

THE LLEWELLIN ASSOCIATION

VOL. 2 NO. 4

CONWAY, ARKANSAS - WINTER 1995

PRICE
\$22.75
PER YEAR

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Russian Kennel	3
Hold The Press	13
Health & Kennel Tips	14
Llewelin Memories	16
The Main Event	17
Once Upon A Time	18
That Sweet Little Miss.....	20
Mailbag	21
Tuppy the Puppy	23
Llewelin Bags Buck	23
Blizzard Speckled Sun.....	24
Photo Album	25
Clubs & Trials	26-37
A Pine Hill Weekend	40
Hunting Reports	42
Ads	43

RUSSIAN KENNEL CLUB - LLEWELLIN SETTERS -

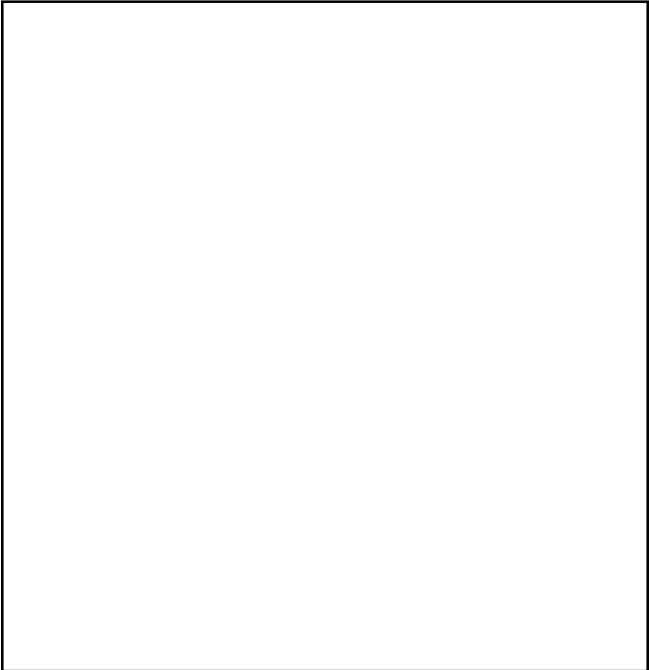
In early 1993 through a copy of a letter sent to me by Dr. Rudy Winklebear in Maine; from Dr. Slava to Chris Sorenson of England (grandson of Wm. Humphry); I learned of the existence of Laverack-Llewellins in Russia that were thought to be a pure strain. They were exported from England into the Soviet Union at the same time they began coming to the U.S. and Canada and even before. This blood pool had been retained in purity since the late 1800's.

The letter states Grand Duke Zclensky Zelova imported more Laverack and Llewelin dogs which were registered in the first Russian Kennel Club Stud Book. These dogs from England are indicated by the British Kennel Stud Book numbers.

Records show that the Russian Czar Alexander II (1855-1881) had some of the early Laveracks brought to Russia. Czar Nicholas II (1894-1917), grandson of Alexander II, imported more of the Lavarack and Lavarack-Llewellins. He was known as an avid bird hunter himself. Dr. Slava states in the letter "Czar Nicholas was a prominent hunter".

Just as all the European Royalty were related to each other, so it is with the dogs that they possessed. The King of England would send his daughter to another European Monarch's son to be married. This eliminated both the mixing of outside impure blood into royal lines and made a military bond. Naturally the hunting dogs that these men kept were also of the King's line of dogs. As the most of us know the Laverack-Llewelin dogs descended from the kings dogs.

This information was enough to spark my interest. Being a Llewelin Setter



Dr. Slava on a hunt

THE LLEWELLIN ASSOCIATION

Published Quarterly

Mrs. Drenda King, Editor

Alfred O. King, Sr., Publisher

All correspondence should be addressed to:

Alfred King
27 Gapview Rd.
Conway, AR 72032

Attn: The Llewelin Association

The Llewelin Association does not assume responsibility for views expressed by correspondents.

Copyright © 1995 by The Llewelin Association & King Publishing, Inc.. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means; electronic, mechanical, photocopy recording or otherwise without the prior permission of the copyright owner.

ERRORS & OMISSIONS: The advertisers in this publication agree that the publisher and Association shall not be liable for any damages arising from any errors in advertisements beyond the amount paid for the area actually occupied by that portion of the advertisement in which the error occurred. There shall be no liability for non-insertion of any advertisement beyond the amount paid for such advertisement.

BACK ISSUES AVAILABLE

Back Issues are now available for \$5.00 each. End of the year Christmas Issue will be \$10.00. This issue will contain a complete listing of all members for the present period.

ON THE COVER

*Cover photo taken in Russia. Dr. Slava's son
Mesha and their dog Ben after a hunt.*



enthusiast and breeder, dedicated to preserving the Llewellyn breed for 32 years, I am always looking for new blood for my Llewellyn blood pool.

