

## BREEDERS QUESTIONS 2003 YEARBOOK

### Question 2

The collies that come to mind that show the sweet correct expression are: Ch. Mayoline Welcome Reflection, Ch. Glen Knolls Spun Gold, Ch. Impromptu' Repartee, Ch. Starr's Blue Jeans and Ch. Impromptu' Written On The Wind.

### Question 3

Lorraine Still's ILLUSTRATED STANDARD is a wonderful learning tool. But like all drawings, it is an artist's expression of the written word. I have learned more by studying living examples of great collies. The nuances of expression, the feel of a correct smooth head, and the fluidity and grace of correct structure and movement can only be learned from living models.

### Question 4

My own dogs are not really trained beyond elementary obedience of "come," "stay," "down" and "heel." However, they inherited herding and guarding talents. When we first moved to the country after living in cities, our neighbor's herd of dairy cows routinely broke through our fences to get to our pond and fields. At that time my collies, born in New York City had never seen a cow. Yet they rounded up this herd and drove it home down the road.

Impromptu' The Bandit, who just died last year, got out from his owners home, rounded up a herd of sheep from a neighboring town and was driving them to his home down route 111, when the police interrupted his progress. He was 14 years old at the time. One of my collies was the Vermont Hero Dog because he woke and led his family out of their burning home. True Collie temperament is not just standing and showing. It is intelligence, instinct to herd and protect, and a deep bonding with its family.

### Question 5

One of the collies of the past that represents great examples of the breed to me is Ch. Future of Arken, a dog that exemplifies correct collie type. I never saw him but his picture is a model of what I desire in a collie. Every collie I seen or truly admired had full round muzzles that fit correctly into flat skulls, with smooth zygomatic arches that, with correctly sized and shaped dark eyes, create an expression that can make one melt. They all had presence, elegance, correct size and angulation front and rear. They were balanced and stood over their legs. They owned the ground they covered. All were basically sound and as I look back on the list, were long lived. They include Ch. Stoneykirk Reflection and his daughter Ch. Mayoline Welcome Reflection. Ch. Shamont Storm Along, and Ch. Sealore's Grand Applause were beautiful examples of tris. Ch. Brandwyne Bayberry Mister was the quintessential Brandwyne line collie. Ch. Glen Knolls Spun Gold and Ch. Erin's Own Gold Rush were two of my favorites. Ch. Starr's Blue Jeans and Ch. Ravette's The Silver Meteor were two of my favorite blues; and Ch. Glen Knolls Flash Lightning is still my ideal picture of a great white. The smooth that will always represent that Variety to me is Black Hawk of Kasan.

#### Question 6

There are several dogs that I felt should have been used more. Conversely, I can think of many that were used too much to the detriment of the breed. Today there is a severe limitation of our gene pool, to the extent that it presents a clear and present danger to the Collie. Dogs I felt should have been used more are: Ch. Wickmere The Silver Bullet and Ch. Wickmere Chimney Sweep. My own Ch. Impromptu Instant Carmine and Ch. Impromptu' Banner Still Waves were under used, probably because I never really advertised. Ch. Laurien Afterhour Blues was not used sufficiently, nor were several of the Kanebriar dogs.

#### Question 9

The Collie of the past has always been a basically long-lived healthy natural animal. We have had problems, but compared to other breeds the collie is truly blessed. Today, however, fads have begun to change the basic structure, size and shape of the breed. Instead of the large, moderately boned, balanced, slightly longer than tall, dog that stands over its balanced legs as the standard calls for: many modern breeders have adhered to fad breeding to produce a generic show dog. This generic collie is small (barely over Shetland Sheepdog size), slight, unbalanced (having a short straight upper arm) square dog whose rear legs are stuck somewhere behind the point of pelvis due to an unbalanced rear leg (the stifle being significantly longer than the rear pastern.) When the basic shape of a breed is changed: major problems can be expected.

Today there are no genetic tests for the problems that affect collies. CERF has value for the collie in checking for late developing problems, but it is valueless for Collie Eye Anomaly. This must be checked before a collie reaches 8 weeks of age in order to be accurate. Moderately affected collies will often GO NORMAL by 12 weeks and will be CERFed clear for this all of their lives. However they are still affected and will breed as an affected,

OFA for hips is a good certification for breeding stock. However, Researchers are now discovering that there are breed specifics for such things as what is normal thyroid and normal VW. I do think that any collie that dies prior to 10 years of age should be posted as to the cause of death. Longevity is a desired quality that seems to be declining in the breed today. I think that all dogs should get a yearly physical, which should include heart basic heart exams.

#### Question13

When I am doing a breeding it is based upon my analysis of the faults and virtues of each individual as well as a knowledge of the faults and virtues of those animals on the pedigree. Physical virtues, temperament, and health are all important to my choices. There are faults I will not breed to. I will never breed to a deep-headed collie, nor one with a bad front, rough or wide head or snippy muzzle. These are all dominants that are almost impossible to eradicate in a line.

Every breeding is the meshing of genes. One can only hope to improve on one aspect of the collie in a breeding and hope that the offspring has that quality and not lost too much to get it. It is like painting a picture. A little change is good so long as the essence is not lost.