



TODAY'S BREEDER

A Nestlé Purina Publication Dedicated to the Needs of Canine Enthusiasts

Issue 87



BREEDER SUCCESS
Cambria Dobes

- THE SPORTING DOG SUMMIT
- STRESS-FREE TRAVEL
- PURINA TOP SHOOTING DOGS



Barb Fawver, editor of *Today's Breeder*, and her Beagle, Black Blanket Brantley, who competes in traditional brace field trials.

VISUAL IMPACT & CONTEMPORARY NEW LOOK INSPIRE *TODAY'S BREEDER* REDESIGN

If you notice that *Today's Breeder* looks different this issue, it is because we listened to you. A big thank you goes out to the more than 500 members of *Purina Pro Club* who were chosen for our online survey and provided feedback about our editorial content, design and photography.

Mostly, we received complimentary reviews. You enjoy *Today's Breeder* and look forward to each issue. You particularly like our stunning dog photography and our shorter articles, like Breed Snapshot and Circle of Champions.

In redesigning the magazine we reimagined every page from the Table of Contents and Letters to the Breeder Success stories and feature articles. Every aspect we discussed

and debated. Our goal was to be sharper, more visual, more dynamic, and more clear yet not alter our foundation of providing relevant information.

This is the beginning of our contemporary, modern new look. We will be driving you to the website (purinaproclub.com) for more coverage of show and sporting winners and gorgeous dog photography that we run out of room for in the magazine.

In 2015, *Today's Breeder* will celebrate 25 years of publication. For the past 17 years I have had the honor of being editor. You, our loyal readers and members of *Purina Pro Club*, are longtime friends with whom we have bonded through our love of dogs.

I hope our redesigned magazine will

inspire you to achieve great things with your own dogs. Please take a moment to tell me what you think by sending an email to editor@purina.nestle.com.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Best wishes for a successful year in 2015!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Barb Fawver".

Barbara Fawver
Editor, *Today's Breeder*
Nestlé Purina PetCare

4 STRESS-FREE TRAVEL FOR SPORTING DOGS

Try these travel tips to help your hardworking dog stay injury-free and healthy on the road.

6 THE SPORTING DOG SUMMIT

Gain a competitive advantage by applying information presented at the Purina Sporting Dog Summit on conditioning and training, nutrition, and preventing and recognizing injuries.

12 CAMBRIA DOBERMANS' LONG STRETCH

Even with 100-plus years' cumulative experience in the breed, Cambria Doberman breeders Jim and Ann White do not take success for granted.

18 PURINA DECORATES TOP SHOOTING DOGS

A tradition and way of life for those who participate, Purina honors this year's top shooting dogs and the top shooting dog handler of the year.

REGULAR DEPARTMENTS

- 20 Circle of Champions
- 22 Letters
- 23 Purina Farms
- 24 Breed Snapshot

ON THE COVER

Multi-BIS/Multi-BISS GCH Cambria's Vraiment Parfait, the No. 1 Doberman Pinscher in the country, is a 3-year-old red female Doberman Pinscher bred by Jim and Ann White and co-owned by Karen Thompson, Glen Lajeski and Ann Wulbrecht. See story on page 12.

THIS PAGE

Sporting dogs like this Golden Retriever are tremendous athletes that can achieve an optimal performance when they are properly introduced to their sports. See story on page 6.



Today's Breeder Advisory Board

Sean Fitzgerald, Vice President, Professional Engagement Team

Candy Caciolo, Portfolio Director of Marketing

Gianna DeiSanti, Brand Director, Conformation and Sporting

Lisa Walsh, Communications Manager

Scott Smith, Managing Director of Field Operations

Ann Viklund, Director of Conformation, and Breeder, Labrador Retrievers and Norwich Terriers

Bob West, Director of Sporting

Brock Fitzgerald, Director of Purina Farms and the Purina Event Center

Kaite Flamm, Manager, Purina Event Center

Deborah Greco, D.V.M., DACVIM, Senior Research Scientist, and Breeder, Standard Poodles

Connie Wagner, Senior Area Manager (Southeast), Conformation, and Breeder, Dalmatians

Carol Grossman, Western Area Manager, Conformation, and Breeder, Great Danes, Rottweilers and Dachshunds

Ann Balotti, Purina Event Center Area Manager

Marci Sale, Northeast Area Manager, Conformation, and Breeder, Labrador Retrievers

Diana Allen, Field Representative, Conformation, and Breeder, American Eskimo Dogs

Christa Townsend, Plains Area Manager, Conformation, and Breeder, Bouvier des Flandres

Covey Benedict, Field Representative, Conformation, and Breeder, English Springer Spaniels and Grand Basset Griffon Vendéen

Rod L. Carter, Area Manager, Sporting, and Breeder, Beagles, Boston Terriers and Yorkshire Terriers

Pat Lamantia, Area Manager, Sporting, and Breeder, German Wirehaired Pointers

Dean Reinke, Area Manager, Sporting, and Breeder, English Springer Spaniels

Karl Gunzer, Area Manager, Sporting

Today's Breeder is produced and published by Nestlé Purina Public Relations.

Keith Schopp, Vice President, Public Relations

Barbara Fawver, Editor, Today's Breeder, and Breeder, Brace Beagles

Kayla Miller, Digital Editor, Today's Breeder

Melissa Miller, Contributing Photographer

Today's Breeder is sent as a courtesy to members of Purina Pro Club. Articles may be reprinted if the following credit is included: Used with permission from Today's Breeder, Nestlé Purina PetCare Company.

Trademarks owned by Société des Produits Nestlé S.A., Vevey, Switzerland.

© 2014 Nestlé Purina PetCare Company



STRESS-FREE TRAVEL

for Sporting Dogs

Traveling on the road to a multiday event is not restful for dogs, no matter how well-adapted they may be to life on the truck. Here are travel trips to help your dog stay injury-free, healthy and ready to perform at a high level of athleticism.



1 PRACTICE TRAVELING

The more accustomed a dog is to traveling, the better. Early in the training season, familiarize young dogs with the travel routine. Puppies should get used to going on short rides in your travel vehicle and to being around other dogs and new places. Practice feeding them in the box on the truck or on a tie-out chain. Identify dogs that don't travel well so you can devise strategies to help them cope. A positive approach helps minimize stress, especially for dogs that don't eat, drink or sleep well on the road.

2 CONDUCT A TAILGATE EXAM

A tailgate exam involves putting a dog on the tailgate of your truck to examine him or her from head to toe after a day afield. This helps to identify potential injuries before they become problems. Start at the head and neck, turning the dog's head from side to side to look for muscle or disk problems. Check for back pain by running your hands along the dog's spine. Lift the front legs and flex them back and rotate them out to check range of motion in the shoulders. Look for cuts, bumps and scars, particularly on the elbows and hocks. Check the eyes and nose for seeds, grass or other field debris. Closely examine the feet, looking at the paws, pads, nail bed, and webbing for tears, cuts or signs of pain and swelling.

