

# *The Gun Dog Supreme*

NEWS BULLETIN of the WIREHAired POINTING GRIFFON CLUB OF AMERICA  
EDUCATION & RESEARCH FOUNDATION

<http://www.gundogsupreme.org>

April 2010

Volume 85, Number 2

April 2010



**Beaumont of the Sand Hill owner Ken Hurtig**

(Photographer: Josh Stokes)

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## **LETTER FROM THE EDITOR**

First off I need to apologize for a late issue, life has a way of getting in the way of what you would like to get done.

While hunting in the back woods of Wisconsin last fall Ken Hurtig and John Pitlo ran in to another hunter while pursuing grouse. Like most of the folks we run into while enjoying our hobby they turn out to be great people. His name was Lane Hokanson and the gentleman with him was Josh Stokes.

Now like most of us Lane carried a gun to even the odds while chasing grouse but Josh was only carrying a very nice SLR 35mm digital camera. The advantage was definitely in the grouse's favor. As it turned out Josh was a professional photographer from **stokesfoto** and was following Lane (a grouse hunting guide) around trying to get some great shots of hunting dogs. The stars must have been aligned just right for Ken and John because Josh was kind enough to take some great shots of their dogs also. Some of these photos are shown in this issue. Front cover, Back cover, and pg 8. So if you are around Minneapolis MN or north woods of WI and would like to find out if Josh will be out in the woods too you can contact him at [stokesfoto@gmail.com](mailto:stokesfoto@gmail.com)

*Until we meet again with  
dogs at our sides  
Greg Hurtig*

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Printed bi-monthly, the GDS is included with a membership to the WPGCA. Subscriptions are \$40.00/year and due at the start of each year. Subscriptions and requests for back issues should be sent to:

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Include the name of the dog and owner, and who took the photo. Digital photos are required; preferred size is 1024 x 768 pixels. If scanned use 300dpi (grayscale). You can email them or mail on a disk/CD.

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## Health Insurance for Your Griffon: Is It Time?

by  
*Rem DeJong*



**Brinker of Indian Creek** prepares to head for home under the watchful eye of an Animal Referral Center veterinary assistant.

Photo by owner, Rem DeJong

The news was not good. My number one bird dog and best buddy, Mr. Brinker, had been limping on his left hind leg for almost three weeks. It seemed to come and go, but it definitely was not going away. The vet confirmed that the problem was serious—a partially torn ACL. He described some treatment options, each with a fancy acronym like MRIT and TPLO. (When your vet starts talking in alphabet soup, you know it's not going to be cheap.) This was August; Mr. Brinker was only five years old and in the prime of his hunting career, so what to do? My local vet, Dr. Dale Aho, explained that he performed the MRIT procedure, but it was not recommended for large, athletic dogs. He recommended the Tibial Plateau Leveling Osteotomy (translate \$\$\$) as the most effective for

large athletic dogs like Brinker. He did not perform it himself; he referred me to a specialty clinic 230 miles away in Appleton WI., the Fox Valley Animal Referral Center. I checked out the website:

The Fox Valley Animal Referral Center is a state-of-the-art veterinary hospital that is ready to comfort, care and cure 24 hours a day, each and every day of the year. Our team of board certified specialists and highly trained doctors and staff provide advanced medical care for the thousands of patients referred to us each year by primary care veterinarians in Wisconsin, Minnesota and Michigan.

After consulting with other vets and dog owners, I took the plunge. About \$4,000.00 later, Mr. Brinker hobbled out of the hospital and we headed home for a couple months of rehab. Had we lived close by, that rehab could have included additional expensive care such as hydrotherapy on a water treadmill designed specifically for dogs, massage and custom strength and conditioning training.



**Brinker of Indian Creek endures recovery**  
Photo by Rem DeJong

During a follow-up visit with my local vet, I commented that my 95 year old father would never comprehend spending that kind of money on a dog—even a darn good huntin’ dog like Mr. Brinker. Dr. Aho nodded and acknowledged in his dry Finnish humor: “Yup, if it were my dad, two would take a walk out to the woods, and only one would come back.”

