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SIXTH EDITION



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Living in the Dog House

How Danny & Ron Turned Their Hurricane Katrina Rescue Mission into a Lifetime Legacy of Love

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Welcome to the sixth edition of Full Cry,

Published and produced by Wateree Hounds of Camden, South Carolina. We are showcasing our love of foxhunting, hounds, the history of the sport and companionship with fellow admirers. Our ties and connection with the land are great, and we want to share our joy of riding to hounds with you!

Articles are informative of the sport and other equestrian events and local interests. We invite you to sit back, relax, and enjoy the ride!

To keep up to date with our events, visit our website at www.watereehounds.com or find your way to our Facebook page.

Publisher: Wateree Hounds

Creative Director: Sally F. Kay

Magazine design: Janel Przybyla

Ad design: Janel Przybyla

Photography
Sally F. Kay
Janel Przybyla

Cover Photo
Sally F. Kay

Contributors:
Sarah Carle
Page Hodson
Sally F. Kay
Cameron Smith Vogt
Andrea Wise

For information on sponsorships of events or to place an advertisement in our next edition of Full Cry Magazine, email Sally F. Kay at kaydence123@outlook.com



STILL DRAWING

Letter from the Masters

Seventh Season of Wateree Hounds

> "TRADITION IS MORE THAN CEREMONY. IT IS A STANDARD —AND STANDARDS MATTER."
>
> Master
> –Ken Trogdon

Welcome to the seventh season of Wateree Hounds.

Seven seasons may not seem particularly long when measured against the history of foxhunting, but a great deal can happen in seven years. A hunt is built not simply by the country it crosses or the hounds in its kennels, but by the people who believe in it, support it and, quite often, roll up their sleeves to help make it work. Wateree has been fortunate to have many.

Our story began in 2020 with Ned Towell, whose vision and enthusiasm brought Wateree Hounds into being. No history of Wateree would be complete without recognizing that beginning, or the tremendous support of the Towell family. Jack and Lisa Towell of Finally Farm have remained extraordinarily generous supporters of Wateree, and their commitment has played an important role in allowing a young hunt to establish itself and grow.

From those beginnings, Wateree has become something much larger than any one person. That is, perhaps, one



MASTER
VINCE PASCHAL



MASTER &
HONORARY WHIPPER-IN
MEREDITH SOMERSET,
DVM



MASTER
KEN TROGDON

of the great strengths of a hunt: it takes an extraordinary collection of people, often with very different talents, to make the whole thing work.

Our members are at the heart of that effort. Whether following hounds across the country or supporting the hunt in countless ways beyond the field, both our riding and non-riding members contribute time, enthusiasm, and resources that are essential to Wateree. Their involvement has helped shape the hunt we are today and will remain an important part of where we go next.

That collective strength is reflected in our Masters as well. Vince Paschal and Meredith Somerset have each brought tremendous dedication and commitment to Wateree, and I am honored to join them as its newest Master. Having hunted with Belle Meade and with a lifelong passion for working dogs – particularly bird dogs – I bring that experience and instinct for dogs to a group already strengthened by different perspectives, shared enthusiasm and a common commitment to Wateree.

As Masters, we each bring different experiences, perspectives and strengths to Wateree, but we share the same commitment to its future. That future is made possible by our members who continually step forward, our landowners who generously allow us across their country, and our Huntsman, staff, volunteers and supporters whose work so often begins long before hounds ever draw the first covert of the day.

Tradition is more than ceremony. It is a standard—and standards matter. Somewhere along the way, too much of what once defined good foxhunting became negotiable. At Wateree, we don't believe it should be. Good hounds, good horsemanship, proper turnout and respect for country are not relics of the past. They are foxhunting.

There is much to look forward to. New territory and new fixtures continue to expand the possibilities of our country, while a developing pack of hounds gives us equal reason for excitement in the kennel. Watching those hounds mature and increasingly meet the challenges of Wateree's country has been one of the great pleasures of the past season.

We are proud of where Wateree began, grateful to everyone who has brought it this far, and even more excited about where it is going. With six seasons behind us, new country ahead and a remarkable group of people bringing different strengths to the same purpose, our seventh season may just be the most anticipated one yet.

There is plenty of country still to draw.

WHAT'S ON THE CALENDAR

November 14
Opening Meet

November 21
Fall Race Calcutta

November 22
Colonial Cup Tailgate

December 5
Christmas Party

December 20
Boykin Christmas Parade

December 26
Boxing Day Meet

January 22
Junior Meet

January 27 - 30
Wateree Hounds Sporting Week

January 30
Wild Game Dinner



February 13
Spouse Hunt



February 20
Watereee Hounds Hunt Ball at Springdale Hall



March 5 - 6
Junior North American Field Hunter Championship Finals
For details visit
www.camdenhunt.com

March 20
Horses and Heroes Oyster Roast

March 27
Wateree Hounds Closing Meet



April 3
Carolina Cup

April TBD
Members Meeting

Summer
Puppy Auction

Dates are subject to change.
For details and to stay up to date:

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Master &
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Meredith Somerset, DVM



Honorary Whipper-In
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Sally Bruce Boone



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Board Secretary
Kitty Farnell

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Honorary Wheel Whipper-In: Matt Winkler

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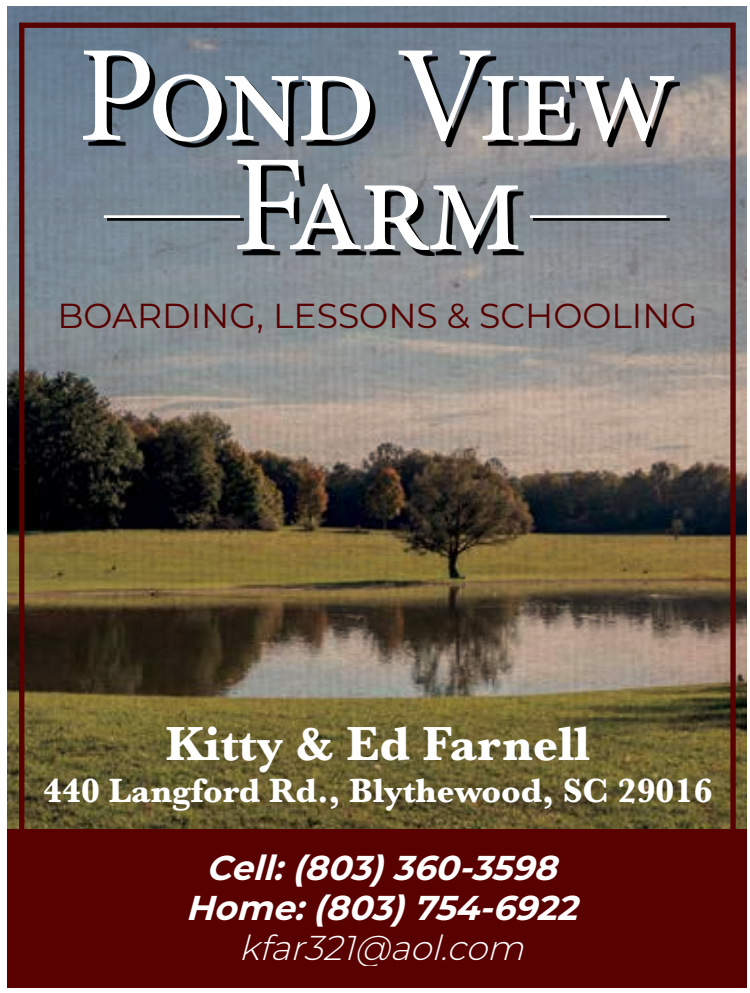
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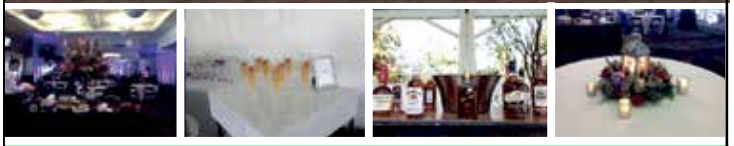

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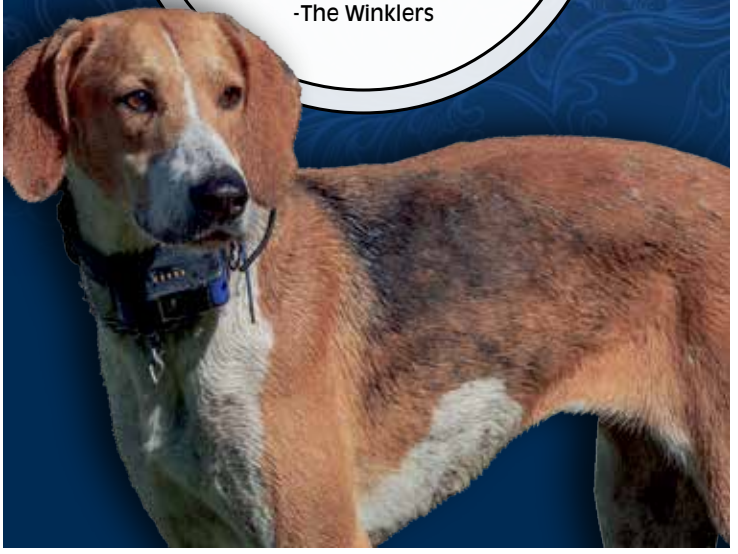

