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Exposure, Exposure, Exposure!

Owner, Rob Reed, praises Artemis of Blackberry Briar holding first quail.

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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Greetings:

There's a lot happening in the WPGCA these days. Geneticist and Breeding Committee Apprentice, Jen Lachowiec provides a timely article on the work of the Breeding Committee. Pups are arriving from the Czech Republic as this issue goes to press., and a trip by a WPGCA delegation to the Czech Republic is being planned for early Fall.

Laurie Connell introduces another breeding related initiative concerning genetic mapping with an organization called Paw Prints. I conclude the issue with a report on our health data system and an appeal for members to complete the survey. Interspersing those technical pieces are a couple more fun, albeit philosophical contributions on hunting with our griffons by Wayne Ransbottum and Jon Coil.

I hope you enjoy this issue. There are training/exposure days happening in several locations, so get out there and work with your dog and help other members to do the same.

Rem DeJong

On the Cover

Rob Reed took advantage of a Michigan Exposure/Training day to give his 14 week-old pup exposure to birds. With a little encouragement, Artie caught the quail and now holds it while Rob holds and praises Artie. Access to game birds and helpful guidance and handling tips make attending a training day worth the trip.

(Photo by Rem DeJong)

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Editor Note: My article “Where to Now” appeared in the February 2014 GDS. Writing that was the easy part. The hard work of developing the WPGCA is being done by many others. The following article by Jen Lachowiec, the newest apprentice on the Breeding Committee, provides an update on action being taken by that group, including the importation of Cesky Fousek pups.. The WPGCA relationship with the Czech Republic goes back many years, beginning with Joe Nadaker twenty plus years ago (See December 2013 GDS) and continued with John Pitlo and Jim Seibel visiting the CR in 2002 and 2006. and Dr. Jaromir Dostal presenting at our Judges Seminar in 2008. We’re excited about the potential of this next phase.

Breeding a Closer Connection to the Czech Republic

by
Jennifer Lachowiec

We all want the perfect pup. One that eschews chewing (or swallowing...) socks and innately understands “Whoa”. More importantly, the WPCGA wants healthy dogs with excellent hunting instincts. The breeding committee has several goals when choosing dogs for breeding in order to produce as close to the perfect pup as we can. Drive, nose, and temperament are the primary factors when choosing which dogs to breed.

Many of the qualities that are important to the breeding committee are apparent when considering the components of the Natural Ability Test and the Intermediate Hunting Dog Test. Searching ability and pointing instinct demonstrate the drive and nose of the dog. The interaction with the handler and judges reveal temperament. The current breeding standard includes information about conformation and is being updated to include hunting assessment. (**Note:** If you are interested in learning more about the breeding standard, visit the WPCGA Education and Research site on Breeding Standards at huntersgriffon.org/breed-standard/.)

Finding dogs for breeding that fit these criteria is no easy task. Usually, about 25 people are on the waiting list for a pup, and the wait time for a pup is about 1 year. Unfortunately, these numbers could increase in the near future without action. This matter was discussed in a breeding committee report at the recent Board of Directors meeting in Idaho, March 2014.

The breeding pool of our American-born puppies has declined for a number of reasons in recent years. In the last two years, several attempted breedings failed unexpectedly. Fertility was one issue. For example, when describing a planned breeding between **Buckeye B of the Midnight Sun** and **Francesca of Dutchman’s Hollow**, breeding committee member John Pitlo explained: “The dog is not fertile. We used him and there were no puppies. The first time we tested him, [the sperm] were fine. In the second test, the sperm were not motile.”



Flora is now here in Maine with us, and she is a pistol!

Laurie Connell posted this note and photo after receiving one of the first new imports from the Czech Republic, **Flora ze Smilovic** . So many thanks to Pavel and Veronica Dostal for all their efforts in the Czech Republic!!!

(Photo by Laurie Connell)

In addition to challenges in achieving successful pregnancy, the number of breedable dogs has decreased. “We simply don’t have enough females to breed. Problems popped up,” states Pitlo. Recently, OCD has emerged as a heritable disease. “We knocked off two females because they threw an OCD dog or a littermate threw an OCD dog”, explains Pitlo in regard to why females were removed from the list of those breedable.

