

Dèjà vu Pekingese ROM

SUSAN SHEPHARD

"What a long strange trip it's been..."

I was raised in western and central Nebraska. My family owned a newspaper in Wauneta, Nebraska and it was a wonderful way to grow up. My parents instilled a love of all the creatures in me from an early age. I can not possibly remember how many stray dogs and cats came through our home and none were ever turned away. My brother Hal was throwing stale bread for the birds one day and a neighbor remarked they were just sparrows. Hal replied that sparrows had to eat too. That was the attitude I was raised on. Responsible pet ownership was not demanded of me, it was expected and it was a given. My younger brother is a small animal vet in Lincoln, Nebraska and my niece is half way through vet school at Iowa. My other brother and sister are multiple dog families. The dog gene is alive in well in my entire family.

From the time I was a little girl, I knew that the Pekingese breed would be a huge factor in my life. My grandmother had two Pokes and I thought they were absolutely divine and they tolerated me. The one I remember the best was Footsie and how well loved he was by everyone that knew him. In spite of repeated pleas for a Peke, my father held firm to his resolve of No Pekingese. I was raised in a family of bird hunters and we always had a gun dog that doubled as house dog that would have made short work of a Pekingese. I do recall several very pointed conversations with my dad that ended with me stomping my foot and telling him "You just wait and see, I will have a house full of Pekingese and you won't be able to do anything about it!" Truer words were never spoken.

After moving from Nebraska to Memphis with a toddler daughter, I had seen what I found out later was CH St Aubrey Bees Wing of Elsdon with Luc Boileau at a local dog show and I was back on the Pekingese mission. We found a breeder in Memphis and she had Peke puppies and some rare Peke-a-Poos. Well, daughter Kellie fell in love with



CH Tradewinds Let It Bee Me for Dèjà vu, "HATEFUL", a Bijou daughter

a Peke-a-Poo and once more, the Pekingese got put on hold as we brought Bubba the Peke-a-Poo home. Some years later, my first Pokes joined us; Baby and Bug-Marie, both purchased from a local pet store. All three were wonderful pets and much loved. In fact, Bug-Marie just died 3 years ago at nearly 18 years old.

Living in Florida now, in 1995 I decided I wanted another Pekingese as Bubba and Baby were gone leaving Bug-Marie as an only child, which she liked very much. I remembered that little show dog with the funny name in Memphis that had so captured my imagination so I started to search for a real breeder rather than a pet store. My search ended with Wendy and Richard Moore of West Bay Pekingese. They sold me a chunky little girl named Boo. And Wendy said in passing, "oh, you know you could show her....". And so the adventure began.

Shortly after Boo came to me, I met Joyce Wilhoit of Mai-Joi Pekingese in St Petersburg, Florida. Joyce was starting to wind down her breeding program and because timing is everything, she let me have a pick of litter bitch and what was to become my first Champion, Mai-Joi's Gold Calendar Girl, (BUSY). Busy is

line-bred Bees Wing and gorgeous! Busy will be 11 years old in a few months and is still as beautiful as she ever was. She is the queen of the house and my heart. Busy was one of the very few dogs I have shown that is a total natural. She would stack herself and free bait like a pro. She was shown only 3 times in 2000 just for fun as she was long since finished and won the breed all three times. She still goes to most every dog show as I can't get out of the house without her! Thank you Joyce for allowing the love of my life to come home with me that day.

Boo was easily pointed as a puppy but was too cheerful in the show ring and being a novice, I did not know how to train her to behave, so I didn't. What I did though, was to breed her. Boo went back to Bees Wing several times so in 1996 I bred her to a wonderful little dog named CH Wee Luv's This Ones for Oscar, bred by Jean Crossley and Del Vanek. "Little Guy" was a CH Jo-Li Matheny's Warrior son thus a Bees Wing grandson. That breeding produced one puppy, who went on to be my first homebred champion and my 2nd champion; Ch Dèjà vu One Tenacious Widget. In 1997 I finished Busy and Widget, 2 weeks apart.

Incidentally, a veteran breeder had looked at Widget at just 6 months old and recommended I pet home her as she felt her mouth was wry. I couldn't see it, my vet couldn't see it and my Pekingese God-mother, Eva Matheny told me to get over it! Widget finished in 13 shows. So much for that wry mouth and thank goodness for Eva! Widget is now 10 years old and a career woman. She goes to work with my husband several times a week and is a regular at LOWES on the weekend. Widget was never bred as she is my husband's "arm candy".

