



The Griffonnier

Spring 2016

Vol. 27 No. 1

The Official Publication of the American Wirehaired Pointing Griffon Association



The Breeding and Performance Issue



The Griffonni^{er}

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On The Cover



Teresa Petterson DVM and Glacier's Man For All Seasons (Gralig) and Glacier's Dashing Through The Snow (Swix) skijor racing on the Grand Mesa in Colorado, the highest dogsled race in North America at 10,500 ft. See her story on page 22.

Cover photo by Angela Kindig-Moyer

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The Griffonni^{er} is the official publication of the American Wirehaired Pointing Griffon Association (AWPGA). Its purpose is to provide an open forum for the breeders and owners of purebred Griffons. The Griffonni^{er} is organized, operated and produced exclusively for the purpose of providing charitable and educational information about the Wirehaired Pointing Griffon. Articles appearing in this publication are not necessarily the opinion of The Griffonni^{er}, its editor, staff or the American Wirehaired Pointing Griffon Association. Advertisers should be members in good standing with the AWPGA or shall be placed by individuals or entities whose advertising submission is judged to be in harmony with the stated purpose of this publication. All persons or entities placing advertisement in, or submitting written materials to The Griffonni^{er} are solely responsible for content of representations and claims made for their dogs, products, services and accuracy of written material. All materials, whether in the form of advertisements, articles, symbols, diagrams or illustrations, is accepted and published by The Griffonni^{er}, its editor and the AWPGA with the express agreement that the persons or entities submitting the material will indemnify and hold the club and/or its editor and staff free and harmless for any result of publishing such material which is libelous, copyrighted, infringes on trademarks or is plagiarism, and will reimburse the club and/or its editor and staff for any expense incurred in the defense of any such claims, including reasonable attorney fees and court costs. The AWPGA reserves the right to reasonably edit all materials, including advertisements. The AWPGA is a non-profit organization. Federal tax ID 93-1031835. ©Copyright 2016 AWPGA.

From the AWPGA President

by Dawn M. Conner-Wood



Photo by Purgioia



Welcome to the 2016 Breeding and Performance Issue of *The Griffonier*. On Feb. 22, 2016, AKC released the Most Popular Dog Breeds in America list. Just in 2015, the Wirehaired Pointing Griffon jumped up 10 slots, (2015 #66, 2014 #76, 2013 #80. See the full list at www.akc.org/news/the-most-popular-dog-breeds-in-america). Some may see this as exciting news, but for those who are concerned with preserving the breed, it's alarming.

Why alarming? We take pride in the fact that a majority of our top 20 conformation dogs are also field dogs holding titles through AKC and NAVHDA. Other sporting breeds that have grown in numbers have lost this. Their field and conformation dogs are so different, they look like two separate breeds. We don't want this for the WPG. Korthals created this breed for the field, and it needs to be preserved.

Why has our breed grown in such an alarming rate? My feeling is social media is one of the reasons, which I'm guilty of myself. It's easy to get caught up in the latest, most current posts. Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and others are useful tools for connecting with people, but it's also a way to spread unrealistic information about the breed. For example, some websites emphasize the positive breed attributes while completely overlooking other issues such as health, temperament and responsible pet management and breeding. The increased exposure of the breed has led to an increased number of litters born to inexperienced owners.

So, what do we do as the parent club whose main purpose is to preserve the breed?

We can educate WPG owners why breeding is not to be taken lightly. We can teach breeders that health clearances are a necessity. We can explain why knowledge of structure and canine anatomy is vital to preserving the purpose of the breed. We can stress that reasons other than improving the breed is not a justifiable reason to breed.

This club is made up of people, who by joining AWPGA, have been commissioned to preserve the breed. Help us do this. Our club continues to grow stronger because of you, our members! Thank you for your continued support.

Listed below are a few updates since our last issue.

Nominating Committee. In 2016, the regional representative positions are up for vote. The board established a nominating committee as per the bylaws who efficiently met and selected nominees. West Region, Dr. Lisa Boyer-Miller; Central Region, Mary Zullo; and East Region, Dennis Normiles. We wish to thank the nominating committee for their work and to the nominees for accepting their nomination. As per the bylaws Article IV, Section 4.B, members in good standing have until June 15th to submit a petition for nomination. Please reference the bylaws for more information.

2016 Specialty. This year's specialty is scheduled for September 21-25, 2016 in Helena, Montana. Chairperson Lisa Durand and her specialty committee are working hard on making sure we have another successful event. Help is needed in various areas. Contact Lisa Durand at threedogranch@msn.com for more information.

2017 Specialty. A group in the East Region are working on a bid for the 2017 specialty. More information will be provided when available. This is a great opportunity to help your club and meet fellow club members. Contact your regional representative, Peter Wilk, at huntgriffons@bellsouth.net for more information.

We are accepting bids for future national sSpecialties. 2018 – Central Region; 2019 – West Region. The Specialty Bid Application is available through the Event page of our club website.

AWPGA AKC Delegate. Dr. Lisa Boyer Miller, as the club AKC delegate, has a wealth of information obtained at delegate meeting. Two new sections will be created on the club's website for AKC Delegate and Legislation updates. 🌟

AKC Releases 2015 Most Popular Dog Breeds in America

Labrador Retrievers are again the most popular breed in the United States for the 25th consecutive year, the longest reign of any one breed, according to 2015 AKC registration data.

Although the popular family-friendly breed has remained at the top for some time, a few breeds are closing in on its spot. The French Bulldog jumped up three spots, from ninth in 2014 to sixth in 2015.

"The versatile, lovable Lab has firmly planted its paw print in AKC's history," AKC Vice President Gina DiNardo said. "But keep your eye on the French Bulldog. The Frenchie has risen 32 spots over the past decade and shows no signs of stopping."

America's most popular aren't the only movers and shakers. The Wirehaired Pointing Griffon (aka "the 4-wheel

drive of hunting dogs") made huge strides over the past decade, jumping 46 spots from 112th in 2004 to 66th in 2015. In the past year alone, the Griff moved 10 spots from 76th to 66th most popular. Here is the three-year breakdown of AKC popularity ranking for the Griff:

2013 - 80th
2014 - 76th
2015 - 66th

A few other breeds have made some noteworthy changes in the list. For instance, the Cane Corso moved from 47th to 35th, the Norwegian Elkhound moved from 100th to 88th, the Belgian Malinois moved from 59th to 51st, and the Leonberger moved from 101st to 93rd. 🌟

Source: AKC Press Releases and Weekly News



Meet the Nominees for AWPGA Regional Reps

Lisa A. Boyer, DVM

Nominee for Western Regional Representative



I am very excited to have been nominated for the position of Western Regional Representative for the American Wirehaired Pointing Griffon Association. I currently serve as the club's AKC delegate and hope to do so for many years to come. The Western Regional Representative position pairs well with the AKC delegate duties without adding excessive work. The AKC delegate is the one position by virtue of

our bylaws that can hold a second position in the club. Many clubs have their delegate serving on its board of directors to enhance the relationship between the AKC and its members.

I have been involved with Wirehaired Pointing Griffons for nine years. I initially only participated in hunting and hunt testing, but once I joined the AWPGA, I became active in conformation as well. This year, I intend to expand my experience into participating in performance events (obedience, agility, nose work and barn hunting). I currently write regular articles for *The Griffonier* and *The Versatile Hunting Dog* magazines. I am an AKC Breeder of Merit and a participant in the Bred With Heart program.

By profession, I have been a veterinarian for 14 years. I have become involved in the health and genetics of our breed, and am currently working with the Health and Genetics Committee to procure a grant for the study of steroid responsive meningitis arteritis in sporting breeds. We are hopeful that we will be successful and I am excited to be able to assist through my contacts at the Canine Health Foundation to move this effort forward. In addition, I am deeply committed to the preservation of our breed and am very happy to see the progress our club is making in many areas. It is a great time to be active in the AWPGA.

My background includes many years serving our government as a United States Air Force officer and FBI agent. I hold a bachelor's degree in computer science and am tech savvy. I have a firm foundation in communication with a wide variety of people, both verbally and in writing. I am able to work well with groups towards a common goal. I have volunteered for many organizations such as Delta Society, the American Red Cross and animal rescue groups. These experiences will help me be productive as the Western Representative.

There are many issues that the AWPGA will need to address in the coming years to preserve our breed. Judges education is of paramount importance. As the Griff becomes more popular and more new breeders emerge,

the appearance of our breed can quickly change. In the past nine years, we have seen Griffons become larger and their structure altered. These things are being rewarded by judges since it is commonplace, although not correct. Since form follows function, the hunting ability of the improperly structured dog will be affected. In addition, health and genetics and new member mentorship tops the list as priorities, including a push to involve more juniors in all aspects of the dog world. As our membership is aging, we need to encourage new blood and help them take advantage of member knowledge and club activities. We need to welcome people and let them know why the AWPGA is a worthwhile organization and the ultimate resource for all things Griff!

Finally, we as a group have tremendous potential to affect change in legislation related to dogs. We can make concerted efforts both as a group and as individual club members to prevent legislation put forth by animal rights groups, including HSUS, that seeks to destroy the purebred dog; mandatory spay/neuter laws, limitations on tail docking, prevention of breeding and restrictions on hunting. These threats are real and present in many communities, and we cannot allow them to continue because if we do, in a decade purebred dog ownership will be greatly affected.

I appreciate your consideration for supporting me as the Western Regional Representative. If elected, I promise to improve communication between the organization and its members and work diligently to make progress in many areas. I want to learn about the priorities of club members and ensure that we are meeting the challenges that our organization faces with sound ideas and positive solutions.

Dennis Normile

Nominee for Eastern Representative

It is an honor to be nominated as the AWPGA East Coast Representative, and I look forward to serving the club with certain enthusiasm. In the short while of my involvement with AWPGA, I have had the wonderful opportunity to spend time with many of you already, but here is a quick meet and greet for those whom I have not yet had the pleasure.

My wife Dottie and I joined the AWPGA after getting our first Griffon puppy. For many years we had bred and shown AKC championship dogs along with our daughter Erin, whose husband Sytze, coincidentally, grew up not far from Korthals' hometown



Continued on page 6



**I AM HONORED AND THANKFUL TO HAVE
RECEIVED THE CHARLES KUSHNER MEMORIAL
BRED BY EXHIBITOR TROPHY.**

**THIS AWARD IS EXTRA SPECIAL BECAUSE CHARLES
KUSHNER WAS A CO-BREEDER ON LUCY'S LITTER**

**LUCY ...
GCH CH DAKOTAH'S
WORTH THE WAIT
JH NA 1**

SPECIAL THANKS ...

To Judge Dyane Baldwin for
awarding Hope Winners
Bitch, Best Bred by
Exhibitor and Award
of Merit at the AWPGA
National Specialty

To Rick and Kay Farris
for trusting me with
Lucy and mentoring
me along the way.

To Jay and Lisa Hoth for
training Hope to NA Prize 1
at 5 months of age and AKC
JH at 6 months of age.

**HOPE ...
CH CHISHOLM TRAIL'S A
NEW BEGINNING JH NA 1**



Jane Swanson
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AWPGA Officers, Board and Committees

AWPGA Officers and Board

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Central Regional Representative Jody Kirtley	jrkdogs2@yahoo.com	(405) 376-0295
East Regional Representative Peter Wilk	huntgriffons@bellsouth.net	(904) 599-5674

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Nominees *continued from page 4*

in the Netherlands. For most of my life I had hunted setters and Labs until I was introduced to the supreme gun dog one day at the Westminster KC dhow. Since then I have had the opportunity to show, train and hunt our Griffons from Canada to Colorado and Maine to Georgia.

We spend most of our time here on the east coast, between New Jersey and North Carolina, with more hunting in New York and Pennsylvania. I have been blessed with many great mentors who have coached and guided me as we finished dogs in the conformation ring, AKC Master Hunter testing as well as NAVHDA testing. This has encouraged me to share my experiences and successes by contributing to training days and the club's supported and specialty shows. You may have read some of the training tips I have shared in *The Griffonnier* under the Positive Pointer column. I am a strong advocate of dual-championed Griffons. As a member of the AWPGA Field Committee, we are hard at work preparing for this year's specialty, September 19-25 in Montana.

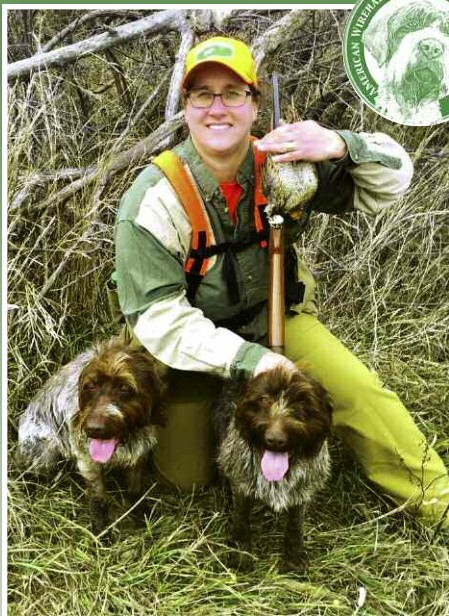
Locally, the AKC website has a convenient search tool to help you find conformation shows and hunt tests in your area. In the meantime, there a few "Griff Gathering" socials planned throughout the country including here in New Jersey on June 25 at Colliers Mills WMA. As the hunt season winds down and the outdoor show season and training season begins, I want to wish all the best and hope that we meet along the way. Cheers!

Mary Zullo Nominee for Central Representative



I am excited to accept the nomination to the position of AWPGA Central Region Representative. A little about myself: I have a husband Mike (who you may have seen at the past three nationals holding a purse for me!) and three grown children, including Robyn, who is my resident handler extraordinaire. I live with two Griffis, Kash and Krush, and two German Shorthaired Pointers, Kadie and Kara. I have been involved with the dog world for many years, participating in conformation, hunt tests, NAVHDA and more recently, I'm trying dock jumping and barn hunting. I am at a time in my life that I would like to

become more involved with the AWPGA. I have participated in and been the chair for the last two Nominating Committees and was a part of the last National Auction Committee and would embrace becoming more involved with regional activities and promotions. I will be replacing Jody Kirtley, who has been a wonderful rep and leaves big shoes to fill. Thank you for your consideration. 🍀



From The Griffonnier Co-editor *by Charity Upchurch*

Hunting season has passed and it was another five months filled with special memories. My greatest excitement was bagging my first pair of wild Nebraska quail. Habitat and weather conditions made this season a record quail year in the state and I felt so blessed to finally finish out my Nebraska upland grand slam, meaning that in my hunting career I've bagged all of the upland birds in the state. In Nebraska, a grand slam is: sharptailed grouse, greater prairie chicken, pheasant, and quail.

Our trip to Montana will provide some great opportunities to work toward a national upland grand slam. Obviously, that is a lifetime goal!

Thank you to all of the contributors to the Breeding and Performance Issue. I learn so much by reading about other members' activities with their dogs. I hope that you enjoy it as much I did!

This is my sixth year as a breeder and I'm slowing down a bit. Having 10 litters totaling 75 healthy puppies has been so much work, but very rewarding. I'm still amazed that it was all done the old fashioned way without any veterinary reproductive intervention. I hope to keep it that way, but one never knows what the future holds.

Dawn's president's message is filled with truth; I hope that you also take the time to read it and take it to heart. It was only through the individual outreach

of AWPGA members that I became a part of the club, its code of ethics and its way of life. We each need to take personal responsibility to pass that along to new breeders, even if it is just picking up the phone to call the new breeder near you to share with them the importance of this way.

Good luck to everyone with spring field training and hunt testing! ☆

From The Griffonnier Co-editor *by Amy Caswell-O'Clair*

Breeding is not always easy. Some can have puppies effortlessly for years while others of us seem to find bad luck every time. Last year I wrote about my first litter. Luckily, my vet's wife was helping whelp and let me know a puppy was stuck and we needed a C-section. This year, Bijou went into labor at 11:30 p.m., the worst possible time to call up the vet's wife to help. I allowed Bijou to push for three hours, then finally did call Susan at 2:30 a.m. for some assistance. The first three pups arrived fine, but the fourth was slow to come. Finally, he came ... with a bit of brown discharge. Susan said this brown discharge means the puppies are stressed. So we headed to the vet clinic for a C-section to get the remaining pups out alive.

