

CHATTER



Le DÉJEUNER DE MÉDOR

An occasional magazine
for devotees of the Irish
Red and White Setter

ISSUE NO 98

I am sorry that your "Chatter" is a little late coming out this time. This is because we have been rearing a litter of puppies, starting a new ringcraft class locally, and having the builders in. All at once! Well its nearly all over now, and I now have a nice study in which to produce "Chatter" among other things, but during the upheaval everything disappeared including all my magazine material. So its a little smaller this time, but we will try to do better next time.

Since our last issue such a lot has happened. Crufts came and went with a big entry for our breed, and the great pleasure for all of us in seeing Mary Knox's popular Ari win Best Dog.

This was followed by our very first club show, and what a great day that was. A wonderful entry, and a really good judge, and a very happy enjoyable atmosphere. You will find a copy of Mrs. Furness' write-up on another page in case you missed it in the dog press. Roll on the next one !!

Sandy Williamson has made up the points results as far as May 31st, and these show Coolfin Commanchie a runaway winner at the moment. The next few places however are very close, and we shall all be watching the Best of Breed winners with added interest over the next few weeks. Some comments have been made about the new points system and it might be a good idea to have a few letters in our

next issue. So let us have your thoughts. My chief criticism is that to win one point for Best in Show at an open show is not enough to recognise such a win. On the other hand, its not very likely to happen to me. But you never know, and the dreams of glory are what makes Dog Showing fun. Rather like doing the pools without a win for twenty years, but still hoping.

Ann Millington has provided us with a word search puzzle for our junior page, but I am sure there will be a lot of grown-ups trying this one. Thanks, Ann.

Our next issue will be out in the September, and that will be the last of the present series. Copy for this issue by the end of August, please.

Co-editors:

Pat Bridgen
Autumnwood House
Markfield Road
Caterham, Surrey

Isabel Somerfield
Somerton Hall
West Somerton,
Norfolk

FIELD TRIALS - SPRING 1985

Spring Trials for Pointers and Setters were as usual held in April, on winter sown cereals in Cambridgeshire and Suffolk. The weather varied from extremely cold and windy (including a hail storm) to sunny with a light variable breeze, neither of which conditions being particularly helpful to the dogs.

In comparison with recent years at Spring Trials there was an ample supply of game and good cover. Only one Stake was blighted by the hare and that was so bad that chased hare as well missed game effectively put out all the runners. In spite of that in the main some of these Trials were amongst the best of recent Spring Trials. The landowners and gamekeepers did us proud with both ground and game. The judges were fair and generous in their treatment of the dogs.

As I have written previously at Trials, only those dogs which really merit an award can so gain and awards are readily, though not lightly, withheld. An example of this was at the English Setter Club's Non-Winner Stake where although dogs did find and handle game well their ground treatment and general demeanor was not held to be of sufficiently high standard so the 1st award was held back.

By way of a footnote I cannot resist saying how sorry I was to find myself the only Red & White owner either present or running for the 4th consecutive year - Mrs. Tuite who normally runs Reds and also has a Red & White was 'excused' this year due to a housemove! But where are the rest of you?

Watching the Trials is a good opportunity to see how a good hard-going and fast worker must be built. In fact Mrs. Furness in her comments to us at the Breed Show made mention of the essential correlation between build and performance on the mountain. I have found out to my cost that Setters which are able to rampage about fast enough at 'fun-time' are not necessarily those endowed with the physical and mental attributes demanded of a worker. It is important, particularly because there are so few good specimens about, that we do not let our show stock develop a build different from those still bred primarily for work. For those who are unable to train their dogs Trials must be a good way to see large numbers of working dogs being put through their paces and thereby learn to appreciate and discern that which makes a good going Setter good.

I.C.S. - April 1985

EDITOR'S NOTE

Who would like to make up a party to visit the Autumn Trials about the 3rd week of September?

SPOTLIGHT

Shannonlee Amber Sheen of Hawklawn

Jim and Sandy Williamson were showing English Setters, and thought they would like to branch out to another breed. So in 1980 they bought Tara. But Tara didn't like the show world so a second bitch, Bryna was acquired. Both Bryna and Tara came from Maurice and Joyce Webb.

