

# The Gun Dog Supreme

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**LETTER FROM THE EDITOR**

Greetings:

Well, with this last GDS issue of 2021, the new editorial crew (Brook Merrow, Rick Sojda, and myself) has somehow gotten through a full year. Although Rem has left most of the heavy lifting to me, he has been an invaluable resource as I navigated the transition to editor, while John Pitlo continues to do the tedious but so important work of compiling and reporting the test results and publishing the dog pedigrees. Thank you!!

The first issue of the Gun Dog Supreme was published in November 1951.

**Happy 70<sup>th</sup> Birthday GDS!**

This issue has a little bit of everything. Our feature article about John Pitlo recounts nearly 30 years of our club's 50-year history. While some members are transient and seem to come and go, it is the many active members, like John and his wife Vivian, that are the bedrock of the club that has kept this group moving forward.

The other lengthy article is a contribution by our Czech friends regarding the alopecia study. It is the first of three articles that we will publish. Although some may find the writing a bit technical, I hope you see it as informative and begin to understand the significance of genetic testing of our dogs and how it helps us with making more informed breeding decisions.

Lastly, I would like to thank Mike Branigan, Thomas Wyse, and Andrew Olcott for submitting their short articles on their experience of importing a puppy, sora rail hunting, and the simple joy of "Opening Day," respectively. We don't have to be professional writers to share a story or experience. Our members span from coast to coast and these stories help us feel connected. So please, continue to send in your experiences and ideas.

Happy holidays and stay safe!

*Spiro Mavroidis*, Editor

Correction from Aug. Issue: Our apology for an error to a dog's age and the owner's name. Breckenridge of Bald Eagle, owned by Sidney Siefken, was 23 months old at the time of the test.

**On the Cover:** Aiden (Ax z Českého Jahodnice), in a mutt hut blind patiently waiting to be released for a retrieve. Owned and handled by Anna Artz.

Photo by Anna Artz

For information requests or to join CFNA

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Or visit our web page at: <https://ceskyfousekna.org>

**EDITORS**

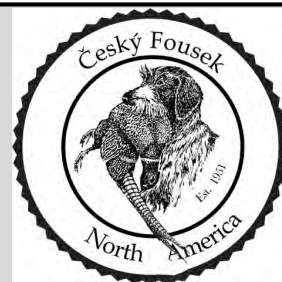
**Spiro Mavroidis**

**Brook Merrow**

**Rick Sojda**

**John Pitlo**

**Rem DeJong**

**SUBSCR./BACK ISSUES**

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

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Laurie Connell

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Jim Seibel

John Pitlo

## Passing of Dr. Edward Bailey

We are all saddened to learn of the passing of Dr. Ed Bailey on October 26, 2021. A proper tribute to Dr. Bailey's contributions to our club and to hunters everywhere will be forthcoming.



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## Volunteers Needed for Pheasant Fest

by  
**Jim Crouse**

If you volunteered in the past to help at Pheasant Fest, you will recall what a great time it is. If you are thinking about volunteering, you will be doing a great service in fostering the Gun Dog Supreme.

The 2022 Pheasant Fest and Quail Classic is being held in Omaha, Nebraska March 11-13, 2022. PF has been a very important marketing tool for our club. At these festivals, we are literally exposed to thousands of potential dog owners. While there are many breeds to choose from, this venue gives us the opportunity to tell our story and allows individuals to interact with our breed. They see first hand how special our Cesky Fouseks are.

In the past, we have reserved space so our volunteers can help us tell our story of the Cesky Fousek. Therefore, we are looking for both human and canine volunteers. We need club members to help in the booth, but most of all we need our dogs, and in particular puppies! Our dogs steal the show and draw a crowd to our booth that wants to know more about our special dogs. We usually gain a member or two, but most importantly, we gain exposure.

Kirk Dilly has done an awesome job in the past, and he has volunteered to organize our effort and will be able to provide details.

If you are interested, please contact Kirk directly  
(320-304-2212: [kirk.dilly@mortonbuildings.com](mailto:kirk.dilly@mortonbuildings.com))

Hope to see you in Omaha!



# Officer Election Information

by

**Robin Strathy**

Nominations for officers were accepted from paid-up members prior to November 1 of this election year. The slate of nominees is provided in this GDS and will be posted on the website. Voting can be done online at this site and mail-in ballots will be sent out to paid-up members as well. All votes must be submitted online or mailed to the designated vote counter (the ballot will have a return address on them) prior to December 31, 2021, and elections are by majority. Election results will be posted on the website as well as in the February GDS.

<https://ceskyfousekna.org/about-us/constitution/2021-election/>

## Nominees:

**President: Jim Seibel**

**Vice President: Anna Artz**

**Secretary: Jane Cleaves-McKenna**

**Treasurer: Roger Fuhrman**

**Note from President Nominee, Jim Seibel:** I have been nominated to be the next president of the CFCA. Here is a brief introduction to my club history. My wife, Arlene and I joined the WPGCA in January of 1988. I have served as Treasurer, been a member of the Breeding Committee, Judges Committee, a Senior Judge and the BoD. We have owned six Cesky Fouseks. I will present my vision for the future of the club in the next GDS issue.

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## Adjustment to Cesky Fousek Puppy Price

At the CFNA Board of Directors (BoD) meeting on October 25, 2021 the BoD unanimously voted to increase the price of puppies from \$1250 to \$1700. The vote also increased the breeders share from \$625 to \$935 per puppy. The CFNA's share will increase from \$625 to \$765.

The Board considered information provided by Breeders, the cost incurred by the CFNA, and comparative puppy prices for other sporting breeds.

As the breeding selection process has become more complex, costs associated with producing quality puppies has also increased to the point where most breeders are losing money with every litter produced.

Over time, the CFNA has moved away from a simpler approach of checking hips, evaluating test scores and then breeding the-best-to-the-best, to an approach that still includes hip test results, test scores, plus information gathered through DNA analysis.

The CFNA will honor the agreements with those who have made Puppy Deposits and have a puppy Purchase Agreement at the price of \$1,250.

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## OPPOSITE PAGE

A true versatile dog! Aiden can do it all, from pointing quail and ruffed grouse to sitting patiently in a waterfowl blind and making water retrieves. **Fist Dostál Champion Award recipient Ax z České Jahodnice (Aiden), owned and handled by Anna Artz**

Photos by: Ryan Artz

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## Dostal Champion Award

by

**Laurie Connell**

Last year the Board of Directors ended the General Rogers Award and began exploration for a replacement (see GDS Vol. 95 No. 2, 2020). The Board felt that training and teamwork to a high level should be rewarded with an honor. Additionally, ALL handler/dog teams that reach that level should be rewarded, not just a single dog with the highest Utility Field Test (UFT) score regardless of level of performance. This would also reward teamwork by raising the bar to the highest level of work only. By unanimous vote, the Board of Directors has developed a new award that will also carry a Championship title to go with the winning dog. This award is called the Dostál Championship and the dog will be given the title of Dostál Champion (DC). The award is in honor of Dr. Jaromir Dostál and Ing. Pavel Dostál for all the service that they have given to our club for the Český Fousek breed. All dogs that earn a Prize I in the UFT will be awarded this Championship and it will be presented annually at the National meeting.

