

*Great dogs from abroad which have impacted the Epagneul Breton*

By Fred Overby

## Luron de Kerveillant



Luron de Kerveillant CH IT P Elite A Tr (France)

One of the great sires of the modern era in France during the late 1990s and extending into the next decade was Luron de Kerveillant. Luron was whelped on June 21, 1995, in the countryside outside the village of Callac, Province of Bretagne. His breeder was Yves Joncour, founder of Elevage de Kerveillant and current Chairman/President of the CEB-France (2022).

The black and white male with roan coat pattern, was sired by Ebert de Keranlouan (also black and white in coloration) from the neighboring Keranlouan kennel. Elevage de Keranlouan which was established by the late Guy Morin is still operated by his son, Patrick Morin is located a few kilometers from the Kerveillant

Chenil down the winding roads in the Bretagne countryside just outside of the village of Callac. Luron's dam (mere) was Canaille de Kerveillant (orange and white coat) also produced by the Joncours' Kerveillant kennel. Callac and nearby environs is the birthplace and cradle of the Epagneul Breton breed. As you drive into the village, there is a sign welcoming visitors to Callac Station Verte, as the birthplace of the Epagneul Breton. The Museum of the Epagneul Breton is located off the town square in the village and interprets the breed throughout its history in various mediums.

Luron was famous in his day as a highly decorated Epagneul Breton dog of the "other colors" variety. His black and white roan appearance was striking to the observer. Luron was an exceptional dog in field work. Among his various achievements, Luron earned the CH P (Champion of the Field - Printemps) work title in France while being trialed on wild grey partridge in the spring field trials, as well as the additional CH IT title of International Working Champion based on CACIT award classifications he acquired in one or more countries outside of his native France. His hips were rated "A" under the French system for evaluating hip dysplasia. Luron acquired the highest rating of Elite A in the French Quality Rating System, which was attainable, only because he was a highly prepotent sire. Among the offspring Luron produced, were an estimated twenty (20) or more champions of field work in France and other European countries. These numerous champions include his most famous son, Rapide de Kerveillant who was named the Champion of France for the Epagneul Breton breed in 2004.

Luron lived a long and productive life as a sire. When the Centennial Celebration of the Epagneul Breton was hosted by the CEB-France in 2007 in Bretagne, one of the activities offered to attendees was a bus tour to the four venerable and famous Epagneul Breton kennels located around Callac. (These Epagneul breeding farms known in the French language as an "elevage" were: Cournouaille, Isle de Callac, Keranlouan and Kerveillant.) As the CEB Centennial tour bus arrived at Elevage de Kerveillant just outside Callac in August of 2007, the participants from the CEB-US delegation began to tour the grounds and look at the decades of field trial award plaques crafted in metal, hanging from the gates and fences set in stone. There was an old black and white male Epagneul Breton dog, with a grey muzzle seen peering out of an old stone dog house. This old dog

was housed with two younger females for breeding. R.L. Dalrymple, who was very familiar with dogs of the Keranlouan and Kerveillant bloodlines, pointed at the old dog and exclaimed, “I be darned! There is ole Luron — I didn’t know that he was still alive — much less, still being used for a stud dog.” Luron was by that time, just over twelve years of age. Yves Joncour was standing nearby and when he heard R.L.’s exclamation, he smiled broadly and nodded his head to indeed confirm that the dog R.L. had recognized, was in fact, the great Luron. Yves was a bit surprised, yet flattered that his famous old stud dog was still recognized by visitors from as far away as across the Atlantic Ocean.