

®

PURINA

Today's Breeder

A Nestlé Purina Publication Dedicated to the Needs of Canine Enthusiasts

Issue 83



BREEDER PROFILE
Steele Wire Fox Terriers

Dangers Afield
Customizing Canine Care
Nurturing Natural Ability

The READERS' PAGE

I was thrilled when my Australian Terrier, Akiba's Abbondonza ("Abby"), won Best Bred-By Exhibitor at the Myrtle Beach (S.C.) Kennel Club Dog Show. Abby is the third of my Aussies to win. She and her sister, CH Akiba's Practical Magic, my second Best Bred-By winner, were sired by CH Akiba's Untouchable ("Elliott"), whose litter-

mate sister, CH Akiba's Unforgettable, was the third winner.

These dogs represent more than 23 years' breeding Aussies. I also have been a loyal feeder of Purina dog food for more than 20 years.

Janet Maas
Akiba Australian Terriers
Lexington, SC



Breeder-owner-handler Janet Maas, center, stacks her latest Best Bred-By Exhibitor winner, Akiba's Abbondonza. Also pictured are, from left, judge Mary Jane Carberry and show chair Jeanne Dalesky.

I recently raised a litter of 16 healthy German Wire-haired Pointer puppies on Pro Plan Large Breed Puppy Formula. I started the puppies on Pro Plan Puppy when they were 3 weeks old. I mixed the food with warm water using a handheld blender to create a mush that was easy for them to eat. They have done so well!

The dam of the puppies, Inverness Priscilla, JH, and another Wirehair female, CH Inverness Jagged Lace, JH, take part in hunt tests and are registered therapy dogs through Intermountain Therapy Animals. They visit nursing homes, Bozeman Deaconess Hospital and Special Olympics events. We are active in NAVHDA (North American Versatile Hunting Dog Asso-



Pro Club member Jehnet Carlson recently bred a healthy litter of 16 German Wirehaired Pointers. The puppies were raised on Purina Pro Plan puppy food.

ciation) and plan to attend the German Wirehaired Pointer Nationals this fall in Nebraska.

Jehnet Carlson
DJ Bar Ranch
Brigade, MT

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, 27 Checkerboard Square, St. Louis, MO 63164 or via email at 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.

Today's Breeder Advisory Board

Jorje Quinn, Vice President, Professional Engagement Team

Candy Caciolo, Portfolio Director of Marketing

Gianna DeiSanti, Brand Director, Conformation and Sporting

Lisa Walsh, Communications Manager

Scott Smith, Managing Director of Field Operations

Ann Viklund, Director of Conformation, and Breeder, Labrador Retrievers and Norwich Terriers

Bob West, Director of Sporting

Brock Fitzgerald, Director of Purina Farms and the Purina Event Center

Kaite Flamm, Manager, Purina Event Center

Deborah Greco, D.V.M., DACVIM, Senior Research Scientist, and Breeder, Standard Poodles

Connie Wagner, Senior Area Manager (Southeast), Conformation, and Breeder, Dalmatians

Carol Grossman, Western Area Manager, Conformation, and Breeder, Great Danes, Rottweilers and Dachshunds

Ann Balotti, Purina Event Center Area Manager

Marci Sale, Northeast Area Manager, Conformation, and Breeder, Labrador Retrievers

Diana Allen, Field Representative, Conformation, and Breeder, American Eskimo Dogs

Christa Townsend, Plains Area Manager, Conformation, and Breeder, Bouvier des Flandres

Rod L. Carter, Area Manager, Sporting, and Breeder, Beagles, Boston Terriers and Yorkshire Terriers

Pat Lamantia, Area Manager, Sporting, and Breeder, German Wirehaired Pointers

Dean Reinke, Area Manager, Sporting, and Breeder, English Springer Spaniels

Karl Gunzer, Area Manager, Sporting

Today's Breeder is produced and published by Nestlé Purina Public Relations.

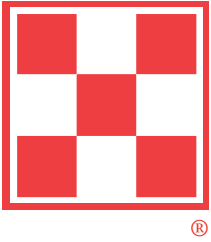
Keith Schopp, Vice President, Public Relations

Barbara Fawver, Manager, Pet Influential Communications, Editor, *Today's Breeder* Magazine, and Breeder, Brace Beagles

Melissa Miller, Photo Editor, *Today's Breeder* Magazine, and Senior Communications Specialist, Pet Influential Communications

Kayla Miller, Digital Editor, *Today's Breeder* Magazine, and Communications Specialist, Pet Influential Communications

Today's Breeder articles may be reprinted provided the following guidelines are used: That the article be used in its entirety. If the entire article is not desired, submit in writing what you plan to use; that it be used in a positive manner; that credit be given to *Today's Breeder* as the article's source. The credit should be as follows: Used with permission from *Today's Breeder*, Nestlé Purina PetCare Company.



PURINA *Today's Breeder*

A Nestlé Purina Publication Dedicated to the Needs of Canine Enthusiasts

Issue 83

If you have moved or changed your name, please let us know by calling 1-877-776-2582 or write us at: *Purina Pro Club*, 1400 South Highway Drive, Fenton, MO 63099.

ANY QUESTIONS?

When you have questions about *Purina Pro Club*, please call 1-877-776-2582 between 7 a.m. and 5 p.m. CST Monday through Friday (holidays excluded).

Today's Breeder is not responsible for unsolicited submissions, manuscripts, photographs, and other submitted material. Submissions will not be returned. Submission constitutes permission for *Today's Breeder*, at its sole discretion, to use the submitted materials, in whole or in part, without compensation. For reasons of space and editorial content, *Today's Breeder* reserves the right to delete or alter any solicited or unsolicited information, or part of, that is submitted or received for consideration for inclusion in this publication.

Today's Breeder is sent as a courtesy to members of the *Purina Pro Club*. Extra copies are available for \$2.95 each. Make your check or money order payable to *Today's Breeder* and send to: *Today's Breeder*, c/o Editor, Nestlé Purina PetCare Company, 2T Checkerboard Square, St. Louis, MO 63164.

Trademarks owned by Société des Produits Nestlé S.A., Vevey, Switzerland.

© 2013 Nestlé Purina PetCare Company

4 DANGERS AFIELD

The beginning of fall marks the peak season for sporting dogs and their owners. Whether hunting in the field or competing at a field trial, sporting dog enthusiasts should be aware of subtle dangers, such as leptospirosis, ehrlichiosis or grass awn migration disease, which can be potentially life-threatening to dogs.

8 CUSTOMIZING CANINE CARE

Advances in canine health research, particularly related to cancer, heart disease and musculoskeletal injuries, are providing innovative therapies customized for individual dogs. The AKC Canine Health Foundation National Parent Club Canine Health Conference highlighted this research.

12 NURTURING NATURAL ABILITY

Proper training and socialization are key to helping your new retriever puppy become a well-rounded dog. It is hard work, but with a commitment to teaching the basics and shaping your puppy in preparation for more advanced training, you can help your dog ease through the journey to adulthood.

14 STEELING HER HEART

Torie Steele of Steele Kennels says her dogs are the “loves of her life.” Her Steele Wire Fox Terriers include more than 40 homebred champions, having a combined 200 Bests in Show, and one which currently is ranked No. 1 in all-breed competition. As a breeder, Torie has a keen eye for detail that helps her to better the breed.

20 A PRICELESS PAIR

Good things come in pairs. Husband-wife judging duo Sonny and Diane Price use their 74 years of cumulative experience to judge brace beagle trials as a way to give back to the sport. The couple shares a love for hounds, and Diane also is a breeder-owner-handler of the rare German Spitz breed.

Regular Departments

2 The Readers' Page 7 Nutrition Matters 22 Circle of Champions 24 Breed Snapshot

On Our Cover

GCH Steele Your Heart is a 6-year-old female Wire Fox Terrier bred and owned by Torie Steele of Steele Kennels in Malibu, Calif. Handled by Gabriel Rangel of Rialto, Calif., “Eira” was the No. 1 Terrier in 2011. Cover photo by Melissa Miller. See story on page 14.



Dangers Afield

The sound of crinkling leaves underfoot signals the start of upland bird hunting and fall field trials, a favorite time of year for many sporting dog enthusiasts. Lurking in the grouse woods or along the edges of a prairie where bobwhite quail can be found are unseen dangers to dogs.

“Subtle little things can cause disaster for dogs,” says veterinarian and hunting enthusiast Joe Spoo of Sioux Falls, S.D. “Lacerations and puncture wounds from hidden dangers such as barbed wire fences are the leading cause of injuries that we see. A dog running through the woods or a field also is at risk for a stick, cattail, corn stalk or similar object to become impaled in his body.”

There are other subtle dangers that are not easily recognized but can be potentially life-threatening. These include leptospirosis, a zoonotic bacterial infection spread by the urine of an infected animal; ehrlichiosis, a tick-borne illness similar to Rocky Mountain spotted fever; and grass awn migration disease, also known as mean seed disease.

