

## CHAPTER 5

### WILL THE REAL SHILOH PLEASE STAND UP

During all those years, while various combinations were tried and tested, hundreds of pups had been "weeded out" as unsuitable. These pups were placed in pet homes, because they carried either dominant or recessive characteristics that could prove to be lethal if bred. Non-breeding contracts were signed by the new owners, and they were soon forgotten.

As the popularity of the "Real Shilohs" grew, many of these pets (that carried the "Shiloh" name in their pedigree) seemed to surface out of nowhere! By the early eighties puppy mills seemed to be springing up everywhere, driven by greed, (because the price for quality Shilohs was quite high, and the much cheaper "pet" puppies were always sold with non breeding agreements) many people purchased the "puppy mill" stock, so that they could breed even more puppies!!

With no regard to the quality of future generations-the race was on-for those that could breed the most puppies, and sell them for the cheapest prices. Things started getting so bad that people were even buying AKC papers that carried the "Shiloh" kennel name, and slapping those papers on dogs rescued from pounds that "looked" like Shepherds!! Advertisements for "8 week old 25 pound pups" "Shiloh Bloodlines" "Giant-Shiloh-Sized pups" etc., etc. seemed to be springing out everywhere! Each time I tracked one down I was appalled at the UNSCRUPULOUS attitude that these "breeders" portrayed!! One breeder was so proud that his STUD'S grandfather had the word "Shiloh" in his pedigree!! I explained to him that number one, that particular dog's parents were not Shilohs-he just happened to be a product of a Breeding that took place at Shiloh Kennels. Furthermore, the results of that particular combination were so bad that I spayed his dam and gave her away free, and had no intentions of using that particular stud again! As a matter of fact, I also knew that, that male himself, was severely Dysplastic, as well as having four bad litter mates. That's five out of seven dogs that xrayed out with horrible hips, not to mention all of their other faults, yet he was so proud of the fact that his male had "Shiloh Bloodlines"! Then I proceeded to inform him that even if his dog was a grandson of a Good Shiloh, he had to consider All of the other genes that were incorporated into him through the rest of the dog's in his pedigree. For example, if I bred a Shiloh to a Beagle, and then took that pup and bred it to a Dalmatian, and then took that pup and bred it to a Scottish Terrier-I'd still have "Shiloh Bloodlines" in the pedigree, but what would the puppies look like? Some people have a very hard time understanding that things that "seem similar" are not NECESSARILY SO! During my seminars, I like to compare BREEDING..to..COOKING!! I give examples of what can happen when you use the RIGHT ingredients...in the wrong combinations! Or use SUGAR instead of SALT! My best one is of a young man that called me about making goulash...He asked me.. 1. you boil the macaroni, right? 2. then you add the hamburger, right? 3. then you mix in the tomato sauce, right?...since I was in a hurry...All I said is RIGHT! Upon seeing the finished product, I realized that I FORGOT to tell him to drain the macaroni, and COOK the hamburger!! HIS fatal error became dog food...but WHAT happens to the "FATAL ERRORS" these breeders create???

Even worse were the totally false claims, like those "8 week" old pups-Real Shilohs don't even weigh that much at 8 weeks!! Upon close examination, my guess was that those pups were actually closer to 14 weeks!! When properly cared for, a good Shiloh pup averages over 40 pounds at that age!

It broke my heart, seeing what those people were doing to those dogs! Some of these people even went as far as advertising their polluted

stock in DOG WORLD MAGAZINE! The Alamo went even further by advertising his dogs as the "Exclusive Shilohs" even though he was using a DYSPLASTIC Stud!! Legal action was taken, and he was forced to change his ads-but how many inferior dogs did he produce?? Breeding dogs is a SERIOUS RESPONSIBILITY! Even though there will undoubtedly be a few casualties along the road to perfection, there is no need for creating defective dogs, just to make a few bucks!!

As the years passed, things just kept getting worse and worse. The dogs that had taken me nearly a lifetime to preserve and perfect, were now getting polluted from all directions! Even though I was burning myself out, working 20 hour days, trying to take care of my dogs, and teach their new owners everything I could! I sent out tons of newsletters, and wrote huge stock books, listing faults and virtues on EACH INDIVIDUAL dog in my breeding program, even the experimental ones!! Yet people would still continue to "do their own thing" without giving any regard to the consequences.

I was at the end of my rope! Had I sacrificed everything I owned, dedicating my life to this one goal-Preserving the Beautiful Giant Shepherds I loved so much-just to see all of my work flushed into oblivion! NO!! I had almost forgotten WHO'S DOGS THEY REALLY WERE!! My boss, The Jewish Carpenter from Nazareth, had other plans for HIS breed!!

As we approached the nineties, dedicated people rallied around these dogs, and convinced me to pull away from the AKC, and submit these dogs as a SEPARATE BREED!! Registries were contacted, and arrangements made, after reviewing all of the statistics, pedigrees etc. of these dogs, the F.I.C. (Federation of International Canines) agreed to recognize them as a separate breed. Now all that was left to do, was to "NAME" this breed and set up a breed standard. I had submitted the three choices presented by my friends.

- 1.) The AMERICAN SHEPHERD (My Choice)
- 2.) The GIANT GERMAN SHEPHERD
- 3.) The GIANT GENTLE or GENTLE GIANT SHEPHERD

All three choices were rejected and the F.I.C. board chose to call them the SHILOH SHEPHERD, naming them after the Kennel of Origin (or Kennel where they were preserved from the ORIGINAL GERMAN SHEPHERDS). They felt that since so many people already acquainted The Giant Shepherds with the "Shiloh" name, this choice would be the most logical.

On September 1, 1990, THE SHILOH SHEPHERD became recognized as A RARE BREED!! Shortly thereafter the Shiloh Shepherd Dog Club of America was formed and incorporated, now known as the SSDCA, Inc. Much work needed to be done. A breeders code had to be adopted, the clubs constitution and by-laws written, additional Board members and officers had to be voted on etc., etc., etc. At the same time show participation was encouraged, so that the best specimens could be selected for future breedings. Things were happening very quickly!!

For two years we were growing and learning. Unfortunately during that time we also discovered that this new rise in popularity was AGAIN bringing out those UNSCRUPULOUS FEW!! Unfortunately, as long as MERE veterinarian statements were being accepted as PROOF of a dogs SIZE...AND ...TEMPERAMENT..it would be VERY difficult to "screen out" the fakes. The F.I.C had agreed to withhold permanent (breeding) papers from any dogs that DID NOT pass the HIPS, TEMPERAMENT, and SIZE requirements. BUT they really had no way of controlling the information that the owners presented. As long as veterinarian statements for size and temperament were accepted as proof of eligibility, an open door for potential FRAUD existed! Even though the F.I.C. was doing the best job they could, the SSDCA, Inc. members were discovering that many UNDESIRABLE dogs were still getting breeding papers! After many discussions with the American Rare Breed Association (ARBA) and other breed clubs, a decision was made to start the ISSR.