



**BORZOI**





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**OBSERVATIONS ON BORZOI**









# OBSERVATIONS ON BORZOI

CALLED IN AMERICA  
RUSSIAN WOLFHOOUNDS

*In a series of letters to a friend*  
By JOSEPH B. THOMAS

"The chase I sing, hounds, and their various breed,  
"And no less various uses . . .  
"Deign thou to hear my bold, instructive song."

SOMERVILLE



BOSTON AND NEW YORK  
HOUGHTON MIFFLIN COMPANY  
The Riverside Press Cambridge

1912

SF 429  
R875

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*Published June 1912*

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\$1.25

©CL.A316428

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## FOREWORD

THIS little book not only gives a striking picture of the wonderfully beautiful Borzoi with more accurate historical data of his Russian environment than has probably appeared elsewhere, but it contains an enlightening description of his use, capabilities, and limitations. The author has studiously avoided the suggestions and pitfalls of some of the earlier importers and fanciers who claimed an impossible combination of speed, endurance, and courage for the Borzoi. He has expended more time and energy in fixing a correct type of this picturesque hound than any American, and probably more than any one in Europe, barring a very few in Russia.

The results achieved by him in popularizing and developing the Borzoi in the United States solely for the love of the hound and for sport, the large numbers of fine specimens imported and bred by him, his travels in Russia, where he hunted with the Borzoi and studied the history and type, his experience in coursing on our own plains with sight-hounds of all

modern kinds, clearly make the writer of this book an authority on the subject.

The valuable matter contained herein and the charming style in which it is narrated must appeal to all lovers of man's most faithful friend, and above all to those who are interested in a hound "no fonder of fighting than the deerhound, faithful as the collie, and more picturesque than either."

HENRY T. ALLEN

Major U. S. A.; some time U. S. Military Attaché  
at St. Petersburg.

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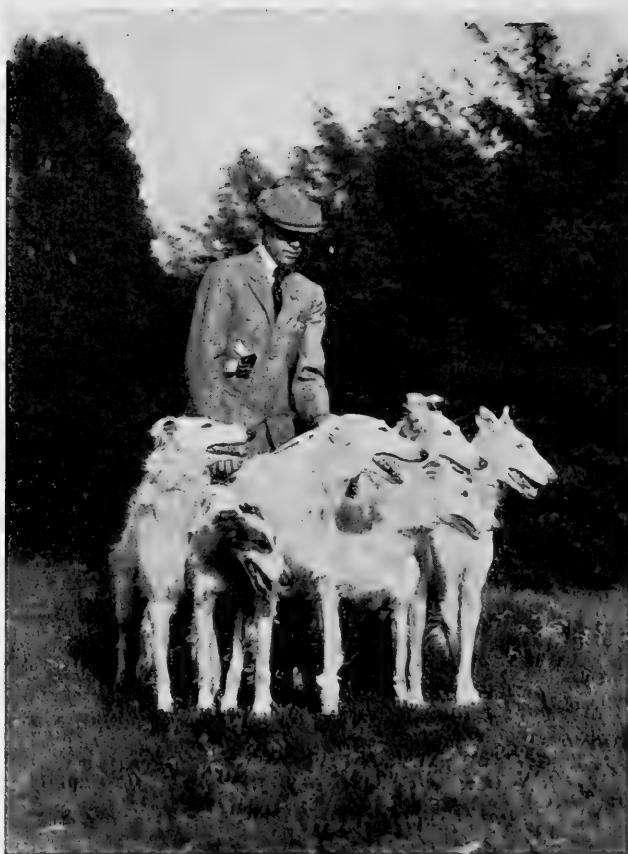
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THE AUTHOR

With (reading from left to right)

CHAMPION KOPCHIC O' VALLEY FARM

NEVSKI O' VALLEY FARM

CHAMPION SORVAN O' VALLEY FARM

RASSKIDA OF WORONZOVA

CHAMPION BISTRİ OF PERCHINA

CHAMPION RASBOI O' VALLEY FARM

# OBSERVATIONS ON BORZOI

## LETTER I

VALLEY FARM KENNELS,

January 24, 1912.

SINCE you have been so good, dear Major, as to desire to hear from me, I must now comply with your wishes. I have deferred, from time to time, the writing of these letters hoping that some one better informed than I am would anticipate me, and so render my labor needless. However, since but little has been written on this interesting subject, — even many breeders appearing quite uninformed, — it seems that my efforts will not be entirely useless, and I shall therefore be delighted to accede to your request, especially as you consider my work a necessary one. To be sure, there does appear to be a lamentable amount of ignorance concerning the history and uses of the Borzoi, which is the more surprising in view of the antiquity of the breed and its presence in many corners of

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the world, largely on account of its extraordinary beauty.

I prefer to use the Russian name "Borzoi," meaning swift, rather than the term used in America, "Russian Wolfhound." The word "Borzoi" means swift, light, agile, and is the exact equivalent of the German *Windhund*, the French *lévrier*, the English greyhound (or formerly gazehound). The Russians refer to Asiatic Borzoi, Crimean Borzoi, Polish Borzoi, as the Germans refer to *der englische Windhund*, *der russische Windhund*, and the French, to *lévrier russe*, *lévrier anglais*, *lévrier écossais*. There is no such breed as the Siberian wolfhound.

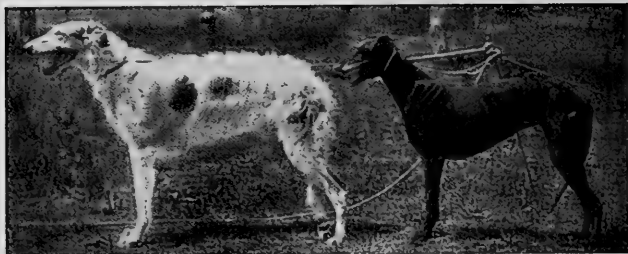
The Russian Borzoi is no more exclusively a wolfhound than is the English Borzoi; for, although it has in some instances been especially trained on wolves, it is more commonly used for fox and hare coursing. The term "wolfhound," current in America, is therefore a misnomer, and in fact only came into official use here about 1890 (on the suggestion, it is said, of Mr. James Watson, the well-known judge) because of a bitter and ridiculous controversy then going on over the names "Borzoi" and "Psovoi" among certain fanciers and newspaper





**THE CRIMEAN OR TARTAR BORZOI**

Note the pendant ears



RUSSIAN BORZOI — ENGLISH GREY HOUND

writers who themselves were, in most cases, quite ignorant on the subject. The Russian *greyhound* referred to has been used in Russia for many centuries, for coursing hare and other game, as were used the *sloughi*, or greyhounds of Egypt, depicted on the monuments of that country thousands of years before Christ.

There are many persons who seem to have no comprehension of what is meant by coursing, perhaps because they happen to live in countries where the lack of game suitable for that purpose, or the conformation of the land, precludes its pursuit. In attempting a brief description of it, I may possibly be understood the better if I use the term "longhound" in a general sense, to describe the several kinds of short- and long-haired coursing animal.

The earliest record of the sport comes down to us from the Egyptian monuments to which I have already referred; but in song and in fable, in illustration and even in history, longhounds have taken their place, with the falcon and other animals of the chase, for many thousands of years.

Arrian, a military officer under the Emperor Hadrian, wrote a long dissertation on the subject, in which he says, "Those Gauls who only

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course for the sport, and not to live by what they catch, never use nets," showing that even in those early days coursing had grown to be more than simply a pursuit of food, and that even then sport was in the ascendant. Arrian further says: —

The most opulent and luxurious among the Gauls course in this manner. They send out good Hare-finders early in the morning, to those places where it is likely to find Hares sitting, who send back word if they have found any, and what number; then they go out themselves, and put them up, and lay in the dogs, themselves following on horseback.

Whoever has good greyhounds should never lay them in too near the Hare, nor run more than two at a time. For, though the animal is very swift, and will oftentimes beat the dogs, yet, when she is first started, she is so terrified by the hollowing and by the dogs being very close, that her heart is overcome by fear; and, in the confusion, very often the best sporting Hares are killed without shewing any diversion. She should, therefore, be suffered to run some distance from her form and re-collect her spirits, and then, if she is a good sporting Hare, she will lift up her ears, and stretch out with long rates from her seat, the dogs directing their course after her with great activity of limbs, as if they were leaping, affording a spectacle worthy the trouble that must necessarily be employed in properly breeding and training these dogs.

Count Gaston de Foix, a mighty lord and mighty hunter, wrote in 1337 what is perhaps the oldest treatise on the subject in any modern language; and between the years 1406 and 1413, Edward the Third's grandson, Edward, second Duke of York, no other than he who led the vanguard for England at Agincourt and died on the field of battle, wrote what he terms a "litel symple book." This work was almost a literal translation of the words of Gaston de Foix, with five original chapters on English hunting.

It appears from these two mediæval works that sight-hunting, or coursing, was carried on very extensively, not only in connection with falcons, but also in connection with scent-hounds, raches or limers, which latter may be likened to our modern beagles or bloodhounds. In the illustrations of Gaston de Foix's book, now preserved in the Bibliothèque Nationale at Paris, are depicted both smooth- and rough-coated greyhounds.

We note that, all over the world, coursing has been conducted for thousands of years, originally with the sole motive of procuring food, and latterly for sport. There are numerous accounts of hunting expeditions of the sev-

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eral Mongol rulers of Asia from the days of the conqueror Genghis Khan in the thirteenth century, in which greyhounds are mentioned as the principal sporting dogs. An Englishman, William Blaine, who attended a hunting excursion of the Vizier of the Mongol Empire in India in 1785, mentioned that this nabob carried on his expedition three hundred greyhounds and at least two hundred hawks.

All breeds of coursing hounds resemble each other more or less in general conformation, as a result, doubtless, of their all having been bred for speed.

“The Hunter’s Calendar and Reference Book,” published in Moscow in 1892, divides the Borzoi into four groups: First, Russian or Psovoy Borzoi, of more or less long coat; second, Asiatic, with pendent ears; third, Hortoy, smooth-coated; and fourth, the Brudastoy, stiff-tufted or wire-haired. Of the better-known breeds there are nineteen; but there are many more varieties in northern Africa and southwestern Asia of widely varying characteristics, but little known and, so far, not fully described.



**COURSING WITH THE GRAND KHAN**

**From an ancient Chinese print discovered in China  
by Morrison B. Yung E. M.**

1911



**A HUNTER AND HIS BORZOI**

**A sight on the sky line of the ages**



*Russian Borzoi*

1. Old Psovoy or Gustopsovoy Borzoi.
2. Courland Borzoi.
3. Modern Psovoy Borzoi.
4. Chistopsovoy Borzoi.

*Asiatic Borzoi*

5. Caucasian or mountain Borzoi.
6. Tazyor Turkomenian Borzoi.
7. Crimean Borzoi.
8. Persian Borzoi.
9. Khiva Borzoi.
10. Kirghiz Borzoi.
11. Moldavian Borzoi.
12. Arabian Borzoi.
13. Soudan Borzoi.

*Hortoy Borzoi*

14. English Borzoi.
15. Polish Borzoi.

*Brudastoy Borzoi (Tufted)*

16. Courland tufted Borzoi.
17. Russian Brudastoy Borzoi.
18. Scotch deerhounds.
19. Irish wolfhounds.

*Russian Borzoi*

Old Russian Psovoy, or Gustopsovoy Borzoi, had many varieties, but they all conformed to the following general characteristics: —

## 12 OBSERVATIONS ON BORZOI

*Ears*, short and pointed; when quiet, lying back on the neck and touching or crossing each other by the tips.

*Ribs* come down below the elbows.

*Back*, of the males rising in a hump from the shoulders, and falling again to the hips; the bitches had a straight back, though sometimes they also showed a slight hump.

*Feet*, long, never round like the English hound.

*Hair*, dense, soft, and silky, longer than with any other breed. On the neck the hair longer and heavier, sometimes forming a muff.

*Color* of the type was grey and yellow, also these mixed; but the color must not be too deep, nor the same all over the dog. For instance, a yellow dog (of which the straw or maize color was preferred) must have the muzzle, throat, chest, hip edges, and lower side of tail, considerably lighter in color, even passing into white on the tips; the same of the grey dog. Neither must the color be too dark or too deep, and it must pass into the lighter one gradually, not in sharply defined spots. An unbroken dark red or ash-grey color, even with lighter shadings on the edges, is objected to;



**ZCYCLON OF PERCHINA**

**Imported by the Valley Farm Kennels**

**A brown brindle in color of most distinctive ancient type**



**A TYPICAL ANCIENT TYPE**  
A sound grey borzoi from Perchina

but the same dog can have yellow and grey mixed in its coat.

