

The Gun Dog Supreme

NEWSBULLETIN of the WIREHAired POINTING GRIFFON CLUB OF AMERICA
EDUCATION & RESEARCH FOUNDATION

<http://wpgcaerf.freesevers.com>

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

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

April 2002

Volume 77, Number 2

April 2002



Copyright © 2002 Wirehaired Pointing Griffon Club of America Education and Research Foundation. No part may be reproduced in any form without written permission from the Wirehaired Pointing Griffon Club of America Education and Research Foundation.

A LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

For most of us, winter is just about over. There is a hint that spring is not very far away, days are getting longer, temperatures are slowly starting to rise, test weekends are fast approaching and litters of puppies are giving their breeders lot of fun and joy (if not work). So it is appropriate that this issue be filled with a puppy theme. Thank you to everyone who sent in puppy photos and please keep sending them.

Bringing your new puppy home is, and should be, a happy and exciting moment. You have probably stayed awake at night anticipating the moment you could hold him/her in your arms. You might have even dreamt of your puppy all grown up and hunting with you in the fields and waters. The one thing you most likely didn't dream of, though, is nursing your new family member as it struggles to live. This is exactly what happened to Phil Tennes last spring. Phil teamed up with Jane Webb, the breeder, to write about his experience in nursing his new puppy, **AMOS OF BANDED PEAK**, through an ordeal of Parvovirus. Jane starts off by explaining what Parvo is, its symptoms, and treatment on page 3.

Rounding off this issue is, of course, puppy pictures on page 8. This is followed by a write up about training/exposure days. Not only are these events good for the dogs and their owners, but they are also a great time for people wanting to learn more about the WPGCA or for those waiting to get a puppy. Help is always needed at these events to volunteer and have some fun! A list of contacts, by chapter, is included along with some rough dates of when the training/exposure days will be held. Be sure to give these people a call for more information as the time gets closer, and look for firm dates to be printed in the June GDS and the Regional Chapters page of the club's web site at www.wpgca.org/chapters.htm. Finally, on page 11 is an update on the breedings for 2002.

Mike Lockwood

Reminder: Please be sure to send a note to the editors when you have a change of address. Doing so saves the club time and money and allows you to receive the GDS without interruption. Contact information for the editors can be found at the top of the cover page of

FEBRUARY GDS CORRECTIONS

- **Page 6** - the caption on the 1st photograph should be **BONNIE LASS OF AGASSIZ LOWLANDS**.
- **Page 9** - There should have been the following caption: **Larry Semmens, GLACIER OF AUGER FALLS, GRIFFIN OF AUGER FALLS, and Thomas Coombe, at the Idaho test.** (Photo by: Gary/Ann Pool)

COVER PHOTO: Katie Willis with **AROOSTOCK (ROO) OF MARSH STREAM** (Chipper De Los Altos x Bristol of Alderbrook). (Photo by: Ted Silvers)

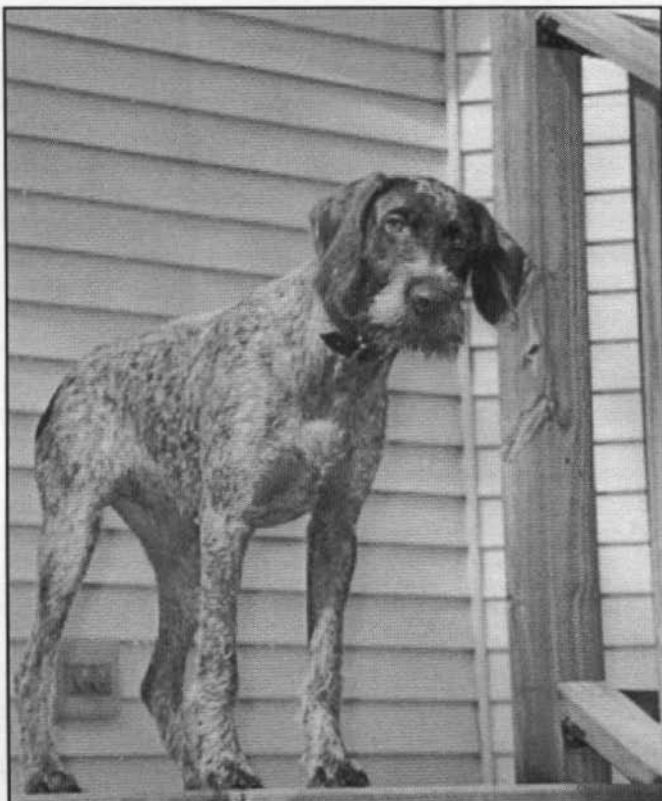
BACKCOVER PHOTO: **BRISTOL OF ALDERBROOK** (Chyte Ze Zaplay x Bailey of Ocean House) and her pups, "A" of Marsh Stream, at 3 days sired by Chipper de los Altos. (Photo by: Ted Silvers, April 2001)

