

The Gun Dog Supreme

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

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Turning a Page

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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Greetings:

We hope that you and your Fousek friends are enjoying the start of a fine summer. Although the summer nesting season may restrict training time afield, it's a great time for retrieving training, both on the table and in the water. If you're testing in the fall, don't wait with the training! Ten to fifteen minutes every day generates the best results. You can't make it up with a crash session in late August. Besides, it's hard to beat a day in the water with your canine buddy.

This issue includes a heavy dose of breeding related articles in keeping with the club's focus on the Cesky Fousek breed and how we adapt our program to best assure the best quality dogs for this breed in North America.

For those hoping to get a pup this year, the pickings are a bit lean, but several of our imported dogs are reaching breeding age, and assuming test results are positive, we should have several litters next spring. Hang in there.

Rem DeJong, Editor

On the Cover:

Alby of Bald Eagle, a singleton puppy (Cira od Aliny z Nehvizd and Alan od Tři stromů) is not just a cute pup; Alby represents our club's first domestic breeding of a Czech-bred sire and dam since our reorganization in 2014 as the BWPGCA.

For information requests or to join the WPGCA please email Robin at:
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Or visit our web page at
http://bohemiangriffon.org

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Rem DeJong
John Pitlo

SUBSCR./BACK ISSUES

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Moving Forward

In 2014, our club was facing a critical juncture: what had begun thirty years earlier as an attempt to improve the wirehaired pointing griffon by infusing Cesky Fousek stock into our breeding program had long ago morphed into breeding dogs that were essentially Cesky Fousek but without outside breed recognition. By 1995, the club had adopted the Cesky Fousek breed standard as our own, in spite of still calling our dogs wirehaired pointing griffons. The club confronted this circumstance at the 2014 BOD meeting and we subsequently changed our club name to the FCI English name of the breed: Bohemian Wirehaired Pointing Griffon.

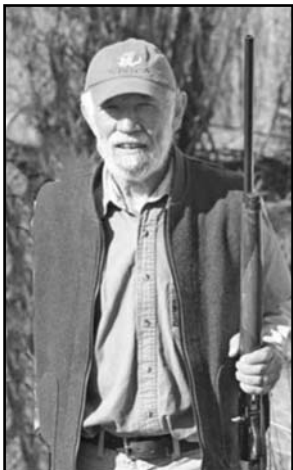
However, the change runs much deeper than simply the club name. The BOD set in motion an effort to strengthen our ties with the larger world Cesky Fousek community. Thus far, our club has been importing Cesky Fousek puppies and using Czech supplied frozen semen in our breeding program. Eventually, we may be able to reciprocate with dogs bred here being used to sustain genetic diversity in the world-wide Cesky Fousek population. An important step is the restructuring of the Breeding Committee as described below. This article will be followed in later issues with reports on further developments that the club is undertaking.

NEW STRUCTURE FOR THE BREEDING COMMITTEE

by Jim Seibel for the BC

The Breeding Committee of the BWPGCA has decided that we need to restructure the committee to better serve the needs of our members and the future direction of the club. We know how important it is to communicate with members regarding our breeding program and to let them know our current plans and where individuals fit into that plan.

The Breeding Committee (BC) has put considerable time and thought into how we can do our job more effectively. Our current members; John Pitlo, Laurie Connell, Rick Sojda, Anna Artz and Jim Seibel developed the structure, as shown below, and presented it to the BOD at the annual meeting in Wisconsin in April, 2017. The plan was unanimously approved by the BOD, and we are in the process of implementing it. It is important to note that this structure is fluid and will be modified as needed once we test the effectiveness.



We will add members to the tasks as needed (Vincent Esposito has already been added to help in puppy raising). Each Director will recruit help for his/her assigned tasks to involve more members, especially as those members have specific talent in their areas. Please feel free to contact any Director if you have an interest in helping.

Below is the list of areas as we see appropriate, and the member of the BC responsible for that area.

