

The Gun Dog Supreme

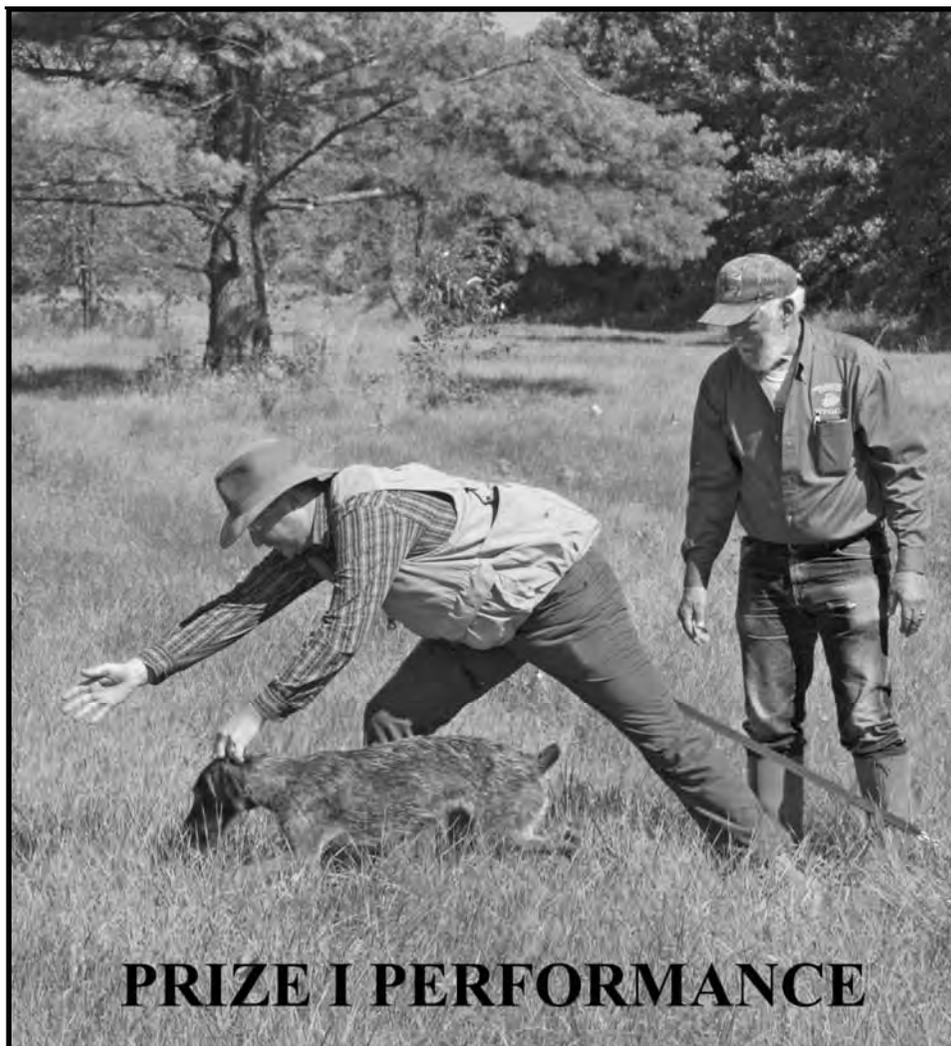
NEWS BULLETIN of the
BOHEMIAN WIREHAISED POINTING GRIFFON CLUB OF AMERICA
EDUCATION & RESEARCH FOUNDATION

<http://www.wpgca.org>

February 2018

Volume 93, Number 1

February 2018



Copyright © 2018 Bohemian Wirehaired Pointing Griffon Club of America Education and Research Foundation. No part may be reproduced in any form without written permission from the Bohemian Wirehaired Pointing Griffon Club of America Education and Research Foundation.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings:

I hope everyone had a great hunting season but now it's time for our annual Judges' Seminar and test in Idaho. Rick Sodja has written an article detailing our agenda. This is a special seminar as we are hosting our friends from the Czech Republic. If you have never attended a seminar or been to a Rocky Mountain test this is the year to do it. It will be quite interesting and a great chance to solidify our relationship with our friends from the Czech Republic. Hope to see you in Idaho!

Jim Crouse,

BWPGCA President

EDITOR NOTE

I hope you enjoy this issue. In addition to being the usual February test score issue, there are several informative articles. I call your attention to the piece written by Tawna Skinner. It's the first in a planned series on positive retriever training techniques. Thanks to all the contributors. Finally, a reminder to our readers to please send us your photos and story ideas for future issues.

Rem DeJong,

Editor

On the Cover:

Thomas Wyse and his dog, Anja aus Bohmerwald did all you could ask for in completing a perfect score of 28 in Natural Ability. Judge Jim Seibel observes.

For information requests or to join the WPGCA please email Robin at:
rstrathy@q.com

Or visit our web page at
http://bohemiangriffon.org

EDITORS

Rem DeJong
John Pitlo

SUBSCR./BACK ISSUES

Printed bi-monthly, the GDS is included with a \$60.00 membership to the BWPGCA. Gift subscriptions are \$20.00/year and back issues are 20 for \$15. Subscription and back issue requests should be sent to:

Robin Strathy
441 Flood Road
Great Falls, MT 59404
406-453-1248
rstrathy@q.com

ARTICLE SUBMISSION

Send articles or proposals 1 month prior to publication to:

Rem DeJong
Ph: (906) 236-0746 (EST)
e-mail: dejongrem@gmail.com

PHOTO SUBMISSION

All photos should be sent to:

Rem DeJong
7219 St Charles Place
Kalamazoo MI 49009
Ph: 906-236-0746(EST)

Email: 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:
<http://bohemiangriffon.org>

BWPGCA Photo Gallery:
<http://wpgca.smugmug.com/>

Find Us on Facebook at:
www.facebook.com/griffon.fan

www.facebook.com/ceskyfouseknorthamerica/

E&R FOUNDATION OFFICERS

Jim Crouse-President
Andy Rupp-Vice President
Robin Strathy- Secretary
Zeb Breuckman- Treasurer
DIRECTORS at LARGE

Anna Artz
Ken Hurtig
Jim Seibel

Hooray! Friends From the Czech Republic Are Coming to Visit Us

by
Rick Sojda



Three handlers listen to three judges providing scores at the Josef Kuna Memorial Test near Opava, CR in 2012. This illustrates our extended international Fouska family: we have puppies from some of these dogs, and some of the people will be visiting us.

There is a myriad of reasons why we have not had an overabundance of puppies born in North America in recent years. Just the same, we have imported dozens of puppies since 2013, led back then by Hiram Adelman and Brook Merrow. The injection of new blood is rapidly diversifying our gene pool. Just as importantly, this has resulted in dozens of Club families having fine canine friends and premier hunting partners. None of this would have been possible without our colleagues raising Cesky Fouseks in the Czech Republic. We have invited them to explore a small part of the West with us, while learning more about us, our dogs, and our hunting conditions. Seven of our Czech friends have agreed to take the time to visit. We hope to continue fostering even greater collaboration with the folks who have been doing this since the late 1800's and who have the largest gene pool in the world. The aim is continual improvement of our dogs. This March, we must pause and toast our former members from both countries who are no longer with us and recognize the team effort they initiated. As we combine our Fousek gene pools and breeding efforts, we represent the future of our breed across continents.

Every year, our National Meeting and Judges' Seminar seems special for some reason. In 2018, we hope to even exceed the significance of some of our past meetings. Aside from having a field test where several of our members will be "showing-off" their Czech and American puppies, we will also be hosting seven guests from the Czech Re-

public. They will be the main speakers at our Seminar, giving some informal tips on training and handling Fouseks, evaluating our dogs, and providing feedback on our overall program.

We expect them to fly into Bozeman, visit Northern Yellowstone National Park for a day, and do some other local sightseeing before driving to Jerome with Bozeman members. They will spend the entire test with us, and then drive back to Bozeman for another day of relaxation before flying back to Europe. Ann Pool and I will be asking a few members to assist as hosts for various activities in Jerome. Stay tuned.

