

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.

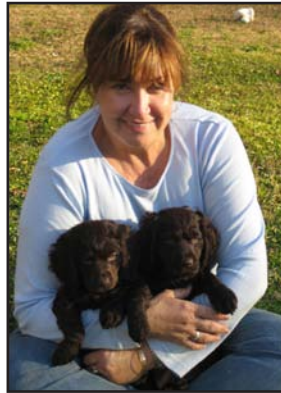
Although you may be tempted...Do not over feed them...if they need to lose weight think of "green beans"...they love them and they are great to supplement when you decrease their food to get that weight loss happening. An overweight dog is more likely to get sick than one which is not overweight. Cocoa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



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-

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

COVER PHOTO

*Featured is "Trooper"
of Scottsdale, AZ*

- Owner is
Barbara McElnea

My Personal Experience with Exercise Induced Collapse (EIC)

I had my first experience with EIC approximately 15 years ago after one of my carefully planned litters of Labrador Retrievers sired by a Field Champion and Amateur Field Champion (FC-AFC) arrived. The female Lab pup I kept back for myself for a potential field trial prospect became very unsteady with moderate field work starting at 8 months of age. At about the same time, her littermate male was going through retriever basic training with a professional trainer and started showing the same symptoms. I had heard through discussion with other breeders and field trainers of an unknown collapse issue in Labrador Retrievers.

A couple of times after that experience, I purchased Labrador pups from other breeders that starting show the typical EIC symptoms when field work started. Diagnostic testing ruled out all other possible causes. My goals for these young dogs were also derailed by this yet unknown condition.

A large number of the prepotent and very popular Labrador Retrievers studs that were being used in many performance breeding programs were carriers for EIC which increased the incidence of EIC affected and EIC carriers in Labrador Retrievers. EIC has also been identified in Labrador Retriever conformation lines although due to their temperament and lifestyle those dogs may or may not show EIC symptoms.

Fortunately, after comprehensive studies and research by teams of medical and capable professionals for nearly a decade, the DNM1 gene mutation was identified. The University of Minnesota Veterinary Diagnostic Lab tested approximately 2000 dogs in their research phase, and over 11,000 dogs since the test became commercially available in 2008.

In Early 2010, affected and carrier Boykin Spaniels have been identified by the University of Minnesota. **Only a limited number of Boykins have been tested, so there is no indication yet of the prevalence of the mutation in the breed.** The University of Minnesota Diagnostic Lab recently updated their web site to identify Boykin Spaniels so that EIC information is made available to Boykin Spaniel owners and veterinarians.

I encourage all Boykin owners to carefully review the EIC information from the University of Minnesota below. With your participation in EIC testing and

sharing awareness of EIC with others, we can partner together to reduce the incidence of EIC in our Boykin Spaniels in the future.

- Terrie Tomlinson
Health Committee BSCBAA

What is Exercise Induced Collapse

Exercise Induced Collapse, or EIC, is a neuromuscular condition that causes collapse of dogs when they become overly excited or exercise heavily. The gene mutation causes an amino acid in the coding sequence of the dynamin 1 (DNM1) gene, which is involved in nerve signaling during high level neurological stimulation. After intense hunting or retrieving or other exercise, affected dogs start to lose control of their hind limbs. Body temperature is normal at rest in dogs with EIC but is almost always dramatically increased at the time of collapse (*temperature* >41.5 C, >107.6F).

EIC and the DNM1 gene mutation are quite common in Labrador Retrievers, and have been also identified by the University of Minnesota in several other breeds, including Chesapeake Bay Retrievers and Curly Coated Retrievers, and Boykin Spaniels

Comprehensive EIC information and links are available at the University's web site. <http://www.vdl.umn.edu/our-services/canine-neuromuscular/home.html>

The Veterinary Diagnostic Lab's EIC Brochure explains the mode of inheritance and how to interpret the test results of affected, carrier, and clear. http://www.vdl.umn.edu/prod/groups/cvm/@pub/@cvm/@vdl/documents/asset/cvm_asset_117797.pdf

Implications of the EIC Mutation for Breeding

http://www.vdl.umn.edu/prod/groups/cvm/@pub/@cvm/@vdl/documents/asset/cvm_asset_107687.pdf

Presently, the University of Minnesota recommendation to breeds identified with EIC is that they should not automatically remove all carriers/affecteds from their breeding programs.

