



Castle Karovà Koruna

Part 11:

František Horák and the Cesky Terrier

Most dogs were developed after hundreds of years of evolution and lengthy selection by breeders. However, some breeds owe their existence to just one person.

František Horák was born in June 1909 at castle Karovà Koruna, near the old Czech town of Chlumec nad Cidlinou. František's father was Lord Chamberlain for the noble Kinský family. František and his sister Marie spent their childhood playing with the count's children, so grew up in a multicultural environment – the Kinský family spoke five languages.

As a young boy, František wanted to become a horse breeder – not surprisingly, because his birthplace is in the region where Isabella Palomino horses are bred, and the Kinský family created Europe's original sport horse, the Kinský horse.

When he was nine years old, František's parents allowed him to breed dogs. Later, he also bred horses and ponies as a hobby.

Somewhere in between the Scot and the Sealyham

In 1928, a cover of the magazine *Pes (Dog)* had a photograph of a Scottish Terrier. This was František Horák's introduction to the breed. In 1932, he bought his first Scottish Terrier, bred



František Horák

by Mr. Sklenář in Krocehlavy. Amis z Kozéne Hory was rather aggressive toward people, but a good worker.

In 1934, Horák became a tree inspector in Vysoká near Obřany (eastern Czech Republic). This job allowed him to work his dog and hunt foxes and badgers. Hunting with the Scottish Terrier was a positive experience, so when he decided to start a kennel in 1938, he named the kennel Lovu zdar, meaning "successful hunting."

Also in 1934, Horák met Mr. Červenka, a Pilsen Kennel Club member who bred Sealyham Terriers. Horák and Červenka had long conversations about the working abilities of both the Scottish and Sealyham Terrier. Both

men speculated about a new breed, "somewhere in between the Scot and the Sealyham."

Horák already had a blueprint of such a breed in mind: it had to be a successful hunter, able to work in a pack and go underground in holes too small for the Scottie and Sealyham. (Today, a chest circumference of more than 50 centimetres is a disqualifying fault.)



The Scottish Terrier Scotch Rose



The Sealyham Terrier Bugarier Urquelle

Both Horák and Červenka believed that since the Scottie and Sealyham were developed out of several types of terriers living in Scotland in the 18th and 19th centuries, crossing these relatively young breeds should make it possible to select the best qualities for creating a new terrier breed. Horák had a clear picture of how his new terrier should look: small, intelligent and elegant.

Political situation

During the 1930s, the political situation in Europe was totally different than today. In Horák's childhood, the present Czech Republic was an important part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. Czechoslovakia was created in 1918, incorporating Bohemia, Moravia, Slovakia and Ruthenia. Czechs, Germans, Hungarians, Slovaks and Ruthenians formed the population.

The opposite happened in 1938. Bohemia was annexed by Adolf Hitler and large parts of what is now the Czech Republic became Sudetenland, where only "racially pure Sudeten Germans" were allowed to live. Hungary annexed Ruthenia and Poland appropriated the northern part of what is now the Czech Republic. Horák and Červenka had to leave Pilsen, which was in Sudetenland. Červenka, a Jew by descent, died in a gas chamber at Auschwitz.

In 1948, the Communists took over and the country became a satellite of the Soviet Union. In 1968, the Prague Spring uprising was answered by Soviet soldiers who invaded and occupied the country. More than 20 years later (1989), the Communist Party lost its monopoly and on January 1, 1993, the Czech-Slovak Federal Republic became two independent countries: the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic.

Breeding dogs and making contacts abroad was very difficult under the Russians. Horák experienced it all and witnessed the changes, but wrote only that "the years 1938-45 were difficult when it came to dog breeding."

Birth of the Cesky Terrier

In 1936, Horák bought a Scottish Terrier bitch and in 1938, bred his first litter. In 1940, the family and kennel moved to Klánovice, a village near Prague. His first Sealyham Terrier bitch, Joyful Juta, was bought from Mrs. Wurm; the second came from the well-known German breeder and judge, Dr. Prinzing. The third one was bought in Klánovice.

The first crossing between the Scottie and the Sealyham took place in 1949; this year is now considered the birth of the Cesky Terrier. The Scottish Terrier bitch Scotch Rose and

Sealyham Terrier dog Buganier Urquelle produced three puppies; unfortunately, only one dog survived: Adam Lovu zdar. He is number one in Horák's stud book. Like his dam, 'Adam' had a rough brindle coat and erect ears.

Horák notified the Czech Terrier Club about his experiment and asked permission to name the new breed Cesky Terrier. Adam was trained for the gun by Horák himself and the dog participated in working tests. Unfortunately, Adam was shot by a careless hunter in a hunting accident.

