

 PURINA
PRO PLAN

TODAY'S BREEDER

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

Issue 95



COMPETITION BREEDER
Star R Beagles

- TICK PROTECTION FOR DOGS
- PRACTICING HEALTHY HYDRATION
- EARLY PUPPY SOCIALIZATION



Toy Poodle Best of Variety winner, "Shuwatch" (GCH Smash Jp Rock Around the World)



Judge Helen G. Tomb-Taylor congratulates handler Christian Manelopoulos for winning Best of Breed with Miniature Poodle "Alexis" (GCH Splash Mind You).



Standard Poodle Best of Variety winner, "Ella" (CH Gardenpath Concours D'Elegante)

POODLE CLUB OF AMERICA BRINGS ITS NATIONAL SPECIALTY TO THE MIDWEST

Success measured by a record entry and the glowing accolades bestowed by attendees made memorable the 85th annual Poodle Club of America (PCA) National Specialty held in April at the Purina Event Center in Gray Summit, Missouri. Relocating for the first time in history from the East Coast, this year's "Meet Me in St. Louis" National enthralled all with a mix of competitions that challenged the versatile Pudel to show his prowess in show and sport.

A weeklong menu of events started with retriever working certificate tests to evaluate individual dogs' ability to perform like the breed's German ancestors as a duck dog. Held at Wil-Nor Outdoors in nearby Dittmer, Missouri, next came retriever hunting tests, tracking dog tests and upland working certificate tests. The inaugural spaniel hunting test, with 32 Standards and two Miniatures, was made possible after the Poodle became the 17th breed eligible to compete in this event in 2016.

Companion sporting events, agility, obedience and rally, took place in the spacious Great Hall of the Purina Event Center. The first Performance Sweepstakes judged sporting Poodles against the breed standard, with prizes for dogs and bitches in classes for Juniors, 6 months to 2 years old, Open, 2 to 7 years old, and Seniors, 7 years and older.

"The idea of the Sweepstakes is to promote the versatility of the Poodle," says PCA first vice president Dennis McCoy of Apex, North Carolina. "The Poodle is an intelligent dog that does well in fieldwork and is also elegant and sophisticated."

Parades were held for performance title holders, breed champions and rescue dogs led by owners beaming with heartfelt pride. A grooming competition judged the artful creations of the Poodle trim, which often requires more than 10 hours a week to maintain a show coat.

Culminating with the National Specialty show, breeder-judges Frank Sabella (Standard), of Jupiter, Florida, Patrick Guilfoyle (Miniature), of Burbank, California, and Tina Yuhl (Toy), of Holly Springs, North Carolina, made their picks. When the intervariety (Best of Breed) judge, Helen G. Tomb-Taylor of Conroe, Texas, entered the show ring, the grandeur of the moment was captivating. She chose the Miniature Poodle, "Alexis," after honoring all three Variety winners as exquisite Poodles.

Reflecting on the fast-paced week, Purina Area Manager Carol Grossman says, "We are delighted that the PCA held its National at the Purina Event Center and brought the magnificent pageantry of this event and the breed to the Midwest." ■

Located about one hour from St. Louis at Purina Farms in Gray Summit, Missouri, the Purina Event Center is custom-made for all-breed and specialty dog shows. For information, please contact Kaite Flamm, Purina Event Center Manager, at 888-688-PETS (888-688-7387) or by email at kaite.flamm@purina.nestle.com.

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The ability to develop promising puppies into seasoned contenders has kept Beagle breeder-owner-handler Mike Reynolds of Star R Kennels in Readyville, Tennessee, hooked on small pack option (SPO) and gundog brace field trialing.

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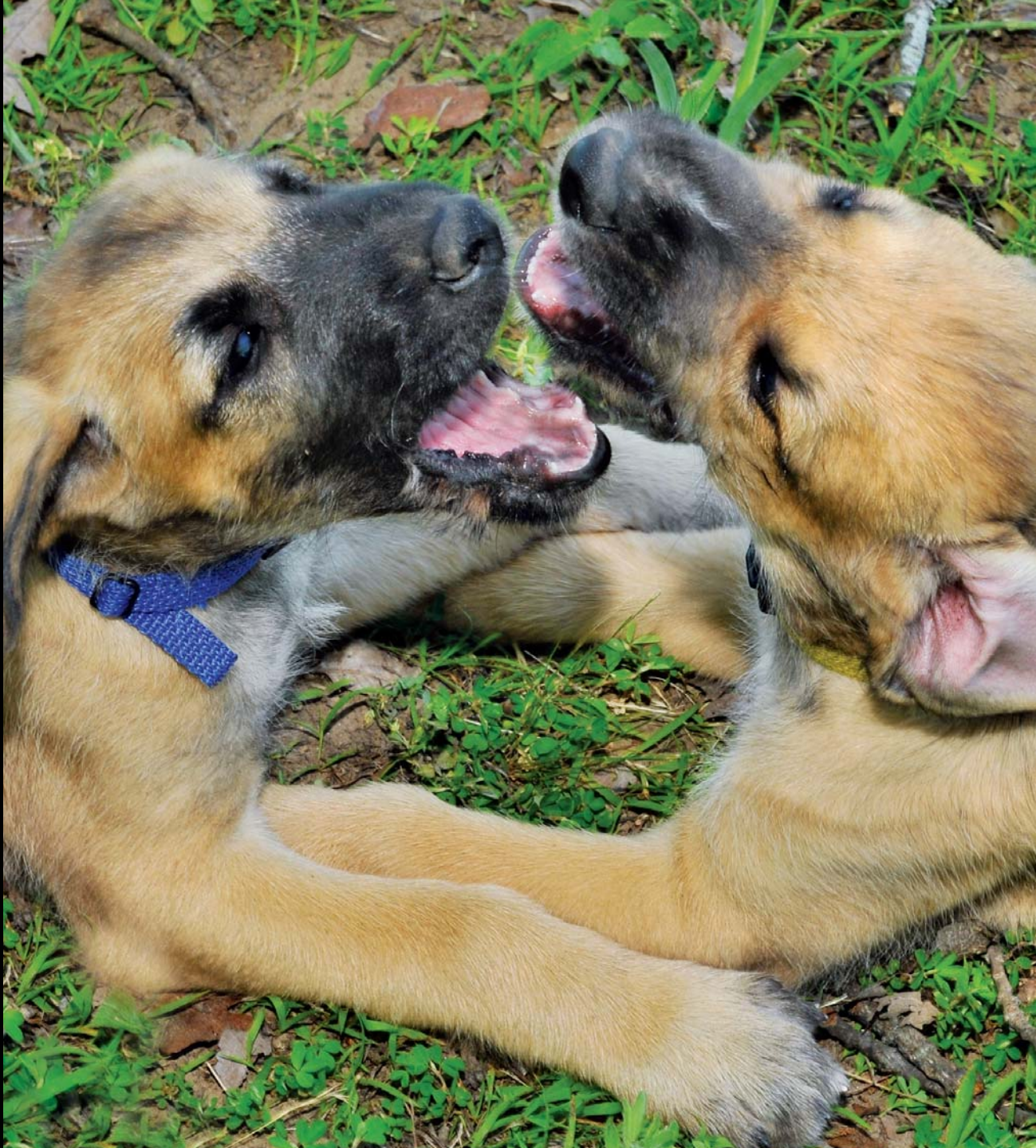
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ON THE COVER

A 6-week-old Beagle puppy out of NSPC FCGD Star R Mickie E, the 2015 Purina Outstanding SPO Field Trial Beagle and class winner at the 2016 AKC SPO National Championship, bred by owner-handler Mike Reynolds of Star R Kennels in Readyville, Tennessee. Cover photo by Melissa Miller. See story on page 4.

