

offered rally in addition to regular obedience competition, and we're happy to report that we had a qualifier in each. Jackpot Kingsbury Misadventure, a 13-month-old boy shown by owner Mary Cummings, earned his first Rally Novice leg, and Ch. Pacific Graceful, RN, shown by owner Mindy Isham, garnered her first CD leg as well.

We also had two talented young men competing in Open Intermediate Junior Showmanship. And Harriers being mischievous Harriers, both hounds made their young handlers have to really work hard—no push-button dogs here! Both did a wonderful job with their impish hounds, but eventually Sean Leonard and Lazlo, Ch. Jackpot Kingsbury Penthouse, edged out Collin Steen and Motown, Ch. Jackpot Kingsbury Playboy, for the Best Junior accolade.

The puppy and veteran sweepstakes were judged by HCA president Wendy McCleery, who had a lot of fun playing with all the goofy hounds! Best in puppy sweeps went to Downhome Hitech Innovator, and best in veteran sweeps was Ch. Kingsbury Talisman.

Diane Malenfant judged the regular and nonregular classes. At the awards dinner following the national, she expressed her enjoyment of the assignment and the honor of seeing so many nice hounds all together in one ring.



Winners Dog and Best of Winners was Downhome Hitech Innovator, while Winners Bitch (to become a new champion) was Kingsbury Temptation. Both Best of Breed and Best Opposite came from the veterans classes, with Ch. Pacific's Serenading Anthem taking home the top prize and Ch. Kingsbury Laurel garnering BOS. Awards of Merit went to Ch. Jackpot Kingsbury Gentlemen's Quarterly and Ch. Bluhils Sakura Icon Irish Cream.

Many HCA members and their hounds also participated in an OFA DNA-database blood-draw while at

Purina Farms, which added another 15 hounds to the existing 29 Harrier samples in OFA's care. It is hoped that future research involving the Harrier's limited gene pool may be of some particular use in health and genetic studies at OFA. That is why the HCA encourages its members to participate by providing blood samples.

The 2011 national will be in Jordan, Utah, at the beginning of May, in conjunction with the Beehive Cluster. We hope to see you all there!

—Donna Smiley-Auborn, *Inyokern, Calif.*; [auborn@ridgenet.net](mailto:auborn@ridgenet.net) ♦

### Ibizan Hounds

#### The Eyes Have It

Nothing creates proper breed expression like the correct eye. Eyes should not be large. The eyes are oval and are set rather obliquely—that is to say, slanted. A large, round, horizontally set eye gives a startled and staring look. It also distracts from the exotic aspect of the dog.

The eyelids should fit snugly; without this tightness, the eye will not appear properly almond shaped, as of course all eyeballs are round. The color should be a shade of amber or caramel. It is good to have the eye color somewhat match the red in the coat. A glaring yellow eye is not desirable.

Puppies often have lighter-colored eyes that darken until maturity. This may take several years. Certain bloodlines go through a greenish phase during late puppyhood. This should mature out to a nice, rich amber. Eye-rim pigmentation is desirable in white-faced dogs but not faulted if missing. (From my observations over the years, however, I would suggest breeders not breed together two dogs who have little pigmentation on the eye-rim.)

Very dark brown or black eyes suggest impurity. If one looks at pictures of some of the rural farmer's hunting packs, one will see many miscolored dogs with dark pigmentation. There are of course many stunning, pure individuals in the breed's native land. I have seen

videos of entire packs of hounds that any breeder here would be proud to claim.

Expression is a nebulous thing. Of course there is a wide range of expression in Ibizans. Some, mostly bitches, are more reticent and private; I find the males to be more engaging in general. More often than not, the Ibizan has a happy, outgoing, somewhat intense aspect. The expression should not be sharp or aggressive. They can respond in an instant. This is part of their hunting heritage.

The old Spanish standards always said, *intelligent, but not particularly noble*. I have always found this amusing. An Ibizan is not Rin Tin Tin. The Ibizan has a quick, bright, reactive intelligence that should be reflected in his expression.

As I watch my Ibizans standing in a row on the couch, looking out my picture window, I am amazed at how observant they are. It is amusing to watch them do a sort of *Terminator* camera-refocus as they watch a distant squirrel. You can almost hear the clicking.



I find that even old dogs retain much of their youthful exuberance, in both expression and deed.

[Please note that this column's byline was incorrect in the May issue; it should have read as below. The GAZETTE regrets the error.]

—Nan Kilgore-Little, *Gladstone Va.*; [NanKilgore@amberlithe.com](mailto:NanKilgore@amberlithe.com) ♦

### Irish Wolfhounds

#### We Are What We Eat

Ask 12 breeders how they feed their dogs, and you will get a dozen different answers, some of them expressed quite passionately. Knowing there is more than one good way of feeding, I have always felt you must be doing something right when you have long-lived hounds, fertile brood bitches, healthy puppies with glossy coats, and stud dogs with good sperm counts. Your dog's health is the best indicator if something is working, and

a properly balanced diet is arrived at by study of the needs of the hound at various stages of growth.

