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PURINA

Today's Breeder

A Nestlé Purina Publication Dedicated to the Needs of Canine Enthusiasts

Issue 86



BREEDER PROFILE
Scott County Gun Dogs

Show Superstitions
Breaking Genetic Codes
A Fancy for Barn Hunt

The READERS' PAGE

We recently switched our Bulldogs to the new *Purina Pro Plan SAVOR* Shredded Blend Tuna & Rice Formula. Our dogs love the taste, and we love the full, even look of their coats and how they shed less.

We are breeders, first and foremost, and our dogs' health and well-being are always No. 1 with us. We have

been feeding *Purina Pro Plan* since we got our first Bulldog puppy in 2003 and came up with our kennel name, Ohno Bulldogs. Thank you, *Pro Plan*, for providing a wonderful food for our dogs.

Brett & Christy McDonough
Ohno Bulldogs
Missouri City, TX



Brett McDonough poses CH Pittmans Ohno Celis Dot Net, a 2-year-old Bulldog, after she won Best of Winners at the Texas Kennel Club Dog Show in 2013.



PHOTO BY NASH

UWP UCD UACHX UROX GRCH Mariah's Dream Chaser, the first Shetland Sheepdog to become a United Kennel Club Super Dog, clears an agility hurdle.

My male Sheltie, UWP UCD UACHX UROX GRCH Mariah's Dream Chaser, became the first Sheltie to make the UKC (United Kennel Club) Super Dog List in June 2013. Super Dogs must earn titles in five UKC all-breed sports: conformation, obedience, agility, rally obedience, and weight pull. When I named him "Chase," I told myself we were going to chase some dreams. Never did I think we would catch this many. Chase, who represents our sixth

generation, also is an exceptional therapy dog.

I have always fed Chase *Purina ONE SmartBlend* Lamb & Rice dog food. It provides the nutrition he needs and helps him excel as a working dog. The results are seen in his Super Dog title.

Suzanne L. Crider
Mariah's Hill Shetland Sheepdogs
North Judson, IN

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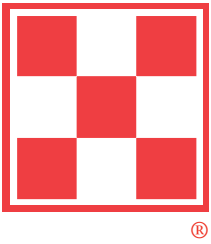
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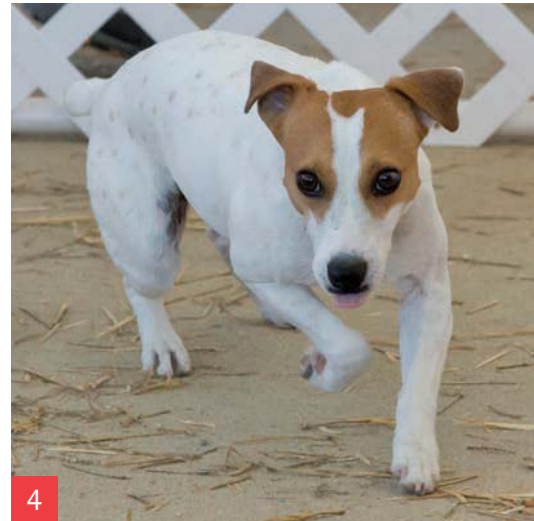
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4 BARN TO RUN

In the new Barn Hunt sport, dogs follow their instincts as they track rat scent in a timed noncompetitive event, while their owners work with them as a team. Fast-paced and fun, Barn Hunt has become a gateway sport that appeals to newcomers to dog sports.

8 LUCK OF THE HANDLERS

Superstitions are inevitable in any sport or hobby, and the dog fancy is no exception. Professional handlers Allison Sunderman, of Hanover, Michigan, Roxanne Sutton, of Perkiomenville, Pennsylvania, and Phillip Scafmayr, of Holtsville, New York, share their peculiar behaviors related to good look and winning in the show ring.



11 BREAKING THE CODE OF MUTATIONS

Scientists attempt to break the genetic codes and learn the mutations that cause the canine diseases histiocytic sarcoma, calcium oxalate stones and atopic dermatitis. Their efforts may one day lead to greater understanding and reduced incidence of these diseases.

14 BONDED BY BEAGLING

A genuine love for Beagles and field trials took hold of Glenn Cole's heart more than 60 years ago. This Small Pack Option (SPO) Hall of Fame member has inspired others and passed down his contagious love of the sport he helped shape to his three children and three grandchildren. The three generations share an interest in SPO beagling that bonds them far beyond field trials.

20 TWO MINUTES TO SHINE

Just as fads come and go, so do handling techniques. As the sport of showing dogs evolves, a handler's presentation of a dog should reflect those changes for the best chance of shining in the ring. One thing that never goes out of style is the way a handler gracefully, yet precisely, gaits and stacks a dog so a judge will recognize a champion.

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On Our Cover

Scott County Ava is a 3-year-old 15-inch tricolor female Small Pack Option Beagle bred, owned and handled by Adam Dixon and Raye Ann Cole, of Scottsburg, Indiana. Cover photo by Melissa Miller. See story on page 14.

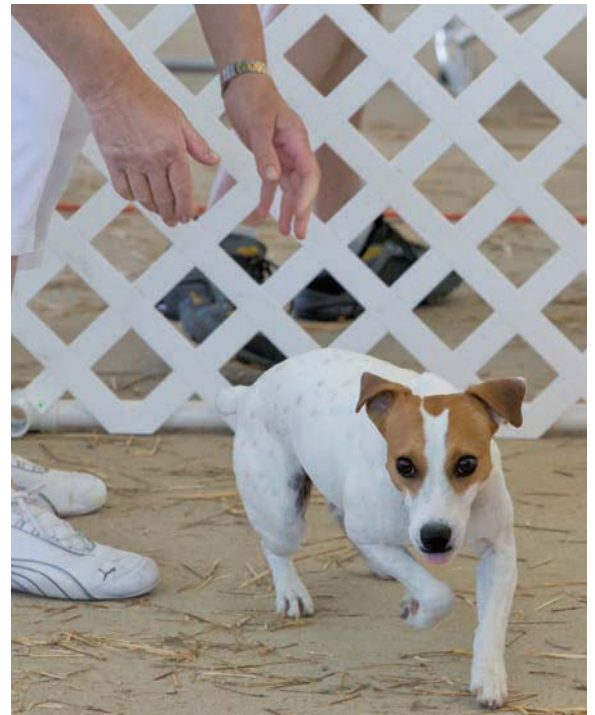


Barn *to* Run

BY BARBARA FAWVER

A 4-year-old Jack Russell Terrier named "Scout" was one leg away from becoming a Senior Barn Hunt ratter. His slim, white body, quivering with excitement, flattened out as soon as he jumped on the hay bale and began tracking the scent straight to the tube with the rat. His owner, Mary Daly, of St. Louis, equally excited, shouted to the judge, "Rat! Rat!"

In two minutes and 30 seconds, Scout added the RATO (Open Barn Hunt) title to his name. "Scout is a rescue dog," Daly explains. "I adopted him about three years ago. He is an incredible little dog who loves life and everything we try. He does lure coursing, flat racing, hurdles, nose work, earthdog, dock diving, and terrier racing."



"Scout," a Jack Russell Terrier owned by Mary Daly, of St. Louis, uses his instinct to track scent on the Senior Barn Hunt course.

"Lexi," a Weimaraner, was the first dog to become a Barn Hunt Champion.



Barn Hunt Trivia

Q: What breed of dog was first to earn a Master Barn Hunt (RATM) title?

A: An English Cocker Spaniel named "Otter" (Nohea River Otter, VCD1, AX, MXJ, OF, MH, TDX, RA, RATM), owned by Danae Steele, of Neenah, Wisconsin, earned the title Dec. 28, 2013, in Cumming, Georgia.

Q: What breed became the first Barn Hunt Champion (RATCH)?

A: A Weimaraner named "Lexi" (RATCH Lexi, JHA, CAA, THD, CGC, NW2, ETD) owned by Andrea Dugger, of Marietta, Georgia. Lexi finished her championship on May 4, 2014, at the Danville, Virginia, Barn Hunt.

Q: What breed recently earned a Barn Hunt Champion Excellent (RATCHX) title?

A: A German Shepherd Dog named "Jake" (RATCHX Jake von der Alte Baum, CGC) owned by Laurel Stone, of Winchester, Wisconsin, earned the title July 27 at the Great Lakes Barn Hunt in Waukesha, Wisconsin.