I showed Widget at the 1997 Citrus Capital Pekingese Club Specialty. She was a glamorous, heavily coated, little short backed girl. She won BOS in Sweeps under Jackie Ragland and then in regular classes under this austere English judge that I had never heard of, Widget was 2nd in her class. Oh well thinks me, and later that evening, after a couple of glasses of wine, me, with typical novice confidence, asked this intense English lady why she didn't like my puppy, in fact, what was she thinking to not like my puppy. She looked at me with classic English disdain and said "oh my, you do need a keeper". Well, no one told me that this particular judge was not a fan of a little bitch, she wanted a more substantial bitch---where was Boo when I needed her?!! Anyway, my obnoxious question started one of the greatest friendships of my life. This English judge that I, the great novice had never heard of, was Winifred Mee of the Pekehuis kennel.

In 1998 Winnie was generous enough to send me a gorgeous bitch. A substantial tanky girl who finished with a 5 point Specialty major win, CH Pekehuis Dream of Gold (GENA) is truly a breeders dream come true. She is sired by English Champion



CH Dèjà vu Sir Gold for Pekehuis "NILES" at 7 months old.



CH Dèjà vu It Had to Bee You "BIJOU", photo by Pam Guevarra



**Dèjà vu Pekehuis Gold Absolut and Deja vu Only Gold Will Do
Half sisters, Travis daughters to be in the ring later this year.**



CH Dèjà vu It had To Bee You "BIJOU" as a puppy

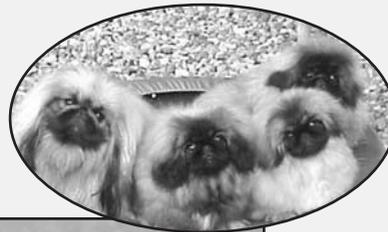
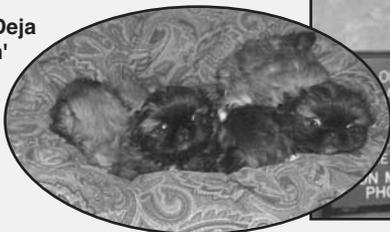


Portrait of CH Dèjà vu One Tenacious Widget done by Dale Lewis



West Bay's Dèjà vu Boo at about 8 years old. Boo is the great-grandmother to most of the current Dèjà vu dogs.

BISS CH Deja vu Travelin' Man x CH Pekehuis Dream of Gold 2004 litter



Family Affair
CH Dèjà vu Sir Gold for Pekehuis (NILES) with the repeat breeding that produced CH Dèjà vu Pekehuis Gold Fusion, Still Gold and Gold Absolut.



Bug-Marie Shephard lived until nearly 18 years old, died in 2003.



CH Deja vu Pekehuis Gold Fusion, 12 months old

BISS CH Dèjà vu Travelin' Man
Dèjà vu Pekehuis Still Gold, (JIMMY JAMES) owned by Pamela Vanderpool, litter mate to CH Dèjà vu Pekehuis Gold Fusion



Tenling Pure Gold of Pekehuis out of an Eng CH Tenling Golden Arrow of Pekehuis granddaughter. Gena has produced 3 champions with a 4th halfway there. Gena is now retired from the whelping box and sleeps in a donut bed surrounded by her toys under my bed every night.

Additionally in 1998, I bred BUSY to Roger and Judy Sankey's Bees Wing son, CH Sanrae's Johnny Bee Good, producing what was to become my 2nd homebred champion, CH Dèjà vu It Had to Bee You (BIJOU). Bijou was a short backed, glamorous little dog, loaded with coat and attitude. I had always said I would have something like Bees Wing and I think in Bijou, I did. His wins included a Specialty Winners Dog and a Group placement from the classes. Bijou has sired 2 champions for me. Bijou is here with me and his big thrill now is squirrel hunting. He hasn't caught one yet but it isn't for lack of trying.

In 1999 Boo and I flew to Buffalo, NY, rented a car and drove to Toronto. Boo was bred to breed legend CH Knolland Red Rover. That journey was to start another incredible friendship with Rover's owner, Michael Hill. Boo produced a litter of two, a dog and a bitch; unfortunately they were premature and I lost the dog puppy within a few hours. I was determined not to lose the last puppy. This puppy had no hair on her front, not much on her face and was tiny and was losing weight. She would gasp for air; it was dreadful. My vet worked with me, we set up an oxygen tent at home for her, I administered sub-c fluids on this 2 1/2 ounce puppy and did a lot of praying. At about 10 days old she turned the corner, she was strong enough to nurse, she was no longer gasping for air and she started gaining weight. She was nearly 3 weeks old when she opened her eyes so my vet said she was at least a week early. As Boo and I had gone to Niagara Falls on our way back to the Buffalo airport (it was Boo's honeymoon!) the puppy was named Dèjà vu Niagara Falls Honeymoon. Honeymoon was only shown a few times, (and she is pointed) but like her mum, she had way too much fun in the ring and I didn't have the heart to force her to behave. She is a totally joyous little soul and to force her to slow down and be serious, well, I couldn't do it. Honeymoon's joy was in the whelping box and she produced BISS CH Dèjà vu Travelin' Man. She is also retired and sleeping in the bedroom now.

