

The Gun Dog Supreme

NEWS BULLETIN of the WIREHAISED POINTING GRIFFON CLUB OF AMERICA
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Griffon or Gator?

Charon (Rizzo) of High Desert demonstrates affinity for water

(Photo by owner, Michael Zohab)

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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

It's an exciting time for the Wirehaired Pointing Griffon Club of America. The theme of this issue appears to be: "WPGCA goes global."

First, we owe a big debt of gratitude to Gary Pool and Rick Sojda and their spouses for taking the time and making the effort to visit the Czech Republic on behalf of the WPGCA. Pavel Dostal and members of Klub Chovatelů Českých Fousků proved to be wonderful hosts, and the experience provides much promise for continued development of a relationship between our organizations.

Laurie Connell took time from her professional travel to New Zealand to visit with the local Cesky Fousek club. She mentions some duck hunt You Tube videos. I watched them and I think you'll enjoy them too.

John Pitlo met with representatives of Český Fousek Vereniging Nederland during his recent travels. The potential to work with other breed groups around the world is very heartening.

Finally, several new pup owners have reported on puppy progress. A new pup is always exciting and challenging. I'm sure you can identify with their stories. Enjoy.

Rem DeJong

On the Cover

Plenty of water work is crucial to developing a versatile gun dog. Michael Zohab is a Virginia resident and new to working with our breed, but he's off to a great start with "Rizzo" by providing lots of time to develop affinity for water. Rizzo is a High Desert C pup, bred by Bob Matsuoka. Photo by owner Michael Zohab.

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WPGCA Czech Republic Trip

During September 2014, a delegation from the Wirehaired Pointing Griffon Club of America traveled to the Czech Republic where they met with other Cesky Fousek devotees and representatives of Klub Chovatelů Českých Fousků (KCHCF), which is the breed club organization for the Cesky Fousek in its native homeland. The WPGCA's relationship with the Czech Republic group stretches back to the mid 1980s when the WPGCA first began our griffon outbreeding plan by using the Cesky Fousek. Now, essentially all our "Griffons" would qualify as purebred Cesky Fouseks according to European rules. Breeding Committee members John Pitlo and Jim Seibel previously visited the Czech Republic, and we worked closely with Dr. Jaromir Dostál who was a major figure in promoting the Cesky Fousek breed. Dr. Dostal visited the U.S. and provided a Judges Seminar as one of his many contributions to advising us on our breeding program. Spurred on by deliberations of the WPGCA Board of Directors concerning the future of our organization and our breeding program, organization president, Gary Pool and Rick Sojda, who is an apprentice breeding committee member, represented the WPGCA in meetings with the KCHCF. Gary and Rick were accompanied on the trip by their wives, Ann Pool and Mary Ann Sojda. In addition to observing Czech testing practices, Gary and Rick explored ways of developing a closer working relationship with the Czech organization and enhancing our breeding program. In the following report, Gary and Ann recount their observations at an upper level test for versatile hunting dogs and Rick and Gary summarize the main outcomes of meetings with the Czech representatives.

The Memorial Dr. Josefa Kuhna

An International all-round competition of wirehaired pointing dogs.

by

Gary and Ann Pool

The Experience—Ann Pool

Rick & Mary Ann, and Gary and I we were fortunate to meet so many wonderful people and their dogs while in the Czech Republic. Our heartfelt thanks go to Pavel Dostal (Pavel) and his wife Veronika, Pavel Horak and also Frantisek Viktorin, Pavel's nephew and Jaromir's grandson. They took care of our every need from reservations, transportation and translations. We were on time for each event, from the formal opening Memorial ceremonies at the Opava 16th century Castle to arriving at the field, water or forest areas to observe the participants in different disciplines. (We would call them the water or field "test" where their term is "discipline"). Another big thank you to their club also for hosting us while at the Memorial.

Accommodations for the Memorial were at the Castle in Hradec Nad Moravici, near Opava. Mary Ann and I were happy to see our room numbers were #2 and #4. Europe is built up, so climbing stairs is common everywhere. What we didn't realize, was the hotel rooms started on the 4th floor of the Castle ...so we grabbed our luggage and began climbing again! There was also a wedding Saturday night, so we watched and heard fireworks around midnight right in the courtyard outside our windows.

