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PURINA

Today's Breeder

A Nestlé Purina Publication Dedicated to the Needs of Canine Enthusiasts

Issue 73



BREEDER PROFILE

Pine Shadows Kennel

Sunup's Kennels

Warming Up Winter

Learning the Ropes

Rare Breeds at Purina Farms

The READERS' PAGE



Pro Club members Suzy and Chris Holleran feed their Bulldogs, "Sassy," above, and "Punkin'," Purina Pro Plan dog food.



Thank you, Purina, for making *Purina Pro Plan* dog food. We are Walkin' Blues Bulldogs, and all our dogs do quite well on *Pro Plan*. We'd like to introduce you to two of our Bulldogs. The first, "Punkin'," is shown in her Grinch outfit. We assist with Northern California Bulldog Rescue, which is how we got her. Punkin', who was left to die in California's Central Valley, now lives happily at our house.

"Sassy," whom we bred, is in serious agility training. She has the perfect temperament for this sport.

Thanks again, Purina, for making such a great dog food.

Suzy and Chris Holleran
Walkin' Blues Bulldogs
Santa Rosa, CA

I especially enjoyed your article "The Heyday of St. Louis Dog Shows" in Issue 72. The Saint Bernard pictured winning Best in Show at the 1949 Mississippi Valley Kennel Club Dog Show is CH Gero-Oenz V. Edelweiss, owned and handled by Frank Fleischli, the second-generation owner of Edelweiss Kennels. This dog won three Bests in Show and the National Specialty before being blinded in a BB gun accident.

I am Frank's granddaughter, the fourth generation of Edelweiss Kennels. The fifth generation of "Edelweiss" currently is showing in the Junior ring with Ms. Amy Beard.



The Saint Bernard, CH Gero-Oenz V. Edelweiss, was pictured in *Today's Breeder*, Issue 72, winning Best in Show at the Mississippi Valley Kennel Club show in 1949.

Edelweiss-registered dogs have competed in conformation since the kennel began in 1894.

Thank you for bringing back memories from our past.

Kathy Knoles
Edelweiss Kennels
Springfield, IL

I loved reading about David Fitzpatrick and the Peke "Malachy" in Issue 72 of *Today's Breeder*. I also feed *Purina Pro Plan* to my Peke, H.T. Satin Doll, or "Dolly." In October, Dolly went Winners Bitch, Best of Winners and Best of Opposite Sex at the Pekingese National in New Orleans under judge Jean Fournier.

I bought Dolly last year when she was 4 months old. I started feeding her *Pro Plan* Toy Breed Puppy and *Pro Plan* Puppy Chicken & Rice Canned Entrée. When she was 1 year old, I switched her to the *Pro Plan* Adult Toy Breed and *Pro Plan* Adult Salmon & Rice Canned Entrée.



Michelle Gainsley poses her Pekingese, H.T. Satin Doll, after going Best of Winners at the 2010 Pekingese Club of America National Specialty. "Dolly" also went Best of Opposite Sex.

I have been told by other exhibitors how wonderful Dolly's coat is.

I cannot sing enough praises about *Purina* dog foods. In the past I have tried about every brand of dog food on the market. All I know is that *Purina Pro Plan* keeps my dogs in top shape!

Michelle Gainsley
Cedarcrest Pekingese
New Brighton, MN

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Mark and Sophie Haglin have built a successful English Springer Spaniel breeding and training program at their Pine Shadows Kennel in Brainerd, Minn. A scientific selection index to assess traits and a socialization process, known as imprinting, are the foundation that brings clients back for a third generation of dogs. The Haglins' greatest satisfaction is teaching a dog and owner together.

12 WARMING UP WINTER
Winter weather presents challenges for kennel owners to ensure dogs are warm and comfortable. Experienced owners tell how they winterize their kennels to protect against the elements. Covered outdoor runs, gas and wood heating systems, gravel exercise yards and even indoor treadmills help make winter less unbearable.

20 SUNUP'S CALL OF THE HOUNDS
Sue Whaley, a successful professional all-breed handler, fell in love with English Foxhounds 35 years ago and began to pursue their English roots. Five Best in Show winners from four litters bred at her Sunup's Kennels in Brandywine, Md., stand out as an extraordinary accomplishment.

28 LEARNING THE ROPES
Some of those lucky enough to have had a mentor help them get started in a competitive dog sport share their stories. Not only have these mentors opened doors and offered advice, they have saved newcomers heartache by teaching them valuable lessons. They also have become good friends, sharing a passion for their dogs and their sports.

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On Our Cover

FC/AFC Pine Shadows Wallace II, a 5-year-old male English Springer Spaniel bred and owned by Mark and Sophie Haglin of Pine Shadows Kennel in Brainerd, Minn., and handled by Morgan Haglin. Cover photo by Adam Williams. See story on page 4.



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The Pine Shadows Imprint

STORY AND PHOTOS BY ADAM WILLIAMS

At the edge of a switch grass field glistening with dew, a 10-week-old English Springer Spaniel bounds to and fro. Sophie Haglin picks up the puppy like a child, her hands around his upper torso, allowing his hind legs to dangle in the Minnesota sunshine and breeze. The limber, young springer trusts his handler's touch, which is the point.



Clockwise from top: Sophie Haglin, left, and Joan Peterson socialize puppies using a technique known as imprinting. A young springer is taught bite inhibition. Joan demonstrates head-to-toe massaging.

Whether being massaged from ears to tail or cradled on his back, the puppy's demeanor does not change. Bred by Sophie and Mark Haglin at the Pine Shadows Kennel in Brainerd, Minn., the dog is used to daily hands-on treatment, as are all springers raised here. The technique, known as imprinting,

is at the core of the Haglins' mission to produce quality dogs that are superb family companions.

Imprinting, along with the Haglins' sought-after expertise in breeding and training springers, has produced dogs like FC/AFC Pine Shadows Wallace II. Handled by Sophie and Mark's son, Morgan, "Wallace" outperformed nearly 120 dogs to place fourth in the English Springer Spaniel (ESS) National Open Championship in December 2009 in Mayetta, Kan.

While the Haglins consider that achievement validation of Pine Shadows' training philosophy, there are accomplishments they value more.

Implementing the Vision

Mark has focused on producing well-trained springers since he graduated in 1975 with a degree in agriculture education from the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis. Sophie, then a sophomore at the university, gave Mark a puppy named Jennifer Judd Berrypatch as a graduation gift. A year later, Mark founded Pine Shadows.



Mark and Sophie Haglin are noted English Springer Spaniel breeders and trainers at Pine Shadows Kennel in Brainerd, Minn.

Mark and Sophie married in 1977 after she graduated with a degree in animal science. The first Pine Shadows litter was whelped by "Berrypatch" in 1978, the year the Haglins' first of three sons, Travis, was born. Within three years, the Haglin family would grow to include sons Grant and Morgan. The kennel was growing according to plan, too.

Mark would teach agriculture and animal science at Brainerd High School for 31 years until retiring in 2006, but had clear goals for Pine Shadows.

"Mark is the 'visionist,'" says Sophie. "I am the 'implementationist.' He always had the vision of where Pine Shadows and the dogs were going. While he was teaching, I managed the kennel."

The Haglins began with four outdoor runs on their 180-acre former dairy farm that retains the original name registered with the state of Minnesota: Pine Shadows Farm. Each kennel was 4 by 12 feet. The first four clients, huntsmen from Brainerd, came to the kennel after seeing a classified ad Mark put in the local newspaper in 1976.

Pine Shadows expanded in 1980 to include 12 runs, a whelping pen



Mark and Sophie are pictured with their youngest of three sons, Morgan Haglin, far right, the head trainer at Pine Shadows.

and an office. Five years later, another expansion accommodated clients' and Pine Shadows' dogs with 40 runs that were regularly full by 1986. A 7,200-square-foot facility was built in 1990. It includes 64 indoor runs, 36 outdoor runs, an office, kitchen, and a reception area to welcome boarding and grooming clients and those interested in puppies and dog training.

Mark has lost track of how many shooting dog clients have come through their kennel, though Pine Shadows passed a milestone six years ago: 1,000 dogs trained. That number is almost an afterthought. The Haglins' goal is not quantity, and quality speaks for itself.

"We are unconventional in that respect," concedes Sophie. "It's more important to us that we are in our third generation of clients' dogs. People who bought one of our puppies in the 1970s returned in the late 1980s or early 1990s. They are coming back again, having lived through the life spans of two dogs already. They often had more than one of our dogs at a time. I think it's a strong testament to the quality of our dogs that clients have been returning for more than 30 years."

In that time, Mark and Sophie have come to believe there are similarities



Mark kneels beside 8-year-old Magnus Merline, one of Pine Shadows' top dogs.



Sophie exercises puppies, leading them with a feather attached by a string to a pole.

between rearing three sons and raising around 2,000 English Springer Spaniels. Useful for both is one of the oft-repeated phrases around Pine Shadows Farm: "no free time." It is the title of one of the Haglins' three training videos and a philosophy that produces results.

Travis, the oldest son, lives in New York, where he is a marketing sales manager. He stays connected to the family business by designing the kennel's marketing materials.

Grant, the middle son, continues a nearly 60-year Haglin teaching tradition at Brainerd High. Only months after Mark retired, Grant began teaching industrial arts, the subject Mark's father, Clayton Haglin, taught for decades, beginning in 1952.

Morgan is the head trainer at Pine Shadows and a professional handler who competes in up to 15 field trials each year.

"Children and puppies need supervision and constructive activities to fill their time, or they will get into trouble," says Sophie. "When the boys were little and we'd go grocery shopping, I'd have them each hold onto my pant legs. I wouldn't let them run around the store. My mom used to tell me I was treating them like dogs and making them 'heel,' but it's just about keeping them in line."

Asked if that method worked well from a son's point of view, Morgan, who like Grant is now a father, laughed. "It worked just fine for me," he says. "I've got no problem with it."

Though all three boys learned the "no free time" mantra, Morgan was the one to embrace a career with springers. Travis and Grant were in school when Pine Shadows started expanding. Morgan accompanied Sophie when she worked in the kennel and competed in field trials.

As a child in 1986, Morgan was part of "The Making of a Gun Dog," the first video in the Pine Shadows training series. Like Sophie, he went on to receive a degree in animal science from the University of Minnesota.

Morgan, again, was part of Mark and Sophie’s training videos when making “Control Without the Collar” in 1999 and “No Free Time” in 2003. Once interested in becoming a veterinarian, Morgan realized his heart was with Pine Shadows’ future.

The Science of Success

Pine Shadows’ quality begins with scientific breeding. Neither emotions nor field trial winnings carry weight. “Our breeding decisions are based only on genetics,” Mark says. “It’s about breedability, not trainability. We can train a dog to do what we want.”

Selection Index: ‘Wallace’

Value	Factor	Rating	Score
10	Ability to use nose	9	90
10	Retrieve to hand	10	100
9	Soft mouth delivery	10	90
8	Strong body structure	10	80
7	Perseverance in the field	10	70
7	Strong head/shoulder structure	10	70
7	Friendly to people	9	63
7	Alertness as a pup	10	70
6	Ability to hup sharp	10	60
6	Blaze of white/dark head	10	60
5	Quick learner	8	40
5	Size 40-50 pounds	9	45
4	Carries tail high	9	36
4	Ability to take training	9	36
3	Clean dog in run/house train	10	30
2	Not nervous or high strung	10	20
100	Total rating	153	960
	Selection Index		96%



“Wallace,” who placed fourth in the 2009 National Open Championship, is Pine Shadows’ star field trial dog.

Pine Shadows uses a selection index to evaluate 16 traits in dogs being considered for breeding. To determine an overall index score, traits are prioritized with number values, ranging from a high of 10 to a low of 2 (see table, below left).

To determine a score for each trait, the value is multiplied by a corresponding rating from 1 to 10.

Adding the scores for the 16 traits produces the final number, which

is divided by 1,000 possible points. The Haglins draw their line of acceptability at 860 points, or 86 percent. Bitches are evaluated on two additional traits after they’ve whelped a litter: their abilities to produce quality puppies and to nurture them.

“Sophie, Morgan and I individually rate the dogs using the index, then compare our numbers,” Mark says. “The perfect dog would get a 100 percent rating. We’ve never had a perfect dog, but we’ve been close.”

Five-year-old Wallace earned 960 points for a 96 percent index rating. He has sired 12 litters, including three last spring out of Pine Shadows Perth, Pine Shadows Spear and Pine Shadows Ransom, producing 21 puppies. Twelve were sold as puppies, five were sold as young dogs started on birds, and four were kept by Pine Shadows.

There are around 10 litters whelped at the kennel each year, the sire and dam having passed the rigorous selection index evaluation. Though the ratings of traits are subjective, the independent evaluations of Mark, Sophie and Morgan usually align. On occasion, a dog’s index score elicits discussion.

“We’ve had dogs we like fall just below the 86 percent cutoff,” Mark says. “We’ve talked about it and considered letting those dogs be bred. It’d be easy to redraw the line at 85 percent or to change a score to give the dog an 86. But if we do that, then it becomes easy to lower the line to 84, then to 83, and then where do we stop? So we hold the line.”

For dogs that make the grade, their puppies are whelped in the basement of Mark and Sophie’s brick home that sits on the other side of a pond from the kennel. Previous kennel buildings freckle the property nearby and are used as storage sheds. At 1 week old, puppies are moved to the kennel, where socialization begins.

Training Dogs and Families

“Our greatest satisfaction is producing a dog and teaching the dog and owner together,” Mark says. “We feel anyone can take our dogs to any level they can imagine.”



Sophie prepares to feed Pro Plan Performance Formula to the dogs in the kennel.



Morgan watches Wallace leap into the pond at Pine Shadows Farm during a training retrieve.

If that's possible, it's because of the foundation instilled at Pine Shadows. That begins with the imprinting, a concept Mark learned as an agriculture science teacher and started using with puppies in 2002.

"I got the imprinting idea from videos I've watched about horse trainers working with newborn colts and foals," says Mark. "It gets the dogs accustomed to you handling them and helps them learn to trust you. That allows you to mold their minds, to teach them what you need them to know."

Clients cannot take home a puppy before he or she is 10 weeks old. This allows time for behavioral development, socialization with other dogs and bite-inhibition training. Sophie has attended seminars at Cornell University in Ithaca, N.Y., to continue building knowledge in these areas. She also attended one held by Purina nutritionist Arleigh Reynolds,

D.V.M., DACVN, to learn more about nutrition during field trials and the digestive process.

Sophie noticed that puppies' senses of emotional stability don't come until around 7 weeks of age. Based on demeanor, she pairs kennelmates in indoor 4-by-14-foot kennel runs to help socialize them.

Sophie and her training assistant, Joan Peterson, manage the imprinting process. Each puppy receives five to 10 minutes of daily hands-on attention. Sophie and Joan pick up the young springers, run their hands from head to toe, and lay fingers between the rows of a puppy's teeth while teaching bite inhibition. Sophie and Joan take the puppies on walks in the field, teaching discipline and readying them for clients or for Morgan to start their shooting dog training.

In a section of mowed grass next to the kennel, Morgan tosses a training dummy, then squats next to a carpeted, wood platform inches above the ground. With a 20-foot check cord in tow, a puppy scampers after the dummy, snags it in his mouth, and returns to where a smiling Morgan waits to offer praise. The platform is the starting and ending point for each training retrieve. For adult dogs, Morgan stands beside a platform that is thigh-high off the ground and uses the same drill.

"When we let a dog out of the kennel for training, they'll run and jump onto the platform, because they want to work," Morgan says. "They know they're going to have some fun."

Two-thirds of the farm's acreage is in fields of hay, wildflowers and brome and switch grasses and punctuated by 60 acres of pine and hardwood trees. There is ample space for training dogs to quarter in authentic surrounds.

