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Buckeye “B” of the Midnight Sun in hot pursuit of a duck during a recent Spring Training Day. Owner Jim Crouse.

Photo by Rem DeJong

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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

For most of us, the fall hunting season is finally underway. It couldn't have come soon enough. There is nothing more exciting to our dogs, than watching us loading up all our gear and hitting the road. It means another chance to see old friends, make new ones and stack up another season of hunting memories. Please share your stories and adventures with us. It's a great way for club members to keep in touch. You can send your articles or photos to Rem DeJong (see sidebar for further information).

In this issue of the GDS you'll find two articles that pay tribute to Dr. Jaromir Dostal who passed away unexpectedly last month. Dr. Dostal as many of you may know, was very instrumental in helping introduce Cesky Fousek bloodlines into our Griffons. Dr. Dostal was an animal geneticist by training, and the long-time Cesky Fousek breed warden in his native Czech Republic. The articles submitted by Joan Bailey and Jim Seibel outline how this very special man became involved with our club, the friendships that were forged, and details his important and lasting contributions to the WPGCA. We hope to continue this wonderful partnership through his son Pavel Dostal, and wish to extend our heartfelt condolences to his family for their loss. He will be missed by many.

Finally, for those of you who have been following the canine genetics project, a joint effort between our club and the Cornell University School of Veterinary Medicine, please log onto the **www.wpgca.org** website for the latest news. There you will find helpful information including blood collection protocols and how to appropriately photograph and catalog all participating Griffons. Our goal is to include every club dog to build a strong database for the Cornell geneticists to work with. Your participation is strongly encouraged!

Anna C. Higgins

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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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Dr. Jaromir Dostal



February 14, 1940 - September 23, 2010

The message arrived at 9:00 a.m. Pacific Standard Time that Dr. Dostal died today in the Czech Republic (9/23/10); just one day after having suffered a stroke while hunting wild boar—which he loved to do. I am so sad for losing him, for his family, his colleagues and all of his friends

When we made the decision to inject new blood into our Griffons, it was the Cesky Fousek that we decided on, after advice from the President of the Deutsch Kurzhaar Club (German Shorthair) who was helping Joe Nadeker (originally from the C.R. and a member of our breeding committee) to perhaps inject some German Shorthair into our Griffons. That was Dr. Dvorak and he thought the Fousek would be better than Shorthair because decades earlier the Fouseks had used Griffon blood to refresh their breed, plus the wire coat would be easier for us. He introduced Joe to the Cesky Fousek breed warden. That was Dr. Dostal who began the search for the first of about eight adult, tested dogs that came across the ocean to us and brought our breed back to a fine standard. It was Dr. Dostal who found “our” ERIK, and the others that came, such as HELA, DAN, AXA and more.

In March 2001, I had the great fortune to meet him at our annual test in Idaho. What a lovely man! To have all the knowledge he had, plus a marvelous personality; well, he was very special. And he loved the American connection; hosting a visit from Jim Seibel and John Pitlo several times in the C.R. so they could see the Fouseks in action. He enjoyed being with all of us in Idaho; he liked the American Griffoniers! I remember on Saturday evening I’d gone to my room to clean up and was walking down a hall in the Best Western when I saw him. I was on my way to the Webster’s room for you-know-what! I indicated to Jaromir that he should come with me. He was a bit hesitant, but I insisted. When we walked through the bedroom door we walked into a noisy, boisterous bunch with glasses in their hands. Jaromir grinned from ear to ear and soon had a glass in his hand!

Dr. Dostal played a pivotal role in saving our breed. I will miss him in this life more than I can say.

Joan Bailey, September 23, 2010

Tribute to Dr. Jaromir Dostal

By
Jim Seibel

We were all very saddened to learn of the sudden death of Dr. Jaromir Dostal on September 23, 2010. While doing what he loved, hunting wild pigs, he was stricken with a brain aneurism, and after being airlifted to a hospital, died there.

Dr. Dostal was responsible for the good Cesky Fousek genes that are now a very important part of the WPGCA Griffon gene pool. He selected all of the dogs that were imported by the WPGCA and also provided the information that led to the selection of proven stud dogs whose semen was collected in the Czech Republic by his son, Pavel and shipped to the USA for our use.

Our great mentor, Joe Nadeker was the person responsible for locating Dr. Dostal through a mutual friend at the Czech University, Dr. Dvorak, a fellow professor. This began an almost 25 year relationship between the WPGCA and Dr. Dostal. Joe travelled to his native country, the Czech Republic for regular visits to see family and friends living there. During those visits, arrangements were made to purchase three proven males and four proven females. **Erik od Jezerak** was the first male selected and was purchased by John Lundberg.

