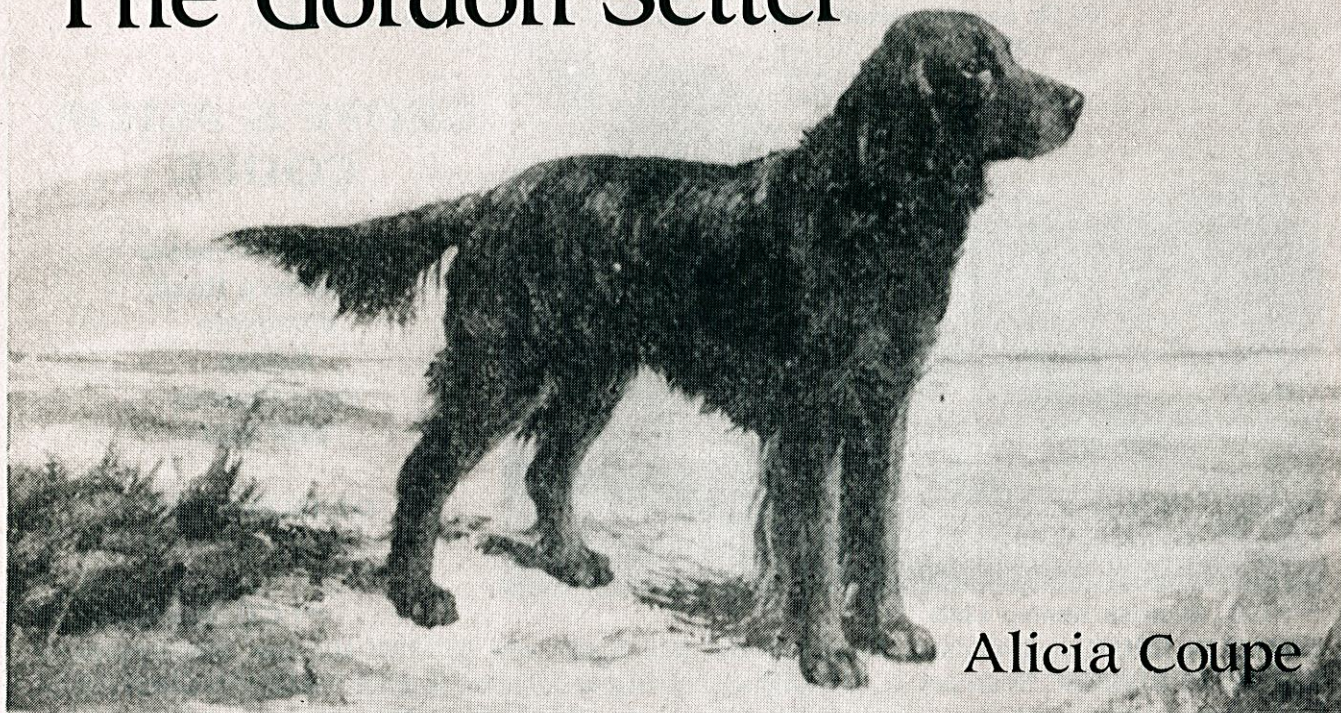


The Gordon Setter



Alicia Coupe

The Setter family is supposed to have evolved from the Spaniel family in the 14th century, Black and Tan Setters being mentioned as early as the 17th century.

The Fourth Duke of Gordon (1743-1827) established a kennel of working Setters at Gordon Castle. His Setters consisted of Black, White and Tan; Black and White; and Black and Tan. The Duke bred and exchanged Setters with the Earl of Leicester and with owners of other Scottish kennels.

The Gordon Castle Gordons were renowned for their striking appearance and excellent working ability. Black and Tan seems to have been the predominating coat colour pattern, but a percentage had white markings. Some preferred the tri-coloured for working as they showed up better in the field.

Strength and Stamina

Gordons continued to flourish at Gordon Castle under the ownership of the Fifth Duke who succeeded to the title in 1827. As in all breeds, tales have been passed down through the years; one being that the Duke crossed a Collie bitch with his best Setter, another that a Bloodhound cross was introduced.

With the founding of the Kennel Club, the breed was recognised as the Black and Tan Setter, although it was always popularly referred to as the Gordon Setter due to its connections with the Duke of Gordon, and his dedication in producing his strong working strain.

Gordons could always be found in other parts of the British Isles, but Scotland will always be regarded as the breed's principle home. Truly dedicated breeders aim to breed the physique, strength and stamina needed for a dog to work the rough terrain and sometimes harsh con-

ditions of a Scottish hillside.

