

# Nancy Hughes (Trails End)

An Interview by Susan Kane



Nancy Hughes with her latest British import "Eyes High"

*When did you first start your involvement with dogs?*

I have loved dogs all my life and begged my parents for one from the time I was quite young. My mother once told me that I cried for nearly two solid hours because she wouldn't let me have a dog. I would have her drive me to the local German Shepherd Dog Club to watch obedience classes. She broke down when I was a teenager and I got my first dog, a mutt named Tippy. The next was a Cocker Spaniel, Bonnie. I used to pretend she was a show dog, and I would stack her on the front porch and gait her around in a big circle in our back yard. I bred Bonnie once, and Bonnie's breeder and owner of the stud dog took one of the pups. I sold a couple of them for \$25.00 and the remainder of the litter (unbelievable to think that I did it now!) were given to the "Mary Hartline" TV show to be handed out as prizes for their quiz games. I then had a Wire Fox Terrier that I showed one time. I

even paid someone \$25.00 to have her hand stripped and then entered in a show in Chicago. We got third place out of three. I remember that the well known handler, George Ward, won the class.

*Where and when did you first encounter a Border Terrier?*

My friend Judy Pettigrew Jeffrey went to Scotland in the early 1960's and when she came back she said that she had found the perfect breed—the Border Terrier. I had a Maltese at the time! Judy bought a Border from Henry Mosle (then President of the BTCA), a bitch named Town Hill Star of Lothian ("Sloopy"). She bred her and kept a bitch puppy named Rose Bud of Lothian. In 1969 both bitches were in heat and she wanted to breed one of them. The only Border dog in the Midwest at that time was in Wisconsin—Wharfholm Whipperin, owned by the Bednarz. Judy took one bitch up to Wisconsin, but the dog wouldn't look at

her. She came back and telephoned me for help. I advised that she take both bitches back and try again with him. I ended up going along for moral support with my then three year old daughter Cindy. We ended up breeding both bitches; the two litters resulted in 11 puppies (10 males, 1 bitch). I got my first Border (the pick male out of 10!) from these puppies—Chief of Lothian. Chief had a marvellous coat and was the only Border I ever owned that needed just "a little tidying." He was a very dominant, alpha dog — actually a "wild man," and I decided he needed obedience training. Back in the "olden" days, training methods were far different. We used the chain collar "yank and pull, do or die" method. Chief probably spent more time flying in the air than any other living Border! He always wanted to get to the dog in front (or in back) of him. However, he did learn his lessons well, and by the time he was three years old he had earned the coveted Utility Degree (1st in the breed!) and a Tracking Degree (1st in the breed). His Certificate of Gameness was earned in 1974. He also won Best of Breed at the 1972 National Specialty under Percy Roberts.

Susan Fisher



Ch Chief of Lothian, UTD, CG

*From whom did you learn and who influenced you?*

Marjory Van der Veer (“Van”) was a great help to me in those early days. There were no Borders to speak of in the Midwest, so I talked to her a lot on the telephone. Then I met Dave Kline at the 1970 National Specialty. We have been involved together in the breed since that time, and I count him as one of my very best friends and colleagues in the breed. We bought Final Honour together in 1973. We even have our own special “crying towel”! But mainly I learned by travelling to the UK, attending the National Specialties (I have been to all of them since 1970) and by looking, looking, looking at dogs wherever I go, no matter what the breed. Self taught, for better or for worse, is what I would say I am!

*How did you choose your kennel prefix?*

I saw the name Trails End on a street sign and liked it.

*Outline your involvement in the breed:*

In 1972, when Nancy Kloskowski went to Crufts, I told her to bring us back a Border. She came home with Workmore Brackon, who won the Bitch CC at Crufts that year—she was my first import. I bred her to Chief; there were three puppies (all males) in that litter (which was a caesarian!), but I didn’t need another male, so I didn’t keep anything. In 1973, I made my first trip to the UK to see Crufts. I wrote ahead to everyone I could think of in the UK who had Borders. The Millers of Fox Hill kindly invited me to stay with them and offered to show me around. I flew in to Heathrow and then caught another plane to

Edinburgh where Mr. Miller was waiting. I was exhausted from jetlag, I couldn’t understand their Scottish brogue, I thought the food was very “different,” but I can still remember all their dogs, especially Foxhill Fusilier and Foxhill Firebrand (a Shady Knight son). I also visited the Gardners (Maxton) and remember liking their puppy Maxton Marcia, who was going to their daughter. It was on that trip that I purchased Final Honour,