In 2002, John Pitlo and I were sent by the club to the Czech Republic to meet with Dr. Dostal and attend the Kuna Memorial Universal test. This was the beginning of a new relationship with the WPGCA. The decision was made at this time to switch to collecting and freezing semen from the best quality males in the Cesky Fousek breed. Dr. Dostal was an animal geneticist at the Czech University. His influence with selective breeding of the Fousek was critical. Dr. Dostal's knowledge of kinology was recognized worldwide. He took several days of his time to educate John and myself in the science of kinology. He also introduced us to many influential members of the Fousek club in the Czech Republic.

A decision was made during the 2002 visit to extend an invitation to Dr. Dostal to come to the USA and present a seminar. That seminar was given in 2003 in Jerome, Idaho. Dr. Dostal discussed the history of the Cesky Fousek and the principles behind the development of the breed. All who attended got to know him as a very endearing person as well as an unusually knowledgeable kinologist. His sense of humor won him many friends. The weather was typical nasty Midwest late spring yet good for judging dogs in the field. We learned about conformation of our dogs. Everyone came away knowing much more than before.

John and I returned to the Czech Republic in 2006 to observe another Universal test and receive more tutoring from Dr. Dostal. More males were selected for semen collection. This visit was even more cordial than the first, as we spent time with the Dostal family and were even invited on a duck hunt in the district that Jaromir hunted. It was a very unique experience with the honoring of the game after the hunt and a dinner following. During these visits, there was never a shortage of good food and fine Pivo (beer). Pils-

ner beer was developed in the city of Pilsen. The consumption of Pivo at the breakfast before the tests began was traditional, as was the serving of a large meal. During this visit we were introduced to the methods by which Pavel and his veterinary partner collected semen. The method by which the semen was evaluated after freezing and thawing was shown to be state-of-the-art. We have seen the results of those efforts in the improved quality of the semen that we have received in recent shipments. Pavel also took us to visit the Veterinary Science Department at the Czech University to discuss hip dysplasia and the programs employed there to control it.

On this trip we again decided that Dr. Dostal should come to the USA in 2008. This time he would be joined by his wife Ludmilla. Dr. Dostal had attended the University of Minnesota for his masters degree. On this trip he and Ludmilla were able to spend time with graduate school friends. We are thankful that we were able to play a part in making this homecoming possible. At the end of their stay, Jaromir and Ludmilla visited the Pitlos in Iowa. One of the highlights of his trip was to hunt turkey with John. The team of John and Jaromir were successful in bagging a nice tom turkey with John doing the calling and Jaromir shooting the strutting bird. John had the bird plumage preserved and sent it Dr. Dostal and it is displayed prominently in the trophy room of his home.

The future of the Griffon in America was greatly enhanced due to efforts of a cooperative program started by Joe Nadeker and Dr. Jaromir Dostal. The fact that the Griffon played a key role in the historical recovery of the Cesky Fousek breed in the Czech Republic, makes it that much more satisfying to Czechs and Americans alike that the Czech Fousek is now playing a similar role in improving & stabilizing the Griffon in this country. We will continue our relationship with the Cesky Fousek club through Pavel Dostal. Pavel has been very helpful in getting owners of top quality males to allow collection and freezing of their semen. In addition, our friend Armando Carlos





has been making annual trips to the Czech Republic to obtain more Fouseks in his continued efforts to establish the breed in North America. We will continue to work with Armando in utilizing his dogs in our program when it fits our breeding plan. We will also do whatever it takes to aid him in his efforts.

In closing, while I am deeply saddened by the loss of a beloved friend in Jaromir, I also feel the joy of having had the opportunity to learn so much from him, and to have experienced a wonderful friendship through the years. May God be with his family now and always, as they deal with their greater loss of a husband and father.

Previous page: Dr. Dostal proudly displays his tom turkey. *Photo by John Pitlo*

Below: Senior Judge John Pitlo speaks with Dr. Jaromir Dostal at the Heartland Chapter Spring Test in 2008. *Photo by Tina Molt*

Upper left: Senior Judge Jim Seibel and **Boy Blue of the Hundgaard** with 2008 Judge's Seminar speaker Dr. Jaromir Dostal. *Photo by Rem DeJong*

Upper right: Discussing conformation at the 2008 Judge's seminar.

