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芬蘭 2007 呈祖經冠璽 Jasdoren Alhos Adro







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(English translation of the article in the Pet Pet Magazine, Hong Kong, 5/5/2007 Vol.105 originally in Chinese writing)

Traditional Chinese Shar Pei Journey to Europe

The traditional bone mouth Shar Pei of China has come out of Hong Kong and traveled into England and Finland. This is a sign that more and more people in Europe are giving more attention to this traditional bone mouth Shar Pei. Both England and Finland have long history and tradition of dog show. The Cruft Show in England in particular is famous worldwide, has the longest history with over 20,000 dogs participate every year. In Finland, the latest 2006 FCI National Show recorded 8,500 dogs covering 300 breeds; of which 16 breeds were Nordic breeds original to Northern Europe.

In a Shar Pei Specialty Show organized by the Chinese Shar Pei Club of Finland on the 15th of April, 2007, exactly a bone mouth Shar Pei became the BOB and Best in Show. The judge Eric Omura is appointed Shar Pei judge of Midland Shar Pei Club (U.K.), North American Working Dogs Association (Far East), and Zhongguoquan Baocunhui (Chinese Breed Preservation Society) of Hong Kong. This Shar Pei Specialty Show was organized with full support of Ms. Kirsi Posti, president of the Chinese Shar Pei Club of Finland. She invited Eric Omura as guest judge to the show. The most surprising in this BIS was that the dog is bred in Finland by the Finnish people themselves. They have cleverly applied the regression technique in evolutionary science and recovered an original bone mouth phenotype. Finland has less population than Hong Kong, only 5.3 million (vs. Hong Kong over 7 million) but home to the worldwide telecommunication giant NOKIA. An average dog show in Hong Kong has 300 dogs of around 50 breeds, whereas in Finland has 8,500 dogs and 300 breeds; a reflection of dedication and enthusiasm of the people of Finland to all things in life that Hong Kong can only look upon with awe and respect.

In the same manner as the Finnish people protecting their own original breeds, the president of the Chinese Shar Pei Club of Finland, Posti, is also a staunch supporter of preserving the traditional bone mouth Shar Pei. This spirit of going back to the place of origin is also the working principle of FCI (Federation Cynologique International). However, as Posti pointed out, the current FCI breed standard for Shar Pei is inaccurate. Over the years, they also faced influence from the AKC breed standard for meat mouth, with (brush) coat, (large) head, (over padded) muzzle, and (bushy) tails etc. reflecting the American meat mouth

hereditary trait. According to FCI articles of association, only the place of origin can make revision to the standard of any local breed. The Hong Kong Kennel Club (HKKC) in Hong Kong being a member of FCI and original drafter of the traditional Chinese Shar Pei standard, only HKKC has the authority and in position to amend or correct the present incorrect FCI Shar Pei standard. Posti further said that the meat mouth Shar Pei has been around Europe and U.S. and recognized by people for sometime already, so we have to understand that it is not realistic and not feasible to de-register and disregard the existence of meat mouth Shar Pei. Therefore, she recommended the "Akita" solution for FCI. Akita is now divided into "American Akita" (The Great Japanese Dog) and "Japanese Akita" in FCI. So Shar Pei similarly can be divided into American Shar Pei and the Chinese Shar Pei. At the end of the day, whether to amend the existing FCI standard to fit the traditional type or to independently file a separate traditional bone mouth Shar Pei breed standard to FCI is completely up to HKKC, as official representative of the original breed, to decide based on the manageability of condition at hand. Whatever the pathway to take, Posti believe that sooner the better, correcting the present situation would do a big favor to the traditional bone mouth Shar Pei.

In order to publicize and promote traditional bone mouth Shar Pei, Posti even personally flew to Hong Kong in March of 2006 and brought back one bone mouth Shar Pei to Finland. The reason "Dali Maxim" was selected because it is registered with HKKC. The sire "Dragongate Lucky" is also registered with HKKC and thus completing the minimum three generation requirement. Since HKKC is a member of FCI, "Dali Maxim" is recognized by FCI members in Europe. Posti expressed that she also wanted another female of independent bloodline for future breeding; but most traditional bone mouth Shar Pei presently in Hong Kong are not registered with HKKC. It is therefore regrettable that these dogs can not be recognized by FCI members in Europe and she can not breed them.

In fact in Europe, Ms. Pat Pearce of Midland Shar Pei Club in the United Kingdom is the foremost person in promotion of the traditional Shar Pei. As early as the 1980's, she had already started working together with Ms. Lana Tsan of North American Working Dog (Schutzhund) Association (Far East) (NASA) in Hong Kong in a venture to preserve the traditional bone mouth Shar Pei. The Shar Pei Specialty Show she organized in Birmingham, UK in July of 2005, she also invited Eric Omura, their overseas Shar Pei judge, to judge their dogs. That show and judging can be said to have become an indicator for both England and Europe because the Jentiki Sunkissed Ricaro is a type most in line with the traditional type. Is has been a long while that this type (horse coat) of Shar Pei received any attention in the ring. Judges in the Western world tend to incline toward common market perception, and have limited knowledge and no encounter with traditional bone mouth Shar Pei and therefore conservative in their judging process. They will not go

against common market perception and select a bone mouth Shar Pei. That time, the judge was from Hong Kong and appointed by Midland Shar Pei Club as their overseas judge. Eric Omura had numerous judging experiences in China including in its place of origin of Dali in Guangdong province, in numerous shows jointly organized by the district government of Dali and NASA. In all the judging, he most convincingly, within the judging process and standard, pointed towards the traditional bone mouth type. That particular Midland Shar Pei Specialty Show was also licensed by the Kennel Club and therefore the outcome and result of the show should have added breadth to the Kennel Club's consideration in how they can view Shar Pei from a traditional perspective. Some people in England have already introduced or breeding in the direction of traditional bone mouth Shar Pei. Of course, although meat mouth is still in business, the traditional genes can not be overlooked anymore.

Today, the Kennel Club in England is in process of reviewing hereditary diseases and health issues of many breeds including Shar Pei. For all plants and animals under conservation, when their general condition deteriorate in the reproduction process, usually one must go back to search for the original primitive genes to reconfigure the stock. The Midland Shar Pei Club is also dealing the issue from a health approach, attempting to introduce more health factors into their breed standard. Eric Omura said that "many Shar Pei in UK and U.S.A. have hereditary health issues relating to eyes, muzzle, skin, dental bite, bone conformation, and endocrine system threatening their well being. These health issues are way beyond coping by any kennel club's breed standards. All dogs must be healthy in their natural reproductive state first before scrutinize by any breed standard. Experiences over the years confirmed that the overall health condition of a bone mouth Shar Pei is much healthier than that of meat mouth." How the Kennel Club in England deal with their Shar Pei breed standard will definitely affect the position of FCI. It can be said that the initiative in UK can be one of the stimulating factor for Finland to develop in the traditional direction.

The coming of Jentiki Sunkissed Ricaro and Jasdoren Athos Adroit themselves testified that people in Europe are consciously going back to the tradition.