



A WINNING PARTNERSHIP

The Whippets of Windborn & Starline

- THE PORTUGUESE WATER DOG IN AMERICA
- WESTMINSTER WINNER 'WASABI'
- Q&A ON DOG BREEDING & NUTRITION

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MBIS GCHP Windborn Starline Heiress BN RN SC BCAT TKN is a 7 1/2-year-old fawn brindle female Whippet co-bred and co-owned by Lori Wilson-Paust of Modesto, California, and Lori Lawrence of Rancho Santa Fe, California, with Kellie Padon and Robert "Bobby" Paust. "Anna" is handled by Lori Wilson-Paust. See story on page 18.

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Weighing puppies daily through 3 weeks of age helps to ensure they are getting enough milk and growing normally. See story on page 8.



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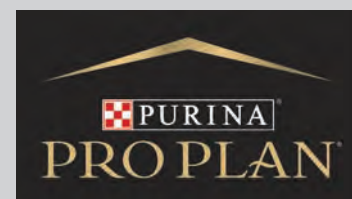
Barbara Fawver, Editor, *Today's Breeder*

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‘WASABI,’ A PEKINGESE, WINS BEST IN SHOW AT 2021 WESTMINSTER DOG SHOW



The Pekingese “Wasabi” set the pace and breeder-owner-handler David Fitzpatrick obligingly walked alongside. Their steady cadence around the Best in Show ring at the 145th Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show Presented by *Purina Pro Plan* was distinguished by grace and harmony.

Recognizing their brilliant performance amid a stellar lineup of beautiful show dogs, Best in Show judge Patricia Craige Trotter gave top honors to the dignified, bold toy dog and his debonair handler. “Wasabi stood as though he was a lion, as though he was 10 feet tall,” said the 11-time Westminster Hound Group breeder-owner-handler after the show. “He has the perfect rectangular Pekingese head and the proper pear shape with a heavy front and light in the back.”

“Westminster is such a magnificent event,” David of East Berlin, Pennsylvania, told reporters, as Wasabi looked up with friendly, large wide-set eyes. “To win here is the pinnacle



Breeder-owner-handler David Fitzpatrick reacts joyously to winning Best in Show. “Wasabi” is the 14th of the past 15 Westminster Best in Show winners fed *Purina Pro Plan* dog food.

of a career. It is surreal to have won this dream of a lifetime for the second time.”

MBIS/MBISS GCHG Pequest Wasabi won in a historic year. Due to the pandemic, the iconic dog show was held June 12-13, 2021, at Lyndhurst Estate in Tarrytown, New York, a departure from its usual February occurrence at Madison Square Garden. Judging of 2,500 dogs — 209 breeds and varieties — took place on a grand outdoor lawn with Groups and Best in Show held in a spacious indoor tent building that emulated the look and feel of Westminster at the Garden.

Wasabi's co-owners are Sandra Middlebrooks of Fairhope, Alabama, the late Iris Love of New York City, and Peggy Steinman of Lancaster, Pennsylvania. The 3-year-old black-masked red male captured his 50th Best in Show at Westminster. In December 2019 at 20 months of age, Wasabi was the youngest dog

and first Toy Group winner to take Best in Show at the AKC National Championship. Shown sparingly, he had earned his first Best in Show the previous weekend. The No. 1 all-breed dog in the country in 2020, Wasabi returned to the AKC National Championship in 2020 to win Best Bred-By Exhibitor.

David's first Westminster Best in Show win in 2012 was with MBIS/MBISS GCHS Palacegarden Malachy, a 4-year-old silver-brindle male, who is Wasabi's paternal grandsire and maternal great-grandsire. "Malachy," the No. 1 Toy dog in the country in 2010 and 2011, won his 115th Best in Show at the Garden. Wasabi's sire, "Chuckie" (MBIS/MBISS GCHG Pequest Pickwick), won Toy Group First at Westminster in 2017.

Altogether David has showed Pekingese breed winners in the Toy Group at Westminster 24 times and won eight times. His first Westminster Toy Group winner in 1987 was CH Briarcourt's Coral Gable, a solid, sound and charismatic dog. Coral Gable's son, CH Briarcourt's Damien Gable, won in 1993 and 1994.

A black-masked red dog leased from Bert Easdon and Philip Martin of Yakee Pekes in Glasgow, Scotland, was the 2005 Toy Group winner. "Jeffrey" (CH Yakee If Only) went on to be the No. 1 all-breed dog that year and the winningest Peke and Toy Group dog in history with 129 Bests in Show, topping the long-standing record of 126 wins by CH Chik T'Sun of Caversham. The record stands today.

A perfectionist, David's genteel presentation of Wasabi comes from 50-plus years in the breed. His deep understanding of correct breed type, how to condition and groom the coat, and the essential magnetic spark a Peke needs to win underlie his success. His Pequest breeding program includes a dynamic blend of his original Coral Gable dogs and Yakee and Palacegarden lines. The American Kennel Club named David the Toy Group Breeder of the Year in 2009.

A turning point in his breeding program came in 2001 when Yakee breeder Easdon gave David a bitch in whelp bred to their famous male who won Crufts in 2003, "Danny" (Yakee A Dangerous Liaison). "This is when I started getting consistency," David says. "The Yakee dogs were great producers. I began getting four or five puppies in litters, while before there were one or two puppies. More puppies mean a greater chance for getting quality show dogs."

A couple of years later, "Bert offered me Jeffrey, a young dog, who aesthetically was one of the most beautiful animals I had ever seen," recalls David. "I took him home, conditioned him and took him to shows with me as a spectator. It took a while for him to get his head around showing, but eventually it all clicked into place. In 2004, I took him to some shows in January, and he won three groups and a Best in Show."

In 2008, David judged a championship show in the U.K., where he was introduced to the Palacegarden Pekingese of Jim and Jean Smith. Malachy, his 2012 Westminster Best in Show winner, came from their kennel. "They had lovely, old-fashioned Pekes with rough manes having a patterned look much like we used to



Best in Show judge Patricia Craige Trotter examines Wasabi, the fifth Pekingese to win at Westminster. David is the owner-handler of the 2012 winner, "Malachy," who is Wasabi's sire.

have," he says. "They were solid, one-piece dogs with beautiful, high tail sets, broad chests, short, thick necks, and large heads. They had shorter coats on their hips and flanks that enhanced the classic pear shape."

Wasabi's link to the Coral Gable, Yakee and Palacegarden bloodlines reflects the success of the Pequest breeding program. "Wasabi's pedigree is like a history lesson in Pekingese," David says. "These original lines crossed with the Pekes from Scotland and the U.K. have produced very prolific, fantastic dogs in terms of quality and type."

The Pequest stamp adds its own value. "I breed more for temperament, as a good dog without temperament doesn't go far," David says. "I want a happy dog that likes to be with me and follow me. This is important also for dogs that become pets. I am looking not only for good type but also a charismatic dog that has showmanship."

Importantly, David believes in keeping dogs and himself relaxed and calm at dog shows. Shown only four weekends in 2021 prior to Westminster, Wasabi's leisurely stroll around the Best in Show ring showed a fresh and invigorated Pekingese happy to be out with his owner.

"This was a moment in dog show history and in time," David says. "I told myself to just enjoy it."

Congratulations, Westminster winners David and Wasabi! ■

AUSTRALIAN SHEPHERD MOTHER-DAUGHTER DUO MAKES WESTMINSTER FINALS

Australian Shepherds “Deuce” and “Lili Ann” are extraordinary achievers. The former won the Herding Group at the 2008 Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show, the only Aussie winner in history, and the latter was the 20-Inch Division winner at the 2020 Masters Agility Championship at Westminster. This mother-daughter duo stands out because they both made the Finals at Westminster in their respective sports.

“When Deuce won the Herding Group at Westminster, I jumped up and started crying. It was really exciting,” says owner Terri K. Collins, of Auburn, Massachusetts, recalling watching live as the second Aussie she had owned won at Madison Square Garden in New York.

Deuce was her pet. She had fallen in love with her as an exuberant 7-week-old pup who extended her legs naturally while playfully trotting around. Deuce stayed after Collins cared for her when breeder Sandy Landry of Vinelake Aussies in Medway, Massachusetts, went on vacation.

Collins had trained and handled the talented, smart female to Novice and Open agility titles and had started her in conformation, finishing her show championship title in limited showing. Deuce finished with three Majors, including a 4-point Major her first weekend out from the 6- to 9-month puppy class along with two 5-point Majors just four and a half months later.

The beautiful red merle 4-year-old was part of a stellar lineup from which judge Dr. J. Donald Jones picked a baying hound, the 15-inch Beagle, “Uno,” for Best in Show. Handled by Jessica Plourde of Saratoga Springs, New York, Deuce (MBIS/BISS CH Vinelake Collinswood Yablon OA OAJ NAP NJP GS-N ROMP-1) moved smooth and easy, a well-toned athlete who



gave no hint of having whelped her first litter five months earlier.

Deuce stayed on the circuit with Plourde in 2008, becoming the No. 1 Aussie all systems and No. 3 Herding dog. Her career stats boasted seven Bests in Show and 53 Herding Group Firsts. In 2007, she had won Best of Breed at the United States Australian Shepherd Association National Specialty.

After 20 years’ breeding and competing in obedience and agility with Rottweilers, Collins, who owns a dog day care, boarding and training facility called Collinswood K-9, switched to Australian Shepherds in 2001. “I was a volunteer at the 2000 AKC National Agility Championship in Springfield (Massachusetts),” she says. “I kept



Above and top: Handler Jessica Plourde showed “Deuce” to Herding Group First at Westminster in 2008. Deuce is the only Australian Shepherd to have won the Group at the venerable dog show.

PHOTO: DIANA HADSELL

seeing all these Aussies. I started thinking this could be a breed for me. I wanted a dog that could perform consistently and was easy to live with.”

She made the leap to Aussies with a tricolor male puppy named “Razz” from a litter bred by Laura Lynn Tanner of Agile Aussies in Elmira, New York. Collins handled Razz to finish his show championship while simultaneously training him in agility. A consistent achiever and loyal companion, Razz (MACH5 CH Agile Collinswood Razzmatazz CD MXG2 MJS2 MXF ROMX) earned five Master Agility Champion (MACH) titles and in 2004 was the No. 10 Aussie in breed campaigned by Plourde.

A breeder at heart, Collins paused Deuce’s show career in 2007 to breed her to Razz. Deuce produced a dream litter of six pups that would excel in agility, conformation and herding and earn their dam Register of Merit-Performance (ROMP-1) recognition. Razz would go on to earn Register of Merit Excellent (ROMX) status as a producer of multiple breed champions and offspring that titled in agility, rally and herding.

Thomas Gooding of Niskayuna, New York, became the owner of one of Razz and Deuce’s pups, whom he named “Gracie Marie.” “I drifted into agility about 20 years ago when my obedience trainer began teaching agility,” he says. “A friend had wonderful working Aussies, and I learned that his breeder was having a litter in August (2007). He kept saying, ‘You should talk to this lady.’ I began emailing Terri, and the next thing I knew I was getting a puppy.”

That blue merle puppy, Gracie Marie (MACH2 Collinswood Gracin The Airways CD MXG MJC MXF TQDF T2B2), excelled at agility. “I liked her so much that I told Terri that if she repeated the breeding, I wanted another puppy. Lili Ann came four years later,” Gooding says.

Collins tried something different with this Razz-Deuce litter. She did not dock the tails as is customary in the U.S. for Aussies not born with a naturally bobbed tail. “I bred this litter for performance and decided to keep the tails after researching the role of the tail in a dog’s balance,” she says. “Another reason was because some of my dogs compete in international FCI (Fédération Cynologique Federation) shows where tails cannot be docked.”

Gracie Marie was Gooding’s main agility dog when Lili Ann, a black tricolor pup, joined the family. He eased the newcomer into the sport slowly so as not to stress her developing muscu-



PHOTO COURTESY WESTMINSTER KENNEL CLUB



“Lili Ann,” above and left with owner-handler Thomas Gooding, eases over a jump to win the 20-inch Division at the 2020 Masters Agility Championship at Westminster.

loskeletal system. “When Lili Ann was 15 months old, we really started training, though at the time Gracie was a tremendous agility dog,” he says.

As age and injuries crept up on Gracie Marie, Lili Ann became Gooding’s focus. Going into the 2020 Masters Agility Championship at Westminster, Lili Ann (MACH4 Collinswood Lili Of The Valley MXB2 PAD MJS2 PJD MFX TQX T2B5) had proved to be a top competitor.

At the Masters, “Lili Ann had two clean runs with fast scores, making her the top Aussie and qualifying us for the Finals,” Gooding says. “It was so exciting just to be one of 10 teams that made the Finals. We would be competing against the 2019 defending champion in our division.”

Knowing that the Finals were being taped by FOX Sports to air the next day on national television added to Gooding’s adrenalin rush. “There was tremendous pressure, but because we had competed at the AKC Nationals and the Canadian National, I was prepared mentally,” Gooding says. “I just relaxed and went out and did my job.”

Lili Ann did her job, too. “She read my mind the whole course,” says Gooding. “Her score was the highest in the 20-Inch Division.”

Turning 10 years old in May 2021, Lili Ann has yet to slow down. “She’s my most acclaimed agility dog,” Gooding says.

As to her having a tail, Gooding says she walks and moves differently than Gracie Marie. The subtle differences were convincing.

