



# TODAY'S BREEDER

A Nestlé Purina Publication Dedicated to the Needs of Canine Enthusiasts

Issue 88



BREED TRAILBLAZERS  
**Aircraft Airedales**

- **PUPPIES**  
SOCIALIZING & FEEDING
- **SPRING CLEANING YOUR KENNEL**



Kay and Dick Guetzloff pose with their Obedience Trial Champions after a weekday practice session at the Purina Event Center. From left are “Scarlett,” 4, a red Border Collie, “Cider,” 15, a Miniature American Shepherd, and “Sparky,” 7, a black-and-white Border Collie.

## OBEDIENCE PROS FOLLOW THEIR HEARTS TO PURINA EVENT CENTER

Twenty-one years ago when Dick and Kay Guetzloff were the featured breeders in *Today's Breeder* (Issue 17, 1994), they and their string of four Border Collies were high achievers on the obedience trial circuit. Their black-and-white female, OTCH Heelalong Chimney Sweep, UDX, was the most-winning obedience dog in history at that time.

Living in Prescott, a small town in the high country of western Arizona, the Guetzloffs thrived in their love for their dogs and their sport. They were frequent travelers, logging nearly 50,000 miles a year on their van to reach obedience venues.

Last November, the couple made a bold move to Missouri to be close to the Purina Event Center at Purina Farms in Gray Summit. They welcomed having the 84,000-square-foot indoor facility just a few miles away and the plethora of opportunities it offers to train and compete in obedience and agility. Since moving, their 4-year-old red Border Collie “Scarlett” (OTCH/MACH Cyclone’s Irish Eyes R Smilin At Heelalong, UDX2), has earned the Obedience Trial Champion title.

They decided to move after attending the 2013 Border Collie Society of America National Specialty at the Purina Event

Center. “We had such a good time,” Kay Guetzloff says. “This past winter, we sometimes were at the Event Center three to four times a week – one day to train and two or three days for competition on the weekends.”

Dick Guetzloff agrees. “We love being this close to the Purina Event Center. It is such a busy place. Without a doubt, it is the best place in the U.S. for competition dogs and those who love them.” ■

Located about one hour from St. Louis at Purina Farms in Gray Summit, Missouri, the Purina Event Center is a state-of-the-art facility custom-made for all-breed and specialty dog shows and sports. For information about scheduling an event, please contact Kaite Flamm, Purina Event Center Manager, at 888-688-PETS (888-688-7387) or by email at [kaite.flamm@purina.nestle.com](mailto:kaite.flamm@purina.nestle.com).

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CH Airedale Keep Her Flying is a 4-year-old female Airedale Terrier bred, owned and handled by Kim and Dale Burrier. Their first conformation champion, "Keeper" also excels in fieldwork and rally obedience. Cover photo by Tim Harrison. See story on page 16.

**THIS PAGE**

Socialization is fundamental to raising puppies. This 4-week-old Rottweiler puppy was co-bred by Linda Draper and Mary Gentlesk. Photo by Diane Lewis. See story on page 10.



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Bedlington Terrier breeder Lucy Heyman with, from left, Carillon Quelle Chaleur, Carillon Serendipity Skyelark, and Boardwalk Bridget Carillon.

◀ **THE NEW FORMAT** of *Today's Breeder* is wonderful! I really enjoy the beautiful dog photography. The cover story on Cambria Dobermans (Issue 87) brought back fond memories of the feature on my kennel 13 years ago. My Bedlington Terrier, "Caddie" (CH Capstone Clearly Carillon), who appeared on the cover (Issue 37), will soon celebrate his 15th birthday.

Moreover, the AKC Canine Health Foundation will soon celebrate its 20th anniversary. Purina has supported my favorite cause since its inception, and this has been so much appreciated by the dog fancy. I have attended all but one of the Purina-hosted National Parent Club Canine Health Conferences. I am especially looking forward to the 10th biennial meeting this summer in St. Louis.

Congratulations on the new design of the magazine. I can't

wait to receive many more issues of *Today's Breeder*.

Lucy Heyman | Carillon Bedlingtons/Houston, TX

**I AM DIFFERENT** than many members of *Purina Pro Club* because my three Cardigan Welsh Corgis and three Great Pyrenees work on our farm. The Great Pyrenees help guard our livestock from fox and coyotes, and the Corgis move the goats and sheep to other pastures.

I come from a background of obedience, conformation and field trials. We retired to North Carolina in 2002. I have fed *Purina* all my life. We now feed *Purina Pro Plan SAVOR Shredded Blend Chicken & Rice Formula*.

Dory A. Van Duzer | Hammonds Street Corgis/ Durham, NC

**ONE WORD** describes the "new" *Today's Breeder*: **OUTSTANDING**. I participated in the online survey and am extremely impressed with the results.

Thanks, Purina and *Purina Pro Club*, for all you do to support the dog fancy.

Ellen Kemp | Gemini Corgis/Nokomis, FL

**I AM A MEMBER** of *Purina Pro Club* and thoroughly enjoy reading *Today's Breeder* magazine.

Have you ever heard of a Treeing Walker Coonhound doing lure coursing? My 2-year-old, CH 'PR' Bells Wild Nite Shaina, CA, loves the sport! She also loves to trail raccoons and go to dog shows. This year, I hope to get her into agility and barn hunts. All her wins have been with me as the breeder-owner-handler.

"Shaina" was raised on *Purina Puppy Chow Healthy Morsels* and still enjoys a small handful mixed into her *Purina ONE* adult dog food. Thanks, Purina, for all you do!

Laura Bell | Garrettsville, OH



"Shaina" is a well-rounded Treeing Walker Coonhound who enjoys lure coursing, trailing raccoons and going to dog shows.

