

The Gun Dog Supreme

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Mike and Kathi Rackouski, Editors, 1806 E. Sixth St. Ashland, WI 54806

Telephone: 715-682-0383(CST), Email: mracko@ncis.net

Pete and Linda Engman, Co-Editors, 557 160th Ave., Turtle Lake, WI 54889 (715) 268-9231 (CST)

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It is hard to believe that summer has given way to fall and once again it is that time of the year that we have all waited for...



Glenn Lehrer with CERA OF DUTCHMAN'S HOLLOW (left) and AMIE OF WHITE-WATER (Right) at the end of a successful day hunting Arizona quail.
(Photo by: Bill Madden)

THE HUNTING SEASON!

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Letter from the Editor

I know what you are saying..."it is about time I received my October GDS". Hopefully you will have received this issue while October is still around, but I have a happy excuse for it's tardiness, I am a Dad (that and I had to get Badger out a few times for grouse and woodcock)! On September 23rd Kathi gave birth to our new Griffonier, Kylie Virginia, who is just an angel...well, except for the first night home when we got only 2 hours of sleep. I think that was just a fluke and that Kylie is going to sleep just fine at night. Everyone just laughs at me and says to get used to it when I tell them that. I now realize that life as we had known it has ceased to exist and that in it's place has opened a world much grander.

We are now given the daunting responsibility of raising a cute, little baby girl into a mature woman who can take on the world. The only other time I felt something remotely similar was when we received Badger of Drummer's Ridge six years ago. Back then he was just a cute, little 10 week old Griffon and, over the years, it was our responsibility to raise him to be a well rounded, multi-talented, bird-seeking, rabbit-tracking, duck-retrieving, family-oriented, "Gun Dog Supreme". This sounds like an unattainable goal, but it is easier than what it sounds. It turned out Badger already had all of these traits in him, all Kathi and I had to do was bring them out. What's the secret? you ask. I am not a professional trainer or anything, but I think the secret is: 1) make sacrifices, 2) take the time, and 3) expose, expose, expose. Joan touches on this on page 6 and Jim Hughes has a related article on page 7. These are the same tactics we plan to use in bringing up our daughter...along with teaching reading, writing, and arithmetic, of course.



BADGER OF DRUMMER'S RIDGE, at 11 weeks of age, with all his hunting potential ready to be realized.
(Photo by: Mike Rackouski)

Once in a while a problem arises in raising a hunting dog and one such problem is blinking. On page 4 a story that originally appeared in Gun Dog Magazine by Dave Duffey has been edited for the GDS by past editor Ralph Stuart. Hopefully no one will have to deal with such a problem, but this article will at least give the reader information on what to look for and what to do to avoid it.

On page 9 Joan Bailey highlights excerpts from an article by Stephan Budiansky, that appeared in The Atlantic Monthly, related to canine genetics and behavior. You just may change the way you look at Fido after reading this article.

On page 11 read the letter from Andy and Chaney Yeast about their new son, Nicholas, and Darby their family/hunting dog. Last, but not least, on page 3 we say goodbye to more of our Griffons that have given so much to the breeding program and their owners.

After reading this issue, it is mandatory that you set aside any and all yard work, football games, and office work and take your Griffon for a walk in the woods or fields and just have fun!

Mike Rackouski

ENCLOSED INSERT TO PUT IN YOUR JUNE GDS

On page 19 in the June GDS, there are several errors in the three pedigrees. These were done by the printer, not by our editor. Mostly they stuck in an extra name. *So take your insert and paste it over page 19.* Then a few years from now when you are looking up a pedigree, it will be correct.

ORDER FORM FOR XMAS PRE- SENTS ENCLOSED

The green order form is sent to you in October so that you can order gifts in time for Xmas.

No calendars this year, not enough people ordered them last year to make it worthwhile.

SAYING GOODBYE TO MORE GOOD DOGS*By Joan Bailey***AXA OD PASTEJRIKO**

Warren and Helen Webster had to put AXA down this summer. She was 12 and not in good health. In her prime she was one of the best looking dogs that we brought over. I remember well, the day I took the accompanying photo. Her genes live on through two of her sons, **BARTON** and **CHIPPER DE LOS ALTOS**. We do not know why the combination of **DAN** and **AXA** was so successful in giving us these two fine males, but we just accept the gift, **BARTON** has already proved to be a very valuable stud dog, and **CHIPPER** sired his first litter this year, with **FLORA**. The pups look very promising.

AXA had a wonderful life with Warren and Helen. As we all know, our dogs' lives are too short and no matter how old they are, it hurts when they are gone. We miss them. And Warren and Helen will miss **AXA**.

