

The Gun Dog Supreme

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

<http://www.wpgca.org>

April 2015

Volume 90, Number 2

April 2015



Big Hit at Pheasant Fest: Bohemian Wire-haired Griffons on Parade

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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Greetings:

It's an exciting time for the WPGCA. Spring is finally here and that means that it's time for dog testing. Time to renew acquaintances, swap yarns and see the dogs work. If your dog is testing this year, we hope that you've been taking the time to give that dog exposure and work on training for the IHDT level. Testing is vital to our breeding program and giving a dog good exposure is the key to helping judges assess each dog's potential.

Change is afoot for the organization. The BOD is presenting their recommendations for modification to the club's constitution. On the one hand, it mostly involves plugging in the word "Bohemian" in front of "Wirehaired Pointing Griffon," but the words signify renewed effort to advance our great versatile hunting dog.

This issue has a couple great articles on the topic of cooperation, a technical piece on breeding, and a fun article that I hope you enjoy.

Hope to see many of you at the Heartland test. Enjoy.

Rem DeJong

On the Cover: WPGCA at Pheasant Fest 2015 Bird Dog Parade. Ben Berka and son with Beckett of Wolf Fork Canyon, Emily Ramos with Jena od Tyrše, and John Pitlo with Hendricka of Dutchman's Hollow.

(Photo by Monica Ramos)

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

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Rem DeJong & John Pitlo

SUBSCR./BACK ISSUES

Printed bi-monthly, the GDS is included with a membership to the WPGCA. Subscriptions are \$60.00/year and due January 1st of each year. Subscriptions and requests for back issues should be sent to:

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Membership to Vote on Proposed Constitution Changes

During last year's board of directors meeting it was pointed out that, over the years of selective breeding, our dogs now meet the criteria that makes them Bohemian Wire-haired Pointing Griffons (Czesky Fouseks). Since the infusion of the Fouseks began in the mid 1980s, successive generations of club-bred dogs each have increased percentage of Fousek in their background, so that today they all meet the criteria that qualifies them as Fouseks. Since 1994, the club has been using the Fédération Cynologique Internationale (FCI) breed standard of the Bohemian Wire-haired Pointing Griffon as our own breed standard. After much deliberation, the Board recommends that we call our dogs what they really are, Bohemian Wire-haired Pointing Griffons. It also recommends that we change the club name to the Bohemian Wirehaired Pointing Griffon Club of America. This necessitates changes to the club constitution, which requires approval by 2/3 of votes cast by paid-up members.

The proposed constitution revision, as recommended by the Board of Directors, is printed on the following pages. New wording appears in underlined italic print. Dropped wording is designated in ~~strike-through font~~. The primary change is to use "Bohemian Wirehaired Pointing Griffon" in place of "Wirehaired Pointing Griffon". A few other changes reflect changing technology with reliance on electronic communication. Lastly, the annual dues change from \$40.00 to \$60.00 is reflected.

All votes on the proposed change must be cast within 30 days of the mailing date on this, the April Gun Dog Supreme. **Note:** Only paid-up members can vote. If you have received this publication and have not paid your 2015 membership dues, please include a check for your dues with your vote. Doing so is the only way your vote will count.

Gary Pool, President

Voting Instructions

Ballots will be mailed to coincide with delivery of the GDS to all club members who paid dues in 2014 and/or 2015. The mailing will include a ballot and a membership form. **Membership dues should have been paid by January 1st.** However, we normally send out a payment reminder, so if you have not paid but wish to vote, you may still do so by including a membership form and a dues check with your ballot. When you receive your ballot, please complete and return it promptly. Ballots must be received within 30 days of publication of the GDS. The proposed revised constitution is also available on-line at:
<http://www.wpgca.org/announcements/>.

Those members whose 2015 dues payment has already been fully processed will also receive an invitation by email to vote on-line.

Constitution of the Bohemian Wirehaired Pointing Griffon Club of America (Revised 2015)

Article I. Name and Purpose

Section 1. The name of this organization is the Bohemian Wirehaired Pointing Griffon Club of America

Section 2. The purpose of the club is to protect, promote, and improve the Bohemian Wirehaired Pointing Griffon breed ~~in accordance with the principles originated by E.K. Korthal~~, by such activities as:

- a. Developing recommended breeding programs based on performance and type, as outlined in the breed standards.
- b. Sponsoring and participating in field tests that are designed to evaluate the versatile hunting qualities of the Bohemian Wirehaired Pointing Griffon.
- c. Sponsoring local chapters of the Bohemian Wirehaired Pointing Griffon Club of America.
- d. Affiliating with foreign clubs and studbooks devoted to the advancement and protection of hunting dogs
- e. Cooperating with all other clubs and organizations devoted to the advancement and protection of hunting dogs: and
- f. Acquainting hunters with the characteristics of the Bohemian Wirehaired Pointing Griffon.

Section 3. The club is a non-profit organization.

