THE DEW CLAW

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Mrs. Ernest Clark, Box 86, Molalla, Oregon
Dear Breeder:

Several months have passed since the first report on selenium-tocopherol was sent to you, along with the promise of further news. Meanwhile, work has been going on.

Many of you have exchanged letters with me and received reprints and professional literature. The remainder of you might be interested to hear about the response which the report brought.

Those replying have been editors of local and national club publications, veterinarians, colleges, magazine editors, dog research organizations - and, of course, breeders in the United States and other countries. The warmth and sincerity expressed will always be remembered.

I just wish space permitted me to print excerpts from the letters.

Everywhere breeders are eager for information on new developments, and for the reassurance that research is concerning itself with their problems. Some of you have suggested the need for a "Reader's Digest" for dog folks that would act as a clearing house for scientific information not easily available. (Our veterinarians are much too busy, anyway.)

The first report was a broad one. This second is on the subject of hip dysplasia due to the large percentage of interest in this particular disorder. The report will tell of a new project which will test the concept that hip dysplasia can be treated as a metabolic disorder rather than solely as an hereditary one. Your grass roots reporter is happy to bring you this news.

In the next report, arthritis and rheumatisms in dogs, demonstrated metabolic disorders response to selenium-tocopherol, will be reviewed. Hip dysplasia is only one of many diseases resulting from metabolic breakdown. Selenium-tocopherol is presently approved by the FDA for treatment of idopathic skin problems, arthritis, disc syndrome. It is in the investigational stage for reproductive disorders and cataracts. Research is also being followed in human arthritis.
Happiness is eight warm puppies

Plus Mother Bebe and Father Rascal.

Warmest Christmas greetings from
Les Briards de L'Auberge

and Lansing Bailey

Edgewood Motor Inn .. New London, New Hampshire

Last fall the first International Meeting on selenium was held at Oregon State University. Biologists came from all over the world, including the U.S.S.R. The interrelationship between tocopherol and selenium was confirmed by many scientists.

Now, may I ask your help in reaching the greatest number of interested breeders? This has never before been attempted on such a large, grass roots level. The how to is a continuing challenge. The media of club newsletters is ideal. Many complained they were overlooked in the last mailing. Lacking a newsletter, breeders can be reached through their local clubs. A postcard from you with editor's name, or regional secretary, will avoid both omissions and duplications. Thanks. And remember, if you have comments or questions, please feel free to write.

Sincerely,

Marianne Svenson

New Concepts in Treatment/Control of Canine Hip Dysplasia

To define very simply a complex and little understood disease, hip dysplasia is, essentially, an abnormal development of the ball and socket joint of the hip, in which there is a lack of supportive muscle mass in relation to weight and rapid growth. When this mass is so lacking as to prevent the ball and socket joint from maintaining a secure position, the looseness of the ball in the socket causes irritation, injury, erosion and/or calcification. In severe cases the two may separate.

Eradication is the goal. But, meanwhile, humane relief is available to dogs suffering the disorder, whether they be valuable trained dogs or beloved family pets. Selenium-tocopherol's success in restoring to usefulness and comfort dysplastic dogs is well established and accepted by veterinarians familiar with it. Unfortunately, it is often a matter of years before a drug becomes well enough known to be a commonplace treatment.
An example of functional relief was recently reported by a Chief of Police who had been advised to destroy two highly trained sentry dogs because of their pain and disability. After treatment with selenium-tocopherol by a veterinarian experienced in its use, the dogs returned to duty. Thousands of such reports were submitted to obtain FDA clearance.

To picture metabolic disease as a dying spark within the cell, makes it easier to understand why breakdown occurs in so many systems of the body, since all these depend on healthy cell function for their well being. Also, diseases starting from other causes can produce a secondary metabolic disturbance. The development of a practical treatment of such metabolic deficiencies holds much promise. When every essential nutrient reaches the cells, the flame of life burns cleanly.

Whether the outcome is more profitable production for the farmer or a better life for our dogs, metabolic control gives improved health.

Using correct formulation and following fixed dosage schedules, the combination of selenium and tocopherol has proven safe in over 100 million doses on varying species. Though a relatively new product, it is reliably estimated that this combination saves livestock producers over 10 million dollars annually in the northwestern United States alone.