3 FEED ONE TIME A DAY

Performance dogs that are healthy, and not a breed at risk for bloat, should be fed once a day a minimum of 10 to 12 hours before exercise. Eating creates an insulin spike that inhibits a dog's ability to use fat, the most important energy fuel. Insulin also increases the uptake of glucose, or sugar, from the blood into the muscles, which could cause fatigue from low blood sugar. Feeding shortly before exercise increases blood

flow to the gut and thus decreases the amount of blood available to the working muscles. At multiple-day events, dogs should be fed as soon as possible after exercise, allowing adequate time for cooling down, so they have the maximum time to digest the meal before the next day.

4 KEEP DOGS HYDRATED

Healthy hydration is essential for hard-working dogs. Dehydration can occur rapidly. Dogs that exercise 30 to 60 minutes in temperatures that are 70 to 80 degrees can experience mild to moderate dehydration, depending on the activity and the intensity. To help maintain hydration, dogs should be given small amounts of water every 15 to 20 minutes during events lasting longer than 60 minutes. Water helps to cool the special cooling mechanism in the back of a dog's throat, which counters the current exchange and helps cool blood going to the brain. Saliva and foam impair the cooling system. At the end of an event, make sure a dog has access to water, but be sure to wait until panting slows down before allowing a dog to drink a large volume of water.



5 CHOOSE A QUIET PLACE FOR REST

It's important to choose a quiet place free of distractions to kennel a dog for the night. If your dogs sleep in dog boxes in your truck, you should park in an area away from other vehicles that is free of distractions. Make sure your dogs have soft, dry bedding so they can rest comfortably. ■

ACHIEVING A Performance EDGE

Preparing sporting dogs for the rigors of competition or multiple-day hunting outings requires being knowledgeable about “little things” that can make a difference in their performance. Sporting dogs are tremendous athletes. Successful trainers are those who take these little things to heart and build them into their training program.

This past summer, elite trainers and handlers across several sporting segments attended the Purina Sporting Dog Summit at the Purina Event Center in Gray Summit, Missouri, to learn from experts on how to gain a competitive advantage. The program, titled “Achieving a Performance Edge,” offered insights related to conditioning and training, nutrition, and preventing and recognizing injuries in the field.

“We understand the hard work and commitment that goes into developing sporting champions,” says Bob West, Director of Purina Sporting Field Operations. “Purina partners with trainers by providing the nutrition that powers their dogs. Our goal in organizing this Summit was to give trainers tools and information to help their hardworking dogs reach their potential.”

Today's Breeder is pleased to share highlights of the two-day Purina Sporting Dog Summit to help you gain a performance edge with your own dogs.



“You don’t want to do too much too soon because the musculoskeletal system is not mature until dogs are 10 to 18 months old, depending on the breed.”

James L. Cook, DVM, PhD, DACVS, DACVSMR, director of the Comparative Orthopaedic Laboratory at the University of Missouri

Starting with puppies and young dogs, potential canine athletes should be gradually introduced to the work they will be expected to perform in the field. “You should begin with building a foundation both physically and mentally,” says James L. Cook, DVM, PhD, DACVS, DACVSMR, director of the Comparative Orthopaedic Laboratory at the University of Missouri. “It starts with proper nutrition, building muscle and ‘concept training’ to introduce the dog to the idea of the sport without overworking the dog before his or her body and mind can handle it.

“You don’t want to do too much too soon because the musculoskeletal system is not mature until dogs are 10 to 18 months old, depending on the breed. Early training should focus on core-strengthening activities that promote muscle and nerve development and control.”

Understanding how a dog’s muscles, tendons, ligaments, and nerves develop provides insights about how to protect the critical balance between the soft tissues and bone growth. Many developmental disorders can be prevented or minimized in severity by optimizing a dog’s development, providing proper nutrition, and avoiding stressful activities and training methods that could traumatize the soft tissues during maturation.



“Concussive, high-intensity and/or long-duration activities can negatively affect the development and health of soft tissues like muscles, tendons, ligaments, and joint capsules,” Cook explains. “When this occurs, the soft tissue cannot ‘keep up’ with bone growth and developmental problems occur.

In addition, because the growth plates, or physes, are ‘open’ during growth, they are susceptible to fractures and other damage that can cause abnormal growth, pain and lameness.”

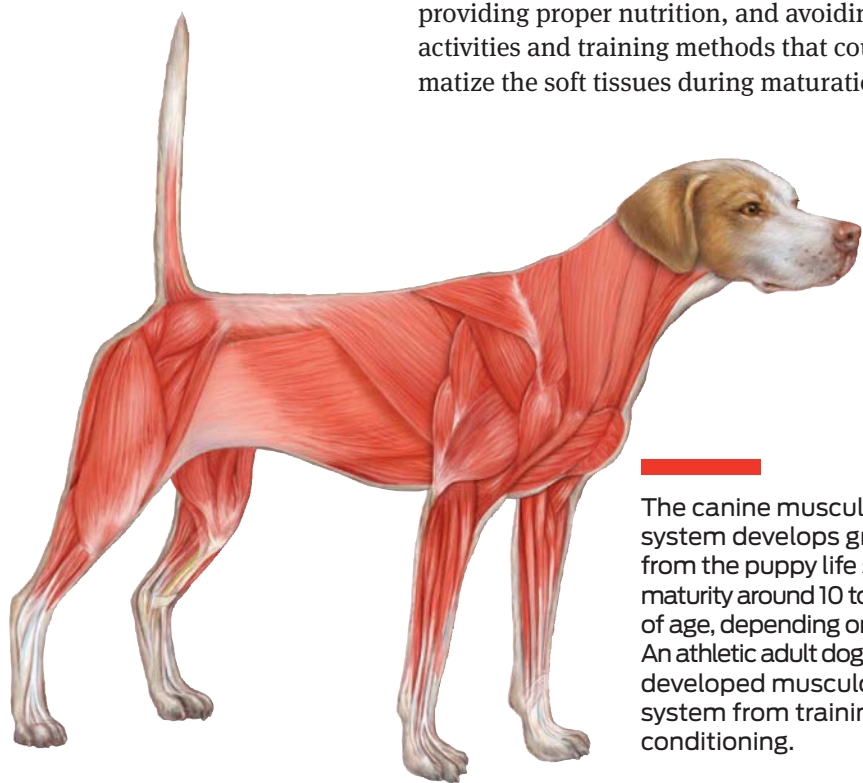
USING PERIODIZATION TO TRAIN

Periodization training is a concept developed over the past 12 years in elite sprint sled dog racers by Purina Senior Research Scientist Arleigh Reynolds, DVM, PhD, DACVN, Director of the Purina research facility in Salcha, Alaska. Periodized training in elite human athletes sparked the idea of applying periodization principles to the sled dogs. The training method also can be used to train hardworking sporting dogs.

The concept focuses on performance goals and how to optimize and restructure muscle systems using nutrition and conditioning periodization. It involves manipulating training variables to maximize capacity and performance.

