RRCUS’ First Match Shows
AS SEEN IN THESE RECENTLY DONATED AND NEVER BEFORE PUBLISHED HISTORICAL PHOTOS

The Rhodesian Ridgeback was officially recognized by the American Kennel Club in 1955. But it wasn’t until October 1958 that the Rhodesian Ridgeback Club of the United States held its first Specialty Show.

In the interim, like any fledgling dog club that wanted to be AKC sanctioned and licensed, RRCUS had to hold two match shows. The first, which was benched, was held indoors in San Diego in December 1957. The second was an outdoor show, also in San Diego, in June 1958.

Until recently, RRCUS had no visual records of either of these events, save for a montage in the catalog for the first Specialty. But thanks to the generosity of Jo Dunn of Heronhill Ridgebacks in Canada, a cache of original photos has been donated to the RRCUS archives. The photos are reprinted here. Only one is from the second outdoor match show; all the rest are of the earlier indoor show. Where possible, dogs have been identified.

Surveying these images from more than a half-century ago, several thoughts come to mind. First, important chunks of our Ridgeback history are out there, waiting to be discovered. Second, the elaborate trophies and African pelts in the photos show us a club that was serious and proud to be the guardian of the Ridgeback in a new land. And finally, looking at the embryonic gene pool from which American fanciers began, we have come a very, very long way.

– Denise Flaim, RRCUS Historian

ABOUT THE PHOTOS

These photos were donated to the RRCUS Archives by Jo Dunn of Heronhill Ridgebacks in Canada. They are an important piece of American Ridgeback history and we are grateful to Jo for her generous donation.
1ST RRCUS PLAN A SANCTIONED MATCH

Electric Building – Balboa Park
San Diego, California
Sunday, Dec. 15, 1957

Judge was Mr. Lewis H. Starkey of Pasadena, Calif.
Steward was Curtis M. Brown

**BEST IN MATCH**
Mission's John of Gazeley
Owned by Lamarde Perro Kennel, Reg.
Handled by Harry Sanger
Bred by Julia F. Minotto
*Ch Marco Polo of Gazeley x Vaal de Gazeley*

**BEST OF OPPOSITE TO BEST IN MATCH**
Rhani of Swahili
Owned and bred by Col. M.B. DePass
*Ch. Swahili's Jeff Davis x Swahili's Dixie Victoria*

**BEST PUPPY**
Lamarde Perro's Disa
Owned and bred by Lamarde Perro Kennel, Reg.
Handled by Margaret Lowthian
*Am/Can Ch. Swahili's Simba of Columbia x Morland's Tanganyika Kopje*

**1ST PLACE 6-9 MONTH PUPPY**
**Stranger**
Owned by John F. Reardon
Bred by John S. Lindsey, jr.
*BIS Ch. Bimbo Ponjola of Kaybar, CD x Kaybar Konakri Juba*
Note: The sire of this puppy was the first-ever Best in Show Ridgeback.

**BEST PUPPY - LAMARDE PERRO DISA**
1ST PLACE 9-12 MONTH PUPPY DOGS
Lamarde Perro Chupa
Owned by Richard E. and Rita A. White
Bred by Lamarde Perro Kennel, Reg.
Ch. Chipinga of Zimbabwe x Ch. Rhani van Rosenhof of Swahili

3RD PLACE 9-12 MONTH PUPPY DOGS
Lamarde Perro Dingaan
Owned and bred by Lamarde Perro Kennel, Reg.
Handled by Margaret Lowthian
Am/CAN Ch. Swahili’s Simba of Columbia x Morland’s Tanganyika Kopje

1ST PLACE NOVICE DOG
Lamarde Perro Botha
Owned by Mrs. L.L. Gordon
Bred by E.L. Freedland and M.C. Lowthian
Am/CAN Ch. Swahili’s Simba of Columbia x Ch. Rhani van Rosenhof of Swahili

Note: According to personal correspondence from Col. DePass, “Botha” was a surgeried dermoid dog.
2ND PLACE NOVICE DOG
Mogel of Owlsmoor
Owned by Mrs. Ede Ross
Bred by Mrs. Hicks
Ch. Machamba of Mancross x Ch. Melantha of Mancross
Note: English pedigree

3RD PLACE NOVICE DOG
Mission’s Juju of Gazeley
Bred and owned by Julia F. Minotto
Ch. Marco Polo of Gazeley x Vaul de Gazeley
Note: A brother to the Best in Match dog

1ST PLACE AMERICAN BRED DOG
Lamarde Perro Cuango
Owned by Lamarde Perro Kennel, Reg.
Handled by Harry Sangster
Ch. Chipinga of Zimbabwe x Ch. Rhani van Rosenhof of Swahili

2ND PLACE AMERICAN BRED DOG
Miken of Zimbabwe
Owned by Robt. H and Jean L. Stowers
Bred by Russel M. and Sheelagh Ewbank
Chaka of Broadridge x Broadridge Sally of Barba
2ND PLACE OPEN DOG
Sabi Witch Doctor
Owned by William A. Kelders
Bred by Russel M. and Sheelagh Ewbank
*Chaka of Broadridge x Broadridge Sally of Banba*

1ST PLACE NOVICE BITCH
Princess Mpika of Kafu
Owned by Mr. and Mrs. Guy Kay
Bred by William Kelders
*Outspan's Witch Doctor x Mshika of the Outspan*

1ST PLACE AMERICAN BRED BITCH
Lamarde Perro Buriana
Owned by Lamarde Perro Kennel, Reg.
Handled by Harry Sangster
*Am/Can Ch. Swahili's Simba of Columbia x Ch. Rhani van Rosenhof of Swahili*

2ND PLACE AMERICAN BRED BITCH
Lamarde Perro Busura
Owned by Lamarde Perro Kennel, Reg.
Handled by Harry Sangster
*Am/Can Ch. Swahili's Simba of Columbia x Ch. Rhani van Rosenhof of Swahili*

OPEN BITCH
Gwela The Rhodesia Star
Owned and bred by William A. Kelders
*Outspan's Witch Doctor x Mshika of the Outspan*
2ND RRCUS PLAN A
SANCTIONED MATCH

Sixth and Olive – Balboa Park
San Diego, California
Monday, June 23, 1958

Judge Mr. Robert L. Wiel

33 Ridgebacks, 10 absentees

BEST IN MATCH
Rhani of Swahili

Owned and bred by Col. M.B. DePass
Ch. Swahili's Jeff Davis x Swahili's Dixie Victoria

2ND MATCH - BEST IN MATCH - RHANI OF SWAHILI