

therapy dog.

Jessie was the daughter of a second breeding by fellow Retriever Hall-of-Famer FC/AFC/CFC/CAFC Chesdale Chippewa Chief bred to DC Fireweeds Jasmine.

Linda chose Jessie at 3 weeks old. She was intended to be a pet for our daughter Jenni (hence the name JJ's), but Jessie spent her life as Linda's constant partner and best friend.

Throughout Jessie's life she lived in our home as a family member, slept in our bed, and was our constant companion. Jessie showed remarkable retrieving abilities from the start, and we knew we had a special kind of retriever in our home!

Linda and I did Jessie's early field-trail training and handled her to her conformation championship and obedience CD title.

As we said, from the start Jessie's desire to retrieve was insatiable, and she had the uncanny ability to "pinpoint-mark" fallen game while indicating her courage to retrieve in any condition, whether it be in icy water, heavy cover, or the extreme heat of summer.

At 2 years old, Jessie began her "formal" field trial training with the Hall of Fame professional trainer and handler Mike Lardy, at Handjem Retrievers, and showed her abilities by quickly becoming a Qualified All-Age dog and then winning a field trial "Open" event. Jessie quickly went on to become a Field Champion under Mike's expert training. Jessie then came home to live with our family, training and competing with us and continuing her winning ways while becoming an Amateur Field Champion (AFC).

Jessie competed at the highest level of the AKC field trail game until early effects of canine degenerative myelopathy (DM) were recognized. Although Jessie's career was shortened by DM, she managed to earn 64 All-Age Field Trial points, along with 20-plus conformation championship points while qualifying for the seven National Open and/or Amateur Championships from 1987 through 1992.

At the 1990, 1991, and 1992 National Championships, Jessie competed with her daughter DC/AFC JJ's Chi-Town Blizzard, CD, MH, making history as the only mother-daughter Dual Champion Chesapeakes ever to compete together at the National Retriever Championship level. Jessie was the Top Chesapeake Field Trial Bitch in the country six times—until her daughter Lizzy took over the spot!

Jessie produced DC/AFC JJ's Chi-Town Blizzard, CD, MH, CFC/CAFC When Harry Met Jessie, plus many qualified All-Age dogs and dogs with All-Age wins and Master Hunter titles.

During the induction ceremony, we thanked the members of the Hall of Fame, all those present at the ceremony, and those who voted for Jessie. We then reminisced about Jessie's life and shared a few Jessie stories.

When Jessie was very young, she and Linda were inseparable. Jessie would follow Linda everywhere—even into the shower if the door were left open! We talked about Jessie as a precocious but at times "strong willed" young dog, which brought on Mike Lardy's thought, "You had to make her believe it was her idea to do whatever she was being taught."

Jessie was a very competitive field-trail dog—she was a "gamer," coming up at field trials and rising for the most difficult retrieves, just as true champions rise for the occasion.

We ended the acceptance by saying that during Jessie's career he was told that she was a wonderful dog—not just a wonderful Chesapeake—and we felt that was a very special compliment.

Our closing thought was, "Now Jessie is in the Hall of Fame—she beat those great Labrador Retriever field trial dogs one last time!"

The Hall of Fame is so special, and Jessie will forever be in the hallowed hallways of the museum.

Reviewing Jessie's career and accomplishments makes one realize that she is a cornerstone of the Chesapeake breed, setting the standard for future generations. She made history—for her

breed—and for the field trial sport, she set the bar high! —M.P. (dualch@sbglobal.net)

Thank you, Mitch.

Correction

Some text was inadvertently omitted from the breed's column in the April issue, which was on the topic of Chesapeakes who have earned Versatile Companion Dog titles. The editors regret the error, and we extend our apologies to the columnist and to the owner of the very accomplished dog mentioned below.

Following is the information that was missing:

"Level four, VCD-4, requires a dog to earn the UDX, MX, MXJ, and VST or UDX, MXP, MJP, and VST. Of all breeds, only 14 dogs have earned this distinction since 2006. CT Eastern Water's Sea Zephyr, VCD-4, RE, MXB, MJB, NF, is the only Chesapeake to gain this title.

"The Versatile Companion Champion title, VCCH, precedes the name of the dog who has earned Obedience Trial Champion (OTCH), Master Agility Champion or Preferred Agility Champion (MACH or PACH), and Champion Tracker (CT). Of all breeds, only five dogs have attained this exceptional pinnacle."

—Audrey Austin,
audreyjustin@cox.net

American Chesapeake Club website:
AmChesieeClub.org

Curly-Coated Retrievers

The Active Sit

Dog owners today have many events to choose from, and one of my favorites is rally. After attending a rally event recently, it brought to mind how important it is to know and respond quickly to the *sit* command. Yes, the recall and other actions are very important too, but for a good flow of performance in rally, a quick sit is a big help.