The best approach to maintain genetic diversity while decreasing the frequency of the mutation in the population is to choose matings in which **at least one of the parents is EIC clear**. A mating of a carrier to a clear will produce litters that are on average 50% clear and 50% carri-

ers, with no affecteds.

Then breeders will be able to choose otherwise equal pups that are clear for breeding homes, and carriers to pet homes. Of course if there are other reasons why you would consider the carrier pup to be superior, that dog could be kept in a breeding home and only mated to cleared dogs. Using this approach the carrier rate should drop, and you can eliminate the production of affected dogs without the need to remove a carrier dog from your breeding program.

How to Test Your Boykin for EIC

Boykin owners can have their dogs tested through their veterinarian by submitting a blood sample or cheek swab to the University of Minnesota Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory following the EIC Submission Guidelines. <http://www.vdl.umn.edu/guidelines/canine-neuro/home.html>

The EIC Submission form must be taken to your vet for either the "blood draw option" or "cheek swab" option. Be sure to fill the form out completely. http://www.vdl.umn.edu/prod/groups/cvm/@pub/@cvm/@vdl/documents/asset/cvm_93648.pdf

Your results will be sent directly to your veterinarian. If owners would also like a copy of the report sent directly to them for their records, please include the owner's email address in the Result Reporting section of the EIC submission form.

Once you have received your results from the University of MN, you can record your results through OFA. You will need to submit a copy of your test results report from University of MN. OFA's Application for DNA Based Genetic Database form is optional. However, submission of the OFA form in addition to the EIC results form will ensure recording of sire/dam information as well as one additional registration number if applicable. <http://www.offa.org/dnaappbw.pdf>

You will send the OFA form (optional) and the University of Minnesota report, along with the OFA application fee (currently \$15) to OFA. Affected results will be published at no charge by OFA.

For questions or additional EIC information contact the University of Minnesota:

email: vdل@umn.edu
ph: (612) 625-8787
toll free: (800) 605-8787

IT'S THE NEXT BEST THING

By Joe Doggett



Linda Woods

Diesel retrieving quail Photo by Linda Woods

It's a dress rehearsal in hunter orange, but you need a diesel to really make it work. Or at least you need a dog with the same discipline and disposition as guide Doug Growden's Diesel.

Growden's chocolate Boykin spaniel would, on command, jump with flapping ears and wagging tail right into the middle of things - literally. The "things" were pen-raised bobwhite quail recently released amid the fields of grass and brush on the sprawling Rio Brazos Hunting Preserve near Simonton.

And, as with any proper dress rehearsal, the results were close to the real deal.

Our first covey rise during a recent morning hunt set the pace. An English pointer bounded over a ridge and spun into a stylish point. A trailing Brittany spaniel honored.

Diesel slithered close, bringing up the rear. Jim Easterling, Whitney Easterling and I paced forward with poised shotguns.

The tableau of frozen dogs amid winter stubble was a classic upland image - until Growden gave the nod to Diesel. Gracious! The little spaniel sprang like a bottle rocket into the tangles of straw.

Three, no four, bobwhites vaulted up and out, wings buzzing and blurring against the blue sky. You hear stories of pen-raised or "liberated" quail that can scarcely flutter, but trust me, these birds were moving with authority. They wanted to put serious air between them and whatever demon had violated the brush

pile.

Jim reacted smoothly and smacked down a double with his 28-gauge Beretta over/under. Whitney was caught off guard and missed with the first barrel of her 20-gauge but cleanly rolled a bird with the second shot.

I was "brushed out" and never raised my 20-gauge Parker Reproduction side-by-side.

That opening volley was typical of the fast action during the session at Rio Brazos. The rises were legitimate and the shots were challenging - and the misses not altogether uncommon.

"That was fun, a lot better than not quail hunting at all," said Easterling, a veteran South Texas gunslinger, as Growden counted out 68 birds at the conclusion of our three-hour session.

