S E T T E R N E W S

Autumn Edition – January to March 2016

Irish (Red) Setter: Irish Red & White Setter : Gordon Setter : English Setter

IT'S BEEN A LONG HOT SUMMER!!

This Newsletter is compiled and written by Bridget & Mark Simpson mss01@telkomsa.net for the interest and enjoyment of its readers.

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The **GORDON SETTER** stands in the spotlight as the subject of the Autumn Historical Supplement distributed with this edition (Pages 1- 8 e-mailed separately)

THE HAMBONE AWARD

Nationwide, a leading Pet Insurance Company in America which covers 550,000 pets and reviews more that 1,3 million claims a year, runs an annual competition in which contestants vie for the Hambone Award so named after a dog ate a family's Thanksgiving ham while in the fridge! .

Since 2009 the award has been made to the most bizarre canine or feline claimants, like "Ellie", the Labrador Retriever that ate a beehive along with thousands of bees and amazingly survived.

"**Ellie" 2010 winner of the Hambone Trophy**

One of last year's top contenders was a Manchester Terrier mix-breed who discovered how to open the family's junk draw and ate the entire contents including a medicine bottle, a bottle of perfume and a pair of sunglasses. The dog was X-rayed and with laxatives eventually passed all the items, but the public voted "Curtis", a Boxer from Princeton the 2015 winner of the Hambone bronze trophy. He swallowed a wooden barbeque skewer which disappeared into his body. A year later the Veterinary Virginia-Maryland College performed life saving surgery to remove the skewer and the large mass it had caused in Curtis' body.

Carol McConnell, chief veterinary medical officer for Nationwide, confirmed that all the contenders in the competition had made remarkable recoveries because of their quick-thinking pet parents and proper treatment by skilled veterinarians.

In SOUTH AFRICA we don't have a Hambone award, but there are certainly some Setters that would qualify as contestants! We have owned several with quirky tastes – "Femme" ate the green fluff on tennis balls and would remove every millimetre before she was satisfied. "Belle" would swallow any wayward family socks and many of our Setters believe toilet rolls are for festooning the house with throne room bunting or making

confetti - until the tissue sticks to their tongues and then it's swallowed, but "Robyn" would have to be our main contender for the Hambone trophy.

Born on Saint Valentines Day, 14th February, "Robyn" was registered as Oakdales Lovebird. In all respects she was a delightful, happy and intelligent puppy who was easily trained, but she had her quirks. It began by swallowing a very large stone as a pup which necessitated major surgery – "She's teething and will grow out of it" we thought. She didn't and much later in life she repeated the whole episode.

But Robyn's fetish was the red eyed cyclop. A quick lunge and she had it in her jaws, a tug and its tail dangled from her mouth. A couple of crunches and it was disembowled, its innards spewing all over her bed – another computer mouse to be replaced! The dishwasher and washing machine cyclopes suffered the same fate and we abandoned replacing the knobs and used pliers to set the programmes and turn on the machines.

Anything that went "burr" was also fair game - she demolished the telephone handset on the fax machine – we never did find another to fit and had to use Prestik on the handset rest which made answering the telephone a mission. On collecting yet another tube of malt flavoured laxative our Vet sighed "she just doesn't seem to connect the dots".

Despite Robyn's quirks, we loved her dearly. She earned her breed championship title between having a shaved belly from surgery and produced. two lovely litters which she and we raised with much care and attention. Thankfully she never taught her offspring to follow her "hambone" antics. She lived a long healthy life and miraculously didn't die from swallowing anything untoward.

"Robyn" Ch. Oakdale's Lovebird with her 10 day old pups born 07.08.2008 sired by Ch. Oakdales Hot Toddy ARC

THOUGHTS ON GARDENING WITH SETTERS

This amusing Christmas picture was received from UK by Setter News readers Terry & Susan Wright

This “Poinsetter” is safe but what about that lovely Christmas Poinsettia you were given at Christmas? For many years the Poinsettia had a bad reputation as a dangerous toxic plant if eaten, but according to Poinsindex “ a 50lb child [or dog] would have to ingest 500-600 leaves to exceed experimental doses that found no toxicity” As the leaves are very bitter your Setter would quickly get the message that it is not good to eat. ASPCA report that ‘in reality, poinsettia ingestion typically produces only mild to moderate gastrointestinal tract irritation, which may include drooling, vomiting and diarrhoea.’

The Poinsettia’s red “flowers” are in fact leaves

Unlike the Poinsettia, some Cycads particularly the Cycad Sago is extremely poisonous to animals . Pets are particularly at risk since they find the taste very palatable. All parts of the plant are toxic and the seeds contain Cycasin

which causes gastrointestinal irritation which can lead to liver failure. Other toxins include Beta-Methylamino L-alanine, a neurotoxic amino acid and an unidentified toxin which causes hindlimb paralysis so banish these plants from your house and garden.

Vets have warned that acorns, the “seed nuts” of the oak tree can be deadly for dogs as they contain a chemical called gallotannin which makes pets seriously ill and, in some cases proves fatal. Gallotannin is found in young oak leaves as well as acorns and can cause tiredness, pain, vomiting, diarrhoea and damage to the liver and kidneys. If swallowed whole by pups the acorns can also cause dangerous intestinal blockages.

Also be aware that planting lilies, tulips and many of the indigenous bulbs are known to cause kidney and gastrointestinal damage if eaten and have a range of other serious effects.