I began corresponding with Dr. Slava in Russia, who owned one of these Setters. Note here I said 'one', because in Russia they do not have Kennels of dogs. Mostly just the elite own dogs. In Moscow dogs must be totally raised and kept in their apartments. There are very few, if any, houses in Moscow. (All real property is owned by the State.) Dr. Slava is a very prominent figure in the Russian Kennel Club (RKC), of which he is a lifetime member. He is also a member of the All Moscow Hunting Society and the Dinamo Hunting Society. He is a member of the breeding committee, a very important position as you will read later. I hoped he might be able to help me find the information I needed to prove this line of Setters to be Llewellyns.

Through Dr. Slava I was able to import two of these puppies in Spring of 1994 and two more in spring of 1995. Dr. Slava arranged an official invitation from the Russian Government for my wife Drenda and I to visit and conduct research at the RKC. The purpose of my research was to obtain records to prove the Setters were truly pure Llewellyns. So in July of this year we packed our bags and went to Russia! This was an experience of a like time for an old county boy from Conway, Ark., who had never been out of Arkansas very many times in his life.

We were treated like royalty by Dr. Slava, his wife Gala, and son Mesha and all the other Russian people we met. The ladies at the RKC were very courteous and friendly, allowing us go into all their records and retrieve any information we needed in our research of these Setters. We were also allowed to photo and film anything we wanted. They were so kind and helpful and stopped what they were doing to get us what we needed.

The RKC office was being remolded (as was the majority of various buildings infrastructure in Moscow). They were not able to provide the first official Russian Kennel Club book of 1902 because the older records were stored due to the renovation work. The RKC was formed as a central club to gather and keep all records from the various divisions.

The next day Dr. Slava called us and said he had located this book and would have it at his home that evening when we were invited to dinner with them. Having dinner with them was another experience. It takes about two hours to eat a dinner meal. They use vodka as we in the south use tea, water or wine during a meal. He explained, "The premium Vodka is made from sugar, not from potatoes", which is something I did not

know. The meal progresses in courses during which a set order of toasts are followed. When we arrived he showed me the old 1902 Kennel Book. I was amazed that he was able to bring such a rare old (one of a kind) book home. I commented to him "this book needs to be locked in a fire proof safe". He just chuckled. Dr. Slava is one of the friendliest and happiest gentleman I have ever met. After being with him only a week, we developed a very close friendship.

Now to the main objective of this article. Before I left for Russia I called Mr. Bernie Matthys, Managing Editor of American Field Magazine and asked what information I needed to get the Russian Setters registered as Llewellyns. He told me and then asked me if I would write an article about the Russian Kennel Club, for AMERICAN FIELD Magazine.

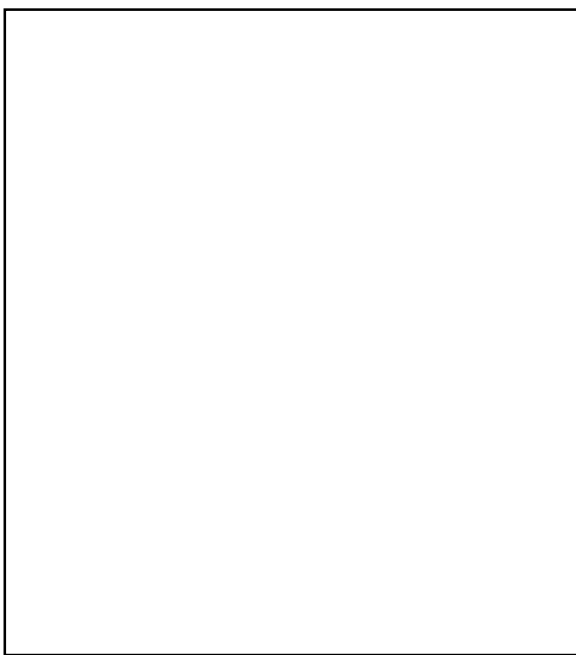
Through our research I believe we found some of the purest blood Llewellyn-Laveracks in the world. After the Revolution the beginnings of the communist government took over in 1917 and no dogs were allowed to enter Russia (except 3 Llewellyns, of Gleam blood, that entered in the 1920's). Likewise none have been allowed to leave Russia until just recently. I do not expect them to continue allowing exportation as their system of determining Championship is based on the 'wins' of a dogs descendants.

While in Russia I acquired an old two volume set of

Russian books on sporting dogs, written in 1896. I had the English Setter section translated by a student I was introduced to while in Russia who is now attending the University in Conway. It is very interesting and informative. I found out things about Mr. Llewellyn and Mr. Laverack that I had never found in my library of old English and American books, but that is another story which I will write about at another time.

The Russians up until the 1860's called all setters English Setters in-

cluding the Irish and Gordon Setters, it is interesting to note that the Russians first called the Gordons 'Scottish Setters' because their origin is in Scotland. They bred each of these separately, as the English did. In the following, I will use



Dr. Slava & "Charlie" Grandfather of "Ben"



