

Year of Induction - 2024

CATEGORY: *Outstanding Performance in Retrieving Trials*



National Retrieving Trial CH 1994 1996 - Bambillay River Sands CM Dog V209791

617/87 ~ 3/5/2002

BREED: Labrador Retriever

Sire: RT CH Grenada Andy

Dam: RT CH Shanstar Cassie

Breeder -Steven and Margaret Hall

Owned by - Byron and Cathy Kendall

Handled by Byron Kendall

CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

A: Russ won approximately 70 all age trials and placed in a further 87 trials

B: Progeny Winning Record in Brief - not known

Open Competitions:

The approx 70 all age wins included two nationals and four state championships.

National Championships:

Won in 1994 in Western Australia and 1996 in South Australia

Russ also placed in another three Nationals.

State Championships:

Three Victorian titles and one South Australian title

He accumulated over 400 championship points

IN BRIEF:

Russ was a gift from mother nature.

He was a retrieving machine but more importantly the best friend I've ever had.

He had a beautiful nature and a delightful dog to live with. He was enthusiastic about all aspects of life such as playing with our five children or sitting on the couch with me watching the telly but he was very serious about retrieving trials. He excelled in all aspects of trialling being an exceptional marking dog and would pinpoint game at maximum distance even after some time had passed.

His ability to run lines to a blind bird (hidden) was so good he very rarely failed much to the chagrin of his competitors

A typical year of competition for Russ was as follows: -

At the age of eight we entered in 19 trials. He won 11 of those trials and placed in a further 7. Two of those wins included a National and a State title.

Other career highlights are as follows. Russ's first Novice win came at 16 months followed by his second Novice win at 18 months and on the same day his first All Age win - a rare feat indeed. He's the only dog to have won the prestigious **Tolderol Cup** in South Australia four times in a row and one earning him his first 'Certificate of Merit'. He went on to achieve four 'Certificate of Merits'. He won Gundog of the Year several years in a row.

He finished his career at the age of 12 by winning the State Championship in Victoria. In that field was the then national champion and two previous national winners and also the current state champion. I felt it a fitting moment to announce his retirement much to the relief of the trialling fraternity. Unbeknown to my fellow competitors Russ's hearing was compromised - so my whistles and hand signals had to be succinct and deliberate in their delivery but such was his brilliance it made little difference to him. We won that trial by quite a margin. He continued to do exhibition retrieves until the age of fifteen.

Russ went stud to selected bitches of working blood lines. He was also used by the federal police twice for their drug dogs for them. He sired twenty puppies that became the backbone of their breeding program some of his progeny were exported to the USA and England such was the caliber of his puppies.

At the Perth National in 1994, 51 dogs started the trial with only 5 dogs completing the challenge. It was one of the most difficult trials we had competed in. Over the two days there were 22 items of game to be retrieved through eight runs with each run being worth 55 points. Russ over the two days averaged 48.5 points per run which is an incredible feat at any difficult trial let alone a National Championship such was the brilliance of this magnificent natural, clever retrieving machine.

Russ's finish rate was over 95% His placing rate was over 60% and his win rate was over 45%

We consider ourselves blessed to have had him in our family and a truly wonderful experience to have been loved by him as he was truly loved by us and he was such a beautiful dog He didn't have to win trials, but it sure was something he was driven to do, and so consistently excellent as all true champions are.

AUTHOR: Byron Kendall

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[INSERT A BRIEF OVERVIEW OF THE NATURE AND STRENGTHS OF THE DOG HERE]

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- 500 Word Limit. Convert final copy print type to uniform BLACK.
 - Written in the third person.
 - Further information e.g. Date of death - to be sent to the **ANKC** Administrator by the nominee as soon as practical.
 - Please note nominations received that do not conform to requirements will be returned to the Member Body office.