



Snežana Kuralt, Slovenia

I was born and raised in Southern Slovenia a small town called Senovo. After my education I am a graphic designer and landscape architect. For 12 years I worked in Landscape and GIS Company, where I was head of marketing, public relations and project manager for the education department. Now I work freelance. My profession is graphic design and brand development, and most of my work is based on animals, which requires a lot of self-education in anatomy, which also helps me to judge exhibitions.

I have always had a great love for animals, especially dogs. Dogs and cats were always around when I was little, and I think it was meant to keep that part

of my love in life with me in adulthood.

I started to get serious about cynology when I bought my first Rhodesian Ridgeback (Cubo). But my love for this breed started years before when I saw a really impressive Ridgeback as a student, walking in the park with an old lady. And I was "addicted".

Since I have a Ridgeback, I wanted to spend some time and communicate with people who have the same breed. So, I got involved and was one of the founding members of the Club of Rhodesian Ridgeback Slovenia. I was Vice President and the head of the organization of our first special Rhodesian Ridgebacks show in Slovenia. More than 50 dogs participated in the show, which was a very nice number for such a small country. We even got Mr Hans Mueller. as judge for our first club show, although the show was not rated CAC.

Soon after that I started my training as a cynology judge, and in January 2011 I got the judge's license for Rhodesian Ridgebacks, Posavski Gonič (Posavatz Hound), Istarski Ostrodlaki Gonič (Istrian Wire-Haired Scent Hound), Istarski Kratkodlaki Gonič (Istrian Short-Haired Scent Hound). In 2015 I also received the confirmation for International Judge. I am also in process of expanding my judging activity to 6th FCI group.

I believe that judging is a question of feeling for harmony, type and general soundness and knowledge, with educating yourself daily. I try to look for the qualities of a dog, not for the disadvantages.

As I always say: In my judgments and evaluations I try to look first of all for qualities in a dog. I try to point out the excellent and good qualities and talk to people about what the dog is missing and how important these deviations from the breed standard are in future matings and breeding plans. Every breeder and lover of the breed should look at his dogs objectively. They may be our best friends and family members, but the game of breeding is in itself a delicate one. Only if we are able to admit the faults of our dogs, we can determine their importance for the development of future generations. There is no such thing as a perfect dog, but we can choose the perfect mating partner!

It was an honor for me to judge several specialties, club shows and national shows in Slovenia, Slovakia, Denmark, Czech Republic, the Netherlands and Germany. In future plans are to judge in Germany, Switzerland and upcoming EDS 2020 in Slovenia which was postponed to 2021.