

The Gun Dog Supreme

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EDUCATION & RESEARCH FOUNDATION

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One Incredible Track

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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Greetings:

So I should have been editing the GDS, but instead I've been chasing sharp-tails across Montana with the help of Rick Sojda and procrastinating even more by pursuing ruffed grouse and woodcock in Michigan's U.P. It's not my fault, Dave Read and his dog, Briar, made me do it. Oh well, you can cut my pay or get a new editor.

I think you'll enjoy this issue—some amazing human interest stuff. Talk about resilience and survival, check out the cover story on Ike.

Thanks to Ed Challacombe and Monica Redmond for providing their insights on NAVHDA testing. We're not advocating replacing our tests with NAVHDA tests, but if you own a Cesky Fousek, you might enjoy entering a test. It's also a great way to get visibility for our breed.

We include some suggestions on training resources and some ideas for holiday gifts for the versatile gun dog people in your life. Finally, a friendly reminder to pay your annual dues by January 1st and get a cool Cesky Fousek window decal to boot.

Rem DeJong, Editor

On the Cover:

Anna Sorensen releases Ike (**Ivar od Vavřineckélto rybníka**) off on his 4-H track under the eye of Judge, Andy Yeast.

See the full story on pages 2-4.

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Fall 2017 Breeding Committee Update

by
The Breeding Committee

After the Fall tests, we have had several females move into “approved for breeding status”. A list appears below, but not all these females will be bred this season; two (Cira and Jena) have recently had puppies. Owners of all nine dogs have been contacted, and we are in the process of selecting mates for 2018. There are several other dogs that are coming along nicely, and some that need retesting to qualify so we hope to add more to our list after the spring test.

We are developing three North America lines. Two are roughly based on the Czech lines and the third is based on mitochondrial genes, a set of genes that are only inherited from the mother. This female line reaches back to Mahaska’s Merry Susan in the 1980s and it represents some diversity we cannot get from Czech dogs.

In selecting mates, we have a set of strengths of each dog and are working matching them. For example, a dog with a less than perfect coat will be matched with a dog that has an excellent coat, or at least as much as we can. We take PennHIP scores into consideration, and now we are testing all breeding dogs for degenerative myelopathy (DM) carrier genes. There have been several GDS stories about this in the past year, so look back if you need to refresh your memory. We will not breed a DM carrier to a carrier. Test scores, conformation, and temperament are all weighed, and we do our best to consider those characteristics while still making sure we maintain as much genetic diversity as possible.

The first upcoming breeding we expect is Brita Eso using frozen imported semen from a Czech dog, Flik z Lovčických tarasů. If all goes well this will be the “D of Valley House” litter. Joann and Mark Canfield in Upstate New York are ready to go with Brita!

Another new and important change we are trying is to have all litters use the “Puppy Culture” method. We are quite excited about the Puppy Culture method. It is a full enrichment method that starts at birth, and we hope that puppy owners will continue with as the pup goes to a new home. These puppies should have the benefit of greater ability to problem solve and respond well to novel situations. More information can be found at <https://www.puppyculture.com/>. A number of short videos are at this site to give you an idea of what is involved.

Here is the list of females now approved for breeding:

Cira od Aliny z Nehvizd
Jena od Tyrše

Calina Rokycanská kotlina
Chappy of High Desert
Brita Eso
Hika of Dutchman’s Hollow
Angie Vallis Baptismi
Adele od Těrlické hráze
Dorka z Podřipské stráně

One of a Kind: A 4-H Track for Ike by Rem DeJong



Anna and Ike take a break before beginning the track

Maybe it as something in the water, but Ike certainly showed what he was made of when the track began.

(Photo by Rem DeJong)

This was a track to remember: a three-legged dog and a greenhorn handler. I really hadn't expected much, I don't think the judges did either; but Ike proved once again that, just when you think you've seen it all, these dogs will amaze you.