Like most Red and White setters, Bryna is extremely affectionate especially when it suits her ulterior motives (usually when food is involved).

She knows all the tricks-door opening, stealing, property hoarding. If her first method of attack fails, she retreats to work out an alternative more rewarding approach.

Very keen alert and active, she is always demanding attention and to ignore her is fatal-let alone try to tell her off.

She gives a superb display of sheer exuberance, coupled with a vocal rendition of whines and howls which increase in volume the longer she is ignored.

An avid gardener she loves digging and harvesting the soft fruit fresh from the trees by standing on her hind legs to reach the lower branches.

Attracted to the wildfowl, Bryna loves the lake in her local park, and has become a good swimmer. She loves the water, except at bath time, when she usually manages to ensure that either Jim or Sandra has one as well.

She has had one litter, and proved an excellent mother. Since then she mothers all the other dogs, ensuring of course that she is "Top Dog" except for her English setter friend, Megan whom she allows to share honours with.

She loves to lie on her back, and have her tummy rubbed, but once asleep woe betide any dog who dares to disturb her.

Bryna's success in the Showring is well known, but apart from their pride in her many wins, Sandra and Jim find her a real character, and a joy to own.

THE IRISH RED AND WHITE SETTER CLUB OF GREAT BRITAIN FIRST OPEN SHOW

ALVASTON, March 3 (Irish R/W Setter C of GB)

This was the first open show of the Irish Red and White Setter Club and I was very proud and honoured to be asked to judge it. There was 133 entries made by 76 exhibitors at Alvaston.

The breed is definitely going on the right lines and quality was much higher than when I judged them a few years ago. I was judging

Red and Whites in Ireland in the 1950s and I feel quality is now much higher. My best in show was the typical quality dog, Gormley's Meudon Count Regent and best bitch the lovely Shannonlee Nightingale of Glen O'Shea, an outstanding bitch of superb quality. Best puppy was Burton's Coppermore Mavourneen.

Puppy D (4): 1 Blackwell's Charnborough Contender, very nicely marked dog, good head, broad without coarseness, good eye, good front for age, just the right amount of looseness in shoulders, which will tighten. Did not take too kindly to the floor; 2 McLennan and Paterson's Hunderutt Heritage, really nice baby I fell for when he came into the ring, so well balanced and firm for age, lovely head, good body and quarters, moved really well. Just lost to winner on maturity; 3 Jones' Shannonlee Cormorant. **Jun D (4):** 1 Bridgen's Autumnwood Fine Fella, lovely headed dog, nice eye, good ear placement, good bone, legs and feet, nice neck and shoulders, nice sweeping stifle, sound; 2 White's Castlejenny Peonix, rather nervy, maybe the half he did not like. Good bone and substance, nice topline, good quarters. Just inclined to pace when not moved fast enough; 3 Jeffery's Teachlack Copper Duke of Llanvelwy. **Nov D (8):** 1 Hunderutt Heritage; 2 C Phoenix; 3 I Copper Duke of L. **Grad D (6):** 1 Williams' Sula Sea Venture, really nice dog, very well balanced, nice shaped head, nice neck fitting into good shoulders, good stifle, good mover. Just a little overweight; 2 Baron's Arrowbrook Brennan, nice type dog, nice bone, good body and depth of brisket, nice tail carriage. Just a little diffident. Moved well; 3 Jorgen's Arrowbrook Eamon of Cladamar. **Post grad D (4):** 1 Greaves' Shannonlee Reed Warbler of Glen O'Shea, what a lovely dog has everything in the right place, full of quality, lovely neck flowing into good shoulders, lovely topline, nice bone, legs and feet, good stifle, free easy mover; 2 S Sea Venture; 3 A Eamon of C. **Limit D (8):** 1 McLennan and Paterson's Coolfin Cherokee, really handsome dog with a classic head, lovely eye and expression, good shoulders, just the right amount of looseness to give free galloping. Just a little short of coat; 2 Howatson's Shannonlee Whinchato Vanders, nice quality dog, good substance, nice racy outline, good ribs and depth of brisket, good mover; 3 Jarvis' Coolfin Cheyenne. **Open D (10):** 1 Lovely class with real quality. 1 BIS, M Count Regent; 2 Webb's Meudon Amber Glow, have praised this lovely dog before, he has done so much for the breed as seen by his progeny. Very overweight today; 3 Knox's Coolfin Commanche.