Also in 1999, along with Eva Matheny and Zell von Pohlman, I imported a bitch, Kushan Some Get the Magic, in whelp to English Champion Tenling Golden Arrow of Pekehuis. This was to be the first North American litter for Duke. We had a litter of four boys; pet named Buddy, Buddy, Buddy and Brown Dog. The Fab Four all finished. CH Matheny's Citrus Gold is with Pam Clayton in Washington, CH Dèjà vu Advice from Pekehuis is with George and Maryanna Herrington in Orlando, CH Forbidden City Gold of Dèjà vu is with Jay and Melanie Esperanza in California and CH Forbidden City Gold Phoenix is with Sandy and Dale Banghardt in Florida. "Buddy", Esperanza's 6th champion, finished his title this spring making him eligible for a PCA ROM award.

In 2000 I made my first trip to England and to Crufts. Unless you have experienced it, you can not even fathom just how big it is. There is so much to do; one day alone is taken up with shopping. Bring lots of money as you will spend it all. I stayed for about 10 days with Winnie. She took me all over the country; we went to May Robertshaw's for dinner one evening and had the pleasure of seeing all the Lotusgrange dogs. There was a party at Joyce Shipley's home and I was introduced to Joyce's famous raspberry trifle. Her trifle alone is worth the trip.

Later that year Honeymoon was bred to her half brother BISA CH Akarana Excalibur, and produced what was to become BISS CH Dèjà vu Travelin' Man (TRAVIS).

The next year, 2001, Bijou's first son, made his ring debut and finished in record time. CH Matheny's PC of Dèjà vu aka PORK CHOP was a nice short backed boy with a beautiful cushioned face typical of his pedigree. I showed a Bijou daughter, "Hateful" at the Rotating Specialty and she was in the ribbons

every day.

CH Dèjà vu Travelin' Man "Travis" was Winners Dog at the January Citrus Capital Pekingese Club of Central Florida Specialty under breeder/judge Anthea Everitt in 2002 and went on to finish that year. He and the Bijou daughter, "Hateful" finished on the same day at the Lakeland KC show. I bred my Pekehuis bitch "Gena" to CH Kushan Gold Ransom of Pekehuis SOD resulting in a dog and a bitch puppy.

2003 was a bittersweet year. At nearly eighteen years old, my old darling Bug-Marie lost her fight with kidney disease. She was a wonderful companion and while not from show lines, she was the epitome of everything Pekingese.

My Gold Ransom puppies did well in the show ring, both finding majors as juniors and the dog, Dèjà vu All Gold for Pekehuis had a Group placement from the classes.

As I was trying to decide what to show at the 2003 CCPC Specialty, I thought what the heck, I would show Travis. He had not been near a show ring since he finished the previous year and while in coat, he was not in show condition. So, four weeks before the show, I started bathing and conditioning him and started reminding him about the table and examination. Under Judge Betty Duding with good competition, he was awarded Best in Show Specialty. I was over the moon! Travis' proving litter was born in February 2003 out of CH Pekehuis Dream of Gold; a dog and a bitch. The bitch was absolutely the most elegant and confident bitch I have ever seen, all five pounds of her. She of course is in a delightful pet home but when her owner is out of town, she comes home to us.

I took Travis' first son, Dèjà vu Sir Gold for Pekehuis (NILES) to West Palm Beach for his debut show in September, 2003. There were just one or two other dogs and Niles won the point; I was thrilled. I handed him to Diane Renihan to take back in as I had Travis entered as a Special. We all gaited and I was standing in line with Jackie Breazeale and her bitch Special watching Diane gait Niles and Jackie looked at me and I said, "She's going to give the breed to the baby." And, Judge Kathleen Kolbert did just that. Then, Niles went on to a Group 4 under Sandra Goose Allen. That was a great first day in the ring. The following week he was Reserve Winners Dog and Best Bred by Exhibitor at the PCA Rotating Specialty; the week after that he was Best of Breed over a top ranked Special.

The following year, 2004 was Crufts 100th Anniversary and I could not stay away. As always, it was fabulous. The Pekingese Club also held their Centennial show a few days after Crufts and I was very lucky to be able to be there. Again, Joyce's trifle was worth the trip! I repeated the breeding that produced Niles and got 3 dogs and a bitch puppy. Niles became CH Dèjà vu Sir Gold for Pekehuis in June under Judge Vickie Abbott, the same judge that had given his sire his finishing points.

