

Judging Earthdog in Hawaii

I was invited to attend a seminar and earthdog tests to be held in July, conducted by Jo Ann Frier-Murza, the author of *Earthdog Inns & Outs*. Jo Ann is the acknowledged expert on den trials in the United States and has judged earthdog tests and conducted seminars in many countries. I was also invited to judge master, junior and introduction to quarry earthdog tests the following weekend, with Jo Ann and Robyn Thomson a Hawaiian judge.



Laurie with Ron English the owner of Winswept Flash Fire ("Kini")

Judging my master tests I was able to award two dogs passes, the first one a Dachshund who gained his third pass of the required four. The second dog I awarded his final pass to was a 12 year old Australian bred Fox Terrier Kini, owned by Ron English, the first dog to gain its master earthdog title in its home state of Hawaii.

Some positive things have come out of my trip to Hawaii; one was meeting Jo Ann thus increasing my knowledge on earthdog. Seeing so many lovely dogs participating in this event, Dachshunds and Terriers, (many of them show dogs), doing what they were originally bred for, bringing out their natural hunting instinct.

To the members of the club, Terriers in Paradise, and the participants, who gave my wife and I such a warm welcome, also the hospitality they extended to us showing us around their beautiful island during our two week stay was terrific, and we thank them for it.

To further earthdog in Australia I would like to have Jo Ann Frier-Murza come to Australia in September 2010, to conduct a seminar and judge earthdog tests. Anyone interested in participating in earthdog events, or attending the proposed seminar please contact me via email at lurerace@bigpond.com

Laurie Mackenzie