

Discussions with Dan

Breeder interview with Dan Grönlund, kennel Dervisch

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Kattis: Dan, did you know that this year marks the 40th anniversary of your first Italian Greyhound litter?

Dan: Yes, time flies! If I remember correctly, my first litter was born in April 1981 with a singleton, Mio (*D. Amore-Mio*), whose owner was Airi Aho from Raahelä (FI).



FI CH, SE CH Dervisch Amore-Mio

Kattis: Oh that's right, he moved to Finland!

Dan: Yes, the Finns have always had a better eye for Dervisch than the Swedes. ;)

Kattis: By the way, I counted that there are 21 Dervisch dogs registered in Finland between 1988 and 2019, and that they've produced 26 litters so far... That's a lot of Italian Greyhounds. :)

Dan: Oh, I didn't think there were that many actually! Great that these lines are preserved there as well.

Kattis: Your first Italian Greyhound was *Lybeckholms Kalifaxia* (b. 1979). She was a combination of British and early Swedish lines.

Dan: Yes, little Kajsa. She was only 33,5 cm tall but oh what a bossy-boots she was with the Salukis. I really liked the Berinshill dogs and was almost about to import from there. The breeder, Celia Boyle, is still alive but not in her best health as I understand. Her daughter took over but I think the breeding isn't active at the moment. I often met Celia the times I went to Crufts in the late 80s. She was a very nice woman with pretty Italian Greyhounds, who for sure left their mark in the British lines.



Dervisch Pre-Paradise Sorry Now

Kattis: You also had the bitch *May Day Sol's Akita* (b. 1986)

Dan: Indeed - 7 out of her 10 puppies became champions. *D. Tutta La Forza* had two certificates and *D. As You Like It* one certificate.



Dervisch Con Tutta La Forza.

Dervisch Con Tutta La Forza



CH Dervisch Con Brio.

FI CH, FI RCH Dervisch Con Brio

Kattis: I found one more bitch from your first years, before the break when you lived in Italy. Her name was *Sørås-Siden's Appassionata* (b. 1986) and she produced multiple champions as well.

Dan: Oh yes, little Mimmi, a pretty and elegant bitch. She produced beautiful puppies in both A- and B-litters at Sørås-Siden. Mimmi's sire *Mosaius* was a small dog, 36 cm tall, but her dam Daphne, *Westerner Daphne*, was a big and strong bitch of at least 40 cm!



SE CH, NO CH Sørås-Siden's Appassionata

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Kattis: *Sörås-Siden's Appassionata* produced a Dervisch European Winner 1991, *D. Diamonds For Breakfast*. That litter was also successful with *D. Let X = X* becoming Swedish Winner 1990.



CH Dervisch Let X=X.



CH Dervisch Diamonds For Breakfast.

SE W 1990 Dervisch Let X=X

FI CH, EU W 1991 Dervisch Diamonds For Breakfast



Bild 2. **ITALIENSK VINTHUND**

Bt-1 cert BIR & BIG-2 Per-Mo'bile Yzzana, Dan Johansson, Boden, M. Wall samt Bh-1 BIM Int & Nord Ch NV-85 Mosaius, Bengt Johansson, Boden.

Kattis: And not to forget the bitch *Per-Mobile Yzzana* (b. 1986), pictured above with *Mosaius* on an SvVK show in Luleå.

Dan: Yes, she was one of mine and I usually also showed Mosaius. He was the most successful dog 6 years in a row in the 80s. He also won several BIS-placements at shows organised by the Swedish Kennel Club.

Kattis: Mosaius and Yzzana together produced another European Winner, *D. The Texas Chainsaw Massacre*.



FI CH, FI RCH, EU W 1991

Dervisch The Texas Chainsaw Massacre



CH Dervisch Diamonds For
Breakfast & Dervisch II Trillo Del
Diavolo.

FI CH, EU W 1991 Dervisch Diamonds For Breakfast & EU JW 1991 Dervisch II Trillo Del Diavolo

Kattis: Pictured above are *D. Diamonds For Breakfast*, European Winner 1991, and *D. Il Trillo Del Diavolo*, European Junior Winner 1991. What amazing results from that show for you!

Kattis: As mentioned earlier, you then moved to Italy and your breeding program was put on hold during that time?

