The Newfoundland dog in Denmark



- from glory days to hard times

By Camilla Gothen

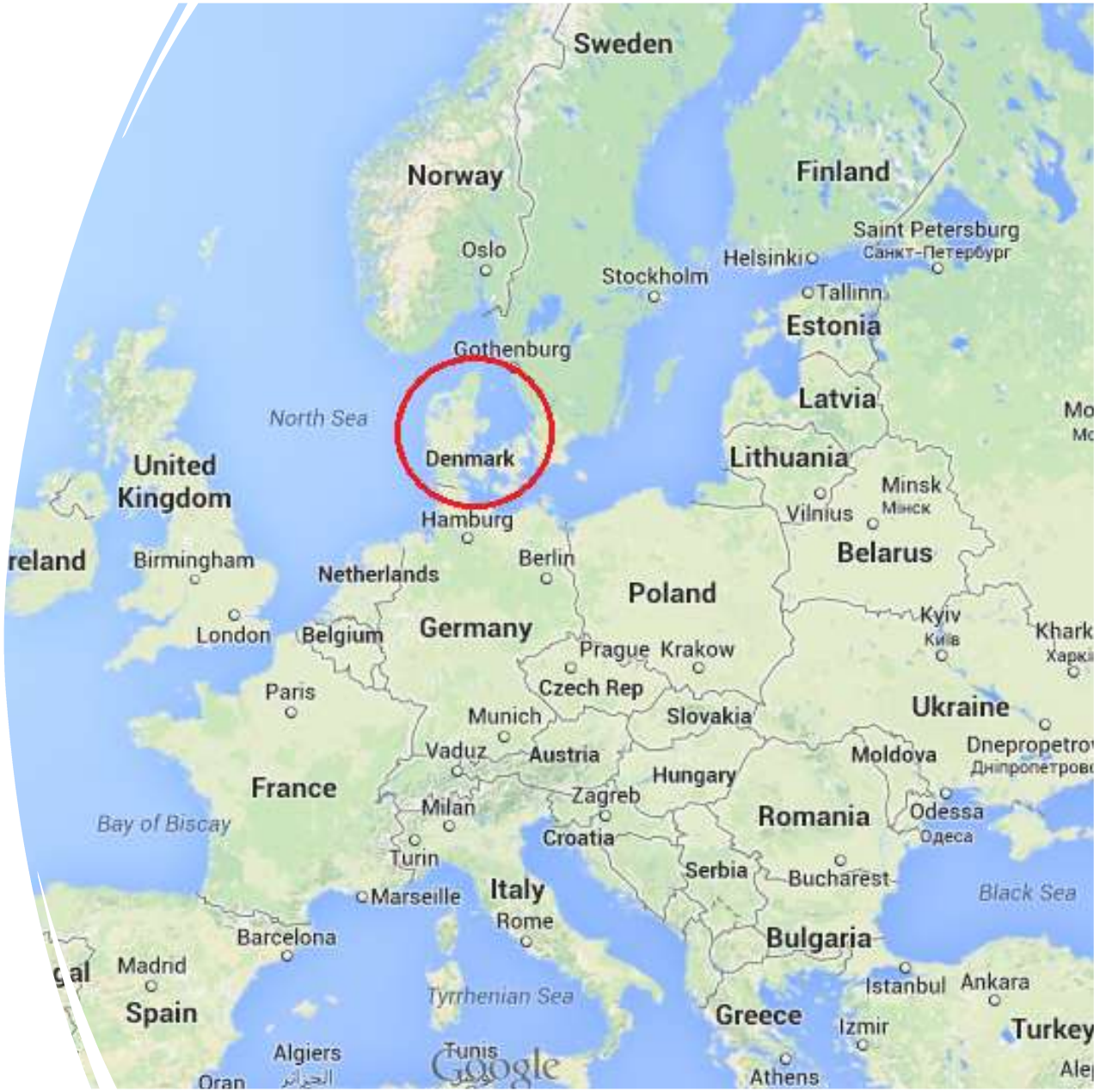
We've now learned that the Newfoundland dog was already loved through the last hundreds of years.
In Denmark the breed was also very popular.

- There was a time when Denmark was a very important Newfoundland country. Danish breeders were known internationally, Danish dogs were winning around the world, and our bloodlines were sought after.