I am not a great fan of throwing a whole raw chicken to a canine companion in this day and age of the prevalence of salmonella and the use of growth hormones in food animals. I am a great believer in quality sources of protein such as red meat, wild game, eggs, cottage cheese, yogurt, and milk for those who can tolerate it.

Where I raise the eyebrow is at the purists who claim that commercial dry dog food is a modern innovation and does not belong in the diet of a carnivore such as an Irish Wolfhound and is held responsible for a number of the ills we see in the breed today. If those who make such claims had done their homework, they would have found that dry kibble and biscuits were in use for several centuries by early breeders, including Captain Graham himself in the 1800s. Graham fed his hounds raw meat along with kibble soaked in a soup made from calves' or sheeps' heads and bones, the boiled meat of which was cut up and mixed with the dry food. Various green vegetables in season were added to the mixture. On occasion, oatmeal porridge or dry biscuit was given in lieu of the rich soup and kibble.

Colonel Roger D. Williams, who kept a number of hunting breeds and bred several hundred Irish Wolfhounds at the turn of the last century, considered beef and mutton the best meats and prepared his biscuit from one-third cornmeal, one-third shorts of wheat flour, and one-third hog cracklings. This mixture was first thoroughly boiled in a steam-jacketed kettle and then baked hard in a regular brick oven. In summer, oats were substituted for cornmeal, as the latter was considered too heat-producing.

I.W. Everett was a breeder of note during the same period, and he started his puppies out with goat's milk, raw eggs, and oat flour, graduating to oat-

meal as the puppies grew. He then introduced finely minced beef, raw ox marrow, and one of the prepared dry cereal foods, such as Saval or Victoria Terrier Meal, moistened with a little hot water. These dry-cereal foods were relied upon as a staple of the Irish Wolfhound diet even then. Everett felt it was beneficial to vary the diet, as did the other two gentlemen.

None of this is far removed from what breeders do today. It was much the same in the other great kennels, each having worked out their own recipes for successfully feeding their hounds and keeping them in the best of condition, knowing that in the end we are what we eat.

—Lois J. Thomasson, Salinas, Calif.; Fleetwind@aol.com ♦

### Norwegian Elkhounds

#### The Gray Norwegian Elkhound

Longtime breeders of the gray Norwegian Elkhound are aware of the history of the breed, the basis for the preservation of its natural beauty, innate intelligence, and ruggedness. Through carefully thought-out breeding programs, they are able to correct mistakes that are incompatible with the original mold.

Knowledge of the breed's history, as well as its overall purpose, is paramount in planning a breeding program. For over six millennia, the *grey elghund*, as he is known in Norway, has been a guardian, comrade, hunter, and friend. He roamed the Norwegian *saeters* before becoming a friend of the Vikings, guarding their families and farms while at home and becoming a silent watchdog aboard ship.

Elkhound remains were found buried with their Viking masters along with the everpresent weapons of that period in history. A clay bowl in bas relief, unearthed from a grave at Valloby, portrays Elkhounds in a hunting scene. Two Elkhound-type skeletons were unearthed in the Viste Cave at Jaeren in

western Norway, dating from 4000 to 5000 B.C., other Elkhound-type remains having been found in the famous Gokstad ship.

Having shared his journey through time with the Norsemen, when life was one of heroic endurance, the Elkhound adjusted to living in terrain that varied from rugged, hilly mountains and forests to rocks and swampy marshlands, enduring temperatures as low as 40 degrees below zero. The breed adapted to a life of daring uncertainty, whether in battle, pillaging, sailing, hunting, or farming.

Norwegian mythology indicates that the gods bestowed upon the Elkhound an abundance of common sense and intelligence and an independent spirit, the breed knowing instinctively when to work, when to play, and when to guard and protect his own family and territory. Unless he is trained to differentiate between acceptable and *verboden* behavior, his independent nature becomes dominant. Although the Elkhound is sensitive to his environment and the demands of his master, a point to remember is that from the very beginning of time, he was a peerless hunter of big game, defying the destructive forces of nature and man.

Records indicate that the Elkhound was not considered from a conformation point of view in Norway until 1877 when pedigrees were traced, a studbook was published, and a standard was drawn up. The earliest pedigrees date from 1865. The grand dog of the Norwegian Elkhound breed was Gamle Bamse Gram, a dog who carried the ageless characteristics of his breed.

Norway's first benched show was held in 1877, with 124 hunting dogs entered, 15 of which were bear and elk dogs. The first British imports were recorded the following year. The British Elkhound Society was established in 1923, after approximately 90 Elkhounds had been registered in that country. The Norwegian Elkhound Association of America was recognized by the AKC in 1930.

The gray Norwegian Elkhound is a