“My new Collinswood Aussie is ‘Ruby Lee.’ She is a 21-month-old red tricolor. She has a tail too,” Gooding adds. ■

FOOD FOR THOUGHT A Q&A ON DOG BREEDING & PREGNANCY NUTRITION

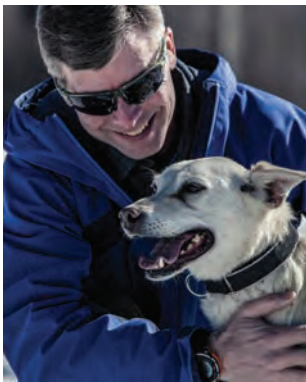
No matter how experienced you become at dog breeding and whelping litters of puppies, you may sometimes face scenarios you have not seen before. *Today's Breeder* invited five breeders to send us questions, and we turned to experts to provide answers. Purina Senior Research Nutritionist Arleigh Reynolds, DVM, PhD, DACVN, a board-certified veterinary nutritionist, and Andrea Hesser, DVM, DACT, a board-certified veterinary reproduction specialist who practices at Josey Ranch Pet Hospital in Carrollton, Texas, share their insights here.

PREPARING TO BREED

Q: *We have trouble getting our bitches pregnant and then carrying their pregnancies to term. Pregnancies often result in a cesarean section of one or two puppies. We use progesterone testing to learn the optimal time to breed. What can we do to help with fertility in our bitches?* Shawny Cirincione, The Hounds of Hobara, Danbury, Connecticut

Dr. Hesser: Ovulating timing, breeding to quality semen from a proven stud dog, and monitoring the pregnancy properly are key to success. It sounds like you are on track and doing things correctly. Bitches can have a multitude of primary conditions, ranging from inflammatory to cystic-to cyclic-associated diseases. Consulting with a specialist may reveal a very clear primary abnormality.

High inbreeding coefficients have been shown to have great impact on litter size, so ensuring



Dr. Arleigh Reynolds, a board-certified veterinary nutritionist



Dr. Andrea Hesser, a board-certified veterinary reproduction specialist



PHOTO: DIANE LEWIS

you have genetic variability may help you depending on the options available. I also find it amazing the positive impact that comes from practicing good basic pregnancy management, feeding a healthy diet and monitoring body condition, allowing moderate exercise throughout pregnancy, and adhering to deworming regimens. After all these things have been considered, we look at uterine testing to determine the cause of pregnancy problems. I suggest waiting for two well-bred cycles that “miss” before reaching out for an intensive workup, as this takes some effort and expense.

If a bitch misses repeatedly, we usually advise having a uterine biopsy at around the time she would have her puppies, as the cervix becomes open. I perform this procedure with sedation using an endoscope to take a tiny biopsy of the endometrium. If a bitch is having a C-section, I sometimes take a biopsy during the surgery. Biopsy samples are sent for laboratory analysis to assess her future fertility. The most common reports we receive back are normal and inflammatory or cystic conditions. Dogs rarely have fibrosis, or scar tissue. Occasionally a fungal or other rare pathogen is observed on biopsy.

For most bitches, we perform a uterine culture at the onset of estrus (heat), even if some problem is identified on biopsy. When a breeder is investing in a cycle, it is best to have the full picture and optimize everything possible. I collect cultures of the uterus using a transcervical scope with the patient awake as well as cytology (cellular fluid) samples, which are sent for laboratory testing. Ideally, the results are returned in time to treat any underlying bacterium species. Keep in mind that sometimes after great financial input, everything is normal and there is nothing to fix.

Q: *If you are planning to breed a bitch when her annual vaccinations are due, should these vaccines be postponed? Is it safe to give her rabies, distemper, adenovirus (hepatitis), parvovirus, parainfluenza, and leptospirosis vaccinations?* Rita Jones, Seaside Retrievers, Vernon, Florida

Dr. Hesser: The importance of staying up to date on vaccines cannot be understated. In general, it's best to update vaccines ahead of time if you know your bitch will be due for vaccination around her estrus cycle, pregnancy or even into lactation. Rabies is a non-negotiable vaccine and is a killed vaccine, meaning the virus has been



PHOTO: GINA SIERRA PHOTOGRAPHY

inactivated. We don't tend to see a negative impact using this category of vaccine even when administered at the last minute. We try to avoid giving the rabies vaccine during pregnancy, though a bitch is much more at risk to go unvaccinated.

As for the distemper, adenovirus and parvovirus combination vaccines, being overdue for these vaccines may not result in any detriment. The veterinarian could check titers to ensure the bitch is protected for an upcoming pregnancy. Ideally, vaccines for leptospirosis, parainfluenza, Bordetella, and Lyme disease are up to date; however, exposure to these pathogens is less frequent when a female is isolated and her traveling is limited, as in the case of pregnancy and lactation.

Q: *Is it safe to give heartworm and oral flea and tick preventives during breeding, pregnancy and lactation?* Rita Jones, Seaside Retrievers

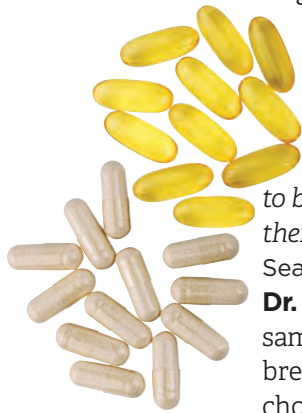
Dr. Hesser: It is absolutely paramount to keep your dog on preventive medications during this time. I regularly see heartworm positive pregnant dogs and breeders who make unfortunate mistakes in judgment not giving heartworm preventives. Heartworms don't care that you are breeding your bitch, and it just takes a lapse to create irreversible disease.

These 3 ½-week-old Wire-haired Dachshund puppies were whelped by GCH Hobarra's Bugatti Atlantic, her first litter after two previous attempts. Breeders Shawny and Tony Cirincione consulted their veterinary reproduction specialist for help getting “Betty” pregnant. A vaginal culture showed that Betty had a mycoplasma bacterial infection, which was treated with antibiotics, though other testing was normal. Progesterone monitoring was used to determine the optimal time for breeding, and an ultrasound confirmed the pregnancy four weeks after the breeding. Six healthy puppies were born by cesarean section when progesterone testing indicated Betty should have already gone into labor. “It took a village to get these babies here,” says Shawny Cirincione.

I've seen a litter of puppies suspected to have "failure to thrive" all lost to flea anemia, despite the owner's perception that "allergies" were the problem. Rather, it turned out to be fleas on a dark-coated bitch and her puppies. Tick diseases also are potentially life-threatening. The pathogens associated with tick diseases vary by region.

Pregnancy should not change your normal preventive care management. Several oral heartworm preventives and topical and oral flea and tick medications have been rigorously studied for safety in pregnant dogs and their fetuses/puppies. Note that not all oral or topical products for fleas and ticks, including collars, are risk-free. Products that are safe for pregnancy should state so on the product label or insert.

It is important to consider that a pregnant dog may exceed the weight range of her original preventive prescription. Should she fall outside this range, most veterinarians will provide single doses for the stages in which she will exceed her original weight range.



Q: Many of our athletic field trial Labrador Retriever females are on supplements such as omega-3 fatty acids, glucosamine and chondroitin sulfate when we are making plans to breed them. Are these supplements safe to give them during breeding and whelping? Rita Jones, Seaside Retrievers

Dr. Reynolds: The omega-3 fatty acids and glucosamine supplements are fine to give throughout breeding, pregnancy and lactation. However, chondroitin sulfate comes from green-lipped mussel. This type of shellfish feeds by straining food particles from the gravel or sandy bottom of rivers and streams and tends to concentrate certain metals and organic toxins in the environment in which they live. Given as a supplement to a healthy dog, those levels are not a problem,

but because we are looking at developing fetuses that are very sensitive to even small changes in nutrient or toxin levels, I would err on the side of caution and not give chondroitin sulfate to pregnant females.

Q: Is it a good idea to give a pregnant female a prenatal supplement fortified with iron, folic acid and zinc? Rita Jones, Seaside Retrievers
Dr. Reynolds: You don't need to supplement the diet of a breeding female if you are feeding a high-quality, all-life stages diet such as a *Purina Pro Plan SPORT Performance 30/20 Formula* or *Purina Pro Plan SPORT Active 27/17 Formula*. It's absolutely true a dog needs a little more folic acid during pregnancy to prevent things like neural tube defects and cleft palate in puppies. *Purina Pro Plan* all life-stages diets meet the mineral and vitamin requirements to support normal pregnancy and puppy growth, thus there is no need to supplement.

PREGNANCY & POSTPREGNANCY

Q: What is an optimal food for a brood bitch during pregnancy? Is a performance or puppy food recommended? When is it best to switch from a maintenance food to a performance food? Bonnie Wagamon, Cinnabon Boxers, Fullbrook, California

Dr. Reynolds: I am biased because my background is working with performance dogs. I feed *Purina Pro Plan SPORT Performance 30/20* year-round. The higher protein and nutrition in this food support a dog's muscle to better support work, though it takes possibly two to three months for those adaptations to occur. If you switch from a maintenance diet to a performance diet, you've got that lag time before you get the full benefit of the diet. During the time of year when a dog is less active, I feed less of this performance diet rather than switching to a lower protein and fat

Feeding a balanced commercial all-life stages food, such as one of these Purina Pro Plan SPORT Performance or SPORT Active Formulas, is ideal for optimal reproduction in females and for transitioning puppies to solid food.



maintenance food. This has worked extremely well for both our moms and puppies.

If you are switching to a performance diet from a maintenance food, you want to do that slowly in the very early stages of pregnancy. When the mom reaches a point in the last trimester when she is eating a lot of food, she should already be well-adapted to that diet. When you switch foods — even if you are switching to a great diet — there is a risk of GI (gastrointestinal) upset because you are changing the nutrient content and that changes the microbiome and thus could change the microstructure of the gut. You want to make sure these adaptations are done before she has to work the gut hard with the large amount of food that she'll intake during late pregnancy and early lactation.

There are many different kinds of puppy foods, and they can vary tremendously in energy and calcium levels. For example, large-breed puppy foods tend to be lower in energy, as these breeds should not grow too rapidly. If you choose to feed a puppy food, look for one that is highly digestible. It should have at least 24 to 26 percent protein — *Pro Plan SPORT Performance* has 30 percent protein — and at least 16 percent fat — *Pro Plan SPORT Performance* has 20 percent. It should be approved for all-life stages and have nutrients that support females through pregnancy and lactation and puppies through growth and development. Many people have success feeding a puppy food. I find it easier to feed *Pro Plan SPORT Performance* because it is an all-life stages food that can be fed to mothers and puppies.

Q: *Should the amount of food fed during pregnancy or postwhelping increase? Is free feeding recommended during these times? When should you go back to feeding the female the before-pregnancy maintenance amount?* Courtney Bastian, Claddagh German Wirehaired Pointers, Missoula, Montana

Dr. Reynolds: During pregnancy, puppies don't grow that much until the last trimester, and then they grow exponentially. During the early stages of pregnancy, a female should be fed her regular amount of food to maintain a body condition score of 5 out of 9. You should gradually increase to 1 ¼ to 1 ½ times more food than she was eating before pregnancy during the last trimester until she whelps.



At 6 ½ weeks of age, these Pointer puppies are well on their way to being weaned.

The amount of food fed during lactation is highly dependent on how many puppies she has. If she has only one puppy, the increase isn't going to be that great. If she has four to eight puppies, a significant food increase is needed. By peak lactation around three weeks after whelping, a female should be fed 30 percent of her prepregnancy intake for each puppy. This caloric requirement is only needed for three or four weeks. The mother's food demand starts to level off and decrease when puppies start eating solid food in a gruel mixture when they are around 3 to 4 weeks of age.

The only time I would free feed a dam is if she is paying a lot of attention to her puppies and thus not eating enough food at meals to keep her body condition score up or if she is not making enough milk, particularly if she has a large litter of six or more pups. In these cases, I will sometimes free feed for the first three weeks. Once I start introducing puppies to dry food, I go back to limited feedings for the mother.

Q: *Is it OK to feed formulas with salmon to a brood bitch, or is the mercury in salmon a concern?* Courtney Bastian, Claddagh German Wirehaired Pointers

Dr. Reynolds: I frequently feed *Purina Pro Plan SPORT Performance 30/20 Salmon & Rice Formula* to pregnant females and when raising our puppies. I like salmon-based foods because they have a lot of omega-3 fatty acids that are good for the mom and the pups. We did some studies in 2001 in which we added omega-3 fatty acids to the diets of moms that were pregnant and lactating and their puppies and compared their results to





This Pointer puppy is one of seven whelped April 24, 2021, out of Lester's Snow White. Bred by Derek Bonner and his wife, Debbie, the litter was sired by 2XCH 2XRUCH Lester's Storm Surge. The maternal grandsire is 8XCH Lester's Snowwatch, winner of the 2009 National Field Trial Championship.

those of moms and puppies that did not receive the supplement. We found that puppies that got the supplement learned a lot more quickly, made less mistakes navigating a maze, were better problem solvers, and were easier to train. When we looked at eye function, their electroretinograms were associated with better vision than the puppies that did not receive the omega-3 fatty acid supplement. I would not worry about the mercury levels of salmon in these diets because they are below those considered to be a health risk.

Q: *Our females become picky eaters during the last 30 days of pregnancy. We typically supplement their diets with foods such as eggs, chicken and cottage cheese to get them to eat. Is this the best way to handle this?* Rita, Jones, Seaside Retrievers

Dr. Reynolds: Females become picky eaters as their abdomen gets full of puppies giving them little room in their stomach to eat a big meal. You should try feeding smaller meals more frequently. Cottage cheese, eggs and chicken are single-food items that are tasty but not balanced. A pregnant dog's nutrition should be balanced, as this is a very important time of life for her and the puppies. If you need to jump-start her appetite, I recommend adding a good quality canned wet food to the dry food. A lot of times just the smell and texture of the canned food will be enough to get

her to eat. You should continue to feed small amounts frequently.

