

Hunting Dog

"The Monthly Authority On Sporting Dogs"

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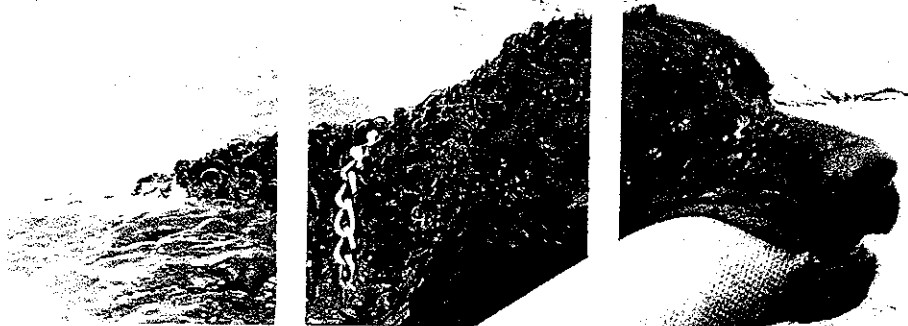
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Volume 14, Number 5, June 1979

This Month In Hunting Dog

THE BREAKAWAY/George R. Quigley	4
ASK THE EDITORS	6
THE AMERICAN BRITTANY /Nicky Bissell	10
PROFILE: HOLLEN CHANDLER/Dennis Walrod	12
GAINES SEMINAR/Cam Rogers	15
THE DREAM FULFILLED: LITTLE PHOEBE C./J.B. Owen, Jr.	18
PURINA PHOTO CONTEST WINNERS/Cam Rogers	21
OHIO VALLEY RETRIEVER TRIAL/George Robey, III	22
SPOTLIGHT	25
WOODCOCK FOR SPRING TRAINING/Michael Langdon	26
CANINE MEDICINE: OVABAN/Cam Rogers	29
ASK THE VET/Dr. Tim Henehan, D.V.M.	30
FIELD TRIAL HALL OF FAME	32
SPRINGERS AFIELD: A FEW OF YOUR FAVORITE THINGS Russ Kranich	33
WELSH SPRINGERS IN THE FIELD/C. Rice Deets	36
RETRIEVER NOTES/Arthur Beaman	38
NATIONAL HUNTING AND FISHING DAY/Cam Rogers	39
POINT!/Don Wood	40
THE SHOOTING SPORTS: HOW TO OPEN AND CLOSE A BARBED WIRE GATE/Jack Douglas Mitchell	41
WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT: NESTING PLACES/N.B. Cole	42
NATIONAL CHUKAR CHAMPIONSHIP/Helen Willard	45

OUR COVER: *Little Phoebe C.*, owned by *Bob Cole of Sparta, Tennessee.*
Photo by England Studios, Sparta, Tenn.

America's Award Winning Magazine

1966, Honorable Mention, Best Breed Magazine: Dog Writers Assn. of America • 1966, Best Column by a Professional Writer, "Ask Herm" by Herm David: Dog Writers Assn. of America • 1966, Honorable Mention, Best Article by a Professional Writer, "A Yank Tramps Southern Swamps" by Earl Fink: Dog Writers Assn. of America • 1966, Honorable Mention, Editorial, "Dog Week," Games Pet Care Center • 1967, Honorable Mention, Best Breed Magazine: Dog Writers Assn. of America • 1967, Dog Writer of the Year, Herm David, Gaines Pet Care Center: elected by Dog Writers Assn. of America • 1967, Best Article by a Non-professional Writer, "No Hunting" by Tom Wood: Dog Writers Assn. of America • 1968, Best Article by a Non-professional Writer, "Pedigrees" by Dr. James G. McCue: Dog Writers Assn. of America • 1971 Annual Hunting-Conservation Award, presented to *Hunting Dog Magazine* and George R. Quigley by the Palm Beach County Florida Wildlife Conservation League • 1973, Annual Hunting-Conservation Award, presented to *Hunting Dog Magazine* and George R. Quigley by the Palm Beach County Florida Wildlife Conservation League • 1973, National Sporting Dog Writers Association, Best Sporting Dog Publication Award • 1975, Honorable Mention, Roy Speece, *Hunting Dog Magazine*, Dog Writers Association of America • 1975, Best Color Photo Award, George R. Quigley, Outdoor Writers Association of Ohio • 1975, Best Feature Award, Robert W. Charlton, Outdoor Writers Association of Ohio • 1976, Best All-Breed Magazine, Dog Writers Association of America • 1976, Certificate of Merit, feature series "Canine Medicine" by Frank L. Johnson, D.V.M., Dog Writers Association of America • 1976, Best Black and White Photo Award, "Canoe Camping" by George R. Quigley, Outdoor Writers Association of Ohio • 1977, Best Series in a Magazine, "Canine Medicine" by Dr. Terry Henehan, D.V.M.: Dog Writers Association of America • 1977, Best Short Story, "Buddy" by Doris Fisher Harris: Dog Writers Association of America • 1977, Certificate of Merit, Short Story, "Show 'Em Who's Boss," by James Evans: Dog Writers Association of America • 1977, Honorable Mention, Short Story, "Certain Time, Certain Place" by Elizabeth Hartley, Dog Writers Association of America.

