

# *The Gun Dog Supreme*

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

<http://www.wpgca.org>

October 2015

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October 2015



## **Exposure, Exposure, Exposure** **How to Have The Best Trained Gun Dog**

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## LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Greetings:

You've got to love the enthusiasm of our cover photo pup, **Jar z Lovčických tarasů**. I purposely borrowed the subtitle from Joan Bailey's book, *How to Have The Best Trained Gun Dog* for a couple reasons: 1) Exposure is a key theme of the book, and 2) If you have a young dog, the book should be your bible for developing pup during this critical first year. Hunting season is here, and this first season should be devoted to bringing out the best in your pup.

The photo of Jar on the cover also symbolizes developments in our club. Both the club and companion foundation are now officially titled "**Bohemian**". Gary Pool reminds us that an election of club officers will be held soon. Please note the deadline for nominations.

Along with the new, there's a plea to help us remember the past. Do you have any historical club materials? Check out the article by Laurie Connell and Jen Lachowiec. We're putting some of this material on the web for everyone to peruse.

When not reading the GDS, it's your task to go hunting! Have a great season and a safe one. Send us your photos and stories to share on-line and in the GDS.

*Rem DeJong*

## **On the Cover**

**Jar z Lovčických tarasů**, owned by Craig Kukay retrieving at a Michigan training/exposure day. Jar was imported from the Czech Republic this spring.

(Photo by Rem DeJong)

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

**rstrathy@q.com**

## EDITORS

Rem DeJong  
John Pitlo

## SUBSCR./BACK ISSUES

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

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Email: [dejongrem@gmail.com](mailto:dejongrem@gmail.com) for photo submission instructions. Include the name of the dog and owner, and photographer. Digital photos are required; use large file size settings. If scanned use 300dpi (grayscale). You can email them or request instructions for uploading to website.

## WEBSITES

E&R Foundation:  
<http://huntersgriffon.org/>

Bohemian  
Wirehaired Pointing Griffon Club:  
[www.wpgca.org](http://www.wpgca.org)

BWP/GCA Photo Gallery:  
<http://wpgca.smugmug.com/>

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[www.facebook.com/griffon.fan](http://www.facebook.com/griffon.fan)

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John Pitlo-Vice President  
Judy Coil- Secretary  
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Ken Hurtig  
Ted Silver  
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# From the President

## Gary Pool

### Club Name Change Update

Over the last few months, both the club name and the associated foundation names have been officially changed. The Wirehaired Pointing Griffon Club of America was previously registered in the state of Colorado as a nonprofit corporation. It is now registered as the Bohemian Wirehaired Pointing Griffon Club of America. Andy Rupp is still the Colorado contact person for the club in the state of Colorado. The Wirehaired Pointing Griffon Club of America Education & Research Foundation nonprofit 501(c3), which is filed in Montana, has also had its name changed. It is now the Bohemian Wire Haired Pointing Griffon Club of America Education & Research Foundation. Rick Sojda is still the foundation contact person in the state of Montana.

The E&R Foundation is authorized by the IRS to support the following functions:

- Test dogs
- Train and educate judges
- Publish test results, information on the outcomes of the breeding program, educational articles and pedigree information.
- Conduct and publish research that advances the breeding program.

Your donations to the E&R Foundation help assure that we can carry on these important activities. Make your contributions by mail or submit them on-line at: <http://huntersgriffon.org/contributions>

### Dues Increase Vote Results

Thanks to all those that participated on the vote to increase the dues from \$40.00 per year to \$60.00. The proposal passed. The increase in revenue will definitely help with the increasing costs of operating the club without relying on private donations coming in at critical times to make sure funds are there to carry on the day to day operations.

The dues increase is effective with the 2016 calendar year dues. Members will be receiving a dues reminder later this month. Dues may be paid my mail or on line. A revised payment form reflecting the dues increase will be available at:

<http://www.wpgca.org/about-us/join-or-renew-membership/>

*(Continued on page 2)*

(Continued from page 1)

## Election of Officers

A reminder that this is an election year for officers. Members may make nominations for President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. Have your nominations to Judy Coil before November 1, 2015. The nominees will be published in the December GDS and be voted on by December 31<sup>st</sup>.

Judy Coil  
49625 Waldo Rd NE  
Kellier, MN 56650  
[jcoil@paulbunyan.net](mailto:jcoil@paulbunyan.net)



### **Good Boy, Bam!**

Bambino of Wolf fork Canyon delivers the duck to Jen Lachowiec at the Heartland Fall 2015 Test.

(Photo by Jerry Yeast)

## **Score Corrections 2015 Spring Natural Ability Tests**

A few Natural Ability Test scores, as published in the August 2015 GDS, contained errors. The table on the opposite page provides the corrected scores. An on-line version of the August 2015 issues will be made available later with the corrected scores.

