

# *The Gun Dog Supreme*

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

HOME PAGE: <http://www.wpgca.org>

John Pitlo, Editor (August & February Issues), 200 South 3rd St.  
Bellevue, IA 52031: Telephone: 319-872-5764(CST)

e-mail: [jvpitlo@clinton.net](mailto:jvpitlo@clinton.net)

---

February 2001

Volume 76, Number 1

February 2001

---

## “ The Bird’s Right Here Boss”



Is what **DEKE OF IAMONIA** seems to be saying to owner Joe Moeggenborg while pointing a bird during the NAT test in WI this spring. **DEKE** and Joe received a Prize II. Photo by Ben Nieman.

---

Copyright © 2001 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.

---

### The Griffon Database

By John Pitlo and Larry Semmens

The WPGCA Board of Directors has long recognized the need to enter all of our data into one of the PC databases to help us in our breeding decisions. The problem was, we all kind of knew what we wanted, but no one had the time, ability, or the right set of circumstances to get the job done. And then along came Larry Semmens, a new club member from Alaska, whom I met for the first time last spring at our annual seminar in Idaho. Larry and I had been conversing for about 4 months about the database and I was able to send him some of the older data I had in electronic format. In Larry's own words, this is how it all started.

"Long Alaskan winter nights are only good for a few things and most of them have something to do with progeny. So it was only natural that last winter, armed with 20 back issues of the *Gun Dog Supreme* (GDS) and dreams of a perfect puppy, a database was created of the test results. It started simply as a tool to help select a puppy, but it grew into all of the test results published in Joan's book *GRIFFON, Gun Dog Supreme* and in *GDS*. It also includes most of the other information reported in the *GDS* and could hold quite a bit more if the data becomes available".

The data has all been entered into Microsoft Access and the core of the database is the test results published in the *GDS*. The WPGCA Breeding Committee uses these results as the primary tool for measuring the success of each breeding and for the selection of future breedable dogs. The test results were divided into five-year increments and included the information through the fall 2000 test. The objectives of this analysis were to determine 1- if improvements are being made in the breeding program, 2-identify areas of weakness, and 3) identify superior males or females or lines. Analysis of the data was with simple linear regression and test for levels of significance was at the  $P \leq 0.06$  level of probability. The following table shows the results of testing by Natural Ability Test (NAT) and Intermediate Hunting Dog Test (IHDT).

	TOTAL	1974-80	1981-85	1986-90	1991-95	1996-2000
<b>NAT</b>						
TOTAL DOGS TESTED	405	54	41	63	102	145
PRIZED	278	31	20	42	75	110
I	164	7	6	21	57	73
II	56	14	6	16	2	18
III	58	10	8	5	16	19
% QUALIFIED	68.6%	57.4%	48.8%	66.7%	74.5%	75.2%
<b>IHDT</b>						
TOTAL DOGS TESTED	312	21	30	46	87	128
PRIZED	158	6	10	22	53	67
I	48	1	1	7	14	25
II	69	4	7	10	24	24
III	41	1	2	5	15	18
% QUALIFIED	50.6%	28.6%	33.3%	47.8%	60.9%	52.3%

The analysis provides the following. The number of dogs we are breeding and thus testing is growing rapidly and is nearly triple the 1974-85 numbers. This has implications for the club in terms of having enough judges and tests. We have already seen the ramifications of this, as there are several tests that require 3 days and 2-3 judging teams.

The percent of dogs qualifying in NAT has increased significantly ( $r^2 = 0.74$ ,  $p \leq 0.06$ ) (see Figure 1) during the time period 1974-2000. Joe Nadeker (member of our breeding committee) has stated that when 75% of the dogs tested in NAT qualify, it is the benchmark of a successful breeding program. We have just achieved that. The percent of dogs that qualified in IHDT also increased

significantly ( $r^2 = 0.77$ ,  $P \leq 0.05$ ) (see Figure 2) during the same time period. The percentage of dogs that qualified in the IHDT test hovers near 55% over the last 10 years.

There were 405 dogs tested in NAT, of those 127 did not qualify (5 were withdrawn during testing). An additional 18 dogs were tested in NAT, but they were over 16 months of age (or under 6 months) at the time of the test and therefore were not eligible to qualify. They are excluded from this analysis. The table below shows the number of dogs with scores of 0 or 1 in each area of the NAT test. Note: some dogs may have been tested more than one time. In the NAT, it is not very common, but in the IHDT, many dogs have tested more than once. Also, note that the same dog could contribute to several categories in the table below and therefore the total numbers will not equal the number of dogs that did not qualify.