I'd been following Ike (**Ivar od Vavřineckélto rybníka**) around the test course as the photographer for his group. He was entered in an Older Dog Hunting Test, having been brought down from his home in Grand Marias, Minnesota by Anna Sorensen. Anna and her family had taken Ike in a rehoming effort that was described in the February 2017 GDS. Ike had been unable to complete his IHDT due to his injury, but now, with the amputated leg healed, Anna had agreed to bring Ike to a test so that the club could get a look at him.

Although experienced with dogs, Anna was not a bird hunter, and dog testing was a new experience. But she was a willing student and attentively followed Senior Judge, John Pitlo's instruction as they put Ike through his paces. Ike

struggled some in the thick fall cover during the search portion, but did OK for a dog on three legs. Initial performance never really gave a hint of what was to come next in the Track of Live Pheasant.

The bird selected for Ike's track was a big, strong, healthy rooster that was none too pleased to have his wing feathers yanked out. Upon release, he went about ten yards toward cover and then made an abrupt left turn. We watched the bobbing head of that ringneck as he burned down the field for almost 200 yards before scooting into the woods on the opposite side of the field. Anna brought Ike up toward where the judges had marked the start. Judge Andy Yeast gave Anna a quick lesson on the proper way to release a dog on the track. Anna moved up, released Ike and he was instantly in tracking mode. He went ten yards, made the left turn and cruised down that track as fast as his three legs could carry him. He disappeared into cover and we waited. Waited a fairly long time too, and then a little dot emerged. It was Ike and he had the rooster! He was tuckered out, but he loped back with the bird. Ike and Anna hadn't spent a lot of time practicing retrieving, so the delivery got a bit messy, but nothing could detract from the track.

Senior Judge John Pitlo and his judging team of Greg Hurtig and Andy Yeast are a seasoned crew who are not easily impressed, so when John announced that Ike had been awarded a 4-H for his track, it had to be special. John said that he had only awarded one other 4-H in his years of judging.

Later, in the water work, Ike struggled to navigate through dense lily pads. He was gamely trying, but an extra leg would surely have come in handy. One can't help but wonder what might have been. Ike may have lost a limb, but he definitely has one big heart.



Congratulations!

Senior Judge, John Pitlo congratulates Anna Sorensen on the outstanding track.

(Photo by Rem DeJong)

But Wait...There's More!

Just as I was finishing off the item on Ike's retrieve, this email from Anna Sorensen to Ike's previous owner, Kirk Dilly, landed in my inbox.

Hi Kirk,

Well you're not going to believe it but Ike survived a wolf attack! He snuck out last Sunday and didn't come back with Zeus. We called and drove everywhere. Finally, my neighbors picked him up a couple miles down our road. He came out of the woods all bloody in front of their side by side; they didn't know whose dog he was and so they kept going. He ran next to them trying to stop them, losing quite a bit of blood on the way. They stopped and he jumped in the driver's lap and cuddled in. So they started driving him down the road. I caught up with them and drove him home. He was in quite a bit of shock, so we brought him to the vet (9:00 PM). They gave him fluids and washed out his wounds. It took a couple hours for him to lift his head, and he didn't start walking for five or so hours, which was very scary for us. The vet said that Ike would not have made it to Two Harbors (the only vet open 24 hours is 90 miles away) because he had lost so much blood. So, we were very thankful this vet was available and offered emergency care.

The wolf had bit him twice in the behind and twice in chest. Honestly, we were amazed that 24 hours later he was up and walking, doing stairs, eating and drinking and very alert! I have him on medicine for another couple of weeks to make sure there is no infection, but he is doing awesome! Here are a couple photos of his wounds which will take quite a bit of time to heal up. Wow, this dog is here for a reason!

Anna



Survivor Ike: All bandaged up, Ike rests and soaks up some love.
(Photo by Anna Sorensen)



California Here I Come

Lotte van Dijk giving me a huge hug before shipping me off from the Netherlands. I know she is missing me, and my new owner always sends updates on how I am doing.

(Photo provided by Lotte van Dijk)

Dutch Treat by Terence Imai

Hello everyone.

