

Gem is a Jewel

by Alison Gallacher & Family

We were trying to find some information about other Beardies when we came across Gem by accident. She was in a bad way but something in her eyes seemed to tell us she would turn out to be one in a million. Her coat was all matted and she appeared to be very submissive. Our 4 hour round trip began to seem worthwhile.

Our first job was to clip her out, worm her and then get her into working condition. We knew very little about working ability, only that she had seen sheep from a distance, so we were not very optimistic about our chances.

Later that year at the annual meeting of the Working Bearded Collie Society in Langdale, our good friend, John Pickett, suggested we try her with some Herdwick ewes. It was sheer magic to watch Gem set off and within a short time had rounded them up and steered them into the Ivor Williams trailer. Those looking on could not believe their eyes. Her natural ability was fantastic to watch. From then on she was nicknamed 'The Stealth Fighter' as she was so silent and quick in getting the job done.



Gem at Work

On returning home Alison and Gem have come on in leaps and bounds. Gem's willingness and enthusiasm for work has encouraged Alison to improve her knowledge of sheep farming. Just by sheer chance a local stockman needed the help of a good handy farm dog so both Alison and Gem had a regular work schedule.

At the 2007 Langdale meeting the family came across a farmer who recognized Gem and was able to give them some valuable information about her life. He has a son from Gem, called Bob, now two and a half, that works well. Gem is the mother of 2 previous litters, some of which are working. Perhaps there are more, let's hope so.



Gem at Home

At the end of the day she gets the job done quickly, quietly and efficiently. On returning home with Alison, Gem is good with the rest of the family and other Beardies. Long may this continue.