

The Gun Dog Supreme

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

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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Summer is often the season for getting a new puppy, and I'm pleased to report that the club has just produced another litter for 2018: Gary and Ann Pool's kennel, Auger Falls just announced the H litter arrival. It's looking like the club is developing a broadened breeding pool and we should have a healthy supply of pups in the future. Of course, having more pups means needing more judges for our tests and other volunteers to keep the organization functioning. We have an election of officers coming up this year, but even if you're not up to that, there are plenty of other roles that you can fill. Talk with a club or chapter officer and see how we can use your talents.

Putting on training days is one activity that requires volunteers. We had good success this spring with pre-test training days, and we hope to continue the practice, but all such added events require more help.

I'll end this on a bit of a sad note. I recently learned that one of the founders of versatile hunting dogs and author of "The Green Book," Bodo Winterheldt has passed away. We owe a lot to Bodo and his commitment to versatile hunting dogs.

Rem DeJong, Editor

On the Cover:

Foucek z Sakered Bohdan owned by Monica Redmond, was the winner of The General Rodgers Trophy, which is awarded annually to the highest scoring Utility Field Test dog. Monica handled Bohdy to a Total Score 248 Prize III performance.

**For information requests or to join the WPGCA please email Robin at: rstrathy@q.com
Or visit our web page at <http://bohemiangriffon.org>**

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Rem DeJong
John Pitlo

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

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Election of Officers

Calling all members! Ever wish you could more directly influence the policies and direction of our club? Here's your chance to be involved with our club future. The BWPGCA constitution requires an election of officers every three years. Our Club Officers consist of: Club President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. The terms for the current officers are up at the end of 2018 and we're looking for individuals interested in being nominated to any of those posts. If you are interested, or wish to nominate an individual (with their consent!) to a position, you can send your nomination to:

Robin Strathy
441 Flood Road
Great Falls, MT 59404
Email: rstrathy@q.com

Nomination deadline is August 1, 2018. Nominee names will be published in the October GDS and election results will be posted in the December 2018 GDS

Current Officers are:

PRESIDENT Jim Crouse

VICE PRESIDENT Andy Rupp

SECRETARY Robin Strathy

TREASURER Zeb Breuckman

Note: In addition to the elected officers, the club also has appointed board members. These additional board members are appointed by the president and approved by the BOD. The Education & Research Foundation also has a Board of Directors. These individuals serve three year terms and are elected by the existing BOD.

EXPOSURE/PRE-TEST PRACTICE DAY HELD PRIOR TO FIELD TEST

**by
Anita Andrus and Tawna Skinner**

This year the Rocky Mountain Chapter decided to offer an afternoon of puppy exposure and pre-test practice two days before our March field test. The intent was to show our Czech visitors some of our training methods in addition to providing practice for club members and their dogs.

We gathered at the test site and divided the handlers and dogs into two groups. One group had 3 pups under seven months of age with first time Fousek owners. That group worked on introduction to birds, tracking and water. The second group, made up of 5 dogs testing NA on Saturday, practiced tracking a live pheasant as well as using a live duck for water entry enticement.

In our opinion this type of pre-test training opportunity provides a number of benefits. For young pups it offers exposure to the excitement of new people, travel, new dogs, birds, motels etc. which broadens his comfort zone. It also gives handlers the chance to be mentored by more experienced club members.

For dogs being tested it offers the opportunity to become somewhat familiar with the test grounds i.e. smells, landscape, weather, thus reducing 'new place' distractions. Handlers too can reduce their performance anxiety by practicing their handling skills for cueing the dog properly for each segment of the test. Because open water is not available in some states in the Spring, a pre-test training day affords dogs the chance to review their water skills.

Participants in the young puppy group, lead by Tawna Skinner (ID) said they appreciated her explanation of their dog's learning progression for specific skills such as tracking and enthusiasm for water. She stressed the importance of building confidence in the pup during training by taking baby steps as opposed to just focusing on the completion of the end goal.

We suggest other chapters try an afternoon of exposure/pre-test training and share their ideas on how we can better help handlers and their dogs perform their best at our field tests.

