TERV SCORES AN AKC FIRST!
Debbie Eldredge

On February 25, 2011, AKC history was made. At the Bluegrass Coursing Club in Calhoun, GA, the very first AKC Coursing Ability titles were earned. And by luck of the draw, the very first AKC dog to earn a CA title is the Belgian Tervuren CH Bijou Luisant Juno Moneta at Starr Creek owned by Sharon Webb!

The Coursing Ability performance events are aimed at providing a version of lure coursing that all dogs can try – not just sighthounds. Dogs run by themselves and get one run per day. The course is 600 yards long in a rectangular or “U” shape. No turns less than 90 degrees are allowed. The dogs must follow the lure and complete the course within a time limit of two minutes. Not a problem for an intense Belgian!

The CA runs are pass/fail but are conducted like true lure coursing events. Safety is considered paramount. Each dog must go through “Roll Call” before being allowed to run. During Roll Call the dogs are evaluated for soundness and condition. A dog who is lame or overweight will not be allowed to run. Again, this is for the safety of the dogs – you don’t want a couch potato, overweight and retired Terv to suddenly be asked to run and turn at top speed after a lure. That would be a certain recipe for disaster.

Most CA events are held the same day, but after, a regular lure coursing event. Generally these events allow “day of” or “gate” entries so you can decide at the last minute if you want to compete. Bad weather or a sore dog would be good reasons for staying home. Entry fees tend to be very reasonable - $18 to $20 seems to be the norm for most events.
A dog has to pass three times to earn a CA (Coursing Ability) title, ten times for a CAA title (Coursing Ability Advanced) and 25 times for a CAX title (Coursing Ability Excellent). The course requirements, including time limits, remain the same for all levels.

Juno’s accomplishment is more than an exciting first for AKC and our breed however. It is a triumph of a dog of courage and a woman of dedication overcoming a tremendous injury with the help of many along the way.

Juno was one of eleven lovely puppies born to Saber (CH Mont-Cenis Renaissance) and Paris (CH Nicha’s Soupcon De Paris PT RN CGC) on May 13, 2009. Juno was the puppy Sharon Webb chose to join her family and went off to have a “normal” Terv life.

Last year at the ABTC and BSCA Nationals in Texas, Sharon was working hospitality. She had put up a large puppy play area off the hospitality room so youngsters could safely blow off some steam. While Juno and three BSD puppies happily played in the pen, a friend walked one of Sharon’s other dogs by. Over the fence went Abby, a BSD, with Juno hot on her heels. Once free, the youngsters began a wild game of tag, racing over the resort grounds. Juno went to take a shortcut to catch Abbey, but the curb she leapt over was actually a 15 to 20 foot drop onto a rock pile. Juno came out not only lame, but with her leg dangling – clearly broken.

A broken leg is cause for worry in any age Terv, but especially so in a young dog whose growth plates may not have closed yet. If the growth plates are damaged, it is possible to end up with one leg shorter than the other. Kathy Sutton DVM and Sharon wrapped Juno’s leg in magazines, vet wrap and duct tape and rushed her to the Animal Hospital of Dennison. Dr. Chad Cruce expertly set the leg noting that it was a bad break but it was mid shaft of both bones in the forelimb so the growth plates should be fine.

Considering the “career” goals for Juno, Dr. Cruce suggested Sharon take Juno on to Plano, Texas to the Dallas Veterinary Surgical Center. There, Dr. Scott Bertrand plated the fractures and sent Juno off with a camo cast. In some ways, the surgeries were the easy part. Now Sharon had to deal with the care and rehabilitation of a young, exuberant Tervuren.

Starting off, Juno had 12 weeks of crate rest with hand walking four times a day. Then she moved up to an hour of free exercise three times a day in an ex-pen plus swimming
twice a week. The next step was free play for about 15 minutes four or five times a day. The leg appeared to be healing well, so Sharon thought she might be able to enter Juno in breed at the October Regional in Marietta, GA. Too soon – Juno was sore by day two.