- What happened?

Small country – great influence

- We are a small country but in the glory days the Danish newfs have had great influence on the rest of the newfoundland world.



September 1967

Newfoundlandklubben i Danmark was founded

60 members

25 years later (1992) 1000 members

The first years of the club

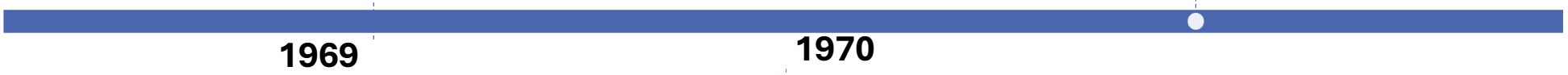
- Already in 1968 the club arranged the first Specialty Show
- Birgitte Gothen was judging the 78 dogs entered
- Exhibitors came from Norway and Sweden



High ambitions from the beginning: Foreign judges

Specialty show in 1969 a foreign judge was invited for the first time; Mrs. Jetske Pitertse from Holland, known as a specialist. She was very impressed with the entry.

German specialist Erwin Mayer was judging



Another specialist for the breed Margrit Jeannot from Switzerland had a big entry in Copenhagen together with other clubs.

10 year’s anniversary 1977

Two English breeder judges
160 newfoundlands entered.



Winter specialty 1978

- The famous all round judges from Finland Hasse Lehtinen and Rainer Vourinen were judging.
- 176 dogs entered
- 6 carting classes
- 10 brace classes
- 17 juniorhandlers
- Visitors from Finland, Sweden, Germany and Holland looking for new breeding material

1978: 11 shows with a total 701 newfs shown

1979: 11 shows with a total 901 newfs shown

The club started having obedience at their own shows. 12 dogs were entered

The puppy list: 47 litters born

1978: The Hitlist and medals were introduced and top dogs were celebrated at a gallaparty





1982:
First Winter specialty in Herning:
180 entries
That year 1342 newfeies were shown and 64 in obedience

1983:

- 1204 members of the club
- 16 shows – 1530 dogs shown

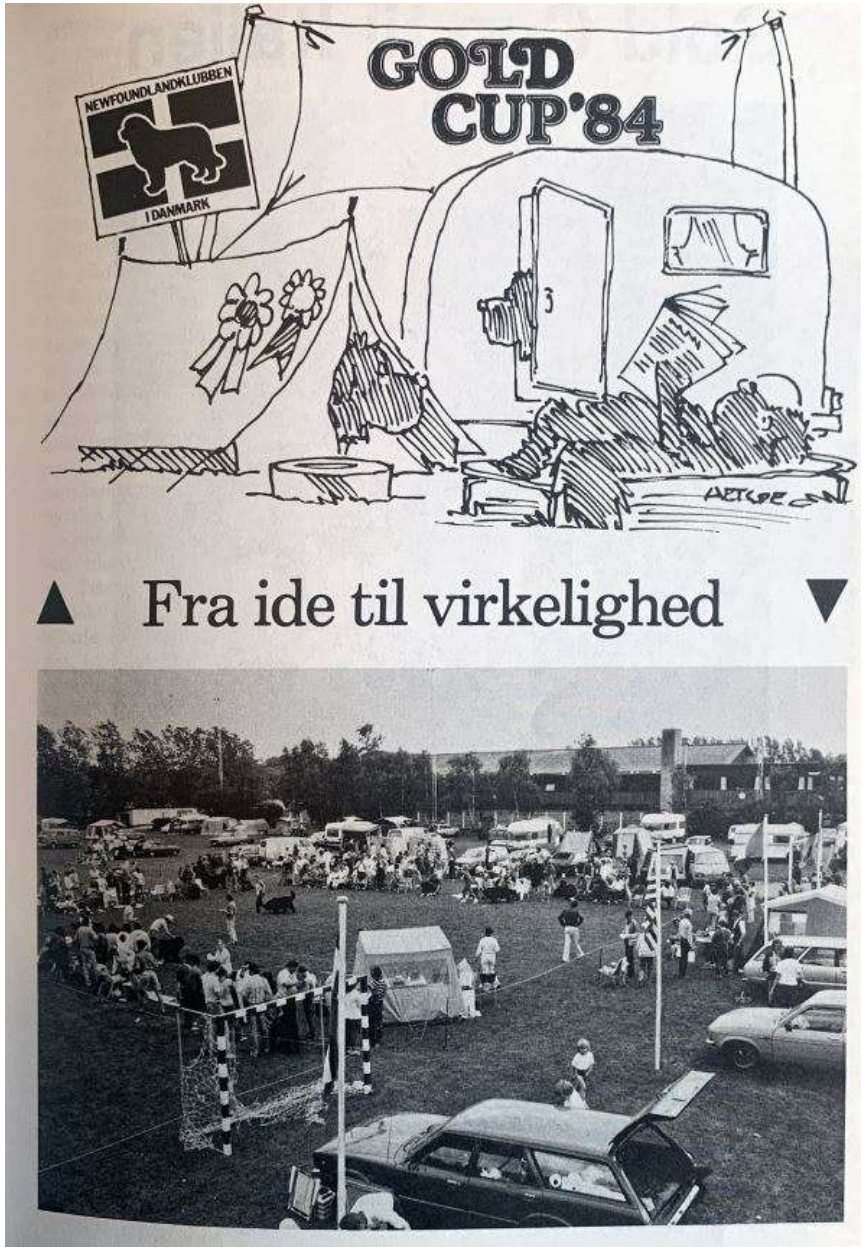


New concept: Gold Cup, which has been adopted by many countries and other breed clubs.



Entries:
1992: 265
1997: 278
1998: 304
2003: 287
2007: 160

now less than 100



The breeding today – the reality

(In Denmark and I think in the rest of the world as well)

The newfoundland in numbers is getting smaller all over:

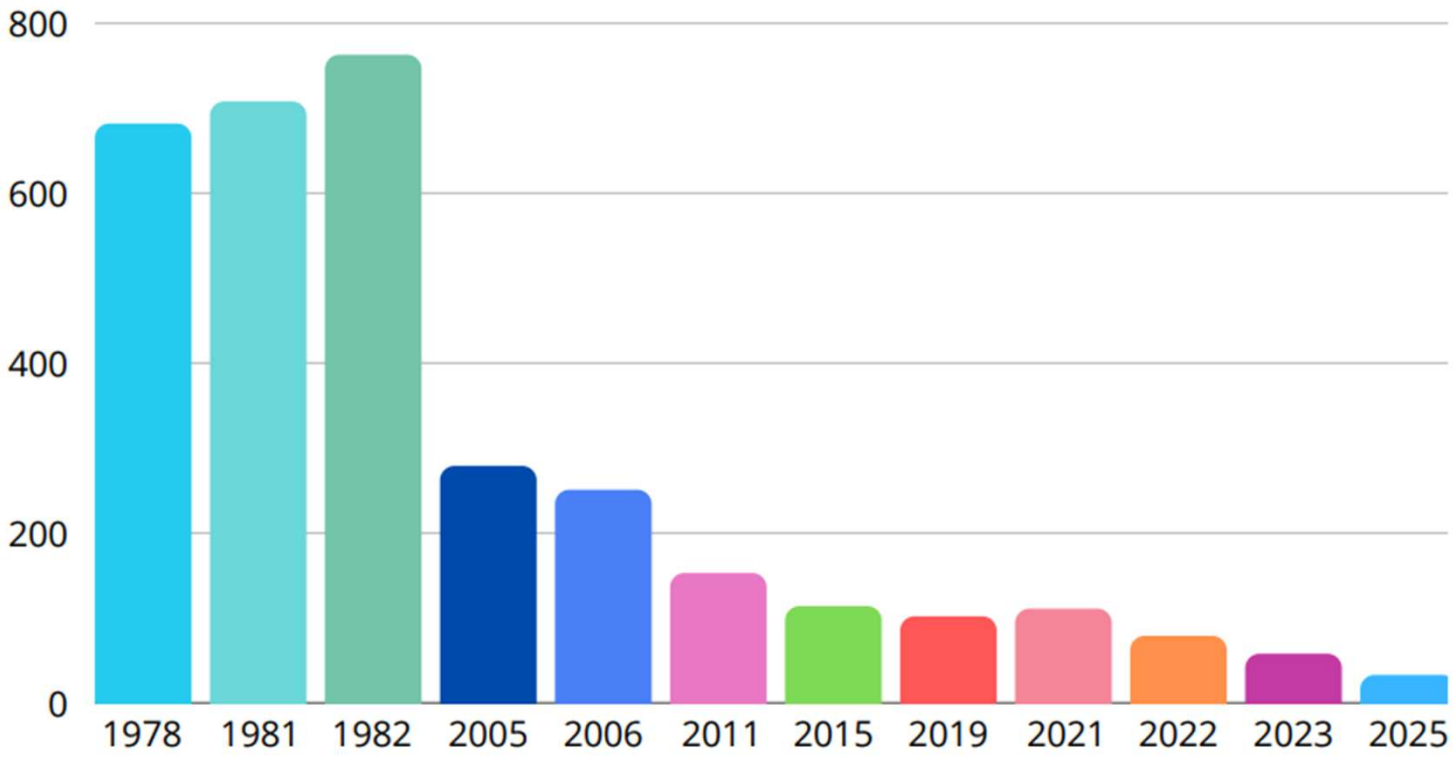
Registrations/litters

Entries at club shows

Active breeders

Breeding material

Registrations of puppies in Denmark



The highest in 1982 with 763 puppies
20 years later – 2005: 279
And 20 years later – 2025: 33!

Rules and restrictions

We have always been used to rules and restrictions on and off regarding HD and ED.

In July 2025 a new law from the Danish government was introduced and applies to ALL dogs – with and without pedigrees:

- Focus on health, animal welfare and responsible breeding.
- Specific breeds must be screened for diseases.
- Protecting bitches from too many litters.
- Avoid inbreeding.

All this is natural for us responsible breeders but as usual we are the ones being hit and not the puppy mills, which were the intention.

The big change for us is: HD D and E and ED 2 and 3 cannot be used! HD C must be bred to an A.

- We are already a small gene pool. It’s getting even smaller now that many dogs are left out of breeding.
- Are we protecting the breed or is it a limitation? A balance
- Gene pool is alike in other countries

We can never get enough of newfies and I will now show some important newfoundlands from the glory days to today

Back in the glory days inbreeding was normal. No restrictions regarding HD and ED. We decided ourselves how we would breed.

Specialty show in the 70’ies
Bitches awarded CK (champion quality in DK)



Int. Show in Copenhagen 1983: BOB competition





1972:
The revolution!

Caniz Major imported

Little Bear’s Royal Top Gallant

Born 1965 named Toppo

Sire of 56 offspring

Toppo’s progeny – all champions:

Ch Caniz Major Skibber – Ch Caniz Major Teres – Int Ch WW ‘77 Bernhard – Ch Caniz Major Carlos



Skibber with three offspring: Ch Ultima – Ch Ursulas Mrs. Macmillan – Black Bear's Sara



Ch Ursula’s Joe – 75 cm in height and still sound



Ch Ferro von Söven
born 1978
239 offspring

A very important stud dog in DK as well as in Germany





New blood from USA

- Tuckamore’s Big Dipper
- INT DK SE FIN NORDCH FINV89
- Born 1983
- 191 offspring in DK, Finland and Norway



CH
Topsy's San Sebastian

Top producing sire in USA

Tightly bred on Big Dipper
– half sister to half brother

Yankee Peddler of Pouch Cove

Also born 1983 in USA

Sire of 207 offspring



DK NO SE NORDCH NV93
Telebamsen Billy Bambino

73 offspring



Billy Bambino offspring:

