

PURINA

Today's Breeder

A Nestlé Purina Publication Dedicated to the Needs of Canine Enthusiasts

Issue 85



BREEDER PROFILE
Topsfield Basset Hounds

2013 Cocker National Field Trial
Artificial Insemination in Dog Breeding
Junior Showmanship at the Garden

The READERS' PAGE

My leap from show horses to show dogs was made at the end of the leash of a chocolate Labrador Retriever, so it seems fitting that 30 years later I am at the end of the leash of a record-setting Chesapeake Bay Retriever. At 7 1/2-months-old, "Chewy" (CH DeCocoa's Kodiak Bearly Behavin') became the youngest Chessa in history to finish his championship.

When my friend, Karen Marcotte (DeCocoa), invited my husband, Paul Schnittger, and me to choose a puppy, I wasn't sure I was ready to raise a male Chesapeake Bay Retriever. But,

my husband thought we were, and off we went.

Chewy's pedigree includes dogs from many notable Chesapeake Bay Retriever kennels. His dam, CH DeCocoa's Chocolate Truffle Surprise, is one of the first AKC-certified search-and-rescue dogs and his sire, CH Marjan's It's All In The Game, SH, has proved himself in the show ring and the field.

Although Chewy has big shoes to fill, he is well on his way. After years of finishing and campaigning many amazing client dogs, I truly hope that

Chewy will be my superstar. We feed Chewy *Purina Pro Plan SPORT Performance 30/20 Formula*. I encourage all my handling clients to use *Purina Pro Plan* dog food.

Marilyn Williams
Auntie M's Pro Handling
The Hounds of Stepmar
Bandon, OR

We have been breeding under the Stonebrook prefix for more than 30 years. At our home, we have three generations of Parson Russell Terriers. At least once a year we usually try a new dog food because I am not happy with one of the dog's coat or weight. Not anymore. We have been feeding *Purina Pro Plan SELECT Grain Free Formula* for more than a year, and our dogs' coats and weight have never been better.

Our Multi-Group and Specialty-winning GCH Stonebrook's Academy Award ("Oscar") just turned 7 years old and is in the best condition of his life. Oscar's 13-year-old dam, "Trudy" (CH Stonebrook's Style All Her Own),



Breeder-owner-handler Beverly Wilson poses "Oscar," a Parson Russell Terrier, after he took Best of Winners at the Montgomery County Kennel Club Dog Show (all terriers) at 8 1/2 months of age.

has even started instigating play with her son and two 8-month-old granddaughters. Oscar's daughters also are on *Purina Pro Plan Grain Free* and look wonderful.

Martin Cabral & Beverly Wilson
Stonebrook Kennels
San Diego County, CA



Marilyn Williams poses "Chewy" after he took Best of Winners and earned a five-point major at the Evergreen Chesapeake Bay Retriever Club Specialty in August 2013.

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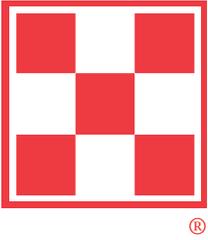
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No matter how far the distance, English Cocker Spaniel field trial enthusiasts traveled from across the country with the same goal in mind: a shot at the 2013 National Cocker Field Trial Championship in Bismarck, N.D. Aside from the road to getting there, five land series and one water series were all that stood between the qualifiers and the championship title.

10 GIVING AI YOUR BEST SHOT

Although artificial insemination makes up a small percentage of dog breedings in the U.S., advances in understanding of canine reproduction and improvements in techniques are contributing to increased interest. Here are success stories made possible from the technology.

14 THE BASSETS OF TOPSFIELD

Despite being told that a Basset Hound would never win Groups or Bests in Show, Claudia Waller Orlandi, Ph.D., persisted with the breed she adored. Their unusual characteristics have challenged her, but their sweet temperament has held her heart. Today, Topsfield is going back to its beginning with a focus on developing show Bassets with hunting instincts into a performance line.

20 WINNING WAYS AT THE GARDEN

The Finals of Junior Showmanship was the flash of the night at the 2014 Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show. A competition in which young men and women are judged solely on their handling skills rather than the characteristics of the dog, just getting there was an accomplishment. At this elite level, all were winners. For many of the finalists, the academic scholarships they won were just the beginning of a lifetime in dogs.

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On Our Cover

GCH Topsfield-Sanchu Cannoli, ("Cannoli"), a 4-year-old male Basset Hound bred by Claudia Orlandi and Sue Frischmann, who co-own him with Claire K. Steidel. Cover photo by Melissa Miller. See story on page 14.



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THE TREK *to Bismarck*

STORY AND PHOTOS BY KEITH SCHOPP



If you're an English Cocker Spaniel field trial enthusiast, all roads led to Bismarck, N.D., and the 2013 National Cocker Field Trial Championship.

Dave Williams headed north from Crete, Neb., with a 25-foot camper in tow and three cockers kenneled in the back of his pickup. Williams had one dog qualified, "Pearl," and one goal: to guide Pearl through five land series and one water series and be a finalist at the 2013 National Championship.



Dave Williams holds "Pearl."

Walt Leytham headed west, feeling a bit like Lewis and Clark must have, with a 27-hour drive from his home in Charlottesville, Va. Leytham figured it would be worth it. He qualified two dogs, "Ruthie" and "Darcy," but Leytham's motivation hung around his neck in the form of a necklace containing the ashes and a photo of Darcy's mother, "Belle," a beloved cocker who died too young.

Bob and Tawney Crawford headed 1,300 miles east from Olympia, Wash. Diagnosed with breast cancer last May, Tawney Crawford immediately thought of the 2013 National in October. There's no way she was going to miss it. Sorry cancer. Her cockers come first. Tawney Crawford fought to make the trip, and received permission from her oncologist to schedule two chemotherapy treatments during her stay near Bismarck.

Ralph Mowder, a local from Menoken, N.D., wasn't going far, but had high hopes for "Bentley," his first field trial cocker. Only 2 years old, Bentley conveniently qualified for the Bismarck National, so Mowder needed only to roll out of bed and drive a short distance to the trial grounds.

Williams, Leytham, the Crawfords, and Mowder were ready. So were their dogs. By the end of the week, one would be a National Champion. Let the trial begin.



The faithful gathered before dawn, a sea of orange in the middle of the North Dakota prairie. A large tent anchored the parking area, and a dusting of snow and a brisk northerly wind made it feel colder than the 25-degree temperature. As judges and workers prepared for the first brace of the National, some competitors took refuge in the tent, where an ample supply of coffee and doughnuts awaited.

Others took time for a photo session just outside the tent. A makeshift studio consisted of a couple of bales of straw and a handful of cornstalks. Tawney Crawford was all smiles as she posed with FC Quailmoor Quite Right ("True") at her side. She was dressed for the weather, but her cheeks were rosy red from the cold.

"She's a tough customer," says Bob Crawford, her husband, not referring to his wife's ability to handle the weather. "She took a chemotherapy treatment the day before the trial, and she'll have another one before we leave. She's dedicated, and she's doing great. A lot of it is attitude, and the dogs help. There's nothing better than a dog. Is there?"

His wife agrees.

"When I found out about the cancer in May, the first thing that came into my mind was this National," Tawney Crawford says. "I have two great dogs, and I really wanted them to be here."

Immediately, her friends in the sporting dog world stepped up.



Tawney Crawford, who received the Bixby Award for her contributions to the sport, poses with "Bee" and "True."

"Paul McGagh, a pro right here in Bismarck, called me as soon as he heard and said, 'I'll do whatever it takes to help. I can take your dogs, keep them here and get them in condition if you're not able to do that. Whatever you need,'" Tawney Crawford recalls. "Paul offered that as a friend, not as a pro trainer. And it means a lot to me."

She decided not to take McGagh up on his offer.