Daly and Scout were one of 70 teams participating in the action-packed Barn Hunt Association four-trial weekend in May at Purina Farms in Gray Summit, Missouri. Sponsored by the Gateway Terrier Association and Dachshund Club of St. Louis, the Barn Hunt had a spirit of camaraderie and stress-free, noncompetitive environment.

Barn Hunt founder Robin Nuttall, of Columbia, Missouri, who ran the Open course with her Miniature Pinscher "Zipper," says, "A lot of people are hooked on this. Because it is an instinct sport, there is not a lot of training involved."

Opposite page: Carol Cagle, of Hortonville, Wisconsin, follows her 10-year-old German Wirehaired Pointer, Pryor Creek's Gracie Mae, on the Master level course.



501



Chris Baumann, of St. Louis, watches intently as her Shih Tzu "SweetiePie" takes her turn at the Barn Hunt trial.

Waiting their turn for the timed event to begin were go-to-ground breeds like terriers, Dachshunds and Miniature Schnauzers. There also were unlikely vermin-tracking breeds, such as an Icelandic Sheepdog named "Skuggi," German Shepherd Dogs "Magic" and "Bren," a Shih Tzu named "SweetiePie," and a German Wirehaired Pointer called "Gracie."

Two 400-square-foot courses were set up side by side under a pavilion on a concrete slab. Hay bales

were laid out to match the judges' maze designs, with increasing complexity based on the competition level. Tucked in the stacked hay bales were PVC tubes — some empty, some with rat bedding, and some with bedding and rats. Rat wranglers ensured the safe handling of the rats, and the tubes ensured their protection.

At the start of the Open division competition, judge David L. Brown, of Wildwood, Missouri, gathered the dog-handler teams together. "You have to tell me where you think the rat is, so I will understand that you believe that is where the rat is," he said. "One tube will be elevated. You are all veterans at this. Does anyone have questions?"

"Annie," a West Highland White Terrier, and owner Cristiane N. Dornbusch, of Carbondale, Illinois, were ready to go. Stepping into the 4-by-4-foot start box, Dornbusch removed Annie's collar and lead and handled them to the leash runner.

She looked at Brown and shouted, "Ready!"

Wagging her tail, barking excitedly, Annie worked

Coming Soon: 1st Barn Hunt Nationals

BHAT The inaugural Barn Hunt National Championship will be held Sept. 6-7 at Purina Farms in Gray Summit, Missouri. To be eligible, a dog must have earned a Barn Hunt Novice (RATN) title by April 30, 2014. Entries for the National are limited to 200 dogs. For information, go to: <http://www.barnhunt.com/bha-events/2014-national/>



Cristiane N. Dornbusch, of Carbondale, Illinois, motions with a flat hand where she wants her West Highland White Terrier "Annie" to look for a PVC tube.

the scent like a pro. "I love this!" Dornbusch said later. "I got into Barn Hunt because of the teamwork. I must read Annie's mannerisms on the rat. I love seeing her do what she was bred to do."

Two dogs took their turns on the Master level course, the most challenging, with 10 tubes, one to five containing rats. With four minutes and 30 seconds allowed, it was up to the handlers to let the judge know when their dogs were finished.

Master judge Jennifer Riess, of Columbia, Missouri, the first official Barn Hunt judge, says, "You must really trust the dog at this level because you don't know how many rats there are."

Carol Cagle, of Hortonville, Wisconsin, and 10-year-old Gracie, the German Wirehaired Pointer, stood waiting. The gate opened, and Gracie took off into a tunnel.

Barking and digging, Gracie found a tube with a rat. Cagle shouted "Rat!" to the judge. Gracie kept going, and Cagle encouraged her, shouting, "Find it! Find it!"

Three tubes with rats were included on the Master course, and Gracie found them all. "Gracie will be the first Wirehair to become a Barn Hunt

A Gateway Sport

Barn Hunt founder Robin Nuttall envisioned that the sport where dogs hunt rats by maneuvering through tunnels and climbing on hay bales would become modestly popular. The thrill of the hunt has exceeded even her expectations.

"Barn Hunt is quickly becoming a gateway sport, a place where people without any dog sport experience can get their toes wet," Nuttall says. "I hope that once they try Barn Hunt, they may then try other sports."

The inspiration behind Barn Hunt is Nuttall's 9-year-old red Miniature Pinscher, "Zipper," who at 9 months old showed a natural ability to hunt vermin. At the time, Min Pins were not recognized by the American Kennel Club as an earthdog breed — that changes Aug. 28, 2014 — so Nuttall and Zipper had few trial options.

The graphic designer and owner of DD Graphix in Columbia, Missouri, set out to develop a noncompetitive sanctioned sport open to all dogs regardless of size, type or breed, as long as they fit through the tunnel that is 18 inches wide and as tall as a hay bale. Today, more than 7,000 dogs are registered and eligible to compete in Barn Hunt Association events.

Long before she invented Barn Hunt in 2012 — the first trial was in April 2013 — Nuttall was a dog sport fanatic. She enthusiastically trained and titled several Doberman Pinschers, her first breed, in obedience, rally, agility, Schutzhund, lure coursing, and dock diving. She continues to compete in agility, rally and obedience, as well as Barn Hunt.


"Barn Hunt is an instinct sport that tests a dog's ability to do what he was bred to do," says Nuttall. "It also has the very important component of human-animal communications in which the handler must understand how the dog works scent and prey. I think people get the most enjoyment seeing their dogs turning on and getting into the hunt."

Robin Nuttall and "Zipper" (Sch Regatta It's About Time, BN, RE, MXJ, MJS, RATN)



champion," Cagle says. "She is so eager to come and do this. She also is the first Wirehair to get a tracking title from the American Kennel Club."

At the end of the day, some teams advanced to the next level, and others added another qualifying leg. It was easy to see how Barn Hunt can become an addictive good time for owners of dogs who like to hunt vermin. ■

A woman with short brown hair, wearing a bright blue suit, is shown in profile from the side. She is holding a gold-colored chain leash attached to a small, scruffy dog. The dog is white with brown patches on its face and ears, and a white tail with a brown tip. The dog is standing on a green, rectangular table. The background is blurred, showing other people and what appears to be a dog show or competition setting.

Luck of the Handlers

BY KAYLA MILLER

Superstitions and dog shows go together like playing the lottery with lucky numbers. A stroke of success with a special lead or certain brush can become a handler's good luck symbol. Here's a look at some rituals that have translated to winning in the ring.

The Perfect Lead

Professional handler Allison Sunderman, of Hanover, Michigan, was particular about the lead she used when specializing GCH Goldsands' Columbus, the No. 1 Russell Terrier and No. 7 dog in the country in 2013.

The first weekend Sunderman handled "Columbus," at the Western Ohio Summer Cluster in Lima, she bought a handmade tan-and-white braided leather lead with white, blue and rust-colored crystals. "The lead was perfect for Columbus. It complemented his tan-and-white coat well," Sunderman says.

The lead not only looked good, it also proved lucky. Columbus captured Group Firsts at all four shows of the Summer Cluster. One week later, he won his first Best in Show at the Ann Arbor (Michigan) Kennel Club Dog Show, finishing his American Kennel Club (AKC) championship in his first five shows.

Sunderman decided she would always use the lucky lead for Columbus' Specials campaign. "The fact that Columbus was always shown on that lead and that he had a wildly successful career speaks volumes," she says.

However, the lead almost was lost in December 2013. On a dark, frigid, snowy evening, Sunderman was driving home from a dog show when she hit a patch of black ice. Her van slid out of control, completely rolling over. Sunderman and her dogs were not harmed,

but many of her show supplies were lost in the wreckage.



"After first checking on the dogs, of all things to think about, my next thought was, 'Oh no! What about Columbus' lead?'" Sunderman recalls.

The next morning, Sunderman and her husband, Joe, went to the towing yard to recover what equipment they could. Sunderman searched for the lead and was relieved to find it in perfect condition.

"I texted Columbus' owner, Mark Ulrich, right away and said, 'Don't worry, the lead is safe!'" says Sunderman.

Columbus, who is now nearly 6 years old, finished his AKC career earning 34 Bests in Show and six Bests in Specialty Show. He now enjoys retired life with co-owner Christina Areskough in Morbylanga, Sweden.

