



# TODAY'S BREEDER

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

Issue 106



## **SPECIAL ANNUAL EDITION** 2021'S TOP SHOW & SPORTING DOGS



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**ON THE COVER**

MBIS/MBISS GCHG Pequest Wasabi, a 3-year-old black-masked red male Pekingese, is breeder-owner-handled by David Fitzpatrick of East Berlin, Pennsylvania. Co-owners are Sandra Middlebrooks of Fairhope, Alabama, the late Iris Love of New York City and Peggy Steinman of Lancaster, Pennsylvania. Photo by David Fitzpatrick. See story on page 16.

**THIS PAGE**

Martinsen's Wild Child UT1, pictured at 2 years of age, is a male Vizsla bred by Tate and Jenny Martinsen of Martinsen's Red Point Kennel in Humboldt, South Dakota, co-owners with Jeffrey Wilhelm of Republican City, Nebraska. "Kiddo" is trained and handled by Tate Martinsen. See story on page 14.



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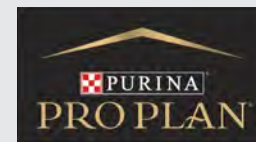
**Barbara Fawver**, Editor, *Today's Breeder*

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# SHOW DOGS OF THE YEAR AWARDS

# 2021'S SHOW DOGS OF THE YEAR

An unusual year, 2021 started with many dog shows canceled due to COVID-19. The year will long be remembered for having extraordinarily stiff competition at every weekend event. Cross-country journeys to reach shows miles from home typified the norm. Here we honor the Show Dogs of the Year. Your stupendous achievements rising to the top of the rankings, some setting breed records, amid the year's challenges are commendable.

## MBIS/MBISS CAN GRCH/AM GCHP VANDERBILT 'N PRINTEMP'S LUCKY STRIKER No. 1 All-Breed Dog & No. 1 Working Dog | 70 Bests in Show & 139 Working Group Firsts

His perpetual "Sammy" smile wraps around you in a joyous hug. His eyes twinkle mischievously. Socially charming, unflappable, charismatically comical, with phenomenal movement and conformation, "Striker" is the quintessential show dog.

Pro handler [Laura King](#), of Milan, Illinois, tossed toys, played chase, kept it easy breezy, while sealing a special bond with the now 5 1/2-year-old male Samoyed. "Striker has made it easy for me," she says, of her highest achiever over a 28-year career. "He's the best Sammy I've ever seen, a clown at heart, just a good guy."

The breeding that produced Striker's litter was made in Denmark, and the litter was whelped in the U.S. on June 4, 2015. The sire was DK CH Cabaka's Happy

Canada, breeder of [Vanderbilt Samoyeds](#) (VanSams) for 37 years, collaborated with co-breeder Mengru Wu, of Newark, Delaware, on the breeding.

Elford chose Striker as her pick puppy, becoming co-owner with her husband, Blair. Before Striker was 8 months of age, Elford had handled him to an all-breed Best in Show and Working Group Specialty win in Canada. By 1 year, he had earned Grand Champion titles in Canada and the U.S. A dynamic, consistent winner, Striker was the No. 2 all-breed dog in Canada in 2019, with 58 Bests in Show.

The magical adventure revved up when the Elford's good friends, Marc Ralsky and Colleen Pacht-Ralsky (Cor-Mar Siberian Huskies) of Toronto, Ontario, Canada, signed on as co-owners in January 2020 for the Sammy's U.S. campaign. The whirlwind year netted Striker 23 Bests in Show and rankings of No. 4 all-breed dog and No. 2 Working dog.

The gusto continued in 2021. Striker hit the No. 1 all-breed dog spot in February and held it with 70 Bests in Show by year's end. Highlights include winning Working Group Firsts at the Westminster Kennel Club and Morris & Essex. With 93 career Bests in Show, Striker is the top-winning Samoyed in breed history.



Go Lucky, the 2015 World Dog Show Reserve Best in Show winner, and the dam was CAN/AM CH Vanderbilt's Cherry Brandy. Judi Elford of Millbrook, Ontario,



PHOTO: DIANE LEWIS

## EUR/AM MBIS/MBISS JEW19 GCHS KAN TRACE VERY CHEEKY CHIC No. 1 Sporting Dog | 83 Sporting Group Firsts

Adorably confident, gifted with natural razzle-dazzle, “Orca” shines with her insatiable curiosity and love of life. Happy and carefree, she has never met a stranger. The alpha partner when being shown, she masters the ring with flair, spunk and unquenchable joy.

“She shows me more than I show her,” muses pro handler [Phil Booth](#), of Mims, Florida, of the Lagotto he picked as a puppy from her Croatian litter with first dibs to show her if she came to the U.S. “She is very engaged when being shown, always thinking.”

Orca arrived in the U.S. in July 2020 and warmed up right away to Booth. The pair excelled, taking seven Sporting Group Firsts in just 10 weekends and finishing 2020 with a Sporting Group First at the AKC National Championship. Orca earned 26 Bests in Show in 2021 and was the No. 2 all-breed dog in the country. Her wins, including Best of Breed at the 2021 Lagotto Romagnolo Club of America National Specialty, made her the top-winning Lagotto in breed history.

Whelped May 3, 2018, at the [Kan Trace Kennel](#) of breeder Sabina Zdunić Šinković in Rijeka, Croatia, Orca is the fourth generation of a bloodline begun 20 years ago. The beautiful Lagotto is co-owned by Šinković and Ante Lucin of Croatia. Orca’s U.S. campaign includes co-owner Victor Malzoni Jr. of Malibu, California.

A superstar in Europe before coming to the U.S., Orca took 22 Bests in Show in Fédération Cynologique Internationale shows, including two times winning Supreme Best in Show. At the 2020 Crufts Dog Show in Birmingham, England, Orca won Gundog Group Second out of more than 5,300 entries.



PHOTO: RHONDA CASSIDY



PHOTO: KIM HALL

## MBIS/MBISS GCHG FOXCLIFFE CLAIRE RANDALL FRASIER

No. 1 Hound | 93 Hound Group Firsts

Graceful and dignified, powerful and strong, the Scottish Deerhound “Claire” loves dog shows and traveling with pro handler Angela Lloyd as much as chasing prey in the mountains at her Virginia farm home.

“Claire is a majestic, magical creature,” says Lloyd, of Amissville, Virginia, describing her first SDOY winner. “We have a wonderful partnership built on love and care and time spent outside the ring. Sighthounds are hardwired to hunt by sight and speed and can be sensitive to little things going on outside the ring.”

Lloyd also has a special partnership with Claire’s co-breeders and co-owners, Cecilia Dove and her veterinarian husband, R. Scott Dove, of Flint Hill, Virginia. They

co-own of Claire. Their friendship began when Lloyd handled Claire’s granddam, GCH Foxcliffe Hickory Win, to Best in Show at Westminster in 2011, the only Deerhound to win.

Dove fell in love with Deerhounds in 1976, a breed that ran beautifully alongside her Thoroughbred horses. Representing her seventh generation, Claire, a gray female, was born Sept. 8, 2017.

“Claire’s love of showing is amazing,” Dove says. “Angie’s special connection with her has brought out her best.”

Likewise, Lloyd credits Dove for Claire’s success. “We live only miles apart, so Claire always goes home after weekend shows. Cecilia runs her freely on their farm. It would be impossible to maintain that physique on the road, and it helps to keep her happy.”

The now 4-year-old Claire took 45 Bests in Show in 2021, making her the No. 3 all-breed dog in the country. Claire won Best in Show in 2020 and 2021 at the “National Dog Show Presented by Purina,” and her dam, GCHS Foxcliffe Chelsea Piers, won Reserve Best in Show in 2015.

