

Texas Lacy Game Dog Association



A TRUE PIONEER

The Lacy breed was developed in the Texas Hill Country over 100 years ago by Frank, George, Ewin, and Harry Lacy, and was essential to their success as ranchers. As a working dog the Lacy has no match, with their exceptional herding, hunting, and tracking abilities as valuable today as in years long past. Their intelligence, temperament, and loyalty also make them valued family companions and despite their name, Lacys can be found throughout the United States and even as far away as New Zealand.

The Texas Lacy Game Dog Association (TLGDA) is committed to preserving and promoting this rare and amazing breed. TLGDA founders and members were instrumental in the Lacy being named the

Official Dog of Texas and are still active in issues affecting working dogs and their owners. Through education, the TLGDA and its members advocate for responsible care and ownership of all dogs and are active in re-homing Lacy dogs in need.

Benefits of TLGDA membership include a quarterly newsletter, invitations to sponsored events, access to an online forum, and perhaps most importantly, a network of fellow Lacy owners who offer friendship and support.

Membership dues for individuals are \$15 and \$25 for families. To join, download an application at www.lacydog.com or call Jesse James Gaud at 912-610-4584 after 6:30 pm EST for more information.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Trackfest 2009

Sponsored by United Blood Trackers

February 14 - 16, 2009

Near Demopolis, AL

Schedule: Saturday: 10 am-6:30 pm

Sunday: 8 am-6:30 pm

Monday: 8 am-12 pm (UBT-II testing only)

This workshop is for dogs and handlers of all experience levels, as well as anyone interested in the use of blood-tracking dogs for the recovery of wounded big game. In addition to field work, presentations will be on topics such as training techniques, working with

puppies and adolescents, equipment choices, GPS use, and working with hunters. The United Blood Trackers will also offer testing for UBT-AA and UBT-I throughout the weekend and UBT-II on Monday. Instructors will be UBT Judges: John Jeanneney (NY), Larry Gohlke (WI), Andy Bensing (PA), Cheri Faust (WI), and Al Wade (AL). A.J. Niette (GA) will be speaking about GPS.

Workshop is limited to 20 dogs. Early registration is recommended if you want to work your dog. Go to www.unitedbloodtrackers.org to download registration form (and "dog experience questionnaire" if planning to work your dog.) For more information contact Alan Wade: (985) 516-3888, alanwade@bellsouth.net

Wild Boar Hunting Expo

February 28-March 1, 2009

Hallettsville, TX

Schedule: Saturday: 9 am-7 pm

Sunday: 9 am-4 pm

This expo showcases everything necessary for successful boar hunting including: traps, feeders, knives, ATVs, hog-dog gear, dogs, archery equipment, and firearms. There will be an in-door pop-up 3D archery tournament (bring your bows!)



Sailor and Scout
Owned by Marlo Riley~Helotes, TX

and the Texas Dog Hunters Association will again hold their annual "Hunt for the Hungry" hog dog competition. Hog dog hunters from around the state will weigh in their hogs on Sunday for a chance to win over thousands of dollars in cash and great prizes. All the hog meat brought in is processed on-site and donated to the needy of Texas with the help of

Hunters' Harvest. Last year there was over 20,000 pounds (YES...10 TONS) of wild pork brought in. Last year, the first place winning team went home with over \$3,000.00 in cash and prizes. For more information about the show or how to enter the hunting tournament, call Cody Weiser: (361) 772-8023.

ANNOUNCEMENTS (continued from previous page)

Blood-Trailing Seminar

February 28, 2009

Between Mountain Home and Rocksprings, TX

Schedule: 10 am-4:30 pm

Arrive 30 minutes early to sign in

\$75 for each handler and dog team running
blood-trails for the day*

\$35 for each handler without a dog

Seminar is limited to 25 handler/dog teams. Trail instructors are: Bryan and Marlo Riley, Ben Glenn, Robert Murrion, Steve Winn, and Melanie Tiemann. Contact Marlo Riley for more information or to register: (210) 681-1301 or email to bluelacydogs@sbcglobal.net

*Contact Steve Winn (575-631-3430) for information about the February 27th all day Exotic Hunt.

