

## *The White Collie*

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Throughout the years, the White Collie has had more ups and downs than any other color. In spite of Queen Victoria's fondness for White Collies, the color never gained respectability or popularity in the native country. Quite the opposite has been true in this country, where the white color has experienced periods of tremendous popularity. Even though the White Collie is perceived as an American bred dog, the color was actually around in his native country for as long as records are available. He may not be an original American bred color, but in truth, the color was developed almost entirely in this country.

Over the years the color has carried a lot of baggage as a result of many myths and misconceptions – some true and some definitely not! Breeding whites has required a tremendous amount of determination, devotion and fortitude. It didn't help that throughout the history of the color, white breeders typically bred for color rather than quality or type. Breeding white Collies is a formidable task primarily because of the difficulty of securing good stock that is worthy of breeding, combined with the desired color and type prepotency. Even today after all these years, it can be a difficult task to come up with a good white Collie that can compete on the same level with the other colors. On occasion it has been done, but it has certainly not been the norm nor has it been easy. In spite of the challenges of breeding this color, there is nothing prettier than a beautiful white Collie!

### **WHITE COLLIES IN GREAT BRITAIN**

Almost from the beginning of the Collie's history in his native country, white Collies were looked down upon for several reasons. Early Shepherders objected for practical reasons – not only did white Collies not look like workers, but they felt it was too difficult to distinguish a white-colored dog from the sheep (especially a dirty white colored dog). White Collies were occasionally shown in these early times, but for the most part, judges were indifferent. Typically those breeders that were concentrating on breeding sables and tricolors considered the white an “off-color”. In fact, the growing popularity of the sable and white was leaving all other colors in the dust.

Queen Victoria's fondness for Collies has long been known, but amazingly few are aware that white collies were one of her favorite colors. Not only did she have white Collies in her kennels, but many were the all-white variety. Her first white was actually a wedding gift given to her daughter Beatrice in 1885.

Even though the color was not popular or considered desirable in Britain, white Collies continued showing up in litters. In the beginning it may have hurt that many could not differentiate between a true white and a homozygous blue. No doubt some of the early whites were the result of merle to merle breedings (resulting in double dilutes or homozygous merles) that were either blind and/or deaf, giving rise to an extreme prejudice that dogged the color for years. This confusion didn't help white popularity and it was rumored that many were destroyed while still in the nest.



Two early British white Collies owned by Royalty

The fact that so many white puppies were destroyed at birth didn't help the situation either. The early random destruction of white puppies, especially those of correct color and type, severely limited the gene pool. While some breeders destroyed whites because of fears they might be defective, other breeders simply didn't want it known that they had produced litters with whites.

Another factor that may have helped create prejudice against the color was early in Collie development white markings were considered undesirable. The noted English collie authority Mr. C. H. Wheeler wrote: "At this era (c 1880) the fanciful taste was for dogs, in color black and tan with little or no white, the absence of white being a much prized feature, which accordingly fixed a higher estimate of monetary value. The erroneous belief went forth that, as regards color, the lack of white denoted purity of breed." However, this notion soon changed as the flashy white marked sables became more and more popular in the show ring and in breeding programs!

### THE LILY

The first recorded white was **The Lily**. Whelped June 20, 1881 in England (per Hugh Dalziel's Collie Stud Book and Show Record Volume II), she came from colored parents who obviously both carried the white factor. Sired by Trevor (sable and white brother of Eng. Ch. Charlemagne) ex Hasty (a tricolor), Lily had an all white body with sable markings on the face (supposedly her ears were white). The fact that Lily survived is amazing considering she was born during that time when most whites were being destroyed at birth. She was a sister to Eng. Ch. Flurry, a sable bitch whelped in 1880. Incidentally, there was no merle blood as far as the pedigree could be traced, so in all likelihood, Lily was a true white. Though Lily was only shown one time and her history is largely unknown, she would go on to produce **Loafer**, an

important dog in early pedigrees as he was the maternal grandsire of **Eng. Ch. Metchley Wonder**. No pictures of Lily are known to exist.

### ENG. CH. METCHLEY WONDER

A broadly marked sable and white, Wonder was whelped in 1886 and was sired by Sefton ex Minnie. He went on to sire **Eng. Ch. Christopher**, one of the pillar sires of the breed. So not only is Metchley Wonder a dog to whom all Collies trace, but he has long been known as a source for many early whites and with all probability, most of today's whites.

The best white Collie lines descended through several predominantly sable and tri families - Eng. Ch. Rightaway, Eng. Ch. Ellwyn Astrologer, Ch. Wishaw Clinker, Parbold Pierrot, Eng. Ch. Wellesbourne Conqueror and Wellesbourne Councillor. All lead back to Eng. Ch. Metchley Wonder (in many cases multiple times).