The preventive attack on hip dysplasia is confined, presently, to culling, and this approach poses problems!

After years of x-raying, culling, and x-raying, displastic dogs are still being whelped by the thousands. The 38 or more breeds suffering hip dysplasia defy rule of thumb.

The breeder is handicapped from the time of mating since pups from normal parents show up to 37% incidence.

He is further handicapped because of the time that must elapse before a diagnosis can be made. Culling at birth for an obvious impairment is one thing - waiting months before it is even known if there is an impairment, is another. Selective breeding seems of little help to the frustrated breeder as he looks at his newborn litter.
Even after sweating out the ensuing months, he's still left in a mire of conflicting opinion on whether to eliminate some dogs, to reproduce cautiously, or to ignore borderline cases entirely.

His situation is made more acute by his sense of responsibility to his customers. The matter of public relations may, in the long run, be the last problem to be licked!

No wonder that when news of a possible prophylactic approach was announced, it was received with great interest.

This approach to prevention is based on an increased understanding of biochemical interrelationships in which fat, protein and calcium metabolism contributes to muscle development and tone.

Since the hereditary theory appears to stem from the tendency in some breeds toward a lack of supportive muscle mass in the hip joint during the fast growing stage of puppyhood, a second course is now open. While accepting the long range selectivity approach to control, through the use of parents having sufficient muscle mass, a simultaneous approach can be explored with the goal of increasing muscle mass and/or muscle tone in pups by improving their metabolism, during the rapid growth stage.

For this purpose, the use of selenium-tocopherol is soundly based in biochemical and pharmacological research.

Properly conducted trials of newborn pups should quickly indicate whether this approach, along with selective breeding, will prove a practical, prompt and economical solution.

Such a trial is now underway, under the exacting supervision of a top authority on hip dysplasia, and with the cooperation of the Doberman Pinscher Club of America, and the pioneering pharmaceutical firm. In this trial, litters will be divided, one half receiving selenium-tocopherol at intervals, while growing, and one half will serve as controls. Dogs will be maintained under normal kennel conditions.
Concurrently, within their own kennels, breeders can participate by working closely with their veterinarians who have demonstrated an interest in this problem and are familiar with the pharmacodynamics of selenium-tocopherol. The very universality of the disease protects kennels from being singled out for blame. Even some breeds not associated with hip dysplasia have shown by chance x-ray to have the abnormality to some extent.

Raising, showing, selling dogs has never been a task for the faint hearted. When hip dysplasia is present, courage and integrity of a high order, are required, along with minds alert to new concepts.

There is much at stake.

Reported by Marianne Svenson,
353 Bellevue Ave., Oakland, Calif. 94610

NEW MEMBERS

Mrs. Bill Awodey 3259 Devonbrook Dr., Bloomfield, Mich.
Allan Brown, 425 E. 79th St., N.Y., N.Y.
Elissa Dishell, 20057 Shrewsbury, Detroit, Mich.
Mrs. Geo. H. Dunkelberg, 1220 Jennings Ct., Columbia, S.C.
Walter Einsel, 25 Morningside Dr. S., Westport, Conn.
Replh S. Gallagher, 41 Spruce Lane, Chappaqua, N. Y.
Lynne Greenberg, 20234 Avon, Detroit, Mich.
Robert & Eugenia Hunter, RR 1, Makanda, Ill.
Odessa Kropp, Box 339, Winfield, Kansas
Judy Ordan, 113-14 72nd Rd., Forest Hills, N. Y.
Elaine Perlman 17650 Goldwin, Southfield, Mich.
Chas. Person, 905 Valley Stream Dr., Madison, Wisc.
Mrs. Geo. Tann, 19379 Warrington Dr., Detroit, Mich.
Mrs. Ken Wells, 19911 Roslyn Rd., Detroit, Mich.
Barbara Zimmerman, 28085 Alice Kay, Farmington, Mich.
Dolores Zaccaro, 315 E. 68th St., N. Y., N. Y.
No doubt we have all seen a dream walking, but have you ever seen a Briard dancing, and Ballet mind you?

When you stop to think about it, it is not too surprising, considering the high intelligence of the Briard, their agile movements, the fact that they go back in French history beyond the twelfth century (nearly five hundred years prior to the Ballet becoming popular in France), and the fact that contrary to popular belief the Briard is really quite quick to learn.