The first dog to be given this award is Ax z České Jahodnice (Aiden), owned and handled by Anna Artz. Aiden and Anna received a perfect score for their UFT, a difficult feat in our testing system. Aiden is now considered a Dostál Champion (DC). We hope that Aiden and Anna will be able to compete in the Second Český Fousek World Cup to represent our North American club in 2023.





## John Pitlo: A Friend to the Cesky Fousek in America

by  
**Rem DeJong**

**A**ny discussion about Cesky Fousek North America and its emergence from the Wirehaired Pointing Griffon Club of America must involve John Pitlo. From the 1980s to the present day, he has been a leading figure in our organization. Many bird handlers and apprentice judges have learned to do it the right way from this crusty but caring Marine. John's love of our dogs and dedication to preserving their hunting qualities are hard to match.

I got my first Griffon back in 1973, and throughout my experience as a Griffon and Fousek owner, and later as a GDS editor, John Pitlo has been a central figure. Photographing Heartland tests and training days provided excellent opportunities to witness John in action. He has played a major role in the shaping of the club, training judges, and giving dog owners a great experience. I recently had the opportunity to interview John about his long and involved history with our club and the dogs.

John's attachment to the Wirehaired Pointing Griffon formed before he even knew about the club. He relates:

In the early 70s, before I knew there was a club, I bought my first Wirehaired Pointing Griffon pup from a fellow in northwest Iowa because I had heard about them from others who had hunted with this dog. Gilda was her name; there was no such thing as a kennel name back then.

Well, I had a litter of pups with that dog, and I sold one to a guy in Mason City, who went to one of the club tests in Nebraska. He told me about the club, so I did a little researching, found out more, and joined. The following year, I went to a test in Nebraska. Dick Austin was the head judge, plus Joan Bailey was there.

I liked what they were doing and the way they were talking about dogs—how dogs were



**John and Vivian Pitlo with their first Griffon, Gilda**

**Photo by Greg Hurtig**

reacting to scent and what dogs should be able to do—and it really appealed to me. So, I ran a dog with Dick Austin and really talked a lot with him. Dick was judging in a lot of different places and was a breeder too—“De La Cote” was his kennel name.

The people who helped me the most would be Warren Webster, Jack Dallimore, and Joe

Nadeker. They probably taught me about judging dogs and reading dogs, like how a dog responds to scent and those sorts of things. I've had dogs judged by all three of them and learned a lot from all of them.

John explains that he was still in college when he became involved with the dogs. After graduating, he went to work for the DNR in the summer of 1977. He moved to Bellevue, Iowa, in 1978, and that's when he got to know Ken Hurtig. He then raised a second litter of dogs and ran one in a test in Nebraska.

John and Vivian have raised eight club litters to date (A through H). I asked him about these litters and remarked on his long history as a breeder.

Of those litters, I think the A, C, and the H litters stand out for me. The A was the first one with Blue Mountain Brew. I had a dog that went to Bob Hinckley in Maine, and that's how we went on to form a lifelong friendship. One went to Ken Hurtig, and another to Dean

Umphrey. Mark Kornig and a dentist in Colorado also took pups. As a result, these owners have been my good friends throughout my time in the club. The C litter was a repeat breeding of the A litter, and we kept a dog out of that litter, Callie. She may have been one of the top two or three dogs that I ever owned. Unfortunately, she died young, at about age seven, from blood cancer. We had a couple litters out of her. She was just superb. Really, really nice.

I asked Jim about meeting people through his involvement with dogs, and particularly his connection with Jim Seibel.

There have been so many friends throughout the whole U.S. that I wouldn't have known without the dogs

It was somewhere in the early 80s when I got acquainted with Jim Seibel. At some point, Joan Bailey and Jim hit it off, and when they came to a



**John Pitlo (center) with the new owners of Dutchman's Hollow H litter puppies at the Heartland Fall 2013 Test**

**Photo by Rem DeJong**



test, I met Jim. Brad Meyen, who now lives in Alaska, was living in Omaha, and he was in charge of getting ducks and birds for the test in Nebraska. Well, he couldn't find any ducks, so he brought Muscovy. I can still remember Dick Austin trying to use a stick to drag a Muscovy and make a track, and the dog trying to retrieve that five- or six-pound duck! Somewhere in those years, Brad moved to Alaska and the club lost the contact for access to the test grounds. I had brought some birds for the test and offered to find a test location in Iowa, starting around Iowa City. We formed the Heartland Chapter around that same time.

I asked John about how he became an officer in the club.

I first did some apprentice judging in Nebraska and then in Iowa before becoming a judge in the mid to late 1980s. Warren Webster was club president, and when he retired, Gary Pool became president, and I was vice-president. That had to be late 80s or early 90s.

The late 80s and early 90s was the era in which the Cesky Fousek introduction occurred. I asked John about his recollections of that.

Joe Nadeker led the charge on that, meeting with Dr. Jamir Dostal, of the Czech Republic, and selecting dogs to import. We only had several males and several females. Jim Seibel and I concluded that we could never import enough dogs to accomplish our goals, so we needed to import some semen. Jim and I made two trips to the Czech Republic to meet with Dr. Dostal and look at different dogs. It was fortunate that Dr. Dostal's son, Pavel, had gone to school in the U.S. in Minnesota and studied methods of preserving semen for agriculture and farming. So, he was familiar with the procedure. We then set up a method for collecting and shipping Cesky Fousek semen for our breeding program.

For quite a few years, I would contact Dr. Dostal and send him the pedigrees of the females that we were breeding. He would look over what he had and give us three or four options for males from which to collect semen. Initially we were



**John Pitlo and Dr. Jamir Dostal discuss the Cesky Fousek at the Heartland Spring Test (2008) during the Dr. Dostal's visit to the U.S.**

**Photo by Rem DeJong**

just going to infuse the Fousek and then go back to breeding nothing but Griffons, but that did not happen because we didn't have enough good Griffon males that we could go back to. So, we just kept infusing the Fousek, even though we called them Griffons, until they were 87 percent Cesky Fousek. So, it just made sense to go to the Fousek club instead of the Griffon

The interbreeding was not accepted by Griffon people outside our club. Barb Jensen, who was writing with NAHVDA, called our dogs "mongrels," although maybe they were designer dogs, and we were way ahead of the market for them. The relationship with the other Griffon people deteriorated very rapidly. We were a Griffon club, but I don't think we encompassed all the Griffons in the USA. There was a lot of Griffon breeding going on that the club had no control over.