As for the lucky lead?

"It retired when Columbus did!" Sunderman says.

Ring Ready in 100 Brush Strokes

A hundred brush strokes are all it takes for luck to be on your side, says professional handler Roxanne Sutton, of Perkiomenville, Pennsylvania. Whether she's presenting GCH Skansen's Havannah, the No. 1 Giant Schnauzer in the country, or GCH Yarrow Venerie Ticket to Ride, the No. 1 Norfolk Terrier, Sutton performs this routine for every dog she handles at every show before going in the ring.

After competing in junior showmanship, Sutton apprenticed for professional handlers Peter Green and Beth Sweigart, of Bowmansville, Pennsylvania. Sutton studied their every move, particularly noticing how Green and Sweigart always brushed their



Share Your Show Superstitions on Facebook

Do you have a superstition that you attribute to success in the ring?

If so, share it with us on Facebook and see how it compares to the superstitions of other handlers.

[Facebook.com/PurinaProPlanforProfessionals](https://www.facebook.com/PurinaProPlanforProfessionals)



Opposite page: Professional handler Allison Sunderman presents "Columbus" (GCH Goldsands' Columbus), a Russell Terrier, on his lucky lead.

dogs' topcoats right before entering the ring. Before she knew it, Sutton had picked up the habit.

"Peter always told me to brush a dog's coat exactly 100 strokes. Not only does it keep the hair growing and polished, it also calms the dogs' nerves before stepping into the ring to compete," Sutton says. "It's a ritual I've been doing ever since."

Sutton's superstition has paid off. "Rider" has wowed judges with his stunning black-and-tan coat, holding a Top 10 Terrier ranking for the past two years. Bred and owned by Sweigart, Rider took Bests of Breed at the Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show in 2013 and 2014 and at the Norfolk Terrier Club of America National Specialty and the AKC National Championship in 2012. The 3-year-old male also has won six Bests in Show and took Reserve Best in Show at the 2013 National Dog Show in Philadelphia.

"My husband, Jessy, teases me about my routine, but I think every handler is superstitious in one way or another," Sutton says.

"Rider" (GCH Yarrow Venerie Ticket to Ride), a Norfolk Terrier, is stacked by professional handler Roxanne Sutton.

Same Ol', Same Ol'

Although Phillip Schafmayer, of Holtsville, New York, doesn't consider himself overly superstitious, he is nervous about one thing related to showing a dog: He doesn't like to switch up a dog's lead during a campaign. "Once my dogs win a show or finish their championship, I don't change their lead for the rest of their show career," says Schafmayer, who has kept this practice throughout 15 years as a professional handler.

Schafmayer's current Special, GCH Exlysta Aries Ciel Noir, whom he owner-handled to become the No. 1 Afghan Hound in the country this year, uses only one lead, though Schafmayer says it is not the prettiest lead to show with.

"I trained 'Ryder' on a plain, thick chain lead. He finished his championship from the classes in just three weekends, winning the Hound Group and taking Reserve Best in Show at the Carroll Kennel Club Dog Show in West Friendship, Maryland,



"Ryder" (GCH Exlysta Aries Ciel Noir), an Afghan Hound, is led by owner-handler Philip Schafmayer, sporting the infamous lead he used to train the dog.

so he's been campaigned on the same lead ever since," Schafmayer says. "If I change it, I'm afraid we'd lose."

Ryder, an almost 6-year-old male, has won 12 Bests in Show and 15 Bests in Specialty Show. This gives Schafmayer a reason to believe in the power of this special lead.

Schafmayer also is particular about the way his equipment is arranged when traveling on the show circuit. He always places Ryder's chain lead in the same spot in his tack box, which is routinely positioned on top of Ryder's crate at every show.

"More than anything, I stick to the same routine at dog shows, whether it's packing my supplies the same way, grooming dogs in a certain order or having a specific assistant bring a particular dog to me in the ring," Schafmayer says. "If I miss one of these steps, my performance is thrown off."

Thus, the peculiar behaviors related to good luck and winning in the show ring are more common than one may think. Whether it's using a particular lead every time, having a special ritual before entering the ring, or practicing a set routine, the possibilities to what these superstitions can entail are endless. ■



BREAKING THE CODE *of Mutations*

BY BARBARA FAWVER

Disheartening as it may be when a dog is diagnosed with a genetic disease, particularly one that also occurs in people, knowledge about the disease may help advance understanding. Here is a glimpse of studies that may one day help reduce canine histiocytic sarcoma, calcium oxalate stones and atopic dermatitis.

Cancers that occur in people and in dogs often capture the attention of scientists at the National Human Genome Research Institute (NHGRI) in Bethesda, Maryland. Such is the case with histiocytic sarcoma, a rare, highly aggressive cancer in people that is often seen in Flat-Coated Retrievers and Bernese Mountain Dogs.

“The high frequency in Flat Coats and Bernese Mountain Dogs provides an unparalleled model for studying the human cancer,” says Heidi G. Parker, an NHGRI scientist who is leading the research. “Our findings about affected genes and pathways in dogs will provide valuable information to human oncology.”

Histiocytes are leukocytes, or white blood cells, that have an immune function role to protect the body. When the cells become cancerous, they invade and destroy surrounding tissues. Histo-

Flat-Coated Retriever



Purina: A Leading Sponsor

Much of the information in this article is from talks presented last fall in Boston at two global genetic conferences, both of which Purina has sponsored since their beginnings. The seventh biennial International Conference on Advances in Canine and Feline Genomics and Inherited Diseases was attended by geneticists, and the sixth Tufts' Canine & Feline Breeding & Genetics conference was open to dog and cat breeders as well as geneticists.

2013

The 7th International Conference on Advances in Canine and Feline Genomics and Inherited Diseases

Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA



cytic sarcoma frequently metastasizes to multiple organs, such as the spleen, lymph nodes, lung, bone marrow, and skin.

In people, histiocytic sarcoma is diagnosed in children nearly as often as it is found in adults, with survival ranging from two to 10 months. In dogs, the average age of onset is 6 to 8 years, though diagnoses have been made in dogs as young as 1 year old. The cancer is difficult to detect at early stages because of the ambiguity of the signs, which include anorexia, weight loss and decreased energy.

To learn about what causes the cancer, the NHGRI scientists conducted a genome-wide association study of samples from 204 Flat-Coated Retrievers and 466 Bernese Mountain Dogs, comparing those diagnosed with histiocytic sarcoma to older cancer-free dogs. “Our hypothesis is that there are two distinct subtypes of histiocytic sarcoma in dogs,” Parker says. “We believe our work will lead to more effective therapies for both people and dogs, and a genetic test to identify dogs that carry the mutations leading to cancer.”

Owners of Flat-Coated Retrievers and Bernese Mountain Dogs diagnosed with histiocytic sarcoma, as well as cancer-free dogs age 10 and older, may submit blood samples for the

NHGRI study. For information contact Erica Chapman, samples manager, at erica.chapman@nih.gov or 301-451-9390.

Zinc & Calcium Oxalate Stones

The possibility that a gene involved in zinc transport causes calcium oxalate (CaOx) stones in dogs may lead to new treatments for the most common type of canine urinary stone. Scientists at the University of Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine in St. Paul believe that mutations in the gene increase the risk and thus contribute to the prevalence of CaOx stones in certain breeds.

“Calcium oxalate stone disease is complex,” says Eva Furrow, V.M.D., Ph.D., DACVIM, assistant professor. “Multiple genetic and environmental factors influence the risk of developing stones.”

A painful, recurring condition, calcium oxalate stones are highly prevalent in the Miniature Schnauzer, Bichon Frise and Shih Tzu breeds among others. Miniature Schnauzers have 12 to 22 times the risk of a mixed-breed dog for developing stones.

Furrow and her colleagues conducted a genome-wide association study to compare the genetic profiles of 62 CaOx stone-forming Schnauzers with 41 stone-free Schnauzers. They identified on canine chromosome 37 variations in the *SLC39A10* gene that is involved in zinc transport.

“We found variants in a renally and intestinally expressed transmembrane solute carrier in the stone-forming dogs,” Furrow says. “It could be that abnormal processing of zinc in the body directly increases the risk for stones or that the abnormal zinc transport indirectly alters calcium transport.”