Next page below: Jaromir Dostal looks at **Stoneyridge Gem Stone** (NAT) with owner John Posthuma at the 2008 Heartland Chapter Spring Test. *Photo by Tina Molt*



Chasing Chippies

By
Rem DeJong

I had had my suspicions, but rolling up the driveway from our morning run, I knew for sure. Eyeing the vehicle warily from the corner of the garage roof was the first confirmed chipmunk of the year. He must have crawled up the slanting rain gutter, using the heat tape inside for traction, and now he perched on the shingled roof as cocky as could be. It was spring; the long wait was over and the annual seven-month long chippie war was officially on.

For a couple weeks now, Brinker and Burley had been showing signs of an impending skirmish. Casual, occasional sauntering outside had given way to diving through the dog door, stubby tails held high and stiff, as the griffons snuffled along the strip of bare ground the March sun had carved out along the foundation. The lumber pile behind the shed once again required daily checking out, even though I saw nary a track in the crusted snow. No longer content to just laze on the couch awaiting my return from the office, the boys now pestered Susan for frequent trips out back. They'd cruise the back yard only to come bursting back in through the gyrating dog door, looking wild-eyed and full of gusto. We might not have seen them, but the boys had surely scented the emergence of chipmunks. From now until November when the little varmints once more snuggle down in their burrows, life would have purpose again.

Oh sure, there's bird season (all of two months in these parts), but that's only a few times a week at best, and it requires, waiting for the old man to get his gear, loading up in the car, and driving for an hour. The chippies are right HERE! They perch on the front door step, only a couple feet on the other side of the glass door (screens don't last too long). They scurry across the patio and dive under the shed. The boys can hunt chippies all day, every day without leaving home. Yes, opening day of bird season is special, but if they could vote for a national holiday, first-chippie-sighting day would win, paws down.

Now, I know not everyone shares our enthusiasm for chipmunks. I was reminded of that the other Saturday morning while making small-talk with the cashier at the local Menards store. "Heard any robins yet?" she questioned, looking at the March sunshine streaming through the storefront.

"Matter of fact I heard one this morning, just as I was coming over here. Of course, around our house, the dogs don't care about the robins; it's the chipmunks that mean spring is here."

"I haven't seen any of those little bastards yet!" she snapped. I was a tad taken aback by the strong reaction, but it turned out she has a strawberry patch and a garden, so chippies are enemy number one. We have friends who trap them, shoot them, even poison them, but the resilient little critters keep on breeding. Our lawn has chippie trails worn into them running from various protective lairs to the bird feeders. We've made our peace with the little striped varmints. Susan gave up planting tulips some years ago.



Above: **Brinker of Indian Creek** tries to convince his Chippie friend to come out!

Next page: First chipmunk of spring and his frustrated nemesis (pictured below) begin their yearly ritual of chase, be chased, and one-upmanship. *Photos by Rem DeJong*

Daffodils bloom earlier and don't get bothered so much. The crocuses tend to get transplanted in some interesting spots, but after five months of snow cover, a flower anywhere is a welcome sight. So mostly, we live and let live, although Brinker and Burley do their best to kill. Once in a great while, they succeed—usually with one of the slow, fat dumb young ones, but for the most part it's the thrill of the chase.

Now, I can't fault the breeding committee for religiously selecting for game drive, but there are times when the chippie-focused prey drive gets overwhelming. A favorite escape tactic for a chippie with a griffon in hot pursuit is to dive into a downspout. Unfortunately for the chipmunks, they can't get up the vertical pipe, so with hot griffon breathe blowing on their butts, they scurry, and scramble and twitter in sheer panic, just inches from snapping jaws and flashing teeth. Of course, this twittering infuriates Brinker and Burly all the more. My downspouts are all clamped $\frac{3}{4}$ shut and festooned with canine tooth marks from numerous encounters. More than once, I've found the lower portion dismantled from a futile attempt to dislodge the little rodent.

It's not just around the yard that the pace of life picks up with the emergence of chipmunks. Daily walks along the river have renewed vim too. The favorite griffon tactic



is to slink like a Serengeti lion down the center of the dirt road, head swiveling left and right with all senses on full alert. Sometimes a careless chippie bounces across the trail with tail held high, but often it's just a sound in the bushes or a hot scent wafting on the cool dawn air. Muscles tense, legs surge and dirt flies as two griffons bound into the weeds and brush that line the roadway as if life depended on making a capture. Should the little critter dive into an old rotted stump or into a hollow branch, Brinker sets up a chorus of urgent barks until I arrive. As a pup in his first spring, Brinker had cornered a chippie in a dead hollow tree, about 5 inches in diameter. Wanting to encourage his hunting instinct, I easily knocked the limb down, and poked a slender twig from the broken-off base toward a knothole. The chippie scooted out in front of Brinker's nose and he was off in hot pursuit. The experience left an indelible imprint on his canine psyche. Ever since that event, he now announces every cornered chippie with eager barking and then appears dumbfounded that I cannot simply dismantle a fifty-foot tall white pine to get the chippie out. I blast on the whistle; he reluctantly gives up, and the whole scene soon repeats itself. It's a blast.