THIS PAGE

These 7-week-old Irish Wolfhound puppies, bred by Cindy Nunneley Biehler of Independence, Kansas, enjoy a playful romp as part of their early socialization. See story on page 13.



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THE COMPETITIVE SPIRIT OF STAR R BEAGLES

STORY BY KAYLA MILLER
PHOTOS BY MELISSA MILLER

On a gloomy, overcast morning, fog tracing the Tennessee foothills and ominous clouds rolling in ahead of a heavy spring thunderstorm, a brace of tricolor 13-inch female small pack option (SPO) Beagles is hot on the trail of a cottontail rabbit. The short, choppy sound of the hounds squalling and sporadic sightings of them darting in and out of the tall, thick cover in a tidy, straight line, are electrifying.

"Hup, hup, hup! Work over here, girls!" Star R breeder-owner-handler Mike Reynolds calls out, attempting to steer the hounds toward the cottontail that has just scurried in front of him.

A 30-year fierce competitor in the sport of SPO beagling, Mike has an innate ability to develop promising puppies into skillful field trial contenders. After all, he's bred 24 Field Champions, 12 of which he finished himself. "Dogs aren't any different from other athletes. They have to run rabbits regularly to stay sharp," he says.

Grinning he adds, "But for a good dog it doesn't take too long."

Not too long at all. Once NSPC FCGD Star R Cut-In-Up Chrissie and NGBC FCGD Star R Rumor Has It were cut loose in the 21-acre training pen at Mike's home in Readyville, they wasted little time before instinctively picking up the cottontail's scent.

Seasoned competitors, they are. "Chrissie," 6 years old, was the 13-inch female winner at the Mid-America Brace (MAB) All-Age Championship in 2015 and at the American Kennel Club (AKC) SPO National Championship in 2013, 2014 and 2015, becoming the first three-peat winner in history. "Rumor," 4 years old, won her class at the AKC Gundog Brace Nationals in 2016 and at the MAB All-Age Championship in 2017. What ranks these hounds as elite canine athletes are the high drive and intensity shown in their work. "With each litter, I'm looking for that 'wild child' to emerge. Those pups almost always grow up to be superior rabbit-hunting dogs," Mike says.

In this fast-paced sport, hounds run in casts of five to nine and form a single line as they trail

At left: "Rumor" (NGBC FCGD Star R Rumor Has It), front, and "Chrissie" (NSPC FCGD Star R Cut-In-Up Chrissie), 13-inch female SPO beagles, work a rabbit trail during an early morning training session.

a rabbit. These consistent performers are celebrated for their keen traits of hunting accuracy, scent ability and enthusiasm. They're also prized for their sheer athleticism and grit, sometimes running in up to three series before a winners pack is determined. Similarly, in gundog brace trials, hounds are cast in pairs, judged on their rabbit-tracking ability and tested for gun shyness.

These virtues contributed to NSPC FCGD Star R Mickie E becoming the 2015 Purina Outstanding SPO Field Trial Beagle. "Mickie' is easygoing, but once a trial begins, her determination and focus immediately kick in," Mike says of his

'With each litter, I'm looking for that "wild child" to emerge. Those pups almost always grow up to be superior rabbit-hunting dogs.'

Mike Reynolds



first Purina Award-winning hound, who also won the 13-inch female class at the 2016 AKC SPO Nationals, positioning Mike as a four-time consecutive winner of the prestigious event.

Mirroring the hard work and dedication of his hounds, Mike and his wife, Peggy, recently completed a 20-run kennel that provides the Star R Beagles' ultimate comfort. More than four years in the making, the brand-new kennel, which the couple built from the ground up, is a dream come true. A paradise for hounds and their handler alike, the kennel's unique facets are the result of many restless nights' brainstorming.

The outdoor kennel's spacious breezeway, nestled between the building and 10 runs on each side, is equipped with electrical outlets to power heated water bowls during the winter, bright lighting to allow for nighttime feeding,

Chrissie made history as the first three-peat winner of the American Kennel Club (AKC) Small Pack Option (SPO) National Championship, having won the 13-inch female class in 2013, 2014 and 2015.



Star R Kennels breeder-owner-handler Mike Reynolds of Readyville, Tennessee, holds 6-week-old puppies from his most recent litter out of "Mickie" (NSPC FCGD Star R Mickie E).

and running water to easily wash waste down sloping floors into one of four drains that feed into a sludge pump, ultimately pushing into a septic tank.

Each 5-by-9 ½-foot concrete ground run has a dog house fitted with a thick, cushioned pad for easy resting. The building is strategically positioned, with half the runs facing east and the other half facing west, giving dogs either early morning or late afternoon sun. Inside, a

workout room houses five dog treadmills for preseason conditioning, and a feed room has ample storage for bags of *Purina Pro Plan SPORT* Performance 30/20 Formula, medicine and other supplies. Garage doors on either end offer a drive-through for vehicles so unloading after a trial is a cinch whether it's day or night, rain or shine.

If building his dream kennel from the ground up wasn't time-consuming enough, Mike also balances a full-time job as the night-shift supervisor at Mahle Filter Systems, a company manufacturing filtration system for cars, in nearby Murfreesboro. After working from 10 p.m. to 8 a.m., he comes home to run dogs until bedtime at 2 p.m. "If my real job is the night shift, then my dogs are the day shift," he says.

Work-life balance becomes increasingly tougher when the field trial season begins each September. Every weekend, Mike hits the road with the two to three 13-inch females he typically campaigns in a season, frequenting trials in the Midwest, East and South. Drives spanning 14 hours each way aren't uncommon.

The distance doesn't faze Mike, who, like his Star R hounds, lives for the thrill of the pursuit. "The 1998 AKC SPO National was the first major event I entered. 'Cocoa' and I placed second, but it hooked me on field trialing at the highest level," he says.

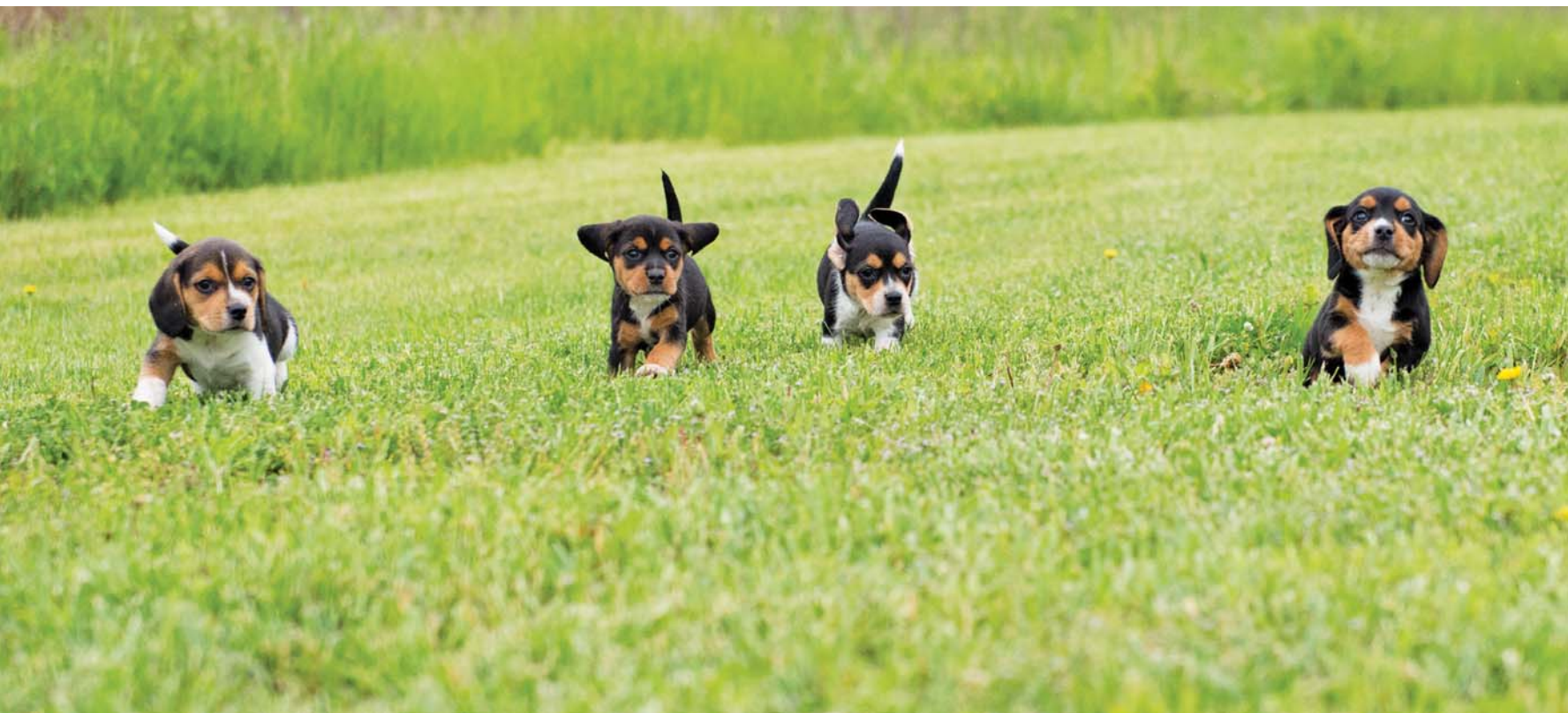
Shifting his attention back to the training grounds, where raindrops are beginning to pelt from the dark gray sky, Mike wraps up the run and leashes the hounds, heading toward the kennel.