AND AVAJ OF IAMONIA

Old **AVAJ** (like **AXA**), mother of many of our dogs, grandmother to even more, and great grandmother to many, finally succumbed to old age in late August. Many, many people knew her and a bunch hunted over her. I remember her from her **NAT** in April 1987 in Iowa. She was a comer. She was out of the very first Fousek x Griffon breedings, sired by **ERIK**, out of **SUZIE**. If you want to see the documentation and a bunch of excellent photos, check out your copy of **GRIFFON**, and back issues of the **GDS**. Not only was she a fine hunting dog for John Pitlo for 12 years, and a part of John and Vivian's life, but she was the dam of three wonderful litters. What a tough year for John and Viv---they lost their **CALLIE** earlier, and now **AVAJ**.



AXA OD PASTEJRIKO, with Joe Nadeker, at a test near Cottage Grove, Oregon, April 8th, 1989, not long after she had come from Czechoslovakia.
(Photo by: Joan Bailey)

AND MORE DOGS GONE

ABE OF DUTCHMAN'S HOLLOW, owned by Ken and Karen Hurtig, known to many of us, and hunted over by a bunch of us, is gone at age 10. Their older dog, **BREEZY OF THE CASCADES**, who lived with son Greg and grandkids Rodney and Dick and **BART**, had to be put down from complications of old age, just a week after **ABE** died. And, a few months back, Greg Hurtig's **CHEWBACCA OF DUTCHMAN'S HOLLOW**, evidently sustained an injury which left him partially paralyzed. After many vet bills and physical therapy, **CHEWY** is able to work for an hour or so.

Ken, with **ABE** and **DRAKE**, John Pitlo, with his **CALLIE** and **BREAVAJ**, and Jim Seibel with his **CHYT** and **BLUE**, had a fantastic hunting trip to Arizona in late December. Now John and Ken are down to one young hunting dog each. And all those Hurtig dogs came from John and Vivian's home, so the loss is felt there as well. An awful lot for these two families to sustain in such a short time. Our tough times go on. Our hearts go out to them.

"Plan ahead and think about situations that offer the chance to be with your dog...If we don't enjoy the dog's company enough to make room for him or her in our daily lives, then why do we think the dog might bother to look us up in the grouse woods?"

Randy Lawrence, in The Ruffed Grouse Society magazine-

Blinkin' Ain't Winkin'*By Dave Duffey*

Rooster dead ahead boss! AUN OF THE HIGH COUNTRY, owned by Bryon Rowder of Idaho, demonstrates her eagerness for game contact and pointing instinct while she points a pheasant as it walks across the driveway. (Photo by: Bryon Rowder)

Only one of more than a dozen dictionary definitions of "blinking" cannot be ignored by bird dog owner-trainers. As it does apply to gun dogs, however, there should be no winking at blinking.

Like gunshyness, blinking is a serious acquired fault that ruins a dog for hunting. Once acquired, it usually requires professional help to eradicate.

Perhaps more hunters than not haven't heard the term, or if they have, would not know what is meant when someone describes a dog as a "blinker." It is a derogatory term more familiar to

pointing dog folks than those who favor flushers and retrievers. But there are bird blinkers among all breeds.

So let's define what we're talking about. Blinking is the act of a dog which deliberately avoids birds it knows are there. In an advanced stage it can be called "birdshyness." In an early stage of development, when a dog is tentative and hesitant around birds, there's a good chance of correcting this flaw. If the symptoms aren't recognized, full-blown blinking is virtually sure to follow and, because breaking a blinker is a daunting task for even a pro trainer, most blinkers are relegated to the gun dog junk pile.

That there is little hope of conversion or resurrection for a confirmed sinner is the bad news. The good news is that blinking, like gunshyness, usually can be prevented by common sense and proper introductory and training procedures.

Like salt and pepper, blinking and gunshyness go together. Either can cause the other to occur. Once the figurative cannibalization starts, a hunter can wind up with a hopeless case of double-dump, a dog both birdshy and gunshy.

While it may be broken down into numerous specifics, the general cause of both blinking and gunshyness is an association in the dog's mind of unpleasantness, confusion or pain with birds, gunfire or both. Except for spooky critters already afraid of their own shadow, whether deliberate or inadvertent, something bad had to happen to that dog when his nose detected bird scent or his ears transmitted the startling surprise of gunfire.

Almost always, those twin sins are caused and promulgated by humans, either accidentally or mistakenly. Accidents can and do happen (such as a dog in full chase of a flushed bird colliding with an electric fence or being "juiced" with an electronic collar just as the gun goes off) and can be written off as bad breaks. But a hunter should not ignore such incidents. Alert to the definite possibility it will cause a dog to flinch or abandon a quest in the future, he should be prepared to coax and coach his dog through a period of touchiness around birds.

