

# PURINA

## *Today's Breeder*

A Nestlé Purina Publication Dedicated to the Needs of Canine Enthusiasts

Issue 84



**BREEDER PROFILE**  
Wild Birds Only Kennel

**Unexpected Joys of 2013**  
**New *Pro Plan SPORT* Bars**  
**The AKC Museum of the Dog**

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# 2014 National Specialties

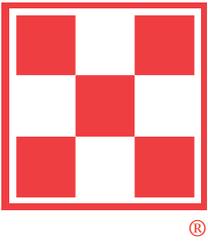
*at the Purina Event Center*

Event	Date
Chihuahua Club of America	March 20-23
United States Australian Shepherd Association	March 28-April 4
American Pointer Club	April 9-12
American Shetland Sheepdog Association	April 11-19
Cardigan Welsh Corgi Club of America	April 21-26
Irish Wolfhound Club of America	April 28-May 1
American Eskimo Dog Club of America	May 2
Border Terrier Club of America	May 18-22
Yorkshire Terrier Club of America Roving National	Aug. 27-31
Ibizan Hound Club of the United States	Sept. 9-12
National Miniature Dachshund Club of America	Sept. 12
Curly Coated Retriever Club of America	Sept. 15-17
Italian Greyhound Club of America	Sept. 23-25
Basenji Club of America	Sept. 23-27
Staffordshire Terrier Club of America	Sept. 29-Oct. 3
Italian Greyhound Club of America	Sept. 23-25
United States Neapolitan Mastiff Club	TBD
German Shepherd Dog Club of America	Oct. 4-11
Bull Terrier Club of America & Miniature Bull Terrier Club of America	Oct. 17-20
The American Lhasa Apso Club*	Oct. 21
American Bouvier des Flandres	Oct. 25-Nov. 1
Giant Schnauzer Club of America	Oct. 28-Nov. 2
English Springer Spaniel Field Trial Association	Nov. 4-8

\*Agility and obedience only

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## 4 UNEXPECTED JOYS

The great achievements of these four dogs inspire us to believe all things are possible. Here are the stories of the top-winning Great Dane in history, the first English Setter to win the National Championship in 43 years, a Labrador Retriever that became a winning show dog after being sold as a pet, and an English Coonhound that went from the whelping box to win the World Show Championship.

## 8 NEW PURINA PRO PLAN SPORT BARS

The *Purina Pro Plan SPORT* performance nutrition line is introducing two nutritional supplement bars for hardworking dogs. The *SPORT PRiME* Bar is a pre-exercise protein-rich supplement designed to help keep muscles strong during exercise, and the *SPORT ReFUEL* Bar is a post-exercise supplement that helps replenish muscle energy stores and promotes muscle rebuilding.

## 10 ART FOR DOG'S SAKE

The only museum in the world dedicated solely to dog art, the American Kennel Club Museum of the Dog in St. Louis is a gathering place for dog lovers. Frequented by the dog fancy, particularly when National Specialties are held at the Purina Event Center, the museum contains a treasure of art in its permanent collection and special exhibits.

## 14 THE HEART & SOUL OF SHERRY RAY EBERT

An icon in the sport of shooting dog horseback stakes, Sherry Ray Ebert is a dedicated professional trainer who focuses on helping dogs reach their potential. In North Dakota's pheasant country, she, with help from husband Kyle Ebert, has shaped many Continental European and English breeds into stylish, bird-finding pointing dogs.

## 20 THE BOUNTY OF BUGABOO

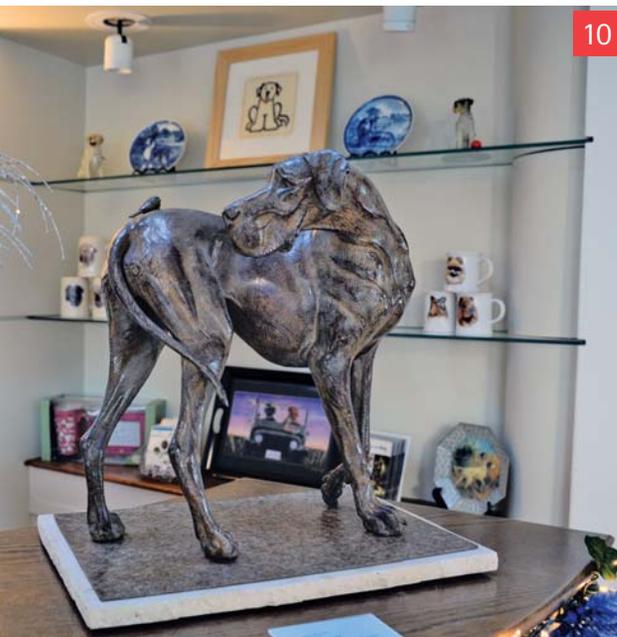
A striking, charismatic Old English Sheepdog called "Swagger" is one of many elite winners from the Bugaboo line. His owners, Colton and Heather Johnson, represent the second-generation of Johnson family Bugaboo breeders, and their children are following in their footsteps to become the third generation.

### Regular Departments

22 Circle of Champions 24 Breed Snapshot

#### On Our Cover

NFC/FC Brownhaven Burning Bright ("Burnie"), an 11-year-old male Irish Setter co-owned by breeder Georgia Brown of Brownhaven Irish Setters in Canyon Lake, Texas, and handler Sherry Ray Ebert of Mott, N.D. Cover photo by Melissa Miller. See story on page 14.



# Unexpected JOYS

Serendipity may have played a role in helping these dogs attain greatness, or perhaps they were destined to achieve all along. Their stories of unexpected success magically came to life this year, making us believe all things are possible.

## The Winningest Dane in History

A history-making 3-year-old Great Dane, GCH Longo Miller AN Lore's Diamond Lil, HOF, who is called "Scout," has won more Bests in Show than any other Dane. The achievement is noteworthy, particularly since Scout is a black bitch.



Professional handler Laura Coomes has campaigned "Scout" to her lofty position as the top-winning Great Dane in history.

Breeder Tootie Longo of Mentor, Ohio, set out nearly 40 years ago to chart success with black Great Danes. Among the challenges, black Danes were notorious for being too course or not having enough substance. Black Great Dane bitches were virtually a rarity at dog shows.

Longo embraced the challenge. "I am very stubborn, so if someone tells me I can't do something, I am compelled to prove them wrong," she says.

She bred the No. 1 male in the country in 1983 and 1984, BIS/BISS CH Longo's Chief Justice ("Cheech"), the first black Dane to win the Great Dane Club of America (GDCA) National Specialty and the first black Dane in 22 years to win an all-breed Best in Show. She also bred a black female Great Dane, BIS/BISS CH Longo's Sweet Talk of Michaeldane ("Lou-Lou"), who was No. 1 in the breed in 1993 and the first black bitch to win an all-breed Best in Show.

Scout is ranked No. 1 in the breed, No. 3 in the Working Group and No. 9 among all dogs. She has five generations of Best in Show-winning black Great Danes in her pedigree. Longo co-owns Scout with co-breeders Dave and Jay Miller and Col. Charles Crawford, all of Sharpsburg, Ga., and Lorraine Matherly of Soquel, Calif.

Describing her top-winning Dane, Longo says, "Scout has a spirited temperament that has helped shape her into an outstanding show dog. She has excellent breed type and a great presence in the ring. Her bold, dark eyes and distinguished, chiseled head set her apart from the competition."

Named the 2013 Working Group Breeder of the Year by the American Kennel Club, Longo has bred six GDCA National Specialty Top Twenty winners. She is the breeder of the top-producing sire in breed history, CH Longo's Primo D' Aquino, AOM, NS, HOF, the sire of 27 champions and two No. 1 Great Danes. "Primo," who won the GDCA Top Twenty in 1991 and took one Best in Show and 11 Bests in Specialty Show during his career, is Scout's great-great-grand sire.



Shadow Oak Bo, the first English Setter to win the National Championship for Field Trialing Bird Dogs in 43 years, points quail at Chokee Plantation in Leesburg, Ga., with handler Robin Gates standing behind him.