"I needed the dogs at home with me to help me get through this," Tawney Crawford says, of True and Bee, just part of the Crawfords' stable of field trial cockers. "Dogs are great therapy, you know?"

For the next four days, Tawney Crawford would muster all the strength she could to handle her dogs and compete, with husband Bob Crawford at her side.

Little Dogs That Do It All

Orange *Purina Pro Plan* flags chart the field trial course for about a mile through the tan and snow-specked prairie grass.

Judge Marty Knibbs was on the left. Judge Mike Noland was on the right. Dogs ran two at a time, and each judge focused on one dog, evaluating game-finding ability, steadiness, marking, and retrieving. The little dogs could do it all, with special attention given to covering ground, "briskness of questing," perseverance, and courage in facing cover. The cockers must



An English Cocker Spaniel swims to make a retrieve during the water series.



Members of the Cascade English Cocker Spaniel Fanciers traveled from Washington state to attend the National Championship in Bismarck, N.D.

flush boldly, sit or “hup” on a whistle, take hand singles, and track runners long distances, if necessary.

Dogs that perform well after three or more contacts are typically called back for the next series to be evaluated by the other judge. With 72 dogs qualified, the judges, handlers and spectators marched back and forth across the section of grass for hours.



Nadine Kohn of Glencoe, Minn., hugs “Hank” after a successful series.

Leytham and Darcy were No. 13 in the running order. A tall, thin man with long, curly hair, Leytham stood out because he never wears a hat in the field. Darcy is a small white cocker, who was soaking wet after navigating the wet grass and completing the first series in fine fashion.

Leytham scoops up Darcy and gives her a pat, then begins the long walk back to the parking area. “As good as she is, her mom was that much better,” Leytham says. “Her name was Belle. I lost her at an early age. She was 5 years old and just one point shy of her FC (Field

Champion title) when she twisted her bowel. That was it. She died in a matter of minutes.”

Leytham says the 27-hour drive was nothing. “I’d have driven farther if I had to,” he says. “I’ve wanted to be at a national for a long time. We put in thousands of hours training. There was no way I was not coming to North Dakota.”

Leytham smiles and laughs. “In fact, I’m missing my nephew’s wedding. I asked them what the date was, and they told me it was this weekend. I said, ‘Sorry, I cannot make it.’”

Leytham says he had Belle cremated. “I told my wife, when I die, mix my ashes with hers. I found this necklace that holds her ashes and photo online. I wear it at field trials. I’m wearing it right now, over my heart.”

A Close-Knit Community

The cocker community is a close-knit group, and the Cascade English Cocker Spaniel Fanciers are as close as they come and here in full force. Based in Washington state, at least a dozen members have made the trek to Bismarck. Several are staying at Glencoe Farms and Kennel, home to McGagh and Vicky Thomas. McGagh has won the Cocker National four times as a handler.



Paul McGagh, who handled the third- and fourth-place finishers, is pictured with "Pete" and "Snickett," the fourth-place finisher.

Williams' camper also is parked at Glencoe for the week. Williams is a client of McGagh's, as are many of the temporary residents at Glencoe. Pearl is out of McGagh's breeding, and McGagh provided Pearl's early basic training as a pup. Now, Williams will handle Pearl and essentially compete against McGagh and two other pros who live in the Bismarck area.

Less than 10 miles away, Oahe Kennels, home to pro trainer and handler Tom Ness and his wife, Robin Putnam, also is quite busy. A couple of campers are parked next to the kennel, and guests and clients come and go throughout the day. Ness trained and handled the winning cocker at the 2010 National, and his FC Parkbreck Elm of Bishwell ("Mave") was recently recognized as a 2013 English Cocker inductee at the Bird Dog Hall of Fame in Grand Junction, Tenn.



Cockers, such as this one, perform with an intensity in the field that endears them to their owners.

While McGagh, Ness and another local pro, Dan Murray, are handling multiple dogs, most of the competitors at this National are amateurs, rank-and-file owner-handers, who own a few dogs and are dedicated to the game.

In the cocker world, the highest award for dedication to the game — the Harold S. Bixby Service Award — is presented annually at the National to an individual who has continuously, unselfishly and distinctly promoted English Cockers in the field. Mr. Bixby, or "Bix" as his friends called him, passed away just a few days before the Bismarck National at the age of 90. The Bixby Award became a posthumous honor with special meaning at the Thursday night National banquet and silent auction at Elks Lodge 1199 in downtown Bismarck.

McGagh, the pro who handled many of Bix's dogs, was called on to say a few words about his friend and client. McGagh's remarks included a story about one of Bix's great dogs, FC Kenyee Donna of Windmillwood ("Meg"). McGagh handled Meg to win the 2001 High Point Dog honors with 46 points — the most ever in a single year.

"Meg was a special dog, and when Bix retired her, he placed

her at a plantation in the South to hunt and live out her days," McGagh related. "Bix always kept track of her, and she had some age on her. Bix died on Sunday, October 20. And we learned that Meg died on Monday, the very next day. I thought that was rather interesting."

When the winner of the Harold S. Bixby Service award for 2013 was announced, the banquet room erupted with applause. It went to Tawney Crawford.

"Tawney deserves it," McGagh said later. "She does an amazing job of bringing people into the sport. She has a litter of puppies, and 18 months later they're showing up and doing well in the game."

The Final Series Begins

By Saturday, the field was set and the fifth and final series on land had begun, with 13 dogs back. Unfortunately, Leytham was already headed back East. Darcy went out after the second series, but Leytham loved every minute of the 2013 National. He drove 27 hours straight to get home, thinking about the next National and wearing that necklace with a favorite dog.

Tawney Crawford was still "in" with True. Mowder and Bentley were back, and Williams and Pearl were sitting pretty. But the wheels can come off in the last series, and a strong performance can create some separation for the judges. Tawney Crawford actually fell, hard, in the wooded course as she struggled to keep up with little True. But she got back up, and made it through the fifth series.

Ten dogs completed the last land series, including True, Bentley and Pearl, who seemed to build her performance at each



Ralph Mowder and wife Deb prepare for the fifth series with "Bentley."



Dave Williams phones home, with Pearl, the new National Champion, at his side.

contact throughout the course. They needed only to complete a water retrieve to finish the 2013 National.

Then, it was over.

They gathered under the tent surrounded by prairie, before a table of crystal and brass trophies, waiting for the judges to announce their decision. The 2013 National Cocker Championship goes to Williams and Warrener's Ruby Throated Hummingbird — better known as Pearl.

Hugs, handshakes, happy tears.

Mowder and Bentley took second — quite an accomplishment for a 2-year-old dog and an owner-handler's first attempt at a National. "This is the first cocker I've trialed," Mowder says. "He's an energetic little dog. It's that good *Purina* food!"

McGagh handled the third- and fourth-place finishers, as well as received a certificate of completion for another dog. Tawney Crawford earned her certificate of completion with FC Quailmoor Quite Right, and also won the Dungarvens Ready-Teddy Challenge Award, which honors lady handlers for accomplishments afield.

All the placement winners are fueled by *Purina Pro Plan* brand dog food.

Williams stood outside the tent with Pearl at his side, and made the phone call to his wife back in Crete, Neb. "Hello, sweetheart," he says. "The 2013 National Champion lives in your house!" ■

Giving AI Your Best Shot

BY BARBARA FAWVER



Ten beautiful, healthy Rottweiler puppies, five females and five males, were born Jan. 9 to the No. 1 Rottweiler bitch in breed history. It was the first litter for 5-year-old "Cadey," and for the proud owner, Cheryl Krown, it was well-worth using surgical artificial insemination (AI) for the breeding to a famous European champion stud dog.

"I wanted the best shot I could get," says Krown, of Vashon Island, Wash., who breeds under the Twin Creeks prefix. "I had been looking for a sire of Cadey's quality for some time. When I saw a video of 'Yumbo' (pronounced 'Jumbo'), I got excited. His movement was beautiful, and movement is so important in this breed."



