



April 25, 2026

Dear Members of the International Silken Windhound Society,

By now you have probably heard: our breed has been accepted into the American Kennel Club's Foundation Stock Service! The FSS is the first stop on the journey to full recognition with the AKC, and all the privileges that come with it.

On this momentous occasion, I would like to extend gratitude to the American Kennel Club for carefully considering and accepting our application, and would like to recognize the hard work put in by our AKC liaison, Joyce Chin. She has worked tirelessly to help our club reach this goal.

There are so many more to thank for their efforts over the years.

I am proud to present the below statement from our Breed Founder, Francie Stull, on the day of this triumphant moment.

Founder Statement

I am beyond proud to announce that the Silken Windhounds have been accepted into the AKC Foundation Stock Service on a path toward full AKC recognition.

From 1984 when I bought my first proto-Silkens in Boston and 1985 when I first crossed them with my Borzois, I never dreamed that the Silken Windhounds would come so far. For the first 15 years, they were just my dream. But the internet came along and I put up a page on my Borzoi website so they were 'discovered'.

It turned out that the traits that I had worked so hard to establish, and then stabilize, were the same traits that endeared them to everyone else.

- Long silky self cleaning coats with no undercoat.
- A comfortable size, especially compared to my huge Borzois.
- A personality and temperament that had the dogs prioritize companionship with their owners. Here at the ranch, we call it 'be with' because the dogs simply want to be with their families, without the wandering range of most other Sighthounds.
- Total lack of aggression, making them superb family pets.
- Enough prey drive to make them competitive in the field and on the track.
- Structural soundness that included show ring build, along with the more hidden traits of
 - Deep chests holding big lung volume and superb cardiac output,
 - Strong connective tissue,
 - Elastic spines,
 - Natural muscle with good dense blood supply,
 - Strong thick feet,
 - Good vision that picks up movement quickly especially on the property,
 - All wrapped up in the most magnificent of colors.

After that first decade and a half on my own, fanciers gathered together here in Texas to help me start an International Club, to document and support the growing breed. Sussi from Sweden and others came all the way from Europe, and over that last quarter of a century, Sussi has become our true Silken historian and archivist. Lucille Meale developed our intuitive registration system and served as our registrar through the many early years. Other registrars have taken the reins, with a



special appreciation going to Nic Cross who has developed and upgraded our pedigree pages to some of the prettiest in the dog world.

Then came the explosion of owners, breeders, fanciers, and admirers all across the country and indeed, the world. We are represented in nearly 40 countries internationally and probably every state in the union. These people, both old time breeders and newbies alike have built a community that is the envy of other breeds who meet us. Hard working, artistic, and resourceful doesn't even start to express how much work you guys have done to promote the breed through conformation shows, straight racing, oval track racing, lure coursing, obedience, rally obedience, open field coursing, agility, trick dog, CGC and SPOT-ON, DASH, dock diving, nose work, shed dog, barn hunt, weight pull, and getting photos and videos taken of them, writing about them, and tirelessly promoting them.

Thank you to all of our service, therapy, and emotional support work teams. Thank you to all our social media warriors. Thank you to our tireless health committee workers, and the best breed rescue. Thank you to the AKC committee members for building this momentum and getting us to the finish line. All of you participating in all these things have been a huge part of why the breed was able to achieve FSS acceptance.

Thank you to the many, many, past board and committee members of the ISWS over the years, for serving as guides and guardians of the breed, and to the current people who continue to do so.

One of the biggest advantages is that with acceptance into the AKC, multiple other countries will be comfortable with recognizing the breed in their own countries along with the FCI International club that represents most of the rest of the world.

I can't thank everyone enough for the hard work that you have done. We would not have gotten here without you. Now it is time to celebrate, and then dig our heels in on this new adventure. I don't doubt that we will set records with the AKC as we have done with all of our other endeavors. Stay tuned in the next day or so for specific next moves.

Take a deep breath and let's show them how it is done.

Francie Stull, Breed Founder

On behalf of the International Silken Windhound Society Board of Directors

President Quick Logistics Summary

I'm sure everyone is concerned about next steps. At this time, the AKC has requested that we do NOT direct questions to them. Rather, contact ISWS.

Registration will be handled in large batches and spearheaded by ISWS. Our dedicated registration team is currently strategizing the best way to share our records, and more information on how to proceed will be forthcoming next week.

Congratulations, Silken Windhound fanciers! We did it!

Marcie Brunner

President

International Silken Windhound Society