

Over last Christmas I lost my 2 year old shorthair, Magee, due to a truck. I've had shorthairs my whole life and by the end of February I started talking to trainers at clubs and breeders. Checking websites I came across Shining Star Kennels.

Several people had heard of Ed Kerr. I wanted a companion dog, as well as, a hunting dog – as my life is hunting and fishing.

After reading the testimonials and Ed's website, I went up for a visit, intent on not buying a dog that day. After meeting Ed and his wife and talking, he finally showed me the one pup he had available. I'm still shocked that the pup was marked exactly like my best shorthair, Sultan, from 20 years ago! True to my word, I left that day without buying the pup! But, I did return the next morning with my daughter to pick him up.

Gunner came home with me that day and I only hoped Ed was right about Gunner and what he would become in the future. As Gunner grew I worked on his obedience training and creating a good bond in the first 6 months. We visited Ed for Puppy Training and worked on water retrieves all summer. I only wish I had photos of him launching off the back of our pontoon boat and his retrieves.

Ed was right, Gunner had a lot of confidence and drive, and was very smart, almost too much!

Then in September I agreed to give Ed my Gunner for 3 weeks while I was out West hunting. He said he would have him good enough to hunt over. As soon as I got back I went to see Ed and Gunner. Hence forth, Ed shall be known as he who walks on water! First, Ed showed me Binks and Nikkie, Gunners' mom and pa. Then he let my Gunner out of the trailer. My little buddy, as Ed told me, "now hunted for me." He pointed, held point, whoa'ed, and was steady to shot, all in 3 weeks.

I was and still am very happy with him. The first day out alone with Gunner, he pointed and held steady to shot. I've shot over 12 birds over him so far. He even locked up on two roosters that were no more than four feet from him.

Between the bloodline and the knowledge Ed has, this dog has been everything I could ask for. I've had shorthairs my whole life and this pup could be outstanding, possibly the dog of a lifetime.

Frank Murphy