

1. Could you kindly tell us about yourself? Why you are interested about animals? Are dogs also a hobby for your entire family? What doggie related things your daughters do, and why?

My name is Theresa Goiffon; I am a happily married mother of three wonderful daughters, ages 21, 15 and 11.

We live in very small town called Falun, Wisconsin USA on approx. 40 acres in the country. My husband works from home and we are quite busy in the summer, growing produce and selling it at local Farmers Markets. (This is a town that was founded by Swedish immigrants and many of our towns are named after the towns in Sweden.)

I home school my two younger daughters and my oldest daughter is in her junior year of college.

I am a former Vice President of Commercial Lending and Business Development having been in the banking business for 20 plus years. I decided when my youngest daughter was around 2 years old it was time for me to stay home full time. Prior to that time, my grandmother watched our girls and now as she is 94 years old we take care of her.

In 2005, our family decided to move from the city to the country that was a big change and one that opened up many opportunities to full fill some of our dreams.

We have always had dogs and cats and I was very active in the Veterinarian community, having served as a board member of the Minnesota Veterinarian Medical Association. It had always been my desire to breed someday and my daughter Ellie had an interest in showing dogs.

This move allowed us this opportunity and so our search for the perfect dog for us began.

I was always interested in animals and in fact had plans to go to Veterinarian School, unfortunately due to my asthma and allergies to many dogs, that was not an option for me.

Dog shows for us is a family hobby. Most shows we attend are weekend shows. Our entire family goes and for us they are mini family vacations where our dogs come too. We've travelled to many places we never would have, but now have a reason to; it's a great family adventure.

My daughters show in Juniors as well as Conformation. I just recently showed in Conformation for the first time I was quite nervous, it was fun, but I prefer watching my daughters show.

Both my daughters, Lydia and Ellie work with their dogs training them in conformation, agility and obedience. They also each have a horse that they work with every day; grooming and teaching them ground work and when time allows riding.

They love their animals and enjoy being with them so much and it is so rewarding to see their efforts make a difference.

My daughters also volunteer at our local dog shelter, walking dogs and helping where there is a need.

2. Do you have a kennel name? Do you have many Aussies and do they live in a house or kennel building? Tell us about your doggies.

Our kennel name is Dunham Lake Australian Terriers. We live on Dunham Lake Rd and our lake home is on Dunham Lake. Not very original, or interesting, but that's how the name came about.

We have 4 Australian Terriers and 1 Australian Shepherd. Our dogs are first and foremost our companions; they live with us and sleep with us. We do not have a kennel building; they live in our home, not in crates either.

Our first two Australian Terriers, Dakota and Kaih are female littermates. We adopted two puppies at the same time, so that each one of my daughters had their own dog to show in juniors. Kaih is primarily Lydia's dog and Dakota is Ellie's. We thought this breed was so wonderful about a year later adopted Harley, our male.

Sadly, last July Harley died suddenly by drinking blue/green algae from our lake. Like most people in our area, we were not aware that such a toxin existed. It was a very difficult time for our family.

A short time after the accident, Pamela Levy offered us a co ownership, in our male, Beckham. He is such a delight and a wonderful addition to our family. We are forever grateful to Pamela.

Our Aussie's just love to do everything. They love to play, go on walks, to swim, explore, anything and everything, which includes just curling up next to us and being loved. For the most part they get along very well with each other. Our Aussie Shepherd is great at keeping them in order.

3. Why you have chosen Aussie to be your breed, and how long you have been breeding/or-having Aussies as a hobby?

In 2006, we began our search for the right dog for our family. I have allergies, so, our list was somewhat limited. There were many reasons we were drawn to the Australian Terrier such as the fact that they are such a versatile breed. They are small enough to take many places, they don't shed and they are not a fragile small dog. They are fearless with so much personality. Also, what was of great interest to me was for the most part they are a healthy breed with a pretty long life span.