In respect to special features of all the different varieties of the Russian Psovoy Borzoi, the authorities do not differ very much; and if occasionally some one defends some particular deviation, it is mainly owing to private reasons; and though his dogs may be of pure blood and breed, still their deviation from the established type cannot be approved. For instance, the ribs of the Russian Psovoy Borzoi are not barrel-shaped, as those of the Caucasian and Crimean dogs; they are longer and extend farther down; and the hips are never so large as those of the Caucasian and English dogs.

It seems sure that all breeds of Russian Borzoi came from one common root, namely, from the crossing of the Asiatic or Eastern Borzoi, which penetrated into Russia some hundreds of years ago, with the Northern wolflike dogs, or even perhaps with the wolf itself. This is proved by the ears and by the long hair on the neck. The Courland Borzoi seems also to have added its blood to the breed and given to it the long, curly hair.

## LETTER II

No less an authority than Mr. Artem Balderoff, of Woronzova, in the Province of Tamoff, in describing the olden-time hunting in Russia, has told me that hunting there was formerly managed on a most magnificent scale; the details of which I will give you later. Mr. Balderoff advances the theory that the several breeds of longhounds have in their origin little or no connection. For example, he believes that the Psovoy Borzoi of Russia — that is, the long-haired Russian sight-hound — developed by a process of evolution — swiftness being desired — from the long-coated, smooth-faced bearhound of early Russia, an animal similar to the modern *laika*, but larger; and that the rough-coated longhound of the modern Scotch deerhound type, with its rough coat extending to the face, had an entirely different origin — possibly, in this latter case, from some dog not dissimilar to the old English sheepdog, an earlier type of which may be seen in its relative, the modern *outchar*, or South Russian sheepdog.



M. AND MME. ARTEM BALDEROFF OF WORONZOVA



A GOLD MEDAL WOLF TEAM FROM WORONZOVA

Note hunting horn, tunic and cap



## OBSERVATIONS ON BORZOI 19

The Crimean greyhound has pendent ears, which would seem to denote an entirely different origin from the English greyhound. Whatever may have been the exact origin of the Russian Borzoi, the ancient type of this hound has little except speed lines which would make it show any blood relationship to the other breeds, and the subdivisions or variations differ but little one from the other. To summarize, hounds of this ancient type, which existed in all purity in Russia previous to the beginning of the nineteenth century, had little or no stop to the skull, tremendous depth of chest, were rather flat-sided, and had great length of tail, the hair of which in frequent instances trailed on the ground. The coat was long and silky.

In a word, this "ancient type" hound had a character entirely its own, and, so far as appears, there was great uniformity among the hounds that were kept in vast numbers by the nobles. Apparently from the earliest times every color from pure black to pure white was acceptable.

The first mention of dogs that catch hare seems to have been made in 1260, in connection with the court of the Grand Duke of Nov-

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gorod, at the time of the Grand Duke Vasili of Moscow, father of John the Terrible, first Czar of Russia, when the then German Ambassador writes of hunting-dogs, in his reports. In 1650 comes the first written description or standard for Borzoi, in which long, not too curly coats seem to be fashionable. In the eighteenth century hounds with curly coats were highly regarded.

Only about seventy-five different names were commonly used for Borzoi; but in pedigrees the owners' names were put with them, thus avoiding confusion. Common names, which have been handed down for hundreds of years, are: —

Charadei	—	magician.
Blistai	—	brilliant.
Sverkai	—	flashing.
Nadmen	—	proud.
Lubim	—	beloved.
Atmen	—	“one among many.”
Almaz	—	diamond.
Lebid	—	swan.
Aspor	—	the winner of a dispute.
Atamen	—	chief of Cossacks.
Rasboi	—	brigand.
Tiran	—	tyrant.
Naian	—	troublesome for beasts.

- Malodietz — brickbat.  
 Oudaloi — brickbat.  
 Oudar — a blow, or to give a blow.  
 Kopchick — a small falcon.  
 Karatai — rapid.  
 Ardagan — favorite falcon of John the  
                   Terrible — a Tartar name.  
 Bistri — rapid.  
 Krilatka — white falcon.  
 Krilat — winged.  
 Zorka — dawn.  
 Lada — bride.  
 Chara — enchantment.  
 Tiranka — female tyrant.  
 Lihodka — fier.  
 Grozan — tempest.  
 Zanoza — sweetheart.  
 Sorva — impulsive.  
 Seiga — a doe.  
 Strela — arrow.  
 Colchan — quiver.  
 Nalivka — wine.  
 Milka — darling.  
 Krassai — handsome.  
 Brassai — as rapid as a dart.  
 Tersai — tearer to pieces.  
 Pilai — hot-headed.  
 Lebed — swan.  
 Lebediska — female swan.  
 Saiga — antelope.  
 Kassatka — swallow.

Kolpic	—	white	falcon.
Kolpitsa	—	“	“ (Fem.)
Kroglic	—	“	“
Berkiet	—	“	“
Orlick	—	eagle.	
Krechit	—	falcon.	

It appears that every Russian nobleman of any importance had his “hunt,” and conducted the same with as much seriousness as did his *confrères* of western Europe and England in the time of the Normans. There were kennels, kennel-men, horses and horsemen — the hunting-horses all of one color, the hunt livery all of one hue; — there were human beaters and scent-hounds finding the game, the *guanchi*, old-fashioned black-and-tan Russian hounds. There were many establishments of several hundred hounds, and one is authentically stated to have numbered a thousand.



**ANCIENT TYPE**  
(dog)



**ANCIENT TYPE**

(bitch)

### LETTER III

DOUBTLESS you will be interested in knowing how it came about that the ancient type of Borzoi at one time nearly disappeared. It happened thus: shortly after the close of the Napoleonic wars, and the subsequent revival of sporting activity in Russia, there arose a great craze for trying experiments in crossing foreign greyhounds with the ancient type Borzoi of that country. Various breeds were used; but principally English and Polish greyhounds (the latter a cousin of the English breed), and Crimean or Asiatic greyhounds with pendent ears. To such an extent was this crossing practiced that in 1861, when the serfs were emancipated and conditions in rural Russia were turned topsy-turvy, there were few hounds left in the whole country the blood of which had not been contaminated by the foreign invasion. After the "freedom," large numbers of the Russian nobility, who were paid by the Government when their land was relinquished to the former serfs, left their estates and repaired to the cities and watering-places of Europe. In many cases their

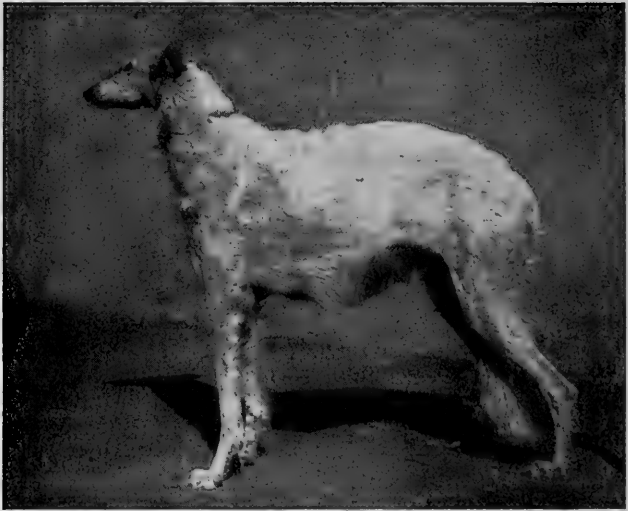
kennels were either entirely given up, or utterly ruined by the extended absence of the lord of the manor. When the noble eventually returned to his estate in after years, he was oftentimes no longer in a position to reintegrate his kennels, so that the maintenance of hounds and hunting, which had originally been a universal custom throughout Russia, remained in isolated instances only. Private ownership in small holdings also militated against the sport in some localities. The economic conditions were not dissimilar to those in the Southern States of America at the close of the Civil War. Thus it will be seen that first from the mixing of the breed, and then later from the decrease in the number of hounds, the ancient type became nearly extinct, so that when the first exportations of Borzoi were made from Russia, so far as I can ascertain, none of the real ancient type hounds ever left the country. It is even doubtful if they could have been readily found had the exporters known the difference. Very few of any kind ever went to Continental Europe. They were held at too high prices for one thing, were difficult to obtain at all, and were usually only sent out to individuals as presents.





AN ANCIENT TYPE BORZOI AND HUNTSMAN

At Woronzova, 1903



CZARINA O' VALLEY FARM

## OBSERVATIONS ON BORZOI 29

It is not precisely known who first introduced Borzoi into England; but a writer of 1878 observes, concerning British dogs, that Borzoi, or "Barzois," as he spells it, "are scarce in this country, which is to be regretted, as they are strikingly handsome."

In the early days of the Borzoi in Great Britain a few were exhibited at the Kennel Club shows, among the best of which were H. R. H. the Prince of Wales's Moeldewitz (probably a misspelling of Moloditz), from the Imperial Kennels at Gatchina, near St. Petersburg; Mr. Cumming Macdona's Sandringham, by Moeldewitz, out of Oudalscha; and Lady Emily Peel's Czar, a white with fine markings like his dam, Sandringham. Czar was by the Duke of Hamilton's Moscow, a prize-winner at the Crystal Palace in 1875.

A writer in the "Stock-Keeper" of about 1890 remarks: "The hounds which Lady Charles Innes-Ker used to exhibit were very beautiful creatures and pleasantly colored, the rich-toned orange patches making a rich contrast to the pure body white. They were, we always understood, descended from specimens in the Imperial Russian Stud, which were originally presented to Lord Cowley. Lady Emily

### 30 OBSERVATIONS ON BORZOI

Peel used also to exhibit a very grand specimen of the breed.”

From the public appearance of Krilutt, property of the Honorable Mrs. Wellesley, of Merton Abbey, Surrey, at the Alexandra Palace Show in the spring of 1889, dates the present popularity of the breed in England and America. Krilutt is described by Hugh Dalziel, the well-known writer on dogs, as the best of his day in England. This dog, imported by Colonel Wellesley, was born April 27, 1886, and was bred by Mr. Korotneff. A report of the Moscow Dog Show for 1888 describes Krilutt as the winner of a silver medal, which means that he was a fair specimen, but not good enough to deserve the gold medal, only given to hounds of premier rank. He is said to have sold for four hundred roubles. His measurements, taken from the “Stock-Keeper,” with comments, were as follows: —

	Inches
Length of head . . . . .	11½
From occiput to between shoulders . . . . .	11½
From between shoulders to between hips . . . . .	23
From between hips to set-on of tail . . . . .	6¼
Length of tail (not reckoning hair) . . . . .	21
Total length . . . . .	73¼

## OBSERVATIONS ON BORZOI 31

	Inches
Height at shoulder (taken fairly) . . . . .	30 $\frac{1}{4}$
Girth of chest . . . . .	33
Girth of narrowest part of tuck-up . . . . .	22
Girth just above the stifle-bend . . . . .	13
Girth round the stifle . . . . .	11 $\frac{1}{2}$
Girth, hock joint . . . . .	6 $\frac{1}{2}$
Girth below hock joint . . . . .	4 $\frac{1}{2}$
Girth, elbow joint . . . . .	8 $\frac{1}{4}$
Girth above elbow joint . . . . .	8 $\frac{3}{4}$
Girth, midway between elbow and pastern . . . . .	6 $\frac{1}{2}$
Girth of neck . . . . .	17
Girth of head, round occiput . . . . .	16 $\frac{1}{2}$
Girth of head between occiput and eyes . . . . .	16 $\frac{1}{4}$
Girth of head round the eyes . . . . .	13 $\frac{3}{4}$
Girth of head round the muzzle, between eyes and nose . . . . .	9

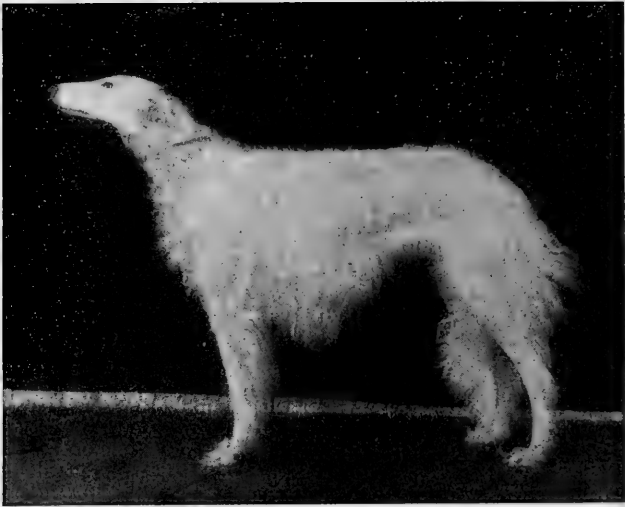
We give these details fully, because, this dog being now proved to be the handsomest of its kind in England, we think they must be not only interesting, but likewise of instructive value as a means of future comparison. Krilutt has the best feet we have seen on any of these hounds: they are more hare- than cat-footed. He is a little short in tail, and his head could be somewhat leaner. The name Krilutt is the Russian "winged" — in the sense that Mercury has wings; hence it means "fast in the

wind." After the advent of Krilutt and the exhibition of a few specimens in the mixed classes for foreign dogs, the popularity of this breed soon spread so that as many as forty individuals were exhibited, the principal breeders and exhibitors being the Duchess of Newcastle, Colonel the Honorable Charles Wellesley, Mrs. Alfred Morrison, Mr. W. H. Huntington, Mr. Kenneth Muir, and Mr. Freeman-Lloyd. The Duchess of Newcastle became the largest importer, going as far as St. Petersburg on one occasion herself, and sending agents.

