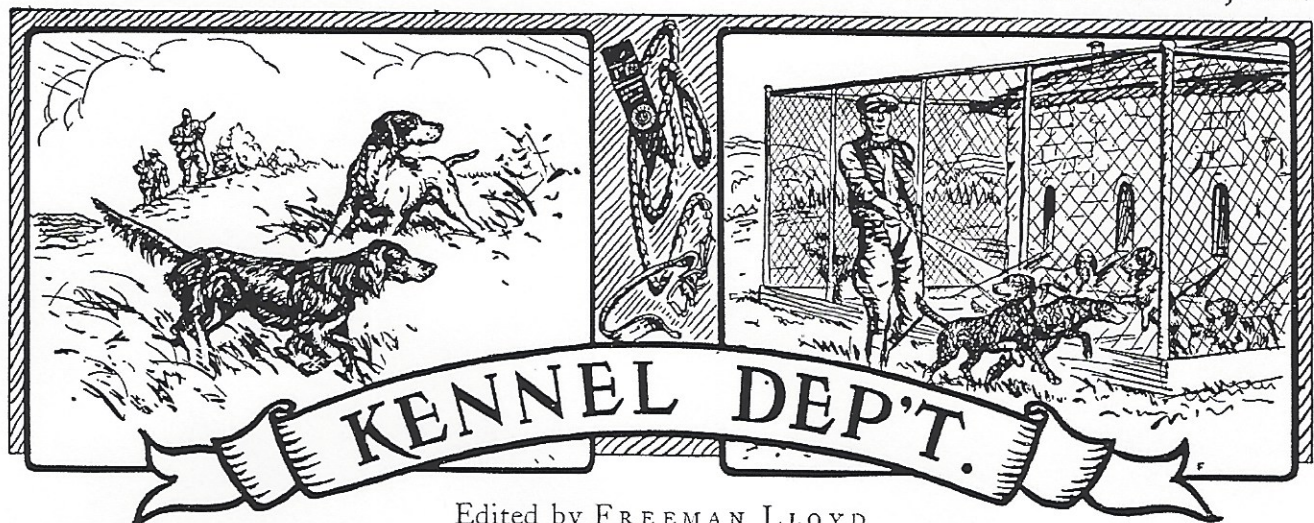




Field & Stream

Prize-Winning
Fish
*Weights and Where
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Edited by FREEMAN LLOYD

FIELD & STREAM readers are made up of real sportsmen, the sort who can afford two or three hunting trips a year and must necessarily possess good shooting dogs and hounds. This Department is conducted for the purpose of exchanging information on dogs and dog breeding. Questions for advice or information will be answered when stamped addressed envelope is enclosed.

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OLD SHOOTING FRIENDS: COCKER SPANIELS

By Freeman Lloyd

THIS magazine is not unmindful that it has received many encomiums of praise for its twelve or more years of intensive advocacy of the claims of the springer spaniel for all-round game hunting and shooting purposes in America. It will now be pretty well known to all sporting observers that where grew one blade of the grass of the working spaniel, there are now hundreds—nay, thousands—of the same kind of sporting verdure. There was introduced a breed of first-class shooting dog that for centuries of time has been the principal one used for heavy thickets, gorse and the woodlands.

As there is little or no difference between the hunting conditions of game-holding terrains on both sides of the Atlantic Ocean, therefore it follows that the same breed of dog will be found as useful on the same feather and fur here, there and everywhere in the New and the Old Worlds. Save that the European woodcock and common rabbits are larger than the American kinds, their resorts or habitats remain about the same everywhere.

Here, according to my own observations, we find that the imported spaniel will at once hunt the American feathered and furred game. He will go about it in just the same way as he did in his old home across the waters. The spaniel's nose accommodates itself to all sorts and conditions of countries. Like other of the working European strains of gun dogs such as pointers, setters, retrievers, foxhounds, beagles and basset hounds, the spaniel's enthusiasm remains the same for hunting or shooting. These foreign dogs' hunting delights are not confined to the field sports practiced within their own borders.