Parvo Can Kill-Amos's Ordeal...A Happy Ending

By: Phil Tennies and Jane Webb

Puppy season is almost here, and many club members are anticipating the joy of raising a new litter or getting a new puppy. Occasionally this journey is not one of joy. Last spring, **AMOS OF BANDED PEAK** had a harrowing ordeal with Parvo at 11 weeks of age. He did survive, but we hope that this article will help our breeders and new puppy owners avoid a similar encounter with Parvo.

AMOS was born in Calgary, Alberta on February 18, 2001, and at 10 weeks flew from Calgary to Chicago. New owner Phil Tennies picked him up and took him home to Indianapolis, Indiana. On May 5, just 9 days after leaving Calgary, he became ill and was diagnosed with Parvo. Thus began a nightmare of worry, work and escalating vet bills. But, before we tell you **AMOS's** story...



*You couldn't tell from this picture, but last spring **AMOS OF BANDED PEAK** (Barton de los Altos x Binti of Cloudy Skies) fought to live. (Photo by: Phil Tennies)*

What is Parvo? – A highly contagious and dangerous virus usually transmitted by dogs orally contacting infected feces. However, the virus can also be contracted by contact with infected ground as the micro-organism can live in the ground for years depending on the weather conditions in the area. It is believed that winter's cold weather kills the virus, which is why parvo is more endemic in warmer areas. The incubation period from contact with the virus to symptoms appearing varies from 7 - 14 days.

Symptoms – Severe, bloody diarrhea and vomiting, high fever, lethargy, dehydration and lowered white blood cell count. The diarrhea is foul smelling and often yellow or bloody in color. The virus targets rapidly multiplying cells such as those lining the intestinal tract and bone marrow. Shortly after onset the pup loses most of the white blood cells (WBC). Without WBC the pup has no ability to fight off secondary infections, which are the usual cause of death. Death can occur as early as 2 days after onset of symptoms.

Treatment – Since there is no cure for the virus, treatment is to support the puppy during the course of the disease, which can run 5-8 days. Treating a puppy at home is very difficult and generally requires a hospital stay of several days. This treatment includes intravenous solutions of balanced electrolytes, antibiotics to prevent secondary infection, antiemetic drugs to slow the vomiting, and blood transfusions when necessary. No food is given until the dog

has gone 24 hours without vomiting. Insist from your vet that the pup gets antiemetic drugs, as severe esophageal trauma can occur with repeated exposure to stomach secretions. Not all vets consider this to be a serious issue.

Risk – Approximately 80% of puppies that contract the disease will die if the disease goes untreated. If diagnosed early enough, 80% of puppies can survive; most of these have a full recovery, but some sustain heart damage.

How to avoid – The most important factor is to keep puppies away from other dogs or areas where there is canine feces until the FULL RANGE OF SHOTS IS COMPLETE. The usual schedule for shots is at 8 weeks, 12 weeks, 16 weeks, and 20 weeks. The mother's antibodies can interfere with the effectiveness of the vaccination creating a "Window of Susceptibility" when puppies have no protection. This creates a problem for both breeders and puppy owners in finding "clean" areas to run our dogs, but the effort is worth it for these crucial weeks.

