

# PURINA

## *Today's Breeder*

A Nestlé Purina Publication Dedicated to the Needs of Canine Enthusiasts

Issue 80



**BREEDER PROFILE**  
Pithole Creek English Coonhounds

**Faces of *Pro Club***  
Santa Barbara Breeder's Showcase  
***Pro Plan*: Awaken the Greatness**

# The READERS' PAGE



Rachel Thomas poses with her German Shepherd Dog, CH Quad of Kreative, at a United Kennel Club dog show in 2011 in Perry, Ga.

I grew up with dogs and have been around breeding and showing dogs since I was 2 years old. We have always fed *Purina* food. Now, I feed only *Purina Pro Plan* to my German Shepherd Dogs. They do great on this food. They are healthy and have great, thick, shiny coats. They always are so happy.

I not only show my dogs in conformation but also work them in the sport of Schutzhund. My dogs benefit from the quality nutrition of *Pro Plan* because they always are building muscles and burning energy.

I would like to thank you for your food and for your wonderful breeders' program, *Purina Pro Club*. It has helped

me tremendously. I recommend *Purina* to all my puppy buyers.

**Rachel Thomas**  
Tropisch German Shepherd Dogs  
North Port, FL

I wanted to share this photo of my granddaughter, Jordan Munoz. She is a future member of *Purina Pro Club*. We own a professional gundog training facility and have bred Labrador Retrievers since the 1980s. Jordan is 12 years old, but she started running dogs for her AKC Junior Handler title at age 10. I have competed at the Master National level for the past 10



Junior handler Jordan Munoz is shown with Bayside's Just Press Go, SH, her first Senior Hunter retriever. "Presto" is owned by her grandmother, *Purina Pro Club* member Deb Ziegler.

years, and Jordan has been helping me for years.

When she was 10 years old, Jordan ran "Minnow" (Bayside's Little Fish Big Pond, JH), a black female Labrador who was her first Junior Hunter dog. At age 11, she ran "Harbour" (Bayside Harbour Seaside, JH), a yellow female Labrador whom she titled in four back-to-back tests. Then, she put a Senior Hunter title on "Presto" (Bayside's Just

Press Go, SH), a black female Labrador. Next, she hopes to title a Master Hunter dog of her own.

I am so thankful for the *Pro Club* program. I regularly refer others to the *Pro Club* website ([www.purinaproclub.com](http://www.purinaproclub.com)) for resources and information. Thanks, Purina!

**Deb Ziegler**  
Bayside Labradors  
Red Bluff, CA



Two-week-old Beagle puppies snuggle together at the Tri-Hill's Kennels of *Pro Club* members Fred and Karen Eurick in Frentchtown, NJ. The Euricks are the breeders and owners of the litter sired by FC Del-Hart Beefeater out of FC Tri-Hill's Talking Tosh. The dam and puppies are fed *Pro Plan* Performance Formula, a super-premium all life stages dog food, which the Euricks attribute to their healthy condition. The photo was taken by John Curtin.

*We enjoy hearing from our Pro Club members about their dogs. Please send your letters and photos to: Today's Breeder, c/o Editor, Nestlé Purina PetCare Company, 2T Checkerboard Square, St. Louis, MO 63164 or via e-mail at [today'sbreeder@purina.com](mailto:today'sbreeder@purina.com). Today's Breeder retains the right to edit and publish letters, including names and addresses, and photos, to a worldwide audience.*

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A two-time United Kennel Club Performance Breeder of the Year, Doug Stamper is passionate about English Coonhounds and competition nite hunts. His practice of exclusively breeding coonhounds with Grand Nite Champions in their pedigrees has helped him produce consistent top performers.

## 10 SOMETHING SPECIAL: SANTA BARBARA'S BREEDER'S SHOWCASE

The Santa Barbara Kennel Club Breeder's Showcase has evolved to become a premier event where breeders bring their best dogs to represent their breeding programs. The winners of the fourth annual Showcase were a pair of female Border Terriers bred by Meadowland breeder Karen Fitzpatrick of Kankakee, Ill.

## 14 FACES OF PRO CLUB

Longtime and newly recruited members of *Purina Pro Club* share a commitment to Purina that is based on their loyalty to *Purina* brand dog food. Founded 51 years ago, *Pro Club* supports breeders by providing a wide range of products and resources.

## 24 PURINA PRO PLAN: AWAKEN THE GREATNESS

*Pro Plan* brand dog food has a new package look but the same high-quality nutrition. With an emphasis on Savor, Focus, Select and Sport, the portfolio is linked by nutritional profiles. Among the features, three Sport formulas offer fat-to-protein ratios geared to enthusiasts with active and hardworking dogs.

## 28 PROVIDING CANINE COMFORT IN WINTER

Cold weather care for dogs involves keeping dogs safe and comfortable. Cold can affect dogs' energy and immune systems, making them prone to disease and injury. Follow our winter checklist for kennels to help keep your dogs protected from cold weather.

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GR NITE CH 'PR' Pithole Creek Lilly, a 3-year-old female English Coonhound, bred, owned and handled by Doug Stamper of Hymera, Ind. "Lilly" was the 2011 United Kennel Club Performance Coonhound of the Year. See story on page 4.



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# Pithole Creek's Grand Scheme

BY BARBARA FAWVER

**T**he chill in the autumn evening is warmed by a hound's energetic deep, long bawl harmonized by a second hound's short, chop mouth. "Lilly," a 3-year-old red-ticked English Coonhound, is the first to strike the raccoon's trail. "Bell," her 4-year-old half-sister, tracks closely behind. The sounds fade in and out as the hounds zigzag deeper into the woods, following the raccoon. Now and again, the barking stops, and then suddenly, the bawling and short chops intensify.

Navigating swiftly through the woods, 500 acres of privately owned timberland that borders the broken-stalk remains of a drought-ridden cornfield in Sullivan County, Indiana, breeder-owner-handler Doug Stamper, a muscular, athletic nearly 6-foot-tall man, moves agilely over fallen trees and knee-deep weeds. The night's darkness is lit by a radiant beam projecting from a headlight mounted on his helmet. Doug zooms in on his hounds' location using their GPS tracking collars to guide him.

"Lilly" and "Bell" tree a raccoon while hunting with breeder-owner-handler Doug Stamper. The third-generation Grand Nite Champion females are half-sisters.

"They're about one-quarter mile out," he says, simultaneously reading a hand-held GPS receiver and scurrying to reach his third-generation Grand Nite Champion females who've treed a raccoon. GR NITE CH 'PR' Pithole Creek Lilly, known for her independent tracking, was the United Kennel Club's (UKC) 2011 Performance Coonhound of the Year. Doug proudly notes that Lilly became a Grand Nite Champion at age 2 in an unbelievable two and half months. GR NITE CH 'PR' Pithole Creek Bell, who has the same dam as Lilly, GR NITE CH 'PR' Pithole Creek Sissy, won Best of Opposite Sex as a 1-year-old in the registered division at English Days in 2009.

A six-night-a-week coon hunter, Doug realizes that to finish Grand Nite Champions, hounds must "track fairly fast and tree fairly fast."

"You've got to hunt them several nights a week to keep them conditioned," he says. "They also must have a lot of high spirit."

The closer Doug gets to a competition nite hunt, the harder he works. Just ask his wife, Cathy, who helps raise puppies and care for the 12 adult English Coonhounds at their Pithole Creek kennel in Hymera, Ind. "Before the big hunts, I don't see Doug much," she says. "He can be pretty grouchy, too."

Grouchiness may be due to the lack of sleep that comes with the sport that occurs at night when the nocturnal raccoons move around, or maybe it is due to the uncertainty of the outcome of a nite hunt. "What I like about a competition is the lack of control you have," Doug says. "If your dog isn't operating right, there is nothing you can do about it. Your dog has to be on his game, plus you've got to know how to handle your dog."

Though Doug's first coonhound was a Treeing Walker and he once had a Redbone, his love for the English breed is a 24-year affair. "I like how the English hunt and how they operate," says Doug of the breed that descended from the English Foxhound and originally tracked fox. "They don't get off on the scent of other animals, and they are easy to train. My goal is to better the English breed."

Considering that Doug is a two-time UKC Performance Breeder of the Year, having won in 2010 and 2011,

it's fair to say he's doing his part to better the breed. The honor, based on points earned by hounds bred and raised by an individual breeder, is bestowed annually at Autumn Oaks in Richmond, Ind., one of the largest coonhound events in the country.

Similarly, he was the Professional Kennel Club's (PKC) Spring Super Stakes Breeder of the Year in 2011, an award based on the accumulated earnings



Doug leads his English Coonhounds back to the truck after a successful hunt.

of the top five pups born between May and October 2008. As the breeder-owner of the pups that accumulated the most earnings, Doug won a \$500 prize.

"I've been real lucky the last few years," Doug says, reflecting humbly on his accomplishments.

There's more to Doug's story than luck. The key to his success is breeding around three litters a year, training nearly every night after working 12-hour days at his construction job, and traveling almost every weekend to competition hunts. In the grand scheme of nite hunts, it is his determination to load the pedigrees of his Pithole Creek English Coonhounds with all Grand Nite Champions that has made the difference.

As Doug reaches the tall oak tree where Lilly and Bell are baying, their back feet firmly planted on the ground and their front legs hugging the

trunk, he expertly draws them back. Shining his headlight up into the bare branches of the tree, two shining eyes confirm that his Grand Nite Champions have accurately tracked and treed a raccoon.

### A Coon Hunter's Paradise

Indiana is a coon hunter's paradise. From late February to early November, nite hunts are held every weekend within one hour from where Doug lives. Autumn Oaks is held annually on Labor Day weekend in Richmond, drawing around 300 hounds each night that represent the seven coonhound breeds recognized by the UKC. The PKC Spring Super Stakes has been held in Sullivan County for the past several years, and last June, English Days was held in Bluffton.

Hunts held in Sullivan County take place out of the Sullivan County Coon Club. Doug is a member, having served as treasurer for 15 years, and now

is a director. The club holds about eight UKC and 24 PKC hunts a year.

"Pleasure hunting is in my blood," Doug says. "Once I won a hunt with a Redbone named 'Gypsy,' I was addicted to competition hunts."

A second-generation pleasure hunter, Doug learned from his father, Douglas L. Stamper, who loved to go to the woods to hunt but never hunted competitively. Doug was 16 years old when a friend, Dave Danko of Shelburn, Ind., sold him an English male, Briar Creek C.J. Doug spent \$600 earned from hauling hay to buy the already started hound sired by GR NITE CH 'PR' Briar Creek Chopper out of GR NITE CH 'PR' Hard Time Miss Piggy.

Two years later, Doug finished "C.J.," making him his first Grand Nite Champion. "It was a learning process for me and him," recalls Doug. "We competition hunted nearly every weekend. I was learning the rules and the importance of recognizing his voice

An English Coonhound enthusiast for 24 years, Doug walks some of his Pithole Creek Grand Nite Champions at home.





Doug and his wife, Cathy, are shown with GR NITE CH 'PR' Pithole Creek Sissy, one of Pithole Creek's top-producing females.

so I would know when he was running and when he was treed. I learned it takes a lot of training to do well."

In nite hunts, coonhounds are judged on how quickly they run and tree raccoons. In most hunts, hounds run up to two hours in a cast, a randomly drawn four-dog group. Hounds score points for being the first to strike and first to tree.

Over the next several years, as he continued learning the sport, Doug hunted "with a string of mediocre dogs and without a lot of luck."

In the late 1990s, GR NITE CH 'PR' Briar Creek Houdini was a top English stud and competition dog. Doug had a female sired by him out of GR NITE CH 'PR' Key's Little Red. "Missy," the dam who helped Doug become the 2011 PKC Breeder of the Year, would become the Pithole Creek foundation female with her last litter.

"There wasn't much training with Missy. She just needed turned loose," Doug says.

Doug started taking Missy to nite hunts, and the winning came naturally. "I never knew which direction she would go," he says. "Around 20 months of age, she earned her Nite Champion title and already had four wins toward Grand Nite. She was fast, accurate and flashy. She caught everyone's attention.

"I sold her but eventually bought her back when she was almost 8," he says.

During her career, Missy took several top honors. In 1998, she won the registered class in the Saturday nite hunt at English Days, and she was the High-Scoring English Dog after winning the Friday and Saturday Nite Champion division hunts at Redbone Days. She was the Southern Association's High-Scoring English Female at the 2002 UKC Winter Classic. In PKC competition, a hunt program where winners earn monetary awards, Missy's pups earned \$9,400.

After Doug bought Missy back in 2004, she went to Pleasantville, Pa., to his partner, Ron Beck, who started Pithole Creek English, adopting the name from a creek that runs through his property. Before they were partners, Doug used the Briar Creek prefix of Jim Ridge of Lewis, Ind., to register his hounds since most came from Ridge's line. Ridge and Doug are friends, and in 2002, Doug handled Ridge's male, GR NITE CH 'PR' Briar Creek Zeb, to his \$12,000 win at the PKC Fall Junior Super Stakes.

Doug and Beck decided to run Missy at Autumn Oaks in 2004. Though she had just been bred to GR NITE CH 'PR' Beck's Pithole Creek Huck A Buck, she outperformed 875 hounds and became the National Grand Nite Champion English Coonhound.

A two-time UKC Performance Breeder of the Year, Doug is pictured with trophies and awards earned from nite hunt competitions and for breeding top hounds.



Doug and Beck kept two pups from Missy's litter. Doug, who ran the females, kept Pithole Creek Sissy. "I raised 'Sissy' as a pup," Doug says. "I had no idea she'd turn out to be such a great producer."

Sissy, now 9 years old, has whelped exceptional litters with 22 percent of her offspring earning titles in competition. Sissy's average is likely to increase as her two youngest litters, which are under 16 months of age, mature and start competing for titles. Meanwhile, Sissy's dam, Missy, who has been nominated for the 2013 Hall of Fame, produced 26 puppies, with an average of 15.38 percent becoming titled.