When the group decided to do the outbreeding, Warren Webster, Joan Bailey, and Joe Nadeker led the charge. As the breeding committee, they



could see that there were problems with the breed deteriorating. They wanted to infuse a dog that was very similar in temperament characteristics to the Griffon. They didn't want to use the German Wirehaired because that temperament was way too strong.

I asked John about his personal experience with owning Fouseks.

Avaj of Iamonia, a female, was my first Fousek, from Dr. Tom Whitley's litter in Florida. I remember I ran Avaj in a test in Iowa, and Joe Nadeker said he wanted to see her persistence in her-pursuit of ducks. So, we turned a duck loose in front of her, and Joe wanted to see how persistent the dog was. That was his yardstick for measuring if the dog was suitable for breeding.

I asked John about more recent Fouseks in his life.

Tom Whitley bred a female from the Czech Republic, and I got a pup out of her, as did Ken Hurtig. That litter was a disaster. We don't know exactly what went wrong, but that female, when she was in whelp, was under a lot of stress. She was taken away from her old owner, shipped, and placed with a new owner. There was something wrong with each dog in that litter. My dog had hip problems and Ken's dog—he called it "Crazy Legs" because the back end was all screwed up. We learned never to ship dogs that were already in the development stage.

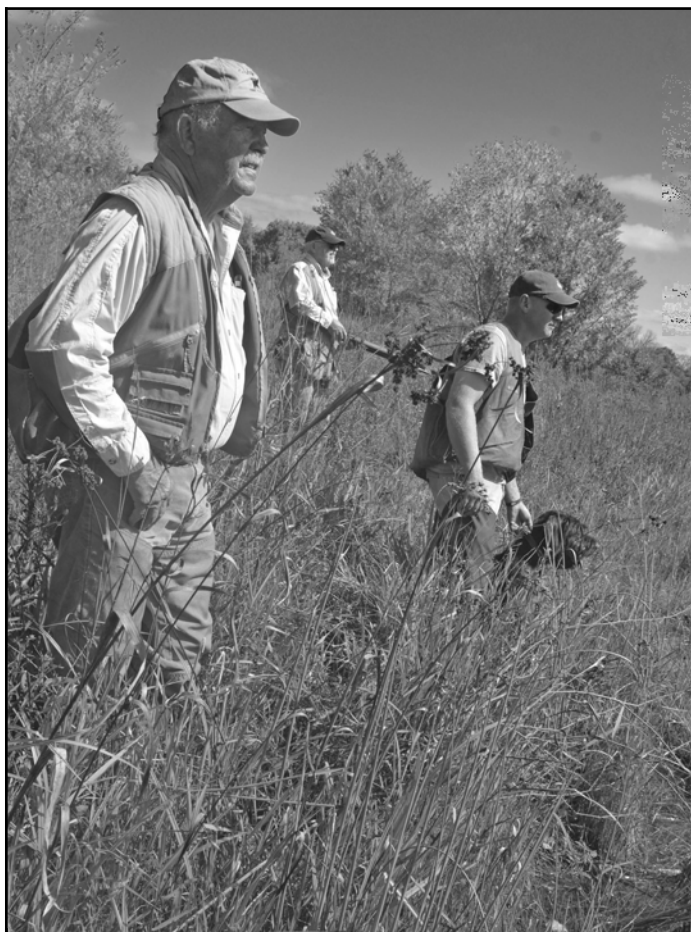
Then I had another dog a female from Jon and Judy Coil. She had bad hips too, and so here I had two dogs at eight or nine years old with mobility problems that I couldn't hunt very long.

Then we found out that Armando Carlos in Canada had imported a male from the Czech Republic. Jim and I drove up to Canada to look at him for use in our breeding program. While we were there, he had a litter of pups on the ground that were five or six weeks old. I bought a pup from him right then and there. That was Ayla of Ancient Kennels, the brown dog. A few weeks later I went back to Canada and picked up four puppies. One of the pups went to a guy in Texas

from whom Monica Redmond bought one of her dogs, Bohdy.

In 2004, I took my pup Brinker to a training day that John put on in August near Bellevue, Iowa. It was a great experience. I asked John about how his training day tradition emerged.

That was some of the most fun times we had. We started that in the late 90s the first weekend in August. It was early enough that if somebody had a problem, they could work on it before the Fall test. At our old house, we used to have 12 to 15 dogs on training weekend; it was great fun and a learning experience. We also helped to train our apprentice judges. (Many apprentice judges have stories of being trained by John, the Marine.)



**John Pitlo still doing what he loves: helping a new owner expose his dog at a 2019 Heartland training day and Fall Test**

**Photo by Rem DeJong**

They would learn how to release birds. They also gave instruction to handlers, and because it was not a test situation, you could take time and correct things really quickly and give them good guidance. Exposure for puppies was a big thing too, as well as training for intermediate tests.

Sitting around a campfire in the evening and talking was one of the best parts. The exchange between handlers and new people made first timers feel part of the club. We would do field work in the morning, and if it was too hot, we did water work in the afternoon. In late afternoon, if people wanted help with force-retrieve training on the table, we did that. Any problem people had, we had three or four judges and apprentice judges, and everybody had something a little different to offer. And so, it was really fun and informative. Newcomers really felt that they were part of the club and

were getting help. We're not doing that anymore, and we're losing that connection.

I had the last one three to four years ago, and just one guy from Wisconsin showed up. People just don't participate like they did before in the 90s and early 2000s. The training day just wasn't worth it anymore, so we shifted to doing one at the test grounds immediately before the test. The younger people are just different about participating and joining things.

I asked John to comment on what he sees for the future of the breed and the club as an organization.

I'm probably too old to have the mindset of younger people. Everything is online, we have social media, and even the dog application is online. We're going to Pheasants Fest in Omaha in March this year. We need to get our face in front of the hunting world, but even then, it's a daunting task. All the game departments point out that they are losing hunters and fewer licenses are being sold so it's going to be a definite challenge.

But I think we need to take care of our old members too—people who have demonstrated willingness to come to tests. We know their track record and need to keep them involved. Even if they only come back to us to get a dog, we need to keep them involved because we know that they're going to do what we ask them to do.

There's a problem when people get our best dogs and refuse to breed them. There's disagreement in the club now about where we place pups. In my opinion, we're a breed club. We need to have people agree to breed dogs; otherwise, we're going to go down the tubes. Some say that you can have a litter of pups and give the best two or three to people who will breed. I disagree. A good example is the last litter that Andy Yeast had. He thought the best dog in the litter was Callie that went to Michigan and look what happened to that dog. Ten weeks is just too early to know how a pup will turn out. You can identify some traits, I truly believe that,



**John Pitlo with Hendrika of Dutchman's Hollow at the Heartland 20214 Fall NAT Test**

**Photo by Rem DeJong**



but you cannot pick out the best of the litter at ten weeks.