To point up their keen intelligence and awareness, take the case of the Briard who attended a movie with his mistress and during the entire show watched very intently and actually laughed in the funny places. His mistress was approached after the show by a lady who was quite surprised at seeing the Briard enjoy the movie. The owner confided "I too was amazed, he HATED the book."

To get back to our ballerina Briard, on the next page is pictured Pcinarde de Marha or "Chianti" as she is more fondly called. However, Pcinarde, which means carefree, very aptly describes her as you will see in the additional photos which show her practicing for her debut as ballerina in "Bergere des Moutons". Chianti is owned by Mr. & Mrs. James C. Zaccaro of New York city. We are indebted to Mr. Zaccaro for the fine photography.
CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

FROM

PASSE-PARTOUT DE CHEZ PHYDEAU
called "Berger"

PAYSON and MARY WEBBER
Act I Scene I
She performs UN PAS DE BOURRÉE to better inspect her scattered flock in the distance.

Act I Scene II
Then its UNE ARABESQUE as she races off to gather in her flock.

Act II Scene I
UN GRAND JETE brings her face to face with the villainous wolf bent on making off with one of her charges.

Act II Scene II
UNE TOURNEE SUR LES POINTES as she returns to her flock after having driven off the big bad wolf.
LORD, MAKE ME AN INSTRUMENT OF YOUR PEACE.
WHERE THERE IS HATRED ... LET ME SOW LOVE.
WHERE THERE IS INJURY ... PARDON.
WHERE THERE IS DOUBT ... FAITH.
WHERE THERE IS DESPAIR ... HOPE.
WHERE THERE IS DARKNESS ... LIGHT.
WHERE THERE IS SADNESS ... JOY.

ST. FRANCIS

BRIARDS DE COMARADE     DR. EARL L. MURPHY

WESTBURY KENNEL ASSOCIATION OCT. 1st
BRIARDS
Judge: Mr. Major B. Godsol

Best of Opposite Sex to Best of Breed. S. P. Bowl offered by Dr. and Mrs. Edwin A. Holbrook, Jr.
The Briard Club of America (Mrs. A. M. Tingley, Secretary, Yardley Road, Mendham, N. J.) offers competition of 3 or more Briards required:

BRIARDS. American-bred dogs.

WINNERS. DOGS. First - Reserve

BRIARDS. American-bred, bitches.

BRIARDS. Open, bitches.
8 Jane R. Cook, Ole' de la Haute Tour, WA774983. June 6, 1965. Breeder,
    Mrs. J. Gambier. By Marco de la Haute Tour—Kyna de la Haute Tour.

WINNERS. BITCHES. First - Reserve  Best of Winners, No. 7

BRIARDS. Specials Only.


Best Briard. No.... 7

Best of Opposite Sex. No.9

NEW LITTERS

Dr. Earl Murphy, Rt. 1 Box 912, Vacaville, Calif. announces the arrival of a litter of tawny pups Nov. 12th, out of CH. "Christy" by CH. "Bravo", nine pups all doing very well.
CHRISTMAS GREETINGS
FROM THE THREE
DE LA GAILLARDES
FLEURETTE
LISETTE and
ROUVEAU
AND THEIR OWNERS
MARGARET AND BARBARA CONROY

OWENSBORO, KY. OCT. 14th

BRIARDS
Judge — Mr. Haskell Schullman

BRIARDS. Open. Dogs

WINNERS DOGS. First/Points...Dogs

BRIARDS. Open. Bitches

WINNERS BITCHES. First/Points....Bitches

HAS YOUR ADDRESS CHANGED — each month that the Dew Claw is mailed out several copies are returned due to change of address. This cost an additional 8¢ to get them back and another 4¢ to mail them out again. So be sure to keep us informed when you move. We want you to get your copy of the Dew Claw as nearly on time as possible.
’Twas a year ago Xmas
And all through the house
Not a creature was stirring.

NOW LOOK WHAT HAPPENED!

