

PURINA

Today's Breeder

A Nestlé Purina Publication Dedicated to the Needs of Canine Enthusiasts

Issue 77



BREEDER PROFILE

Jokuba Basenjjs and
Chinese Shar-Pei

A Family Tradition
Parent Club Health Conference
Ringside at Westminster



2012 National Specialties

at the Purina Event Center

Event	Date
American Belgian Malinois Club*	April 11 - 15
United Doberman Club	April 19 - 25
United States Australian Shepherd Association	April 21 - 27
Alapaha Blue-Blood Bulldog Association**	April 28
Japanese Chin Club of America	April 28 - May 1
Irish Wolfhound Club of America*	April 30 - May 3
Kuvasz Club of America	May 3
Irish Water Spaniel Club of America*	May 8 - 11
Miniature Australian Shepherd Club of America	May 9 - 13
American Rottweiler Club	May 19 - 27
Australian Terrier Club of America	May 30 - June 3
Saluki Club of America**	June 5 - 9
Norwich Terrier Club of America	June 15
Tibetan Terrier Club of America***	June 15 - 17
Golden Retriever Club of America	Sept. 3 - 8
Finnish Spitz Club of America	Sept. 20
United States Neopolitan Mastiff Club	Sept. 21 - 23
English Springer Spaniel Field Trial Association	Sept. 25 - 29
Australian Cattle Dog Club of America**	Oct. 7 - 12
Labrador Retriever Club	Oct. 9 - 12

*Portion of event will be held outdoors.

** Event will be held outdoors.

*** This event will take place at the Hilton St. Louis Frontenac, with agility competition to be held at Purina Farms.

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4 THE WHOLE JOKUBA

A Basenji lover for 24 years, Russella S. Bowen stumbled onto the breed when looking for a canine running companion. A self-described hobby breeder of Basenjjs and Chinese Shar-Pei, Russella found her passion in dogs. Today, she is a professional all-breed handler, who lives by the motto, "Do what you love, love what you do."

14 RINGSIDE AT WESTMINSTER

A Pekingese named "Malachy," along with his owner-handler David Fitzpatrick, is etched in the record books as the winner of the 136th Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show, the first sponsored by *Purina Pro Plan*. He is the sixth consecutive Best in Show winner fed *Pro Plan*.

20 A FAMILY TRADITION

Families who produce conformation champions, from breeding to Best in Show, have a special bond. They share long hours, many miles and important decisions in a family life that revolves around the kennel, the road and the ring. They share responsibilities that cultivate the future of the sport.

28 A PIPELINE TO CANINE HEALTH RESEARCH

The eighth biennial Canine Health Foundation National Parent Club Canine Health Conference brought together leading researchers and health liaisons. Presentations included updates on canine cancer and discoveries of genetic mutations.

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On Our Cover

GCH C-Quest Jokuba Zensational is a 2-year-old male Basenji co-owned by Russella Bowen, Cindy Russell and Nicolas Pineiro. "Zen" was co-bred by Bowen and Russell. Cover photo by Adam Williams. See story on page 4.



GCH C-Quest Jokuba Zensational ("Zen"), a 2-year-old male Basenji, races playfully in the backyard of the home of breeder-owner-handler Russella Bowen.



The Whole Jokuba

STORY BY BARBARA FAWVER | PHOTOS BY ADAM WILLIAMS

The momentum builds as a black-and-white Basenji named "Zen" sprints after a gray squirrel that has hastily scampered up an oak tree in pursuit of safety. Teased by the squirrel's swift movement and swishing tail, Zen's burst of energy is reminiscent of a fast-trotting racehorse, albeit a small, 25-pound one.

"I call it the 'Basenji 500,'" says breeder-owner-handler Russella S. Bowen, describing the backyard romp that Zen and her other Basenjis enjoy daily.

Watching her current homebred Special run effortlessly, his black coat glistening in the sunlight, Russella smiles proudly.

"Zen is absolutely prom gorgeous," she says.

Though black Basenjis traditionally have not been as popular in show rings as the chestnut red, brindle and tricolor hounds, Russella is undeterred. "Zen is a great Basenji who just happens to be black," she says.

A Basenji lover for 24 years, Russella's passion for the ancient African hunting breed dates to her college days, when she sought a canine running companion. Due to having frequent migraine headaches, she was sold on Basenjis when she learned they don't bark, rather they yodel distinctively when they are happy.

GCH C-Quest Jokuba Zensational is the seventh generation

of Jokuba Basenjjs that Russella has bred since 1997. Owned by Russella, Cindy Russell and Nicolas Pineiro, Zen completed his AKC championship in four shows at 7 months old. He took Best of Breed and a Hound Group Four at his first show. At the 2011 AKC National Championship, Russella led Zen to a Bred-By Exhibitor Hound Group Two. A Jokuba relative, Multi-BIS AM/RUS/MEX/INTL GCH Kazor-Jokuba's American Treasure ("Nicky"), won Best of Breed handled by owner Pineiro of Moscow.

A perfectionist who thrives on overachievement, Russella concedes, "I tend to get caught up in the little details and sometimes forget the whole package."

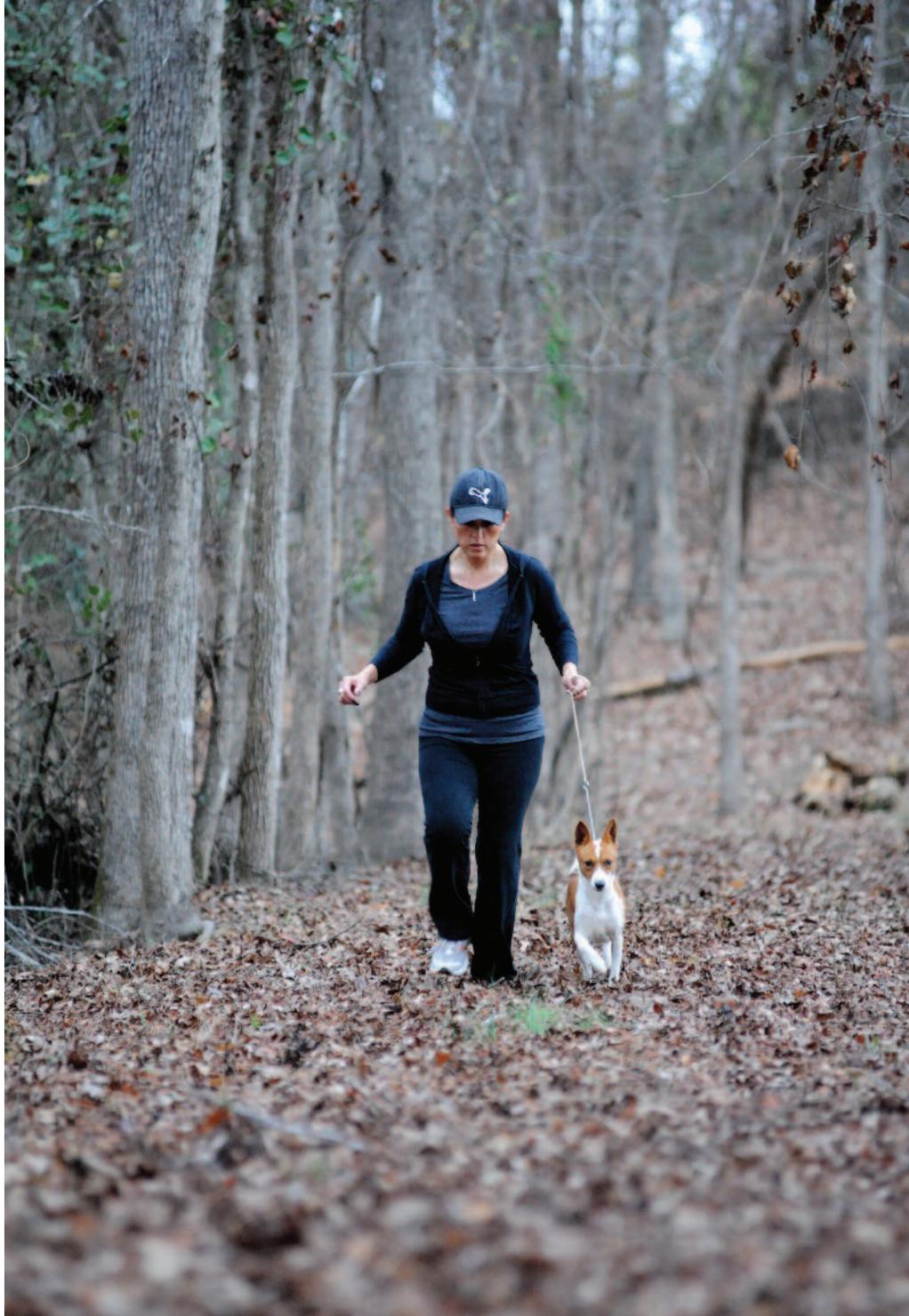
Her co-breeders, Russell of C-Quest Basenjjs and Kristen Marshall of Redmarsh Basenjjs, have helped transform her. "Cindy has helped me look outside the box when breeding," Russella says. "We study pedigrees and look for a dog's virtues before the flaws. She has taught me not to forget the whole package."

"Thanks to Kristen, who twisted my arm to start running our dogs in lure coursing, Jokuba has produced four generations of well-rounded Dual Champions."

Russella's ranch-style home, guesthouse and kennel on 24 acres in rural Lugoff, S.C., provide easy access to dog shows along the Eastern Seaboard and support her work as a professional all-breed dog handler. She lives by her motto, "Do what you love, love what you do."

"I love showing the dogs," says Russella. "Sighthounds are my specialty, but I especially have fun winning with dogs that are challenges. You have to get into their heads and figure out what makes them click. My goals are to present the dogs to the best of their abilities. Making my clients happy makes me happy."

Back to the Basenji 500, Zen stops abruptly and focuses on the upper boughs of the oak tree, where the gray squirrel leaps from one limb to the next. Zen, his rear legs firmly on the ground, balances his weight with his front legs on the tree trunk, ready to spring into action. His wrinkled forehead, tightly curled tail and small, hooded ears are trademarks of the Basenji. His easygoing temperament and beautiful breed type are trademarks of Jokuba Basenjjs.



An Image of an Ideal Basenji

After buying her first pet Basenji, a chestnut red male named "Scribbles," from a breeder's newspaper ad in 1988, Russella subscribed to *The Basenji Magazine* and started studying show dogs. Though her interest in dog shows was piqued, she says, "I created a monster in Scribbles by letting him walk all over me."

Despite his pure pet qualities and spoiled behavior, Scribbles was a precursor for Russella's next two male Basenjjs, "Rukuba" and "Jock," bred by the late Katherine Sullivan of Polk County, Fla. Coincidentally, their litter was born the day Scribbles died.

Russella jogs with GCH Kazor-Jokuba's American Treasure ("Nicky"), an international-winning Basenji, on a two-mile trail around her property that was recently built by Emerson Villegas.



Russella is shown with, from left: Nicky winning Best of Opposite Sex in 2011 at Westminster; "Hunter" capturing Best of Breed at the 2009 BCOA National; and "Klassy," the 2006 BCOA National Specialty winner, taking Best in Show at the Clemson (S.C.) Kennel Club Dog Show.

"I decided I was going to show Rukuba," says Russella. "Our first weekend at a dog show, he won three of four days, picking up 12 points and both Majors. I had caught the fever."

Just starting out, Russella was impressed with the ring maneuvers of the late professional all-breed handler Davin McAteer and "Boss" (CH Calaz Executive of Embasi), who in his time was the top-winning Basenji. "My goal was to show Basenjis like Davin," she says. "He was flawless. He would put two 6-foot leads together, and Boss would move effortlessly in front of him. Boss was a big mover and a great showman."

After finishing Rukuba's conformation championship, Russella handled him to Senior Courser (SC), Canine Good Citizen (CGC) and Therapy Dog

International (TDI) titles. Russella gained hands-on experience training Rukuba, while absorbing knowledge about the breed.

She pored over the breed standard and put together an image of an ideal Basenji. "The dogs from the past were more balanced and possessed the finer details of what makes a good Basenji," she says. "The Basenji is a moderate breed, with a short back, level topline and square outline. It is important to pay attention to the outline and structure, as correct carriage requires correct structure."

While Rukuba was a wonderful show dog, Russella realized "his front was not as ideal as they should be," she says. "I saw this from the beginning and knew I had to work on fronts."

In 1997, Russella bred Rukuba (CH Sir Red Rukuba Thunderboomer, SC, CGC, TDI) to CH UnderCover Starlet Rusty, a female from the UnderCover & Escapade Basenji bloodline of Gale Whitehurst and Steve Berry. "This was my foundation litter, the beginning of Jokuba Basenjjs," Russella says.

"Rukuba had the most incredible temperament for a male Basenji. It is where the temperaments in Jokuba Basenjjs come from. That litter made Rukuba the Stud Dog winner at the 2002 BCOA (Basenji Club of America) National, where he was shown with his daughters, 'Nicchi' (DC Jokuba UnderCover Ab initio, SC, BBHR) and 'Alibi' (CH Jokuba UnderCover Alibi, BBHR)."

In creating her kennel prefix of Jokuba, Russella combined Rukuba's and Jock's names, an alternative since her first choice, Rukuba, was taken. Nicchi and Alibi from her foundation litter would give her many finished Jokuba champions. A couple of gen-

Russella walks DC Jokuba-Meisterhaus E. Pluribus Unum, SDHR ("Unum") to the inside kennel after a day of fresh air outside.



erations later would come the 2009 BCOA National Specialty Best of Breed winner, BISS DC C-Quest's Hide And Sneak, SC, CGC ("Hunter"), only the second Dual Champion Basenji ever to win.

That same year, Russella took Winners Bitch from the Bred-By Exhibitor class at the National Specialty of her second hobby breed, the Chinese Shar-Pei, with "Miranda" (CH Jokuba's Miranda Rules). Miranda's littermate brother, "Trebek" (CH Panache Double Jeopardy), took Winners Dog from the Bred-By Exhibitor class at the same Specialty, handled by co-breeder Tami Luddeke.

Though she has bred more Basenji litters, and thus had more overall success with Basenjis, Russella notes that Miranda's dam, "Eva" (BISS CH

time I laid my hands on 'Klassy,' let alone handled her," Russella says.

Multi-BIS/Multi-BISS DC Klassic's Ms. Mata Hauri, SC, won Best of Breed at the 2006 BCOA National and would become the top-winning female Basenji, after notching a place in the record book as the No. 1 Basenji in the country from 2006 to 2009. When Klassy retired, she had won seven Bests in Show and two Bests of Breed at the Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show, all with Russella handling her.

