

# SIBLING REVELRY

## Brothers Mojave and Ruger end 2005 in an exact tie

By Denise Flaim  
The Ridgeback Register

It was an international epiphany.

The week before Christmas, en route home from a vacation in Antarctica, Clayton Heathcock and Cheri Hadley of Camelot Rhodesian Ridgebacks in Martinez, Calif., were cooling their heels in the Air Canada first-class lounge at Brazil's Sao Paulo airport.

With a glass of the lounge's good-quality Scotch in one hand, Clayton flipped open his Titanium G4 laptop and started surfing the dog-show superintendents' sites for results from the Cleveland and Long Beach shows.



This photo of Ruger (left) and Mojave (right) at nine weeks of age was taken the day Julie picked Ruger up.

Anyone who has been watching the Ridgeback rankings in the last couple of years would understand Clayton's interest, undampened as it was by the complimentary libations or the unfamiliar hemisphere: Two littermate brothers that he and Cheri bred – Mojave (MBIS BISS Am/Aus Ch. Camelot's Code Red) and Ruger (Can BISS, Am Regional BISS, Am BIF Am/Can Ch. Camelot's Promise to Bakari, SC) – were the top conformation dogs in the country in 2005. At the RRCUS national specialty this spring, Mojave went Best in Specialty Show, while brother Ruger won the Top Twenty competition, the first time two brothers had ever won these

events at the same national. And now the two were vying neck and neck for the number-one spot.

But nothing could have prepared Clayton for the ultimate stalemate in this genial tale of sibling rivalry. Scouring the MBF, Onofrio and Bradshaw web sites and meticulously counting the Ridgebacks defeated from each brother's weekend showing, Clayton carefully added them to the point standings in a December 10 report he had downloaded from the AKC web site.

He looked at the two final figures and recalculated. No, his math was not wrong.

The two dogs had ended 2005 exactly tied -- with 2,025 breed points each.

"After that, I just held my breath for another two weeks until the official final AKC report was posted," Clayton remembers. The official figures mirrored his airport calculations.

According to Clayton's research, this is the first time in breed history that two littermates have finished first and second, to say nothing of a precise tie for those top slots.

In the three decades that RRCUS has been formulating Top 10 lists for its conformation competitors, littermates have shared that list only three times: in 1986, with BIS BISS Ch Gitano of Raintree, ROM at #1 and Ch. Raintree's Tonto of Sno-Vue at # 6; in 1993, with Ch. Ridgelea Rajput Agnikant, ROM at #1 and BISS Ch. Ridgelea's Vartan The Master, ROM at #4, and in 2004, with Ruger at # 3 and Mojave at # 4.

In 1987, three littermates finished in the Top 10: BIS BISS Ch. Gitano of Raintree, ROM (#1), Ch. Raintree's Tonto of Sno-Vue (#5) and Ch. Raintree's Otoe Nyota, ROM (# 7).

Before last year, only one Ridgeback has ever accrued more than 2,000 breed points in a year: Gatsby (BISS MBIS Ch. Spring Valley's Great Gatsby) had 2,107 in 2001 and 2,153 in 2003.

## SUSHI ANYONE?

California rolls are for wimps. And so it was that the sushi-themed litter Clayton and Cheri whelped on New Year's Day in 2002 contained an Uni, an Ebi and an Unagi.

As for the two handsome brothers who coat colors set them apart -- Mojave was dark red and Ruger, a light wheaten -- they were appropriately named Maguro and Himachi, respectively.

Like the precise Japanese cuisine that inspired those nicknames, this breeding had been organized with great care and anticipation. Standing next to Chip (MBISS MBIS Ch. Kimani's Blue Chip Image, JC, ROM) at the 2001 specialty as the veteran dog earned his third and final Best in Specialty Show win, Clayton realized he would the perfect match for Marley (BIS Ch. Camelot's Follow the Sun, ROM), who had just gone Best of Opposite to him.

Because Chip was on the East Coast and Marley was in California, the breeding was done using frozen semen. Of the seven puppies, two died within the first couple of days, and another was lost at two months.

Clayton had promised first pick to Chris and Michele Bohrer, who had trouble deciding between the two striking males. "The choice was a very difficult one because even at eight weeks, these two puppies moved effortlessly and rarely put a foot down wrong," Clayton remembers.

Finally, the Bohrers settled on the rich red wheaten puppy with the clear face and no white markings -- Mojave. The next pick, with his lighter color, black mask and white blaze on the chest -- Ruger -- went to Julie Schilling of Marysville, Wash.

# MOJAVE



## FLASH

America's Number One  
Ridgeback wins breed  
at the 2006 Eukanuba  
Championship Show

01.14.06

Judge Miss Dorothy  
M. Macdonald

*Multiple Best in Show and Best in National Specialty Show Winning*  
**AMERICAN AND AUSTRALIAN CHAMPION CAMELOT'S CODE RED**

### MOJAVE'S ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2005:

126 BOBs; 2,025 breed points

39 G1s, 21 G2s, 15 G3s, 14 G4s; 15,093 all-breed points

BISS - Rhodesian Ridgeback Club of the United States National Specialty

Four all-breed Bests in Show

Bred by Clayton Heathcock & Cheri Hadley  
Owned by Don and Betty Lou Wood & Clayton Heathcock  
Exhibited by Mike Szabo & Bill Sahlhoff

# RUGER



*Best in Canadian Specialty Show,  
American Best in Regional Specialty Show and Best in Field Winning*  
**AMERICAN AND CANADIAN CHAMPION CAMELOT'S PROMISE TO BAKARI, SC**

## RUGER'S ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2005:

115 BOBs; 2,025 breed points  
24 G1s, 22 G2s, 21 G3s, 13 G4s; 11,983 all-breed points  
Top 20 Winner - Rhodesian Ridgeback Club of the United States National Specialty  
BISS - Rhodesian Ridgeback Club of Canada National Specialty  
BISS - San Diego Rhodesian Ridgeback Club Specialty

Bred by Clayton Heathcock & Cheri Hadley  
Owned by Julie Schilling & Clayton Heathcock  
Exhibited by Don Rodgers

# MARLEY



## *Best in Show Winning*

### **AMERICAN CHAMPION CAMELOT'S FOLLOW THE SUN, ROM**

And here is the lovely dam of these two remarkable dogs (still going strong at age 9 1/2).  
Marley is one of only eight Rhodesian Ridgeback females to have won an  
all-breed BIS and is the dam of three different dogs who have won  
National Specialties (United States, Canada, Australia).

Bred, owned and loved by Clayton Heathcock & Cheri Hadley  
Marley was exhibited during her active career by Mike & Karen Kurtzner