

PAM WOODEN - AFFIX: SALAKO (Golden Retrievers)

My husband and I have owned dogs since 1971, our first two dogs being golden/collie crosses found through rescue. My husband, Kim, had always wanted a dog and Ben our first, was brought home just 2 weeks after getting married. At present we have 3 Goldens. All our dogs live indoors and our current house was bought with them in mind. We have a small field we rent for play and have access to orchards and various farm fields for exercise.

I have had moderate success in the ring, obtaining 3 stud book numbers and one reserve CC. I have also competed at a few working trials and even managed to get a COM. I always endeavour to obtain my golden's SGWC as I believe they should prove they can work as well as being beautiful. We have attended obedience and gundog classes with all our dogs. Four of our goldens gained their SGWC and two had been out picking up on local shoots, prior to attending the tests. These two were also Therapy Dogs and Buddy had given blood on three occasions. Our four-year-old, Megan has attained her bronze, silver and gold Good Citizen Awards. She also has had a good start in the show ring, attaining a number of 1st places at CH Shows,

We have tried various activities with our dogs; showing, working and fun things, like agility and flyball. Each one has taken us to the sport they most enjoyed. Kim trained his collies and some of our goldens for agility with both Cranbourne and Golden Valley DTC and competed for many years – retiring eventually through ill health. Kim and I started the Flyball at GVDTC some 13 years ago and enjoyed some great days out competing with colleagues. We also started the Flyball Club in Slough called the Berkshire Bandits. Kim started his own Agility Club in Berkshire, called Cranbourne Agility, back in the 1980's.

Prior to moving to Hereford in 2002 we lived on the edge of Slough and Windsor, where we had been for 22 years. Whilst in Slough I became Assistant Secretary to the Slough & District Dog Club and attended the Secretary's course at the Kennel Club in London. I also helped run the local ringcraft classes for over 5 years, which was good fun. I have been a member of The Golden Retriever Club for over 24 years and have served on the committee for over 10 years. I am also on the committee of Breinton Ringcraft Society, after joining them in 2015 and now help with training. I am at present, Chairperson for my local club, Golden Valley DTC.

We have had the pleasure of owning 22 dogs over the past 50 years and feel that our lives have been truly enriched by each and every one of them.