

THE BLUE MERLE CARDIGAN IN AMERICA
by Pat Santi, Rhydowen USA.

In order to say we have Blue Merles, one would have to start in the beginning of American history of the Cardigan and give a brief trend of the times. Pioneers in any phase of history had to have great backbone and salesmanship to convert others to their way of thinking. Not always an easy thing to do. Now on to OUR beginning.

In the early 30's the Cardigan was imported into the United States by Mrs Roberta Bole. Her first two imports included a male and an older female. Cadno, was a red and white male from R.W. Jones in Wales and Cassie, a white bodied and brindle headed female, whelped in 1925.

Cadno	Tit o'r Bryn	Bob Llwyd
		Flora
	Skylark	Bob Llwyd
		Cassie

Cassie	Toss	Mon
		Quick
	Fan	Tiger
		Peg

So our start was with red and white and brindle, which prevailed for years. Llaelthferch was imported from Wales and was listed as black, tan and white. Our first Champion in America was a red and white female Ch. Megan in 1936 from Cadno and one of Cassie's daughters, Brenig Beauty. From 1936 to 1950 we had 12 Champions recorded: 8 reds, 1 tricoloured, and 3 sables. Of the breeders or owners of these Cardigans, those who continued in the breed are, the Bole family, Mrs Marcia Lopeman, Mrs Margaret Douglas, the late Mrs Trudy Jay (a relative of the Boles), the late Mrs Genevieve Anderson and now the late Mrs Marguerite Farley. The distance from the East Coast to the West Coast of the United States is about three thousand miles and Mrs Anderson and Mrs Farley lived in the West and the others lived in the East. Giving you an idea of how hard it was to share studs or puppies. They were shipped by rail in those days.

In the late 40's Mrs Bole imported a black and white dog called Hannaford Lloyd from Mrs Power in England. He was given to Mrs Lopeman to use at stud as well as for the Boles to use. He was used by Mrs Douglas on several bitches and produced a tri son Ch Swansea Lloyd Llewelyn, who did a lot of winning. So Ch Hannaford Lloyd was transported to the West Coast to Mr Halstead Councilman. There, he was very close to Mrs Farley, and he was used at stud to her bitches.

In the spring of 1951, Mrs Eunice B. Clark in Hinckley, Ohio, bred Ch Swansea Lloyd Llewelyn (black & white) to Ch Swansea Nancy (tri) and the resulting litter had many white puppies with "funny black spots". By the time Mrs Douglas was able to write back to tell this lady to breed them together and hopefully get a start on blue, the puppies had been destroyed. While on the West Coast Mrs Farley used Hannaford Lloyd on her Owena Melferch of Kencia and got spotted puppies of "funny black colours". She in turn wrote Mrs Anderson, who was a missionary, as she wrote letters all over the world to Cardigan breeders. Mrs Anderson learned from her writings that these funny coloured blacks would eventually produce BLUES.

So Mrs Farley, being somewhat of a quiet person, hid out these pups and then bred brother and sister together and finally got a smoke or "slate" coloured puppy. This was really hidden. In due time she bred a full sister to the slate puppy, who was tri in colour, finished her Championship and bred her to the slate coloured dog Farlsdale Silver Smoke and produced BLUE MERLES. Thus is 1952, August 2nd, our first Blues were here to stay. In 1953 Ch Farlsdale Silver Pay Day became the first American Blue Champion. He was bred to a full sister and produced a stronger coloured blue with tan points. The leading bitch being Farlsdale Blue Gem de Noel who was bred to Ch Ner Ddu of Mrs Anderson's stock and produced Dulas of Bronant.

This blue dog was transported to Georgia to Mr Bill French where Mrs Douglas used him on Ch Swansea Nancy and produced 8 blues and 1 tri. From this litter came Swansea Duffan, Ch Swansea Lady in Blue and Swansea Glas Merle. These three are behind all the "American bred" Blue Merles today. Swansea, now known as Rhydowen, Reg., has kept this blue line pure from outside lines. Lady in Blue left a heritage in Ch Swansea Blue Jeans of Cambria, and from her all Rhydowen Blue Merles stem until the late 70's when Rozavel Tin Whistle and American Champion was bred to a Swansea Blue Merle, he a tri and she a strong blue, and produced Ch Swansea Blue Diana and from her we have added the Rozavel line 1/4 to our 3/4 Swansea stock. Whistle being a son of Int Ch Rozavel Springdale Gregory who was exported to Mrs Thelma Gray by Mrs Douglas.

In the middle 60's Mrs Pym imported two blue merles from Kentwood in England. They were brother and sister, both from Kentwood Rozavel Blue Badge. These blues did not make much of an impact until the 70's when Mrs Vantrease began to breed from this stock which had been bred to other import stock. The main combinations being Ch Parmel Bryn, Ch Kentwood Heulog and, of course, Kentwood Ifan. This led to the Winsdown blue of today. At this writing many of the Winsdown dogs are being bred, however Mrs Vantrease is not breeding Cardigans, at least not at the moment.

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