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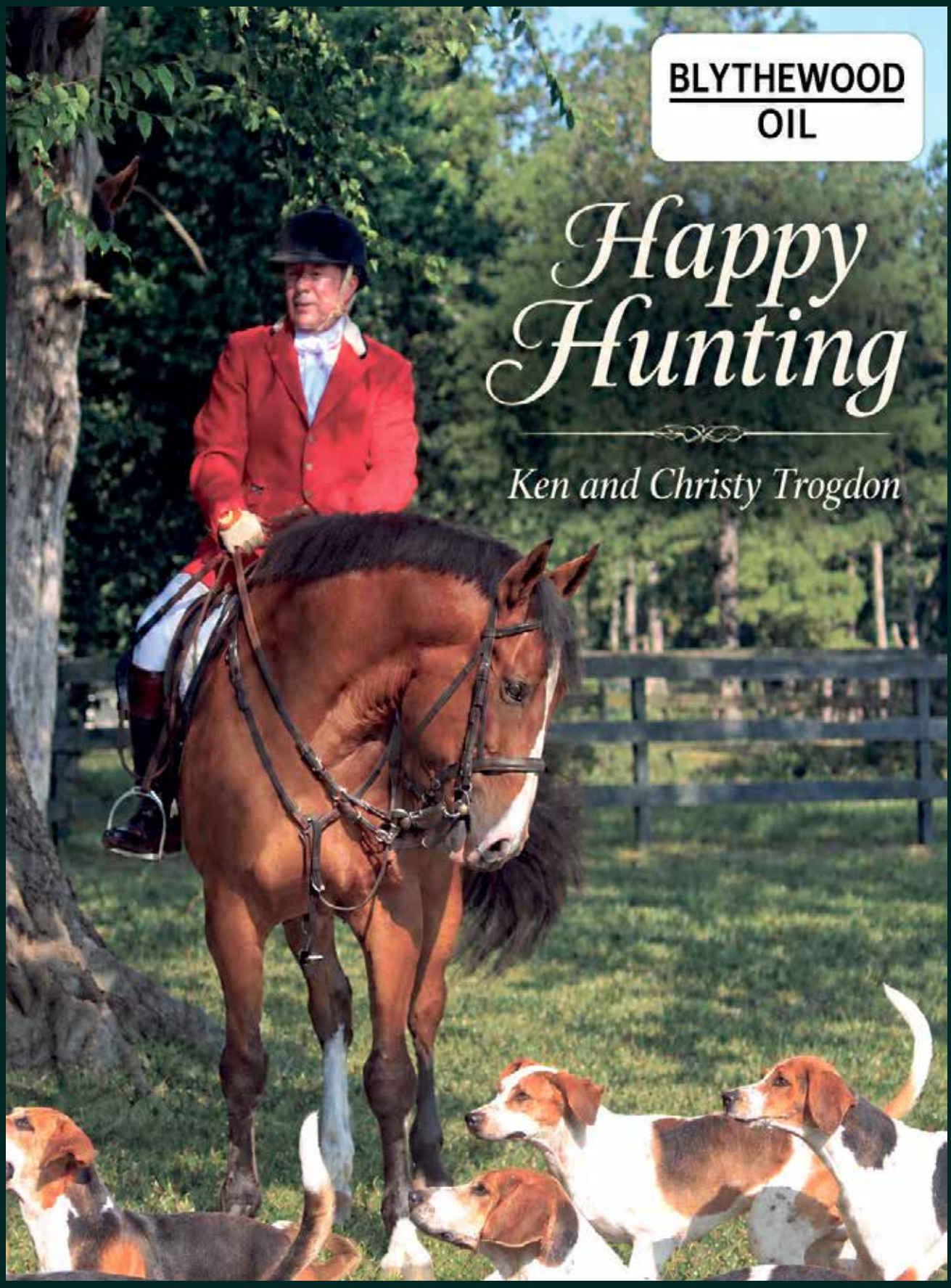

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LIVING IN THE Doghouse

HOW DANNY & RON TURNED THEIR HURRICANE KATRINA RESCUE MISSION INTO A LIFETIME LEGACY OF LOVE

KEY INSIGHT:
'RESCUE HAS NO BORDERS'
THEIR MISSION EXTENDS GLOBALLY, FROM DISASTER RELIEF IN VENEZUELA TO AID IN UKRAINE, DRIVEN BY THE BELIEF THAT COMPASSION KNOWS NO BOUNDARIES.

BY SALLY F. KAY

From Katrina's Waters to a Calling

The story of Danny & Ron's Rescue—headquartered in Camden, SC, with significant operations in Wellington, FL—didn't begin in a boardroom or a newly constructed kennel complex—it started in the flooded, heartbroken streets following Hurricane Katrina. Danny Robertshaw and Ron Danta are both nationally known professional hunter



jumper trainers. They initially set out to help human survivors, bringing carloads of essential supplies and TVs to displaced residents taking shelter at a horse training track in Delray Beach. But as news broadcasts continued to show dogs stranded on rooftops, trapped in tree branches, and swimming endlessly through floodwaters, their focus expanded.

Leveraging connections within the horse community, they began sending horse trailers packed with relief supplies down to the Gulf Coast. On the return trips, those same trailers brought back animals in desperate need. Rather than taking pets directly from owners who hadn't yet had a chance to look for them, Danny and Ron focused on pulling animals who had already been in overcrowded local shelters before the storm. This freed up much-needed shelter space for pets displaced by the storm, giving them a better chance of being reunited with their family. Encouraged by supporters who urged them to formalize their work, they officially established a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization to ensure the rescue could endure.



Life in the Doghouse: A Unique Approach to Animal Care

Unlike traditional shelters with cold concrete kennels, Danny and Ron took a radically warm approach: they brought the dogs directly into their home. Today, "living in the doghouse" is quite literal. With over 200 dogs under their roof at any given time, their home operates around the clock.

A typical day begins at 4:30 AM with a chorus of eager barks, followed by a 5:00 AM breakfast and medication routine. Backed by a dedicated team of over 30 employees working in staggered shifts 24/7, every inch of the house is cleaned top-to-bottom daily, running roughly 30 commercial loads of laundry every day to ensure fresh bedding for every single resident. This cage-free, home environment allows dogs—many coming from traumatic situations like puppy mills, disasters, or overcrowded shelters—to learn what it feels like to live inside a loving, domestic space.

An Ironclad Promise for Life

Central to Danny and Ron's philosophy is an ironclad, lifetime promise: no dog saved by their organization will ever end up in a shelter again. As Ron Danta emphasizes, "When we rescue a dog, it's a commitment for life. They become family, and that bond is something we will always honor." Their adoption contracts explicitly stipulate that if an adopter can no longer care for a dog—even ten or fifteen years down the line—the rescue will arrange transportation to bring the animal back to their care. Microchips remain registered under the rescue's name, ensuring a continuous safety net.

This dedication extended to careful matchmaking. With an

KEY INSIGHT:

'A CAGE-FREE PHILOSOPHY'

BY BRINGING DOGS INTO THEIR OWN HOME, DANNY AND RON CREATE A HEALING, DOMESTIC ENVIRONMENT THAT HELPS DOGS TRANSITION FROM TRAUMA TO A LOVING, STABLE LIFE.



> *When we received a call from Danny and Ron Rescue, they told us they had a special dog of our dreams in mind to consider. Being big dachshund owners. The idea of rescuing a bloodhound never crossed our minds. Thank God they did! Velma is beyond our wildest expectations!"*
>
> **– Mark Badgley**

extraordinarily low return rate of around 4% across more than 15,000 adoptions, the rescue takes immense pride in placing the right dog with the right family, conducting thorough reference checks and full-family Zoom meetings. Whether placing "travel-sized" fluffy companions or misjudged hound dogs who turn out to be quintessential couch potatoes, the goal is always a permanent, loving home.

Outreach, Advocacy, and Global Reach

While surviving entirely on donations and foregoing standard adoption fees, Danny and Ron's impact extends far beyond their local community. Their documentary, *Life in the Doghouse*, brought international recognition, expanding their donor base globally and inspiring audiences worldwide. Notable figures and champions—including Gloria Gaynor, Lyle Lovett, and Billy Joel—have rallied behind their cause, helping raise funds and awareness for their mission.

This widespread praise creates a striking contrast with their reception at home. Despite their documentary's success and global recognition, many residents in Camden, SC, remain unaware of the true scale and reach of the rescue operation right in their backyard. Danny and Ron believe the local media has an exciting opportunity to bring this globally celebrated story home, inspiring the Camden community to connect more deeply not only with its hometown heroes but more importantly take pride in their remarkable journey.

Their outreach efforts adhere firmly to the belief that "rescue has no borders." As Danny Robertshaw reflects, "Wherever an animal is in need, distance shouldn't be a barrier to offering help and hope." From assisting shelters during international conflicts in Ukraine to funding veterinary aid after disasters in Venezuela, Hawaii, Australia, and recent hurricane-affected areas, their reach is vast. Locally, they partner with programs like Meals on Wheels to provide pet food ("Anna Meals") and medical care to senior citizens and veterans, ensuring people can keep their beloved companions. They also visit local schools to educate youth on the crucial importance of spay/neuter programs and humane animal care.

Lessons in Unconditional Love

Reflecting on decades of rescue work, Danny and Ron emphasize that the thousands of dogs they have saved have returned the favor by teaching them how to be better human beings. In a house filled with hundreds of dogs of all shapes, sizes, and backgrounds, there is no judgment—only unconditional love and mutual respect. Through their tireless commitment, Danny and Ron continue to prove that every dog deserves a second chance, a warm bed, and a promise that lasts a lifetime.



HOUND ADOPTION SPOTLIGHT

Rudy

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– JOHN MADDEN

"RUDY HAS LOTS OF PERSONALITY AND IS SUPER FRIENDLY! HE LOVES COMFORT; HE IS ALWAYS LOOKING FOR A CHAIR OR SOMETHING COMFORTABLE TO LIE ON."
– BEEZIE MADDEN

KEY INSIGHT:

'THE LIFETIME PROMISE'

WITH AN IRONCLAD, LIFETIME GUARANTEE, NO DOG THEY RESCUE WILL EVER RETURN TO A SHELTER, ENSURING EACH ANIMAL FINDS A TRULY PERMANENT HOME.





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DEGE & SKINNER
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A legacy in every stitch







BY SARAH C. GAMMELL

Established in 1865, Dege & Skinner remains one of Savile Row's most prestigious bespoke tailoring houses. Still family-owned and operated, it has dressed royalty, military officers, and discerning individuals across the globe. In this exclusive conversation, we sit down with Michael and William Skinner - two generations at the helm of the house - to reflect on the legacy, craft, and future of one of Britain's most iconic tailors.

bespoke tailoring through the years



Legacy & History Dege & Skinner was founded in 1865-how have you seen the spirit of the brand evolve over generations?

The spirit of the business has been to create beautiful garments for our discerning clients – that hasn't changed over the generations – this spirit has evolved to take on the challenges of the clients of today. In this ever-changing world, which is expectant on things happening "NOW" there are some things that can't be rushed, and bespoke tailoring and shirt making are two of those.

What are some of the most memorable moments in Dege & Skinner's history that have shaped the house's identity?

The business has evolved from being a breeches maker to making service dress uniforms to keep the business going during WW2 to making riding coats and any item of clothing that a wardrobe requires. We have held a Royal Warrant of Appointment since 1982 to Queen Elizabeth II and now to King Charles III.

Can you share any stories or artifacts from the archives that stand out to you personally?

My father, Michael, was instrumental in starting travelling to America for trunk shows (travelling sales missions) One of the first places he visited was Keswick in Virginia. He met the Master of the Keswick Hounds – Jake Carle – they hit it off with their mutual love and appreciation of hunting and fine clothes. This was in 1964 and forged a lasting relationship with American foxhunting - this still exists today and we continue to visit Middleburg, VA, amongst other places, to make hunting clothes.