My experience illustrates several of the reasons for the growing interest in pet health insurance. First, veterinary medicine is advancing rapidly and new, hi-tech procedures to save a dog’s life or restore health and functioning are emerging every year. Cancer treatment and orthopedic surgery are prime examples. The cost of veterinary procedures and specialty clinic services

can exceed \$10,000 or more. Second, the role of dogs in society is changing from utilitarian and practical functions to social and emotional ones. Dogs are surrogate children; we dote on them and lavish them with toys, treats and gear. For many, “economic euthanasia” is simply not acceptable. Third, even when analyzed in cold economic terms, by the time a dog reaches prime hunting age, an owner has invested a great deal of time and money, so the choice between a few thousand dollars for vet bills vs. starting all over with a new, untested dog makes the price of veterinary medicine more attractive.

So does pet health insurance make sense? That depends on whom you talk to. I looked into pet insurance about ten years ago and concluded that the answer was a definite, “No.” Given what one paid in premiums, deductibles and co-pays for the benefits received, it just wasn’t worth it. In general, costs for veterinary service were lower back then too. But times may be changing. Judged by popularity, pet health insurance is growing rapidly. According to the *Wall Street Journal*, about one million pets are now insured in the U.S. and the rate is growing at about 10% a year. Liz Pulliam Weston of MSN MONEY, reports that the oldest pet insurer, Veterinary Pet Insurance, has seen its revenue climb at an average annual rate of 26.8% since 1998. The company, which has about 71% of the U.S. pet insurance market, had gross sales of \$149 million in 2007. According to a recent analysis published in JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN VETERINARY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION, expenditures for veterinary services in real dollars virtually doubled between 1980 and 2005. Veterinary costs are predicted to continue rising, so pet insurance is being promoted as a means of managing risk. Sources such as CONSUMER REPORTS continue to advise against pet health insurance for most people. In a 2009 article, they present this illustration:

Say you buy PetCare's QuickCare Gold 90% policy for a domestic shorthair kitten. You'll pay \$25.95 a month (purebreds and dogs cost more). If the kitten needs a \$3,000 surgical procedure the next year, you'll owe a \$100 deductible, after which the company will pay 90 percent of the cost up to \$2,500. Your total outlay will be \$311 in premiums plus \$600 in co-pays and your deductible. If that same surgery is needed when the cat is 8, the plan will pay the same amount. But you'll be out about \$2,500 in premiums paid during those eight years (assuming the premiums did not rise). And, of course, older pets are more likely to need expensive medical care.

*Consumer Reports Money Adviser* issue: July 2009

Although the Consumer Reports position may be true for most people, Griffon owners are likely to have more invested in their dogs and be committed to spending more in order to keep their dogs in top shape. One consideration is how much you can afford to pay out of pocket for veterinary expenses. If your dog has a serious injury or illness and the veterinary cost is \$6,000.00, could you pay it? The more savings reserves you have, the less attractive pet health insurance appears. How likely is it that you might face such a stiff bill? One young woman with whom I spoke described getting a puppy from the local animal shelter. Her mother got pet insurance; eight months later, the dog was hit by a car and had substantial veterinary bills. "No way, could I have afforded that," she said; she was convinced that insurance is great.

Condition	Average Fee
1. Intervertebral disk disease	\$2,844
2. Lung cancer	\$2,032
3. Gastric torsion (bloat)	\$1,955
4. Foreign body ingestion (small intestine)	\$1,629
5. Cruciate rupture	\$1,517
6. Foreign body ingestion (stomach)	\$1,398
7. Cataract (senior)	\$1,244
8. Bone cancer	\$1,059
9. Pin in broken limb	\$1,000
Adapted from: <a href="http://articles.moneycentral.msn.com/Insurance/AssessYourNeeds/ShouldYouBuyPetInsurance">http://articles.moneycentral.msn.com/Insurance/AssessYourNeeds/ShouldYouBuyPetInsurance</a>	

