

## ON POINT WITH...



**Owner:**  
**Breed:**  
**Age:**  
**Breeder:**  
**Titles:**

## REGINA.....(Queen in Italian)

**Ericka Ransdell**  
**Bracco Italiano**  
**15**  
**Cascina Croce**  
**Versatile Champion (VC)**  
**UT Prize 1**



Sometimes, the dog chooses you.

Ericka and Bob were on vacation in Italy, they were meeting up with friends in the Bracco community and toured a few breeders around Milan. They weren't looking for another dog, but wanted to check out breeders for the future. The language barrier was tough at the time, and they didn't make many good contacts. On the last day of their trip, they met a man named Giuseppe Brugnone at an out of season hunt club. He was older and couldn't walk very well, but he had a brilliant smile and wanted to show off his dogs. He had about 8 dogs stuffed in the back of his Range Rover. One by one he got his males out and ran them in the field showing them to Ericka. Back at the car, Bob was making friends with the dogs still in the car. A nose came out of the fray and licked his hand. It was the only female of the group.

Bob declared then and there that this was the dog he wanted. Ericka was beside herself, they knew nothing about this dog and wondered how they could choose her simply because of a licked hand. Bob was determined and managed to persuade Ericka, and thru strained Italian, they made an offer Giuseppe couldn't refuse (a King's ransom)! The paperwork and shipping was miraculously done. Regina arrived at LAX shortly after and was sweet, calm and regal - a Queen in every way. Ericka finally looked at her pedigree and was shocked! She came from Cascina Croce, one of the best kennels in Italy. They famously didn't send dogs out of the country, so it was pure luck they got her.



Ericka quickly realized Regina could Turn-it-On in the field! At that time in the NAVHDA community, Bracco's didn't have a great reputation, Ericka had heard them called "junk dogs". You wouldn't think so when meeting her, but Ericka has a bit of a competitive streak in her! She was determined to have Regina show them that Bracco's are NOT junk dogs.

Ericka set her sights on a UT prize 1, it took her 5 years, but with the help of Tracy Presson, Regina earned a Prize 1 at a High On Kennels 2010 NAVHDA test.

Did I mention that Ericka was competitive? She immediately wanted to go for a VC title - no Bracco had ever gotten a VC title in the history of NAVHDA. She trained with all 3 local NAVHDA chapters and also with Tracy. In 2011 Ericka & Regina achieved their goal - **the first, and to-date the ONLY Bracco ever to receive a VC!** Ericka is still so very proud of Regina and their accomplishment. Later that year Ericka took Regina back to Italy and showed her off, the gathering of European and Italian enthusiasts were impressed by her steadiness and one even offered to buy her! (see mountain picture above)

These days we are all lucky to have access to Ericka's experience, and Regina is still meandering around the fields, and sneaking in an occasional leisurely duck search. A little hand licking turned into a grand adventure!

## LINES OF COMMUNICATION

Check out our San Diego NAVHDA website [www.sandiegonavhda.com](http://www.sandiegonavhda.com) for updated information on events, training locations, maps, contacts, sponsors, test dates, etc.