Article II. Activation and Membership

Section 1. The club was activated in 1951 and has been active since that date. (This revision of the constitution becomes effective with a two-thirds majority of the vote in the affirmative by paid-up members).

Section 2. Persons of good standing interested in the Bohemian Wirehaired Pointing Griffon and approved by the Board of Directors become members upon payment of annual dues. Active members are those who have paid their annual dues for the current year.

Section 3. The Board of Directors at the discretion of the Board of Directors may make expulsion of a member by a majority vote, for any action that they believe to be detrimental to the club. Expulsion shall not be contestable, except that the expelled member may apply for membership in any succeeding year.

Section 4. The club may elect to lifetime honorary membership, without payment of dues, any person who makes an outstanding contribution to the purpose of the club.

Article III. Officers and Committees

Section 1. The officers of the club are the President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer. Officers serve for three years and without pay.

Section 2. The President appoints acting officers to fill vacancies occurring between elections, and appoints regional chairs and committee chairs as may be required. The President, in consultation with the other officers, appoints a

member of the Club to serve as Editor of the Club news bulletin, and a member to serve as Registrar.

Section 3. The Secretary is the executive agent of the Club. He or she maintains records of the Club, conducts Club correspondence, and conducts the business of the Club in accordance with its constitution and motions adopted by the Club.

Section 4. The Treasurer receives all Club membership fees and other monies for the Club, except monies directed elsewhere by the President. He or she maintains the Club bank account as directed by the President. He or she maintains a record of all Club monies. Once per year, he or she prepares the annual Treasurer's Report for publication in the December issue of the Club news bulletin, The Gun Dog Supreme. This annual financial report must be submitted to the Board of Directors (via the secretary) prior to publication in the Club news bulletin. The Treasurer also processes all new member applications, which are then ~~forwarded mailed~~ to the Secretary.

Section 5. The Editor of the Club news bulletin, *The Gun Dog Supreme*, publishes the news bulletin six times per year under the direction of the Board of Directors. He or she ~~mails a copy~~ insures that the news bulletin is available to each paid-up Club member.

Section 6. The registrar maintains the Griffon Club Registry, called the Griffon Registry Book (GRB), and related items, such as certified pedigrees, litter and individual registrations, Breeders Agreements, and reports directly to the Secretary. He or she also presents an annual report of the Registry to the Board of Directors.

Article IV. Elections

Section 1. Any paid-up members mail nominations for officers to the Secretary prior to November 1 of an election year. The Secretary will publish in the December, The Gun Dog Supreme of an election year, all nominations received. All votes mailed to the designated vote counter, prior to December 31 of that year, after publication of the slate of nominees, are counted, and elections is by majority.

Article V. Parliamentary Procedure

Section 1. The parliamentary business of the Club is conducted by mail or email. To the extent practical, Robert's Rule of Order applies.

Section 2. Normal procedure requires the Secretary, by correspondence and through the medium of *The Gun Dog Supreme*, to canvas the opinions of the Club members and to frame appropriate motions to be presented to Club members either by mail, email, or by publication in *The Gun Dog Supreme*. A simple majority of votes cast by paid-up members within thirty days carries a motion, except for motion to revise or amend the constitution, which motions require a two-thirds majority.

Article VI. Dues

Section 1. The annual dues are sixty dollars (\$60) unless changed by a vote of the membership by a simple majority, payable on January 1 of each year.

Correction:

The February 2015 GDS, pg. 16, included a report on PennHip . The following statement in that report is in error:

“NOTE—owners of dogs less than 2 yrs old— you must complete a PennHip evaluation for your pup in order to be eligible for ANY refund as outlined in the Breeders Agreement.”

The Board of Directors revised the Breeders Agreement at the March 2014 meeting. In that revision, the **refund was discontinued**. Sorry for any confusion.

Pheasant Fest 2015

The Pheasants Forever Pheasant Fest and Quail Classic was held at the Iowa Events Center in Des Moines, Iowa this year. A contingent of WPGCA members manned our booth and put in lots of volunteer hours interacting with visitors. There was a definite up-tick in new membership and information on the web page following the event, and we hope that the face-to-face interaction that Pheasant Fest provided generates continued interest in our dogs and in the club. Here are a couple images from our booth, compliments of John Pitlo.





[Above] The club provided coloring book pages of a griffon. This young artist shows off the beginning of a “blue-eyed” griffon. Her model wasn’t the least bit offended by choice of eye color.

[At Left] As always, our dogs are a big hit with the little tykes. At left, two future pheasant hunters sport Pheasant Fest hats while they pet “Boo” and Gabby” as Kevin Nessa looks on.

Volunteers Wanted for Work on Breed Database

Laurie Connell could really use some help entering data for our breed database project. It's very important work for the club. Please contact Laurie by phone or e-mail .

