



# Spotlight... Hollow Creek's Gus Norine

Gus is a love and he's happily adopted us since day one. We think our 10 yr. old Golden Retriever Casey is the main reason Gus felt so at home right away. Gus is tough on Casey - body slamming him, climbing on him, sitting on Casey's head and biting his ankles and ears. Luckily Casey tolerates it.

Gus is the most natural hunter we have ever seen in a dog. Once he started practicing retrieving with a dummy and lead, that's all he wants to do all day and night. He also likes to retrieve from the kiddie pool in our backyard on hot summer days.

Away from home Gus is extremely shy with strangers and has a shy bladder. At home he's a hellion. We've worked hard to socialize him and realize he has to be the one to make the first move if he's going to make friends. It doesn't work if the other person or dog comes to him.

Gus has a girlfriend in the neighborhood a month younger than he is - her name is Sugar and she's a black miniature longhair Dachshund. She stands on her back legs and holds Gus' face between her front paws - and he lets her. He's mesmerized.

Gus has taken over our household, choosing to sleep and rest on the furniture instead of the floor. His favorite place to sit is on the arms of the furniture.

Gus was certainly a good match for us. We love him dearly and can't imagine our lives without him. He been great for Casey too, who was mourning the loss of his two brothers last year. Now Casey prances around, wagging his tail, playing tug of war with Gus - makes him seem years younger.

- Jim and Jacie Norine  
Myrtle Beach, SC





## Seeing Spots on Little Brown Dogs

**Déjà vu? Here we go again?  
What goes around comes around?  
Demand creates supply?**

All are terms that indicate we have learned little, or nothing, and soon we may be in the unique position to either prove that untrue, or underscore its sad re-occurrence.

The Boykin Spaniel is poised on the threshold of becoming the newest darling of the dog world! We are all very excited about this, we have worked very hard for this to occur, for we all have the foresight to know that even with all its downfalls, the American Kennel Club is THE foremost dog organization in the country today, and synonymous as the standard in registration for pure-bred dogs, in the eyes of John Q. Public. All in all, the inevitable and impending AKC registration of the Boykin Spaniel will be a good thing, and I feverently agree with that statement.

Unfortunately, it will increase the popularity of the breed and I put it that way because I've been there, with another breed....the Dalmatian. And as anyone who was around when Disney, in their infinite wisdom for money-making, decided to re-release the 1960s cartoon, 101 Dalmatians, and then make a real-live version of the same, not to mention the sequels and spin-offs, throughout the years, I can attest to what a nightmare owning and breeding a "popular breed" can be. I will say, there are both negatives and positives associated with the popularity of a breed, and while I do not wish to debate them all, I do want to call attention to the one aspect of the breed's soon-to-be newfound popularity that we all, as responsible breeders and owners and caretakers of the breed, must become aware....there are going to be a lot....and I mean A LOT....of Little Brown Dogs in America, and sooner, rather than later.

So, we are all aware that soon the Boykin will become AKC registerable and the public will be exposed, as they never have before, to the wonderful qualities that made us all fall in love with our Little Brown Dogs! They are small (i.e., you can stick 'em anywhere

for traveling!), they are lovable, they are exuberant and overly-willing to please, they exhibit an almost fanatical-excitability when working (whether in the field or the obedience/rally/agility ring or even the conformation ring, where they are as yet largely unheralded, but with their bright-eyed showy attitude, they will surely soon make a large impact upon AKC judges, who look for that extra spark of brilliance... for we cannot deny that this dog will give that to them, and then some!) and they are intelligent enough to learn just as quickly. These same attractive characteristics, however, will undoubtedly allure to our breed those who seek to make a fast dollar, those who will be trying to supply the demand of the public for our Boykins, translation: breeding-for-profit breeders, a.k.a., puppy millers. (Not that they don't already exist, but look for them to be on the upswing in numbers, I'd predict.) And just as every responsible breeder knows, while we love our Boykins, they will not be the perfect dog for everyone.... no breed is. And breeding-for-profit breeders and pet shops will not care who buys them, as long as they get top dollar for them, which they will. This is a blueprint for disaster, for people who should never have a Boykin will have one, and six months or so later, they want to take the easy way out and "get rid of the dog" that they have not taken the time to train or provide proper exercise or care for, anyway.

Enter the problem: the banishment of a record number of Boykins to life in a small fenced pen or at the end of a rope or chain in a yard (from which the resourceful Boykin is apt to escape and be in mortal danger from cars, larger more aggressive dogs, or Animal Control), or the dumping of Boykins in shelters across the country. People will forget or be too embarrassed to remember that when they purchased their Boykin they signed a contract to return it to the breeder if they did not want it or could not keep it, assuming, that is, that the dog is protected by such a contract at all, for many times a puppy miller has no intention or desire to take the dog back, unlike a responsible breeder. And people will seek to get rid of their "problem" as fast as they can. Now I

sincerely hope I am wrong, but I have to say, I have more faith in history repeating itself than I do in people taking the time to ignore their kids' pleas for how much they want one of those cute, little brown dogs, who are people who mean well, but are not educated about the breed, and who purchased the dog the quickest way they could (same as how they now want to dispose of it).. I think in a few months, possibly a year, or two, we will see a dramatic increase in the number of litters being bred, and the number of Boykins found, unfortunately unwanted, in all sorts of places, animal shelters and rescue homes included. Where are these rescue homes and organizations to caretaker of the unwanted Boykins going to come from? Where are the resources and money going to come from to handle the increased expenses in bailing out the Boykins from shelters, vetting them and correcting their medical problems to bring them back to adoptable status, re-training them (maybe training them for the first time, too), sheltering them and searching for a new forever home for them? And where are these new forever homes going to come from, when the word gets out that this is not the dog for everyone (as no dog is anyway)?

I certainly do not wish to put a damper on everyone's celebration here, about the arrival of the Boykin Spaniel within the ranks of the AKC. I can party as hard as the next guy! But I do think we owe it to the breed we love, to think about these things. With AKC recognition comes some added responsibilities that we need to recognize and plan for and we do our LBDs no favors by ostrich-sizing (no, that's not a misspelling) the future. Now is the time to make a game plan, for when we're already on the field, we'd better know the plays by heart, or it will be too late to win the game.

*Tina*

- Tina Thomas Batchelor, LVT  
Belle Creek Boykin Spaniels  
BelleAire Dalmatians