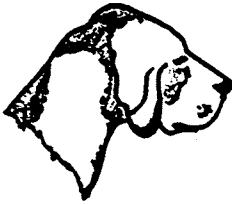


## Hounds



*Never would the fox have reached his highest destiny had it not been for the foxhound. Put a hound fast on his heels and he comes into his birthright, for the sure-nosed hound and the swift moving fox are a team. The speed and cunning nature of the fox are just enough to lead hounds on a merry chase. The two belong together and neither is at his best without the other.*

**D**own through the ages, experienced foxhunters have expressed countless opinions on the type of hound that is best suited for this work. Since hunting with hounds began, sportsmen have experimented with bloodlines and conformation to breed a faster, slower, larger or smaller hound to suit their needs.

Through the 19th Century in England, hounds were bred to a great size with large muscular bodies and sizeable bone enabling them to cover the vast expanses of grasslands located there. Being one of the most accurately documented domestic animals, these hounds' pedigree records date back to the white staghounds of France. The English soon realized their hounds were too slow and began breeding what is now known as the classic old English foxhound. Still large, this hound stood up on his toes, on round, cat-like feet — fashionable in the late 19th century. In their haste to breed for speed, they found that the resulting hound lost some other attributes necessary for the chase. By World War I, English breeders discovered, unfortunately, that their mania for speed had sacrificed nose and voice, essential ingredients in the pursuit of the fox. Their solution to this problem was to introduce Welsh blood into their packs. The Welsh hounds had some noteworthy traits, namely an independent hunting nature combined with a good voice and excellent nose, well suited for their mountainous, rocky landscape. The drawback was that these hounds were less uniform in size and shape, which was very im-

portant to English breeders, and they possessed a rough or woolly coat. When crossed with the traditional English hound, the woolly coat almost always bred out, while the dominant white color remained.

The first foxhounds imported to America naturally had English and in some cases royal lineage. Their development, however, proceeded in almost the opposite direction of the English packs. As noted by Denny Hull, "the first known hounds brought to America came to Robert Brooke in 1650, the bloodlines of which were maintained by his family for over two hundred years." The next well-known documentation of imports was recorded in Albemarle County, Va., in 1742. George Washington kept hounds, and in 1785, Lafayette sent him some hounds which according to his diary were "... indifferent in their work."

Foxhounds today come in many types and, as the foundation stock of American hounds is primarily English, one often wonders why early American hounds appear as a completely different breed. Often described as small, roach-backed, light-boned and weedy, they do possess an innate passion for hunting. To understand why they appeared so different from their English ancestors, one must remember that foxhounds in England were bred and maintained in great numbers. Nineteenth-century pioneer farmers in the United States did not have the wealth or luxury of owning such sizeable packs. A farmer was lucky to have two or three hounds, and his breeding options were probably even smaller. Farmers would put their "dogs" together at night for a "fox chase" while they followed on foot or sat on a mountaintop and listened to the "music." These gatherings eventually evolved into field trials for foxhounds.

To this day, field trials are held throughout the country involving hundreds of foxhounds. They do not compete as a pack, but rather as individuals and the winners are measured by their hunting ability alone.

Here it is worthwhile to note the opinion of Denny on the early breeding of hounds in this country: "But as he (the American hound) was owned by thousands of small farmers, he was usually bred upon thousands of different plans, if any plans there were, and very often by accident. The result was chaos. In spite of the superb breeding done by people like Henry, Birdsong, Tripp, Maupin and the Walkers, the average American hound degenerated into a nearly wild creature, splay-footed, rattle-brained and weedy; with a tender nose and a voice — which he never stopped throwing — of Gabriel. He appeared to be the most unlikely candidate for a place in anyone's pack."

Denny did give credit, however, to those particular Americans who realized that English hounds bred for the grasslands of their country were not well suited for the varying hunting conditions here. And he appreciated their quest in developing a hound for America. Credit for this goes to the American Foxhound Club, whose founders established guidelines to follow and resulted in the formation of the American Foxhound as we know it today.