The test was held September 12-14. At the opening ceremonies, all 20 Memorial Dr. Josefa Kuhna participants (from the Czech Republic, Holland, Denmark and Poland) were given a number which they wore on their jackets. They each then stood by their respective number with their dogs. Soon, hunting horns sounded and an *a cappella* men's choir sang the Czech national anthem. The formality and respect shown by handlers to the judges was consistent throughout the ceremonies, and at each discipline in the field, water, and forest. This was admirable and an honor to witness.

The first day was drizzly and wet. Lunch for the field and water testing areas was provided in a small structure with a choice of goulash or local roe deer with gravy and dumplings—each is a traditional meal. Assorted bottled beverages were available, including both beer and non-alcoholic beer too. The Czech's are very serious about not drinking and driving.

The next day Gary and I were at the forest location and Rick and Mary Ann returned to the field site to watch specific dogs as prospects for our breeding program. In the forest, tarped canopies were set up for protection from the weather and an assortment of sausages, soups and a cabbage salad were offered, being cooked and warmed on the spot with a propane stove. (Photos on the Facebook websites:

<https://www.facebook.com/ceskyfouseknorthamerica>

<https://www.facebook.com/griffon.fan>)

Testing Process Assessment—Gary Pool

A significant opportunity for us during our visit with representatives of **Klub Chovatelů Českých Fousků (KCHCF)** was the chance to observe some of the testing practices used by the Czech group to evaluate their dogs. We had the privilege of witnessing the **Memorial Dr. Josefa Kuhna – International all-round competition of wirehaired pointing dogs**. A brief article cannot do justice to the rich experience, but I am providing a summary of the main features of the test and some of my personal reactions.

This competition is a two day event that began with twenty dogs participating: 16 Cesky Fouseks (CF), 4 Drahthaars. The dogs are judged on over thirty different tasks (Their club called them disciplines.) with scores given on each task from “0” to “4”. A “0” in any task is cause for immediate disqualification of the dog and handler. After day one, there were fifteen dogs left in the competition. A score of “1” for any task prevents the dog from prizing, which ultimately eliminates the dog from winning the competition, even if awarded the highest score. In order for a dog to do well in the competition it must be highly trained. There were very few tasks where the dog was working independent of the handler. Every retrieve was completed with the dog sitting in front of the handler, waiting for their “Out” command. While searching in the field for pheasants, during much of the water work, and on blind retrieves, the dog is directed left or right by whistle or hand signals from the handler.

All of the tracking, with the exception of the blood track, is what we would call a “dead drag”. They track pheasant, hare, and fox. It was quite impressive to see that near the end of an exhausting day afield, these dogs were still going out a few hundred meters



Handlers receiving scores at the Memorial Dr. Josefa Kuhna

At the completion of each discipline, handlers stand to receive their scores for that element of the test.

(Photo by Ann Pool)

and bringing back each fox and hare. Both are large animals for the dogs to carry, so they had to be in great shape to complete these tasks.

The rationale behind their test design stem from legal restrictions on how they can test and rules to which they must adhere when hunting. For example, they are not permitted to release live animals the way we are permitted to do for tracking; consequently, everything is dragged. In actual hunting, customs and regulations specify a required number of hunters and dogs to hunt almost any game species. Therefore, constant control over their dogs is important. Roads and villages can also be close by, so handler communication with the dog frequently is also a safety factor. During a hare or pheasant hunt, there might be six dogs working the same field; it could be mayhem if hunters failed to maintain close control over their dogs under these conditions.

Another interesting observation is the way they judged the competition. They had enough judges so that in most cases a pair or more of judges were devoted to only one portion of the test both days. With little discussion among judges, it typically required only about thirty seconds to come to a decision on a score. Once the score was decided,

the handlers and dogs stood before the judges to hear their scores before proceeding to the next field or task in their present location. This routine of announcing scores after each task was the same throughout the field, water and forest portion; it was very efficient.

A competition at the level of the Memorial Dr. Josefa Kuhna – International is very important for handlers who want their male dogs to be used for breeding in their club. To receive breeding status, a male dog must prize in one of these higher Memorial competitions. The females have other tests to complete successfully, but are not required to prize at this higher level of competition.

The dog that won this particular Memorial competition, was a female, **Asta Jarpol**, handled by Silvie Neradilova. Agi (nickname) is too small for the Cesky Fousek standard, so she will not be included in their available females for breeding. However, Agi is a very nice Cesky Fousek that any one of us would be happy to hunt behind or own.