In one of the fields, Morgan blows a whistle and extends his right arm to release Magnus Merlini, an 8-year-old black-and-white springer sitting at his heel. "Merlin" eyes the dummy in the hand of client John Pauly of Brainerd, who is around 50 feet away, as he runs that direction. Another shrill outburst on the whistle and an extended left arm from Morgan causes the dog to reverse course, crossing the field in the direction of client Mark Rysavy of Bloomington, Minn. All three men stroll in a row, pushing Merlin's zigzag path forward as he quarters from side to side.

"The English Springer Spaniel seems to always want to make you happy," says Mark. "Show them what to do, and they will work with you to achieve that goal. Springers have the drive and excitement in the field,



Morgan waits at a training platform for a puppy to return with a dummy.

yet possess the attitude, personality and gratitude for companionship in the family home.”

Though Pine Shadows is an English Springer Spaniel breeding kennel and half the dogs Morgan trains are springers, clients also seek the Haglins’ expertise with pointers, retrievers and setters. A Boxer and Newfoundland have received the Pine Shadows touch as well.

The Haglins’ approach is always the same. “Make the right thing easy and the wrong thing difficult,” says Mark, “and you’ll never have problems with the dog.”

Extending the Pine Shadows Family

“When I started in field trials in 1977, I felt like success there would prove my training methods were good,” Mark says.

Now, Morgan carries the family mantle in trials. When he was 14 years old, Morgan entered CFC Pine Shadows Maggie in the Eastern Nebraska ESS Club Field Trial and gained his first win. Last year, he handled Wallace, owned by Ryan Lamberg of St. Cloud, Minn., to Pine Shadows’ first National Open Championship placement. It made clear to the Haglins that Wallace represents the culmination of nearly 35 years’ worth of breeding and training. Extra validation came when Lamberg put the dog’s Amateur Field Champion title on him a few months later.

Morgan has brought Pine Shadows into another realm, Sophie says. “By staying sharp with my skills and involved in field trials, we stay connected with others and their dogs,” Morgan says.

That connection extends the Pine Shadows family, as it did when the Haglins helped start the Northern Minnesota ESS Club in 1990. The club holds four fun trials each year at Pine Shadows. Around then, Mark also

began working as a hired hunting guide on trips to South Dakota.

This past year, the Haglins established Daybreak, a 6,000-acre ranch near Frederick, S.D., where clients can enjoy all-inclusive getaways. They can hunt pheasant and waterfowl with Pine Shadows dogs or bring their own. Grant, Morgan and Joan serve as guides. Three houses accommodate up to 25 clients per trip.

“The primary goal is to provide an excellent hunting experience,” Mark says. “Side benefits are the opportunities to hunt our dogs more often, and we get to showcase dogs with Pine Shadows training.”

“We couldn’t do all we do without the great help we have,” says Sophie.

There is a staff of six full-time and six part-time employees, including the Haglins and Joan, who has worked at Pine Shadows for 13 years. “We all become part of the family — employees, clients, everyone,” Joan says.

“I think that’s what society is looking for,” says Sophie, “a connection.”

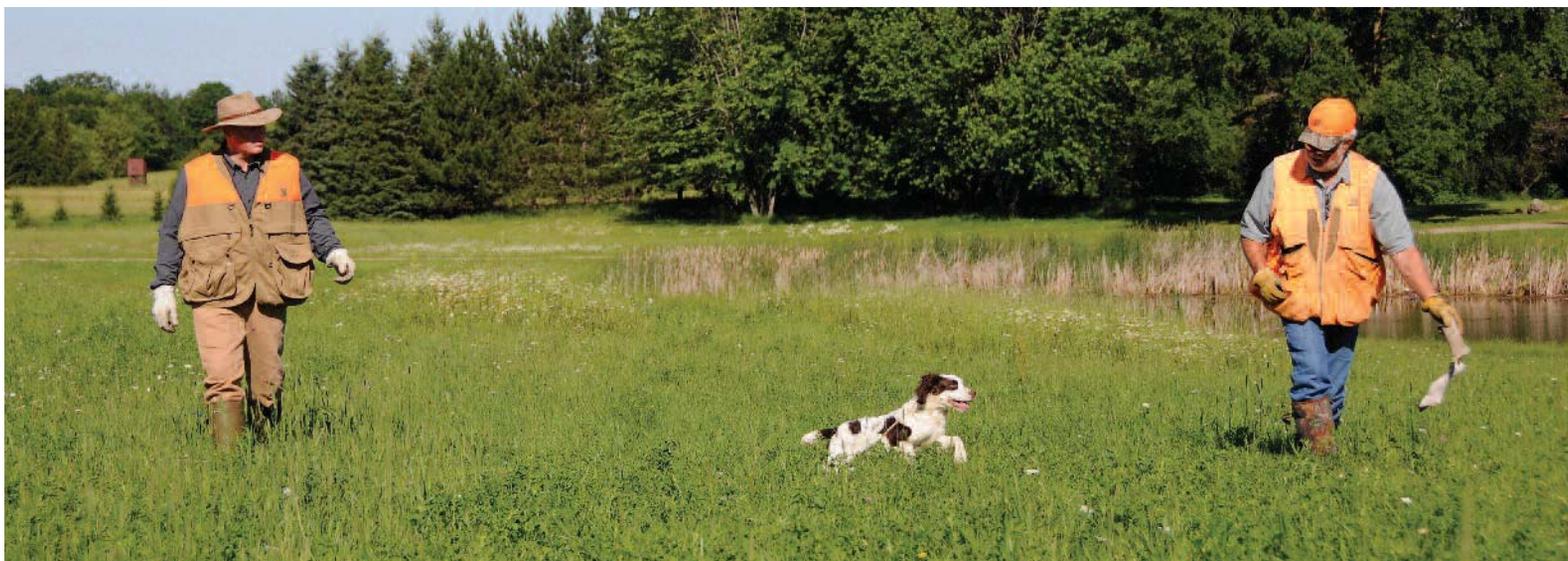
Clients are finding that connection at Pine Shadows, especially since imprinting became part of the philosophy. Mark, Sophie and Joan reflect on what might have been for earlier generations, if only they’d received that hands-on training.

“A dog I had, Ketchum the Idaho Truckdog, would have recognized that we were all in it together as a family, rather than been such an independent dog,” says Joan.

“If we knew in 1975 what we know now, Berrypatch, the dog that started Pine Shadows, would have been a National Champion,” Sophie says.

“We don’t know that,” says Mark, with a smile. Sophie laughs.

“Well, maybe she would have been,” she says. “That dog had the drive, and Mark did well with her in field trials, but she could have done better. Imprinting would have made the difference.” ■



Morgan, left, and client Mark Rysavy train a puppy to quarter in a field on the Haglins’ 180-acre farm in central Minnesota.

European-Style Show

Attracts Rare Breeds

BY KAITE FLAMM

An adorable toy breed known as the Mi-Ki, a large shepherd called the Shiloh Shepherd and a Brazilian protection dog referred to as the Fila

Brasileiro were among several rare breeds that stood out at a dog show held recently at the Purina Event Center at Purina Farms.

The 2010 Purina Farms Autumn Sieger, sanctioned by the International All Breed Canine Association of America (IABCA) and International Dog Shows, the dog show arm of IABCA, was the organization's first indoor dog show at Purina Farms after more than 15 years holding outdoor events. A highlight of the two-day event, which drew exhibitors from more than 30 states and Canada, was the inaugural Grand Sieger Championship.

"The Purina Event Center is an incredible addition to an already wonderful place," says IABCA show chairman Jeff Bridegum. "The luxury of moving inside is having everything within reach. Proximity to the bathing tubs, the grooming area and the Checkerboard Café makes showing dogs a lot easier."

The IABCA show is fashioned after European dog shows in which owners receive a written critique and rating indicating how well their dogs conform to their breed standards. Judges and exhibitors take as much time as needed in a relaxed, learning environment. Dogs receive Union Cynologie International

(UCI) titles in which the judging is based on breed standards from their country of origin.

Owners of rare breeds welcome the opportunity to show their dogs at an all-breed show. Typically,

the Autumn Sieger were Japanese Akita, Biewer, Perro de Presa Canario, Alapaha Blue Blood Bulldog, and Miniature and Toy Australian Shepherds.

"Showing a rare breed is great because owners have the opportunity to educate the public about their breed," Bridegum says.

Tiffany Wilkerson-Hood of Majestic Mi-Kis in Decatur, Ill., showed a Mi-Ki she bred, Majestic Montana's Treasure Fonzie, for Nancy Baue of Montana's Big Sky Mi-Kis. "Fonzie" qualified for the Grand Sieger Championship.

"When I started showing, I didn't know what to expect," Wilkerson-Hood says. "The comments the IABCA judges provided in the written evaluations for my dogs have helped me to understand correct conformation."

Seeking a breed well-suited for a family, Wilkerson-Hood fell in love with the Mi-Ki for his intelligence and social disposition. The Asian toy breed, which first appeared in the U.S. in the 1980s, comes from the Papillon, Maltese and Japanese Chin. Currently, there are fewer than 5,000 Mi-Kis in this country.

Another owner whose dog qualified for the Grand Sieger Championship was Jeannine Tuttle of Rising Star, Texas. Her 2-year-old Fila Brasileiro, Koda's Quest For Gold, has taught her about showing the molosser breed that descended from Mastiffs, Bloodhounds, Bul-



Mindy Mencias is proud of her 5-month-old Shiloh Shepherd, Echo's Midori Flame of SHS, who received a good review at the IABCA show.

75 percent of the breeds shown at an IABCA show are recognized by the American Kennel Club (AKC). Among the rare breeds shown at



Jeannine Tuttle shows Koda's Quest for Gold, a Fila Brasileiro who recently earned the IABCA International Champion title.

lenbeisser and Portuguese herd dogs brought to Brazil in the 1500s from the Azores Islands.

"As a puppy, 'Quest' earned Champion titles through the IABCA and the Fila Brasileiro Association (FBA)," Tuttle says. "As an adult, she recently received an IABCA International Champion title."

Having discovered the Fila Brasileiro while working as a show photographer for the FBA, Tuttle enjoys telling people about the attributes of the breed. "The Fila Brasileiro is a powerful, loyal breed, but he is not right for everyone," she says. "They are extremely loyal and protective of their family. I work hard to socialize my dogs."

The sweet temperament and beauty of the Shiloh Shepherd convinced Mindy Mencias of Noblesville, Ind., that this was the breed for her. Similar to German Shepherd Dogs, the Shiloh Shepherd is taller and has a straighter back than the modern version of his German ancestor.

"I discovered the Shiloh Shepherd in 2005 when I was working as a veterinary technician at an emergency clinic in Chicago," Mencias says. "One came in suffering from bloat. He was so gentle. I was amazed I could handle this large dog even though he was in pain. I knew then I wanted one. These are all-around great dogs with a calm temperament and incredible intelligence."

Showing two Shiloh Shepherds at the Autumn Sieger, Mencias was pleased that her 17-month-old, Echo's Shooting Starr of SHS, won Best of Breed and placed in the Herding Group. "That's encouraging to me, as I want to eventually earn her IABCA championship title as I did with my other two adult Shiloh Shepherds," she says.

Meanwhile, her 5-month-old puppy, Echo's Midori Flame of SHS, who just started in IABCA shows, earned good marks in the written critique. "I am very excited about how well 'Midori' did at the show," she says. "She has personality plus."

Wilkerson-Hood's Mi-Ki, Fonzie, and Tuttle's Fila Brasileiro, Quest, were among 15 dogs that qualified and competed in the Grand Sieger Championship. To qualify, a dog must have earned a Grand Sieger Best in Show title in IABCA shows held from February 2009 until November 2010. The Grand Sieger Best in Show awards are tracked, with points awarded based on the number of dogs defeated.

The leader going into the Grand Sieger Championship was a Bull-

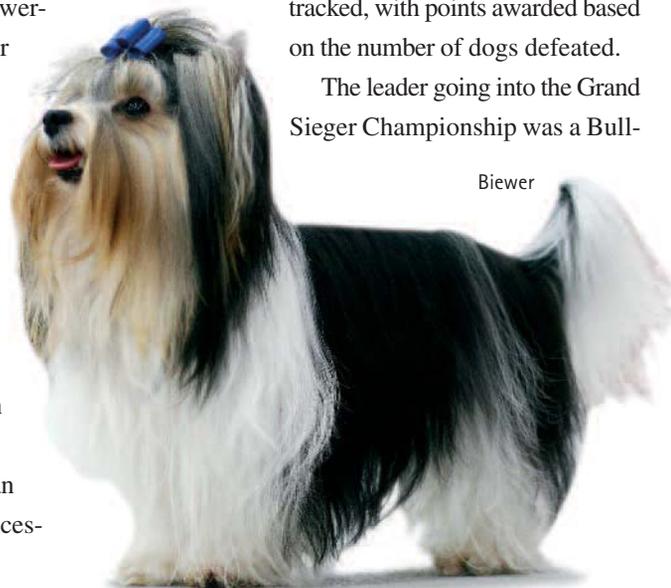
mastiff, AM/CAN CH/MBIS INTL CH OI West Remington Steel, CGC, owned by Dawna Hoerle of Seattle. Ultimately, it was a Schipperke, AM/CAN CH Dante's All Fired Up, owned by Amy and John Grossman from Waukesha, Wis., and handled by Mary Kraus, who was named the Grand Sieger Champion and collected lifetime free entries to IABCA-International Dog Shows.



Mary Kraus handled the Grand Sieger Champion, AM/CAN CH Dante's All Fired Up, a Schipperke owned by Amy and John Grossman.

On the last day of the Autumn Sieger, owners of rare breeds competed for Best Rare Breed Puppy in Show and Best Rare Breed in Show. Mark Clemens of Mango Kennels in Highlandville, Mo., won both awards with his Perro de Presa Canarios, a molosser-type breed developed for working cattle. The breed has been entered into the AKC's Foundation Stock Service.

"We all come to win, but if we don't, at least we have the chance to show off our favorite breeds of dog," Tuttle says. ■



Biewer

The IABCA-International Dog Show Autumn Sieger is one of several canine events held at the Purina Event Center since it opened last August. For information about dog shows and events, please contact Kaite Flamm, Purina Event Center Manager, at 888-688-PETS (888-688-7387) or by e-mail at kaite.flamm@purina.nestle.com. Please visit www.purinaproclub.com/eventcenter to learn more about the Purina Event Center.

Warming Up WINTER

Inclement winter weather is nothing to mess around with if you own a kennel. Snowstorms, subzero temperatures and chilling winds can threaten dogs' safety and comfort. Here, four kennel owners tell how they winterize their kennels. Though some of their practices are inherent to their kennel design, others can be applied no matter what kind of kennel or how many dogs you have.



Bryan Martin poses with "Wickett," an Otterhound, "Timmy," a Basset Hound, and "Maestro," a Samoyed, at his and wife Nancy's Libertyville, Ill., kennel. The professional all-breed handlers built their kennel to keep dogs warm in cold weather.

Preparing for the Expected

The fluctuating weather of the upper Midwest just miles off Lake Michigan, where professional all-breed handlers Bryan and Nancy Martin live in Libertyville, Ill., requires a kennel that can keep dogs comfortable despite weather extremes. In winter, temperatures can languish below zero and, in summer, peak near triple digits.

Add to the equation that the Martins handle from 35 to 50 show dogs, which include a variety of breeds with a variety of coats. A comfortable kennel environment is essential to the success of the dogs and the Martins.

Bryan and Nancy Martin began showing dogs in the 1960s as Junior Handlers. Bryan specializes in Basset Hounds. One famous Basset he handled in 1997 and 1998 was BIS/BISS CH Deer Hills Great Gatsby, the top-winning Basset Hound of all time with 52 Bests in Show. He currently handles the No. 1

Basset Hound, GCH Topsfield-Sanchu American Express, and the No. 2 Tibetan Terrier, GCH Ri Lee's Stellar Performance.

Nancy Martin, who specializes in Japanese Chins and Samoyeds, handled BIS/BISS CH Chindale's Outback Jack in 2008, the top-winning Japanese Chin of all time with 13 Bests in Show. She now handles the No. 1 Samoyed, GCH Polar Mist Admiral.