To learn more about these diseases and ways to prevent them, the AKC Canine Health Foundation is supporting research as part of its Canine Athlete Initiative. Podcast features (akcchf.org) presented by the researchers plus one by Spoo on common field dangers to dogs and how to prevent injuries were part of the Foundation’s Field and Hunting Dog Health Awareness campaign. Here is a review of the research studies.

Using GPS to Track Lepto

Active dogs that spend time outdoors, especially in areas with high annual rainfall and warm climates, are at increased risk for leptospirosis, commonly known as lepto disease. Lepto is spread through the urine of infected animals, getting into water or soil where it can survive for weeks, even months.

The *Leptospira* spp. bacteria can cause kidney or liver failure, the eye disorder uveitis and hemorrhage of the lung. Signs include fever, lethargy and vomiting. Diagnosing leptospirosis early before a dog goes into renal failure and treating with fluids and antibiotics are key to a positive outcome. Dialysis may be necessary later, reducing the chances of a successful outcome.

Janet Foley, D.V.M., Ph.D., professor and veterinary epidemiologist at the University of California-Davis School of Veterinary Medicine, has been comparing 67 affected dogs to 271 healthy control dogs that were evaluated at the University of California-Davis Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital from March 2001 to November 2010. Affected dogs were hospitalized on average 11 days, with treatment running more than \$5,000 per dog. Dogs 5 years and older were at increased risk, as were hound and herding breeds. Thirteen percent of affected dogs died from the disease.

"I suspect leptospirosis may be underreported and thus more common than we realize," Foley says. "The difficulty diagnosing this disease makes it hard to know the number of affected dogs. Blood testing is crucial to identify whether a dog contracted leptospirosis from wild species, other dogs or standing water, but it usually is not positive until late in the disease or even after a dog recovers."

Using GPS mapping, Foley and her research team, led by graduate student Janemarie Hennenbelle, D.V.M., tracked canine leptospirosis infection in California. "We found significant risk of leptospirosis in dogs from the San Francisco Bay region, the Sierra Nevada foothills near Sacramento, as well as California's Central, North and South Coasts," says Foley. "GPS has provided a visual presentation that is helping us to determine vaccination strategies to prevent leptospirosis."

Although there is a vaccine to protect dogs from leptospirosis, it is not a core vaccine and is not widely used. Nearly all the affected dogs in the study did not have adequate protection from the leptospirosis vaccine.

"I believe the vaccine should be a core vaccination, especially for field dogs," Foley says. "The reason it is not is partly because of the perceived risk of side effects, especially in small breeds. An alternative is not to require the vaccine for certain breeds that may have an adverse reaction."

Ehrlichia Study at Ames Plantation

A disease that is believed to be increasing, especially in the Southeastern United States, ehrlichiosis is a tick-borne illness caused by different species of *Ehrlichia* bacteria. Affected dogs can develop chronic inflammatory disease, bleeding problems and kidney damage. Owners may notice their dogs having fever, lethargy, loss of appetite, weight loss, and abnormal bleeding. Antibiotic treatment can be successful, though reinfection may occur because immunity is not long-lasting.

Rebecca Trout Fryxell, Ph.D., assistant professor of medical and veterinary entomology at the University of Tennessee, is examining the prevalence of *Ehrlichia* in adult American dog and lone star ticks collected at Ames Plantation in Grand Junction, Tenn., the 18,400-acre running grounds of the National Field Trial Championship for All-Age Bird Dogs. The goal of the research is to learn the habitat and environment of ticks carrying *Ehrlichia*.

The research team collected 17,000 ticks starting at the National Championship last February and on a monthly basis for six months. "The great news is that our team could not find any ticks on the hunting dogs, though we found many ticks in the field," Trout Fryxell says. "I have been very surprised by the diversity of ticks and pathogens."

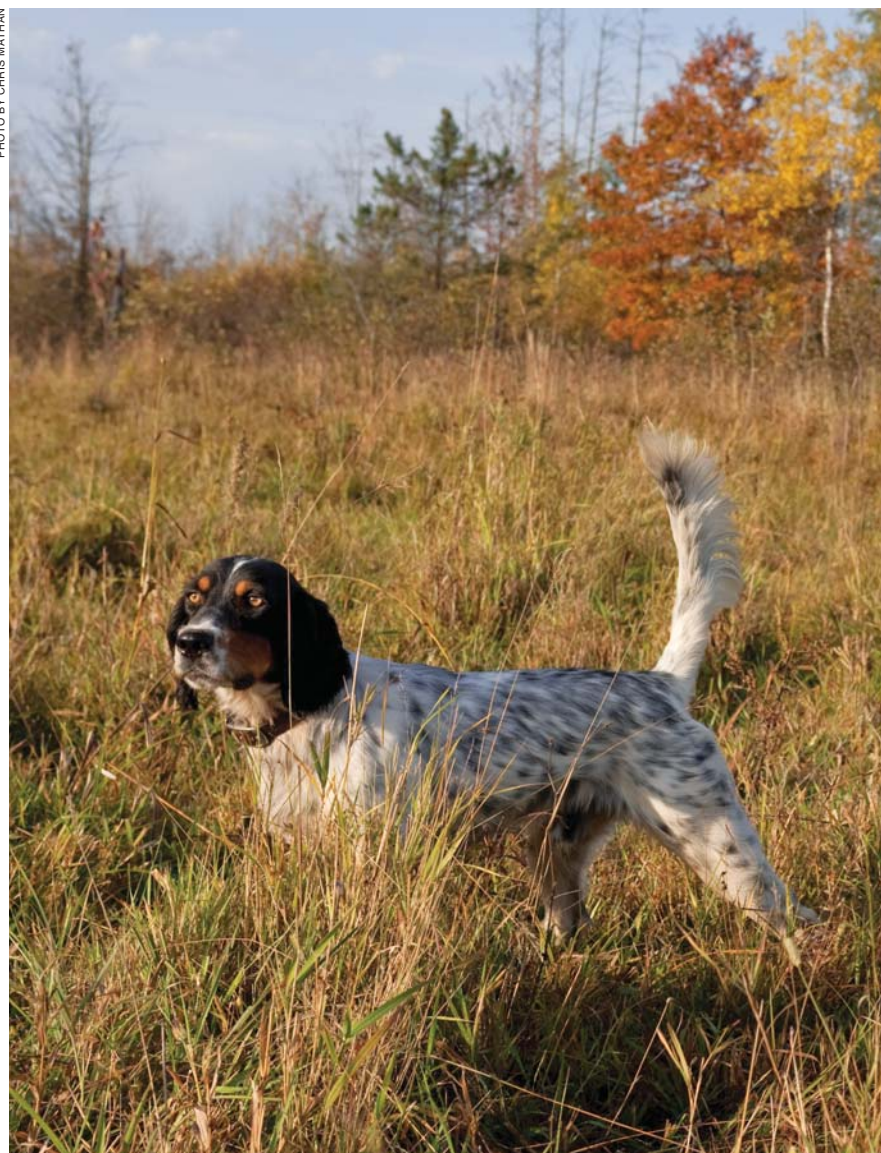


PHOTO BY CHRIS MATHAN

Of the total ticks collected, 926 were adult lone star ticks and more than 2,000 were adult American dog ticks. Eighteen of the lone star ticks tested positive for one of four *Ehrlichia* species. "The diversity of *Ehrlichia* within the lone star ticks is greater than I realized," says Trout Fryxell. "Two of these species, *E. chaffeensis* and Panola Mountain *Ehrlichia*, can hurt people, too. Seasonal trends were very apparent for lone star ticks. The adult populations peaked in June, and the ticks testing positive were collected in July."

Although the screening of the American dog ticks has just begun, Fryxell estimates that 1 to 8 percent of ticks in an endemic

Practicing Safety in the Field

Sporting dog enthusiasts should take steps to help ensure they have a safe hunting or field trial experience with their canine companion. Importantly, know your dog well and be able to readily recognize signs of something wrong. Here are helpful tips from Joe Spoo, D.V.M., CCRT, a resident of the American College of Veterinary Sports Medicine and Rehabilitation and a gundog enthusiast from Sioux Falls, N.D.

- A preseason wellness examination will help to establish your dog's health and physical condition. Dogs that are not in condition are at risk for heat stress and injuries, particularly if they start working too hard too soon.
- Take it nice and easy at the beginning of the season. Don't expect an unconditioned dog to be capable of hunting all day. Be aware of your dog's limitations and do not let the excitement of opening day overrule your common sense.
- Heat stress and subsequently heat stroke are preventable. You should be aware of your dog's body temperature tolerance. Humidity combined with high temperatures can have a detrimental effect on dogs not in shape.

- Feed a quality, nutritious performance dog food year-round, reducing the amount fed in the off season. Hard-working dogs need higher fat and protein levels to nourish and repair their bodies. You should base the amount of food fed on the energy expended without overfeeding.
- Hydration is vitally important in the field for helping dogs cool down. You should bring your own water to help prevent intestinal upset.
- Carry a first-aid kit to treat minor injuries and be prepared to take your dog to a veterinarian for more serious injuries. Most injuries can be addressed in the field with follow-up care once you return home, though this isn't always the case. Have contact information handy for a veterinarian where you are hunting or field trialing.



area have an *Ehrlichia* species. To prevent ehrlichiosis, Trout Fryxell stresses the importance of checking yourself and your dog for ticks after a day in the field. "If you find a tick on yourself, odds are there is at least one on your dog," she says.