Proving skeptics wrong

This has been a poor season for wild bobwhites, so bad that some leases and hunting operations have shut down. The terrible summer drought combined with several hard freezes took a desperate toll on native birds in prime regions such as South Texas.

The accepted wisdom among many veteran hunters this season is to "leave 'em for seed" and hope for better, wetter fortunes during the 2010-11 season.

However, the alternative to this glum return is to book a few hunts for liberated quail on a proven game preserve.

"A lot of hunters who first come here

are skeptical about the pen-raised quail, but we get excellent dog work and the birds flush well and fly hard," Rio Brazos hunt manager Robert Young said. "The success average over the course of the season is about 60 percent - so that means a lot of shots are being missed on these so-called easy birds."

The season on pen-raised quail at Rio Brazos begins in mid-October and runs through mid-March. The operation is open seven days a week — weather permitting. Two to four guns per hunt can be accommodated on mornings or afternoons. A valid Texas hunting license is required, but because the birds are non-native, no bag limits are imposed. Hunters are charged a flat fee of \$450 per gun, and the tab includes bird cleaning and bagging - and the quail are delicious.

Confidence builder

They also are big, almost twice as large as the "brush country" bobwhites native to Texas.

"We get our birds from Roadside Quail Farm in Columbus," Young said. "It's a top operation and raises more than 150,000 bobwhites per year. The ones we use are called 'Carolina Jumbos' - big, strong birds that are in great condition."

"We've been running the hunts for six years now and have a good relationship with the farm. And, as a strong point, they are just down the road so we can obtain birds on an as-needed basis; our quail are released fresh into the field and are not held over in pens or nets."

Two sprawling areas interspersed by woods and ponds are used - pleasing upland settings. Young stressed that the birds are not disoriented or hampered in any way once they are released.

"We usually figure about 30 quail per gun and release two to four birds in a spot, depending on the number of shooters," Young said. "But they can move at will and the dogs never know for sure where they'll be - or how many in one place, for that matter. It's great training for beginners and a lot of fun for experienced quail hunters."

Easterling and I can attest to that. We've hunted extensively in the prime bobwhite country of South Texas and northeastern Mexico yet had a great morning watching the dogs and swinging on the

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It's The Next Best Thing

(Continued from page 4)

Carolina Jumbos.

Whitney, a sophomore at the University of Texas in Austin, benefited from the crash course in upland gunning, and her shooting improved markedly as our session progressed.

A big difference between the Rio Brazos birds and the wild brush country bobs is that the former rarely run ahead of the pointing dogs. They hold tight in the traditional manner. This allows relative newcomers to position for safe, confident shots.

Similar feel

This also is where Diesel earns high marks. The Carolina Jumbos need to be flushed, and the small Boykin is a master at stirring things up. But when the quail take wing, they can accelerate with purpose - maybe not as fast as wild bobwhites but quick enough to confound a sloppy mount or a tardy swing.

The hunting preserve offers several advantages other than sure-fire action within an hour of Houston. Hunters are welcome to use their own dogs with the understanding that the productivity of the hunt might suffer.

The preserve is a great venue for a light gun. You know you are going to have numerous close chances, so the .410 gauge or 28-gauge that seldom gets an honest workout now has a chance. A 20-gauge double gun is ideal - as it is for most quail hunting.

And this is quail hunting in the classic style (well, with never a sideways glance at Diesel). You step behind a rigid point then raise a trim gun as several whirring bobwhites take flight against open sky. Frankly, most of the upland hunting operations scattered across the traditional "bird" country of the southeastern states now depend heavily (if not entirely) on liberated quail.

But Rio Brazos Hunting Preserve is a lot closer than Georgia or South Carolina or Mississippi. Or even South Texas. And, to reiterate, no pressure is placed on the natural resource during this lean wild-bird season - and the plump jumbos are excellent on the table.

Joe Doggett joined the *Houston Chronicle* as a full time outdoor writer in 1972 and he retired 2007. In addition to writing for the *Houston Chronicle* he was a contributing Editor of *Field and Stream* magazine for more than 20 years.



"Jake" with his Rally Bone toy that he won in Simpsonville, SC.

His first Rally trial!!!!

