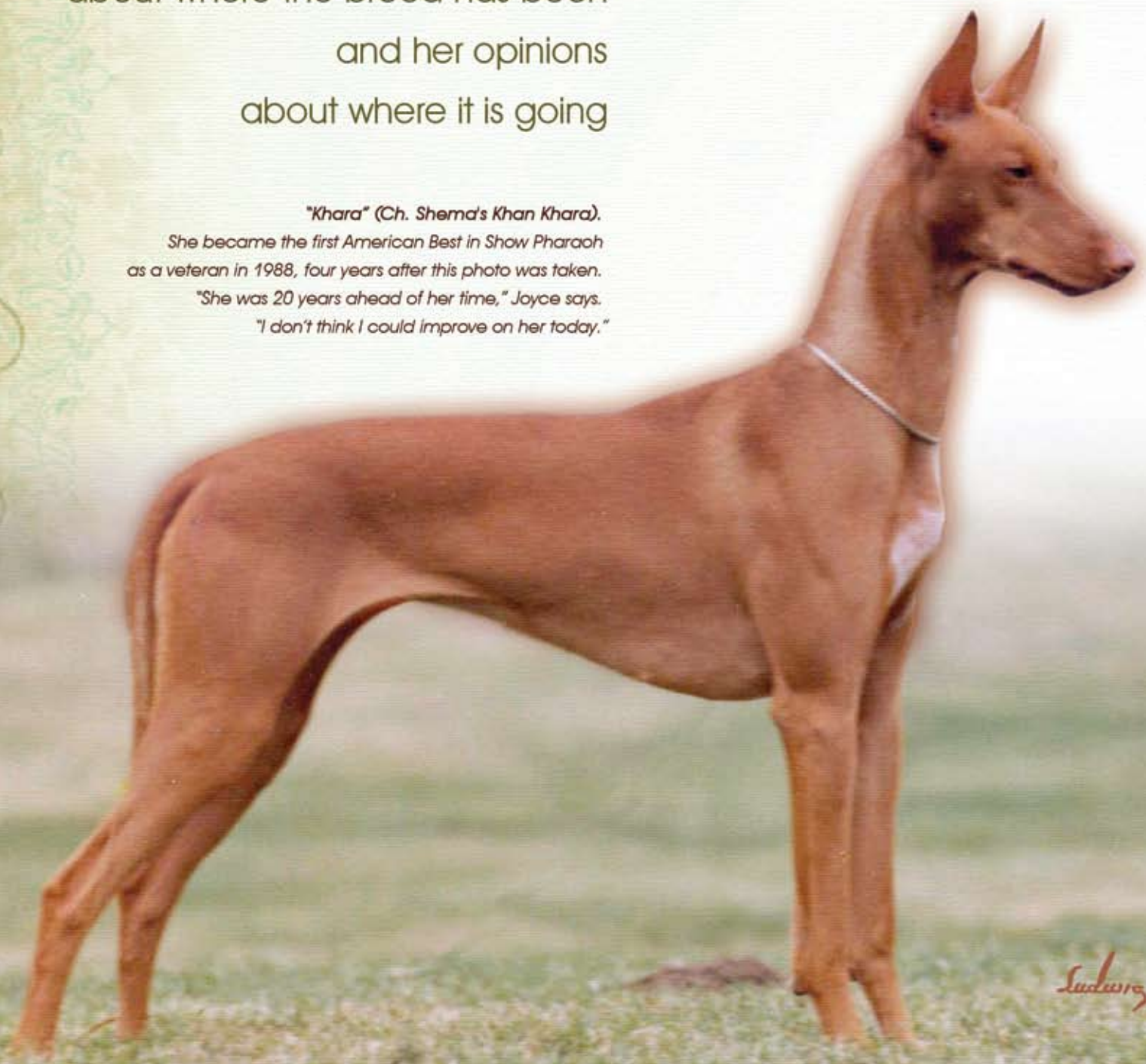


BLAST FROM THE PAST

Joyce Martin of Shema Pharaoh Hounds

shares her memories
about where the breed has been
and her opinions
about where it is going

*"Khara" (Ch. Shema's Khan Khara).
She became the first American Best in Show Pharaoh
as a veteran in 1988, four years after this photo was taken.
"She was 20 years ahead of her time," Joyce says.
"I don't think I could improve on her today."*



Ludwig

My love of Pharaoh Hounds started several years before I ever saw one.