The relationship between my father and Jake was very strong; my father said a few words at Jake's Huntsman Room Induction in 2022. Jake's daughter SarahFrances is my father's God daughter.

I recall as a young boy, names from Virginia foxhunting that my father used to talk about. When I started travelling to America in 1994, there were a lot of people that I met whom I felt I already knew – it was a case of putting a face to the name!

How did your family first become involved with Dege & Skinner, and what does carrying that legacy mean to you today?

My great-great-grandfather was a tailor – his son went to school with the son of Jacob Dege – Jacob had founded the business in 1865. The 2 boys got on well and on leaving school they started up their own tailoring business. There was no space for either boy to be accommodated in their fathers respective tailoring firms. This business continued until 1912 when my great grandfather was killed in a riding accident – on









Christmas Eve, age only 42. The Dege family continued my grandfather's schooling education and then took him into the business where he learnt how to cut and make clothes. My father joined the business in 1953 just before the Queen's Coronation and I followed in 1993. I am a strong believer in tradition and am passionate about maintaining Dege & Skinner's position as one of the foremost tailors on Savile Row. It is a huge responsibility and we are fortunate to have a wonderful team at 10 Savile Row that create clothes for our loyal and new clients.

Craftsmanship & Process

What defines the "Dege & Skinner cut," and how does it differ from other houses on Savile Row?

The Dege & Skinner cut is strongly influenced by our involvement in making riding and military uniforms. This provides a coat with structure and form in the chest, a strong shoulder line, and a shapely waist.

How do you balance traditional tailoring techniques with evolving client expectations and modern style?

We are able to use and maintain our traditional tailoring techniques to cater for the requirements of today. The one thing that has changed greatly is the variety of different fabrics – lighter weight, using new, natural material. With a high degree of design influence, styles have evolved over the years. This reflects how we make our clothes to be relevant.

How long does a bespoke suit or shirt typically take to create-from consultation to final fitting?

A bespoke two-piece suit takes 60 labor hours to

complete, involves a number of fittings and takes in the region of three-to-six months, depending on (the client's) availability for fittings.

For a bespoke shirt – we will make a sample shirt first, have a fitting, we will then make any adjustments for another fitting or completing the order.

Clients & Culture

You've dressed royalty, military officers, and statesmen. Can you share any particularly memorable commissions (where confidentiality allows)?

We have had the honour of making clothes for some well known people – including George H W Bush, Michael Jackson, and Tom Clancy.

What changes have you noticed in the profile of your clients over the past few decades?

Looking at latest data from Google, since the emergence of social media and Instagram in particular, we're seeing an increasing number of under 45's showing a genuine interest in our bespoke tailoring, which is positive for the future and gives us the confidence to take on apprentices, to invest in the future. We currently have five apprentices training here in the Cutting Room, Shirt Department and in the tailoring workshop located underneath the shop.

Savile Row & Global Presence

How has Savile Row itself changed, and what does being at No. 10 mean for the brand's visibility and heritage?

Savile Row continues to move forward and to some people's surprise, is continually innovating in-line with the global audience of people interested in fine tailoring and superb bespoke tailoring. There's always a place for fine traditional tailoring and classic styling, but it's not just suits and business-wear we cut and make here at Number 10.

Increasingly, we're seeing our 161-year-old heritage drawing custom from younger generations as they seek the very best and come to realize and appreciate the obvious differences between fast fashion and fine tailoring that is timeless.

What role do your overseas Trunk Shows play in keeping the art of bespoke alive globally?

Trunk Shows, domestic and overseas, allow us to have a global customer base, something which we pioneered back in the 1960s when then Managing Director and now Chairman Michael Skinner visited America for the first time to meet, measure, and fit customers based over The Pond, as Americans like to call it.

What's the biggest misconception international clients have about Savile Row tailoring?

I don't feel there is a misconception about Savile Row – we always explain how the process of bespoke tailoring works to new clients. True Savile Row bespoke tailoring is individually designed and made for the individual, in our Savile Row workrooms. This is not to be confused with custom/made to measure tailoring where the measurements are sent away to a factory and straight finished.



Personal Insight & Vision

What's your earliest memory of the workshop or showroom?

I often went to the shop when I was younger. We used to have the annual stock take between Christmas and New Year. I was given various things to count, such as military buttons and to measure, such as our large inventory of cloth. It gave me a real insight into the vast diversity of the business

Is there a particular suit or shirt you've made that holds special meaning for you?

My morning suit that my father made me in 1994 when I was an Usher at a wedding in Wilmington DE – we both attended the celebration. I then wore the same morning suit to my own wedding in 1998. I continue to wear it to this day.

What's next for Dege & Skinner as it looks toward the future of tailoring?

Continuing the high standard of tailoring and shirt making that make us known for what we do. Staying relevant to the demands and trends that our clients present us with



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Why WATEREE

From the saddle to the social scene, members share what makes Wateree Hounds feel like home.

BY CAMERON SMITH VOGT



Jane Arnold:

"Lisa Towell and I grew up in Salisbury. We renewed our friendship when I moved to Camden. I wanted to see what she and Ned were doing, so I joined as a Wateree Hounds Social Member. It has been a great opportunity to make new friends. I love horses. I love dogs. On top of that, Wateree Hounds has been extremely generous to the Historic Camden Foundation." (Jane and her husband retired to Camden a decade ago)

Debbie Elliott:

"There are several things motivating me. I do not ride, although I did as a little girl. I run my business through networking; I like to support the various equestrian organizations. I wanted to be more engaged and to meet more social members; the more I learn, the more I feel part of this community. Wateree Hounds always makes me feel very welcome." (And we are grateful, as Debbie makes a sensational coconut cake!)

Laura Reed:

"I'd heard they had the best events. I love tradition, camaraderie, land conservation, being outdoors. It's the best of everything you could want." (Laura is owner of Camden's new mahjongg parlor, The Bamboo Society)

Colonel Richard G. Rounseville:

"In a word – I'm an old foxhunter. I rode to the hounds in Virginia for over thirty years. Wherever I am, I like to support the local Hounds." (He always cuts a dashing figure at our Hunt Balls)

Helen Crolley:

"Wateree Hounds. Why not? Friendly members, exciting venues for hunting and socializing, easy to make new friends and renew old acquaintances. And the best is watching and listening to our Hounds as they so willingly do their jobs." (Helen is not only mother to Master Vince Paschal, she is part of our terrific Stirrup Cup Trio.)



Page Hodson:

"Joe and I decided to become Social Members so that we could spend more time with our friends who were already part of Wateree Hounds. This has also given us the opportunity to meet others who care deeply about horses and the stewardship of open land in South Carolina." (Page is also an invaluable volunteer.)

Lisa Towell:

"I love going to a breakfast at one of our terrific fixtures. It is a gathering of friends, good food, and the chilling sight of pink coats, navy formals, beautiful hounds and horses. There's no better way to enjoy a Saturday during hunt season." (Lisa, her family, and Finally Farm have been an integral part of Wateree Hounds.)



Jody McLean:

"What do you do when your new hunt horse is a little too spooky? How about when your knees say 'why are you riding in a hunt seat saddle?' And then you realize you really don't want to ride for more than an hour or so. You become a social member of the Hunt because you still love the sport and the members." (Jody also continues to support the group as our Treasurer)



Donna Freyer:

"It's a great social scene. I look forward to it. It's a welcoming crowd and everyone's included. There are all kinds of options as to the events; we go from 'slumming it' to black tie. Like all horse sports, foxhunting has an elitist label, but Wateree Hounds is unpretentious." (Donna owns Custom Care Equine and has a solid reputation in the world of Thoroughbred racing)



Joe Whitt and David Brinkley:

"We moved to Camden because of the equine community and wanted to be involved with other like-minded people. Wateree offered the Social Membership, which allowed us the opportunity to make friends without actually joining the hunt itself!" (It must be said that Joe capped with us in the Spring of 2025. Pretty sure he had a grand time.)

Dan and Sarah Floyd:

"Since we no longer ride to the hounds, we now enjoy the fellowship of active foxhunters." (In addition to being former Board Members of Wateree Hounds, Dan and Sarah are the parents of our lovely Sally Floyd Kay)







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YOUR NAME IN THE FIELD

Why Your Farm, Kennel, or Breeding Prefix Deserves Legal Protection

BY WISE COVINGTON PLLC

THE HOUNDS KNOW WHO'S CALLING THEM. MAKE SURE THE LAW DOES TOO.

In hunt country, a name carries weight.

When a breeding prefix comes up at the tailgate, you already know something about the horses that carry it. When someone mentions a particular kennel's hounds, the reputation arrives before the introduction. That kind of recognition wasn't built in a season. It was built over years of showing up, doing the work, and letting the results speak.

And most of the time, nobody thinks to protect it legally until someone else starts using it.

That's the uncomfortable truth about brand identity in the equestrian world: the same handshake culture that makes this community feel like family also makes it easy to assume that everyone will simply know whose name is whose. They usually do - until a new operation springs up three counties over with a nearly identical farm name. Until a business dispute leaves two partners each claiming the right to keep the name they built together.

Trademark law exists precisely for this moment.

What You May Already Have ... and What's Missing

Under U.S. common law, trademark rights attach through use. The moment you start using a name in commerce, you begin building



rights in your region. If you've been selling horses under your farm name in the Carolinas for ten years, you have common law rights that would let you challenge a newcomer using the same name tomorrow.

The problem is those rights are limited, invisible, and hard to enforce. They don't appear in any public registry, and they generally don't extend beyond the area where you've actually done business.

Federal registration with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office changes that. A registered trademark gives you nationwide priority from your filing date, creates a public record that puts others on notice, and provides the legal presumption that the name is yours. If you ever need to enforce your rights, or defend them, such registration is the foundation everything else stands on.

When Partners Split and Both Want the Name

There's a scenario worth naming plainly: two people build something together, the partnership ends, and suddenly both believe they have the right to keep the name. It happens with training partnerships, breeding programs, farm co-ownership arrangements - anywhere two people have poured themselves into a shared identity.

Without a written agreement specifying who owns the intellectual property, a split gets complicated fast. A well-drafted partnership or operating agreement handles this on the front end. It should clearly set forth who owns the name, what happens if the business dissolves, whether either party can continue using it independently. It's the provision that feels unnecessary on the day you sign it and invaluable on the day you need it.