Also, we have some signs of alopecia, which may arise through a heritable thyroid condition. Breeding committee apprentice Rick Sojda notes, "Hypo-thyroid conditions eliminated more dogs." Consequently, many otherwise qualified dogs have been removed from the breeding pool to avoid breeding affected dogs or their relatives that may be carriers. Finally the genetic diversity among our dogs is not as high as we would like it to be. This can make it difficult to identify dogs to breed that are not too closely related in order to prevent inbreeding. "Is our gene pool too small to be able to move us forward to the distant future?" wonders Sojda.

In summary, producing enough quality dogs and continuing to improve the breed is difficult considering the current population of dogs. "Eliminating those dogs leaves us in the predicament we're in," states breeding committee apprentice Laurie Connell.

John Pitlo and Jim Seibel are the long-suffering leaders of the breeding committee who have put in hours and years examining the qualities of our dogs to choose those best for breeding. In the last couple years, Ted Silver, Rick Sojda and Laurie Connell have joined as apprentices to add some new perspectives to the breeding program. And the Committee has come to an agreement: we need more dogs for breeding.

"We need to jazz up the gene pool," says Ted Silver.

If you look at the pedigrees of almost any WPCGA dog, at least 50% of the ancestry is from the Cesky Fousek, also known as the Bohemian Wirehaired Pointing Griffon. Semen has been imported from the CR from eight Fouseks over the last couple decades. These dogs were chosen for their excellent scores in the Fousek testing system, upon which our own tests are based. The success of these semen imports is evident as you look into the pedigrees of many of our dogs. At this time, the breeding committee has agreed to expand the number of dogs in our population by importing a number of additional Cesky Fouseks. What would importing Fouseks do for our club? And why import puppies instead of more frozen semen?

To address the first question, it is important to know a bit about how the Fousek club breeds their dogs. Unlike our club, the Cesky Fousek group produces 600 pups a year. There are a number of benefits to having such a large number of dogs. First, and most obviously, it means that the breeders can be picky. Only the best of the best will be bred. The second point, which is more nuanced, is that specific, mostly independent lines of dogs can be bred with a large number of dogs. Some lines may have harder hunting drive while others are less so. These lines are not bred to one another except periodically in an effort to maintain high levels of genetic diversity.

Bringing in puppies instead of semen is beneficial on two fronts: breeding rights and increasing available dogs. Sojda suggests:

My thought is to bring in more Czech dogs to the club where we have breeding rights, and if they turn out good, we can use them to move forward.



Scary Time

Korina od Pitné vody gives a last, worried look at her homeland before her long flight to the USA.

(Photo by Pavel Dostal)

Plus, our members get to have nice hunting buddies in the process. This helps when we have fewer dogs than needed, here in North America.”

It’s nice to bring in semen because it is from a proven dog. When you bring in a puppy, you really have no idea what you are going to get. But that is basically the same as what we see in our litters now. Once we observe them in NAT and IHDT and get PennHip scores, we will essentially have the same information on the pure Fouseks as we have with our griffs. Just because we are bringing them over, doesn’t mean they will be breedable down the road, of course. All we can do with any pup is expose it, train it, hunt it, and evaluate it. Just like with pups born here.

Selecting puppies from the CR is challenging, not only due to the language barrier. As I discussed above, the Cesky Fousek club maintains several breeding lines. Laurie Connell and Rick Sojda have analyzed the pedigrees of each of the breeding lines for their qualities and health conditions. Through their work, we have learned that there are lines to avoid because of the presence of alopecia.

From among the desirable Fousek lines, Pavel Dostal, one of the club’s contacts in the CR, informs us of available pups. Once we find a litter that has many desired qualities and no evidence of problematic issues, Pavel chooses and arranges to have the puppy shipped--no small task in and of itself.

"...[Pavel] realize[s] that our primary interest is good temperament and a cooperative nature—once we get past the point of reviewing pedigrees, test scores, and the like," explains Rick Sojda.



Chilling with the Boss

Andy Rupp and Korina snooze together. Nothing like a warm chest to help a new pup feel secure in her new home.

(Photo by Hanna Rupp)

This year, total costs for purchasing a pup, veterinary costs, puppy passport, and shipping have totaled \$1450 or more, depending on shipping arrangement.

