

TODAY'S BREEDER

A Purina Pro Plan Publication Dedicated to the Needs of Canine Enthusiasts

Issue 94

TOP TERRIER BREEDERS

Cragmoor Skye Terriers

- RETRIEVER WINTER WARM-UP
- A DOG BREEDING ROUNDTABLE
- CHIC: A CANINE HEALTH DATABASE

2017 NATIONAL SPECIALTIES AT THE PURINA EVENT CENTER



Date	Event
April 3-4	Bracco Italiano Society of America
April 3-7	Spinone Club of America
April 14-22	American Shetland Sheepdog Association
April 24-28	Poodle Club of America
May 2-6	Cairn Terrier Club of America
May 3-4	Japanese Chin Club of America
May 4-7	United States Kerry Blue Terrier Club
May 9-19	United States Australian Shepherd Association
May 20-26	Dalmatian Club of America
May 26-27	Alapaha Blue-Blood Bulldog Association
May 31-June 4	Australian Terrier Club of America
June 4	The American Cesky Terrier Fanciers Association
June 5-10	Weimaraner Club of America
June 13-17	Saluki Club of America
July 7-15	English Springer Spaniel Field Trial Association
July 19-24	American Spaniel Club
Sept. 3-10	Border Collie Society of America
Sept. 8-15	Basenji Club of America
Sept. 11-14	Afghan Hound Club of America
Sept. 12-15	Miniature American Shepherd Club of the USA
Sept. 12-16	Ibizan Hound Club of the United States
Sept. 12-16	National Miniature Dachshund Club
Sept. 16-17	Coton de Tulear Club of America
Sept. 23	Anatolian Shepherd Dog Club of America
Sept. 23-30	Pembroke Welsh Corgi Club of America
Oct. 2-6	Bearded Collie Club of America
Oct. 7-13	German Shepherd Dog Club of America
Oct. 14-15	International Shiloh Shepherd Alliance
Oct. 15-20	Australian Cattle Dog Club of America
Nov. 5-10	French Bulldog Club of America

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. 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.

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Multi-BIS/Multi-BISS GCH Cragsmoor Good Time Charlie, the winningest Skye Terrier of all time, bred and owned by Gene Zaphiris and Matthew Stander, and handled by Larry Cornelius. See story on page 10.

THIS PAGE

Samantha ("Sam"), an 18-month-old female chocolate Labrador Retriever owned by Braxton Burrell of Bonney Lake, Washington, and co-owned by Jerry Wilson of Burbank, California, is among the retrievers in training this winter with pro Patti Kiernan. See story on page 4.



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Keith Schopp, Vice President

Barbara Fawver, Editor, *Today's Breeder*

Kayla Miller, Senior Writer, *Today's Breeder*

Margaret Wolf, Senior Writer, *Today's Breeder*

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TRAINING RETRIEVERS

IN WINTER

PHOTOS BY DIANE LEWIS

Dashing to make a water retrieve, Sailor, a 20-month-old male Labrador Retriever owned by Scott Elliott of Irrigon, Oregon, and trained professionally by Patti Kiernan, is focused and enthusiastic.

In the Imperial Valley of Niland, California, long, sunny days radiate warmth turning the desert into a winter paradise for professional retriever trainers Patti Kiernan and partner Bill Cox of Justin Time Retrievers, and Jim and Jackie Gonja at their McKenna South. Both teams relish the serenity and versatility of the habitat, often swapping their own properties for training.

These trainers have homes here and have developed their Southern California training grounds with multiple technical ponds and grassy fields to

teach their dogs the sophisticated tasks they will be asked to perform in field trials. Their retrievers, ranging from seasoned pros to owners' amateurs and derbies just getting started, are athletes in prime condition. They lock in. They love to work.

The retriever trainers arrive in the fall about the time snow and cold hit their homes in the Pacific Northwest. Patti and Bill come from Rainier, Washington, and Jim and Jackie from McKenna, Washington. They leave in the spring when the desert starts heating up and the rattlesnakes start moving around, heading to retriever field trials on the West Coast circuit.

Every winter brings something different, something unexpected. Whether it is the young retriever that masters an interrupted test, a challenging quad with a blind, or the veteran that outgrows a career-nagging fault, it is here that dreams are realized, and winter becomes spring. *Today's Breeder* visited Patti and Bill and Jim and Jackie at their respective training grounds in January. Here are photos of their retrievers working land and water marks on a comfortable 70-degree training day. ■

Opposite page: Kiernan prepares to cast FC Firemark Rackem and Stackem Casey, a 9-year-old male Golden Retriever owned by Marie Doherty of Scottsdale, Arizona.





Justin Time
Retrievers

PURINA
PROPLAN

Opposite page: Pro trainer Jim Gonia prepares to send FC Watsons Rigem N Getem, a 4-year-old male Labrador owned by Brian Watson of Dallas, Oregon, on a retrieve. "Riggs," who qualified for the 2016 National Retriever Championship, made it through seven of 10 series.

Right: FC Sweetie's Easy Rider ("Ford"), an 8-year-old male Labrador owned by Pete Panarites of Northport, New York, and professionally trained by Gonia, was the second High Point Open dog in 2015.

Below: Zaniri's Fire Bear QAA JH WC, a 3 1/2-year-old male Golden Retriever owned by Beverly and Joseph Tecklenborg of Langley, British Columbia, and trained professionally by Gonia, makes a stylish jump going for a water retrieve.