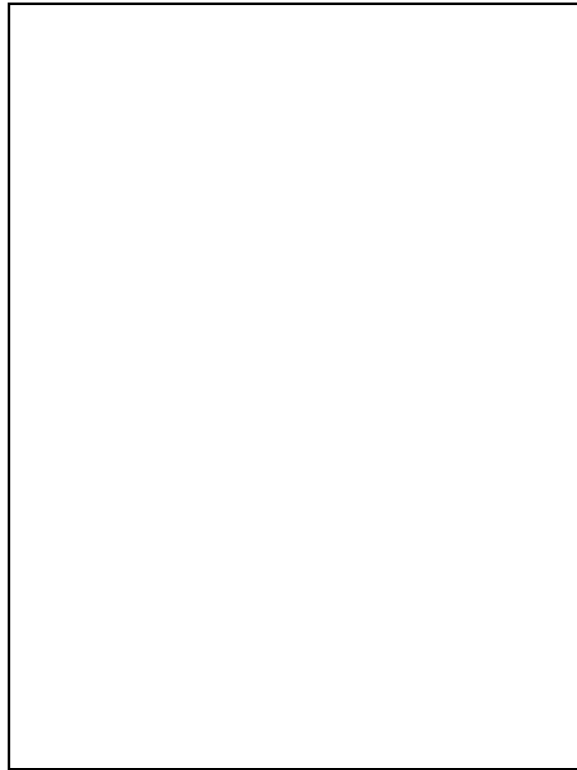
several quotes from this book to prove my statements. "In the middle of the XIX century, all setters, not only in Europe, were considered to be the English Setters. Even in Great Britain, the setters were distinguished only because of the different Lord's Kennels." The Russians, like the English, believed it was a disgrace to sell a dog.

"The Laverack came to Russia later. Actually, the rational breeding of the English gun dogs started in Russia not more than 15 years ago (1883), and before that time most setters were impured." The Russians were, and still are, very strict about their breeding programs. If a dog was considered to have any IMPURE BLOOD, it is repeatedly stated, they would not breed them into their pure strains even though it might individually be an excellent

dog. While researching the old books quite often I found mentioned that a particular dog was an excellent birddog but there were no descendants from him because he or she had "impured blood".

The Laveracks were at first termed "cat like", because they crouched when they pointed. They also thought the Laveracks could not scent game very well because they did not wag their tails. They said "the dog that moves it's tail has a better nose". They associated this with the fox hounds, because when a hound hits game scent it's tail starts to wag. Reading the old books were quite amusing because there were quite a few of these misnomers mentioned.

Another interesting statement is, "The Bellecroix pictures (in book) of the English yellow and black setters prove that even at the end of the 1870's in France, not only Laveracks were considered to be the English Setters. There were a lot of such setters, (like in the picture 45), in Russia in 1868". Dr. Slava stated, "Russian Setters came from France in 1500 and 1600's as gifts from the French Kings to the Russian Royalty. The Russian Historians attribute this to be the same blood as the Laverack Setters in England, that descended from the Kings dogs." As you may remember in my book, THE LLEWELLYN SETTER, published in 1993, the English Setters in England descend from the King of France's dogs of the 1600's. The King of France introduced the English King to the art of falconry by sending a brace of setters and servants to instruct him in the use of them. Through my research for my book, I had previously found



*Dr. Slava's son Mesha and "Ben"
their Llewellyn*

that the France King also sent dogs to Russia.

In reading through these old Russian books, I found that Laveracks and Llewellyns could be found in Belgium, Italy, Germany, France and other Western Europe countries in the latter part of the 1800's. These dogs usually always belonged to the Royalty and the aristocrats of these countries. They state that they were in great demand because of their hunting abilities.

In one of the books they talk about the Setters that were in Russia before the Laveracks and Llewellyns started appearing in Russia. The book states, "The Moscow hunters probably remember the setters Gaffisse, Ruslan of Koltsov, and Dendy of Artynov. Even though they weren't shaped well, these dogs had a very nice disposition and were very good in the field. That's why many people

regret that they (Russian English Setters) DISAPPEARED and were replaced by the Laveracks and the Irish Setters."

The book continues by stating, "By the 1880's the Russian English setters were replaced by Gordons. At this same time the real Laveracks appeared in Moscow and Saint-Petersburg, they were know earlier but were called the French Setters. The first man who brought them was Bernadaki. Then, two real Laveracks were brought to Skobelev. Their descendants still exist. The first Laverack that was shown at the exhibition under this name was Rodger brought from Great Britain by the General Astashov. Of course, it was a pure setter, but it wasn't typical Laverack. In spite of some shortcomings, Rodger was a very beautiful dog and a good producer. His descendants got many prizes at the exhibitions and in the Field Trials. Rodger was handled in Trials by Dietz, the appointed Chief of Hunting Services for Tzar Alexander and his grandson Nicholas. (Rodger is said to be the base of the blood pool for the modern English Setter in Russia.) At the same time, the male Stockvel of V. V. Geslin, brought from Great Britain was shown at the exhibition."

"The First good exhibition Laverack was Young Rob bought by A. M. Piskov from Armstrong and shown at the XI exhibition of 1885. Young Rob was then bought by the Petersburg hunter D. K. Naryshkin. Later he brought the female Dora. The most famous descendant was Dora II."

