Bassett hound heaven at Haddle's Kennels

By GRACE R. DOVE

Many people are familiar with basset hounds, the lovable, laidback, short-legged dogs that al-ways seem ready to step on their long, floppy ears.

Unless you're a basset fanatic, you may not know that a basset hall of fame is located at Haddle's Kennels in Kunkle, home of Pet Care Associates and a line of champion bassets.

In addition to all of its champions, Haddle's now has another distinction. The first litter of basset puppies created by artificial insemination using frozen semen

was recently born there. "It's a challenge to consistently breed champions," Bill Haddle said. "Knowing what the judges look for - a pleasant personality, happy wagging tail and the build and appearance characteristic of the breed (confirmation) - certainly helps.

But a lot still depends on the dog's background.

Using semen frozen in 1989, Champion Haddle's Emma von Skauton was bred back to her great-grandfather, Champion Captain Midnight, now deceased, according to Haddle, kennel partner with Gary and Dawn Towne of Weedsport, NY.

This practice, known as line breeding, helps to fix desirable characteristics in dogs, Haddle

"Captain Midnight was a real ham," Haddle chuckled. "He was like a little windup toy - he loved to strut his stuff in the show ring."

In this type of show, dogs are judged on confirmation and personality, Haddle said. They must also be able to stand still to pose for the judge and not be afraid to work around other breeds.

That last requirement, confidence around other breeds, was what did Emma's father in, Haddle

"He was great at all-basset shows, but didn't like being around other breeds," Haddle said. "He couldn't get the points at the bigger shows that he needed to become a champion."

Dr. Sharon Horn of Pet Care Associates, the only area veterinarian certified in this type of procedure, performed the insemination on Emma.

Between the purchase of the semen, shipping costs and a breeding fee, Haddle estimated that this procedure could cost around \$800.

A pup with the makings of a champion costs around \$1,500 for a six month-old female or \$800 for a young male, Haddle said. It can take two years of shows to accumulate enough points for a champion.

Pups from this line purchased for family pets rather than shows run between \$450 and \$500.

"Bassets are good family dogs because they're very gentle and laid-back," Haddle said. "They're also good rabbit dogs. A basset's sensitive nose makes it an ideal tracking dog."

Haddle's basset hall of fame displays his kennel's many champions over the years, from Champion Haddle's Miss Priss and Champion Haddle's Orphan Annie on down to Captain Midnight.

His first champion, Orphan Annie, graces Haddle's logo and

"Miss Priss is responsible for this entire building," Haddle said.
"I needed a place for her pups."

Intrigued by their surroundings, two of Emma's pups sniffed their way around Dr. Horn's front office. One promptly made a little



POST PHOTO/GRACE R. DOVE

UNUSUAL LITTER - Dr. Sharon Horn of Pet Care Associates in Kunkle shows off two basset hound pups from a litter created by artificial insemination using frozen semen. This is the first time that this procedure has been done in the Back Mountain.

Back Mountain briefs

Silkworth Lions help the needy

puddle on the rug.

They didn't seem to care that Haddle has high hopes for their future, or that they're pioneers as far as basset breeding is con-

The Lake Silkworth Area Lions recently held a Christmas party for

the children of the surrounding communities at Our Lady of Mount

Carmel Church Hall, Lake Silkworth. Refreshments were served to all and Santa distributed toys to all the children. Lion Stanley Wojciechow-

ski was party chairman. Food packages were distributed to needy

families of the communities. Vice president Kelvin Swanger and Lion Tom Basta were co-chairmen of the annual food distribution project.

The Office of Vocational Rehabilitation located at 665 Carey Ave. in

Wilkes-Barre has announced that its hours of operation will be from 8

a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. This change will become effective immediately. This state office, which serves the employment

needs of individuals with disabilities, also announces a toll-free

number for the public use, 1-800-634-2060. The local number is 826-

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Vocational Rehab office lists new hours

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Area eye doctors attend Academy of Optometry

Dallas resident Dr. Kurt J. Moody, Dr. Curtis Goodwin of Back Mountain Eve Care in Shavertown and Dr. Jay B. Tanner of Dallas were among the 3000 doctors of optometry and other professionals in the eye care field from the United States and 15 foreign countries attending the 1993 meeting of the American Academy of Optometry in Boston,

Fellowship in the Academy is a

cherished and significant achievement held by only 10 percent of the optometrists in the United States and Canada. The 3700 member professional organization promotes quality vision and eye care worldwide. It has members in the United States and 28 other countries.

Dr. Tanner has been member of the American Academy of Optometry for three years, while Dr. Moody has been a member for five



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Friends of Library fruit sale successful

The Friends of the Back Mountain Memorial Library recently concluded its second successful citrus fruit sale for the benefit of the library. The fruit sales included oranges and grapefruit in individual packages purchased from Orlando, Florida. There were 359 boxes of fruit sold; 200 of oranges and 159 of grapefruit. This sale is one of many projects the 'Friends' conduct for the library every year.



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