A Practical First Step

Take stock of what you're actually using; your farm name, breeding prefix, any logos on your stationery or blankets or trailer. If you're selling horses, taking boarders, or standing a stallion, you're likely in commerce. And if that name means something to the people who know it, it's worth making sure the law agrees.

One note we like to tell our clients: A quick search of the internet will tell you whether a name is popular. It won't tell you whether it's yours to use. A proper search covers the federal register, state registrations, and common law uses because rights can exist even where no registration does. Skipping this step is how people end up filing for a mark they can't keep, or inadvertently stepping on someone else's.

The hounds know who's calling them. Make sure the law does too.

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AND THE HORSE they rode in on...

BY CAMERON SMITH VOGT

In 2023, I wrote about my experiences as a First Year Foxhunter. That was a fun year for me, but less fun for my horse, Austen Blue. Following the hounds was not, shall we say, his cup of tea. Year Two was bound to be different, as I would be riding my Irish Cob, Jaguar. Shortly into one of our first outings at MacBurn, however, he decided that the sand was very inviting. As in, "I'd like to lie down now." Uh Oh. I didn't have a third horse. He just had to get the hang of this.

I reminded myself that Jaguar was a young 4-year-old with limited time under saddle. Patience. It's a virtue. But I didn't have long to wait; once he realized what it was all about, he took to foxhunting like I'd hoped he would. We quickly advanced from third field to second, and I've come to realize that while it may take time to build a great foxhunter, they either have it or they don't. Here's to those that are sure to stand out at any foxhunt.















Moonpie
Age: 21
Breed: Paint Mare

MOONPIE:

A number of years ago, our Whipper-In, Nicole Cunningham, had an opportunity to trail ride in the Black Hills of South Dakota, but she was without a horse. Jim Wooldridge and Sara Dill loaned her their reliable no-nonsense Moonpie. She handily packed Nicole and her young son, Cullin, for a memorable week. In 2014, she borrowed her again, this time as a stand-in for her injured whip horse. "I kind of underestimated her abilities because I didn't picture myself on a little paint mare of unknown origin. As I like to say, she's out of Virginia by Truck & Trailer." In other words, she looked nothing like the big, elegant Thoroughbreds that people often associate with Foxhunting.

They quickly became a team that Wateree Hounds would be lost without. "She just always shows up for work. On hunt days, she'll push you out of the way to get on the trailer. She has an intensity when she's out hunting. She's 100% game on. I don't have to do much of anything. She stays on good ground. She keeps herself safe and she keeps me safe. She's in charge out there."

Last season, Nicole didn't bring Pie out until the weather cooled down. At 21, the little paint mare had earned the break from the heat. When Moonpie made her season debut, everyone in the field commented on how much she had been missed. "She's so recognizable – people love seeing her." And it's especially fun to watch Pie in action. "She gets big – she looks in the woods – she always sees game before I do. This past year, at H. Cooper Black, Tony told me to go around the swamp… the coyote came out and she was ready to work…I had to hold her back until all the hounds were out…it seems like she would happily be part of the pack."





TINSEL:

Tinsel stands 8-1/2 hands – which translates to a mere 34 inches. She's an 11-year-old miniature pony that Dominique Morrison purchased at the Troutman Sale. A Silver Roan Appaloosa, Tinsel would be eye-catching no matter her size, but that elegant coloring with that petite package is simply spectacular. This was Tinsel's first year in the hunt field and Nolan, Dominique's 6-year-old son, enjoyed his first year foxhunting off-line. "We got super lucky. We bought her and immediately started hunting her. She pulls a cart, has been used in a petting zoo, and has also worked as a therapy pony."

Tinsel doesn't seem to realize that she's vertically challenged – she happily keeps up with the big horses. Several times this year, I would see Nolan, along with his older brother, Tristan, zooming around the field. After all, having a great time is the best part of a day of foxhunting. As Dominique points out, "She's that special dream pony. She will go anywhere that you point her." Nolan adds, "She does what I ask her. She won't run away with me. I love my horse."

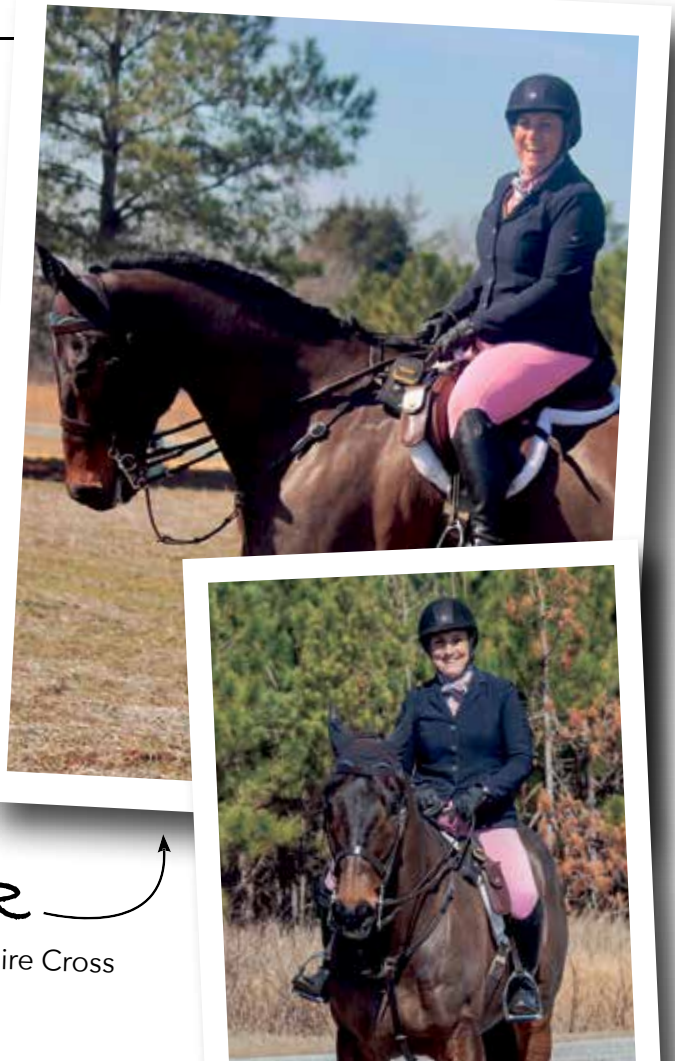
TINSEL

Age: 11 Breed: miniature pony Size: 8-1/2 hands

GUNNAR:

And then there's Gunnar. He's a terribly handsome 12-year-old Shire Cross from Canada. In December 2022, Lisa Winkler drove to Virginia to look at four horses. When she got to the farm where Gunnar was located, it was pouring rain. There was no indoor arena, no ring, and lots of clay footing. She was able to walk and trot him on some trails, but had to use the driveway to try him at the canter and gallop. While it might not be the best way to try out a show horse, it wasn't necessarily the worst way to try out a hunt horse. "He was not technically a foxhunter, but I did buy him from Bull Run. He had arrived that summer for the Huntsman. He was perfect for hound exercise and whipping-in, but he was incredibly herd-bound, not what you need to lead the chase."

The first thing Lisa noticed was his big walk. "If you don't have a horse with a good walk, they will jig if they can't keep up - nothing worse in the hunt field. He's also very comfortable; that was critically important as I have



GUNNAR

Age: 12 Breed: Shire Cross

had several back surgeries. I played with him as best I could, and it was obvious that he learned very quickly. He would stop and stand, which is really important for checks, especially when you're leading a field."

Most likely crossed with a Thoroughbred, Gunnar stands close to 17 hands. Because he's built uphill, he is lighter on his feet than you might expect from a bigger horse; he uses his strong hind end to propel him forward. Lisa notes that "he had the raw material. He did take a lot of homework, and he had to find his right spot. He will go over and through anything I point him at, this was something I saw when I tried him that day."

Like all good hunt horses, Gunnar is always sensible. "He'll think about it and walk through it. If it's something he knows he can't navigate it, he will stop and back out or turn around without panicking. When I'm leading a field, he's exactly the kind of horse I need."

KASH and ROXY:

Three years ago, Jessie Duffee and a friend attended one of the Wateree Hounds' Introduction to Foxhunting Clinics. The two ladies were known on the endurance riding circuit, where competitors and their horses ride 25 to 100 miles in a single day. However, Endurance events involve a good bit of travel and entire weekends away. Part of the appeal of foxhunting: there are two scheduled rides a week, within easy distance of home. For Jessie, the other plus would undoubtedly be "the outfits", she is always exquisitely turned out.

There's another thing that will make one notice Jessie: the breed of horse that she rides. Arabians excel at Endurance, and it's the breed that Jessie has ridden since childhood. When she turned to foxhunting, Jessie stayed with what she knew. At a quick glance, her two horses, Kash and Roxy, are nearly interchangeable; she does like a good bay.

Her first season, she rode Roxy exclusively, thinking she would take to it, but "Roxy thinks it's a race. She wants to pass everyone." The next season, Jessie brought out Kash, who "definitely likes it more. He handles the crowds better. He listens. He's figured it out." Whether she's on Roxy or Kash, Jessie has confirmed that their endurance skills work just as well when riding to the hounds.

Jessie's fearless; she started in first field, taking everything in stride. This won her the Hardcore Hunter Award in 2024. Receiving her colors at this past Spring's Hunt Ball, Jessie has become a good ambassador for foxhunting. "You don't have to have the fancy foxhunter to get out and try it. You just have to put in the time and see if they will take to it."





KASH and ROXY:

Breed: Arabians





SMUDGE:

Breed: Cheval Canadiens

SMUDGE:

Marta Rose, who lives in Waxhaw, had gotten back into riding during Covid. It didn't take long before she began looking for a mount to carry her on foxhunts with members Alene Harfman and Craig Cheevers. "I admit -- it was impulsive…I saw him online and put a deposit on him." A few days later, she tried Smudge at a joint meet of the Wateree Hounds and Low County Hunt. While he hadn't really foxhunted before, Marta notes that he "was everything they had advertised. He did a great job. We just went all day. He never put a foot wrong. I bought him then and there."

Cheval Canadiens have a distinctive look: typically dark in color, they are sturdy with strong chests, legs, and hooves. They are known for their intelligence and loyal nature. Smudge is certainly representative of this small-registry breed. Marta notes that "I get asked all the time what kind of horse he is. They think he'll be a plodding draft horse, but he's got no bottom. He trots as fast as many horses gallop. He's a real pocket rocket."

When Marta gets stuck having to go to her job, she turns the reins over to Kelsey Briggs, who recently competed him in Beginner Novice Eventing. He did show jumping like a pro and his cross country was "so much fun." Had he not gotten one foot out of the arena during his dressage test, he would have been in the ribbons. Kelsey summed up her feelings about Smudge with a custom t-shirt that simply reads SMUDGEALICIOUS.