Q: *Is giving calcium during whelping beneficial to the dam?* Rita Jones, Seaside Retrievers

Dr. Reynolds: Certain females will be predisposed to hypocalcemia, a condition in which there is lower-than-average levels of calcium in the blood plasma. This occurs around the time of birth and during the first few days of lactation when their milk production is being upregulated. Older females of smaller breeds with large litters are particularly affected. It's important to watch for signs of hypocalcemia, which is called eclampsia in female dogs. If a dog shows signs of this life-threatening condition, which include muscle tremors, nervousness and high body temperature, she should be seen by a veterinarian right away.

One of the adaptations that occurs at the time of whelping and when a female starts making milk is the upregulation of calcium absorption from the gut and calcium mobilization from the bone. This takes some time, and if they can't make that transition quickly enough, they could become hypocalcemic. If a female gets low in calcium, it can make it hard for her to deliver her puppies, as calcium is needed for muscle contractions. This is why veterinarians may give the hormone oxytocin and calcium to help strengthen uterine contractions. It's very important that breeders give these under the supervision of a veterinarian.

Treatment for hypocalcemia may require intravenous calcium supplementation to get the condition under control followed with oral calcium supplementation. I don't recommend giving calcium beforehand because it might slow the calcium transition as the body may think it has enough calcium and downregulate these calcium-mobilizing mechanisms. It is better to watch for these signs and be particularly cautious with older small-breed females with large litters.

Q: *Is there anything related to food that would help a dam in whelp retain her energy after coming off her feed for 24 hours prior to delivery?*

Derek Bonner, Bonner Pointers, Forest City, North Carolina

Dr. Reynolds: A lot of times the mom won't eat right before she delivers puppies, and this may carry over to 24 hours postdelivery. These females do get a little depleted in terms of energy. It's

really important that they start eating soon after they are done whelping because they are going to have to generate a lot of milk, and that milk takes a lot of protein, fat, calcium, and water. If she is not eating or drinking, that's a red flag to intervene and monitor her very closely. Over 90 percent of the bitches I've worked with will start eating well within six to 12 hours from the time they finish whelping. Sometimes just hand-feeding them can get them interested in eating.

NEONATAL CARE & PUPPY NUTRITION

Q: *Do you have tips on how to be sure neonatal puppies are getting enough milk? What is your method for weaning puppies?* Courtney Bastian, Claddagh German Wirehaired Pointers

Dr. Reynolds: Weighing puppies every day from birth until they are 2 to 3 weeks old is one of the most important things to do in caring for puppies. They may lose a little weight the first day, but they should gain weight every day after that. By seven to 10 days after birth, they should double their birth weight. If their weight stays the same, that's an indication they aren't getting enough milk. If there is an individual pup that is not gaining weight, you may want to give it some extra time nursing with the mom while separating the other pups. The pup may just be a little smaller and not as competitive at the nipple. You may have to supplement the pup with milk replacer using a nursing bottle or tube feeding, though you should never use an eye dropper due to risk of aspiration.

It is important to manage how you feed the mother as puppies are weaned because she is making a lot of milk. If you abruptly take the

puppies away, she can get mastitis, a painful inflammation of the mammary glands caused by bacterial infection. I feed puppies food that has been soaked from a flat pie dish, so it's easy for them to eat. A lot of times they will walk in the food, lick their feet, realize it is food, and start eating. Just a few introductions and puppies start eating pretty well. I like to separate the puppies from the mother while they are eating solid food meals through weaning. Otherwise, the mother may eat all their food. I feed the mother at the same time as the puppies to control how much she eats and to monitor how much they are eating. When the puppies are from 5 to 7 weeks old, I increase the amount of time they are separated from the mother, so they are not nursing very much.

Three things stimulate milk production: nursing, food and water. I would not decrease a mother's water supply. However, if we decrease the nursing stimuli and start cutting her food back, we can get her mammary glands to dry up at about the same time as the puppies are weaned without the risk of mastitis.

Q: *What is the best way to help save fading puppies?* Shawny Cirincione, The Hounds of Hobara

Dr. Hesser: Fading puppy syndrome is a complicated, all-encompassing term that describes puppies that fail to thrive. Fading puppies can occur because of ineffective nursing, bacterial infection, herpesvirus, stress, suboptimal temperature, and husbandry conditions, as well as many other reasons.

The most powerful tool to understand loss of a puppy and management of the remaining puppies is a necropsy of the deceased puppy. Sometimes the knowledge gained from visual clues of the necropsy can be immediate, while others may not be understood without histopathology, a microscopic evaluation, or other testing. This information may provide insights on how to support the remaining puppies and possibly adjust your husbandry.

Close monitoring of weight gain is your best friend with neonates. If you are not seeing steady gains after the first 24 hours of life, this is sometimes your first clue something isn't going well before the puppy is in a desperate state. Small birth-weight neonates are especially predisposed to "fading" or being lost. Attentive individualized care can sometimes reverse the trends. ■



Puppies should be weighed daily until they are 3 weeks old. By 7 to 10 days, puppies should double their birth weight.

HERDING DOG ‘JACK’ WINS PURINA OUTSTANDING FIELD TRIAL AWARD

Consistency, style and drive came together for a 5-year-old medium-rough black-and-white male Border Collie named “Jack,” who finished 2019-2020 as the top winner in U.S. Border Collie Handlers Association (USBCHA) herding field trials. A formidable team, the steady, calm Jack and breeder-owner-handler Faansie Basson of Hico, Texas, fetched the honor by scoring one point more than the second-place finishers in a close yearlong competition.

“In field trials, there are many elements you cannot control — the sheep, weather, luck of the draw, your dog, and human error,” says Basson, a South African native and self-taught trainer of sheepdogs with 32-plus years’ experience. “Jack is an extremely good listener. He likes to be in control and doesn’t get excited or rattled.

His simple style and nonthreatening eye serve him well.”

As the top winners, Jack and Basson received the second annual Purina Outstanding Field Trial Herding Dog Award. The award is based on points earned from the top five finishes in trials during the 2019-2020 season and at the USBCHA National. With many trials being canceled in 2020 due to COVID-19, the outcome was uncertain.

USBCHA herding trials test the intelligence and skills of Border Collies to work with their handlers as they did centuries ago for shepherds in Scotland and England. Selectively bred for their biddable stock sense and ability to put in long days on rugged terrain, Border Collies developed a unique style of gathering and fetching the stock with wide sweeping outruns and controlling

“Jack,” the winner of the 2019-2020 Purina Outstanding Field Trial Herding Dog Award, gathers sheep. Jack goes back to breeder-owner-handler Faansie Basson’s foundation stock from South Africa.



the stock with an intense gaze known as eye and a stalking style of movement. The breed's intensity, energy and trainability are undeniable.

"Jack works sheep like his paternal granddam, Ian Brownlie's Mo," Basson says. "She won the Scottish National in 2011 and the International Sheepdog Trial in 2013 competing with stock dogs from England, Scotland, Ireland, and Wales."

Jack was sired by "Wisp" out of "Gwen." Wisp, who was imported from Scotland, was out of two international champions. Gwen, who was homebred, goes back to Basson's first female Border Collie, "Jessie." The litter was whelped in 2015, only a year after Basson and his wife, Elmarie, moved with their daughters and their Elfa Border Collies, a prefix that combines their first names, to Texas from South Africa.

Decades earlier, Basson found his passion and gift for training the highly intelligent herding breed. As he honed his skills on South African sheep farms, once managing a herd of 8,000 sheep, Basson developed a heartfelt appreciation for the vital role of Border Collies on working farms. He began to rely on their ability to cover ground quickly, ranging out for miles over rough and hilly pastures to gather sheep.

GETTING HOOKED ON HERDING TRIALS

Raised in the South African city of Blemfontein, Basson recalls visiting a sheep farm when he was 16 and seeing for the first time a sheepdog work. "The Australian Kelpie cross had two commands: go to the front and go behind the sheep," he says. "This dog did an amazing job, and I could not see how it was possible for the farmer to work sheep without him."

After college, Basson got his first Border Collie, "Billy," and went to work for a farmer in Middelburg. "I was in charge of about 1,500 Merino sheep," says Basson. "One day I was walking to gather sheep with Billy, and suddenly he took off and went around the sheep and started bringing them to me. Over the next two years, Billy and I taught each other how to work sheep."

In 1996, Basson entered Billy in a trial, the first for both dog and handler. "We won the beginners class. I was hooked," he says.

Moving to work at a farm in the mountains near Nouport, Basson ran about 1,200 Dorper ewes and 50 cattle. "This is when I bought Jessie," he says. "Then, tragedy struck. Billy died of an

PHOTO: VERNON BEWLEY



autoimmune disease. My heart was broken, and it felt like my hands had been chopped off."

Although Jessie was young when Billy died, she started to work right away. "She was always a quick learner and keen on sheep from the age of 6 weeks. Thinking back, I made some huge mistakes in her training, but she still turned out to be an outstanding dog and a true champion," Basson says.

Success with Jessie drew Basson even more into dogs. "Jessie did well from the start in trials, and one of her greatest achievements was winning Dog of the Year five times," he says.

Basson bred Jessie to "Bob," a powerful, independent male. "This breeding suited me well," he says. "I kept 'Lad,' a male, and 'Jan,' a female, out of their first litter," he says.

The Basson family moved to the Moria Sheepdog farm near Hofmeyer in 1999. Basson began training dogs for others and held training days and field trials on the farm. In 2000, Jessie won the South African National Sheepdog Championship. "In my everyday work, the dogs played an enormous role. I simply could not farm without them," he says.

Faansie Basson is honored at the Bluegrass Classic in May 2021 at Lexington, Kentucky, for winning the second annual Purina Herding Dpg Award with his Border Collie, "Jack." From left are Basson, Ray Voigt, Purina Sporting Area Manager, and Karl Gunzer, Purina Director of the Sporting Group.



Herding dogs must prove their ability to work in concert with their handler. Jack and Basson excel as a team in herding trials.

A trip to the U.S. in 2005 to compete in trials with Lad was a dream come true, Basson says. "Lad did really well and got into the finals at the Solider Hollow Classic and the Meeker Classic," he says. "This opened up a different world for me regarding sheepdogs."

When Basson returned to South Africa, he took a job managing 8,000 Dohne Merinos and some Dorper ewes for a company of four farmers. "I don't think I have ever worked my dogs so hard as I did during this time," he says. "Ironically, it was one of my worst field trial years. My team of dogs consisted of Jessie, Lad and Jan, and two younger Jessie and Bob progeny, 'Jack' and 'Jill.'"

When the company split up the next year, Basson found land nearby to run sheep of his own. He also started the Sheepdog Training Centre, where he trained sheepdogs full time, offering an eight-week program for dogs from 10 to 24 months old.

A return trip to the U.S. in 2007 to compete in trials with Jan and Jill went well. Jan had won the preliminary, semi-final and final rounds of the South African Nationals Sheepdog that year, and Jill was the 2007 Dog of the Year. Both Border Collie females got into the Solider Hollow Classic, and Jan placed fifth.

The next year, Basson visited the U.S. for three months with his family, competing in trials,

holding training clinics and giving private lessons. "In the States, people were very hungry for knowledge," he says. "I worked with people who trialed as a hobby as well as very experienced handlers. My dogs did well. We won some of the smaller trials, and Jan placed third in the Solider Hollow Classic."

Ten years later, Basson and his family moved to the U.S. His expertise makes him a popular training clinic instructor, whose mission is to help handlers understand and train their dogs better. He also does corporate training retreats in which he relates the clear communication and focus needed to train dogs with the everyday work world.

"My dogs have taken me literally to the other side of the world," he says. "They have taught me a lot. Field trials can be a very cruel sport. You have to learn to accept whatever happens on the day. I have always tried to learn from all my experiences and make the best of it. Sometimes I have been humbled and disappointed and sometimes I have been very proud of my dogs. Jack has made me very proud."

Jack, the 2019-2020 Purina Outstanding Field Trial Herding Dog, is fueled by *Purina Pro Plan SPORT Performance 30/20 Chicken & Rice Formula*. ■

NATIONAL SMALL PACK CHAMPIONSHIP WINNERS ARE 'DEBBIE,' 'MISLED,' 'FAT HEAD' & 'MOE'

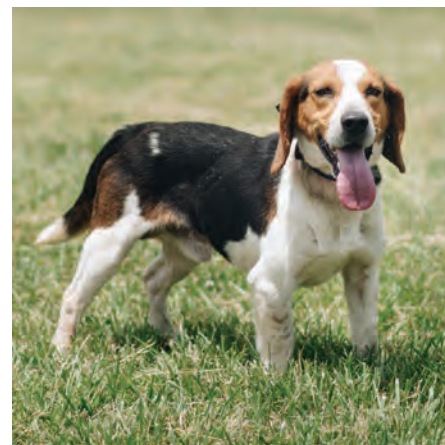
Gundog Beagles “Debbie,” “Misled,” “Fat Head,” and “Moe” led the pack to win their classes at the 2021 AKC National Small Pack Option (SPO) Championship. These National Small Pack Champions excelled with their natural tracking ability, high desire, quick thinking, and speed and endurance.

Richard Sawyer of Chickamuaga, Georgia, is the owner of two class winners, and he and his son, David Sawyer of Frankfurt, Kentucky, are the owners of a class winner. Alyssa Kilcoyne of Marysville, Indiana, and Austin Bowman of Ackerman, Mississippi, are co-owners of a class winner. All the National class winners are closely related to the top-producing male in the sport, NGBC FCGD Five Star Smokey, the sire of 103 Field Champions, owned by Sawyer. “Smokey,” who died in February 2021, is the result of a breeding of two Hall of Fame hounds. His sire is FC Cranks Chicken, and his dam is FC Five Star Frenchie.