**95 out 100!!
Yay Jake!!!**

- Beth Crocker



The Best Walk

By Earl Hamner, author of
The Waltons & The Twilight Zone

A tired old hunter and his dog were walking down a remote dirt road with strong fences on both sides. They came to an overview in the fence and looked in-it was nice, grassy with wooded areas. Just what a huntin' dog would like, but it had a sign saying 'No Trespassing', so they walked on.

Shortly they came to a beautiful gate with a person in white robes standing in the opening. Inside was a beautiful home with manicured lawns and tables laid out with food and drink. "Welcome to Heaven", he said. The old man was relieved and started in with his dog following him. The gatekeeper stopped him. "Dogs aren't allowed; I'm sorry but he can't come with you." The old man questioned, "What kind of heaven won't allow dogs? If he can't come in then I won't either. The man in the robes pleaded, "You don't want to give up

your place in heaven do you? At least, not for a dog do you?" The hunter replied, "He's been my faithful companion all his life, and I can't desert him now."

"Suit yourself", said the gatekeeper, "but I have to warn you that the Devils' on this road and he'll try to sweet talk you into his place. He'll promise you anything, but the dog can't go there either. If you won't leave the dog, you'll spend eternity on this road." The old hunter paused, and then gently calling, he and his old friend continued their journey.

Much later and exhausted, they came to a rundown section of fence covered with hedges, and overrun with partridges

and rabbits. There was no gate but a gap in the fence. Another man in simple overalls stood inside near a quaint old cabin and homestead. Calling out, the old hunter said, "Scuse me Sir. My dog and I are getting mighty tired as we've been walking quite a ways. Would you mind if we came in an' set in the shade of that tree awhile?" "Of course," was the warm reply. "There's a rocker for you and a well with cool water. Make yourself comfortable." The old man puzzled, "You certain it's ok for my dog to come in with me? The other man down the road said dogs weren't allowed anywhere off the road." The kind gentleman asked, "Would you come in if you had to leave your dog?" "No sir," was the reply. "That's why I didn't go into Heaven... he said my dog wasn't welcome. I spec we'll be spending eternity on this road. As much as I'd love that cool water and some shade, I won't be coming unless my old friend can come with me, and that's final."

The man smiled a warm welcoming smile and said, "Welcome to Heaven." The old hunter seemed stunned. "You mean this is Heaven? And dogs are allowed? How come that fellow down the road said they weren't?" The kind man's face turned more serious, and he said, "That was the devil, and he gets all the people who are willing to give up a life long companion for a comfortable place to stay. They soon find out their mistake, but then it's too late. The dogs come here, the fickle people stay there. God wouldn't allow dogs to be banned from Heaven. After all, He created them to be man's companions in life; why would He separate them in death?"



Hunting with Boykins

by Bill Hamrick

As a duck and upland game bird hunter I was looking for a breed of dog which could serve in both capacities as a small compact hunting companion, that could handle the cold harsh conditions of Eastern Shore Maryland. The reasoning behind my choice of the Boykin Spaniel is partly do to using a canoe in the marshy tidal waters of Nanecoke River.

We came across a sale ad in the paper for Boykin Spaniel puppies where we picked up our male who we named Little Boy Hershey. After working hard with training Hershey, he has become a total hunting package for me, where I have hunted 3 or 4 hours of duck hunting, finishing the day with a few hours of pheasant and quail hunting,

During the hunting season he gets to put on his business tie (hunting collar) and he becomes the focused hunter, where he knows no quitting time until his business tie is removed. When we are at home he is a wonderful and loving pet with, at times, the personality of what we call our clown dog. He can keep us laughing for hours with his antics and playful ways.