Office (207) 581-2470 Laurie.connell@umit.maine.edu

Hunting Dog Ingredients

by

Joe Schmutz

Jack has always been able to read bird dogs better than anyone else I know. On that particular day, though, he really blew me away. A dog came toward his owner carrying a duck. Thirty yards out, it nearly tumbled head over heels, crossing an overgrown irrigation ditch. The dog never lost its hold on the duck. Pointing five yards out, Jack whispered, "Watch him, he'll drop the duck right there." Sure enough, the dog did just that – laid the duck down, and then leisurely re-grabbed and delivered with modest enthusiasm.

How did Jack know? First of all, the dog had a good enough grip on the bird not to lose it in the tumble. But twenty yards later, it felt the need to put the duck down. Sure, maybe the tumble loosened the dog's grip and it later needed to change its hold – but it did not look like that.

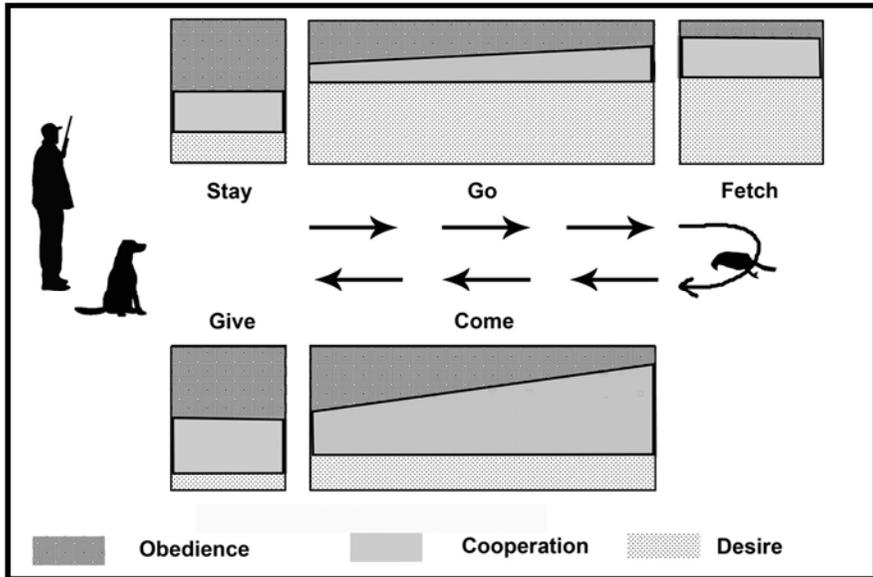
Come to think of it, over years of judging versatile dogs and training and hunting with my own, there is a magical stretch – say five to fifteen yards – where more often than not the dog lays the bird down and repositions it. Usually we attribute it to a poor hold, but is it? The problem can be nicely overcome with more obedience training. In doing this training, I doubt we are teaching the dog to grab better, but instead to be more obedient in the retrieve. So, it is likely more of an obedience problem than a grabbing problem. But does obedience kick in at this magical five to fifteen yard distance?

A Thought Experiment

What is it that makes a hunting dog work for us, say, in a well-mannered retrieve? Are there differences in work - in the dog's attitude toward work - as a dog goes through the different phases of a task? Does the dog's mental state change according to distance from the handler?

This changing-attitude-by-distance idea is conceptualized in accompanying graphic, which can guide us through the thought. Of course there are differences between breeds and individuals but let's just hit the highlights, the big picture. A dog stays until sent, runs to the bird, picks it up, returns with it, and gives nicely. I suggest there are at least three types of motivation the dog responds to in doing this sequence: obedience, desire, and cooperation. In the diagram, desire predominates on the way out. Cooperation predominates on the way in. Close to the handler and feeling influenced by her or him, obedience predominates. Away from the handler, desire and cooperation carry the day.

How would a wolf behave in this sequence, compared to a dog? What could that tell us? Let's take a wolf, as though it had been recently tamed but fairly well trained. The wolf might stay until sent, knowing quite well who is the boss and how close the boss is. Once sent, any healthy wolf will likely speed to the bird, but now the sequence could fall apart. Even a well-fed wolf is going to be very tempted to run away with the bird and do the natural thing, eat the bird or bury it for later. It



would have to be an extremely well trained wolf for it to bring the bird back. Turning to return with the bird is the most challenging part for the wolf. Once close to the handler again, it may well resign itself to being obedient again.

How would a 10-week-old puppy with a sound retrieving heritage in its genes respond? A puppy would not be obedient but, like the wolf, would likely run to the bird and pick it up or play with it. In all likelihood, the puppy, if far enough away from the ‘influence’ of the owner, would return to the owner at least part way. It might even be coaxed to come to hand. However, at some point along the return, the look in the puppy’s eyes changes – Jack would say five to fifteen yards out. The puppy might play ‘keep-away’ or simply stop and play with the bird. It would do that close to the spot where it senses the influence of the owner. In the concept diagram, this is a transition point between where cooperation has lost its main influence (bar is thinning), and where obedience in the trained dog takes over.

