

TODAY'S BREEDER

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

Issue 99

BIRD DOG TRAINER EXTRAORDINAIRE

Monkeyshine Kennels

- CHAGAS DISEASE IN DOGS
- FAST CAT IS FUN
- CALMING CARE ON THE CIRCUIT



Above, from left: Standard Schnauzers are stacked for judging at the Praireland Standard Schnauzer Club of Central Illinois Specialty during Schnauzapalooza. “LuLu” (MACH2 Marwyn Leave It To Little LuLu BN MXS MJC MXF T2B2 CGC), a 4-year-old female Miniature Schnauzer handled by owner Sue Phillips of Columbia, Illinois, dashes down the A-frame in standard agility.

SCHNAUZAPALOOZA '19 CELEBRATES TWO FAMOUS GERMAN BREEDS

When two Schnauzer breeds came to Purina Farms in April for a combo National Specialty event called Schnauzapalooza '19, it was a heyday for lovers of the famous German dogs with arched eyebrows and bristly mustaches and whiskers. A testament of the versatility of these hardy breeds — the Standard Schnauzer and Miniature Schnauzer — was seen in the diversity of activities held.

More than 500 people from across the country attended Schnauzapalooza. A week's worth of competitions included agility, obedience and rally, barn hunt, herding and farm dog certification, and conformation. Show co-chair Penny Duffee

of Bloomington, Illinois, credits the success of the event to a kindred spirit of Schnauzer devotion shared by all.

“Schnauzapalooza was such a special event,” she says. “Our breeds look similar but are quite different in the ways they work and behave. Standards are working dogs originally developed as all-around farm dogs with a strong desire to work, and Miniatures are terriers with a high prey drive bred to go to ground to bring prey out of their dens. With proper training, both are charming companions. The fun of holding this event was bringing together fanciers of both breeds. Everyone had such a good time.” ■



Above, from left: “Willow” (Southcross Spring Legacy CDX PCD BN RA NA OAJ NAP NJP CGCA TKA), a 6-year-old female Miniature Schnauzer handled by owner Sandra Hartfiel of Fremont, Wisconsin, performs directed jumping in graduate open obedience. “Karina” (GCH SchillerHaus Karina Says Yell-O RN RATI RATN FDC CGC), an 11-year-old female Standard Schnauzer owned and handled by Leah Schiller of New Carlisle, Ohio, takes part in novice barn hunt.

Schnauzapalooza '19 is among 25 National Specialties taking place in 2019 at Purina Farms in Gray Summit, Missouri. Located about one hour from St. Louis, Purina Farms is home to the Purina Event Center and outdoor competition areas used for herding, tracking, lure coursing, earthdog trials, barn hunt, and outdoor dog shows. For information, please contact Kaite Flamm, Purina Farms Senior Manager of Programing, at 888-688-PETS (888-688-7387) or by email at kaite.flamm@purina.nestle.com.

8 KENNELS CONTRIBUTE TO CHAGAS DISEASE RESEARCH

Owners of dog kennels are helping to advance research to identify the parasite strains of *Trypanosoma cruzi* carried by the nocturnal, blood-sucking triatomine insects that cause the potentially fatal Chagas disease.

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"Cole" (GCH Windy Hill Unforgettable), a 3-year-old Flat-Coated Retriever, was helped by Calming Care after a rough adjustment to living at a show kennel. See story on page 18.



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WIRE FOX TERRIER 'KING' RULES THE WESTMINSTER RING

When a passionate terrier lover named Victor Malzoni Jr. was looking for a nice Wire Fox Terrier bitch in 2010, he asked another passionate terrier lover, pro handler Gabriel Rangel, to help him find one. The beautiful Belgian-bred bitch Gabriel had in mind, CH Gina Gee van Folin Home, was not for sale, as she was soon to be bred to a famous Swedish male, WJW 08/INTL/AM CH/WW10/WW11 Crispy Legacy.

"We were fortunate that the breeder committed to selling us the pick male from the litter," says Malzoni, of Malibu, California.

Rangel, of Rialto, California, snapped photos on his cellphone of the pick male called "King" while at the Crufts dog show in Birmingham, England, and sent them to Malzoni.

Not every day does a dog pictured in a cellphone snapshot become a Westminster Kennel Club Best in Show winner, but that is exactly the way this story goes. ENG/EUR/AM Multi-BIS/Multi-BISS GCH

King Arthur van Folin Home — King — won the favor of another passionate terrier lover, Peter Green, who was judging the 2019 Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show.

"I thought he was very exciting," Malzoni says, recalling seeing the photos of King from Rangel. "I called the breeder and asked about his plans for the dog and whether I could buy him. We made an agreement for me to buy King, though he would stay there to be shown first in Europe."

Bred by Rony and Dieny de Munter-Uiterwijk of Dendermone, Belgium, King was handled by Warren Bradley in Europe. When he arrived in the U.S. in late 2017, King's passport was filled with



Westminster Best in Show winner "King" poses at the New York Stock Exchange during the ceremonial visit to ring the bell that opens the day's trading.

Photo courtesy of NYSE @NYSE

trips to European countries that corresponded with prominent dog show wins — gold stars on a distinguished resume.

A Crufts Best of Breed winner in 2014 and 2015, King also took Group First at Crufts in 2014 and Group Second in 2015. He took Group First at the World Dog Show in Helsinki and in Milan and Best in Show at the National Terrier Show and European Winner Show. King is the only dog in history to win the Wire Fox Terrier Association English Championship Show three times.

New to American Kennel Club dog shows and new to handler Rangel, King set out on the circuit in 2018. This 7-year-old tricolor male exuded correct temperament. As described in the breed standard, a Wire Fox Terrier should be "on the tiptoe of expectation at the slightest provocation."

The winningest terrier in the country in 2018, King with Rangel on the end of the lead took 35 Bests in Show and many Group Firsts. One of his first all-breed

wins that year was the Beverly Hills Dog Show Presented by Purina, hosted by the Kennel Club of Beverly Hills, where he topped 1,200 dogs.

The 15th Wire Fox Terrier to win Westminster — more than any other breed — King won under a tough terrier judge with a critical eye. More than 2,800 dogs, including 203 breeds and varieties from 50 states and several international countries, were in contention.

"The Wire Fox Terrier is a breed I know really well," says Green, himself a four-time Westminster Best in Show handler. "He's as good as it gets. The handler had him in perfect condition."



Photo courtesy of NYSE @NYSE

The team behind King are, from left, handler Gabriel Rangel, his wife, Ivonne Rangel, assistant Simon Simaan with King, owner Victor Malzoni Jr., his wife, Susan Malzoni, and her son, Nicolas Heeren.

Rangel handled his third Westminster Best in Show winner that night at the Garden. He won in 2014 with “Sky” (GCH Afterall Painting The Sky), a Wire Fox Terrier owned by Torie Steele of Malibu, California, and Malzoni, who lived in São Paulo, Brazil, at the time, and in 2010 with “Sadie” (CH Roundtown Mercedes of Maryscot), a Scottish Terrier owned by Amelia Musser of Mackinac Island, Michigan.

An emotional Rangel said after the show that night, “We feel honored to be part of King’s legacy. He is truly a magnificent Wire Fox Terrier. To win under the most famous terrier man in the world makes this extra special.”

As the sole owner of King, Malzoni, too, counted the win as extra special.

A LOVE OF ALL DOGS

A native of Brazil, Malzoni took to dogs and the sport of dog shows at a young age. “My father bought a Rough Collie in 1957 from a kennel (Canil di Cambinao) in Italy that is well-known even today,” he says. “Then, my brother bought a Saint Bernard in 1965 from the Saint Bernard Monastery of Switzerland. This was the first dog we took to shows. Many years later, I got my first Wire Fox in 1992, and this is when my passion for terriers began.”

After graduating from college with a degree in economics, Malzoni joined his brothers working for the family’s construction and development company. Although he traveled frequently and there was little time to devote to showing dogs and building a breeding program, he kept his love of dogs in the back of his mind.

“Many times I was in Miami when the Westminster Kennel Club show was on TV,” he says. “I think watching this amazing show with such top-quality dogs is what sparked my interest again.”

Malzoni established his Hampton Court kennel outside São Paulo, naming it for the street of his home in Florida. The state-of-the-art kennel built on his farm in Itatiba had been his dream for a long time. He began with Cairn Terriers. “I just fell in love with the breed,” he says. “Then, I acquired my first Bedlington Terrier. As I started meeting more people, I became interested in other terrier breeds.”

He recalls meeting Rangel in 2004 in the benching area at Westminster. “He was back in the setups grooming the Sealyham Terrier, ‘Ben’ (CH Stonebroke Right On The Money),” Malzoni says. “He noticed I was standing close looking at him working on the dog. I told Gabriel I was a Cairn Terrier breeder from Brazil and I admired how he worked. I told him I hoped that someday he could show a Cairn for me. Then, a few years later, Gabriel showed the first Cairn for me.”

His connection to Rangel led to his meeting Diane Ryan, the owner of Sky, and partnering as a backer on the 2014 Westminster winner. “She really was a beautiful bitch,” Malzoni says. “She was the No. 1 dog in the U.S. in 2013, after winning an incredible 128 Bests in Show, and was a World, French and American Champion. Sky also won Best in Show at the 2013 Montgomery County (all terrier) show. In 2012, she won Bests in Show at the AKC National Championship and the National Dog Show.”

Malzoni is well-known to the dog fancy as a backer of important dogs that have had tremendous success. He supported the campaign of “Charlie” (GCH Cragmoor Good Time Charlie), the winningest Skye Terrier of all time handled by Larry Cornelius to Terrier Group Firsts at Westminster in 2015 and 2016 and Reserve Best in Show in 2015 and Bests in Show at the 2014 AKC National Championship and the 2015 National Dog Show.

Malzoni also was the sole owner of the German Wirehaired Pointer “Oakley” (BRAZ/AM GCH Mt. View’s Ripsnorter’s Silver Charm), handled by Phil Booth to his Sporting Group First at Westminster in 2013 and a three-time winner of the German Wirehaired Pointer Club of America National Specialty.