In 2014, we plan to import seven puppies. Four puppies have been identified and matched to owners (with two arriving in the U.S. on May 16th), two more are nearly matched, and the last litter is still sought, as of this going to press. Matching to an owner is only based on desire for male or female and ticked or brown dog. Below are the owners for this year, and some will have received pups as of printing:

Bringing home a Fousek puppy is a bit of a risk.

We haven't seen the sires or dams in person. Ted Silver wonders, "Do you have enough confidence in the relationship to accept this large infusion of pups into our club essentially sight unseen (aside from online pedigrees and videos)?"

For 2014, we have decided to take this risk. I can comment that, on paper, all of the dogs Pavel has suggested are excellent. Both test scores and conformation of all sires and dams are tops. A number of club members, including judges and members of the breeding committee, will be visiting the CR

NAME	SEX	SHIPPED
Andy Rupp	female	MAY
Laurie Connell	female	MAY
Kirk Dilly	male	JUNE
Paul Stadem	male	JUNE
Pete Engman	female	
Jim Crouse	female	
Mark Canfield	female	

to minimize this concern for future years. The visit will include attending a hunting test, which will allow examination of dogs. If you would like to learn more about the visit, contact Gary and Ann Pool.

Sojda reflected on his 2012 visit to the CR, “What I come away from my visit to the CR is that those people are as genuine about wanting to produce good hunting dogs as we are.”

The Cesky Fousek club continues to welcome us with open arms and has been putting in a huge amount of thought and effort in their work with us. In exchange, Rick and Laurie have put the CR club in contact with the scientists at Cornell to start a study to identify the genes underlying the inheritance of alopecia, which is a major concern in some of their breeding lines. Looking forward, we hope that we can continue to develop a symbiotic relationship with the Cesky Fousek club in the CR. This month, the Cesky Fousek club board met to discuss our developing relationship. We will report what we learn. Says Sojda, “One thing is certain: Pavel Dostal is doing a yeoman’s job in helping our club move forward on the Cesky Fousek front. We owe him a ton, no ten tons of appreciation!”

The future plan of the breeding committee depends on a number of factors. We plan to continue breeding club dogs. We hope to continue to import CR dogs for the next several years to expand our gene pool, but we need to see the results of NAT and IHDT to determine how our relationship with the CR is progressing.

Silver asked, “Do we need to limit to the Fouseks? Why do we have to limit our strategy?”

“The original objective was to breed back to griffons,” explained Pitlo, referring to the club’s original goals when first importing Fousek semen.

“If somebody finds something else, bring it!” exclaimed Siebel in regard to suitable AKC griffons that could be bred with ours.

Our current club breeding standards do not limit the breeds with which we can breed. However, there is interest in aligning our club with some national and international standards and possibly renaming our breed the Bohemian Wire-haired Pointing Griffon, as discussed in the previous issue of GDS. An interesting option is the Fédération Cynologique Internationale (FCI) breed standard.

“According to the FCI, you are allowed to breed into any of the breeds your breed was developed from every so often. Following FCI does not limit us to one breed,” described Connell. She refers to the FCI rule that allows breeding back to founding breeds every three generations.

Nothing is set in stone, but these ideas are under consideration. WPCGA President Gary Pool said, “If we decide to go primarily with the Czech dogs, it’s a good thing. And as Laurie says, there are ways to bring in more dogs.”



Here We Go!

Senior Judge, Rick Molt (right) and Judge Greg Hurtig (far left) start handler Ron Stellingwerf and his dog **Ares of Prairies Promise** on their IHDT. Besides doing the judging, hours of work by many dedicated volunteers go into conducting a WPGCA test.
(Photo by Rem DeJong)

Why We Test by Ted Silver

Well, the spring test season is now behind us. Some of us and our dogs look forward to the fall tests and some will take the fruits of our efforts to help us enjoy the dogs and the companionship and hunting for which we obtained them.