CHIC:

A CENTRALIZED CANINE HEALTH DATABASE

Many of the insights, discoveries and knowledge about genetic diseases in dogs are due to the pioneering efforts of the Orthopedic Foundation for Animals (OFA). In 1966, when founder John M. Olin, a philanthropist, entrepreneur and avid sportsman whose family's ammunition business included Winchester firearms, organized OFA, his purpose was to learn more about the genetics of hip dysplasia, a painful, crippling disease that was affecting the performance of his Labrador Retrievers.



Olin, whose King Buck won the National Retriever Championship stakes in 1952 and 1953, understood the need to improve the genetic health of breeding stock for the sake of the breed's function and working ability. With help from veterinarians and representatives of two national parent clubs, the Golden Retriever and German Shepherd Dog Clubs of America, he designed OFA to improve the health and well-being of companion animals through a reduction in genetic diseases.

In 2001, the OFA, along with the American Kennel Club (AKC) Canine Health Foundation, launched the Canine Health Information Center (CHIC) as a centralized database to store health test results about individual dogs. Initially partnering with nine pilot parent clubs that determined the diseases that are most prevalent in their breeds and thus important for health testing, CHIC has evolved into a rich database that today contains the records of more than 23,000 dogs of 178 breeds.



"CHIC is not about normalcy," says Eddie Dziuk, OFA Chief Operating Officer. "It is about encouraging health screening in accordance with a parent club's testing protocol, sharing the test results in the public domain and increasing health awareness. The idea is to improve the overall health of the breed and allow breeders to make informed breeding decisions." ■

A Snapshot of the

NOVEMBER 2001

CHIC IS FOUNDED

9 Pilot Breeds

Basenji
Bearded Collie
Bull Terrier

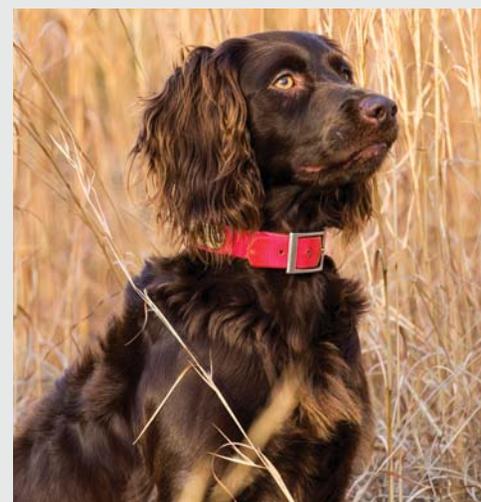
178 Breeds Today

Golden Retriever
Labrador Retriever
Mastiff
Newfoundland
Rhodesian Ridgeback
Rottweiler

RANGE OF NUMBER OF HEALTH TESTS REQUIRED FOR INDIVIDUAL BREEDS

Most clubs require 3 to 4 tests. A handful require 2 tests, and a small number require 6 or more tests.

The Boykin Spaniel Club, for example, requires health tests for eyes, patellas, and hips and DNA tests for exercise-induced collapse, degenerative myelopathy, and collie-eye anomaly.



Canine Health Information Center (CHIC)



CHIC DATABASE SUPPORTS CANINE HEALTH RESEARCH

More than 23,000 DNA Samples are stored in the CHIC DNA Repository, along with an individual dog's pedigree & phenotypic health history.

More than 3,500 DNA Samples have been distributed to nearly 20 research institutions, such as The Broad Institute of MIT/Harvard, Michigan State University, North Carolina State University, University of California at Davis, and the University of Helsinki in Finland.



CHIC HELPS PUPPY BUYERS FIND HEALTHY DOGS

Health Screening Information Allows Puppy Buyers to Make Informed Buying Decisions

Like breeders who use CHIC data as a toolset, puppy buyers who become educated about the right breed for their lifestyle and find a responsible breeder who uses health screening information in their selection criteria are improving their chances of adding a happy, healthy, long-lived member to their family.

70+
HEALTH TESTS
MORE THAN 50 ARE DNA-BASED TESTS

Tests Can Be:

- Required, meaning dogs must have them to qualify for a CHIC number
- Optional/Recommended, meaning they are not required for a dog to earn a CHIC number, but parent clubs encourage the additional testing due to the importance of the condition in the breed
- Elective, meaning a dog should have one test from a list of elective health tests

Some tests are breed specific. For example, Leonberger is the only breed to require testing for Leonberger polyneuropathy 1 (LPN1) & 2 (LPN2).



Great Pyrenees offers elective testing in which one of the following tests must be performed: congenital cardiac, advanced cardiac, thyroid, elbow dysplasia, hearing, shoulder, eye, multifocal retinopathy, or Glanzmann's thrombasthenia.

Parent clubs can adjust their health test requirements over time. As a pilot breed, the Labrador Retriever Club (LRC) started with requirements for hips, elbows and eyes. Over time, LRC added DNA tests for exercise-induced collapse and D-locus, the color dilution mutation.

The most common health test requirements across all participating breeds are hips, eyes, patellar luxation, and cardiac exams.

CHIC IS A VALUABLE RESOURCE FOR DOG BREEDERS

Health Screening Information Allows Breeders to Make Informed Breeding Decisions

When breeders include health data from a sire and dam in their selection criteria, they are making a more informed breeding decision, hopefully applying selective pressure to decrease the number of deleterious disease liability genes and improve the probability of healthy genes.