Another consideration is exactly what a policy does and does not cover. Pre-existing problems and hereditary conditions, such as hip dysplasia are normally excluded, although one insurer, Embrace Pet Insurance, covers hereditary and chronic conditions. The older the animal, the higher the premiums will be. Some insurers don't cover pets older than 9; others levy stiff surcharges. The policies typically have deductibles, co-pays and caps that limit how much will be paid out annually. So, for that \$6,000 hypothetical bill, you would pay monthly premiums, a typical deductible of \$100-\$500, a co-pay of 20% and there may be a cap of \$5,000.00 or more. The more generously you structure your policy, the higher the monthly premium. Here's an example:

<b>Embrace Pet Insurance</b>				
		<b>Bill</b>		<b>\$6,000.</b>
<b>Accident</b>	<b>Yes</b>			
<b>Illness</b>	<b>yes</b>			
<b>Annual Maximum</b>		<b>\$10,000.00</b>		
<b>Annual Deductable</b>		<b>\$500.00</b>		<b>\$500.00</b>
<b>Per Visit CoPay</b>		<b>20%</b>		<b>1200</b>
<b>Premiums</b>		<b>\$25.73</b>		<b>308.76</b>
<b>Cost for year</b>				<b>\$2,008.76</b>
<b>Saving</b>				<b>\$3,991.24</b>

The policy illustration is for a 10 week old pup. I used Embrace because they cover hereditary conditions like hip dysplasia. Assuming that Pup had an accident or serious illness during the first year with a bill of \$6,000.00, the owner would pay about \$2000.00 that year. For some, the monthly premium provides a worthwhile reassurance against the possibility of a major catastrophe. However, if you have an eight year-old dog, you're out of luck. Embrace will provide accident related insurance, but not illness insurance for dogs that old.

One of the forces driving the push for pet health insurance is the emergence of high tech veterinary procedures and the barrier of what most pet owners are able to pay. In order for exotic procedures to be viable, there must be enough clients who are willing and able to pay the fee. According to AVETERINARIAN'S GUIDE TO PET HEALTH INSURANCE, their research shows that the company's clients with pet health insurance on average:

- Had 41% higher stop-treatment levels
- Scheduled 40% more veterinary visits
- Spent twice as much on veterinary care over the life of their pet

The research compared pet insurance policyholders with uninsured clients comparable in age, education and socio-economic level who were conscientious pet care-givers. For the veterinarian, it's not simply the capacity to make a profit, it's also the frustration of telling a client, "We have the technology to save your dog's life and restore functioning, but you can't afford it."

As an owner, it's relatively easy, in the abstract, to say that you'll only spend X dollars on veterinary care. After that, it's euthanasia. Real life is something else. When the same Mr. Brinker for whom I had shelled out about \$4000.00 for TPLO surgery developed bloat, I hustled him into the vet, who performed life-saving surgery on the spot. It was "only" about \$1,000.00 this time. I couldn't look into those big brown eyes and say, "Sorry, old pal, but I've spent \$5,460.00 on your veterinary care in the last seven months, so this is the end of the trail." I just hand over my credit card. Hey, with

luck, we'll shoot another 100 birds together over the next four years—they'll only cost another \$54.60/bird!

Still, as tough as the decision might be, the reality is that pet health insurance is not like human health care. Euthanasia is an option, and at some point it is the responsible option. And while the indigent person cannot be refused health care for life-threatening conditions, the same cannot be said for a dog whose owner cannot pay. Given that veterinary science will continue to advance and costs will increase, insurance

will become more appealing to many. Although still not widespread, some employers are now offering pet health insurance as a fringe benefit option. A 2009 *Wall Street Journal* article stated that around 19% of employers offer the policies as a voluntary benefit, according to a survey conducted this year by the International Foundation of Employee Benefit Plans. If you are thinking that pet health insurance might be attractive, here are some issues to consider when comparing plans:

- What are the premiums, deductibles, co-pays and caps on payment?
- Exclusions: Does the company cover hereditary conditions such as hip dysplasia?
- Existing conditions are generally not covered