Doug eventually bought out Beck's interest in Pithole Creek English, largely because Beck's oil industry job had become more demanding with less time for hunts, but not before Pithole Creek Hot Spice came along. In 2006, "Spice" outperformed 1,000 hounds at Autumn Oaks to become the High-

## The English Coonhound

Pithole Creek English Coonhound breeder Doug Stamper loves the breed's deep red color and keen ability to track a several hours' old raccoon trail, which is known as having a "cold nose."

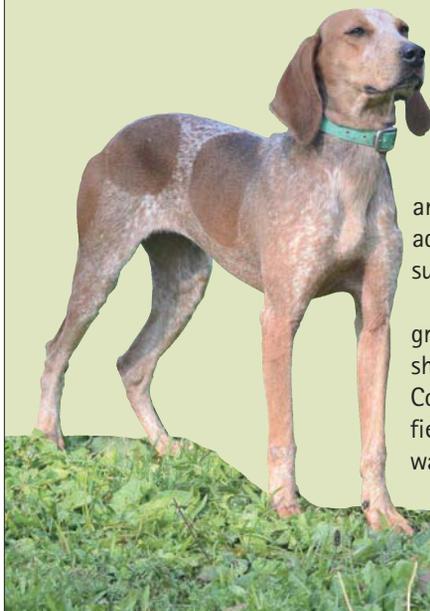
In competition nite hunts, English Coonhounds "win a lot," he says.

Not all English Coonhounds have the deep red color that Doug likes so much. In fact, color variation is part of the breed's history. Treeing Walker and Bluetick coonhounds were registered as English Coonhounds until 1945 and 1946, respectively, when they became separate breeds. Though red ticking is most common, English Coonhounds also can be blue tick, tricolor with ticking, white and red, white and black, and white and lemon.

English Coonhounds descended from the English Foxhound. In the U.S., the English breed was developed from hounds brought from England by Robert Brooke in 1650, Thomas Walker of Virginia in 1742, and George Washington in 1770. Americans adapted the breed to hunting raccoon, opossum, cougar and bear on rougher terrain.

Strongly built, English Coonhounds have great endurance and speed, not to mention sharp hunting instincts. In fact, an English Coonhound won the first major coonhound field trial held in the U.S. The first Leaky Oak was won by an English hound called "Bones."

GR NITE CH 'PR' Pithole Creek Lilly



Doug feeds "Mickey," a 5-month-old English Coonhound puppy, Purina Pro Plan brand Performance Formula.

Scoring English Female. She also took first place in the registered division.

"I probably hunted Spice 30 nights to get her ready for this one hunt," Doug says. "It took a lot of hours out there, turning her loose."

Leafing through a thick green binder filled with photographs and advertising pages promoting Pithole Creek English, Doug points out memorable hounds. GR NITE CH 'PR' Pithole Creek Mighty Mouse was the highest in the Indiana PKC standings in 2005, the same year she led the English breed nationally. In 2006, she was the High-Scoring Female at English Days. GR NITE CH 'PR' Holy Terror was like Lilly — she finished in 2008 in two and half months between English Days and Autumn Oaks. In 2009, GR NITE CH 'PR' Candy was the High-Scoring Female at Autumn Oaks.

"My career goal has always been to produce consistent winners," Doug says.

Pithole Creek English are nothing short of consistent.

### A Labor of Love

After Doug got serious about breeding English Coonhounds in 2000, he and Cathy moved to a house on 15 acres in Hymera. His love of the outdoors is apparent. Their home is decorated with mounted deer, coyote and raccoon. The property, with its tidy, well-kept house and kennel, has a huge paddock for two trail riding horses and a spacious barn. A Boxer and a Dachshund complete the canine menagerie.

Designing and building the kennel was a labor of love for Doug. He started with a 24-by-24-foot open pole building, which provides protection from inclement weather. It is built on concrete that has a gutter down the middle for hosing waste.

Coonhounds can jump high, so Doug used 6-foot chain link to separate the eight 5-by-10-foot individual kennels. Each hound has an insulated wood house that protects from cold and hot weather. Hay is added in the winter. This past summer, when drought conditions persisted for several weeks, Doug built a misting system that ran continuously.

Four spacious kennels, including a whelping box kennel, are located behind the garage close to the house. These kennels are used for young hounds and dams with puppies. “Mickey” and “Bob,” 5-month-old pups out of Bell and GR NITE CH ‘PR’ Pithole Creek Razor, now are kenneled there. Going through the lanky adolescent stage, the pups’ coats are turning from the subtle red and white spots they were born with to deep red ticking. Their six littermates have been sold to coon hunters looking for competition hounds from Doug’s all Grand Nite Champion bloodline.

“I start hunting hounds when they are 8 to 10 months old,” he says. “I turn them loose with older dogs. You have to start out slow to avoid burning them out. When they are 12 to 24 months old, you know what you have.

“I believe in liking what you hunt and breeding for those qualities,” says Doug. “When I choose males to breed to my females, I try to find those with the same traits. It’s hard to find all-Grand pedigrees that cross well with my females.”

Not one to take success for granted, Doug has worked hard to finish nearly 25 Grand Nite Champions. In recent years, nite hunts have become increasingly competitive. “It used to be normal for dogs to become Grand Nite Champions around 3 years old,” he says. “Now, 18 to 24 months old is more common. It’s pretty amazing.



Cathy Stamper hoses waste into the gutter than runs down the middle of the kennel.

“You need a good dog and a lot of luck to win these competitions,” he says, again and again. Doug’s humility relates to the breaks he’s had in getting good hounds and the help he’s had from his former partner, Beck, and others like Ridge with his Briar Creek dogs. Regardless, the breaks do not diminish the hard work he puts into the sport he has grown to love deeply.

By late February, Doug will be back out in the thick of competition nite hunts. Three Pithole Creek English — all going back to his Pithole foundation female Missy — are waiting their turns. ‘PR’ Pithole Creek Sandy, a Missy great-granddaughter, will compete in the registered class. NITE CH ‘PR’ Kate, a Missy great-granddaughter, and NITE CH ‘PR’ Pithole Creek Total Terror, a Missy great-great-granddaughter, will soon be Grand Nite Champions.

In the grand scheme of nite hunts, they will become Pithole’s next-generation of Grand Nite Champions to better the English breed. ■

## Something Special:

# Santa Barbara's Breeder's Showcase

Nearly 250 pairs of dogs, representing the best of their breeders' breeding programs, vied for Best in Show in August at the Santa Barbara Kennel Club's Breeder's Showcase. Two female Border Terriers — one shown for the first time ever — won the esteemed event, thrilling Meadowlake breeder Karen Fitzpatrick of Kankakee, Ill.

Winning helped Fitzpatrick forget the rocky start of her first trip to the Santa Barbara dog show. Her flight was delayed four hours, and she wrecked her rental car in Malibu, Calif. "I hemmed and hawed about going," she says. "The Breeder's Showcase definitely was an enticement. It was so exciting to win."

The Saturday evening event, held in the arena of the Earl Warren Showgrounds, was much like a fancy lawn party. Tables with white tablecloths were arranged to provide viewing of the judging. Guests enjoyed a buffet dinner coordinated by the host, the Santa Barbara Kennel Club. Judging was held under a huge canopy tent.

Judging this year's Showcase were Edd E. Bivin of Fort Worth,

Texas, a renowned Pomeranian breeder, and Michael Gadsby of the U.K., a top breeder of American Cocker Spaniels and Standard Poodles. Their decision was unanimous.

"The Border Terriers most closely aligned in quality, but the lineup was fabulous," Gadsby said after the show.

"I would have been happy with any one of the pairs," Bivin said. "The Borders did a very nice job, and we had to make a decision. They were in top condition and most consistent in breed type."

Reserve Best in Show went to a pair of female Pembroke Welsh Corgis from the Coventry Corgi kennel of Bill Shelton of Anaheim, Calif. One of the dogs, CH Segni at Coventry ("Molly"), now 4 years old, won Best in Show at the 2010 Breeder's Showcase with another Coventry Corgi. Her Reserve Best in Show partner was GCH Coventry Allure at Wyndstar ("Allie"), a 2-year-old.

Co-chairs of the Breeder's Showcase, Desi Murphy and Connie Gerstner Miller, have enjoyed watching the show get better each year. "The quality of dogs was tiptop this year," Murphy says. "Best in Show caliber



Meadowland Border Terrier breeder Karen Fitzpatrick is thrilled to win Best in Show.



Fitzpatrick and Simon Simann present the Best in Show Breeder's Showcase winners, "Maya" and "Cinder." From left are: Breeder's Showcase co-chair Desi Murphy, judge Edd E. Bivin, Fitzpatrick, Simann, judge Michael Gadsby, and Purina Area Manager Carol Grossman.

dogs do best in this competition. People bring their top dogs out of retirement, and we've begun to see a significant international entry."

Murphy brainstormed creating a Breeder's Showcase after attending the 2007 World Dog Show in Stockholm, Sweden. "I noticed that the Breeder's class was won by a U.S. black Standard Schnauzer breeder," he says. "I recruited Connie to help get it going. Santa Barbara always has strived to be an extra special club, and I felt this event would fit well with our club."

Miller took the idea to her friends at Purina, and *Purina Pro Plan* signed on as the sponsor, awarding prize money to the winners. Best in Show receives a \$1,500 prize, and Reserve Best in Show gets \$1,000, plus money is awarded to the Group winners and placers.

"This award purposely evaluates one's breeding program," Miller says. "Breeders may enter dogs of either or the same sex. The recognition that goes to top breeders validates their hard work and efforts."

A breeder of Border Terriers for 15 years, Fitzpatrick won the fourth annual Showcase with 4-year-old GCH Meadowlake Simply Sinful ("Maya") and 1-year-old Meadowlake Pants On Fire ("Cinder"), who finished in October at the Montgomery County Kennel Club Dog Show. Maya, the No. 1 Border Terrier, represents her fifth generation, and Cinder is the sixth generation.

Maya, who was co-bred with Tracy VanNiel, was Fitzpatrick's puppy back. Cinder, who Fitzpatrick co-owns with Thomas



Pembroke Welsh Corgis from the Conventry line of Bill Shelton, "Molly" and "Allie," win Reserve Best in Show. From left are: judge Edd E. Bivin, Christian Rangel, Jenny Wornall, and judge Michael Gadsby.

Bradley III, a director of the Westminster Kennel Club, will begin her Specials career next year.

Both females are related to Fitzpatrick's male, CH Meadowlake Devil's Brew ("Killian"), the sire of 52 champions. Killian, who is 8 years old, was the top Border Terrier sire from 2008 to 2010 and the top Terrier sire in 2008. "Killian is one of the top brood bitch sires," says Fitzpatrick. "His daughters are phenomenal."

An all-purpose dog originally bred in Great Britain to go to ground after fox, Border Terriers should have proper balance and movement. "They must move effortlessly and cover a lot of ground without tiring," Fitzpatrick says. "Size is very important. Borders must be able to fit down a fox hole and turn around like a slinky to come back up. They also must have a correct otter head."

Before breeding Border Terriers, Fitzpatrick bred Jack Russell Terriers and traveled to the U.K. to fox hunt with them. Though she breeds two to three litters a year, she keeps about six Border Terriers that are house dogs. She is a professional groomer and owner of Sterling Grooming. She also writes children's books under Kay Elizabeth Sterling, her grandmother's maiden name. Her book, "Austin's First Puppy," is the story of a boy's experience adopting a Border Terrier.

Both the Border Terriers and the Pembroke Welsh Corgis are fed *Purina Pro Plan Selects* Natural Chicken & Brown Plus Essential Vitamins and Minerals. ■

# A Blueprint *for* Training

BY GEORGE HICKOX



I am always excited when I start the development of blue-ribbon pedigree pups. Right now, I am getting ready to start a litter of pups boasting an impressive family tree: Their sire is Covey Rise's Offlee Amazin', a Purina Top Shooting Dog, and their granddam is Elhew Hannabell, a two-time Purina Top Shooting Dog and member of the Field Trial Hall of Fame.

In order for me to provide the pups with the opportunity to maximize their genetic potential, I will have to adhere to sound training principles, not rush the process and let the dogs tell me when they are ready for more advanced training that will help them develop into stylish bird dogs.

The blueprint for a successful program must be implemented in a timely manner and must follow fundamental canine training principles to achieve the end goal. Here are some of the principles I feel are important to guarantee the desired outcome.

Do not wait for the “pup to be old enough to train.” The development of pups should begin early. Teaching dogs to learn is important. Dogs that have not been exposed to new environments, other dogs and people and have not learned to perform tasks to earn paychecks quite often are handicapped from achieving their full genetic potential.

I start clicker training around 6 weeks of age. I teach the dogs that they can earn rewards by offering desired behaviors. Simple tasks, such as running into a kennel, standing for a short duration and recalling to earn positive reinforcements, are taught at an early age to help develop a dog that believes he or she can succeed. This is a dog that gives an effort to learn new tasks and solve problems. I reward the effort using food as the primary reinforcement. I want to develop a dog that will give a timely effort to respond to a known command/cue. Such a dog will respond much better in the more advanced training and expectations that will come down the road.

While the early classroom session of clicker training is going on, so is fieldwork. In the initial stage of exposing pups to the field, I want to guarantee they have fun. There are no controls expected or demanded of the pup in the field at this time. I want life to be a bowl of cherries for the canine youngster at this time. If corrections are implemented in the initial stage of introductory fieldwork, there is a risk the dog will associate the field as a dark alley where he may get mugged. If the dog is apprehensive in the field, it will make the introduction to birds and subsequent formal point drills more volatile.

I introduce young canine pupils to birds early. The benchmark I use is 12 weeks of age. I release quail from a Johnny house that the pups see fly out. I then release the pups, and the hunt and chase is on. I am not talking to the pups or restraining them from chasing. Good flying birds are important as I want the pups to develop their pointing instincts. By releasing an ample amount of quail from the Johnny house, I guarantee that the canine hopefuls will have success at finding birds. If their introductory fieldwork is positive, pups will learn to hunt, use their nose and develop their pointing instincts.

When pups are running with confidence in the field, I will introduce them to a four-wheeler. I want to keep the pups running in front; they should not run or circle behind me. A four-wheeler is a great tool to teach dogs that their job is to hunt in front. Dogs that learn to constantly run behind are more difficult to teach to pattern later.