Editor Note:

The Heartland Chapter also tried an exposure/training day at the spring test on April 19. Mother Nature played a cruel trick by dumping 10 inches of wet snow the day before. The weather did not deter a dedicated bunch of handlers from taking advantage of the opportunity. Our group echoes the assessment above by Anita and Tawna. Some dogs had never done a track before, and running a dog was a new experience for many. About ten handlers participated. Both handlers and judges agreed that this is worth doing again—especially with nicer weather!



ABOVE: A fluke late-season snow storm tested the limits of a “Spring” training/exposure day. Clear skies and bright sunshine melted the snow and gave participants some serious sunburn. No matter; we had a great time. Handlers learned a lot and the dogs got to experience test conditions.

BELOW: Judges Jim Crouse and John Pitlo help Don Fizer of Alabama and his dog Lola learn about live bird tracking. Lola got to watch this bird run before tracking. Then she did a second track by scent only. The experience definitely helped Lola perform at her best the next day in a real NAT situation.



ANNOUNCING A 2018 CESKY FOUSEK BREEDING OF THE BOHEMIAN WIREHAired POINTING GRIFFON CLUB OF AMERICA**DAM: Angie Vallis Baptismi [Tess]****SIRE: Argo ze Stoprounských vinic [Books]**

Breeding Committee Announces Another Successful Breeding for 2018

Argo ze Stoprounských vinic (Books) x Angie Vallis Baptismi (Tess)

This was a planned natural breeding and took place in March 2018- during our National meeting in ID. We believe both Tess and Books are exceptional dogs and have produced numerous birds for their owners. Tess searches well and is not afraid to range out a bit, but all the while hunting with her handler. She has great hips. She points well and likes the water. Books is an average sized male and one that is as comfortable in the water as in the uplands. Tess produced seven fine puppies, five brown and two liver-ticked.

If you've been postponing getting on the puppy wait list, this might be a good time to get off the fence and on the list. The first step is to complete a puppy request form on the web site. You'll be put in touch with a Breeding Committee member to get your questions answered and begin planning.

<https://bohemiangriffon.org/puppy-request/>

Great Offer from Cornell Biobank

Perhaps some of you have heard of 23 and me? Well there is something similar for dogs from a company called Embark (<https://embarkvet.com/>). The Cornell Veterinary Biobank is teaming up with Embark to provide DNA testing from banked DNA samples at a discounted price.

"Embark's top canine DNA scientists use over 200,000 genetic markers to discover your pup's family tree and run over 175 genetic health and trait tests on your dog, alerting you to potential issues before they strike. Your interactive results come with the support of a dedicated team of veterinarians and geneticists to give you and your veterinarian the tools to best care for your pup." The discounted price is \$110 (normal price is \$199).

If you have submitted blood from your dog to Cornell (and most of you have) then the process is easy. Contact Laurie Connell via email (oquasa5@gmail.com) for a request. Pay the treasurer the \$110 via the website and note that it is earmarked for the Embark test. It may take a bit of time for the results because they run the test in batches of 96 and we have to wait until they have 96 to send in (not all from our dogs). You will receive the Embark information through email and the club will have access to the raw data for research- so this helps both your dog and the club!



AN OVERVIEW OF IDEAS PRESENTED TO OUR CLUB BY OUR CZECH VISITORS AS RECORDED BY RICK SOJDA AND OTHERS

On Sunday, 25 March, at the conclusion of our 2018 Spring Test and Judges' Seminar, I asked our Czech visitors to give us a compendium of what they experienced about our club, and our dogs, and by doing so provide some general review for us. Their responses were thoughtful and provided many insights. I did my best to record their actual words and to not add any commentary of my own. These are presented in the order as stated, and in "first person" as though they are speaking. There were about a dozen of our members present.

