

# THE WORKING DOG DIGEST

July/August 2009

**Ch. Aviators  
Luck Be A Lady**



**Portuguese Water Dog**



# COVER STORY

## BIS/BISS CH. AVIATOR'S LUCK BE A LADY

Aviator Kennel started in 1987 in Shingle Springs, California, about 30 miles east of Sacramento in the foothills of the Sierras. Since 1994, Cathy and Mike Dugan have concentrated on breeding champion Portuguese Water Dogs although they have bred Dalmatians and Brittanys as well. Over the years Aviator has produced nearly 90 champions and many highly-ranked dogs; but Ladybug is clearly their best effort to date.

Cathy finished Ladybug in the Bred By class and several Specialty wins quickly followed. Campaigned in 2008 on the east coast, Ladybug finished as the #1 Bitch and #2 Portuguese Water Dog. Ladybug won Best of Opposite in 2008 at Westminster. In 2009 Ladybug won Best of Breed at Westminster. Judge Beth Sweigart's comments in the Courier, said:

"My Best of Breed, CH Aviators Luck Be a Lady, whom I had not judged before, I found to be just about what the standard describes. She has a lovely head and dark expressive eye, strong muzzle, and good width of back skull, with correct set ears. To me she had the correct length of back – off square without being overly long to cause a weak top line... Her coat and condition was impeccable. She was light on her feet and covered ground effortlessly. Her showmanship and presentation left nothing to be desired."

At the Portuguese Water Dog National show she won Best of Opposite. Judge Kim Meredith-Cavanna commented in the Courier, :

"This bitch is proof that you can have the breadth and mass of head and muzzle, robust, substantially built and muscular body, a deep chest with front fill and strong forward striding movement all in a feminine package. Her substance fills your hands and IT is not grooming and hair. She is a really, really good one and my hope is that she stays in the ring to teach judges and fellow breeders that outstanding bitches can and should win"

She also won her first Best in Show in 2008 under Judge Ken McDermott. This was followed by two more Best in Shows in 2009 on the West coast so far this Spring under Judge Joe Walton and Judge Mary Ann Brocius.

In 2009, expertly handled by Amy Rutherford, Ladybug is the #1 Portuguese Water Dog all systems and



BRED & OWNED BY  
MICHAEL & CATHY DUGAN  
WWW.AVIATORKENNEL.COM

OWNERS  
JERSON VALLE &  
VICTOR MALZONI, JR.,  
SAN PAULO, BRAZIL

HANDLER:  
AMY RUTHERFORD



in the Top Ten of Working Dogs. Amy has handled and groomed Aviator dogs for over eight years and has finished nearly 40 champions and agrees that Ladybug is a star!

We would like to thank our fellow PWD fanciers for their support of Ladybug, especially Dr. and Mrs. Archambeau (Bela Vista PWDs) and Matthew Davis and Bill Waters (Asta PWDs).

Whatever the rest of 2009 holds for this great PWD bitch, we are all along for the ride.

Front Cover Photo By: Vicki Holloway