

February 10, 1975

To Directors, N.R.S.F.T.C.

Gentlemen:

I have given much thought to Mr. Flyth's letters on crossbreeding. We as elected directors of the NRSFTC not only have the duty, but the responsibility to the club membership to establish far sighted goals and policies.

In years past it seemed we had a great influx of new members. Lately, the membership seems to have been on the decline. It is my opinion, that we must do something to regenerate interest in the Red Setter and the NRSFTC.

It is for this reason that I propose the following program. This is a ten year program starting in the spring of 1976.

1. In the spring of 1976 the NRSFTC puppy stake be open to crossbred setters.
2. In the fall of 1976 the NRSFTC puppy and derby stakes be open to crossbred setters.
3. In the spring of 1977 all NRSFTC stakes including the Championship and futurity be open to crossbred setters.
4. In the spring of 1986 only dogs registered with the F.D.S.B. as Irish Setters are eligible to run in NRSFTC stakes.

Eligibility requirements for crossbred setters to run in NRSFTC stakes.

1. Either the sire or dam must be registered with the F.D.S.B. as an Irish Setter.
2. The dog must be predominately red or red and white. No all white, white and orange, white and black, or tri-colored crossbred setters are eligible to run in any NRSFTC stakes.

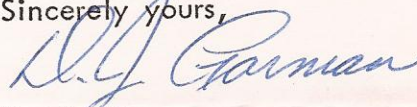
Gentlemen, I fully realize this may be a big step, but I feel it is a step we must consider. Already a few Red Setter clubs have opened their Irish Setter stakes to crossbred setters. The name of our club implies that our dogs are not all Irish Setter. Lets be above board and honest with ourselves, many of our members are breeding crossbred setters and registering them a Irish Setters. I feel, these men are honest men with integrity, but their desire to improve the breed and to win with a Red Setter is causing them to be dishonest. Let's also face this fact; there are some mebers who are more interested in the commercial aspect of the Red Setter than they are in improving the breed. Today there is very little commercial value in a crossbred setter; mainly, because a crossbred setter is not eligible to run in NRSFTC stakes. When a man crossbreeds he usually takes a financial loss. He can only retain the puppies that are dark red. Personally I feel, these men are doing far more for the breed than the man who operates a puppy factory.

I know the first argument that will come up against this crossbred program. Yes, we may lose a few members that are die in the wool Irish Setter folks. But what of all the new members that we may gain. If someone is genuinely interested in the future of the Red Setter, he soon will come back to the NRSFTC. What are we interested in, a large membership or the improvement of the bred?

I think we will gain the respect of the bird dog fraternity if we institute this crossbreed program.

If our objective is to have a Red Setter that can compete in all breed competition, we must give a program of this type our serious consideration.

Sincerely yours,



D. J. Garman