- Thank you for inviting us.
- It was good to have split into three judging groups.
- The condition of your testing grounds is good and probably represents the conditions in which you hunt.
- The overall natural ability of your dogs is at a good level.
- We recognize that your handlers have different requirements than ours in the CR (Czech Republic).
- While searching, it sometimes appeared that the dogs could not keep up with the handler, and it seemed that the dogs could not search all the terrain. One might consider adjusting the speed of the handler to that of the dog, rather than vice versa.
- Judges need to speak more to the handler during the test, advising them.
- We believe that a dog that searches with a specific pattern is more efficient. A dog's search pattern is probably genetically controlled but is also trained and controlled by commands. The older the dog, the fewer commands that are necessary.
- We believe in giving more commands to the dog while testing and hunting.
- We are glad to see that you consider each dog as an individual, but we think the dog should work for the handler, not the other way around.
- You need to consider the wind more, especially with young dogs. The wind is always in our faces in the CR when we work our dogs.
- Your dogs must be trained to point planted birds.
- Steadiness when pointing is important. You need to expect your dogs to be steady much earlier. The first command to teach is "down" and to stay there.
- We do see a few dogs that will not point naturally.
- Some dogs that are slow to mature must be allowed to chase birds to increase their prey drive.
- A dog should search with a high nose, taking air scent. It is a "mistake" for a dog to stop and acknowledge ground scent too often when searching.
- [Rick: by "mistake", they meant that there would be a point reduction in their search score at a test.]

- By training a dog to track, you may be training them to search with a low nose, and they may stop and potter too often. We do not train our dogs to track; they do it naturally.
- When you do a dead drag, always use the same species of birds for the two used. Birds should be dragged head-first (by the neck), not by the feet as we saw. Be certain that the second person/judge does not follow in the track. The last thing in the track should be the bird. We use two curves in our drag (Rick: hare?)
- When handlers start a drag (Rick: or track?), they should take their dog to the start, command “down”; then command “track” so that the dog knows to put their nose to the ground; then walk with the dog keeping it on a leash until it is obvious that it is tracking; then release the leash. One can run the leash from the collar, under the neck and belly, and out the rear between the legs, which will help keep the dog’s nose on the ground, where it should be, when starting.
- In the CR, the drag is not a test of nose, but of “retrieve at a long distance” and is done also with hares.
- A dog gets confused when it points when tracking: “Should I pick up this bird, or point?”
- We do not (technically) hunt the dog until it has passed its first two tests and is typically three years old. Our dogs are not put into a real hunting situation until then, generally, but there are exceptions when hunting situations are used for training.
- By government regulation, each 500 hectares (1,236 acres) of a hunting club must have at least one pointer who has passed its tests in order to hold hunts. For a bird hunt, there must also be 1 dog per 10 hunters.
- We do not understand why the duck was pulled on a string for the duck track. This just does not seem “right” to ever do this.
- Temperament has a different definition for us: It is hunting drive, whether the dog is active, and whether it can hunt all day, and whether it is “fast” on the search.

A couple other comments that they made after the exposure day prior to the test seem appropriate for me to add, again as though they are speaking. This was not part of the summary session.

- You seem to do things backwards in time compared to us [regarding training]. We train obedience first, and then expand to exposure to hunting.
- You need to be “more harsh” in your training methods. “Do not accept mistakes.” [Rick: they each mentioned this more than once. They did not quite say this directly, but I believe their concept was: Do not be mean, but “tone of voice and [Rick: trainer] growling” is important, which they demonstrated.]
- We would NEVER tape a duck and let the young dog chase and play with it like was done.

[Rick: they were most emphatic about this, adding that, in their experience, this encourages the wrong behavior. When pursuing a live bird, the young dog should already have been somewhat trained/wanting to retrieve to hand.]

Let me close by saying that I decided to present their comments, here, because not everyone had the opportunity to be present in Idaho. Furthermore, not everyone was able to spend as much time with them as some of us were. Hopefully, these notes grasp some of our visitors' nuances and observations. I am providing them simply for our consideration, for our institutional memory, and to broaden our perspectives. In so doing, it suggests the obvious: there are many perspectives to breeding, raising, training, testing, and hunting our dogs. Finally, our visitors were most interested in why we do things differently in some respects, and they were not being adamant that their approaches are best. We must remember that our culture, habitats, gamebirds, and hunting styles and traditions are different than those in Europe. One size does not fit all.

