

The Gun Dog Supreme

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

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Badgah of Willow Springs Tragedy in Nova Scotia

(Photo by Ted Silver)

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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Our June issue begins with a somber tone as Ted Silver shares his experience of losing his griffon to a coyote snare. WE appreciate his sharing this account in hope that readers will take steps to prevent similar fates.

The sadness of that event is counterbalanced with the anticipation of new puppies. Rick Sojda reports on a couple Cesky Fouseks that will be arriving soon thanks to our friends in the Czech Republic. Rick admits that he can't take all the credit for the article, he received editing help from Brook Merrow. Way to go, Brook. Maybe you can wrangle a free dinner out of Rick.

Jim Seibel and John Pitlo report on the Board of Directors decision to raise puppy prices. As they point out, breeding has become a high tech operation and it simply costs a lot to breed quality puppies. We'll provide an update in August on the highs and lows of this year's breeding efforts.

In the meanwhile it's almost summer out there. It's a great time to get that pup out enjoying the water, so have a blast. The fun in the water now will pay off come Fall.

Enjoy,

Rem DeJong

On the Cover: This issue features **Badgah of Willow Springs**, who was owned by Ted and Sandy Silver. A fixture at NE Chapter events, Badgah's untimely passing saddens us all.

For information requests or to join the WPGCA please email Robin at:

robin.strathy@wpgca.org

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SUBSCR./BACK ISSUES

Printed bi-monthly, the GDS is included with a membership to the WPGCA. Subscriptions are \$40.00/year and due at the start of each year. Subscriptions and requests for back issues should be sent to:

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Include the name of the dog and owner, and who took the photo. Digital photos are required; use large file size settings . If scanned use 300dpi (grayscale). You can email them or mail on a disk/CD.

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National WPGCA Office Election Complete

Officers for the three-year term 2013-2015 are:

President: Gary Pool, Idaho
Vice President: John Pitlo, Iowa
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Upcoming Events

Northwest Chapter Exposure and Training Day

Members will be meeting and doing basic dog exposure and training work near Monroe WA on June 22 from 9:00 to 1:00. Spectators are welcome as well as hunters interested in checking out the breed. The address for the site is:
24219 High Bridge Road,
Monroe WA.

Contact: Victor Woodward 425 785- 8428 or email: victorw@habitatbank.com.

Rocky Mountain Chapter Exposure and Training Day

Saturday July 27th at the Headwaters State Park (Carpenter Road horse pasture) starting at 8 a.m. sharp. If you are going to attend and need a live pheasant for training, you need to contact JJ Conner at (406)202-4483/3369 by July 1st. Bring your own water, lunch, and lawn chair to the training, which will conclude by 3 p.m. A club BBQ will be held at Glenn and Lyla's home located at 8636 Panorama Drive East, Bozeman, MT 59715, starting at 4 p.m. Please bring your own lawn chair to the BBQ as well and let JJ know that you will be attending.

Heartland Chapter Michigan Training Days are held roughly monthly near Marshall, MI from June to September on Saturdays. See Heartland Chapter page on website for details. Contact Jim Crouse to be on the mailing list jrcrouse01@yahoo.com; 614-562-1860 cell .

Heartland Chapter Iowa Training Days—John and Vivian Pitlo will be hosting a training/exposure weekend again this year in Bellevue Iowa. August 3 & 4. 2013

Contact John Pitlo
(563)599-0786
jvpitlo@iowatelecom.net



Recollections of a Better Day

Ted and Badgah posed for this photograph after one of many successful hunts together. Our hearts go out to Ted and Sandy over this terrible loss that is shared especially by the Northeast Chapter and all members of the WPCA community.

(Photo by Sandy Silver)

A Tribute to a Dog and a Warning

by
Ted Silver

It was December 15th, the last day of pheasant season in Nova Scotia. We set out from the vehicles looking forward to the day's hunt ahead. Peter, I and Peter's son-in-law, Jerrid were accompanied by three drahthaars and one griffon, **Badgah of Willow Springs**. Gun bearers, Sandie and Barbara were along for the outing. We were primed for a good day. We soon started working both sides of a large ditch that we had all hunted many times before. In fact, Jerrid had been in the very same spot within the week.

Where the ditch emptied into an even larger ditch, Jerrid jumped a group of mallards and dropped one of them. We were busy getting a dog to retrieve the duck across the water where it had fallen when we noticed that Peter's dog, Maggie, seemed to be caught in something on the other side of the ditch. Maggie immediately sat and froze. Soon after, Badge, who was not far from her, also became hung up. His response to the situation was, unfortunately, completely different from Maggie's. He fought violently. Jerrid approached and saw that both dogs were caught in separate snares that had been set for Coyotes.

