
Pacific Coast's Best Kept Secret



A tribute to founder and breeder of Pacific Coast Landseers
Thomas Christian Knott



1 - Thomas and Charlie

Every breed in America has one person or kennel to credit as making the greatest impact on that breed. For the Landseer European Continental Type (ECT) that person is undoubtedly Thomas Knott and should be recorded as such in the breed's American history. Thomas is a native of Germany and a member of the oldest Landseer Club, the Deutscher Landseer Club (DLC). It was in Bavaria, Germany that Thomas and his wife Virginia began their search for a dog for the family that they were starting. They looked at several large breeds. Their criteria were many. They needed a dog that was especially trustworthy with children, and suited for an active lifestyle. They definitely wanted an athletic dog and one not requiring an abundance of grooming. It was also very important to have a dog with

a record of minimal health problems and longevity.

At dog shows they were able to meet and talk with several breeders. Impressed with the attributes of the Landseer ECT and the low instance of hip dysplasia, the Knott's focused their search. This was when Thomas made acquaintances in the DLC. He was impressed with their record keeping and controlled breeding practices for producing healthy dogs.

Uttilo von Pittersburg was being shown in Nuremberg, Germany in 1998. Thomas and Virginia were so impressed with him that they decided to buy a female puppy from his breeding. Her name was Dixie vom Sattlerad (Dixie). She was a sweet girl that was good with their very young daughter. It was Uttilo



2 - Uttilo von Pittersburg at the show

and Dixie that made Thomas sure this was the breed he would want to devote his life to.

One of the kennels they visited was that of von Fierst. The first time they had visited the kennel they were not impressed. But in a couple of years, the kennel produced one of the more beautiful male European Champions, Napoleon von Fierst. He was a dog of great size.



3 - Uttilo von Pittsburg at the show

It was clear to Thomas that the repeat breeding of Napoleon would be the ideal dog to start his kennel. The breeding brought Oli von Fierst (Charlie), a pup with a big future ahead as the foundation male of Pacific Coast Landseers. Connor vom Nebelwald was father to both Napoleon and Oli.

Thomas' corporate career took them to Beijing China in approximately 2003. In 2008, the Knotts moved to Seal Rock in Oregon to start their breeding kennel of European Continental Type Landseers.



4 - Dixie, Thomas' first Landseer, daughter of Uttilo



5 – first male, Oli von Fierst with a significant future ahead

In 2009, Ginger vom Nebelwald, a beautiful young adult female came to them from Germany. Ginger was from the kennel Nebelwald meaning foggy Forrest; her mother was a German champion and her father, Franklin von Hollandseer, a Dutch champion. Ginger was a victim of a broken home. She easily settled in as leader amongst the family of dogs.

Charlie willingly surrendered to Ginger's charms and soon Ginger had conceived a



6 – Ginger, foundation female at Pacific Coast Landseers



7 - Oli as an adult at Pacific Coast Landseers

Bachenas. Izzy is of Belgian-Dutch descent. At that time, they had no way of knowing the important role she would play in their kennel.

It was February 01, 2011, that tragedy struck the Pacific Coast kennel. Again Ginger was to give birth to a litter of 8 conceived by her love

litter of eight. On February 09, 2010, Pacific Coast made history with the first of the Landseer ECT breed born on US soil.

Photos below are of Oli and Ginger with the pups. This is a rare photo since most new mothers won't allow other dogs near her brood. This shows an unusual bond of trust between Charlie and Ginger.

The photo on the next page is one of the beautiful males they produced, Anton, now known as Finn. He is proudly owned by Tim and Laura Heffernan of Indiana.

Earlier in the Spring of 2009, Thomas had traveled to Germany and then to Belgium, returning with his daughter's personal dog, Izzy du Domaine



8 - Charlie and Ginger with the historic A-litter which produced brothers Arnold and Anton



9 – Finn aka Anton at 9; large, healthy and very handsome; meeting Thomas' standard of a well-bred Champion bloodline dog. Finn is one the first 8 European Continental Landseers born in the US. Finn is proudly owned by Tim and Laura Heffernan.

Charlie, but this time by C-section. Ginger never awoke from the anesthesia! In the US with modern veterinary medicine this should NOT have happened. Thomas and Virginia were left with no time to grieve for Ginger, they couldn't let her struggle and life be in vain. They took turns around the clock caring for the 8 newborns. Puppies who could not regulate their own body temperature, eat, urinate or defecate without their assistance. They took on the role of a canine mother who stimulates her young for body functions. They were forced into the realities of the needs of the puppies and saw to it that not only did all 8 puppies survive, they thrived! It was during the second week of life, the less than 2-year-old Izzy stepped in as a surrogate to the puppies. Izzy taught this litter, the B-litter, what it meant to be a dog. From the B-litter came the dynamic duo, Bea and Bluemchen.