We hear time and time again, that this is the heartbreak breed. I have had what I feel my fair share of heartbreaks and my worst one was losing my first show girl, Boo. She had to have emergency surgery for a strangulated hernia in August. Unfortunately, it was the day before the first of the three 2004 hurricanes struck Central Florida. Within 12 hours of the procedure, she blew her IV, so I loaded her in the truck and flew down an empty Interstate 4 to the ER clinic where Eva Matheny met me and they got her IV started again. Later that night we lost our power along with several trees. As it was nearly 90 degrees, we had to move to air conditioning to keep the dogs comfortable, so we loaded everyone up and went to my husband's office for the night and the next day moved into a rental duplex owned by my best friend. It was a lot of stress and too much moving for Boo. I lost Boo four days after her surgery. My vet is positive she threw a clot as she was gone so fast. She was only 9 years old and is still missed everyday. She is behind most of the current Dèjà vu dogs through her grandson BISS Ch Dèjà vu Travelin' Man. I have a yearling Travis daughter here that favors Boo in her eyes and her silliness, so I know that Boo is still here.



"BUSY" CH Mail Joi's Gold Calendar Girl at nearly 11 years old. Bred by Joyce Wilhoit.

To tell the truth, I still look for her every night at bed time.

2005 was as always, busy. The longer I do this, the shorter the days seem to become. The male puppy I kept from the repeat breeding, Dèjà vu Pekehuis Gold Fusion (BRADLEY) was awarded a 5 point major at the CCPC Specialty show under breed authority Joseph Joly III. Bradley finished in October making the 12th Dèjà vu homebred champion and making Dèjà vu eligible for Pekingese Club of America's Register of Merit distinction. My Gold Ransom daughter, Dèjà vu True Gold for Pekehuis also finished in 2005. Bradley and Trudy's wins qualified them for an invitation for the Eukanuba Invitational Dog show held in Tampa in January 2006.

And of course we went to Tampa. I entered Bradley and Judge William Cunningham awarded him Best of Breed and Best Bred by Exhibitor. What a FABulous day! Bradley is currently in England with his co-owner/co-breeder Winifred Mee. Winnie showed Bradley for the first time at the Ventura Pekingese Club's Open show in May, 2006. Much to my delight, he was Best in Show. Thank you Winnie!

I attended Crufts this year and watched Winifred Mee win every class she was in and then go on to take the breed with John Shaw and Maria Francis' CH Cisfran Simply the Best and additionally win the Reserve bitch ticket with CH Pekehuis High Flyer (owned by John and Maria, bred by Winnie). It was a wonderful week filled with friends, fun and of course, Joyce's famous raspberry trifle.

Currently I am showing Dèjà vu Pekehuis Still Gold (littermate to CH Dèjà vu Pekehuis Gold Fusion, BISS CH

This is a photo of my mother with her mother's Pekingese Footsie. Footsie is the dog that started the Pekingese love affair for me.



CH Dèjà vu Pekehuis Gold Fusion "BRADLEY" Best of breed Eukanuba 2006

Dèjà vu Travelin' Man x CH Pekehuis Dream of Gold) for owner Pam Vanderpool and Dèjà vu Only Gold Will Do. (CH Dèjà vu Travelin' Man x CH Dèjà vu True Gold for Pekehuis.)

I could not have made the positive strides I feel I have made without the love and support from so many. I have met so many incredible people, all passionate about this breed. I have found that there are many people in this breed that will help a novice and be happy to do so.

I have been blessed with 3 mentors/best friends from 3 countries. Eva Matheny, Michael Hill and Winnie Mee have been generous with their knowledge and their friendship. I am the luckiest person in the world to have these three in my corner. And if I haven't told them how much I appreciate them this week, let me say it again; **THANK YOU!**

My husband Ken, while not caring for the show aspect of the breed, (something about he would rather donate a kidney than go to a dog show), is passionate about the dogs. He keeps the home fires burning for me when I am gone to the shows. And there is no better puppy socializer than him.

My best friend Judee Boland is the one that keeps me sane. While her breed is Weimaraners, she loves the Pokes and me. I can not tell you how much fun it is to do a road trip with the Weimaraners and the Pokes. Don't knock it until you have tried it!

I have worked for the TRIBUNE since 1984. I am a Senior AE/Automotive Specialist representing Tribune Interactive and cars.com. My daughter Kellie graduated with honors from Purdue last year. She is a registered nurse and has plans to move back to Florida later this year with her son Mason and daughter Ali.

I can not imagine my life without the dogs and am grateful everyday that I am blessed with so many little flat faces and every night I go to sleep enlivened by Pekingese snorts and snores. What could be any better than that? ■