The Checks and Balances

Russella had come a long way from her college days at the University of Central Florida in Orlando, where she majored in political science/prelaw and owned a pet Basenji, to campaigning Klassy and Hunter as nationally ranked Basenjis. When she was growing up, her parents, Russell and Ercelia "Herce" Bowen, enjoyed having dogs as pets, but none were show dogs. After college, Russella supported herself designing clothing, specializing in exercise and boutique styles.

Her love for Basenjis grew with each litter she bred, as she took to heart her dogs' health and well-being. She diligently tested for hip dysplasia, eye diseases, thyroid conditions, and Fanconi syndrome, an inherited renal condition. "Before the mutation for Fanconi syndrome was discovered, I was devastated when one of my Basenjis came down with it. I almost quit breeding," she says.

In 2009, she was named a Breeder of Merit by the American Kennel Club (AKC), recognizing her efforts to produce healthy, beautiful dogs. The designation honors those who have competed for five years in AKC events and finished four champions and who health screen their breeding stock and register their puppies.

When a male Basenji out of Nicchi showed promise, Russella hired a professional handler in 2002 to campaign "Unum" (DC Jokuba-Meisterhaus E. Pluribus Unum, SDHR). It was a turning point. "I learned that Basenjis are not a good breed to send out with handlers who do not have experience with them," she says. "I decided to always show my own dogs."



Russella holds "Gabby" and Zen. In the background are the outdoor kennels.



Visiting the Jokuba kennel, CH Remarsh Bahama Breeze, bred by Kristen Marshall, shows the wrinkled forehead and tightly curled tail that are distinguishing features of the breed.

Asia's Jokuba Whiptastic Fantastic), is a littermate of the top-winning Shar-Pei in history, CH Asia's Excalibur Whiplash. All seven puppies from Eva's first litter became Specialty winners and contributed to Eva's tying the breed record as the top-producing dam. Eva's second litter has produced multiple Specialty winners as well as Group winners.

Hunter was the second Basenji Russella handled that won the National Specialty. In 2006, she agreed to handle a tricolor bitch, bred by Jeff Gillespie and Sue Kite, for Debbie Hauri of Mata Hauri Basenjies at the National Specialty. "It was the first

"I learned that Basenjies are not a good breed to send out with handlers who do not have experience with them," she says. "I decided to always show my own dogs."

Russella Bowen

“I never breed to a dog just because he is winning. Rather, I look for dogs that complement my breeding program and the bitch I am breeding.”

Russella Bowen

Russella’s poise handling dogs subsequently led to her success with Klassy and Hunter. A marriage to professional handler Aaron Wilkerson, who won Best in Show with the Beagle “Uno” at the 2008 Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show, cemented her love for dogs and handling. “I was helping raise and train the dogs we were showing,” says Russella. “I helped care for and groom the dogs.”

Her friendships with Cindy Russell and Kristen Marshall blossomed into a co-breeding partnership. “Our lines mix beautifully,” Russella says. “You’ve got to surround yourself with a good team. Cindy and Kristen provide the checks and balances. Our goals are the same, but our means are different. They also help me keep the volume of dogs down and the quality high.”

Carefully planned litters, bred every year or two, usually are whelped at the home of a co-breeder

since Russella travels frequently. “I always breed forward,” she says. “I am not a fan of repeat breedings. They don’t contribute anything new to your breeding program or the gene pool. It takes confidence to try something new. The trick is knowing where you stand and being honest about what you have.

“I believe in linebreeding, but you also have to be able to go out and find pieces of dogs that you need to add to your line. I

never breed to a dog just because he is winning. Rather, I look for dogs that complement my breeding program and the bitch I am breeding. It takes patience to piece dogs together, one generation after another.”

The first Jokuba linebred litter, whelped in 2002, was a nephew-to-aunt breeding, sired by Unum out of Alibi. The results gave Russella “Spike” (DC Jokuba-Asia’s The Reign of Freedom, SC, SDHR), and “Freedom” (DC Jokuba-Asia’s Let Freedom Ring, SC). Spike would sire Hunter, the 2009 National Specialty winner, and Freedom would produce Nicky, the international champion Basenji and breed winner at the 2011 AKC National Championship.



Zen is groomed at home prior to a dog show.



Ercelia “Herce” Bowen, Russella’s mother, prepares *Pro Plan* for the dogs.

Designed for Individual Attention

Russella’s new venture as a professional all-breed handler is possible because of the live-in help she receives from her mother, Herce, and her mother’s boyfriend, Emerson Villegas, who care for the dogs when she travels to shows. Her mother, a native of Peru, reconnected with Villegas, a childhood friend, after her husband died in 2006.

Russella’s current client-owned Specials are: “Monte” (GCH Solivia’s Mojave of Marsuz), a Pointer; “Sara-Beth” (GCH Burmack’s Whole Lotta Love), a Standard Manchester Terrier; “Chesney” (CH Dazzle’s You Had Me at Hello), a Smooth

Chihuahua; and "Jason" (GCH Mystic Wood Golden Fleede of Dapper Dan), a Dalmatian. Zen, the black-and-white Basenji, completes her Specials.

Longtime clients, Burmack Manchester breeders Jim Burrows and Pat Mackesey, will be sending Russella another Toy Manchester Terrier later this year, having recently retired "Rosie," (BIS/BISS GCH Burmack's Rosie V Ervmore), who Russella handled to Best of Breed at the 2011 AKC National Championship. "They send me their dogs when they are young to finish and then special," she says.

Russella, her mother and Emerson share their lives with four house dogs who receive royal treatment: Nicchi, who is 14 years old, "Diva," a 1-year-old female Basenji from the first litter Zen sired, Miranda, the Chinese Shar-Pei who is 4 years old, and "Cyndi," a hairless Chinese Crested from handler Kay Paiser who will be her mother's dog when she finishes her championship.

Most Basenjis go to hand-selected, loving pet homes once they become champions and after they are bred. "Basenjis are not good kennel dogs," explains Russella. "They are headstrong. Things must happen on their terms and be their idea. You're just along for the ride."

As for their personalities, Russella says, "Each one is different. They are unique."

The food Russella feeds each one is unique as well. "Not every dog eats the same food," she says. "Puppies and bitches are fed *Pro Plan* Performance Formula. My older dogs are on *Pro Plan* Weight Management. I have a client's dog that cannot eat chicken, so I feed him *Pro Plan* Sensitive Skin & Stomach Formula because it is made with salmon. I love *Pro Plan* because my dogs' coats glisten, and it is balanced to provide complete nutrition."

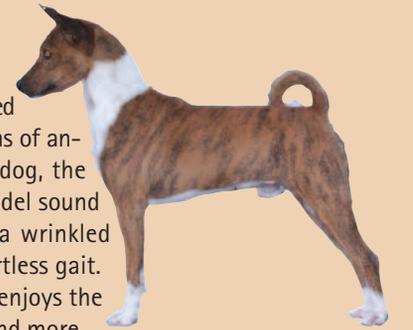
The Jokuba kennel setup in the house's lower level is designed to provide individual attention. Stainless-steel wall crates are used at nighttime.



The Barkless African Dog

The Basenji is one of the oldest breeds, believed to have been given as gifts to the Pharaohs of ancient Egypt. An intelligent, prized hunting dog, the Basenji does not bark, rather he makes a yodel sound when happy. His distinctive features are a wrinkled forehead, tightly curled tail and swift, effortless gait.

Jokuba Basenji breeder Russella Bowen enjoys the aloofness of the sighthound breed. "More and more Basenjis are competing in lure coursing, obedience and agility, where solid temperament is essential. Basenjis are not a breed for everyone. People who are interested in the breed should contact local breeders and spend time with them first," she says.



CH Akuaba In Corduroy, SDHR ("Roy")

Spacious outdoor kennel runs, each with a heavy plastic house and playground structure, provide fresh air and exercise during the day. One by one,

the dogs are walked outdoors each morning. In addition, they run freely every day in fenced exercise yards, coursing the Basenji 500.

The clean, tidy kennel reflects Russella's personality and desire for order. "I tend to put 110 percent into everything I do. I like perfection, almost to a fault," she says.

The day before leaving for a dog show, Russella usually is busy grooming dogs. Show dogs are bathed weekly, with their coats blow-dried to push out dead hair. "Clean hair grows hair," says Russella.

The family often spends evenings downstairs in the kennel sitting area watching television, with some of the dogs nestled beside them. Zen finds his place beside Russella.

"Zen is a taller Spike," she muses, reflecting on the Jokuba family resemblance. As the black Basenji's Specials career kicks into full throttle, the Basenji 500 and the elusive gray squirrel will have to wait. ■

Left: Posing with the house dogs, Russella is shown with "Nicchi," a Basenji, and "Miranda," a Chinese Shar-Pei. Her mother Herce holds "Cyndi," a hairless Chinese Crested, and Emerson holds "Diva," a Basenji.



A Winning Attitude

KC's Shrimboot, owned by Ken Sauer of Cypress, Texas, is a 7-year-old Pointer and four-time National Champion.

KC's Shrimboot cut another notch in a shining career when breeder-owner-handler Ken Sauer of KC's Kennels in Cypress, Texas, ran the 7-year-old Pointer at the National Bird Hunters Association (NBHA) Free-for-All Championship last spring. When Sauer and "Karl" arrived at the National Championship, the dog was a three-time National Champion. When they left, Karl had bolstered his reputation with a fourth National Champion title.

In the hourlong final series near Mayflower, Ark., Karl ran to the front and pointed a covey of quail along a fence at the 13-minute mark. He pointed again at the 29-minute mark. Sauer's wife and scout, Melissa Sauer, sat atop her horse on a hill in the distance, waving her cap to signal Karl was in the area of birds. He made his second and final find in a briar thicket.

"It was picturesque, seeing them out there on that hilltop," Ken Sauer says. "Karl is a big-running

dog who loves to be at the front. He has been such a treat since the day he was born, though a bit of an overachiever. He didn't always run this big, but he has given me a lesson never to give up on a dog."

Reflecting on the Free-for-All win several months later, Sauer recalled the exact date with fondness. "Karl won it on March 12. *That* is a date I can remember," he says, with a laugh. "It was our 28th wedding anniversary. Karl helped make that one extra special."

Karl was sired by Honky Tonk Excursion ("Mickey"), who was sired by NBHA Hall of Fame Champion Honky Tonk Attitude. Sauer owned Karl's dam, KC's Blackrock ("Jill"), who was out of two NBHA Hall of Famers, Rock Acre Blackhawk and Fiddlin' Rocky Boy Female, before selling her to a hunting guide.

A white-and-liver Pointer, Karl is the brightest star in Sauer's KC's Kennels, reaping consistent success that shows the owner's dedication to the sport. An amateur handler, Sauer has hunted his whole life. He started competing in field trials in 1996.

The thrill of proving the dogs' abilities in com-

"Karl is a big-running dog who loves to be at the front. He didn't always run this big, but he has given me a lesson never to give up on a dog."

Ken Sauer

petition hooked Sauer, who breeds, raises, starts and trains his dogs. He enters six to eight trials a year. Over the past 15 years, he has won around 60 or 70 placements, 35 of them with Karl.

Before winning the Free-for-All, Karl won the American Bird Hunters Association (ABHA) National Open Championship in 2007 as a 3-year-old. The next year he won the NBHA National Open Invitational. He won the ABHA National Open in 2009.

Besides the four National titles, Karl has won the NBHA Western Regional Championship and was Runner-Up Champion at the ABHA Central Regional Championship. He was named the Texas State Open Shooting Dog of the Year in 2010, and then the NBHA Open Shooting Dog of the Year in 2011, when Sauer was named the NBHA Open Shooting Dog Handler of the Year and overall NBHA Open Handler of the Year.

"I thought after winning the Free-for-All I would retire Karl, but I don't know now," Sauer says. "He's so much fun, so honest, such a competitor at every trial."

The National Open requires dogs to qualify by placing in a trial during the past year. The Free-for-All welcomes all comers, and last year the field included 32 dogs.

"I've had as many as seven dogs compete in consecutive runs during a daylong trial," Sauer says. "I have 11 dogs but currently compete with four, including Karl."

An up-and-coming dog who is showing promise in trials is 2-year-old KC's Learjett ("Jett"), who was sired by Karl. Jett was the No. 5 derby dog in the NBHA last year. KC's Fred Too ("Fred"), out of a Karl half sister, will get his first chance to compete soon. "We'll see if he has the motor to run in trials," Sauer says. "If not, he'll still make a fine hunting dog."

As well as Karl has done in field trials, and as much promise as Jett and Fred show, Sauer has priorities beyond winning. "My philosophy is if you can thump your chance at the end of the day and say, 'That was a good run,' then you've accomplished what you set out to do," he says.

The walking trials offer exercise that benefits Sauer's back, which has suffered from two surgeries in recent years. The trials also provide opportunities for him and his wife to be together.



On occasions when Sauer gets too busy with his work as a partner and vice president for Hi-Tech Electric in Houston, he sends dogs to professional trainer and guide Bill Anderson in Marshall, Texas. This past summer, he sent Jett and Fred for training with Travis Gelhaus in Hazlett, Saskatchewan, Canada. Otherwise, he's a proud owner who puts all the work into his dogs and enjoys what he gets out of them.

"At the end of the day, if you did everything you set out to do, regardless if you're picked by the judge, you're a winner," says Sauer. "You prepare for the trial and put a good dog out there, and that gives you a chance for good things to happen."

Karl, like all Sauer's dogs, is fed *Purina Pro Plan* Performance Formula. ■

Sauer is an amateur handler who was named the NBHA Open Handler of the Year in 2011, capping a superb year of competing in field trials with "Karl." Sauer's wife, Melissa, scouts for the team.

Proving 'The Total Dog'

Right: A 5-year-old Doberman Pinscher, called "Enya," won the Total Dog Award at the 2011 UKC Gateway Nationals.

Through a second-floor wall of windows, people looked down at events under way at the United Kennel Club (UKC) Gateway Nationals last October. The Founders Room in the Purina Event Center at Purina Farms in Gray Summit, Mo., provided a sweeping view of agility, rally obedience and conformation simultaneously in motion in the Great Hall below.

Through the bank of windows on the opposite side, one could see exhibitors and dogs bustling about the benching area in the Gateway Hall. Outside the Purina Event Center, terrier racing, dock jumping and lure coursing stretched across Purina Farms' 300-plus acres, with room to spare.

The Gateway Nationals, introduced in 2010 and one of the first national events to be held at the new Purina Event Center, encompasses so many events that most participants are not aware of all that is happening at any given moment. Many competitors, however, are registered in multiple events. Such diversity and inclusivity is the mission of the UKC with its Total Dog Award.

