



®

# PURINA

## *Today's Breeder*

A Nestlé Purina Publication Dedicated to the Needs of Canine Enthusiasts

Issue 74



### BREEDER PROFILE

Eternal Moon Rottweilers

Odyssey German Shorthairs

Retriever Trial Seminar

Pug Dog Encephalitis

Breeders Turned Show Judges

# The READERS' PAGE



*Pro Club* member Patti Simmons of Reed Creek Labs in Hartwell, Ga., shares this photo of her recent litter of 10 yellow Labrador Retriever puppies.

I want to share this amazing photo of my recent litter sired by HRCH UH CH Kerrybrooks Vince, MH ("Vince") out of Ransom's Alegria @ ReedCreek, MH ("Alli"). What a wonderful litter. These 10 beautiful, healthy puppies were started on *Pro Plan Selects* puppy food, and I sent each puppy buyer home with a bag of their *Selects* puppy food.

This photo was taken by a friend's daughter, Amy Raycroft (Raycroft Art at [www.raycroftart.com](http://www.raycroftart.com)). Amy was here with her children playing with the puppies, and at the end of the day, she wanted to get a picture of the litter for me. We grabbed the puppies, plopped them behind the bench and stepped back. It took all of 5 minutes to set up. Sheer luck!

**Patti Simmons**  
Reed Creek Labs  
Hartwell, GA

I have been breeding Collies under the Bluwave prefix since 2008, which is when I became a member of *Purina*

*Pro Club*. All my puppies are raised on *Pro Plan* Chicken & Rice, and I feed *Pro Plan* Chicken & Rice Shredded Blend to adult dogs. My dogs all have wonderful, shiny coats, and they eat well, which can be challenging for the "picky" Collie.

The first litter I bred produced a Smooth Coat Collie male, named "Vince," who is now an AKC Grand Champion. I am proud to say that Vince went to his first show as a 6-month-old and came home with a three-point Specialty Major Winners Dog, later finishing as a 10-month-



Bluwave Collies breeder Jennifer Zappone's Smooth Coat Collie, "Vince," is an AKC Grand Champion.

old puppy. In April 2010, he went Best of Opposite Sex to Best of Variety (Smooth) at the Tri-County Collie Breeders Show. Vince will soon sire his first litter and continue his Specials career. I owe all his wins and success to *Pro Plan* and our regimental exercise program, which helps keep him in great shape.

**Jennifer Zappone**  
Bluwave Collies  
Torrington, CT

I have been an exhibitor/breeder of Australian Terriers since 1995 and have always fed my dogs *Purina Pro Plan* Performance and my puppies *Pro Plan* Puppy Chicken & Rice.

I am a *Pro Club* Member, and the Australian Terrier Club of America benefits from my turning in my weight circles. When puppies go to their new homes, I always send *Pro Plan* Puppy Starter Kits along with samples of food to head them in the right direction.

Proper nutrition is essential in a dog's health, and *Pro Plan* gives my dogs great nutritional balance and keeps them in good body weight. They have healthy coats and good muscle tone.



Temora Australian Terrier breeder Julie Seaton is shown with her Best of Opposite Sex winner at the 2010 National Specialty.

At our 2010 National Specialty Show under judge Michelle Billings, my 14-month-old Bred-By, Temora Ri Dierc, won Winners Dog. He won again the following day and finished his AKC championship. My 12-month-old Bred-By, Temora Maid in Islay, won Winners Bitch and Best of Winners. My 3-year-old bitch, GCH Temora Taint She Sweet, won Best of Opposite.

With the help of *Pro Plan* Performance Formula, Temora Australian Terriers had another banner year!

**Julie Seaton**  
Temora Australian Terriers  
Muskeo, WI

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

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## 4 THE ART OF ETERNAL MOON

Applying her knowledge of composition and balance learned as a horsewoman and artist to breeding Rottweilers, Linda Draper has successfully breeder-owner-handled 20 conformation champions. Exceptional temperament is a priority at her Eternal Moon kennel in Apex, N.C., and has played a role in her Rotties earning titles in several performance sports.

## 12 TAKING A TEAM APPROACH

Nearly 40 years after a mysterious disease began in Pugs, a marker test was developed for Pug Dog encephalitis (PDE) in 2010 to identify dogs at risk. Though breeders and owners initially refused to recognize PDE as a problem in the breed, their working together ultimately led to successful fundraising and support of research.

## 20 A BREEDER'S-EYE VIEW

Breeder judges are among the toughest in a show ring simply because they have firsthand experience evaluating the breed. Their critical review of balance, shape, form and function helps to mold the next generation of dogs and assures that the characteristics defined in the breed standard are upheld.

## 26 A DUAL ODYSSEY

The breeders of a record eight dual champions, Chuck and Judy Parietti concentrate on producing bird dogs that are foremost hunting dogs but also companions that share their home. At their Odyssey German Shorthairs' kennel in Maryville, Mo., the Pariettis have mastered the fine details involved in raising quality field trial dogs with good conformation.



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#### On Our Cover

GCH Redyre Choice v Eternal Moon, a 3 ½-year-old male Rottweiler co-bred by Rebekah James and Linda Draper and co-owned by Draper, Scott Waitzer and Hannah Fournell-Ferral. "E.T." is handled by Draper. Cover photo by Diane Lewis. See the story on page 4.

# THE *Art* OF ETERNAL MOON

BY BARBARA FAWVER



Romping in a partly wooded one-and-a-half-acre fenced yard, a pack of large, bearlike black dogs with short, docked tails are a sight of uncanny, breathtaking beauty. Walking with them is the unmistakable leader of the pack, Eternal Moon Rottweiler breeder Linda Draper.

"I find the natural pack instinct of this breed fascinating," says Linda, as she calls out to 13-year-old "Tolkien," the gray-muzzled elder, and 3 ½-year-old "E.T.," an energetic youngster. "It takes years to understand the delicate balance of pack order. The social order is like a ladder. As long as each dog sits on a different rung, they all get along. Without a doubt, you have to be alpha."

Nuzzling and brushing up against one another, the Rottweilers move in a herd, running up and down a slope in the center of the yard. "My 'pack' began 18 years ago half out of naivety and half out of necessity," she says, referring to raising her first litter in her parents' home on a golf course in Virginia Beach, Va.

"Like raw beginners, we kept four pups — two males and two females — from our first litter due to not being able to part with our precious bundles," Linda continues. "The pups had a good start with lots of interaction with people and other dogs, and that began the pack with a nice, comfortable social order."

A move to North Carolina three years ago brought more room and a better setup for breeding Rottweilers, but little has changed about the way litters are raised. On this day, 3-week-old puppies from the "L" litter and their dam, "Ember," are the center of attention from the whelping box in the family room.

House dogs Tolkien, "Pumpkin," an 11-year-old female Rottweiler, and "Shocka," a 5-year-old Norwich Terrier, occasionally mosey over to check out the puppies. E.T., enjoying his rotation in the house, does one march around the box and then lies down on a cushy dog bed. Linda and her mother, Millie Draper, frequently pick up puppies, cuddling and talking to them. The central location introduces the puppies to household sounds.

"I want my dogs to be healthy not only physically but mentally," Linda says, picking up and gently stroking a puppy. "When I started, I wrongly believed that genetics did not play as important a role in temperament as raising, caring, socializing and training the Rottweiler. I've learned

it does start with genetics and then follows through with everything else to raise a mentally balanced, secure Rottweiler."

"Temperament to die for" is a phrase Linda often uses in describing her dogs. Prime examples of their easygoing ways: During the show careers of Tolkien and "Trinity," a bitch from a 2004 litter sired by Tolkien, the dogs doubled in the junior handling show ring led by 11-year-old Kelly Cunningham and 10-year-old Hannah Fournell-Ferral, respectively.

Tolkien, whelped from Linda's first litter in 1997, was her first show champion. "I was lucky from the start," she says.

BISS AM/CAN/UKC CH Eternal Moon Lord Of the Ring, CGC, TDI, TT, CS, CI, CGN, AM/CAN CD, RN, attained impressive Top 10 breed and all-breed rankings among breeder-owner-handled Rottweilers in 2000 and 2001 and was the only breeder-owner-handled Top 20 Rottweiler in 2001. Known for

his smiling, a trait he passed on to his offspring, Tolkien has been called an "ambassador" of the

American Rottweiler.

Tolkien began Linda's journey as the breeder-owner-handler of 12 champions finished from the Bred-By-Exhibitor (BBE) class. Eight champions that did not exclusively earn points in the BBE class make altogether 20 Eternal Moon owner-handled champions.

Tolkien has another important credit, one that will potentially help advance treatment of malignant cancers in people and dogs. Last fall, Tolkien became



"Ember" sits with puppies from the "L" litter.



AKC medallions Linda earned for finishing show champions from the Bred-By-Exhibitor class.



House dogs relaxing on the sun porch are, from left, "E.T.," Ember, "Tolkien," "Shocka," and "Pumpkin."

Left: Linda Draper, pictured at home with some of her Eternal Moon Rottweilers, is the leader of the pack.



Linda drills "Boyd" in obedience. Boyd has won High in Trials and Top Tens in the American Rottweiler Club.

the 26th Rottweiler and fourth male to qualify for an aging and longevity study at the Gerald P. Murphy Cancer Foundation of Purdue University in West Lafayette, Ind. When he turned 13 years old last September, Tolkien joined the ranks of some of the longest-lived Rotties.

David J. Waters, D.V.M., Ph.D., the lead investigator, visited Tolkien at home to examine and observe the dog, the equivalent of a 100-year-old person. His goal is to learn more about the impact of environment, stress, socialization and daily living on Rottweilers that live longer.

In describing Tolkien for an article in the *Colonial Rottweiler Club Newsletter*, Waters said, "Descriptors like impressive specimen, perfect gentleman come to mind. He seemed to approve of my every poke, every prod as I conducted my thorough physical examination. . . . Most of all, I will remember Tolkien as my teacher."

Tolkien also has taught Linda a great deal about Rottweilers. "He has a heart of gold and is always willing to undertake any task I ask of him,"

she says. "Even before carting became a title to be earned, Tolkien was pulling my cart full of art and booth equipment into buildings."

A professional portrait artist, Linda often paints or exhibits her work, which includes beautiful dog portraits, after busy days showing her dogs. Memories of one dog show when Tolkien navigated the cart through a tight space stand out. As Linda recalls, "A lady peered out her RV window and said, 'Isn't that your Special and won't he be exhausted to show?'" I replied, 'Yes, he is, and no, he won't be too tired. He is a working dog who enjoys this.'

One of Tolkien's male offspring, "Boyd" (Eternal Moon Exclusive Bear, CGC, RN, RE, RAE, CD, TT), is exceptional at obedience, having won High in Trials and Top Tens in the American Rottweiler Club. Though a reverse-scissor bite prevented Boyd

from being shown in conformation, Linda kept him due to his loving temperament. "Like his sire, Boyd is one of those once-in-a-lifetime ambassadors of the breed," she says.



Trotting around the ring, E.T. exhibits proper Rottweiler movement with strong forereach and powerful rear drive.

### 'Bigger Than a Breadbox'

Linda wanted a dog that was "bigger than a breadbox" when she bought her first Rottweiler, a bitch named "Tara," in 1993 from Radio Ranch Rottweiler breeders Pam Crump-Brown and Carolyn Ferguson. Fond memories of the big, brown eyes, loving temperament and mentally strong characteristics of her high school boyfriend's pet Rottie led her to the breed.

"I wanted a buddy," she says. "I wanted a wash-and-wear dog you could wrap your arms around, one that you could put in a car and go somewhere."

Before Rottweilers, Linda, a self-described tomboy growing up, had show horses. She won many awards, including the International Buckskin Horse Association's World Champion All-Around Youth Award.

Since Linda started with horses, the muscular, 100-pound-plus build of the Rottweiler, defined by substantial bone and muscle mass balancing a compact frame and giving a powerful appearance, did not intimidate her. She recognized the "look" — that serious gaze from almond-shaped, dark brown eyes in which the Rottweiler sizes you up, taking you in — as a façade reflecting the breed's self-assured aloofness.

"The Rottweiler rationalizes and analyzes individual situations. This is a reasoning breed that responds with a wait-and-see attitude," she explains.

"I applied what I learned about horses to Tara," says Linda. "Tara had incredible coat. I brushed her in a circular motion as though I were currying a horse."

Though Tara (U-AGI Radio Ranch Eternal Notara) didn't finish in con-

## The Roman Drover Dog

An ancient Roman drover dog, the Rottweiler was a dependable, willing worker that possessed intelligence and a strong guarding instinct. His travels with Roman armies to conquer Europe led to his being named after the German village of Rottweil. Originally used to pull carts, herd stock and assist police, the Rottweiler is strong-willed and powerful yet gentle and devoted to his family.

Eternal Moon Rottweiler breeder Linda Draper was attracted to Rottweilers because of their diversity. "They can compete in conformation, agility, obedience, herding, tracking, rally, weight pulling, carting, and Schutzhund," she says. "The Rottweiler not only pulls from instinct and structure but also analyzes individual situations."



GCH Redyre Choice v Eternal Moon

formation, Linda put a Canine Good Citizen title on her. She also certified Tara as a therapy dog through Therapy Dog International, which allowed them to visit hospital patients and students at an alternative high school.

Tara became Linda's constant companion. When Tara was 2 ½ years old, Linda found the perfect sire for the bitch. CH Full Moon's As Good As It Gets, owned by John Patterson and Mike Rampmeyer, was the No. 2 Rottweiler in the country and top producer in the breed. Unsure whether they would allow a non-champion to be bred to their sire, Linda sent them a portfolio with photographs of Tara and a video of her performing agility.

"When I didn't hear from them for two weeks, I was on pins and needles,"

recalls Linda. "I finally called them. 'Oh, you're the artist, right? Sure, no problem,' they told me."

Nine puppies were whelped in Tara's "A" litter. In choosing a kennel name to register the litter, Linda liked Eternal Moon because it was similar but more befitting for Rottweilers than Eternal Sun, the name of her favorite Quarter Horse sire. Since the sire's prefix was Full Moon, she checked with Patterson and Rampmeyer to be sure they were OK with her choice. They were. She also adopted an Eternal Moon kennel slogan: "Shoot for the moon and land among the stars."

The litter included Tolkien and "Raspberry" (AM/CAN CH Eternal Moon Cloak The Sun, CGC, TDI, TT), who was named for the color of her puppy collar. Raspberry became Eternal Moon's foundation bitch and the dam of the next two litters.



Linda cuddles 3-week-old Rottweiler puppies.

Tragically, Tara died from lymphosarcoma when her puppies were 8 months old. With four puppies from Tara's litter living in their home, the Drapers were busy. William Draper, Linda's father, had his favorite, "Sherman," a fat, square puppy who accompanied him everywhere.

When Raspberry whelped the "B" litter in 2000 from an outcross breeding, Linda kept a male and female puppy. Pumpkin, one of the current house dogs, was chosen for her "beautiful face, perfect earset, black eyes, good shoulders and forechest, and nice topline," Linda says. Her littermate, "Java," was selected for his "excellent topline and movement like silk mercury," she says. "No one could ever hear his feet hit the ground. He also has the eyes and temperament to melt any heart."

