

TopperLyn News —

2008

Preserve Game—Use a Trained Dog

2008 NATIONAL BEST OF BREED

In 2005 when GR CH TAN Beau de l’Hospitalier was named National Best of Breed we knew we were on to something. Beau has since proved to be a prepotent sire by producing 4 UKC Show Champions and two Field “Trialers” so far.

When “Leo” entered the ring in Salina, Kansas last March, he was “in his game” and when he was selected as Best of Breed by French judge Regis Toulet, he became the first NBOB to be produced by a previous NBOB in this country. Leo is also the first NBOB in the United States to also hold a field title. Leo has proven himself in a variety of venues, starting at the tender age of 7 months by achieving a NAVHDA Natural Ability Prize II with 102 points. He went on to win 1st Place in a Gundog Trial in Montana at 10 months. He’s pretty much been on a role ever since.

Leo has also proven to be a stellar hunting dog from his very first hunting season and consistently fills Glen’s bag.

You can’t ask for much more than to have one of your puppies be successful and not only follow in his sire’s footsteps—but go even farther. I knew we had something when Leo was just a wee pup. There was something about him that made him stand out from the very beginning. Then the day he retrieved a full-size mallard duck—at 10 weeks of age—that did it! The only “mistake” I made with Leo was showing a video of that performance to Glen and Anne. By the end of the day they had talked me out of him. I have to admit—that was probably the best “mistake” I could have made as they have taken Leo to the top and helped him fulfill his destiny. Thanks guys. It doesn’t get any better than that!



*2008 National Best of Breed
TR CH TopperLyn Gallant Bodacious
Owned by: Anne Johnson and Glen
Gunderson*

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- **TLK Produces 2008 Best of Breed**
- **TopperLyn D’Artagnan travels to Germany**
- **TLK Approved as breeders by CBV**
- **TLK Breeding approved by CBV for 2009**

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

WECOME CAPUCINE	2
“THE GERMANS” VISIT THE USA	2
TLK APPROVED AS BREEDERS IN GERMANY	2
CHRISTOPHER AND KERRY EXCHANGE VOWS	3
TLK TRAINING CENTER BECOMES A REALITY	3
TOPPERLYN HERA TESTS AT PCNA EXPO	4

TR CH TOPPERLYN D’ARTAGNAN GOES TO GERMANY

When I got the notice that the German Epagneul Breton Club (Club für Bretonische Vorstehhunde, e.V.) was celebrating their 30 year anniversary—I made up my mind—I had to go. My first trip to Germany was in 1980 and that trip stands out in my memories as one of the highlights of my life. My second trip in May of 2008 is right along-side.

Not only did I want to go, I wanted to take a dog. But not just ANY dog. I wanted it to be one that we had produced. It took a plethora of emails back and forth between the show committee, translators, and me to figure out how to make this work. But we finally got it done and D’Art and I boarded the plane in Missoula—my heart in my throat—and away we went. No trip to Europe would be complete without some sort of adventure and this one was no exception. Making our connection in Detroit with minutes to spare—I was less than confident that D’Art was going to make the transfer. The plane started to back away, stopped, and pulled forward again and stopped. (continued on Page 3)

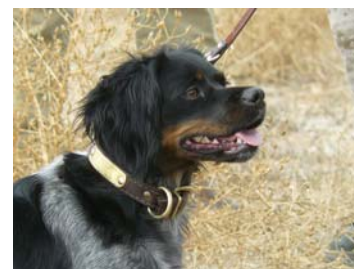
WELCOME CAPUCINE DU HAMEAU DE SORNY

In December of 2007 I happened upon a unique opportunity to import another dog, this time from France. Pierre Willems had announced that he had a young female available for sale and without thinking about it for too long, I decided that this would be a good move.