“I’ve been lucky to be included in some great dogs’ careers because sometimes a handler comes to me with a great opportunity,” Malzoni says. “As to backing a dog, first I have to like the breed, and second, it has to be a quality dog. Now, most importantly, I want to show the dogs I am breeding.”

That brings us to King. Once his Westminster celebrity appearances with Rangel are completed, King will retire to live at Malzoni’s home in Malibu. Of course, retirement will include being bred to select bitches.

The year has brought changes. Along with moving his home to Malibu from Miami, Malzoni is moving his Hampton Court kennel to the States, so it will be closer to him.

“I am a breeder at heart, and the fact that in 2013 I was the No. 1 breeder in Brazil gave me enormous pleasure,” Malzoni says. “I am a big dog lover and have a lot of passion for dogs. I am learning all the time and have made so many wonderful friends all around the world through the sport of purebred dogs.” ■



HOW A WHELPING BOX NURTURES THE MATERNAL NESTING INSTINCT

Nesting is a primary maternal instinct of an expectant brood bitch. Pregnant dogs in the wild would select a secluded spot with adequate warmth and shelter and then camouflage the den with grass, sticks, branches, and brush. Although bitches producing purposefully bred litters today have whelping boxes provided for them, that nesting instinct remains intact.

Above: Eight-day-old Golden Retriever puppies nurse contentedly from their dam, "Flirt" (GCH Rush Hill's Some One To Talk About). The litter represents the fifth generation of Rush Hill Goldens bred by Tonya Struble of Lake Stevens, Washington. Co-breeders are Hanna Looney and Collen Stone.

IDEAL WHELPING BOX

- Warm and dry
- Easy to clean
- Waterproof
- One and a half to two times the length of the dam, so she can stretch out in full length with room to spare
- Allows dam to get away from her puppies yet prevents puppies from escaping
- Has a railing or ledge — sometimes called a pigrail, bumper or puppy rail — 3 to 4 inches from the floor around the periphery to prevent the dam from crushing or suffocating a puppy caught between her body and the sides of the box



Golden Retriever dam Flirt can step out of the puppy area of the whelping box to take a break from her puppies.

Nurturing a pregnant dog's nesting instinct entails introducing her to the whelping box at least five days before her delivery date. This allows time for her to become adjusted and comfortable before the puppies are born. Breeders often choose a small room in their home or kennel that is quiet and secluded to set up the whelping box.

Many considerations go into setting up the ideal whelping box for your breed of dog. Importantly, the size should be appropriate — large enough for a dam to stretch out with some room to spare — as a box that is too large can cause her great distress. It is easier for the dam to protect puppies that are close to her, and a box that is too large allows the puppies to move away from their mother and puts them at risk of malnutrition and becoming cold.

Especially during the first week when puppies are not able to regulate their own body temperature and thus rely on the dam's body heat and the warmth of littermates to maintain a normal body temperature, a supplemental heat source is important. A heat source in the center of the whelping box encourages puppies to stay away from the edges where there is greater risk for the dam to lie on them. Modern heat sources include radiant floor heating that uses thermometer-

controlled water to circulate in the center of the floor. There are many options available to choose from.

Whether a breeder selects a commercial style or a custom-made whelping box, the most important aspects are the comfort and safety of the brood bitch and her litter.

BEST BEDDING MATERIAL

- Soft and warm
- Good traction
- Easily cleaned and disinfected
- Insect free
- Allows moisture to be wicked away
- Not easily ingested by puppies
- Avoid hay, straw, shavings, or stiff particles that can cause eye and skin irritation to newborn puppies
- Avoid rags, blankets or carpeting that allow puppies to crawl underneath and potentially be smothered by the dam



Struble layers the whelping box bedding by starting with waterproof hospital bedding on bottom. Next is a whelping pad with a flannel top that wicks away moisture and helps keep puppies warm.



SUPPLEMENTAL HEAT CONSIDERATIONS

- Should be placed so puppies can move away if they become too hot
- Should not interfere with the dam getting up and down
- Should not expose puppies to electrical cords or outlet boxes to chew on
- Heat in the center of the whelping box encourages puppies to stay in the center, away from the edges where there is greater risk of the dam lying on them
- Appropriate heat sources include heat lamps, electric or water-filled heating pads, and microwavable heating pads

Struble offers these tips: "When puppies are spread out in the whelping box, they are hot. If they are piled up and whining, they are cold, but if they are piled up and sleeping, they are comfortable or just right."

KENNELS CONTRIBUTE TO CANINE CHAGAS DISEASE RESEARCH

An avid field trial competitor, Dave Flint of Martindale, Texas, has chalked up 14 years working with English Springer Spaniels. Before he had springers, he owned and competed with retrievers.

His springer, “Roadie” (AFC Strong’s One For The Road MH), was extremely promising. “He’s the best young dog I have ever seen,” says Flint, remembering with heartfelt emotion a dog who died prematurely in January 2019 at almost 3 years of age.

Living in a hotbed area for kissing bugs — the well-known triatomine insects that carry the parasite *Trypanosoma cruzi*

and cause the potentially fatal Chagas disease — Flint was aware of the dangers should a dog become infected. When Flint discovered a kissing bug in Roadie’s water bowl, he had the bug tested. It was positive for *T. cruzi*.

“It was scary knowing Roadie was exposed to the parasite that causes Chagas disease, yet he had no symptoms,” Flint says. “He was healthy and happy, so I continued to enter him in field trials.”

Ironically, only six months later, a mean seed disease killed Roadie. “Although it is speculative, we felt the *T. cruzi* infection may have weakened Roadie,” says Flint. “He did not survive



A young English Springer Spaniel with field trial potential, “Roadie” was exposed to a kissing bug infected with the *T. cruzi* parasite that causes Chagas disease. As a result, owner Dave Flint invested in protective screens to help keep kissing bugs out of his kennel.

surgery. The surgeon said his lungs appeared to be damaged, but he died of heart failure.”

The loss was heartbreaking. Flint made efforts to prevent another kissing bug from invading his kennel by investing \$11,000 in protective screens. He hoped this would provide a secure, well-sealed environment for his 10-dog Avalon Gundogs kennel.

Meanwhile, Roadie’s breeder, David Jones of Tivoli, Texas, who operates Strong Gundogs and breeds Saighton English Springer Spaniels from the famed Welsh bloodline, also was familiar with kissing bugs. He had been collecting bugs, storing them in plastic bags in the freezer, and sending them to researchers at Texas A&M University for its Kissing Bug Citizen Science Program.

“About five or six years ago, we had a really bad kissing bug infestation,” Jones says. “Eighty percent of the bugs we sent in tested positive for *T. cruzi*. We found that most of our older dogs had been exposed to *T. cruzi*. They initially experienced high fever and diarrhea, and then got better. Later, they died of heart failure.”

Among the goals of the Kissing Bug Citizen Science Program are to learn more about the distribution and behavior of the triatomine insects. Since the study began in 2013, more than 6,000 bugs have been submitted from thousands of people across 27 Southern states for the research that aims to characterize the transmission of Chagas disease and determine the risk factors for exposure in animals and humans.

“Our Citizen Science Program allowed us to recognize early on that many of these submitters were finding the bugs in and around large dog kennels,” says Sarah A. Hamer, PhD, DVM, DACVPM (Epi), associate professor of epidemiology and the Richard Schubot Endowed Chair at Texas A&M University. “We conducted fieldwork at several large kennels to try to identify the natural habitats where bugs originate before dispersing into the kennel where they pose a risk of transmission to dogs.”

This work led to a two-year \$160,407 study that began in January 2018 investigating canine Chagas disease. Dr. Hamer is the lead investigator of the research, which is funded by the AKC (American Kennel Club) Canine Health Foundation. The research team is trying to understand the impact of Chagas disease on dogs using blood and cardiac monitoring not only of positive dogs but also of age/breed/location-matched negative dogs. The comparison allows them to control for other causes of cardiac disease.

Part of this research is to identify the parasite strains found in kennels. Working with 10 kennels that have provided insect samples through the Kissing Bug Citizen Science program, including Jones’ Strong Gundogs, they hope to advance understanding about this zoonotic disease considered an emerging public health threat.

Sadly, Chagas disease can cause acute death and chronic heart disease in dogs, and there is no vaccination or approved

YOU THINK YOU FOUND A KISSING BUG?

Many bugs look similar to kissing bugs (triatomine insects), though there are distinguishing differences. The 11 species of kissing bugs found in the U.S. have in common a cone-shaped head, thin antennae, thin legs, and a mainly black or very dark brown body with red, orange or yellow stripes around the edge.

One important difference between kissing bugs and insects that look similar is that the bite of a kissing bug is generally benign, whereas non-kissing bugs can have a strong mouthpart and inflict a painful bite if disturbed or threatened. Note that not all kissing bugs are infected with *T. cruzi*. Likewise, despite being infected with *T. cruzi*, some dogs live long, healthy lives.

See below photos of kissing bugs and look-alike bugs that resemble them. If you believe you have found a kissing bug but are not sure, go to this link to get expert advice from researchers at Texas A&M University on how to safely collect the bug and where to send it for analysis: <https://bit.ly/2EuN7JB>.

Kissing Bugs



Photos provided by Texas A&M University

Look-Alike Bugs



Leptoglossus brevis

Brochymena

Leptoglossus clypealis

anti-parasitic treatment. Humans also can contract the disease and may remain asymptomatic for life or develop acute or chronic Chagas cardiac disease. About 30 percent of humans develop chronic disease.

HISTORY OF CHAGAS DISEASE

Named for Carlos Chagas, the Brazilian physician and bacteriologist who discovered the *T. cruzi* pathogen in 1909, Chagas disease is transmitted to animals and people via the feces of an infected kissing bug. The ancestor of *T. cruzi* is believed to have been introduced to South America from bats 7 to 10 million years ago.

Triatomine insects are found worldwide, but those carrying the *T. cruzi* parasite that causes Chagas disease are only found in the Americas, particularly in poor, rural areas of Latin America, where the disease is endemic. Thus, Chagas disease is sometimes referred to as American trypanosomiasis.