We had always had a Doberman as a companion for our four sons. I admired their sleek look and stately appearance. Our last Dobie got a bad ear crop and it was a huge disappointment to us all, but we loved her just the same.

In 1970, I saw a photo of a Pharaoh Hound in an English dog publication and was immediately taken with the natural ears and the alert expression. I searched for information, but there was almost none available.

It was two years before I saw my first live Pharaoh Hound. I was at a dog match near Los Angeles, and there was Beltara's Neferu, a gorgeous 7-month-old Pharaoh bitch.

I was positively awestruck, as she was exactly what I had envisioned. Her elegant head, gorgeous natural ears and those hauntingly beautiful amber eyes were all I had ever dreamed of. Needless to say, I put a deposit on the pick bitch from her first litter before I left the park that day.

In July 1973, the first Pharaoh litter in California was whelped. We drove to Woodland Hills, and I was so pleased to see such a healthy and uniform litter. When they were eight weeks, we returned to choose Sansabra's Nefertari, our Shema. My husband found the name "Shema" in a book and we both thought it would be a good name for our puppy. Later it became our kennel name.

Shema really changed our lives. Every weekend I packed a picnic lunch and then we were off to a dog match. I enjoyed showing her, and she did quite well. She won a very large movement class under Florence Savage. I was thrilled, of course, and it was a surprise, as Pharaohs were practically an unknown breed at the time. We tried obedience, but it was not her favorite thing to do. I did get a PC [the equivalent of AKC's Companion Dog, or CD, title] on her in Mexico, and it was truly a challenge. She was seven when lure-coursing came along and she finished, but not with flying colors. Shema graced our lives for many years, and there is not one day in my life that I don't think of her and thank her for introducing me to Pharaoh Hounds.

I was so thirsty for knowledge of my canine friends. I attended three seminars given by Rachael Page Elliott, author of "Dog Steps." There was way too much information to be digested in one day. Mrs. Elliott was a most gracious lady and shared a wealth of information. Her seminars were priceless.

I learned of a three-year course called "Canine Technology" being offered at Rio Hondo College. It was only opened to 40 students. I realized

ON SHEMA

It all started with my bitch Shema (Sansabra's Nefertari). I loved her so dearly and I thought she was the last word in Pharaoh Hounds. And I look at her picture now and I can't believe it because she was little – 22.5 inches. She was beautiful, and did a great deal winning. She was put together, and she could move. At that time, most Pharaohs flipped their fronts, mostly on the right leg.

that I had almost no knowledge of dogs and would not be eligible to enroll. I desperately wanted to get into this course, if only to rub elbows with some of the people that I knew were interested. Several of them had 30 to 40 years of experience breeding. Sharing their thoughts and views would be a very welcome experience.

The day I filled out the application for class, it asked if I was in a minority group. I stated that I was an American Indian and, would you believe it, I got invited into the class. After the third year, our class became one big family. It was then that our instructor asked me if I was really an American Indian. Not by blood, but I was born and raised, as was all my family, on the Seneca Indian Reservation. With a straight face I said, "My father is Chief Flaming Arrow." My father was a county supervisor and did a lot of welfare work with the Indians. He was very well liked, and when I was about 10 years old, my father was honored by the tribe. All the chiefs were in full dress and a huge bonfire lit the area. To a 10-year-old, this was better than any John Wayne movie. As



Joyce and her late husband George with their first two Pharaoh Hounds, Shema and Bandit.

my father approached the elder, Chief Conjockity, a flash of heat lightning streaked across the sky, so he was named "Chief Flaming Arrow."

