

By M Stockwell
1901

Did you know that if Astolat Lady Harlequin had been destroyed at birth, as many whites were at that time; that the shetland sheepdog we have come to know and love today would not have been? We would be without most, if not all; of our top winning and producing dogs. Our entire breed as we know it would not be! Without Lady Harlequin CH.Frigate's Emblem of Astolat,ROM* who sired 13 champions would never have been born. Lady Harlequin was his great grand dam through her daughter 'Astolat Snow white,' and than her daughter, 'Astolat snow Flurry' who in turn was the dam of CH.Frigate's Emblem of Astolat. (As you can see, all of these girls were CHWs.)

Lady Harlequin was also the dam of CH.Timberidge Tempress and Tempress bred to CH. Kalandar Prince O' Page's Hill produced the great CH.Timberidge Temptation (ROM) and his littermate; CH.Prince George O' Page's Hill also an ROM. Temptation would produce 32 champions, Prince George would sire CH.Nashcrest Golden Note (ROM). Among Note's illustrious get would be CH.Lingard Sealect Bruce (ROM), CH.Stylish Miss O' Hatfield(ROM), and the unforgettable CH.Sea Isle Serenade(ROM) grand sire of our own great CH.Halster's Peter Pumpkin, ROM with 160 American CHs to his credit. That's all of our sables folks!

And what about our AOACs?* One of, if not the most important; blue merles of our breed would be CH.Philidove Heir Presumptive(ROM) On his sire's side Presumptive goes back to CH.Shelt-E-Ain Reflection of Knight (ROM) Reflection of Knight was line bred on CH.Timberidge Temptation (ROM). and as we already know, Temptation was a grand son of Lady Harlequin. Heir Presumptive's dam goes back to CH.Frigate's Emblem of Astolat. (Lady Harlequin's grand son.) We can rightly say that Heir Presumptive was line bred on Lady Harlequin. Without Presumptive there would have been no CH.Banchory High Born (ROM) or his great son, Banchory Reflection(ROM).

*ROM 'register of merit award' In dogs they have produced 10 or more Champions. In bitches 5 or more.

*AOAC 'Any other allowed color', ie blue merle,tri, or bi color.

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We might ask who was this "Lady Harlequin" ? Well, she was a blend of all the best progenitors of the breed. Lady Harlequin was line bred on CH.Weelaird O' Downfield and her pedigree reads like a who's who of the top shelties of her time. CH.Sprig of Houghton Hill, Natalie of Clerwood, Annahassitt Atlanta,(ROM) and CH.Ashbank Fairy. Over half of this family is based on the Chestnut Rainbow & Chestnut Sweet Lady cross.

I do realize that we could say that our top shelties owe their existence to 'every' dog in their particular pedigrees, take any one of them away and the puzzle is broken, but Lady Harlequin is behind ALL of our great shelties past and present, and there is a far greater chance that this very special little dog might never have made it to adulthood as she was a tri- CHW. Had she been destroyed at birth just think of the ramifications!

Color Headed Whites are just as they are described, a white dog with a 'normaly' colored head of blue merle, tri, sable, bi blue or bi black. There may or may not be splashes of matching color on their bodies. These dogs, unlike the *' double dilute' shelties; have totaly normal hearing and vision. They would carry no more, or fewer genetic problems that any of the other colors would.

Untill the 50s our standard made no mention of a penalty for color headed whites. During the last revision the penalty was added. No one can actually come up with a good valid reason for this, I have been told that "Sheep wont respect a white dog." Well... as any shepherd will tell you, sheep are moved and controlled by the actions of a dog, and his 'eye.' Not his color.(Does this mean that black sheep don't respect a black dog?) I might add here that many of our CHWs are making a mark for themselves in the herding trials here in the USA as well as in other performance events. The only other concern I have heard voiced is that judges and beginners in the breed might get our CHWs confused with the double dilutes. Please, I can't believe they think judges would be that ignorent of such an obvious difference between the two and as for our beginners, the ones who are serious will have friends in the breed and mentors to help them and the others, who don't care will go on as always to breed their dogs no mater what. We can't stop that, but in the same way, we shouldn't be throwing the baby away with the bath water! Lets insist on fair representation of our beautiful CHWs in the confirmation ring.

*Double dilutes are shelties that have little if any head coloring. They are bred from two merle parents and they are often blind and or deaf and may even have some internal organ problems. Some, however; may be normal.



Astolat Adonis

Astolat Apollo

Astolat Prudence Wilson

Astolat Snow White

Artful Dodger of Anahassitt

Astolat Lady Harlequin



at Frosty Honeygirl (by Ch. Astolat Galaxy, C.

Bright Noel