Coordinator of the Breeding Committee - Jim Seibel

Aid the Directors in getting the resources needed. Communicate with them to follow their progress and keep the rest of the BC informed. The coordinator will act as a facilitator for BC meetings and will be the main contact with Board of Directors.

Director of Training for Dog Owners - John Pitlo



Maintain and develop the best methods and materials for helping puppy owners expose and train their pups from the day they receive the pup until he/she is presented for evaluation in the Intermediate Hunting Dog Test. This includes facilitating regional training workshops and provide materials as well as encourage those who organize the workshops. Provides articles either written by the Director or others to advance the methods for developing the potential of our pups.

Director Importing and Domestic Breeding - Laurie Connell



Responsible for the importation of puppies and semen. Will make recommendations to the BC of breeding choices, that is, selection of males and females based on a combination of conformation, performance and genetics. Will oversee the puppy request list. Responsible for keeping the Data Base and making it available to the BOD and members. Explores new technologies in the area

of genetics and breeding to continuously improve our breeding program. Provides an annual report on the progress of the breeding program and future plans, first to the BOD and then to the general membership through the GDS and other appropriate tools.

Director of Breeding Logistics and Breeder Support - Anna Artz



Provide support to breeders including: 1) Contacting owners of males and females to inform them that their dog has been selected for breeding. 2) Provide information related to the breeding process. 3) Coordinate the breeding process to include setting up natural breedings or selecting qualified vets to provide artificial insemination. 4) Provide materials and consultations for the whelping process. 5) Provide materials that support the raising of puppies from birth until they leave for new homes. 6)

Organize coaches for breeders to assist them in the process of raising a litter.

Director of Testing and Judging - Rick Sojda



Develop, maintain and update manual for apprentice judges. Set up mentoring relationships between senior judges and apprentices. Coordinate and recommend to the BC the promotion of apprentice judges to judges and judges to become senior judges. Coordinate with regional test chairpersons the establishment of running orders for their tests. Organize annual judges' seminar in coordination with special speakers during years when that is appropriate. Periodically evaluate testing procedures and test sites and make recom-

mendations to the BC for revisions.

The assignment of Directors to specific areas has been done utilizing the talent and experience of those individuals in their area of responsibility. We are very fortunate to have a blend of talents within the BC that provides the club with people skilled in each of those areas.

2017 Mid-Year Puppy Report by the Breeding Committee



Proud Mom

Jena od Tyrše enjoys a quiet time with her first litter of five healthy puppies. The Buckeye Valley A Litter breeder is Jim Crouse, but raising the litter is a family affair with Monica and daughter Emily providing much of the care. See a full gallery of photos and videos in our gallery at <http://bohemiangriffon.org>. Just click on the gallery link.

(Photo by Monica Cubas)

Spring of 2017 has shown an increase in demand for puppies from the club due to an increased interest in the Cesky Fousek breed, as different from the Korthals type Wirehaired Pointing Griffon. Word is spreading about the quality of the breed but since this is still a rare breed we cannot fulfill all the demands and yet maintain good quality dogs. The dogs we have been importing over the last several years are now being tested for breeding eligibility, but we are still a year out from most of the new crop



Alby of Bald Eagle explores the lawn. By autumn, he'll be exploring cattails for roosters.

(Photo by Rick Sojda)

of imported dogs becoming eligible (we hope). We anticipate more puppies on the ground by this time next year. It should be worth the wait and we look forward to the increased genetic diversity that the imports will bring.

The average litter size in both the USA and Czech Republic is a bit over five. However, with our current dependence on using artificial insemination and frozen semen, the pregnancy rate and litter size becomes more difficult to predict. Our goal is to have more natural breeding; however, we do not yet have enough eligible males in our breeding program.

This spring we have bred four females, with no additional breeding planned until winter. Three of these matings were using frozen semen from the Czech Republic via artificial insemination. The male used in the natural breeding was Ace of Wolf Fork Canyon. Ace is a domestically bred, five-generation Cesky Fousek.