The Martins' 400-square-foot kennel, which they had built in 1983, is attached to their home on five acres. A privacy fence behind the kennel blocks the wind along three sides of an exercise paddock. When necessary, a 5-by-25-foot tarp is used to close the fourth side.

There are 14 indoor-outdoor kennel runs that are 4 by 5 feet indoors and 4 by 25 feet outdoors. Guillotine-style doors are closed at night to reduce drafts. A corrugated tin roof completely covers the outside runs to protect dogs and kennel workers from rain and snow and to provide shade in the summer.

The outdoor runs have a pea gravel base, which the Martins prefer over concrete. Snow and ice



Bryan Martin walks the dogs to the kennel, which is heated by gas. Inset photo: A vent blows warm air into the kennel, where the temperature is maintained at a comfortable 60 degrees Fahrenheit year-round.

accumulate more easily in the winter on concrete surfaces. The flexible gravel flooring also protects the dogs' pads. The gravel runs are frequently cleaned and raked smooth from debris, and the gravel is replaced regularly to help maintain sanitary conditions.

"Gravel is excellent for drainage," Nancy Martin says. "Temperatures often warm up enough during the day to melt the snow, but everything refreezes at night. With gravel, the chance of standing water turning to ice is minimized, so we don't worry about the dogs getting hurt running or slipping."

Outside the kennel are nine covered paddocks of various sizes to accommodate the smallest toy to the largest working dog. "Double-coated breeds like Samoyeds, Newfoundlands and Great Pyrenees can spend more time outside enjoying the cold air," says Nancy Martin. "However, our shorter-coated breeds, like Italian Greyhounds and Whippets, need to wear protective coats and can be out for only a short while. If it gets colder than 10 degrees, we will not even let their feet touch the ground."

"It is a lot of work to accommodate so many breeds with varied needs, but we wouldn't do it any other way," Bryan Martin says. "We don't cut corners."

The kennel is heated with natural gas, which produces a drier heat. The temperature is kept at 60 degrees Fahrenheit year-round. "It's better to maintain a constant temperature, especially when working with so many different breeds," Nancy Martin explains.

In the basement of their home is a grooming and utility space. Since the kennel is attached to the house, the Martins can take the dogs for grooming without exposing them to the cold. Large sinks are used for cleaning the rubber mats used in some of the kennels, and a treadmill is available when it is too cold for exercise in the paddocks.

During the cold season, the dogs' diets need to be adjusted. The Martins feed *Purina Pro Plan* Performance Formula year-round, but in the winter they increase the amount of food given to the double-coated breeds that spend more time outdoors. These breeds receive as

much as an extra cup of food a day to sustain their increased caloric needs.

The Martins stock extra dog food so they are ready for severe snowstorms. If bad weather is expected, they prepare a power generator for use and snow plows and tractors for clearing the paddocks. The Martins know winter conditions are a certainty, and they're always ready.

"I have clients from Texas who shudder to

think their dog is in the middle of a Chicago winter," Bryan Martin says. "There is nothing you can do about the temperature, but you can make sure everything is covered and the dogs are protected. Those are the keys to our operation."

Keeping Out the Cold

The winter wind and cold climate of Cedar Grove, Wis., used to plague Al Harmeyer of

Krystal Creek Kennels — until he eventually built a new kennel with in-floor heating. It took well over a decade of experience with dog training and kenneling to reach that point, however.

When Harmeyer started training dogs more than 30 years ago, he'd affix tarps to the chain-link enclosures of his four outdoor runs to keep winter weather at bay. Heavily insulated dog boxes were fortified by marsh hay bedding that required frequent cleaning and replacement. Keeping fresh water available and unfrozen and

increasing the dogs' caloric intake as much as 50 percent was crucial.

An upgrade to a building with 11 indoor-outdoor runs in 1996 still left Harmeyer and the

dogs, mostly German Short-haired Pointers, in the cold for several months a year. The outdoor runs, if not covered, would accumulate ice and

snow. The dogs often would be relegated to the indoor kennel runs, which had guillotine doors that seemed never to fully seal against the frigid subzero air, allowing in drafts.

Krystal Creek Kennels grew into a family business in the 1990s, focusing on dog training, boarding and grooming. Harmeyer and his wife, Kris, son, Steve, and daughter-in-law, Tracy, are equally integral to the kennel's success. Kris oversees bookkeeping, advertising and kennel management. Tracy and Al are professional trainers. Al, Tracy and Steve are senior judges in the North American Versatile Hunting Dog Association. In 1998, the Harmeyers moved the business into their current building with heated floors and 40 indoor runs that are 4 by 5 feet or 4 by 8 feet in size.

"We built the kennel in part to avoid the extra effort that winter creates," Harmeyer says. "The dogs are much better off. Like people, they are susceptible to frostbite and illness if kept too long in the cold or a constant draft of cold air."



Tracy Harmeyer checks on dogs in the Krystal Creek Kennel in Cedar Grove, Wis. Inset photos, from top: One of two water heaters that warm the floor, keeping dogs dry and comfortable. The thermostat is set between 60 and 65 degrees Fahrenheit.

Two water heaters supply the in-floor heating system. The thermostat is set between 60 and 65 degrees Fahrenheit. “The nice thing about the heating system is that the warmth starts at ground level, where the dogs are,” he says. “For the older dogs, it’s like a heating pad. They often lay on the floor instead of their beds. The heated floor also produces a more consistent temperature throughout the building.”

Specializing in training dogs for hunting and field tests, the Harmeyers mainly train during the warmer months. Typically around 30 dogs, counting the Harmeyers’ 23 German Shorthaired Pointers, are at the kennel during the cold months.

The dogs get daily exercise in the yard, where they are shielded from the elements as much as possible. A corrugated tin roof covers the patio that extends 12 feet from the building, and a wall deters gusts of wind and snow. Beyond the paved exercise area is a pea gravel yard that requires the most effort these days.

“A snowblower is necessary,” he says. “Last year, we got around 50 inches of snow, but we’ve got to start clearing off the gravel as soon as we get our first few inches. If we don’t, the dogs will run around on it and pack it down. Then it turns to ice that will be there all winter.”

It’s not uncommon for temperatures to reach 20 degrees below zero. Worsening the cold bite, wind sails off nearby Lake Michigan. Drifting snow coats the yard, requiring additional rounds with the snowblower. It’s a dilemma that Harmeyer is brainstorming solutions to resolve.

“If I could cover the whole yard and heat it to keep the snow away, I would,” he says with a laugh. “I’m hoping to figure out how to heat the gravel to avoid ice and the accumulation of snow. We built the kennel 14 years ago, but there are always additions and improvements that can be made.”



Al Harmeyer and his family built the indoor kennel in 1996 to close out the harsh Wisconsin winters, but a snowblower still is necessary for maintaining the exercise areas.

Heating by Wood Stove

More than seven years after Hurricane Isabel swept along the Atlantic Coast, unexpected benefits linger for Kathy Shorter of Wynot Pointers in Gloucester, Va. The kennel’s seven indoor-outdoor runs are heated by logs split from trees the hurricane stressed on the 400-acre farm.

“The hurricane damaged so many trees, it seems as if we have an endless supply of wood for the stove,” says Shorter. “My husband, Andy, is a forester, and he cuts wood on our farm year-round.”

The kennel structure began as a pole building 10 years ago. Shorter and her husband closed it in and added insulation in 2002, creating a hobby workshop and building two of the indoor-outdoor dog runs. The indoor runs are 6 by 7 feet, and the outdoor runs are 7 by 14 feet. The other five slots were added in 2005.

The wood stove is in the workshop, which is separated from the kennel by a wall. Heat is piped from one side to the other. “Thermostatic fans help transfer the warm air from the workshop to the kennel,” Shorter explains. “The dogs also are comforted by thick carpet pads, blankets and dog beds.”

The Shorters used an inefficient electric green-

house heater prior to their 2008 installation of the wood stove. It made the kennel more expensive to heat per square foot than their house. In exchange for more efficient heating, Andy Shorter dedicates the time and energy needed to cut and haul wood from around the farm. The stove requires three doses of wood daily from November through March to keep the heat flowing to the kennel. Depending on the severity of the winter, it requires as many as 15 trees a season to maintain the comfort level in the kennel.

“Using the wood stove has reduced our electricity bill by around \$100 per month,” Shorter says. “It also emits a drier heat than the electric heater, making the kennel more comfortable and keeping the concrete floor dry and warm.”

Shorter is a breeder-owner-handler of Pointers, with seven in her kennel. She also has four Black & Tan Coonhounds, two Border Terriers and one Jack Russell Terrier.

Shorter feeds her dogs *Purina ONE* and *Purina Pro Plan Performance Formula*. The protein and fat in the dogs’ diets helps them maintain muscle tone and energy. The dogs also receive 50 to 75 percent more food during the cold season.

Like the family farm Shorter lives on, the coonhounds are a legacy from her parents. She started competing with the breed in 1982 and has won all major United Kennel Club (UKC) events at least once. Shorter won the UKC World Bench Show three times between 1991 and 2007. She has won the UKC Autumn Oaks National Bench Show Championship three times, most recently in 2006. Pointers, however, are her primary focus these days.

The coonhounds stay in 10-by-14-foot outdoor runs with insulated dog houses. Hay bedding adds warmth and comfort, and door flaps hold back the wind and weather. The terriers and dogs being campaigned for shows stay in the house or the two-car garage that has been converted into a supplemental kennel with space for crates and grooming equipment.

Shorter started competing in American Kennel Club events in 2001, initially succeeding in the



Kathy Shorter of Wynot Pointers in Gloucester, Va., provides comfort to her dogs with wood stove heat transferred from her husband's workshop (inset photo, bottom) via thermostatic fans (inset photo, right).



conformation ring, where she has had as many as three Top 20 owner-handled Pointers at once. The past couple of years she also has titled dogs in agility, field trial, obedience, rally and hunt test events. Her goal is to promote the versatility of the breed.

"Pointers like to have a job," Shorter says. "The

sports create an opportunity to build positive relationships with dogs. Rally, obedience and hunt test events are held in the winter, so that is an especially great time of year for me and my dogs."

Dealing with Harsh Conditions

Temperatures at Huntwood Kennel in Union Grove, Wis., hover in the mid-teens during the winter months. Subzero days and three feet of snow are not uncommon. With these harsh conditions, keeping dogs comfortable and outdoor runs dry is paramount.

To meet that challenge, professional all-breed handlers Scott and Susan Kipp renovated a four-car garage to create their kennel, where 20 to 40 show dogs are kenneled at any time. Susan Kipp also breeds Brussels Griffons and Norfolk and Norwich Terriers.

The Kipps, who have handled dogs for 25 years, were the first winners of the Best in Show Bred-By-Exhibitor class at the AKC National Championship, which they won in 2003 with the Norwich Terrier, CH Huntwoods First Knight. They also campaigned the Smooth Fox Terrier, CH Torquay Demetrio, to more than 70 Bests in Show. Until this year, the dog was the top-winning Smooth Fox Terrier of all time.

In their current string of dogs are the No. 1 American Foxhound, GCH Kiarrys Foolish Pride, and the No. 2 Norfolk Terrier, GCH Max-Well's Violet. Susan Kipp, who breeds with Barbara Miller of Max-Well's Norfolk and Norwich Terriers, was nominated for Breeder of the Year in 2009 by *Dogs in Review* magazine. Together, they have bred 125 champions.

Keeping Huntwood comfortable and safe for a variety of breeds is a constant challenge. The 1,200-square-foot kennel also has rooms for grooming, laundry, whelping and an office. The building is maintained at 65 to 70 degrees Fahrenheit. A large garage door can be opened to let in fresh air when weather permits.

The kennel has 12 indoor-outdoor runs with guillotine doors. The indoor runs are 5 by 15 feet, and the outdoor runs are 6 by 20

feet. An overhang roof completely covers the

outdoor runs. “We use wood shavings to line the indoor runs and change them once a week,” Susan Kipp says. “Our outdoor runs are concrete with patio block on top. The concrete patio block is porous. It’s great for winter, because it helps prevent freezing.”

The outdoor runs were built with a cement base and 16-by-16-inch patio block pavers that are elevated slightly above the cement, creating an effective drainage system. The Kipps chose patio block because gravel can damage the coat of smaller dogs and the feet of long-coated breeds.

“On cement runs, urine can freeze. If a dog’s pad sticks to the urine, it could tear,” Scott Kipp says. “The patio block allows water or urine to seep through to the concrete below. It does not prevent icing, but it does help as long as we maintain it.”

Despite the winter cold, most dogs still get a few hours of daily exercise in one of two spacious outdoor paddocks that are lined with gravel. “There are plenty of days in the winter where some of the dogs can play in the paddocks even if there’s snow on the ground,” Susan Kipp says. “They enjoy romping in the snow, and it’s great exercise for them. We just have to make sure we warm and dry them quickly.”

Susan Kipp puts coats on shorter-coated breeds like Whippets and Doberman Pinschers. They still stay out for less time than the long-haired and double-coated breeds. During severe weather, the dogs get their exercise taking turns on the treadmill in the grooming room.

“Our daughters will even bike alongside the dogs in the winter,” Susan Kipp says. “Just like people get acclimated to the cold, so do dogs.



“Stormy,” a Norfolk Terrier, merrily chases a toy while jogging on a treadmill at Huntwood Kennel. The Kipps exercise dogs on the treadmill when frigid temperatures or heavy snow keep them from going outside.



Professional handlers Scott and Susan Kipp, shown with a Doberman Pinscher, Brussels Griffon and Norfolk Terrier, use porous patio block at their Huntwood Kennel in Union Grove, Wis., to help prevent freezing in outdoor runs.

Some of them need an extra jacket, but the movement keeps them warm, and they’re happy to be outside.”

Though the outdoor runs and paddocks are covered, they are not impervious to some snow blowing in. Scott Kipp removes snow from the kennels on those days using either a shovel or a small snowblower that fits inside the runs. If a heavy snowstorm blows through, he shovels out the areas multiple times a day.

“We can’t let the snow build up and have the dogs running around on top of it. That packs it down, and it freezes,” Scott Kipp says. “Once that happens, it’s nearly impossible to remove.”

The Kipps feed the dogs a mixture of *Purina Pro Plan Performance Formula* and *Purina Pro Plan Sensitive Skin & Stomach Formula* year-round. *Pro Plan* provides a proper balance of protein and fat.

“The bottom line in caring for dogs at any kennel, especially so far north, is to use common sense,” Susan Kipp says. “If your area is prone to frigid winters, you have to invest in indoor runs and have a good heating element to keep the dogs comfortable.” ■

Raising *Brace Beagle* Puppies

BY PETE AND JUDY PROCTOR

Producing top-quality Brace Beagles for field trials starts with raising healthy litters of puppies. It takes hard work to maximize the percentage of puppies you raise. Though we raise about 40 Brace Beagle puppies a year, we still learn new things to improve the process.

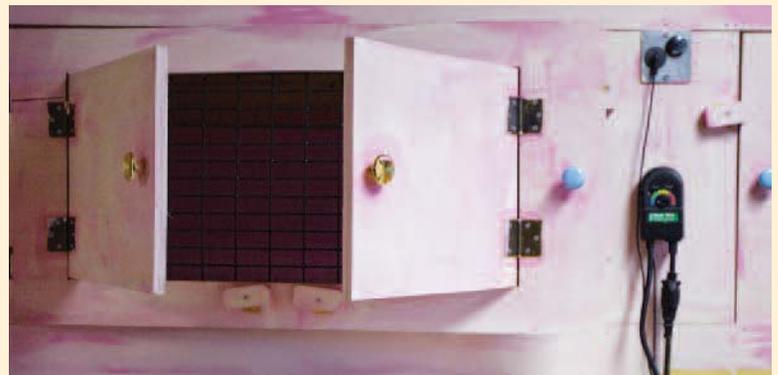
We use a three-phase process that we've developed over more than 30 years. It consists of planning and preparation, supporting the dam during whelping, and caring for the dam and her puppies.

