

## Jan Bramhall Golden Retriever/Yankee History

Jan grew up in a family with dogs: a mutt, beagles, a setter, a basset, her own cocker spaniel, a rescued setter, and pointer. As an adult, her first goal was to find an apartment that allowed dogs! She began with a pet store “collie,” which turned out to be a mutt of indeterminate lineage and unstable temperament. After the dog growled at her crawling baby and bit a child, she understood the importance of good temperament. She and her husband Mark purchased a lovely English Setter, but she fell in love with a Golden Retriever in 1979, and has had Golden Retrievers since then. Currently Jan has 12 Golden Retrievers, ranging from a 10 month old puppy to a 12 year old. (She also has a 5 year old Grand Champion Irish Wolfhound who thinks he is a Golden.)

Jan joined YANKEE in 1979 and attended a match with her puppy, but she was essentially an inactive member, busy raising three children. After buying a second Golden in 1985, she joined the GRCA and became more involved. In 1988, she took charge of administering YANKEE’s puppy kindergarten, also serving as assistant instructor, and taking over Jen Kesner’s teaching role in 2000. She still teaches the weekly puppy classes. Also in 1988, she co-chaired the bench committee, which then ran two matches annually. Jan served on the board of directors from 1989, as Vice President from 1995 to 2000, and President from 2000 to 2005. She was honored by being the first recipient of the President’s Service Award in 1993.

Jan edited the club newsletter for eleven years, until 2000, and *Finish Lines* won best over-all newsletter in the 1991 GRCA competition. Jan worked on the committee that up-dated the educational materials included in the Breeders’ Referral mailings and also helped bring the club constitution and bylaws into compliance with AKC guidelines, part of a process enabling YANKEE to hold an annual independent specialty. In addition, Jan did match catalogs and chaired several health clinics. She also was the YANKEE correspondent for the *GRCNews* for 7 years and never missed a column.

Jan served in many capacities for Yankee Golden Retriever Rescue, beginning in the early days when she did temporary foster care, evaluations, transportation, and home visits. She served as a home visit coordinator in 1989 and 1990, and even helped to locate an escaped rescue dog by tracking with her novice tracking dog, “Chance.”

Jan has owned, trained, worked, and shown many Golden Retrievers over the years. She is a firm believer in the multi-purpose Golden Retriever, and in 1992, with *Sunnylaine Nouveau Riche JH WC* was the recipient of the *Yankee Dee Trophy*, awarded to the dog that qualifies in conformation, field, and obedience. Since 1989 she has bred using the *Beau Geste* prefix, focusing on soundness, temperament, type, conformation, and working ability.

Jan’s dog *Am./Can. CH. Sunnibrae Beau Geste Pollux CD JH WC VC OS* began the title-seeking. She has owned three JH dogs, completed five WC titles, and one WCX. Her involvement with hunting tests led to her becoming an AKC JH test judge. With her own dogs, she has completed two CDs and a CDX. She has bred and owned four dogs who earned American championships—including “Lewis,” who went on to get his Canadian championship, AKC Grand Championship, and an Award of Merit at Westminster! Recently Jan finished two Canadian championships and five Canadian Grand Championships. Jan has bred three Master Hunters, and produced a GRCA Outstanding Sire, *Beau Geste If Then Else*, thanks to terrific puppy owners.