I spend the summers on the prairies of North Dakota and the winters in Kansas. I am fortunate to have plentiful wild birds on which to train. There is a pot of gold to be found by dogs that

stay in front. If you live in areas where wild birds are scarce, I recommend planting good flying birds to give dogs a reason to hunt and stay in front.

During the imprinting stage of up to 20 weeks old, I want to expose the pups to running with a check cord. I will use a check cord to teach the dog to hold point and be steady to wing and shot. If a check cord or lead has only been used as a control for the recall and heel commands, then the dog may be reluctant to run in front when the handler is holding onto a check cord. Frequently, at our training clinics, I see dogs that are apprehensive when a check cord is attached to their collars. If the dog is apprehensive, that is a poor time to do bird work.



Development of puppies should begin early so they learn to acclimate easily to new environments, other dogs and people.

I teach the basic obedience commands in the classroom and not in the field. As a guideline, if the dog does not comply to a command in yard training, the command should not be given in the field. In yard training, I am teaching the dog to give an effort to respond to a known command in a timely fashion.

To teach this, it is important to be consistent. Consistent repetitions are an important ingredient in developing a dog that responds reliably. Variable reinforcements are a big handicap. If sometimes the dog is rewarded for a specific act and at other times he is corrected for the same behavior, reliability will be a pie in the sky. Teaching the dog to respond to the command/cue the first time he receives the directive is the objective.

The pups are now 14 weeks old. If I implement a sound training program and make the correct decision on when to progress to more advanced training, I expect to have dogs that will run in control, exhibit sound bird manners and look stylish doing what they were bred to do. ■

*A professional trainer and handler of pointing and flushing dogs, George Hickox conducts training schools for owners and their dogs as well as private clinics for individuals and organizations. For information about the George Hickox School of Dog Training or Hickox's four training DVDs, please visit [www.georgehickox.com](http://www.georgehickox.com).*

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# FACES *of* PRO CLUB

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*Founded 51 years ago, Purina Pro Club boasts a loyal base of dog enthusiasts who wholeheartedly feed Purina brand dog food. Today's Breeder recently interviewed the following members of Pro Club and found that both longtime and newly recruited members share a deep passion for Purina. Here are their stories.*

## Seeking a Performance Edge

The bottom line for professional retriever trainer Chris Akin of Bono, Ark., is how well his dogs perform in the field. While he cannot control many aspects of what happens in a field trial, he can be sure that he feeds a top-quality performance dog food.

Nutritional quality became an issue for Akin this year.

After nearly a decade feeding a competitive performance dog food — one that he helped develop by contributing insights about what is important in a food for hardworking dogs — the quality of the food plummeted, Chris says. His elite retrievers began suffering from diarrhea during trials, and his young dogs had a bloody stool that required an antibiotic treatment.

"I was spending \$2,500 a month for veterinary care to treat the effect this food was having on my dogs," says Chris of Webbed Footed Kennels, a training facility that has produced more than 100 United Kennel Club Grand Champions and American Kennel Club Master Hunters. A familiar face to those who watch the Super Retriever Series on ESPN, Chris is the only two-time Crown Championship winner, having won in 2003 and 2008.

Retriever owners from across the country and Canada send Chris their dogs for training. Most are black Labradors, though yellow and chocolate Labradors, Golden Retrievers and Chesapeake Bay Retrievers are part of the mix. The majority are companion dogs that live in the house and accompany their owners duck hunting and to hunt tests and amateur field trials.

Three years ago, Chris built a 7,500-square-foot indoor kennel that has about 75 dogs at any time. Seven assistants help him train and care for the dogs. This past spring, Chris traveled with a string of 30 retrievers to about 15 trials on the circuit.

A longtime friend of Purina Area Manager Dean Reinke, Chris welcomed Reinke's call when he was having dog food trouble. "A representative of another company called me too," Chris says. "It was hard to figure out which way to go. I made a fantastic decision."

That decision was to feed *Purina Pro Plan* brand Performance Formula and join *Purina Pro Club*. "After three days, I began to notice an improvement in stool quality," says Chris. "Judges started asking me what dog food I was feeding, and the owners wanted to know too when they came to get their dogs."

Another plus to feeding *Pro Plan*, Chris says, is its availability. "The food I used to feed was hard for owners in many parts of the country to find.



Chris Akin and "Banjo" in the Webbed Footed kennel in Bono, Ark.



A professional retriever trainer, Chris watches his 9-year-old male Labrador Retriever, RS GRHRCH Banjo, MH, QAA, make a water retrieve.

When the dogs went home, I couldn't help the owners get the food. Purina is a national-level dog food company with a much greater distribution."

A busy trainer who uses nearly 8,000 minutes a month on his cellphone plan, Chris now can get back to focusing on what he considers most important: feeding a great dog food, helping owners train their dogs, and working with a company that he can help promote as part of the same team.

## A Badge of Honor

Basset Hound breeder Barbara Cleveland of Hernando, Miss., took the advice of her mentor in 1972 when she decided to feed her dogs *Purina* dog food and join *Purina Pro Club*. "That recommendation has served me well," Barbara says. "Feeding a quality dog food and belonging to such a resourceful breeder club has made a world of difference."

Her mentor, Bobbie Wilhoite of Franklin, Tenn., was adamant that Barbara should feed *Purina Dog Chow* brand dog food and *Purina Puppy Chow* brand puppy food. "When I got my first Basset Hound from her, she gave me a Puppy Starter Kit," says Barbara.

A retired high-school economics and world geography teacher, Barbara began breeding Basset Hounds for competing in dog shows partly to relieve stress from the classroom. An alumna of Vanderbilt University, she chose Bassets because

the breed is the school's mascot. "My dogs became my stress releaser," she says. "I met a lot of nice people through dogs."

Over the past 50 years, Barbara has bred 18 litters, with a minimum of one champion per litter. Her focus always has been to produce healthy, well-socialized dogs. Her last three litters — whelped from 2005 to 2008 — produced three champions in each litter.

Though she recently retired from breeding, Barbara continues to compete in the Veterans class with her seven retired champions. She also is branching out



Barbara Cleveland walks with her Basset Hounds, clockwise from top right, CH Cleve's Tasman, CH Cleve's Cassandra of Catalina, CH Cleve's Chairman Mao and CH Cleve's Molly Malone. Inset photo: Cleve's P Picasso and CH Cleve's General Shang greet visitors.

into therapy dog work and hopes to put a Canine Good Citizen title on CH Cleve's Chairman Mao to help make him a better therapy dog. "I want to start visiting a nearby nursing home with 'Chairman,'" she says. "His patient, loving temperament is ideal for therapy."

A member of the newly formed North Mississippi Kennel Club, Barbara helps the club encourage junior handlers to participate in the sport of conformation. She involves her own grandchildren, offering them training opportunities and allowing

them to handle her dogs at shows. "We work hard to educate and train young people to compete in dog shows," she says. "We want to excite them about how much fun it can be."

Her greatest pride has come from breeding Basset Hounds that are wonderful companions to families, many who become repeat

puppy buyers. "I always have loved when people call years later wanting to buy another dog from me," she says. "One woman visited me 15 years later looking for a dog for her father. My Bassets are very social and are part of the family."

Being a member of *Pro Club* has been a badge of honor for Barbara. "When I started out, I had so many questions about growth rates and how long I should feed a puppy food before switching to an adult dog food," she says. "*Pro Club* has provided the nutritional information I've needed and given me the tools and resources to achieve so many goals. I always am proud to tell others that I belong to *Pro Club*."

### Competing with the Best

Longtime *Pro Club* members Dan and Liz Karshner of Sardinia, Ohio, merged her love for Bulldogs and his love for Treeing Walker Coonhounds when they became Little Pond kennels in 1978. Though they've intentionally kept their program small with few dogs, Little Pond's homegrown champions have made a mark in the dog fancy and coonhound sporting competitions.

Numerous Bulldog Hall of Fame winners and reproducers and a Treeing Walker female that became a National Bench Show Champion at Autumn Oaks are part of their impressive portfolio. Even before they won Autumn Oaks in 1979 with GR CH Karshner's Treeing Tess and finished their first homebred American Kennel Club champion, CH Little Pond's Sudden Joy, from the Bred-By Exhibitor class in 1981, they were *Pro Club* members.

That homebred champion's littermate sister,

CH Little Pond's Alligator Alice, became their first Hall of Fame Bulldog, inducted as a reproducer. Fifteen years later, their male, CH Little Pond's Ollie, won Best of Breed at the Bulldog Club of America (BCA) National Specialty, which automatically made "Ollie" a Hall of Fame winner.

Liz, a retired veterinary technician, says she's been a *Pro Club* member for so long, she doesn't exactly remember when she joined. "I've fed *Pro Plan* for 45 years," she says. "Our dogs have excellent coat and body condition. They match up to any dog in the ring."

As they consider what they like best about being in *Pro Club*, Liz and Dan agree they love using their Purina Points for dog food checks. They also enjoy receiving Puppy Starter Kits to send home with the owners of the two or three litters they breed a year. "I am grateful that Purina sponsors so many dog shows and sporting events that we attend," Dan says. "We are so lucky for that."

Showing their Little Pond Bulldogs at the plethora of specialty and all-breed dog shows in Ohio became

their main focus, although Dan continues even today to have a coonhound for United Kennel Club nite hunts and the occasional bench show. He plans to enter Buckeye Spice, a 1 ½-year-old Treeing Walker female, in nite hunts next spring.

The Karshners' attention to producing healthy Bulldogs with proper structure has helped them breed 80 champions. Their male, CH Little Pond's Chief, is the top-producing sire in the breed, with 141 champions. Though "Chief" passed away in 2006, he continues to produce champion offspring via frozen semen. He is the sire of the all-time specialty winning female, CH Little Pond's Promise, who won 55 specialty shows.

Keeping a limited number of dogs led to the couple buying a male puppy sired by Chief. CH Warm Valley Helfyre Spencer won Best of Opposite Sex at the BCA National Specialty in 2005, putting



Dan and Liz snuggle with 8-week-old Bulldog puppies.

Dan and Liz Karshner, breeders of 80 champion Bulldogs, are shown with their Hall of Fame female CH Little Pond's Loquacious Lucy.



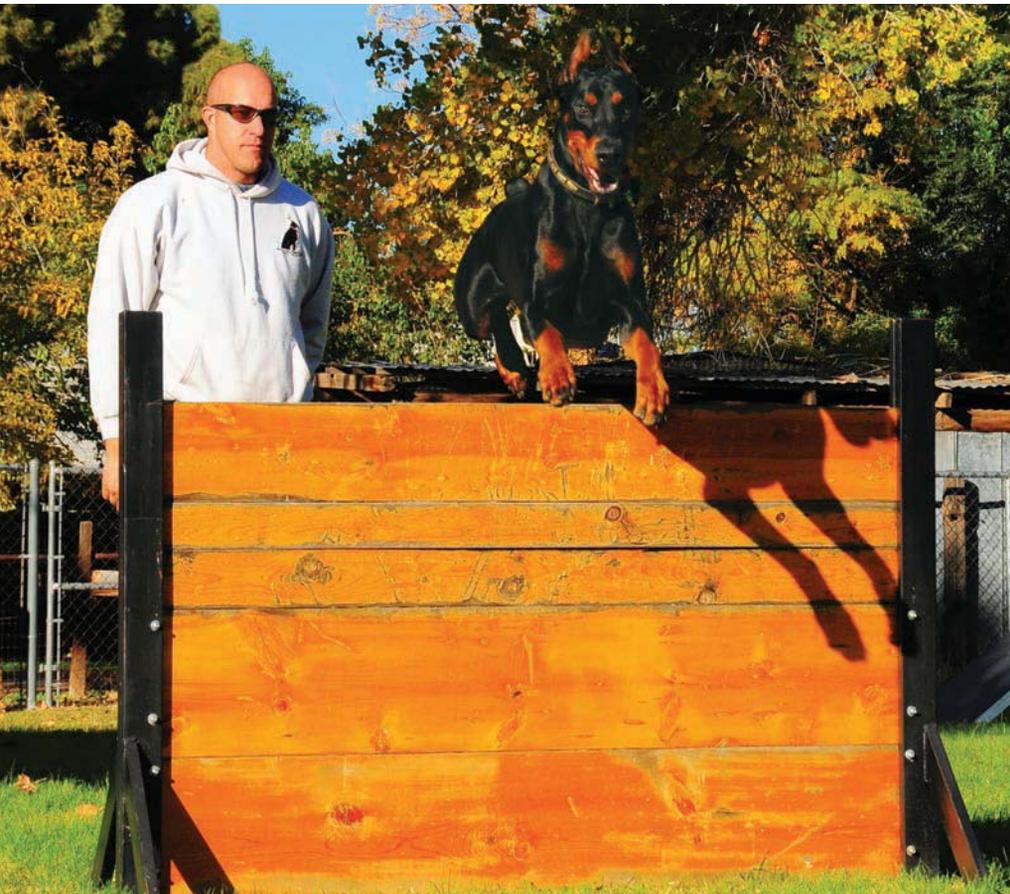
him in the Hall of Fame. He later was inducted as a producer. "We only had Chief, his mother and three sisters at our house at the time," Liz says.

Their latest Bulldog star is CH Little Pond's Loquacious Lucy, who was inducted into the Hall of Fame when she won Best of Opposite Sex at the 2010 BCA National Specialty. She was the No. 1 female and No. 2 Bulldog in the country that year. She also captured a Best in Show at the Elgin County (Illinois) Kennel Club Dog Show in August 2011. "We hope she'll eventually make it into the Hall of Fame as a reproducer as well," Liz says.

Reflecting on their accomplishments, Dan says, "It takes two to do what we've done. Liz's background as a veterinary technician has helped, and we were fortunate to start early doing what we love."

"It's been a dream come true," says Liz. "There's always some luck involved, but from the beginning we studied successful people and strived for that quality. We wanted to compete with the cream of the cream."

Stephen Parsons trains his Doberman Pinscher, Glen Flashived ("Zenny"), a recently retired search-and-rescue dog.



## Cruising into Pro Club

While on the K-9 College Cruise in the middle of the Caribbean last March, Doberman Pinscher breeder Stephen Parsons of Payson, Utah, decided to sign up for *Purina Pro Club*. "I was unhappy with the dog food I was feeding," he says. "I got some great advice on that cruise."