In 1891, the agent of her Grace, Mr. Musgrave, sent out, I believe, from St. Petersburg a shipment of no less than nine at one time. Of all the shipments made, there appears to have been not one really good "ancient type" hound, and in few cases did the importers have the slightest idea of what the pedigrees of their hounds meant — that is, they had no knowledge of the type of the progenitors of their purchases. However, it is from an old picture of Mr. Musgrave's that I first obtained an idea that the "ancient type" ever had existed. Mr. Musgrave had found this picture in Russia, although I do not suppose he, or any other foreign fancier, ever saw a hound to approach the



**CHAMPION BISTRI OF PERCHINA**  
The most famous borzoi of two continents



**CHAMPION SORVA OF WORONZOVA**

**Note ancient type borzoi characteristics, depth of brisket, length of coat,  
lack of stop to skull**



dog depicted until I visited the grand kennels at Perchina many years afterwards — which visit I shall describe to you later on.

Several of the early imported hounds came from the Imperial Kennels at Gatchina, near St. Petersburg, which were full of greyhound blood and showed it in short tails, distinct stops to the skull, and short coats in some instances, while others came from sources no less free from the greyhound cross. No less an authority than Mr. Artem Balderoff, who knows almost by heart the breeding of every dog in Russia, is the source of my information, which verifies thoroughly the distinction between ancient type (Gustopsovoy Borzoi) and modern type (Christopsovoy Borzoi), mentioned in the "Hunter's Calendar" already referred to in this letter.

So far as is known, the first Borzoi which came to America was brought out from England by Mr. William Wade, of Hulton, Pennsylvania. In 1889 or 1890 he imported a bitch called Elsie, having purchased her from Mr. Freeman-Lloyd, who afterward became well known as a judge in America. Elsie is described in the "English Stock-Keeper" as "nothing to look at, being small, light, and

weedy, no bone, back straight, very curly tail and too bent in the stifles.”

Late in 1889 or early in 1890, Paul H. Hacke, Esq., of Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, through his friend, Dr. J. B. Grimes, of Pittsburg, began a long correspondence with Mr. A. J. Rousseau, an Englishman residing in St. Petersburg. This correspondence resulted in the purchase by Mr. Hacke of numerous Borzoi, a number of which died in transit. Perhaps the best known of the collection was Zloeem, bred by Prince G. B. Galitzine, who, if I am not mistaken, was at that time in charge of the Imperial Kennels at Gatchina.

Mr. H. W. Huntington, Secretary of the National Greyhound Club, about this time imported a number from England, including the tan-and-white dog, Argoss; and about the same time C. Stedman Hanks, Esq., of Boston, visited St. Petersburg personally, and, assisted by the then Lieutenant H. T. Allen, Military Attaché to the American Legation, purchased and sent out a number of hounds to his Seacroft Kennels at Manchester, Massachusetts, including Leekhoi, Groubian, Raskeda, Svodka, Obruga, Kingal, and Flodeyka. Mr. Hanks appears to be the only extensive American im-

porter of these hounds who ever personally visited Russia until my own visit in 1903.

From time to time importations were made from England, but after the first few years nothing of importance was brought out from Russia until 1903, except several importations of nice-looking hounds by Mr. Edward L. Krauss, of Slatington, Pennsylvania. His source of supply was German, and these hounds had good heads and good coats, but had evidently been kennel-raised for many generations, and seemed to show it in disposition and lack of stamina. Many of them were very weedy, although pretty to look at. To Continental Europe there were apparently never any important exportations from Russia, although naturally, individual dogs were sent out from time to time. In 1903-04 I found nothing there of interest. Although several large kennels existed in France, Belgium, and Holland, the hounds lacked class and uniformity of type; and all showed the need of work in the hunting-field. Many of these hounds were of English breeding.

Hardly had the several lots of importations referred to reached America than a most ridiculous squabble arose over the name of the breed,

## 38 OBSERVATIONS ON BORZOI

and the proper type of dog, its color, uses, and abilities. There were columns upon columns of argument in the sporting papers of the day, mostly written by those who had no knowledge, except second-hand knowledge, of what they were writing about, and judges decided one way in one show and another way in another — judges who had never seen a Borzoi six months before. Because the breed came from Russia and because at times wolves were coursed there, competitions in wolf-coursing were held, which were, naturally, farcical, for it is quite uncertain that any of the dogs which competed were trained wolfhounds, and in all probability they were not in condition. Incidentally, they were supposed to kill their wolf, a thing which is never demanded in Russia, and which very few dogs of any breed could do.

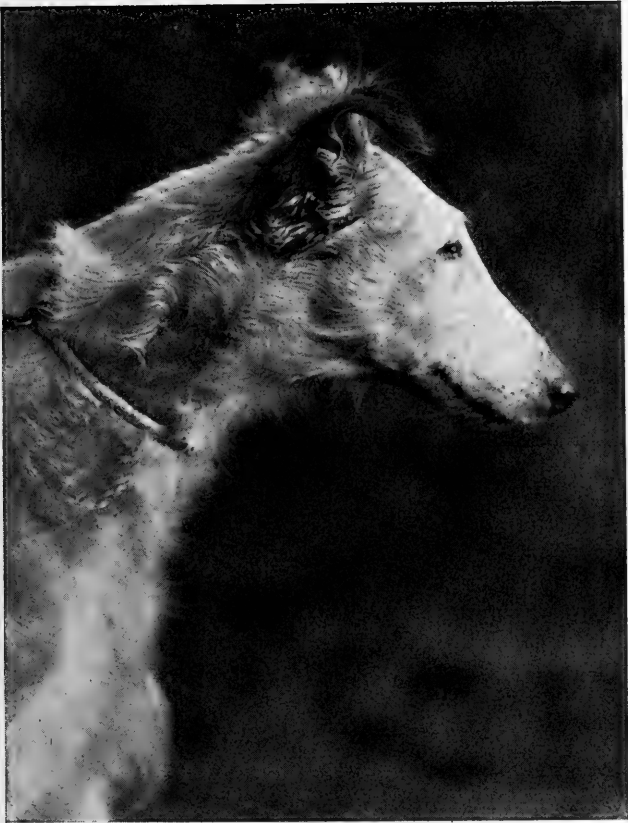
## LETTER IV

I THINK I have shown you that when, fifteen to thirty years ago, Borzoi were being sent out from Russia, although there were then very few specimens of the ancient type in existence, there was a distinct idea in the mind of the Russian as to what that type had been; for not only was this idea depicted by drawings, but written standards were made which called, in most exact terms, for the salient characteristics of the ancient type. For example, L. P. Sabaneyef, of Moscow, writing in 1892, although recognizing that the breed had changed somewhat, calls for a standard requiring length of coat, length of tail, and shape of head, such as were not to be found in the animals that had left Russia. Although some of the exportations were fairly good specimens individually, on account of their mixed blood it was quite impossible to find them breeding true. In England and America the lack of dogs approaching this ideal standard had caused much controversy as to what type to breed.

After having bred such Borzoi as I could ob-

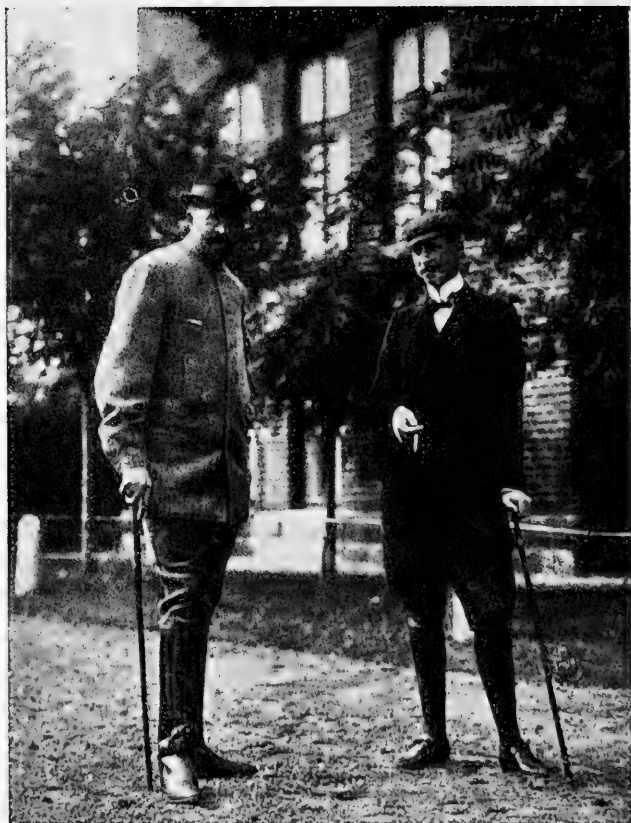
## 40 OBSERVATIONS ON BORZOI

tain in America for a number of years, and having read everything I could find on the subject, I came to the conclusion that in America there were no hounds that fulfilled the requirements of the Russian standard, nor even the requirements of the English standard, which as a matter of fact was practically a copy of the Russian. I was, moreover, decidedly nonplussed by the repeated failure of the breed to reproduce itself with any kind of regularity. Of course at this time I was unaware of the crossings which had been perpetrated. Finally I became so much perplexed in regard to this matter that in July, 1903, I went to England to inspect the several kennels there, of which I had heard so much. After weeks spent in visiting every prominent breeder in England, I was convinced that England was little, if any, better off than the United States. The then principal kennel was most notable for the size and coarseness of its dogs, which characteristic, together with the fact that many of them were very unsound, made them anything but coursing types. Coarse heads, with prominent stops to the skull, were here very much in evidence. Hardly any two dogs looked alike. In the minor kennels there were a great many



CHAMPION BISTRI OF PERCHINA

An ideal ancient type head



H. I. H. THE GRAND DUKE NICHOLAS — to left  
Master of the finest coursing establishment in the world



weeds. There was no definite type to be seen, and, as a whole, the English representation lacked character. There was no definite *cachet* to the breed. There were positively no hounds that had real quality and substance combined.

Early August saw me in St. Petersburg, and here I nearly gave up the search for the ideal, of which I had seen pictures, as I have told you. On visiting the Imperial Kennels, at Gatchina, near the capital, I saw only two out of eighty grown dogs that I should have liked to possess; but what was more discouraging than this was the fact that no distinct type was visible. Some were well coated, others the contrary; some had fairly good heads, while others were absolutely poor types — not Borzoi but greyhound. The reason for the lack of type in England and America here became immediately patent, as more specimens had gone to those countries from the Imperial Kennels than from any other. Fortunately, in spite of further disappointments, I did not relinquish my quest until I had visited the kennels of Grand Duke Nicolai Nicolaiovitch, and that of Mr. and Mrs. Artem Balderoff.

My visits to these kennels came almost by accident; for Russia is a country of great dis-

tances; and accurate information on any subject, especially sporting subjects, is most difficult to obtain. The Russian sportsman is even more apt to underestimate or overestimate than is his American *confrère*, and there are fewer sources of information.

From St. Petersburg I had gone to Moscow, and visited kennels there with no success in finding what I was looking for, but what I did find was more pictures, and this encouraged me to continue my search. With great difficulty I obtained the address of the editor of a little sporting paper, and gleaned from him, after using parts of several languages, that Mr. Artem Balderoff had an excellent kennel, and he thought moreover that H. I. H. the Grand Duke Nicholas also had "some hounds."

