

The Gun Dog Supreme

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

<http://www.wpgca.org>

April 2018

Volume 93, Number 2

April 2018



Copyright © 2018 Bohemian Wirehaired Pointing Griffon Club of America Education and Research Foundation. No part may be reproduced in any form without written permission from the Bohemian Wirehaired Pointing Griffon Club of America Education and Research Foundation.

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Greetings:

A lot's been happening. Secretary, Robin Strathy has provided a timely and thorough report on the BOD meeting. The Judges Seminar was led by a group of Czech representatives from the Czech bred club. A little of their participation is covered in this issue, and more will appear in future issues.

The BOD has made some significant decisions; you'll want to review these reports carefully. The Breeding Committee has an update on the 2018 season.

Twana Skinner has delivered an outstanding article on Clicker training. We've created a new page on the website that will provide copies of these articles and more detailed training guides to be added later.

Have fun training, hunting season is only 5 months away!

Rem DeJong, Editor

On the Cover:

An historic day for the BWPGCA—A delegation from the Czech club, Klub chovatelů českých fousků, led our Judges Seminar in Jerome, Idaho. They observed our testing process and provided feedback. Grateful for their participation. (left to right front row) Dana Brzkovská, Blanca Horaková, Silvie Neradilová, Eva Šafariková; (back row) Pavel Dostál, Pavel Horák, Jaroslav Havlát.

**For information requests or to join the WPGCA please email Robin at: rstrathy@q.com
Or visit our web page at <http://bohemiangriffon.org>**

EDITORS

Rem DeJong
John Pitlo

SUBSCR./BACK ISSUES

Printed bi-monthly, the GDS is included with a \$60.00 membership to the BWPGCA. Gift subscriptions are \$20.00/year and back issues are 20 for \$15. Subscription and back issue requests should be sent to:

Robin Strathy
441 Flood Road
Great Falls, MT 59404
406-453-1248
rstrathy@q.com

ARTICLE SUBMISSION

Send articles or proposals 1 month prior to publication to:

Rem DeJong
Ph: (906) 236-0746 (EST)
e-mail: dejongrem@gmail.com

PHOTO SUBMISSION

All photos should be sent to:

Rem DeJong
7219 St Charles Place
Kalamazoo MI 49009
Ph: 906-236-0746(EST)

Email: dejongrem@gmail.com for photo submission instructions. Include the name of the dog and owner, and photographer. Digital photos are required; use large file size settings. If scanned use 300dpi (grayscale). You can email them or request instructions for uploading to website.

WEBSITES

E&R Foundation:
<http://huntersgriffon.org/>

Bohemian
Wirehaired Pointing Griffon Club:
<http://bohemiangriffon.org>

BWPGCA Photo Gallery:
<http://wpgca.smugmug.com/>

Find Us on Facebook at:
www.facebook.com/griffon.fan

www.facebook.com/ceskyfouseknorthamerica/

E&R FOUNDATION OFFICERS

Jim Crouse-President
Andy Rupp-Vice President
Robin Strathy- Secretary
Zeb Breuckman- Treasurer
DIRECTORS at LARGE

Anna Artz
Andy Ogden
Jim Seibel

2018 BWPGCA BOARD MEETING NOTES

by Robin Strathy, BWPGCA Secretary

Executive Meeting—Comfort Inn and Suites, Jerome, ID, March 22, 2018.

Executive meeting called to order about 5:30 p.m. Thursday, March 22, 2018 by President Jim Crouse. In attendance: President: Jim Crouse; Vice President: Andy Rupp; Secretary: Robin Strathy; Treasurer: Zeb Breuckman. Directors: Jim Seibel, Anna Artz, Ken Hurtig. Director-at-Large: John Pitlo

Zeb Breuckman presented his **Treasurer's report**. In 2018, the club had a loss of \$9,016.69, in large part due to expenses regarding imported and domestic puppies. The club is pulling in less than it pays out for puppies. In addition, semen storage costs were higher in 2017 because the club acquired new semen and paid for more than one year of storage on some semen so all costs would come due at the same time. Semen storage costs in the future are expected to level out at about \$1,700/year. The Club has a bank balance of \$11,720. The Education and Research Foundation maintained a balance of \$1,924.33 as of March 18, 2018.

Imported puppy pricing: Several factors caused imported puppy costs to rise in 2017. The “average” puppy imported in 2017 cost \$1,520; the most recent import cost \$1,726. The exchange rate for the Czech Krona has gone up (the dollar buys about 20% less Kč than it did a year ago) and, at the current exchange rate, would add on average \$150 to the cost of the puppy. In the past, we averaged imported puppy prices and collected a set amount from each purchaser. If, at the end of the year, more money was collected than spent, the purchasers were given the option of donating the difference to the E&RF or requesting a refund of the difference. In most of these situations, the money was donated to the E&RF.

The Board discussed options for adjusting pricing. The cost per pup for 2017 was estimated at \$1,700. Previously, \$200 was added to the price of an imported pup to guard against potential cost overruns. However, there was a concern that charging \$1,900 for an imported pup could make them unattainable for many members. **DECISION:** A general “break-even” price of \$1,700 will be set as a baseline price for pups imported in 2018. Shipping costs can vary widely and affect final cost. Zeb will let imported puppy purchasers know at the time of shipping what the final puppy price will be. We will no longer do price averaging. And the price may be adjusted in the future to account for conditions at the time.