OTHER ACTIVITIES WITH OUR CZECH FRIENDS

by
Rick Sojda

When our friends from the Czech Republic were here, they were very interested in experiencing the local sights and sounds and sampling the shopping and the suds. We had a great time with them, thanks to several Club members helping them feel welcome. Their trip started off on an unfortunate note, as most of their luggage was lost in Paris. It began to trickle in over the next few days with the last one being delivered to Eva at the test grounds in Jerome by Mike Vance! Thanks, Mike.

We went to Yellowstone National Park and saw all the usual ungulates: thousands of bison, hundreds of elk, mule deer, bighorn sheep, and antelope, but no carnivores. We also walked the Minerva Terraces and visited the Park's visitor Center. Brook arranged for our friend, Doug Smith, who is the Park's wolf biologist, to give us a most interesting overview of his program. Speaking of elk, we also saw 3-4,000 elk of the Wall Creek herd in the Upper Madison River Valley, all within about ¾ mile of the highway. They commented, "Are these being grown for meat? It seemed to them that so many elk in one spot, in an apparent pasture, were being farmed." They could hardly believe that this was a wintering concentration of wild animals about to disperse over hundreds of square miles to calve in the mountains.



Our Czech Friends Visit Yellowstone: (left to right kneeling) Pavel Horák, Blanca Horaková, (standing) Jaroslav Havlát., Eva Šafariková, Silvie Neradilová, Dana Brzkovská, Pavel Dostál.



The following article is reprinted from the LMAC Newsletter by permission of the author and the LMAC.

The Large Munsterlander Association of Canada (LMAC). LMAC commits to maintaining the Large Munsterlander (LM) as a dog for hunters, their families and ethical hunting. The Large Munsterlander is a long-haired versatile hunting dog, developed in Germany, which has been bred to performance standards in North America for over 30 years.

Artificial Insemination in the Dog

by Tracy Fisher, DVM

Artificial insemination (AI) using chilled or frozen semen has been employed successfully by many dog breeders for the last 20 years or more. It offers the advantage of not having to ship the bitch or dog for breeding, and in the case of frozen semen, allows for the preservation of semen for a potentially indefinite length of time. If used correctly, AI can result in very good to excellent pregnancy rates and litter sizes.

For breeds such as the Large Munsterlander with a limited number of eligible breeding individuals and a wide geographic distribution this technology could be very useful in preserving genetic diversity within the breed. All of the AI techniques described below have the best success rates using healthy, reproductively normal animals in their prime breeding years.

Fertility for BOTH male and female dogs declines with age. It is common to use male dogs well into their senior years and conception rates and litter sizes may be good using natural or fresh AI but older males often have semen that does not chill or freeze well.

AI is NOT a good method to overcome fertility problems; it IS a good method to overcome "area code" problems. Owners will have to find a veterinarian in their area willing to do AI as not all clinics are comfortable or familiar with these techniques.

Semen Collection:

Most intact male dogs with a normal libido can be manually collected by a veterinarian in the clinic. It is often advantageous to bring a bitch that is in heat along to help with stimulating the male but this is not always needed (depending on the male). Once the semen is collected it is evaluated for motility, forward progression, volume and concentration. If the sample is deemed acceptable, usually >75% motility, >0.3 X 10⁶ total number, and a volume of at least 0.5-2 mls (depending on breed) it can be prepared for implant or preservation.

Fresh or “Side by Side” AI

This is the most basic type of AI. In this case the male and the female are together. This method is used most frequently when there are problems getting a pair to naturally mate. This may be due to difficulty due to age or injury of the male, inexperience of the male, or a female who simply will not accept the male despite being in the fertile phase of her heat cycle. Semen is collected from the male and deposited using a rigid catheter directly into the females vagina near the cervix. Success rates from this method are the same as natural breeding. Normal, fresh semen survives 3-7 days in the bitches reproductive tract allowing a wide margin of error for predicting ovulation dates. Optimal breeding dates using this method may be predicted using vaginal cytology which can be performed quickly at most veterinary clinics. If the semen is not going to be implanted directly into a bitch within a few hours, it will need to be “extended” or frozen to maintain its viability.

