

**Monika BLAHA**

I have grown up with dogs of different breeds of which the first I remember was a shepherd-mix, followed by a Poodle, a Fox-Terrier, an Irish Setter and a Teckel (dachshund).

My aunt bred long haired Dachshunds very successfully and during my school days I accompanied her to shows and at that time I was infected with the show virus.

In 1970 I got my first Cocker Spaniel which sadly died at an early age. Cocker Spaniels are flushing dogs and therefore I did the test for the hunting license and handled all my dogs as gun dogs in field and wood. I imported the first Austrian Field Spaniel from the UK which became a world winner, and had a very successful show career, as well as when judging in Portugal I discovered the Podengo Portugues Pequeno which I have since imported from Portugal.

In 1975 I became a member of the Austrian Spaniel Club and have supported the committee for nearly 25 years, fulfilling different roles such as treasurer, secretary, breeding manager and chairman. I have also been a member of the ÖKV committee and for many years now I have been a member on their advisory board.

Since 2012 I am president for the Austrian Toy club and am responsible for the breeding for our breeds. I started judging in 1988 for all Spaniel breeds of the FCI group 8, expanded my judging profile for more and more breeds until 2009 I got permission to judge all breeds.

At the moment there is a Labrador Retriever in our home, which keeps my husband busy. I am very thankful to my husband for his support in my cynological activities.

My motto is: “a life without a dog is no life”.