NOSE	SEARCH	WATER	POINTING	TRACKBIRD	ATWORK	COOP
4	8	78	30	32	11	9

Clearly, the largest single reason dogs do not qualify in NAT is due to poor scores in affinity for water. Thirteen dogs had disqualifying scores in both water and point. Track of the bird is another area of difficulty, while searching, nose, attitude toward work, and cooperation are relatively rare problems. On the positive side of this analysis, 87% of dogs that received a 4 in the water also qualified. When there is a 4 in both affinity for water and pointing, 92% of the dogs qualified. It is interesting that in the last 10 years, these indicators are stronger, with 93% of dogs receiving a 4 in water qualifying, and 97% of the dogs that qualified received a 4 in both affinity for water and pointing.

The following table is the number of IHDT tested dogs with 0 or 1 in each category for the 131 dogs that did not qualify. Please refer to page 10 for full explanation of abbreviations.

TD	RD	BR	S	P	RB	TB	TR	RF	N	AW	C	O	MR
72	51	17	2	21	77	17	0	0	2	10	12	25	22

Retrieve of Draggd Bird (RB) is the biggest problem in this test, followed closely by Track of Duck in Water (TD). Retrieve of Duck in Deep Water (RD) is also a problem area. Of the 77 dogs that had a low score in Retrieve of Draggd Bird, 28 dogs also had a 0 or 1 in Retrieve of Duck and 29 dogs had problems with Track of Duck. However, when the largest single problem in NAT test is affinity for water, it should be no surprise that water problems would surface in IHDT. Retrieving is an interesting problem, is it the dog or is it the handler? Retrieve of Draggd Bird is a retrieving training exercise that rests on the shoulder of the handler to properly expose and train a young dog to do the task. I know that many of our dog owners are primarily upland bird hunters and do not properly expose their young dogs to ducks and water tracking and retrieving. I know this by visiting with these handlers after their dogs have completed these tests. There is no doubt that handlers contribute to the problem and we must do a better job of training/exposing the handlers. We have been doing just that at annual seminars and annual summer training days, but sometimes it is difficult to train an old dog handler who has always "done things this way".

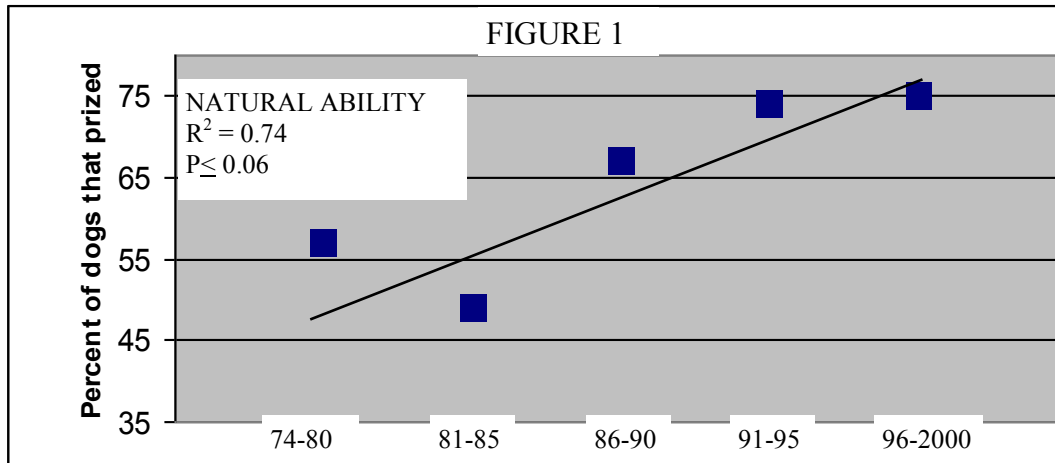
The breeders agreement calls for testing the dog in both tests. Over the last ten years the average has been 70 % of the dogs tested in NAT were also test IHDT. Last year (1999) was the highest ever with 89 % of the dogs tested in NAT also being tested in IHDT! This is a good reflection on the club breeding program that emphasizes breeder follow-ups on their owner/handlers to get the dogs tested. There were 17 dogs that qualified in IHDT that did not prize NAT. Many of these dogs had NAT scores of over 20, but did not qualify due to a 0 or 1 in a single category. There were 78 dogs that qualified in the NAT but did not qualify in IHDT.

The data on sires and dams are shown in the tables on the next page. As mentioned before, a dog can be tested more than once, which may bias the numbers somewhat. These sires account for 267 of the 405 WPGCA tested dogs. NT = Not tested. Not all sires and dams are shown in the following tables. Only those sires and dams that have 2 or more litters tested in NAT are shown.

