



THE FLATCOATED RETRIEVER ASSN.

FLATCOAT NEWS

June 2018



The Editor's Creed:

Mistakes are made deliberately. Some people are always looking for errors..... and the Editor aims to please everyone.

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INPORTANT NOTICE

The Editor of the Flatcoated Retriever Assn of Victoria Inc. welcomes freelance contribution to the newsletter. Submissions should be typed or neatly written. The authors name should appear on each page. Whilst the editor exercises every care, no responsibility is accepted for errors or omissions that arise during the publishing process, The Association accepts no responsibility for the accuracy of statements nor necessarily agrees with the opinions or statements expressed by freelance contributors



President's Report

Peter Eley OAM



Well another newsletter to print, Helen has been working away behind closed doors getting it together but now I guess I have to put a few words in for the record.

It is a very quiet year for the Association at the moment, We ran a retrieving trial in April and recently we had our RATG competition at the start of June we also held a beginners Test on the same day. We thought we may have been able to tempt a few of the RATG competitors over to the Retrieving side but unfortunately we only ended up with 5 entries. The competition was judged by Noel Eltringham and the only finishers were Simone Wilkie and Helen Eley, both Committee members but at the end of the day they were handling the only dogs to get both of their birds.

Normally at this time of the year we are also looking toward running our second Retrieving Trial for the year but unfortunately the club that we partner with who has all the equipment is not in a position to run a trial at this time. A review of our dates and operation will be done during the latter part of the year to hopefully get things back on track for 2019.

We will be announcing a new raffle in the next month. Marilyn Dawson has generously donated another framed embroidery for us. Our Treasurer is overseas in Africa at the moment but once he returns we will advertise it on the Flatcoats Downunder page as well as a general email notice to our members. It is sitting here next to my computer at the moment. Our thanks go out to Marilyn, she does a beautiful job and the presentation of the finished article will look great on the lucky winner's wall.

And folks, that is me for this edition of Flatcoat News. Best wishes to all.

Peter Eley O.A.M.

President

YOUR COMMITTEE

Office Bearers

President	Peter Eley OAM
Vice President	Kate Eltringham
Secretary	Leanne Tormey
Ass Secretary	Helen Eley
Treasurer	Scott Farquhar
Newsletter Editor	Helen Eley

Committee

Kate Eltringham (Retrieving Trials)
Noel Eltringham (Retrieving Trials)
Sue Farquhar (Assist Treasurer)
Simone Wilkie (Conformation)

Webmaster: Deon Barylak.



My Life is perfect....as long as I'm in it.

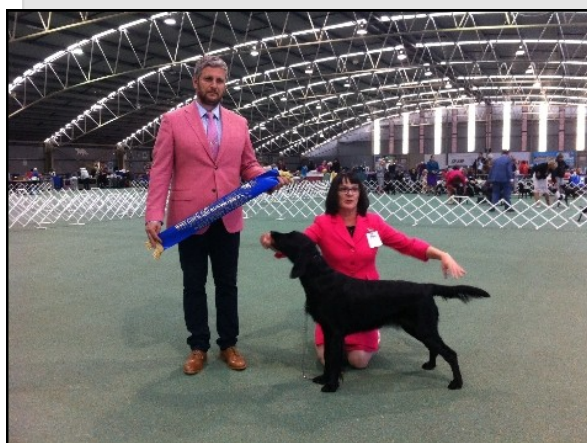
At the end of this issue is my final submission of the Charles C Eley's writings on The History of Retrievers, specifically the section about Flatcoated Retrievers. It has been a bigger job than I anticipated what with scanning the book and then proof reading to make sure it was in the correct order. It is in an effort to give you a window to see how the breed was viewed back early last century and some of it's development. It would be interesting to compare the dogs back then with those of today, not just in Australia but world wide, which begs the question; "have we kept the breed in good condition"?

We are half way through the year, the club has held its first retrieving trial, the best the Flat Coats could do was 3rd Place. In Queensland & NSW Flat Coats have done much better in the Retrieving side of the sport of dogs, details further into this newsletter.

Big Congratulations to Marilyn Dawson .On a lovely winters day recently at the Building & Amenities Championship Show with Quinn (Sherepoint Once In A Blue Moon (AI)) getting DCC & R/U BOB and JUNIOR IN GROUP. Good boy Quinn handled by Christine Murray.



Copyright: Marilyn Dawson



A further Congratulation to Rhonda Williams for her Puppy Lani, Ch Injitali Treasure Seeker winning PUPPY IN GROUP under Mr M Draganescu (Romania), I think that is her second PUPPY IN GROUP win with this young girl. A promise of things to come.



Above:-

Not to be missed out our puppy Kellick Whoa Black Betty has won 2 BEST BABY PUPPYS IN GROUP and 1 BEST BABY PUPPY IN SHOW at the Colac & Camperdown Championship shows ably handled by Simone Wilkie.

A big thank you to Jean Bryant who really keeps up with what is happening in the breed in her state and others, I am very grateful for her help in reporting what is going on.



FLAT COATED RATG

Helen Eley

The Flat Coated Retriever Assn of Vic held it's annual Retriever Ability Test for Gundogs (RATG).

The site was at Mt Duneed on an operating sheep stud property just south of Geelong. The weather gave us perfect conditions to run the day and I think everyone enjoyed themselves regardless of the results. The photos taken are not the best, I only managed to get a few but you will be able to see the theme of the day.

Novice Test.

