The Gun Dog Supreme

NEWSBULLETIN of the WIREHAIRED POINTING GRIFFON CLUB of AMERICA

VOLUME I NOVEMBER 1951

AN IMPORTANT DATE

Future generations of sportsmen and gun-dog lovers may well mark August 29th, 1951, as an important date in the history of dogdom—for on that date the Wirehaired Pointing Griffon Club of America was activated. Charter members and officers are:

Mr. John G. Martin, Hartford, Connecticut—President.

Colonel T. DeF. Rogers, Qtrs. No. 75, Fort Bragg, N. C.—Sec'y.-Treas.

Mr. David Barbieri, Thornwood, N. Y.

Mr. Joseph Chandler, Silver Springs, Maryland.

Mrs. Helene Inez Clark, Dickerson, Maryland.

Mrs. Ethel C. Garcia, Marshfield, Mass.

Mr. Roger Hora, Ro-Max Kennels, Iowa City, Iowa.

Mr. H. G. Kirkelie, Kalispell, Mont.

Miss Barbara Kefauver, Frederick, Maryland.

Mr. Delbert L. Marshall, Kalamazoo, Michigan.

Mr. Thomas DeF. Rogers, Jr., Qtrs No. 75, Fort Bragg, N. C.

Mrs. James A. Rudy, Toledo, Ohio.

Notification of our activation has been submitted to AKC, FDSB, and many other interested agencies.

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THE GUN DOG SUPREME

The first issue of our quarterly news bulletin, THE GUN DOG SUPREME, is perhaps more attractively printed than the club can afford for future issues until our bank balance is more favorable. (Printing of this issue was a personal contribution by one of our members). Each member is being furnished extra copies which he may distribute as he wishes. This first issue reflects mainly ideas and news items gathered by the Secretary during the preliminary correspondence leading up to the formulation of our Club. Future issues will carry articles submitted by and member of the Club.

PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE

Subject to objection by any member, a simplified procedure in keeping with the intent of our constitution will be adopted for the conduct of routine parliamentary business. The Sec-Treas. will publish in each issue of "THE GUN DOG SUPREME" a column titled **"Routine Motions Before The Club".** In this column will be motions of a routine non-controversial nature which the Sec-Treas. will assume to be carried unanimously by the Club thirty days after that issue of "The Gun Dog Supreme" is mailed out, **provided** that within that time no member objects to the motion. Important motions, and any motions to which any member has objected, will be handled strictly in accordance with Article V of our constitution.

VALOUR d'ARGENT
Westminster 1951—Best of Breed.

FIRST THINGS FIRST

As befits our club, the purposes set forth in our constitution are ambitious. At the start, however, and until our membership is stronger and our treasury is richer, we must choose carefully the course of action on which to concentrate our greatest efforts. Below are listed, in no particular order, possible courses of action (and the tentative ideas of the Sec'y.) to which the Club may wish to give priority:—

(a) **Setting up the dog registry.** This action will involve the club in no great expense and should be started as soon as possible. All that is required is for each member to furnish the Sec'y. a statement of each dog he owns, giving name, AKC and FDSB number (if any), birth date, sex, and preferably a three generation pedigree. In addition (and of utmost importance to the Club in developing recommended breeding programs), the really **outstanding** features of the dog should be stated. Examples, roughly in order of importance, are: keenness of hunting instinct, keenness of pointing instinct, keenness of retrieving instinct, keenness of scent, gentleness, adaptability to training, actual record of performance in the field, stamina, toughness, quality of coat, size, general conformation, and markings. Also, a photograph of the dog will be of great value. We must resist the natural tendency to mention only the outstanding good features of our dogs; to derive the greatest good from our registry, and to develop a scientifically sound breeding program, we must know also the faults of our dogs.

