

BWT NEWSLETTER

BLUE WEIMARANER TODAY / DECEMBER 2009



Blue History in a Nutshell

In 1949, a Weimaraner was imported from Germany to the United States. This Weimaraner was named Cäsar Von Gaiberg or “Tell”. He came from excellent German lines. Tell was much darker than a typical Weimaraner and had slightly shorter ears. His coat color caused an uproar amongst many in the Weimaraner Club of America (WCA). It gets really complicated with letters, testimonials, and investigations trying to establish the validity of his pedigree and determine his purity.

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Photograph of Ellie by Leslie Nicole

I'm Ready for my Close-up

TIPS TO GET BETTER PORTRAITS OF YOUR BLUE WEIMARANER

Blue Weimaraners are so gorgeous you can't resist photographing them. They can be regal, athletic, winsome, intense, playful and sometimes just plain goofy!

Here are a few tips to best capture those Blue Weim moments.

GET DOWN AT EYE LEVEL.

While this isn't always true, there can be photographs from below or above that work – in general—this tip will improve your photographs of dogs. So, don't be afraid to get your pants dirty!

Continued on page 7



GRANITE

Have you been a good or a bad blue dog?

Photo by Liz Fairlee



ROXIE TUCKERED OUT AFTER A LONG DAY HUNTING.

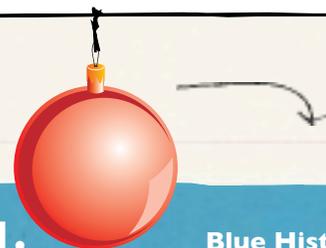
She found lots of birds and gets a well-deserved rest on the car backseat. *Photo by Renée V*



ZOE AT THE BEACH What's Blue with Tan all over? Why a Blue at the beach of course!. Clean car seats are over-rated!

Photo by Thomas Merkle

Letter from the Editor & TOC



**Editor Leslie Nicole
with Ellie & Bella**

...

Well, here it is, the very first newsletter for Blue Weimaraner Today. It's pretty big and full of photos and illustrations. What can I say, I love images! I did decided to include some content from the site as I felt it was important to have a printable archive for posterity. I know I value having the Blu Mars (page 5).

Please also realize that It's currently just me getting this out to you and it's a lot of work. I don't doubt there will be typo's, orphans & widows, and grammatical errors! As it's the first newsletter and the first time I've used Pages for the newsletter, I ask for your patience in advance for any glitches in getting it to you.

HOW TO USE THE NEWSLETTER

I've enabled this newsletter with hyperlinks. In other-words, if you [click on a text link, it will take you to the link online](#). Pretty cool, huh? The

only problem is that the address won't show once you print it out.

FUTURE ISSUES

I anticipate the newsletter will grow and change partially depending on your feedback and the growth of the site. There are a lot of features I envision in the near future.

UPCOMING FEATURES

On the site, I plan on adding more about training, more videos, possibly a forum, and a podcast. There will be interviews and reviews. I anticipate that eventually there will be reports from different countries.

SAY IT LOUD, WE LOVE BLUES AND WE'RE PROUD

Blue Weimaraner Today is born from the premise that if we start to take ourselves seriously, if we find our own pride and determine our own future, then the rest of the world will take notice. We will be setting into motion a time of historical change. We can be the shaping forces for the future of Blue Weimaraners.

So let's get busy!

Best wishes to you and your family and all of your fur kids. Have a Happy Holiday and wonderful New Year.

See you on Facebook & Twitter.

1. **Blue History**
1. **Taking Better portraits**
2. **Letter & TOC**
3. **History Continued**
4. **Blues Rock!**
5. **Wallpaper, Resources, Blue Mar**
6. **Photo Board**
7. **Blues Rock, photo, cont.**
8. **Holiday, Photo cont.**

FROM THE EDITOR

Have a story, photo, video, or brag that you would like to have featured? Have an idea for an article or request for a feature?

Please drop me a line!

contact@blueweimaranertoday.com

Also, please send me the links to your personal blogs / sites / flickr, YouTube channel, etc.

Leslie Nicole

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We are not professional trainers or health practitioners. Any information offered is in the spirit of sharing & should be followed at your own discretion or guidance of a professional.

EDITOR

Leslie Nicole

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www.blueweimaranertoday.com

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YouTube (videos to come!)

BLUE WEIMARANER TODAY

ISSUE #1
VOLUME 01

Print them out, put them in a binder.
Someday, this will be our history.