Since beginning her Specials career in January 2012 under professional handler Laura Coomes of Summerfield, Fla., Scout has won 37 Bests in Show. The previous Best in Show record of 28 was set in 1985. Longo's goal for Scout is to earn 40 Bests in Show.

After two years on the show circuit, Scout will be retired at the end of the year. Longo plans to breed her in 2014 via artificial insemination with the last vial of Primo's frozen semen.

"Hopefully, we'll get our next Special from the Scout-Primo litter that will continue the legacy," Longo says. "It feels amazing to help shape the future of the breed and to do so with black Great Danes."

### The Complete Setter

When professional all-age handler Robin Gates of Leesburg, Ga., saw a not-yet finished white-and-orange 2-year-old male English Setter named Shadow Oak Bo point birds, he recognized the dog's potential. What "Bo" lacked in ground coverage and patterning, he made up for in intelligence and style.

On a wet, cold February day, sweeping the perimeter of a saturated cut sorghum field at Ames Plantation in Grand Junction, Tenn., that setter pointed quail in the first minute of a three-hour endurance horseback stake. Five more quail finds and three backs led to pick-up time with Bo dead to the front on point.

Bo won the 2013 American Field National Championship for Field Trialing Bird Dogs, the first setter to win in 43 years.

Co-owner N.G. "Butch" Houston of Nashville, Ga., recalls learning about Bo. "Robin called and said he had a prospect, so Doc (co-owner Dr. John Dorminy of Fitzgerald, Ga.) and I drove down to Lee County (Ga.) to see him run. Although we could tell he was bright, a great athlete, the dog was very green. He needed more punch running."

Joining a string of all-age Pointers, Bo went to the prairies of Broomhill, Manitoba, Canada, with Gates for the summer. In the big country, Bo showed his ability on sharp-tail grouse and prairie chickens. His ground patterning got better and better, and he developed into a wide-ranging, fast setter with a long stride.

More than Bo's talent blossomed on the Canadian prairies. Gates bonded with the dog, forming a partnership in the quest for birds. The setter became keenly attuned to his handler. After making a wide cast, Bo began to double back to find Gates if he did not see him.

"Bo is a great setter, a complete setter," says Gates, who won the National Championship at Ames in 2010 with 4XCH In The Shadow and in 1985 with 5XCH/5XRUCH Flatwood Hank, both Pointers. "By winning the National, Bo proved he can run against any Pointer."

Houston, who has placed dogs with Gates for 40 years, says, "Robin has a unique talent, the way he gets close to a dog and builds a rapport."

Although his sire and dam were campaigned little in field trials, Bo has a shining pedigree. Three generations behind him are two Field Trial Hall of Fame setters, 7XCH The Performer and 10XCH Tekoa Mountain Sunrise.

The winner of five Championships and six Runner-Up Championships, Bo won another famous championship in 2010, the Continental at Dixie Plantation in Greenville, Fla. Five quail finds in two hours made him the first setter to win the Continental in 53 years.

Houston, who rode in the gallery, says, "Bo was magnificent on birds, and his finish would take your breath away. He was coming down the edge of a green field, and he looked like he was floating. He was running as strong as he began."

## A 'Cinderella' Story

On a humid August day, Penny Jessup of Rural Hall, N.C., was routinely trimming the nails of CCH GR CH 'PR' Kentucky Mtn Cinderella Girl, who is called "Cindy." The 5-year-old English Coonhound, a retired bench show champion, had whelped a healthy litter of seven puppies in April, her second litter in two years.

"I couldn't help but notice what great shape Cindy was in," Jessup says.

Encouraged by her husband, Jody Jessup, a four-time winner of the Purina Outstanding Nite Hunt Coonhound Award, Jessup decided to try and qualify Cindy for the United Kennel Club (UKC) World Show in September in Elizabethtown, Ky. After all, Cindy had won the World Champion English Female title for the past four years, setting a breed record. The first year she was only 14 months old.

Already in condition from trailing raccoons on pleasure hunts in the woods, Cindy didn't require much preparation. A seasoned bench show competitor, Cindy was the National Grand Champion English winner at Autumn Oaks in 2010 and the Grand Champion Female at the UKC Winter Classic in 2011. In 2012, she became an American Kennel Club show champion.

A month after Cindy qualified for the World Show at her only show of 2013 due to the pregnancy, the family packed up for the World Show. Jessup, who moved to North Carolina in 2012 after marrying Jody Jessup, was returning to her home state where she began her Kentucky Mtn English Coonhounds kennel in 1997 in Altro, Ky.



Inset photo above, Penny Jessup, center, is shown with "Cindy" after the English Coonhound won the UKC World Show Championship. Above, Cindy poses at a scenic overview in Virginia on the trip home from qualifying for the World Show.

More than 200 coonhounds, seven breeds, were competing for the 2013 UKC World Show Champion title. Cindy and another Kentucky Mtn hound made the finals. Jessup handled Cindy and her longtime friend, Christina Officer, handled County Line Lil Miss Ricki, a 5 ½-year-old Plott Hound.

When the final round judge, Beth Snedegar, pointed to Cindy as the winner, Jessup jumped in the air, both legs off the ground. "I had attended the World Show since 1999 and always admired the dogs and handlers who won this honor," she says. "It was such a rush, such a wonderful feeling to win with Cindy. It was a dream come true."

Bred by Stacey Poe, Cindy was sired by GR NITE CH GR CH 'PR' Robinson's English Looser out of GR NITE CH GR CH 'PR' Boughton's Red Ruby. Her pedigree lists three generations of Grand Nite Champions, the highest UKC hunting championship title, and many are Grand Show Champions as well.

"I never thought Cindy would be back in the show ring after the second litter," Jessup says. "She is more than the sum of her parts. She has a smooth topline, beautiful head with dark eyes, and a low, long ear set. She glides in an effortless trot.

"Cindy's legacy hopefully will live on through her offspring. It is incredibly wonderful to have a top-winning hound go out as she did winning the World Show."

## A Breeder's Lucky Stars

**B**reeder Mary Wiest of Warren, N.J., was disappointed that the family who bought her black female Labrador Retriever "Baccara" didn't want to keep the dog. That is, until she realized how nicely Baccara had matured.

The transition from pet home to show ring has suited Baccara well. Under professional handler Fabian Negron, of Hampton, N.J., GCH Beechcroft's Midnight Rose's Baccara has captured three Sporting Group placements, including a Group First, and won eight Bests of Breed at nine all-breed dog shows since this past April.

The Labrador Retriever Club of the Potomac Specialty, the largest Labrador Retriever show in the world, was Baccara's first dog show. At the show, held this past April in Frederick, Md., Baccara outperformed more than 400 bitches to win Reserve Winners Bitch. The win validated Wiest's view about her dog.

"As soon as Baccara came back to the kennel, I noticed her excellent structure, lovely breed type and outstanding movement," Wiest says. "She had blossomed into a beautiful bitch with substance and a gorgeous, dense, glossy coat."

Baccara was sired by AM/CAN GCH Paradocs Obsidian out of GCH Beechcroft's Diva's Midnight Rose. Her dam won Winners Bitch and Best of Winners at the 2010 Potomac Specialty Show.



Fabian Negron, a professional handler, is shown with "Baccara," a Labrador Retriever who was sold by her breeder as a family pet before becoming a winning show dog.

Wiest, who has bred Labrador Retrievers under the Beechcroft prefix for 45 years, has a sharp eye for recognizing show-quality dogs. "When Baccara was 18 months old, I noticed that her coat was too short and sparse," she says. "Her narrow body lacked substance, and she did not move with the effortless, free gait that a Labrador should have."

With space at the kennel quickly filling up, Wiest decided to sell Baccara. At her new home, Baccara was an escape artist who found her way out of the fenced backyard three times. Worried the dog would get lost or hurt, the family decided Baccara was not a good fit for their home.

In September at the Onondaga Kennel Association Dog Show in Syracuse, N.Y., Baccara finished her champion title. Earlier that month at the North Branch Cluster in Bridgewater N.J., she took a Sporting Group First and Reserve Winners Bitch at the Westchester Kennel Club Dog Show; Reserve Winners Bitch at the Big Apple Sporting Society Dog Show; and Best of Winners at the Tuxedo Park Kennel Club Dog Show.