(b) **Publicity and Promotion.** Although we must keep in mind that sales promotion is not a primary purpose of our club, we must recognize at the same time that making our breed known to and popular among Americans (sportsmen particularly) is a powerful means towards further improvement of the breed. The high-pressure exaggerated commercialism which characterized certain recent breed promotion has no place in the WPGCA, but on the other hand, we must acquaint the public with the marvelous qualities of the Griffon. Of course, our present bank balance will not support a program of paid advertisement, but better than paid advertising, is the free publicity that goes with news items, magazine articles, radio stories, stories in sports magazines, person-to-person endorsements, pictures or photographs used incidentally to catch the eye in advertisements of other items, and exhibiting our dogs in field trials and dog shows. The honest and straightforward article by Jack Shattuck in "Outdoorsman Magazine" did much for the breed. We need more authors like him. Perhaps, if each member of the club would provide the Secretary with something of a narrative on his dogs and their unusual feats (particularly in the field), the Secretary (perhaps with Jack Shattuck's help) might be able to prepare an article which would be accepted by some national magazine. Another possibility, is that among our acquaintances there may be someone associated with nation-wide advertising who would welcome the eye-catching appeal of a dog picture as strikingly unusual as our breed. For instance, visualize a lead caption such as "For the Discrimination Sportsman," or "As Genuinely Good as a Griffon," or "An Ancient Blend of the Best"—something that would suggest the parallelism between the dog pictured and the product advertised.

(c) **Building up Membership.** The charter membership is made up mainly of owners and breeders known to the Sec'y., and represents perhaps only forty or fifty dogs. The stronger our membership, the more ambitious a program we may undertake. Perhaps each of our present members can (and we hope will) contact or write to other non-member owners and encourage their joining the Club. Or, the Secretary will send an inquiry to any person suggested by a member.

(d) **Changing and Refining the Breed Standard.** It may be that the present AKC breed standard is obsolete and that the first step towards improving our breed should be the adoption of a more rigid standard. Perhaps we should specify that a short coat or a soft wooly coat is disqualifying for breeding purposes. Perhaps we should specify, within limits, weight-to-height ratio. Perhaps we should define the desirable colors more specifically. Perhaps we should require that a male be **qualified** in a prescribed field trial before being used as stud. Certainly we should consider, as suggested by Mr. Van Studdiford, eliminating the practice of docking tails. If our Club can agree on a new standard, AKC should accept our recommendations.

(e) **Exchange of Information.** Here is a field of activity which can bring immediate benefits to our club members and to our breed—at practically no cost.

The more we exchange information with each other, the more effective our Club will be. Information on new importations, pedigrees, field trial and show results, training methods, obedience work, new litters, unusual puppies, prospective members, genetics, veterinary and health matters, kennel methods,—and of course surplus sales prospects, is much wanted by every member. Direct correspondence between individual members is to be encouraged. And through the medium of our newsbulletin "THE GUN DOG SUPREME" each member may reach every other member plus an indefinite number of non-members.

(f) **Dog Shows.** Perhaps our club is yet too small and scattered to hold a breed show in the immediate future. On the other hand, the eventual growth and effectiveness of our club will depend much on our bringing together our dogs for exhibition and judging. A possible solution, acceptable to AKC, would be for our club to **specially** support the Griffon entry at certain selected all-breed shows. The Secretary offers the tentative suggestion that the Westminster Show at Madison Square Garden, New York City, might be within reach of about half our members. Perhaps another show could be selected which would be convenient to our western (particularly Montanna) members.

(g) **Field Trials.** Eventually, we must adopt a set of rules for Griffon Field Trials. Suggestion on this matter are much needed by the Secretary. And eventually we should hold formal trials at several places throughout the country each year. However—until our club is stronger, and until we have an official set of rules, it may be that the most we can undertake is one or more informal trials organized by several members who reside in the same general locality. In addition, individual members may be able to enter their Griffons in those trials open to all breeds.

The Sec'y. hopes that every member will write a letter advancing his own ideas and setting forth his own desires as to which courses of action should be given priority.

RANDOM SUGGESTIONS

In advancing the following tentative suggestions and questions the Se'cy. hopes to provoke much comment by members. Do any members know of the whereabouts of old records of an earlier Wirehaired Pointing Griffon Club of America? Who were the members? Was there a registry? Could we borrow any known old records?—The Sec'y. intends to inaugurate a scrapbook.—Send pictures and news items of your dogs.—The Sec'y. will loan any member a copy of Jack Shattuck's article on the Pointing Griffon (April 1950 "Outdoorsman).—Our dogs should be registered with both FDS and AKC. FDSB in particularly appeals to the sportsman.—No sound puppy conforming to the standard of the breed should be sold for less than Seventy-five dollars.—Unsound puppies should be destroyed. Puppies not conforming to the standard might be given away without papers.