1st - Mrs M. Moloney's TS GR CH DUAL CH (T) TANASHKA VADOSZ AMBER CCD RN ET (Hungarian Vizsla)



2nd - Ms P.A. Mann's CH GLENMAVE BUCCANEER (AI) TD (Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever)

3rd Mr B. & Mrs L. Everston's CH WEILANDER COLD TO INFINITY TDX (LH) (AI) (Weimaraner)

Pass - D. & S. Wilkie's WILGUNNDI REMAINS TO BE SEEN (Labrador Retriever)

Open Test

1st - Mr W. J. Mossop's BIRDELHUND LUCKY EVA NRD (Labrador Retriever)

2nd - Kadnook Knl's (Handler B.Arter) KADNOOK WEST-BURY'S HOT DESIGN CD RA NRA (Labrador Retriever)

3rd - Miss N. Jordan's T CH TS GRAND CH AUSSIELAB MELODY MAKER CDX RM NRD ORA (Labrador Retriever)



Beginners Retrieving Test

1st Simone Wilkie's Trinny a 10 year old Labrador



2nd Helen Eley's Sherepoint Moonlite in Georgia



Scott Farquhar our Treasurer having a go at the Beginners test with his girl Arya





Bill Frew -NSW

Wendy Michalk—QLD

Below:- A scenic photo showing the terrain at the Working Gundog Club Harden trial, not quite among the winners but we were very happy because both dogs are relatively new to Restricted and ran really well, particularly on Sunday and Monday.

On Sunday Teddy came third with 117 points. The judge was Greg Playdon who made the most of challenging terrain. He also came third at the Gundog Society's Tarana trial in March which was the first NSW trial of the year and Teddy's first weekend in Restricted.



Gracie came fourth at Harden on Sunday with 108 points. On Monday Grace was fourth again with 126 points and Teddy fifth with 117 again. Judge was Heather Ellis.



Above photo is Helen Frew at the starting pegs waiting Teddy's return with the retrieve...Helen cannot see her dog.



Above: Happy with this girl "Tabu" Kellick Sunshine Tabu winning her first Restricted Retrieving trial & on her 2nd birthday sure she couldn't think of better birthday gift for herself than being out Retrieving all day.



Above: Is Tabu in the show ring with Margaret Sullivan of Bundaberg showing Tabu towards her Show Champion title, she is 2/3 of the way there.





Hi flatcoat people

Things have been relatively quiet in South Australia. But it was good to see Kirstin Gurner make an appearance at the Winter International Shows recently. These shows were held with an all International Panel, and the first day was an FCI show – which meant we were split into groups quite different to normal groups in Australia. Our Group was Retrievers, Flushing Dogs and Water Dogs, Group 8. The way it was run, dogs over a certain age, if they were champions, they had to go in the champion class – normal challenges were awarded but also CACIB challenges were awarded and dogs were graded. We were fortunate that our three all got an Excellent Rating, with Crackpot (Cracker really Ch Sherepoint Cracked Pepper) dog CC and BOB, and Minty Ch Sherepoint Peppermint Crisp was Bitch CC and RUBOB – we were the only ones there that day. The next two days two of Tina Corbell's dogs were there with Kirstin, with our boy Gr Ch Sherepoint Kentucky Bluegrass taking out Dog CC & BOB, and Minty Ch Sherepoint Peppermint Crisp was Bitch CC. The last day Ch Skyehaven Man on Fire was Dog CC and BOB, and Ch Sherepoint Peppermint Crisp was Bitch CC. These shows attracted approx. 1100 entries, with many interstate entries – the FCI show being the main attraction. There were about 12 stalls, selling everything from lovely hot coffee, baked potatoes, drybed, all sorts of leads, collars, sprays etc – dog settees, super leather goods, etc etc. One of the funny things I saw, a Muscovy duck settled on one of the gazebos each of the days. The weather gods favoured us, it was a super weekend.

I missed the Gundog Show the next weekend due to a rotten cold and sore throat – first one I have missed for years. But we came out for the next two days of showing. The first day Ch Skyehaven Man on Fire was DCC & BOB, Ch Sherepoint Peppermint Crisp was BCC, the second day Ch Skyehaven Man on Fire was again BOB, and Skyehaven Handful of Tickets was BCC and RUBOB.

It is pleasing for us to hear news of dogs we have bred – Quinn Sherepoint Once in a Blue Moon in WA with Marilyn Dawson, picking up a few Dog CC's and also doing well in his training for Obedience and Retrieving. Also Ivy owned by Christine Murray – Ch Sherepoint Green Ivy taking out Best of Breeds, and also doing well in her training for Retrieving, they have a nice little group there doing training, and beautiful areas to train in – huge rivers. Now we hear that Emma – Ch Sherepoint Obsidian owned by Simone Wilkie is pregnant and pups are due early July. So good of Julie Govan to have Wally Ch Moonstruck Walnut flown over to Victoria for Simone to use. Simone loved having him there and both her and Peter and Helen Eley loved his easy going temperament – a true flat coat nature. News of Helen and Peter Eley's Georgia – Sherepoint Moonlite in Georgia is also doing well, taking out 2nd place at a Beginners Test in Victoria – great stuff.

Some weeks ago I had a visit from a young couple who live in Woomera, Kassie Jones and Cameron – they have a young bitch from Karen Vowell in Qld, a daughter of Abbey Rose – Ch Sherepoint Sweet Pepper. They had recently visited Karen and met up with Kimmie Brett and Luna, and thought maybe showing was something they might be interested in. They came to a weekend of shows in SA – and were made welcome by the group that I sit with, lab people showing them how to stack the girl, and how to gait her – a Field & Sussex spaniel friend showing them how to groom her for the show ring. All this as I was writing challenges all weekend for the club. (Great to have good friends_ It will be nice if they can get to some shows – but Woomera is a long way away.