Once we made the decision on the Australian Terrier as the right breed for us, we researched and learned as much as we could about the breed.

In 2007 we went in search of our 1st Australian Terrier. We never anticipated the extent of difficulty it was going to be to locate an Australian Terrier puppy. In Wisconsin where I live there were few breeders. After deciding on the breed my first call was to the Australian Terrier Club of America (ATCA). I thought joining the club would help us with mentorship before buying our first dog. I was informed I could not join, as I did not know two people who could sponsor me. I went to the ATCA breeder referral list and looked up breeders in my area. One ATCA member I did talk to, refused to sell a quality Aussies to anyone new

to the breed and claimed, "no other ATCA member would sell you a dog until you studied the breed for over 5 years"! Our early experiences were unnecessarily difficult.

Fortunately, we found a breeder (Susan Bentley, Benayr Kennel) with many years of experience gladly sold us two nice Australian Terriers the summer of 2007.

We have only had two litters to date.

Our first litter was born in March 2009; it was a breeding between our dam Ch. Benayr Dakota's Daring Darling and Benayr Harley Davidson. It was a lovely litter of three healthy puppies.

Our second litter was born in December 2009; it was a breeding between our dam Ch. Benayr Dakota's Daring Darling and Ch. Benayr Just for Kicks. This litter of 5 was also very nice. We kept one female, Gabby for ourselves.

To continue to raise our puppies the way we do, we are and will always be a small breeder.

We support health testing prior to breeding, which includes: eyes, thyroid and patella. We also keep our puppies until they are 12 weeks old. Because we keep our puppies longer our puppies are very well socialized, almost potty trained and even obedience training has begun.

4. How does a typical Aussie that you approve of look like?

I am still learning and evaluating this myself. As I mentioned, my first Aussies came from a long time breeder and I still love her type. Now as I begin to see more Aussies with my involvement in the Australian Terrier International (ATI), my eye for Aussies is changing and I am having greater appreciation for Aussie features.

What I do know, is I like expressive faces and nice straight top lines, correct parallel movement and a nice coat.

5. Do you think there is some less good things in Aussie breed (for example mentally)?

Although I've not experience this, I've heard that some breeders cannot have two unaltered males or females, living together. I know there are some health related concerns among the Aussie community such as diabetes, subluxated patella's and low thyroid, which the Canine Health Foundation is researching.

6. How do you choose a promising puppy or adult for yourself?

I'm new to breeding and I have relied on many great mentors that I respect and have years of experience in this wonderful Aussie breed. I do not have anyone that lives near me that could evaluate my litter. Thankfully with the Internet, sending photos and video to my many Aussie friends has been invaluable to me.

I have friends in other breeds that we evaluate each other's puppies for conformation and temperament. I also use the Puppy Puzzle DVD as an additional resource to evaluate my puppies at 8 weeks old.

7. How do you choose Aussies for breeding? What things you don't approve in your breeding dogs/bitches?

With my current bitches I evaluated what I might improve on and chose a male with those particular desired traits.

The most important consideration to me is health and temperament. If an Aussie doesn't test well in either of these areas I would never consider breeding them. Conformation is also important, making sure the Aussie's conforms to the Australian Terrier Standard.

8. What things do you regard being difficult in breeding Aussies? (Some breed are having problems to give a birth, only few stud dogs to use etc.)

I haven't experienced anything difficult in this area yet.

9. Name an Aussie or two you particularly adore?

Well, I love Ch. Benayr Nessun Dorma, "Tucker. We met him last fall and he is a wonderful representative of the breed.

10. Are there some things that make you worried about in health of Aussies?

We are blessed with healthy Aussies. What does concern me greatly is over vaccinations, what we are feeding our dogs and over-all lack of education of the breed.