ONLY A SKYE TERRIER

BY BARBARA FAWVER

Pacing ringside, Matthew Stander looks like a man whose nerves are about to come unhinged. His partner, Gene Zaphiris, takes a different approach, leaving the building or watching from so many rings away, one would never associate him with the Skye Terriers being shown in the ring Matthew is watching. A lifetime of breeding and showing dogs cannot take away the heartfelt anxiety that creeps in when one of their Cragsmoor Skye Terriers is in the ring.

Until he retired after the 2016 Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show, “Charlie” (GCH Cragsmoor Good Time Charlie), a 5 ½-year-old silver-platinum male, was the one charming it up with handler Larry Cornelius. The winningest Skye Terrier in breed history, Charlie is a throwback to his sire, CH Finnsky Oliver (“Willie”), a black Finnish male Gene and Matthew imported in 1994.

“Willie was the greatest Skye I ever saw,” says Gene, his voice choked with emotion, remembering the top-producing sire who gave them



Left: “Buddy” (GCH Cragsmoor Buddy Goodman), 10 ½ years old, pictured in the backyard at Gene and Matthew’s house, broke a 50-year record in 2011 to become the top-winning Skye Terrier in history. Above: Pro handler Larry Cornelius takes “Charlie” (GCH Cragsmoor Good Time Charlie) around the ring during the Terrier Group judging at the 2015 Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show. Charlie, who became the top-winning Skye in 2015, is the nephew of Buddy. CH Finnsky Oliver, whom Cragsmoor imported in 1994 from Finland, is Charlie’s sire and Buddy’s grandsire.

Charlie as well as other multiple-Best in Show winners. “I promise you, my heart stopped when I saw Willie. To this day, he is still the best one, everything I think the breed should be.”

Named the American Kennel Club Terrier Breeders of the Year in 2014, recognizing their success in breeding Skye Terriers, Gene and Matthew reflect humbly on the 136 Bests in Show and more than 550 Terrier Group Firsts they have accumulated since their start in the breed in 1972. It all began with a puppy bitch whose dam, CH Glamour Good News, won Best in Show at Westminster in 1969.

Native New Yorkers, their friendship with the late Walter Goodman, who bred and owned

Magazine, renamed last year after the former publisher folded *Dog News*. Traveling the circuit thousands a miles a year with their jobs has not allowed ample time for breeding or showing, yet their achievements in Skyes, plus several other breeds, are impressive.

“We’ve been blessed with our success in the show ring and the recognition our dogs have received,” says Gene. “We’ve also been fortunate to have some great partners and handlers on our dogs.”

THE BEGINNING OF CRAGSMOOR

In April 2016, when he learned that *Dog News* was ending after 32 years of publication, Gene



“Winnie,” 3 ½ years old, depicts the energy and enthusiasm of the Skye Terrier.

“Susie” with his mother, Adele, led to their getting “Gaga” (CH Glamour Too Good To Be True), as Gene had become smitten with the short-legged, drop-coated breed from frequent visits to Goodman’s home on Oyster Bay, Long Island.

“I love dogs that have a lot of coat because I like working with their hair,” Gene says. “These Skyes were really cute. All our Skyes have ‘Good’ in their registered name as a tribute to Walter Goodman.”

They bred Gaga to a prominent male, CH Gleanntan Coming At You, who gave them “Sylvia” (CH Cragmoor Good N Plenty). Sylvia produced a Westminster Best of Breed winner and two Skye Terrier Club of America (SCTA) National Specialty Best of Breed winners.

Well-known to the dog fancy, Gene and Matthew are the publishers of *DN Dog News*

was lying in a hospital bed recovering from double-knee replacement surgery. “My initial reaction was to let it go,” he says. “But then, I thought long and hard and realized, we love doing this magazine.”

Re-establishing the publication, including getting legal rights to its trademark, meant relocating from its office on Broadway at 25th Street in Manhattan across from Madison Square Park and the American Kennel Club to a comfy, spacious converted barn on Matthew and Gene’s Oyster Bay Cove property. Their daily commute turned into a golf cart ride up the hill.

So far, so good, they agree.

When they began *Dog News* in 1984, after a 12-year stint publishing *Show Dogs Magazine*, they wanted to publish a weekly newspaper.

Over the next 10 years, it morphed into a four-color weekly magazine to support the beautiful dog advertising throughout the publication.

The flooding of their Tuxedo Park, New York, home in Orange County forced them to shut down *Show Dogs Magazine*. "When we were at Westminster, we lost the house. The pipes in the house froze, and as a result, there was major water damage. I walked out of there with the dining room table and a plant," Gene says.

After a couple of years living in a New York townhouse at East 92nd Street and Park Avenue, they moved to a house on the North Shore of Long Island, Oyster Bay Cove. Four years later, they bought the 5-acre property where they live now. The former sea captain's home with eight bedrooms and six fireplaces, dating to 1880, has been remodeled many times.

Life is never boring. Six house dogs include four Skye Terriers, a Brussels Griffon and an English Toy Spaniel. There's also a black-and-white longhaired cat named Eartha Kitten after the famous singer.

The Skyes are GCH Cragmoor Buddy Goodman ("Buddy"), the second top-winning Skye Terrier in breed history and Charlie's uncle; GCH Cragmoor Good Times At Bannerdown ("Winnie"), Buddy's daughter; GCH Cragmoor Adele Goodwoman ("Adele"), Charlie's dam; and GCH Cragmoor Good Girls Don't ("Lindsey"), Charlie's litter sister. The Brussels Griffon, CH Talk Dirty to Me ("Howie"), who was bred and leased from a breeder in the U.K., became their pet after Gene fell in love with him on a trip to California, and the English Toy was the pet of their housekeeper, the late Celia Lopes.