If you have requests for dogs which you cannot fill, write to other members or let the Sec'y. circulate the information.—The Jackson Memorial Laboratories have underway an ambitious and important program of research in dog genetics. Lets cooperate. The Sec'y. has forms to be filled out for each of our litters of Pointing Griffons.—Should not AKC and FDSB record more voluminious data on hereditary traits?—Should docking of tails be stricken from the standard of breed? Should a timid, fear-stricken dog be disqualified?—Let the Sec'y. know if he can quote approximate prices on your dogs.

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TREASURER'S REPORT

Cash on hand:—$60.00
Expenditures:—$0.00

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ROUTINE MOTIONS BEFORE THE CLUB

The following motions will be assumed to be carried unanimously by the club subject to objection by any member received by the Secretary within thirty days after this issue of "The Gun Dog Supreme" is mailed:

(1) It is moved that the Sec'y.-Treas. be authorized an expenditure of twenty-five dollars to cover printing of "The Gun Dog Supreme," mailing, purchase of stationary, purchase of journal, and purchase of scrap-book; all during the calendar year 1951.

(2) It is moved that Mr. Jack Shattuck, Minneapolis, Minn., be elected honorary member of the Wirehaired Pointing Griffon Club of America in recognition of his valuable writings on the Pointing Griffon.

NEWS ITEMS

Mr. Joseph Chandler now owns SILVER FIZZ, bred by Mr. John Martin and earlier owned by Mr. Frank Ludwick. SILVER is a splendid stud.

Mr. and Mrs. Hora, Box No. 189, Iowa City, Iowa, have several bitch puppies for sale. Their breeding includes the Warrenville strain.

Mrs. Helene Inez Clark, Comus Road, Dickerson, Md., has an excellent one year old male for sale.

A recent issue of the French Stud Book indicates over a thousand Wirehaired Pointing Griffon owners and breeders in France and Belgium. Perhaps over five thousand dogs.

All puppies from the last litter of the Col. Rogers bitch, CISA v.d. HOHEN LINDE have been sold except for two. Sired by CILVER FIZZ, son of Mr. Martin's UNICO, imported from France.

Members in the vicinity of Washington, D. C., will be interested in the Fort Belvoir, Virginia Kennel Club Show, November eleventh, 1951. Perhaps this is an opportunity for a good Pointing Griffon entry.

Doctor Mincheff of Munich, Germany, owner of the famous SIEGFRIED v.d. Kreuzeiche, outstanding Griffon in Europe and sire of CISA v.d. HOHEN LINDE, is expected to bring his dogs to the United States in the near future.

Mr. Barbieri's male, VIGOUR d'ARGENT, has completely recovered from a broken leg and is now pointing and retrieving in fine style.

Mrs. Garcia's young bitch, COLETTE, may be shown at Westminster K.C. show this February.

Mr. Marshall's bitch, JOI d'ARGENT, proved exceptionally capable on pheasants last season. She may be bred to SILVER FIZZ this fall.

Mr. H. G. Kirkelie writes that Mr. Bob Ward was one of the earliest Griffon breeders in the country. So far the Sec'y. has been unable to contact Mr. Ward.

Miss Barbara Kefauver hopes to enter a Griffon in the Westminster K.C. Show this winter.

Mr. Rudy's new male puppy PRIX d'ARGENT arrived in great shape. We can expect to hear much of this dog.

Doctor Gigante, Detroit, Michigan, importer and breeder of the Italian Spinone (a breed practically identical in every way to our Wirehaired Pointing Griffon) is planning to mate one of his bitches to VALOUR d'ARGENT. VALOUR's picture appears in September Dog World.

NOW COMES THE TIME

(When the Sec'y. needs Help!)

Your comments, criticisms, contributions of articles, and suggestions are just what the Club needs right now to get up momentum. Your next letter giving the Sec'y. your ideas can be a most important contribution to the Wirehaired Pointing Griffon.