

## A LIFETIME WITH DOGS:

### Breeder of corgis for 40 years to run Boston show

By KRISTEN WALSH  
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DUXBURY - In 1968, Anne Bowes was a young woman unsure about what she wanted to do with her life. After a visit to the Westminster Kennel Club dog show in New York City, and her first glance at a breed of dog called the Pembroke Welsh corgi, Bowes had her answer.

"I walked onto the grounds of that dog show, and I walked into the rest of my life," she said.

Now 62, Bowes has been breeding and showing corgis across the country for 40 years. She lives with her husband and eight corgis in an old house overlooking Duxbury Bay.

Beginning Dec. 6, Bowes will oversee the Bay Colony Dog Show at the Bayside Exposition Center in Boston, which will feature more than 2,500 dogs competing for individual breed titles and the title of Best in Show.

Bowes is president of the Ladies' Dog Club, a group of women breeders and dog handlers that was founded in 1913. She has been involved with the club for 33 years. She says giving back to the sport of showing dogs is even more important than any prize she and her corgis could win.

"I was lucky. I picked a breed that I ended up loving, and the people in the corgi community tend to be a lot like me," she said.

Bowes and her husband, Rick Bowes III, a publisher who works from home, raise three or four litters of puppies a year. Some she sells to families as pets, and some she trains as show dogs. She recently received the American Kennel Club's breeder-of-the-year award for the herding group, a national achievement Bowes said she never expected and initially couldn't believe. "I got the phone call and I started crying. I thought I was going to drop over, because this was my lifelong dream," she said.

In addition to competing with her corgis, Bowes travels around the country to judge dog shows, and gives seminars on breeding and showing dogs. She encourages young people to get involved with the sport.

"It's a great thing for kids to do. It teaches them responsibility and how to handle a dog. They are the future of this sport," she said.

She says anyone who loves dogs can enjoy the experience of dog shows, and says anyone who has never been to one would be surprised at the variety of events.

Shows typically include agility trials and obedience competitions, as well as opportunities for fans to meet the breeders and dogs that are competing.

"Everything we do is about the dogs, and we're all happy to answer any questions people may have," Bowes said.

The Bay Colony Dog Show will also have hundreds of vendors with information about various dog breeds, service programs, rescue leagues and merchandise for sale.

Bowes said she is especially lucky that the sport she chose so long ago is something she can remain passionate about as she grows older.

"Dog breeding is an art. Instead of paints and canvases, I'm working with chromosomes and genes," she said. "And I can't think of another profession where if done right, you can provide another person with a loving companion."

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**Duxbury resident Anne Bowes, who breeds Pembroke Welsh corgis, will oversee the Bay Colony Dog Show in Boston. More than 2,500 dogs and their owners take part in the competition. (GARY HIGGINS/The Patriot Ledger)**