Sheldon
and Robin
and Judy
and Jay Ordan
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**Code Definitions:**

- X: Dog must be quarantined at least 30 days.
- NE: Dog must be inoculated against rabies within 14 days prior to arrival.
- NA: Dog must be inoculated prior to entry.
- X: Dog must be inoculated against rabies within 30 days prior to arrival.

- *Note: Applies to commercial breeds only.

**Requirements:**

- Dogs must be inoculated against rabies within 30 days prior to arrival.
- Dogs must be inoculated against rabies within 14 days prior to arrival.
- Dogs must be inoculated against rabies within 30 days prior to arrival.

- *Note: Applies to commercial breeds only.

**In the United States except that dogs must be inoculated against rabies before being shipped. If not, they are quarantined at the arrival port and the state of the importing state.

- The following countries are not required to be inoculated with rabies:

  - Guatemala, Brazil, Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Peru, Bolivia, Paraguay, Uruguay, Ecuador, Costa Rica, Panama, Mexico, Nicaragua, Honduras, El Salvador, Guatemala, Belize, Jamaica, Haiti, Dominican Republic, Barbados, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, and the British Virgin Islands.

*Note: All dogs must be inoculated against rabies prior to entry.

**Requirements:**

- Dogs must be inoculated against rabies within 30 days prior to arrival.
- Dogs must be inoculated against rabies within 14 days prior to arrival.
- Dogs must be inoculated against rabies within 30 days prior to arrival.

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*Note: All dogs must be inoculated against rabies prior to entry.
The first Mid-West location for a Briard Club of America Specialty Show will be Indianapolis, Indiana on March 23. I hope you have all received your letter announcing the show and requesting contributions for our trophy fund. By the time this goes into the mail I hope the response is much greater than that received concerning a location for the show. From the response received it would appear that most of the membership couldn't care less whether a show was held anywhere. I hope this was just a case of letting someone else make the decision and that there will be a much greater interest shown when time comes to send in entries.

I understand that at a later date another Specialty show may be held in the Detroit, Michigan area. There are enough Briards in the Mid-West at this time to support these two shows in entries never seen before at a Briard Club of America Specialty. But only if all of us in the Mid-West make every effort to support both shows.

So, as they say, first things first. First lets all work toward getting out a big entry for this first show. It will be a wonderful opportunity for those showing for the first time to attend a national specialty and an All Breed show the next day.
There is a lot of planning necessary to put on a successful specialty show and every effort will be put forth toward making this a show to remember. I am hoping that there will be more than a few who will be coming to Indianapolis for the week-end. This means motel accommodations will have to be arranged for and due to the fact that there will be an All Breed show here on Sunday we will have to put our bid in early. There is a motel right across the street from the show site with facilities for private dinners. I would like to make tentative arrangements so that all those showing Briards at the show will be assured of a room at this motel. It is much more fun to attend a show where all the Briarders can be together after the show.

SO PLEASE - won't you drop me a post card letting me know if you are planning to attend the show and what motel accommodations you will require. In this way I can reserve rooms in advance of the normal reservations that the motel will be getting.

A dinner will be planned for after the show and you will receive more information on this later.

So for now, circle the date, March 23, 1968 on your calendar - think positive - and groom regularly - then head for Indianapolis when the date arrives.

Address your cards to Harold Marley, 3940 W. 96th St, Indianapolis, Indiana 46268

CATALOG ADVERTISING for the specialty show will be due no later than Feb. 20, 1968. Mail copy with check for advertising to Harold Marley.

COME TO INDIANAPOLIS
MARCH 23rd
MERRY CHRISTMAS

To All Briards And Their Owners

from

Flogan Phay de Marha and Florise M. Hogan

COME TO INDIANAPOLIS
MARCH 23rd

MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM

A BRIARD

B - is for bark loud and deep
R - is for respect of those I keep
I - is for illustrious ancestors so proud
A - is for affection showered on family around
R - is for readiness to run and to play
D - is for darling tho' "Diable" is my name

Alias PITRE DE LA MONTAGNE

Jaye Smith P.O. Box 506  Poulsbo, Wash.

A REPORT ON SOME BREEDING ASPECTS OF HIP DYSPLASIA

By CHARLES H. KAMAN & HARRY R. GOSSLING, M.D.