Life has been busy at Sherepoint, with Ross about to face surgery – and our son also not 100%. Visits to two hospitals seem to be normal for us – on the bright side my knee replacement was a total success and I actually went in the ring last weekend for Group and showed a Sussex Spaniel, the first time I had tried to run (being worried that I might fall), but lovely Desmond the Sussex was lovely to show. Jade is due to have pups this weekend – so its full on.

It was also good to see how well Rhonda Williams is doing with her young homebred bitch, several puppy in groups and I believe a Puppy in Show - as well as other wins, great stuff Rhonda, so pleased for you. Kimmie Brett in Qld achieved her CD title in Obedience with Luna. Other good news is Freja – Kirsty Blair's bitch whelped 11 pups a week or so ago – they look lovely, like shiny little seals. Other good news is Peter King doing so well with his boys, especially to see his new boy doing so well – lovely to see new bloodlines coming into the country. If I have missed anyone – accept my apologies.

Jean Bryant

Well, its been some time since I have had the opportunity to write some Notes from NSW for the Flatcoat Club of Victoria magazine. News in this part of the country is a little light on the ground around this time of the year with winter rapidly approaching.

I suppose the best place to being would be the Sydney Royal Easter Show held back in late March and early April this year. This year the Flatcoat entry for Conformation was well down with only around 10 exhibits, around half the number in 2017. Many readers would have been disappointed to hear that the Judge elected to withhold the 'Dog Challenge' award. This also occurred in a number of other breeds, not just FCRs !.

Hopefully, the judge next year (in 2019) will be more familiar with the Australian Breed Standard. To that end I have put forward the names of several well-qualified and highly experienced overseas Gundog specialists that I have had the pleasure of judging with on various occasions in Europe & Scandinavia. Having specialist judges will, no doubt, encourage a healthier and more robust entry.

In other news, a Retrieving Training day was held near Marulan in NSW. Despite temperatures being well in the 30's, the event was well attended. Unfortunately only one Flatcoat made an attendance on the day, Aust. Ch: Blackregal Fastnet Rock with "Lido" proving himself to be a strong, willing and very capable worker with several good training runs on land and of course lots of water retrieves later in the day. The event was well patronized with an excellent turnout by the Hungarian Vizslas', Golden Retrievers, Labs, GSP's and other Gundog breeds, however one of the highlights was the appearance of a young Murray River Retriever on the first day.

Despite a few early hiccups with gaining entry to the site, the day was generally well received and seemed to be enjoyed by most. Of course a fast flowing Wollondilly River and some of its tributary creeks provided welcome relief from the heat for all the dogs.

I would certainly encourage others Flatcoat enthusiasts to attend this event type if it is ever held again. Your Flatcoat doesn't need to necessarily be an advanced or competition standard dog to attend; fortunately most FCRs have an inherent desire to 'retrieve' (hence their name) and a strong will to please their masters, so most adapt and learn quickly from simple training.

In other news, we have seen Flatcoat litters from both Blackregal and Blacqlabel just recently. From all accounts the pups have been well received and have settled into their new homes very well with most new owners becoming part of the Flatcoat Fraternity.

I must mention a highlight with hearing of new puppies is the imaginative and creative names that our breeders and new owners. There have been some great names just lately, but surely one of the best goes to a young boy with a call-name of 'Sparhawk'. Congratulations ... what a fabulous name !

Just recently I ventured off to a six-show weekend event held at Grafton on the mid-north coast of NSW.

To my pleasant surprise was an imported boy from the UK, "Remus" owned by Jill Wake living just north of the border. Welcome to Jill and Remus – am sure you will enjoy the warmth of sunny Queensland.

In early March, a welcome and much anticipated new addition to my Greysouthern family arrived in Australia from Sweden. After a very, very long wait of nearly twelve months since his birth in March 2017, Almanza Double Action Dark Kiss successfully cleared Quarantine at Mickelham in Victoria and began his relatively short road journey to his new forever home in Sydney.



"Yoka" (Swedish pronunciation of "Joker" – our Scandinavian colleagues have difficulty saying "J" !) joins his fellow import Aust. Grand Ch: Flatterhaft Greysouthern Mind Games "Nordic" now 10 years of age, and his fabulous son BISS/Aust. Ch: Blackregal Fastnet Rock "Lido".

After a month or so settling in and acclimatizing, Joker has hit-the-ground-running, attaining his Australian Champion's Title in just three weekends of shows in the Sydney metropolitan area and nearby country locations, his successes now includes multiple Best in Group (BIG/1), Runner-Up Best in Show (BIS/2) and Class in Show wins.

Considering Joker departed Sweden in near mid-winter with temperatures in Stockholm down to around -12C and surrounded by 1 metre high snowdrifts, he has adapted to the Australian climate remarkably well. He has an incredibly happy and outgoing nature, confident, yet playful, competitive and so willing-to-please.

Joker brings some fabulous new bloodlines to Australia, from Almanza Kennels, simply the 'best of the best' that Europe and Scandinavia have to offer, not only in the showing but also in the field with retrieving, tracking, obedience and as assistance, search and rescue and companion dogs.

Well that's about all for now ... I am off to some judging appointments in Europe and Scandinavia in a few weeks, so hopefully I will have some interesting tales to tell and some photographs to share in the next edition.