Some people want to grow the club, and I'm OK with that. But say we produce a hundred pups a year—where are we going to get the judges to manage that? It means we'll need to go outside the club—go to NAVHDA or the Versatile Hunting Dog Federation, and then you're losing quite a bit of control over who the people are judging your dogs. So, there are challenges ahead.

I asked John to reflect on his experience with the breed and the club.

First of all, at our house, we both love dogs. We have a saying: "Viv gets them when they're young and old, and I get them in between." When we really got into it, we made some friendships that have lasted a lifetime. I'm talking

east to west. Rick Molt on the East Coast, and Bob Hinckley, the boat builder. All those guys came back to Iowa and hunted with me, and we shared dog stories. And going out to the West Coast and the Rocky Mountains, I hunted with Gary Pool and Larry Semmens. Now, I even meet with those guys in the wintertime in New Mexico and Arizona where we hunt desert quail with our dogs. Phil Lukish even stayed at my place last night.

The combination of the dogs and the people involved is what's made it for me. I've loved seeing young people—new trainers bringing their dogs along and being awed by what their dogs did when exposed correctly. I think my greatest contribution was breeding those litters and making hunters happy with the dogs they had. Simple things made me pretty happy. 🐾



**Vivian Pitlo with Hendrika of Dutchman's Hollow at the Heartland 2021 Spring Test**

**Photo by Jon Coil**

The following is translated from an article that appeared in the Czech club magazine (posted 3 February 2021) and is an analysis of the Embark Genetic Panel results for the dogs in the alopecia study (more on that in future articles). Additionally, the authors did some pedigree analysis for specific dogs in the Czech Republic. There were a few errors in the original article that the Czech authors have corrected here as well as an additional 18 dogs with Embark tests done. There were also eight Czech dogs that were tested by PawPrint Genetics (PPG). All those dogs have been added to the information here, however only Czech born dogs are in this report. We will have an update for the US population later as we gather information on more dogs in our database. Currently there have been about 250 dogs worldwide submitted for the Embark Genetic Panel, although data is not yet back for all yet. We encourage all owners to get their dogs included so that we can get a better picture of the genetic health of the breed. 🐾

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## **The Health Condition of the Český Fousek Breed; or What else has the Alopecia Research Brought?**

**By:**

**Ing. Silvie Neradilová,**

**MVDr. Alena Truhlářová,**

**Bc. Iveta Dočkalová**

**A**s you may have read in previous issues of the club newsletter, research on alopecia has progressed to the stage where we have been able to identify genes that may be directly related to the manifestation of the disease.

At present, we are still processing the information from the questionnaires that were collected with blood samples of the individual dogs. However, further progress in the research depends on obtaining additional funding. Even so, we were able to obtain a wealth of information from the same data that was collected for alopecia research. For those who would like to find out more, this is the Embark test, which normally costs about \$199 USD / test which equals about 3300 CZK (about 200 blood samples were tested) [Editor note- we now have about 240 dogs with Embark Genetic Panel completed]. Thanks to the cooperation with the American CF breeder club [CFNA] and Cornell University, we obtained the data for free. Thanks to this test, we can find out, for example, how the color and structure of the coat is genetically coded, the size of the body or the occurrence of hind dew claws. But, we also see the genetic coefficient of inbreeding and the coding of some immune genes. We will report on all these results in future issues of the newsletter. An important part of the Embark test are also markers for genetic diseases, which we want to inform you about in this article.

We are very grateful to all the owners of the whiskers who contributed to the research by providing the blood of their whiskers [Editor Note- The Czech's call their dogs "fousků" or "fouskům" - translating to "whiskers"]. Without them, we would not have come to this nascent problem in time. It would not be fair to publish specific names until the KCHČF Committee has decided how to deal with these results [Editor note- KCHČF is Klub Chovatelů Českých Fousků = the Czech Český Fousek Breeders Club].

Each individual was tested for 157-193 different genetic diseases. [Editor Note- there are now 207 variants tested with more added all the time]. These are diseases affecting blood clotting, eye defects, growth defects, nervous system defects, kidney diseases, heart disease, epilepsy, and others.

The excellent news is that from this number of different genetic diseases, only two occur in the population of Czech Český Fousek 1) degenerative myelopathy (DM) and 2) hyperuricosuria (HUU). However, these diseases need to be



tackled in time before they become a major problem. Another marker that is present in the Český Fousek population at almost 50% is a clinical tool (liver enzyme activity ALT). This is not a genetic disease but rather information for veterinarians. Both of the diseases found, and the clinical tool are described in more detail below:

### Degenerative myelopathy (DM)

Using data from both the PPG and Embark studies the gene for this disease was found in **17 of 259 individuals (6.56%)**. All the genetically identified individuals were carriers, none were sick (recessive homozygote). For Czech born CFs, 218 were tested finding 10 genetically confirmed carriers (using Embark and PPG). This means that in the Czech Republic 4.58% of the dogs tested were identified as carriers.

Degenerative myelopathy is a progressive neurodegenerative disease. Progressive means that it occurs in middle and older age and that it worsens with age. Neurodegenerative means damage to neurons, the basic building blocks of the nervous system. And because neurons do not regenerate, their damage is irreversible. In this case, a non-functional enzyme (specifically superoxide dismutase) accumulates in the cells, and this accumulation then results in a dysfunction of the nervous system. At first it is manifested by weakness of the pelvic limbs (difficulty getting up, limping), later by their ataxia (impaired coordination - wobbling, staggering, crossing of limbs), loss of muscle, cramps may occur and over time may affect the front limbs, muscles of the head (feeding) and chest muscles (increased difficulty breathing), urinary and fecal incontinence occurs, and eventually the animal is unable to move. The disease occurs mainly in German Shepherd Dogs, boxers, Welsh corgi, and fox terriers, but can occur in any breed. Symptoms appear between 5-14 years of age, most often around the 8<sup>th</sup> year. It affects both males and females. For those interested in genetics, we will state that this is a mutation in the SOD1A gene. It is an autosomal recessive disease with variable penetration. This means that even if an individual has mutations in both copies of the gene, the disease may not show up, but in the vast majority of cases the symptoms will develop. If any of these symptoms occur, they may not be DM. Other, and much more common, diseases such as HD (hip dysplasia), cauda equina syndrome

(fused lumbar vertebrae and sacrum), spondylarthritis (fused vertebrae in the thoracic or lumbar spine) should be ruled out first.

In the Czech Republic, we have a total of 14 identified DM carriers (10 detected by Embark or PPG plus four from pedigree analysis) **not including the one individual that died of DM**. Most of the identified carriers and their breeding offspring and grandchildren are in lines I, III, and VII. However, these three lines also have the largest percent representation of the samples taken for the alopecia research. In addition, there are currently no CF individuals belonging to one line only, they are always a mix of different lines. That means that one of the three lines where the carriers were detected is in the background of most of the CFs and the situation with carriers today has a deep inter-line overlap.