General Reactions—Ann Pool

There were many different languages (Czech, English, Polish, Danish, French, etc.) spoken at group meals and in the field, but the strongest messages in every language were friendship and the expression of commitment to the future of this honorable breed across all borders and oceans. We saw both similarities and differences in the tests, but the love and devotion of dog and handler knows no language barrier and is the same as what we see at each of our tests —our warm, furry and affectionate friend in our lap, bumping our hand for one more ear scratch, and the eye contact to make sure we're both there for each other.



WPGCA President Gary Pool (left) and Rick Sojda (right) present Pavel Dostal with a gift of appreciation in recognition of his invaluable assistance in helping us to secure dogs and develop our relationship with Klub Chovatelů Českých Fousků (KCHCF)

The countryside was beautiful with large agriculture fields much greater than a square mile, growing a diversity of crops including: alfalfa, corn, potatoes, wheat & barley, celery, sugar beets, green cabbage, red cabbage, cauliflower, green manure crops, and mustard. As we drove, there were few fences observed, just rolling hills of crops with meandering boundaries of villages and forest. Traveling to the Memorial, roe and fallow deer were seen grazing in the fields, with deer hunting

stands along the edges of forest and field everywhere. We did see a few espalier trained orchards and vineyards, which are more abundant in other regions of their country we did not travel through.

There is so much to share about our trip, so please contact me if you want to hear more!

WPGCA Cesky Fousek Potential

by

Rick Sojda

WPGCA President, Gary Pool, and I were extremely pleased with the progress made during our time spent with members of Klub Chovatelů Českých Fousků (KCHCF). Several promising outcomes emerged from our meetings. The following are significant opportunities for our future development that Gary and I outlined together.

NEW UNIVERSITY RESEARCH. Prof. Ing. Vladislav Curn, Faculty of Agriculture, University of South Bohemia – Ceske Budejovice requested we meet with him and his PhD student. They are interested in conducting a study in parallel with Cornell University’s work. If they receive funding they would collect two blood samples and a set of buccal swabs from 100 Cesky Fouseks, sending one sample to Cornell and retaining the other to focus on alopecia using similar RNA/DNA procedures. We agreed that some of our current Breeding Committee Apprentices with University appointments would write letters in support of their project once proposed, and that we would explore similar funding opportunities in the US so that we might cooperate both professionally and on behalf of our club. We concluded our visit by showing them how we are currently measuring our dogs for the study.

DRAFT AGREEMENT. Before leaving home, we knew that the Czech club was interested in discussing a greater level of cooperation with us, but we had not corresponded on any details. Ing. Jaroslav Rataj, their Managing Director, invited us to his home to critique and translate an “Agreement...Regarding the Improvement of the Cesky Fousek”. In the process of translating --using Pavel Dostal’s skills-- we were able to discuss key points and suggest our own tweaks. The main points are:

- We will freely share each other’s data and other information to guide breeding decisions.
- The Czech club agreed to try to acquire 100 blood samples from their dogs for our cooperative study with Cornell University at no cost to us or to Cornell, including shipping. They are hoping that the pending grant with the University of South Bohemia - Ceske Budejovice, along with a Ministry of Agriculture grant that the club is requesting, will help with these costs.
- The Agreement states that no commercial use of the Agreement, the data associated with it, etc. is allowed.
- They discussed this at their Board Meeting (Gary and I were invited and attended), with only person not raising their hand in favor. They signed the agreement and



Potential Future Research

A promising consequence of the visit is cooperating in future research endeavors on issues such as alopecia and other canine genetic issues.

(Photo by Rick Sojda)

asked Gary to bring it to our Board for discussion, and they asked him to sign it if approved. Anyone interested in the details can request them from Gary.

SLIDE SHOWS. We prepared a slide show about the birds that we hunt and the habitats in which they are found. It also described, in detail, the three hunt tests we conduct. We showed this informally in small groups when requested –maybe 4 times to a total of a dozen people, including some of their leaders. The variety of habitats from the high desert of chukars to the Eastern woodcock coverts to the tundra swan marshes helped them see how versatile our dogs, and members, truly are. And, they realized how serious we are about our testing program.

