

# BEAUTY and BRAINS

## IN CENTURY TWENTY-ONE

Christine Cunningham

National Dog ran its last German Shorthaired and Wirehaired Pointers breed workshop in April 1999. Since then a new century has dawned and National Dog has taken on its Ringleader persona. Ringleader readers have long enjoyed monthly notes on the exploits and achievements of the German Shorthaired Pointer breed in Australia. But this month's breed workshop provides the ideal opportunity to take a snapshot of the breed two years into the twenty-first century.

When Georgina Byrne published her definitive tome on the breed, *Der Deutsch-Kurzhaar\** in 1990, she opened the first chapter with "What's in a name?". She pointed out (pardon the pun) that the title "German Shorthaired Pointer" is an abbreviated version of "German Shorthaired Pointer-Retriever", the name first chosen by English speaking fanciers of the breed, designed to describe the physical characteristics of the dog and what it could do for its hunting owners. In Germany, of course, it is simply the Kurzhaar or Shorthair. But devotees of this breed and those learning about it for the first time all start with the simple phrase "form follows function". This breed was developed and is bred to be a versatile or utility hunting dog who hunts, points and retrieves. Its appearance is designed to maximise all those abilities. The standard for the breed in Australia is the German or FCI standard which opens with the words: "A dog of noble and harmonious appearance, the conformation of which ensures strength, endurance and speed".

In 2002, on any given weekend, German Shorthaired Pointers will feature in the 'In Group' and 'In Show' line-up of conformation shows conducted across Australia. And, more often than not these days, they regularly take home the prizes. Currently, there is a battle raging between 2 dogs from 2 different states for the right to claim "Number #1 GSP" in the conformation ring. It is rare for any breed to have 2 dogs each with 10 or more all breeds Best in Show wins but even more unusual in a breed which has never been among the most popular show dogs.

The frontrunner, as I write this, is Sue Wright and Joan Maxwell's American import, Gr Ch & Am Ch Minados American Express (imp USA). Macky came to Australia, to live at Sue's Moruada kennels, in 1999, already an American champion. He was bred in California by Leanne Farrell and Inga Clody from lines with consistent wins at GSPCA specialties and at Westminster. He started his show career with a breed specialty win at the NSW GSP Society Championship Show and



Gr Ch Heiderst Peer Gynt



completed his Australian Champion title with 4 Best in Group wins. He has 14 All Breeds Best In Show and 48 Best in Group wins. The highlights of his show career are his Best in Show wins at the 3rd National Breed Specialty in Sydney in 2000, at the Spring Fair in the same year and at the 2001 Federation Show in Queensland. He has sired 9 champions, including Best in Show and Royal Best of Breed and Puppy in Group winners.

Close on Macky's heels comes Raylene Smith and Liat O'Malley's homebred Gr Ch Heiderst Peer Gynt. Paris was bred by Raylene and husband Alex with daughter Liat in South Australia. He is sired by English import, Ch Dorntanza Heidersts Piper (imp UK). From his first day in the ring, his potential was evident with consistent Class in Show wins. He gained his Australian title while still a Junior and his Grand Championship just 2 months after his third birthday. His breeders have bred 20 All Breeds Best in Show winners but are particularly proud of Paris' record of 10 All Breeds Best in Show wins under 10 different judges and 43 Best in Group wins under 42 different judges. He also has the unique achievement of 5 Royal Best of Breed wins in 4 different Australian states. He has sired 6 champions, including Best in Show and Best in Group winners.

The Smith/O'Malley combination has bred 6 Grand Champion German Shorthaired Pointers. Since the last breed feature in April 1999, Paris has joined all breeds and specialty Best in Show winners Gr Ch Heiderst Mohican Sunrise (ai) and Gr Ch Heiderst Cointreau Onice. Nikki is sired by Am & Mex Ch Pine Hill Early Riser (USA). Andy is a full brother of Melbourne Royal Best in Group winner, Gr Ch Heiderst Chantilly Lace, and the sire of Gr Ch Heiderst A Touch O Klass CD. He is also the sire of this year's 4th National Specialty Best in Show winner, Ch Heiderst Tia Maria Onice, and grandsire of the Best Puppy in the Gundog Group at Adelaide Royal, Knusprig Justa Dye For.

The most recent Grand Champion GSP was bred in Victoria by Wendy Bond. Gr Ch Benanee Paws In Motion picked up his title on this third birthday. Owned by Tony Dubravac of Prepelica GSPs, Thunda is descended from the first black GSP brought into Australia, Vasall vom Niestetal (imp Ger) and is worked as well as shown. He has 2 champion offspring.

Other kennels have also achieved particular success in conformation. Keith and Linda Evans homebred Gr Ch Krikka Lady Luck has been the top showing GSP in Victoria for 5 years consecutively. This year, she won Best of Breed at both Sydney and Melbourne Royals and was 4th in the Gundog Group at Sydney. Not to be outdone, her daughter, Ch Krikka Lady



Above  
Dual Ch (O) Kazia Crescendo NRD

Left  
Am Ch and Aust Gr Ch Minados American Express (imp USA)

Gwenllian CDX won Best in Trial at the National Restricted Obedience Trial this year and followed up 2 days later with Best of Breed at Adelaide Royal from an entry of 92. From only 2 litters, Flea has produced 6 champions.

Rob and Moya Howarth's Seltsam Kennels in New South Wales have won Best Puppy in the Gundog Group at Sydney Royal three years out of the past four. Seltsam Ocean and Earth, Seltsam Witches Sabbath and Trupoint Envy Is A Sin all descend from the Howarth's foundation dog, Ch Bergen Seltsam, bred by Ken Donald, and from their Sydney Royal Best in Group winner, Ch Seltsam Lets Party. These dogs are also related to Gr Ch Seltsam Quicksilver who sired Kevin Munro's Gr Ch Pushcakkair Xtra Copy.

Ken and Shirley Donald's homebred Ch Zahleins Ariel won the Auckland breed specialty last year under German breed guru, Claus Keifer. At this year's Australian National Specialty, his litter brother, Ch Zahleins Graff, won Challenge Dog and Runner-up to Best in Show under Hungarian, Istvan Nagy. These dogs are sired by now deceased German import, Brox vom Bergsteiger (imp Gmy).

Imported lines also produced Diana and Jade Norman's Gr Ch Edelfhof The Tempe. Tempe is out of English import, Waldburg Quarda (imp UK). Quarda has produced 5 champions, one grand champion and a field trial champion. She was Queensland's Top GSP Dam in 2000 and 2001. Her progeny and grand-progeny have also excelled in agility, jumping and obedience. Diana also imported a dog from England, Dewdavion Starlite Warrior (imp UK). He has sired one champion and has progeny in New Zealand.

Champion progeny in Queensland also came from Jeff Martin's German bred Axel vom Bergenwald (imp Can) when he was put to Evan and Benita Mangin's grand and dual champion Gershoppoin lines. The first GSP with an undocked tail to win its conformation title was Trevor Lodder's now deceased Dual Ch Gershoppoin Adranet RRD CDX AD. He went on to be the most titled and awarded dog from their first amazing litter and his photo can be seen on page 48. The Mangins also bred Queensland's top country showdog, Chris Murphy's Gr Ch Gershoppoin Evanhoe who clocked up his tonne with back to back Group and Show wins.

Lynn and Carolyn Butler imported frozen semen from two times Crufts Best of Breed winner, Ch Barleyarch Playboy (UK). Blue has sired 2 Australian champions and has puppy progeny

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