Planning & Preparation

Planning and preparation include making sure the female is in proper condition, preparing the whelping facility and having the necessary supplies on hand. The female should be parasite-free and in good health. It is important to be sure her teeth are clean and not decayed. Bad teeth can cause infection that sometimes shows up in a dam's milk.

Be sure to feed a dog food that provides balanced nutrition to support a pregnant dam. We feed *Purina Pro Plan Performance Formula* starting about 30 days before whelping and until the puppies are weaned.

The whelping facility should be temperature-controlled. We use a 12-by-24-foot temperature-controlled room with four whelping boxes built

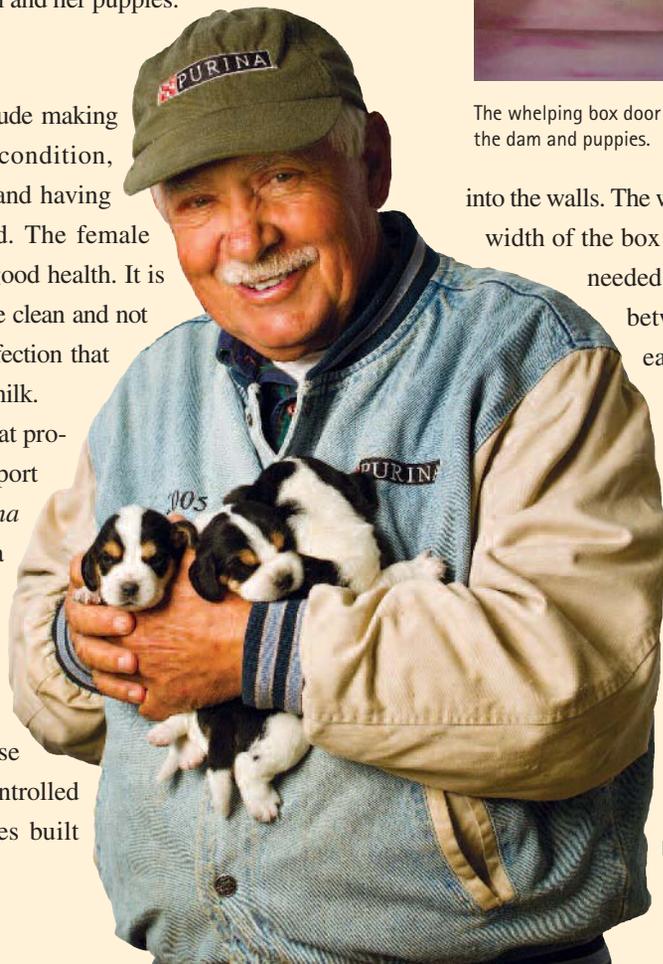


The whelping box door is wide enough to allow a person to easily reach inside to check on the dam and puppies.

into the walls. The whelping boxes are 46 by 32 inches, and the door is the width of the box so you can easily get your upper body into the pen, if needed. Each box has two bottoms with approximately 1 inch between them. The top floor is removable, which makes it easy for cleaning.

We place a heating pad on the lower floor to provide warmth. It is important that puppies do not come in contact with the heating pad, as they could be severely burned. Puppies normally have a lower temperature than adult dogs so overheating of the dam could be a concern as well. We use simple heating pads set at a low level. We are careful not to get ones that automatically shut off after two hours. The heating pads do not heat the entire floor so the dam and puppies can maneuver to the most comfortable spot.

To prevent the female from lying against the wall, a Peter Proctor of Sunshine Brace Beagles holds puppies from a recent litter.



1-by-4-inch board is fastened to the wall 4 inches above the top floor. This bumper helps reduce the likelihood of her accidentally mashing or smothering her puppies. Each whelping box is cleaned and painted on the inside between litters. We have pieces of thin carpet cut to fit the inside of the box. We replace these when they become soiled.

The whelping room also is equipped to help us feel rested and prepared to support the female. We have a bed, chair, sink with hot and cold water, TV, phone, microwave and refrigerator. We are ready with towels and other incidentals. Medical supplies we keep on hand include:

- Iodine Solution (100 percent)
- Syringes
- Vinyl or latex gloves
- Scissors
- Hemostats (medical clamps).

The Whelping Box

We put the female into the whelping box about a week before she is due. We turn on the radio or TV and leave it on continuously so she will be used to noise. We divide her daily feed ration into two portions. When she doesn't eat and/or starts pushing her pan around, we begin watching her more closely. If quite a bit of time goes by between puppies, we consult our veterinarian about giving oxytocin. This veterinarian-prescribed drug is used to stimulate uterine contractions prior to labor or between puppies.

We try to be with the female as the puppies are born. When each pup is born, we rub or shake it until it is breathing normally. We cut the umbilical cord and clean the puppy. We then place the puppy into a warm container. We usually do not leave puppies with the dam while she is still whelping, although sometimes we leave one so she will be content. If several hours go by before she completes whelping, we put a couple of puppies at a time with her to begin nursing. We make sure puppies nurse in the first few hours so they receive the colostrum in her milk for natural immunity.

Once all the puppies are born, the first thing we do is place the thin layer of carpet in the whelping box and put the pups back in with their dam. We put iodine on the puppies' navels to lessen the likelihood of infection. We repeat the iodine treatment twice daily and stop using it after two or three days. The next three days are the most critical.

During the first two to three days, we are in the whelping room almost 24/7 to make sure the puppies nurse and maintain the correct temperature. When checking the puppies, it is important to feel them rather than just

look at them. When they are doing well, they will feel firm and strong. It is crucial to recognize a problem before a puppy becomes weak and feels cold. If problems are developing, a puppy feels weaker. In these cases, we hold pups on the mother's nipple to encourage nursing.

If the litter is large (more than five puppies), we usually platoon feed them on the mother for a couple of days. This reduces the risk of the dam hurting one and increases the ability of all to nurse.

If the dam does not have adequate milk and the puppies act hungry, we supplement. When the mother does not eat well, there is more likelihood of her having an infection that could cause her milk to be bad. Thus, we occasionally mix the mother's *Pro Plan* Performance meal with canned dog food for the first few meals after whelping.

The attention paid to the puppies after the first three days depends on how well they are doing.

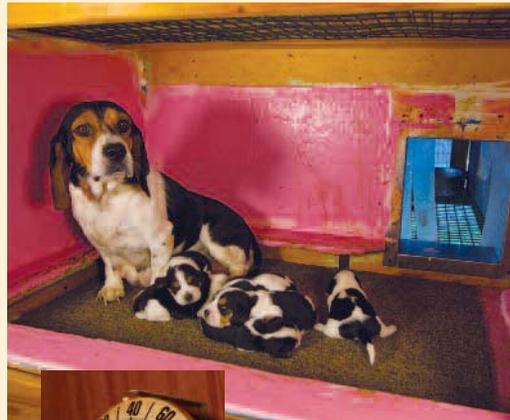
We check on them many times during the day and night.

We worm puppies at two-week intervals between 2 and 8 weeks of age. We then give them Ivermectin monthly.

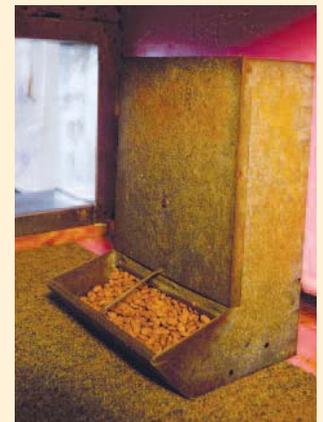
At approximately four weeks, we place self-feeders in the whelping box with the dam and puppies. The puppies soon start eating dry food. We begin taking the mother away from them in just over five weeks and have them completely weaned at six weeks.

Our process and attention to detail has helped us raise lots of healthy puppies. It is time-consuming, but when a puppy we have raised wins a field trial, the reward and satisfaction of a job well done makes the few sleepless nights worthwhile. ■

Peter Proctor and his wife, Judy, have raised and started more than 2,000 field trial Brace Beagle puppies over 33 years at their Sunshine Brace Beagles kennel in Vale, N.C. A member of the Brace Beagle Hall of Fame, Proctor has finished five National Field Champions, four of which he bred. He also has trained and finished more than 100 Field Champions, including over 90 that he bred. For information, please contact Proctor at peteproctor@hughes.net.



A new dam sits comfortably in the whelping box with her puppies. Inset photo: A temperature-controlled room is imperative for raising puppies.



Self-feeders are placed in the whelping box when puppies are about 4 weeks old.

Sunup's

Call of the Hounds

BY BARBARA FAWVER

Sue Whaley visits the De La Brooke Foxhounds
W pack at Mount Victoria, Md.

Across the open countryside, with joyous, robust enthusiasm, a pack of English Foxhounds give chase. These fast-moving scent hounds are disciplined, trained to hark to the huntsman's horn. Athletic and conditioned, the 85-pound tricolor foxhounds, with varied coat-color patterns and ticking combinations, reflect their English-bred seriousness about hunting.

While surrounded by the De La Brooke Foxhounds W pack at Mount Victoria, Md., Sue Whaley, a member of the hunt club and breeder of Sunup's English Foxhounds, a conformation line, marvels at the beauty of these working hounds as they use their instincts to hunt. "English Foxhounds are absolutely the perfect picture of a hound," she says. "I love this breed. They are gorgeous, the complete package."

A professional all-breed handler who discovered English Foxhounds when a client longed for a Group-winning show dog, Sue struck success in choosing her first foxhound, Harnett's Ringmaster, bred by another client, Ann Roth of Harnett Hounds in Wilmington, N.C. A few years later, in 1988, Sue learned about the fox-hunting pack, De La Brooke, through a client whose partner was the Master of Foxhounds. Thus began a symbiotic relationship that has led to Sue making trips to England to bring back foxhounds from hunts for her own breeding program.

Fox hunting in the U.S. originated in this part of southern Maryland. Originally a sport in which the purpose was to rid farmers of foxes that kill small livestock and poultry, this style of fox hunting has today become more of a social affair enjoyed by those who find it exhilarating to follow the hounds in full cry as they pursue fox or coyote maneuvering to outrun them. The hunt ends when the fox goes to ground or the hounds lose the scent.

In England, the careful breeding of foxhounds is detailed in stud books dating before 1800 published by the Masters of Foxhounds Association. As a result, a hound's pedigree can be easily traced. Importing a foxhound from an English hunt is accomplished only with an English connection or

when a hunt in this country agrees to draft the hound. "I consider myself fortunate to have brought back five English Foxhounds from Great Britain," Sue says.

Oakley Granville, a male, was the first. Sue brought him to the U.S. in 1995 from the Oakley hunt, an affiliation she made through her client, Shirley Hobbs, who rode with the club as a girl in England. De La Brooke

sponsored "Granville," who hunted one season with the pack. The first time he was shown in the U.S., with Sue handling him, Granville went Best of Breed under the well-known hound judge Luc Boileau.

"Granville was bred to foxhound bitches across the country," Sue says. "He sired many Group-winning hounds. He also sired the first English Foxhound to earn an obedience title." CH Cottonwood's Foxfire ("Joey") earned a Companion Dog title with his owner, Ann Krertschmaier, in 1996.

Sue brought three foxhounds from England in 1996: Belvoir Timothy, Fernie Ackworth and Belvoir Lonely. De La Brooke drafted all three, hunting them for one season. "Timothy" and "Ackworth" then went to the Commonwealth hunt in Dahlgren, Va., and "Lonely" was loaned to the Plum Run hunt in Gettysburg, Pa., for breeding, eventually returning to Sue. Though Lonely never finished her championship — she had a broken tooth — she produced Sunup's Sweet Success, a Best in Show winner.

Oakley Cartridge, another male foxhound from the Oakley hunt in England, came with Sue in 2005. "Cartridge finished very easily," Sue says. "Though he has not been used at stud other than in my kennel, he has sired two nice litters. All from the first litter finished. The second litter, the 'H' litter, had its first finished champion, Sunup's Hoisted High, when the hound was 6 months old."

Back at the De La Brooke kennel is a litter of eight 10-week-old foxhound puppies from the "T" litter. Members offer names for puppies, contributing \$100 if their selections are chosen. Sue named two from this litter — "Tyler" and "Tulip."



Sue with CH Sunup's Shamrock Ride The Wave ("Petunia"), the No. 2 English Foxhound. Her littermate brother is ranked No. 1.

Sue and her longtime partner, Vince Nicholson, frequent De La Brooke, about one hour from their home in Brandywine, Md., to watch the foxhounds hunt. During hunting season, which runs from the first Saturday in November to the beginning of March, hunts are held two to three times a week.

“It’s a different world out here,” Sue says. “These hounds do their job very well. They are well-trained to give sport and are so happy working together.”

The De La Brooke pack, one of 167 hunt clubs recognized by the Masters of Foxhounds Association of America, is a fox-hunting club in which members dress in traditional hunting attire and ride horses as they follow the hounds trailing a fox or coyote. It is the beauty of the chase and the foxhounds doing what they were bred to do that draws Sue and Vince to De La Brooke, not to mention that the English Foxhound has long been their favorite breed.

Striking Early Success

That first English Foxhound that Sue plucked from the litter bred by Ann Roth, Harnett’s Ringmaster, brought her early success in the breed, with his Best of Breed win at the Garden at 14 months old. The No. 1 English Foxhound for six years, “Ringmaster” earned 363 Bests of Breed during

his career, gracing the cover of *Pedigree Breeder Forum* in 1997 for being the Pedigree Award winner, an honor he claimed over seven years, more than any other foxhound.

Ringmaster’s pedigree included an Australian grandsire, CH Nettle Creek Dark Denim, and his granddam, CAN CH Englandale’s Forgo of Densom, hunted with a Canadian pack. Ringmaster’s great-great-great-grandsire, CH Baymor Whitebluff Dan, is pictured in the 1971 issue of *National Dog* as the first English Foxhound to win Best in Show.

Sue adored Ringmaster, who became her foundation sire. When bred to Harnett’s Blueprint (“Blue”), Ringmaster sired two Best in Show foxhounds: Sunup’s First Class, a male, and Sunup’s Carousel, a bitch. A third pup from the litter, CH Sunup’s Damdifiknow (“Jonathan”), won the Pedigree Award in 1996 for earning more Bests of Breed than any other English Foxhound.

Meanwhile, Ringmaster was the grandsire of a Best in Show female, Sunup’s Victoria. Two other Best in Show females were Sunup’s Sweet Success and Sunup’s Surprise. “Victoria” and “Surprise” were out of Blue, the bitch Sue first bred to Ringmaster. Ann gave Blue to Sue, and the hound became her foundation bitch. Lonely, from the Belvoir hunt in England,



Sue and Vince Nicholson pose in front of their home with littermates, CH Sunup’s Tea For Two (“Crumpet”), left, and CH Sunup’s Trademark, who won Best of Breed at the 2010 English Foxhound Club of America National Specialty from the Veterans class.

produced “Success,” and the sire was an English Foxhound named Plum Rum Charter.

The famous five Best in Show winners are depicted in a painting by artist Linda Draper that hangs in Sue’s living room. The painting was created using the background from a snapshot of a castle that Sue took on one of her visits to England. Linda painted the Best in Show hounds from individual photos to illustrate them in this scene.

Five Best in Show winners in four litters stand out as an accomplishment, particularly considering that the English Foxhound ranks at the bottom of American Kennel Club breed registrations. Sue, like other English Foxhound breeders, isn’t bothered by the low ranking. Instead, she focuses on educating others about the breed, traveling at her own expense to Meet the Breed gatherings such as the one held recently at the AKC National Championship in Long Beach, Calif. She and Vince also give seminars to help educate judges about the breed, teaching the differences between the English Foxhound and his cousin, the American Foxhound.

“The English Foxhound has a broader head, a perfectly level topline and an underline without tuck-up, whereas the American Foxhound is slimmer, has less density of bone, a slight rise over the loin and an exaggerated tuck-up, somewhat like a Greyhound,” Vince says. “The English Foxhound carries his tail at a 45-degree angle. It should look like a saber.”