In the puppy’s case, experienced handlers would make use of this natural cooperation-obedience transition by distance. More often than not, if we walk to the puppy, we’d lower the cooperation part even further and elevate the handler-influence conflict - we can’t call it obedience at this stage. The puppy would likely run away. Us doing the counter-intuitive thing and walking away is much more promising. It increases the distance between pup and owner and thereby raises cooperation. The vast majority of puppies would follow the owner, with or without the bird.

I recall another time where an experienced dog man taught me this same cooperation-by-distance principle, without putting it into words or a drawing as I did. A handler at a versatile-dog test brought a dog that liked to taste the wind. More than that, the owner was reluctant to turn the dog loose for fear it would run away. One of the judges said, “Don’t worry, just walk with me.” The dog did its search

fairly far out. When we came to the end of the field and had to turn, the owner started to whistle. The judge stopped him by saying, "Just be quiet and follow me." Sure enough, we'd gone 200 yards or so when the dog started to turn, following our general direction.

Again, this runaway was not a wolf, but a dog naturally equipped with a cooperative attitude even if only moderately so. The dog's owner did not understand how to manipulate cooperation to advantage but raised the obedience conflict before obedience was well established. A good dog trainer will make use of dog sense and negotiate this 'intersection' between desire, cooperation, and obedience very carefully. A dog that has come to trust its owner, and one that has a fine balance between desire and cooperation, and the mental stability to become obedient later, often does not fully know when it is being trained.

What's what?

Dog breeders believe in 'breeding the best to the best.' Some consider desire the important currency, some think it's obedience and we can find trials for each. In all of the many different types of versatile dog tests, there is an emphasis on the third dimension – cooperation. The distinguishing trait of a versatile dog is not only to be able to do more tasks, but to shift from one task to another repeatedly and without delay, as a hunting situation demands it. That requires cooperation.

Distinguishing in the field between desire, cooperation, and obedience is not simple. They blend together but in varying proportions. If we confuse one for the other, breeding the best to the best won't work as well. Perhaps that is the reason why people have made the puzzling discovery that all too often the parent's test scores poorly correlate with offspring scores. The ability to respond to training may be heritable, but the non-slip delivery on a retrieve *per se* is the mark of the trainer pure and simple. If a judge is not experienced or well-taught, the score given will reflect what the handler can do, not how naturally cooperative the dog may be.

As a general rule and judging from the wolf-dog-puppy example, most things done close to the owner are primarily by obedience, those done for the owner but also largely for the dog's own interests are desire, those done out of obedience range, and in opposition to raw desire – like naturally bringing a bird - are cooperation.

Dogs differ in proportion of desire and cooperation, which they come by through a combination of upbringing and genes. A trainer would do well to know which type of dog s/he is dealing with. A dog with high desire at the expense of cooperation is fun to watch. A cooperative dog may do more for us and without running away – it'll help us have a good time whether we're hunting or on vacation.

Cooperation can be undermined. If a trainer approaches a cooperative dog too harshly, a fragile cooperative attitude can be deflated, more easily so than raw desire. With cooperation lost, there is too little desire to carry the day. The dog can be misunderstood and written off as having too little talent.

The hallmark of domestication.

Wolves and other wild canids have demonstrated well-honed cooperative hunting but - unless raising young – cooperate only up to the kill. However, our cooperative

hunting dogs show much more than collaborating in a goal-oriented kill.

Studies in animal behavior have illustrated at least three types of human-animal relationships. Wild animals can simply 'habituate' to human presence, as white-tailed deer have done in suburbs. Beyond that, adult wild animals can be tamed, and even trained to respond to basic signals as falconers hunting with birds of prey demonstrate regularly. These elevated levels of human-animal relationships can be achieved nicely even with wild canids when reared by humans from birth. Thirdly, however, domestic dogs show a rapport with people that is unique to dogs.

Studies by a German-U.S. team have shown that dogs were better able than primates or captive raised wolves, in responding to human signals. Dogs, but not wolves – their closest relatives - or chimpanzees, could be trained to go consistently to one of several possible places where food was hidden, simply by the trainer looking in that direction. For the dogs to learn this task, they displayed a refined level of responsiveness to the trainer, not unlike our cooperative hunting dogs will cue off of us in the field.

Studies have also shown that a cooperative relationship between humans and canids has a genetic basis. We've always assumed that this is how early humans selected the more docile of wolves to make dogs, but no one kept records 12,000 years ago when it happened.