**‘CLAIRE’ IS FED**

Purina Pro Plan **SPORT**  
Performance 30/20  
Chicken & Rice

consider Lloyd family and listed her as co-breeder and



PHOTO: HOLLOWAY PHOTO

## MBIS/MBISS GCHG FOX CANYON'S I WON THE WAR AT GOLDSHIELD CGCA CGCU TKN No. 1 Non-Sporting Dog | 55 Non-Sporting Group Firsts

The perfect combination of attitude and conformation comes together in the adorable 3-year-old male French Bulldog known as “Winston.” The moment Winston walks into the show ring — or the airport terminal or hotel lobby — he’s in charge.

The first SDOY winner for pro handler [Perry Payson](#) of Bixby, Oklahoma, Winston represents the fourth generation of a co-breeding partnership between Payson (Goldshield, begun in 1987) and Sandy Fox ([Fox Canyon](#), begun in 2002) of Peoria, Arizona. “Winston loves dog shows,” Payson says. “He’s a real character who wants everyone to notice him.”

Longtime friends in Frenchies and Rottweilers, Payson and Fox added their colleague Alexandra “Alex” Vorbeck of Pasadena, California, to Team Winston in 2021. Payson and Vorbeck advised Fox to breed her double-hooded pied brindle-and-white dam, CH Fox Canyon’s Paradigm Zoe Saldana, to Payson’s fawn male, GCH Goldshield’s Catch A Dream De La River Gauche. Born Feb. 12, 2019, Winston inherited his dam’s short-backed, compact, balanced body and his sire’s outgoing enthusiasm.

Winston was the No. 5 all-breed dog in the country in 2021 with 14 Bests in Show. He won the coveted Triple Crown at the French Bulldog Club of America (FBCA) National Specialty, sweeping all three specialty shows. An early achiever, Winston won Best in Sweepstakes and Winners Dog at the FBCA Specialty in August 2019. He was shown intermittently until his Specials campaign began in early 2021.

The handsome male, described by Payson as being light fawn with cream highlights, is co-owned by Fox and her grandson Morgan Fox, of Charlotte, North Carolina, a defensive end for the Carolina Panthers.

Vorbeck, owner of Winston’s maternal grandsire, GCH Highwood’s Big Shot, shown by Payson to No. 1 Frenchie in 2010, says, “Winston is a lot like ‘Willy.’ He walks into any situation with that amazing attitude.”





## MBIS/MBISS GCHS KING'S MTN. HENRY HIGGINS No. 1 Terrier | 65 Terrier Group Firsts

With eye-catching appeal and tenacious temperament, a now 4-year-old mustard-colored male Dandie Dinmont Terrier named "Higgins" has earned a spot in history. A consummate show dog, Higgins is the top-winning American-bred Dandie in history.

Named for Professor Henry Higgins from George Bernard Shaw's "My Fair Lady," Higgins was bred by the [King Mtn.](#) trio of Betty-Anne Stenmark of Grass Valley, California, Sandra Pretari Hickson of San Bruno, California, and B.J. Pumfrey of Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. He represents the 12th generation of a bloodline Stenmark started in 1976.

"Dandies are ruff 'em, tuff 'em terriers," Stenmark says. "They are very gamey. Higgins is the best male I've ever bred. He is animated and engaging with judges, a reliable performer."

Handled by Luiz Abreu of Starr, South Carolina, Higgins took off in 2021 winning six Bests in Show in the first four months.

By year's end, he had won 12 Bests in Show, making him the No. 8 all-breed dog in the country, and Best of Breed at the Dandie Dinmont Terrier Club of America (DDTCA) National Specialty, a repeat of 2020. He is often likened to the Australian-bred male, NZ/AUST/AM CH Hobergays Fineus Fogg, who crosses his pedigree four times and was the No. 1 dog in the U.S. in 2006.

"Higgins is an incredibly balanced dog from front to rear," Stenmark says. "He has great length of body, correct tail set and carriage, and is low to the ground and shapely. His impressive, masculine head and big dark eyes show off an affectionate dog."

Owner Teresa (Puna) Bell of Kailua, Hawaii, waited two years to get a King's Mtn. male. After he was born Oct. 30, 2017, Higgins lived with Stenmark until he was 10 ½ months old. During this time, Stenmark showed him at 6 months of age at the 2018 DDTCA National Specialty where he took Best of Winners and earned three 5-point Majors over the weekend.

In the summer of 2019, Pretari Hickson visited Bell and Higgins in Hawaii to see if Higgins had matured for showing. She felt he would be ready the next year. "Once he started showing, Higgins began placing every time," Stenmark says.

### 'HIGGINS' IS FED



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SPORT Active 27/17  
Turkey & Barley



PHOTO: DEREK GLAS

## MBIS/MBISS GCHG TAMARIN TATTOO

No. 1 Toy Dog | 61 Toy Group Firsts

Inquisitive and alert, comical and captivating, a belgian-colored male Affenpinscher named “Chester” is the epitome of the German monkey dog. Handled by Alfonso Escobedo of Houston, a true Affen lover, and bred by the famous [Tamarin Kennel](#), Chester, now 4 ½ years old, capitalizes on the winning combination.

“I bought Chester for me and Ashlie (Whitmore),” Escobedo says. “He is everything the breed should be — terrierlike, tough, always jumping around making you laugh, yet sweet and mellow.”

Along came Laura McIngvale Brown of Houston who noticed Chester when visiting Escobedo’s kennel in late 2020. She became co-owner of the charming little dog along with Doyle Girouard of Springlake, Texas, who owns Chester’s sire with his wife, Carol.

Chester had just started his Specials campaign with Escobedo. He had won Toy Group First at the “National Dog Show Presented by Purina” and took first place at the Dallas-Ft. Worth Toy Dog Club Show. The momentum continued in 2021, with Chester finishing as the No. 1 Toy dog and No. 10 all-breed dog in the country. Highlights include winning Best of Breed at the Affenpinscher

Club of America National Specialty and repeating Toy Group First at the National Dog Show.

Born June 15, 2017, Chester was bred by Terry and Jacqueline “Jackie” Stacy of Durham, North Carolina. Celebrating 25 years in 2021, their Tamarin Affenpinschers include more than 130 champions. Chester is one of three Tamarin SDOY Toy Group winners. His sire, GCHB Tamarin Tailback, also handled by Escobedo, won in 2016, and CH Tamarin Tug the winningest American-bred Affen of all time with 75 Bests in Show, won in 2008 handled by pro Jorgé Olivera of San Diego. Escobedo was Olivera’s assistant at the time.

“Chester is such a good, honest dog,” says Jackie Stacy, a respected breed authority who works to preserve the breed’s moderate, natural look. “His adaptability is unbelievable, as it should be. He literally is a comic who makes you laugh every day.”

### ‘CHESTER’ IS FED



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SPORT Performance  
30/20 Salmon  
& Rice



PHOTO: DEREK GLAS



PHOTO: TYLER GRADY

## MBIS/MBISS GCHS LIMELITE'S CHA CHA CHA No. 1 Herding Dog | 70 Herding Group Firsts

Happy and engaged, polished and beautiful, a red tricolor female Australian Shepherd named “Cha Cha” works dog shows highly motivated to please. Her natural drive and happy disposition set her apart.

Representing the second generation of [Limelite Aussies](#), Cha Cha, now 4 ½ years old, was bred by and is owned by Adam J. “A.J.” Tavares III and Matt Mullin of Centralia, Washington. Both professional handlers, the pair fell in love with the breed and got their first Aussie in 2000. Tavares, who handles Cha Cha, says, “Her smiling face and expression make her special. This is such a versatile breed. Cha Cha is easy to show because she is so biddable.”

Cha Cha’s wins in late 2020 helped to set her up for success in 2021, Tavares says. “We began pushing Cha Cha as a Special in late 2020. She took her first Best in Show in Tucson (Arizona) that fall,” he says. “In 2021, she started winning a lot. In July, she won four of five Bests in Show at the Alaska Kennel Club Cluster.”