### Specific examples from genetic and pedigree analysis

(Authors note: For the above reason, the following analysis is anonymous. For better clarity, we present their line, as well as in all breeding dogs produced by these carriers)

In addition to the 10 carriers found by Embark or PPG, we know of four other DM carriers in the Czech Republic. There was one veterinarian confirmed death from DM. It is therefore certain that both parents of this dog had to be at least carriers. Hereinafter, those parents will be designated as Male DM-A and Female DM-A.

One individual that we were able to trace as a carrier is a female that is the mother of a genetically confirmed carrier. Normally, both parents of that carrier would be suspected of transmitting the defective gene, and it would not be possible to determine which of them passed on their defective DM gene to their offspring. However, in this case, the father of this carrier was genetically tested and proven to be DM clear. Therefore, the mother must be the one who passed on the defective DM gene to the offspring (she must be a carrier or affected, we will operate with the carrier option). This carrier female will be hereinafter referred to as Female DM-B. The fourth carrier was identified by pedigree analysis and is listed here as Male DM-C.

Male DM-A (breeding dog line III)

A heavily used breeding dog that left more than 10 litters

in the Czech Republic, of which four are breeding females (they already had litters) and two breeding males (both operate in III line, and they already have breeding offspring). Male DM-A is also the father of the only known and veterinary confirmed death of a Whiskers from DM so far.

#### Female DM-A

A carrier and a breeding female that produced two litters. The aforementioned CF that died of DM was in the first litter with Male DM-A as the sire. From the second litter she produced a breeding dog operating in line I. From the second litter she produced a breeding dog operating in line I. The probability that this breeding dog is also a carrier, or even directly sick (recessive homozygote) DM is increased by the fact that his father is a genetically confirmed carrier, Male DM-B. In both of Female DM-A litters both parents were carriers.

#### Male DM-B (breeding dog I line)

A genetically proven carrier and a much-used breeding dog that has had about 10 litters in the Czech Republic. This dog produced a genetically proven carrier (Female DM-C). Furthermore, three of his sons are currently breeding dogs (two in the I line and one in the III line).

#### Male DM-C (breeding dog line III)

A proven carrier and a much-used breeding dog that has had eight litters in the Czech Republic with several of the offspring exported to Netherlands and USA. This dog has been shown to be a carrier using pedigree analysis. Male DM-C is the sire of Female DM-H.

#### Male DM-D

A genetically proven carrier using single gene analysis and is a non-breeding male. The sire of Male DM-D is Male DM-C.

#### Female DM-B

This female carrier had six litters. She produced a breeding female (who also had litters) and two breeding males (both are in line VII). One daughter is a genetically identified as a carrier with a sire that has been genetically tested as clear, therefore Female DM-B must be the carrier.

#### Female DM-C

A genetically proven carrier that is not breeding. Her father is a carrier (Male DM-B).

#### Female DM-D

A genetically proven carrier and a breeding female that produced a breeding male (line VII) and a breeding female. That female offspring of Female DM-D produced two breeding males (both are in line X).

#### Female DM-E

A genetically proven carrier and a breeding female that produced two litters out of which there are two breedable females. She has two sisters in the breeding population. One sister gave birth to two litters and the other to one litter.

#### Female DM-F

A proven carrier and a breeding female that produced one litter that included one breeding male, Male DM-C (VII line). Male DM-C is also genetically proven carrier, and his sire is genetically shown to be clear, therefore Female DM-F must be the carrier.

#### Female DM-G

A genetically proven carrier and a non-breeding female. However, she has a breeding sister who produced one litter.

#### Female DM-H

A genetically proven carrier that produced one litter.

### ***What does this mean for our breed?***

The treacherous thing about the whole situation is that we do not know DM carriers at first glance, and we must detect it by genetic testing, or sometimes by pedigree analysis. Undetected carriers that are used in breeding slowly contribute to the increasing spread of the defective gene in the breed. The biggest danger is the intensive use of these undetected carriers in breeding! The probability both parents are carriers increases in breeds with small populations. However, it must be said that if we already know that the individual is a carrier (has been tested), this individual with a fairly calm conscience can also be used in breeding, if his / her breeding partners are shown to be clear. In such a case, the breeder should inform the



owners of the puppies from such a connection that they should have their puppies tested. If they then want to breed these individuals, testing should be a duty. Excluding the carrier from breeding is not a solution. The Český Fousek, as a small population breed, cannot afford that. Especially today, when the number of litters born, the number of breeding bitches and dogs and genetic variability is decreasing.

Perhaps the worst-case scenario would be "let it be and not deal with it" or "somehow it was, somehow it will be". The number of carriers in the population is far from negligible and could be a real problem in the near future. However, the situation is far from lost. We are lucky that, thanks to the research, we caught the situation just in time to stop the spread in the population to prevent DM becoming a "bad business card" and a frequent cause of death in puppies. Needless to say, the 14 identified carriers have many breeding offspring, siblings, and ancestors (potential carriers). They are far from the only carriers that are active in the population today and are used in breeding. Unless we act now it is only a matter of time before the carriers begin breeding to one another more often. With the responsibility of breeders and careful management of breeding, it is possible to eliminate this disease from breeding within a few generations.

### **Hyperuricosuria (HUU)**

This gene for HUU was found in **three of 240 individuals (1.25%)**. All identified individuals were from the Czech Republic, and they were all carriers, none were ill. The mutation occurs in the SLC2A9 gene. It is a disease of protein metabolism, specifically uric acid. It is normally broken down in the liver into allantoin, which is soluble and excreted in the urine. If there is a mutation in the gene that ensures this transformation, uric acid is not broken down and is excreted in excessive amounts by the kidneys. It accumulates in the bladder and here it can crystallize and form urinary sand or urinary stones (specifically urates). The presence of stones can irritate the bladder mucosa and cause inflammation. If the stone is small, it can get into the urethra and clog it. Symptoms of this disease (but also applies to other types of stones) include blood in the urine, difficult or intermittent and frequent urination, painful attitude when urinating; if the tube becomes clogged, abdominal pain, bruises, vomiting

and reduced feeding intake. Urine tests, sonographic and / or X-ray are used for diagnosis. A special diet and substances that increase the pH of the urine (thereby reduce the crystallization of the urinary tract) are given. Males are primarily affected the disease and it is most often observed in Dalmatians and black Russian terriers. However, it can occur in many other breeds. As with DM, this disease is an autosomal recessive disease, in other words, the individual must obtain a gene each of both parents to become clinically ill. If it has only one copy of the mutation, the dog is a carrier. The first manifestations are observed around the age of six. There is a genetic test for this disease, so it is possible to detect potential carriers and sick individuals relatively easily.

