

Whippet Resource Center

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July 29, 2008

The July 2008 WRC Interview is with Kerrie Kuper-Barthelette of Karasar Whippets in St. Petersburg, FL. She has been involved with the breed since 1967. Below are her responses to our questions:

WRC: Were Whippets your first breed? If not, how did you come into Whippets?

KKB: My parents got their first Whippet around 1965 and I have had the breed ever since then.

WRC: Who was your mentor(s) and why?

KKB: I would have to say my parents were!

WRC: All kennel names have a history of their own. How did you come up with your kennel name?

KKB: It is a combination of my name, my sister and my parents.

WRC: If you could be someone else in Whippets, who would it be and why?

KKB: Probably Doris Wear of the Stoney Meadow Whippets because she really loved the breed and stayed in the breed most of her life.

WRC: Who is your favorite Whippet(s) of all time? Is this a dog that you met in person and were able to put your hands on?

KKB: As far as looks or conformation? My favorite of my own was my MBIS & MSBIS Ch Karasar's Preference ROMX.

WRC: As a breeder/exhibitor in Whippets, what is your ultimate goal in the breed, and how close do you think you are to it?

KKB: My ultimate goal is to produce a Whippet with a wonderful temperament as close to perfection to my interpretation of the Whippet standard. I have bred a couple pretty close but NONE have been perfect, YET!!

WRC: What is your most memorable moment in Whippets and why?

KKB: Probably winning my first All Breed Best in Show, it was my ultimate life time goal.

WRC: If you could “do over” one event in your life with Whippets, what would it be and why?

KKB: Being there for the birth of a couple of my favorite litters that my husband whelped that I missed!!

WRC: What is your advise for new comers to this breed?

KKB: Do your research and find a mentor to help you.

WRC: How would you rate the overall quality of Whippets today, compared to when you first got into the breed?

KKB: They are better moving but we have lost breed type in many individuals.

WRC: Do you feel that health problems are a concern in Whippets? If so, what issues in particular are cause for alarm in your opinion.

KKB: Yes, they are a concern nowadays the biggest problem being heart issues in my opinion.

WRC: What is your single-most positive observation about the breed or the people involved with this breed?

KKB: I think there are many responsible breeders who love the breed.

WRC: What is your single-most pet peeve about the breed or the people involved with this breed?

KKB: I think there are many breeders who have a blind eye to health problems and continue to breed dogs with ancestors or themselves that produce health issues. The promotion of stud dogs by breeders I think do a disservice to the breed in many cases. The use of popular stud dogs by many people can do a real harm to our breed.