

A few words about a very much missed dog Don by Margaret and Howard Butler

In 1990 Margaret and Howard Butler decided they needed another dog to help out their Border Collie, on their farm in mid-Wales. Margaret had always had a yearning for a Working Beardie like those on her farm at home. Howard was slightly mystified when Margaret set off for Stottesdon, near Bridgnorth in Shropshire. Unbeknown to Howard she had seen an advert for Working Beardies in the Shropshire Star, a 56 page daily paper with a large distribution area.

On arrival at the farm Margaret was shown both parents that worked on the farm and the litter of 6 puppies. She was lucky enough to have first pick and chose a dog pup with a lot of white on. So it was – Don moved into mid-Wales.

At first Howard did not understand why on earth Margaret would want a rough-coated dog whose coat would get matted, tangled and very dirty! He also doubted their working ability. Little did he realize at the time what an intelligent breed they are, with a wonderful temperament and character.

As a pup he was very mischievous and did not mature to his full potential until 3 years of age. He became a very versatile dog working both sheep and cattle. Collecting one, 2 or the whole heard of cattle was no problem. As soon as they saw Don they knew there was no escape!

He was a quite unassuming dog, but always in charge of the work in hand. An extremely faithful dog and if work did not involve animals he would be quite happy to sit with you for hours.

He did not like Howard holding Margaret in any way; he would jump up as if to say “Hey, we are a team of 3!”

In 1999 Don was registered with the newly formed Working Bearded Collie Society as one of the Foundation Stock. At the ripe old age of 10 he became a father of some fine litters of pups. All are doing well in their various new homes.

Don is greatly missed by all. When collecting sheep and cattle there seems to be a ‘missing person’, although Mot his son is taking on the responsibility well and is at the moment the only working dog on the farm. The next step is to find a young bitch pup who will grow up alongside Mot so as to ease his work load.

We remember Don with lots of love and affection.