Chilled Semen

Chilled semen is widely used as it requires very little specialized equipment and has excellent success rates if used correctly. The male is collected as above and then the semen is gently centrifuged to remove the excess prostatic fluid. Then a semen extender, usually containing egg yolks for nutrition for the sperm as well as antibiotics to prevent infection and buffers to maintain optimal pH is added. The semen is then chilled to 5 C for at least 2 hours and then shipped in a container specially designed to maintain a steady temperature for 24-36 hours. This will allow enough time for the semen to be shipped most places within North America (except on a long weekend). Kits containing semen extender and a special shipping box can be ordered from the International Canine Semen Bank (ICSB: <http://www.ik9sb.com/>). Our clinic has generally used Purolator to ship our samples. Please be aware there may be brokerage fees for customs if the sample is crossing the Canada/US border.

Once the semen arrives at its destination it is then warmed to room temperature fairly rapidly, evaluated for motility, and implanted in the bitch's vagina. Chilled semen that has been rewarmed will survive 24-48 hours in the bitch's reproductive tract which gives us a much narrower window for successful conception. For this reason we recommend more accurate ovulation timing using progesterone assays on the bitch (more on this to follow), and if possible, two breedings 48 hours apart. Good quality chilled semen will have a motility rate of at least 70% once it is re-warmed. Success rates with good quality semen and accurate ovulation timing are only slightly lower than natural breeding. If the semen has poor post thaw motility your veterinarian may recommend a surgical or trans-cervical implant (more on that later). One final recommendation is to “test chill” the male prior to the expected breeding date. This is because there are some males who will have normal fertility using a natural breeding but their semen does not survive long after the chilling process. It is best to find this out prior to breeding so alternate arrangements can be made. The risk of having semen that does not “chill well” increases with the age of the male.

Frozen Semen

Frozen Semen has the advantage of being able to be stored for many years as long as it is kept in a temperature controlled liquid nitrogen storage facility. It

can be shipped in a special tank that will maintain that temperature for at least 7 days allowing it to be transported almost anywhere in the world. The disadvantages are the need for specialized facilities to collect and freeze the semen, veterinarians who are comfortable with reproductive medicine to help with ovulation timing and implantation of the semen when used, the expense and generally lower success rates. We have been doing frozen semen surgical implants at our clinic for almost 20 years now and have good success rates (>70%) and good litter sizes IF precise ovulation timing is used, the bitch is healthy and in her peak reproductive years (2-4 for a Munsterlander), and post thaw semen motility is good. Once thawed, frozen semen will only live for 12-24 hours in the female reproductive tract.

As with chilled semen, some males who are fertile with a natural breeding will have very poor post thaw motility. Age of the male is a key factor. If you are considering freezing semen from your male it should be done ideally in his prime (2-5 years). ICSB has several facilities across North America that can collect and freeze canine semen. Most veterinary colleges will also be able to offer this service.

Ovulation timing for a frozen semen breeding is absolutely critical. It will generally involve a combination of vaginal cytology evaluations and serial blood serum progesterone and lutenizing hormone levels to predict ovulation.

It is vital you find a veterinarian who understands how to do ovulation timing and can get the samples to a reference laboratory for analysis. The costs for these tests are often \$400-900 depending on how long it takes the bitch to ovulate. It takes 3-5 days for a canine oocyte to mature post ovulation so once we predict ovulation timing we can arrange for the semen to be shipped. Most frozen semen breedings use only one breeding due to cost and method of implantation.

Due to the limited life span of frozen semen and often less than ideal post thaw motility it must be implanted directly into the uterus. This can be done surgically or through a trans-cervical implant.

For a surgical implant the bitch is put under a general anesthesia and a small 3-5 cm incision is made into the the abdomen. The uterus is then identified and examined for any abnormalities. The semen is injected directly into the uterine horns. The incision is then sutured closed and the bitch is recovered from the anesthesia. The surgery is very quick and complication rates are very low. Most veterinary clinics should have the equipment to perform this procedure.

Trans cervical implants are done using a specialized rigid endoscope. The bitch is either lightly sedated or awake and the cervix is identified using the endoscope and a catheter is passed through the cervix and into the uterus. The semen is then deposited into the uterus through the catheter. This requires specialized equipment and a good deal of practice and expertise to pass the catheter through the cervix. It will only be available at a limited number of veterinary practices or teaching hospitals that specialize in reproduction.