"I am amazed at how Baccara began her show career," Wiest says. "I love to watch her breathtaking movement and confidence."

Despite limited showing this year, the female Labrador is ranked No. 10 in the breed. Baccara will be campaigned as a Special in 2014. After she retires from showing, Wiest plans to breed her to continue her bitch line.

"Baccara is a special dog," she says. "I count my lucky stars every day that I got her back." ■



# New Purina Pro Plan SPORT Bars Help Fuel Active Dogs



**T**he Purina Pro Plan SPORT performance nutrition line is introducing in January two nutritional supplement bars designed to optimize performance nutrition before and after exercise.

The Pro Plan SPORT PRiME Bar is a pre-exercise protein-rich supplement bar to be fed 30 minutes prior to activity so key protein building blocks are digested and absorbed into the blood to help keep muscles strong during exercise. “The purpose is to delay or minimize the natural muscle protein breakdown that occurs with exercise,” explains Purina Nutrition Scientist Brian Zanghi, Ph.D.



The Pro Plan SPORT ReFUEL Bar is a post-exercise nutritional supplement bar that helps replenish muscle energy stores and promotes muscle rebuilding. It should be fed within 30 minutes after exercise, which is important because of the brief window of time after exercise when muscles are maximized for nutrient uptake. The ReFUEL Bar contains key nutrients to help reinvigorate tired muscles and is formulated with rapidly digested ingredients to help deliver these nutrients within the optimal time after exercise.

## Prime Before Activity

The *PRiME* Bar contains protein from a combination of whey and hydrolyzed soy. “These fast proteins are rapidly digested and easily absorbed,” Zanghi says.

These protein sources contribute to enriched levels of the amino acid leucine, which is the primary amino acid to activate protein synthesis and offset the protein and muscle fiber breakdown that occurs with exercise.

The *PRiME* Bar is designed for delivering concentrated calories and nutrients, with fat as the second most enriched nutrient and very low carbohydrate content. Concentrated nutrients allow for targeted portion sizes to minimize digestion activity with minimal release of insulin.

Because the *PRiME* Bar contains high levels of protein and fat, it is optimal for use during training and conditioning. It helps promote muscle strength and aid in muscle conditioning.

Made with real beef, the *PRiME* Bar is highly palatable. Dogs weighing up to 50 pounds should be fed one bar 30 minutes before exercise compared with two-thirds bar for dogs weighing up to 34 pounds and one-third bar for dogs weighing up to 16 pounds.

## Refueling After Exercise

A dog’s nutritional needs for short-term recovery immediately after strenuous activity are different than the nutrition that comes from a performance dog food that is designed to help with prolonged recovery.

The *ReFUEL* Bar’s select carbohydrates restore a critical glucose energy source found in muscles called glycogen, and amino acids from select proteins activate the rebuilding of proteins. The bar contains a targeted blend and proportion of carbohydrates anchored by maltodextrin, which is the “optimal” carbohydrate source, explains Zanghi.

“Maltodextrin is rapidly digested and absorbed yet avoids the immediate insulin spikes that can occur when ingesting only simple sugars,” he says.

Although glycogen is an important fuel for intense work, the muscle has a very limited capacity to store it. Long periods of exercise or repeated short, intense bouts may deplete glycogen stores and ultimately impair performance. Dogs that perform in



a three- to five-day competition may experience significantly diminished energy or drive on the fourth or fifth day due to glycogen depletion.

Although well-conditioned dogs increasingly rely on fat metabolism on successive days of exercise, muscle and liver glycogen stores still contribute to overall performance and support the periodic intense bursts of speed needed to compete. A dog having depleted glycogen stores, or only partially replenished stores, will definitely realize an impact on the next day’s performance, Zanghi says.

Feeding dogs their main meal after exercise will not deliver the same effect as feeding the *ReFUEL* Bar. This is because main meal foods are not typically formulated with rapidly digested carbohydrates like maltodextrin. Purina feeding studies have shown that feeding a perform-

ance dog food (30 percent protein/20 percent fat) immediately after exercise will not result in an immediate post-exercise rise in blood sugar levels within the optimal recovery timeframe to promote the glycogen replenishment.

Timing of post-exercise ingestion of the *ReFUEL* Bar is critical for optimal recovery because of the natural process of glycogen store recovery in animals. Canine nutritional studies have also shown that delaying ingestion of maltodextrin to two hours post-exercise results in a suboptimal replenishment of muscle glycogen.<sup>1</sup>

Dogs should be offered a *ReFUEL* Bar shortly after the end of exercise for the day. You should allow a dog’s panting rate to slow and offer cool water for rehydration immediately after exercise, followed by a *ReFUEL* Bar. Dogs weighing up to 55 pounds should be fed one bar, up to 36 pounds two-thirds bar and up to 18 pounds one-third bar.

The *Purina Pro Plan SPORT PRiME* and *ReFUEL* nutritional supplement bars may be bought individually or in a multipack of 12 bars exclusively at pet specialty and farm supply stores. For information, visit [proplan.com](http://proplan.com) or to talk with a pet nutrition consultant, call 800-PRO-PLAN (800-776-7526) from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Central Time Monday through Friday. ■

<sup>1</sup> Ivy JL, Lee MC, Brozinick JT Jr, et al. Muscle glycogen storage after different amounts of carbohydrate ingestion. *J Appl Physiol.* 1988;65:2018-2023.

# ART *for* DOG'S SAKE

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**T**he American Kennel Club Museum of the Dog in St. Louis is a gathering place for dog lovers. Featuring a robust collection of more than 7,000 pieces that are periodically rotated, as well as special exhibits, the museum captures the attention not only of local dog enthusiasts, but also of the dog fancy from across the country.

Founded in 1981, the museum is the only one in the world dedicated solely to dog art. "This museum, as depicted in its fine art, truly represents the nature and strength of the canine-human relationship over time, illustrating how it has changed yet remains the same," says Executive Director Stephen George.

Located in the historic Jarville House in Queeny Park in suburban west St. Louis County, the dog museum is a bonus for those who travel here for their parent club's National Specialty at the Purina Event Center in Gray

A Palladian-style doghouse featuring Scottish Terrier sentinels and a marble floor is on view in the Sally Johnson Spillane Special Exhibit Gallery of the AKC Museum of the Dog.





The main hallway of the 14,000-square-foot addition built in 1990 blends art from special exhibits and the permanent collection.

Summit, Mo. The museum often puts together special breed exhibits for these clubs.

This past year, the museum featured “Herding Dogs in Art” during the Bearded Collie Club of America National Specialty. Among the featured pieces was “A Sheep Dog,” a 19th century oil painting by Scottish artist Philip Reinagle, loaned by the American Kennel Club in New York.

“Promoting the museum to breed clubs is good for us and for the museum,” says Purina Event Center Manager Kaite Flamm.



The museum staff includes, from left, Diane Saltzman, museum assistant; Susan Haney, museum coordinator; Stephen George, executive director; Jan Trudt, special events coordinator; and Pam Schuchat, museum assistant.

“The museum is a must-visit attraction for any National Specialty group coming to St. Louis. The staff accommodates everything from guided tours to private receptions to help make an event memorable.”

Board member Gretchen Bernardi, breeder of Irish Wolfhounds under the Berwyck prefix, agrees. “Clubs can combine their events at the Purina Event Center with a cocktail party, wine and cheese reception or a dinner inside the museum or on the patio,” she says. “Combining efforts is a win-win formula.”

The Norwich Terrier Club of America has twice held barbecue dinners at the museum as part of its National Specialty activities. About 100 people attending the Pembroke Welsh Corgi Club of America National toured the museum in late September. Fundraisers, such as one in 2008 featuring “Uno,” the Westminster Best in Show Beagle, are festive occasions.

A recent homage to Pug lovers, called “A Regal Pedigree: A Special Exhibition of the Pug in Art,” was assembled from private collections by art connoisseur Gary Bachman of Chicago. Opening

The AKC Museum of the Dog is located in the Edgar M. Queeny Memorial Park, 1721 South Mason Road, St. Louis, MO 63131. Hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesday to Saturday and 1 to 5 p.m. Sunday. The museum is closed Mondays, Tuesdays and on holidays. For information, visit [museumofthedog.org](http://museumofthedog.org) or call 314-821-3647.