Domestic puppy pricing: Several factors were discussed as they related to domestic puppy pricing. Large litters can result in profit to the breeder, but a small litter, or no pups, can result in costs incurred by the breeder. The club reimburses a breeder under these circumstances. In addition, considerations for stud fees, costs to register a pup, and costs for blood collection and shipping to Cornell for genetic studies need to be factored. In light of the above, it was rec-

ommended that puppy prices be increased from \$950 (which includes registration and Cornell study costs) to \$1,250 to better reflect the cost of producing them.

It was also recognized that the club puts additional monetary expenditure requirements on a puppy owner, including membership costs, testing costs, and cost for PennHip examination. Costs for PennHip vary widely across the states, but can be anywhere from around \$275 to over \$700. Total additional costs to puppy owners can be upwards of \$800, or more, over the first two years. In order to reduce the impact of a price increase on domestic pups, it was proposed that only “breedable” dogs be required to have a PennHip test and that those costs be borne by the club for domestically bred dogs. A “breedable” dog is one who has passed testing and conformation requirements and is determined by the Breeding Committee to be a potentially breedable dog. A “breedable” dog may or may not be selected for breeding.

DECISIONS:

- The price for a domestically bred puppy will be \$1,250 effective in 2018. This includes blood draw and registration costs.
- Only “breedable” domestic dogs will be PennHip tested. Those costs will be borne by the club.
- All imported dogs will be PennHip tested. Those costs will be borne by the puppy purchaser.
- Stud fees:

Stud Dog Owners

- ◇ Stud owners need to tell the club and the breeder before the breeding if they want one of the pups. If they decide to they want a pup, the breeder will not collect money from stud owner, but the stud owner will need to pay the club the portion of the purchase price that normally goes to the club (\$625). If they notify the breeder before the breeding that they want a pup, they will get one of the pups from the litter unless there are no puppies produced.
- ◇ If they stud owner does not tell the club and the breeder before the breeding that they want a pup, they are not entitled to a pup from the breeding. If they do not get a pup from the breeding, the breeder will pay the stud owner a stud fee of \$625 if the litter produces 3 or more puppies. If there are 2 or fewer puppies from the litter the stud dog owner will not be paid a stud fee.
- ◇ If the stud dog is flown to the bitch, the breeder will pay for the shipping. If the stud dog is driven by the stud dog owner to the breeder and the stud dog owner's travel expenses exceed the amount the stud dog owner collected from the stud fee, the club will pay the excess expenses so that the stud dog owner does not lose money.

Breeder (Bitch Owner)

- ◇ When the club asks a member to breed their bitch, the breeder will collect \$1250 (the new purchase price) from each puppy buyer. (If the stud owner takes a pup, the breeder will not collect any money from the stud owner). The breeder will keep \$625 per pup sold and send \$625 per pup sold to the club.
- ◇ The breeder will pay all of the expenses associated with the litter, including the stud fee (a stud fee is required if the stud owner does not take a pup from the litter AND the litter produces 3 or more pups). The breeder should track their expenses. If the breeder's expenses are higher than the total of the breeder's portion of the sale proceeds (\$625 per pup), the club will reimburse the breeder's excess expenses.
- ◇ Note - if the breeding is done using the club's frozen semen, the club pays to ship the semen and the breeder does not pay a stud fee. If the stud is shipped (flown) to the bitch owner pays for the shipping.
- Treasurer Zeb Breuckman will revise the buyer/breeder agreements to reflect new pricing and other changes.

NAVHDA registration: Little headway has been made with the North American Versatile Hunting Dog Association (NAVHDA) to allow our existing dogs to be registered with that organization. Dogs with two Fédération Cynologique Internationale (FCI) -registered parents (such as our imports) would be registerable under NAVHDA and any owner of such a dog is free to pursue NAVHDA registration on their own. **DECISION:** We will no longer pursue NAVHDA registration as a club for our existing dogs.

Streamlining the test scoring/owner notification process (e.g. have owners bring pedigree to tests and have score put on it there; have Prize certificates issued at test). Laurie Connell offered to "test drive" the process at NE test to see how it works. The Board will consider any changes to the process following that assessment.

NE Chapter representation on BoD: It has been recognized at past meetings that the Board would like to have representation across the Chapters and that would occur as opportunities arose. Ken Hurtig agreed to withdraw from the Board and Andy Ogden from the NE Chapter will take his place. **DECISION:** The Board accepted Ken Hurtig's resignation and Andy Ogden's acceptance as a Director on the Board.

Education & Research Foundation status: Discussion has taken place at this and previous Board meetings as to the need to retain the 501(c)3 Education & Research Foundation. It has provided a mechanism for members to provide tax-deductible donations to the Foundation, but recent changes to tax laws may not make such donations as lucrative. In addition, the E&RF by-

laws and requirements add a cumbersome layer to the club organizational and functional processes. **DECISION:** The funds in the E&RF coffers will be spent down and the appropriate steps taken to dissolve the Foundation.

Preparing for elections for those completing 3-year terms: The terms for Board members will be up at the end of the year. **DECISION:** An article will be put in the June GDS soliciting nominations or interest by members to run for a Board position.

Robert Milner 2-day seminar possibility. Andy Ogden reported on seminars provided by Robert Milner (author of Absolutely Positively Gun Dog Training). He puts on a positive reinforcement seminar and a puppy head start seminar. Andy thought the puppy head start session might be of interest to club members. Mr. Milner has offered to travel to Idaho or Wisconsin free-of-charge to put on such a session. **DECISION:** Defer a decision on such a session at the present time.

Breeding Committee structure: Jim Seibel proposed that the Breeding Committee (BC) itself be limited to the breeding and breeding logistics/support aspects of the BC structure approved by the BOD last year. He feels there is more work in the breeding aspects than can be handled under the current structure. He proposed that the judging, training and testing areas be a separate entity. He felt more help is needed with the breeding aspects, but continued coordination between all of the functions is critical. No specific action taken, but Jim will continue to provide options/suggestions.