Whatever you intend planting in your garden, check its poisonous status before adding it to your landscape and despite all the horticulturists advice do not use bonemeal when planting - your dog will dig up your new plant to find and eat the bonemeal!

When you own a Setter the best garden plan is to aim for a park-like landscaped with as much open lawn as the area will permit and you are prepared to mow, together with a few well chosen protected trees, shrubs and flower beds. “Track” areas like regular paths in and out of the house can become muddy swamps when it rains and should be paved.

Aim for a park-like garden landscape for you and your Setter’s pleasure

Most Setters are inclined to run along the front fence whenever there is a passer-by, postal delivery or dustbin collection. While best to fence with 1.8m high vibracrete or solid wooden fencing to sides and back boundaries, especially if keeping an unsprayed bitch, an alternative solution for the front fence can be pillars with palisade fencing. When we purchased our present

property we inherited a 1.5 m plastic coated diamond mesh and gum pole front fence through which we have grown a 2m high plumbago hedge. This we keep trimmed except for 2 months of the year (Jan\Feb) when it is allowed to grow a bit wild and reward us with an abundant display of blue flowers. An indigenous plant plumbago is hardy and waterwise. There is also a white plumbago, but this is not nearly as quick growing or robust. Another option for a boundary hedge is the orange or yellow flowering Cape honeysuckle which delightfully attracts sun birds.

Our riotous Blue Plumbago front hedge in February 2016

The Cape Honeysuckle attracts sunbirds

Internally fence off an area for a vegetable garden so you can grace your table with fresh veg and add suitable crops (cabbage, kale, spinach, chard) to your Setter's diet. For your own health and that of your dogs don't use herbicides or pesticides. Plants like the prolific orange/yellow nasturtium can protect your veg by acting as a lure for black aphids, whitefly and cabbage butterfly, so helping to divert these pests from your crops. Once these plants

are heavily infested they can be disposed of in the compost heap. The cheerful yellow/orange marigold is available in many varieties and sizes. As it has a pungent unpleasant scent (which repels insects and helps rid the soil of root-knot nematodes) your Setter will also be deterred from digging them up,.

Grow your own veg

Moles can be a terrible nuisance in the garden, particularly the huge golden moles which are the size of a guinea pig in the Western Cape. Our Setters hunt these pests with the alacrity of an artic fox! Intently one will study the rising mole hill, patiently waiting for the “right moment” then a leap and nose dive into the hole which is followed by frantic digging – a quick retreat by the mole usually follows as it heads off for quieter climes, but you are left with the mining excavations and beware if a golden mole sinks its teeth into your dog’s nose a nasty infected wound can result which has happened to a couple of our Setters.

A golden mole

Mulch around plants should be restricted to a thin spread of grass clippings, and pine shavings or saw dust never ever use any mulch containing cocoa shells or beans which are highly poisonous to pets. If buying mulch from a nursery look for bags labelled “pet friendly”.

Dogs need a cool place to rest on hot days and a warm one in winter. If you don’t give them a designated area on a covered stoep or a kennel under a shady spreading tree you can expect your Setter to find itself a comfortable place, which might just be a huge hole in your flowerbed! If you have an outside wooden kennel don’t plant bee-attracting shrubs like lavender nearby this is asking for trouble - your Setter will get stung necessitating fast administration of antihistamine tablets and/or immediate attention from your Vet!

A safe haven for your Setter - note the water bowl set into the paving

Avoid plants with dangerous thorns particularly cactus and some of the aloes as these plants can inflict nasty wounds, but the South American bougainvillea is a lovely showy flowering waterwise creeper in a variety of colours whose small prickles do little harm.

Water features fed from a dripping tap can provide constant fresh water for your dog and are such fun to play in as are ponds, but forget the goldfish or koi as it’s unlikely you will keep your Setter out of the water! Swimming pools should always be securely fenced and access by your Setter only given to the pool when you are present.

Garden statues, pots and boxes should be heavy and large enough to withstand boisterous playing. Injuries can occur when ornaments or perched flower boxes topple over on your Setter. Hanging baskets on a stoep are a good choice.

Last, but not least, have a seating area where you and your Setter can relax together and enjoy the garden.

DOG SENSE

It's said an elephant never forgets and now there is proof your dog relies on its sight as well as its heightened sense of smell to remember life's experiences. The London (UK) Daily Mail newspaper reported:

'If you thought dogs used their acute sense of smell to find a buried bone, you'd be barking up the wrong tree. In fact, Fido relies on his memory more than his nose to find hidden treats. The discovery was made by American scientists who used a game to test 500 dogs in their homes around the world.

Each pet watched its owner place two cups upside down in front of them, then put a treat under one of the cups. The dog's eyes were then covered and the food was moved to the second cup. But when the dog was allowed to see the cups again, instead of using its sense of smell to find the food, most simply ran towards the cup in which they had seen the food deposited.

Researcher Evan MacLean, from Duke University in North Carolina, said "Most people think dogs use their sense of small for everything. But actually dogs use a whole range of senses when solving problems. Memory is important for any sort of planning and understanding patterns and for making predictions about the world."

In fact "your best friend can read you like a bestseller", Tom Bawden reported in the Independent Newspaper as researchers in Vienna have established that dogs are able to tell the difference between angry and happy human expressions. They say this is the first credible evidence of any non-human animal being able to recognise the countenance of another species.