"At the same time with Young Rob the female Fen (both Laveracks) were brought from Great Britain by the Peters-

burg hunter I. Y. Zabelsky. Then he brought the male Prince and the male Diamond V (Laveracks) the blue belton, 5 years old, that got the first prize at the exhibition in Darlington and silver medal at the Saint Petersburg exhibition. Diamond had long legs, excellent head and deep but not broad chest. It was one of the best Laveracks brought to Russia. At the Neva Hunting Club of 1889, he got the gold medal and a prize. From Fen and Young Rob Zabelshky got a very good female Trell. From Prince and Trell I, he got the female Charka that produced the famous Skiff of Gen and female Princess.”

“Blue Monk (came from Monk of Furness and Milton Bell) brought to Russia when he was a puppy, was a very beautiful dog. He was a son, grandson, and great grandson of the champions. He got the gold medal at the exhibition.”

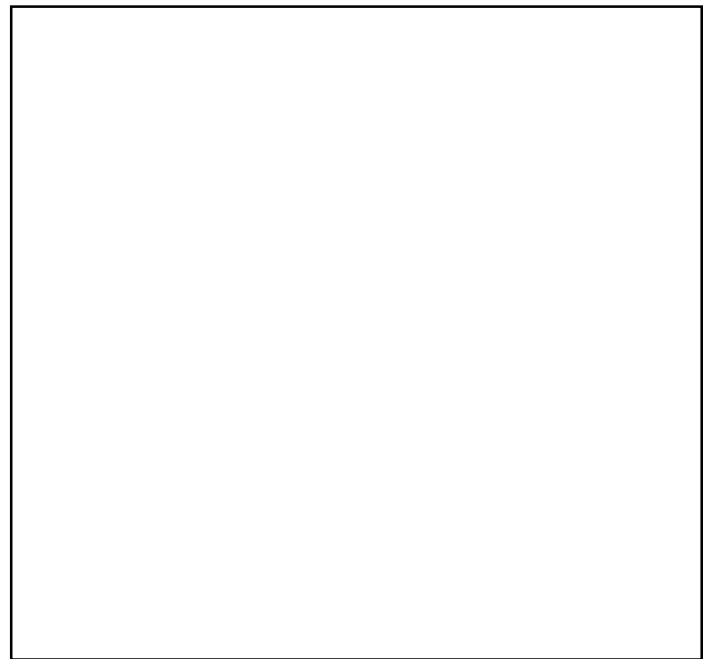
“Among the Petersburg Laveracks, the most beautiful was the female Kedvesh that belonged to the Tsar.”

The old book also states, “Laverack Setters males were 23-25 inches, females are 1 - 1.5 inches lower”. It is interesting to note here that at first the Russians called the Llewellyn Setter “Dan Setters”. This is because all the first ones coming to Russia were Laveracks bred to “Llewellyn’s Dan”. It also states that most were tri-colored. “The Llewellyn Setter is a setter with a blood of the Laverack and having Dan’s type, most of them were tri-colored (black with spots) - strain that could be found in both the pure Laveracks and the Statter Setters. Crossing his dogs with the Statter Setters, Llewellyn strengthened the arganism of the pure Laveracks. These Llewellyn Setters were much easier to raise, they were not exposed to diseases so much, and they had a very nice disposition. But their main advantages were a very good shape, strong thighs (the Laveracks’ thighs were weaker), and an excellent scent. That’s why the Llewellyn Setters started getting prizes at the exhibitions and in the Field Trials. In the Field trials of 1894 the two Llewellyn dogs (Rosa Wind’em and Jessie Wind’em) got the second prizes, and one dog (Daphne) got the first prize in the Trial for the setters of all ages.”

“The Llewellyn dogs weren’t different from the half pured Laveracks of the other breeders - Statter, Armstrong, etc. Their success is determined only by a very good selection of producers. (** We are talking about the origination of the Llewellyn Setter according to E. D. Artymov that wrote the work about them. However, Randon Lee doesn’t say anything about Dan. He thought that the Llewellyn Setter came from the cross of the pure Laveracks with Old Slut of the Vincent Corbert and Rhoebe of Statter. But Stonehenge calls the Llewellyn Setters the Dan Laveracks because according to him they came from the cross of Dan or his sister with the pure Laveracks). After Llewellyn everybody started breeding light setters with a nice appearance. The modern English Setters are much more elegant than the Laveracks of the 70’s. Their chest got smaller, shoulders and knees are

more straight, they have less hair, and the hair is straight.”

“In the field the main thing that was needed was swiftness. But at the exhibitions, the secondary quality — appearance — was superior to the dogs field qualities. The main things were pretty head, nice hair, and a fashionable color. Recently, the blue-marble dogs were in fashion, so all black and yellow setters didn’t get any prizes. The consumers demanded the blue marbles so the breeders started breeding them. Now the Blue Beltons are going out of fashion,



*"Capercaillie" weighs over 20 lbs.
Largest grouse in the world.*

and yellow setters got fashionable.”

“The different demands to the English Setter at the exhibitions, in the field, and the hunters demands caused their separation on exhibition dogs and field dogs (in England). That is why the Llewellyn dogs mixed well.”

“Llewellyn was a very well off man. He was the owner of many swamps in Scotland and estates in England and Wales that gave him an opportunity to keep really field dogs. All of them were trained well. In 1884 at the Birmingham exhibition, twelve Llewellyn Setters got prizes in the Field Trials.”