Advertising in Gun Dog magazine: Interest in the club or puppies generated from advertising in Gun Dog magazine does not appear to be worth the cost. **DECISION:** We will not continue to place ads in Gun Dog magazine.

2018 BWPGCA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING NOTES

General meeting held at Snake River Elks Lodge, Jerome, ID, March 23, 2018.

Opening: The annual BWPGCA Board of Directors meeting was called to order at 8:15 a.m. by President Jim Crouse.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Zeb Breuckman presented the Treasurer's Report. Report accepted. See notes from Executive meeting for more details. Decisions based on treasury information include:

- The price for a domestically bred puppy will be \$1,250 effective in 2018. This includes blood draw and registration costs.
- Only "breedable" domestic dogs will be PennHip tested. Those costs will be borne by the club. A "breedable" dog is one who has passed testing and conformation requirements and is determined by the Breeding Com-

mittee to be a potentially breedable dog. A “breedable” dog may or may not be selected for breeding.

- The base price for an imported puppy will be \$1,700 effective in 2018. The purchaser will be apprised of final cost once shipping charges are determined.
- All imported dogs will be PennHip tested. Those costs will be borne by the puppy purchaser.
- Stud fees: How and when stud fees will be paid was discussed. See details in Exec meeting notes. Generally, the stud-owner will be provided a choice of being paid a stud fee of \$625 if there are 3 or more puppies in a litter, OR acquiring one of the pups, IF they notify the breeder in advance they want a pup in lieu of fee payment. If there are 2 or fewer pups in the litter, the stud owner will not be paid a stud fee, but may opt to get a pup (again IF they notify the breeder in advance of the litter whelping).

Zeb will revise the buyer/breeder agreements to reflect new pricing and other changes.

The Board decided to spend down the E&RF accounts, then file appropriate paperwork to abolish the E&RF.

Secretary’s Report: Secretary Robin Strathy presented the Secretary’s report. Report accepted.

- 224 memberships paid up through 2017 and currently have 159 paid 2018 memberships.
- 26 new members in 2017 and 8 new members in first 2½ months of 2018.
- GDS mailed to 227 individuals and additional 23 complimentary issues to foreign clubs and major contributors during club history.
- Pheasant Fest garnered interest from about 25 individuals who were sent info packets.
- Had about 47 puppy requests via the website in 2017 and 7 to this point in 2018.

Registrar Report: Registrar Laurie Connell presented the registrar report for 2017. Report accepted.

Registered two domestic litters in 2017: “A” litter of Bald Eagle (1 pup) and “A” litter of Buckeye Valley (5 pups).

Registered 13 imported puppies

5 imported dogs entered into field performance book

Currently just under 23,000 individual dogs entered into the Český Fousek North America database, which provides pedigree, relatives and offspring, titles, tests scores, health, links to videos or outside websites,

measurements, and other information.

Laurie continues to collect documents, photos, and other club archival items for inventory and storage.

Breeding Committee Report: Jim Seibel proposed that the Breeding Committee (BC) itself be limited to the breeding and breeding logistics/support aspects of the BC structure approved by the BOD last year. He feels there is more work in the breeding aspects than can be handled under the current structure. He proposed that the judging, training and testing areas be a separate entity. He felt more help is needed with the breeding aspects, but continued coordination between all of the functions is critical. Jim, and the rest of the committees, will continue to provide options/suggestions.

Judges Status: John Pitlo reported that there is no change to judge's status. He also said that the training day, set up prior to testing at the Heartland and Rocky Mountain tests, appeared to help prepare handlers for what takes place at the tests and familiarize them with test grounds. He would like to have similar training days set up for upcoming tests.

NE Chapter representation: Jim Crouse reported that the Board approved Ken Hurtig's resignation and Andy Odgen from the NE chapter will take his place on the BOD.

GDS and Website Report: GDS Editor Rem DeJong presented reports on the GDS and websites. The report was accepted. He reported that

Printing and distribution costs for the six annual issues of the GDS are about \$2,500/year.

The GDS has been a primary means of communicating test results. Rem said a major help would be to have someone from each chapter, designated ahead of time, who will provide Rem with a narrative of the test.

A number of web resources are available to members:

Bohemian Wirehaired Pointing Griffon Club of America
<http://bohemiangriffon.org>

BWPGCA Education and Research Foundation (will soon be dissolved, however, and rolled into the regular website <http://huntersgriffon.org>

Český Fousek North America database
<http://ceskyfouseknorthamerica.org/>

Facebook pages for BWPGCA

Bohemian WPG Club of America:<https://www.facebook.com/griffon.fan>
Český Fousek North America
<https://www.facebook.com/search/top/?q=cesky%20fousek%20north%20america>

a

Smugmug photo gallery <https://wpgca.smugmug.com/>

BWPGCA YouTube channel

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCemLcT-twFTGOS_YGZJTzrQ

Northern Michigan U Qualtrics Survey Site

Rem reported that website annual costs are about \$592.

Chapter Presidents' Reports:

Rocky Mountain: Tawna Skinner

50 paid members. Membership increases by 4-5 members every year.

Only two dogs prized out of 9 tested last year

Rocky Mountain chapter participated in the PF-sponsored Youth Hunter program. Had 9 youth hunters last year

Heartland: Dave Finley

About 73 members.

Hold Michigan training days starting in April and running into fall

John Pitlo holds a 2-day training session in Bellevue, Iowa on the first weekend in August

Had 12 dogs at the 2017 spring test. Had 3 days of testing and a day of pre-testing

Have about \$11,000 in coffers

2018 spring test will be April 20-22

NE Chapter: Andy Ogden

2018 spring test to be held on May 5. Only 2 dogs so far.

