

Peake Performance

New Champion, Master Hunter, and Master Hunting Retriever

"Tazlina" (Tazzy) CH MHR
Chugach's Katmai Tazlina MH
(MHR Tutka's Tundra Decked
Terror MH*** X CH Katmai
Chugach Splendor MH QA2).
Breeder: Michael Vogel. New CH/
MH/MHR. Finishes AKC MH and
NAHRA MHR titles. The AKC
title was completed at the Alaska
Working Retriever hunt test August
16th at Pt. McKenzie, AK. The
NAHRA title was completed at the
NAHRA hunt test on May 17th at Pt.
McKenzie, AK. Tazzy is cherished,
loved, owned, trained and hunted
by Michael Vogel



Tazzy was born January 2006 in the family room of my house, one of six pups. This was approximately at the same time as the news regarding Tiger (DC AFC Distagon MH) and DM exploded into the consciousness of the Chesapeake world. Tazzy's father, Tundra, had a similar breeding as Tiger, so I was concerned but information was still scarce at that point. When Tazzy was approximately 9 months old, a full blooded older sister came down with DM. Now, I was really worried, so I put no time into Tazzy's training. I did not want to invest the necessary gobs of effort and time to train the dog only to have the dog die at 6 of this horrible disease. When Tazzy was 3, the test for DM became available and I immediately tested her, and luck of the draw, she was normal/normal (the parents, as it turned out, were both carriers). At this point, despite missing those first 3 years which are so critical, I started to train her. That early neglect and the fact that in Alaska we get about 3 months of training a year, hindered us, but we persevered. The fact that she accomplished the AKC and NAHRA masters' titles despite these obstacles was uniquely rewarding.

Tazzy is totally amateur trained by her owner (me) and is my hunter extraordinaire. She is an excellent marker who possesses an extremely keen nose and knows how to use it. With her talent and unbridled passion for birds, she has won a competitive upland event, the Chukar Challenge, put on by the Arctic Bird Dog Association, beating all the pointers, setters, and spaniels at their own game (*ACC Bulletin Nov/Dec 2011, p. 11*).

She is very well built and that, in combination with her talent and desire, has served us extremely well in our pursuit of many different species. She regularly hunts pheasants, quail, grouse, partridge, and waterfowl. Last year, she was responsible for the flush and retrieve of 50 wild rooster pheasants and that number does not include an embarrassing number of roosters flushed that were sadly, missed (not the dog's fault). Tazzy has actually developed a point, and will hold that point, she is a pointing Chessie!

I will share one hunting exploit, as hunting is why I have Chesapeakes. Up until 2010, we always went down to Idaho to hunt with an old Chessie man named James Mauney (which we still do). We chased pheasants, chukars,

partridge and quail across the steep miserable terrain that is the Snake River Breaks. In 2010, in seeking better hunting and more benign terrain, we finally made the very long trek to North Dakota. During that 1st trip, 4 sharptail grouse flushed and flew across to an old creek bed that had thick cover. Tazzy and I hot footed it over to where I saw the sharptails land. I am ready with my 20 ga. over /under and send in Tazzy. However, instead of sharptails, out comes a cackling rooster pheasant. He is flying away and I shoot and rock him but he does not go down. He is still flying, but fairly low to the ground. Tazzy

sees this and takes off in hot pursuit. Now, Tazzy is very fast and this bird is giving it his all as is Tazzy. The bird and pursuing Chessie are rapidly covering ground going over a harvested pea field and away from me. The chase continues with the bird staying just out in front of the dog and then they go over the horizon out of sight. So there I am standing by the side of a pea field worrying and fretting if I'll ever see my dog again, I don't know long it was, seemed like an eternity and finally, I spot her in the distance, just a small dot and there she is, on the run back. It took awhile but I could finally make her out and it looks like she has something in her mouth, by God, she has the frigging bird!!! (still alive) Good girl, really really good girl. Just an epic, epic retrieve. A defining moment, a moment that I will never forget. I have no idea whether she was able to get close enough to leap up and grab the rooster out of the air or the pheasant went for some cover, he had no tail feathers left, so it is my guess that there were a number of attempts at snatching the rooster out of the air before there was success, but the bottom line was that she was determined to bring me back the bird and she did. She earned my respect which is not easy given, given the standards that were set by her most beloved mother, Katmai (CH Katmai Chugach Splendor MH QA2).

Tazzy's show career was brief due to success. Her build, coat, and enthusiasm all worked in her favor. She had 3 straight majors and was done very quickly. She was shown by Ms. Crystal Beam whom she liked working with. Crystal did a great job and deserves all the credit for this.

Next up for Tazzy is hunting season. We may pursue the MHU title if and when AKC approves Chessies for it.

- Mike Vogel