Little did I realize at the time what my fortune was to be, for had I not seen either of these kennels, I should have been little the wiser for all my trip. I sent off a telegraphic request to be allowed to visit them, and fortunately the wires brought favorable replies; in the one case from Mr. Balderoff himself, in the other from M. Dimtry Walzoff, who is "chef du comptoir" to the Grand Duke.

My trip from Moscow brought me early on

the following morning to Tula, a town some hundreds of versts from the ancient capital. After some difficulty I obtained a troika. With a crack of the driver's knout and the tinkle of a string of bells hung at the horses' throats, as was formerly done in all posting conveyances all over Europe, the heavy carriage, similar to our victoria, rolled over the cobblestones of the town street and out along the dusty trail towards the estate of the Seigneur. For hours, we passed through a closely cultivated grain country, where the peasants were gathering the last vestiges of the crops, by methods in many instances not far removed from those employed in Egypt in the days of bondage, past flocks and herds, and droves of hobbled horses attended by barefooted boys and girls — through forest and open plain until the eye was delighted by the sight of the white walls of Monseigneur's mansion, nestled in the midst of an irregular hamlet of peasants' *izbas*.

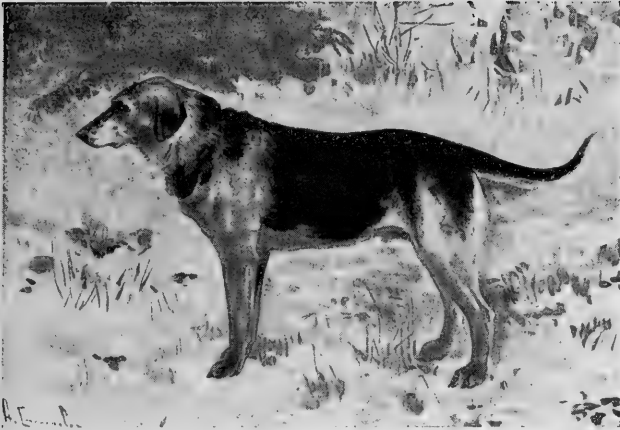
I was met by M. Walzoff himself, that excellent sportsman and breeder, and by Captain Golovin, the resident manager of the kennels, and was most hospitably entertained. The hunting-lodge, built many years ago by an Italian architect, as were many of the Russian

country estates, looks over a broad expanse of prairie dotted with coverts. The magnificent kennels lie on the two slopes of a valley to the left. Nearly every room in the lodge is hung with hunting-trophies killed by the Grand Duke, and rigorously "protected" by his clown, a dwarf about three feet six inches tall, bearing on his thumb the Seigneur's signet ring, a curious relic of mediæval custom.

I was not at all prepared for what I saw in these wonderful kennels. The size and evenness in type of the hounds were wonderful for any breed. Originally they were all white and grey; but have now bred white and tan, tan and black, all grey, and even black and pure white. The black ones are not kept.

*Facies non omnibus una,  
Nec diversa tamen, qualem decet esse sororum.*

At first it was nearly impossible for me to comprehend how these dogs could be so good, displaying everything that the ideal pictures had called for. Eventually I ascertained that about twenty-seven years ago the Grand Duke Nicholas had started the kennel, and later had placed it in charge of M. Walzoff, who had had his own hunt at one time. With every resource at his command, M. Walzoff got together at



THE RUSSIAN TRAIL HOUND OR GUANCHI



WORONZOVA AND ITS OWNER

first comparatively few specimens of real ancient type hounds, finding them in remote corners of Russia. Having a complete knowledge of their blood lines, he was able, by intelligent action, by never selling any, and by the severest process of selection, to produce the wonderful collection as it exists to-day. It has been a great feat of breeding, for in some instances results were only brought about by indirect methods, such as outcrossing.

I explained to M. Walzoff the difficulties that Borzoi fanciers outside of Russia were experiencing, and he was good enough to promise that, if possible, I might have some of the animals from Perchina, which promise was eventually carried out not only in 1903 but in 1904, when I for the second time visited Perchina. Again in 1911 I secured two dog hounds.

After being so immensely surprised at what was shown me here, although nobody, not even Russians, seemed to be aware of what was to be seen, I hardly knew what to expect at Woronzova, where I arrived after many hours of railway travel, and versts upon versts in a troika, in a driving rain through seas of mud. Glad, indeed, was I to drive through the pack of yelping peasants' dogs in the village of

Woronzova, and to enter the great hall of the lord of the manor, product of another Italian architect more than a hundred years ago.

No more hospitable welcome or more charming visit could have fallen to the lot of any one in any country, and I shall never forget how nearly impossible it was to tear myself away after a week's stay. Here also I obtained some hounds, but better than all, — in excellent English and the most perfect French, — a complete explanation concerning Borzoi history and breeding from that keen and extraordinarily well-informed fancier, the master of this domain of ten thousand hectares. One's first thought is, why have not English and American breeders secured specimens of these dogs, and why has not more been heard of them? There are three sufficing reasons answering this query. Primarily, these wonderful kennels are very remote from the ordinary traveled route; secondly, owing to the English dog quarantine laws, very few Borzoi have in recent years left Russia; and, thirdly, years ago when exportations did take place, this type was unobtainable. So far as I could ascertain, no foreign Borzoi fancier, up to the time of my trip, had ever visited either of these kennels.





CHAMPION BISTRI OF PERCHINA AT EIGHTEEN MONTHS  
AND HIS KENNEL HUNTSMAN



ALMAZ  
Sire of Champion Bistri

## LETTER V

IN the world of sport in America there are but few pastimes which date back scores of years, and unfortunately there is little tradition of custom extant to make them interesting. Russian hunting, on the contrary, has been handed down from the nomad days of the peoples whose blood now flows in the Slav race, and the procedure has come with it. In France almost identical methods were employed in wolf hunting previous to the revolution. Falconry in connection with coursing no longer exists except among the Tartar tribes east of the Volga, where in wolf-coursing Asiatic greyhounds are assisted by eagles used as falcons.

It must not be thought that modern hunting in Russia is pursued as it was in its palmy days, but through central Russia south of Moscow, in remote sections, it is still continued with much of the grandeur of years ago. I have seen it mentioned that a M. Kalmoutsky expended in one year over forty-two thousand roubles in an effort to make his hunt the finest in all Russia; but in coursing as in other hunting it takes

many years and much treasure to bring about the best results. In 1904 I hunted with the wonderful hunt of H.I.H. the Grand Duke Nicholas. On his enormous estate of Perchina, the hare, the fox, and the wolf are preserved with the greatest care. The three hundred Borzoi and the hundred couples of foxhounds are kept in the most perfect manner, trained and fitted for their work with the discipline and individual attention practiced in a racing-stable. Great care is taken concerning the livery, and even the color of the horses must be uniform. In the hunt of the Grand Duke Nicholas they are all roans. In another hunt I was informed they were all piebalds and skewbalds.

The Borzoi of the Grand Duke are exclusively the ancient type hounds, while the foxhounds, or more properly scent-hounds, are English foxhounds, although in some kennels the old-fashioned Russian black-and-tan scent-hound, or *guanchi*, is still used.

There are two distinct methods of hunting: one, called field hunting, where the huntsmen, mounted on ponies, proceed in a long skirmish line across the open, fenceless country, slipping their hounds on whatever jumps up. They advance at a walk or slow trot, in a half-moon-



MEET OF THE BORZOI OF THE GRAND DUKE NICHOLAS  
NEAR PERCHINA

M. Artem Waltzoff mounted on left; Captain Golovin standing  
Photo. by the author



**THE BORZOI OF THE GRAND DUKE NICHOLAS OFF FOR MORNING  
EXERCISE**

**Passing the village church at Perchina  
Photo. by the author**

shape skirmish line, about two hundred yards apart.

Another distinctly different method is that of stationing on all sides of a covert mounted huntsmen with Borzoi in slips. If wolves are likely to be found, two dogs and a bitch make "the team." Hare and foxes are more often coursed than wolves; but in each case three different methods are employed to drive the game from covert. It must be understood that the country is quite without fences or ditches, with only here and there small groves of a few acres in extent. The whereabouts of game is usually reported by the herdsmen.

In the early morning may be seen, wending its way along the trail-like roads of the district, a long line of mounted hunters, each holding in his left hand a leash of three magnificent Borzoi, two dogs and a bitch as nearly matched in color and conformation as possible, and followed by the pack of Anglo-Russian foxhounds, with the huntsmen and whips in red tunics. On arriving at the scene of the chase, the hunters are stationed by the master of the hunt at intervals of a hundred yards or so until the entire grove is surrounded by a long cordon of hounds and riders. A signal note is heard

on a hunting-horn, and with the mingled music of the trail hounds, shouts of men, and the cracking of whips, the foxhound pack is urged into the grove in pursuit of the hidden game. The scene is certainly a mediæval one. The hunters, dressed in typical Russian costumes, with fur-trimmed hats, booted and spurred, and equipped with hunting-horn, whip, and dagger, and mounted on padded Cossack saddles high above the backs of their hardy Kirghiz ponies, holding on straining leash their long-coated, exceedingly beautiful animals, make a picture that once seen is not easily forgotten. But hark! — the sound of hound voices is changed to a sudden sharp yapping of the pack in “full cry,” and simultaneously there springs from the covert a dark grey form bent upon reaching the next woods, some hundreds of yards away. In an instant he is well in the open, and sees, only too late, that he has approached within striking distance of the nearest leash of Borzoi. With a cry of “Ou-la-lou,” and setting his horse at a gallop, the hunter slips his hounds when they view the game, to sight which they oftentimes jump five or six feet in the air. There is a rush, — a spring, — and with a yelp the foremost hound





**RUSSIAN WOLF HUNTING**

**The methods are almost identical to those in vogue in France  
before the Revolution**



RUSSIAN HARE COURSING

is sent rolling; but instantly is back to the attack, which continues — a confused mass of white and grey, swiftly leaping forms and snapping fangs — until a neck-hold is secured by the pursuing Borzoi, who do their best to hold the wolf prostrate. Then, in a most spirited dash, the hunter literally throws himself from the saddle of his hunting-pony on to the prostrate wolf. Formerly a deftly wielded knife assisted in avoiding any further trouble for the dogs; but of late years it has become better form to take the wolf alive. A short stick, with a thong at each end, being held in front of the wolf, he seizes it, and the hunter, with instant dexterity, ties the thong behind the brute's neck. Reynard and the hare are captured in the same manner by the dogs, but in that case a toss in the air is usually sufficient.

In winter, when snow covers the ground and it is reported there has been seen, in any particular locality, a family of wolves, the Borzoi are often taken on a low sled, arranged with a blanket screen, to a position near the runway which the wolves are likely to use in passing from one covert to another. Foxhounds, or beaters, are sent into the grove, and the wolf is driven forth; and when well in the open, the

blanket screen on the sled is drawn aside and the almost deathlike silence of the snowy waste is disturbed by the wild rush of dashing bodies and flying snow.

An amusing anecdote is recorded by one of the best-known hunters in Russia, of how a few years ago he had slipped his hounds on a great grey wolf that had a good start down a roadway leading to a neighboring estate. It happened that the owner was out strolling with a lady of his household on the very roadway by which the wolf was attempting to make his escape. *Noblesse oblige* was quite forgotten. The Prince, for such he was, on seeing the wild onrush of the wolf, hounds, and leaping horses, threw himself headlong into the snow-bank at one side of the road, while his companion leaped unattended into a snow-filled ditch on the other. Past dashed the hunt, the hunters more hilarious than polite in their mirth, for all that could be seen of his lordship were his legs kicking violently in the snow. On fled the quarry; entering the driveway of the mansion, he leaped the barrier of the garden, and, in his wild search for shelter, crashed through the long French windows of the library, followed pell-mell by the Borzoi.



**AT PERCHINA**

A beautiful sound coursing type of tan and white borzoi — with  
kennel huntsman



METHOD OF USING THE RUSSIAN LEASH

It must not be thought that Borzoi need no training to become wolf-catchers; the fact is there are few of them that are good at this most difficult game, and even these must be most carefully trained, as are gun-dogs, fox-hounds, beagles, and sheepdogs. All this is very carefully carried out in Russia, live wolves being kept at the kennels for the purpose of training young hounds, which are taught to pin the wolf by a hold back of the ear, by running them in company with older animals on muzzled wolves.