NSPC FCGD Bowmans Lil Debbie, a 2 ½-year-old black-and-tan female, won the 13-inch class and achieved her third win to become a Field Champion. Handled by Kilcoyne, the co-owner with Bowman, Debbie followed the rabbit with precision and intuition. “She looked awesome in the Winners Pack. Debbie is very smart and always knows where the rabbit is,” says Kilcoyne, who grew up in the sport and won her first field trial at age 7 with a hound owned by her father, the late Ted Kilcoyne. Bred by Matt Collins of Pontotoc, Mississippi, Debbie was sired by NSPC FCGD Rapid Run Little Fast Break, the 13-inch male class winner at the 2018 National SPO Championship. Smokey is her great-grandsire on both sides of the pedigree.

NSPC Rapid Run Lil' Misled, a 2 ½-year-old tricolor female, is the 15-inch class winner. Owned by Richard Sawyer and handled by David Sawyer, Misled delivered straight line control and accurately followed the rabbit's turns in and out of the cover. “She has a big nose and can keep the track going,” Richard Sawyer says. Ricky Barnes of Savannah, Georgia, is the breeder. Misled counts Smokey as her maternal grandsire and her paternal great-grandsire.

NSPC FCGD Rapid Run Lil Fat Head, a 1 ½-year-old black-and-white male, stood out to win the 13-inch class. Owned and handled by Richard Sawyer, Fat Head earned his Field Champion title with the win, his third. “Fat Head is an extremely good dog for his age,” Richard Sawyer says. “He is exciting to watch



The SPO National Champions are, clockwise from top left: “Debbie,” the 13-inch female winner, “Misled,” the 15-inch female winner, “Fat Head,” the 13-inch male winner, and “Moe,” the 15-inch male winner.

because he makes things happen with his desire to hunt, big nose and super tracking ability.” Bred by Matt Collins of Montauk, Mississippi, Fat Head was sired by Smokey.

NSPC FCGD Rapid Run Big Moe D, a 6-year-old tricolor male, is the 15-inch class winner. The two-time Purina Outstanding SPO Field Trial Beagle, who won in 2018 and 2019, is co-owned by Richard and David Sawyer, the handler. “Moe stayed calm and collected, and his level-headed common sense paid off,” Richard Sawyer says. Bred by Dickie Atkinson of Terre Haute, Indiana, Moe was sired by the Sawyers' male, NGBC FCGD Rapid Run Big Easy B out of NGBC FCGD R & R Plenty of Since. Smokey is his paternal grandsire.

Congratulations to these National Championship winners! All the hounds are fueled by Purina dog food. Moe, Fat Head and Debbie are fed Purina Pro Plan SPORT Performance 30/20 Chicken & Rice Formula. Misled is fed Purina ONE SmartBlend Chicken & Rice Natural Formula. ■

THE WHIPPETS OF WINDBORN & STARLINE

Smooth, sleek and gorgeous, Whippets resting statuesquely in comfy spots of the ultrachic home in Rancho Santa Fe, California, look like furniture art. Cherished companions first, fancy show dogs second, these sighthounds are the culmination of two famous Whippet breeding programs — Windborn and Starline.

Windborn's Lori Wilson-Paust and Starline's Lori Lawrence believe that breeding is an art. Results aplenty attest to the success of their partnership now in its 20th year, a sophisticated blend of Starline's elegant, exotic lines and the structurally solid Whippets of Windborn. Each has bred 11 generations over nearly 40 years.

"Whippets are made to live on your couch and sleep on your bed," says Lori W-P of the cuddly, easygoing breed.

There is no kennel at the Rancho Santa Fe home of Lori L nor at the Modesto, California, home of Lori W-P.

"We prefer pet homes and will gladly let a lovely Whippet puppy, the pick of the litter, go to the right pet home," Lori W-P says. "We love to invite someone never involved in showing dogs to try a dog show. Often, they get hooked on showing."



Above: Relaxing at home, these Windborn-Starline Whippets exemplify the easygoing nature of the breed. At right: "Desiree," the No. 7 Hound and No. 1 Whippet all systems, is being campaigned by Lori Wilson-Paust.





The Windborn-Starline partnership blends the Whippet breeding and show programs of Lori Lawrence, left, with “Bella,” and Lori Wilson-Paust, with “Idun.”

Their friendship was cemented in the parking lot at the 2002 American Whippet Club (AWC) National Specialty when Lori W-P helped to settle the nerves of Lori L as she was preparing to show “Jeep” (CH Starline’s Sweet Sensation) for Best in Sweepstakes. “Jeep had just won her class, and I was a bit nervous,” recalls Lori L, the breeder-owner-handler. “Lori advised me to focus on her side gait. After that, we won. Jeep was known for her extreme neck, beautiful curves and huge side gait.”

Having a soft spot for Whippets, Lori W-P had fallen for the breed as a junior handler. A successful all-breed professional handler, she also was well-known for her Whippets. Her foundation bitch (MBIS CH Chelsea Satin Doll) came from the early English and American bloodlines developed by Deann Christensen under the Chelsea prefix.

In 2001 Lori L and co-owner Eric Scott were seeking a stud dog to breed to Jeep’s dam, “Kismet” (CH Starline’s Singular Sensation). One of two males Scott suggested to Lori L was a Chelsea male, “Redford” (BIS/BISS DC Chelsea Made You Look Of Sage ROMX), whom Lori W-P was handling.

“I was showing our male, ‘Remy’ (MBIS/BISS CH Starline’s Masterpiece), at the AWC National for Best of Breed,” recalls Lori L. “Lori and Redford were behind us. I noticed what a nice dog he was. His long, arched neck flowed into a beautiful front, and he had a moderate topline and moderately angled rear that balanced to his front. He had tremendous, big side gait, which is where Jeep got it. She got her curves from her Starline dam.”

After the AWC National, Lori W-P sent a heartfelt letter to Lori L expressing her appreciation for Jeep’s beauty and her desire to handle her. She wrote of her love for the dogs and how she cares for them as pets. It was a catalyst that sparked the Windborn-Starline partnership.

“Lori began showing my class dogs,” Lori L says. “She and I finished Jeep after three specialties, and they went on to win Bests in Show and Bests in Specialty Show.”

Meanwhile, Lori L again crossed Redford, the breed’s top sire from 2003 to 2005, with Kismet. This breeding in 2002 produced a female, “Heather” (CH Starline’s Dream Date ROM). When Heather was bred in 2007, her litter gave Starline six champions and designated Heather a Register of Merit (ROM) dam.

Lori W-P made Whippet history with a pup from the litter. “Chanel” (MBIS/MBISS GCHP Starline’s Chanel) was the No. 1 Hound in 2010 and 2011 and the No. 1 Whippet all systems from 2009 to 2011. She became one of only two Whippets, the first female, to win the Westminster Hound Group in 2010. Chanel also became the most-winning Whippet in breed history.

Chanel’s record as the winningest Whippet held until recently when GCHP Pinnacle Kentucky Bourbon surpassed it. The paternal great-grand sire of “Bourbon” is a Starline male, “Reign” (BISS GCH Starline’s Reign On JC ROMXX), the top-producing sire in breed history with 130 champions.

During Chanel’s campaign, weekly tactical planning meetings were held with Lori L, her husband, Carey, and Lori W-P pouring over a spreadsheet to determine the best shows for her, as she was often double entered. “We clinched the No. 1 Hound in 2010 after winning Best in Show in December at the Lehigh Valley Kennel Club show,” Lori W-P says.

“Chanel was everything we strive to achieve,” says Lori L, who showed the beautiful, sweet Whippet to her 72nd Best in Show as breeder-owner-handler, a dream of a lifetime.

Chanel solidified their program, which includes a team of puppy raisers, owners and supporters. Altogether Starline has tallied 170-plus show champions, featuring many Best in Show and Best in Specialty Show winners, No. 1 Whippets, and multiple AWC National Specialty winners. Lori W-P has finished 500 show dogs, which includes 200 Whippets, half of which were homebred. Top-producing sires and dams weave throughout their lines.

Achievements aside, Lori L and Lori W-P share a friendship that has evolved over time out of respect and a shared philosophy about Whippets. “Our differences are a matter of semantics,” says Lori L. “We believe in doing the right things for the dogs. We are each other’s moral compass in every decision we make from breeding to showing to picking the best homes for puppies.”

THE WINDBORN WHIPPETS OF LORI WILSON-PAUST

Growing up in Hanford, California, in the San Joaquin Valley, Lori Wilson-Paust learned all about dogs from her grandmother, Mary Sue Bynum, a breeder of Schipperkes and Dachshunds under the Cindy Ke prefix. “A condition of my going to shows was caring for the dogs,” she says.

As a junior handler, Lori read the black-and-white tabloid *Popular Dog* cover to cover and dreamt of showing a top dog. At age 15, she won her first regular Group at Yellowstone Valley Kennel Club in Billings, Montana, with a 7-year-old black female Schipperke, CH Jetstar’s Dust Moppe.

When teenage rebellion set in, she favored a client’s Whippet over her grandmother’s dogs. “Our client gave me ‘Sunny’ (CH DeReggio’s Earl of Snowden), a brindle white male,” Lori says. “I showed him at Westminster in 1981, the only time I went as a junior, and we made Junior Finals.”

After her grandmother had a near-fatal car accident, Lori at age 17 began going herself to shows, driving the motor home with dogs. She started college majoring in business until it interfered with dog shows. “I was doing so well at shows. People were throwing money at me to show their dogs,” she says.

Lori gained experience working for professional handlers Carolyn and Tom Tobin. When her grandmother started going to shows with her again, they often traveled with professionals.



“Anna,” left, is the dam of Idun, 9 months old.

“Clients told their friends about me, and it morphed into handling other people’s dogs,” she says. “I was passively good at it. The older I got, the better I got at it.”

Going pro at age 20, Lori was showing dogs on the Oklahoma circuit when she met her future husband. They were married the next year, and Lori moved to Neosho, Missouri. Her grandmother followed her to Missouri a few years later.

About the time Lori got her Chelsea Whippet foundation bitch, she handled her first Best in Show winner, a male Dalmatian. She was 24 when she won with BIS CH Spoon River Apache Tears, who was sired by BIS/BISS CH Freckled Friend, the all-time top sire and 1985 Westminster Non-Sporting Group winner.



Elegant Whippet females are, from left, Desiree, Anna and Bella. Anna and Bella are daughters of “Ashton,” the No. 1 Whippet sire from 2011 to 2015, and Desiree is his great-granddaughter.

Lori’s Dalmatian clients introduced her to Gloria Ketcher, an Akita breeder of more than 100 champions. When Ketcher started in Shiba Inu, she hired Lori to show at the National Shiba Club of America National Specialty, where she won Best of Breed with a male named “Bo.” Later, Lori won 10 Bests in Show with an Akita bitch bred by Ketcher, MBIS/BISS CH OPR Codakan Cast In Bronze.

She handled the top-winning female Dachshund of all time, a Mini Wirehair, MBIS CH EZ Goins Dream Team. The dog’s dam, Cindy Ke Jewel of the Nile, was from her grandmother’s kennel and was the foundation bitch of breeder Robert Rice. A few years later, Lori

showed the top-winning Mini Smooth Dachshund, MBIS/BISS CH Dynadux Little Miss Honky Tonk, a granddaughter of a



Versatile and athletic, “Paris” depicts the sporting nature of the Whippet. Behind Paris are Desiree, left, and “Maddie.”

Cindy Ke dog her grandmother bred. They won three Bests in Show.

Simultaneously, Lori was breeding and showing her Windborn Whippets. In the early 1990s, before she and Lori L began working together, she crossed her bitch, BIS CH Windborn Blu Passion JC with Reign, Starline's top-producing sire. The breeding produced CH Windborn Take a Bow ("Beau"), a Hound Group winner.

Success in the show ring reflected the hard work Lori devoted to her show dogs. When she and her husband divorced in 2001, she stayed in Missouri. Then, in 2005, her grandmother passed away. She kept busy showing Whippets and clients' dogs.

In 2011, Lori married Robert "Bobby" Paust, an AKC show judge of hounds and terriers, and moved to Modesto, California. Bobby, who was from Long Island, New York, had lived in Sweden for 20 years. Because her husband was a judge, Lori stopped handling professionally, though she continued to show the Windborn-Starline dogs as breeder-owner-handler.

"I began breeding more litters with Bobby's help," she says.

Among the Whippets Lori campaigned from litters they bred was "Hartley" (MBIS GCHG Starline's Oxford Victim of Love JC ROMXX), who won four Bests in Show on the way to being the No. 7 Hound and No. 1 Whippet all systems in 2013. An outcross breeding, Hartley was sired by "Ashton" (CH Starline's Sovereign ROMXXX) out of CH Oxford's Dynasty from the Whippet line started by Diane Bowen.

After Hartley, Lori showed "Anna" (MBIS GCHP Windborn Starline Heiress BN RN SC BCAT TKX) to 22 Bests in Show. Anna, too, was sired by Ashton out of an Oxford dam, CH Oxford Windborn Bold N Beautiful JC FCH. Anna's pedigree includes the Chelsea Whippets that Lori started with in both her sire's and dam's lines.

Bobby retired from judging after suffering a stroke in January 2020. Gradually, Lori returned to handling professionally while continuing to campaign the Windborn-Starline dogs. Her current special is "Desiree" (GCHG Starline Windborn Classique), the No. 7 Hound and No. 1 Whippet all-systems, a beautiful blend of both lines. Co-owners are John Zollezi of San Diego and Julia Truitt, of Huntington Beach, California. Truitt was looking for a pet Whippet and ended up with a nice show dog.