Enjoy your Flatcoat

THE FLAT COATED RETRIEVER CLUB OF NSW INC

SPECIALITY CHAMPIONSHIP SHOW

Entries close 10 August 2018

Held in conjunction with the Gundog Society (NSW) and the Golden Retriever Club of NSW shows, Obedience Trial and RATG, as part of the Gundog Gala Weekend.



Bill Spilstead Complex for Canine Affairs
44 Luddenham Road, Orchard Hills (Ring 5)

SATURDAY 18 AUGUST 2018

Classes to be judged: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 10, 11, 12 (Veterans 7 years and over), 14 (Owner/Breeder/Handler) & 18 (dogs and bitches)

Property Classes: Best Head, Best Coat, Best Gait, Best Trialling and Best Interstate.

Entries to: www.easydogentries.com

Mrs Sue Batchelor, 261 Wattle Tree Road, Holgate,
NSW 2250.....Mob. 0427 584 585

Email: suekenzanne@yahoo.com.au

Extreme Weather Ph 0427 584 585

Cheques made payable to: The Flat Coated Retriever Club of NSW Inc.

Judges: Mrs Claire Trevelyan (New Zealand) All classes in show
Mrs Robyn Williams (NSW) All property classes

Order of Judging as per schedule

Entry Fees \$20 Members, \$22 Non members

Judging commences 9.00am

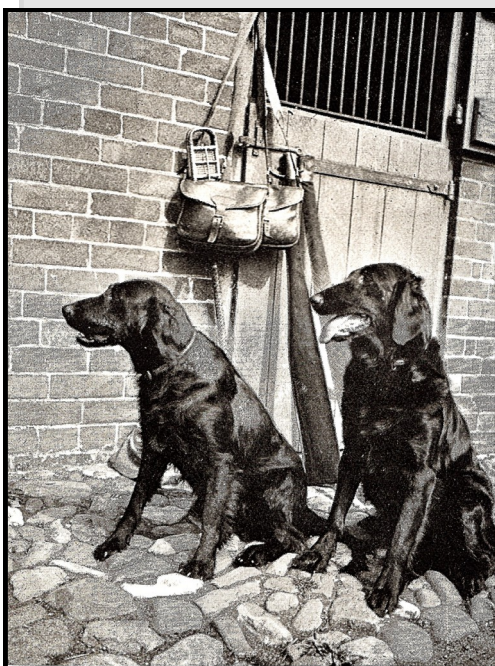
Dogs NSW Representative Ms Racheal Ohlrich

Catalogues \$4

Prizes Rosette and Trophy Best in Show & RUBIS, trophy and sash all classes

Camping Available on grounds – contact Dogs NSW

Refreshments Available on the grounds



READY FOR THE FIELD

The meeting of 1902, held at East Bergholt, was won by Caption finished " by Captain Harry Eley's Sandiway Major (a son of Wimpole Peter, bred by Mr. G. R. Davies). Berholt James and Satenlla being second and third respectively. I feel I must say a word or two about Sandiway Major, and that is permissible for me to do so, as he was neither bred nor broken by any of my family, though he was owned and "finished" by Captain Harry Eley. Major had the appearance of being a " sport." He was a big, upstanding dog, with a loose wavy coat, a long neck, and a broad skull. As a competitor at trials his chances were marred by an excited manner and a habit of whining during a part-ridge drive or waiting in covert ; moreover, he had a tiresome trick of refusing to bring *dead* game right up to hand. When these failings have been discounted, he was a foeman worthy indeed of any dog's skill, and the more " catchy " the scent the more dangerous was his opposition. He made full use of his long neck when hunting a line, and, with lowered head, went unhesitatingly forward with steadily increasing speed as his confidence rose or when his quarry was near by. For a big dog and a fast one Major was a singularly silent worker, and seemed to slip through tumips with the least possible rustle. Though a most exceptionally fine marker, he appeared to make little or no use of his eyes when hunting, and worked with an air of determination and astuteness which was most impressive. In common with many 'dogs who are failures at stud, Major seemed absolutely tireless, and no long series of gruelling days made him slack or " off colour."

However, the meeting was chiefly noticeable for the addition of a special Stake for Show-Bench Winners, which was won by Mr. Warwick's Sandiway Dexter. The lack of support given to this stake (which was said to be attributable to the owners of the " champion " dogs resenting this special treatment as a slur upon show-dogs) produced an avalanche of comment from all quarters, and it was no doubt the recollection of this incident that induced Major Eley, a lifelong supporter of pure-

bred retrievers, to include in the first edition of his book " Retrievers and Retrieving " a photograph of one of his flat-coats with the inscription " The much abused article." Still, this event, or perhaps the outcry which followed it, proved to be the turning-point in the move-ment, for in the following year the meeting, held again at East Bergholt, secured an entry of no less than twenty, and was supported by several of the leading kennels, Mr. H. Reginald Cooke sending two entries, Sir Henry Smith and Messrs. Allen Shuter, A. Aitchison, jun., H. W. Fell, and Percy Heaton one apiece. The winner was Major Eley's Satanella, Sandiway Major was second, and the third prize went to Bergholt James, with Mr. Aitchison's Jubilee Moll fourth. This meeting set finally at rest any doubts as to whether retriever trials would be appreciated by those breeders to whom the International Gundog League had naturally looked for support.