1907 saw the formation of a Rough Blue Merle Collie Club, with the objective to save the blue merle color. This club was responsible for keeping the merle color alive and Blue Merles not only improved, but have survived as one of the breed's most popular colors. Unfortunately back then the white color had no such club or devoted following. In retrospect, it's remarkable the color survived.

With all the misconceptions and prejudices, it's not surprising that the white color never captured the English fancy. Even the English standard revision in 1910 stated, "all white or Red Setter colour is most objectionable." The current Rough Collie Standard mentions three recognized colors with no mention of white. However, the wording "All white or predominantly white is most undesirable" remains in the Smooth Collie Standard. Thus the white stigma remains to this day in that country.

### WHITE COLLIES IN AMERICA

The white Collie's history in this country is quite different when compared to the lack of development and interest in the native country. Here, in spite of not having a white club or any organized effort, the color was developing a small but very loyal following. Quite a few white collies are recorded in early American Kennel Club stud books beginning in 1888, and by the late 1800s there were several breeders specializing in the color. In some instances, it's not known if the early recorded whites were all-white or white with colored markings because those details were not always included in the early stud books. Since the best white collies were originally bred from sable bloodlines, the majority of early whites had sable markings, usually on the head. Some of the early color variations were listed as white; white and tan; white and yellow; white and black; white, sable ears; white, black on head and ears; white with dark spots, etc. It's not known exactly at what point the all-white began appearing.

In the 1899 AKC stud book, there were 17 whites registered and by 1915, that number increased dramatically to 240. The years between 1920 and 1925 saw the White Collie at the peak of popularity. Around this time White Collies were being bred in greater numbers than any other color with the exception of sable, and the white breeders could barely keep up with the demand! The white Collie of this period was a far cry from the white of today. Typically most were all white and of very poor quality, with a distinct foreign look. Most whites had not kept pace with the quality of the other colors and the mass production of the all-white Collies during this time was being blamed for doing the color more harm than good. Unfortunately the lucrative pet market for the all-white color attracted the wrong type of breeder, as many jumped on the bandwagon in hopes of making a quick buck. As a result, scores of inferior white Collies were produced, with little thought of type or quality.

In the minds of many, there were serious doubts as to how the all-white color originated. Rumor was that one ambitious breeder introduced Samoyed or Spitz blood. Even the rumored Borzoi cross was blamed. On account of a loosely run registration process and few regulations at the time, it would be impossible to trace the origin of the all white specimen. It is known that many were defective in sight and hearing, and the overall look suggested another breed. Diehards

claimed that any spot of color on any part of the body dramatically decreased the value. On the other side were the serious Collie breeders that did not approve of the white color period, let alone the all white specimens. Not only did these folks believe that the white color suggested another breed's influence, but many felt it was impossible to see expression on a white face that had no color.

The color got a tremendous boost during this time because President Calvin Coolidge (1923-1929) was the owner of two white Collies. Because he was a very popular president, (his term was known as "Coolidge Prosperity"), the nation was very interested in anything he did. Ironically years later another President was given an all-white Collie as a gift. In 1964 "Blanco" joined the Lyndon Johnson family at the White House.



**On the White House steps: President Calvin Coolidge, Rob Roy, Prudence Prim (wearing harness), First Lady Grace Coolidge and son John Coolidge. (c. 1926)**

*(Reproduced from the collection of the Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.)*





**Rob Roy and First Lady Grace Coolidge.**  
The all white Collie from the Island White Collie Kennels was the favorite pet of the Coolidge household. This Howard Chandler Christy painting hangs in the White House and is a favorite with tourists.

*(Photo courtesy of the White House Historical Association)*

By 1925 with white popularity peaking, it was not unheard of for large specialty shows to have entries of 14 or more whites per show. In fact, the percentage of whites shown was very close statistically to the other colored entries. In 1920 it was one white for every 42.4 colored Collies and by 1925 it was one white for every six colored collies. However by 1949 the number of white entries had dropped dramatically to one white for every 127.3 colored entries. (statistics courtesy of Grace Clark Seaman, 1949).