Trout Fryxell suggests storing removed ticks in a plastic bag in your freezer with the date and location where you were. If signs of ehrlichiosis develop within two weeks, knowing the species of tick may help with the diagnosis, she says.

CRP & Mean Seed Disease

Bacteria-carrying barbed grass seeds can potentially cause a life-threatening condition in sporting dogs known as grass awn migration disease. William K. Lauenroth, Ph.D., professor of botany at the University of Wyoming, has been studying this disease to determine whether it is more common due to the presence of grasses with barbed awns in the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) lands.

The disease occurs when harmful grass seeds enter through a dog's nose or mouth or snag the coat and burrow through the skin. These seeds can migrate through the soft tissues of the body, leaving infection behind. Mean seed disease is challenging to treat partly because a dog often does not show signs until the disease is advanced.

The research involves analyzing USDA data from 10 states to identify problem grasses in CRP mixes. The goal is to establish a comprehensive list of problem seeds. Among the barbed grass

seeds known to be potentially harmful to dogs are cheatgrass, Canada wild rye, Virginia wild rye, and foxtail barley.

The goal of the CRP program is to prevent soil erosion and preserve wildlife habitat by encouraging farmers to plant grasses on idle cropland. Many sporting dog owners suspect the increase in grass awn disease is directly related to the use of these barbed grasses by the CRP program since CRP land is commonly used for hunting and field trials.

Among the 10 Midwestern states included in the study, there were 11.5 million acres of CRP ground. "Ohio, Iowa and Minnesota had the most extensive plantings of the two wild rye species of concern to dogs," says Lauenroth. "South Dakota, Nebraska and Kansas had the smallest numbers of these plantings."

Lauenroth interviewed representatives of eight Midwestern veterinary teaching hospitals to learn about the frequency of grass awn disease over the past two decades. He discovered that grass awn migration disease is very difficult to diagnose with certainty.

"Additionally, two problematic wild rye species are not an essential part of the CRP seed mixes," he says. "Deleting them would not have a significant impact on the CRP land and would potentially help dogs at risk for this disease."

Enthusiasts can help make their fall hunting season a rewarding and enjoyable experience by being cautious of potential dangers. Taking time to check your dog for ticks and grass awn seeds for quick removal will go a long way toward this end. ■

Applying a Lean Look to Feeding Guidelines

Q: How important is it to feed dogs on an individual basis versus simply feeding the amount of food suggested on the back of the package?

A: The feeding guidelines on a bag or can of food are suggested amounts to feed based on the average energy requirements of dogs. However, many dogs may need more or less than the amount suggested. If your dog is not very active, you might start with less food. If your dog is highly active, you could start with more food.

If you are starting a food for the first time and your dog seems “average,” you should use the guidelines to help you know how much to feed. Of course, if you are feeding other foods as well, such as treats, you should feed less. You should monitor your dog’s weight, then increase or decrease the amount of food offered to attain and maintain a lean body mass in your dog. If you do not have access to a scale, you can monitor changes by using a measuring tape to measure and record the circumference of your dog’s waist (just behind the ribs) and chest (just behind the elbows). These measures reflect body fat and will increase or decrease over time with weight changes.

Q: Some Labrador Retrievers are prone to developing copper-associated hepatopathy, an emerging epidemic with a genetic predisposition. Why isn’t the amount of copper contained in dog food listed on the package? Dogs prone to this condition should avoid even trace amounts of copper.

A: As noted, copper-associated hepatopathy is a genetic condition. Fortunately, it affects relatively few dogs. Although affected dogs need to control their copper intake, copper is an essential nutrient and even dogs with this health problem should never eat a “copper-free” diet. Other nutrients in the diet can affect the amount of copper these dogs need, so looking at the copper content alone can be misleading. Since this problem is a health issue, it is important to work with your veterinarian to determine if your dog is affected and how best to manage

the condition using special diets or copper chelators, which are substances that bind to copper either inhibiting its absorption from the gut or helping the body to excrete it. ■

TB Magazine invites you to send your nutrition questions to today'sbreeder@purina.com. Purina Research Scientist Dottie P. Laflamme, D.V.M., Ph.D., DACVN, who is boarded by the American College of Veterinary Nutrition, answers these questions. She has more than 20 years' experience in the pet food industry and lectures worldwide on canine nutrition.



Customizing CANINE CARE

BY BARBARA FAWVER

Success stories in recent canine health research embrace an individual, or customized, approach to treating disease. Adult stem cells and platelet-rich plasma provide the rich healing properties needed for soft-tissue injuries, and gene expression profiling is leading us to the day when cancer treatment can be targeted to individuals.

Although the variable penetrance of inherited cardiomyopathies dilutes the reliability of some DNA mutation tests, when these tests are combined with health testing, they are useful tools for determining the best therapy and breeding decisions. “As we develop genetic tests, we want black-and-white tests, but that doesn’t always happen,” says Kathryn Meurs, D.V.M., Ph.D., DACVIM, associate dean of research and graduate studies at North Carolina State University College of Veterinary Medicine.

The ninth biennial AKC Canine Health Foundation National Parent Club Canine Health Conference sponsored by Purina brought together leading canine clinicians and research scientists and parent club representatives in August in St. Louis for a review of many health topics. Scientific presentations included cataracts, epilepsy, bloat, gastroenterology, and physical therapy for dogs. Purina has sponsored the conference since its beginning in 1995. Here is a recap of some of the talks.

The Variability of Heart Disease

Variable penetrance helps to explain why some dogs with a gene mutation for an inherited cardiomyopathy get sick and others do not. These complex diseases of the heart muscle vary among, even within, breeds.

Meurs discovered the mutations for arrhythmogenic right ventricular cardiomyopathy (ARVC) in Boxers and dilated cardiomyopathy (DCM) in Doberman Pinschers. She continues to study both diseases.

“Variable penetrance is poorly understood,” Meurs says. “It likely involves other genetic and environmental factors, such as a dog’s diet and daily

activities. We can identify who has the mutation, but we cannot predict the penetrance.”

In Boxers, ARVC is an autosomal dominant disease with variable penetrance. A deletion occurs in a gene that produces striatin, a key binding protein of the cardiac desmosome responsible for the heart’s electrical functioning. Boxers that are homozygous, or inherit two copies of the mutation, appear to have a more severe form of the disease. Those that are heterozygous, or inherit one copy of the mutation, develop abnormal heartbeats but are more responsive to medications.

“At first the heart muscle is abnormal, but it still contracts well,” Meurs explains. “As the cells are replaced with fat, the electrical functioning doesn’t contract well. It is an adult-onset disease that occurs





Dr. Kathryn Meurs

around 6 to 8 years of age, often after a dog has been bred.”

Seventy-two percent of Boxers have the mutation and will show signs of the disease. Holter monitor tests detect ventricular premature complexes (VPCs), a series of heartbeats without a corresponding pulse that occur when the heart’s lower right ventricle contracts earlier than it should, resulting in a decreased flow of blood to the brain and other vital organs. A prolonged run of VPCs can cause cardiac arrest and death.

Dilated cardiomyopathy affects 40 percent of Doberman Pinschers. Fifty percent die from sudden death due to ventricular arrhythmia, 33 percent of which had no prior sign of heart disease. “Affected dogs generally appear normal until they are 5 to 7 years old, when their heart muscle is no longer able to mask the disease,” says Meurs. “Congestive heart failure occurs when the diseased heart can no longer pump blood adequately to the body. Coughing and shortness of breath are signs of a dilated heart.”

Meurs discovered a mutation for the autosomal dominant disease with variable penetrance on chromosome 14 in the PDK4 mitochondrial gene. DNA that should encode for a mitochondrial protein responsible for moving energy into the heart and helping it work efficiently is missing in affected dogs.

“It is likely there are at least two mutations responsible for DCM in Dobermans,” says Meurs. “We are not sure if it is two diseases or the same disease with two forms. There is the enlarged heart form that causes congestive heart failure and the ventricular arrhythmia form that causes sudden death.”

Meurs cautions breeders that a negative genetic test for DCM in Dobermans or for ARVC in Boxers does not mean a dog will not develop the diseases. “While these tests are valuable tools, they are not predictive in all Boxer or Doberman populations,” she says. “Mutation testing can be used with health testing to make the best decisions. Each dog and each bloodline should be considered individually. Remember, dogs that carry these mutations also carry other important good genes that we do not want to lose from these breeds.”

“Sophia,” an English Mastiff, was successfully treated with regenerative medicine for an Achilles tendon injury.



Combining Regenerative Techniques

Canine athletes and active dogs are at increased risk for soft-tissue injuries. As they run, leap, jump and sprint, they can cause microtears to their tendons and ligaments. When a dog performs these activities repeatedly, further microtears can occur.