**Pet Insurance makes the most sense for a new pup.**

Photo by Rem DeJong

Check out several companies. You can compare companies and prices on-line, simply by entering some basic data about your dog and specifying various parameters such as the maximum annual amount and the deductible. Keep in mind that pet insurance is essentially a means of managing risk. Whether or not it makes sense for you as an individual, there are many other means of reducing the health risks for your griffon that every owner can practice:

- Reduce the risk of accident by training your dog to come, whoa, and down.
- Crate train your dog and crate him when you travel.
- Provide a safe daily living environment
- Provide a healthy diet and proper exercise—keep the excess weight off.
- Practice preventive care with your local veterinarian
- Maintain savings for possible veterinary medical emergency

So the bottom line is that pet health insurance is becoming a more attractive option for dog owners. It probably makes the most sense for someone with a new pup rather than for the owner of an older dog, given the issues of preexisting conditions and higher premiums. It may now be an attractive option for some, but based on my research, I would not endorse it across the board.

## Northwest Griffon Club January 23, 2010 Test

by

*Dennis Carlson*

I turned off Interstate 5 at Willows, California heading east through town the way I always do to get to Warren and Helen Webster's home in Gridley. Most of the



**Rumor** with handler Francis Marsh  
Photographer: Bob Rittenhouse

way through town I came onto a big sign saying, "ROAD CLOSED". It had been raining unusually hard previously so maybe that was it. So I got back onto the freeway and continued heading south for the next exit that would take me east. That one was closed too. The third road through Colusa was still open but the road crew was stopping traffic one way because the water was too high on one lane. I still made it in time for dinner.

We tested four German Wire-haired Pointers on Saturday. Three Griffons had been expected but ended up not being able to make it.

We started by searching the field with the three Natural Ability dogs. Rumor (RLB's Something To Talk About) was Handled by Francis Marsh. Eli (Cadenberg Enzo V. Sep) was handled by Gary Bonini. Flirt (RLB's Flirting With Fame) was also handled by Francis Marsh with Diane Marsh helping with the two dogs in the field. The dogs all did well searching and went on to show us intense pointing. Eli was not able to switch gears for tracking but did acknowledge a few spots along the way at a flat out run and did find the bird. They all swam without hesitation.

After lunch we ran Houston (Weidenhugel Houston V. Joey) handled by Francis Marsh in the Intermediate Hunting Dog Test. Francis was busy. Houston did pretty well in the field but had trouble retrieving and giving up the birds to Francis. The water conditions were excellent due to the recent flooding. Houston had not been exposed to ducks and we were not able to show him what we expected. He also turned off the duck retrieve at the shot and refused further commands. Not a good day at the water.

Putting on a test is a group effort. Silke Alberts and Warren Webster organized the test logistics. Silke Alberts and Dennis Carlson were the judges under the supervision of senior judges Rolf Bensler and Warren Webster. Sharron Johns and Jim Neuffer apprenticed. Bob Rittenhouse was our photographer. We are all grateful for Warren and Helen Webster's hospitality. Dinner at their home was an outstanding good time. They also boarded several judges.





*Welcome to warm and sunny California?*

Photographer: Bob Rittenhouse

## **COCKLEBUR CONCRETE**

**By**  
*Hank Carriger*

It was a Saturday in early November and I was hunting “filter strips” in southwest Iowa with my two griffons, Buddie (April of Valley House) and Belle (Annabelle of Two Rivers Crossing). If you don’t know, filter strips are strips of grass, preferably native grasses, planted under a government program to filter the runoff from the surrounding crop fields into ditches or creeks with running water. Normally a farmer will “filter” both sides of the creek so the strips allow a round trip hunt with no dead head back to a vehicle. The strips are great pheasant habitat with food, cover and water concentrated in a small area.

The one drawback of hunting filter strips is crossing the creek to make the return trip. I mentioned running water but I did not mention that I’m an old white man that can’t jump. I normally scout the areas before I hunt so I know where to find the log, beaver dam, bridge or narrow spot to cross the creek. On this Saturday, I had hunted down one side of the creek and headed towards a narrow spot in the creek where I usually cross.