The scientists recently began studying the genetics of the disease in the Bichon Frise and Shih Tzu. Owners of Miniature Schnauzers, Bichon Frise and Shih Tzu with a history of forming calcium oxalate stones may contribute blood samples or cheek

swabs to support the genetic research at the University of Minnesota. For information, contact Furrow at furro004@umn.edu. For more information about the research, visit: <http://cvm.umn.edu/vgs/faculty/Mickelson/lab/CalciumOxalate/html.html>

A Candidate Gene for Dermatitis

Atopic dermatitis is a miserable, incurable disease that occurs in dogs and people. A genetics study by scientists at Uppsala University in Sweden has begun the search for mutations that increase the risk for the skin disorder in German Shepherd Dogs.

“Genetic and environmental factors contribute to this disease,” says Katarina Tengvall, MSc, a doctorate student in genetics at Uppsala University. “We have found that affected German Shepherds have lower blood immunoglobulin A (IgA) levels. Low levels of IgA are often accompanied by recurrent infections and autoimmune and allergic diseases just as in humans with IgA deficiency.”

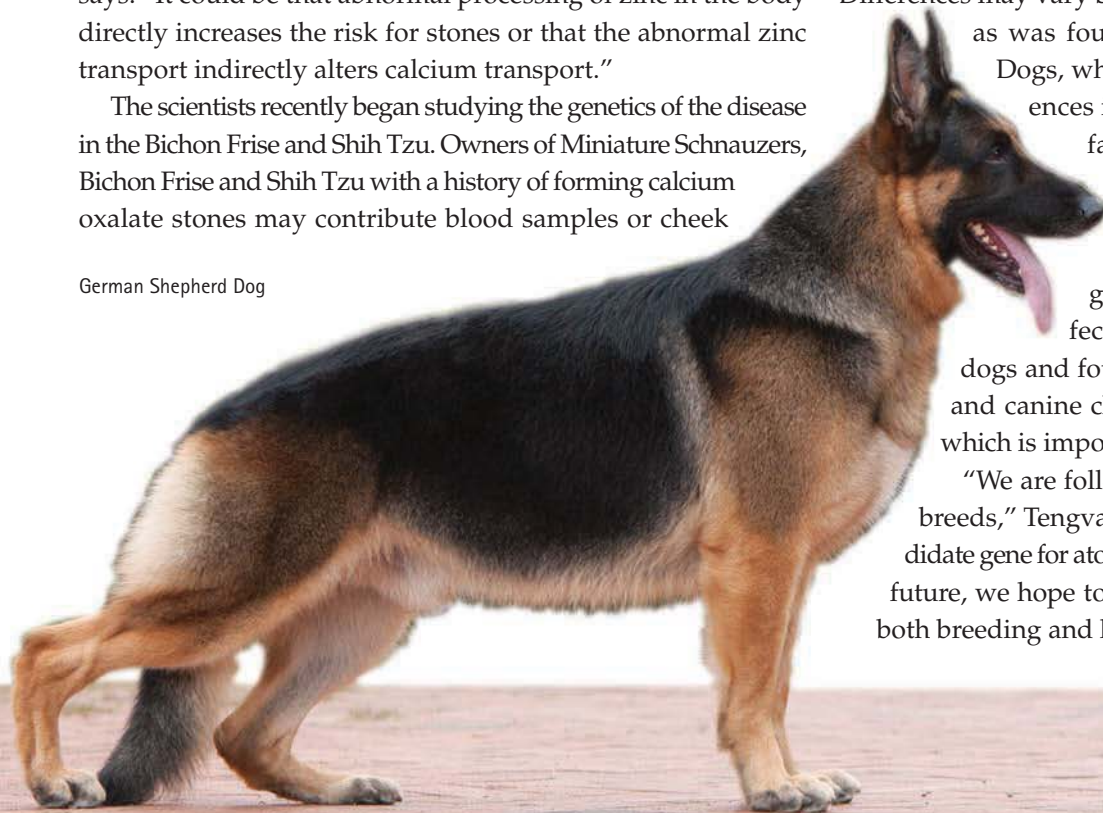
The connection between low IgA levels and affected German Shepherd Dogs may be unique to the breed because in some other breeds there is no correlation between atopic dermatitis and low IgA levels. “In German Shepherds, the correlation is pronounced,” Tengvall says.

Although the study focuses on German Shepherd Dogs in Sweden, the American breed also develops atopic dermatitis. Differences may vary between subpopulations within a breed, as was found in the Swedish German Shepherd Dogs, where subtypes of the breed show differences in prevalence rates. Despite not being a fatal disease, atopic dermatitis is a life-long condition that requires veterinary care and owner compliance.

The Uppsala scientists conducted a genome-wide association study of 91 affected German Shepherds and 88 control dogs and found an association between the disease and canine chromosome 27 in the *plakophilin 2* gene, which is important for skin structure.

“We are following up on these findings in multiple breeds,” Tengvall says. “We have an excellent novel candidate gene for atopic dermatitis in dogs and humans. In the future, we hope to provide guidance to dog breeders on both breeding and health care.” ■

German Shepherd Dog



BREEDING *with a* VISION

Successful breeders have a plan. They can tell you today which dogs they plan to breed together to produce their next two or three litters.

“Breeding requires a vision,” says Anita Oberbauer, Ph.D., professor and chair of the Department of Animal Science at the University of California-Davis. “You must define your objectives and goals, and determine the ‘must haves’ and the acceptable ‘trade-offs.’ The hallmark of a good breeder is making progress toward the overall objectives and minimizing the negative impact of the trade-offs.”

Breeders generally select breeding partners based on how individual dogs are likely to contribute to their goals. “You should select for the most important traits. The more traits that are undergoing selection, the less selective pressure that can be applied to any single trait,” explains genetic counselor Jerold Bell, D.V.M., clinical associate professor of veterinary genetics at Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine at Tufts University.

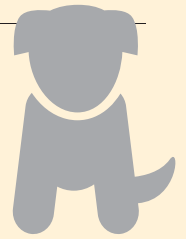
It is estimated that less than 5 to 20 percent of a breed produces the next generation. Selection for quality and maintain-

Mix Up Your Breeding

Genetic experts advise dog breeders to always strive to produce quality, healthy dogs. Using different types of mating tools will help mix breeding lines and maintain genetic diversity. For example, consistently relying on outbreeding removes the differences between dogs and thus reduces the ability to select for individual traits. Here are mating tools that can help you achieve genetic diversity.

- Outbreeding is a mating between dogs less related than the average for the breed. It should be used to bring in traits that a particular dog does not have.
- Linebreeding is a mating between dogs more related than the average for the breed. It should be used to solidify the traits in your bloodline.

ing different bloodlines are important to preserve breed health and genetic diversity. The ability to balance positive traits and deleterious genes is fundamental to breeding. Healthy bloodlines, and healthy breeds, start with a vision to see how to accomplish these goals.



Smart Breeding

Healthy and diverse breed gene pools have expanding or large stable populations with many outbred clusters as well as different linebred families.

Avoid the overuse of popular sires, the single most influential factor in restricting breed gene pool diversity.

Parent clubs should regularly conduct breed health and reproduction surveys to assess breed health.

Select against recessive disease genes by breeding quality carrier dogs to a tested normal mate. Replace the carrier parent with a quality tested normal offspring for breeding. This eliminates the defective gene, while maintaining the quality genes of the line.



Rottweiler puppies



BONDED by BEAGLING

BY KAYLA MILLER/PHOTOS BY MELISSA MILLER

"Tally ho!" Glenn Cole calls out. Proud and smiling, he leans against his walking stick, gazing into the distance. The air is warm and breezy on this early summer morning in Scottsburg, Indiana, where five small pack option (SPO) Beagles weave in and out of the tall switchgrass, forming a tidy, straight line as they trail an elusive cottontail rabbit.

Standing around the Cole patriarch are Glenn's son, Reid Cole, grandson, Tanner Cole, and future son-in-law, Adam Dixon. Son Kevin Cole joins the group.

"Hey, brother," he says to Reid as he approaches the Cole clan.

Amid the baying and occasional sight of hounds running through the cover, the men catch up on work schedules, family life and upcoming field trials. As the dogs disappear into the 40-acre training grounds, the younger Coles take off to catch up with them, leaving Glenn behind to soak in the scene.