Nancy Hughes with Robbie

who was BOB at Crufts and second in the Terrier Group that year. I also bought Wharfholm Top Hostess (from Barbara Holmes) and had her sent over in whelp to Wharfholm Wonder Lad. That litter produced three bitches. I kept one, Trails End Chatterbox, who had only one litter before developing cancer and dying at a young age. I shipped Brackon to Dave Kline to be bred to Final Honour—she missed on that breeding, so Dave kept her until she came into season again. She produced one sole puppy (Ch Lothlorien Peace-

ful Bree), who went to JoAnn Frier-Murza. I never managed to get Brackon in whelp again. Top Hostess had had two dead pups. Final Honour had sired four litters and went sterile. I was sufficiently discouraged to quit at this point. I seemed to be getting nowhere (dead puppies, caesarians, very small litters, a sterile stud dog). It was just too much to take. So in 1976 I quit the breed. I also resigned from being the BTCA Treasurer!

In 1976 Ronnie Irving came to judge the club’s Silver Anniversary show. After the show, a number of us went to Henry Mosle’s summer cabin in Brattleboro. We talked until the wee hours of the morning, and I discussed my breeding woes with Ronnie Irving. He was most encouraging and urged me to continue breeding. A couple of years later, I wrote him a letter saying that I was ready to begin again and asked for his advice. So in 1980 I went back to the UK and visited numerous kennels, including Dandyhow. Mrs. Sullivan had two ten month old dogs at that time—Duttonlea Suntan of Dandyhow (“Sunny”) and Duttonlea Autocrat of

Dandyhow (“Robbie”). Both were entered in the Yorks/Lancs show the weekend I was there. Bertha told me that I could have either one of these two young dogs and that I could wait until after the show to decide which one I wanted. It was a very tough decision, both were about the same size, but I preferred Robbie’s head a tad more. I remember Arthur Cuthbertson was pressing me to take Sunny (he wanted to breed his bitch to Robbie!), but in the end I felt that Robbie was what I

wanted for my breeding program. Robbie was the beginning of my second phase of breeding, one that I believe was my most successful. I also arranged at that time to buy Dandyhow Forget Me Not and Dandyhow Marquis from the Sullivans. In addition, I bought Polydorus Peski (from Joan Gough), who was sent over in whelp to Br Ch Dandyhow Silver Ring (producing Ch Trails End Bewitched). Herdsman of Dandyhow was purchased in 1984; he subsequently went to Kris Blake and then to the Nauns.

Then family problems hit and I basically quit breeding again during the years 1984-1989. I emerged long enough to breed Ch Trails End American Dream, who had a successful show career in 1988. During this difficult period, Dave Kline took many of my dogs, including Robbie. I kept many friends in the breed, however, and continued to attend the National Specialties. By 1993, I was back on the BTCA Board. Robbie came back to live at Trails End. He died on 26 February 1994; his ashes are in a lovely "made in England" flowered tin which rests on a bedroom dresser. He was indeed a memorable dog!

*What do you consider your accomplishments in the breed?*

I tried my best to purchase typey, sound Borders. The gene pool was so small in the US when I started that I went to the UK to expand my breeding options. For better or for worse, you will find many of the dogs that I imported in many, many Border pedigrees. I am most pleased with the accomplishments of Ch. Duttonlea Autocrat of Dandyhow ("Robbie") and his winning three National Specialties. We needed better rear ends at that time and I believe Robbie did improve them.

*What do think needs improving in the breed?*

Front assemblies pose a big

problem both here and in the UK. To my mind, it is most difficult to find good shoulders. Most are too upright or too short in the upper arm. I feel size is a never ending controversy. The weight for dogs (13 to 15 1/2 pounds) and bitches (11 1/2 to 14 pounds) is too low; perhaps we have suffered the consequences with some being "small, rotten weeds." Robbie, for example, was an up-to-size dog, who weighed 19 pounds. The correct proportions state "that the height at the withers should be slightly greater than the distance from the withers to the tail, i.e., by possibly 1 to 1 1/2 inches in a 14 pound dog." To my mind, this indicates that we want them up on leg. Neither the AKC nor British breed standard mentions the much heard of "slight rise over the hindquarters." A slight rise is one

be "moderately broad and flat in skull with plenty of width between the eyes and between the ears." The breed standard says the eyes should be moderate in size, neither prominent nor small and beady. I have heard "almond" shaped eyes discussed by some, although there is no mention of it in either standard. I see many Borders with big, round eyes with a soft look (see the "incorrect" look in the statuette illustrated here). We want a dark eye with a keen expression.