When members of our Club have visited our colleagues in the CR to attend their Club meetings, hunt tests, and conformation events, their Club has been incredibly gracious – to say nothing of the individual people who have helped while we were in their country. We all know how expensive airline travel is, and we appreciate what it will cost our friends to get here, as well as the time they will be contributing. We hope to show them good old American hospitality. So...the Rocky Mountain Chapter will be paying for their meals while at the test and seminar. Bozeman members will provide lodging in their homes and transportation once here. However, we need donations to help the Club cover their lodging costs while in Jerome. This will likely entail three double rooms for five nights. Laurie Connell is contributing all US travel costs for Silvie Neradilová. In addition, Anna Artz is organizing an effort to provide some gifts for them. If you have something special to include in their gift baskets, it will be gratefully accepted --just contact her (ldoves73@gmail.com). Please keep in mind that they are traveling and need to travel lightly. We hope to raise \$2,000 to help defray their costs while they are in the U.S. If you are able to donate to this effort, please visit the BWPGCA Education and Research Foundation's web site: <http://huntersgriffon.org/contributions/>. Sending an accompanying email to Treasurer Zeb Breuckman (zeb.breuckman@gmail.com) indicating that you want your donation to go to the stay of our Czech visitors would be helpful. You can also include a note directly on the website when you donate. At least three members have led the charge and have already contributed \$100 each.

Here is the rough schedule of events, but nothing is yet confirmed, and details are subject to change. Still, we wanted to give everyone a heads-up. Final details will be posted to our Club and Foundation web sites, as well as on our two Facebook pages. Please plan to attend all four days in Idaho, if at all possible.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:

19 – M: Arrival in Bozeman, MT

20 – Tu: Yellowstone National Park day trip (Sojda)

21 – W: Travel to Jerome, possible elk viewing on the way (Sojda)

22 –Th: Tour trout and sturgeon rearing facility; and waterfowl sightseeing at Hagerman Wildlife Management Area (A. Pool)

Puppy exposure, getting ready for tests, and informal training at Niagara Springs Wildlife Management Area (G. Pool) **SEE NOTE BELOW.**

Informal discussion and demonstration of training techniques used by the Czechs

- 23 – F:** Board of Directors open meeting (Crouse); 7:30-9:30AM
Judges Seminar (Sojda)
Informal evening supper and social (A. McDunn)
- 24 – Sa:** Field Test (J. McDunn)
Evening dinner (A. McDunn, A. Pool, Skinner)
Invitation: The Cesky Fousek World Cup in the CR (Dostál, Horák, and Havlát)
- 25 – Su:** Conclusion of Field Test
- 26 – M:** Travel to Bozeman
- 27 – Tu:** Relax (Sojda)
- 28 – W:** Leave Bozeman for the Czech Republic

NOTE that we are including an **extra day** (*Thursday*) to the usual agenda. This is to (1) provide dogs the opportunity to “tune-up” before their tests, (2) discuss exposure methods among both new and older members, (3) provide young puppies not yet old enough for testing an opportunity for exposure to birds, and (4) learn about Czech training methods. Gary Pool has agreed to organize and lead the day, and he will be calling on others to help. It will be casual and focus on discussion of exposure and training techniques with the Czechs. We need members to commit to be there on Thursday and bring their young dogs with which we can work. This should prove to be a fun day.

Here is the list of visitors:

- Dana Brzkovská** – Registrar of the KCHČF, excellent handler of dogs at dog shows, owner of sires
- Pavel Dostál** – International Secretary International of KCHČF, breeder (joint kennel manager with Veronika Dostálová)
- Jaroslav Havlát & Eva Šafaríková** – KCHČF’s Chief Advisor of breeding managers, judge of exterior, judge of tests, breeder
- Pavel Horák & Blanka Horáková** – KCHČF’s Breeding Manager for Abroad, candidate for judge of tests, breeder
- Silvie Neradilová** – KCHČF Judge of tests, breeder, PhD candidate in canine genetics

Everyone is invited to what we call our Judges’ Seminar, which will focus almost exclusively on talks by our Czech guests:

9:40AM Welcome [Rick Sojda]

9:45AM DNA BioBank: Webinar With Cornell University Vet School
[Laurie Connell & Lara Moutham]

10:15AM History of the Cesky Fousek in Pictures
[Pavel Dostál]

10:45AM Organization of the Czech Club
[Dana Brzkovská]

11:00AM Explanation of the Czech Breeding Program: selection of mates; understanding lines
[Pavel Horák & Jaroslav Havlát]

12:00PM Lunch

- 1:00PM Czech testing disciplines and judging: field and water
[Pavel Dostál, Jaroslav Havlát, & Pavel Horák]
- 2:00PM Break
- 2:10PM Fousek Genetics Research at Czech University
[Silvie Neradilová]
- 2:40PM Grooming & Judging Conformation (informally) of NA dogs
[Dana Brzkovská]
- 3:15PM Hip Dysplasia [Pavel Horák]
- 3:45PM Adjourn

President Crouse has agreed to schedule the closed session of the Board of Directors' Meeting on Thursday evening, allowing us more time on Friday to have a full seminar, avoiding the rushed nature in the past. Please contact me if you have questions or suggestions for the seminar (rick.sojda@gmail.com).

See Complete Fall 2017 Test Photo Collection here:

<https://wpgca.smugmug.com/Field-Testing>

**View and Download Images
of Your Favorite Fousek**

The Fall Heartland Test 2017

by
Rem DeJong

Our Fall Heartland Test produced some great memories this year. For a fall test, we had a full complement of eleven dogs covering the full gamut of our tests (three intermediates, one older dog, one utility and six natural ability entries). The test was held at our customary location—the Mazomanie Unit Dog Training Area near Sauk City, Wisconsin. The weather was reasonable, the bugs weren't too bad, and everyone was primed for a good weekend of testing.

Several of the Natural Ability dogs were littermates of the A aus Böhmerwald litter, so this test was of special interest to breeder, Rich Schwerin. Overall, they performed well, so Rich was a proud poppa come the Saturday night banquet. Of course, what makes a test memorable is not necessarily reflected on the score sheet, and so it was this fall.

If you've previously attended a test, you know that it is customary to begin with an audio recording of a horn call, in recognition of our European testing tradition. This year we had a special treat; Thomas Wyse, who attended to test his pup, is also a horn player and provided a live rendition on an authentic hunting horn. We may need to get Thomas as a recording contract for all our tests.

The Utility Field Test for Monica Redmond's dog, Bohdy (**Fousek z Sakered Bohdan**), was one such event. Monica opted to include a blood track in the test. Monica is an experienced tracker (see "My Tracking Adventures with Louie," in the December 2016 GDS), but doing a track in UFT is uncommon. Of course, doing a track means that someone has to lay the track well before test time, and that job fell to Senior Judges, Jim Crouse and John Pitlo. With retelling the story, things sometimes get exaggerated, but the guys were gone so long, the group debated about sending out a search party. After wandering around in thick brush for what seemed like an hour or two, they finally emerged. During the track itself, Bohdy got off course for a bit, relocated the track and was making good progress toward the lure when he stumbled over a ground hornet nest. Monica swatted bees off the poor dog and the group called it good enough.

An especially memorable event was the track of live pheasant by three-legged **Ivar od Vavřineckého rybníka** (Ike) with owner, Anna Sorensen. We featured this track as the cover story in the October 2017 GDS, so I won't rehash it now. Suffice it to say that the heart shown by this dog tracking down a big healthy rooster was amazing. Instead of making a bee-line for nearby cover, the bird had made a hard left and run over 100 yards down the field before ducking into a brushy wood. Ike cruised down the track on his three legs, disappeared into the woods and emerged several minutes later with the bird.