Members of an advanced dog obedience class that is taught on Tuesdays at the museum practice the sit-stay command. At right, "Nina," a 3-year-old Havanese, looks up at owner Debbie La Fara of St. Louis.



in October, the showing in the Sally Johnson Spillane Special Exhibit Gallery included many rare pieces. Inkwells, porcelains, bronzes, paintings, and novelty items showcased many facets of the Pug through the ages.

George, who recently became executive director, envisions a community-based museum, where people come regularly with their dogs to view the art and attend special events. Obedience classes taught by a trainer from a local program have met on Tuesdays for 18 years. A premier dog park, expected to open in 2014 next door to the museum, is bound to usher in a new cohort of dog art lovers.

Other possibilities are art education classes for children and adults, art internships affiliated with St. Louis area colleges and universities, and an enhanced volunteer program. Tapping into social media via Facebook helps the museum stay connected with members and fans.

Future social media outreach efforts could help educate about exhibits and artists.

The history of the museum began in New York. Members of the Westminster Kennel Club, the Westminster Kennel Club Foundation and the board of the American Kennel Club came together to form the museum to enhance appreciation for and knowledge of the significance of the human-dog relationship through art, artifacts and literature. The founding was prompted, in part, after some 6,000 dog-related works of art amassed by Geraldine Rockefeller Dodge, a niece of John D. Rockefeller, were auctioned piece by piece in 1975 following her death.

Not long after opening, the museum outgrew its space on the ground floor of the New York Life Building. Desiring a more central location, the museum moved to the Jarville House in Queeny Park in 1986. The Jarville House, built in 1853, passed through several hands until Edgar Queeny, president of Monsanto Co., and his wife, Ethel, bought the property in 1931. The Queenys sold the estate in

1962, and a few years later, St. Louis County bought the land to develop the Edgar M. Queeny Memorial Park. In 1986, the county leased the Jarville House to the dog museum.

A 14,000-square-foot addition to the Jarville House completed in 1990 provides space for additional exhibits in the Sally Johnson Spillane Special Exhibit Gallery and meeting rooms. Dinners and receptions are held in the 2,000-square-foot Charing Cross Courtyard and the 3,500-square-foot Constellation Room. The Hope A. Levy Memorial Library is located in the Jarville House.

Sandra Stemmler, a board member and breeder of Barnstable Norwich and Norfolk Terriers, says, "Our museum contains many works of art. The wonderful collection of paintings, sculptures, porcelains, books, and literature gives us the challenge of protecting and preserving these pieces so they can be enjoyed by all."

Although the majority of artwork is British and European pieces dating to the 19th and 20th centuries, there are many earlier works from around the world as well as American dog artwork. Among the most famous artists whose work is fea-



"Scottish Deerhound and Recumbent Foxhound" painted by Sir Edwin Landseer, one of Queen Victoria's favorite artists, is part of the permanent collection.

## Spring Porcelain Exhibit Coming Soon

An impressive gift of numerous dog porcelains and fine art figurines, including many Royal Doulton pieces, from the estate of Glen Twiford has inspired a spring porcelain exhibit at the AKC Museum of the Dog. The Twiford donation includes 145 books given to the museum's Hope A. Levy Memorial Library.

The exhibit in the Sally Johnson Spillane Special Exhibit Gallery will also feature dog porcelains by other prominent makers. These include Meissen (German), Royal Copenhagen (Danish), Rosenthal (German), Lomonossov (Russian), Sèvres (French), Hutschenreuther (German), and Nymphenburg (German).

A collector of Royal Doulton dog porcelains, Twiford is believed to have owned an almost complete set of every breed in every size. A Collie breeder under the Wind-Call prefix for nearly seven decades, Twiford started in the breed as a 12-year-old on his family's Wyoming



"Japanese Chin Recumbent" is a Royal Copenhagen piece.

ranch. His early Collies were working and show dogs, which gave him an understanding of importance of structure and working ability that helped to guide his breeding.

A blue merle male Collie Twiford bought in 1954 from Elizabeth Browning of Tokalon Kennels, CH Tokalon Blue Banner, CD, became a top winner and top-producing sire. In tribute to "Patches," Twiford had a unique glass mosaic portrait created that is now part of the museum's permanent collection.

Although Collies were Twiford's main breed, he also bred Dachshunds, some breeds of terriers, Whippets, Doberman Pinschers, Irish Wolfhounds, and Shetland Sheepdogs. Twiford was 93 years old when he passed away on Jan. 14, 2013.



"Inkwell with Mastiff" created around 1840 by Jacob Petit and made by Sèvres and "Seated Bulldog" by Royal Doulton will be part of the spring exhibit.

tured are Sir Edwin Landseer, a favorite of Queen Victoria who was known for giving dogs humanlike emotions, and Maud Earl, the first woman commissioned to paint dogs of England's Royal Family.

Many of the museum's contemporary works of art come from The Art Show at the Dog Show, a juried show held annually for 27 years during the Wichita (Kan.) Kennel Club Dog Show. The



This soulful painting of a yellow Labrador Retriever, titled "Waiting," is part of the museum's collection as the winner of the The Art Show at the Dog Show in 1990.

competition is a fundraiser for the Museum of the Dog, and the art that is selected as Best in Show is donated to the museum by the show sponsors, one of which is Purina.

Artist Joy Beckner of Chesterfield, Mo., created a bronze of a Dachshund titled "A Good Life" that won Best in Show in 1998 and appears in the main hallway of the museum's addition. "That piece is still one of my favorites," Beckner says. "The museum does so many good things. I am pleased to have this art exhibited there."

"Our job is to help get the word out about the Museum of the Dog," Bernardi says. "We want to ensure that more people in the country and locally know about the museum. We want to reach out to all dog lovers — people who simply love dogs and can't imagine life without them."

"There are so many opportunities to reach people and to cultivate a passionate dog art following," George says. "I am committed to seeing this special museum become a center of activity and a place where people come to remember special dogs and how much dogs enrich our lives." ■



A bronze titled "A Good Life" won The Art Show at the Dog Show in 1998 and was donated to the museum.

Professional trainer Sherry Ray Ebert reinforces the stylish 12 o'clock tail of Oakleaf's Quite Man ("Murphy"), an Irish Setter she is training for Jim Baker of Del Valle, Texas, while her husband, Kyle Ebert, assists.



# The Heart & Soul of Sherry Ray Ebert

BY BARBARA FAWVER

PHOTOS BY MELISSA MILLER



Kyle gave Sherry a silver belt buckle engraved with her name as a gift for their first wedding anniversary in 1997.

The sweet, warm air of a North Dakota summer day and the wild game scent of pheasant filter through a row of maple and oak trees lining the edge of a dog training field. One by one, the derby-age pointing dogs cast from side to side, quartering to find birds. Just a week away from training with horses on the wide open prairie, the youngsters will soon be held accountable for the techniques they are learning now.

Holding loosely in her left hand a 30-foot check cord tethered to the collar of an eager Irish Setter, veteran trainer Sherry Ray Ebert is ready to step on the cord to hold the dog steady. Although Oakleaf's Quite Man, better known as "Murphy," has graduated from whoa training on a barrel, cording on birds helps to control him as he learns steady to wing and shot.

"Whoop, whoop," Sherry says, softly.

Finding the scent cone coming off the pheasant, Murphy creeps up stealthily, easing into a nice point on game. Sherry comes alongside the dog, gently putting one hand on the setter's back and the other on the backside of the tail to reinforce the stylish 12 o'clock position.

Kyle Ebert, Sherry's husband and right-hand assistant, shoots a blank from a training gun into the air. As the upland game bird flushes, cackling loudly and fluttering away, the setter holds steady, intent on finishing his job.

"Only two weeks ago Murphy would have bolted when a bird flies," Sherry says, smiling proudly at the pointing dog's progress. "In training, you learn if a dog doesn't make some mistakes, he isn't a good dog."