So then, why do we and the club go to all this effort to test these dogs? A large effort it is indeed. We take time out of our daily lives, travel sometimes long distances, and spend not inconsiderable money to test. We don't look forward to notoriety or the chance that our dog might win a ribbon that can be hung, boastfully, up on the kennel wall. This is where our tests differ from a "field trial" (defined as "a competitive event at which hunting dogs compete against one another"). We are a breeding club, whose primary effort is to use testing to help us select dogs with the characteristics that we wish to be passed on in the breeding for the ultimate purpose of improving the quality

of the breed of dogs that we have chosen. Our tests measure the dogs in comparison to a standard, not competitively against the other dogs running in the test. Judges sincerely hope that each and every dog tested is going to achieve a top score. That is why every dog is given every opportunity to achieve a peak performance. As an example, two pups in NAT at the Idaho test this spring seemed to be having unusual difficulty tracking the live pheasant at one location. It wasn't immediately apparent why, but after discussion, the judges decided to give them another chance in a different field. Both then achieved a clear "4" in the track. Such a second chance would not occur in a field trial aimed at selecting one winner. Of course, the judging does become more demanding as the test and expectation for performance increase, as the level of the test moves up to Intermediate Hunting Dog Test and Utility Field Test. We are using the tests to, first and foremost, try to evaluate the potential of each and every dog.

Craig Koshyk, the speaker at the club's recent Judge's seminar, made reference in his talk to efforts over time to develop and refine various pointing breeds. For those not there, the entire audio of the talk, as well as the slides are available by link on the WPG-CA web site. (<http://huntersgriffon.org/resources/>)

There are positive spinoffs to testing beyond the effort to improve the quality of or dogs in the long run. For the handler, the work necessary to prepare the dog for a test is well worth it long beyond the test. It makes the bond in the team stronger. It allows the handler to get to know his dog better and the dog its handler better. The preparation and the test often point out strengths or deficiencies in both dog and handler that may not have been apparent before. Often these lead to a plan for solution before the next hunting season or test. For the dog, there is an opportunity to be placed in hunting-like situations in as controlled an environment as possible. Between judges, handlers, and other owners at a test there is a great deal of collective "dog knowledge" circulating around which is shared making us all better handlers.

These tests, though, are not perfect. Sometimes handlers bring their dogs to tests unprepared. If a NAT dog has never been searching for game, or been introduced to a track of live bird, or never been introduced to water, it is not going to do well no matter how great its potential is. If the handler has not exposed the dog and trained the dog, the judges will not be able to accurately assess that potential. Sometimes a dog or handler are just having a bad day. We have all occasionally seen dogs that don't do well on test day turn out (usually with more concerted work on the part of the handler) to be very good hunting dogs. Less frequently we have seen dogs which have a good test and end up with problems down the road.

We have all signed an agreement to test our dogs at NAT and Intermediate Hunting Dog Test when we obtained them as pups. Our breeding program depends on owners fulfilling that agreement because only by testing entire litters can the breeding committee determine the best options for breeding. Beyond that, though, testing is something that we, as handlers, should really want to do. It makes us better handlers, our own dogs better, and the breed better in the long run. If you haven't run a dog in Utility Test, think about doing so!

A New Trick for Late Season Pheasants by Wayne Ransbottum

Thorough training in commands like “Whoa” and “Heel” aren’t just for scoring Utility Field Test points They pay off big-time in real hunting situations too . . .



Gipper! Whoa!

Wayne demonstrates the “Whoa!” command to hold **Gipper of Dutchman’s Hollow** in position while he sneaks around the woodlot to ambush the pheasants.

(Photo by Wayne Ransbottum)

Gipper of Dutchman’s Hollow was quivering, both from the cold as well as the strong smell of pheasant scent coming up both nostrils of his nose. The boss, Wayne Ransbottum, was setting in motion a plan to get pheasants in a place where they could be hunted and pointed the way they are supposed to be. We were sneaking up to a wood lot chock full of pheasants; Gipper was on heel and the Boss was trying not to make too much noise in the crunchy 15-inch snow.



I got him pinned right here Boss!

During his IHDT in 2013, Gipper demonstrated that he has pointing down cold. But being part of a hunting team takes more than just innate ability, a dog and handler have to work together to put birds in the bag. Thanks to a cooperative nature and good training, Gipper and Wayne were able to do just that.