Like Lisa Winkler's Gunnar, Marta's Smudge "has gotten me out of some pickles. At one hunt, I got stuck in a ravine; he just scrambled up the vertical. I trust him with my life." At this year's Green Creek Field Hunter Trials, Marta and Smudge took best turned out. When someone offered to buy him on the spot, it's no surprise that Marta looked at the gentleman, shook her head, smiled and said thanks, but no.

FUN FACT

Smudge truly is a rare breed. He is a Cheval Canadien, a heritage breed that Louis XIV sent to Canada in the 17th century. Known as The Little Iron Horse, they would excel because of their toughness, stamina, and ability to withstand harsh winters. Not exactly what we have here, but, you never know when another winter storm might decide to invade the South.



FRED:

Standing somewhere in the range of 17 hands is Fred, an Irish Sport Horse, who is in his second season as our Huntsman's horse. A few years ago, Ned Towell was looking for a future horse that could be used as a back-up to his Petey. In the search, Ned's mother, Lisa, reached out to Stevie Macken, a friend of the Towell family.

Stevie, the son of the renowned Eddie Macken, hails from Ireland, a country known for its fearless foxhunters and fabulously surefooted horses. And yes, he knew of just the horse: "My mother has the very best horse. He's been out with the hounds." During her transatlantic phone call with Susanne Macken, Lisa learned a bit more about the young grey gelding they called Fred. Pictures were exchanged, a deal was struck, and in short order, Fred embarked on his trip from County Meath to Kershaw County.

Fred arrived at just the right time. Wateree Hounds member Lucy Dunbar had recently lost her mare and was in need of a horse to ride. Not only that, Fred was exactly the type that Lucy had evented when she was living in her native England. "He was a big, goofy baby. A gentle giant who absolutely is the sweetest boy." He was young and still a bit green, but she knew with miles, he would be spectacular. "I did hours of flatwork with trainer Jill Allard, more on the trails, and a few eventing clinics. He tries hard and will jump anything you point him at. He will definitely get you to the other side! I am so grateful that I had the opportunity to take him to a few events and hunt him during the 2024-2025 season."

Enter Huntsman Tony Gammell. Like Fred, he's an Irishman. Like Fred, he isn't petite. And like Fred, he's a Grey (sorry about that, Tony!). At the 2025 Opening Oyster Roast, Tony looked across the Finally Farm field and said to Jack Towell, "Geez, Jack, I'll hunt him for you. A week later, Jack called. He wanted to know when I was coming to pick up that big grey." Fred seems to have found his calling; he absolutely loves his job. More importantly, for a huntsman's horse, he "loves the hounds. He doesn't know what it is to say no. When the hounds are running, he doesn't need steering, he goes where the hounds are. He does everything I ask of him."



FRED:

Breed: Irish Sport Horse

Size: 17 hands

JAGUAR:



At the start of this article, I talked a bit about my Cob, Jaguar. My husband, Marc, and I were on holiday in Ireland and Scotland. Horses were on the itinerary, but only as something to bet on at a racecourse, watch at a show, and enjoy on an afternoon trail ride. On that outing, I found the Irish Cob's temperament to be similar to many of the Quarter Horses my father had bred and raised. While I had not started foxhunting - I was, after all, only 57 at the time and it would be another three years before my first hunt – the breed appealed to me. Surefooted. Confident. Loyal. Eager to Please.

A few days later, Marc and I skipped the sites of Dublin to spend a day at Cairnview Stud. The four-year-old mare we'd gone to see had sold the previous day. Though we looked at everything, it was in a field of twenty mares and foals that my eye kept going to the two-month-old colt with the large star on his forehead. Again, not what we had gone to see. But, isn't that exactly what keeps life from being boring? Five months later, Cairnview Jaguar arrived at our farm, a far better souvenir than some silly old sweater!

He's a touch over 14.2, just barely a horse. In fact, Lisa Winkler calls him my "Thelwell pony." He might not be the biggest in the group, but he does get noticed. Whether it's his fabulous tail, his "manehawk" or his hallmark leg feather that swishes as he moves, he's just so dang cute and so much fun. He's turned into a terrific foxhunting partner. Like the others in this article, he's smart, good at his job, and a joy in the field.

Now, to make this story even better – get this. Susanne Macken's Rafeehan Stud Farm is a mere 14-minute drive from Cairnview. Via planes, ferries, and lorries, Fred and Jaguar managed to find themselves enjoying life with The Wateree Hounds.



JAGUAR:
Breed: Irish Cob Size: 14.2 hands

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All photos by Jessica O'Connor



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Q&A JOE WHITT





Joe Whitt

TAKING THE REINS:

Newly Elected Chairman Joe Whitt Shares His Vision For South Carolina Equine Park

BY SALLY F. KAY

Nestled at the vibrant heart of Camden's equestrian identity, the South Carolina Equine Park (SCEP) serves as a premier hub for thousands of passionate exhibitors, horses, and spectators every year. Stepping into leadership as the newly appointed Chairman of the Board, Joe Whitt brings a powerful combination of hands-on industry experience, forward-thinking strategy, and an inspiring vision to usher the park into its next chapter of growth and excellence.

Joe, can you share your insights into your role at South Carolina Equine Park?

As Chairman of the Board, my responsibility is to ensure the South Carolina Equine Park has the leadership, structure, and long-term strategy needed to thrive. I focus on strengthening board governance, guiding operational priorities, and positioning the park for responsible growth and major renovations.

A significant part of my role is championing the park within Camden and Kershaw County. It's important that local businesses, civic leaders, and the broader community understand the tremendous economic value the park brings. My goal is to ensure exhibitors, show managers, and spectators experience a safe, well-maintained, and welcoming facility every time they come to the park.

How did you initially get involved in the equine industry?

I grew up on a small farm in Virginia and got my first horse at a young age. I began showing at age nine and was hooked immediately. Today, I compete on the AQHA circuit and remain deeply connected to the friendships, competition, and community that makes the equine industry so special.





What sets South Carolina Equine Park apart from other equine facilities?

We are a vintage, boutique facility with a strong reputation for customer experience. While we know major renovations are needed, our priority today is maintaining a safe, clean environment with excellent footing and dependable operations.

We're also unique in the Southeast for our ability to host cattle classes, which sets us apart and supports a niche group of exhibitors. As we grow, we aim to welcome back more rated shows and expand our offerings across multiple disciplines.

What are the most popular events held at the park?

Our largest events currently come from the stock horse breeds, including the South Carolina Quarter Horse and Paint Horse organizations. Because we can accommodate cattle classes, we serve a need that few facilities in the region can meet.

Looking ahead, we're committed to strengthening our stock horse presence while also rebuilding our Dressage and Over-Fence offerings to bring more diverse events back to Camden.

How does the park contribute to the local equestrian community?

The South Carolina Equine Park is a major economic engine for Camden and Kershaw County, generating an estimated $12–15 million annually. We host 35+ equine events each year and welcome over 25,000 attendees.

We're excited to add the Southern Belle Select Sale in April 2027, and we're actively working to expand the park's footprint and impact across the Southeast equine community.

Can you recount a memorable moment or event hosted at the park?

Although I've only recently joined the board, I've shown at the park since moving to Camden in 2023. One standout moment was our sold-out SCQHA March 2026 show, where demand was so strong we added 50 temporary stalls.

Moments like that highlight the park's potential—and reinforce why strategic investment and renovation are essential for our future.

What challenges do you encounter in managing the park?

As a vintage facility, we face daily challenges related to aging infrastructure, maintenance demands, and equipment needs. However, I'm encouraged by the commitment of our current board. We're shifting from a reactive mindset to a

proactive, strategic approach that will position the park for long-term success.

How do you ensure the park caters to the needs of both riders and horses?

Safety is our top priority – for horses, riders, and exhibitors. From footing and stall conditions to traffic flow and cleanliness, we focus on the fundamentals first. As we secure funding for renovations, we'll expand our efforts to enhance the overall exhibitor experience and modernize the facility.

Are there any upcoming improvements or projects planned for the park?

We have several minor improvements underway, but our primary focus is securing funding for major renovations. These upgrades are essential to maintaining our competitive position, attracting larger shows, and ensuring the park continues to serve the equine community for decades to come.

What advice would you offer to someone aspiring to pursue a career in equine facility management?

Equine facility management is demanding, hands-on work – but incredibly rewarding. Success comes from passion, resilience, and a genuine love for the equine industry. If you're committed to the people, the horses, and the community, you can build a meaningful and impactful career.

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-Marta Rose



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THE MASTER OF THE CUT: SOCIAL MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Diana Wenman's Inspiring Journey from Center Stage to Behind the Scenes



A LIFE REIMAGINED: FROM ASPIRING ACTOR TO FOUR-TIME EMMY WINNER AND COMMUNITY LEADER

BY SALLY F. KAY

In the high-stakes world of New York television, the magic often happens in the quiet, darkened rooms where stories are woven together. For Diana Wenman, this was the stage where she truly found her voice. Her journey – a vibrant tapestry spanning the golden age of live TV to the historic streets of Camden, South Carolina – is a testament to the power of reinvention, the value of technical mastery, and the enduring spirit of service.

Diana's story began with a dream shared by many: the bright lights of a Connecticut theater. As a young woman, she pursued acting with passion, balancing nocturnal classes with daytime industry jobs. Yet, it was within this very pursuit that Diana experienced a pivotal moment of self-discovery. She realized that while she loved the heart of storytelling, the vulnerability and "ego" required for a life on stage didn't quite match her temperament. Instead, she found herself captivated by the mechanics of production – the timing, the coordination, and the structural decisions that brought a script to life.



BASE OF THE MATTERHORN IN ZERMATT, SWITZERLAND

"I was more interested in the production side, which was fabulous because I didn't have the ego that would have taken the rejection personally," Diana reflects. By trading the spotlight for the control room, she didn't just find a career, she found her calling. This transition led her through the pressure-cooker environments of live game shows and advertising agencies, honing a precision that would soon make television history.

The most transformative chapter of Diana's career arrived at the Children's Television Workshop (CTW). As an editor for The Electric Company, she was at the vanguard of an educational revolution. In an era long before digital editing, Diana and her crew performed the impossible, synchronizing complex audio-visual cues and using early video effects to make reading feel magical for children. These "creative breakthroughs" often happened in the middle of the night, fueled by a shared dedication to literacy and a deep bond with her colleagues. "We did things that couldn't be done," she recalls with pride, remembering a time when technical limitations were simply hurdles to be cleared by innovation.