Visitors to the 1904 meeting near Warwick saw the first entry of a Labrador, viz., Mr. A. Holland Hibbert's well-known bitch Munden Single, who is now in the Natural History Museum at South Kensington for all to see what a Labrador should look like ; and among those who entered at trials for the first time were Mr. E. G. Wheler-Galton (then Wheler), whose Swansfield Lorna was second to Mr. A. T. Williams' Don of Gerwn ; Colonel C. J. Cotes, whose Pitchford Marshal, a most typical flat-coat of the Shirley breed, was third ; the Rev. R. Lorimer Rome, whose dog Roman Sweep, with setter blood in his pedigree, suffered from a very exceptional instance of bad luck ; and, last but not least, Mr. A. E. Butter, later the owner of the all-conquering Labradors Peter and Patron of Faskally, but whose flat-coated dog Wallace of Faskally could not on this occasion do better than a certificate of merit.

In 1905 the trials were held on Mr. Ark-wright's estate at Sutton Scarsdale, near Chester-field, and were chiefly noticeable for the first appearance of Mr. Reginald Cooke's Champion Grouse of Riverside (who was placed fourth) and Mr. Lewis D. Wigan's *debut* with Sweep of Glendaruel. In 1906, at St. Neots, Grouse of Riverside commenced a series of triumphs, defeating by a short head Mr. Maurice Portal's equally famous Labrador, Flapper. It was the phenomenal success of Flapper at trials and at stud which brought the Labrador breed into serious competition with the Flat-Coated Re-triever at field-trials, and with the first meeting of these two representative dogs of rival breeds it will perhaps be well to break off this detailed account of the early field-trials.

In 1907 the Retriever Society was for the first time the guest of Captain A. Glen-Kidston, whose early death has deprived the working retriever of one of its staunchest champions, and whose successes at field-trials are still fresh in the minds of everyone. It is not so generally known that Captain Glen-Kidston's support of field-trials for retrievers commenced with the second meeting (at Brandon), where he gave a cup for the best-looking dog at the meeting

Continued.....

THE HISTORY OF RETRIEVERS

Charles C. Eley

Continued from previous issue

The year 1907 was memorable for the fact that the Kennel Club held their first field-trials for retrievers at Horstead, near Norwich ; and in the same season the Eastern Counties Retriever Society was formed for the counties of Essex, Norfolk, and Suffolk, and held its first annual trials at East Bergholt. This Society was the first of the county societies, now so wide-spread, and fulfilled the remarkable public prophecy of Mr. Arkwright in 1900 that by such means alone could trials for retrievers be adequately catered for. It should, however, be called to mind that in the previous year Mr. C. C. Eversfield had held a field-trial meeting at Denne Park, confined to residents in the neighbourhood of Horsham. Since 1907 local societies have sprung up on all sides, and have indeed by now all but covered the United Kingdom.

In the season of 1909 the International Gundog League took a great step forward when, under the presidency of Mr. F. M. Remnant, it instituted the Championship Stake, which was held near Havant. This Stake, the blue riband for retrievers, has since this been held annually (until stopped by the war), and provides a lasting memorial to the enthusiasm of the late Captain Glen-Kidston, to whom so much of their sub-sequent success was due.

For further information regarding the individual achievements of flat-coats at field-trials readers should consult the record which Mr. Baxendale has contributed to this book ; but it would seem impossible to pass on to more general matters without some further reference to Mr. Reginald Cooke's Champion Grouse of Riverside and the late Colonel Weller's Meeru.

As has been mentioned, as early as 1902 Mr. Cooke came flat-coats by two entries at field-trials ; in 1905, with Grouse of Riverside, he commenced a run of great successes. Grouse was undoubtedly the most famous flat-coat that has ever run in public, not only remarkable as combining in these early days the highest honours at trials and on the show-bench, but because his style of work was provocative of keen controversy as to the real standard of his work in the field. He was a big upstanding dog with a restless demeanour, extraordinarily fast, and at his early appearances in public giving the impression that he was destined to become a " galloper." Many good judges contended in private that any dog who worked at such speed must be guilty of over-running his nose except when scent was really good. The writer confesses to sharing this view until seeing Grouse (at the I.G.L. Trials in 1909) picking faultlessly in a big field of wet mustard, and there " wiping the eyes " of other competitors, and at the same time working at a tremendous pace. Another peculiarity which fostered doubts as to his supreme abilities was the fact that, disdaining to make any use of his beautiful long neck, he carried his head high when hunting a line. At all times his pace was extraordinary, and a perfect delivery crowned a brilliance which was well-nigh disconcerting. Only one other competitor at trials, also a flat-coat, shared at all closely the working style of Grouse, and, curiously enough, resembled him also in type and in comparative failure at stud. ,

Colonel Weller's Meeru, who made her first appearance at the Herts, Beds, and Bucks meeting in 1910, by which time the star

of Grouse had set, was an animal of a quite different type. Grouse was a law—of the Medes and Persians—unto himself. Meeru and her master (it seems impossible to separate them in any recollections of either) were the embodiment of confidence, mutual and most infectious to beholders. If the blight of betting had ever descended upon field-trials, one cannot help feeling that at any competition in the Elysian fields, while very many people would have backed Grouse to win, *everyone* would have backed Weller and Meeru for a place and felt certain of their money.

Meeru was a good-sized, well-shaped bitch of typical but not particularly distinguished appearance ; without being fast she was fast enough, quartered beautifully, and worked with an air that made onlookers feel that if Meeru failed it could only be because the object was not there ! Her style was not brilliant, but she shares with Grouse of Riverside the honour of being the most consistently successful public performer amongst the flat-coated competitors, and the perfect combination of handler and dog (both apparently bereft of all anxiety) shown by Colonel Weller and Meeru will remain a treasured recollection of everyone who enjoyed the privilege of witnessing it. And now to more general matters.

