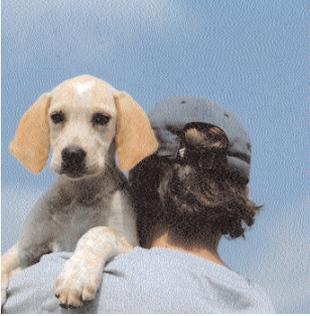


# My Day Visiting the Iroquois Hounds



First we met Shannon Cline, the kennelman. She takes care of the 73 hunting hounds and 26 retired hounds that live in the kennel. Shannon knows all their names and personalities just like the teachers

at school know all the kids' names and personalities.

Everyday Shannon and Michael (we didn't meet him because Saturday is his day off) clean the kennel, feed the hounds, check each one in case they need first aid, exercise them on houndwalks and rotate them in and out of the big turn out paddocks so they all get several hours of play time each day.



In the kennel, there are seventeen different runs or sections where the hounds live in separate groups. Shannon lets them pick the group they want to be with, so that no hound gets bullied by another that doesn't like him. They sleep together, eat together and have play time together. If one hound starts to be a bully, she puts him in with a group of other bullies and then he is not a bully anymore.

Then we met Mr. Miller who is the Joint-Master and Huntsman. He told us that a good hound for hunting is one who is nice like a house dog, has a good nose to smell the scent of coyotes, has good voice to tell the other hounds he has found the scent and has the right body type to run for a long time. The farmers like the hounds to chase coyotes because they are mean and bother baby calves and eat little dogs and cats. We asked him why they are called foxhounds if they are chasing coyotes mostly. He said they used to just chase foxes but the coyotes came to Kentucky in the late 1980's causing problems for farmers. Sometimes they still chase foxes too.



Joint-Master and Whipper-In, Dr. van Nagell talked to us about how much fun foxhunting is because people get to enjoy the hounds, horses, countryside and see nature at its finest. He said he was really glad we all came to meet the Iroquois hounds.



Lilla Mason is also a Huntsman. She is one of the few women huntsman in the United States - they are mostly men. On a hunt day, she is in charge of taking the hounds to places where they might find the scent of a fox or coyote. All the riders follow behind her and the hounds, so they get to watch it all happen. It sounded very exciting.



There are both English and Crossbred foxhounds at the kennel. The English ones came from England, or their parent or grandparents came from England. The crossbred ones were born in America. We learned that the hounds with the shaggy coats are called "woolies." This is Sassoon, and he is a wooly.

A good nose is important!



Then we got to meet the six month old puppies - Panda, Parish, Parsnip, Payton and Parody. All their names start with "Pa," because their mother's name is Pancake. All litters are named using the first two letters of their mother's name. We helped Shannon put collars on them to get ready for



a houndwalk. They wear special collars on houndwalks, so if they get lost or hurt, Shannon can go find them with a big antennae. All the hunting hounds wear them too, whenever they leave the kennel. We got to walk the puppies through the woods, and see how Shannon teaches them to stay with her.

We got back to the kennel and had drinks and trail mix with the retired hounds. They are ones that hunted for a long time but then got hurt or became too old to keep up with the pack. They really like us and wanted to be petted. A lot of them were the grandmas or grandpas of the younger hounds. Mr. Miller said he created a non-profit foundation that provides for their care. He said they had earned a comfortable retirement after years of showing great sport, so Iroquois members could have a lot of fun out hunting.



After saying goodbye to the hounds, we went down to the horse barn. Lilla told us all the things she has to do to get the horses ready on a hunt day. They have to carry lots of extra stuff on their saddles.

Then Mrs. Miller let us play with all of her goats!