**NATURAL ABILITY TEST, SPRING 2015**

WI = Wisconsin  
 WA = Washington  
 ID = Idaho  
 ME = Maine  
 \* = Temperament problem, see write-up  
 ++ = Over age, Evaluation only (E)

	Age in Months	Searching	Pointing	Tracking Bird	Affinity for Water	Nose and Use of Nose	Attitude Toward Work	Cooperation	TOTAL POINTS	CLASSIFICATION	Conformation	Coat	Temperament
	A	S	P	TB	W	N	AW	C	TP	C	CO	CT	T
<b>GROUP 405 Feb., 2015 GDS</b>													
ARTEMUS OF BLACKBERRY BRIAR, M, WI	15	4	3	4	4	4	4	3	26	I	4	3	ok
ADDIE OF BLACKBERRY BRIAR, F, WI	15	1	4	2	2	3	2	2	16		4	2	ok
<b>GROUP 406 (Page 4 )</b>													
CHAPPY OF HIGH DESERT, F, ID	13	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	28	I	4	3	ok
CORBET OF HIGH DESERT, M, ID	13	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	28	I	4	3	ok
CHARON OF HIGH DESERT, M, ME	13	2	2	4	4	3	3	3	21	III	4	3	ok
CEASAR AUGUSTAS OF HIGH DESERT, M, ID ID	13	4	1	3	4	3	3	3	21		4	3	ok
CHAPPIE OF HIGH DESERT, M, WI	15	4	4	4	1	4	2	2	21		3	3	ok
CHASKA OF HIGH DESERT, M, ID	13	4	3	1	4	3	3	3	21		4	3	ok
CANNON OF HIGH DESERT, M, WI	15	1	0	0	2	1	1	1	6		4	3	*
<b>GROUP 407 CF (Page )</b>													
KORINA OD PITNE VODY, F, ID	14	4	2	2	4	3	3	3	21	III	3	3	ok
<b>GROUP 408 CF (Page )</b>													
FLORA ZE SMILOVIC, F, ME	15	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	28	I	4	3	ok
<b>GROUP 409 CF (Page )</b>													
IVOR OD VAVRINECKEHO RYBNIKA, M	13	2	4	4	4	4	4	3	25	III	4	4	ok
<b>GROUP 410 CF (Page )</b>													
BAX OD KAZEMBERKA, M, WI	12	4	4	1	4	2	4	4	23		3	3	ok
<b>GROUP 411 CF (Page )</b>													
JENA OD TYRSE, F, WI	12	4	3	4	4	4	4	4	27	I	3	1	ok
<b>GROUP 412 CF (Page )</b>													
BRITA ESO, F, ME	12	4	0	3	4	3	4	3	21		4	2	ok
<b>GROUP 4013 CF (Page )</b>													
BIG WINGS AMMO, M, ME	13	4	2	1	4	2	3	3	19		3	3	ok
BIG WINGS ABBY, F, ME	13	4	2	0	4	0	0	0	0		4	3	*

## Club Archives and a Plea to Members

by

Laurie Connell & Jen Lachowiec.

Even though we have now officially changed the name of the club to reflect what kind of dogs we are actually breeding, we still have a background of being the oldest Versatile Hunting dog club in North America. As you all know, our club was founded in 1951 and was the third attempt of forming a Griffon Club in the United States. From the very start General Rogers began collecting a scrapbook of club doings and dogs in the press. Many photos and letters were also saved right up until Joan Bailey retired from the position as Club Secretary. Recently Jen Lachowiec received a number of boxes that had been in storage at John Pitlo's, our Vice President, and Jim Seibel, our Breeding Chairman's homes. These proved to be a true treasure trove of historical information, photos, old studbooks, and some pedigrees. Among the treasures were two beautiful hand colored 10-generation circular pedigrees of Eflin d'Argent. Eflin was General Rogers dog and had won Best of Breed at Westminster Kennel club in 1951. Eflin is not in any of the pedigrees of our current club dogs, as far as we know, but the 1950s and 1960s have some gaps in our pedigrees. All of the GDS issues from the very first in 1951 have now been scanned and eventually all be on-line on the club website (<http://huntersgriffon.org/resources/>). Read all about discussion of docking tails, how to do tests and generally about the dogs of the day. It is very interesting reading.

Now for the plea. If you have had your dog or the club in any publication, even local newspapers please send along copies to us for archiving. In addition, those members who were in the club prior to 1990 if you have any correspondence, appropriate photographs or memories about the transition time from Wirehaired Griffon, Korthals type to Český Fousek, we would love to have that documented since that is the gap we now see. High quality copies are OK if you can't part with originals. If possible originals are best because photos from iPhones are not the best archiving tool.

Some of the items that were originally collected have been either lost or dispersed. In the June 1975 issue of the GDS the following appeared:

### 600 GRIFFON PEDIGREES

Since 1967 the office of the Secretary has gradually built up a valuable file of Griffon pedigrees, that now number about 600. There has just been the one copy of all these pedigrees, and always the fear that in some sort of disaster such as fire, these valuable records would be destroyed.

This past winter club member Clem Walton from Maine spent several months here in our town, doing graduate work at the University of Guelph. While Clem was here we obtained access to a copying machine and one long, cold winter day Clem, Ed and Joan Bailey made copies of all the pedigrees. The original set remains here in the Secretary's office. One set is now safe with Clem in Maine (Mr. Clement J. Walton, P.O. Box 475, West Boothbay Harbor, Maine 04575); and a third set will be sent to the Sierra Griffon Club shortly. This should ensure that we will never lose these valuable records.

