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Subject: Boys to Men...

Finally! Today was the day for Rafiq and Ori to grow up a bit in the field. They got to experience their first two courses, and in fine, perfect, training style!

First course was the longer of the two with Nova and Ringo dominating, swapping leads and turns on the hare. Zelia, Rafiq and Ori were right in the mix all along, with Zelia getting her licks in, too. The course went out south of us, into a large stand of greasebrush, where the smooth boys got the work going, pressuring the hare to change escape route attempts and straight back at us. Nice, since Skip had forgotten his binoculars this morning and the course came back into naked eye range. Nova and Ringo swept by us, hard on the hare and bearing down with the others in close pursuit. Nova forces a hard turn in some cover and the hare eludes him and the pups. I see Ringo shoot out to the north, followed by Zelia and they are still on the hare. Quick two turns by Ringo and a sweeping take for UK by the Comeback Kid. Boy, did he deserve that one! I would have loved to get photos, but the cover precluded those options and cotton pickin' Zelia took the hare away from him to pack it in. (first picture). Rafiq saw what was going on and followed in closely and curiously.

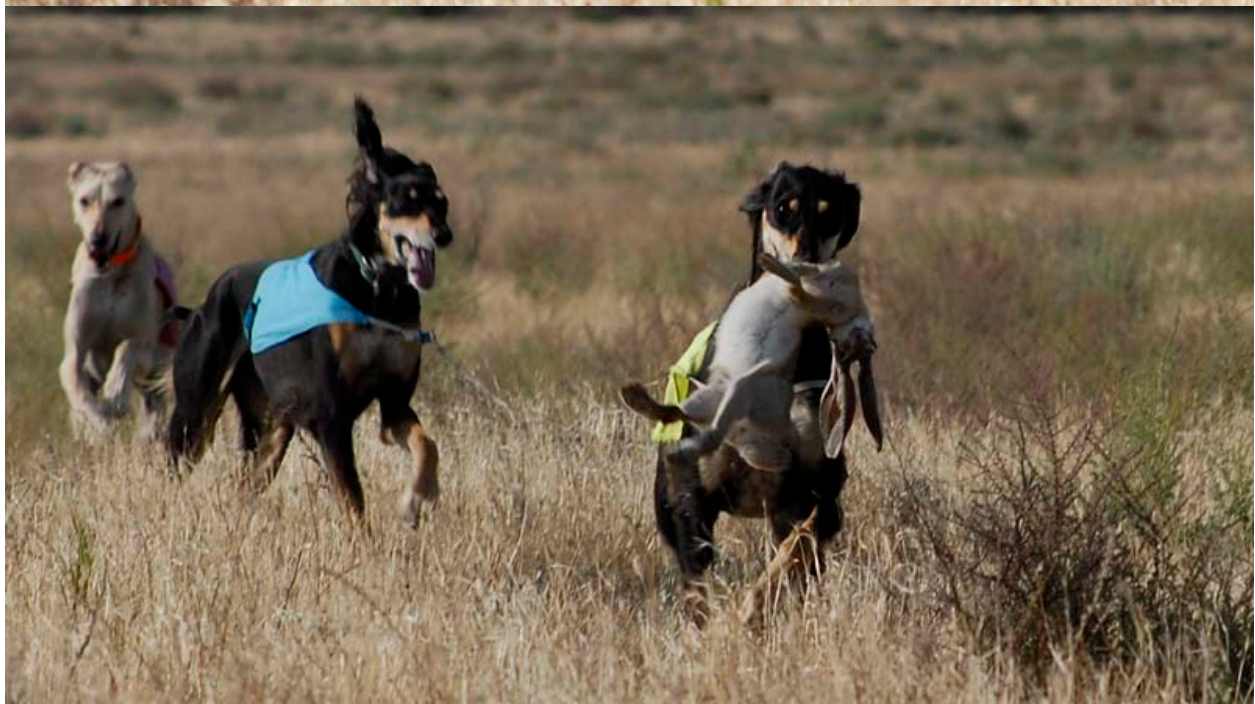


I went out to Zelia (who refused to bring it in all the way) picked up the hare and showed it to the baby boys. (next two pics) They were cautious, but curious. The light bulb is strongly flickering! 😊



2nd hare, broken by Zelia the ever keen huntress. I'd just turned my head to the right and saw her at a bush and THE TAIL was wagging high. No sooner did I start to say, "Ah, Zelia thinks something is in there..." then, BAM! Out shoots the hare and the chase is on. Out to the greasebrush again and the work gets hot and heavy out there. More even swaps this time between the smooth bros with Ringo making some real nice strong moves on it. Man, that dog can turn! His brother is faster, but this guy, man I love his turning ability and I'm SO glad to see him back out there looking so close to 100%!!

It got obvious this was going to be another take and I can't say who got it as they were all right there. I thought I saw Zelia packing at first, but then I saw Nova with it, then RAFIQ playing tug o' war with him!!! Boy's got a natural mouth on him and Nova let him have it. Rafiq packed it all the way back in! That guy is his dad's Mini Me all the way. So, at least I got some pretty cool shots of him packing.





Those youngsters got a real eyeful today and graduated to being adult coursing dogs. They look SUPER, right in close on both courses. Might have had their mouths on that last kill. Heck, they may have made that last kill! They're awesome looking youngsters and I'm very proud of them! Skip is going to keep having SO much fun with them (CONGRATS on two great acquisitions, Skip!!!). 1st hare was 95% grown, but obviously from an early litter this year. 2nd hare was a teenager buck, 'bout 3/4 grown. Just the right stuff for training runs. Will lay pretty low now that Skip's guys FINALLY got on their first hares (Skip paid his dues to get this for them today!) and only head out on a rare, cool morning until Fall. (Have more photos, and, of course, full sized files of all.)

Cheers ~ K

Karon & Jim Lonero

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