The first sporting dog show was held in 1856. At this show Mr. Josh Jobling of Newcastle won the Setter class with Dandy. In 1865 the first field trial was held and First prize winner was Dandy's grandson, Flemings Dandy.

Ch. Kent, born in 1860, caused some controversy as his origin was not very clear, however the Kennel Club accepted his pedigree and he was used extensively at stud. One of his sons, Ch. Rex, was owned by Dr. John Salter who believed that the occasional introduction of an Irish Setter helped to produce a faster, less cumber-

some Gordon.

Dr. Salter's great-niece, Mildred Adams, is one of today's established Gordon judges and has produced many winning dogs under the Salters affix.

For many years Isaac Sharpe supplied King George V with sporting dogs for the shoots at Balmoral. When the Castle Gordon kennel closed in 1907, Mr. Sharpe bought the remaining Setters and his Stylish bloodlines appear behind Ch. Dawn of Daven, whose record of 25 Challenge Certificates was not broken for almost 50 years until the writer's Sh. Ch. Caerlanrig Adonis won 26 C.C.s. This was

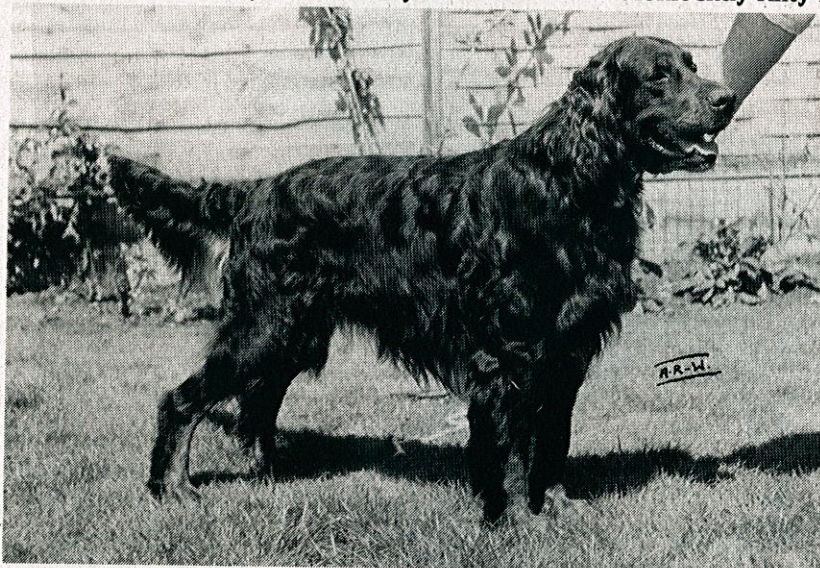


According to *Hutchinson's Dog Encyclopaedia*, Isaac Sharpe of Keith, Banffshire, "has possibly the largest kennel of Gun-dogs, Setters and Pointers in the world." Here are some of his Gordon Setters "in hard working condition, fresh from seeking game on the moors of Scotland."



TIMADON BRIAR

(By Ch. Swanley Strathfinella ex Glenlochay Kilty Rose of Eireannmada)



GEOFF & ALICIA COUPE

Timadon Kennels
Delamere Road
Woodside
Ashton
Near Chester
CH3 8AH

Tel: 0829-51505

*** C.C., Scottish Kennel Club ***

TIMADON BRIAR congratulates his family on their many wins in 1989: His son, Sue Bateman's **BALCROFT BUSKER** - Reserve C.C., Birmingham and Blackpool; His daughter, **TIMADON GLENTULLA** - Best Gordon Puppy, S.K.C.; His brother, Diana Bendall's **TIMADOWN HAWK** - winning both his classes at Manchester and Blackpool (his only two outings); His two sisters, Chris Lomas' **SH. CH. TIMADON BILBERRY** - C.C.s at Manchester, Blackpool and S.K.C. where she gained her title, and **SH. CH. TIMADON BRAMBLE** - C.C., Birmingham (her tenth C.C.).

Progeny of **SH. CH. TIMADON BRIGADOON** and **TIMADON THORNBIRD** also had their share of success this year. To them and the Judges who have thought so highly of our Gordons ... Thank you.

*** C.C., Blackpool ***

subsequently eclipsed when his grandson, Sh. Ch. Carek Bronze Clansman gained 32 C.C.s.

As breeding was virtually nil during the war, a lot must be said for the stalwarts who managed to keep their dogs well fed and in good enough condition to carry on their lines after hostilities ceased.

By 1962, 28 Gordons were registered at the Kennel Club. By the 80's that number had risen to over 500. Furthermore, the

number of sets of Challenge Certificates has risen from five to thirty-four! This has been achieved through dedication on the part of the true Gordoners whose affixes are behind most of today's dogs - Borderland, Bydand, Dalnaglar, Daven, Cairlie, Calbie, Salters, Swanley and Westerdale playing a significant part in the development of the present day Gordon.

