

HOW BROWNIE CAME INTO THE WORLD

by Frank Rogers

About the same time that Mr. Read took an interest in the breed, Mr. W.E. West of Market Harborough, also obtained a bitch from Roughrider Jones, and his interest and work for the breed has had a long and lasting effect, as a scrutiny of many a pedigree on both sides of the Atlantic discloses his prefix of [Farndon](#). In 1912 Mrs. Fagan became interested in the breed and was given her first bitch puppy by Mr. Frank Belville of Papillon Hall, Market Harborough. This puppy's mother was a beautiful little red bitch called Flossie, and had originally come from Roughrider Jones. Her daughter "Brownie", a little red terrier with a black back, was a great character, very game and loved going out shooting, and when she was in roots or rough cover she was worth her weight in gold as she would point and pick up birds with a beautifully tender mouth. All of Mrs. Fagan's Norwich are descended from Brownie, and she has had a tremendous influence on the breed, and many are the famous names that can be traced back to her. Mrs. Fagan's terriers were given names from characters in books by Charles Dickens.

Much hard work and enthusiasm was put into the breeding of the Norwich terrier from then on, and finally in 1932 the Breed was recognized by the Kennel Club. They were first exhibited in Richmond at the Championship Show. There were fourteen entered before Judge Mr. Ernest Hertz who replaced the indisposed Colonel Phipps, there were six classes but no record of how many were pick and how many drop-ears and what the classes were. The winner of The Best of Breed was Mrs. Fagan's [Smudge](#), a grandson of Brownie. Smudge was a dark grizzle and tan prick-ear and was described as a very attractive little dog with a character and style that made him appear to be a member of a distinct variety and by no means nondescript, being sound, sturdy and alert. He was the only one of the Breed of that color, the remainder all being reds.

Now that the Norwich Terrier was being shown and able to compete for Challenge Certificates, it is interesting to note which dogs became Champions and how they were bred, as they all have had an influence on the breed and helped to establish a type of terrier that is easily recognized as a Norwich Terrier, whether it has a drop or prick ears. The second Champion of the Breed was [Miss Manette](#) bred by Mrs. Fagan, and was grizzle and tan in color. She won many Challenge Certificates, 11 in all, a record which held for 19 years, until beaten by Jericho Hill Vixen, who eventually won 14 Challenge Certificates, and came out of retirement at the age of nine years to win her 14th. Miss Manette was by Smudge, and Smudge was also the sire of Mrs. Rodwells' "Airman's Brown Smudge", the **First Drop-Eared Champion of the Breed**.

It can be seen from this that Smudge can produce good drop-eared as well as good prick-eared dogs and that the ear carriage had not been stabilized.

Even today an odd puppy will occasionally appear in a litter of drop-ears with its ears erect, and vice-versa.