When I got to the crossing area, I noticed that both of the creek banks were covered with cockleburrs. Because of recent rains which raised the water flow in the creek, it was cross at the cocklebur patch or dead head back. The dogs followed me across the creek and picked up several burrs in their coats. Buddie has great wirehair and she can normally pick out the burrs and spit them out or the burrs would fall off of

her during the hunt. Belle, on the other hand, has less wirehair, a soft head and soft leg cover. She could not clean herself.

Immediately after crossing the creek, I began removing the burrs off of Belle. I was not paying attention to Buddie but did not notice anything unusual. I finished with Belle, checked out Buddie and may have had to remove a burr or two from her coat. We then hunted back to the vehicle. I did a quick check for burrs on both dogs at the truck, drove to another area and hunted another filter strip on the way home.

Late the next day, Buddie began showing signs of minor intestinal distress. She would not eat on Monday morning, was listless and had several unproductive bowel movements. Fearing that she had stomach torsion or had eaten something that did not pass through, I rushed her to the vet. An x-ray showed a biomass that looked similar to normal food in the large intestine. Concerned, the vet recommended that I take Buddie to a surgical clinic for more x-rays. Again, the x-rays showed what appeared to be 5-6 inches of natural biological material in an unnatural mass. Since Buddie was showing so much distress, the surgeon recommended immediate surgery.

After surgery, the vet explained that the mass was 5 inches of cockleburrs interlocked like Velcro into a concrete hard mass. The burrs had so irritated and rotted the intestine that three feet of the intestine had to be removed. After some slight complications, Buddie's system started up again and she fully recovered. I, on the other LES-SON LEARNED: Respect the lowly cocklebur and make sure to quickly clean any burs from the dogs as soon as you see them.



**Beaumont of the Sand Hills** with owner Ken Hurtig  
(Photographer : Josh Stokes )

## Ken Hurtig

### Judges profile

*by Jon Coil*

It is hard to come up with the most memorable hunting trip or moments with dogs. But, after some thinking about it, the one that comes to mind is a trip with my 6 month old new pup named Abe (Abbott of Dutchmen's Hollow), his mother, Avaj of Iamonia and John Pitlo. The trip was to southwestern Iowa. We were hunting on a farm that had several small ditch areas. This area was well known for both quail and pheasants.

We were walking down a ditch, and on John's side Avaj pointed a covey of quail. John flushed the birds and they came straight at me through timber. This was not one of my best shooting exhibitions. We went on to hunt up the singles. Abe kept jumping back and forth across the ditch that was getting much wider as we kept going. On one of his jumps he did not make it. I was watching him as he was jumping and he just froze as he landed. I did not know at the moment what was happening. For a moment I thought he landed on something and could not move. Then I noticed he was on point. The bird was almost right under Abe's nose as he landed. It then flushed. John got that one. We did not go down the ditch much farther and he went on point one more time. As I stood there with great pride, his mother came and honored the point. John came over to try to take pictures of this event. We were sure it was a quail. We were standing around admiring the event, when a big rooster pheasant came bursting out of the cover. Yes, we got the bird.

A short time later we were walking down a different ditch that had a good amount of water in it. It was frozen over with a thin layer of Ice. Just the right amount that the dog could walk on. Abe kept going to hunt with his mother on the other side of the ditch. I would call him back. One time he jumped off a high bank and went through the ice. I was scared as I stood there and could see him swimming under the ice. I rushed up to the edge of the ditch and started stripping off my hunting coat when I saw him come back up through the ice hole he went through. Abe swam over to the edge by John. John laid down and reached over the bank and pulled Abe back up the bank. I was sure the pup was going to be afraid of the water after that first bad experience. We proceeded down the ditch and came up on a small beaver dam area that had open water. Abe jumped in and swam across to me as if nothing had happened. In later years, Abe liked to put his head in the water over the edge of the fishing boat to see where the fish came from.

