

## **A brief history of the Keeshond in New Zealand**

In 1939 there were five Keeshonds registered in New Zealand, but on 6th March 1940, by Executive Council direction, they were deregistered because after being inspected it was said that their breeding was doubtful.

In 1950 Mrs O'Rorke brought in Arnhem Rascal from Mrs Bourne of Australia, who also introduced the Keeshond into Australia in 1949. She brought four of the breed from England. The dogs were: Ch. Valles of Vordon, Ch. Airking of Arnhem, Babette of Willoden and Airamber of Arnhem.

Arnhem Rascal was the first dog shown and to be awarded a Championship Certificate in this country. In 1952, Mr and Mrs O'Rorke brought in the bitch Arnhem Janet, from the same kennels also came Arnhem Air Argentum.

Over the years many Keeshond's have been imported from Australia; Aak, Kendari, Delft, Keedale, Colijn, Rymiska, Grachthond and Deldachmeer. These imports had significant effects on the breed in NZ, many had good strong English lines behind them, more importantly though, they complimented and strengthened our home bred stock.

1982 saw a dog pup come from a newly established English kennel and carrying top English lines, Malmeck Zhivago. At the end of July an English Champion, Gavimur Kiang arrived. These two English imports went a little way to strengthen some of New Zealand bloodline's. More recent imports, Ledwell Boston Tea Party and Gavimur Limelight have further contributed to the breed.

Even today, New Zealand bloodlines are replicating the type we all love. Our lines are also relatively free of the congenital problems found in most other countries (isolation can be an advantage).

### **Keeshonds in the Show Ring**

In 1957, with only sixteen registered, the breed took a step forward when Greenslade Dandy Lad went Best in Show at South Otago.

By 1970, 216 were registered and a few more were shown, and another Best In Show, Kendari Not Only (Imp. Aust) at Ruahine Kennel Association. Also in 1970, Kendari Chances Are went Junior of Group at the National Show; in 1983, Ch. Clandara Apollo went Junior in Show at the Nationals.- The Keeshond had come into its own winning more In Show and Group awards than ever before. In 1987 Ch. Roosendal Cassanova won Junior of Group at the Nationals.

The Keeshond Club of NZ was incorporated in 1983. A points system was started, ytd results are below "Keeshond of the Year"

In the 90's the breed has continued to progress, particularly with the split of the Non-Sporting group into Non Sporting Group and the Utility Group, the Keeshond was becoming more of a contender in the Group line-ups and through this, more In Show Awards than ever before.

In 1991, National Show placings continued with Gr Ch Carleesh King of Hearts winning Reserve of Group and Open of Group and then in 1992, NZ CH Gavimir Limelight won Intermediate of Group.

The breed also celebrates having three Grand Champions - GR. CH Keshtemple Kaizer, Gr Ch Carleesh King of Hearts and Gr Ch Carleesh Double Dutch, all New Zealand Bred from New Zealand lines. We now can only go forward and hope that the breed will continue to prosper and produce wonderful results.

We are into the next century now, the interest in breeding and showing is at an all time low, a result of too few showing.



**NZ Gr CH Carleesh Double Dutch**



**NZ CH Clandara War Lord**