"Our study demonstrates that dogs can distinguish angry and happy expressions in humans, they can tell that these two expressions have different meanings, and they can do this not only for people they know well, but even for faces they have never seen before," said Ludwig Huber of the University of Veterinary Medicine in Vienna.

"It appears likely to us that the dogs associate a smiling face with a positive meaning and an angry facial expression with a negative meaning," he said.

The findings are based on a series of tests in which two groups of dogs were shown a sequence of human photographs. One group was rewarded with food for touching pictures of people looking happy with their paws and the other for identifying those looking angry.

The food was dispenses automatically below the touch screen every time the computer registered a correct response.

The dogs were able to select angry or happy face more often than would be expected by random chance in every case, found the study which also involved the Medical University of Vienna.

In the Biology journal, Corsin Muller of the University of Veterinary Medicine in Vienna stated ”Further work is needed to figure out the behavioural and physiological consequences of observing emotions in others, for example whether dogs show what we call ‘emotional contagion’

Emotional contagion described the process of being emotionally affected by another’s mood, such as becoming sad when observing somebody else being sad. The study builds on a long line of anecdotal and scientific research on the relationship between man and dog.

Previous studies have shown that dogs can discriminate between two-dimensional representations of familiar and unfamiliar human faces and suggested that they may show empathy when encountering a crying human.

Domestic dogs have also been found to be far more adept than other animals at reading human social and communicative behaviour, with research indicating they are much better at responding to a pointing gesture to find hidden food and understanding what humans can and cannot see in various situations.

The scientists believe that dogs evolved unusually good social skills during the process of domestication in which those that could communicate well with humans prospered.

Kate Ferguson reported in the London newspaper The Independent that:

‘A dog IQ test has been developed by scientists who say it could pave the way for a break-through in our understanding of the link between intelligence and health.

Experts have discovered that dog intelligence works in the same way as human intelligence, so clever canines who perform well in one task tend also to do well in others – just like humans.

Recent studies have shown that brighter people tend to live longer, and so scientists believe if they can prove the same is true in dogs they can use them to study long-term health problems such as dementia.

Dr. Rosalind Arden, a research associate at the London School of Economics, which carried out the study with Edinburgh University, said the discovery could have “far-reaching implications for understanding human health and disease and canine health and disease.” We asked the question, if a dog is good at one test does it tend to be better than average at the other test? And we found that that’s true” she said.

Scientists put the intelligence of 68 working Border Collies to the test by devising a series of cognitive tasks for them to carry out. Those that performed well in one of these tasks tended to be above average in the others too, .Arden said scientists have known for some time that brighter people tend

to live longer. But this can be notoriously tricky to investigate because our lifestyle choices have a major impact on our health. Dogs offer a good insight because they are “basically teetotal” Arden said.’

IRISH SETTER LITTERS

New Arrivals in Gauteng:
On 02.02.2016 “Ash” Meiomie Firefly presented Estelle Meiring and Des Paterson with a huge litter of 14 pups – 10 boys and 4 girls of which only four boys and one girl are still available for sale. They are sired by Estelle’s imported dog Heathclare Star from Heaven at Meiomie. Both sire and dam have excellent hip and elbow scores of A2:A2 and 0:0 respectively and are cleared for PRA rcd 1, CLAD and LOPRA all of which will be reflected on the puppies Health Screening Certificates, issued as an annexure to the Kennel Union of Southern Africa Certificate of Registration. Estelle can be contacted by e-mailing estelle@setters.co.za or ‘phone cell 072-3480080. Her website can be viewed at www.setters.co.za or Des can be e-mailed at des@patersonfamily.co.za

“Ash’s” brood - just a few days old

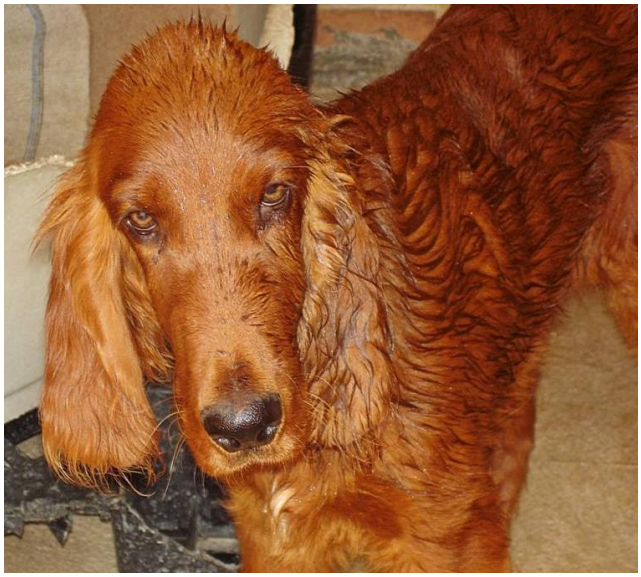
Planned Litter in Western Cape: Plettenberg Bay
Around Easter time Marinette Teeling will be mating her well known Swedish imported bitch “Eva” SA Ch. Caemgen Ever So Clever. Her hip score is A2:B1 and elbows 0:0. She is inherited clear of PRA rcd 1, CLAD and DNA tested clear of LOPRA rcd 4. Her mate will be Estelle Meiring’s Heathclare Star from Heaven at Meiomie (details of health clearance and results above), This will be Marinette’s first litter of Irish Setters and she can be contacted by e-mailing mteeling@gmail.com or marinette@equine-librium.co.za or telephone cell 072-7424694 for further information

IRISH SETTER RESCUE

On 11th February we received e-mails from Henriette van der Zwan, Estelle Meiring, Karen Black, Karen Evans and Marinette Teeling advising that the SPCA in Roodepoort were appealing for homes for three sibling Irish Setter pups/young adults on Facebook.