Sure, there's a special thrill in seeing wave after wave of Canada Geese heading north and sensing the excitement in their cries as they leave land behind and head out over the wide expanse of Lake Superior. Piliated woodpeckers banging on power poles and grouse drumming in the tag alders are harbingers of spring too, but for our canine companions, absolutely nothing tops the shrill, twittering squeal of a chippie making a break for the patio wall. Chipmunks rule!



WPGCA Training Day, June 2010

Above & left: 10 week old **Francesca of Dutchman's Hollow** & proud owner Dave Finley. *Photos by Rem DeJong*

Below: Joe Moeggenborg & 3 year old granddaughter Isabella Garcia with **Apache Chief of the Hundgaard**.



Putting Your Best Paw Forward How To Keep Your Dog's Feet Healthy

By Lisa Boyer, DVM

Do you remember the TV show MacGyver? He could solve anything with a paper clip and duct tape. When it comes to dog's paws, forget the paper clip, but remember the duct tape. This article will focus on foot care for hunting dogs to include injury prevention, nail care, foot conditioning and field first aid.

Imagine going through your day barefoot. You walk on indoor and outdoor surfaces, on snow or ice, rough terrain, hot asphalt and on a myriad of substances that can cut or burn your skin like glass, chemicals or other potential hazards. Do you think your feet would be sore? Your dog feels the same way and it's important to properly condition your dog's feet prior to hunting season in order to prevent injury. If you condition your dog on the type of terrain that you intend to hunt on, over time, the tissue of the dog's pads will change so that they can handle the wear and tear. Start by working your dog for short periods of time on surfaces that are mildly abrasive like gravel, sand or concrete. There are many products on the market that can be used to toughen up a dog's pads, but none of these products take the place of conditioning the feet over time. It's a good habit to check between your dog's toes daily for objects such as foxtails, thorns, burrs, or any other object that can become lodged in his feet.

There are many types of boots on the market that are designed to protect your dog's feet. The use of them is somewhat controversial. Some people believe that the boots prevent injuries while others think that dogs cannot feel the ground or they alter their gait while wearing boots, thus causing more injuries. I condition our dogs to be used to boots, but reserve their use for particularly difficult terrain that could cause serious injury. The boots must fit the foot well. Remember that dogs do not have sweat glands and the only way a dog can sweat



Case Jr. of Valley House wearing his boots from Ruffwear.com (mesh uppers for breathability & Vibram soles for traction). *Photo by Anna Ziedins*

is through their foot pads. If you leave boots on your dog too long, you are preventing their ability to release heat through their feet. Make sure to remove them immediately after use and do not use them for long periods of time.

Nail Care - Hopefully, you have a dog that was properly trained from an early age to allow for its nails to be trimmed. Some dogs require little nail care as they wear their nails on hard surfaces. Most however, require frequent trimming or grinding. Allowing your dog's nails to grow too long predisposes it to injury. Long nails alter your dog's gait and can lead to changes in joints and bones. They can also lead to turned out feet, foot spread and arthritis. I have treated dogs for infections as dew claws and nails have curled around and embedded themselves into the skin. Keep the nails as short as possible without exposing the quick. White nails are easiest to cut as you can see the vein. You can cut the white portion of the nail. Dark nails are more difficult to trim and you increase the possibility of cutting the nail too short and causing bleeding. Start by taking small nips off the end of the nail and cutting just to the curve of the nail. If you go too far and your dog bleeds, this can be stopped with a styptic pencil or powder. If you do not have styptic handy, you can use flour or baking powder packed over the end of the nail. Although it looks like a lot of blood, unless your dog has an underlying blood clotting disorder, the bleeding will eventually stop with styptic, flour or baking powder and pressure on the end of the nail. My preference is to use a Drummel tool to grind our dogs nails. The dogs tolerate this better than clippers and you can safely grind until the dog pulls his paw back. You have virtually no chance of making your dog bleed or going too far. The more you work on the nails, the shorter the quicks recede. Start working on the nails during the off season so that they are trimmed short before hunting season starts.

