

FAVORITE COVER

IS AMERICAN WATER SPANIEL 'NAMY'

Today's Breeder readers eagerly emailed and called in to choose their favorite cover in our special 100th issue coverage. Receiving the most tallies was Issue 65 featuring an American Water Spaniel named "Namy" on the cover. Bred and co-owned by Paul and Lynn Morrison of Howell, Michigan, Little Brownies Namaste CDX was 3 ½ months old in 2008 when she appeared on the cover. In May, she will turn 12 years old.

Kenneth and Marilyn Bridges of Commerce, Georgia, called to check whether they could choose individually. "I like Issue 66 of the English Setter (MBIS/BISS CH Chebaco Blame It On Trabeiz) because my uncle hunted with bird dogs. I always remember the setters," Kenneth Bridges said.

"I think the spaniel on Issue 65 is so beautiful, so picturesque," Marilyn Bridges said. "The color of the dog and its natural look are striking."

Today's Breeder wrote the names of those who participated on slips of paper and put them in a box. Sherry Bresnahan, Purina Breeder-Enthusiast Senior Marketing Manager, drew the name

of Sylvester Karasinski of Swanzey, New Hampshire, whom we surprised with a year's supply of *Purina Pro Plan* dog food.

Excited to have won the dog food, Karasinski also was pleased that his favorite cover was selected. "I have an American Water Spaniel named 'Ziva.' I take her hunting. It's a great breed," he said.

A call to Little Brownies Kennel found the Morrisons busy caring for two litters of puppies — altogether eight males and nine females — born March 7 and March 15. Cover girl Namy is a great-great aunt on both sides of the pedigree of the dam of the first litter, and she is a great aunt on the sire's side and a great-great-great aunt on the dam's side of the second litter. Besides breeding, the Morrisons train their dogs for American Kennel Club conformation shows and spaniel hunting tests, which Paul Morrison also judges.

The couple fell in love with the versatile breed known for hunting upland game and retrieving waterfowl in 1988 and bred their first litter in 1992. Today, they average about three litters a year. They are committed to producing high-quality American Water Spaniels, a rare breed with fewer than 200 dogs a year registered, and focus on hunting ability, health, trainability, proper structure, and temperament.

"To us, breeding is an enjoyable experience, though it has its challenges and disappointments," said Paul Morrison, author of "American Water Spaniel," a limited-edition comprehensive owner's guide published in 2007. "We've always felt fulfilled with the ability to give people a proper hunting dog and wonderful companion."

Congratulations Paul and Lynn Morrison on the success of your breeding program. Your loyalty to the sweet little brown dogs embodies the true spirit of dog breeding. ■



Paul and Lynn Morrison hold American Water Spaniel puppies born in March 2020. The puppies are related to "Namy," the dog pictured on the cover of Issue 65, which was chosen as the favorite cover by readers of *Today's Breeder* in our special 100th issue coverage.