*Today's Breeder* loves hearing from Purina Pro Club members! Tell us about your dogs and how Purina nutrition and Purina Pro Club help you achieve your goals. Send your letter and photos to [editor@purina.nestle.com](mailto:editor@purina.nestle.com) or mail them to *Today's Breeder*, c/o Editor, Nestlé Purina PetCare, 2T Checkerboard Square, St. Louis, MO 63164. *Today's Breeder* retains the right to edit and publish letters, including names, addresses and photos, to a worldwide audience.



“Avery,” a 3-year-old Australian Cattle Dog and member of the *Purina Pro Plan* Performance Team at Purina Farms, simulates the yoga position downward-facing dog.

# MASSAGE THERAPY

## Helps Dogs Feel Good

Most dogs don't limber up by doing the classic yoga pose downward-facing dog, but if they did, their stretched bodies would then be ready for laps around the show ring or rigorous fieldwork. Alternatively, massage therapy has trended for use with dogs because it offers many of the same benefits that people get from yoga.

“Dog massage helps to increase muscle strength and tone and to improve circulation, respiration and flexibility,” says Deirdre Chiaramonte, DVM, DACVIM, CCRT, a dog rehabilitation therapist who offers massage therapy as part of her practice in New York City.

Stimulation massages before performance help warm up muscles, and relaxation massages before bedtime soothe tired bodies. “There are many options depending on the situation,” Chiaramonte says.

“Massage is most effective when a dog is receptive, such as after being outside, before exercise or after traveling.”

Targeting a massage on areas surrounding overworked muscles helps reduce soreness and tightness by increasing circulation. Massage can be used to reduce pain, speed recovery, and improve muscle tone, alignment, flexibility, and range of motion.

A good masseuse is one trained in canine anatomy and who understands dog behavior. “The idea is to start slowly, less than 10 minutes in the beginning, and gradually build up to 30 minutes or so as you develop a relationship with the dog,” says Chiaramonte. “How often and how long to massage depends on the lifestyle of the dog and the goals.” ■

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To find a massage expert, go to [www.nbcaam.org](http://www.nbcaam.org) or [www.caninerehabinstitute.com](http://www.caninerehabinstitute.com)

## PURINA HONORS

# Outstanding Brace Beagles

Rabbit trackers, hounds hot on a trail, their cry of sheer joy and excitement reverberates across the countryside, thrilling their owners and handlers. Brace beagling celebrates hounds with traits of accuracy, keen scent ability, enthusiasm, and desire. Enthusiasts honored their finest, the 2014 Purina Award winners, last fall in Pittsburgh.

The Futurity-class winner, FCB Tilley's Little Timmy, a 2-year-old 13-inch tricolor male, says owner Joel Davis of Nottingham Township, Pennsylvania, "is the best dog I've ever owned. He taught me." "Timmy" prevailed with his controlled running style to win the Purina Award for Outstanding Field Trial Brace Beagle, inching ahead of three female close contenders at the last of six Federation field trials. It was Davis' first Purina Award after 41 years in the sport.

Pros Bob and Lynette Coil of Bulls Gap, Tennessee, handled Timmy to his win, their second time to be on the other end of the leash of the Futurity Award winner, having also handled the 2011 winner, FC Cisco's Rusty Skyhook. "It didn't matter whether Timmy ran the front or back of the brace, he always gave us his best," says Lynette Coil. Veteran handlers, Bob Coil started in beagling in 1963, and Lynette Coil finished her first Field Champion in 1965, following her parents' love for the sport.

Father-daughter duo, 2XNBC-FCB Bee Lick Braveheart and FCB Steeler Town Stiletto, won the Purina Champion and Derby awards, respectively, bringing great pride to owners Marty Parker of Taylorsville, Kentucky, and Niki Happel of Pittsburgh. Mike Asbury of Elyria, Ohio, is a co-owner of "Braveheart."

The 2 1/2-year-old tricolor male, Braveheart, is a two-time Purina Award winner, having won the Derby Award in 2013, and a two-time AKC National Brace Champion class winner, having won in 2013 and 2014. Several hounds were vying for the Champion Award going into the last Federation trial, but Braveheart gave an impressive performance, "turning in seven times, following the rabbit's track," says handler Parker, who also owned and handled the Champion Award winner in 2010, FC Nightstalk Tyra.

"Stiletto" shined in the Derby competition, proving she was an accurate tracker, yet her "best quality is her independence," Happel says, who alternately handled the female with Parker. "Whether Stiletto drew the front or back, she consistently did well," says Happel, a third-generation beagler who grew up in the sport her grandparents and parents adored and raised her own children going to field trials and running Beagles. ■



The Purina Award honorees are: front row, from left, Joel Davis with "Timmy," Marty Parker with "Braveheart," and Niki Happel with "Stiletto," and back row, from left, Carol Davis, Mike Asbury, and Aja Happel. All the hounds are fed Purina Pro Plan brand dog food.

**7****EASY TIPS ON**

# Spring Cleaning Your Kennel

Warm, sunny spring weather is a great opportunity for maintenance projects to freshen the kennel environment. Here are seven expert tips to help you make the most of spring cleaning your kennel. Professional all-breed handlers Joe Berkau and Burk Hughes of Southern California provided the backdrop for our photography, though kennel maintenance should be a year-round endeavor, they say.

**1**

## DISINFECT & CLEAN THOROUGHLY

Proper sanitation is critical to reduce disease problems in kennels. All surface areas should be disinfected after first being cleaned thoroughly to maximize the effectiveness of disinfectants. Organic materials, such as feces, urine and soil, decrease the effectiveness of many products. Bleach is an effective disinfectant, but be careful to use it minimally (1 cup bleach to 5 gallons water) and rinse thoroughly with water because it can be corrosive to a dog's skin, paw pads and digestive system. Another option is using a quarternary disinfectant. Be sure to read and follow directions for maximum effectiveness.