The foregoing was the reason that FIELD & STREAM recommended the use of springer spaniels for pheasant and rabbit shooting in the United States. It was advice born of experience: in short, it was and is a good gospel to preach.

This Department of FIELD & STREAM magazine was the first to beg of leading American cocker spaniel breeders to produce a leggier as well as a longer, stronger-jawed cocker, if such a dog were re-

COCKER SPANIELS OF 150 YEARS AGO

A shooting group by Wm. Redmore Bigg, R. A. An active type of light-weight, high-on-the-leg cocker used for rough shooting purposes. The artist was born in 1755

Courtesy: The Field, London.

From the collection of Mr. R. W. Ketton-Cremner



quired for pheasant shooting. As was soon apparent at the earlier field trials for cocker spaniels, the great majority of the contestants were not active enough in any kind of cover; they experienced difficulties when required to pick up a shot pheasant, and carry back the bird, without dragging it on the ground; and, let us say, at a pace that was little better than a slow walk. But this would not be the fault of the American or any other of the foreign-bred cockers: it was simply the inability of the little dog. His unadaptability had to be put down to the short-sightedness of people that persist in breeding incapable-for-work small cockers.

Today, there appears to be a general demand on the part of sporting cocker owners to produce dogs and bitches more on the leg and, consequently, more active than the shorter-limbed cockers. Likewise, many of these cockers seem larger, taller and more workmanlike while in the judging rings at the leading exhibitions. There have been encouragements written by specialists in the fanciers' press, declaring



LEADING COCKER SPANIEL OWNER
Mrs. R. A. Moffit, Poughkeepsie, N. Y., whose cockers are as highly successful at field trials as they are at bench shows

in favor of a larger cocker than has been called for, during the last forty years of the cocker reign in the bench-show world—cocker spaniels that should not exceed 25 pounds in weight.

In the case of Canada, the cocker bench-show standard has been changed to a larger avoirdupois—approximately 28 pounds as the limit. This was a justifiable move in view of the fact that in consequence of the heavy and often very cold waters of the Dominion, the more robust the cocker spaniel the better he would be found for, perhaps, the very hardest land- and water-hunting work, that any breed of spaniel might be called upon to accomplish in any country. However, while the Canadian specialty or cocker clubs have been calling for greater weights, they seemingly have forgotten the all-important matter of the longer limb, which would provide greater activity. A long-bodied, short-legged cocker might draw the 28 pounds weight; but bulk does not provide litheness. Activity and nose should be ever kept in the mind and determination of the breeder of cocker spaniels that are, in truth, sporting spaniels.

It may be said and with every sense of rectitude, that the cocker spaniel was never meant for pheasant-retrieving. Although no spaniel is keener on the ever-increasing supply of pheasants in the country, the retrieving part of the day's shooting may not be a part of the cocker's busi-



Champion Drinkstone Peg by Toi of Whitmore and Pride of Somersby

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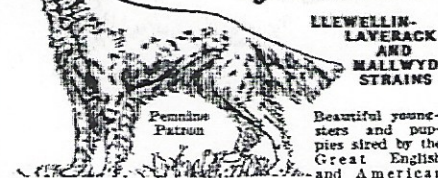
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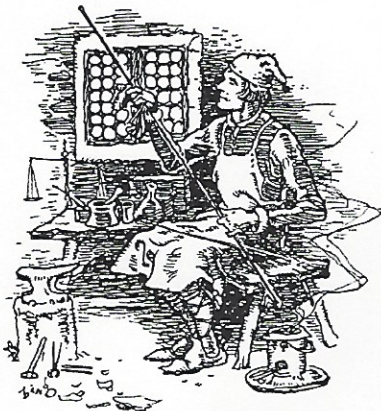
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IRELAND'S MOST NOTED GREYHOUND

Master McGrath, famed in song and story. He won the English Waterloo Cup in 1868, '69 and '71. In the 1870 event he was "got at". Owner: The late Lord Lurgan

ness. While he is surely capable of lifting a woodcock, cottontail rabbit, snipe or any of the smaller feathered game, the pheasant might be too much of a mouthful for at least fifty per cent of the smallest of the under-25-pounds cocker spaniels. So that a more capable retrieving as well as active cocker may be produced in America, the writer of this article once again begs the shooting owners of these time-honored gun dogs to set themselves the easy task of producing cockers that shall be masters and mistresses of their day's work that spaniels must always be called upon to do in America, as they certainly are in other countries of the sporting world.