Mr. James Primrose, writing recently in the "World-Wide Magazine," describes in most graphic language a hunt in which he took part near Nijni-Novgorod, as follows:—

At last we reached the forest, and took up our position in a clearing, where we waited. Suddenly the silence was pierced by a dismal howl, suggestive of the commingling of the lament of a dying dog with the wailing of an Irish banshee. It needed the solemn assurance of the host himself to persuade me that this was the voice of the master of the hunt, who, having kept it up for a few minutes, paused for a reply, which never came.

After a few more howls we were forced to return home disappointed, determined to set out next day for the forest near Kytsckenova, where we knew wolves to be. This meant that we should be away from home for two

days, and I was told to be prepared to rough it. An uneventful journey brought us to the parish adjoining the wood, where the head huntsman hired a number of peasants to act as beaters, for the sum of fifteen kopecks (fivepence) a day. They also assisted our men in pitching camp and cooking our food, and such-like work.

A slight clearing in the forest was selected by my host as the scene of the hunt, and to this spot we repaired soon after daylight. The ground was several feet deep in untrodden snow, the pine trees on either side making quite a picturesque dark background. Those in charge of the dogs took up their positions on the fringe of the forest, while those on horseback were stationed farther back among the trees. The beaters were far behind these latter, armed with long sticks or poles. Strictly speaking, we could have dispensed with their services, but they were deemed desirable in order to prevent the wolves from escaping to another wood which was inconveniently near.

The wolves had already replied to the huntsman's howls, and all was excitement. Being anxious to watch every movement, I dismounted from my horse and went over to the spot where my friend was holding his dogs in leash. He had a long dagger hanging by his side and carried a coil of rope. Very soon a wolf cantered by towards him, evidently quite unaware of the presence of the sportsman, who was stationed behind a large pine tree. Just after he dashed past Mr. S——, that gentleman set up a full-toned "Loo! Loo! Loo!" at the same time letting slip his dogs, who sprang eagerly forward, making tremendous bounds after the wolf. The





A WILDCAT TREED



A COSSACK HUNTER AND HIS HOUND

hounds were gaining upon the quarry every moment, and before it had gained a hundred yards Dagonyai ("Catchup") overtook it, making an attempt to seize it by the neck, but the wolf, with a sudden snap and a savage snarl, repulsed him. What Dagonyai now attempted to do was to retard the quarry's progress until one of his companions arrived. In the case of a full-grown wolf a simultaneous attack by the dogs is virtually necessary, which the animal, by snapping now to the right, now to the left, endeavors to frustrate. At last, just as Oregar came up, Dagonyai screwed up his courage to the sticking-point, seized the wolf by the neck, and both rolled over in the snow. A moment later the other dogs were upon the scene, worrying the quarry and preventing its escape.

Mr. S——, who had been following close all the while on his speedy Turcoman steed, flung himself out of the saddle like a professional circus-rider and threw himself bodily on the wolf, seizing it with his left hand by the neck, while with the right hand he quickly and deftly began to bind the animal with a stout cord. With lightning speed a slip-knot was passed over the hind legs, the rope passing around the body and then around the fore paws. With a mighty heave the wolf was next thrown upon his back, and a piece of wood forced into its jaws, which the infuriated creature was not slow to grip. But in that instant the rope had passed over its projecting ends, and in this way the wolf was securely bound, looking for all the world like a trussed fowl, unable to move, bite, or scratch, though otherwise uninjured.

The operation was hardly over before the beaters ap-

peared with a sleigh, upon which the wolf was placed and driven away. The carriage had not gone many yards before a second wolf was seen scampering across the open. The head huntsman was ready, and at once slipped his dogs. This was a young wolf and was easily overtaken and secured. At the end of the hunt four wolves had been secured, but it was known that, despite the beaters, three had escaped to the adjoining wood.

As an illustration of the estimation in which the fighting qualities of the wolf are held by Russian sportsmen, I will note another authority, Mr. F. Lowe. He writes: —

Recently a very big wolf, that had been captured with much difficulty, was matched against any two hounds in Russia. The challenge was accepted, and the wolf placed in a huge box in an open space. The moment the trap was pulled, the wolf stood and faced the spectators; on the hounds being slipped on him he attacked them; but they avoided his rush, and pinned him so cleverly that the wolf was muzzled and carried off without the least difficulty: whereupon an enormous price was paid for one of the hounds.

## LETTER VI

COURSING under natural conditions has never been possible in eastern America for the reason that there is no game to course, but as one crosses the Mississippi River and comes into the country of the jack-rabbit and coyote there is plenty of sport to be found, and in many localities there are held from time to time regular coursing meetings in the same manner as are held the formal field-trials with beagles, setters, and foxhounds. In America, so far as I know, these coursing meetings are always held with English greyhounds, and the game coursed is the jack-rabbit, which corresponds to the European hare; but there is no reason why exactly as much sport cannot be derived from coursing jack-rabbits with Borzoi, or, for that matter, with deerhounds. There is little difference in speed between any of them, excepting that, on account of lesser size, the greyhound is usually quicker at turning; but even this is largely a matter of selection in the individual.

There is no more exciting or interesting sport

than watching a pair of hounds course a good, strong jack, as the game has better than an even chance of getting away, and usually starts out apparently thinking he is going to do so, sometimes facetiously showing off by running on three legs. One can witness at this game marvelous sights in facility and beauty of action — sights that would make the most wonderful dancer in the world envious.

It is nearly impossible, if not quite so, for a single hound to catch a jack-rabbit, except by accident, but when a couple of hounds are slipped, one will generally turn the rabbit toward the other. There are hounds found occasionally that are cunning to the extent that they are disqualified in course meetings. They are known as “turnits,” in that they will never run directly after the rabbit, but will take a chance of cutting away at a good angle from one side or the other from the direction taken by their companion, and when the rabbit turns, as he always will, sooner or later, they are right in his track to seize him, provided he turns their way; otherwise they are fooled for that occasion at least. No one can account for how certain hounds will learn this trick, and it is quite impossible to break them of it; it



A WESTERN WOLFER AND HIS BORZOI



A MIXED PACK IN WESTERN AMERICA  
AND THEIR TROPHIES



may be very interesting psychologically, but it is not sport.

Almost anything in the way of a longhound is more or less capable of coursing jack-rabbits, but there are few longhounds of any breed that make good animals for coyote- or wolf-coursing. In any event, the American conditions of hunting are most severe on the hound, because he usually has a tremendously long run to overtake this quarry, who almost invariably has a good head start, and is at best a very swift animal.

In the same way that there are but few foxhounds, out of many raised each year, that are retained in a smart pack, so there are but few longhounds of any breed that make what can be designated as leaders — that is, animals with sufficient strength, nerve, and dash to first catch what they are after, and then tackle it single-handed or supported by other hounds.

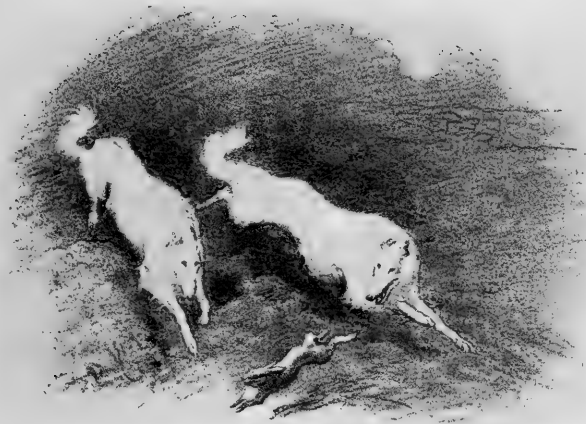
As I have already written, wolf-coursing in Russia is not the difficult game that it is in America. There, owing to the nature of the country and the methods of hunting, the runs are comparatively short; but even so, great care is used in training the hounds, live wolves being kept at the kennels muzzled, and the

young hounds set on them to encourage them to take hold. Even when trained, they are not expected to kill a wolf, but simply to hold it until a rider comes up.

Easy the lesson of the youthful train,  
When instinct prompts, and when example guides.

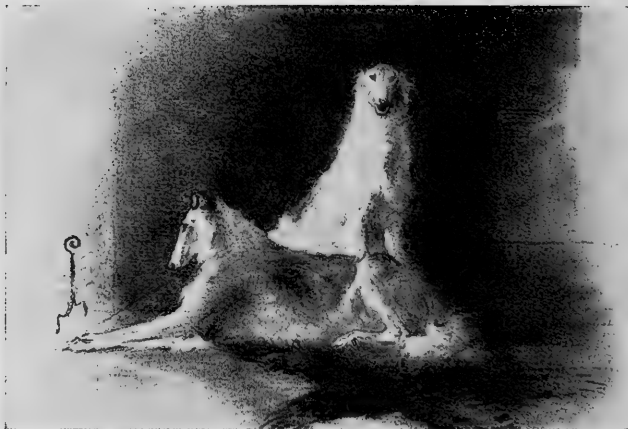
In America this careful schooling is not practiced; and for coyote-coursing it becomes simply a question of the survival of the fittest of the hounds. Almost any hound will course a jack-rabbit, and no method of human teaching can improve their cunning; it is entirely a matter of practice and condition, which latter naturally depends upon the skill of the handler. Condition requires careful attention in the matter of feeding and systematic exercise for the hounds. Nothing is so good in schooling as to have a young hound run from puppyhood with other skilled animals.

Too much stress cannot be laid on the matter of condition, for this is frequently overlooked. It takes months to get the ordinary kennel-kept hound, even the one which is more or less regularly exercised, in hard condition for coursing under the difficulties common to the West; and I do not believe that any hound that has not been worked in puppyhood can



IN THE FIELD

Sketched from life by Louis Feuchter, 1910



**IN THE HOUSE BORZOI ARE IDEAL, BEING UNUSUALLY QUIET  
AND CLEANLY**

**Sketched from life by Louis Feuchter, 1910**

possibly acquire, after he has reached the age of one or two years, sufficient staying power and love of the game ever to become really good. Of course, all excellent specimens of "lead hounds" are the survival of the fittest. There are many that are willing to follow, but few that are fitted to lead. There are not many hounds of any breed that will tackle a coyote or wolf without proper training; and without experience, it can be said that it is impossible for any hound even to catch a coyote. Most Western wolf-hunters have packs of hounds, picked up here and there, that are kept merely because of their performances, regardless of their breeding, shape, or color. These hounds, which run loose the year round, traveling at times sixty to seventy miles a day, are of all sorts of coursing blood, greyhound, deerhound, and Borzoi. The conditions of coursing wolves or coyotes are most difficult. In places the country is very rough, and the coyote generally gets a long start, sometimes more than half a mile. He is surprisingly swift, so that it takes a good hound to catch him. He is also a surprisingly good fighter, so that it is asking a good deal of any animal in coming, winded, upon a coyote to tackle it.

It would be a difficult matter to prove what breed of coursing-hounds, *as a breed*, is most suitable for American conditions, the matter of practice in any environment being of such vast importance.

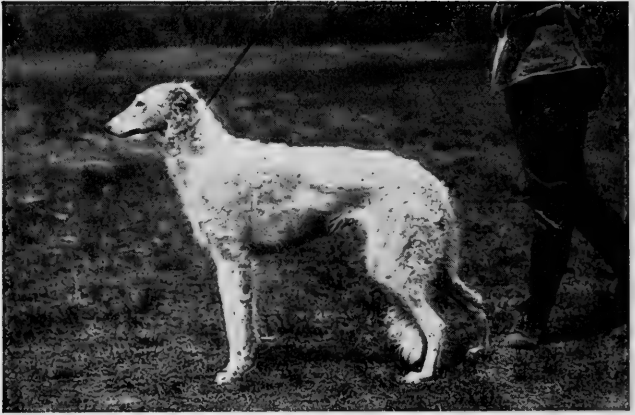
In the West it is most essential that hounds be trained, by practice, to spot moving objects on the horizon at great distances, and, at a signal from the rider, to go forward at top speed in any direction he may indicate. It has been suggested that, for certain purposes, the Russian leash and collar would be adaptable for America, and in some instances it is now being used, especially to restrain hounds from coursing jacks when coyotes are being hunted.

