

# LLEWS NEWS



HICKORY HOLLOW LLEWELIN SETTERS, LLC  
Spring 2024

## Llew Spotlight

Claire, Litter CC, Whelped July 29, 2022  
Jim and Leslie Hoskyns

If I were to write a story about each of our dogs, I could easily fill two pages a piece with things they have all impressed me with. We've heard stories of others who "had this one dog" or "there'll never be another dog like that one" or "If I could clone this dog" which tells me dogs just make fantastic companions – all dogs! And with no exception, we've been fortunate enough to follow along as one of Shelby's pups from Litter CC has risen to this legendary status. Claire, at the young age of two, has been leaving her pawprint on the world and we wanted to highlight her achievements and a little of the process to get there.

Getting a new puppy is pretty darn exciting. In the first couple of weeks, the general focus is on house training, name recognition, and puppy-proofing the home. These are all important, but this is also a great time to start a plan for bigger and better things. Puppies are a sponge for learning so capitalizing on this is a big deal. Taking them to as many different places as you can and letting them be around people and other animals as much as you have the opportunity to while they're young will pay off in their adult lives. This is essentially what Jim and Leslie Hoskyns did so well with Claire. One evening, after having Claire less than two months, they took her with them to an outdoor restaurant and met a couple who had trained their two pups to be Therapy Dogs. Intrigued by the "Pet Me" placards both dogs were wearing, Jim and Leslie started asking questions. As the conversation continued, both felt this was something they wanted to pursue with Claire. After jotting down information on how to get started, two weeks later Claire entered her first puppy class, November 15, 2022.



First, as a quick clarification, a Therapy Dog is different than a Service Dog, whose primary purpose is to help their owner. A Therapy Dog's mission is to travel with their owner to help other people. From kids with trauma to elderly folks who can't own a dog but miss the companionship of a good friend, Therapy Animals have been filling a need people haven't been able to. *(Continued on Page 2)*



### Planned Litters

We have a breeding planned this spring with whelping occurring over the summer. Shelby will be bred with Scotch, a very handsome hunting boy from Minnesota. There is information about the breeding pair on our website. If you are near the top of our call back list, you've probably heard from us. If not, please be patient.



---

# LLEWS NEWS FROM HICKORY HOLLOW

---

## Llew Spotlight - Continued

*(Continued from Page 1)*

Taught by Steve Cagliano and Rose Dalton out of Troy, Michigan, Claire quickly won the hearts of everyone she met in class. Her happiness was non-discriminatory; she knew no stranger! One of the key takeaways from this class for the Hoskyns was the teaching methods used. Since Therapy Dogs work with their owners as a team, positive reinforcement is the only method used. Everything has to be fun given the nature of the work these pups will eventually do. Loud noises can't be scary, strange smells can't be distracting, and rough handling can't be used. Therapy Dogs need to show love and they can't do this very well if they are taught with aggression or fear tactics.

Leslie relates a story during one class when Claire was just under a year old. The teacher, Rose, was using Claire as an example for how to approach someone who is upset. Rose sat on the floor and pretended to cry. Claire came up to her and buried her head in Rose's lap and licked her hand, reacting with love in an instinctual way. You can teach a dog to roll over or fetch, but how do you teach a dog to comfort? In this scenario, Claire knew what to do on her own and this is what makes a great Therapy Dog.

On January 3, 2023, Claire was awarded her AKC S.T.A.R. Puppy Certificate and has since been on several visits to various places. She's a part of the local library's Dog Gone Readers program and visits dog friendly places like Home Depot and Tractor Supply to practice her mingling skills. Claire has visited nursing homes and assisted living facilities but is still working toward her 50-visit mark to achieve full AKC credentials. In October of last year Claire received the Canine Good Citizen award and passed the testing required to become a Therapy Dog in November. All in all it took a little less than a year to gain her Therapy Dog title. And it all started from a chance encounter at an outdoor restaurant.

If you are interested in pursuing something similar with your pup, a good starting point is with Bright & Beautiful, a national



organization that can get you connected with a local affiliation (<https://golden-dogs.org/>). One thing about Llewllin Setters, AKC does not recognize them as such. You will need to register them as English Setters - but don't fret about this little detail! There's a long, completely legitimate story behind the Llewllin Setter breed and why Field Dog Stud Book recognizes them as their own and why AKC does not. Jeff has been a guest on The Hunting Dog Podcast and explains a lot of the history behind the development of the Llewllin bloodline and the paperwork glitch that happened long before any of us were around. If you have a long drive ahead of you, take a listen. It really is interesting! The Episode is titled Llewllin Setters from Hickory Hollow and is about 90 minutes long.

### **H HLS GEAR SHOP**

Click Order Now Below

**SHIRTS**

**HATS**

**OTHER STUFF**

**Order Now!**



Come see us at the Backcountry Hunters and Anglers (BHA) Rendezvous at the Minneapolis Convention Center on April 19th and 20th. We are also donating a Sage Grouse Hunt to the BHA fundraiser auction. [Go to https://go.bhafundraising.org/rendeauction24/Campaign/Details](https://go.bhafundraising.org/rendeauction24/Campaign/Details) for details and bidding.