Their prefix, Cragmoor, comes from a kennel Matthew owned in upstate New York in Cragmoor from the mid-1960s to mid-1970s. When his love of hounds outgrew his top-floor apartment at East 92nd Street and Lexington Avenue, Matthew started the kennel in rural New York and hired a manager to run it.

"I really wanted a Black and Tan Coonhound," Matthew says. "I knew one that lived on Fifth Avenue. I would see people walking this coonhound, and I liked his sloppiness."

He contacted his aunt, Dorothy "Dottie" Goldberg, who co-owned a pet shop with Sunny Shay, the breeder, owner and handler of the 1957 Westminster Best in Show winner, CH Shir Khan of Grandeur, an Afghan Hound, to



help him find a breeder. When a coonhound couldn't be found, Matthew ended up with a Bloodhound, The Ring Zorro ("Huck"). Owning a Bloodhound in New York City meant getting up for exercise walks in Central Park at 4 and 5 a.m. and hiring the first professional dog walker, the late Jim Buck, for twice daily romps when Matthew worked.

Curious to see the Bloodhounds at New York's famous dog show, Matthew went to his first Westminster in 1963, where he met a professional handler, the late Harry Manning, who had won the breed with The Ring Ubiquitous, who was Huck's sire. Sadly, the sire died that night when his stomach bloated, years before gastropexy preventive surgery to tack the stomach became common.

"I had never heard of a professional handler," says Matthew. "Huck was from his sire's only litter, and needless to say, Harry and I became fast friends."

An attorney, Matthew was working as Director of Development for the former Kenton Corp., which owned discount retail stores and high-end brands such as Valentino Couture and Cartier. He made frequent trips to Milan and Rome and was instrumental in bringing the first Valentino store to Madison Avenue.

The Cragmoor Kennel started with Bloodhounds, and then Matthew added Whippets.

Cragmoor Skye Terrier breeders Matthew Stander, left, and Gene Zaphiris are shown with house dogs, from left, Buddy and Winnie, silver-platinum Skye Terriers; "Sophia," an English Toy Spaniel; "Howie," a Brussels Griffon; and "Lindsey" and "Adele," black Skyes.



Adele, left, and Buddy enjoy a meal of *Purina Pro Plan NATURAL Turkey & Barley Formula*.

“At one time I had 14 Whippets,” he says. “I loved them incredibly. They had such a cuddly disposition. The whole property was fenced, and these Whippets would run back and forth and exercise the Bloodhounds.”

As Matthew met more people in the dog fancy, he added other breeds. Dachshunds, Beagles and the first Rhodesian Ridgeback imported to the U.S. were part of Cragsmoor. Among the champions were two No. 1 Bloodhounds, CH Cragsmoor’s Bacchus of Mareve and CH Cascade’s Columbo of Dakota, the first independent National Specialty Best of Breed winner.

Gene, who was friends with Goodman, also knew Shay, the woman who co-owned the Afghan Hound Westminster winner. “I would go to Sunny’s house every day. That’s how I learned about dogs and showing,” Gene says.

In 1971, Shay introduced him to Matthew. That was 46 years ago.

After they became partners, Matthew and Gene sold the Cragsmoor kennel, though a few of the dogs moved with them to their home at Tuxedo Park. One was a Bloodhound, CH Cragsmoor Dionysus, who won the breed at the 1978 Westminster show.

A TURNING POINT

In 1972, the same year Gene and Matthew got Gaga, their first Skye Terrier, from Goodman, they got their first Airedale Terrier, CH Querencia’s Gaby of Cragsmoor (“Gaby”), which led to a partnership with Maripi Wooldridge

and Jennifer Stevens of Terrydale Airedales in Mebane, North Carolina.

“I love the Airedales,” Matthew says. “They are like clowns.”

In December, they lost their Australian-bred Airedale, a 14-year-old bitch named “Margaret” (CH Old Iron Margaret River), who was the last terrier professional handler Peter Green campaigned before retiring. After becoming the top-winning Airedale bitch in history, she went to Matthew and Gene’s, the minority terrier among the Skyes.

Another prominent Airedale they co-owned was “Felix” (CH Terrydale’s Int’l Affair), a male who won the breed at the Garden in 1999 at age 10 and was the top-producing sire in the history of the breed. Many other Airedales they have co-owned, such as CH Terrydale’s Mystifying ME (“Mary”) and CH Terrydale HK Moraine Spin (“Blair”), have been Best in Show winners and National Specialty Best of Breed winners.

The English Toy Spaniel is another breed Matthew and Gene have bred sporadically. Their interest in the breed piqued watching breed judging at several dog shows in England. Their male, CH Cragsmoor Murray, is the most titled English Toy Spaniel worldwide.

Without a doubt, it is Gene and Matthew’s achievements with the rare Skye Terrier breed for which they are best known. A courageous, working terrier from the northwestern islands of Scotland, the Skye Terrier is twice as long as high. The breed is agile and strong, yet elegant and dignified. Most agree, the Skye has a tenacious grip on the affections of those who get to know the breed.

“Now and again, when Larry would call us to report losing the Group to a better known terrier breed, we would laugh and tell him, ‘Oh, well, it’s only a Skye Terrier,’” Gene says.