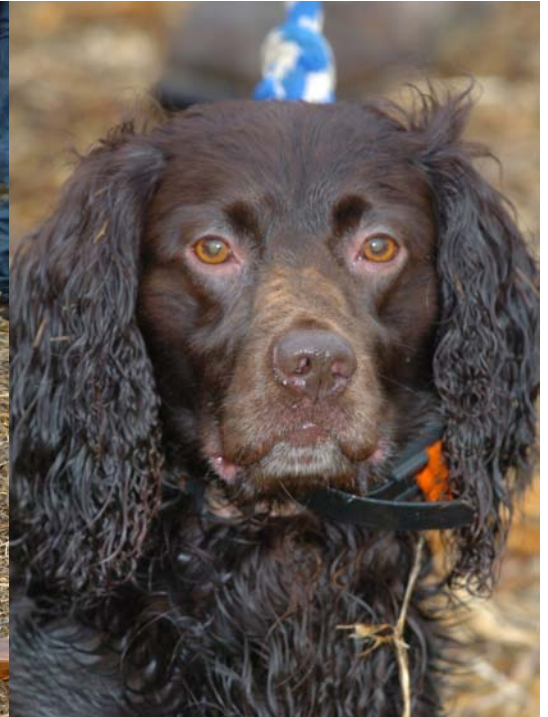
There was also a time when I saw a great change in Hershey as a pet with the loss of his companion and friend Max a collie/rottweiler who died in my wife's arms two and a half years ago. The loss of Max was hard on him and he no longer let my wife touch him. That all changed when we got Cocoa, a female Boykin Spaniel. Hershey regained his trust and love for her. Getting another friend for him helped Hershey and Tina bond once again. As she began working and training her new dog, Hershey too wanted a piece of the action.

Back in November we went to Denton, Maryland to a game preserve for a day of upland game bird hunting. This would be the first time my wife had said she wanted to hunt with me. She had gone in the past but just to watch and take photos. But this time she was looking forward to taking her first bird. Once we got there and got ready to start Hershey was pouncing

up and down trying to tell us to hurry. As we headed off into the field, I called to Hershey. He stopped dead in his tracks and looked back at me, to find the bird. I called to him. Off he went head down to the ground sniffing out a bird, locking on to it His head low to the ground and his butt high in the air lets me know he is on a bird. I told Tina to get ready and call his name. Hershey jumps forward at the bird and off it went up, up and away. As soon as the shot rang out Hershey popped out and went running to get it. And if you missed the bird Hershey gives you a look as if to say "what happened, where is the bird". Tina shot her first bird that day and we are now planning many more trips together.



Max & Hershey



Healthwise

Do you keep a lot of plants in and around your home that your dog or cat can nibble? If so, you'll want to pay particular attention to the following list of plants that can be quite toxic to your Boykin Spaniel.



• Ferns • Caladium • Hyacinth • Iris
• Bittersweet • Clematis • Daffodil
• Foxglove • Narcissus • Morning
Glory • Death Camas • Lilies • Sago
Palms • Tulips • Azaleas • Rhodo-
dendrons • Oleanders • Castor Bean
Plants • Cyclamen • Cilantro • Yew

• Amaryllis • Autumn Crocus • Eng-
lish Ivy • Peace Lilies • Schefflera
• Pothos • Marijuana

There's an online resource provided by the ASPCA - <http://www.asPCA.org/pet-care/poison-control/plants/> - where you can reference a very comprehensive list of which plants are poisonous to your beloved companion animals and which are safe to have around your home and yard. The list includes a photo of each plant and can be sorted by toxic and non-toxic categories as well as by type of pet.

In addition to these plants, Cocoa Mulch, manufactured by Hershey's, claims that studies have shown that 50% of the dogs that eat Cocoa Mulch can suffer physical harm to a variety of degrees. However, 98% of all dogs won't eat it. Cocoa Mulch, which is sold by Home Depot, Foreman's Garden Supply and other Garden supply stores contains a lethal ingredient called 'Theobromine'. It is lethal to dogs and cats. It smells like choco-

late and it really attracts dogs. They will ingest this stuff and die. Several deaths already occurred in the last month. Theobromine is in all chocolate, especially dark or baker's chocolate which is toxic to dogs. Cocoa bean shells contain potentially toxic quantities of theobromine, a xanthine compound similar in effects to caffeine and theophylline. A dog that ingested a lethal quantity of garden mulch made from cacao bean shells developed severe convulsions and died 17 hours later. Analysis of the stomach contents and the ingested cacao bean shells revealed the presence of lethal amounts of theobromine.

If you suspect your dog or cat has ingested a poison and you have questions or need guidance, you can call the ASPCA's Poison Control Center hotline at 1-888-426-4435. The hotline is answered 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. If your pet shows signs of distress or illness call your veterinarian immediately.