Costs to do a frozen semen implant, whether surgical or trans-cervical, will often total \$1500- 2000 or more for veterinary fees alone, this does not include the costs of shipping the semen transport tank to the clinic and back to the storage

facility, and the cost of the semen itself. For this reason it is imperative that breeders considering using this method maximize their success by using young healthy dogs, preferably with proven reproductive success. This is a poor option for a 6 year old bitch that has never had a litter! While the cost is not insignificant it is certainly less expensive than shipping an animal overseas and could also be used to produce a litter from a male that is deceased provided his semen was stored prior to death.

Registration of Litters Produced by Artificial Insemination

If the LMAC decides to allow AI some consideration should be given as to how to register the litters. Currently the American Kennel Club (AKC) mandates DNA profiling on the stud dog used for AI, the profile is then stored in a databank. This way if there is any question of parentage of offspring produced the DNA of the puppy could be compared to the sire. The AKC has forms that the owner, veterinarian collecting the stud dog and the veterinarian who inseminates the bitch have to complete and sign prior to litter registration.

<http://www.akc.org/register/artificial-insemination/>

Breeding Committee to No Longer Recommend Dew Claw Removal

The removal of dew claws on our pups has been a customary practice here in the U.S. Pups imported from the Czech Republic typically have their dew claws intact. Some veterinarians who specialize in canine athletes now recommend that dew claws not be amputated because they serve a useful purpose when making sharp turns while running. Amputation is also associated with arthritis development in older dogs. Laurie Connell reports that the Breeding Committee, including veterinarian Anna Artz, voted to recommend that our breeders not remove dew claws on future litters.

See the article on page 10 for supporting documentation.

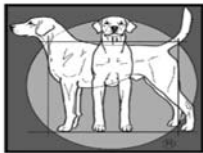
Suggested web sites to visit on the topic:

Daily Dog Discoveries

<https://www.dailydogdiscoveries.com/tag/dog-dewclaw-agility/>

See an array of articles on the canine athlete by Dr. Zink at:

<https://www.caninesports.com/>



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Do the Dew(claws)?

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I work exclusively with canine athletes, developing rehabilitation programs for injured dogs or dogs that required surgery as a result of performance-related injuries. I have seen many dogs now, especially field trial/hunt test and agility dogs, that have had chronic carpal arthritis, frequently so severe that they have to be retired or at least carefully managed for the rest of their careers. Of the over 30 dogs I have seen with carpal arthritis, only one has had dewclaws.

If you look at an anatomy book (Miller's Guide to the Anatomy of Dogs is an excellent one – see Figure 1 below) you will see that there are 2 major, functioning tendons attached to the dewclaw. Of course, at the other end of a tendon is a muscle, and that means that if you cut off the dew claws, there are 2 major muscle bundles that will become atrophied from disuse.

Those muscles indicate that the dewclaws have a function. That function is to prevent torque on the leg. Each time the foot lands on the ground, particularly when the dog is cantering or galloping (see Figure 2), the dewclaw is in touch with the ground. If the dog then needs to turn, the dewclaw digs into the ground to support the lower leg and prevent torque. If the dog doesn't have a dewclaw, the leg twists. A lifetime of that and the result can be carpal arthritis, or perhaps injuries to other joints, such as the elbow, shoulder and toes. Remember: the dog is doing the activity regardless, and the pressures on the leg have to go somewhere.

Perhaps you are thinking, "None of my dogs have ever had carpal pain or arthritis." Well, we need to remember that dogs, by their very nature, do not tell us about mild to moderate pain. If a dog was to be asked by an emergency room nurse to give the level of his pain on a scale from 0 to 10, with 10 being the worst, their scale would be 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10. Most of our dogs, especially if they deal with pain that is of gradual onset, just deal with it and don't complain unless it is excruciating. But when I palpate the carpal joints of older dogs without dewclaws, I frequently can elicit pain with relatively minimal manipulation.

As to the possibility of injuries to dew claws. Most veterinarians will say that such injuries actually are not very common at all. And if they do occur, then they are dealt with like any other injury. In my opinion, it is far better to deal with an injury than to cut the dew claws off of all dogs "just in case."