Linda's eye for good composition and balance has carried over to her Rottweiler breeding. "Not every dog I breed is perfect, but I strive to produce good structure and balance that I learned as a horsewoman and artist," she says. "The most important things to me are a straight topline, balance, temperament and health, though there are many other aspects that are important as well. I love a beautiful head with strong bone and substance, for example. I clearly breed for the Rottweiler standard, but my heart and eye lead me to an artistic Quarter Horse vision of them. I also wait until my Rottweilers have cleared health tests and earned the breed's CHIC (Canine Health Information Center) certification before breeding them."

With a handful of Rotties from her first two breedings, Linda began traveling to weekend dog shows, including Canadian Kennel Club shows. At the 2001 Sovereign Rottweiler Club of Ontario Regional Specialty Show, Rottweilers from her A and B litters took top honors: Tolkien won Best in Specialty Show; Pumpkin (AM/BISS-CAN/UKC CH Eternal Moon Bats-



Linda and her mother, Millie Draper, sit on the front porch with, from left, "Hunter," E.T. and Shocka.

N-Pumpkins, CD, RN, RA, CGC, TDI, TT) took Winners Bitch, Best of Winners and Best of Opposite Sex; Java (AM/CAN/UKC CH Eternal Moon Black-N-Hot, CGC, TDI, TT) was Winners Dog; and Raspberry was Best Brood Bitch. The following year, Pumpkin returned to Sovereign to win Best in Specialty Show.

Raspberry's "C" litter, an outcross breeding sired by CH Mileah's Egyptian Blue, the No. 1 Working Group winner in 2000, produced an extraordinary bitch, "Kenya." Just before turning 1 year old in April 2003, Kenya was named VVN1 Most Beautiful Puppy at a Seiger Show in Colorado. That November, Kenya made history at the Medallion Rottweiler Club Specialty Show when she took Best of Opposite Sex from the Bred-By-Exhibitor class out of a 300-dog entry. As her name reflects, BISS/AM Select-1/CAN CH Eternal Moon C.E.O., AM-CD, CAN-CDX-CD, BH, TDX, TR1, DD, CGC, TT, RN, CDI, went on to earn many performance titles in obedience and rally.

In 2004, Linda bred her first linebreeding, essentially an "uncle-to-niece" breeding, with Tolkien as the sire and Pumpkin as the dam of the "E" litter. The result was Boyd and Trinity. "The breeding produced extraordinary temperaments," Linda says.

### A Better Kennel Setup

After 10 years' breeding Rottweilers at her parents' Virginia Beach home, Linda longed to live somewhere with a better kennel setup and more space to raise and exercise large-breed dogs. Moving to a bigger



Linda grooms "Jet," an 11-month-old bitch. "Besides providing good one-on-one time, the best way to be aware of any problem is to put dogs on the grooming table and run your hands over them," she says. Inset photo: Eternal Moon Rotties enjoy *Pro Plan* Biscuits.

property also would allow her more leeway than the one litter she bred every two or three years in Virginia.

Apex, N.C., a small community half way between Raleigh and Durham, provided the answer: a beautiful new home on three acres close to cultural events, the airport and dog shows. Coincidentally, in 2007, the year the Drapers moved to North Carolina, *Money* magazine ranked Apex as the 14th best place to live in the U.S. "I had shown dogs in Raleigh for many years," Linda says. "I loved the area."

The only child of William and Millie Draper, Linda was 2 years old when her father retired from the Marine Corps after 25 years' service, during which he earned a Silver Star while stationed in Korea in 1951. The family moved from Hawaii, where Linda was born, to Gross Pointe, Mich., where her father became a bank vice president.

Linda's artistic talent showed early. "I was always doodling in school," she says.

After high school, she enrolled in the Detroit Art School to study advertising illustration, later transferring to the world-famous Art Center College of Design in Pasadena, Calif. When she finished, she moved to New York City to work as an illustrator. During five years in New York, she met famous illustrators through the Society of Illustrators. Her artwork appeared on

posters at Radio City Music Hall and on album covers, stamps and book covers.

The experience was invaluable, but ultimately Linda knew she wanted something different. A holiday visit to her parents' home brought the chance to meet Wellington Ward, a college friend of her mother's and

nautical artist who suggested Linda write a letter to NASA requesting to become part of the NASA art team. The timing was perfect. Linda was commissioned by NASA several times during the next few years.

"NASA gave me tremendous exposure and involved me in amazing events," says Linda. "Being part of NASA's art team was an experience of a lifetime."

After living in New York City, Linda moved in with her parents. In addition to her work for NASA, she began developing a business doing her lifelong passion: portrait artwork. Her clients included corporations that hired her to paint company presidents and people desiring keepsake artwork of their families, children and pets. She designed kennel club





## The Eternal Moon Artist

Visitors to the American Kennel Club (AKC) office in Raleigh, N.C., always notice the beautiful portraits of the seven AKC Groups of dog displayed in the reception area. According to John Lyons, AKC Chief Operating Officer, "We get more compliments on these pictures than any others in the building."

The framed artwork, on loan from Eternal Moon artist and Rottweiler breeder Linda Draper, was created from 1995 to 2002. The paintings feature portraits of a puppy and adult dog representing every breed in the groups when they were produced.

"First, Linda's art is beautiful," Lyons says. "Second, it educates our eye about different breeds and the groups they are in. Third, these dogs were actual top dogs in the ring. People remember them."

Each painting took Linda about 200 hours to produce, which includes time researching the dogs of each breed to feature. "When I first started showing dogs, I joined the Virginia Beach Kennel Club (VBKC)," Linda says. "I noticed everyone had a job. I knew I could paint, so I proposed the idea that I would paint one portrait of the AKC Groups per year until all seven were completed. For many years, the VBKC offered framed, signed prints to Group First winners."

A limited edition of 400 prints was produced of each portrait. Giclees printed on heavy-stock, rag paper still are available for \$100 each plus \$20 shipping. For information, please contact Linda by e-mail at [linda.etmoon@gmail.com](mailto:linda.etmoon@gmail.com). You also may visit her website at [www.etmoon.net](http://www.etmoon.net).



Linda Draper and John Lyons of the AKC are pictured in front of Linda's Hound Group portrait displayed at the AKC office in Raleigh, N.C. Linda's portraits of all seven AKC Groups, including the Sporting Group, left, can be viewed in the reception area.

Purina is pleased to announce that Linda has been commissioned to paint an original oil painting of the dog that wins this year's *Pro Plan* Champions Cup. The award will be presented to the dog earning the most points in over 200 Purina-sponsored all-breed dogs shows, based on Best in Show and Group placements. For information, visit [www.purinaproclub.com](http://www.purinaproclub.com).



Mementos from Linda's visits to NASA while working as a commissioned artist are displayed in a shadow box.

logos for commemorative events.

"My heart always desired to do portrait painting," Linda says. "My painting style is a hybrid of sorts — a cross of illustration and renaissance painting style. I paint from my soul."

The Drapers' home in North Carolina is filled with Linda's artwork and shadow boxes that showcase mementos from her wins at the Sovereign Specialty Show in 2001, visits to NASA and her father's military medals and ribbons. William Draper died shortly after the family moved to North Carolina.

Linda and her mother, Millie, share a passion for the dogs. When they moved, they converted a spacious garage into a heated and air-conditioned kennel. Framed photos of dog show wins and displays of rosettes, medallions and Rottweiler signage decorate the spotless kennel. A kitchen area makes it easy to prepare *Purina Pro Plan* for morning and evening meals.

"Puppies get *Pro Plan* Chicken & Rice Puppy food, and adult dogs are fed *Pro Plan* Chicken & Rice Formula All Life Stages," Linda says. "Dogs being campaigned receive *Pro Plan* Performance, and senior dogs are fed *Pro Plan* Chicken & Rice Formula Adult 7+. I am a big believer in the nutritional excellence of *Purina Pro Plan*. And, of course, the dogs never let me forget their coveted *Pro Plan* Biscuits."

Linda believes in giving her Eternal Moon Rottweilers plenty of exercise. The dogs spend a good portion of the day outdoors exercising in fenced paddocks. An exercise jogger in the kennel is used in inclement weather.

The newest member of the Eternal Moon pack is 4-month-old "Lalique" from Ember's recent L litter. The Rottweiler puppy already has taken her place on the Eternal Moon social ladder. She represents the 12th generation, a bloodline that began with Tolkien and Raspberry. Without a doubt, Linda is the leader of the pack. ■



A collection of prizes won by Eternal Moon Rottweilers at the 2001 Sovereign Rottweiler Club of Ontario Regional Specialty Show is shown in this shadow box.

Purina Farms' head trainer John Casey takes a question from a student during the Purina Farms' Pets Go To School program.



High-Performance

# Pet Education

BY KAITE FLAMM

The bell rings, and the sounds of young feet scurrying down the hallway mix with the sounds of nails clicking on the floor. The performing pets from Purina Farms are making their way into the gym for an assembly the students at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School in Washington, Mo., won't soon forget.

On this winter day, more than 240 students, pre-school through eighth grade, are taking part in the Purina Farms' Pets Go To School program. They



"Blade," a 6-year-old Border Collie mix adopted from a shelter, is a natural at flying disc.

soon will be treated to a top-caliber show featuring trainers performing with highly talented dogs and cats. The lessons taught will include proper pet care, unconditional love and respect for animals, the value of giving dogs second chances, and the significance of the human-animal bond.

"What do pets need every day?" asks head trainer John Casey.

An excited student thrusts her hand in the air, shouting out, "Air! That's what they need every single day of their lives."

Casey, who was expecting an answer of food, water or exercise, nods in agreement, not wanting to dissuade any student from contributing to the discussion. Pets Go To School is about opening up a dialogue with children that leads them to understand that animals should be treated with respect, kindness and care.

The Purina Farms' Pets Go To School program runs each year from November to February, reaching thousands of students at more than 30 schools. Any school in the metropolitan St. Louis area can request the free program, so there's a waiting list. For most schools like Our Lady of Lourdes, the wait is worth it.

“The credit for bringing this sought-after program to our school goes to one of our dedicated parents, Laurie Weber,” says principal Erin Whalen. “Laurie read a newspaper article about the program, and she called me immediately to see how we could bring the program to our school.”

Weber, the mother of two students, ages 5 and 7, made a special trip to the school the day of the assembly to sit among the students and see firsthand their reactions to the program. “I couldn’t wait for this amazing program to come to my daughters’ school,” Weber says. “I knew the minute my daughter Ella saw the dog catching a flying disc in the air that she would flip. I just love to see her light up.”

### Flying Disc Excitement

Right out of the gate with music booming in the background, Purina Farms’ trainer Tracy Custer and her Australian Cattle Dog mix, “Rampage,” start off the show with action-packed excitement. Custer starts into a flying disc throw and catch, followed by three short tosses in a row that Rampage easily grabs while standing upright on his hind legs.

“Learning should be exciting,” says Whalen. “I am always looking for new ways to enrich the curriculum for our students so they look forward to coming to school and being an active participant. Not only does the Pets Go To School program entertain the students, it also sends a priceless message to them about the need for compassion and understanding when it comes to animals.”

After the opening flying disc routine, Casey talks about a topic close to his heart: pet rescue. “Who has a couch potato dog at home?” he asks.

Several students hesitantly raise their hands, as Casey proceeds to tell them “any dog can be incredible, from couch potato dogs to overly hyper dogs, if given proper training, good nutrition and lots of love.”

Many of the dogs that perform as part of the Pets Go To School program were adopted from shelters and rescue groups. For a few, the Purina Farms’ trainers were their last stop on a journey that took them to several homes that weren’t the right fit.

“It’s important for children to see that no matter what beginning a dog, or even a person, has had, he or she can still be great,” Casey says. “What may be seen as a fault by some people will be seen as an asset by others. The key is to never give up on anyone or anything.”



Trainer Tracy Custer crouches as “Rampage,” an Australian Cattle Dog mix, leaps off her back to catch a flying disc.

One of the most important lessons of the day comes when a fourth-grade volunteer, Grace Struttman, comes to the middle of the gym to help demonstrate how to greet an unknown dog. With the help of a Bearded Collie named “Fergie,” Casey explains his four-step, full-proof process: “Ask, approach, sniff and pat.”

“Always ask the dog’s owner for permission to pet the dog; approach the dog from the side or front, but never from behind; extend a closed hand toward the dog and give him ample time to sniff; and finally, gently pat the dog on the head if the dog’s reaction is positive, which includes a wagging tail and kisses,” Casey advises.

In an effort to showcase many breeds so students will relate to ones that remind them of

their own dogs, Purina Farms’ trainer Trish Seifried brings out “Spree,” a Miniature Poodle who can count. The equation is simple. It involves a math problem that equals 5 or less. The dog barks a certain number of times for the answer, delighting a group of children sitting on the floor.

“I wish my dogs were as smart and amazing as the dogs in the show,” exclaims Alex Moss, an eighth-grader. “My one dog, ‘Dawson,’ jumped in the bathtub yesterday when it was full of water. He’s not the brightest, but he sure does make me laugh.”

After Spree, it’s time for the second volunteer opportunity when two eighth-graders face off in a competition to see whether a boy or girl is more accurate at throwing a flying disc to a champion flying-disc dog named “Blade.” Both volunteers look like naturals at flying disc. Blade snags each of their throws with ease, thereby ending the competition in a tie, with both genders declared winners.

The program isn’t complete until three rescued cats, “Rosemary,” “Frisky” and “Rena,” take their turns running through an agility course, weaving through Seifried’s legs and expertly scaling a 10-foot-tall scratching post.

“I never thought cats could be trained,” says Michael Matthews, an eighth-grader. “I have three cats at home, and I’m thinking maybe the smallest one, ‘Itty Bitty,’ might be able to learn some tricks like the cats in this show. It’s worth a try.”

Featuring dogs and cats of all sizes, the Purina Farms’ Pets Go To School program is an example of the power of positive animal interactions and how animals touch lives in ways that last a lifetime.

“The key is to start young,” Casey says. “Children who learn to love animals turn out to be adults who love animals, and the cycle continues.” ■

*For more information about the Pets Go To School program or for scheduling dog shows and events at the Purina Event Center, please contact Kaite Flamm, Purina Event Center Manager, at 888-688-PETS (888-688-7387) or by e-mail at kaite.flamm@purina.nestle.com. Please visit [www.purinaproclub.com/eventcenter](http://www.purinaproclub.com/eventcenter) to learn more about the Purina Event Center.*

# Taking a Team Approach

*When a mysterious condition began occurring in Pugs in the early 1970s, breeders and owners were taken aback. Apparently healthy, young adult dogs typically died not long after the onset of neurological signs, such as unsteadiness or seizures.*

The condition resembled other canine diseases that cause seizures. Pug lovers consulted their veterinarians, trying to learn whether their dogs suffered from distemper, rabies, toxoplasmosis or even Rocky Mountain spotted fever. Dogs were euthanized on average 21 days after the onset due to uncontrollable seizures or a coma. It was heartbreaking for owners, particularly since little could be done to help affected Pugs.