The breed’s athletic ability is seen in hunts, where hounds may run 70 miles. “In England where longer hunts are held, it is not uncommon



© LINDA DRAPER

A painting of Sunup’s five Best in Show English Foxhounds by artist Linda Draper was created using a snapshot of a castle that Sue took on one of her trips to England and individual photographs of the Best in Show hounds.

for riders to change horses two times while the hound pack runs the whole time,” Vince says.

“I would like the English Foxhound to be known as a versatile hound that can be a hunter and a companion, but also one that can do performance sports or be a therapy or service dog,” Sue says. “We have proved this to be true at Sunup’s.”

Besides Joey, the male sired by Granville who was the first English Foxhound to earn an obedience title, Sunup’s produced the first agility foxhound, CH Sunup’s Flirtaround At Stilpt, CD, RE, NA, OAJ. “Flirt,” once a hunt hound, earned her agility titles with owner Kris Eckard of Dickerson, Md.

The first English Foxhound to become a certified therapy dog with owner Jeannine Nowell, Sue’s niece, is CH Sunup’s Green Valley Serenade, CGC. “Sera,” who lives in Raleigh, N.C., with Jeannine, won the English Foxhound Club of America (EFCA) National Specialty in 2007. The hound also is a certified service dog.

Sue has been president of the English Foxhound Club of America all but three years since the club organized in 1993. Though the breed was recognized by the AKC in 1935, the parent club did not hold a National Specialty until 2001 in Greenville, S.C. Over the past 10 years, Sunup’s has claimed seven of 10 Bests of Breed at the National. Success, the Best in Show winner out of Lonely, won in 2002, 2003 and 2004, more than any other hound.

The close-knit parent club has about 50 members, all dedicated breed advocates. Vince, club secretary, helps produce the club’s quarterly newsletter. He fell in love with the breed as a boy growing up on a tobacco farm in Hughesville, Md., in the heart of Maryland’s hunt country.

Long before she began showing English Foxhounds, Sue was a professional all-breed handler approved by the American Kennel Club to handle



Three Sunup’s English Foxhounds take top honors in 1995 at the New Castle Kennel Club Dog Show. From left are: Best of Breed winner, CH Harnett’s Ringmaster, Sunup’s foundation sire, with Sue; Best of Winners, CH Cottonwood’s Foxfire, with owner Ann Kretschmaier; and Best of Opposite Sex, CH Harnett’s Blueprint, Sunup’s foundation bitch, with Vince.

33 breeds, a process that involved knowing each breed standard and experience handling the breed. Among the breeds she was approved to handle were Basset Hounds, English Setters, German Shorthaired Pointers, Akitas, Labrador Retrievers, Whippets, West Highland White Terriers, Chihuahuas, Pekingese, and Pomeranians. Dog shows and handling dogs were her passion, but she also worked full time as a dental assistant.

Born and raised in Franklinton, N.C., outside Raleigh, Sue grew up “learning to walk holding onto my father’s Pointer,” she says. “He always had dogs like Pointers, Gordon Setters and Black & Tan Coonhounds, which he hunted.”

After high school, Sue moved to Maryland to work for the FBI in Washington. “Back then, the FBI went to high schools to interview and recruit people,” she says. “I started out in communications and moved up to the switchboard after about six years.”



Trademark, who Vince considers the best hound they’ve bred.

A dog lover at heart, Sue was determined when she moved to Maryland to get a Beagle, but it was hunting season and no one would sell her one. “I went to the pound and rescued ‘Poochie,’” she recalls. “He was a Beagle-terrier mix slated for the gas chamber.”

Next, she wanted a Dalmatian. She bought a purebred Dalmatian but didn’t realize that the dog had a patch, or large black spot, disqualifying it from conformation showing. The dog became Sue’s obedience dog and helped her meet Dalmatian breeder Jackie Esworthy, Sue’s first client in 1960.

While working at the FBI, Sue met another recruit, a young man named Vince Nicholson, who worked as a courier delivering mail to the White House and the Pentagon. “We met on a bus going to work at the FBI,” she says. “His car pool fell through one day, forcing him to take the bus I regularly rode. He’s been my best friend since 1959.”

Many years later, in 1992, Sue and Vince became a couple. In between, he served a stint in the Marines during the Vietnam War, stationed at Camp Lejeune, N.C. He returned to the FBI for a few years before going to work for a kitchen cabinet and appliance distributor, later starting his own company, CSL Industries.

A familiar face to the dog fancy — most call him “Mr. Vince” — Vince now works part time with Harry Miller’s Site Control company, parking RVs and vehicles at 115



Sue talks to Sunup's Heavenly Scent in the kennel's exercise yard.

dog shows a year. “We park everything east of the Mississippi River,” he laughs.

“We’ve been to a lot of dog shows,” Sue says.

Up Before the Sun

Sunup’s Kennels was appropriately named many years ago by a kennel assistant. “I am always up before the sun,” Sue explains. “The hounds give me a reason to wake up in the morning and keep going. I enjoy what I’m doing.”

Since 1984, Sue has lived in a brick home on 2 ½ acres on Brandywine Road in Brandywine, Md. She had the kennel built to accommodate the Pointers she was showing back in the 1980s. Eight outdoor runs with chain link and five outdoor exercise areas were later renovated to a spacious exercise area with pea gravel. A second smaller exercise area also is available.

“The kennel is wonderful now,” Sue says. “The dogs have plenty of room to run and play.”

Kennel manager Bonnie Ryan comes daily to exercise and feed dogs. She also starts training puppies when they are 3 months old. Repetitive drills practice skills such as walking on lead, standing patiently and paying attention to a handler. She recently put a Canine Good Citizen title on CH Sunup’s Tea For Two (“Crumpet”) and has begun training the hound for a CD title.

A walk through the neatly kept kennel entails meeting 14 English Foxhounds — all related through line-breeding — and a Labrador Retriever being campaigned for a client.



Crumpet recently earned a Canine Good Citizen title.

Though she works part time as a periodontal dental assistant for Dr. Barry Sklar, a job she has had for 24 years, Sue continues to handle dogs for clients. She also is a member of the Professional Handlers' Association and serves as the Zone 2 Governor.

"I have about 10 clients, the best I've ever had," she says. "I have shown one client's dogs for 21 years."

Sue and Vince breed a foxhound litter about every other year. Vince made the whelping box, which they set up in their heated garage. Puppies stay with their dam until they are 4 months old.

Memories of the first foxhound litter sired by Ringmaster out of Blue in 1992 are captured on video, showing black-and-white puppies with pink feet and noses snuggled next to their dam. "In that first litter, we couldn't figure out why the puppies were all black and white," Vince laughs.

"I thought something was terribly wrong," Sue recalls. "I didn't realize that the tan color doesn't show up until a couple of days later."

Purina Pro Plan Performance Formula is fed to all dogs at Sunup's Kennels. Adult foxhounds, which weigh 85 pounds, receive 4 cups of food a day. Puppies are fed *Pro Plan Puppy Formula* when they are about 4 weeks old.

"Though our foxhounds are not part of a pack and don't exude as much energy as a hunt hound, they are active most of the day in the exercise paddock," Sue says. "They need an energy-dense food like *Pro Plan* to sustain them and keep them in good body condition. I like how muscled they look, thanks to *Pro Plan* and the exercise they receive."

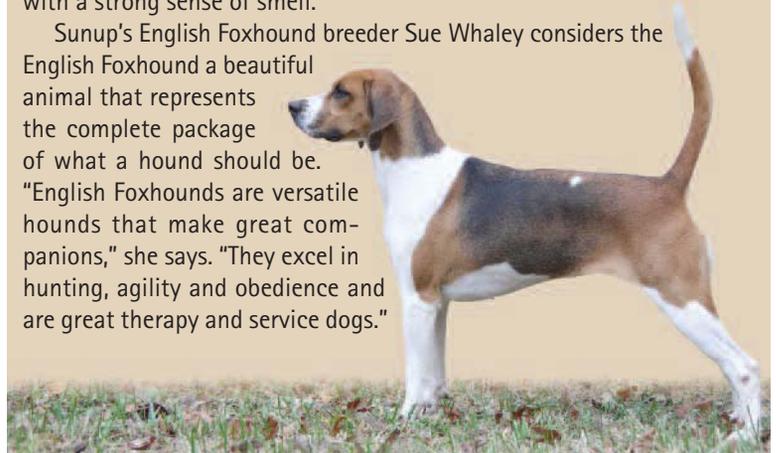
Since she got started in foxhounds about 23 years ago, Sue has finished nearly 30 champions. Considering that the English Foxhound is a rare

The Traditional English Foxhound

The English Foxhound in this country and England has always been used for fox hunting, following the English fashion of riding to hounds. Even today, packs of hounds in Great Britain and the United States give chase in the traditional sport of fox hunting. Powerful athletes possessing great speed and endurance, English Foxhounds are scent hounds with a strong sense of smell.

Sunup's English Foxhound breeder Sue Whaley considers the English Foxhound a beautiful animal that represents the complete package of what a hound should be.

"English Foxhounds are versatile hounds that make great companions," she says. "They excel in hunting, agility and obedience and are great therapy and service dogs."



breed — 11 were registered with the AKC in 2009 — it is an impressive number. Half of the breed's current Top 10 ranking is from her breeding.

The No. 1 English Foxhound, GCH Sunup's Parliament, owned by good friends Craig and Maggie Heile of Park City, Utah, is a male littermate to the No. 2 hound, GCH Sunup's Shamrock Ride The Wave, owned by more good friends Robert and Julianne Wilson of Smithville, Ky. On down the list is CH Sunup's Trademark, ranked No. 7. "Trademark," who is 8 years old, won the EFCA National Specialty this year from the Veterans class. His dam is Surprise, one of the five Best in Show foxhounds.

"Trademark is the best hound we've ever bred," Vince says.

Only 6 ½ months old when he finished, Trademark lived two years in Colombia, South America, with Franklin Zaydman, who showed him. Sue and Vince have co-owned several Best in Show dogs with Franklin over the years, with the hounds eventually coming home to Sunup's Kennels.

A 7-month-old female foxhound living at Sunup's — Monocracy Bend's Winsome at Sunups' — comes from a frozen semen breeding in which the semen was collected 26 years ago from CH Mr. Stewart's Cheshire Winslow, the only English Foxhound to win the Hound Group at the Garden. "Winslow," handled by George Alston, won in 1984.

"The best thing we've done is carry on the breed," Sue says. "Along the way, we've met the most fantastic people who have loved the hounds they've gotten from us. We've helped the breed to become recognized as a great pet in proper homes. To us that is the best part." ■



Kennel manager Bonnie Ryan, left, helps Sue and Vince by beginning the early training of puppies. She also recently put a Canine Good Citizen title on Sunup's Crumpet.

'Mean Seeds' & More

BY CATHERINE KLENE

Sporting dog enthusiasts have long known about “mean seeds,” harmful barbed grass seeds that can snag in a dog’s coat and burrow through the skin. Eventually these bacteria-carrying seeds migrate through the body, potentially causing a life-threatening condition known as grass awn disease. Mean seeds also can be inhaled as a dog runs through a field.

Grass awn disease is challenging to treat because a dog often does not show signs until the disease is well-progressed. New research funded by the AKC Canine Health Foundation will examine whether grass awn disease is more common today due to the inclusion of barbed grass seeds in the Department of Agriculture’s Conservation Reserve Program (CRP).

With a goal of preventing soil erosion and preserving wildlife habitat, CRP encourages farmers to plant mixed grasses on idle cropland. Sporting dog enthusiasts often use CRP land for field trials and training. Among the barbed grass seeds known to be potentially harmful to dogs are cheatgrass, Canada wild rye and foxtail barley.

William K. Lauenroth, Ph.D., professor of botany at the University of Wyoming, leads the study that will analyze USDA data from 10 states to identify problem grasses in CRP mixes. The research team also will analyze clinical information and treatment of dogs diagnosed with grass awn disease at eight veterinary teaching hospitals over the past 20 years. The aim is to establish a comprehensive list of problem seeds.

Sponsors of the research include: the AKC Humane Fund, the English Springer Spaniel Field Trial Association (ESSFTA), the ESSFTA Foundation, the Boykin Spaniel Society, the Golden Retriever Foundation, the National Amateur Retriever Club, the Spinone Club of America, the Labrador Retriever Club, and the German Shorthaired Pointer Club of America.



Foxtail barley is one type of barbed grass seed.

Traveling In Comfort

A relaxed, happy dog makes air travel easier. Sleepypod® Air, a new mesh carrier for dogs up to 15 pounds, is loaded with features to make dogs comfortable. The adjustable carrier compresses to fit the under-seat requirements of airlines by folding and zipping in at both ends. The size ranges from 16 to 22 inches, which allows owners to expand the carrier for more room.

More like a dog bed than a carrier, Sleepypod Air has a plush, easy-to-clean black lining that fits over the top of a thick foam mat. The Sleepypod Mini Warmer Kit can be bought to fit under the lining to help keep dogs warm in chilly weather. Another accessory

is the Dry Fur absorbent travel pad for long trips. This disposable pad dries instantly to keep dogs comfortable. The carrier’s breathable mesh top provides ventilation and allows dogs to see what’s going on.

Once you arrive at the airport, Sleepypod Air has dual zippers along the sides that allow you to secure the carrier to the top of your luggage. Hidden straps can be used to fasten the carrier with car seatbelts for rides in vehicles.



A dog pops his head out of a Sleepypod® Air animal carrier. Below right, the carrier can be secured to the top of luggage using dual zippers along the side.

For information about Sleepypod Air or to view a video demonstration, please visit www.sleepypod.com. You also may call 213-341-1088.

Dogs Earn Flying Rewards

Some airlines have made flying more valuable for show and sporting dog handlers by offering incentives when traveling with a dog. Their member reward programs give additional points for flying with dogs, helping them earn free flights faster.

Pet Airways, an animal-exclusive airline, offers 100 Pet Points for a one-way flight and 200 Pet Points for a round-trip flight. Pet Airways Rewards participants receive a free round-trip ticket when they earn 1,000 Pet Points. Points can be redeemed with any dog. The Pet Airways' Breeder Discount program allows breeders to fly dogs to new owners at a 20 percent reduced rate.

Members of Continental Airlines' OnePass rewards program can use its PetPass service. Participants earn an additional mile for every dollar spent when animals fly in a special cargo area. Small-breed dogs can fly in the cabin area but are not eligible for PetPass.

Airlines with similar programs include:

- JetBlue Airways. Participants of JetBlue's TrueBlue rewards program earn 300 travel points for a one-way trip when traveling with an animal in the cabin.

- Virgin Atlantic Airways. Members of Virgin Atlantic's Flying Club earn 1,000 bonus miles for a one-way flight when dogs are boarded in the cargo area.

Coming from Purina Pro Plan

Purina Pro Plan is introducing a new all life-stages dry dog food with a small kibble in February. *Pro Plan Lamb & Rice Small Bite Formula* is made with real lamb as the No. 1 ingredient. This nutritionally complete and balanced food contains 26 percent protein and 16 percent fat.

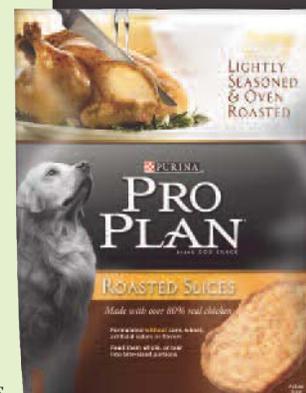
As an all life-stages dog food, *Pro Plan Lamb & Rice Small Bite Formula* is appropriate for puppies, pregnant or nursing dams, adults and senior dogs. The kibble makes this food ideal for dogs that prefer a smaller size. *Pro Plan Lamb & Rice Small Bite Formula* will be offered in three bag sizes: 6 pounds, 18 pounds and 37.5 pounds.

Another new *Pro Plan* product coming in February is *Pro Plan Roasted Slices*, a dog snack formerly known as *Purina Carvers*.