Dan: Yes, I lived in Italy from 1993 to 1995. I remember that I visited Vertragus as well. I worked at many different places, but mostly as a waiter and at a bar.

When I came back home to Sweden I started studying, and it was only after my studies that I moved to Hällevadsholm and could, to my great joy, start breeding again!

Kattis: Right. When you were able to start back up with Italian Greyhounds and breeding in the 2000s, you had three new, beautiful bitches: *Iso-Brina's Ramina Cona Del Matra*, *Talata Bianca* and *Talata Caramel Cream Dream*.

Browsing through the Italian Greyhound Breed Archive and looking at Dervisch dogs, I have found three different dam lines after these bitches in your breeding. Looking at your brood bitches I have to highlight Eli, *D. Electra Des Ombreuses*, as someone quite special!

Dan: Oh Eli of course! <3



SE CH Dervisch Electra Des Ombreuses

Kattis: Yes, and that whole litter is rather significant. Eli is from Ramina's (*Iso-Brina's Ramina Cona Del Matra*) third litter sired by *Volubilis Du Manoir Des Ombreuses*. Some of Eli's littermates are for example *D. Incognito Des Ombreuses* and *D. Enigma Des Ombreuses*. Eli has really carried your lines forward.

Dan: Eli's mother Ramina was an exceptional brood bitch who proved the importance of a strong dam line. Her mother *Dancer di Donini* also goes back to my lines.



SE CH, NO CH Iso-Brina's Ramina Cona Del Matra, 10 1/2 years old

Kattis: Yes that's right! There's a line of Dervisch dogs descending from the beautiful red male *D. Dono Artistico*, who's from your fourth litter born in 1987. He can be found as an ancestor in the pedigree of my Euphoria (*D. Euphoria*) and many others.

Dan: While we are on the topic of Ramina's and Eli's daughters, some light could be shed on the males they produced as well. I think it's a shame that for example Coni, *D. Incognito Des Ombreuses*, was used so little after he came back to Sweden, but now Jenni Peltokorpi (kennel Sprintholic) has used Coni's son *D. Blue Christmas* - I was almost teary-eyed at how much he resembles Coni, and oh that lovely expression he has!



Dervisch Blue Christmas
Copyright Jenni Peltokorpi

Kattis: Tell me a bit about Coni! You have a very special bond with him.

Dan: He was sold as a puppy to a Bulgarian breeder who also imported from other well-known breeders. Everything seemed to be alright but after a while I got suspicious. I found out that he was living

in a cage in a kennel facility, so I offered to buy him back, which luckily worked out. He was very fearful and insecure when he got back home, you could almost see in his eyes how he'd suffered. The first few days he was laying on a chair in the hall but day by day he gained more confidence. He had an incredibly mild character considering what he'd been through. Soon enough he was happy and felt at home like all the others. We started going to shows and he quickly achieved his C.I.B title, as well as several national championship titles. I used him in my breeding but sadly he wasn't used much beyond that. I think he could have passed on many lovely qualities.



C.I.B, SE CH, NO CH, DK CH, BG CH, NORDIC CH Dervisch Incognito des Ombreuses

Kattis: Coni's son's (*D. Blue Christmas*) dam is your beautiful Hungarian import *Gucci De La Meule Foin*.

But back to Ramina: As you look at her first litter, you can see it's a litter that became important for many breeders. How do you feel about that litter? It consisted of *D. A Diamond At Northgate*, *D. On A Sidewalk In Rome*, *D. Wear Diamonds At Dogcastle*, *D. Smile In Vogue* and *D. In Florence At Sunset*.

Dan: Yes, well that litter was simply outstanding! Such a shame that Florence's owners in Finland never bred her.



FI CH, NO CH, SE CH
Dervisch On A Sidewalk In Rome



Dervisch In Florence At Sunset

Kattis: The litter consists of many beautiful champions in several countries.

My youngest, Lilith (*D. Spring Song*), goes back to this litter through her mother *D. Snowdrop*, who's the daughter of *D. Irresistible*, who's the daughter of *D. Wear Diamonds At Dogcastle*, daughter of Ramina.