"Bandit" (Linnoaks Halliel) came to us as a gift from Elaine Linn, who was fighting cancer. We were not looking for another Pharaoh Hound, but Bandit opened a whole new world for us by introducing us to obedience and lure coursing. He did exceptionally well in both. With ASFA he was the first Pharaoh Hound to be awarded Best in Field, and with CASFA he was the first Best in Field Pharaoh in Canada. I am very proud to say he was the first Pharaoh to obtain an AKC Companion

ON BANDIT

Elaine Linn gave me Bandit (Linnoaks Halliel); she got her stock, and Bandit's father, from Pauline Block of Twinley Pharaoh Hounds in England. She called me, and I knew who she was, she had early Pharaohs. She said, "I have a dog that I'd like you to have." I said, "I'm not in the market for a dog right now." She said, "Well, I want you to have this dog. Talk it over and call me over."

We couldn't afford her dog, my husband had lost his job and had three eye surgeries, so we thought we'd take her dog and guarantee that it would go to a good home. I called her back, and she said, "I knew you'd call, I knew you'd call! I know how you treat your dogs – I know how you treat them when they win, I know how you treat them when you lose."

She was dying, and she sent me this Bandit, who had been in a run since he was four months old, and now he was 10 months. He was the sweetest dog. We went to the airport, my husband opened the crate and the dog came out and sat up on his knee.

Bandit was a blessing. I never intended to breed dogs, and certainly not Shema, and then I met Pauline Block at Rita Sacks' house. "Was he physically sound?" she asked me about Bandit. I said, "I think he is more mentally sound than physically." Early Pharaoh Hound males were aggressive, but this one was a sweetheart. And Pauline said, "Promise me you will breed him to every Pharaoh Hound you can find."

Dog obedience title. I cannot take any credit for his training, as he was a complete natural. He loved to please.

In 1982, fellow fancier Randall Bullard came to my house and asked if I had any information on Pharaoh Hounds. I showed her the boxes in my spare room that I collected any material that I could find. She made the comment that Pharaoh Hounds were the best-kept secret in the world and that I had enough information to write a book. We started to write an information pamphlet that would tell the world that these gorgeous creatures existed. Somehow, we kept adding, and the book grew to 190 pages, with many photos that were collected from Pharaoh owners all over the world. Some sent pictures, and others sent articles. We were thrilled. Time flew by, and soon two years had passed.

In January 1984, "The Ancient Egyptian Pharaoh Hound," by Randall Bullard and Joyce Martin, hit the presses. (We flipped a coin to see whose name would go first.) It was a labor of love, and



Photo by Dr. Cathy Chapman. From left: Ch. Shema's Tush Tush Tootsie G'by ("Tootie"); Ch. Shema's Khara Touche ("Tush"); a pregnant Ch. Shema's Khan Kara ("Khara"), and Ch. Changa's Shema Suntorri ("Torri").

we were pleased. We were not only honored but totally stunned when the Dog Writers Association of America awarded us best breed book for that year.

Also in January of that year, the American Kennel Club recognized the Pharaoh Hound. It was a happy day for so many of us who had waited so long. In California, the Palm Springs show was the first available to us. There were 17 Pharaohs entered, which was a good entry then. Of course, it was too late for Shema and Bandit, but I had "Khara" (Shema's Khan Khara), who was two years old. As nervous as I was, I showed her to Best of Breed from the Bred By class. Later that day, she



Early Pharaoh Hound males were so sharp, Joyce says, that she was accused of doctoring this photo of her three male Pharaohs peacefully asleep in the back of her station wagon, which appeared in her book.

ON SIZE

This is a story that's engraved in me. A person who had pet Pharaoh Hounds for a long time decided she wanted a show dog. She bought one from some very nice people. I saw this dog and I almost died. It wasn't just tall, it was big; you could have put a saddle on it.

She said, "What do you think of my dog?"

"Oh," I said, "it's a nice dog."

"No, I want your opinion."

"He's too big," I said.

"But he's finished," she said. "And he is winning."

And I said, "That doesn't make it right."

"Well," she said, "I don't think he's too big. The standard says 27 inches, and he's 27½."

The problem is, the standard is a maximum of 25 inches for males. And I thought, "Where do you go from there?"

placed fourth in the Hound Group. It was a day I remember with great pride.