Puppy B (5): 1, best puppy, C Mavourneen, very nice well balanced puppy, sweet head, good stop and foreface, nice bone, legs and feet, mature for her age, should have a bright future; 2 Williamson's Irish Mist of Hawklaun, very pretty little bitch, has all the essentials. Not quite so good in front as 1 and a little light in bone; 3 Millington's Coppermore Macrisha. **Jun B (11):** 1 Greaves' Shannonlee Ptarmigan, really super little lady, so full of quality, beautiful neck and shoulders, lovely bone, legs and feet, moved with drive; 2 Somerfield's Glenkeen Maisie, pretty bitch, well balanced; 3 Perian and Robert's Autumnwood Forget-me-not. **Nov B (18):** 1 A Forget-me-not nice racy bitch. Just wants to tighten in front. Sweet head; 2 Irish Mist of H; 3 Peacock's Chardine Park Cola. **Grad B (10):** 1 Greaves' Shannonlee Tree Pipit of Glen O'Shea, typy, well marked bitch, lovely neck and topline, good bone, nice feet, sweet head and expression, good mover; 2 Davies' Arrowbrook Andrea, typical typy bitch, nice outline and tail carriage, moved with drive; 3 Pinkerton's Coolfin Concepta. **Post grad B (6):** 1 Greaves' Shannonlee Nightingale of Glen O'Shea, really feel for this exceptionally good bitch, so feminine with the most lovely quality head, lovely eye and expression, lovely topline, neck and shoulders, just the right amount of bone, lovely sweeping quarters, flowing movement; 2 Davies' Arrowbrook Deirdre, very nice bitch, should have a good future; 3 Peacock's Shannonlee Meadow Pipit. **Limit B (9):** 1 S Nightingale of G; 2 Blackwell's Charnborough Cheri, have put her up when she was younger, still like her, everything in the right place. Not the reach of neck of 1, but a good bitch; 3 A Deirdre. **Open B (8):** 1 Williamson's Shannonlee Amber Sheen of Hawklaun, good bitch, so well balanced and made to gallop, lovely head, very good ribcage and depth of brisket, nice head, good colour, excels in hocks. Sound; 2 Baron's Meudon Gay Princess, another bitch I have put up in the past and not disgraced today, she is a racy bitch and looks like galloping all day, sweet head, good stop and foreface, sound; 3 Sandford's Saneris Golden Cascade of Erinis. **Brace (10):** 1 Bridgen's; 2 Somerfield's; 3 Blackwell's. **Team (2):** 1 Bridgen's. **Progeny (11):** 1 Meiklered Hi-Wayman; 2 Meudon Amber Glow; 3 Shannonlee Majestic Flame.

RAE FURNESS (Judge)

THE IRISH RED & WHITE SETTER CLUB OF GREAT BRITAIN POINTS COMPETITION 1985

Qualifying dates from 1.12.84 to 31.12.85.

Competition Awards (Paid up members only)

Shields forBest Dog Best Bitch Best Puppy
Chamberborough Shield for Top Prood Bitch
Hacklawn Progeny Salver for Top Stud Dog
Rosettes to 10th placeBest 6/12 months Best 1/2 years...
.....Best 2/3 yearsBest 3years & over.....
..... All Junior Warrent Winners as confirmed by Kennel Club.

SCORING SYSTEM

Championship Shows Breed Classes Only

First in class 1 point
Res. Best of Sex1 point
Best of Sex3 points
Best of Breed3 points
Best puppy 1 point (a. From best of two or more puppy classes
b. If no puppy class, must be placed 1st 2nd or 3rd
in higher class)
Res BIS (G/Dog Show) or Res G/Dog Group 2 points
PIS (G/Dog Show) or Best in Group 3 points
Res BIS all breeds 3 points
PIS all breeds 5 points

Open Shows

Best of Breed 1 point
Best in Show 1 point

All points MUST BE CLAIMED in writing not later than 14.1.86 (Postmark)

Official points record sheets available by sending stamped, addressed envelope to

Sandy Williamson,
8 Henshaw Place,
Cotmanhay,
Ilkeston,
Derbyshire
DE7 8RL

Tel. 0602 - 327239

POINTS COMPETITION

Position at May 31st.