Her commitment to excellence eventually led her to the prestigious Metropolitan Opera and the fast-paced world of daytime soaps. It was on the set of All My Children that Diana's technical mastery was officially recognized with four Emmy Awards for technical excellence in editing. These accolades were the crowning achievement of a career defined by meticulous detail and professional dedication.

Beyond the screen, Diana's foresight in joining the Directors Guild of America (DGA) and her smart financial planning provided the foundation for a secure and fulfilling next act. When the time came to retire from the "24/7" pace of New York, she looked southward, following a path paved by friendship to Camden, South Carolina.

A NEW PRODUCTION: IMPACTING CAMDEN THROUGH SERVICE

In Camden, Diana found a different kind of stage. The transition from the high-octane control room to an equestrian-focused historic community required a shift in mindset, but Diana brought her "producer's eye" with her. She quickly discovered that volunteering was the ultimate way to build roots. Today, she



Diane with the crew of The Electric Company



Diana enjoying her other passion of golf.

applies her lifetime of expertise to local institutions, from the Art Center to Historic Camden and the Wateree Hounds Hunt Club. For Diana, every project is executed with the same "technical excellence" that defined her Emmy-winning career.

Volunteering with the Wateree Hounds, in particular, has opened her eyes to the fascinating mechanics of the sport and the hounds themselves. It has also introduced her to a wonderful, dedicated group of people.

"I found that volunteering is the greatest way to get to know people," she says. Through her service, Diana isn't just giving back; she is strengthening the social fabric of her home, proving that professional dedication doesn't end at retirement – it simply finds a new purpose.

Having traveled to all seven continents and reached the pinnacle of her profession, Diana Wenman looks back on a life well-lived and forward to a community well-served. Her journey from an aspiring actor to a master of the cut serves as an inspiring reminder that with a bit of courage and a lot of dedication, we can all find our place – both behind the scenes and at the heart of our community. "I've met great people," she reflects. "I've really had a wonderful life."

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GLOSSARY of hunt terms



ACCOUNTING FOR THE QUARRY
Catching it or marking it to ground

ALL ON
All hounds are present

AS HOUNDS RAN
The total distance covered by hounds from the find (where the fox is found) to where the chase ends (not to be confused with the point)

BABBLER
A foxhound that speaks to a nonexistent line out of sheer excitement

BAY
The quarry is said to be at bay when it ceases to run and turns to face the pack.

BIDDABLE
A hound that honors the commands of the huntsman and staff

BILLET
Fox droppings (also scat)

BITCH
A female canine

BLANK
When a fox is not found in covert

BRACE OF FOXES
Two foxes

BREAKFAST
The meal following the hunt

BRUSH
Fox's tail

BURST
A short, fast run

BYE DAY
An extra, unscheduled hunting day

CAP OR CAPPING FEE
A contribution to the upkeep of hounds paid by visitors and nonmembers for a day's hunting (originally dropped into the outstretched cap of the field secretary)

CARRYING A GOOD HEAD
When front runners in the pack run tightly abreast to pick up changes in the fox's direction (also running with a good head)

CAST
A deployment of hounds trying to recover a lost line

CAT FOOT
The round shape of the foot of the English-type foxhound as compared to the hare foot (elongated shaped foot) of the American-type foxhound

CHECK
When hounds lose the line of the fox

CHOP
Hounds catch the fox quickly before it has a chance to run

CLICKETING
When foxes mate or pair up

CLOSED SEASON
Non-hunting season: late March through early August

COFFEE HOUSE
When members of the field chatter amongst themselves rather than pay attention to hounds

COLD LINE
An old, faint scent from line of the fox

COLD NOSE
Ability to detect very low levels of scent

COLORS
A club-specific colored collar worn by riding members after a designated length of time

COUPLES
Two leather collars joined by a chain. This is how we "count" the numbers of hounds in the field

COURSE
When the hounds switch from hunting by scent to hunting by sight, they are said to course (or to be coursing) the quarry.

COVERT
An area of scrub, brush, or woods where wild animals find protection

CRY
The voice of hounds giving tongue (speaking) to the line of the quarry

CUB
Young fox

CUR DOG
Any canine that is not a hound

DRAFT
A hound that is cut from the pack

DRAG
The line the fox has traveled and left its scent during its perambulations

DRAW
Deployment of hounds when searching for a fox

DWELL
An unwanted trait in a hound that is so enamored of the scent that it slows down to savor it, rather than driving forward after the quarry. Such a hound, as it speaks to the line, tends to pull the other hounds back to it and hurts the progress of the hunt.

EARTH
Underground hole (den or burrow) where foxes lie for protection

EARTHSTOPPING
Blocking entrances to fox earths at night while foxes are out hunting so they cannot take refuge the next day. This practice is not followed in North America, where foxes are not so numerous as to require culling.

ENTER
When a young hound is added to the pack. The hound is said to be entered when the cubhunting season is finished.

FAULT
Foxhounds are said to be at fault when they lose the scent and check.

FEATHER
When a hound finds scent and begins to wag its stern (tail)

FLAGS
Hounds are displayed on the flags (flat pieces of flagstone) at hound shows (or in kennels) so as to stand squarely, evenly and completely visible for the judges (or visitors).

FLESH
The carcass of domestic animals (cattle, horses, sheep, fowl) used to feed hounds in kennel

FOIL
Any scent that masks the line of the quarry, such as manure, cattle, sheep, fertilizer, or vehicle fumes

FULL CRY
When the entire pack is speaking on the line of the fox

GIVE TONGUE
When hounds speak to the line of the quarry

GONE AWAY
Hounds have left the covert and are running the line as a pack

GOSSAMER
Filmy cobwebs on the grass or bushes; more noticeable when there is a dew

HACK
A relaxed ride to or from the meet

HARE FOOT
The elongated shape of the foot of the American-type foxhound as compared to the cat foot (round shaped foot) of the English-type foxhound

HARK
When from the huntsman (usually pronounced "hike"), it is a command to hounds to honor (go and help) another hound that has found the line. When from the field master, it is a command to field members to be quiet and listen.

HEADED
When the fox has been turned from its direction of travel by a car, person, or cur dog

HEADLAND
Usually a command from the field master ("Headland, please!") to stay to the edges of the field and off the crops or grass.

HEAVY VIXEN
A female fox with cubs before whelping

HEEL LINE
The line of the fox opposite to the direction it is traveling

HILL TOPPERS
A group of field members that follows the hunt from hilltop to hilltop. Usually a non-jumping field where green horses and riders are introduced to foxhunting and go at a much slower pace.

HIRELING
A rented horse for hunting

HOLD HARD
The command to stop and stand still

HOLLOA
Loud voice signal to huntsman and hounds that a fox has been viewed (pronounced "holler")

HONOR
When hounds respect another hound's find and rush to its assistance

HONORARY SECRETARY
A small house or cottage used for lodging during the hunting season

HUNT LIVERY
The unique attire proscribed by the master(s) for their hunt, including the color of the collar of the hunt coat, the color of the collar and facings of the formal tails and the distinctive hunt buttons

IN WHELP
Pregnant

KENNEL HUNTSMAN
The hunt staff member responsible for the care of hounds in kennel and who whips-in to an amateur huntsman

LARK
To gallop and jump for pleasure or diversion even though hounds are not running

LEASH OF FOXES
Three foxes

LIEU IN
Huntsman's command to hounds to enter the covert and search for the fox

LIFTING HOUNDS
When the huntsman calls hounds away from the line they are hunting and brings them forward to a view holloa or to where he believes the quarry to have gone

LOSS
Hounds are at a loss when they have lost the scent they were following

LOW SCENTING
Describes a hound that can detect very low levels of scent

MARKING
When hounds speak, dig and/or scratch at the earth where the fox has gone to ground

MASK
Fox's head

MUTE
When a hound runs the line of the quarry silently without giving tongue — an undesirable characteristic

NOSE
The ability to detect and follow the scent of the hunted quarry

OPEN
When a hound utters its initial cry upon finding (detecting) the scent of the quarry, he is said to have opened.

OWN
When hounds are together and running the line well and easily, they are said to own the line.

PAD
Fox's foot

POINT
(As in a 5-mile-point). The straight line distance between the find (where the fox is found) and the end of the chase (not to be confused with as hounds ran). Also, when a whipper-in stands watching the covert while the hounds are drawing, he or she is said to be on point.

PURE
Hound excrement

QUARRY
The hunted animal: legitimately fox, coyote, bobcat, and sometimes wild pig or boar in North America

RATCATCHER
Informal hunting attire: customarily shirt, tie, tweed coat, and field boots

RATE
When the huntsman or whipper-in scolds a hound

RIOT
When foxhounds hunt anything but acceptable quarry

ROADING
Exercising hounds on the road

RUNNING WITH A GOOD HEAD
When front runners in the pack spread out to pick up changes in the fox's direction (also carrying a good head)

SCAT
Fox droppings (also billet)

SING
When hounds hold their heads up and make a wonderful noise, often when they are happy. They should never be stopped from singing and should be allowed to finish their anthem.

SINK THE WIND
Heading downwind

SKIRTING
When a hound cuts corners to get ahead rather than follow the line of the fox, it is said to skirt or to be a skirter — an undesirable trait.

SMEUSE
A path through a fence that may be used by fox, hare, rabbit, or other small animals

SPEAK
When hounds give tongue to the line of the quarry

SPINNEY
A small covert

STEADY
Refers to a hound that hunts acceptable quarry only, does not speak to or follow the line of riot, and ignores distractions and commotion.

STERN
Hound's tail

STRIKE HOUND
A hound that is often the first to find

STUB-BRED
Foxes born above ground

TAIL HOUNDS
Refers to hounds running behind the main pack.

TALLY-HO
A phrase indicating the quarry has been viewed

TALLY-HO, BACK
A phrase used when the quarry has been viewed going back into covert (pronounced "tall-ho, bike")

TALLY-HO, OVER
A phrase used when the quarry is viewed crossing a trail or ride

THROWN OUT
When the rider has missed the run due to any number of reasons, such as falling, getting lost, being unable to jump a fence, or coming across a locked gate

THRUSTER
A member of the mounted field who is constantly crowding the field master and the hounds

TOP AND TAIL
Cull from the front and back of the pack to keep the pack together and not strung out.

TRACE
A track or path that deer use

UN-KENNELED
When the quarry is roused from where it is lying

VIEW HOLLOA
The screech shouted when the quarry is viewed to let the huntsman know the quarry is afoot and to provide an audible beacon to which hounds may hark

VISITING FOX
Refers to a dog fox (male) that has traveled away from its home country during the mating season in search of a vixen. If found by hounds, the visitor will often make for its familiar country, which can result in one of the longest runs of the season.