My formal name is **Arrêt Venaticus Major**, and I was born in Amsterdam on second of June, 2017. My canine parents are my father, Czech born, **Hardy z Kabolva** and my Dutch mother **Vitesse Venaticus Major**. My first human

Mother was Lotte van Dijk and my Vader was Johan Kraay. Mom is from a very French background, something that I have heard is quite rare in the USA. In fact, I am the FIRST Český Fousek club puppy to come from the French breeding bloodlines. I hope to be an excellent hunter and companion so that I can pass my "blueblood" genes to future generations. I am not one to brag at such a young age, but I do have some notable champions along with having an excellent health background.

I was quite fortunate to have a great human and canine mothers who were quite patient while being a new born, and they have made me into a socially friendly and confident puppy. My first human mother, Lotte, was a bit hesitant about sending me to hot California, but a few people reconfirmed that the northern part of the state is very cool and moist during bird season.

Dogs that come from many parts of Europe, including The Netherlands, don't have our tails docked. My new dad, Terry, actually prefers that because he uses it as a "birdy" indicator when I get my first wind of scent before I lock up. My owner always got amped up knowing I found something and things were going to get very interesting!!

I have grown considerably in the six weeks at my new California home and find myself constantly attending group puppy lessons, various training by my new family and other adventures. I first disliked riding in the dog crate of my dad's truck, and when I was picked up at the airport, I put up such a fuss that my new mom held me on her lap for the four hour drive home. But since I know that going on a ride always means a new adventure, I now look forward to any new trips.

When I go to my puppy classes, our instructor tells how important to keep me mentally engaged because I have so much energy. This red thing is a "Kong" that I have it filled with kibble and other snack treats that I have to work a bit to eat. Since I am a chow hound, this forces me to figure how to get the food out of it. I have become pretty adept, but it still takes me some time. I am vain, even at four months old, my new family catches me admiring my looks in the reflection. Maybe it is because I have such a noticeable beard and I want it to look good?

My new dad belongs to a wild quail club that covers almost 35 thousand acres and I am looking forward to get started this season going hunting with him. My dad has complete confidence that I will be a very good hunter because I have shown to have an excellent nose, good drive and high intelligence. BTW, since my dad had a difficult time with "Arrêt", my U.S.A. name is "Axcel"



Editor's Note: As our club imports more Cesky Fouseks from Europe, and we breed more dogs that are eligible for North American Versatile Hunting Dog Association registration, more members may want to try running their dogs in NAVHDA tests. With that in mind, I asked Ed Challacombe to write an article and I asked Monica Redmond to add her observations. **All club dogs must be tested in BWPGCA tests, so NAVHDA tests are an addition, not an alternative.**

Ed Challacombe has tested his griffon, Bria of the Hundgaard in our tests, as well as his current wirehair, Oliver vom Rainmaker. He also trains with a local NAVHDA group in Minneapolis MN and has run his dogs in NAVHDA events.

Monica Redmond is a long-time Cesky Fousek owner who tested in NAVHDAS events before participating in our tests. She has tested through the Utility Field Test level and has recently served as an apprentice judge at our Heartland Test. If you'd like more information about NAVHDA testing, both Ed and Monica would be happy to discuss it with you.

Testing Compared: BWPGCA and NAVHDA by Ed Challacombe



BWPGCA Field Test Pheasant Track

Ed and his dog Oliver on their way to a perfect score 28 in NAT at the Heartland Spring Test.

(Photo by Rem DeJong)

Testing our dogs is essential. It is our method of determine the success of prior breeding and the identification of future breeding. If you own a Cesky Fousek you may want to consider testing in the North American Versatile Hunting Dog

Association (NAVHDA). The Fousek is one of 30 versatile breeds recognized by NAVHDA. NAVHDA has 14 chapters in Canada and 113 in the United States. The Chapters in the USA are located in 35 States. To locate a Chapter go to the NAVHDA website.

NAVHDA is a nonprofit organization whose purpose is to foster, promote, and improve the versatile hunting dog breeds in North America; to conserve game by using well trained reliable hunting dogs on both land and water; and to aid in the prevention of cruelty to animals by discouraging nonselective and uncontrolled breeding, which produces unwanted and uncared for dogs. Their purpose is not that different from your organization. For specific breed types see www.navhda.com.