In spite of the tremendous popularity of the white Collie during the 1920s, not everyone was happy. Several controversies were brewing amongst the white fanciers themselves. The first problem was the large number of all-white collies that were being turned out with little regard to type. Mrs. Grace Seaman of Kish-Ke-Kosh Collies (a respected breeder and authority on the white Collie) was opposed to the mass production of solid colored whites that were being bred solely for profit (thanks to the rapidly increasing pet market clamoring for the all white Collie). She felt the all-white was not only of questionable ancestry, but she believed like many other breeders that it was impossible to see correct expression on a solid white face. She also believed the breeding of whites to homozygous merles was not the way to go (a popular method during this time). Furthermore, she believed by using the all white blood to retain color and then mating them to quality sable lines was a questionable method because it would take too long to breed out the "alien type". For her the quickest way to success was to scrap the all-white Collies and begin anew by selecting breeding stock from the very best type that could be found in the sable bred dogs carrying the greatest white factor. Her idea was to produce an all white body with sable head markings by careful selection of breeding stock. By using this method she believed the dogs would eventually breed true to type. In 1925 she wrote, *"The real exhibition type white has not yet arrived, but his day is not that far off (this statement was made prior to any whites completing their championship). The problem narrows down to only two requirements - type and color. The right amount of study and thought in selecting the breeding material, and a definite, determined purpose of breeding to type first and color second."*

The second problem amongst white fanciers was that no two people could agree on how much white color a Collie should have and where it should be placed. Since there was much confusion in judging the white Collie (some dogs with colored heads were being disqualified

while the all- white Collies were winning), it became obvious that a uniform standard was needed in their judging and assessment. At that time, the Collie standard didn't even deal with the color specifics (in fact the white color wasn't even mentioned!) and it wasn't until 1925 that the Collie Club of America proposed the formation of a committee to help solve the white color issues.

Fred Avery of Jefferson Collies, long a champion of the white Collie, jumped into the debate. Not only was Avery an early pioneer in the breeding and exhibiting of white Collies, but he was a pioneer in the development, acceptance and qualifications by which white collies came to be known and judged. In 1925, in order to foster the breeding of better whites, Avery helped to secure separate classes for white collies at some of the countries largest shows. Avery believed that "white Collies shall be allowed twenty per cent of foreign color". He became an outspoken critic of the committee formed by the CCA. His chief objections were that the majority of breeders on the committee knew nothing at all about breeding whites nor had any of the members ever owned one. The committee at first recommended that white Collies be classified as "predominantly" white. Avery fought religiously against the term "predominantly" as he felt the quality of the white Collie would not only deteriorate, but it would impede its progress. Avery won out and the committee voted "That in all-white Collie classes, 20 percent of color be allowed. Blue eyes to disqualify" (NOTE: years later with the 1950 Standard changes, this would be changed to "predominantly white"). Even though at one time Avery had championed the breeding of merle blood in order to obtain white Collies, later he became a vocal opponent because of the known blindness and deafness resulting in the progeny. If Avery had lived (see more on him later in the chapter), the progress and popularity of the white Collie might have developed along different lines. Coincidentally, with his death, the popularity of the white Collie declined. Future white enthusiasts took up the cause, but few displayed the intense devotion and energy that drove Avery.

Through the judicious breeding with quality colored dogs carrying the white factor, combined with careful selection, the more typical show-type white Collie (traditional white body, colored head) began reappearing in the late 1920's. The all-white specimen that had created such a controversy amidst great popularity was falling out of favor.



**The first white Collie champion: CH. STERLING SILVERFLASH.**  
Bred by the Kem's and owned by Edwin Pickhardt at the time of her championship.

### THE FIRST WHITE CHAMPIONS

Over the years numerous whites had been shown, but none had come close to a championship. Seemingly this was due not only to a prejudice against the white color, but also to the fact that most whites were of extremely poor quality. However, just around the corner were some big changes!

An important event took place in 1939, as this was the year that the first white Collie, **Ch. Sterling Silverflash**, (whelped in 1934) finished her championship. Considered an early pioneer in the showing of white collies, she paved the way for others to follow. Shown over a period of four years, she won five shows out of a total of 23 times shown. Bred by the Kem's of Lodestone Collies, she was owned at the time of her championship by Ed Pickhardt of Sterling Collies. Her breeding was the best of Lodestone\*, sired by Star of Lodestone ex Buttercup of Lodestone, making her a double granddaughter of the important producer Lodestone Landmark. Although she wasn't shown much as a youngster, as an adult she won some very prestigious shows, including the 1937 National Specialty where she went Winners Bitch. Though she didn't produce any champion offspring, she left numerous descendents that carry forth to this day.

\*NOTE: Even though Lodestone Collies were not typically thought of as breeders of white Collies, many of their dogs carried the white factor. During the 1930s the quality of the white Collie was definitely on the rise and that improvement can be traced directly to the usage of the Lodestone family. The first three Collie champions



(and most that followed) all traced multiple times to one particular sire, Lodestone Landmark.

As mentioned previously in the Lodestone chapter, the first white champion did not come without controversy. The rivalry amongst white breeders to finish that first champion was extremely competitive. Instead of celebrating a happy, momentous occasion, white breeders were irate - especially since some of them had been trying to breed a white champion for more than 30 years!

