

Dreams can come true!

The foundation years for Pomquest Pomeranians

Welcome from “down under” Australia! We are Sandy Barrington-Rowe and Brett Abraham of Pomquest Pomeranians living in the beautiful State of Queensland. We are members of the American Pomeranian Club and many thanks for the invitation to tell our story in the Pomeranian Review.

We have been together as a couple for almost 13 years. We had been successfully breeding, showing and racing horses but then Pomeranians became our new passion in life and we gradually transitioned away from horses and focussed entirely on breeding and exhibiting Pomeranians. We purchased our first Pom, “Spud” (Winterspell Picollo) in November 2006 from breeders Sue and

Daryl Morris who lived quite close to us. We quickly became very good friends with them and they have been a big part of our successful journey with Poms. Spud was only meant to be a pet for us but we were encouraged to go along to shows with Sue and Daryl so we thought we would give it a go. Spud was the perfect start for us as he was good enough to compete and not discourage us, but then not good enough to give us an unrealistic picture of the work we needed to do to reach similar success that we have had in the horse world. He was initially shown by Sandy but then

later when we expanded our show team to 2 with the arrival of “Boo” (Cupidtown Anniversary), Sandy showed Boo with Brett showing Spud and we continued to gain experience handling and grooming throughout 2007 and by then we had

most definitely caught the dog showing bug!

With our past horse breeding background it was a given for us to take the next step in to breeding Poms also. After a frustrating search for a quality foundation bitch, Sue and Daryl generously gave us Spud’s littermate sister “Jill” (Winterspell Sara Nade) to help us get started on the basis that some time down the track we would give them a daughter back if she ever produced one.



Proud Breeders of BISS at Pomeranian Club of NSW

In late 2007 we ventured off on our first road trip to compete in Australia’s only Breed Specialty Show held bi-annually in Sydney, about a 12 hour drive away. This had become a “must do” for us as we wanted to meet the various breeders we had been in contact with by phone and email and also look at the different bloodlines firsthand to understand the strengths and weaknesses of each. This was an influential moment in the foundation of Pomquest as we came away knowing exactly what lines we preferred to initially use and where to get them.

In particular we met Margaret Munro (Solinca Pomeranians) who has been a valued mentor to us ever since. Margaret's unheralded stud dog "Cisco" (Amorea Dark Sandshells) was determined by us to be the best choice mating for our girl Jill and in April 2008 our debut Pomquest litter arrived with Jill whelping a singleton puppy "Wookie" (Pomquest A New Player). Cisco was never shown due to an accident so he didn't have a Ch title in front of his name and most likely would not ever have been a top winner even if he had been shown. Cisco had at that time never produced a Champion though he was then 4 years old but based on our past horse breeding knowledge we considered him physical and genetic gold in our opinion to the right bitch. Jill "nicked" well with Cisco but it would be her maternal half-sister "Panda" (Aust Ch Winterspell Witchcraft) that we felt was even better suited on type and pedigree to use with Cisco and we were fortunate to convince Sue and Daryl to mate Panda with Cisco, provided we arranged the mating then whelped and raised the litter we would get the first pick of the litter. In October 2008 Panda had a litter of 3 boys. This was her one and only litter but it was tremendously successful one.....

"Merlin" (Winterspell Wizard) was our pick of the litter, retained by us and being shown by Brett he would go on to be our first ever Best in Show winner! His brother "Salem" (Winterspell Warlock) was sold by Sue and Daryl to another show home but we were able to buy him as a young adult and then when being shown by Sandy he too became a Best in Show winner! Both of these BIS winning littermates have also gone on to sire BIS winners for us too so this litter of Cisco and Panda has had a huge influence on our show and breeding success.

Also during 2008 we continued to search for Poms of the lines that we were seeking to show and ultimately breed on with. One of these was the bitch "Fizz" (Luarts Superstar Dreams) who was purchased by Ray Ching-Kok Chan and placed with us to show. Ray had been chasing a quality Pom for ages and kept getting knocked back but he was finally offered Fizz though she was deemed very expensive. In discussing her with us we convinced Ray that Fizz was actually "cheap" and so she came to live with us. Our faith in Fizz has been well rewarded, of her first 5 puppies (from 3 litters by different sires), 4 of them became Champions, 4 of them Class in Show winners, 3 of them Group winners and 2 of them Dog of the Year qualifiers.