After attending a dog handling seminar presented by Sue Vroom, a professional all-breed handler for 32 years, Stephen asked Vroom to recommend a dog food. Vroom not only recommended *Purina Pro Plan* brand dog food, she also helped connect Stephen with Purina Area Manager Carol Grossman so he could learn more about *Purina Pro Club*.

"Carol took time to answer all my questions and educate me about *Pro Plan*," Stephen says. "She presented the nutritional attributes of *Pro Plan* rather than sold the food, and she encouraged me to join *Purina Pro Club*."

A breeder of Doberman Pinschers for more than 20 years, Stephen began feeding two pregnant females *Pro Plan* Performance Formula. He was amazed by the results. "The puppies had higher weaning weights than I usually see," he says. "They also had lovely dense coats."

The majority of dogs raised at Stephen's Family Dobermans kennel are sold to families as companion and protection dogs. The emphasis in breeding working Dobermans is reflected in Stephen's founding of a search-and-rescue canine organization in 2005, where dogs train in obedience and tracking. The same year, he founded the UTDVGSchutzhund club, where dogs are trained in the German protection sport.

Two of Stephen's search-and-rescue Dobermans were part of a team that helped find the body of a missing girl in 2007 in Provo, Utah. Stephen handled the dogs, Glen Flashived ("Zenny") and Baracuda Liborium ("CoCo"), and will never forget the experience. "It was not the outcome we wanted, but it gave the parents the closure they needed," he says. "It was difficult, but seeing the parents' faces gave us a sense of accomplishment."

After the retirement of Zenny and passing of CoCo, Stephen now is training a 1-year-old male, Nike Betelges, for search and rescue. Rather than using traditional tracking to train "Nike," Stephen



Stephen, shown with Zenny, breeds Dobermans to be family companions and protection dogs.

practices trailing, a combination of air scent and traditional tracking. Advanced training will start next spring.

Stephen also competes in international dog shows. With an emphasis on breeding quality dogs from European bloodlines, he aims to produce a World Champion. So far, three dogs have placed at the International Doberman Club World Championship: CH Kasy Del Nasi ("Kasy") and CH Uragan Best of Island ("Uragan") in 2006, and IABCA INT Puppy CH Leo Betelges ("Leo Betelges") in 2011.

Among the benefits of being a member of *Pro Club*, Stephen likes redeeming Purina Points for dog food checks. "To get rewarded for something I would buy anyway is fantastic," he says. "I also love the Puppy Starter Kits. The Puppy Care Guide helps educate puppy buyers about responsible dog ownership, plus I can customize the kit with information about my kennel and working sports for Dobermans. It's great to send puppies to their new homes with samples of *Pro Plan* food and a coupon so owners can buy more."

Stephen has converted other breeders to *Purina Pro Club* as well.

Most of all, he appreciates the information on

kennel management, breeding and nutrition that are part of the *Pro Club* membership. "I've been very impressed with *Today's Breeder* magazine and the *Pro Club* website," he says.

### A Hound Program Built on *Purina*

Even before B-Way Beagle breeders Wade and Betty Cunningham of Ashland, Mo., joined *Pro Club*, they fed *Purina* dog food to their hounds.

The couple, who have competed in brace beagle field trials since 1957, are among the first members of *Pro Club*. They joined *Pro Club* in the early 1960s. Their *Pro Club* ID card validates their longtime member status with four zeros preceding the five-digit number.

"*Pro Club* fit into our program well,"

Wade says.

A VIP tour of the Purina pilot plant in St. Louis led to the Cunninghams' loyalty to *Purina* dog food. The tour came about with help from their veterinarian.

"We had a female named B-Way Promise who had won some big Federation field trials. She became seriously ill one Sunday," Betty says. "Our veterinarian asked us what food we fed. At the time, we didn't feed *Purina*. He said, 'You've got a dog worth \$5,000, and you're feeding the cheapest food you can?'"

Today, five decades later, the Cunninghams still feed *Purina Dog Chow*. Puppies are fed *Purina Pro Plan* brand Chicken & Rice puppy formula. During their career, they have finished about 20 Field Champions. Their practice of Wade running the females and Betty the males has worked well.

One of their pleasures is telling others about *Pro Club*. "We believe in passing on the benefits of *Pro Club* to our friends with dogs who qualify," says Betty. "We know *Purina* food is the best and

Brace Beagle breeders Wade and Betty Cunningham watch B-Way Diamond R track a rabbit.





Wade proudly poses B-Way Fancy.

that Purina stands behind its products. Our special tour of Purina where we saw how clean it is and how the food is handled made us believers.”

Among the perks of being in *Pro Club*, Wade enjoys redeeming Purina Points for dog food checks and restaurant certificates. “Clipping weight circles from bags of *Dog Chow* helps make the food more affordable,” he says. “As I said before, *Pro Club* fits into our program well.”

## A Versatile Way to Go

Seeking a hardy, versatile hunting dog, Fred Turjan of Middletown, Pa., discovered the Deutsch-Drahthaar, a German breed developed in the 19th century. The more Fred learned about the wiry-coated breed with characteristic thick eyebrows and beard, the more involved he became with the breed and Verein Deutsch-Drahthaar/Group North America (VDD/GNA), the U.S. parent organization.

Fred appreciates VDD’s regulated breeding program in which Deutsch-Drahthaar are evaluated to determine their natural hunting ability to be eligible for breeding. The puppy testing includes spring natural ability and fall advanced natural ability tests. The association utility test evaluates a finished versatile hunting dog, and there is a coat and conformation evaluation as well.

“I fell in love with the VDD breed system,” Fred says. “Dogs are judged to a written performance standard where the emphasis is on their field, water, forest and obedience skills, the same as in Germany where breeders developed the breed to satisfy all aspects of German hunting.”

Though the German Wirehaired Pointer evolved from the Deutsch-Drahthaar, they have distinctly different breed standards and the Wirehair does not have the breeding restrictions of the Deutsch-Drahthaar. Dedicated breeders in Germany developed the Deutsch-Drahthaar by crossing coarse and short hair breeds. Ancestors include the Stichelhaar, Pudelpointer, Griffon and Deutsch-Kurzhaar.

Since breeding his first VDD-registered litter in 2001 out of a female he imported from Germany, Fred has trained and handled 10 dogs that have earned VGP titles, the highest performance title. His Fuchsfluesschen Deutsch-Drahthaar kennel has produced an impressive 22 VGP dogs. The two-day evaluation tests a dog’s ability to retrieve, point and track while demonstrating obedient behavior.

Fred joined VDD in 1996 and has served on the executive board of the VDD/GNA since 1999. Currently, he is treasurer of the 1,200 member organization. His expertise is evident in the training seminars where he teaches others how to prepare dogs for the German testing system.

A commitment to giving dogs the best led to



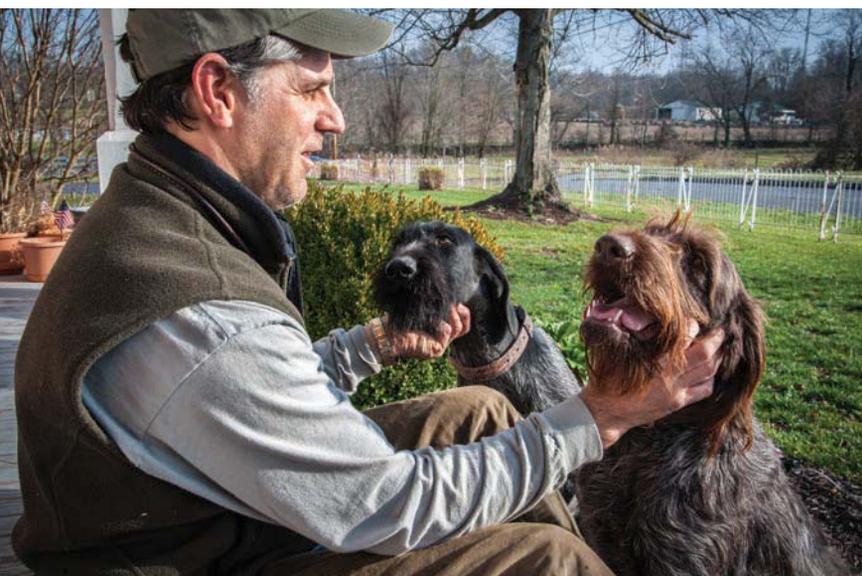
Fred Turjan watches his Deutsch-Drahthaar, Emma vom Fuchsflusschen, point on game.

his joining *Purina Pro Club* a couple of years ago. Purina Area Manager Pat Lamantia sold Fred on *Purina Pro Plan* brand Performance Formula when he sent him samples to feed his Deutsch-Drahthaar.

“I had been feeding a competitor’s food for about seven years when I tried *Pro Plan*,” Fred says. “*Pro Plan* works really well. My dogs have a better quality stool and their coats are excellent. They have tons of energy for the hard work they do in the field.”

Fred sends puppies to their new homes with Puppy Starter Kits. “Ninety percent of the handlers who buy my puppies are first-time Deutsch-Drahthaar buyers,” he says. “I try to find people who will not only hunt but also test their puppies. Most of my buyers hunt 20 to 40 days a year, and the dogs are pets in their homes the rest of the year.”

The versatility of Deutsch-Drahthaar as hardworking dogs and loving family companions is important to Fred. His young female, Westa vom Fuchsflusschen, who he is training for puppy natural ability tests in 2013, is an example. “‘Westa’ is stunning,” says Fred. “She has a correct, flat, dense coat and great natural ability. She’s a true hunting machine in the field and is a calm, stable, enjoyable dog in the house. That’s what I love about this versatile breed.” ■



Fred, who adores the calm temperament of the Drahthaar, scratches the chins of Westa vom Fuchsflusschen, left, and Venus vom Fuchsflusschen.

# Making a Splash!

Although the rain had cleared, a chill loomed in the air at the *Purina Pro Plan Incredible Dog Challenge* (IDC) National Finals in early October at Purina Farms in Gray Summit, Mo. A competitive spirit prevailed at the Incredible Diving Dog Challenge, a contest that gauges a dog's natural ability to run and jump.

Looking to defend her title, a world-class diving dog impatiently watched as handler Lise Ann Strum, of San Diego, teased her with her favorite white rubber bumper toy, waiting for it to be thrown over the water. Suddenly, the 4-year-old Belgian Malinois, called "Vhoebe," exploded, racing across the diving board with the power and momentum to leap across the pool to catch the bumper.

A cheering, clapping and wide-eyed crowd was glued to the action. After plunging into the water, splashing bystanders, Vhoebe gracefully swam back toward the stairs, bumper in her mouth, shaking off the excess water as she exited the pool next to a proud, smiling Strum.

Vhoebe had just set her fifth world record, outjumping her previous record of 31 feet and 8 inches set in 2011.

The National Finals included competitions in agility, Jack Russell hurdle racing, 30-weave up-and-back, freestyle flying disc, and diving dog. About 3,000 people attended the daylong event. This year marked the 15th anniversary of the Incredible Diving Dog Challenge. The event was introduced in 1997 by a Purina team looking for an action-packed water sport to add to the Incredible Dog Challenge, explains Brock Fitzgerald, Director of Purina Farms. Although dogs now jump into a 4-foot-deep

diving pool, the original diving dog competitors jumped from a concrete dock into a lake.

The first winning jump was 20 feet, set by "Scooter," a yellow Labrador Retriever. A digital video device secured on a pontoon boat measured the length of the dogs' jumps. The following year, a diving dog moved to the arena and joined the competitions that are part of the IDC event. Since then, diving dog has become more competitive with jumps now in the 30-foot range. Appropriately, the pool has expanded to 45 feet long.

"As we find dogs that jump farther, we have to keep expanding the pool," Fitzgerald says.

Dogs shoot off of a 40-foot stage and dive into the pool to retrieve a toy tossed by the handler, who must throw far enough in front of the dog so that he or she has ample jumping room. Competitors qualify at regional invitational and open qualifier events, and dogs also can earn a spot at the open Midwestern Qualifier the day before the National Finals.

Eight dogs, including four Belgian Malinois, two Labrador Retrievers, a Whippet and a Weimaraner, competed in this year's National Finals. Each dog was allowed three jumps that were measured from the dock to the farthest distance where their nose entered the water.

With her first-round, record-breaking jump of 32 feet and 3 inches, Vhoebe took the top honors to defend her 2011 National title. The only female participant, the Belgian Malinois athlete outjumped her male competition by nearly a foot, surpassing the previous world record of 32 feet, set at the 2012 Western Regionals in San Diego by "Cochiti," a 6-year-old male Whippet.

Be sure to watch the *Purina Pro Plan Incredible Dog Challenge* on NBC at 2:30 p.m. Central time Jan. 12



Jumping 32 feet and 3 inches, "Vhoebe," a Belgian Malinois owned and handled by Lise Ann Strum, breaks her fifth world record to win the Purina Pro Plan Incredible Diving Dog Challenge.

Taking second place was Jonathan Langdon of Arvada, Colo., and his 5-year-old male Belgian Malinois "Remy," who jumped 31 feet and 7 inches. Rounding out the top three was Diane Salts of Olympia, Wash., with Cochiti, who jumped 30 feet and 8 inches.

Highly energetic, Vhoebe is not always easy to live with, but

her liveliness and athleticism makes her ideal for diving, Strum says. She and her husband, Scott Dike, adopted Vhoebe in early 2009 from a family in Carlsbad, Calif., who could no longer care for the dynamic canine. "We instantly fell in love with her," Strum says. "She's amazed me ever since."

Later that year, a friend invited the pair to compete in their first diving dog event, Wags for Wishes in Del Mar, Calif. After Vhoebe broke the Belgian Malinois record for diving dog twice in 2009, Strum figured they were onto something. Since then, they have racked up countless miles, driving to competitions in Boston, St. Louis and Las Vegas. When not competing, Vhoebe jumps for Team 21, a diving dog organization that raises money for children with Down syndrome.

"Vhoebe tries really hard," Strum says. "When you find what your dog loves, you truly can achieve greatness."