I've run my dogs in both clubs through the Utility level. The 1st NA test with the Wirehaired Griffon Club of America was run in 2007 by Brianna of Hundgaard. Bria was also tested in the intermediate and utility test with WPG-CA. In addition, my German Wirehaired Pointers have run the NA test with both Clubs and at the Utility level with NAVHDA. Why would I run my wire-haired pointers in the BWPGCA? I have many friends in the Heartland Chapter, so it gives me a chance to see old friends, while giving my dogs a chance to gain additional experience. These tests have given me an opportunity to see and compare the differences and similarities between the two organization's tests.

Both NA tests offer a:

- 1) Field Phase - Each dog is hunted for a minimum of 20 minutes and is evaluated on: use of nose, search, pointing, desire, cooperation, and gun shyness.
- 2) Tracking Phase - The dog is given an opportunity to track a flightless running pheasant.
- 3) Water Phase - The dog is tested for its willingness to swim.
- 4) Judgment of Physical Characteristics.

- Use of Nose
- Search
- Affinity to Water
- Desire to Work
- Tracking
- Pointing
- Cooperation

The following are judged and scored throughout the test:

No game is shot, and no retrieves are required during this test.

The scoring systems differ slightly. NAVHDA's system is weighted, while the Bohemian Wire-haired Pointing Griffon Club of America is not.

The only difference in the physical part of the test is in Field phase. NAVHDA seeds the field with chukars before each dog's search. The judging of the search and pointing occur simultaneously. The Bohemian Wirehaired Pointing Griffon of America puts a dog through a field search first. Once the judges have

had ample opportunity to observe the search, pheasants are planted to assess the ability to point.

In my experience, there is no difference in the judging quality or approach between organizations. A judging team is made up of 3 judges with the option for apprentices. In both organizations, the judges are supportive of the handler and attempt to ensure each dog is given ample opportunity to succeed. Each of the tests I've run have had a different judging team. It's amazing how consistent these teams have been within each organization and across organization. For NAVHDA, two of the three judges must be from another Chapter, which improves objectivity. In some cases all of the judges are from another Chapter and often out of State.

While the Bohemian Wirehaired Pointing Griffon does not currently recognize the test evaluation of their Cesky Fousks by NAVHDA, it may be an option to consider. This is particular true for the NA test, which is for all particle purposes identical. Because the NA tests are nearly identical the preparation of your pup is no different. You need to consider the search, pointing, water exposure, and tracking specially a pheasant. There a multiple approaches to addressing each of these, which is a separate article in itself. If you are having difficulty finding people to train with, NAVHDA may be able to assist with this, as well. Rich Schwerin who owns Hilda of Dutchman's Hollow and is a member of both clubs found NAVHDA to be a great training source.

The upper level tests while similar do have minor differences. However, if the ruling committee of the Bohemian organization is truly interested in considering NAVHDA testing an analysis of the upper test could be provided.

In conclusion, testing is the foundation of our organizations. Given the similarities of the NA test the NAVHDA scores could be used in your organization for consideration of breeding decisions. If you are not conveniently located to a Bohemian Wirehaired Pointing Griffon Club of America testing location consider testing with NAVHDA. Additional information of this organization can be found at www.navhda.com. You may also contact me at erchall39@gmail.com.

Best regards and HAPPY TESTING!

My Testing Experience **by** **Monica Redmond**

I have two Cesky Fouseks - Louie tested exclusively with NAVHDA (2006-2009); he completed NA, UPT, and two UT tests. Bohdy has completed NAVHDA NA (2015), two UT tests (2016, 2017) and we are beginning training for the 2018 Invitational. In 2016 we began testing with BWPGCA and ran IHDT and UFT . I also serve as the test secretary for the Southern MN chapter of NAVHDA and over the years have observed several dogs run at each level. In my experience, I feel each testing system provides sound evaluations of dogs at different stages in their training. Testing in both has been comparable and my collection of test scores ranges from no Prize to maximum score Prize 1.