Heritability of tameness was shown by D.K. Belyaev in a classic study of over 10,000 foxes bred simply for fur quality on Siberian farms. When Belyaev began to study these, he found three different behavioral types present: 30% were extremely aggressive, 60% were fearful or showed fear aggression and 10% showed a calm acceptance and exploration toward people. Interestingly, the tame group developed body, behavior, and reproductive features we now attribute to dogs. These features appeared coincidentally with tameness and not because of specific selection for them. The body features include floppy ears, curly tails, shorter muzzles and more rounded faces, some of the 'cute' features so prominent in puppies. Foxes of the tame group whined and wagged tails to draw human attention to them, and they lost their strict seasonal timing of reproduction. There were also abnormalities that developed in this group, including failure to come into heat and eating of their own offspring.

Belyaev's work is widely cited and his conclusions have been verified and accepted. This work provides a plausible scenario – a link – of how domestication may have happened. The notion of a special responsiveness to people, a readiness by our dogs to take cues from us and have us subtly shape their response toward a common goal, is a fundamental thread running through the domestication scenario.

The next time I'm out gun at-the-ready, with my dog repeatedly relocating a rooster running in dense cover, or cooperatively 'hunting-dead' as though the dog's interests were the same as mine, I'll applaud its cooperation. This cooperative ingredient in my dog's makeup is a human creation, the hallmark of the domesticated dog.

NOTE: This article originally appeared in *Pointing Dog Journal* and is being reprinted with their permission. <http://www.pointingdogjournal.com/magazine>

Thoughts on Cooperation in the Cesky Fousek (Bohemian Wirehaired Pointing Griffon) and Other Versatile Hunting Dogs

by
Rick Sojda, WPGCA, Bozeman, MT ¹.



A two year old, cooperative Bohemian Wirehaired Pointing Griffon, **Ander of Hundgaard**, eagerly retrieves a sharptail during a hunt in Northern Montana.

(Photo by Rick Sojda)

NOTE: I first "met" Josef Schmutz, Editor of the Large Munsterlander Association of Canada's (LMAC) Newsletter, from a post he made on Craig Koshyk's blog -- <http://www.pointingdogblog.blogspot.ca>. Joe is a wildlife biologist, like myself, and we immediately connected. During the course of our conversations, we began talking about cooperation in our respective breeds. Joe subsequently asked me to recapitulate some of our thoughts, and my article first appeared in their newsletter. It is reprinted, here, thanks to cooperation with LMAC.

Cooperation has different definitions and nuances to many. I like the one that says: "it is the unspoken communication between dog and handler". And, if cooperation is a type of communication, it is my opinion that there are, by definition, components involving both dog and handler. Communication requires both a working sender and a working receiver, regardless the species or mix of species. Many people, with much more experience and knowledge about versatile dogs than I, have written about cooperation; all I can offer is what they, and what our four-legged friends, are trying to teach me.

Cooperation has two ingredients: genetics and reinforcement. *It seems that cooperation is 80-90% genetics.* A friend, who has wonderfully cooperative English Setters, and I were visiting the other day about why some folks always seem to have such nice, cooperative dogs. We agreed that it is because they are especially careful from where they get their pups. We talked about them being consistently careful, pup after pup. That is not to say that breeding two cooperative dogs will beget litters that are all cooperative. There is always some genetic randomness that enters the equation. It seems common for handlers who are judicious about genetics from the start to also be good at developing and reinforcing cooperation in their dog... "They just seem to get it." Those of us that end up with non-cooperative dogs from the start, especially if they are also highly independent, will usually never make them into cooperative ones with anything that we might try. But, if you do your homework on choosing a mating, and follow Joan Bailey's books on training², you will maximize your chances of having a cooperative dog. Trainers better than I can instill obedience in their dogs that overcomes and masks some of the traits shown by their non-cooperative nature, but they remain less than cooperative dogs.

Some breeds seem to be more cooperative than others, although most of us generally expect versatile breeds to be highly cooperative. Too, some prefer the less cooperative breeds, or the more independent ones. That is perfectly okay; simply choose carefully from the beginning and understand the breed standard regarding cooperation. Sometimes it is easy to confuse dependence/independence with cooperation/lack of cooperation. *Cooperativeness is NOT at one end of a single continuum with independence at the other.* Each has its own unique continuum. This can be confusing because it is not uncommon for a dog that tends to be uncooperative in nature to also be very independent. I am not sure why. However, they are two different characteristics. It gets confusing. A dog can search a couple hundred yards from the handler and still always know where the handler is, point a bird, hold that point for minutes while the handler approaches, and then retrieve the kill to hand. Such a dog appears to be both independent and cooperative.

In the Wirehaired Pointing Griffon (Cesky Fousek) Club of America (WPGCA), we require our handlers NOT to give any commands during the Natural Ability Test (NAT). This is similar to other versatile breed groups' tests. The reason for this is to ensure we are assessing innate cooperation in our dogs. Do they hold their point for a bit and wait for the handler? [As an aside... the actual point, itself, is an instinctive stop at the full whiff of a bird, not an indication of cooperation.] Some

breeds (and some individuals among breeds) may demonstrate such a strong propensity to point that they hold their point no matter what else is happening. Such a dog is not demonstrating cooperation but an innate inability to break point. It is difficult to assess the degree of cooperation in such a situation. The dog needs to be assessed in several contexts, not just pointing. When searching for game, are they hunting for, and with, the handler --consistently checking back to keep track of their handler? Or, do they seem to be hunting more for themselves, especially when in the intense presence of game? Are they eager to retrieve game to hand, almost as if wanting to share the conclusion of the hunt with the handler?

