

## Changed hunting patterns caused breed development

*An extract from Der Deutsch-Kurzhaar  
(The German Shorthaired Pointer)  
by Georgina Byrne*

In the 17th and 18th centuries, breeding and selection of dogs to suit the changing needs of hunters in Britain and continental Europe produced a wide range of animals which have developed into the distinctive Gundog breeds.

The use of firearms in hunting and the break up of many of the large middle European estates after the French Revolution and the Napoleonic Wars influenced the selection of dogs considered suitable for contemporary hunting.

The Middle Europeans found their requirements best served by a dog which would hunt, point, retrieve and follow blood scent: an allpurpose Gundog.

The degree to which such dogs as the "Spanish Pointer" the German Schweisshund Foxhounds and less clearly defined stock was used cannot be accurately determined.

By the mid-18th century the gun was an established means of killing game birds (the double barrellled flintlock was invented in 1750) although nets were still used. Tanzer (1734), as quoted by Meredith-Hardy, described the Pointers of the time: "The sort of dog that is used is white and brown marked or white and speckled or brown spotted and the taller and stronger the better the dog, so that he can take the scent high, for pointing dogs should always hunt with their noses high in the air."

It is thought that the first Pointers were taken to England by British officers returning from the war of the Spanish succession which ended in 1713. The fact that the first German Shorthaired Pointers registered in England (apart from the group brought from Germany for exhibition and return in 1887), arrived in the company of officers returning after World War II, is an amusing coincidence.

Most GSP books include the Spanish Pointer as one of the precursors of the GSR C Bede Maxwell in her book, The Truth About Sporting Dogs cast some doubt on the existence today of such a breed (the "Burgos Setter") said to be ancient in origin and "pure" in breeding stock. A German, Conrad Heresvach, wrote in 1570 (Meredith-Hardy) of the use of Spanish dogs in finding such game as partridges and hares.

There may, however, have been other sources of breeding stock from which the English and the Germans developed their own distinctive pointing breeds. Meredith-Hardy wrote that 18th century German hunters followed the custom of addressing their pointing dogs in French, which indicates that their dogs had been bred and/or had their early training in France.

A 1713 painting of two Pointer bitches owned by Lord Burlington shows one dog with a distinctive ticked coat such as that which is often seen in the modern GSP and the other of typical modern Pointer colouration. Both bitches appear to be reasonably long in leg and neither seems throaty or coarse as the Spanish Pointers of the time were said to be.

H F Seiger stated that the early German hunting dogs, according to research by Dr Kleeman, were derived from dogs imported largely from France, Spain and Italy - the lighter framed animals being French and the heavier from Spain.

Maxwell (1965) mentioned Old Spanish combined with a St Hubert Hound a progenitor of scenting hounds as being behind the German Shorthaired Pointer. She also mentioned the Foxhound outcross to the English Pointer as a provider of greater variety of coat colour and pattern.

Meredith-Hardy quoted the famed Pointer man, William Arkwright, on the subject of the Foxhound/Pointer cross: "Let me repeat that to cross a pointing breed with a non-pointing breed is to reduce the pointing instinct by one half and therefore in breaking the mongrels the pointing that should come naturally has to be taught by severe and laborious lessons. The same applies even more so to 'backing'. The reason why the (solid) black breed of Pointers at the present day surpasses the pied breeds is that they haven't been crossed"(author's emphasis).

That quote is of particular interest to the student of GSP history for it was the solid black Arkwright Pointer that was chosen by German breeders in the first decade of the 20th century to improve the still developing breed in Germany.

## AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL UTILITY FIELD TRIAL 2002

Elio Colasimone

The National Utility Field Trial Championship was held on the 27th July 2002 in an area of cattle grazing land between Oakey and Toowoomba in Queensland. This area has been used for over 20 years and has been surprisingly consistent and productive for field trialing.

There were 14 entries, all of them German Shorthaired Pointers, for the feature event of the year.

Unfortunately, on the day of the trial I was informed that for a number of reasons only 7 would be starting with only one interstate competitor, namely Dave Mills from New South Wales with Nat. F.T. Ch. Blitzhund Kurzhaar RRD. The rest were Queensland dogs.