The training stages used in periodization are:

- Foundation — Building an aerobic base over 16 to 20 weeks using long-slow distance (LSD) training, such as free running and swimming, and incorporating high-intensity work after four to eight weeks
- Preparation — Moderate volume/higher-intensity work from 12 to 16 weeks that includes road working, LSD running, and short, intense sprint races
- Specialization — High speed/short-interval runs and a few pace runs, with a sharp decrease in volume and an increase in intensity of work between events, allowing time for mental and physical recovery
- Recovery — Dogs should have fun and stay active with nonspecific activities such as free play, free walking in groups of dogs and obedience training
“You have to look at what a dog is capable of and then slowly increase or alter the conditioning stimulus over time, giving adequate periods of rest



The canine musculoskeletal system develops gradually from the puppy life stage until maturity around 10 to 18 months of age, depending on the breed. An athletic adult dog has a fully developed musculoskeletal system from training and conditioning.



Although Dr. Arleigh Reynolds developed periodization in elite sprint sled dogs, the training method also is effective in hardworking sporting dogs.

for recovery between sessions,” Reynolds explains. “This builds muscles and red blood cells and ultimately increases cardiac output.”

As with humans, periodization had phenomenal success in sled dogs, boosting their performance and keeping the intense racers free of injuries throughout training and competition. Prior to using periodized conditioning, Reynolds realized that his sled dogs failed to develop the aerobic base they needed for competition. Gradually, as he introduced periodization, adding diverse and varied training stimuli, he began to notice performance changes in the sled dogs.

Reynolds advises trainers not to push dogs to the maximum every time they are worked. “The

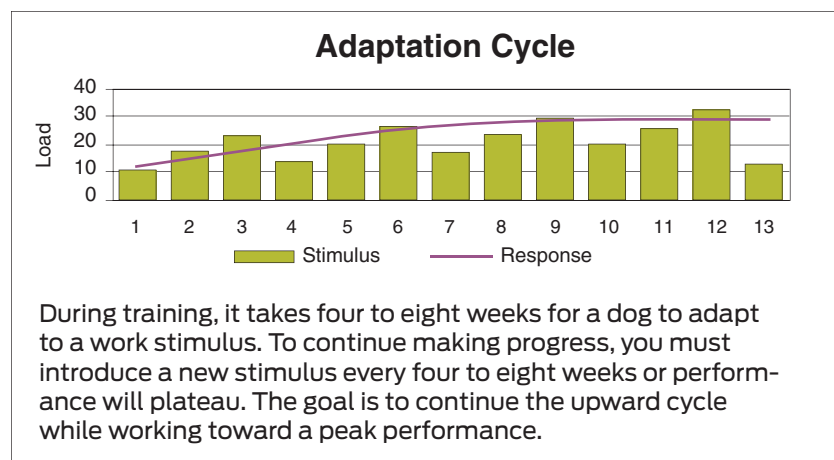
idea is to focus on different things and build on them,” he says. “Start easy and increase slowly to optimize all muscle systems through adaptation and periodization.”

PROPER CONDITIONING REDUCES STRESS

Jennell Appel, DVM, CCRT, a certified canine rehabilitation therapist and founder of the SportVet Canine Rehabilitation and Sports Medicine Mobile Clinic, stresses the importance of proper conditioning in a training program. “A conditioned dog has greater stamina and longevity, with less stress on the body,” she says.

She gives these examples of exercises to support conditioning:

- Strength training – Running uphill, weight/cart pulling, hindlimb resistance bands, trotting over obstacles (Cavaletti exercises), stand/down/stand, and crawling
- Endurance training – Slow, steady trot for at least 20 minutes, steady swim for at least 15 minutes
- Balance – Figure 8 walking on an air mattress, three-leg and two-leg standing on a balance ball or disc



Nutritional Priming Impacts Performance

Nutritionally priming a dog for performance can help boost the dog's athleticism, says Brian Zanghi, PhD, Purina Research Nutritionist. "Diets enriched with the right nutrients can help drive adaptation," he says. "Feeding a high-protein/high-fat performance food is optimal for hardworking dogs because it metabolically primes them to use these fuels for exercise."

The harder dogs work, the greater their fat and protein metabolism. Fat is the preferred source of energy during exercise. A high-fat diet increases the number of mitochondria in muscle cells, which promotes burning fat for energy. Protein helps to support strong muscles and maintain the body-protein balance during hard work when exercise activates protein breakdown.

Ideally, sporting dogs should be fed a performance food that provides from 28 to 30 percent protein and from 18 to 20 percent fat to sustain their energy demand, Zanghi says. *Purina Pro Plan SPORT Performance 30/20 Formula*, which contains a minimum of 30-percent protein and 20-percent fat, and *Purina Pro Plan SPORT Advanced 28/18 Formula*, which contains a minimum of 28-percent protein and 18-percent fat, are examples.

Zanghi advises feeding a performance food year-round. "Switching to a maintenance diet in the off-season is like metabolically detraining your dogs," he says. "Maintenance foods deliver high levels of carbohydrates, which decrease the meta-

bolic capacity to use fats, and ultimately result in reduced endurance. It's best to reduce the portion fed in the off-season and monitor body condition to keep a dog healthy and fit."

A tool to help minimize protein breakdown and aid in muscle conditioning is feeding a high-protein/high-fat nutritional supplement 30 minutes before training and competition. "After one hour of working hard, a dog has a drop in the blood leucine level," Zanghi explains. "Leucine is a protein building block and most significantly triggers protein building. Feeding a supplement with fast proteins containing high leucine that are easily digested and absorbed is optimal for cell function and recovery."

The *Purina Pro Plan SPORT PRiME* nutritional supplement bar, with fast proteins, helps keep muscles strong during activity. It also helps nourish muscles before and during exercise when fed 30 minutes before the start of a workout. These bars are formulated to be nutrient and calorie dense. The low-carbohydrate content helps minimize digestion related to the release of insulin as insulin activates fat and carbohydrate storage and slows fat burning.

An important recovery tool is the *Purina Pro Plan SPORT ReFUEL* nutritional supplement bar, which should be fed within 30 minutes after exercise to allow the muscles to maximize nutrient uptake. Designed for short-term recovery after

strenuous activity, the *ReFUEL* bar is specifically formulated to deliver a targeted portion size of rapidly digested carbohydrates to enable glucose to enter the bloodstream when fed within 30 minutes of the completion of exercise when muscles are maximized for sugar uptake and glycogen replenishment. Although glycogen is an important fuel for intense work, the muscle has a limited capacity to store it.

Another important tool for hardworking dogs is *Purina Veterinary Diets FortiFlora* canine probiotic supplement, which contains a special strain of probiotic, *Enterococcus faecium* SF68, that is proven to promote intestinal health and balance. Prescribed by veterinarians, *FortiFlora* may help manage the stress of travel or unfamiliar environments that can disrupt a sporting dog's digestive system. The supplement contains guaranteed amounts of live active cultures and has been shown to be safe, stable and effective in restoring normal intestinal health and balance.



- Body awareness — Ladder/ obstacle/plank walking, mattress walking
- Flexibility — Stretching program twice weekly

All sporting dogs are susceptible to injuries even those that are well-conditioned. Early recognition of a potential problem, such as lameness, can help minimize or possibly prevent an injury that requires long-term rehabilitation.

“Trainers should watch their dog’s gait closely every day, so they can recognize changes that may lead to potential problems,” Appel says. “Trotting is considered the best gait for detecting lameness. It is an efficient gait that drives a dog’s muscular energy forward.”