“The most difficult and the hardest trials were Braces Stakes and the Kennel Club trials. The Llewellyn Setters got twelve prizes in the Kennel Club Trials (3 years in a row). Besides, the Llewellyn Setters won two times (1882 and 1883) in the Pointer’s Trials. Now a days, the Llewellyn Setters still win the Field Trials.”

“Empress Meg got the first prize at one of the exhibitions of 1886 and was sold to Belgium to Baron Rosen. She produced the female Du Chaisse that was bought by the Saint Petersburg hunter Gen from Rosen.”



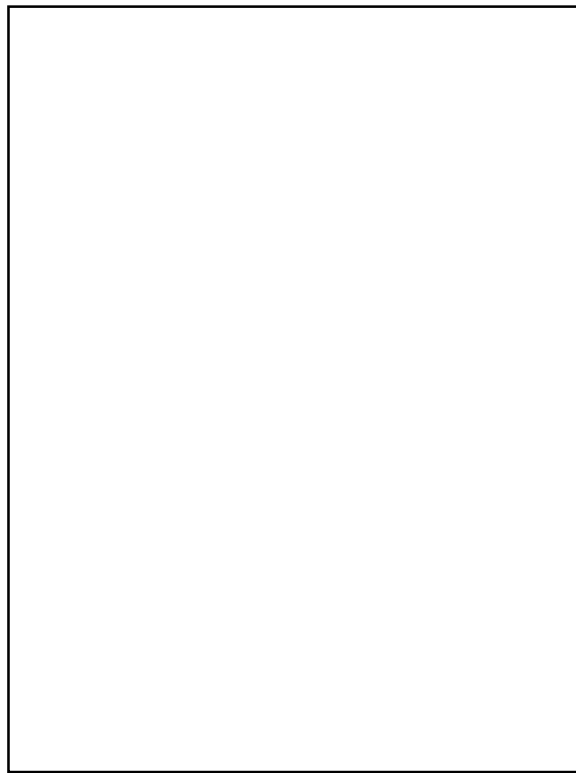
“These Setters were spread in the other countries of the Western Europe, France, Italy and Germany. Since the 70’s very good setters are brought to the Northern part of America annually. They are very wide spread there; therefore, there are no pure Laveracks there anymore either (Llewellyn added).”

There were numerous other Laverack and Llewellyn dogs mentioned in this book. I only selected a few of the more well know ones. Allotted space for this article will not permit me listing others. The book closes by stating. “Now a days (1896), the English Setter called Laverack by mistake (because of the Duke-Rhobe-Lavarack mixed blood in some that were going into Russia by then) is the most common breed of the long-haired gun-dogs. Its powerful shape and endurance are

more suitable for the hard work in the woods in the central and northern parts of Russia and Siberia .”

I could go to an even further in-depth listing and study about these dogs to show that once the Russian started acquiring the “pured”, full blood, Laveracks and Llewellyns from Great Britain and other countries they discarded the strains of English type setters. They had and totally gone to the “pured” dogs without adding any of the existing strains in Russia. As I quoted earlier, “That’s why many people regret that they (Russian English Setters) DISAPPEARED and were replaced by the Laveracks”. Even the old American breeders, at turn of this Century, would not breed impure dogs, even though they were an outstanding bird-dog. This is seen in Mr. A. F. Hochwalt’s book “BIRD-DOGS” written in 1922. He states, “Dash Antonie was another good son of Antonio (a Llewellyn) which was not bred to because of a slight out-cross in dam’s pedigree.” Antonio, Gladstone, Gladstone IV, Count Noble and other Llewellyns that were imported or descended out of the first Llewellyns imported to America are the foundation of what we call ‘American Llewellyns’.

Another interesting fact that pertains to the Laverack-Llewellyns in Russia is that there are no Chestnut colored dogs. The majority are of the (Russian preferred) ‘burnt’ Orange coloring. This I believe could be attributed to them being so adamant about pure blooded dogs. If you will remember in earlier times they considered the black coloring to be ‘vulgar’. In the book the writer often refers to Mr.



Dr. Slava made a Russian out of me.

Laverack’s book as a major reference point. You may remember the controversy raised about the Chestnut pup whelped by another man in possession of one of the ‘pure Laveracks’ while Mr. Laverack was still alive when there had previously been none of this coloring. As I stated earlier there is a wealth of information pertaining to both Mr. Laverack and Mr. Llewellyn to be found in the Russian writings that I have not found in other sources. Both men along with Mr. Armstrong and other English breeders of the period corresponded with the Russians just as they did with individuals in America. As I stated earlier, that is another story

In a letter written to Chris Sorenson (grandson of Mr. Wm. Humphrey who acquired all Mr. Llewellyns’ dogs) from Dr. Slava in 1991 he states, “From 1960 till 1980 only 2000 English Llewellyn Setters

received the numbers of All Russia Stud Book. Let me say, that English Setters in this country were imported from England in Pre-Revolutionary time.” Czar’s family was very interested in field sports and since he was related to the British crown, naturally they took dogs from England that descended from the ‘Kings Dog’. “After 1917 three English Setters were imported from England from the Laverack Llewellyn blood. So we believe that we have real pure Laverack and Llewellyn lines.” As I mentioned early they were adamant about only keeping ‘pured’ blood dogs.