Monica Redmond and Bohdy (Foucek z Sakered Bohdan) UFT

Monica is experienced in both our club tests and NAVHDA events.

(Photo by Jon Coil)

Preparing for a test in either system moves the emphasis from exposure to training as you advance levels. The NA tests in each system are nearly identical. I have seen in both systems judges' efforts to put new handlers at ease and a commitment to giving young dogs every opportunity (sometimes more than one) to show their abilities.

As you move to the IHDT/UPT level you take the foundation of exposure and add more advanced training. Both systems are looking to evaluate a dog that is working toward UFT/UT level work. These tests present situations you will come across while hunting— tracking a wounded bird, searching for dead game where the mark was poor, steadiness required in the duck blind, etc... but recognize that the dogs are partway through the completion of training. Both tests are good measures of a dog's natural ability AND the cooperation and obedience needed to perform at this level successfully.

At the UFT/UT level you have a finished gun dog. Bohdy and I ran both of these tests this summer and we trained for both simultaneously. The tests have their differences, but skills such as steadiness and retrieving should be at their most reliable for either test. For example, with the steadiness in the field evaluation,

Bohdy's UT with NAVHDA resulted in 13 bird contacts in 30 minutes – including a double flush and a covey flush along with 7 solidly handled birds. This can happen when the field is planted with multiple birds for each dog and you run at the end of the day. The judges had several instances to evaluate steadiness and arrive at a composite score. When we ran UFT, we had only one bird contact with which to be evaluated.

In both systems I have seen directed efforts among the judges, test secretary and grounds coordinator to ensure that the test is properly organized to provide opportunity for success. However, at this level you and your dog should be prepared for a variety of “what-ifs” and the expectation of performance is justifiably a bit higher.

In training for, and watching dogs run in both systems past the NA level, I find the NAVHDA tests challenging due to the depth of the tasks, and the BWPGCA tests challenging due to the variety, especially with the optional events included.

In each of the tests I have run, I know the scores we received *on that day* were fair and accurate. Were we capable of better than some of the scores show? Absolutely. But in both systems, as a dog and handler team, we had the opportunity to be properly evaluated against a standard for both ability and training in events that correspond to the working life of a versatile hunting dog. In my opinion, no matter the testing system you choose, using the tests to provide training goals will reward you with an enviable hunting partner. For a club looking ahead, using test scores with a big picture view will yield enviable hunting partners in the future.



Monica Apprentice Judging with Greg Hurtig, Andy Yeast and Jim Seibel.

(Photo by Rem DeJong)

How Will You Raise Your Puppy? by Rem DeJong



New-to-the-world Buckeye Valley A Litter's First Time Outside

From the day pups are born, our breeders nurture and care for them so that future owners will receive the best puppies the club can produce. At ten weeks, it's up to the new owner to make their pup the best versatile gun dog it can be.

(Photo by Monica Cubas)

If all the stars align, we'll have a new Cesky Fousek puppy in our home before the ice of winter is off the pond. That's if the breeding is successful, and there's a male puppy, and he's healthy. Maybe you're hoping to get a pup too, or perhaps you have recently acquired one, and the bushy-faced little monster is already yammering for chow, piddling on your floor, attacking chew-toys, all the while squirming his way into your heart. We each want our pup to develop into the great versatile hunter and family companion that we've dreamed about ever since making the decision to get a Cesky Fousek. It's not just for ourselves; the Breeding Committee and in fact the whole club is investing a lot by entrusting one of their precious pups to us. Right now, as you await the arrival of a new dog, you're about as jacked to do the right thing as you'll ever be. So how can we go about raising our pups the right way?

I've owned a wirehaired pointing griffon or a Cesky Fousek continuously since Ruff (Ruffel of "Ashview") first arrived back in November of 1973. I know just enough about

raising a versatile gun dog to realize that there's a lot that I don't know. Much has changed in the club's approach to raising a puppy and developing a polished gun dog since I got my last pup ten years ago. I've been pouring over many of the resources that the Breeding Committee is recommending. At first blush, the recommended sources may seem overwhelming, so I want to share some suggestions on how to put it all together.