The History of the Blue Weimaraner in a Nutshell *continued from cover*

Was he pure? Tell was the first historically noted Blue Weimaraner. There is a lot of confusion about whether there have been others in Europe, with intriguing leads but no established facts. We know now that what made Tell different is that genetically, "Blue" is a dilution of black whereas the coat of "Gray" Weimaraners is a dilution of brown. (Blue is a fanciful way of describing a dog coat that is a dilution of Black. It is actually a slate gray with silvery reflections. See the [genetics page](#) on the blueweimaraner site for a more thorough description of coat color genetics.) Proponents of the Blue have argued that the anomaly was due to a genetic mutation from a mother/son breeding and there are curious considerations that suggest that there may have been other Blue Weimaraners, but it's probable that at some point the black was introduced by a cross-breeding. Probably to a Doberman.

THE PROGENITOR OF ALL BLUE WEIMARANERS

Regardless of any "woulda, coulda, shouldas," the fact is that his pedigree was investigated by the American Kennel Club (AKC) and accepted as valid. Controversy or not, Tell was an excellent Weimaraner. He was well-known for having an incredible nose and was used by the police for tracking. He sired 8 bench champions. He produced so well, that he was much used as a stud. Today, it is likely that he is in the pedigree of most Weimaraners in America and even Germany. There is no denying his place in the history of Weimaraners.

From 1949 to 1972, Blue Weimaraners while maybe not

embraced (the controversy was still there) they were at least allowed. There were Blue Champions. In those 23 years, whether intended or not, a variation of the Weimaraner was firmly established in the United States. Twice, it came up for vote in the WCA to disqualify them and twice, it failed. In 1971 it was again placed on the ballot, but this time it was phrased as not allowing the color "Blue or Black". From what I understand from first-hand accounts is that phrased in this way, where Black would have to be accepted as well as Blue, the ballot finally passed. At the same time, Longhair Weimaraners were also disqualified. (see article on what a disqualification means – coming soon)

When the color was voted a disqualification (DQ), many breeders respected the standard change and stopped breeding their Blues. Regardless of politics, the public still wanted Blue Weimaraners. The puppy mill breeders saw an opportunity in the lack of competition and stepped in and started advertising "Rare Blue Weimaraners". In the hands of unethical breeders, the quality of Blue Weimaraners has suffered. A small handful of passionate, ethical breeders breed in the hopes of a solution to the DQ.

THE BLUE WEIMARANER TODAY

So here we are today 38 years after the DQ. The vehemence of the controversy has reached practically a blind, zealous, religious war status. The fierce pride, loyalty and affection that the Weimaraner community has in the traditional gray color is understandable. They still see Blue Weimaraners as the Barbarians at the

gate. They argue that Tell was a mixed-breed and the blue variation of gray shouldn't be accepted. To date, the arguments have usually centered on the question of the purity of Tell. What we need to realize is that this was nearly 70 years ago. Does it matter anymore? Tell is most likely in your Weimaraner. Blue Weimaraners today can not be considered anything but pure Weimaraners. As far as accepting the color variation, in essence it already was—with Tell. The variation already exists, but is like an abandoned orphan child of the Weimaraner community.

I'm sure that the WCA thought that in disqualifying Blues, they would slowly dwindle away, but did this happen? Have Blue Weimaraners gone away? Nope. The demand grows and they are more and more arriving on the shores of the old world (Europe) where they mostly have no official status.

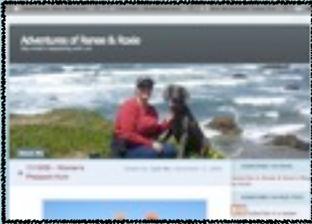
It's time to stop reacting blindly with knee-jerk prejudice, reassess, and plan rationally and responsibly. That's what the BWT site is for: commenting on the current status and opening a dialogue for responsible change.

I make no bones about it that it will be opinionated, pointed and aimed to puncture old beliefs that are not working. I welcome thoughtful commentaries.

by Leslie Nicole

Editor BWT

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BLUES ROCK!

WAGS AND BRAGS OF OUR AWESOME BLUES

BLUES ONLINE

YOUR PERSONAL SITES

Renée & Roxie [BLOG](#)
 Renée & Roxie [FLICKR](#)

Zoë [FLICKR](#)

Leslie Nicole [FLICKR](#)

Send me your links



Photo by M. Wilson

CINDY LOU TAKES A 1ST AND Q AT THE 2009 WEIMARANER AGILITY NATIONALS

Christine has shared this great story and brag of her family's Blue Weimaraner, Cindy Lou.

Cindy Lou was rescued from a pet shop when she was a puppy by Christine's dad. Her family has had Weimaraners forever and her dad just knew he couldn't leave that Weimaraner pup there. Weimaraners are such high energy dogs that many people who purchase one because of their beauty often discover they can't make the commitment of time required and then the dog ends up in rescue. Cindy Lou has proved to be a loving and caring companion to Christine's dad.