My friends who I respect as handlers --whether they have English setters, Braque Francais, Cesky Fouseks (my favourite, of course!), Weimaraners, or any other breed --believe that dogs tend to meet expectations. If we expect our dog to hunt with us and for us, they will. You might have to show them how and prevent some wild running from the beginning, but the rest is spending time with them --time in the field, time in the house, time in the hardware store, lots of time everywhere. The folks in the WPGCA that have Cesky Fouseks of good breeding, make their pups their buddies right from the start. When in the field, these dogs want to be with you and hunt with you, not hunt for themselves. The good handlers I have seen over the years have one other characteristic when in the field with their dogs: *they are quiet*. These handlers talk very little except for kind words of praise, and the occasional correction. They simply do not harp. Every time you say something to your dog while hunting, it takes their mind off the hunt, even if momentarily. If you let dogs be dogs as much as you can, they will naturally look to you for human direction when they need it. Listen to, and watch your dog, doing your part to be part of the team, not the director of a forced march. *Build a bond to work together*; cooperative dogs connect with their handlers. Your dog will, and should, always know that you are in charge, and they need to be confident you will not abuse that position.

It is great to see clubs that truly focus on trying to perpetuate cooperation when appropriate to their breed standard. This is a critical part of breeding for the "whole dog" not just a particular characteristic or two. In the WPGCA, we try to produce cooperative hunting dogs above all else, and our friends in the Czech Republic, who are helping us in this endeavor, believe the same. As the trite saying goes: we want dogs that hunt for us; we never want to hunt for our dogs.

¹ Many thanks to Gary Pool, President WPGCA, and Josef Schmutz of LMAC, for their thoughts and assistance.

² Joan Bailey's books are available for purchase online: <http://www.swanvalleyexpress.com>. The first is: "How to Help Gun Dogs Train Themselves"; The second is: "How to Have the Best Trained Gun Dog"

The Adventures of Buck and Photo Guy

by
Ted Coon



The Star at Work

Buck of Salmon River does his thing for the photo-guy. "I want my own agent, trailer and dining room stocked with bratwurst," says Buck.

(Photo supplied by Ted Coon)

After last year's archery pheasant hunt that appeared in *Pheasants Forever*, Buck (**Buckingham of Salmon River**) was "hired" to do another shoot for *Traditional Bowhunter*. Unlike last year's hunt, this was all about getting the exact shot at the exact angle. Tall order with birds, dog and "Model" evolved.

My brother, Tom, and I both hunt a game farm here in Wisconsin, Rush Lake Hunt Club. Some of you may shutter at that, but we both enjoy it a lot. Wisconsin doesn't offer much in the way of wild-bird pheasant hunting, so it's an option we use. This particular game farm is well run and is as close to the real thing as possible. We also have access to use it in the spring for training. The place has everything needed for Natural Ability Test and Intermediate Hunting Dog Test training. Preserve hunting also extends the time we can run our dog by two and a half months.

Last year's hunt was with two Matthews Archery reps and a professional photographer. The birds were put out and we hunted for about three hours. The photo-guy just took the shots he could get. If you saw them on Facebook or the magazine, they were great shots. We got a bird and took all the tail feathers on another.

This shoot for *Traditional Bowhunter*, was strictly about getting the right pictures. Dick, the owner of the club, asked if I would be willing to run Buck for this shoot. Every chance I get to run Buck I enjoy, so I jumped all over it. Dick told me to be at club house at 12:30 on January 27th. Dick said the cast of characters would be there, and we would go over the plan. So Buck and I pull in to the parking lot at the appointed time. In the lot, the photographer, "Photo-guy," and "Model" are looking at the bow. By model, I mean, a young guy, good-looking, dressed the part, who has never shot a recurve in his life. Don't know the sponsor, but they had sent a left-handed bow. So now we have a left-handed bow, right-handed, non-hunter model. This may cause some issues and challenges. Don't want to drop names here, however a very close relative, who is not as good looking as yours truly, struggles with a shot gun some days. He's got to be sniper compared to this guy.

I go into the club house and Dick and another model are inside. This is a female model--a very attractive female model. She is also dressed the part. Things have taken an upswing! Turns out Photo-guy is doing a shoot for a line of winter clothing. Trying to kill two birds with one stone. (Note: author thinks last line is very funny!) So Photo-guy comes in and we discuss what he wants to happen. Put a bird down, have the dog come in, go on point. When he has what he needs, have the dog flush the bird. I told him that I rarely have the dog do the flushing, only when the cover is such that I may not get a shot. I said that Buck would do it with some coaxing. Said the other problem may be him getting hold of the bird. When Dick puts birds out on a normal hunt, it may be over an hour before we work that area. This will be minutes at most.