**2**

## FRESH COAT OF PAINT

Areas that receive heavy wear and tear, kennel walls and even flooring, depending on the surface material, may need painted every year to look good. Paint provides moderate protection and improves a kennel's overall look. Epoxy may work best. Though it costs more than paint, it gives greater protection and is more durable. Make sure to move dogs to a safe area and that there is proper ventilation before starting a painting project.



3

### REPAIR CONCRETE CRACKS

Cracks and holes in concrete foundations, walls and doors send an invitation to rodents and insects. Damage from freeze-thaw cycles causes concrete to expand, eventually cracking. Likewise, salt used to melt ice erodes the pores of concrete and attracts water. Use a scraper to work epoxy into damaged areas to effectively seal cracks and holes and prevent further damage.



4

### MAINTAIN DOG DOORS

Most dog doors are neither chew-proof nor resilient to heavy usage. Check doors for cracks or gaps that may need repaired to prevent injury to dogs frequently going in and out. Keeping doors clean using a disinfectant spray is important to help them last longer and function better.



5

### KEEP GROOMING TUB IN TIP-TOP SHAPE

Grooming is one of the most important jobs in a show kennel, so it is imperative to keep your tub in good working order. Use caulking to seal the edges, and check the piping of the faucet and underneath the tub to be sure there is no leaking.



6

### KEEP DOG SUPPLIES CLEAN

Stainless steel water buckets and feeding bowls, brushes and grooming supplies, even the tack box that carries the supplies, should be thoroughly cleaned to reduce the spread of disease. Clean water buckets help to ensure dogs receive clean water, which is paramount to good health. Hair, as well as flakes of skin and coat, can cause deterioration to brushes and other grooming tools. Scrub with warm, soapy water to help keep dog supplies sanitary and ready for use.



7

### MONITOR DOG FOOD STORAGE

Dog food should be kept in airtight containers to keep out rodents and insects. Spilled or improperly stored food is an invitation for an infestation. Check your dog food storage containers to be sure they don't have cracks or loosely fitting lids. ■



PURINA CELEBRATES

# TOP ALL-AGE BIRD DOGS

Three stylish, far-ranging Pointers stood out prominently last year in all-age horseback stakes. Their elegance in finding birds, performed with high energy as they swiftly swept miles and miles of thickets, fields and pastures, made them the Purina Top Field Trial Bird Dog Award winners.

Working to the front, always wanting to please, 2XCH/2XRUCH Touch's Adams County, a 5-year-old white and orange-marked male Pointer, gifted owner Ric Peterson, of Gilbert, Arizona, and pro handler Randy Anderson, of Vinita, Oklahoma, with their first Purina Top Field Trial Bird Dog Award. "Bo' is breathtaking on point," Anderson says. "His ability to adjust to the conditions and great composure around game helped put us on top."

Husband-wife owner-handlers Bubba and Amy Spencer of Medon, Tennessee, learned as they went along training their 5-year-old white and orange female Pointer, Cocklebur Treasure Quest, the winner of the Purina Amateur Top Field Trial Bird Dog Award. "Ellie' is far more than a field trial dog," says Bubba Spencer. "She is our housedog, and she always rides in the truck with us. In trials, she is very smart and logical, consistent and predictable."

From Sunny Hill Plantation in Tallahassee, Florida, the Purina Derby Top Field Trial Bird Dog, Dazzling, stood out as something



Touch's Adams County

special even as a puppy, says Bob Walthall, who co-owns the 2-year-old white and orange-ticked Pointer with Thorpe McKenzie. Walthall, who manages Sunny Hill for McKenzie, says, "When 'May' came along, I knew we had a chance to win the Purina Award."

Professional handler Steve Hurdle masterfully handled Dazzling, and seven other bird dogs, to win the Purina Top Field Trial Handler Award, his third handler award since 2007-2008. A pro for 24 years, Hurdle, says, "I am very blessed to handle some great dogs and to have

some of the best owners to work with." Hurdle also has handled two Purina Top Field Trial Bird Dogs, 7XCH/3XRUCH Shell Creek Coin, who won in 2007-2008, and Connor's EZ Button, who won in 2011-2012. ■



Cocklebur Treasure Quest



Dazzling, left, was handled by Steve Hurdle, above, who won the Purina Top Field Trial Handler Award, his third.

# Socializing Puppies

BY BARBARA FAWVER

Welcome, puppy.

No matter whether you will be a show dog, a field trial competitor, a hunting companion, or a loving pet, your future should start with balls, squeaky toys, climbing obstacles, and games of hide-and-seek. Children and seniors, backyards and basements, carpet and concrete, you have much to experience and learn.

Puppy socialization focuses on that sliver of time to shape puppies toward becoming confident, well-mannered and cooperative adult dogs. “Puppies develop at a fast pace, so there is a small window of



Simple things like cardboard boxes, big metal spoons, empty plastic bottles, and soft little toys help acclimate a puppy to different textures and smells.

opportunity when they are from 5 to 16 weeks old to effect positive development,” says Pat Hastings, co-editor of “Another Piece of the Puzzle: Puppy Development.”

Hastings considers “bounce-back,” the ability to recover from first being afraid, as one of the most valuable behavioral traits a puppy learns. Socialization reduces the number of things in the world that frighten a puppy by continually providing the experience of first being afraid and then recovering. The more things a puppy experiences during critical socialization periods, the

less bothered the puppy will be throughout life when confronted by new things.

“The ‘bounce-back’ is critical, which is why you must never feed into a puppy’s insecurities,” says Hastings, a prominent puppy evaluator and seminar presenter. “You have to ignore puppies’ first fear reaction and let them figure it out for themselves without interference from you. If you ignore it, they usually will too. The next time, they likely will not give it a second thought. This is the bounce-back.”



“With a large breed, such as a Rottweiler, training is very important, but it should be about mutual respect and calm authority. It should never be about fear,” says Eternal Moon Rottweiler breeder Linda Draper of Charlotte, North Carolina.