ABSTRACT

Fidelco Breeders Foundation, Inc. is a non-profit charitable organization founded to derive acceptable animals for use as Guide dogs for the blind and as special duty security dogs. Breeding stock and pet stock, by-products of the work, are not permitted to be placed outside of the rigid breeding policies of Fidelco Breeders Foundation, Inc. Male dogs are not available for outside breeding. Fidelco Breeders Foundation, Inc. does not operate a commercial kennel. All program animals are placed in the homes of families participating in the program.

Mr. Kaman and Dr. Gossling are on Fidelco’s Board of Directors, of which Mr. Kaman is president.

In order to carry out its purpose, Fidelco embarked upon a two-phase breeding program. The first consisted in use of a psychosynthetic method of temperament testing and classification with genetic correlation. The second phase dealt entirely with the hip dysplasia problem with particular emphasis on the derivation of breeding practices and policies that might reduce the incidence and make eventually it eliminate. Much has been written of hip dysplasia in German Shepherd dogs, but the question of breeding needs additional development.

In conducting this second phase Fidelco set up a series of control measures and records to develop statistics. The main purpose of this paper is to set forth these results of phase two to date and to draw such conclusions as possible therefrom.

While the work of Fidelco continues, 56 litters consisting of 350 animals have been produced since the start of the program in 1960. Of these, 38 litters or 236 animals, will be reported on by reason of age and completion of radiographs. The work has led to a significant trend of improvement by the reduction in the number of animals severely affected with hip dysplasia, however the numbers involved are still sufficiently few to as to inhibit the drawing of absolute conclusions.

BACKGROUND

These background comments represent much of the work and publications of others, together with some of the material and work accomplished by Fidelco.

As has been abundantly reported, prior to 1937 the problem of hip dysplasia was not considered of any consequence. But the service needs for German Shepherd dogs in World War II made it evident that the majority of animals were affected. The published work of a panel on Canine Hip Dysplasia (Reference 1) and other recent work has done much to clarify and identify the problem (Reference 11).

The newly established Orthopedic Foundation for Animals, Inc. (OFA), a non-profit corporation established for the understanding and elimination of musculoskeletal diseases, is expected to do much in the classification, control and regulation phases of hip dysplasia. The OFA will unquestionably make a major contribution to substantiation of diagnoses.

Based on work done by Riser and others (References 2 through 11), it is now con cluded that dysplasia is largely congenital and bio-mechanical imbalance occurring most generally during the growth period from eight weeks to nine months. By the time a German Shepherd is nine to ten months old ossification has occurred, and the degree of acetabular dysplasia is fixed. Further alteration beyond this age, in the form of remodeling of the joint, is usually the result of varying amounts of osteoarthrosis and varies greatly with different individual animals.

However, even with the help of Reference 1 etc., much variation has continued on the matter of classification of hip dysplasia. For classification purposes of the data in this paper, Fidelco has adopted standards of the now newly established Orthopedic Foundation for Animals, Inc. (OFA) (described in Reference 11). It is believed that this is consistent with currently established interpretative diagnosis of Reference 1 and that of comparable people of experience in this field. All work in this paper will be reported upon in consonance therewith.

First, the grade of "normal" signifies no joint deficiency whatsoever; in short, as perfect a joint as possible.

The number of German Shepherds exhibiting truly normal hips is extremely rare. The relaxation of selection for normal introduces considerable variation of opinion. Fidelco has arbitrarily set the limit for animals to be used for breeding and has established this as "near-normal." It is believed this represents less dysplasia than formerly.
SEASONS GREETINGS

CH. ARLETTE DES GRAND PIEDS
"Stormy"

THE RUBYS

and BRIARDS CHEZ CHIEN VELU
signified by Grade 1 and is within acceptable limits for dogs to be used for halter work with the blind. Here again Fidelco utilizes the standard for "near normal" established by the OFA (Reference II). It must be noted that the placement of the animal and overall alignment is actually more critical here than for the animal with normal or perfect hips. The problem of obtaining radiographs with perfect positioning deserves more attention (Reference 7).

For Fidelco's purposes all animals exhibiting a greater incidence of dysplasia than that characterized by "near normal" are considered "unacceptable" or dysplastic.

Currently, minimum age for classification charting is ten to twelve months. It has been the observation of Fidelco that dogs with sound hips move strongly and firmly well into old age. But for animals with moderate dysplasia that face severe working conditions during their lifetimes, the prognosis of their abilities into old age is less than reliable.