(Photo by Robin Strathy)

To back up, the temperatures had been below zero in North Dakota and the birds had hunkered down mid-December in the tree rows and windbreaks – nary was a bird hiding in the CRP grasses. Previous attempts to hunt had left both Gipper and I exasperated as the birds busted out of the cover 200 yards ahead of us and flew into the cut wheat or corn fields.

Now the plan; Gipper followed at heel to a point downwind of a woodlot. After a whoa and sit command, he sat patiently while the Boss swung wide of the woodlot and got in to position 100 yards up. With a hand signal, Gipper was released to begin hunting or basically pushing the birds towards the Boss. It worked great. Each of 3 times the birds ran ahead and out the other side to the next wood lot until we had them scattered across a quarter section of CRP. We then started hunting. Point after point Gipper found the hunkered down birds until kicked out of their hidden roosts.

Thirty minutes and three shots later, all within 20 yards, and the daily limit of roosters was ours.

A Good Day Indeed

by

Jon Coil

Of griffons, game birds, varmints and a hunter's cognitive dissonance . . .



Jon and Judy Coil with **Aleksander of Cattail Storm** and **Coco of the Sandhill** with a mixed bag of grouse and woodcock.

(photo by Jon Coil)

Rem DeJong led me to a book two winters ago titled *Some We Love, Some We Hate, Some We Eat: Why It's So Hard to Think Straight About Animals*, by Hal Herzog. It discussed some of the contradictions we as humans have in our feelings towards animals. From pets to chickens to whales and panda bears, from cock fights to endangered reptiles and yes even hunting; our feelings of warmth, fear or ambivalence towards animals lean towards our heredity, exposure and upbringing and it doesn't always make sense.

Since reading that book, I've looked at my own feelings towards animals and found I suffer some of the same contradictions discussed by the author. I don't know if I have changed my beliefs, but I sure have spent more time examining them. A gorgeous autumn hunting day left me pondering some of the points in the book. Let me tell you about it:

Judy and I started the beautiful, sunny October morning a couple miles from home in an old familiar spot that we have been able to hunt for close to twenty five years, thanks to periodic aspen cuts that keep a portion of the ground fresh with younger aspen. **Coco of the Sandhill** and **Aleksander of Cattail Storm** were ready, and as we walked the trail toward where we head into the woods, they raced up and back the trail. A pair of grouse flushed, one after another from the trail's edge. They whirred over the fresh aspen and jack pine cutover, and headed toward the sun, topping the larger trees on the edge of the cut. I got the first bird of the day, and was off to a good start. The sun was shining, and with the temperatures in the mid 30s, the frost was melting.

We hunted through a series of aspen cuts from 10 to 25 years old, the sun at our back and the light breeze in our faces. There are not many birds in the older woods, but we have to hunt through the old growth to get to the new. We flushed some grouse that we couldn't see due to the thick, green wall of young balsam fir under the aspen. Judy got a

woodcock over a point by Alek, and I got another grouse that Coco pointed.

We couldn't connect on a grouse that we flushed from a tree branch after throwing small chunks of downed branches to get it to fly. All of grouse hunting isn't classic points and quiet reflections. Grouse that flush up into a tree take a lot of the dignity of grouse hunting away. Flushed from a tree, grouse are tough shots as they drop towards the ground before rising as they gain speed. The discussions on who is going to shoot and who is to flush can be rife with psychological manipulations. The shooter risks derision if the bird is missed, which is the most likely conclusion. If the shot does connect, the shooter gets the bird and the bragging rights to stellar performance on a tough shot. The gracious appearing sportsman who defers the shot and chooses to flush the bird has probably calculated angles and odds and concluded there is no hope in hell of success.

We hunted into a stand of fifteen to twenty foot tall aspen trees about twenty five acres in size. The woodcock had chosen this spot to enjoy the day, and we flushed a good dozen, plus some re-flushes I am sure. Coco and Alek were on their game and with several points and retrieves we ended up with a limit of three each.

We headed for home, and after a quick lunch and bird cleaning session, I was at work for the afternoon. It was such a nice day that I had invited a co-worker to come along for an evening hunt. I had brought Coco into work with me, and she had a nice afternoon nap in the back of the van. At quitting time we drove a few miles out of town and were ready to go again.