SE CH Dervisch Wear Diamonds At Dogcastle

Dan: I was thinking about how oddly things can turn out - The litter with Ramina and *Movado Ric Rosso* becoming such a success was mainly the reason I later bred his son *Biscotti Esclusivo* to Ramina, but this litter didn't turn out well at all. That's just how it goes, nothing is set in stone and sometimes some individuals just aren't a good match.

Kattis: I was thinking about my own dogs and their dam lines. My Lillan, *D. Quasi Magia*, and Euphoria are from two different dam lines - Lillan from *Talata Bianca* and Euphoria from Ramina. Lillan and Euphoria are also very different in many ways. Out of these two lines, the line after Bianca has been used less as I recall?

You also combined these dam lines after Ramina and Bianca in a litter that produced two bitches, *D. You Make Me Feel Brand New* and *D. You Brought The Sunshine*. That turned out well!



NO CH, SE CH, NO W 2010 Dervisch Fiorella Des Ombreuses
Copyright Lena Størmer Dahl

Dan: Bianca didn't maybe produce as well as Ramina, or a bit more uneven I would say, and then the offspring hasn't been used in breeding that much partly because of Bianca's cataract diagnosis I suppose.



NORD CH Talata Bianca 9 years old

Kattis: Right, and then again both *D. You Brought The Sunshine* and her sire *D. Oisco Magic*, both from the Bianca lines, have had eye examinations done with clear results at the age of 4 and 6 years. My *D. Quasi Magia* on the other hand, granddaughter of Bianca and dam of *D. Oisco Magic*, has been diagnosed with cataract.

Dan: Yes, the inheritance pattern is quite confusing. It seems more or less like a lottery.

Kattis: What do you think about the situation regarding health testing? In certain countries, like for example Finland, dogs are tested more as it's a mandatory requirement before they are used in breeding. Eye examination results are valid for one year at a time.

Dan: Yes exactly. Well hopefully the testing will help the breed, but in the end it's not perfect as virtually no other countries require testing. So maybe it could result in healthier dogs in Finland but we can't all only use Finnish dogs in breeding. Besides, the diseases might develop when the dog is older, after it has already gotten clear results several times and been used in breeding. As you said, the heredity of cataracts is very tricky.

Kattis: Going back to your lines, there is a third dam line from *Talata Caramel Cream Dream*. I have to mention her daughter Luna, *D. Dial L For Love*, who has recently turned 16 years old and has a clear result from her eye examination!



C.I.B., FI CH, SE CH, EE CH, EE VCH, LV VCH, LT VCH, Baltic VCH
 Dervisch Dial L For Love
 Copyright Leena Jääskelä

Dan: Yes, Luna is simply fantastic! Phoebe, “Fibban” (*Talata Caramel Cream Dream*), also produced a bunch of beauties!



SE CH, NO CH Talata Caramel Cream Dream 10 years old

Kattis: Some of her offspring include *D. Happy Go Lucky*, *D. Sky Is The Limit*, *D. Trendsetter*, *D. Very Valentino* and *D. Strike A Pose*. Many champions and several litters in different countries.



NO CH, SE CH, SE W 2012, C.I.B., EE CH, ZA CH, AT BS 2013, VDH Bundessieger 2013
Dervisch Sky Is The Limit



C.I.B., NORD CH, SE CH, NO CH, DK CH, SE LCCH
Dervisch Happy Go Lucky

Dan: Phoebe (*Talata Caramel Cream Dream*) would have had such a great potential for coursing - she loved hunting well into her senior years and was at her happiest while running after prey. I'm under the impression that some of her offspring have done quite well on the coursing fields.

Kattis: Regarding coursing - There are a few dogs that have been rather successful, right?



NORD LCCH, SE CH, NO CH, SE LCCH, NO LCCH, DK LCCH
Dervisch Very Valentino
Copyright Lena Størmer Dahl

Dan: Indeed, especially Nicola (*D. Very Valentino*) and Lucca (*D. Open Sesame*) - They were really good coursing dogs, as well as Nicola's sister *D. Strike A Pose*. These were real dual purpose Italian Greyhounds. It's mostly Phoebe's offspring that have shown coursing potential, which doesn't surprise me.