The head-turning Aussie finished 2021 with 21 Bests in Show, ranking her as the No. 13 all-breed dog

in the country. She is the first Australian Shepherd to be the No. 1 Herding Dog. Meanwhile, Tavares took Cha Cha to another milestone as the top-winning breeder-owner-handled Aussie.

Born June 2, 2017, Cha Cha’s prominent pedigree includes her sire, MBIS/MBISS GCHP Silverwood’s Kiss Of Fire At Limelite RN, the No. 1 Aussie in 2018 and the 2019 Australian Shepherd Club of America (ASCA) National Specialty winner, and her dam, GCH Limelite’s Yada Yada, both bred by Tavares and Mullin. Her standout paternal grandsire was HOFX CAN BIS/ASCA BISS AKC/CAN GCH Copperridge’s Fire ‘N Bayouland ROMX ROMIII, whose many wins include Best of Breed at the ASCA National Specialty in 2011. ■



# THE ‘NATIONAL DOG SHOW’ TURNS 20

The famous Thanksgiving Day televised dog show, “The National Dog Show Presented by Purina,” celebrated its 20-year anniversary in 2021. Reaching 20 million plus viewers each year, the National Dog Show is taped for TV at the Saturday dog show of the Kennel Club of Philadelphia.

The show’s charm comes from the friendly bantering of its funny, witty commentators, dog expert David Frei and actor-comedian John O’Hurley of “Seinfeld” fame. Trying to guess which dog will win Best in Show along with heartfelt vignettes about dogs enriching our lives add to its appeal.

“People love seeing the gorgeous, purposefully bred dogs and learning about the breeds,” says Purina Director of Conformation Ann Viklund, the first woman elected to the Kennel Club of Philadelphia’s board of directors.

The idea for the televised dog show came from the hilarious 2000 movie “Best in Show” co-written by Christopher Guest and Eugene Levy. A parody on real-life dog shows, the mockumentary spoofed five owner-handler teams competing at the make-believe Mayflower Kennel Club Dog Show in Philadelphia.



NBC Sports executive Jon Miller, whose wife suggested the show after watching the movie, turned the idea into a reality.

After learning that the oldest dog show in the country was held in Philadelphia in 1874, Miller contacted Wayne Ferguson, president of the Kennel Club of Philadelphia, who initially was intrigued but cautious.

After convincing Ferguson of NBC’s good intentions, Miller reached out to Purina executives seeking a sponsor. Purina welcomed the opportunity to promote the dog show and also the bond that people share with dogs. The Thanksgiving Day time slot following the “Macy’s Thanksgiving Day Parade” was a catalyst for success.

Professional dog handler Karen Mammano of Webster, New York, recalls winning the Sporting Group in 2019 with the Golden Retriever “Daniel” (MBIS/MBISS GCHP Hillock’s Jack Daniel’S). “The support and excitement from the public was amazing,” she says.

Reflecting on the ever-growing popularity of the National Dog Show after 20 years, Frei says, “Watching dogs makes us feel good. This show is now established on a great family holiday. It is a wonderful celebration of the sport and most significantly of the dogs in our lives.” ■



The Best in Show winner at the 2021 National Dog Show was the Scottish Deerhound, “Claire,” who also won in 2020. From left are: Corey Benedict, Purina Area Manager, Frank DePaulo, show chair, Jeffrey G. Pepper, Best in Show judge, Wayne Ferguson, president of the Kennel Club of Philadelphia, handler Angela Lloyd, Christina Lawrence, Purina Vice President, and Ann Viklund, Purina Director of Conformation.

# NATIONAL DOG SHOW BEST IN SHOW WINNERS



2020



2019



2018



2017



2016



2015



2014



2013



2012



2011



2010



2009



2008



2007



2006



2005



2004



2003



2002

- 2020: GCHG Foxcliffe Claire Randall Frasier
- 2019: GCHG Diamond Gold Majesu Pisko Bulls
- 2018: GCHP Pinnacle Tennessee Whiskey
- 2017: GCH Somerset Wyzall Hashtag
- 2016: GCH GrandCru Giaconda CGC
- 2015: GCH Cragsmoor Good Time Charlie
- 2014: GCH Flessner's International S'cess MT
- 2013: GCH Kiarry's Pandora's Box
- 2012: GCH Afterall Painting the Sky
- 2011: GCH Steele Your Heart
- 2010: GCH Windntide Mr. Sandman
- 2009: CH Roundtown Mercedes of Maryscot
- 2008: CH CookieLand Seasyde Hollyberry
- 2007: CH Buff Cap Creslane Arctic Mist
- 2006: CH Smash JP Win A Victory
- 2005: CH Rocky Top's Sundance Kid
- 2004: CH Aimhi Avalon Renaissance
- 2003: CH Blue Chip Purple Reign
- 2002: CH Ale Kai Mikimoto on Fifth

# THE VIZSLAS OF MARTINSEN'S RED POINT KENNEL

A spunky red pup named “Ginger” chosen by Tate and Jenny Martinsen in 2008 to be his first hunting companion on the prairies of South Dakota turned out to have natural talent as a versatile hunting dog that would shape and change his life.

“I wanted a pointing dog, something different, and I got crazy lucky with Ginger,” says Martinsen, now a professional trainer and breeder-owner with his wife, Jenny, of [Martinsen's Red Point Kennel](#) (MRPK) in Humboldt, South Dakota.

Ginger was the first dog the Martinsens owned not counting family dogs growing up. She was the first dog Martinsen trained for North American Versatile Hunting Dog Association ([NAVHDA](#)) tests and in 2014 became their first Vizsla to earn the ultimate Versatile Champion (VC) title. The foundation bitch for their Vizsla breeding

program, Ginger produced four litters of puppies. Importantly, Ginger helped Martinsen discover that he loved training dogs, which led to his resigning his job as a diesel mechanic in 2016 to train dogs full time.

Fast forward to the 2021 NAVHDA Invitational. The premier hunt test, held in September in Searsboro, Iowa, drew entries of 205 pointing dogs – all invited, all qualified. Just under 42 percent, or 86 dogs, passed to become Versatile Champions. Martinsen trained and handled two dogs, both German Wirehaired Pointers, that passed at that event, a personal record.

Getting back to Ginger, Martinsen says, “Early on in my training career, I was invited to the Mid-West Tristate NAVHDA Chapter in Sioux Falls (South Dakota). I began training Ginger while learning myself from mentors who were members, and I fell in love with the NAVHDA system.”



The Martinsens' first Vizsla, “Ginger” (VC Martinsen's Lil Pheasant Popper MH), pictured above at nearly 11 years of age, had a pivotal role in the founding of their Martinsen's Red Point Kennel. She also is the foundation of their MRPK breeding program.



Tate Martinsen evaluates the natural marking ability of this 7-week-old Vizsla puppy.

Martinsen found out that Ginger had bold style and bird smarts on upland game and waterfowl, enough to get a perfect score of 204 on the Utility test and an invite to the NAVHDA Invitational. When Ginger (VC Martinsen's Lil Pheasant Popper MH) earned the coveted title in 2014, she was only the second female Vizsla in NAVHDA history — ninth in the breed overall — to pass the test.

Over the five years Martinsen trained Ginger leading up to the 2014 NAVHDA Invitational, his affinity grew for teaching dogs to point and retrieve game, to mark retrieves, and to honor a brace mate. "I was hooked," he says. "A handful of people at the local chapter wanted me to train their dogs, but I didn't have time. That's when I decided to train dogs full time."

Martinsen was enamored with the qualities of the Hungarian Vizsla known for being an all-around pointer-retriever breed, a loyal companion and hunting dog. He has learned to harness the Vizsla's drive and enthusiasm

while selectively breeding those that have mental stability and trainability for versatile hunting.