No set exposure day set up

NW Chapter: Dennis Carlson

Test grounds traditionally used by the chapter are deteriorating. Dennis is working with their NAVHDA chapter, who uses the same grounds, to see what improvements can be done.

2018 fall test will be Sept 8-9.

Pheasant Fest Update: John Pitlo reported that the 2018 Pheasant Fest (held in Sioux Falls, South Dakota) was well-attended. About 25 people asked for additional information on the club. Next year's Pheasant Fest will be held in Chicago on February 22-24, 2019. Additional discussion will be held on club involvement.

Advertising in Gun Dog Magazine: Jim Crouse said the club will no longer take out ads in Gun Dog magazine. It is too expensive for the level of interest it generates.

BOD PennHip Decision

by John Pitlo

The annual meeting of the BWPGCA BOD in Idaho was a lively affair with deliberations lasting much longer than expected. Of utmost importance to the club was the loss of nearly \$10,000 during the last operating year. All of this loss was due to failures with AI's of females selected for breeding during the year. There were numerous ideas shared on how to achieve financial stability for the club. The final decision will affect members and future puppy buyers in two ways.

First – the cost of a pup will be increased to \$1,250—which is \$300 more than the present cost of \$950. The BOD members did not feel that this amount was out of line compared with the \$1,500 - \$2,000 being charged by individual breeders for Fousek and Griffon pups. However – the BOD still felt this was a significant increase, and the club's philosophy has always been to keep the price of a pup as low as possible to make them available to average on-foot-hunters.

Second – to offset the increased cost to the puppy buyer – the club will no longer require domestically bred pup owner to do a PennHip evaluation on their pup at 10 months of age as in the past. Our database has nearly 130 PennHip data points and the Breeding Committee (BC) now has enough information to know where our breeds 50% range is (see any February issue of the GDS for a lengthy description of why we select dogs for breeding in the upper 50% range of the PennHip distribution). We will continue to PennHip all imported pups because we need to build our database for these dogs. If any domestically bred dogs that are selected for breeding, they will need a PennHip evaluation and the club will pay for the that procedure.

Although no longer required of everyone, the BOD recommends each owner do a PennHip evaluation to know exactly what kind of hips your dog has. Several of our club members have had dogs with higher probabilities of developing hip dysplasia and have put their dogs on a diet high in Glucosamine and Chondroitin as recommended by their veterinarians. These dogs have shown no signs of hip dysplasia.

Of the \$1,250.00 paid for a pup, \$625 will go to the club and \$625 to the breeder. Over the years of keeping records by many club breeders, the break-even point (where income from the sale of pups covers the expenses of getting the female bred, puppy food, shots, etc.) is around five puppies. If a breeder's cost exceeds their expenses to raise the litter, the club will cover the expenses not covered by the sale of the pups.

The BOD believes this is a fair arrangement. New puppy owners will not pay substantially more for a pup since they will not be required to do a PennHip evaluation at a cost of \$350-\$600. The breeder will get \$625 per pup and with a litter of 7 or 8, make some money for their efforts in raising the litter for the club. Our club is not in it to make money from puppy sales – after all, we are a breed club with the sole purpose of improving our dogs for the average hunter.

2018 Spring Breeding Update by the Breeding Committee.

With spring coming to much of the US, even though we still have snow on the way here and there, our thoughts turn to PUPPIES. This will be the first year we will begin to reap the reward of our import program. It has been a long time coming but we hope to continue to get dogs through testing and into the breeding program. Our puppy list has about 30 people on it at this point and we hope to fill most of it this year with domestic puppies with a few spots from imports.

The Breeding Committee deeply thanks the owners of all of the dogs in the breeding program because just getting a breeding done can be quite a chore and we salute their effort for the good of the breed.

We have instituted a few new protocols that we hope will improve our test scores and reduce the variability of owner input. These include giving each new puppy owner a coach to help keep them on track, help solve problems, and encourage them to be totally ready for the tests. In addition, we Strongly encourage each breeder to embrace the “Puppy Culture” method (December 2017 GDS) and keep up to date with suggestions on the Puppy Culture Facebook Discussion Group. We are sending Robert Milner’s early retriever training book to each new puppy owner so they begin early with positive reinforcement as well as help develop the natural retrieve and impulse control. New puppy owners are also encouraged to get the Puppy Culture Video (with club discount) and please consider getting the “Attention is the Mother of all behaviors” video as well.

This season we have already had five breedings take place and are anxiously awaiting results for two of them. There are several others we hope for later this year. You can explore the pedigrees and their ancestors of the dogs listed below as well as use the “Test Mating” tool at the database - ceskyfouseknorthamerica.org

In choosing mates we try to select dogs that are compatible by adding strengths to their partner’s characteristics. We have a very limited breeding pool so mate choices can be difficult and often result in long discussions within the breeding committee. Not all the Czech dogs we have imported frozen semen from have had their hips assessed. Therefore, we try to use females with high hip scores as mates for those dogs. Increasingly, males in the Czech Republic are having their hips assessed and we target those with excellent hips for importing frozen semen, although this is not always possible.