This was not the end of the many, many amazing things this pup did in his lifetime. I could, and maybe should, write a book about him. **ALL I KNOW IS IF IT WAS NOT FOR THE GRIFFON BREEDING PROGRAM I WOULD NOT HAVE HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO BE OWNED BY SUCH A WONDERFUL DOG.**

KEN

## It's Just Natural Ability?

by

**Laura Gloor**

Ya, sure. This is your first hunting dog. You're not exactly 20 years old and the field is waist high in brush. It's about 80 degrees in the shade. It's not just a Natural ability test. So what exactly is it? It's the best day you could have because: you spent it with your dog!

Here's how it went for **Baobab**, my 15 month old, wire haired pointing griffon and me at the Heartland Chapter test in Wisconsin on September 11, 2009:  
The Field Test..

It's a small group, "Baobab" & me, plus my husband running "**Banoka**", Baobab's brother. I'm so nervous that I've made my dog a nut case too. The judges have a running order but are kind enough to ask "who wants to go first"? Me, me, me because my dog has almost ripped my arm out of the socket in his excitement and enthusiasm. So we're in the field at 8 am. The dew is heavy and we get wet to our tummies, (that's human tummy). No birds have been planted; the judges just want to see how your dog acts in a typical hunting setting. I'm instructed to say nothing to the dog. My dog is searching and loving these conditions. After about 15 minutes, we're told to "chill and wait where we are" while the next pair goes out. Well, my dog has never had to sit in a hunting field, and sometimes he does not understand English. "Rest, Baobab" had no affect on him, so it was more tugging on the leash and self-choking. At least we're in the shade.

Then, it's our turn again and I tell my dog to "hunt em' up". That dog loves those words. I'm told what direction to go. I can see a pink ribbon on a bush which is close to where the pheasant has been planted. I head that way and the dog runs back towards us, but not close enough to scent the bird. I keep walking and sure enough, Baobab searches & gets the scent. This is really thick cover and there is no wind but he now knows there are feathers in the brush, and works the cover till he actually stops & points. After I finally find the bird, I'm told to flush up the bird and let the dog chase. The pheasant flies strong and far. Off runs the dog, chasing like the wind, off so far I can no longer see him. The tall men in the group have an advantage here. I've been in this scenario before: Baobab won't want to give up until he gets those feathers. He's such a good dog.... After about 5 minutes, I ask if I should call him. The judges still want me to give no commands and kindly tell me to just walk away because the dog will follow, eventually? Now, that's my dog out there, so far I can't see him, and I have to walk away? Boy, was that hard to do. I walk away but my head spins as much as physically possible to catch a glimpse of Baobab. Sure enough, here he comes, no wait, there he goes, no, here he comes. And so it went for many minutes. Finally, Baobab did give up the chase and came back. I'm a puddle of sweat and worry, but on we go.....More points, more waiting, lots of sweat, but dog hugs along the way that tell me my dog is having a terrific morning. It was exhilarating.

So, for now folks, that's the field test of Baobab. It really did go well. Stay tuned for the water work and the rest of the test.

Signed,

Another rookie handler,

## PHEASANT FEST, 2010

by

**Anita Andrus**

When I learned the WPGCA was having a booth at this year at Pheasants Forever's "Pheasant Fest" I was elated. That's because attending a Pheasant Fest extravaganza has been on my "bucket list" ("to do list") for several years. I thought, "Here's my chance to go and I can help the club too."

The event, which was held in Des Moines, Iowa on Feb. 26-28, was Pheasants Forever's sixth annual national convention. It is a combination trade show, celebration and fundraiser with over 20,000 people attending. Anything remotely related to pheasants or hunting was showcased with 232 booths. In addition, there were 11 different seminars to attend each hour during the entire event. Some of the seminar topics included hunting dog training, pheasant cooking demonstrations, habitat enhancement, how to plan a hunting trip, duck calling, pheasant feather crafts, and animal health tips from a veterinarian. There was definitely something for everyone.