Snolfin Commanchie	19
Shannonlee Majestic Flame	9
Shannonlee Reed Warbler	8
Shannonlee Amber Flame	8
Shannonlee Nightingale	6
Shannonlee Amber Sheen of Hawkclawn	5
Autumnwood Fine Fella	5
Heudon Gay Princess	5
Shannonlee Whinchat of Vanders	5





By courtesy of the Trustees of the British Museum

PTARMIGAN SHOOTING
Coloured engraving after Philip Reinagle, c. 1810

CRUFTS RESULTS

Judge: Mr K.S. Wilberg

The 1985 show saw the Red & White setters feature well in the W.S.C. section, especially for the dogs.

Junior Dog

1st Greaves Shannonlee Reed Warbler of Glen O'Shea
3rd Whites Castlefenny Pheonix

Post Grad Dog

1st Greaves Shannonlee Reed Warbler of Glen O'Shea
Res Williamson & Barnes Shannonlee Fire Fly

Limit Dog

1st Knoxs Coolfin Commachie

Open Dog

1st Knoxs Coolfin Commachie Best Dog
Res Peacocks Shannonlee Majestic Flame

Junior Bitch

1st Peacocks Chardine Park Cora
2nd Greaves Shannonlee Nightingale of Glen O'Shea

Post Grad Bitch

2nd Greaves Shannonlee Nightingale of Glen O'Shea

Limit Bitch

2nd Blackwells Chamborough Cheri

Open Bitch

Res Williamsons Shannonlee Amber Sheen of Hawklawn

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Mrs Ann Millington (Coppermoor)
Moor End
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Stoke-on-Trent
ST9 9LL

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Hillbrow House
Little London Road
Horam
Heathfield, East Sussex

JUNIOR PAGE

WORD-SEARCH!!!!

Arrowebrooke

Charnborough

Castlefenny

Torrweaving

Autumnwood

Coppermoor

Lennoxbank

Shannonlee

Glen O'Shea

Hyndcroft

Meiklered

Rushfield

Chardine

Hawklawn

Llanelwy

Bawmrhu

Elaphil

Errinis

Coolfini

Sancris

Vanders

Bilbro

Rua

B	O	M	I	A	E	H	S	O	N	E	L	G	G	E	T
K	W	T	K	C	H	N	O	P	W	V	N	Y	H	S	F
N	E	A	P	M	W	Y	Q	X	I	T	Z	R	E	O	
A	N	D	R	A	S	A	N	C	V	J	X	E	B	D	R
B	I	L	B	R	O	L	N	A	S	R	D	A	O	R	C
X	D	E	E	N	O	K	E	R	I	N	N	I	S	O	D
O	R	Q	E	E	L	W	F	K	A	J	I	M	A	O	N
N	A	H	L	O	R	A	E	V	U	T	N	D	N	M	Y
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E	C	Z	O	O	L	F	T	A	R	E	E	R	R	E	O
L	I	T	N	V	A	N	S	T	N	O	L	E	I	P	H
W	Y	J	N	G	P	O	A	G	W	Z	O	L	S	P	T
G	N	L	A	H	Y	C	A	A	V	D	K	O	M		
R	U	S	H	F	I	E	L	D	B	X	C	I	E	C	R
U	H	C	S	L	L	A	N	E	L	V	Y	E	F	B	V
A	G	D	O	O	N	N	U	T	O	A	M	D	E	A	

23 affixes seen in the Irish Red and White rings are hidden in this square. The words can be made in any direction horizontally, vertically or diagonally and can overlap.

How about writing to "Chatter" to tell us something about YOUR Setter?



IN view of comments in "Chatter," the newsletter for "devotees of the Irish Red and White Setter," that this series was "developing into a sort of soap opera," I thought it high time to introduce a few more of the family.

James' uncle — he, poor lad, is not as yet an award winner — there was a sort of mass gathering at Crufts.

Though not all related, I hasten to add, there were over 30 red and whites in the unclassified section. Not bad when you consider that in 1980 there was only one.