Spotlight on... "Libby" GeeChee Girl's Liberty from Texas Trace Ranch and Kennel. Owned by Thomas & Patsy Bolding in Texas.

Libby has been a joy to have with us. She is a pretty darn good water retriever. She has broken through ice to make retrieves in the past and has made some great swims to pick up ducks. On one occasion, we had several ducks down and she had forgotten where one of them landed. I threw a rock in the water and she swam to the point where the rock splashed, then dove under water. She came up, saw the duck and made a great retrieve. She has been called a 'machine' by my fellow duck hunters.

She is a very loving part of our family and I can assure you Patsy and I will probably never have another breed of dog. Dixie is a little bundle of energy that we enjoy having as much as Libby. We have had a pool constructed and we can't keep Dixie out of it, even during the winter. She plays by herself in the water and stays pretty curly. They both sleep on the bed with us and have become lap dogs when they can.



Adventures of Doc - Quail Hunting

About midway down is Doc's third quail hunt last Friday. He was really marking his birds and retrieving!

To date he has been dove hunting for two hours and we got one dove.

He had flown to Canada last September at 9 months old and retrieved a bunch of ducks on blind retrieves.

As of Friday, Doc has had 130 quail hunted over him this season.

We missed the first hunt since I was visiting my parents at Christmas, but "T" brought me back one to freeze and work with Doc. Like every new thing he gets introduced to, he was a little shy with a quail at first, but once he became comfortable it was Katie-bar-the-door.

He has been on three 30 bird hunts since Christmas. "T" has a retired field trial champion, Rudy, who is an excellent pointer with a fantastic nose. The problem is that the bird may be one foot in front of her or thirty feet. One of the uses I had in mind for Doc was to use him as a flush dog and to hunt dead. Rudy has not cared much for hunting dead and was never trained to as a field trial dog. Well, Doc loves quail! I have kept him on a short lead so the setter could point and do her thing, then Doc could do his.

I have been a little skeptical about turning him loose since he will put any 'not dead' bird in the air or so it seemed until Friday. We did not lose any dead birds with Doc and the tandem with Rudy has worked out very well. The first 30 bird hunt we got 26 out of 28. Two flew away to another field while they were putting the birds out. The second we got 23 out of 30.

The last one we got 26 out of 30.

Carly has gotten into hunting at 20-21 years old. Must have gotten some of her daddy's genes. She went quail hunting with us last year, but was hesitant to shoot since we were not lined up abreast trying to find the bird. Using Doc as a flush dog, we can all line up and be in position to shoot. Since Doc had the hang of it we took Carly on the last hunt and she shot several birds. One bird got up and she shot it out from under "T". "T" gave her a hard time about shooting his bird and she said that somebody

else must have shot that bird. "T" and Carly were the only ones in position to shoot

since the bird curled around their end. "T" opened his breach and asked Carly if his shells looked shot. She said 'No' and started grinning from ear to ear. And her dog Doc got to fetch. So Doc has helped us line up abreast and gives everyone the opportunity to shoot.

We shot one bird that fell out about 300 yards or so in another field. We went over to retrieve the bird and we were working into wind. We got about 60 yards down wind from the bird and Doc took off like a sled dog and literally pulled me to the bird.

So that takes me to Friday. I had a couple of clients that were after me to take them to a quail preserve. I got permission 2 weeks ago from upper management to do it on business (a rough day at the office Friday!) I set up a 40 bird afternoon hunt with a guide. "T" always deals with them so they do not know my name. When I called I said you know me, I have the daughter that hunts and I have the Boykin. I am the only one hunting there with a Boykin. He has been trying to use a Springer with his pointers to flush and retrieve. He said "You are bringing the Boykin aren't you?" I said no that I was bringing two clients and my boss. He said "If you are not bringing the Boykin do not bother to come!" Unfortunately, he was not kidding. So here we go with Doc. Friday. Typical hunting trip! Friday morning I get a call that the client that can shoot became too sick over night to make it.