Strum says Vhoebe, who won two Western Regionals, once setting a record, and the National Finals twice, both times setting records, was a diving natural. "I just throw the toy in the air, and she follows it," she says. "I had to practice throwing more than Vhoebe had to practice diving."

Vhoebe and Strum strength and endurance train six days a week. Her conditioning regimen consists of uphill treadmill running, flying disc, weight pull and sprinting, which Strum refers to as "run as fast as you can day." Vhoebe also practices diving at Beach City Dogs, a dog sport facility in Oceanside, Calif.

"It's very important for Vhoebe to be in great physical shape," Strum says. "She's competing against male dogs that are bigger and stronger than she is. She's half their size, so we have to make sure she's in tiptop shape."

Vhoebe's odd combination of impulsiveness and stubbornness make her a strong competitor. "Vhoebe's temperament makes her try even harder to stretch out and get her toy," Strum says. "She has so much drive and intensity."

As for next year's Incredible Diving Dog Challenge, Vhoebe automatically qualifies to vie for a third National title in what Strum hopes to be another record-breaking competition. ■

*The Purina Pro Plan Incredible Dog Challenge National Finals is one of many canine events held outdoors at Purina Farms in Gray Summit, Mo. For information about scheduling an event at Purina Farms or at the indoor Purina Event Center, please contact Kaite Flamm, Purina Event Center Manager, at 888-688-PETS (888-688-7387). Please visit [www.purinaproclub.com/eventscenter](http://www.purinaproclub.com/eventscenter) to learn more about the Purina Event Center.*

*Purina Pro Plan:*  
Awaken the  
**GREATNESS**

**P**urina Pro Plan brand dog food has a new package look — but the same high-quality nutrition.

Though the official launch of the new packaging is January, enthusiasts across the country got a sneak preview in December when some shipments started arriving early. Four specialized categories — Savor, Focus, Select and Sport — make it easy to determine the right food for individual dogs. The full line of *Pro Plan* specialized formulas fall into one of these categories, which are linked by their nutritional profile and easily identified by package color.

*Pro Plan* Brand Manager Robert Tochtermann explains, “*Pro Plan* is dedicated to helping dogs achieve greatness. Through this powerful packaging, *Pro Plan* is emphasizing its super-premium nutrition that performs. Along with the redesigned *Pro Plan* website ([www.proplan.com](http://www.proplan.com)) and the recently introduced Awaken the Greatness™ campaign, the emphasis is on helping dogs and their owners achieve greatness.”

*Pro Plan* dog food is well-known to sporting dog enthusiasts and the dog fancy. All Top 10 American Kennel Club all-breed champions are fed *Pro Plan* (AKC Top Dog<sup>SM</sup> Rankings as of Nov. 8, 2012). A snapshot of the Top 10-ranked dogs in each of the 10 major U.S. sporting dog segments shows that 80 of these 100 dogs are fed *Pro Plan*. The past six Best in Show winners of the Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show also have been *Pro Plan*-fed dogs.



## Sport: Fine-Tuned Nutrition

*Pro Plan's* mainstay Performance Formula, with its 30/20 protein-to-fat ratio, is one of three all life stages dog foods that make up the Sport category. The other two are: *Pro Plan Active* with a 26/16 protein-to-fat ratio and *Pro Plan Advanced* with a 28/18 protein to fat ratio. The formulas, which have a dynamic purple package background, provide nutrition to promote strength and endurance.

"Each formula is suited for a particular activity level," says Tochterman. "By feeding the right food, an owner can improve a dog's athleticism. For example, the Active Formula helps maintain lean muscle mass and works well for dogs that get exercise every day. The Advanced Formula is great for athletic dogs and is the 'step-up' formula toward optimizing exercise metabolism and increasing dietary protein for exercising muscles, and the Performance Formula helps optimize oxygen metabolism for increased endurance."

Purina Nutrition Scientist Brian Zanghi, Ph.D., says, "Active dogs benefit from an increasing proportion of protein and fat in their daily diet to fulfill their increasing need for calories and the increased protein metabolism that occurs naturally with exercise. Importantly, dogs that regularly consume higher protein and fat food will metabolically prime their muscles and metabolism, which will allow them to better adapt to exercise and have improved exercise endurance."



## An Inspiring Website

The *Purina Pro Plan* website ([www.proplan.com](http://www.proplan.com)) has a new look.

With a focus on helping dogs achieve their potential, *Pro Plan* is featuring a new P5 app on the website. Newcomers are treated to this free app with step-by-step instructions and video demonstrations to help them learn obedience, agility, flying disc, diving dog, running and strength activities to do with their dogs. Expert trainers and nutritionists enrich the experience with helpful tips. The P5 app can be used with iPhone®, iPad® and iPod touch®.

The website also contains dog care articles covering training for greatness, exercise and conditioning, and nutrition and health. A community tab provides links to the *Pro Plan Performance Team*, the *Purina Pro Plan Incredible Dog Challenge*, an event calendar, YouTube™ dog videos, and Facebook as a way to meet great dog owners.

Hardworking dogs that participate in rigorous sports like field trials, coonhound nite hunts, agility, foxhound events, and flying disc would benefit from the *Pro Plan Advanced* and Performance formulas. "Owners who are concerned about possible weight gain, as much as priming their dog's metabolism, may elect to go with the Advanced Formula," says Zanghi. "Dogs with an active lifestyle that work hard several times a week would most optimally benefit from Performance Formula. The key for any formula is to always feed an individual dog to ideal body condition to be sure that the extra food does not lead to extra body weight."

## Savor: Outstanding Nutrition and Taste

*Pro Plan Shredded Blend* formulas now have bright orange in the package background. The traditional portraits of dogs are the same on each package. Super-premium great-tasting nutrition is the essence



For information about *Purina Pro Plan*, visit [www.proplan.com](http://www.proplan.com) or call 800-PRO-PLAN (800-776-7526) from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Central time to talk to a pet nutrition consultant.

of the Shredded Blend formulas, which are made with real chicken, beef or lamb as the No. 1 ingredient in all dry formulas. These formulas combine hard kibble and tender shredded pieces.

“These are the formulas that offer high-quality, great-tasting nutrition,” Tochterman says. “The Savor formulas are available in a variety of dry and wet foods, plus snacks, to satisfy dogs’ unique taste preferences.”

### Focus: Specialized Nutrition for Unique Needs

The *Pro Plan* formulas with brilliant blue package backgrounds are the Focus formulas. They are made with key nutrients, such as EPA or DHA, plus optimal fat and protein levels, to help support specific needs based on life stage, lifestyle or breed size. The Focus formulas also contain vitamin A and linoleic acid, an omega-6 fatty acid, for healthy skin and coat. The dry formulas have real chicken or lamb as the No. 1 ingredient.

*Pro Plan* Puppy Chicken & Rice and Lamb & Rice

formulas are included in this category, as well as Toy Breed, Small Breed and Large Breed puppy formulas. They have an optimal balance of calcium, phosphorus and other minerals to help build strong teeth and bones. Plus, they are rich in antioxidants to help nourish developing immune systems and contain DHA for brain and vision development.

Specialized *Pro Plan* Chicken & Rice adult formulas for Toy, Small, Large and Giant breeds also are part of Focus. Additional adult formulas included are: Adult 7+ Large Breed, Adult 7+ Chicken & Rice, Adult Weight Management and Adult Large Breed Weight Management. The all life stages Small Bites Lamb & Rice features bite-sized pieces.

### Select: Carefully Formulated Nutrition

Formulas in the Select category stand out with a florescent green package background. These formulas, made without corn, wheat or soy, are easily digestible and gentle on a dog’s digestive system. They contain omega-6 fatty acids and zinc to help nourish skin and promote a healthy coat.

“*Pro Plan* has two new Select formulas,” Tochterman says. “They are Adult Grain Free Formula and Adult Rice & Duck Formula. Both are a great addition to this natural line.”

Two all life stage formulas are part of Select: *Pro Plan* Natural Chicken & Brown Rice and Natural Turkey & Barley formulas. *Pro Plan* Adult Sensitive Skin & Stomach Formula, which is made with real salmon as the No. 1 ingredient, is part of this category as well. ■

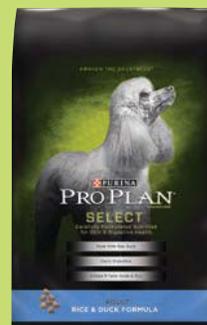
## Pro Plan Grain Free and Rice & Duck Fill Niche

Two new *Select Pro Plan* dog food formulas — Grain Free and Rice & Duck — complete the category by offering special nutrition.

Both are well-suited for dogs with sensitive skin and stomachs. Here are the attributes of both formulas.

*Pro Plan* Grain Free Adult Formula contains chicken as the No. 1 ingredient. It has omega-6 fatty acids and zinc for skin and digestive health.

No grains or soy are part of the formulation. The food



also is available in three Grain Free Wet Entrées: Classic Turkey & Sweet Potato, Classic Beef & Peas, and Classic Chicken & Carrot.

*Pro Plan* Rice & Duck offers duck as an alternative protein source, plus it is made without corn, wheat or soy. This formula also contains omega-6 fatty acids and zinc.

Grain Free and Rice & Duck formulas are available at specialty and farm supply stores in 4, 16 and 24 pound packages.

# Dental Health Nutrition

## — & The Benefits of Corn in Dog Food —



Dr. Dottie P. Laflamme and "Brandy"

**T**oday's Breeder is pleased to introduce Nutrition Matters. We invite you to send your nutrition questions to today's breeder@purina.com. Purina Research Scientist Dottie P. Laflamme, D.V.M., Ph.D., DACVN, answers this issue's questions. Dottie, who is boarded by the American College of Veterinary Nutrition, has more than 20 years' experience in the pet food industry and lectures worldwide on canine nutrition. She is the organizer and chair of the Nestlé Purina Companion Animal Nutrition (CAN) Summit, an annual international veterinary nutrition conference.

**Q:** Do dog foods containing tatar reduction chemicals help reduce tarter buildup, and does kibble size affect long-term dental health? — *Andy Attar, a professional retriever trainer and owner of Autumn Run Retrievers in Princeton, Wis.*

**A:** Plaque is a dense, non-mineralized film, and tartar, also called calculus, is a mineralized substance. Both accumulate on dogs' teeth at different rates, depending on a number of variables. Probably the single greatest variable is genetics, but diet is a factor as well and one that is fairly easy to control.

Multiple studies, including one by Purina, have shown that dry foods help to reduce plaque and tartar formation compared to wet (canned or homemade) diets. In addition, some dry dog foods are designed with specific ingredients, shapes or textures that help slow the accumulation of plaque or tartar.

Dog food doesn't necessarily need large kibbles to help reduce tartar, but larger kibbles usually are associated with longer chewing time, which seems to help reduce tartar. The seal of the Veterinary Oral Health Council (VOHC) on a dog food package indicates the food has undergone testing to show it significantly reduces plaque or tartar accumulation. This doesn't mean that dogs eating the food will not accumulate tartar, but it does mean it should accumulate more slowly.

The best way to care for your dog's teeth is through regular tooth brushing, professional veterinary care and feeding a nutritious food.

**Q:** What are the differences among whole corn, corn meal and corn gluten meal? Is one better than the others for dogs? — *Michelle Paulin, a professional handler and owner of Ahran Ibizan Hounds in Colton, Calif.*

**A:** Whole corn, called whole grain corn, ground whole corn or corn meal on a pet food label, is a nutritious grain used primarily as a source of dietary carbohydrates for energy. Whole grain corn also provides dietary fiber, which promotes gastrointestinal health, and essential fatty acids, which are needed for healthy skin and hair coat. It also provides key vitamins, such as vitamin E, as well as some protein and essential amino acids.

Corn can be processed and separated into different components to concentrate specific nutrients. Corn gluten meal, for example, is the concentrated protein from corn. While whole corn contains around 9 percent protein, corn gluten meal contains more than 60 percent highly digestible protein.

Which ingredients are better in a dog's food depends on the other ingredients used since all parts of corn provide essential nutrients. Nutritionists select ingredients based on what is needed to complement other parts of the diet to create a nutritionally complete and balanced, digestible and palatable food. ■



# Providing Canine Comfort in Winter

**C**old weather can be harmful for dogs. It can affect dogs' energy and immune systems, making them prone to disease and injury. Winterizing kennels helps to reduce disease and the risks of hypothermia, a dangerous drop in body temperature, and frostbite, the freezing of tissues caused by exposure to very low temperatures.

Both heated and unheated kennels should have adequate insulation. Dogs' doors should be closed at night, particularly when it is cold and windy. Good ventilation, without excessive cross drafts, will help keep air fresh. Additionally, air should be exhausted from the ceiling to the floor to prevent warm air near the ceiling from being pulled out. Vents should be opened whenever the outside temperature is warmer than the inside temperature.

Inside shelter may be necessary if temperatures

become extremely cold. "Even the most airtight doghouse will not keep a dog warm when subzero temperatures prevail," says Bob West, Purina Director of the Sporting Dog Program. "You also want to keep a dog's coat dry in this type of weather. A wet coat drains body heat."

Outdoor doghouses should be located where there is good drainage and raised a few inches off the ground to help keep out moisture. The elevated area should be shielded with boards to prevent wind from gusting under the doghouse. A canvas flap could be placed over the door of a doghouse, and an inside partition can be used to help keep direct wind off dogs.

West suggests building a doghouse designed with an entry through a hallway to a second door into the sleeping area to help keep dogs warm. "With a cover on the outside door, this type of doghouse goes a long way in keeping drafts off a dog," he says. "It also helps to conserve heat."

Adequate heat and proper sanitation are important too. It's best to maintain a constant temperature around 60 to 65 degrees Fahrenheit. Good sanitation should be practiced year-round, but a hose may be impractical in winter due to freezing water lines. Instead, a scraper or shovel may be used to remove waste from concrete runs. Waste should be picked up daily.

The bottom line is to use common sense in caring for dogs in winter. Though you can't change the weather, you can be sure your dogs are healthy and comfortable. ■

## Cold Weather Nutrition

**D**id you know that dogs need 7 percent more calories for every 10 degrees the temperature drops below the moderate temperatures of spring and fall? In fact, the caloric needs of an active dog in winter could double. Feeding a quality canine diet year-round is recommended. Poor quality dog food is not a per-calorie savings.