*What does the perfect Border Terrier look like?*

I really love the Dandyhow line for type. That "look" is not often seen in the United States, unfortunately. The "correct" statuette illustrated here is based on a Dandyhow dog, if I remember correctly, and is close to my "ideal" Border.



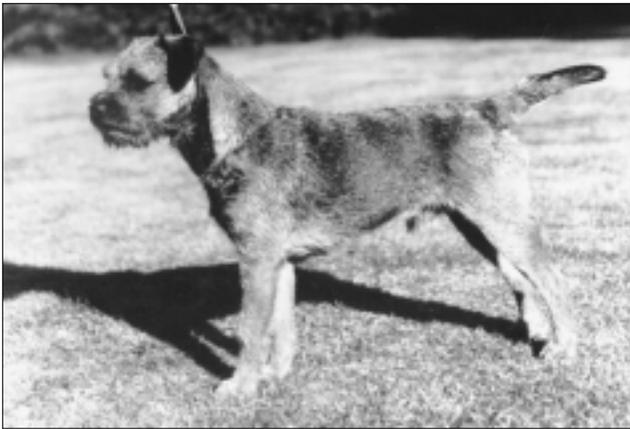
"Incorrect"

"Correct"

thing, but a "hump on the rump" is another thing and something to watch out for. Also, the scale of points for Borders gives 20 points for the head piece which is more than for any other part of the body. While a Border does not run on his head, the characteristic otterlike head is very important. It should

*Which are the best Border Terriers that you have ever seen?*

When I bought Polydorus Peski (who was by Br Ch Dandyhow Spectator) I wanted to have her sent over in whelp to Br Ch Farmway Moneybird who was a Dandyhow bred dog that I saw



Dandyhow Nightcap

and admired at the Richmond show in 1980. Unfortunately the travelling distance was too great so I chose Dandyhow Silver Ring instead. I never had the pleasure of seeing the great Dandyhow Shady Knight but I do have a video of the 1972 Crufts show where Shady Knight won the CC. The video is a real treasure, thanks to Nancy Kloskowski who took it. Through the years I have admired, among others, Dandyhow Grenadier, Dandyhow Scotsman, Dandyhow Nightcap (illustrated here), Mansergh Pearl Diver, and Orenberg Emperor. It is hard to think of them all! Several bitches that come to mind are Ragsdale Blueberry, Oxcroft Milk Maid, Duttonlea Steel Blue (Robbie's litter sister), and Clipstone Chasse. Workmore Waggoner was a lovely, balanced dog with nice length of leg and beautifully carried back ribs.

*What advice would you give a beginning breeder?*

Get the best bitch you can and breed her to the best dog you can find. It is hard to get good foundation stock, but even harder to breed up from lesser quality. You can't live long enough to do it! There is a certain amount of luck in dog breeding, and if we knew just where we could get our "ideal," we would take our bitch to "that"

stud dog. If you get one or two exceptional Borders (meaning more than a champion) in your lifetime, then you have done well. Do your homework. It is hard to see everything in the United States as opposed to the dog scene in the

UK because of our greater distances. Go to the supported shows and to the Specialties. Take pictures, study pedigrees, and make connections. Basic structure is important. What you see from an early age is what you get. It can change for the worse, but seldom for the better.

*What does the future hold for the Border Terrier?*

There are more Borders now in the United States than ever before in

the breed's history. Only 58 dogs were entered in the 1974 National Specialty, for example. Pickings were slim then. While the current number of dogs being shown mean there are more to choose from, it does not mean that the quality is proportionately better. One has to be even more careful than ever to keep "type" in mind. There are too many puppies being sold as show quality these days. It is better to be over critical than forgiving in evaluating a young dog. Also, there are too many champions being made up in the U.S. While a championship is very easy to attain in the U.S., to make up a champion in the UK is like winning the National Specialty three times.

*Any other comments?*

I would love to have a dog show with all the great dogs of the past (all the Specialty winners, all the British champions) in their prime. We would have one hell of a dog show!



Judge Nancy Hughes in Action

## A History of Trails End

### PHASE I: the 1970s

My first Border Terrier: Ch. CHIEF OF LOTHIAN UDT CG (born May 3, 1969) (Wharfholm Whipperin x Ch. Rose Bud of Lothian BOB 1970 & BOS 1971 BTCA Specialties); earned CD in 1970 (13th in the breed); earned CDX in 1971 (3rd in the breed); earned UD in 1972 (1st in the breed); earned TD in 1972 (1st in the breed); earned CG in 1974; BOB 1972 BTCA Specialty, Percy Roberts, judge (33 dogs, 34 entries).

