

Maria Amélia Taborda

(International FCI Judge)



I had dogs all my life at my family's house. German Shepherds were my father's choice.

At 17 I found a breed I didn't know in Portugal and I dreamed for – the Bernese Mountain Dog.

I had no conditions to have one because I lived in a small apartment in the town's centre so I wisely decided to wait for the right moment. Near the age of 40 I had the opportunity to share my life with some BMD's and also with my husband's Newfies. Retired from my work, I began this adventure – to breed, to show, and more than that, to select the best I could.

At the same time I began to work closer with our National kennel club as a ring steward (I love this work), and also in some committees. I organized also some technical forums and I was a member of the Portuguese Kennel Club Technical Commission for 6 years, also because I'm an eternal student. I am Vice-President of the Board of General Assembly of the Portuguese Kennel Club.

I am a trainer of Judges for the breeds Newfoundland Dog and Bernese Mountain Dog. I also organize the Aveiro Dog Shows. I regularly give lectures on "Breeding Selection" in Universities and Veterinary Hospitals.

The results of our work (my husband with the "Atwater" affix for Newfies and mine "Casa dos Herdeiros do Lobo" for BMD) were really positive and I understood that judging some breeds would be the logical consequence of my work. National Judge from 2002, in 2007 I became an International FCI Judge. Now I judge mostly my breeds (Bernese Mountain Dog and Newfoundland), but also all the Portuguese breeds (some of which I am involved with); I am also judge for all breeds of FCI Group II and Group II finals and also a few breeds of Group I.

I have judged several times in my country, Portugal, and also in France, Ireland, Norway, Russia, Luxembourg, Czech Republic, Italy, Lithuania, USA (The Parade of Portugal, in Kalamazoo, Michigan), Sweden, Holland, Spain, Belgium, Reunion Island, Latvia, Poland, Greece and Gibraltar. I have also judged some important Specialties in Portugal, France, Russia, Czech Republic, Italy, Holland, Belgium, Poland, Estonia, among others.

Some important Shows where I judged:

- 'Angela Cipolla' Trophy (Newfoundland Special) in Italy. Tribute to Mrs. Angela Cipolla, included in the National Show of Biella in 2007 – Judged BMD's at this national show
- Regional Specialty of Eyraques organized by the Club Français du Terre Neuve et du Landseer, in 2007.
- Russian Newfoundland Club National Specialty 2008, in Tyumen, Siberia
- Porto Winner show 2009, qualifying for Crufts, judged Bernese MD, and others.
- BMD regional Specialty in Bergerac, France, 2009, organized by the French BMD club : A.F.B.S.
- BMD and other breeds Dublin, Ireland in 2009.
- Newfoundland Portuguese National Specialty – September 2009
- Italian National Specialty of CIABS – Italian Swiss Mountain Dog Club, 10 April 2011.
- Fila Brasileiro National Specialty in Czech Republic – April 2011
- Russian BMD National Specialty – 29th May 2011 and also May 2015
- ...and many more.

And also Portuguese Breeds National Specialties such as :

Portuguese Sheepdog, Portuguese Podengos, Estrela Mountain Dog, St. Miguel Cattle Dog, in Portugal.
Portuguese Water Dog, In Norway, 2013.

I judged some mandatory CAC for several breeds in Portugal, and the mandatory CAC for Bernese Mountain Dog, in Marseille, France – 2013

- Swiss Mountain Dog breeds Jubilee in Czech Republic – May 2014
- Regional Specialty of Newfoundland and Landseer, Ile de la Réunion (St. Pierre) – May 2015
- Russian National Specialty of BMD in Moscow – May 2015
- Czech National Specialty of Newfoundland in Prague – September 2015
- Belgian National Specialty of BMD – September 2015
- Dutch National Specialty of Pyreneans – October 2015
- French National Specialty of Great Dane - 2016
- Latvian National Specialty of BMD – 2016
- Polish National Specialty of Swiss Mountain Breeds - 2017

Other Special Shows:

- National Specialties: Newfoundland, in Portugal and Russia. BMD, in Czech Republic, Italy and Russia and Belgium, Pyreneans in Holland, Fila Brasileiro, in Czech Republic. Great Dane, in Portugal.
- Regional Specialties: Newfoundland, in France and Italy. BMD, in France. Great Dane, in France. Bullmastif, Castro Laboreiro Dog, English Bulldog and Rottweiler in Portugal

Curiosities:

In March 2017, I spoke in a workshop held in Lithuania under the theme “A dog loving society”. My presentation was called: “A small country which is improving a new relation between its society and the dog” which can be found at the FCI official website.

At present, I am involved in some new projects based on “Morphologic Evaluation” and “The dog, the function and the therapies”.

You may check the breeds I judge at:

<http://www.fci-judge.org/FciJudge/admin/judge/00000000-0000-0000-02cb-4bc51eb2c4da/view;jsessionid=6018B6D2BA54406D11EFEC3F23ECF0C9>

Hope to hear from you soon

Maria Amélia Taborda

Cell phone: + 351 91 9326612

Email: m.amelia.taborda@gmail.com