



Ch. Rivarco Arwen, one of Europe's top Whippets in the early twenty-first century.

bred there. The male Ch. Rivarco Festival Jazz, a brindle with white feet and a blaze, accumulated some impressive wins in Europe. Part of the success of the Rivarco dogs is the professional-style handling in the show ring by Mauro Perna or Roberto Vincenzi.

A new addition since the turn of the century has increased the competition at shows in both Italy and the rest of Europe. The Sobresalto prefix of Annalisa Rovani and Arnaldo Cotugno is behind some of the biggest winners in Europe in the new century. Assembling a coterie of top-quality champions—including Ch. Airescot Gold Field, Ch. Showstar Just Me (grandson of Ch. Paris Panther), Ch. Rugiero Raimondi du Sac à Malices, Ch. Astrid Varnay (inbred on Panter), and Ch. Funny Lady of Gentle Mind (from two Whipcat parents)—from different kennels in Europe, the couple have most notably bred Ch. Sobresalto Jamiro Quai (Just Me x Astrid Varnay), Ch. Sobresalto Pourquoi Pas (Goldfield x a Nevedith-bred bitch), and Ch. Sobresalto Rendez Vous (Jamiro Quai x Airescot Justina Casagli). They have won at all-breed and specialty shows in their



Ch. Sobresalto Jamiro Quai with owner-handler Arnaldo Cotugno of Italy.

home country and also done well at the important specialty shows in France and Sweden. The reliable producer Justina Casgli produced a litter by artificial insemination from the late great American sire Ch. Starline's Reign On in 2007.

Further competition is offered by the internationally famous Sobers kennel of Bitte Ahrens and Pierluigi Primavera, started in Sweden by Bitte's grandmother in the 1950s and long internationally famous both for the Whippet's big relative, the Greyhound, and the breed's smaller cousin, the Italian Greyhound. They had occasional Whippet litters in the past, but in recent years, Sobers has become seriously involved in the breed, basing its breeding

program primarily on the Irish lines from Barnesmore. The first homebred Sobers Whippet champions have already appeared, to add to the list of more than a hundred homebred Greyhound and IG champions.

Greece

Greece did not have any organized kennel activity until the end of the twentieth century, but fortunately for Whippets, one of the guiding lights who helped form the Greek Kennel Club, George Kostopolous of the Allsatin kennel, is also a Whippet fan. His import Ch. Silkstone Olivia came from the best English blood and, bred to a dog of the best Airescot blood, produced Ch. Allsatin Greta Garbo, who in turn went from her native Greece to Sweden to be bred to Ch. Statuesque Extortion. One of the resulting puppies went back to Sweden and was later chosen to become the dam of a litter by the great American sire Ch. Sporting Fields Kinsman by artificial insemination. Kostopolous is now an international all-rounder judge with a soft spot for sighthounds.

Eastern Europe

As the borders to former Communist countries in Eastern Europe opened in the 1990s, breeders on both sides soon established contact with fellow fanciers. The long isolation from the rest of the world had caused an obvious type difference in Whippets, as in many other breeds, but after nearly frenzied activity, the difference appears to have been almost totally extinguished. Because few of the dogs from Eastern Europe have ventured west to be shown, a comprehensive report in these countries is not possible, but it is clear that Whippets attract many fanciers all across Eastern Europe.

POLAND

Poland has had continuous Whippet breeding activity since at least the 1970s, and annual registrations are into three figures. A handful of breeders have maintained regular breeding programs, the most productive being the Ypsilon kennel of Izabela Wiszniewska, who has bred over forty litters since the early 1990s, and the Lazarus kennel of Katarzyna and Wojciech Lazar, who have bred less frequently but have used both American and English lines and experienced great success at shows both in Poland and other countries. One Polish-born dog who earned international recognition far from his native country is Ch. Tylko Ty Viking's Pride, an upstanding black brindle with white markings who spent a few months in Canada and the United States, where he attracted a lot of attention and was used at stud. Although born in Poland, he was sired by the mostly American-bred Swedish stud dog Ch. Wolf Tone Viking out of the Irish import Ch. Barnesmore Hocus Pocus.

The most important addition, however, to Poland's Whippet fancy may be a kennel that has not bred Whippets. The Paranoia kennel of Tomasz Wolanczyk had been active in Dachshunds for many years before acquiring first one Whippet from England, and then another—both Ch. Cobyco Call the Shots and Ch. Cobyco Center Piece have lists of titles as long as your arms, each with championships in ten or more countries. Both are nearly solid brindle and both are sons of Ch. Cobyco Cavalier. Call the Shots—who won the Puppy Class at Crufts before moving to Poland—is out of a Justa Jesta daughter, while the younger Center Piece is inbred out of Cavalier's own daughter. Both dogs have been used at stud by breeders in Poland, Germany, Slovakia, Ukraine, Russia, Latvia, Lithuania, and the Czech