The interesting things written in letters..... In an undated letter (1970s), Oren Kem admitted that the first white champion was not part of a master plan, but rather they "lucked into it". Ed Pickhardt had bred a bitch to Lodestone Landmark and she missed. Since Pickhardt didn't want to wait to rebred her, the Kem's sent him a white bitch. Pickhardt named her "Sterling Silverflash". When she finished her championship, several white breeders (in Oren's words) "blew their tops and dumped a whole portfolio of controversy on us". Grace Seaman was one of them. She went so far as to question the legitimacy of Landmark's pedigree and his ability to produce whites of that quality. The Kem's answer to Seaman was they had been running into whites from sable breedings way before Landmark.



**CH. KERRIN SON LAYLE**  
The second white to finish!



**An historic moment. The only two white champions in the world, are shown together. CH. KERRIN SON LAYLE on the left and CH. STERLING SILVERFLASH on the right**

Two years later in 1941 the second white, a male named **Ch. Kerrin Son Layle** (Kerrin Lyle of Lochaven ex Thea Bride of Kerrin), finished his championship. Rumor was that it took him 48 shows to finish! The 3<sup>rd</sup> white champion came in 1947 when **Ch. Noranda Snow Patch** (Lodestone Live Oak ex Dawn of Ireton) won fairly easily in 16 shows. Purchased for \$25, she was owned by Dorothy Long of Noranda Collies. By 1955 another white male, **Ch. Snow Chief of Floravale** (Ch. Super Chief of Floravale ex Floravale's Star Delight), joined them. He was the first champion with tricolor markings. From that point on white Collies hit a period where they were doing very well against their colored cousins.

### WHITE COLLIE CLUBS

In 1948 a **White Bulletin** was issued. It was followed in 1949 by the formation of **The White Collie Breeders Association**. Organized by James McGlynn, he served as the first Secretary and editor of the Bulletin until his death in 1952. The purpose of the White Club was to popularize, publicize and promote improvement in the White color. With a small and scattered membership, the club dissolved in 1964 upon the death of the-then President Charles Tuttle. The club was loosely resurrected during the 1970s and there has been a White Collie Club off and on again over the years. Currently in 2008 there is the **International White Collie Club**.

### THE COLLIE STANDARD

Ironically even though the white color had been bred and



**The litter sisters: CH. PALADIN'S WHITE EMERALD & CH. PALADIN STAR SAPPHIRE. Both blue-headed whites finished in 1959. Sired by Ch. Glengyle's Smooth Sailing**

shown in this country for years, it wasn't until the 1950 Standard revision that the color was officially recognized. *"The 'White' is predominantly White, preferably with sable or tricolor markings. Blue merle coloring is undesirable in whites."* The Standard did not prohibit blue merle markings, but because of the last sentence stating BM coloring was undesirable, there continued to be prejudice against the blue-headed white. Many felt this was actually left over from the days when defective homozygous puppies were being produced under the guise of being true whites. Collie fanciers sat up and took notice when two very beautiful blue-headed white smooth bitches, **Ch. Paladin's White Emerald** and **Ch. Paladin Star Sapphire**, were whelped in 1957 and finished their titles in 1959. Both died before producing anything, but a Blue litter sister was the maternal grandam of Ch. Black Hawk of Kasan. Controversy over the blue marked whites was revived

when the blue-headed white, **Cher Ami's Deep Freeze** did some winning and was pictured on the cover of the December 1966 issue of *Dog News*. Finally in 1977 with the new Standard revision, the warning was dropped. The new wording: *"The 'White' is predominantly white, with sable, tri-color or blue merle markings."* Interestingly even today, though the colored markings are usually on the head, there is no mention in the existing Collie standard as to where the color should be!

### EARLY WHITE BREEDERS

No chapter on the white Collie would be complete without mentioning those dedicated breeders that paved the way with untold years of sacrifice and frustration. Unfortunately not a lot is known about many of these early breeders. Several show up repeatedly in early Stud Books, but there is virtually little or no information on them.

Starting around 1888 **John L. Lincoln** of Chicago, Illinois started his "**Felwyn Collies**", specializing in white Collies. He was one of the first to seriously breed whites. His first import was a white Scottish bred bitch "**White Lily**", whelped in 1887. Lincoln owned some of the first whites in this country and by the late 1800s had several generations of his own breeding. One of his first homebreds was **Snowball**, whelped December 17, 1891, with "white and tan marks". She was sired by Startle of Felwyn ex Felwyn Shock.