Tendons and ligaments are typically slow to heal and often heal by scar tissue rather than tissue regeneration. Scar tissue does not have the same properties as native tissue and is more vulnerable to reinjury. Unfortunately for these dogs, discomfort and lameness often become chronic. Regenerative medicine promotes healing by regeneration of tissues and offers hope that these dogs may return to their active lives.

Sherman O. Canapp Jr., D.V.M., CCRT, DACVS, DACVSMR, an orthopedic surgeon and sports medicine specialist at the Veterinary Orthopedic & Sports Medicine Group in Annapolis Junction, Md., explains, “Tissues involved in musculoskeletal injuries tend to lose their matrix elasticity and thus are predisposed to reinjury.”

In his practice, Canapp has successfully returned many dogs with ligament or tendon injuries to their full activities using regenerative medicine therapies. His treatment consists of combining adipose-derived stem cells (ADSC) or bone-marrow stem cells (BMSC) with platelet-rich plasma (PRP).

“Since these cells are obtained from the intended recipient, the risk of rejection and disease transmission is eliminated,” he says.

“Sophia,” a 20-month-old English Mastiff, was referred to Canapp for treatment of chronic swelling and lameness in her left hind leg after running with dogs at her day care. Canapp evaluated Sophia and reviewed her radiographs. An MRI (magnetic resonance imaging) confirmed his suspicion that Sophia had a disruption of her Achilles tendon. Canapp recommended regenerative medicine.

Adult stem cells were taken from adipose tissue, or fat, in Sophia’s abdomen.

The tissue was sent to a regenerative medicine laboratory



Dr. Sherman Canapp Jr.

where the stem cells and other regenerative cells were isolated from the tissue and then cultured, or grown, to obtain between 5 to 10 million cells. At the same time the stem cells were collected, blood was taken to obtain the PRP.

While the cells were being cultured, Canapp prescribed a custom orthotic that limited the range of motion of Sophia's hock to prevent additional strain on the injured tendon. "The most important thing was protecting the tendon from further breakdown," Canapp says.

The laboratory sent the cultured cells to Canapp in an injectable matrix. Using ultrasound guidance, Canapp injected the cells directly into the injured area of Sophia's tendon. Following the procedure, Sophia was enrolled in a rehabilitation program to promote the healing properties of the injected cells.

Six weeks later Sophia's swelling was significantly improved, and she was bearing full weight on the injured leg. The range of motion allowed by the orthotic was increased to add biomechanical load to the tendon to help promote healing and strengthening.

As Sophia continued rehabilitation therapy, serial ultrasounds were performed to evaluate healing. At her 12-week recheck, the tendon was healed, and Sophia was bearing weight evenly on her hind legs. Her rehabilitation program then began to focus on strengthening and weaning her out of the orthotic. At the six-month recheck, Sophia had graduated from rehabilitation,

her ultrasound showed a completely healed tendon, and her muscle mass was symmetrical in her hind legs. Sophia was released to full activity and has since returned to day care with no sign of ever being injured.

"There is scientific evidence that regenerative medicine therapies work," Canapp says. "In our practice, we have successfully used these therapies since 2008 to treat various injuries. In our patients, we see a 90 percent success rate."

Cytokines & Canine Nutrition

The important role of nutrition in promoting healthy immune function especially becomes apparent when problems occur. Chronic nutrient deficiency and chronic nutrient excess, as seen in canine obesity, negatively impact immune health and consequently a dog's overall health.

"The immune system is all a twitter," says Deborah S. Greco, D.V.M., Ph.D., DACVIM, Purina Senior Research Scientist. "Cytokines help the cells communicate. They are the substances secreted by specific cells that carry signals between cells and have an effect on other cells. They are the Twitter of the immune system."

Cytokines are proteins, peptides or glycoproteins that help regulate cell signaling. They are responsible for how a cell responds to infection, an immune attack, inflammation and even trauma. Research has shown that nutrient metabolism and immunity have evolved to share organ systems and signaling pathways, essentially being hardwired molecularly.

"Obesity is an inflammatory state characterized by the overproduction of inflammatory cytokines," Greco explains. "For example, leptin, a messenger from fat to the brain to stop eating, is missing in dogs with obesity. Instead, these dogs have leptin resistance and never get the signal to reduce their appetite despite being overweight or obese."

Chronic obesity can lead to metabolic disorders, such as insulin resistance caused by pro-inflammatory cytokine. Insulin resistance prevents glucose from getting into a cell by blocking the post-receptor message of the insulin receptor. "The good news is that this relationship also can be used to proactively enhance immune health," Greco says.

A dog's life stage has a huge impact on his immune status and is one of the most important reasons to consider nutritional strategies to boost immune system effectiveness. For example, good immune health can positively affect brain aging and cognition. When it is compromised, it causes distress. Repeated immune activation to combat infection can be a significant drain on metabolic resources and compete with energy-demanding processes like growth, reproduction and lactation.

"The gut is the largest immune organ, containing over 65 percent of all immune cells in the body," Greco says. "Thus, a significant part of the immune system interacts with what we feed our dogs."

Basic nutrition that includes optimal key nutrients is critical for healthy immune function. Dogs should be fed diets containing high levels of high-quality protein



Dr. Deborah Greco





Dr. Jaime Modiano

because protein makes up the structural components and mediates key processes of the immune system.

“It is no surprise that chronic nutrient deficiency or excess can negatively impact immune health and overall health,” Greco says. “Feeding dogs an optimal complete and balanced diet with high-quality protein is important.”

The Future of Cancer Treatment

Cancer researcher Jaime Modiano, V.M.D., Ph.D., the Perlman Endowed Chair in animal oncology at the College of Veterinary Medicine and Masonic Cancer Center of the University of Minnesota, is often asked, “How much do you really know about cancer and when will you find a cure?”

Although discoveries may seem to come slowly to breeders whose breed is highly susceptible to a particular cancer or to those whose dogs suffer from cancer, significant progress is being made. Technological advances are increasingly helping scientists to obtain clinically relevant information from patient samples.

“Cancer cells may have a highly complex genome,” explains cytogeneticist Matthew Breen, Ph.D., C.Biol., FSB, professor of genomics at North Carolina State University College of Veterinary Medicine. “Cytogenomic changes that occur in cancer may provide a way to generate a molecular signature of an individual cancer and understand how it relates to the clinical progression and outcome of a patient.”

Breen, Modiano and Kerstin Lindblad-Toh, Ph.D., director of vertebrate genome biology at the Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard and professor at Uppsala University in Sweden, frequently collaborate on canine cancer research. In recent lymphoma research, “we found that a specific type of T-cell tumor is likely to respond better to conservative treatment,” Modiano says. “Gene expression profiling allowed us to develop a diagnostic test to classify canine lymphomas and establish a treatment plan.”

One of the most challenging cancers to understand is hemangiosarcoma. The cancer typically starts in the thin layer of cells that line the interior of blood vessels, where it



Dr. Matthew Breen

Meurs Receives Asa Mays Award

A leading comparative genetics researcher with a special interest in inherited heart disease, Kathryn M. Meurs, D.V.M., Ph.D., DACVIM-Cardiology, was awarded the Asa Mays, D.V.M., Excellence in Canine Health Research Award in August at the National Parent Club Canine Health Foundation Conference.

Meurs, who is associate dean of research and graduate studies at North Carolina State University College of Veterinary Medicine, discovered four causative mutations for inherited cardiomyopathies in dogs and cats, one which was subsequently described in humans with hypertrophic cardiomyopathy.

The award pays tribute to Mays, a founding member of the AKC Canine Health Foundation and a three-time member of the American Kennel Club board of directors. A lifelong dog fancier, Mays died in 2005.



Dr. Kathryn Meurs, right, receives the Asa Mays Award from Dr. Mary Smith.

has access into the blood supply and metastasizes throughout the body. Hemangiosarcoma typically is detected late when it is more likely to bleed. The propensity for bleeding is the most common cause of death in dogs with hemangiosarcoma.

Sadly, 20 percent of Golden Retrievers die from the cancer. In an effort to better understand hemangiosarcoma in Goldens, Lindblad-Toh and her research team have mapped genes that help to understand how the cancer arises. These findings also can be developed into a test to help identify dogs that may be at higher risk to develop the disease in their lifetime. Lindblad-Toh’s findings together with the efforts of Breen and Modiano will allow the development of tests to improve the diagnosis and prog-

nosis of the cancer. Although they are looking at different aspects, the goal is to predict how the tumor will behave and if there are different ways to treat it once it is diagnosed.

“We are on the road to being able to determine which dogs will likely respond well to particular treatments, and with a good quality of life, and how long such a response would be,” Breen says.

The ability to better understand a dog’s prognosis when facing cancer, heart disease or another potentially life-threatening disorder promises an efficient, innovative approach to customizing therapies specifically designed for an individual dog. Dog breeders will gain knowledge about the genetics behind diseases and how to breed away from them. ■

Nurturing Natural Ability

BY PAUL SLETTEN



Many of us have, or will buy, a new retriever pup with high hopes for a top-caliber retrieving companion. Now that the pup has arrived, the work begins. For many, the excitement of a new member of the family is quickly replaced with impatience and frustration. Having a well-trained and socialized dog that adds enjoyment to our lives does not come easy.