"Yumbo," a prominent European champion, is the sire of Cadey's litter.

Although Mary Gentlesk of Genworks Rottweilers had recently imported Yumbo (CH Yumbo Von Der Alten Festung, BH, ZtP, IPO 1) to the U.S. from

Croatia, Krown felt an AI breeding would help to lessen the stress on her female. Cadey (Multi-BIS/Multi-BISS CAN CH/GCH Gameyards Rhythm of the Rain, CGC) is the only female to win the American Rottweiler Club (ARC) National Specialty two times. She also is the only bitch to capture Best in Show at all three major Rottweiler specialties: ARC, Colonial and Medallion.

Three days after Cadey began ovulating, Cynthia Smith, D.V.M., who practices at The Pet Doctor in Lakewood, Wash., performed a transcervical insemination (TCI) procedure using rigid videoendoscopy to guide the insertion of a flexible catheter through the cervix into the uterus so she could inject Yumbo's frozen semen into the uterus. Because of Cadey's age and it being her first pregnancy, Smith performed a surgical AI two days later on the fifth day of ovulation to increase the likelihood of conception.



Cheryl Krown is shown with "Cadey," the No. 1 Rottweiler bitch in breed history and the dam of a litter of 10 puppies conceived by artificial insemination.

Artificial insemination makes up a small portion, less than 1 percent in 2013, of dog breedings in the U.S., with the majority of breeders using natural breeding.¹ However, global interest from dog breeders in using AI is rapidly increasing due to advances in the understanding of canine reproduction and improvements in techniques.²

Jane Barber, D.V.M., M.S., DACT, who is boarded by the American College of Theriogenologists (animal reproduction) and practices at Veterinary Specialties at the Lake in Sherrills Ford, N.C., says improved ovulation timing, the advent of TCI using endoscopy, and the ability to keep fresh-chilled semen viable longer are among the advancements that contribute to the success of AI breeding.

“Breeders have begun to embrace AI as a less-expensive, less-stressful and safer method of breeding that is sometimes better than flying a bitch to a stud dog for a natural breeding,” Barber says. “A natural breeding is best used for young fertile females and males with good semen quality. In some cases, a natural breeding is not an option. For example, it is not ideal for a male that is arthritic, marginally fertile or has an orthopedic condition, such as a back problem, making him unable to mount a female.”

“Success using AI is greatly influenced by the accuracy of ovulation timing in the bitch and the quality of the male’s semen,” says Autumn Davidson, D.V.M., DACVIM, clinical professor at the University of California-Davis School of Veterinary Medicine, where she specializes in small animal reproduction and infectious diseases, and who practices at the Pet Care Veterinary Hospital in Santa Rosa, Calif., specializing in reproduction and medicine cases.

Fresh semen straight out of the dog has a success rate equivalent to natural breeding. Fresh-chilled semen processed with an extender solution that is used to keep the semen alive long enough for transport to the bitch is estimated to be successful from 60 to 80 percent of the time. Frozen semen that is processed and stored in liquid nitrogen for potentially years has a highly variable success rate, with reports ranging from 50 to 85 percent.

Ovulation Timing & Semen Quality

“Ovulation timing has to be pristine, regardless of the AI method used,” Barber says. “There is an art to the science of ovulation timing. I always like to use as many tools as I can.”

Among the tools that Barber uses to determine the optimal time for AI breeding are: hormonal testing (serum progesterone and LH assays), vaginoscopy, vaginal cytology, examination of the bitch’s external genitalia and vaginal discharge, and a be-

havioral assessment. (See Tools to Determine Ovulation, page 13.)

Progesterone and LH testing are key in determining when a bitch is ovulating and thus when to breed. A surge of LH that stimulates the release of eggs from the follicles, triggering ovulation and the rise in progesterone. When progesterone reaches 5 to 10 nanograms per milliliter of blood tested, a bitch is ovulating.

In two to three days post-ovulation, the eggs mature to the point they can be fertilized. The ideal time to breed is three to six days after the LH surge. It is recommended that veterinarians perform vaginal cytology on the days breedings are planned to confirm that the bitch is still in her most fertile window.

“Because the LH surge is brief in the bitch, lasting from 12 to 24 hours, it can easily be missed even with daily blood draws to check the progesterone level,” Davidson says. “Luckily, measuring progesterone allows an estimate of when the LH surge happened, as the initial rise off baseline happens at

the time of the LH surge. Although this can vary among bitches, it usually happens when the LH first rises above 1.5 to 2.5 nanograms per milliliter.”

A quick turnaround of progesterone test results is critical for AI breeding. Veterinarians collect blood samples and then usually send them to reference laboratories or veterinary teaching hospitals, where chemiluminescence testing is used to detect the presence of specific enzymes.

When Barber learns a bitch’s progesterone level, she can estimate what she calls “the two-day rule” in AI timing. “Typically, it is two days from the LH surge to ovulation, then two days after ovulation has begun, the first breeding occurs in natural, vaginal



Dr. Cynthia Smith delivered Cadey’s puppies by cesarean section.

and TCI AI. Two days later, there is a second breeding. If surgical AI is used, and only a surgical insemination is to be performed, it is scheduled for the day in between the first and second inseminations that would occur for vaginal or TCI methods.

Just as ovulation timing is critical in breeding, so is the timing for use of semen. It is believed that fresh ejaculated sperm survives five days and maybe longer in the bitch's uterus. Quality fresh-chilled semen may maintain its fertilizing capacity for several days up to a week or more, which allows for the successful freezing of semen that has been chilled and then shipped to a semen bank for freezing two to three days later.² Frozen semen has a relatively short survival of 12 to 24 hours after thawing.

Two equally successful methods are used for storing frozen semen. It can be stored in ½ cubic centimeter straws, a method used in the cattle industry, or in small pellets. The straw method has a slower rate of freezing and thawing compared to the pellet method, which freezes semen quickly into a small, pelletized form.

The collection of semen for both straws and pellets involves determining the quality of sperm contained in a fresh semen sample. The sperm must be morphologically sound, and the sperm count, volume and motility must be able to withstand the freezing and thawing process. Frozen semen is stored, often for many years, in liquid nitrogen tanks maintained at minus 196 degrees Centigrade.

"Cryopreservation, or semen freezing, and the subsequent thawing diminish semen quality and longevity, which is why special insemination technology is needed," Davidson explains. "Frozen thawed semen must be placed close to the fallopian tubes for acceptable conception rates."

AI Techniques & Conception Rates

The top-winning Flat-Coated Retriever in breed history was a male called "Zeus," who died in 2006 at the age of 16, a rare age of longevity due to the high prevalence of cancer in the breed. CH Flatford Zeus The Major God, JH, WCX, HOF, stood out for many reasons, including winning the Sporting Group at the Garden, a first for the breed, winning the Flat-Coated Retriever Society of America (FCRSA) National Specialty two times and taking Best of Opposite Sex once, capturing 17 Bests in Show, and earning a Junior Hunter sporting title.

Co-owner Dr. Robert Rickert of Morristown, N.J., says, "Zeus was a remarkable, beautiful dog. He was versatile and multitalented, yet intelligent and fun-spirited. His wonderful temperament



Above, Dr. Robert Rickert poses at home with "Allie." Left, professional handler Mark Bettis stacks "Zeus," the top-winning Flat-Coated Retriever in breed history and the sire of Allie's litter.

combined with his longevity led to our having his semen collected for future breedings."

That opportunity came in 2011 with a 5-year-old bitch called "Allie" (GCH Bay Creek I'm All For That, JH). "We had previously bred Allie to a Zeus son, which produced 12 outstanding puppies, including 'Macy,' currently the No. 1 Flat Coat in the country," says Rickert, who breeds under the Windy Hill prefix. "We decided to go straight to the source for Allie's second litter."