We have been trying to develop some North American lines. Unlike the lines developed in the Czech Republic where each line has slightly different characteristics, our lines are designed as a tool to manage diversity. To understand this approach better see “Managing Breeds for a Secure Future: Strategies for Breeders and Breed Associations (Second Edition)” by Sponenberg, Beranger, and Martin. It is a bit complicated and can perhaps sound counter intuitive but some aspects are straightforward. For example, when a dog has a high coefficient of inbreeding (COI also

called $f(x)$ we select a partner from another line to reduce that COI in the offspring. We want the COI to be as low as possible but still maintain high quality dogs. Litter size has been shown to be associated with the COI of either the mother and/or the offspring (see information provided at- <http://www.instituteofcaninebiology.org/inbreeding-gubbels.html>) with a higher COI reducing the litter size. The average Český Fousek litter size worldwide is 5 to 6 (actually 5.5 but you can't really have half of a puppy). However, there is great variability (1-12) and we have seen between 1 and 9 recently.

Part of our decision in mate selection is to consider a natural breeding or one of the versions of artificial insemination (AI). Our goal is to have the vast majority be natural breeding with fewer frozen semen AI's. Frozen semen AI is very expensive for the club with shipment costs. Therefore, the Breeding Committee would like to reserve frozen semen AI for special cases to address specific characteristics or genetic diversity. At this point in our breeding program we do not have enough males that have qualified for breeding so we have been overly dependent on frozen semen AI. Over the last few years we have imported a number of males and hope within a year or two we can begin to use mostly natural breeding.

The next steps in the breeding process are coordination and logistics. With natural breeding we must determine how we get the partners together. The club does not advocate shipping the female to the male, however, if the owner of the female drives her to the male that is acceptable. We have two examples of that this breeding season. If frozen semen AI is chosen we must find a veterinarian that is experienced and capable with the procedure as well as able to get the timing correct. It is all about timing with frozen semen AI! Then we need to determine if the veterinarian is able to hold frozen semen for an extended period of time at their facility to match ovulation time or if we must rush a shipment at the last moment. There are many "moving parts", quite a bit of coordination is involved, and can be very expensive when we use frozen semen.

Below are the matches selected for our 2018 domestic puppies:

1) **Corbet of High Desert x Hika of Dutchman's Hollow**

Bred in December 2017 with a healthy litter of nine puppies resulting. Steve Schutte drove from WI to CO just before Christmas! We planned a natural breeding but finally we ended up with a fresh semen side-by-side AI. Many thanks to Steve for his experience in cattle for making this breeding happen! Both of these dogs qualified in their IHDT tests, and showed excellent game desire and cooperation. Corbet is a smaller male, a quality we wanted because of recent very large dogs in our program.

2) **Hart z Nolkopu x Dorka z Podřipské stráně (Dezi)**

Bred in January 2018 using frozen semen via surgical implantation, however no pregnancy resulted. Dezi is a dog that anyone of us would love to hunt over. She has a wonderful search and points well. Dezi shows great cooper-

ation, has a normal conformation, has a good coat, and retrieves well. She has taken to her training easily. We hope to be able to try with Dezi again with a natural breeding later this year.

3) **Flik z Lovčických tarasů x Brita Eso**

Bred using two trans cervical insemination (TCI) with frozen semen at Cornell University that resulted in seven healthy puppies. Report from Mark Canfield is that he found a place to stay in Ithaca over night with great local beers. Brita is an excellent all around dog that matured a little slowly. Brita does not have a perfect coat, but it is quite serviceable. She has a fine nose, searches well, and show good cooperation. Flik is a Czech dog that has done well in both conformation, with Klubový vítěz (club winner) as well as in field tests. Flik received a prize I in all field tests including the Memoriál Fr. Housky. We think his coat will be a strong asset in this breeding. All these puppies already have been given Czech names.

4) **Argo ze Stoprounských vinic (Books) x Angie Vallis Baptismi (Tess)**

This was a planned natural breeding and took place in March 2018- during our National meeting in ID. The Pools drove Tess to Iowa to be near the Wendel's for this breeding. We believe both Tess and Books are exceptional dogs and have produced numerous birds for their owners. Tess searches well and is not afraid to range out a bit, but all the while hunting with her handler. She has great hips. She points well and likes the water. Books is an average sized male and one that is as comfortable in the water as in the uplands.

5) **Calina Rokycanská kotlina.** Calina has a high coefficient of inbreeding (COI) so the breeding committee selected a dog that would be compatible but also not closely related. We have had semen stored from Dar z Tiské hájenky and also had some donated from Jake Overton when he moved to New Zealand. Calina was bred via both surgical and TCI AI in late March 2018, so now we keep our fingers crossed. Calina demonstrates strong hunting desire and excels at finding upland birds. She has a nice coat and good confirmation. Dar was an excellent dog with a long list of Memorial test wins (Memorials similar to our utility tests).

6) **Adele od Těrlické hráze.** We have not yet selected a partner for Adele with a planned breeding in the fall. Adele has shown very strong upland work, points well, and has a beautiful coat. She has made a wonderful family dog. A likely mate would have very strong water work. Hopefully such a male will be found after the spring tests.

There are a few more females who have yet to qualify and we hope to have them into the breeding pool this year.

Again, many thanks to all the breeders for their hard work.

Hair Loss

by Kurt Soneson

You are probably saying, “What?”

On Saturday March 11th thirteen members and one honorary member of the Northeast Chapter got together at Laurie Connell and Scott Craig's home in Winterport, ME for a hair loss clinic. Qualified in hair loss as I am, I was not putting on this clinic. Our guest speaker was Silvie Neradilova, from the Czech Republic, who is back in the United States furthering her studies on Alopecia (hair loss) in Cesky Fouseks.

Laurie thought a meet/greet luncheon at her place would make a great opportunity to learn more about Silvie's work and a chance for us to learn more about Fouseks and the Czech Republic Club, and right she was. Laurie asked Silvie to put on a presentation about her research work for us, which gave her the opportunity to practice before she presents at the



An example of alopecia in the Cesky Fousek.