A major cause of blinking is harsh training procedures employed early in the dog's experience and training. Percentages say you are not going to be dealing with a fiery hard-case who is so confident and full of himself that he wouldn't flinch if a howitzer went off over his head and from day one has to be shown who's boss if any training is to be done. This type will drive you to the verge of despair. But you'll have a lot of leeway in training because his boldness and desire will shrug off mistakes and hold up pressure.

At the other extreme, you may find yourself confronted with what is a temperamentally "sensitive" or "shy" dog. These "soft" dogs usually are intelligent, too easily impressed and long-memoried, very cautious and slow to accept anything new. You don't need a degree from the Sigmund Freud school of canine behaviorism to recognize that a very different "kid glove" training procedure is required to bring this one around, patient and encouraging, in contrast to the abrupt curbing and control that can be exerted on the rambunctious prospect.

The bulk of the dogs you encounter will fall between these two extremes, neither maniacal nor abjectly

submissive, but leaning one way or the other. The procedures to be suggested will work with all three types. But if you will study and analyze your particular dog, you ought to be able to figure out whether to lean on him or give him an encouraging boost. At least recognize possible risk incurred by leaving introduction and training to chance or taking shortcuts.

Almost from their first contact with birds, too many young dogs are cussed out, jerked around and whipped because they didn't behave like field-trial champions or the demonstration dogs shown in photos and videos. That's a cut-and-dried formula for making a blinker. Every time he has contact with birds something bad happens to the dog. Even the dumbest of dogs will eventually conclude that the birds are to blame for the hurt that's put on him. So except for a few, as noted, so "birdy" and bold that little short of death discourages them, promising pups will balk, avoid, circle and sneak off when they encounter birds or bird scent.

How can this be prevented while still managing to put some semblance of manners on a pup? Until you have taught your pup the meaning of "Whoa!" during yard training and he has demonstrated he is wild about birds (or at least mildly interested), you do not want to use the checkcord or any form of severe punishment when he is involved with birds.

Some dogs will come to pointing staunchly through bird exposure alone. They figure out they can't catch what they flush or, because their trainer shoots over them only when they hold point, when he hits a bird they are rewarded by being able to "catch" it and fetch it.

Use the checkcord during "yard training" when you are teaching the dog that "Whoa!" means "plant yourself right now and don't move until I release you." Once he's got that down pat and he has found, pointed, busted and shagged some birds and his enthusiasm has been praised during field jaunts, you can hang the cord on his collar.

Young Razzmatazz knows what "Whoa!" means. He's hauling a handle you can grab onto when he comes down on a natural point or you can steer him into the wind so he moves in on planted bird scent; stopping either voluntarily or, in effect, "pointing on command" if you whoa and restrain him from crowding in on the bird.

Without going through all the mechanics of this (our subject is blinking prevention), when the bird is flushed and Razz goes with it (which he will if you have permitted chasing as you should have) when you order "Whoa!" and abruptly halt or tip him over with the checkcord he can comprehend that the punishment was caused by disobedience, not the birds.

At this stage (which may be somewhere between the ages of 10 and 24 months, depending upon boldness, breed and individual precocity) you can then proceed with further disciplining needed to put whatever manners you expect of your dog. You may even make some errors without dulling your dog's desire if you have encouraged him to be avid about birds. During the introductory sessions before introducing the checkcord afield it is not only permissible but desirable to shoot a bird or two (if legal) while the dog is chasing and to throw dead birds to retrieve during training sessions—a bird in the mouth being worth several in the air to heighten bird-finding desire.

But once you begin making him remain staunch on point, never shoot at or kill a bird he has found unless his behavior is up to snuff!

If you have a cautious youngster, be very circumspect about starting to shoot over his first points. Ideally, introduction to birds and gunfire should be done separately. You can often get by with chance-taking with a bold pup and sometimes with a middle-range temperament. Anything but careful, considered introduction with a soft dog is destined for disaster.



BINTI OF CLOUDY SKIES, owned by Jane Webb of Alberta, Canada, on a very nice "whoa". (Photo by: Jane Webb)

Confirmed blinkers, unfortunately, can be pretty "cute" about avoiding birds. Many hunters return with empty game bags not suspecting that their dogs have deliberately passed up birds. Very often the light finally dawns when they accidentally kick out birds their dogs have circled or shied away from. However, don't rush to judgment about a bird dog that pussyfoots, circles, or seems to herd birds. Those are all tactics of some very canny individuals who have a sixth sense for handling running birds. But if no birds are produced, or if you repeatedly walk up birds from an area your dog has covered, or his brace-mate produces out of cover he's skirted or been through, you may own a blinker.