My first bitch: Ch. TOWN HILL'S TALLY OF TRAILS END CDX (born June 17, 1970) (Br. & Am. Ch. Falcliff Tantaliser & Can. Ch. Birkfell Baroness Mischief) (bought from Henry Mosle) (sold to Martha Krueger who finished her championship; RWB at 1973 BTCA Specialty); obedience titles earned by our daughter, Julie.

My first import: Br. Ch. WORKMORE BRACKON (4th CC); bred by the Walkers; co-owned with Nancy Kloskowski; RWB 1972 BTCA Specialty.

Br. Ch. FINAL HONOUR (6 CCs 7 RES. CCs) (Br. Ch. Wharfholm Warrant x Miss Georgina); BOB & second in the Terrier Group at Crufts in 1973; co-owned "Piper" with Dave Kline; BOB 1974 BTCA Specialty, Ronnie Irving (UK), judge (58 dogs, 67 entries). Sire of Br Ch Step Ahead; Ch Little Fir Gremlin of Ariel, Best in Sweeps 1975 BTCA Specialty; and CH Trails End Peaceful Bree (first Border bitch to earn the Utility degree in obedience).

WHARFHOLM TOP HOSTESS (Br. Ch. Wharfholm Wizardry x Wharfholm Whimsieslass) (bought from Barbara Holmes); sent over bred to Wharfholm Wonder Lad, produces Ch. Trails End Chatterbox (Cleo) RWB 1975 BTCA Specialty, Robert Hall (UK) judge.

### PHASE II: restart in the 1980s

DUTTONLEA AUTOCRAT OF DANDYHOW (Dandyhow Grenadier x Ribbleside Morning Dew) (one RCC). bred by Wilf Wrigley. Best in

Sweeps & WD 1981, Dr. Lee Huggins, judge (59 dogs, 69 entries); BOB 1982 BTCA Specialty, Kate Irving (UK), judge (71 dogs, 81 entries); BOB 1983 BTCA Specialty, Clifford Thompson, judge (97 dogs, 107 entries); BOB 1986 BTCA Specialty, Marilyn Drewes, judge (104 entries) (there were two Specialties that year; the other was won by his son, Ch Trails End Barney).

### The Trails End/Robbie Legacy:

Trails End Good Gracious (by Robbie x Br. Ch. Dandyhow Forget Me Not) wins Best in Sweeps (Carol Sowders, judge) WB. BOW & BOS 1983 BTCA Specialty.

Trails End Fur Trapper (Robbie & Br. Ch. Dandyhow Forget Me Not) WD & BOW; litter brother Trails End Tradesman RWD 1983 BTCA Specialty.

Ch. Trails End Barney (by Robbie x Br. Ch. Dandyhow Forget Me Not) BOB 1986 BTCA Specialty in California, Dave Kline, judge (58 dogs, 65 entries).

Ch. Trails End American Dream (Robbie x Ch. Trails End Smooth Sailing) Best in Sweeps (Marg Pough, judge) and WB, BOW, BOS (Dave Kline, judge) at the 1988 BTCA Specialty, retiring the coveted Shelburne Straps Bowl.

### Other UK imports in the 1980s:

Br. Ch. DANDYHOW FORGET ME NOT (Br. Ch. South Box x Dandyhow Millicent)

DANDYHOW MARQUIS (Br. Ch. South Box & Br. Ch. Dandyhow Margery Daw)

POLYDORUS PESKI (Br. Ch. Dandyhow Spectator x Polydorus Pick A Pecker); sent over in whelp to Br. Ch. Dandyhow Silver Ring, a mating which produced Ch. Trails End Bewitched RWB 1983 BTCA Specialty; owned by Kris Blake.

HERDSMAN OF DANDYHOW (1984), owned by Kris Blake and then the Nauns.

### PHASE III: the 1990s

Latest (last?) Border Terrier: WINDSOR BET ON ME (aka Betty Pooper) (bred by Ann Mancione). My friends are betting that she won't be my last Border! Only time will tell...

## Trails End Gallery



Ch. Chief of Lothian UTD CG



Br. Ch. Workmore Brackon



Br. Ch. Final Honour



Wharfholm Top Hostess



Ch. Trails End Good Gracious



Ch Trails End Chatterbox



Polydorus Peski



Ch Trails End American Dream



Windsor Bet on Me