

VERSATILE HUNTING DOG

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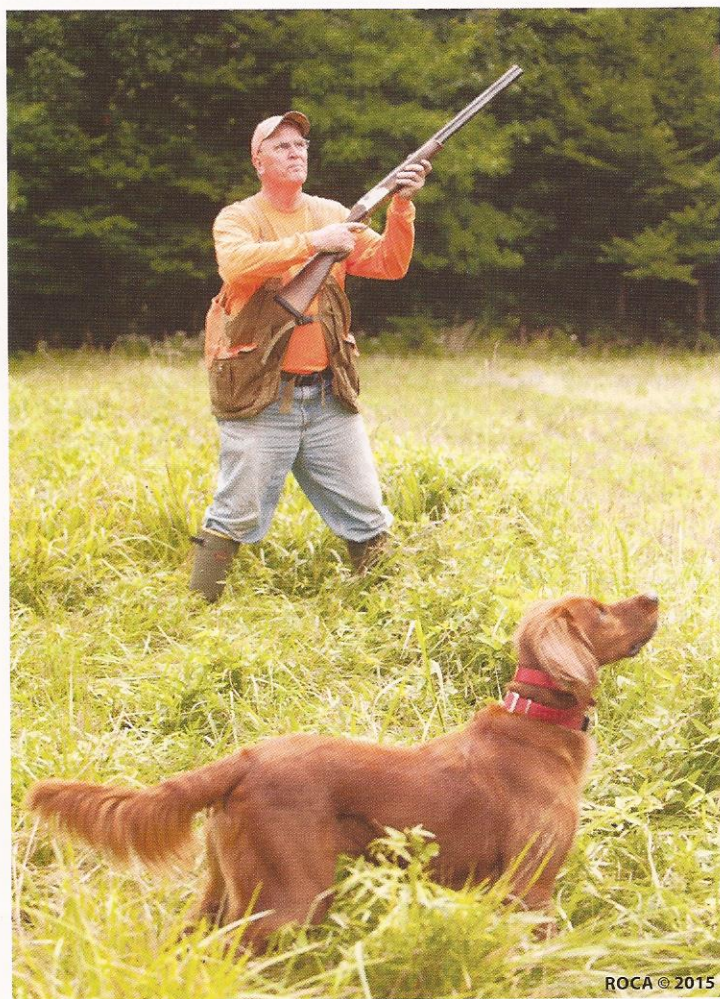
Aoife O'Daoine Sidh
Irish Setter

Seeing Red

seeing



RED



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Why is an Irish Shamrock Green and an Irish Setter Red? Oh wait, I hear Saint Patrick saying, “Google it.” The pursuit of the finer things in life is always worth the journey. Some journeys tend to have more bumps in the road than others, but that is truly what cements those moments into clearly defined memories. The much debated history of the Irish Setter is simply no different. In the opinion of many, the Irish Setter can be broken down as follows: the Irish Red and White Setter, the Irish Setter, and the Red Setter. Regardless of personal choice, the trials and tribulations are worth the success the breed has received over the years.

Since 1969, and as recently as the last 10 years, only three Irish Setters have achieved Prize I Utility scores in NAVHDA. Only three have braved the prestigious Invitational, with only VC Berg Brother’s Augie being crowned victorious in 2008. The total number of registered Irish Red and White Setters in NAVHDA is 32, and the total number of Irish Setters is only 78. I am starting to feel slightly guilty—five of those numbers have resided at my address in a short fourteen-year NAVHDA career. The Irish are definitely on the comeback trail. The next registration number could be yours. This begs the question: What are you waiting for? Those of us who choose the path less traveled stand the tallest in the smallest of victories.

I put forth a simple challenge: Why not an Irish? The breed offers all the style, trainability, poise, and competitive nature the everyday hunter pursues. Irish have competed honorably in all breed walking stakes, including National Shoot to Retrieve, National Bird Hunters, AKC, and NAVHDA; and also in horseback shooting and championship stakes of various levels.

When the pursuit of your next puppy choice draws closer, in the process of due diligence, add the following websites to your “check that out list” www.irishredwhitesetterassociation.com, www.irishsetterclub.org, and www.nrsftc.com. Come on...Google it. 🐾