Ginger's four litters were sired by NAVHDA-proven males — except for the first breeding — resulting in five Versatile Champions. "We became more knowledgeable about choosing males after her first litter," Martinsen says. "I got lucky with the offspring Ginger had, too."

The Martinsens were the first Vizsla breeders to twice receive the NAVHDA Invitational Breeder's Award for having two puppies in the same litter earn VC titles. They were honored in 2017 and 2019 for the accomplishments of Ginger's pups. Their success lies in Martinsen's dog training skills and Jenny's purposeful selection of stud dogs and thoughtful placement of puppies with committed owners.

All too soon, Ginger passed away on April 7, 2019, her 11th birthday, due to bone cancer. The heartfelt loss of this sweet, influential Vizsla, a catalyst in Martinsen's success, has been softened by her talented children and now grandchildren.

"I love figuring out how to help dogs learn faster and better," says Martinsen, who is now working with a handful of Vizslas that qualified for the 2022 NAVHDA Invitational. Some are homebred Vizslas — a nod to Ginger and the beginning of Martinsen's Red Point Kennel. ■



New Versatile Champions in 2021 are, from left, VC Vantage Point's Drake, owned by Matt Kuhbacher, and VC TC's Sonnenschein Ray Keeling, owned by Daniel and Wendy Keeling. Both German Wire-haired Pointers were trained and handled by Tate Martinsen.

# PEQUEST PEKINGESE ON TOP OF THE WORLD

David Fitzpatrick and his fancy Pequest Pekingese had an incredibly good year in 2021. Humbled for the wins that stacked up beyond expectation, this genteel breeder-owner-handler is in awe. Pride and satisfaction slip in as he describes his Pekes.

These wins made international headline news, and dog fancy publications clamored to cover them. [Westminster. Morris & Essex. AKC National Championship. AKC Breeder of the Year.](#) Pequest Pekingese are on top of the world.



David Fitzpatrick enjoys these 5-week-old puppies from one of his latest Pequest Pekingese litters.

Fitzpatrick has devoted a lifetime to the ancient Chinese toy breed. His rendition of correct breed type, the lovely rectangular Peke head and proper pear body shape with a heavy front and light backend, is captured in “Wasabi” and “Fortune Cookie” — 2021’s winners — as well as the many generations before them. A perfectionist, Fitzpatrick’s presentation of his Pekes from grooming to gaiting could not be more exquisite.

Wasabi (MBIS/MBISS GCHG Pequest Wasabi), the Best in Show winner at the 2021 Westminster and Morris & Essex kennel club shows, is a natural-born show dog. His glowing confidence reminds Fitzpatrick of his first Westminster Best in Show winner in 2012, “Malachy” (MBIS/MBISS GCHS Palacegarden Malachy), who is Wasabi’s paternal grandsire and maternal great-grandsire.

Wasabi and Malachy share an uncanny similarity. “When I put a lead on them for the first time, they just took off. From the beginning they both had ‘it’ — charisma, boldness and showmanship,” he says.

Coming off 2020 as the No. 1 all-breed dog in the country, Wasabi was refreshed for showing at Westminster in June 2021. His unhurried, dignified stroll around show rings, a rolling gait, smooth and effortless, is the epitome of proper Peke movement. Wasabi is Fitzpatrick’s first trifecta winner of Westminster, Morris & Essex, and the AKC National Championship. When Wasabi won the AKC National Championship in 2019, he became the show’s youngest Best in Show winner at 20 months of age.

After Westminster, Fitzpatrick did not decide until the last minute to show Wasabi at Morris & Essex. Pequest has a history of winning the famous show that was revived in 2010 to honor founder Geraldine Rockefeller Dodge and is held every five years. Malachy won in 2010. GCH Pequest General Tso, the sire of Wasabi’s dam, won in 2015. The 2020 show was canceled due to COVID-19 and thus was held in 2021 drawing an entry of nearly 4,500 dogs when Wasabi won.







David is pictured with his 2021 top winners, “Fortune Cookie,” left, and “Wasabi.” In the background are trophies and memorabilia won through 50-plus years of showing Pekingese.

At the year-end AKC National Championship, Fitzpatrick’s new Special, MBIS GCH Pequest Fortune Cookie, won Toy Group First at 18 months of age. Fortune Cookie’s dam, CH Pequest Rachel, is Wasabi’s little sister from a repeat breeding of the sire and dam. Particularly endearing to Fitzpatrick, Fortune Cookie also won Best Bred-By Exhibitor in Show, an honor that Wasabi received at the 2020 show.

Capping the successful year, Fitzpatrick was named the AKC Breeder of the Year honoring a lifetime of accomplishments. Pequest has produced over 100 homebred champions, 17 of which were Best in Show winners. At

Westminster, besides twice winning Best in Show, Pequest has won Best of Breed 24 times and Toy Group First eight times. At the Pekingese Club of America National Specialty, Pequest has won more than 20 Bests of Breed.

It is his role as a breeder that Fitzpatrick enjoys most. He is undeniably gifted with a vision that enables him to put together incredible linebreedings. He has blended the Coral Gables bloodline he started with to the great producers of the Yakee dogs of Scotland and the old-fashioned, solid Pekes from the Palacegarden line of the U.K. Ultimately, Fitzpatrick has created a powerful line of Pequest Pekingese — toy dogs that make a statement in show rings. ■

# TOP SPORTING DOGS OF 2021

Proud owners and handlers retell in minute detail the winsome performances of top sporting dogs in 2021. Their picture-perfect stories capture national championships won, records set, and the road to No. 1 in yearlong point programs. These achievements, from puppy training to polished performer, were made by derby-age dogs, adult dogs in their prime, and older dogs on top of their game. Here we recap the highlights of some of the sporting dog winners of 2021, as told by those who know them so well.

## 2XNFC NAFC DC GFC AFC WEIDENHUGEL QUINN V TEDDY

### German Wirehaired Pointer 'Quinn' Wins Three Back-to-Back GWPCA National Championships

It was a near clean sweep for a 7 ½-year-old liver-and-white male German Wirehaired Pointer named "Quinn" at the 2020 and 2021 German Wirehaired Pointer Club of America (GWPCA) National and National Amateur Championships. Making up for 2020's canceled events due to COVID-19, the four field championships were held in late September to early October 2021 at Ionia, Michigan, with only a weekend between them. The hard-charging Wirehair won all but the 2021 National Amateur, where he placed second.

Handled by co-owner John Williams, an amateur competitor since 2002, and scouted by Joe Proulx, both of Bend, Oregon, Quinn also earned the Grand Field Champion (GFC) title for pointing breeds for his wins during the one-hour horseback championships.

"Quinn did an exceptional job running to the front and turning along the tree lines and the cover in heavy woodlands," Williams says. "The course was much different than what

Quinn is used to at home in the high desert on the eastern side of the Cascades. He had nice quail finds throughout the four championships."

Bred by co-owners Cynthia Heiller, DVM, of Santa Rosa, California, and Kathleen Boyd of Oakley, California, Quinn was already a Bench Champion when Williams started working with him at about 2 years of age.

The late Randy Berry of Rio Vista, California, a renowned trainer, had seen Quinn in a trial for derby-age dogs and encouraged Williams to reach out to Dr. Heiller and Boyd to see if he could run Quinn in field trials. Berry, who trained Quinn and three generations of National Champions behind him, provided the professional expertise that led to Quinn's success.

Whelped Nov. 13, 2013, Quinn was sired by NFC 2XNAFC DC AFC Tumalo Teddy out of CH Weidenhugel Hope V Joey SH. His maternal grandsire is 2XNFC DC AFC Tumalo Joe, and his paternal granddam is NAFC DC AFC Cascade Tumalo Tess. His paternal great-grandsire and maternal great-grandsire on both sides is NFC 3XNAFC DC AFC Rudolph's Blitzen Von Duffin ROM Supreme.

