



American Brittany Club Sponsors of the Brittany

No study of the Brittany can be complete unless there is an understanding of the Origin and Utility of the breed. **The purpose for which the BRITTANY was developed must affect Character, Structure, and Movement, all qualities that a conformation judge is asked to evaluate.** So it is that a brief historical background of the Brittany is presented here, to be kept in mind as the dogs are examined.

HISTORY OF THE BRITTANY

As early as 1850, local French sportsmen were crossing their Spaniels with English Setters. They were doing so to get a dog superior to either - the dog that eventually would be the Brittany Spaniel. It was very tempting to suppose that the Brittany Spaniel was only a variety of the French Spaniel. But it would be very difficult for those who thought so, to explain how a long-headed and long-lined dog could have been able to produce a short-headed and short-lined dog. The character is more different yet: The French Spaniel is a very quiet dog, the Brittany full of life, activity, and as a good Welsh must be, single-minded. A description of some of the French Spaniels in the late 1890's was -"White/Chestnut, White/Orange; often speckled." In 1896, a dog of this description was shown at the Paris Exposition, listed as a Brittany Spaniel in the miscellaneous class for French Spaniels. In 1902 a Brittany Spaniel competed in a Field Trial for Continental Dogs. MYRRHA D'AMORIQUE was the Brittany. Myrrha won, and her victory turned attention to hitherto ignored spaniels of Brittany. In 1907, the Brittany Spaniel Club of France was formed. A standard was drawn up in 1907 and in 1912 it was revised. MAX DE CALLAC became the breed's first champion in 1909 - bringing both attention and credit to the new breed.

The two men responsible for introducing the Brittany Spaniel to North America were Juan Pugibet of Villa Obregon, Mexico and Louis Thebaud of Morristown, New Jersey. The American

Kennel Club recognized the Brittany Spaniel in August 1934. Approval of the standard by AKC was in March, 1935. In 1936, The Brittany Spaniel Club of North America was founded and received official membership in the AKC.

The American Brittany club was founded in 1942. In 1944, the Brittany Spaniel Club of North America and the American Brittany Club merged to become one parent club - The American Brittany Club. The modern standard for the American Brittany was written in 1946. It was revised in 1966, 1986 and in 1990.

It is imperative for the Brittany owner and judges to study the present standard so that a great and unspoiled breed may continue to improve and remain a Dual Dog - Show and Field.

To Sum It Up: The Brittany has passed the test upon every type of game for which pointing dogs are used. It has the disposition of the best house pet and companion, yet can do a big job. And it makes an ideal **Dual** purpose show and field dog.

Credits: All this information has been condensed from the New Complete Brittany book by Mr. Maxwell Riddle.