MaryAnn Sheller, D.V.M., of Vale Park Animal Hospital in Valparaiso, Ind., performed the surgical AI procedure using Zeus' frozen semen. The procedure produced nine puppies, five which were shown and became finished champions. Allie went on to win the FCRSA National in 2012, making the puppies the only Flat Coats in which both the sire and dam were National Specialty winners, Rickert says.

Surgery is one method of AI. The 30-minute procedure, per-

formed under general anesthesia, entails making a small incision in the abdominal wall through which a veterinarian deposits semen directly into the uterus.

Among the benefits of surgical AI, Barber notes that it allows compromised-quality semen to be placed close to the ovaries so sperm does not have far to go to reach the oviducts where fertilization will occur. "Surgical AI also allows a veterinarian to evaluate the uterus for pathology and potentially treat uterine cysts to help increase conception rates," she says. "This method works well for me with frozen semen and subfertile males and females. The disadvantages are the cost, the need for general anesthesia, the invasiveness of the procedure, and the ability to only inseminate a bitch one time three days after ovulation."

TCI, the procedure Cadey had prior to AI surgery, is a minimally invasive nonsurgical procedure, performed without anesthesia, which also allows for placing semen directly into the uterus. A bitch stands for the procedure, often with the owner assisting, while a veterinarian inserts an endoscope, a tiny video camera, into the vagina to provide viewing of the opening of the cervix on a monitor. A flexible catheter is maneuvered through the cervix into the uterus, and semen is pushed slowly through the catheter from a syringe directly into the uterus, helping to reduce the loss of sperm in the vaginal and cervical folds

Davidson prefers TCI, though she also performs surgical AI. "TCI has minimal discomfort for a bitch, which helps to make it less stressful. It is less expensive and usually an outpatient procedure that can be performed in a matter of minutes."

TCI has a higher conception rate than vaginal AI, which uses an insemination pipette to deposit semen via a syringe. The cost is higher than vaginal AI due to the training and technology involved, but TCI can be performed on bitches that are slightly older with good results, particularly when using fresh-chilled or frozen semen.

Sheller, who performed the AI surgery on Allie, says, "Today, I would use TCI to breed Allie, but we didn't have the special endoscope to do this procedure at that time. There is a big learning curve for veterinarians with this procedure, but there also are many advantages including being able to inseminate the bitch more than one time and thus cover a greater part of her fertile window with a greater chance of conception."

Regarding conception success using surgical AI, a study in Greyhounds indicated a whelping rate of up to 92 percent using surgical AI.² In a different study, when TCI was performed using good-quality semen and inseminated at the right time in healthy bitches, a conception rate of 87.5 percent was reported, with a mean number of fetuses of 6.3.³

Many variables are involved in achieving success with artificial

Tools to Determine Ovulation

Jane Barber, D.V.M., M.S., DACT, who is boarded by the American College of Theriogenologists (animal reproduction), uses a toolbox approach to determine when a bitch is ovulating and thus the appropriate time to breed. Here is what's in her toolbox:

- Hormonal testing (progesterone and LH assays) is used to indicate the presence and/or the amount of the reproduction hormone in the blood. Progesterone starts to increase in the bloodstream just prior to ovulation.
- Vaginoscopy using an endoscope provides a view of the vaginal epithelium, which helps to determine the fertility peak. The appearance of the vaginal epithelium is crenulated, or has a wavy outline, during the period of optimal fertility.
- Vaginal cytology is used to determine if the bitch is in season (estrus) or if she is out (diestrus). The degree of epithelial cell cornification (process in which the cells lose their nuclei and flatten out) helps to determine if the bitch has transitioned from proestrus to true estrus as well as if there is inflammation in the vagina. Normally, hormonal testing begins when there is at least 65 percent vaginal corneal cornification.
- Examination of the bitch's external genitalia, which should be enlarged and soft when she is fertile.
- Examination of vaginal discharge, which should be scant and less bloody when fertile but varies among bitches.
- A behavioral assessment to determine whether a bitch is flagging, or moving her tail when her perivulvar area is tickled, a sign of receptivity to being bred.

insemination. Accuracy of ovulation timing, the quality of the semen, which is impacted by the handling, processing and shipping procedures, breed of dog, age of the bitch, proficiency of the veterinarian performing the insemination technique, and the fertility of the dog and bitch are considerations. For Krown with Cadey and Rickert with Allie, the results were better than they imagined.

"I never dreamed I would be lucky enough to have Rottweiler pups of this quality," says Krown, who has just begun training the puppies to stack. "They are the correct type, and they already move like the wind."

Rickert, whose puppies are now 3 years old, says, "Our Zeus-Allie litter has been outstanding. These are show dogs as well as performers in the field. They have the happy temperament of Zeus and the easygoing ways of Allie. We have been blessed to share these dogs with other Flat-Coat enthusiasts and to make a mark with their contributions to the breed." ■

¹ American Kennel Club (Based on registered litters among all dog breeds, 2013)

² Swedish Canine Semen Bank (CanRep). Accessed at: <http://www.canirep.com/AIStateoftheart.htm>

³ Havashi K, Mortia R, Aso T, et al. Evaluation of Transcervical Insemination Using Frozen Semen by Flexible Endoscope. *J Vet Med Sci.* 2013;75(3):315-318.

The Bassets *of* Topsfield

BY BARBARA FAWVER | PHOTOS BY MELISSA MILLER

Strolling along the country road that meanders through her farm in the Green Mountains of Vermont, Claudia Waller Orlandi, Ph.D., gently leads her Basset Hound companions, “Poppy,” “Belle” and “Cannoli.” As the sun peeps through the trees, the idyllic setting of the New England autumn morning comes to life.

The contrast between the elegant, slender blonde and her long-bodied, short-legged hounds is captivating. The unhurried, easygoing pace of the Bassets depicts their mild manners, but it is the idiosyncrasies of this dwarf breed, with his giant, heavy bone and loose skin, that has captivated Claudia for the past 27 years.

“It truly is a challenge to consistently breed quality Bassets because they have so many unusual characteristics,” Claudia says. “I am absolutely passionate about this breed. To me, the Basset Hound is the most beautiful of all breeds.”

This is homecoming for Claudia, who has lived in Peñanes, Asturias, Spain, the past two years, with occasional trips back to the U.S., while working to translate into Spanish her dog breed education books on canine genetics and anatomy. A second homecoming, and an event she never misses, is only days away, the 2013 Basset Hound Club of America (BHCA) National Specialty.

When Claudia and her late husband, Dom, founded their Topsfield Basset Hound program, they chose their kennel prefix because it conveyed their goal of producing hounds capable of being “tops” in any endeavor from hunting to show. They had started in 1987 with a pet Basset named “Emma,” whose keen nose and love of trailing led to their forming an American Kennel Club (AKC) Basset Hound pack in Vermont.

Despite being told a Basset would never win Groups or Bests in Show, Claudia persevered. One of her favorites, “Bumper Cars”

(Multi-BIS/Multi-BISS CH Topsfield Bumper Cars, CD, ROM) not only became the No. 1 all-breed Hound in the country in 2001, he also set a record as the top Group-winning Basset, with 250 Group Firsts. “Noodles” (CH Multi-BIS/Multi-BISS CH Topsfield Vision Silver Noodles), a bitch Claudia co-owned who was sired

by a Topsfield male, is the top-winning Basset Hound bitch in history.

Claudia concedes that winning came fast with Bumper Cars, yet she had no inkling it would lead to nearly 130 Bests in Show with Bassets she bred and/or owned or that she would be honored as the 2009 AKC Breeder of the Year. Reflecting on winning, she says, “For me, it is just as important to win Winners Dog or Winners Bitch, or even Best Bred-By Exhibitor, as it is to win Best in Show. These wins validate success at the breed level.”