We never found those 600 pedigrees. Sadly, Clem Walton passed away a few years ago and we no longer have a Sierra chapter. If you know where they are, or the copies of Korthals' original kennel book, the first French studbook (~1920), or any other collection of pedigrees, PLEASE let us know and send us high quality copies. Perhaps it is time to have a club archivist?

# The Gun Dog Supreme

NEWSBULLETIN of the WIREHAired POINTING GRIFFON CLUB of AMERICA

VOLUME I

NOVEMBER 1951

## AN IMPORTANT DATE

Future generations of sportsmen and gun-dog lovers may well mark August 29th, 1951, as an important date in the history of dogdom—for on that date the Wirehaired Pointing Griffon Club of America was activated. Charter members and officers are:

Mr. John G. Martin, Hartford, Connecticut—President.

Colonel T. DeF. Rogers, Qtrs. No. 75, Fort Bragg, N. C.—Sec'y.-Treas.

Mr. David Barbieri, Thornwood, N. Y.

Mr. Joseph Chandler, Silver Springs, Maryland.

Mrs. Helene Inez Clark, Dickerson, Maryland.

Mrs. Ethel C. Garcia, Marshfield, Mass.

Mr. Roger Hora, Ro-Max Kennels, Iowa City, Iowa.

Mr. H. G. Kirkelie, Kalispell, Mont.

Miss Barbara Kefauver, Frederick, Maryland.

Mr. Delbert L. Marshall, Kalamazoo, Michigan.

Mr. Thomas DeF. Rogers, Jr., Qtrs. No. 75, Fort Bragg, N. C.

Mrs. James A. Rudy, Toledo, Ohio.

Notification of our activation has been submitted to AKC, FDSB, and many other interested agencies.

## THE GUN DOG SUPREME

The first issue of our quarterly news bulletin, THE GUN DOG SUPREME, is perhaps more attractively printed than the club can afford for future issues until our bank balance is more favorable. (Printing of this issue was a personal contribution by one of our members). Each member is being furnished extra

## PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE

Subject to objection by any member, a simplified procedure in keeping with the intent of our constitution will be adopted for the conduct of routine parliamentary business. The Sec-Treas. will publish in each issue of "THE GUN DOG 'SUPREME'" a column titled "Routine Motions Before The Club". In this column will be motions of a routine non-controversial nature which the Sec-Treas. will assume to be carried unanimously by the Club thirty days after

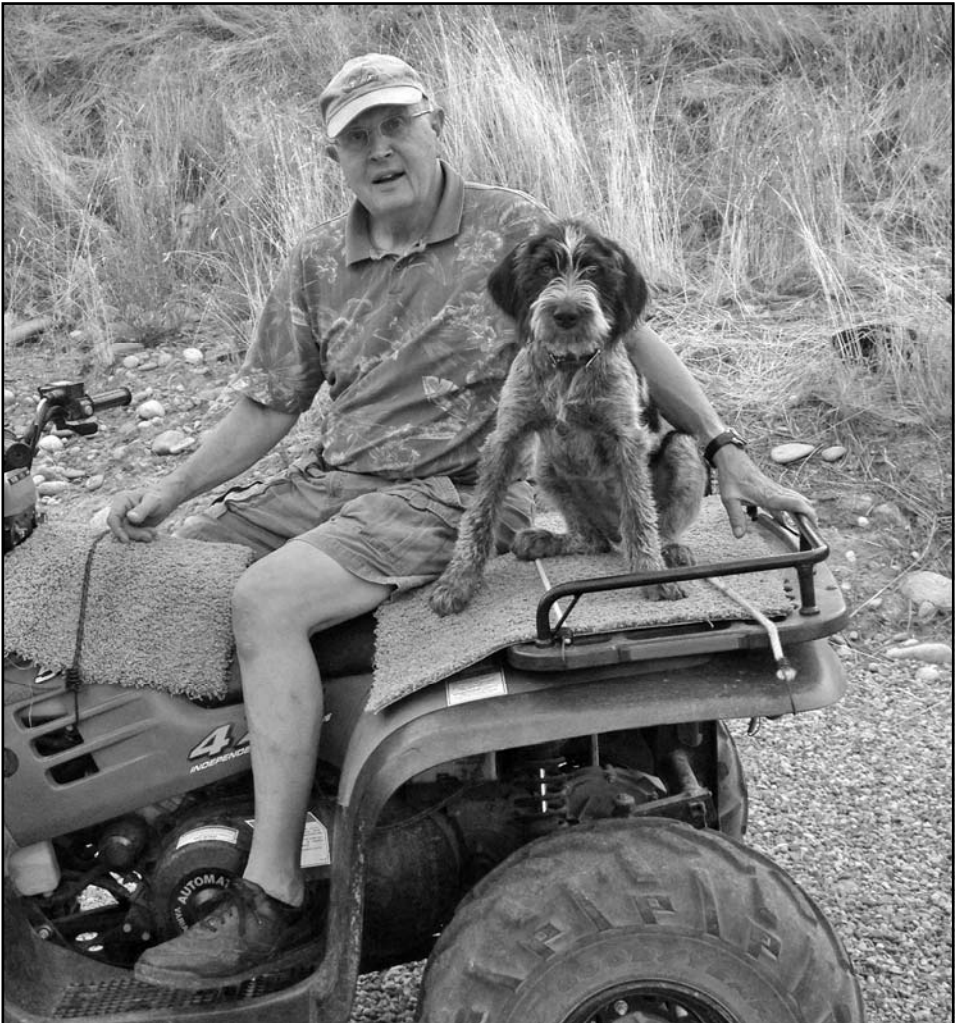


VALOUR d'ARGENT  
Westminster 1951—Best of Breed.