**Steven Radford** of **Island White Collies** of Oshkosh, Wisconsin developed some of the first all-white Collies in the early 1900s and by 1915 he had several generations of an all white strain. In 1923 he gave President Calvin Coolidge an all-white Collie, **Rob Roy**, as a gift for his wife. A year later another all-white Collie, **Prudence Prim**, joined the Coolidge household. Rob Roy was a White House favorite and was Mrs. Coolidge's constant companion. He will forever be memorialized thanks to the Howard Chandler Christy painting of the two that currently hangs in the White House. Unfortunately neither Rob Roy or Prudence lasted very long. Prudence died while at the White House and Rob Roy was killed under the wheels of a car shortly thereafter. In 1914 Radford also sold Fred Avery of Jefferson Collies his first all white bitch.

**Miss E. Servoss** of **Edison Park Collie Kennels** in Edison Park, IL was a longtime white breeder who started in the late 1800s. She did a lot of breeding in the early 1900s and by 1915 she had bred nine generations of white to white, with no loss of colored markings. She was one of those who thought the all-white collie was



produced suspiciously by means other than just Collies. Her first white came from the kennels of Harry Bascom of Providence. Linebred on Ch. Metchley Wonder, he was named **White Wonder** (an all-white except for the tips of his ears and a mark on his forehead). Though years later there were some who discredited Miss Servoss' theories, she was one of the first to write about White Collies and their breeding.

One of the most dedicated of the early white breeders was **Grace Clark Seaman**, first of Albia, Iowa and later of Escalon, California (near Stockton). Born in 1885, her first litter was whelped in 1908 and in 1914 she registered her kennel name, **Kish-Ke-Kosh**. Grace was a pioneer in the breeding of the white color. Not only was she known

far and wide for her white Collies, but she was a regular contributor to various magazines in the 1920s through the 1950s. She was a firm believer in the white body with color markings, preferably sable on the head. She was the first President of the White Collie Club formed in 1949. A 1927 quote "Success in breeding white collies is only for those who are willing to work with it and there is no short cut. It involves a greater knowledge of bloodlines and their productive tendencies than any phase of breeding for the other colors. It is not astonishing that many drop from the ranks of breeders who fancy this color for it has required years of experimentation attended with disheartening disappointments to bring the white collie of today to even an approach to quality equal to that of the best winners of other colors—and those which do approach such quality are very, very few."

Grace Seaman had been at great odds with other white breeders for years and especially so with Fred Avery of Jefferson Collies. In fact during the 1920s she had turned Avery into AKC for sloppy record keeping and stud book inconsistencies. She wanted him banned from breeding but AKC refused. Instead of barring Avery, they warned him that he should tighten up his book-work. Seaman claimed she found discrepancies of birth dates and parentage. She was especially suspicious because she had sent him a good white and his claim that the pup died was verified by his kennel man. Yet from that point on, the quality of his



**CH. SNOW CHIEF OF FLORAVALE**

Sired by Ch. Super Chief of Floravale ex Floravale's Star's Delight. Breeder Mr. & Mrs. George Dahl - owned by Ted Kjellstrom. Pictured above completing his championship in 12/55. Handled by Vi Ivey with judge Grace Christie



whites took a major turn for the better. Her claim was that he buried the pedigree, not the pup!

**George Dodd** of St. Louis, **Kollorca Collie Kennels**, started in collies in the gay nineties. He saw his first white in 1902, but didn't start specializing in that color until 1925.

**James "Mickey" McGlynn** of **Collalba Collies** was the founder of the first white Collie club. Amazingly this man did a whole lot in a very short period of time. He didn't even purchase his first Collie until 1946 at the age of 66 years! He ended up being associated with collies for only six short years, yet he did as much in that short period as some do in a lifetime! His goal was to produce "super white Collies". During the 1940s he served on the CCA Standard Committee as a consultant and was instrumental in obtaining recognition of the white Collie

in the Standard revision of 1950. In 1952 he had just whelped a litter of seven white puppies that were 3 generations his breeding. Tragically, an oil stove exploded in his kennel building and he tried in vain to rescue the pups. His clothes caught fire and he was burned over 40% of his body. He actually survived the fire but later died in the hospital. His friends felt he died of a broken heart, as the cabin was burned to the ground and the bitch and all pups perished.

**Vi Ivey** had Collies her entire life and raised them, as did her father. During the 1950s and 1960s, she became one of the foremost authorities on the white Collie. Her **Vidale Collies** were consistent winners. She started showing in 1951 and owned one of the most beautiful whites ever bred, **Ch. Vidale Portrait In White**. She also owned some good producing studs, **Ch. Vidale Valuation** and **Vidale On The Minute** and leased the champion white male, **Ch. Snow Chief of Floravale**. She was a regular contributor to numerous magazines and one of the white Collies' staunchest defenders.

