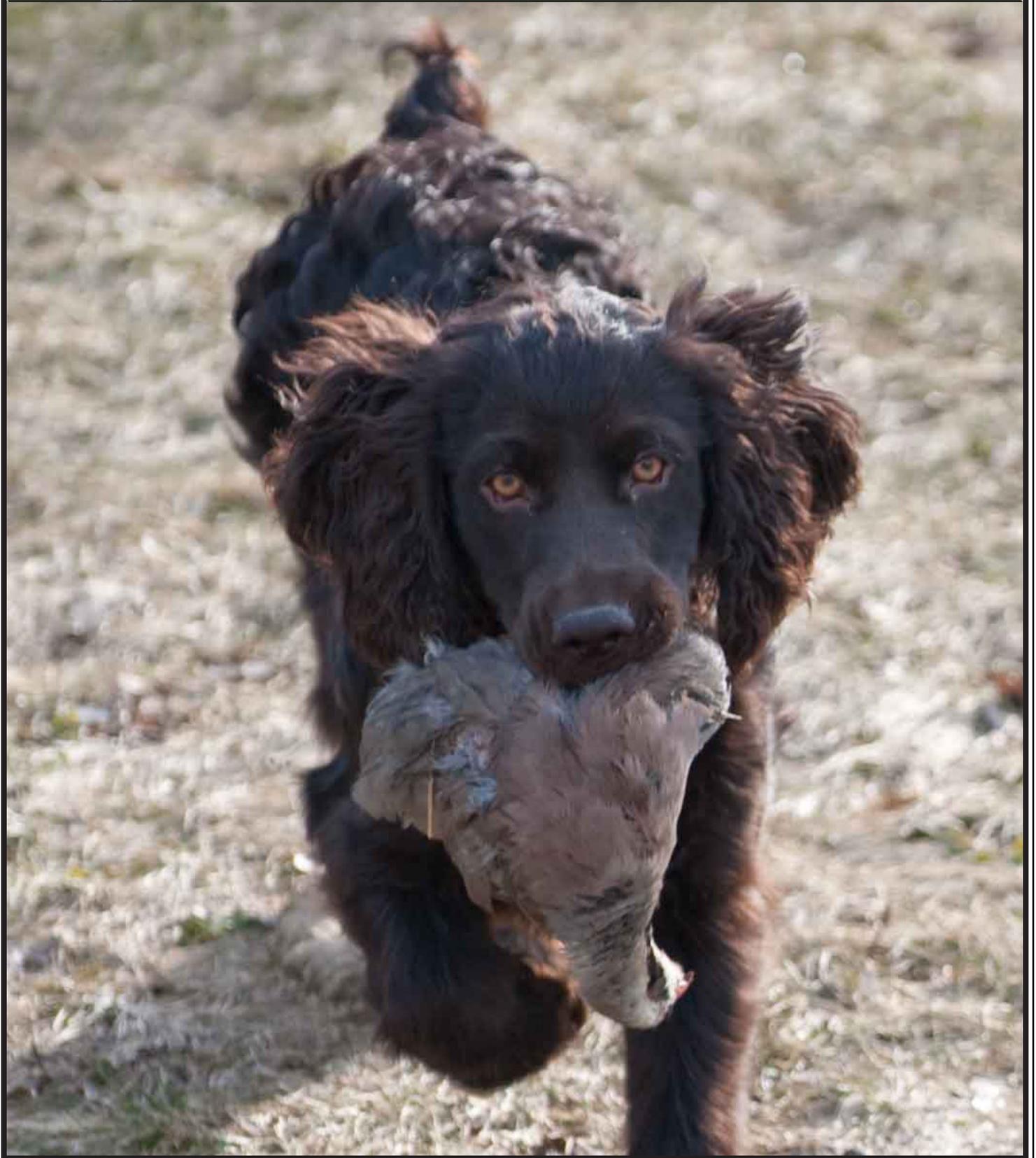


BOYKIN SPANIELS FOREVER

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EDITORIAL

Hi Readers,

Don't know how spring was for ya'll... but for me, it was pretty "fast"...too much going on and not enough of "me" to go around.