Two days after whelping, I noticed even though the pups were nursing and Bijou was all bagged up, the pups were getting thin. A trip to the vet revealed Bijou's milk production had stopped for whatever reason, so I was hand feeding puppies for weeks. Hand feeding a litter is hard on the mind, body and soul, but with persistence I was able to successfully bring them around to a fat and happy bunch of puppies. There is nothing more satisfying than knowing you successfully hand raised a litter; it's a feeling of self-accomplishment I've never had before. It also makes me grateful for having so many good mentors to prepare me and help me through such a difficult time.

Now to the magazine. We have tried to fill this issue with a lot of good content, and we thank our members making this possible by sending in articles and photos. It's nice to get ideas from so many of you to make our magazine rich with content. The next issue is the Puppy Issue, and we hope many of you will submit your puppy-related articles. Advertising has been down a bit, but it's nice to see new people placing ads. Don't hesitate to contact me at acaswellclair@hotmail.com if you would like to place an ad in this special Puppy issue. Deadline is June 1. ☆



Mission Statement of the AWPGA

Object of club shall be to encourage and promote the quality breeding of purebred Wirehaired Pointing Griffons and to do all possible to bring their natural hunting qualities to perfection. To urge members and breeders to accept the standard of the breed as approved by the AKC as the only standard of excellence by which the Wirehaired Pointing Griffon shall be judged. To do all in its power to protect and advance the interests of the breed by encouraging sportsmanlike competition at conformation shows, obedience trials and field events. To conduct sanctioned and licensed specialty shows, obedience trials and field events under the rules of the AKC.



AWPGA Regional Reports

Western Region *by Susan Meadows and Meagan Withrow*

The Wirehaired Pointing Griffon Club of Northern California is well on the way to becoming an AKC recognized club. This process has not been quick and easy, and does require a good deal of work and help from members. After submitting the initial packet of information to AKC (including history, goals, members and officers), we had to wait for approval to start holding matches. We were approved mid-2015 to hold B matches, and held our first one in November of 2015. We will hold our second and final B match in May and then submit for approval to hold A matches.

Once we are approved to hold A matches, the AKC will require us to hold at least two before allowing us to submit for final approval of becoming a recognized club. This whole process takes a couple of years and the dedication of many people. While it is a great amount of work, we do hope that we will not be the only area of the country to have a regional club for our Wirehaired Pointing Griffons. Regional clubs are a great way to hold events locally and educate the public about the breed.

We hope the Wirehaired Pointing Griffon Club of Northern California will lead the way for other regional clubs to come.

ACHIEVEMENTS:

Congratulations to all of the Griffon owners and their Griffs for their following achievements:

- Whiskeytown Ruffino Chianti CGC, owned by Mary Bayley, for earning his Canine Good Citizenship. In addition, Feargus needs one more leg for his Beginner Novice obedience.
- CH Flatbrook Outlaw Hoodoo Brown NA PII, owned by Cathy West, for earning his Championship.
- MACH Barrett von Herrenhausen MXS MJS XF T2B, owned by Tiffany Schmitcke, for earning his Master Agility Champion. Barrett is only the third Griff to EVER get this agility title, and just before his 9th birthday.
- CH Whiskeytown Gypsy Rose CGC NAI, owned by Randi Huff, for being a good girl the whole quarter and not chewing anything up. Gypsy Rose as been a fun, sweet and loving Griff. 🌟



Central Region *by Jody Kirtley*

Greetings from the Central Region! Springtime makes me think of puppies, and I am sure by my next report there will be some puppies to announce. I always enjoy the Performance/Stud Dog/Brood Bitch Issue with the ads focused on the breeding future of the Wirehaired Pointing Griffon!

Brags

CH Glacier's Big Sky Up to Snow Good JH, aka Krush,

was shown at Eukanuba at age 11 months and was selected Owner-Handled each day shown by Robyn Zullo! They also made the cut in a huge Owner-Handled Sporting group two of the three days. He was shown the day of Eukanuba by his breeder and co-owner Lisa Durand, who then was selected for the Best Bred by Exhibitor. Kash, CH Glacier's You Can't Take It With You, had no love this year at Eukanuba but did participate in the Owner-Handled Series Final as she was No. 5 Owner-Handled for 2015. Kash and Krush also participated in the judges education presentation. Krush also got a Best in Show Owner-Handled with Robin in October. The Zullo family was over the moon!

Donna and Gino Troy are feeling blessed by having a wonderful Griff like GCH CH Whiskeytown Dalwhinnie Brie JH CGC, and a new handler, Amy Rutherford. Brie has been on quite a roll, including winning in NYC at Westminster

and being honored to represent our breed in the group ring in Madison Square Garden. She joined up with Amy and showed in Palm Springs for her first time of 2016 and won a Group 3. Brie has been on an amazing string of BOB wins. She has 10 group placements YTD through March 1, and is No. 1 Breed and All Breed through January so far.



Nancy Mantooth sent this picture from the Lone Star NAVHDA training day on Feb. 20. The four pups are littermates. From left: Rufus with Nancy Mantooth, Marley with Ricardo Del Pozo, Percy with Pasquale Bleggi, Tank with Jason Maley. The pups got to find and chase their first quail, splash around in a pond and track pheasants. Percy and Rufus also spent time at an IABCA show where they cleaned up almost every prize available to pups! Rufus earned three Reserve Bests in Show, Puppy, Bred by Exhibitor. And Percy took Puppy Group 3 at three of the shows 🌟

Eastern Region *by Peter Wilk*

Hunting season has come and gone. I hope all enjoyed this best time of the year. The weather was crazy, which resulted in a poor duck season. Let's remember to start out slowly in preparation for the spring and summer test season. Hunt tests in your area can be found by searching navhda.org or akc.com. If you need help training your dog, I highly recommend you visit a NAVHDA training day (see navhda.org) and talk to those in attendance. I believe you will be pleasantly surprised.

Training tip #257: Keep the training sessions short and sweet. I try to keep the reps down to three or four, and change the focus. For example, whoa, then fetch, then heel, repeat once. Don't forget to reward with lots of love when our friends succeed.

Save the date for the second annual AWPGE Griff Social, to be held on Saturday, June 25 in New Jersey. Contact Stacy Serra (stacy.serra@gmail.com) for more information.

We have had a great increase in membership this year. Please review the new members in *The Griffonier* and welcome those near you.

The specialty will be held in the East Coast Region in 2017. Kendall and Kate DeSanto have shown interest in submitting a bid. If you can help, please contact me or the DeSantos at kdesanto07@comcast.net.

AWPGA is working on judges education and guidelines for the field. Look for updates in the near future.

AWPGA is sponsoring a supported entry show in Michigan on July 9 with the Ann Arbor KC at Monroe, Mich. On Friday July 8 and Sunday July 10, the Michigan Sporting Dog Association is sponsoring an all-breed show. Let's show our dogs off and enjoy a great weekend.

The Eukanuba dog show in Orlando is coming up in December. I know it sounds like a world away, but it'll be on us in a snap. It is a fun time with great crowds and great dogs. The event is great fun! Please check your calendar and see if you can attend or assist with the AWPGE booth/Meet and Greet! I've done this many times and the show is tons of fun!

Visit akc.org (www.apps.akc.org/apps/events/search/index.cfm), AWPGE (<http://awpga.com/Events>), or NAVHDA (www.navhda.org Testing Calendar) to see all events on tap.

Good training and good hunting! 🐾



The Database is ... **growing!**

by Kay Farris | kfarris23@yahoo.com

More than 9,500 dogs and more than 3,100 litters are now in the AWPGE's Health and Pedigree Database! Check it out at awpgadb.com!

We are grateful to NAVHDA for providing periodic updates for import into the AWPGE database. As a result, the database now includes NAVHDA test results up through the end of 2015. We also import OFA data and AKC titles. However, we rely on owners to submit PennHip evaluation results because that information is not available for import. And all WPG owners and breeders (yes, YOU!) are asked to submit photos and health information.

The true power of the database will be realized when we can capture information that helps breeders plan litters based on factual information and provides a source of information for everyone who is interested in the breed. Each and every one of us loves our special Griffons, so please take the time to submit information to help secure the breed's future. Also, take time to have fun with the database; for example, look at Griffy photos and check out your dog's pedigree.

Please let me know if you have questions or suggestions, or if you have a concern that is preventing you from submitting information to the database. 🐾



AWPGA Treasurer's Report by AWPGA Treasurer Diane Dillon

Statement of Financial Position

As of Feb. 29, 2016

ASSETS

Checking/Savings	
Korthals Cup Bank Account	\$6,130.26
Online PayPal	2,982.09
PayPal Sun Trust	1,600.00
Specialty Bank-Glacier Bank	1,852.89
SunTrust Checking.....	66,549.99
Total Checking/Savings	79,115.23
Prepaid Expenses	4,941.74

TOTAL ASSETS.....\$84,056.97

LIABILITIES & EQUITY

Current Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	\$1,751.40
Deferred Membership Revenue	36.00
Total Liabilities.....	1,787.40

Net Assets

Temporarily Restricted Assets	
Award	1,625.45
Database.....	524.00
Education.....	960.10
Field Fund	2,000.00
Health	3,887.36
Korthals.....	6,130.26
Rescue	18,079.20
Specialty	944.08
Trophy.....	2,518.00
Total Temporarily Restricted Assets	36,668.45
Unrestricted Net Assets.....	44,757.91
Ways & Means	843.21
Total Net Assets.....	82,269.57

TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS\$84,056.97

Statement of Revenue and Expenses

For the two months ended Feb. 29, 2016

Ordinary Income/Expense

Income

General Fund Income

2016 Membership Dues.....	\$8,760.00
Database.....	300.00
General Fund Donations	35.00
Griffonier Ads.....	545.00
Griffonier Sales	30.00
Total General Fund Income.....	9,670.00

Health & Genetics Fund Income

H&G Donations.....	10.00
Total Health & Genetics Fund Income.....	10.00

Rescue Fund Income

Rescue Donations	193.00
Total Rescue Fund Income	193.00

Specialty Fund Income

Specialty Fund Misc Income	18.00
Specialty Logo Wear Sales.....	32.00
Total Specialty Fund Income	50.00

Trophy Fund Income

Specialty Trophy Sponsor	1,065.00
Trophy Fund Donations	712.00
Total Trophy Fund Income	1,777.00

Total Income

Gross Profit11,700.00

Expense

Database Expense	200.00
Education Fund Expense	
Judge's Education Presentation	39.90
Total Education Fund Expense	39.90

General Fund Expense

Accounting Fees.....	150.00
----------------------	--------

AKC Expenses

AKC Misc Expense	28.29
Total AKC Expenses	28.29
Bank Charges.....	12.00

Griffonier Expense	3,010.32
New Member & Puppy Pack Expense.....	305.23

PayPal Expense	132.13
Postage, Mailing Service	31.14

Supplies.....	41.32
Total General Fund Expense	3,710.43

Health & Genetics Fund Expenses

AKC Canine H. Found Membership	200.00
AKC/Canine Health Foundation	750.00
Total Health & Genetics Fund Expenses	950.00

Specialty Fund Expense

Specialty Expenses	2,817.32
Total Specialty Fund Expense	2,817.32

Total Expense

Net Ordinary Income

Net Income\$3,982.35

TROUBLE FINDING A STUD DOG IN THE CROWD?



Cup Cake Des Vignes Rouges

Third Generation UT 1, K Locus KBKB, OFA Good, Pennhip .28 .36— 25% line bred on Bec Duchasseur

Philippe Roca • Harrodsburg, Ky. • (859) 734-9035 • phroca27@gmail.com

A Famous White Griffon

Translated by Craig Koshyk

This judge's commentary was printed in Le Sport Universel Illustré in France in 1905:

Quelques amateurs m'ont demandé ce que je pensais de la robe blanche de Zillo Helmhof, le célèbre field-triaier de M. Prudhommeaux. J'en pense ce que je pense de la robe fauve qu'on rencontre accidentellement dans certaines familles de gordons, c'est-à-dire qu'on se trouve en présence d'un incident d'atavisme.

Korthals a eu des chiens blancs, il a sélectionné en vue de fixer le gris, mais il n'a jamais eu la prétention irraisonnable d'affirmer qu'on devrait tenir pour bâtard un chien dont la robe accuserait plus tard un retour en arrière.

J'avoue que je préférerais voir Zillo gris, puisque c'est la robe idéale, mais je n'attache qu'une importance minime à cela au point de vue de la reproduction. Je prétend que Zillo, croisé avec une chienne grise, de parents et de grands-parents gris, donnera la très grande majorité de ses produits gris. J'attache une importance autrement grande à ses hautes qualités sur le terrain et à la perfection de son oeil de son corps, de ses membres, de sa musculature ...

Translation: People have asked me what I thought of the white coat of Mr. Prudhommeaux's famous field trial dog Zillo. I think about it as I think about the occasional brown coat I see in some families of Gordon setters. That is to say, it is nothing more than an example of atavism.



Korthals had white dogs, but selected away from them in order to fix the gray coat, but he never made the unreasonable claim to say that we should think that any dog with a white coat was a mongrel.

I confess that I would prefer to see Zillo have a gray coat since this is the perfect coat colour for the breed, but I don't attach much importance to this from the standpoint of reproduction. I say that if Zillo was bred to a gray bitch that had gray parents and grandparents, the vast majority of the offspring would be gray. I attach much more importance to Zillo's high quality in the field and to the perfection of his eye, his body, his limbs, his muscles ... ♡

The 19th Century Hunting Griffon Before Korthals

by Philippe Roca

Edward Korthals (1851-1896) created the breed that is today called the Wirehaired Pointing Griffon. It took him 25 years, from 1871 to 1896, by breeding "Griffon-like dogs" from Germany, Holland, Belgium and France to achieve it. Korthals and a group of 16 breeders in 1888 established the standard of the breed. All Griffon clubs in the world today are still using that same standard.

The second part of the 19th century was a revolution in terms of establishing breeds of dogs. During that period, three well-known French breeders tried, without success, to create the perfect hunting Griffon.

The first one to try to unify the Griffon was Gaspard de Peskow, better known as "Le Marquis de Cherville." Famous for his writing, Cherville belonged to a noble family of the Beauce region in France. He worked with Alexandre Dumas (author of *The Count of Monte Christo* and *The Three Musketeers*) and wrote on country life and hunting. He published his first book in 1862, titled *The Adventures of a Hunting Dog*. Jean Castaing tell us, "Marquis de Cherville worked from 1840 to 1850 to better the local French Griffon by infusing English Pointer blood. Selecting the best Griffon-like subject and line-breeding them for his program. Never genetically stable, he had problems with a too small of a gene pool. The Cherville Griffon was a very good hunting dog with tight coat, but the breed never made it."

A few years later, in the late 1850s, Mr. Aime Guerlin, in an effort to establish his own line of dogs started to breed Picard (French local line)



Aime Guerlain (1834-1910)

The orange-and-white Guerlin Griffon



Gaspard de Peskow, better known as "Le Marquis de Cherville" (1819-1898)

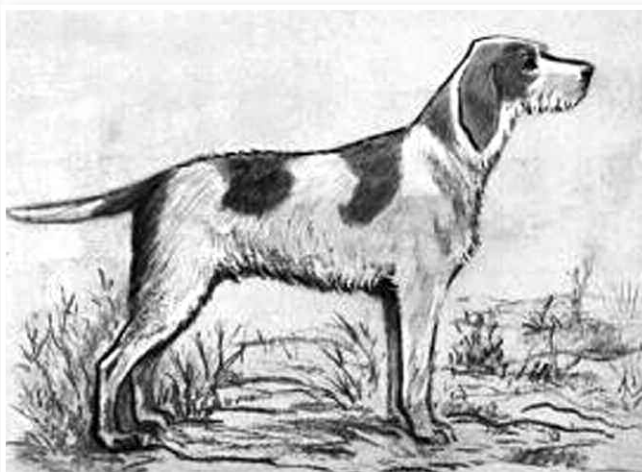
Griffon bitches to the Marquis de Cherville studs with great success. Aime was the son of the famous industrial businessman Pascal Guerlin, the founder of one of the oldest perfume houses in the world.

