BIO Anne Mette Mikkelsen, Ballygran Irish Wolfhounds & Whippets

My name is Anne Mette Mikkelsen, and I am the owner of Ballygran kennel in Bergen, the beautiful city on the west coast of Norway.

My first dog when I was 15 years old. It was a Bichon Frisé, and I bought him in 1988. The breed was not on my “wish list”, but it was the only dog my mother would allow med to have, still living at home. But I did not care, I finally got my own dog!

The same year I got to know the owners of the Mc’Kenzie kennel. They had some lovely Irish Wolfhounds and Giant Schnauzers. I started traveling with them to show and helped at the kennel for many years. The highlight of the year was of cause when we traveled to the IW Specialty show.

I soon wanted to get my own Irish wolfhound, and my dream finally came true in 1995 when I bought "Theo" (N S Ch Malleus Maleficarum O'Marksbay).

My prefix; Ballygran comes from a town in Ireland, and also it was the name of my first Champion. Her name was N Ch Mc’Kenzie’s Ballygran.

I have always admired the beautiful whippets and their smooth curvy lines. So I started looking for one, but it took me over 10 years before I finally got to realize my dream. In 2011 I got my first whippet, “For Pleasure von der Oelmühle”. She was my foundation bitch, and my first litter of puppies was borne in 2013. I still have my first homebred whippet here at home, together with 8 other whippets and 7 Irish Wolfhounds.

I have been showing dogs since 1989. I have been breeding many champions, winning Best IW breeder of the year in Norway, Best IW in Norway, Best stud dog and brood bitch and winning many BIS placements and also IW Specialties BIS winners. In whippets the highlight must be winning best male and BOS with N Ch Ballygran’s Barnsley at the Norwegian Kennel Club show with over 120 whippets under the famous Mr. Bo Bengtson, Bohem kennel.

I love showing and judging dogs, and in 2017 I received my FCI-approved judging license to judge Irish Wolfhounds followed by whippets, greyhounds, Scottish deerhounds, salukis and Italian sighthound. I feel so fortunate to be able to travel and meet all these lovely hounds that I have such a deep passion for. I have been privileged to be invited to judge in Norway, America, Finland, Ireland, Sweden, France, Belgium and Germany

For me, the ideal hound combines elegance and power, with beautiful curves, correct construction and soundness. Above all, I value a healthy, functional hounds that moves effortlessly, with great reach and drive.

I am so honored to be invited to come and judge your show!

Best regards

Anne Mette Mikkelsen