In Memoriam
The End of an Era
Cadbury Brown Standard Poodles

Frances M. (Fran) Fischer
September 3, 1940 – April 15, 2011
Pictured here with one of her recent favorites, Cadbury's Devil In The Blue Dress, TP.

Cadbury Brown Standard Poodles
Englewood, Colorado

April-May 2011 • POODLE VARIETY
IN MEMORIAM

FRANCES M. FISCHER
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Frances M. (Fran) Fischer was born in 1940 in New Jersey, where she grew up along with her younger brother. She attended college in the East and married her husband, then of New York. They had one child, a daughter. When Fran's husband's employment transferred to Colorado, the couple moved to that state. Fran was a teacher and taught at a parochial school after moving to Colorado.

It was in Colorado that Fran originated, owned, and developed the Cadbury Standard Poodle line. The true Cadbury line never left Colorado. Fran owned a traditionally-colored Standard Poodle when she received her first brown Standard Poodle in 1979. The brown bitch was a gift from her husband, who had obtained the dog from Roy Flowers of Dallas, Texas. Fran named the girl "Cadbury's Chocolate Clown" and the Cadbury line was born.

"Caddy," as she was known, was of Bel Tor (Rebecca [Beck] Mason) and English Greekmyth (Julia Taylor-Eggelshaw) breeding. Beck Mason of Bel Tor Kennels was a pre-eminent breeder of browns in the history of brown Standards in North America and provided help and guidance to Fran as she developed her Cadbury line. Fran and her Poodles often traveled to Pine Orchard, Connecticut where she and Beck spent long hours into the nights discussing brown Standard Poodles and breeding plans. Later, Beck bred Ch. Bel Tor Playing It Cool and Stormy Lane Bad News Bear to four of Fran's brown bitches.

Fran's line came from a background of breeding that was able to win in both the conformation and obedience rings. The brown Stormy Lane dog, Am/Can/Bmda/Mex/Fci Intl/ BIS Cil. Stormy Lane To Sir With Love, Am/Can/Bmda/Mex UD, Caddy's grandsire, won both Best in Show and High in Trial at the same show. Only one other Poodle in history has accomplished this feat. The Greekmyth Kennel was equally well-known in England where a Greekmyth bitch, Ch. Greekmyth Aphrodite, won the Non-Sporting Group at Crufts, the largest dog show in the world. Fran later imported another brown English dog, Greekmyth's Titan of Quilet, who quickly finished his AKC championship and was retired for breeding.

The breeding that Fran did with Bel Tor Kennels led to the ultimate breeding of Fran's "girls" to Tom Caneal's English import, Ch. Maefare Barclay, who was himself a top producer. Although many others bred to Barclay, Fran's breedings were the most successful in terms of champions, with her producing more AKC champions by Barclay than any other breeder. The English connection, perhaps, was in Fran's favor. Two of Fran's favorites by Barclay were Ch. The breeding that Fran did with Bel Tor Kennels led to the ultimate breeding of Fran's "girls" to Tom Caneal's English import, Ch. Maefare Barclay, who was himself a top producer. Although many others bred to Barclay, Fran's breedings were the most successful in terms of champions, with her producing more AKC champions by Barclay than any other breeder. The English connection, perhaps, was in Fran's favor. Two of Fran's favorites by Barclay were Ch. Cadbury's Kate Hepburn, TP, CD, CGC, "Katie" as she was known, was a puppy when Fran received her first cancer diagnosis. Fran also had another puppy at home and while being treated with both radiation and chemotherapy, and she decided that two puppies were too much. She headed to the airport with two puppies, one to fly east to a new home... Fran did not know which one. Off they went to the airport. When it came time to place the dog in the kennel for flight, something moved Fran and she decided to keep Kate. Katie became very attached to Fran's husband and he to her while Fran completed her therapy.

As Fran recovered, she came to love Katie and Katie loved her. Kate became
Frans star Poodle. She went to Westminster at Madison Square Garden where she was the only brown Poodle. She won nothing, but got big "looks" from ringside and questions, "Was the color real?" which, of course, it was. She later went on against the top Standard Poodle in the United States being shown by his top handler. It came down to just the two dogs and the judge was in a quandary. Round and round they went. The dogs walked, they ran, they stacked at the direction of the judge. Finally the judge marked his book and gave Katie the win. What a day for Fran! So many tears. She was so happy and proud of her Katie.

