**Curly-Coated Retrievers**

**THEN AND NOW**

Recently attended our yearly Curly-Coated Retriever field training event in Tennessee. This gave me the opportunity to observe many Curlycoats of all ages. I was aware, again, of how much our breed has improved. Mary is a long-time, well-respected breeder of Curlycoats, and I certainly appreciated her input regarding this subject.

We both agreed that there has been a lot of improvement in both conformation and attitude in our breed. Coats have improved a great deal, and our liver Curlycoats have excellent depth of color. Tight, crisp curls seem to be in abundance, and temperament has greatly improved. We see more bone and substance now. I can recall how, many years ago, there were some refined and timid Curlycoats in the ring. When I visited England in the 1980s and saw how quite a few of the Curly-Coated Retrievers there had more substance, it was a learning experience for me. However, now, over the past few years, there has been a blending of many English, European, and U.S. lines, and I feel that this has been of great benefit.

We still need to pay close attention to some of the sloping muzzles and improper tail-set and carriage that might be on the increase in our breed, however. Quite a few years ago, two different well-known overseas breeders visited our national specialty shows at different times. Both of these ladies stressed to us that we need to pay more attention to those traits. A Curly tail curved over the back or up in the air is not correct.

We also need to pay close attention to the front in our breed. In the future, I would appreciate Mary sharing her observations regarding the front assembly. And, thanks, Mary for sharing your ideas with me in this column.

On the whole, as stated previously, our breed is doing very well. We are doing a terrific job of training our versatile Curlycoats in many of the activities now offered by the AKC. There are many more performing in field activities—both hunt tests as well as actually working with their owners to put food on the table. Every single time that you attend a function during which Curlycoats or Retriever are entered, one can learn more about the form and function of our Curlycoats. When possible, attend our national specialties. Our 2017 national was July 6–16 in Madison, Ohio. Even if you do not presently own a Curly, at the national you will certainly learn more about our very versatile breed there, where more Curlycoats will be on display.

—Ann Shinkle

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Curly-Coated Retriever Club of America

**Golden Retrievers**

**HEMANGIOSARCOMA BREAKTHROUGH**

The following information was recently published in the *Golden Retriever News*, the official publication of the Golden Retriever Club of America. It is of such significant importance that we are sharing it in this column for those who do not have access to the News.

A breakthrough trial at the University of Minnesota (UMN) that tested a new UMN-developed drug resulted in improved survival rates for dogs diagnosed with a cancer called hemangiosarcoma (HSA), a common aggressive and incurable sarcoma. It begins as a...