Aust. Supreme Ch. Winterspell Wizard



Aust. Ch. Wintersepll Warlock

After a 2 year break Fizz's final litter of 2 girls was born in November 2013 and "mummys girl" will now live out the rest of her life as our bed bug. Ray had said he wanted one day to be associated with Poms that would be internationally competitive and although we had still done absolutely nothing of any note when we first met in 2008, he felt that in time we would get there so Ray and his wife Wendy became partners in the Pomquest dream and they have been great supporters of us since.

During 2009 things started to happen for us in the show ring. We had been having the "benefit" of competing week in week out against the best male and best female Poms in the country in Aust Ch Soffie's Buddy (imp DEN) and Aust Gr Ch Canton Country Classic (imp PHIL) which forced us to learn to groom and handle to the absolute best we could to have some hope of competing. When eventually we would have a quality dog it placed us in a strong position to get the best from them. That quality dog was Merlin! It was at the Brisbane Royal Show that year in August that he announced loudly that he was something special in winning Best of Breed at only 9 months of age over several BIS winning Poms. Throughout 2009 we finished 4 Poms to their Championship and Merlin finished that year as the #1 Rising Star Pom*.

On to 2010 and Pomquest had now moved up a gear as we were now consistently showing about 4 Poms concurrently between us. Merlin started going from strength to strength and early in 2010 he had won his first Toy Group, then on his third Toy Group win in May 2010 he and Brett went on to win an All Breeds Best in Show and what a day that was! During that year Sandy also won Runner Up Best in Shows with both Salem and "Monnie" (Soffie's C'mon (imp DEN)) so we were getting success right across the show team. It was at the Pomeranian Club of NSW Show in November 2010 when the local Pom show scene probably really took notice as from a Speciality Show entry of 94 Poms, Merlin won Runner Up Best in Show and our show team had won 3 of the 7 total classes in Show. We have always treasured any Speciality Show wins and this was a very satisfying result for us, but we were aiming for much higher goals yet and it would be our "Class of 2010" that would eventually achieve them.....

After our debut litter in 2008, we had no litters in 2009 but during 2010 we had 4 litters sired by Merlin and 1 litter sired by his littermate brother Salem. Of these litters 2 of them were using imported bitches that we had previously shown for Ven Grasso (Neadthav Pomeranians).



Aust. Ch. Pomquest Dare To Dream



Aust. Ch. Pomquest Don't Ya Wish

After a run of bad luck Ven chose to exit Pom's and we were fortunate to be offered the opportunity to buy his quality imported bitches "Bubbles" (Soffie's Bubbla (imp DEN) and Monnie, both of which Sandy had shown to their Champion titles. It is from 3 of these 5 litters of 2010 that we went on to achieve all our initial goals and set us up well for our next breeding phase. Our Class of 2010 included our "D" litter from Merlin/Fizz producing "Pop" (Pomquest Dare To Dream) and "Soda" (Pomquest Don't Ya Wish), our "E" litter from Merlin/Bubbles producing "Topaz" (Pomquest Envy This) and then our "F" litter from Salem/Monnie producing "Richie" (Pomquest Fame N Fortune). All of these pups became Group winning Champions with Richie and Topaz both becoming Supreme Champions. Both Richie and Pop have each also produced Group winning Champions from their debut litters so they have been able to succeed in both the show ring and the whelping box, just like their parents also had done, so is now 3 generations of proven quality show performers and producers.

In 2011, Richie being shown by Sandy had an outstanding juvenile year and was the #1 Rising Star Pom, like Merlin had been, but Richie was also the equal #1 Rising Star Toy in Australia and the #1 Rising Star of All Breeds in our State of Queensland. He was a very exciting prospect as a youngster and when he hit 10 months old he came of age and became our first ever homebred Best in Show winner! Topaz being shown by Brett also had a

successful year being a multi Group winner and on turning 1 year old was Best Opposite Sex at the Breed Specialty Show. A highlight for us in 2011 was having both Salem and Merlin qualify for the Dog of the Year Finals in our State as well as both of them each having progeny, Richie and Topaz, also qualify for the Puppy of the Year Finals!