For years we have allowed our dogs to be for lack of a better term, be "generically immunized". We need to educate ourselves and understand why we vaccinate and what we are putting into our dog's bodies. Stop the standard protocol and modify it to meet the specific needs of our breed. That means getting breeders and Veterinarians both on board and supporting each other.

We need to understand the health needs of our dogs and feed them accordingly. I can't do anything about fixing this problem but I can help with prevention by learning and educating others. Educating our future, young Juniors, like my own daughters who are likely to raise Australian Terriers years from now.

I believe education is a key component to the existence of any breed. I am passionate about this! I strongly support sharing information, being open and honest and helping everyone interested in the breed. From the first time novice owner to experienced breeder we all are learning and can benefit from each other. I am thrilled to be a part of ATI and know that this is an organization that really understands the importance of education.

11. Your best moments/memories with Aussies?

There are so many! My favorite memories include:

When we picked up our first two Aussies Dakota and Kaih at the airport, what a thrill to finally have them.

When both of our litters were born, they were such a blessing and a fantastic experience for all of us, watching new life be born.

The many dog shows we have participated in, particularly the Rapid City S.D. show where Ellie finished her dog Dakota as a Champion.

Beckham our little man, who is incredible.

Our wonderful Aussie friends and mentors we have met along the way, which without them we would have been lost.

The wonderful families who have adopted our puppies, all who are now like family to us.

Watching our daughters show and building their confidence in the show ring and seeing that confidence carried over into their daily lives.

12. Do you register lot's of Aussies in your country? Do you have an Aussieclub or magazine? Approximately how many Aussies visit's normally your dog shows? We have usually something like 20-50 Aussies at time.

I always register all my puppies for my families.

Total registered Aussies in our country according to the March issue of Australian Terrier International were:

2009- we ranked 124 out of 158 breeds with 285 Aussies registered.

2008- we ranked 113th with 330 Aussies registered.

2007- we ranked 108 with 404 Aussies registered.

2006 -We ranked 113 with 361 Aussies registered

The American Kennel Club (AKC) Gazette is the longest running magazine, in its 120th year. Clubs are: American Kennel Club (AKC), Australian Terrier International and The Australian Terrier Club of America.

In Wisconsin or Minnesota, many times we are the only Aussies showing, so we have to travel to locate majors. Sometimes we have 5 or 6 Aussies showing, sadly not very many.

13. Have you seen other Finnish Aussies in nature?

Yes!

Zippy -- Nellyson's Mr. Dont Skip the Zip. Breeder: Tina Nordgren, Sweden

Luna--TWEE-DLE-DEE LOST IN SPACE. Breeders: Carin and Roger Sandahl, Sweden

Both beautiful Aussies, great representatives of the breed. I was very happy to see them and spend some time with Zippy and Luna and their owners Jim and Cheryl Mechalke. Not only are they beautiful they have wonderful temperaments. My daughter Ellie showed Luna and won BOS and WB at a show October 2009, it was wonderful.

14. Which things you consider best things in Aussies in your country and which good be better?

They are so versatile. They love their families; they are easy to train, full of life and so entertaining. They do well in either the country or the city and are great with other dogs and even cats.

15. In our country we don't have professional handlers as far as I know (or perhaps only a few), so breeders and owners do they own showing. Do you have professional's? Would you use professional handler or like more owner-handlers?

We have not used a Professional Handler because my daughters enjoy showing and I think it's nice if they can champion their own dogs. I also think it's important for my daughters to dress and act professionally while handling their dogs. This is part of learning and having others take you seriously.

That being said, I do think that there is a place for the Professional Handlers. I think they can teach us non- professional handlers many things. Many are wonderful groomers and we've even had one while in a group ring, very kindly take my daughter under her wing.

So, for us right now, we handle ourselves, at our own pace, but perhaps in the future we too may rely on a Professional Handler.

16. Could you girls tell a little bit about themselves and what doggie related things mean to them? Are they friend's also Aussie fans? Do they doggie related pen pals? What is important in competing, any tips to other juniors with dogs? Are there some negative sides in doggie sport? And how adults behave in the ring in they point of view, and how they treat junior handlers?