In winter, it helps to allow dogs to gain a small amount of weight for insulation and energy reserves; however, it still is important to maintain dogs in ideal body condition — defined as ribs palpable without excess fat covering. Dogs should have ample water in winter because of the metabolic changes that take place and to help process extra food. Be sure to keep dogs' water from freezing.





## A Winter Checklist for Kennels

**W**inter care for dogs in kennels involves taking practical steps to ensure their safety and comfort. Here are tips to help get you through.

- ✓ Be sure kennels are dry and draft-free. Like people, dogs are susceptible to hypothermia, frostbite and illness if kept too long in the cold or a constant draft.
- ✓ Dogs should have a place to sleep that is comfortable and elevated off the ground. A fiberglass sleeping pallet with bedding material, such as fleeces, thick carpet pads, blankets and dog beds, provides comfort.
- ✓ Hay and wood shavings are good bedding materials but avoid using cedar or pine shavings as they may contain harmful chemicals. Shavings should be changed weekly.
- ✓ Add door flaps to dog houses to help hold back wind and weather.
- ✓ Kennel runs should be kept free of snow and ice.
- ✓ Maintain your kennel at a constant temperature between 60 and 65 degrees Fahrenheit where possible.
- ✓ Be sure to stock extra dog food so you are ready for severe snowstorms.
- ✓ Beware of antifreeze. Dogs are attracted to the sweet taste of ethylene glycol in antifreeze, but it is toxic. If a dog licks antifreeze, prompt veterinary treatment is essential.
- ✓ Regularly check an outside dog's footpads. Constant exposure to moisture caused by rain, snow or mud can irritate a dog's footpads, causing skin damage and infection from bacteria or fungi. If a dog has cracked or bleeding paws, consult your veterinarian.
- ✓ Throughout winter, keep an eye out for cuts, abrasions, debris in eyes, and pad injuries, particularly in dogs that regularly go into the field.
- ✓ Make sure dogs' vaccinations are current. The stress of severe cold is even greater for dogs in poor health.



Dalmatian breeder Dawn Mauel poses with, clockwise from top, husband Clark, children Michael and Alexis, and Dalmatians "Rorey," "Charger" and "Adele." Dalmatians are known as the firehouse dog, so Dawn adopted Saint Florian, the patron saint of firefighters, for her kennel prefix.

# IT TAKES TWO

BY KAYLA MILLER

**A**fter a 10-year break from breeding, Dawn Mauel recently bred her first Dalmatian litter.

A 15-month-old female from this litter, Saint Florian Literati's One N Only ("Adele"), already is off to a great start. Mauel handled the black-spotted Dalmatian to capture Best in Sweepstakes, Best in Futurity and Reserve Winners Bitch at the Dalmatian Club of America (DCA) National Specialty this past May in Tulsa, Okla.

To enter in the Futurity class, a breeder must choose a sire and nominate a bitch and her litter before the litter is whelped. Mauel's well-thought-out breeding process took two years to identify Adele's dam and sire. "Winning Futurity is such an honor. It's one of those awards you always dream about as a breeder," she says. "This was a show I'll never forget."

Only the second Dalmatian in breed history to accomplish such a win, Adele outperformed 74 dogs in the Sweepstakes

class, 67 dogs in the Futurity class and 96 bitches in the Bred-By-Exhibitor class.

Dalmatians historically were bred to be carriage dogs. Today, they are recognized as a firehouse mascot. Mauel, of Los Altos, Calif., got involved with the breed in 1979 while her husband, Clark, was working as a firefighter. Because he worked 24-hour shifts, Mauel was looking for a companion dog. The couple spent months researching breeds. When they attended the Golden Gate Kennel Club Bench Show in San Francisco in 1980, a Dalmatian caught Mauel's eye.

"One Dalmatian bitch, CH Royal Oaks Sunspot Rambler, CD, TT ('Holly'), had the prettiest head and beautiful dark eyes," Mauel says. "When we left the show, our minds were made up that we were going to get a Dalmatian."

The couple bought their first Dalmatian, the future CH Rowdy J Rambler, CD ("Rowdy"), that same year from breeders Jim

and Joanne Nash of Rambler Dalmatians in Los Altos, Calif.

By 1981, Mauel had officially caught Dalmatian fever and begun breeding under the Saint Florian kennel prefix. CH Saint Florian Sunspot Ad-Lib ("Libby"), Mauel's foundation bitch and first Dalmatian to carry the Saint Florian name, was bought from breeder friend Jill Otto of Sunspot Dalmatians in 1983.

The first litter whelped at Saint Florian produced one High in Trial Obedience winner and three champions, including Multi-BIS/Multi-BISS CH Saint Florian's Pisces Jordache ("Jordache"), the No. 1 Dalmatian in 1988. Since then, Mauel has bred 13 champions.

In 2002, Mauel took a break from breeding to raise her two children. At the time, she was specializing CH Saint Florian's Davenport ("Davenport"), whom she brought out of retirement and campaigned into the Top 20 for a third consecutive year.

"It wasn't easy to balance dog shows and family, but we managed," Mauel says.

Mauel faced another hurdle in 2003 when she became ill with kidney disease, forcing her to undergo two surgeries. Three months later, Mauel was back in the show ring with Davenport. She also finished CH Saint Florian's American Muscle ("Charger") and CH Saint Florian's Jumping Joey ("Joey"), littermates from her last litter whelped prior to 2002.

When she decided to once again breed a litter, it took two years to find the right female. "Our goal has always been to breed quality dogs that are happy and healthy," Mauel says. "We live in the suburbs, so I don't have a big kennel. I have to be selective about which dogs are bred."

She chose to lease a female for breeding, but by 2006, Mauel had exhausted her search. She contacted her friend, Michele Wrath of SunnyOaks Dalmatians in Hillsborough, N.C., to inquire about a puppy from one of her future litters.

In 2008, Mauel and longtime friend Linda Sexton, of Literati Dalmatians in Palamar



Dawn stacks "Adele," a 15-month-old female Dalmatian who won Best in Futurity at the 2012 Dalmatian Club of America (DCA) National Specialty.



"Breeze," Adele's dam, finishes her championship in 2009 at the Sacramento Valley's Dog Fanciers Association show handled by Dawn.



"Davenport," a Top 20 Dalmatian for three consecutive years, takes Winners Dog at the 1996 DCA National Specialty. Dawn campaigned Davenport during her breeding hiatus.



"Rowdy," Dawn's first finished Champion, is the Winners Dog at the 1982 Chief Solano Kennel Club show.

Park, Calif., became co-owners of the future Multi-BIS/Multi-BISS GCH SunnyOaks Saint Florian Literati's Compass Rose ("Breeze"). Mauel handled Breeze to her championship, which she finished in 2009 with two back-to-back Bests in Specialty Show at the Dalmatian Club of Northern California (DCNC) Specialty followed by taking Winners Bitch at a supported entry the next day.

Co-owned by Mauel and Sexton, Adele's sire, GCH Cranbrooke Back to the Future ("Mikey"), sired Cranbrooke Back'n Bluejeans, the 2011 DCA National Specialty Best in Futurity winner. Adele's maternal granddam, Multi-BIS/Multi-BISS CH SunnyOaks Spicen' It Up, ROMX ("Ginger"), was the No. 3 Dalmatian and No. 1 Dalmatian bitch in 2004 and 2005 and produced 15 champions. Adele's maternal grandsire, Multi-BIS/Multi-BISS CH Tuckaway Winged Foot ROMX ("Jack"), was the DCA National Specialty breed winner in 1999, and holds records for winning 427 Bests of Breed and 38 Bests in Specialty Show.

"Adele inherited the best of both parents," Mauel says. "She received her sire Mikey's level topline and balanced movement, and she got her dam Breeze's fluid side gait and beauty."

Adele's outgoing, showy personality paired with her stunning movement has helped her win Best of Sweepstakes, Best of Winners and Best of Opposite Sex at the Dalmatian Club of Greater Phoenix dog show in March. Most recently, she captured Best of Winners in the Bred-By-Exhibitor class at the DCNC Regional Specialty in October in Dixon, Calif.

Mauel sees a bright future for Adele, who is fed *Purina Pro Plan* Shredded Blend Chicken & Rice Formula. "Adele is a fun dog to show," Mauel says. "With her attitude and my competitive spirit, who knows what's ahead of us in the conformation ring. We make a good team." ■

# Purina Partners with Canine Sports Medicine Experts

A three-year partnership between Purina and the American College of Veterinary Sports Medicine and Rehabilitation (ACVSMR) promises to benefit sporting dog enthusiasts and the veterinary college as well.

Approved as a new college affiliated with the American Veterinary Medical Association in 2010, ACVSMR is made up of board-certified veterinary specialists who work to advance the structural, physiological, medical and surgical needs of athletic dogs and to restore normal functioning to those that suffer injury or illness. ACVSMR members study a wide range of canine and equine injuries.

Canine injuries include a multitude of problems, such as global skeletal lameness, muscle-tendon-ligament injuries, and structure-function and metabolism disorders, as well as conditions specific to working dogs like limber tail and iliopsoas strains. ACVSMR specialists also evaluate and implement safe and effective conditioning and training methods in an effort to optimize a dog's performance in the field.



American College of  
Veterinary Sports Medicine  
and Rehabilitation

Joseph J. Wakshlag, D.V.M., Ph.D., DACVN, DACVSMR, associate professor of clinical nutrition at Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine, says, "Purina is a leading sponsor of canine sporting and show events in this country, making this a natural partnership. We are pleased to affiliate with Purina and hope to give back to the sporting dog world and dog fancy through our knowledge and expertise. We are excited that a major drive behind this sponsorship is to implement education and research programs that will benefit working dogs."

Purina plans to publish research findings of members of ACVSMR in *Today's Breeder* magazine and the *Purina Pro Club Update* newsletter and to share the articles with affiliated organizations and sporting dog clubs. Likewise, the ACVSMR will benefit from Purina funding to support the organization and the ACVSMR research fund.

## NSTRA Honors Purina's Bob West

For 40-plus years of outstanding dedication to the sport of field trialing, Bob West, Purina Director of the Sporting Dog Program, recently was honored as one of 11 people to receive the National Shoot to Retrieve Association's (NSTRA) highest honor, the Distinguished Member Award.

Besides working for Purina, West is a part-time professional dog trainer, a regular contributor to sporting dog publications, and a judge for hunt tests and field trials. He also has appeared in many training videos.

The Distinguished Member Award was introduced this year to honor members whose contributions have helped develop or improve NSTRA. The award will be presented annually to two individuals after this year.

"I was honored to accept this award," West says. "I have enjoyed helping NSTRA grow and advance from a regional to national organization."

The honorees were inducted into the Distinguished Member Award program in October at the Dog of the Year banquet at the Conservation Bird Dog Club in Amo, Ind. They were nominated by their peers, and the NSTRA awards committee selected the winners.

NSTRA, which is based in Plainfield, Ind., was founded in



Bob West, Purina Director of the Sporting Dog Program, is shown with, from left, "Suede," "Spencer," "Will," "Nick," and "Iceman."

1978 by bird hunters wanting to extend the fun of their sport after the season ended. The organization holds more than 1,000 local field trials, 32 regional championships and five national championships a year. Bird dogs are judged on their pointing, retrieving, backing, ground coverage and obedience.

### Foundation Awards 2013 Grants

Six cancer studies are among 17 grants recently awarded by the AKC Canine Health Foundation to researchers at 13 institutions and universities. The 2013 awards, totaling more than \$1.7 million, are expected to provide better treatments and more accurate diagnoses for many canine diseases.

"These grants are highly competitive," says Shila Nordone, Ph.D., Chief Scientific Officer of the Foundation. "We are excited that the awards chosen are going to researchers who truly are making progress in helping to advance deeper understanding of the mechanisms that cause disease. In the not-too-distant future, many of these studies may lead to treatments that will be realized in veterinary clinics across the country."

Funding for research of cancer, the No. 1 disease killer of dogs, includes:

- \$233,914 to Dr. Jaime Modiano of the University of Minnesota to investigate the effect of modulating factors to alter cancer stem cell fates as a way to control progression of hemangiosarcoma,

a cancer that usually originates in the lining of the blood vessels. Forty parent clubs cited the cancer as a research priority for 2012.

- \$131,265 to Dr. Matthew Breen of North Carolina State University to identify diagnostic DNA aberrations in canine leukemia, which includes a range of cancers, none with a known incidence rate in dogs. The study aims to enhance understanding of the pathogenesis of canine leukemia.
- \$119,065 to Dr. Simon Platt of the University of Georgia to evaluate a procedure, convection enhanced delivery, to administer chemotherapy drugs directly into canine intracranial gliomas, or brain tumors.
- \$118,848 to Dr. Bruce Smith of Auburn University to evaluate an adenoviral vector, or virus, in treating canine osteosarcoma, an aggressive bone cancer accounting for about 6 percent of all canine cancers.
- \$96,660 to Dr. Nicola Mason of the University of Pennsylvania to study the effectiveness of a vaccine in stimulating anti-tumor activity in dogs with non-Hodgkin's lymphoma.
- \$29,923 to Dr. Robert Wayne of the University of California at Los Angeles to study the role of DNA methylation in regulating gene expression in canine cancer, particularly in dogs with melanoma, or skin cancer.

Grants also were awarded to researchers studying diseases related to cardiology, the musculoskeletal system, neurology, renal function, and immunology and infectious disorders. For a complete listing, visit [www.akcchf.org/2013grants](http://www.akcchf.org/2013grants).