VIXEN
Female fox

WALK
In spring and summer, hound puppies sent out of the kennels to live at members' and supporters' farms for socializing are said to be at walk . When destruction to yard, garden, and shrubs stretches the limits of the good puppy walkers' tolerance, the hounds are returned to the kennels.

WARE
A contraction of "beware," used to alert riders to potential hazards, as in "'Ware hole!"

WHELP
(noun) A hound puppy
(verb) To give birth

WHIPPER-IN
Assists the huntsman (extra eyes and ears) with hounds during the hunting day by going on point, viewing the quarry away, watching and correcting (if necessary) hounds and bringing on the tail hounds. If an amateur, he or she is referred to as an honorary whipper-in.

Source: Foxhuntinglife.com



The Tack Room Bridles Fifty Years of Excellence

BY SALLY F. KAY

For nearly half a century, The Tack Room has been a cornerstone of the equestrian community, evolving from a small storefront to a 33,000-square-foot destination that serves riders far beyond its local roots in Camden. The story of The Tack Room is one of family legacy, strategic adaptation, and an unwavering commitment to the "personal touch" in an increasingly digital world.

A Half-Century Foundation

The Tack Room's origins are as storied as the horses it serves. The business began with Cyril Harrison, a polo player who famously operated out of his station wagon. It eventually transitioned to Hope Cooper, who opened a storefront downtown, before being purchased by the current owner's (John Cushman) mother. In the late 1970s, the current owner and his spouse, Sandy (Ex-MFH and Whipper-In of The Camden Hunt and Honorary Whipper - In and Board Member for The Wateree Hounds), took the reins. For the first decade, they didn't take a penny out of the business, reinvesting every sale back into growth – a discipline that allowed them to survive while many small competitors faded away.

The new millennium marked a turning point. In 2000, the business moved to its current landmark location, expanding from 5,000 to 33,000 square feet. Today, the legacy continues with the next generation, daughter Adriane and son-in-law Jonathan Potter, who have integrated modern technology while maintaining the family-run atmosphere that defines the store.

"Watching the store grow from a small shop to what it is today has been the journey of a lifetime," John Cushman reflected. "But no matter how many square feet we add, our evolution is always rooted in the people. That personal touch isn't just a business strategy; it's our way of honoring every customer who has walked through our doors for the last fifty years."

COMMUNITY INCLUSIVITY:
Supporting all equestrian disciplines to foster a thriving local ecosystem.



FIFTY YEARS OF LEGACY:
Evolution from a station wagon operation to a 33,000-square-foot landmark.



DIGITAL & MOBILE INNOVATION:
Combining "Big Blue" mobile units with a high-speed web presence to reach riders everywhere.



Customer Service as a North Star

In an era of automated menus and AI chatbots, The Tack Room remains a bastion of traditional service. Their philosophy is simple: when the phone rings, a person answers. This isn't just about speed; it's about expertise. Roughly 80% of the staff are horse people themselves, ensuring that customers speak with someone who understands the nuances of the equipment and the lifestyle. "You cannot get personal service anywhere else," the owners noted during a recent interview. By empowering long-term employees to make decisions and build relationships, the store has cultivated a level of trust that keeps families coming back for generations.

Growth through Adaptation

What started as a business focused 90% on racehorses and fox hunting has expanded into a full equestrian life store. Recognizing that retail is always in flux, the owners pivoted to create a unique boutique experience by offering:

- High-end equestrian apparel
- Curated gifts for horse enthusiasts
- Sophisticated home furnishings

The COVID-19 pandemic served as a major catalyst for their digital evolution. While many industries struggled, the equestrian market exploded. The Tack Room leaned into its robust inventory and embraced the web, setting a goal to be "faster than Amazon." Because they ship directly from their own storefront – ensuring that if it's on the website, it's under their roof – they can offer same-day shipping and next-day delivery to nearby regions without the delays common in corporate retail.

The Tack Room on Tour

The store's reach is further extended by "Big Blue," their mobile unit. What began with a small trailer in 2010 has evolved into a massive, climate-controlled NASCAR-style trailer that brings The Tack Room experience directly to horse shows and events. More than just a convenience, the mobile unit allows the staff to meet customers where they are, fostering connections that eventually lead back to the storefront and website.

Community and the Future

As they look toward the future, The Tack Room remains deeply rooted in the Camden community. Their operating philosophy is both broad and inclusive, driven by the belief that "a rising tide lifts all ships."

This sentiment drives their commitment to avoid picking

favorites among local equestrian organizations. "We don't pick winners and losers," they emphasize. "We want everybody to be winners."

Their support extends across the entire spectrum of the horse industry. While the store is heavily focused on the hunter/jumper world, the staff recognizes that the equestrian lifestyle in Camden is a diverse tapestry.

From the pageantry of fox hunting and the speed of polo to the quiet connection of trail riding, dressage, and Western disciplines, the store supports them all through sponsorships, advertisements, and prizes.

"As we look ahead, we're excited to bring the latest technology to our customers," Adriane Potter noted, regarding the shop's trajectory. "Our goal is to use these modern tools to strengthen the traditions our family has built, ensuring that the next generation of riders feels that same sense of community and service, whether they find us on a smartphone or in Camden."

Whether it is through a custom-wrapped trailer, a high-tech website, or a simple conversation at the front counter, The Tack Room continues to prove that in the world of retail, the best way to move forward is



to never forget who brought you to the dance.

For the owners, who have chosen Camden as the place to raise their children, maintaining this vibrant ecosystem is personal. They understand that a successful retailer must read the market and keep up with trends, but their ultimate goal is to ensure the local equestrian lifestyle continues to thrive across all facets. By fostering a community where every discipline is valued, The Tack Room ensures that all parts of the equine industry — and the people who comprise them — have the opportunity to succeed.

SERVICE-FIRST PHILOSOPHY:
Prioritizing human connection and expert advice over automated systems.

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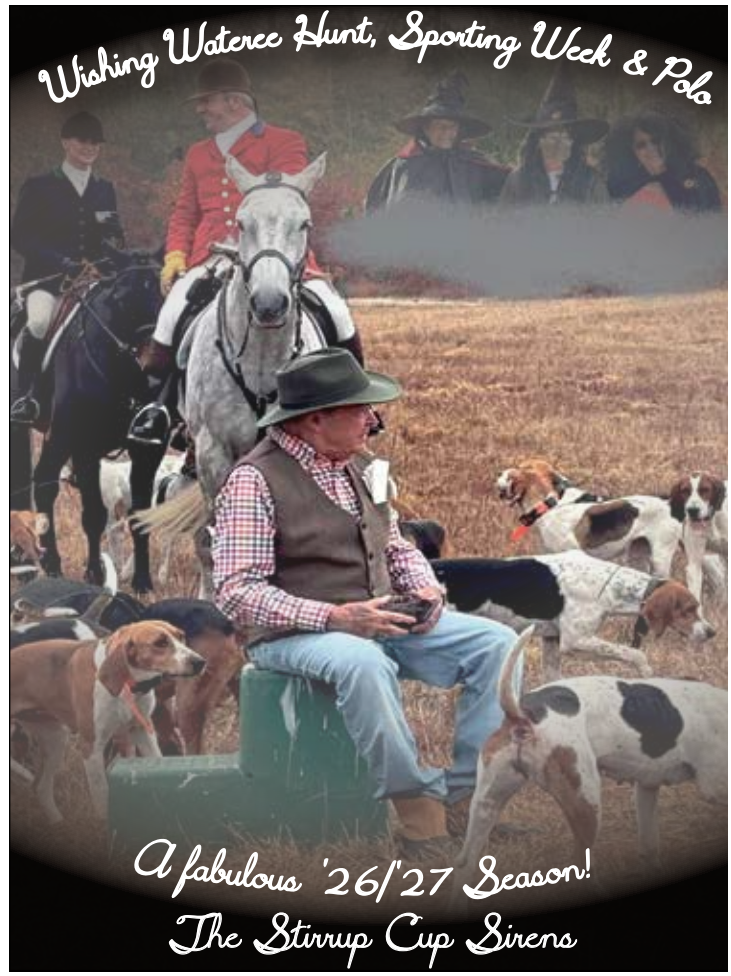

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The Next Chapter:

GAMMELL PLANS TO RETURN TO HIS IRISH ROOTS

Tony Gammell

A career built around hounds, a bloodline spanning generations, and one final journey home.

BY SARAH C. GAMMELL

It seems appropriate that the last chapter should end somewhere remarkably close to where the first one began.

Long before Tony Gammell ever carried a horn professionally, he was a boy in Ireland following hounds on foot. Hunting, shooting, and fishing were simply part of growing up, and his earliest education in hounds came behind beagles, harriers and otterhounds. It was an education that would prove more influential than anyone could have known at the time.

After finishing school, Tony left Ireland for England, spending a year in Berkshire in the show-jumping world before moving to Wynns-Tay Hunt in Wales for a season as second horseman to the huntsman. He then returned to Ireland, whipping-in at Limerick for three seasons, before crossing the Irish Sea again for two seasons with the Taunton Vale Foxhounds in Somerset and another two with the Jedforest Hunt in Scotland.

When foxhunting was banned in Scotland in 2000, Tony found himself contemplating what came next. Australia was under consideration, returning permanently to Ireland was not quite yet. Then America intervened.

An offer to hunt the hounds at Andrews Bridge brought him to Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, in April 2000. That particular chapter was brief. It became apparent rather quickly that Tony's understanding of hounds and foxhunting did not entirely align with that of the Master. Sometimes differing philosophies can be reconciled. Sometimes September arrives.

And in September, Tony moved south to Keswick, Virginia. .

A Bloodline — and a Family

What followed was far more than another entry on a huntsman's résumé. Tony would spend seventeen seasons at Keswick, but

From a boy following hounds in Ireland to a lifetime shaping packs across the world, Tony Gammell is finally going home.





his connection to those hounds – and ultimately to our family – would outlast the job itself.

My father, Jake Carle, had spent 37 years developing and breeding that bloodline of foxhounds. It was not breeding for the sake of producing a fashionable pedigree or filling a show ring. He bred working hounds with a purpose, generation after generation, and with an expectation that each one should be capable of doing the job for which it had been bred.

When Tony arrived at Keswick, he inherited not simply a pack of hounds, but a carefully established bloodline with years of history behind it. For the next seventeen years, he carried it forward. And he never really stopped.