Of the Natural Ability dogs, **Anja aus Böhmerwald**, a 14-month-old female, owned by Thomas Wyse, turned in the best score with a perfect 28 Prize I. Thomas has spent a lot of time working with Anja, and her exposure to game and water showed. Littermate **Arrow aus Böhmerwald**, owned by Brice Fawcett, also turned in an excellent performance, earning a Prize I score of 27. **Arria aus Böhmerwald** completed a respectable score of 23 but was judged to be gun sensitive. With careful exposure, we hope owner, Roger Smith can help the little dog work through this. **Artemi aus Böhmerwald** did well also, but really, only failure to get a point prevented him from a prize-winning score. We hope to see a good performance when he comes back for the intermediate test. **Adara aus Böhmerwald**, is owned by breeder, Richard Schwerin's son, Shane. Adara probably needs more exposure to game and hunting to build up confidence and

bring out potential. The search was a bit timid, and the dog had difficulty with the track. **Aleya Jagerin aus Böhmerwald**, owned by Steve Fink, also had trouble pointing and tracking the live bird. We hope Aleya got lots of hunting exposure this fall, and we look forward to seeing what that does to her performance at the intermediate level.

Regarding the Intermediate Hunting Dog Test entries **Ivar od Vavřineckélto Rybníka** (“Ike”) had a great track of the live bird, but was hampered by his leg amputation in some of the other events. Swimming in lily-pad invested water was hard on him, and he tired a bit during his search, but definitely was a game performer. We really appreciate Anna Sorenen making the time and effort to bring Ike down from Grand Marie, Minnesota for the test. **Aron z Jasněčina Popluží**, owned by Joe Moeggenborg, has been a regular at Michigan training days, and his performance at the test was very similar to what we saw in training. He managed to do the track of a live bird OK but played around with the bird after he caught it and would not retrieve to hand. He appears to lack intensity but may also be a slower maturing dog that will still be a fine hunter. **Alma z Březové hráze**, owned by Tony Meyers had a generally great test going until the last event, the blind retrieve. Prior to that, she was generally going great guns. She made a solid point and when the bird didn’t flush, she caught it and delivered it right to hand with a single command. She likewise brought the pheasant directly to hand in the track of live pheasant. The duck track was fine—required a couple commands to get the retrieve to hand, but she was cruising along through her test until the blind retrieve. She had had enough testing at that point and just did not get it done, resulting in a zero and a ding in cooperation. She’s obviously a fine dog with a lot of potential. **Aris od Blatského Rybníka**, a.k.a. “Satch” is owned by Roger Wegner. Satch has come to several of our Michigan training days, where he always impressed as an eager, persistent duck tracker. Unfortunately, dog training for Satch competes with caring for a couple young kids and a very demanding job, so performance in retrieving left a lot to be desired in this test. We also didn’t get a point, but all that does not detract from the fact that Satch has much potential and will be a fine hunter as he matures.

We had one Utility Field Test entry, **Fousek z Sakered Bohdan**, owned and handled by Monica Redmond. In addition to the blood tracking incident described above, Bohdy performed very well in all phases except for some troubles with the duck track. The duck had made a hard-left turn in some sparse lily pads and then cut in to the shore. Bohdy worked and worked but couldn’t pick up the lost track. In spite of that little glitch, Bohdy and Monica garnered enough points for a Prize III—no easy task in the Utility event.

Between a live horn call to start the test, some great dog work, fine dinner at the Coach House and the committed work of judges, test chair and many volunteers, we had another excellent Fall Test. Dave Read is really getting the hang of serving as test chair and will now have the job for life. The Heartland Chapter made some officer changes, and we welcome Dave Finley as Chapter President and Richard Schwerin as Vice President. Jon Coil continues as treasurer and Rem DeJong as chapter secretary. In addition to treasurer duties, Jon Coil is our master of merchandising. He deserves a huge thankyou for all he does to assure a great raffle, door prizes and auction. Thanks to all the other volunteers for stepping up to bring the birds, serve as bird handlers, apprentice judge and do all the behind-the-scenes work required to pull off a successful test. We hope to see everyone again soon at the Spring 2018 test. Till then have fun working with your dogs.

Northeast Chapter Fall Test

by
Kurt Soneson

The fall test took place again this year at Rick and Tina Molt's place in Bristol, ME. This turned out to be a challenge for one handler, which we will get into later in this article. This test was a two-day event. Friday was a retest day (Breeding Qualifying Test) for three dogs and a OHDT for another. On Saturday we tested two NAT and one IHDT.

Our award-winning judges were Rick Molt, Ted Silver, and first time Maine attendee Rick Sojda. To keep from confusing the Ricks in this article Judge Sojda will be referred to as "Rick from Away".



ReDo on the Water Work

Adele od Těrlické Hráze handled by Jane McKenna made the most of a second chance.

(Photo by Rick Sojda)

Apprentice Judge was Laurie Connell. Apprentice Judge Scott Craig was home shearing sheep. The bird handlers are a humble bunch and don't need the recognition.

I was not at the Friday test so if some of the facts get a little muddled I apologize.

First up was an Older Hunting Dog Test with Michael Zohab running **Charon of High Desert** ("Rizzo"). Mike and Rizzo fell to the curse of the Northeast. Usually we battle the black fly, not the case this year. Or we battle the tick infestation, not the case this year either. 2017 was the year of the yellow jacket bee. Our summer was hot and dry yielding a bumper crop of low-lying yellow jacket nests that both Mike and Rizzo got snarled up

with. Both took multiple hits, which took its toll on them and their testing rendering no prize for the day. We will be taking a collection for bee suits for Mike and Rizzo.

Next up were three dogs being retested in areas that they struggled in at their IHDT. I'm very encouraged to see this happening in the club. Many times, we have seen a dog not prize because of one bad segment in the testing process that knocked them out of the breeding program, only to turn out to be an outstanding hunter a season or two later. This proved out on Friday.

Up first was (here we go with the names) **Adele od Těrlické Hráze** handled by Jane McKenna. Del had fallen down in the water work at her IHDT. Rick worked with Jane and Del this past summer and they put on a stellar performance rendering a Prize II to their bag limit.

Second was **Jola od Vavřineckého Rybníka**. This would be a good New Year's Eve Party test. If you can spell your dog's name you're safe to drive home. Jola was handled by Jim Nestor. Jola had an excellent search but had trouble with her duck retrieve. Jola was also in heat which might have played into this, but after a valiant try there was no prize.

Last of the day was **Brita Eso** handled by Bird Boy Supreme, Mark Canfield. Brita was repeating her track of the pheasant and did a wonderful job giving her a well-earned Prize II. (Was that how you wanted me to write it Mark?)

All in all, a successful day with the possibility of some new candidates for the breeding program. Job well done!

Saturday was a very warm but nice early fall day. We tested two NAT and one IHDT. Long time devoted club member Sue Kaufman had to scratch due to some back issues. Get well Sue.

Now here's where the issues start. I meet Rick from Away. Doesn't seem like a bad guy as far as away judges go. Kind of even looks like a Griffon with the gray beard and all. Introductions are made and here we go, "okay you guys are going to take those birds and do xyz with them". Veteran Bird Handler Dr. Andrew Ogden and myself looked at each other with the here we go again look. Appreciating the fact that he came all the way to Maine to judge we listened attentively to our instructions and set the birds according to his direction. Two out of three dogs no point. Could happen to anybody so let's continue on.

First up was **Azurite Aus Böhmerwald** handled by Jim Sohns. Azurite was full of enthusiasm and went through the test well but failed to point the directed planted bird. She is pointing wild birds, so this issue can be overcome. Looking forward to seeing these guys again at the IHDT.

Second up was **Clancy of Hundgaard** handled by Dan Seibel accompanied by Dave Seibel, who by the way, is the better looking of the Seibel brothers. Clancy was doomed from the start. Dan decided to hold his own test at Ted Silver's house in Winterport, an hour and a half away. Dave quickly realized they were the only ones testing there and suggested they head for Bristol. Clancy did well on his test but like Dan, got off course on his live track resulting in no prize. GPS for Christmas?

Third to run was **Mig od Pitné Vody**, handled by Chris Rumsey in IHDT. Mig was quite interested in taking a bride from the gallery at the water portion of the test. After the females in heat were removed he put on a stellar track. Mig tested very well but

failed to point the directed planted bird. I'm sure we will see him again.

Zippety od Doo Dah handled by E Fudd had to scratch due to a un foreseen problem with a rabbit track gone bad.

The day finished out with the eagerly anticipated lobster/clam bake. This was a great time to catch up with old and new friends sharing embellished hunting stories and other news over a great meal. Thanks to the hard work of the Women's Griffon Auxiliary led by Tina Molt for all their hard work and hospitality feeding the troops.