Dogs place 60 percent of their weight on the front legs — equally distributed — and 20 percent on each hind leg. Even subtle front leg lameness or off-loading can produce major compensatory problems for the rest of the body before it becomes a chronic condition.

Sporting dogs that appear lame or injured should be promptly examined by a veterinary expert. Specialists in treating sporting dogs include veterinarians who are board-certified by the American College of Veterinary Sports Medicine and Rehabilitation (vsmr.org); veterinarians and therapists who are certified rehabilitation practitioners or therapists by the University of Tennessee or Canine Rehabilitation Institute (caninerehabinstitute.com); and veterinarians who are board-certified in small-animal surgery by the American College of Veterinary Surgery (acvs.org).

UNDERSTANDING & PREVENTING INJURIES

Understanding orthopedic injuries in sporting dogs begins with understanding how their bodies work. “The forelegs are the brakes and steering, and the hind legs are the motor,” Cook explains.

Some of the more common injuries related to a sporting dog’s front legs are: strains to the muscles and tendons; sprains to the ligaments; shoulder instability; biceps tendon tenosynovitis or tendinitis in the shoulder; infraspinatus contracture in the shoulder; “jump down” syndrome or traumatic fragmented medial coronoid process of the elbow joint; carpal chipping in the wrist; retinaculum tears; and paw and pad injuries.

Common hind leg injuries include: strains to the muscles and tendon; sprains to the ligaments; lumbosacral instability in the lower spine; iliopsoas muscle-tendon strain or tears; cranial cruciate ligament rupture of the stifle; Achilles tendon injury affecting

the hock joint; retinaculum tears in the hock; and paw and pad injuries.

Efforts to keep dogs healthy and injury-free are essential. “The most important takeaways are to remember that to prevent injuries you should always warm up a dog before training and competition, cool down a dog after exercise, and allow time for recovery between high-intensity training and sporting events,” Cook says. “There is nothing worse than an injury that could be prevented.”

Appel agrees. “Dogs need a 10- to 15-minute warm-up before exercise,” she says. “A fast-paced walk helps to improve flexibility and heat the muscles, which reduce susceptibility to a strain injury and facilitate oxygen utilization due to an increase in hemoglobin release.”

A submaximal activity, such as trotting, jogging up a hill, small jumps or figure 8s on an incline, help warm a dog’s muscles before exercise, Cook adds. “These exercises help to warm the tissues and reduce the risk of injury. When a dog performs these warm-ups, he is actively stretching his muscles.”

A dog also should be gradually cooled down for 10 to 15 minutes after working. “A slow walk on a leash helps to dissipate waste products in the body,” Appel says. “This gradual decrease in cardiac output helps prevent the blood from pooling in the muscles and reduce soreness.”

Recovery is a key aspect for hardworking dogs. “Knowing what stresses individual dogs will help you decrease the negative part of that stress when a dog is recovering,” Reynolds says. “Although not all stress is ‘bad,’ it is important to define stress tolerance for an individual dog so you can help the dog benefit from the right amount of stress. You have to know what stress is for each dog you work with.”

The benefits of recovery include improving strength, increasing the range of motion and functioning, reducing pain, injuries and the need for medications, and improving weight and cardiovascular health. “Dogs have an amazing ability to recover if you let them,” Cook says.

There are many considerations when developing a young dog into an elite canine athlete. Being mindful that early training should incorporate the concept of the sport is helpful. Most important, be sure to make training fun for both you and your future sporting dog. ■



Dr. Jennell Appel stretches the shoulder of this Labrador Retriever. Stretching exercises should only be done after the muscles are warm.

CAMBRIA DOBERMANS'

Long Stretch

Autumn sunlight highlights the elegance of the female Doberman Pinscher, radiating power from her chiseled silhouette and deepening the richness of her stunning red coat. Poised and alert, she proudly conveys the nobility of the loyal German breed.

Moments later, “Zsa Zsa” drops the stacked pose and gracefully bounces off to affectionately nudge Ann Ramsbottom White, with whom she has intimately shared the past two years traveling in an RV while being campaigned. This year, she is the No. 1 Doberman Pinscher in the country. Weekend after weekend, crisscrossing the Midwest to attend an impressive 155 dog shows, the handler is road-weary yet satisfied.

At right: Multi-BIS/Multi-BISS GCH Cambria's Vraiment Parfait (“Zsa Zsa”), the No. 1 Doberman Pinscher in the country.



THE CAMBRIA KENNEL

At the Cambria Doberman kennel, “we believe in creating a kennel environment that is good for our dogs,” Ann says.

Each dog kennel is 5-by-6 feet inside and 5-by-14 feet outside. They are made of 12-gauge, 1 ½-inch chain link. Guillotine doors are closed to keep dogs safe at night, and secure latches on the inside kennel doors cannot be flipped by dogs. Propane and heat lamps help maintain a comfortable 65 to 76 degrees in winter, and air conditioning and ceiling fans keep temperatures 72 to 74 degrees in summer.

Below, clockwise from top: The Cambria kennel has 14 indoor-outdoor runs; Zsa Zsa is regal sitting atop bags of Purina Pro Plan SPORT Performance 30/20 Formula, the food that powers Cambria Dobermans; and Ann grooms “Nick.”

Back home in Holton, Indiana, husband Jim White has worked doubly hard to keep things going. Justification for their mutual sacrifices is pumped by their bragging rights as the breeders of Zsa Zsa (Multi-BIS/Multi-BISS GCH Cambria’s Vraiment Parfait), a 3-year-old who represents the 10th generation of Cambria show champions.

“The time had come for a more moderate Doberman,” Ann says, running her hands on Zsa Zsa’s head and down her back. “It worked in her favor. Sometimes you can have the right dog at the wrong time.”

Cambria’s celebratory mood is also boosted by this year’s 23 finished show champions sired by their “Nick” (CH Cambria’s Out For Justice), a 5-year-old black Doberman. His sire was CH Cambria’s Cactus Cash (“Eddie”), the top-producing sire in breed and Working Group history with 167 champions. With 34 champion offspring of his own, which includes Zsa Zsa, Nick has proved that he, too, is a producer. Another prominent male in Nick’s pedigree is his paternal grandsire, CH Brunswig’s Cryptonite, the top-winning Doberman of all time with 124 Bests in Show.

“In the past 10 years, every No. 1 Doberman goes back to Eddie,” reflects Jim. “He is the sire of 14 Best in Show winners.”

Smiling, Jim says, “Producers produce producers.”

Jim and Ann’s 100-plus years’ cumulative experience in Doberman Pinschers belies those words of wisdom. The couple’s sometimes contrary views fuel the fire between them. Jim is undoubtedly the equalizer when the stakes are high.

“Jim keeps me humble,” Ann says.

Driven to make every effort count, Ann finished 14 champions this year besides managing Zsa Zsa’s high-profile campaign. “You have precious little time to make an impact,” she says. “You learn from the mistakes and successes of proven breeders before you, from your breed, from other breeds, and even from other species.”

Jim found his niche as a breeder since retiring. The first litter he bred was in 1989. The sire was CH Agape Lion of Judah, and the dam was CH Florowill Bit of Magic (“Betta”), a red bitch who would produce





As they playfully romp in the exercise paddock, Zsa Zsa, left, and “Fedroa” exhibit the breed’s powerful athleticism and great speed.