Picture the handler who has to keep repeating the *sit* command. Not only does this affect course time, but it also appears to interrupt the steady quality

of movement between signs. Recently my Curly was entered in a rally trial that required more sits than I had ever before encountered. If I had needed to repeat the sit command even once for each of the sits in that trial, our course time would have slowed down considerably. Even so, she was becoming bored with all of that sitting toward the end of the course.

I do not suggest rushing around a rally course, but with the number of sits required in some course setups, a quick sit is nice to have. I start teaching many activities with puppies right in the house, a few times during the day. A treat is never forthcoming unless there is some response to a command—*down*, *sit*, *stand*, and *stay*. All can be incorporated into everyday living, right in your own home. I always have treats in my pockets, whether just plain kibble or something more delicious. The *sit* command is probably my most frequently required action, and when they sit, I rather make a fool of myself and praise effusively.

When training outside, I will do a few steps of heeling with a quick sit, then a small treat popped into the dog's mouth. Short and sweet is what I adhere to when training Curlies.

I next hope to have a column about the new Barn Hunt activity that has recently become quite popular.

—Ann Shinkle, annshinkle@aol.com

Curly-coated Retriever club of America website: ccra.org

Flat-Coated Retrievers

Your New Flat-Coat Puppy

Some challenges of raising your new Flat-Coated Retriever puppy might come as a surprise to you if you have previously raised other retriever or retriever mixed-breed puppies. Be prepared for a puppy who needs mental as well as physical exercise, calm handling to prevent separation anxiety, and structure for mental and emotional development.

You should prepare for your new Flat-Coat before he arrives. All dogs are

creatures of habit, and many of your Flat-Coat's habits begin as soon as you bring him home.

First, take him for a walk outdoors alone, with a long line dragging behind him if you have no fenced yard, so that the first place he urinates or defecates is an area you have chosen for that purpose.

Next, take him to the place where he will spend the night, and do what you can to make him feel comfortable there. Take him there four or five times more during that first day. (If the Flat-Coat will typically be left alone for most of the day, he must be allowed to spend each night in the bedroom of a family member, rather than alone.)

Third, take him to the non-carpeted room in the house where you will spend the most time with him. (This is usually the kitchen.) Then, while in that room, or else outdoors, introduce your puppy gently and quietly to each family member, one at a time.

Introduce people first, then animals.

When raising a Flat-Coat puppy, your gates should all be double-latched, crates should be certified for airline use (meaning they are sturdy and well built), and partitions and baby gates should be sturdy, tall, and escape proof. If it is possible for any puppy to get out of an enclosure, a Flat-Coat will do it. Trying to patch things up after an escape will create a Houdini. Outdoor fencing should be at least five feet high, and preferably six or seven feet. Flat-Coats can be trained to respect a lower fence, but that training has to be extensive. It isn't that the Flat-Coat is always trying to get away; it is that they are opportunists, always looking for company or excitement.

To keep him interested and entertained, the Flat-Coat puppy should be encouraged to play with retrieving and interactive toys. Tease your puppy with a toy and throw it a short distance. When he picks it up, run away, call him, and clap your hands, so he chases you. Praise and pet him when he arrives, but don't reach for the toy. Tease him with a second toy, but throw it only after he

has dropped his. This will prevent him from feeling competitive with you over toys as he would with another puppy. It will also encourage him to come to you quickly and to have a cooperative instead of competitive attitude toward you and other family members.

In fact, when a Flat-Coat has a stolen or undesirable object in his mouth, it is effective to tease him with a toy or treat to get him to drop it. Then throw the toy or treat, and pick up and hide the undesirable object while he is not looking.

The Flat-Coat is a dependent and emotional breed. To keep the puppy calm when you leave him and to prevent separation anxiety, practice leaving and returning to him when his excitement is channeled toward toys and play, whether he is in a room, yard, or crate. Be pleasant but calm for 15 to 20 minutes before leaving and after returning to him.

—Sally Terroux, sjterroux@aol.com

Flat-Coated Retriever Society of America website: FCRSAinc.org

Golden Retrievers Goldens Immortalized

A gathering of 222 Golden Retrievers is a noteworthy event in and of itself—and when those Goldens collect on the grounds of the breed's ancestral home at the Guisachan estate in Iverness, Scotland, the meeting takes on immense historic proportions.

Among the 350 people attending that Golden Retriever Guisachan Reunion in July 2013 was the Friends of Guisachan, an international group recently formed to educate Golden owners about the breed's history and its ancestral home in Scotland. The Friends Advisory Board includes breed experts from the Golden Retriever Club of America and the Golden Retriever Club of Scotland. The group's website offers information on breed history and the famous Guisachan mansion house, kennel, and grounds.

The board has sponsored a project to commission a life-size bronze statue of