**PROGRAM SUMMARY**

The early work of Fidelco began with animals selected from leading German bloodlines. Then, as now, the importance of good temperament dominated efforts of Fidelco. Most of the early stock thus utilized was later proved to be affected with dysplasia in varying degrees and, still later, based on breeding results, it was possible to quickly conclude that the mating of certain of these prominent lines would herald quick disaster on dysplasia.

Since pedigrees involved illustrated some of the most prominent conformation lines of the day, it became quickly evident that the dysplasia gene, in whatever form it exists, was widespread in the breed and in all probability had been so for many years.

In order to adequately illustrate the Fidelco breeding program relative to hip dysplasia, Diagram 1 has been drawn following to some degree that presented by Bornfors, Palsson, and Skude (Reference 4). The names of the animals involved have been coded to avoid reflection for or against the various kennels, German or American, from which the original source animals came. All classification is on a basis of radiographs and for simplicity deals with three categories, "normal," "near normal" and "unacceptable or dysplastic." For even greater simplicity, in charting, the "normal" and "near normal" categories have been combined into one.

It will be noted from Diagram 1 that at the outset all females and most males were dysplastic. This condition gave way after the F litter to breedings involving at least one sound parent and still later to both parents of good hips. To illustrate progress made in early phases through selective breeding a set of tables has been prepared with the data being extracted from Diagram 1. As more animals have become available to the program and as the fund of knowledge has increased it has been possible to greatly increase the standard of selection for breeding through the attainment of "pedigree depth" for "normal to near normal" hips.

**Table I**

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<th>Near Normal</th>
<th>Dysplastic</th>
<th>Total</th>
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*Table II*

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<th>Total</th>
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*Table III*

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<th>Dysplastic</th>
<th>Total</th>
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*Table IV*

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</table>
CHRISTMAS GREETINGS TO ALL from QUIXOTE DE MARHA

"Ropespierre" or "Ropes" as he is called is anxiously waiting for his first Christmas. He's dreaming of a white Christmas as he has asked Santa for a flock of white sheep.

Greetings and Happy New Year from his owner Josephine Steinberg, R.2 Bx.181, Antioch, Illinois

BEST WISHES TO ALL FOR A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM HUGO (alias PHYTHIAS) AND HIS FAMILY, CECE AND KEN COLLINS, AND ALISON AND COURTNEY. HOUSTON, TEXAS.

PHYTHIAS CHEZ PHYDEAU (at 10 mos.)

PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS

- Breed: German Shepherd
- Age: 10 months
- Sex: Male
- Color: Brown and Black

SUMMARY OF FACTORS INFLUENCING DYSPLASIA (As observed by Fidelco)

From the results obtained it is obvious that the mere selection of normal males and females for breeding is not enough to insure non-dysplastic offspring. While "Pedigree Depth" for normal hips is undoubtedly a reliable empirical guide for progress, a review of other factors noted in the Fidelco program as having an influence on dysplasia is reported here since the route of "Pedigree Depth" alone is extremely difficult and time-consuming to achieve, and has not yet even been adequately achieved, or proved by Fidelco.

The various factors noted as having an influence are tabulated below and will be discussed individually:

1. Breeding Practice—Outcross vs. Line vs. Close Inbreeding
2. Individual Animal Selection for Muscle Mass, Growth Rate, Weight, Size
3. Individual Animal Selection for Skeletal Structure

In these breeding considerations of temperament, size, etc., also prevailed with the selection of good hips in parents. The percentages of soundness from Table IV compare well with those reported in Reference 4.

From even a cursory review of diagram 1, and Tables I through IV, it is clearly evident that the dysplasia problem is very deep-rooted and bound to disappoint any breeder seeking quick resolution.

While Fidelco no longer breeds animals with less than "near normal" hips, current policy also involves using lines for the continuing program where grandparents exhibit at least "near normal" quality where possible.

(Fig. 1) Radiographic example of normal hip joints of German Shepherd.

(Fig. 2) Radiographic example of "near-normal" hip joints of German Shepherd.