Thankfully, retrievers have a knack for adjusting easily and tolerating our lifestyles. Properly social-

izing puppies in all environments will create a bond of trust and respect, as well as a stress-free life. This makes the journey to adulthood extremely rewarding. The following ideas are to help you along the way.

Your retriever pup will go through a few mental changes as he matures during the first year. Submissive pups may get rambunctious. A pup that loved the kids last month is now nervous when he sees new people. Expect these changes. The more intro-

ductions you can make your puppy to new environments, the better. Repeat these introductions on a regular basis.

Leash training should happen from day one. Let your puppy drag the leash around the house. It's OK if he wants to chew it and play tug of war. As he grows up taking walks, he will soon ignore the leash.

Basic obedience cannot be started too soon. Grab a handful of kibble for treats and introduce your puppy to "sit," "heel" and "here." He will hear those words a lot in the future so you want to teach him now to respond well to them. A few repetitions each day will go a long way.

Buy a tennis ball or small paint roller for him to retrieve around the house or yard. Toss it a few times each day to build desire, and use the leash to reel him back in. Make sure to stop before he is bored. Four to six tosses per session is usually enough. Save that special toy for "retrieve time."

Regular rides in the vehicle are important. Take your pup with you whenever possible, making sure he rides safely in a crate or kennel. You want to take him along often enough that he grows comfortable and is able to relax and sleep on the ride.

If you're a waterfowl hunter, don't wait too long to introduce your pup to the boat. Regular boat rides are just as important as the vehicle. Have someone hold the pup to keep him calm and still on the first few outings until he gets his sea legs.

Unfortunately, a pup cannot always be the center of our attention. I like my pups to be comfortable any place I put them. They get lots of house time and time in their crates. Sometimes I like to leave them in an outside kennel on a nice day. While I'm working with other dogs, they grow accustomed to being on a stakeout chain nearby. The point is that we can take or put our retriever pup anywhere, and he is comfortable.

Introduction to gunfire is very important. Many a dog has been made gun shy. I truly believe dogs are made, not born, gun shy. Find a local gun range or a buddy doing some target practice and take your dog for a walk a long way from the gunfire. Slowly work closer to the shooting over the course of several outings. Don't be in a hurry to be too close too soon. Watch for any signs of alarm. Find a good distraction, like retrieving a bumper or doing some obedience commands with treats. We want to make the booms part of the background noise. There is no reason to shoot close to the dog until he has had dozens of encounters with gunfire and is comfortable retrieving when he hears the sounds.

Properly introducing your pup to water also is extremely important. The only way a retriever becomes comfortable making multiple retrieves in a cold November marsh is by having a solid swimming foundation. Some pups take to the water on



their own. Often we are not that lucky. Many times I see people tossing objects in the water trying to get their pup to swim. Don't do it. We want the pup to be comfortable swimming before we ask him to swim while retrieving.

At this time we also are trying to build the pup's desire to retrieve. The last thing we want is to challenge his retrieving desire with such a large obstacle. I would suggest putting on your swimming trunks or waders and going in the water yourself. Perhaps your pup will follow another dog into the pond. Find a nice spot without a steep grade, so he can go in an inch at a time. You should offer treats and make it fun. Only when the pup begins to swim comfortably and is raring to retrieve will we begin to throw bumpers in the pond. This may take one day or a couple of months.

Many of these introductions seem like common sense, but pups grow quickly into dogs. These first few months are up to us to shape our pup into a well-rounded dog. If you put a dog in the right situations repeatedly, he will teach himself. ■

Paul Sletten is vice president of the Professional Retriever Trainers Association. A professional retriever trainer since he left the hunt test game at 17 years old, Paul worked 10 years for professional trainer Andy Attar before establishing Pine Edge Retrievers in 2006 near Montello, Wis. He has trained multiple National Finalists, including NFC-AFC Hunter Run BooBoo, the 2010 National Open Retriever Champion. Paul and his wife, Sarah, who also is a dog trainer and runs a boarding kennel, recently celebrated their 10th wedding anniversary.

Steeling HER Heart

BY KAYLA MILLER | PHOTOS BY MELISSA MILLER

The Wire Fox Terriers instantly perk up when Torie Steele walks into the kennel. The dogs watch her intently while standing on their hind legs and pawing at the glass doors of the magnificent Steele Kennel in Malibu, Calif.

“Wire Fox Terriers are people dogs, not pack dogs,” Torie says.

Torie is mild-mannered and poised, yet she captivates the dogs’ attention as soon as she steps into the room. She strides past the grooming table and lovingly looks into the eyes of a white-black-and-tan female, GCH Steele Your Heart. “Eira” mirrors Torie’s dotting gaze.

Torie has been enthralled by Wire Fox Terriers since she was a girl. Growing up in Amarillo, Texas, her parents had Boxers and German Shepherd Dogs. After watching reruns of “The Thin Man” film series, Torie became fascinated by the antics of the Wire Fox Terrier called “Asta.”

“I fell in love with Wire Fox Terriers because of their charming, spunky personalities. They love to watch you, learn from you and imitate you,” Torie says. “They’re incredibly smart, loving and loyal.”

She also recalls seeing a show win photo of her grandfather, Frank Searight, with his Doberman Pinscher on the society page of a newspaper from 1929. An advertisement for Wire Fox Terriers placed directly above the photo caught her eye. When it was time to get her own dog in 1990, Torie chose a female Wire Fox Terrier, who she appropriately named “Asta.”

“Asta was the love of my life,” Torie says. “She was my constant companion.”

Torie has come a long way since her first Wire Fox Terrier. She has raised more than 40 homebred champions. Her Steele Wire Fox Terriers, recognized for their free-moving gaits and square, short-backed bodies, have won more than 200 Bests in Show.

Her accomplishments have been noted. Torie won the American Fox Terrier Club/Wire Fox Terrier National Parent Club’s Breeder of the Year Award in 2006, 2009 and 2010.

“Wire Fox Terriers have become one of my greatest passions,” Torie says. “I can’t imagine my life without one.”

An Eye for Detail

Torie developed an aesthetic eye from years of experience in the fashion industry, working as a model and in designer showrooms throughout college. In the 1980s, Torie was instrumental in bringing the stores of prominent Italian designers, such as Gianfranco Ferré and Valentino, to the United



PHOTO BY MIGUEL BETANCOURT

GCH Gallant Statesman of Steele (“Kyle”), one of Torie Steele’s homebred champions, was the No. 1 Wire Fox Terrier in 2010.

Shown at home with retired champions, from left, "Romeo" and "Diva," Torie says her Wire Fox Terriers are the "loves of her life."



States. She founded and owned the prestigious Torie Steele Boutiques on Rodeo Drive in Beverly Hills, Calif. However, in the early 1990s, Torie retired from the fashion business and shifted her focus to the world of purebred dogs.

"My eye for detail carried over to the dog show world," Torie says. "I always thought Wire Fox Terriers were a fashionable breed due to their angles and design."

When Asta unexpectedly passed away at age 8, Torie was heartbroken. She immediately began an extensive search for another Wire Fox Terrier. In 1998, she bought Brookhaven Highly Collectable from breeder Mari Morrissey of Redondo Beach, Calif., who told Torie she'd only sell "Angel" if Torie agreed to show the bitch. At the time, Torie wasn't interested in a show dog, but when Morrissey said she would groom Angel, a light went off in Torie's head. Torie would finish Angel to her Champion title.

"I always wanted my Wire Fox Terrier to be groomed like a show dog. I'd take Asta to pet groomers who would clip her coat rather than

trim it," Torie says. "When Mari told me she would hand-strip Angel's coat, I was sold."

Torie decided to get into breeding in hopes of creating another Wire Fox Terrier similar to her beloved Asta. She extensively researched the breed and turned to Morrissey for help on how to breed dogs and whelp puppies.

"I read every book about Wire Fox Terriers I could get my hands on, attended every dog show I could and studied the pedigrees of various Wire Fox Terrier lines," she recalls. "When I find something I like, I dive in wholeheartedly to learn everything about the subject I can."

In 1999, Torie hired the late professional handler Bob LaRouche to help start her kennel. As Torie's live-in assistant, LaRouche had long conversations with her about dog shows and the judging process, the art of hand-stripping and the importance of expert handling. The two traveled to dog shows and specialty shows throughout the United States every weekend. They also occasionally attended shows in Europe.

"Bob generously shared his knowledge and

With a keen eye for detail, Torie designed concrete strips in front of her state-of-the-art Steele Kennel that provide traction when loading vehicles to travel to dog shows.





Torie grooms GCH Steele Your Heart ("Eira") using a special brush, a gift from handler Gabriel Rangel, featuring the dog.



expertise. His years of experience with terriers were invaluable to me," Torie says.

LaRouche introduced Torie to renowned terrier handler Peter Green, who handled five No. 1 all-breed dogs in the U.S. during his career and was one of two handlers to win Bests in Show at Westminster and Crufts. Green familiarized Torie with prominent people in the dog show world and handled her Wire Fox Terriers from 2001 to 2006.