The first breeding was **Alan od Tří stromů** (Art z Koktánů x Elba od Ploučnice) with import **Cira od Aliny z Nehvizd** (Gyrr od Vavřineckého rybníka x Daga z Duškova dvora). This produced one healthy male puppy, Alby of Bald Eagle.

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A natural breeding of **Ace of Wolf Fork Canyon** (Barton de Los Altos x Akay of the Midnight Sun) to import **Jena od Tyrše** (Don z Dočkalova dvora x City Gala Bouček) produced a healthy litter of five, four males and one female (Aiden, Alibi, Arthur, Axel, and Ale of Buckeye Valley, respectively).

Our third breeding was with a male we have used successfully in the past, **Car ze Sběřského háje** (Vargo z Kablaně x Brita ze Lhoteckých valů) with domestic female **Chappy of High Desert** (Clancy of Salmon River x Alexis of Arrowrock). Unfortunately, the two female puppies produced did not survive.

We now anxiously await the results of our fourth breeding between **Dar od Anabušského lesíka** (Car od Bošické scaly x Bety z Rečických babek) and domestically bred **Drew of Sandhill** (Friederich of Dutchman's Hollow x Arthur's Pal of the Midnight Sun) for a "B" of Zumbro Valley litter.

Northeast Chapter Note

Many Thanks to the Northeast Chapter! During our Saturday night award dinner the chapter raised over \$400 from their silent auction for the E&RF to target genetic research. The awards dinner also marked the election of new NE Chapter President, Dr. Andy Ogden.



Chapter President Ogden demonstrates his ability to elicit volunteers from his board. Humans may be a different story.

(Photo by Joanne Canfield)

Heartland Chapter Action

The Heartland Chapter spring test also included the National Board of Directors Meeting and the annual judges seminar. An audio recording of the BOD and seminar is available on-line at: <http://huntersgriffon.org/resources/>

The Heartland Chapter election resulted in a couple changes in chapter officers. Long-term chapter president, Greg Hurtig, requested to step down from that role. Volunteering to take on the job was Dave Findley of Indiana. Dave is a long-term member, judge and breeder of the Blackberry Briar litters. Also joining the executive team as Vice President is Richard Schwerin of Minnesota. Rich is the owner of Hilda of Dutchman's Hollow and the breeder for the Böhmerwald kennel.



Heartland President Dave Findley models his fine, Fousek furnishings while holding Addie of Blackberry Briar, who has fine Fouska furnishings of her own.

(Photo by Rem DeJong)

Why Did Fluzie Q Get a Puppy From the Club Last Year But Holly Hanna Did Not?

by

Rick Sojda, on behalf of the Breeding Committee

This year, it appears we will have more people wanting a puppy that we can supply with both domestic breedings and imports. Regarding imports, there has been greater demand than normal with the Czech Republic, and fewer available litters so far this year. A person requesting a puppy should complete the online form [<https://bohemiangriffon.org/puppy-request/>]. The Breeding Committee decides who is going to get a puppy based on several criteria. Foremost is whether someone indicates that they want an import or domestic, and male or female. We also try to accommodate a person's preference regarding color: ticked or brown, recognizing that "color don't hunt". We do keep the lists of those wanting either domestic or imported puppies separate, but folks can move (but not repetitively) from one list to the other as situations change, like when fewer imports are available than anticipated.

The next set of criteria begins with the requirement that a person must be a member and be interviewed by the designated person(s) from the Chapter where they reside. This simply covers basic information as well as a verbal commitment to the Club's goals, procedures, and guidelines. Especially important is commitment to hunt the dog, to test the dog, and to raise a litter if requested to do so. Any new member is expected to attend at least one BWPGCA field test prior to receiving a puppy. Someone who has not complied with a breeder's agreement for a puppy in the past, might be denied applying for another one. Subsequently, there are four basic rules we use to establish a person's priority: 1) a current club member with no dog, or with no dog that can hunt (e.g., an elderly dog) has top priority; 2) a new member with no dog that can hunt has second priority; 3) a current club member with a dog that can hunt has third priority; and 4) a new member with a dog that can hunt has fourth priority.