21 champion in four litters and become the top-producing dam in Doberman history.

Betta appears three times in the pedigree of CH Cambria’s Victoria Secret (“Reigny”), the No. 1 Doberman in 2008 and winner of 14 Bests in Show. Reigny won the breed at the Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show in 2007, 2008 and 2009 and took a Working Group Second in 2007.

Ann credits Jim’s photographic memory and knowledge of pedigree depth in their breeding success. “Jim remembers dogs of the past,” she says. “He’s actually seen many of these dogs and understands the effect they’ve had on the breed through what they have produced.”

“I have been really lucky,” he says.

Luck aside, Jim and Ann are the breeders of two recent DPCA (Doberman Pinscher Club of America) Grand Prize Futurity winners, both sired by Nick out of dams

that are sisters. In 2012, the winner was Zsa Zsa, and in 2013, it was “Argus” (CH Cambria’s Above And Beyond).

“For breeders, the Futurity is like winning the jackpot,” Ann explains.

“Futurity winners don’t always turn out,” adds Jim.

Not so for Argus and Zsa Zsa. Argus returned to the DPCA National this fall after a year at home with owners Lora and Dan Van Epp to take an Award of Merit. Zsa Zsa, owned by Karen Thompson, Glen Lajeski and Ann Wulbrecht, took back-to-back Select Bitch honors at the 2013 and 2014 Nationals.

“We try to stay the course,” Ann says. “It’s easy to fall and hard to stay up there.”

Jim agrees. “We are always trying to breed the perfect Doberman by the breed standard. It will never happen. We just keep at it. That’s what we’re good at.”

“We are always trying to breed the perfect Doberman by the breed standard. It will never happen. We just keep at it. That’s what we’re good at.”

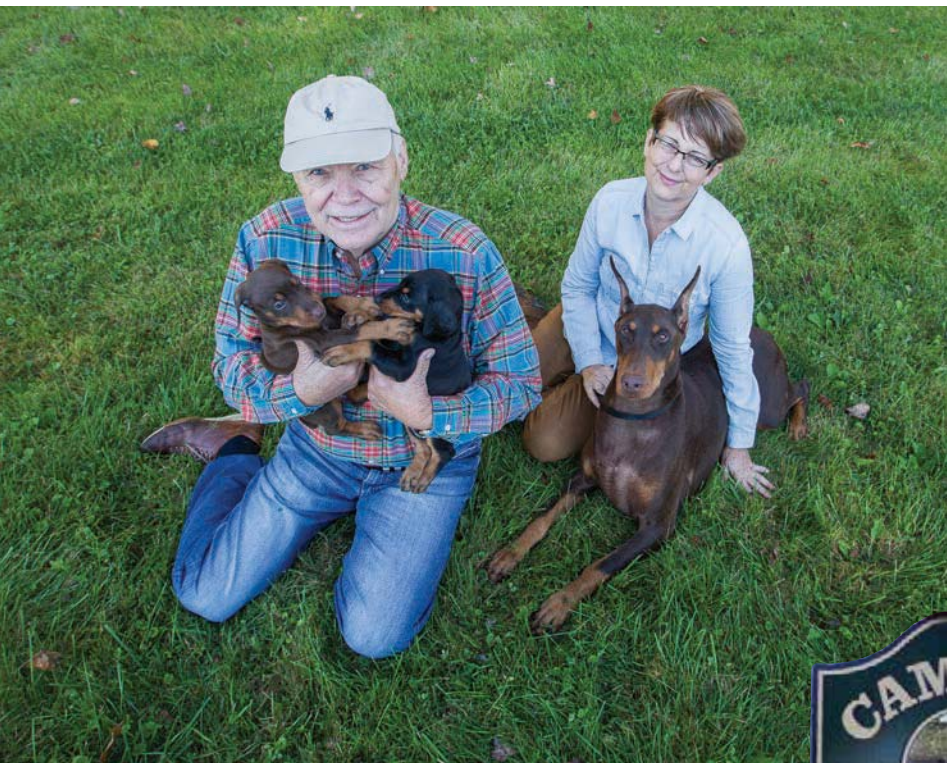
Jim White



BREEDING FOR BEST RESULTS

Cambria Doberman Pinscher breeders Jim and Ann White share breeding practices that have helped them to be successful.

- Linebreed quality dogs to solidify desirable traits in your bloodline. Linebreeding is mating dogs with common ancestors.
- Never breed for convenience. You should breed to the most appropriate stud dog for your female.
- Remove all emotion when selecting breeding partners. Breed to the dog, not the owner, the kennel prefix or popular sire.
- Try to see a potential sire to assess the dog's movement and temperament. Photos cannot convey these attributes.
- Study the health histories of many generations of the pedigree of potential mates to learn genetic diseases and health conditions and ages in which relatives died.
- Learn to live with the results of your breeding decisions. Embrace your good fortune and learn from your misfortune, and then move on. Breeding is a constant learning process.
- Remember that good health and temperament should never take a back seat to good conformation.



Ann poses with “Karma,” and Jim holds 6-week-old puppies. “Dobermans are people dogs. They are very intelligent and devoted to their owners,” Ann says.



A TWIST OF FATE

A shared passion for Doberman Pinschers, with a twist of fate, brought Jim and Ann together more than 20 years ago. In truth, they might have never connected.

“I thought she was stuck up when I met her,” Jim recalls of the cute, young handler ignoring his small talk while grooming a Lhasa Apso at a show in Texas.

“I am painfully shy,” explains Ann, who was working full time and handling dogs on weekends.

When they were married in 1995, Jim asked Ann, “What do you want to do?”

“You know!” she told him. “I have wanted to be a handler since I was 11 years old.”

Jim agreed to finance her handling career for five years. “I didn’t think she would be successful,” he laughs.

Besides finishing several show champions, Ann had noteworthy wins. Her finesse handling a red female sired by Eddie, CH Nova’s Zolara v Kelview, led to Best of Breed at the 2001 DPCA National Specialty, making “Zolara” the youngest winner in history at 16 months of age.

Zolara also won Best of Breed and took a Working Group Second in 2002 at Westminster. “I remember stacking her at the Garden,” Ann says. “Wow! She looked so beautiful. She loved the camera flashes and the lights.”

Ann’s success in the ring helped shape the future for her and Jim. In 2002, they moved to southeastern Indiana, a location strategically chosen because of its proximity to dog shows. In reality, they had spent a lifetime preparing for their joint venture.

Jim fell in love with a red female Doberman when working at the Jerome Hotel in Aspen, Colorado, in the late 1950s. He was impressed with the dog’s beauty and nimbleness like a deer. While attending Denver College, he bought his first Doberman, a red male pet named “Damien,” who he trained and titled in obedience.

Nearly 20 years later, early mentors, including Mary Rodgers of Marienburg Kennels in Missoula, Montana, and the

late James T. “Jim” Bennett, a professional handler, breeder of Gladiator Dobermans and show judge, helped him form an image of the ideal Doberman Pinscher.