NAT Test (SIREs)	Prize I	Prize II	Prize III	No Prize N.T.	total	litters	prz %
Dan Cerniky (CF)	37	4	6	23	70	12	67%
Erik od Jezarek (CF)	21	3	7	23	54	8	57%
Chyt ze Zaplav (CF)	15	5	3	7	32	7	72%
Barton de los Altos (CF)	26	5	10	3	47	7	87%
Boss of the Cascades (CF)	8	2	2	3	15	2	80%
Blue Mountain's Brew (A)	12	5	0	3	20	3	85%
Ariko vom Erik (CF)	14	1	5	8	29	6	66%

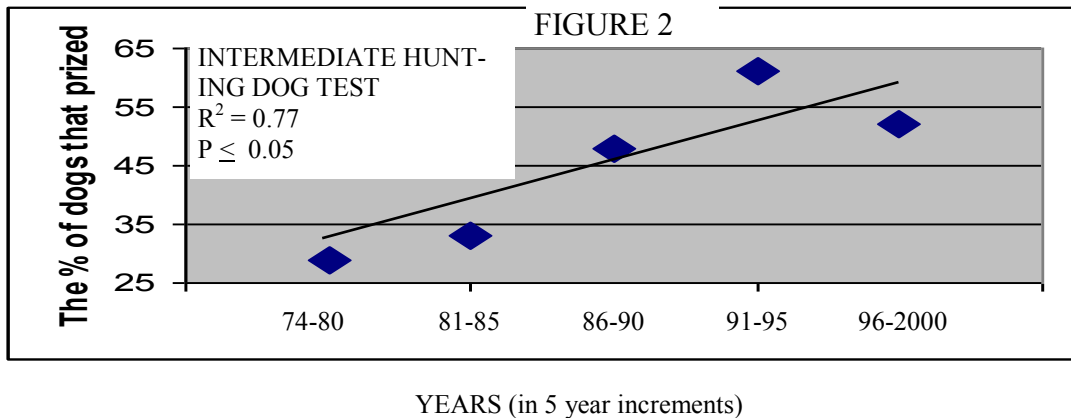
Here are the dams. The kennel name is included to aid in identifying the dogs.

NAT Test (DAMS)	Kennel	Prz I	Prz II	Prz III	No Prz	NT	Total	Litters	Prz %
Avaj of Iamonia (A)	Dutchman's Hollow	15	5	2	1		23	3	96%
Amy of Dutchman's Hollow (A)	Ocean House	8	0	3	2		13	2	85%
Autumn of Hoffman Mill (A)	Auger Falls	8	3	1	11		23	3	52%
Axa od Patejriku (CF)	De Los Altos	4	1	1	8		14	3	43%
Bailey of Ocean House (A)	Alderbrook	5	2	1	0	1	9	2	89%
Birkley Belle of Dutchman's Hollow	Birkshire Pond	6	0	1	4		11	3	64%
Borka z Kolodev (CF)	Drummer's Ridge	4	0	0	4		8	2	50%
Brandy of Dutchman's Hollow (A)	Show-Me-Borealis	6	0	0	2		8	2	75%
Britanny of Dutchman's Hollow (A)	Prairie Storm	6	0	2	1		9	2	89%
Cassidy of Dutchman's Hollow (A)	Auger Falls	10	3	0	1		14	2	93%
Callaj of Dutchman's Hollow	Dutchman's Hollow	7	3	4	4	1	19	2	74%
Cera of Dutchman's Hollow (A)	High Country	11	1	2	0	1	15	2	93%
Champagne Blaze of Dutchman's Hollow (A)	Cloudy Skies	5	2	2	3		12	2	75%
Hela z Dobrovska (CF)	Cascades & Vom Eric	6	1	2	5		14	4	64%
Flora z Hlozku (CF)	Iamonia	13	2	4	7		26	3	73%
Prairie Storm's Abby (A)	Truman's Pride	6	2	2	3		13	2	77%



YEARS (in 5 year increments)

The A, B, and C litters of Dutchman's Hollow all are from **AVAJ OF IAMONIA**. Two litters with **BLUE MOUNTAINS BREW** (A, C) and one with **BOSS OF THE CASCADES** (B). These breedings produced great pups, with 96% qualifying in the NAT test. **CASSIDY AND CERA OF DUTCHMAN'S HOLLOW** also produced excellent pups with 93% of the puppies qualifying in NAT. It is very interesting to follow these lines and kennel names to the dogs being tested today.