First off, we're not in this puppy-rearing task alone. Club members have always been available to help other club members, but the Breeding Committee is trying to strengthen this member-helping-member resource by setting up an owner's coach program. When a prospective owner is slated to receive a pup, the Breeding Committee will pair the person up with a coach—someone whom the owner can call with questions or just share details on how the pup is doing. Whether its crate training, housebreaking, swimming, retrieving or whatever, the coach is there to give suggestions. I've owned several club dogs, but I plan on making use of a coach myself. It's always good to have another person with whom to discuss puppy rearing challenges, no matter how experienced you are.

Secondly, there are several resources that the club is recommending to the new puppy owner. However, these sources are not an integrated package, so it can be a bit bewildering for the new puppy owner to figure out how to use them all. I've checked out the various sources, and I'm offering you my take on them. I'm sure that the Breeding Committee will have more to say about these sources in future issues of the GDS.

Puppy Culture. (See: <https://www.puppyculture.com/>) Puppy culture is the creation of Jane Killion. The original video covered a full range of puppy development topics including developmental stages, raising sound puppies and dealing with problem behaviors. Puppy Culture now has many other resources beyond that original video including a Facebook group, more videos and books. Please go view the introductory video on line. The original DVD set is also available in an on-line library. In a nutshell, Killion's model relies on positive reinforcement, behavior theory and knowledge of puppy developmental stages. The club is advocating that breeders apply the model with newborn pups through the first ten weeks until pups are passed on to their permanent homes, at which time the owners will continue to apply the principles. Killion emphasizes the importance of timing exposure and training to the developmental stage of the puppy. Even if you're not getting a pup, you'll find the extensive information on puppy development enlightening. There isn't space to review everything here, but Killion provides an excellent presentation on housebreaking—how well-intentioned owners can create problems, and how housebreaking can be achieved effectively. Crate training is another behavior that can be mastered quickly and that pays off for a lifetime.

If you're a die-hard bird and waterfowl hunter like me, the sleek, upscale, urban context of Puppy Culture might make you blanch, but get over it. Sure, Ms Killion lounges around in her Orvis and Coldwater Creek attire while lecturing instead of wearing Cabela's hunting togs, and sometimes she comes across with the zeal of a born-again vegan, but the principles and techniques she demonstrates with her city-slicker bull terriers really are enlightening and perfectly adaptable to raising an Idaho chuckar chaser or Minnesota grouse pointer. It's a polished presentation with lots of video illustration. I think that anyone getting a pup, whether it's your first one or your tenth, would be well served by getting and following the Puppy Culture approach.

Another resource, ***Absolutely Positively Gundog Training*** by Robert Milner, was recommended by the Breeding Committee in the August issue of the GDS. In addition to

the committee recommended book, there are many invaluable videos on **Milner's YouTube channel (<https://www.youtube.com/user/rmilner11>)**. I strongly recommend viewing some of his videos. Doing so is free, and they make the book come alive. Milner's book is excellent in two respects. First, the reader acquires a sound, layman's understanding of learning theory and positive reinforcement. You can apply these principles to training a dog anything, not just hunting behaviors. Second, the book provides an excellent guide to developing your dog as a retriever. The techniques can also give you and your dog a leg up on teaching steady at the blind and steady to wing and shot, but the primary benefit of the book is the detailed presentation on developing and shaping your dog's natural retrieving ability.

Maybe the last source that I'm recommending should really come first: ***How to Help Gun Dogs Train Themselves* by Joan Bailey**. I say that it should be first because the book is organized approximately along the timeline of getting a puppy from preparing for pup's arrival through the first hunting season. The book really is devoted to raising a versatile hunting dog/family companion. To me, *Puppy Culture* and *Absolutely Positively Gun Dog Training* are more specialized, in-depth sources for certain parts of the puppy rearing process, but Bailey's book gives you the overall roadmap. Basically, you follow Bailey's guide and plug in the other resources where they apply.