THE UPSHOT. Gary and I are providing the following observations and recommendations to our breeding committee and board of directors regarding what we learned on our trip:

- First, any of us would be delighted to have any of the dogs we saw work, there, as our own hunting buddies, here. All were well trained. The Czechs hunt their dogs

differently than we do, but hunt just as seriously. Their methods of testing are slightly different, but their scores provide a useful way for us to evaluate potential litters. We need to continue to look carefully when potential sires and dams have a score lower than “3” in an event, but not eliminate them out-of-hand. We need to emphasize looking at the “Field Test” scores, and we should recognize that the “Water Test” and “Forest Test” scores may be strong indicators of trainability and training skill (at least at the Memorial Test level).

- Second, the door is open to us to import more dogs, and we have identified at least five new ones from which to consider litters depending on the mate chosen.
- Third, and a longer-term consideration, is that the KCHCF is interested in increasing our collective level of cooperation. They want us to work with them to foster the future not only of the Cesky Fousek in North America, but throughout the world. We probably want to keep that in mind as we consider and reach toward our own club’s future. They want to join us as partners in sharing dogs, testing them, building databases, and conducting breeding research. They have formally placed their trust in us, and have asked us to reciprocate. We recommend doing so. It would seem that we can continue to provide high quality, versatile hunting dogs to our members, and possibly over time, even improve our dogs, or at least their consistency. We came home enthusiastic that we have partners interested in the same things we are, the best of hunting buddies.



Members of the Klub Chovatelů Českých Fousků (KCHCF) observe a slide show. Learning about each others hunting and testing practices was a key benefit of the trip.

(Photo by Mary Ann Sojda)

A Visit with the Český Fousek Vereniging Nederland (Netherlands Cesky Fousek Club) (NCFC)

by
John Pitlo

In June, 2014, Vivian and I had planned a trip to Europe, specifically, I wanted to attend the 70th Anniversary of D-Day on the beaches of Normandy. In addition, we wanted to visit relatives in the Netherlands whom we had not seen in many years. Prior to the trip, I had emailed the Secretary (Marga Scherbeijn-Steenbeek) of NCFC and asked if it was possible to meet with the Breed Warden and some other members of the club to discuss a number of things. One was their relationship with the Cesky Fousek club in Czech Republic, another was their breeding program with emphasis on possibly importing some of their puppies, and the third was to share data and information (pedigrees and test information).

Upon arrival in the Netherlands, I telephoned Marga and briefly discussed the possibility of such a meeting. She said that some of the members I wanted to meet were on vacation, but that she would work on setting up a meeting. After returning from France, I received an email from Marga that she had arranged a meeting for Tuesday, June 17 for us to meet and discuss our common interests. On the morning of the meeting day, Marga and her husband Arie stopped by the house where we were staying with my cousin to pick us up. Because they had a very small car and a dog in the back, Vivian rode with Marga and Arie hopped in with me in our rental car. We had a 2 hr drive to get to the meeting site (actually it was a farm owned by Ellis Olde Bolhaar-Keultjes) which was near the German border. The following members of the club were present:

Harrie de Lang – Chairman of the Breeding Committee

Lotte van Dijk - Chairwoman of the Editorial Committee. She writes and publishes the Club newsbulletin and is the webmaster for the web site. She is also the person that Craig Koshyk put us in touch with.

Ellis Olde Bolhaar-Keultjes - Chairwoman of the Dog Use Committee

Marga Scherbeijn-Steenbeek - Secretary

Arie Steenbeek – member of the Dog Use Committee

As with our Fouseks, most their dogs have been imported from the Czech Republic, although they have some with French or Austrian backgrounds. They have enough dogs to have their own breeding and testing program. We talked about the cost of puppies. They stated they get around \$1,200 Euro's per pup and that the cost is going to go up because beginning in 2015, every dog used in the breeding program and all progeny must be DNA tested to insure that the pups are indeed from the sire and dam registered on the pedigree. Evidently some dog breeders were not using the dogs that were on the registration papers. Considering the exchange rate of 1.3 dollars to 1 euro, the cost of a pup would be over \$1,500 plus shipping, etc. It is very apparent that getting our dogs directly from the Czech Republic is less expensive. Also, the Dutch breeders are forbidden to dock puppy tails

We talked about their connection with the Czech Fousek Club and I found out there is no formal agreement to the Czech club, however both clubs are part of the **Fédération Cynologique Internationale (FCI)**. They maintain close contact and have Czech Club members come to the tests and shows that the NCFC puts on. In fact, Pavel Dostal was at their most recent test.