A future competitor in amateur and open stakes, Murphy reminds Sherry of another stylish setter that came through her summer training program. The setter, Murphy's dam, FC/AFC Brownhaven Steel Magnolia ("Rachel"), went on to win the Irish Setter Club of America (ISCA) National Amateur Championship in

2012 handled by owner Jim Baker of Del Valle, Texas, and was the Runner-Up Champion at the ISCA National Open in 2009 under Sherry.

Staked out not far from the training field, waiting their turns to point birds, are two French Brittany's, a Pointer, an English Setter, and three Irish Setters. "None of these dogs are completely finished," Sherry says. "By the end of summer, they almost will be."

Unmistakably an icon in the sport of shooting dog horseback stakes, Sherry is as intense about training as her dogs are about finding birds. The first 32 years of her 51-year career as a professional trainer were spent working alongside her first husband, Harold Ray, developing the legendary English Setters of Elwin and Inez Smith in Waynesboro, Ga. Three Hall of Fame bird dogs resulted from that effort: 4XCH Tomoka, 7XCH The Performer and 6XCH Destinare. Never before had a team won so much with such a small string of dogs.



Sherry practices whoa training with "Joe," an English Setter owned by Jim Butler of Kolomoki Plantation in Bluffton, Ga.

Young dogs ready to be introduced to birds and started dogs needing a gentle touch make up the bulk of Sherry's work today. "A quarter of the dogs I get are already started," she says. "They've had a 10-day crash course, picked up bad habits and then were sent to me to fix. It takes me about a month to figure out what happened. I have to get into their heart and soul to know how to help them."

Already a couple of months into summer camp, the clock is ticking. "I have to work a dog until I accomplish something," explains Sherry. "I need for them to get better every day. Training requires persistence. It is not a job that ends at 5 or 6 p.m. Sometimes Kyle can't talk to me because I am trying to figure out what to do with a dog."



Sherry and Kyle are shown at home in Mott, N.D., with, from left, "Billy," an Irish Setter Sherry co-owns with Georgia Brown of Canyon Lake, Texas; "Joe," an English Setter owned by Jim Butler of Bluffton, Ga.; "Bull," a Pointer owned by Jim Brusseau of Mattawan, Mich.; and "Cruiser," their pointing Labrador Retriever who helps Kyle on guided hunts.

### Teaming Up with Amateurs

The lush prairies of central Manitoba, Canada, loaded with Hungarian partridge and prairie chickens, are where Sherry and Harold Ray took the Smith setters for 27 years to summer camp. Wanting to find a closer location with native game birds, Sherry recalls flying into Bismarck, N.D., in a raging blizzard in 1990 to check out a place in Hettinger County.



Sherry stands beside the portrait of 7XCH The Performer ("Tony") at the Field Trial Hall of Fame in Grand Junction, Tenn. Sherry handled the dog to his last championship title at the Region 7 Shooting Dog Championship. She and her first husband, Harold Ray, trained the famous setter for Elwin and Inez Smith of Waynesboro, Ga.

The government's Conservation Reserve Program gave North Dakota about 3.5 million acres of land cover well-suited for the habitat of ring-necked pheasant, sharp-tailed grouse and Hungarian partridge. Sherry and Harold bought 40 acres in Mott, N.D., a bird dog trainer's paradise.

When the marriage ended in 1994, Sherry moved to the North Dakota homestead with a Smith setter brood bitch called "Sassy" and a Missouri Fox Trotter gaited horse named "Charlie." Her son, Doug Ray, a young adult with a family, stayed in Georgia to work with his father as a professional handler.

"People started calling me, so I began working dogs," says Sherry. "I was getting clients from everywhere, and I never once advertised."

Kyle Ebert, whose parents had allowed Sherry and Harold to train on their 1,600 acres of nearby land, began coming around to help Sherry work dogs. Kyle is a dog lover, too, who guides hunters during pheasant season with his pointing Labrador Retrievers. Two years after Sherry moved to North Dakota, she and Kyle were married.

The first 10 years in North Dakota most of Sherry's clients wanted help sharpening their dogs for all-age and shooting dog stakes. That began to change in 2003 when the Irish Setter Club of Houston hired Sherry to lead a seminar on training dogs for field trials. Georgia Brown of Brownhaven Irish Setters in Canyon

## The Amateur's Trainer

Some of the country's top-winning shooting dogs and their owner-handlers have trained under Sherry Ray Ebert. Here is why they reserve a spot for their dogs nearly a year in advance of her summer training camp in Mott, N.D.

English Setter owner-handler Ora Beth McMullen of Fort Worth, Texas, competes in American Kennel Club (AKC) shooting dog stakes: "Sherry helped me find my current dog, McMullen's Ruby June, and has trained her over several summers. She understands well the importance of teaching the owners to successfully handle their dogs. I've never met anyone as committed and hardworking as Sherry."

Jim Butler, owner of Kolomoki Plantation in Bluffton, Ga.: "Sherry is a dog whisperer. Her voice and touch are like magic to dogs and to horses, too. She takes her time with them. When my dogs come back to me, their hunting style is superb. They love to hunt and are trained to handle."

David Quijano of Wimberley, Texas, and his wife, Carla, compete in AKC stakes with their German Shorthaired Pointers: "Sherry has an ability to understand each dog and to customize the training for that dog. I've been

to Sherry's place three times to train with her. This past summer was the first time I sent dogs to her. She definitely took them to the next level."

Irish Setter breeder-owner-handler Nina Johnson of Houston, is working toward a Dual Champion title on her derby-age setter "Ryan" (Flights of Fancy Prince Charming): "Sherry has the soft touch that setters need to do well. Ryan came back to me started on birds. He holds his point all the time. I wouldn't have expected him to do so well so quickly."

Kathy Slobom of Middleton, Idaho, enjoys hunting with stylish English Setters: "I made every mistake with 'Dee'. She was almost ruined when she went to Sherry. When I called Sherry about sending Dee a second summer for training, she said, 'I've thought about your dog all winter. I might have an idea if you want to bring her.' Dee became the best dog I've ever had because Sherry was committed to fixing her."



David Quijano and his German Shorthaired Pointer, Quijano's Little Buddy ("Chacho").

Lake, Texas, recalls Sherry "lining up our hulky show dogs and working them like they were field champions. I was impressed. I asked her if she would train my dogs, and she said she would put me on her list."

When Sherry judged the ISCA National Field Championship in 2003 and 2004 in Booneville, Ark., she realized that "people were not bringing out the best in their dogs," she says. Her transition to training amateur-owned and -handled dogs was about to begin.

Tension ("Ten"), a male Irish Setter pup bred and owned by Brown, was one of the first Irish Setters Sherry took to North Dakota to train. Although Ten won a trial and placed in another, he would develop hip dysplasia and be retired from field trials. Brown had a couple of littermates that went next.

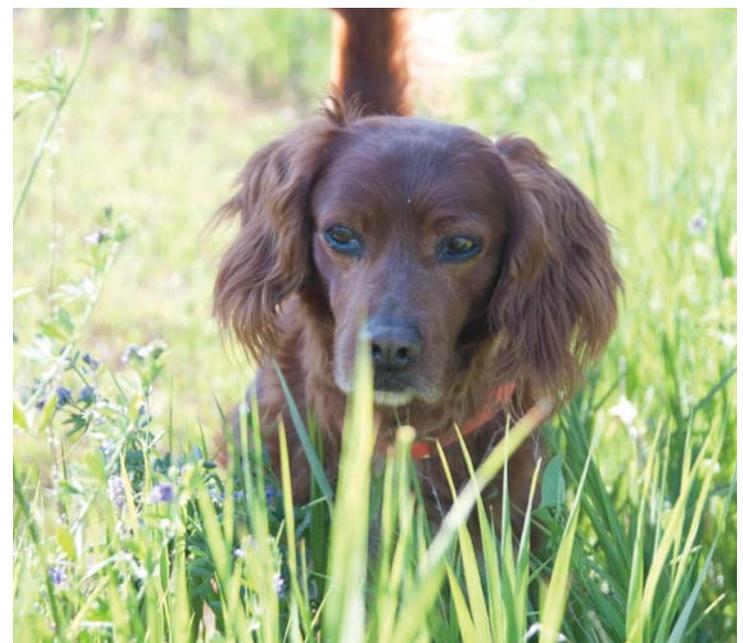
Brownhaven Shining Symmetry ("Emily") earned 9 points toward her Field Championship title but just couldn't finish, says Brown. "We lovingly call Emily 'Blondie,'" she says. "I think she gave Sherry some gray hairs."