Winning more than 200 Terrier Group Firsts during his career, Charlie won 79 Bests in Show, nearly double the 41 Buddy earned, to become the top-winning Skye of all time. The No. 1 Terrier in 2014 and 2015, Charlie took Best in Show at the AKC National Championship in 2014 and at the National Dog Show in 2015. At Westminster, he won Reserve Best in Show in 2015 and repeated Terrier Group First in 2016.

“Charlie and Willie are the only father-son duo to win the Terrier Group at the Garden,” says Gene. “Without a doubt, getting Willie was

Gene walks Buddy. An inquisitive, bright breed, Skye Terriers are affectionate with their families and cautious with strangers.





a turning point for us. We had early success with females, but Willie gave us some very good males.”

Handled by Gene, Willie, at 6 ½ years old, won the Terrier Group at the Garden in 1996. Having won the Terrier Group at the World Dog Show in

Berne, Switzerland, in 1994, Willie was the first terrier to win the Group at these prestigious shows. Gene also handled Willie to two Bests of Breed at the STCA National Specialty.

Gene fell in love with Willie when he saw him at a show in Finland en route back to the States with Matthew after judging a dog show in St. Petersburg, Russia. “We tried to buy him, but his owner, Kirsi Sainio, wouldn’t sell him,” Gene says. “We convinced her to lease the dog to us.”

After Willie was returned to Sainio, she changed her mind and sent Willie back to Gene and Matthew. They became good friends with Sainio. Today, they often partner on dogs and breedings.

Charlie, who is Willie’s most famous son, came from a dual-sire frozen semen breeding to Adele. Willie’s son, “Walter” (CH Finnsky Excalibur), a

four-time Best of Breed winner at the STCA National, the last time at age 10 from the Veterans class, was the other contributor. “I wanted a litter, and I was afraid Willie’s semen was too old, which is why we used two sires,” says Gene.

Adele went to Woodridge’s home to await the breeding that would be performed by Dr. Katherine Settle of Sanford, North Carolina. Progesterone testing was done every six to 12 hours. “Dr. Settle called me and wanted to know which sire I wanted most,” Gene says. “I told her, ‘In my heart of hearts, it is the father.’”

Dr. Settle implanted Willie’s semen first, followed by Walter’s. Six puppies — four males and two females — were born. All were Willie’s except for one male. Gene and Matthew kept the Willie boys, all which became finished champions, and one female, and they sent the other female to Sainio in Finland. The Walter boy went to a home in Texas, where he does obedience work.

Although they don’t currently have a Special on the circuit, their lives are busy traveling to dog shows every weekend for *DN Dog News Magazine*. It never grows old, you can tell by the glimmer in their eyes.

What’s next?

“We just want to keep on doing what we’re doing,” says Gene. “It’s been a very good life.” ■

The *DN Dog News Magazine* office relocated to Matthew and Gene’s Oyster Bay, Long Island, property when they assumed ownership in 2016. “Our commute is now a short ride up the hill on a golf cart,” Gene says.



A DOG BREEDING ROUNDTABLE

with Veterinary Theriogenology Residents

Breeding dogs can be complicated. To help increase the number of theriogenologists, veterinary specialists trained to help breeders with the reproductive health of their dogs, provide advice on breeding decisions and care for new litters of puppies, a newly funded Theriogenology Residency Program was introduced last fall.

The program, a collaboration among the Theriogenology Foundation, American Kennel Club and AKC Canine Health Foundation, pro-

vides funding of \$100,000 for each theriogenology residency. The recipients are: Karen Von Dollen, DVM, of North Carolina State University; Carla Barstow, DVM, of Auburn University; Victor Stora, DVM, of the University of Pennsylvania; and Tessa Fiamengo, DVM, of The Ohio State University.

Today's Breeder is pleased to share this roundtable Q&A with these promising veterinary theriogenologists who will help shape the future of canine health and reproduction.

Q: How much of your work involves helping breeders understand breeding coefficients and pedigree analysis?

Dr. Barstow: We do a lot of genetic counseling with our clients, which involves the use of breeding coefficients and understanding pedigrees.



Dr. Carla Barstow

Breeding coefficients look at the percentage of inbreeding. While linebreeding can be desirable to double up on good traits, it also can double up on bad traits. The higher the inbreeding coefficient, the higher the chance the dam and sire may pass on a genetic defect and the higher the possibility of reduced fertility.

We look at the results of genetic tests and then use those results to choose the best combination of parents to minimize the chances that future offspring will have or carry these diseases. Sometimes we knowingly breed a carrier animal because he or she is a desirable breeding prospect for other reasons, but we analyze the pedigree of potential mates to ensure they are genetically clear to prevent the disease or defect from spreading further in the population. This allows us to use great dogs from a particular breed for future matings and not to limit the available gene pool.

For example, exercise-induced collapse (EIC) that occurs in Labrador Retrievers and some other

breeds is a recessive disease, meaning that an affected dog needs two copies of the bad gene in order to display signs of this disease. Because there is a DNA test for EIC, we

can test both the sire and dam. If they are both carriers of EIC, then it would be advisable not to breed that pair as 25 percent of the puppies will likely be affected by the disease. However, if the dam is an EIC carrier and the potential sire is EIC clear, then we can safely breed that pair, knowing that 50 percent of the puppies will be carriers for EIC, but none will be affected with the

disease. A female puppy that is EIC clear can then be selected from that litter to replace her dam and carry the genetics of her mother without carrying on the disease.