Always the investigator, Denny set forth his search for a better hound even though his original draft came from the English, and even though his mentor was Angliophile, A. Henry Higginson. He studied pedigrees, read volumes, attended hound shows and hunted behind many packs. The conclusion he reached was that there was little difference in the performance of the best of either type, and when put together into one pack there was little difference in the three essentials of a good pack — speed, nose and cry.

Denny discovered that it is only when one begins to compare second-rate hounds of both types that the faults of each differ dramatically. He found that poor quality English hounds exhibited inadequate noses, squeaky voices and that their feet tended to break down, resulting in lameness. Poor quality American hounds babbled, an unforgivable vice, were nervous, and very often were uncontrollably timid.

Therefore, breeders of hounds felt that the best of both possible worlds was attainable by crossing English with American Hounds. The Crossbred Foxhound was thus developed and became recognized by the Masters of Foxhounds Association. Denny was skeptical, noting that successive crosses did not breed back to type and maintained that the original cross produced a useful hound, but when bred back the offspring often resembled one of the grandparents and that generally the English strain prevailed. Today, many Crossbred hounds are difficult to distinguish from their English ancestors. Denny best summed it up when he wrote, "The right kind is the kind that has the proper nose to lead to the fox, and the proper mental makeup to drive ahead in the face of difficulties. No breed has a monopoly on good qualities."

Denny's choice and the choice of all Masters today depends on a number of factors, not the least of which is the sort of country available to hunt. Different hunting conditions require different types of hounds, and working ability, nose, tongue, and fox sense are the most obvious qualities needed in a pack.

*Listed below is Denny's working kennel list of hounds.*

<u>Hound Descriptions</u>				
<u>Earmarks</u>				
DAMAGE '38	White bitch	21	SD	Excellent hound. Due to age she gets crabby at times. Will be useful during cubbing, but too old for a hard hunt. Not safe to breed her.
DEMON '40	Orange dog	SD	37	Excellent hound. Do not try to couple him to another hound. Excellent stud dog.
BASHFUL '41	Tricolor bitch	A9	FRV	Very good hound. Good brood bitch.

CLINKER '42	Dark tan dog	B1	FRV	Excellent hound. Elusive rioter. Excellent blood lines, but is shy breeder.
CHAPLAIN '43	Tricolor dog	F1	FRV	Good hound. Shy in kennels. Shy breeder.
LOCKSMITH '43	Big tricolor dog	C1	FRV	Good hound. Big booby.
CHIEFTAIN '44	Orange and white dog	D1	FRV	Excellent hound. Wise guy. Good stud dog.
CHEERFUL '44	Tan bitch	D3	FRV	Very good hound. Roadside investigator. Watch her.
LILAC '44	Orange and white bitch	V4	FRV	Good hound as far as I can remember.
BENEDICT '45	Tricolor dog	F3	FRV	Excellent hound. Wayside wanderer. Watch him.
BRAZEN '45	Tan bitch	FG	FRV	Excellent hound. Scamp and snooper. Most promising of the lot. Watch her.
BLOSSOM '45	Black and white bitch	E4	FRV	Good hound. Well behaved and should improve. Fatty.
CRUISER '45	Tricolor dog	B3	FRV	Excellent hound. Bench barker. Should make good stud dog.
LOLLYPOP '45	Tricolor bitch	C2	FRV	Fair hound. Slow to learn, but I think she'll do all right in time.
LONESOME '45	Dark bitch	C3	FRV	Fair hound. Another slow learner. Give her another chance.

It was more than 50 years ago that hunting began in Barrington when those 13 couple were sent to Denny from England. As he said in his book when he cast them that first time, ". . .there goes my precious pack." He never expected to see them again. He was wrong — those hounds were fast on a line and going away. Back at the kennels that day he related that he had learned two things: "First, I learned that my hounds knew more about fox-hunting than I would ever know; and second, that I could trust them."

