



Mia Ejerstad - summer 2010. Photographed by Stefano Schiavo.

About the Author

Second edition 2010

When I returned to the UK show world in 1992 after a 12 year break, I was heavy with expectation; I hoped to be greeted by a ring filled with beautiful Collies of heart stopping elegance. I was quickly brought 'down to earth' realizing the breed had lost some of its former glory, and I earnestly began seeking such Collies in the world. To my great satisfaction I found them in abundance in a kennel in Sweden, this being the Steadlyn kennel of Mia Ejerstad. It seemed to me that Mia and her mother Anja had kept faith with the type of Collie I had fallen in love with many years previously. The Steadlyn affix had become synonymous the world over, with style, elegance and movement.

At Steadlyn I found Collies with a shape, balance and dignity that made my heart rejoice. I felt like the intrepid explorer finally reaching the pinnacle of his mountain climb and discovering the elusive lost city of Eldorado! Personal favourites amongst the myriad of exceptional examples being Ch Steadlyn Zong of Zweden, Ch Steadlyn Stagecraft, Ch Steadlyn Blueberry Dots, Ch Steadlyn Ravishing Saga, Ch Steadlyn Touch Luck and Ch Steadlyn Show Stopper.

Mia was born in Sweden in 1963 and owned her very first Collie in 1970 when still less than 7 years of age. Between the years of 1977-1997 Mia bred Collies under the Steadlyn affix. She also worked professionally as art director and lay out designer of weekly magazines (in the field of popular music, fashion, film and video) and later in a publicity agency. In 1989 she moved to Italy where she maintained her hobby, whilst incorporating dog photography and graphics into her work. Her son Ugo was born in 1993 and in this same year Mia managed to finish the first edition

of this book 'The Collie Standard'. I purchased my first copy of this book at that time and instantly recognized it as one of the finest teaching aids, helping those of us already having extensive knowledge, but proving to be ESSENTIAL to newcomers to our lovely breeds. In my opinion (and I know my thoughts are shared by many) every Collie lover, owner, judge and would-be judge should have a copy of this invaluable book on their shelves. The book exemplifies Mia's passion and exuberance for the breed and in easily understandable format, teaches and encourages those of us willing to look beyond the present, into the past and the future, thus encouraging us to examine our motives and to remain loyal to the breeds original function, design and purpose. We learn and are reminded of what creates the ideal Collie!

Mia became also an immensely successful all breed professional handler, a career that began to take shape towards the end of 1995. Also grooming the dogs in her care she handled many to record breaking triumphs and history making awards, and more recently culminating in the provision of courses in handling, grooming and photography. In short, Mia has lived an intensely rewarding and fulfilling life passionately dedicated to the beauty, both interior and exterior, of the dog.

For some time I have lived in the hope she would republish this illustrated 'living' standard, and I feel pleased and honoured that I have helped in some very small part, toward the republishing of what I firmly consider to be, an essential book for true Collie lovers everywhere.

Angela Harvey (Wicani Collies)



Mia Ejerstad pictured in 1990 with three of her homebred Collies; Int.Ch Steadlyn Signature and the seven months old sisters Steadlyn Flirtation, dam of a string of Champions, and Int.Ch Steadlyn Fairy Snow. Photographed by Bernardo Conti.

About the Author – 1993 edition

It was some years ago whilst on a judging assignment in Sweden that I first met the teenage Mia Ejerstad. Even so early in her career I was extremely impressed not only by the quality of her Collies and their immaculate presentation, but even more so by her dedication to the breed and her ambition to produce Collies of the correct type according to the Standard.

Over the years she has continued to produce excellent Collies and her stock can now be seen world-wide. Those which I have particularly admired being the lovely merle bitch Int.Ch Steadlyn Zong of Zweden, World & Int.Ch Steadlyn Show Stopper, and one of her most recent International Champions Steadlyn Signature whom I had the pleasure of awarding his crowning CACIB in San Marino.

In 1989 Mia moved to Italy and married Bernardo, leaving her mother Anja to continue the strain in Sweden under the new kennel name Steadwyn. Her success with the dogs continued but Mia became interested in producing an Illustrated Collie Standard. Her previous employment as art director fitted her ideally for this purpose, and now we see the result of all her hard work – interpretation of and comments on the Standard accompanied by hundreds of illustrations – **A FIGHT FOR THE TRUE CLASSIC COLLIE**. I feel that this is a book which no collie lover, novice or experienced breeder, can afford to be without.

Audrey F. Chatfield (Dunsinane Collies)