Claudia Waller Orlandi snuggles with an 8-month-old Basset Hound puppy, a potential Topsfield show prospect.

An International Connection

Moving along with Poppy, Belle and Cannoli, Claudia turns left, working her way back toward her home and the adjoining Topsfield kennel. A group of people are gathered in the driveway talking to Sue Frischmann, Topsfield’s kennel and show manager. They are guests from Australia, New Zealand and Spain, part of Topsfield’s extended family. Their annual weeklong visit precedes traveling together to the BHCA National Specialty.

“Here they come!” exclaims Jane Miller of Corio, Victoria, Australia.

Miller is the breeder of Belle (AM/AUS CH Longbay Belle Starr). After finishing Belle to her Australian championship, she sent her to Claudia for breeding at Topsfield. Miller (Longbay Bassets) and Chris Lawrence (Beauchasseur Bassets), of Lower Light, South Australia, are co-breeders. Their male, AUS GCH Longbay Yeoman of the Guard, the No. 1 Basset in Australia, was sired by AUS/AM CH Topsfield-Sanchu King of Queens (“Qbie”).



Taking a leisurely morning walk, Claudia leads, from left, "Poppy," "Belle" and "Cannoli."

cutline

"I had been watching Claudia's breeding program for many years," Lawrence says. "About six years ago, I approached her and asked if she would allow me to breed to one of her males. First, she sent me frozen semen out of Qbie, and then, she allowed me to bring him to Australia, where I showed him to his championship in four weekends.

"I feel so fortunate that Claudia was willing to work with me. Topsfield Bassets have the best fronts in the world, and my dogs have great hind-quarters. In Australia, the Basset is a rare breed, and it is hard to establish yourself. We need these American bloodlines to help us breed healthy dogs."

Miller agrees. "I have great respect for Claudia. We share similar views and values about the dogs. She had to trust us to do the right thing with her bloodlines. She has been so willing to pass her knowledge on to us."

"Every breeder wants to know his or her bloodline will continue and will have a positive impact on the breed," Claudia says. "International relationships are an important way to disseminate your bloodline."

Claudia's role in teaching others about breeding Basset Hounds is exemplary. Early mentors and a passion for genetics helped



to shape her vision and knowledge about breeding, but it has mostly been her self-taught study of the breed that has given Topsfield its iconic status as the home kennel of the No. 1 Basset in the country for the past 13 consecutive years.

"My whole life has been dedicated to education," says Claudia. "It is very important to understand how conformation affects function. Bassets should be judged based on their ability to efficiently perform

their original function, which is to follow a trail over and through difficult terrain. They should be sound and capable of hunting in the field five or six hours a day."

With a doctorate degree in Spanish language and literature and additional coursework in the field of experimental psychology, Claudia is used to learning. Many years of studying genetics and breeding Basset Hounds led to her writing a 470-page home-study program called the *ABC's of Dog Breeding*, which offers a step-by-step approach to breeding and understanding canine anatomy and movement. Those who complete the program receive a Certificate of Completion from the AKC.

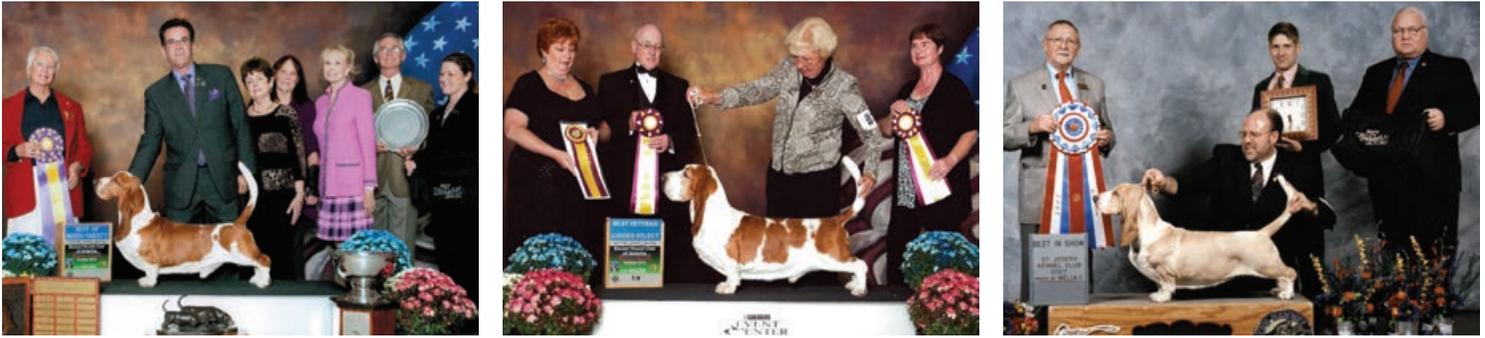
Her leadership role with the Basset Hound Club of America also is rooted in education. As chair for many years of Judges' and Breeders' Education, she created *Basset Hound University*, a home-study program on owning, judging, breeding and properly caring for the Basset Hound. The Basset Hound Club of America has made the *Basset Hound University* materials available as a template, and 50 parent clubs have bought the template program for their own breeds.

For 15 years, Claudia has led "Education Day" at the BHCA National Specialty, which has included well-attended, informative seminars, panel discussion and workshops on genetics, breeding, health, grooming, and reproduction. Closer to home, she has served as a director and education chair of the Pilgrim Basset Hound Club.

Claudia often presents the official educational seminar for judges sponsored by the Basset Hound Club of America. Over the past decade, she has also presented her popular seminar, the *ABC's of Dog Breeding*, at more than 150 all-breed clubs, parent clubs and the



The Topsfield team and extended family are: front row, from left, Sue Frischmann, kennel and show manager, and Jane Miller of Australia, and back row, from left, Jill Brooker of New Zealand, Guillermo González of Spain, Claudia Orlandi, Maurice Brooker of New Zealand, Chris Lawrence of Australia, and Linda Panella, assistant kennel manager.



Among Topsfield's prominent winners are, from left: "Tiger," a current Special and the Best of Breed winner at the 2013 Basset Hound Club of America National Specialty; "Arty," who won the People's and Judges' Choice in the Veteran Tribute competition at the 2013 Nationals; and "Noodles," the top-winning Basset Hound bitch in history.

AKC Canine Health Foundation's breeder symposiums. She adores talking about genetics and breeding correct dogs, though her key message is about breeding healthy dogs and being honest about health problems.

"My heartfelt joy comes from breeding healthy, long-lived dogs with correct structure and movement that are beloved by families and friends," she says.

A Dwarf and a Giant Breed

A training session is about to begin. Sue leads "Pizza Pizza" (Topsfield-Sanchu Pizza Pizza), a 1 ½-year-old male, down a ramp to the training room in the lower level of Claudia's home in Essex Junction, Vt. She gaits him around the room on its matted flooring and up a ramp to a platform, where she stacks him into position in front of mirrors. This is similar to how a judge would examine a Basset at a dog show.

"The front is fine," Claudia says, "but the rear needs to be adjusted."

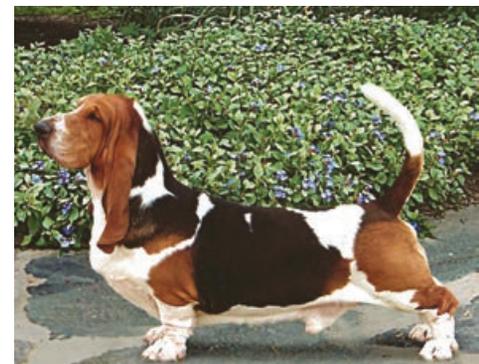
"I'm fixing it," says Sue, as she maneuvers the left leg into place.