## Original GDS

The very first issue of **The Gun Dog Supreme** is one treasure that Jen Lachowiec uncovered. You can read the full original issue on-line at the Bohemian Wirehaired Pointing Griffon Education & Research web site:  
<http://huntersgriffon.org/resources/>

## Four-Wheeler Fousek by Roger Fuhrman



### Ready to Roll

Roger began getting his new Cesky Fousek import pup ready for grouse season by getting her accustomed to riding the Four-wheeler. Looks like Roger has a new hunting buddy.

(Photo provided by the author)



**Cora z Ceceminskych vinic** arrived at SeaTac on June 20<sup>th</sup>. We met Ann and Gary Pool in Seattle, they were there to pick up Tess (Angie). The two pups traveled in the same crate from the Czech Republic.

Cora spent several days in transit; a few days in The Czech Republic, a couple of days in air transit from Prague to Amsterdam to Seattle, and then a long day in our car as we hauled her from Seattle to our home in Horseshoe Bend, Idaho. Within a few days our children and granddaughter arrived from their home in Denmark and for the next month we had a constant flow of visitors with more than 20 for dinner on several nights. Not much training occurred during that month, we just tried to work on social habits: don't go potty in the house, stay off the table, no biting or scratching and a lot of socialization with visitors and other dogs.

When the hubbub settled down, Cora and I started taking longer walks and received permission from the neighbor to train on his alfalfa field. When August arrived Cora had been with us for about six weeks. I began to think about the arrival of hunting season around the first of September. In the past I haven't hunted in early September for two reasons, it's usually very warm here in southern Idaho and rattle snakes are still very active. But, wanting to get Cora out as soon as possible, I thought about forest grouse that live in the higher and cooler ridges and creeks that drain the melting snow from the high mountains.

One of the best ways to access these remote and rugged areas is with an ATV. I've tried, unsuccessfully, to train our 11 year old Griffon, Beacon of Bogan's Point to ride the ATV, but I started training him too late in life, and he would not ride without being in a crate, which he hated. So early in August Cora and I started riding the ATV. It soon became apparent she needed more secure footing and zip tied the carpet scraps to the ATV's flat surfaces. Soon Cora was climbing up on the ATV and waiting for me to take her riding. As a second safeguard, I bought a harness for her to wear. I attach her harness to a belt I wear around my chest which provides stability for her upper body. This helps prevent her from being thrown off the ATV when crossing uneven terrain. The third safeguard is to drive at safe speeds, as we don't want this much loved member of our family to be injured doing something we love. Hopefully the year of 2015 will be the first of Cora's many grouse hunts in the high country of Idaho.

Horseshoe Bend, Idaho - August 18, 2015

**Here Comes Adele:  
Notes on Bringing Home a New Pup  
by  
Jane Cleaves-McKenna**

Well it was a long night and if there are any typos, Adele is helping me type this...

( Adele is **Adele od Těrlické hráze (Fero z Přerovska x Aischa z Neřádova stavení)**)

First off, I was well prepared with maps, papers, phone numbers and driving directions. Got to Boston and the first block was a green customs officer who did not like my preparations, and he also was not up to date on the requirements from the Czech Republic for shipping dogs into the U.S. He made us wait for the plane to land, and for the papers to be delivered to him. I later spoke with a more experienced officer who confirmed my suspects, but the 2nd guy also honored the first ones call...not much I could do. So having the number of the cargo office was also a good idea since driving around Logan at 9 pm is a treat.

At last, we got her. We heard her from outside: nothing like a screaming puppy! Adele ate some food and had a drink; then I walked her outside. She did her stuff and off we went. She was sound asleep on my feet in 15 minutes. The ride home was 2 1/2 hours; she ate again along the way.

Once home we had the introduction of Abbe. (**Abaco's Northern Star of Dakota Prairie**)

I needed a glass of wine for this one! We refereed the two dogs for a while, one last trip outside....(I must say, she is not shy about wanting to be outside.) In the kennel, and plugged in the earplugs. She quieted down and slept till 4:00 AM. I got up with her, let her out, then back in the kennel till 7...

Today we had more introduction with Abbe, play times with lots of toys to chew on, Abbe maybe a little too friendly, knocking Adele over a bit...a couple of naps...and boy Adele is a good eater! I suspect she may take a day or so to adjust to new kibble, but she gobbles it down. She's drinking great too. I plan to feed 3 times a day for the next few weeks.

We have taken many laps around the yard; for now, she follows along, and ranges out ahead. She is curious, and not afraid of noises. We are in the

midst of a thunder shower, and the rumbles, are not fazing her in the least. She is content to play with a toy and lay on her new blanket. Jim S will remember it; it came and traveled with Al.