Actively showing dogs across the country gives Lori an edge when it comes to deciding the best stud dogs to breed to the Windborn-Starline bitches. "Lori has great instincts when we are trying to decide where to go to breed," Lori L says.



Lori L is shown with 16X National Champion Adams Fire from her Starline Arabian show horse program, and Lori W-P walks with Bella.

THE STARLINE WHIPPETS OF LORI LAWRENCE

Even before Lori Lawrence had Whippet show dogs, she had Arabian show horses. Her Starline horses have garnered 50 U.S. National Championships, more than 30 were won with Lori riding the horses. One of those winners is 16X National Champion Adams Fire. Starline recently started a breeding program and has already produced four homebred National Champions, with many more in the wings. Lori's background in horses has gifted her with insights about how structure impacts movement and proved invaluable in her Whippet breeding and show program.

In 1983, Lori was looking for a pet Whippet that would be an active, versatile dog for the family's busy lifestyle. That pet Whippet, "Quiche" (MBISS CH Ringmaster's Gold Fever ROM),



Lori L and Lori W-P share a love for the Windborn-Starline Whippets as pets first and show dogs second. Lori L, left, is shown with Maddie, and Lori W-P snuggles with Idun.

became Starline's foundation bitch. Bred by Paul and Sue Abraham, Quiche was sired by "Oscar" (MBISS CH Delacreme de la Renta ROMXXX), the No. 2 top producer at the time, from Mary Dukes' Delacreme line, out of the Abrahams' female, "Gidgitt" (CH Gold Dust's Limited Edition ROMX).

"When Quiche was 16 weeks old, she struck a pose in the backyard while watching everything going on. She had this lovely, telescopic neck," Lori says. "I called Mary and said, 'This pup gives me goosebumps.'"

A beautiful show dog, Quiche was handled by Dukes to Best of Breed at multiple AWC regional specialties under highly respected judges. When it was time to breed Quiche, Lori says, "I went out of the box and decided to breed Quiche to 'George' (CH Hamyra's Lucky Charm SC FCH ROM). He was not the type I was accustomed to on the West Coast, but I loved what he produced. His pups were moderate, smooth and sound. It was one of our best breedings ever."

The George x Quiche mating produced five pups, four of which finished their championships: top sire Reign; a male, CH Starline's How Sweet It Is, who took Best of Winners at the 1991 AWC National; a female, CH Starline's Make The Magic; and a female, MBIS/BISS CH Starline's Claim to Fame ("Brie").

"Reign is behind all the dogs we have," Lori says. Reign crossed with Jeep in 2006 produced Ashton, the No. 1 Whippet sire from 2011 to 2015. Among the 84 champions Ashton sired out of 20 bitches are six Best in Show winners and 10 Best in Specialty Show winners.

Meanwhile, Brie was a two-time AWC National Specialty Best of Breed winner. She won in 1994 handled by Lori as breeder-owner-handler and in 2000 from the 10 years and older Veterans class handled by Dukes.

"Brie was a dream," says Lori. "She was the No. 1 Whippet bitch from 1991 to 1993 and took Group Two at Westminster in 1992. She produced 10 champions that carried on her legacy and style, one of which was Kismet (CH Starline's Singular Sensation), a gamechanger for Starline."

The unintended breeding of Brie to "Regal" (BISS AM/CAN CH Nasusa Cacique) — a Reign sister to a Reign son — happened on the 22nd day of Brie's estrus cycle when the Lawrence family was gone for the evening. The result was the singleton puppy Kismet.

After this litter, Lori bred Quiche to "Jason" (CH Saxon Shore Amber Waves ROMX), the sire of Oscar. Altogether Quiche produced seven champions. A lovely female from the second

litter, “Lucy” (CH Starline’s Tapestry), earned a 5-point Major at the AWC Western Specialty Show.

Lori finished Lucy as well as many Starline class dogs from 1990 until 2011. “I finished so many of my own dogs and Reign’s kids as well,” she says.

Starline was doing well at producing beautiful, classic Whippets with curvy, smooth outlines. “I began to focus on keeping the Starline type and improving on fronts and breed soundness. That has been my mantra,” Lori says.

The Windborn-Starline partnership was just beginning. The program starting with Kismet’s outcross to Redford that produced Jeep, who gave them six champions in two litters, and repeat breeding that produced Heather, who gave them Chanel, has contributed significantly to the Whippet breed. Chanel’s litter was another example of one of the best crosses ever, Lori says.

Remember, these sighthounds are pets first, show dogs second.

THE WONDERFUL THINGS ABOUT WHIPPETS

As the statuesque Whippets lying comfortably around Lori L’s home come to life, the beauty of their smooth, flat muscles and curvy figures is striking. “Whippets have a flowing curve,” Lori L explains. “A drop of water on the top of their heads should flow all the way down their back.”

Built for coursing by speed and sight, Whippets were developed in Victorian England to race and hunt rabbits. The fastest breed of its size, Whippets have been tracked at 35 mph. Lure coursing is a natural sport for Whippets, and many of the Windborn-Starline dogs have earned titles in coursing as well as Fast CAT.

“Whippets have something for everyone,” Lori W-P says. “You can check all the boxes. They have no odor and are easy to live with. They get along with people and other dogs. They love children. They are extremely loyal. They are fun dogs that love to run and play, and then they turn into couch potatoes.”

Or, furniture art like at Lori L’s beautiful home in Rancho Santa Fe.

Keeping up with puppy requests is impossible, says Lori W-P. “A lot of demand has been driven by COVID-19. I get two to three inquiries daily,” she says.



Opal, the 19-month-old granddaughter of Lori L, enjoys the friendly nature of Whippets like Paris.



Lori W-P measures *Purina Pro Plan SPORT Performance 30/20 Salmon & Rice Formula* while Paris, in the foreground, and Maddie watch. The Whippets, which weigh around 40 pounds, are fed 1 cup of *Pro Plan* twice daily.

Repeat puppy buyers are common. “People get one Whippet and then want another to keep the first one company,” Lori W-P says. “Some people tell us they wished they had learned about this breed years earlier.”

New owners of a Windborn-Starline puppy are given a *Purina Pro Plan Puppy Starter Kit* with puppy care information and a sample of the food the puppy is fed. “We feed all our Whippets from puppy to adult to senior dog *Purina Pro Plan SPORT Performance Salmon & Rice Formula*,” says Lori W-P. “We soak this all-life stages dog food to wean puppies, but by the time they go to new homes, they are eating dry food. We want our puppy owners to be successful, so we make time and stay in touch with them.”

After her husband’s stroke, Lori W-P realized more than ever the joy and love their Whippets bring to their lives. “Anna has been by his side nonstop,” she says. “A litter was born right after Bobby’s stroke. I cannot describe the look of pure joy it gave him when I showed him the first pup. This happiness is what we want for our Whippet owners.”

“Our goal is for people to tell us, ‘This is the best dog I’ve ever owned,’” Lori L says. ■

TIPS FOR CANINE COMFORT ON THE ROAD

Retriever trainer Jessie Richards focuses on her dogs' comfort on the road as she prepares for the two-day, nearly 17-hour trek from winter camp in Boston, Georgia, to her Full Throttle Kennel in Campbellsport, Wisconsin. Keeping dogs cool, calm and relaxed is crucial when you are transporting 21 competition waterfowl and upland game hunters, she says. As you head out this summer to train or travel cross-country, consider these tips Richards shares about what works well with her Labrador Retrievers.



Beat the heat of summer: You want to maximize air flow to dogs. Richards opens the louvers on her dog trailer giving each dog a source of air flow. She runs the fans on the top of the trailer, which sucks out warm air and keeps air flow moving in the dog kennels. When it is warmer than 85 degrees, she places bowls with ice chips in the corner of each dog kennel. If you are transporting fewer dogs, clip-on fans also are an option, she says.



A cushy ride pays off: A long road trip is hard enough. Richards uses rubber mats to keep dogs off the floor of their stainless-steel kennels and padded cushions to add comfort. She avoids putting a wet dog in a travel kennel. If it's raining, dry dogs with a towel or shammy and use a rubber mat in the kennel so condensation coming off their coats will drain away from the surface where they lie.



While en route to your destination: About every five hours, take a break. Dogs need to stop bouncing in their kennels and air out. Choose a secluded spot away from other vehicles and people. A grassy location behind a building or on a cul-de-sac is ideal, Richards says.

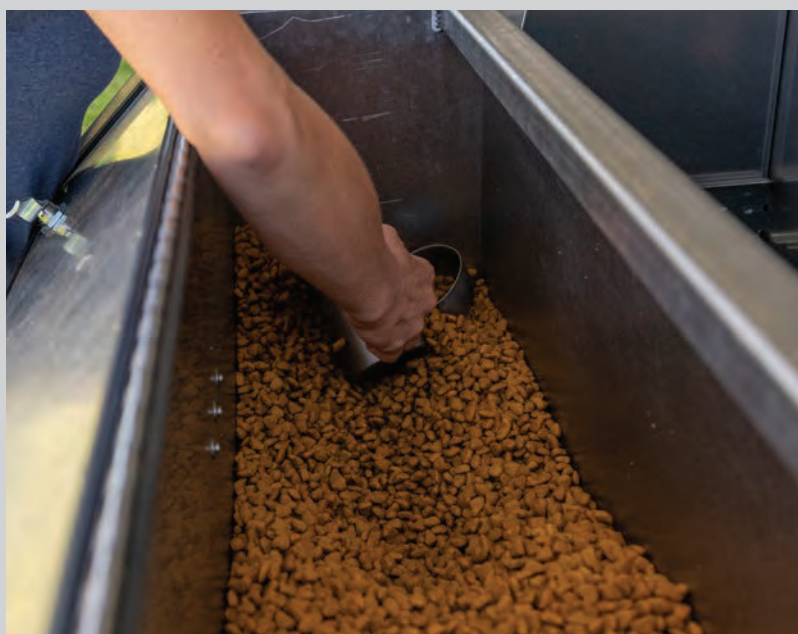


Keep dogs hydrated on the road: Getting dogs to drink as much water as they should when traveling can be challenging. Richards “floats” the dogs’ dry kibble in warm water, totally saturating the food, to aid hydration and digestion. Another benefit of soaking the food is that it forces dogs that eat too fast to slow down. Dogs will be thirsty about two hours after they eat, so it is important they have access to water, she says.



Promote tip-top immune function: Travel can be stressful. Richards makes sure dogs are fully vaccinated and current on heartworm, flea and tick preventives. She also uses [Purina Pro Plan Veterinary Supplements FortiFlora Canine Nutritional Supplement](#). This probiotic supplement, available in a packet or chewable tablet, contains

a safe, effective strain of beneficial bacteria that promotes normal intestinal microflora. A healthy immune system goes a long way on the road, she says.



Dinnertime in transit: Try to feed dogs as close as possible to their regular time when traveling. Performance dogs typically are fed one time a day after exercise, which allows time for digestion before working the next day. Richards stops while traveling to feed around 5 p.m., the regular feeding time for her retrievers, though dogs under 1 year old or those that require more than 4 ½ cups of food are fed two times a day.



Stopping for the night on a multiday trip: Safety is important when your travel involves spending the night on the road. For starters, park the vehicle in a lighted area where you can see the dog trailer at all times. Additionally, every kennel, even storage areas, in Richards’ trailer is locked for security. ■



THE PORTUGUESE WATER DOG STORY IN AMERICA STAYING TRUE TO BREED HEALTH

Once upon a time the Portuguese Water Dog (PWD) was deemed the rarest breed on earth by Guinness World Records. A few years before Guinness published the rare-breed record in 1981, there were only 85 PWDs worldwide — 66 lived in the U.S. A small but mighty American fanbase was not dismayed.

Compared to 1970 when fewer than 20 PWDs worldwide threatened with the possibility of breed extinction, the current outlook buoyed the plans of the American founders. Celebrating the breed's new status in 1981 as a member of the American Kennel Club's (AKC) Miscellaneous Class, they were poised to nurture Portugal's Cão de Água on the journey to full recognition. In 1983, the PWD joined the Working Group.

As with many newly recognized breeds, PWD enthusiasts excitedly began showing their dogs, and breeders began producing litters, though not many PWDs were around and most

were on the East Coast. In 1984, there were 182 PWDs registered with the AKC.

In the mid-1980s, a perplexing neurodegenerative health condition was killing puppies. When a DNA test became available in 1989 for gangliosidosis (GM-1), breeders steered clear from crosses of carriers out of the Algarbiorum bloodline in which the GM-1 gene originated. Not using GM-1 carriers backfired when some PWDs started going blind from the progressive rod-cone degeneration form of progressive retinal atrophy (*prcd*-PRA).

By avoiding the Algarbiorum carriers and breeding PWDs from the Alvalade bloodline, breeders inadvertently produced dogs that developed *prcd*-PRA. Testing revealed that the Alvalade line carried the *prcd*-PRA gene, but by then the carrier frequency for *prcd*-PRA was 35 percent, much higher than the 6 percent carrier frequency for GM-1 had ever been.



A fun-loving breed, these wavy coated Portuguese Water Dogs (PWD) are shown in the retriever clip that follows the outline of the dog. At left, this handsome curly coated PWD is groomed in the lion clip in which the middle, hindquarters and muzzle are clipped. The single-coated PWD is considered hypoallergenic. *Photos: Miguel Betancourt*

Breeders had essentially traded one problem for another. The effect of an already small gene pool and the reduction in genetic diversity that resulted when the breed was created from two Portuguese bloodlines — Algarbiorum and Alvalade — had been further reduced.