Pizza was sired by an Australian male (AM/AUS CH Beauchasseur Hewgo Boss) bred by Lawrence, who came to Topsfield for 15 months. Like his sire, Pizza represents the breed well with nice balance, good movement and proper Basset breed type.

"The hardest thing to breed correctly is the Basset's wrap-around front," Claudia says. "There is a 90-degree angulation between the shoulder blade and upper arm, which is very difficult to consistently produce. The wolf, from which the dog descended, has a 120- to 130-degree front angulation, and in trying to produce a 90-degree angle in the Basset Hound, we are probably working against Mother Nature, meaning quite likely we are dealing with recessive genes. Viewed from the front, the Basset's legs curve around the heavy rib cage to give it support, and as such, the wrists are closer together than the shoulder joints. In looking at the Basset's legs and forechest straight on, the effect is much like looking at an egg resting in a small cup."

Moderation and balance are important, particularly in relation to movement. "In motion, a Basset should not bounce up and down," she continues. "They should move smoothly, powerfully, effortlessly, and have a level topline. They should look like they are on wheels. Otherwise, they are wasting energy and in the field would not be capable of great endurance in following a trail for long periods of time through difficult terrain."

Approximately twice as long as he is tall (length is measured from the forechest to the point of the buttocks), the Basset Hound is an achondroplastic, or dwarf, breed. This impacts the development of the long bones in young dogs, which is why Basset puppies should not be allowed to go up long flights of stairs or jump on and off elevated objects until they are 1 year of age. With more bone, size considered, than any other breed, an adult Basset may weigh from 60 to 75 pounds.



"Bumper Cars," the first big show dog for Topsfield, earned 250 Hound Groups Firsts during his career, setting a breed record that holds today.

The training room is where Sue videotapes the dogs so Claudia and she can evaluate which ones to keep in the Topsfield breeding program. "The technology today makes it easy for me to send Claudia videos to review on the Internet," Sue says. "Although she is in Spain, it's almost like she's here."

Sue starts working with puppies when they are 4 weeks old by getting them used to going up the ramp. When they are 6 weeks, she starts stacking them. About three litters of six to eight puppies are born a year. "Our puppies are generally not available for pets until they are close to 12 weeks of age," Sue says. "More frequently, it is much later before we know what we want to keep and what we want to place as a companion pet."



The Topsfield home and kennel are situated on 200 acres in Essex Junction, Vt., giving the Basset Hounds plenty of room for outdoor exercise.

A longtime Basset lover, Sue began working at Topsfield in 1996. A co-owner and co-breeder on many of the dogs, she also handles the dogs at shows on the East Coast. She oversees the breeding and whelping of all the litters and the training and conditioning of show dogs. Her knowledge of structure and movement comes from showing horses as a girl and working as a professional horse trainer.

Her family bred and showed Bassets and Doberman Pinschers, but it was the Bassets' sweet temperament that grew on her. "I spent only one day in my life without a Basset Hound, and it was a very long day," Sue says.



Claudia stands in front of one of the trophy cases that displays dog show awards.

Assistant kennel manager Linda Panella, who has worked at Topsfield for 22 years, completes the team. She is in charge of the hounds' daily care and is instrumental in socializing puppies and training some dogs for obedience. It was Linda who put the Companion Dog title on Bumper Cars.

A painting of Claudia with Bumper Cars — Topsfield's first big show dog — when he was a puppy hangs on the wall in the training room.

Although he passed away in 2011 at the age of 13, he is still cherished today. Shown by professional handler Bryan Martin, Bumper Cars was the top Group-winning Basset, and at one point he also held the record for winning the most Hound Group Firsts, 117, in a single year of any hound breed.

"Bumper Cars had star potential early, and he showed so much charisma in the ring," says Claudia. "He had this way of slowly and deliberately wagging his tail when he was stacked. It drew your eye, and you were hooked."

The rich history and famous Bassets of Topsfield are well-represented in the training room. Framed photographs of dogs stacked after winning shows line the walls, and cases filled with pewter, silver and crystal trophies are throughout the room. Twenty-three aquarium tanks are filled with colorful rosettes and ribbons, and larger rosettes won at National Specialties and all-breed shows hang on the walls.



Sue Frischmann stacks "Pizza Pizza," a 1 1/2-year-old male Basset, in the training room.

A Pack Hound Foundation

The Topsfield bloodline began with pack hounds. When the Orlandis decided to start showing Bassets, they crossed their pack hound, Timber Ridge Tatianna, with CH Bone-A-Parts Cuervo Gold, AOM, a Multi-Group-placing hound who had won Award of Merit and the Stud Dog class at the 1994 BHCA National Specialty.

Three early foundation strains, Ambrican, Strathalbyn and Bone-A-Part, provided genetic diversity. “We blended back and forth on these lines to maintain genetic variation,” Claudia says.

A breeding in 1996 produced CH Topsfield Jingle Bells, ROM, who became the top-producing Basset Hound dam. Among her 21 offspring to earn show champion titles was Bumper Cars.

A significant and ongoing partnership with Chuck and Claire “Kitty” Steidel (Sanchu Bassets) had led to numerous top winners that carry the Topsfield-Sanchu prefix. In the late 1990s, Claudia became a co-owner on CH Sanchu’s Ginger, ROM, bred by the Steidels. Ginger was bred to Bumper Cars, producing the first littermates to both take Winners Dog at the BHCA National: Multi-BISS CH Sanchu-Topsfield Go-Cars won in 2000, and Multi-BIS/Multi-BISS CH Topsfield-Sanchu Sports Car, ROM, the No. 1 Basset in the country in 2003 and 2004, won in 2002. “Sports Car,” like his sire, was the No. 1 Hound in the country two times, in 2003 and 2004. Claudia and the Steidels continue to work together today.

Bred to a Bumper Cars son, Jingle Bells produced Multi-BIS/Multi-BISS CH Topsfield Beethoven, the No. 1 Hound in the country in 2006. “Beethoven” is the sire of Noodles, the all-time top-winning Basset bitch. With her great ring presence, she became the No. 1 Hound in 2008, and she was No. 1 in the breed in 2007 and 2008.

Other partnerships have added new strains to the Topsfield bloodlines. The breeding that produced Noodles resulted from working with Nancy Richmond (Vision Bassets) and Anne Testoni and Bjorn Zetterlund (Spectrum Bassets). Claudia also has co-bred top Bassets with Judy Tuck (Cloverhill Bassets).

Ten Topsfield hounds have traveled the National circuit on a Specials campaign. Professional Mike Stone handled Gold GCH Topsfield-Sanchu Eenie-Meeie-Miney Mo (“Tiger”) to a Group Three in February at the Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show. The winner of 12 Bests in Show and the No. 1 Basset for the past two years, Tiger depicts “beautiful front assembly, balanced movement and wonderful temperament,” Claudia says. His littermate sister, BIS/Multi-BISS Silver GCH Topsfield-Sanchu Bidbidy-Bobidy Boo (“BOO”), was ranked No. 2 last year behind him.

Getting back to her early years with pack hounds, Claudia is presently working with her good friend, Guillermo González



Linda Panella, assistant kennel manager, prepares to feed the adult Basset Hounds a mixture of *Purina Pro Plan SPORT Advanced 28/18* and *Purina Pro Plan SPORT Performance 30/20 Chicken & Rice* formulas mixed with *Purina Pro Plan SELECT Sensitive Skin & Stomach Salmon & Rice Entrée*.

Suárez (Sierra Lebrera Bassets) of Spain, to focus on producing show Bassets with hunting instincts into a performance line. While on this visit to the States, they take “Fireworks” and “Carousel” to the Rabbit Run to check their potential.

Back at the house, Sue is loading supplies into the RV, getting ready to leave for St. Louis for the BHCA National Specialty at the Purina Event Center. Her good friend, professional handler Candy Carswell, is coming from Connecticut to help on the 20-hour drive with 23 Bassets. Claudia and Guillermo will fly to St. Louis so they can watch the Nationals field trial that precedes the National Specialty.