It is fitting to end this chapter with one of the most influential white fanciers that existed in the last Century.

### **FRED AVERY OF JEFFERSON COLLIES** **A White Collie Pioneer**

One of greatest promoters of the White Collie, was an ambitious entrepreneur from Wauseon, Ohio, named Fred W. Avery. Not only was he the mayor of that small city, but he was the owner and operator of the well-known Avery Inn and most importantly he was the proprietor of the largest Collie kennel in the world, **Jefferson Collies**. He began in Collies as a hobby-type business around 1914. While he specialized in white Collies, later on his best dogs were actually of the colored variety. His motto was "*A Jefferson white is a Collie of type*". Today he would be labeled a major puppy mill, but in his day he was regarded as an astute businessman trying to earn a living by using the laws of supply and demand. He was business and promotion at its best! Those were different times and we should always keep this in mind when studying the breeders of the past - never judge them by today's standards.

As the white color evolved in this country, Avery was right in the center! He was extremely influential in the advancement of the white Collie in its critical early phases of development. He was one of the



**Fred Avery with CH. ALSTEAD SEEDLEY SUPREMACY c. 1925**

first white breeders to openly experiment with breeding whites to blue merles and he wasn't afraid to use the resulting homozygous Collies in his breeding program! In ads from the early 1920s he stated proudly *"we raise and breed nothing but Pure White Collies. We do not consider a white body and sable spotted head or tail a White Collie at Jefferson. If you want a cheap spotted Collie don't write us, but if you want a Pure White Collie, from our prize winning stock we will furnish puppies 10 to 12 weeks old."*

Avery started with an all white bitch from Island White Collies. Joining her were two pure white males: **Whitethorn**, bred by Takoma kennels and **Jefferson White Tom**, bred by the Shomont White Collie Kennels. While their quality left much to be desired, Avery made a name for himself by promoting their puppies all over the country.

Avery was introduced to the world of dog shows and quality Collies when he met Dr. Bennett of Tazewell Collies and indeed his true Collie education began at that point. The two not only became good friends but Avery entered the ranks of the serious breeder and exhibitor. Prior to this Avery had been a proponent of breeding nothing but the pure white strains, but he soon realized

if wanted to win in the show ring, he needed to upgrade the caliber of his breeding stock, including his whites. Thanks to Dr. Bennett's influence, he began crossing his early whites with the better quality, colored Collies. At the time there was no shortage of high-class English and American bloodlines carrying the white factor and Avery spent a fortune acquiring the best stock available. Numerous dogs from the day's top kennels were added to his breeding program.

In 1922 he purchased the entire kennel of Logic-ola Collies (around 30 Collies). Logic-ola was a large breeding establishment in New York State that went out of business when the owner became ill. They had been doing selective importing and had acquired a quality selection of dogs. Included in the package deal were five littermates, whelped in 1921 and sired by Ch. Laund Logic ex Laund Lustrical. Lustrical was imported in whelp and the actual breeder shows as W.W. Stansfield. Included amongst the five were **Jefferson Legion** (who ended up at Arrowhill Collies after it was discovered he was not going to sire whites) and **Jefferson Sable Lustre**. Lustre stayed at Jefferson and ended up finishing his championship in 1924 and was placed at stud. Ironically Lustre was offered for sale in the 1924 Westminster catalog

for \$1000, but there were no takers. Shortly thereafter, Avery purchased a Seedley-bred bitch named **Jefferson Sable Sun** and bred her to Lustre. The resulting litter produced **Kentucky Egyptian Princess**, the dam of the great Lodestone Landmark, foundation sire for Lodestone Collies - a kennel to which most of today's white Collies trace!

By 1923 Avery was offering ten males at stud. This included five pure white dogs, four sable and whites and one blue merle. Amongst these dogs was the white sensation of the 1920s, **Jefferson White Sheik**. Sheik's birth was heralded by Dr. Bennett as "an epoch in the breeding of white Collies". With a pedigree combining the best dogs of the day, Ch. Laund Limit, Ch. Parbold Picador and Ch. Southport Sample, he was proclaimed the best white Collie produced up until that time! Though he didn't finish his championship, he was a sensational winner in the classes. After once stating that he refused an offer of \$1500, Avery turned around and sold Sheik with no explanation, for the record price (for a white) of \$1600 to R.L. Watkins of medicine, perfume and powder fame. The dog was not



Hollywood legend (silent screen star) Gloria Swanson with two Jefferson Collies



purchased for stud or to exhibit, but just to languish at the new owner's country estate.