Next, we then consider whether a person was on last year's list and did not get a puppy; when each person placed their request in the current year; and then, subjectively assess how active they are in the club, e.g., someone who routinely judges, plants birds, writes article for GDS, has raised a litter, and the like will have slightly higher priority. With imports, we often keep track of this by simple formulas in a spreadsheet. With those puppies, we also consider when folks are able to accept a puppy, and change the priority based on that, as needed. Finally, the domestic breeder is given a list of possible puppy getters, talks to them, and makes the final decisions as to whom each puppy goes. At that point, the breeder might also consider the logistics of getting the puppy to its new home.

That is the process. We always try to remain flexible, always keeping in mind the well-being of our members trying to accommodate any health, family, and personal issues to the greatest extent possible. And, of course, the well-being of the dogs is crucial, for both mom and pups.

Paw Print Genetics and the Bohemian Wire-haired Pointing Griffon Club of America Conclude Study of Genetic Diseases

By Lisa G Shaffer, PhD, CEO, Paw Print Genetics, Spokane, Wash.



Ace of Wolf Fork Canyon is sire of the 2017 Buckeye Valley A litter

Paw Print Genetics recently completed its study searching for potential genetic diseases in the Bohemian wirehaired pointing griffon (also referred to as the cesky fousek (CF))[1]. Given that all breeds likely carry disease mutations, rare breeds have fewer numbers of available breeding dogs and are therefore more susceptible to inheriting genetic conditions simply because of population constraints. Identifying the breed-specific risks for disease is crucial to implementing any breeding program aimed at controlling inherited disease transmission. The CF is another rare breed for which the identification of disease loci could be used to prevent or control the transmission of mutations in breeding programs and allow for the development of health guidelines.

Because little is known about the genetic disease risks for this breed, with the help of the Bohemian Wirehaired Pointing Griffon Club of America,

we enrolled 17 dogs in our study. In each dog, we screened them for 148 different disease-causing mutations known to occur in other breeds of dogs. In these 17 dogs, we identified 3 dogs that carried one copy of a mutation in the SOD1 gene that has been associated with degenerative myelopathy. We then identified 13 additional CF dogs for our study that were related to the 3 carrier dogs. After studying these 13 additional dogs, two more carriers were identified.

Degenerative myelopathy (DM) is a later onset, neuromuscular condition. Affecting dogs around the age of 8 or 9, this progressive condition presents with gradual muscle atrophy and loss of coordination usually beginning in the hind limbs due to degeneration of the nerves. The condition is not typically painful for the dog, but will progress until the dog is no longer able to walk. DM is caused by a mutation in the SOD1 gene. This mutation affects the white matter tissue of the spinal cord and is considered the canine equivalent to amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), also known as Lou Gehrig's disease in humans.

DM is inherited as a recessive disease, meaning that a dog must inherit two copies of the mutation, one from each parent, in order to be at-risk or affected. Dogs, like those identified in this study, with only one copy of the mutation are carriers and will not be affected. However, two carrier dogs should not be bred together, as to avoid producing puppies at-risk for this condition.

Genetic counseling is available to owners and breeders so that dogs can receive genetic testing and risks can be understood prior to breeding. Through careful breeding, recessive diseases, such as DM, can easily be avoided by breeding only normal (clear) dogs to other normal dogs or carrier dogs. Normal x normal dog matings will produce only normal, unaffected puppies while normal x carrier dog breedings will produce 50% normal and 50% carrier pups. Paw Print Genetics offers genetic testing for the CF for the DM mutation so that breeders can understand their dogs' risks and use this information to avoid producing puppies with this devastating condition.

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Shaffer LG, Ramirez CJ, Sundin K, Connell LB, Ballif BC (2016) Genetic screening and mutation identification in a rare canine breed, the Cesky fousek. Vet Rec Case Rep. 4:e000346.

