



Bred in the Netherlands by Greet and Alex Los-Romeijn, Ch. Quaciendas Alba Aqua-Aura, owned by Anne Plomp, also of Holland, is a very good example of a Barbet. Photo courtesy of Judy Descutner.

Those breeding Barbets in North America today are all breeding from stock imported from Europe. “The people who originally imported the dogs are no longer active with the breed, “ explains Judy. “In Canada, the breed was originally imported primarily from France, with other dogs brought in from Belgium, Switzerland, the Netherlands, Italy and Poland, although most of these dogs also came from the original French dogs.” Barbets in the U.S. are either from Canadian breeding programs or were imported directly from Europe.

One Barbet who has made friends for the breed in the U.S. is the Canadian-bred Toulouse Biscay’s Sapphire, owned by Tracey Schnabel of Hoboken, N.J. Tracey and ‘Tug’ have devoted countless hours to therapy work, and Tug became the first Barbet ever to earn an AKC Therapy Dog title, which requires at least 50 therapy visits. Tracey also tried out Tug’s retrieving instincts last year at a Sporting breeds seminar in Michigan, where, she says, “Tug’s lack of technique for the retrieves was made up for by instinct. When he heard the shotgun, he was focused and looking for his mark.” As an FSS dog recorded with AKC, Tug has also tried his “paw” at lure coursing.