The girls started showing in 2008, we didn't know what we were doing. The girls had tee shirts with their dogs name on them, I had OVER stripped the dogs' coat, and we were a disaster. However, a nice and very well known Australian Terrier Judge gave us positive feedback and a steward recommended training classes. We immediately started training, I looked at many photos of Aussies on line and picked up a few grooming tips from friends. We've come a long way since that first show!

Lydia is 15 years old and started showing her bitch Kaih when she was 13 years old. Ellie is 11 years old and started showing her bitch Dakota when she was 9 years old. They both started out in Novice Junior according to our age group. They both moved into the next class, called Open Junior within the first year showing.

These were the perfect ages to start Junior Showmanship!

Ellie loves showing terriers! She shows both Dakota and Beckham and is so excited to begin showing her Bred By Aussie, Gabby this year. Ellie has championed her own dog, Dakota and earned every point by herself.

Lydia showed our now deceased Harley so when he died; it was very difficult for her to show Australian Terriers. She still shows Kaih, but actually prefers showing her Australian Shepherd.

Both girls have been to group many times showing their Australian Terriers, haven't yet placed in group, but there is always next time.

In 2009 Ellie was ranked 3rd top Junior Handler of Australian Terriers in the US, Lydia was ranked 7th top Junior Handler of Australian Terriers in the US.

Our kennel club, The Cambridge Kennel Club was a great place for all of us especially when we were new to the sport. They have been incredibly welcoming and helpful. We all help at our annual show, stewarding, or helping where there is a need. They girls help with hospitality. They have met several friends at this annual show and see many of the same juniors at the shows across the country.

The juniors that we see are courteous and display good sportsmanship.

One of the best tips they say is to get to the ring early and watch the group ahead of you. You can learn so much by watching, including what that particular judge may like or not like. Some judges don't like when you look or smile at them, some judges don't like the courtesy turn, some expect it. So if you're not in the first junior group showing that day, get there early and watch closely.

17. Could you tell us something about your visits to nursing home? Which kind of Aussie you will take to a trip there? How to get started? Would you have some pics about that?

Yes, we love taking the dogs to the nursing home! About once a month, less lately, we usually take, Kaih and Dakota to visit the elderly in the nursing home in our town.

They are always welcomed and the people are so excited to see them. Some of the residents could sit and pet the dogs all day long. Many are wheelchair bound or can't speak well, but to see their faces beaming is so gratifying. Sometimes, they start to cry when they tell us about the dogs they once had.

Our dogs are very well behaved sometimes they get over excited and jump up, as you can imagine. They are so friendly and I think they look forward to visiting too.

It's a wonderful and touching experience for everyone.

18. Free words (for example about why Aussie International or tell something about you lovely Puppy booklett etc.)

Australian Terrier International is the creation of Pamela Levy. She along with others including myself wanted an Australian Terrier organization that was for everyone across the globe. The vision of ATI is to serve the Australain Terrier's whole being, with a focus on health and education. Meeting the needs of those of us fortunate to be the caretakers and guardians of these little dogs.

I am thrilled to be a part of this organization I am a founding member as well as the Webmaster. The support for ATI has been overwhelming!

My Australian Terrier Handbook came about because when I was new to the breed there were not many resources available to me. In addition, to not knowing anyone in the breed and trying to learn on my own, I was repeatedly mistreated by one breeder. Simply put, I decided to put my energy into making a positive out of a negative and created this little handbook to perhaps serve others new to the breed.

With information and permission from the Australian Terrier Club of South Australia I created a handbook. It's for anyone, it's free and it covers basic information about the breed.

We now are so blessed to have friends in the Australian Terrier breed both here in the US and abroad. It's a wonderful group of very dedicated people who like my family, love this little breed.