"We need to judge the whole dog, not just beauty," says UKC president and owner Wayne Cavanaugh, of Kalamazoo, Mich. "We're known for promoting a casual environment where families compete with their purebred companions. When they win, it can be overwhelming. Some people shed tears of joy and fall on their knees, hugging their dogs. It's those moments that make the UKC registry amazing to me."

Formed in 1898, the UKC is the largest performance dog registry in the world, with registered dogs from 25 countries and all 50 U.S. states. More than 15,000 licensed events are held annually, with 60 percent of those directed at testing hunting ability and instinct. Events include coonhound nite hunts and bench shows, hunt tests for retrieving breeds, Beagle field



trials and bench shows, obedience, dock jumping, lure coursing, terrier racing, and conformation.

The Total Dog event requires anyone interested in competing for Total Dog Best in Show to qualify his or her dog in a performance event and earn a conformation award in the same weekend. Around 700 dogs competed in events at last fall's Gateway Nationals, with 66 dogs competing for the Total Dog Award. That's 200 more entries overall than in 2010. Cavanaugh deems the Gateway Nationals and the Total Dog event highly successful.

Part of the UKC's growth comes from periodically adding new breeds to its registry of more than 300 recognized breeds. Breeds are assigned to groups according to their function. The UKC Groups are: Guardian Dog, Scenthound, Sighthound &



Owner Gale Frey of Frisco, Texas, poses with her Silken Windhound, "Enzo." The breed was recognized by the United Kennel Club in March 2011.

Pariah Dog, Gun Dog, Northern Breed, Terrier, Herding Dog, and Companion Dog.

A new breed at the Gateway Nationals was the Silken Windhound, which was admitted into the UKC registry in March 2011. Vicki Frey of Frisco, Texas, was excited to compete in lure coursing and conformation with her Windhounds, including CCH Gryffyn's Aeyrie Hip to Be Square ("Enzo").

"Being in the UKC is wonderful," she says. "I'm thrilled to see so many performance events in one place. I want to try them all."



Ryan Pingel, left, and his wife, Karyn, and son, Aaron, handle their American Hairless Terriers in the conformation ring during breed judging at the Gateway Nationals. The Pingels also competed in lure coursing and terrier racing (inset photo).

Karyn Pingel, her husband, Ryan, and their teenage son, Aaron, made the trip from San Antonio, Fla., with their American Hairless Terriers. "There are no terrier racing clubs in the central Midwest," she says. "Jack Russell Terrier racing is well-entrenched here, but not racing for non-Jack Russells. We brought our equipment with hopes of giving more people a chance to learn about participating in the sport."

The Pingel family also entered their dogs in conformation and lure coursing. USCH UFR GRCH 'PR' WMK's Outlander ("Gavyn"), a 1-year-old spotted male, competed in all three events.

Melissa Ness of San Diego handled her Chesapeake Bay Retriever, UAG1 UJCH UCD UWPO UGWPC1 URO2 Project Treetop's Smokin' Secret, RA, CGC, TT, in altered conformation, rally obe-

dience, agility and dock jumping. Though "Smoke" is neutered, making him ineligible to compete for the Total Dog Award, he completed his United Rally Obedience 2, United Agility 1 and United Ultimate Jumper Champion titles.

It was Ness' first Gateway Nationals experience. "Purina Farms is amazing, and the UKC Gateway Nationals is one of the best events I have been to," she says. "Words can't describe the facility itself. I can't wait to return."

Smoke also completed requirements to earn the UKC Ultra Dog designation, awarded to spayed or neutered dogs that earn titles in obedience, weight pulling and agility. His dock jumping prowess is likewise noteworthy. Smoke is the UKC world record holder since jumping 29'1" at the 2010 UKC Premier in Richmond, Ind.

When the Gateway Nationals concluded, it was a 5-year-old Doberman Pinscher, UCD URO2 UAGI GRCH Vondura's Black Magic Woman, who won Total Dog Best in Show. Handled by owner Karen Taylor of Palatine, Ill., "Enya" won the breed in conformation and qualified in obedience to be eligible. Enya also completed her third leg in obedience and earned a United Companion Dog title.

"I was overwhelmed when she won Best in Show and was named the Total Dog," Taylor says. "I think the Total Dog concept is wonderful. For those of us who compete in more than one performance event, it's a great opportunity to let the dogs show their stuff as all-around athletes.

"I know Enya is good at what she does," adds Taylor, "but to win Best in Show in the Total Dog event at the UKC Gateway Nationals proves it to others." ■

For more information or to schedule an event at the Purina Event Center, please contact Kaitie Flamm, Purina Event Center Manager, at 888-688-PETS (888-688-7387), or by e-mail at kaitie.flamm@purina.nestle.com. Please visit www.purinaproclub.com/eventcenter to learn more about the Purina Event Center.



Melissa Ness of San Diego watches her Chesapeake Bay Retriever, "Smoke," launch from the platform at the Incredible Dog Arena at Purina Farms. Smoke is the UKC world record holder in dock jumping, achieving a distance of 29'1" in 2010.





Ringside at Westminster



MARY BLOOM/WGC

ADAM WILLIAMS/TODAY'S BREEDER

David Fitzpatrick poses "Malachy" in the silver bowl trophy just moments after the Pekingese won Best in Show. Left: David and Malachy take their turn in the spotlight.

Among the glories that come with winning the world-famous Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show is first-name recognition that is tied to the show's widespread media reach. Only moments after Best in Show judge Cindy Vogels nodded to the Pekingese and his owner-handler David Fitzpatrick, Madison Square Garden in New York City erupted into a frenzy of activity as photographers jockeyed for position to capture the best shots of "Malachy" in the famous silver bowl trophy.

The win culminated an already noteworthy career for the 4-year-old silver-brindle Pekingese. GCH Palacegarden Malachy, who dominated the Toy Group as the No. 1 dog for the past two years, won his 115th Best in Show Feb. 14. His name is now etched in history as the winner of the 136th Westminster All-Breed Dog Show.

The 11-pound Pekingese, handled by a true Pekingese enthusiast with 41 years' experience in the breed, was unfazed by the excitement. Malachy's dignified, graceful stroll exuded the proper style of the Chinese Lion Dog, as the breed is known due to its heavy mane.

"Malachy is a super dog who had a stupendous night," said Vogels, who was sequestered from the dog show until her turn to judge. "He conforms to the breed's standard of excellence, and tonight he was flawless."

Co-owners Iris Love of New York and Sandra Middlebrooks of Magnolia Springs, Ala., promptly joined Fitzpatrick and Malachy on the arena floor. Broad smiles expressed their joy.

"I had high expectations for Malachy, and he hasn't disappointed," said Fitzpatrick, who hand-picked the Peke after watching a video of him as a puppy. "Malachy has lived with me since he was 5 months old, so we've had nearly four years to develop a close bond.



LISA GROFF-FELIOTT/WWC

The seven Group winners made an impressive lineup for Best in Show judge Cindy Vogels. This year's show included 2,000 dogs — all AKC champions — representing 185 breeds and varieties.

of 10 champions from five litters and the grand-sire of five champions. A trip to the U.K. in 2008 to judge a championship show introduced Fitzpatrick to the Palacegarden Pekingese. He put up all three Palacegarden dogs entered in the show as class winners.

Describing Malachy as an old-fashioned Pekingese, Fitzpatrick explained, "His silver-brindle coat and big, rough mane give him a patterned coat much like the Peke used to have. He also has

That connection is important in how well he has done in the ring. Malachy loves people, and it shows."

Bred at the Palacegarden Pekingese kennel of Jim and Jean Smith in the United Kingdom, Malachy is himself a sire

a beautiful, high tail set, broad chest, short, thick neck and large head. His shorter coat on his hips and flanks enhance the classic pear shape."

It was the first year that *Purina Pro Plan* sponsored the Westminster Dog Show. Malachy is the sixth consecutive *Pro Plan*-fed Westminster Best in Show winner.

The previous *Pro Plan*-fed Best in Show winners are: "Hickory," the Scottish Deerhound from 2011; "Sadie," the Scottish Terrier from 2010; "Stump," the Sussex Spaniel from 2009; "Uno," the Beagle from 2008; and "James," the English Springer Spaniel from 2007.

The Westminster Kennel Club is the oldest organization in the country dedicated to the sport of purebred dogs. It is the second-longest continuously held sporting event in the country behind the Kentucky Derby. This year's show included 2,000 dogs representing 185 breeds and varieties. ■

The 'Voice of Westminster'

In his usual dignified style, David Frei works the press room at the Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show like a diplomat. No question too simple, he takes all the queries, even those from reporters attending their first dog show. Their deadlines are his opportunity to promote "America's Dog Show."

Director of Communications for the Westminster Kennel Club since 2003, Frei takes an insider's approach to media relations. After all, he once bred Afghan Hounds, handling one of his own to the lofty position of No. 1 in the breed in 1989.

Perhaps best known as the "Voice of Westminster" on the live broadcast of the dog show seen by millions worldwide, Frei offers candid tidbits on the breed winners, occasionally mentioning the handler or the breeder. His knowledge of the breeds is more than skin deep.

His background in public relations — Frei wears a gigantic ring from his days doing PR for the Denver Broncos in the late '70s — prompted Westminster officials to ask him to interview for the TV commentator's job. He got the job in 1990.

Several years later, Frei and actor John O'Hurley became co-hosts of the televised "National Dog Show Presented by Purina." Following the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade, the program has run since 2002.

Off camera, Frei is passionate about his work as founder and president of Angel On a Leash, the therapy dog program he created as a charitable activity for the Westminster Kennel Club in 2004 and is now an independent 501(c)(3) charity. A hands-on advocate, Frei frequents New York hospitals, particularly the Manhattan Ronald McDonald House where his wife, Cheryl Frei, is the chaplain, with his own dogs. First, it was Brittneys, "Teigh" and "Belle," and more recently, "Angel," a 4-year-old

Cavalier King Charles Spaniel, and "Grace," a 2-year-old Brittany.

Westminster Best in Show winners like "Rufus," the Colored Bull Terrier from 2006, "James," the English Springer Spaniel from 2007, and "Uno," the Beagle from 2008, have enriched Angel On a Leash through their participation. "Their celebrity status has literally helped open doors for us and brought an incredible public awareness," Frei says.

As a testament to the program and the healing power of therapy dogs, Frei wrote a book, "Angel on a Leash: Therapy Dogs and the Lives They Touch," published last year. Inspirational accounts have prompted people to get involved, and a portion of sales benefits the program.

In the book's introduction Frei encourages readers to stop and hug their dog. In fact, he says, "I hope you will be moved to put down the book and hug your dog at numerous places along the way."

As the interviews were completed and the last stories filed following this year's Westminster Dog Show, you can be sure that is exactly what Frei did. He headed home to hug Angel and Grace.



Mary Carillo and David Frei, co-hosts of the live broadcast of the Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show, introduce "Hickory," the 2011 winner, at the start of the program.

The Breeder Behind the Scenes

The smiling Purina representative handing out bouquets and posing in photographs with the Westminster Group winners was nervous. Her homebred Dalmatian, "Ian" (GCH Spotlights Ruffian), had just won the Non-Sporting Group, and she might distract him from stacking properly.

She had no need to worry. Professional handler Michael Scott skillfully posed the handsome 4-year-old male, even with breeder Connie Wagner standing not too far behind him. "It was an unbelievable honor that Ian won," Wagner says. "I was very proud and excited that he rose to the occasion."

The No. 1 Dalmatian in the country last year, Ian also won the breed at Westminster in 2011. Wagner, who lives in Ocala, Fla., finished Ian's AKC championship title when he was 13 months old, and then waited for him to mature to be campaigned as a Special. Barbara and Jim Lyons of Laguna Beach, Calif., who now own Ian, sent the Dalmatian to Scott last year.

Wagner has bred Dalmatians under the Spotlight kennel prefix since 1986. Ian's win

gives her three of the six Non-Sporting Group Firsts won by Dalmatians at Westminster. Her Dalmatian "Penny" (CH Spotlight Spectacular) won the Non-Sporting Group at Westminster in 1996 and 1997. The top-winning Dalmatian in history, with 66 Bests in Show, Penny also won four Bests of Breed at the Dalmatian Club of America National Specialty.

Wagner, who has worked 11 years for Purina, is Senior Manager of Con-

formation for the Breeder-Enthusiast Group. Her work takes her to dog shows across the country, where she talks to breeders about *Purina Pro Plan* brand dog food, offering suggestions on which formula to feed an individual dog or breed. She feeds her own Dalmatians *Pro Plan* Chicken & Rice Formula.

She remains loyal to the coaching breed that stole her heart as a 16-year-old. "Dalmatians should have an outgoing, friendly temperament," she says. "They also must have proper structure and overall balance to be able to run alongside a horse. They should have a floating gait."



Professional handler Michael Scott stacks "Ian" after the Dalmatian won the Non-Sporting Group. From left are: Purina Senior Manager of Conformation Connie Wagner, judge Randy Garren, Scott and Westminster representative James F. Stebbins.

'Hickory' Poster Sales Benefit Canine Health Research

A steady line of people patiently waiting their turn to buy her poster – and then get her autograph – illustrator Chris Duke couldn't help but be proud.

Sitting behind a 6-foot-long table at Madison Square Garden with a framed copy of the poster she created propped nearby on an easel, Duke smiled at each new face. A continuous line formed both days of the Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show.

Her pen, ink and watercolor image, titled "Hickory" after the Scottish Deerhound who won the 2011 Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show, was selected from 23 submissions as the official artwork to represent this year's show. Not only did the artwork appear on the poster, it also ran on the cover of the official dog show guide book and many other materials used to promote the show.

A bonus was that \$10,000, a portion of the poster sales, was donated to the AKC Canine Health Foundation. "I am happy to know that sales of my work are contributing to the important research of the Canine Health Foundation," says Duke, of New Hartford, Conn.

Likewise, the Foundation was pleased to receive the funding. "The AKC Canine Health Foundation is honored to have been selected by the Westminster Kennel Club as the canine charity at the show," says CEO Terry Warren. "The generous donation furthers our mission to prevent, treat and cure canine diseases for all dogs."

Describing the Westminster experience as humbling, Duke says, "I



Poster illustrator Chris Duke, right, poses with Canine Health Foundation representatives Lee Arnold and Terry Warren. A portion of sales from her poster benefitted the Foundation.

often have signed limited editions of my work, but I must say this was the best. I was delighted that people expressed so much appreciation for my artwork."

Duke has worked as an illustrator, creating artwork for advertisements and corporate annual reports, and for publications, including the *New York Times*, *People* and *Wall Street Journal*. She is the portrait artist for the Professional Golf Association Players' Tournament at Sawgrass held annually in Ponte Verde, Fla.