"Quinn is a consistent performer in the field," Williams says. "As the National Championship events progressed, he continued to get better with each stake. He worked the tree lines like an experienced Midwest field trial dog."



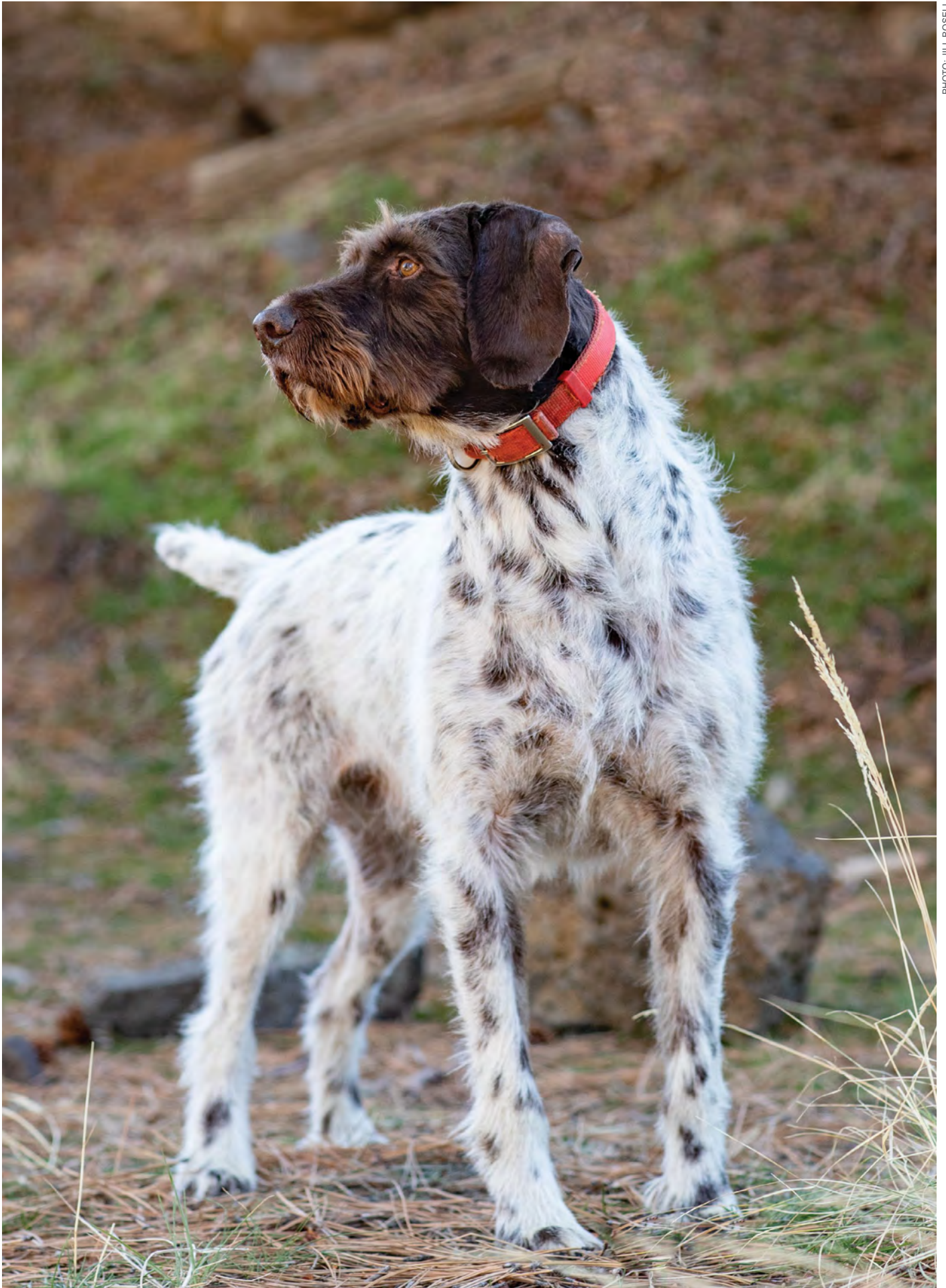


PHOTO: JILL ROSELL



## 8XCH 3XRUCH PONDEROSA MAC English Setter 'Mac' Sets Record as Eight-Time Cover Dog Champion

A forward-running, powerful 9-year-old white-and-orange male English Setter named "Mac" affirmed his elite status as an exceptional cover dog by winning the [2021 Grand National Grouse Championship](#). It was his eighth championship win and set a record making Mac the winningest cover dog in history.

Handled by trainer Scott Chaffee of [Pioneer Kennels](#) in Clare, Michigan, a three-time Cover Dog Handler of the Year, and owned by Steven C. Snyder of Ellendale, Minnesota, Mac did not disappoint despite the elusive game and challenging course. His persistence during the one-hour stake, working to the front and taking direction from Chaffee, combined with his style and an excellent grouse find put him on top.

"Mac had a great race and perfect manners," Chaffee says. "He has tremendous drive to find birds and is extremely intelligent."

The veteran setter also won in 2021 the New York State Grouse Championship and the Wisconsin Cover Dog Championship. Cover dogs, named for their ability to find game in thick brush, or cover, may travel many miles during a one-hour walking trial.

Mac is the only cover dog to place in four consecutive Nationals. At the Grand National Grouse Championship, he was Runner-Up Champion in 2017 and Champion in 2018. At the Grand National Grouse & Woodcock Invitational, he was Champion in 2018 and Runner-Up Champion in 2019.

Bred by Chaffee and his wife, Tammy, Mac was whelped May 19, 2012. He was sired by 2XCH 2XRUCH Jetwood out of 2XCH RUCH Cooper Mountain Pepsi. On the sire's side are four generations of Champions and Runner-Up Champions. His paternal grandsire is CH 2XRUCH Jetsetter, whom Chaffee says was a great all-age dog who gifted Mac with endurance.

"Mac is just a really nice dog to be around," Chaffee says. "He has a calm temperament and gives 100 percent every time I work him."



## NFC NCH RUNCH 5XCH 4XRUCH FC POST ROUTE SCOUT Vizsla Named 'Scout' Excels to Win Two Breed National Championships & All-Breed Open Shooting Dog Stake

A powerful, far-ranging 7 ½-year-old male Vizsla named "Scout" has come into his prime as a formidable force in horseback field trials. In 2021, Scout won two Vizsla National Championships, a Runner-Up Vizsla Championship, an all-breed open shooting dog championship, and Runner-Up at a regional Vizsla shooting dog championship.

"Scout has always been athletic, but he uses wisdom and experience more as he's gotten older. He's firing all cylinders," says pro handler Brian Gingrich of Red Mesa Kennel in Prewitt, New Mexico, who has trained the big-running dog since his derby year.

Scout's impressive back-to-back wins in November at the National Vizsla Association (NVA) National Quail Championship and Vizsla Club of America (VCA) Open

National Field Championship run at Pyramid State Park in Pickneyville, Illinois, culminated a successful year. In September, Scout was Runner-Up Champion at the

NVA Midwest Vizsla Shooting Dog Championship, and in March, he was Runner-Up Champion at the NVA National Championship. In January, he outperformed Pointers, Setters and German Shorthaired Pointers to win the Arizona Open Shooting Dog Championship. Scout is owned by James L. Gingrich of Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Gingrich, a pro since 2009, counts Scout as his second top-winning Vizsla, with 12 championships earned. Scout's sire, 2XNCH 2X NFC NAFC 10XCH 3XRUCH DC AFC CK Touchdown Guy, won 20 championships including the VCA Open National Field Championship in 2013 and 2017 and the NVA Open National Championship in 2014 and 2019.

Born Aug. 12, 2014, Scout was bred by Mark Sullivan of Paducah, Kentucky. The ambitious youngster started strong from the git-go winning the NVA National Derby Classic in 2016 and then the NVA Open National Championship in 2017, becoming only the second dog in breed history to win both events.

