

Do you use blues from harlequin x black background in a breeding program?

Comments to Jill Eyans' - The Time Traveler Episode 27.

Today most people trying to breed good blues use blacks from fawn x brindle x black background to improve the blue lines.

When I first started with blues in 1968 I used blacks from harlequin lines. To me, at that time a member of DDC, with a kennel name registered with FCI, it was logical, Carl Daniels, Zuchtwart with DDC was a good friend and he also felt it was a good idea to use blacks from harl breedings as an out cross for blue breeding, since the gene pool in blues was limited then, and it still is.

The only problem you get from this cross is excessive white markings. However back then, the current GDCA standard allowed for more white on blues than today's standard.

My foundation bitch in blues was Sloane's Renata v Iroquois an Iroquois daughter with black from harl breeding on the dam's side. My first blue litter in 1968 was from Renata to J.C. Parker's Ch. Jocopa's Blu Nearli Ned a son of Ch. Iroquois Blue Chief of Lynn Mar- the Andrew's import from Holland.

The reason I leased Renata was that I loved Iroquois - but I had also seen his father Ch. Cyrus A.D. Schwarzwald in Europe, in days when I only had fawns & brindles, and lived in Sweden. When I saw Cyrus I was impressed with his soundness, uncommon to Danes continental Europe at that time. The experience of seeing a blue with brown eyes was quite something, I did not know there was such a thing.

When I first arrived in this country in 1964 working for Nancy Carroll Draper - she went to the Midwest & judged a specialty sweepstakes. She came back raving about this young blue dog that she put up, handled by his unknown black owner. Back then real integration had not happened and black handlers did not exist- especially if they like Julius were married to a white woman! What we take for granted today had not happened in the early sixties.

Julius Andrews owner handled Iroquois to his Championship - a total miracle for that time. The dog was incredibly good, he had to be to win against all odds, blues at the time looked like a different breed, no one had seen anything like this dog in blues!! He also like his sire, had dark eyes & wonderful movement.

J.C. Parker had for years bred blacks mixed with brindle & fawn - with a great deal of success - but he had never played with blues. Then he bought Ch. Silver Mountain Misty - a sister to Ch. Silver Mountain Rhoda - who finished with Lina Basquette handling. These two bitches' were Canadian bred with Rungamook background and at least Misty did carry for fawn. They both had dark eyes, excellent breed type lovely heads & long necks and conformation to measure up to any fawn and brindle - they were not just "good blues" - a term I hate - they were good Danes no matter what color they might have been.

J.C. Parker bred Misty to Iroquois & his Ch. Jocopa's Blue Nearli Ned had a special career as well, he was a group winner, an elegant type dog a bit off color - very pale - but lovely head & dark eyes - he was a fawn carrier however. I bred Renata to Nearli Ned & had an all blue litter

from which 3 different bitches influential on blues came. J. C. Parker bought "Ch. Jocopa's Blu Nearli Nedra, I kept Bantry Hazeldane Dreamboat - both had white throat lines. Another bitch who never finished, but had quite a few points amateur owner handled by Louis Rissone, was Connaught Iroquois Jemmy. Jemmy had one litter bred by Luis Rissone from which came Rissone's Super Blue. When Rissone went out of dogs, Mike Sherman acquired Jemmy and Super Blue - and they are behind all the Sheridane Champions- Super Blue also sired Sterling Moffat's fabulous uncropped Ch. Sterling's Blue Lupine who is behind today's "Sterling blue Champions.

My Dreamboat never finished, cruciate ligament injury prevented her from a show career. Her first litter we bred her to the black all harlequin bred Ch. Frefin's Herr Bodi. Thanks to Carla Callahan I learned that the dog carried a recessive blue gene. No Champions came from this litter but "Sharon's Blackberry Brandy" bred to her half brother the blue Bantry - Hazeldane Santana Azul (Ch. Auburn Hill Illya x Dreamboat) produced Ch. Bantry Cordon Bleu de Sharon who also did some winning as a special. His sire Santana had the white throat line, but he did not produce all that much white. His litter from a blue bitch out of a sister of Blackberry Brandy-bred to Starfire Vida Blu v Riverwood- resulted in Ch. Bantry Catia's Blue Willow, and a brother who only needed a major to finish when the owners tired of the dog game.

The most well known from the litter from Dreamboat to Ch. Auburn Hill Illya was Ch. Bantry Hazeldane Sangria- Azul who was nr 3 Dane all colors & sexes as a special. She was owned by Robert E. Maytag, who almost 20 years later became my second husband. Robert E. bred her to the top producing Ch. Charlemagne Du Lac - a dog with an almost all fawn & brindle pedigree who all J.C. Parker Jocopa breeding yet Charemagne DuLac was a double dominant black. "Charlie is behind the top blacks of the Longo's and Maureen Clark's Sharcon Champions.

Those classic heads we can all thank J.C. Parker for- today he only judges, but let us not forget what he did for all of us all as a breeder. From Sangria x Charlemagne Du Lac came Taghollow Reasnor, himself not a Champion, but a sire and grandsire to many Champions across the country.

Mike Sherman's first Champion came from a breeding of "Reasnor to Connaught Iroquois Jemmy - who was 9 & 1/2 when she had the litter. Ch. Sheridane Iroquois Hope, black & owner handled put Sheridane on the map. She was tightly line bred on Iroquois - she being a litter mate of Reasnor's grand dam "Dreamboat".

Mike also bred a litter sister of "Hope" to Jemmy's son from her first litter "Rissone's Super Blue". The result was Ch. Sheridane Iroquois Shenandaoh, a brown eyed typey & sound blue dog - again behind most Sheridane & Laur's Champions. The tight Iroquois breeding is on the dam's side of my international Champion Taghollow Black in Blue.- Sharcon on the sires side. " Back in Blue went to Sweden when my husband was battling cancer so Monica Stavenborn has created a successful blue bloodline in Sweden based on her. I bred her black sister "Black Orchid" to Ch. Wysiwyg Black Sambuca and am using the results for a come back in black x blue.

What started me on this rambling on blues was Jill's question What to do with blue from harlequin background?

This is my answer. It works!!!!!! Also I wish Jill when you do the book you were talking about based on your well known Time Traveler articles, that you would bring it up to date a bit

more. A lot of people involved in Danes today do not know the older dogs. It would be great if you could tie the ancient pedigrees up to today's Danes. I think that would greatly enhance the value of your book as a source of information to newer breeders - that were not around in the 50s & 60s - never mind the years in between. You could virtually have a "bible" for background research, and I bet a best seller internationally!!

Good Luck,
Mona Maytag