Aime Guerlin was an avid hunter who spent many days in the marshes of Picardy. As his line developed, Guerlin avoided the problems of excessive inbreeding by crossing to English Pointer blood. Guerlin eventually produced an orange-and-white Griffon, known as the Guerlin Griffon. Jean Castaing tell us that in 1897 Aime Guerlin used English Pointer blood for the last time.

The Marquis de Cherville commented on the Guerlin dogs, "Their search, without being too wide, is very active and sufficiently open. They have good nose and their points are very solid. They are remarkable for their prudence and cooperation. Well-trained, they are exceptional retrievers."

In 1888 at Esclimont in France, a Guerlin Griffon called "Sacquine" took first place in the first French field trial in the Close Search Stake category. A handful of first-place finishes came over the next couple of years in the Normandy trials. "The orange-and-white Guerlin Griffon was a breed, but eventually died out just after the turn of the 20th century," according to Castaing.

Born into a wealthy French family of Elbeuf in the Seine Maritime, Emmanuel Boulet was a reputable industrial businessman in textiles and a very experienced hunter. The Griffon Boulet was recognized as a breed and included with a two-generation pedigree to the French National Registry on the March 11, 1885. A Boulet Griffon called "Marco" was first in the registry. Marco was





Emmanuel Boulet (1840-1932) with his Griffon Boulet

featured in the French newspaper *Le Chenil* in November 1886. Boulet's goals were to improve an old existing breed, the French long-haired pointing Griffon.

Boulet started his work in 1872 when he purchased dogs from Mr. Govellain, a breeder for 60 years. In *The New Book of the Dog*, Robert Leighton tells us, "The Boulet Griffon has many of the same characteristics as the Korthals Griffon. The chief difference being that his coat is much longer and not so hard in texture. Its color is that of a dead chestnut leaf or a dark coffee brown with or without white."

Korthals and Boulet exchanged numerous letters; some are still at the French Griffon archives. They shared ideas and dogs. With the help of a professional trainer called Leon Verrier, the Boulet Griffon earned numerous awards in field and show. In 1888, French President Mr. Sadi Carnot presented Emmanuel Boulet with the national medal of honor for his work as a breeder. In return, Mr. Boulet offered the French president a sweater made in his factory from the hair of his Griffon.

Despite the popularity of the Boulet Griffon, the breed faded when Boulet abandoned it.

Prince Albrecht of Solms-Braunfels published a letter in the sporting press: "It was also Mr. Boulet, who ranked as the top Griffon breeder in France, who recently picked three young dogs in the Ipenwood Kennels (Korthals'). Mr. Boulet stated to me that he now wanted to breed Korthals' line pure and not cross it with his. Because his dogs are too long and soft-haired as a result of crossbreeding, and Korthals wanted only prickly haired dogs." For many years, the FCI (Federation Cinologique Internationale) published the Boulet Griffon standard, but in 1984 it was removed.

It is very interesting to see that in the second half of the 19th century, at the time of the creation of numerous breeds, three very serious French breeders tried to establish a breed of hunting Griffon. Looking at their tremendous work and

their failures, we can really appreciate the genius and vision of Edward Korthals.

In my opinion, there are several reasons to his success, besides genius and vision:

- Korthals was breeding full-time and had financial backing from two German aristocrats: Baron von Gingins and Prince Albrecht of Solms-Braunfels.
- He had the chance and willingness to learn from the mistakes of Cherville, Guerlin and Boulet, and was not afraid to exchange ideas with them and the very competitive dog community.
- His gene pool was very wide (600 dogs) and always Griffon type.
- He also had a network of friends and breeders following the same methods and ideas. They carried his ideas, the standard and the Wirehaired Pointing Griffon very far after his death. ☼

References:

Jean Castaing. *Le Griffon D'arret a Poil Dur Korthals*

Jacques Carpentier and Marie Lautier. *Le Griffon de Korthals*

Craig Koshyk. *Pointing Dogs, Volume One: The Continentals*

French Griffon Korthals Club: *Bulletins*

Le Chenil (French sporting magazine/newspaper)

Ria Horter "Emmanuel Boulet," *Onze Hond* (Dutch dog magazine), July 2008

CINQUIÈME ANNÉE — N° 46. Le Numéro : 30 Centimes. JEUDI 18 NOVEMBRE 1886

Le Chenil

JOURNAL HEBDOMADAIRE ILLUSTRÉ DES CHASSEURS ET DES ÉLEVEURS
PIERRE DEMAY, Rédacteur en Chef. — LÉON CRÉMIÈRE, Administrateur-Gérant.

Tous les abonnements doivent être payés par anticipation pour six mois et partent du 1^{er} de chaque mois.

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20 fr. — un an.

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EXPOSITIONS ET FIELD-TRIALS A VENIR

ANGLETERRE. — Expositions patronnées par le Kennel Club. (Dernier des programmes au Kennel Club, 6, Cleveland, Row St-James, S. W. Londres.)
Cambridge, 23 et 24 novembre. — Birmingham, 29, 30 novembre et 1^{er} décembre. — Club des Saint-Bernard, exposition Albert-Palace, à Battersea-Park, 8, 9, 10 décembre 1886. — Exposition du Kennel-Club, au Palais de Cristal, à Londres, les 18, 19, 20 et 21 janvier 1887. — Liverpool, 25, 27 janvier 1887. — Halifax, 32, 23 février 1887.

Notre gravure représente un griffon célèbre, excellent en chasse et de très haut nez, que tous les amateurs connaissent, et dont l'un de ses admirateurs nous a envoyé le portrait que nous reproduisons, ainsi que le signalant qu'il y a joint : « Barbu, mustache, mal peigné, la face embraussée, il montre sous la touffe de ses épais sourcils deux yeux affectueux et tout à la fois peçillants d'intelligence et de malice : telle est la physionomie de Marco, superbe dans sa balèze apparente et toute de convention. Calme autant qu'intrépide, rien ne rebute sa vaillance : le bois, la plaine, l'eau, l'épine, la roche, la chaleur, la neige, il affronte tout avec une égale impassibilité ; il peut être regardé comme le prototype des griffons d'arrêt français à poil long, et comme il est aujourd'hui père d'une nombreuse lignée de deux sexes, cette excellente race, française entre toutes, est fière des lignes, grâce à l'éleveur maître M. Emmanuel Boulet, d'Elbeuf, qui, par le travail et la sélection, est arrivé à la reconstituer. »

MARCO, griffon d'arrêt français, race BOULET
1^{er} prix, Paris, 1882. — 1^{re} mention, Lyon, 1882. — 1^{er} prix, Paris, 1885. — Prix d'honneur, Paris, 1886.
PRIZ SPÉCIAL, Bronze d'Art, au plus beau chien d'arrêt français de toutes les classes, Paris, 1886
S. R. C., n° 2756. — L. G. S. H., n° 446. — S. H. S. B., n° 55. — L. G. F., n° 1. — Éleveur et propriétaire, M. Emmanuel Boulet, à Elbeuf.

Juvenile Entropion in Wirehaired Pointing Griffons



Photo by Amy Caswell-O'Clair

by Jerold Bell DVM

Juvenile entropion is being increasingly diagnosed in Wirehaired Pointing Griffons. It is a genetic disorder where excess skin of the lower eyelid causes it to roll inward towards the cornea of one or both eyes. It can cause eye irritation, especially from eyelashes rubbing on the cornea (tearing, squinting, redness and facial rubbing). In more severe cases it can cause corneal ulceration.

If the entropion is causing clinical signs, it can be treated with ointments or a surgical tacking procedure, where a temporary suture is placed below the lid to pull it out from rubbing on the eye. As the puppy grows, many cases will resolve as the relationship between the skin of the eyelids and the skull correct themselves. In severe cases that do not resolve with growth, permanent surgical correction of the eyelid may be required.

Many breeds have issues with adult entropion that begins as juvenile entropion. When presented with clinical signs, temporary surgical tacking of the lower lid is routinely

performed until either the puppy grows out of it, or the skull has grown to adult size to allow permanent surgical correction.

Adult entropion has not historically been a significant issue in the Wirehaired Pointing Griffon. The American College of Veterinary Ophthalmologists/OFA Blue Book (that records all eye examinations by ACVO ophthalmologists) shows three affected Wirehaired Pointing Griffons identified since 1991 (0.07% of the breed examined). The recent emergence of juvenile entropion in the Wirehaired Pointing Griffon is a warning sign that genetic and conformational changes in head and eyelid structure are creating a mismatch between the eyeball/socket and the eyelids in the breed gene pool.

Entropion is a conformational trait that is not controlled by a single gene pair or simple mode of inheritance. It is complexly inherited and controlled by multiple genes. Gene searching studies on entropion in dogs have not been performed, but several genes have been identified in a genomic study of entropion in sheep. There are no genetic tests for canine entropion liability genes.

Breeders should determine if there is a recent movement towards a specific head structure that is predisposing to, and showing an increased expression of entropion. If this is the case, then it should be selected against. If this is not the case, then breeders must pay attention to the occurrence of entropion, especially if observed in multiple affected dogs in litters or families.

Selection against entropion requires knowledge of affected dogs and their siblings, parents and siblings of parents (depth and breadth of pedigree). If a dog had



Jerold Bell DVM is Adjunct Professor of Clinical Genetics, Department of Clinical Sciences, Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine at Tufts University. He is a member of the WSAVA Hereditary Diseases Committee, on the OFA Board of Directors, and a member of AKC's Health & Welfare Advisory Panel. This article was reprinted with permission of the author, and may be reprinted elsewhere with his permission. Contact him at jerold.bell@tufts.edu.

juvenile entropion that resolved during growth, it carries a genetic load of entropion liability genes that is more than a "normal" dog, but less than a dog with adult entropion. Ignoring the occurrence of juvenile entropion can allow liability genes to concentrate in the gene pool and not only increase the frequency of juvenile entropion, but that of persistent adult entropion. If a dog that had either medically or surgically treated juvenile entropion is bred, it will transmit entropion liability genes to the next generation.

If two dogs that did not have entropion are bred together and produce a dog affected with either juvenile or persistent adult entropion, then BOTH parents are carriers of entropion liability genes. These genes combined in the offspring to cross a threshold and produce the affected puppy. Risk of carrying entropion liability genes (from highest to lowest risk) are: affected dogs, parents of affected dogs, offspring of affected dogs, siblings to affected dogs, siblings to parents of affected dogs.

This does not mean that every dog or close relative should be removed from breeding. This is a single non-fatal and controllable disorder. Entropion should be considered along with positive traits that you desire and negative traits and disorders that you would like to breed away from. If using otherwise quality dogs for breeding that may have a higher risk of carrying entropion liability genes, they should be bred to dogs that do not have affected close relatives. If there are no affected dogs in

the resultant litter, then the higher risk parent should be replaced as a breeding dog with a quality, lower-risk offspring. In this way, you retain the quality genes of the line and are working to move away from entropion liability genes.

Managing entropion in the breed is a matter of assessing risk and diminishing risk with future matings. All puppies should undergo OFA eye examinations by an ACVO ophthalmologist to determine its occurrence. This is different than the current CHIC recommendation for the breed to have an eye exam after 12 months of age. Juvenile entropion will not be diagnosed unless a dog is examined as a puppy. All adult breeding dogs should have annual OFA eye examinations, especially prior to breeding.

The fact that juvenile entropion is occurring in multiple Wirehaired Pointing Griffons is a testament to that fact that the breed's gene pool is collecting entropion liability genes. It takes an entire breed to address minor issues before they become major ones. The most difficult part is getting breeders to be open about who had the condition when young and who did not, to be able to select appropriate mates. Breeders are the custodians of the breed and its gene pool. No one wants to produce dogs with genetic disorders. By being open about health issues and working together, the Wirehaired Pointing Griffon breed can halt the emergence of entropion and continue to flourish as a healthy breed. ☺

Take a peek into the future ... Here's the Focus of Future Griffonniers:

Puppies!

The Summer Puppy Issue

Everyone loves puppies!

Deadline: June 1

*Ad rates are
reasonable, plus
ads can be
professionally
created at no
charge to you!*

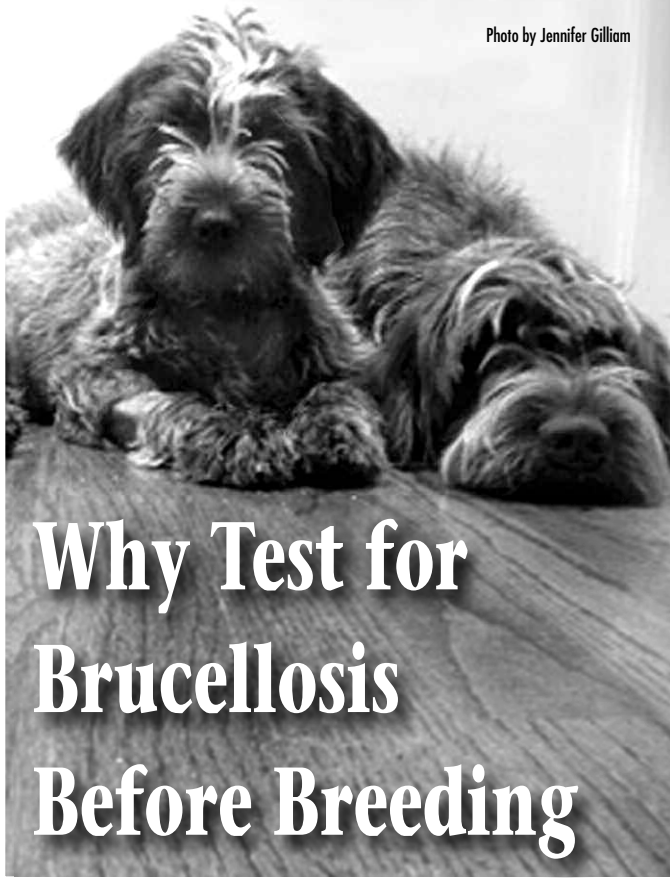
National Griffs!

The Fall Specialty Issue

See what happened in Montana!

Deadline: October 1

*Talk to
The Griffonnier
Co-Editor
Amy Caswell,
acaswelloclair@
hotmail.com.*



Why Test for Brucellosis Before Breeding

by Vicky Foster

Brucellosis, a contagious disease caused by the small bacterial organism *Brucella canis*, primarily affects the reproductive organs of male and female dogs. Brucellosis can cause infertility, stillborn births and late miscarriages in pregnant female dogs. In male dogs, it can cause testicular or scrotal inflammation and infertility.

Screening all breeding dogs should be standard procedure for professional breeders, but the typical pet owner and amateur breeder may not be familiar with the disease.

There are six species of *Brucella*, and dogs are mostly concerned with *Brucella canis*; however, dogs can certainly become infected with *Brucella abortus* (from cattle), *Brucella melitensis* (from goats) and *Brucella suis* (from pigs) if they are allowed to drink contaminated milk or eat leftover birth membranes, contaminated meat or aborted young.

Usually dogs carrying the *Brucella* organism have no outward signs of sickness.

Brucella lives inside cells of the urogenital track of females, making it difficult to detect. In males, it resides in the prostate, epididymis or both. At times, few organisms are circulating in the blood with chronically infected females, and this causes difficulty in diagnosis on blood tests.

The disease is transmitted from one dog to another mostly through mating, but also from contact with vaginal discharges, urine and aborted placentas and fetuses. One positive dog in a kennel situation could spread the problem to all the other dogs, and there might not be any obvious sign that it happened. Because of this, it's wise for breeders to test both the male and female before breeding. It is recommended active stud dogs be tested every six months.

Prevention of canine brucellosis is done by testing before breeding. The RSAT (Rapid Slide Agglutination Test) is a blood test that can readily identify negative dogs. The disease is zoonotic, meaning it can jump from animals to humans, although cases of human infection are rare.

Treatment of a positive *Brucella canis*-infected dog must start by removing it from your breeding program (spayed, neutered or euthanized) and isolated from any animals to be used for breeding. The dog can remain as a pet, but probably should not be sold due to potential health risks. For pet dogs, a course of antibiotics can be given, but since this bacterium is so good at hiding inside the host's cells, you can never assume it is ever truly gone. ★



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JACK IS AT STUD TO APPROVED BITCHES. OFA HIPS: EXCELLENT

The Importance of Pre-Breeding Screening



Photo by Mary Kaiser

and Breeding Soundness Exams

by Jen Estle DVM

Pre-breeding screening and a breeding soundness exam is recommended for all potential breeding dogs to ensure that the dogs are healthy and free of hereditary disease. This will better the chances that only the best genetics are passed onto future generations, which in turn will remove undesirable traits.