One of the letters I received from Dr. Slava tells about how strong the dedication of the Russian government was



Dr. Slava's friends house they stay in while hunting.

for the 'pured' dogs. He writes, "Nobody in the West know that during World War II Soviet Government gave food for pure breed dogs to save a 'gene pool' in this country. In Leningrad during blockade with this help was saved some English Setters."

RUSSIAN KENNEL CLUB SYSTEM

The Moscow Hunting Club started in 1862. The Russian Hunting Club records included all breeds of hunting dogs, from hounds to bird-dogs. Beginning in 1880 English Setters were registered separately; prior to this time all breeds were registered in one book without breed classification. In 1877 the first Russian Dog Show for hunting dogs was held.

Czar Alexander II in 1902 initiated the forming of the first official Kennel Book (this is the book that Dr. Slava brought to his home for me to study). The book included dogs from 1892 to March 1902. Up until this time the individual clubs though out Russia kept their own numbers and records. The first Field Trial was in 1891 it is recorded in this first Russian Kennel Club Book.

The Russian Kennel Club has three separate departments called HUNTING SOCIETIES. All clubs of the Hunting Society are governed under the same rules. Previously the rules sometimes differed from club to club.

The first and largest is the ALL RUSSIA HUNTING SOCIETY. It has a membership of over 100,000. It's membership includes all Civil government employees. All the major cities like Moscow, Sarata and Linenburg have individual clubs that report to the All Russia Hunting Society. The largest and most dominant is the Moscow club.

The second is the ALL MILITARY HUNTING SOCIETY. This division includes members from the Marine, Air and Land.

The third is DINAMO HUNTING SOCIETY. This division has members that are the Soviet Police. This is the smallest club or society.

Each Society has its own hunting club. The three Societies work together very closely. At one time it was possible to register a dog with the Society of ones membership and also to register dogs in one or all three Societies. Now the three clubs work very closely and all dogs are registered thru the Russian Kennel Club only.

Each club has officers; Club President, Club Vice President and 2 persons paid as Secretary. Each has a Council for each breed of hunting dog.

The three breed groups are:
 SETTERS; English Setter, Irish Setter & Gordon Setter
 POINTERS; German Shorthair Pointer, German Wirehair Pointer & Pointers
 LIARKA; Huskie, Hound, Spaniel (Cocker, English Spaniel, Russian Hunting Spaniel, & Basoi, Greyhounds and others like it).



"Ben"

Every two years all members of all clubs have meeting to decide who will be the members of the committees which are chosen by experience. Each club has a president for each breed and three committees. The President recommends how the members should vote. The Committee members have the authority, members then follow their suggestions, or as Dr. Slava says, "All others not their job just interest." Members work thru the COLLECTIVE METHOD. One person can make a mistake but collectively they believe there will be no mistakes. This seemed very interesting to me.

Each Council of Section has three committees.

The First is the BREEDING COMMITTEE, Dr. Slava is a member of this All Russia Kennel Club Breeding Committee. This committee is the most important, their effectiveness is evident in the dogs produced and they have maintained the same standards for almost 100 years. The conformation and look of their dogs are basically the same as they were in 1902 judging from photos I saw while in Russia. My group of Russian Llewellyns look like the old Laverack-Llewellyns you see in old English engravings and prints. The Setters have a heavier frame and beautiful hair, weighing about 60 pounds. Their hunting ability is also something to which I can testify, from my own experience with the Llewellyn Setters I have imported from Russia. The dogs I have were pointing, backing and retrieving by the age of five months, I don't mean on tame birds either. They began work with just minimal of obedience training in the yard and house.

The Breeding Committee sets up a 2 year plan of dogs to be bred. Just because one has a dog and wants to have some pups does not mean one will be able to have them. They hold meetings on recommendations. They then decide which mating will produce the best offspring. Personal friendships and relations are not a factor in their decision as breeding is decided on an analyzes of the dogs pedigree, results of his Field Trials, and his Show results. It is their law and every club must abide by it. The President explains to



the members how they arrived at the plan.

One important aspect of their method is that no male can be bred until he is two years old and has had Field Trial placement and at least a 'good' show rating. A female is given three years to attain this status before being considered for breeding. (More on each of these qualifications follows.)

FIELD TRIAL COMMITTEE

The second committee is the FIELD TRIAL COMMITTEE. They decide where and when trials will be held. They hold their local trials every year in August. One interesting aspect

of these trials is that they are held using wild game birds only. This committee is one of the most important, because of their desire to have the best hunting dog. Show appears to be secondary to them and is used basically to keep conformation in direct line with the original dogs. Any dog is required to have Show placement before he is allowed to enter a field trial.

The judging is done on a different point system from any we use. The following is a list of points scored: Nose - 30 points, how he responds to handler - 25 points, how fast they quarter - 20 points, their intensity on point - 15 points, and flushing the bird (included

backing, etc.) - 10 points, equaling 100 points total.