Whether they be barn pigeons, hand-reared gamebirds or wild game, the birds you shoot for your dog provide the best insurance that he'll love the game and won't blink. Because they are hard to come by or cost money, no one likes to waste training birds. This leads to the employment of some ingenious training devices called bird release traps, which can range from a simple "basket" laced over a bird and kicked aside to permit flight to very expensive electronic "bird releasers."

Save the releasers until you're at least pretty sure your pointing dog is steady until you flush the bird or in instances where you are more or less leading him into the bird on a checkcord. You don't want an uncontrolled dog to tangle with the releaser when it springs the bird into the air. A clomp in the chops or a mouthful of inert metal is going to be a turn-off. Resign yourself to "wasting" a few flush-and-chase unfettered birds that have been dizzied or plunged into cover. Even the birds caught by quick and over-eager dogs are preferable to a pup grabbing something that punishes him when he expected to taste what his nostrils had savored.

Try your best, whether in a training or actual hunting situation, to be prepared to reinforce what proper introductory training has instilled in your dog. It may be as simple as remembering to use previously shot birds you are carrying around in your game pocket.

Three things can happen as you walk in to flush while your dog is on point.

- 1) Razzmatazz doesn't hold. He dashes in, flushes and chases.
- 2) Razz does hold. You kick the bird out, shoot, miss and Razz chases.
- 3) Razz holds. You kick the bird out, shoot, knock it down and Razz retrieves.

What you do will determine whether you turn foul-ups into training sessions that avert disaster. It might be termed the "art of gentle breaking." You'll score a training double or triple with a single shot and you'll assure that your pointing dog is bird crazy and well on his way to getting his ducks in a row.

Starting from the bottom up, if it's No. 3, you praise Razz extravagantly and then toss the bird for him to fetch again. Nothing difficult, no distance. Just flip it out there so he can get his mouth on it a second time, become familiar with the "fetch dead" command and come to you willingly with the bird in his mouth, knowing it won't be summarily snatched and stuffed away in the game bag.

If it's No. 2, by the time Razz returns from his futile chase (or you've managed to call him in) you should have pulled a previously shot bird out of your game pocket and tossed it into the cover where it would have fallen had you hit it. Then coax Razz into the fall with the fetch dead command ("dead, dead bird, fetch" or whatever) and have him scour around until he picks up the bird. You get training on recovering downed birds and at the same time instill the belief that shots mean birds to fetch.

No. 1 may sound like a disaster and it is (dog busting and shagging birds) unless you are prepared to salvage a win from the jaws of defeat. First of all, particularly when you are starting a young dog, breaking point and wildly chasing are normal, should be anticipated, even appreciated because it is indicative of the pup's interest and drive. So, although you have no praise for him, there's no cause for hollering, shaking up and flailing. When he comes back on his own, brusquely and without fanfare take him over to where he originally locked up, pick him up (scruff of the neck, seat of the pants) and deposit him where he should have stood. "Whoa!" him. Then walk out in front of him, stomping and kicking around as you would have to flush the bird had he waited for you to do it. You've "planted" a previously shot bird in the area from which Razz knocked it. Or, in this case, you can "flush" the bird right out of your game bag before shooting. Even if you don't have a bird available, it is good practice to make him hold while you go through this drill, then walk back, praise and stroke him, tap him and send him on, allowing him to snuffle around in the scent left by vacated birds, if he chooses, before casting off. If you have a bird laying out there, after the flushing effort, pick up the bird and "flush it"

DON'T FORGET, IF YOU HAVE A NEW PUP, THIS FALL IS ALL FOR THE PUP

Remember, the number of birds you harvest this fall is of no importance in the larger scheme of things. What matters is that you get that young dog out on wild game. Let it experience the learning how to use its nose, how to use the wind, what to do if the wind shifts. You would be wise on your first excursions during the hunting season to carry your gun unloaded. Keep your shells handy, but not in the gun. Then you won't be tempted to shoot when the dog busts a bird.

Remember, you are going to have the pleasure of watching your young dog begin to put it together. That will be your reward for not shooting your limit. The limit comes much later.

Enjoy this special time.

Joan Bailey

by throwing it. Discharge the shotgun while the bird is still in the air. If Razz is a beginner or if you are going to be satisfied throughout his life with a staunch pointer that breaks at wing or shot, take his retrieve as in Situation No. 3 and in a short while you'll have him behaving according to that scenario; virtually effortless training to a degree that satisfies and pleases probably better than 90 percent of hunters who gun over pointing breeds.

But if you are serious about having a finished dog, one who retains his pointing posture throughout the flurry of flushing and shooting and then retrieves upon command, you are prepared to get started. You've set the dog up and are in position to intercept him if he forgets what "Whoa!" means. If you can't intimidate him into staying put by being between him and the bird, you stand a good chance of grabbing him as he bolts for it. Then he's dragged back to his whoa position, stood up, staunchly up and made to stay until sent to fetch or otherwise released. If he forgets about the bird, put him through the dead bird drill.

