

Oct. 15, 1971

Dear Bob:

Your points and advice on breeding is most appreciated. The more ideas the ~~get~~ the better. One man can't think of them all. And you are beginning to think in the right direction (Long hairs)

Bob, this is essentially just what I did in 1953-1954, and periodically, every now and again, until 1960.

And again, Bob, what do you think we just did with the stud dog you thought you guessed? We took one of the young Red bitches, belonging to Dave, and bred her to a 5 times shooting dog Champion. Out of this mating 2 females look pretty good as of now. These we will breed back to a young Red stud, such as my Red man, or Bozer's stud, or Little Red, or

Star Head's stud.

also we have 2 short haired males that look pretty good. These we can breed to Anyones bitches, and they will get 50% long hairs, and probably some that might be pretty well colored. There would be some white ones also, that could be given away or destroyed, depend in on whether their hair was long or short. The trick is to get a decent break in the 50% long hair being colored.

As to Ulrich's dogs, I was never very much impressed with them. I did not like Jimmy K, as he, in my opinion, was a counterfit. (Rusty would differ, I am sure, and so would Schret) He had great range, but did not hunt a lick. Also did not handle. Did have style.

Again I have a colossal fear of trimidity, and the fact that it breeds on. In fact I have thought about breeding to that stud of Friersons that kills pigs; the one he says is the toughest dog he has ever seen, as I believe he is big Paladin Royal Her.

Bird dog history is filled with stories of some litters being far better than others, even though same sire and dam were used. <sup>it's the way the genes line up that controls.</sup>

Whenever you embark on a new cross-breeding program you need lots of well colored stock to come back to. This you must have. You can pick up the tail cracking, range, etc. from the other partner, it is not necessary that they both have the characteristics. One parent only will give you enough variation.

As to Vitomic Butch, he has not exactly been a world beater. I have researched his race, and he has not done too much winning, say like Oklahoma Flush, Red Water Ref, Piggins White Knight, etc. Also Bob, I am not trying to breed All Age dogs. If I were, I would go to one of the ones I named, probably Paladin's Royal Flush, since most any old Paladin "heavy" or concentrated sire, will throw long hairs occasionally. They all go back to Air Pilot, I am who had 94 crosses back to Hard Cash who was really by Antonio (Hewellin) and 14 crosses to Alford's John who was really by Count Whitestone (Hewellin). These two setters are primarily responsible for the revival of the old slow plodding Pointer, as he was

My experience over the years has been that both the Irish setter and the English setter have way too much timidity, so why use, in a breeding program, one that you know is timid, no matter why she's timid? Could be lack of socialization.

I had certainly rather breed from a bold dog that does not crack his tail, than from a timid dog that does. Of course it would be best to breed to a tail cracking dog who was also bold. But this can come from the outcross parent.

In every litter I have ever bred, whether they be Pointers, English or Irish setters, some crack their tail, and some don't. Then some who don't eventually do, when a lot of birds are shot over them.

Also you say, why breed another litter, if you already have bred one, because you know what will be in the second litter. This is all wrong. Air Pilot Sammy, in his famous litter, sired 5 champions in one litter and 3 others were trial winners. The next litter to the same bitch there were no champions and only one had a minor win.

before the turn of the century. Anytime you see a dog that has several crosses to Paladin or Palamonium you can bet that if he meets the right 'bitch' (who ~~also~~ must have a recessive gene for long hair or actually be long haired, is better) he will produce a few long haired pups, say like Turto, who was most definitely a long haired pointer.

I don't know why I am telling you all this ~~because~~ if it gets around, all the English Setter boys will be doing it, and I say let them sleep. Our job is to help the Irish, and to beat the English & Pointers. So keep it quiet - even from Joe.

In Pennsylvania, there are not many places you can run an all age, so why breed them. I had nowhere to go, around here, with Mac Riplett Double Jack, Jimmy K, Youty's Ped etc. If I lived in the prairie states, I would breed all age Irish, but they are damn hard to see, or find at all age distances. No, I am forced to be a shooting dog man because of terrain, if nothing else. I have been the other route before.

So if you want shooting dogs, and I do, without a doubt, then why breed to an all-ager? The shooting dog-blood will be better bird finders, better handling dogs, and yes, better all-around bird dogs.

Of course, this is the age old argument and this is why Rusty and I differ on so many aspects of a bird dog. I like high style, great intensity, good bird finder, pleasing gait, etc. Rusty likes speed & range above everything else. Of course he should find a bird or two but every thing else is subordinate.

Just get lost for the right amount of time.

But I am stating a cross-breeding program to shake up my shooting dog lines but it is not designed to produce all-ager dogs. Occasionally one dog comes along from shooting dog lines. If it does I'll think of you, Cargo, & Rusty. The speed & heel boys. Sincerely, Ned