Back to the rehab program it was! Juno now got slightly longer play periods with her buddy Abbey and some off lead walks with Sharon in the woods. By December, Juno looked like she was as good as new. Sharon began to hope that she might be able to finish Juno’s championship after all. (They had picked up three majors from the puppy classes before her injury).

Nine months after the injury, Sharon entered Juno once again – this time in Atlanta. She had been fine at home, but whether or not her leg would hold up to gaiting on hard surfaces remained to be seen. Juno was clearly in great condition and perfectly sound – she picked up two more majors plus went BOW to finish her championship! Since then, Juno has picked up four BOBs and two Group 4s.

Juno obviously loves to run and chase – after all, that is what got her into trouble in the first place. Sharon read about the new coursing ability events and saw that there would be one held locally. She went to a practice session with short 100 yard runs first to be sure Juno was interested in the lure and also to see if her leg held up. (Aside here – many lure coursing groups do offer practice days so this is a great way to see if your Terv has an aptitude for this.) Juno was quite intense. She even ignored the sheep nearby and the school kids cheering on the sidelines.

Sharon signed her up, grateful that the Roll Call supervisors would let her know if they saw any sign of discomfort. The lure operator was given a heads up to stop the lure immediately if he noticed any change in Juno’s gait. No problem! Juno took off on Day One and was disappointed when her 600 yard run up and down a hilly field ended. Her enthusiasm overflowed on Day Two as she merrily chewed her way through her soft crate
in an attempt to escape the car. And Day Three, Juno’s number was drawn first and the rest is history!

Sharon offers some advice to others looking at lure coursing events for their Tervs. “Definitely go try it! Don’t be offended if the Roll Call people say your dog is too fat to run. They have your dog’s best interests at heart and they are used to sleek sighthounds.” An active, fit Terv should have no problems with the runs. Listen to the sighthound people’s advice about warming up and cooling down your dog. They have plenty of experience in these areas.

Sharon would like to thank all of those who helped her and Juno along the way - Dr. Sutton, Dr. Cruce, Dr. Bertrand, Sue Young, breeder Chris Mednick and stud dog owner Brooke Cole who all provided support and faith in Juno. Her family helped with rehab and care. Without this “village” behind her, Juno would not be the active and sound dog she is today.

One last piece of advice from Sharon. “This is just a reminder that “life” happens and everything can change in an instant.” How wonderful that it all worked out for Juno and Sharon despite a major setback! How rare it is to ever score a first for our breed, let alone a first for all of AKC – best of all, it is a true comeback kid story.
Multi Group Placing BPIS CH Bijou Luisant Juno Moneta at Starr Creek, CAT
(CH Nicha's Soupcon De Paris PT RN x CH Mont-Cenis Renaissance)

From this.............

Shattered leg at the ABTC/BSCA National
May 4, 2010

To THIS.............

Juno finishes her AKC Championship with her 5th Major under Breeder-Judge Richard Lewis. February 6, 2011

........and THIS.........

Juno becomes the FIRST dog in the country to earn the new AKC Coursing Ability title!!!!!

Juno also earns 4 BOB’s and back-to-back Group 4’s on “Spring Break” in Florida

Many thanks to the wonderful veterinarians, Kathy Sutton who splinted Juno’s leg with a magazine and vet wrap in the Hospitality Suite, the Animal Hospital of Dennison Texas and Dr. Chad Crue for Juno’s initial care and the expert setting of her leg, the Dallas Veterinary Surgical Center in Plano Texas and Dr. Scott Bertrand Orthopedic Surgeon “extraordinaire”. Thank you to Sue Young for making the “best outcome” possible and for providing “ambulance” and taxi service. To Breeder, Christine Mednick and Stud Dog owner, Brooke Cole for their unfailing support. To ALL the breeders of the dogs in Juno’s pedigree that made her outstanding temperament and structure what it is.....without these, this recovery would not have been possible!

I am looking forward to MANY more adventures with this “Tigger” aka “Juno”

Owned and Loved by the Webb Family
(Gary, Sharon Leslie and Stephanie)

OFA – Too Young

CERF - Pending

36