Checkcording may not be necessary, but as noted at the outset, don't throw it away. You can't depend on a dog to respond to gentle persuasion. Next to getting "Whoa!" down pat in the yard, a checkcord is probably your most valuable training tool. Some youngsters drag one throughout their training sessions and sometimes through the first season of hunting.

With all training devices, wrongly timed or heavy-handed use can cause problems. Blinking is a bird dog vice that is caused more than 90 percent of the time by "trainers" who misapply those tools. Blinking is a problem easily avoided by proper introduction and relatively gentle reinforcement.

Once the relationship between pleasure, praise, game and gunfire is established in a gun dog's mind, he'll easily withstand whatever pressure is necessary to put the polish on him.

This is an edited version of an article that originally appeared in the April/May 1999 issue of Gun Dog Magazine. Reprinted courtesy of the author.

FALL DAYS MEAN "PUPPY EXPOSURE"

By Jim Hughes

It's that special time of year once again. New puppy owners have visions of future hunting seasons while young puppies run about without a clue of all the excitement to come. For all of us that enjoy what the fall brings, this is truly a magical time of year. Dogs and hunters alike feel the changes down in their bones. As the nights become cooler and the leaves start to turn, something deep in each of us starts to stir. It is a feeling that can not be explained. Some say it is the ancient "call of the wild" that dates back to the days when we had to hunt to survive. In those days the beginning of fall meant it was time to get serious about hunting. If food wasn't stored up for the long winter ahead, things could get pretty rough. Whatever those feelings deep down inside each of us are, they should bring us to some kind of action. Which brings me to the point of this article. Your puppy feels the same feelings that you do. For you to deprive yourself or your dog of fulfilling those natural feelings, is a crime. Exposure for your new puppy all year round is a must. But exposure during this first fall is paramount. Your young dog will never be more impressionable or



By spending your Griffon's first hunting season letting him explore and learn, through "exposure", you solidify your chances of developing a "Gun Dog Supreme" for years to come. COVEY OF AUGER FALLS proudly poses with his birds after a successful Montana pheasant hunt with owner Jim McDermard. (photo by: Jim McDermard).

pliable than he/she is this first fall. To deprive your new little ball of energy time afield this first fall is unconscionable.

Following are some excerpts from a letter that I sent to my puppy owners in November, 1997. I share this in hopes that all of the new puppy owners out there will take every opportunity to expose your dogs this first hunting season. The long term dividends are well worth the time.

To: Owners of "A" litter Truman's Pride puppies

Well the start of quail/pheasant season in Kansas is finally here! Abby and I had one of the best opening season hunts in memory. The quail numbers are still down but the pheasant population is finally coming back. I lost track of Abby's points at around 50 on Saturday. I'm very comfortable saying that she made over 75 points on singles and coveys (pheasant and quail combined) on opening weekend. She also tracked 3 crippled pheasants that we would have lost otherwise. One of the cripples had to be tracked for approximately 300 yards through very thick CPR. We hunted with 4 other men that ranged in age from 18 to 22. Needless to say, I felt very old when trying to keep up with their young legs. Abby was the only hunting dog for the group so I think she was feeling a little overworked also, but boy did she ever have a good time. If I had a dime for every time one of the guys said "what a hunting dog" I'd be a rich man. My chest was really starting to hurt from being so puffed up. All of the other hunters wanted to know the story behind the Griffon's. So I had to do the one thing that every Griffon owner loves (but sometimes gets tired of repeating), I had to tell the Griffon story. It was truly a wonderful weekend. We hunted very hard for two days and both of us came home happy but exhausted.

I don't tell you all of this to brag about how good my dog is, I tell you to get you excited about the potential your dog has locked up inside. Abby and I have worked hard for the last four years to become a good hunting team. Regardless of what your idea of a good hunting dog or companion is, your dog has a lot of potential that only you can unlock. No dog has ever had potential unlocked while sitting in a pen. Get your puppy out and get him some exposure. Get a copy of "How to Help Gun Dogs Train Themselves" from Joan Bailey. (503)296-6725 (PST). Memorize this book and use it as your guide for the first year of your puppies' life. When your puppy is about one year old you will want to get a copy of "The Training and Care of the Versatile Hunting Dog" (The Green Book) so you can start your formal training. Which brings me back to my first letter that I sent you.

