

TOPPER-LYN
KENNELS, LLC

SPECIAL
POINTS OF
INTEREST:

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NBOB
- France 2009
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TopperLyn Kennels

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Leo is NBOB 2 Years In A Row

The CEB-USA National Specialty was in Muscatine, IA this year. Getting there (and home again) is a separate story in itself. But this is all about our pride and joy—TopperLyn Gallant Bodacious—or as he is affectionately known as "Leo." The Senior Field Trial judge, and also judge for the Conformation Show was the President of the French CEB, and recognized expert in the breed—Christian Gunther. M. Gunther had the opportunity to see Leo perform in the field before he saw him in the show ring, and that combination of opportunities served Leo well. The Wild Bird parts of the field events did not prove productive for many of the dogs as wild birds were scarce and few were found. But on the day of the Liberated Bird trials Leo got to show M. Gunther and the second judge

[from Canada] Reynald Lefebvre what Leo does best. And that is—hunt in braces. Leo's run was complimented by Russ Winter's dog "Val" [Vladimir de Winter-



2X NBOB CHF GRCH
TopperLyn Gallant Bodacious,
SH TAN

haven]. Both judges commented on how these two dogs worked as a team; which is how it is supposed to be done. They were not competing against each other—but complimented each other to effi-

ciently cover the entire field. The end result of course being Leo received the 1st place honors, with Val a very strong 2nd.

The next day when Leo walked confidently into the Champion Class of the conformation show, M. Gunther smiled at me (I was apprentice judging the show with him) and whispered "I have MY winner, but I don't ask you." Leo epitomizes everything we've been trying to do for the last 11 years—and that is to produce a dog who LOOKS like a Breton should, and HUNTS like a Breton should.

I can't thank Glen and Anne enough for everything they have done to prove Leo's capabilities.

The only problem we have now—is his name is almost a paragraph. (That's not a bad thing.)

France Trip 2009

When I got the email that M. Gunther had located a female puppy for me—I was absolutely ecstatic. She was bred by Christian's good friend Michel Jolivot in Dijon. The next hurdle was arranging the shipping, so when Christian said "Or, you can come get her . . ." - why didn't I think

of that? But of course. So quickly I worked out the details with my travel agent and off I went—by myself—to France, GULP! So in August I added yet another wonderful adventure to my "memories of a lifetime." I spent several days visiting with Christian and his lovely wife

Colette. We toured the area; attended a TAN; and then spent the day at his trainer's M. Vasenette so see my puppy's mother and sister work. Then I followed M. Jolivot to his home where I met his family and my baby. What a wonderful experience that turned out to be.



Envie de la Source de Larrey—[Arko de la Butte de Suin x TR Perle des Genets de l’Azure]

“D’Art impressed the judge and gallery with his persistence locating the shot bird in the Liberated Trial.”



Envie de la Source de Larrey

Envie started out by being the subject of a “naming contest” among family and friends. That turned out to be a lot of fun and some excellent suggestions were offered. The “winner” was my son-in-law Joe. **GOOD JOB!**

When Envie and I headed to Paris for our flight home, I was immediately impressed by her attitude. She endured trains, cars, buses, airplanes and hotels with all the confidence of a seasoned traveler.

She has pretty much taken over the household and reins supreme. Destinée adopted her and has become the most indulgent “mother” I’ve ever seen—spoiling her terribly.

We’re just starting her training to get her ready for a busy spring and summer of testing. I’m excited to see what she does.

Her mother Perle, although she is 10 years old, and had just had a litter, showed me why she carries a Trialer title.

This is a dog that is “all about hunting.”

She also has the distinction of having been rated 3rd Excellent in the Search Behind the Duck test—BICP. That was one thing that really caught my attention. It’s not often that you see this accomplishment on a resume.

I can’t thank Christian and M. Jolivot enough for entrusting Envie with me.

This is going to be a fun time working with her.

TopperLyn D’Artagnan

At the National Specialty in Iowa, D’Art had the same luck as the rest of the dogs in the wild trial, but his performance on the Liberated Birds started out with a bang. Literally! His first bird, only a few minutes into his run, proved to be a challenge to locate after the shot. But he impressed the judge and gallery with his persistence until he eventually

found the bird and delivered it to hand. I thought we were on a roll. Unfortunately his second bird tested even his ability to remain steady by running back TOWARD him and actually right between his front legs. Oh well—there’s only so much a dog can stand.

The Montana Fall Trial on Wild Birds proved to be more successful as he had both a

covey of Dusky (Blue) Grouse and a nice big covey of Hungarian Partridge. Even though the Grouse sounded like B-52’s taking off, he held it together and then the Huns sealed the deal with perfect manners and happily a 1st Place win. He rounded the weekend out with a Reserve win in the Champion Class in the conformation show.

TopperLyn Fonzie

Fonzie performed flawlessly in the Wild Bird trial in Iowa. The only thing lacking was the other player—the bird. I couldn’t have been more proud of him. Crazy things happened in the Liberated Trial which cost him a placement, but he made up for it at the Spring LB Trial at Denton,

MT where he earned his first Pass. He followed that up with another Pass in the Fall Wild Bird Trial at Wilsal, MT. In both of these trials he handled the birds flawlessly.

He took us all by surprise though when he won his class in the Conformation Show and then proceeded to move right

up the ranks to his first BEST OF BREED win and a Total Dog Award.