PPCP Champions Health, Education & Rescue

Purina representatives Candy Caciolo, second from left, and Ann Viklund, right, present Canine Health Foundation board president Lee Arnold and CEO Terry Warren a check representing half the 2011 earnings of the Purina Parent Club Partnership.

The Purina Parent Club Partnership (PPCP) Program, designed to increase its fund-raising support for canine health research, education and rescue each year, contributed \$454,514 in 2011, besting the 2010 contribution by more than \$10,000.

The funds were shared among the 178 participating national parent clubs and the AKC Canine Health Foundation. Altogether, Purina has donated more than \$4.3 million over the past 10 years through the PPCP Program. The program supports *Purina*

Pro Club members who declare support for their parent clubs and submit weight circles from bags of participating *Purina* brand dog foods.

Purina representatives Candy Caciolo and Ann Viklund presented a check for \$227,257 — half the total earnings — to Terry Warren, CEO of the Canine Health Foundation, and Lee Arnold, chairman of the board of directors, in February in New York during the Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show. The other half of the 2011 earnings was sent directly to parent clubs to be used for health research, education and rescue.

In accepting the donation, Warren said, “We are so grateful to Purina for supporting our research through the PPCP Program. This funding goes directly to the parent clubs’ donor advised funds, where they can determine which research to support. Over the past few years, the advances, particularly in regard to cancer research, have been amazing.”

Since its beginning in 1995, the Canine Health Foundation has provided more than \$33.3 million for canine health research and education programs. The funding has supported research that has led to numerous discoveries and contributed to greater understanding of canine diseases and in some instances human diseases.

Fanconi Mutation Breakthrough

A direct DNA test for Fanconi syndrome, developed last fall by researchers at the University of Missouri College of Veterinary Medicine, promises to make obsolete the kidney disease that has been the most common lethal inherited disease in Basenjis.

Before discovery of the gene mutation, and the subsequent development of the DNA test, a linked marker test enabled breeders to identify dogs likely to pass the mutation to their offspring as well as those likely to develop the disease. When the linked marker test was introduced in 2007, 7.2 percent of Basenjis were considered “probably affected” by the disease. In 2011, the number decreased to 3.2 percent.

“While we do not know how well the tested population of Basenjis represents the total population of the breed, we believe this decrease indicates that many Basenji breeders used the linked marker test to guide their breeding strategies,”



says Gary Johnson, D.V.M., Ph.D., associate professor of genetics.

Johnson, along with Fabiana Farias, Ph.D., a postdoctoral fellow in the Department of Veterinary Pathobiology, discovered the mutation for Fanconi syndrome last August after studying the disease for 15 years. Funding for the research was provided by the AKC Canine Health Foundation, the Basenji Club of America, the Basenji Health Endowment and the University of Missouri. Basenji owners contributed more than 2,300 DNA samples following the linked marker discovery.

"Basenji breeders have been following the progress of Dr. Johnson's research, so we certainly are pleased that the mutation has been found," says Kristen Marshall, D.V.M., co-chair of the Basenji Club of America health committee. "This test will help eliminate a devastating disease when breeders test their dogs and use the information responsibly."

Fanconi syndrome is an autosomal recessive disorder. Due to the late age of onset, most dogs have already produced offspring before they are recognized as being carriers or destined to become infected. Signs of the disease include excessive drinking and urination. Affected dogs have a defect in their renal tubules, which causes the kidneys to fail to properly reabsorb electrolytes and nutrients, instead spilling them into the urine. Untreated dogs may develop muscle wasting or acidosis.

The DNA test, available through the Orthopedic Foundation for Animals, may be ordered online at: www.offa.org/dnatesting/fanconi.html. The test is performed from a cheek swab sample. The fee for dogs being tested for the first time is \$65. Dogs previously tested using the linked marker test may be retested for \$50, with the Basenji Health Endowment subsidizing \$15 per test.

"The direct test will provide even more clarity for breed-

ers, and we hope it will decrease the incidence of disease even further," Johnson says.

Silver LEED Recognition

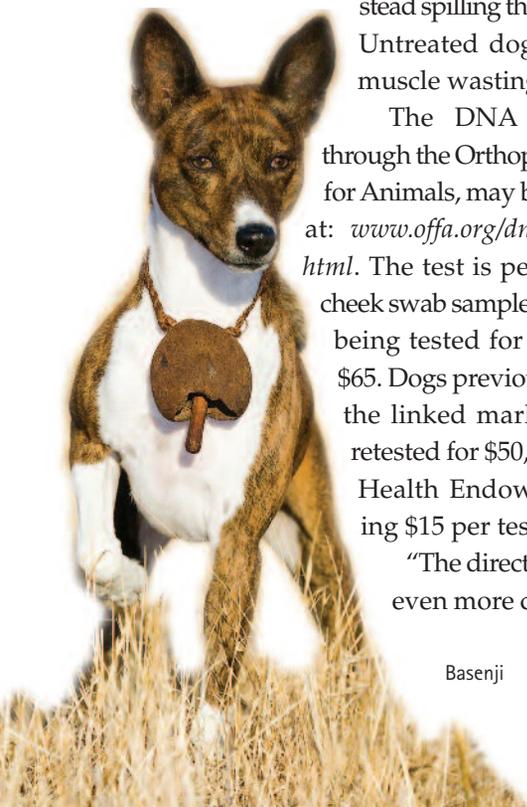
Not only is the Purina Event Center at Purina Farms in Gray Summit, Mo., a beautiful multipurpose facility loaded with amenities for dog enthusiasts, it also is environmentally responsible. The center recently achieved a silver LEED® (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) rating from the U.S. Green Building Council.

"The Purina Event Center represents Purina's ongoing commitment to environmental responsibility," Caciolo says. "This state-of-the-art facility is energy and resource efficient, plus it is gorgeous. We are pleased that many outstanding conformation and sporting champions from across the country will enjoy this LEED-rated facility for years to come."

The LEED silver rating was based on points awarded for sustainable building and design practices, including water and energy efficiencies, use of local and sustainable materials, and preservation of natural and green spaces. The center's design earned a water savings of over 40 percent over baseline, an energy savings of 18 percent over baseline, and an open-space maximization of 73 percent. Additionally, the facility was built on the previously developed portion of the property rather than disturbing the existing grass and farmland surrounding the site.

The 84,000-square-foot facility houses two separate halls for shows and events, a large grooming area, a banquet space, a restaurant and a hospitality lounge. Special amenities for enthusiasts include: a dog bathing room, a grooming hall, water station, and a hospitality room for judges and VIPs.

"We are proud that our years of careful, thoughtful planning to build a top-notch facility that is also environmentally responsible for fanciers and enthusiasts to enjoy have been recognized," says Purina Farms Director Brock Fitzgerald. ■



Basenji



A FAMILY TRADITION

BY ADAM WILLIAMS

Families who produce conformation champions, from breeding to Best in Show, have a special bond. They understand and thrive in a demanding lifestyle and profession that can be difficult for those who haven't experienced it firsthand. Today's Breeder recently interviewed three dog show families and learned how they cope with the long hours, many miles and important decisions. Here, we tell their stories about family life that revolves around the kennel, the road and the ring and involves sharing responsibilities as they cultivate the future of the sport.

Top: Wood and Chris Wornall, center, with "Opal," of Crizwood Kennels lead a family of enthusiasts that includes their daughter, Jenny Wornall, with "Bronagh," her boyfriend Christian Rangel, right, and assistant Andrew Peele, with "Trix." Above: Wood grooms an Airedale Terrier, "Desi."

Sharing Crizwood

Wood and Chris Wornall form the heart of their family's dog-centric life at Crizwood Kennels in Santa Ynez, Calif., but they carry on a family tradition in dogs that began many years before, at least on one side of the family tree.

Chris was influenced as a young girl by her stepgrandmother, Evelyn Silvernail, who bred Fox Terriers under the Crackdale prefix and literally

wrote a book on the breed, *The Complete Fox Terrier*.

For Wood, a professional all-breed handler who is particularly renowned for his work with terriers, including CH Anasazi Billy the Kid ("Billy"), a Welsh Terrier he handled to more than 100 Bests in Show in the 1980s, life with dogs grew from an unfulfilled boyhood desire for a canine companion.

"When you deprive someone of something when

they are young, it's all they want," he says. "My sister was allergic to dogs. To be around them, I worked in the back of a boarding kennel when I was growing up in Kansas City. I had been told my grandfather had Airedales, so when a customer who had Airedales came to the kennel, I was interested. He invited me to watch him trim the dogs, and he took me to a couple of conformation shows."

The seed was sewn. Wood apprenticed for noted terrier handler Rick Chashoudian in Sun Valley, Calif., during summers between academic years in college. There, he met Chris, who also assisted Chashoudian. A young Wornall family took root in California and soon included the next generation of dog lovers with daughters Jenny and Ashley.

"When my sister and I were little, we'd go to shows with dad and help," says Jenny, who has worked the past 11 years as a professional handler for Crizwood Kennels.

A dog lover who finished her three pet Norwich Terriers' championships, Ashley chose a career in commercial real estate. She married, became Ashley Endy and gave birth last year to Chris and Wood's first granddaughter, Brynlee. Ashley lives five minutes from the Wornalls' 10-acre ranch, which is half an hour north of Santa Barbara, Calif.

Early into parenthood, Chris opted to stay home with the girls and breed Wire Fox Terriers while Wood traveled and showed dogs to provide for the family. During 25 years of breeding terriers, Chris produced more than 50 champions. Then, she converted to breeding Cavalier King Charles Spaniels.

"I love the temperaments of Cavaliers," she says. "They're fabulous, always happy."

The first Cavalier Chris bred who won Best in Show, CH Co Laboration ("Ian"), was handled by Jenny to Best of Breed at the Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show in 2005. "Jenny has done a lot of that since," Chris says, "but that was her first breed win. She'll always remember that."

Jenny shows Brussels Griffons, Japanese Chins, Cavaliers and other breeds but specializes in terriers. She handled the top-winning Airedale of all time, CH Evermay's High Performance ("Max"), to 52

Bests in Show in 2007. That includes winning Best in Show at the Montgomery County (Pa.) Kennel Club Dog Show (terriers only), where Jenny and Wood are the only father and daughter to each win Best in Show. Wood has won three times — in 1983, 1996 and 1998.

"I've learned everything I know from my dad," Jenny says. "I rely on him for his knowledge and support. He comes to me for my perspective, too."

"I've learned everything I know from my dad. I rely on him for his knowledge and support. He comes to me for my perspective, too."

Jenny Wornall



The responsibilities at Crizwood are shared with assistant Andrew Peele. He travels with Wood and Jenny each weekend while Chris tends to the kennel.

"We work out of a box truck at shows and sleep at hotels," Jenny says. "We usually go together to shows whenever we can drive, but we sometimes separate and fly with six to 14 dogs. We average showing 15 dogs at two to four shows per weekend."

Wherever they are, Wood embraces the fatherly mentor role as head of the kennel. "It's up to me to know the different temperaments of the breeds and impart that to Jenny and Andrew," he says. "You have to understand the differences and teach everybody involved how to handle them."

"The people I've admired over the years have

Jenny trains a Pembroke Welsh Corgi, GCH Segni at Coventry ("Molly"). Inset photo: Crizwood Kennels is located on 10 acres in Santa Ynez, Calif.



Linda Wilson grooms BISS GCH Briarbrooks Copyright, ROM3 ("Copyright") at the Belleville (Ill.) Cluster.

been versatile. They could come out of the Rottweiler ring and handle a Toy Poodle, then show a Whippet and so on. Handling different breeds requires you to change your mentality and touch."

Adding to the Wornalls' family dog life is professional handler Christian Rangel, who recently moved to Santa Ynez. He is Jenny's boyfriend and a

welcome addition to Crizwood's present and future.

"One day I will retire, and Jenny, Christian and Andrew will carry on what we've built," says Wood. "I think Jenny and Christian have decided to continue with the Crizwood Kennels name, too. That makes us proud."

An Aussie Education

Linda Wilson of Briarbrook Australian Shepherds in Carthage, Mo., sat ringside at the Belleville (Ill.) Cluster last December. She held the leads of a handful of dogs while her grandnephew, Stephen Shields, sat next to her. They watched Stephen's mother, Kimber Shields, of Carl Junction, Mo., in the ring. Like 35 to 40 other

weekends each year, this show is a family endeavor for Linda and Kimber.

They have driven five hours from southwest Missouri with a half dozen Australian Shepherds, including a blue merle male, BIS/BISS GCH Briarbrooks Copyright, ROM3. "Copyright" won the

breed at the Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show in 2009 and was the No. 1 Aussie sire in 2008 and 2010.

Linda and Kimber, who co-breed Briarbrook Aussies, have driven more than 100,000 miles the past two years across the broad middle swath of the U.S. Stephen accompanies them to shows when schedules allow, as does his older brother, Brian, who stayed home this weekend to play in a basketball tournament.

The family shares the miles and responsibilities of a team working together in conformation breeding and handling. They also share a history that dates to Kimber's childhood and, for Linda, long before then.

Linda's father bred, hunted and field trialed Pointers and English Setters when she was a child. She recalls playing with the puppies and helping her dad feed *Purina* brand dog foods to the dogs.

"I grew up with dogs from birth," Linda says. "We had house dogs of various breeds, too, including a Schnauzer, Old English Sheepdog and a German Shepherd Dog."

Linda is known for finishing more than 400 champion Aussies, half which finished before the breed's recognition by the American Kennel Club in 1993. Her dogs are bred for form, function and breed type.

After 30 years in the ring, Linda retired from handling and now focuses on breeding, grooming and watching the younger generation of her family carry on the tradition. Kimber, who has handled dogs professionally for 10 years, began showing them as a 6-year-old.

"I was born into the right family," Kimber says. "I didn't start at the bottom, having to build breeding stock. I got to start with top dogs of Linda's, including CH Fieldmaster Blue Isle Barnstormer, who everybody knew then. My challenge was proving that's where I belonged, that I deserved to handle those dogs."

Linda may have provided outstanding dogs, but she didn't hand answers or easy opportunities to Kimber. "When I was younger, I thought it was unfair I had to show only the puppies, the dogs that weren't well-trained yet," Kimber says. "It's paid off, though, because now I can show all dogs, not only the ones that are perfectly trained."



Linda, with Copyright, is pictured with her niece, Kimber Shields, holding Briarbrooks Aiming to Please ("Amos"), and Kimber's son, Stephen, with CH Briarbrooks Unanimous Decision ("Dex").



Left: Kimber gaits with Briarbrooks Shopaholic ("Holly") during the Belleville show. Inset photo: Copyright.

caring for. They occasionally have a "puppy day," during which they meet and trade notes on each puppy's temperament, structure and development. Groups of puppies take turns being socialized with Kimber's sons at their house, and the boys learn about grooming and exercising the dogs.