To come to a fine point: All of the land spaniels came from a common stock. The now-segregated varieties were once "sisters and cousins and aunts."

As too much in-breeding results in the lack of stature, weight, brain and physical powers, there must be need for out-crossings. Let the smaller spaniel bitches be bred to the largest sires. Now that the American Kennel Club has granted a classification for the bulldog-mastiff "breed"—which, only yesterday, was considered a "mongrel," the ruling kennel body might open the gates to admit springer-cocker-bred or any other cross-bred land spaniels. All spaniels have come from the same root, whereas bulldogs and mastiffs are certainly of very remote relationship.

The sportsmen of America have a right and an ambition to own good-nosed cockers that shall be capable of plenty of hard work on land and in water.

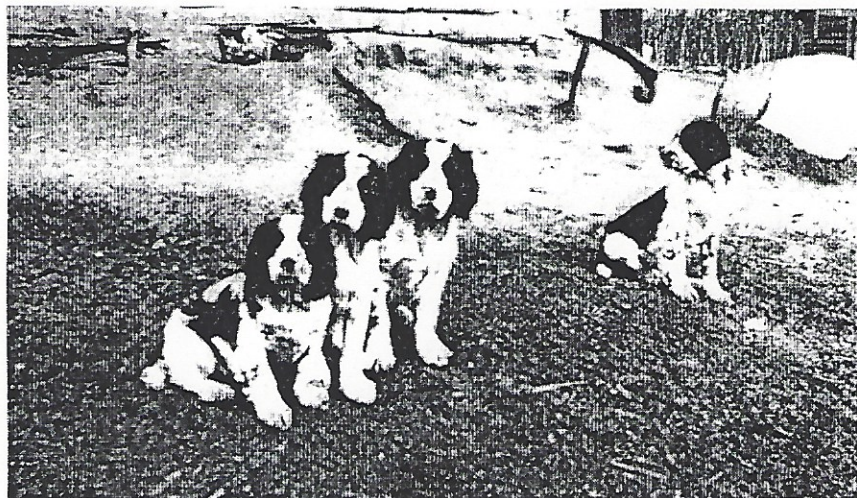
Longer legged and stronger jawed cockers will fill the bill.

THE GREYHOUND: MASTER McGRATH

LIVES there an Irishman who has never heard of the fleetness and cleverness of Lord Lurgan's black-and-white greyhound dog, Master McGrath, thrice a winner of the Waterloo Cup, the greatest of all coursing stakes run off every February, since the year 1836, near Liverpool, England? No! By song and story, Lord Lurgan's longtail has long been installed as a national hero in the minds and hearts of all sporting Irishmen wherever they might live and have their being.

McGrath, by Dervock out of Lady Sarah, was bred in 1868 by Capt. James Galwey of the 86th Regiment. His signature under the date of May, 1842, is on the fly leaf of a veterinary science book, presented to the writer by the old sportsman's great, great grand-nephew, Capt. P. N. Galwey-Foley, formerly of Fort Qu Appelle, Saskatchewan, Canada.

Master McGrath's first successes, in minor stakes, were accomplished while he was still in the ownership of Capt. Galwey; but in the Waterloo Cup in 1868,



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Puppies by Woodland Warpaint out of Trevalen Peggy, born on a Dec. 20 in a temperature varying between twenty and forty degrees below zero. Owners: Lloyd Bros., Green Lawn, Alberta, Canada