The greyhound," the favourite dog of the chase," has maintained unchanged for many centuries his present form, and that because this breed has been for unknown ages required and used solely for " the chase." No such claim can be made on behalf of the Flat-Coated Retriever, but it is not fair to assume, upon the analogy of the greyhound, that the changes of form through which the retriever has passed, and indeed is still passing, is due entirely to the vagaries of fancy and the influence of breeding solely for exhibitions. Whatever blame posterity may apportion to breeders who have allowed their love for some particular type to outweigh the demands of utility, there will always remain in the case of the retriever the fact that his work is so varied, and the demands made upon his capacity so large, that it is not possible or desirable that his type should remain for ever fixed ; nor will it ever be possible to say that change of form in any one particular direction has been responsible for failure to do all that was rightly required of a retriever. To follow closely a letter which the writer contributed anonymously to the " Field " in 1902, it may be said that the retriever who beats all others on a grouse moor, either when " walking up " or at the butts, may be next to useless in a country with thick, rough fences. The slow, painstaking, clever one, who will face any obstacle that a deep ditch or " hairy " fence can present, will be nowhere on a grouse moor against the quick galloper, who, though tireless, lacks courage and patience.

The small, rather low, active dog, so useful in a gorse country, and so excellent a negotiator of a big fence, is " sewn up " and beaten if called upon to compete in thick potatoes or high cabbages against a big, and perhaps clumsy, rival.

To multiply such instances would be easy. Many a time one has been compelled to combat the unfair and unthinking assertions that the Flat-Coated Retriever did not possess a nose equal to the pointer, and that his keenness was inferior to that of the spaniel, that no " flat-coat " was as " hard " as a nondescript rabbit-catcher ; in short, it is demanded that the retriever must embody in highest development the peculiar virtues of half-a-dozen breeds and possess none of their failings. Of course, these qualities *are* required of the ideal retriever, and more, for to these must be added sociability, looks, and breaking.

Continued

Perhaps the former of these three requirements may be dispensed with, but it must be remembered while doing so that we have dismissed from the list a virtue which Flat-Coated Retrievers 'almost invariably possess in a remarkable degree, and which goes no small way towards the pleasure of a day's shooting.

Of course the ideal retriever must be good-looking, in addition to all the attributes indicated above. To continue, a perfectly broken retriever is one whose education has ensured absolute steadiness under varied and exciting conditions, perfect obedience, and fast retrieving right up to the hand. Above all, Nature must have bestowed on him, and care retained, a soft mouth. The magnitude of the task will be apparent to all, for while, as has been often said, it is easy enough to get a retriever who is perfectly steady and with a nice delivery, the value in the field of many of these dogs begins and ends with their manners. The ideal retriever puppy will be keen and a bit' excitable, and such a one will present plenty of difficulty.

After reading all the requirements enumerated above, does it seem strange that canine Admirable Crichtons are very rarely 'met with ? It is a fact beyond dispute that the ideal retriever to meet the requirements of the varied conditions of modern shooting must combine more qualities in a high degree than any other trained gundog. The conditions of shooting have altered considerably since the last generation, but the changes have not lightened the need for, or the work of, retrievers ; indeed, driving has imposed tests of steadiness of a new and trying kind, and no more severe test can be set in retrieving than to ask a dog to find a "runner" that dropped early in a drive and has had perhaps ten minutes' start. 'Moreover, the education is necessarily long, since a retriever requires both training and very varied experience, and must be heavily shot over if he is ever to become first class. However, apart altogether from all these difficulties, there is a practical reason that favours the steady production of good working pointers, setters, and spaniels, namely, it is impossible to shoot over a really bad pointer or spaniel, whereas a number of shooters seem to have solved the problem of how to spend the season happily in the company of an utterly incompetent retriever.

As to looks, opinions no doubt will differ to what variations in type may be legitimate in pure-bred stock, and also what latitude should be allowed to judges in the show-ring. Personally, the writer believes that, with a dog whose work is as varied as that of the retriever, it would be best that any decisions as to what should be regarded as *the* type should be as wide as possible, provided that faults which are blemishes upon any standard (*e.g.*, weak quarters) are not condoned.

The Flat-Coated Retriever, in order to win prizes on the show-bench, must to-day combine the following points : The head must be long, fine without being weak, the muzzle square and the under-jaw strong, and there must be no tendency either to "pig-jaw" or under-hanging, and the general appearance must show an absence of lippiness or throatiness ; the eye should be dark, with an intelligent and mild expression ; the neck should be long, clean, and sinuous, any tendency to "stiffness" being especially objectionable in a retriever ; the ears should be small, well set on, and carried close to the head ; the shoulders should be oblique, running well into the back, with plenty of depth of chest. The body must be short and square and well ribbed up ; the stern should be short and straight and not carried above the level of the back. The forelegs must be straight, with strong pasterns and round feet ; the quarters should be

strong, and the stifles well bent. The coat must be flat and free from waviness, densely black, and of good quality and texture. Bone should be of good quality, neither too massive nor too weedy ; the general appearance should be that of a bright, active dog showing power without lumber and an appearance of pace combined with real stamina.

It is useless to attempt within the limited scope of this article any directions or hints as to the "breaking" of retrievers. In the main, this matter is a combination of the brain of the man and the brain of the dog. Hints are helpful, but there are only a few golden rules, and these were made to be broken, and the writer will be forgiven for thinking that all that can be said in the matter of education and management has already been said in his brother's book.