"My goal is to bring out the power-driven, bird-finding ability of Vizslas to run competitively in shooting dog and all-age stakes," Gingrich says. "Scout takes the game to a whole different level charging hard until he finds a bird."

### 'SCOUT' IS FED



Purina Pro Plan  
SPORT Performance  
30/20 Chicken  
& Rice



PHOTO: MARK ATWATER/UPCLOSE PHOTO

## 2XNFC NCH GFC FC SAGA'S MAJOR CAGE Weimaraner Named 'Cage' Wins NWA National Championship

A hard-running 7 ½-year-old Weimaraner named "Cage" gained momentum during the one-hour 2021 National Weimaraner Association (NWA) National Championship. In the last 15 minutes of the horseback stake, the muscular male locked on point, statuesque and stunning, as a wild quail covey was flushed out of the cover. Cage won his third National Championship in March at Camp Robinson in Conway, Arkansas.

Handled by pro Diane Vater of Grand Marais, Michigan, and scouted by her husband, Chuck Cooper, Cage also earned the Grand Field Champion (GFC) title for pointing breeds during the one-hour stake. "As he's matured, Cage has gotten stronger and is really smart and perceptive," says Vater, the Weimaraner Club of America's (WCA) 2017 Lifetime Achievement Award recipient.

Prior to the NWA National, Cage received Weimaraner Best of Breed honors for his performance at the AKC Pointing Breed Gundog Championship in February 2021 at Camp Robinson. A career highlight for the standout bird dog was winning the WCA National Field Championship in 2019 and 2020. Although other dogs have won two times, few have won in back-to-back years.

The high-achieving Weimaraner was bred by and is owned by Mary B. and Jeffrey Brown of Purcellville, Virginia. Cage represents their Saga Weimaraner bloodline begun 30 years ago. Whelped June 2, 2014, Cage was sired by NFC NAFC DC AFC Snake Break's Saga V Reiteralm CD MH RDX SDX VX2 FROM HOF out of Waybac's Skylar Saga. The Browns owned the sire, who won the WCA National Field Championship in 1999. Mary Brown handled "Saga" to his win at the 2002 WCA National Amateur Championship.

One thing all who know Cage agree on is his kind, gentle, calm ways when not doing fieldwork. "When he's at home, he goes to work with me and is a therapy dog," says Mary Brown. "He also loves to play with toys. He is a very easygoing dog."



PHOTO: STEVE NEWBY



PHOTO: BRAD SMITH

## CH CHASEHILL POISON IVY

### Promising Derby-Age Pointer Named 'Ivy' Captures Open Grouse Championship

Natural-born bird sense, keen desire and youthful athleticism came together for a 1 ½-year-old white-and-liver Pointer named "Ivy" at the New England Open Grouse Championship. The powerhouse female topped seasoned field trial dogs to capture an impressive open win in her derby career.

Handled by pro trainer John W. Stolgitis of Ashaway, Rhode Island, and owned by Allen Raiano of Newtown, Connecticut, Ivy took to deep cover finding her first grouse within 14 minutes of the one-hour walking stake. Eight minutes later, she pointed a woodcock, followed by a second grouse find 20 minutes later. "It's unusual for a dog to win an open championship in its derby year," Stolgitis says.

Ivy reminds Stolgitis of some of the five generations of Chasehill grouse champions behind her. Her maternal and paternal great-grandsire, 19XCH 19XRUCH Chasehill Little Bud, was a winner across all-age and shooting dog horseback stakes as well as cover dog stakes. "Bud" was handled by Stolgitis to win the 2016 North American Woodcock Championship.

Co-bred by Stolgitis and his daughter, Erin Stolgitis, Ivy's litter was whelped Feb. 27, 2020, at their Chase Hill Kennels. Sired by CH Panola Bacon out of CH Chasehill

Little Izzy, the Futurity-nominated litter produced four females running in trials.

Prior to Ivy's win at the New England Open Grouse Championship, three of the four littermates placed in the North American Woodcock Futurity in Canada. Little Miss Margaret took first, Ivy took second, and Chasehill Hidden Jewel took third.

One month later, Ivy ran a flashy, forward race with impeccable bird work to win the Grand National Grouse Futurity. Often described as a breeder's stake, the Futurity showcases up-and-coming stars. Ivy's performance in the first brace did not disappoint.

"Ivy fully covered the course, going along the edge and then making a nice cross from right to left," Stolgitis says. "She has a lot of style and hunt in her that will be fun to watch as she matures."





PHOTO: ALANNA LEACH

## MEEKER CLASSIC CHAMPION 'ALICE' Becomes Most-Accomplished Border Collie in North America

Winning the 2021 [Meeker Classic](#) was the crown jewel for "Alice," a 9 ½-year-old rough black-ticked tricolor Border Collie. One of the toughest sheepdog competitions in North America, arguably the world, drew a large entry of 170 teams. Those lucky enough to be one of 15 Finalists faced a challenging course.

A double lift required skillful maneuvering of first one, and then a second, group of sheep across a 550-yard rocky pasture into a pen. Handler Scott Glen blew whistle commands to Alice, as the talented stock dog worked in unison with him, exuding confidence and intelligence.

It was a bittersweet victory. Only weeks later, Alice was diagnosed with a brain tumor. Her condition worsened quickly, and Glen made the difficult decision to have her euthanized. The Meeker Classic was the bookend of a successful career that many handlers only dream about.

"Alice's attitude was that she was 10-feet tall and bullet-proof," says Glen, her owner and a professional trainer from New Dayton, Alberta, Canada. "She was a pretty honest stock dog."

It was Glen's third win in Meeker, Colorado. In 2005, he and "Pleat" won, and in 2019, he won with "Taff." "You have to do everything right at Meeker, and typically one thing or another goes wrong," says Glen, who owns [Alta-Pete](#) — Scottish for Aim High — Stock Dogs. In between training and trialing, Glen teaches herding clinics.

Bred by Wendy Schmaltz of Mankota, Saskatchewan, Canada, Alice was Glen's puppy back, as her sire was his male "Don," the 2009 and 2015 U.S. Border Collie Handlers

Association (USBCHA) National Champion and the 2014 Reserve Champion at Meeker and the National.

Winning trials for Alice started early at the USBCHA National Nursery Championship for dogs under 30 months of age. When she won in 2013 as one of the youngest competitors, Glen says, "It was a surprise." The next year, Alice was the National Nursery Reserve Champion.

Alice is a three-time winner of the USBCHA National Championship — something only three dogs have done. She won in 2016, 2017 and 2019. Notably, she is a third-generation National Champion. Besides her sire Don winning two times, her grand-dam, "Star," won three times.

In 2016 and 2017, Alice won the Western Canadian Championship. In 2018, she won the Soldier Hollow Championship, Bluegrass Classic and the Canadian Championship. In 2020, she won her third Western Canadian Championship.

Reflecting proudly, Glen says, "During her career, Alice won every major trial at least one time. At Meeker, she ran as nice a run as you'll see. Alice always found a way to get things done. She was a good dog."





## WSHOWCH NGRCH CGRCH GRCH(3) GCH CCH 'PR' COUNTY LINE TUESDAY'S LEGACY

### Plott Hound Named 'Legs' Wins UKC World Bench Show Championship

A gorgeous 4 ½-year-old brown brindle female Plott Hound named "Legs" continued her streak of consistency in a truly outstanding year of coonhound bench shows to win the 2021 UKC World Championship in September in Peru, Indiana. With confidence and graceful, effortless

movement, she edged to the top over 137 coonhound competitors.

"I had showed Legs all year, and she had done very well," says breeder-owner-handler Christina Officer of Ravenna, Kentucky. Legs is co-owned by Susan Ragsdale of New Hartford, Iowa.