Once we realized this, the rest of us moved as quickly as we could across the deep ditch to get to the dogs. I carried a large Leatherman tool just for this situation. My friends each had similar devices. As I approached Badge, I felt a sense of urgency but also felt confident that I would have him cut out quickly. I learned soon that wasn't to be. The snare cable had tightened and was deeply embedded into the coat and skin of his neck. With difficulty, I slid the wire cutter onto the snare and squeezed with every bit of strength I had, all to no avail. The aircraft grade cable wouldn't cut with my or any of my friend's cutters. The catch mechanism on the snare wouldn't release (and we shouldn't have expected it to). In desperation, we tried an emergency tracheostomy even though we knew there was no reason for that to be successful either.

Jerrid was able to slide the snare off of Maggie, because she hadn't fought and therefore had not tightened the noose around her neck. The farmer who owned the land came down to where we were. He was a good friend of Peter's. He had no idea that the snares had been set on his property.

I believe the reason Maggie froze in the snare, thereby saving her life, may have been because she had been trained with a choker collar. I did not use a choker much with Badge. He just didn't seem to need it. My next pup will be trained with a choker.

In the future, I plan to carry cutters capable of cutting through the snare cable. Cutting is the only way to get a dog out once the snare has tightened. One such cutter is available through www.funketraptags.com/catalog/snares.asp.

I have since learned that coyote snares can be set in Nova Scotia during the bird hunting season and without the permission of the landowner where they are set. They

don't need to be flagged or any sort of notice made that they are in an area. That doesn't make sense to me, but that is the way it is. Certain states in the USA permit snares and others do not.

Badge was 7 1/2 years old and in his prime. He knew his job very, very well. It was a joy to watch him work (well most of the time). He wasn't perfect, but then again, neither am I. We knew how to hunt birds together, and we knew how to tolerate each other's less than desirable traits. He was a great friend out of the coverts as well. He was gentle with children and a gentleman with adults and other dogs.

It is always a long drive home to Maine from Nova Scotia. Last December the drive home was much longer.



Editor's Note:

All of us can learn from this tragic event, and if you follow Ted Silver's advice, then at least some good can come from the Silvers' loss. Snares have been around for a long time, but the aircraft cable snare is a relatively new invention. It is gaining wide-spread popularity with trappers across the country, so chances are high that you and your dog may encounter snares too— legal or illegal, in season or out.

Actually, when properly designed and set, cable snares are one of the less damaging type of traps your dog might find. The Wisconsin DNR published a study on the effectiveness of snaring practices.

See: <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/trap/documents/CableGuide.pdf>

Commercial models such as the Collarum™ - Canine Capture Device is promoted as actually are safe for dogs. Cable coyote snares sell for about \$15.00/dozen at trapper supply houses so they are inexpensive for trappers. An internet search revealed many suppliers and sources for directions on building your own. A properly designed and set snare is supposed to be able to be released quickly, but as hunters, we can't depend on every trapper following best practices or equipment working properly. So be ready.

Club member, Dave Findley, is an electrician by trade and works regularly with cable and the tools to cut it. He recommends the Klein Tools Heavy Duty Cable Shears pictured below. Not only do the shears exert powerful cutting force, but the cutting edge is right at the nose of the cutters, unlike a Leatherman tool so getting the blade on the cable is easier. They sell on line for about \$65.00. After listening to Ted, I immediately bought a set and now carry them with me whenever my dogs and I venture into the woods.

Training your dog with a pinch collar or choke collar may be of some benefit too. So might training your dog to totally and instantly stop at the "Whoa!" command. Individual dogs just respond differently. Some are my nature more calm and others more inclined to bolt and panic. Of course, with a noose tightening around it's neck, commands to a desperate dog will likely go unheeded.

Be as prepared as you can be and treasure every moment afield with your dog.



Czech Puppies Imported in 2013

by

Rick Sojda

As an apprentice on the Breeding Committee, it is not uncommon for me to receive questions from folks about importing dogs. It simply is not that easy.

“Why import?” they ask. We have been seeing some fine WPGCA dogs in the past few years.

“What to import?” is the next question.

We have been having an ongoing conversation within the WPGCA Breeding Committee about the need to increase the genetic diversity of our dogs as we look towards the future, and the “import” questions figure squarely in those are long, difficult discussions.

It is never easy to find new dogs that will prove useful to us. To accomplish that end, we have been examining ways of bringing AKC bloodlines into consideration, as well as importing dogs from the Czech Republic. The latter would be similar to using imported semen from proven dogs. However, when we import a dog, there is a greater



amount of uncertainty about whether that dog will eventually be able to contribute to our breeding pool. But in that regard only, importing a puppy is no different than getting a puppy from within the club. They both will be field tested and given PennHIP evaluations. One of the things that we appreciate about the Cesky Fousek Club is that they test their dogs much like the WPGCA does, and they keep meticulous records of those hunting test scores in relation to their pedigrees. So we look for dogs that are from proven parents and hope for the best. Finding AKC dogs that both have good histories of test scores throughout their pedigrees and have complete littermate data is difficult in its own right, so both approaches present uncertainties.