When Linda and Kimber are away for shows and a bitch is about to whelp a litter, another family member lends a hand. Kimber's mother, Marijane Reed, lives only minutes away in Diamond, Mo.

Two of Linda's foundation dogs are Australian Shepherd Club of America (ASCA) Hall of Fame sires, CH Fieldmaster Three Ring Circus ("Bonzo") and Barnstormer, who won the breed at the ASCA National Specialty in 1983. She also has bred four Westminster breed winners. They are: CH Briarbrooks Full Speed Ahead in 1996, CH Briarbrooks Case Closed in 1998, CH Briarbrooks Quicksilver, ROMX3, in 2003, and Copyright in 2009.

Something those dogs have in common with the others Linda and Kimber breed and show is how they reflect the emphasis on breed type, structure and movement. "Aussies

are bred to work all day," Linda says. "It's important to me that they have proper structure, movement and side gait."

Movement is not only Linda's emphasis. "Kimber knows as much about movement as anybody. I did well with her," Linda says, drawing a laugh from Kimber. "She is well-educated about dogs. Her sons are coming along, too."

A Household on Wheels

When Heidi and Howard Huber Jr. of Oxford, Pa., drove their RV into the Central Florida Fairgrounds in mid-December in Orlando, they brought dogs to be shown at the AKC National Championship, pet Dachshunds, and anticipation for a rare, multigenerational family gathering.

There, Heidi and Howard met their oldest son, Howard ("Howie") Huber III, his girlfriend, Lisa Arnett, and their children, Braden and Hannah. They also met their middle son, Erik Huber, his wife, Kendra, and their daughter, Genevieve. All are dog people.

"When I was younger, I thought it was unfair I had to show only the puppies, the dogs that weren't well-trained yet. It's paid off, though, because now I can show all dogs, not only the ones that are perfectly trained."

Kimber Shields

"I also swapped out dogs on her when she was in Juniors," Linda says. "I didn't let her show the same dog year after year. I made it so she had to learn to handle different personalities."

From early on, Kimber was as dedicated to the dogs as Linda. "I would take my Juniors dog to Linda's house and practice my gaing routine in the middle of the street until around midnight," Kimber says. "Every handler has his or her own style, and that's where we worked on mine. Even before Aussies were recognized, we'd go to shows so I could watch the professional handlers."

"I wanted her to learn from other handlers, but I would tell her she couldn't copy a handler's complete routine, that if she did she would not be an individual," says Linda. "I didn't want her to be a clone of another handler."

The women share breeding and puppy-raising responsibilities. Kimber, who bred her first litter in 1990, has produced 52 champions. With Linda, she breeds multiple litters per year. The two live 12 miles apart, see each other weekly for shows, and talk daily on the phone about the puppies each is





Owner-handler Kendra Huber grooms an English Springer Spaniel. Inset photo: Professional handler Howard Huber Jr. brushes and dries the coat of Multi-BIS/Multi-BISS GCH Cerise Tender is the Night ("Zelda").

"Heidi and I have enjoyed our life with dogs," says Howard, "and we incorporated the kids as much or as little as they wanted. We never pushed."

Howie and Lisa are professional handlers who live in Owosso, Mich. Howie is regarded for his handling of wirehaired breeds. Lisa is known for her finesse with Cocker Spaniels. They breed German Wirehaired Pointers and American Cocker Spaniels under the Everlast prefix.

Erik, who works as a heavy-equipment operator in Lancaster, Pa., is immersed in dog life through Kendra. A former assistant to Howard, Kendra breeds and specializes in showing English Setters and English Springer Spaniels. She also breeds Dachshunds with her in-laws.

Though once a Junior handler, Erik takes a practical view of the sport as a profession. "I thought about handling dogs professionally, but the company I work for provides benefits that are not provided to dog handlers," Erik says. "We have

seven dogs I care for when Kendra is at shows. I also help raise the puppies. I love being involved in those ways."

Howard and Heidi's third and youngest son, Jon Huber, was in Australia during the family's Florida gathering. He moved to Melbourne to be with his girlfriend, Jess Jolly, an English Springer Spaniel breeder and professional handler who lived with the Hubers for a time while showing dogs in the U.S. and Canada.

"My dad taught Jess a lot of about grooming and handling springers," Jon says. "When it was time for her to go back to Australia, I couldn't just let her go. So, I packed up my life and went with her."

Howard and Heidi's three grandchildren, ages 4 to



6 years, are following the Huber passion. They have their first dogs. The most recent "first" is Genevieve's Pomeranian named "Lucy." The family picked up the puppy from Nina Fetter of Sirius Pomeranians in Lima, Ohio, en route to Florida. Howie and Lisa's children also have a Pomeranian, named "Keke." The grandchildren are enjoying childhoods not unlike their grandfather's.

Growing up, Howard was surrounded by Boxers bred by his mother, Grace Huber, under the How-Curt prefix. He started exhibiting dogs at the age of 7 and became a professional handler in the mid-1980s. It was a part-time venture until Howard retired from a U.S. Air Force career in 2001 and started handling dogs full time.

His current top dog is the English Springer Spaniel, Multi-BIS/Multi-BISS GCH Cerise Tender Is The Night, owned by Dorothy Cherry of Cerise English Springer Spaniels in Sherman, Conn. "Zelda" was the No.1 English Springer Spaniel bitch and No. 3 Sporting dog in the country last year. Howard also handled Multi-BIS CH Cerise's Jesse James ("Jesse"), the No. 1 English Springer Spaniel in 2008 and 2009. Howard handled Jesse to win the 2010 English Springer Spaniel National Specialty.

Heidi and Howard are partners on the road, in

the benching area and in the kennel, where they breed one or two litters of Dachshunds per year under the Oakcrest prefix. They also have bred a few litters of English Springers, Chesapeake Bay Retrievers and German Wirehaired Pointers, a breed of special interest to their oldest son, Howie.

"I love not only GWPs but also Portuguese Water Dogs and Cocker Spaniels," Howie says.

Like his dad, Howie has the dog handling touch with a range of sporting breeds. "I am campaigning CH Harmony's Eureka, a stunning Wirehaired Pointing Griffon for Ann Summerfelt and Frank Funderburk," he says.

"I'm also handling one of the best Golden Retrievers I've ever seen, CH Oak Lane's Surfs Up, for Dave and Sandi Christensen."

Howie's path at shows crosses monthly with Howard and Heidi's. Otherwise, the elder Hubers go it alone, living out of their RV nearly year-round, maintaining the vagabond dog show life with an odd sense of familiarity everywhere they go.

"There are certain places around the country where I know the barbers because I go to them at certain shows," Howard says. "We have favorite Laundromats at certain show locations. It's a well-oiled machine. It's like running a household, except on wheels."

The couple has developed a groove for working at shows and at home. "I care for the dogs at shows, and Howard does the grooming," Heidi says. "He exercises them, driving a golf cart we tow to shows, while they run alongside. I walk dogs, too."

"In general, I'm in the background. Howard decides what shows we go to, and I handle the organizational details."

Those responsibilities already are being passed to the youngest Huber family members. Genevieve

has been going to shows since birth, and she helps her mother, Kendra, with feeding and grooming the dogs.

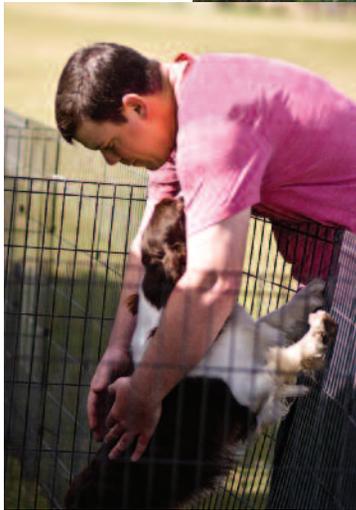
"Genevieve also is a good scooper and a fabulous puppy socializer," Kendra says.

"I am so looking forward to Genevieve and Lucy's first dog show."

Howard and Heidi are happy to see the love of dogs continue. "We're proud of all our kids," Howard says. "It's fantastic to see that the grandkids are now interested in dogs, wanting to walk and brush them. It does my heart good. We've always considered this a family sport. That's important. Family is important." ■

"Heidi and I have enjoyed our life with dogs, and we incorporated the kids as much or as little as they wanted. We never pushed."

Howard Huber Jr.



Clockwise from above: Three generations of the Huber Family gather in Orlando, Fla., including Howard and Heidi Huber, right, their oldest son, Howie Huber, center, with his girlfriend, Lisa Arnett, and their children, Hannah and Braden, and Erik and Kendra Huber, left, with their daughter Genevieve. Howie plays with a Wirehaired Pointing Griffon, and Erik gives attention to an English Springer Spaniel.

Breeding *for* Champions

BY PETE PROCTOR



Most brace beaglers like to have two or more new dogs come along every year that are good enough to become Field Champions. Since it is very difficult to consistently buy dogs of this quality, your best chance is to raise and train your own puppies.

Your odds are even better if your bitches come from a long line of good dams and possess the right running traits. If you do not already have this bitchline, you should concentrate on buying a bitch from someone else.

After making sure your bitches come from a line of good dams, the key is to identify the most important running traits, only breed bitches with these traits, and select stud dogs that help you keep these traits.

Although good brace dogs have many good running traits, I deem the following most important:

- Progressing in a nice smooth, straight line
- Running in front or behind their brace mate, without being overly competitive
- Staying calm and sensible while working a check

Probably the single most important running trait is the ability to progress a line in a smooth, straight manner. To do this consistently, the dog cannot have quick or jerky moves and must be able to smell the rabbit in all scenting conditions. The dog needs to keep his or her feet relatively still on each track and move easily while searching for the next track.

Do not confuse quickness with speed in carrying the line. Some dogs can progress the line faster than others and still maintain smoothness. However, most often, trying to progress the line too quickly will result in errors caused by the dog not keeping his or her feet still, getting nervous and moving off the line too much. Quickness is one of the hardest faults to breed out of a bitchline.

To consistently win and place, dogs must be able to run both the front and back of a brace. Most dogs in trials today are better in the front than in the back,

but the best ones are comfortable running either position. The important thing is for the back dog not to interfere with the front dog. This interference



occurs when the back dog pushes into the front dog, constantly goes up alongside the front dog, or moves past the front dog in an overly competitive manner.

You should be careful in determining whether a dog is overly competitive. Beaglers sometimes tend to incorrectly demerit the back dog when the interference may be caused by the front dog. The front dog may be too slow and just stand in one track too long barking while the back dog has more ability and can progress the line at a faster pace. I believe the back dog has just as much right to the next track as the front dog. There are times when the dog can go in front and carry the line at his or her own pace rather than be restricted to the pace of the brace mate.

Judging this situation is tricky and requires experienced judges to sort out the true culprit. In any case, even though the back dog often gets a demerit in this situation, you should not necessarily make breeding decisions based on this. You should make your own judgments and breed accordingly. Being overly competitive is a fault that is hard to breed out of a bitchline.

Many field trial runs are completed without a check occurring, but good check work is a trait all breeders want in their dogs. A check occurs when a dog gets off the line and tries to find it again. Usually it occurs when the rabbit has made a tricky move, such as a very long jump to the next track. It also can be caused by some kind of physical obstacle like a ditch or other terrain change.

To find the scent, the dog usually has to move away from the last place he or she had it. A dog should search in a calm, sensible fashion and remain as close to the loss as possible. I like dogs to look in logical places and have enough savvy to know where they already have looked. This keeps them from exploring the same place multiple times.

Skilled check work is the hardest trait to get into a bitchline and the hardest one to keep. You want to breed dogs that search a check in a calm, sensible manner. If they have this trait, many of them can become better check hounds with extensive training.

A breeder's biggest agony is selecting the right stud dogs. I pick a stud dog that can improve the traits I need for my bitch. For instance, if my bitch needs a keener nose and does not excel at carrying the line, then I am likely to choose the best avail-

able stud whose family has keen noses and excels at carrying a smooth straight line.

Notice that I pick families more than I pick individuals, and I try to pick the best available stud from the family. Sometimes another stud from this family may be producing better pups than the best performer. However, I still usually pick the best performer because doing otherwise may bring lesser traits to succeeding generations.



Sometimes you have to make exceptions to these guidelines. The best bitch you have may not possess all the desired qualities, but the family behind her does. You may breed this bitch anyway and get good quality pups. Your odds just will not be as high.

Establishing several generations of bitches with quality traits takes time, resources and careful planning. Also, it is a lot of work. In the end though, you will find yourself "luckier" at field trials and potentially finish more Field Champions. ■

Pete Proctor has raised and started more than 2,000 field trial brace Beagle puppies over the past 36 years at his Sunshine Brace Beagles kennel in Vale, N.C. A member of the Brace Beagling 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 Pipeline to Canine Health Research

The impact of cancer on dogs and those who love them is devastating. So naturally, at the eighth biennial Canine Health Foundation National Parent Club Canine Health Conference, held last August in St. Louis, presentations on cancer research captivated much attention.

Over the two-day conference, parent club health liaisons also learned about progress in identifying the gene mutations responsible for degenerative myelopathy, a progressive neurological disorder, and cardiomyopathy, a congenital heart disease. Purina researchers shared insights about the health benefits derived from probiotics and vitamin D.

The notion of parent clubs working directly with researchers to learn more about diseases that impact

their breeds is the cornerstone of the national parent club health conference. Purina has sponsored the conference since its beginning in 1995.

As Mark Neff, Ph.D., director of the Center for Canine Health and Performance at the Van Andel Research Institute in Grand Rapids, Mich., said during his talk on behavioral genetics, "Purina has bridged the gap between breeders and research by hosting events like this parent club conference."

Canine Health Foundation chairman Lee Arnold noted that "since the beginning, we've come a long way. Purina's dedication, commitment and support of the Foundation are something we can all be proud of. We are fortunate to have the crème de la crème of research scientists here to present their work."

The following information recaps some of the research presented at this conference.

Cancer in a Nutshell

Over the past decade, there have been dramatic improvements in molecular genetic cancer research, says Jaime Modiano, V.M.D., Ph.D., the Perlman Endowed Chair in Animal Oncology at the University of Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine. New diagnostic tools, the first immune-based cancer therapy, a canine melanoma vaccine, and the first targeted small-molecular inhibitor for treating mast cell tumors are examples.

Identifying breed-specific cancer susceptibility has helped Modiano and his team to focus on tumor behavior in particular breeds. "We have dedicated considerable effort to understanding the mechanisms that drive tumor behavior as a means of improving

diagnostic precision, prognosis capacity and the development of new therapies," Modiano says.