Eventually the mysterious condition became known as Pug Dog encephalitis (PDE), which describes an aggressive and fatal inflammatory disease of the central nervous system. Technically known as necrotizing meningoencephalitis (NME), the condition also occurs in other toy breed dogs and is depicted by necrotizing, or dying, brain cells. Severe and progressive neurological signs — circling, head pressing, blindness and neck pain — are common. Affected dogs become lethargic and depressed. Though not all signs are seen in every dog, when several occur together in a young adult Pug, particularly seizures, loss of coordination and lethargy, PDE is suspected. The median age when signs appear is 18 months, but some dogs are diagnosed as young as 6 weeks of age and others as old as 9 years.

Ten years after it first appeared, PDE had been diagnosed in Pugs throughout the U.S., Australia and Europe. Despite the

increasing commonality of the condition, breeders and owners had difficulty acknowledging that the disease was a problem in their beloved dogs.

“At first many Pug people did not accept the fact that we had such a horrible disease in our breed,” says Charlotte Patterson, president of the Pug Dog Club of America (PDCA). “Because dogs are usually around 2 years of age before the disease strikes and it can only be confirmed by a brain necropsy, many owners already shocked by the rapid death of their dogs did not want to go that route.”

By the early 1990s, members of the parent club wanted to learn more about PDE. Treatment options were limited, and virtually all affected Pugs eventually died from the disease. In 1995, PDCA began fundraising for PDE research and soliciting for research proposals through the AKC Canine Health Foundation.

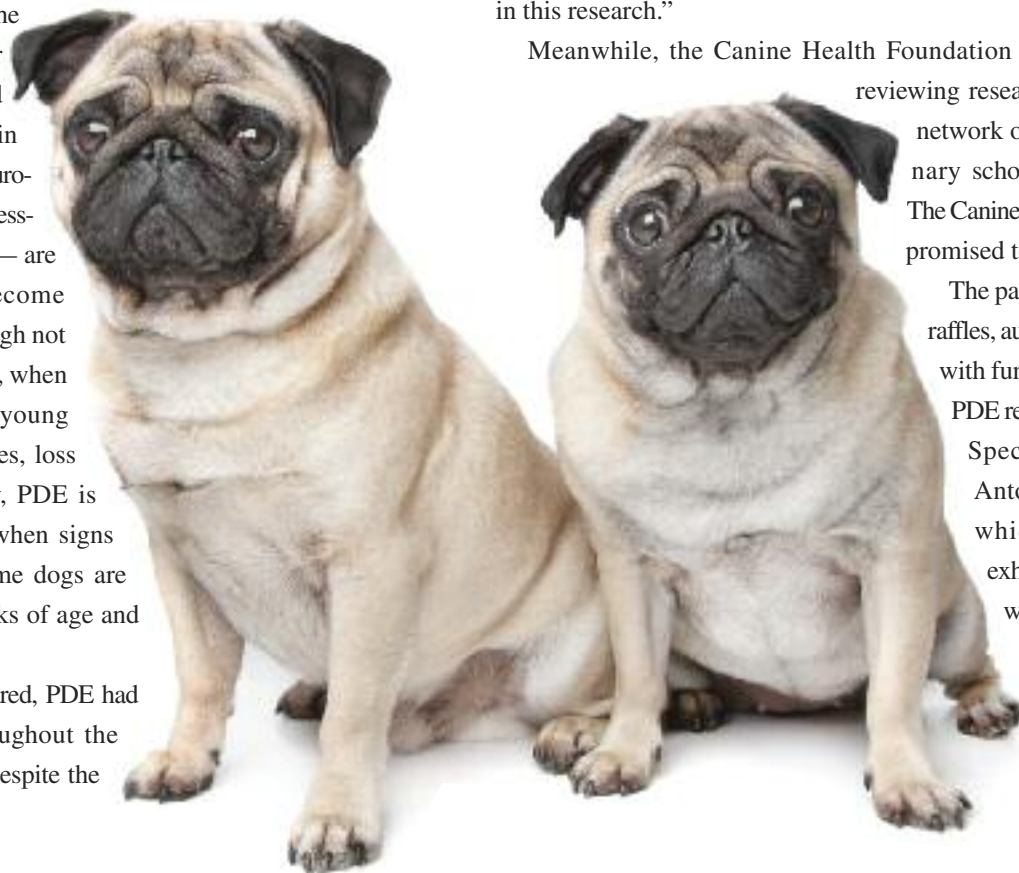
“We started from square one,” says Christine Dresser, D.V.M., PDCA health committee chairwoman. “I talked to lots of veterinary neurologists and internal medicine specialists and told them about our interest in this research.”

Meanwhile, the Canine Health Foundation began requesting and reviewing research proposals from its

network of researchers at veterinary schools across the country. The Canine Health Foundation also promised to support the research.

The parent club began holding raffles, auctions and bingo games, with fundraising earmarked for PDE research. “At our National Specialty in 2005 in San Antonio, we had a jail in which a sheriff arrested exhibitors for donations for warrants,” Dresser says.

“Those who were arrested had to donate to make bail. It was fun and successful.”



## Understanding NME in Other Toy Breeds

Many people believe that Pug Dog encephalitis (PDE) can only happen in Pugs. Not so. The condition, known as necrotizing meningoencephalitis (NME), mostly occurs in Pugs, but it also has been diagnosed in Shih Tzu, Maltese and Chihuahuas.

Adding to the confusion about the disease, some toy breeds develop other forms of encephalitis that resemble NME but are different diseases. "We may ultimately learn that these other forms of the disease are different manifestations of the same genetic mutation," says Scott Schatzberg, D.V.M., Ph.D., DACVIM, associate professor at the University of Georgia College of Veterinary Medicine and chief of neurology at the Veterinary Emergency and Specialty Center in Santa Fe, N.M. "The differences in expression of these mutations may be caused by differences in other genes."

Schatzberg first studied PDE in 2004 at Cornell University. He determined that the condition is unlikely to be caused by key viruses, which was suspected since brain lesions that occur in PDE resemble those associated with human viral forms of encephalitis.

Supported by an AKC Canine Health Foundation grant, his current work with Matt Huentelman, Ph.D., of the Translational Genomics Research Institute in Phoenix focuses on the genetics of NME in Pugs, Maltese and Chihuahuas. "The fact that the same disease is seen in several breeds may make locating the responsible genes easier, especially now that some genetic markers have been identified in the Pug," Schatzberg says. "As dogs succumb to this

dreadful illness, participation of additional Maltese and Chihuahua dogs would be invaluable in our genetic studies for identifying the causative genes."

The researchers plan to share their data with scientists prior to publication so other interested researchers can examine it independently. "We hope this collaborative approach ultimately leads to eliminating this disease in Pugs and other toy breeds," says Schatzberg.

Signs of NME include seizures, uncoordinated gait, circling, head pressing, lethargy, blindness and neck pain. When several signs occur together, especially in a young adult toy dog, NME is suspected. "With a fair degree of certainty, we can make a presumptive diagnosis, based on spinal fluids, MRI testing and other tests as well," Schatzberg says.

However, since there is overlap in the signs of different forms of encephalitis, a brain biopsy is considered the only definitive confirmation of the disease. Most dogs are treated without a biopsy due to the risk of the procedure and lack of specialized diagnostic equipment, which means some treated dogs may not have the disease. On the other hand, treatment with immunosuppressive drugs, such as prednisone, cyclosporine, cytosine arabinoside and mycophenolate, may help suppress the abnormal immune attack on the brain and increase survival in some cases.

Much remains to be known about NME in toy breeds. Owners of Maltese and Chihuahuas with confirmed cases are encouraged to contact Schatzberg by e-mail at [scott\\_schatzberg@yahoo.com](mailto:scott_schatzberg@yahoo.com) for information on contributing to the research.

Pug chapters across the country generously contributed. Donors were recognized in the parent club's bimonthly *Pug Talk* magazine.

### Turning to Genetic Research

The parent club turned to genetic research and found a devoted Pug owner and research ally in Kimberly Greer, Ph.D., research assistant professor at Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences. Greer, the proud owner of a Pug named "CiCi," conducted research in the school's Laboratory of Canine Genomics.

"I had researched the breed and knew that Pugs could get PDE," Greer says. "Being a geneticist, I was horrified that this loving breed had such a terrible disease with no treatment available and no genetic test for predicting which dogs carried the disease gene or which ones were at risk of getting the disease.

"I worried whether CiCi would develop PDE and anxiously awaited the 'magic' second year of her life so I would know fairly certainly that she was safe. At the time, we thought that if a Pug made it to age 2 without signs of PDE, the dog was safe. Of course, now we know that age is no guarantee and that Pugs even as old as 7 or 8 years of age can still develop PDE."

A study of PDE at Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine

### PDE Marker Test Available

Pugs can be tested for Pug Dog encephalitis through a marker test that identifies normal or mutant alleles closely linked to the gene mutation. The DNA test, which is performed from a cheek swab sample, is \$65 and available through the University of California-Davis Veterinary Genetics Laboratory. For information, visit [www.vgl.ucdavis.edu/services/dog/php](http://www.vgl.ucdavis.edu/services/dog/php).

aimed to learn whether PDE is caused by a virus. Since the brain lesions that occur in PDE resemble a viral form of encephalitis in people, herpes virus meningoencephalitis, the hypothesis seemed reasonable. The lead investigator was veterinary neurologist Scott Schatzberg, D.V.M., Ph.D., DACVIM.

No association was found, so Schatzberg concluded that PDE was not caused by the initial three major virus families for which they tested. Since then, Schatzberg and his colleagues have evaluated

the brains of over 50 Pugs that died from the disease for numerous viruses and other infectious diseases. Still, no "triggering" viral infection has been identified.

Meanwhile, the disease continued to occur in Pugs, even in those with no known affected dogs in their pedigrees. Pug breeder Brenda Belmonte of Lake Bluff, Ill., recalls receiving a phone call late one evening from a puppy buyer whose 20-month-old fawn bitch named "Cookie" had suddenly become lethargic and hesitant to go down stairs. Two days later, the dog had a seizure.

"I thought it couldn't be PDE," Belmonte says. "There was not one incident of this disease in Cookie's pedigree. Both the sire and dam were from bloodlines I know quite well. I always have health tests done on my dogs prior to breeding and carefully research pedigrees. It did not make sense."

### Breeding two low-risk (N/N) dogs

		Sire's Genotype	
		N	N
Dam's Genotype	N	N/N	N/N
	N	N/N	N/N

All puppies will have two copies of the low-risk PDE markers (N/N) and a significantly reduced risk of developing PDE during their lifetimes.

### Breeding a low-risk (N/N) dog to a dog with the susceptibility marker (N/S)

		Sire's Genotype	
		N	S
Dam's Genotype	N	N/N	N/S
	N	N/N	N/S

One-half of puppies will have two copies of the low-risk PDE markers (N/N) and a significantly reduced risk of developing PDE during their lifetimes. One-half of puppies will carry one copy of the susceptibility marker (N/S) but will also be at low risk for developing PDE.

### Breeding two dogs with the susceptibility marker (N/S)

		Sire's Genotype	
		N	S
Dam's Genotype	N	N/N	N/S
	S	N/S	S/S

One-fourth of puppies will be N/N and at low risk for PDE; one-half will be N/S, carry the susceptibility marker but have a low risk for PDE; and one-fourth will be S/S and at high risk for PDE.

### Breeding a dog with the susceptibility marker (N/S) to a dog with two susceptibility markers (S/S)

		Sire's Genotype	
		S	S
Dam's Genotype	N	N/S	N/S
	S	S/S	S/S

One-half of puppies will carry the susceptibility marker (N/S) but will not be at increased risk of PDE. One-half will have two copies of the susceptibility marker (S/S) and be at high risk of PDE.

### Breeding a low-risk (N/N) dog to a dog with two susceptibility markers (S/S)

		Sire's Genotype	
		S	S
Dam's Genotype	N	N/S	S/S
	N	N/S	S/S

All puppies will carry one copy of the susceptibility marker (N/S) and be at low risk for developing PDE.

### Breeding two dogs with two susceptibility markers (S/S)

		Sire's Genotype	
		S	S
Dam's Genotype	S	S/S	S/S
	S	S/S	S/S

All puppies will carry two copies of the susceptibility marker (S/S) and be at high risk for PDE.

### Implications of the PDE-Associated Markers for Breeding

Each sire and dam contributes either the S (high-risk susceptibility) or N (low-risk susceptibility) associated marker for Pug Dog encephalitis (PDE) to a puppy. This results in an individual puppy's genotype of N/N (low risk), N/S (low risk) or S/S (high risk). Because the S genotype is widespread in Pugs – occurring in 40 percent of the breed – researchers do not recommend selecting dogs for breeding based solely on their low risk for PDE as this could result in losing outstanding traits of many bloodlines. A better approach is to use many of the excellent N/S and S/S dogs by mating them to N/N dogs to produce litters without PDE. This also provides a choice of dogs to progressively decrease the frequency of PDE in future matings to N/N dogs.

Indeed, Cookie had PDE. Only three days after the first seizure, the Pug was euthanized due to uncontrollable seizures. One week earlier, Cookie had been a healthy, energetic dog.

Greer was vested in wanting to better understand PDE. Her Pug family now included two rescue Pugs in addition to CiCi, and she was active in agility with her dogs. When she accepted a job as assistant professor of biotechnology at the School of Natural Sciences and Mathematics at Indiana

University East in Richmond, she continued focusing on the genetics of PDE. She, along with members of the parent club, began collecting samples of DNA from affected and unaffected dogs.

The genetic analysis entailed searching for associations among the affected dogs. Did the dogs live in similar environments? Did signs of PDE have a seasonal onset? Were there similarities among the dogs' vaccination histories or medical records? Were there gender or coat-color correlations? Did the necropsy results show similarities? What treatments were used, and what were the outcomes?

Cookie's owner submitted the Pug's information, including the necropsy results that confirmed the diagnosis of PDE. Belmonte contributed DNA samples from Cookie's sire and dam, littermates and other relatives.

Answers began to stream in. Greer discovered that fawn female Pugs younger than 7 years of age are more likely to develop PDE than older, male and non-fawn-colored Pugs. No correlation could be found suggesting allergens or environmental factors. Affected dogs treated with anticonvulsant therapy to help block the seizures lived significantly longer than those that did not receive treatment. Statistically, about 1.2 percent of Pugs die from the disease.

MRI (magnetic resonance imaging) scans of the dogs' brains taken before they died and necropsies taken after they died did not indicate consistencies in physical signs or brain lesions, other than they became progressively worse. Greer concluded that MRI scans were good indicators of disease severity and how long a dog might live.

Genetic analysis was complicated. PDE did not have a simple dominant or recessive mode of inheritance nor was it sex-linked.

Insights came when Greer and her colleagues discovered an association with the dog leukocyte antigen (DLA) of dog chromosome 12. Markers for the mutation are at or near the region containing the DLA class II genes, which are important in immune function, specifically in recognizing self from non-self tissues. Diseases associated with DLA class II genes include autoimmune hemolytic anemia, immune arthritis and hypothyroidism.

The discovery indicated that PDE is a form of autoimmune disease. "We already suspected this due to certain substances found in the brain tissue and cerebrospinal fluid of affected dogs," Greer says. "Humans also have immune-mediated diseases associated

with this region of the brain. The most well-known is multiple sclerosis, which shares some, but not all, similarities with PDE. It is possible that PDE could result from genetically susceptible dogs being exposed to environmental triggers that cause an autoimmune response. We still are looking at these factors."