In 1988, Khara, then a veteran shown by Brian Phillips, was awarded Best of Breed at the first Pharaoh Hound specialty judged by the late Anne Clark. Later that year, Khara's brother, Shema's Ghazzi Khan, shown by Doug Belter, was the first Pharaoh Hound to be awarded Best in Show in Canada. Three weeks later, Khara, shown by Brian, was the first Pharaoh Hound to be awarded Best in Show in the United States. These were very exciting times for Pharaohs.

I have enjoyed all of our Pharaohs and have many great memories of competing with them in the show ring, the obedience ring and on the coursing field. Pharaoh Hounds are a very versatile canine that carry a royal appearance. There is no other word to describe a gorgeous Pharaoh than "majestic."

The Pharaoh Hound Standard

The Pharaoh Hound standard is a work of art. Each word in the standard was carefully chosen by Rita Sacks of the United States and Pauline Block of England, and we should commend them. In its description of the "ideal Pharaoh Hound," the Pharaoh Hound standard leaves "nothing" to the imagination.

My ideal of a Pharaoh Hound is to have it appear as a fine porcelain figurine with head held high, strong ears, an alert expression, a lovely, long, lean head and a neck that flows smoothly into an almost straight topline.

In the early Pharaohs we saw a lot of weak fronts, weak ears and tails that were so weird they almost looked comical. Those things are greatly improved.

Temperament doesn't seem to be a problem. Pharaohs are pack dogs. They live in packs and they hunt in packs, so they should get along with humans and canines. An aggressive Pharaoh is a detriment to the breed.

I have seen several changes in the Pharaohs in the past 10 years and feel it would be wise for some of the

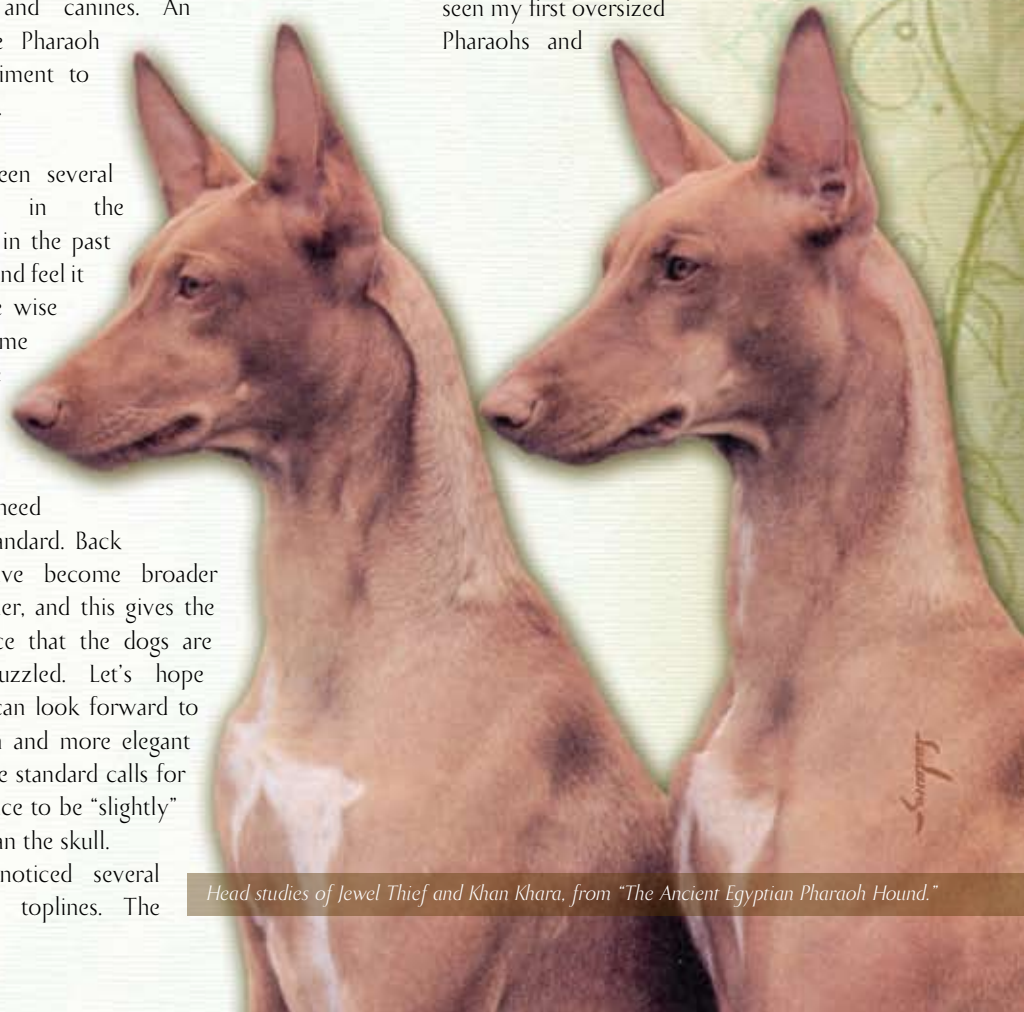
breeders to take heed of the standard. Back skulls have become broader and heavier, and this gives the appearance that the dogs are short muzzled. Let's hope that we can look forward to long, lean and more elegant heads. The standard calls for the foreface to be "slightly" longer than the skull. Also, I noticed several elongated toplines. The