Much progress in generating enhanced diagnostic tools has taken place at North Carolina State University College of Veterinary Medicine. Matthew



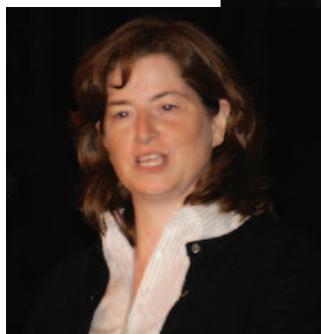
Dr. Arleigh Reynolds



Dr. Matthew Breen



Dr. Nicola Mason



Dr. Kathryn Meurs



Dr. Joan Coates



Dr. Rondo Middleton

Ten Years Later: 9/11 Dogs Fare Well

Their graying muzzles one of the few hints of their ages, a German Shepherd Dog named "Kaiser" and a chocolate Labrador Retriever named "Tuff" joined emergency and critical care veterinarian Cynthia Otto at the national parent club conference in St. Louis to promote her research of the long-term health effects on the dogs that were deployed to work in search and research following 9/11.



Dr. Cynthia Otto is shown with, from left, Tony Zintsmaster with "Kaiser" and Tom Andert with "Tuff."

Joined by their handlers, Tony Zintsmaster of Indiana Task Force One and Tom Andert of Missouri Task Force One, they were among 95 deployed dogs that participated in the study. Now retired from search-and-rescue work, Kaiser and Tuff wore no protective masks or boots as they navigated through the rubble, as it would have hampered their senses. Fires, cement and toxic fumes contributed to their fatigue.

"Remarkably, the dogs in our study coped with the adverse conditions with minimal morbidity," say Otto, D.V.M., Ph.D., DACVECC, associate professor of critical care at the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine. "Though many humans who responded to 9/11 have developed reactive airway diseases, such as asthma, or other chronic infections, the dogs have fared extremely well."

Two long-term studies of nearly \$500,000 were funded by the AKC Canine Health Foundation with support from Purina, and the grant recently was renewed for the third time. Researchers at the Animal

Medical Center in New York, led by Dr. Phillip Fox and his team, monitored the health of police canines, and Otto's team at the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine compared the health of deployed search-and-rescue dogs to a control group of nondeployed search-and-rescue dogs. Participants in the University of Pennsylvania study submitted annual X-rays of their dogs' lungs, blood tests and surveys detailing their dogs' health and behavior.

Among the study findings:

- Clinical reports and X-rays showed minimal lung abnormalities. Eight dogs had mild signs of respiratory distress during the response, but no long-term systemic or respiratory conditions were identified in deployed dogs that did not also occur in nondeployed dogs. Otto notes that, interestingly, dogs do not get asthma, which is in stark contrast to humans.
- About 40 percent of both groups succumbed to cancer, reflecting no statistical difference. Cancer occurrence, by incident rate, included: hemangiosarcoma, lymphoma, lung cancer and adrenal cancer.
- The average life span of deployed dogs was 12.5 years, compared to 11.8 years for the control group. Today, at least 13 deployed search-and-rescue dogs that were part of the study are still alive.
- Handlers who suffered the loss of their canine partner within three years of 9/11 suffered a higher incidence of post-traumatic stress disorder, showing the importance of dogs to human health.

Otto has been instrumental in the establishment of the Penn Vet Working Dog Center that focuses on breeding and training detection dogs for deployment in this country and worldwide. The program will collect and analyze genetic, behavioral and physical data about detection dogs, integrating the latest scientific information to optimize the success and well-being of these dogs.

"Our future research of the 9/11 dogs will look at why these dogs were able to endure the challenging conditions with minimal respiratory complications," Otto says. "The findings may open our eyes to the differences between dogs and people that make dogs so resilient."

Breen, Ph.D., CBiol, FSB, professor of genomics, and his team have generated sophisticated molecular cytogenetic reagents and resources that complete a "genomics toolbox."

"Along with tumor tissues and blood samples we've collected from hundreds of dogs that have presented with a variety of cancers, as well as their family members, these tools provide a robust means to study tumor specimens for changes to the genome that lead to identification of genomic regions and genes associated with cancer," Breen says.

Applying these tools to canine lymphoma, Breen developed a cytogenetic test that enables researchers to predict how long affected dogs will respond to a specific chemotherapy treatment. "This research

may lead to more sophisticated molecular subclassification of canine cancers, a process that should facilitate improved, tailored therapies," says Breen.

Monoclonal antibodies that target tumor cells or neutralize their growth factors are commonly used in humans to treat colon cancer, lymphoma and breast cancer, but such antibodies do not cross-react with dog tumor cells. In dogs, these antibodies are expensive to produce and are rapidly destroyed in the body as foreign antibodies.

Nicola Mason, BVetMed, Ph.D., assistant professor of medicine and pathobiology at the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine, aims to change that. "We have developed a platform technology to generate libraries of canine-derived

Modiano Receives Asa Mays Award

His extraordinary efforts to untangle the mysteries of canine cancer led to Dr. Jaime Modiano receiving the Asa Mays, D.V.M., Excellence in Canine Health Research Award last fall at the national parent club health conference in St. Louis.

Modiano, V.M.D., Ph.D., the Perlman Endowed Chair in Animal Oncology at the University of Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine, has contributed to better understanding of several canine cancers, including hemangiosarcoma, osteosarcoma, lymphoma and melanoma.

The co-author of more than 75 peer-reviewed scientific manuscripts and over 200 abstracts, book chapters and presentations, Modiano studies cancer cell biology, the genetic basis of cancer and gene therapy applications. His research program has received significant private and federal funding over the past 17 years.

Prior to moving to Minnesota in 2007, Modiano was associate professor of immunology at the University of Colorado in Denver. He recently helped to form the Canine Comparative Oncology and Genomics Consortium, a cancer tissue bank that researchers worldwide can access.

The award pays tribute to Mays, a founding member of the Canine Health Foundation and three-time member of the AKC Board of Directors. Mays, who died in 2005, was a lifelong dog fancier.



Duane Butherus, vice chairman of the Canine Health Foundation, right, presents the Asa Mays Award to Dr. Jaime Modiano.

antibody fragments from the white blood cells or lymphocytes of dogs with cancer that will recognize cancer molecules," she says.

"We have used libraries generated from the spleens of dogs with hemangiosarcoma to isolate antibody fragments that bind and neutralize the biological activity of vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF), one of the major factors that stimulate the growth of blood vessels in and around tumors and is necessary for tumors to survive."

These canine-derived VEGF-specific antibody fragments represent the first targeted biological antibody therapy to be used in dogs to retard the growth of tumors. Future libraries generated from dogs with osteosarcoma and lymphoma may contain novel antibody fragments that could be used to target these tumor types.

"Cancer is many diseases originating from different tissues," Modiano says. "It touches everyone. Cancer tumors have diverse biological behavior as unique as the patients, so it is important to beware of generalizations and oversimplifications."

Long-described as a disease of aging, cancer affects

one-quarter of all dogs and one-half of dogs 10 and older will die from cancer. "The key to unlocking some of nature's most intriguing puzzles about cancer may be found in the genome of the dog," Breen says.

Unraveling Degenerative Myelopathy

After 15 years studying degenerative myelopathy (DM), a progressive neurological condition that leads to paralysis in dogs, Joan R. Coates, D.V.M., M.S., DACVIM-Neurology, professor of veterinary neurology and neurosurgery at the University of Missouri College of Veterinary Medicine, has identified a mutation in the superoxide dismutase 1 gene (*SOD1*) that underlies the disease. Finding the mutation suggests that canine DM is similar to some forms of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), or Lou Gehrig's disease.

The discovery was made with Dr. Gary S. Johnson of the University of Missouri College of Veterinary Medicine and Drs. Kerstin Lindblad-Toh and Claire Wade of the Broad Institute.

The disease was first described in German Shepherd Dogs in the 1970s. "Most dogs are at least 8 years old before they show signs of disease," Coates says. "Owners usually elect euthanasia within a year of diagnosis when their dog loses the ability to walk and develops severe weakness. The weakness will eventually progress to involve all limbs and swallowing functions."

In the initial discovery of the mutation, a highly significant association between the DM phenotype and homozygosity for the mutation was shown in Pembroke Welsh Corgis and four other breeds: Boxers, Chesapeake Bay Retrievers, German Shepherd Dogs, and Rhodesian Ridgebacks.

"This appears to be an incompletely penetrant autosomal recessive disease," Coates says. "Thus, dogs homozygous for the mutation are at greater risk for developing signs of DM, but not all dogs that test at risk will develop the disease."

"We continue to assess the occurrence and clinical relevance of the *SOD1* mutation. The mutant allele has been identified in 112 breeds, and the disease has been histopathologically confirmed in over 20 breeds. We are trying to identify additional genetic risk factors that may act singly or as modifiers of the *SOD1* mutation."

Eventually, Coates hopes to collaborate with human researchers studying ALS. Dogs provide the first naturally occurring disease model for *SOD1*-related ALS, she says.

Piecing Together the Cardiomyopathy Puzzle

A passion for studying canine cardiac diseases motivates Kathryn M. Meurs, D.V.M., Ph.D., professor and associate dean of research and graduate studies at North Carolina State University College of Veterinary Medicine, to learn more about cardiomyopathy, an inherited condition affecting several breeds, particularly Doberman Pinschers in which nearly 40 percent are affected by dilated cardiomyopathy.

Her persistence in piecing together the disease's genetic puzzle resulted in the discovery of a mutation on chromosome 14 in Doberman Pinschers. Due to the autosomal dominant with variable penetrance mode of inheritance, there is uncertainty in testing results. Dogs that test negative might later develop the disease, and those that test positive might never develop signs.

"There are two common forms of this disease — dilated and arrhythmogenic," Meurs says. "The dilated form is characterized by an enlarged heart muscle potentially causing congestive heart failure. The arrhythmogenic form of the disease may cause ventricular arrhythmia leading to fainting or sudden death."

Besides Dobermans, other affected breeds include: Afghan Hounds, Boxers, Dalmatians, Golden Retrievers, Great Danes, Irish Wolfhounds, Labrador Retrievers, Newfoundlands, Old English Sheepdogs, Portuguese Water Dogs, Saint Bernards and Scottish Deerhounds. The genetic mutation is likely different across the breeds, Meurs says.

In humans, researchers have found 20 genes that contribute to cardiomyopathy. "It is likely there is more than one cause of this disease in dogs, too, even in Dobermans," Meurs says. "An important aspect of all cardiomyopathies is that they are impacted by variable penetrance, meaning not all dogs show the same severity of disease. Some will show severe clinical signs, and others will remain free of signs their whole life."

Probiotics & Vitamin D

Purina scientists have studied the effects of vitamin D in biological systems and probiotics in helping dogs cope with stress. The importance of vitamin D in human health has gained wide recognition, but even in dogs, vitamin D and its hormonally active form, calcitriol, have become noteworthy as important players in many biological systems.

"These include cancer, heart disease, autoimmune diseases, skin disorders, and many others," says Purina Senior Research Scientist Rondo P. Middleton, Ph.D.

"In our *in vitro* studies of canine bladder cancer in conjunction with researchers at The Ohio State University, we learned that vitamin D supports antioxidant expression and helps to reduce oxidative stress to the cells," he says. "In cancer, the expression of many genes that encode for enzymes involved in the metabolism of vitamin D, as well as other proteins regulated by vitamin D, are altered."

Dogs require appropriate levels of vitamin D in their diets, Middleton says. "Lack of vitamin D is associated with many diseases as it supports important biological processes. Research has shown that higher levels of vitamin D in the blood are associated with reduced incidence and recurrence and greater survival in various types of cancers," he says.

Probiotics play an important role in helping dogs cope with stress, says Purina Senior Research Scientist Arleigh Reynolds, D.V.M., Ph.D, DACVS. "Natural stressors, such as exercise and travel, can impact canine immune function. Changes in diet, environmental conditions and exposure to novel pathogens may all play a role. Even the intensity and duration of exercise may contribute to stress. For example, low to moderate exercise has been shown to enhance immune function, while extreme exercise compromises immune function."

Probiotics are live organisms that prohibit the growth of bad bacteria. "There are good and bad bugs in the gut, so you want to shift the balance in favor of good bugs by establishing a favorable microflora," Reynolds explains. "We've measured the effects of dietary supplementation with probiotics on the immune system's response to stress and found that they prohibit the growth of bad bacteria." ■

Getting Off to a Good Start

BY SUE VROOM

Raising and training a show dog that confidently enjoys the demands of a conformation career can make for a myriad of learning curves and bumps along the road.

My husband, Corky, and I spent a lifetime in dogs as busy all-breed professional handlers and had regular opportunities to observe and work with potential show dogs. Some were brought to us in the middle of their show career with issues and habits we had to diagnose and work through. We didn't always have the advantage of starting potential winners with that all-important, first-time experience in the puppy class.

Among the reasons owners hire a professional handler are they do not enjoy handling and/or they feel they lack the skills

to comfortably walk into the ring and be competitive. A common scenario is that a family member or friend exhibits the puppy in the puppy classes, and when the dog matures, the professional handler is hired to take over the lead.

Taking over a show dog that has not had the benefit of early ring training delays the "look at me" confidence necessary for ribbon consideration. When dogs with pre-existing issues crossed through our kennel doors, it was necessary to develop problem-solving methods of training to offset prior mistakes. Some had not been taught the basics of "stack/stay/let's go" and had never been worked on proper equipment, such as collars and leads, for that breed.

Seldom, if ever, did we take on a new client and dog sight unseen. After an initial assessment of the

Forcing a dog into a situation he or she is not ready to accept can do irreparable damage and will only serve to reinforce the fear.



Professional handler Stephen Cabral and a Vizsla patiently wait their turn in breed judging.



Left: A judge examines a Bloodhound puppy.

dog, and our understanding of the owner's goals and expectations, we designed a training and conditioning schedule suited for the dog's individual needs. Mostly, these were for dogs that didn't have the advantage of early positive exposure to show rings and had some prior bad experiences.

Among problems that may need corrected are insecurities in dogs suffering from low self-esteem and lack of purpose. In the case of a Sporting dog that came to us lacking confidence, we started by allowing him freedom in a large park dragging a 20-foot lead line with one of us at the end of the line following him wherever he wanted to go. He began to understand that he didn't have to lag behind us as his shield. As time passed, we planted treats on the route and let him find them. Eventually, the lead line was shortened, and we allowed him to feel contact with the lead and his collar. Running ahead to find goodies became an esteem-building accomplishment for him.

The buddy system among kennelmates, or "social learning," also can be an effective confidence builder. In working with a Pug that put the brakes on almost every time she came close to the show ring due to anxiety from unfamiliar sounds and situations, we kenneled her next to a gregarious Boston Terrier that loved to show.