The test came to a close with "Rick from Away" reading the scores and filling us in on club news. We enjoyed your humor Rick, you're quite thick skinned compared to the last guy sent they out. We hope to see you again. Thanks to the many hands who shared in all the hard work of putting on the test and attending. I dare say a good time was had by all.

PS Did Dan and Dave make it home for hunting season?



Fetch!

Chris Rumsey and **Mig od Pitné Vody** in action on the blind retrieve.

(Photo by Rick Sojda)



Retrieving duck to hand

Jim Nestor and Jola od Vavříneckého rybníka complete a duck retrieve at the Northeast Fall 2018 Test.

(Photo by Rick Sojda).

Alma z Březové hráze completes retrieve.

After a successful track of live bird, Alma completes a retrieve to owner, Tony Meyers at the Heartland Test.

(Photo by Rem DeJong)



Northwest Chapter Fall Test by Dennis Carlson

We came from Arizona, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and Washington to make this test happen. Two of the Intermediate dogs were tested for a second time. I'm amazed at this dedication, even after attending our tests for 35 years. Perhaps I shouldn't be. There is nothing more glorious than watching your dog pop up over the horizon with a wounded bird after a long track, or finally finding your dog hard on point. Not to mention the love we feel every day for our stable family companions. We know that coming to tests is ultimately what makes all this happen.

I'd like to thank everybody who came to the test whether it was to test a dog, help judge, or find out more about these dogs. I especially want to thank Ann and Gary Pool for taking care of us. It wasn't planned. We naturally gravitated to their trailer. Gary suggested that rather than go out to the restaurant, we could grill some steaks and eat here. So, we gathered up our snacks, took a run to the store, and had a wonderful evening together. It reminded me of the many times Helen and Warren Webster used to serve us breakfast from their trailer parked at the very same spot.

It's really no wonder we come to tests.



Test Strategy Planning

Dennis Carlson, Gary Pool (with Angie "Tess" Vallis Baptismi and Photo bomber dog Sona, and Ali of Ancient Kennels, Anita Andrus, Tawna Skinner, and Steve Grieser.



The Northwest Test Group

Anita Andrus (Dyna of Salmon River NAT); Gary Pool (Angie(Tess)Vallis Baptismi OD Ali Ancient Kennels; Roger Fuhrman (Cora OD); Steve Griesser (Ava of Blackberry Briar, OD); Dennis Carlson; Tawna Skinner (Spruce Creek Grace ,UT); Roger Smith (Arria aus Böhmerwald, NAT)

NATURAL ABILITY TEST, Fall 2017

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

	Age in Months	Searching	Pointing	Track of Live Bird	Affinity for Water	Nose and Use of Nose	Attitude Toward Work	Cooperation	TOTAL POINTS	PRIZE CLASSIFICATION	Conformation	Coat	Temperament
	A	S	P	TB	W	N	AW	C	TP	C	CO	CT	T
GROUP 438 (Aug., 2017 GDS)													
ANJA AUS BÖHMERWALD, F, WI	14	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	28	I			ok
ARROW AUS BÖHMERWALD, M, WI	14	4	4	4	4	4	4	3	27	I			ok
ARRIA AUS BÖHMERWALD, F, WI	14	3	3	4	3	4	3	3	23				*
ARTEMI AUS BÖHMERWALD, M, WI	14	4	0	4	4	4	4	3	23				ok
AZURITE AUS BÖHMERWALD, F, ME	14	4	0	2	4	3	4	3	20				ok
ADARA AUS BÖHMERWALD, F, WI	14	3	1	1	4	2	4	4	19				ok
ALEYA JAGERIN AUS BÖHMERWALD, F, WI	14	3	0	1	4	2	3	3	16				ok
GROUP 440 (Page 8)													
COLT OF HUNDGAARD, M, WI	13	4	0	4	4	4	4	3	23				ok
CLANCY OF HUNDGAARD, M, ME	13	4	3	0	4	2	2	2	17				*
WIRESHAIR POINTING GRIFFON													
SALMON RIVER DYNAMITE DEVA, F, ID	6	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	28	I			ok

Editors Note: Readers will notice a change in one aspect of reporting in that no CONFORMATION or COAT score is given. We have found that many dogs are still in growth spurts at these young ages and the true length and height changes between the NAT and IHDT test. Coats also change at these young ages. Also, jaws grow in spurts and a 12 month old dog may have a jaw that is misaligned- but it is OK at 2 yrs. of age.



Live Hunting Horn Solo at the Heartland Test

Not only did he do a fine job preparing his pup for the Natural “Ability Test, but Thomas Wyse also provided a live rendition of the hunting horn call. A versatile guy for a versatile dog.

(Photo by Jon Coil)

DOGS EVALUATED IN FALL, 2017**NATURAL ABILITY TEST**

ANJA AUS BÖHMERWALD, F, 14 mos., whelped 7/7/2016. Conformation: . Coat . Temperament: good game desire, easy to examine, calm, very cooperative with handler. Owned by Thomas Wyse, 416 E. Court St., Viroqua, WI 54665. Bred by Richard Schwerin. Pedigree 438, Aug., 2017 GDS.

ARROW AUS BÖHMERWALD , M, 14 mos., whelped 7/7/2016. Conformation: . Coat . Temperament: good game desire, easy to examine, even temperament. Owned by Brice Fawcett Jr., 255 E 2300th Rd., Edgerton, KS 66021. Bred by Richard Schwerin. Pedigree 438, Aug., 2017 GDS.

ARRIA AUS BÖHMERWALD , F, 14 mos., whelped 7/7/2016. Conformation: . Coat . Temperament: * gun sensitive. Owned by Roger Smith, 510 E. Juniper St. Payson, AZ 85541. Bred by Richard Schwerin. Pedigree 438, Aug., 2017 GDS.

ARTEMI AUS BÖHMERWALD , M, 14 mos., whelped 7/7/2016. Conformation: . Coat . Temperament: easy to examine. Owned by Chris Froelke, 1722 Perennial Ln., NE, Sauk Rapids, MN 56379. Bred by Richard Schwerin. Pedigree 438, Aug., 2017 GDS.

AZURITE AUS BÖHMERWALD , F, 14 mos., whelped 7/7/2016. Conformation: . Coat . Temperament: active, not easy to examine. Owned by James Sohns, 5563 Silver Lane Rd., Buckport, ME 04116. Bred by Richard Schwerin. Pedigree 438, Aug., 2017 GDS.

ADARA AUS BÖHMERWALD , F, 14 mos., whelped 7/7/2016. Conformation: . Coat . Temperament: calm, easy to examine, eager to please. Owned by Shane Schwerin, 17529 145th St., Milaca, MN 56353. Bred by Richard Schwerin. Pedigree 438, Aug., 2017 GDS.

ALEYA JAGERIN AUS BÖHMERWALD , F, 14 mos., whelped 7/7/2016. Conformation: . Coat . Temperament: friendly, easy to examine. Owned by Stephen Fink, 1915 N County Rd., 2250, Carthage, IL 62321. Bred by Richard Schwerin. Pedigree 438, Aug., 2017 GDS.

COLT OF HUNDGAARD, M, 13 mos., whelped 8/10/2016. Conformation: . Coat . Temperament: easy to examine, eager for game, calm. Owned by Ross Barbatti, 7750 Beaver Hills, Ln., Cedar Falls, IA 50613. Bred by James Seibel. Pedigree 440, Page 19.

CLANCY OF HUNDGAARD, M, 13 mos., whelped 8/10/2016. Conformation: . Coat . Temperament: * lacks game desire, might have noise sensitivity, easy to examine. Owned by Dan Seibel, 6106 Miles Lane, Warrenton, VA 20187. Bred by James Seibel. Pedigree 440, Page 19.

WIREHAIRD POINTING GRIFFON

SALMON RI VER DYNAMITE DEVA, F, 6 mos., whelped 3/16/2017 Conformation: . Coat . Temperament: not recorded. Owned by Tawna Skinner/Anita Andrus, 5 Dutton Lane, Salmon, ID 83467. Bred by Tawna Skinner/Anita Andru.