I guess I will take her to our vet later this week. she is small, about what I remember my first griffon was, "Al" Prairie Storm's Alder. Her color is a dark brown, almost black compared to Abbe. I love how they are so different, and she has a personality already. They are a lot of work, but we are so grateful for the club and the opportunity to own these wonderful animals.

More to come. . .



### **Home at Last!**

Little **Adele od Těrlické hráze** is feeling right at home in the Northeast with her new pack mate Abbe).

(Photo by Jane McKenna)

## Reconsidering The Dead Drag

by  
Rick Sojda



### Laying the Drag Track

Author, Rick Sojda and Judge Anita Andrus prepare a drag track at a Rocky Mountain Chapter test. (Photo by Robin Strathy)

Over the years, I have heard many things about the retrieve of dragged game portion of the IHDT from folks in the club who I respect. This has included statements like:

- If a dog is going to fail at something in their IHDT, it is likely to be the dead drag.
- It is easy to over-train for the dead drag.
- Remember, that the drag is an obedience test and not one of nose and use of nose.
- Don't do more than two, maybe three, dead drags when preparing for the IHDT.

It seems that some of these are true and some may be suspect. Here are various perspectives that I have developed.

Primarily, we all know that the portion of the IHDT, known as "the dead drag", is a test of obedience, and cooperation (see the IHDT booklet wording at the end of this article). By definition, then, we must provide our dogs a lot of training for them to

consistently succeed. You cannot really over-train for it. Sometimes, such training needs to help the dog recognize the need to concentrate by helping them recognize their own over-confidence. Similarly, we may sometimes get complacent as judges in setting up the actual test, and we need to re-focus ourselves, there, as well.

### **Ander vs. Eider...**

Ander of Hundgaard, my first Cesky Fousek, is a born natural retriever. He had a perfect score of 172 in his IHDT some years ago in Washington, one of a handful of dogs, ever, to do that at a club test. Needless to say, I was proud and happy that day back in 2007. Edy z Veseckych luhu (Eider), my two-year-old Fousek, has been another fine dog, but has needed lots more encouragement in retrieving. He has continually improved, however. For good or bad, I had pretty much trained the two dogs the same way. Eider was heading for the same IHDT honour in Idaho last Spring, looking like he was in line for all "4s" just like Ander had done, but then, the youngster failed miserably in his dead drag. I have pondered, "why", many times. At the time, I thought maybe the drag was "too easy" for him that day, and he was just bored and was thumbing his nose at me during the test. I decided to write a description of what happened, as best I could, and ask Dr. Ed Bailey, one of the early leaders of the North American versatile hunting dog movement as well as our own BWPGCA program, for his assessment and how to prevent failure in the dead drag in the future. Ed and I had a bit of an email conversation afterward, and I want to share that. Here are some excerpts of Ed's advice for your consideration:

*I am sorry Eider failed the retrieve of a dead, dragged bird. I think I know why as I have seen it happen so often to young dogs, especially those sensitive to their handler's vibes. I have seen even older well-trained dogs fail on this test. What I think happened to Eider is that he didn't have enough training, with enough different draggers, under enough different circumstances to really concentrate on his job at hand. He was also insecure in that he probably was getting doubt signals from you and got confused in what to do or not do. So, the first aspect is to get a pup confident in the retrieve from a drag track, then over-confident, and then finally back-to-earth and self-confident. Here is what has worked for me over the years.*

*The way to prevent this from happening is to do a lot of drags, having many different people do them at many different places, and do them under all sorts of conditions of substrate and cover and environmental conditions of weather (moisture, temperature and wind speeds). Also, use many different objects: from your socks to a heavy furry thing like a prairie dog, raccoon, fox, cat, groundhog, ducks, geese, and even larger if available. Lay them just as in a test, with the 45-degree bend. When the dog is retrieving the dragged object with fail safe accuracy and perfection each time, and never coming back without it, set him/her up for a failure! Have someone drag a bird the normal way, but at the end, hoist the bird up into a tree so the track simply stops and disappears. If a tree is not handy, any other method that makes the bird disappear from the end of the track so the dog cannot possibly succeed will work. When the dog comes back empty, be stern, and restart them with the admonition to "Fetch, and don't come back*

*without it.” Meanwhile the helper has lowered (or replaced) the bird and dropped it at the end of the track. The dog will go out, find the bird and come back with it, get their praise and hugs and kisses, and never fail again. I promise. With my only full-blooded Fousek, Ike, I dragged a heavy dummy out over a fallen, 30 inch dbh maple tree, so he had to go over the tree on the way out and again on the way back with the heavy ‘apportierbock’, just to make things difficult so he would have to meet the challenge. It helped him and made a really great retriever of him. I had several Griffons who all went through the same training procedures. Set them up to fail so they don’t get overly cocky or too self-confident (The German expression for it is ‘übermutlich’). This entire process prevents them from getting sloppy.*

*When the dog is fail-safe on the retrieve from a drag track, the handler’s confidence in the dog is there, as well, and the handler won’t be sending those ‘doubt vibes’ to the dog –like Eider probably felt at his IHDT. That alone, will increase the dog’s performance and his cooperation will be reinforced, too. This all is reinforced over the course of a dog’s life when they are hunted a lot, of course.”*