Dogs with two identical copies of the PDE associated high-risk marker (S/S) in this region have a lifetime risk of 12.75 for developing the disease

over Pugs that have only one or no copies (N/S or N/N) of the marker. Though the PDE gene mutation is yet to be discovered, a marker test that determines susceptibility to PDE was developed in 2010 by Greer and collaborators at the University of California-Davis Veterinary Genetics Laboratory. Though the test is not 100 percent definitive, it provides valuable information.

Breeders should be careful not to remove all Pugs with PDE risk markers from their breeding programs, Greer advises. “Forty percent of Pugs have the S genotype in either a heterozygous (N/S – 29 percent) or homozygous (S/S – 11 percent) state,” she says. “Eliminating such a large proportion of the Pug population would lead to a loss of genetic diversity that would potentially have even more devastating consequences to the breed than does PDE.”

The goal should be to use excellent N/S or S/S dogs bred to N/N dogs to produce litters without PDE. This provides a choice of dogs to progressively decrease the frequency of the PDE gene in future matings to N/N dogs. It also helps avoid giving rise to another genetic disease.

### Making Better Breeding Decisions

The PDE marker test benefits breeders by providing information that helps them make more informed selective breeding decisions. It benefits Pug lovers by helping to reduce the incidence of PDE in the breed.

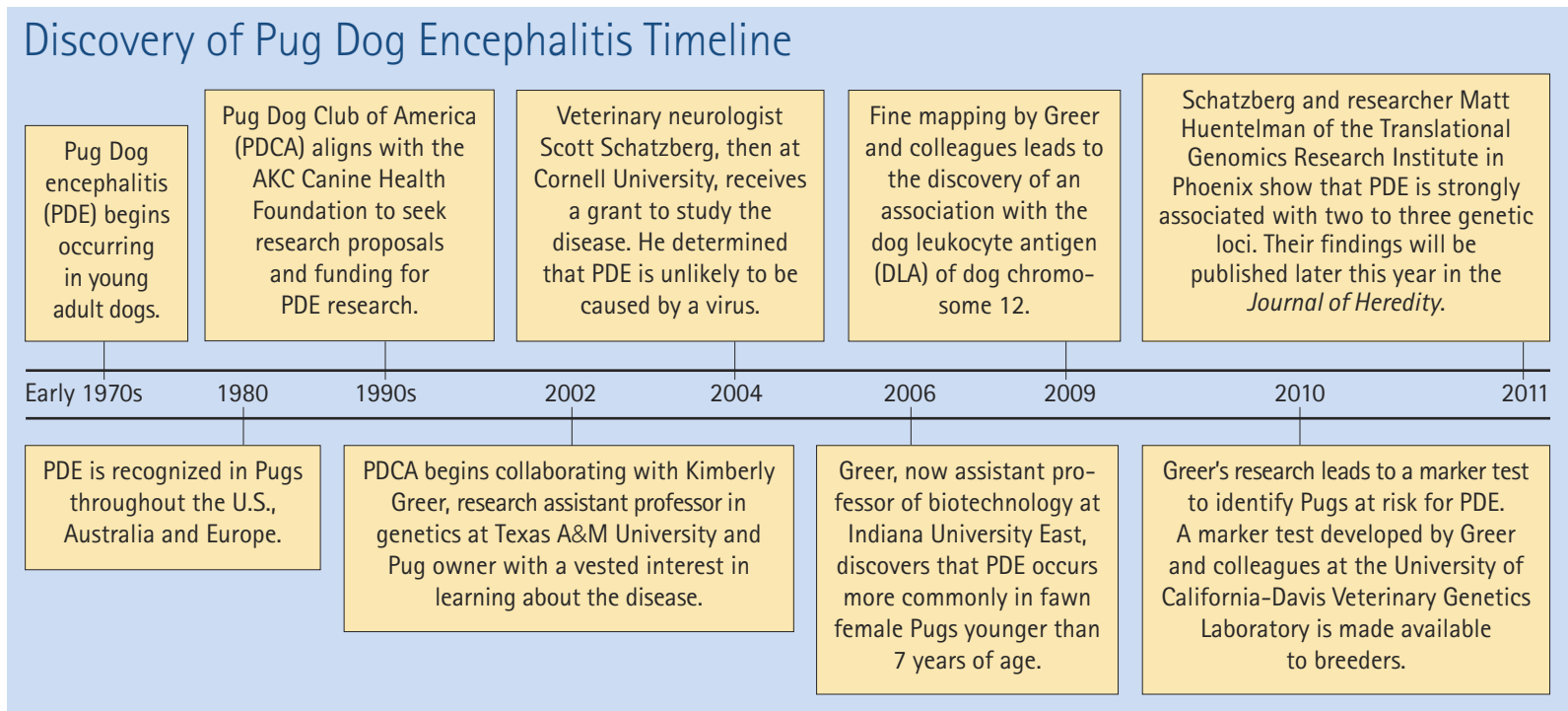
Though the test came after Cookie died from PDE, Belmonte is grateful for the opportunity to test for the disease prior to future matings. “The marker test has opened dialogue among many Pug breeders,” she says. “There are still unknowns, but at least now we can make educated decisions when considering dogs to breed. I have all my dogs tested, and I will not breed a bitch or allow a stud dog to be used on a Pug that has not been tested for PDE.”

The parent club supports the marker test and is working to get it added to the breed’s required health tests in the Canine Health Information Center (CHIC) database. “Getting health clearances is in the best interest of the health of the breed,” Patterson says. “The information greatly increases the depth and breadth of pedigree analysis. Having the marker test for PDE is a huge step forward.”

Research efforts to identify the PDE gene mutation as well as other aspects of the once mysterious condition continue. Greer hopes to learn why one in eight Pugs with high-risk susceptibility markers develops the disease while others do not. Schatzberg, who is now associate professor at the University of Georgia College of Veterinary Medicine and chief of neurology at the Veterinary Emergency and Specialty Center in Santa Fe, N.M., continues to study the genetics of PDE in collaboration with Matt Huentelman, Ph.D., of the Translational Genomics Research Institute in Phoenix. They recently found potential genetic association at two or three additional locations in Pugs and are studying the disease in other toy breeds.

“We recently were surprised to learn that there seems to be two different groups of NME-affected Pugs that carry the risk locus first described by Dr. Greer and her colleagues and that Pugs seem to succumb to the disease for different genetic reasons,” Schatzberg says.

Though there is more to learn about PDE/NME, much has been accomplished over the past 40 years. While breeders and owners initially were reluctant to accept knowledge of the disease, they eventually began working together to fundraise and support research. Their collective efforts have contributed to what is known today about the disease and will undoubtedly steer future discovery. ■



# Deciphering *Canine* Heart Disease

BY CATHERINE KLENE

**H**ear disease, which affects about 10 percent of dogs, is one of the major causes of canine death. Anxious owners of dogs diagnosed with heart disease can quickly become overwhelmed with complex information. A new online canine cardiology resource tool is available to help diffuse confusion and steer owners and breeders toward effective treatments.

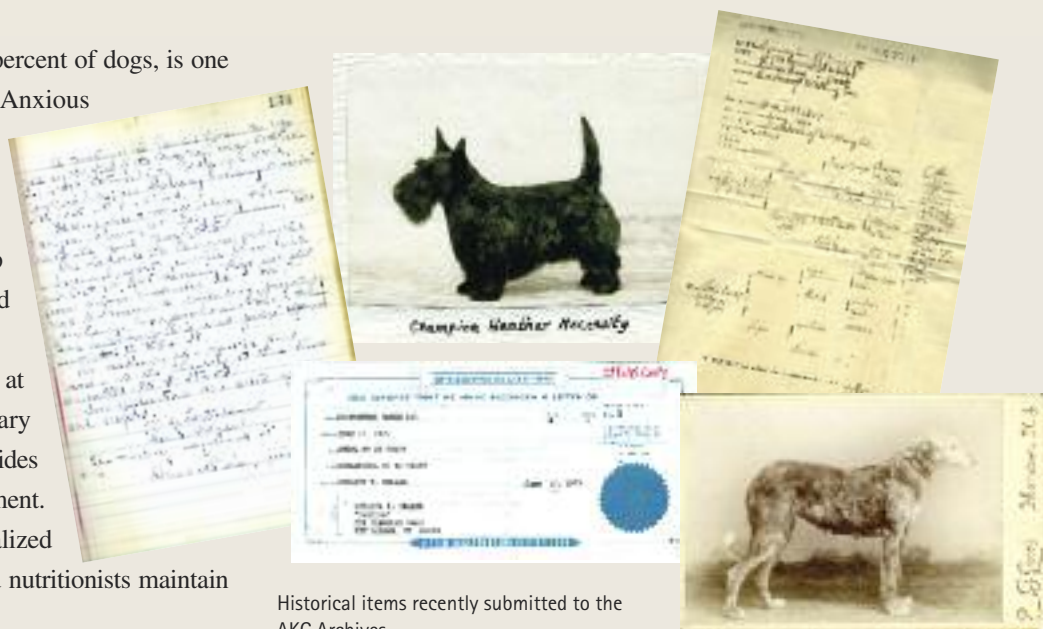
Developed by clinicians in the cardiology service at North Carolina State University's (NCSU) veterinary teaching hospital, the Cardiology Care Network provides information about canine heart disease and its treatment. A team of veterinary cardiologists, surgeons, specialized technicians, pharmacists, exercise physiologists and nutritionists maintain the website and update information.

Available at [www.cardiologycarenetwork.com](http://www.cardiologycarenetwork.com), the website features two sections, one for referring veterinarians and the other for owners. Owners can access information explaining:

- The determination of canine heart condition diagnoses, such as dilated cardiomyopathy, degenerative heart valve disease and heart failure
- Treatment options including medical, nutritional and surgical considerations
- Cardiology terms
- Frequently asked questions.

"We designed the Cardiology Care Network to serve as a resource for veterinarians and their clients to improve management of dogs with heart disease. The website provides owners with comprehensive, accurate information to help them make treatment decisions in consultation with their veterinarians," says Bruce Keene, D.V.M., DACVIM, professor of cardiology and member of the Cardiology Care Network staff.

Additionally, owners of dogs being treated at NCSU can help monitor their care by updating their health status via the website. Owners are taught to record dogs' vital signs at home and upload the information for prompt analysis and treatment. For more information, you may visit the website or call 888-962-7763.



Historical items recently submitted to the AKC Archives.

## AKC Archives Expands

A photograph of the first litter of Portuguese Water Dogs whelped in the U.S. and one of ENG CH Heather Necessity, a Scottish Terrier bitch sired by ENG CH Allister, from whom most Scotties are descended, are among recent submissions to the American Kennel Club (AKC) Archives that prompted an expansion of the collection area.

Located at the AKC's headquarters in New York City, the AKC Archives' new 500-square-foot addition will house new submissions and store historical material that depicts the sport of purebred dogs. The AKC Archives provides a permanent collection for historically significant documents related to the AKC, its parent and member clubs, and AKC breeds.

"Submitting valuable historical documents to the AKC Archives not only helps to showcase a club's history but also allows them to be shared with purebred dog lovers everywhere for all time," says Lisa Peterson, AKC director of communications. "The Archives allows the public to appreciate the hard work of parent club founders who helped make the AKC-recognized breeds and the sport of purebred dogs what it is today."



Other treasures in the collection include handwritten pedigrees and photos from the 1800s, handwritten minutes from meetings of the Irish Setter Club of America in the 1940s, and paintings of champion Skye Terriers from the well-known Marjorie Adams' Talisker Kennel.

Tours of the AKC Archives are available by appointment. The Archives' digital collections can be viewed online at [www.akc.org/about/depts/archive](http://www.akc.org/about/depts/archive). The digital resources include hard copy historical data preserved in digital files and the AKC art collection viewable as thumbnails or a slide show.

Submissions to the AKC Archives are welcome, and the AKC will help ship, itemize and catalog items. For information, contact AKC archivist Craig Savino at 212-696-8215 or by e-mail at [cps@akc.org](mailto:cps@akc.org).

### Two More NCL Gene Mutations Discovered

Researchers at the University of Missouri have identified the genetic mutations that cause a degenerative nerve disease, neuronal ceroid lipofuscinosis (NCL), in Tibetan Terriers and Australian Shepherds, making six breeds for which genetic tests are available. The AKC Canine Health Foundation helped fund the research.

A different form of NCL occurs in each breed in which the disease has been identified. The hereditary, progressive disease commonly leads to

blindness, cognitive decline, temperament changes, loss of coordination, seizures, and other neurological problems. The age of onset varies from 6 months to over 5 years, depending on the specific form of NCL that occurs in a breed. For example, in Tibetan Terriers, NCL is a late-onset disease that first becomes apparent in dogs between 5 and 7 years of age, often after they have already been bred and passed the gene on to their offspring.

Diseases similar to canine NCLs occur in children (Batten disease) and more rarely in adults (Kufs disease). As with the canine NCLs, the corresponding human diseases are characterized by progressive declines in neurological functions that result in symptoms similar to those in affected dogs.

Lead investigator Martin Katz, Ph.D., professor of genetics and neuroscience, attributes the discovery of the NCL mutation in Australian Shepherds to candidate gene analysis. Since the gene mutations that cause most forms of human NCL are known, the researchers examined the canine forms of these same genes for mutations in dogs. They discovered that NCL in Australian Shepherds is caused by a mutation in a gene called CLN6.

To find the mutation in Tibetan Terriers, Katz and his colleagues used homozygosity mapping, which allowed them to pinpoint the mutation to a very small region of the canine genome and examine it for disease-associated mutations. Thus, they learned the mutation that causes NCL in Tibetan Terriers occurs in a gene not previously known to cause NCL in animals or humans.

"In some cases, we now have the ability to find the NCL mutation in a breed using just one affected dog," Katz says. "The goal is to develop tests for the mutations that will enable breeders to identify affected dogs before they are bred to reduce disease incidence and eventually eliminate NCL. We hope to continue our research in dogs to gain insights into Batten and Kufs diseases in humans."

Katz and his colleagues are working to identify the NCL gene mutations in Polish Lowland Sheepdogs, Miniature Schnauzers and a number of other breeds. "The biggest obstacle is obtaining samples to confirm NCL cases," he says. "We rely on owners and veterinarians to report suspected cases of NCL and supply tissue samples from dogs that die from the disease."

Direct DNA tests currently are available to identify the NCL gene mutations in American Bulldogs, Border Collies, Dachshunds (two different mutations), English Setters, Australian Shepherds and Tibetan Terriers. These tests identify affected dogs as well as those that carry gene mutations. Since NCL is an autosomal recessive disorder, affected dogs must inherit one copy of the mutation from each parent. For information about the DNA tests, please contact Liz Hansen at [HansenL@missouri.edu](mailto:HansenL@missouri.edu). ■



A DNA test recently was developed to determine neuronal ceroid lipofuscinosis in Australian Shepherds, above, and Tibetan Terriers.

# The Right Touch

The white-and-orange Brittany called “Chug-A-Lug” — or “Chug,” for short — burnished his stellar dual champion career last fall, winning the American Brittany Club (ABC) National All-Age Championship and finishing as Runner-Up Champion in the ABC National Amateur All-Age Championship. Then, he became the first Brittany to win the Purina All-Age Dog of the Year Award two straight years.