Note from the Editor:

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Maintaining and Improving Breeds

by

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In order to understand how to maintain breeds, we have to understand the genetic forces that shape them. Natural species evolve through natural selection. Any genetic changes within a population that improve the chance of survival and ability to reproduce in the populated environment will be at an advantage and thrive. This results in a loss of genetic diversity through the disadvantaged. This loss is not detrimental to the population as it is directly related to increasing its superiority.

Dog breeds develop through artificial selection for desired phenotypes – what you can see in the dogs. These can include conformation, behavior, working ability and health. Most breeds originally started from either a small population of related founders, or as a population of unrelated dogs that conformed to a working or conformational phenotype. Some breed lines will be discarded over time due to genetic defects, or an inability to adhere to a standard. Regardless of the breed origin, generations of reproduction within a small population produce homozygosity (the fixation of gene pairs) through close breeding. This is what causes breeds to reproduce themselves with each generation.

Genetic studies of dog breeds show that they lose on average 35% of their genetic diversity through breed formation. Genetic studies also document the increased homozygosity found in dog breeds. **Low effective**

population size (low number of founders) and high deep-pedigree inbreeding coefficients (homozygosity) are a natural and expected consequence of breed development.

Breeds differ from natural populations in that only a small percentage of dogs reproduce to create the next generation. In a population sense, this represents a genetic bottleneck with each generation. Individuals chosen for breeding should represent the quality traits of the breed. Quality traits should not be lost through the absence of selection or the abandonment of quality lines.

Population expansion is an important aspect of breed maintenance. If the offspring of small population breeds are generally healthy their population can grow and expand. They are at stages of breed development where more populous breeds were earlier in their development. Breeders of small population breeds need to mentor their puppy buyers to expand their breeder base as well as the number of dogs.

Population expansion allows the creation of new “family lines.” A larger population allows the average relatedness of breeding pairs (based on recent generations) to be less than the prior generation. Population contraction is detrimental to breed maintenance due to the loss of quality breeding lines and genetic diversity. **Healthy breed gene pools require expanding, or large, stable populations.**

There are times when a lot of breeding is going on and registrations are increasing, and times (such as the recent past) when less breeding is going on. However, it is the offspring that reproduce (regardless if from prolific or limited-breeding parents) that contribute their genes to the next generation. Breeding quality dogs from different “lines” and areas of the gene pool prevents the loss of genetic diversity.

The popular sire syndrome is the single most influential factor in restricting breed gene pool diversity. When a breed is concentrating on a specific sire or multi-generational sire line, other quality male lines are abandoned. This causes a loss of genetic diversity to the breed gene pool in exchange for a rapidly increasing influence of the popular sire.

Now is an important time to use frozen semen of quality dogs from the past to expand gene pools. Stored DNA (such as from the OFA CHIC repository) or semen can be used for breed-specific genetic testing that might not have been previously available.

All individuals carry some deleterious genes, which can increase in frequency with natural as well as artificial selection. More “lines” of naturally occurring species have died off due to genetic disorders or diminished fitness than those that have survived. As individuals propagate, deleterious mutations can become breed-related disease if they are disseminated

and increase in frequency.

Studies show that some breeds have more issues of specific genetic diseases with linebreeding and others do not. This depends on the genetic load of deleterious recessive genes in the gene pool. **The genetic health of dog breeds is not a direct function of homozygosity, genetic diversity, or population size; but of the accumulation and propagation of specific disease liability genes.**

Artificial selection to maintain breeds requires active selection against deleterious genes. This is easier with dominant or additive genes, as the genotype is observed in the dog's phenotype. For recessive deleterious genes, selection involves the development and use of genetic tests that reveal the carrier state, or the identification of lines with carrier risk.