Then we talked about dogs and pedigrees and breeding problems. They have recently had two litters with OCD pups. We have also had OCD show up in several litters. We agreed to share the pedigree information from these breedings. Harrie de Land and Laurie Connell (apprentice on our Breeding Committee) have been emailing information back and forth so we can determine where the OCD originated and prevent it from happening again.



Ellis Olde Bolhaar-Keultjes - Chairwoman of the Dog Use Committee, demonstrates blind retrieve.
(Photo by John Pitlo)

We talked about record and pedigree keeping software. The NCFC uses a program called Zoo Easy. I was not familiar with it, but when Harrie showed me how it worked, I was intrigued. It's a Dutch program and we are not sure it will work here. Laurie Connell is exploring the possibility of importing data from our Excel worksheets into this software – it is a work in progress.

After an excellent lunch of asparagus soup and sandwiches prepared by Ellis, everyone who brought dogs got them out and we went into the field for a run. We took pictures and then individual dogs and handlers demonstrated their searching style for us. While we were in the field, 7 or 8 birds (from crows to pigeons) were thrown in the brush and forest at varying distances from the field road. All the dogs were sent in for blind retrieves and all did very well with the exception of a young dog.

So ended a very pleasant day, talking dogs, training, pedigree's and comparing notes on what and how things were done in their country and ours. We promised to keep in touch and share information about dogs and bloodlines that we have in common.

The club website is: <http://www.ceskyfousekvereniging.nl/Vereniging>. If there is something on the website that attracts your attention but cannot read or understand it – simply copy it and go to Google Translate – paste it in the box and mark which language you want it converted to. Very simple.

A Visit with the New Zealand Cesky Fousek Club

by

Laurie Connell

During a recent business trip to Auckland, New Zealand, I was able to spend some time with the head of the Cesky Fousek New Zealand Club (CFNZ), Jake Overton (<http://newzealand.ceskyfousek.org/>). Jake and his wife, Kim, their two sons, Orion and Canyon, as well as 3 dogs live in a lovely home perched on a hillside overlooking steep farmland in Ragland, New Zealand. We had a wonderful dinner of grilled duck and homemade cider as well as great conversations about dogs, testing, and breeding programs.

Jake originally hails from Oregon and some of you may remember his father, Scott Overton, as they tested dogs with the WPGCA. After organizing CFNZ Jake imported Aran od Lejnarů and Cita od Tyrše, as well as some frozen semen. Their club is very small but is now up to their “K” litter. Unlike in the US where importation of a puppy from the Czech Republic can be less expensive than buying a gun dog locally, importation costs for dogs in New Zealand can be over \$10,000 per dog. Additionally, puppies cannot be imported until they are 9 months old but because of the various requirements, in reality, pups can’t be imported until 10 months old. Even after arrival all dogs must be quarantined for 90 days.

As with our dogs, Jake’s canine companions live in-doors and they also enjoy being outside all year because of the relatively mild climate. At the moment, Jake has three dogs. The oldest is 11 year old **Aran od Lejnarů** who is the sire of litters in the Czech Republic, New Zealand and our own club as well, most recently the **Blackberry Briar “A”** litter. **Alma of New Bohemia** is now 9 and has had 6 litters. Both Alma and Aran are in numerous Youtube videos hunting in New Zealand and the Czech Republic (Aran) so check them out. (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bw56whKw2Hs>) The youngest of the Overton pack is **Koha of NewBohemia**, at 1 year.

CFNZ use similar testing methods as the WPGCA, but because they are such a small club they utilize the NZ Versatile Hunting Dog Test Assoc. (VHDTA), and by the way, Jake is the current president. The NZ VHDTA is very similar to the Versatile Hunting Dog Federation (VHDF) in the US but scores on a 0 – 4 point scale as we do in the WPGCA. One of the major differences is that in New Zealand they do not track live birds during any test. This is partly because of the lack of availability of pen-raised birds.

One of the hunting opportunities that many CFNZ members participate in is deer hunting. They use their dogs to find deer as well as blood track. Jake tells me that the success rate is similar to hunting for pheasant without a dog vs. with a dog and he does not hunt deer without dogs anymore! Unfortunately my visit was one day after the close of most of the bird hunting seasons so I was unable to see the dogs in action.

We hope that the future will bring good collaboration among all the international clubs. Additionally, it may give us all the chance to hunt during visits both in the US and in New Zealand. Cheers and many thanks to Jake and his family for their fabulous hospitality!

