



It is a great privilege for me to serve on the Board of Directors of The Bracco Italiano Club of America. A little about myself... I live in the Western Suburbs of Chicago Illinois. I earned a PhD Degree in Molecular Pharmacology in 2002 from Rosalind Franklin Health Sciences University in North Chicago, IL and currently work as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery at Loyola University Stritch School of Medicine in Maywood, Illinois. I am married to a wonderful woman and have an infant son named Andrew. I have owned dogs my entire life, and can't imagine living without at least one dog at my side. I have hunted upland game for over 25 years, but had never actually owned a hunting breed of dog. Back in 2004, I decided it was finally time to own a pointing dog and started researching different breeds when I came across the Bracco Italiano. From the descriptions I read, the Bracco was exactly what I was looking for. In early 2005, I came across Casa Bravo Kennel, owned by Mike and Peggy Casper from Chanute, Kansas and in late 2005, Cider, an eight-week old bundle of energy came into my life. Cider was everything I had hoped for and more; a tireless hunter, a wonderful companion and the most athletic dog I have ever seen! Cider won Best of Opposite Sex at the 2009 Bracco Italiano Gathering in Gerlach, Nevada and accompanied me on many, many upland hunting excursions across the country. I lost Cider way too soon in 2012, but am fortunate to have Nola, a three-year old female Bracco from Di Ala D'Oro Kennel in the Netherlands to fill the void. Nola earned her AKC Junior Hunting Title at 18 months and is currently working toward her AKC Senior Hunting Title. Nola has already hunted the prairies of South Dakota for Sharptail Grouse and Prairie Chicken two years running, and is becoming an expert at pinning down wild Illinois pheasant.

The Bracco Italiano is a special breed and is growing in popularity. As the breed becomes more popular, we have an obligation to protect the breed from those who would do the breed harm for their own benefit. Breeders who produce dogs solely for the money are a major concern. The Bracco Italiano is first and foremost a bird dog, and we need to make sure that prospective owners and breeders understand that they have an obligation to hunt or get their dogs in the field if they decide to bring a Bracco into their homes. Too many working breeds have been damaged by breeders who select stock only for conformation, and by owners who do not understand the working background of the dog they are purchasing. During my tenure on the board, I want to work to promote the sporting aspects of the breed, and work to reduce the incidence of diseases found in the breed that take our dogs away from us before their time...