In 2012 the Richie and Topaz show continued with them both becoming the youngest Grand

Champions for their sex in breed history (requires 1000 points and only 6-25 points are available at any show) with Richie at the same time becoming the youngest ever Supreme Champion (1000 points plus 3 x BIS or 10 x Group). During that year Richie won another 3 x All Breeds Best in Shows with Topaz winning her debut All Breeds Best in Show, a rarity for a Pom bitch! She was also once again Best Opposite Sex at the Breed Specialty Show and won the Bitch Challenge at the 3 Royal Shows she went in



that year. Also during 2012 Richie's first son "Dollar" (Pomquest Ja Dore Papa) was a multi Group winner and followed in his dad's footsteps in being the #1 Rising Star Pom. That year we also were ranked the #1 Pomeranian Breeder and the #4 Toy Breeder amongst many longstanding and very successful Toy Breeders so we were very pleased with that result.

Then came 2013 and it was to be our most successful year by far! Richie was now 2 years old and fully mature and he showed his class in winning 10 x All Breeds Best in Shows during the

year on the way to being the #1 Pom, the #4 Toy and the #14 All Breeds show dog in Australia. Although his success in All Breeds shows for the year was fantastic, the biggest highlight for the year for us was when Richie was awarded Best in Show at the 110th Championship Show for the Pomeranian Club of NSW and had his name engraved on the Perpetual Trophy besides many of the great Poms of the past. In this show of 80

Pomeranian entries our show team dominated the results, with Richie and Merlin being the top 2 dogs, Topaz and Pop being the top 2 bitches and "Johnnie" (Pomquest Keep Livin The Dream) being the best puppy in the show, it could never get any better than that! That very special day was the culmination of everything we had been working towards since our first ever trip to that same show as total novices 6 years earlier. For 2013 we again finished ranked as #1 Pom Breeder in Australia and Johnnie was the #1 Rising Star Pom so making it the 3rd consecutive year

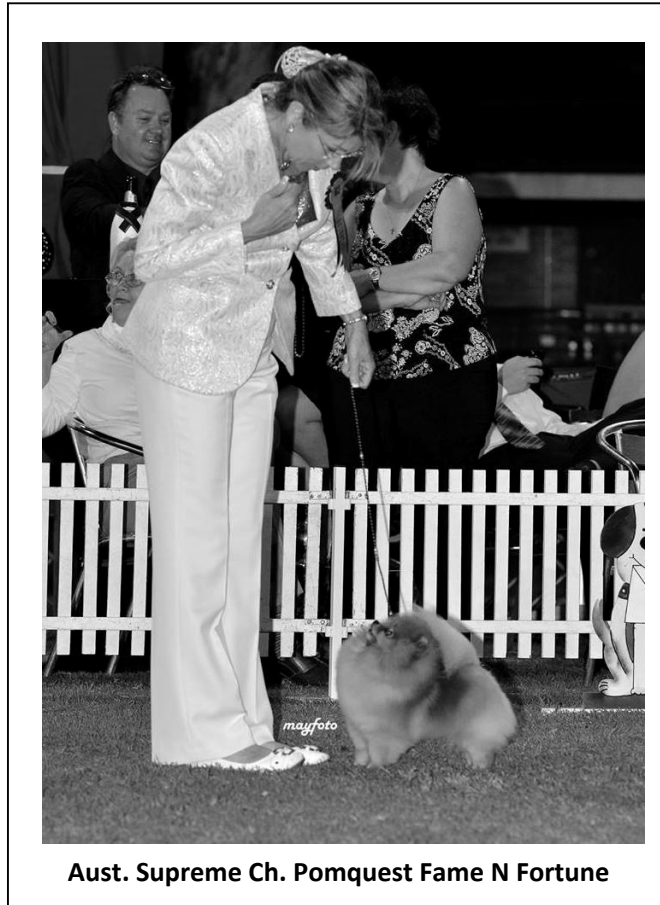
a Pomquest homebred has done that. As of the end of 2013 we had now owned and/or bred 22 Australian Champions, with 3 also being Supreme Champions. Of those Champions since we started in 2007, we pause to reflect that there have been 8 of them which have won BIS or RBIS awards, so that in particular it is something we are very proud of and really do appreciate what a wonderful journey it has been for us.....