Kissing bugs have been recognized in the U.S. since the mid-1800s, and 11 species of the nocturnal bloodsucking insects have been identified in this country. Named for their habit of biting humans around the mouth or eyes, kissing bugs have a high prevalence in Southern states, notably Texas, New Mexico and Arizona. Their broad geographical span runs from south of Oregon to south of Pennsylvania.

It is estimated that millions of dogs in the U.S. are infected with *T. cruzi*, yet it is challenging to pinpoint the number because many cases are likely undiagnosed or misdiagnosed. Not all kissing bugs are infected with *T. cruzi*, though it is believed that 60 percent of the seven species found in Texas carry the infection.

Dogs may become infected if they eat the bug or its feces on the ground or from licking their paws or coat. Many infected dogs don't show clinical signs, yet as asymptomatic carriers they can pass the disease on to their offspring. Thus, unborn puppies can contract the disease from an infected dam. When this happens, puppies may even die in utero or as neonates.

Chagas disease in dogs can cause severe heart disease, including cardiac rhythm or conduction abnormalities, sudden death,

and ventricular myocardial dysfunction that results in congestive heart failure. The cardiac signs often resemble dilated cardiomyopathy and even look similar on an echocardiogram. Ascites, or abnormal buildup of fluid in the abdomen, may occur due to reduced cardiac function resulting in an inability to properly pump blood through the body.

Dogs may show signs within weeks of an infection — the acute form of the disease — or months to years later — a chronic infection. Dogs under 1 year of age typically develop acute disease, and older dogs are more likely to have chronic disease. Early treatment for the clinical cardiac signs provides the best prognosis, bearing in mind there is no approved treatment for the infection.

Clinical signs in dogs may include:

- Diarrhea
- Vomiting
- Lethargy or depression
- Seizures
- Enlarged lymph nodes and/or spleen
- Fever
- Fainting
- Cardiac abnormalities including increased heart rate, abnormal heart rhythm and fluid buildup in the abdomen and lungs

KENNELS PARTICIPATE IN STUDY

At Texas A&M University, the researchers are analyzing over 300 kissing bugs collected from the 10 kennels in the study.

“We initially analyzed 20 kissing bugs from each kennel to learn the species’ composition, infection prevalence with the Chagas parasite, and the genetic strain of the parasite,” says Rachel Busselman, lead doctorate student working on this project.

“We are able to discern from the insects’ gut contents whether a kissing bug recently fed on a host or was ‘starved’ and seeking a blood meal.

“We also are able to figure out from the gut contents what hosts the bug previously fed upon – dogs, wildlife or humans. Once we have a complete dataset of the genetic strains of the parasite in the bugs versus in the dogs, we will compare the patterns to learn if particular genetic variants are associated with different disease outcomes in dogs.”

The work is tedious and takes several months of laboratory analysis after field samples are collected and submitted. The geographical extent of the kennels being studied spans central, south and west Texas, capturing four different ecoregions of the state. Texas provides a unique opportunity for research due to its diversity of kissing bug species and the high parasite infection prevalence.

Interestingly, the research team is using a trained bug scent detection dog to identify kissing bugs and help determine vector infection prevalence. “One of our colleagues has been training a German Shorthaired Pointer named ‘Ziza,’ a former explosives

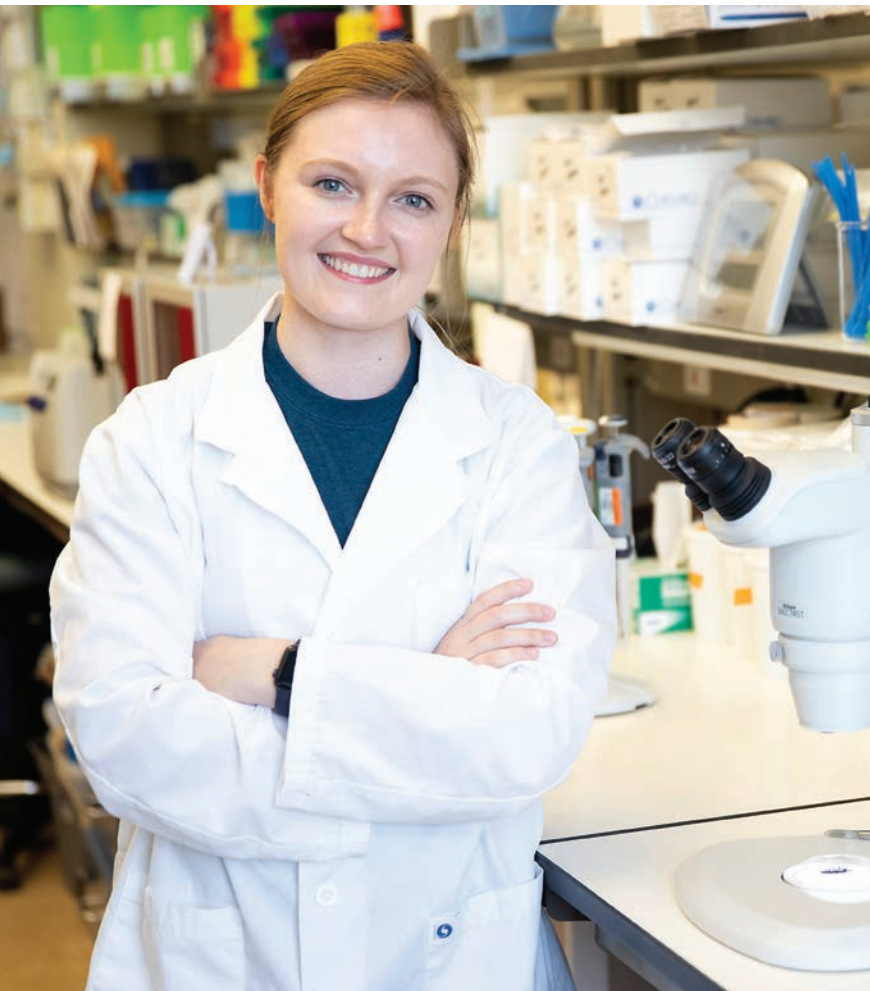


Photo by Gabriel Hamer/Texas A&M University

Texas A&M doctorate student Rachel Busselman is leading the Chagas disease analytical work studying kissing bugs collected from kennels.

detection dog, for scent detection of triatomines,” says Dr. Hamer. “Ziza is Chagas positive, and fortunately she is healthy to withstand the work. However, we regularly monitor her heart. Otherwise, a healthy dog doing this work would be at high risk of exposure to infected insects and feces.

“Initially, Ziza was trained on live insects in our colony, but she can now identify habitats where reproducing colonies of the bugs naturally occur — like under woody debris. Ziza has certainly enhanced the collection of kissing bugs from the kennels in our study. A goal is for trained scent detection dogs to help by identifying key areas where bugs can be found that might otherwise be overlooked and thus aid in vector control efforts.”

Meanwhile, Ashley B. Saunders, DVM, DACVIM (Cardiology), professor of cardiology at Texas A&M, a collaborator on this study, has received a three-year \$65,691 grant from the AKC Canine Health Foundation that will begin in June 2019. As the lead investigator, she is characterizing cardiac disease and developing screening tests for asymptomatic dogs that test positive for *T. cruzi*. “Many dogs have a positive titer for *T. cruzi* but no observable cardiac abnormalities,” she explains. “We also are investigating how many dogs with titers have evidence of heart disease.”

Holter monitor testing, which records a dog’s heart rhythm over a 24-hour period, and cardiac troponin I, a noninvasive biomarker of cardiac injury, will help her describe the heart abnormalities of infected dogs. “The 24-hour Holter monitor studies have allowed us to determine that abnormalities of the electrical activity of these dogs’ heartbeats are more common than was previously known,” Dr. Saunders says. “Cardiac troponin I elevations can help us detect early disease in asymptomatic dogs.

“Cardiac motion relies on appropriately functioning cardiac myocytes. When *T. cruzi* infects the heart muscle, inflammation and ultimately fibrosis develop. This damage to the cardiac myocytes means they are unable to contract as they should, which impairs contractility and cardiac function. Importantly, this damage to the heart affects its electrical conduction and accounts for why arrhythmias and conduction abnormalities occur in infected dogs.”

Although some experimental treatments have been successful, none have been approved by the Food and Drug Administration. “There are two main problems that need to be addressed in treating dogs infected with *T. cruzi*,” Dr. Saunders says. “One is to destroy the *T. cruzi* organism, and the other is to manage the inflammation and



The outside runs of this dog kennel are enclosed by protective screening to help reduce the infiltration of insects, such as kissing bugs.

HOW TO REDUCE KISSING BUGS IN KENNELS

- Limit outdoor lighting, particularly around a dog kennel, as kissing bugs are mainly active at dusk or night and are attracted to outdoor light
- Bring dogs indoors at night or move them to a secure, well-sealed environment. If you have an outdoor kennel, consider protective screens
- Examine pet bedding for signs of the bugs
- Keep your yard free of woodpiles and brushy areas, as these are a breeding ground for the insects
- Seal cracks and crevices around kennel windows, walls, doors, and roof
- Begin a pest control plan to combat kissing bugs, though the effectiveness of spraying is limited due to the large migration pattern of kissing bugs

fibrosis and the damage that occurs to the myocardium. While addressing the infection is important, the secondary damage to the heart can be detrimental to a dog as well.”

Caution is the best advice when it comes to kissing bugs. Climate change may be causing their range to expand northward, and these bloodsucking insects are not to be taken lightly.

Similar to Flint who added protective screens to his kennel after his young springer Roadie died, Jones built a 2-foot perimeter around his kennel and he keeps the grass short to avoid giving kissing bugs a breeding ground and to help keep them from crawling into the kennel.

“Over the past 38 years, I’ve had a number of dogs drop dead at around 9 to 10 years old,” Jones says. “I always attributed it to heart attacks that occur in very hard-working dogs. That was until Chagas disease surfaced.” ■



The AKC Canine Health Foundation is supporting two research studies focused on learning more about American trypanosomiasis (Chagas disease), which is considered an emerging public health threat to dogs and humans. Go to this link to access its Information for Dog Owners and Key Facts: <https://bit.ly/2Wh2FKN>. Purina and the AKC Canine Health Foundation have been partners since 1997 in supporting canine health research to benefit all dogs.