Torn Nails - If your dog is in the field and tears a toe nail, it is painful and requires some care. If the tear is in the middle of the nail, it is relatively painless to remove it with a quick tug using hemostats. Bandage the foot and protect it from impact as it will be painful if left open while hunting. If the nail is torn at the base, do not attempt to remove it yourself. It will require more intervention and pulling the nail cover at the base is very painful for your dog. See your veterinarian for evaluation, pain medication and antibiotics if needed.

Environmental Hazards - During the winter, rock salt, de-icers and other chemicals can get between the dog's paw pads and cause damage to the pad as well as burning and pain. In addition, snow, ice and gravel can become stuck in the paw. If your dog is going to walk with you where there is a lot of snow, make sure you trim the hair between the feet and apply a small amount of either petroleum jelly or olive oil to the feet to prevent the formation of snow or ice balls on the feet. Avoid the use of human moisturizers. They can make the paws worse. If your pet comes in contact with rock salt or de-icers, please wash the paws thoroughly. These products are not only painful to the paw, but can be toxic if licked by your dog. During the summer months, be careful not to have your dog walk on hot pavement or sand. Just like you, they need to walk on a cool surface. If you must walk your dog on hot surfaces, consider using boots, but be careful not to leave them on too long as it impedes the dog's ability to sweat. You can

use other paw protection like a “paw wax” used by mushers. It can help by forming a barrier on the dog’s paw and protecting the paws from the environment.

Pad Injuries - Dog paws are unique in that they have several types of tissue in the foot -- the footpad, the skin, fur and nails. The footpad is unlike any other tissue in the body. It has a specialized structure and function and requires care. As discussed above, proper conditioning prior to hunting is essential. Pad injuries range from minor to serious and are often times difficult to heal since the dog is constantly putting his weight on the injured pad. There are four main types of pad injuries; abrasions, bruises, cuts (lacerations) and puncture wounds.

Abrasions are very common and are an irritation caused by wear or rubbing. Excessive running on rough surfaces without proper conditioning actually wears away the tough protective covering of the pad, exposing the tender underlying tissue. Abrasions are treated by keeping the pads clean, covering with booties or bandages and protecting the pads until healed. Once healed, slow conditioning combined with paw wax will restore the pad’s integrity.

Bruised pads are usually not serious, but can be quite painful and cause significant lameness. Pressing on the pad will elicit a painful response by your dog. Examine the pad carefully however, because a painful pad can also be a sign of a puncture wound. Puncture wounds can sometimes be difficult to see and infection can set in quickly. Puncture wounds and bruising require some veterinary intervention to treat for pain and possibly infection.

Lacerations (cuts) are more serious and some require treatment. If the cut does not contain a foreign object like glass, is not bleeding heavily, is not deep and does not expose the tendons or underlying ligaments, super glue can seal the cut pad after it has been cleaned with soap and water. This is particularly helpful with small “web” lacerations between the toes for those breeds with webbing. If you have any concern for the depth of the cut, do not seal it with glue. You can make a temporary bandage with duct tape and you can cover the injured foot with a plastic bag and seal with more duct tape. I like duct tape because it has excellent protection for the foot, does not come off easily and makes a solid bandage. If possible, remove the hair around the cut with scissors or clippers prior to bandaging. Most pad lacerations will bleed for several hours and although not life threatening, a visit to your veterinarian is a good idea for pain medication and possibly antibiotics to prevent infection.

With common sense, proper conditioning, frequent nail trimming and a little duct tape and super glue, your dog’s feet will remain healthy year-round and be ready to hunt when you are.

Dr. Lisa Boyer is an integrative medicine veterinarian who practices both traditional Western and holistic medicine in California. She breeds, trains, hunts and shows Wire-haired Pointing Griffons. She welcomes questions or suggestions for future articles and can be reached at onpointvet@aol.com.



Above: **Bonita of Salmon River** and Hailey Schmitz. Owned by Bernie Schmitz. OHDT in Wisconsin, Spring 2010. *Photo by Jon Coil*

Above right: Bob Bullock (breeder) and his pup **Annabelle Star of Arrowrock** during their Prize I NAT at the Rocky Mountain Chapter 2010 Spring Test. *Photo by Anna Ziedins*

Right: **Stoneyridge's Hercules** owned by Bryan Erbentraut on point. Natural Ability Test (Prize I), Wisconsin 2010. *Photo by Jon Coil*

Back page: Test Judge Glenn Lehrer prepares to fire over the point of **Amazing Grace of Arrowrock** as handler Tom Coome moves in to flush the bird. Grace earned a Prize I in her NAT. *Photo by Anna Ziedins*