The 8-year-old DC/NFC/AFC Ru-Jem’s A Touch of Bourbon isn’t done yet. He leads in the point standings again this year en route to a potential third straight Purina Award.

Chug’s success represents the dedication of owners Jerry and Ruth McGee of Steward, Ill. McGee started and trained the dog and handles him in trials as an amateur. Chug has placed 42 times, which includes 13 Championship and 14 Runner-Up Championship wins.

In March, Chug won the International Brittany



Jerry McGee poses DC/NFC/AFC Ru-Jem’s A Touch of Bourbon, left, after winning the International Brittany Open All-Age Championship in March for the third consecutive year. McGee’s wife of 52 years, Ruth, is pictured at left. Left: Handler Theresa Richmond finishes “Chug’s” championship with a Best of Breed win at the Michiana Kennel Club Dog Show in 2008.

Open All-Age Championship for the third consecutive year. He won three championships last year — the Dixieland Brittany, Michigan Amateur All-Age (AAA) and International Open All-Age — and the Jim Holman Classic. He was Runner-Up Champion at the Prairie State Region 5 AAA and Illinois Brittany Open All-Age championships and the Lee Holman Classic.

“Chug’s personality makes the difference,” McGee says. “He runs almost straight to the front. Because 90 percent of the time you know he will be straight ahead, you don’t have to go

looking for him. He also is very honest on his bird work. If you catch up to him 10 minutes after you lost sight of him over a hill, he’ll still be staunch on point.”

Chug was sired by DC/AFC Bourbon XIII, who McGee handled in hourlong horseback stakes for owner Joe Young of West Frankfort, Ill. FC Monkan Bimbo was Chug’s dam, owned by breeder Pam Baird of El Dorado, Ill.

McGee bought his first hunting dog, a German Shorthaired Pointer named “Rude,” as an adult in 1969. McGee’s first efforts in dog training were with Rude. “My wife, Ruth, who I’ve been married

to for 52 years, has been very supportive of me and the dogs ever since,” he says.

The McGees moved throughout the early part of his 31-year career as a plant manager for W.R. Grace’s Construction Product Division, living in Atlanta, New Orleans and Detroit before settling in the suburbs west of Chicago. “In the late 1970s, I got my first Brittany for hunting,” McGee says. “I joined the LaSalle Brittany Club and became active in hunt tests and, eventually, field trialing. I retired in 1995 and have dedicated my time to training our dogs since.

“I changed from German Shorthairs to Brittanys because I like their smaller size,” says McGee.

“Brittanys also have great

personalities. They are friendly, loyal, energetic and enthusiastic.”

Field trialing gives McGee and his dogs something to do year-round when it’s not hunting season. “It’s not just about running dogs though,” he says. “It’s the camaraderie of the field trialers. They’re like family.”

## Dual Excellence

McGee competes in 20 to 25 trials a year, usually within a 500-mile radius of his home, which sits on a six-and-a-half-acre farm. He spends around eight months of the year on the road, driving as many as 10,000 miles, including to his annual summer training camp in Winner, S.D. Though McGee has had as many as seven dogs in his string, he now focuses on four.

Being able to work with a smaller string is one of the keys to his success, McGee says. So is his eagerness to learn. “At every field trial I compete in, I watch every brace,” he says. “I also judge trials. Both opportunities are great for learning how to improve my handling skills.”

He also has been active as an officer and member of the board of directors for the LaSalle Brittany Club and as chairman of the National Open Championship. He has served as stake manager for major trials and been course marshal for many others.

The results of McGee’s growth in the sport are evident in his handling dogs to 73 placements in



Chug stays sharp year-round through hunting, trialing and training.

horseback stakes in the past 10 years. He has finished several field champions, including FC/AFC Ru-Jem’s Fist Full of Dollars (“Dollar”), who is second to Chug in this year’s Purina Award point standings. With the help of conformation handler Theresa Richmond of Hinkley, Ill., two of McGee’s dogs besides Chug have earned dual champion titles: DC/AFC Ru-Jem’s Emerald McGee (“Emmy”) and DC/AFC Ru-Jem’s DLD’s Shoplifter (“Drifter”).

McGee used to show Emmy in the conformation ring, never placing better than third. “I asked Theresa to show her, and they won the first show they entered,” McGee says.

Richmond has taken the leads of each of McGee’s dual champions since, putting the titles on them in minimal time, after he finishes them in the field. “She finished Chug’s show championship in five weeks,” says McGee. “She has been wonderful evaluating our dogs for conformation and helping me achieve my goal of titling them as duals.”

Putting dual champion titles on his Brittanys is about proving the breed. “Brittanys are one of the few breeds that are versatile enough to excel in the ring and the field,” he says. “I think it’s our responsibility to better the breed. It’s also important to fulfill their potential.”

Chug, like all McGee’s dogs, is fed *Purina Pro Plan* Performance Formula. ■



Chug’s enthusiasm for fieldwork helped him become a dual champion.



The oil painting McGee received when Chug won the 2010 Purina All-Age Dog of the Year Award shows Chug on point. It was the second straight year the Brittany won the award.

# A Breeder's-Eye View

*Judging a dog show — choosing the best examples of a breed, according to its standard — is no easy feat. Among the best judges are those who objectively put up the best dogs based on characteristics like conformation, movement and temperament.*

Michael Faulkner sits with Forum's La-Tee-Da ("Toddie").



**B**reeders who judge their own breeds undoubtedly have an edge when it comes to choosing the best dogs. After all, they've spent time in the whelping box caring for new puppies and evaluating their potential in the show ring and then later as breeding stock. Their experiences as breeders carry over to other breeds they judge as well.

"Judging dog shows is a privilege," says Michael Faulkner of Center Cross, Va. "It requires a rich personal history in the sport, exposure to multiple breeds, and natural talent to understand balance, shape, form and function on a two-dimensional level and apply it through an artistic eye to a three-dimensional form. The best judges can be placed in any circumstance, and they invariably will select the best breeding stock."



Dog show judges shown with their personal breeds of dog are, from left: Michael Silva with his black Labrador Retriever, BISS CH Shadowbrook's McSteamy ("McSteamy"); Linda Krukar with her German Pinscher, CH Clefall's Jaguar ("Jagger"), left, and Doberman Pinscher, AM/CAN CH Royal Future's JP Sakura of Dabney, RN ("Sakura"); Michael Faulkner with his Golden Retriever, Multi-BISS CH Monogram's Prime Time ("Dharma"); and Lisa DeRoulet with her Great Dane, MJM Hi-Air An Affair to Remember at Elan ("Grant").

Selecting the best breed representatives requires not only understanding breed histories and the standards approved by the American Kennel Club (AKC) but also what it takes to produce and compete with the best.

The AKC requires judges to have bred and raised five or more litters of the breeds they judge, have bred four or more champions and have 12 years' experience as an exhibitor. Alternatively, a judge may have 15 years' experience as a successful breeder and owner of champions in lieu of handling experience. In approving judges, the AKC also will consider other combinations of experience.

All new breed judges must attend the AKC's Basic Judging Institute, a one-day seminar given at rotating locations. Classes, typically with as many as 40 attendees, cover the rules of judging, anatomy of the varied breeds and advice for managing contracts, schedules and travel arrangements as a judge on assignment.

John Wade, AKC Director of Judging Operations, has bred Dachshunds since the late 1950s and is approved to judge the Hound, Terrier and Working Groups. He knows well the keys to success that judges must possess and why experience as a breeder is necessary.

"You learn canine anatomy with a lot of hands-on experience when you

breed dogs," he says. "You also regularly go through the selection process, critically viewing the dogs, making decisions to breed or not breed certain ones. You learn how to apply that eye in evaluating dogs in the ring."

## Essential Education

Faulkner began breeding Golden Retrievers in the late 1960s. Over the past 42 years, he has bred under the Jeran, Woodspoint, DeVoe and Forum prefixes. He has bred and exhibited nine Multi-Best in Show-winning dogs and put Specialty, Group or All-Breed wins on 17 other breeds.

That included handling one of the top-winning female Golden Retrievers of all time, BIS/BISS/CH Brandymist QB Gal ("Meg"), to a Group

Second in 1995 and a Group Third in 1994 at the Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show. He also handled Meg to Best in Show wins at the Detroit Kennel Club and Louisville Kennel Club dog shows in 1994, outperforming more than 11,000 dogs.

Faulkner retired from professional handling in 1995 and began judging, first receiving approval to judge the sporting breeds. He judged the Sporting Group at Westminster in 2006 and various breeds there in 2001, 2004 and 2010.

He continues to breed and exhibit, considering it essential to stay sharp as a judge. He has bred and owned English Springer Spaniels, Field Spaniels, Pointers and Pugs, though Golden Retrievers are his exclusive focus now. Faulkner created Forum Golden Retrievers in 2006 with Michael Rawlings of Woodspoint Farms, Patricia Vogel of Devoe Golden Retrievers, and Michael and Michele Leon of Monogram Golden Retrievers.

"I am seduced by the Golden Retriever's natural beauty, gentle nature, loyalty, intelligence and instinctual desire to perform the duties of a gentleman's gundog," says Faulkner. "I have no plans to retire from breeding and handling my Golden Retrievers. This active level of participation, performed with discretion and professionalism, is essential to me for staying



Krukar is pictured at home with her German Pinscher, Jagger.

connected to the sport. It also is a clear reminder of the work and dedication put forth by the breeders and exhibitors whose efforts I'm evaluating."

Linda Krukar of Easton, Conn., has excelled as a judge for 20 years, drawing upon her 31 years' experience as a breeder of Dabney Doberman Pinschers. Having a sense of humor and empathy in the ring is important, she says.

"Everyone can enjoy themselves when a judge understands the pressures of breeding and exhibiting," she says. "Once when I was showing one of my dogs, I ran into the exam table and fell flat on my face in the Best in Show ring. The judge helped me up and said, 'I hope you're all right. I'm a veterinarian, not a medical doctor.' I was embarrassed, but the judge's comment helped me to laugh about the experience."

Krukar bred AM/CAN GCH Dabney's Phenomenon, CD, RA, the No. 1 Doberman Pinscher from 2004 to 2007. "Agador" holds the breed record of 52 Specialty wins. He won the *Pro Plan* Champions Cup and Bests in Show at the Detroit Kennel Club and International Club of Chicago dog shows, where Krukar also won Best Owner-Handler in Show. With a black bitch, CH Dabney's Hot Enchilada of Le-High ("Chili"), Krukar won the Doberman Pinscher Club of America National Specialty in 1992.

Having added German Pinschers to the Dabney kennel in 2003, Krukar

owned the first in the breed to finish a championship as a puppy. A Finnish import, CH Clefall's Jaguar would become the No. 1 German Pinscher in 2003 and 2004. Krukar bred "Jagger" to produce AM/CAN CH Dabney's Snapdragon, RE, the No. 1 German Pinscher in 2007 and 2008.

"I was fortunate to start off with good dogs in our limited breeding programs," she says. "I focus on keeping qualities that are important to me, such as correct size and outline, mental and physical soundness, outgoing temperament and good health."

Raising dogs from the whelping box has taught Krukar about the important physical and mental developmental stages of dogs and helped her to evaluate the structure and movement of dogs at any age in the ring.

Though Krukar was approved to judge Doberman Pinschers in 1998, it is her love of many breeds and the varied facets of conformation that tie it all together. Since then, she has been approved to judge Dachshunds, Rhodesian Ridgebacks, all breeds in the Working and Miscellaneous Groups, Best in Show and Junior Showmanship. Krukar recently was approved to judge 10 more breeds, including Basenjis, Dalmatians, Poodles and Chinese Cresteds. Krukar has judged at the Doberman Pinscher Club of America National Specialty, the Top 20 Doberman and Rhodesian Ridgeback dog shows, and shows in Australia and Brazil.

“Judging gives me the opportunity to learn about many wonderful breeds,” Krukar says. “Discussion with breeders and interactions with their dogs are essential to a judge’s education. Everyone loves to talk about their breed, so I take advantage of their enthusiasm and learn as much as I can.”

### Measure of Success

Michael Silva of Hunterdon County, N.J., is a breeder foremost but also exhibits his Shadowbrook Labrador Retrievers. His career began when he received an Irish Setter as an eighth-grade graduation gift in the mid-1970s. He learned to train the setter and competed in obedience. Later, he entered conformation shows with a cousin’s Afghan Hounds and Greyhounds. Along the way, he became smitten with Labrador Retrievers.

He was given a black Labrador Retriever puppy, who became CH Sailin’s Make Room for Jessi in 1989. “Jessi” was Shadowbrook’s foundation bitch, and BISS CH Beechcroft’s Formal Attire (“Tuxedo”) was the foundation sire.

Silva has won multiple Bests in Specialty Show with several Shadowbrook Labradors. He showed BISS CH Shadowbrook’s McSteamy to Winners Dog at the Labrador Retriever Club of the Potomac Specialty in 2008, outperforming 365 males.

“Our greatest accomplishment is the style of the Labradors that my wife, Kimberlee, and I have produced over 22 years,” Silva says. “The greatest measure of our success is when I look at our dogs and am satisfied with what I see.”

Approved in 2003 to judge Labrador and Golden Retrievers, Silva talks with other breeders and exhibitors to stay rooted in knowledge of the breeds’ foundations. He mainly judges Labrador Retriever Specialty Shows in the U.S., with entries ranging from 200 to 300 dogs. Silva also has judged dog shows in Germany and Brazil and plans to judge in Canada this year.

Still, it’s his background as a breeder that has prepared him the most as a judge. “I could not judge without having had a breeding career first,” Silva says. “Judges must understand breed type and function before they are qualified to evaluate a breed. A dog may look impressive in the ring, but if it cannot perform as it was originally intended, then it does not conform to the standard. My breeding experience keeps this at the front of my mind when judging.”

Lisa DeRoulet of DeRoulet Great Danes in Lynwood, Wash., started her conformation career 30 years ago after buying a Great Dane puppy named Feasel’s Shamrock V Roulet. “Shanya” only earned four AKC points,



Silva walks with his black Labrador Retrievers, McSteamy, left, and Shadowbrook’s Yay Me (“London”).



DeRoulet is shown with her Great Dane, Grant.



but the experience was enough to hook DeRoulet. She went on to co-breed or breed and own 35 champion Great Danes. DeRoulet had a Top 20 dog for eight straight years: BIS/BISS CH Amelor's Fly So Free ("Frisco") from 1993 to 1995; BIS/BISS CH Travis Lincoln ("Travis") from 1996 to 1997; BISS CH Orion's Gage ("Gage") from 1998 to 1999; and BISS CH Roulet's Copper of Andany ("Desi") in 2000.

DeRoulet's dogs were handled by Louise and Mark Van Alstyne until they retired. Then, Jesse Gerszewski took her dogs' leads in the ring until DeRoulet retired from breeding in 2001. DeRoulet was approved in 1999 to judge Great Danes and in 2000 to judge Working and Miscellaneous Groups. DeRoulet has served twice as the breeder-judge at the Great Dane Club of America's Top 20 dog show.

"I knew I would love to judge after the first show I attended," DeRoulet says. "Judges must have an eye for the breed, as well as dedication, knowledge and experience with their own dogs. All these characteristics help judges develop a picture of what the ideal dog should look like. Combining that expertise with an understanding of the written standards helps create a worthy judge."