In 1924, **Jefferson White Wyse**, was whelped. Sired by Ch. Jefferson Sable Lustre, he was one of Avery's first whites that actually had a colored head. His show career was just taking off just prior to Avery's death. Although Avery owned several good whites that did some decent winning, none came close to finishing.

From Alstead, Avery purchased **Ch. Alstead Seedley Supremacy**. A quality producer while residing in the East, he became the star of Avery's kennel. Other stock came from Tazewell, Laund and Seedley.

While gathering dogs for his ever expanding kennel, Avery went to great lengths to build the most modern kennel of its day. In 1925, he built a brand new 60 x 9-foot puppy house. The inside pens were 4x5 and hot water pipes ran

beneath the floor so puppies were able to lie on warm boards during the cold Ohio winters (a convenience previously unheard of in the care of dogs). The interior was maintained at 50 degrees. At the time it was considered state of the art. In addition to the puppy house, he built a 100 foot long main kennel building made entirely from cement and ceramic tiles. It stayed clean and dry all year round. His kennels were considered the latest in modern convenience and breeders travelled from all over the country just to view his modern set up.

In its heyday he had as many as 350 females "farmed out" to area farmers, producing as many as 200 puppies per month. His business was phenomenal. In 1925 a visitor to his kennels was able to see 152 puppies between the ages of 8 to 13 weeks, all in perfect condition. Considering the large numbers and the massive turnover, his dogs were kept in wonderful condition. More importantly, his dogs were finally becoming competitive in the show ring, while at the same time he was becoming a well-known and respected crusader for the white Collie. However, while enjoying recent success and publicity, he was devastated in March 1925 when his only son, Freddie, died at a young age from pneumonia.

In addition to the dog breeding, Avery was involved in many other projects and causes. He was an energetic individual with progressive ideas and the wherewithal to employ them. In 1924, he and Dr. Bennett resigned from the Collie Club of America over an internal dispute. Their resignations ultimately led to the organization of the



Two early Jefferson whites with no color! These were typical of white Collies popular around 1915 to 1925 - when the pure white was in vogue





**JEFFERSON WHITE WYSE - His show debut coincided with Avery's realization that in order to be taken seriously and to do winning, he needed whites with color.**

**National Collie Association**, of which Avery was secretary (note: Albert Payson Terhune was President). On July 4th 1925 Avery organized and held on his property, the first **National Collie Trials** - an exhibition of Collies never before seen. Over 2000 people attended from all over the country to witness 400 Collies taking stock in various events. Prizes were awarded for the best physical condition, best grooming and longest distance traveled. There was a free vaudeville act and a special seminar on raising puppies. A field trial event was held and was won by a blue merle bitch, Tokalon Wedgewood. Nothing like it had ever been held before and it was a huge success! Plans were being made to hold the next National Collie Association show in October 1926 with special events such as stock driving, herding and obedience. The idea behind the association was "to demonstrate that Collies are suitable and natural stock dogs and to prove to the public that they are dogs of intelligence." Avery was the main driving force behind the organization and responsible for much of its short-lived success.

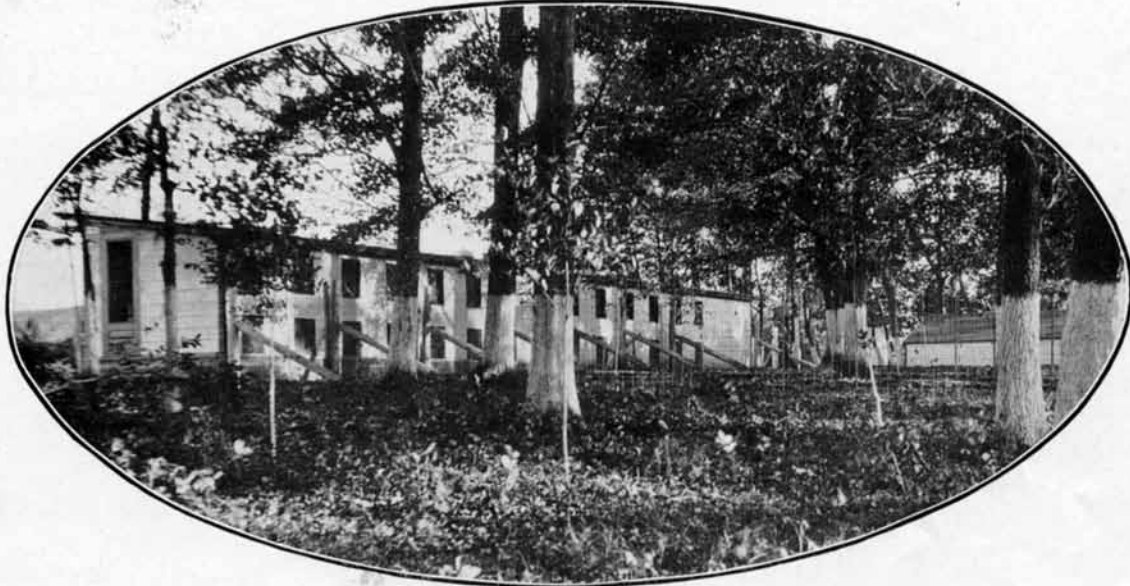


**CH. JEFFERSON SABLE LUSTRE - the maternal grand sire of Lodestone Landmark  
The Whites thrown by Landmark can be traced to this dog!**