As the ensuing years brought extensive development to the Fox River Valley hunt country, Gina found that her goals for breeding had to lie in tractability. While still maintaining an English pack, hounds were not being bred for speed as much as manageability. They were hunted in the "umbrella" fashion, close to the huntsman and safe from the danger of highways.

However, in the 1970s, as the newly acquired Richmond country was being opened, Charmian Jackson was faced with the need for faster hounds. She was able to acquire speed and stamina within the pack through excellent drafts from her godfather, Captain Ronnie Wallace, Master at that time of the Heythrop Hunt in England. These hounds proved to be an asset. She successfully exhibited their progeny at noted hound shows throughout the country, proving that the type of hound that wins the ribbons is also the active well-made hound that provides the best days' hunting.

# PEDIGREE.

NAME CUPTIE

EAR MARKS \_\_\_\_\_ SEX F

BREEDER Heythrop Fashouard

Address Chipping Norton,

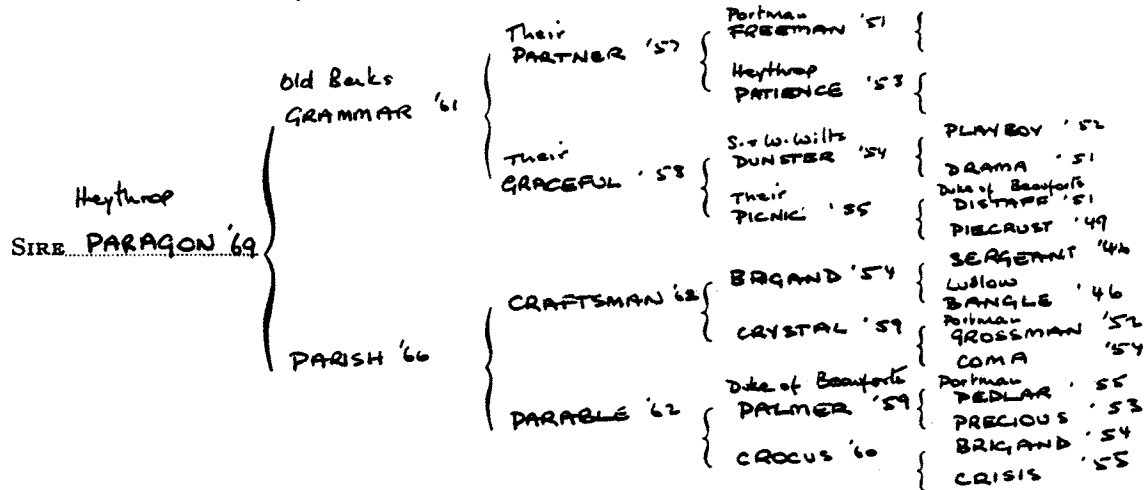
Oxon, England

Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ 1971. Date of Entry Amansy 1972. Date of Death Oct '74 1974.