According to research by behaviorists Scott and Fuller,<sup>1</sup> a dog's behavioral makeup is 35 percent genetic and 65 percent due to socialization, nutrition, health care, training, and management. In other words, socialization cannot change temperament, but it certainly plays a role in behavior modification.

Recent research at the Wolf Science Center in Ernstbrunn, Austria,<sup>2</sup> has shown that dogs likely inherited the ability to be socially tolerant and attentive, characteristics that are crucial for cooperation, from wolves, their closest wild living relative. The researchers socialized dogs and wolves to humans and their respective species and found that wolves are highly socially attentive and tolerant and thus highly cooperative. They proposed a canine cooperation hypothesis suggesting that wolves provided a good basis for the evolution of dog-human cooperation and dogs' ability to accept humans as social partners.

### ENRICHMENT MATTERS

Although puppies are born with the ability to be cooperative social partners with humans, socialization is the key to success in helping them develop confidence and the ability to handle new situations. Opportunities that are missed during the critical socialization period puts puppies at risk of becoming shy, fearful, defensive adult dogs.

Animal behaviorist Fox<sup>3</sup> showed that puppies exposed to increasingly complex stimuli, or enrichment, sought out complex environments and were dominant over “stimulus-poor” puppies. Those that lacked enrichment were inhibited, fearful and looked for less complex environments, and often compensated with self-destructive behaviors such as chewing and licking.

Puppy socialization sets the stage for a dog's entire life. The socialization periods that Hastings identifies in “Another Piece of the Puzzle: Puppy Development” are:

**Curiosity Period (5 to 7 weeks):** Now weaned, puppies are virtually fearless and thus ready to explore the world. They want to climb, crawl, investigate, and taste everything. Their acceptance of people peaks at this time as they are becoming increasingly mobile. New challenges, such as first baths, grooming and trips outside the house, are ideal because puppies bounce back quickly if frightened by something new.

**Behavioral Refinement (7 to 9 weeks):** Puppies are capable of learning anything despite their short



Puppy socialization starts at birth, says Linda Draper, Eternal Moon Rottweiler breeder. “It is highly important to pick up pups and hold them. You should touch them all over — their feet, nose, ears, and lips.”

attention span. Learning is permanent at this age. Training should be structured on an individual basis, and puppies should form good habits, learn boundaries, and the rules of their new life. A stable individualized learning environment is important.

**Fear Imprint (8 to 11 weeks):** Between 8 and 9 weeks of age, puppies begin to be more cautious, even fearful of loud noises, sudden movements, strangers, and discipline from other dogs or humans. If frightened during this period, it may take weeks to return to normal. In nonsocialized puppies, anything associated with fear at this age will be a fearful stimulus throughout life without extensive desensitization.

**Environmental Awareness (9 to 12 weeks):** Puppies are starting to learn the right behaviors for the right time, significantly improving their motor skills and paying more attention to humans, and are busy learning about their new world. Behavior can be shaped very differently depending on what the owner expects from the puppy. If almost totally separated from other dogs, the human bond becomes strong. Puppies left with littermates often have trouble with separation anxiety and/or hyperexcitability.

**Seniority Classification (13 to 16 weeks):** The age of independence, this is when a puppy begins to test dominance and leadership. Critical learning occurs now. Puppies that are allowed to bite,

dominate children or resist activities such as leash training, nail cutting, and removal of food possessions are less likely to develop into a well-behaved dog. Puppy classes are essential, and being handled and trained by a variety of people helps build self-confidence.

In a nutshell, the more puppies experience, the more accepting they become. In reality, socialization lasts the entire life of a dog. It should be consistent, firm but gentle, patient, and loving. It starts during that sliver of time from 5 to 16 weeks of age.

“Socialization requires creativity and must occur during this critical period of development,” Hastings says. “There is no substitution for intensive and ongoing socialization for all puppies.” ■

<sup>1</sup> Scott JP, Fuller JL. *Genetics and the Social Behavior of the Dog*. University of Chicago Press. 1998. (Originally published 1965)

<sup>2</sup> Range F, Virányi Z. Tracking the Evolutionary Origins of Dog-Human Cooperation: The ‘Canine Cooperation Hypothesis.’ *Frontiers in Psychology*. Jan. 15, 2015. doi: 10.3389/fpsyg.2014.01582.

<sup>3</sup> Fox MW. *Integrative Development of Brain and Behavior in the Dog*. University of Chicago Press. 1971.

**Opportunities that are missed during the critical socialization period puts puppies at risk of becoming shy, fearful, defensive adult dogs.**



# PUPPY NUTRITION



Got “milk teeth,” now bring on the puppy food.

Rapidly growing puppies tend to be eager eaters. Not surprising considering that until they are around 6 months of age, puppies need two to three times the amount of most nutrients and calories per pound of body weight compared to an adult dog.

A puppy’s first food, generally introduced at 3 to 4 weeks of age, should provide complete and balanced nutrition and be formulated to meet the nutrient requirements of growing puppies. “Essential nutrients — protein, fat, carbohydrates, minerals, and vitamins — must be present in the proper proportions to ensure a puppy food is complete and balanced,” says Melinda Fleming, DVM, Purina Research Sci-

entist. “A supply of fresh water must be available at all times.”

Puppies, even litters, should be fed on an individual basis, Fleming says. “It is important to feed a food that matches the energy needs of puppies and thus provides steady, optimal growth. Puppies should be fed an appropriate amount of calories that supports normal growth but not excessive growth.”

This is especially important for large- and giant-breed dogs that may be predisposed to developmental orthopedic conditions. Avoiding overfeeding and excessive weight may help their development, as they have a higher growth rate than smaller breeds and should be fed a lower energy growth diet for a longer period of time.

In contrast, toy- and small-breed puppies may mature before 1 year of age and have an increased energy need relative to their body weight.

