

She was bred to "Jake"—Am/Can Ch Ventura New Attitude (Ch Mainstay Attitude Adjustment ex Am/Can Ch Romaine's Con-tessa)—which produced two champions, Ch Madeira As Life Goes On ("Desi") and BIS/BISS Ch Cindahope Picture Perfect, AOM, CC ("Kissy").

"Kissy" was our puppy back, and I could immediately see that she had a personality that was perfect for the show ring with the structure and movement to match. Going away, she exhibited the slight V, with a space between the hock and correct single tracking. This allowed for balance on the corners without "Kissy" changing speed or breaking stride. We co-owned her with Kathy Dziegiel (yet another productive co-ownership), and Kathy finished her in no time and showed her to more than 100 BBs and an Award Of Merit at the 1999 ASSA National.

"Kissy" was bred to Ch Benayr Sentimental Journey and produced Int'l/PI Ch Cindahope Kylene Show Off ("Cagney"), who was imported to Poland in 1993, and BIS/BISS Am/Can Ch Kylene Cindahope Picture Me, Am/Can CD, AX, AXJ, 2 CC ("Bridget").

Co-owned by Karen Dickinson, Kathy Dziegiel and Arlene Bulens, they soon found that "Bridget" was as enthusiastic a showgirl as her mother. "Bridget" was bred to Ch Ozark Crest City Slicker, ROM, ROMC, and produced Ch Kylene Cindahope Pretty As A Picture ("Buffy"), co-owned by Linda Knight, Nancy Cooney, Kathy Dziegiel and Arlene Bulens.

What other family members share your passion for dogs?

Nancy: All the children had to help with the Shelties—feeding, changing papers in puppy pens, cleaning crates, poop patrol, breeding, and whelping.

Dick: They all have had dogs and cats most of their lives. Nancy's eldest daughter, Ellen, had three generations of our champions—"Bonnie Jean," "Tammy" and "Ruffian"—after they retired from showing and whelping. She currently has two other Shelties from us. Ellen also took "Spades" (Deerfoot's Queen Of Spades) to MIT with her in the late seventies.

Nancy: My middle daughter, Cindy, and her family have had three of our Shelties, and Roy's family has a Yorkie. Richard, Jr., runs the boarding kennel for us now and helps us care for our own dogs as well as being our official "lumberjack." Elizabeth does Agility with the dogs and has been getting more experience with Conformation handling. Liz maintains our Website (www.cindahope.com), and she is my right hand when it comes time to breed bitches and whelp litters.

Liz: I've been very lucky to find a full-time job where my boss doesn't mind if I need to take off early to help my mother



BIS/BISS Am/Can Ch Kylene Cindahope Picture Me, Am/Can CD, AX, AXJ, NAP, NJP, 2CC.

whelp puppies!

How many dogs do you now own? Where are they kept?

Liz: Currently we have 14 adult Shelties. Most are senior citizens. We just have three bitches of breeding age and two males. We are currently growing out three show-prospect puppies from litters last fall.



A few of the "senior citizens" of Cindahope, "Sunny" (16 1/2) and her daughters, littermates "Jessica Anne" and "Jeanie Frances" (13 1/2).

Nancy: All our dogs live in the house with us. Some sleep in Rich's room, some of them sleep here in the sunroom or living room, a few sleep in Liz's room, a few sleep in crates with soft beds in the dog room.

Dick: The dog room is in the back, off the large country kitchen, which we air condition in the summer to keep the dogs more comfortable during hot days. In the dog room, I built doggie doors that open directly into separate gravel yards.

How are outside bitches that are to be bred kept?

Nancy: When we have other females in to be bred, they stay in crates in the new living room so they are completely separated from the males. Keeping visiting bitches in the same room with us has the added benefit of helping them adjust more quickly to their new surroundings and making the whole experience much less stressful. When they go outside, they are put in a small covered run inside one of the regular runs for added safety.

I ask people to bring the bitch's crate and a washable pad. I use a sheepskin crate pad with rounded edges and put old pillowcases around them so I can easily tell how much each bitch has been bleeding and what color. I also use Wysong Estrus Strips to help determine readiness. I like the bitches to come early and stay late.

Where do your bitches whelp?

Nancy: We set up an area in the living room where it's warm, and there is always someone there to keep an eye on them. I use a whelping box surrounded by an ex-pen so the mother can be with the puppies but also have a little space to walk around. I use heat lamps if I need to and make soft mats that are changed daily to keep the puppies warm and give them some traction for nursing.