Rodgers, Moe Miyagawa and Jim were co-owners of CH Marienburg’s Sun Hawk. The red male was the No. 1 Doberman in 1976 and 1977, and the DPCA National Specialty Best of Breed winner in 1976 and 1979, the latter won from the Veterans class.

Likewise, Ann benefited from early influencers. She was 11 when the late Irene Bivin helped her buy a show-quality Doberman from Mildred Bryant of Milbryan Kennels.

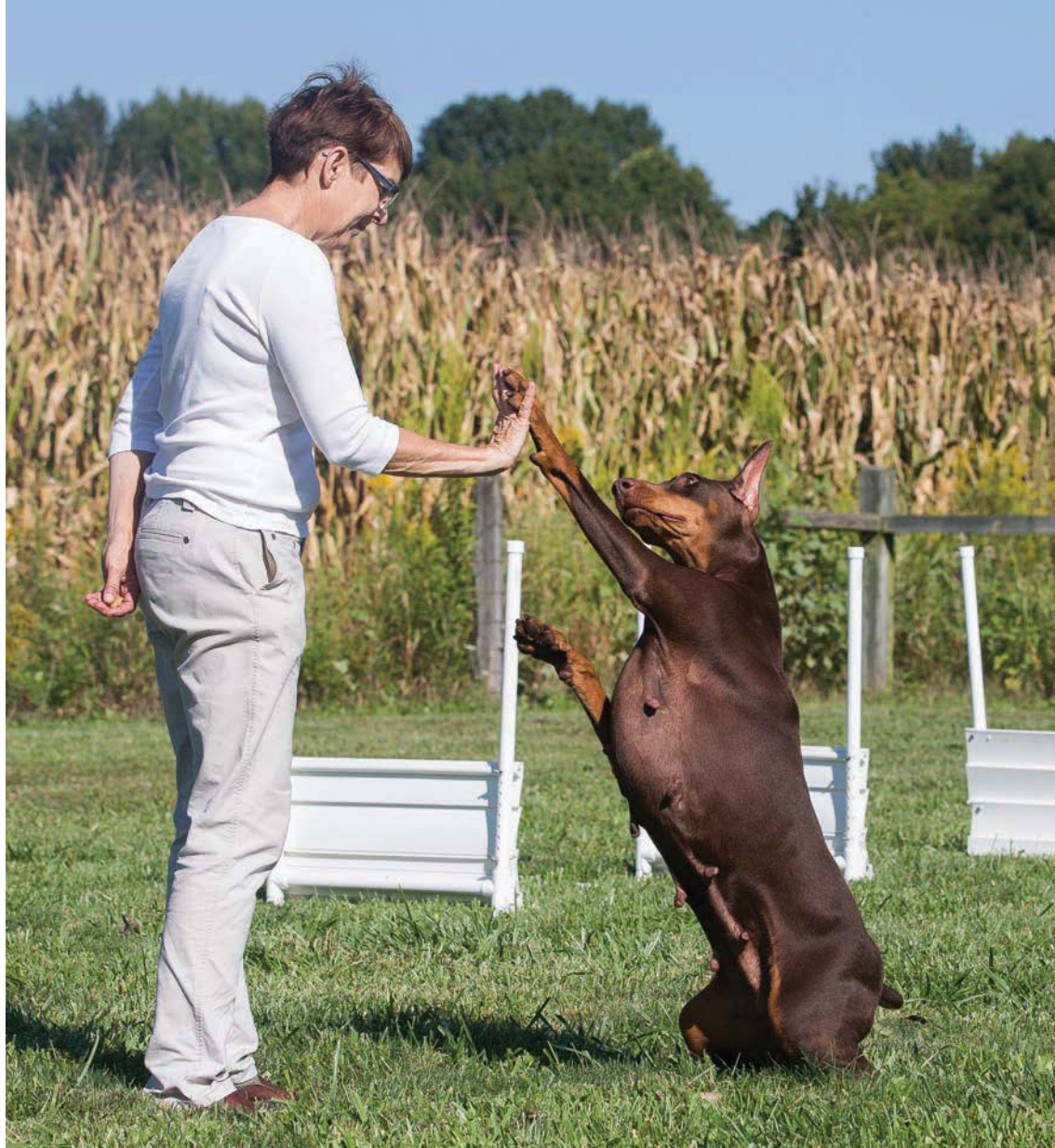
“That probably made the difference whether I stayed with it or not,” Ann says.

Ann was a devout student of the breed, living vicariously through *Doberman Quarterly* and studying the photos in every issue. When she was 14 years old, Ann was named the DPCA’s top junior handler. Two years later, she was thrilled when Bryant accompanied her to New York so she could compete in Junior Showmanship at Westminster.

Another similarity Ann and Jim share is their respective expertise in livestock and horses, and the impact this knowledge had on their understanding of Dobermans. Ann, an ag journalism alumna of Texas A&M University, learned to defend her rating of livestock quality based on the hoof to rail value. Jim dabbled in Arabian horses, later realizing the likeness of the standards, except for the dog’s slightly rounded croup and the 30-degree angle of the hipbone.

For many years, Jim practiced the horse breeding philosophy of concentrating all efforts on a few outstanding mares and paying a fee to breed to the most appropriate stallion. “It wasn’t until several generations into breeding Dobermans that keeping a male was even considered,” Jim says.

Cambria’s foundation bitch, Betta, “interestingly did not produce herself,” Jim says. “She always gave in to the sire to whom she was bred.”



Karma takes time for a high-five with Ann while practicing agility jumps. All dogs, even retired champions like Karma, stay in condition with regular exercise.

“Fortunately, Jim sought out and made the effort to breed her to some impressive sires,” Ann says.

One thing Jim and Ann know for certain is that success can be fleeting. “The more you know, the more you realize you don’t know,” Ann says. “As fast as dogs rise, they can go down.”

The Cambria Doberman breeders make it look easy to produce impactful sires and dams. Through old-fashioned persistence, hard work and love of the breed, they have earned success. It is their commitment that distinguishes them and gives Cambria its well-deserved prosperity and good fortune. ■

It is their commitment that distinguishes them and gives Cambria its well-deserved prosperity and good fortune.

Purina Decorates

TOP SHOOTING DOGS



Pro handler Mike Tracy earns his ninth Purina Handler Award.

Heads high, tails in the 12 o'clock position, their rock-solid bodies are frozen on game. Atop Tennessee Walkers, ranging from behind, handlers take it all in, captivated as their bird dogs gracefully sweep the bluestem and switchgrass edging the border of a field in search of bobwhite. The dogs' intensity and style are riveting.

The shooting dog sport is a calling that is often passed down from generation to generation among families and their dogs. Gathered in Lexington, Kentucky, this past June, enthusiasts came together to honor this year's Purina Top Shooting Dog Award winners. As much as the Purina Awards are a tradition, a celebration decorating the year's winners, the sport is a way of life for those who participate.

Top Shooting Derby Dog Award. The 2-year-old white and orange-marked Pointer is owned by longtime enthusiast Kevin Joyce and his wife, Maureen, of East Northport, New York. Under Mike Tracy, "Kate" won the second annual award.