Hereditary testing is breed specific, but may include:

- Radiography (e.g. elbow/hip dysplasia)
- Ultrasonography (e.g. renal dysplasia)
- Ophthalmoscopy (e.g. cataracts)
- Specific DNA testing (e.g. progressive rod-cone degeneration, EIC)
- Physical examination (e.g. patellar luxation)

There are a variety of online resources for breeders to research the tests that are recommended for their specific breed. Some of these resources are:

- BroadviewVet.com (Visit our links page.)
- OFFA.org
- AKC.org
- Optigen.com
- Individual national breed association websites

An examination with a veterinarian familiar with canine reproduction should be performed annually, and on all new dogs being brought into your breeding program (preferably prior to purchase). Potentially dangerous diseases and signs of infertility can be found during the exam. Begin the exam with a thorough reproductive and medical history, including:

- Breeding management (past and intended)
- Information on previous cycles (onset and regularity)
- Outcome of any breeding(s)
- Relevant family history
- Routine medical information (diet, medications, environment, health status)


Female breeding soundness examination should include an evaluation of all organ systems with an in-depth exam of the following:

- Genitalia
- Mammary glands: nipple conformation and growths
- Digital vaginal examination and/or vaginoscopy to visualize the canal

Routine vaginal cultures are not advised because the vagina normally harbors a wide variety of bacteria, including hemolytic streptococci and *Mycoplasma* spp.

Rawley Point


PRESENTS



GCH Plum Creek's Chip off the Old Block, CGC, NA II aka "Chip"

PennHip .25 ~ both sides
Eyes ~ normal

Bred by Michael Pierce
Owned by Jeff & Mary Kaiser



CH Aggasiz Rizzo, CGC, NA I, 112

OFA hips ~ good
Eyes ~ normal

Bred by James Carpenter
Owned by Mary Kaiser

repeat breeding planned Summer of 2016

Bitches should be screened for brucellosis before each estrus when breeding is planned. Our hospital requires twice-a-year testing for this disease on all breeding dogs.

The bitch should also be current on all vaccinations prior to breeding. We recommend that they be protected against the core infectious diseases (canine distemper, parvovirus, adenovirus 2 and rabies). This ensures optimal passive transfer of immunity until the pups first vaccine.

Parasite control (according to manufacturers' recommendations) during pregnancy and lactation is also advised. We currently recommend Sentinel for our breeding dogs, as it has been proven both effective and safe.

Male breeding soundness examination should include:

- Complete history
- Semen collection and evaluation
- Physical examination
- Testing for *Brucella canis*



Brucellosis in-house testing kit

that his prepuce is pulled beyond the bulbus gland and that all three fractions of ejaculate are collected.

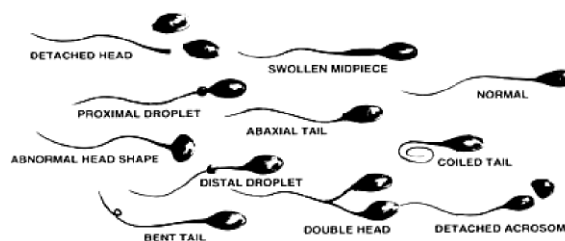
A semen evaluation includes the following parameters:

- Appearance
- Volume
- Concentration
- Motility
- Percent morphologically normal sperm

The total number of sperm in the ejaculate is calculated as volume x concentration. Total sperm number in the ejaculate ranges from 400 million to >1,000 million and is

Semen collection should be done on good footing (e.g. a rug) rather than on a slippery surface or table, and care should be taken not to intimidate or stress the dog. General examination procedures are best performed after semen collection. When he is being collected, be sure

TYPES of SPERM



correlated with body weight. As a general rule, a dog should produce 10 million sperm/lb body weight.

The prostate is digitally palpated via the rectum to ensure normal size and absence of pain. This palpation should be done after the semen collection. Benign prostatic hyperplasia (BPH) is the most common prostatic problem in mature (>5 year old) intact dogs. Dogs with BPH might be asymptomatic, so having a rectal exam done every year is very important.

The scrotum, testes and epididymides should be palpated during the exam. Small, soft testes are usually associated with poor semen quality. Enlarged testes suggest inflammation, infection or neoplasia of the epididymus or testicles.

Ensuring the health of the animals being bred is imperative to a successful breeding program. Working with a veterinarian who has interest and experience in canine reproduction can aid in this process. 🌟

Dr. Jen Estle, Bennington, N.H., is head of Reproductive Services at Broadview Animal Hospital. She is PennHip certified, International Canine Semen Bank certified, a member of the Society for Theriogenology, VetStem and Therapeutic Laser certified and certified by MOFA in canine reproduction and trans-cervical insemination. Reach her at CanineRepro@BroadviewVet.com.



DIY GRIFF TITLES:

Part 1 — Hunting



by Marcia Hoff | Photos by Bill Hoff

“You have inspired me!” I have heard those words so often. Although I don’t think of myself as very inspiring, I do understand why people say it. They utter those amusing words because I, a woman who did not grow up in a hunting family and had never trained a dog in her life, have now trained and handled my own dogs to advanced hunting titles, and love to spend my spare time as a hunt preserve guide. So ... if I can do it, ANYONE can do it! Here are the things that I think are most important for a newbie who wants the satisfaction of doing it themselves.

Get a mentor. I really think this one thing is the key to my success. A mentor could be a book or video, if that is how you learn, but for me it was a group. I am a firm supporter of NAVHDA, the North American Versatile Hunting Dog Association. It is really just a bunch of hunters getting together to help each other train their hunting dogs, and this is exactly what I needed. I went to their website, found my local chapter and started going to training days. They were extremely helpful and welcoming, but I did take chocolate chip cookies to most sessions, hoping that they would be more open to my ignorance!

Ask questions, and listen to the answers. Be a good student! I walked in the field with everyone that I could, and was exhausted at the end of a training day. I planted birds, carried birds, moved traps, set up, tore down and



just did all that I could to help out. And in return, they brought me into their group and gave me all of the help and support that I needed. That included pushing me when I thought I wasn’t ready for the next step, and picking me up when I failed.

Get a tutor. Most NAVHDA clubs have at least one person who is considered a professional. I realized that I

PIERRE



Amy Fluck ■ Amyfluck@gmail.com



OFA hips - good
OFA elbows - normal

- Show
- Hunt and
- Performance



Jane Swanson
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GCH Whiskeytown Absolut-ly Wild Run JH CD RA NA NAJ

(NAVHDA NA PZIII) ■ 2015 Westminster AOM

was so ignorant about hunting that I really needed some extra help, so I found someone who was willing to train me. One-on-one help can really speed up the learning curve. I discovered that once I was trained, training the dogs was much easier!

Be patient. Take it one step at a time because if you don't, it may be overwhelming. Steady to wing, shot and fall, and retrieve to hand has many parts, and a dog will most likely need to learn each piece separately. I learned this the hard way, and had to backtrack on several occasions. Plus, the dog is not the only one who will benefit from this slower approach. You will find this big task easier to tackle, too, if you break it down.

Have fun. Remember, the purpose of all this is to create a tight bond with your favorite hunting partner and be able to spend enjoyable hours together. So don't get stressed out when you hit a road block. Everyone has their bad days, so don't let it get you down. Just call it a day and hug your dog. The same mentality is necessary for test day, but I will admit that I struggle on this point. Test day is one trip to the port-a-potty after another for me! Being judged or tested is difficult for most people, but it is all worth it to see the results of hard work. Bringing home a pretty orange ribbon or a NAVHDA prize, while spending the day with people who love their dogs as much as you do, can really be a lot of fun!

Have faith. Remember, if this extreme novice can do it, ANYONE can. Just get out there and DO IT! 🌟



SKIJOR ADDICT

by Teresa Petterson DVM



Above: Teresa Petterson DVM during a skijor race. Left: Her view while on the trail.

My passion for skijor racing started 11 years ago while watching my first dog sled race in Redstone, Colo. I was completely hooked on the sport the moment I saw a team of two dogs pulling a racer on cross country skis, at speeds reaching close to 30 mph. The athletic partnership of both dog and skier while enjoying the beauty of the outdoors was the perfect combination for me.

Skijoring was first developed in Scandinavia as a means of transportation for early hunters. Since that time, the skis,

Fast forward a few years into our racing career. I realized as the sport was becoming more popular that the No. 1 skijor dogs were German Shorthair Pointers bred in Norway specifically for racing, or the Alaskan, a German Shorthair Pointer, Greyhound and Siberian Husky cross. However, I was here in the good ole USA and also needed a dog that I could live with in my house. One of my competitors was racing with German Wirehaired Pointers that he had rescued, and I fell in love with the scruffy look. Yet I also

"Although Griffons are the perfect gentleman's hunters, they are strong as an ox, cold-hardy, level-headed, have great endurance and are made to cover ground efficiently."

dogs and racers have become much faster. Immediately, I started looking for my first skijor racing dog and decided a Greater Swiss Mountain Dog would be my perfect teammate. Bridger and I would spend eight years entertaining the crowds, as my GSMD that could pull 5,000 pounds, chased down as many teams as he could while I was dangling at the end of the line, hoping to stay vertical until we crossed the finish line.

spend all of my summers backpacking, so I wanted a dog that wouldn't range quite as far out on the trail and worry me the entire time we were in the mountains.

After meeting a Wirehaired Pointing Griffon, I contacted Lisa and Allan Durand of Glacier Griffons in Whitefish, Mont., to see if they concurred that the breed would be suitable for my needs. Although Griffons are the perfect gentleman's hunters, they are strong as an ox, cold-hardy,



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Next Issue of *The Griffonnier*: The Puppy Issue Ad Deadline: June 1

level-headed, have great endurance and are made to cover ground efficiently. The teams that are destined to race at the World Championships average 20 mph for the entire six-mile course (depending on the conditions); top races for my teams average between 15 to 18 mph for the course. A bird flying overhead as we are climbing the last hills to head to the finish line is my wish-come-true so that we get a nice boost of Griff adrenaline.

CH Glacier's Pony Express at Sunwood (Finis) was the first member of Team Muppets, and a star from the very start. Finis currently runs the one-dog four-mile course and helps train all of the young upstarts that come to learn under our guidance. Glacier's Man For All Seasons NA Prize II (Gralig) and Glacier's Dashing Through The Snow NA Prize I (Swix) are my two-dog team that runs six miles.

Swix (Can CH/Intl BIS/Am CH Chukar Glacier We Be Jammin' x GCH Glacier's Whoa Nellie at Sunwood) is proving to be the ultimate versatile Griffon. This past February at the Denver Dog Show she was Best of Opposite Sex at 13 months, then the next day ran lead for me at the race in the two-dog class while pulling a new rescue as the second dog. We raced past several teams while Swix showed amazing focus and determination for such a young inexperienced dog.

Mid-August tends to be the start of our training, when the temperatures start to drop back into the 60s and 70s. As pups, they start out with canicross (I run behind them), then transition to either pulling the bike or scooter. We gradually increase the miles as the season progresses and the temperatures drop. Our dryland racing competitions start in October with canicross, bikejor and scooter racing until the snow falls. Once the skis come out in November, we are training at six miles, three to four days a week and are just trying to shave off time. By the first of 2016 we had logged 300 training miles for the season.

The sled dog race season only lasts two months in Colorado, and luckily, due to great snow conditions this year, we were able to participate in five races within seven weeks. Traveling up to six hours after work on Friday, racing two days, then back home by Sunday night made for an exciting whirlwind winter.

Team Muppets ended the racing season winning both the one-dog and two-dog skijor classes, and Bridger (the GSMD) raced a one-mile course for his official retirement at 9¾ years. Post-season recovery time is the hardest part of racing, with a houseful of dogs in the fittest condition attempting to take a short break until our next project starts: training to hunt. 🐾

Kaboom

(GCH CH Fireside's Spontaneous Combustion JH x CH Fireside's Belle of the Bayou)
GCH CH Fireside's Cottonwood Kaboom JH
NAVHDA Natural Ability Prize II
OFA Hip Good WG-2254G24M-P1



Tom Weigand
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Raiser

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Xavi: Search and Rescue Griff

by Leslie Bouffard

"She's a woman with brown hair, she's been missing since yesterday morning and was last seen entering this canyon. This is one of her socks. Go find her."

With those clues, Xavi, (pronounced "Sha-vee") my Wirehaired Pointing Griffon, and I were dispatched into the semi-rural wilderness to track and find this poor lost woman. I looked at the ground. It had rained in the night, obliterating all footprints and now the sun was out. There was a slight westerly breeze blowing through the canyon, and I was standing on a sandy path which was intersected by other trails winding through brush, water and trees. I thought to myself, "When the woman walked through this area, what happened to her scent, where did it settle?"

Xavi, attached to his harness, was looking at me, eager, always eager to get started. I gave him the article — the sock — to smell. I looked deep into his golden eyes asked him if he was ready to track. He gave the sock a snort and took off, only looking back to make sure I was at the end of the lead. At that moment I forgot about the wind, the rain and the ground conditions and watched my beautiful, exasperating, smart, fearless dog put his nose to the ground, pick up the scent and go. We walked over bridges, through rivers, turned

at crossroads. At many decision points Xavi looked back at me as if to say, "How am I doing?" circled back, flicked his head in the right direction and pulled me along. I stopped thinking about where the scent had settled or the exact location of the subject, I just watched that dog work! About 30 minutes and a mile later, Xavi's pace picked up and he dragged me over to a bush under which sat a woman, missing one sock.

According to the evaluators, we had followed her tracks exactly and passed the final certification for a search and rescue team. My Wirehaired Pointing Griffon and I were field-qualified and mission-ready as a search and rescue team!

Search and rescue (SAR) teams work when called out by police departments, and may travel miles day or night to get to a search site. The dog and its owner work in all kinds of weather in all kinds of terrain, both urban and rural, to find lost children, Alzheimer's patients, accident victims, and lost or injured hikers. SAR dogs specialize in area, trailing, water, cadaver, or disaster searches. Training to be a part of a SAR team often takes a minimum of two years. You also need the right kind of dog.

I first met Dick Byrne of Flatbrook after randomly calling him about a breed named a Griffon that didn't shed and was



family friendly. My daughter and I drove up to Valley Center to visit Dick and his dogs. When Dick brought out these beautiful, friendly dogs, we were intrigued. I told him I didn't hunt, and we were looking for a dog that liked hiking and running and would be a good companion. I loved that Dick had these hard-working dogs who also took naps on the back of the couch in his house. We spoke at length and several times afterwards. We left it at we'd talk again when he was expecting another litter, as his current litter was fully reserved.

A few days later, Dick called to tell me that one of the buyers fell through and he had a 10 week-old male puppy available. I didn't hesitate. Xavi Hernandez entered our life like a lamb, and within a week he was a lion. This "mouthy" breed ate my best shoes, chewed on hands, tore clothes, ran around like a demon — and that was just the first month. I am not a novice dog owner, but I was a novice Griffon owner.

It was clear to me right away that in addition to all the above, Xavi was also an alpha dog. We had to keep him engaged and exercised and reinforce the pecking order in the family. I did not want to ruin Xavi's spirit and drive, but knew it had to be channeled. I tried obedience, I tried agility. Xavi would be great for 20 minutes and then he would give me that look and take off, running circles around the obedience instructor. In agility, he would be through the tunnel, over the jumps, then jumping on people and inciting the other dogs. I remember having to wrestle him into timeouts in his crate. The agility instructor looked at me apologetically at the last class and suggested I might try something else.

When I first looked into tracking and SAR, I was told I had the wrong breed. Most SAR dogs are German Shepherds, Belgian Malinois, Bloodhounds or Labrador Retrievers. But I started reading about the type of dog that excels at this type of work: 1. the dog must have drive; 2. the dog must have stamina; 3. the dog must be mentally tough; and 4. the dog must have a desire to please. That sounded like a Griff to me.