COMPETITIVE BY NATURE

A quick glance around the Star R trophy room, located inside the kennel with plaques, ribbons, trophies, and rosettes adorning the floor-to-ceiling shelving, leads one to believe that Mike is no stranger to the winners pack.

Confident, yet not arrogant in the slightest, Mike is content standing back and watching his dogs do what they do best during a trial. "I'm pretty quiet in the field. You can learn a lot just by listening to your dogs," he says. "When I turn a dog loose, it's all about him or her. This is their sport."

An avid sportsman with a competitive nature, Mike got his start in the 1980s as a race-car driver. During his 15-year racing career, Mike was the Track Champion at the Fairgrounds Speedway Nashville in 1991, as well as the National Cham-



pion in the ShorTrack Division of the NASCAR Weekly Racing Series in 2000. “I thought I wanted to race cars professionally, but I never got the right break,” he recounts.

His priorities, however, had begun to shift in 1996, when Mike had a few Beagle puppies he wanted to train for rabbit hunting. He sought advice on starting puppies from some friends, who referred him to Mack Mitchell of Double M Kennels in Nashville, Tennessee. Under Mitchell’s watchful eye, Mike learned how to train pups in a starting pen.

“Mack’s dogs were speedy with excellent line control, high drive and endless stamina,” says Mike. “As Mack taught me things, the dogs showed me.”

Next was an introduction to field trialing, when Mitchell took Mike to the Music City Beagle Club Field Trial in La Vergne, Tennessee. The spirited, family friendly atmosphere was captivating.

“I thought, ‘If I’m going to start field trialing, I want to take it seriously with dogs I produce myself,’” Mike recalls. He proposed starting a line of dogs from Mitchell’s reputable breeding program. When Mitchell agreed, Mike bought two 6-week-old Double M pups. In choosing a kennel prefix, Mike’s thoughts reverted to his official race-car driver logo, a star with an “R” in the foreground. Star R was just the ticket.

Impressed by Mike’s newfound commitment to the sport, Mitchell also offered him co-ownership of a special 13-inch male, FC Double M’s Cocoa Bear. As a rookie handler during the 1998 season, Mike campaigned Cocoa to become the AKC SPO Reserve National Champion and United Beagle Gundog Federation (UBGF) Top Performing Male and Triple Challenge winner.

Extraordinary dogs capture a beagler’s heart, and Cocoa was that once-in-a-lifetime hound for Mike. “Cocoa’s only concern in life was to run a rabbit. He hunted hard with a low tail swing

As part of Mike’s socialization practice, puppies enjoy running around the yard.



A 6-week-old puppy takes a break from playing.



Mike and his wife, Peggy, built their dream kennel from the ground up.

and chop squall mouth," he reminisces fondly.

Desiring Cocoa's straight-line running ability, extreme desire, quick feet, and clean mouth in his own line, Mike bred "City" (Star R Southern City) to Cocoa, producing Star R Cocoa Moe, whom Mike campaigned to become a UBGF Derby National Champion. City's second litter, sired by FC Coleman's Controller Kid, a 13-inch male who caught Mike's eye during Cocoa's campaign, produced another UBGF Derby National Champion, FC Star R City Kid.

"After eight generations, my dogs still have City's sharp nose, intelligence and quick, straight running style. She was a solid hound," Mike says of his foundation bitch.

The early UBGF Derby National titles set the tone for Mike's beagling venture, having now won 12 National events and placed in 10. His standards are lofty, insisting his dogs have a strong competitive edge in both SPO and gundog brace field trial formats.

Such expectations-turned-accolades helped land Mike into the Hall of Fame in 2013. Just two years later, he accepted inductions on behalf of Cocoa and FC Star R Southern Sonny, the 1998 UBGF Triple Challenge winner and Top Performing Male from the 15-inch male class. In 2016, Mike stood at the podium again in honor of FC Star R

Haymaker, a standout sire who produced 30 Field Champions.

"I'm a firm believer in the saying, 'Luck is what happens when preparation meets opportunity.' You have to work really hard to be successful," he says.

Does he ever, often juggling two or three dogs to the winners pack. Chrissie and Rumor running with Mickie in the final from a nearly 100-hound class at the 2016 AKC SPO National is one such time. Insistent on handling his own hounds, Mike explains, "I need to see my dogs' performances myself, so if they're doing something I think can be improved upon, I know to run them differently in training."

Back at the kennel, a litter of 6-week-old puppies out of Mickie nestle in a 4-by-4-foot whelping box. Mike and Peggy practice hands-on puppy socialization twice daily by putting the puppies on the floor of the kennel to romp around while they clean the whelping box.