10 - Bluemchen with the 2-day old D-litter

It was the D-litter, August 2013 which again brought the Knotts holding their breath. Bluemchen had been artificially inseminated at Oregon State University with frozen semen from Belgium, that of White'n Black Phantom (Randy). She conceived 13 puppies, twice the number of an average Landseer ECT litter. On the 15th of August Bluemchen went into premature labor. OSU was an hour and 15-minute drive on the coastal highway. When Bluemchen arrived she was with a fever and required fluids and pain medication. That day Bluemchen delivered 3 pups. The doctor in charge regrettably announced Bluemchen would have to have a C-section to save her life. It was natural to feel desperation after what had happened to Bluemchen's mother Ginger. The doctor called in 3 surgeons to operate and to literally milk the puppies from the horns of the uterus. They were also careful not to damage Bluemchen's uterus so she could whelp again in the future. Ten of the 13 survived from the D-litter. It was probably from the expertise that the doctors at OSU exhibited in the handling of the D-litter that Thomas gained trust in OSU and developed a wonderful working relations with several of their specialty departments. Consequently, as a whole OSU probably knows more about the ECT than any current veterinary practice in the US. It still was

common practice that Thomas would call the veterinary doctor for the DLC in Germany for recommendation and advice. Thomas always relied on advice from Margret Sege (Landseer breeder and vet) and Donata Kunsler of the DLC. Donata is a longtime breeder, canine mid-wife for the DLC and mentor to Thomas.

Over the next several years Thomas continued to breed. His final US litter The O-litter whelped March 19, 2018. There were times when he assisted delivery in the back of his Chrysler van in route to the veterinary hospital. In total he and the Pacific Coast Landseers kennel contributed 92 puppies to the United States. He also assisted in, or imported at least 5 others to include Casper vom Heidensee (Boo) and Garibaldi vom Siegblick. Thomas assisted owners in getting their dogs formally approved and verified for breeding. In Boo's instance, the Frankie Rubel family was waiting for a pup but the breeding didn't take. The unselfish breeder that Thomas is, coordinated with Donata and Boo's breeders in Germany, to purchase him. Frankie brought both Boo and his brother Casimer (Otto) back to the US. Otto lives in New York.

During this time Thomas took the time to address the American Kennel club in an effort to introduce the breed to America. He was turned down and away as the AKC had left the breed recognition up to the American Newfoundland club assigning them as the parent club. Certainly there was a misunderstanding since nowhere in the world is the Landseer European Continental Type a member of a Newfoundland Club. They are an independent breed as adjudicated by the FCI in 1960. Rather than to waste his time arguing with a large kennel club, Thomas let the breed remain in the US as the Pacific Coasts' Best Kept Secret.

Thomas was a special breeder of a very special breed. His caring has continued for his puppies long after they left his kennel. He has remained available to his puppy owners by email for advice. He spent more than hour on the phone comforting an owner whose pup was having a surgery; a call initiated by him. Thomas is more than just a breeder, he is a lover of the breed, an enthusiast, a friend and a mentor for those eager to learn.

Unfortunately for many Americans Thomas has left the US for a corporate job in China. Hopefully, he and Virginia will return in about 3 years with a breeding pair of the Landseer ECT. In the meantime, as owner of 2 of the 92, I am happy to be a part of the Pacific Coast's Best Kept Secret.

The following are the dogs of the Pacific Coast and their contributions.

Dogs and Brood Bitches of the Pacific Coast Landseers

a record of their contributions to the breed to date





(Female) Ginger vom Nebalwald from Germany.(deceased)
Litters A & B – total of 16 puppies



(Female) Apenayaa's Angelic Charmaine (Angie) from Denmark, lives in Oregon
Litter G - 4 puppies



(Female) Izzy du Domaine Bachena's born in Belgium, lives in Oregon, moving to Germany
Litters F & C – total of 6 puppies



(Female) Ivory from the Pacific Coast, lives in Washington
Litter M - 1 puppy



(Female) Bea from the Pacific Coast, lives in Oregon, moving to Germany
Litters H, J , L & O - total of 23 puppies



(Female) Bluemchen from the Pacific Coast, lives in Oregon, moving to Germany
Litters D, E, H, K & N - total of 42 puppies



(Male) Enzo vom Kammersteinerland from Bavaria, Germany
Litter E - 8 puppies (frozen insemination)



(Male) Arnold from the Pacific Coast (A-litter brother to Finn), lives in northern Washington
Litter C - 1 puppy (natural breeding)



(Male) Foundation male, Oli von Fierst (Charlie) came to the US from Germany (deceased)
Litters A & B - 16 puppies (natural breeding)



(Male) Casper vom Heideseer (Boo) from Germany, lives in New Jersey
Litter N - 7 puppies (frozen insemination)



(Male) Vitus von set Burg Wettin (Maverick) from Germany, lives in California
Litters I, L& O - 24 puppies (frozen insemination)



(Male) Frederick vom Margarethenhof from Germany, lives in Oregon
Litters G, H, J, K & M - 21 puppies (natural breeding)



(Male) White'n Black Phantom (Randy) from Estonia, lives in Belgium
Litters D & F - 15 puppies (frozen insemination)

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