Such news is never good, but the concern expressed by the above members of our group says volumes - thank you for caring and sharing. These Setters were not microchipped and definitely not KUSA registered and appeared to have nothing to do with any of our group of breeders. The dogs were taken to SPCA as "the owner was moving to a smaller home", but it seems probable that these 3 were bred in a litter that the owner was unable to sell and consequently dumped them on SPCA.

With everyone on high alert for suitable permanent home/s, Karen Evans found and vetted an owner prepared to take all three. Well done Karen!



One of the rescued Irish Setters having just had a bath

Please if any reader comes into contact with suitable prospective owners who are prepared to take older Setters let us know their names, the area in which they live and their contact details by e-mailing mss01@telkomsa.net

At Fritz Dog Hotel and Day Care Centre 121, Castle St, Cape Town are doing their best to find a home for at least one unwanted pet every week and have started an Adopt-A-Thon.

Every Thursday, the hotel partners with an animal shelter to help find a dog a loving forever home. Fritz spokesman said "Although we are extremely grateful to shelters for all the hard work they do, a loving family is what these dogs deserve."

Before the rescue dog arrives at the hotel at 10am every Thursday it is screened to ensure the vaccinations are valid and it is suitable for adoption. First the dog is pampered with a spa treatment, and looking and feeling great is settled into the deluxe platinum suite. The staff play with their VIP guest during the day and a nutritious meal is served from the a-la-cart menu. If you wish to get involved with atFrits Adoption e-mail frits@atfrits.com or view www.atfritsdoghotel.com

CANINE EPILEPSY

According to the American Kennel Club Canine Health Foundation, epilepsy is the most common neurological disease in dogs. It affects up to five percent of the canine population [See www.akcchf.org/canine health/top-health-concerns/epilepsy/understanding-canine-epilepsy-June-2014 which is a 7 page pdf document which can be printed out for study. It is a comprehensive report giving valuable information concerning diagnoses, medical management options etc., and covers the three generations of anti-epileptic drugs available]

The following edited information was published in the American Kennel Club January Gazette 2016 under the English Setter Breed Column written by the English Setter Assoc of America (www.esaa.com) :

Epilepsy in English Setters

At the English Setter national specialty in October 2015, one important topic of conversation was epilepsy in English Setters. English Setters are one of almost 30 breeds affected by this serious disease. According to some, there have been English Setters with epilepsy at least as far back as 20 years ago.

Epilepsy is a particularly difficult disease to diagnose and even more difficult to control through breeding. Dogs can have one or a few seizures for a number of reasons: injury, reaction to medication or a household substance, a tumour, and the list goes on. Some cases of chronic, recurring seizures appear to be inherited.

Unfortunately, inherited epilepsy appears to be polygenetic, which means multiple genes combine to produce an affected dog. That makes the task of finding a genetic marker or avoiding it in a breeding program very difficult. With idiopathic or inherited epilepsy, age of onset is often between 1 and 3 years, so a dog may not have a seizure until after he or she has already produced offspring.

If the dog does not have a seizure until later in life or has mild seizures, the seizures can usually be controlled with medication. Some dogs may have one seizure and never have another one. The severity of the disease can vary.

The University of Missouri has been doing research into canine epilepsy for more than 10 years. They maintain a site you can visit for information at www.canineepilepsy.net

At this time we don't know how widespread epilepsy may be in English Setters. It's not something that people have ever discussed openly before. Admitting there is a problem is a vital first step in solving it. Once we are ready to confront it openly we can collect pedigree information and support research appropriate to our breed. Most importantly we must communicate with each other so we can help our dogs

Epilepsy in Irish Setters

In 2012 Ed Hall, Chairman of the Irish Setter Breeders Clubs joint Health Co-ordinators Group (UK) released the results of a 2011 Irish Setter Survey. 159 owners of breeding bitches reported on 767 offspring and 361 stud dog or non breeding pet dog owners responded. In total 1031 Irish Setters formed the basis for study which revealed 3.91% of breeding bitches offspring were epileptic while 4.46% of stud /non breeding dogs were epileptic.

General

Thankfully in South Africa the incidence of epilepsy in the Setter breeds appears extremely low although there was a major scare from the importation of an Irish Setter American line in the mid/late 1970's which seemed to carry epilepsy, as a result it was quickly phased out . On rare occasions one hears of a case of epilepsy which may or may not have known cause, this does not make management of the condition easier for the dog's owner and breeders must remain acutely aware of the cases that do occur.

TORNADO SURVIVORS

Jo Holt's Charley

Two hundred and sixty-eight people died in Alabama's deadliest 1932 tornado outbreak, so when Jo Holt and her parents moved to Coxey, Alabama in 1939 her mother insisted they build an underground storm shelter.

With warning of an approaching tornado in 2011, 78 year old Jo, her two sons, Scott and Greg and Jo's dog, Charley squeezed into the shelter with their neighbours and pets for protection. On 28th April a ferocious EF 3 twister cut a swathe of destruction across Coxey. As the occupants safely emerged from the shelter, they were shocked by the surrounding devastation which would change their lives forever.