Meanwhile, Emily's brother, NFC/FC Brownhaven Burning Bright ("Burnie"), won the ISCA Futurity in 2005, when Emily placed second and Ten placed fourth. Sherry handled Burnie to Runner-Up Champion at the 2007 ISCA National Championship. The next year, he was the Runner-Up Champion at the Southeast Continental Championship, and the following year he won the ISCA National Championship.

Brown, who had won the National Amateur Championship in 1980 and 1981 with 2XNAFC/FC Kopper Key Boni of Brownhaven

credits Sherry for the nearly 100 placements her setters have earned in American Field and American Kennel Club sanctioned trials since 2004. "Sherry is so focused," she says. "She puts her heart and soul into every dog like it's her only child."

Another top bird-finding male Irish Setter trained and handled by Sherry is owned by Mary Ann Gustafson of Del Valle, Texas. NFC/FC Flame'n Red Legacy ("E.J.") won the ISCA National



NFC/FC Brownhaven Burning Bright ("Burnie"), 11 years old, is one of the top-winning Irish Setters trained by Sherry. She co-owns the dog with Georgia Brown.

## The Enchanted Highway

A trip to southwest North Dakota to pheasant hunt would be remiss if you did not take time to travel The Enchanted Highway, a 32-mile stretch off Interstate 94 from Regent to Gladstone. A favorite tourist attraction of Sherry and Kyle Ebert's, the scenic route features seven of the world's largest scrap metal sculptures. Designed by local artist Gary Greff, the 3-D wire-mesh sculptures include Pheasants on the Prairie, pictured below. To learn more, visit [realnd.com/enchantedhighwayindex.htm](http://realnd.com/enchantedhighwayindex.htm).



Championship in 2012 and was Runner-Up Champion in 2011 and 2013.

For 10 years, Sherry has taught her training seminar in March at Bush Ranch in West Point, Texas. Amateurs come from across the country to learn fundamentals, such as how to go from yard work to the field, and proper handling techniques. Sherry uses participants' dogs to help make the teaching more meaningful. The slots for 40 people and 25 dogs fill quickly.

One-on-one seminars are offered back home in North Dakota for people wanting to learn more about handling their dogs. Typically, Sherry has trained the dogs during the summer, and the private classes teach owners how to reinforce the training.

Another training tool is a 90-minute video titled "Training English Setters and Continental Breeds with Sherry Ebert" that is available online ([gundogsonline.com](http://gundogsonline.com)). Jim Butler of Kolomoki Plantation in Bluffton, Ga., bought the video and then started sending his bird dogs to Sherry. That was 12 years ago. This summer, Butler sent a Pointer, a Brittany, two adult English Setters and five 9-month-old English Setter littermates, the fourth generation started on birds and trained by Sherry.

### 'Welcome to Our Roost'

Walking down Sherry and Kyle's kennel, one is greeted by Continental European and English pointing breeds, plus Kyle's pointing Labrador Retrievers. And then there is 'Denali,' a wolf-



Alaskan Malamute who Sherry describes as the "dog boss" of the kennel.

A huge wooden barn built in the 1920s — concrete floors were added in 1961 — has been converted to the kennel. Thirty-two dogs — eight are Sherry and Kyle's — are settled into spacious quarters for summer camp. Two large fans keep cool air moving through the kennel.

"Welcome to Our Roost" says a colorful sign decorated with a ring-necked pheasant hanging on the entrance to the rust red barn. On the wall inside the barn's double doors are signs with idioms that "jog something and make you think," Sherry explains. They read: "Good morning, let the stress begin." "My dog is not spoiled, I'm just well-trained." "There will be a \$5 charge for whining." "A dog is the only thing on earth that loves you more than he loves himself."

A splash of fluorescent blue and orange radiates from two casts mounted on the wall. Both are from accidents in which Sherry was thrown from horses. She broke her right wrist in 2012 and her left arm in 2008. The worst accident was in 2011 when Sherry was thrown from a young Missouri Fox Trotter. Kyle drove her to the nearest hospital 35 miles away in Hettinger. Sherry had eight fractured ribs and a punctured lung, and her shoulder blade was busted in two places. As she lay in the hospital while fluid was drained from her lung, the doctor feared a broken rib could rip through her heart or lung.

After a week in the hospital, Sherry went home to recover. One week later, Kyle reluctantly lifted her with a towel wrapped around her midsection onto one of the older Fox Trotters. Although Sherry vows that 2013 will be the last year she will break any colts, her love for horses and reputation as an expert horsewoman may prevail.

Although Sherry is considering slowing down a bit, she stands committed to helping grow the sport. This was a goal when she and Harold Ray began the Ga-Lina Amateur Shooting Dog Classic at Smith Plantation in Georgia in 1990. "We started Ga-Lina to be a family event," she says.

Sherry judged the 10th anniversary Ga-Lina Amateur Classic in 2000. She has judged almost every pointing breed's National



At their Wild Birds Only Kennel, Sherry and Kyle exclusively feed Purina Pro Plan SPORT Performance 30/20 Formula. "You have to feed a really good high-fat, high-protein dog food for energy and to help dogs stay in peak condition so they can give you a peak performance," Sherry says.



Sherry releases dogs from their kennels to air out. The immaculate kennel consists of 4-by-4-foot indoor runs that open to 4-by-12-foot outdoor runs. "It's all about companionship," Sherry says. "Many of these dogs are house dogs. They all have wonderful personalities and temperament."

Championship in the American Kennel Club. She judged the Continental Championship twice at Dixie Plantation and went to Japan in 1979 and 1980 to judge trials and present dog training seminars and exhibitions on gaited horses.

"I've accomplished way more than I was allowed to do in this world," says Sherry. "I really feel this is what I was born to do."

The results of summer training have begun to come in. Owners call to report winning and placing in shooting dog stakes or their dogs' stylish performances and keen bird-finding abilities while hunting. Every phone call, text message and email is a reward to this hardworking trainer who has poured her heart and soul into every dog. ■

## 'Denali,' The Dog Boss

Visitors to Sherry and Kyle Ebert's bird dog kennel usually gape when they see the odd-looking dog in the first run.

"That's 'Denali,'" Sherry explains. "He is a wolf, well mostly wolf and a little bit Alaskan Malamute."

Denali came from an accidental litter sired by a male that was 50-percent wolf and 50-percent Alaskan Malamute out of a wolf dam. "The mother was found in the Florida Everglades. She was hurt and was taken to a man who had the sire. While she was there, the breeding happened," Sherry says.

Not her first wolf, Sherry absolutely adored "Hazard," a 50-percent wolf and 50-percent German Shepherd Dog who broke her heart when he died in 2004 of spinal meningitis. Hazard came to live with Sherry and Kyle when he was 5 weeks old.

In contrast, Denali was 3 months old and already had bonded with his pack. Until she could build trust with her wolf pup, Sherry put a 25-foot rope on Denali, which he wore for months. "It took a year to really develop a bond with him," she says.

"She was about to give up on Denali," Kyle recalls. "She would say, 'He may put up with me, but he will never love me.'"

One day while working with two setter pups, Sherry accidentally dropped Denali's rope. Then, she realized she had let Denali go.

"When I got back, there he was sitting at door of the house," she says. "I started toward him to get the rope. Instead, he came to me. I knew he was my friend and that he trusted me."

Sherry credits Denali and Hazard for helping her learn about animal nature. "You accomplish more when you figure out the best way to work together," she says. "It's like the saying, 'You catch more flies with honey than you do with vinegar.'"



Sherry poses with "Denali."

# The Bounty of Bugaboo

BY KAYLA MILLER

**E**ffortlessly gaiting around a huge show ring at the Old English Sheepdog Club of America (OESCA) National Specialty in October at the Purina Event Center in Gray Summit, Mo., a 2-year-old male called “Swagger” was enjoying himself immensely.