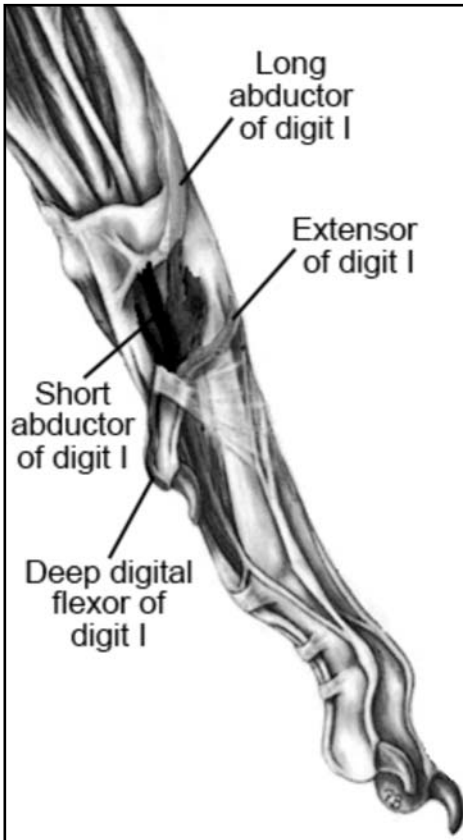


Figure 1.

Anatomical diagram viewing the medial side of a dog's left front leg demonstrating the five tendons that attach to the dewclaw.

--from *Miller's Guide to the Dissection*

Figure 2.

In this galloping dog, the dewclaw is in touch with the ground. If the dog then needs to turn to the right, the dewclaw digs into the ground to support the lower leg and prevent torque.



Disarming the Tick Bomb by Thomas Wyse

I saw first tick of the year on my dog at the Heartland Spring Test, and maybe you did too. Ticks aren't harmful on their own, but they carry and transmit bacterial diseases like Lyme and Bordetella. I can assure you that you don't want to mess with either one. My dog and I are both protected from tick borne diseases. Anja gets NexGard, and I treat my clothes with permethrin.

I'm a forester, so I spend a lot of time in the woods (and so does Anja). I haven't had a single embedded tick since I started treating my clothes three years ago. Before I treated my clothes, there were days when I would find tens to over 100 ticks on myself. I occasionally see a tick crawling on my clothing now, but ticks never get the chance to find my skin and embed.

So, what is permethrin? Permethrin is a manmade insecticide that's similar to extracts from chrysanthemum flowers. It's used topically to treat scabies and head lice, and it's applied to mosquito nets and fabric to protect people from mosquitos and ticks. It's widely used to protect livestock and other animals, including dogs, through topical application. Clothing manufacturers like Insect Shield treat fabric they turn into clothing with permethrin. The US military treats all BDUs with permethrin.

Permethrin is widely used, and it's very effective. Credible sources like the US EPA and National Pesticide Information Center consider permethrin to be safe. My wife, Andrea, is a high school science teacher, and she was skeptical about permethrin safety. She did some research, and she agreed that the risk from tick borne illness is greater than the risk from treating my clothes.

So, it's safe for people, but what about the environment? Permethrin breaks down quickly in the sun and soil. Keep it out of waterways since it's toxic to fish. Don't dip your cat in it either, as it's toxic to cats when it's wet, but once your clothes are dry, your cat won't be harmed.

Now on to the treatment. I treat my clothes once a year, and I find it's still effective after a year and many washings, believe it or not. The military developed a method for treating field clothes in malaria prone areas before they started treating all BDUs. I use a similar method. I buy Martin's Permethrin 10% on Amazon. (The BWPGCA is registered with Amazon Smile, so consider choosing BWPGCA to receive a percentage of your purchase at no expense to you) Martin's isn't registered for human use, by the way. You can buy products that are registered for people, but they are more expensive, and, according the instructions, the treatment doesn't last as long. You can also send your clothes to a couple of companies to have them professionally treated.