In visiting further with Ed Bailey, he stressed that smart dogs often get overconfident and that it can be important to burst their bubble in other ways, sometimes. Since the dead drag seems “easy” to both dog and handler, it can be useful to make the dog keep their focus and not get careless. The above approach is one way. Ed offers another:

*A friend had a dog that was always perfect on the retrieve but just went out as fast as it could go in a straight line, then searched until she found the bird, rather than being more efficient by using the track, itself. So, I laid a track on a dusty, dirt road area and put two 90-degree and sharper turns in it. I then ran my dog on it as a test and he could do it perfectly. I then repeated it for his dog. She started flying as usual and suddenly realized she had over-ran her nose. She came back to the first corner, started to concentrate, then over-ran the second turn but quickly realized it, and finally took the last leg and came back with the bird. She never again just ran and searched, but quickly learned to concentrate on the simplest of tracks. Popping a dog’s overconfident balloon can be done lots of ways, depending on the dog and what their shortcoming might be.”*

### **Some observed problems over the years from a judge’s perspective...**

Leaving the assessment of dead drag failure like Eider’s and the training regimens to prevent it, here are some observations I have tucked away in my memory from the many tests I have observed and judged. Standing at the start, I have been able to observe dogs go to the bird, sniff it, and not pick it up. Judges and handlers at the point of the start of the track should never be able to see that. I have seen a dog get to the bird and then actually look up at their handler, seeing them, and looking for help --the handler should be out-of-sight of the dog when they arrive at the bird. This all relates to not being able to consistently and accurately assess independence, cooperation, and obedience. *“The drag should end in woods, over a hill or out of sight of the start of the drag. When the dog reaches the end of the drag, he*

*should not be in sight of the handler who remains at the start of the drag.*" [from the IHDT book] Obviously, such a drag was not set properly. I have been able to see the judges at the end of the track when I have been at the start of the track. From that vantage point, I have seen the dog go to the "hidden" judges, sometimes with the bird in their mouth and then successfully back to the handler, sometimes empty-mouthed only to return to the handler that way. I should not have been able to see that. *"...the Judge will...hide in such a manner that the dog working the track cannot see him."* [from the IHDT book] I have seen tracks with a long curve rather than a 45-degree bend, and have seen less than 45-degree bends (likely having set such poor tracks myself). This observation about the bend is a bit subjective. Although we all know that this is not a test of nose, we should still be a bit more careful.

I have also witnessed the vast majority of dead drags set perfectly. Let us simply keep the judging standard closer to our conscious minds, and give the dog every chance to succeed --without dumbing-down the test, of course. As John Pitlo appropriately reminds me so often, "There is no perfect dog." I recall that the same goes for judges (and the rest of life!)

**Let us review what is written in the IHDT booklet...**

### ***Retrieve of Dragged Game (Pheasant, Index 3)***

*This is a test of the dog's retrieving and of his obedience and cooperation with his handler. A dead cold pheasant, chukar or duck is dragged a minimum of 120 meters (approximately 165 steps). There will be one gradual (approximately 45 degrees) bend in the drag. The game is dragged with or across the wind, never into the wind.*

*Before beginning the drag, the judge removes a few soft feathers to lay at the beginning of the drag. The drag should have one slight bend not as sharp as a right angle. The game is dragged by a piece of twine or light rope tied to it. Long open stretches of bare ground should be avoided. The drag should end in woods, over a hill or out of sight of the start of the drag. When the dog reaches the end of the drag, he should not be in sight of the handler who remains at the start of the drag. The drag track will be laid by a judge.*

*At the end of the track, a cold, dead bird (other than the dragged bird) will be placed **openly** on the ground (not covered or in a low place such as a depression). After completion of the above procedures, the Judge will pick up the bird that was dragged and carry it while continuing to walk in the direction in which the track is laid (walking as continuation of the track) and hide in such a manner that the dog working the track cannot see him. At the place of hiding, the judge **must remove** the bird used for laying the drag track from the line and place it openly in front of himself. He is not allowed to interfere, if the dog tracking the dragged game comes up to him and picks up the bird in front of him (instead of the one at the end of the track). The reason for using two dead birds in this test is so that if the dragged bird gets very torn up from being dragged over and through brush, the carried bird can be laid at the end of the drag.*

*The handler and dog are not allowed to see the course of the drag. The dog is*

*brought up to the start, shown the start of the drag and commanded to retrieve the dead game. No other commands may be given. The handler may guide the dog along the drag for 10 yards to encourage the dog and to help the dog concentrate.*

*The dog should find the game willingly, and independently pick up the game without hesitation and bring it to the handler enthusiastically **without any further influence by his handler**. This means no further signals or commands. The dog should sit or stand quietly by his handler and hold the game until commanded to release it.*

*In case the dog returns to the handler without having found the game and does not pick up the track and work it on his own, the handler is permitted to set him on the track **two more** times. Setting the dog on the track means that the handler is required to refrain from influencing the dog in any way once he is on the track, other than the initial command to retrieve.*