The tornado had ripped apart and consumed Scott's restoration and Greg's nearby motor sports businesses. Both their homes had sustained serious damage, while Jo's home stood strong and proud, though bruised and battered, all the trees in her yard had been uprooted, except the 100 year old red oak which had been decapitated by the angry swirling winds. However, it, like the family, still had its roots firmly planted in the land on which it stood.

Jo had played beneath the oak as a child, watched her father work on farming equipment in its shade and seen her own children grow beneath its leafy spread. As family and friends helped clear debris from the property, Jo was reluctant to allow them to dispose of the remains of the oak while she came to terms with its loss.

Scott had seen a massive statue of Chief Tuscumbia at Spring Park in Tuscambia carved from a tree trunk and suggested to his mother that it might be possible to preserve part of the red oak by doing something similar. Debate ensued which culminated in Greg's inspirational suggestion that an image of Jo's beloved Irish Setter, Charley be carved, he being a red Irish Setter and the tree a red oak. This proposal received the family's unanimous approval.

Statue of Charley by Bo Hancock

Chainsaw artist Bo Hancock was appointed to create Charley's likeness, but it was discovered that much of the red oak's trunk was hollow, however a portion was used as a plinth for the sculpture which was then carved in cypress.

Many curious people stop to ask about Charley's statue and Scott has become accustomed to interruptions while mowing his mother's lawn to answer their questions. For the Holts the statue is a reminder of what they didn't loose that day – each other.

(This edited version is an adaptation from text written by Scott Holt - BS)

SHOWDOGS – WHAT THE JUDGE EXPECTS OF A HANDLER

Respected local and international All Breeds Judge and breeder Rose-Marie Cabion of Sleepy Hollow Labradors and Whippets wrote the following for a Show Seminar. The text was first published in the 2006 Christmas Cape Gundog Club Newsletter. We thank Rose-Marie for permission to publish it in this issue of Setter News. We hope it encourages readers to enter their Setter for breed shows

Introduction:
To successfully show dogs – you need to understand them. Play and training and seeing to their daily needs all help to build up that important rapport.
Important aspects to successful handling are – knowledge of the breed standard, dress and colour sense, and understanding of an animals "thinking and intelligence" and a genuine interest in the sport of dog showing. Handlers must have patience when their dogs have off days, as all dogs do. Sometimes being a good handler may mean taking the difficult decision not to show.

Animal Thinking and Intelligence:
A good handler will quickly learn that there is a wealth of feeling tied up in his dog, but he must not make the mistake of believing there is a sense of "human reasoning" in dogs. To assume that a dog is able to reason, can be cruel, especially if punishment is meted out as a result. Remember animals do not understand long involved sentences. One command before a movement, repeated regularly in the same situation with praise and/or rewards is enough.

Show Training
Handlers and their dogs must have confidence in one another, this doesn't happen overnight, it needs a consistent gentle, but firm training programme, lots of playtime together, with loads of praise and above all, time. Attending regular show training and socializing classes are invaluable. Visiting shows, watching experienced handlers, seeing how different breeds of dogs require different handling techniques are extremely helpful.

If you do not make training and showing fun for your dog – why should he be a happy extroverted show dog? Too harsh training and scolding will result in an obedient, but miserable dog who won't impress the judge or show off his good points. The best format for training is initially "little and often" with kind, clear, but firm commands. Once training is suitably advanced, then "topping up" training is all that is necessary, or boredom will set in, resulting in a dull, disinterested dog.

Sportsmanship:
Responsibility for the behaviour of the dog in and around the ring lies totally with the handler. You must be aware of and extremely sensitive to your dog's effect on other competing dogs both in and out of the ring.

I cannot emphasize enough the importance of good manners. Be aware of what good or bad sportsmanship means – Bad ring manners can be recognized by most judges and the public, and is in poor taste. A good handler would never allow his dog to interfere or obstruct those around him even in the most crowded ring.

While discussing sportsmanship, when a handler does not reach that winning line-up, remember, there is always another day (and hopefully a better judge). Neither the winner or the judge should be openly criticized – by all means have a private moan at home or somewhere else private, but not in the public eye. Displays of anger only embarrass those around you and could cause problems for you later on. Congratulate the winner – thank the judge if you have gained a place and leave the ring without exploding – difficult though it may be at times. If judges and exhibitors are known to one another – avoid using first names in the ring it is not professional.

Breed Standard
To show your particular breed well you must know your Standard. This can be obtained from the Kennel Union of South Africa (www.kusa) It must also be understood that each judge is interpreting the Standard in his own particular way. There are many kennel types within each breed, which makes understanding some of the judge's decisions difficult sometimes – but hopefully they will not stray too far from the official breed standard requirements.

Dress and colour sense
The importance of dress should be recognized. Your clothes must suit the sport and consideration should be given to colour. When moving or standing your dog your clothing presents a back drop and the colour can improve or negate the dog's coat colour. I feel that high heels and tight skirts would make moving a large dog difficult and would suggest that one dresses according to the breed you intend showing – allow for free movement when gaiting your dog. Avoid wearing flowing skirts, flapping jackets, highly decorative design materials, dangling ribbons, which tend to irritate the dog and distract the dog's eye from him. Dress should be clean, tidy, footwear

neat and non-skid, colour to compliment your dog and present a picture of professional confidence. Avoid shorts, slip-slops and anything casual enough to suggest you are on your way to the beach.