On numerous occasions, the two were put on leads and led toward the show ring area with the Boston in front. When attention and treats were offered by others to the Boston Terrier, we asked that no interaction with the Pug occur, other than merely letting her observe the reaction and willingness of the Boston to receive the attention. Forcing a dog into a situation he or she is not ready to accept can do irreparable damage and will only reinforce

the fear. Gradually, after repetition of positive social experiences, the Pug was able to enter the ring and finish her championship with confidence.

Working through a bad experience involves patience. It is important to know exactly what occurred, where and how. Too often, fearful behavior is reinforced by overcompensating with pampering and petting the minute a dog enters a "scary zone."

This only serves to strengthen and encourage the anxious behavior of the dog. It is important that the dog be allowed to stand in his or her own space and watch what is going on. Owning his ground while accompanied by a person he trusts requires no pampering and cooing.

Inappropriate use of baiting can happen when bait becomes the poor replacement for show ring training. Feeding and baiting are separate actions. Qualified professional handlers should be expected to recognize the difference between rewarding a dog for a desired behavior and simply stuffing his mouth with food in order to distract and restrain.

Bait should be subtly visible only to alert when a judge is evaluating head and expression and then given once the exam is complete. Overuse of food will diminish a dog's desire to give that intense, focused expression, not to mention annoy a judge who sees the hand in front of the face or a mouth and teeth full of food.

Training and retraining negative learned behavior takes time. It requires a great deal of patience, repetition and often inventive thinking. Nothing happens overnight except maybe the setting of poured concrete. It's easier to pour it right the first time than jackhammer it up later. ■

A professional all-breed handler for 32 years, Sue Vroom and her late husband, Corky Vroom, won hundreds of Bests in Show during their career. Vroom, of Denton, Texas, works as an Executive Field Representative for the American Kennel Club. For information, contact Vroom at 940-497-4500 or by e-mail at suevroom@centurytel.net.



Rhodesian Ridgebacks exhibit the "look at me" confidence that is important at dog shows.

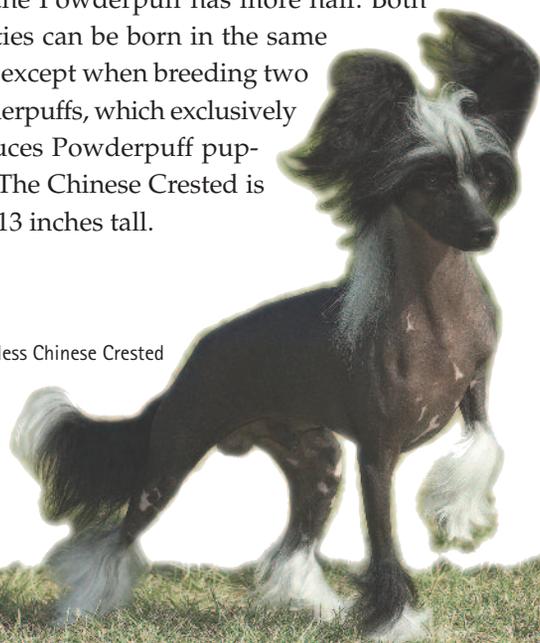
Ancient Toy Breeds & Loyal Herders

Chinese Crested

A slender, fine-boned toy breed, the Chinese Crested is believed to have descended from African hairless dogs reduced in size. For centuries, the Crested dogs accompanied Chinese sailors on the high seas, and sailors frequently traded puppies with local merchants at port cities around the world. During the Chinese plagues, the breed was stowed on board ships to hunt vermin infected with disease.

Elegant and graceful with smooth, agile movement, the Chinese Crested is a gay, lively dog that makes a playful, loving companion. The Hairless and Powderpuff varieties are almost identical except the Powderpuff has more hair. Both varieties can be born in the same litter, except when breeding two Powderpuffs, which exclusively produces Powderpuff puppies. The Chinese Crested is 11 to 13 inches tall.

Hairless Chinese Crested



German Shepherd Dog



Japanese Chin

A small, stylish dog with an abundant coat and Oriental expression, the Japanese Chin descended from dogs that warmed the laps of ancient Chinese aristocracy. These treasured palace pets frequently were given to diplomats and foreigners who had rendered outstanding service to Japan. The breed became known as Japanese Chin to distinguish it from its close relative, the Pekingese.

After Japan's 200-year isolation from the Western world ended in 1854, the Japanese Chin eventually became established on other continents. The American Kennel Club registered the breed in 1888 as the Japanese Spaniel, but the name was officially changed to Japanese Chin in 1977.

A healthy, intelligent, alert toy dog, the Japanese Chin makes an excellent companion. He has well-feathered ears and carries his plumed tail over his back. Known for ruling the household and all who live in it, the Chin loves to sit on top of furniture, which has led to his being called part-dog and part-cat. The Japanese Chin is from 8 to 11 inches tall at the withers.



Japanese Chin

German Shepherd Dog

Consistently one of the most popular breeds in the U.S., the German Shepherd Dog derived from herding and farm dog breeds. Since Captain Max von Stephanitz founded the breed in 1899 in Karlsruhe, Germany, the German Shepherd Dog has been developed structurally and temperamentally through selective breeding. He is a noble, medium-sized, well-muscled dog with a natural, easy trot.

A working dog distinguished by his loyalty, courage and easy trainability, the German Shepherd Dog excels at herding, police work, assisting the blind and as a companion and guardian to

children and families. Males are 24 to 26 inches tall at the shoulders, and females are 22 to 24 inches.

Australian Cattle Dog

The Australian Cattle Dog originated in Australia in the 1800s, descending from Dingo-blue merle Collie crosses, Dalmatians and a sheepdog breed, the Black and Tan Kelpie. His evolution into a working cattle dog has contributed significantly to the Australian beef industry, in which



Australian Cattle Dog

cattlemen needed a dog capable of controlling the wild cattle ranging on vast grazing lands.

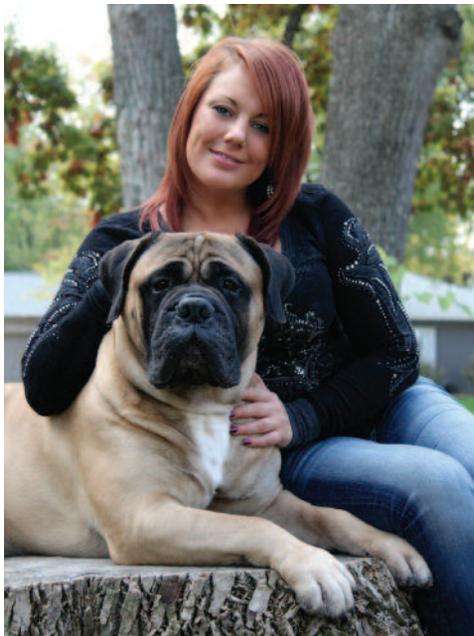
Originally called Blue Heelers or Queensland Heelers, the Australian Cattle Dog has a quiet, heeling ability and stamina. He is an intelligent and determined high-energy working dog that excels at obedience and agility. He also is a natural guardian and loyal family companion. Males are 18 to 20 inches tall at the withers, and females are 17 to 19 inches.

Sources: *The Complete Dog Book*, Official Publication of the American Kennel Club (New York: Ballentine Books, 2006) and the website of the American Kennel Club (www.akc.org).


CIRCLE OF CHAMPIONS

'Primo' Wins Bullmastiff National as a Veteran

A 6-year-old fawn male Bullmastiff, Multi-BISS AM/CAN CH Tru Grit Muscle Mayhem, RN, captured Best of Breed from the Veterans Class at the American Bullmastiff Association (ABA)



Owner Crystal Corner poses with CH Tru Grit Muscle Mayhem, RN.

National Specialty last October in Fort Mitchell, Ky.

Shown by professional handler Katie Martin of Rockville, Ind., "Primo" outperformed 210 dogs to become the first veteran dog in 21 years to win the National Specialty. Martin, a second-generation professional handler, has handled Primo since she was a 16-year-old junior handler.

"At the National, Primo was a force to be reckoned with," Martin says. "He combined a winning attitude with excellent conformation and movement."

Strong and sound with a powerful, muscular build, Primo stood out for his stunning movement and superb conditioning. "Primo was in phenomenal shape, and his

movement was clean from all angles," says owner Crystal Corner of Indianapolis. "He was praised for how well he has matured."

Bred by Albert and Dianne Batchelor of Wilson, N.C., Primo was sired by CH Tru Grit Rudy G of Anthracite, ROM, out of Banstock Jack's Jill of Tru Grit, ROM.

Corner, who grew up showing dogs and helping a family friend raise Great Danes, decided in 2005 to pursue her lifelong passion for dogs as a breeder, after an injury ended her career as a fitness competitor. Primo became the foundation male of Corner's dal Primo kennel. She hired Martin, who had just finished her last year in Juniors after being named Best Junior Handler at the ABA National Specialty for three consecutive years, to handle the dog.

The sire of three litters, Primo has produced six champions. Among his offspring's achievements are two Specialty Bests of Breed and two Top 20 breed rankings. Primo also is a grandsire of CH dal Primo

Race You to B'mew, who won Best Puppy at the 2010 ABA National Specialty.

"Generations later, Primo's temperament, beautiful movement and gorgeous coat still are coming through," says Corner. "I've finished 13 champions in just four years. To have his offspring do so well is amazing."

Among Primo's career wins are the Midwest Bullmastiff Fanciers Association Specialty Show in 2007 and the Bullmastiff Fanciers of Canada Specialty Show in 2008. Though Primo was retired in 2010, he returned to the show ring later that year to win the Southeastern Bullmastiff Association Specialty Show. After winning the 2011 ABA National Specialty, Primo retired permanently.

"Winning the National from the Veterans Class among so many great dogs and under esteemed breeder-judge Helene Nietch was beyond our wildest dreams," says Corner.

Primo is fueled by *Purina Pro Plan Sensitive Skin & Stomach Formula*.

Purina's 'Mo' Salamone Retires After 37 Years

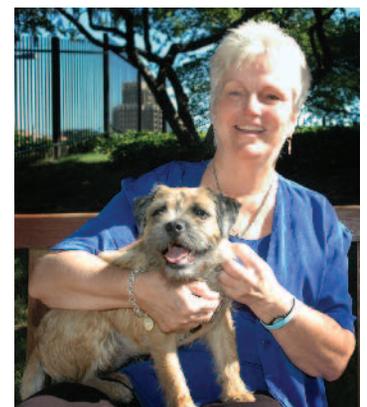
The leader of many groundbreaking initiatives of Purina's Breeder-Enthusiast Group over the past 10 years, Maureen "Mo" Salamone has provided insightful direction from one who "walks the talk." Her many years' experience as a breeder and exhibitor of German Shepherd Dogs is reflected in her deep understanding of breeders and enthusiasts.

After a distinguished 37-year

career, most recently as Brand Director of the Breeder-Enthusiast Group, Salamone retired in February. Her recent accomplishments include leading the development of the "This Could Be the Year" conformation advertising campaign for *Purina Pro Plan* and execution of the Purina dog portfolio Congratulations ads and sporting dog communications. Salamone was also instrumental in the

planning for the Purina Event Center at Purina Farms in Gray Summit, Mo., a state-of-the-art indoor facility built for the fancy.

"We will miss Mo terribly," says Candy Caciolo, Purina Portfolio Director of Specialty, Breeder & Pet Acquisition. "Her keen awareness of what is important to breeders has strengthened our show and sporting programs. Mo is the consummate professional."



Maureen Salamone is shown with her Border Terrier, "Lizzie."

GCH Catanya's Latin Lover Shines His Way to Becoming No. 1 Alaskan Malamute

An exuberant, outgoing Alaskan Malamute who wholeheartedly loves to please, Multi-BIS/Multi-BISS GCH Catanya's Latin Lover, has shined his way to winning 21 Bests in Show and becoming the No. 1 Malamute and No. 8 Working dog in the country.

The 5-year-old male, called "Ricky," is owned by Alisa Syar and her husband, Mike Stone, a professional handler; P.J. Kendrick, the breeder, of Wildomar, Calif.; and Amando Martinez, of Mexico City. Ricky was sired by CH Silverlce's Borne Identity out of CH Catanya's Girl's Night Out.

"Ricky is a prime example of the Alaskan Malamute standard, but it is his enthusiasm and showmanship that really set him apart from his competition," Syar says.

Among his achievements, Ricky

has qualified for the Alaskan Malamute Club of America (AMCA) Top Twenty competition since 2008, having won in 2009 and 2010. He won Best of Breed at the AMCA National Specialty in

2009 and 2010 and was Best Puppy in 2006. Ricky won Best of Breed at the 2011 and 2012 Westminster Kennel Club dog shows, after earning an Award of Merit in 2010.



Owner-handler Mike Stone stacks "Ricky" after winning Best in Show in January at the Mount Rainier Working Dog Club Specialty Show in Portland, Ore. From left are judge Peter Gaeta and club president Faye Strauss.

Syar and Stone breed Alaskan Malamutes under the Silver Ice prefix and operate Granite Bay Kennels at their home in Granite Bay, Calif. Syar grew up showing horses but has been breeding and exhibiting Alaskan Malamutes since she bought her first one in the late 1980s at the Golden Gate Kennel Club Dog Show in Daly City, Calif.

"I went to the show looking for an arctic breed and fell in love with Alaskan Malamutes," Syar says. "They are active, outdoorsy dogs you can walk and hike with, and they make great companions."

"Ricky is an exceptional Alaskan Malamute," says Stone, who handles the dog. "He has the correct size, coat and eye color and a beautiful head. Like all top-winning dogs, Ricky is an incredible athlete, but he also has a very loving, playful and affectionate side."

Ricky is fed *Purina Pro Plan Sensitive Skin & Stomach Formula*.

No. 1 Schipperke, 'T.J.', Excels with Outgoing Attitude

The No. 1 Schipperke in the country is a charismatic, mischievous dog, named "T.J.," who has captivated judges with his graceful trot, sparkling eyes and handsome black coat to win 13 Bests in Show and 10 Bests in Specialty Show.

Professional handler Erin Roberts of Oklahoma City campaigned the 10-year-old Schipperke, Multi-BIS/Multi-BISS GCH Dante's Fire When Ready, to a No. 6 ranking in the Non-Sporting Group last year. "T.J.'s success comes from his heart and spirit," Roberts says. "His correctly patterned coat, short back, cobby body and balanced, even trotting make him a beautiful example of a Schipperke, but it is his attitude that makes the difference. T.J.'s love for showing is evident."