*A dog that finds the dragged game and refuses to acknowledge and retrieve the game, cannot receive a passing score for the test. A dog that found the game by searching rather than using the drag track, but fails to acknowledge and/or retrieve it will not be allowed to restart the track of the dragged game.*

*If the dog is disturbed during the working of the drag track by some unusual occurrence, circumstances, etc., it is up to the judges to grant him a repeat (new drag track).*

*The dog that uses the drag track to quickly locate the game and makes a fast, efficient retrieve scores high. The dog that finds the game by searching over a large area but makes the retrieve can receive a good score. If a dog fails on his first attempt and returns to the handler without the game, he may be started again but cannot receive highest scores even though successful on the second attempt. Scores will be determined by the efficiency and completeness of the retrieve. Each dog will be given a fresh drag.*

*The trail left by dragged game and the dragger is used only to give the dog directions to where the dead game is located but is not a test of the quality of the nose.*

### **Finally...**

Thanks to Ed Bailey for helping me write this article. His ideas, observations, and training ideas are greatly appreciated.

The standard we follow in the IHDT "Retrieve of Dragged Game" seems solid and appropriate to me. It is a test of obedience, and a good place to assess a dog's cooperation and independence. In this regard, I recommend reviewing the article in the 2015 GDS entitled, "Hunting Dog Ingredients" by Josef Schmutz of the Large Munsterlander Association of Canada [Gun Dog Supreme, volume 90, number 2, pages 6-9, April 2015]. In that article, Joe discusses how obedience, cooperation, and independence interact at different distances from the handler. The setup of the dead drag is totally in the hands of the judges and is one where almost nothing is dependent on the bird since it is dead; and, environmental conditions typically have minimal effect. As a handler, I recommend considering the statement that you can over-train for the dead drag to be a myth. I suspect that one can over-train for this event, but it is extremely rare. I have done just the opposite. Good luck and have fun!



# Urinary Stones and the Wirehaired Pointing Griffon

by

## Casey Carl, DVM, Associate Medical Director, Paw Print Genetics

Wirehaired pointing griffons (WPGs) are a breed quickly increasing in popularity in the US. Found at 74<sup>th</sup> place in the [AKC registration statistics](#) in 2014, the breed has moved up 34 places since just 2009. Their eagerness to please, in combination with their energetic and intelligent personality, has endeared them to hunters and families alike. Though best served by living conditions that will provide significant exercise, the WPGs enjoyment of human companionship make them as good at family living as they are at being a versatile gundog in the field.

At Paw Print Genetics we are frequently asked about a variety of diseases, their inheritance (if inherited), and whether or not genetic testing is available for a particular condition. One recent question we encountered involved the formation of bladder stones in the WPG and whether there are any reported genetic mutations associated with their formation in this breed. Unfortunately, despite their increasing popularity, scientific research exploring WPG health (including research into urinary conditions) has been scarce. Though we do not currently offer testing for genetic mutations known to cause bladder stones specifically in WPGs, it is probable that they are at risk of developing the variety of stone types that have previously been identified in dogs. In this blog, we will take a general look at the types of urinary stones known to form in dogs and what a WPG owner would see if their dog was affected.

### Canine Urinary Stone Characteristics

There are several different minerals known to be associated with bladder stone (urolith) formation in dogs. For a variety of reasons, these minerals can crystallize in the urine and eventually form large aggregations of crystals that can be identified as stones. The three most commonly identified stone types in dogs are known as struvite (magnesium ammonium phosphate), urate (ammonium urate), and calcium oxalate stones. Aside from these stone types discussed here, less common stone types also reported in dogs include silica and calcium phosphate stones. Each have their own considerations in regard to treatment and prevention. Prior to getting a definitive diagnosis on the stone from a laboratory, veterinarians will often use the appearance of the stone (often only from [radiographs](#)) and urinalysis results to get preventative steps started and to attempt dissolving the stones based upon their clinical experience. Though some stone types can be dissolved through prescription diets or medicine, there are times where surgery or [lithotripsy](#) are the only options to eliminate them.

Unlike humans, in which urinary stones are often located in the kidneys, dogs tend to form stones more commonly in the bladder. There are both acquired and inherited contributing factors to stone formation in dogs and it is not always easy to identify the underlying clinical causes. To complicate matters, many dogs with

known predispositions to forming bladder stones never actually develop them. The underlying reasons why certain individuals are less likely to develop stones despite their predisposition is not well understood. However, various genes, diet, and water intake have all been implicated as potential factors in their formation.

**Struvite**—One stone type with a known acquired contributing factor is struvite stones. Though there are likely inherited factors that can also play a role in their development in some breeds, this stone type is most commonly seen in dogs with bacterial infections of the urinary tract. Therefore, treatment of urinary tract infections is often an important consideration in controlling them. One characteristic about this type of stone that differs from many others is that they can often be dissolved through the use of prescription diets specifically formulated to decrease the mineral components of struvite stones (phosphate and magnesium), increase water intake (often through increasing sodium content of the diet), and decrease protein content of the food. In addition, prescription diets for this disease often will be formulated to make the dog's urine more acidic which also plays a role in dissolving struvite.