POINT!

Don Wood

"Wow, that's a handsome dog. What a beautiful picture he'd make on point."

"That's an Irish Setter. You have to be careful with the Irish, some of them have all of the hunt bred out of them. They sure do look nice, it would be great if you could be sure you'd get one that would hunt."

The lovers of the Irish Setters find themselves in this situation. Some years ago one group of Irish fanciers saw the problem and cross bred good hunting Irish to English Setters. This outcross is doing very well from a hunter's and field trialer's point of view; however, the Red Setter lacks that great beauty that holds the Irish lovers close to the breed.

Edward Treutel, president of the Irish Setter Club of America, has formulated a different solution to the problem. The ISCA has established a *Versatile* award that requires a dog to show a certain level of proficiency in obedience, field, and bench. Ed hopes that this program will make the participant more aware of the total dog and not just the development of one phase of the dog at the expense of other attributes.

How is the six month old program working? I called Ed to find out about the program.

"Well, Don, as you know the main purpose of the *Versatile* Certificate is as stated in our booklet."

"The *Versatile* Certificate program is a combined exhibition of breed, obedience, and field, leading to the development of the full potential of the breed as outlined in the breed ring, the obedience trial, the field trial and certified in the AKC Standard."

"The field portion of the test requires that the dog hunt boldly, find and point game. Derby rules are basically applied to this portion of the test. The conformation or bench portion is guided by a scale of points that emphasize how the dog is put together. The obedience test is four of the standard CD obedience tests and consists of heel free, stand stay, recall, and down stay.

"I feel that any dog that can pass these tests is a well rounded animal and a tribute to the breed."

"Ed, what activities have taken place or are planned," I asked.

"We had a trial in Texas a few weeks ago. The entry was small but the group enthusiastic. I've got a great trial next week in New England, there are over 50 dogs in the field portion and 30 more in obedience and breed. The New England group has

been holding training sessions all spring getting ready for this trial. I've got to send the California group more information. I'm sure they'll be strong once they get started."

"Ed, you seem to have activity all over the country," I replied. "It's not concentrated in one or two clubs."

"You bet, Don. Considering the age of the program I'm very pleased with the response. I sure wish that I could attend the trial in New England. I suggest that you contact Rebecca Higgins up in Needham, Massachusetts, after the trial. I think that the performance at that trial will be a better barometer of the program than anything I can say."

"We had one dog, Ch. Millbrook Brier Rose, complete her requirements for her *Versatile* Certificate. However, only five dogs out of 54 passed their field test. The dogs were judged on derby standards and many of them just didn't have enough training. We have another trial coming up on May 19-20, and I expect a good turnout. The club in Maine is supposed to have a trial later in May. That will give us three trials in this section of the country this spring. I hope that the dogs will give stronger performances in these later trials."

I was disappointed with the results of the ISCNE trial. However, when I consider the size of the problem the results are not surprising. The enthusiasm of the group is encouraging and if it continues will change poor performance into good.

The ISCA has recognized a problem and has taken steps to correct it. The *Versatile* award creates a program where the Irish Setter can participate. The award also gives breeders the opportunity to insist on *Versatile* Certificates for dogs that they use in their breeding programs. The breeder is the only one that can turn the tide so that the handsome Irish become the handsome hunting Irish.

SCATTER SHOT

John MacDonald, of Sorrento, Florida, called me and stated that he wanted to use the "start 'em young" system on his next litter of puppies. I gladly sent him a copy of all the information I have on the subject. He had a problem similar to the one I had where he lost at least a season on "his best in 25 years," trying to get his big running pointer under control. Amen.



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