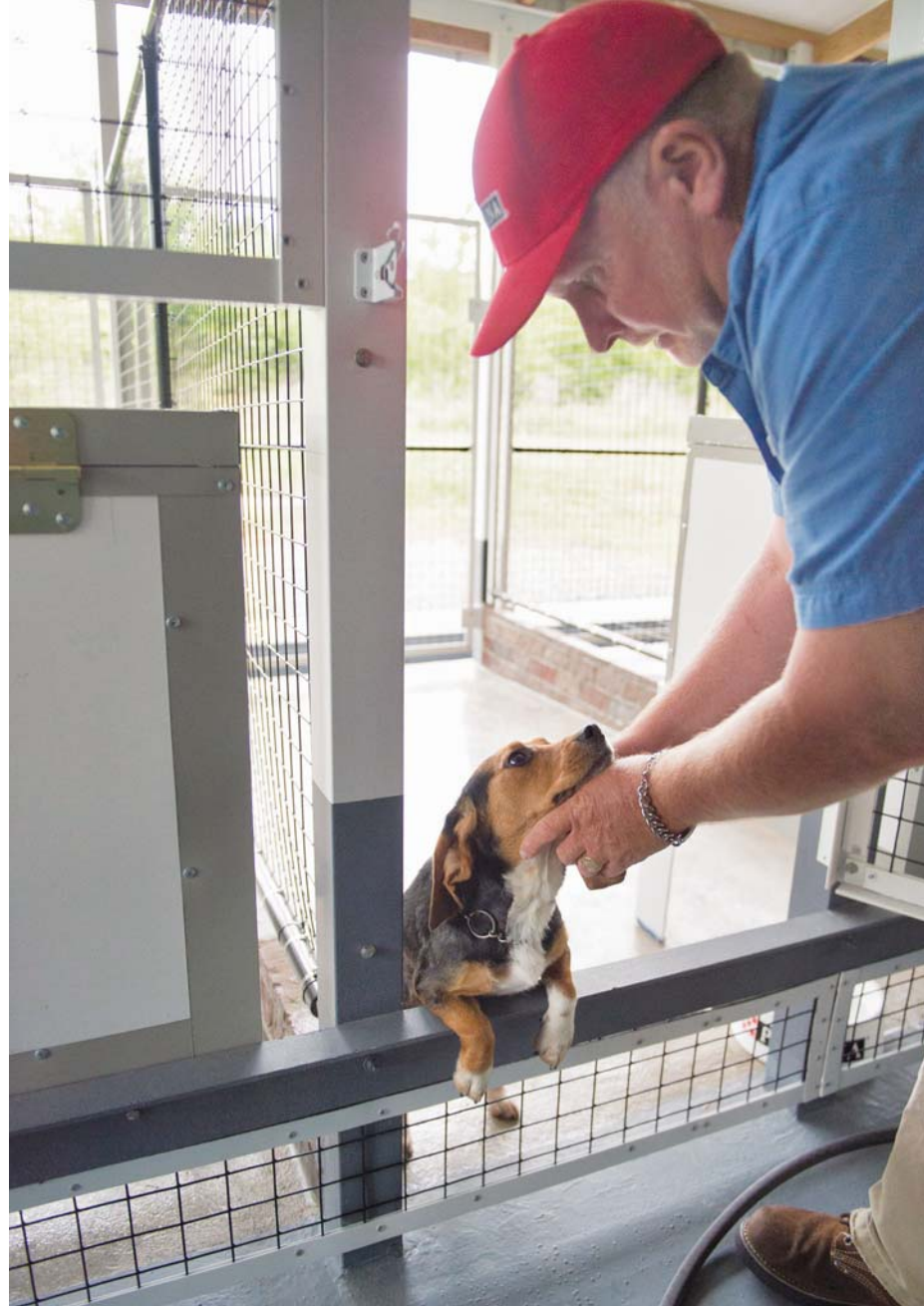
"We constantly put our hands on them and rub their heads," Mike says. "It's important to love on your dogs as much as possible so they'll respect and aim to please you."

The pure joy of molding favorable puppies into poised all-age hounds begins in a 2-acre pen, where 6-month-old pups are started on rabbits alongside resident Star R veterans, such as "Pearl" (Star R Lady Pearl), "Roxie" (NGBC FC Star R Hay Roxie) or "Martha" (FC Star R Martha E). Mike looks for natural ability, evidenced by quick, instinctive check work. Those promising females will stay with Mike for training, while the males are sold to other beaglers or given to junior handlers just getting started.

"Seeing which pups enthusiastically work a rabbit trail is like Christmas morning for me," Mike says, beaming.

Conditioning the physically mature females that will be campaigned in the coming season starts on the treadmill to build muscle and increase stamina. "Dogs start running on the treadmill for a few minutes at a time, gradually increasing to hourlong bouts over the course of six weeks," he explains. "Once they're physically prepared for field work, we run rabbits daily to maintain their prime condition."

Mike understands the importance of giving back to the sport that has given him so much enjoyment. He has served as a delegate to the



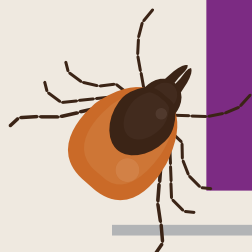
UBGF and MAB, helping establish several new local clubs. He also judges 13- and 15-inch male classes at field trials, capitalizing on the opportunity to seek out a stud dog as a potential outcross.

"As a breeder, you should be honest about your dogs' positive and negative attributes," he says. "I look for the special dogs that catch my eye and make me desire a particular trait in my own line."

Although his racing days are long behind, Mike's commitment to beagling is full throttle. He'll continue to breed and train top national field trial contenders, with a foreseeable goal of winning the coveted UBGF All-Age Championship. Reflecting on his relentless dedication and unbridled passion for the sport, Mike says, "Win or lose, at the end of the day, I'll pick up my dog, hug their neck and tell them how proud I am." ■

Mike gives Mickie, winner of the 2015 Purina Outstanding SPO Field Trial Beagle Award and the 2016 AKC SPO National Championship from the 13-inch female class, some one-on-one attention.

PROTECTING DOGS AGAINST TICKS



The peak of tick season has arrived. Outdoor dog enthusiasts should beware as this year's crop of ticks is expected to be extremely heavy due to two consecutive mild winters and an exceptionally wet spring. The best antidote to protect dogs against tick-borne diseases is to use tick preventives, screen annually for an infection and practice head-to-tail body checks after being outdoors.

Although there is no way of knowing the number of dogs infected annually by tick bites, tick-borne diseases have become a growing threat to dogs and people. Some diseases are transmitted as quickly as three to six hours after a tick bite. The possibility of a tick bite causing severe or life-threatening illness warrants being tick-smart.

New tick-borne organisms are discovered every year, and sometimes they mimic other diseases. An unusual case was diagnosed in 2012 when an 11-year-old male Scottish Terrier

thought to have T-cell lymphoma, based on the pathology and histology reports, turned out to be infected by a novel tick-borne pathogen, Panola Mountain *Ehrlichia* sp.¹ Fortunately, antibiotic therapy resolved the infection and prevented unnecessary treatment with cancer chemotherapy.

The AKC (American Kennel Club) Canine

Health Foundation

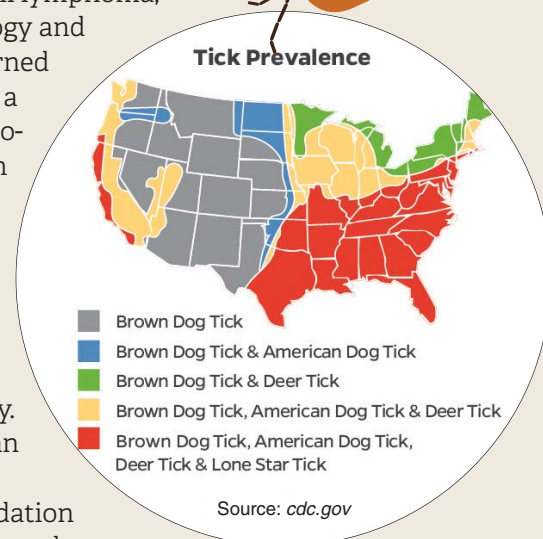
is on a mission to learn

more about diagnosing, preventing and treating dogs affected by these diseases. Having just begun the second year of its Tick-Borne Disease Initiative, the Foundation has renewed its fundraising for the cause, and the American Kennel Club will once again match gifts up to \$250,000. The goal is to repeat the \$250,000 matched in 2016.

"We are grateful to the AKC for continuing their generous match of funds raised through the Tick-Borne Disease Initiative, and we also thank the many individuals, dog clubs and foundations who supported this important initiative to help us reach our year-one goal," says Diane E. Brown, DVM, PhD, DACVP, chief executive officer of the AKC Canine Health Foundation. "We believe through this dedicated research effort, we can make a long-lasting impact on these diseases in dogs and their human companions."

The good news is that advances are helping to keep dogs safe from tick-borne diseases. Tick season doesn't have to be scary. Enjoy the outdoors with your favorite canines. ■

¹ Qurollo BA, Davenport AC, Sherbert BM, et al. Infection with Panola Mountain *Ehrlichia* sp. in a Dog with Atypical Lymphocytes and Clonal T-Cell Expansion. *Journal of Veterinary Internal Medicine*. 2013;27:1251-1255.



