



## Spotlight on Breeding

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WE sometimes see a damline having amazing success in a short period. For four or five years one top class dog after another is produced by a particular broodbitch or her close relations.

Then the damline goes quiet. This article looks at one of those instances involving one of our most famous broodbitches.

**Elsie Moss** (Magic Babe-Maggie Moss) was a classy performer on the track winning the 1961 NSW St Leger and is regarded as one of the great producers. She was linebred 3x2 to Chief Havoc.

Her Feb 1964 litter (6d, 2b) to Black Top contained Bill Moss, Clay Moss, Miller's Moss, Rose Moss, Molly Moss and Top Moss.

**Rose Moss** was a champion who won 22 of 40 starts and was 1966 NSW Greyhound of the Year in a tie with Roman Earl. She dominated the major distance events winning the Sydney Cup (Wpk), Summer Cup (Hpk) and Association Cup (Hpk).

**Bill Moss** and **Miller's Moss** were both top grade stayers in Sydney while **Clay Moss** won eight sprints at Harold Park before finishing his career successfully over 800yds.

Miller's Moss was arguably Black Top's most successful son at stud, his progeny including Miss High Lo, Count D'Argent, King Miller, Young Moss and the influential broodbitches Oddnik and Royal Deb. Clay Moss also had his moments at stud highlighted by Zulu Moss and Paul's Thunder. Bill Moss had a fine career at stud in the United States.

In Jan 1965 she had a litter (4d, 2b) to Which Chariot\* which included Gaye Moss, Honey Moss, Joe Moss, Max Moss, Mister Moss, Pearl Moss.

This litter also produced a NSW Greyhound of the Year, **Pearl Moss** in 1967, a year in which she won the Futurity (Wpk) and ran a record over 790yds at Wenty. This lightly raced bitch won 14 of her 22 starts. Her littermates were also talented.

**Mister Moss** won the 1967 National Derby (Wpk) to complete the classic double for the litter. He also won the 1967 Interstate Challenge and scored in 11 of his 18 starts.

He was a successful stud dog, siring major winners such as Gerard The Gent, Mustard Moss and Mister

Oollee and some outstanding broodbitches including Temora Lee, dam of the incomparable Temlee.

Queenslanders may remember **Joe Moss** who ventured to Beenleigh in 1967 and took out the 870yds Championship. He also went to USA for a successful stud career as did **Max Moss**.

**Honey Moss** won 12 races from 26 starts including a track record at Goulburn.

Elsie Moss' November 1965 litter (3d, 4b) to Black Top contained Andy Moss, Beverley Moss, Chris Moss, Cinder Moss, Meteor Moss, Miami Moss and Shy Moss.

**Miami Moss** was a fine sprinter who held the 500yd record at Bulli and was a finalist in the Australian Cup and Melbourne Cup of 1968. At stud he got the National Derby winner Rushin' Moss and good Qld bitch Little Colleen.

**Beverley Moss** was an Invitation class stayer who held records over 740yds at Maitland and 675yds at Bulli.

**Andy Moss** was another talented performer as was **Chris Moss**, **Shy Moss** and **Meteor Moss**, a handy sire in the early days of night racing in Adelaide.

In September 1966 she had another Black Top litter (6d, 3b). In it were Agogo Moss, Anne Lewis, Colo Honey, Colo Scout, Danny Moss, Kiwi Moss, Murray Moss, Quid's Return and Ruby Moss.

**Anne Lewis** was the best due to her success in the 1969 Futurity (Wpk). **Murray Moss** was a smart galloper along with **Danny Moss** who sired the 1973 Qld Derby winner Dan Meadow while Agogo Moss also had minor success as a stud dog.

Elsie Moss then went to the United States where she had a fine litter to star American sire Venerated which included **Aquarius Moss**, **Earthshaker Moss** and **Thunderbolt Moss**, all good gallopers who had some influence as sires over there.

Given her rating as a producer and the success enjoyed by her sons, it would be expected her damline would continue to dominate through her 11 Australian daughters. This has not been the case.

There have been some top-liners who trace back along the damline to Elsie Moss but nowhere near the numbers expected.

The most successful branch of the Elsie Moss damline

has come through Pearl Moss, mainly through her daughter Edelgard Moss.

The best from the Edelgard Moss branch would probably be Savannah City (1997 Christmas Cup, 1997 and '98 Penthouse Tph, TR Sandown Park 715m), Toll Security (2001 Vic Peters, 2001 Dapto Puppy Classic, 2<sup>nd</sup> Topgun), Michele Cherie (1977 Faberge Tph, 1977 St George Marathon, 1978 Broadcasters Cup, TR WP 969m, Richmond 876m, Penrith 720m) and Genesis (1992 Border Park Galaxy, 1993 State Of Origin, 1993 January Tph).