Made with over 80 percent real chicken, *Pro Plan Roasted Slices* are high in protein and highly palatable. Trainers and conformation competitors already are fans of Roasted Slices, which can be fed whole or torn into bite-sized portions. Made without corn, wheat, artificial colors or flavors, this dog snack is lightly seasoned and oven-cooked.

Purina Pro Plan is sold at pet specialty and farm supply stores. For information, visit www.proplan.com. You also may talk with a nutrition consultant by calling 800-PRO-PLAN (800-776-7526) from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Central time Monday through Friday. ■

Nestlé Purina PetCare neither endorses nor guarantees other manufacturer's products. Product information is provided for readers' interest only.



Learning the Ropes

Getting started in a competitive dog sport can be tough — that is, without a mentor to show you the way. Here are five examples of people who have benefitted from mentors. Along the way, they became good friends who share a passion for their dogs and their sports.

The Right Kind of Beagle

As a new client at the Patton Avenue Animal Hospital in Asheville, N.C., in 1966, Art Boger recalls veterinarian J.A. Humphrey taking a keen interest in his two registered Beagles. Having bought the dogs in Pennsylvania just before moving there, Boger enjoyed talking about them as he explained he had never been to a Beagle field trial.

Humphrey's invitation to join him at the Western Carolina Beagle Club field trial the next weekend was irresistible, as was the opportunity to enter his dog "Sparkle." On the day of the trial, beaglers gathered in the clubhouse to draw the braces as rain pounded on the roof. After the braces were called, Boger joined the gallery walking to the field to begin the trial. With no rain gear, he soon was sopping wet.

"Sparkle was called to run in the last brace before lunch," Boger says. "The dogs were put on a rabbit, and there went Sparkle flying all over the grounds. He was terrible, goofy. The judges told us to pick up our dogs, and I collected Sparkle off in the corner."

As Boger slogged up the hill to join the others at the clubhouse for lunch, one of the judges, R.A. Webster, was waiting.

"How are you doin'?" asked Webster, a member of the Brace Beagling Hall of Fame. "Is this your first field trial? Where did you get that dog?"

Boger answered the judge's questions.

Webster replied, "I see." Then, he turned and off he went.

When the field trial ended, the beaglers packed up their hounds to go home. Finally, Humphrey and Boger were the last ones to leave.

"How are you doin'?" Humphrey asked, as he eyed Boger's soaked clothes.

"I feel I really made a fool of myself today," Boger said.

"That's OK," Humphrey reassured him. "No one will remember. What did you think of all this?"

"This is really neat, but I absolutely don't have the right kind of Beagle," Boger said.

"Would you like to go with some of us to another field trial?" Humphrey asked.

"Yes, I would," Boger replied.

"I'll give you a call. We'll get together," Humphrey promised.

Thus began a lifelong friendship kindled by Humphrey mentoring a newcomer to brace

beagling field trials. Not long afterward, Humphrey sold Boger a male pup, Dan'l Top Deacon, who became Boger's first finished Field Champion.

"Art, like most people when they start out, was about as green as a board about knowing what to do and how to do it," Humphrey says. "I think I saved Art a lot of grief, but he was a sharp guy who was receptive to advice. A lot of people ask for your advice but ignore it. I wasn't necessarily an expert, but I was more of an expert than he was when he started."

Between them, Humphrey and Boger have nearly a century of experience in the sport of Brace Beagle field trials. Humphrey got started in 1958, breeding Blu-Ridge Beagles. Boger was initiated in 1966, adopting his grandfather's hometown in the Cornwall District of Great Britain for his kennel name of Delabole.

Through the years, they have trained dogs and gone to field trials together. Whenever one needed a field trial Beagle, the other offered him the pick of the litter. This was the case two years ago when Humphrey let Boger pick out a male puppy from a recent litter. That brown-and-white Beagle pup with a brown spot on the

side of his muzzle grew up to become NFC-FC Delabole Cracker Jack, the winner of this year's Purina Outstanding Field Trial Brace Beagle Award. "He turned out to be absolutely the best Beagle I've ever been fortunate enough to own," Boger says.

"I gave him the wrong dog," laughs Humphrey, who attended the banquet this fall in Coraopolis, Pa., where Boger and his wife, Lorraine, received the award.

The year before, "Cracker Jack" won the Purina Derby Award. During the competition, which consists of seven Federation derby field trials, Humphrey conceded to Boger that Cracker Jack was even better than Kennelworth Stubby, a 15-inch bitch he owned in the 1960s. Until then, "Stubby" was always Humphrey's gold standard. That Humphrey had given him a dog better than any he himself had owned was particularly moving to Boger.

Reflecting on their friendship, Boger says,

"Outside my family, Jerry (Humphrey) is absolutely the best friend I've ever had."

The feeling is mutual. "I am fortunate to have a friend of his caliber," Humphrey says. "Art is like a brother. We are good friends."

Opening Doors to Dog Shows

Judy Anderson of Shadow Hills, Calif., credits two noted breeders with establishing the foundation for her Schoolhouse Dachshunds and opening doors to the dog show community.

In the 1970s, Anderson became friends with Peggy Westphal, who bred Westphal Wirehaired Dachshunds and Von Westphalen Smooth Dachshunds. She and her children would frequently visit Westphal's kennel to play with the dogs. Through Westphal, Anderson met another famous Dachshund breeder, Dorothy "Dee" Hutchinson, who bred under the Rose Farms prefix.

Anderson worked in both Westphal's Bedford, N.Y., and Hutchinson's Pound Ridge, N.Y., ken-

nels, where she developed an interest in showing and breeding. "I enjoyed watching dog shows, and I fell in love with the breed through my work at Peggy's and Dee's kennels," Anderson says. "Dee offered me my pick of one of her litters, and I chose a pretty smooth bitch who became my first champion, Rose Farms Impatiens."

Westphal and Hutchinson both handled the dog to her majors. The breeding of Sharondach's Perriwinkle to Westphal's CH Call to Arms v. Westphalen in the early 1970s and the resulting litter of 11 was the beginning of Schoolhouse Dachshunds.

As Anderson became more involved in showing and breeding, her mentors were always close at hand. "I traveled with Peggy in the beginning," Anderson says. "While we were at shows, she introduced me to contacts and taught me how to develop my breeding program. She was always encouraging, and that validation meant so much."

Choosing breeding partners is crucial to the creation of a solid line, and the majority of Anderson's Dachshunds have pedigrees stretching back to a Westphal or Rose Farm dog. "Peggy and Dee taught me how to establish a line and study pedigrees," Anderson says. "They were both strong advocates of line-breeding, as it helps maintain type. For example, my wirehaired dogs today still have the look of the Westphal Wirehaired Dachshunds."

Anderson moved to California in the early 1980s to take a job at *Kennel Review Magazine*. She joined Nestlé Friskies PetCare in 1985, which later became Nestlé Purina PetCare, traveling to dog shows nationwide for 23 years before retiring last year. She always made it a priority to see Hutchinson and Westphal whenever possible.

Meeting more breeders on the West Coast, Anderson stayed friends with Fred and Carol Vogel of Pomfret, Conn., who also had been mentored by Westphal and Hutchinson. This partnership, using the Brodney Schoolhouse prefix, has led to many Wirehaired and Smooth Dachshund champions.



Art Boger, left, learned about Brace Beagle field trials from Dr. J.A. Humphrey. The men are holding puppies sired by NFC-FC Delabole Cracker Jack, this year's Purina Outstanding Field Trial Brace Beagle.

Most notable of the co-owned dogs are Multi-BIS/Multi-BISS CH J Luv's Schoolhouse Doodlebug, the Best of Variety winner at Westminster in 2004, and CH Brodny Schoolhouse Applause, the Wirehaired Variety winner at the 100th anniversary Dachshund Club of America National Specialty and Best of Variety winner at Westminster in 1995 and 1996. Current top-winning dogs include the nationally ranked Smooth Dachshund CH Brodny Schoolhouse Dixie, who won Best of Variety last February at the Garden, and the Wirehaired Dachshund Multi-BISS CH Brodny Schoolhouse In A Zip, a multiple Group winner.

"All the success I've had can be traced back to my relationships with Peggy and Dee," Anderson says. "Before they passed away, Dee and Peggy both told me how proud they were to see how far my lines had progressed."

Looking back, she knows she had two of the greatest Dachshund breeders of the day as her guides. "I've been so fortunate to have the beginning that I had," Anderson

says. "I couldn't have had two more successful people as my mentors. Everything I've done has been possible because Peggy and Dee opened the doors for me."

Anderson, now a veteran breeder herself, focuses on encouraging newcomers to the sport and ensuring the future of the breed. "When you find someone who wants to go forward and breed good dogs, you have to encourage them and teach them pedigrees," Anderson says. "Too often people don't take the time to mentor new breeders. Newcomers tend to do better when they have a mentor or two by their side."



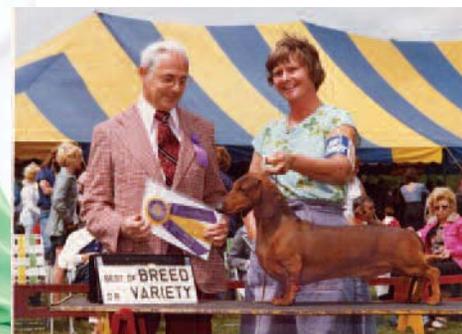
Schoolhouse Dachshund breeder Judy Anderson, pictured with Wirehaired Dachshund GRCH Brodny Schoolhouse Get Smart, got a start in breeding with help from Dorothy "Dee" Hutchinson and Peggy Westphal. Inset photos, from above: Westphal wins Best of Variety with CH Call to Arms v. Westphalen. Hutchinson wins Winners Bitch with Rose Farms Impatiens, Anderson's first champion.

A Gates Family Tradition

Three generations of the Gates bird dog training family have lived summers atop a horse behind a Pointer in the fields around Broomhill, Manitoba. John S. Gates started the tradition early during the Great Depression, thriving as a professional handler who employed as many as six hands to help with training. His son, John Rex, joined them as a child, as did younger son Robin. In time, Robin Gates' son, Hunter, would represent the latest in a line of legendary bird dog men.

The elder three Gateses have developed and

handled 13 Hall of Fame dogs and won more than 250 All-Age Field Trial Championships. John S. Gates won the first Purina Top Field Trial Bird Dog Award in 1964 with a male Pointer named War Storm, who was inducted into the Field Trial Hall of Fame in 2009. John S. Gates was inducted in 1960.



John Rex Gates won the Purina Award twice and, when he was 38 years old, became the youngest handler inducted into the Hall of Fame. Robin Gates won the Purina Top Field Trial Bird Dog and Handler of the Year awards five times each. All three men have won the

National Open Championship — John S. and Robin twice each and John Rex three times. When Hunter Gates won the Dominion Chicken Championship in 2002 in Canada, he claimed an honor that his father, uncle and grandfather had cumulatively won 23 times.

Their wealth of knowledge flows from one generation to the next like so many sunrises, an endless supply of lessons. That makes it difficult for any of them to distinguish how they learned specific details about succeeding in their profession.

"I've been going to Canada in the summers to train dogs with my dad since I was 1 year old," Hunter Gates says. "Growing up with that, seeing nearly 30 years of training and field trial competition, it's hard to talk about specific things I've learned. It's second nature to me."

"The dog business is all we know in my family," says John Rex Gates, who fondly recalls the summer he was 6 years old and trained his first dog

to point butterflies. For that feat John Rex Gates earned the praise of his dad, an exacting trainer who would also deal tough lessons when needed.

“He would really get on us hard when he saw us make mistakes,” says John Rex Gates. “He’d even do it at a field trial with people watching, but it was through love. He drilled it into us. He taught us that if you work with enough dogs, a dog will teach you more than any man will.”

set up the dog the best you can for the judges.”

John S. Gates taught his sons to turn their horses sideways and raise an arm to point out the dog’s location to the judges. They learned it doesn’t do any good if a dog performs well and a judge doesn’t see it. John S. Gates also taught the significance of making the horses look good.

John Rex Gates, who lives in Hickory Valley, Tenn., retired 15 years ago with more than 100

in Hunter. He is a real good dog man.”

Hunter has trained dogs and scouted full time for Robin since 2001. When Hunter is handling the dogs in a trial, Robin scouts for him. “I love working with my dad,” says Hunter. “People on the field trial circuit tell me he is the best there is, that he’s a great showman and the best at handling dogs. He shares that with me. It’s always an open learning session with us, whether training or at trials. I wouldn’t trade working with him for anything.”

Lessons from the ‘Grande Dame’

Jennifer Costantinidis of Escondido, Calif., entered her first dog show in 1993 with a 9-month-old Great Dane bitch she knew was special. Unfortunately, this did not mean Natasha Rajah of Dun Roman should be in the Specials class as she thought.

“It was obvious I had no idea what I was doing,” Costantinidis says. “A woman with a beautiful male Great Dane corrected my mistake and helped me enter my bitch in the American-bred class before I made a fool of myself in a ring of finished champions.”

The chance meeting between Elizabeth “Brucie” Mitchell and Costantinidis became the foundation for a lifelong mentorship. Mitchell, who bred the famous Von Raseac Great Danes with her husband, Gene Mitchell, taught Costantinidis about handling and breeding show Great Danes.

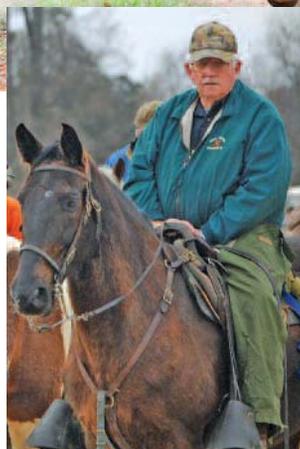
“I had no idea who she was at the time,” Costantinidis says. “The Mitchells finished 125 champions, and their breeding was behind the top-winning Great Dane bitch of all time. They are icons in our breed.”

Costantinidis inherited the Dun Roman kennel from her grandmother-in-law, Clysta Telford. Her goal was to breed Great Danes that would do well in dog shows, but she had no idea where to begin.

“Brucie taught me to balance structure with breed type, as well as how to show dogs,” Costantinidis says. “She turned me into the breeder I am today. She would attend shows with me and break down every detail so I could understand what was



Robin Gates, right, and his son, Hunter Gates, train Pointers together in Leesburg, Ga. Inset photo: John Rex Gates rides in the gallery at the 2009 National Open Championship, which was won by his younger brother, Robin.



When John Rex Gates was 7 years old, he learned to drive the family’s team of horses — “Nip” and “Tuck” — into the training field with the dog boxes on the wagon. At those same training grounds, Robin Gates would learn from their dad the importance of humility, work ethic and showmanship in a field trial.

“There is a lot more to field trialing than just turning the dog loose,” Robin Gates says. “It’s a team effort among the handler, scout and dog, and it’s all about putting on a show. You have to

Championship wins. Robin and Hunter Gates live on the family farm in Leesburg, Ga., and work together every day.

“I worshipped my dad,” says Robin Gates, who was 15 years old when John S. Gates died. “It was tough to lose him, but John Rex took over the business, and I went to work for him. I know if anything happened to me, Hunter could step in tomorrow and take over.”

A proud John Rex Gates, who was in his early 30s when his father died, says, “Robin could compete against anybody there’s been in the last 100 years, and I see a world of potential

going on. She taught me to recognize the caliber of an animal and the importance of showmanship.”

Mitchell saw potential in Costantinidis, says Gene Mitchell, noting that his wife always tried to guide newcomers. “When Brucie and I began showing dogs in the 1950s, few people wanted to take the time to help us,” he recalls. “They didn’t want to encourage competition. However, Brucie was always ready to share with anyone.”

Brucie Mitchell shared her knowledge with Costantinidis and her two daughters, Betty and Zoe, until her death in May 2009. Costantinidis

“One of Brucie’s most important lessons was that luck is not a future for a breeding program,” Costantinidis says. “She taught me to study pedigrees extensively and not be blinded by a prestigious kennel name or how many wins a dog has. If there is something in the line she didn’t like, she would not breed to it.”

