

Breeder's Forum

ROTTWEILER

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Cammcastle Rottweilers



Multi BISS ARC Select CH. Cammcastle's Quantum LeapYear "Launa" bred and owned by Cammcastle. Launa was the 2002 #1 Rottweiler bitch in the USA and #2 Rottweiler; she also won the 2003 American Rottweiler Club Top Twenty. - Photo by Maurice Brown

1. Why did you choose your breed and how long have you been involved? I was first taken with the Rottweiler in the mid 80's when I came across a Rottweiler used to guard a boat yard near our home. He drew me, and I often stopped to watch him, taken both by his beauty and his carriage and spirit.

2. Where did your breed originate, and what was its main purpose? The history of the Rottweiler is largely presumed - as the breed is said to descend from the ancient Roman drover dogs utilized for the herding of livestock used to feed the armies of the Roman emperor(s) in the quest to dominate Europe. It is also presumed that these dogs eventually accompanied those who settled in Rottweil and served as the butchers' dogs used to herd cattle to and from the market.

3. What is the most distinct physical and men-

tal characteristic of your breed? The most distinct physical characteristic is the "type" and physical presence of a Rottweiler; generally he/she is lithe yet robust and substantial. The most distinct mental characteristic is a willful, big hearted spirit.

4. Which kennel, domestic or foreign, has given the most to the breed, and how? My view on this is largely limited to American bred dogs, as I have only been in the breed for about 25 years. Gameguards Rottweilers (Vicky Weaver and Pam Marsh) has been the kennel I have seen most consistently, historically and currently, produce quality Rottweilers. There are many very successful breeders and exhibitors who have made a difference in our breed, but this kennel has by far had the most profoundly positive impact in improving type, toplines, rears, and efficiency in movement.

5. Which sire and dam have contributed the most to your breeding program? There are two sires that have had the most impact on my breeding program: Multi BIS/Multi BISS Ch. Gameguards U.S. Marshall RN "Cahill" (out of whom I have 20 champion offspring and 12 champion grandkids -- all



Multi BISS ARC Select CH. Cammcastle's X Equals One v QR "Trig" was cobred with Angela Payne and owned by Cammcastle. Trig was the 2005 #1 Rottweiler in the USA (ARC System) and #1 Rottweiler bitch (all systems). - Photo by Maurice Brown



BOSS ARC Select CH. Cammcastle's Ipso Facto bred by Cammcastle and owned by Patrice and Greg McAllan. Delta was the 2008 #1 Rottweiler bitch in the USA (ARC and Canine Chronicle Systems).

including four BIS and five BISS winners). Cahill is bred and owned by Gamegards, Vicky Weaver and Pam Marsh and Joanne Cochran. Additionally, Multi BISS Ch. Crystal's Topaz v Ponca CD "Taz", owned by Julie and Jim Miller, the 1999 #1 Rottweiler (all systems), had a huge impact on the "type" in my breeding program and produced for me in two singleton bitch litters, two national #1 ranked multi BISS winners, one of whom won the American Rottweiler Club Top Twenty.

The dam who contributed the most to my breeding program was Cammcastle's Nixe V Quail, a Taz daughter, who across only seven puppies, produced six Champions, including two BISS winners and the dam of eleven champions including two BIS/BISS winners.

6. What is the greatest achievement you have had in dogs? To date I have bred nearly 70 champions including many specialty winners, BIS winners, BISS winners. My proudest moments, however, have been: 1. the accomplishment of my CDX with a long ago special dog named "Zena"; 2. the occasion on which my veteran bitch "Launa" won BOSS under Dot Collier at the Colonial Rottweiler Specialty Show; and 3. the American Rottweiler Club's Top Twenty Award to my bitch "Launa" and then on a subsequent occasion to "London", a bitch I cobred with Chris Haynes who is owned by Phil and Jan Levine.

7. Which dog not bred or owned by you, do

you wish you could have owned and why?

Rather than wishing on a dog I could have owned that I didn't, I find myself wishing I could keep forever some dogs I have owned and lost. Those of us who have loved and lost a dog know that the grief and longing for that dog never really goes away.

8. What advancements in structure, health and/or temperament have you seen over the years? This is a tough question. While there is still a smattering of varying quality at any show or specialty, generally, there appears to be an improvement in carriage and sidegait accompanied by improvement in breed type. Heads are much improved on bitches over the recent years, while eye color has perhaps lightened an unfortunate amount.

Health clearances, while generally useful information, have become at times overly emphasized, while longevity has been underemphasized. Cancer is a big killer with Rottweilers, but its hereditary prevalence in a pedigree is less likely to eliminate that dog from some breeding programs than a grade two elbow might in a pedigree of dogs living to be ten or more years of age. Perhaps neither should be sole factors, and we should implement a more balanced and tolerant approach to the choices we make as breeders.

9. Do you think your standard is adequate? If not, what areas need attention? The AKC Rottweiler standard is well written and more than adequate. I applaud all judges who judge to that standard and honor it.

10. What is the most common judging mistake in your breed? It's tough sometimes to remember that bitches should be judged against bitches and dogs against dogs – and the breed winner should be better than others across his/her gender than the BOS winner is against others of his/her gender. If the male is a better male than the bitch is a bitch, then he is the Breed winner; however, if the bitch is a better bitch than the male is a male, regardless of his ranking, then the bitch should be the Best of Breed.

11. What advice do you have for new or provisional judges of your breed? Judge for virtues, not for faults. Anyone can criticize. Know the breed well enough to articulate your decision and be able stand by it. The exhibitor deserves to understand your opinion, regardless of whether he/she agrees with it. And by all means, excuse a tailed Rottweiler from the AKC ring.