**Urate**—Urate stones are another common stone type found in the urinary tracts of dogs. Most well described as an inherited condition of Dalmatians known as hyperuricosuria (historically all Dalmatians have a genetic mutation responsible for increasing insoluble urates in the urine), dogs with certain liver diseases can also be at an increased risk for these stones. The mutation in *SLC8A5* gene associated with urate stones in Dalmatians has since been identified in several other breeds, but it is unknown whether the mutation is inherited in WPGs.

When urate stones are identified in dogs, therapy involves medications and prescription diets to make urine more alkaline (necessary to dissolve urate stones), increase water consumption, and to decrease urinary urate output (often by decreasing protein intake). However, some of these techniques may not be safe in dogs with liver disease. Urate stones are not typically visible on conventional radiographs and may need to be identified using ultrasound or advanced radiographic techniques.

**Calcium Oxalate**—Unlike struvite and urate stones, calcium oxalate stones are particularly troubling due to their inability to be dissolved through dietary or medicinal means. Several dog breeds appear to be at a greater risk for this stone type suggesting an inherited cause however, only one associated mutation has been discovered. A mutation in the *AGXT* gene, reported only in the Coton de Tulear breed, is known to cause a severe, early onset disease known as primary hyperoxaluria which typically causes death from stone formation and kidney failure by 2 months of age. As with other urinary stones, the risk of calcium oxalate stones in WPGs is unknown.

Unfortunately, there are not many options for stone removal in dogs with calcium oxalate stones; making surgery or lithotripsy likely options. Recurrence of calcium oxalate stones is common, especially without preventative diets or medication.

**Cystine**—Cystine is an amino acid that is typically reabsorbed in the kidney from

the filtered fluid that will become urine. In some dogs, genetic mutations can prevent the body from producing a protein that plays an important role in reabsorption of cystine and other amino acids in the kidneys. Subsequently, a large amount of cystine remains in the urine and passes in to the bladder where most cystine stones form.

Known by the disease name, cystinuria, three different mutations in the *SLC9A7* gene are currently known to be responsible for the excessive cystine in affected dogs' urine found in Labrador retriever, Newfoundland and landseer Newfoundland, and Australian cattle dog and stumpy tail cattle dog. In addition, a mutation in the *SLC3A5* gene is responsible for cystinuria in the miniature pinscher.

### **Signs of Urinary Obstruction**

It is important to remember that there are likely many unknown genetic mutations and environmental factors that are responsible for the formation of urinary stones in dogs and there is much research yet to be done. Therefore, breeds previously reported to be predisposed to certain stone types should not be considered an exhaustive list.

Dogs with bladder stones show similar clinical signs as dogs with urinary tract infections including straining to urinate, frequent urination of small volumes, and blood in the urine. If a dog's urethra becomes obstructed by a stone, they will attempt to urinate frequently without producing any urine and often are painful upon palpation of the abdomen due to their overly distended bladder. Urinary obstruction should be considered a medical emergency that needs immediate treatment. Aside from the severe pain associated with obstruction, dogs with urinary obstructions are unable to eliminate a variety of waste products and electrolytes from their bodies leading to a life-threatening condition. Though affected dogs of both sexes can develop bladder stones, male dogs are much more likely to develop a urinary obstruction due to the fact that their urethra is longer and narrower than those of female dogs.

As the popularity of the WPG continues to increase, particular disease concerns may become more prevalent for breeders and owners. By organizing their findings and bringing these concerns to researchers in the field of genetics and veterinary medicine, specific genetic mutations associated with inherited diseases may be discovered. Once mutations are discovered and the inheritance of the diseases are worked out, tests can be developed to assist breeders in reducing or eliminating these diseases from blood lines via selective breeding practices.

If you have any questions about inherited disease or specific genetic mutations that may affect your dogs, please feel free to contact us via email at Paw Print Genetics ([AskUs@pawprintgenetics.com](mailto:AskUs@pawprintgenetics.com)) or give us a call at our laboratory (509-483-5950) and one of our friendly staff will assist you.

[Editor's Note:

Thanks to John Pitlo for obtaining this article from Paw Print Genetics.]

## Notes:

### **Election of Officers:**

Members may nominate candidates for President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. Nomination deadline is November 1, 2015. Nominee names will be published in the December GDS and be voted on by December 31<sup>st</sup>. Send nominations to:

Judy Coil  
49625 Waldo Rd NE  
Kellier, MN 56650  
[jcoil@paulbunyan.net](mailto:jcoil@paulbunyan.net)

### **Photo Updates:**

New photos from Fall 2015 tests are available on our Smugmug site.  
See: <https://wpgca.smugmug.com/Field-Testing>

### **Article by members, Kevin Kennedy**

Check out "Chukars: A Warning," by Kevin Kennedy in *The Pointing Dog Journal*: September/October 2015, Volume 23, Number 5.

### **Radio Interview with Dr. Jaromir Dostál**

A major figure in our club's development was Dr. Dostál. This interview was recorded in 2004, when the Cesky Fousek Breeders' Club celebrated its 80th anniversary, and the 40th anniversary of the breed being fully recognized internationally. The club's president, Dr Jaromir Dostal, spoke to David Vaughan. Download the file here:

<http://huntersgriffon.org/resources/>  
(Requires Real Player to open file)