

April 25<sup>st</sup>, 2010 in Petrovice nad Orlicí, Czech Republic

Dear visitors of the *Shetlandska hvezda* kennel website,

I would like to share with you the story of me and the dog Amethrickeh Apparition (nicknamed Pinto). I am doing this to let everybody know what is happening with the breed now.

I have purchased Pinto from the United Kingdom at the end of June 2009 with the purpose of bringing „new blood“ to the Czech Republic and to mate him. I understood the reasons the breeder was selling Pinto for (no more mating opportunities in UK) and considered it fair. I would like to point out that I did not get Pinto via an advertisement or similar means. I got the breeder's contact info from a good friend in the UK and therefore never suspected any problems.

After some lengthy bureaucracy Pinto arrived in the Czech Republic and was later officially transferred into my ownership. I took him to a dog show within a month of his arrival – his show career here started at the National Dog Show in Mlada Boleslav (18<sup>th</sup> July 2009) where he was judged Excellent 2, r. CAC. Pinto was a great dog at home and adapted very quickly to his new environment. However in the presence of strangers and generally in public, he sometimes gets panic attacks and is very fearful. I had no idea at the time why is this happening because he was so great at home.

Since the mentioned National Dog Show, we have attended at least one show every month and also had Pinto's blood taken for DNA testing. Pinto visited a total of 14 shows (8x Czech Republic, 2x Slovakia, 2x Poland, 2x Austria), being examined by judges from different countries (Czech Republic, Poland, Romania, Sweden, United Kingdom). At all of the shows – be it regional shows or the World Dog Show 2010 – he was always regarded as extremely good with unfortunately fearful behaviour which always caused him not to “show off” his ears as a proper sheltie. Pinto also passed the so called “bonitace” examination which allowed him to be a registered stud dog in the Czech Republic without any exterior faults on file (7<sup>th</sup> November 2009).

Our 15<sup>th</sup> show turned out a disaster – the International Dog Show in Brno (7<sup>th</sup> February 2010). The judge, Mr. Matejek, always checks the inner side of a sheltie's ears. He surmised that Pinto's ears were probably surgically altered (cut in the middle) so that they would bend correctly. Mr. Matejek invited another FCI international judge to take a look at Pinto and she tended to agree with his suspicion. Pinto received Excellent 4 because the latter judge knows me and confirmed that I did not do this to Pinto. It would be impossible with all the shows we have attended as such an operation takes 3 months to fully heal and parts of the ear need to be shaved for that.

I was shocked and immediately contacted the breeder of Pinto. She refused my offer of a reasonable settlement and suggested I sue the judge for slander. However I was sure that something was done to Pinto's ears (the scarring in the ear's tissue is visible to the naked eye and a careful examination by touch reveals the breaks in the ears' cartilages) and so I have visited my local vet (see the scan below). After I sent these results to the breeder, she told me that it simply is not true and that if I push the matter further, she will make sure that I never get any other dog from the UK and that she will sue me. She claimed that she had contacted the Kennel Club (who is supposed to have copies of all show results) which confirmed that no suspicion of ear tampering is recorded in Pinto's show results. I have asked the breeder for these results several times before, unsuccessfully.

Several weeks ago I called several court experts in human and animal pathology, veterinary matters and histological examinations. I have also contacted representatives of the Czech Veterinary Union for further information. Unfortunately after consulting with everybody, I have learned that it is not

possible to date the scarring properly, only that it is over 3 months old.

I have asked two Czech sheltie breeder clubs for an official statement. The first club responded by discussing the issue at a regular meeting of the board and acknowledged the existence of the issue. I am currently waiting for a statement from the second club. I am also waiting for the statement of the president of the Czech Cynological Association who is also an appointed court expert. He has seen the dog in person and will be able to issue a statement very soon.

Consider this article an information. I would not wish for anyone to be in the same position as me. Our animal protection laws and veterinary medicine are developed but not enough. The passing of the "bonitace" examination is life-long and cannot be overturned. Pinto is still available at stud. It is up to the decision of the bitch's owner whether in today's age of weighing-down ears for shows this constitutes a problem for them.

By writing this article, I would also like to avoid any and all accusations of mistreatment of Pinto. My doors are always open for everyone who is interested in the breed. Because it is necessary to be able to stop these deceits and bring the responsible to justice. I offer to everyone, even the people from abroad, to come to my home or to arrange a meeting at a dog show – so that you are able to look at Pinto and his ears and to learn how to check for such alteration.

No matter what your opinion on the matter is, please know that I am very sorry how all this turned out. Not only because I risk being sued by Pinto's breeder but mainly because the ear alterations are supposedly quite painful and apparently leaving psychological problems (distrust of strangers). I can only hope that a "professional" did the operation and that Pinto was sedated.

A special thanks to everyone who helped and supported me. I deeply appreciate it.

*Katka Pankova  
the owner of Pinto*

*translated by Lukas Krincvaj*

Veterinární zařízení: VETERINÁRNÍ KLINIKA GAYEROVY KASÁRNY  
ČSA 216  
500 03 Hradec Králové  
Tel: 495 518 809, pohot. 739 164 703  
Majitel: Kateřina Pánková, Petrovice nad Orlicí 60 517 21 Tyniště nad Orlicí  
Pacient: 018074 pes šeltie samec - Amethrickeň Appanition / 12.10.2005  
Dg.:

#### DENNÍ ZÁZNAM

Vytisknutí: MVDr. Horáková Hana  
Datum tisku: 10.2.2010  
Kontakt: 602 058 429  
Příjemnost:

10.2.2010 13:14:44

9.2.2010 18:22:40

Klinickým vyšetřením byly zjištěny pozůstatky pravděpodobných chirurgických zákroků na obou uších, symetricky v místě "klopení".

Vzhledem k pravidelnosti návštěv na našem pracovišti od 29.6.2009 je pravděpodobně zhojení tohoto zákroku již před tímto datem.

Ošetřil: Kolín Václav

Ošetřil: MVDr. Horáková Hana

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CSA 216  
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The owner: Katerina Pankova, Petrovice nad Orlici 60, 517 21 Tyniste nad Orlici  
The patient: 018074 dog sheltie male – Amethrickeh Apparition /12.10.2005 /

Printed on: 10.2.2010 13:14:44  
Date of examination: 9.2.2010 18:22:40

A clinical examination revealed remains of a procedure, likely surgical, on both ears, symmetrically placed at the ear folds. With regards to regular visits to our clinic since 29th June 2009, the healing after the procedure must have taken place before this date.

Examined by: Kolin Vaclav