# *The Home of* **Jefferson Collies**

*Situated on Main Highway between Chicago and New York, just outside the city limits of Wauseon, Ohio*



**KENNELS OF MR. F. W. AVERY, WAUSEON, OHIO**

Main kennel building built of tile and cement, 100 feet long by 10 feet wide. In addition to storage and feed-rooms, are 15 stalls of 4 by 5 feet. There are separate runs for each two stalls. Buildings have patent ventilators which change the air every two hours. Lighted throughout with electricity. All buildings face east and west, thereby getting both morning and afternoon sun, with windows on both sides.



**HENRY FORD**

Investigated all the Collie kennels in the world and then bought a Jefferson Collie.

Over 800 puppies were sold and shipped from this kennel last year, and it is estimated that 1,200 will go this year.

Without doubt, the largest Collie kennel in the world today.

**AT THE LEFT  
CH. JEFFERSON SABLE LUSTRE  
AT THE RIGHT  
JEFFERSON SABLE SCEPTRE**

## **"A JEFFERSON WHITE IS A COLLIE OF TYPE"**

Do not confuse the Jefferson White Collie with the average white Collie so extensively advertised as being pets and companions. We look for type first and color next. We are not selling or breeding any white dogs just to get color and calling them Collies. There is as much difference between a Jefferson White Collie and the white Collie of commerce as there is between a Shetland pony and a Percheron horse.

## **WHEN THE HON. MARSHALL SHEPPY**

Toledo's Politician, Presented Late-President Harding With a Dog, He Gave Him An Airedale. When Mr. Sheppy Wanted a Dog For Himself, He Purchased a Jefferson Collie.



December 1924 Dog Fancier magazine ad



**CH. VIDALE PORTRAIT IN WHITE**

**Cherrivale First Frost ex Cainbrooke Christiana. Whelped in 1952 and finished her championship in 1957. Bred by Mrs. Gaylord Durkee and owned by Vi Ivey and Edith Smith (she was Vi's stud fee puppy). She won in very stiff Eastern Competition at Specialties and Morris and Essex under some of the best!**



**CH. GLEN KNOLLS FLASH LIGHTNING**

**Brandwyne Tom Foolery ex Ch. Glen Knolls Spun Gold. Breeder/owner Mrs. Daniel Levine. Whelped in 1962. He was shown 11 times and never in the white class. He finished in 1963 and went onto sire 7 champions, which included CCA winners and Best in Show winners**

By early 1926 Avery's homebred stock was finally winning and plans were underway for the 2nd National Collie Association show. Avery had become a respected authority on the white Collie, as well as the Collie as a working dog. Everything was coming together when he suffered a fatal heart attack in March 1926. Even though the Association had the support of some of the day's top breeders like Albert Payson Terhune and Dr. Bennett, the main driving force was gone. Within a short time, the Association dissolved. Moreover, Mrs. Avery knew she wouldn't be able to continue with the enormous task of caring for the dogs and kennel, so shortly after Avery's death everything was sold – lock, stock and barrel to Mr. C.E. Loose of Napoleon, Ohio. He purchased not only the dogs, but the kennel name and contracts of all the matrons out with area farmers. Though he did some breeding in the years following, his interest did not last.

Though Avery was gone, his many friends never forgot him. Several years later, they took up a collection to offer the **Avery Memorial Trophy** so that his work with Collies would always be remembered. Since Avery had always thought that Americans could breed and raise as good a Collie as anyone, the trophy was awarded as a way to encourage the American breeder and exhibitor. Each year it was given to the best American-bred Collie under 18 months of age, winning the highest number of points that show year.

Had Avery lived instead of being struck down in the prime of his life, amidst all his hard work for his various causes, who knows what the future of the white Collie and the working Collie might have been!

### **SUMMARY**

Even after all these years, the White Collie has a tough road to travel and it doesn't finish on a par with the other colors. Through the year 2007, approximately 121 whites completed their championship out of a total of 13,345 championships completed since 1884. There are only a handful of breeders across the country specializing in the color. Sadly today's white Collie has not come close to the popularity experienced in the early 1900s, but someday that tide may change.