## Maintaining Standards

After years of studying the AKC breed standards and applying them as breeders, DeRoulet, Faulkner, Krukar and Silva know by heart what they look for when judging.

"I look for breed type, balance and soundness, in that order," DeRoulet says. "Above all else, a dog must look like the breed. A Great Dane should be long and rectangular with a chiseled head, short back and deep chest. He should combine strength and elegance and not move clumsily. Dogs must exude masculinity, while bitches possess a feminine quality."

After starting as a Sporting Group breed judge, Faulkner added breeds in five other Groups, including Black and Tan Coonhounds, Shetland Sheepdogs, Silky Terriers, Pugs and German Shepherd Dogs. He judges Best in Show, the Miscellaneous Group and Junior Showmanship as well but still is partial to the Golden Retriever.

"As a breeder of Golden Retrievers, I look for a balanced, moderate, powerful, gentle gundog," he says. "There is nothing more beautiful than a truly well-made Golden Retriever."

"In the ring, I look for a kind demeanor and expressive eyes. The dog should have a broad skull and straight, well-blended muzzle. The legs should be straight, providing a balanced front and rear, and the tail should be an extension of the back."

Likewise, the Labrador Retrievers Silva knows so well must be well-balanced gundogs with sound structure. "Retrievers need to display a good temperament that serves well as a hunting companion and family dog," he says. "They should be strongly built but graceful enough in the ring and field

to work efficiently, moving with little effort."

Adhering to those standards can be tough when judging. "Being a breeder-judge can be difficult at times because you are judging your peers and friends," Silva says. "Judges must have thick skin to combat criticism. I strive to be confident and sure in every decision, regardless of the dog's handler or breeder."

When judging Doberman Pinschers, Krukar focuses on dogs with medium size and a square body outline, a blunt wedge head and catlike feet. "Dobermans should be muscular and energetic, alert, fearless and loyal," she says. "When they gait, they should have great reach in their forequarters with powerful drive from their hindquarters."

"Taking the time to memorize the fine points of each standard creates a truly knowledgeable judge and shows respect for the breed," says Krukar. "Respect is one of the most important qualities in a judge. I try to judge every breed as if it were my own."

To become an authority in the conformation ring is a process. "Judging conformation events was more of an evolution than a decision for me," Silva says. "You must earn the right to judge through years of dedication, hard work, knowledge and understanding the breeds you choose. I was nervous at first, but I realized how much breed knowledge I had to share. Judging is one of the most important jobs a person can hold in this sport. I wanted to judge so I could play a small role in shaping our breed."

Being an effective steward of the breed as a judge also takes practice and good rapport with exhibitors. "A judge must always behave courteously to exhibitors and use gentle hands on dogs," DeRoulet says. "To judge well, one must judge often. Judges' eyes become sharper each time they test their knowledge in the ring."

Ultimately, judging comes down to decisions about what is good for the future of a breed and what upholds the standard that has been maintained throughout history. That must be done while balancing the inherent imperfections in any dog against the breed standard. Krukar, Silva, DeRoulet and Faulkner never forget they are beholden to that responsibility as breeders first.

"As a breeder, you evaluate dogs and decide what compromises you are willing to make," Krukar says. "As a judge, knowing the standard is crucial to recognize where the best compromises should be made. I will always judge through the eyes of a breeder, distinguishing important virtues that should be rewarded."

"My job is to study and evaluate breeding stock," says Faulkner. "I truly want to know my opinions are valued, that I make a difference in the next generation of dogs. As a judge, it is essential for me to always evaluate from the breeder's perspective." ■



Odyssey's Cool-J Callen, 1 1/2 years old, displays the intensity on point that may help him join Odyssey German Shorthairs' list of dual champions.

# A Dual Odyssey

STORY AND PHOTOS BY ADAM WILLIAMS

**O**n a frigid winter day in February, Chuck Parietti sits atop his horse, a Missouri Foxtrotter named “Tucker,” eyeing the unflagging discipline of FC Odyssey’s Charismatic on point. The wind-swept, snow-packed fields around him near Maryville, Mo., reflect late afternoon sunlight and are barbed by dried, yellowed remnants of last season’s corn crop.

“Miley,” the 4-year-old German Shorthaired Pointer, has caught the scent of a bird. Tail erect, she aims intently at a clump of grass at the field’s edge. Muscular and lean, Miley awaits instructions from Chuck, whose wife, Judy, watches nearby from an all-terrain vehicle. Miley’s statuesque point exemplifies the field half of the Pariettis’ breeding and training program that produces dual champions. Their dogs also are dual companion hunting dogs that spend easy evenings with Chuck and Judy on their living room couch.

To enter the Pariettis’ home is to join their immersion in all things German Shorthaired Pointer (GSP). Photographs and awards of the successes they’ve shared with their dogs in the field hang next to framed artwork of the breed. Albums lie nearby, filled with show win photographs. Chuck wears a light-gray sweatshirt embroidered with their kennel name and the logo he designed.

CH Odyssey’s Tempest, MH (“Tyra”) lies quietly on the couch, while other shorthairs sound the occasional bark from the enclosed yard seen through the sliding glass door in the kitchen. Then there’s the television

room in the basement, where plaques, blue ribbons and framed photos are clustered on the walls to honor dogs that have come and gone, their collars hanging on a row of brass hooks.

The affinity for GSPs runs so deep at the Parietti house, it’s difficult to

accept there was a time when Chuck was not a bird dog enthusiast, that he wasn’t always a passionate hunter, or that he was wary of horses and wouldn’t get involved in field trials. Judy was the one who led him to change. Noting such turns in a life they’ve shared during 46 years of marriage inspired the name for their obsession: Odyssey German Shorthairs.

## Bold Ambitions

Chuck and Judy met in the early 1960s in Boston. Though Judy would later become a nurse, she was studying to become a secretary. Chuck was working toward a degree in engineering at Northeastern University. They married in 1965, and Chuck found another love in bird hunting with Judy’s father, sans dogs. After he was discharged from the U.S. Army in 1968 and took an engineering job with Eveready Battery Co. in St. Albans, Vt., Chuck got dogs to accompany him on frequent hunting trips. He has not been without a bird dog since. He has owned five breeds throughout his life. Besides German Short-

haired Pointers, he has owned English Setters, Irish Setters, German Wire-haired Pointers and Pointers. At times, he has owned up to three breeds at once. Since a 10-year-old Pointer named AFC Odyssey’s Good Luck Kota, MH, died last year, Odyssey is now a one-breed kennel.



Chuck Parietti eyes FC Odyssey’s Charismatic (“Miley”) on point from atop his horse, “Tucker.”

The Pariettis transferred several times during Chuck's 31-year career with the company that in 1980 created the Energizer brand, which subsequently would be acquired by Ralston Purina in 1986. Most significant was Chuck and Judy's move in 1975 to Maryville. They would only live there a handful of years before the next job transfer, but the memories of a healthy bird habitat and good hunting would bring them back in 1992.

Chuck was an executive who frequently flew around the world, filling passports and returning home to Maryville as often as possible. Judy retired from her job as a second-shift nurse in 1993. Chuck retired in 1999, not long before Purina sold Energizer. Chuck's retirement is dedicated to daily running dogs in the field, whether training, trialing or pleasure hunting.

Twenty years into his hunting hobby, Chuck and Judy became interested in competing in dog shows and bought a 6-week-old white-and-liver puppy in 1990 from Chris Maisenbacher of Columbus, Ohio. Ken Resnick, who has since died, and his wife, Elly, of Omaha, Neb., handled Odyssey's Saint Blitz and finished her championship.

Chuck planned only to hunt with "Blitz" afterward. He opposed entering her in a field trial to pursue Judy's ambition of making the bitch a dual champion. "I had the perception as a walking hunter that I needed my dogs to stay close, and that if they competed in horseback trials, they would get in the habit of ranging too far. I thought the trials, and training for the trials, would confuse the dogs."

"He was afraid that field trialing would ruin Blitz as a hunting companion," Judy says, "but you can't ruin a German Shorthaired Pointer."

"You might be able to ruin a marriage though," says Chuck, jokingly.

Judy decided to try field trialing while Chuck was living part time in Switzerland. She believed in Blitz and thought a good performance could change Chuck's mind. Helping her was Jon Hann of Perfection Training Kennels in Gallatin, Mo. Hann trained Blitz to be steady to wing and shot. Then, Judy and a fellow member of the Heart of America German Shorthaired Pointer Club in Kansas City, Mo., Mel Roy of Stillwater, Kan., took Blitz to a field trial in Hillsdale, Kan. Judy scouted for Roy, who handled the bitch to earn a two-point open win.

"I called Chuck afterward and told him, 'Blitz is on her way to her dual champion title,'" Judy says.

"I was wonderfully supportive of her decision," says Chuck, with a laugh that acknowledges Judy's bold move was right. She launched new opportunities for the odyssey they share.

"Blitz was the kind of dog in which it was obvious she was special. She had an incredible nose and a natural ability to retrieve," he says. "After Judy and Mel did well with her in that first trial, we decided to take her to the extent she could go."

With Hann continuing to train the Pariettis' dogs, Judy and Roy competed in as many trials as they could during the spring and fall of 1994. "I was pretty excited," Judy says. "Blitz got her first points in February, and we finished her field championship in December. It showed Chuck that GSPs are good enough team members to know what they need to do and when to do it. They maintain a disciplined mentality that suits the situation."

With a firm goal for all Odyssey GSPs to become dual champions, the Pariettis worked with Mel until he retired from field trialing a few years ago. Chuck continues to train with Hann, and they have co-owned dogs as well. "It's almost a partnership with Jon," says Chuck. "We both handle my dogs, though I am an



Helen George (now Hatton) poses Odyssey's Saint Blitz after taking Winners Bitch at the Marion (Ohio) Kennel Club Dog Show in 1992.



Chuck and Judy Parietti raise their German Shorthaired Pointers (GSP), such as CH Odyssey's Tempest, MH, ("Tyra"), left, and Miley, to be companions who share their home.



The Pariettis have titled eight dual champion GSPs. They are, clockwise from top left: "Blitz," "Max," "Crede," "Annie," "Rudy," "Rip," "Mike" and "Karl."

amateur. He also does a lot of training with them."

Chuck spends a few weeks each August with Hann in Shields, N.D., where the relatively mild summer climate and wild bird population are conducive to training dogs for the fall field trial season. The dogs they run carry the legacy of Blitz, who was honored as the German Shorthaired Pointer Club of America (GSPCA) Dual Dam of the Year in 2000 and 2002.

"Blitz is the grand matron of Odyssey," Judy says. "She whelped three litters. One included 'Sam,' who likely will be in the Hall of Fame soon and was a great producer for us. Everything has evolved from Blitz."

### Building a Reputation

DC/AFC/BISS Odyssey's Sam Saint Max, MH, who was whelped in 1995 and died in 2004, was the Pariettis' second of a breed-record eight dual champions. Sam was awarded several awards by the GSPCA between 2000 and 2008: No. 1 Gun Dog of the Year, Dual Sire of the Year (three times), Hunt Test Sire of the Year (twice), and Field Trial Sire of the Year (twice).

One of the few males Chuck and Judy have kept, Sam played an integral role in the Odyssey bloodline, producing three dual champions: DC/AFC Odyssey's First Class Flyer, MH ("Crede"), DC/AFC Odyssey's Ein Anfang Fur, JJ ("Annie"), and DC/AFC Odyssey's Perfection, MH ("Karl"), who at 33 months of age in 2003 became the youngest male to earn the title.

"We usually are bitch people," Judy says. "Males are so macho."

"If you keep males, there is a temptation to breed to your own dogs," Chuck adds. "We prefer to keep good bitches and then breed selectively to top studs from around the country."

Sam is the grandsire of Miley and "Maverick" (CH Odyssey's Miracle Maverick), who were sired by DC/AFC Gamble's Odyssey Fritz, MH, out

of Crede. With Miley having her field champion title and Maverick being a conformation champion, the littermates likely will be the next dual champions in the kennel, which includes DC/AFC Odyssey's Kurzhaar von Riverwoods, MH ("Rip") and "DC Odyssey's True Colors ("Rudy"). There are 10 dual champions in the five generations preceding Miley and Maverick.

Odyssey produces a litter every year to 18 months, breeding for field attributes in dogs with good conformation. "We don't breed for the show ring, but we do breed for showmanship. We want them to have a happy, notice-me attitude," Chuck says. "For the field, we breed for the nose to find birds in all conditions — hot, cold, rainy or sunny."

Chuck and Judy select one or two puppies from each litter. "We have a reputation among hunters for producing great bird dogs," says Chuck. "That's what fuels our breeding program. We have a waiting list. Most dogs we sell as family-companion hunting dogs. We prefer to sell into non-kennel situations, where there is a house life for the dogs."

"We breed for ourselves first though," adds Judy.

The Pariettis use their kennel some during the day, though their seven bitches and two dogs sleep in the house. Originally built with 12 indoor-outdoor runs, Chuck removed chain-link panels, creating six double-wide runs. The dogs move freely between the kennel and the enclosed one-acre yard. Inside the kennel, a couple of cabinets and a workbench line one wall beneath a skylight. The cement floor is kept dry and clean. Bags of *Purina Pro Plan Performance* and *Purina Pro Plan Shredded Blend Beef & Rice* formulas sit nearby.

"It's a lot of work, and we like to manage as much as we can ourselves," Chuck says. "We don't want to increase the quantity of breeding to meet the demand though. The quality may suffer."

Chuck starts and trains all Odyssey dogs to be hunting dogs foremost. He travels around 80 days a year to hunt grouse, pheasant, quail and other wild birds in the Midwest, from Oklahoma to Saskatchewan, Canada. The dogs are housetrained. As their potential rises, they are campaigned in the show ring or entered in field trials to start earning points toward the dual champion title.

Professional conformation handler Lucretia Coonrod of Kanpoint GSPs in Manhattan, Kan., put the champion title on Maverick last August. Judy is excited for Coonrod to handle Miley in dog shows this summer between the field trial seasons when Chuck will try to finish Maverick's dual champion title. When either Chuck or Judy is at an event, the other is at home, caring for the dogs and horses left behind.

Judy considers Ruth Ann Freer-Godfrey of Milford, Del., her mentor. They are hotel roommates at each year's GSPCA National Specialty. Freer-Godfrey owns DC/AFC Leiblinghaus Hunter's Moon ("Trek"), who sired DC Lieblinghaus Odyssey's Air Jordan ("Mike") for the Pariettis.

"Ruth Ann has been a judge for a long time. She taught me a lot about conformation," Judy says. "I could ask her about the shortcomings of Blitz, or any of our dogs, and use that information to improve the next generation. She's been a great resource for us."



Professional handler Lucretia Coonrod stacks "Maverick," whose conformation title she finished last year.

## Dual Challenges

To reach for the stars is to risk failing, and going for dual champion titles is no less tricky. When the Pariettis train and compete to title dogs in the ring and the field, they face handlers and dogs that are focused on one goal or the other.

"We don't fit the extreme in either venue — the ring or field," Chuck says. "We have to breed to the golden middle so the dogs can do both. We're competing against people who specialize for a single function. There are only a few dual champion GSPs finished each year. There have been only around 250 total."

