



**Wolf Tone Viking**  
**June 3, 1997 – May 4, 2009**

*The following is an abbreviated and translated piece written by Viking's breeders, Elisabet and Leif Janzon (www.wolftonewhippets.se) for the Swedish "Whippetbladet" (Eva Engvall).*

The mother of Viking, Signum Soprani, was the most enchanting Whippet lady imaginable, always calm and composed and absolutely beautiful. She was our first Whippet and awoke our interest for the breed. When she was to be bred for the first time, we chose the very charming and well-known Int. Ch. Bohem Flight Time as the sire of the planned litter. The breeding resulted in one single puppy, Viking, our first-born. Obviously, he was special to us already from the beginning.

Viking inherited his parents' wonderful temperament, always behaved perfectly, calm and sensible, a real gentleman and the best "nanny" possible for young puppies.

Viking was not shown very much. As he was very special to us, we chose carefully his performances in the show rings. He got all five certificates from breed specialists, and ultimately he obtained the title Nordic Champion.

Many breeders have shown an interest in using him for breeding, not the least breeders in other countries. We are very happy that there are so many beautiful Viking offspring all over the world. At home, we have his daughter, his granddaughter, and two great-granddaughters. The legacy of Viking lives on, not only in his present offspring, but also in what he may produce in the future via artificial insemination.

**Ch. WOLF TONE VIKING**

It was at the Swedish KC's international show in Stockholm in 2002 that I first became aware of Ch. Wolf Tone Viking. There was a big entry of Whippets (over 120), and I remember getting goosebumps when he entered the ring. He was already four years old and not yet a champion; I guess he was a bit much for some judges, but certainly not for me: a very charismatic stallion of a hound with lots of substance, long lines and curves in all the right places, and an excellent mover. I had no hesitation at all in putting him first in the Open Dog class of 25, also awarding him the CC that made him a champion, and later also Best Dog over a slew of famous champions. (For BOB he was very narrowly defeated by Ch.

Hjortronblommas Gin-Kelly, one of the top Swedish Whippets ever, and my Group winner later that day.)

I had no idea who either the dog or his handler were, and was equal parts pleased and surprised when I found that Viking was partly my breeding, sired by Ch. Bohem Flight Time, whom I had sent to Finland as a puppy many years earlier. However, Viking no doubt got a lot of his quality also from his dam, a bitch named Signum Soprani who I understand was on the tall side for a show career in Sweden, but lovely to look at in photos. She was born in Sweden but of almost all American breeding, the result of a mother/son breeding to Iva Kimmelman's export to Sweden Ch. Merci Isle Whisper to a Purr. There was a little bit of outcross blood on Soprani's sire's side, but even that went mostly back to American imports — including Ch. Bohem Callas of Whippoorwill, who was the first U.S. Whippet ever to become a champion in Scandinavia after Barbara Henderson and I exported her to Nenne Runsten in the 1980s. When people later talked about what a great impact this "Swedish" stud dog had on the breed, it was in some ways misleading, because although Viking was born and bred in Sweden his pedigree was almost 100% American.

Iva could no doubt tell you more about Viking's dam's side; for my part I feel that Viking was if anything better than his sire, Flight Time. Certainly Viking had more length of loin although he probably was a bit less elegant than his sire. Both were excellent movers.

Although Viking was never heavily campaigned and didn't have the big specials record I think he deserved, it was interesting to find that among the judges who awarded Viking his CCs were breed specialists Pat Miller (Woodsmoke) from Canada, who gave him BOS at the huge Skokloster show; Bitte Ahrens (Sobers) and Knut Blütecher (Showline).

The most amazing thing about Viking was that in spite of neither a high-profile show career nor any real advertising, let alone any backup of a big kennel to supply him with bitches, somehow Viking's reputation as an outstanding individual and reliable stud dog spread far and wide among Whippet breeders. I'm not sure just how many champions he sired, but there are at least a couple dozen all over Scandinavia, Europe and North America, most likely with more to come: his last litters are not yet a year old and include at least a couple of puppies born by artificial insemination after his death. In my opinion, one of Viking's most impressive sons is the Polish-born Ch. Tytko Ty Viking's Pride, who won three majors during his visit in the U.S. (including 5 pts., BOW and BOS over specials under me): very much his father's son in most respects and apparently destined to have a big influence as an international sire also.

In the summer of 2008, during a visit to Sweden for the World Show and International Whippet Congress, it was my pleasure to see Viking again. He was now more than 11 years old and had suffered a horrible attack by a dog not more than a year or so earlier, so he was pretty torn-up and scarred. However, in spite of this he gave me goosebumps all over again and managed to win a big Veteran class at the Skokloster Sighthound show. I was glad of the opportunity to go over him outside the ring and confirm that everything I remembered about him was true.

The news of his death in May, 2009 did not come exactly as a shock, but it was nevertheless sad. I know that many Whippet lovers worldwide will miss him as much as I do.

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