Besides his three children and three grandchildren, Glenn has inspired countless beaglers through his contagious love for the sport. He has finished 33 Field Champions, 19 as the breeder-owner-handler, and handled 10

National Championship winners. His contributions include leading the Silver Creek Beagle Club in Henryville, Indiana, as its president for 30 years and co-founding the Mid-America Brace (MAB) Gundog Federation, as well as serving as its vice president for 23 years. In 2004, Glenn was recognized for his accomplishments with election into the SPO Hall of Fame.



Family patriarch Glenn Cole smiles proudly as he watches his sons and grandson run their dogs.

The cottontail darts in front of Glenn, with the hounds trailing behind. As Glenn calls to his sons and grandson to start wrapping up the run, the men leash the Beagles and start walking to their trucks. Next stop: lunch at Reid's house where Glenn's granddaughter, Tatum Cole, has made sandwiches.

A 'Double Spring Break'

In 1952, Glenn, then a teenager, began in traditional brace beagling by handling dogs for his mentor and lifelong beagler, Paul Reynolds, of New Albany, Indiana. Before long, Glenn bought Doctor Glenn Ray from Reynolds. Although Glenn won only one trial with "Doc," the pair placed

in every trial they entered. It was more than enough to hook Glenn on beagling.

As SPO beagling took root around 1985, Glenn found that he enjoyed the fast-running sport in which Beagles run in casts of five to nine hounds. Judged on how well they track a rabbit,

Opposite page: Using their keen noses to trail a rabbit are, from front, Scott County Ruby N Lace, Choptalk Long Gone Lacy, and Scott County Black Leather and Lace.



FC Mistyview Right On Willie eagerly waits to run a rabbit.

Sold on Silver Creek

Small pack option (SPO) beagling is a popular sport in the Midwest, partly because of the abundance of cottontail rabbits and wide, open spaces for running field trials. In central Indiana, the Silver Creek Beagle Club in Henryville has served as the location for countless field trials since it was founded in 1953.

Today, home to 40 members, Silver Creek also is where field trials are held for the Henryville and Southeastern Indiana beagle clubs. Situated on 127 acres, Silver Creek maintains its status as a vibrant, active club, mostly because of the dedication of its members.

Glenn and Betty Lou Cole, along with their children and grandchildren, hold Silver Creek dear to their hearts.

As club president for 30 years, Glenn raised his children coming to Silver Creek for field trials and training dogs. Beyond beagling, the Cole family has used the Silver Creek clubhouse for reunions and weddings.

Perhaps the most famous event the Cole family helps put on at Silver Creek is the annual July picnic that draws 2,000 beaglers from 20 states for two days of fun. The celebration includes an auction, raffle, a parade of champions, presentation of the Mid-America Brace Gundog awards, a fun run, and karaoke.

"We have met a lot of great folks through this sport," Glenn says. "This club is like our second home. It is where we come to share social events and to run our dogs together."

the dogs form a single line as they trail the rabbit scent. Although the majority of field trials are walking trials, in the National Championship and other large trials, the judges and members of the gallery may follow the pack on horseback.

Glenn married Betty Lou Wilson in 1960. A few years later, Glenn had finished several Field Champions and was traveling to field trials almost every weekend. He also started and trained dogs for Sam Butler, who had limited time to train his own dogs while working full time and living in Louisville, Kentucky. Over the years, Sam and his wife, Rita, of Choptalk Rabbit Dawgs in Marysville, Indiana, became dear friends of the Coles. By then, there was no turning back on the sport.

"Once our kids were old enough to go to trials with Glenn, I thought, 'If I'm going to be a part of this family, I'm going to have to go, too,'" Betty Lou says.

As teenagers, Reid started and trained dogs during the summers to earn spending money for college, while Kevin began running dogs with his father at Silver Creek, just five miles from their home. Daughter Raye Ann Cole began beagling when she was 10 years old and became a fierce competitor by her early 20s.

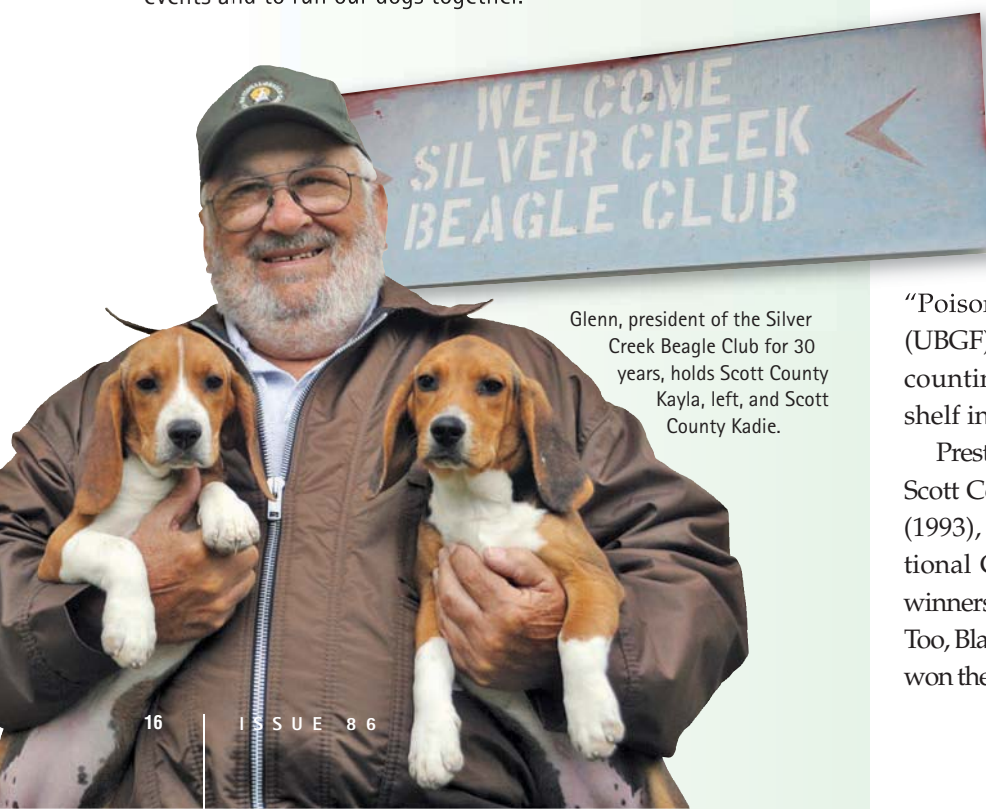
"We frequented the club with mom and dad for as long as I can remember," Kevin recalls. "'Double spring break' became a family tradition for us. If we kept our grades up, mom allowed us a week off in early spring to attend the Southern Federation field trial with dad, and then still be off for spring break the following week."

10 Generations Over 60 Years

Beginning with his foundation bitch, Scott County Sadie Babe, Glenn has bred and raised 10 generations of Beagles over the past 60 years. Memorable standout males that passed on a keen scent ability and bold temperament to their offspring were: NFC Scott County Black Poison and FC Blueridge Hawkeye, the MAB Sires of the Year in 1994 and 1995, respectively.

"Poison" also was the United Beagle Gundog Federation (UBGF) Sire of the Year in 1993. Numerous trophies won at trials, counting nine MAB All-Age Run-Offs, adorn a 48-foot-long shelf in Glenn's Scott County Gun Dogs kennel.

Prestigious MAB All-Age National Champion winners were: FC Scott County Blue Bonnie (1992), FC Power's Ohio Valley Spike (1993), and Poison (1995), who also won the UBGF Derby National Championship in 1990. From 1995 to 2005, other MAB winners included FC Pond Creek Blackie, Scott County Black Sadie Too, Black Satin Lace, and Cripple Creek Days of Old. In 1995, Glenn won the American Kennel Club (AKC) SPO National Championship



Glenn, president of the Silver Creek Beagle Club for 30 years, holds Scott County Kayla, left, and Scott County Kadie.

with FC Scott County Sally Ann. In 2008, Glenn was co-owner of a dog, FC Pond Creek Blackie, inducted into the Hall of Fame.

After Glenn finished FC Bittersweet Lefty, who placed in the AKC, UBGF and MAB run-offs in 2004 and 2005, he handed down his Scott County Gun Dogs kennel name to Raye Ann and her fiancé, Adam. The transition has been gradual.

