

Mary Castoral

'Toral' Standard Wirehairs



When and why did you begin breeding Dachshunds?

My father bred German Shepherd Dogs. When I married my husband Frank, he didn't want a dog and I wanted a Shepherd. One of my children was frightened of dogs. I convinced Frank that we needed a dog to rid her of her fears. Frank looked at various breeds in the AKC book. He wanted a small, smooth coated dog and seemed focused on the Dachshund.

Another daughter had a classmate whose pet bitch had a litter of Dachshunds. We purchased the last male puppy from the litter. He and the rest of the litter were put down before to their first birthday. The litter had major temperament issues. We and the other owners did not know that both parents had bad temperaments. I hesitated to get another Dachshund, but we did. We purchased a standard smooth black and tan bitch. As time passed, she ended up with a vertebrae issue. We took her to Cornell University for surgery. They informed us that virtually every vertebrae was involved and that she was not a candidate for surgery. She was in great pain and euthanized. The family was devastated and once again, I was hesitant to obtain another Dachshund.

My love for dogs usually found me at the annual Westminster Show. I finally convinced Frank to attend with me. He was much taken with the Wirehaired Dachshunds. I was not yet a fan. We saw a dog at the show that Frank liked and there was an ad in the catalog that stated that a litter was available which was sired by him. The breeder was Peggy Westphal. I still was not on board. After much persuasion, we went to view the litter. I liked one puppy, Westphal's Berry, and he liked another, Westphal's Holly. We ended up with both and so it began ...

What are your greatest accomplishments as a breeder?

Over the years, I bred and finished approximately sixty or more Dachshunds. A few of which were smooths and longs. My goal was always to produce typey, sound dogs with good temperaments while breeding to the standard and correcting faults that turn up in the breed. I accomplished this to some degree.

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My first home bred champion was a standard wire - **Ch. Westphal's Timber ROMX** out of Westphal's (Torals) Berry and Vantebe's Draht Timothy. He was named Westphal's Timber at the time because I did not have a kennel name. Much of my initial breeding stock came from Peggy. With time, research and experience I developed a successful breeding program. Timber sired 19 champions, one

of which was Ch. Rose Farm's Moon Rockette W who won Best in Specialty Show at the Dachshund Club of America.

Ch. Torals Sun Set W (ROMX pending) sired twenty-eight champions. His sister, Ch. Torals Sunrise W went to Argentina where she became a top winning hound and notable producer. She finished her championship in the USA prior to moving South.



Ch. Westphal's On Center Stage was the winner of eight all-breed Best in Shows – unheard of at the time for a bitch to win. Her sire was Ch. Westphal's Barnstormer W and her dam, Ch. Sunridge Chit W.



I am also proud of my Westminster winners. **Ch. Torals Surrey W** won the Wire Variety two years running and was number one wire bitch for two years. Ch. Torals Killarney W also won the Wire Variety. Ch. Torals Sweet Bramble W was BOS at Westminster to her sire, Ch. Westphal's Shillalah.

Although my breeding program focused on Standard Wires, I also produced champions in other coats and/or sizes. Dogs of note include:

- Ch. Torals Truly Fair MW
- Ch. Torals Witching-Hour MW - placed over many standard specials
- Ch. Torals Innamorata SL
- Ch. Torals Blues in the Night SL
- Ch. Torals Midnight Hour MS
- Ch. Toral Jarice Rebel Classic MS



What have been your guiding principles when breeding?



- Research of pedigrees
- Get the best bitch you can afford
- Observe the dogs you have an interest in and their sires rather than looking at photos of them
- Frequent shows to interact with breeders and observe the dogs being shown
- Always keep in mind type first, then soundness of mind and body

What advice do you have for today's breeders?

I did mostly line breeding. I rarely did an outcross because you may bring in the good thing you want but you also run the risk of bringing in much that you don't.

Research the pedigree and the dog when choosing a dog to outcross. But even with that, there is still the possibility that you will not get something that is as good as you have or better.

Look for type, temperament and soundness in your sire and dam.

What advice do you have for a first-time breeder?

Research, research your pedigrees. Find a knowledgeable and successful mentor.

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