The practice of coursing first came about many years ago with greyhounds and deer-hounds. A writer in "Forest and Stream" mentions the early conditions in wolf-coursing on the plains, and I must especially call your attention to what he says concerning his experience in attempting to course hounds not entered to the game in puppyhood. He describes conditions not dissimilar to those obtaining in certain portions of the West at the present time: —



**THE HOUND WAGON OF MR. WILLIAM SPAETH**  
(of Gillette, Wyoming)

A method of hunting in Western America which often surprises the unsuspecting coyote who usually likes to follow a wagon



NAYADA O' VALLEY FARM

At Fort Riley, Kansas, 1912

A sound type of coursing bitch



## OBSERVATIONS ON BORZOI 83

In winter, wolf and coyote hunting with wolf, stag, and greyhound is the chief amusement here (Alberta, Canada). Hundreds of miles are ridden over our prairies and foothills in quest of these destroyers of our flocks and herds. There are six packs of dogs within fifty miles of my ranch, nine to twelve hounds in each.

In '76 and '77 most of the buffalo left this country and drifted onto the great plains, never to return. The Sioux crossed the Missouri into the Northwest Territory after their fight with General Custer in the Little Big Horn, intercepted the buffalo and prevented them returning to their winter home. The wolves followed the buffalo in large numbers, but many remained behind to subsist on the old bulls left in the "drag." Most of these were killed by "wolfers." In '80 and '81 there were very few wolves to be found on the plains and foothills. But soon cattle, horses and sheep in thousands were driven into these then desolate plains until in '85 there were over one hundred thousand cattle, besides many thousand horses and sheep to take the place of the departed buffalo. Wolves and coyotes increased enormously. Poison apparently made little or no impression upon them.

Wolves prefer fresh meat and are quite able to kill anything they come across, seldom returning to a kill after satisfying their ravenous appetites. The cattlemen decided to procure dogs and see what effect that would have in destroying these cunning pests. A large number of dogs were imported, and with a very few exceptions were found utterly useless. They took no interest in hunting or killing wolves, as they had not been entered

— when young. I may say we had no good dogs until they were bred on the range. The method usually followed here in hunting is this: When a den of wolves is found, three or four ranchers with their dogs meet at a rendezvous and camp for the night. Before dawn horses are saddled and all are ready to start. Each one is told the line to be ridden, and at the first sign of day the riders are off seeking the wily wolf. Coyotes go unmolested, unless they jump up near the dogs, in which case it is hard to hold them back. Mr. Coyote is broken up in a very short time when the dogs run into him, but fights wicked to the end and is no mean adversary. I know of a few dogs that can catch and kill a coyote, but they do not care to repeat it often; as a rule it takes three dogs to do it, and they will not stand killing over two or three in a day. Of course a great deal depends on the length of the run and the strength and fighting qualities of the coyote. I have killed seven coyotes in a day with three greyhounds; in all cases I got in and gave the *coup de grace*. It saves your dog wonderfully and gives them courage to know help is coming, and unless one has five or six dogs they are apt to get cut when tired. When dogs run into a timber wolf, then the fun begins; with hair on end, back arched, a sweet smile showing a full set of teeth, the wolf means business, and it takes four tried dogs to turn one over and hold him until help comes. I mean four dogs that can catch him. No doubt there are two dogs that could hold a wolf, but they have not the speed to overtake him. This autumn I ran into a very large bitch wolf with eight dogs. They turned her over several times, but she broke away just as often and

ran with six dogs clinging to her and making a running fight, when a cowboy ran up and shot her. Last year I rode into a band of fourteen wolves with ten dogs and killed five, but in every instance I assisted the dogs in killing. This autumn I ran into an old dog wolf. I had six good dogs. The lead dogs (two greyhounds) ran into him and turned him over when, the other dogs coming up, they turned him over several times, seized him by the neck, breast and hind quarters and flank, and tore and worried with all their might. The wolf would break away, turning like a flash, snapping to the right and left, his teeth coming together like a fox trap. The dogs ran him down into a *coulée*; here I left my horse, it being too steep and rough for him to follow, as the edges were lined with huge projecting rocks. The dogs appeared to be having the best of the fight, and I yelled to them to go to him, but the wolf broke loose and ran to the top of the *coulée* with most of the pack holding on to him; at the top they turned him back, and dogs and wolf came on the run to the bottom of the *coulée*. I could not shoot for fear of hitting one of the dogs, as they were making side jumps to keep clear of the wolf's jaws. At last the dogs pulled him into the dry bed of a stream and as he was getting out I gave him his medicine. The dogs were quite blown. I gave them thirty minutes' rest and took them to water and killed two coyotes on my way home. These the dogs killed before I could get to them. They just held them in the air, and tore them up.

I give you the height and girth of some of my dogs, as it may be of interest to some of my brother sportsmen:

*Greyhounds* — Pedro, height,  $27\frac{1}{2}$  in., girth, 30 in.;

## 86 OBSERVATIONS ON BORZOI

Rowdy, height, 27 in., girth, 31 in.; Buz, height, 26 in., girth, 29½ in.

*Staghounds* — Poison, height, 29 in., girth, 32 in.; Parson, height, 30 in., girth, 33 in.

*Cross-bred boarhound and staghound* — Jack, height, 29½ in., girth, 33 in.

The man who has two dogs that can catch and kill a big timber wolf can make lots of money on them if he wants to gamble on it.

Lieutenant Gordon Johnston, of the United States Army Mounted Service School at Fort Riley, Kansas, vividly describes some runs during the present year with a mixed pack of young Borzoi, deerhounds, and greyhounds, belonging to the Lieutenant and the writer. Coursing at army posts is not uncommon, and was extensively carried on some years ago at Fort Riley, when Lieutenant Allen, recently back from Russia (where he had assisted Mr. Hanks, of the Seacroft Kennels, in obtaining Leekhoi and his other hounds), maintained a pack with other officers, including the present Major McDonald and Lieutenant-Colonel Treat.

Lieutenant Johnston, describing the run, says:

Within twenty yards we had up another, a strapping big one too. Samara and Domino share the honors at a



**YARKI OF PERCHINA**

**Imported by the Valley Farm Kennels, 1911  
A grey brindle dog of ancient type**



**CHAMPION RASBOI O' VALLEY FARM**

A very typical ancient type hound

terrific pace, with Nayada close up. The latter hit a small ditch and turned about six flips in the air, but I was glad to see her go at it again. This was the cutest jack I ever saw. He ran through the wings of the jump three times, and twice he sprinted straight at the solid jumps, and cut to one side as he reached it. There were some heads bumped, I can assure you. Samara led with great persistence until the wily jack started over the buttes again. This time Nayada and Samara went over. Duster broke a bone in his foot on this run. Over in the middle of the flats another old commuter got up and headed for Junction City along the main road. Nayada and Samara again took first lead, with the former showing some determination to kill, but there was nothing doing. They led to the quarter; Bess then took the lead, with Domino closing up and going strong, passing Bess at the half. She opened a wide gap by the three quarters, and at the mile had distanced the field. Also Mr. Jack had by this time reached his office and was thinking of Steel Common probably. Domino really wept at losing this one — she's a game pebble if there ever was one.

After a bit we jumped two together, Samara, Jack, and Sister took one, while Nayada, Domino, Jane, and Bess took the other. I followed Samara, who ran finely and is getting the right spirit, going at it as if she would kill or die. The jack got away, but I was glad to see her hold her pace all the way, about half a mile. Domino could not be denied, took every turn, and killed. After a blow we headed for home and stumbled on one of the best runs I have ever had in my life, about a half mile

## 90      OBSERVATIONS ON BORZOI

over perfect going at racing speed all the way. The jack had about thirty yards' start, but that keen Domino was at him again, every hound in full stride, the brindle bitch whimpering in the lead. She turned him three times in the first mile, but they were long, easy turns, and the jack evidently had confidence in himself. . . . At two miles Bess led, with Jack, Domino, and Jane close up. We were all down and out nearly. The jack and hounds were cantering and only the Longfellow blood in my horse, John Harper, kept him swinging a good stride. We had all yelled our lungs out keeping the hounds up, for they were more than ready to quit when Bess finally gave him the twist and flopped down. I never knew there could be such sport in a rabbit. We were all gasping and trying to talk at the same time. All agreed, however, that it was the greatest race ever.



## LETTER VII

You perhaps realize, as do I, that while shows and showing are often amusing and interesting, and while they tend to bring a breed before the public, they are not always advantageous to the improvement in working qualities of the breed. Theoretically, of course, judges are supposed to award prizes to animals such as the standards call for, and the standards are usually made with proper regard for the working qualities of any working breed. When a judge has a practical knowledge of such requirements, proper judgment is generally the rule. Unfortunately there are many judges who are quite ignorant of their duties, although they may even be owners and breeders. I have seen, not only in America and England, but in Continental Europe as well, quite unsound Borzoi — oftentimes with bad mouths — awarded prizes, and at almost every show hounds that are entirely too fat for any practical purposes are placed in the ribbons. In a word, the shows lay stress on purely superficial appearances; and especially in England stress

seems to be laid on points that catch the judge's eye, rather than on those that prove the efficiency of the animal as a *working animal*. Where great stress is laid on show points, such animals are liable to be bred from, whether or not their dispositions and abilities should be transmitted.

There is a great responsibility on the part of judges in showing the road to novices, because if the winners in the shows become degenerate by having lack of stamina, or because they are unsound, that type, rather than the strong, rugged type, will be bred from as a natural consequence. Superficial show qualifications should not be of exaggerated importance, but most serious attention must be given to a perfect blending of substance and quality, the two most difficult characteristics to be found in any breed of animals in the proper average.

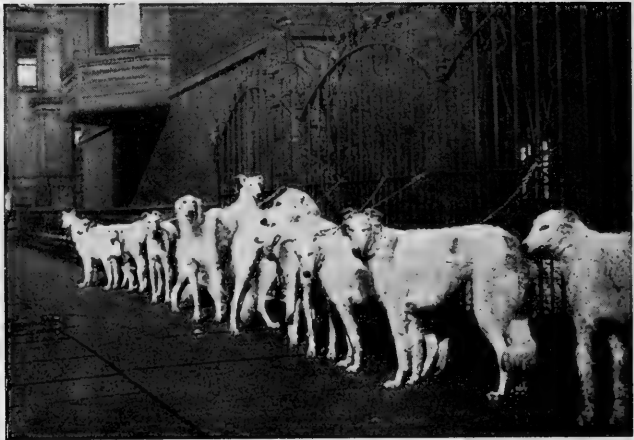
To the breeder of horses the expression, "You can't make a blood 'un out of a hairy heeled 'un," means much, for no one knows better than he the value of blood lines to bring results. No amount of effort expended in care and feeding can possibly bring success without the blood lines being correct.

In a word, pedigrees must be understood,



CHAMPION BISTRI OF PERCHINA AND SOME OTHER HOUNDS  
FROM THE VALLEY FARM KENNELS

Down Fifth Avenue to the New York Show, 1906



**PART OF THE VALLEY FARM KENNELS EXHIBIT  
OF TWENTY-FOUR BORZOI**

**Westminster Kennel Club Show, New York, 1906**

to be of any use whatsoever to the breeder. To the average American breeder of dogs of any sort, the pedigree means no more than so many words, and actually might as well be written in Russian or Chinese as in English. It is not the mere names of his dogs' ancestors that is important to the breeder, but their characteristics, mental and physical, back for generations; and, more important still, the knowledge of what combinations produced results.

The breeder of blood stock in any country where any particular breed has had its origin has, *ipso facto*, a great advantage over the breeder in the country into which the breed is imported. Inevitably, the breeder in the home country must have *some* intuitive knowledge of the breed, which has not only always been familiar to him, but the character and training of which have for centuries been adjusted to the exact requirements of the home country. The fact that acquired knowledge in this regard is inferior to what may be termed inherent knowledge, has been proven over and over again in America, where, notwithstanding the importation of the highest-class sires and dams, breeding results have often been unsatisfactory. As an example it may be cited that, in

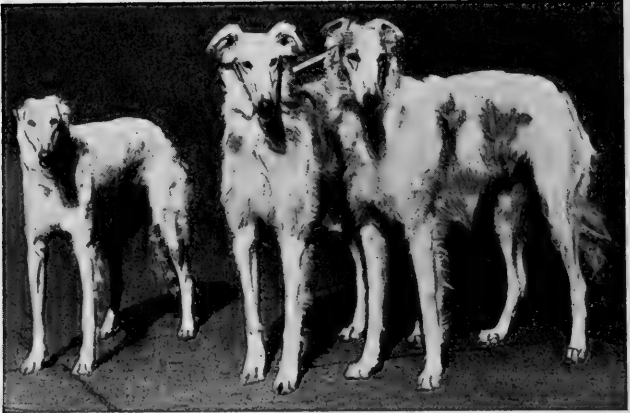
spite of purchases in England of the very highest-class show animals in hackney horses and mares, lamentably few high-class American-bred animals of this breed have been produced. Over and over again this has occurred in various breeds, and nowhere more than in the case of dogs.