CHECK IT OUT

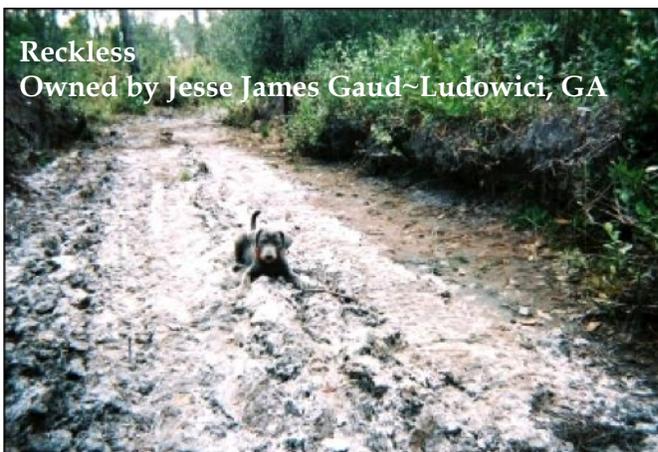
If you haven't been keeping up with the website forums, you're missing some great discussions; topics range from recommendations for good books on blood trailing to a list of the dog treats containing contaminated peanut butter. But in addition to serious topics, there's a lot of fun and friendship. All members are welcome to participate and opinions are mandatory! Go to www.lacydog.com and click on the link titled "forum."

JOIN US

TLGDA will have a float in the Burnet Bluebonnet Parade again this year. Last year we won 1st place and the blue ribbon. The parade is on Saturday, April 11, but the festival runs April 10-12. If you'd like to help or just offer support, email Lily McNally at mcnally12003@yahoo.com.



Talley
Owned by Dena E. Brown~Springfield, OR



Reckless
Owned by Jesse James Gaud~Ludowici, GA



Calamity Jane, Diamond Lil, Yellow Rose, Annie Oakley
Owned by Sandy Harrell~Crosbyton, TX

LET'S KEEP THEM HEALTHY



Spirit
Owned by Sundra Lemanski~
Georgetown, TX

CANINE INFLUENZA Canine influenza or “dog flu” is a relatively new strain of virus with symptoms that are very similar to Bordetella, aka kennel cough. It was first identified in 2004 at a Florida greyhound track when dogs regularly vaccinated against all major infectious diseases developed severe respiratory illness. It was apparent the dogs had no natural immunity to the disease since 100% of dogs exposed to the influenza became infected. It was reported dogs infected at this early date had a mortality rate of up to 10%. Major outbreaks have now occurred in 22 states, mostly in areas of high canine concentration, such as racetracks, kennels, veterinary hospitals, and animal shelters, but the disease is spreading to the pet population quickly.

SYMPTOMS Symptoms of canine influenza can appear two to five days after a dog is exposed to the virus. They include nasal discharge, sneezing, fever, and a soft, gagging cough that can last up to three weeks. Dogs can develop pneumonia as a secondary infection if not given proper treatment; at that stage the fatality rate

is 50%.

HOW IT'S SPREAD Nearly 100 percent of dogs that came in contact with the canine influenza will be infected, regardless of age or vaccination history. The virus is airborne and transmitted by an infected dog sneezing or coughing on another. It is also transmitted through direct contact with contaminated surfaces like toys or dishes. Symptoms generally appear two to five days after a dog is exposed to the virus, and infected dogs have the ability to spread the virus for 7-10 days from the onset of symptoms. Infected dogs that do not exhibit symptoms can still pass it to other dogs.

PREVENTION Currently there is no licensed vaccine, so contact with sick dogs must be avoided. Ask your vet if outbreaks have occurred in your area, and speak with fellow dog owners about cases of respiratory infections in dogs they may have come in contact with. Ask dog facility operators what steps they take to isolate illnesses. If your dog has a respiratory infection or just recovered from one, limit his exposure to other dogs. Bleach will kill the virus found on surfaces.