It took me six months to find someone willing to teach my dog tracking. It took me another year to convince a SAR group to give us a chance. But after their initial misgivings, they recognized Xavi's natural ability and welcomed and

mentored us. He loved it. He loved being in the lead, he loved working for a reward (hot dogs and string cheese!), he loved the harder problems and the cheers and hugs he got by everyone when he succeeded. He is unlike any dog I've ever owned. He loves to work hard and is happiest when he's done his job and is surrounded by his family.

Trailing is an act of faith. It is based on the belief that all the training and work you and your dog have done together will coalesce into this beautiful symbiotic dance. In this dance, your faith in your dog's ability and his faith in your support result in what can be a life-saving act. Every day of training I'm told: "Trust your dog." Every day of training, he shows me how much he trusts me.

On Dec. 11, 2015, the day of the sock, Xavi was 4 years and 2 months old. He and I had completed hours and hours of training. In addition to ongoing SAR training and AKC tracking training, I became certified in CPR and Wilderness First Aid. SAR handlers are also required to be trained in map and compass navigation, survival, radio communications, helicopter operations, man-tracking and crime scene preservation. That is just the start.

Xavi, who has his CGC, TD and TDX titles, was required to crawl through tunnels, over fences, through water and many other obstacle maneuvers. We had to pass a series of searches: night search (wilderness and urban), 24-hour-old urban search, 48-hour-old trail search, 96-hour-old trail search and his field qualification test.

I have had many dogs over the years, but Xavi, as my trainer has said to me, is one of those special dogs that come into our lives. I had never imagined I would be a member of a search and rescue team with any dog. I planned on having a dog that would go running with me. That I could take on hikes and backpacking trips. That would lie on the couch and watch soccer with me and my family. A companion. Well, I got that, but my Wirehaired Pointing Griffon is so much more. 🌟

Xavi and Leslie Bouffard are members of Southwest Search Dogs in San Diego. They are now working on getting certified in cadaver and article searches.

by Mary Kaiser

When I decide to do something, I tend to jump in with both feet, much to my dog trainer's horror and amusement, all in one. Last fall I decided that I wanted to try to get some obedience titles on Chip and Rizzo, but where to start? All of our dogs know the basic commands, but I never really did any formal training with them other than conformation classes, so I thought that we had better start with the Canine Good Citizen (CGC) test first, and grow from there.

I contacted my dog trainer as I know she offers the test periodically throughout the year. She had one coming up in about two weeks, so it was time to cram! For about 10 minutes every night I'd go out in the driveway with Chip and Rizzo individually, and work mostly on heeling, or what the AKC calls "walking on a loose lead." This is totally a foreign language to Rizzo, but I was determined. With the dogs on my left side, leash in right hand and plenty of treats in the left hand, we practiced a lot and they caught on quickly.

The CGC test is judged on nine different areas:

1. Sitting politely for petting. This was easy for them both as they are used to being examined in the show ring.

2. Appearance and grooming. Your dog must let a stranger check his/her ears and front feet, as a groomer or veterinarian would do.

3. Out for a walk on a loose lead. This cannot be practiced enough! What they will do at home is not the same as in a test, so take them to different places to practice. When I had Rizzo walking on a loose lead rather than chasing that squirrel over there, I knew that we were on the home stretch.

4. Walking through a crowd. The dog and handler walk around and pass close to several people (at least three). It is a good thing to practice at your local parks, feed stores or wherever there are crowds. We had plenty of practice at dog shows.

5. "Sit" and "down" commands and staying in place. The dog must do a "sit" and "down" command, then you choose which position to leave them in while walking away and then back to them.

Participating in a Canine Good Citizen Test



Photo by Amy Caswell-O'Clair

6. Coming when called. Put the dog in a sit position and walk 10 feet away. The dog should come directly to you when called.

7. Reaction to another dog. This is to determine if your dog can behave politely around other dogs. Two handlers and their dogs approach each other from a distance of about 20 feet, stop, shake hands and exchange pleasantries. Your dog should sit and not bother the other dog.

8. Reaction to distraction. The evaluator will present two distractions, such as dropping a chair or some other loud commotion, while you walk around with your dog. The dog should ignore the noise and not show fright.

9. Supervised separation. Your dog is left on leash with the evaluator for three minutes while you leave the room/area. Your dog should sit or stay quietly and await your return without continually barking, whining or showing anything stronger than mild agitation or nervousness.

Once you pass all

of these steps, you have a new CGC title to brag about! Anything you can do with your dog on a one-on-one basis is so rewarding. Training two at the same time can be a little much, but I had my goals set high and we passed! I am now working on the Beginner Novice Obedience title with Rizzo. We've passed two legs with one to go to get our next title. Look it up ... practice ... and HAVE FUN! That's ultimately what it is all about. 🐾

Mary Kaiser and Chip show off their new CGC ribbon.



**CH Aux Lake K Lucy Lu
MH CGC UTII**

Lucy Lu

UTII 11-7-2015 • MH 12-13-2015

Owned, trained and handled by Jerri Stanley

**Duvalin
Stonehenge
Georgi Girl
JH NAI**

Georgi

**NAI • 11-7-2015
9 Months**

**JH • 12-12-2015
10 Months**

Owned, trained and
handled by Jerri Stanley

**Can CH GCH Stonehenge Spontaneous
Eruption RN CA NAI MH**

**New Master
Hunter**

Pele

Pele is
owned by
Stephanie Martin
and
Loren Rogers

**Stonehenge
California
Dream'in of
Jakalor JH**

Cali

**New Junior
Hunter**

Cali is
owned by
Stephanie Martin

Photo by Vicky Foster

The Road to MACH2:

One Griffon's Journey in Agility

by Laurie Cook DVM



"Go." The disembodied voice from the speaker alerts me that it is my turn to run. Gator has already gone through his warm-up routine. As soon as we enter the ring, he slowly stretches first his front end, then his back end. Next, he rolls on his back, swinging his hips from side to side, using the artificial turf to scratch those hard-to-reach places. He looks like a total goof, but he makes the crowd smile. I put Gator in a sit-stay and walk out onto the agility course. I don't have nearly as much of the ring-induced jitters that I had when we first started playing this game five years ago. I look back at Gator, who looks calm but can't wait to run. I reach my arm towards him. "Over!" He takes the first jump heading toward me, and we are off. It is a dance where I lead and Gator follows. I send him through tunnels and over the seesaw. I send him away from me to take a loop of jumps and call him back to run near me again. I guide him over 20 or so jumps and obstacles that all need to be taken in the correct order, while the judge watches us for mistakes. Gator is looking for both the next obstacle in his path and at me, to see where I am signaling him to go next. "Over! A-frame! Go! Go! Go!" In less than a minute, we cross the finish jump.

Gator looks at me as if to say, "Yay! That was fun! Let's go get treats and play some ball!" He does not know if we

qualified or not, and I try not to tell him. If we messed up, it is generally my fault, and there is no reason to make him feel bad. I want to imagine him saying, "Agility is fun! Let's play some more."

Our agility journey began when Gator was a year old. We had been practicing obedience and rally, and I was ready to add a new dog sport. But our first agility class did not work out as planned. Gator was still a bit immature, and he quickly discovered that he could beat Mom through to the other end of the tunnel and go run and play with the other dogs. Oh, boy! But not everyone was as delighted to play with Gator as he was to play with them. So we put our potential agility career on hold for several months as we worked on better focus.

Our next class was an even worse experience. There are three pieces of agility contact equipment: the seesaw, the dogwalk (with a ramp up, a 12-foot-long plank across, and a ramp down, all 12-inches wide), and the A-frame (wide ramp up to a point and back down, basically an upside-down "V"). While most people start to teach the agility contacts by lowering the height of all the equipment, this instructor kept everything at full height. Gator tentatively went up and over the dogwalk. Good boy! He gained more confidence when he did it twice more. Then, the instructor

said, "You need to get him to do this faster." I did not think he was ready. But I was a novice trainer, so I listened to the teacher and tried to speed up my dog. Gator slipped and fell off, five feet down to the ground. He was not hurt, but he was completely spooked and did not want to go near the dogwalk again. We quickly dropped out of this class.

We soon found an agility program with an amazing instructor. Everything was positive. If your dog made a mistake, he was never scolded. He simply did not get a treat, and he got to try it again. My new trainer taught me to understand what my dog was thinking and feeling. She showed me how to teach the contact equipment gradually and how to build Gator's confidence.

The rule to doing the contacts correctly is that the dog needs to step in the yellow "contact zone" before he leaves the piece of equipment. This zone is the lower 42 inches of the off-ramp, and this rule is there to provide safety, especially for the little dogs. As Gator has no qualms about jumping down from a height of four feet, he needed to learn how to touch that contact zone properly every time or we would never succeed in competition. So we learned the "two on, two off" position. This is where your dog has stopped with his back two feet in the contact zone and his front two feet on the ground, so the judge can see, without a doubt, your dog has touched the contact zone. It took many months for Gator to re-learn the dogwalk and gain the courage he needed to perform on this obstacle. My new trainer showed me how to patiently encourage Gator to get back on it, using lots of treats to reward him.

The hardest piece of equipment, though, is the set of weave poles: 12 upright poles, two feet apart, that the dog has to slalom through. Dogs really have to concentrate on this as it is not a natural motion for them. For a very long time, Gator could weave in class or in my front yard, but not in a trial. He was just too excited or stressed to concentrate. So we took our weave poles to lots of different places to practice. Outside the dog park. By the duck pond

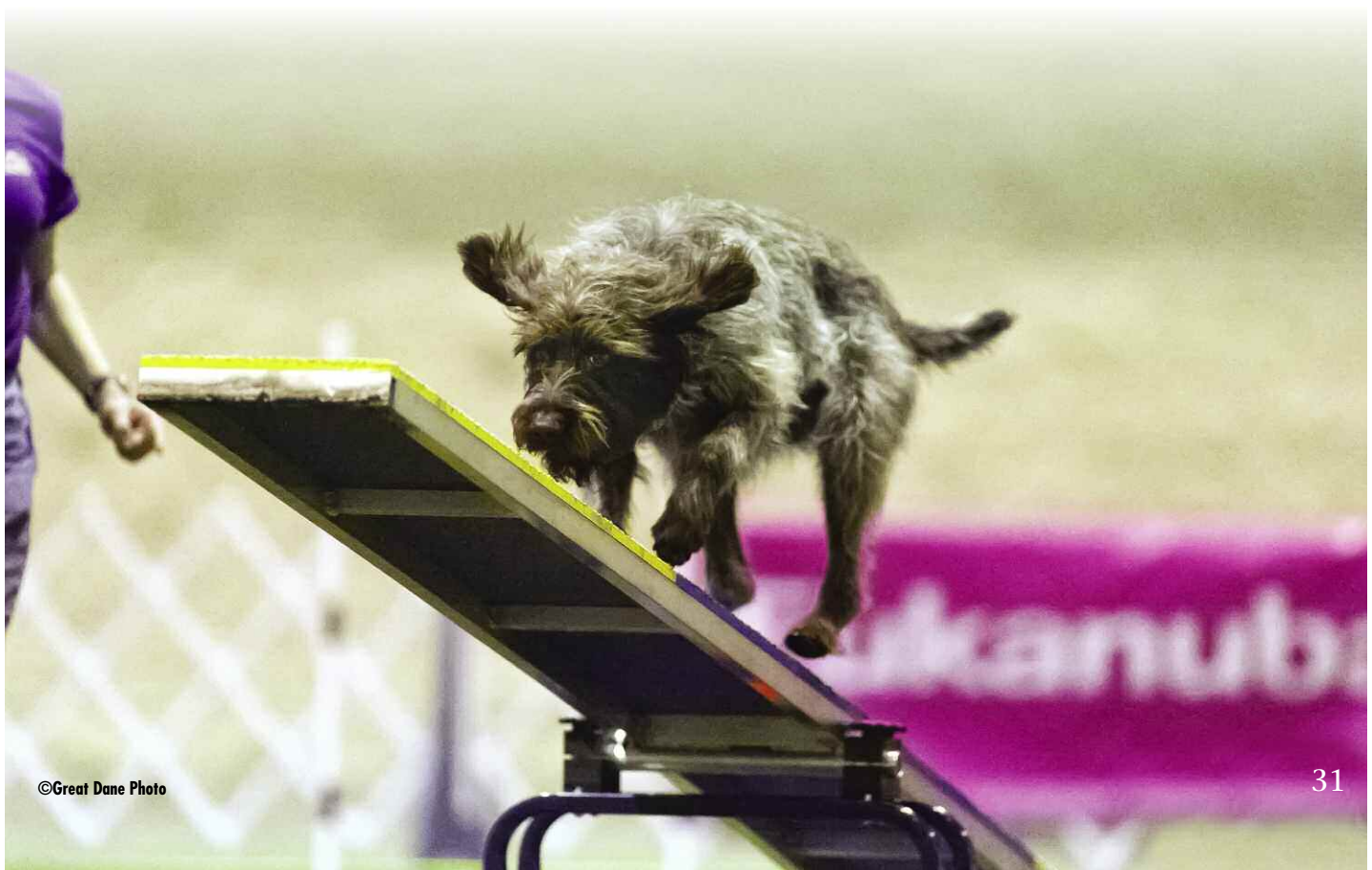
or near the bird field. Near a kids' soccer game. I began to throw Gator's tennis ball as a reward for successfully completing the weaves, and this made weaving more of a game and encouraged him to weave faster. It took many months to make the weaves fun, non-stressful, and something he could finally accomplish in a trial.

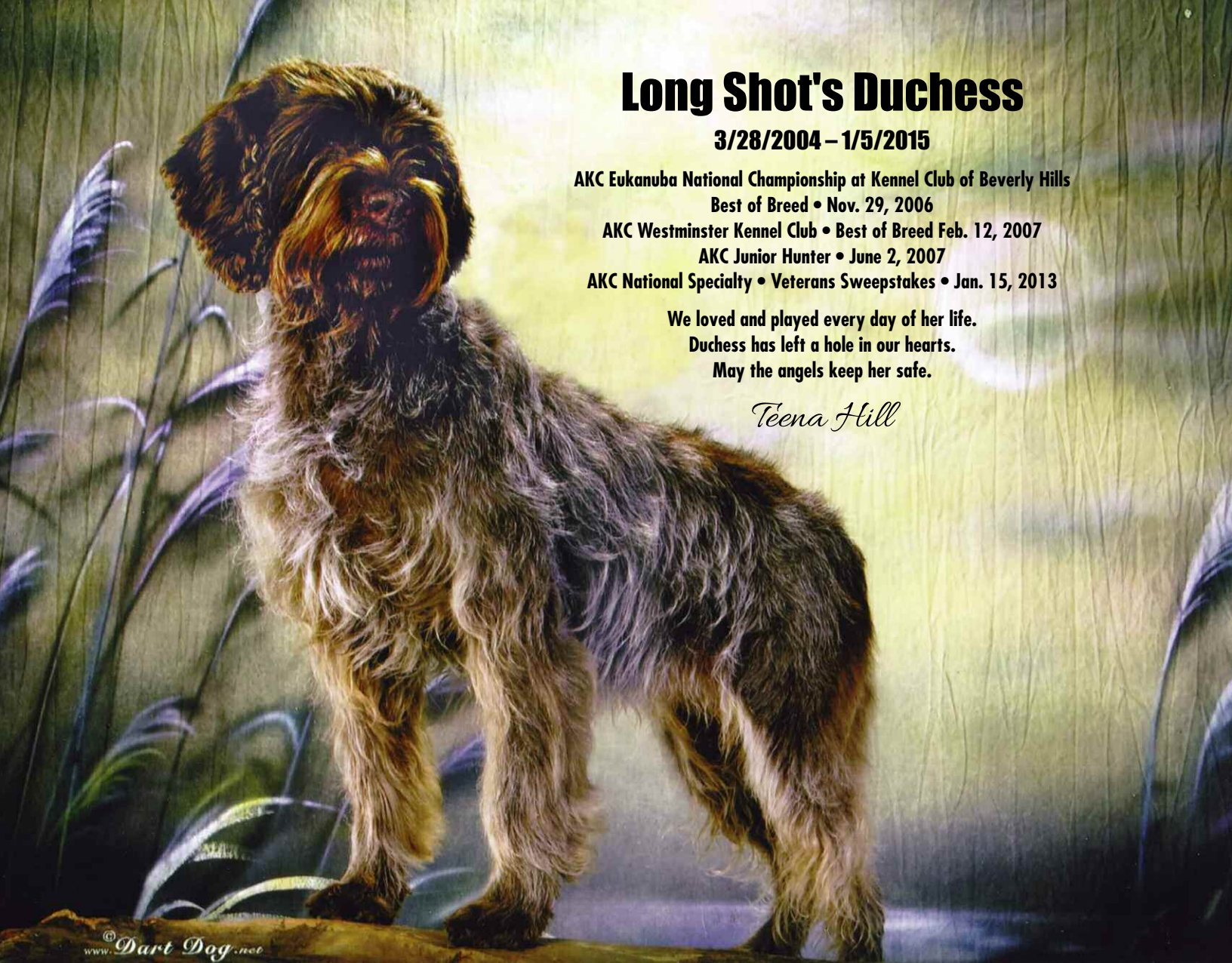
But learning the equipment is actually the easiest part of agility. Good handling, or communicating to your dog which obstacle comes next, is the key to agility success. Like most big dogs, Gator runs faster than I do. I need to make sure he always knows where to go next as he will not be beside me as he would in a rally course. I use my arms, shoulders, eyes, voice and the motion of my body to cue him where to go. If I am late or unclear with my cues, he will decide for himself where to go next, which is usually not a good thing. Novice courses are pretty simple, but master-level courses can be quite complicated. Over the years, Gator and I have achieved a good level of communication. But we still make plenty of mistakes. I'm not always able to envision what he sees on the course at any given spot, so sometimes my signals are not clear enough for Gator to choose the right path. In the heat of the moment, I sometimes forget what obstacle comes next, as every course is different. If I even look in the wrong direction, I have essentially cued Gator to take the wrong course. My timing needs to be accurate to the fraction of a second.

