

In Memoriam Mollie Castle.

On March 4th 2006 Mollie Castel died, 89 years old, founder of the famous Oakredges kennel. Mollie bred an endless row of King Charles champions between 1942 and 1997, broken colours were her favourites; kennels all over the world started their breeding with Oakridges dogs and her name is represented in many pedigrees from todays Charlies. She was always prepared to help starters in the breed.

At Crufts 1997 Mollie showed one of her dogs for the last time; Leaning on her grandson she entered the ring with Oakridges Cordelia on her arm, heavily limping; the grandson did the walkingpart, Mollie showed the dog on the table; “why is she doing this?”, people round the ring whispered. But Mollie was very determined to keep on showing as long as her legs would carry her.

2002 she had a severe stroke; everybody feared for the worst. The English King Charles Club just had deciced to present Mollie with the “Honorary Life Membership”, but it was too late to crown her with the ornaments. A year before that she had written a large historic article for the Millenniumbook; her memory was still intact.

To everybody’s surprise she appeared at the championshow in Leeds 2004 in public, sitting in a wheelchair pushed by her sons John and Stewart; having Ch. Amantra Character on her lap she watched the judgings with much interest. The Club yet got the opportunity to honour Mollie for her dedication to to breed for more than half a century.

During her last years John took care of her; she kept a clear mind until the end and never lost her interest in the breed that was her love and her life. She had one dog left that lived with John.



In Memoriam

John decided to let the funeral take place after Crufts, at March 13th in Fixby, Huddersfield, her residence. Breeders all over the world announced to come over to England to pay their respects; breeders visiting Crufts prolonged their stay.

She was one of the generation breeders that carried the breed through the difficult waryears; now it is only Pauline Viner-Sharp (Zubaida) and Phyllis Watson (Aviemoore) left, both Mollie's age; Phyllis is way in her nineties; she worked as a kennelmaid in the legendary Ashton-More kennels from Mrs. Raymond Mallock, the breed's foundingmother at the beginning of the 19th century.

A Grand Old Ladys passed away; breeders like Mollie Castle are irreplaceable.



Ankie v.d.Berg-Hage

Wormerveer

The Netherlands

Post Scriptum

At March 5th the message was passed on that another monument in the breed had gone: Barbara Baker from Kingscourt kennels; she bred a large number of quality King Charles between 1982 and 2004; she too was dedicated to the breed almost all her life; a second blow to the King Charles family within two days.