In addition to the three individuals identified using the Embark test, one untested female from the Czech Republic was also identified as a carrier. She is the mother of a genetically confirmed carrier. The father was tested as healthy, therefore the mother had to be a carrier. This female will be hereinafter referred to as Female HUU-A.

### ***Examples after pedigree analysis***

Female HUU-A [Ara z Blatin]

A breeding female and a carrier. She had four litters and produced a breeding female and a breeding male (line I). We do not know if this female got her defective gene from her father or mother. But what we do know for sure is that at least one of the parents must have been a carrier or a recessive homozygote. Therefore, for clarity, we present information about both of her parents. Her mother had three litters and gave birth to six breeding females. From these females came a number of breeding females and two breeding males currently operating in line I and line VII.

Her father (line I) had 10 litters and five breeding females were produced. At present, however, the bloodline of this male seems to be extinct because none of his offspring are involved in breeding.

Female HUU-B [Tara z Radějovicka]

A genetically proven carrier and a non-breeding female. She is the daughter of Female HUU-A

Female HUU-C [Bora z Mutických vršků]

A genetically proven carrier and a breeding female. She had one litter and produced a breeding female, Female HUU-D. We do not know if Female HUU-C got her defective gene from her father or mother. However, it had to be one of them and they both left more breeding individuals

Female HUU-D [Flora ze Smilovic]

A genetically proven carrier and a non-breeding female. She is the daughter of Female HUU-C. This female as a sister who has produced two litters, including one breeding male that has tested clear.

The conclusions and recommendations are the same as in the case of DM. It is necessary to catch the problem at the beginning and solve it as soon as possible with the help of genetic testing.

### Alanine aminotransferase (ALT) activity

ALT, together with ALP (alkaline phosphatase), AST (aspartate aminotransferase) and GGT (gamma-glutamyltransferase), are essential parameters for assessing liver damage. In contrast to the rest, ALT enzyme is specific for the liver, which means that its increase indicates damage to the liver parenchyma. The most common causes include infections, poisoning, tumors, the administration of certain drugs and can also be the result of hormonal diseases. In contrast, ALP is also produced in the kidney, intestine, bone, and placenta; AST is also found in the heart and skeletal muscles; GGT also in the kidneys. It follows that if these enzymes are elevated but ALT is not elevated, the cause of the disease must be sought elsewhere. If all enzymes or just ALT are increased, it is a liver disease (more precisely, if the values are increased more than 5 times). For all these enzymes, the reduced level is not considered clinically significant. In the results obtained from testing in the USA, the gene for low ALT was recorded in about 50% of individuals. This could mean that if an individual had this enzyme below the lower limit (physiologically 10-100 U / L or 0.1-1 microcat / l) all his life and liver damage occurred, the values would increase, but only to normal, which could mask this damage. Therefore, it is necessary to repeat the collection and evaluate the findings with regard to clinical symptoms and the current condition of the individual, incl. his load. An increase of up to 5 times the values is a slight increase, a 5-10 times increase is a moderate increase, and

an increase above 10 times a significant increase. With a slight increase, we look for other causes than the liver and the therapy is based on the support of liver function.

As mentioned at the beginning, this is not a genetic disease, but rather a diagnostic tool, information for veterinarians. In this case, no conclusions or recommendations need to be made.

Thank you once again to all dog owners who donated blood! These owners can apply for the results of the health screening with Ing. Silvia Neradilová by email. She likes to send them the results of their dogs by email in pdf.

**Fouskům zdar! (Good luck to Whiskers!)** 🐾

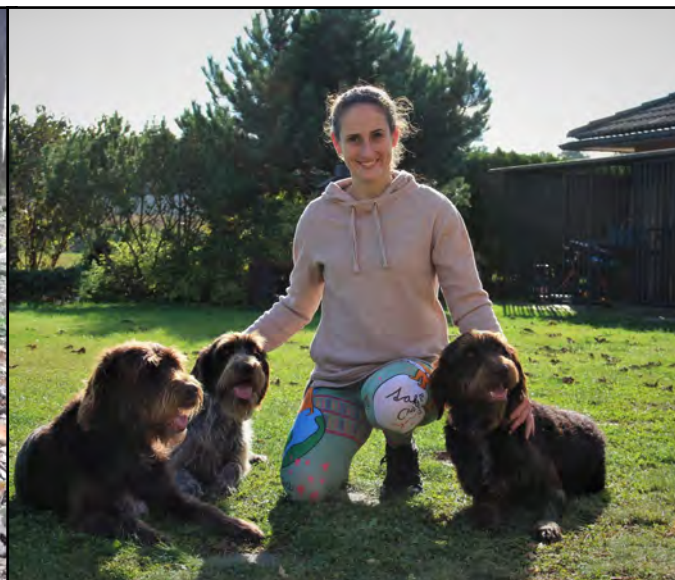


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## The Cornell Blood Draw & Embark Genetic Panel Comparison

By

Laurie Connell

What is the Difference between the Cornell Blood Draw and the Embark Genetic Panel?

From the previous article you can see how valuable knowing the genetic profile can be, not only to the breeding program but also to help guide your veterinarian in health options. All dogs entered into the breeding program are required to have a genetic panel and we highly recommend it for all of our dogs.

What is the Cornell blood draw?

All our dogs are required to have blood drawn and submitted to the Cornell Veterinary BioBank (CVB). Most of the dogs have blood taken before they leave their breeder, so the owners do not need to go through this process. There are a few that have not and also the imported dogs. In those cases, we require the owners to have a blood sample submitted to the CVB.

The CVB is a DNA “BANK”. The DNA is **STORED** until a research request is submitted from a researcher or from the owner to have specific genetic work done. In addition to the stored DNA, we also submit other information about the dog to go along with those samples. These are the periodic forms that are filled out and measurements that are taken. We have been banking DNA at the CVB for a number of years and are now building up a good population from which researchers can gain valuable information about genetics and diseases.

What is the Embark Genetic Panel?

The Cornell Veterinary College has an agreement with CFNA for a discounted price on the full Embark Genetic Panel for CFNA dogs that have had blood submitted to the CVB. Embark offers a genetic test designed by the world’s leading canine geneticists using over 200,000 genetic markers to learn about your dog’s health (testing for more than 200 different disease predispositions), physical characteristics, breed makeup, and breed ancestry, which can help you better understand and care for your canine companion. The CFNA uses information from the Embark genetic panel to assist the Breeding Committee and is a prerequisite for all breeding dogs.

How do I get the Embark genetic panel for my dog?

If your dog is not in the breeding program, simply go to the club website and submit a request (<https://ceskyfousekna.org/embark-payment/>). The cost is \$110, and this is a discounted rate from what Embark normally charges (\$199). You will be contacted and guided through the process. If you are computer reluctant contact [quassa5@gmail.com](mailto:quassa5@gmail.com) and we can help you through the submission process.