“When choosing a puppy food, look for one on which feeding trials have been conducted,” Fleming advises. “At Purina, we conduct feeding trials on all our puppy foods. It also is a good idea to discuss the calorie requirements of puppies with your veterinarian.”

**Purina puppy formulas have been tested in feeding trials to ensure they provide complete and balanced nutrition for growing puppies.**

**Frequently switching foods can create a picky eater or cause digestive upset in puppies.**



## FEED THE DAM FIRST

Giving puppies a good nutritional start in life begins with properly feeding the pregnant bitch. Her energy requirements increase about 10 percent a week from week six through nine of pregnancy, thus it is especially important to meet those energy needs. Here are tips on nutrition for pregnant bitches.

<p>Pregnant bitches should be fed a high-quality, complete-and-balanced adult maintenance dog food until week six, then transitioned to a highly digestible, energy- and nutrient-dense puppy or performance dog food from week six through lactation.</p>	<p>Due to the increased size of fetuses, a bitch's digestive tract has limited room to expand after each meal. It helps to split food into several meals. Fetuses put on 75 percent of their body weight in the last trimester.</p>
<p>Excessive weight gain and obesity in pregnant bitches can cause large fetal birth weight and less effective uterine contractions during labor, leading to dystocia (difficulty birthing). Without a C-section, you could lose the bitch and puppies.</p>	<p>The first 72 hours are nutritionally critical for puppies. They rely entirely on the dam's first milk, colostrum, to receive highly concentrated energy and nutrients, passive immunity and growth factors. Colostrum protects the newborn puppy during the first 10 to 12 weeks of life.</p>

**When introducing puppy food, mix the puppy food with warm water, let it soak until soft, and then mash it with a fork or pastry blender. A slightly lumpy consistency, not too difficult to chew, is good.**



# The All-Around Airedales

## *of Aircraft*

BY KAYLA MILLER

A thick, fluffy snow blankets northeastern Ohio. The fresh white powder from an early-morning heavy snowfall is untracked, as the late afternoon sun peeks through the lofty pine trees, casting an opalescent sheen over the frozen earth.

The silence of this enchanted winter wonderland suddenly breaks as Dale Burrier heaves a chukar training dummy into the frosty air, hollering, “Bird, bird, bird!” and releasing an Airedale Terrier called “Keeper.” Eager and determined, the dog excitedly bolts through the frigid tundra, undaunted by the knee-deep snow and the icy temperature.

### ‘KING OF THE TERRIERS’

Having originated in the Aire Valley in Yorkshire, England, the Airedale Terrier became a highly regarded versatile hunting and working dog in the early 20th century due to his intelligence and instinct. The breed’s popularity surged when Presidents Theodore Roosevelt, Calvin Coolidge and Warren Harding brought Airedales to the forefront of American culture. This sturdy, all-purpose dog is a loyal, doting family companion and strong competitor in the field and conformation ring. Powerful, well-muscled and the largest of the terrier breeds, the Airedale stands 23 inches tall at the shoulder. On his favorite aspect of the breed, Aircraft Airedale breeder Dale Burrier says, “I like their distinctive style, brain and clownish wit.”

**“Keeper” (CH Aircraft Keep Her Flying) sports an undeniable terrier expression, one of the breed’s distinguishing characteristics.**



The 4-year-old’s athleticism, a combination of speed and endurance propelling her through the snowy cover, is impressive. Using her strong bird-finding ability, Keeper abruptly stops, her gaily carried tail twitching and keen nose going to ground. The tenacious terrier’s head reemerges with the dummy in her mouth. A shrill whistle blows. “Keeper, come!” Dale commands. Moving swiftly through the snow, beard glazed with ice, Keeper returns the dummy to her handler as quickly as she captured it. This methodical bird dog is a natural in the field. She is, after all, an all-around Airedale of Aircraft.

Inside their 1850 Greek revival farmhouse called “Squirrel View” to thaw from the bitterly cold training session, breeders Kim and Dale Burrier of Aircraft Airedales in Newton Falls, Ohio, say Airedale Terriers are “the world’s best-kept secret.”

“Airedales are distinguished as three-in-one gundogs because of their ability to flush upland birds, retrieve waterfowl and track game,” Dale says. “They’re part spaniel, part retriever and all terrier.”

Investing 30-plus years breeding, training and competing with sporting Airedales, the Burriers have played an important role in the breed’s evolution as a gundog. Not only have they put 27 Airedale Terrier Club of America (ATCA) Hunting/Working (H/W) titles on their dogs, their first hunting Airedale, “Tally Ho” (Sandhill Aireforce Tally Ho, CD, SHV), became the first female in breed history to earn junior and senior hunting versatile titles. Another breed first was “Ranger” (Strongbow Texas Ranger, CDX, RN, JHV, SHV), who became the first “ace in a day” by passing the flushing,



Showcasing the Airedale's versatility, Keeper primarily competes in conformation, but has branched out into hunting and rally.

## THE AIREDALE'S EVOLUTION AS A GUNDOG

In an effort to recognize the Airedale as one of the few three-in-one gundogs in the country, the Airedale Terrier Club of America (ATCA) formed the Hunting/Working (H/W) Committee in 1984 to preserve and develop the breed's flushing, retrieving and tracking abilities. Over the years, they have worked tirelessly to promote the Airedale's prominence as a versatile hunting dog.

In 2007, the ATCA disbanded the H/W Committee, reforming as the Hunting and Field Committee in 2008. Meanwhile, enthusiasts also organized Hunting Working Airedales (HWA) Inc., which conducts tests in upland flushing, retrieving and tracking/trailing, all modeled after AKC hunting tests, at the junior, senior and master levels. In 2009, Airedales were admitted to the AKC flushing-spaniel hunting test program. The ATCA continues to work toward admittance into the AKC retriever hunting test program.

**As she retrieves a chukar dummy thrown by Aircraft Airedale breeder Dale Burrier during a snowy training session, Keeper exhibits the breed's strong hunting instinct.**



retrieving and tracking tests in a single day at the 2000 ATCA Wisconsin Hunt Test.