Gordons were the most popular among the Setter/Pointer breeds in the early part

of the 1900's. The Gordon's working ability earned the respect of the Setter and Pointer fraternity although, like all working dogs, the number of Gordons in the field dropped dramatically in the 1930's. More recently the breed has come back again into prominence and during the last ten years up to 20% of placings at field trials have been won by Gordons - many of these being Firsts.

In this recent period we have seen ten Field Trial Champions and the winning of three Champion Stakes by Gordons.

Once a Gordon enters your household, things will never be the same again - and your life will never be dull. The Kennel Club Standard compares the Gordon to a heavyweight carrying hunter of about 65 lbs in weight. To me, he is a gentle giant of about 80 lbs of muscle. He is slow to anger and a devoted, if sometimes possessive, friend.

Deep Bark

The Gordon - with his deep bark and rugged appearance - could discourage any prowler near your property but, if you let him, he could wreck a room in the time you take to blink.

He will, if taught, work a moor all day long but he can be in the next county before you close a gate if not trained. He will help you shop for the week's groceries, and then eat the lot if you let him!

A happy Gordon thrives on discipline and routine and can be a delight to own, so be prepared to learn to train him properly or



Ch. Dawn of Daven, a big winner in the early 1930's, who won the C.C. at the Kennel Club's show in 1932 and qualified as a full Champion in the same year.



No black and white photograph can do justice the wonderfully rich tan colouring which is so very much a part of the Gordon's appeal.

you could have a juvenile delinquent in the family.

A Gordon will take over your three-seater settee. He will be happy to take over your bed as well. He needs a place of his own to stretch out and relax away from the bustle of the household.

A strong, warm shed or outhouse with a good bed is ideal if you can't provide a place of his own in the house. He needs somewhere to go especially in early life and it is far better than banishing him to a kennel just when he has got used to the best armchair, because you having visitors.

Consider not just the purchase price of the puppy but also the vet's fees for inoculations and, of course, the food bill. A growing Gordon eats far more than the average dog and a puppy needs at least four meals a day plus vitamins.

So you still want a Gordon?

The local vet may have a Gordon Setter

breeder as a client or the local canine society may have one as a club member. You may find Gordons advertised in *DOGS MONTHLY* from time to time, or the Kennel Club (phone 01-493-6651) could always give you some names and addresses.

Appointment

Once you have located a breeder phone for an appointment and explain that you hope to buy a puppy in the near future and would like to discuss the breed with an expert. Good breeders will be only too happy to show you their Gordon family and answer any questions you care to ask.

You should have the opportunity to discuss the puppy's diet, toilet training and grooming routine. The breeder should explain any hereditary problems and will advise you not to over-exercise or over-tire your puppy as care must always be taken with big-boned puppies.

Hip dysplasia is a problem in many big-boned dogs and although a puppy comes from sound, low-scoring parents, he can often finish up with a higher score than them.

Shine With Health

You will by now have met the dam of the puppies, and try to visit the sire if he lives elsewhere. The type of Gordon you should be meeting should be very dignified, bold but friendly. His coat should be a deep shining black with tan markings.

His coat should shine with health, long

silky feathering finishing off the picture. His ears, chest, tummy, tail and the backs of his legs should carry plenty of feathering if he is well groomed and kept in a clean environment.

The puppy you purchase is not always chosen by you. Often the breeder or another buyer has already made their choice of puppy. Don't let this put you off if the litter is fit and healthy and comes up to the above standard. Chances are that your chunky dark-eyed bundle of fun is just as good.

Your Best Pal

I don't think that anyone should state that a puppy is a future show winner. A sound, healthy puppy has been produced from parents representing the breeder's interpretation of the Gordon Setter Standard.

He may spend a lifetime as your best pal, or he may reach the show ring, but never forget he is a pet first and if he enjoys the ring and becomes a show dog, then that's a bonus.

Never buy from a breeder who insists that you show your puppy. It is far better that the breeder should be concerned with his home environment and the care and time that you are prepared to give him.

Given some time and effort on your part to find a well-bred, well-reared Gordon, and then yet more time to train and condition him to your way of life - giving him all that the breed demands - and you should have a loyal friend with whom you will spend many happy years.

LIRIC Gordon Setters

1989 OUR DOGS/PEDIGREE CHUM TOP BREEDERS * 1989 TOP GORDON SETTER



Sh. Ch. LIRIC WILD CHERRY

d.o.b. 18.5.87.

