



# NEWSLETTER

OUR GOAL: To Promote, Preserve, and Experience One of the Greatest Southern Traditions Known... Quail Hunting.

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## Fall Field Trial Winners

These are the results of the Fall Field Trial:

### **Gun Dog:**

- 1st - Sam - Mark Smedley
- 2nd - Chesie - Rick Brantley
- 3rd - Trigger - Jason Nelson

### **Derby Dog:**

- 1st - Admiral - Harry Puryear
- 2nd - Buz - Thurman Campbell
- 3rd - Penny - Nick Muse

### **SR Dogs:**

- 1st - Maize - Bob Carr
- 2nd - Daisy - Frank Harris
- 3rd - Curley - Thomas Hopewood

### **Puppy:**

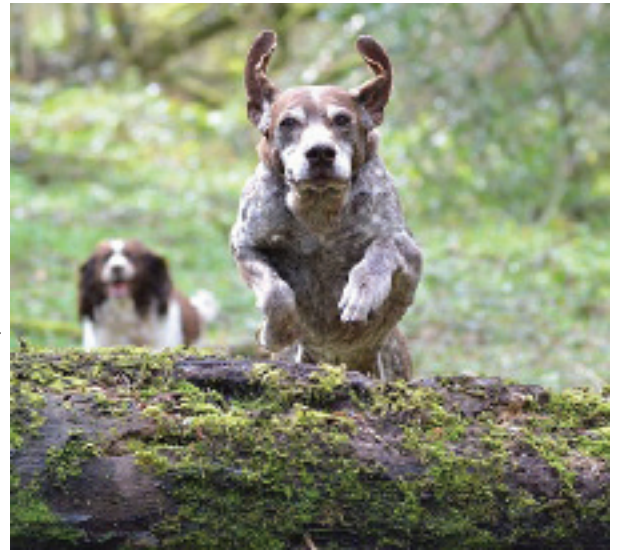
- 1st - Ruby - Mark Smedley
- 2nd - Spot - Jim Crook



# Working with Older Dogs

## A few tips from Purina

It's hard to believe the puppy it seems like you just brought home a couple of years ago is now 7, 8 or even 9 years old. Just because your dog is showing signs of age doesn't mean you can't share and enjoy many more years of quality time in the field. The special attention required going forward is simply a renewed awareness and sensitivity of normal concerns relating to health care, feeding, exercise and training of any hardworking dog.



Here are some suggestions for working with older dogs:

- Consider more frequent visits to the veterinarian. Twice-a-year visits will help your veterinarian assess a senior dog's condition. Be sure to let your veterinarian know about your plans for conditioning and training.
- Feed a high-quality complete and balanced dog food formulated for hardworking dogs. Feed your dog to maintain optimal body condition. The amount necessary to achieve this goal will vary based on the individual, the activity and the temperature conditions, rather than age. Even if you're feeding a quality dog food, as activity increases and colder weather comes along you may have to feed a little more food each day to maintain the available energy level and calories. Some older dogs that work less often or for shorter durations may need a food specially formulated for their unique needs.
- Adapt your exercise program. At first, walk a little each evening and eventually progress to extended runs in field areas. Conditioning a senior dog may require a more gradual pace.
- Make sure you are aware of signs of fatigue and stress, which is particularly important with older dogs. Desire or prey drive doesn't fade with age so in a sense we have to protect senior dogs from themselves. The earlier you can spot problems, including overheating, the better. You should make a dog stop working and rest if you see signs of stress.
- Alternate time on the ground with other dogs. Older dogs need a good deal of rest, so you can break up hunting with a friend by alternating with his or her dogs or your other dogs. If you just have one dog, you should pace the dog's activity to his or her ability. Avoid extreme conditions, such as very hot or very cold weather.
- While traveling, pay special attention to senior dogs and be sure they have dry, draft-free compartments with good padding so they travel comfortably and are well-rested. Stop often to allow some exercise and provide dogs an opportunity to relieve themselves at least every two hours.
- Keep a good supply of fresh clean water available at all times. At home and in the kennel, you should allow free access to water; while in the field, you should always carry a container of fresh water to offer your dog water every 10 to 15 minutes or so.
- After a day in the field, check your dog over, particularly for burrs, weed seeds and stickers, especially in long-coated breeds. Older dogs often don't do a good job of cleaning themselves, and burs can irritate or even break the skin allowing for infection and further complications.
- Old dogs can be aggravated or even injured by young or overzealous and playful puppies, so this has to be a consideration when matching braces.
- If your dog tends to get stiff or sore after a day in the field, you may also want to talk to your veterinarian about using supplements or prescriptions that may help him deal with this problem. Something as simple as adding fish oil capsules or in more severe cases giving a mild anti-inflammatory may help turn back the hands of time and may help you and your dog better enjoy your days in the field.

