

# Caddie

By Kathryn Winton - [www.mirribandi.com](http://www.mirribandi.com) 14/01/2019



Meet my girl "Caddie". Australian Champion Bonquest Im The Best. Born 26th November 1991 and long since passed over the rainbow bridge.

Sire - Timberhall Mighty Mazda (Imp UK).

Dam - Bonquest Eat Your Words.

Caddie was my very first Belgian Shepherd puppy, and my first show dog. A Belgian Shepherd Tervueren that fell into my heart and home not long after the Belgian Shepherd Dog Club of Queensland was first formed.

Caddie was from the very first litter of Tervueren puppies born in Queensland. Her breeder Geraldine Jenkins went back to Western Australia shortly after this litter was born, and is still involved with breeding Tervueren back in the west.

This is how it happened.

The fledgling [Belgian Shepherd Dog Club of Queensland Inc](http://www.belgian-shepherd-dog-club-of-queensland.com.au) invited members to a "Meet The Breeder" fun day. Back then, the Belgians were still very rare with breeders being far between, and it was a big thing to have a breeder come up to visit! This Belgian breeder from NSW was up for a trip to drop off a puppy to Toowoomba on route to Cairns to view a Tervueren litter. I was asked to help transport the NSW breeder from Toowoomba to the Brisbane airport, and during the trip, we talked about hopes and dreams. I must have

mumbled something vague about my two pet Groenendaels and the possibility of one day having a show dog. Anyway, the phone rang "If you want a show puppy, this is THE litter to get one from". The very next day, I was back at the airport picking up my first show puppy, and waving the NSW breeder off with the other 3 or 4 puppies she was taking back down south with her.

Impulsive of me? Yep!

Caddie was a great dog for me to learn from. She taught me so much, like how NOT to raise puppies.... I messed up a lot with her, definitely contributing to some of the behavioral traits that we now know are easily avoided in the first place with CORRECT socializing! My first two Groenendaels before Caddie were adopted as adults, so I had little to no puppy experience before Caddie arrived.

Caddie was my introduction to the show ring. She had some nice wins in the show ring, starting out with a bang with a Baby Puppy In Group win at my very first show! Her name is proudly engraved on several of the club's perpetual trophies.

Caddie was my introduction to the world of breeding dogs. My introduction to obedience lessons and puppy training. Because of her, and my very positive experiences of all things dog and all things club - I am still here. Still a show exhibitor. Still training my dogs. Still an active part of the Belgian Shepherd Dog Club of Queensland, and still an avid supporter of Fun Days for members and followers to enjoy with their dogs.

Oh Caddie, you have a lot to answer for! My world was ever changed since you walked in the door! Thank you:-)

Caddie lived out her retirement days with my brother and mother at Moggill. She passed away at an elderly age, and will always be remembered fondly in our hearts.