"Retrievers and Retrieving," now in its second edition. To the novice hints and general advice are no doubt most valuable, but the troubles of the experienced handler—and they never end—are too personal, too intimate both to himself and to the dog to be dealt with in general terms, however fully. Such difficulties are the salt that gives the sport its savour ; they must be reserved for consideration between the handler and his own familiar doggy friend.

Much that is most fascinating in the art of dog-breaking is involved in these talks. There are, it is true, some rules, of less precious metal than gold, which were *not* made to be broken, and which may be found among the early writers on these matters. Don't tie your dog to a gatepost if you wish to beat him ; don't flog your dog because you cannot make him understand what you mean ; don't send your puppy to chase three-legged hares more than three times in one morning even if you do think that he is lazy. I make no doubt that suchlike instructions were valuable and necessary at the time they were written, but in the education of retrievers, as in other matters, "we are getting on." But the real problems remain with us always, and, as stated, they are incapable of general solution, being dependent and interdependent upon the temperament of each particular dog and for that matter of each particular handler also. And what lover of gundogs and sport would wish to be free of these difficulties ? One thing connected with dog-breaking is certainly not a problem, namely, that the man who desired to be quit of his problems would soon also be quit of good dogs.

Not less interesting than the breaking is the question of the breeding of gundogs. Few people appear to realize that the task before the successful breeder is in this case by far the most difficult and perplexing problem which can beset the breeders of domestic animals.

Beasts that are bred for food and form are necessarily the least difficult, because the objects to be attained are merely physical, and capable of immediate and complete test, either in the show-ring or the kitchen, or, best of all, in both. Horses and greyhounds probably come next in the order of interest, because, in addition to form, they must embody speed, stamina, and, to a certain extent, character.

But the task before the breeder of gundogs, if success is to crown his efforts, is that of breeding for brains (in which term is included both character and "nose"), as well as beauty of form, speed, and stamina. It is true that trial in the kitchen may generally be disregarded, though rumour has said that a beautiful Flat-Coated Retriever, which was presented most reluctantly by its owner to an admiring Chinese diplomatist, was put to the test of the spit on the Sunday following the receipt of the gift, and that subsequently the results were reported, with profuse gratitude, to have been excellent. Be that as it may, it will be sufficient to urge that such occasions are rare enough to be disregarded, and that without the addition of gustatory virtues enough difficulties remain to place the breeding of gun-dogs at the summit of practical eugenics.

Much that was previously dark has been made clear, and much confirmation of the "rules of thumb" evolved by long practice and observation has been obtained by the discoveries of Mendel; but much, indeed, remains to be made straight. At least a nodding acquaintance with these theories must be attained by anyone who desires to breed intelligently, and so to derive, if possible, that last ounce of pleasure from his hobby which is always the essence of satisfaction. For, in a matter so subtle and so obscure as the breeding of gundogs, anticipation and hope must ever be a large part of the reward of even the most successful breeder.

The palm for having made most of the well-tried discoveries in this direction must be given to the breeders of greyhounds, pointers, and setters, and among such rules may be cited the following: First and foremost, whenever you may be fortunate enough to achieve a real "nick," hold to it as long as ever you can, and, if you wish to move farther in the same direction, then use the progeny for your new adventure and do not tamper with the source of your success.

This advice may not be very adventurous, nor indeed the most advantageous in the interests of science, but it is eminently practical, and will save many disappointments, much useless regret, & probably in the long run, will prove to be the best course in the interest of the breed itself.

From time to time breeders of even the most pure strains will find amongst a litter an "ugly duckling" that bears little or no resemblance to either of its parents, and indeed may run right away from the type itself; such an animal is known by breeders as a "sport" or "throwback." Both fable and experience teach that ugly ducklings at times prove to be swans, but, if opportunities of breeding are limited, then avoid using a "sport" as you would shun the plague. "Sports" are obviously mysterious and presumably so "recessive" as to make their use almost worthless. If, however, you deliberately decide to make the experiment of introducing new blood, be sure that you keep the new strain clear from some of the best of your ordinary stock until enough time has elapsed to enable you to form a pretty good opinion, not only what the resulting stock itself will be like, but *also* what is likely to be the

effect upon your existing strain that you are seeking to improve by innovation. The intimate histories of famous kennels are full of instances of serious setbacks, even ruin, produced by the too hasty use of new and "improved" blood. The temptation is great since life is short, but the soundness of this rule has been conclusively proved too often for it to be disregarded.

Antagonistic to these warnings against eagerness is the danger of allowing your stock to become so enfeebled by lack of new blood that the type itself eventually becomes so debilitated, and often perversely so, that no new blood can apparently be used with anything but worthless results.

It is in the successful avoidance of these two pitfalls that the *flair* of the born breeder will make itself felt. Knowledge of pedigrees is useful indeed, but, no matter how complete, such knowledge is no crutch upon which to lean; the important factor is a never tiring sense of observation coupled with an instinctive knowledge of when to dare to put it to the test. Novices should remember that a "sport" is not the first product of mixing two breeds, but a reversion or "throwback" to possibly quite remote ancestors.

Breed only from really first-raters, and never breed from unbroken parents, as no one can fathom by guesswork the hidden qualities which are certainly there. While striving for one quality the breeder must be careful not to lose sight of the others, either physical or mental; and whilst upon this point, beware of being tempted to persevere with any strain which, though possessing virtues that you desire, also embodies one fatal defect.