Preparation for the Showring
It goes without saying that your dog should be clean and well groomed and in good physical condition. (Setters need to be trimmed for shows – contact breeder for help)

Ringcraft is all about leaning to:-
* Show your dog's best points
* Minimize the dog's faults
* Using handling skills to follow the judge's requests and to be able to move the dog correctly and stand the dog for the judge's examination
* Avoid a wrestling match when teeth have to be shown

You can offer to show the judge your dog's teeth and bite if you dog is more amenable to this rather than have the judge battle and perhaps give up on your dog. Judges only have a very limited time to examine each dog.

In the Showring
The golden rule of handling is never to place yourself between the judge and your dog. The judge must have an uninterrupted view of your dog at all times. Be polite to the judge, the steward and the other competitors.

Concentrate on what is required i.e. what pattern of movement the judge requires, triangle or away and back – round the ring, etc., and know the age of your dog if asked.

Learn to gait your dog by either walking or running at the dog's correct pace. This movement should be smooth with no jerking effect from the lead tugging or a too tightly held lead. Keep dog on your left with excess lead coiled up in the palm of your hand and not dangling loose.

Before starting on a requested pattern step away from the judge, settle your dog and get him ready, always making sure your dog is positioned directly in front of the judge – pointing in the direction to move with handler on the side, depending on the pattern the judge has requested (triangle or away and back). If the judge wants a triangle he will indicate exactly where the triangle must take place – try to make your triangle sides as equal as possible. Watch your dog, your pathway and the judge throughout your movement. Remember this is your one chance, try not to botch it. Also remember it is the dog and not the handler who must move along the judge's line of vision whilst performing your triangle or away and back.

When returning to the judge, do not stop right on top of him, rather a small distance away from him so he may view your dog without having to more back or to the side. Some judges will hold up their hand when you are returning as they want to assess the front of the dog in a natural halt, others may prefer

you to stop and show your dog side on. A triangle should show the judge the dog's hind action, side action and front action on return. If the judge only wants an away and back, he may also ask you to take the dog in a circle afterwards. Each judge has different requirements.

Moving two dogs together

Very occasionally a judge may gait two dogs together to compare movement. The handlers must show the perfect rear and front view of their dogs moving, but they should stay fairly close together – again on returning to the judge they will either stop and show front view or will be asked to "Show your dogs" and then must both stand side view facing the same direction, leads in left hand and right hand ready to steady the head if necessary. If one dog is a large dog and the other a small one, the smaller must not move too fast to try and catch up to the large dog if the judge is to see the correct movement.

During the judging of your breed class you will need to present your dog to the judge a number of time usually when judging begins - in front – after your pattern – line up – and finally when choosing a winner. Therefore, before training the dog for showing the handler must be familiar with the finer points of the breed presentation.

You must learn to stand your dog in a show position as quickly and efficiently as possible. This usually means front feet in line and parallel , rear feet in line usually a little further apart than the front feet and with hocks vertical and tail free and wagging or in a correctly held position – head in naturally erect position or controlled by handler's right hand. The lead position can be held taut or loosened onto the dog's shoulders. Remember your lead must always be neat – no dangles. The handler and dog should work as a pair – the dog responds to soft voice commands. I talk and encourage my dogs quietly all the time whether moving or standing them. Voice control is always preferable to over use of the lead. Pulling and tugging spoils the dogs movement. Just imagine being on the other end of the lead in the hands of an amateur handler – it wouldn't be much fun and could hurt.

Baiting/Treats in the Ring

It does not suit all dogs to be baited in the ring, Setters and Spaniels for example will raise their ears, which spoils the lovely clean line of the head. However, if you wish to use treats to show you dog, do be diplomatic about it as some judges don't like baiting in the ring. Have a pocket for bait and only feed sparingly.

Feed only when the judge is not examining your dog. Nothing is worse than a dog leaping around for his treat whilst the judge is trying to go over him, or to look at his mouth whilst being jumped on and drooled over, because the handler is waiving bait under his nose. Labradors are perhaps the worst, as I think they are the greediest. Your dog must learn very early on in his training that he is not going to be fed non-stop in the ring, but has to stand and show and keep this position for as long as you want for him to receive his reward.

Ring Procedure
Dogs enter the ring and are gaited in a circle around the outside of the ring in an anti-clockwise direction on the handler's left hand side.
DO:

- Gait the dog at his correct pace. Keep dog away from your legs so as not to distract the judge's view with skirts etc., extend your arm in a soft curve to hold the lead.
- Keep your eyes at all times on your dog, your pathway and the judge. Watch for further instructions e.g. to stop gaiting or to be selected. It is usually done with a hand signal and you don't want to miss it.
- Keep a comfortable distance from the dog ahead of you. Stop and wait for space rather than crowding the dog in front, and then gait your dog at his correct pace or make a slightly larger circle.

DON'T:

- Crowd the dog in front
- Overtake slower moving dogs without judge's permission
- Allow your dog to get either too far in front or behind you
- Distract other dogs either with noise or titbits thrown on the ground.
- Allow your dog to sniff or interfere with dogs in front or behind you.

Whilst the judge is examining or moving other dogs allow your dog to relax, but not go to sleep. Talk to him, keep his attention, make him happy and only when the last dog is finished moving stand your dog correctly.

