

Shining Star Odin; Whelped 5/15/13

My wife and I began researching dog breeds after losing our golden retriever. We were looking for a smart, higher energy dog that we could take on runs and hikes. After doing some research we saw that many of the breeds we were interested in were hunting breeds. The longer we researched, the more we became interested in hunting birds as well. We then quickly decided that a German shorthaired pointer (GSP) would fit our entire criteria very well if not exceed it. The hard step was only partial over. We still needed to decide on a breeder.

We began our search in the Midwest as to not try to narrow the field too much. We eventually narrowed down our search and Shining Star was one of two to decide between. The Shining Star website really caught our eye as we wanted a dog as a companion and family dog first and hunter second (not to say the dog cannot excel at both). We reviewed their dogs and the testimonials on the website and decided to contact them. After speaking with Ed about how they breed, handle, train, hunt, and live with their dogs we were now just hoping to get one of his puppies.

We also have a few side notes that we think are really important. Shining Star keeps all of their dogs in their house (not outside in barn or at a different location). They hunt with and live with their dogs that they also breed and they limit the breeding (not a puppy mill). The puppies' den is kept in their living areas where they are exposed early to all sorts of things and are handled, weighed, and managed on a regular basis. Shining Star loves each and every dog that comes out of their kennel and is very proud of their dogs. Their dogs come with a health guarantee as well as a lifetime contact for any GSP or hunting questions.

Now we can discuss our dog, Odin. We were able to get a handsome male fathered by Jar Jar Binks and mothered by Mustang Sally born on May 15, 2013. There were only two males in his litter so we did not get an official pick but we could not have asked for a better dog. We picked up Odin home when he was about 7 weeks old. Right from the start we found out that he was an extremely intelligent, athletic dog with a great nose. We met up with our local NAVHDA chapter so Odin was able to see birds and meet other hunting dogs when he was still quite young and he loved it right away. Also, a great place to meet other handlers and hunters that will answer any questions you have about training and hunting as we were new to bird hunting ourselves.

We decided early on that we would take Odin to Shining Star's puppy hunting training when he was 4 months old. Ed had him on birds and got him excited to hunt and work in general. He also did gun breaking which I was very nervous to do myself. Needless to say we were very pleased with this training. We did take him out hunting the first season but I never fired any shots as we only saw a few birds. He did listen very well (for his age) and just loved to be outside if nothing else.

After his great results from the first training session with Ed we decided to enroll Odin for the second hunting training session. This training is more expensive than the first session and we did think about it some, but I will say that we are so happy that we decided to take Odin back. Odin returned for session two at just over a year old. It was very hard to drop off your dog for a two month training session but Ed was great the entire time. He was extremely responsive and would send updates and pictures when I asked. When I returned to pick up Odin from session two I also brought my shotgun with me. I was able to shoot two birds over my dog for the first time (Ed shot