(Fig. 3) Radiographic example of dysplastic hip joints in German Shepherd Dog.
BEST WISHES
for a
HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON

Art and Mary Lou Tingley
and Briards Chez Phydseau

The evolution of experience within the Fidelco program is also discussed.
1. Breeding Practice—Outcross vs. Line vs.
    Clone Inbreeding.

It has been reported (Reference 4) that the mode of inheritance follows a dominant trait with incomplete penetration occurring with varying severity, usually asymmetrically. Reccessive inheritance also with incomplete penetrance, however, could not be excluded. From the Fidelco program it is evident that the genetic mutation of hip dysplasia is complex and multifaceted, rendering simple theory or patterns thereof inadequate.

While it has taken Fidelco many years to arrive at the point of breeding animals possessing pedigrees showing good hips through the second generation—i.e., grandparents—it is quickly apparent that in the sense of genetic selection this is a very shallow base indeed. If it can ever be possible to achieve many such generations, the results might be substantially more conclusive. There is here, of course, the compromising consideration of other factors in the mode of inheritance such as temperament, size, health, etc.

Noting the near disastrous results obtained by Fidelco in the early years where lines prominent in German and American show rings were used, a new approach was deemed necessary and several relevant factors were considered.

The first related to the work of Riser (Reference 2) in reporting the freedom of dysplasia in Greyhounds. Selected by man over countless generations for speed in the rear end, as characterized by speed, the Greyhound possesses massive musculature and very few reported instances of degenerative joint disease. The rear structural assembly of the Greyhound has evolved in accordance therewith and unlike the German Shepherd has been free of selection for a long slighly sloping croup and a high degree of rear leg angulation. As will be developed later these factors may have an influence on the muscle effectiveness in constituting a sound joint.

Applying this thought to German Shepherds, in order to derive an animal selected for soundness in working ability, it was decided to try strains selected for sheepherding ability where continuous movement and effort day in and day out are absolutely indispensable. The theory here was simply that sheepherding dogs would not survive, or likely be used for breeding, if skeletal impediments such as dysplasia were to inhibit their sustained endurance capability throughout their lifetime. Several sheepherding strains were found and were introduced.

Comments concerning their structural attributes are given later on. Pedigrees of these animals reflected outcross breeding almost throughout. No radiographic data was available on any of the basic German source material behind these animals, but they themselves proved to be sound. It was recognized that for breeding purposes these animals would depart considerably from modern day breed conformance standards, but they were still of quality appearance and of great intelligence and nobility.

A further consideration supporting outcross breeding is the recently published data by Drs. John Scott and John L. Fuller concerning their most noteworthy work at Bar Harbor, Maine. Their work was actually based on many pure-bred and in substantial numbers. As they point out, often an outstanding show champion will spread unknown and unseen recessives widely because of the extensive use at stud thereby making ridance of such recessives virtually impossible. Not unlike dysplasia, such problems in various breeds could be typified by a mild degree of hydrocephaly in Cockers, decline in fertility in nearly any breed, obesity in Shetland sheep dogs, hereditary hemophilia in English Setters, undershoot jaws in Basenjis with inguinal hernia in males, while Wire-Haired Fox Terriers produced club feet and so on.

With the decision to go ahead with outcross breeding Fidelco introduced sheepherding stock. Results improved almost at once.

Referring to Diagram 1, Litter G, V and H were most noteworthy in this respect. Evolution from these animals brought better results quickly as exemplified by the Q, R, Y, W, Z, B-1, and H-1, etc. litters.

Research work on these sheepherding and other lines with associates in Germany led to pedigrees selected and preference where ancestors were known to sustain good movement and strength, well into old age. In the absence of radiographic data, measures of this sort were really the only recourse.

Following this favorable experience a search was undertaken to find studs that would represent a complete genetic outcross for at least five generations while exhibiting dysplasia-free characteristics for at least two generations. A stud dog thus obtained, referred to as stud “B”, produced improvement to some degree even when bred experimentally to dysplastic females while showing marked improvement in percent sound offspring when bred to sound females. The Q and Q litters are good examples. Unfortunately this animal threw poor temperament so that results remain qualitative since the lines therefrom have been largely abandoned.

A second stud, “K”, likewise exhibiting an outcross pedigree, was utilized with striking results illustrated best by the V litter and again later on the B-1 litter.
Hi Everybody!