Christine has two gray Weimaraners and is an Agility enthusiast. She is either training or teaching agility pretty much every day of the week. When she heard the 2009 Weimaraner Agility Nationals were to be held in Washington, she knew her two grays would compete in it. Christine's family spends winters

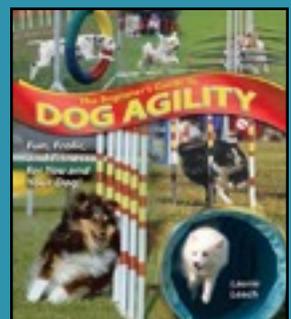
Continued page 7



Agility Links

Why not jump into Agility?
 click on names to visit

- [CLEAN RUN](#)
- [AGILITY NET](#)
- [AGILITY RESOURCES](#)
- [MORE RESOURCES](#)



The Beginner's Guide to Dog Agility

Buy on amazon.com link in site post

Get the T

BLUES ROCK! T-SHIRT
 ON THE BLUE WEIMARANER TODAY STORE
 various styles
[Click Here shop now on Zazzle](#)



Resources

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BLUE WEIMARANER SITES

[Blue Weimaraner Today](#)
[The Blue Weimaraner](#)
[Blue Weimaraner Club of America](#)

FLICKR GROUP

[Blue Weimaraners](#)

APPROVED BREEDERS

[Fairhaven Weimaraners](#)
[Touchstone Weimaraners](#)

TRAINING SITES

[Steady with Style \(field training\)](#)

RESCUE LINKS

[BWCA rescue page](#)

If there are no dogs in Heaven, then when I die, I want to go where they went. ~ Will Rogers

DECEMBER WALLPAPERS



The desktop and phone Wallpapers for December are now ready to download.

I hope you enjoy them!

Let me know if you have any problems.

[CLICK TO DOWNLOAD](#)

I'd really appreciate feedback on the wallpapers. Do you enjoy them or would you rather have your own images?

I am thinking of a way to perhaps have a monthly contest and the winner will be the photo for the wallpaper.

Another option: if you have the capabilities to work with a layered photoshop file, you are welcome to the master file to drop your own photo's in the frame.

Just drop me a line via [email](#) requesting the file.

Also available on our BWT Zazzle Store as:

[Greeting Cards](#)
[Postage stamps](#)



THE BLU MAR: OUR HISTORY

The WCA voted to disqualify Blues the end of 1971 to be effective December 1972. From 1971 - 1973 a group of Blue proponents tried to organize and fight the change. They published a quarterly magazine with news, articles, litter announcements, brags, health and training information.

I'm fortunate to have 5 original copies. It's interesting to look at the announcements of Blue Champions. One ad for litters announced 5 Blue Champions in 4 generations.

While the movement in the early 70's wasn't successful, their efforts are part of our history and a building block in our own efforts. The editors were active in the Weimaraner world and their observations, experience, and lessons learned help us greatly. I've been given permission to republish from the originals, so I will be putting in a snippet each month.

Thank you Blu Mar for starting the journey. I hope we can continue it.



At Leisure

Next Month

WINTER BLUES

Gather your Wintery photos of your Blue Weim.



TWO KIDS Indy as a puppy with a friend.
Photo by Anne Taguchi



BELLA I fit. Really. I'm very comfortable. Don't worry about me.
Photo by Leslie Nicole



HELLO, MY NAME IS JETT AND I'M A BALLAHOLIC. Jett it a 4 year old girl who loves her tennis ball.
Photo by Lana Schippers



LUCY I'm 14 weeks old! Yeah. I know I'm cute!
Photo by Laurie Detviler



BEDBUG Rayn has her family well-trained!
Photo by Thomas Liz Fairlee



BOWIE is a Blue in France who is not only a great hunter, but a big love bug.
Photo by Leslie Nicole



ELLIE Loves being cozy in her very own sleeping bag.
Photo by Thomas Leslie Nicole



LYRIC On a break during training.
Photo by Renée Viehmann



Blues Rock!

CINDY LOU CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

with training Cindy Lou as well. She showed such an aptitude and enthusiasm for training that she decided to enter her in the Nationals as well. Cindy Lou was so enthused with training, she wanted to train every day and was upset if another dog was worked instead. She was ready to compete in just a month and a half!

After only 2 months of training, Cindy Lou went to the Nationals. She was the only Blue there and did us proud taking a 1st and Q (qualification) in Nov JWW (Novice Jumpers with Weaves). Christine was pleased by the warm reception Cindy Lou received, with many complimenting her beauty and talent. She has had qualifying runs in all three trials she's run to date. Trialing for Cindy Lou will start up again this December.
Run fast, run clean, Cindy Lou!

Note about training for Agility. Cindy Lou was able to train in such a short time not only because of talent, but she was in the hands of an experienced trainer. Take your time enjoying training with your dog. Go one small step at a time. Trials are high-pressure for handler and dog. You may want to try some fun matches first which have less pressure. It's also important to be aware that young dogs should not be doing heavy jumping or weaving. It's usually best to wait until a young dog is 18 months old before doing hard training. There are still a lot of things a young dog can learn though. I started Ellie in puppy agility at around 7 months.