“Most genetic disorders in dogs are controlled by recessive alleles. By increasing the frequency and homozygosity of recessive disease alleles through breeding selection, it brings their presence to light and increases their frequency,” explains Anita Oberbauer, PhD, professor at the University of California-Davis and co-author of [“Review of the Current State of Genetic Testing in Dogs.”](#)

The small, close-knit group of members of the Portuguese Water Dog Club of America (PWDCA) came together to aid researchers of GM-1 and then *prcd*-PRA. Some were novice dog owners, all were completely devoted to the super smart, lovable water dog.

“It was critical that we worked together,” says Maryanne B. Murray of Green Lane, Pennsylvania. “When health problems cropped up in the mid-1980s, the club and breed were flourishing. Registrations were growing steadily. We wanted only the best for the breed and were committed to preserving breed health and overall well-being.”

“People were very honest about what they had in their litters, and we worked together,” says Cathy Kalb of East Falls, Penn-

sylvania, who oversaw breed health concerns before PWDCA formed dedicated health committees. “There was lots and lots of communication.”

“The club’s strength was in our openness,” says Elaine Suter of Byron, Michigan. “When the researchers came to the club, people said, ‘Tell us what you need.’”

Gustavo Aguirre, VMD, PhD, DACVO, professor of medical genetics and ophthalmology at the University of Pennsylvania, led the research discovery of the *prcd*-PRA gene variant. “The PWD club gave us the dogs and samples we needed, and it was a truly critical effort as a few years later we found the gene. The PWD was the first breed to have a commercial test for *prcd*-PRA,” he says.

Other health conditions and a non-health condition known as improper coat (IC) came to light in later years. GM-1, *prcd*-PRA, juvenile dilated cardiomyopathy (JDCM), early-onset PRA (EO-PRA), microphthalmia, and IC were addressed candidly with a shared goal of advancing gene discovery. Formed in 1997, the Portuguese Water Dog Foundation (PWDF) has played a key role in important discoveries via support of \$1.2 million in funding for research grants that benefit the breed and other breeds as well.

“It’s a privilege and an advantage to have these DNA tests,” Murray says. “There is no reason for a dog to be blind or have JDCM.”



PHOTOS: MIGUEL BETANCOURT

Developed as a working fishermen’s dog, the PWD today is challenged in water trials that test a dog’s retrieving, swimming and courier skills. Teamwork with an owner is an essential part of water work.

AN AMERICAN FANCY FOR PORTUGAL'S WATER DOG

The fishermen's dog that worked on boats along the Algarve, the southern coastline of Portugal, the Portuguese Water Dog (PWD) was a prized multipurpose water dog. These loyal, intelligent dogs were taught to herd fish into nets, retrieve lost tackle and broken nets, and to courier items from ship to ship. Their muscular hindquarters, developed from swimming, webbed feet, and water-resilient coat underlie the breed's natural abilities.

Ancient tales of dogs described as PWDs date to the 13th century. In 1297, a monk saw a dog with "a black coat of rough, long hair, cut to the first rib and with a tuft on the tip of his tail" retrieve a dying sailor from the sea. During the late 1500s, Christopher Columbus may have traveled on his explorations with a PWD.

Centuries later, Portuguese businessman and dog enthusiast Vasco Bensaúde was introduced to the magnificent Cão de Água, though few dogs were still working on boats. In 1936, on his historical second trip to the Algarve, Bensaúde convinced a fisherman to let him buy a male, Leão, who would become the founding sire of the modern PWD, and a female, Dina, to take home to his Algarbiorum kennel. When Bensaúde died in 1967, his PWDs were given to dog breeder and exhibitor Conchita Citron de Castello Branco to start her Al-Gharb line.

About the same time, Americans Deyanne Farrell Miller and her husband, Herbert H. Miller Jr., were taking interest in the breed after a few trips to Portugal. In July 1968, they fell in love with a newly born puppy, a descendant of Leão, at the Al-Gharb Kennels. At 8 weeks of age, they imported the puppy, named "Chenze" (Renascenta do Al-Gharb). Chenze became the foundation bitch of their Farmion Kennels. The next year they imported a male.

By 1970, the breed had dwindled to fewer than 20 PWDs and two breeders, Branco and Dr. António Cabral of Alvalade Kennels, president of the Portuguese Kennel Club. On the American front, the Millers bred Chenze and their male in 1971, producing the first litter whelped in the U.S. The next year, they organized a meeting at their Connecticut home that served as a seed for starting the breed parent club. All agreed that an American PWD club was needed as the breed's numbers worldwide were desperately low. The American fanciers worked

Here is a look at the grassroots efforts of PWDCA club members that led to the gene variant discoveries for five health conditions and IC. The genetic tests that have resulted give breeders the tools they need to selectively breed healthy dogs not affected by these diseases.

GM-1: A RARE STORAGE DISEASE

Breeder Jane Harding of Chester, Connecticut, finished her foundation bitch, "Craca" (CH White Cap Craca JD AD), to her show championship title and then eagerly bred her. The second breeding of Craca to a beautiful male, "Bo" (CH Alfama Ubo), gave Harding eight adorable puppies.

"Six months later, I began getting calls from three owners about sick puppies or puppies that had died from a mysteri-



CH Charlie de Alvalade, pictured with handler Bill Trainor, wins Best in Show at the Hockamock Kennel Club in June 1984. Imported from Portugal in 1978 by Deyanne Miller, founder of the PWD in America, "Charlie" was the breed's first show champion and Best in Show winner.

closely with the Portuguese Kennel Club to guide their efforts and desire to maintain the breed's function and aesthetics.

Dr. Cabral provided the Millers with a brown curly coated PWD in 1978, their famous "Charlie Brown" (CH Charlie de Alvalade). Charlie was the first PWD to earn a show champion title in 1984, the same year he was the first PWD to win a Best in Show. Charlie was a three-time Best of Breed winner at Westminster. Deyanne Miller thoroughly loved her handsome male. When she died in 1988, Charlie went to her friend, Marianne B. Murray, to live out his life as she had planned.

"The one reason we have PWDs today is because Deyanne brought them to this country," Murray says. "She had the mindset and tenacity to get the breed into the American Kennel Club. The Millers founded the Portuguese Water dog in America."

ous neurologic illness," Harding says. "People thought it was parvovirus or a spinal disease."

Harding began researching the illness and learned that puppies from New York to California were dying from similar clinical signs. Loss of coordination, muscle tremors, weight loss, and a wide gait were common. Progressively severe and fatal, most puppies died naturally or were euthanized by 1 year of age.

"It took the coordination and care of breeders to bring the research together," says Harding, who helped researchers gather DNA samples and reach people whose dogs had produced affected puppies.

A DNA test for the strange illness, now known as gangliosidosis (GM-1), was made available in 1990. The [GM-1 gene variant discovery](#) was made by researchers at the Eunice Kennedy

Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Development, as children are susceptible to a similar inherited illness, and New York University.

A rare lysosomal storage disorder, GM-1 occurs in dogs having insufficient beta-galactosidase enzyme activity, which is responsible for breaking down specific carbohydrates in cells. These GM-1 cells accumulate in cells of the brain and nervous system. Genetic testing for the *GLB1* gene variant identifies carriers that do not exhibit signs but can pass the disease on to their offspring if crossed with another carrier.

***prcd*:PRA: LATE-ONSET BLINDNESS**

Joan C. Bendure of Fairview, Pennsylvania, remembers when her PWDs, “Admiral” (CH Benhil’s the Admiral Norvic) and his half brother, “Magellan” (CH Donamur’s Magellan of Benhil),

were diagnosed with *prcd*-PRA. Their Portuguese-imported sire, CH Fidalgo Do Condinho, also was affected with the eye disease that leads to blindness.

“I was the first to come forward with *prcd* in 1990,” says Bendure, which led to the club’s consulting Dr. Aguirre, an ophthalmologist at the University of Pennsylvania. “By now, affected dogs were turning up all over.”

“When PRA started in PWDs, we had to know if it was similar to the *prcd*-PRA we had been studying for six years in Miniature Poodles,” Dr. Aguirre says. “In 1998, we were close to the gene discovery. The club wanted to know what it would take to get a genetic test for *prcd*-PRA in PWDs. I told them, ‘Just bring us enough dogs and samples.’”

Although the eye disease can be clinically diagnosed in PWDs around 3 to 5 years of age, total blindness doesn’t occur until

IC: IMPROPER COAT

Most people will easily recognize a Portuguese Water Dog (PWD) whether it is curly or wavy coated or whether it is groomed in the lion or retriever clip. On the other hand, people are not as likely to recognize a PWD with improper coat (IC).

Although there are inconsistencies in the look of dogs with the IC gene variant, they tend to have short, flat coat on the muzzle, face and head; short and sometimes sparse coat on the front of their legs, with feathering behind the legs; a full ruff on the neck; and longer, thick coat on their bodies. Unlike their hypoallergenic relatives, they shed.

IC is not a health condition, but it can be problematic. “If a PWD with IC ends up in a shelter and is not recognized, we are unable to provide rescue support,” says Joan C. Bendure of Fairlawn, Pennsylvania, who helped to pilot the discovery of the gene mutation.

IC had been cropping up in litters for many years. Bendure eventually sought help from Gordon Lark, PhD, a geneticist at the University of Utah who had built the Georgie Project DNA database of Portuguese Water Dogs. Working with researchers at the National Institutes of Health on a multi-breed study to identify genes regulating dog coats, Dr. Lark wondered if the gene responsible for hair furnishings contributed to IC in PWDs. DNA from a dog with IC was genotyped. As Dr. Lark suspected, the dog lacked part of the DNA sequence associated with furnishings.

Together with the NIH researchers, Dr. Lark developed a DNA test in 2010 that identified the [RSP02 gene variant for IC](#), which allows breeders to use selective breeding to avoid producing PWDs with IC. The recessive condition occurs in dogs that inherit copies of the gene allele from their sire and dam. Dr. Lark believed that the gene variant was likely introduced in the PWD population in the 1970s.

PWDs born with the IC variant may participate in all sports; however, in conformation IC is considered a flaw, though not a disqualifying fault. IC does not affect a dog’s health or longevity. Puppies born with IC are identifiable around 2 to 4 weeks of age.



PHOTO COURTESY OF CONNIE MILLARD

“Dutch” (Presidio Dutch of Alto Mare TDX CWDX SAR-U1), owned and trained by Connie Millard of Hermann, Missouri, is arguably one of the most accomplished working PWDs — and he had an improper coat. Born in 1996, Dutch was a trained search-and-rescue (SAR) dog who worked at Ground Zero after 9/11. He was certified in urban search and rescue (USAR) and advanced work by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and he was the first PWD to earn SAR Wilderness Live Find (WLF) and Human Remains Detection (HRD) certification. At the PWDCA National Specialty in 1999, this amazing working dog was named the Super Dog winner, taking the highest combined score in tracking, agility and water dog trials. Dutch won High in Trial in agility at the event though it was his first time competing in the sport.

dogs are 7 to 8 years of age. Night blindness is the first sign of the disorder due to degeneration of rod photoreceptors in the retina. These cells take light coming into the eyes and relay it to the brain as electrical impulses that are interpreted to create images. Eventually, the cone cells, which function in daytime conditions, deteriorate and dogs become completely blind.

Dr. Aguirre and his collaborator, Dr. Gregory Acland of Cornell University, mapped the [prcd-PRA gene variant in PWDs to canine chromosome 9](#). The DNA test for the condition allows breeders to detect unaffected carriers and recognize affected dogs before the onset of the eye disease. Importantly, it also allows breeders to test their dogs prior to breeding to avoid producing the blindness disease.

JDCM: HEART DISEASE IN PUPPIES

Breeder Lisa Wiley of Bethany, Connecticut, stumbled onto the inherited heart disease juvenile dilated cardiomyopathy (JDCM) in 1997 when a litter she bred produced affected puppies. "A dog I loved was a carrier," she says. "I bred 'Bud' (CH Glenllyn Windruff Budweiser) to my female, 'Taffy' (CH Turnabout Salt Water Taffy)."

Four female puppies out of Taffy's litter died from JDCM. Early on called sudden puppy death, JDCM occurs in puppies from 2 weeks to 8 months of age. Affected puppies often die suddenly and unexpectedly.

Wiley and Carol Mattingley of Pottstown, Pennsylvania, breeder-owner of Bud and chair of the PWDCA Cardiac Committee, began working together to gather blood samples from carriers and their relatives for DNA analysis. They reached out to University of Pennsylvania researchers Margaret M. Sleeper, VMD, associate professor of cardiology, and Paula S. Henthorn, PhD, professor of medical genetics, who studied the genetics of JDCM with support from PWDCA and PWDF.

"The Cardiac Committee was amazing. They provided a huge pedigree and cases for us to study. Meanwhile, the club supported the research financially," Dr. Henthorn says.

Their research attributed the disorder to a [gene variant on canine chromosome 8](#) inherited as a fully penetrant recessive trait. This finding allowed for a genetic test to identify carriers. Describing JDCM in PWDs, they said the disorder ranges from sudden unexpected collapse and death with no preceding clinical signs to depression and reduced appetite for up to five days before dying from congestive heart failure.

"When we found the JDCM gene variant, there were DNA tests for GM-1 and *prcd*-PRA," says Dr. Henthorn. "Knowing that the PWD had a small gene pool, we were careful to advise breeders to selectively breed their best dogs even if they were carriers to not lose their bloodlines. Today, it is rare to find a PWD carrier for JDCM in North America. If it occurs, it typically is a dog produced from a frozen semen breeding of an old sire."



PHOTO: MIGUEL BETANCOURT

This PWD depicts the spirited, joyous nature of the breed.