(Photo supplied by Silvie Neradilová)

upcoming Judges Seminar in Idaho. With very short notice Silvie agreed. Some background on Silvie:

Silvie is a delightful young lady with very strong ties to the Cesky Fousek Club in the C.R. She is a Judge, breeder, and dog trainer. Her Fousek holds a long list of awards for their teamwork.

Silvie was last here from Nov. 2016 to Feb. 2017 under a internship at Cornell University where she was studying bioinformatics (data processing) to help further understand which genes are connected to alopecia in Cesky Fouseks. This hair loss can appear in numerous places on the dog, thinning on ears, spots on the body, etc. She has gathered information on 48 dogs so far and is searching for more affected dogs to add to the data base. During this time Silvie stayed with her U.S. adopted parents, club members Mark and Joanne Canfield. When Mark and Joanne heard their long-lost daughter would be in Maine to further her studies they jumped in the car and headed to Winterport for the gathering. Besides a slight problem at the radiator shop they made it.

The presentation was very interesting, but thank goodness there wasn't a test. We learned about DNA, RNA, everything but the NRA. Silvie will be furthering her studies at the University of Maine and Jackson Laboratory at Bar Harbor. Laurie will be attending some seminars with her. After a stellar lunch prepared by Laurie, aided by the Home Brew King, Scott, we had the opportunity to learn more about the breeding and testing process in the C.R. Did you know at the Czech tests, live, pen-raised birds can be used for the pointing work, but using live ducks for the duck track is forbidden?

Learning more about the breeding selection process, breedings, time, energy, expense, gave new importance to the role we play as owners of this special breed. We absolutely cannot take lightly the responsibility we have when we apply for a puppy, receive it, and prepare for the tests. The limited amount of pups we receive from the C.R. each year is the future of our club in the U.S. The success or failure of the club lies in the hands of you new puppy owners. Maybe some of the testing failures as of late is the result of the club not properly informing future puppy owners of the responsibility they have when they sign on for a puppy. When you buy into the program you are expected to fulfill your commitment of training, testing, and breeding your dog if it is breed-able. Many times we see dogs with great potential fail in testing because they weren't properly prepared.

Everyone says prepare your dog for the tests but what if you've never done it before? Below are some tips from various members. These are

personal thoughts not club sanctioned training methods.

Test Tips:

Look for pheasants and ducks weeks prior to your test. Don't wait to the last minute to locate birds. Build yourself a little pen to hold them. Don't name these birds.

Practice your tracks and drags more than once. Last practice run ideally would be a few days before the test so it's fresh in your dogs mind.

Water work is the hardest to practice. Get your dog interested in the water early, mud puddles, cross narrow streams that pup can follow, sandy bottom ponds to start. Swim with an older dog to entice junior. Do not force your pup into the water. Do not start your pup swimming in water holes with heavy vegetation where he struggles.

Duck track for IHDT: This part of the test is where most dogs seem to struggle. Many times it's simply the lack of exposure. The dog simply doesn't know what to do. This method has helped a few people, you can do this by yourself or with help.

Day One; Use a weedy pond/bog with some open water. You need enough vegetation to hide a duck. Take your dog for a swim there. Get him use to the environment.

Day Two. Back to the pond. Put junior on a leash. Let the helper grab a duck and pull flight feathers. Stand at a short distance in plain view of the duck. If your dog has never smelled a duck before let it get a snoot full of duck scent. Let the dog get fired up with the excitement of flapping wings and quacking . Give it a minute or two and release the duck in view of the dog into the pond. Let the duck get into the weeds, immediately release the dog. Chase is on. Hopefully your dog will come back with the duck. If the duck is swimming away and there is no chance of your dog catching it after a good chase dispatch the duck when safe to do so provided the dog is BROKE to the gun beforehand. Retrieve the duck. Save it for a blind retrieve. If the duck is retrieved alive it can be reused.

Day Three; Back to the pond. Hide your dog from view of the duck and the start of track. Pull the flight feathers and place at starting point of track. Bowl the duck out into the bog and wait for it to disappear into the weeds. Bring your dog up, show it the starting point and release. His game drive will kick in and off to the races.

How do you prepare for the pointing portion of the test?

Wild Birds, Wild Birds, Wild Birds Exposure

I can't find wild birds.

Take pup out with a friend or club member with a staunch pointer who can locate the birds. As the older dog points let pup come in and get a whiff. You'd be surprised after a few times pup will start to slow up and figure it out. Woodcock are a terrific training bird. They are around spring to fall. Unlike planted quail your pup won't catch a woodcock on the ground.

How do you plant a bird if you have to use planted birds?

Chukars and Quail sit the best. Grasp the bird, place the head under the wing and hold firmly, gently pull the legs straight back and place on the ground in lightly covered vegetation. The bird needs to be able to lift off. When the bird is "out" the legs will stay straight out. If the legs retract repeat process.

A walk in the park with pup on a leash is a opportunity to work some obedience training and let your dog sniff, stalk, and point a pigeon. Many parks have duck ponds that you can walk around to spark pups interest in Daffy Duck.

Dead Bird Drag, Live Bird Track

There are different thoughts on this. Some will practice the dead drag first with the thought being maybe more scent is on the ground making it easier for the dog to learn to track.

On the live bird track some will let the bird run and disappear into heavy cover with the dog watching then turn the dog loose, then repeat process without the dog watching the bird release.

Practice your retrieving. Everyone has lost points due to sloppy or no retrieves. Practice with the family or a group of people around you. There is always a crowd on test days and a lot of dogs react differently if performing in front of a group of strangers. Murphys Law always kicks in on test day.