Now – Back to AMOS and Phil's ordeal:

Day 1 (May 6th, 2001)

I got home from work around 8:00 pm and my wife Lisa met me at the door and told me that Amos was sick and had not been eating. When I saw Amos I could tell something was not quite right, he was much more lethargic then he had been that morning. There was nothing that I could do at the moment so I put Amos in his crate and went to bed.

Day 2

In the morning Amos was even more lethargic then the previous evening and I was starting to get very worried. He was vomiting now and was passing diarrhea. My vet wasn't open on Sunday but after calling around for a few minutes I found one close to my home that was. I was waiting at their door when they opened at 10:00 am. The vet took a stool sample, diagnosed Amos as having parvo and explained to me what it was. I made a couple of decisions right then the first being that I wanted Amos to be home with me. From the vet's explanation the treatment would consist of antibiotics prophylactically for secondary infections and IV fluids. Having worked in a hospital as a nurse for over a year with IV's I knew I was capable of that aspect of treatment and administering antibiotics would be a simple matter. This vet started an IV, gave Amos a shot of penicillin into his muscle, an antiparvo serum through his IV, and sent me home with a liter of lactated ringer's IV fluid.

This vet, and the others that Amos saw, wanted to hospitalize Amos. It was my opinion this was not a good idea for several reasons. Many pups with parvo die of the secondary infections brought on by a depressed immune system. That being the case, the last place I wanted Amos was around a bunch of sick dogs. Also, this vet had no one to watch the dogs over night, which is a requirement when giving IV fluids. I also knew that no place could give Amos the one-on-one care and attention that I would.

At home things started out poorly, while I was hooking up the fluids Amos pulled his IV out. I was by myself and I could not hold Amos and start an IV, so I called my next door neighbor. With him holding Amos, I was able to start another IV and get the pup settled into his crate. With this treatment Amos seem to perk up some. He had gone about six hours without vomiting thought he was still having bouts of diarrhea. That evening he managed to eat a little tuna and some broth. I spent the night on the couch next to Amos checking on him every hour or so to make sure the IV was still working and taking him outside.

Day 3

Amos had vomited some in the morning and still passing diarrhea and not interested in eating anything. However he was livelier then the previous day and I was starting to think this wouldn't be too bad. In hindsight I think it was the serum that gave this temporary respite.

It was Monday and Amos and I started a schedule that we would follow for most of the week. At 9:00 am we went to my vet. Amos weighed in at 20.4 pounds and I think he had lost probably 1-2 pounds already. The vet ordered blood work and looked Amos over. As the penicillin had caused Amos to limp severely we changed that to penicillin IV and we started Amos on another antibiotic, Cefazolin, also given through the IV.

At home Amos's condition started to deteriorate. His stool, while still loose, was a dark purple-brown color. I had taken care of enough patients to know that color stool meant Amos was bleeding somewhere below his stomach. This is common with Parvo, as noted above the disease actually destroys the lining of the intestines leaving the delicate capillary framework exposed to the harsh digestive enzymes. By that evening Amos was unable to walk outside to empty out so I was carrying him. His vomiting, which had never stopped had increased now, and with an empty stomach all he could produce was dark green stomach secretions. I was now starting to worry about the affect these secretions would have on his esophagus. With repeated exposure, these secretions could erode enough of the lining to cause what is called an esophageal varices, or bleeding into the esophagus, causing Amos to bleed to death in a matter of hours.



*Phil Tennes administers medications to **AMOS OF BANDED PEAK** (Barton de los Altos x Binti of Cloudy Skies) as Amos fights off secondary infections from Parvo. (Photo by: unknown)*

In humans an IV catheter, the access area for the fluids to enter into the vein, can last three days. With Amos I found I had to start another site about every eight hours or so. The problem this causes is that a vein has to rest and heal after it is used. I had used the veins in both front legs and was now using his back legs. That night I again stayed on the couch with Amos right below me, situated on some pillows, so I could monitor him almost continuously.