New creation

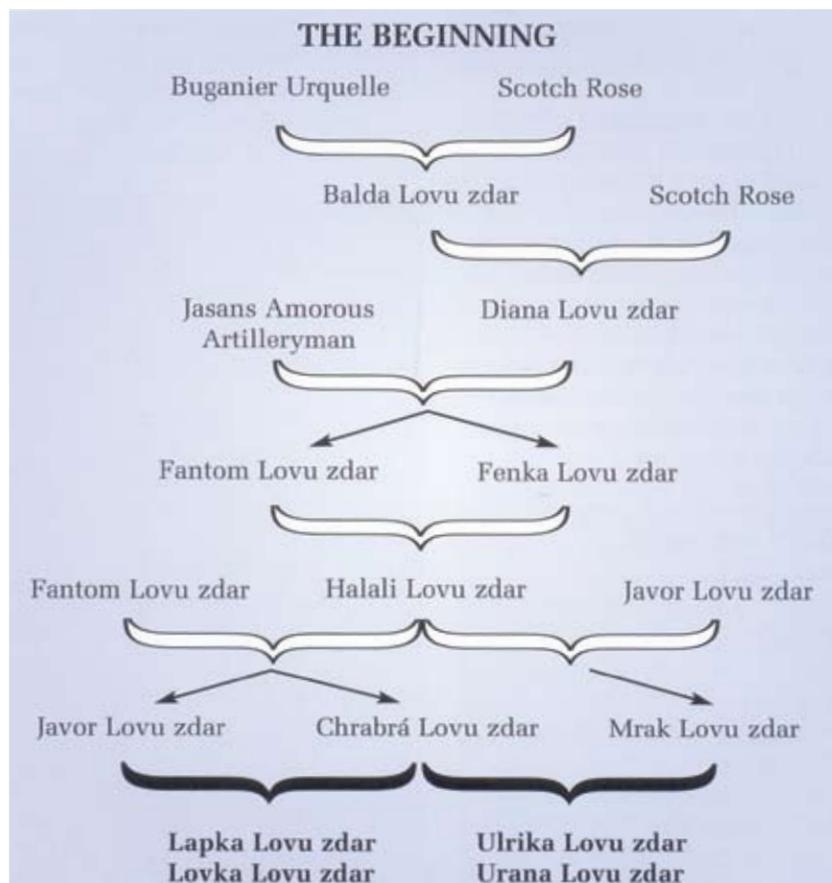
In 1950, Horák repeated the mating of Scotch Rose and Buganier Urquelle. This time they produced six puppies, but only one dog with drop ears. Horák wanted drop ears in his new breed, because they protect the head underground.

The second requirement was that the coat be brindle, relatively soft and easy to maintain. Horák himself decided that the Cesky Terrier would be groomed with clippers (never hand

stripped), and the tail wouldn't be docked. The coat colour had to vary from platinum silver to "pit coal grey." The chest had to be small, and the legs long enough to cover ground easily.

A brindle dog from the 1950 litter, Balda Lovu zdar, became number two in the stud book. After various other attempts, Horák mated Scotch Rose to her son, Balda Lovu zdar, producing two puppies with drop ears: Dareba Lovu zdar, and Diana Lovu zdar, who became an ancestress of the breed. She was mated to Amorous Artilleryman, a son of Buganier Urquelle owned by Mr. Mann in Prague. Two males ('Fantom' and 'Furiant') and one bitch ('Fenke') were the result. Furiant had a white collar and was not suitable for breeding. For the second time, Horák decided to mate brother and sister. The Fantom ex Fenke breeding resulted in the well-known Cesky Terrier Halali Lovu zdar.

Horák kept careful records of all positive and negative characteristics in his breeding: light noses, black and tan coats, and white markings.



The scheme of early Cesky Terrier breeding



Balda Lovu zdar (Buganier Urquelle x Scotch Rose) born in 1950



Diana Lovu zdar (Balda Lovu zdar x Scotch Rose)



Horák's first champion: Javor Lovu zdar



Int. Ch. Chlap Lovu zdar, the last champion bred by Horák, by Russian artist Mikhail-Misha Lavrenko



Milenka Ginoch's Kvitko, bred by Horák's daughter, Jitka Paulinova

Breeding program

A geneticist, Horák kept meticulous records and knew exactly how to select; he was not afraid of inbreeding and linebreeding. Puppies not fulfilling his expectations were not entered in the stud book. One of the surprises was brown coats, probably an inheritance of the Sealyham Terrier.

We know a great deal about Horák's program, because in the breed books by Narcisa Liskova and Hana Petrusová, he told his own story. For a long time, Hana Petrusová was Horák's right hand in breeding and is considered an authority on the breed. I was fortunate to receive additional information about Horák from his daughter, Jitka Paulinova.

Recognition and setbacks

At the national exhibition in Liberec in 1959, there was great interest in three Cesky Terriers – Fantom, 'Chytry' and 'Javor.'

Horák was successful in having his creation entered in the Czech-Slovak stud book. The bitch Chrabrá Lovu zdar was the first Cesky Terrier registered, followed by 14 dogs chosen

from 15 litters. In 1963, the FCI officially recognized the breed as the Bohemian-Cesky Terrier.