A regular at field trials, Glenn concedes he isn't completely finished with beagling. "Occasionally, I'll partner with Adam and Raye Ann on a dog. If I see one I want to train, I do. There are just certain dogs you want to run," he says.

In 2006, Raye Ann met Adam at the UBGF Derby Run-Off, which he won with Adam's Sampson. Shortly after the couple started dating, they began field trialing together, eventually merging their kennels.

When the couple merged Memory Lane, Adam's former kennel prefix, with Scott County Gun Dogs, NGBC FCGD Scott County Lillies N Lace ("Lilly") became their foundation bitch and FC CW's Buck Earl, the sire of Glenn's National Champions, the foundation male. His strong performance background is reflected in his parents both being SPO Beagling Hall of Fame members. FC Peppermint Paddy, FC Tate Sanda and FC Five Star Frenchie, some top-producing females in the pedigrees of males Glenn bred to, are behind the four generations at their kennel.

"We're moving forward by taking dad's successful bloodlines and incorporating those into the bloodlines Adam started," Raye Ann says. "Breeding is all about improving the dogs' traits in the next generation."

"We look for traits in our dogs that we want to improve, such as quickness and line formation, and breed to dogs that will enrich our line," Adam adds.

Comfort Comes First

The Scott County Gun Dogs kennel, built in 1987, has room for 30 dogs. Glenn designed the heated and air-conditioned indoor-outdoor kennel incorporating various designs he had seen at other kennels over the years. The dogs belong to Raye Ann, Adam and Glenn. The other family members kennel their dogs at their own respective kennels.

A litter of five 1-week-old puppies, sired by FCGD Willie Ryker's Duke out of Lilly, nestle in the whelping box inside the kennel. The box has a cozy nesting design with an internal heating element and thermostat, which is partic-



Glenn checks on the Beagles at the Scott County Gun Dogs kennel.

An American Favorite

One of America's most favorite breeds, the Beagle is known for his soulful eyes and distinctive baying, particularly when trailing game. This small, hardy hound has a compact, square, well-muscled body and high, slightly curved tail. There are two size varieties: 13 inch and 15 inch. With his loving personality, the Beagle makes a gentle, trustworthy companion. In the field, the breed has admirable courage and stamina. Recognized by the American Kennel Club in 1885, the Beagle currently ranks No. 5 in breed registrations.



Scott County Ava, a 15-inch female Beagle

ularly important in maintaining a temperature of 96 to 100 degrees during the crucial first two weeks when puppies do not produce their own body heat.

Puppy socialization starts early. As soon as the puppies are 6 to 8 weeks old, the Coles take them in the yard to play with them. "If you don't socialize the dogs early on, you'll end up with shy pups," Glenn says. "The bolder they become, the better."

Puppies are started on rabbits around 5 months of age. The Coles usually put five puppies together in a training pen so they can learn from one another. As soon as a puppy starts tracking a rabbit, usually in a couple of days, it is removed for individual training. When they are 1 year old, they are eligible for derby trials, and at 2 years old, they can compete in all-age licensed trials.

"Each dog is unique. I've never trained any two the same way," Adam says. "Figuring out what's going to make each dog the best he or she can be is key. I enjoy that challenge."

"Some dogs require more running, while others do better with less. Some need to run solo, while others should run in a pack,"



Walking back from running their hounds after an early morning training session are, from left, Adam Dixon, Tanner Cole, Kevin Cole, Reid Cole, and Glenn.

says Raye Ann. "It's also important to mix up training grounds to keep them challenged. One day we might be training on our enclosed field, and the next we could be at Silver Creek or the UBGF running grounds."

The Coles feed *Purina Pro Plan* to their hardworking hounds. During the summer off-season, dogs are fed *Purina Pro Plan SAVOR* Shredded Blend Chicken & Rice Formula, which has 26-percent protein and 16-percent fat. By early fall, the dogs are switched to *Purina Pro Plan SPORT* Performance 30/20 Formula, which helps support their energy needs during the busy field trial season. Puppies and pregnant and nursing dams are fed *Purina Pro Plan FOCUS* Chicken & Rice Puppy Formula.

"The Beagles need more protein in the fall and winter because they're burning more energy," Raye Ann says. "They also require a higher protein-to-fat ratio during field trials to perform their best."

NGBC FCGD Scott County Lillies N Lace nestles with her litter of 1-week-old Beagle puppies.



All-Around Beagle Family

Glenn, his children and grandchildren have the luxury of living less than 10 miles from one another. Family gatherings are common and held as often as their work and trial schedules allow.

Aside from breeding, the second- and third-generation Cole family members contribute to SPO beagling in other ways. Reid primarily judges trials, traveling about 12 weekends during the peak trial season of August to November. He has judged eight National Championships.

"Judging trials has been a way for me to stay involved when I was working full time and my children were young," Reid says. "In the future, I want to compete more."

Reid's son, Tanner, followed in his dad's footsteps by judging trials and trialing dogs. Tanner also serves as field trial secretary for the Silver Creek Beagle Club. Meanwhile, as he works toward finishing his first Field Champion, he is campaigning three males with Reid and another with his cousin, Caleb Cole.

After a brief sabbatical from beagling, Kevin knew if he wanted to see his family on the weekends, he had to get involved in the sport again. Today, he calls himself the "behind-the-scenes guy," helping his son, Caleb, train dogs and maintain the kennel, and assisting his wife, Missy, in managing the kitchen at Silver Creek Beagle Club. The couple took over for Betty Lou, who served as Silver Creek's kitchen chief for 34 years.



Adam prepares Purina Pro Plan SAVOR Shredded Blend Chicken & Rice Formula for the hounds in the Scott County Gun Dogs kennel.

Cousins Caleb and Tanner are like brothers. They train dogs together and compete for bragging rights. They joke that one has to be thick-skinned to be a Cole because they enjoy giving each other a hard time.

“They like to beat each other as much as they like to outperform others,” Glenn says. “But if they’re not competing against one another, they cheer each other on.”

Over the past two years, Caleb has judged 64 trials, due to a demand for judges with stamina to keep up with the fast hounds in walking field trials. He also serves as vice president of the MAB and Silver Creek Beagle Club. Being a familiar face at trials led Caleb to his fiancé, Kaylynn Williams, of KW Kennels in Scottsburg, Indiana. Kaylynn has finished 12 Field Champions during her 11-year involvement in the sport.

Beagling has strengthened the bond of the Cole brood. It truly is their way of life. They breed to each other’s dogs. They accompany each other to field trials. Even if not competing, they go to provide a shoulder to lean on, a courier to bring dogs to and from the field, or an extra set of eyes and ears for the long drives across the country.

The Cole children and grandchildren agree that Glenn has shaped their lives, instilling in them the character traits of honesty, loyalty, patience and respect. Glenn’s competitive spirit shines through his generations.

“My family is my biggest accomplishment,” Glenn says. “I get a kick out of them winning more than I did. I’m very proud.”

“Beagling has kept our family close,” Betty Lou says. “I hope the next generation will continue the legacy Glenn has started.” ■

Beagling in Their Blood

A beagler of more than 60 years, Glenn Cole has passed down his infectious love for SPO beagling to his children and grandchildren, teaching them a way of life that embodies hard work to gain competitive success. Participation in the sport was optional for the second and third Cole generations, but Glenn’s passion spread like wildfire.

Below: Glenn, standing, is shown with some of his family. From left are: Missy Cole, Tanner Cole with NFC Goodwater Harley Davidson, Betty Lou Cole, Raye Ann Cole with NGBC FCGD Scott County Gigi, and Adam Dixon.



Two Minutes to Shine

BY MICHAEL SHAW

The art of showing dogs is just that: an art. Competitive and graceful, poised and precise, handlers aim to exhibit their dogs to their potential in the approximate two minutes of individual attention they have in front of a judge in the ring.

As the sport of showing dogs evolves, so, too, do handling techniques. Gaïting, stacking and the judge's examination help identify champions. Handlers who excel have showmanship finesse and a knack for making it fun for dogs.

David Fitzpatrick, of East Berlin, Pennsylvania, who elegantly handled the Pekingese GCH Palacegarden Malachy to Best in Show at the Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show in 2012, says, "Handling is not all a bed of roses. There's a lot of blood, sweat and tears in showing dogs.