---

# LLEWS NEWS FROM HICKORY HOLLOW

---

## Stella's Corner

A Quarterly Column from the Elder Llew



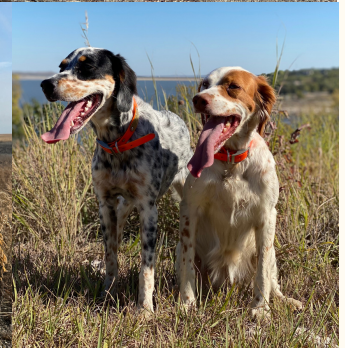
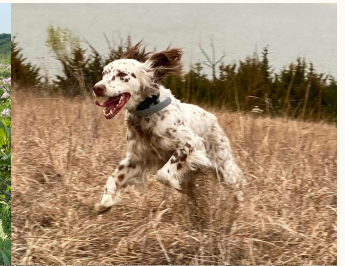
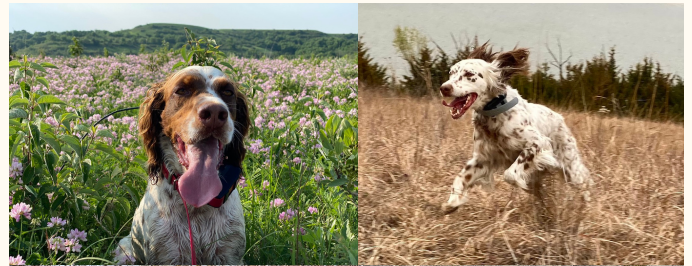
Well, the weather is breaking finally. For a while it could not decide if it wanted to be spring or winter. My coat went with spring, so I've been keeping Roombas busy. Soon this long hair will be in the middle of the dog days of summer. Here are some tips to keep me in shape and not overheated. My favorite way to keep cool is with air conditioning. That's right, the air is not conditioned outside, so I don't mind if you keep me inside. I prefer a couch or soft chair and forbid hard floors without a cushy soft spot somewhere.

I do like staying in shape over the summer, but I don't like the shaping happening when the sun is beating down on me either. Early mornings are best for nice runs. I really like sunrise runs, but at a minimum an evening walk will work just fine in a pinch. If you can bring some water along, I'd appreciate it. I cool off through my mouth for the most part, so having some H2O around is great for keeping me cool.

The only thing I can tell you in regard to getting too hot is I'm not smart enough to know when I'm getting too hot, so pay attention. If I am panting profusely, or drooling profusely shut me down and get me cooled off any way you can. I will run like I'm on fire without regard for the heat until I'm past peak. If I get wobbly or look confused, work harder and faster to get me cooled off. I do have a limit and the best advice I can give you is don't look for my limit, because by then it will be too late.

Lastly, don't put me away hot. The worst thing you can do is put me in a crate without an opportunity to cool down. Just give me a few minutes to lay in the shade and cool off a bit before you put me in a cramped box.

Summer is not my favorite time of year. For scores of years, I have been bred to hunt in nice cool fall weather. That said, I also like staying healthy. Let's face it, summer is a time for fun and I want to be a part of it...as long as I can stay cool and alive.



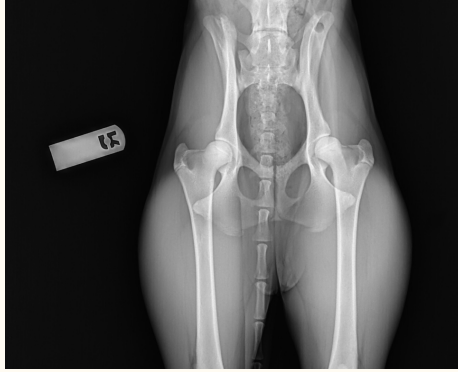


---

## LLEWS NEWS FROM HICKORY HOLLOW

---

# Good Hips Make Good Dogs



Remember that song It's Hip to be Square by Huey Lewis and the News? In the case of Llews it's better for hip to be healthy. For a Llew to run comfortably, deep in years, hip health must be an important consideration. So, we have the hips of breeding pairs evaluated for quality to insure we are giving the breeding pair a decent chance at throwing pups with quality hips. At HHLS we evaluate hips in two different ways.

Canine Hip Dysplasia typically develops because of an abnormally developed hip joint causing looseness in the joint. It can also develop as a result of injury to cartilage around the hip joint. No one can predict when or even if hip dysplasia will start showing problems due to pain. The severity of the disease can also be affected by several factors, such as weight or level of exercise. There are a number of dogs with hip dysplasia and severe arthritis that run, jump, and play as if nothing is wrong and some dogs with barely any evidence of hip dysplasia that suffer from severe pain.

The Orthopedic Foundation for Animals (OFA) has long been the standard for hip evaluation. OFA makes their determination with the input of three independent radiologist who evaluate the radiographs of hips taken as specified by OFA when the dog is at least 2-years of age. OFA classifies hips qualitatively into seven different

categories: Excellent, Good, Fair, Borderline, Mild, Moderate, and Severe. Hips classified as Mild, Moderate or Severe are considered dysplastic and these dogs are not recommended for breeding.