When standing in line waiting for the judge to make his selection, don't chat, concentrate, watch the judge, make sure your dog is standing in an attractive stance.

Sometimes when a judge is assessing one dog he will swing around and glance unexpectedly at yours. Be sure you are both looking good enough to go to first place.

Good Luck at the shows,
Rose-Marie Cabion

SA SUPA 7's SPECTACULAR

Held on 23rd January 2016 and judged by Australian John Palmer Anthony Wonfor and his 8 ½ year old Irish Setter, "Connor", Int FCI & SA Ch. Taborra Donegal made a flying visit to Johannesburg to compete as one of the Cape Town contestants in the Invitation Veteran's Stakes of the Supa 7's Spectacular .

Anthony was to exhibit Taborra Donegal but when Helen Theron, his former Junior Handler, unexpectedly arrived, "Connor" decided they should become a twosome in the ring one more time. So, with co-owner Rowena's approval, Helen and "Connor" swept into the carpeted ring and showed many 7 year old "youngsters" a clean pair of heels to finish in the final cut of the seven Top Veterans. CONGRATULATIONS!!!!!

The Supa 7's Veteran Stake - Helen Theron handles "Connor"
Int. FCI & SA Ch. Taborra Donegal for owners Anthony & Rowena Wonfor

"Connor" in the final seven of the Supa 7's

SELECTION OF SA SHOW RESULTS – First quarter 2016

Western Cape
27.02 Kennel Association – Judge Mrs. Liz Raubenheimer (WP)

English Setter bitch
BOB Rowena Wonfor's CH. REIDWOOD AFRICAN VISION

Irish (Red) Setter dogs
BOB Anthony Wonfor's CH OAKDALE BOREAS
CC Anthony & Rowena Wonfor's INT FCI & SA CH. TABORRA DONEGAL
RBOB & 1st BEST GROUP VETERAN & 3RD BEST VETERAN ON SHOW

Irish (Red) Setter bitch
Ch Class Marinette Teelings CH CAEMGEN EVER SO CLEVER

28.02 Liesbeek Park Kennel Club – Judge Mrs. Michelle Colborne

English Setter bitch
BOB Rowena Wonfor's CH. REIDWOOD AFRICAN VISION

Irish (Red) Setter dogs
BOB Anthony Wonfor's CH OAKDALE BOREAS
CC Anthony & Rowena Wonfor's INT FCI & SA CH. TABORRA DONEGAL
1st BEST GROUP VETERAN

Irish (Red) Setter bitch
RBOB Marinette Teelings CH CAEMGEN EVER SO CLEVER

140th WESTMINISTER SHOW USA - February 2016

2,752 dogs in 199 breeds qualified for America's prestigious 140th Westminster Championship Show this year which was held in Madison Square Gardens, New York City. 476 dogs competed in the Sporting Breeds Group (Gundogs) on 16th February. Mr. Jack Gohde from New Jersey USA officiated as judge of 29 English Setters, 10 Gordons and 18 Irish Setters while Mrs. Polly Smith of Virginia USA judged seven Red & White Irish Setters. The Group Judge was Ms. Virginia Lyne who chose a German Shorthaired Pointer as the winner of the Group and did not place any Setter breeds.

BOB English Setter bitch Grand Ch. Country Squire Cotillion
Owners: Shaun Jordan, Debra Jauron & Donna Jordan

BOB Gordon Setter Bitch Ch. BranLinn Braxfield Xpert Advice JH
Owners: Nikki Maounis, Candice Bell & Jerold Bell

BOB Irish Red & White Setter dog
Grand Ch. Laurel Oak Santa Heart of Red Rocks CGC JH
Owner Augustus Lonardi & Susan Lonardi

BOB Irish (Red) Setter dog Grand Champion Vermilion's Sea Breeze
Owners Bruce & Mary Foote & Sandra Nordstrom

CRUFTS 125 ANNIVERSARY DOG SHOW - MARCH 2016
The National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham, UK

Between 10th and 13th March 2l,929 qualified dogs, 18,533 resident in UK and 3,096 resident in 47 other overseas countries competed for the prestigious crown of Best in Show at Crufts – the biggest dog show in the world.

Friday 11th March was Gundog day when Mrs. A. Dykes judged 97 English Setter dogs and103 bitches. Mrs. S. Mitchell had a good entry of 97 Gordon Setter dogs and 95 bitches. Mrs. V. Foss was kept busy judging 38 Irish Red & White Setters and 40 bitches. Mrs. R.E.A. Rose Hay judged 156 Irish Setter dogs and Mrs. C. Hogsflesh 158 Irish Setter bitches. The Gundog Group Judge this year was Mrs. D. Arrowsmith who awarded:

1st place in the Gundog Group to the Gordon Setter SH CH.LOURDACE FULCRUM JW

owned by Messrs. D & D, Mrs. & Miss Alcorn, Crowther, Baddele
2nd (Res) was the Chesapeake Bay Retriever 3rd the Lagotto Romagnolo and 4th the Flat Coat Retriever.