THE MONKEYSHINE METHOD

Honing a picture-perfect steady to wing and shot, “Dually” (Rock River’s You Can’T Handle This) and backing brace mate, “Jax” (FC Dezasterous Jax The Ripper), have come by their talents humbly. Their beautifully chiseled muscular bodies equal power and endurance, and their proud, high heads embody intelligence and focus. High-class bird dogs, these German Shorthaired Pointers are products of pro Dan DiMambro’s Monkeyshine Kennels’ training program, shaped by three generations of experience and more than half a century of knowledge.



Lessons learned on windswept prairies, where wild game is abundant yet tougher for bird dogs to find and more challenging for them to point, have taken root in the Monkeyshine method. “These dogs need to be brought along gradually and to mature through foundation training so they develop into their run.

They have to crawl before they walk and walk before they run,” says the four-time Purina Handler of the Year, who won in consecutive years from 2015 to 2018.

Dually and Jax are cut out of the Monkeyshine mold. Standing statuesque at the Ionia (Michigan) Recreational Area, home to the National German Shorthaired Pointer Association (NGSPA) Region 4 Championship and the German Shorthaired Pointer Club of Michigan Championship, these hardwired males are creatures of habit, driven to deliver a top performance in the highly competitive one-hour open all-age horseback

German Shorthaired Pointers “Dually” (Rock River’s You Can’T Handle This), 3 years old, right, and “Jax” (FC Dezasterous Jax The Ripper), 6 years old, effortlessly ease into a stylish steady to wing and shot. Inset photo above: Petting “Augie” (Rumel’s Augie Doggie), a 3-year-old male, pro trainer Dan DiMambro says having a close relationship with a dog helps its performance.





Dan gently nudges the tail of “Rudy” (NGDC GFC FC AFC Riden High Rudy), a powerful, mild-mannered 5-year-old male who saves his energy for the field.

stakes. Dan, of Leroy, Michigan, and longtime girlfriend and assistant April Raber, of Alliance, Ohio, are back at their Northern stomping grounds after winter camp and two months on the field trial circuit.

Not all bird dogs Dan has trained have been cut out of that mold. Take, for example, “Jackie” (FC Chicoree’s Jackie V Nuke), who came to him in 2008 as a 2-year-old started dog. Jackie had some bad habits like not listening and being elusive on point, or so well hidden no scout could find her. Seldom did she finish a trial.

Dan’s first client dog, Jackie was owned by a veterinarian, Dr. Fred Ryan of Cridersville, Ohio, who had been breeding Shorthairs since 1981 and longed to win the NGSPA National Championship. “Fred trusted me to work with Jackie,” Dan says. “After the first trial, he called and asked me how it went and how many bird finds she had. I told him she finished the trial, and I remember, he said, ‘Well, you didn’t do anything.’”

Over the next couple of years Dan worked with Jackie, and she began to change into a stylish bird dog. “It wasn’t overnight,” he says. “I started bringing her in the truck with me and building a rapport with her. We lost more than we won, but she turned around to win Runner Up at some big NGPDA (National German Pointing Dog Association) and NGSPA regional championships and was the NGPDA Shooting Dog Champion in 2011.”

Excited about Jackie’s turnaround, Dr. Ryan today continues to fill the Monkeyshine string with top-caliber Shorthairs. “Dan works really hard, and he has a good way with animals,” says Dr. Ryan. “He puts a lot of time into it. My big goal still is to win the NGSPA National. We’ve come close with two Runners Up. The formula for success is good genetics, good training and a little bit of luck.”

BREAKING IN

Looking back on those early years when he pulled a horse trailer behind his pickup truck and traveled with a handful of dogs, Dan says, “Nobody wants to pay you to learn to be a trainer, but that’s what I was doing when I began with Jackie. She became a dog that would go and find birds when other dogs could not. Everything I’ve done goes back to Jackie.”

Everything Dan has done also goes back to the patriarch of Monkeyshine, his paternal grand-



father, Mario DiMambro. A native of Cassino, Italy, Mario came to the U.S. in 1936 as a 9-year-old when his parents sent him alone to live with family in Michigan in hopes he would have a better life. In Italy, multiple generations — 15 people — lived together in a house tucked in the rocky hills of Monte Cassino southeast of Rome. Mario served in World War II and then became head chef of the Executive Dining Room and head supervisor of food services for Ford Motor Co. in Detroit.

The story of how Monkeyshine Kennels was named dates to 1960 when Mario asked his second oldest son, Rick, to name a promising Shorthair female bred by Ralph Terrill of Romeo, Michigan, he had bought. It was a ritual for Mario's four children to take turns naming their father's dogs. Rick was practicing a song titled "Monkeyshine" on the accordion for a recital, so he chose that name.

Nearly seven years later, Rick's Monkeyshine became Mario's first of five Field Champions he finished during his lifetime. An amateur enthusiast who sent some of his best dogs out with

pros, Mario had success with two young dogs that won GSPCA and NGSPA Futurity stakes. He also bred or owned several Futurity-placing dogs. Along with his wife, Shirley, Mario organized field trials for the Michigan German Shorthaired Pointer Club. He was field trial chair of the NGSPA Region 4 Championship, and on a national level, Mario served as stake manager of the German Shorthaired Pointer Club of America National Championship.

With three boy cousins, all about six months apart in age, Dan grew up spending time at his grandparents' home and going to field trials. Although his father, Mitchell, did not get involved with the dogs, his uncle Rick trained and handled dogs part time as a pro for several years. When he was 11, Dan's family moved to South Carolina, though he often returned to Michigan for summer vacations. He also would see his grandfather when he traveled to Florida or Georgia in the winter to train his dogs.

Dan and April Raber release Augie, left, and "Jed" (FC Evergreen's Jed Clampet), 2 ½ years old, to find birds. Below: Dan blasts a whistle to get attention, as dogs can hear the higher frequency better and the sound travels farther than a human voice.





Trimming nails is part of the routine at Monkeyshine Kennels.

“My grandfather and I were close, and we got along most of the time,” Dan says. “He loved the temperament, drive and energy of Shorthairs, and that has become what I love about the breed.”

At age 21 Dan had an opportunity to go to his first bird dog summer camp in North Dakota to work with pro John Steger of Evanston, Indiana. Long days spent working dogs and then feeding and caring for them made an impression, though Dan recalls, “I struggled. I certainly didn’t know this is what I wanted to do.”

Steger was known under the Direct Kennel banner, winning 225 NGSPA championships, nine NGSPA National Championships and two Purina Handler of the Year awards. His mentoring role to Dan was noteworthy, teaching him the importance of using the best gear possible and feeding dogs the best food with the highest nutrition.

Years earlier, as a student at the University of South Carolina, Dan worked part time as a dog trainer. After graduating with a degree in business management in 2006, he returned to Michigan and dog training with his grandfather while pondering what he wanted to do. Only two years later, Mario died at age 81.

“I was so lucky to spend the last couple of years of my grandfather’s life watching and learning from a man so dedicated and passionate about bird dogs,” says Dan. “He could not think of anything else that for him could have taken the place of competing with high-class bird dogs.”

REACHING FIELD TRIAL POTENTIAL

Going pro full time in 2010, Dan, along with partner April, began eking out a living under Monkeyshine Kennels. Based in Leroy, Michigan, they offer puppy development, obedience, basic



Dan and April are pictured with three generations of Chicoree German Shorthaired Pointers. From left are: “Bonnie” (FC AFC Chicoree’s Jake’s Bonnie), 5 years old, “Sparkle” (GFC FC AFC Chicoree’s Sparke In Her Eye), 8 years old, and “Jackie” (FC AFC Chicoree’s Jackie V Nuke), 13 years old.

gun dog training, and field trial training. Winter camp on 200 acres of wild quail in Ashburn, Georgia, is designed to ready bird dogs for the spring circuit. Summer camp in Upham, North Dakota, with access to 200,000 acres of wild birds, provides time to evaluate dogs' progress, a turning point for some.

At 6 to 8 months of age, puppies begin to show signs of their field trial potential, though some are late bloomers. "You may see good qualities that outweigh the bad, and then later a light bulb goes off," Dan says. "I really enjoy watching the dogs grow and learn. It's fun to figure out what you have to do to help a dog be successful."

Jackie, Dan's first client dog, produced one litter of four, three of which became Field Champions. A female from that litter, "Sparkle" (GFC FC AFC Chicoree's Sparkle In Her Eye), was an early bloomer. "At 6 months, I knew Sparkle would be good – she was the total package," says Dan, of the female who finished at 15 months old and who contributed boldness, natural bird-finding ability and biddability in her own litters.

A male named "Jake" (GAFC FC AFC Hi-N's Feed Jake) joined Monkeyshine in 2014 as a started 4-year-old. Owner Hank Lewis of Hi-N Kennels in Louisville, Ohio, needed someone to take Jake

on the national circuit and finish his pattern, or training that teaches a dog to run forward to find wild birds. "Dan and April have a full system, and they work at this 12 months a year," Lewis says. "They provide excellent care in the kennel, and everything is meticulously

clean and orderly. Dogs get the best nutrition. It sounds so simple, but all of this is so important."

Jake came into his own under Dan and won the 2015 NGSPA and NGPDA Open All-Age National Championships. A stylish male with a keen nose and tons of speed, Jake was named the NGSPA All-Age Dog of the Year in 2015. He made Lewis

proud when he won the 2014 NGSPA Amateur Shooting Dog of the Year after winning the NGSPA National Amateur Shooting Dog Championship.



His daughter, "Matte" (FC AFC Hi-N's Hasty Matilda), currently on the Monkeyshine string, rivals Jake's accomplishments. She won a double-header in 2018, as the winner of the NGSPA Open and Amateur Shooting Dog National Championships and also won the NGPDA National Amateur Championship. She was named the 2019 NGSPA Amateur Shooting Dog of the Year.

Back to Ionia, home of the NGSPA Region 4 and the German Shorthaired Pointer Club of Michigan Championships. Just like Mario did, Dan is giving back, serving as the Region 4 field trial secretary. He also is a member of the NGSPA board of trustees and field trial committee. This past spring, he was stake manager of the NGSPA National Amateur Shooting Dog Championship.

