

# THE BORSTAFF STORY

---

My first Stafford early 1964 - my first Borstaff litter 1969

By Linda Szirer

Written by Emma Turner



It begins in 1964 not long after I was married to Joe. I was only 19 when Brutus came into our lives. He was a little red dog whose owner was moving to New Guinea to teach and couldn't take him with him. He was only 3 months old when he came into our lives. He was (on reflection) a lovely typey Stafford who was bred by my brother-in-law. He really should not have survived as he was born with a hare lip and cleft palate and to top it off a screw tail and was called Puss!! We changed it to Brutus and Brutus lived with us for 13 years. He was our introduction to the SBT

I decided I would like to do obedience with him but he decided otherwise. I used to travel by train from Ormond to Richmond station then change trains to Box Hill then a good walk to the grounds. My sister Helen came with me with her whippet. We had been going about 3 times when Brutus decided he had had enough. While waiting for classes to start he decided to lay down and with eyes screwed shut started shivering (typical Stafford shiver unbeknown to me then). The instructor came over and told me I had a "very sick dog girlie" I picked him up and started bawling thinking my little boy was going to die there and then, Ha, out of sight of the grounds he leaps out of my arms, a very happy little boy. We never went back to obedience and Brutus never forgave me. He wouldn't go anywhere with me unless Joe was there. Talk about smart!

We moved into our own home in Boronia (the first 3 letters became part of my prefix) in September 1966 and with Brutus came the family Scotch Collie Lady. Lady died a couple of years later and I decided I would like to start dog showing and I would like to get a Collie. At that time we were both working 5 and half days a week and Joe thought there was a lot of up keep with Collies so I suggested a Sheltie. He then suggested I get another Stafford. Well that's when it all started thanks to Joe. So now it was all stops out to get a female Stafford. She was to be my birthday present and cost \$45 plus airfare (my wage then was about \$20 a week). In those days you were very lucky if one litter was bred in Victoria and not much better elsewhere. We saw an advert in "The Age" for 2 female Staffords in South Australia and duly contacted the breeders, Rosemary and Ted Eling. Her name was Killibinbin Star Girl. I chose her because she had a white chest and white socks even tho Ted said the other one was his choice. She was born on the 14/12/67 her sire Killkeeran Billy Boy and her dam Loggerheads Fillida their breeding going back to UK Ch. Weycombe Timothy and Mountainash and Constones breeding. Bess as we named her was a big girl but sound in mind and body and all my dogs go back to Bess.



My first litter was born in 1969 the same year my first child was born there being only about 3 weeks between the 2. So Michael grew up with staffords and still has one as does my 2<sup>nd</sup> born son. They had no choice and have always had a Stafford or 2 as does my granddaughter. Going back to my first litter, the sire was Rappree Live Wire (UK) and of course my Bessie Killibinbin Star girl. From this litter I kept a brindle girl who became Ch. Borstaff Tigress, my first champion. Bessie became titled not long after her daughter. Tiger was a beautiful typey girl but didn't like the show ring too much. My second litter was born in 1971 and was Ch. Borstaff Tigress to Ch. Yagens Lad Oliver. From this litter I kept a red boy Ch. Borstaff Basil and a lady who became a very good friend took a red girl Ch. Borstaff Francine. Such simple names back then. I was besotted by the breed and there was no other breed for me. I can admire some breeds but I love the Staffordshire Bull Terrier. I was very naïve in those days in the early 70s with basically no one to guide me (not like now). James Craig "Cinderbank" prefix who had moved from the UK encouraged me and I was in awe and a little bit scared of him. He was

an allbreeds judge and I respected him .In the 70s I started

organising the Victorian Stafford Club. We had our first show in 1975. I was secretary of the club for a very long time. I travelled to the SBTS of NSW once or twice a year and so enjoyed them. I also flew up to the Staffordshire and Bull Terrier Club of Queensland staying with Dr Lois Davidson "Olmoday". It is a single breed club now.

I was in SA at the time of the formation of the SBTC of SA and had my input at the meeting. The Szirer family travelled to SA and stayed with the Elings at Marble Hill Norton Summit a couple of times a year, Ted was a stonemason and was restoring the governor's summer residence which had been destroyed by summer fires several years previously. We loved the area so much we looked at some properties with visions of Ted building a sandstone home. It never eventuated but we almost made the move. We travelled in a VW beetle Joe, me, the 2 boys and 3 dogs. The front passenger seat was removed for the dogs One child behind the back seat one across the back seat with head on my lap. I don't know how we did it but being young we did.

One other part of my obsession with Staffords was being involved with rescue. When we moved to Kyneton in 2000 Joe built me some lovely runs and then built some more for Stafford Rescue. My runs aren't your run of the mill type runs they had armchairs or a couch with carpet to lie on (not wall to wall)and to top it off grass with shade trees. They had a radio and in the rescue area we had a big screen TV. Talk about spoilt. For almost 20 years we ran the rescue, rehoming over 1000 dogs. We had our beautiful moments and our tragic and sad moments. But that is another story. My van came in very handy picking dogs up from pounds, etc.

I have been going to retire from breeding but it was not to be. My friend Sue Lugg has my prefix now Sue being a bit younger than me I thought my prefix would continue. We work very close together.

I bought a little caravan 2 years ago, we call "Sally" and off we go to shows and the "kids" love it.

I am planning a litter in 2021 so I haven't retired yet and you will see me and Sue around the rings.