My lbd's are all doing well. Can you believe that the Three Amigo's and siblings: Gus, Cocoa and Bozz are 13 years old now! Each has been an excellent ambassador for the breed...Gus and Cocoa have accomplished much in both UKC conformation and UKC/ BSS hunting trials. Bozz was sold as a pup, but Millie Latimer and I traveled to "retrieve" him at the age of ten... he had been unloved and much neglected. Upon arriving "home"... He blossomed immediately and has been a happy boy ever since. He loves to roam, but from day one, he has never left my property...and it's not fenced! I think he fears getting "lost" and not finding this retirement paradise again. He is so very loving.

Cocoa has become a chunky monkey since she was spayed for a hormonal condition. Spay/neuter is something I never do without a medical reason. Like most nurses, I don't think you should take out perfectly healthy organs.

My girl, Penny, turns 11 in November... but she looks like and acts like a very young girl! Penny's sibling, Decoy, enjoyed the limelight and probably still retains the bragging rights as being the most accomplished Boykin to date. He earned many titles and "firsts"...a special one being the first Boykin to earn a AKC Master Hunter title...he was closely followed by Gypsy. Decoy has passed. Gypsy is retired...and Penny (aka Pooh) is still enjoying her one on one time with me...She does not share with a 'giving' heart.

Those are my seniors! I focus on them to remind you that your senior pets require extra special care...with longevity comes health problems with dogs as well as with humans. I find that a good bath (and DO apply a good coat conditioner) every two weeks, is a great time to explore them for "growing things" that may need immediate attention. Regular exercise is just as important as feeding the best food you can afford for your aging dog. All of my dogs still swim twice a day and I firmly believe that is why they all might live to be 17...just as Miss Dixie did. It is the most perfect exercise for muscle strength and tone...Better than walking! Also, be sure to have their anal glands checked and expressed regularly.

Although you may be tempted...Do not over feed them...if they need to lose weight think of "green beans"...they love them and they are great to supplement when you decrease their food to get that weight loss happening. An overweight dog is more likely to get sick than one which is not overweight. Cocoa loves green beans and will feast on them anytime over a treat. Honest!

With Independence Day fast approaching...Please remember the affect fireworks can have on your pets. Move them to a safe and quiet area during the "explosions"... They just don't comprehend what is going on...And NO...it is not comparable to hunting sounds for the dog!

Have a happy and safe holiday and... As you are enjoying the holiday with your family in this free country... remember to say a prayer for those men and women who have...and still are...making that possible.

God Bless America,

Pat



lina. This breed is so much more.

The AKC offers venues for recognized breeds all over the nation and is the world's largest registry of purebred dogs. Under the private registry/Mother registry, Boykin Spaniels are pretty much limited to activities within or close to the state of SC. The journey to sanctioning by the AKC has spanned more than a dozen years.

The BSS is a registry. It is also the Mother registry of the Boykin Spaniel. However, the Boykin has long ago left the boundaries of the state and the limits of the mother registry, as do all breeds at any given time in it's history. The AKC does not ruin breeds, breeders do, we currently have (and have had for all the years of the sole parent registry's existence) many boykin puppy mills about which nothing has been done. So please do not confuse a national registry with the creation of puppy mills. They have existed for many years for the Boykin Spaniel and there is very little that the Mother registry can do about it. Granted, the BSS has given money for health issue causes, but so has the AKC and in much greater proportion. As a registry, the BSS makes a tremendous amount of money just registering litters/dogs and there in lies a problem of economics. The AKC is a much less expensive and expansive registry.

My personal direction with the AKC is to maintain the standards of the breed as a versatile and compact gundog. My views on size does not coincide with others. Many well known BSS breeders have been producing Boykins exceeding 40 pounds for many years. To establish the small size in the conformation ring will at least better assure the pinning and thus breeding of Boykins which are absolutely in standard.

- Patricia L. Watts
Owner/Editor

Letter to the Editor

I picked up the most recent edition of Gun Dog recently. It seems that BSS members are less than thrilled with the AKC recognition. Since you seem thrilled (and rightfully so) with your dogs' firsts in AKC confirmation and spaniel hunting tests, I am curious to know your feelings on the AKC recognition.

- Kelly Stagnaro
future Boykin owner

Despite what the Gun Dog article said, the Boykin Spaniel Club has not contacted for any input for the article, the BSC reviewed all incoming mail and correspondence and there was no attempted contact. That said, I have been an advocate of the breed for a very long time and register my dogs/pups with the BSS as well as the UKC and now the AKC. What people want to do with their pets is not limited to hunting and to the state of South Caro-

COVER PHOTO

Featured is "Trooper" of Scottsdale, AZ

*- Owner is
Barbara McElnea*