Here are some of the highlights from my first letter in case you missed or forgot them:

Don't worry about formal training! You are still a long ways from the time when your puppy will start to need any kind of formal training. Take your time and let the puppy come along at his/her own pace. The puppies that you received have been exposed to all sorts of new and wonderful things (examples: water, dogs, cats, kids, car rides, etc). **To continue to grow and mature your puppy needs lots of exposure.** Take your puppies with you every place you go. Take them to the store, the park, work (if your boss doesn't care) or any place else that you go. These little bits of exposure, to all kinds of things, will pay huge dividends down the road. Set time aside every day, even if it's only ten minutes, to spend with your puppy. If you get in the habit of spending time with your puppy, later on when it's time to start training, things will come a lot easier for you. The old saying "you get what you put into it" applies as much to you and your puppy as it does anything else. **Don't expect to have a wonderful hunting companion and house pet if your not willing to take the time to help he/she "be all that they can be"** (I kind of stole that last quote). The first thing that I ask my hunting companions that see Abby and say "I need to get a hunting dog" is "do you have a few thousand hours to spare over the next two years". I don't bring this up to scare anyone, I bring it up so you can get in the mind set to raise a puppy. As I've talked with each of you over the last few months, there is no question that you all have what it takes to be great owners.

Your puppies will need to be tested for natural ability before they turn 16 months of age. The Intermediate Hunting Dog Test will need to be done before they are 24 months of age. Everyone needs to plan on testing their dogs in the spring tests in 1998 and 1999. Start now making plans to attend the testing site of your choice. I have only one word of advice if you don't test your puppy, "get out of the country, because I know where you live". Of course I'm kidding about the "where you live" stuff but keep in mind that each of you agreed to test your dogs when I agreed to sell you one of my precious babies.

THE TRUTH ABOUT DOGS, BY STEPHEN BUDIANSKY**A New Article from the Atlantic Monthly, July 1999**

Following are a few excerpts from this fascinating work. If this whets your appetite, go to the library or www.theatlantic.com/issues/99jul/9907dogs.htm and get the full article. Joan Bailey

"...More-conventional sponsors of scientific research, such as the National Institutes of Health and the American Cancer Society, have begun to fund the study of canine genetics, because dog disease and human disease are turning out to be closely linked. More than twenty inborn diseases in dogs have been traced to specific defective genes; in every case the same defective gene has been found in human beings. Dogs even carry the *brca1* gene, which was identified a few years ago as causing a significantly increased risk of breast cancer in women. Probably 90 to 95 percent of the dog genome and the human genome are identical."

"...Wolves and coyotes differ by about six percent in their mitochondrial DNA, and, according to fossil evidence, separated from a common ancestor about a million years ago. Wolves and dogs differ by about one percent; using the wolf-coyote time scale, this suggests that they parted company about 135,000 years ago - a lot earlier than the date implied by the first distinctly non-wolflike dog fossil..."

"...The point is, then, that if dogs were indeed domesticated more than 100,000 years ago, as Wayne's data suggest, there wasn't much selective breeding going on for most of those 100,000 years. Rather than diverging into separate lines, the dog gene pool remained a well mixed soup in a bowl of global dimensions. There was considerable gene flow throughout the population which would not have been the case had early human beings been trying to direct the breeding of their dogs or to develop special lines with certain selected characteristics. Wayne's study also suggest that for a long time the genetic difference between a dog and a wolf was too small to cause any striking morphological change that would show up in the fossil record..."

"...It suggests that early man may not have sought to domesticate dogs at all. Rather, proto-dog found it in his interest to hang around people, and somehow persuaded them not to throw rocks at him or eat him..."

"...The evolutionarily correct way to state all this is that human beings, with their campfires and garbage heaps and hunting practices, but above all with the social interactions, represented an ecological niche ripe for exploitation by wolves. Or at least by those wolves that through some chance modification in their genetic makeup were able to exploit that niche and then prospered to pass on those traits to their offspring..."

"...We are primed to seize on what are, in truth, fundamental, programmed behaviors in dogs and read into them extravagant tales of love and fidelity. Often dogs need do no more than be their simple selves to amaze and beguile us..."

"...Rather than protecting us, the dog feels protected by us; he is emboldened to react to any threat that appears on his radar screen. Such behavior is observed regularly in wolves: aggression by a dominant member of the pack toward another wolf will trigger an attack by other members..."

"...An early part of Elaine Ostrander's work in the Dog Genome Project was an attempt to locate genes responsible for such complex canine instincts as herding behavior in border collies and the affinity for water in Newfoundlands. The grandpuppies of crosses between border collies and Newfies showed a rich assortment of the two behaviors, enough to make it clear that they were under genetic control - but also enough to show that perhaps a dozen or more genes are involved, and that to accomplish any sort of mapping of those genes, one would need to start with several hundred dogs..."