Anyway, James' shot of Autumnwood — better known as Ben and as James' dad — was there, though as owner Pat Bryden, from Catterham, admitted: "He does not really like shows, all that much; he'd much rather be at home being cuddled all day."

That's, my dad all right, James would echo, not amiss to that kind of treatment himself. Certainly there's no mistak

THE PROGRESS OF JAMES

Parking up the family tree . . .

by John Ruler

ing the family resemblance, though James has a long way to go before he can boast of making Crufts!

Then did this, incidentally, by winning his post-graduate class in I cubs and a similar class at the national puppy show at Newark, Nottinghamshire. And he also got the green star award at Limerick in Ireland.

It was in County Fermanagh, in fact, that Ben was born, and at the age of two was brought by Pat for stud purposes. But he turned out to be such a lovely character (it was thanks to him

we chose James) that he blossomed in the show ring.

Mind you, character runs in the family. (One cousin, Coofin Commande, best-known as Air, has the enduring habit of walking on his hind legs like a circus dog.

Oh yes, he did just that at Crufts and for a very good reward — he won best award in both the limit and open classes in the section.

Actually it all became a bit confusing: meeting one's pet dog's family is like meeting some of your own. You're not sure later whether it was Aunt Mabel or Aunt Maude.

What I do recall was being frankly licked by James' uncle, Pride of Erne, who was

That's my Dad . . . a pensive-looking Ben pictured at Crufts.

over from Enniskillen — and promising him, or should I say his owner, that we would call in and see him sometime.

James' sister was there — Coppermoor Mayoureen — who we last met at the first show debate. We will probably meet again in the show ring later in March.

There were, I gather, some other half-sisters and brothers

about, I kept spotting Ben-like heads, proving that James' dad puts himself about a bit.

All in a good cause, I believe, for seeing so many red and whites at a major show makes you even obsessive about your breed.

James' contribution to Crufts? Very small, I'm afraid. He saved at home and expressed little interest in such an ex-

citing day, other than bother us for presents which he, rightly, assumed we had brought back.

Even seeing it on television produced nothing more than a loud yawn, a sigh and I'm sorry to say a rather unpleasant smell known in our house as a "Set-ter bomb."

So much for Crufts . . . though I expect he'd react differently if he ever gets there.

A WARNING TO ALL OWNERS

I have always given cow hoof chews in preferance to bones, as I considered them safer as they are more digestable. However my own views have changed after recently losing "Shay", a 17 months Red & White dog and I feel other owners should be made aware of the circumstances.

A small fragment of chew had unknowingly been swallowed, this piece had a razor sharpe edge and point which had penetrated through the wall of the intestines and opened up a 7" cut before getting stuck.

The dog was taken to the vet on the first day he appeared "off colour", but due to a lack of any definat symptoms, a diagnosis was not possible. It was four days before any futher symptoms were apparent, mainly ... intermittant spasms of pain, the dog was taken back to the vet and admitted for observation. Day five (in vets custody) futher symptoms became apparent, diarrhoea and a high temperature. A third set of X rays finally located the problem, an operation immediatly performed and the damaged section of intestines removed. Due to the delay in identifying the problem there was an added complication as peritonitis had set in, unfortunately Shay was not strong enough after the operation to fight the infection and died 36 hours later. Maybe if the symptoms had revealed themselves earlier things could have ended differently, but the first four days there was no constipation, no diarrhoea, no vomiting, no temperature and the dog was both eating and drinking normally. All the signs which usually suggest a blockage appeared normal.

I am not saying stop your dogs from having the chews altogether but merely - be aware of what could happen. Pick up and dispose of any small pieces or splinters and by doing this, the chances of any 'repeat performance' will be kept to a minimum. Don't sit back and think "it can't happen to my dog" because beleive me - IT CAN .

Sandy Williamson.

Dr. Mugford's Halti

Dr. Mugford's Halti is much advertised and details of it had been lying on my desk for some months' before I finally got around to ordering a couple - one for our enormous Red Setter and another for the Red & Whites. Sometime after their arrival they lay gathering dust in the kitchen and would still be there had I not been to the Trials last week.