Dan credits April with giving him the flexibility to help out. "She frees my time to volunteer at trials and to train," he says. "We've figured out a good system."

Mario would surely be proud of his grandson's love for bird dogs and his hard work and passion for developing high-class Shorthairs under the Monkeyshine name. ■

Saddling up "Outlaw," his favorite Tennessee walking horse, Dan says the 14-year-old gelding loves running with the bird dogs.



April measures Purina Pro Plan SPORT Performance 30/20 Chicken & Rice Formula into a bowl. Dan says his high-energy dogs do well on Purina Pro Plan, plus he likes feeding a dog food in which the company sponsors his sport.

CALMING CARE CAN HELP PERFORMANCE DOGS DISPLAYING ANXIOUS BEHAVIORS

Returning to the show kennel where his litter was whelped in January 2016 after living as a house dog for two and a half years was stressful for a Flat-Coated Retriever named “Cole.” Accustomed to being one of two dogs at the home of co-breeder and co-owner Leanne Selof of Romeoville, Illinois, Cole thrived on lots of attention and a laid-back lifestyle.

“Cole’s adjustment to kennel life was challenging,” says professional handler and co-owner Angela Lloyd of Amissville, Virginia, whose kennel the show-bred Flat-Coat returned. “Separation took a toll on him. He barked constantly and couldn’t relax. I tried exercising him more and giving him extra attention, but nothing seemed to help.”

Despite being anxious in the kennel, Cole quickly finished his Champion and Grand Champion titles, becoming GCH Windy Hill Unforgettable. Bred by the Windy Hill Flat-Coated

Retriever team of Dr. Robert and Sonja Rickert of Morristown, New Jersey, Selof, and Mark Bettis of Minneapolis, Cole has some of the breed’s top winners behind him.

His maternal great-grandsire, “Zeus” (CH Flatford Zeus The Major God JH WCX HOF), is the winningest Flat-Coat in breed history. A Hall of Fame sire, Zeus produced progeny known for their happy temperaments and easygoing ways. In 2014, Cole’s dam, “Macy” (BIS/BISS GCH Windy Hill Dance to the Music SH), won the Flat-Coated Retriever Society of America National Specialty and Best of Breed at the Westminster Kennel Club show. His sire, “Romeo” (GCH Caci’s Jack In The Box), is a Swedish outcross chosen for his outstanding conformation and outgoing, confident temperament.

Eager to find a way to manage Cole’s anxious behavior, Lloyd welcomed the opportunity to take part in a six-week trial of

Purina Pro Plan Veterinary Supplements Calming Care, a probiotic supplement introduced in January 2019. Calming Care contains a strain of beneficial bacteria, *Bifidobacterium longum* (BL999), that helps dogs cope with external stressors and maintain calm behavior. *Today’s Breeder* sponsored the trial to gather feedback on how Calming Care helps show and sporting dogs on the circuit.

“After using Calming Care, Cole stopped barking as much and he began relaxing,” Lloyd says. “When a dog comes from a home environment to a kennel, it can be stressful. Every little bit helps. Calming Care definitely helped Cole.”

All dogs experience situations that can trigger anxious behaviors. Separation, strangers or unfamiliar people, changes in routine or location, and loud noises such as fireworks and thunder are examples. Handlers and



Professional handler Angela Lloyd says “Cole” (GCH Windy Hill Unforgettable), a Flat-Coated Retriever, barked less and began relaxing in the kennel after using *Purina Pro Plan Veterinary Supplements Calming Care*.



Professional retriever trainer Josh Conrad credits Calming Care with helping to reduce the anxious behaviors of “Annie” (Bayside’s Hard Knock Life).

trainers who travel the circuit with several dogs have little time to manage those that are unable to adapt and acclimate to a performance schedule. Thus, chronic anxious behaviors can bench a promising show or sporting dog as much for the effect of the behaviors on the individual dog as for the effect on other dogs that are part of the team.

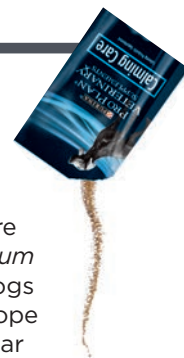
To better understand the impact of anxious behaviors, Purina recently conducted a survey of 826 U.S. dog owners whose dogs visited the veterinarian in the last 12 months.¹ The findings revealed that these behaviors can be quite common, with 62 percent of dog owners surveyed reporting that they have regularly seen anxious behaviors in their dogs.

“Anxiety is a chronic state of worry about the potential of something bad happening even when no clear threat is imminent,” says Purina Research Scientist Ragen T.S. McGowan, PhD, an animal behaviorist. “Signs of anxious behavior in dogs include hypervigilance or an inability to settle. Dogs that bark excessively or jump, pace and spin in the kennel, for example, could be exhibiting this behavior. Other signs are panting when not hot, repeated yawning, lip licking or smacking, body shaking, urinating or defecating, and even aggression.

“Short-term stress is a normal and healthy response to new or startling things, as it helps a dog cope and gain tools to deal with change,” explains Dr. McGowan. “But chronic stress can be harmful because it can affect a dog’s physical, mental and social health.”

Professional retriever trainer Josh Conrad of Oakdale, California, understands how stress can affect young dogs he is developing for retriever field trials. During the first four months with him, they learn retriever basics. They acclimate to living in a kennel, riding in a truck to the training grounds, learning how to run drills and tests, handling corrections, and becoming familiar with a new routine.

THE CALMING PROBIOTIC EFFECTS OF CALMING CARE



Purina Pro Plan Veterinary Supplements Calming Care contains a strain of beneficial bacteria, *Bifidobacterium longum* (BL999), which has been shown to help dogs maintain calm behavior. Calming Care helps dogs cope with external stressors such as separation, unfamiliar people, novel sounds, and changes in routine and location.

This probiotic supplement helps support dogs with anxious behaviors such as excessive barking, jumping, pacing, and spinning. During stressful situations, Calming Care helps dogs maintain positive cardiac activity, and it promotes a positive emotional state and healthy immune system in dogs.

If you have concerns about your dog’s behavior, you should talk to your veterinarian. *Purina Pro Plan Veterinary Supplements Calming Care* is available through veterinarians or may be ordered online at: [Chewy.com](https://www.chewy.com) or [ProPlan VetDirect.com](https://www.proplanvetdirect.com). To learn more about Calming Care, visit: <https://bit.ly/2Uhknde>.

One promising Labrador Retriever on his string, “Annie” (Bayside’s Hard Knock Life), now 17 months old, quickly became a “pen runner,” meaning she ran for hours in the kennel at night. “She would run lap after lap and get all worked up,” Conrad says. “The excitement caused her to defecate in the kennel, and then she would run through the excrement. She lost weight, and the running made her feet sore. She also barked incessantly in the kennel and the truck.”

Trying to figure out the best way to handle Annie’s behavior, Conrad was open to trying Calming Care with her. He noticed a change in her behavior. “It was like ‘Wow,’” he says. “She stopped running in her pen at night. Part of the change may have been because she was growing up, becoming more mature, but I think it’s a credit to Calming Care.”



Trainer Kim Trafton was pleased that “Opie” (Eshod’s Magnum Opus), a high-energy English Cocker Spaniel, relaxed and became more focused on Calming Care.

Owned by Lowell and Betty Mason of Walnut Creek, California, who co-bred the litter with Les and Debbie Ziegler of Bayside Labradors in Red Bluff, California, Annie was sired by FC-AFC JJ of Redrock, a prominent male who finished second in 2018 for the Purina Outstanding Open Field Trial Retriever Award, and her dam is Bayside’s Blue Water Sprite SH, who made the National Derby list and is a qualified All-Age dog. Annie’s breeding supports her potential to become a star field trial retriever — providing she can handle the mental stress of training and competing.

Soon to start in derby stakes, Annie has quieted down significantly in the truck and also in the kennel. “She’s gone through a lot of training,” Conrad says. “My job is to figure out what works best for her — whether to back off or push her harder — and how to handle her in a constructive way. Calming Care is helping us, though it’s too soon to know if she’ll end up loving this game and earning a spot on the truck.”

Similarly, trainer Kim Trafton of Eshod Farm and Kennels in Wrightsville, Georgia, can relate to dogs that exhibit pen running. Her 4-year-old tricolor male English Cocker Spaniel, “Opie” (Eshod’s Magnum Opus), is a high-energy dog known for pacing nonstop in the kennel.

“Opie is wound tight about everything,” Trafton says. “He’s a funny little dog who lunges like a racehorse when you put him on a lead and then spins in every direction, creating a tangled mess. I thought, ‘OK, he needs more exercise to burn off the steam before we train.’ No matter what I did, he was always so worked up and would not settle down.”

Joining the Calming Care trial with Opie, Trafton saw noticeable changes on the probiotic supplement. “Calming Care has really helped him,” she says. “He’s become more focused and engaged in training. He will even sit still on lead without

going crazy. Importantly, he has become calmer in the kennel.”

Although Trafton’s long-term goal is to prepare Opie for hunting tests, she wants to keep training fun to help him enjoy working. This summer, she plans to enter him in diving dog events to help build his confidence.

SCIENCE BEHIND CALMING CARE

Research by Purina scientists to better understand the impact of a probiotic on dogs displaying anxious behaviors led to Calming Care. The beneficial probiotic strain, BL999, is believed to positively impact anxious behavior via the microbiota-gut-brain axis, a bidirectional communication system between the gastrointestinal tract and the brain.

To assess the impact of BL999 on dogs, Purina evaluated 24 Labrador Retrievers displaying anxious behaviors in a 15-week crossover study. In the first phase, dogs were fed a complete and balanced maintenance diet for six weeks, with 12 dogs being supplemented with BL999 and the other 12 with a placebo. After a three-week washout period when no supplements were fed, the dogs were reversed to receive the opposite protocol.

“We found a significant impact of BL999 on dogs displaying day-to-day anxious behaviors showing an improvement when supplemented with BL999 as compared to when they were supplemented with the placebo,” Dr. McGowan says. “This included significant reductions in barking, jumping, spinning, and pacing.”

Dogs supplemented with BL999 showed increased exploratory behavior in a novel environment compared to when they were supplemented with the placebo. They also showed improvement in physiological factors, such as positive cardiac activity during stressful events.