# HEY FOLKS

I can clearly hear him speaking of Nash Buckingham, pocket knives, horses and bird dogs as if today was back in time during his youth in Mississippi.

His voice, always projecting the enthusiasm of someone with adventures to come, not in the past. As he spoke of the young puppy he wanted to own, I would silently ask myself, why not now? Harry Puryear was soon to retire and not as fast, nor steady on foot as his voice indicated he had been but Harry had his mind made up that he was going to own a bird dog puppy.

Months past and Harry still did not have a dog. Then plans begin for a kennel. Quite a simple task for those he consulted whom had previously either bought or constructed kennels. But, Harry wanted perfection.

The day finally came and Harry selected a puppy, a male English Setter, its father, a Llewelin. The puppy's color was mostly white with black markings and ticking. Bird dogs' names are simple, short because you want to call your dog with a clear and crisp name. Names like Buck, Bud, or Bo are common for males. Harry named his puppy Admiral because he wanted a commander.

Admiral's training began as directed by Harry's friends: Leon, Ben, Terry, Thurman, and Dale. They placed birds and got the dog to point for the first time. Then, he contacted a Pell City bird dog handler, Terry Cohron to enter Admiral in trials. Later, Harry and his wife, Carolyn decided to move to Huntsville to be closer to family.

This put Harry in a new area where he located Wayne from Ardmore to assist with finishing Admiral's training. Harry always contacted his trainers for daily news of Admiral's progress.

AQH announced its fall field trial would be held on November 2nd. Hopes were high for a frost or two prior to the day and clear weather for the event. Calls came in and Harry registered Admiral. Carolyn got up before daylight to drive Harry and Admiral down to Gates Shaw's Farm outside Montevallo for the event. The day was beautiful. Things moved along at a good pace. Admiral was entered in the Derby Class of four. By the time things ended, Admiral nudged out Thurman Campbell and his dog, Buzz for the top score.

We completed our field trial around 3 PM and I began to hand out the awards. Harry stepped up to accept his award and suddenly, I recalled all the stories about his wanting that bird dog puppy. You could see that everyone present was pleased as they witnessed Harry's long-term dream bear fruit. He gracefully accepted his awards. I said, "Harry, now you have something to write home about to your Mississippi friends." He delivered a smile as wide and bright as I have ever seen.

For a moment, Harry returned to being the young man his voice had projected years earlier. A special thanks to Wayne Mitchell, handler and the dedication of Harry's loving wife, Carolyn for assisting in Harry's and Admiral's success.

Frank Harris,  
President

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## Treasurer's Desk

I hope each of you are enjoying this cool weather, getting outside with your dog and hunting Mr. Bob. All AQH membership dues are payable annually on Jan. 1.

Thank you to those who have already paid and "12-14" should be after your last name on the address label. If you see "12-13" on your address label, you should write a check for \$15.00 to AL Quail Hunters and mail it to my office address: 1901 Morgan Road, Bessemer, AL 35022. I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Healthy and Happy 2014.

Bob Carr,  
AQH Treasurer

## Welcome To Our Newest Members

Sam Saxon from Wilsonville  
Bradley Seals from Plantersville

**Field Trial in Ardmore, January 18, 2014 ,  
for more info: Wayne Mitchell (256)527-8881**

# MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Office Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

**Email Address** \_\_\_\_\_

New Member

Renewal

**2014 DUES – \$15.00**

*Check Payable to "Alabama Quail Hunters"*

For more information call N. H. Holt @ 205-936-6293 or contact:



1901 Morgan Road S.E. Bessemer, Alabama 35022



Alabama Quail Hunters

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