

## **How does Paint River Llewellins formulate their puppy purchase prices?**

We understand that there are many options available nowadays when it comes to purchasing a Llewelin Setter puppy. As in all breeds there are many more dogs being bred than there should be.

Having been breeding and training both companion and working dogs for over twenty years I'm continually dealing with issues that largely exists due to poor breeding practices. The raw genetic potential of your dog cannot be changed. All dogs are not created equal. Temperament, health, and performance vary from dog to dog. All three of these aspects need to be put to the test and decisions on which dogs are of breeding quality needs to be done with a clinical objective view not an emotional view.

Kennel blindness is an epidemic amongst breeders AND dog owners wanting to breed the "in their eyes" super dog. The truth is we all can do a better job of selecting our breeding stock.

As a trainer my job is to take the animal I've been given and do everything I can to maximize its potential. As a breeder my job is to do my best to create a dog that is super healthy, easy to train, and a natural at its inherent craft that requires the least training possible.

Our Llewelin Setter gene pool is small compared to many breeds of dog. Therefore we stand a greater chance of losing the overall quality standard the Llewelin Setter is known for because of this problem of improper breeding practices.

My question to my fellow breeders would be— how many dogs wash out of your breeding program that you acquired? There's an old saying, "our strengths are our weaknesses," and vice versa. By many breeders in the old days the bird dog was first and foremost a tool and less of a companion outside of its job. Living in an outdoor kennel and taken out to perform its task was very often the extent to which many breeders lived with their dogs. Times have changed a lot we love our dogs differently and or additionally today. I feel this is a great change but this compassion, tenderness and bond is also the main reason for the high percentage of junk that exists in so many working breeds today. Just because a dog is healthy, has a nice personality and does its job to satisfactory standards should not be enough. People have settled for mediocre rather than trying to create extraordinary dogs. To breed quality there are hard choices and sacrifices a breeder must make. I get sick to my stomach every single time I need to make these decisions. My dogs are as much family dogs as they are working dogs. They live in the home, sleep in our bed, are viewed as our kids and given the best care possible. It's always heartbreak to wash out a dog but it must be done.

I do not claim to know any other Llewelin Setter breeder's breeding program practices and I applaud all those who agree with me. All I can do is tell you my own process and in doing so I'll answer this question.

Finally getting to the numbers... no expense is spared on our Paint River Llewellins breeding program. We feed a combination of the highest quality grain-free kibble and raw diet that cost nearly as much as our mortgage. Give the safest vaccines that money can buy. Do gold standard hip certifications that cost double of others. Dedicate hundreds and hundreds of hours to their care with respect to grooming, exercising, and hunting. Fly and drive all over the country to meet breeders every year, see their breeding dogs work and if it appears promising then we purchase a pup or two.

We may spend three to five thousand dollars in the first year acquiring and caring for a new setter, additionally countless hours vetting this dog for a breeding prospect. Breeding dogs is not a moneymaking business if you do it right and care greatly for your dogs.

In our thirteen years of owning Llewelin Setters we have purchased and kept a total of eighteen Llewellins. Of those eighteen dogs from many different breeders, thus far we have only kept five of those eighteen dogs for our breeding program. It's a painful process. We know our standards are as high as any great breeder out there or higher. This does not mean we have better dogs but it does mean that you are never wrong with going with Paint River Llewellins. At least here you know we are truly doing every thing we can to make our next generation of the hunting-family dog the best dog in every way possible.

Our guarantee is simple and good. We guarantee you a healthy dog for three years free of any congenital defects. Sports injuries and other acquired issues from poor health care practices are excluded. We will give you another pup for free plus shipping if applicable as long as you keep your original pup and care for it as a loved family member.

Thank you for taking the time to read this explanation.

Kyle Warren

Owner, breeder and trainer of Paint River Llewellins and Kyle Warren Dogs