Bred by co-owner Amy Gossman of Farmington, Minn., and the late Gene Johnson of Minneapolis, T.J. was sired by Multi-BIS/Multi-BISS AM/CAN GCH Dante's All Fired Up out of CH Dante's Whatever Lola

Wants. Five of seven dogs in the litter are champions. Gossman owns T.J. with her husband, John, Sandra Middlebrooks of Magnolia Springs, Ala., and Michael Jameson, M.D., and Patrick Allison, both of Fort Worth, Texas.

Shown on a limited basis from 2001 to 2010, T.J. was breeder-owner-handled by Gossman to Winners Dog and Best of Winners at the 2001 Schipperke Club of America (SCA) National Specialty when he was 9 months old. The next year, he captured Best of Breed. In 2010, after T.J. had developed the breed's distinctive but slow-maturing coat, Roberts started his Specials campaign, handling him to his second SCA National Specialty win, a place in the Top 20 and the breed's first Grand Champion title. Among his accolades, T.J. also won Best of Breed at the Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show in February for the third consecutive year.

A descendent of the Leuvenaer,



GCH Dante's Fire When Ready, the No. 1 Schipperke in the country, is the winner of 13 Bests in Show and 10 Bests in Specialty Show.

or black sheepdog, the Schipperke originated centuries ago in Belgium, where the breed was a companion to tradesmen and a watchdog and hunter on river barges. The name Schipperke comes from the Flemish "schip," which means boat.

Gossman's passion for Schipperkes began as a girl, when she was given the responsibility of training her family's pet Schipperke. She took the dog to training classes, where professionals encouraged her to show the dog. Hooked on the breed's personality and love of showing, Gossman bought a female and bred her first litter in 1987. Since then, her Dante's Schipperkes kennel has produced more than 75 champions.

"T.J. is a delightful little dog and a joy to watch at dog shows," Gossman says. "He is always so happy to be performing. His conformation is undeniable, and his personality is magnetic."

T.J., who lives with Roberts, is fueled by *Purina Pro Plan Sensitive Skin & Stomach Formula*.

'Skyhook,' 'Cassidy' and 'Angelo' Are Honored as Purina Brace Beagle Award Winners

A consistent, good-tracking hound with an easygoing style, FC Cisco's Rusty Skyhook earned enough points in seven federation field trials to secure a place in history as the 39th Purina Outstanding Field Trial Brace Beagle.

"Skyhook," as owner Jewell Francisco of Evensville, Tenn., calls his 2-year-old 15-inch tricolor male, was one of five Beagles, three with two wins each, in

rabbit," Bob Coil says. "He can handle a challenging rabbit and a bad brace mate. He is a nice, consistent hound with his short, squall voice and easy-to-handle, laidback style."

Skyhook tallied wins at the Mid-Dixie and Heartland Federations and placed second at the Southern and Eastern Federations. The Futurity trials, held from March to late May, consisted of 543 dogs. Hounds were paired into braces

S.C., and handled by Pete Proctor of Vale, N.C., captured the seventh annual Purina Derby Award at the Northeastern Federation, outperforming 619 Beagles vying for the honor.

Hill bought "Angelo" from Proctor, the breeder, as an 8-week-old puppy. Angelo's sire, FC Chandler Hill Sunshine, won the Purina Derby Award in 2008. His dam, Claron Miss Angelina, has produced seven Field Champions. Angelo won the Derby trial at the Southern and Eastern Federations and placed second at the Mid-Dixie, Midwestern and Northeastern Federations.

"Angelo has a deliberate tracking style and nice, squall mouth," Proctor says. "His performance at the Eastern was memorable. He came back fourth defeated in second series, but beat the third-place dog and then ran against the high dog and won."

The Purina Champion Award winner, NFC-FC Sunshine Cassidy, is owned by Dan LaBounty of Arlington, Ill., and was handled by the Coils. "Cassidy," who became a National Field Champion at the AKC National Championship preceding the Purina Award Banquet, outperformed 45 Beagles to win the award. She won the Rolling Fork, Swatara and Corapolis Field Champion trials, took third place at Wyoming Valley and fourth at Lorain.



Purina representative Mike Luchetta presents the Purina Derby Award to Pete Proctor, left, and owner John Hill.

"Cassidy has a medium chop-squall mouth," Lynette Coil says. "She is a tracking machine who always gives her best. At Rolling Fork, she tracked through thick cover to win, and at Corapolis, she came back fifth and won by making the check on the path."

The Purina Award winners, along with their owners and handlers, were honored last October at a banquet held in conjunction with the AKC National Brace Championship in Corapolis, Pa. Purina Area Manager Rod Carter served as master of ceremonies, and members of the Purina Brace Beagle Award Committee helped present the awards.

As the owner of the Purina Futurity Award winner, Francisco received an original oil painting of Skyhook by artist Valerie Dolan and a satin award banner. All the award recipients, including the Futurity class winners, received Purina brand dog food and cash prizes, which were doubled if they were active members of Purina Pro Club.

Carter and Purina Consultant Mike Luchetta presented Art and Linda Slike of Bradford, Pa., with a plaque honoring their 57 years' service to beagling as the publishers of *Hounds and Hunting* magazine. The Slike family sold the magazine in 2011.

The Purina Award Committee members are Dr. John Kiser of Charlotte, N.C., Stan Peterson of Lakewood, N.Y., and Kim Schrotenboer of Ada, Mich. Advisers to the committee are Mel Stewart of the American Kennel Club and Art Slike.



Owner Jewell Francisco and his wife, Barbara, left, and professional handlers Bob and Lynette Coil pose with "Skyhook," the 2011 Purina Outstanding Field Trial Brace Beagle.

contention for the highly competitive Purina Award. The winner was not determined until the last trial in the series, the Northeastern Federation, with Skyhook finishing on top with two wins and two second placements.

"Skyhook always gives 110 percent," says Francisco, who won his first Purina Award with the Beagle after competing in the sport since 1972. "He is a tough competitor and consistent tracker."

Professional handlers Bob and Lynette Coil of Bulls Gap, Tenn., handled Skyhook at the last three trials. Skyhook became their first Purina Award winner, although they had class winners in 2003, 2004, 2005 and 2009. "Skyhook does a phenomenal job tracking the

in which they were judged on how closely they follow a rabbit's track with the least amount of lost motion.

The Futurity Award was not the only Purina Award decided at the last field trial. Chandler Hill Angelo, a 1-year-old 13-inch tricolor male owned by John Hill of Greenville,



The owner of the Purina Champion Award winner Dan LaBounty, sitting, is shown with, from left: Art Slike, Bob Coil, Kim Schrotenboer, Lynette Coil, Mel Stewart, Dr. John Kiser, and Stan Peterson.

Andi Elburn Wins World & Autumn Oaks Bench Show Championships

The winners of the 2011 United Kennel Club (UKC) World Championship and Autumn Oaks bench shows were two *Pro Plan*-fed coonhounds handled by Andi Elburn of Peru, Ind.

WSHOWCH GRCH UKC/PKC/ AKC CH 'PR' Wabash River Thunder's Storm, a 3-year-old Redbone male bred and owned by Elburn, outperformed 191 dogs last September to win the UKC World Championship bench show in Wooster, Ohio.

"It was an honor to win the World Championship with 'Stormy,'" Elburn says. "He truly is an exemplary coonhound. He has nice feet, a beautiful head, heavy bone and a perfect expression. His gait is exceptional, and he steals your attention with his sassy personality and love for showing."

The No. 3 Redbone in UKC rankings and No. 4 Redbone in American Kennel Club (AKC) rankings, Stormy was sired by NITECH GRCH GRFCH PKC/AKC CH 'PR' Redbrush Sidearm Thunder out



Andi Elburn and "Kayla" are shown with owners Bob and Lori Tully after winning the Autumn Oaks Bench Show Championship. Right: Elburn presents "Stormy," the winner of the World Championship Bench Show, with, from left, Nikki and Mike Rovick and Kathi and Curtis Elburn.



of GCH 'PR' Elburn's Goldrush.

Among other wins, Stormy captured Best Male of Show at American Redbone Days and

won the breed at Autumn Oaks and the UKC Winter Classic. Stormy also earned his AKC conformation championship from the Bred-By Exhibitor class last year and has since won two Group Firsts and more than 10 Bests of Breed.

"Stormy is just a few points away from becoming a UKC Nite Champion and has 55 points toward his Water Race Champion title," Elburn says. "He is a great multipurpose dog with a lot of potential."

A third-generation coonhound

lover and second-generation Redbone breeder, Elburn handles her own coonhounds plus a few others. Two weeks before the Coonhound

World Championship, Elburn won the bench show at Autumn Oaks with NGRCH GRCH 'PR' Tully's Rockhills Kayla II, a 3-year-old female Bluetick Coonhound bred and owned by Bob and Lori Tully of North Lawrence, Ohio. "Kayla" outperformed 235 dogs to win the championship.

"Kayla is a solid, square bitch with a great head and legs and an eye-catching dark blue coat," says Elburn. "I've admired Kayla for a long time, and when Bob offered me the chance to show her, I was thrilled."

Elburn says her family's attendance at the World Championship and Autumn Oaks made the events even more special, especially since her mother later lost her battle with cancer. "This has always been a family hobby. My dad started breeding and competing with coonhounds with my grandfather before I was born," she says. "For my dad and mom and my sister and her children to be there with me for these prestigious wins was amazing."

Both Stormy and Kayla are fed *Purina Pro Plan* Performance Formula.

Alpine Amstaff Named 'Jelly' Sets Multiple Breed Records

Multi-BIS/Multi-BISS GCH Alpine's Highwayman, a 2-year-old brindle-and-white American Staffordshire Terrier, has stamped his mark in breed history by becoming the top-winning male and the top-winning breeder-owner-handled Amstaff.

Ed Thomason of Rochester, Wash., the breeder-owner-handler, campaigned "Jelly" to No. 1 in the breed and No. 5 in the Terrier Group last year. Since the dog finished his conformation championship in two weeks at 6 months of age, Jelly has won 15 Bests in Show and 70 Group Firsts. He has won eight Specialty Shows, including Bests of Breed at the 2010 and 2011 Staffordshire Terrier Club of America National Specialties.

"Jelly has impeccable breed type," Thomason says. "I am proud

of his top condition and his beautiful, glossy coat. His conformation gives the impression he has great strength for his size."

Among other successes, Jelly was the first Amstaff to become a Grand Champion and the first to win multiple back-to-back Bests in Show.

Thomason breeds under the Alpine prefix with his wife, Karen. Co-bred by Dan Nechemias and co-owner Lois Claus, both of Yamhill, Ore., Jelly was sired by BIS/BISS CH Benmar's Ring Master out of CH Alpine's Jamaica Me Crazy, the breed's top brood bitch in 2010 and 2011.

Jelly and his male littermate, GCH Alpine's Ring of Fire, the No. 2 American Staffordshire Terrier, are the only littermates in breed history to win Best in Show and



Breeder-owner-handler Ed Thomason stacks "Jelly," who won the Lost Coast Kennel Club Dog Show in July. At left is judge Bruce Schwartz.

be ranked in the Top 20.

The Thomasons began breeding American Staffordshire Terriers individually in the late 1990s, and Ed Thomason began handling dogs professionally in 1998. Brought together by their mutual passion for dogs and dog shows, the

Thomasons began breeding American Staffordshire Terriers together in 2004. The couple were married in 2010.

Their love for the breed is rooted in the Amstaff's temperament. "They are happy, goofy dogs that love people and

are fun to be around," Thomason says. "Jelly has never met a dog or person he doesn't love."

Reflecting on Jelly's achievements and his prominence as the most successful American Staffordshire Terrier he has ever bred, Thomason says, "Jelly's success is absolutely amazing. I've enjoyed every second of the past 18 months."

Jelly is fueled by *Purina Pro Plan* Sensitive Skin & Stomach Formula.

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The *Purina Pro Plan* for Professionals Facebook page allows breeders and enthusiasts to connect using the popular social networking site. Fans can post photos, videos and experiences and share insights about breeding, handling and other topics.

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Chris Goegan Wins NGSPA Pheasant Championship and GSPCA National

Professional handler Chris Goegan captured two major wins last fall, one familiar and one a new milestone in his 20-year career. Goegan won his sixth National German Shorthaired Pointer Association (NGSPA) Open All-Age Pheasant Championship in November, just two weeks after he captured his first German Shorthaired Pointer Club of America (GSPCA) National Field Trial win.

For the second consecutive year, FC-AFC Hi-N's Hurricane Express, an 8-year-old male called "Kane," and Tonelli's Little Stinker,

a 4-year-old female called "Dixie," earned first and second place, respectively, at the Open All-Age Pheasant Championship in Wye Island, Md.

Kane, who also won the Championship in 2009, stood out among 22 dogs with three stylish, evenly-spaced finds. Dixie's exceptional performance included finding a pheasant about 12 minutes into the hourlong stake.

"Kane and Dixie are true all-age dogs," Goegan says. "They're always forward and have good manners on their birds."

Bred by Jeff Wallace of Knoxville, Iowa, and owned by Hank Lewis of Louisville, Ky., Kane was sired by FC Kyle's Hightailing Luke out of Cajun's Burning Desire, JH. Handled by Goegan, "Luke" won the NGSPA Open All-Age Pheasant Championship in 2004, 2006 and 2007.

"Kane has always done well," says Goegan. "Though Dixie is not as consistent, she promises to get better with age."

Dixie was sired by NFC-FC 7XNGSPA Reg CH Tonelli's Rising Sun out of NFC-FC-AFC Annie's Little Stinker. She was bred by James and Sarah Messer of Sugar Land, Texas, and is owned by Harvey Franco of Cedar Park, Texas.

Another promising young dog on Goegan's string is NFC MSR's Opalescence, who won the GSPCA National Field Trial in Eureka, Kan., out of more than 60 dogs, accomplishing something Goegan has aspired to for two decades. "I have been trying to win the GSPCA National since I began," Goegan says. "I've won the American Field Trial several times, but the GSPCA National has eluded me. It was truly special to win."

"Opal," a 5-year-old female bred and owned by the Messers, found one quail 20 minutes into



Handled by Chris Goegan, "Opal" won the GSPCA National Field Trial in November.



Chris Goegan, kneeling center, handled "Kane," right, with owner Hank Lewis, and "Dixie," left, with owner Harvey Franco, to first and second place, respectively, at the Open All-Age Pheasant Championship.

the run. "Opal's independence, speed and animation really stood out," Goegan says. "Her course was unbelievable. She covered the country well and went places other dogs never dreamed of going."

Goegan, who trains and breeds German Shorthaired Pointers at his Hi-Point Kennels in Alliance, Ohio, attributes his dogs' success to good breeding and good owners. "Their breeders produced dogs with a lot of natural ability," he says. "Then their owners gave me the trust and leeway to develop that potential to the optimum level."

Goegan feeds Kane, Dixie and Opal *Purina Pro Plan* Performance Formula.