(Top Crufts Results and photos of the Best of Breeds of the four Setter Breeds follow – note there is no restricted Champions Class as in SA, so all class winners compete for the Challenge & Reserve Challenge Certificate in each sex)

ENGLISH SETTERS:
Dogs:

CC & Best of Breed Mr. N.R. & Mrs. J.K. Kelly's
SH. CH. RICHECCA SHADES OF GREY JW

RCC Mrs. K.A. Thomson's **MARIGLEN FETLAR CASPELLWYND JW**
Bitches
CC Mrs. B.K. Seaman's **MARIGLEN MERCEDES JW**
RCC Mrs. L. Taylor's **WANSLEYDALE QUEEN BEE JW**
Best of Breed Puppy: Mrs.S & Miss E. Loynd's bitch
CRIMBELDALE SEAING STARS

GORDON SETTERS
Dogs:

GUNDOG GROUP WINNER : BOB & CC
Messrs.D & D, Mrs. & Miss Alcorn, Crowther, Baddele's
SH. CH. LOURDACE FULCRUM JW

RCC Mrs. J. Ness' **LIRIC SOUVERNIR JW**

Bitches:
CC Mr. R.E. Mrs. J.M. & Miss K.H. Roberts **CAIRACAILIE DEVOTED JW**

RCC Mrs. Y. & Miss H. Slaughter & Upton's
SH. CH. ORDETT STRATHISLA JW

Best Breed Puppy: Mrs. Abba's dog **HERNWOOD SUMMER LOVIN**

IRISH RED & WHITE SETTERS

Dogs:
CC Mr. I & Mrs. G. Lamb's
SH CH/IR SH. CH. CASAFLECICE MONTADALE JW

RCC Mr. J.A. & Mrs. J. Barney & Howatson's
SH. CH. KILLARY'S GRAND VENTURE WITH VANDERS AND ROMAUNT (Imp USA) JW

Bitches:

BOB & CC Mrs. A. Tattersall's **SH.CH.ALANEA SUMMER COTTAGE**

RCC Mr. B.J. & Mrs. S.A. Barry's
SHIREOAK CARAMEL ICE WITH RUSTASHA (Imp Can)

Best of Breed Puppy: Mr. J. & Mrs. S. Cuddy's dog
TAXUS GOLDEN PRINCE IN BALBRIGGAN

IRISH (RED) SETTERS:

Dogs:

CC & BOB Mrs. D. & Mr. J.N. Milligan-Bott & Bott's
SH.CH. THENDARA POT NOODLE JW

RCC Mrs. J.E.Holley's **SH.CH.WYNJILL WELL I AM JW**

Bitches:
CC Mrs. M. Elkins' **SH.CH. AVACET SNOW BIRD**
RCC Mrs. M. A. Powis' **AMBERWAVE FEATHER JW**
Best of Breed Puppy Mr. M.L.C. Russell's bitch **MELMARA GEORGIA**

NOTE: The Kennel Union of Southern Africa and Crufts share an anniversary this year as both are 125 years old. Winners at the Kennel Union of SA Championship Show to be held on 28.05.2016 at Goldfields Showgrounds, Bedfordview, Johannesburg will qualify for the 2017 Crufts show to be held in Birmingham UK For further details see KUSA website www.kusa.za .

MONTEGO LAZY SUNDAY COMPETITION

Purchase and keep the receipt of one of the MONTEGO range of dog foods products (dry, wet, treats or sauce) and answer their question - How and where do your family prefer to spend a Lazy Sunday at home? SMS your answer to 45775 and you could win a R50,000 home makeover in their Lazy Sunday competition which closes on 31.03.2016. For further info visit www.montego.co.za/lazy-sundy-promotion

FAMILY GALLERY

Irish Setters are noted for their gregarious nature and there is nothing they enjoy more than playing with friends. They don't discriminate, any breed will do!.

The last Summer dip – Just wade in and join the fun!

Stephanie Stanton's "Clancy" (Oakdales Gilavar) is an "only child" but finds plenty of playmates at the beach!

The van der Zwan Canine Family

L to R - Pieter & Henriette van der Zwan's Irish "Jamie" and "Fiddich" with Scottie matriarch "Zoe" and extended family rescue playmates a X-Border Collie and X-Terrier. "Jamie" (Oakdales Heart O' Gold) jogs with Pieter 3 times a week and is the local Jogging Club's mascot being an enthusiastic and vocal supporter! .

SPECIAL FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS:

As a member of the Mexican diplomatic corps Edgar Hurtado and his Irish Setters “Canelo” (Oakdales O’Farrel) and “Tristan” (Oakdales Tehuano) were resident in Canada for a couple of years, but all three have now returned permanently to Pretoria, SA. WELCOME HOME GUYS!!!

We made it !!! The 2nd April 2016 marks our (Simpsons) Golden Wedding Anniversary 50 years of wedded blisters and most of them spent with our Oakdale Irish Setters. You’ll notice we just missed April Fools Day!

Irish Setters with a very lively bunny taking centre stage
Happy Easter Holidays !!!

This photo was taken more than a decade ago and shows Dave & Helen Clarke’s UK imported girls Zimbabwe Champs Shamwari Princess and Flame Lily of Kruger and the male pup Oakdales Sequoia of Kruger at 12 weeks, later to also achieve his Zim breed Championship. We don’t know if the rabbit had a title!!!

This brings to an ends the first edition of Setter News for 2016. Although we have covered some serious topics in this edition, we hope we also managed to raised a smile or two from our readers with other content. Please submit your news and pics for the Winter (June) issue by e-mailing mss01@telkomsa.net or telephone landline 028-4233934

Bridget & Mark Simpson