"I credit Tally Ho as the Airedale I learned the most about training sporting dogs," says Dale. "My accomplishments began with her."

The Burriers' longtime efforts helped Airedales gain admittance to the American Kennel Club (AKC) spaniel hunting test programs. Dale served on the ATCA board of directors from 1994 to 2007. Taking an interest in the sport after Dale, Kim is a member of the ATCA committee, now called the Hunting and Field Committee. They continue to conduct ATCA and Hunting Working Airedales (HWA) hunt tests in flushing, retrieving and tracking/trailing at the junior, senior and master levels.

"I ran in the second AKC spaniel test available to Airedales in 2009 with 'Allie' (Aircraft Aileron Roll, RE, CDX, CGC, IDI, JHF) and 'Emmitt' (AKC/UKC CH Aircraft Catapult Launch, CD, RAE, BN, GN, JHF)," Dale recalls. "When they handed me that first ribbon, I thought, 'Wow, this has been 25 years in the making.'"

Several dogs they produced have earned AKC hunting test titles, some of which currently are working toward master titles, including "Lou" (Aircraft Louisiana Slough of N VLY, JH, GD) and "Willow" (Aircraft Whomping Willow of N VLY, SH, GD), the first two Airedales to earn ATCA gundog titles since they were offered to the breed in 2013.

Dale's passion for the breed began in the 1980s when he got involved with Airedales through obedience trials. Although he grew up hunting with his father, Dale didn't take notice of the breed's hunting abilities until the early 1990s. The Ohio native began participating in ATCA hunting events, modeled after AKC hunting tests, and met other enthusiasts who favored Airedales as bird dogs. He quickly learned his dogs' obedience backgrounds carried over to success in the field.

Meanwhile, in California, Kim was teaching obedience to her first Airedale, "Ginger." She posed a training question in an online forum to which Dale quickly responded. By mid-1997, Kim had moved to Ohio, where she worked with Dale on their common interest of training Airedales.

That same year, Dale, who already owned two Airedales, and Kim stopped in Viola, Tennessee, to pick up a puppy from Sandhill Airedales' breeder Henry S. Johnson Jr. "Tailer" (Aireforce Tail Gunner, CDX, JHV, TDI) became Kim's heart dog and Aircraft's

foundation bitch. In 1998, they bought Ranger from breeders Randy and Sandi Cooley of Strongbow Airedales in Grafton, Wisconsin. The couple wed in 2000. The following year, they bred Tailer to Ranger.

“Tailer and Ranger had great instincts,” Kim says. “Tailer was a typey Airedale from hunting strains with a hard, wiry coat, beautiful coloration and outgoing temperament. Ranger was from show lines. He had a refined look with a longer beard and leg furnishings. By our third generation, the stocks blended seamlessly to produce the healthy, confident, well-balanced Airedales we’re known for today.”

More than 50 Aircraft dogs can be traced back to Tailer. Another prolific producer was “Sara” (Coldstream Aircraft Saratoga, CD, RA), dam to 43 puppies from four litters. Now, on their fifth generation, Kim and Dale continue to breed multi-talented dogs, emphasizing even temperament and good health.

Litters typically are bred once a year, with about 10 people on a list at all times eagerly waiting on a puppy. Their next litter is planned for later this spring when Keeper (CH Aircraft Keep Her Flying) will be bred to “Winston” (CH Moraine’s Prime Minister, MHV) via surgical artificial insemination.

“Winston sired Ranger, so we’ll come full circle. We’re getting back to our roots,” says Kim.

### ‘JACK OF ALL TRADES’

Aircraft’s five current dogs, all which have obedience titles that speak to the breed’s versatility, live with Kim and Dale in their house. Holding titles across multiple disciplines are a Tailer daughter, 14-year-old Allie, and two Allie sons, 10-year-old “Corey” (Aircraft Bent Wing Bird, CDX, RE) and 8-year-old Emmitt, the 2014 Sandhill Brown Bess Memorial Award recipient as the highest-scoring dog in an HWA upland hunting test.

Keeper, an Emmitt daughter, is the Burriers’ first AKC conformation champion and first Airedale to receive a Canine Health Information Center (CHIC) number for health testing for hips, kidney and heart. Breeder-owner-handled by Kim, Keeper notably captured two Group Seconds at the 2013 Genesee Valley (New York) and 2014 Rubber City (Ohio) kennel club dog shows.

Aircraft’s latest addition, 9-month-old “Flyer” (Coldstream Aircraft Just The Wright Stuff), already earned her RATI (Instinct) title in barn hunt, a new sporting adventure for the Burriers.



“Airedales thrive on having a job to do, so we aim to produce handsome, all-around dogs,” says Aircraft Airedale breeder Kim Burrier, shown with husband Dale and their dogs, from left, “Emmitt” (AKC/UKC CH Aircraft Catapult Launch, CD, RAE, BN, GN, JHF) and Keeper.



Dubbed “Squirrel View,” the Burriers’ home provides an ideal spot from the living room picture window for Airedales, such as Keeper, above, to watch squirrels scamper about.

“Our Airedales have all influenced our program in one way or another,” Kim says.

For Kim and Dale, breeding versatile Airedales is a way to pay it forward to mentors who guided them and further generate interest in dog sports. As volunteers at the Youngstown All-Breed Training Club (YABTC) in North Jackson, Ohio, where Dale serves as training school director and Kim sits on the board as obedience chair, the Burriers nurture people into canine sports by teaching obedience and conformation classes.

“A person may have bought a pet Airedale, but we hope the dog will open their eyes to other ac-

tivities,” says Dale. “It’s one of the paybacks of being a good breeder.”