Since 1995, the Canine Health Foundation has invested more than \$29 million in canine health research. Purina is a major contributor to the Canine Health Foundation, having provided more than \$4.3 million over the past 10 years through the Purina Parent Club Partnership (PPCP) Program. To learn about the PPCP Program, visit: <http://purinaproclub.com/Dog/GetConnected/ProgramsSponsorshipsAndEvents/PPCP>. ■

## Pro Club Website Open to All

Ever wish you could share articles and information on the *Purina Pro Club* website with others? You can now. The website recently went public,

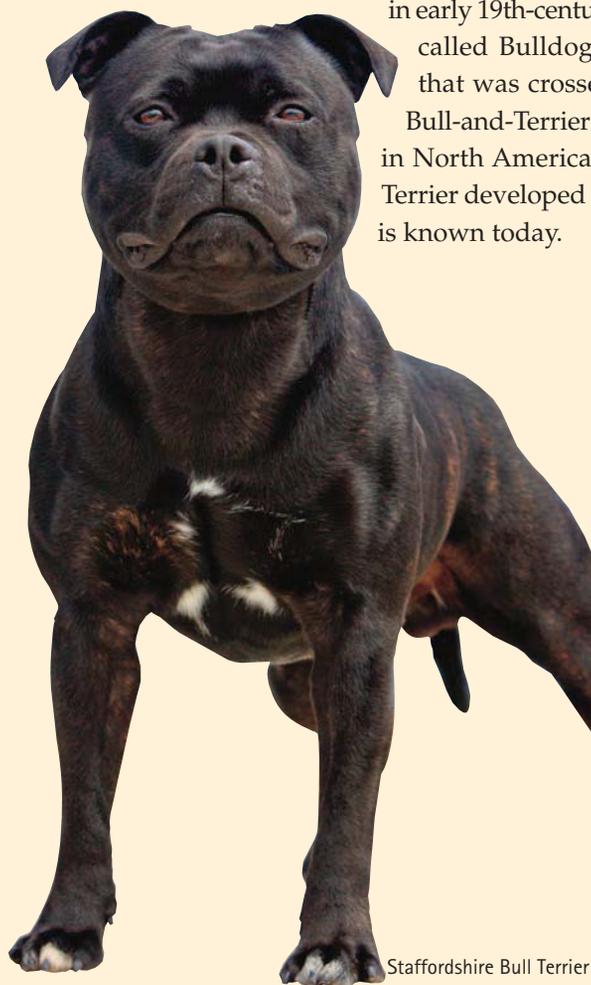


meaning you can share links to the rich database of nutrition, health and genetic articles with others. Kennel management and breeder profile stories also can be accessed at [www.purinaproclub.com](http://www.purinaproclub.com).

# Bull Terriers & Toys

## Staffordshire Bull Terrier

Highly intelligent and tenacious, the Staffordshire Bull Terrier is an affectionate, trustworthy companion and all-purpose dog. The breed was developed in early 19th-century England from a fighting dog called Bulldog Terrier and Bull-and-Terrier that was crossed with a small native terrier. Bull-and-Terrier types arrived in the mid-1880s in North America, where the Staffordshire Bull Terrier developed into the heavier, taller dog that is known today.



Staffordshire Bull Terrier

Powerful and active, the Staffordshire Bull Terrier has a smooth coat, short muscular neck and agile body. Standing 14 to 16 inches tall at the shoulder, dogs weigh 28 to 38 pounds and bitches are 24 to 34 pounds.

## Miniature Bull Terrier

Except for his size, the Miniature Bull Terrier resembles the Bull Terrier in all aspects. Sturdy, muscular and full of fire, the Miniature Bull Terrier was developed in the early 19th century from the Bulldog and now extinct White English Terrier. The original cross produced a rather small Bull Terrier, which was interbred with the Spanish Pointer to increase size. Breeders desiring a 16-pound dog that closely resembled the breed type of the Bull Terrier are credited with developing the Miniature Bull Terrier.



Miniature Bull Terrier

An active breed, the Miniature Bull Terrier is playful and clownish and loves the companionship of his family. He has a keen, determined and intelligent expression, and his long, strong, deep head is distinguished by an oval outline and full egg-shaped face. He is courageous but also must be amenable to



Pekingese

discipline. Miniature Bull Terriers are 10 to 14 inches tall.

### Pekingese

A well-balanced, compact dog, the Pekingese originated in eighth century China during the Tang Dynasty. A sacred breed held only by the imperial family, Pekingese were known as Lion Dogs due to their massive fronts, heavy manes and tapering hindquarters. The breed was introduced into the Western world as a result of the British invading the Imperial Palace in Peking in 1860.

A dignified, stocky, muscular dog, the Pekingese combines intelligence and self-importance to make him a good-natured, affectionate companion. His independence and stubbornness endear him more to his owners. He has a calm and good-natured demeanor but also loves a good romp. Pekingese weigh up to 14 pounds.

### Silky Terrier

Originally known as the Sydney Silky Terrier in his native Australia, the Silky Terrier evolved in the late 1800s from crossings of the Australian Terrier and imported Yorkshire Terriers. The Silky Terrier is said to have the best qualities of both breeds. Considered a true “toy terrier,” the Silky is a lively, friendly dog with terrier temperament and personality.

The Silky Terrier has an inquisitive nature and joy of life that make him an ideal companion. He is moderately low set and slightly longer than tall, with a blue and tan colored coat that forms a silver or fawn topknot on his head. Silky Terriers are 9 to 10 inches tall at the shoulders.

Source: *The Complete Dog Book*, Official Publication of the American Kennel Club (New York: Ballentine Books, 2006).



Silky Terrier

  
**CIRCLE OF CHAMPIONS**

## 'Hank' Is Seventh Generation No. 1 Scylla Maltese

The No. 1 Maltese in the country, Multi-BIS/Multi-BISS GCH Scylla's Small Kraft Re-Lit ("Hank"), is off to a roaring start having won 13 Bests in Show and two Bests in Specialty Show since beginning his Specials campaign last January.

The No. 3 Toy dog, Hank is co-owned and handled by Tara Martin Rowell of Dallas and Debbie Burke and Ron Scott of Dillsburg, Pa. Co-bred by Martin Rowell and her mother, Vicki Abbott of McKinney, Texas, the top-winning Maltese handler in breed history, Hank is the seventh generation No. 1 Maltese bred at their Scylla kennel.

The 3-year-old male was sired by CH Bhe-Jei's Pinball Wizard

("Tommy"), the No. 1 Maltese in 2006, out of Scylla's Small Kraft Sparkle N' Shine ("Sparkle"). Hank's great-great-grand sire, CH Sand



GCH Scylla's Small Kraft Re-Lit, whose great-great-grand sire is the top-winning Maltese in history, won 13 Bests in Show in 2012.

Island Small Kraft Lite ("Henry"), was the No. 1 Toy dog in 1990 and 1991 and the Toy Group winner at the 1992 Westminster Kennel Club

Dog Show. Henry holds the record as the top-winning Maltese in history.

Among Hank's Bests in Show, he won the Progressive Dog Club Show in Edison, N.J., in March and the Kennel Club of Pasadena (Calif.) in June. Hank won Best of Breed at the Maltese Association National Specialty in June in San Diego and at the Garden last February.

Martin Rowell describes Hank as having correct balance, a beautiful head and a gorgeous, flowing white silky coat. "Hank is everything a Maltese should be. He is curious, playful and has lots of energy," she says. "He's a big dog in a small package."

"Hank loves to give high fives, play ball and stretch his legs as he prepares for each performance. He excels in breed type and loves to be around people," Burke says. "He is not afraid of anything."

Hank is fed a combination of *Purina Pro Plan Selects Natural Turkey & Barley* and *Purina Pro Plan Adult Toy Breed* formulas.

## GCH Cordmaker Rumpus Bumpus Is the No. 1 Puli Two Years in a Row

For the second straight year, Multi-BIS GCH Cordmaker Rumpus Bumpus ("Ziggy"), the winner of eight Bests in Show, is the No. 1 Puli in the country.

"Ziggy is a fantastic ambassador for his breed," says co-owner and handler Jackie Beaudoin. "He moves beautifully and enjoys people and being at dog shows."

Beaudoin and her boyfriend, Franco Licciardi, both of Raleigh, N.C., co-own the 6-year-old male with breeder Sue Huebner of Melbourne, Australia. Huebner's Cordmaker Pulik have won more than 500 Bests in Show worldwide. Ziggy came to the U.S. at age 2 to be shown by Beaudoin.

Sired by Multi-BIS CH Bokar Artful Dodger ("Dodger") out of AUST CH Catsun Corroboree,

Ziggy's litter includes two females currently being campaigned overseas. AUST SUP CH Cordmaker Topsy Turvey ("Charlotte") has earned 50 Bests in Show and is the winningest Puli bitch of all time worldwide, and AUST/INTL CH Cordmaker Hurdy Gurdy ("Camilla") has ranked No. 2 in all-breed competition for the past two years in Denmark.

Among his key wins, Ziggy took Best of Breed at the 2011 and 2012 Westminster Kennel Club dog shows and at the 2011 AKC National Championship. He also won Best of Breed at the 2011 Puli Club of America (PCA) National Specialty. Although he was not shown at the 2012 PCA National, Ziggy captured five of his eight Bests in Show in 2012. These include

winning the Warrenton (Va.) Kennel Club, Gloucester Kennel Club of Virginia, Maryland Kennel Club, Greater Fredericksburg (Va.) Kennel Club, and Upper Marlboro Kennel Club dog shows.

Ziggy has a stunning black-corded coat. Historically a Hungarian sheepdog, a Puli's coat protects the body from harsh weather. Although they aren't born corded, Pulik develop floor-length cords by age 5.

When showing, Ziggy moves gracefully around the ring, says Beaudoin. "He has very good reach and drive and a beautiful, level topline," she says. "Ziggy has an easy, outgoing temperament and is an incredibly loyal companion with a good sense of humor."

"Pulik are fun-loving, active



"Ziggy," an Australian-bred Puli, captured five of his eight Bests in Show in 2012.

and intelligent," says Huebner, a breeder for 35 years. "Their sheer joy for living amazes me."

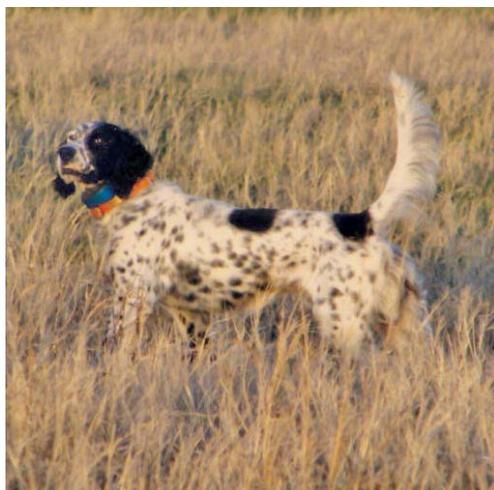
Ziggy is fueled by *Purina Pro Plan Chicken & Rice All Life Stages Formula*.

## English Setter Named 'Newt' Wins Purina Endurance Classic

**N**ikki's Skippin Newt ("Newt"), an English Setter, is the winner of the 2012 National Shoot to Retrieve (NSTRA) Purina Endurance Classic, held in September at the Beeline Brittany Ranch in Lewistown, Mont.

Owned and handled by Bobby Clark of Dallas, the 6-year-old male is a four-time NSTRA Champion. He qualified for this year's competition by earning 27 points in field trials between June 1, 2011, and May 31, 2012.

Clark attributes his close relationship with Newt to the setter's success. "We have a bond that's really developed over the last year," he says. "Newt's been a pleasure to run. From day one, he has consistently found more birds than his brace mates."



Nikki's Skippin Newt outperformed 112 dogs with 25 quail finds to win the 2012 Purina Endurance Championship.

Bred by Ed Murdock of Lavoina, Ga., Newt was sired by Angie's Dogwood Skipper ("Skipper") out

of Glover's Nikki ("Nikki"). Skipper took second and third place in the Endurance Classic in 2010 and 2011, respectively. Newt and his seven littermates cumulatively have won 15 championships. One of his littermates, Nikki's Skippin Rox ("Roxie"), whom Clark also owns, is a four-time NSTRA Champion.

David Deaton of London, Ky., assisted Clark as his gunner. For the competition, dogs run in braces and are judged on finds, retrieves, backs, obedience and ground coverage. Newt, who

placed fourth in last year's championship, ran seven 30-minute stakes over the four-day event with 25 quail finds. He outperformed 112 dogs, which included Pointers, English and Gordon setters, Brittanys, and German Shorthaired Pointers. In the final hourlong brace of the championship, he had five bird finds.

"His age, experience, nose, and, most of all, ability to find birds helped make him an outstanding competitor," Deaton says. "He tracked and handled the conditions really well."

Among the prizes for winning, Clark received 450 pounds of *Purina Pro Plan* Performance Formula and a Purina jacket.

Newt is fed *Purina Pro Plan* Performance Formula.

## Pro Plan-Fed Dogs Win Irish Setter Club of America National Championship

**F**lame'n Red Legacy ("E.J.") and FC/AFC Brownhaven Steel Magnolia ("Rachel") won the Open and Amateur divisions, respectively, at the 2012 Irish Setter Club of America (ISCA) National Championship. The event was held in November at the Blue Mountain Wildlife Demonstration Area in Boonville, Ark.

E.J., a 6-year-old male, outperformed 25 setters to win the

Open division. The only dog to have more than three bird finds, he pointed three quail coveys. As a 2-year-old, E.J. won the ISCA Derby in 2007. He was the Runner-Up Champion in the ISCA National in 2011 with three bird finds.

E.J. was sired by Flame'n Red Limited Edition out of Iskote Odayin. Bred and owned by Royce and Mary Ann Gustafson

of Del Valle, Texas, E.J. is handled by professional handler and trainer Sherry Ebert of Mott, N.D. Ebert's husband, Kyle, scouted during the trial.

"E.J. has an amazing ability to find birds. He always finds quail no matter how tough the conditions are," Ebert says.

Rachel, a 7-year-old female, outperformed 18 dogs and had one covey find of about 50 birds to win the Amateur division. She won the ISCA Region 3 Derby Classic in 2006, and placed fourth in the ISCA National Field Futurity in 2007. In 2009, Rachel was the ISCA Runner-Up Champion under Ebert.

Rachel was sired by Brownhaven Let's Roll out of St. Jude's Wind-song. She was bred by Georgia Brown of Canyon Lake, Texas, and William Rhodes of Lexington, Texas. Rachel is owned and handled by Jim Baker of Del Valle, Texas.