When examining hip dysplasia, there is not a great genetic test available that determines whether dogs will get this disease or pass it on to their future offspring. This is because there are many different genes responsible for hip dysplasia rather than a single gene that can easily be tested. This is where pedigree analysis is very important. It is not just the depth of pedigree with the parents and grandparents that matters, but also the breadth of the pedigree with littermates. It is possible that the male you are wanting to breed is "OFA (Orthopedic Foundation for Animals) Excellent" and his parents are "OFA Good." What might not be known without pedigree analysis is that this male's littermate was severely dysplastic by 6 months of age. Although your desired male is OFA Excellent, this sire is not a good choice for breeding if you want to minimize hip dysplasia in your breed.

Dr. Von Dollen: When I am discussing breeding plans and potential genetic pairings, I strive not to interfere with the carefully laid plans of a dedicated breeder. My goal is to balance respect for the considerable effort that goes into generating and developing a breeding kennel for the overall health of a breed. If an animal with an identifiable problem that would compromise the health of the offspring is presented for breeding management, I advocate for the breeder to consider the health, comfort and quality of life for all dogs involved in the breeding.



Dr. Karen Von Dollen

We look at the results of genetic tests and then use those results to choose the best combination of parents to minimize the chances that future offspring will have or carry these diseases.

Dr. Carla Barstow

Q: What are the pros and cons of breeding older bitches and older stud dogs?

Dr. Fiamengo: Many times owners hope to breed older animals. This may be because they were actively campaigning the dog when it was younger, or they want to continue to breed a dog that is producing high-quality offspring. Unfortunately, using older breeding animals of either gender can pose difficulties secondary to a reduction in fertility.

In aging bitches, for example, we see increased interestrus intervals, the length of time between

heat cycles, decreased conception rates and decreased litter size. For males, some studies have shown a significant decrease in sperm quality as early as 6 years of age. This reduced fertility does not mean that these animals can no longer be used for breeding, but it often means that it will be more challenging. With males, some

of these problems can be alleviated by collecting and freezing semen between the ages of 2 and 5 years old, when semen quality is higher and freezing success rate is greater, for use at a later point.



Dr. Victor Stora

Dr. Stora: The pros for using older bitches and older stud dogs is that it helps to keep these individuals in the genetic pool and thus helps with genetic diversity. The cons are they are subject to more illnesses, especially infertility, because of

their age. The ability to reproduce an older dog is sometimes a luxury. In a world where some dog breeds are essentially endangered species due to their limited genetic diversity, keeping the most genetic diversity is key. Eliminating older reproducing animals eliminates those genetics. Keeping them allows for more genes to flow in an already limited population.

The con to using these older animals is that there is a greater chance of disease. One caveat to consider is that having an otherwise healthy

older bitch pregnant is better than allowing her to cycle without an intention to breed her. As the bitch cycles, the effects of a nonpregnant uterus are additive. They form cysts, and this predisposes them to pyometra, a life-threatening uterine infection. The pregnant uterus is much healthier. Lastly, spaying a bitch after her breeding career is a healthy solution to this problem.

Q: What are some examples of puppy emergencies, and how do you advise breeders to handle them?

Dr. Von Dollen: When puppies are born not breathing or otherwise compromised, I advise breeders to keep them calm, keep rubbing them and keep them warm. The neonate is astoundingly resilient to the insults of oxygen deprivation. It is remarkable to see what warmth and tactile stimulation from vigorous rubbing can achieve.

Early identification of a jeopardized puppy is crucial for minimizing emergency and life-threatening situations. Breeders should use all their senses — except taste — in monitoring a litter. They should listen for distressed whimpers or suspicious quiet, smell for the products of gastrointestinal upset or unsanitary housing, feel for appropriate temperatures of puppies and environment, and observe interactions among littermates and the dam. Breeders should weigh puppies at least once daily to provide an objective result to alert whether a puppy may need intervention.



In a world where some dog breeds are essentially endangered species due to their limited genetic diversity, keeping the most genetic diversity is key.

Dr. Victor Stora

Dr. Barstow: If a puppy is not breathing after being born, it is no longer recommended to “swing” puppies to help clear fluid from the airway as that could lead to possible brain damage or the puppy being dropped, which could cause further injury. Instead, a puppy should be held with its head down at a 45-degree angle while rubbing along its back. The puppy should be rubbed very vigorously, starting from the tail and working toward the head. This helps the fluid drain without having to swing the puppy. A bulb syringe can be used to gently suck fluid from the mouth and nose. You also can gently blow a couple of breaths into a puppy’s nose and mouth to help expand the lungs.

If a puppy is not gaining weight, it could be due to some puppies being weaker than their littermates and needing supplementation for the first couple of days. This puppy will need to be either tube- or bottle-fed every couple of hours around the clock. Eye droppers and sponges have been used but are not recommended as they have a higher risk of causing pneumonia from the milk being accidentally inhaled.

Puppies do not have the extra fat stores that adults have so it is very important that puppies eat often and that they are gaining weight. Weight gain during the first few days is the single most important factor of puppy well-being. If they are not gaining weight, then they should be supplemented with a high-quality puppy milk replacer. Many people prefer to use goat or cow milk; however, cow milk doesn’t have enough fat or protein, and goat milk doesn’t have enough carbohydrates or milk solids, which contain lactose and minerals.