Torie began her Steele Wire Fox Terrier bloodline outcrossing and linebreeding from a combination of two English lines, Blackdale and Travella, and one Belgian line, Du Bois Des Maitres.

"The Blackdales had outstanding conformation and stunning, long heads. The Travellas had swinging, perpendicular movement and alert, outgoing personalities. The Du Bois Des Maitres had gorgeous, well-balanced bodies and were very healthy," Torie says. "Crossing those lines together made the most beautiful dogs."

Eira is Torie's greatest breeding achievement. The winner of 72 Bests in Show, Eira was the No. 1 Terrier and No. 15 dog in the country in 2011. That year, Eira won the Wire Fox Terrier Club of America National Specialty, Great Western Terrier Association (GWTA) of Southern California Dog Show

and The National Dog Show. She also took Best of Breed at Westminster. Although Eira didn't begin her Specials campaign until mid-year, she took off and surpassed many top-winning terriers to take the top spot in her group.

"Eira looks like a well-bred stallion, which is what a Wire Fox Terrier should look like," Torie says. "No dog is absolutely perfect, but she comes pretty close."

Eira's sire, CH Galsul Excellence, was an outcross from frozen semen. Handled by Green, "Paddy" was the No. 1 dog in the country in 1986 and 1987. Eira's dam, CH Ironhill Jitterbug, was the No. 2 Terrier in 2002 and the No. 1 Wire Fox Terrier in 2002 and 2003. "Emma" passed away earlier this year.

"I knew Eira was special as soon as she was born. Even as a puppy, she had effortless movement, which is one of the most important parts of the breed standard," Torie says. "She's been the star of

the kennel ever since."

Torie's approach to breeding is straightforward. Selecting the best bitch possible from a strong, healthy line is her first priority. She avoids kennel blindness by looking at each dog individually rather than choosing bitches and sires that are constant winners in the ring. Torie also works closely

An Elegant English Breed

An old English breed that originated in the British Isles in the 17th century, the Wire Fox Terrier descended from the rough-coated black-and-tan terrier. Originally bred to "go to ground" to chase fox and other small game from their dens, the Wire Fox Terrier is a typical terrier ready to spring into action at the slightest provocation.

The breed is considered an excellent companion for children due to his sturdiness and size combined with his friendly, playful nature. The wirehaired coat sheds minimally. The Wire Fox Terrier is 13 1/2 to 15 1/2 inches tall at the withers and weighs 16 to 18 pounds.

"The Wire Fox Terrier is an elegant breed," says breeder Torie Steele. "I love their style, energy, intelligence and beautiful coloration."



GCH Ironhill Steele Rampage

PHOTO BY MIGUEL BETANCOURT



Torie is pictured by her trophy case containing numerous awards won by her Steele Wire Fox Terriers. Notably, her terriers Eira and Sky won The National Dog Show in 2011 and 2012, respectively.

with other Wire Fox Terrier breeders, including Mary Ann Roma of Ironhill Kennels in Chalfont, Pa.

“My breeding philosophy always has been to better the breed,” Torie says. “I breed for temperament and conformation that’s as close to the breed standard as possible.”

The Sky Is the Limit

For 13 of the 15 years she’s been showing dogs, Torie has had the top Wire Fox Terrier, with the exception being years she didn’t have a dog on the show circuit. Her dogs have won the breed at the prestigious Montgomery County Kennel Club Dog Show a record nine times and at the American Kennel Club National Championship seven times.

CH Rey-Lee Reach For The Stars was one of the first dogs Torie specialied. Handled by LaRouche, “Star” was the top Wire Fox Terrier bitch in 2000 and 2001 with 18 Bests in Show. Another Torie Special and one of her foundation stud dogs, CH Blackdale Ringmaster (“Pat”), was the No. 1 Wire Fox Terrier in the country in 2000, 2001 and 2002.

A Pat grandson, GCH Ironhill Steele Rampage, who Torie co-bred with Roma, was shown by Green and professional handler Ernesto Lara be-

fore becoming the breed’s top sire. “Rampage” has produced 14 champions.

Torie prefers to wait to show her dogs until they have matured. She brings her females into the ring at age 2, but holds off on males until they are 3 years old, giving their bodies times to mature into a masculine appearance.

In 2006, Torie took Bred-By Exhibitor Best of Opposite Sex at the AKC National Championship with CH Steele Mandalay With Brookhaven (“Mandy”). Other Steele standouts include CH Steele Dusty Knight (“Kohl”) and GCH Gallant Statesman of Steele (“Kyle”), who were No. 1 in the breed in 2008 and 2010, respectively.

GCH AfterAll Painting The Sky, who she co-owns with Victor Malzoni Jr., of São Paulo, Brazil, is Torie’s current Special. Based on rankings through mid-October, “Sky” is the No. 1 dog in the country.

“I first saw Sky at the 2009 GWTA of Southern California show. Her gorgeous, stunning white-and-tan coat and striking head with saddle markings caught my eye,” Torie says. “I knew she had to be shown.”

Bred by Al Pertuit Jr. of Fyrewyre Kennels in Central, S.C., and Betty Seaton of Scandia, Minn., Sky is a two-time Best in Show winner at the International Kennel Club of Chicago and Great Western Terrier Association dog shows. In 2012, Sky won the AKC National Championship and The National Dog Show. The Best in Show at The National Dog



Eduardo Rangel, Torie’s kennel manager, prepares Purina Pro Plan Focus All Life Stages Small Bites Lamb & Rice Formula for the dogs.

Show marked two consecutive years Torie has won the show with a Wire Fox Terrier. Sky is handled by Gabriel Rangel of Rialto, Calif., who has handled Torie's dogs for the past six years.

"It's a dream come true to have the top dog this year," Torie says.

A One-On-One Relationship

Sitting on three acres of lush green grounds overlooking the Pacific Coast under the clear, sunny California skies is Torie's state-of-the-art kennel, built in 1999. It features 10 runs that are 25 feet long with heated floors, air conditioning and floor-to-ceiling glass doors. Eight of the runs can be divided in half to be made into 16 runs when needed. Thirteen Wire Fox Terriers currently live at the kennel.

"I opted for a smaller kennel with glass doors so the dogs would feel like they're part of everything," Torie says. "I want my dogs to have human attention. They need to be played with and loved every day."

A typical day at Steele Kennels begins at 7 a.m. Dogs are let out to run while Torie's kennel assistants, Eduardo Rangel, who is Gabriel Rangel's nephew, and Randy Fuentes, prepare the food. Dogs are fed promptly at 8 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. Eduardo Rangel and Fuentes spend the majority of the day cleaning runs, walking dogs and grooming, which can take up to four hours to trim one dog.

Torie breeds three to four litters each year. She oftentimes whelps the puppies in her bedroom. "People think I only sponsor my dogs, but I'm very much hands on with all of them," she says.

When she is home, Torie gives her dogs plenty of one-on-one attention. Eira, now retired, stays with Torie as a house dog. Torie rotates the other dogs, one by one, for their turns in the house.

Puppies are socialized at 6 to 8 weeks of age through playtime with Torie's family and friends. When the puppies are old enough, Torie takes them on car rides and for walks while she runs errands. "Wire Fox Terriers need a lot of socialization, otherwise they can become skittish," she says.

A lengthy waiting list of puppy buyers comes with Torie's breeding success. People generally wait a few years to get a Wire Fox Terrier with the Steele kennel prefix.



Torie feeds her Wire Fox Terriers *Purina Pro Plan Focus All Life Stages Small Bites Lamb & Rice Formula*. Puppies are fed *Purina Pro Plan Focus Puppy Lamb & Rice Formula*.

"I feed *Pro Plan Lamb & Rice* because it gives my dogs beautiful coats and keeps them in top condition," she says.

As for the future, Torie's goal is to win Westminster and a third National Dog Show. She plans to continue to serve as a delegate to the AKC for the Western Fox Terriers Breeders Association and also to continue supporting the AKC Canine Health Foundation. But in the end, it all goes back to her breeding.

"I want to keep breeding the best Wire Fox Terriers I can," she says. "I'm always striving to improve the breed." ■

"Lola" is a 3-week-old puppy from Torie's recent litter out of CH Steele Blue Calypso.

A Priceless Pair

Guided by an intuitive sense that has taken shape over their cumulative 74 years in the sport of brace beagling, the husband-wife judging team of Sonny and Diane Price is looking for the hounds they'll call back for second series. Patience is a virtue considering the dew evaporated hours ago turning the running grounds of Ozark Beagle Club in the Arcadia Valley of Missouri into a sauna.

"We like the same kind of dog — a good dog," says Sonny, who mentored Diane when she was training to become a judge.

In their judges' books, Beagles get marks for style and a good, clean mouth. They must show enthusiasm while working and bark on the rabbit's tracks. Wagging tails count, and so does making progress on the rabbit's trail.

After Diane became an American Kennel Club (AKC)-approved judge for brace beagle trials, she judged her first licensed trial in 2000, paired with her mentor, at St. Mary's Beagle Club in Pennsylvania. "I recall one dog that I really liked," she says. "Sonny told me, 'That dog will let you down in second series.' He did let me bring her back, but she did exactly as he said and let us down. I felt like I fell on my face that day, but I learned a lot."