NO CH, NO LCCH, SE LCCH Dervisch Open Sesame
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Kattis: Phoebe also produced a high-class litter sired by *Tadzio Tiepolo Du Manoir Des Ombreuses*. One of the puppies, *D. Blue Song Des Ombreuses*, won Best In Show at the Italian Greyhound specialty.



CH Dervisch Blue Song des Ombreuses & CH Dervisch Trendsetter winning BEST IN SHOW & BOS at the Swedish IG Specialty under judge Tina Permo.

Kattis: Eli's (*D. Electra Des Ombreuses*) two exquisite litters sired by Danny, *Fiefoernieks Frontispiece*, mostly live abroad and many of them with other breeders, like for example *D. Good Morning Starshine* in France and *D. Dreamweaver*, World Winner 2018, in Czech Republic (pictured below)!



C.I.B., NL CH, LU JCH, NL AW 2016, BE W 2017, Vice WW 2017 Dervisch Good Morning Starshine
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C.I.B., AT CH, SK CH, CZ CH, CZ JCH, PL CH, CZ Club CH, ČMKU CH, CZ GR CH, SSW CZ 2016,
NSW 2017, CZ ICH Club Winner 2018, WW 2018 Dervisch Dreamweaver
Copyright Eva Mizerova

Kattis: Of all the successful litters you've bred, Eli's and Danny's exceptional litter from 2014 deserves a special mention. In this litter you can find:

C.I.B., AT CH, SK CH, CZ CH, CZ JCH, PL CH, CZ Club CH, ČMKU CH, CZ GR CH, SSW CZ 2016,
NSW 2017, CZ ICH Club Winner 2018, WW 2018 Dervisch Dreamweaver

RU JCH, BY JCH, UA JCH, LV JCH, LT JCH, RU GR CH, RU Club CH, RU CH, RKF CH, BY CH,
UA CH, LT CH, BG CH Dervisch Devotion

UA JCH, UA CH Dervisch Dahlia Flora Style

DE JCH (VDH), DWZRV-Jugend-Champion, HR JCH, DE CH (VDH), DE CH (DWZRV), BY CH, BALK W 2016, VDH Internationaler Derbysieger/in 2017, Cacil- Prüfung Dervisch Daydreamer

C.I.B., SI CH, HR CH, AT CH Dervisch Divine

Dervisch Sandstorm, who is only one certificate away from the championship title.

Dan: That litter turned out excellent, I must admit! I'm convinced that Dahlia would have gained a long row of titles if she hadn't passed away at a young age.

Kattis: Then there is actually another litter from 2014 with several beauties, one of them no other than Stella, *D. Sixteen Shades Of Blue*, who was the Top Winning Sighthound in Finland in 2017 and in Top-10 among all breeds, in addition to winning Best Italian Greyhound multiple years.



C.I.B., NORD CH, FI CH, SE CH, NO CH, FI LCCH, FI W 2016, HE W 2016, FI W 2017, HE W 2017
Dervisch Sixteen Shades Of Blue

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Dan: Yes, Stella is a fantastic representative of the breed and she has had huge success in the show rings, and on top of that she's also a coursing champion!

Kattis: You also had an import bitch from Hungary, *Gucci De La Meule De Foin*, and the French girls Giulia, *Giulia Des Princes De Kazan*, and Julia, *Gauloise Brune Des Princes De Kazan* in the 2010s. That about sums up all the bitches you've had.

Kattis: Going through your dam lines and browsing the Italian Greyhound Breed Archive, one can't help but notice what a great impact your breeding has had, and still has, for Italian Greyhounds in the North, Europe, Russia, the USA... It would be quite a big task to go through all of them... :)

Dan: Yes, a lot of the puppies have gone to other breeders which is great. Many breeders partly have my lines in their breeding, for example Squadra D'Elite (FR), Ylladian (FI), Lovoly's (SE), Yebelli's (SE), Chininas (SE), Northgate's (FI), Al-Shén (SE), Curvy (NO), Oisco (FI), Top Runner's (FI), Brand Runner's (FI). I'm proud that so many breeders have appreciated my lines!

Dan: There is so much to look back at during these years, and of course there have been both ups and downs as for all breeders.

As for the future, we'll have to see what happens with my health, which at the moment is not the best. I look forward to breeding some litters if it's possible, but if not, I am extremely proud that my lines are represented by so many talented breeders around the world.