INTERMEDIATE HUNTING DOG TEST

AVA OF BLACKBERRY BRIAR, F, 56 mos., whelped 1/28/2013. Conformation: 4, Coat 3, short, dense, harsh, light furnishings,. Temperament: *lacks desire for game, low key, friendly. Owned by Steve Grieser, 24 Sunflower Circle, Bellingham, WA 98229. Pedigree 405, Feb., 2015 GDS.

CHARON OF HIGH DESERT, M, 43 mos., whelped 2/9/2014. Conformation: , Coat , . Temperament: **NOTE** : Dog and handler stung by ground wasps—both had swelling and left before measurements for height, length and coat evaluation.

Owned by Michael Zohab, 1700 Nettleham Ct., Richmond, VA 23233. Pedigree 406, Aug., 2015 GDS.

IVAR OD VAVŘINECKÉLTO RYBNÍKA, M, 42 mos., whelped 5/24/2014. Conformation 4, 24" H X 24" L. Coat 3: medium harsh, dense, curly, good belly coverage, sparse furnishings. Temperament: good game desire, easy to examine.. Owned by Anna Sorensen, 28 Casper Hill, Grand Marais, MN 55604. Bred by Josef Jakubal.. Pedigree 409 , Aug., 2015 GDS. (*Ivar was gored by a deer, causing severe nerve damage to his hind leg which was amputated. The only area where this became obvious was swimming in heavy vegetation)

BRITA ESSO, F, 40 mos., whelped 5/15/2014. Conformation 4, 23.5" H X 23.5" L. Coat 3: medium harsh, needs more density, medium furnishings. Temperament: friendly, eager for game.. Owned by Mark Canfield, 9221 Grange Hill Rd., Hew Hartford, NY 13413. Bred by Jan Homola.. Pedigree 412 , Aug., 2015 GDS.

JOLA OD VAVŘINECKÉHO RYBNÍKA, F, 29 mos., whelped 4/19/2015. Conformation 3 (moderate hip dysplasia right hip), 22. H X 22" L. Coat 3, medium harsh, medium dense, flat lying, medium furnishings. Temperament: friendly, lacks game desire at times, difficult to examine teeth. Owned by James Nestor, 1601 Moyer Rd., Telford, PA 18969. Bred by Josef Jukubal. Pedigree 420, Aug., 2016 GDS.

ANGIE VALLIS BAPTISMI, F, 29 mos., whelped 4/3/2015. Conformation 3 , 24.5" H X 24.5" L, extra P1 upper left. Coat 3, med harsh, medium dense with curl, slightly open on belly, medium furnishings, Temperament: friendly, calm, easy to examine, Owned by Gary Pool, 1791 Johnson Creek Rd., Council, ID 83612. Bred by Ing. Drahomira Matejalcova. Pedigree 421, Aug., 2016 GDS.

ADELE OD TĚRLICKÉ HRÁZE, F, 28 mos., whelped 5/21/2015. Conformation 4 , 22" H X 22" L: Coat 4, dense, harsh, good belly coverage, medium furnishings,. Temperament: friendly, eager for game in the field, Owned by Jane McKenna, 57 Pork Point Rd., Bowdenham, ME 04008. Bred by Jiri Vykrut.. Pedigree 426, Aug., 2016 GDS.

MIG OD PITNÉ VODY, M, 22 mos., whelped 11/11/2015. Conformation: 4, 24.5" H X 24.5" L. Coat 3, medium dense, medium harsh, good belly coverage,. Temperament: easy to examine, calm, eager, friendly., should be considered for breeding. Owned by Chris Rumsey, 700 Forest Ave., Orono, ME 04473. Bred by Ing. Jiri Kalivoda. Pedigree 430, Aug., 2017 GDS.

ARON Z JASNĚNČINA POPLUŽÍ, M, 20 mos., whelped 12/28/2015. Conformation: 4, 26" H X 26" L. Coat 3, medium dense, medium harsh, good belly coverage., curly. Temperament: methodical, needs more enthusiasm in field. Owned by Joe Moeggenborg, 9669 S Isabella Rd., Shepherd, MI 50613. Bred by Pavel Kacl. Pedigree 431, Aug., 2017 GDS.

ALMA Z BŘEZOVÉ HRÁZE, F, 20 mos., whelped 12/31/2015. Conformation: 4, 23" H X 23" L. Coat; 3, medium harsh, dense, good belly coverage, slight curl, full furnishings . Temperament: happy, eager for game, persistent. Owned by Tony Meyers, 919 Shamrock Lane., Watertown, WI 53094 . Bred by Jan Holicky. Pedigree 432, Aug., 2017 GDS.

ARIS OD BLATSKÉHO RYBNÍKA, M, 20 mos., whelped 2/5/2016. Conformation: 4, 25" H X 25" L. Coat; 3, medium harsh, medium dense, good belly coverage, slight curl, medium furnishings . Temperament: hard driven for game, hard to examine. Owned by Roger Wegner, 1254 Huff Ave., Niles, MI 49120 . Bred by Milan Blatsky. Pedigree 435, Aug., 2017 GDS.

INTERMEDIATE HUNTING DOG TEST, FALL 2017**WATER**

TD = Track of Duck (5)
 RD = Retrieve of duck (3)
 BR = Blind Retrieve (4)
 ++ = older hunting dog

JUDGED THROUGHOUT

N = Nose and Use of Nose (6)
 AW = Attitude Toward Work (4)
 C = Cooperation (3)
 O = Obedience (3)

FIELD

S = Searching (5)
 P = Pointing (4)
 RB = Retrieve of Dragged Bird (3)
 TB = Track of Live Bird (3)
 *TR = Track of Live Rabbit (3)
 *RF = Retrieve of Dragged Fur (3)

OTHER

TP = Total Prize
 PR = Prize Classification
 CO = Conformation
 CT = Coat
 T = Temperament
 T* = see write-up for notation

	TD	RD	BR	S	P	RB	TB	*TR	*RF	N	AW	C	O	TP	PR	CO	CT	T
GROUP 405. (Feb., 2015 GDS)																		
AVA OF BLACKBERRY BRIAR, F, 56 mos, WA	1	0	0	2	4	0	3			3	1	1	1	68		4	3	*
GROUP 406. (Aug., 2015 GDS)																		
CHARON OF HIGH DESERT, M, 43 mos, ME	2	2	0	1	3	2	1			1	2	2	1	65		*	*	*
GROUP 409. (Aug., 2015 GDS)																		
IVAR OD VAVŘINECKÉLTO RYBNÍKA*, M, 39 mos, WI	2	0	1	2	4	2	4H			4	3	2	2	106		4	3	ok*
GROUP 412. (Aug., 2015 GDS)																		
BRITA ESO, F, 40 mos., ME (RETEST)	4	4	4	4	4	3	3			4	4	4	3	163	II	4	3	ok
GROUP 420. (Aug., 2016 GDS)																		
JOLA OD VAVŘINECKÉHO RYBNÍKA, F, 29 mos., ME (RETEST)	2	0				3								19		3*		
GROUP 421. (Aug., 2016 GDS)																		
ANGIE VALLIS BAPTISIMI, F, 29 mos., WA (RETEST)	3	4	4	3	2	2	4			4	3	3	3	138	III	4	3	ok
GROUP 426. (Aug., 2016 GDS)																		
ADELE OD TĚRLICKÉ HRÁZE, F, 28 mos., ME (RETEST)	4	3	3	4	4	3	4			4	4	4	3	159	II	4	4	ok

INTERMEDIATE HUNTING DOG TEST, FALL 2017 (CONTINUED)

	TD	RD	BR	S	P	RB	TB	*TR	*RF	N	AW	C	O	TP	PR	CO	CT	T
GROUP 430. (Aug., 2016 GDS)																		
MIG OD PITNÉ VODY, F, 22 mos, ME																		
	2	4	4	4	0	3	4			4	4	4	4	143		4	3	ok
GROUP 431. (Aug., 2017 GDS)																		
ARON Z JASNĚNČINA POPLUŽÍ, M, 20 mos, WI																		
	1	2	2	2	4	2	4	3		3	3	2	1	102		4	3	ok
GROUP 432. (Aug., 2017 GDS)																		
ALMA Z BŘEZOVÉ HRÁZE, F, 20 mos, WI																		
	4	4	0	4	4	4	4			4	4	2	2	141		4	3	ok
GROUP 435. (Aug., 2017 GDS)																		
ARIS OD BLATSKÉHO RYBNÍKA, M, 19 mos., WI																		
	4	0	3	4	0	1	2			3	3	2	1	100		4	3	ok