About a week later Fonzie demonstrate what he truly loves by producing another limit of Huns and Sharptail for our friend Gary. Nesse No wonder he likes to take Fonzie hunting.

Oaktree South Dakota



A good day hunting with good dogs.

In October Chris and I were invited, by longtime friend and client, Steve Mroczenski to a three day hunt at Oaktree Lodge in South Dakota. This was an opportunity we couldn't pass up for sure. Steve and his wife Annette (Netty) were

anxious to see how their new pups, Izzy and Isis, would hunt, so we took the two pups and both of their parents, CH Destinée de l'Hospitalier and TR CH TopperLyn D'Artagnan. Of course Chris also took his Pudelpointer, Winterhelle's Strike. This proved to be a great combination. We decided to take Desi along kind of at the last minute, and boy are we glad we did. She turned out to be

"the go-to dog" and although she kind of stole D'Art's thunder several times by stealing his retrieves (that's what he gets for being "field trial steady") she had a great time and showed what she's really all about—HUNTING.

Izzy demonstrated that she is "her mother's daughter" by exhibiting the identical characteristics of her mother—including doing her "Merkat Impression." She had a couple really nice retrieves of her own (lucky her—Mom wasn't around to steal them).

Izzy demonstrated that she is "her mother's daughter" in every aspect . . .

Our "J" Litter

After careful deliberation, we decided to repeat the previously very successful breeding of GRCH TAN Beau de l'Hospitalier and CH TAN Sapphyre Noir du TopperLyn. This combination previously produced TR CH TopperLyn Fontay Azure Bo and TopperLyn Fonzie. Azure has wow'd judges from the US, Canada and Europe with her classic Breton style.

Her performance in the Liberated Bird trial in Iowa cannot be denied—perfectly steady on not one, not two, but FIVE birds earned her 1st Place honors. Again at the Montana Spring Trials, Azure held steady and true both Saturday and Sunday—taking 1st Place both days. Fonzie has shown his potential in both the field trial arena, and in real life hunting.

Therefore we decided it was worth while to repeat this breeding. Beau has proven himself as a strong sire and Sapphyre adds her own flavor to the mix with dogs that have high drive and passion.

We have our fingers crossed that we have another "Leo" - "D'Art" - "Azure" - or Fonzie amongst this gaggle of puppies. 7 little Angels each holds the potential . . .

All About Conformation

The first time I had the opportunity to apprentice judge with Christian Gunther was in Germany in 2008. The situation was, sadly, less than optimal with not only the language barrier (his French being translated to German—with an occasional antidote in English); but we also had the disadvantage of a deluge of rain—and the show was outside. How-

ever I did feel that I learned a lot just from being in the position of "judging" the dogs as opposed to critiquing from the sidelines.

This year, apprenticing again with M. Gunther at the CEB-USA National Specialty was a completely different story. This time I really had the chance to ply my skills at evaluating the dogs. M. Gunther took a tremendous amount of time teaching,

and explaining the minute details of each dog. This was without a doubt the best experience I have ever had.

Then in August I had another excellent opportunity to learn conformation from an AKC Sporting Dog judge when the VHDF held it's first "Conformation Evaluation" in conjunction with a field test. Barbara Young is an excellent teacher and I had the opportunity to evaluate

other breeds of dogs—besides the Breton—which was a fantastic learning experience. It's one thing to evaluate a breed that you know and love—something else to apply the breed standard to MULTIPLE breeds, and come to a conclusion if they meet their respective breed standard. I applaud the VHDF for adding this very important component to their program.



Topper-Lyn Kennels, LLC

3677 Sagehill Drive
Stevensville, MT 59870
Phone: 406-777-5894
Cell: 406-579-4108
E-mail: topperlyn@hotmail.com

TopperLyn Kennels breeds on a limited basis. Only proven dogs are used with a specific purpose in mind. Our goal is to maintain the standard and type developed in France and at the same time develop our own line of dogs that will stand out in any arena.



Preserve Game - Use a Trained Dog

Just How Versatile IS the Breton

We all know that the Breton is an accomplished hunter on every variety of upland game bird—as well as most waterfowl (well maybe with the exception of some of the larger Geese).

We also know that they excel in tracking Hare and even in blood tracking wounded big game (as evidenced by the successful completion of the 40 hour blood track in Germany by Bretons).

Our little friends can also “show their stuff” in any conglomeration of Obedience and Agility competitions.

So what about MUSHING? Who would have thought that a Breton could perform in THIS arena? It has long perplexed me that keeping my dogs “in condition” over the winter was a real challenge; especially when the National Field Trials seemed to take place earlier and earlier each

year. When you live in the north, [Montana] getting your dog in field trial condition for events the beginning of March was a serious challenge.

The judges in Iowa both commented that they observed that many of the dogs were “out of shape.” Well that’s not hard to imagine when it’s been at least 4 months since they had a really good day hunting. (Okay, I admit—I’m not fond of Chukar hunting in January.)

So—how do you keep your dog in shape over the winter? Well, if you live where I do—sled dog racing is a popular winter sport. I’m not going so far as to want to be competitive in this arena, but it did cross my mind that this might be just the ticket to keep my dogs in shape over the winter—not to mention a heck of a lot of fun.



Don’t let anyone tell you that a Breton cannot be a sled dog. My two dogs, D’Art and Fonzie, took to it like “ducks to water” and I see a whole new opportunity to enjoy my dogs during the winter months coming to fold.



MUSH!!!!