Other notables include Faithful Blue, Galleon Jade, Cutie's Idol, Nine Inch Nails, and Fabian. Different branches of Pearl Moss have produced Getaway King, Uptown Princess, Beauhaven Escape, Linessa Girl and Jeppy George.

Another of Elsie Moss' daughters, Molly Moss has a successful line going through her granddaughter Thornton Girl. The best from this line was Forest Fin (1995 Adelaide Cup, 1995 Penrith Cup, 1996 Grafton Stayers Cup, TR WP 520m).

Other good performers include Blue Tracey (TR Muswellbrook 560m), Amber's Trump (1988 Cessnock Cup), Flash Kel (2001 Teys Bros Puppy Classic), La Belle Gazelle (TR Cairns 410m) and the smart sprinters On Fire Franky, Linart Danny, Little Metro and Silver Icon.

Rose Moss had some initial success.

She had sons like Gary Moss (a good galloper who sired some feature winners) and Manhattan Dash (a handy sire in WA).

Her daughter Bernadette Moss was a good stayer who won the 1972 Christmas Cup at the Gabba and held records at Albury and Queanbeyan. Another daughter, Rosemary Moss threw the brilliant El Zagal (1977 Richmond Gold Cup, 1976 Lithgow Golden Muzzle). Unfortunately there have been no notables from the Rose Moss branch in the past 25 years.

Anne Lewis proved disappointing, her only descendant of note being Eject (1981 SA Coursing Derby).

In four litters in Australia, Elsie Moss was the dam of three outstanding greyhounds (Rose Moss, Pearl Moss and Mister Moss) and eight other notables (Miller's Moss, Bill Moss, Clay Moss, Honey Moss, Joe Moss, Miami Moss, Beverley Moss and Anne Lewis).

Yet in the next 30 years, only four descendents were outstanding (Forest Fin and maybe Savannah City, Michele Cherie and Toll Security) and probably only another 20 have achieved anything notable.

Even in America, her influence was only apparent through her sons.

Why hasn't this damline been more successful? Were the bitches put to the wrong sires?

Perhaps there wasn't really a suitable sire available.

But then why does she appear so often in pedigrees via her sons? For example, look how many times she is

duplicated as we follow one path through Mister Moss. Mister Moss is the maternal grandsire of Temlee so he is going to bob up in many pedigrees but it interesting to follow some.

Chief Dingaan (in Vic), Riviera Tiger (in Qld) and Dynamic David (in Tas) were all leading sires. They were by Temlee and out of litter sisters from a Clay Moss-Cursorial mating. So they had 4x3 crosses of EM.

At this time Pitstock Park was whelped.

Her mother was by Miller's Moss out of a Which Chariot bitch (a pedigree similar to those Clay Moss-Cursorial bitches).

Pitstock Park's sire Arctic Tiger was out of a Mister Moss bitch. Therefore the mating of Little Blade (a son of Temlee) to Pitstock Park had three crosses of Elsie Moss.

Of course this mating produced the great Brother Fox. Brother Fox was to sire the legendary Worth Doing. He was out of Versatile Miss, a daughter of Zimbabwe (Chief Dingaan's sister). Worth Doing had five crosses of EM.

Worth Doing was put to the champion bitch National Lass (by Chief Dingaan) to produce dual classic winner Little Denver who had seven crosses of EM.

Another top son of Worth Doing was Worthy Reward. His dam had three Ems, twice through Mister Moss and once through Miller's Moss ... eight crosses of EM. Many would say Worthy Reward's best litter was out of Alaureena containing Dalalla, Dylan and John's Fury. Alaureena was by Riviera Tiger's son Dancing Gamble.

Throw in a bit more Brother Fox and the end result for Dalalla is 14 crosses of EM.

Perhaps it was just a case of Elsie Moss having the ideal genotype for a broodbitch.

Statistically, it was probably always going to be unlikely one of her daughters, granddaughters or great grand-daughters would ever be another Elsie Moss. Interestingly she produced top class progeny to stud dogs from three different countries all with significantly different pedigrees.

As for the future of the Elsie Moss damline, possibly it's top performers could come via descendants of Little Metro (such as Tears Amore dam of Linart Danny, Flash Kel and La Belle Gazelle); Beijing Girl (such as Faith Louise dam of Faithful Blue and What's New); and Dimples (such as Savannah Sunset dam of Toll Security).