Thank you to M. Wilson photography for the use of her beautiful photograph. You can see more of her work on her [Blog](#). Please remember that this image is copyright protected. You may not reproduce it in any way.

by Leslie Nicole

Editor, BWT

I'm Ready for my Close-up

CONTINUED FROM THE COVER

Back up and use your zoom lens.

Often, people make the mistake of either being too close to their dog or too far away. Let's look at each one separately.

Too Close

When you come in too close to your dog, your camera will probably be set at a "wide angle" setting. Without going into a lot of technical descriptions, "wide angle" is when your lens is zoomed all the way back. Point and shoot cameras will sometimes have the camera marked with a W and a T on the zoom button. The W being for Wide angle and the T for Telephoto.

Wide angle settings are great for landscapes, but not so good for portraits. They tend to slightly distort. This can be effective if you want to purposefully take a humorous shot, but it is unlikely to be flattering.

Too Far

The other common mistake is photographing from too far away. If your dog only takes up a small part of the frame, unless it's an intentional environmental portrait, it may be that you haven't focused in enough on your dog to be a compelling portrait.

Try This

Try backing away from your dog and then zooming in on his/her face. Zooming in with your telephoto from a little further away will dramatically improve your portrait. Also use the portrait setting if your camera has one. This will blur the background a little so the dog's face stands out better. You may also find that your dog stays put better if you don't move in closely.

Keep Sessions short & Fun

Make picture taking fun. Give treats and praise. Also keep it short. don't let your dog get bored and impatient. It's also important that you are patient. Don't get frustrated if at first the dog isn't cooperating.

Recap

1. Get down to eye-level
2. Back up
3. Use the portrait setting if you have one.
4. Zoom in
5. Keep it short & Fun

We'll have more tips in the next issue. Go take some great portraits of your Blues! Submit them for the next issue.

See the illustrations on page 8.



Another Holiday Danger: ID theft

by Leslie Nicole

editor
...

Blue Weimaraner Today does offer products that you may be interested in. Either products made by us for sale on our Zazzle store or through links to vendors that give us a small commission for any sales made.

These "affiliate sales" are really great because I'm able to recommend products to you that I would anyway, I get a small commission that helps to run the site, and you get a recommended product at no extra cost to you. That's win-win!

I only choose reputable vendors such as Amazon.com or items that I have tested personally or made personally. Still, always be careful with any online purchase. Make sure the site has secure purchasing. (The little lock item in the browser window is a good indicator.)

I can tell you from first hand experience that in this day and age, eventually it may happen to you that someone steals your credit card information and goes on a shopping

* CHOCOLATE

There's often a lot of chocolate around for the holidays. Be sure to keep it out of reach of your dogs. It's easy to forget and leave it out on a table or counter. Chocolate has caffeine, fat and a toxic substance called Theobromine. All of these can be very harmful causing nausea, diarrhea and even damage the central nervous system. Be careful!

* THE CHRISTMAS TREE

A tree can be the source of many hazards. A tree can be knocked over injuring people or animals. Be sure your tree is securely anchored. Pine needles might be eaten by your dog and can get lodged in the esophagus causing difficulty in breathing or might puncture intestines. Sweep needles up regularly. Ornaments can also cause damage. Dogs see ornaments as toys and will try to eat the balls and tinsel. Survey your dog.



* HOLIDAY PLANTS

Many traditional plants can cause extreme upset to dogs with nausea, vomiting and diarrhea. These include: **Poinsettias and Holly.**

Lilies can cause irreversible kidney failure.
Mistletoe can cause death.

Be safe and be well.

spree. This happened to me 2 Christmases ago. My Visa debit card was refused at a store, which was odd, so I called my bank. Fortunately, they had spotted some fraudulent use and froze my card. Not before someone had used it for \$600 worth of shopping. I guess I was lucky as some friends were taken for several thousand.

I've since learned an important tip. Never use your Bank Debit card for online shopping. It took me months to be reimbursed! Use a credit card instead. At least it isn't coming straight out of your bank account. Also, never use your debit card for gas. Gas stations are often targets of credit card ID theft! Have fun shopping. Be safe.

DOG PORTRAITS: CHANGE YOUR PERSPECTIVE

To illustrate the cover feature story, I quickly took these snapshots with a six-year-old compact digital camera.



I took this first shot looking down, close to the dog with a wide angle setting. See how Ellie looks distorted?



Here, I got down to eye-level, backed away, put the camera in portrait setting and zoomed in more.

Checklist

1. Get down to eye-level
2. Back Away
3. Portrait setting
4. Zoom in
5. Keep it short & fun