We walked a paper company trail lined with young aspen that were just reaching prime cover stage. However, the paper company had planted white spruce after the cutting and it had grown among the young aspen. As we got into an area of older aspen, Coco pointed a woodcock; it flushed into the sun for my partner. Of course, because I already had my limit of woodcock, it offered me a great shot that I couldn't take! Further along the trail, Coco pointed in some thick alders and I managed to get one of the two grouse in the brush. My partner is fairly new to grouse hunting, and the quick shooting required was more than he was ready for.

As the evening drew down, I was looking for the shortcut back to the vehicle I had planned on "Google Earth." Because I hadn't yet tried the route, I was unsure if Google Earth offered a true shortcut or would leave us stumbling through the brush in the dark. As we set off over uncharted ground, Coco moved off; soon her beeper collar was going. We crossed an ash swale and climbed a small knob to find a brushy patch that really looked birdy. A woodcock flushed in front of Coco's point, my partner got his shot off and his first woodcock was down. Coco raced off as I moved to the area on the edge of the high ground where the woodcock had fallen. Coco pointed thirty yards away and I told my partner to go to Coco. He did and two grouse flushed. He got one and one flushed into a young birch tree. It was close to me and as he approached the grouse, it flushed and I got it. Coco found and retrieved the birds and we headed out for the vehicle. The shortcut proved a good choice, and we were back at the van as darkness settled in.

We returned to town and decided a beer at the local bar was in order to celebrate my co-worker's first woodcock and my great day of four grouse and three woodcock. We toasted the evening and the noble birds and a lot of other stuff before separating for the evening.

It was eight-thirty after a full day by the time we reached home. Coco was ready for the house but hesitated and sniffed around the steps. I got a whiff telling me that the evening wasn't over. I quickly got Coco into the house and managed to keep the other two excited dogs inside. I went back out to sniff and listen, and with my flashlight confirmed that there was a skunk under the lowest of the wooden steps. Bummer! There is only one set of steps into our house (through neglect and sloth on my part). I had two dogs that needed to get out. I didn't know why the skunk decided to squirm through the chain-link fence only to feel threatened enough to seek refuge under the steps but it did. I went back into the house to plan. I got the .22 rifle and opened the door. Petunia, our adopted Yorkshire terrier, shot out in front of me. The feisty terrier zipped down the steps and through the opening in the lattice that the skunk had used. She is sharp on fur and a terror with ground squirrels, or acts like it, although she has never caught one. The skunk was a little more than she had in mind, and she came out in a flash, rolling and sliding her body on the grass to wipe that smell off. She was more than happy to go back into the house. My "great day" celebration was crumbling fast.

I looked through the gaps between the boards of the steps, shining the flashlight the best I could. We live in a very rural area, I have a chain-link fence around a small portion of the yard but the rest is free range for what ever comes through. I don't usually bother the skunks in the yard if they don't bother us. I didn't see any other choice, I couldn't see this one leaving in the time we had. Since the damage was done and we were already going to have to put up with the smell, I took the best aim I could, lined up skunk stripes with the position of vital organs, through the three quarter inch gap in the steps and finished it off, but not very cleanly. I rolled the body out with a stick and got it into the back of the pickup to dispose of in the morning.

Now the dichotomy set in. I came home happy because of good fortune that had allowed me to kill seven birds. I used the skills I have mastered with a shotgun and had the help of a wonderful dog that allows me to follow along to kill them. I had some sorrow for the individual birds, but thought I had bested them fair and square. Ruffed grouse and woodcock are some of my favorite animal species. For twenty-five years I have worked to arrange the vegetation on my land to make theirs a happy home, I have spent over thirty five years improving grouse and woodcock habitat on several townships of public land in the Minnesota landscape. I like these birds! Now I had just killed a skunk; a species I am ambivalent toward at best, that will eat grouse and woodcock eggs, has a smell that is downright offensive to me and was unlucky enough to seek refuge under my stairs at an inopportune time for me. There was no feel-good part to the experience. Thanks Rem DeJong and Hal Herzog. Before that book, I would have shrugged off those feelings; now I have to think about them....in the morning! The dogs came out, sniffed and did their business and I went to bed.