Bailey's second book: *How to Have the Best Trained Gun Dog* covers advanced gun dog training and use of force retrieve training, the drop command, steady at the blind and steady to wing and shot. There's been much debate in the club about using the force fetch approach, and I believe considerable misunderstanding. First, I recommend that every pup owner read carefully "Force Retrieving or Natural Retrieving" on pages 89-95 in Bailey's *How to Help Gun Dogs Train Themselves*. Bailey makes it very clear that force-fetch is not for every dog, and she recommends some sources for natural retrieving training. Milner's book is a more recent publication and clearly fills the bill as a source for natural retrieving training. Furthermore, if you read Bailey's second book carefully and follow her directions, the force-fetch method, leash training and drop command that she presents make minimal use of punishment and negative reinforcement. There's no e-collar zapping, and tools such as the pinch collar, properly applied, are not cruel to the dog at all. A key element in the decision to train retrieving that Bailey emphasizes is reading your dog. For a strong, confident, independent dog, the force-fetch approach may be just what you need. A cooperative, softer-temperament dog may respond much better by sticking with a positive reinforcement approach. In either case, the owner begins with the positive reinforcement approach through the first year of development. The foundation of a quality hunting dog is laid in those early months.

Finally, no matter which approach you employ, the key factor is that you must work with your dog every day. The books and DVDs don't work if all you do is buy them. One of the reasons for recommending the Milner model is the hope that it will be easier for the typical owner to apply. There is merit to that argument, but if the owner doesn't work with the dog regularly, this approach won't work either. There is no quick fix. Besides, working with your dog and watching him develop is one of the greatest joys of dog ownership. And on those days when it seems nothing is going right, well, that's the time to call your puppy coach and bend his/her ear. There will be plenty of stops and starts along the way, but if you stick with it, your Cesky Fousek will become one fine versatile gun dog.

The Fouska Family by Rick Sojda

This Fall, I was treated to a splendid experience. The Northeast Chapter found itself in desperate need of someone to assist with the judging at their Fall test near Bristol, ME. In fact, they were sufficiently desperate to invite me. At first, I was not too keen on leaving Montana in September, which happens to be my favorite time to hunt grouse with Eider and his friends. But, I am glad I changed my mind. I had never been to the Maine test grounds but had heard so many good things about them over the years. And, the people were truly special, from the dog handlers to the judges, from the bird planters to the meal organizers, from the gallery watchers to the old friends.

Over drinks, lobster, and blueberry pie, Tina Molt expounded on how much our Club is like a family, even sharing how we all have an Uncle Skiddlefritz who always arrives late and is the first to hit the beer afterward. We have all heard the noble parts of the family analogy, time and again, from Washington to Idaho, from Wisconsin to Maine. It is all ever so true in Maine. I cannot express my gratitude enough to our Northeast family members after this trip. They fed me. They gave me drink. They made me laugh. They told me stories of days gone by. They expressed their hope for the future. These are the things that all families do. They provided so much, and I hope to have the opportunity to repay some of their kindness on my home ground.

Special thanks go out to Laurie Connell, Scott Craig, Tina and Rick Molt, Sandy and Ted Silver, Joanne and Mark Canfield, Andy Ogden, and Hiram Adelman. Certainly, the Fouseks that were there made me proud. I got to shake the hand of those far-flung folks who have gone the extra mile to take on the responsibility of raising our Club's imports in the Northeast. It was a special treat to scratch the ears of some more of the dogs that we helped import from the Czech Republic. They are no longer just pedigrees, photographs, emails, and names in a database. Folks have risen to the cause of building the future gene pool of our dogs. Thank you, one and all. I feel fortunate to have experienced being part of our Northeast family tree.



Northeast Family

Long-time NE Chapter official curmudgeon, Kurt Sorensen shows a softer side with Tina Molt's grandbaby at Fall Test.

(Photo by Tina Molt)

Under Your Tree

by
Rem DeJong

Wondering what to put under the tree for a Cesky Fousek owner? Promoting commercial enterprises isn't the regular function of this publication, but we have a vested interest in producing top quality versatile hunting dogs, so if getting you to buy products helps us achieve that goal and makes your holiday merry, so much the better.

