

Jan - Feb 1972

"SELLING PUPPIES"

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The best time to sell or buy a puppy is between five and eight weeks of age. This is in the interest of the puppy, because it is less shock to them. They are not old enough to have formed an attachment to you or to have been influenced too much by their litter mates or mother. A dog starts using his brain at twenty-one days and in a short time it is very susceptible to its environment. The puppy will form an attachment to its master and usually to one of its litter mates. The litter will be assuming its social pattern. One or two will become bullies and one or two will be "milktoasts". Some will be more aggressive in their eating habits and crowd one out to the point where it will not be getting enough to eat. Mother will find one that will fight back if she teases it enough, and in a short period of time it will fight with the least provocation. This habit could result in a dog that will be looking for a fight, which certainly is not desirable. "Paling" around with its litter mates can result in a tendency to trail them, which can be carried to the hunting field. You want an independent dog in the field. One that will find its own birds. Independence is more easily learned when a dog is raised alone. Most are happiest with other dogs when young.

The best medium for an advertisement is the local newspaper. Should you be near a large metropolitan area, place your ad in both the local and large city paper. State the breed, hunting or show type, and that the litter is registered with the American Field Stud Book, American Kennel Stud Book, or both. Do not state the fee or you will scare many buyers off. Give your phone number and your address. You can state the litter is sired by champion so-and-so, or out of champion so-and-so, and if they are field or show. Mentioning champions can cause some strange responses. Some will show up wishing to see the champion sire, not realizing that he may live a thousand miles away, and they will not be a bit interested in the puppies for sale.

If the prospective buyer arrives with his children, explain in a very nice manner that they can look through the fence at them, but cannot be with the puppies. Explain that the puppies can move under their feet so quickly that the excited child might step back on one of the puppy's legs, and it does not take much weight to break one. If you have decided to keep one of the puppies, for heaven's sake, hide it. Invariably that is the puppy that will catch their eye. After all, it is the one that caught your eye. Be prepared to give them a run down on the puppies pedigree.

Basically, there are four lines in the Hunting Irish Setter. The first line would go back to Askew's Carolina Lady and her son Ike Jack Kendrick. The second line would be Rusty's Jinx, Ch. Double Jay and litter mate Ch. Willow Winds Hobo, Ch. Mr. O'Leary, Ch. Autumn Hill's Duke and Ch. County Clare's Sandy. The third line is Sulhamstead Norse D'Or and Ch. Mighty Fawn. The fourth line, that is coming to the fore-front, is Double Jack and Ch. Double Jet. You should be able to trace back to one or many of the four lines of Hunting Irish with a recent litter. Being proud of your breeding will really help you sell them. You can work out the same system for the show Irish.

If you are sincere about the Irish Setter, then there are three things you will encourage the new owner to do. Register the puppy when it is four to five months old. The greatest danger to a puppy is the first three months, and after that is the time to register it. Encourage the owner to join the local Irish Setter Club and gain from the knowledge of the members. The third thing is to ENJOY HIS IRISH, whether it be in hunting, field trialing, obedience, or showing. After all, the first thing you are interested in "will the puppy have a good hom'", and if they ENJOY THEIR IRISH, the puppy will have a good home.