Joyce's son George taking home his Pharaoh pup. "I carefully named him Shema's Bronze Warrior," his mother remembers. "But he was known to all as 'Whiskey'!"

standard calls for "length of body from breast to haunch bone slightly longer than height of withers to ground" [emphases mine]. A long topline on a Pharaoh shows weakness. The back either sags when standing or breaks when in motion. Not a pretty sight for a Pharaoh that should have a free and flowing movement.

Now we come to height. I must tell you that before we were recognized by AKC, I asked for a height disqualification in Pharaohs. I had seen my first oversized Pharaohs and



Head studies of Jewel Thief and Khan Khara, from "The Ancient Egyptian Pharaoh Hound."

ON PEDIGREE

I had big kitchen table, and I would get butcher paper and spread it out and write pedigrees. You get a three-generation pedigree and on top of each dog, put five lines above and five below.

The five on top are things that are strong, things that you like. The five below are things you want to see improved.

I said that to a new breeder once and she said, "I could never do that." And I said, "Why not?"

And she said, "I couldn't write bad thing about my dog."

The good breeders don't have any trouble doing that.



Khara and her brother Ghazzi as puppies.


had fear for our future. I was told AKC would frown on another disqualification and it might hinder our chance at recognition, so I backed down. We already had one disqualification regarding "white on back." Well, white on back is just about a thing of the past. However, the height goes onward and upward. The Pharaoh Hound standard clearly states the recommended height of Pharaohs. They are a "medium sized" breed of dog.

"HEIGHT Dogs: 23 inches-25 inches. Bitches: 21 inches-24 inches. All over balance must be maintained."

Hopefully, the breeders and the judges will heed the recommended height of the Pharaoh Hound. A slight variation in height would not be of serious consequence, but if the recommendations of the Pharaoh Hound standard are ignored, then the Pharaoh Hound standard may as well not exist.

Long before I ever bred a litter, my mentor instilled in me a responsibility to the Pharaoh Hound. She wrote:

"The cost of euthanasia is ten dollars, the cost of neutering is fifty dollars, but the cost of having to make excuses for a Pharaoh Hound that is not a credit to the breed and the breeder is immeasurable."

That was many years ago. The prices have changed. But the responsibility remains the same. 



BOOK HER

Joyce Martin's seminal 1984 breed book, "The Ancient Egyptian Pharaoh Hound," co-written with Randall Bullard, had a print run of only 500, and Joyce says she has no intentions of reprinting it. When the infrequent copy shows up on eBay, bidding easily reaches the \$1,000 mark.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Joyce Martin of Shema Pharaoh Hounds began in the breed in 1974 and produced some notable early American dogs. Now 80 and retired from breeding, she lives in Gardnerville, Nev., with a 10-year-old Pharaoh from her last litter and a puppy Papillon.