



**HR Twin Branch Karma's Hunter,
SH, AX, AXJ, UDX3
2001 Canine Disc World Championship Finalist
September 25, 1996 – September 30, 2008**



Name: Hunter

AKC #:

SN385286/11

Breed: Golden Retriever

Microchip #:

425D523B4A

Gender: Intact Male

Birthdate:

September 25, 1996

Titles: Hunter held the UKC Hunting Retriever (HR) title, as well as advanced AKC titles of Senior Hunter, Excellent Agility, Excellent Agility Jumper, and Utility Dog Excellent. He also earned a Therapy Dogs International (TDI) active title by completing over 100 hours of volunteer animal-assisted activities.

Temperament: Hunter was a bright and friendly dog who liked everyone he met. He enjoyed interacting with people and giving kisses and “paws up” when visiting hospitals with Happy Tails, Therapy Dogs of Georgia, and Therapy Dogs International. Responsive to the emotional demands of the situation, he was a calm and easy-going companion in pet therapy activities, yet the “land shark” was an intense and fanatical retriever in field competition. Although Hunter did not perform tricks, he was reliable on approximately 40 voice commands and 10 hand signals.

Achievements: Hunter achieved a total of over 15 titles in 4 different sports. Beginning with the AKC Canine Good Citizen (CGC) certificate at 6 months of age, he qualified for the United States Classic Obedience Championship twice, and he received Dog World magazine’s Award of Canine Distinction three times. In obedience competition, Hunter earned the equivalent of three Utility Dog Excellent (UDX) titles, and he accumulated over 40 points toward the Obedience Championship (OTCH) title. He was a finalist in the 2000 Southern National Disc Dog Championship, where he was awarded the Basic Disc Dog title by the International Disc Dog Handler’s Association (IDDHA). He was the only IDDHA registered Frisbee dog in the country with performance titles in 4 different sports. He qualified for the IDDHA 2001 Canine Disc World Championship, where he earned a qualifying score toward the Advanced Disc Dog title with 6 airborne catches at 120 feet in 120 seconds. Competing in the 2001 World Championship as the only retriever in a field of stock dogs, Hunter placed in the Top 10 in Distance Competition of the Open/ Pro Division with an airborne Frisbee catch at a distance of 136 feet!

Hunter's history: Bred from a championship line of field trial retrievers, Hunter was the great grandson of the legendary Topbrass Cotton (1980-1997), who earned more field trial championship points than any Golden Retriever in history. Hunter not only loved to retrieve, he lived to retrieve. His genetic background and more than 10 hours of training a week helped him earn the UKC Hunting Retriever (HR) title. He earned points toward the UKC Hunting Retriever Champion (HRC) title. Although a near-fatal injury interrupted the canine athlete’s training at the age of 2 years, his recovery was followed by a year of earning advanced open titles in four different canine sports: obedience, agility, hunt tests, and Frisbee. In Frisbee competition, he performed mid-air catches at a distance of 60 yards. In hunting tests, he performed water blind retrieves in excess of 100 yards and land retrieves in excess of 200 yards. In field competition, he completed triple marked land retrieves in excess of 100 yards.

Hunter’s retirement: Since his retirement from competitive sports two years ago at age 10, Hunter continued taking long walks each day and swimming in the river each weekend. He enjoyed a few Frisbee catches each morning and afternoon until just a few weeks before his 12th birthday, when he seemed to be slowing down a bit. Just five days after his 12th birthday, Hunter’s last morning was uneventful, except that he seemed more active and more focused on doing almost all the things than he enjoyed during his life. In addition to his regular morning walk in the woods and around the lake, he found some time to chase one squirrel up a tree, played in the water of the garden hose, and returned home to play on his agility equipment and several sets of weave poles (which he spontaneously performed and seemed to enjoy more in his retirement than when he competed in shows). When I returned home after teaching an evening class, he greeted me with a smile despite a profound lethargy and weakness that was uncharacteristic of him. A few hours later, following the apparent sudden rupture of an abdominal neoplasm, Hunter was euthanized among family and friends shortly before midnight on September 30, 2008.



Hunter was great-grandson of legendary Topbrass Cotton, winner of a record number of Field Trial points.



Twin Branch Karma, Senior Hunter and her litter of 12 Puppy Hunter at 3 Days Old (September 28, 1996)



Puppy Hunter's First Day at Home (November 24, 1996)



Puppy Hunter's typical evening in 1997



Bill and Hunter at AKC Hunt Test (April 03, 1999)



Hunter Clearing Triple Jump at AKC Agility Trial (2003)



Bill and Hunter on the Lake (August 16, 2006)