



prior to the 2008 Nationals in Greeley. Did she use one specific dog as a model?

"No. I watched rindside at the '07 Nationals as I formed the basic shape. I did photograph a few girls for reference. While Heather Braddock's girl Jamie was the most photographed, I based it only loosely on her in the end."

Is she pleased with the result? "Always want to go back and fix it! I actually did at first make the head disproportionately small, but resculpted that portion and had a new master mold made. My big hands had a job working that little head in clay. Some little things I would play with, but best to let her be. I do like the proportion and angles and bone (moderate!). I am satisfied that I portrayed my idea of a good typey bitch. Of course she is in an alert stack position, and I would have liked to put more motion in it, but perhaps another time I can do a moving dog or a leaping one."

Paula's path to Aussies has been a circuitous one. In addition to the childhood Doxie and teenage GSD, "In my 30's I got an Akita in a foolish fit of impracticality. I mean, did the usual 'like the way they look' decision and then had a reserved dog with little ball drive and that independent temperament that northern breeds tend to have. This when I wanted the proverbial ball-playing, trainable, smart playful dog as a companion. You know, an Aussie."

"So Spot was with me for 11 years and she had a good life, but I became more serious in my thinking about what I really wanted in a dog during her tenure with me, and I was drawn to the tailless blue collie-sort-of-but-not dogs that were so good at Frisbee®. (Ball-play! Biddable!). I'd always been sort

of drawn to collies because of childhood associations with friends' dogs, but always turned away from them because those heads were so extreme that they were not attractive, and because they just didn't seem healthy somehow. As I looked more at Aussies (only just getting more attention as they were recognized by The Club), I realized they would be exactly what I wanted with their drive, athleticism, and moderate look."

She got her first from a Maryland breeder, Joann Beavers of Elf Lane Farms. "She had a litter scheduled that she cancelled, and so she offered me her six-month-old Flapper grandson (sired by her Flapper son Jack). This was Bobby (ELF Presidential Prerogative). I had in mind obedience competition and was secretly very interested in showing in breed as well. He was a true learning experience, as he was not really what I consider 'typical' in the breed. He had little play or ball drive (ha! foiled!) and was a bit reserved with other dogs, needing a bit of personal space. But I put two points on him handling myself and with a wonderful trainer and friend teaching me about positive training. I learned how to get a dog like him to work and have fun doing it. We got a CDX, and I learned much more with him than I would have learned on an 'easy' dog. He was my heart dog, my Bubba-boo, and I lost him a year ago. He truly made me a 'dog person' with the help of his breeder as my mentor. Joann also gave me his half-sister Emma, and she is still with me at the age of almost 14. My sweet old girl."



Paula has bred just one litter to date, out of her Milwin bitch Ribbon (AKC/ASCA Ch Milwin's Silver Ribbon at Inkwell), co-owned with her breeder, Debbie Mills. "We had six puppies with great temperaments, sound and all in great homes. Looks like some will enter the agility ring at some point, and a couple will be in the breed ring as well. She'll be bred again next year, probably. I don't see myself breeding too many litters in my lifetime, however."

Ribbon is also responsible for Paula's biggest thrill as a handler, going RWB at the ASCA Nationals in Georgia in '05. "She is a really pretty girl and as sound as they come; she showed like a dream, and it was the right day with the right judge. But I also have to say I was really proud of that CDX on Bobby in '04."

Bobby, it seems, is never far from her. Asked about her favorite work, she responds, "I rather like the red tri bitch heading off the black calf ('Can You Hear Me Now?'). Also one of the earliest prints I did, 'Anticipation', of a trio of blue merles looking up, in black and white (scratchboard). Oh, the speckliest one in that piece is Bobby."



(Editor's note: Raffle tickets for Paula's limited edition sculpture are available for \$10 each from USAASF trustees, or by mail from USAASF President Robin Prouty. [See www.usasfoundation.org for details on mail order tickets.] You can also purchase tickets at the 2009 National Specialty. But don't delay—only 1,200 tickets will be sold! The drawing will take place at the 2009 USAFA National Specialty banquet, and the winner need not be present—he/she will be notified by certified mail. All funds raised will benefit USAASF's Health and Genetics Fund.)