If a puppy is cold and not gaining weight or thriving, breeders should check the temperature of the whelping box. Cold puppies don’t nurse and then they lose weight, and it becomes a vicious cycle. It is important to ensure that a puppy is warm before it is fed. Otherwise, the milk will curdle in the stomach, as puppies’ digestive systems do not work appropriately when they are cold. The temperature of the room should be about 75 degrees Fahrenheit. A warming lamp

or heating pad set on low can be placed in one corner of the box. Puppies need to be able to crawl away from it in case they get too warm. Determine how puppies are gathered when resting to gauge how they are doing. Puppies piled on top of one another are likely cold, and those spread all over the box are probably comfortable.

Q: What are the most common problems dog breeders face and for which they seek specialists?

Dr. Stora: I would have to say ovulation timing. There are a lot of myths about when the most fertile period is in the female. Commonly, female dogs are labeled infertile when, in fact, they are not. They are just improperly timed. Female dogs can have cycles that differ from one another, with some being longer than others. Going by the old paradigm of “breeding after 13 days of spotting or vaginal bleeding” will commonly get it right if the female is average, but this will always miss the outliers that have a different cycle.

For example, suppose a dog is in proestrus, the period of time before ovulation or the first nine days of bleeding. Estrus is the period of ovulation and the fertile period, with the middle being the most fertile. Estrus is nine days on average, therefore 13 days after bleeding would be excellent timing to breed the average female. If a female is slightly different and in proestrus for a longer period, the fertile period would not be just 13 days after bleeding. Ovulation timing and the ability to time the female’s heat cycle more accurately in order to catch female dogs that are different than the norm are the most common problems breeders face.

Dr. Fiamengo: One of the most common concerns we address outside of routine breeding management or semen collection appointments is breeding soundness on animals that are experiencing subfertility issues. Breeders also often call us for consults on concerns about a pregnancy, whelping and the weaning process and options for mismatings, or accidental breedings, which may include allowing the bitch to carry the litter to term or terminating the pregnancy. ■



Dr. Tessa Fiamengo

Circle of Champions



LABRADOR RETRIEVER 'MICKEY' IS 2016 NATIONAL RETRIEVER CHAMPION

A hard-charging 8-year-old male black Labrador Retriever called "Mickey" propelled through 10 challenging land and water series to win the 2016 National Retriever Championship this past November in Bonham, Texas. NFC-AFC Windy City's Mighty Mouse, a four-time National Finalist, topped 97 retrievers to give owner-handler Charlie Hines of Hinsdale, Illinois, a 27-year veteran of the sport, his first National win after having handled 13 National Finalists. "Mickey has a positive attitude," Hines says. "He is a consistent performer who would run successfully for anyone bringing him to the line." Mickey is fueled by *Purina Pro Plan SPORT* Performance 30/20 Salmon & Rice Formula.

"Mickey," a four-time National Finalist, won the National Retriever Championship.

SUSSEX SPANIEL 'BEAN' THRIVES ON ATTENTION

With clownish energy, Multi-BIS GCH Kamand Full Of Beans @ Erinhill has become the No. 1 Sussex Spaniel in all-breed competition. The 6 ½-year-old male, called "Bean," earned five Bests in Show his first year on the circuit. Bred from the first Sussex Spaniel litter for mother-daughter owners Karen and Amanda Toner of Hampden, Massachusetts, Bean was purposely held back from showing until his littermate brother, "Barney," retired. Pro handler Per Ingar Rismyhr of East Granby, Connecticut, guided the longtime Cocker Spaniel breeders to getting a Sussex bitch, Bean's dam, from the renown Clussexx Spaniel kennel of Doug Johnson. Bean's famous maternal grandsire, "Stump," is the winningest Sussex of all time, with 51 Bests in Show, setting a record as the oldest dog to win Westminster when he took Best in Show in 2009 at age 10, and his paternal grandsire, "Stoney," is the second top-winning Sussex, with 17 Bests in Show. Bean is fed *Purina Pro Plan SPORT* Performance 30/20 Chicken & Rice Formula.



The No. 1 Sussex Spaniel, "Bean," known for his outgoing personality, often sits up on his hind legs in the ring to give a high-five to his handler.



WEST HIGHLAND WHITE TERRIER 'RONDO' FULFILLS OWNER'S DREAMS

A spunky, full-of-himself attitude has given Multi-BIS Lotrando Sunshine Celebration a winning edge, says owner-handler Vanessa Skou of Mooresville, North Carolina. The No. 1 West Highland White Terrier all systems and No. 3 Terrier sent Skou halfway around the world to Slovakia to pick him up as a 9-month-old puppy. "I was fascinated by his sire, Un Pour Moi Du Moulin De Mac Gregor," she says. "When I saw there was a litter by 'Bastien,' I inquired and got lucky." In 2015, at almost 2 years of age, "Rondo" won the breed from the classes at two all-breed shows held during the prestigious all-terrier Montgomery County Kennel Club show weekend. He went on to take a Group Three at the esteemed Morris & Essex Kennel Club show, and a Group Two the following day at the Hatboro Dog Club show. Living in Hawaii at the time, Skou came out of retirement as a pro handler and moved to the mainland so she could campaign her dream Westie. Today, the 3-year-old male, co-owned with Zane Smith of Boerne, Texas, has won 22 Bests in Show. Rondo is fed *Purina Pro Plan FOCUS Sensitive Skin & Stomach Formula*.

"Rondo," the No. 1 West Highland White Terrier all systems, stands out with his excellent conformation and animated personality.