Sonny got hooked on brace beagling field trials when he was 13 years old, learning from his uncle, Bill Cotton of Tarentum, Pa. "We would hunt with our dogs on Saturday and then run them in a sanctioned trial on Sunday," Sonny says.

Sonny and Diane Price watch their Beagles track a rabbit at their home running grounds in Fyffe, Ala. In the foreground is FC Cotton Hill Miss Maddi ("Maddi"), followed by FC D&D Lissa ("Lissa").



Diane and Sonny pose with her dogs, from left, GR CH Marquis Smokin' At Kingsfield ("Smokie"), a German Spitz, and Kingsfield Ms. Palmer ("Palmer"), an American Eskimo Dog puppy, and his brace Beagle Maddi.

At age 18, Sonny finished his first Field Champion, a male named Hilvue Johnny Walker. When his uncle died in 2003, Sonny carried on his kennel prefix, Cotton Hill, as a tribute to the beagler who inspired him. Sonny's passion for running a good dog in field trials led to his start in breeding. Sonny has finished 32 Field Champions, 12 of which he bred.

A partnership with Dennis Langevin of D&D Beagles in Seakonk, Mass., began in 1998. Sonny runs their Beagles at trials in the South in the fall and winter, and Langevin takes over at Northeast trials in the spring and summer. Both breed litters and raise puppies.

Sonny, Langevin and Art Moskaluk co-owned FC Dan Art's Charity, campaigning her to win the 15-inch female class in the 2012 Purina Top Brace Field Trial Beagle Award. "Charity" was only a few points short of winning the whole award.

Although Diane is not a partner in Sonny and Langevin's Beagles, she loves the hounds. "I got my first Beagle when I was 16. We used to hunt with them, and I would show them in AKC fun matches," she says. "When I discovered Clearfield Beagle Club (Curwensville, Pa.), I was thrilled to find a place to go and train hounds. I attended my first field trial there in 1988."

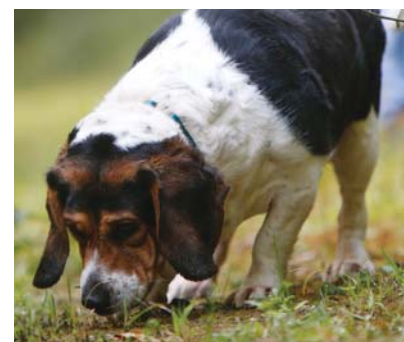
Since then, Diane has finished five Field Champion Beagles and bred six Field Champions.

Diane and Sonny had known each other 15 years when Diane called him in 2005 looking for a puppy. Sonny, who had moved to Alabama in 2002 to work for Bailey Bridges as a production manager, met up with Diane a few weeks later in Buckner, Ky., at the Bluegrass Beagle Club.

"We hadn't seen each other in five years, but we chit-chatted just like old times," she recalls. "Instead of a puppy, I got Sonny."

Diane's mother, Irene Clever, was a dog lover who urged her daughter to participate in junior showmanship. When Diane was 8, she helped her mother breed a litter of Toy Poodles. Diane later showed Afghan Hounds, her mother's breed.

More recently, Diane has turned her attention to establishing the rare German Spitz breed in the U.S. Recognized by the United Kennel Club (UKC) in 2006, the breed also is enrolled in the AKC Foundation Stock Service and is working toward full recognition.



Lissa follows the rabbit scent.

Diane owns the first German Spitz born in this country, UKC/INT CH Sheminee American Dream, and the first UKC Grand Champion and Best in Show winner, GR CH Marquis On Top At Kingsfield. Since 2009, she has finished five German Spitz UKC Grand Champions and four UKC Champions, three of which she bred.

A longtime Spitz lover, Diane first showed and bred American Eskimo Dogs under Kingsfield, the name she also uses for her German Spitz. Since 1998, she has finished five AKC Champion Eskies, one International Grand Champion, two UKC Grand Champions, and eight UKC Champions. She has bred six AKC Champion Eskies, one International Grand Champion, five UKC Grand Champions, five UKC Champions, and one CKC (Canadian Kennel Club) Champion.

Looking to the future, Diane is optimistic that the German Spitz will one day become recognized by the AKC.

Meanwhile, Sonny is focusing on starting "next year's contenders for the Purina Brace Beagle Derby Award," he says.

One more thing is on Diane's list. "I am still waiting on one of Sonny's Beagle pups," she says, grinning. ■

Some of Diane's German Spitz dogs are, from left, GR CH Marquis On Top At Kingsfield, GR CH Fyrebust KoKo Kisses, GR CH Kingsfield Here For The Parti, and GR CH Marquis Smokin' At Kingsfield.




PURINA
PRO CLUB
CIRCLE OF CHAMPIONS

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

Tibetan Mastiff Called 'Major' Sets Multiple Breed Records

A powerful, yet agile, black-and-tan Tibetan Mastiff called "Major" is leaving his mark in the breed record books. The first Tibetan Mastiff to be ranked No. 1 for three consecutive years, Multi-BIS/BISS DreamCatcher Major CGC, also is the first to win back-to-back Bests in Show, which he won in 2012 at the Cook Inlet Kennel Club Dog Show in Palmer, Alaska. Since beginning his Specials campaign in 2011 under handler Tony Carter of Kent, Wash., the 6-year-old male has won five Bests in Show and 38 Working Group Firsts, setting another breed record. Major was sired by CH Drakyi Loki out of CH Shang-Hai's Queen of Eden, the Top Stud Dog and Top Brood Bitch, respectively, in 2007. Owned by Debbie and Brad Slayton of Graham, Wash., Major is fueled by *Purina Pro Plan Select Rice & Duck Formula*.

A dog from the winningest litter of Tibetan Mastiffs in breed history, "Major" and his littermates earned a record four placements at the American Tibetan Mastiff Association National Specialty.



Norfolk Terrier Called 'Rider' Is No. 1 In the Breed

With his gregarious, happy-go-lucky personality and stunning black-and-tan coat, GCH Yarrow Venerie Ticket to Ride has worked his way to become the No. 1 Norfolk Terrier since beginning his Specials campaign last fall. The No. 5 Terrier, "Rider" has won six Bests in Show under handler Roxanne Sutton of Perkiomenville, Pa. The 2-year-old male also took Best of Breed at the Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show in 2013 and at the Norfolk Terrier Club National Specialty and the AKC National Championship in 2012. Bred by Beth Sweigart of Bowmansville, Pa., and Pamela Beale, who co-owns the dog with her husband, John, of Boston, Rider is the grandson of CH Cracknor Cause Celebre, the No. 1 dog in 2003 who won 70 Bests in Show, including Crufts in 2005. Rider is fueled by *Purina Pro Plan Focus Small Breed Formula*.



"Rider" loves to show and wins the judges over with his infectious, joyous temperament.

No. 1 Kerry Blue Terrier Is a Great-Granddaughter of 'Mick'

Following in the footsteps of her famous great-grandsire, the Kerry Blue Terrier "Mick," who was the first dog to win the Triple Crown, a 3-year-old bitch called "Pink" is winning her share of dog shows. With her lively temperament and gorgeous conformation, GCH True Blue Madonna took her first Best in Show last July at the Dan Emmet Kennel Club Dog Show in Marion, Ohio. "Pink thrives on having a job to do, and she absolutely loves showing," says breeder-owner Elaine Randall of West Lafayette, Ind. Handled by Leonardo Garcini and Jody Paquette of Henryville, Ind., Pink took Best of Breed in 2013 at the Garden and in 2012 at the United States Kerry Blue Terrier Club National Specialty and the all-terrier Montgomery County Kennel Club Dog Show. Her great-grandsire, CH Torums Scarf Michael, captured Bests in Show in 2000 at Crufts, in 2002 at the AKC National Championship and in 2003 became the first Kerry Blue Terrier to win at the Garden. Pink, the No. 1 Kerry Blue Terrier, is fed *Purina Pro Plan Savor Lamb & Rice Formula*.



"Pink" has a stunning coat, energetic personality and free-moving gait, making her an outstanding competitor.

'Bella,' an Irish Water Spaniel, Wins Best in Show

A 4-year-old Irish Water Spaniel called "Bella" charmed her way to winning a Sporting Group First last August at the Santa Barbara Kennel Club Dog Show and a Best in Show last March at the Del Sur Kennel Club Dog Show in Valley Center, Calif. "Bella loves to be the center of attention," says owner Michelle Cummings of Fullerton, Calif. "She is a beautiful mover with excellent reach and drive." Since beginning her Specials campaign in January 2012 under handler Amy Rutherford of Elverta, Calif., Bella took an Award of Merit at the 2012 Irish Water Spaniel Club of America (IWSCA) National Specialty. Bred by Colleen McDaniel of Bothell, Wash., and Stacy Duncan of Woodinville, Wash., Bella is fed *Purina Pro Plan Sport Performance 30/20 Formula*.



In 2011 and 2012, "Bella" won back-to-back Awards of Merit at the IWSCA National Specialty.