Officer won her first UKC World Championship with Legs after 26 years in the sport. She had come close to winning the prestigious event in 2006 with Leg's great-aunt, AKC CSG CH, PKC CH, UKC CCH GRCH 'PR'

County Line Liberty Belle, the Reserve Champion.

Leg's consistency streak led to her winning the 2021 Purina Outstanding Bench Show Coonhound Award.

Among her wins that contributed to that honor were Grand Plott Female and the Purina Bench Show winner at Treeing Walker Days; Grand Female and Plott breed winner at Black & Tan Days; Overall Grand Female and Purina Bench Show winner at BBOA National Bluetick Days; and Grand Female and Plott breed winner at the BBCHA Fall Round Up.

Whelped Nov. 26, 2016, Legs was sired by AKC GRCH CCH, UKC GRCH CCH WCH 'PR' County Line Roosevelt. The dam is GRCH 'PR' River Ridge Terrible Tues. Legs is named for GRCH 'PR' County Line Terrible Tuesday, her maternal granddam and paternal great-granddam, the foundation bitch of Officer's breeding program for her County Line Plotts.

In February 2020, Legs won Best of Breed at the Westminster Kennel Club. In September 2020, she won National Grand at Autumn Oaks. Leg's success in UKC bench shows in 2020 made her the Overall Plott winner and qualified her for the Top Ten runoff, held in February 2021, where she won the Overall Top Ten.

As to her World Show Champion's success, Officer says, "I like everything about Legs. She has a great personality and is easy to handle. She is an attractive, powerful female, who owns the ring."

#### 'LEGS' IS FED



Purina Pro Plan  
SPORT Performance  
30/20 Chicken  
& Rice



PHOTO: KEVIN THOMPSON



## WORLDHCBCH GRHBCH HOF GRCH PCH TNT'S 3MC CHIEF Beagle Named 'Chief' Leads the Pack to Win NHBA Sectional Series

Natural ability, quick brainwork and a lot of desire pushed a 7 ½-year-old red tick male Beagle to the front to win the National Hunting Beagle Association (NHBA) Sectional

Series, a national points-based, yearlong competition, out of over 1,400 entries.

As the dominant cast winner, "Chief" tallied points by winning the Southern Classic in Virginia and the Michigan State Hunt, as well as winning casts in nine states. "Although not as fast as when he was younger, Chief won the Sectional Series running at a very consistent clip against younger dogs in their prime," says breeder-owner-handler Trever McQuain.

"He started winning, and we started traveling all over the

country trialing him. He won at a very high level at an age when many hounds are retired. We are pleased that he did so well," says McQuain, who co-owns the high achiever with his wife, Traci McQuain, and brothers Cory McQuain and Josh McQuain, all of Kimbolton, Ohio.

Recognizing Chief for earning 50 cast wins during his lifetime, the UKC awarded him Hall of Fame status in March 2021. He is the second of three Beagles who have achieved the honor since the program began in 2020.

In February 2021, Chief won the West Eliminator in Dixon, Missouri, out of 95 hounds. In September 2021, he placed sixth at the UKC Hunting Beagle World Championship in Caldwell, Ohio, out of 232 hounds. Chief made it through three 90-minute competition rounds over two days, though he did not advance to the fourth and final round. In 2018, Chief won the UKC Beagle World in Fairmount, West Virginia.

Born Nov. 2, 2014, Chief was sired by GRHBCH TNT Cooperstown, McQuain's first field-trial bred Beagle. "Chief is pretty special," McQuain says. "He and I share a bond. He enjoys going with me everywhere. Chief has been a consistent field trial hound who puts his heart into his work. That has put him on top."

### 'CHIEF' IS FED



Purina Pro Plan  
SPORT Performance  
30/20 Chicken  
& Rice

## 7XCH RESA'S MOHAWK JILL NSTRA's Purina Top Performance Award Winner Is Pointer Named 'Jill'

Consistent, quality bird hunting, determination and endurance in multiple National Shoot to Retrieve Association (NSTRA) field trials gave a 4 ½-year-old orange-and-white female English Setter named “Jill” the most points ever recorded to earn the [2021 Purina Top Performance Award](#). Along the way, Jill won her second consecutive NSTRA UKC Performance Classic — the first dog to win in back-to-back years — and whelped a litter of puppies.

The highly competitive Performance Classic, held May 2021 in Waverly, Nebraska, included the top 128 qualified dogs. The elimination event has five 30-minute stakes run over three days, and then two finalists run in a one-hour championship final. As in 2020 when she won, Jill delivered a nail-biting victory.

Breeder-owner-handler John Resa of Shelbyville, Missouri, says, “Jill gives her all every time she hunts. She was in great shape going into the pregnancy and bounced back after having pups.”

The Performance Award is based on field trial points earned by all dogs in the country from June 1, 2020, to May 31, 2021. Jill's record-setting 3,350 points included winning the Performance Classic and placements of third

in the Dog of the Year trial, fourth in the Trial of Champions, and fourth in the Midwest Regional.

Born Feb. 23, 2017, Jill represents Resa's third generation of NSTRA winners. Her maternal great-granddam, 6XCH Sue Maggie Sue, won the 1995 Dog of the Year trial, and her maternal grandsire, 17XCH Resa's Trouble Mace, won the 2005 NSTRA Top Performance Award and the 2008 NSTRA Grand National Championship. Her dam, 12XCH Resa's Maize, won the NSTRA 2014 UKC National Championship and the NSTRA 2016 Purina Endurance Classic. All are NSTRA Hall of Fame members.

NSTRA began in the late 1960s to extend the upland bird hunting season from a few weeks to a longer period via field trials and championships. Resa, who has competed in the sport for 37 years, is true to the sport, as he enjoys hunting wild birds with his dogs, including Jill.



## NFC FC GREEN GABLE'S MAXIMUM MH English Cocker Spaniel 'Ike' Wins National Open Championship & Owner-Handler Sets Record As Youngest to Win

A show-off with natural bird sense and spot-on ability, a 4 ½-year-old ticked liver-and-white male English Cocker named "Ike" delivered a perfect balance of independence and teamwork to win the 2021 National Open Cocker Championship. Meanwhile, owner-handler Jaelee Schwartz became the youngest winner of the prestigious annual event.

"Ike is the most incredible dog I've ever run," says the 20-year-old pro trainer from Beaver Dam, Wisconsin. "He was consistent through all five series and in tune with me as well. He ran hard and had great bird finds."

Schwartz, who runs [Green Gable Gundogs](#), got a head start with sporting dogs from her father. Pro trainer Jeff Schwartz specializes in training English Springer Spaniels for spaniel hunt tests and field trials, though his daughter prefers field trials. "I am a perfectionist

who likes to train to a high level," she says. "In a field trial, you know you are the best that day."

After attending college and trying a few jobs, Schwartz returned home to follow her passion training English Cockers. "We have a routine," she says. "I start the foundation training of puppies up to steady to flush and then my father handles them in puppy stakes up to about 3 years of age when they come back to me."

Born April 29, 2017, Ike was sired by FC Stonewaller Bridger MH out of AFC Green Gable's Fearless Wonder. His maternal granddam is Rock River's Anne of Green Gable MH, Schwartz's first English Cocker and her foundation bitch. Ike's litter was bred by Mark Schin-derle and John Kriegl, both of Iron Mountain, Michigan. Schwartz, who got Ike at 6 weeks of age, put his Field Champion title on him at 3 years old and Master Hunter at 4 years old.

Besides winning the National Cocker Championship in 2021, Ike won back-to-back open field trials at the Minnesota Hunting Spaniel Association in May. "This doesn't happen too often," Schwartz says.

As to Ike's National win, she says, "I went with the attitude to just have fun. There are always things you can't control like at the 2020 National when Ike was eliminated after first series when the bird slipped behind me. This year, Ike had a spark and was showing off. I was happy for the opportunity to show what he can do."