Day 4

Amos's had become even weaker, now the only time he moved was when I picked him up to carry him outside. The bloody diarrhea continued, as did the vomiting. At the vets we did blood work again and found that his albumin level was low. This was not unexpected as it indicated malnourishment, not surprising since there had been no food intake to speak of since he got sick. Also he was losing albumin through his diseased intestines. His weight was down .3 pounds to 20.1, which was significant. The fluids Amos lost were replaced, so the reduction in weight was tissue. The vet started him on a medicine called Reglan in hopes of stopping the vomiting. IV antibiotics would continue, as would the fluids. I had to leave Amos at the vets for the day to attend a meeting, but picked him up as soon as I was able that evening. When I picked Amos up I talked with my vet. It was his opinion that tomorrow would be a critical day, Amos would be better and recover rapidly or he would be worse and probably die. This news I took fairly well, I was sure Amos would not die and perhaps this would be the end of what was becoming a trying ordeal. That night I stayed on the couch, watching over Amos, looking forward to the morning, and hoping he would be better.

Day 5

In the morning despite, all my hopes, he got worse. By now he was so weak he could not lift his head, and taking him outside to empty out had become too difficult for him. Instead I placed old blankets around him and cleaned them when needed. The bloody diarrhea continued, but the vomiting had decreased some. That morning my vet was not very optimistic, Amos had lost another pound and his albumin level dropped, and now some of his electrolytes were showing imbalances. We changed his treatment some; in his IV fluid a vitamin was added to give some nourishment, another antibiotic, Gentamicin, was added, as was thiorazine to help further decrease vomiting. The vet talked about placing Amos in a 24-hour care setting, but at this time I was not interested. His lab tests indicated that, while his blood cells were low, they were not critical. My vet said nothing more could be done, beyond what I was already doing. Lying on the seat next to me on the way home, Amos just stared straight ahead, not moving, no longer possessing the strength. I had no idea how many days had gone by since I had seen his tail wag. Sitting at a stop light I ran my hand down his tail, all I could feel was bone, no tissue, his shoulder blades jutted sharply out from his back, his whole body was completely emaciated. Amos had put up a fight and was still fighting, but the fight was being lost as I watched. I now was convinced, despite all my efforts, Amos was going to die.

I cancelled my schedule for the day; At least I could be with him, I thought. With my options exhausted I continued to care for Amos. His bloody diarrhea continued, but with reglan in his IV fluid, and the Thorazine injections, his vomiting stopped.

I had been talking with Jane Webb daily giving her reports on Amos's progress. All I could tell her that evening was that Amos had not died that day. I also noticed that though Amos had not improved, for the first time since Monday, his condition worsened.

I was again on the couch that night checking on Amos. About three in the morning, I lost his IV site and could not find another vein to use. I was very concerned about Amos going without fluids, so I shaved his side and placed a catheter under his skin and administered subcutaneous fluids until the vet could see him in the morning.

Day 6

The morning vet visit started out with the scales, Amos had lost more weight and was down to 18.3 pounds. The morning blood work came back, and it was not good. The IV fluids could maintain fluid volume but the actual blood cell component within Amos's circulation was now at a critically low level, Amos needed a blood transfusion. My vet was unable to administer blood, but did refer me to an animal hospital that could. I admitted Amos into the hospital to administer blood and observe him on a 24-hour basis. On the day of admission his white blood cell count was also critically low, making him highly susceptible to other diseases.

Amos was administered two units of packed red blood cells, but he remained completely lethargic, still passing bloody diarrhea, and at times vomiting the thick green stomach secretions. Amos was just hovering, neither better nor worse. Blood draws, injections, and IV starts no longer caused any reaction from him. The only movement would be his eye's following people around him.