In 1995 Fran bred her Champion Kate Hepburn (Katie) to a black male, Champion El's Total Package ("Bucky"), known to carry a brown gene. The breeding was accomplished despite Frans misgivings about the match. Bucky's origins were primarily Wycliffe black, which Fran had tried to avoid. With the success of Wycliffe blacks, many breeders sought Wycliffe-related dogs, creating a tight gene pool and resulting in many dogs at that time being more closely related than first cousins. But Fran saw many things in Bucky that she liked. Bucky and Kate shared little common ancestry and thus had a low coefficient of inbreeding (COI). The combination was a success. The two produced, among others, All-Breed Best-in-Show winner Ch. Cadbury's Ruby Tuesday, a beautiful brown and Specialty Best-in-Show winner Ch. Cadbury's Here's Looking At You Kid ("Bogie"), another stunning brown. Ruby won the 12-18 month class at Poodle Club of America, no small task for a brown. Bogie was and still is the only brown, male Poodle to be ranked in the top 10 winning Poodles for five years. Bucky and Katie also produced Ch. Cadbury's African Queen ("Reika"), a beautiful black littermate to Ruby and Bogie, as well as three other champions. Ruby went on to produce Ch. Cadbury's Bright Lights Big City, TP ("SoHo"), who has sired nine conformation champions to date.

Ch. Cadbury's Fannie May with breeder-judge Ronald Rella and handler Curiss Smith

Ch. Cadbury's Fannie May, the other of Frans early favorites, has great-grandchildren sired by SoHo in the conformation ring today. Fannie is the granddam of Cadbury's Devil In The Blue Dress, TP ("Monica"), one of Frans more recent favorites.

Cadbury's Fabulous Fran, so named by her owners, Fran Green and Dorothy Fogg of Wyoming, to honor Fran Fischer and her contribution to brown Standard Poodles, is another of Frans grandkids. "Caddy," as Fabulous Fran is known, is pointed, including a major and a Group placement. She continues competing toward her championship.

The late Dr. John Armstrong brought breeders to the recognition of COIs (coefficient of inbreeding) by mathematically demonstrating to breeders how severely their dogs were inbred and describing how detrimental that was for the breed. Dr. Armstrong worked with a matrix that evolved into the Standard Poodle Data Base by Lynn Brucker. This data base provides the tools to help breeders plan sound breedings, thus decreasing the number of Standard Poodles predisposed toward genetic-related diseases. Dr. Armstrong thought very highly of Fran.
Fischer and was very approving of her breeding, providing detailed opinions on potential breedings and other genetic advice.

Fran Fischer’s task has not been easy. She decided to breed brown Poodles when they were at a distinct disadvantage at AKC shows. Poodles were predominantly black or white and many judges had difficulty appreciating Poodles of color. Initially, quality was sometimes lacking in dogs of color. Today Poodles of color and quality are recognized and rewarded in the conformation ring. Fran Fischer’s diligent study of the breed standard, pedigrees, and genetic issues guided her in producing a line of brown Standard Poodles that stands the test of time. Fran was proud of her breeding with Florence Graham of “Graphic Poodles” in California, Gloria Saunders of “Gloria Standards” in Florida, Lamar Solomon of “Macnill Standards” in Maryland, and Vicki Codrett of “Mistivale Standards” in Perth, Australia. Cadbury Brown Standard Poodles are known worldwide. Fran’s brown Standards can be found in Canada, Mexico, England, the Netherlands, Belgium, France, Germany and Australia in addition to the United States.

In March, 2008 more than 15 years after her first cancer, Fran was diagnosed with brain cancer. For the next three years she valiantly fought for her life. She has lost that battle. The final Cadbury breeding was of Ch. Cadbury’s Say Goodnight, Gracie to Ch. Cadbury’s Bright Lights, Big City, TP. The two produced Cadbury’s Fabulous Fran named for the person who will always be a champion in our hearts.

There will be no other true Cadbury breedings. Others may have a Cadbury or two in their pedigrees, but the Fran Fischer Cadbury line is complete. Cadbury’s Fabulous Fran is purposefully called “Caddy,” as was Fran’s first brown Poodle. The circle is closed. We have lost a great lady, a great champion of brown Standard Poodles, and a very dear friend. We knew her, we loved her, and we miss her. May she rest in peace.

Contributed by friends of Fran Fischer.
April, 2011

Left: Cadbury’s Fabulous Fran with handler Laurel Berg