Date of Purchase September 1973. Date of Drafting \_\_\_\_\_ 19 \_\_\_\_\_

Purchased from Capt. Wallace Drafted to \_\_\_\_\_

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## FOX RIVER VALLEY HOUNDS

YR.	NAME	SIRE	DAM
'66	Old Dominion RATTLE	West Waterford GODFREY '61	College Valley RANSOM '60
'68	Eqlinton & Caledon RAPID RARITY	Their FROBISHER '66	Their RANSOME '63
	Heythrop SWINDLE	Their CRAFTSMAN '62	S. Dorset SAINTLY '65
	Eqlinton & Caledon VICTOR	Portman DALESMAN '63	Middleton & Middleton East VIVID '62
	Millcreek WHISPER		
'69	Toronto & N. York DARING	Avon Vale SHELLDRAKE '65	Toronto & N. York DAYLIGHT '64
	Eqlinton & Caledon GRETA	Tipperary GROSSMAN '63	WHITNEY '64
	Toronto & N. York PASTEL	Avon Vale SHELLDRAKE '65	Toronto & N. York PATIENCE '64
	Toronto & N. York SHAMEFUL	Avon Vale SHELLDRAKE '65	Toronto & N. York BEVERLEY '66
'70	BRACKEN	Toronto & N. York ADAM '68	Their BREEZY '67
	NIMROD	South & W. Wilks WARPAINT '68	Albrighton Woodland NECTAR '66
	NORA	Hamilton PORTMAN	Hamilton
	PENDANT	DALESMAN '63	SALLY '65
'71	Eqlinton & Caledon GREEDY	Tipperary GROSSMAN '63	Eqlinton & Caledon RACHEL '68
	Old Dominion SABLE	Their RANCHER '66	Hamilton SATIRE '65
	Eqlinton & Caledon PERCIVAL	Portman PETRARCH '67	CHANTRESS '63
	Cotswold TARNISH	Berkeley TELSTAR '64	Cotswold POSEY '68
'72	Duke of Beauforts GLANCER	Their GROCER '68	Their COBWEB '69
	Eqlinton & Caledon GROWLER	Portman PETRARCH '67	Eqlinton & Caledon GRACIOUS '70

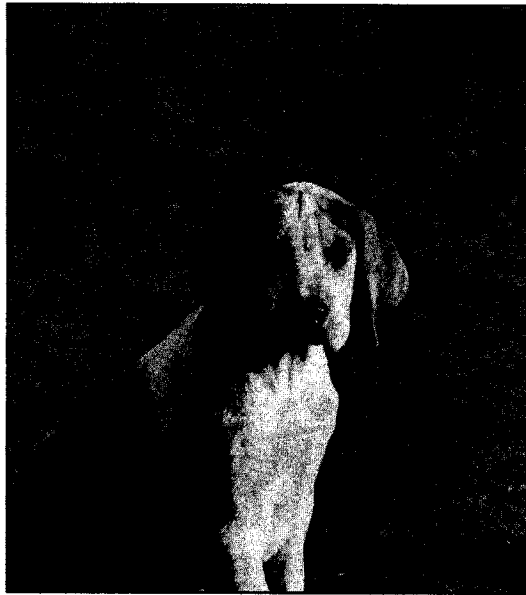
The ever-changing complexity of the countryside and hunt territory coupled with budget restraints once again necessitated modification of the breeding program for the Fox River Valley Hunt in the '80s. By then, the majority of the English pack traced their pedigree records back several generations without ever crossing the Atlantic. In fact, only hounds whose bloodlines already existed within the kennels were exclusively being bred in those years. FRV Parsley '86, by FRV Porloc '80 out of FRV Racer '83 was one such example. A proven brood bitch, Parsley was a consistent winner both in the hunt field and at the hound shows.

Recognizing a need for new bloodlines, the Masters in 1987 chose to expand their breeding program. They were fortunate to acquire several English hounds including a Welsh-cross as well as the importation of several good Canadian hounds. Among those were Hamilton Handsome '80, a solidly built white dog who has greatly influenced succeeding generations of the Fox River Valley pack. His ancestors trace back to England through his sire, Vale of White Horse Hackler '76, one of the most influential stallion hounds since World War II.



The recent infiltration of coyotes has had a profound influence on current breeding and training. Where once they ran 12-pound foxes, the hounds' new quarry may now weigh as much as 40 pounds and run twice as far. Coyotes have settled in the countryside and a fast, sound hound is necessary to the sport. The 50th year saw the Fox River Valley Hunt once again return to the drawing board to develop a pack proficient on both fox and coyote.

To many foxhunters, a good day is commonly attributed to the speed with which they cover the countryside and the height and number of fences jumped. Often hounds are taken completely for granted. However, in the last analysis, there is no sport to be had without them.



The legacy of a good hound is the memory of his friendship and accomplishments, coupled with the hope that other good ones will soon come along.

#### **TROOPER**

*"All God's greatest gifts are found  
In your great heart, my dear old hound.  
For ten long years you have given your best  
Brave steadfast and true you have earned your rest."*

*My Trooper - Dalesman. Dec. 1937*