

Getting to Know You!

An Interview with Liz Bliss, CCA Lifetime Member

By Katie Greer

Q. Would you like any contact information listed in the article?

L.B. Yes, Liz Bliss, Noblesville, Indiana, and my phone is 317.770.9719.

Q. Do you want to share your birth date with us?

L.B. 11.26.26. I'll be 82 next week.

Q. How did you get started in Chihuahuas?

L.B. Well it was my youngest daughter, who was about 11 years old. She wanted a dog of her own. We had another dog, another breed, but it belonged to her sister and she wanted a dog of her own. She wanted us to get her a Chihuahua, so we did!

Q. Were Chihuahuas your first breed?

L.B. Yes, we had had dogs when I was a child, this and that, and the other thing, but never did any breeding or anything like that. We just had pets.

Q. What is it about Chihuahuas you love most?

L.B. They are so sweet. They really are. They just appeal to me.

Q. What other breeds do you have now?

L.B. None, and I only have only have two Chihuahuas left, two Champions. We lived in Ft. Wayne and our daughters lived outside of Indianapolis. They were after us to move closer, so we finally moved out here. We always had a dozen Chihuahuas and my husband said we'd have to cut down. My daughter said we could have 2 or 3. I said forget about 2 I'll take 3! We lost one recently. A little black doggie called Chrissie. She died the 4th of July weekend. We have her ashes in a little box on our table here.

Q. What is your favorite moment in dog showing?

L.B. When we get into Groups and in Best In Show, that's exciting.

Q. What is the funniest moment in your dog career?

L.B. (Laughs) Oh boy, there's been a lot of funny ones! Trying to name the dogs, is fun. I had a black dog that was named CH Bliss Hoosier Oprah Win For Me.

Q. What are you most proud of in your breeding program?

L.B. I guess it would have to be my Best In Show CH Bliss Hoosier Boy Named Sue. The way he got his name was when he was born on a labor day weekend, the men were all out playing golf and I had a cousin here. We were cooking food , you know, and then the mother went into labor, I told my cousin I was going to have to take her to the Vet for a c-section.

There were 3 puppies, and I called them Small, Medium, and Large. He was Medium. He had a hard time getting going. One of the girls that worked in the clinic came over and worked on him and brought him around. I told her I would have to name the puppy after her and she said you can't he's a boy. I said I sure could, and I did!

I finished him and then Linda George took over on him and specialed him. One day she called me and said he did quite well. She said he got a blue ribbon, well I said that's good. Then she said he got a purple ribbon, and on and on. Then she said he got this thing you might want to hang on your wall or something. It's a rosette, and it's red, white, and blue and says Best In Show on it!

Q. Are you a judge, or do you aspire to be?

L.B. (Laughs) No! If I were a judge why would I be sell my best and keep the rest?

Q. What is the biggest difference between dog shows when you started and the dog shows we have today?

For one thing it's the quality of the Chihuahuas. When I first started the quality was very poor and it increased all along and here we are today.

Q. What is the most important advice you have for us regarding breeding?

L.B. Well picking out the best stud you can find not necessarily from someone that lives down the street. You want to get one that has the qualities you want. I didn't keep any males for a long, long time. I only had bitches.

Q. What parting comments would you like to leave us with?

L.B. Well there are several. I would like for our club to get back to where it used to be and not have all this back stabbing that is going on. That's enough about that.

Also, I didn't want, wouldn't have, and wouldn't want any part of the merle issue, never had any part of that. But if everybody voted, it was a fair vote, and the people that wanted merle won then I would have to go along with it; although I wouldn't ever have any.

I wish everybody would be friends and get along and help put the qualities of your dogs most important. Go for quality!