Puppy Progress

Notes and Photos on 2014 pups

Cesky Fousek Imports from Czech Republic

Seven pups were imported from various litters through the **Klub chovatelů českých fousků** (KCHCF) with assistance of Pavel Dostal. There are 5 females and 2 males.

Featured Story: Emily Ramos is the youngest trainer and contributor to the Puppy Progress Update. A member of the Jim Crouse household, she's developing her dog handling skills working with their new pup, **Jena od Tyrše**.

Jena the Little Fluff-Ball

by

Emily Ramos



Senior judge, Jim Seibel, assists Emily as they give Jena od Tyrše exposure to duck tracking.

(Photo by Rem DeJong)

We arrived in Detroit, MI and finally got Jena! She came out of her kennel happy as could be, wagging her tail, reacting like she's been in her kennel for a million years and was getting out for the first time! Jena was a good traveler—well if you call a puppy that was asleep the whole time a good traveler you can say Jena was a good traveler. We arrived home and had two anxious dogs, Benny and Beau wanting to meet her. Well that only lasted for about 5 minutes and then Benny and Beau did not want to have anything to do with her. The first night, well I wouldn't say it was the worst night I had; I've had worse, but Jena made the top of the list with the cries that were

continuous and the barks she was able to do. She eventually got tired enough and fell asleep—kind of.

Today, Jena has been turned into something different since we started with her in field training. At the beginning it started off as “a non-cooperative dog” as Jim would say. But after a while, she got the hang of what she should do. Jena loves to swim; whenever she see’s water, she goes for it. If you were to throw out a stick, dummy or dead duck, she would be on her way to get the thing. She’s crazy about the water. At first Jena had no interest in retrieving anything back. She still kind of doesn’t, but not like she was at the beginning. She has retrieved pheasants, chukar’s, ducks, dead animals of all kinds, and especially my mom’s turkey that she got stuck up in a tree! Jena has pointed very well! She has searched very well and seems to love being in the field. I know it might be too early to predict, but I have a feeling deep inside that she loves to do what she does. She has done very well with what she has been exposed to, such as loud noises (gun shots), swimming, and the field. Jena can be very cooperative in the field now, whereas back at the beginning, she used to be very close to us. Now she gets out more with the other dogs.

Jena has started obedience class where she has done very well. They have taught her how to sit, whoa, heel, down, fetch, come, etc. This class consist of Jena and me doing some clicker training and practice of being a more obedient dog. We have taken Jena to the Michigan training days and to Iowa where she met some really nice and awesome dogs and very nice people she will always remember. Jena is very good at meeting new people and dogs, except for the part that she likes jumping on them and scratching them but in a playful way. Jena has gone to my cross country meets and has met kids of all ages and adults. They have pet her like crazy, and yes, they called her a “fluff ball”. I know, she has not bothered or hurt anybody and I hope she stays that way.

Benny and Beau, Jim’s griffons have finally accepted Jena as one of their good friends; it took a while but it eventually worked. Jena has been very friendly and loving to the family and to me, where she sometimes does get out of hand but I guess that’s very normal for a puppy to do that. My parents have been a really big help taking care of Jena with school and sports. I’m very grateful to have them helping me with Jena. We are looking forward to going to more training days with Jena and taking her to South Dakota. For the first puppy I have ever had, it has been a great experience. So far, Jena has been a very awesome, fun-loving, nice, beautiful dog. She is very excited to learn more things the world has to offer her, and although I’m still learning, I am very excited to help her experience these new things. Thank you WPGCA and Pavel for giving me this puppy that I will always be happy to be with no matter what and for letting me have this experience!

More Czech Import updates:

Korina od Pitne vody I took this photo at the end of a four day hunt in Montana for opening sharptail season. To witness the progression of this puppy's development was amazing. She followed me through the field for the first day and a half. On day two, she had a bird flush right next to her and she came running back to me startled. On day three she started tracking and flushing some pheasants. Her "points" consisted of tracking and then almost jumping or leaning backwards when she realized something was



Korina od Pitne vody is learning about hunting sharp-tails.

(Photo by owner, Andy Rupp)

there, under her nose. That really got her senses going. On day four she began to seriously search and trying to figure out the scent left by the groups of Sharp-tails. She had multiple bird contacts and even did a tail wagging point on a mouse. I passed on many easy opportunities as I waited for her to figure it out and not bust the birds. Yesterday on a run next to my home, during wet cold weather, she slammed on a point that was picture perfect and jaw dropping for all of it's intensity. Nothing was there as I had watched the meadow lark flush before we got there. It is starting to come together for her.