HOW TICKS FIND DOGS

Ever wonder what attracts ticks to dogs? Emma N.I. Weeks, PhD, assistant research scientist at the University of Florida, is studying how brown dog ticks locate dogs to get a blood meal. The most widely distributed tick in the world, and the most common in the U.S., the brown dog tick carries pathogens that cause debilitating diseases such as ehrlichiosis and babesiosis. So far, it looks like these ticks are drawn to dog odor, a blend of volatile chemicals that dogs naturally produce. The study has shown that these chemicals vary by dog breed, and thus a breed's attractiveness to brown dog ticks influences its biting rates and infestation. This five-year study, which will end in February 2018, received funding of \$104,867 from the AKC Canine Health Foundation.





Know Your Ticks & the Diseases They Carry

Tick	Disease
American Dog Tick (<i>Dermacentor variabilis</i>)	Rocky Mountain spotted fever, canine tick paralysis, tularemia
Deer Tick, also known as blacklegged tick (<i>Ixodes scapularis</i>)	Anaplasmosis, babesiosis, Lyme disease, also suspected to transmit babesiosis and ehrlichiosis
Brown dog tick (<i>Rhipicephalus sanguineus</i>)	Spotted fever rickettsioses, babesiosis, ehrlichiosis, hepatozoonosis, anaplasmosis, also suspected to transmit hemotropic mycoplasmosis and bartonellosis
Gulf Coast tick (<i>Amblyomma maculatum</i>)	Hepatozoonosis, spotted fever rickettsioses, also suspected to transmit Panola Mountain ehrlichia
Lone Star tick (<i>Amblyomma americanum</i>)	Ehrlichiosis, Rocky Mountain spotted fever
Rocky Mountain wood tick (<i>Dermacentor andersoni</i>)	Colorado tick fever, tularemia, Rocky Mountain spotted fever, canine tick paralysis
Western blacklegged tick (<i>Ixodes pacificus</i>)	Anaplasmosis, Lyme disease



American dog tick



Blacklegged tick or Deer tick



Brown dog tick



Gulf Coast tick



Lone Star tick



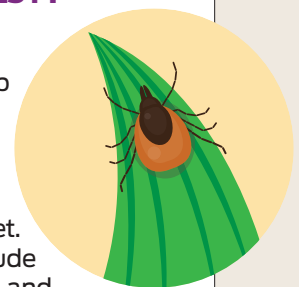
Rocky Mountain wood tick



Western black-legged tick

PREVENTING TICKS: WHAT WORKS BEST?

The idea behind tick preventives is to keep dogs safe. Although no product is 100 percent reliable, there are many good products on the market. Newer products include the eight-month flea and tick collar Seresto® and the three-month flea and tick pill Bravecto®. New monthly chewables include the tick preventive Simparica® and the flea and tick (Lone Star tick, black-legged tick, American dog tick and brown dog tick) preventive NexGard®. A vaccine for Lyme disease provides protection from this illness. Consult your veterinarian to determine the optimal product for your dog based on factors such as exposure risk, safety and frequency of swimming or bathing.



Research Currently Funded by the AKC Canine Health Foundation’s Tick-Borne Disease Initiative*

Study	Investigator	Funding
Enhanced Testing for Diagnosing Bartonellosis: Caused by 10 different <i>Bartonella</i> species, bartonellosis is a potentially life-threatening illness that can be challenging to diagnose. This study aims to develop improved blood testing for early, accurate diagnosis.	Ed Breitschwerdt, DVM, DACVIM, professor of medicine and infectious diseases at North Carolina State University	\$103,013, a one-year study ending July 31, 2017
Using Next-Generation Sequencing (NGS) for Broad-Range Detection of Tick-Borne Diseases: NGS is being used to detect new organisms and characterize genetic differences among known organisms to help develop improved diagnostic tools.	Pedro Paulo Diniz, DVM, PhD, associate professor of small animal medicine at Western University of Health Sciences	\$60,717, a one-year study ending Aug. 31, 2017
Role of Lymphocytes in Canine Monocytic Ehrlichiosis (CME): Looking at lymphocytes, a type of white blood cell, in dogs with mild and severe CME compared to nonaffected dogs to see if an increase in lymphocyte counts relates to severity of disease.	Mary Anna Thrall, DVM, MS, DACVP, professor of clinical pathology at Ross University School of Veterinary Medicine	\$15,000, a one-year study ending June 30, 2017
Prevalence, Clinical Illness and Prognosis of Lyme Disease: Dogs with Lyme disease (borreliosis) don’t always show signs, but the illness can cause severe kidney disease. This study follows dogs from across the country and Canada with a goal of developing best practices for preventing and controlling Lyme disease.	Jason Stull, VMD, MPVM, PhD, DACVPM, assistant professor of preventive medicine at The Ohio State University	\$14,148, a two-year study ending June 30, 2018
Thrombocytopenia and Vector-Borne Disease in Greyhounds: Retired racing Greyhounds are common canine blood donors, yet low platelet (thrombocytopenia) and white blood cell counts, as well as protein in the urine, are normal in the breed. As these signs correlate with infections caused by vector-borne diseases, this makes it challenging to accurately diagnose vector-borne diseases. This study compares vector-borne diseases in racing Greyhounds and show-bred Greyhounds to determine whether these signs relate to vector-borne disease.	Linda Kidd, DVM, PhD, DACVIM, associate professor of small animal internal medicine at Western University of Health Sciences	\$12,960, a one-year study ending June 30, 2017

* Funding for additional studies currently under review will be announced later this year.



A close-up, low-angle shot of a brown puppy running towards the camera on a green lawn. The puppy's mouth is open, showing its teeth, and its ears are flapping. The background is a blurred outdoor setting.

EARLY PUPPY SOCIALIZATION IS ESSENTIAL

**BY BARBARA FAWVER
AND MARGARETT WOLF**

Texas Trace Boykin Spaniel breeder Greg Copeland of Hempstead, Texas, is a puppy expert. His 20 years' breeding the affable, rugged little hunting spaniel, also known as the state dog of South Carolina, has given him hands-on knowledge about what's involved in raising healthy, happy, beautiful, well-bred puppies.



Greg Copeland, who breeds Boykin Spaniels under the Texas Trace prefix, and his wife, Michelle, are shown with 6-week-old puppies.

"Behavior can be inherited, but dogs also are a product of their environment," Copeland says. "Early socialization is critical, but this foundation must continue with the new puppy owner. Puppy behaviors will persist into adulthood if left without training and direction. Undesirable behaviors left unchecked will worsen, and positive behaviors need to be nurtured and reinforced."

Socialization from 4 to 8 weeks of age, often defined as the critical early socialization age, is of paramount importance to breeders. Since puppies typically start going to new homes around 8 weeks of age, breeders' efforts to introduce puppies to diversified experiences and stimuli to prepare for the transition can be pivotal.

Cindy Nunneley Biehler, a 20-year breeder of Irish Wolfhounds in Independence, Kansas, says, "I strongly believe that early socialization is key to how an Irish Wolfhound puppy turns out. Genetics play a huge role, too. A dog with solid temperament will pass those genes on to his offspring, and a sound bitch will not only pass on good genetics, but also teach her puppies to be confident."

Genetics and environment interact in complex ways, explains Kathryn Lord, PhD, postdoctoral associate at the University of Massachusetts Medical School, who is studying the genetics of social behavior in dogs compared to wolves. "Wolves start walking two weeks earlier than

dogs, and walking is the start of the critical period of socialization,” she says. “Although both species have a four-week primary socialization period, dogs have all their sensory perceptions during this time, while wolves have their sense of hearing for only three weeks of this period and their vision for only two weeks.”