BLUETICK COONHOUND 'ALLIE' IS 2017 GRAND AMERICAN NITE HUNT CHAMPION

A talented, young Bluetick Coonhound called "Allie" hunted with independence and treed with accuracy to win to win the 2017 United Kennel Club Grand American Nite Hunt in January in Orangeburg, South Carolina. Outperforming more than 600 hounds, the 1 ½-year-old female, 'PR' Payt's Sassy Allie Girl, clinched the championship after three rounds, an impressive feat especially since it was only her second competitive hunt. "Allie is a natural in the woods with the drive, speed and intelligence needed to be competitive," says owner-handler Ronnie Mills of Gray, Kentucky, a newcomer to the sport after pleasure hunting with his hounds for 12 years. "Once she's cut from the lead, she doesn't waste time getting to work." Allie is powered by *Purina Pro Plan SPORT Performance 30/20 Chicken & Rice Formula*.

In her second competitive nite hunt, "Allie" outperformed more than 600 coonhounds to win the UKC Grand American.



Please visit the Circle of Champions on the *Purina Pro Club* website at purinaproclub.com to read about top-performing show and sporting dogs powered by *Purina Pro Plan*.

PURINA RECOGNIZES ALL-AGE BIRD DOG AWARD WINNERS



CH Whippoorwill Justified, the Purina Top Field Trial Bird Dog

Front-running, stylish and determined, these high-achieving bird dogs commanded the all-age circuit with stellar field performances during the 2015-2016 season to become Purina Award winners. Enthusiasts gathered in Reno, Nevada, this past June to honor the winners and celebrate their achievements.

A 3-year-old white-and-liver Pointer called “Patch,” whose season included an impressive win at the 2016 National Championship for Field Trialing Bird Dogs, became the 53rd annual Purina Top Field Trial Bird Dog. CH Whippoorwill Justified is owned by Ronnie Spears of Jacksonville, Arkansas, and handled by pro Larry Huffman of

Michigan City, Mississippi, both first-time Purina Award winners. “Patch is a natural who runs to the front and points well. He doesn’t need much help from me,” Huffman says.

Not your average “Joe,” a 3-year-old Pointer was hospitalized a few nights halfway through the season due to swelling in his throat caused by a virus but overcame the odds to win the ninth annual Purina Amateur Top Field Trial Bird Dog Award. Owner-trainer Larry Smith of Pleasant Hill, Iowa, who handles CH S F Bandwagon, says, “Joe is a steady, consistent competitor. I’m thrilled he’s joining the revered ranks of amateur all-age greats.”

A small dog with a big heart, “Pat” more than sized up to the competition by placing in every derby all-age horseback stake he was entered to capture the fourth annual Purina Derby Top Field Trial Bird Dog Award. The 2-year-old white-and-orange Pointer, named Shadow’s Next Exit, is owned by Butch Houston of Nashville, Georgia. “Pat is a great ground-working and front-running dog. He’s a little dynamite with a tremendous ability to find birds,” says pro Robin Gates of Leesburg, Georgia, who handled Pat with pro Luke Eisenhart of Albany, Georgia, winner of the 28th annual Purina Top All-Age Handler Award.

“One man doesn’t win the Purina Award on his own,” says Eisenhart, who has won four Purina Handler Awards in the past five seasons. “It takes a team of good owners, scouts and dogs.” ■

PHOTO: CHRIS MATHAN



Shadow’s Next Exit, the Purina Derby Top Field Trial Bird Dog



CH S F Bandwagon, the Purina Amateur Top Field Trial Bird Dog



Luke Eisenhart, the Purina Top All-Age Handler

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Breed Snapshot



PUMI: A HUNGARIAN HERDING BREED

Developed over centuries by Hungarian shepherds, the Pumi was an intelligent herding dog used to drive livestock from the village to pastures on the outskirts of town, keeping them out of nearby gardens and fields. During the day, the Pumi tended the livestock under the direction of the shepherd, and then drove them back to the village in the evening. Endearing today for his whimsical expression and spirited nature, the Pumi became the 190th breed to be recognized by the American Kennel Club in 2016.

The Pumi is one of the three Hungarian herding breeds to have originated from Tibetan herding-guarding dogs that migrated with the Magyars, or Hungarians, and their livestock to the Carpathian Basin of central Europe around A.D. 800. In the early 20th century, the Hungarians separated the Pumi, Puli and Mudi into distinct breeds. The names Pumi and Puli were used interchangeably for many years as the Pumi, found in the hills of western Hungary, was considered a regional variation of the Puli, from the eastern Hungarian plains.

True to his working roots, the Pumi today is a quick learner that excels in virtually all sports, including agility, obedience, herding, flyball, tracking, coursing, nose work, and conformation. The Pumi is a suitable breed for homes with lots of activity and owners who are willing to spend time training with physical and mental exercises. This medium-sized dog is distinguished by his semi-erect ears, long head, square shape, and wavy-curly coat, which is black, white, any shade of gray, or fawn. A thinking dog that assesses each new situation and tends to be reserved with strangers, the Pumi is eager to please and bonds closely to his family. Males are 16 to 18 ½ inches tall at the withers and weigh 27 to 29 pounds, and females are 15 to 17 ½ inches tall, weighing 22 to 24 pounds.

Sources: *The Complete Dog Book*, Official Publication of the American Kennel Club, i-5 Publishing, Irvine, CA, 2015. The Hungarian Pumi Club of America (<http://pumiclub.org>).