"Rachel is a sweet, loving dog at home and an ace in the field," Baker says. "She has tremendous



Amateur division winner "Rachel," who is stacked by owner-handler Jim Baker, had an impressive covey find of 50 birds.

desire to find and point birds. She has great stamina and runs effortlessly with good speed."

During the National competition, dogs were judged on their ability to find quail while maintaining contact with their handler. Dogs run a single one-hour stake with a brace mate and must display confidence and style while pointing.

E.J. and Rachel are fueled by *Purina Pro Plan* Performance Formula.



Posed by professional handler Sherry Ebert, "E.J." won the Open division by pointing three quail coveys. Purina Field Consultant Roy Pelton is second from right.

## Purina Honors Brace Beagle Award Winners 'Cujo,' 'Timmy' and 'Jackie'

Taking first place in the 15-inch male class at the first four of seven Federation field trials held from March to late May helped a 2-year-old tricolor male, FC Firecracker Sir Cujo, win a place in history as the 40th Purina Outstanding Field Trial Brace Beagle.



FC Firecracker Sir Cujo is shown with, from left, Robert and Jenny Allen, Charles and Checotah Allen, and Russ Arend. "Cujo" is co-owned by the Allens and Arend, who handled the male beagle in the Federation field trials.

"Cujo" is owned by a father and son, Robert and Charles Allen of Lebanon, Tenn., and longtime beagler Russ Arend of Macclenny, Fla. The hound's impressive early lead helped him secure the top spot out of nearly 500 Beagles vying for the honor.

The Allens, who breed under the Firecracker kennel name, started in brace beagling 14 years ago. Cujo is their fifth Field Champion. "Dad had just had a heart attack," says Charles Allen. "I wanted to surprise him with a Beagle puppy. Dad chose Cujo, and my 3 1/2-year-old son, Colt, named him."

Bred by Larry Adams of Dora, Ala., Cujo was sired by FC Close Call Colt Forty-Five out of FC Good Soil Shady Lady. The litter was whelped Oct. 29, 2009, and Adams gave Cujo to the Allens as a 6-week-old puppy.

Arend, who has finished 230 Field Champions over 45 years in

brace beagling, competes exclusively with male Beagles. When he learned that Cujo showed promise, he called the Allens to offer to buy him. Instead, they proposed being co-owners.

Arend, who handled Cujo, is a three-time winner of Purina Awards. He won the 2009 Purina Futurity Award as the co-owner of FC Close Call Coy. He won Purina Derby Awards in 2005 with Settleline Panama Red and in 2007 with Close Call Canadian Undertaker. His kennel name is Close Call Beagles.

Capturing the eighth annual Purina Derby Award was FC Sweet Line Jackie II, bred, owned and handled by Mike Rowe of Port Murray, N.J. The 1-year-old tricolor female Beagle outperformed 593 derby-age Beagles to win the award.

"'Jackie' made second series in 14 straight trials, including the Federation derby trials, which shows she is comfortable running the front or back of a brace," Rowe says. "She tracks the rabbit in a straightforward line and is consistent."

Rowe has competed in brace beagle field trials for nearly 50 years and is a two-time Purina Award winner. In 2007, he won the



Purina Award Committee member Kim Schrotenboer, left, presents a plaque to Mike Rowe, the owner and handler of FC Sweet Line Jackie II, the Purina Derby Award winner.

Purina Futurity Award with FC Sweet Line Smoke Lass.

Jackie, who was whelped Aug. 10, 2010, was sired by FC Dan Arts Mr. James out of FC Sweet Line Rhonda. Jackie represents the 12th generation of Field Champions bred at Rowe's Sweet Line Beagles kennel. Dennis Tressler of Valencia, Pa., co-bred the litter.

Winning the eighth annual Purina Champion Award was a 3-year-old tricolor male Beagle, FC Gennett's R Timmy, owned by Pat Gennett of Titusville, N.J., and handled by Fred and Karen Eurick of Frenchtown, N.J. Bred by Fred Hall of Hallwood, Del., "Timmy" was sired by FC Indian Trail Cave Dweller out of Halls' Miss Sandy R.

Timmy won the Rolling Fork and Coraopolis beagle club champion field trials and took second place at Wyoming Valley. He made second series at the Catawba Beagle Club champion trial.

"Timmy stands out with his slow coming-at-you style and chop-squall mouth," Karen Eurick says. "He's a stylish Beagle with a lot of enthusiasm."

Gennett and the Euricks are two-time Purina Award winners, having won the 2009 Purina Champion Award with FC Cliff's Rivermont Do. The dog was owned by Gennett and her late husband,

Martin, and handled by the Euricks. The Gennetts competed in brace beagling for 20 years and bought Timmy as a 2-year-old. He became their ninth Field Champion.

The Purina Award winners, along with their owners and handlers, were honored in October at a banquet held in conjunction with the AKC National



Stan Peterson, right, a member of the Purina Award Committee, presents award plaques to, from left, handlers Fred and Karen Eurick and Pat Gennett, owner of FC Gennett's R Timmy, the Purina Champion Award winner.

Brace Championship in Coraopolis, Pa. Purina Field Consultant Mike Luchetta oversaw the festivities, and members of the Purina Brace Beagle Award Committee helped present the awards.

As the owners of the Purina Futurity Award winner, the Allens received an original oil painting of Cujo by artist Valerie Dolan of North Java, N.Y., an engraved Purina Award plaque and a satin award banner. Arend, the handler, received a \$1,500 cash prize, a one-year supply of Purina brand dog food for one dog and an award plaque. The cash prize and dog food were doubled because he is active in *Purina Pro Club*.

The Purina Champion and Derby Award winners also received Purina brand dog food, cash prizes and award plaques. Similarly, the cash prizes and dog food were doubled because they are active members of *Purina Pro Club*. Purina covered the travel expenses and lodging for the winners to attend the Purina Brace Beagle Award banquet.

All the winners are fed Purina brand dog food. Cujo and Timmy are fed *Purina Dog Chow*, and Jackie is fed *Purina Pro Plan* brand Performance Formula.

## GCH Miletree Northern Star Is the No. 1 Cavalier King Charles Spaniel

**A** loving, happy-go-lucky Cavalier King Charles Spaniel, Multi-BIS/Multi-BISS GCH Miletree Northern Star has worked his way to the top to become the No. 1 Cavalier in the country.

The soon-to-be 4-year-old male, called "Teddy," is owned by Dr. Bruce and Shirley Henry of Dallas and Betsy George of St. Louis. Professional handler Clint Livingston of Brighton, Colo., handles the dog.

Breeding Cavaliers is a 20-year collaborative effort for the Henrys and Peter and Ruta Towse of Bedfordshire, England. Teddy was sired by a U.K. male owned by Rick Aldous, Aranel Cosmic, out of the Towses' female, Miletree Bedtime Wish. Another prominent Cavalier in the litter is ENG CH Miletree Constellation ("Sunny"), the No. 1 dog in Germany and the

Best of Breed winner at the 2012 Crufts Kennel Club Dog Show.

A two-time breed winner at the Progressive Toy Dog Club Show held in February in New York City, Teddy's lively, outgoing personality paired with his pleasant, soft expression and dark melting eyes make the blenheim-colored Cavalier a standout in the ring. "Whether Teddy wins or not, you're going to notice him," says Shirley Henry.

Teddy's attention-grabbing demeanor has helped him win nine Bests in Show and six Bests in Specialty Show since he arrived in the U.S. from England in October 2010. In just a few shows, Teddy finished his American Kennel Club championship before winning the Long Beach (Calif.) Kennel Club Cavalier King Charles Spaniel Specialty. Other notable wins include: the Meadowlands

Cavalier King Charles Spaniel Club Specialty in 2011 in New York City, and the Central Arizona Cavalier King Charles Spaniel Club National Specialty in 2011 and 2012 in Scottsdale, Ariz.

"Teddy's high ear set, level topline, ground-covering reach-and-drive gait, and beautiful outline make him a standout in his breed," Livingston says. "His shoulders and movement accentuate the spaniel part of the breed."

"Teddy never sees a stranger," Henry adds. "His tail is always wagging."

Livingston and Henry agree that Teddy is an exceptional show dog and a great friend outside the ring



"Teddy," an English-bred Cavalier who has won nine Bests in Show, is known for his friendly, outgoing temperament.

as well. "Every breed has a job, and the Cavalier's is to be a companion. Teddy is a great companion who wants to be part of everything," says Henry.

Teddy is fed *Purina Pro Plan Performance Formula*.

## Chinese Shar-Pei Named 'Tinsel' Wins Two Back-to-Back Bests in Show

**S**ince beginning her Specials career last June, Multi-BIS/Multi-BISS GCH Shine N' NuStar's Deck The Halls Ming Yu ("Tinsel"), a Chinese Shar-Pei, has earned five Bests in Show, including two back-to-back wins.

Co-owner and longtime Shar-Pei breeder Deborah Cooper of Porter Beach, Ind., credits Tinsel's fast rise to her excellent breed type, soundness and temperament. "Tinsel's free-flowing movement, correct topline that slightly rises over the loin, high tail set, soundness, and 'pick-me' attitude help her stand out," she says.

Professional handler Nina Fetter, of Lima, Ohio, who handles the fawn-colored bitch, says Tinsel's spitfire personality, a combination of intelligence and stubbornness, gives her an advantage in the ring. "She's very outgoing, happy and willing to please," she says.

The dynamic female Shar-Pei was bred by Dr. Rebecca Pentecost

of Ridgeville, Ohio, and is co-owned by Pentecost, Cooper and her husband, Robert, and Linda Teitelbaum of Lawrence, N.Y.

Pentecost, who has been breeding Shar-Pei since 2006 under the Shine prefix, which was named



GCH Shine N' NuStar's Deck The Halls Ming Yu, whose sire "Mossimo" is the top-winning male Shar-Pei, has captured five Bests in Show as a 1-year-old.

for her first show dog, has bred 11 champions. The first litter she bred produced CH Shine's Ticket to the Stars ("Uma"), Tinsel's dam and the top-producing bitch in 2011.

Tinsel was sired by GCH Chaoyang Take It To The Limit at NuStar ("Mossimo"), who also is co-owned by the Coopers and Teitelbaum and is the top-winning male Shar-Pei with nine Bests in Show. At the 2012 Chinese Shar-Pei Club of America National Specialty in Chattanooga, Tenn., Mossimo won Best Stud Dog, and Tinsel took Select Bitch. Mossimo retired in June, just before Tinsel began her Specials campaign.

After only three weeks of campaign-

ing, Tinsel took back-to-back Bests in Show at the Michiana Kennel Club and Berrien Kennel Club dog shows last June in Valparaiso, Ind. In August, she won three back-to-back Bests in Specialty Show at the Steel Valley Cluster in Canfield, Ohio. In October, Tinsel won back-to-back Bests in Show at the Fulton County Kennel Club dog shows in Wauseon, Ohio, and the following weekend, she captured her fifth Best in Show at the Mad River Kennel Club Dog Show in Urbana, Ohio. Tinsel currently is the No. 3 Chinese Shar-Pei in the country.

"Tinsel is the most high-energy Shar-Pei I've ever had. There's never a dull moment with her," says Pentecost. "She thrives on showing."

Tinsel is fueled by *Purina Pro Plan Performance and Sensitive Skin & Stomach* formulas.

## GET CONNECTED TO PRO PLAN ON FACEBOOK

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.

Go to [www.facebook.com/PurinaProPlanforProfessionals](http://www.facebook.com/PurinaProPlanforProfessionals) to become part of the conversation and share your passion for the sport with a community of dog enthusiasts.



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## GRCA National Specialty Draws Record Entry at the Purina Event Center

Ten days of competitive events, combined with social, educational and fundraising activities, contributed to making the 73rd annual Golden Retriever Club of America (GRCA) National Specialty the largest ever at the indoor Purina Event Center at Purina Farms in Gray Summit, Mo. Held Sept. 4 to

13, the National included nearly 2,600 entries.

"This was one of our largest Nationals," GRCA president John Cotter says. "The Purina Event Center is a wonderful place. The grounds and RV parking were great, and the staff was so nice."

Conformation, agility, obedience

and rally obedience were held at the Event Center the first seven days. Tracking was held nearby in Sullivan, Mo. The National culminated with an American Kennel Club field trial and hunting test at the Busch Conservation Area in Weldon Springs, Mo. The Golden Retriever Club of Greater St. Louis was the host.

At the Golden Retriever Foundation's annual gala, a silent and oral auction raised a record \$106,000. The monies will be used to support Golden Retriever rescue, health studies and responsible dog ownership education.

The theme of the National, "In Our Past Lies Our Future," rang true in the Best of Breed ring. Judge Dana Cline of Rockford, Ill., put up a 4-year-old female, GCH Shadowland's Paws for Applause ("Sydney"), for Best of Breed, and a 2-year-old male, Rush Hill's Drama'Geddon ("Willis"), for Best of Winners, and then chose the dogs' sire for Best of Opposite Sex. GCH Rush Hill's Run'n Amuck at Abelard ("Chaos"), a 9-year-old, won from the 8- to 10-Year Veterans class. Other Chaos offspring took top honors as well.

Sydney, who is owned by Sharmin Dominke, Catherine Meddaugh and Julie Matney, was handled by Carol Hoare of Arlington, Texas. Tonya Struble of Arlington, Wash., is the breeder-owner-handler of Willis and Chaos, who is a two-time Best of Breed winner, having won in 2009 and 2010, and a repeat Best of Opposite Sex winner, having won in 2011.



A legendary Golden Retriever sire, "Chaos," made history at the 2012 GRCA National Specialty by taking several top honors along with five of his offspring. Chaos, shown lying on the bench beside breeder-owner-handler Tonya Struble, is pictured with, from left: judge Dana Cline; Carol Hoare with "Sydney," the Best of Breed winner; Hanna Looney with "Willis," Best of Winners and Winners Dog; Patty Pace with "Diva," Winners Bitch and Best in Sweepstakes; Kelsey Dunn with "Vegas," Judge's Award of Merit; and Tara Schultz with "Freedom," Best of Opposite Sex in Sweepstakes. Chaos took Best of Opposite Sex and Best Veteran and won the Stud Dog class with Sydney and Willis representing his offspring.