Many years ago I used to talk about my old age dog and I'm ashamed to say I thought a Cavalier King Charles would fit the bill but NO I could not dream of any other breed other than my beloved Staffords. How could I after having Staffords since 1964 – last century!!!!

I will wind down my story as I could keep going on and on. The thrills of winning Best in Show at specialties is the greatest joy, my dogs or dogs I have owned have won a dozen or so BIS and 20+ R/U or opposite in show. Lovely memories. Renewing friendships at the various interstate shows and when they came down to ours. We enjoyed our shows at the Royal Showgrounds (until KCC Park) and after the show we had a sumptuous feast donated by club members. I must say I do miss those days. I have 6 furry kids now all in front of the fire on this wintery day. My dogs have always been part of the family and people often asked me if I was talking about the furry kids or the human kids. I've never had a car I've always had a van my first being an old Kombi (which caught on fire) but I always had a Van for all my furry kids they come everywhere with me.

Dogs I have bred or owned that have gained their titles BISS or opposite/runner up in show

CH. KILLIBINBIN STAR GIRL my foundation girl

CH. BORSTAFF TIGRESS

CH. BORSTAFF BASIL

CH. BORSTAFF FRANCINE

CH. BORSTAFF BRINDLE BELLA

CH. BORSTAFF MAD MAUDE

CH. BORSTAFF LIZZIE BORDEN winner of 3 Best in Specialty shows

CH. BORSTAFF ERMA BOMBECK winner of 1 x Opposite sex in show

CH. BORSTAFF DICKY DOODLES winner of 1 x BISS 3 x RUBISS and over 1200 points 1 x BIS all breeds

CH. BORSTAFF CECILY PARSLEY winner 1 x BISS

CH. BORSTAFF BETTY BOBBIT

CH. BORSTAFF WUNANOWNLY winner of 1 x BISS 1 x RUBISS 1 x R/U in show all breeds

GRAND CH. BORSTAFF SNEDRICK CRUMBB winner of 1 x BISS 3 x RUBISS

CH. BORSTAFF BAGGY TRIMBLE winner of 1 x BISS 1 x RUBISS

CH. BORSTAFF SEXTON BLAKE 1 x RUBISS

CH. BORSTAFF HANKY BANNISTER winner of 1 x BISS 1 x RUBISS

CH. BORSTAFF BAILDON BOND winner of 1 x RUBISS

NZ CH. BORSTAFF JOHN DUNBAR

NZ CH. BORSTAFF FINBAR FUREY

NEUTER CH. BORSTAFF WHOS A TOFF winner of 3 x neuter BISS 5 x neuter BISS

CH. NEUTER CH. BORSTAFF HUMBUG

CH. BORSTAFF BRONWEN



CH. BORSTAFF DORA BAGGINS  
 CH. BORSTAFF BOLDAS BRASS winner of 1 x BISS  
 CH. BORSTAFF BIZZY LIZZY winner of 1 x R/UBISS  
 CH. BORSTAFF KIZZIE winner of 1 x R/UBISS  
 CH. CH. BORSTAFF POLLY PERKINS  
 CH. BORSTAFF BARTHOLOMEW  
 CH. BORSTAFF LUSHUS LOLA  
 CH BORSTAFF BECKI BONDAGE  
 CH. BORSTAFF BULLDOZA  
 CH. BORSTAFF SUZY STEAMROLLA winner of opposite sex in show at the Brisbane Royal  
 CH. BORSTAFF LUVVAKISS  
 CH. BORSTAFF BETTY BLOKBUSTA  
 CH. BORSTAFF BLAKNBEWTIFUL  
 CH. BORSTAFF ALL THE RAGE  
 CH. BORSTAFF MORTIMER SNERD  
 CH. BORSTAFF SPOILED DARLING  
 CH. BORSTAFF DOROTHY WOOD  
 CH. BORSTAFF SUDDEN IMPACT  
 CH. BORSTAFF DICKS DORTA  
 CH. BORSTAFF GRANVILL BENNETT  
 CH. BORSTAFF BITOVA CLOWN  
 CH. BORSTAFF BURLS GURL  
 GRAND CH. BORSTAFF NED NOTLEY SOCKS winner of 1 x BISS  
 CH. BORSTAFF CATCH A CLOUD  
 CH. BORSTAFF NEVVA BEEN KISSED  
 CH. BORSTAFF EMMA OTTIE  
 SINGAPORE CH. BORSTAFF DOLY DIMPLES  
 CH. BORSTAFF FANNY FREDERIKA  
 CH. BORSTAFF BUMLE BEE  
 CH. BORSTAFF JUST BRING IT  
 CH. BORSTAFF GOLLY GOSH BY  
 GEORGE (WWPD)  
 CH. BORSTAFF DIDDYDOOIT  
 CH. BORSTAFF THUNDER MAKER  
 NEUTER CH. BORSTAFF HEY HEATHER  
 HUNEE winner of 3 x BNISS and 2  
 R/UNISS and 1 x BNIS all breeds  
 CH. NEUTER CH. BORSTAFF  
 BURSTING BUBBLES winner of 2 x  
 BNIS all breeds  
 CH. BORSTAFF DEAR DOROTHY DIX  
 BORSTAFF HUNEESUKL ROSE winner  
 of R/UBISS  
 CH. JEOLENA LOOK AT MEEE  
 CH. BOLDHART DAISY BATES  
 CH. BETHANE GALAS HIGHLAND TRIP  
 (Imp UK) winner of 1 x BISS