My boss and the other client are not very good shots and I am going to have a bouncing Boykin tethered to me so I am Boykin challenged. Next my boss calls and his car will not start, but the client is coming by his way so we get him. Well, we get there and the guide turns out to be the owner, Charlie. He said that there was no way he was going to miss watching a Boykin work! So off we go with three pointers and a Boykin. The first point is on a ditch with briars so what man wants to go

kick him out? Charlie says to turn Doc loose. I said are you sure, because if he gets out into the birds he will put them in the air. Charlie says let him go so I did. The bird gets up and flies to the others and they miss. Doc comes back and I hook him to his lead. We get up a dozen birds in the field one at a time. The pointer points and walk in with Doc on his lead. Doc flushes and tries to go after the bird which typically jerks me off target. Then we start getting into some birds that really want to hold or others that run. Charlie starts telling me to turn Doc loose so I did. He would find the bird and flush it, then mark the dead bird and retrieve it back to my hand. I would hook him up until the next point turn him loose, flush, kill retrieve. Charlie says to me that you have been in this rodeo before, I can tell.

Well, got to the point and Doc had settled in pretty good and when we missed one he was coming back and getting on his lead. When we were chasing birds that were running he stayed close so when they flushed we were plenty close enough to shoot. We had one point in the middle of the field. Doc and I were in the middle and the pointed bird flew hard left so I could not shoot. A second bird flushed wild and went straight - right. It was hit but went about 500 yards up the hill. There goes Doc wide open. I said that is what I was afraid of. Charlie says that is why you need to have a collar that you can nick him with. Well, Doc is about 400 yards up the field now (My bird is 500 yards). I turned to the hunter to my right and asked him which bird he shot at and he said the one that got up right in front of me. I turned to Charlie and said you remember a while ago when you said sometimes you need to trust your dog (quail was in a tree). He said yea. I said look 400 yards up the hill. There was a third bird that went down dead and here comes Doc just strutting.

Friday was a rough day!

- MDS Kinard



Waggin Tails



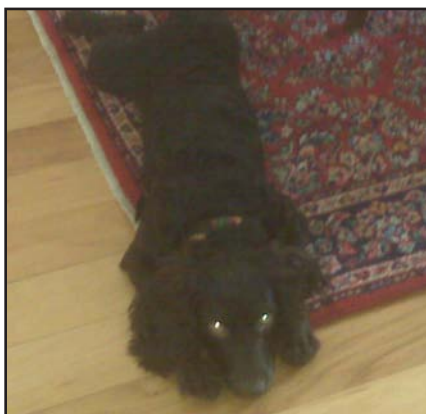
**“Being a Boykin Spaniel is
SNOW much fun!”
- Vivian Grice, SC**