Our WPGCA testing program provides us the perfect opportunity to evaluate new bloodlines, no matter from which side of the Atlantic they are obtained. All this takes a few years before breeding considerations for imported dogs can be made—just like we do for our WPGCA dogs. For

What Promise Does He Hold?

Pavel Dostal, International Secretary Cesky Fousek Club and **Edy z Veseckych luhu** (Edy of Veseckych Floodplain)



Fine Looking Mom

Edy's dam, Polly and her owner in the Czech Republic

example, we have done this in the case of **Ayla of Ancient Kennel** who is pure Fousek and imported from Canada. She is owned by John and Vivian Pitlo, and is now being bred. Similarly, **Ali of Ancient Kennel**, (owners Gary and Ann Pool) is not being considered for breeding.

Mike Reilly (**Amos of Dakota Prairie**) sums up one of the observations I hear repeatedly from members across the United States: "Right now, most of our dogs are at least three-quarters, if not seven-eighths Fousek, and they seem to be great hunting buddies." There have been some medical and temperament problems, but the Breeding Committee is working on culling those traits

as best we can. We think that increasing genetic diversity of good bloodlines will help. It is not magic and will take years, but we strive for improvement. Without going into any detail in this article, we generally believe that the Cesky Fousek, also known as the Bohemian Wire-Haired Pointing Griffon, is much the same dog as our WPGCA dog. If you want further background, we strongly recommend reading (or re-reading) Joan Bailey's book, *Griffon: Gun Dog Supreme* and Craig Koshyk's *Pointing Dogs: Volume 1 The Continentals*.

The 2013 process of importing dogs started somewhat inadvertently during the summer of 2012, when WPGCA members Hy and Brook Adelman (Barclay of the Midnight Sun), and Mary Ann and I (Ander of Hundgaard) happened to take separate trips to visit the Czech Republic and some of the breeders of our Fouseks. For me, I was representing the WPGCA and visiting with leadership in the Cesky Fousek Club about their interest in becoming involved in our DNA effort. We met with the Director, Jaroslav Rataj, their Director of Breeding, Jaroslav Havlat, and others. We also saw one of their Forest Tests. Hy's trip, presented the opportunity to see a conformation test.

At that time, we did not have much of an inkling that we might actually import pups. Friendships were made with folks based on relationships others in the WPGCA had made years ago. Long-term credit goes to some of our most senior club members and, sadly, some of our deceased members. In the past year, we have communicated for months via email with our Czech colleagues, as well as our Breeding Committee. It has taken hours and hours of translating Czech pedigrees, web sites, and herd book cards. I'm even beginning to learn a few Czech words. But, we are nearly there as I write this. I want to tell you about two dogs that we will be importing in June 2013. By choosing a male from one litter and a female from another breeding, we are maximizing the diversity that we import. Hy and Brook are taking advantage of an invitation to visit the Czech

Republic again and observe club tests this year, and they will be bringing the puppies back to the US with them. Not including their personal plane tickets and other expenses, the total cost of importing the dogs will be almost identical to our WPGCA dogs, thanks to being able to ship them as extra baggage.

In describing the kind of dogs in which we would be most interested, we identified several characteristics that we like in our WPGCA and CF dogs: their birdiness and game drive; cooperation; friendliness and easygoing personalities; love of water; natural retrieving instincts; ability to down-shift and focus on ground scent when tracking; and flat-lying, harsh coats. In addition, we said we were looking to avoid dogs that are “too big- running” i.e. searching more that 100 or 125 m from the handler; that are too independent (sometimes like to hunt for themselves rather than for the handler); that have shorter coats and sparse furnishings; have poor temperaments (gun sensitive, minor growling at people and other dogs, fearing water); have OCD problems; or have thyroid problems. We also said that we would prefer male dogs that are less that 26” tall, with females equivalently smaller.

Pavel Dostal is the International Secretary for the Cesky Fousek Club, and he has been instrumental in helping us find potential puppies. Many of you probably remember meeting Pavel’s father Jaromir, who visited the US a couple times and who was an international authority on versatile hunting dogs, especially their genetics.