"Kate is a stylish dog who handles kindly," says Joyce, who started Kate on foundation training, introduced her to birds, and taught her steady to wing and shot. "She is a pretty running dog. As big as she runs, she will not get lost because she loves to be with you."

Veterinarian Pat McInteer of Falls City, Nebraska, etched a place in history as the breeder-owner-handler of the Purina Top Shooting Dog Amateur Award winner, 2X Nat'l Amateur CH Nemaha Yankee. The 3-year-old



Above, from left, are: Great River Ice, Hightailing Miss Kate and Nemaha Yankee. All are powered by Purina Pro Plan SPORT Performance 30/20 Formula.

Back-to-back Purina Top Shooting Dog Awards went to father and son owners, Joaquin and Brian Sanchez of Central Islip, New York, and their pro handler Mike Tracy of Glenville, Pennsylvania. Another tour on the circuit affirmed that their 7-year-old white and orange-marked male Pointer, 13XCH/7XRUCH Great River Ice, is truly a great shooting dog with amazing style and bird-finding sensibility.

"My father and I share a special relationship through our dogs," says Brian Sanchez. "'Ice' has an unbelievable personality, and we are very fortunate to own him."

It was the fifth Purina Award for the Sanchez family. Joaquin Sanchez owned the unforgettable Hall of Fame Pointer, 10XCH/11XRUCH Bases Loaded, who won the family's first award in 1997-1998 under pro handler George Tracy, Mike's father. Two fathers and two sons bonded by their love of shooting dogs and the sport.

A sire who molds his offspring in his likeness, Ice passed on to daughter Hightailing Miss Kate all the style and bird-finding smarts she needed to win the Purina

white and orange-marked male Pointer topped off his owner's more than 40 years in the sport. McInteer and his wife, Margaret, celebrated their 45th wedding anniversary at the event, with their four children and their spouses and eight of their 11 grandchildren attending.

"I am very blessed to win," McInteer says. "Seeing 'Yankee' go across the field, run to the front with his fancy, high tail is breathtaking."

Mike Tracy, the Purina Top Shooting Dog Handler, won his ninth award, inching closer to his father's record 11 Purina Handler Awards. The two flip-flopped in the standings most of the year until Mike Tracy swept the last two major shooting dog championships. His grandfather, Gerald Tracy, won the first Purina Top Shooting Dog Award in 1983 with Rocky River Buck. Three generations shaped by shooting dogs.

"Every time I win this award is as special as the first time I won in 1999-2000," says Mike Tracy. "I owe everything I have achieved to my family. My dad and grandfather gave me big shoes to fill." ■

PURINA
PRO CLUB
Circle of Champions



PHOTO: ALLISON SUTTON (LegendPhotoTX.com)

LABRADOR RETRIEVER 'BEAMER' PASSES NINTH MASTER NATIONAL

A master retriever, poised with grit, sailed through six rigorous series to pass the 2014 Master National in Corning, California — the ninth for the 11-year-old yellow male Labrador named “Beamer,” making him the most titled hunt test retriever in the country. Handled by trainer Ronnie Lee of Louisville, Mississippi, Beamer tickled owner Louis DeJohn of Central, Louisiana, when he earned his pass, especially considering the dog’s near brush with death the month before due to a hole in his intestine. GRHRCH Becky Lou’s Bayou Beamer, MH, MNH9, QAA, regained his strength and rallied with the undeniable enthusiasm of a champion retriever, making series after series of triple marks, with single and double blind retrieves. Beamer is fed *Purina Pro Plan SPORT Performance 30/20 Formula*.

With the tenacity of a master retriever, “Beamer” perseveres to become the most-titled hunt test retriever in the country.

'JORDAN' SETS NEWFOUNDLAND BITCH RECORD IN GROUP FIRSTS

Following in the footsteps of her great-great-grand sire, “Josh,” the winningest Newfoundland in breed history and the 2004 Westminster Kennel Club Best in Show winner, “Jordan” has won 28 Working Group Firsts, a breed record for a bitch. Despite limited showing, the heavily boned 4 ½-year-old has captured Bests in Show at the following kennel club dog shows: Belle City (Illinois), Paducah (Kentucky), Marshfield Area (Wisconsin), and Agathon (Ohio). Multi-BIS/Multi-BISS GCH Pouch Cove’s Seabrook Enough Said also has won five Bests in Specialty Show, including the 2013 Newfoundland Club of America (NCA) National Specialty, under professional handler Laura King of Milan, Illinois. In 2014, Jordan won Best of Breed at the Garden and Best of Opposite Sex at the NCA National. “Jordan is a lively, happy dog with a competitive spirit,” says Kathy Griffin of Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin, co-owner with breeder Peggy Helming of Flemington, New Jersey. The No. 1 and No. 3 Newfie in 2013 and 2014, respectively, Jordan is fueled by a combination of *Purina Pro Plan SELECT Sensitive Skin & Stomach Formula* and *Purina Pro Plan SELECT Sensitive Skin & Stomach Salmon & Rice Entrée*.



“Jordan” is impressive with her smooth, effortless gait and powerful reach and drive.

'WINSTON' WINS THIRD BASENJI CLUB OF AMERICA NATIONAL SPECIALTY

A 3 1/2-year-old male Basenji with a nicely wrinkled head called “Winston” won his third consecutive Basenji Club of America (BCOA) National Specialty this past September at the Purina Event Center. At 1 year of age, in 2012, Winston became the first Basenji to win Best of Breed and the Top Twenty-Five at the BCOA National Specialty. Multi-BIS/Multi-BISS GCH Jasiri-Sukari Win Tin Tin, the No. 1 Basenji in the country since 2012, is from the eighth generation of top-producing Jasiri-Sukari champions bred by owner-handlers Julie and Kathy Jones of Los Angeles. This outgoing hound is a two-time Best of Breed winner at the Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show, having won in 2013 and 2014, and Best of Breed winner at the 2013 AKC National Championship. He has won four Bests in Show and 10 Bests in Specialty Show. “Winston’s ‘look-at-me’ attitude, effortless side gait and sleek, pliable, chestnut-colored coat distinguish him. He loves to show,” says Julie Jones. Co-owned by Chua Ming Kok of Singapore, Winston is fueled by *Purina Pro Plan SPORT* Active 26/16 Formula.

The No. 1 Basenji in the country since 2012, “Winston” shines with his outgoing personality.



ENGLISH COCKER SPANIEL NAMED 'TROY' WINS NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP FIELD TRIAL

Dreams came true for owner-handler Richard Whelan of Cresco, Pennsylvania, when his 4 1/2-year-old white-and-lemon English Cocker Spaniel “Troy” won the 2014 National Cocker Championship Field Trial. “To win the National with my first Cocker is quite an honor,” says Whelan, whose previous 25 years in field trials have been with English Springer Spaniels. NFC-FC Warrener’s Whip Poor Will was an early front-runner in the 75-dog stake, with his eye-catching style and boldness on game. Breeder Paul McGagh and Vicky Thomas of Bismarck, North Dakota, produced the noteworthy litter, with Troy’s brother “Cairo” winning the 2012 National and brother “Ty” placing third in 2013. Under Whelan’s gentle hand, Troy blossomed to not only win the top prize but also the Guns Award given to the dog most desired to hunt over on a day afield. Whelan, the only amateur handler to place at the National, received the High Point Amateur Handler Award for accruing the most points in open stakes in 2014 — all earned with Troy. The top-performing Cocker is fed *Purina Pro Plan SPORT* Performance 30/20 Formula.