"...Dog society consists of a strong dominance hierarchy in which submission to and appeasement of higher-ranking animals is necessary to survival. Dominance hierarchies avoid violence for the most part, but the threat of violence is ever present. Thus reading social cues adeptly, down to such details of body language as a flick of the ear or the angle of a tail, is the most basic of canine instincts. *'That's what dogs do for a living, Gregory Acland says, 'They figure out what's expected of them in a social situation and do it...'* [Emphasis added]

"...Just as we are genetically programmed to seek signs of love and loyalty, dogs are genetically programmed to exploit this foible of ours..."

"...So why are there so many canine misfits around these days?..."

"...According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, each year in the United States

800,000 people are injured seriously enough by dogs to require medical attention, 6,000 are hospitalized by dog attacks, and about fifteen, mostly children, are killed..."

"...Because dogs are so good at picking up on social signals, our psychological failings readily affect the way our pets act... members of an increasingly urban society do not always know what they are getting themselves into when they bring a high-energy herding or hunting dog into their lives..."

"...Studies of urban dogs found that strays were only a third as likely as owned dogs to exhibit aggression toward people when approached. Most wolves are not really aggressive either. There is only one "alpha," or dominant, male in a pack. Most wolves, and most dogs, are not alphas in the natural scheme of things..."

"...Aggression among these [Dobermans and German shepherds], which hardly rank as notoriously aggressive breeds, may be a phenomenon of the past several decades.. 27 percent of Springer spaniels had bitten a person - at least twice the average rate for dogs. Such streaks of aggression may seem odd, and they are odd. They seem to be traceable quite directly to the way dogs have been bred for the past century..."

"...Genetic markers imply that up until a century or so ago people did successfully develop many highly distinctive varieties of dogs - everything from lap dogs to attack dogs, bird dogs or sled dogs - without a loss of overall genetic diversity, and without a rise in physical or behavioral abnormalities..."

"...Historically, dogs were mostly categorized by general type. There were sheep dogs, foxhounds, spaniels, pointers, and retrievers. But pointers were just pointers - they weren't German short-haired pointers or Vizslas, or Weimaraners. As Wayne's genetic data show, interbreeding and a flow of genes on a worldwide scale was continuing even as this segregation into types was taking place. The types were distinct in both physical appearance and behavior; they clearly had been selected with specific human aims in mind. But the critical point is that these dogs were defined by form and function rather than by parentage. They were what livestock breeders would today call 'open' or 'grade' breeds..."

"Beginning around 1870, however, with establishment of kennel clubs in Britain and the United States, closed breeding books were introduced in the name of developing and maintaining purebred animals. A dog could be registered as a Vizsla only if both of its parents were registered as Vizslas..."

"...but genetic diseases that show up only in an animal homozygous for a recessive trait can be carried silently for generations. Only when two carriers happen to mate will the disease appear..." [Emphasis added]

"...Genetic data confirm that the past century of dog breeding has produced some extremely inbred animals... *Even crossbred dogs are more inbred than the most inbred human populations (the Amish for example, or families in India in which uncle-niece marriages take place)* [emphasis added]..."

"...This degree of uniformity means that when a bad trait does get locked in by chance, it tends to stay as long as breeding is confined within the group. And a raft of genetic diseases have been turning up in a variety of dog breeds. Some of them are truly bizarre: epilepsy in poodles, sudden muscle rigidity in Scottish terriers..., chronic fever in Sharpeis, tumors in flat-coated retrievers, congestive heart failure in boxers..."

"...Breeders can narrowly select for traits that suit their fancy and still not unlock recessive diseases of less desirable behaviors--if they start from a large founding population and make sure that they keep a broad representation of the founders' gene pool in all subsequent generations..."

"...The real source of genetic trouble in many breeds is not so much that dogs are being bred for looks or to meet other narrow criteria as that the breed has relatively few founders. Many breeds suffer from the 'popular sire effect' as well, and here criticism of the breeding world is more justifiable..."

"...Streaks of aggressiveness in a breed like the springer spaniel could likewise be the result of recessive traits being inadvertently locked in to a closed population with a relatively small founder base. But selection may play a role too, and this is another instance in which the show ring may be to blame. Dogs that carry their heads and tails erect catch the attention of judges, and thus tend to win shows. Those are also the marks of a dominant, hence aggressive, dog. Some show-dog breeders don't actively live with their dogs (the dogs stay in kennels), and so are willing to put up with bad traits in a single-minded pursuit of the perfect coat or the half-pricked ear..." [Emphasis added]

"...One strikingly counterintuitive conclusion of modern genetic studies is the worst way to correct these mistakes of the past is to weed the carriers of genetic diseases out of the breeding population... In fact just the opposite is true--genetic diversity is invigorating (thus 'hybrid vigor,' well known to agricultural breeders), because it helps to ensure that breeding for homozygosity in desirable traits doesn't

at the same time breed for homozygosity in undesirable traits at other sites on the genome. Even disease carriers have a valuable contribution to make in preserving heterozygosity: a dog that carries an epilepsy gene, for example, could also very well carry a gene that protects against cancer..."