"Since I am a professional handler as well as an owner-handler, this gives me a different perspective. You know more intimately the dogs you've bred and raised to become a top winner. You have to know what's on your lead or you will never produce the next better generation, which is really what it's all about — going



David Fitzpatrick handles GCH Palacegarden Malachy, a Pekingese, to win the Toy Group, and then Best in Show, at the Garden in 2012.

forward and improving your stock and the breed."

Immaculately groomed, his flowing silver-brindle coat sweeping the floor, "Malachy" gaïted beautifully around the ring at a leisurely pace that gave him a slight roll over the shoulders, as described in the breed standard. Fitzpatrick, who has shown the top-winning Pekingese every year since 1970, is a master at presenting the ancient Chinese toy breed at an unhurried, graceful speed, walking along with a loose hold on the leash. The effect befits the "little lion dog," giving him a dignified, regal look.

The down and back — that beeline from one end of the ring to the other and back again — can turn

into a make-or-break moment. The side view as the dog trots past the judge makes it easy to see structural flaws that impact symmetry and balance in movement. Diagonal trotting or unnecessary pulling of the lead may be due to how tight the lead is held. Dogs resist a tight lead, often pulling sideways or backward.

Professional handler Sue Whaley, of Brandywine, Maryland, says, "It is so important to line the dog up straight for the down



Professional handler Greg Strong presents GCH Paceaway Play It Again, a Lowchen, while judge Jacqueline Stacy examines the dog at this year's Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show.

and back. I see handlers struggling with this. You have to stop at the end of the down, turn around and get the judge in your sight so you can go back down straight. Most importantly, you should hold the leash 8 to 10 inches away to prevent the dog from sidewinding."

Stacking, the position of a dog while being examined by a judge, should come easily whether a dog free stacks or is hand stacked by a handler. For many breeds, the front legs should be straight and under the shoulder blades, and the rear legs should be vertical from the hock down with the feet facing forward. An alert, calm, happy dog does best.

Although dog shows have many variables left to chance, a dog's presentation entering the ring is one that usually can be controlled. Kellie Fitzgerald, of Bear, Delaware, the handler of two Westminster Best in Show winners, English Springer Spaniels that won in 2000 and 2007, says, "A natural progression of grooming style changes has happened over the years. Grooming for shows has become quite fancy, as you would expect."

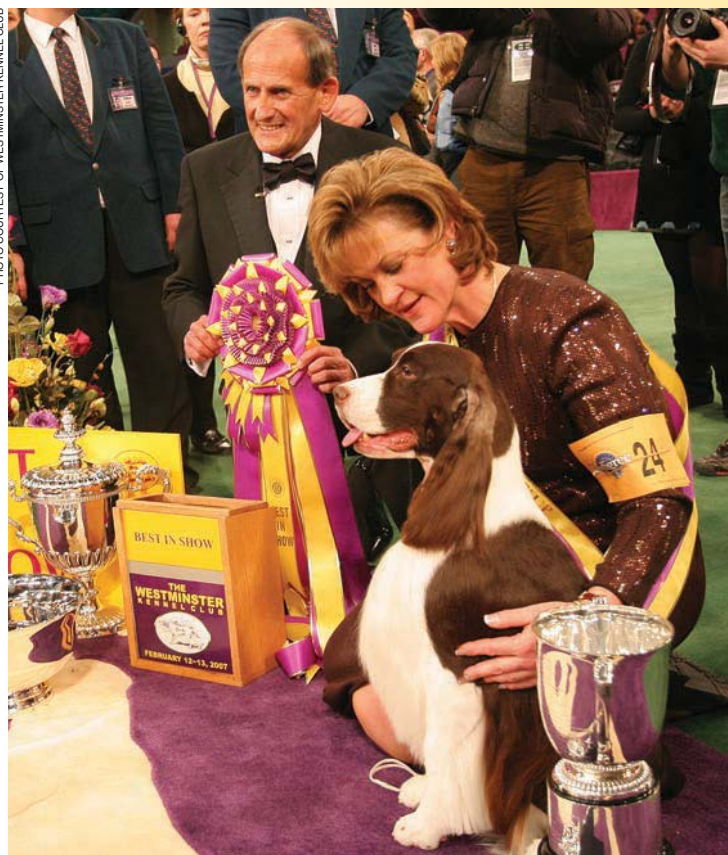
Retired professional terrier handler Peter Green, of Bowmansville, Pennsylvania, agrees that grooming styles have become fancy. The quality of dogs has improved as well, he says. "To be competitive today, a handler must be very clever," says Green, a four-time Westminster Best in Show winner, having won in 1968, 1977, 1994 and 1998. "The quality of dogs being shown and their presentation are very much improved."

As much as handling techniques have changed, many things have stayed the same in the show ring. Handlers who succeed have a way of keeping things simple and fun. ■

Tips for Beginner Handlers

- Watch handlers in the ring, especially those showing your breed. Frequent dog shows and watch them on TV to get ideas to try to make your dog stand out.
- Start with the right collar and lead for training and in the ring. Martingale leads are comfortable and enable a dog to hold the head high when gaiting and stacking. Use nylon leads for puppies up to 8 months old. Match the collar and lead with what is appropriate for the breed.
- If you are working with a puppy, enroll in basic obedience or beginning handling class under instructors with professional experience. Start out showing in puppy classes and work up the ranks together.
- Train with a friend who can examine your dog similar to how a judge would. This will help the dog get comfortable being examined.
- Practice stacking and baiting in front of a mirror, so you can see your dog as a judge will see the dog.
- Use dog treats or kibble as bait and frequently praise your dog. This helps make training and showing fun.
- Showmanship gets easier with practice. As your relationship with your dog grows, the dog will work harder to please you. Always remember to keep it fun for both you and your dog.

PHOTO COURTESY OF WESTMINSTER KENNEL CLUB



Kellie Fitzgerald is shown with the English Springer Spaniel CH Felicity's Diamond Jim, after winning Best in Show at the Garden in 2007.


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'Coco' Is First Cardigan to Win the Herding Group at the Garden



"Coco" stands out with her balanced conformation and ring presence.

A beautiful brindle-and-white 5 1/2-year-old Cardigan Welsh Corgi called "Coco" set a breed record when she won the Herding Group this year at the Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show in New York. In 2013, Multi-BIS/Multi-BISS GCH Riverside Teltail Coco Posh captured Best of Breed at the Garden and at the AKC National Championship. A two-time Select Bitch winner at the Cardigan Welsh Corgi Club of America National Specialty, Coco also has won eight Bests in Show. Breeder-owner Deb Shindle, of Vero Beach, Florida, handled Coco until last year when professional Lois DeMers began the dog's Specials campaign. Shindle and her sister, Julie Divens, of Red Bluff, California, co-own the No. 3 Herding dog with Dina Planche, of Baton Rouge, California. "Coco's long, balanced

silhouette and alert, gentle expression contribute to her standout ring presence," Shindle says. Coco is fed *Purina Pro Plan* SELECT Natural Turkey & Barley Formula.

'Allora' Is No. 1 Cane Corso Bitch



With her ancestors tracing back to the first documented Cane Corsos of Italy, "Allora" has a powerful presence.

Athletic and powerful with a stunning silver coat, "Allora" is a rising star in her breed, becoming the No. 1 Cane Corso bitch at just 22 months old. After finishing her Championship in August 2013, GCH Mar E Sol's Allora At Black Pearl began her Specials campaign by winning Best of Breed at the 2013 AKC National Championship followed by Select Bitch at the 2014 Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show. "She is a solid, muscular dog with a gorgeous expression and the most sweet, loving character," says Dr. Ayalla Ruvio of Black Pearl Cane Corso in East Lansing, Michigan, the co-owner with breeder Diane Connors of Mar E Sol's Cane Corso Italiano in

Dade City, Florida. Handled by Phil and Amy Booth, of Fowlerville, Michigan, Allora has earned seven Bests of Breed and is fueled by *Purina Pro Plan* SELECT Grain Free Formula.

Chinese Crested 'Toby' Wins 10th Best in Show



"Toby" trots around the ring with style and class.