“From both a behavioral and physiological standpoint, BL999 had a positive effect on dogs. We found that BL999 could serve as a useful tool in the development of management plans for dogs displaying anxious behaviors,” Dr. McGowan says.

For Cole, Annie and Opie, Calming Care helped lessen their problem behaviors. Their trainers are advocates for the probiotic supplement and are recommending Calming Care to others with dogs displaying similar behaviors.

“Based on this trial, I am recommending Calming Care because there’s a chance it will help a dog,” Lloyd says. “Every little bit helps.” ■

¹ Revelation Research Online Survey (Aug. 15 to 19, 2018). A total of 826 nationally representative dog owners qualified and completed the survey. Qualified participants were men and women age 18 and older, owned one or more dogs (age 13 months or older), were household members most responsible for taking dog(s) to a veterinarian, and had taken the dog(s) to a veterinarian in the past 12 months.

PURINA SPO BEAGLE AWARD WINNER, 'MOE'

A natural rabbit-tracker with keen accuracy on the line is the 2018 Purina Outstanding SPO (Small Pack Option) Field Trial Beagle. "Moe" (FCGD Rapid Run Big Moe D) stood out in the yearlong competition, earning 262 points and outperforming all hounds vying for the top honor.

The 3-year-old 15-inch tricolor male is owned and handled by the father-son team of Richard Sawyer, of Chickamauga, Georgia, and David Sawyer, of Frankfort, Kentucky. Their first Purina Award — and the first year they competed for the award — was earned after 27 years in SPO field trials.

"Moe is calm and controlled and doesn't let things bother him," says David Sawyer. "He is super level-headed. I've never owned a dog like him."

Bred by Dickie Atkinson of Terre Haute, Indiana, Moe was sired by the Sawyers' male, NGBC FCGD Rapid Run Big Easy B, out of NGBC FCGB R & R Plenty Of Since. The sire represents 20 years of Rapid Run hounds, including two Hall of Fame

sires, FC Cranks Chicken, inducted in 2017, and FC Rapid Run Lil' Caddy, inducted in 2018.

Richard Sawyer, a former professional SPO beagle handler who finished 300 Field Champions, bought Moe as a puppy. The dog showed promise early winning the 2016 United Beagle Gundog Federation Derby Runoff at 11 months old. In the Purina Award competition, Moe placed in 12 of 15 field trials, taking five first places, four seconds, two thirds, and one fourth.

The Sawyers were honored at an awards banquet in April in Beaver Dam, Kentucky, held in conjunction with the AKC (American Kennel Club) Small Pack Option National Championship. Their top-performing hound was fueled to his Purina Award by *Purina Pro Plan SPORT Performance 26/16 Formula*. ■

Below: FCGD Rapid Run Big Moe D, the Purina Outstanding SPO Field Trial Beagle



FAST CAT

IS A FAST, FUN DOG SPORT

“Get it! Get it! Get it!” shouts Cyndi Clingerman, fueling the excitement of her 4-year-old female Keeshond, “Boo” (Clingmey’s Home Grown Honey RN DCAT CGC), as the dog whizzes down a Fast CAT (coursing ability test) course in Salisbury, Maryland.

Cheering from the finish line, Clingerman jumps joyously, while Boo grabs the bouncing white bag — an artificial lure that resembles a fast-hopping rabbit — and shakes it. The No. 1 Keeshond in Fast CAT in 2018, Boo took top honors

with an average speed of 23.80 mph in the 100-yard straight-course sport.

Fast CAT is synonymous with having fun with your dog.

Since the American Kennel Club introduced Fast CAT in 2016, the number of events held annually has skyrocketed, going from 125 that first year to 646 in 2018. Fast CAT is an electronically timed race in which a dog’s speed is converted into mph. Titles are awarded based on



Photo by Lisa Rieder/Kiepp/Lisa Rieder/Visions

“Boo” (Clingmey’s Home Grown Honey RN DCAT CGC), a Keeshond bred, owned and handed by Cyndi Clingerman, lights up with excitement when she runs Fast CAT. At right: Boston Terrier “Wee Willow” (Jo-Clem Zippity Doo Dah NAP NJP NF NFP CAX8 FCAT20 RATN), owned by Chris and Laurie Frodsham, is the highest-titled Fast CAT competitor among all dogs.



points that are calculated by multiplying a dog's mph by its handicap, a derivative of its height at the withers.

"Many owners are surprised to see how excited their dogs become when they try Fast CAT," says Doug Ljungren, Executive Vice President of Sports and Events for the American Kennel Club. "It is pure fun for dogs to chase the lure. Some dogs need a little coaxing at first, but Fast CAT is largely an instinctual activity."

Fast CAT is addictive — just ask Clingerman.

"The first time Boo ran, I had never seen such excitement in her face," she says. "That look! She was so intense on catching that lure."

Now, the speedy Keeshond, who runs so fast she goes airborne galloping after the lure, is only points away from earning the highest title — FCAT. Boo was the first Keeshond to title in Fast CAT, earning the BCAT title in 2017 only one month after her first run.

The highest-titled Fast CAT competitor among all dogs is a 5-year-old female Boston Terrier named "Wee Willow" (Jo-Clem Zippity Doo Dah NAP NJP NF NFP CAX8 FCAT20 RATN), who has earned the highest Fast CAT title 20 times, the equivalent of 10,500 speed points. Owners Chris and Laurie Frodsham of Waynesville, North Carolina, have traveled from Texas to upstate New York and Florida, as well as many places in between, to take part in Fast CAT with Wee, starting when she was 1 year old.

"Wee loves it, which makes it a love of ours," says Chris Frodsham of the first Boston Terrier to earn all three Fast CAT titles — BCAT (150 points), DCAT (500 points) and FCAT (1,000 points for the first FCAT and 500 points for additional FCATs). "She has a high prey drive and is very tenacious when trying to get that 'bunny.'"

Unlike lure coursing trials that began in 1972 to test the hunting abilities of sighthounds, and thus are restricted to the 17 sighthound breeds, CAT and Fast CAT are open to all breeds and mixed breeds. The twisty-curvy pattern used in lure coursing and CAT emulates the zigzagged way a rabbit scurries when being pursued, whereas Fast CAT is a 100-yard dash where dogs chase the lure on a straight course.

"A lot of people with sighthounds have other breeds as well, and they would run these dogs on the lure coursing field for fun after a trial," says AKC field representative Sharon Webb. "This led to CAT in 2013, a sport in which dogs are judged on how well they follow the lure without interruption and with enthusiasm. People started wanting to know how fast their dog ran the CAT course, so we came up with Fast CAT."

Part of the thrill for dogs in chasing the lure — a white plastic bag or a squawker that resembles a small animal and squawks when dragged along the ground — is catching it at the end of the race. Ninety percent of dogs grab the bag at the finish line, Webb says.

"Dogs absolutely love Fast CAT," Webb says. "People love it, too, because it makes their dogs happy. It's a very fun event whether you have a dog running or are a spectator. When you're outside with your dog doing something fun, what's not to enjoy?"

Chasing prey has long been recognized as a natural instinct for sighthounds. Having long legs, a deep chest, flexible back, and keen vision, they are equipped to overpower fast-moving prey with their speed and agility. That speed comes out in Fast CAT, where sighthounds may power down the course at nearly 40 mph.

HOW TO PLAY FAST CAT

The fast world of Fast CAT — a 100-yard straight course often run in mere seconds — is one of the American Kennel Club's newest sports for dogs and those who love them. Dogs run individually and earn points that are calculated by multiplying their mph by their height-based handicap. The handicap system works like this:

- Handicap of 2.0 for dogs below 12 inches at the withers
- Handicap of 1.5 for dogs 18 inches or greater at the withers
- Handicap of 1.0 for dogs 18 inches or greater at the withers

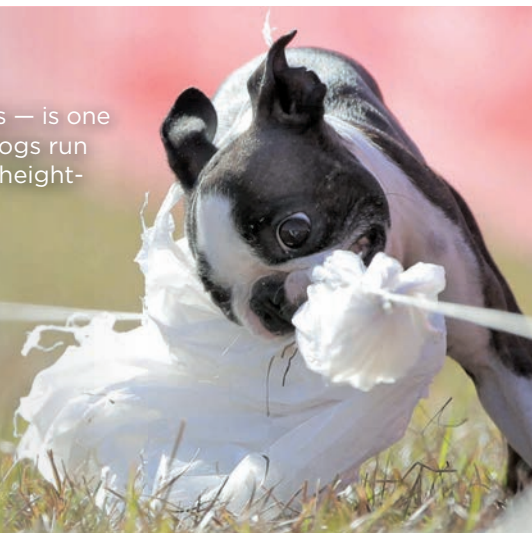
Dogs earn suffix titles based on a point system. Here's how titles are awarded:

- 150 points for BCAT
- 500 points for DCAT
- 1,000 points for FCAT
- 500 points for additional FCATs

Each Fast CAT team has a releaser positioned at the starting line and a catcher at the end. Owners usually choose to be at the end, so their dog runs toward them and they can cheer them on. The electronically timed events kick into motion when the lure, a white plastic bag or squawker, takes off in front of the dog. The lure is pulled by an electronic pulley system or a drag line behind a golf cart.

Among the greatest enjoyments of Fast CAT, owners say it is a wonderful way to bond with their dogs doing something that is so much fun. Bragging rights are icing on the cake for those whose dogs make the Top 20 Fastest Dogs breed ranking.

What are you waiting for? To learn more about Fast CAT and to find an event near you, visit: akc.org/sports/coursing/fast-cat/



Wee catches the lure at the end of a Fast CAT run.



Photo by Lisa Rende Kopp/Lisa Rende Visions

“Vinny” (CH Vinny Of Clingmey Sumbarsky Pramen DCAT), owned and handled by Clingerman, took quickly to Fast CAT and already has earned two titles in the sport.

As Fast CAT has shown, chasing prey comes naturally for a wide variety of breeds, hence participation in Fast CAT across breeds from all Groups and mixed breeds. Speeds are tabulated on the average of three runs and listed online in the AKC’s Top 20 Fastest Dogs by Breed ranking.