We started trialing in agility when Gator was 3 years old. It took a year and a half for team Gator and Laurie to complete our AKC Novice, Open and Excellent agility titles. We were then officially competing for our MACH, the Master Agility Champion title. This was the hardest and often most frustrating part of our agility journey.

So how do you earn a MACH? There are two main agility runs each day of every trial: Standard and Jumpers with Weaves (JWW). Standard has jumps, weaves, tunnels and all of the contact equipment, plus a "pause table" where the dog jumps up and waits until

Continued on next page





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Long Shot's Duchess

3/28/2004 – 1/5/2015

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Best of Breed • Nov. 29, 2006

AKC Westminster Kennel Club • Best of Breed Feb. 12, 2007

AKC Junior Hunter • June 2, 2007

AKC National Specialty • Veterans Sweepstakes • Jan. 15, 2013

We loved and played every day of her life.

Duchess has left a hole in our hearts.

May the angels keep her safe.

Teena Hill

MACH2 continued from page 31 the judge counts to five before resuming the run. JWW has only jumps, weaves and tunnels, but usually needs more sophisticated handling skills. Each course has a standard course time (SCT), and the dog needs to complete its run in less than this time. You must complete the course in this time, having taken no incorrect obstacles (wrong courses), dropping no bars, missing no contacts, and having no hesitations before an obstacle (refusals) in order to qualify (Q). If you Q on both your Standard and JWW runs in one day, you earn a double Q (QQ). For every second that you are faster than the SCT, you earn a MACH point. To earn your MACH, you need 20 QQs and 750 MACH points. That is a lot of agility trialing.

It took almost two more years of competition for Gator to become MACH Gator. We had more than 1,000 points, but those QQs were so hard for us to get. It was always some little mistake or another. It took us seven trials after we earned QQ number 19 to finally get that elusive QQ number 20. But we were having great fun getting to our goal, and had wonderful support from the terrific agility people that we met along the road. In January 2014, Gator became the second WPG to MACH. Polly Divens and Zeke (CH MACH

Thrill Zeker V Herrenhausen VCD1 GN RE JH MXS MJS MJP XF T2B) had achieved this honor six months before we did.

One of the fun traditions in AKC is that after you complete your MACH run, you pick up the last jump bar and do a victory lap around the course with your dog. Everyone in the crowd cheers in celebration with you. Gator thoroughly enjoyed this celebration run, probably because he could see that his mom was really, really happy.

Gator and I are still having fun playing agility. There are optional non-standard courses to run and lots of different titles to try to obtain. With a second set of 20 QQs and 750 more MACH points, he earned his MACH2 last December, the first Griffon ever to do so. But this has mostly been just another way for me to have fun with and bond with my dog. We have also had a great time travelling to and competing at the AKC Agility Invitational, the AKC Agility Nationals and the Westminster Kennel Club Masters Agility Championship. Of course, we will never beat those crazy fast Border Collies that so excel at this sport. But you will never see a Border Collie with a goofy big smile on his face like Gator has when he is running an agility course with me. And to me, THAT is what this sport of agility is all about. ✨

RALLY your GRIFFS!

by Amy Fluck



Rally obedience, aka Rally-O, is a fun, beginner-friendly dog sport that combines elements of obedience and agility. Rally provides a much more relaxed atmosphere of competition compared to the formal precision required in competition obedience. Many exhibitors like to try out rally with their dog as a stepping stone to competition obedience because rally allows you to focus on attitude and enthusiasm since verbal praise and encouragement is allowed during competition. You can even clap your hands for your dog in all but the highest level of competition! Similar to agility, courses are designed by the rally judge and are different at every trial. The variety of exercise combinations in the courses allows you and your dog to show off your versatility and teamwork. Exhibitors receive a course map from the judge and can walk the course without their dogs prior to the start of the class. The judge will even walk with the exhibitors at this time and explain exactly what they are looking for while judging. This is wonderful because courses are made up of 10 to 20 stations, each consisting of a rally sign that directs handlers and dogs to perform specific exercises — and there are approximately 50 different rally signs available. With that many signs to learn and understand, it can get a little confusing!

The sign at each station on the course gives instructions to the dog-handler team, and each team must perform the station's particular task within the general vicinity of the sign. Once the judge gives the command "forward," the dog and handler complete the course on their own and at their own pace without further commands from the judge. While the dog works on the handler's left side, the signs should be on the handler's right. Signs instruct teams to go fast or slow, to halt (dog must sit at heel), to make turns and circles, to reverse direction, to do a sit-stay-recall, or to follow other basic obedience exercises. All teams start with a perfect score of 100 and qualify with a score of at least 70. Although there is no time limit in completing a course, placements within a class are awarded based on a combination of score and completion time.

The AKC offers rally competition at three levels. Three qualifying scores earn a title. The levels are:

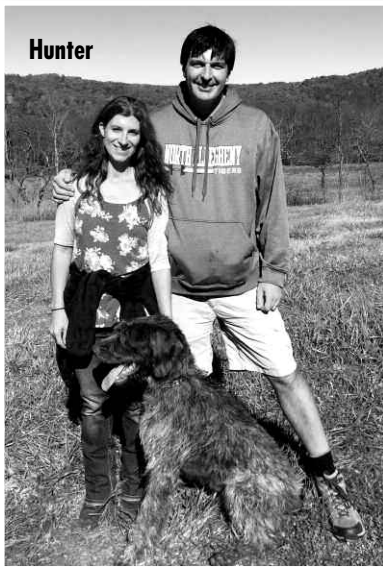
- **Novice.** All exercises are performed on-leash and demonstrate the dog's understanding of basic commands such as sit, stay, down, come and heel position. The title earned is RN (Rally Novice).
- **Advanced.** All exercises are performed off-leash and the course includes at least one jump. The title earned is RA (Rally Advanced).
- **Excellent.** This more-difficult off-leash course includes at least two jumps and demonstrates more precise skill and coordination between the dog and handler. The title earned is RE (Rally Excellent).

• Additionally, there is the RAE title (Rally Advanced Excellent), in which the team has to qualify in both the Advanced and Excellent levels on the same day at 10 trials.

Rally emphasizes FUN and BONDING for the dog-handler team while providing a rewarding approach to the sport of obedience. My absolute favorite part: Praise, encouragement and continuous dog-handler communication are permitted in this sport! 🐾

RESCUE REPORT

by Cathy West



Hunter and Coco

Hunter, along with his Griff "sister" Coco, were both 2-year-old WPGs that had been primarily outdoor dogs used for property protection. We decided they should be adopted separately to give them a chance to bond with their new human pack.

Hunter went to the Rohans, an active family that enjoys participating in NAVHDA training already with their other Griffon. Hunter has settled in nicely with his family.

Coco, now Gracie, was placed with the Nardones. When they heard we had these two, they graciously offered the use of their plane that they already use for dog rescue and would take both Griffis if needed. Gracie's new BFF is Bella the Boxer. She is very affectionate and loves to DIG!



Murphy

Murphy, an 8-year-old male, had been brought into a home to be a companion to a 10-year-old female WPG, but they did not end up being compatible. He was living in a temporary foster home in the San Francisco Bay area when we were contacted by Debby Williams in Texas, and after some Skype calls to the foster family, she made the decision to bring Murphy home with

her from a trip she had planned to Northern California. They enlisted the help of trainers, and made the commitment Murphy needed to feel safe and loved.

Shirley

Shirley was an 18-month-old girl whose energetic needs were not being met living in NYC. She was being boarded

with a trainer, and the family decided it was best for Shirley to have a home where she could have her needs met. Shirley moved to Towson, Md., and is living the life she was meant to live.

Remmie

Young DJ, now Remington, was one of our "special needs" dogs. Remmie is deaf and was being left in a basement to bark while his owner was at work. He was returned to the breeder who then reached out to us to see if we could assist. Laurie Wakerely and her daughter Taylor jumped at the chance to take on the challenge of training a deaf WPG. Laurie and the breeder talked extensively to make sure they both felt comfortable with the adoption. Remmie was learning how to live with a new pack and was started on hand signals. Through Laurie and Taylor's diligence,

Remmie has been able to work in the field and is living a happy life with these two dedicated ladies and their other WPG, Addison, and their senior Shih Tzu. Remmie has a 12-year-old GSP hunting buddy named Zott who is blind. Zott and Remmie hunt tethered together so that Zott can hear and Remmie can see.



Rex

Rex was a senior rescue with a sad story. We were contacted by Kyle Wesling when he generously took Rex in when a co-worker of his wife decided they no longer could keep him. Kyle knew nothing about Griffons, and when he did a search he realized how special and rare it is to find them in rescue. Although he tried, Rex was not able to physically keep up with his pack, and Kyle noticed that he seemed to get stiff in his rear legs. On his own dime, Kyle had a full vet work up done on Rex and found that he did have mild hip dysplasia, but it could be controlled with proper exercise



and supplements. When we have a senior and specifically one with a chronic condition, it can be hard to find just the right home. But then we met Kathy Drelcharz. It was Kathy's personal mission to adopt a senior griffon. Kyle and Kathy both lived in the Chicago area, and a meet and greet was easily arranged. Kathy couldn't be happier having Rex in her life, and Rex has a new best friend with Billy the Bichon. We are so grateful to Kyle and his family for all they did for Rex. We know Billy and Kathy couldn't be happier.



Chewy

Chewy was a fun loving one-year-old pup when we were contacted by his family and asked for help. Chewy's owner made the never-easy decision to surrender him to us because they unable to give him the time and attention a young Griffon needs. They hoped we could find a family that had other dogs and would give Chewy the opportunity to hunt. We found the prefect family for Chewy with the Beyers. They live on acreage in South Dakota, and hunt with their Labs. They had owned Griffons, so they

were familiar with the needs of a young dog that wants to be in the field hunting. The previous family is able to stay in touch with the Beyers, and Chewy gets canine companionship, a dedicated family and plenty of field time!

Flash

Flash was another senior rescue, and we take extra care in placing these guys. Flash was surrendered to us because he was having trouble adjusting to a toddler in the family. We weren't sure if this rescue was going to take place as it was very difficult on his surrendering family, but once they talked with the family we selected, they felt much better about their decision. We were so lucky to get a previous rescue family to adopt Flash. He now lives with the Hines family who had previously adopted Hank from us. Flash has settled in nicely with his new family and is enjoying his senior years!

Izzy

Last but not least, Izzy. Izzy's previous owner contacted us when she was nine months old. The owner had been using Izzy to hunt, noticed that she was having some lameness and took her to the vet to be checked. She was diagnosed with hip dysplasia at nine months old! They decided that



they would not be able to keep her or provide the medical care that she needed. We cannot take on an owner-surrendered dog with a serious medical condition, but we can help facilitate and adoption. We found the perfect fit for sweet Izzy with Andrew, Christine and their dog Finn Miller. Finn had also had to have hip surgery, and Andrew understood all the ins and outs of the surgery and rehab it would require. His most recent letter is below, and tells us what life is like for Izzy now. This was a particular highlight of the year! 🐾

A letter from Izzy's new family:

Cathy,

It's hard to believe we've had Izzy for almost a year. From day one she fit right in. Christine and I drove to Ohio and back to pick her up. After a 15-minute conversation, the newest member of the family was cruising in the back seat. It took us 16 hours but let me say, WELL WORTH IT! We were quite surprised at how much she enjoyed the car ride. Finn was terrified of the car from the get-go. Now, thanks to Izzy, it doesn't seem to bother him too much.

From the time we picked Izzy up, it's as if she's never looked back. It was as if she knew she was destined to be in Virginia! Oh how I wish she could talk to tell us! We didn't take Finn on the journey to get her. We spent a lot of time talking on the ride home about how they would interact and what we would do if it didn't go well. Finn and Izzy hit it off pretty much immediately, with one exception. Izzy was VERY interested in Finn's toys. Given he was the only pup in the house, we had to work on it. On their first morning together, I came downstairs and they were in a dead stare off. I thought, oh geez, this could be interesting. A Kong lay dead center between the two of them. Finn made the first move and put it in his mouth. Izzy continued to stare in hopes Finn would have a change of heart and be the gentleman, she must have known he was. Sure enough, Finn dropped the Kong and nudged it to Izzy with his nose. It only took one night and the rest is history.

These two love each other. So often, they're curled up beside each other and snuggling. Finn is a totally different dog. They play like crazy! More often than not, Finn ends up covered in grass stains after playing in the back yard and being hustled by a dog, half his size. In the warmer months, I take them to the Potomac River to swim. Again, another thing Finn didn't really like. Now he loves it! We took them to a friend's lake house in September. Both woke us up early for what we thought was to go do what dogs do. Nope. They immediately darted off for an early morning swim and continued to do so for the remainder of the day (and weekend).

The dysplasia doesn't seem to be an issue any more. She certainly favored and wobbled when we first got her. I pursued several opinions and make no mistake, her backend is in pretty rough shape. That said, our exercise regiment and her diet seem to be working great. So far there is no limping, soreness, or daily pain killers! Finn's elbow dysplasia diagnosis was devastating but I've learned a lot. Fortunately, I've been able to put that knowledge to good use.

I could go on and on. Izzy is amazing. We are blessed to have her and couldn't thank you enough for yours and Martha's coordination efforts. My sister, mom and several friends would like to add a Griffon to their families! I can also say, there isn't a better breed. No shedding, crazy as all get out, beautiful, and most definitely loving!

Keep me posted with any updates on the rescue. Maybe we can find my sister a pup!

Andrew



New AWPGA Members

after this issue is published unless anyone objects to their membership per the By-Laws. Any members who did not renew their membership by the deadline are listed as New Members and are sponsored by the AWPGA Board.