Andy Rupp

Brita Eso Brita is doing great – she is a smart and friendly little dog. For us, it was love at first sight when we met her at the Newark, NJ airport. For her, I assume that after a long day of traveling she was going to fall for whoever released her from that crate. When we finally returned home and started to play, she impressed us when she immediately retrieved a ball to hand. But, again – at that point she felt she owed us. 9 ½ year old Anja reluctantly welcomed the newcomer with an expression of “who is this intruder, where did she come from and when is she going back?” Soon to be replaced with an expression of “why am being subjected to this torture?”

Fast forward 7 weeks – Brita and Anja are best buddies. We take lengthy walks almost every day, sometimes just the pup and I and sometimes with both dogs. Brita shows little hesitation following Anja through all kinds of cover. There is, however, a particular trestle bridge that she refused to cross despite encouragement.

Brita seems to have a very good nose and brings me the most disgusting things. Then, even if I toss it into the thickest weeds, she finds it and brings it back. We've found birds but I have only seen false points so far. It seems like I'm always bumping grouse

when she happens to be searching in another direction. She loves water and is swimming and retrieving well. She started off with an awkward, splashy, high stepping stroke but that has pretty much gone away. Her technique is quite stylish now.

I went on a 3 day fishing trip to a remote pond in the Adirondacks and, concerned that it might be too much for her, was considering leaving her behind. With Jim Seibel's encouragement I brought her along and quickly learned that this is one tough little pup. From the 6+ mile hike in, to the canoe rides, to the miserable bushwhacks, she was relentless. She turned out to be an excellent camping companion. On the first outing once we returned, she bounded across that aforementioned trestle bridge with no hesitation whatsoever. Watching her grow, and witnessing her progress as she figures things out, is rewarding. You can just about see the wheels turning as she studies something. She is eager to please, comes when called (usually), is a great traveler and acts content when in her crate. She's a perfect addition to our family. Thanks to the breeding committee, specifically Laurie and Rick, for your efforts.

Mark & Joanne Canfield



Brita's Tail

In some European countries, tail docking is not allowed, so breeders placing pups in those locations may not dock tails. That's a very impressive tail you have, Brita!

(Photo by Joanne Canfield)

High Desert C Litter

The breeder is Bob Matsuoka; the female is **Alexis of Arrowrock**, male is **Clancy of Salmon River**. There were 7 pups: 6 males and 1 female.



Caesar Augustus of High Desert (Gus) tries his paw at construction management on his owner's new home.
(Photo by Amy Williams)

Caesar Augustus of High Desert "Gus" is 7 months old enjoying Wyoming. He has had plenty of exposure as my constant companion during my retirement. Gus has been a daily participant and has left his mark at every stage while building our new house.....really. There are literally paw prints in the concrete and nose prints in the paint. This dog is fearless and curious! Gus is my first Griff and is showing signs of being my best

hunting companion. He is eager to please, anxious to learn, and a real sweetheart. We enjoyed the spring and summer with him learning to swim and getting exposed to lots of creatures small and large on land and water.

Gus and I made it to the Exposure Day in Twin Falls in July. Before the day was over he was doing short tracks and chasing ducks in the water. Since returning we have been working on dead bird tracks 2-3 times per week. Gus is starting to consistently track and retrieve out to 100-150 yards when the sniffing is good. He has also developed a solid "whoa" and I can generally depend on him to stay even when there are distractions. We will start hunting birds (pheasant, huns, and chukars) the first of November through the end of January and as long as the weather doesn't get too tough.

Fred and Amy Williams

Charon "Rizzo" of High Desert Rizzo is coming along nicely. He took to water after following me into a pond and has not looked back. He was even swimming through the waves of the ocean chasing pelicans in NC. We are doing well with basic OB, he is starting to test the waters with a bit of rebellion from the rules of the house. We have started blood tracking and we eagerly await for our first live track on an arrowed deer. We should not have to wait long, I have several friend who can't wait to test his skills.

The first dove hunt went well except the temp shot up faster than expected. Rizzo have two retrieves, I was pleased with both. As the temp went up, he insisted on laying on top of the hay bale. We will be testing in April for his therapy certificate, looking forward to duck season, and in January it will be time for some serious retriever training.