## Breeding Committee Report (Oct 2021)

by  
**Laurie Connell**

This has been a tough year for many of us and the Breeding Committee has had some setbacks as well. We hope to end the year on a good note.

So far there have been only two litters born with a total of 15 puppies, and we imported one puppy from Czech Republic.

“A” of Floating Feather litter (Breeders Stan and Ellen Morse) was born 06 June 2021 [Ax z České Jahodnice (Aiden) x Borka od Chlumínské kamizolky (Brita)]. There were seven males and two females. Reports back so far is that they all look like they are doing well.

- Acadia of Floating Feather AKA Cadi (female) Maine
- Alain of Floating Feather AKA Cajun (male) Louisiana
- Almanor of Floating Feather AKA Cobbossee (male) California
- American of Floating Feather (male) Wyoming
- Aragorn of Floating Feather AKA Rigby (male) Missouri
- Atli of Floating Feather (male) Washington
- Atoka of Floating Feather AKA Tagg (male) Colorado
- Augustine of Floating Feather (male) Nebraska
- Ava of Floating Feather AKA Kona (female) Minnesota

“A” of Black Pond (breeder Sue Kaufman) was born 06 September 2021 (Alby of Bald Eagle x Asta z Jamajky). There were five males and one female. These puppies are not yet in their new homes.

- Alder of Black Pond (male)
- Ash of Black Pond (male)
- Arrowhead of Black Pond (male)
- Aspen of Black Pond (male)
- Alpine of Black Pond (male)
- Aurora of Black Pond (female)

“B” of Cody Country (Breeders Glen and Nina Ross) the breeding has taken place but not yet confirmed as of this printing. [Brady of Blackberry Briar x Dorka z Podřipské stráně (Dezi)]

There was one imported puppy, Ed od Kárů z Hořic (male) that went to Michigan.

There are several breedings that we have potentially planned for 2022. Two of them already have been scheduled and the others will be scheduled soon. Please look at the club web page for dogs approved on the breeding list for more information and we post there planned breedings as they become scheduled and watch Facebook pages for litter announcement. Once we have scheduled breedings, we report them here in the GDS.

Scheduled breedings are:

"A" z Montany u Vody, breeders Dusan and Lorca Smetana. The pair are Bo of Wolf Fork Canyon x Torra z Hložku (Šarka). Breeding to be in early spring 2022.



"A" of Pilot's Knob, breeder Todd Walrod. The pair are Al of Buckeye Valley x Cider of Nichol's Creek with a breeding early spring 2022.

As a reminder to those waiting for puppies, there is a system to making offers to new owners. You are more than welcome to visit with perspective breeding dogs and with litters if you are interested. Thomas Wyse oversees keeping track of puppy requests as well as when as well as sends out monthly, or more frequent, updates on what we have planned. He also notes when deposits come in for puppies. The Breeding Committee uses that deposit date as a sort of time stamp. However, the exact order puppies are offered can be fluid depending on several factors, for example preference of male or female, color, or requests from a specific litter. There are additional parameters considered such as, does the new owner have a current hunting dog? Is the new owner a long time club member in good standing? Or where in the country does the new owner live (we like to spread each litter out so that we have a chance of using them in natural breedings).

## Eddie's Travels

by

**Mike Branigan**

When we first learned we would be getting a Czech puppy, we were very excited, although we didn't realize all that was involved in importing a dog from overseas. Much preparation is needed before a pup can be shipped to the United States, beginning with frequent communication between Laurie Connell from our club and Silvie Neradilova from the Czech Republic. All paperwork must be correct so a Pet Passport can be issued. Breeder, buyer, flight information, and veterinary requirements must be completed, along with proper labeling of the crate. I suggest you hire a customs broker early in the process to coordinate details such as customs duties/fees, entry fee, customs bond, filings, and terminal fees. The CFNA has a list of brokers as do I.

The day before Eddie's arrival, we "puppy-proofed" the house. Then, Friday, September 10, we drove to Chicago with intentions of arriving two hours early to find the cargo terminal. Ed was shipped from Prague to Amsterdam and then to Chicago. During the layover in Amsterdam, a European hub that ships to the US, a service fed and watered the dogs. Our broker called me 30 minutes after the plane landed to inform me that everything was all set. As it turned out, we arrived at the cargo terminal in plenty of time and were first in line when we checked in at just past 3:00 pm. I met a woman at the Chicago terminal also receiving a dog who informed me that since Covid, airlines are only shipping to Chicago, New York, and Atlanta.

As the customs employee was bringing Eddie in his crate to us, we couldn't wait to get him out, although we had to wait impatiently for the attendant to grab a pair of wire cutters to remove the zip ties on the crate's door. It was

such a relief when we finally got him out of the crate!

After feeding Eddie food and water, which we had brought with us, we cuddled him and took some pictures to share his safe arrival with all those involved. We then began the long ride home. Cathy sat in the back seat with Ed so she could hold him or place him in his crate to make him feel safe and secure. Eddie was very relaxed and enjoyed the attention. We stopped a couple of times so he could stretch his legs and relieve himself. It was a long day, but well worth it. Thank you to all the people involved in making this happen. 🐾



**New Fousek puppy owner Mike Branigan welcoming Eddie (Ed od Kárů z Hořic) to his new home.**

# Sora Hunting

by

Thomas Wyse

Our dog's new favorite animal to hunt is sora rail, a tiny, common shorebird that most people have never hunted. Hunting sora gives versatile dogs the opportunity to use many of the skills they love to use and we love to watch. It also opens more places and times to hunt because sora are found in marshy areas that are common on many public hunting areas. Since they are common and bag limits are liberal (25 per day in Wisconsin!), you and your dog can get a lot of practice. You'll probably be the only person in the field after sora, so even on opening day you won't have a crowd. Not only that, wetland areas not usually visited are full of animals we don't often see, and the views can be beautiful. It all adds up to something that's worth a try.

You may have seen sora in marshy areas and not realized it. They are small, perhaps a bit smaller than a robin, and the most distinctive characteristic of their typically short flight is their dangling legs. We'd never hunted them before, so sora were entirely new to Anja. A sora flushed as we walked through the emergent vegetation, I shot it, and at the report, Anja rushed back to see if she was needed. I lined her up and sent her to fetch. The dead sora was floating in shallow water, and Anja didn't have any trouble finding it. After she knew I wanted those little birds, she was switched on!

She immediately changed character and started working intently. Within minutes she was on point, and a sora popped up as I approached. It wheeled out over the water, and I missed both shots, though Anja insisted on swimming out. My dog's faith in my shooting skills is flattering, but unrealistic.

We were quickly in hot pursuit. And pursuit it was! Sora can move fast through the wet tangle of grass and shrubs we were in. I don't know how they do it. Anja made a couple of false points, and then she took a hard turn and started swimming across the open water. Not only are rail fast runners, but they can swim and dive too. I took the same hard turn, ended up belt-deep in water, and Anja



Anja with a sora rail (photo by Thomas Wyse)

was soon on point after hitting vegetation again.