One of the lady handlers had two Red Setters, one of which had suddenly developed the highly irritating habit of panting and squeaking. The whole thing was becoming a bit of a nuisance because the more he panted and squeaked the more wound up he became and the more he panted and squeaked! Finally I suggested that she wrap his lead about his muzzle. This was successful but not terribly satisfactory or kind to the dog. The next day I brought one of the halters to the Trials - and there we were, one calm, silent dog - and happy!

Since then I have now tried the halter out on my own Setter (one of the Red & Whites). It took him no time at all to get used to it and obviously causes him no bother at all. There is a 'trick' to walking all animals on a halter and this is to keep the head up and the halter slack. Never allow them to exert leverage and pull by twisting and lowering of the head. Do not 'jerk' the head and always be gentle and calm. This works as well with a bull as with a dog. One final reminder is that these halters are not muzzles and are not effective as such.

The halters may appear rather expensive but are carefully and thoughtfully made. The braid over the top of the nose is softer and kinder than the main straps. The 'loop' under the chin on to which one attaches the lead is different again in order that it shall run 'free' and not twist. The clip at the back of the neck is easy to operate but cannot spring undone. All seams are on the outside of the device - it may not look so smart but does avoid chaffing the dog.

Being a bear of little brain and not a lot of brute strength I've learnt to be quite crafty. Over the years I've tried almost every leash/collar combination on the market - including putting a half hitch about the dog's loins and the hooked collars obtained overseas - none has made any significant difference. I still think it will take a lot to convince me that the age old method of progressing to training grounds via stout leather lead and collar and hard pulling Setter can safely be superseded by the halter, but for all other purposes such as getting to and from the park at 'fun-time', visits to town, Vet., Shows etc., I think Dr. Mugford's halti beats all other methods hands down and will surely become an essential piece of equipment for all sane Setter owners.

ICS - April, 1985.

THE IRISH RED AND WHITE SILLIE
(Breed Standard 1955)

The Irish Red and White Setter is bred primarily for the field. The standard as set out hereunder must be interpreted chiefly from this point of view and all Judges at Bench Shows must be encouraged to judge the exhibits chiefly from the working standpoint.

GENERAL APPEARANCE: Strong and powerful, well balanced and proportioned without lumber - athletic rather than heavy.

CHARACTERISTICS: Aristocratic, keen and intelligent.

TEMPERAMENT: Displays a kindly, friendly attitude, behind which should be discernible determination, courage and high spirit.

HEAD AND SKULL: Broad in proportion to the body, with a good stop; muzzle clean and square; skull domed without swelling in occipital protuberance, as in the Irish Red Setter.

EYES: Dark hazel or dark brown; round, with slight prominence and without haze.

EARS: Set level with the eyes, and well back, lying close to the head.

MOUTH: Jaws of equal or nearly equal length, regular teeth; scissors bite ideal; level bite acceptable.

NECK: Moderately long, very muscular, but not too thick, slightly arched, free from all tendency to throatiness.

FOREQUARTERS: Shoulders well laid back; elbows free, turning neither in nor out; forelegs straight and strong, well boned, with strong pasterns.

BODY: Strong and muscular, with deep chest and well sprung ribs; back to be very muscular and powerful.

HINDQUARTERS: Wide and powerful; hind legs from hip to hock long and muscular; from hock to heel of moderate length and strong; stifle well bent and hock well let down and turning neither in nor out.

LEGS: Strong bone, well muscled and sinewy.

FEET: Close-knit with plenty of fleshening between toes.

TAIL: Moderate length, not reaching below hock, strong at root, tapering to fine point; no appearance of sapiness and carried level with or below the back.

GAIT: When moving at the trot long striding, very lively, graceful and efficient. Head held high, hindquarters drive smoothly and with great power. Forelegs reach well ahead and remain low. Seen from front or rear forelegs and hinders below the hock joint moving perpendicularly to the ground; no crossing or weaving of legs, front or back.

COAT: Long silky fine hair called 'feathering' on the back of the fore and hind legs and on the outer ear flap. Also a reasonable amount on the flanks extending on to the chest and throat forming a fringe. All feathering straight, flat and not over grown. The tail should be well feathered. On the head, front of legs and other parts of the body the hair should be short, flat and free from curl but slight wave is permissible.