PEDGREE 440

ALAN OD PITNE VODY

CAR OD BOSICKE SKALY

ARKA BOHEMIA KARLIN

DAR OD ANABUSSKEHO LESIKA

BEN ZE SENOZATSKE MYSLIVNY

BETY Z RECICKYCH BABEK

ARA Z MAXIMKY

“C” OF HUNDGAARD

INGO VOM KASTANIENHAIN

BLUE MOUNTAINS BREW (WPG)

GLAC(I)ER COOL DEE CEE

HERSHEY OF DUTCHMAN’S HOLLOW

BARON OD KOSTILKU

AYLA OF ANCIENT KENNEL

TASI Z FESANDY

UTILITY FIELD TEST, FALL 2017

Key to tests: * = Optional test WI = Wisconsin, ID = Idaho, WA = Washington

INDEX*

TD = Track of Duck (5)	RS = Retrieve of Shot Bird (3)	N = Nose and Use of Nose (6)
SWD = Search without Duck (3)	WD = Whoa or Down (3)	AW = Attitude Toward Work (4)
BR = Blind Retrieve (3)	TB = Track of Live Bird (4)	C = Cooperation (4)
SB = Steady at Blind (2)	SW = Search in Woods (4)	O = Obedience (3)
RM = Retrieve of Marked Fall (3)	H = Walk at Heel (2)	TP = Total Points
S = Searching (5)	RDG = Retrieve of Dragged Game (3)	PR = Prize Classification
P = Pointing (4)	*F = Find/Retrieve of Dead Game (3)	CO = Conformation
SWS = Steady to Wing and Shot (3)	*B = Blood Track (4)	CT = Coat
		T = Temperament

TD SWD BR SB RM S P SWS RS WD TB SW H RDG *F *B N AW C O TP PR CO CT T

GROUP 428 (Aug., 2016 GDS)

FOUSEK Z SAKARED BOHDEN, M, 41 mos., WI

2 4 3 3 4 4 4 3 4 4 4 4 3 4 4 4 4 4 248 III 3 3 ok

GROUP 401 (Aug., 2014 GDS)

SPRUCE CREEK GRACE, F, 57 mos., WA

4 4 4 4 4 4 4 3 2 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 3 3 232 III 3 4 ok

UTILITY FIELD TEST, FALL 2017

FOUSEK Z SAKERD BOHDAN M, 41 mos, whelped 3/29/2014. Conformation 3, 26.5"H X 26"L. Coat 3: medium harsh, medium dense, good belly coverage, open on back of ears, sparse furnishings. Temperament: eager, good game drive, easy to examine, friendly. Owned by Monica Redmond, W. 5949 Hillcrest Dr., La Crosse, WI 54601. Bred by Iva Jean McCurdy. Pedigree 428, Aug., 2016 GDS.

GRACE OF SPRUCE CREEK, F, 57 mos., whelped 12/18/2012. Conformation 3, 23"H X 23"L, lower right incisor crosses out. Coat 4, dense, harsh, slight curl, full furnishings, good belly coverage. Temperament: calm, eager. Owned by Anita Andrus & Tawna Skinner, 5 Dutton Lane, Salmon, ID 83467. Bred by John Arkins. Pedigree 401 Aug., 2014 GDS.

Cesky Fousek World Cup

The first Český Fousek World Cup will take place in the Czech Republic September 2018! The test rules are posted on the BWPGCA website:

<http://bohemiangriffon.org/cesky-fousek-world-cup/>

Dogs from North America are invited to attend, but even if you don't bring a dog, plan to make the trip to the beautiful Czech Republic and see the relatives of your dog at work! Meet great dog folks!

PennHip Report for 2017

by
John Pitlo

At the 2006 WPGCA seminar and meeting in Idaho, the BOD voted to change the hip evaluation from OFA to PennHip. The reasons for this move were numerous and well covered by an article in the GDS by Dr. Corey Cherstrom (June 2006, GDS). For more information go to: www.pennhip.org. The reporting below will be much the same, except a DI (Distraction Index) value for each hip will be reported. A low DI indicates tight hips with a low probability of developing hip dysplasia, conversely, a higher DI value indicates loose hips and a higher probability of developing hip dysplasia. PennHip reports how the tested dog compares to other dogs of the same breed that have been evaluated. A dog with a 90% rating has excellent hips, a dog with a 10% rating has a higher probability of developing hip dysplasia. If you have had your Dog PennHip evaluated and it does not appear below—send a copy of the PennHip report to John.

JOLA OD VAVRINECKEHO RYBNIKA (F): Sire: Don z Dockalova dvora; Dam: Hassy od Vavrineckeho rybnika. Left Hip DI = 0.59; Right Hip DI = 0.54 (moderate hip dysplasia on right hip). Ranking = 30%. Owned by James Nestor. Pedigree 420, Aug., 2016 GDS.

BRITA ZE STOPROUNCKYCH VINIC (F): Sire: Frigo z Prerovska; Dam: Exa z Livy. Left Hip DI = 0.51; Right Hip DI = 0.40. Ranking = 40%. Owned by Brian Johnston. Pedigree 436, Aug., 2017 GDS.

ADELE OD TERTICKE HRAZE(F): Sire: Fero z Prerovska; Dam: Aischa z Neradova staveni. Left Hip DI = 0.42; Right Hip DI = 0.40. Ranking = 600%. Owned by Jane McKenna. Pedigree 426, Aug., 2016 GDS.

ALMA Z BREZOVE HRAZE(F): Sire: Ajax z Vobicek; Dam: Hena z Podhoranku. Left Hip DI = 0.31; Right Hip DI = 0.31. Ranking = 90%. Owned by Tony Meyer. Pedigree 432, Aug., 2017 GDS.

ASTA Z JAMAJKY (M): Sire: Hron od Pitne Vody; Dam: Citta Perdix Bohemia. Left Hip DI = 0.37; Right Hip DI = 0.44. Ranking = 40%. Owned by Susan Kaufman. Pedigree

ANNABELLE OF CATTAIL STORM (F): Sire: Andrew Philip of Sourdough Trail; Dam: Britta of Willow Springs. Left Hip DI = 0.35; Right Hip DI = 0.32. Ranking = 80%. Owned by Susan Kaufman. Pedigree 367, Feb., 2009 GDS.

BILLA PACKA OF BLACKBERRY BRIAR (F): Sire: Akim z Tesinovkkych Buku; Dam: Francesca of Dutchman's Hollow. Left Hip DI = 0.31; Right Hip DI = 0.29. Ranking = 90%. Owned by Jim Hughes. Pedigree 425, Aug., 2016 GDS.

ARON Z JASNENCIA PODLUZI (M): Sire: Don z Dockalova Dvora; Dam: Jasnenka od Pitne Vody. Left Hip DI = 0.34; Right Hip DI = 0.59. Ranking = 20%. Owned by Joe Moeggenborg. Pedigree 431, Aug., 2017 GDS.

FOUSEK SAKERED BOHDAN (M): Sire: Fousek z Masek Alouis; Dam: Aisha z Kamenneho Kopce. Left Hip DI = 0.27; Right Hip DI = 0.27. Ranking = >90%. Owned by Monica Redmond. Pedigree 428, Aug., 2016 GDS.

CIRA OD ALINY Z NEHVIZD (F): Sire: Gyrr od Vavrineckeho Rybnika; Dam: Daga z Duskova Dvora. Left Hip DI = 0.35; Right Hip DI = 0.27. Ranking = 90%. Owned by Hiram Adelman. Pedigree 403, Aug., 2014 GDS.