Being in running condition helps dogs attain high mph speeds and accrue the points needed to earn titles. “Wee runs on a treadmill at home to stay in shape,” Chris Frodsham says. “She runs on an incline, which helps build endurance and muscle. Being in great shape and having a lot of drive are assets that help her do well.”

FAST CAT TRIVIA

The first Fast CAT event was held April 23, 2016, in Manchester, Tennessee, at the Coffee County Fairgrounds and hosted by the Tullahoma Kennel Club. Two events were held that day and two the following day. In 2016, there were 125 Fast CAT events, and in 2018, the number increased to 646. The popularity of Fast CAT is reflected in how quickly entries fill the limited number of spots per event and participation among breeds across the Groups and mixed breeds.

Likewise, Boo practices running along the fence in the backyard, Clingerman says. “Keeshonden can be couch potatoes,” she says. “But, they are smart and quick and learn fast. There’s no real training for this — they either have prey drive or they don’t.”

Clingerman is hooked. Her 2-year-old male, “Vinny” (CH Vinny Of Clingmey Sumbarsky Pramen DCAT), started in the sport in 2018, earning the BCAT title at 14 months of age, and her 2-year-old female, “Tootsie” (Clingmey’s Steppin On Toes), is starting in 2019.

“I love Fast CAT!” she says. “I’ve never had a dog so into something as Fast CAT.” ■

Circle of Champions

BRITTANY NAMED 'HANK' WINS NATIONAL AMATEUR ALL-AGE CHAMPIONSHIP

An intense, hardworking 4-year-old orange-and-white male Brittany named "Hank" was named the 2018 American Brittany Club National Amateur All-Age Champion after stylishly pointing quail three times in the one-hour horseback stake. Handled by owner Mike Poehler of Hoffman Estates, Illinois, NAFC/FC/GAFC/AFC ANJ's Ohio Hellion outperformed 45 dogs to earn the coveted title on Thanksgiving Day. "Hank stood out from the git-go as being very smart and having a good nose," Poehler says. "He maintains his style on game with all four feet on the ground and his head held high." Poehler credits his good friend and professional bird dog trainer Bob Burchett of Grovespring, Missouri, for training Hank and handling him to his first win at the Iowa Brittany Club Open All-Age stake at 22 months of age. Poehler, who has owned Brittanys since 1985 and competed in field trials since 2000, says it was always a dream to win the National Amateur. Bred by Dan Riedl of Valley City, Ohio, Hank is fueled by *Purina Pro Plan SPORT Performance 30/20 Chicken & Rice Formula*.

With a keen nose and natural ability, "Hank," a 4-year-old male, stylishly pointed his way to winning the 2018 American Brittany Club National Amateur All-Age Championship.



'JACK,' A POINTER, WINS NATIONAL FIELD TRIAL CHAMPIONSHIP



With "bottom-end" athleticism — that special ability to finish a three-hour all-age horseback stake with the same hard-charging stamina as it began — a striking 6-year-old white, orange and ticked male Pointer called "Jack" aced the 2019 National Field Trial Championship in February at Ames Plantation in Grand Junction, Tennessee. Dunn's Tried N True, owned by Will and Rita Dunn of Lebanon, Kentucky, and handled by pro Luke Eisenhart of Leesburg, Georgia, proved his keen bird-finding ability with seven finds. "The stars lined up for us that day," says Will Dunn. "It was a great performance to watch." Bred by Chris George of Tallahassee, Florida, Jack was sired by the 2015 National Champion, Miller's Dialing In. Will Dunn started the young Pointer and handled him to three first-place finishes in derby trials before turning him over to Eisenhart. Jack proceeded to dominate, winning four derby championships and his first all-age title, the 2016 Quail Championship, as a first-year dog. With 12 championships and five runner-up championships to his credit, Jack has shown his versatility across venues, winning trials from the Dakota prairies to southern Georgia and the Midwest. Jack is fueled by *Purina Pro Plan SPORT Performance 30/20 Chicken & Rice Formula*.

"Jack," a 6-year-old male Pointer, proved his stamina and bird-finding ability to win the three-hour National Field Trial Championship.

ENGLISH SPRINGER SPANIEL 'JACE' TAKES TOP SPOT IN SPORTING GROUP

The No. 1 Sporting dog in the country is a 5 ½-year-old male English Springer Spaniel named “Jace,” whose pedigree includes some of the most prominent dogs in history. Multi-BIS/Multi-BISS GCH Brightwater Gilchrist Dreaming Out Loud, the winner of 16 Bests in Show and 100 Sporting Group Firsts, is handled by pro Robin Novack of Jackson, Michigan. “The greatness of this dog is because of his heart, great temperament and charming personality,” says Novack, a handler of some of the winningest show springers of all time. Jace’s dam, CH Wynmoor Brightwater Timeless, the No. 1 English Springer Spaniel bitch in 2008 and 2009, and sire, CH Capulet Black Ice, both have CH Telltale Freestyle in their lineages, as sire and grandsire, respectively. This male was heavily linebred to CH Salilyn’s Aristocrat, the top-producing sire of all time among all breeds, with 188 champion offspring, and the No. 1 dog in the country in 1967. Proving his excellence early, Jace finished quickly. The No. 1 English Springer Spaniel in all-breed competition was bred by Nancy Siver of St. Petersburg, Florida, Ruth Kirby of Cape Coral, Florida, Kathie Milne of Tarpon Springs, Florida, and Dr. Erin Kerfoot of Marion, Virginia. Co-owners are Beth Fink of Bluffton, South Carolina, Dr. Timothy Lowe of Lexington, Ohio, Nancy Siver, and Carrie Racey of Valencia, California, who raised the dog in her home and began his show career. Jace is fed *Purina Pro Plan SPORT Performance 30/20 Salmon & Rice Formula*.



A well-bred 5 ½-year-old male English Springer Spaniel with a charming personality, “Jace” has excelled since the beginning of his show career.

NATURAL STAR, 'RINGO,' IS NO. 1 WIREHAIRD DACHSHUND



A quick-moving star at dog shows, “Ringo” has gone to the top of the charts as the No. 1 Wirehaired Dachshund.

A small dog with a big-dog temperament, “Ringo,” a 3-year-old male Wirehaired Dachshund, has a natural rock-star attitude when it comes to dog shows. Handled by pro Lisa Bettis of Goshen, Indiana, Multi-BIS/Multi-BISS GCH Brazoski Ringo Starr at Rivendell has quickly become the No. 1 Wirehaired Dachshund. “Ringo is a funny little dog,” Bettis says. “His movement, the way he goes swiftly around the ring as though he’s on a mission, sets him off from other dogs.” A precocious show dog who finished his championship at 9 months of age, Ringo won Best Wirehaired Dachshund and Best of Opposite Sex at the 2017 Dachshund Club of America (DCA) National Puppy Sweepstakes. In 2018, with limited showing, Ringo was the No. 2 Wirehaired Dachshund, with wins that included Best of Breed at the DCA National Specialty. He took Best of Variety at the 2019 DCA National. Co-bred and co-owned by Kellie Williams of Katy, Texas, and Diana Rockwell of Kerrville, Texas, Ringo has some noteworthy rock stars behind him, including his sire, Multi-BIS/Multi-BISS CH Brazoski the Apostle, a top-producing stud dog, and a paternal aunt, GCH Rivendells Hotwire SW, who won Best of Breed at the DCA National in 2013. Ringo is fed *Purina Pro Plan FOCUS Sensitive Skin & Stomach Salmon & Rice Formula*.

THRILL ME, A POINTER, WINS NATIONAL OPEN SHOOTING DOG CHAMPIONSHIP

A consistent, stylish 4-year-old white-and-orange female Pointer lovingly known as “Pea” delivered her best performance to win the 2019 National Open Shooting Dog Championship in February at Sedgefields Lakes Plantation in Union Springs, Alabama. Living up to her name, Thrill Me gave goosebumps to breeder-handler Tommy Rice of Pavo, Georgia, and owner Keith Finlayson of Tallahassee, Florida. Humbled to have won the legendary championship, Rice credits Pea for being “pretty and honest on birds and running a good ground race.” A standout on the circuit, Pea won the 2018 Masters Championship and the 2019 Bama Quail Classic. Rice, who went pro four years ago, and Finlayson, who has been involved in shooting dog stakes for two years, became partners when Finlayson bought Thrill Me and her littermate brother, Just Thrillin, as first-year dogs. Their sire, Just Irresistible, produced the 2018 National Open Shooting Dog Champion, Miller’s Unfinished Business, and their paternal great-grand sire, Funseeker’s Rebel, won the 2007 National Field Trial Championship at Ames Plantation. Their dam, Snow Thrill, is the first field trial dog Rice trained and campaigned, and she was sired by Lester’s Snowwatch, the 2009 National Field Trial Champion. Pea is fed *Purina Pro Plan SPORT Performance 30/20* Chicken & Rice Formula.

Thrill me, a 4-year-old female Pointer, lived up to her name to become the National Open Shooting Dog Champion.



TREEING WALKER COONHOUND NAMED ‘TY’ IS A BIG SHOW WINNER



An outstanding 3-year-old male Treeing Walker Coonhound named “Ty” is making breeder-owner-handler Lisa Hunziker of Murphysboro, Illinois, very proud with multiple wins at major bench shows. GCH ‘PR’ Red Eagle Capital City is a standout with his “great conformation and correct movement,” says Hunziker, who has been breeding dual-purpose Treeing Walker Coonhounds for 20 years. “I am always trying to breed for better. It took years to get him.” Among his 2019 wins, Ty was the Treeing Walker Breeders & Fanciers Overall Bench Show Male Champion, breed winner at the Purina National Championship, ACHA (American Coon Hunters Association) World Bench Show winner, and King of Show at the Heartland Classic. In 2018, Ty was the Overall Champion at the AKC (American Kennel Club) World Show and at Southeast Treeing Walker Days. He won Best in Show at the UKC (United Kennel Club) Winter Classic in 2017 as a 1-year-old. Sired by 3XWSHOWCH GRCH CCH Red Eagle Comin’ 2 Your City, Hunziker’s first all-breed Best in Show winner, out of Second Wind’s Stroll for Gold, Ty represents the ninth generation of Red Eagle Treeing Walker Coonhounds she has bred. The head-turning hound is fed *Purina Pro Plan SPORT Performance 30/20* Chicken & Rice Formula.