Competitions includes all six of their pointing breeds. English Setters, Irish Setters, Gordon Setters, Pointers, German Shorthair, and German Wirehair. They use three judges. The main Judge is responsible for signing and documenting, in the owners personal registration book, what placement the dogs receive in competitions. They invite judges from other cities. Judges must have a degree to Judge.

As mentioned early their trials are held on wild game never on tame birds. Dr. Slava also stated there were very few professional trainers in Russia. Another interesting thing is they don't have puppy stakes. Puppies run in trials with old dogs.

In the last ten years they have held three National Competitions. Every five years they have All Soviet Union Trials. Winning the National Competition does not determine the National Champion. A dog could win ever trial it runs in, and still not become the champion. The National Champion is determined by a point system. They get a certain amount of points for each placement in Field Trials and Shows. They also get the same amount of points from the placements of their descendants, pups and also points from their grand-pups placements. The accumulative combination of these points is what determines the Grand Champions. This Champion is usually a older dog. By using this method in determining a Grand Champion, it shows that his or her genes are carrying excellent natural hunting abilities and conformation on to their descendants. If a particular dog never has any puppies, he or she will never be the Russian Champion.

This is an excellent way to preserve and improve any breed of dog. You and I both know the dog that wins a Championship Trial, is not always the best dog. Dogs, like humans, have their good days and off days. This one factor, of having dogs that pass their abilities to their pups, is what has made me so en-

thused with the Russian Llewellins.

It is exciting to realize that EVERY dog registered in Russia, living or dead; won or placed in a walking dog trial and has the conformation to receive placements in Show. In fact they will not be registered if they are not approved. After the dog gets placement in Show he is not required to show anymore.

The point system, for determining their Champion, is the reason I have had such difficulty in acquiring dogs from Russia. Because if they let the puppies out of Russia they can not build up points on their parents (the individuals dog) to be the Championship dog. Dr. Slava said, "It is impossible to get someone to sell you a grown dog." I have been trying to get several puppies to build a blood pool and have only been able to get five, in two years. I have been promised all the pups that will be available in the next few years. (Since I first began working on this story after my return in July, I have made another trip in early November. I brought back 4 more pups. I did not expect to be able to get this many from one litter.

On this last trip I found out another reason for the relatively small number of dogs produced in Russia. A FEMALE IS ONLY BRED TWICE IN HER LIFETIME. This is the reason that only 2,000 setters were registered with the Russian Kennel Club in a period from 1961 to 1995. I was also able to receive a letter of verification from the Russian Kennel Club. This letter states that these dogs are pure Laverack-Llewellins. (A copy of this letter is at the end of this article.)

The third committee is the SHOW COMMITTEE. They organize the shows and works with young and new owners. There are three divisions for Show Competitions. The largest is All Moscow then, All Soviet Union, and All Ukraine or Bella Russia. All Russia Kennel Club holds their National Shows yearly.

Pups are required to enter Show Competition at approximately 10 months old. The first show is what Dr.

Slava calls a "simple show". This show basically is just a 'test'. This show determines "who is better who is worse". This Show can eliminate a pup from being registered if he has any type of deformity. These are the shows that gets official stamp for pedigree on 'puppy papers'.

They are given different amount of points for good, very good, and excellent. They are not given points for satisfactory. A dog must have at least good to be able to enter in field trials. They are not required to show on a regular basis. After qualifying in Show, the pup is eligible to enter regular Show Competition. This is the Show that builds up points that determines who is the best.

EVERY dog registered in Russia, living or dead; won or placed in a walking dog trial and has the conformation to receive placements in Show.

REGISTRATION

Their registration rules are quite unique. This is the reason they have maintained the conformation, hunting abilities, unbelievable scenting game capacity, and all their natural abilities.

First they must be in the yearly breeding plan, that I mentioned earlier. (They mate a male only twice, one day apart.) The female is only bred twice in her lifetime, which is one of the reasons for the rarity of the dogs in Russia. Then the owners of Sire and Dam go to their local club and get a type of litter registration form. The local club checks with the Hunting Society to see if this particular pair are in the breeding plan to be bred together. Then the owner of sire and dam complete the form. It is then

approved by local club and submitted to local club registry by the owner of the dam. This is considered a preliminary registration form.

When pups are whelped a member of the Breeding Committee comes out and checks litter at four weeks old. If they find no defects and pups are alert they complete the pedigree on the form that the club gave them. It is stamped at this time by the local club and basically this is their 'puppy papers'. This is not the Registration papers. Dr. Slava said it is seldom anymore that pups are "undesirable", because their dogs have been bred so many generations without defects. Pups not desirable are destroyed so there will be no way that defects can pass on to next generation. One of the changes brought about by the new government of very recent years in Moscow is that sometimes these undesirable pups are allowed to be given as pets to the type of people who were never in the past allowed to own a dog. There are of course no papers on such dogs.

The pups are then placed, at four weeks of age, with new owner. As I mentioned earlier, they own just one dog. When pup is ten months old he must Show and receives show estimate. If satisfactory results are written on the dogs pedigree. the judge signs the 'puppy papers'. With this estimate of approval the pup can take part in a Field Trial. Under no condition can a dog be entered until this approval is received.