TREATMENT Most mild forms of the virus can be treated with antibiotics. Like humans, dogs with influenza need plenty of fluids and rest. More serious cases may require intravenous fluids. Mortality in dogs receiving medical care is still approximately 1%. If your dog has any symptoms of respiratory illness, consult you vet immediately.

AROUND THE CAMPFIRE

Jimbo and the Walking T Bunch

"A Rough Job Made Easy"



"A couple weeks ago my son came in from rabbit hunting one evening to tell me that the neighbor's bull was in our pasture. He had tried to run him back out but the bull was ready to fight so he left him alone and came to tell me about it. I knew what pasture he was in and that my cows and bull were on another part of our place so I just went and shut a couple gates so he couldn't get over to them easily and then I went on to bed.

Next morning I took Rattlesnake Rose (Blue Lacy) and "T" (Yellow Black Mouth Cur) out to that pasture and told them to find me a cow. They took off through the brush and were baying the wayward bull in just a few

minutes. I made my way over to the commotion and encouraged the dogs to give him hell. They were already giving him fits and that bull was madder than a stomped ant. He really was on the fight but couldn't do much with two dogs in his face. I drove on over to the fence and looked for where the bull came through. It wasn't too hard to find, he had taken out three strands of a six-wire fence. I propped up the top wires with a stick and sat back down on my mule to wait. Well, after about a half hour of sparring with the dogs that bull decided that his side of the fence was much safer and a heck of a lot quieter. I had already whistled the dogs so they knew where I was, and shortly they brought him to the hole in the fence and put him through it with ease. I just pulled the wires back together and spliced them and we went on back to the house.

All that sounds real simple and pretty easy, and it was, but imagine putting a mad bull out of a pasture without a pair of good stock dogs. It would have been a tough job that could have gotten seriously dangerous real quick. Man I sure love my dogs."

Jim "Jimbo" Williams
 Walking T Cattle Company
 Ovelo, TX



Rattlesnake Rose on her "mule"

The Adventures of Jesse James And the Blue Outlaws

"Dad, That Aint No Hog"

"It was early in the hunting season, mid 40's to mid 60's during the day but prime small game hunting weather. My daughter Megan was around ten years old but loved to be in the woods and go on hunts with me, but most of all she loved to get out with Tex, our male Blue Lacy, and run squirrels. Tex is a master squirrel dog and loves to hunt anything you want, he gets so worked up riding in the cab of the truck. If you're on a dirt road his eyes are in the trees and he's looking for squirrel, if he does happen to see one be sure that he will let you know. We decided to go down to a WMA close by, it's only a twenty minute drive away and loaded with all types of game.

We got plenty of snacks, got to have those when you take a kid hunting—helps to keep them from talking as much as they like sometimes. We reached the spot to park and I thought Tex would run out of his skin, he was ready to rock & roll. Tex watched as we put on our orange vests and got the .22 out and got ready for action—man was he happy. I told him to find us some squirrels and he was off. Within a few minutes we had the first one treed and on the ground. Tex got him up and brought him to Meg (you have to tell him to bring the squirrel or he will have him a snack in between hunts.) Off we go again, down in the hard woods and near the swamp, plenty of nice fat tree rats there. Meg is having a great time with Tex and he is really working full force, we took a little break to rest from the walking and trying to keep up with Tex.

As we got back to hunting Tex got out ahead of us, he was hunting hard now. Guess the shooting had the squirrels playing hide and seek so we had to work for it now. We were doing real well and had around 8 or 9 in less than an hour. Tex was out of sight but I knew he was close as he always checks in when Meg is along, plus he's got a tracking collar so we can locate him if he's gone too long. Meg and I were just walking along talking when we heard Tex open up, Meg was ready to get moving to him as he really wasn't more than 30-40 yards away. Only thing was, Tex was not tree barking, when you hunt enough with a dog like Tex you can tell a difference in barks and this one was a bay bark. He was looking eye to eye with something on the ground, and being we were close to the swamp I had a hog in mind. We moved a little closer and I could hear movement ahead, lots of intense barking and water splashing—the sounds of a good bay. I didn't know how big the hog was but it would have to be a good one to make Tex bay and not catch, so I put Meg up a tree and told her to stay put while I eased up to get a good look. As I got close I could hear