Dr. Lord’s research, which began in 2004 and is ongoing, has involved studying the behavioral responses of wolf and canine pups during these critical socialization periods. She presented an abstract of her work in May at the Purina-sponsored International Conference on Canine and Feline Genetics and Genomics in Saint Paul, Minnesota.

“The earlier occurrence of this critical socialization in wolf pups means that they have a narrower set of information during the time their brains are most highly malleable, or shapeable,” says Dr. Lord. “We hypothesize that this



Irish Wolfhound breeder Cindy Nunneley Biehler cradles an 8-week-old puppy.

PUPPY SOCIALIZATION TOOLBOX			EXPOSE PUPPIES
TAKE TIME to nurture and handle each puppy several times a day	INTRODUCE PUPPIES to the world outside the whelping box — new people, new dogs and new places — ensuring they have positive interactions by using common sense and safety considerations		early to household noises such as the vacuum cleaner, blow dryer, blender, washing machine, and clothes dryer, and to outdoor noises such as the tractor, lawnmower, weed eater, blower, and all-terrain vehicles
LEAVE LIGHT MUSIC PLAYING whenever you are not at home for a calming effect			IF YOUR BREED IS A HUNTING/SPORTING breed, start early gradually introducing loud sounds such as banging on pots and pans to reduce fear of noise
AFTER PUPPIES HAVE HAD THEIR VACCINATIONS, take them along on your excursions whenever you can and be sure to bring treats for training and dog baggies for waste			WELCOME VISITORS including adults, children, babies, and seniors, and teach them how to properly handle puppies
SOCIALIZATION DOES NOT EXPIRE. You should continue exposing dogs to new experiences throughout their lives			



simple shift in developmental timing could be due to small changes in gene regulation, yet have a major effect on adult behavior. We have just begun a genome-wide study to identify these genes.”

SHAPING PUPPY SOCIAL SKILLS

Breeders who work to shape puppies’ social skills are instrumental in helping them become well-adapted adult dogs. “Puppies that we notice as not being as outgoing or not having as much drive are the ones we spend more time with in controlled situations,” says Copeland. “It makes a difference. We are usually successful in getting them to be more engaged.”

Taking dogs out of their whelping box environment is essential. “We practice comprehensive socialization with our Boykin puppies,” Copeland continues. “This means they meet lots of new people, new dogs and new places, and we safely expose them to stimuli such as household and outdoor noises and a wide range of surfaces from grass and gravel to carpet and tile. They experience riding in cars and all-terrain vehicles.”

As for her gentle giant Wolfhound puppies, Nunneley Biehler says, “From the time puppies are born, they are exposed to soft music and being held every day. At 4 weeks, I start teaching simple commands, such as ‘come,’ ‘sit’ and ‘wait.’”

Like Copeland, she introduces household and outdoor noises and lets puppies experience delivery trucks, the mail carrier and people coming and going to her house. “By 5 or 6 weeks old, they have really come into their own personalities,” she says. “These Wolfhounds get big — males may weigh 250 pounds and be 38 inches at the withers — so their having an easygoing temperament and being properly socialized are important in helping them become adaptable.”

Both agree that the best part of being a dog breeder is producing puppies that people fall in love with as a member of their family. “I love raising Irish Wolfhound puppies and making friends for a lifetime from all over the world,” Nunneley Biehler says. “I strive to preserve the breed and produce all-around quality Irish Wolfhounds that families consider the perfect pets.”

“We get the greatest pleasure from the gift of love and companionship that a Boykin Spaniel puppy provides a family. This is why we raise puppies,” Copeland says. ■



HEALTHY HYDRATION HELPS DOGS BEAT HEAT STRESS

The dog days of summer don't have to be unbearable. Practicing healthy hydration and understanding the signs of heat stress and how to deal with it can help reduce the dangers of overheating in your active and hardworking dogs.

Keep in mind that dehydration can occur rapidly. Dogs that exercise 30 to 60 minutes at 70 to 80 degrees can experience mild to moderate dehydration, depending on the activity and the intensity. Among the effects of dehydration

is an impaired ability to maintain a normal body temperature.

The most common risk to a working dog is an excessive increase in body temperature causing heat stress. The level of crisis ranges from simply making a dog uncomfortable to a life-threatening situation.

Most dogs are very good at controlling their body temperature — *until their temperature goes past a critical level.*

When this happens, even after the dog's temperature is lowered back into the safe range, the dog may experience permanent inability to regulate its body temperature as well as before overheating.

Here are some tips to help you take the heat out of summer.

DIFFERENCES BETWEEN SIGNS OF HEAT STRESS & HEATSTROKE

Heat Stress

- Shade-seeking behavior
- Lethargy
- Heavy panting, possibly with tongue curled up
- Lack of coordination
- Loss of focus & motivation for training
- Squinting of the eyes

Heatstroke

- Distressed & anxious behavior
- Profuse, thick drooling
- Extreme panting
- Vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Gums & tongue may turn dark pink or bright red

HYDRATION TIPS

MONITOR A WORKING DOG FOR SIGNS OF HEAT STRESS AND DEHYDRATION

TO SLOW DEHYDRATION, A DOG SHOULD BE GIVEN SMALL AMOUNTS OF WATER EVERY 15 TO 20 MINUTES WHEN WORKING AND ESPECIALLY DURING EVENTS LASTING LONGER THAN 60 MINUTES

TRY COOLING YOUR DOG BY PERIODICALLY SQUIRTING HIM OR HER WITH A SPRAY BOTTLE OR MISTER. THE WETNESS ON THE COAT HAS A COOLING EFFECT AS IT EVAPORATES

WATER RULES

ALWAYS GIVE AN OVERHEATED DOG **COOL WATER**

rather than ice water, which could cause the dog to cool down too quickly. Ice water can cause blood vessels to constrict, which slows blood flow to the brain and the cooling process

TO BOOST WATER CONSUMPTION, **TRY BAITING WATER WITH LOW-SODIUM CHICKEN BROTH**

to encourage drinking or try mixing a few food kibbles with water and adding chicken broth

USE RUNNING WATER — A FAUCET OR HOSE — TO WET DOWN A DOG'S BODY.

NEVER SUBMERGE

A DOG IN WATER, as this could cause a dog to cool too rapidly and lead to other problems

**AFTER WORKING, MAKE SURE
A DOG HAS ACCESS TO WATER,**
BUT WAIT UNTIL A DOG'S PANTING
SLOWS DOWN BEFORE ALLOWING
THE DOG TO DRINK A LARGE VOLUME
OF WATER



Dr. Brian Zanghi and his Labrador Retriever "Aspen"

WATER AS A NUTRIENT

Did you know that water is the most essential nutrient? This is because water supports many physiological functions, helps to remove metabolic waste and establishes a complex body-fluid matrix that underlies all metabolic processes.

At the Purina Companion Animal Nutrition Summit held in May in Vancouver, Canada, Purina Senior Nutrition Scientist Brian Zanghi, PhD, explained that hydration is a dynamic process between water intake and loss in which there is no consensus on how to define optimal hydration in dogs.

"Many factors influence a dog's daily water loss and hydration," Dr. Zanghi says. "These include a dog's environment, health condition, age, physical activity, water availability, and diet. Without a doubt, a dog's body water is in constant flux, thus regulation of water balance and thirst-driven water intake is necessary to replenish the persistent evaporative loss of water through respiration, skin and coat, and urine, saliva and feces."

The bottom line, Dr. Zanghi advises, is that "dogs should always have fresh water available to help establish true hydration."