EO-PRA: EARLY-ONSET BLINDNESS

A new form of PRA showed up in PWDs around 2014. "Early-onset PRA (EO-PRA) came from young dogs that a breeder had produced by crossing PWDs imported from Portugal," says Bendure, who teamed up again with Mattingley to find answers to an inherited eye disease affecting the breed.

Turning to ophthalmologist Dr. Aguirre for help, they and fellow club members collected DNA samples and the PWDF provided funding for whole-genome sequencing to find the gene variant. "They brought the sire and grandsire of this first affected litter to us as well as the whole litter of affected and unaffected dogs," Dr. Aguirre says. "We were afraid the disease would become rampant in the breed."

EO-PRA occurs in PWDs around 1 to 2 years of age and progresses quickly. Initially, affected dogs walk into objects and have difficulty following moving targets. Their condition becomes progressively worse until they are totally blind.

Genetic analysis by Dr. Keiko Miyadera, also of the University of Pennsylvania, and Dr. Aguirre found an insertion nucleotide



Nearly extinct in the early 1970s, the PWD ranked 49th among 195 breeds registered in 2020 by the American Kennel Club.

causing a [CCDC66 frameshift variant](#) associated with this new form of EO-PRA in PWDs. The genome study included four affected littermates, two unaffected littermates, the unaffected parents, and 15 unrelated control PWDs. The recessive disease occurs in dogs whose parents are carriers. The variant reduces the ciliary function of photoreceptors in the retina responsible for converting light signals in neural impulses that are sent to the brain to create images.

MICROPTHALMIA: PUPPY EYE SYNDROME

Prior to breeding her foundation bitch, Cathy Kalb had health testing done based on the parent club's recommendations for Orthopedic Foundation for Animals' health certification. This included testing for hip dysplasia and an annual eye examination. In 1987, the last time Kalb bred her bitch, one puppy out of a litter of 10 developed a syndrome causing it to be unusually small and to have very small eyes. Hand-raising the puppy she named "Thumbelina," Kalb was concerned the puppy had a disorder she had seen before.

In 1986, Kalb and Pam Schneller of Bay Shore, New York, took a litter of 7-week-old puppies bred by Schneller to be examined by Dr. Aguirre at the University of Pennsylvania. Schneller's litter of 10 puppies were born to normal parents,

but five of the pups were blind, small and not thriving and three pups were euthanized at 2 weeks of age due to failure to thrive. Dr. Aguirre determined the other two pups also were affected.

Dr. Aguirre diagnosed ocular and metabolic abnormalities caused by the syndrome later known as microphthalmia. Affected puppies primarily had eye problems including very small eyes, glaucoma, cataracts, no pupils, and pieces of eye parts. Microphthalmia puppies were poor nursers and weak, often dying in a few days unless they were raised by hand.

"I posted frequently about the signs of this syndrome in the PWDCA's newsletter to alert breeders about this likely inherited disease," says Kalb, chair of the PDWCA Eye Committee. "Very few cases were reported, probably due to early deaths without diagnosis."

A rally cry for funds to support a genetic study and for DNA samples came together in 2015. Milan Lint of New Hope, Pennsylvania, organized a matching gift fundraiser that netted \$25,000. University of Pennsylvania researchers Margaret L. Casal, DVM, PhD, professor of medical genetics, reproduction and pediatrics, along with Dr. Karina Guziewicz led the discovery of the [gene variant for microphthalmia](#) in early 2020.

Although the finding has yet to be published in a scientific journal, [genetic testing](#) for microphthalmia currently is available through the University of Pennsylvania. The ability to test breeding stock to learn their carrier status ensures no puppies will be born with the condition.

A MODEL BREED CLUB FOR HEALTH RESEARCH

Reflecting on the PWD genetic advances, Wiley who contributed significantly to the JDCM research, says, "In 1988, the PWDCA was a model breed club for health research. Breeders today must realize it's OK to breed a quality carrier to a clear dog, as the puppies will be healthy. You can slowly eliminate a disease without shrinking the gene pool. It's important to keep a bloodline going."

Dr. Oberbauer advises, "When genetic tests are available to help select for improved health, they can be used provided the selection is applied gradually so as not to depopulate the breed. Breeders should be mindful of the 'big picture' and how their choices will impact the breed population. The idea is to improve the breed as a whole for future generations."

Murray, who cared for the legendary PWD Charlie Brown after the passing of Deyanne Miller, the founder of the breed in America, says, "We have to educate new people and stay on top of health conditions that affect our dogs. Our gene pool even today is not that big."

Small but mighty, the American PWD enthusiasts are a shining example of what can be accomplished by working together and staying honest about genetics and health conditions. No longer the rarest breed on earth, the PWD today is most certainly one of the most loved. ■

325 YEARS OF LOVE FOR THE PORTUGUESE WATER DOG

The early years of the Portuguese Water Dog (PWD) in America brought together enthusiasts who were driven to ensure the breed's success. Their love and dedication to the fisherman's dog, known in his native Portugal as *Cão de Água*, or water dog, has formed the backbone of the parent club and the breed health foundation. Here is a snapshot of some of these doyens of the breed. Collectively, they have given 325 years to their beloved Water Dogs.



Joan C. Bendure

Joan C. Bendure of Fairview, Pennsylvania, who breeds under the Benhil prefix, founded the Portuguese Water Dog Foundation (PWDF) in 1997 and invited a loyal group of PWDCA members to serve on the first board. "I researched the breed and studied its health problems for five years before getting my first PWD in 1987," she says. "I got a reputation for being a health nut. I didn't want to eliminate dogs, I wanted to control and eliminate health diseases from the PWD. I wanted healthier dogs for everyone."



Christine Dostie

Christine Dostie of Leeds, Maine, current president of the Portuguese Water Dog Club of America (PWDCA), breeds under the DownEast prefix with her husband, Steve Dostie. DownEast began when Steve Dostie got a brown female named "Betsy" (AM CH CAN OTCH Baybrite Algazarra AM/CAN UD AWD ROM POM CGC) in 1985. She became their foundation bitch, whelping her first litter in 1987.

The Dosties have bred over 60 breed champions in the U.S. and Canada and are active in obedience, agility, tracking, nosework, and water work. "Our goal is to produce PWDs that are correct to the breed standard and healthy as well as sound in mind and body with the temperament to work all day and be a wonderful family member," Christine Dostie says.



Jane Harding

Jane Harding of Chester, Connecticut, who breeds under the Cutwater prefix, got her first PWD in 1984 and bred her first litter in 1986. This litter produced pups with an as-yet unknown condition, gangliosidosis, or GM-1, a storage disease. "We continued to breed, but very, very carefully," she says. "We are proud that our dogs exhibit unmistakable type and temperament. This is an athletic breed that loves to work. I enjoy training my dogs for water work, conformation and obedience."



Cathy Kalb

Cathy Kalb of East Falls, Pennsylvania, oversaw health and temperament concerns before becoming the national health coordinator for the PWDCA. She became smitten with the breed in 1979 when Maryanne Murray brought her black curly puppy to the school where they worked. "There weren't many PWDs around," she says. "We got 'Meera' (CH Natale do Mar) from the do Mar Kennel in Long Island (New York). She was fabulous. Her first litter, whelped

in 1983, began our Camerell line. Although my family always had dogs, she was the first dog that was all mine."



Milan Lint

Milan Lint of New Hope, Pennsylvania, acquired his first PWD in 1988. Since then, he and Peggy Helming have partnered in the Pouch Cove PWD breeding and show program. They have bred and owned many top-rated Best in Show and Best in Specialty Show winners, including MBIS/MBISS GCHP Claircreek Impression de Matisse, the top-winning male show dog of all time. "As it turns out, 'Matisse,' his sire, Pouch Cove Caribe, and several Matisse offspring

produced microphthalmia," Lint says. "We felt an obligation to fundraise and support genetic research of this malady, which paid off for the betterment of PWDs."

Carol Mattingley of Pottstown, Pennsylvania, current president of the PWDF, got her first PWD in 1988 from Maryanne Murray and bred her first litter under the Windruff prefix in 1990. "The PWD is very much like a little person. They are intuitive and read you perfectly," she says. "They have a wonderful coat that is resilient when swimming or running through the field. I want the best health and best temperament for the breed and for the dogs I breed."



Maryanne B. Murray

Maryanne B. Murray of Green Lane, Pennsylvania, got "Bria" (CH Trezena Konstelada), her first PWD and the 274th PWD born in the U.S., in 1979 after reading a *Life* magazine feature on rare dog breeds. "Bria was the runt of the litter but so smart and a handful," says Murray, the 1990 president of PWDCA and whose late husband, Lin, was president in 1983. "Since this was pre-AKC, I showed her in a rare breed show, and she won Best Puppy in Show. In 1984, she was the sixth PWD to earn an AKC show champion title, and I was the first owner-handler to finish one. We bred her in 1982, and her litter was the first whelped under our Brinmar prefix."



Elaine Suter

Elaine Suter of Byron, Michigan got her first PWD in 1984 from an ad in the newspaper and bred her first litter under the Hunter prefix in 1986. "This is a thinking breed, so smart," she says. "I like that they don't shed and are real companions." Having made trips to Portugal with fellow fanciers Carol Mattingley and Sandy Sabol to import dogs for breeding, Suter, a founding member of the PWDF, fully believes in the importance of investing in the betterment of the breed.



Lisa Wiley

Lisa Wiley of Bethany, Connecticut, got her first PWD in 1989 and bred her first litter under the Turnabout prefix in 1994. "I love that the breed is really smart and has a mind of its own," she says. When her first homebred champion, a female named "Taffy" (CH Turnabout Salt Water Taffy), produced pups with juvenile dilated cardiomyopathy (JDCM) in 1997, it was life-changing.

Wiley joined the PWDCA cardiac committee, and her 10-year-old twin daughters were inspired to become veterinarians. One became a veterinary cardiologist, and the other a veterinary geneticist because of the impact of her dogs dying from JDCM, even working as a student in the laboratory where the gene mutation was discovered.

Circle of Champions



NO. 1 ENGLISH SPRINGER ALL SYSTEMS IS 'TEDDY'

With debonair style, "Teddy," a 5 ½-year-old liver-and-white male, has eased to the top as the No. 1 English Springer Spaniel all systems. Bred by Dorothy "Dotti" Cherry of Sherman, Connecticut, Lily Mancini of San Diego, and Ann Somerfeld of Steventown, Maryland, MBIS/MBISS AM GCHP/CAN CH Cerise Bonanza has won six Bests in Show in a cumulative time span of one year on the circuit. Handler Howard Huber Jr. of Oxford, Pennsylvania, who co-owns Teddy with Cherry and Kendra Huber of Lancaster, Pennsylvania, says, "Teddy has a quiet disposition but is a magnificent show dog who loves everyone he meets. He is truly a breed ambassador with his great temperament." Having begun Cerise English Springer Spaniels in 1997, Cherry focuses on breeding dogs with wonderful temperaments, excellent breed type and effortless movement. Her partnership with Huber, who has specialized in showing English Springers for 35 years, has produced some legendary winners. Prior to handling Teddy, Huber showed his sire, MBIS/MBISS AM GCHP2/CAN CH Cerise Blindside, who won 55 Bests in Show and 277 Sporting Group Firsts and was the No. 1 English Springer all systems in 2016 and 2017. Although a more serious dog than his sire, Teddy, too, adores dog shows and is fond of Huber. The handsome male is fed *Purina Pro Plan SPORT Performance 30/20 Salmon & Rice Formula*.

A friendly, outgoing springer, "Teddy" is a balanced, well-proportioned male who moves with tremendous reach and drive.

2021 GERMAN SHORTHAIRED POINTER NATIONAL CHAMPION IS A MALE NAMED 'LEWEY'

A 7-year-old male named "Lewey" kept his cool under hot, humid conditions to win the 2021 National German Shorthaired Pointer Association (NGSPA) National Championship. With four quail covey finds during the one-hour stake, NC-FC-AFC BMB's Free Ride drove a riveting performance. "Lewey showed a lot of power and really nice style," says handler Brandon Blum, of Berthoud, Colorado, the co-owner with his wife, Jen. It was Lewey's 20th championship win, his first National Championship. Lewey is the first bird dog that Blum, an amateur, fully trained himself. Blum started with bird dogs about 10 years ago with a Vizsla, switching to German Shorthairs as he got more involved with field trials. Other winners Blum handled at the NGSPA National are Lewey's 5 ½-year-old half sister, RU-NASDC-FC-AFC BMB's Madison Ave, the Runner-Up Champion at the National Amateur Shooting Dog stake, and his 3 ½-year-old son, RU-NAC-FC BMB's Freeloader, the Runner-Up Champion at the National Amateur All-Age stake. Bred by Matt Smith of Florida, Lewey was sired by FC Kimber Tactical out of FC Time To Pay The Piper. This year's National Champion, an easygoing house dog when not running field trials, is fed *Purina Pro Plan SPORT Performance 30/20 Salmon & Rice Formula*.

Excelling with his keen bird-finding ability and stylish performance, "Lewey" won the National German Shorthaired Pointer Association National in March at Grovespring, Missouri.



2021 NATIONAL OPEN SHOOTING DOG CHAMPION IS A POINTER NAMED 'NATE'



This year's National Open Shooting Dog Champion is "Nate," a talented, powerful Pointer with the ability to also exceed in all-age stakes.