If any of the below information is incorrect, please notify AWPGA Treasurer Diane Dillon, (773) 251-2930, awpgaddillon@gmail.com. These applicants will officially be members 30 days

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Prizes and Titles Earned by AWPGA Members

Dog's Name	Award	Owner(s)	Date Title Earned
NAVHDA Utility			
Aux Lake K Lucy Lu.....	Prize II	Jerri Stanley	11/7/15
NAVHDA Natural Ability			
DuValin Stonehenge Georgi Girl	Prize I	Jerri Stanley	11/7/15
Jaxs De Chez D	Prize III	Dennis Normile	11/8/15
Leaping Dog's Skyhawk Commander	Prize III	Martha Ingram	11/8/15
Leaping Dog's Shot Through The Heart	Prize I	Martha Ingram	11/8/15
Ore Bank's Aldo The Apache	Prize III	Jared Bolton	11/8/15
Rock Run Thomas' Carolina Belle	Prize I	Alan Thomas	12/6/15
Whiskeytown Ryatt By The Sea	Prize II	Susan Edginton	9/19/15

NAVHDA Breeders Awards for 2015 for AWPGA Members

Dam's Name	Owner	Dam's Name	Owner
Bourg Royal's CB Number One	Gilbert Tremblay, Renee Fortier	Duchess Gracie Decota	George Decosta
De Jac's Amie	Julie Carlstrom	Fireside's Coconimo	Meagan Withrow, Kristi Rogney
Duchasseur Bijou	Amy Caswell-O'Clair	Fireside's Milk Chocolate	Marcia/William Hoff, Elaine Hunsicker
VC Duchasseur Crownpoint	Vicky Foster	Flatbrook Duet Hide & Seek	Kristi Rogney
Duchasseur Gibson Girl	Kristi Rogney	Hun Hill Akora	Frank Puccio

Continued on next page

Dog's Name	Owner(s)	Date Title Earned
AKC Grand Champion		
GCH CH Cottonwood's Raising The Stakes.....	Robin Adams Parks, Don Parks.....	11/20/15
GCH CH Fireside's A Shot Of Jack	Joan/Dan Reardon, Elaine Hunsicker	11/14/15
GCH CH Itak De Franc Jeu CD JH	Vicky Foster	11/22/15
GCH CH Kiblan's Filson Tin Coat CGC.....	Ann Allen, Mary Kiblan	1/30/16
GCH CH Wet Acres Zophia Griffon	Tina Zawalski, TA Gagnon Jr.	11/21/15
AKC Champion		
CH Butte View's Shaka Kona Liquid Aloha	Becky Lynn Van Kleeck	11/8/15
CH Chukar Designer To The Stars JH	Karen Spiess, Charles Spiess	12/4/15
CH Chukar Shes Got A Fair For Fashion JH.....	Karen Spiess, Charles Spiess	12/5/15
CH Desbattures Cascade	Dominic Brisson, Claudette Blackburn	11/22/15
CH Fireside's Baby Doll.....	Joan/Dan Reardon, Elaine Hunsicker	1/10/16
CH Fortis Des Sonnaillies Du Haut Davy.....	Gilbert Tremblay, Renee Fortier	11/21/15
CH Glacier's Big Sky Up To Snow Good JH	Mary Zullo, Lisa Durand, Robyn Zullo	11/1/15
CH Marquis Beauregard	Margaret Ferguson	11/22/15
CH Whiskeytown Land Shark.....	Becky Brannan, Meagan Withrow, Justin Drew	11/7/15
AKC Master Hunter		
CH Aux Lake K Lucy Lu MH CGC	Jerri Stanley	12/13/15
GCH CH Stonehenge Spontaneous Eruption RN MH CA.....	Stephanie Martin, Loren Rogers	12/12/15
AKC Senior Hunter		
CH Bear Hug Ghost Rider SH.....	Laura Williams	12/13/15
GCH CH Fireside's Daisy Does It All SH	Martha Ingram, Carl Ingram	12/12/15
GCH CH Fireside's Mother Of Pearl SH	Melanie Tuttle, Charles Tuttle.....	12/13/15
GCH CH Whiskeytown Dalwhinnie Brie SH CGC.....	Gino Troy, Kristi Rogne.....	11/1/15
Wyncliff's Skye's The Limit SH	Sophie Sprague	12/19/15
Dog's Name	Owner(s)	Date Title Earned
AKC Junior Hunter		
Bear Hug Joy To The World CD RA JH.....	Laurie, Randall Cook.....	11/1/15
Duvalin Georgi Girl JH.....	Jerri Stanley	12/12/15
Flatbrook's Sriracha Byrnes Bright At Balcones JH	Joel, Kristy Rollins	12/6/15
Stonehenge California Dreamin Of Jakalor JH	Stephanie Martin, Sara Martin.....	12/13/15
Stonehenge Rock-N-Roll Refugee Of Jakalor JH.....	Sara Martin, Loren Rogers.....	1/16/16
AKC Master Agility Champion 2		
MACH2 Bear Hug C U Later CDX RAE2 MHA MXG MJG MXF T2B3.....	Laurie Cook, Randal Cook.....	12/15/15
Master Gold Agility		
MACH Bear Hug C U Later CDX RAE2 MHA MXG MJG MXF T2B3	Laurie Cook, Randal Cook	11/20/15
Master Bronze Fast		
MACH2 Bear Hug C U Later CDX RAE2 MHA MXG MJG MXF MFB T2B3.....	Laurie Cook, Randal Cook	1/29/16
AKC Companion Dog Excellent		
BGCH CH Duck River's Dreamchaser CDX BN RN JH	Linda Andrews, Gerri Auchincloss.....	11/29/15
Rally Novice		
CH Chukars Glacier We Be Jammin' RN	Charles Spiess, Karen Spiess	11/8/15
AKC Canine Good Citizen		
Whiskeytown Ruffino Chianti CGC.....	Mary Bayley	1/26/16



2015 AKC Top 20 WPGs in Conformation

All-Breed Points

Dog's Name	Points	Owners
1. GCH Whiskeytown Si Drakes Gran Legacy CGC.....	2024.....	J Scarrott
2. GCH Whiskeytown Dalwhinnie Brie SH GCC.....	1355.....	G Troy/K Rogne
3. GCH Kyjo's Shelby Special	1332.....	K Miller/J Hare
4. GCH Wyncliff's Dark Shadow	882.....	R Baggenstos/D Baggenstos
5. GCH Wyncliff's B Loved Rocket Man SH.....	873.....	J Coughlin
6. GCH Glacier's Gertie Queen Of Spades.....	711.....	L Durand/A Durand
7. GCH Whiskeytown Bootlegger	520.....	S Piel
8. GCH Whiskeytown Xellent Emma CGC	439.....	B Meadows
9. GCH Whiskeytown Stolichnaya Elit.....	437.....	J Gross/K Rogne
10. GCH Whiskeytown Glenlivet JH	361.....	S Cowell/K Rogne
11. GCH Kiblan's Point Blank JH	254.....	K J'Anthony/C J'Anthony
12. GCH Flash Du Moulin De La Ramiere JH	241.....	P Pettis
13. GCH Fireside's Spontaneous Leap Of Faith JH.....	169.....	S Young/N Nunn
14. GCH Bear Hug I'M A Lil Boom Boom JH	153.....	L Carroll/M Carroll
15. GCH Whiskeytown Grey Goose.....	147.....	K Rogne/L Scanland
16. GCH Bear Hug High Explosive.....	131.....	J Goldman/M Potter
17. GCH Fireside's Rio Grande JH CGC	124.....	E Hunsicker/J Scheck
18. GCH Marquis Bear Hug Blue Fireworks SH CAA	123.....	M Dozier/S Dozier
19. GCH Glacier's Kai Kanani At Talus.....	105.....	M and D Lutrick/L Durand
20. GCH Southern Jes A Lit'L Hunting Sensation JH.....	99.....	K Cate/B Cate

Breed Points

Dog's Name	Points	Owners
1. GCH Whiskeytown Si Drakes Gran Legacy CGC	441	J Scarrott
2. GCH Whiskeytown Xellent Emma CGC	153	B Meadows
3. GCH Whiskeytown Dalwhinnie Brie SH GCC	142	G Troy/K Rogne
4. GCH Wyncliff's B Loved Rocket Man SH.....	133	J Coughlin
5. GCH Whiskeytown Glenlivet JH	115	S Cowell/K Rogne
6. GCH Bear Hug I'M A Lil Boom Boom JH	95	L Carroll/M Carroll
7. GCH Whiskeytown Bootlegger	88	S Piel
8. GCH Kyjo's Shelby Special	77	K Miller/J Hare
8. GCH Kiblan's Point Blank JH	77	K J'Anthony/C J'Anthony
10. GCH Whiskeytown Grey Goose	72	K Rogne/L Scanland
11. GCH CH Whiskeytown Smoldering Dram BN MH CGC	71	R Lent/K Rogne
12. GCH Wyncliff's Dark Shadow	62	R Baggenstos/D Baggenstos
13. GCH Fireside's Spontaneous Leap Of Faith JH	57	S Young/N Nunn
14. GCH Glacier's Gertie Queen Of Spades	56	L Durand/A Durand
15. GCH CH Bear Hug Just Give Me A Double.....	40	J & M Clemens/L Carroll
16. GCH Marquis Bear Hug Blue Fireworks SH CAA	40	M Dozier/S Dozier
16. GCH Glacier's Kai Kanani At Talus	40	M and D Lutrick/L Durand
18. GCH Whiskeytown Stolichnaya Elit.....	39	J Gross/K Rogne
19. GCH Fireside's Cottonwood Kaboom JH	35	R Parks/E Hunsicker
20. GCH Capstone Gabrielle De La Rue Cambon	34	C West/R West

THE 140TH ANNUAL
WESTMINSTER KENNEL CLUB
DOG SHOW



Congratulations to these Griffis that
won high honors at Westminster 2016!

Tuesday, Feb. 16, 2016 | New York City, NY

Best of Breed **GCH Whiskeytown Dalwhinnie Brie SH** Owned by Gino Troy and Kristi Rogne
 Best of Opposite **GCH Wyncliff's B Loved Rocket Man SH** Owned by Joan Coughlin
 Select Bitch **GCH Kyjo's Shelby Special CGC** Owned by Kyle Miller and Joseph Hare III
 Award of Merit **GCH Whiskeytown Xellent Emma CGC** Owned by Susan Meadows and Kristi Rogne

Grooming the Griffon for the Show Ring:

Errors and Corrections

by Amy Caswell-O'Clair | Photos by the author

I have only been in the show ring for approximately five years, but in that time I have learned what many great mentors have taught me: to enhance the attributes of our breed by grooming and to limit grooming so that the Griffon looks as it should in its natural state. While many handlers like to fluff, puff and blow dry our breed, this is not natural and not how our hunting dog should be presented.

Reading the standards for our breed gives a good indication of how our breed should be presented in the show ring. I always think of Jean Castaing's translation of the French standard when I think of grooming and how to best represent my Griffon. Some points that especially influence me and my decisions of how to groom are:

Head: "... furnished with a harsh, but not too long, coat, with mustache and eyebrows clearly distinct, a skull not too large; muzzle long and square ..."

Error: Excessive hair on the top of the head.

Comments and correction: If we have a mountain of hair on top of our dog's head, how will the judge be able to see if it is square and noble? Another thing to consider is that the hair on the head is an extension of the undercoat. Massive amounts of hair on the head would indicate a soft coat on the body. Strip the excess hair from under your dog's eyes and cheeks, under his ears and on top of his head to make his eyebrows and beard stand out. Never, ever, cut your dog's beard it should be left in its natural state.

Eyes: "Large and round, not covered by the eyebrows, very intelligent expression ..."

Error: Too much hair in the eyebrows that is too long and covering the eyes.

Comments and correction: How can we show off our dog's beautiful eyes if they are covered by hair, and all of the hair is fluffed in front of its eyes? You would never see a dog in the field like this, and if you did, it would take you a week to brush him when he came out of the field. You may also need to strip his bangs out so that they are not too heavy and so that you are able to see his eyes.

Forequarters: "Straight, strong, very solid at the shoulder, bushy hair."

Hindquarters: "Bushy coat, thighs long and very muscular, hocks not straight, angulated."

Feet: "Round, solid, very tight and joined at the toes." (I have also heard descriptions of our Griffon's feet as having feet like a cat if that is easier to imagine.)

Error: The legs are excessively fluffed and/or back-brushed. The paws are left too hairy.

Commentary and correction: Our breed is not a terrier, it is a hunting dog. You would never see this in the field, and if you did it would not protect the legs as well as the hair all brushed down. It would also gather a lot more debris in the field or woods.

Maybe people fluff the leg hair to give the illusion of more substance, or maybe they feel it's hair and must be fluffed, or they think it looks better, but it is not how our breed is supposed to be presented. If you would like to add a bit more substance to your dog's legs, you could back-brush the leg hair up for body, but please brush it back down before you enter the ring!

One time I decided to have my Griffon shown by a professional. I have always shown her myself, but wanted to see if there were handling differences if I had her shown by a professional. I brought her "groomed," but they stuck her on the table and put their slicker brush in action back brushing all of her legs so she looked like an Airedale terrier. At the time, I was not confident enough to tell them that was not correct. I can still remember that in the ring she had the strangest looking hocks with the hair all combed up on them like little horns. When the rear legs were back brushed, it also hid her good angulation and made her appear straighter in the rear. With the hair from the foot to thigh fluffed, it also hid her nice, cat-like foot.

The dog's leg hair should be brushed downward and the paws lightly trimmed to show the cat-like foot.

The tail: "Carried horizontally or the tip slightly raised, with bushy hair but without a tuft ..."

Error: The tail is groomed with a flag underneath, like a setter.

Commentary and correction: A Griffon tail should not look like a setter tail. If there is hair hanging under your dog's tail like a setter, take some thinning shears to remove it so it blends with the rest of the tail hair.

Coat: "Bushy and rough, at the touch reminds one of a boar's silk, never woolly or curly. Undercoat, fine and somewhat dense."

Error: Some Griffons seem to be stripped too short in a pattern; others are not stripped at all. Some of them have grooming products used on the coat.

Commentary and correction: Stripping can be done



Above and below: Before and after grooming the head and face. Too much hair on top of the head hides how square and noble it is, plus indicates a soft coat. Strip excess hair from under the eyes, cheeks, ears and on top of the head to make eyebrows and beard stand out. The eyes must not be covered by eyebrows. Note: Never trim the beard!



It is wrong to groom the legs fluffed out and/or back-brushed. Fluffed legs would not protect the dog in the field whereas the hair brushed down will. The feet should be trimmed of excess hair to create a tight, cat-like paw.



around cheeks, head, neck and anywhere the hair does not lay well and to enhance the look of your dog. Most Griffons should have the puppy coat stripped out to allow the adult coat to come in. My Mica puppy looked like she was going to have a softer coat. I took two days to strip it out with a rake, then strip it out with a stripping knife (When I say “days,” I mean 30 minutes one day and 30 minutes the next.) Now one year old, she has an ideal coat that repels burrs, sticks, debris and snow. I do notice I did not strip her chest hair as much, and this hair is softer and lighter brown. I find it very important that if you have a softer puppy coat to strip it good around four to five months. I’m also curious about what she would look like now if I had not stripped her. I suspect a uniform chestnut soft coat vs. the harsh steel grey coat it is now.

Grooming products for the coat should not be used, especially all over the coat. Maybe if you want to help hold the hair down on the ribcage or loin, okay, but not if you are trying to harshen up the feel of your dog’s coat. The texture of the coat is the texture of the coat, and if the judges are judging for breeding quality, what is

the point of you faking the appearance of your dog? If you are really looking for the opinion of the judge, then leave the coat natural.

Coat color: “Preferably steel grey with chestnut (maroon) markings or all chestnut; frequently chestnut flecked with white and grey or roan ...”

Error: Coloring products are being used on dogs’ coats.

Commentary and correction: Please remember that the color of your dog’s coat is the color of his coat. NEVER color your dog’s coat to change the color and his appearance. This is very disrespectful to the breed and very dishonest to your dog. You should be proud of him for the color that he is — plus coloring your dog’s coat is a rule violation.

We as exhibitors have the power to present the judges with properly groomed dogs that should fit the standard of our hunting breed. We need to tell our handlers what is correct for our breed and show them good examples in photos. When the dogs are groomed incorrectly, we need to tell them what is wrong and require that they present our dogs in the proper way. Together we can succeed in having our dogs presented in the way that they should be. 🌟



German Griffon Trainer Clinics at 2016 National Specialty *by Lisa Durand*



All photos in this article are of Uschi Van Elten and her Griffons.

Photos courtesy of Uschi Van Elten



When: Monday and Tuesday, Sept. 19-20, 2016. The clinics will run in four three-hour sessions: Monday morning and afternoon, and Tuesday morning and afternoon. This will allow AKC hunt test participants to attend. We are still working on class content, with possibly two sessions on puppy training (getting your Griffon started) and two sessions on more advanced gun-dog training.

Where: On the AKC Hunt Test Grounds at the 2016 AWPGA National Specialty in Helena, Mont.

