

Mr Eddie Hurdle (Sunsalve)

I know that the past few years have been difficult ones for Eddie. Whilst I was at the Midland Counties Show I was advised that Eddie had been in hospital for a couple of weeks and the prognosis was not good. A few days later I received a message telling me that Eddie had died *writes Geoffrey Davies*.

Eddie Hurdle can best be described as “a quiet, unassuming gentleman”. The lifelong partner of Terry Nethercott, Eddie was the rock upon which Terry was to build the world-famous Sunsalve Pekingese, and to develop a career as a respected international all-round judge. Terry would be the first to acknowledge that the help and support of Eddie led to all of the great achievements attained by the Sunsalve Kennel, and by Terry himself as a judge.



The story of the Sunsalve Kennel begins around the early seventies. The kennel's first big break came in 1974, with the acquisition of an outstanding young male from Beryl Prior, that was to become the kennel's first champion, **Ch. Sungarth High Jinks of Sunsalve**. A couple of years later, a very typey, compactly built bitch, **China Bird of Courthill**, was to be exhibited by Terry, and to the surprise of many she won the Bitch CC (I believe from the Novice Bitch Class) at the London & Provincial Pekingese Club Championship Show under the respected breed specialist, George Quinn. This bitch was to play a significant role in influencing the history of the breed. China Bird was mated to **Toydom Trump Card** and produced the outstanding sire **Ch. Jay Trump of Sunsalve**, a dog who was to influence the breed as a sire throughout the whole of the eighties and early nineties. **Ch. Josto Madam Gaye of Sunsalve**, **Ch. Sunsalve Queen Bee of Lejarvis**, **Ch. Josto Airs 'n' Graces** (campaigning by Sunsalve), **Ch. Sunsalve My Love** and **Ch. Rossayleen The Gaffer of Sunsalve** were to follow in rapid succession.

Around this time Eddie was to take a more active role in the breed. He regularly officiated as ring steward at many of the southern breed club championship shows and at Crufts, where he managed the ring in his usual methodical and efficient manner, but with a quiet authority.

Eddie was never one that sought the limelight. He was happy and contented in supporting Terry, but thankfully he was persuaded to judge the breed, and he awarded his first set of tickets in 1990 at the Pekin Palace Dog Association. In total Eddie completed just six assignments, his final show being Crufts 2011. He judged as he lived his life: quiet, dignified, completely unflappable, and always in control of any situation.

I want to place on record the fact that throughout many years, both Eddie and Terry have helped a great number of the top winning Pekingese kennels, both past and present. Without Eddie and Terry's help, support, guidance and recommendations these kennels could not have achieved their success. It is hoped that the great kindness and support given by these gentlemen will be remembered. So many of today's breed championship show judges have also been helped by Eddie and Terry, and given the opportunity to award their first sets of tickets in the breed. I hope that these also will remember with gratitude the help and support they have been given.

As we grow older we become more aware of our own mortality. It is right and proper that we are always respectful and kind to those who have done so much for so many. My thoughts, and those of many others, will be with Terry. He will be absolutely devastated at this time, but he has the support of family and good friends. To Terry and Eddie's family we send our deepest sympathy.