To novices the writer would say, "Shun Fancy!" when breeding dogs for work, and, to keep yourself upon the straight path, do not keep more dogs than you are able to find work for. It is a good plan, if you hanker after the pleasure of "fancy," and desire to produce bench winners, to keep, in addition to your retrievers, some non-sporting breed, large or small, many or few, and to exercise upon them that passion for fixing an arbitrary type of beauty which most people share in some degree, and which is both fascinating and legitimate enough if kept in its proper place. But from such vagaries spare, oh, spare, the gundogs. It is hoped that enough has been said to inspire others to take up the Sport—with a capital "S"—of breeding and breaking retrievers. The merits are many and obvious, but one practical merit is often overlooked: it remains one of the greatest helps towards turning a bad shooting season into a tolerable one—indeed, if luck and good judgment assist, a successful year's work of the kennel may compel the most insatiable gunner to admit that the worst season he has ever known is recorded in "red letters," which will remain when the usual records in the game-book have faded away.

Much has been said of the past, the future bids fair to be not a bit less interesting.

THE HISTORY OF RETRIEVERS

Charles C. Eley

In the previous pages mention has been made of the criticism that was leveled 'at dog-shows and the show-type of the Flat-Coated Retriever. It seems probable that the whirligig of time will bring its usual revenges, and that the next controversy will centre upon the conduct & management of Field trials & the type of working dog which today figures in the judges list. For it is at least possible the field trials may, through unwise control, evolve a type of "field-trial dog" that is undesired by shooting people as dogs that have been bred for show points alone, & that the judges may favour a standard of breaking so severe as to limit the number of dogs that are capable of winning, & even to obscure their natural gifts. But whatever form of criticism the future may have in store the Flat Coated Retriever, his ultimate development may be regarded with complacency so long present condition of affairs prevails.

Field trials for retrievers are supported widely by shooting people, the meetings are practically public & largely attended. The columns of the "Field" and other newspapers are opened freely for discussion of all matters affecting gundogs. Such criticism as appears is honest &, for the most part, sensible. Under such conditions it is not surprising that retrievers & gundogs generally bid to "go on & prosper"

And this will be so as long as the supporters of gundogs continue to place in the forefront of the aims the ultimate benefit of the dog, and continue to do so regardless of all other claims. If this be the steadfast aim, then certainly the future of the retriever is assured, and without doubt, despite past difficulties and present impatience, it will be possible in the not far distant future to unite, in a widely fixed type both beauty and capacity for work at least equal to, if not excelling, all the canine heroes of the past, whether such heroes be mythical or not.



A Poem from an Untrained Puppy

My family brought me home
with them.
Snugly cradled in their arms.
They cuddled me and smiled at
me.
And said I was full of charm.

We would laugh and Play all
day,
They showered me with toys,
I soon learned to love my family,
Especially the girls and boys.

The children loved to feed me,
They'd give me special treats.
They even let me sleep with
them,
Snuggled between the sheets.

They used to laugh and praise
me,
When I played with my old shoe,
But I was never taught the differ-
ence
Between the old ones and the
new!

The kids and I would grab a rag
And for hours we would tug,
So I thought I did the right thing
When I chewed the bathroom
rug!



They said I was out of control
And would have to live out-
side,
This I did not understand,
Although I tried and tried.

The walks stopped one by
one
They said they didn't have
time
I wish I could have changed
things,
I wished I knew my crime.

My life became so lonely
In the back yard on a chain
I barked and barked all day
long,
To keep from going insane.

So they brought me to a
shelter,
But were embarrassed to say
why
They said I caused an al-
lergy,
And then kissed me good-
bye.
If I'd only had some train-
ing,
When I was just a pup,
I wouldn't have been so con-
fused
When I was all grown up.

Train your New Pet from the very beginning & you'll both happier

FLATCOATED RETRIEVER CLUB OF VICTORIA INC

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION 2018

The membership year is 1 January – 31 December of the year that you join. Memberships received from 1 October will be valid until 31 December of the following year.

If paying by Direct Debit use Member name & Post Code as reference.

This form is not required if paying via Direct Debit unless particulars change.

NEW MEMBER-SHIP			
NAME			
RESIDENTIAL ADDRESS			
SUBURB		POSTCODE	
POSTAL ADDRESS			
SUBURB		POSTCODE	
TELEPHONE		MOBILE	
EMAIL			
WEBSITE			
DOGS VICTORIA MEMBER (V.C.A.)	Y/N	MEMBERSHIP NUMBER	BREEDER PREFIX (IF APPLICABLE)
OTHER CLUB MEMBERSHIPS?			
NEWSLETTER OPTION	I would like to receive the newsletter via POST / EMAIL. (please indicate)		

SUBSCRIPTION FEES

DUAL MEMBERSHIP	\$25.00	\$
SINGLE MEMBERSHIP	\$20.00	\$
JUNIOR MEMBERSHIP	\$15.00	\$
PUPPY BUYER MEMBERSHIP Only applicable to breeders who are applying for membership on behalf of those who have purchased one of their puppies and is only valid for the first year of their membership.	\$10.00	\$
	TOTAL	

Signed _____ Dated ____/____/____

Payment can be made through Direct Debit, Cheque or Money Order:

Account Name: Flat Coated Retriever Association of Victoria

BSB Number: 033-689 Account Number: 37-0802

Please include your name & post code when depositing through Direct Debit. Cheques and Money orders payable to:

“FLATCOATED RETRIEVER ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA”

Any Changes of particulars must be forwarded to:

The Treasurer, 5 Pigeon Bank Road, Warrandyte, Vic, 3113 ph 9844 4617