Chips Ahoy

by
Roger Fuhrman

Kuaiti, Hawaii— Ahh how wonderful, especially when the weather in Idaho is WINTER. Relax, visit with friends and enjoy the island. But then I received a text from one of our children that said “Hi Dad – I'm out looking for Cora, (**Cora z Ceceminskych vnic**). She got out of our yard. I know your phone number is on her collar, so I just wanted you to know in case someone called you.” Within the hour I did receive a phone call that told me that Cora had been hit by a pickup, and that she was on her way to the emergency veterinarian clinic in Boise. The caller informed me that she was lucid, but bleeding from both hind legs, and he suspected her legs were broken. I thanked him for the call and immediately called the veterinary clinic. Long story made short – Cora had no broken bones and is recovering well.

From this experience, I learned a few things:

- Have the information of your emergency veterinarian clinic with you. That may help your dog's rescuer know where to take your dog - name, phone number and address. It will also assist you when calling to arrange care for your dog.
- Attach your dog's identification firmly. Cora had 2 ID's on her collar, one for our home address and another for our cabin in Cascade. One of those ID's was ripped off in the accident. Her ID's were attached with rivets, make sure those rivets are tapped in tightly. The most important information on her ID's was our phone number and our address.
- Ask friends and relatives that know your dog to go visit them. In Cora's case, she was in the clinic for four days before she was released. Our children and grandchildren visited her often and it really buoyed her spirits, and they texted pictures and gave us their impression of her recovery. That really helped Nancy & me.

Although Cora's microchip was not a factor in her rescue in this event, I recalled a conversation Laurie Connell and I had discussing whether chips in imported dogs could be identified with their US owners. While at one of several visits to our local clinic, I asked the veterinarian if they could read her chip number, and they could. But she said they could not get any information relating to her chip number, such as who her owner is. They helped me get her chip number registered.

How to get your dog's Microchip number associated with you the owner

Have your veterinarian scan the chip number

look up the microchip number at www.petmicrochiplookup.org

If the number is not found in the database, go to petlink.net and you will be able to register your dog's microchip number under your name, address, phone number, email address.

In the event your dog is reported as “found” to Petlink.net, the people at [Petlink](http://Petlink.net) told me they would notify you by email, text and a personal phone call, if they have that information. Make sure they have all 10 numbers of your phone on your registration. There was a \$20 fee for registering the microchip.

Here's hoping you never need any of this information.

Additional note: We have also found a chip registration firm called Petkey.org They register **all** brands of microchips. They claim they are the only competitor with a life-time registration fee vs. annual fees- only \$116; Or \$20 per year for the annual fee.

Their online breed registration box would not accept Český Fousek so you need to call them to have them manually finish the online form.

Roger and Cora



Research and Testing Donations Needed!

Donations NEEDED for Český Fousek health research. Hit the donate button at:

<http://huntersgriffon.org/contributions/>

The December issue of GDS included a brief description of the two branches of the BWPGCA. The Education and Research Foundation (E&RF) branch is a 501(c)3 organization and can accept tax deductible contributions. The E&RF receives most of its funding from entry fees for dog testing, club Chapter donations, and individual donations.

The following are a few of the things the E&RF funds:

- the publication and distribution of the Gun Dog Supreme;
- acquisition and distribution of educational material (books, DVDs);
- progeny testing and training events;
- the cost of genetic research and testing conducted through Cornell University's Medical Genetic Archive (DNA and Tissue bank)

The last item, genetic research and testing, provides us with information on one of the biggest genetic problems in Český Fouseks: fur loss due to the autoimmune disease, alopecia. But getting data from our dogs for alopecia studies has a wealth of other research benefits too! The type of raw data generated can be used in many other studies, including use by the Breeding Committee to help select mating pairs. But we desperately need funds to process DNA samples. It costs about \$110 per dog just to get the DNA from the Cornell BioBank processed into raw genetic data. The more dogs we have processed the better our analysis. Silvie Neradilová is a Czech PhD student and will use this raw data in her alopecia research.

You can help by making a tax-deductible donation. It's easy; just go to:

<http://huntersgriffon.org/contributions/>

and click on the "Donate" button to make an on-line contribution, or a check can be made out to "BWPGCA E&RF" and mailed to:

Zeb Breuckman, Treasurer
983 New Holland Dr.
Bozeman, MT 59718

zeb.breuckman@gmail.com

Any amount helps. Thanks for your consideration.

Some Quick Thoughts on the Genetics of Behavior, with a Note about Gun Shyness

By Rick Sojda

In 1917, Henry Mencken (journalist, satirist, 1880-1956) wrote: “Explanations exist; they have existed for all time; there is always a well-known solution to every human problem — neat, plausible, and wrong.” I suspect that is equally true for problems about breeding hunting dogs, like our beloved Cesky Fouseks. The inheritance of behavioral traits is notoriously complex. A recent report on the inheritance of behavioral traits in dogs from work done in the Netherlands and Sweden is beginning to make me rethink some of what we have been doing for years in our Club. At this time, I want to bring four things to your attention.

First. The Swedish Flat-coated Retriever club has been measuring and estimating the heritability of hunting behaviors in that breed, and there is strong evidence in support of the heritability of gun shyness in work done by researchers at the University of Agricultural Sciences in Uppsala. More recent studies have focused on the heritability of ten behavioral traits in Labrador Retrievers and German Shepherds, where over 4,500 dogs were studied. This work originated at the Animal Breeding and Genomics Centre at Wageningen University in the Netherlands. Those scientists reported that gun shyness in Labradors had the highest heritability of the ten behavior traits that they studied. Gun shyness was the third most heritable trait measured in German Shepherds. So, our testing for gun shyness and using it in our breeding program appears to be on solid ground. Can the expression of gun shyness/sensitivity be influenced by the trainer? Like many complexities in understanding our dogs, the pup/dog’s environment throughout life, contributes to the observability of a trait. However, it may be the underlying genetics that affects the propensity for a particular behavior, like gun shyness, to develop.

Second. Sex influences the expression of the behaviors, and the sexes do not necessarily transmit the traits equally. Furthermore, in the study I mentioned earlier, Labrador males tended to be both less gun shy and more cooperative than females. Males also tended to show greater courage, defense drive, nerve stability, and hardness in both Labrador Retrievers and German Shepherd Dogs. In our Club, it seems we expect the sexes to be similar in such things.

Third. There is a myriad of factors that were shown to influence behaviors and their heritability. Litter size, number of males in the litter, season of birth, age when tested, and season of testing all influence observed behavior traits. It was particularly surprising to me that the sex ratio of a litter, itself, may influence behaviors observed later in life. And, of course, I am not even addressing the influence of the handler and their family.

Fourth. The formal description of behavior traits for dogs in the scientific literature is different than what we describe in our test books. For example, “temperament” is defined as “The degree of liveliness”. I have noticed that the Czechs use this latter definition when I have inquired about it in the past. For such reasons, I suspect that our booklets are due for revision, but...change often comes too slowly for some and too quickly for others.

And, then there is the quote attributed to Mark Twain: “It ain't what you don't know that gets you into trouble. It's what you know for sure that just ain't so.” Someday, I may write about the half of what I know for sure that is actually true...

Retrieve to Hand- My Journey to Success

by Tawna Skinner

Imagine, your dog intently pointing. The bird flushes. You make a fine shot and the bird falls in the field some 50 yards away. Quietly, you send your dog. She makes a beeline to the bird, picks it up and trots enthusiastically back to you. She sits in front of you waiting for you to take the bird, which you do. You smile and feel the joy of the teamwork and skill between you and your dog. It is a beautiful and wondrous thing!



General Rogers Award Winner Tawna Skinner—Working with her dog Josette Griffond'or, Tawna won the General Rogers Award for highest scoring Utility Field Test. They scored 4s across the board for a total score of 254 and a Prize I.

That was my dream after watching my first NAVHDA Utility test back in the early 80's. Watching those dogs perform the myriad skills required to pass a UT test amazed me. I never knew a dog could do all those things. It was then and there that I knew that "I wanted a dog like that!" Thus, began my "dog training" journey that continues to this day.