The event kicked off at noon on Friday with the "Bird Dog Parade" that featured almost every hunting breed that I ever heard of and some I had not, such as the Blue Picardy Spaniel or the Deutsche Wachtelhund. Our club had 3 participants and included John Pitlo (IA) and **AYLA OF ANCIENT KENNEL**, Andy Yeast (IA) and **BEKA OF NICHOLS CREEK**, and Jim Crouse (OH) and **BUCKEYE B.OF MID-NIGHT SUN**



Left to Right : Ken Hurtig, **Ayla of Ancient Kennel** owner (photographer) John Pitlo, Lyla and Glenn Lehrer, Tawna Skinner, Andy Yeast with **Beka of Nichols Creek**



Andy Yeast with **Beka of Nichols Creek**, Dave Finely, Howard Vincent President of Pheasant Forever , Glen Leher , John Pito with **Ayla of Ancient Kennel** ,Bill Barglof with **Bennett of Midnight Sun** , Dean Umphery. (Photographer *Ken Hurtig*)

Pheasant Fest was truly a family affair with many women and children enjoying the booths involved with hunting as well as wildlife art, breed club booths with live dogs and puppies and wild game food booths. There was also an area especially for kids called the Youth Village that had games and activities such as archery, gun safety, a laser shot booth, live animal displays and a casting booth.

The idea to participate in the festival came from WPGCA judge and board member, Glenn Lehrer (MT). He suggested to the BOD. that we have a booth to promote our "New" Wirehaired Pointing Griffon", as we are currently calling our dogs, and volunteered to conduct a seminar. Glenn had developed a power point presentation (written by him and designed by Rick Sodja) (MT) that he had used at a Pheasants Forever (PF) Youth event in Nebraska last summer. The rest, as they say, is history.

Glenn gave two, one hour seminars to a total of 35-40 people. The seminars were well received with many questions throughout the presentation. People who were really interested, stayed after the seminar to talk more about our club and the dogs.

Attending and helping with P.R. at the booth in addition to the dogs and owners that were in the "Bird Dog Parade" were:, Bill Barglof (IA) and **BENNETT OF MIDNIGHT SUN**, Tawna Skinner and Anita Andrus (ID), Dean Umphrey (IA), Ken Hurtig (WI), Dave Finley (IN), Glenn and Lyla Lehrer (MT).

Literally thousands of people streamed by our booth and viewed several slide shows (put together by Rem DeJong, (MI) and John Pitlo) that ran continuously on a large 32"

screen. We also handed out WPGCA business cards, information packets, history of the Wirehaired Pointing Griffon, past issues of the GDS, as well as flyers announcing our April field test in Baraboo, Wisconsin. Bill Barglof discovered a unique way of developing interest in our dogs by touring the show with “Benny” and whenever people stopped to pet his dog and ask “what breed of dog is that” he promptly gave them a WPGCA business card and directed them to our booth.

The live dogs though, were the big draw. Hunters, their spouses and children were all clamoring to pet them. The dogs were all well behaved—taking all the noise and chaos in stride, sometimes curling up on the cement floor at their handler’s feet as the herds of people stepped around them. Their calm temperament impressed onlookers, and as a result, some folks signed up to receive more information and/or spent up to an hour talking to a handler. John, Andy, Jim and Bill rarely got a chance to even sit down, we were so busy. Even the President and CEO of Pheasants Forever, Howard Vincent, spent twenty minutes at our booth, thanks to Glenn Lehrer who had met him last summer.

All of us that attended agreed that this was a worthwhile event to promote our club, our breeding program and our dogs. Plans are already being made for the club to have a booth at next year’s Pheasant Fest which will be held in Omaha, Nebraska. So, if you want to have some fun with other Griffoners, and see the largest concentration of khaki hunting shirts and ball caps you will ever see in one place, plan on going to Pheasant Fest 2011.

The club owes a big thank you to: John Pitlo for all his work coordinating our booth set-up, Ken Hurtig who provided the rug, table, chairs, and other amenities, Vivian Pitlo who provided home baked goodies for the volunteers, Andy and Cheney Yeast who housed volunteers, Glenn Lehrer for his enthusiastic presentation, Tina Molt (MA) for the WPGCA banner and all the other volunteers who made the event successful.

Andy Yeast with **Beka of Nichols Creek** during the parade of dogs.

(Photographer *Ken Hurtig*)





**Ayla of Ancient Kennel** handing John Pitlo a woodcock (Photographer : Josh Stokes )