Taking dogs that are purposefully bred, trained and worked as field companions into the conformation ring carries an extra amount of difficulty. Nearly 20 years ago, when the Pariettis began to show their German Shorthaired Pointers in conformation, they noticed few white dogs at the shows.

"We had to break a color barrier in the ring," Chuck says. "White dogs are often considered field dogs. They are easier for hunters, field trialers and judges to see at a distance. They look flashier in the field. When we started competing in conformation, it was rare to see a second white dog. Now, it's not uncommon to see two or three at a show. That has made it easier for us to finish champions. It's been interesting to see that transition of perceptions about the breed and to take part in it."

In recent years, they've credited Coonrod's expertise with finishing dogs in the ring, a venue where Chuck did OK early on but felt he was lacking. The Pariettis' breeding and training program focuses on the field, where Chuck's skills shine.

"For the field, you have to condition them early," he says. "There's no substitute for putting in the work. It's also important to get the two puppy points for dogs younger than 15 months, because those count toward the 10 needed to finish the field champion title. We start field trialing dogs at 6 months of age."

Despite the perceived obstacle of placing a field dog in the show ring, the challenges of field trialing make achieving titles more difficult. "There's one field trial per weekend in the spring and fall as opposed to year-round opportunities with multiple dog shows each weekend," Judy says.

"That makes finishing a field champion title a tougher grind," Chuck adds. "The trials are winner-take-all, so there are fewer chances to score points."

Yet the Pariettis keep doing it. Retirement affords them the time to focus on putting dual champion titles on their dogs. Competition also gives them and the dogs something to do when it's not hunting season. Chuck and Judy see great possibilities with the four dogs they are currently bringing along.



Chuck takes Tyra to get fresh air in the exercise yard that extends from Odyssey German Shorthairs' 12-run kennel.



Odyssey's Twilight Dancer ("Dani"), like all Odyssey GSPs, is fed *Purina Pro Plan Performance* and *Purina Pro Plan Shredded Blend Beef & Rice* formulas.

Sam. Dani hasn't competed in the ring but has earned her two open field trial puppy points.

Fulfilling that potential is the intent at Odyssey German Shorthairs. "We want to prove the versatility of the breed," says Judy. "Our goal is to show that the dogs can achieve all they are capable of in the field but still maintain the conformation standard."

### Extra Efforts

When Chuck is not traveling to hunt or compete, he's often on the road to judge at horseback field trials. He has judged the AKC Gun Dog National Championship, German Wirehaired Pointer National Championship, German Short-haired Pointer National Amateur Gun Dog Championship, Vizsla National Gun Dog Championship and numerous regional championships and classics.

"I like to judge because it helps to provide a benchmark for my dogs," he says. "I see the best out there and know the level at which I need to prepare my dogs to compete. Seeing the other dogs also prevents me from becoming kennel blind. It helps me identify possible studs to breed to our bitches."

Once becoming a dual champion, an Odyssey dog has one title remaining to complete the Pariettis' trifecta of versatility: Master Hunter (MH). Like with the other titles she earned, Blitz was the first Odyssey dog to attain the MH suffix. Judy put that title on her. Chuck finished the rest of their 12 Master Hunters.

"Maverick is the real deal," says Chuck. "She's got nice bones and nice conformation. She's the whole package. She has the most potential of our dogs right now."

They look at Odyssey's Cool-J Callen as "the next Sam," who is his grandsire. The 1 1/2-year-old "Callen" was sired by FC Keg Creek Rising Cooper out of Annie. The youngest up-and-comer is Odyssey's Twilight Dancer ("Dani"). She is out of Rudy, produced using frozen semen of

To achieve the Master Hunter title, a dog competes against a standard, not against other dogs. The dog must demonstrate competency in four areas without guidance from a handler: back without a whoa command; be steady to wing and shot; retrieve; and back through another dog's retrieve. It's a half-hour walking test along a designated field course.

"We wait until after we've put dual champion titles on the dogs to do the Master Hunter title because in field trials you're pushing the dogs to range out ahead," Chuck says. "Because the Master Hunter test is on foot, you need the dogs to stay closer."

That suits well for Odyssey GSPs' post-trial lives.

"When they're finished, they are retired," Chuck says. "They permanently become hunting dogs, fulfilling what they're born to do."

The dogs may as well forget the horseback field trial training that required them to range farther afield. The walking hunt test for the Master Hunter title, in effect, reverses their focus, bringing them full circle to the place Chuck intends them to be. That's within a quarter mile of his footsteps through fields and thickets and over hills and dales on pleasure trips to the high plains.

Like Chuck and Judy, the dogs will reap the odyssey of retirement they've sewn as dual champion companions. ■



Rudy demonstrates the strong training Odyssey dogs receive, pointing a bird in a snow-covered field on the Pariettis' farm. Maverick backs with a similarly rigid focus.

# Spitz Breeds & the Mexican Hairless Dog



Swedish Vallhund

## Swedish Vallhund

More than 1,000 years ago, the Vikings are believed to have brought the Swedish Vallhund to Wales or taken the Pembroke Corgi to Sweden. Either way, they were interbred, which explains the similarities between the two hardy, long-lived breeds. A small, powerful, fearless dog, the Swedish Vallhund was used for centuries on farms to herd cattle and sheep.

This ancient Spitz breed was nearly extinct in 1942, when Count Bjorn von Rosen saved the breed by scouring the country to find stock to begin a new breeding program. Marilyn Thell bred the first Swedish Vallhund litter born in the U.S. in 1986 at her Jonricker Kennel from two dogs she brought back from England.

A wonderful family companion with an eager-to-please temperament, the Swedish Vallhund is an athletic dog that competes in obedience, agility, tracking, flyball and conformation. Puppies from the same litter may be born with no tail (bobtail), a stub tail or a full curled Spitz tail. Males are from 12 ½ to 13 ½ inches tall at the withers, and bitches are from 11 ½ to 12 ½ inches.

## Icelandic Sheepdog

The Vikings also are credited with the founding of the Icelandic Sheepdog. Around 874 to 930 A.D., the Vikings brought these dogs with them to Iceland, where they were used to work sheep, cattle and horses. The sheepdogs adapted so well to the terrain, they became indispensable. The Icelandic Sheepdog is one of the oldest breeds in the world and Iceland's only native dog. A playful, friendly and inquisitive dog, this breed was recognized by the American Kennel Club (AKC) in 2010. There



Icelandic Sheepdog



are two types, longhaired and shorthaired. Males are 18 inches at the shoulder, and females are 16 ½ inches.

### Xoloitzcuintli

The Mexican hairless dog is one of the newest AKC breeds, having received recognition this year. The Xoloitzcuintli was originally registered with the AKC from 1887 to 1959, but interest waned and the breed was dropped from the stud book. This ancient breed existed in Mexico over 3,000 years ago, making him a national treasure in Mexico and the first dog of the Americas. Archaeological evidence indicates the Xoloitzcuintli accompanied man on the first migrations across the Bering Strait.

This breed had a reputation as a healer and thus was used to ward off and cure ailments such as asthma, toothache and insomnia. Xoloitzcuintli also were believed to safeguard the home from evil spirits and intruders. An excellent companion, this breed comes in two varieties, hairless and coated, and three sizes: toy (10 to 14 inches tall at the shoulder), miniature (14 to 18 inches tall) and standard (18 to 23 inches tall).



Xoloitzcuintli



Norwegian Lundehund

### Norwegian Lundehund

A small Spitz breed, the Norwegian Lundehund is another AKC breed recognized this year. Dating to the 1500s, the Lundehund originated in the remote islands of arctic Norway, where he was used to hunt puffins, a bird found along the west coast. The breed's unusual characteristics include six toes on each foot; prick ears that fold closed, forward or backward; and the ability to tip the head backward until it touches the backbone. These traits enabled him to wrestle and retrieve puffins from the crevices of steep vertical cliffs. A loyal, playful companion, the Norwegian Lundehund ranges in size from 13 to 15 inches tall for males and from 12 to 14 inches for females.

Sources: *The Complete Dog Book*, Official Publication of the American Kennel Club (New York: Ballantine Books, 2006) and the website of the American Kennel Club ([www.akc.org](http://www.akc.org)).

Professional retriever trainer  
Mike Lardy sets up a test.



# PREPARING *for a* FIELD TRIAL

**A**lmost 60 retriever enthusiasts are gathered under a tent at professional retriever trainer Mike Lardy's property in Boston, Ga., hoping a steady rain will end and anxious for a special one-day seminar to begin. The seminar, "Preparing for a Retriever Field Trial," is being held in conjunction with two area field trials and the annual Purina Outstanding Retriever Awards Banquet.

Lardy, winner of a record seven National Retriever Championships and a 2004 Retriever Hall of Fame inductee, has trained and handled some of the most famous and talented retrievers of all time. Today, he's focused on the amateur owners and handlers and sharing insights to elevate their game.

Lardy welcomes the crowd but emphasizes that before any dog steps to the line, before any test is set up, before any whistle is blown, there's critical homework to be done: "Who is judging the field trial in north Florida this



Barb Younglove and "Floyd" watch the action.

weekend?" he asks, knowing the answer, of course. "We know that certain judges like certain setups, something they'll use when they need to. So before any dog gets trained, we're going to think about that, and a lot of other things, and perhaps set up for some of those kinds of tests this week."

He shares an anecdote about past National Open competition and anticipating a judge's favorite setup at a critical point in the trial. It paid off.

"How many dogs will be running the Open in north Florida?" Lardy asks, knowing the answer is 60. He explains that if it's a big entry, a 100-dog Open, the tests will tend to be shorter because of time constraints, perhaps requiring more precision or complexity. A smaller entry, say 60 dogs, means the judges have more time and might favor bigger tests. Lardy processes that information and plans his training regimen accordingly.

“Will it be big water, small water, running water? What’s the weather? Where’s the wind? Should I train or rest my dog the day before a test? And on the day before the trial, are you confident you have a good read on your dog?” he asks.

“This retriever game has really leveled out,” Lardy says. “Look at the latest issue of *Retriever Field Trial News*. I believe there are one, maybe two dogs that have more than 100 All-Age total points in the Open and Amateur All-Age stakes. Several years ago there might have been 10 dogs with 100 points. Today, there are lots of good dogs and lots of good trainers. It makes competing really difficult.”

In fact, that’s why Lardy leaves nothing to chance.

“Attention to detail becomes so important,” he says. “You can have a good dog, a great dog, and not do very well at trials. That’s why we’re so

picky about everything we do. It’s the sum of all effort that makes a difference. Perhaps that translates to a 1 percent advantage. That’s what we want and that just might be the difference between winning the field trial and getting a JAM (Judges Award of Merit).”

While some handlers are taking a nap at the trial or waiting in line for lunch, Lardy advocates watching and studying as many handlers and dogs as possible before it’s your turn to head for the holding blind.

“Maybe the conditions changed, and the test changed,” Lardy says. “Maybe nothing changed, but there’s a place where the dogs can stop and hear the whistle better. Know that place.”

Lardy shares some principles and philosophies for training the day before the trial, including:

- Do No Harm: “I may not be sure it’s going to help, but I sure don’t want



Handler Dennis Voigt sends a Labrador Retriever as the gallery watches.

it to hurt. Avoid overtraining, confusing the dog, exhausting the dog or opening the door to his 'dark room.'"

- Work on Fundamentals: "You can't overemphasize the fundamentals. Manners at the line. Sit still. Watch the bird. Heel."
- Do the Most Demanding Test You Can Do with Success: "You want success, especially heading into a trial."
- Burn Calories: "Some dogs need a volume of work on Thursday. Some need to rest. Three dogs on my truck will not get trained the day before the trial. Know your dogs."

With that, Lardy instructs the handler participants with dogs to caravan a short distance for the first setup of the day. Observers grab their chairs and notebooks and follow.



Lardy shares insights on preparing for a trial.

Practicing what he preaches, Lardy makes sure his seminar is a model of efficiency. Even the rain stops on time. A quality sound system delivers comments from the line for all to hear; a white erase board helps emphasize objectives and concepts. Lardy uses walkie-talkies to guide assistants on four wheelers. Handlers and their dogs are listed in a program, and they are ready when called.

"This is just fantastic," says observer Patti Simmons of Hartwell,

Ga. "I just started with field trials, and the amount of information and education is tremendous. I'm just soaking it up."

Also attending the seminar as a handler is 87-year-old Sig Vilagi of Brooklyn, Wis., a fellow Retriever Hall-of-Famer with 51 years in the game. "Why am I here?" Vilagi asks. "I respect Mike. He knows what he's talking about, and I can always learn something. My dog 'Speedy' and I are here to learn."

For the next six hours, including a lunch sponsored by Purina, participants and observers saw 12 dogs running three setups. Lardy evaluates each decision and provides instruction and encouragement — down to precisely when to blow the whistle.

"Toot," Lardy says, followed by a handler's inhale, gasp, whistle and cast.

"We need some emotion with that cast," Lardy emphasizes. "Over!" The handler obliges, and the dog responds.

Jim Nichols, who traveled 2,600 miles from Alberta, Canada, to attend a Lardy winter seminar a few weeks earlier, is pleased to have another opportunity to learn from one of the best. "I really got a lot out of this,"



Sig Vilagi, a member of the Retriever Hall of Fame, came to the seminar with his Labrador Retriever "Speedy."

Nichols says. "Things that have puzzled me in the past, things I could never get straight, are suddenly so apparent and easy to understand."

Martha Cole Glenn, an observer from Arlington, Va., attends as many Lardy seminars as she can. "I think Mike Lardy is as good with people as he is with dogs," she says.

Lardy concludes this seminar with "Ten Things I Might Like to Do Before a Trial" and "Ten Things I Seldom Do."

He also shares a story, sort of a "memory bird," for the participants to take away.

"We had a retriever named 'Joy,' Nora Larsen's dog, who left our training camp in October and didn't see a bird all winter. She came back to us two days before a trial in May, but mind you, she hadn't run a water blind in seven months. Well, Joy won that Open. She just nailed everything. I think those birds were so special to her after that time off that she just went out and drilled the marks. That tells me something about how we might be overtraining our dogs."

Dean Reinke, Purina Area Manager responsible for the retriever segment, credits Judy Powers, a veteran retriever trainer and handler from Wisconsin, for coordinating logistics related to the seminar along with Team Lardy. Reinke says the one-day seminar was so popular and successful, it will become a permanent component, preceding the annual Purina Outstanding Retriever Awards Banquet.

"Our Purina Retriever Award Committee recently expanded and now includes five top professional trainers and Purina advocates — Mike Lardy, Bill Eckett, Danny Farmer, Dave Rorem and Jerry Patopea," Reinke says. "Next year the Purina Awards banquet and program is headed to Kansas City, where Bill and Becky Eckett will lead the seminar." ■

  
**CIRCLE OF CHAMPIONS**

## No. 1 Toy Dog Is A DUTCH-BRED AFFENPINSCHER CALLED 'JOEY'

A 3-year-old black male Affenpinscher from the Netherlands, Multi-BIS/Multi-INT CH GCH Banana Joe V. Tani Kazari, has been winning dog shows since he arrived in the U.S. in April 2010. Charismatic and playful, "Joey" shines in the show ring.