Michael Zohab



Chappie of High Desert gets exposure to duck hunting with owner Brett Knaub.

(Photo by owner Brett & Mindy Knaub)

Chappie of High Desert

Chappie is growing fast, and chewing on anything he can get his mouth on. Exposure is going great, and he loves the water and the field. He won't swim yet unless he falls in the water, but he loves it. He'll submerge his head entirely to chase a frog, or any other small aquatic creature. We exposed him to a cap gun at 3 months, and he's now been exposed to shotgun for about two weeks. He chases all birds, and even points at nothing, and anything/everything.

On a few occasions, my wife has hidden some of last year's pheasant wings on our exposure sessions at the local Wildlife Management Area. In every case, Chappie quickly located the wing and triumphantly returned to show off his discovery. Sometimes he even surrenders the wing to my hand, but usually I have to remove it from his mouth.

Nebraska opened early teal season along with dove, so we've actually been hunting for the last couple of weekends. We did face a couple of noteworthy milestones this weekend. On Saturday, I stopped at a WMA where I've seen some dove and pheasant in the past, and Chappie bumped two hens during one of his romps. Once he realized what happened, he was very "birdy" for the remainder of the day. On Sunday morning, he came upon a meadow lark hiding in some tall grass, and locked up in a legitimate point, held the bird on point while I moved in to investigate, and then gave chase once the bird flushed after I almost stepped on it.

On the way back to the jeep on Sunday, a lone teal glided into the marsh fairly close to where we were strolling. I dropped him in an area of knee-deep water and seven-foot reeds so, no way was I going to find him. I gave Chappie his first chance at a retrieve, by coaxing him over to the spot where the bird first flew into the marsh. He made a fair attempt at tracking the fallen teal and circled the open water where the duck had first landed and paddled around. Finally, I called Mocha back, and she made quick work of

the job. When she emerged from the reeds with the teal, Chappie couldn't believe his eyes, and immediately tried to "help". All in all, we had a brilliant weekend, and I look forward to what I'm certain will be a long and fruitful partnership, with a true hunter!

Brett and Mindy Knaub

Blackberry Briar A Litter

The breeder is Dave & MaryJo Finley; the female is **Francesca of Dutchman's Hollow**, male is **Aran od Lejnaru**. There were 3 pups: 1 males and 2 females.

Addie of Blackberry Briar We're happy to say that Addie of Blackberry Briar is settling in well to her family and hunting home. She's been a great pup, really staying out of too much mischief, which we have been spoiled with. She spends her days playing with other dogs and spends her evenings lounging upside down in her open crate. She's a pretty content dog, but still has the bounding energy of a puppy.

Addie was slow to take to the water but had it down by the end of summer with some encouragement from the kids heading in to swim with her. She has been in on some exposure training in our local area and had a strong start with some impressive points. She comes when called without hesitation and is learning to respond to several commands. She has been retrieving to hand, but we are currently working on a streak of stubbornness with initiative and noise sensitivity which seems to have developed suddenly. She's shown some great early promise and are confident that this will pass as quickly as it came on as we continue to work with her.

Addie has spent some time traveling to North Dakota to run the fields and get used to the miles in the truck, and we can't wait to see her on her first official hunting trips as we get her out west this fall.

Chris and Nicole Trosen

Note from the Breeding Committee

Editor: Did reading these new puppy reports give you a hankering for a new pup? Given the recent importation of Cesky Fousek pups from the Czech Republic and the deliberations by the Board of Directors on changes to the WPGCA organization, I requested that the Breeding Committee provide some assurance of breeding plans for the 2015 year. It's too early for details, but Breeding Committee member Jim Seibel offered this response:

The plan for pups for next year will likely be similar to this past year. After all the Fall IHDT are completed the breeding committee will determine which females are qualified for breeding. In addition we will breed those females that have produced a successful litter previously. We are also likely to import some pups from the Czech Republic to supplement the litters produced in the USA. Our plan is satisfy the demand.

—Jim Seibel



Last to arrive, but early to the field. Afra od Lhoteckého Vrchu (called “Pepper” by owners Pete and Linda Engman) didn’t have to wait long to get a taste of sharptail hunting in the American west.
(Photo by owner, Pete Engman)



Big brother pointed, master shot it, I got to play with it & bring it back. Bax od Kozamberka, a new Cesky Fousek import owned by Paul Stadem gets some hunting exposure.
(Photo by owner, Paul Stadem)