A typical day for the Burriers begins at 5:30 a.m. Dale makes the 45-minute commute to his landscape architect job in Chagrin Falls, Ohio, while Kim works as a receptionist at the local animal hospital. In the evenings, dogs are fed and let out to run before heading to the YABTC twice a



week for classes. Afterward, the couple trains their Airedales. They arrive home around 11 p.m., when Dale begins grooming Keeper and Flyer for the show ring.

“It makes for some very long days,” Dale says. “We live for our dogs.”

When litters are on the ground, Airedales are enrolled in the Headstart Program, a training program developed by professional dog trainer and Coldstream Airedales’ breeder Corally Burmaster of Leesburg, Virginia. During their first two months, puppies are introduced to sights, sounds, textures, and surfaces by means of toys, tunnels and ramps placed in the yard. Equipment is moved around every few days to accustom them to change. Puppies also receive swim lessons, go on car rides and see birds for the first time.

“The Headstart Program gives people a confident Airedale that’s never timid or fearful,” says Dale. “An Airedale you can do anything with is one that readily accepts change. He’s not going to be put off by anything new.”

Nutrition is another key aspect to developing these multifaceted dogs. Allie, Corey and Emmitt are fed *Purina Pro Plan* BRIGHT MIND Chicken & Rice Formula, while Keeper and Flyer are fed *Purina Pro Plan* NATURAL Grain Free Formula.

“*Purina Pro Plan* brand dog food has made such a difference in our Airedales. They have dense, shiny coats and firm stool,” Kim says.

The future looks promising for the all-around Airedales of Aircraft. Emmitt is training to compete at the ATCA Randy Cooley Memorial Hunt Test this May in Beaver Dam, Wisconsin. Keeper continues to be shown as a Special, earning points toward her Grand Championship, and is working on the Rally Novice title. Besides earning obedience and barn hunt titles, Flyer is on track to become their next AKC conformation champion.

“We continue training our dogs to be well-rounded,” says Kim. “I see new champions and performance titles in the future.”

Dale agrees. “We want people to remember us through our dogs,” he says. “I want our legacy to be that our Airedales were a smart, healthy, hard-working bunch.” ■



## DOUBLE-COATED HUNTERS

The Airedale’s black-and-tan coat is one of his most distinctive characteristics. Seemingly nonshedding and considerably hypoallergenic, the coat is hard, dense and wiry, lying straight and close to the Airedale’s body. Behind the stiff, slightly wavy outercoat is a soft undercoat. The layers protect the Airedale from the elements while doing what they were bred for, whether exhibiting a flush in the cover or out in the open, retrieving birds from land or water, or tracking/trailing game.

Like most terriers, the broken coat is best maintained by hand-stripping, as clipping damages the desired coarse texture. A time-consuming but important task, Aircraft Airedale breeders Kim and Dale Burrier spend between 30 to 40 hours per week stripping, grooming and trimming dogs. “A well-conditioned Airedale catches the judge’s eye and helps him stand out as ‘king of the terriers,’” Dale says.

**Dale and Kim meticulously groom Keeper, focusing on the beard and leg furnishings, in preparation for the show ring.**

**PURINA**  
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**Circle of Champions**

**POINTER NAMED 'SPEC' GIVES SOLID PERFORMANCE TO WIN NATIONAL ALL-AGE CHAMPIONSHIP**

A 5-year-old male Pointer, Miller's Dialing In, stylishly commanded the National Championship for Field Trailing Bird Dogs with five covey finds in just the first hour of the three-hour horseback stake. The 2015 National Champion, fondly called "Spec" due to his orange-and-white ticking, made owner-handler Gary Lester of Gracey, Kentucky, the first amateur in history to win the prominent event two times, having also won in 2009 with Lester's Snowwatch. Sired by Lester's male, Miller's Happy Jack, Spec was the "stud puppy" for the breeding. Lester says, "I like to say that everyone in the 'company' helped train, condition and prepare Spec for field trials. Ike Todd started him on birds, and Mark Haynes scouted at the National. Many others helped as well." In the end, it was Spec who dialed in with eight covey finds. Spec is fueled by *Purina Pro Plan SPORT Performance 30/20 Formula*.

**"Spec" put on a spectacular performance to win the National Championship in February at Ames Plantation in Grand Junction, Tennessee.**



**SMOOTH COLLIE 'DRIVER' ACCELERATES TO THE TOP OF BREED RANKINGS**

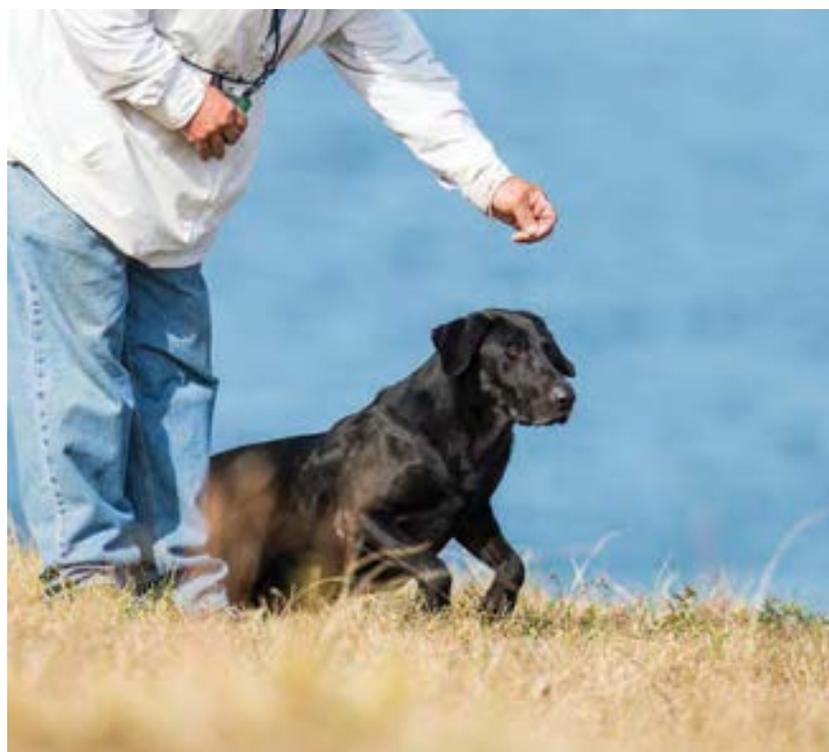
A 4 1/2-year-old male Smooth Collie called "Driver" has been steering his way straight to the top since beginning his Specials campaign in late 2013 under pro handler Laurie Jeff Greer of Flagstaff, Arizona. The No. 1 Smooth Collie in 2014, Multi-BIS/Multi-BISS GCH Travler Kelise Overdrive IT, is reminiscent of his brother "Arrow" (BIS/Multi-BISS GCH Travler's Pierce Arrow IT, CGC), who set a Smooth Collie record winning eight Bests in Specialty Show. Driver took three Bests in Show and two Reserve Bests in Show in 2014. Co-bred by Bree Ardizzone and Garry Lewis with owners Becky Tehon and Candy Ardizzone, all of Syracuse, New York, Driver is co-owned by Elizabeth Miller of Paoli, Pennsylvania. The handsome Smooth Collie is fueled by *Purina Pro Plan FOCUS Sensitive Skin & Stomach Formula*.