Ursula's Arctic Bear





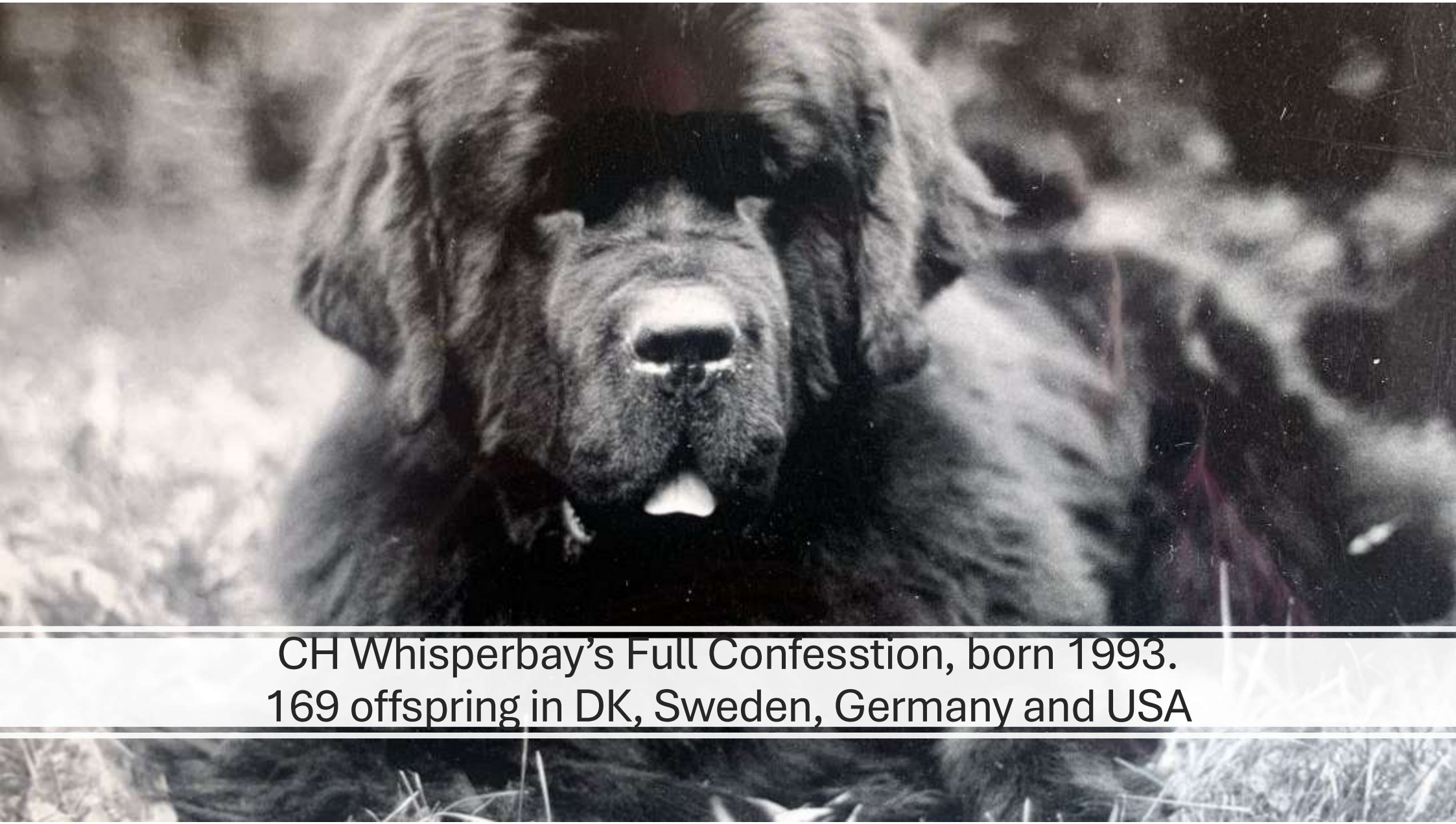
Ursula's Black Gold



Ursula's Beautiful Black Princess

Ursula's
Black Nestor
with
Brooklynbear





CH Whisperbay's Full Confesstion, born 1993.
169 offspring in DK, Sweden, Germany and USA



Offspring of Full Confession:
CH Newetta's Charlie Chap (1997)
CH Søens Perle Mr. Oliver Hardy (1996)





- Spring Creek Drop Dead Beautiful
- Brooklynbear Ambassador
- Cannon Bear’s Your’re Just Too Late











All placed in main ring at all-breed shows this year

2026

Ursulas Handpicked Flora

Newf-Dreams Sullivan

Newetta’s Created With Love

Today

We hang in there and do what we can.

The glory days will never come back. The whole society has changed – not just the dog world.

We use social media instead of talking and learning from each other. We live in a fast world with no patience.

In the show ring people think you have to wear the right suit and handle in a certain way. People forget that the dog needs to be good in order to win.

Future:

Activists: harder times at shows. First excample in Denmark: choke collar prohibited.

Will there be pedigree dogs and dog shows in 30 years?