COLOR: Base colour white with solid red patches (clear stains of red colour), both colours should show the maximum of life and bloom; feathering but not reaching permitted around the face and feet and up the forelegs as far as the elbow and up the hocking as far as the hock; roaning, feathering and mottling on any other part of the body is most objectionable and is to be heavily penalised.

SIZE: Desirable height at withers:

Dogs 24½ - 26 inches (62.2 - 66cm)
Bitches 22½ - 24 inches (57.2 - 61cm)

FAULTS: Any departure from the foregoing standard should be considered a fault and the seriousness of the fault should be in exact proportion to its degree.

NOTE: Male animals should have two apparently normal testicles fully descended into the scrotum.

This is the standard accepted and
published by:

THE IRISH KENNEL CLUB.

FROM PAULINE PERRIAM

I thought I would write and relate to you all who own dogs a very frightening experience that happened to me recently.

One morning, when Liam my 8 year old Red dog and Holly one of our Red and White Setters returned from their usual run, I noticed Holly had blood on her feathering at the back. Naturally at first I thought "Oh my God she's not in season again!". On having a closer look I found that she was not but where was the blood coming from? Elaine and I inspected both her and Liam all over and discovered it was in fact Liam, he had blood on his foreskin and all down the insides of his legs. How it has got onto Holly was because when these two rogues run in the field he runs directly behind her, they are inseparable. I took Liam indoors and washed him down, the only thing we could find was a small nick at the end of his foreskin on the penis which was not bleeding. I left him for 2 hours in the utility room with a bed with some vet bed in it to show up any further bleeding. After that all was well and as he was dying to get back to his friend, Holly, I put him back in the dog run with her. I checked an hour later when leaving to go to my husband's shop for the afternoon and everything was still O.K.

At 3.30 pm. I had a frantic phone call from Elaine. She had gone to check on the dogs when she came back from collecting the children from school and got the shock of her life. The kennel and run with Liam in it was covered in blood. I am not exaggerating when I say that it was just like a slaughter house. There was bright red blood everywhere and large clots. I drove home like a lunatic and took him straight to the vet. Fortunately you can do anything with Liam, his temperament is excellent. The vet had to pull his foreskin right back and discovered that he had a cut on his penis about $\frac{1}{4}$ " long. She then had to insert a catheter to empty his bladder so that he did not pass urine for a while to enable her a chance to stop the bleeding. He just laid there without even a growl, you can imagine his colour was terrible by now. Even so I was inclined to laugh and say "how the hell has he done it?". Then the vet proceeded to tell me just how serious it was and that afternoon, before I got to the surgery, she had put a dog to sleep with exactly the same problem. The only difference was Liam's was a straight cut where the other dog had had an infection which had caused a slight tear. Apparently stitching the penis is not

usually successful, it can cause more problems with irritation infection etc. and of course it is a vascular vehicle which pumps blood. The vet was able to stop the bleeding and we drove home very carefully with strict instructions to keep him extremely quiet. Well if you know Liam you would know all the problems I was thinking of. She said if the bleeding subsides over a period of 5 days then we could be on the winning side. Fortunately it did subside over this period of time but not without any trauma. I let him sleep in the kitchen so that I could check on him at night and several times it was like something had been slaughtered in there. On several occasions he got into the lounge during the day and rather than try to get him out with him doing his "Rock of Gibraltar" act I left him there with an incontinant sheet underneath him. Once he came running out when he heard something and there was blood all over the two carpets and kitchen floor. It took me the best part of an hour to clean this up with cold water and salt.

He is not "out of the woods" yet but as he has not bled for 5 days now and having antibiotics, we now feel we are on the winning side.

How did he do it? The only thing that I can think of was that I saw him lift his leg up a blackthorn bush across the field that fateful morning. He could have caught his foreskin on a thorn as he put his leg down and as he ran away it could have cut him.

I hope that I never have to experience anything like this again, it was very frightening because there is not very much you can do to stop the bleeding. Every time he bled I thought he could be dying in front of my very eyes and there was nothin I could do about it. He seemed to know though that he had to be a good boy and be very quiet. When he looked at me he seemed to be saying "I hope I get better Mum so that I can chase Holly again".

I do not know what she or I would do without him.

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