A winner of major bench shows, “Ty,” a 3-year-old male Treeing Walker Coonhound, stands out with superb conformation and movement.

'DAZZLE,' A WELSH TERRIER, IS THE NO. 1 TERRIER

With a fiery expression and head-turning style, a 3-year-old male Welsh Terrier named "Dazzle" has sparkled his way to the top of the breed rankings and earned a spot as the No. 1 Terrier in all systems. Multi-BIS/Multi-BISS GCH Brightluck Money Talks, handled by pro Tracy Ann Szaras of Starr, South Carolina, is in his first full year as a Special after limited showing in 2018. "Dazzle is super sound, and he has gorgeous breed type," Szaras says. "He has a moderate length of neck and moderately short loin, is well-ribbed, and has a level topline. He has exceptional coat and movement and a beautiful expression." In 2018, Dazzle took three of four Bests of Breed the weekend of the Montgomery County Kennel Club (all terrier) cluster and Best in Show at the Brevard Kennel Club show in Orlando, besting 4,100 dogs. Among his 2019 wins, Dazzle won the Welsh Terrier Club of America floating National Specialty in Louisville, Kentucky. Owned by Keith Bailey (Bayleigh) of Knoxville, Tennessee, and co-owned by her longtime friend and breeder Janet McBrien (Brightluck) of Brightwood, Virginia, Dazzle is reminiscent of his sire, Multi-BIS/Multi-BISS GCH Bayleigh Shaireab's Super Hero, the first Welsh Terrier to become a Grand Champion and a top-producing sire. Dazzle is fed *Purina Pro Plan SPORT Performance 30/20 Chicken & Rice Formula*.

A head-turning 3-year-old male Welsh Terrier named "Dazzle" is known for his signature full-body shake after coming off the judge's examination table and downward dog stretch when returning to the lineup.



A 4-year-old male Black Russian Terrier, "Oli" loves everyone and everything.

BLACK RUSSIAN TERRIER 'OLI' IS NO. 1 IN ALL SYSTEMS

A record-setting 4-year-old Black Russian Terrier named "Oli" stirs excitement at shows with his confidence, beautiful movement and sound temperament. Handled by pro Rhanda Glenn of Anderson, South Carolina, Multi-BIS/BISS GCH Oles Ognennij Zver CGCU earned the most all-breed (9,343) and breed (613) points in 2018 ever won in a single year by a Black Russian Terrier. The No. 1 Black Russian Terrier in all systems since 2018 and the No. 2 male of all time, Oli took Best of Breed at the 2018 Black Russian Terrier Club of America National Specialty, Best in Show at the August 2018 Sawnee Mountain Kennel Club of Georgia show in Atlanta, and Best of Breed and Working Group Four at the 2018 AKC National Championship. In March 2019, Oli won Best in Show at the Raleigh (North Carolina) Kennel Club show, besting 1,730 dogs. "Oli loves being shown, and he does his job well," Glenn says. "At home, he is goofy. He loves everyone and everything." The handsome male is owned by DeAnne Hawkes (Guardian Bears) and her husband, Richard Hawkes, DVM, of Morehead City, North Carolina, and was bred by Edward Mishko of Sochi, Russia. Before Oli, the Hawkes campaigned the No. 1 Black Russian Terrier bitch from 2015 to 2017, also handled by Glenn, GCH Arisha Krasa Russkaya Nochnaya Zvezda CGC, whose sire is Oli's grandsire. "Oli has the best personality," says DeAnne Hawkes. "He is so stable and approachable, and his structure and movement are amazing." Oli is fueled by *Purina Pro Plan SPORT Performance 30/20 Chicken & Rice Formula*.

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

PURINA RETRIEVER AWARD WINNERS ARE 'FORD,' 'GEORGE' AND 'RASCAL'

The 2018 Purina Outstanding Retriever Award winners are three Labrador Retrievers known for their resilience, consistency, intelligence, and biddability. Time and again during the yearlong circuit, they wowed the gallery and thrilled their owners and handlers. Two males and a female, the respective Open, Amateur and Derby winners, were honored in April at a celebratory dinner in Gainesville, Texas.

The Purina Outstanding Open Retriever is a 10-year-old male named "Ford," who proved his resilience in a comeback from spinal surgery in 2016, after finishing second in 2015 for the Purina Open Retriever Award. Although it was considered unlikely he would return to field trials, FC Sweetie's Easy Rider rallied under pro trainer Jim Gonja of McKenna, Washington. The win gave Gonja his 10th Purina Award winner. Earning 31.5 points with four wins and nine placements, Ford topped more than 1,400 dogs to win the Purina Award. "Ford thrives on having a job to do and loves going to work. He has so much heart and desire," says breeder-owner Peter Panarites of Northport, New York. Gonja, who has worked with Ford since he was a puppy, says, "I knew he was special from the get-go." This outstanding male has qualified every year since 2012 for the National Open Retriever Championship.

A magical field trial season that included two doubleheaders on back-to-back weekends netted "George" the Purina Outstanding Amateur Retriever Award. The 7-year-old male, FC-AFC Wood River's Mr Big is owned and handled by Bill Fruehling of Ketchum,

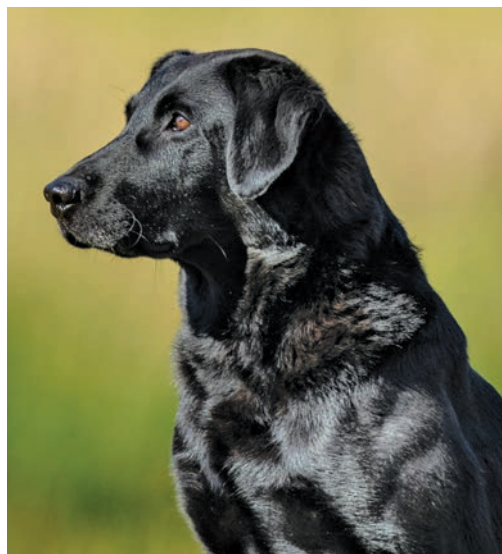
Idaho, who became a first-time Purina Award winner after 35 years in the sport. The hard-charging retriever earned 36 points with four wins and 10 placements, outperforming 1,600 retrievers. "George is a real thrill to handle. He's consistent and an exceptional marker who runs stick-straight blinds," says Fruehling, who co-owns George with his wife, Gay. Bred by Michael and Karen Tierney of Hillsboro, Oregon, the Amateur winner qualified for both the 2018 National Open and National Amateur Retriever Championships.

A small but mighty 2-year-old female named "Rascal" won the Purina Outstanding Derby Retriever Award, giving breeder-owner-handler Frank Purdy of Dowling, Michigan, his first Purina Award after 50 years in the sport. Oldsquaw's Little Rascal earned 69 points, with nine wins and 20 placements from 43 starts in Derby stakes, topping more than 1,000 dogs. "Rascal is a talented animal with incredible memory and focus. I've never had a dog like her," says Purdy, who owns the retriever with his wife, Sheila. "It's an honor to have bred such a wonderful dog. Rascal is a joy to train and a thrill to run." Rascal, a Finalist at the 2018 National Derby Retriever Championship, was sired by FC-AFC Flawless Execution, the 2016 Purina Outstanding Derby Field Trial Retriever.

All three Purina Award-winning retrievers are powered by *Purina Pro Plan*. Ford and Rascal are fed *Purina Pro Plan SPORT Performance 30/20 Chicken & Rice Formula*, and George is fed *Purina Pro Plan Veterinary Diets JM Joint Mobility Formula*. ■



FC Sweetie's Easy Rider, the Purina Outstanding Open Retriever



FC-AFC Wood River's Mr. Big, the Purina Outstanding Amateur Retriever



Oldsquaw's Little Rascal, the Purina Outstanding Derby Retriever

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*Data was collected by Relevation Research via an online survey from August 15-19, 2018. A total of 826 nationally-representative dog owners qualified and completed the survey. Qualified participants were men and women age 18 and older, owned one or more adult dogs, were household members most responsible for taking the dog(s) to a veterinarian, and had taken the dog(s) to a veterinarian in the past 12 months.

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Breed Snapshot

BIEWER TERRIER: A NEW BREED TO THE AKC

An adorable, longhaired toy dog with a larger-than-life personality, the Biewer Terrier debuted in 1986 in Germany in the Friedheck Kennel, home to many champion Yorkshire Terriers. Named for the breed's co-founder, Gertrud Biewer, the Biewer (pronounced Beaver) Terrier has unique coat coloring and a signature ponytail. Accepted into the American Kennel Club Foundation Stock Service in 2014, the Biewer Terrier has been admitted to the Miscellaneous Class and will begin competing in all-breed shows on July 3, 2019.

The first Biewer Terrier puppies produced, Schneeflockchen von Friedheck and Schneemann von Friedheck, were reportedly sold to the famous German singer, Margot Eskens, who adored them and suggested adding "a la Pom Pon" to their name. Demand was hard to meet for the popular Biewer Yorkshire Terrier a la Pom Pon, as the Biewer family did not produce many Biewer-type dogs. The breed was introduced in the U.S. in 2003, though there were only a handful of breeders in Germany and America. Inconsistencies in the appearance of German-imported Biewer Terriers led to genetic testing in 2007 to prove the breed's status as a purebred dog, marking the first time scientific DNA analysis, rather than pedigree documentation, was used for this purpose.

This elegant, whimsical toy dog is best suited as a beloved pet. The lighthearted Biewer Terrier is entertaining, intelligent and loyal. Despite weighing 4 to 8 pounds and standing 7 to 11 inches tall at the withers, the Biewer Terrier is a hearty, athletic dog that enjoys long walks, hikes and agility. The playful, mischievous, charming Biewer Terrier steals the hearts of all who know the breed.

Sources: Websites of the American Kennel Club (www.akc.org/dog-breeds/biewer-terrier/) and Biewer Terrier Club of America (<http://biewerterrierclubofamerica.org/>)



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