

New Dual Champion!

DC/AFC Carolina's All Hat, No Cattle "STETSON"

The most surprising thing about Stetson being a new dual champion is realizing that we hadn't planned for it. For sure, we would have come up with a more respectable name than All Hat, No Cattle and probably would have kept a diary of his exploits!

In the summer of 2000, Karen and Paul Dale shipped their young beautiful bitch, CH Rice Creeks

Cumulo Nimbus SH "Storm", to us to breed to our CH Chaparral Urchin MH CD "Urch". Since, both Storm and Urch had 5-point majors at Specialties and had finished their advanced Hunting titles at young ages, we were expecting a litter of pretty and precocious pups with loads of hunt!

Our stud puppy, Stetson, was more moderate than the other males. Indeed, as an adult dog he is precisely in the middle of standard for height and weight. Also, at 8 weeks of age, his poise, wisdom and overall balance captured our eye. But our choice was mainly influenced by Karen's kids who had nicknamed him Randy Moss of the MN Vikings. The pup would surely be a star athlete!

In 2001, as a one-year-old, Stetson quickly demonstrated he had the ability to be an exceptional field trial dog. While we expected him to have a great nose, his run, range and work ethic suggested he could easily hold his own at All Pointing Breed field trials. In the fall he ran in 3 Open Puppy stakes, placing 1st twice and 4th once.

As a two-year-old, he began preparing for gun dog competition. With the insight and dedication of Pro trainer Jean Webb, Stetson's innate hunting talents were polished. Jean quickly identified his desire to please and hunt with people as core traits. Jean predicted, "Stetson is packed full of natural field abilities, but he will be exceptional because he truly loves to hunt for people".

As a three-year-old, Stetson ran in 10 senior gun dog stakes. He placed in eight and earned

championship points in seven, thus finishing his FC in February and his AFC in April 2004. Bill handled Stetson in many of these stakes including the two competitions that finished the FC and AFC titles. Handled as a puppy by Jim Basham and as a gun dog by Jean Webb, Stetson is flexible about who he works for. Good friends like Dan Voss, Cassie Allen

and Kevin Culver rode in to handle Stetson when Bill's leg was broken. You see, Stetson is open-minded. He just glances over his shoulder at the starting line as if to say – "just which one of you bosses am I working for today?"

Having finished the FC/AFC, my job was to grow coat on Stetson and try for a show championship.

Bill said I could have him for the summer but he needed him back by September to start getting ready for the National Championships in October. I started bathing and brushing and stuffing Stetson with fat balls. With Pro handler Lara Spears at the other end of the lead, Stetson started showing in May and finished on August 29, 2004 --- 2 days before Bill's deadline! Three titles in a 7month period seemed fast, but Stetson does a lot of things at warp speed. He's a Mach 2 class learner and retains his lessons like an elephant.

Significantly, Stetson came from a true and robust foundation shaped and nurtured by Linda Sanders of Chaparral Gordons, Shelley Le Blanc of Rice Creek Kennels, and ultimately by Karen Dale of Le Homme Dieu who had the vision to put those genes together. Thank you all. Stetson is a thrill to hunt over, a joy to watch and an absolute dreamboat to have as a part of our family.

We are honored to have the 44th Gordon joining the distinguished list of the venerable Duals of our breed.

- Jan and Bill Holloway HighPoint Gordons North Carolina
October, 2004