There could be much more information added to the database. The UDT scores will be added this winter. Data on health issues like OCD, dysplasia, stomach torsion, cause of death, age at death, and other items of interest will be added, but must be gathered first. The website, email, or an insert in the *GDS* could be used for this.

#### FOR THOSE OF US STATISTICALLY CHALLENGED GRIFFONNIERS!

*By Joan Bailey*

Larry Semmens is a fairly new member of our club, but soon after he joined and got on the list to get a pup from us— which he did last year, he began talking to me , and to other members of our board of directors, about updating our test results. Larry had read *GRIFFON-Gun Dog Supreme* and being well informed about databases, it bothered him that the stats for Griffons only covered through the year 1994, which was all we had to work with when we brought the Griffon book to fruition. So early on he offered to provide a database (computer style!) and the BOD said yes! He's been working mostly with John Pitlo (our vice-president, board member for many years, and excellent senior judge), who is a fisheries biologist and used to working with tables and statistics, and the two of them put this work together for us. Furthermore, in order for us to maintain our qualification as a nonprofit corporation for the Research and Education Foundation, it was important that we provide an article showing (proving statistically) that we have achieved positive results.

When one looks at the statistical results in John and Larry's article, it is quite obvious that we have succeeded, that we have made a statistically significant improvement in our breed.

In Appendix A of the Griffon book, which was the long section with all the test results of our dogs from the beginning of testing in 1969 through 1994, the introduction to these results is titled *STATISTICS, What Do They Mean? How Do We Read Them?* (Pages 363-364). It is extremely important that you go back and read these two pages again so that you have a clear understanding of the results of this presentation. Remember though that the work John and Larry have done is a statistical analysis, which is more that I talked about in the book.

However, even taking into account all the factors that can and do skew a statistical analysis, you don't have to be a rocket scientist to understand the profound and significant success our breeding program has achieved.

Now for some further interpretations of the results of this analysis. Thanks to John and Larry, the graphs make it easy for us as we study the results of NAT. The progression of improvement from the start of our program in 1974 to the present, *is exactly what the breeding committee predicted would happen. As documented in GRIFFON, in 1983 the board of directors told our club members that we had made an improvement in our breed, that we had come up about 20% in the quality of our dogs, but now we were stuck and there was no way to keep moving upward—UNLESS we injected new blood.* It was here, in 1983 and 1984 that "our" Joe Nadeker not only began the process that

would save our breed, but he taught us how to do it.

Look now again at the graph. See where the first significant change of improvement happens—in the period 1986-1990—which is when we began to have results from the first breedings and when more dogs came over from the Czech Republic and we were producing more dogs and better dogs. This continued for the next 5 year segment, 1991-1995. Now we are at or near a leveling off, having accomplished what we set out to do.

IHDT follows the same path, except for a drop off in the last 5-year segment, 1996-2000. We do believe firmly that this drop off in IHDT is due to handler/owners not preparing their dogs properly for the test, which is exactly what John said. We have started a new piece of our program, and idea we came up with about three years ago, called Breeders Coaches. Our most experienced breeders now serve as one or two breeder coaches to each breeder every year. Among many duties, the coach provides a knowledgeable, experienced person to talk to as often as the breeder wants to, about any aspect of the process. So this will be something that will improve our success at having dogs properly prepared for IHDT.

To add in closing, though I know part of me says I shouldn't, that I already knew the results of what John and Larry proved! Several times during the last five years or so, Joe would ask me, what percentage of our dogs are qualifying in NAT? And I would answer, about 75%. But I love that John and Larry have proven it to those less believing such as the government!

#### OFA INFORMATION

Editors note: For those of you that need to contact OFA to get kits for hip x-rays - if you are hooked up to the internet, the address for OFA is ([www.offa.org](http://www.offa.org)). Simply send them a message requesting a hip X-ray kit and include your address! Remember, beginning in January (2001), all dog x-rays sent to OFA must have **permanent identification** in the form of a tattoo or microchip. See article in August, 2000 GDS by club member Dr. Dave Birk.

Right - **ASHEN SHUGAR OF THE HIGH COUNTRY** during the water work at the NAT test this spring in WI. Owner Damon Bovard is justly proud of this dog, as he received a 4H in both Searching and Track of a Live Bird, the first time a dog received 2 4H's in a single test that we are aware of. **ASHEN** and Damon received a Prize I, a perfect score of 28, in the NAT test. Photo by Ben Nieman.



Left - This dejected looking judging group of (left to right) Ken Hurtig, Dennis Carlson and apprentice Jon Coil in dire straits. Dennis appears to be asking for guidance, Jon is contemplating his right, unbooted stocking foot, and Ken?? Who knows?? Photo by Ben Nieman.