Typical spirited Pair
Ready For
CHRISTMAS!

Best Holiday to ALL!

FROM THE Cook FAMILY
BEST WISHES FOR THE HOLIDAY SEASON
HAROLD AND ADA MARLEY
AND
BRIARDS DE MARHA

In Our Town

A Real Shaggy Dog Story
Of Success in Show Biz

By James Smart

At the Rittenhouse Square Dog Show on Wednesday, Ch. Matador Chez Phydeau, C.D., will be waiting to be recognized.
If somebody stands near him and doesn’t make a fuss over him, he may reach out a hairy paw the size of a Chihuahua’s head, and poke at the bystander until he’s paid some attention.

He used to act that way at dog shows even before he went into the show business.

Not dog shows, television.

He does the dog show circuit, of course, and in his four years has won 60 best-of-breed Oscars.

His breed is Briard; he’s a shaggy dog from the story of the same name, a canine Phyllis Diller with wild hair keeping the location of his eyeballs a secret, a floppy, mopp y 100-pound hairball who gives the impression there may be a small man hidden inside.

But Ch. Matador Chez Phydeau, C.D., whose confidantes call him Rascal, hit the peak of his career when he made his television debut. He was the star of a dog food commercial.

Rascal is owned by Charles B. Cook, who manufactures sheet plastic products and, as a hobby, raises and trains dogs.

Cook and his wife, Jane, own another Briard, a Bouvier, two Bedlingtons and a miniature Schnauzer. But Rascal is Charles Cook’s dog alone.

“I DIDN’T REALLY own a dog of my own,” Cook told me while Rascal tumbled hairy around the lawn of the Cook home near Medford, N. J.

“You know how it is. The lady of the house takes care of the dogs, feeds them and grooms them. I said, ‘I’m going to have my own dog, and care for it myself.’

He decided on a Briard. On the show circuit, young Rascal became well known among Briard-lovers for his outgoing personality.

He’s always shown animation,” said Cook as Rascal threw a body block against me to get me to pet him.

Rascal was asked to pose for action pictures in a book on how to raise Briards.

That’s how the talent scouts spotted him. “An animal talent agency up in New York contacted us,” said Cook, and asked if we would be interested in doing a television commercial.

“An animal talent agency up in New York contacted us,” said Cook, and asked if we would be interested in doing a television commercial.

“The producer at the original interview decided my dog was too large, because the script called for the actor to pick the dog up and carry it across the room. But he told me to bring him for a stand-in.”

On the set, the director liked Rascal’s personality, and the actor proved he could lift Rascal.

So in the classic show biz success story, the unknown stand-in, just a country dog from Jersey, got the part.

IT TOOK THREE DAYS to make the one-minute commercial. In the beginning, Rascal was supposed to be a finicky eater.

Then he was offered the right brand of dog food, and bowled over the actor playing his master as he ran for the dish.

“They would make ten or 12 retakes of each shot,” said Cook. “I don’t know whether you know anything about training dogs, but they get a little bit tired of this.”

“It wasn’t the dog,” said Mrs. Cook. “It was the actors. They had to get just the right inflection.”

The hardest thing to teach Rascal, the Cooks said, was to knock the man over. But once he got the hang of it, he did it with gusto.

“He had a lot of retakes on the eating scene, and he loved every bit of it,” said Mrs. Cook. “And he went home and ate dinner, too.”

Rascal has been in the Pennsylvania SPCA annual fashion show for three years, and has been in dog shows as far away as Beverly Hills, California. He is the father of 22, and has children in Detroit and Albuquerque.

“He seems to enjoy being a ham,” said Cook. “He likes attention.”

So I hope everyone who goes to the Rittenhouse Square Dog Show on Wednesday will go up to Ch. Matador Chez Phydeau, C.D., and tell him they enjoyed his performance on that commercial for dog food. He eats it up.
STUD DOG INFORMATION

Name of Dog ______________________________________

Sire ____________________________________________

Dam ____________________________________________

Born _____________________  AKC# _____________________

Color ______________________  Weight ___________________

Previously bred to:

__________________________________________________________________________

Owner __________________________________________

Address _________________________________________

Please fill out and return to the Secretary before January 15th, Thank you.