

Here are several snapshots of our Stafford Rally at the home of Terry and Carolyn Stewart (staffordmall.com) in Castro Valley, California, on Saturday Dec. 15th. Thirteen people and 11 Staffords attended, which is more than usually attend large AKC shows in the area.



left to right: Debbie Bennett with Zorro, Bob Bennett with Emma, Dave Mora with Smokey, Rachel Redsun with her yearling brindle and six year old pied bitches, Terry Stewart with Rugar, Don Coombs with Cosmo, Tara Coombs with Luna, and Dick Vroman with Hudson. Camera shy: Grace and Pearl. (Rioghal Showoff "Grace" and Ch Rioghal Opening Partner "Hudson" had arrived from South Africa on Dec. 11th.)

The occasion greatly reminded me of Stafford rallies the late sixties when we had all of about 60 Staffords in the whole country, concentrated mainly in southern California.



Zorro, two year old South African import.



Debbie Bennett and two year old Emma, SA bloodlines, believed to be in whelp to Zorro.



Dave Mora's Smokey, two years old, AKC champion.



Rachel Redsun's six year old pied bitch. Sorry, her call name has slipped my mind.



Rugar eight years young, now with the Stewarts. Won points at recent AKC show.



Don Coombs with year old Luna (from Canada) and Tara Coombs with Cosmo, two years old, only a point away from his ACK title.



Hudson, three years old, South African champion, bred by Dick and Liz Strachan in SA.



Pearl, 12 year old white bitch owned by Terry and Carolyn Stewart.



Two year old Grace, having had a recent litter in South Africa, arrived five days earlier on the same plane with Hudson, bred by the Strachans. Smaller than her picture makes her appear, she's literally a bundle of joy.

These snapshots don't do their subjects justice (as Stafford photos seldom do), but my guess is that the quality of Staffords in the SF Bay Area is on the rise because none of younger Staffords is fully mature as yet, but the future looks highly promising: the dogs seemed to get into the spirit, and not so much as a snap or growl interrupted the proceedings. Their owner seemed to get on famously, possibly because each one (naturally) owned the best dog. :-)

I gather from a wide variety of sources over a period of decades that such camaraderie runs from rare to non-existent at AKC shows in the area, and I look forward to an expansion of their planned future cooperative ventures.

Steve