As Betty and Zoe Costantinidis grew more interested in the sport, Gene and Brucie Mitchell taught them how to show dogs in their driveway,

in my breeding program and to find the strengths in others’ dogs.”

Under Brucie Mitchell’s mentorship, Costantinidis now has several champion Dun Roman Great Danes, including BISS CH Dun Roman’s Element of Earth LMLD, who in 2008 was the

Great Dane Club of San Diego’s Top Winning Dane and the Great Dane Club of California’s Top Winning Bitch. “I would never have had the knowledge to breed a bitch of that caliber nor would Betty have had the ability to show her to four majors without Brucie’s influence,” Costantinidis says.



Like Brucie Mitchell, Costantinidis only breeds solid-colored Great Danes and only when she plans to keep a puppy in her home. She currently has five Great Danes, ranging from 11 months to 11 years old. She continues to follow in her mentor’s footsteps, always looking for new faces at dog shows.

“I called Brucie the ‘Grande Dame of Great Danes,’” she says. “She encouraged those new to the breed, investing in the future. Now I do the same.”

A Pair of National Champions

When the paths of Labrador Retriever trainers Judy Aycock and Danny Farmer crossed in 1978, she had recently won a National Open Championship. He soon would launch a professional handling career and become a three-time National Open Champion winner.

Aycock now lives in Valley View, Texas, but splitting her time in Escalon, Calif., and Shreveport, La., in the 1970s proved pivotal to her training and field trial career — and to Farmer’s. In Escalon, she sought out the expertise of renowned retriever trainer Rex Carr, who would become her mentor. In 1976, Aycock won the National Open Championship with AFC/NFC San Joaquin Honcho (“Honcho”). She handled FC/NAFC Trumarc’s Zip Code (“Cody”) to win the National



Posing with four generations of Dun Roman Great Danes are Jennifer Costantinidis, second from right, and Gene Mitchell, with Costantinidis’ daughters, Betty, far left, and Zoe. Inset photo: Elizabeth “Brucie” Mitchell, left, a mentor to Jennifer, and later to her daughters, judges a Great Dane Specialty.

bred several Dun Roman bitches to Von Raseac dogs through the years, including “Rajah,” the bitch at that fateful 1993 dog show, who was bred to BISS CH Sheleea’s Country Boy Von Raseac (“CB”), the dog Costantinidis saw Brucie Mitchell with that day. The breeding produced Costantinidis’ first bred-by champion, CH Dun Roman’s Aaron Von Raseac, handled by Carol Grossman.

working with CB, who was a veteran by then. “When the girls were discouraged, Brucie would tell them they could do it, but it wouldn’t happen overnight,” Gene Mitchell says.

Brucie Mitchell called Costantinidis “My Sponge,” a moniker she carries with pride. “I absorbed every word,” Costantinidis says. “Respect for other breeders was so important to Brucie. She told me to save my harshest critiques for the dogs



Judy Aycock helped guide Danny Farmer to success as a professional retriever trainer. Both have trained and handled National Open Champions. The Labrador Retrievers are Trumarc's Gymnast, left, and FC Candlewood's Man in Black.

Amateur in 1984, which made her the first handler to win the National Open and National Amateur with different dogs. Aycock credits her mentor's guidance.

"I attribute most of what I know to Rex, and what I learned by watching him work with his and his many clients' dogs," Aycock says.

Farmer lives in Anderson, Texas, where he owns and operates a premier training facility and Vinwood Kennels. He lived in Monroe, La., however, when he and Aycock met by chance at a Shreveport breeder's kennel. Farmer knew little about Aycock other than her name, but eagerly accepted an opportunity to train with her.

Farmer worked part time as a deputy sheriff and part time as a dog trainer. Not long after he started training twice a week with Aycock, he left the sheriff's department to handle dogs full

time. It has been a fruitful decision.

Besides Farmer's 1989, 1995 and 2001 National Open wins, he trained a National Open Champion for John Parrott in 1984 and a National Amateur Champion for Jerry Wickliffe in 1988. Farmer set a record, winning 18 consecutive Open Field Trials. He has qualified an average of five dogs for every National Open since 1981 and has put titles on nearly 100 Champions.

Farmer praises Aycock's mastery of evaluating handlers' and dogs' talents and being an effective communicator in mentoring him. "When I met Judy, I thought her training technique was the best I'd seen," Farmer says. "She really knew how to instill the basics in a dog and to reinforce them. She also has the ability to communicate in ways that I understand exactly what to do to improve."

Aycock and Farmer have trained together

periodically in the years since, and they conduct training seminars together. "I feel fortunate to do seminars with her," says Farmer. "Every time we do one, I learn new things from her."

Both say a key to training dogs is setting the foundation of basic commands — to heel, stop on the whistle, fetch, take a cast and be steady — before training advanced skills. The next element of success is to understand proper use of pressure to reinforce those commands.

"The correct use of pressure is one of the hardest aspects for trainers to grasp," Aycock says. "A dog needs to learn that when I do A, the dog needs to do B, and we'll get along fine. If a trainer applies corrective pressures too harshly or inappropriately, the dog will not react as desired and will learn the wrong things."

Adaptability to handle dogs' varying personalities was a strength Aycock saw in Carr, who died in 2002, and that she also sees in Farmer. "Like Rex, Danny is a great, intuitive trainer," she says. "He has the ability to train dogs with different temperaments. He's in tune with each dog's needs. That's something he innately has to offer as a trainer, not something he learned from me."

Farmer learned from Aycock, however, that every skill or command a dog is taught is another tool put into the toolbox the handler and dog take to the field. "When a dog does something and is conditioned by a proper response to do it again or not to do it, then you can create predictable behaviors," says Farmer. "That's the goal."

Farmer applied the effort necessary to become an outstanding trainer but concedes his fortune of having Aycock as his mentor has been invaluable. "I didn't have to learn everything alone through trial and error," Farmer says. "I had the playbook in Judy. I could go to the field and come back with questions. She'd know the answer. Judy has the ability to spot weaknesses and strengths in dogs and handlers like no one else I've ever seen."

Almost 35 years after they met, Aycock still mentors Farmer. He still listens without question. With those three National Open Championships to his credit, so far, so good.

Energetic Sporting Dogs & Lively Toys

Irish Red & White Setter

A strong, powerful, well-balanced dog bred for the field, the Irish Red & White Setter dates to the 17th century and is considered older than his solid red cousin. Due to the popularity of the Irish Setter, the Irish Red & White Setter was nearly extinct by the end of the 19th century. Efforts to revive the breed during the 1920s led to his re-emergence in the 1940s. It is believed that every Irish Red & White Setter recorded today likely descended from Judith Cunningham of Knockalla, a sickly puppy bitch nursed to health by Mrs. Maureen Cuddy in 1940 in Ireland. The breed was introduced in the U.S. in the 1960s.

The friendly temperament of the Irish Red & White Setter makes him an ideal family dog. Spirited and determined, the breed's energy in the field carries over to the home, so he requires regular exercise. The Irish Red & White

Setter is white with solid red patches. Males are 24 ½ to 26 inches tall, and bitches are 22 ½ to 24 inches tall.

Boykin Spaniel

The official state dog of South Carolina, the Boykin Spaniel is a medium-sized, all-around hunting dog with a cheerful, energetic temperament. He is a favorite of hunters due to his willingness to work all day and his smaller size. The breed was developed in the early 1900s, when a small dog was found wandering near a church in Spartanburg, S.C., and a parishioner, Alexander L.

White, took the dog home. White sent the dog to his hunting partner, L. Whitaker Boykin of the Boykin community outside Camden, S.C., where he developed the little stray into a superb turkey dog and waterfowl retriever.

The Boykin Spaniel thrives on companionship. He has the stamina to stay by



Irish Red & White Setter



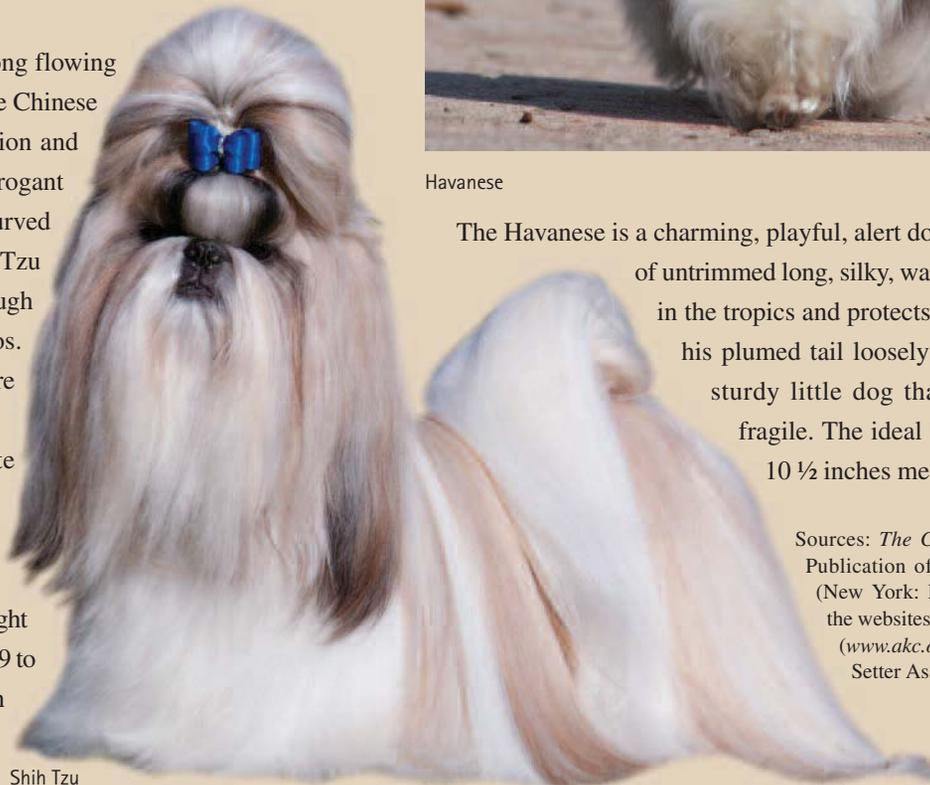
Boykin Spaniel

his owner's side during a full day of work, so he fits best with active families. He gets along well with other dogs and children. The ideal height is 15 ½ to 18 inches at the shoulder for males and 14 to 16 ½ inches for females.

Shih Tzu

A sturdy, lively toy dog with a long flowing double coat, the Shih Tzu has a noble Chinese ancestry as a highly prized companion and palace pet. He has a distinctively arrogant carriage with his head up and tail curved over the back. Breeding of the Shih Tzu began in England around 1930, although the breed was first classified as Apsos. Later, Lhasa Apsos and Shih Tzu were made separate breeds.

An outgoing, happy, affectionate temperament is imperative since the sole purpose of the Shih Tzu is to be a companion and pet. The Shih Tzu is a compact, solid breed of good weight and substance. Ideally, the Shih Tzu is 9 to 10 ½ inches tall. Mature dogs weigh from 9 to 16 pounds.



Shih Tzu

Havanese

An old breed of the Bichon family, the Havanese may have originated on the island of Malta in the Mediterranean. Dogs in Spain and Italy played a part in bringing the Havanese to the New World. Also known as the Havana Silk Dog, today's Havanese descended from the dogs that found a permanent home in Cuba. The breed evolved over the centuries from the pampered lapdog of aristocracy into the quintessential family pet. After the Cuban revolution in 1959, many of these dogs ended up in the U.S.



Havanese

The Havanese is a charming, playful, alert dog whose profuse mantle of untrimmed long, silky, wavy coat reflects centuries in the tropics and protects against heat. He carries his plumed tail loosely over his rump. He is a sturdy little dog that should never appear fragile. The ideal height is between 9 and 10 ½ inches measured at the withers.

Sources: *The Complete Dog Book*, Official Publication of the American Kennel Club (New York: Ballantine Books, 2006) and the websites of the American Kennel Club (www.akc.org) and the Irish Red & White Setter Association (www.irwsa.com).

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CIRCLE OF CHAMPIONS

CH ROJON'S SAY YES WINS BEST OF BREED AT GDCA NATIONAL SPECIALTY

A 2-year-old fawn female who stepped into the show ring for the first time last January captured Best of Breed in October at the Great Dane Club of America (GDCA) National Specialty in Pine Bluff, Ark.

CH Rojon's Say Yes, the No. 7-ranked Great Dane, outperformed more than 300 dogs to win the National Specialty. "Liza' is a great example of a Great Dane with her regal, elegant appearance," says co-owner Sharron Barney. "With a long neck and smooth, level topline, she is a beautiful bitch."

Barney and co-owner Mary Anne Zanetos, both of Columbus, Ohio, each have owned Great Danes more than 35 years. Liza is handled by professional handler Jeff Lawrence of Muncie, Ind. Her breeders, Ray Cataldi and Adam Protos, have produced 108 champions at their

Rojon Great Danes kennel in Round Lake, Ill., since the 1970s.

Liza was sired by BIS/BISS CH Elan's Command Decision Reimroc out of CH Rojon's Ready or Not. Her sire, who won Best of Breed at the 2009 GDCA National Specialty, won the Top Twenty this year.

"Liza has a commanding presence both in and out of the ring," says Barney, who believes Liza is one of the most promising dogs she has ever owned.

Liza's commanding presence helped her win Best in Show at the Ann Arbor State Kennel Club Dog Show last July after completing her championship the day before. "We knew she would finish quickly," Barney says. "To win Best in Show on top of that was phenomenal."

Liza is fed *Purina Pro Plan Performance Formula*.



Professional handler Jeff Lawrence stacks Best of Breed winner "Liza," with, from left, GDCA president Dave Miller, judge Eric Ringle and Purina Area Manager Carol Grossman.

American Foxhound Wins Tennessee State Dual Championship

McGee's Sun Tan, a 2-year-old male American Foxhound, stood out on the bench and in the hunt to become the Tennessee State Dual Champion in September out of 157 hounds vying for the honor.

Despite hot, dry conditions in Creedmoor, N.C., where the hunt was held, "Sun Tan" was a top performer. The foxhound was in excellent form and improved during the three-day event as other hounds faltered in the heat, says breeder-owner-handler Bill McGee of Pilot Mountain, N.C.

"Sun Tan has a great nose and was able to track game the other dogs couldn't," McGee says.



Breeder-owner-handler Bill McGee, center, poses proudly with his American Foxhound, McGee's Sun Tan, and friends after winning the Tennessee State Dual Championship.

Sun Tan was sired by DC FC John's Streaker out of McGee's Honeysuckle. His sire won the Mid-Georgia State and Georgia State dual championships in 2002.

To win the dual championship, a hound must place in the top four in both the hunt and bench show. Sun Tan placed fourth in the hunt and third in the bench show, earning 190 points to win the dual championship.

On the bench, Sun Tan has stylish presence and his straight legs and deep chest

depict the breed standard. "Sun Tan's feet have stayed tight and firm even though he competes in hunts," McGee says. "The judges realize this is significant in a dog that hunts regularly."

With 35 years' experience breeding and handling American Foxhounds, McGee recognizes how fortunate he is that Sun Tan has succeeded early. "Sun Tan has only competed four times," McGee says. "It takes a lot of work and a lot of luck to produce a hound that looks good on the bench and performs well in the field."

Sun Tan is fed *Purina Dog Chow*.

Pro Plan-Fed Coonhounds Take Top Honors at Autumn Oaks

Two Pro Plan-fed coonhounds — a Treeing Walker and a Redbone — won the Nite Hunt and Bench Show Championships, respectively, in September at Autumn Oaks, one of the largest and most prestigious United Kennel Club (UKC) coonhound events of the year.

A 2-year-old female, GR NITE CH 'PR' Hannas Creek Feelin' Frisky, won the Nite Hunt Championship, resulting in back-to-back Autumn Oaks wins for co-owners Mike and Amanda Carmack of Liberty, Ind. The previous year, they won with GR NITE CH 'PR' Stylish Kate.