At the 2013 National Specialty, Tiger, the No. 1 Basset, won Best of Breed handled by Stone, and became the third Topsfield hound to earn the honor for Claudia and the Steidels. Boo, his sister, was Select Bitch, handled by Sue. GCH Topsfield-Sanchu Pop Art O’Bridi, who was both Winners Dog and Best of Winners at the 2007 Nationals and Best of Breed at the 2009 Nationals, won both People’s and Judges’ Choice in the Veteran Tribute competition. A young bitch, Topsfield-Sanchu House of Mirrors of Cloverhill was Reserve Winners Bitch to finish her championship, shown by co-breeder and owner Judy Tuck.

Sitting front row ringside every day, closely watching the dogs, Claudia is as passionate today about her beloved Bassets as when she started many years ago. Besides breeding beautiful, healthy dogs, her greatest contributions include helping others and putting the Basset Hound on the map. The Bassets of Topsfield will long be remembered in the record books and in the hearts of all who have known and loved them. ■



Junior handler Kristen O'Brien starts on a down and back with her 19-month-old Bullmastiff, "Oliver," as judge Peter Kubacz watches.

WINNING WAYS

at the Garden

BY KAYLA MILLER

The overhead lights dim and the spotlights are on. Eight young women proudly stack their dogs, as judge Peter Kubacz of Jackson, N.J., enters the show ring at Madison Square Garden dressed to the nines in a black tuxedo, purple vest, yellow bow tie and wing-tip shoes. The crowd erupts with clapping and cheers of encouragement.

It is the Finals of Junior Showmanship at the 2014 Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show. Befittingly, the Best Junior Handler competition is judged preceding the live broadcast of the second night of the famous dog show. Unlike Best in Show, the Juniors will be judged on their handling skills rather than their dogs' conformation attributes.

Kubacz motions for the handlers to take their dogs around the show ring. One by one, off they go in a running gait. The handlers'

smooth, polished movements make it look easy to lead the dogs around the spacious green-carpeted arena. The intensity of their concentration hides any hint of nervousness to be a finalist at the most prestigious Junior Showmanship event in the country.

Nearly 100 Junior handlers, boys and girls from throughout the country, competed in the preliminaries held Monday and Tuesday at Pier 92 in the heart of Midtown Manhattan, only blocks from the Garden. As each Junior exited the ring, David Haddock, a member of the Westminster show committee who is responsible for Junior Showmanship, extended his hand and congratulated them for being here.

Anna Jane Pearson of Snohomish, Wash., was one Junior handler whose hand Haddock shook as she exited Ring 11. The recipient of a scholarship from the Professional Handlers' Association to



Anna Jane Pearson and her Australian Shepherd, "Promise" wait their turn during preliminary judging at Pier 92. She received a scholarship from the Professional Handlers' Association to compete at her first Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show.

compete in Juniors at Westminster, Pearson, a college freshman, qualified as the No. 1 Junior Handler of Australian Shepherds in 2013. After she turned 18 in April 2013, Pearson was too old to participate in Juniors, yet she still finished the year ranked among the Top 10 Herding Group Junior Handlers. Although she didn't advance, Pearson was pleased with her effort and that of her 7-year-old female Aussie, "Promise" (Timberwood's Secret Promise).

"I know I'll be showing dogs forever," says Pearson, an AKC Breeder of Merit. "Juniors has taught me sportsmanship. I have learned how to lose gracefully and how to win with class."

Sitting in the first row near the Junior judging at the Piers, Dr. Charles Garvin, who won Best Junior at the Garden in 1969, watched intently. "It is interesting to see how handling styles have changed over the years," says Garvin, the owner-handler of nearly

100 Dalmatian show champions, president of the Dalmatian Club of America, and vice chair of the AKC board of directors. "One thing that has remained constant is that everybody at this level does a great job. No Junior handles a dog perfectly, but you do not see many faults."

Back to the Finals at the Garden, the Junior handlers take their turns presenting their dogs to Kubacz, himself once a Junior handler who rose to the rank of the Top Junior handler in the country in 1999, the same year he took second in Junior Showmanship at the Garden. The moment comes for Kubacz to choose the winner. As he strolls down the lineup, the excitement of the moment is frozen in tense waiting.

Kubacz makes his cut. He points to Ashleigh Rutzel with her Havanese and then Kaitlyn Benedict with her Newfoundland. Next, he points to Devon Lynn Kipp with her Golden Retriever and Kristen O'Brien with her Bullmastiff. He points again to O'Brien, who is now the 2014 Best Junior at the Garden.

"I wasn't expecting to win at all especially, since this was my first time in the Finals," says O'Brien of Weeki Wachee, Fla.. "When the judge pointed to me, my heart dropped. I can't even explain the feeling."

It was the teamwork displayed by O'Brien and Oliver that swayed Kubacz in his decision. "Kristen did a lovely job showing the dog," he says. "This is a hard breed to show, and she never lost her attention or focus. She was always with her dog, and they made a great team."

As the Juniors exited the ring with their dogs, Haddock was standing nearby. He made a point to speak to each one. "Congratulations on making it to Finals," he said. "You are all winners." ■



Junior Showmanship finalists pose with their dogs at the Garden. They are: front row, from left, Amber Leonard, Abigail Adams, Kristen O'Brien, Devon Lynn Kipp, Kaitlyn Benedict, Ashleigh Rutzel, Taylor Schwartz, and Morgan Campbell; and back row, from left, Savannah Livingston, the 2013 Best Junior, judge Peter Kubacz, and David Haddock, of the Westminster Kennel Club. The finalists received academic scholarships ranging from \$6,000 for the winner to \$500 for non-placing finalists.



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Otterhound Called 'DUI' Is No. 1 in the Breed

With his light, effortless gait, "DUI," a 4-year-old male Otterhound, glided past the competition to win the 2013 Otterhound Club of America National Specialty in Wilmot, Wis. Multi-BIS/Multi-BISS GCH Aberdeen's Under the Influence, the No. 1 Otterhound and No. 9 Hound, was bred by Andy, Jack and Jason McIlwaine, all of Chagrin Falls, Ohio, and is handled by Jason McIlwaine. DUI, which is pronounced "Dewey," is from a litter produced from 20-year-old frozen semen collected from CH Aberdeen's Arthur out of CH Aberdeen's Queen of Everything. DUI finished his championship and won his first group before he was 18 months old. In addition to his Specialty wins, he placed third in the Hound Group at both the Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show and the AKC National Championship in 2013. He has earned four Bests in Show in addition to multiple Specialty wins. He is fed *Purina Pro Plan SAVOR* Shredded Blend Chicken & Rice Formula.



With his friendly disposition, "DUI" is a great ambassador for the Otterhound.

'Noah' Is Top Shetland Sheepdog

"Noah," a 3-year-old male with a striking black coat, was the No. 1 Shetland Sheepdog in 2013. Multi-BIS/Multi-BISS AM GCH/CAN CH Jesstar Nirvana has won three Bests in Show and 21 Bests in Specialty Show, including the 2013 American Shetland Sheepdog Association National Specialty. Breeder-owner-handler Jessica Starbuck of Brooksville, Fla., says Noah's perfect wedge-shaped head with tan markings above his dark eyes sets him apart from other dogs. Sired by BISS GCH Rosmoor Protocol, ROM, out of GCH Jesstar Astoria, Noah finished his championship at 8 months of age after competing in just a few shows. He began his Specials career at 18 months old. Co-owned by Rita VonPusch of St. Petersburg, Fla., Noah is fed *Purina Pro Plan SPORT* Performance 30/20 Formula.



"Noah," a Shetland Sheepdog, stands out with his happy, eager-to-please temperament.