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Hunting Genetic Markers by Laurie Connell

A New Set of Genetic Studies May Point the Way to Better Breeding

Pheasant Fest can be fun and also very productive in unexpected ways. As some of you are aware John Pitlo saw a booth for a Spokane, WA based company that does genetic testing for dogs, Paw Print Genetics (<https://www.pawprintgenetics.com>). Paw Print Genetics has the largest panel of inherited genetic markers available on the marker. These tests typically cost \$85/ dog for only one marker or 20 markers for \$500 per dog. The CEO, Dr. Lisa Shafer, offered to test 15 of our dogs with all of their current genetic disease markers, currently over 190 markers at no cost to us. They expect to have 200 markers soon. You do the calculation. For 200 markers per dog and 15 dogs in the study it comes to \$5000 per dog for each panel! Why would they make such an offer? There are two major reasons. First they may find some inherited gene that we would want to monitor in our breeding program or a specific owner might want to know about for future therapy. Second as they acquire more information about specific breeds they can begin to map inherited diseases among breed types. Currently they do not have any Bohemian Wirehaired Pointing Griffons, or Korthal's Griffons in their database. The other related versatile hunting dog breeds in their panel so far are German Wirehaired Pointers with three known markers (Degenerative myelopathy, Exercise-induced collapse and Von Willebrand disease II). German Shorthaired Pointers also have Cone degeneration (group B) and Slovakian Rough Haired Pointers have Dilute (D-locus) coat color, a form of alopecia.

There were several considerations for the selection of the 15 dogs. We wanted them as distantly related as possible; we wanted dogs that had been recently or were now being considered for the breeding program, and we wanted the dogs we were importing from the Czech Republic. Rick Sojda, Jen Lachowiec and Laurie Connell poured over pedigrees and finally made a list dogs for this first study. The testing is easy, each owner will be sent a package with three swabs that will be used to collect cheek cells. The packets will then be mailed to Paw Print Genetics. As usual **Bracken of Willow Springs**

(Phil and Dorothy Bennett) was the first in the club to participate. She was also the first in the club to offer her blood for the Cornell DNA banking project. But don't expect results too soon! These studies take some time, but we hope to have analysis done by the end of the year. We will report the findings as soon as they are ready.

In addition to the basic study, Paw Print Genetics is considering using some of our dogs in a second study that will look for genetic markers associated with Osteochondritis Dissecans (OCD). They have found a family of Labrador Retrievers with a high incidence of OCD and are interested in including at least one of our families. This testing will be more extensive and will involve blood samples to be drawn from all surviving members of specific families. The benefits are great if markers can be found for OCD, so we encourage you to participate should the second study begin. So, hats off to Paw Print Genetics for offering us the chance to participate.



WPGCA Bids Farewell to Longtime Member

On March 2nd the NE Chapter lost a devoted hunter, Peter Meyer, after a long battle with cancer. He loved his 2 Griffons, Daicey and Brisa, and lived for the days when he could hunt with them.

(Photo by Tina Molt)

Dutchman's Hollow Update Addendum

The April GDS included an update on the Dutchman's Hollow H litter. One pup was inadvertently left out.

Hachi of Dutchman's Hollow

First, we absolutely love her! She was very easily house trained-I'd say 2 weeks with hardly any accidents. Last fall, she went for three weeks during November to the north Maine woods on a marten & fisher trapping expedition with Tim. They stayed in a 7 x 10 foot ice shack. This trip consisted of early morning treks to the trap lines. They would see birds and once they got off the road, Hachi would pick up their scent and bust them. She was exposed to all different scents and experiences. This winter she went ice fishing and became a very good fish retriever-including bringing in other fishermen's, if you weren't paying attention to her. Lessons she has learned include Whoa/Come/Off-pretty well. She is always bringing something to us. If she wants your attention and isn't getting it, she will get something of ours (that she knows she shouldn't have) and bring it over, as if to say, "Pay Attention to ME!!"

We are not running her in the Natural Ability Test this spring as she has not been introduced to water-it turned too cold this fall and even now we still have 3' snowbanks-too deep and soft to get into the woods-she bottoms out. Hopefully in another week she will be pointing woodcock. Formal training starting soon-Heel command is next. She is not gun-shy at all—Tim hunts coyotes over bait from the house and she goes ballistic when he shoots. She loves the sound of a shotgun. She just came into heat and we are dealing with it. No unsupervised outdoor activity-although luckily, we have no males around the area.