Despite dry, difficult tracking conditions in Richmond, Ind., "Lou" outperformed 797 hounds. Lou treed eight raccoons during the two-day competition, earning 1,525 points with handler Rick Stretch of Grove City, Ohio.

"Lou's independence sets her apart from the other hounds in a cast," says Mike Carmack. "She stays focused trailing the raccoon and isn't distracted by other dogs. She's one of the best hounds I've ever worked with."

Lou was sired by GR NITE CH GRCH 'PR' Vance's Battlewood Joe Brown out of 'PR' Stylish Hag. She was bred by Terry Vance of Corinth, Ky., and is co-owned by Brian Whitted



Cody Sipe stacks GR NITE CH 'PR' Hannas Creek Feelin' Frisky along with, from left, co-owner Mike Carmack, handler Rick Stretch and co-owner Brian Whitted.

of Huntington, Ind.

"I train my coonhounds to perform to the best of their abilities," Mike Carmack says. "Lou's win proves that hard work pays off."

Careful training and natural instincts also helped Lou win the UKC Kentucky State Championship in October. Mike Carmack plans to enter Lou in the Professional Kennel Club's Super Stakes hunts in 2011.

This is the third major UKC win for the Carmacks. In addition to winning Autumn Oaks the past two

years, they won the UKC World Championship in 1996 with GR NITE CH 'PR' Hannas Creek Mac Attack.

The Autumn Oaks Bench Show Champion was GRCH 'PR' America's Virginia Legacy, a 2-year-old female who outperformed 522 hounds with her style and grace, says co-owner and handler Dale Young of Waterford, Mich.

"Gin" moves very well," Young says. "She is a powerful, graceful hound. Her independence sometimes makes her challenging to handle, but her confidence and showmanship always win out."

Bred by Young and Jaime Criggers of Hoo Hoo Hollow Redbone Coonhounds in Palmyra, Ind., Gin comes from a strong line of bench show champions. Her sire, CGRCH WCH GRFCH GRCH 'PR' America's Patriot, won the Southern National Redbone Championship in 2008 and 2009 and the National Redbone Days Championship in 2007. Her grand-sire, WSHOWCH GRWCH GRFCH GRCH 'PR' Only in America, was the 2007 Purina Outstanding Bench Show Coonhound and the World Bench Show Champion in 2005. The three

Grand Champions — Gin, her sire and grandsire — won the Generations class at Autumn Oaks. All three are owned or co-owned by Young and his wife, Laurie. Gin's dam is CGRCH GRCH 'PR' O.W.'s Sierra Legacy.

Also this year, Gin was the Grand Champion Female and the Pairs Class



Co-owner and handler Dale Young presents GRCH 'PR' America's Virginia Legacy with friends after winning the Bench Show Championship at Autumn Oaks.

winner with her sire at National Redbone Days. In 2009, Gin was the Redbone Female at the UKC World Championship.

Lou and Gin are fed Purina Pro Plan Performance Formula.

'Desi' Wins American and Canadian Havanese National Specialties

A 4-year-old male Havanese with a handsome gold sable coat and playful, clownish charm proved his appeal by winning Best of Breed at the Havanese Club of America National Specialty in August followed by the Canadian Havanese National Specialty in September.

BIS/MBISS AM GCH/CAN CH Gingerbred Yukon Jack Desiderio is an extraordinary show dog, says handler David Scheiris of Raymore, Mo., noting that the toy dog is one of the finest he has campaigned in his 30-year career. "What a thrill it

was to win both the American and Canadian Nationals and to win them in the same year," Scheiris says. "'Desi' is an excellent example of the Havanese standard, and he has shown his ability to win under tough competition."

Desi, currently the No. 2 Havanese, is owned by Stephen and Patricia Lucas of Madison, Wis. Bred by Nona Dietrich of Gingerbred Havanese in Minneapolis, Desi was sired by AM/CAN CH Sonrisas' Tiny Thomas out of CH Gingerbred Made To Order. His sire, the No. 1 Havanese in Canada



from 2004 to 2008, was the No. 1 all-breed dog in Canada in 2007.

In other honors, Desi received an Award of Merit last February at the Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show and in 2009 at the AKC National Championship. He is proving to be a good producer as the sire of five puppies that have already finished their championships.

Desi is fed Purina Pro Plan Sensitive Skin & Stomach Formula.

"Desi," a Havanese handled by David Scheiris, won both the American and Canadian National Specialties in 2010.

'Cracker Jack,' 'Tyra' and 'Diamond' Honored as Purina Beagle Award Winners

A two-time Purina Award winner, NFC-FC Delabole Cracker Jack, handled by owner Art Boger of Candler, N.C., was recently honored as the 2010 Purina Outstanding Field Trial Brace Beagle. In 2009, "Cracker Jack" won the Purina Derby Award.

The 2-year-old 13-inch brown-and-white male outperformed 1,780 entries in seven Federation field trials from March to late May to win the award, which was not

Field Trial Brace Beagle. His dam's sire, FC Cana Ridge Sage, produced 48 Field Champions. Among his credits, Cracker Jack won the 2009 AKC National Championship.

The Purina Brace Beagle Champion Award winner was FC Nightstalk Tyra, a 3 1/2-year-old tricolor male owned by Wayne Parker of Taylorsville, Ky., and J. Wild of Crestwood, Ky., and handled by Marty Parker, also of Taylorsville, Ky. "Tyra" outperformed 417 Field Champions to win the award, taking first place at the Northeastern, Heartland and International federations and placing fourth at the Mid-Dixie.

"Tyra is very accurate and careful on the path of the rabbit," says Wild, who bought the dog as a 3-month-old.

"The main thing about Tyra that set him apart is that he can track the front or back very well," says Wayne Parker.

Longtime friends and members of the Bluegrass Beagle Club in Buckner, Ky., Wild and Wayne Parker became partners on Tyra when the hound was 2 years old. Cumulatively, Wild, who competes under Nightstalk Beagles, and the Parkers, who breed Bee Lick Beagles, have 138 years' experience in Brace Beagle field trials. The Parkers have bred 98 Field Champions.



James Terracina and his wife, Rita, accept the Purina Brace Beagle Derby Award from Purina representatives Rod Carter, left, and Mike Luchetta.

Winning the Purina Brace Beagle Derby Award was a 1-year-old black-and-white 15-inch male, FC Surefoot Diamond, owned and handled by James Terracina of Raleigh, N.C. The hound outperformed 754 derby-age Beagles by winning the Mid-Dixie and Eastern federations and placing second at the Midwestern.

"Diamond is extremely hard-working," Terracina says. "He has an excellent nose and mouth. His noncompetitive, easygoing style helped him stand out."

The owner of two Purina Derby Award winners, Terracina has competed in Brace Beagle field trials for 50 years. He also is the owner of two

Purina Outstanding Field Trial Brace Beagle Award winners. His other Purina winners are FC Surefoot Little Magic, the 1998 Outstanding Field Trial Brace Beagle, and NFC-FC South Mt. Do Little, the 2002 Derby Award winner and 2003 Purina Outstanding Field Trial Brace Beagle.

The Purina Award winners, along with their owners and handlers, were honored in October at the 38th Annual Purina Outstanding Field Trial Brace Beagle banquet held in conjunction with the AKC National Brace Championship in Coraopolis, Pa. Among the prizes awarded, Boger received an original oil painting of Cracker Jack by artist Valerie Dolan and a satin award banner. All the award recipients received engraved Purina Award plaques, Purina brand dog food and cash prizes. The Purina dog food and cash prizes were doubled if the winners were active members of *Purina Pro Club*.

Purina Area Manager Rod Carter served as master of ceremonies. Members of the Purina Brace Beagle Award Committee are Dr. John Kiser of Charlotte, N.C., Stan Peterson of Lakewood, N.Y., and Kim Schrotenboer of Ada, Mich., and advisers to the committee are Mel Stewart of the American Kennel Club and Art Slike of *Hounds and Hunting* magazine.



Art Boger and his wife, Lorraine, pose with NFC-FC Delabole Cracker Jack, the Purina Outstanding Field Trial Brace Beagle.

decided until the last field trial, the Northeastern Federation. Cracker Jack won the field trial, giving him three first-place wins and enough points to capture the award.

Boger chose Cracker Jack as a puppy from a litter bred by his longtime friend and mentor, Dr. J.A. Humphrey of Leicester, N.C., (see story on page 28). "Cracker Jack has been good from the start," says Boger, who has competed in Brace Beagle field trials for 44 years. "I've enjoyed him from day one."

Cracker Jack was sired by FC Melton Hill Magic Tut out of Blue Ridge Ballard II. His sire won the 13-inch male class in the 2005 Purina Award competition, and his paternal grandsire, FC Nickajack Tut, was the 2002 Purina Outstanding



Marty Parker, center left, and J. Wild are presented the Purina Brace Beagle Champion Award by Purina representatives Rod Carter, left, and Mike Luchetta.

'Truman' Wins Best of Breed at GWPCA National Specialty

GRCH Reece Afterhours The Buck Stops Here, JH, a 2-year-old liver-and-white ticked male noted for his fieldwork expertise, won Best of Breed in October at the German Wirehaired Pointer Club of America (GWPCA) National Specialty in Richland, Wash.

Outperforming more than 60 German Wirehaired Pointers, Truman stood out for his dense, wire coat and muscular build. Truman competes in American Kennel Club hunting tests, in which he earned the Junior Hunter title in March, as well as North American Versatile Hunting Dog Association tests.

"The breed standard stresses the importance of a distinguished, weather-resistant coat, and Truman's is a proper coat," says Angie Johnson of Polk City, Fla., the co-breeder-owner and handler. "He is also the perfect size for a German Wirehaired Pointer male. He has the right amount of muscle, developed from fieldwork."

Truman was co-bred and is co-



GRCH Reece Afterhours The Buck Stops Here, JH, who excels at fieldwork, won the GWPCA National Specialty handled by co-breeder-owner Angie Johnson.

owned by Christine Whitmore of Citra, Fla., and Johnson's husband,

Mike. The pointer was sired by BIS GRCH Ripsnorter Mt. View Lookout,

the all-time winningest German Wirehaired Pointer, out of CH J an J Afterhours Dana. His sire, who is ranked No. 6 in all-breed competition, won the 2008 and 2009 GWPCA National Specialties.

Among Truman's career wins, he took Best of Opposite at the Seattle-Tacoma German Wirehaired Pointer Club Specialty in September and Best in Maturity at the GWPCA National Specialty in 2009. Johnson plans to work toward Truman's Master Hunter title next year.

The Johnsons, who began breeding German Wirehaired Pointers under the Reece prefix in 2006, strive to produce dual-purpose dogs. "It is very important to us to breed versatile dogs," Angie Johnson says. "In our breed, excelling in the field is just as important as the show ring. Form follows function."

Truman is fed a mixture of *Purina Pro Plan Performance Formula* and *Purina Pro Plan Chicken & Rice Canned Entrée*.

Rush Hill Golden Retriever Wins Second Consecutive GRCA National

BIS/BISS CH Rush Hill's Run'n Amuck at Abelard, OA, OAJ, AXP, AJP, NFP, took a place in history when he won the Golden Retriever Club of America (GRCA) National Specialty for the second consecutive year in September at Greeley, Colo.

The 7-year-old Golden Retriever, called "Chaos," outperformed 683 dogs to win the coveted title. "The breed standard calls for a level topline, and Chaos' topline is flat as a board with no excess roll," says breeder-co-owner-handler Tonya Struble of Lake Stevens, Wash. "Chaos moves effortlessly and is absolutely joyful in and out of the ring. He never has a bad day, and his tail never stops wagging. He truly loves life and loves to show."

Struble, who has bred under the Rush Hill prefix for 30 years, co-owns Chaos with Deborah Blair of Mt.

Vernon, Wash. Chaos was sired by CH Boitano's Band on the Run to Abelard out of BIS/BISS CH Goodtime's Run for the Roses, a member of the GRCA Show Dog Hall of Fame. On both sides of his pedigree, Chaos is related to BIS/BISS AM/CAN CH Rush Hill's Haagen-Dazs, CDX, JH, AX, OAJ, WCX, VCX, OS, SDHF, the all-time top producer and top specialty winner.

Chaos is proving to be a strong producer as well, having sired the No. 1, No. 2 and No. 4 Golden Retrievers. "All three dogs were from different breedings," Struble says. "Chaos is a wonderful example of how consistent, quality breeding produces excellent results."

Previously, Chaos placed second in the Sporting Group at the 2008 AKC National Championship. He also excels in agility, and Struble plans

to begin working toward field titles with him next year.

Chaos is fed a mixture of *Purina*

Pro Plan Performance and *Purina Pro Plan Sensitive Skin & Stomach* formulas.



Breeder-co-owner-handler Tonya Struble stacks "Chaos," a two-time winner of the GRCA National Specialty, along with, from left, judge Henric Fryckstrand, GRCA representative Nancy Talbot and Purina representative Diana Allen.

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TWO PRO PLAN-FED POINTERS WIN NATIONAL AMATEUR PHEASANT CHAMPIONSHIP

Richfield Silver Lining put on a stellar performance to find seven birds and win the National Amateur Pheasant Shooting Dog Championship in October in Mingo Junction, Ohio. A stylish RAAG's Miss Lightfoot ranged to the front and found three pheasants to earn Runner-Up Champion.

Owner Bill McNamee of Waccabuc, N.Y., handled the 2 1/2-year-old white-and-liver Champion, named "Bo," to outperform 59 dogs and earn the owner-handler his second amateur championship in three years.

McNamee was content with five finds each by his English Setter named Sound Investment ("Angie") and Bo's dam, Richfield Silver Belle ("Sidney"), who won the championship in 2008. McNamee told his wife and scout, Claudia, to just relax and have fun with Bo. "When we let Bo go, he cleared a hill and ran down to the right edge of a sorghum field and pointed a pheasant right away," he says.

Bo maintained an even pace. "He has a beautifully statuesque point," McNamee says. "He holds his head high, and his tail points to 12 o'clock. He looks real pretty."

Bo's last find came with a mere five minutes left in the hourlong



Bill McNamee, left, with "Bo," and Ray Wheeler, with "Liz," took Champion and Runner-Up Champion, respectively, in the National Amateur Championship last October.

horseback stake. "We were having so much fun watching him work, I wasn't thinking about winning at the time," McNamee says.

Bo's sire is Strut, the 2009-2010 Purina Top Field Trial Bird Dog. Bo was bred by Rich Giuliano of Richfield Kennels in Hope, R.I., who started him on birds. Professional handler Luke Eisenhart, the 2009-2010 Purina Top Shooting Dog Handler, trains Bo and handles him in open trials.

McNamee started competing in walking field trials in 2001 with a French Brittany. His passion and

involvement in the sport grew to include Pointers and the English Setter, Angie, and to regularly compete in horseback trials. One field trial placement within the previous year is necessary to qualify a dog for the National Championship. McNamee placed first in two horseback derby field trials with Bo.

"Bo is a versatile dog," McNamee says. "He was a shy puppy who has become quite a competitor."

The 2 1/2-year-old "Liz" was owner-handled by Ray Wheeler of Shelby, Ohio. "She had great style

and was always on course," he says. "I knew immediately after we finished that she had a shot to win."

Despite her young age, the orange-and-white Pointer qualified for the National Championship by taking first and second place in derby trials last fall and this past spring.

"She has a smooth, flowing stride that allows her to cover a lot of ground quickly," Wheeler says. "On each of her finds, she pointed with extremely desirable style. She carries her tail and head high as she runs, giving her a better opportunity to catch the scent of birds."

Liz, who also was bred by Giuliano, was sired by 10XCH Chasehill Little Bud out of Richfield Kate's Candy. Wheeler, who has been involved in the sport since 1983, started Liz on birds, trained her and has handled her in the four hourlong horseback stakes in which they've competed.

Their finish at Mingo Junction is Wheeler's 13th placement in amateur championships with seven dogs. "Liz has high drive and spirit," he says. "She is very willing to please her handler and takes well to training. She has a lot of potential."

Both Pointers are fed *Purina Pro Plan* Performance Formula.