Even after leaving Keswick, Tony continued breeding from that blood, preserving and developing a line that now represents more than six decades of deliberate selection between the two men. Some things survive changes of country, kennel, and circumstance because they are worth carrying with you. Those hounds did.

It is also, of course, where two stories that began separately eventually became one. I had grown up with the same hounds Tony would later spend his career developing. Years later, neither of us could have imagined that the bloodline my father began breeding would still be part of our lives as Tony and I prepare to leave America together.

There are pedigrees written on paper. And then there are the ones that become personal.

Breed hounds to hunt. Train them to hunt. And then allow them to hunt.

Jedforest Hunt

Tony's philosophy about hounds was formed long before America, and probably long before he realized he had a philosophy at all.

"We rarely spoke about scent when I was a kid," he says. "The hounds didn't seem to have a problem hunting." There was, he remembers, a fairly practical reason for that. On foot, people simply couldn't remain close enough to the pack to interfere very often.

At Limerick, the difficulty of the country similarly required hounds to spend considerable time working things out for themselves. The result was some extraordinary hunting. In England, where mounted followers could remain much closer, Tony began to notice a difference. Scotland's mountainous country once again made interference nearly impossible: hounds could be seen and heard across a hillside, but riders could not simply materialize beside them every time the line became difficult.

Over the years, one principle became increasingly fixed:breed hounds to hunt. Train them to hunt. And then allow them to hunt.

America presented different conditions - warmer weather, drier ground, and depending upon the country, different quarry - but Tony's view of scent changed surprisingly little. It is his belief that far too much is sometimes made of it. Too often, it is a convenient explanation.

Poor scent can certainly make hunting difficult. But Tony has always believed that breeding, training, and allowing hounds to develop confidence in their own abilities are equally important parts of the equation.

Over the years, he has watched priorities within the sport evolve, but his own have remained largely unchanged: working ability must come first. Conformation and appearance have their place, but ultimately a working hound must be able to do the job for which it was bred.

It is a philosophy that has followed him from Ireland to Britain and across several very different hunting countries in America—and one that, after all these years, he sees little reason to change.



One Last Pack

After 17 seasons at Keswick, Tony took a year away, traveling through South America, Africa, New Zealand and Australia. He eventually returned to America and spent eight seasons in the Lowcountry.

By then, he knew Ireland was in his future. Tony had promised his son, James, that he would remain in America until James finished high school. With graduation coming in 2027, the timeline was clear. Tony knew there were two seasons left in his professional career here.

Then Wateree became available.



One more pack.

One last opportunity to take a pack of hounds, apply everything learned over a lifetime and see what they could become.

Wateree has provided no shortage of education. Its country presents its own challenges, and watching this pack learn to negotiate them has been one of the great pleasures of Tony's time here.

The kennel itself offers another advantage. Walking hounds regularly puts them among deer, providing young hounds with countless opportunities to learn a very simple lesson: deer are there, and deer are not theirs.

Tony has been told more than once how impressive it is that his hounds don't chase deer. His reaction is generally one of amusement. To him, this is not an exceptional achievement.





It is a basic standard.

If hounds are not sufficiently trained to be hunted, his view is rather uncomplicated: they shouldn't be hunted. Unfortunately, standards have an interesting habit of becoming "exceptional" once enough people stop insisting upon them.

The fact that chasing deer has become accepted in some packs—or at least met with a strategically averted eye—is something Tony believes the governing bodies of the sport should address more seriously.

Turning a blind eye, after all, has never trained a hound.

Myopic

There is one criticism Tony particularly enjoys. He smiles when he hears that he can be "myopic about the hounds."

"I like that one," he says.

Perhaps there are worse shortcomings in a huntsman than being excessively concerned with his hounds. Particularly these hounds.

Behind them sit the 37 years my father spent developing the blood, the 17 years Tony continued that work at Keswick, and the years since in which he has continued to breed it wherever his career has taken him.

More than six decades of purpose do not become irrelevant because fashions change. A pedigree, of course, is only paper unless the hounds underneath it can perform. Tradition is equally useless when its only qualification is age.

These hounds have repeatedly proven themselves where it matters. So perhaps myopic is the right word after all. Tony has always believed the hounds come first. He simply never realized that was something a huntsman was expected to apologize for.

Leaving Something Behind

The past two seasons have not only been about hounds.

Tony has enjoyed opening new country and developing new fixtures with others hopefully still to come. He believes Wateree has enormous potential, both in its country and in its kennel.

He will leave believing that he has done what he came here to do: the creation of a solid pack capable of continuing to improve. What happens with that potential afterward will belong to someone else.

A professional huntsman spends a career inheriting things – country, hounds, traditions, expectations, challenges – and eventually handing them on. You do your best with what you have,

leave it better where you can, and then someone else gets their turn.

Knowing when your work is finished is part of the job, too.

Home

And so, in 2027, Tony is going home.

Not because there is nothing left to do, but because there is something else we very much want to do.

We have bought a home in County Donegal, surrounded by the sort of country that makes retirement seem a rather inaccurate description of what lies ahead.

Behind us are mountains and deer. Nearby are salmon and trout rivers and exceptional coarse fishing. There is pheasant, woodcock and snipe shooting, and beyond the coastline, Atlantic bluefin tuna.

We plan to develop an outfitting business around the sporting life that drew Tony into this world in the first place—hunting, shooting, fishing and the wild country that makes all of them possible. Some of the hounds will be coming home with us, too.

There have also been conversations about another use for the skills Tony has spent a lifetime developing. Contacts in Tanzania and Kenya have opened discussions about the potential use of foxhounds in anti-poaching work—applying their athleticism, nose and generations of working instinct to tracking and pursuit in an entirely different context.

Whether that becomes another chapter remains to be seen. But then, Tony was supposed to go to Australia in 2000…

Twenty-seven years later, it seems unwise to make overly confident predictions about what he will do next.



Going Home

There will undoubtedly be things Tony misses.

He will miss carrying the horn. He will miss watching young hounds suddenly understand what is being asked of them. He will miss those days when everything comes together and a pack works as though connected by a single thought.

He will miss the hounds most. But perhaps that was always inevitable.

And perhaps that is the most appropriate ending of all.

A boy began following hounds on foot in Ireland. He crossed countries and continents because of them, built packs, and spent a lifetime following the path those hounds laid before him. Somewhere along the way, he even managed to marry that man's daughter.

There is a temptation, at the end of a long career, to tally successes and failures, praise and criticism, friendships made and opinions endured. Tony has never been particularly interested in keeping that score.

The hounds are a better record.

They cannot read pedigrees, politics, committee minutes or opinions. They are blissfully unaware of who is fashionable, who is important, and who believes they know better.

They only know themselves.

And after all these years, perhaps that is the only review that ever really mattered.

So yes, this is the last chapter.

Just not, we suspect, the last story.

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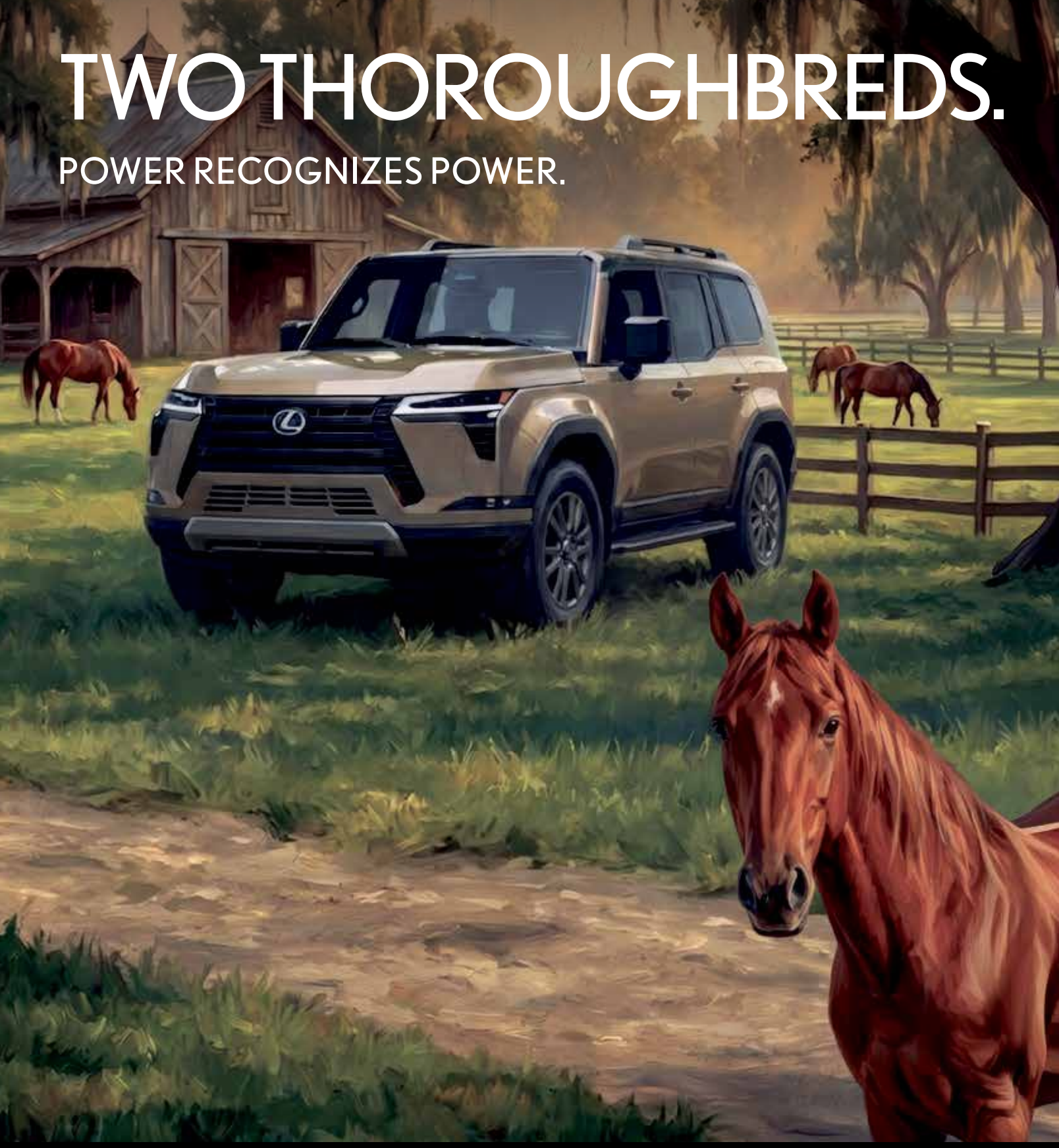

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