Next the dog is entered in a Field Trial. If he places he is given a Diploma and the pedigree puppy papers are signed by the Field Trial judge. Then owner of puppy presents completed form to the Local Club. A copy is made and sent to the Russian Kennel Club by the local club. Then the Russian Kennel Club gives the puppy his permanent papers with Russian Kennel Club registration number, which is then placed in the Russian Kennel Club Stud Book.

I know to some this sounds like a lot of unnecessary trouble and work. But if you think about it, this would elimi-



nate a lot of 'puppy factories'. This term applies to breeders which sell their culls just to make another dollar, or indeed have never considered culling anything that is not instantly apparent.

We really enjoyed going to Russia and learning so much about their dogs. Their dogs are one of the most important things in their lives. They consider the dogs another member of the family. Owning a dog is one of the few things in life that they can work with and use as an escape from reality. I guess that is why all their pointing dogs are such excellent bird-dogs.

Dr. Slava and his wife Gala and son Mesha have an opportunity to go twice a year in to the northern countries and spend three to four weeks hunting or fishing. Dr. Slava hunts with a remarkable pair of guns. The guns were made by the renowned gun makers, James Purdy and Sons of England, in the late 1800's. His collection of spent shotgun shells is quite fascinating also. He has over a hundred of them in a variety of gauges, types and materials. Several are brass with an assortment of marks, I highly prize the brass one he presented to me. His collection covers an amazing span of time. Mesha is the fisherman of the bunch. By the way I named my last two Russian male pups Slava and Mesha. They are sons of Dr. Slava's dog, Grand Champion "Ben" which is a son of his previous dog, Grand Champion "Charlie". The Russians register a lot of dogs with just one name.

They have an opportunity to kill a lot of different species of game birds. The most fascinating is the Capercaillie which is the largest Grouse in the world. It is about the size of our Turkeys, but stockier and heavier with a little shorter neck. They also have Black Grouse or Blackcock which are also larger than any of our species. Another bird that looks like a Grouse, but is colored similar to our bob-white is called the Gray Hungarian Partridge. They also have Ptarmigans, Woodcock, Snipe, and a Double Snipe much larger than the regular snipe. Dr. Slava said, "Often when you shoot

the Double Snipe, he falls to ground and his breast breaks open, because he is so heavy. The Double Snipe is our favorite bird to hunt. They are also preferred to use for training puppies and field trials, because they fly slow."

There is so much more to tell you about Russia but space for this article limits me.

For example telling you about the Kennel Club Museum in Moscow. It is a lot like our Arkansas Game and Fish Commission's museums showing the animals in their natural habitat. The detail they put in their exhibits makes the scene look unbelievably 'life like'. Their pre-historic display of ancient weapons of hunters was fascinating.

By the way Drenda and I have 'culture' now. Mesha purchased tickets, as a gift to his parents on his birthday for the four of us to attend Swan Lake. This beautiful production was performed by the renowned Russian Ballet Company at the Kremlin's newly built Theater. Dr. Slava, Gala, Drenda and I were seated in the dignitaries balcony seats with a very exciting view of this flawless Ballet. This was really one of the high points of the trip.

Another fascinating point of the trip was how old the history of Russia is compared to America. For example the large 12 X 18" slate 'bricks' that lined to old streets and walkways around the Kremlin were laid in the ground 200 years before Columbus landed in America!

The old is very beautiful. The subway system or Metro, built in the 20's & 30's looks like an art gallery; while the relatively new is totally unadorned

with any trim or finish work. Since the 1960's no infrastructural work has been done until the last two years. In office buildings all over the city remodeling is being done. Personally I hate to see the woodwork and the ornate light fixtures of the 1920's replaced but who can blame them for looking forward to modernization and electronic updates. The Kennel Club records are being entered into a computer system with 'Windows'. This building is by the way a showplace. For instance, the handrails for the stairs were supported by solid brass Elk heads the size of double fists.

They are still not allowed to own real estate. There are no individual homes in Moscow; everyone lives in apartments which are rented from the State. While there are a few department stores and grocery markets; the average size of a shop is probably 8 X 10 feet. These are sometimes enclosed boxes with a glass front; while others resemble partitioned flea market stalls with clothing and shoes. There were no toy stores; only a few of the booths have a few plastic toys with English titles, made in Tiwan. Some department stores have the wooden nesting toys, cloth dolls and other handmade items. No customer browses through the merchandise; one is waited on by a clerk and all items are behind counters. There are several fresh flower vendors on the street corner at every Metro exit along with foodstuff 'perishables' vendors.

The contrasts are as remarkable as they are sad. Let us all appreciate what we have and pray for these warm and friendly people who are so like us as they make the journey of progress. ■

"RUSSIAN VIDEO"

On our trip to Russia we were surprised at the freedom we had to do what we wanted to do. I was allowed to film anything I wanted to. I have footage of the Russian Kennel Club, also the museum that contained all the birds and animals stuffed and on display in their natural habitat. (Similar to our game and fish museums). Some footage of their dogs recopied from old 8 mm film (poor quality but interesting footage), also footage of Moscow. I thought this might be of interest to some of you. The Llewellyn Association is offering this film for \$8.00 + 1.50 postage. Proceeds go to promoting the Llewellyn Setter.