Cost: \$35 with dog; \$10 without dog

Additional information: Uschi has been very successful in training and testing dogs in the JGHV club, the German versatile hunting dog club and registry that is similar to NAVHDA, yet different in that it also tests for retrieving of fur and blood tracking. Most American dogs are not qualified to participate in the testing system of the United States branch of the club, JGV-USA, because our pedigrees do not originate from JGHV-registered dogs.

Find out more information on its website: <http://jghv.de>. Three years ago I received an email from a Griffon breeder in Germany. She was interested in my lines, and would like to discuss purchasing a puppy. Since my first litter was by a male I imported from Sweden, a combination of Dutch and German lines, this breeder felt this pedigree would be a good mixture for her breeding program. A few months later, I traveled to Germany with Glacier's Continental (Conti), and had the pleasure of spending time with Uschi Van Elten.

Uschi was a wonderful hostess, and though her English wasn't great and my German non-existent, we managed to communicate quite well. I attended a Griff hunt test, a gun-dog demonstration and also a class Uschi gave to a group working on obedience in the field. Large Muensterlanders, Pudelpointers and Griffons learning the basics, something I feel we in the United States may not always do. Electronic collars are allowed in Germany. Without a collar, Uschi's dogs were amazing. With her very quiet voice and gentle hand, her dogs were so obedient and accomplished.

Hunting in Germany is very different, and my newly delivered puppy was exposed to quite a variety. Birds, of course, hare, row deer and even boar! You have to breed a smart dog to do these things, and know how to train! That is why I am delighted to announce that Uschi will be coming to our national, and will put on four half-day training seminars! It isn't just the training you will take away from the sessions, but the centuries-old traditions that surround hunting in Europe. I can't wait! Input on class content is welcome; please send to threedogbranch@msn.com. Here is a short bio Uschi wrote, plus you can also find out more about her on her website, griffon-von-der-hohen-ley.de.

"I always wanted a dog, but my parents didn't allow that. When I was 11 years-old, I received the first basic advice of dog training from my father. He showed me some old tricks, but I was not happy about that. There should be a better way. A way which only dogs could show me. I started to go for a walks with the neighborhood dogs. Many different breeds of dogs of varying numbers, so I learned a lot of their behavior in the pack. When I watched them, I understood that it was very simple. To treat a dog right and natural, I have only to treat him like the other dogs do. I have to be the leader of my dog. Only then will the dog would follow me.

"I passed my hunting license and got Dachshunds when I was 20 years old. This was the first time I trained a hunting dog. I completed a lot of hunting tests for Dachshunds, and bred them.

"When I moved to the country, my husband and I decided that we needed a bigger dog. A dog that could meet the requirements of fetching and retrieving. After a long time, we chose the Korthals Griffon. Now began the real work. I had to learn a lot of new things. The Griffon was something very different than a dachshund. I fell in love with the Griffon, and feel it is important for breeders all over the world to work together to preserve the dog Eduard Korthals developed.

"I have now bred Griffons and trained hunting dogs professionally for 20 years. I am excited to come to the USA for your Griffon specialty!" — Uschi Van Elten 🌟

The Early Season:

Crossing the Divide into bird hunting heaven

Photo by Renee Carter

by Rick Bass

I love the sprawl and stretch of bird season in Montana, which begins so early, still in the grip of summer's delicious — and dangerous — heat, and runs so late into the grip of equally dangerous winter weather, where the dogs you helped keep safe from heat stroke must now be protected from frostbite. Over the years, upland bird hunting has divided, in my mind, into an Early Season and a Late Season, defined essentially by a rough midpoint of November 1. I couldn't begin to say which I love most. Whichever one is coming up next, I suppose. For most of the waiting year, that's the Early Season.

Even though you have been counting down since, well, perhaps April, September always catches you with its onrush, its heated surprise. Summer's been great, but now it's time to go, whether you're quite ready or not. And so with a strange mix of the old eagerness and yet reluctance, you break free of summer's embrace and head east, out of the smoking mountains, with the fires of summer still licking the ridge tops here and there, and you cross over the Divide and drop down into the flatlands, hoping to intercept the first few migrations of the season — the thinly clad stone-gray bullets of mourning doves, which race south well in advance of any hint of colder weather. And you hope also, in September, to reacquaint yourself with the ever-faithful native upland birds — the exquisitely patterned (and exquisitely delicious) sharp-tailed grouse, which are always waiting for you, as well as the immigrants of only a hundred years ago, the reddish mahogany and faster-flying Hungarian partridge.

The country is always parched, though usually, in those first days of September, the summer ends with a purple thunderstorm, boiling up one evening, violet anvil-shaped clouds filled with gold lightning bolts, so that the next day,

rather than having limited water concentrating the doves, the doves have an infinitude of puddles from which to sip. They spread wide and far across the country; but no matter, they are still out there, and for a little while the land is cooler. (A day or two later, the water will dry up again, and it will be as if the rain never came, as if summer will never end.)

You're not ready in September, but sometimes you manage to hit the birds anyway — shooting instinctively in front of them in your unreadiness, as if not yet fully focused on the fact that hunting season is really here again, that the first eight months of the year have fallen away now, and that from here on everything will be fuller and, for many of us, more deeply and sharply felt in every way.

Somehow, a few birds accrue. The doves with their thin feathers are easy to pluck, and in the heat you have to keep them in a cool place. You wait for them early and late in the day, and shortly after they have come and gone, you take your out-of-shape dogs and out-of-shape self a short distance away from the shade into the bright yellow, drought-anguished, windy country, the alkaline gray dust rising from your boots. The dogs gulp water at every opportunity from the offering of your cupped hand, and again you start to realize — slowly at first, but then in a hurry — that summer is fully behind you now, this year's summer gone forever, even though it may yet be the hottest week of the year. Beware the rattlesnakes.

And when a flock of September sharptails launches in front of you, with their distinctive laugh going away, and you fire and tumble one or sometimes two — the snowy-chested birds seeming even larger than ever after the small sky-piercing torpedoes of the doves — summer is fully gone.

In its own way, the heat helps you in this adjustment. By late morning it is already too hot to hunt, and you retire to the clattering shade of cottonwoods, many of which still possess deep green leaves but some of which already show yellowing or even browning leaves. You nap there with your dogs panting locomotive-breathed beside you, plopped down belly cooled and early season tender footed in that shade, and with the shining brilliance beyond.

Your mind is still sluggish, as slow as the doves are fast. And some of the covey birds that get up, the Huns and sharpies, are still too young to shoot, a little too unformed. It's best to ease into it. Lying in the shade reading, I encounter a passage in a short story by Eudora Welty in which she compares the color of a faded pink rose to that of the tongue of a panting bird dog.

October, the second half of the first half. The case can be made that this is the best month in that almost everything comes into season now — pheasants, waterfowl, even a little antelope on the side, as well as deer and elk — a lovely distraction, a crescendo of wild meat approaching later in the month. And furthering the case for October-as-peak is the incredible foliage, particularly along the river bottoms where the birds are often to be found: crimson chokecherry, yellow cottonwood, clear blue skies, with snow dusting the distant mountains now, good hard frosts each morning and the geese heading south, calling each night.

It is not uncommon in October, with an antelope iced down in the big ice chest in the back — in those years when I have been fortunate enough to find one — for me to stop in the ever-more-yellow prairie and with the colder, more northerly wind in

my face, to park not far from one of the windscreens of thirsty cottonwoods that signifies the presence of an autumn-shallow riffing river and creep toward it, shotgun broken open for safety and loaded with steel shot, dog on a leash (they are, after all, naughty big pointers, better at running powerfully ahead than anything else), and creep into that hedge of whippy cottonwoods — my heart pounding surely beyond its middle-aged limits as I hear a nervous gabbling of the ducks cloistered just on the other side of that screen, so close now that perhaps I could catch one with a lasso, were there room to throw. The dog is panting, coughing, frantic at being so restrained, and at hearing the birds — hopefully, they cannot hear him over the sound of the rifles — and then we step — burst, really — through the last of that screened cover, announcing ourselves. The raft of ducks converts instantly into a tower of ducks, and then a tornado of ducks, ascending; and yet look, a small miracle, one of them is falling from the tornado, pale belly bright and downward-moving against the all-else rise of flashing emerald, earth color, violet, and black duck color; and then, from higher up and farther out, another one falls, hitting the water with a splash, and I unsnap the dog and he hits the river like an arrow fired by an archer.

But duck water is rare in this country — rarer each year, in the continuing and historic drought — and the October days are more often spent following the upland birds. It's the month when pheasant season opens — the showcase species for my pointers, the rooster pheasants being the

only creature in the world, perhaps save for maybe a cheetah, that can flat outrun these dogs; and here in their seventh *Continued on next page*





Season *continued from page 46* year of existence, my hard-headed dogs are finally just about ready to make their peace with this fact, and are learning when to run full throttle and when to skulk and sneak and pussyfoot along. It almost doesn't seem fair: Each year there's a new crop of birds — brilliant with the instinct of their long existence in the world, but newcomers nonetheless — while the dogs now have seven seasons under their belts, as well as their own blue-chip databank of instinct, and by now have seen, on these same familiar fields, pretty much everything the pheasants can and cannot, and will and will not, do.

As the new snow on the tops of the distant mountains — the Beartooths, the Crazies, the Big Belts, Little Belts, Absarokas and even the Rockies themselves — summons the blood to a wondering and joyful heart's leap, so too does that amazing moment when, after your dog has tricked the pheasant into giving up the running game and hunkering down to hide, and when, heart thrashing, you and the dog both stand over that hidden and completely unseen bird, and yet knowing, godlike, of his certain presence and precise location — the bird's heart thrashing as hard as your own, and with the tension so electric that anything, anything at all, will spring the bird into the sky now, and you stand there, thinking: How can my old heart take any more of this? How?

You take a deep breath. Sometimes you look away for a second, back toward those snowy mountains and the blue sky and the rattle of the yellow leaves, trying to remember it, trying to absorb and inhale and consume it, trying to embed it so deeply that it will be with you even after you are gone, and you, in it; and then you look back down to the moment at hand — the dog still quivering like an arrow that has just been fired into a stump — and almost gingerly, you nudge the tuft of grass with the tip of your toe, and the giant bird appears from the grass like a dream created.

The bird's coal-red eyes fix on yours in the fiercest of glares as he rises, wings flapping furiously, copper-and-black banner of tail unfurling beneath him, the priestly white collar so clearly visible, and the violet-and-crimson-and-emerald head, with the bird peeling away from you now, further confusing and discombobulating you. The rooster is crowing and cackling, daring you, challenging you and your fading old heart. But you remember to shoot in front of the bird, aiming not at the spectacle, the incredible pageant of color that is the bird, but instead a short ways into the future; and when the wings stop flapping suddenly and the flight is no more, and the bird is falling, you praise your dog, congratulating his or her excellence, and command the retrieve.

All birds are beautiful, coming back to you in your dog's mouth, but there is no dog gift, no present quite as beautiful as that of a pheasant, with the bright iridescent head and the long elegant sweep of tail feathers, and the joy and pride and confidence in the dog's eyes as well as some other unnamable thing, some ancient thing. And again, out here in this open country, you are a part of it in October.

Thirty-five-dollar-a-night hotel room, a flickering ball game on the television and falling asleep well before nine, both dogs warming the foot of the bed,



snoring quietly. The next day carries you farther into the interior, into the paradoxical knife edge of greater contentment and greater loneliness, deeper into the hunting season.

The dogs and I pass an abandoned school, Depression-era. What kind of adults did these children grow into, I wonder, staring around at the now completely uninhabited landscape. The chain halyard on a flagpole 70 years flagless still bangs in the wind — as if the children have only gone out to recess — and I remember with sudden clarity and surprise a childhood friend who died young, whom I have not thought of in perhaps a quarter century. Ghosts, another of October's prairie migrants.

Later in the day, the dogs and I walk up on two golden eagles sitting in the branches of a cottonwood. The eagles lunge forward into flight, breaking the rotting limbs when they lift off, and in the heat and wind I am dazzled, confused — two birds rising, and two great limbs crashing to the ground. I feel invisible, and though it is again a lonely feeling, it is one that is, I think, good for the soul, and particularly accessible out here.

Nearer to dusk, I stop near a bench of public land I wish to hunt, a place I've never hunted before — the ground before me appears overgrazed, and the creek banks eroded by cattle hooves, but with a nice chokecherry thicket on the hillside — though first I want to listen to one of the baseball playoff games. The Astros, the team of my childhood, have squeaked into the playoffs and are improbably leading the mighty Cardinals. The old man, Roger Clemens, is on the mound, injured and ancient, with a full count against a young slugger. He tries to rocket a fastball past him one more time, as he has done so many tens of thousands of times before; but this time, this one time, it doesn't quite work out, and the Cards advance to the World Series and to their appointment with destiny and the Boston Red Sox.

Years ago, I would never have sat there in the car, so near to day's end with hunting still to be done, and listened so comfortably to something as fleeting and irrelevant as a baseball game. I would have been out charging the hills, pounding the hills, hunting hard all the way through the day's end.

But now the ballgame is over, and I still have 20 or so minutes. I take little speckled Point out toward those chokecherries, where he finds for me a single sharptail, which I hit with a long second shot. He retrieves it, and as we walk back toward the truck, a long skein of tundra swans passes overhead, flying low and slow, descending to open water. He lifts his head, starts to run after them, then just stops and watches until they are too small, too far away to see, disappearing into the dusk and the velvet folds of the foothills, as if into a cave for the night. ★

Rick Bass is a novelist and nonfiction writer in Troy, Mont. A longer version of this essay first appeared in The Wide Open: Prose, Poetry, and Photographs of the Prairie (University of Nebraska Press, 2008). This story was featured in Montana Outdoors, the Magazine of Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, September-October 2010 issue. Reprinted with permission. For more information on Montana hunting and other outdoor activities, visit Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks at www.fwp.mt.gov.

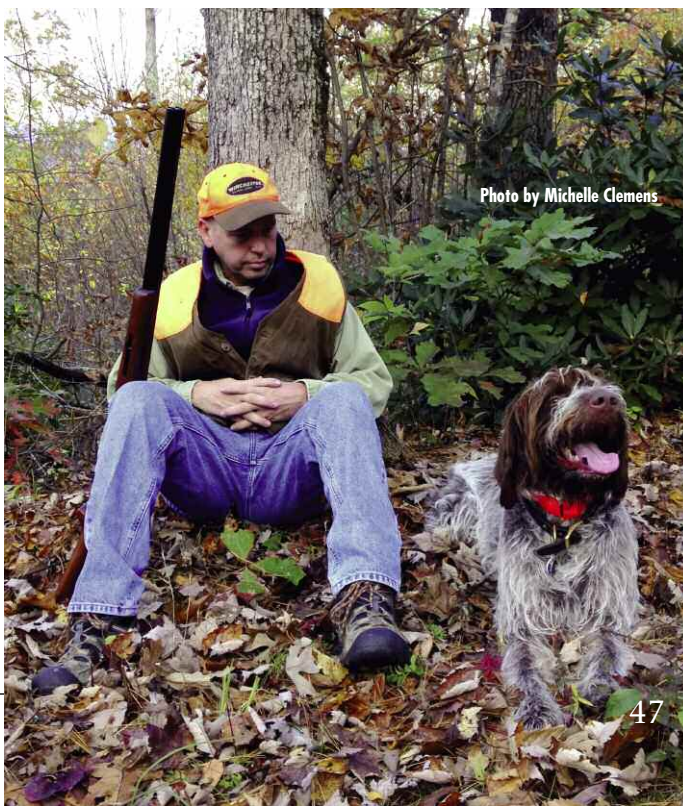


Photo by Michelle Clemens

Dreams do come true ...

Brie

2016 #1 WIREHAired POINTING GRIFFON*

2015 #1 WIREHAired POINTING GRIFFON BITCH**

2015 NATIONAL SPECIALTY WINNER

RESERVE BEST IN SHOW WINNER

MULTIPLE GROUP WINNER



Beautifully presented by Amy Rutherford. Our sincere appreciation to **Judge Mr. Carl Gene Liepmann** for this memorable honor.



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Owned by Donna & Gino Troy | Bred by Kristi Rogne, Whiskeytown Sporting Dogs

*Breed & All Breed, 1/2016 ; **All Breed 12/2015