Handled by breeder-owner Colton Johnson, GCH Bugaboo’s Picture Perfect not only topped 102 sheepdogs to win Best of Breed, he also won the Top Twenty and the OESCA Great Plains Regional Specialty, setting a breed record. The No. 1 Herding dog in the country, Swagger’s whirlwind year began in February when he won Reserve Best in Show from the Bred-By Exhibitor class at the Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show in New York at only his third dog show.

“To take Reserve Best in Show with such a young dog at the Garden was quite a surprise, and then to win the National was incredible,” Colton says. “Swagger is a beautiful dog with a fun-loving temperament. He has a tremendous presence in the ring.”

Despite limited showing, Swagger has earned 24 Bests in Show out of the 60 all-breed shows he has been entered. Coming from the famous Bugaboo line of sheepdogs, Swagger is out of the first litter bred by Colton and his wife, Heather Johnson, of Colorado Springs, Colo. They co-own the dog with Ron Scott and Debbie Burke of Dillsburg, Pa.

The Bugaboo prefix is handed down from Colton’s parents, Doug and Michaelanne Johnson, but originally it belonged to Canadian breeders John and Edie Shields, their mentors and friends. After Edie Shields passed away, Doug and Michaelanne continued the Bugaboo prefix with their breeding program. Doug, who is president of OESCA, handled numerous Bugaboo Old English Sheepdogs during his 20-year career as a professional handler. In 2006, the American Kennel Club recognized the Johnsons as the Breeders of the Year.

“My entire family, including my parents and four sisters, is active in the breeding process,” Colton says. “We don’t always agree on sires and dams, so if one person disagrees, we’ll try it their way the next time.”

Colton has been involved with dogs for as long as he can remember. As a child, he cleaned kennels at his parents’ boarding kennels, Woodmen Kennels and Sunrise Kennels.



Colton leads Swagger around the ring at the Garden, where the 2-year-old male won Reserve Best in Show from the Bred-By Exhibitor class.



Breeder-owner-handler Colton Johnson stacks GCH Bugaboo’s Picture Perfect (“Swagger”) after winning Best of Breed at the OESCA National Specialty. From left are judge Martin Doherty, Colton, Purina Area Manager Annie Balotti, and OESCA president Doug Johnson.

At age 18, Colton was interested in buying a Bullmastiff and began to inquire about puppies from a local breeder's litter sired by CH Sherwood's Damd Irresistible, a stud dog who belonged to Heather's family. In 1999, Heather flew from her hometown of Smithtown, N.Y., to Colorado to see the litter out of "Lumpy" and met Colton. Over the next few years, their friendship bloomed into a relationship sparked by cross-country letters and phone calls. In 2001, Heather spent the summer working for the Johnsons at their kennels. In 2007, the couple was married.



Above, Heather Johnson grooms Bugaboo's Blown Away before judging at the OESCA National Specialty. Left, Taylor Johnson, 6 years old, prepares her favorite sheepdog, Bugaboo's Smoke Get In Your Eyes, for handling in the American-Bred class at the National Specialty.



Since then, Colton handled the winningest Old English Sheepdog bitch in breed history, GCH Bugaboo's Georgie Girl, who happens to be Swagger's dam, as well as the second top-winning Old English Sheepdog of all-time, GCH Bugaboo's Big Resolution, the No. 1 Herding Dog of the Year in 2006. In 2007, Colton was nominated for Top Handler of the Year. Besides working as professional handlers, the couple opened their Under The Sun Doggie Day Care and Training center in Colorado Springs.

Colton and Heather have three children. Their daughters are 6-year-old Taylor and 4-year-old Cameron, and their son is 1-year-old Dawson. The girls have begun to help out around the kennel. Taylor already has a taste of showing in the ring. She handled Bugaboo's Smoke Get In Your Eyes at all four shows of the

Scottsdale (Ariz.) Dog Fanciers this past March and in the American-Bred class at this year's OESCA National Specialty. Taylor attends a weekly handling class taught by Colton's sister, Carrieanne Johnson.

"It's fun to see the kids take an interest in dogs. The sheepdogs are very receptive and gentle when the kids are at the other end of the leash," Heather says. "It's my and Colton's goal to make dogs a positive experience for our children. We teach them about winning and losing, but most importantly, that they should always believe in themselves and in their dogs."

The Johnsons are a generous family who enjoy giving back. During the Black Forest wildfire this past summer, they opened their kennels to Colorado residents who were displaced from their homes. They sheltered 200 animals, with Purina donating food to help their cause.

Swagger, who is fueled by *Purina Pro Plan SPORT Performance 30/20 Formula*, will be taken on a full-blown campaign in 2014. Instead of attending only two shows per month in the West, Colton and Heather plan to travel to shows every weekend throughout the country. Colton hopes for Swagger to break the Best in Show breed record and become the No. 1 dog in the country in 2014.

"My main goal is for Swagger to represent a wonderful example of an Old English Sheepdog," Colton says. "I expect we'll have a good time together on the campaign trail while trying to accomplish this dream." ■


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

## 'Flash' Sets Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever Best in Show Record



Among his top wins, "Flash" took Best of Breed at the 2011 Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever Club National Specialty.

Setting a breed record, GCH Pikkinokka's Lightning Bug, a 5-year-old male Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever called "Flash," has won four Bests in Show. Ranked No. 1 in the breed, Flash depicts correct conformation with his powerful, compact, balanced body and slightly wedge-shaped head. Stacy Einck-Paul of Bealeton, Va., who co-owns the dog with Nancie Mages of Millington, Ill., says Flash has a "springy gait as the breed should and a willing-to-please personality." The Toller, who is handled by Don Powell of Raleigh, N.C., was co-bred

by Mathilde Niquidet with Wayne McCarthy, both of Nakusp, British Columbia, Canada. Flash is fueled by *Purina Pro Plan* SELECT Sensitive Skin & Stomach and *Purina Pro Plan* SPORT Performance 30/20 formulas.



"Nathan" is the No. 1 Bloodhound in the country.

## 'Nathan' Is First Bloodhound with Mantrailer Title to Win Best in Show

GCH Flessner's International S'cess, MT, who is called "Nathan," is the first of his breed with a Mantrailer title to win Best in Show. Awarded by the American Bloodhound Club (ABC), a Mantrailer title recognizes a hound's

ability to trail a person by following his or her scent. The Best of Breed winner at this year's ABC National Specialty, Nathan has won two Bests in Show. Breeder-owner-handler Heather Helmer of Queenstown, Md., attributes the 3-year-old's success to his "beautiful breed type and smooth, free-moving gait." Nathan was sired by the No.1 Bloodhound in 2010, and his dam is a top producer with five progeny represented in the Top Twenty at this year's National. Helmer co-bred Nathan's litter with Bryan and Chris Flessner of St. Joseph, Ill., and co-owns the dog with Shirley and Zack VanCamp of Charlotte, N.C. Nathan is fueled by *Purina Pro Plan* SPORT Performance 30/20 Formula.

## Derby Swissy Called 'Gus' Wins Six Bests in Show, Sets Breed Records

GCH Derby's Toast With Gusto, a 3-year-old male, is the first Greater Swiss Mountain Dog to capture six Bests in Show. A two-time Best of Breed winner at the Greater Swiss Mountain Dog Club of America National Specialty, having won in 2012 and 2013, Gus also has earned 28 Working Group Firsts, a breed record. "Gus has great energy in the ring and impresses judges with his correct structure and overall soundness," says Sue Copeland of Richmond, Texas, who co-owns the dog with her husband, Rick. Bred by Kristin Kleeman of Mount Pleasant, S.C., with Ken and Robyn Toth of Holland, Mich., Gus was sired by CH Derby's Academy Award, who won Best of Breed at Westminster in 2007 and 2010. Handled by Scott Sommer of Houston, Gus is powered by *Purina Pro Plan* SAVOR Shredded Blend Chicken & Rice Formula.



A record-setting Greater Swiss Mountain Dog, "Gus" stands out with his kind expression and sweet temperament.

