



CLAUDIA WALLER ORLANDI, Ph.D

Claudia's involvement with the dog fancy began some 40 years ago as a junior handler. Although she has owned and shown various breeds since, for close to 20 years her passion has been breeding Basset Hounds. The Orlandi's Topsfield Kennel is located on 200 acres in Vermont and houses approximately 30-40 Basset Hounds. Topsfield Bassets hold numerous Breed and All-Breed records, ranging from Number One and Number 2 All Breed Hound in 2001 and 2002 respectively, to winning multiple Pedigree and Nature's Recipe Awards. They have bred the Top Producing Basset Hound Dam in the history of the breed and Ch Topsfield Bumper Cars, CD, ROM, is the top Group Winning Basset Hound in breed history and holds the record for the most hound group firsts (117) of any hound breed won in a single year. Since the year 2000, Topsfield has bred the Number One Basset Hound All Systems in the country. Claudia has served on the Basset Hound Club of America's Health and Research Committee, Judges' Education Committee and is presently chairman of Member Education. She judges Basset Hounds, Dachshunds and Junior Showmanship.

Claudia's enthusiasm for breeding is matched only by her passion for teaching and working with other dog fanciers in the area of breeder's education. Her home study program, the *ABC's of Dog Breeding*, is based on the enthusiastic response to her educational seminars on breeding and her belief that *anyone* can and should understand the practical rules of animal breeding and canine genetics in their quest to breed better, healthier dogs.

The *ABC's of Dog Breeding Home Study Program* was developed to help fill the need for an affordable, easy-to-understand course of study on dog breeding, which is suitable for club structured breeder's education and appropriate for breeders of all breeds of dog. The goal of the *ABC's of Dog Breeding* is to take a practical, step-by-step-approach to the art and science of breeding. It is thanks to our understanding of the proven breeding strategies of livestock species that we know the importance of applying genetic principles to the breeding of companion animals like dogs and horses. The *ABC's* textbook outlines 7 key breeding tools and concepts, which include (1) genetics, (2) breeding systems, (3) pedigree, (4) selection, (5) anatomy, (6) kennel blindness and (7) genetic defects. In addition to discussing the basic rules of heredity, the *ABC's of Dog Breeding* also addresses many of the common misconceptions that have been handed down from dog breeder to dog breeder. The *ABC's of Dog Breeding Home Study Program* includes a series of workbook exercises. Breeders who send in their completed exercises to the American Kennel club will receive a Certificate of Completion.

The *ABC's of Dog Breeding* seminar is an introduction to the topics that are covered in the home study program and explains many of the practical genetic breeding principles that can benefit breeders of all breeds of dogs.