Know where the test site is. (Sorry D.S.)

Finally train early, train often. Ask for help if needed. Be honest about whether you can take on the commitment of training, testing, and breeding responsibilities. The future of the breeding program is in your hands.

In conclusion many thanks to our fine Breeding Committee both in the U.S. And the C.R. for their hard work and dedication to rebuilding our breed, without you we would be hunting with GSPs, English Pointers, or Heaven forbid Brittanies. Ohh

As Bartels and James would say: "Thank you for your support"

Retrieve to Hand-Via the Clicker Method

by Tawna Skinner

“The dog should find the game willingly, and...pickup the game without hesitation and bring it to the handler enthusiastically without any further influence by his handler. The dog should sit or stand quietly by his handler and hold the game until commanded to release it.”

This quote is from the BWPGCA Intermediate Hunting Dog Test Regulations. It defines “retrieve to hand”. The retrieve to hand, as defined, is made up of six parts 1) waiting for the command; 2) going swiftly to the object to be retrieved; 3) picking up the object; 4) returning directly to the handler with the object; 5) waiting for the release command and 6) willingly giving up the object on command. These six behaviors are performed in a specific order and as a result of a single command.

Retrieving is not only important for testing, it is imperative for any good field hunting dog. Otherwise, the handler/hunter will have to wade into the brambles, cattails, slough or lake to retrieve their birds. Hmm, that is certainly not my preference.

Though there are some “natural” retrievers who are consistently willing to return to you with “the bird” or other object, for reliability in the field, most hunting dogs need to be ‘trained’ to retrieve. They need to learn, understand and be able to execute each part of the retrieve sequence.

There are several methods for teaching retrieving to a dog. As I mentioned in my previous article, “clicker” training is the method that I have found to be the quickest and most effective, based on the qualities of enthusiasm, willingness, speed, and dependability that I desire in my dogs.

CLICKER

“Clicker” training is a type of operant conditioning. Operant conditioning is the act of reinforcing any and all desired behaviors that an animal offers so that it will offer them again.

In “clicker” training, the clicker is the ‘marker’ that lets the dog know that the particular behavior it was exhibiting *at the moment of the click* is the desired behavior. Immediately following the click, the dog receives a treat. Both the click and the treat are the reinforcement for the behavior. The click tells the dog that a treat is coming. Without the treat, the clicker will lose its power and the dog’s progress will slow or even end. Knowing that a treat is coming motivates the dog to repeat the behavior, however, when the dog hears the click, the dog will stop what it is doing and will seek the treat. This is an important part of the game, because

this ‘stopping of the behavior’ enables the dog to re-offer the behavior again, thus creating practice of the behavior and imprinting the behavior into its mind.

TREATS

The primary reinforcer, the treat, is what the dog is working to get. It is the payment for performing. Treats for some dogs are so important that they will get pushy-- jumping, diving, grabbing for the treats. Keep your treats handy, but out of reach. The dog must learn that they only get treats that they earn.

Become aware of the treats your dog especially likes and have those on hand for the times you will be asking the dog to do something difficult. I start with kibble and use it as long as possible. One piece is the reward, not a handful. This is pretty easy with puppies and young dogs, because they are generally always hungry. Save those hot dogs, cheese, or steak bits for later, when distractions are high or when your dog did something especially brilliant.

Do not worry that your dog will become a food hound with clicker training. Remember that learning progresses fastest when there is high motivation and food can be a great motivator. In the beginning, you will treat the dog after every click. As his skill progresses, treating will be on a variable schedule and eventually, can be phased out altogether. If your dog is not food motivated you can use a favorite toy as a reward or a short play session after each successful behavior.

SHAPING

“Shaping” is the term used in the clicker world for reinforcing a behavior that is being offered so that it will be repeated. There are some rules for shaping that when followed will enhance your success.

- Criteria must be raised slowly, in small increments. If you are having difficulty, look at whether you are asking for more than the dog understands at that point or is willing to do. Lower the criteria any time the dog seems confused or stressed.
- Train, in a session, for only one thing at a time. If you are wanting a speedy return and a correct hold, each has to be shaped (reinforced) separately.
- Once a behavior is learned, it should be reinforced only occasionally (variable schedule) to maintain it at its present level.
- What a dog learns is never forgotten but may fall apart when some new criteria are added. When teaching a new behavior, lower your

standards for performing old behaviors until the new behavior is learned.

- Dogs may make a breakthrough, leaping beyond what is currently being taught. Be prepared to ‘Jackpot’ (bonus treats for a job well done) those sudden improvements.
- Have only one trainer work with the dog.
- Not every method works with every dog to induce a certain behavior. If something is not working, be creative and try something else.
- Always have a definite start and stop time for each session. Phone calls, outside conversations leave a dog hanging, not knowing whether this is still training or not.
- If a behavior deteriorates, just go back to something easy, reviewing what the dog already knows.
- Keep training sessions short and frequent. The length of the session will depend on the attention span of the dog. The session should always terminate on a high note, with the dog wanting more.
- Avoid corrections, either verbal or physical when shaping new behaviors, as this can cause a learning set back.

CHALLENGES

There are two separate occasions that take place in the training process, where a known behavior is voluntarily abandoned by the dog. They occur most often during the beginning phases. In the first instance, a dog will stop offering the behavior that was just reinforced and try something else instead or just stare at the treat or wander off. If the trainer is calm and just waits, the dog will most likely try the desired behavior again, will receive a treat and be back in the game again. The second instance may occur shortly after the first. This time the dog may go for the clicker or the hand or container of treats. The dog may just stand and stare at the handler or the treat, appearing to wait for the handler to give and treat him for nothing. Once again, be patient and wait. The dog will offer the behavior again. It is wise, at this point, to ask for a couple more successful behaviors and then end the session.