We quickly made the arrangements and I flew to Seattle, Washington to pick up Capucine. It goes without saying, that almost every 'venture' that I undertake like this—turns into an Adventure and this was no exception. As I turned on my cell phone upon arriving in Seattle—beep

beep—there's a message from Pierre. They couldn't put her on the plane due to air-flow issues so they would try again the next day. Oh GREAT! I hadn't planned on staying overnight. Thanks to my friends Steve and Stephanie Phillips (owned by TopperLyn Harley) I was rescued and they offered their hospitality until the next day. I wasn't overly confident about this whole deal, but sure enough—she arrived safe and sound the next afternoon.

We hopped on our return flight and Capucine joined the ranks at TLK. She



TAN Capucine du Hameau de Sorny

has turned out to be everything I'd hoped for—and then some—and we have great expectations for her.

It goes without saying that almost every 'venture' that I undertake like this—turns into an Adventure”

THE GERMANS” VISIT THE USA

When Hermann and Andrea Wreesman told me they were planning a trip to the US in October—and wondered if it would be possible to witness a JGHV test while they were here—I immediately got busy making phone calls. I had the great fortune to not only get them the opportunity to WITNESS a test—but was able (thanks to VDD Member Lee Root) to arrange an opportunity for them to JUDGE a test in Omak, Washington.

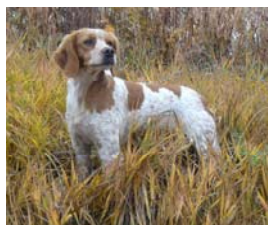
When Josef Müller heard the news he asked if he too could judge the test. But of course!

So plans were made for Hermann and Andrea, Josef and Sigrid, and Peter and Maria Wreesman (Hermann's brother and his wife) to arrive in Spokane Washington and we headed north to Omak.

Three days of testing covered a HZP, and the ultimate test, the VGP, or “Utility”

test (which takes two days to complete).

Everyone had a wonderful time. The US judges, Joe Kelly, Ken Hardman and apprentice judge Joe Auman all appreciated the opportunity to work with the German judges and Hermann and Josef were pleased to see that the tests were held very correctly. That was important for them to see—since our dogs are being judged under this format in the United States.



*CH Destinée de l'Hospitalier
VJP 70 Pts
HZP 168 Pts*

TOPPERLYN KENNELS APPROVED AS BREEDERS IN GERMANY

Just what does this mean? It means that our breeding principles align with those of the C.B.V. and we have met the criteria to be sanctioned as breeders by the Club für Bretonische Vorstehhunde, e.V.

In addition, two of our dogs [CH Destinée de l'Hospitalier and TR CH TopperLyn D'Artagnan] have met the stringent criteria to be ap-

proved for breeding. The 2009 litter produced by D'Art and Desi will be registered in Germany and will hold FCI papers.

This is a first for a domestically bred litter of Epagneul Breton to be fully registered in Europe [Germany].

It took over a year of discussions with the CBV to achieve this recognition.

The puppies produced in this litter will be tested in the JGHV testing system and will be the first Epagneul Bretons born in the US to be eligible for these tests.

Desi was the first EB to be tested under the JGHV system in the US. Desi passed both the VJP and HZP in 2006.

Go to: www.der-bretone.de

D'ART GOES TO GERMANY (CONTINUED)

The pilot came on the loudspeaker and announced that we had to “wait a few minutes for the rest of the baggage.” I asked the Purser “Would that by any chance be my dog?” I was assured that it was. Whew! He made it!

We arrived in Frankfurt and I struggled with baggage, dog, and the language barrier but finally managed to get our rental car and off we went.

Thanks to “Hildi” (my GPS system) we found our way to Bomte and got settled in our hotel. The fun was just beginning.

All of the CBV members went out of their way to make sure I knew what was going on and we enjoyed sumptuous meals, hospitality and camaraderie for the next several days.

Unfortunately the day of the show it poured rain, but the show went on. 71 dogs were entered. I had the distinct privilege to apprentice judge the show alongside CEB President and EB expert, Christian Gunther from France. That was quite a process as he made his comments on each dog in French—which was then translated to German by Gabriele Fahrman and Paul Koch—and then his comments were read aloud to the gallery by Andrea Wreesman. What an experience!