'Ru' Is No. 1 Keeshond Three Years in a Row

With his dramatic markings, lovely neck and beautiful coat, "Ru," the No. 1 Keeshond in the country the past three years, has won three Bests in Show and five Reserve Bests in Show. Multi-BIS/Multi-BISS GCH Summerwind's Rumor Has It also has won six Bests in Specialty Show. Sired by BISS CH Valindale Story Teller, who was imported from the Valindale Keeshonden kennel of David Matthews of Cambridge, England, out of CH Summerwind's Double Trouble, HOF, Ru is breeder-owner-handled by Jean Gauchat-Hargis and Joshua Hargis of Yuba City, Calif. "He's the best show dog I've ever had," says Gauchat-Hargis. "He's never let me down and always shows his heart out." Ru is fed *Purina Pro Plan SELECT* Sensitive Skin & Stomach Formula.



Among his wins, "Ru" took Best of Breed at the 2012 Keeshond Club of America National Specialty.

English Setter 'Trevor' Is Second-Generation National Champion

Following in his sire's footsteps, "Trevor," a 5-year-old male English Setter with a regal look, outperformed 256 dogs to win the 2013 English Setter Club of America National Specialty. Multi-BIS/Multi-BISS GCH Stargazr 'N Wing Field Time Will Tell was sired by Multi-BIS/Multi-BISS GCH Chebaco Blames it on Trabeiz, a two-time National Specialty winner. Bred by Eileen Hackett and Kate Hanlon of Pendleton, Ind., along with Pat Skol and Lois Biedron of Chicago, Trevor is owned by Hackett, who handles the dog, and Don and Pat Collier of Madison, Ga. Since beginning his Specials career at age 3, Trevor has won 22 Bests in Show and 19 Bests in Specialty Show, including this year's National. Trevor is the No. 1 English Setter and the No. 5 Sporting dog. He is fed *Purina Pro Plan SPORT* Performance 30/20 Formula.



The No. 1 English Setter in the country, "Trevor" exemplifies grace and style.

Purina Honors 2013 Brace Beagle Award Winners

'Look Out' Is Owner's Best Dog Ever

A keen rabbit tracker who proved his ability to accurately stay on the line in winning the Purina Outstanding Field Trial Brace Beagle Award, "Look Out," a 2-year-old 15-inch tricolor male Beagle, also stands out as the best dog owner-handler Ken Backus of Edgewater, Md., has ever owned. Backus, who bought the dog as a 1-year-old, named him for the way he would duck his head down if something startled him. That soon changed. In the highly competitive Federation Futurity field trials, which were not decided until the last trial, NFC-FC Indian Trail Look Out outperformed 469 Beagle entries. Backus is a three-time Purina Award winner, having won the Purina Derby Award in 2006 and the 15-inch male class in the 2003 Purina Field Trial Beagle Award.

'Candid' Stands Out with Slow, Deliberate Style

A 4-year-old tricolor female Beagle, called "Candid," edged her way to the top of 355 Field Champion Beagle entries to win the Purina Champion Award. Breeder-owner-handler Pete Proctor of Vale, N.C., says FC Sunshine Candid "has a very keen nose and runs with a very slow, deliberate style and loud squall voice." Candid

clinched the award at the last Field Champion trial by outperforming her sister, FC Sunshine Chastity. Candid, one of four female Field Champions out of FC Sunshine Charity, was sired by FC Chandler Hill Sunshine, the 2008 Purina Brace Beagle Derby Award winner. A longtime beagler, Proctor has trained and finished more than 100 Field Champions, including more than 90 that he bred.

'Braveheart' Dazzles With his Easygoing Ways

An outgoing 1 1/2-year-old tricolor 13-inch male Beagle, called "Braveheart," clinched the Purina Derby Award and also the heart of breeder-owner-handler Marty Parker of Taylorsville, Ky. "I am absolutely enamored with his personality," Parker says. "He has a big nose and can accurately track a rabbit. He never gets nervous. From the time he started, I always knew he had a lot of ability." Co-owned by Niki Happel of Pittsburgh and Mike Asbury of Elyria, Ohio, NFC-FC Bee Lick Braveheart outperformed 502 derby-age Beagles to win the award. Parker, who has bred 113 Field Champions with his father, Wayne Parker, at their Bee Lick Beagles kennel, won the Purina Champion Award in 2010.



Pictured from left are: "Look Out" with owner Ken Backus, center, his wife, Michelle, and Purina Area Manager Karl Gunzer; "Candid" with breeder-owner-handler Pete Proctor; and "Braveheart" with co-owners Niki Happel, Marty Parker and Mike Asbury. All the winners are fed *Purina Pro Plan* brand dog food.

Briard Called 'Thunder' Is a Striking Success

A 7-year-old male Briard called "Thunder" has gained success with his all-business demeanor in the show ring. At home, Multi-BIS/Multi-BISS Gold GCH Lighting Strike El Xargal can be a comic when he is in the mood, says Merry Jeanne Millner of Sidney, Neb., who owns Thunder with her husband, Tommy. Thunder's quicksilver movement led him to win the Briard Club of America National Specialty in 2012, the same year he was the No. 1 Briard. Thunder has earned three Bests in Show and four Bests in Specialty Show. His sire, GCH Lago El Xargal, and grandsire, Abbado Arte Cassari, both won Best Male at the French Nationals. Thunder, handled by Tim and Gretchen Conrads of Swanton, Ohio, is fed *Purina Pro Plan* SELECT Sensitive Skin & Stomach Formula.

"Thunder," a Briard, recently won Best of Breed at the Garden.



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'Sky' Shines at Westminster to Win Best in Show

With her spunky personality, striking head and gorgeous ginger saddle-marked coat, GCH AfterAll Painting The Sky dazzled on the green carpet of Madison Square Garden, charming her way to win Best in Show at the 138th Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show in New York.

"Sky," a 5 1/2-year-old female Wire Fox Terrier, outperformed 2,845 dogs to win. She became the 14th Wire Fox Terrier to capture Best in Show at the Garden, more than any other AKC-recognized breed.

Judge Betty Regina Leininger of Frisco, Texas, selected Sky for her star quality, show poise and excellent condition. "She had that unmistakable 'look at me' attitude," says Leininger. "I had seven magnificent animals to choose from, but Sky was really on. This was her night."

It was a fitting career finish for the reigning No. 1 dog in the country in 2013.

Last year, Sky won the *Purina Pro Plan* Champions Cup after earning 394 points at

Purina-sponsored all-breed dog shows. In 2012, she won the National Dog Show and the AKC National Championship. Sky retires with 129 career Bests in Show,

"Sky" gave professional handler Gabriel Rangel his second Best in Show at the Garden, having also handled "Sadie," the Scottish Terrier who won in 2010.



Sky poses with, from left, judge Betty Regina Leininger, co-owners Torie Steele and Victor Malzoni Jr., and handler Gabriel Rangel.

including a win at the Montgomery County Kennel Club Dog Show (terriers only) and two wins each at the International Kennel Club of Chicago and Great Western Terrier Association dog shows.

Professional handler Gabriel Rangel of Rialto, Calif., says, "Sky has a personality like a little perfect dog. If you put a lead on her, she puts her tail up. If you have food in your pocket, she'll say, 'What do you want me to do?' She knows the routine."

Co-bred by Al Pertuit Jr. of Central, S.C., with Betty Seaton of Scandia, Minn., Sky is co-owned by Torie Steele of Malibu, Calif., and Victor Malzoni Jr., of São Paulo, Brazil, with Mary and Scott Olund of San Rafael, Calif., and Diane Ryan of Laguna Niguel, Calif.

"Sky has exceeded my wildest expectations," Steele says. "It's been a dream come true to have the top dog this past year."

Fueled by *Purina Pro Plan SAVOR* Shredded Blend Chicken & Rice Formula, Sky is the eighth consecutive *Pro Plan*-fed Westminster winner.