**Well-balanced with a gentle disposition, "Driver" easily captures attention in show rings.**

## SCOTTISH TERRIER 'KNOPA' WINS LARGEST DOG SHOW IN THE WORLD

A spirited, stunning black Scottie named “Knopa” stirred the excitement on the eve of her retirement by winning Best in Show at the 2015 Crufts Kennel Club Dog Show in Birmingham, England. GCH McVan’s To Russia With Love outperformed 21,400 dogs at the world’s largest all-breed dog show after two years on the U.S. circuit with pro handler Rebecca Cross of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. The 5 ½-year-old bitch is retiring to live with owner Marina Khenkin in Moscow. “This makes the win all the more special,” Cross says. A Best of Breed winner at Crufts in 2013 and at Westminster in 2015, Knopa was the No. 1 Scottish Terrier in 2013 and 2014 and the No. 3 Terrier in 2014. Vandra Huber and Michael Krolewski, of Woodinville, Washington, bred the two-time Scottish Terrier Club of America National Specialty winner. Knopa is fed *Purina Pro Plan FOCUS Sensitive Skin & Stomach Formula*.

**“Knopa” gave handler Rebecca Cross a surreal moment when she won Best in Show at the Crufts Kennel Club Dog Show in the U.K.**



## NATIONAL OPEN RETRIEVER CHAMPION 'BULLET' HITS THE MARK

Consistency and control over 10 challenging land and water series graced the performance of a 7-year-old black male Labrador Retriever, NFC-AFC Robber’s Stray Bullet, to win the 2014 National Open Retriever Championship. “A gentleman on the line, ‘Bullet’ moved well and looked good doing it,” says pro handler Alan Pleasant of Angier, North Carolina. Bullet’s stunning work, which included triple water marks, double blinds, land quads, and combination series, brought great pride to Pleasant, who has handled the dog for owner Marion “Kippy” Stroud-Swingle of Elverson, Pennsylvania, for two years. The National Open capped a banner year for Bullet, the 2014 Purina High-Point Open Dog, AKC High-Point Open Dog and Finalist at the National Amateur Retriever Championship under breeder and early trainer Dan Hurst of Bullard, Texas. Bullet is powered by *Purina Pro Plan SPORT Performance 30/20 Formula*.

**“Bullet,” cast by pro handler Alan Pleasant, is the first National Champion Pleasant handled, though he has trained five National Champions.**

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*.

## GET CONNECTED ON SOCIAL MEDIA



Breeders and enthusiasts can use social media to connect by sharing photos, videos, and experiences. Go to the *Purina Pro Plan* for Professionals page



on Facebook and the *Purina Pro Club* account on Instagram to become part of the conversation and share your passion for the sport with a community of dog enthusiasts.

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### Westminster



## 'MISS P' WOWS AT WESTMINSTER TO WIN BEST IN SHOW

An athletic, spunky hound with a smooth, ground-covering, effortless gait, "Miss P" tapped into the infectious excitement of the crowd at Madison Square Garden in New York to give one of the best performances of her life, and one deemed by judge David C. Merriam worthy of winning Best in Show at the Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show.

The second Beagle in history to win the prestigious event, AM/CAN GCH Tashtins Lookin For Trouble is the grandniece of the 2008 winner, "Uno" (CH K-Run's Park Me In First), the brother of her maternal grandsire. Handled by pro Will Alexander, the 4-year-old 15-inch tricolor Beagle is co-owned by breeder Lori Crandlemire and her daughter, Kaitlyn, of Enderby, British Columbia, and Eddie Dziuk, of Columbia, Missouri.

Dziuk, who started in the breed as a junior handler, says, "Miss P's pedigree is a beautiful combination of the best our breed has to offer. Miss P truly is the product of decades' worth of blood, sweat and tears by numerous Beagle breeders, all dedicated to producing sound, healthy hounds that meet the standard. I am grateful to all of them."

Coming off two years on the circuit, Miss P finished 2014 ranked as the No. 1 Beagle (all systems), No. 2 Hound and No. 9 in all-breed competition (*Dog News* system). In 2013, she finished the year in her native Canada as the No. 2 Hound and No. 8 in all-breed competition.

Miss P, who is fed *Purina Pro Plan SPORT* Performance 30/20 Chicken & Rice Formula, is the ninth consecutive Westminster Best in Show winner fueled by *Purina Pro Plan* brand dog food. The Reserve Best in Show winner, the Skye Terrier "Charlie" (GCH Cragmoor Good Time Charlie), as well as the other Group First winners, are fed *Purina Pro Plan* dog food.