**“Scout” (3 years) & “Penny
Moon Joy” (1.5 Years)
Half Sisters
- Tom Edmister, TN**



“Sullivan” - Chris Challoner, SC

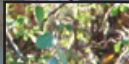


**“Charley” and “Daisy”
- Debbi Stribling**



**“Boy Howdy”
- Jeffery Rush, FL**





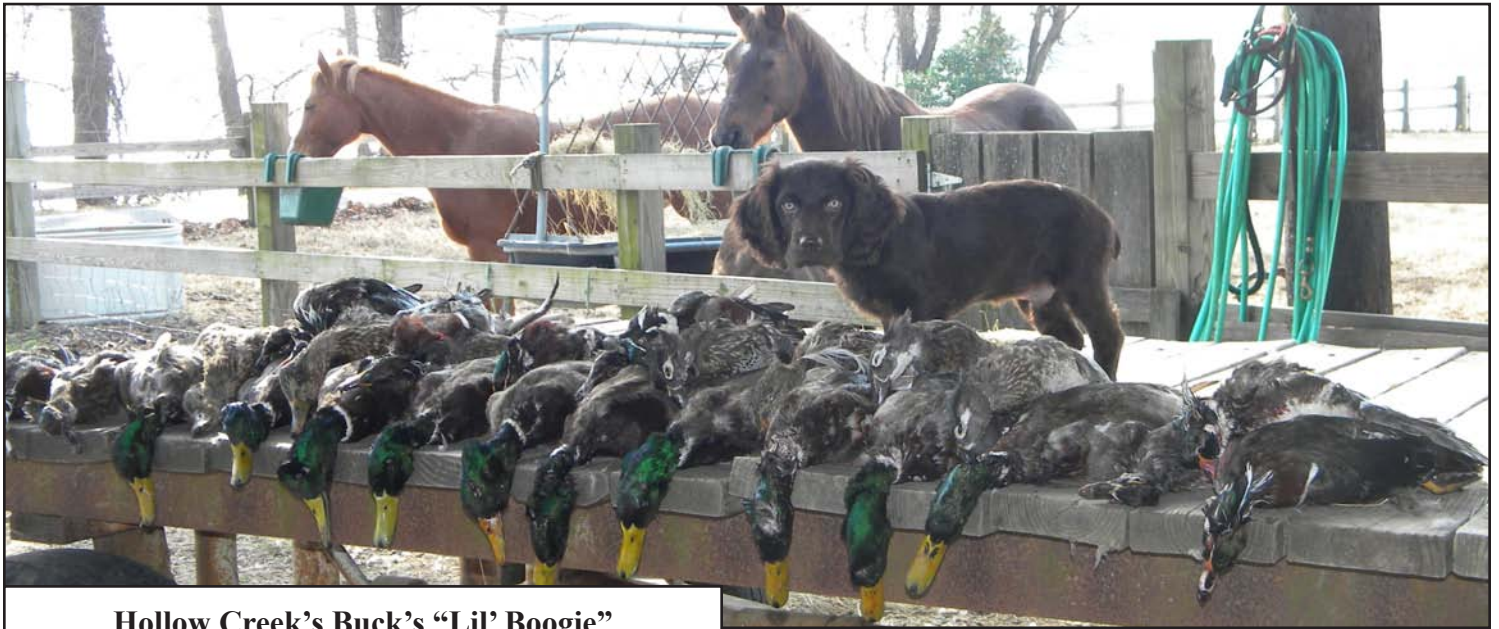
It broke our hearts to read about Rosey. Your love and dedication to your dogs are the reason we are so very blessed! I will never forget the day we came (two years ago) to pick up our puppy. I think I watched you more than the puppies. Your love for these animals was so obvious. Our Scout has now become the love of our life and we could not have imagined the love, affection and intelligence he shows us. This is all due to you and the type of breeder you are and this is also why you are the best. - Ken & Jean Richards, FL



I'm a proud boykin spaniel owner from Ontario, Canada and have never seen another one in all the years we have had the dog. I've been reading the Boykin's Forever online publications and have thoroughly enjoyed the articles and pictures. Simba was given to us in February 1996 when he was 10 months old and I am happy to say he has just celebrated his 15th birthday on March 26th. He is a wonderful family pet and a source of great enjoyment. When we were given our boykin we had never seen or heard of the breed and since our family has never done any hunting we had no idea he was a hunting breed. In fact everywhere we go people ask us what type of dog he is and comment that he is so unique and love his coloring.

- Susan Trott





**Hollow Creek's Buck's "Lil' Boogie"
and his first dilemma!
Boogie is doing GREAT and has everyone in awe.
- Hank Burdine, AL**



Slumber party pic at the Weihs



**Hawkridge "Cutter"
- Bill and Terry Mantle, PA**



**"Molly" & "Abby", FL
left - Molly at Fort Desota Beach
doing a little retrieving
right - Have you ever seen a
Boykin Spaniel tree???
- Mike & Robyn D'Agresta**



Hollow Creek Kennel



STORK-A-GRAM

I plan to have summer/fall litters this year. The reservation list is filling up quickly... Call and apply to reserve your pup today!



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To feature your Boykin Spaniel in the Journal, Email photo with a caption or description and your name and state of residence to BoykinsForever@aol.com

Tuckered Out by Danny O'Driscoll



For information about Tuckered Out, which features Hollow Creek's Chocolate Mouse & GRCH Hollow Creek's Alli-gator, contact Danny O'Driscoll <http://dannyodriscoll.com>

Web Links:

American Kennel Club - www.akc.org • Boykin Spaniel Rescue - www.boykinrescue.org

OFA - www.offa.org • CERF - <http://www.vmdb.org/cerf.html>

BOYKIN SPANIELS



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