Purina Honors 2012-2013 All-Age Bird Dog Award Winners

'Colt' Proves His Consistency

A stylish, big-running male Pointer called "Colt" is the Purina Top Field Trial Bird Dog. Formally known as Stallion, the 4-year-old liver-and-white Pointer, who was handled by Tommy Davis of Dawson, Ga., earned 2,087 points to capture the Purina Award. Colt, who won four Open All-Age Championships and one Runner-Up Championship, is the first Purina Award winner for the father-son co-owners, Dr. Davey Deal and Dr. Ron Deal of Chickasaw Kennels in Macon, Ga. "This means so much to win this award," says Davey Deal.

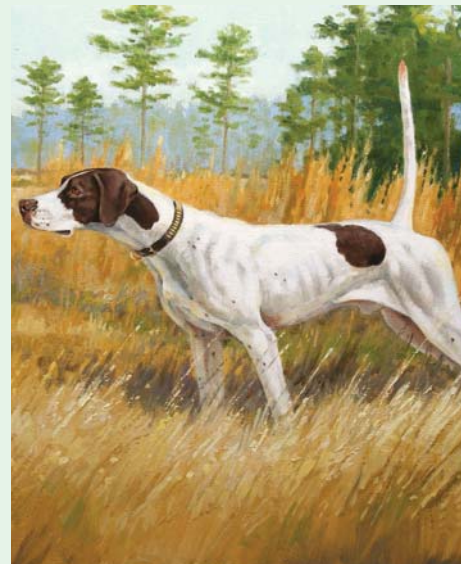
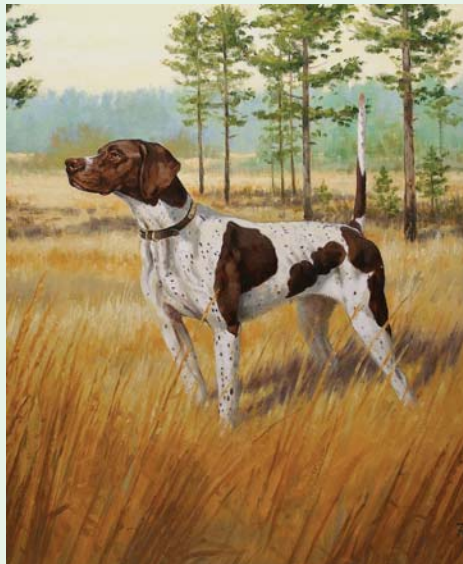
'Mae' Is Owner's 'Best Bird Dog Ever'

A 5-year-old white-and-liver female Pointer, called "Mae," captured the Purina Amateur Top Field Trial Bird Dog Award earning 1,085 points, which included winning two Amateur Championships and one Runner-Up Championship. Breeder-owner-handler Cecil Rester of Angie, La., describes Rester's Fannie Mae "as the best bird dog

I've ever had." A competitor in amateur stakes since 1976, Rester says, "Bird dogs must have bird sense, and Mae was born with it." Rester also credits his wife, Holly, who helps raise and socialize puppies, for the success.

'Hawk' Wins Inaugural Purina Derby Award

The winner of the inaugural Purina Derby Top Field Trial Bird Dog Award is a 2-year-old liver-and-white male Pointer called "Hawk." Earning 2,318 points, Game Strut, as the dog officially is known, won the National Derby Championship and the All-American Derby Championship and was Runner-Up Champion at the Georgia Derby Championship. Hawk is co-owned by Vick Etheridge of Corinth, Miss., and Steve Scott of Hartford, Ala. Tommy Davis of Dawson, Ga., who bred, raised and handled Hawk, noted early on the dog's style and ability to cover a lot of ground like his sire, Strut, the 2009-2010 Purina Top Field Trial Bird Dog and a 26-time winner.



The 2012-2013 Purina All-Age Bird Dog Award winners, pictured in oil paintings presented to their owners, are from left, "Colt," "Mae" and "Hawk." All three Pointers were sired by Strut, a 26-time winner and the 2009-2010 Purina Top Field Trial Bird Dog. The winners are fueled by *Purina Pro Plan Sport Performance 30/20 Formula*.



Eisenhart Captures Second Purina Handler Award

Professional handler Luke Eisenhart of Tiskilwa, Ill., is the Purina Top All-Age Handler of the Year for the second consecutive year. Eisenhart handled a string of 10 dogs to 21 point-earning placements, earning 3,214 points. "At the start of the year, I kept getting seconds and thirds," he says. "The last half of the season things just came together." Eisenhart comes from a prominent bird dog family. His maternal grandfather, the late Gerald Tracy, handled the first Purina Top Shooting Dog in 1983, and his uncle, George Tracy, has won a record 11 Purina Top Shooting Dog Handler Awards. His paternal grandfather, Ike Eisenhart, handled the 2006 Purina Top Amateur Shooting Dog. Eisenhart, who switched to all-age competition two years ago after working 15 years on the shooting dog circuit, is the only handler to win the Award in both segments.

Professional handler Luke Eisenhart stacks Erin's Brave Heart, a Pointer who was one of the winning dogs on his string during the 2012-2013 season.

GET CONNECTED ON FACEBOOK

The *Purina Pro Plan for Professionals* Facebook 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 the *Purina Pro Plan for Professionals* page on Facebook to become part of the conversation and share your passion for the sport with a community of dog enthusiasts.

Today's Breeder
Nestlé Purina PetCare
Checkerboard Square
St. Louis, MO 63164

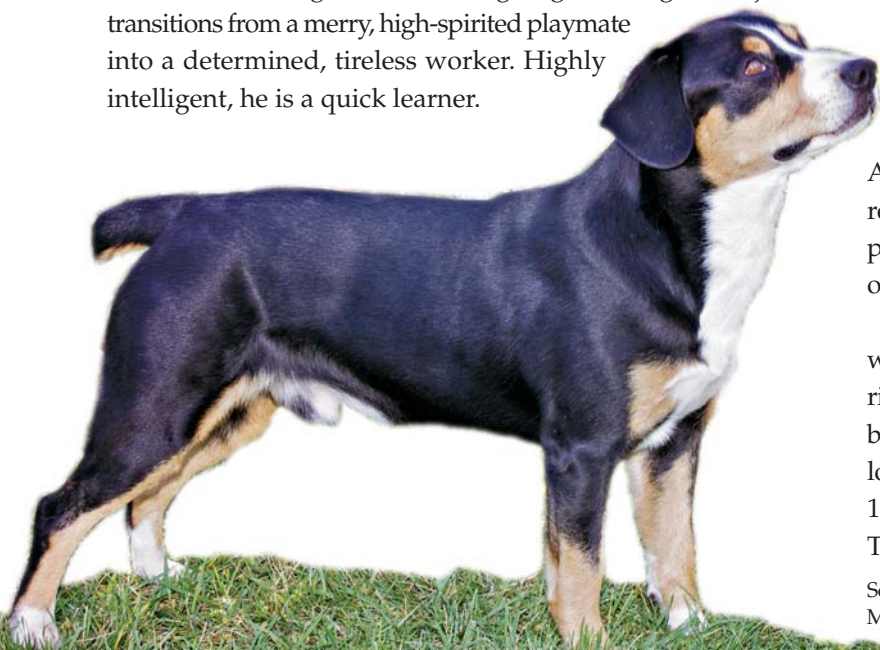
BREED SNAPSHOT

ENTLEBUCHER MOUNTAIN DOG

A Swiss Herding Dog

Prized for his speed and agility, the Entlebucher Mountain Dog was first used by Swiss farmers to herd dairy cows, horses and hogs in the Alps. This compact, muscular dog is named after the village of Entlebuch, where he originated, having descended from Molossus dogs brought by the Romans more than 2,000 years ago.

A devoted companion with an easygoing nature, the Entlebucher is known as being a hardworking dog. When given a job, he transitions from a merry, high-spirited playmate into a determined, tireless worker. Highly intelligent, he is a quick learner.



The breed was first described as “Entlebucherhund” around 1889. Professor Albert Heim, a patron of Swiss Mountain and cattle dog breeds, was the first to exhibit the Entlebucher Mountain Dog at a dog show in Langentahal, Switzerland, in 1913.

The Entlebucher is the smallest of the four tricolored Swiss Sennenhund breeds, which include the Appenzeller, the Bernese Mountain Dog and the Greater Swiss Mountain Dog. A fairly new breed in the United States, the Entlebucher was recognized by the American Kennel Club in 2010. Although primarily a herding dog, the Entlebucher also excels at agility, obedience, conformation and rally.

The breed has a short, shiny black coat with symmetrical white markings on his nose, muzzle, chest and feet. Shades of rich fawn to mahogany appear on the eyebrows and between the black-and-white markings. The Entlebucher’s tail can be naturally long, preferably with a white tip, a bobtail or docked. Males are 17 to 21 inches at the withers, and females are 16 to 20 inches. The breed weighs from 45 to 65 pounds.

Sources: The websites of the American Kennel Club (akc.org) and the Entlebucher Mountain Dog Association (nemda.org).