Some handlers had succumbed to illness, a bitch had come into season and for various reasons our field was halved. Certainly I was disappointed not to get an opportunity to have a look at some of the quality dogs from interstate.

While it detracted from the overall feel of a National event, three of the dogs remaining in competition were dogs which had won the National in the past. Though few in number there was some concentrated quality and I did expect some high order work.

The trial was admirably coordinated by Edwena Adcock the trial manager. My chief steward was Dom Colasimone, a very competent and experienced handler of field working utility gundogs.

Round 1 saw us confront a paddock of medium cover where the most common species of game was expected to be stubble quail with a sprinkling of brown quail in the heavier cover. The morning began briskly cold but our Queensland heat picked up rather quickly. Thankfully the breeze was sufficient for dogs to pin birds effectively and the first brace of dogs did exactly that with Sam Haigh's Nat FT Ch & RT Ch. Garjanhauf Bronco (Bronco) having two sound finds. Unfortunately Sam could not bring down any of the game. Alan Donovan's Tinai Yorifield Puccini also had a find that Alan could not hit.

The 2nd brace saw two less experienced dogs, John Pattison's Meg - Ch Tealpoint Calypso and Trevor Lodder's Hunter - Ch Tealpoint Artemis given their chance. Both were eliminated relatively quickly after some loose work and several bumped birds.

The 3rd brace saw the introduction of two experienced campaigners in John Patterson with Jess- RT and FT Ch. Haighenhauf Jessie CM and Trevor Lodder with Quinn - Nat FT Ch & Ch Tealpoint Algonquin CDX DM. A mixture of unproductive points, some bumped birds and solid finds with bird being missed meant that at this point not one single bird had been retrieved.

Dave Mills with Butch as the bye dog was brought into the fray. After some nice work and a miss by David a second opportunity was taken with a nice retrieve on a wounded bird.

While some solid work had been done the issue of

Below

### Queensland Utility Field Trial Championship 2002

1st Place Nat. FTCH Blitzhund Kurzhaar RRD

GSP Dog- David Mills NSW

2nd Place (Yorifield) Yorifield Puccini RRD NFD

GSP Bitch- Alan Donovan QLD.

Pictured with judge, Don Nicol



unproductive points was beginning to cast a shadow on proceedings.

Were the birds outwitting the dogs?

Butch, Jess, Bronco, Quinn and Tina were taken into the second round with the clear advice that handlers had to support their dogs if placings were to be given.

Butch and Quinn worked hard with little to show and ultimately Quinn was dropped for an indiscretion. A nice piece of work by Butch was unrewarded when the fallen bird could not be relocated.

Bronco and Tina returned to the fray with some dominant game finding by Bronco ending in a couple of good retrieves. Tina had her chances but it came to naught.

Jess was reintroduced with immediate success ending in good finds and retrieves.

As the heat built the dogs were rotated to ensure maximum efficiency.

Ultimately three dogs had done enough to be carried to the water test, which was a mark and blind, both across water with the blind picked up first. They were Bronco, Jess and Butch. All dogs laboured a little with this test with Bronco scoring the highest.

At this stage some looseness in the field and a need to see a more consistent higher quality work saw me reintroduce the three competitive dogs into a new paddock in mid afternoon. All three dogs began to string some quality work together with Jess excelling in game finding and Bronco breathing down her neck. It became a titanic struggle of who would push their nose in front.

Jess appeared the winner until some loose work allowed Bronco to sneak to the fore with the finish line in view. Butch was rapidly gaining ground but could not quite bridge the gap in time. These three dogs are a credit to their handlers and the breed. Congratulations to all.



The final placings in the Australian National Utility Field Trial Championship for 2002 were:-

1st Nat FT Ch & RT Ch Garjanhauf Bronco

2nd RT Ch & FT Haighenhauf Jessie CM

3rd Nat FT Ch Blitzhund Kurzhaar RRD

**The Championship trial major sponsors were Uncle Ben's (PEDIGREE) and the CCCQ**



Above  
Queensland Non Slip RT winners  
26 July 1975