Day 7

Physically, Amos did not improve, he was still not moving, passing bloody diarrhea, and unable to eat. His lab work had improved in one area, his white blood cell count had gone up, responding to a bone marrow stimulant that had been injected the previous day. At this point my vet felt Amos had a fifty-fifty chance.

Day 8

In the late afternoon I got a call from my vet who sounded very excited. As she had walked into the room where Amos was, he had risen his head and wagged his tail. By the end of the day Amos was taking small bits of food, and some water, and was holding it down. This was his first food in 6 days.

Day 9

Amos's blood work was almost normal. He was taking small meals and walking around in his kennel. Late in the afternoon I picked Amos up. His weight was 17.5 pounds, but he was wagging his tail and happy. Over the next few days Amos recovered rapidly, and within a few weeks had regained his lost weight.

I found out after this ordeal that there was an epidemic of Parvo in Indianapolis where I lived. With the short incubation period, I am convinced Amos was infected in the few days I had him. While I did take Amos to areas where other dogs had been, he could have just as easily picked up the virus by an infected dog emptying out in my yard, or by Amos licking his paws after an infected dog walked by on the sidewalk. Pups are most susceptible to disease in a window from 10-14 weeks. At this time maternal antibodies are breaking down, and the pup's own immune system has not yet fully developed. For these reasons I do not feel any place where other dogs have been should be used to expose pups of this age group.

More information – This is a very brief overview of the disease; for more in-depth information see the following websites:

<http://www.lbah.com/Canine/Parvo.html>

<http://www.animalclinic.com/parvo.htm>

<http://workingdogs.com> then search: parvo

<http://www.avma.org/care4pets/canhparv.htm>

<http://www.peteducation.com> then search: parvo (excellent description of Window of Susceptibility)



*Above-Northeast Griffon Club's training/exposure weekend. **MARSHSTREAM'S ARUNDEL** (Chipper de los Altos and Bristol of Alderbrook) on point. Owned by Jane and Gene McKenna. (Photo by: Jane McKenna, August 2001)*



*Above - **APRIL OF VALLEY HOUSE** (Chipper de los Altos x Avery of Mountain House), owned by Hank Carriger watches intently during a test at the HGC spring test weekend last year. (Photo by: Tina Molt)*



*Hallie Block (granddaughter of Glenn and Lyla Lehrer) with **BONNIE OF AGASSIZ LOWLANDS** (Chyt ze Zaplav x Berta of Show Me Borealis) at 12 months. (Photo by: Glenn Lehrer, June 2000.)*

TRAINING AND PUPPY EXPOSURE DAYS

Organized training weekends have really caught on throughout the regional chapters. In the past, Griffon owners who lived near each other, would often get together and help each other train their dogs. Knowing this, and seeing that dogs needed to be better prepared for their hunting tests, the club decided to organize these training weekends on a local level. Senior judges and Judges got together and planned a day or a full weekend where dog owners could get together and work with their dogs.



Having fun at training days! (left to right) Steve Kurtzweg, Brendan Woodward, and Jeff Dillon (in back) look on as Dennis Carlson, NWGC President and Judge, exposes their pups to ducks at last years training days in Washington. (Photo by: unknown)