DOGS' COMPLEX CIRCULATION

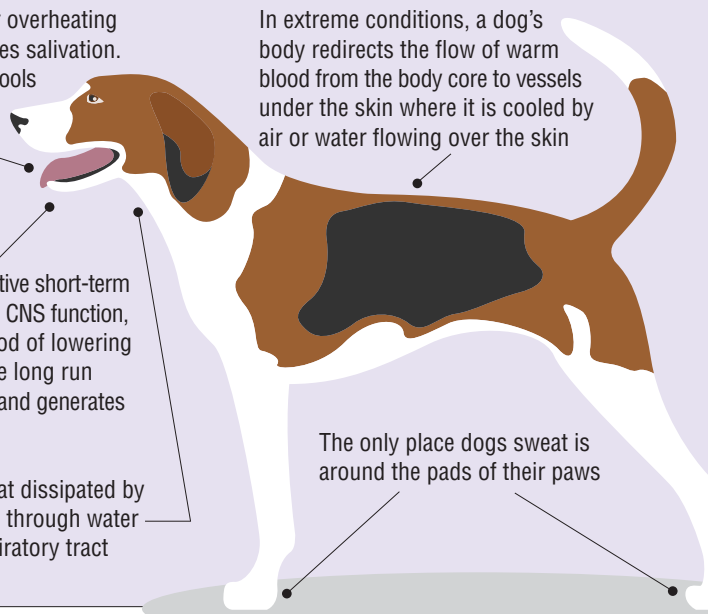
A dog compensates for overheating by panting, which causes salivation. As saliva evaporates, it cools the blood going to the brain, helping to maintain central nervous system (CNS) functioning

While panting is an effective short-term solution to help maintain CNS function, it is an inefficient method of lowering body temperature in the long run because it uses energy and generates additional heat

About 60 percent of heat dissipated by dogs during exercise is through water evaporation in the respiratory tract

In extreme conditions, a dog's body redirects the flow of warm blood from the body core to vessels under the skin where it is cooled by air or water flowing over the skin

The only place dogs sweat is around the pads of their paws



TRAINERS SHOULD CARRY A RECTAL OR EAR THERMOMETER THAT CAN BE USED DURING TRAINING



MONITOR YOUR DOG'S TEMPERATURE

A DOG'S BODY TEMPERATURE IS NORMALLY BETWEEN

100 TO 102.5
DEGREES

TAKE YOUR DOG'S TEMPERATURE AT THE FIRST SIGN OF DISTRESS OR AFTER EXERCISE. IF IT IS ABOVE 105 DEGREES, START COOLING DOWN YOUR DOG RIGHT AWAY

IMMEDIATELY AFTER HARD WORK, A SPORTING DOG'S TEMPERATURE MAY BE AS HIGH AS 107 DEGREES. WITHIN 5 MINUTES, THE TEMPERATURE SHOULD DECLINE TO BELOW 104 DEGREES

IF A DOG'S TEMPERATURE REMAINS ABOVE 104 DEGREES,

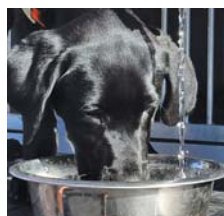
THE DOG IS LIKELY SUFFERING FROM HEAT STRESS AND REQUIRES IMMEDIATE VETERINARY CARE

HOW TO HELP AN OVERHEATED DOG

FIRST,
COOL DOWN YOUR DOG,
and then work on
restoring hydration

APPLY COOL WATER
to the foot pads

IF POSSIBLE, TRY TO KEEP THE DOG MOVING by encouraging standing or walking slowly. The circulating blood tends to pool in certain areas if a dog is lying down, thus preventing the cooled blood from circulating back to the core



ALLOW THE DOG TO DRINK SMALL AMOUNTS OF WATER, **BUT DO NOT LET THE DOG GULP WATER,** AS DRINKING TOO MUCH WATER TOO RAPIDLY COULD CAUSE VOMITING

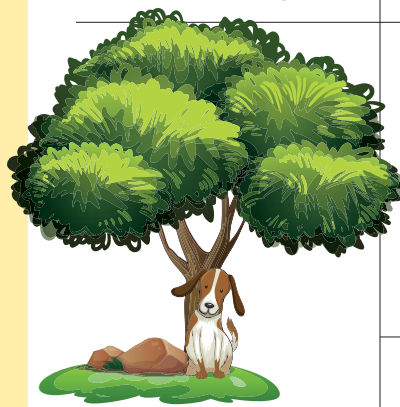
USE COOL WATER

under the dog's front legs and in the groin area where there is a higher concentration of large blood vessels to aid cooling

DO NOT COVER A DOG WITH A WET TOWEL OR BLANKET, as you want to be sure the water can evaporate and this inhibits evaporation by creating a sauna effect

After wetting down a dog, do not put the dog in an enclosed kennel, as this reduces air flow that would benefit the cooling process

SITTING WITH A WET DOG IN A VEHICLE WITH THE AIR CONDITIONER BLOWING HELPS COOLING



GET THE DOG INTO SHADE OUT OF DIRECT SUNLIGHT



Circle of Champions



'JANGO' SHINES AS NO. 1 SPANISH WATER DOG

A spunky, athletic 4-year-old brown-and-white particolored Spanish Water Dog called "Jango" has claimed top titles in the breed as well as the hearts of his owners. Multi-BIS/Multi-BISS GCH Jango CM2, the No. 1 Spanish Water Dog in the country since 2015 and No. 7 Herding dog, won consecutive Bests of Breed at the Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show in 2016 and 2017. Owners Faith Ott and Janet Rahn of Dog Gone Sensational Kennel in Ridgeland, South Carolina, noticed Jango's effortless gait and animated personality when he was 5 months old, recognizing his natural potential to do well in the show ring. Rahn started campaigning Jango in 2014, but when the dog's career started taking off in December 2015 hired pro handler Nina Fetter of Lima, Ohio, who has campaigned him to two Bests in Show and 26 Herding Group Firsts. "Jango is a wonder dog and lives for the applause," says Fetter. "We are truly so blessed to have him." Jango is fed *Purina Pro Plan SPORT* Performance 30/20 Formula.

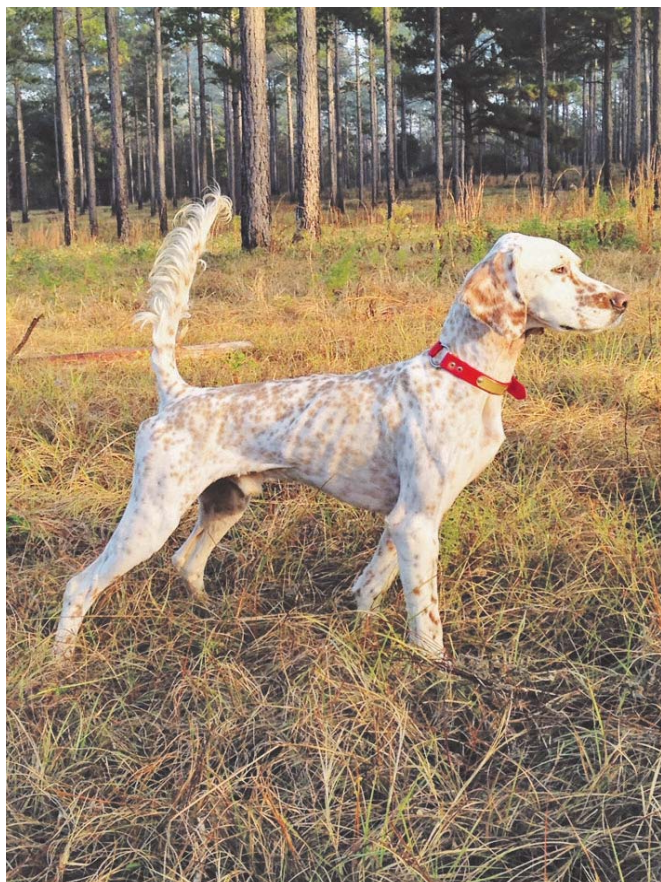
"Jango," the No. 1 Spanish Water Dog in the country since 2015, became the first American-bred Spanish Water Dog to be shown at the Crufts Dog Show in Birmingham, England, in 2016.