The best show specimens do not necessarily, when mated, produce progeny of similar worth, and often results of such crosses are most unsatisfactory. The English mill-hand breeder of terriers, a thorough student of the game, has oftentimes produced the very best specimens, solely on account of his accurate and instinctive knowledge of blood lines, while the big breeder, with every resource at his command, frequently produces nothing worth while because of this absolute lack of ability to read the pedigrees of his dogs with comprehension of what they mean. All the foregoing remarks apply strongly in the case of Borzoi-breeding in England and America.

Huntsman! these ills by timely prudent care  
Prevent: for ev'ry longing-dame select  
Some happy paramour; to him alone  
In leagues connubial join. Consider well  
His lineage; what his fathers did of old,



THREE WEEKS



**BORZOI DOGS ARE MUCH LARGER THAN THE BITCHES**

Reading left to right

**ALASKA O' VALLEY FARM**

**CHAMPION SORVAN O' VALLEY FARM**

**CHAMPION NENAGLADNI OF PERCHINA**



## OBSERVATIONS ON BORZOI 99

Chiefs of the pack, and first to climb the rock,  
Or plunge into the deep, or thread the break  
With thorns sharp-pointed, splash'd, and briars inwoven.  
Observe with care his shape, sort, color, size.

If a breeder desires to avoid degeneracy, and to produce the best, it is most unwise to breed in the haphazard, actually stupid, manner in vogue among many in America. For example, in such hard-working breeds of many requirements as foxhounds and beagles, it is certainly nothing more than a waste of time and money to produce, raise, and train animals that from their breeding will in all probability have qualities which will make them at best only of fair merit. It should be the effort of every breeder to avoid producing from inferior specimens *at all*; and never to breed to anything but the most perfect of stud-hounds.

It is odd how often this last rule is transgressed, simply to save a few dollars, or because it is easier, or from some sentimental reason. The consequence is lack of progress. It is surprising how many intelligent people will permit worthless specimens to come into existence from ignorance and from pure lack of analysis of the situation. To mate properly, and properly to raise the puppy to beautiful,

## 100 OBSERVATIONS ON BORZOI

well-shaped, hard-running, hard-muscled maturity, is a most extraordinarily difficult thing to do, and the very first qualification is a knowledge, on the part of the breeder, of what animals should, from their blood lines and individual characteristics, be mated.

## LETTER VIII

YOUR experience in the handling of horses has taught you the absolute necessity of giving your whole personal attention to your animals, or else to employ, as your agent, the very best possible man that can be found, regardless of expense. I go so far as to advise that unless hounds, and especially Borzoi, can obtain the personal supervision of their master, or unless he can find the proper superintendent, they should not be kept at all, because I have seen so many examples of the novice, in the keeping of dogs, thinking that any one is good enough to take care of an animal. There is no more difficult task; a man must love the work and stop at no fatigue or annoyance. He must have years of experience in a thousand different particulars, and not be easily discouraged by disappointment. The best service is, of course, obtained when the master has a practical knowledge of what his servant ought to do. If it is not impossible, it may be sometimes necessary for the former to see personally that the work is being properly done. Orders given without

exact knowledge of requirements are seldom well obeyed, and where the master is either ignorant or careless, it is little to be expected that the servant will be otherwise. The personal equation is the only thing that will give success in breeding or handling.

There are divers kinds of kennels, any one of which can be useful according to circumstances. In Russia it is the practice to keep ten to fifteen hounds together in a single kennel, with benches similar to the way in which foxhounds and beagles are kept; but in a large kennel where many hounds are kept, and hounds are in preparation for showing, it is advisable to have kennels and yards where dogs or bitches may be kept individually, or where a dog and bitch may be kept together. Where hounds are kept in a pack, an attendant should always be, both night and day, within hearing; otherwise there is always the risk of one animal being set upon by the others and killed. This is true of any breed.

Before planning a kennel it would be advisable for every novice to visit several well-known establishments, and adopt the best features from each to suit his necessities. If any number of hounds are to be kept, it is always



TWO MONTHS



SCIONS OF A HUNTING RACE

## OBSERVATIONS ON BORZOI 105

advisable to have an office, with a safe for kennel records; and adjoining this, an apartment for sick dogs, and another for bitches with whelps. Such a building may be easily warmed with a small hot-water heater. Mature hounds require no heat. In every case great care should be paid to cleanliness and freedom from damp.

Banish far off

Each noisome stench, let no offensive smell

Invade thy wide inclosure, but admit

The nitrous air and purifying breeze.

Water and shade no less demand thy care.

The novice invariably seems to think that Borzoi require some different kind of food from the ordinary dog, but such is not the case; so, for his instruction, the many books containing suggestions on the subject of feeding and the care of skin and coat will be found valuable. I have found, however, that corn meal seems to cause Borzoi to shed their coats, so that its use in connection with show dogs is inadvisable. The coats of show Borzoi on the back and about the neck should be brushed forward in order to enhance the rough appearance. After shipment, especially in the case of puppies, great attention should be paid to the condition

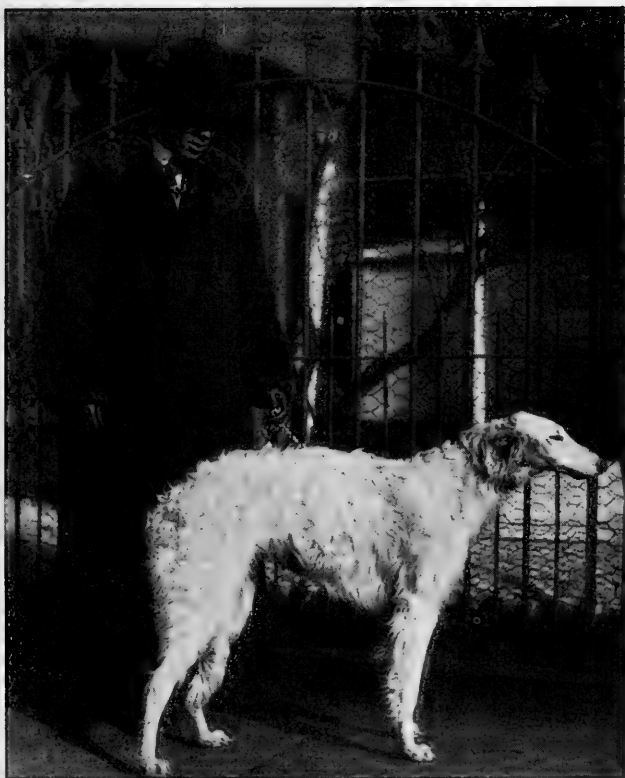
of the dog. In the case of puppies, the whole system is sometimes affected.

Any trouble with the bowels will usually disappear without the use of any special food, a tablespoonful of castor-oil is generally sufficient to check the indisposition. Puppies should be watched very closely for colds, which oftentimes quickly run into distemper. Frequently, a cold can be checked with four grains of quinine, repeated in twelve hours, with a tablespoonful of castor-oil given twelve hours later.

Young dogs may be fed bread and milk twice each day, and cooked meat at night, with a fresh bone now and then. Water should always be kept convenient. No puppy or grown dog should be fed more than he can eat with relish, and food should not be left standing about. Worms cause much sickness and always occur in young dogs of all breeds. There are many good worm medicines which should be used about once a month. The surest indication of a puppy being ill is his refusal to eat.

There is a vast similarity between the illnesses of puppies and infantile complaints; they may seem perfectly well one day and seriously ill or even quite dead the next. So true is this that one must watch with greatest care for





CHAMPION KOPCHIC O' VALLEY FARM AT ELEVEN MONTHS



CHAMPION KOPCHIC O' VALLEY FARM AND SOME OF  
HIS FRIENDS

signs of illness, such as hot noses, watery eyes, lassitude, and especially refusal of meals. Puppies have all kinds of complaints, some of which are serious and others which look serious but which actually are not. They should be treated in a natural manner, with strengthening food given them even as many as five times a day, and all the exercise possible. They should be allowed to run at liberty, and in addition should be given exercise first with a man on foot and later with a man on horseback.

A person who raises dogs must have a bit of imagination, and not be lacking in ideas to the extent that a certain M. D. once was who wrote to my kennel superintendent inquiring a proper remedy for a puppy of his, ill of some small complaint quite common in children.

If one imagines the condition under which the young fox or the young wolf is raised and acts accordingly, — not forgetting, however, that the puppy needs his meals more regularly than the wild animals need theirs, — his success will be assured.

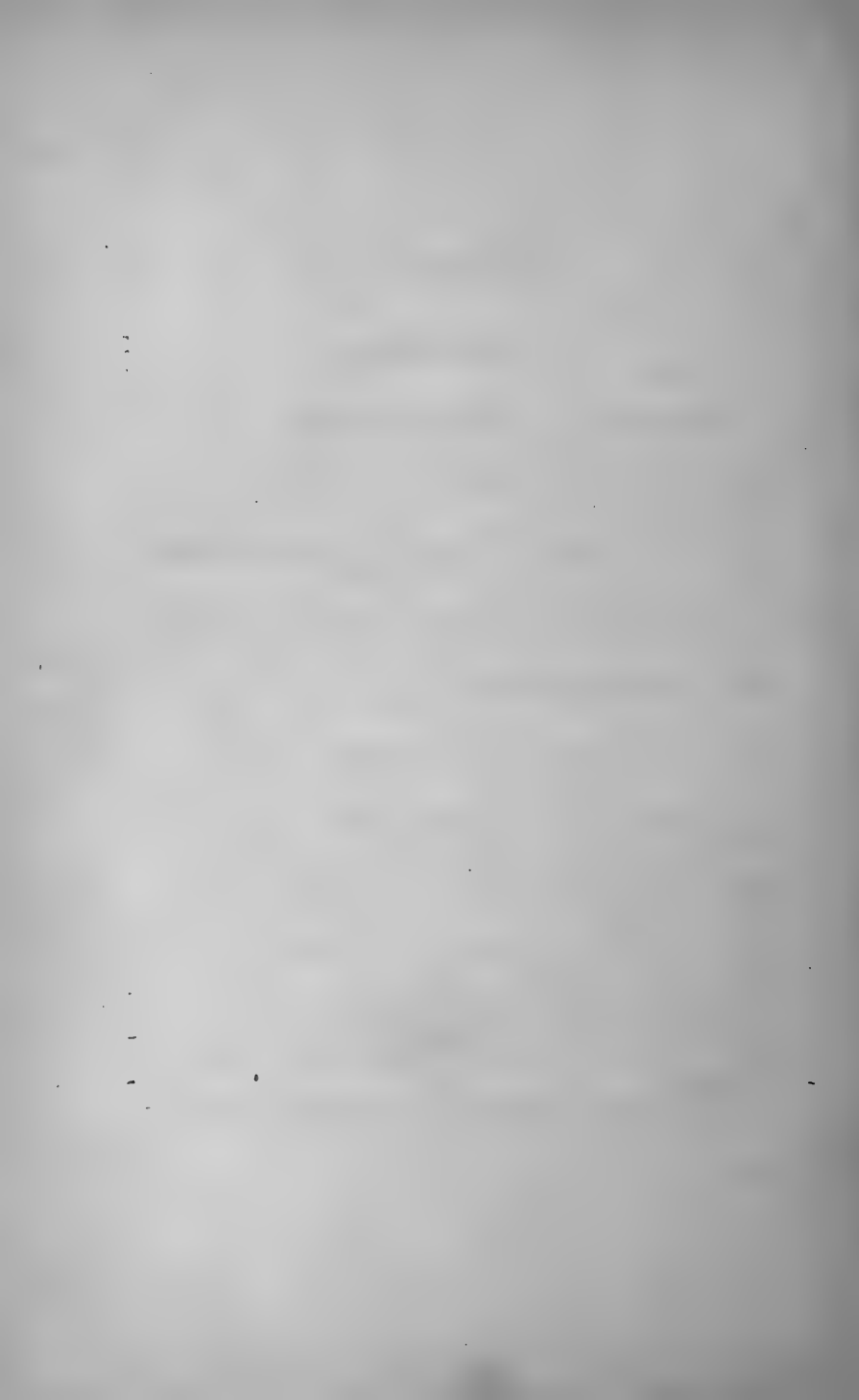
I am so fond of my dogs, and I so respect those of them as are valiant and duty-loving animals, that I am loath to end my monograph

with the prosaic details just recited; and wish therefore to add a brief tribute to the Borzoi.