The 2021 National Open Shooting Dog Champion is a 4-year-old white-and-orange Pointer named "Nate," who took top honors only three years after his sire won the prestigious event. It is only the second time in the 60-year history of the National Open that a father and son have won. Running in the first 90-minute brace — No. 17 of the seven-day trial — on a cold, windy morning, Senah's Back In Business delivered a powerful, stylish performance with seven covey finds. Joel Norman, manager and head trainer at Senah Plantation in Leesburg, Georgia, handled the homebred champion for owner Benjy Griffith, and Jamie Daniels of Bronwood, Georgia, scouted. "Nate is a natural. He runs a far-reaching forward ground race and always knows where I am," Norman says. "He was a late bloomer, but his desire to hunt birds was evident right away." Nate was sired by Miller Unfinished Business, whom Norman handled to his win at the 2018 National Open, out of Miller's Dialing for Dollars, the 2016 Southeastern Open Shooting Dog Champion. Griffith bought both dogs from breeders Jack and Fran Miller of Barwick, Georgia, and Nate was whelped and raised at Senath Plantation out of that mating. Among his other wins, Nate won the 2020 Southeastern Open Shooting Dog Championship. His power and ability make him a contender in all-age stakes, as reflected in his winning Runner-Up Champion at the 2021 Florida Open All-Age Championship. The talented bird dog is fed *Purina Pro Plan SPORT Performance 30/20 Chicken & Rice Formula*.

'GINGER,' A BEARDED COLLIE, SETS RECORD AS TOP-WINNING BITCH IN HISTORY

Spicing up show rings with her exuberant personality, a 4 ½-year-old Bearded Collie named "Ginger" is the top-winning bitch in history. Co-bred and co-owned by longtime partners Carol Scott Wathen of Montecito, California, and the late Thomas Wathen, with handlers Jorgé and Susie Olivera of San Diego, MBIS/MBISS GCHG Scott's Lady Liberty earned her prominent status as the winner of nine Bests in Show. Currently the No. 2 Bearded Collie all systems, Ginger was ranked No. 1 in all-breed competition in 2019 and 2020. "Ginger stands out with her sparkle and showmanship," says Susie Olivera. "Although she looks and acts like a princess, she is a tomgirl at heart and such a clown." Sired by GCHP Dunhill Steeler Nation, who won Best of Breed at the 2019 Bearded Collie of America National Specialty from the Veterans class, out of GCH Scott's Glamor Girl, Ginger represents the seventh generation of Scott Bearded Collies. Scott Wathen began with the breed in the 1980s after buying her first Beardie, CH Willowisp Molly Magee, who became her foundation bitch and first show dog. "The breeder encouraged me to try showing 'Molly,' so I began learning to groom and handle her," she says. "The unconditional love and happy disposition of the breed is what I love." As to Ginger's dazzling performance, Scott Wathen says, "Dog shows are a game to her. She loves the attention and interactions with Susie and Jorgé." This history-making Beardie is fed *Purina Pro Plan SPORT Performance 30/20 Chicken & Rice Formula*.



Enjoying the fun of dog shows, "Ginger" captures attention with her playful, friendly nature.



Consistent, strong performers, “Badger,” left, and “Dots” achieved High-Point Open and Amateur status, respectively, with their amateur owner-handlers.

ENGLISH SPRINGER SPANIELS ‘BADGER’ & ‘DOTS’ ARE 2020 NATIONAL HIGH-POINT OPEN & AMATEUR ALL-AGE DOGS

Driven by enthusiasm, natural ability and an exceptionally close bond with their amateur breeder-owner-handlers, “Badger,” a 5-year-old black-and-white male, and “Dots,” a 3-year-old liver-and-white male, delivered powerful, consistent field trial performances to be named the 2020 National High-Point Open All-Age and 2020 National High-Point Amateur All-Age English Springer Spaniels, respectively.

Garnering 25 points in 12 field trials, FC AFC CFC Pheasant Feathers Cove Creek Badger MH earned eight placements including taking first place at Mid-Penn, Bushy Hill and Keystone to secure his spot on top of the Open All-Age roster. John Dunn of Bedford, Pennsylvania, who owns and bred Badger with his wife, Mona, was the handler. In 2018, Badger finished fourth at the Canadian National Open Championship.

“Badger is a team player whose outstanding bird finding, intelligence and precision retrieving are exceptional,” says Dunn, who has been competing in springer trials for seven years. “One of his strong points is being so in tune with me and looking to me for direction.”

Nationally ranked achievers stand out on both sides of Badger’s pedigree. His maternal grandsire is NAFC FC AFC CFC Pheasant Feathers Black Powder, the 2008 National Amateur Champion, and his paternal grandsire is NFC FC AFC Crosswinds Warpath, the 2006 National Open Champion. Badger’s dam, Pheasant

Feathers Prairie Skye MH, is Dunn’s first field trial English Springer after years of hunting with Labrador Retrievers. She also is the dam of the first litter the Dunns bred.

On the amateur circuit, AFC Mojo’s Joey Two Dots earned 32 points in 15 field trials that included first places at Susquehanna, Central Maine, Pittsburgh, and the Cocker Club of America. The smallest pup in a litter of 10, Dots required bottle-feeding and special attention for the first 16 weeks. Breeder-owner-handler Michael F. Nolan of Richmond, New Hampshire, says, “We spent a lot of one-on-one time bonding, and this connection helps us in trials.”

Named for two brown dots on his back, the talented male earned a Certificate of Merit at the 2020 National Amateur Championship. “Dots is a great bird hunter,” says Nolan, of his first High-Point dog since he started competing in 2008. “Early on, I recognized his intelligence and natural affinity for finding birds, flushing and retrieving.”

Dots was sired by FC AFC Geordie Lad MH out of FC AFC Z&Z’s Sky Dancer of Fallen Wings. His maternal bloodline includes four National Champions in five generations: great-grandfathers NFC FC AFC Crosswinds Warpath and NFC FC AFC Eagle Brae’s Good Sport, great-great-grandfathers NFC FC AFC Kenkew Briar Of Saradynpark, who is also a great-great-great-grandfathers, and great-great-great-grandfathers NFC FC Pondviews Left In The Light.

Professional Jim Keller of Wildwind Kennels in Knox, Maine, did the foundation bird dog training with Badger and Dots. Both springers are fed *Purina Pro Plan SPORT* Performance 30/20 Salmon & Rice Formula.

NO. 1 ALL-BREED GORDON SETTER IS NAMED 'GAVIN'

A spirited achiever with natural charisma, "Gavin," a 6 ½-year-old male, has worked his way up the rankings to be the No. 2 Sporting dog despite limited showing over six weekends in 2021. The No. 1 all-breed Gordon Setter since 2018, MBIS/MBISS GCHP/CAN CH Hollyhunt Not By Chance is handled by Kristyn Stout of Jacksonville, Florida, and is owned by breeders Dr. Christopher and Mary Hunsinger of Shrewsbury, Pennsylvania. "I treasure Gavin's outgoing temperament," Stout says. "When you see him in the ring, you can tell he loves to show. He is beautiful, so square and sound." With career wins that include 14 Bests in Show and 81 Sporting Group Firsts, Gavin reflects the best of his sire and dam. Whelped from a frozen semen litter sired by Australian-bred CAN/AM/NZ/AUST CH Triseter Ebonie Nirvana, a top producer of more than 50 champions worldwide, Gavin is out of GCHP Hollyhunt Take a Chance on Me ("Winnie"), the top-winning bitch in breed history with four Bests in Show and 13 Bests in Specialty Show. A two-time Best in Specialty Show winner at the Gordon Setter Club of America National Specialty having won in 2012 and 2014, Winnie was the first Gordon Setter that Stout campaigned after growing up showing the Triumphant Brittanys bred by her mother, Linda McCartney. Representing the Hunsingers' sixth generation of Gordon Setters bred over 25 years, Gavin is fed *Purina Pro Plan SPORT Performance 30/20 Chicken & Rice Formula*.



With his charismatic charm, "Gavin" has held top rankings since 2018.



'MATTHEW,' A POUCH COVE NEWFOUNDLAND, IS NO. 1 ALL-BREED

An easygoing 3 ½-year-old black male named "Matthew" charmed his way to the No. 2 spot in the Working Group and No. 1 all-breed Newfoundland in just five weeks on the circuit in 2021 with handler Karen Mammano of Webster, New York. BIS GCHS Pouch Cove's Alright Alright Alright is the first top special for owner Keith Mallinson of Bethany, Connecticut, a mentor level water and draft test judge for the Newfoundland Club of America (NCA). "Every show has been so exciting," says Mallinson, who competes with his wife, Sheila, a longtime Newfoundland breeder and show exhibitor under the Kodiak Acres prefix. An early standout, Matthew won Best in Sweepstakes at the 2019 NCA National Specialty shortly after turning 1 year old and then was shown sparingly in 2020 due to COVID-19. Breeder and co-owner Peggy Helming, of Flemington, New Jersey, named the dog after Matthew McConaughey and his famous line, "All right, all right, all right," from "Dazed and Confused." With his stunning head, proud carriage and smooth movement, Matthew is reminiscent of another Pouch Cove male, his great-great-grandsire MBIS/MBISS CH Darbydale's All Rise Pouch Cove ROM, the Best in Show winner at the 2004 Westminster Kennel Club and the top-winning Newfie in breed history. "The hallmark of the breed is its sweet temperament, and Matthew loves everyone," Mammano says. The handsome, 160-pound male is fed a 50-50 mixture of *Purina Pro Plan Sensitive Skin & Stomach Salmon & Rice Formula* and *Purina Pro Plan SPORT Performance 30/20 Chicken & Rice Formula*.

In a short time on the circuit in 2021, "Matthew" has achieved success in breed and group rings.

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 Pro Plan*.

PURINA WALK OF CHAMPIONS MEMENTO BRICKS HELP FUNDRAISE FOR AKC CANINE HEALTH FOUNDATION



A newly laid red brick paver on the Purina Walk of Champions at the Purina Event Center commemorates a black female Standard Poodle called "Yes," the top-winning black Poodle

in breed history. To the dog fancy, especially Poodle enthusiasts, CH Randenn Tristar Affirmation was unforgettable, a brilliant star whose magnetism lit up show rings.

The winner of 103 Bests in Show and the Westminster Non-Sporting Group in 2009, Yes was nothing short of phenomenal. Handler Timothy Brazier, now retired and living in Palm Springs, California, also handled, and owned, the sire, CH Eaton Affirmed. "Yes had 'Snapper's' look, temperament, style, and 'poodley' demeanor," Brazier says. "The world was her oyster."

A singleton puppy whelped 13 years after Snapper passed away, Yes was conceived from one of the last vials of 25-year-old semen — a second attempt at the breeding. Her dam, CH Randenn Tres Chic, was sired by CH Lake Cove That's My Boy, the top-winning Poodle in history, a record that stands today. Yes, who finished in one weekend with three 5-point Majors as a puppy, was the 111th champion sired by Snapper.



Poodle icon Dennis McCoy, of Apex, North Carolina, and his partner Randy Garren are the breeders of Yes along with Joan Lacey. Dr. Katherine Settle of Sanford, North Carolina, performed the artificial insemination procedure with semen

of 4 percent mobility. "It was a fated match that gave the fancy a truly unique and exceptional representation of the breed, one that thrilled exhibitors as well as breeders," says McCoy, who bought the brick for Yes.

The Purina Walk of Champions, built in 2010 at the south entrance to the Purina Event Center at Purina Farms in Gray Summit, Missouri, is lined with bricks honoring champions of many canine sports. Special tributes to memorable dogs etched in three lines per brick help to fundraise for the AKC Canine Health Foundation, with \$70 of the \$100 cost being a tax-deductible donation. Since 2010, \$86,100 has been raised from 1,230 orders. For a limited time, the AKC Canine Health Foundation is offering a replica 2-by-4-inch brick for an additional \$25 that will serve as a lasting memento of a special dog. If you are interested in buying a brick paver to honor your champions, [click here](#) to learn more. ■



Timothy Brazier at the end of the lead of "Yes" while showing at Madison Square Garden in 2009 at the Westminster Kennel Club.

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NORWEGIAN ELKHOUND: THE NORDIC MOOSE DOG

The Norsk Elghund, as the Norwegian Elkhound is known in his native Norway, is among Europe's oldest breeds, dating to 5000 B.C. Courageous and bold, the Elkhound specialized in following the scent of magnificent large game over a distance and holding them at bay while dodging attack until the huntsmen arrived. A shipmate of the Vikings, guardian of remote farms, herder of flocks, and defender from wolves and bear, the Norwegian Elkhound was highly regarded.

This hardy silver-gray hunting dog had the agility and stamina to track moose, bear and other wild animals for long hours in all weather over rough terrain. Epic sagas, such as the 12th century tale of an Elkhound being named king of the land of Thronhjem, reflect the breed's status in Nordic culture. Adoring their beloved moose dogs, Vikings would be buried with their Elkhound's remains alongside their prized sword and shield.

The Norwegian Elkhound has a broad head with prick ears, curled tail over the back and a distinctive double coat. Males

are 20 ½ inches tall and weigh 55 pounds, and females are 19 ½ inches tall and weigh 48 pounds. This athletic breed excels at agility, barn hunt, obedience, rally, conformation, herding, tracking, scent work, hunting, hiking, and therapy work. With his good-natured disposition, the Norwegian Elkhound is a versatile, multipurpose dog and loving companion.

Sources: *The Complete Dog Book*, Official Publication of the American Kennel Club, and the Norwegian Elkhound Association of America

Above: BIS GCHB Vin-Melca's Vanguard is a 3 ½-year-old male Norwegian Elkhound owned by Robert L. Simpson and bred by Patricia Craige Trotter. "Zeke" boasts a pedigree with several standout Westminster Kennel Club Hound Group First winners. His dam is GCHS Vin-Melca's Daggardwood Delight, who won in 2017, his great-granddam is CH Vin-Melca's Marketta, the winner in 1994 and 1995, and his great-great-granddam is CH Vin-Melca's Calista, who won in 1989 and 1990.