"The key is not to cull the carriers (that is, animals that possess just one defective gene and so don't exhibit the ailment but, rather, never to breed two carriers. [Emphasis added] The solution is to keep parentage as diverse as possible while correcting the problem..."

"...But old habits die hard, and amid the *éclat* of new genetic research one can occasionally make out strains of Leon F. Whitney's old tune. A number of breeders are seeking genetic probes not to detect disease but rather to measure 'genetic purity'--to test, for example, if a Vizsla really is a Vizsla, or if (horrors) tainted blood has crept in. But breeding for the purity of the breed is like hiring a storyteller not on the basis of how well he tells stories but after looking at how many generations of Irishmen he has in his background..."

"...In the long run, however, the increased availability of genetic tests will make it obvious which breeders have sacrificed good genes in their quest for puppies with flashy pedigrees..."

"...Despite the efforts of neo-eugenicists to ostracize them, mutts constitute a vibrant reservoir of canine genetic diversity. Mutts tend to be healthy dogs, because of hybrid vigor. They also tend to be good dogs..."

"...Defiant of human fashion and whim, selected only in accordance with the ancient evolutionary dictate that demands nothing more than an ability to get along with rather gullible human beings, mutts are really what dogs are about. If worst comes to worst, perhaps they will set us straight, just as their ancestors so ably did--at least for 99,900 of the past 100,000 years."

To all our Griffon Friends:

A heart felt "Thank You" for the wonderful surprise congratulations on our 50th wedding anniversary.

It was very thoughtful and kind, and deeply appreciated on our part.

With fondest regards to you and...

Waidmannsheil
Joe and Klara Nadeker

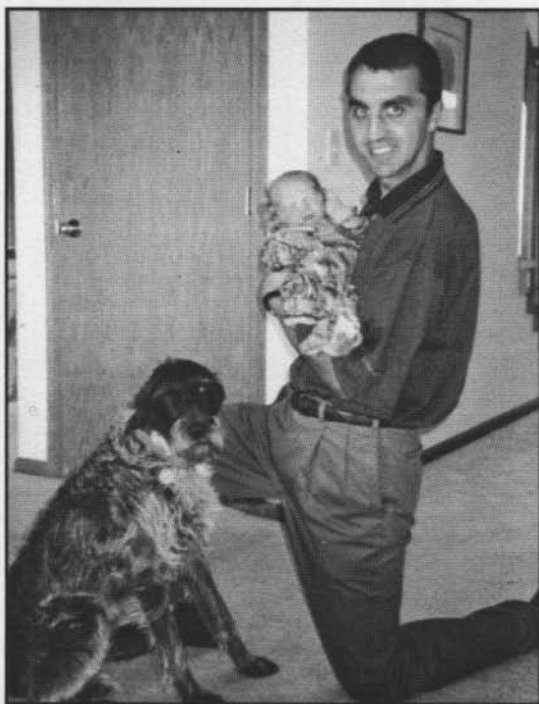
Dear Mike and Kathi,

...I would like to share our **Darby** story to reiterate what wonderful family dogs Griffons are, as well as superior hunter's! Our friends, family, and hunting companions always remark at **Darby's** aggressive and eager hunting style, yet calm and loving personality at home.

Darby had been staying with neighbors while we were in the hospital. When we came home, our plan was to leave Nicholas in the car while we each gave **Darby** some TLC, before introducing her to the new member of the family. As if sensing something new, **Darby** ran right by us and headed for the car to take a sniff. We took Nicholas inside and set him in his car seat on the floor. **Darby** showered him with lots of licks to the head, hands, and feet to welcome him home.

Darby has developed the habit of laying at my feet during middle-of-the- night feedings to keep us company. **Darby** is unphased by the crying, but very interested in hiccups and dirty diapers. Once again we count our blessings for our happy, healthy family and wonderful dog.

Chaney Yeast



Andy Yeast with 10 day old son, Nicholas, ready for the hunting season to begin with **DARBY OF DUTCHMAN'S HOLLOW**. (Photo by: Chaney Yeast)



AT THE END OF A LONG DAY SPENT IN PURSUIT OF BIRDS, IT FEELS GOOD TO JUST KICK BACK AND RELAX.*
CERA OF DUTCHMAN'S HOLLOW (left), Owned by Glenn Lehrer of Montana, and **APACHE OF THE HIGH COUNTRY** (right), owned by Bill Madden of Montana, after a tough day of hunting in Arizona.

*Editors note: of course, no dog consumed alcohol in order to take this photo.