Some hereditary disorders and disease-predisposing phenotypes have been actively selected for by breeders. The most evident and widespread is the brachycephalic obstructive airway disorder, seen in extremely short-muzzled breeds. Other extreme phenotypes include excessive skin, excessive skin folds, excessive hind limb angulation, excessive size, excessive coat, dome-shaped skulls, and eyelid abnormalities. **It is important that breed standards and selection practices specifically avoid selection for extreme phenotypes that cause disease liability. For the show ring, judges education should be directed towards rewarding moderation of disease-related extreme phenotypes.**

Regular breed health surveys should be conducted by breed clubs to monitor for the presence and changing prevalence of genetic disorders. The OFA offers on-line health surveys for breeds. **Breed genetic health should be judged on breed health surveys that document the occurrence of genetic disease.**

Parent breed clubs should determine realistic pre-breeding genetic screening requirements based on the prevalence and severity of testable disorders in the breed. **Health testing requirements should be listed in the OFA CHIC and AKC Bred with H.E.A.R.T. program websites.**

Without direct selection against genetic disorders, the genetic health of breeds will decline. Breeders who refuse to do pre-breeding health screening should be directed to find a different hobby or profession that they can actually be good at. It is not ethical to breed dogs without selection for genetic health. **Selection of healthy breeding stock is the most important aspect of maintaining breeds.**

Each breeder must prioritize their selection for positive traits and against disease traits with each mating. Some breeders feel that genetic screening will reduce the genetic diversity of breeds. **The proper use**

of genetic screening actually increases breeding choices by allowing quality dogs at higher-risk of carrying disease liability genes to be bred:

-Quality carriers of testable disease-causing recessive genes should be bred to normal testing mates and replaced for breeding with quality, normal testing offspring.

-Quality dogs with a less desirable phenotype (such as fair or even mild hip dysplasia in breeds with high frequencies of dysplasia) should be bred to dogs with desirable phenotypes (good or excellent hips) and replaced for breeding with offspring whose phenotype is better than the parent.

-Quality non-affected dogs from lines expressing disorders that do not have genetic tests (such as epilepsy) should be bred to mates from families or litters not expressing the disorder and replaced for breeding with a quality, healthy offspring.

In small population breeds with high frequencies of genetic disorders, breeders are often “frozen” from breeding for fear of producing disease. This causes continued breed decline due to population contraction. Breed improvement requires selection of the best breeding choices in matings that can reduce the frequency of genetic disease. As the population and breeding choices expand, the ability to reduce the frequency of disease expands with it. **Breed improvement involves; 1) selection of breeding dogs, 2) appropriate pairing of mates, 3) breeding, and 4) replacement of less desirable breeding dogs with more desirable offspring.**

An unfortunate development in dog breeding is recommendations designed for the preservation of rare and endangered species. These involve outbreeding (reducing homozygosity and average inbreeding coefficients) and increasing minor gene or chromosome segment frequencies. Dog breeding requires diverse lines, and not a homogenized and randomized outbred population. Outbreeding will not reduce the frequency of breed-related genetic disease, as the causative genes are already dispersed in the breed gene pool. Genetic selection for quality and against undesirable traits is what causes homozygosity and reduces the frequency of minor genes and chromosomal segments. Blindly selecting for them without knowing their effect could significantly reverse selection-based breed improvement. **Homozygosity is synonymous with pure breeds. It is not inherently correlated to impaired genetic health, and does not have to be artificially controlled.**

Expanding populations with different breeders undertaking different types of matings and selecting on different lines, while monitoring and selecting against genetic disease pro-

vides for a healthy, diverse breed gene pool.

Official genetic screening results should be made available to prospective breeders, and to the pet and breeding-stock purchasing public. This is facilitated through open genetic health databases like the OFA. It doesn't matter whether a breeder is a large commercial breeder, or only breeds once. It is no longer acceptable to say that genetic disease "just happens." In today's environment, not testing for documented breed-related hereditary diseases is irresponsible and unethical breeding. **Breed-specific pre-breeding health screening should become as universal as equine pre-purchase examinations.**

Breed maintenance and improvement requires;

- A large or expanding breed population
- Avoidance of the popular sire syndrome
- Avoidance of extreme phenotypes that can produce disease liability
- Monitoring of health issues in the breed
- Constant selection for quality and health



**Wynken, Blynken, and Nod one night, sailed off in a wooden shoe.
But Arthur of Buckeye Valley instead, sailed off in a bowl of brew.**

(Photo by Monica Cubas)

Editor's Note:

The following article is reprinted here with permission of the author, Gun Dog Supply.

