledge - to run a good breeding you must also have the financial opportunities to run it. Then, of course, it makes it easier if you have a vision and a well-defined plan. - I have always been rock solid, says Jens, both on what goals I have and what I should do to achieve them.

Although it was the welsh springer spaniel that Kennel Art-Wave's started with, the kennel today is mostly associated with English springer spaniel, cocker spaniel and griffon petite brabaçon. That Jens started breeding English springer spaniel, in parallel with welsh springer spaniel, was not planned. The year was 1995 and Jens was going to pick up a Welsh puppy from a breeder in Finland who bred both breeds, when his eyes fell on an English

springer spaniel bitch. - I fell completely in love with Ch Adamant's Sound of Success and had the opportunity to lease her together with a Swedish breeder colleague, says Jens.

She was a great success! Jens increasingly switched to English springer spaniel. It was the dogs' temperament and manner that appealed to him. True to his habit, he went to England for breed shows and got an overview of what breed material could be bought for the kennel. This was in 1996 and since then he has worked with English bloodlines, where the English breed type is very important to him. - English Springer Spaniel is an English breed and I am very careful to keep the English breed type, he says. Of the 145 dogs that was shown at the breed show only seven had exactly what I wanted and I have had the same ideal ever since.

Champion male Trimere Terrahawk was purchased and then many more imports from Kennel Trimere followed to build up the bloodlines. The kennel has reaped many successes and one of the absolute highlights was when Ch Art-Wave's Topdog became world winner in 2014. Two other highlights came in 2018 when Ch Art-Wave's Standing Ovation both became BOB at Crufts and also became this year's springer in England. - I have really pressed the English type in my breeding, says Jens, and it is fantastic fun to be able to send a dog back to England who wins there. It confirms that you have done the right thing.

As for the cocker spaniel, the breed has always been a passion for Jens and he has followed them since the 1980s, even though he has no one at home at the moment.

As a natural development of his great interest in dogs and breeding, Jens trained as an exterior judge and was authorized in 2007. - A dog show is basically where you evaluate the breeding results, he says. I have a passion for judging dogs and for understanding breed type. Jens is careful to emphasize that in his way of judging dogs, he sees advantages rather than looking for faults. For him, it is more important that the dog has some fantastic qualities than that it has few shortcomings. He believes

that it is based on the way the judge judges a dog. - Some judge more theoretically while I judge artistically and personally I do not think you get the charm when it is too theoretical, says Jens.

It is mainly breeds from groups 8 and 9 that Jens judges, but also some in group 2. He thinks that the job as an exterior judge gives an enormous amount and says that there is no age limit: - It does not matter if you are 80 years or 20 years - you still learn from each other. Although Jens thinks it's fun to judge and has judged the world, he does not judge so often. His opinion is that it can be difficult to combine your own breeding with its associated exhibitions at the same time as you have to further train as a judge. - I make great demands on myself and I do not want to judge breeds that I'm not sure of, It is out of respect for the breeder and the exhibitor, who may have spent hours bathing and drying and then driving a long way to the exhibition.

Over the past five years, Jens has embarked on a new path in his breeding, after acquiring griffon petit brabaçon. He discovered the breed by chance through another spaniel breeder who had bought a bitch from the USA. Every now and then he thought that one day he would have a griffon and in 2015 the adult bitch Ch Latest-News, called Minni, moved in with him. - Minni is the apple of my eye and we have a very personal relationship, says Jens and hugs the bitch tenderly. I have bred her and right now I am building up the bloodlines after her.