So off we go to an area we call "The Scrape". It's an area about 120 yards by 40 yards--all cattails. Not much cover around it, so birds usually stay put. Great area in spring for duck work. Buck and I are on the downwind end. Dick and crew are on the opposite end, pointing and discussing. Photo-guy positions Model and backs off a little and sits right down. Dick comes down on an ATV by Buck and me. Says he's going to put a bird down between them. Off he goes.

Buck can't see them, and won't for a while because the cattails are pretty tall. However, at some point he is going to have two guys suddenly appear. I have no idea how that is going to go down and how he will react. This is not close to anything we have ever or would ever encounter on a hunt. Dick puts the bird down and waves

us in. We work that way. I see Buck get some scent. Buck moves in and locks up. Never once did he give an indication that he knew or cared if those guys were there. Photo-guy gets what he needs; says, "O.K. Ted."

I give Buck the command. "Go get 'em!" He flushes the bird. Kid takes the shot. PERFECT! Dick comes in and says "How's that?"

Photo-guy: "Not good; need the bird to flush more straight up."

REALLY!!! REALLY!!! .

Put another bird down. Buck moves in and locks up. "Get! OK!"

Buck flushes the bird almost straight up. Model takes the shot. PERFECT! Dick comes in, "How's that?"

Photo-guy: "Not good. Shot I have of the bird—his wings are all the way back almost touching. Looks freaky."

REALLY!!! REALLY!!!.

We move; put another bird down. Buck goes in and locks up. I release him. He gets a grip on the bird. I say, "You want me to flush the next bird?"

Photo-guy: "No offense, but I don't want you in picture."

OK, none taken, but as stated earlier, I am the better looking brother.

Put another bird down. Buck locks up; I release him and the bird flushes straight up. "Model"—right-handed with left-handed recurve, a non-hunter, THUMPS the rooster! Rooster sets his wings and glides over a rise. We were on the edge of the cattails, so Buck got a good mark. Off he goes. Back he comes with bird. Dick says "HOWS THAT???"

Photo-guy, "PERFECT". He got everything on film, even the impact of arrow.

So when you see articles complete with photos, think how those pictures may really have been obtained.

Someone will see *Traditional Bowhunter*, and think, "What a hunt!" Really, no hunt was involved. It was fun to have been in on though. Buck is now what I call, more "SEMI-FAMOUS."



Author Ted Coon and Buckingham of Salmon River

If you're lucky you can get Buck's autograph at the Spring Heartland Test.

(Photo by Jerry Yeast)

How breeding the best to the best can be worse

by

Carol Beuchat, PhD

An interesting study was just published about the genetics of behavior in the Belgian Malinois (Cao et al 2014). This is a working breed used in some of the same service environments as the German Shepherd Dog (e.g., military, security, etc), so behavior is important to the breed's function. Malinois that perform well, with good drive and initiative for work, tend to exhibit a circling behavior when in confined spaces, which is a form of obsessive-compulsive behavior. Dogs that do not display the circling behavior, and those that have very high levels of circling behavior, don't perform as well.

It turns out that a gene (Cadherin 2, CDH2; or genes in the same genomic block), that has been linked to obsessive-compulsive behavior in both Dobermans and humans might also be involved in the manifestation of these degrees of working and circling behavior in Malinois, from non-existent to extreme. Maintaining the most useful, moderate behavior in the Belgian Malinois is an example of something called "balancing selection", in which the heterozygous condition (e.g., Aa) is advantageous over either homozygous condition (AA or aa). (This is also referred to as "overdominance".) This means that breeding two dogs that are great working dogs and heterozygous won't produce better dogs, because some of the offspring will lack the drive and initiative to be good working dogs (AA), while others will have a double-dose of the CDH2 gene and be too high-strung to be useful. Because the best dogs will be heterozygous, selection tends to favor the gene combination that is the best combination of advantageous (good worker) and disadvantageous (moderate circling).

You might be familiar with other examples of overdominance in dogs. For example in the Whippet, dogs with one copy of a mutated allele of the myostatin gene (which is involved in muscle function) are significantly faster than dogs with the normal gene, but dogs with two copies of the gene are over-muscled (Mosher et al 2007). One again, the heterozygous condition is superior to either of the homozygous options.

One more interesting example is the ridge of the Rhodesian Ridgeback, which is caused by a dominant mutation (Hillbertz et al 2007). Dogs without the mutation don't have the ridge, and dogs with one copy of the mutation have the breed-typical dorsal ridge. However, dogs with two copies of the gene are predisposed to a congenital developmental disorder called dermoid sinus. Dogs without ridges are generally excluded from breeding because this is considered to be a fault, as are those with dermoid sinus. So again, the genotype resulting in the preferred phenotype is the heterozygous condition. But breeding two heterozygous dogs will result not in a litter with better ridges, but some offspring with ridges, some without, and probably some that are afflicted with dermoid sinus. (This is a simple Punnett square problem.)