You may access the original article at: the original article: <http://www.gundogsupply.com/fireworks.html>

Be Careful with Your Dogs and Fireworks!

Fireworks can screw up a dog faster than anything.



Everybody needs to be careful with fireworks around their young dogs and older dogs that have not been properly conditioned to gunfire(see video).

Fireworks are unnatural. You don't have a lot of control over when or where the noise happens. Fireworks can screw up a dog faster than anything. It's a lot harder to fix a gun shy or noise sensitive dog than it is to prevent gun shyness in the first place.

This year, only one of my dogs is showing a little gun

sensitivity, so Loretta is going to stay in the house over the holiday while the neighbors are shooting off fireworks.

Here are some tips to prevent fireworks sensitivity in your dogs:

- Keep your dogs as far away from fireworks as possible.
- If possible, bring your dogs inside in a closed-off, interior room.
- Block out the noise with a TV, radio, or white-noise maker.
- Check with your neighbors about their fireworks plans. Ask for a phone call before they start.

Sometimes the fireworks start before New Year's Eve or the 4th of July and run a few days after the holiday.

There is NO REASON for a dog to be around fireworks, and I do everything I can to keep my dogs away from them. Usually dogs conditioned to gunfire can handle the noise of fireworks, but there really isn't anything good about them as far as dogs are concerned. We sell a couple of products that are designed to help dogs get over the fear of fireworks, but I really prefer NOT to have to sell them.

CONCERNS

My biggest concern is that a dog will hurt itself trying to get away from the noise. My second concern is that exposure will create a gun shy or noise-sensitive problem where there doesn't have to be one.

NOISE-SHY DOES NOT EQUAL GUN SHY

Just because a dog is noise-sensitive to fireworks, does NOT necessarily mean that will translate into gun shyness, but why take a chance? My best gun dog ever, Em, never had a problem with gunfire, but she was so afraid of thunderstorms that we had to build a special top for her kennel run so she couldn't climb out or hurt herself trying.

HOW NOT TO EXPOSE A NEW PUP TO FIREWORKS

I was at a party a few years back, and watched a new dog get exposed to fireworks completely the wrong way. The dog was in her kennel, but still in full view of everything that was going on. Once the fireworks started, she became more and more upset, and wanted out of the kennel. To calm her down, they let her out of her crate, and she made a break for it. They didn't find her for two days.

The volume and brightness of fireworks is just too much for most dogs and nothing good is going to come from it. Please take the time to protect your pets while the possibility of unexpected explosions is around.

I do my best to keep all my dogs away from any kind of fireworks. Even dogs that have been properly conditioned to gunfire can become upset or nervous when exposed to fireworks. It just isn't worth it.

Fireworks happens twice a year with New Year's and Fourth of July. You might want to condition your dogs to fireworks, especially if you live where your dogs will be exposed a couple of weeks out of the year. It never hurts to check with your neighbors about their fireworks plans. Give them a heads up that you have a young dog and ask them to give you a call before they start.

People don't think about fireworks until it's too late, so think about it a little now. Majority of dogs don't have a problem with it, but some do. Why take a chance? No point in stressing your dogs out.

Remember, if you want to shoot fireworks, be safe and have fun. Just keep in mind that unexpected noise and stress could create a problem where one doesn't exist. -- Steve

What's Happening

Training Days:

Heartland—Michigan

June 24 Marshall, MI. (held monthly)

Contact: Jim Crouse

(614)562-1860

jcrouse01@yahoo.com

Heartland—Bellevue Iowa

August 4, 5, and 6, 2017

Contact John Pitlo at 563-599-2487

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Fall Tests

Heartland: Mazomanie Test Grounds near Sauk City, WI

Sept 8, 9,10, 2017

Contact Dave Read, Test Chair

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Check website for details and updates

<http://bohemiangriffon.org/progeny-testing/>

Reminder: You can pay both national and chapter dues right on-line at:

<https://bohemiangriffon.org/join-renew/>