With a lively trot and joyful personality, "Toby," a 4-year-old male Hairless Chinese Crested, has earned 10 Bests in Show including four won this year, three in back-to-back weekend shows. Multi-BIS/BISS Déjà Vu I Want'A Talk About Me took Bests in Show at the Toledo (Ohio), Corn Belt (Bloomington, Illinois) and Central Iowa (Des Moines) kennel club dog shows. Toby, who was the No. 1 Chinese Crested in all systems in 2013, captured Best of Breed at Westminster in 2012. "Toby moves around the ring like a high-stepping pony with a white, flowing mane," says JoAnn Kusumoto, of Alamo, California, who owns the dog with her husband, Roy. Bred by Karla Matlock, of Caldwell, Idaho, Ann Freeman, of Clearwater Beach, Florida, and Sharon Jacobsen, of Chubbuck, Idaho, Toby is handled by Daryl Martin, of Highland Park, Illinois. Toby is fueled by *Purina Pro Plan* SELECT Sensitive Skin & Stomach Formula.

Afghan Hound 'Rachel' Takes the Breed at Westminster & Crufts



"Rachel" captured Best Bitch, and became a Finnish Kennel Club champion, recently at the World Dog Show in Helsinki.

A black-masked red 4-year-old female Afghan Hound named "Rachel" has wowed judges to win Best of Breed at two prestigious dog shows: the Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show in February in New York followed by Crufts in March in Birmingham, England. The first Afghan Hound to win the breed at both shows, Multi-BIS/Multi-BISS GCH Criston Enchanted also is the first American-bred and -owned Afghan to win at Crufts. Co-bred by Christine Pinkston and Tracee Elwess, both of Virginia Beach, Virginia, and Michelle Friesen, of Portsmouth, Virginia, Rachel is co-owned by Pinkston and Nancy J. Shaw, of Fredericksburg, Texas. Anna Stromberg, of South Salem, New York, is the handler. The winner of two Bests in Show and seven Bests in Specialty Show, Rachel won Best in Hound at the 2012 Potomac (Richmond, Virginia) Hound Club show. Rachel is fed *Purina Pro Plan* SPORT Active 26/16 Formula.

Purina Honors 2013 Coonhound and SPO Beagle Award Winners

Nite Hunt Award Winner 'Dot' Wins Purina National Championship

A 5-year-old female Treeing Walker Coonhound called "Dot" captured the 33rd annual Purina Outstanding Nite Hunt Coonhound Award and also won the 2014 Purina National Championship, making history as the first hound to do so. Giving co-owner and handler Jody Jessup, of Rural Hall, North Carolina, his fifth Purina Award, GR NITE CH 'PR' Roses Stylish Dot clinched the award in October during the yearlong program. "It takes a special dog to do that," says Jessup, who co-owns Dot with Larry Wishon and Kelley Branon, of Advance, North Carolina. Earning 750 points in 15 nite hunts, Dot outperformed 11,355 hounds to win the award.

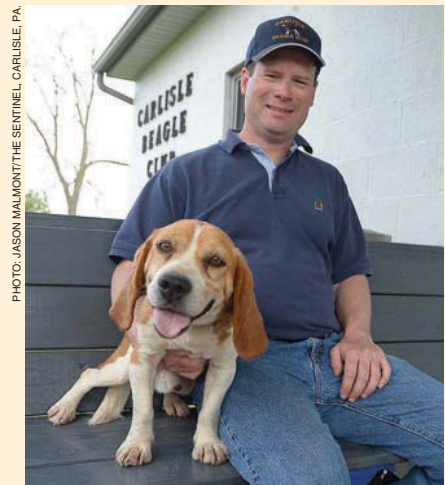
'Rock' Wins Second Consecutive Bench Show Award

Although a 4-year-old male Treeing Walker Coonhound with stunning looks and an easygoing temperament went missing near his home this past fall, CCH WCH NITE CH GR CH 'PR' Preacher John the Rock not only was found several days later, but also won the Purina Outstanding Bench Show Coonhound Award for the second

consecutive year. "'Rock' is so beautiful that he looks like a picture," says handler Michael Seets, of Stonefort, Illinois, who co-owns the hound with his wife, Myra. Only the second hound in history to achieve back-to-back wins, Rock earned 210 points at 14 Purina Point bench show competitions and outperformed 3,335 hounds to win the 10th annual Purina Award, Seets' fourth.

'Aesop' Is the Purina SPO Award Winner

A 5-year-old 13-inch tricolor male called "Aesop" proved his keen ability to track a rabbit by winning 11 field trials and placing in 18 of the 23 Purina Point events he entered to win the 15th annual Purina Award for the Outstanding SPO Field Trial Beagle. Throughout the yearlong competition, FCGD Cable's Aesop outperformed 4,800 hounds and earned 76 points, close to breaking the record of 79 points. "Aesop is a solid, steady hound and a straight-ahead, head-down runner, which makes him an outstanding competitor in the field," says owner-handler Dr. John W. Cable Jr., of Carlisle, Pennsylvania. Cable, the owner of the 2012 Purina Award 13-inch female class winner, has been competing in field trials since 2001.



Pictured from left are: "Dot" with co-owners Jody Jessup and Larry Wishon; "Rock" with co-owners Michael and Myra Seets and their grandchildren; and "Aesop" with owner Dr. John W. Cable Jr. All the winners are fed *Purina Pro Plan SPORT Performance 30/20 Formula*

'Maddux' Sets Record as the Top Owner-Handled Welsh Springer Spaniel

The winningest owner-handled Welsh Springer Spaniel, "Maddux" continued his winning ways under professional handler Ryan Wolfe with a Best of Breed win at the 2014 Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show in New York after being previously shown by breeder-owner Meghen Riese-Bassel, of Thomson, Georgia, who co-bred the 5-year old male with Sandra Holmes, of Chelsea, Michigan. In 2013, Multi-BIS/BISS GCH Trystyn Statesman Cactus Blue, whom Wolfe describes as personable outside the ring and a smooth, polished performer inside it, won Bests of Breed at the American Spaniel Club Flushing Spaniel Show as well as the AKC National Championship. Riese-Bassel says Maddux's long, sloping shoulders and level topline set him apart from other Welsh Springers. Along with Riese-Bassel and Holmes, Maddux is co-owned by Dr. Melanie Helms and Dr. Phil Gilson, both of Evansville, Indiana, with Susan Doss, of Madison, Georgia. Maddux is powered by *Purina Pro Plan SPORT 30/20 Performance Formula*.



With his striking appearance, "Maddux" has won 20 Group Firsts.

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Chinook: An American-Bred Sled Dog

Athletic, intelligent and friendly, the Chinook was developed in the early 1900s to be a powerful, fast, endurance sled dog. One of few breeds to originate in the U.S., this rare breed was named the official state dog of New Hampshire in 2009.

Inspired to reproduce an Eskimo dog named "Chinook" who was part of a dog team he worked with around the time of the Yukon Gold Rush, breed founder Arthur Treadwell Walden, of Wonalancet, New Hampshire, crossed a large yellow male Mastiff-type dog and a direct descendent of Admiral Robert Peary's famous Greenland Husky lead dog from his 1909 Arctic expedition. A male puppy from the litter had the traits Walden desired, and he named him Chinook, honoring the Eskimo dog he admired.

Chinook was a massive, lean 100-pound dog who proved to be a capable lead sled dog. Walden bred him to Belgian and German shepherd



bitches, keeping puppies that depicted the large, yellowish, lop-eared breed type. In 1928, Walden joined Admiral Richard Byrd's expedition to Antarctica as the lead trainer and driver of dog teams, and Chinook accompanied him. Although Walden received a Congressional Medal of Honor for his part in the expedition, his beloved Chinook disappeared on his 12th birthday while on the job in Antarctica and was never found, a loss that affected Walden deeply.

Recognized by the American Kennel Club in 2013, the Chinook ranks 156 among the 177 breeds registered. Large and dignified, the Chinook has a tan or tawny dense, double coat that provides protection from the cold. Dark almond-shaped eyes with black eye markings give the breed an intelligent, inquisitive expression. The affectionate nature and eager-to-please attitude help to make the Chinook a loving companion. This athletic breed excels at sledding, agility, tracking, lure coursing, obedience, and rally. Males average 24 to 26 inches tall at the withers and weigh 60 to 75 pounds, and females average 22 to 24 inches tall and weigh 50 to 65 pounds.

Sources: The websites of the American Kennel Club (akc.org) and the Chinook Club of America (chinookclubofamerica.org).