These are three examples where assuming that breeding "best-to-best" will not result in "even better" because of failure to understand the underlying genetics. In fact, it can result in removing a dog from the gene pool for a genetic issue (e.g., a Malinois with extreme circling), when in fact breeding that dog to the appropriate mate (e.g., a homozygous dog with low drive) would result in heterozygous offspring that could have the perfect blend of motivation and self-control. Likewise, using Ridgebacks without ridges will produce some offspring without ridges, but it also will not produce pups with dermoid sinus.

With so many breeds facing a growing list of genetic issues as a result of the continued loss of genetic diversity, it is especially imprudent to remove dogs from the gene pool that could be used to produce offspring with the desired genotype (that is, heterozygous for the gene of interest) without the collateral damage of pups with unacceptable phenotypes.

Cao X, DM Irwin, Y-H Liu, L-G Cheng, L Wang, G-D Want, & Y-P Zhang. 2014 Balancing selection on CDH2 may be related to the behavioral features of the Belgian Malinois. PLoS ONE 9 (10): e110075. (pdf)

Hillbertz NHCS, M Isaksson, EK Karlsson, E Hellmen, et al 2007 Duplication of FGF3, FGF4, FGF19 and ORAOV1 causes hair ridge and predisposition to dermoid sinus in Ridgeback dogs. Nature Genetics 39(11): 1318-1320.

Mosher DS, P Quignon, CD Bustamante, NB Sutter, CS Mellersh, et al. 2007 A mutation in the myostatin gene increases muscle mass and enhances racing performance in heterozygote dogs. PLoS Genetics 3: 779-786. (pdf)

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<http://www.instituteofcaninebiology.org/blog/how-breeding-the-best-to-the-best-can-be-worse>

Club Exploring Working Relationship with NAVHDA

**by
Laurie Connell**

As an apprentice on the breeding committee one of my responsibilities is to help select puppies to import for our breeding program. Sometimes my head spins with all the acronyms we need to keep in mind when doing our calculations. EBV, COI, PZ, LZ, CAC, CACIB, HD-A, V1, NAVHDA. Whoa, wait a minute, NAVHDA? Yup, without going into details about consideration of population genetics and determining estimated breeding values and coefficients of inbreeding, NAVHDA may turn out to be an important piece of this puzzle for the production of healthy hunting dogs.

It is very important for us to produce enough puppies each year so that we have sufficient genetic diversity to select the next generation or we will have deteriorating health in our dogs. We also want to produce dogs that will be used for hunting and this is what brings me to NAVHDA. There are some members of the hunting community that like to test in groups such as NAVHDA. To attract those hunters to our breed we would be well served to have NAVHDA recognize our club and our pedigrees. In addition, many of the foreign clubs may like to exchange puppies with us in the future but unless we have a greater recognition from a group such as NAVHDA this might prove difficult. Therefore, to help our gene pool it would be to our benefit to be a NAVHDA recognized club. To this end I was deputized to make contact with the NAVHDA representatives.

Since 1989 our dogs have had an average of well over 80% of their bloodlines derived from Cesky Fouseks and further Cesky Fousek is already a breed that NAVHDA recognizes. Therefore they have said they are willing to work with us. A draft letter is in the works to circulate among the Board of Directors during the annual Board of Directors meeting in WI. We will then submit a package to NAVHDA with a letter, sample pedigrees, and the letter of collaboration from the Czech Club. After that we hope to have a fruitful negotiation with NAVHDA.

What's Happening

Spring Events

WPGCA Annual Board of Directors Meeting

Farm House Restaurant near Baraboo, WI

Friday April 24th, 7:30 AM

Contact Secretary Judy Coil for details: jcoil@paulbunyan.net

Annual Judges Seminar

Farm House Restaurant near Baraboo, WI

Friday April 24th, 10:00 AM

See web page for complete program

<http://www.wpgca.org/announcements/>

Heartland Chapter Spring Test

Mazomanie State Wildlife Area near Sauk City, Wisconsin

April 25-26 7:30am in CDT

Kirk & Tracy Dilly

Kirk: (320) 304-2212

Email: kirk.dilly@mortonbuildings.com

Northeast Chapter Spring Test

Winterport, ME -Saturday, May 16, 2015

Contact Scott and Laurie 207 525-3383

Heartland Chapter Training/Exposure Day

Saturday, April 18 at 7:30am

Country Kitchen, 15508 Old US 27 N Marshall, Michigan

Contact Jim Crouse for info and to reserve birds.

Jim Crouse <jcrouse01@yahoo.com>

(614)562-1860

See Regional Chapter web pages for updates and to download details.

<http://www.wpgca.org/regional-chapters/>