The Cesky suffered setbacks during the '80s. Until 1989, the Czech Hunt Committee was involved in everything concerning the breed. They had very strict breeding rules that only a few could meet. A point of departure was that the Cesky Terrier could be bred only for working purposes.

In the same period, Horák decided that fresh blood was needed. Again, in 1984 and 1985, a Sealyham Terrier was used. With permission of the FCI, the Sealyham bitch Andra z Rastamoru was mated by the Cesky male Vánek Lovu zdar. The immediate results were increased fertility, a better immune system, a longer life expectancy and improvement of the coat. But there were also light eyes, too-big ears and a higher tail set and carriage.

Today, Line 1 represents the original Horák Ceskys; the dogs descending from the Sealyham input in the 1980s form Line 1a.

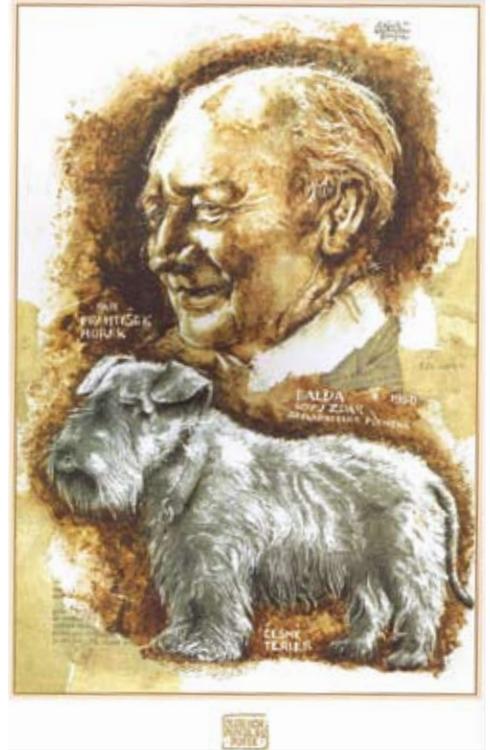
A popular breed in its homeland

The Cesky Terrier is now a popular breed in the Czech Republic. During the Communist regime, the breed could hardly be exported, but it is now present in Germany, Scandinavia, the Netherlands, Great Britain, Canada, the U.S. and Australia.

When the breed was recognized by the FCI, Horák wrote: "The period of developing the breed is now closed and... only two males and one female were involved when developing the Cesky Terrier." Thirty-five litters were bred between 1949 and



Diana Bohemia Regent (Chram Kvitko x Alida z. Alenciny) was the first non-British Cesky Terrier to win BOS at Crufts.



František Horák and Balda Lovu zdar by Czech artist Oldřich Mikuláš Dušek

1963. The first Cesky to gain a championship was Horák's own dog, Javor Lovu zdar; he won the title at the international dog show in Brno. In 1990, the breed club was founded on Horák's initiative (Klub chovatelů Českých teriérů). A symposium was held in Veltrusy in 1994; 57 dogs were exhibited.

The breed's popularity was growing. Katherina Eckstrom wrote a book about the breed and travelled around the world with Chlap Lovu zdar, one of the last dogs bred by Horák. Ceskys have been registered in Great Britain since 1990. A breed club was founded in Sweden in 1998, and the Netherlands followed in 1999. The Cesky Terrier was recognized by The Canadian Kennel Club in 1999.

Always prepared to help

František Horák was a geneticist and all-round FCI judge, and held several positions in the Czech dog world. His youngest daughter, Jitka Paulinova, breeds Cesky Terriers under the Kvitko affix. She has exported her dogs to Europe and North America and stays in contact with owners and breeders abroad. Paulinova is very proud of her father, "a man with an open mind for all people and always prepared to help and give advice." Those who knew Horák personally describe him as assertive, especially when it came to Cesky Terriers, genetics and epilepsy.

According to his daughter, Horák was interested in hunting, not for shooting animals, but because of nature itself. In 1964, his interest in hunting came to an end when 26 young foxes were "murdered" (his word) during a hunt. Horák loathed what happened and never again joined a hunt. He declared that "Nature should live, not die."

Inheritance

During Horák's life, many fanciers from home and abroad got the opportunity to meet him and learn from him when he spoke at an annual three-day event in May.

Tom Merx (Netherlands) described his meetings with Horák: "Almost nobody of us had the nerve to argue with Horák. He always won the discussions. He had so much knowledge and so many points of view that it was difficult to undermine his propositions. He was not interested in outward appearances and never renounced his origins."

After witnessing the flourishing and spread of his breed outside the Czech Republic, František Horák died in 1996, at 87 years of age.

A breeder/exhibitor/judge and retired bookseller and publisher, Ria Hörter is a contributing editor of *De Hondenwereld*, the national dog magazine of Holland.