May 2014 Note: I'm happy to say that Hachi has been in the water several times and shows no hesitation whatsoever about it, whether for a stick or ducks. She has pointed woodcock and partridge (grouse), and her training is coming along good. This past weekend she adapted to our Sport Canoe, where she has to stay in it for hours. She did it very nicely, with no problems. After the first couple of times of getting her into a boat, now Tim just says kennel and in she goes.

Joy & Tim Jipson



WPGCA Canine Health Survey Under Way

Complete health data on all our WPGCA bred griffons can be a vital asset in our breeding program. We need data on ALL our griffons, not just those used as sires or dams in the breeding program. Information on littermates helps track down disorders that have or might have a genetic link. The WPGCA is conducting a survey to get that data.

You may have already received an email requesting that you complete the survey. Using a list compiled from WPGCA memberships and other sources, we are first sending an email request to every known email address for owners of WPGCA bred dogs that were whelped from 2000 – 2013. We're also attempting to reach owners via the GDS and by website appeals.

How you can help

- Check your email. A unique email was sent to the owner of each dog in the sample; so if you own three such griffs, you should receive three emails. The From Address is: noreply@qemailserver.com and the Subject line is "WPGCA Health Survey" Check your "Junk" mail to be sure that the request was not routed there.
- Didn't receive an email request? Use this link to access the Canine Health Survey: http://nmu.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_d5tc4HmuYHC6Vet
- Or go to the WPGCA Web Site (Announcements Page) <http://www.wpgca.org/announcements/> to use the Survey Link there.
- If you have multiple dogs, just submit a survey and use the link again to complete a form on another dog.
- Complete the survey ASAP. If you have your dog's health records available when you complete the survey, you can provide the most accurate data. Especially for older dogs or those that are deceased, you may not know specific dates or all conditions, but even some data is helpful, especially on serious problems like hip dysplasia and OCD. The survey begins with general health categories: digestive system, orthopedic/mobility, etc. If your dog experienced problems in a general category, then the survey will branch and ask about specific types of problems. So the survey on a healthy dog can be completed in just a few minutes.

For dogs missed via the email and web appeals, the WPGCA will send out a postal request. You can save time and money by responding to the survey appeal promptly.

Generally, we ask that the original owner complete the survey. However, because we are covering dogs whelped over a ten year timespan, some dogs have changed ownership, some owners have passed away, and others may be inaccessible at this time for various reasons. If the original owner is not available, please refer the survey request to whomever can supply information on the dog's health history.

This on-line survey system is replacing the Excel Health Data form that we used in past years. Even if you have previously completed that form in past years, we ask that you do this survey now. Thanks for your help on this project!

Upcoming Events

Heartland Chapter

Michigan Training Exposure

Days held monthly.

Location: Marshall MI

Held Monthly, June – Sept.

Next event June 14.

Contact: Jim Crouse

(614)562-1860

jcrouse01@yahoo.com

Iowa Training-Exposure Days

Location: Bellevue, IA

August 1, 2 and 3, 2014

Contact: John Pitlo

(563)599-2487

jvpitlo@iowatelecom.net

Fall Test

September 5-7, 2014

Location: Mazomanie, WI

Northwest Chapter

Exposure/Training Day

Location: The Duvall WA site.

Date: August 2; 8:00 at the site

Contact: Victor Woodward

victorw@comcast.net

Fall Test

Date and Location to be announced

Contact

Dennis Carlson

carlson@gorge.net

Northeast Chapter

Exposure/Training Days

Location: Bristol, ME

Date: Aug. 16-17 if needed

Contact: Rick Molt

rickmolt@gmail.com

Fall Test

Location: Bristol, ME

Date: Sept. 20-21

Contact: Rick Molt

rickmolt@gmail.com

Rocky Mountain Griffon Club

Montana Exposure-Training Day

Location: Manhattan, MT on Saturday July 26th 2014

Contact J.J. Conner

(406)202-3369,

[email: jcbowstring@hotmail.com](mailto:jcbowstring@hotmail.com)