The bird flushed as I walked up, and I nailed it. On her way back to me with the bird, a land retrieve this time, Anja turned and walked away from me. I told her to fetch, and she hesitantly started toward me. She turned again, ~~and~~ went to a clump of dense vegetation, then back toward me when I again told her to fetch. Her brain was short circuiting: She didn't know whether to point or fetch. I realized this only after an unseen sora couldn't take it any longer and flushed from the dense clump of vegetation.—We continued to hunt and picked up another sora before it was time to leave. We had been out for an hour and had bagged three rail and had a lot of fun.

Since that first outing, we've been out again and continue to enjoy the hunt. We see plenty of other animals, jumped and shot a wood duck, and saw a lot of songbirds in the wetlands. And you certainly don't have to be up at dawn or out until dark. To date, we've only hunted sora in the late afternoon.

We've had the most success in areas with dense, flooded



grass and herbaceous vegetation adjacent to open water. I prefer to get wet rather than wear waders. Put your keys and wallet in a dry bag or up high on your body. I've stumbled and fallen several times, and my gun got dunked, so be ready for wet and mud. Steel 7s are a good load for sora.

Admittedly, there is little meat on a sora. I breasted out the birds and cut off the legs. There's as much meat on the legs as the breast, and it's dark meat too. I briefly pan-fried them with some oil, salt and pepper, enjoying them as appetizers with our meal. As with a lot of game, I would recommend rare to medium rare to get the best flavor. They're not as good as woodcock, but they have a rich, gamey flavor.

Give it a try. Your dog will love it. It has everything to make a great hunt: searching, tracking, pointing, retrieving, swimming--everything a versatile dog enjoys. 🐾

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## The UKC-HRC test!

### A fun opportunity to work with your dog and practice for the IHDT

By Laurie Connell

What is the HRC you may ask? The Hunting Retriever Club, AKA the HRC is an organization to train and test your dog and is sponsored by the United Kennel Club (UKC) the organization that carries the registrations for the HRC. Our dogs are mostly registered in the FCI now through Puerto Rico and that registration can be used to register your dog in the UKC. Registration in the UKC is easy and not expensive.

There are several tests offered but the primary one for the HRC is for retriever breeds. The group is friendly and helpful but it is likely you will see almost all retriever breeds however you could see just about any breed there.

Don't be intimidated. It is a fun and a great experience for young dogs to get ready for our tests. Most judges have never seen a Český Fousek and have fun trying to guess the breed.

Most clubs have training days as well and it is a fun way to practice retrieving for our IHDT.

The Retriever Hunt test has three levels, Started, Seasoned, and Finished. The Started Retriever test is simple- they use dead ducks for everything and a launcher to throw the birds. The distance varies on the conditions and if launched for a land or water retrieve. One bird comes from the left to right and the other right to left. The dog needs to mark the bird and retrieve to the handler. You can encourage the dog because all you need is to get the bird back. Two marks are on land and two are on water. This test goes very fast, and they may have 15 participants per day for each level. The test is pass/fail and each passed test gives the dog five points. After the dog accumulates 20 points they are awarded a retriever title.



Kaja (Kája od Tyrše) and owner Andy Ogden

We have had several dogs in our club participate. Dusty Santa Fe Trail of Sandhill (AKA Zip) participated in the Kansas City Hunting Retriever Club (KCHRC). Zip and Brice Fawcett (GDS October 2016) participated in the National test and won two awards (see photo in Oct 2016 GDS). More recently, Kája od Tyrše and Andy Ogden participated in the tests in 2019 and completed the 20 points required for a Title of SHR.

The UKC also has other types of hunting tests for upland but most are for flushing dogs and only a few are for pointing breeds. 🐾

## Fousek Field Notes



**Fanny (Fanny od Bouňovské studánky) and Scott Craig on their annual trip to Bowman, ND**

(Photo by Laurie Connell)

**Angus of Shaw Brook pointing Huns on a beautiful Montana morning**

(Photo by Owner Andrew Olcott)



**Editor with Darwin (Darwin Wallace of Valley House) taking a mid-day break during an Oct. ruffed grouse hunt in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan**

(Photo by Spiro Mavroidis)



# Opening Day

by

**Andrew Olcott**

**A**h, September 1<sup>st</sup>! The hallowed opening day of grouse and partridge season in Montana. What a day it was. The air was a crisp 38 degrees that morning, without a hint of wind; and there was not a cloud nor wisp of forest fire smoke in the sky. The kind of day that makes Montana shine like a photo spread in a tourist folder. Summer was fading, and a glorious fall was on its way.

So, Angus and I headed out to pursue the wily Hungarian partridge. There are not many in the Deer Lodge Valley, so my hopes were not high for seeing birds. However, the chance to walk the hills on a splendid day with my hunting dog and carry a shotgun were all the rewards that I needed and expected.

We drove to the East side of the valley where a rancher allows misguided, old, retired folks to walk the dry hills. By the time we got there, the temperature had warmed enough that a short sleeve canvas shirt was all I needed. Weak thermal breezes were coming down the mountains, so we headed uphill into the breeze. I followed Angus as he joyfully checked every bush and clump of grass for a hint of Hun scent. The wagging of his tail and his loping gait portrayed his joy of being in the field. I just tagged along because I knew his super-charged nose would find any birds in the area. Bird hunting with an active pointing dog is always a pleasing activity. We continued uphill until the air warmed and the thermals started rising from the valley floor. We turned, crossed the wide coulee, and descended back into the valley. That way, the wind would always be coming into Angus' face, and any birds would be detected. Luckily for me, it was also when I was tired of walking uphill.

By the time we reached the pickup, Angus's tongue was longer than his neck, and I was ready to set the double-barreled shotgun in its case. A bowl of cold water reeled Angus's tongue back into his head. We headed out to explore more fields and checked several more ranches that allow hunting. However, the grain fields had not been harvested yet and walking them would be pointless. Instead, we headed home for some lunch and more cool water. I guess the score was in the Huns' favor that day, but who cares? I got to follow a fine hunting dog across Montana on a beautiful Fall day.

After lunch, I was bored. Angus was napping, but the day was so splendid that I had to do something. I decided to go fly fishing. I landed five brown trout and lost more due to poor line skills and an aging casting arm.

All-in-all, opening day was great. 🐾

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## **A WELL DESERVED REST IN THE SHADE!**

**Angus of Shaw Brook with his first spruce grouse, which he pointed and retrieved.**

(Photo by the author)



## Renew Your Membership

Memberships are January through December

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

When you renew, you will receive this newly designed decal that you can proudly display and continue to receive the GDS that will keep you connected with the club's news and activities.

