

The 2026 Western Futurity

The spirit of the American Brittany was on full display this past February as breeders, owners, and enthusiasts gathered for the 2026 Western Futurity. It was a weekend that perfectly captured the dual nature of our breed: the elegance and conformation required for the ring, and the raw, bird-finding intensity required for the field.

The Show: Elegance in Grass Valley

The festivities kicked off on Thursday, February 12th, at the All About Dogs Training Center in Grass Valley, California. The facility provided a top-tier atmosphere for the show portion of the Futurity. Attendees were quick to praise the venue; the space was exceptionally bright, offering plenty of room for every dog to move around the ring.. High-quality matting on the ground ensured a safe and professional surface for both the dogs and their handlers.

A special note of gratitude goes to the judge, Amanda Pettinato. Her expertise was evident as she evaluated the entry with a keen eye, judging each dog fairly and equally. Her professional demeanor and balanced approach were appreciated by all, ensuring the integrity of the Futurity remained the top priority.

The highlight of the conformation event was the crowning of Best in Futurity Show, which went to Banner Mountain's Bolt of Lightning, Skye. Owned and bred by Glenda and Larry Mazzuca, and expertly handled by Lauren House, Skye impressed the gallery with her structural correctness and beautiful movement. Best of Opposite in Futurity Show went to Relyt Legend of Castle, Icon. Icon is owned and bred by Kristina Rickard, Kylie & Karlie Roche, Tyler Crady and Sarah Makney, handled by Kristina Rickard.

Keeping the day running like clockwork was our ring steward, Yvonne Shanto. A huge thank you goes to Yvonne for keeping everything organized and moving smoothly, ensuring every exhibitor was where they needed to be and making sure that everyone had a catalog in hand. Between classes, the atmosphere was one of true camaraderie. Everyone enjoyed a wonderful spread of snacks and drinks provided by the clubs, making for a relaxed environment where old friends could catch up.

The Field: Grit at Spenceville. If Thursday was about form, Friday, February 13th, was all about function. The action shifted to the rugged terrain of Jones Corral at the Spenceville Wildlife Area. Despite the "Friday the 13th" date, luck was on our side with crisp morning air and steady breezes—ideal conditions for scenting.

The field portion was expertly judged by Jeff Singewald and Gina Bosio. Both judges brought a wealth of knowledge to the saddle, carefully evaluating each dog's application, range, and bird-handling abilities.

All Age Braces

First Brace: Kimber (Top Dog, Shaun Hall) and Mac (Bottom Dog, Jason Sinko) dashed off the line over the first hill. Kimber ranged well out in front and finished strong with two bird finds and staunch points. Mac responded well to his handler, showing good casts once in the tree line.

Second Brace: Teeter (Bye Dog, Shaun Hall) bolted out with a true all-age run. After "vanishing" for a moment, she was found standing staunchly on point. She established a second point at 27 minutes to finish a strong brace.

Gun Dog Braces

First Brace: Stryker (Deanna Azevedo) and Laney (Dereck Olsen) both hunted nicely in the tree line, maintaining a classic 10-to-2 gun dog pattern and finishing well.

Second Brace: Hunter (Jack Curtin) and Lana (Deanna Azevedo) headed for the hills. Hunter handled well out in front; Lana worked the objectives nicely but unfortunately failed to establish a point on a walking bird.

Third Brace: Jesse (Brad Putnam) and Reba (Shaun Hall) both showed strong throughout their 30 minutes, covering ground with a nice forward range and 10-to-2 patterns.

Fourth Brace: Beamer (Derek Olsen) had a nice race and a strong start. Fern (Lupe Laguna) showed big edge-to-edge casts, establishing two points—including a nice edge find—and finishing very strong.

Fifth Brace: Icon (Bye Dog, Kristina Rickard) was attentive to his handler, checking in often and ranging well when called upon.

Sixth Brace: Johnny (Derek Olsen) ran well with frequent check-ins. Laney (Shaun Hall) had an immediate find off the breakaway and followed up ten minutes later with another staunch point, running strong for the full 30 minutes.

Seventh Brace: Lucy (Patti Van De Coevering) and Cora (Derek Olsen) warmed up as they hit the tree line. Cora established an initial point, followed by two impressive divided finds between both dogs to finish the day.

Dual Dog Winner: A True All-Around Champion

The pinnacle of the Futurity program is the Dual Dog Award, which honors the dog that best exemplifies the "total package" of the American Brittany. This year, the honor went to Hall's Ride the River, Teeter.

Owned, bred, and handled by Shaun Hall, Teeter truly shone throughout the competition. After securing First Place in the Senior Female show class on Thursday, she returned on Friday to deliver a masterful performance in the field, winning First Place in the All Age competition. This impressive sweep of both disciplines earned her the prestigious Dual Dog Award, proving that she is as capable in the field as she is beautiful in the ring.

Looking Ahead

The 2026 Western Futurity served as a powerful reminder of why we do what we do. By testing our dogs in both the ring and the field, we ensure the Brittany remains a versatile, athletic, and beautiful companion, and forever a Dual Dog.

We extend a huge congratulations to all the Breeders, Owners, and Handlers who participated this year. Your dedication to the breed's standards and its hunting heritage is what makes this event so special. A huge thank you to the organizers, the judges, and the volunteers who made this two-day event a resounding success.