TRAILBLAZER 'AMAZE' SETS RECORD AS TOP SIBERIAN BITCH IN HISTORY

A mischievous and endlessly energetic 4-year-old Siberian Husky called "Amaze" has set a record as the winningest bitch in breed history with 22 Bests in Show. Among her notable wins, AM/CAN Multi-BIS/Multi-BISS GCH Nanook's This Girl Is On Fire took Best of Breed at the Siberian Husky Club of America National Specialty in 2015. "Amaze is the result of 30 years of conscientious purebred breeding. Her grand-sires (AM/CAN Multi-BIS/Multi-BISS GCH Karnovanda's Niklas Wolf and AM/CAN/AUST Multi-BIS/Multi-BISS GCH Pvt Stk's Fire In the Sky) combined have more than 200 Bests in Show and dozens of Bests in Specialty Show in Canada, America and Australia," says handler Laura King of Milan, Illinois. Before beginning her U.S. show career, Amaze was a member of a pleasure sledding team led by breeder Annette Dionne of Nanook Siberian Huskies in Swan Hills, Alberta, Canada, proving Amaze is a hardworking athlete as well as conformation champion. Co-owned by Dionne and Correen Pacht and Marc Ralsky, all of Toronto, Amaze is fed *Purina Pro Plan FOCUS* Sensitive Skin & Stomach Formula.

"Amaze," the No. 1 Siberian Husky bitch in all-breed competition, has a rambunctious personality that complements her intense competitiveness in the show ring.





Far-ranging and elegant, an English Setter named “Jack” won the Continental Open All-Age Championship.



“Mike,” a steady and hard-charging Pointer, was named Runner-Up Champion at the Continental.

ENGLISH SETTER ‘JACK’ AND POINTER ‘MIKE’ WIN 2017 CONTINENTAL CHAMPIONSHIP

In a mesmerizing finale to the 2017 Continental Open All-Age Championship, held this past January at the historic Dixie Plantation in Greenville, Florida, a statuesque English Setter called “Jack” and consistent Pointer named “Mike” wowed the judges and gallery to emerge as Champion and Runner-Up Champion, respectively.

The 122nd running of the prestigious Continental, lasting 10 days, came down to the last brace of the final series. In the hotly contested, nearly two-hour callback, Awsum in Motion and Just Watch ran with class, style and stamina to top 74 all-age bird dogs. The pair searched independently and powerfully across the vast countryside in a cover-dense course looping through ponds and heavy timber. Masterfully handled by fellow pros and friends Luke Eisenhart of Albany, Georgia, and Jamie Daniels of Bronwood, Georgia, Jack and Mike finished with three quail finds each, but it was Jack who was far to the front when time expired, a fitting end to a grand performance.

“I came to see a show, and from the minute Jack and Mike were turned loose, they put on once-in-a-lifetime performances,” says judge Mike Jackson of Lafayette, Indiana. “Both dogs stood out for their hard drive, spot-on bird-finding ability, and smooth, crisp style, but Jack had just a touch farther range.”

“Jack is a bold, far-ranging dog who only stops to point game with a 12 o’clock tail and beautiful flag,” Eisenhart says. The third English Setter in history to win the esteemed event, Jack, a 4-year-old white-and-orange male, is co-owned by breeders Bill and Marge Ricci of Powhatan, Virginia, with John and Elizabeth Fort of Camden, South Carolina.

Daniels, who campaigns the 3-year-old white-and-liver male Pointer for owners Jack and Tracy Haines of Broomfield, Colorado, says, “Mike never faltered. He’s a magnificent, big-running dog with excellent focus. Both dogs were worthy of the title.”

Jack and Mike are fed *Purina Pro Plan SPORT* Performance 30/20 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*.

LABRADOR RETRIEVER PURINA AWARD WINNERS ARE 'BULLET,' 'IVY' AND 'FLEX'



NFC-AFC Robber's Stray Bullet, the Purina Outstanding Field Trial Retriever



NAFC-FC Dottie Ray's Ivy League, the Purina Outstanding Amateur Field Trial Retriever



Flawless Execution – FLEX, the Purina Outstanding Derby Field Trial Retriever

Three talented and deserving Labrador Retrievers were honored in May as the 2016 Purina Outstanding Retriever Award winners. Enthusiasts gathered in St. Cloud, Minnesota, to applaud the accomplishments of the country's top field trial retrievers.

In a historic achievement, "Bullet" (NFC-AFC Robber's Stray Bullet) became the first three-time winner of the Purina Outstanding Open Retriever Award by earning 40.5 points and winning five Open stakes. "Bullet is a delight to handle, as he is intelligent, sensitive to correction, and eager to please. He's a remarkable dog," says owner Hank McNeil of Philadelphia, who co-handled the 9-year-old male with pro Alan Pleasant of Black River Retrievers in Angier, North Carolina, who became a four-time Purina Award winner with Bullet's win. Bullet was bred by Dan Hurst of Bullard, Texas.

"Ivy," a 9-year-old female, went from calm and collected to all business each time she stepped to the line, garnering 31 points in five Amateur stake wins to capture the Purina Outstanding Amateur Retriever Award. Bred by Rodger and Donna Fangsrud of Missoula, Montana, NAFC-FC Dottie Ray's Ivy League is

owned by Andy and Shirley Kahn of Roseburg, Oregon. "Ivy is a mentally sharp dog with a huge heart and endless drive. The tougher the trial, the greater her focus," says Andy Kahn, Ivy's handler.

A confident, hardworking 2-year-old male called "Flex" powered through his first field trial season, earning 55 points and winning 13 Derby stakes to secure the Purina Outstanding Derby Retriever Award. Co-bred by Wendy Buckler of Madison, Maryland, and Newt and Karen Cropper of Ocean City, Maryland, Flawless Execution - FLEX is co-owned by Johnny and Kathy Armstrong of Winston-Salem, North Carolina, and Jane McCullough of Chester, Maryland. Johnny Armstrong, who co-handled Flex with Jason Baker of Baker Retrievers in Lincolnton, Georgia, says, "Flex is steady and focused on the line. He's just as eager to work on the last retrieve of a trial as he is the first." ■

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Breed Snapshot

BOXER: A GERMAN-BRED WORKING DOG

A loyal companion breed, the Boxer was developed in Germany in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Many generations of selective breeding, from crossing descendants of English Bulldogs, "Trutzel" and "Tom," with Germany's stocky Bullenbeisser hunting hound, resulted in the medium-sized, square-built Boxer known today. Noble and highly intelligent, the Boxer ranked as the 10th most popular breed in the country in 2016, based on American Kennel Club registrations.

With his proud, dignified appearance, the Boxer combines power and agility, and has been called the "middleweight athlete of dogdom." Historically, his purpose has included working as a cattle dog for cattle dealers and butchers, performing in circuses and serving as a military and courier dog. The Boxer was one of the first guide dogs for the blind and is used today in multifaceted police work, as seizure-alert dogs, herding dogs, and therapy dogs.

The origin of the Boxer name is not certain, though it may relate to the breed's characteristic gestures using the front feet as a boxer uses his gloved fists in a fight. Playful into his senior years, the Boxer is beloved for his devotion to his family and high tractability, making him easily trainable. Males are 23 to 25 inches tall at the withers, and females are 21 ½ to 23 ½ inches tall. The Boxer may be varying shades of fawn or brindle, with a black mask or black mask with white markings. White markings are acceptable on the body, providing they do not exceed one-third of the coat color.

Sources: *The Complete Dog Book*, Official Publication of the American Kennel Club, i-5 Publishing, Irvine, CA. 2015, and akc.org