Before long, Edy and Cira of the Czech Republic will become US residents. Edy z Veseckych luhu (Edy of Veseckych Floodplain) is a brown male. His sire is 24.4” tall. His parents and grandparents have seventeen Prize I and Prize II scores for field, forest, and water work; and three conformation prizes. This has included Czech and International champion and reserve champion scores for water work, for fieldwork, and for “beauty.” His pedigree is primarily from Lines III & IV, and a smaller amount from Line II. Cira od Aliny z Nehvizd is a ticked female. Her sire is 25.2” tall. Her parents and grandparents have 25 Prize 1 and Prize 2 hunting test scores among them. She comes from Lines III & IV. (A description of the various Cesky Fousek lines is detailed in the previously mentioned Craig Koshyk book.)

After examining websites and pouring over pedigrees and other information, it is easy to think you have found the perfect dog. Obviously, there is no such thing! We accept these two puppies with all their potential and we accept whatever warts and faults trail along. If we end up with two fine hunting buddies, we will be ecstatic. If they eventually contribute to our breeding program, that will be a bonus. Now, if we don’t mess up too badly in the exposure and training departments...

***Post Script:** As this goes to press, and as Hiram and Brook are heading to Europe, I received an email from Pavel, saying that the Czech Republic is being ravaged by rain. The accompanying floods are proving to be the worst in many years. We wish all our friends and their families safe journeys and more.*

I heard that the Prague Zoo was anesthetizing tigers to get them to higher ground, and there is major concern for the incredible historical treasures in Prague.

Why the Price of a Puppy Must Be Increased **by** **The Breeding Committee**

The WPGCA has always had the philosophy that the price of the pups should be low enough that the average young family would be able to afford them. Griffon breeders outside of the WPGCA have raised their prices overall at a faster rate. Those pups range in price from \$900 to \$3000 or more. That is particularly true among WPG show dogs.

The upfront costs of raising a litter of WPGCA pups has increased dramatically in the last decade. Some of those reasons are:

- The cost of shipping semen, either frozen or chilled, has more than doubled.
- Frozen semen storage has increased on average 40%.

Veterinary costs have increased for artificial insemination. Consider the 2013 Wolf Fork Canyon litter experience. Before **Akay of the Midnight Sun** was even inseminated, Randy and Myra Mann had costs exceeding \$2000. The cost for a natural breeding when the male and female live within driving distance is less. In the past, the owner was able to fly to the male with the female as extra baggage. Now it is impossible to fly a female without two weeks prior notice. The price of doing so, plus flying her before she has ovulated, makes that option not feasible.

Great strides have been made in artificial insemination either by transcervical insemination or surgical. Monitoring the progesterone level in the female has allowed the veterinarian to identify the day of ovulation. That means that the timing issue can be improved greatly. The shipping of chilled fresh semen means that the male and female can be apart from one end of the country to the other. Whereas frozen semen usually is active and fertile for only about 12 to 18 hours after thawing, chilled semen, properly extended and kept at the correct temperature, can be active for up to several days. These advances in the science of breeding canines have given us better options that offset the loss of the option of shipping a female to the male. The availability of vets qualified to use these advanced techniques has also increased. The downside is that these advances have also increased the costs. As in many advancements in medical science, the use of advanced equipment and better trained technicians is expensive. Each year we become aware of more advances and do our best to include them when practical.

The Breeding Committee submitted a proposal to the Board of Directors that addressed this problem. The plan was approved unanimously at the 2013 annual meeting. In a nutshell the price is now \$900, instead of \$800. Because the upfront costs of breeding vary, the breeder will be relieved of those costs that exceed that of a natural breeding, such as the cost of collecting and storing frozen semen and the shipping costs of either chilled or frozen semen. More work needs to be done to identify the maximum upfront costs for which a breeder is expected to be responsible.

The contract will change to reflect the price increase. Because the club will be picking up some of the upfront costs, the contract will reflect a change in the puppy fees paid back to the club, which is an increase from \$230 to \$330. All breeders will continue to be guaranteed not to lose money. The increase in price will start with the 2013 litters.



Wow! Must be the Puppy Chow! A proud Akay of the Midnight Sun shows off her ten healthy pups, whelped last month.

Owner Randy Mann writes:

Wanted to share a few puppy updates/stories. . . Myra and I are about to complete the 16 day neurological stimulation exercises we started on Day 4 (you can read the protocol/procedure if you wish at: www.lowchensaustralia.com/breeding/ensp.htm).

In the last couple of days they have began chewing on body parts of any brother or sister close-by. Tomorrow I will be adding a second 2x12 on the whelping box to contain these busy bodies during week 3 and 4. The laundry room is no longer the appropriate location for this many live animals. Monday we will be moving them into the garage for two weeks before they are moved to the kennel in our backyard.

Akay is eating like never before consuming more than two gallons of Purina Puppy Chow daily. Next week I'll begin offering puppy chow to the pups. Mama is eager to get outside and away from the hungry crew ...

(Photo by Myra Mann)