He is a companionable dog *par excellence*, but is strictly what I should term a *one-man* dog; and I have never recommended the ownership of one to the man who expects to delegate his care to others. He must, like all other dogs, be brought up for the purpose for which he is intended; but properly trained and educated, he will be found as companionable as the best — no fonder of fighting than the deer-hound, faithful as the collie, and more picturesque than either.

Unnumbered accidents and various ills,  
 Attend thy pack, hang hov'ring o'er their heads,  
 And point the way that leads to death's dark cave.  
 Short is their span; few at the date arrive  
 Of ancient Argus, in old Homer's song  
 So highly honor'd: kind, sagacious brute!  
 Not ev'n Minerva's wisdom cou'd conceal  
 Thy much-lov'd master from thy nicer sense.  
 Dying his lord he own'd, view'd him all o'er  
 With eager eyes, then closed those eyes, well pleas'd.

## ADDENDA



## ADDENDA

### A CHALLENGE

FOR some time a controversy has been carried on in "Chasse et Pêche," the Belgium canine journal, by Mr. Joseph B. Thomas, Jr., of the Valley Farm Kennels, and Mr. G. Van Muylem of Belgium *re* the merits of Russian Wolfhounds (Borzoi) bred in Russia and those bred in England.

The argument arose over a remark of Mr. Thomas's that it was a disappointment to find that Borzoi breeders in Western Europe, in introducing new blood in recent years, had overlooked Russia in favor of England. Mr. Thomas has visited Russia twice, and since his first visit has contended that the Borzoi in certain Russian kennels were easily the best in the world. He has also contended that they would, when properly mated, breed truer to type than those to be found anywhere else. This can be proven in America, as the exhibit of the Valley Farm Kennels, of Simsbury, Connecticut, at the coming Westminster Kennel Club Show, where they will bench eight young dogs, will demonstrate.

To go one step farther to back up Mr. Thomas's

statement and set at rest several points in the controversy, the Valley Farm Kennels, which have now made three separate importations from Russia, hereby challenge Mr. G. Van Muylem to a competition with Borzoi as follows: —

*Challenge Stakes:* 5000 francs a side in gold or plate or any larger amount Mr. G. Van Muylem may suggest. Stakes to be held by "Field and Fancy" and "Chasse et Pêche" (which amount has already been posted with "Field and Fancy" by the Valley Farm Kennels).

*Judges:* Three: — One to be appointed by the editor of "Field and Fancy." One to be appointed by the editor of "Chasse et Pêche." One, preferably a Russian, to be appointed by the mutual consent of the interested parties. Decision of the majority to count.

*Place and Date:* Any regular show on the Continent of Europe or America between April 1st and June 1st, 1906 or 1907.

*Conditions:* The Valley Farm Kennels agree to show only dogs now in their kennels or bred from stock now in their kennels or which they may in the future import from Russia. Mr. G. Van Muylem may show stock now in his kennels, or which has ever been in his kennels, or which he can breed from the same or which he can purchase, provided the same were not bred in Russia. Stock to be the *bona fide* property of the exhibitor at the time of the match.

*Standard:* That of the Russian Wolfhound Club of America; the Borzoi Club of England; or that of the Club Belge du Lévrier et du Collie.



*Judgment:* To be rendered on the basis of the majority of wins under the following five heads: —

- (1) Best dog.
- (2) Best bitch.
- (3) Best two males, get of same sire (bred by exhibitor).
- (4) Best two females, produce (bred by exhibitor) of same dam.
- (5) Best exhibit as a whole: Uniformity of type and conformation to be the points considered.

*Competing animals to be named:* Fifteen dogs and bitches, whose pedigrees must be given, may be named through the secretary of the American or Belgian Kennel Club on or before the ninetieth day previous to the date of the match, of which number but eight may compete.

*Date of Acceptance:* Challenge remains open for acceptance by Mr. G. Van Muylem until April 1st, 1905.

This challenge was never accepted.

## SPECIALTY CLUBS

### RUSSIAN WOLFHOUND CLUB OF AMERICA

NEW YORK, November 18, 1903.

Editor "American Kennel Gazette,"  
55 Liberty Street, New York City.

DEAR SIR: —

It is my duty and pleasure to inform you that at a meeting held at the Brooklyn Bench Show, Thursday, November 12th, 1903, the exhibitors and others interested in the Russian Wolfhound organized a Specialty Club for the amelioration of the breed, to be known as the "Russian Wolfhound Club of America." An Executive Committee, consisting of Dr. J. E. De Mund and James Mortimer, together with the undersigned, was appointed to frame a Constitution and Standard, to be passed upon by the Club at a meeting to be held at Madison Square Garden at 9 o'clock P.M., Wednesday, February 10th, 1904, during the show of the Westminster Kennel Club. The purpose of the Club is to place the Russian Wolfhound, both as a working dog and as a "chien de luxe," first in popular esteem among the larger breeds of dogs. To this end, better classification and special prizes from this and foreign countries are already being arranged for, for the winter shows.

Application for membership will be gladly received by

Yours very sincerely,

J. B. THOMAS, Secretary.

From the time of the founding of the Club in December, 1903, by Dr. J. E. De Mund, Messrs. James Mortimer and Joseph B. Thomas, with a few others, great advances have been made for the breed in the show world. The Club recommends an up-to-date list of judges, and through its efforts hundreds of specials, medals, cups, and ribbons have been offered for competition.

The past presidents and secretaries are as follows:—

	<i>Presidents</i>	<i>Secretaries</i>
1903-4	J. E. De Mund, M.D.	J. B. Thomas.
1904	J. E. De Mund, M.D.	J. B. Thomas.
1905	J. E. De Mund, M.D.	J. B. Thomas.
1906	J. E. De Mund, M.D.	J. B. Thomas.
1907	J. E. De Mund, M.D.	J. B. Thomas.
1908	J. E. De Mund, M.D.	J. B. Thomas.
1909	J. B. Thomas.	J. P. Hoguet, M.D.
1910	J. P. Hoguet, M.D.	J. Bailey Wilson.
1911	J. P. Hoguet, M.D.	J. Bailey Wilson.

The present officers are: J. E. De Mund, M.D., President; J. Bailey Wilson, Secretary.

Other important Clubs furthering the interests of the breed are the Borzoi Club zu Berlin — Club Belge du Lévrier et du Collie — Borzoi Club of England.

## STANDARD FOR RUSSIAN WOLFHOUNDS

ADOPTED BY THE RUSSIAN WOLFHOUND CLUB OF  
AMERICA, SEPTEMBER 1ST, 1905

**HEAD.** — Skull slightly domed, long and narrow, with scarcely any perceptible stop, rather inclined to be Roman-nosed; jaws long, powerful and deep; teeth strong, clean and even, neither pig-jawed nor undershot; nose large and black.

**EARS.** — Small and fine in quality, lying back on the neck when in repose with the tips when thrown back almost touching behind occiput; raised when at attention.

**EYES.** — Set somewhat obliquely, dark in color, intelligent, but rather soft in expression, never full nor staring, nor light in color; eyelids dark.

**NECK.** — Clean, free from throatiness, somewhat shorter than in the greyhound, slightly arched, very powerful, and well set on.

**SHOULDERS.** — Sloping, should be fine at the withers and free from coarseness or lumber.

**CHEST.** — Rather narrow, with great depth of brisket.

**RIBS.** — Only slightly sprung, but very deep, giving room for heart and lung play.

**BACK.** — Rising a little at the loins in a graceful curve.

**LOINS.** — Extremely muscular, but rather tucked up, owing to the great depth of chest and comparative shortness of back and ribs.

**FORE LEGS.** — Bone flat, straight, giving free play for the elbows, which should be neither turned in nor out; pasterns strong.

**FEET.** — Hare-shaped, with well-arched knuckles, toes close and well padded.

**HIND QUARTERS.** — Long, very muscular and powerful, with well-bent stifles and strong second thighs, hocks broad, clean and well let down.

**TAIL.** — Long, set on and carried low in a graceful curve.

**COAT.** — Long, silky (not woolly), either flat, wavy or rather curly. On the head, ears and front of legs it should be short and smooth; on the neck the frill should be profuse and rather curly. Feather on hind quarters and tail, long and profuse, less so on the chest and back of fore legs.

**COLOR.** — Any color, white usually predominating, more or less marked with lemon, tan, brindle, grey or black. Whole-colored specimens of these tints occasionally appear.

**GENERAL APPEARANCE.** — Should be that of an elegant, graceful aristocrat among dogs, possessing courage and combining great muscular power with extreme speed.

**SIZE.** — Dogs, average height at shoulder from 28 to 31 inches; average weight from 75 to 105

lbs. Larger dogs are often seen, extra size being no disadvantage when it is not acquired at the expense of symmetry, speed and staying quality.

Bitches are invariably smaller than dogs, and two inches less in height, and from 15 to 20 lbs. less in weight is a fair average.

*Scale of Points*

Head .....	15
Ears .....	5
Eyes .....	5
Neck .....	5
Shoulders and Chest .....	15
Ribs, Back, and Loins .....	15
Hind Quarters, Stifles, and Hocks....	15
Legs and Feet .....	10
Coat and Feather .....	10
Tail .....	5
Total .....	<u>100</u>

## JUDGES

Whom the Russian Wolfhound Club of America recommends and whose selection, by show officials, the Club will appreciate by offering specials: —

Mr. E. M. Barker,	Mr. H. T. Peters,
Mr. J. F. Crangle,	Mr. George Ronsse,
Dr. J. E. De Mund,	Mrs. James C. Hadley,
Dr. J. P. Hoguet,	Mr. J. B. Thomas,
Mr. J. Bailey Wilson,	Mr. Carl C. Curtis,
Mr. O. A. Zuercher,	Mr. C. G. Hopton,
Mr. Karl Bjurman,	Maj. H. T. Allen,
Mr. James Mortimer,	Miss J. Forgeus,
Dr. Jarrett.	

# SHOW

## WESTMINSTER KENNEL CLUB SHOWS,

### WINNERS

YEAR	DOG	SIRE
1904	Bistri of Perchina	Almaz of Perchina
1905	Bistri of Perchina	Almaz of Perchina
1906	Bistri of Perchina	Almaz of Perchina
1907	Rasboi o' Valley Farm	Bistri of Perchina
1908*	Rasboi o' Valley Farm	Bistri of Perchina
1909	Rasboi o' Valley Farm	Bistri of Perchina
1910	Rasboi o' Valley Farm	Bistri of Perchina
1911*	Lorraine's Pontiac	Kopchie o' Valley Farm
1912	Zyclon of Perchina	Groznyj of Perchina

### WINNERS

YEAR	BITCH	SIRE
1904	Sorva of Woronzova	Liubezny
1905	Nayada of Perchina	Armavir of Perchina
1906	Nayada of Perchina	Armavir of Perchina
1907	Sorva of Woronzova	Liubezny
1908*	Zoraida	Nenagladni of Perchina
1909	Sorva of Woronzova	Liubezny
1910	Belkis	Pojor of Toula
1911*	Valeska Bailiff	Obilska
1912	Valeska Bailiff	Obilska

\* Valley Farm Kennels did not exhibit.



## RECORDS

### NEW YORK, 1904-1912 AWARDS

#### DOGS

DAM	OWNER
Ptachka of Perchina	Valley Farm Kennels
Ptachka of Perchina	Valley Farm Kennels
Ptachka of Perchina	Valley Farm Kennels
Sorva of Woronzova	Valley Farm Kennels
Sorva of Woronzova	Dr. O. F. Behrend
Sorva of Woronzova	Valley Farm Kennels
Sorva of Woronzova	Valley Farm Kennels
Zoraida	Dr. J. E. De Mund
Zaplia of Perchina	Valley Farm Kennels

#### BITCHES

DAM	OWNER
Balderoff's Rasskida	Valley Farm Kennels
Podrouska of Perchina	Valley Farm Kennels
Podrouska of Perchina	Valley Farm Kennels
Balderoff's Rasskida	Valley Farm Kennels
Princess Vedma	Dr. J. E. De Mund
Balderoff's Rasskida	Valley Farm Kennels
Lasca	Valley Farm Kennels
Aube o' Valley Farm	W. G. Bailey
Aube o' Valley Farm	W. G. Bailey

JUL 8 1912

The Riverside Press  
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