Sire: **Ch. Lourdace Mineer of Liric ex Liric Willow**

This year 'Gemma' has won 8 C.C.s with 6 Bests of Breed, 1 Best in Show (The British Gordon Setter Club Ch. Show), 1 Reserve Best in Show (The Setter and Pointer Ch. Show) and 2 R.C.C.s.

In 1988 we were delighted to have the **TOP SIRE, Sh. Ch. Lourdace Mineer of Liric**, sire of this year's Top Gordon and also

Enquiries to:

Mrs. MAUREEN JUSTICE

Highfields Kennels, Hare Street Village, Nr. Buntingford, Herts. SG9 0AD Tel: 076-389-300



TOP PUPPY ...

TALK OF THE TOWN AT LIRIC

Sire: **Ch. Lourdace Mineer of Liric ex Liric Melody**

Puppies are expected early April by **Sh. Ch. Lourdace Mineer of Liric ex September Song of Liric**.

All Stock is BVA/HD scored.

We breed for Quality, Type and Temperament.

YOUR GUIDE TO JUDGING THE GORDON SETTER

The Gordon Setter is a stylish dog, built on galloping lines, having a thoroughbred appearance consistent with its build which can be compared to a weight carrying hunter, and must have symmetrical conformation throughout.



Photograph depicts SH. CH. CAERLANRIG ADONIS

HEAD AND SKULL: The head is deep rather than broad, but definitely broader than the muzzle, showing brain room. The skull is slightly rounded and broadest between the ears. The head should have a clearly indicated stop and the length from occiput to stop should be slightly longer than from stop to nose. Below and above the eyes should be lean and the cheeks as narrow as the leanness of the head allows. The muzzle should be fairly long with almost parallel lines and not pointed, as seen from above or from the side. The flews are not pendulous, but with clearly indicated lips; nose big and broad, with open nostrils and black in colour. The muzzle should not be quite as deep as its length.

EYES: Of fair size, not too deep nor too prominent but sufficiently under the brows to show keen and intelligent expression. Dark brown and bright.

EARS: Set low on the head and lying close to it, of medium size and thin.

MOUTH: Must be even, not under nor overshot.

NECK: Long, lean and arched to the head and without any throatiness.

FOREQUARTERS: Shoulders should be long and slope well back; with wide flat bone and fairly close at withers; should not be loaded (too thick) which interferes with the liberty of movement. Elbows well let down and showing well under the body, which gives freedom of action. Forelegs big, flat boned and straight, with strong upright pasterns - well feathered.

BODY: Of moderate length, deep in brisket, with ribs well sprung. Deep in back ribs, well ribbed-up. Loins wide and slightly arched. Chest not too broad.

HINDQUARTERS: Hind legs from hip to hock should be long, broad and muscular; hock to heel short and strong, stifles well bent; hocks straight, not inclined neither in nor out. Pelvis should tend to the horizontal, opposite of goose rump.

FEET: Oval, with close-knit, well arched toes, with plenty of hair between. Full toe pads and deep heel cushions.

TAIL: Fairly short, straight or slightly scimitar-shaped and should not reach below the hocks. Carried horizontal or below the line of the back. Thick at the root, tapering to a fine point. The feather or flat which starts near the root should be long and straight and growing shorter uniformly to the point.

COAT: On the head and front of legs, and tips of ears should be short and fine, but on all other parts of the body and legs it ought to be of moderate length, fairly flat and free as possible from curl or wave. The feather on the upper portion of the ears should be long and silky, on the back of the hind legs long and fine; a fair amount of hair on the belly forming a nice fringes which may extend on chest and throat. All feathering to be as flat and straight as possible.

COLOUR: Deep shining coal-black, with no sign of rustiness, with tan markings of a rich chestnut red (the colour of a ripe horse-chestnut as taken from its shell). Tan should be lustrous. Black pencilling allowed on toes and also black streak under jaw. Tan markings: two clear spots over the eyes not over three quarters of an inch in diameter; on the sides of the muzzle, the tan should not reach above the base of the nose, resembling a stripe around the end of the muzzle from one side to the other; on the throat; two large clear spots on the chest; on the inside of the hind legs and inside the thighs showing down the the front of the stifle and broadening out to the outside of the hind legs from the hock to the toes - it must, however, not completely eliminate the black on the back of the hind legs; on the forelegs - up to the elbows behind, and to the knees or a little above, in front; around the vent - a white spot on the chest is allowed but the smaller the better.

WEIGHT AND SIZE: As a guide to size, shoulder height for males should be 66 cm (26 in) and weight about 29.5 kg (65 lb); for females 62 cm (24.5 in) and weight about 25.4 kg (56 lb) in show conformation.

NOTE: Male animals should have two apparently normal testicles fully descended into the scrotum.