After our Class of 2010 we had only done limited breeding as we had been out having lots of fun

with them in the show ring. It is very difficult to do both successfully concurrently so we focussed on showing those 3 years. This also enabled us to assess development and understand exactly what we are dealing with regarding any possible health issues and allowed us to make better informed breeding decisions. Our Poms are first and foremost our much loved pets before anything else so they will only ever be lightly bred and every

mating decision considered very carefully. We don't ever intend having large numbers so ensuring that all our Poms can receive the quality of care and personal attention they deserve from us. We do though have quite a number of litters planned this year as it is time to take a breath after our hugely successfully 2013 show year and hopefully our resultant Class of 2014 can be the basis of ongoing success. In 2013 we took a leap of faith importing a Pom for the very first time and welcomed "Jontu" (Can

Ch Debonne's Sexy In A Box (imp CAN)) into our breeding program. We were seeking an outcross stud from a family tree with great longevity, consistent soundness and importantly having correct coats and we are very thankful to Dewayne Ward for entrusting Jontu into our care. His first litter was born late in 2013 and is showing us everything we want to see at this young age and we look forward to seeing them develop. Jontu came to us to be a stud dog only as he was already 5 years old and fulfils our preference to use older



Aust. Supreme Ch. Pomquest Fame N Fortune

males where possible and limit the use of younger males where there are still many unknowns with them. In 2014 we also plan to use our homebred boys, Richie and Soda as they both approach 4 years of age.

What is the future for us? Today we live and breathe Poms and we are very much a team exercise with us both playing our important parts. We each share the handling of our show team and in general both of us has a dog and bitch to campaign concurrently. Sandy does comprehensive study into health and welfare, diet planning, puppy show training and does the long hours whelping/rearing the litters assisted by Brett only when needed or just when she needs sleep! Brett does all the detailed breed planning, study of bloodlines and does the regular grooming and show trimming. We focussed our initial breeding decisions on health first, then sound structure and outgoing temperament before finally type, as we feel that the foundation of BIS winners is movement and a show presence that demands attention in the ring. "Pretty" is just icing on the cake which we can introduce more readily after we have the health/structure/temperament foundations locked in right. Our experience in breeding horses had taught us to be our own worst critic and we don't kid ourselves on what is or isn't a breeding prospect and for that reason we have left many of our Champions out of our breeding program. We will try to avoid the temptation of taking any attribute to extreme and continually seek to maintain a moderate breed type, balance in health, soundness, and temperament as well as importantly a balance in genetic diversity and we do hope Pomquest Pomeranians can make a meaningful contribution to the betterment of the breed over the many years ahead.

After fulfilling all our initial goals in Australia, in 2014 we have planned to take our first step on the International scene and will be taking our

youngster Johnnie over to the APC National Specialty where he will then remain in the USA with his new owner Bonnie Stetson (Foxwudz Pomeranians). We met Bonnie on our second visit to the Nationals in 2013 when we attended it with our good friends Ebony Russell and Megan Weinert (we also attended the Nationals in 2011). This is just early days and Johnnie is to be our toe in the water, but in 2015 we hope to have a better boy come over and have a long ongoing association with Bonnie in the USA. Johnnie's name is quite apt as we do hope to "Keep Livin The Dream"!

Many thanks again for the opportunity to share some of our short history in the breed so far, we have been fortunate to have met with early success and it has only just further flamed our passion for this wonderful breed which we share in common with many wonderful friends. We wish all readers the best with their much loved Poms! We do have a comprehensive website www.pomquest.com so please visit it if you wish to see specifics about our Poms pedigrees, show and breeding history.

Cheers, Brett and Sandy 😊



Aust. Ch. Pomquest Keep Livin The Dream

**All rankings listed from Dogzonline National Pointscore.*