In the beginning, I used the NAVHDA training bible The Training and Care of the Versatile Dog by Sigbot Winterhelle and Edward Bailey. The "green" book as it was referred to, gave step by step instructions on creating a fully trained gundog. I followed it to a "t". I built a training table, went through all the steps. I had success in most areas, but with retrieving I had problems. In fact, I nearly ruined my first dog, Chelsea, for retrieving. I had to quit for 6 months or more and start over. Looking back, I realize as a neophyte trainer there was a lot I didn't know or understand and being afraid to ask for help caused me to make mistakes. I trained under false assumptions, such as assuming that my or any dog, if I followed the steps in the book, would become a happy, willing retriever or that force: "you will pick up this dummy, by God" and pain—"if you don't then you will get your ear pinched" would yield the result I wanted. Other unworkable assumptions on my part included: a particular result could and should be accomplished in "my" timeline; and that the dog should obey no matter what they think or feel about it. Because this method was frustrating and painful for me and my dog and ended up yielding an anxious and sullen, but generally obedient retriever, I kept looking for an alternative method.

Eventually, I decided I needed to get "professional" instruction so I attended a week-long George Hickox seminar. Here I learned to use an e-collar to "train" dogs to do what I wanted, including retrieving. I thought it better in some ways. When used correctly, dogs learned quickly to do the "right" thing. There was less pain and suffering for me and the dog. I felt less frustration and anger when things did not go well. Using an e-collar did get me closer to my dream and my dogs were much happier about doing their job. Yet, there were some glitches along the way, so to solidify my knowledge and technique I attended another GH week long training.

Though effective, I still was not totally satisfied with training with an e-collar. It can become a crutch for obedience. It says that I do not trust my dog. It shows an emphasis on absolute obedience as opposed to cooperative teamwork. So, I kept wondering, thinking, searching and reading.

In addition to my own troubled experience with "training the retrieve", as a WPGCA Judge, I was noticing the difficulties that handler's and their dogs were having with the retrieving portions of the Intermediate Field Test. I wondered what factors were contributing to this. Could it be:

That the young dogs could not take the stress of the "force" fetch method. Were we asking for too much, too soon?

That the handlers did not like or know how to teach "the retrieve" using the force fetch or trained retrieve methods?

That the handlers were relying/depending on a young dog's natural desire to retrieve?

That the dogs did not have enough experience yet?

That the new surroundings and activities caused too much distraction and stress or was it something else...?

Other judges were also concerned with these retrieving problems. At one of our Judge's Seminars, Rick Sodja shared with us the idea that there was a 'change of attitude' in the retrieving dog as it got closer to the handler. He demonstrated in a graph that a dog was motivated by cooperation up until about twenty yards from the handler and then obedience became the key factor in the dog retrieving the bird to hand. For further explanation of this "changing attitude by distance" read the article by Joe Schmutz in the April, 2015 GDS.

Though no actual remedy to this situation was given, I wondered if more obedience work was thought to be the key to overcoming the hump of having the dog come willingly, and directly back to the handler. I had already been questioning and picking apart the "retrieve" training process, identifying each individual part. I asked myself if my dogs knew all these parts and what I needed to change in my training regimen to make sure they learned each individual part and then, how to put all the parts together into a finished package. Because dogs learn by association and have difficulty in making large cognitive leaps and generalizations, I figured that breaking the training process down into smaller parts would yield a better result.

I found that focusing on teaching each individual part and "taking the time it takes" for the dog to learn, understand, practice and become comfortable with each part of the retrieving process did yield a more relaxed, willing, reliable and confident dog.

During all this time I was still reading lots of books on dog training, dog psychology, dog history, etc. Two books I read were on "service" dogs. I learned that many service dogs, when they go to their new owners, know up to 90 commands and these are mostly taught in the first year of their lives. "Wow," I thought, "I am not tapping into anywhere close to my dog's potential nor am I starting early enough!" Then I thought, "how do they do that?" That my friends is "the rest of the story."

After more research, I found that most 'service' and 'therapy dogs are now trained us-



New Meaning to "Turning a Blind Eye"

Training has it's payoff in the field, but it can also have it's humorous moments. Here, Tawna's dog really makes a blind retrieve.

(Photo by Tawna Skinner)

ing a positive training approach. It is based on “positive reinforcement” meaning that if you reward a behavior you like, there is a better chance of that behavior being repeated. Victoria Stillwell, founder of Positively Dog Training states that “when paired with negative punishment (the removal or withholding of something the dog wants, (like food, attention, toys or human contact for a short period of time) or using a vocal interrupter to redirect negative behavior onto a wanted behavior and to guide a dog into making the right choices, these methods are the foundation elements...of positive training.” Positive training avoids harsh physical punishment or fear for incorrect behavior and believes in owners developing a healthy, functional relationship with their dogs, along with learning about the canine experience from the dog’s point of view.

I first learned about “positive reinforcement” training when I began training my young colt. Having seen so many horses abused in their “training” as I was growing up, I wanted nothing to do with those “dominance and submission” methods. In researching other training methods, I found a book called Clicker Training for Your Horse by Alexandra Kurland. I bought it and started experimenting with it. I soon had my colt doing a variety of things, including trailer loading. I was hooked.

“Clicker training “is the name given to an animal training method wherein a desirable behavior (for example: a sit) is marked with a sound (the clicker) and then rewarded. It is based on the scientist B.F. Skinner’s principles of operant conditioning and later work by two of his students, Marian and Keller Breland. The Breland’s came up with the idea of a secondary reinforcer such as a click or whistle to serve as a bridging mechanism or sound marker to let an animal know that it had done a correct action.

In addition to my horse, I also started ‘clicker training’ my dogs. With the help of a book, I soon had my pup (at that time) well versed in her basic obedience skills of sit, stay, come, kennel and down. It was easy, fun and my dogs loved it. Ever seeking, I wondered if I could teach my dog to retrieve using the ‘clicker’ method and avoid all that frustration, anger, pain and anxiety that I had felt teaching my earlier dogs to retrieve. I am here to tell you that yes, I did and so can you.

In part two of this article I am going to explain more about ‘clicker’ training and give a step by step guide on how to teach your dog to retrieve to hand. In the meantime, get a book on clicker training. Clicking with your Dog by Peggy Tillman is the one I started with. Practice with it to develop your timing. Teach your dog to sit, stay and come. These are all parts of the retrieve to hand sequence, in addition to skills necessary for any dog to be a well mannered and safe companion. See you in the next issue.

Editor’s Note:

This is the first in a series of articles on using the clicker model as a positive reinforcement method of retriever training. I personally plan to use Tawna’s instruction in training my new pup, Brom, to retrieve.

There are many illustrations of clicker training on-line (They vary greatly in quality.) , and you may find some useful. Here’s one that illustrates the basic principles:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6oFO9Z0oHBA>

We’ll also be adding our own videos to our Facebook pages and YouTube Channel:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCemLcT-twFTG0S_YGZJTzrQ

What's Happening

Pheasant Fest & Quail Classic

February 16 –18, 2018

Denny Sanford PREMIER Center

1201 N. West Avenue

Sioux Falls, SD 57104

Booths 315 and 317

Please help! Anyone with a pup from this year - imported or domestic is urged to attend.

Contact John Pitlo now and ask what you can do.

jpitlo@iowatelecom.net (563) 5992487

Spring 2018 Tests

Rocky Mountain Chapter Test and National Judges Seminar

Judges seminar Friday, March 23, 2018

Test Saturday and Sunday, March 24 & 25, 2018.

Jerome, Idaho

Field Test Chairman, John McDunn

mcdunnk9@hotmail.com

(406)410-0565

Heartland Chapter Spring Test

Spring Test April 20-22 2018

Field Test Chair Dave Read

PH:(616) 836-5304

Email: readgriff@gmail.com

Northeast Chapter Spring Test

May 5, 2018 Wintersport, ME

Test Chairs: Scott Craig & Laurie Connell

85 Rabbit Hill Road

Winterport, Maine, 04496

(207) 525 3383

oquassa5@gmail.com

Michigan Training Days

Monthly training/exposure days begin in late March or early April, dependent on weather. Held near Marshal MI. Contact Jim Crouse to get on the email list.

Email: jcrouse01@yahoo.com Ph: (614) 562-1860