- You, the trainer, can be a challenge to the dog’s progress. Avoid helping the dog verbally or physically. This is a thinking game for your dog. Any words of encouragement are a distraction. Keep quiet.
- Raising criteria too high can cause behavior to deteriorate. Raise criteria in one area at a time, such as duration, distance, intensity, distraction, speed. See shaping rules above.



Field Testing Tawna's Advice

Brom z Neřádova Stavení is learning to retrieve following Tawna's advice.

Photo by Rem DeJong

- Know your dog's limitations. Watch for signs of stress. Be aware of distractions that may be influencing your dog's willingness to work (kids, the TV, cell phone, other dogs or pets, etc.)
- Training too long or too fast can cause stress in your dog and could cause problems later on. Always end a session with a success and when your dog is still in the game.

TRAINING

- This type of training is pretty easy, though to be effective, it requires some discipline on the part of the trainer. The trainer needs to do a minimum of 3 sessions a day (short 5-10 minutes) for 3-4 days in a row on the particular skill you and the dog are working on. I have found that taking a couple of days break on a particular skill before

continuing allows for latent learning to take place. When you go back to that particular skill the dog is usually enthusiastic to play the game again and sometimes makes progressive leaps in learning.

- It is important to follow the shaping rules mentioned above, especially in adding new criteria. There are many steps and skills to be mastered to have a reliable “retrieve to hand”.
- The “take” is the first skill to teach. The training sequence begins with a look at the dummy, to sniffing the dummy, to touching the dummy with nose or lips. It continues to teeth on or biting the dummy and then taking the dummy from the hand. Proceeding further includes the dog taking the dummy from down, left and right and then reaching to take the dummy. Moving the dummy to the floor and then the dog walking a step or two forward to pickup the dummy from the floor are the final components of the “take”, just before the last which is adding a “cue” (command) to the sequence.
- Due to lack of space this is only a general description of the components of the “take” not the actual training details. For a detailed step by step “how to” check out our BWPGCA website.
- I start this training in the house in a quiet, non- distracting room. After my dog can do all of the above on cue in that room I will add the criteria of distance in that room until the dog can retrieve on command the full length of the room. Then I will change the criteria of place and do the retrieving in another room until the dog is comfortable performing the retrieve in that room. I will proceed to all the rooms in the house before I move outside. I may also change ‘what’ is being retrieved, from a dummy to a toy or a dokken bird.
- The reason I move from one room to another is because dogs do not generalize well, as we do. Every place is new criteria for them. Just because your dog knows and does something in the house, it may not do it in the yard. Similarly, a dog that does things perfectly in the yard, most likely will not do it in the field, especially on test day. We have all heard (or said) “I don’t understand why she didn’t do that, she was doing it perfectly at home...” A professional trainer once told me a dog needs to learn a skill in seven different places before they are able to generalize that they can do it in most places. Do not be in a hurry to move outside. Build a strong base inside first. There are many distractions outside that can interfere with the dog’s attention to you.
- While training the basic retrieve, you also need to be training sit, stay and come, if your dog does not yet know these skills. These skills are all

part of the retrieve to hand sequence. Do this training in different sessions than your retrieve training. Going to a puppy obedience class can help you and your dog master those skills quickly. Many classes use the clicker approach which will teach both you and the dog the basics.

If this seems like a lot of information and time involved, do not worry. This method is fun and a great way to interact and build a great relationship with your dog. It only takes a few minutes each day. The overall time to get that finished Retrieve to Hand will depend on how often you train, how well the dog understands and progresses and how well you follow the shaping rules. Good luck and have fun.

Bookmark this web page so you can download this article and other training related articles from our website:

<http://bohemiangriffon.org/training>



From Bird Handler to the Board of Directors

Andy Ogden has demonstrated amazing potential in the BWP/GCA, rising from lowly bird handler to representing the Northeast on the BWP/GCA Board of Directors.

Andy Ogden Joins BOD

Andy is a long time club member in the North East. His older dog is **Bushmanzeke of Bogan's Point** (still going but getting slower). He currently is working with **Kája od Tyrše** to prepare for utility and perhaps the Cesky Fousek World Cup. Andy has been spending his early retirement time learning better dog training skills through various major seminars and training sessions nationwide.

Andy is a retired OBGYN physician from Ogdensburg NY and has been the NE club professional bird handler, trained by the top bird handler Kurt Sonneson.

What's Happening

Spring 2018 Tests

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

May 5, 2018 Wintersport, ME

Test Chairs: Scott Craig & Laurie Connell

85 Rabbit Hill Road

Winterport, Maine, 04496

(207) 525 3383 oquassa5@gmail.com

Fall 2018 Tests

Heartland Chapter Spring Test

Fall Test September 7,8 & 9 2018 (Tentative)

Field Test Chair Dave Read

PH:(616) 836-5304 Email: readgriff@gmail.com

Northeast Chapter Fall Test

September 8-9, 2018 Bristol, ME (Tentative)

Test Chairs: Scott Craig & Laurie Connell

85 Rabbit Hill Road

Winterport, Maine, 04496

(207) 525 3383 oquassa5@gmail.com

Northwest: Silver Creek, WA

Sept 8 & 9, 2018

Contact: Dennis Carlson

Tel: 541-386-4830 carlson@gorge.net

Training Days:

Heartland—Marshall, Michigan

Marshall, MI. (held monthly)

Contact: Jim Crouse (614)562-1860

jcrouse01@yahoo.com