D'Art was rated “Very Good” by M. Gunther and received a beautiful certificate and pewter medal for his participation, along with a copy of the judge's evaluation.

The next day M. Gunther and several



*TR CH TopperLyn D'Artagnan
CBV Jubiläumszuchtschau
Bomte, Germany*

others of us were treated to a tour of the Varus Schlacht Museum in Osnabrücker Land and a lovely brunch. The next few days D'Art and I spent with the Wreesmanns in Altenoythe. D'Art even got to “clear the fields” of game one day. I think he is applying for a visa.

CHRISTOPHER KIERES MARRIES KERRY ANN LIVESAY

August 9, 2008 Christopher pledged his vows to Kerry Ann in Coeur d'Alene, ID in the presence of friends and family—and one BEST DOG. No Kieres event would be complete without at least one canine companion.

After much clandestine planning Chris' Pudelpointer male, Winterhelle's Strike was led down the aisle by Chris' nephew and “official” ring bearer Nate. Strike

took his job of “assistant ring bearer” very seriously (in spite of the silly doggie tuxedo) and carried his own ring pillow flawlessly; wagging his tail when he saw “The Boss” almost doubled over in laughter (this was a complete surprise to Chris).

Later, sitting politely at Lynda's (Mom's) side in the reception line, Strike offered “paw” to greet the guests as they filed past.



Winterhelle's Strike is “Best Dog” at Chris and Kerry's wedding.



*The new office—TLK
Training Center*

TLK TRAINING CENTER BECOMES A REALITY

The vision of a new training center has been looming for several years now. The frustration of dealing with inclement weather in Montana was the primary driving force.

My dreams started to come true late in the fall of 2007 when Chris; my son-in-law Joe Haggard; and my brother-in-law Chuck Maple teamed up for a full fledged “barn

raising.” Miraculously these 3 guys got the entire building framed and sheeted in only 3 days. My daughter Dulci and I stayed out of the way while we provided non-stop food and drinks. (No alcohol until AFTER the day's work was done though.)

Not being noted for my patience, it has been a real test for me to endure the comple-

tion of the project, but it is sufficiently done to be functional and both the doggies and I greatly appreciate not having to work outside in the heat, cold, rain, and snow.

With any luck—the balance will be finished next spring and the official grand opening will be held.



Preserve Game—Use a Trained Dog

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Topper-Lyn Kennels breeds for the total dog. We do not emphasize show over field or field over show, the dog must do both. We are also dedicated to producing healthy and physically sound dogs .

www.topperlyngundogs.com

TOPPERLYN HERA TESTS AT THE PUDELPOINTER EXPO

“What IS it?” seemed to be the question of the day when I brought out “Hera” for the Natural Ability Test at the annual Pudelpointer Expo in Bandon, Oregon in September. Seems few people there had even HEARD of an Epagneul Breton, let alone SEEN one.

Circumstances had prevented me from getting Hera entered into any NAVHDA or VHDF tests so my last option was the PCNA Expo.

The Test Secretary had to check with several officers before it was decided that she could in fact run in the normally exclusively Pudelpointer event. She stood out like a sore thumb among the large brown dogs.

But that didn’t matter to her. She was more than happy to do her thing and she earned a respectable score of 70 points; including a 10 in pointing (no surprise for a Breton) and a 10 in water—YAHOO!

Hera is from the first litter sired by D’Art and we are happy to see that his strength in the water seems to have been passed on.

I first saw Hera’s ability in the water demonstrated when she was about five months old. I had thrown a dummy to the far side of the pond for D’Art but before either of us realized what happened—Hera was well on her way to it. D’Art had to put it in over-drive in order to not let his puppy beat him to the



*TopperLyn Hera
Definitely her father’s daughter
in the water.*

dummy. That could have been embarrassing for the young pup to show up “Papa” in the water. Can we say “MOTOR-BOAT?”