The PennHIP method for evaluating hips assesses the quality of hips quantitatively by measuring hip joint laxity (looseness) of the joint as early as 16-weeks of age. PennHIP relies on a network of veterinarians trained to obtain the PennHIP radiographs properly. Radiographs are then sent to the PennHIP Analysis Center for evaluation to arrive at a distraction index between 0 and 1 (zero being a tight hip and 1 being a loose hip) for each hip. The highest distraction index between the two hips becomes the distraction index for the dog. A distraction index less than 0.3 is considered to be a hip with almost no chance of developing dysplasia. Currently the breed average for Llewelin's is 0.54, making any dog with a distraction index less than 0.54 a candidate for breeding as recommended by PennHIP because such a breeding would theoretically be an improvement for the breed.

There's ample debate and research regarding which is better, OFA or PennHIP, and how each compare in predicting hip dysplasia. We think both have their place in evaluating breeding

pairs and decisions. Two things we like about OFA is the results become part of a publicly accessible database and the results are easy for anyone to understand. Two things we like about PennHIP is it can be done at 16-weeks and it lets us know how the dog being evaluated compares to others of the same breed. We can use the quantitative distraction index to determine if we are theoretically improving hips through breeding.

So, which do we utilize at HHLS? We are dabbling in both for now and as part of that plan, OFA remains our standard. PennHIP is, however, helping us make decisions. If we are considering a pup for future breeding, we can evaluate that pup early in life with PennHIP to see how it compares to the breed average. This allows us to determine if we continue with the pup in the breeding program. OFA also offers preliminary evaluations; however, the reliability of the evaluation only increases with age and it is qualitative. At two years of age, we are moving forward with the standard OFA evaluation to provide us comfort we are doing the right thing in solidifying our breeding decision.

Our goal at HHLS is to produce the best Llewelin's in the world. Part of being the best is making sure our pups are healthy and able for many years. Evaluating hips is just one thing in many things we do to give our pups the best chance they can get for long and healthy lives on their feet.

**Health Tested Parents  
For Healthier Puppies**





---

## LLEWS NEWS FROM HICKORY HOLLOW

---



# Southwest Track Stars and Injuries



As Kansas upland seasons end each year, depression starts in around our house. This is going to sound silly, but I actually start getting a little depressed when September arrives and upland seasons begin. I know September as the beginning of the end of upland seasons. Yes, I'm ridiculous. I don't think I'm crazy yet, because I recognize it.

To fight the end of season and the beginning of despair I try to squeeze as much out of the opportunity to upland hunt as I can. Some years have put me in Arizona and others in New Mexico to close out the season. This year my brother and I chose New Mexico in mid-February to wrap up the season. I'm not a huge fan of hunting New Mexico because the quail there are feathered tracks stars...they like to run, but hey, I'll take what I can get.

We intended to chase two species of quail, Scaled and Gambels. Our first stop was a little patch of BLM west of Roswell late in the day just to let the dogs stretch their legs for the most part; and I'll tell you, both my brother and I thought we had it figured out. It wasn't 20 minutes into that first patch and Savvy was down hard in the bottom of a small, stickered draw. The other three Llews we had out made sight and locked up as well. A nice covey rose from the craggy rock and both my brother and I were able to connect. No birds ran, they just flew like the bobwhites we are used to in Kansas. At that moment both of us considered the hunting situation "figured out".

It was almost like that first covey sent an interstellar message to every scaled quail in New Mexico after that. Everywhere we went they were running and we were running after them. What amazed me most is it didn't matter the

terrain; they ran. They ran over rocks, through grass, over snow, through brush, uphill, downhill, and every which way. It was almost like they had no wings sometimes. I tripped too many times to count and slammed my gun to the ground so many times, I'm not sure it shoots straight any more. My poor brother banged up his knee so bad he just recently found out it requires surgery for a torn meniscus.

All this said, the Llews did great. We took four experienced Llews with us, including the elder Llew Stella who had not hunted since September because of a torn ACL. I'd never advise taking a young Llew on a trip dominated by running birds. The experienced Llews would point, we'd run, they'd reposition and point again and we'd run again. We did get birds, but it wasn't without a lot of work. It was either on the second or third day we realized it might make sense to hunt Scalies downwind instead of upwind like we do every other bird. With experienced LLeWs they were able to run outside circles away from us, turn into the wind and hunt back to us in the prime areas. I honestly don't know another breed that would do this without lots of yelling, but the Llews just figured it out, they adapted. This allowed us to pin birds between the Llews and us. We'd literally walk up on a pointing Llew downwind of us and could see the Scalies bobbing back and forth on the ground with nowhere to go but up.

I'd like to say by the end of the hunt I found myself fonder of New Mexico quail hunting. What I can say is I am grateful we had the opportunity to go and experience upland hunting, at all, right at the tail end of the various seasons. Getting great Llews out on birds in open country is the very reason I dread the times I can't. Ok September, where are you now?