“Troy,” the first English Cocker Spaniel for Richard Whelan, gives his owner-handler his first National Championship win.

Please visit the Circle of Champions on the *Purina Pro Club* website at purinaproclub.com to read about top-performing show and sporting dogs powered by *Purina*.



Multi-BIS/2XNBISS GCH Reece Afterhours The Buck Stops Here, JH, RN, V, excels in fieldwork, dog shows and obedience.

Today's Breeder loves hearing from Purina Pro Club members! Tell us about your success with your dogs and how Purina nutrition and Pro Club helps you achieve your goals. Please send your letter and photos to editor@purina.nestle.com or mail them to Today's Breeder, c/o Editor, Nestlé Purina PetCare, 2T Checkerboard Square, St. Louis, MO 63164. Today's Breeder retains the right to edit and publish letters, including names, addresses and photos, to a worldwide audience.

I am so proud of my German Wirehair, "Truman," who won Best of Breed this fall at the German Wirehaired Pointer Club of America National Specialty for the second time. To top it off, Truman was awarded the club's Versatility title for his work in the show ring, field and obedience.

Reece Wirehairs did very well. Truman's daughter took Best of Opposite, and his son won Select Dog. His nephew won Best in Futurity, and a littermate won Best of Opposite in the National Sweepstakes. One of my females went High in Trial at the GWPCA regional obedience trial, and several of my dogs took home hunt test ribbons.

I am a loyal feeder of *Purina Pro Plan SPORT Performance 30/20 Formula*. In fact, the Best of Breed judge commented on Truman's fabulous coat and excellent condition. I attribute it all to *Pro Plan!* I love your magazine, too!
Angie Johnson
Reece Kennels | Polk City, FL

After more than 400 visits to the Randolph Hospice House in Asheboro, North Carolina, my 11-year-old yellow Labrador Retriever "Kota" received the Therapy Dog Distinguished title from the American Kennel

Labrador Retriever "Kota" is the 11th dog to receive the special Therapy Dog Distinguished title.



Club. Kota is unique because all his therapy dog visits have related to the hospice organization.

Kota and I have made twice weekly visits to Hospice House for the past two and half years. A therapy dog since 2010, Kota naturally bonds with the hospice patients. This is his calling, as he brings joy to all he meets, including the nurses and staff at Hospice House.

Anne Evans
Duckback Labradors | Bennett, NC

Never in our wildest dreams did we think our Great Dane "Pickles" would enjoy dock diving and become the first of her breed to earn a Dock Novice title! Pickles absolutely loves the water. It started with her swimming in pools and running through waves at the beach. Then one day she climbed into a bathtub full of bubbles.

We have to hand it to *Purina Pro Plan FOCUS Adult Weight Management* and *Purina Pro Plan FOCUS Large Breed* formulas, the perfect combo to keep Pickles doing what she loves — earning titles.
Janet and Danielle Lampe
Lampe Danes | Temecula, CA



"Pickles," a show champion Great Dane, enthusiastically dives into the water to retrieve a toy thrown by owner Janet Lampe.



2015 NATIONAL SPECIALTIES AT THE PURINA EVENT CENTER

Event	Date	Event	Date
Flat-Coated Retriever Society of America	April 5-9	Ibizan Hound Club of the United States	Sept. 8-11
United States Australian Shepherd Association	April 12-17	German Pinscher Club of America	Sept. 11
American Rottweiler Club	April 20-26	National Beagle Club	Sept. 14-16
Scottish Deerhound Club of America (Lure Coursing Only)	April 27-30	Miniature American Shepherd Club of the USA	Sept. 14-17
Kuvasz Club of America	April 30	Black Russian Terrier Club of America	Sept. 14-18
Finnish Lapphund Club of America	May 1-3	American Polish Lowland Sheepdog Club	Sept. 17
Miniature Australian Shepherd Club of America	May 12-17	Harrier Club of America National Specialty	Sept. 17
Weimaraner Club of America	May 13-18	American Foxhound Club	Sept. 17
Gordon Setter Club of America	May 21-26	Otterhound Club of America	Sept. 19
Affenpinscher Club of America	May 31	English Springer Spaniel Field Trial Association	Sept. 22-26
Parson Russell Association of America	May 31	Australian Cattle Dog Club of America	Sept. 28 – Oct. 3
Saluki Club of America	June 3-6	Labrador Retriever Club	Oct. 5-9
ASC (American Spaniel Club) Cocker Spaniel	July 17-20	German Shepherd Dog Club of America	Oct. 10-17
Border Collie Society of America	Aug. 31 – Sept. 6		

Located about one hour from St. Louis at Purina Farms in Gray Summit, Missouri, the Purina Event Center is a state-of-the-art facility custom-made for all-breed and specialty dog shows. For information about scheduling an event, please contact Kaite Flamm, Purina Event Center Manager, at 888-688-PETS (888-688-7387) or by email at kaite.flamm@purina.nestle.com.

GET CONNECTED ON SOCIAL MEDIA



Breeders and enthusiasts can use social media to connect by sharing photos, videos, and experiences. Go to the *Purina Pro Plan* for Professionals page



on Facebook and the *Purina Pro Club* account on Instagram to become part of the conversation and share your passion for the sport with a community of dog enthusiasts.

Today's Breeder
Nestlé Purina PetCare
Checkerboard Square
St. Louis, MO 63164

Prsrt Std
U.S. Postage
PAID
St. Louis, MO
Permit No. 475

Breed Snapshot

LABRADOR RETRIEVER: AMERICA'S MOST POPULAR BREED

The most popular breed in America, a ranking held since 1991, the Labrador Retriever combines the finesse of a waterfowl and upland game hunter with the friendly nature of an eager-to-please companion. From duck blinds to show rings, the Labrador is intelligent, graceful and stylish.

Originating in Newfoundland in the early 1800s, Labradors were brought by fishermen to England, where fanciers eventually developed a breed standard, discouraging interbreeding with other retrievers. An influx of British dogs from the 1920s and 1930s formed the backbone of the breed in America and led to the founding of the Labrador Retriever Club in 1931.

Well-suited for swimming, the Labrador is distinguished by his short, dense, water-resistant coat,

webbed toes and otter tail. Strongly built with a balanced, athletic conformation, the Labrador's versatility is noteworthy. Sporting Labradors participate in field trials, hunt tests, tracking, obedience, agility, rally, and conformation. His gentle disposition befits his role as a service and therapy dog.

Labrador Retrievers have three coat colors — black, yellow and chocolate. A loyal family member, the Labrador steals the hearts of all with his kind, loving eyes. A medium-sized dog, males are 22 ½ to 24 ½ inches tall at the withers and weigh 65 to 80 pounds, and females are 21 ½ to 23 ½ inches tall and weigh 55 to 70 pounds.

Source: *The Complete Dog Book*, Official Publication of the American Kennel Club (Irvine, CA: i-5 Publishing, 2014).