### 'IKE' IS FED



Purina Pro Plan  
SPORT Performance  
30/20 Chicken  
& Rice



PHOTO: KATIE GORECKI



PHOTO: MARK ATWATER/UPCLOSE PHOTO

## FC-AFC HOCKLEY CREEK'S SWITCH HITTER Labrador Retriever 'Mickey' Is National Open Finalist & Wins Fifth Purina Outstanding Retriever Award

Half a year spent rehabbing from an injury could not keep down a good retriever named "Mickey." After missing the Texas circuit in his home state in early 2021, the 8-year-old male picked up where he left off, winning and placing in all-age stakes.

Qualified for the 2021 National Open Retriever Championship, held in November in Cheraw, South Carolina, Mickey was No. 2 in the Purina High Point Open Retriever standings – an outcome that would play out at the National Open.

When the talented retriever whose love of retrieving birds for owner-handler Robby Bickley was named a Finalist, Mickey earned 5 points, putting him on top as the 2021 Purina Outstanding Open Retriever.

Now, a five-time Purina Retriever Award winner, Mickey won both the Amateur and Open Awards in 2019 with Bickley, the first time a retriever won both awards in the same year with the same handler. He won the Amateur Award in 2017 and 2020.

"Mickey has been a pure blessing," says Bickley, of Gainesville, Texas, the sole trainer of the superstar retriever, his third field trial dog since starting in the sport in 2006. "He's been easy to train. He's very smart and has an excellent memory."

An early achiever, Mickey at 13 months of age took a Judges Award of Merit in a trial for derby-age retrievers and competed with older dogs in a qualifying stake. As a 3-year-old, he earned both the Field Champion and Amateur Field Champion titles. At 6 years of age, he was the Double Header winner of both the amateur and open stakes at Brazosport Retriever Club in Walden, Colorado. He repeated the amazing feat in 2020 taking a Double Header at the Centennial Retriever Club in Longmont, Colorado.

Whelped Aug. 29, 2013, Mickey was sired by NAFC-FC-AFC Texas Troubadour out of FC-AFC Dance Hall Gal. When breeders Joe O'Brien and James Roberts, both of Tulsa, Oklahoma, traveled to Texas to breed their female to "Tubbs," Bickley told them he wanted the pick male of the litter. That was Mickey.

Describing his special retriever buddy, who thus far has earned 256 career points, Bickley says, "The older Mickey gets, the better he works birds. I know him so well and his idiosyncrasies. He's very good in the water, a true water dog." ■

**'MICKEY' IS FED**



Purina Pro Plan  
SPORT Performance  
30/20 Chicken  
& Rice

# KARASAR'S 15 HOMEBRED WHIPPET CHAMPIONS

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IN 2021

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**T**he secret to happiness for Kerrie Kuper is breeding beautiful Whippets and showing them as a breeder-owner-handler to great success. Achieving a personal record of 15 finished homebred or co-bred champions in 2021, Kuper is excited and proud of her [Karasar Whippets](#).

“I owned and finished another Karasar champion bred by my co-breeder, Pamela Davis, so I owned or co-owned a total of 16 champions for 2021,” exclaims Kuper, of St. Petersburg, Florida, who is celebrating 55 years of breeding the sighthound breed she fell in love with as a girl.

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Above: Kerrie Kuper, breeder of Karasar Whippets, cuddles a 2-week-old puppy born Jan. 1, 2022.

## KARASAR FEEDS



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& Rice

Her cookie-cutter Whippets are revered for their proper balance and movement, correct bone, smooth, flowing lines, pretty heads, small, rose ears that fold along the neck, and soft, pleasing expressions. “People have told me over the years that my dogs are like clones,” she says. “I am very proud that they are identifiable as Karasar Whippets.”

Karasar was well-represented on 2021’s lists of Top 20 Whippets, of which there have now been 10 generations. Five Karasar Whippets were on the all-breed Top 20, and four made the breed Top 20. GCHS Karasar’s Phenomenal was No. 2 in all-breed and No. 3 in breed, and GCHB Karasar’s High Roller was No. 6 in all-breed and No. 5 in breed, both breeder-owner handled by Kuper. GCH Karasar’s Inferno, shown by co-breeder-owner Caroline Wells Cope, was No. 12 in all-breed and No. 19 in breed. And, so it goes.

Kuper remembers winning her first Best in Show in 1995 with MBIS/MBISS CH Karasar’s Preference ROMX (“Pearl”). “Now, there are six generations of Multi-Best



Breeding champions that produce champions brings great joy to Kuper, shown with four generations of Karasar show dogs. From left are: BISS CH Karasar’s Artristry ROMX, 15 ½ years old, MBIS/MISS GCHG Karasar’s Masterpiece JC ROM, 12 years old, GCHS Karasar’s Remaster, 5 years old, and Karasar’s Epicenter, 11 months old.



Mother-daughter look-alikes are GCHB Karasar’s High Roller, left, 2 years old, and MBIS GCHG Karasar’s Iconic, 7 years old, the No. 1 Whippet in all-breed in 2018.

in Show Whippets,” she says. “Sixteen dogs have won Best in Show or Reserve Best in Show.”

Two No. 1 Whippets have produced multigenerational Best in Show or No. 1 Whippets. Pearl, the No. 1 Whippet in the breed in 1994 and in all-systems in 1995, is the dam of BIS CH Karasar’s Temptress, who is the dam of MBIS CH Karasar’s Audacity.

The second one, BISS CH Karasar’s Artistry ROMX (“Darbee”), the No. 1 Whippet all-systems in 2008, is the dam of MBIS GCHG Karasar’s Remembrance JC ROMX, who is the dam of three Best in Show winners.

Kuper’s greatest pleasure is breeding Register of Merit (ROM) producers, an honor bestowed by the American Whippet Club on bitches that produce seven conformation or field champions and males that sire 15 champions.

“I am believed to be the only breeder with four generations of Multi-Best in Show and ROM/ROMX Whippets,” she says. “Pearl earned ROMX status and she produced MBIS Karasar’s Reminiscent ROM, who produced MBIS CH Karasar’s Essence ROM, who produced MBIS GCH Karasar’s ParExcellent ROM, the first Grand Champion Whippet.”

Today, Kuper shares her Karasar Whippets with a team of co-owners and co-breeders, all Whippet lovers who are fond of the sophisticated look of the Karasar line. The 16th generation of Karasar show dogs, whelped in 2021, will soon be showing, adding more honors to the already lofty accomplishments. ■



# THE PURINA EVENT CENTER

## HITS 10-YEAR MILESTONE



Karen Mammano shows Golden Retriever "Daniel" at the 2018 National Specialty at the Purina Event Center.

With the wag of a tail and a friendly bow-wow, the [Purina Event Center](#) at Purina Farms in Gray Summit, Missouri, turned 10 years old in 2020 during the country's COVID-19 pandemic. The blue-ribbon venue has run at 90 percent-plus capacity since its opening, a testament to its popularity across the dog fancy.

Looking back, 2018 brought a record 39 National Specialties to the Event Center. Coincidentally, the Golden Retriever Club of America National Specialty in 2018 has been the largest with 2,072 dogs entered in all events. Some all-breed clubs and parent clubs come every year — frequent visitors who've made the place their home for shows.

Designed for clubs to hold dog shows and performance sports, the Purina Event

Center located in the middle of the country touts a spacious exhibition hall with padded flooring, a benching and grooming area, and dog bathing room with stainless steel tubs. Situated on the 337 acres that make up Purina Farms, the Event Center offers specialized outdoor spaces for tracking, herding, lure coursing, earth-dog trials, barn hunt, Fast CAT, and many more sports.

A regular exhibitor, show chair, judge and seminar organizer at the Purina Event Center, Eddie Dziuk, of the Orthopedic Foundation for Animals, says, "Whenever I pull through those gates to the Purina Event Center, I feel like I'm coming home, and when I leave, I can't wait for the next event." ■