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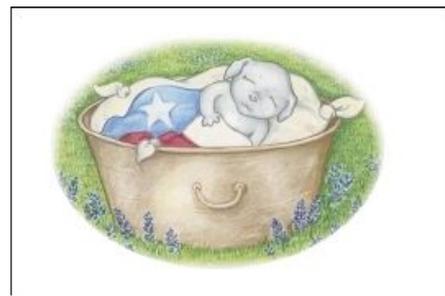
Tex and a friend

THE READING ROOM

No matter your age, you should check out www.texasstatedog.com and get a glimpse of a new children's book called "Gracie, the Blue Lacy." TLGDA member Lily McNally (Burnet, TX) worked with author Renata McConnell and artist Leslie Sedeman to create this charming book celebrating Texas' state icons. (Did you know Texas has an official flying mammal? It's true—the Mexican Free-Tailed bat.) And there is also a real Gracie—Lily's first Blue Lacy.

As Lily tells us, "I am presently setting up book reading times at schools throughout Texas. I am taking Gracie and reading the book to the kids. We were at the Texas Book Festival in November 2008, and are hoping to attract school librarians to vote for us next year for the Bluebonnet Award for the book. So far, we have been getting lots of reviews. The Bluebonnet Award is like winning the Oscar for movies, but this is for children's books." Gook luck, Lily—you do us proud.

You can order your copy of "Gracie the Blue Lacy" at



A MESSAGE FOR OUR MEMBERS

It's with sadness and a little anxiety that I leave my post as TLGDA President, and I want to thank everyone that helped me throughout my terms. I have learned so many new things and met some of the most awesome people who I know I will continue to enjoy. Thanks to all of you for your hard work and sharing all your talents with me.

During my time as President a few important things have taken place:

*Our website and server were updated and we will continue to ask for feedback from our members and look for more efficient ways to keep current.

*A Breeder Code of Ethics was adopted by the Board and must be signed before anyone can become a member/breeder.

*Several rescued Lacy's have been re-homed in more permanent or humane environments.

*The Board and Officers worked well together during a period of strife that could have changed the future of the Blue Lacy breed.

It is not easy being President of an association that is basically 400 miles away from the other officers. But we managed to make it work with lots of phone calls, occasional meetings and emails. I wish the best for the Association and will do anything I can to serve the Lacy community. I am now on the Board of Directors so will still have input and am happy to listen to any ideas members may have.

LACY FAMILY FUN DAY

It's almost time for the annual Lacy Family Fun Day! Plans are underway for this great Lacy event where family and friends (and dogs, of course!) gather for a full day of activities and demonstrations. Last year Ben Glenn and Tracey Sadler showed off their dog's cattle moving skills, and Marlo Riley shared her blood trailing secrets, and everyone was welcome to put their dogs through the agility course Sandy set up.

We're not sure exactly where and when our Fun Day will take place—check the website for updates on date and location. But we do know it takes a lot of teamwork to make the day a success, so send Sandy an email at sandy40@aol.com to let her know you want to lend a hand.