## Miniature Bull Terrier Called 'Kid' is No. 1 in the Breed Two Consecutive Years

A handsome, masculine 3-year-old dog with excellent breed type, GCH Cambria's Kid 'N' Play, has shined his way to become the No. 1 Miniature Bull Terrier in the country the past two years. Co-owned by breeder Deb Guerrero and her husband, Alex, and handler Luke Baggenstos and his wife, Rowan, all of Graham, Wash., "Kid" has captured six Bests in Show and 13 Bests in Specialty Show. "Kid has a happy-go-lucky demeanor and is always smiling," says Deb Guerrero, who finished the dog's champion title and then turned him over to Baggenstos to campaign. Among his prestigious repeat wins, Kid won the breed at the Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show and took Bests in Show at the Walla Walla (Wash.) Kennel Club Dog Show in 2012 and 2013. Kid is fed *Purina Pro Plan* SELECT Sensitive Skin & Stomach Formula.



"Kid," the No. 1 Miniature Bull Terrier, has a cheerful temperament.

## Purina Honors 2012-2013 Top Shooting Dog Award Winners

### 'Ice' and 'Magnum' Put Sanchez Family on Top

Six-year-old white-and-orange male littermate Pointers, "Ice" and "Magnum," proved their amazing talents as the respective winners of the Purina Top Shooting Dog and Purina Top Shooting Amateur awards. Co-owned by a father and son, Joaquin "Jack" and Brian Sanchez of Greater River Kennels in Central Islip, N.Y., Ice earned 4,185 points, the second highest ever recorded in the Open competition, and Magnum scored 2,510 points, the highest ever in the Amateur division.

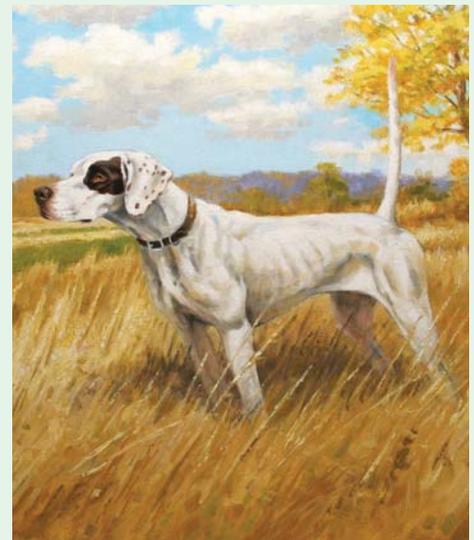
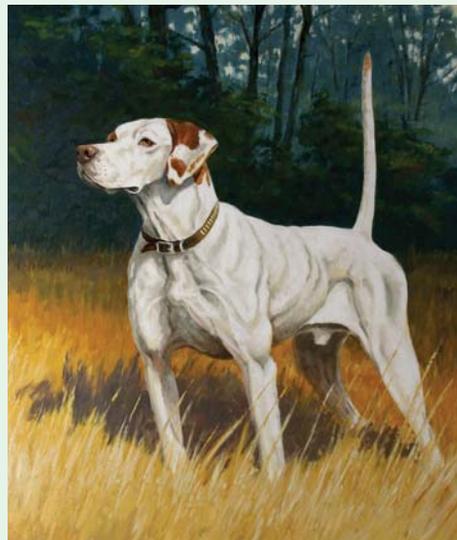
Under professional handler Mike Tracy of Glenville, Pa., 10XCH/7XRUPCH Great River Ice won the United States Shooting Dog Invitational plus four Championships and four Runner-Up Championships, including the National Open Pheasant Shooting Dog Championship. Brian Sanchez handled 8XCH/4XRUCH Great River Magnum to win three regional Championships and two Amateur Classics. Bred by Scott Crawford, The Pointers' sire and dam were both sired by Hall of Fame producer Rock Acre Blackhawk.

"The part we enjoy most is training and developing our dogs, and

it makes winning these awards very special," says Joaquin Sanchez, who won the 1988 Purina Top Shooting Dog Award with 10XCH/11XRUCH Bases Loaded. Brian Sanchez won the 2008 Purina Top Shooting Dog Amateur Award with NYPD.

### 'Zeva' Captures Inaugural Purina Derby Award

A 2-year-old white-and-liver female Pointer called "Zeva" is the winner of the inaugural Purina Top Shooting Dog Derby Award. Earning 1,319 points, Awsum Country Girl, as she is officially known, won the National Shooting Dog Derby Championship, the U.S. Quail Shooting Dog Futurity and three Derby Classics under professional handler George Tracy of Glenville, Pa. She is the first Purina Award winner for owners Bill and Margie Ricci of Powhatan, Va. "Zeva is a stylish dog with tremendous bird-finding ability," says Bill Ricci, who did the early training on the precocious bird dog. Winning the award was especially meaningful to the Riccis as Zeva is from the only litter sired by their male, the late 4XCH/3XRUCH Phillips High Line.



The 2012-2013 Purina Top Shooting Dog Award winners, pictured in oil paintings presented to their owners, are, from left, "Ice," "Magnum" and "Zeva." All are fueled by *Purina Pro Plan SPORT Performance 30/20 Formula*.

## Tracy Wins Eighth Purina Handler Award

Professional handler Mike Tracy of Glenville, Pa., won his eighth Purina Top Shooting Dog Handler of the Year Award with 15 dogs that earned 34 point placements. The Purina Top Shooting Dog Award winner, Great River Ice, captured the majority of the winning, with 11 placements, including five Championships and four Runner-Up Championships. Other prominent Championship winners were Calico's Touch of Class, Richfield Finnegan, Richfield Silver Lining and Octavio. A third-generation professional handler, Tracy grew up in the shooting dog sport. His father, George Tracy, won the Purina Top Shooting Dog Handler Award a record 11 times, and his grandfather, Gerald Tracy, won the first Purina Top Shooting Dog Award in 1983 with Rocky River Buck. "Grandma and Pap started this whole thing," Tracy says. "My goal is to surpass my dad's record. He gave me big shoes to fill."



Surrounded by his family and friends, Mike Tracy receives the Purina Top Shooting Dog Handler of the Year Award at the Purina Award banquet in Oklahoma City.

## GET CONNECTED 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 the *Purina Pro Plan for Professionals* page on Facebook to become part of the conversation and share your passion for the sport with a community of dog enthusiasts.

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### BREED SNAPSHOT

# RAT TERRIER: AN ALL-AMERICAN BREED

Alert and energetic, the Rat Terrier is a small, sturdy dog originally bred for ratting, as his name suggests, as well as hunting other varmints. The American Kennel Club's newest recognized breed, the Rat Terrier became the 178th breed in June 2013.

One of few breeds to originate in the United States, the Rat Terrier was commonly found on early American farms. Immigrants crossed a mixture of terrier breeds, including Fox Terriers, Old English White Terriers, Manchester Terriers, Bull Terriers and other feist-type dogs, to produce the breed.

When Kansas jackrabbits threatened Midwest crops in the early 1900s, some farmers bred the Rat Terrier to Whippets and Italian Greyhounds to create a dog with more speed and versatility. Meanwhile, breeders in the central and southern United States bred Rat Terriers to Beagles to give them a stronger prey drive and desire for pack hunting. These crosses resulted in a Rat Terrier with a good nose and the speed to pursue his prey.

The breed's short, smooth parti-colored coat has pied patterning. Large patches of color, combined with white, may be black, chocolate, red, apricot, blue, fawn, tan, or lemon. Rat Terriers also may be bicolor or tricolor with tan points ranging from cream to rust.

Intelligent and athletic, the Rat Terrier has the speed, power and balance to excel at sports. They are known for doing well in agility and obedience. Loyal and eager to please, the Rat Terrier loves to be around people. He makes a wonderful family companion but may be reserved with strangers.

The Rat Terrier is bred and shown in two sizes: miniature and standard. Miniature Rat Terriers are from 10 to 13 inches tall at the shoulder, and standards are from 13 to 18 inches tall. Rat Terriers generally weigh from 10 to 25 pounds.

Sources: The websites of the American Kennel Club ([akc.org](http://akc.org)) and the Rat Terrier Club of America ([ratterrierclub.com](http://ratterrierclub.com)).