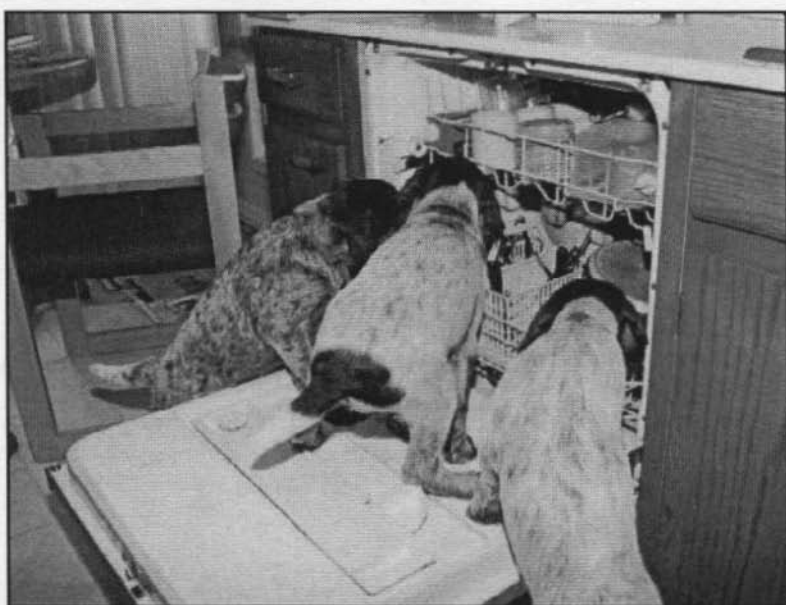
These events are no small task to organize as birds need to be ordered and picked up, permission needs to be obtained to use land and water, and invitations need to be sent out to perspective participants. These are events, however, that the judges feel are very important to the success of the breeding program and with the help of apprentice judges these training days have become an excellent tool for dogs owners, both new and old.

Training days are a win-win-win situation. Dog owners learn tips and techniques on how to prepare their dogs for the required hunting tests and they have another excuse to talk about Griffons, birds, and hunting with a group that actually understands their passion. The dogs get to socialize with other dogs, play in water, find birds, and just have plain fun. The club's breeding program is strengthened by giving the dogs every opportunity to succeed.

CHAPTER	CONTACT	PHONE	EMAIL	DATE
NWGC (Washington)	Dennis Carlson	(541) 386-4830	carlson@gorge.net	During spring test in April
RMGC (Idaho)	Gary Pool	(208) 324-2473	gpool1@mindspring.com	None specified at this time
(Montana)	Glenn Lehrer	(406) 586-0015	ghlmtman@aol.com	
HGC (Michigan)	Jim Seibel	(616) 789-1020	james.seibel@kelloggs.com	During the Summer
(Iowa)	John Pitlo	(319) 872-5764	jvpitlo@clinton.net	Early August
NEGC (New Jersey)	Kevin Jester	(732) 244-5078	jesterhowley@comcast.net	April 28th
(Maine)	Rick Molt	(207) 563-5675	tina@tidewater.net	Early August

2002 Breeding update**By: the breeding committee**

Through our extensive contact in the Czech Republic, we have brought over frozen semen from two males that have passed all the tests over there with flying colors (including the full Utility and Universal test which is more difficult than Utility). We decided to only bring semen from two dogs this year so that we could learn the entire process—method of shipping, customs, storage once it was here,



House training! "A" OF BANDED PEAK puppies (Barton de los Altos x Binti of Cloudy Skies), at 7 weeks of age learn how a dishwasher works.

(Photo by: Jane webb)

and many other little details. The breeding committee chose these two males out of about 20 whose semen had been collected. Both the males we have chosen have common blood with our dogs here, which is good, and is what we wanted.

We are going to do 4 or 5 A.I. breedings this year which will give us valuable information about the males. And they have been used for breeding over there, so we have that track record as well. In the listing below if you see +++ before the listing, it will signify breeding is by A.I. All of our A.I. breedings are done with a surgical implant which produces a much higher success rate than just regular A.I. If you have any questions about the A.I. process feel free to call any member of the breeding committee.

SIRE	DAM	STATE	LATEST INFO.
Chipper de los Altos	Avery of Mountain House (<i>repeat</i>)	NY	11 pups - early March
Elmo of Auger Falls	Acacia of the Great Plains	KS	4 pups
Elmo of Auger Falls	Bristol of Alderbrook	ME	Bred early March
Dar z Tiske Hajenky ⁺⁺⁺	Brea of Truman's Pride	WI	Pending
Alan od th Stromu ⁺⁺⁺	Babine of the High Country	OR	Bred April
Alan od th Stromu ⁺⁺⁺	Cokopelli of Birkshire Pond	IA	Pending
Dar z Tiske Hajenky ⁺⁺⁺	Alibi of Nichol's Creek	OH	Not Bred