Handled by Ernesto Lara of Bowmansville, Pa., Joey captured Best in Show in January at the Palm Springs Kennel Club Dog Show. Other top wins this year include Best in Show at the Mid-Kentucky Kennel Club and the Toy Dog Breeders Association of Southern California dog shows and Best of Breed at Westminster. Last year, he won the Affenpinscher Club of America National Specialty.

"Joey is a little dog who holds his own against big competition," Lara



Ernesto Lara holds "Joey," an Affenpinscher, after handling the dog to Best in Show out of 3,349 dogs at the Palm Springs Kennel Club Dog Show. Purina representative Diana Allen is at left.

says. "The Affenpinscher's face is his most important feature, and Joey's expression can appear almost human-like. Judges love to see his playful personality as he gaits around the ring."

Zoila Truesdale of Seekonk, Mass., and breeder Mieke Coymans of Tani Kazari Affenpinschers in Lieshout, Netherlands, are the co-owners. Joey was sired by a U.S. male, Kyleakin

Space Cowboy, out of a Dutch bitch, Bling Bling V. Tani Kazari.

Before coming to the U.S. last year, Joey set a record as the top-winning Affenpinscher in European history. Joey was the Reserve Best in Show Champion at the 2010 World Dog Show in Denmark, the first Affenpinscher to win, and the Best of Breed winner at the 2009 World Dog Show in Sweden.

A breed that originated in Germany and France, the Affenpinscher earned the nickname "little devil with a moustache" due to his monkeylike face and mischievous personality. Affenpinschers were used to rid stables and homes of rats and mice.

Eventually, Joey will return to the Netherlands to be bred. He is fed *Purina Pro Plan* Performance Formula.

## 'Zelda' Charms Her Way to No. 1 English Springer Spaniel

A four-time Best in Show-winning English Springer Spaniel, GCH Cerise Tender Is the Night, continued her string of notable successes by winning the Saw Mill River Kennel Club Dog Show in March at Milton, N.Y. An exuberant, graceful-moving springer currently ranked No. 1 in the breed and No. 4 in the Sporting Group, "Zelda" outperformed about 800 dogs to win the all-breed show.

Professional handler Howard Huber of Oxford, Pa., finished the championship of the 3 1/2-year-old English Springer Spaniel in March 2010 and then handled her to three Bests in Show. Zelda also won the 2010 Show Springer of the Year Award from the English Springer Spaniel Field Trial Association.

"Zelda is very outgoing and loves everybody," Huber says. "She has a steady temperament and is exuberant in the ring."

Carl Blaine and Fran Sunseri of Sacramento, Calif., co-own Zelda with breeder Dorothy Cherry of Sherman, Conn. Donna Herzig of Louisville, Ky., co-bred the litter sired by BIS CH Cerise Signature Of Telltale out of CH Cerise Southampton My Heart's Desire.

Cherry, who breeds under the Cerise prefix, which is French for cherry, has owned English Springer Spaniels since her husband, Wendell, passed away in 1991, leaving a springer named Sierra Femme Fatale ("Cleo") to her. She bred her first litter in 1997. "Zelda is the best springer I've ever seen," Cherry says. "Her move-

ment is her claim to fame. She has a rock-hard topline that is truly beautiful when she's gaitting."

Huber, who breeds springers and Dachshunds under the Oakcrest prefix with his wife, Heidi, handled his first Best in Show English Springer Spaniel, CH Maidenhead's Advocate, in 1995. He specializes in handling sporting breeds.

Zelda, who has lived with the Hubers since last winter while being campaigned, is fed *Purina Pro Plan* Small Bites Lamb & Rice All Life Stages Formula.



GCH Cerise Tender Is the Night is a four-time Best in Show winner and is professionally handled by Howard Huber.

## GCH Kambara's Zebulon Is a Top-Winning Australian Terrier

The No. 1 Australian Terrier in the country is a 3-year-old blue-and-tan male, GCH Kambara's Zebulon, who recently tied the breed record as the winner of four Bests in Show. Handler Kellie Dahlberg describes "Zeb" as "energetic and enthusiastic."

"We've worked hard to channel Zeb's enthusiasm to his performance in the ring," says Dahlberg of Sarasota, Fla. "Many people have told us that his breed type is the closest to the standard they've seen in a long time. His sturdy build and animated presence draw attention."

One of the smallest working terriers, the Australian Terrier is a spirited, self-assured dog originally bred to help control rodents and snakes in the out-back and on farms. Zeb exemplifies the standard with his small, sturdy size and weatherproof, harsh-textured coat. Though a fearless little dog, he also is



Handler Kellie Dahlberg presents "Zeb," who won the Manatee Kennel Club Dog Show this year on the Florida circuit, with, from left, judge Carol Beattie, show chairman Paul Wassberg and Purina Area Manager Marci Sale.

an affectionate and devoted companion. Besides winning Best of Breed at Westminster this year, Zeb won Best

in Show in January, outperforming 1,603 dogs, at the Manatee Kennel Club Dog Show in Bradenton, Fla.

In 2010, he won the Australian Terrier Club of America National Specialty, Best of Breed at the AKC National Championship and Group Firsts at the Garden State All Terrier Club Dog Show.

Bred and owned by Anne and Craig Mitchell of Kambara Australian Terriers in Fort Myers, Fla., Zeb was sired by CH Akiba's Sixty Minute Man out of CH Temora's Flight To Kambara, RE, CD. A bitch from the litter, CH Kambara's Bella Macchina, also has done well at dog shows, having won Best of Breed at Westminster in 2010.

While being campaigned, Zeb lives with Dahlberg, who says he is "an easygoing, relaxed house dog who loves playing with the other terriers." Zeb is fed *Purina Pro Plan Selects* Natural Turkey & Barley Plus Essential Vitamins and Minerals.

## Pointer Named 'Sam' Wins National Shooting Dog Championship

A steady, hard-running performance earned a 3-year-old liver-and-white male Pointer called "Sam" his first National Shooting Dog Championship in February at Sedgewilds Plantation in Union Springs, Ala. Handled by Doug Ray of Waynesboro,

Ga., Cassique's Boss outperformed 53 bird dogs with six quail finds to win the championship.

"Sam found his first quail about five minutes into the 90-minute run," Ray says. "The rest came spaced out pretty evenly. He just ran very strong.

I still can't believe he won. Sam has never lacked talent, yet he has an extraordinarily willful spirit."

"We've always felt Sam was a prodigy," says owner Fred Rowan of Atlanta. "We never doubted he would make it, but he required extra patience and time for development. He can be a handful that tries you, but he's a good dog."

Rowan and his wife, Bernice, co-own Sam. The Pointer was bred and started by Tim Moore of Calquitt, Ga., who scouted for Ray at the National Championship. Sam was sired by Elhew Fibber McGee, the producer of 55 Field Champions, out of Magic Carpet.

Ray's father, Harold Ray, a member of the Pointer and Setter Field Trial Hall of Fame, helped train Sam as a derby. Then, Ray took over training and handling Sam in horseback shooting dog field trials. His wife, Lea, scouted when Sam qualified for the National Championship by winning the Henry Banks Open

Shooting Dog Classic with eight finds last fall in Thomasville, Ga.

A professional handler since 1988, Ray took a hiatus from competition from 1995 to 2001 to train dogs and help his father manage Smith Plantation in Waynesboro, Ga. He returned to field trials after handling for the Rowans in 2003. Since then, he has claimed every major championship at least once and finished 25 Field Champions. Last December, Ray set a record when he became the only handler to place both the Champion and Runner-Up Champion two consecutive years at the Gulf Coast Shooting Dog Championship in Union Springs, Ala.

"It's very humbling to follow in the footsteps of my father and other great trainers," Ray says. "They are the cream of the crop, and it's an honor to be among them."

Sam is fed *Purina Pro Plan Performance* and *Purina Pro Plan Chicken & Rice All Life Stages Formula*.



Cassique's Boss, posed by scout Tim Moore, is photographed after winning the National Shooting Dog Championship. Doug Ray, to the left of Moore, handled the dog during the hourlong horseback stake.

## Chenoweth and Jessup Win Third Straight Purina Nite Hunt Award

A 4-year-old male Black & Tan Coonhound, GR NITE CH Chenoweth's Rebel, was honored as the 2010 Purina Outstanding Nite Hunt Coonhound at a ceremony in January during the UKC Winter Classic in Albany, Ga. Handler Jody Jessup of Rural Hall, N.C., received the 30th annual Nite Hunt Award presented to "Rebel," who outperformed 7,726 hounds.

During the yearlong competition, Rebel earned 1,090 points in 23 of 25 nite hunts. Among his Grand Nite Champion wins, Rebel won Southern Redbone Days and Southern English Days. In Nite Champion competition, he won the North Carolina and Arkansas state championships. He was the World Champion Black & Tan at the World Hunt.

"Rebel hunts hard and fast," Jessup says. "His strong suit is getting out in front and hunting by himself."

The Black & Tan, who is owned by Clair Chenoweth of Bridgeport,

W.Va., was sired by 'PR' Rocket's Smokey Kid out of 'PR' Still Majestic Black Pearl. He was bred by Travis Six of Athens, Ohio. Seeing the dog's potential early, Chenoweth bought Rebel from Six when the coonhound was 1 year old.

"I expected Rebel could win this year," Chenoweth says. "He's a strong, independent dog, and if you give Jody a good dog, he can win with him."

Rebel was a breed winner in the 2009 Purina Award competition, finishing second overall to GR NITE CH 'PR' Tough Times Bodie, a Treeing Walker Coonhound also owned by Chenoweth and handled by Jessup. This year, he became Chenoweth's third straight Purina Award winner and fourth since 1994.

NITE CH 'PR' Chenoweth's Sue, also a Black & Tan, won in 2008. Rebel's grandsire, GR NITE CH 'PR' Chenoweth's Smokey II, was Chenoweth's first Purina Award winner.

As the owner of the Purina Out-



Handler Jody Jessup, center, poses GR NITE CH Chenoweth's Rebel, a Black & Tan Coonhound and the winner of the Purina Nite Hunt Award. Purina representatives and members of the Purina Coonhound Award Committee hold the award banner.

standing Coonhound, Chenoweth received an original oil painting of Rebel by Ross Young of Springfield, Mo. He and Jessup received engraved Purina Award plaques, a satin banner and a year's supply of Purina brand dog food. They also received a cash

award that included additional monies since they are active members of *Purina Pro Club*.

Rebel, like all hounds at Chenoweth's kennel, is fed *Purina Dog Chow* brand dog food.

## TREEING WALKER COONHOUND NAMED 'KAT' WINS PURINA BENCH SHOW AWARD

Known for her focus and discipline, GR CH 'PR' Ben's Creek Southern Kat, a 2-year-old female Treeing Walker Coonhound, was presented the seventh annual Purina Outstanding Bench Show Coonhound Award. Owner John Boyter of Woodruff, S.C., and handler Gerald Black of Greer, S.C., received the honor for "Kat," who outperformed 2,420 hounds to win the award.

"Kat's ability to stay focused on the bench for a long time without moving stands out," Black says. "When Kat is stacked and her tail is up, she's set. You can walk off and leave her, and she won't let down."

Black has competed in bench shows for 17 years. Boyter, a former nite hunt competitor who started running coonhounds in 1969 in the woods of South Carolina, got serious about showing hounds in 2000. Boyter and Black co-bred Kat, who is out of Boyter's dam, Ben's Creek Southern Niki, and sired by GR CH Flatwood's Heza Hell Raiser, owned by Black. Boyter raised and trained Kat.

Among her wins in the yearlong Purina competition, Kat won Overall Grand Female Champion at the UKC Winter Classic, the West Virginia and



GR CH 'PR' Ben's Creek Southern Kat stands in front of the oil painting she won as the Purina Outstanding Bench Show Coonhound. Accepting the award were handler Gerald Black, left, and owner John Boyter, right, and family members.

South Carolina state championships, Grand American and Treeing Walker Days. Kat was 19 months old when the season ended, making her the youngest hound to win the Purina Award. Boyter and Black say Kat's success at such a young age shows the potential they've always seen in her.

"Performing comes naturally to Kat," Boyter says. "She's a once-in-a-lifetime dog. To win the Purina Award with Kat means a lot. You try to reach the top of anything you're doing. To win this is as high as you can go."

"To win with such a young dog makes it especially significant," adds Black. "We think she'll only get better as she gets more experience."

As the owner of the Purina Outstanding Coonhound, Boyter received an original oil painting of Kat by Ross Young of Springfield, Mo. Boyter and Black received engraved Purina Award plaques, a satin banner and a year's supply of Purina brand dog food. They received a cash award, plus additional monies since they

are active members of *Purina Pro Club*.

Kat is fed *Purina Pro Plan* Performance Formula.

## GET CONNECTED TO PRO PLAN ON FACEBOOK

The *Purina Pro Plan* for Professionals Facebook fan page allows breeders and enthusiasts to connect using the popular social networking site. Fans can post photos, videos and experiences and share insights about breeding, handling and other topics.

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



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## 'Hickory' Is the First Scottish Deerhound to Win Westminster

Gaiting gracefully around the green-carpeted Best in Show ring at Madison Square Garden, the Scottish Deerhound, GCH Foxcliffe Hickory Wind, was brilliant. Her confident, easygoing style was "heaven on earth" to judge Paolo Dondina.

When Dondina declared "Hickory" the winner of the 135th Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show, handler Angela Lloyd of Warrenton, Va., experienced a bit of heaven on earth herself. "Hickory showed like never before," Lloyd says. "She was solid and steady. Everything clicked."

Bred and co-owned by Cecilia Dove and her veterinarian husband, Dr. R. Scott Dove, of Flint Hill, Va., Hickory also is co-owned by Sally Sweatt of Minneapolis. Dove, who named the Deerhound after the bluegrass song "Hickory Wind" by John Duffey, finished the dog's championship from the Bred-By-Exhibitor class. Hickory became her most-winning Deerhound after 30 years' breeding under the Foxcliffe prefix.

Dondina, the first Italian and fifth non-American to judge the Westminster show, says, "This animal



Westminster Best in Show winner "Hickory," a Scottish Deerhound, is shown with, from left: Westminster Kennel Club president Peter Van Brunt, judge Paolo Dondina, handler Angela Lloyd, show chairman Thomas Bradley, and chief steward Sean W. McCarthy.

is truly beautiful and in great condition. She fits perfectly the type the standard described many years ago. She is very well balanced. This is a super Deerhound."

Hickory's conditioning comes from regular exercise walks with eight Deerhounds and Dove on the family's farm in the rugged foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia.

Though Hickory lived with Lloyd while being campaigned, the Deerhound visited Dove every day except when at shows.

The 5-year-old black-brindle Scottish Deerhound is the first of her breed to win at the Garden. She also won the breed and placed third in the Hound Group in 2010. She has been the No. 1 Scottish Deerhound in the country since 2009.

This year also was the second big win at the Garden for Lloyd, who was the Best Junior Handler in 1998. "My father bred German Shepherd Dogs, and as a child I went to dog shows. It became part of my life," she says.

It is the second consecutive year that the Westminster Best in Show winner and all seven Group winners are fed *Pro Plan* dog food. Hickory is the fifth consecutive Westminster Best in Show winner who is fed *Pro Plan*. Hickory is fed *Purina Pro Plan* Performance and *Purina Pro Plan* Sensitive Skin & Stomach formulas as well as *Pro Plan* Canned Entrée Chicken & Rice Formula.