Sandy with Diamond Lil



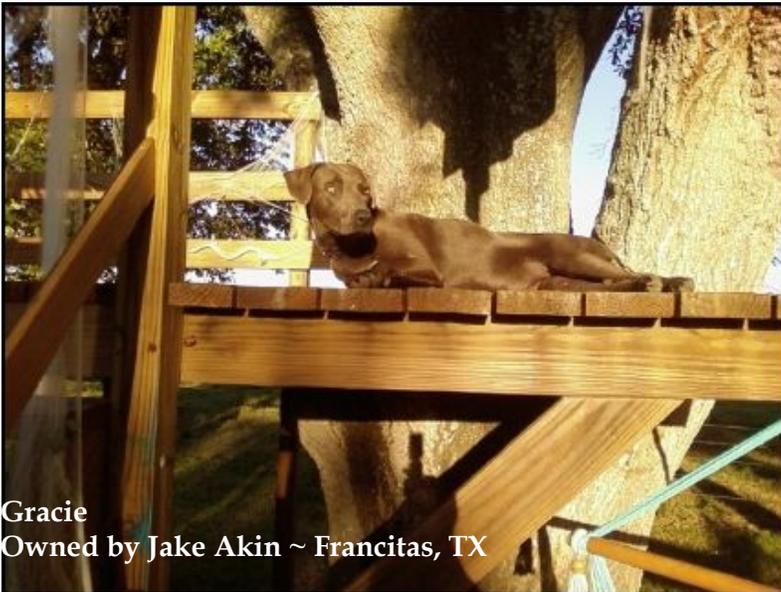
Annie Oakley
Owned by ~ Crosbyton, TX

LET'S DISCUSS

Cynthia Johnson (Louise, TX) brings this editorial to our attention.

It's written by English journalist and dog-lover Peter Wedderburn of the London Telegraph:

"I'd better make something clear before I start: I like pedigree dogs. If someone comes to me looking for advice on choosing a puppy, I'll tell them that there's a lot to be said for choosing a well-bred, well-socialized pedigree animal.



Gracie
Owned by Jake Akin ~ Francitas, TX

There are some distinct advantages: it's far easier to predict the final adult appearance and personality of a pedigree pup than a random individual from an unknown background. Of course, there are disadvantages with pedigree animals too, and unfortunately for the pedigree world, these seem to be in the media spotlight at the moment.

The primary focus in recent months has been the poor health associated with some breeds: the BBC television program "Pedigree Dogs Exposed" started the debate. Despite the (British) Kennel Club's efforts to reassure onlookers that it's dealing with the issue effectively, sceptics have continued to question the wisdom of contemporary methods of

breeding show dogs.



Stryker
Owned by Tracey Sadler ~ Cameron, TX

This week, a new attack on pedigree dogs has started: a Swedish study has claimed that not only are they unhealthy; they are also stupid. Kenth Svartberg, an ethologist from Stockholm University who has been studying dog behavior for many years, has completed a study of 13,000 dogs of various breeds.

He rated the animals on characteristics such as sociability and curiosity in an effort to assess their "intelligence". He concluded that dogs bred for appearance, and especially for shows, may look attractive, but this is often linked with

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introversion and other temperament problems.

This is another of those situations where scientists have "proven" what any intelligent observer could have predicted: if selective breeding focuses on only one attribute (such as looks), other characteristics (such as health and intelligence) may diminish over successive generations. This is a basic rule of genetics, and it applies equally to plants, animals and people. If a new, gloriously beautiful rose is created, will it be as healthy and robust as other more established roses? Probably not. If a supermodel marries a handsome actor, their offspring may be good-looking, but they're unlikely to be academically brilliant.

I'm sure dog breeders feel that they are being unfairly treated at the moment, and there are plenty of good, responsible breeders who are well aware of the issues involved. They have been careful to breed from robust adult dogs, screened for known health issues within their breed. They have used males and females that are not closely related, and they have only bred from animals with sound, intelligent personalities. They have made sure that puppies have been well socialized from an early age. They have produced pedigree dogs that exemplify the best of their breeds, not just in appearance but also in health and temperament.

Unfortunately, it isn't easy for puppy-buying members of the public to identify and choose this type of breeder. The dogs that win in the show ring have not necessarily been bred by individuals with such a holistic viewpoint, so there's no formal recognition of good behind-the-scenes breeding skills. It's interesting that the new Kennel Club breed standards aim "to ensure that all dogs are healthy, of good temperament and fit for their original function".

In theory, this ought to address the issues raised by the Swedish researchers. The original function of most dog breeds included a level of intelligence that may have been diluted over the years by too much focus on appearance in the show ring. Will we now start to see a swing towards



Spirit
Owned by Sundra Lemanski ~ Georgetown, TX



Talley
Owned by Dena E. Brown ~ Springfield, OR



Copper
Owned by Scott Mccollough ~ Jackson, GA



"Dogs are our link to paradise. They don't know evil or jealousy or discontent. To sit with a dog on a hillside on a glorious afternoon is to be back in Eden, where doing nothing was not boring—it was peace."

--- Milan Kundera