First off, there are several training aids that owners of a new pup will find handy. (Even owners of a not-so-new pup, if you need to train for an Intermediate Hunting Dog Test.) These books are available from Amazon.com

***How to Help Gun Dogs Train Themselves, Taking Advantage of Early Conditioned Learning* Mar 1, 2008**

by Joan Bailey and Swan Valley Press

Paperback

\$ 21 95

Authored by Joan Bailey, this book has long been the basic manual for getting your pup off to a good start from bringing the dog home through at least the first year of life.

Available through Amazon.

***Positive Training for Your Retriever Gundog Absolutely Positively Gundog Training (Paperback) - Common* 2015**

by Robert Milner

Paperback

\$9.99

Think of this book as a supplement to the Bailey book for developing retrieving using positive reinforcement. It's also especially good for teaching handlers about positive reinforcement—good for all kinds of training, not just retrieving.

How to Have The Best Trained Gun Dog, Taking Advantage of Proven, Unique Training Methods, All Natural - No Expensive Electronics Needed

by Joan Bailey

Paperback

\$32.29

Geared toward training the dog for intermediate and utility field test level of performance. It covers force fetch, steady at the blind and steady to wing and shot among other topics.

Puppy Culture: The Powerful First 12 Weeks That Can Shape Your Puppy's Future

Jane Killion (Actor, Director, Narrator), DVM Dr. Meghan Herron (Actor)

Format: DVD

Blu-ray \$99.95 DVD \$69.95

This collection is also available as an on-line library. The club may be able to

arrange a group rate in some instances. Whether you are raising a litter or getting a pup, this series provides great insight into the world of puppies plus many practical techniques for dealing with such issues as crate training, house breaking, and general good manners.

***Tracking Dogs for Finding Wounded Deer Paperback
Paperback \$39.95***

With the popularity of bow hunting growing, there's more interest in using the Cesky Fousek to recover big game. This book shows you how to build on your dogs natural tracking instinct. Besides the book, see: <https://www.unitedbloodtrackers.org/>

Give a Membership in the Bohemian Wirehaired Pointing Griffon Club of America

Analysis of our membership data shows consistently that most folks who join up, get one of our dogs and participate in club activity are people who had personal contact with one of our members and had the chance to get nose-to-nose with some of our dogs. So one way that you can help our club is by getting a friend or family member involved. Why not give someone a membership when you renew your own?

ANNUAL DUES REMINDER

Please pay your 2018 annual membership dues by January 1, 2018. You can pay both your national and regional chapter dues on-line. It's quick and easy, and on-line payment assures that we have your correct contact information.

Dues website:

<https://bohemiangriffon.org/join-renew/>

Note: Our club treasurer contact information has changed.

Zeb Breuckman, Treasurer
983 New Holland Dr.
Bozeman, MT 59718

What's Happening

Annual Dues Reminder

January 1, 2018

Pay on-line at:

<https://bohemiangriffon.org/join-renew/>

Pheasant Fest & Quail Classic

February 16 –18, 2018

Denny Sanford PREMIER Center

1201 N. West Avenue

Sioux Falls, SD 57104

Spring 2018 Tests

Rocky Mountain Chapter Test and National Judges Seminar

Judges Seminar—March 30, 2018

Spring Test—March 31st & April 1st 2018

Jerome, Idaho

Field Test Chairman, John McDunn

mcdunnk9@hotmail.com

(406)410-0565

Heartland Chapter Spring Test

Spring Test April 20-22 2018 (Tentative)

Field Test Chair Dave Read

PH:(616) 836-5304

Email: readgriff@gmail.com

Northeast Chapter Spring Test (early May)

Test Chairs: Scott Craig & Laurie Connell

85 Rabbit Hill Road

Winterport, Maine, 04496

(207) 525 3383

quassa5@gmail.com

CESKY FOUSEK WORLD CUP

September 28, 2018 (with other events on preceding dates)

Full details to be posted on <http://bohemiangriffon.org> as they become available.