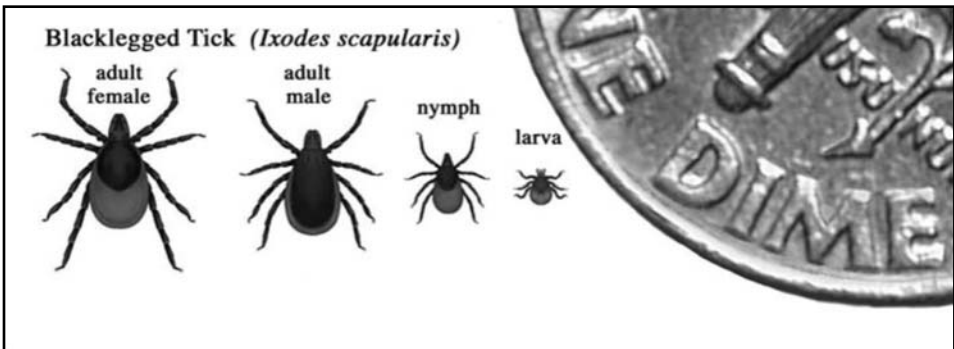
Mix the ten percent solution to 0.83% by mixing 12 parts water to one part insecticide. I mix up a whole quart of insecticide in a big plastic tub at a time, and I treat nearly my whole wardrobe, regardless of whether I wear it in the woods. Ticks are nearly everywhere outside. If you only plan to treat a few garments, you'll have enough for a couple of years if you but the 8 oz. container of Martin's. It costs less than a dollar a garment for treatment.

Toss the clothes in and submerge them in the tub. I put on rubber gloves to agitate them a little and make sure everything is really soaked. Let the clothes soak for three hours.

Pull them out and let them hang dry. I don't try to squeeze them out. I just hang them over our deck railing, and yes, it does drip on the deck and the ground below. When the clothes are well dried, I wash and dry them in our home washer and dryer. The Martin's formulation smells kind of good, and it's water based, but the brand I used before (Insectrin, from the local ag. store) stunk to high heaven, and it uses a petroleum distillate carrier. Stick with the Martin's unless your nose is bad. It usually took a couple of washings and wearings to get the smell out when I used the Insectrin brand.

Other people I know started treating their clothes after hearing how well it worked for me, and they are all happy. Yes, you're putting insecticide on your clothes, but not contracting Lyme disease is worth the apparently small risk to me. I've seen how much Lyme disease can interfere in people's lives. It's a bad bug if it's not caught and treated quickly. I think that the only reason I didn't get Lyme is because I did and still do a thorough tick check every day. It doesn't get old to not find ticks.

You can call me (608.616.4827) or email (tcwyse@gmail.com) if you have questions about treating your clothes.



Blacklegged ticks are the culprit when it comes to lyme disease.
See this CDC website: <https://www.cdc.gov/lyme/index.html>

The Lyme disease bacterium, *Borrelia burgdorferi*, is spread through the bite of infected ticks. The blacklegged tick (or deer tick, *Ixodes scapularis*) spreads the disease in the northeastern, mid-Atlantic, and north-central United States. The western blacklegged tick (*Ixodes pacificus*) spreads the disease on the Pacific Coast.

In most cases, the tick must be attached for 36 to 48 hours or more before the Lyme disease bacterium can be transmitted.

Most humans are infected through the bites of immature ticks called nymphs. Nymphs are tiny (less than 2 mm) and difficult to see; they feed during the spring and summer months. Adult ticks can also transmit Lyme disease bacteria, but they are much larger and are more likely to be discovered and removed before they have had time to transmit the bacteria. Adult *Ixodes* ticks are most active during the cooler months of the year.

What's Happening

Fall 2018 Tests

Heartland Chapter Fall Test

September 7,8 & 9, 2018

Field Test Chair Dave Read

PH:(616) 836-5304 Email: readgriff@gmail.com

Northeast Chapter Fall Test

September 8-9, 2018 Bristol, ME (Tentative)

Test Chairs: Scott Craig & Laurie Connell

85 Rabbit Hill Road

Winterport, Maine, 04496

(207) 525 3383 oquassa5@gmail.com

Northwest: Silver Creek, WA

Sept 8 & 9, 2018

Contact: Dennis Carlson

Tel: 541-386-4830 carlson@gorge.net

Training Days:

Heartland

Marshall, Michigan (held monthly)

Contact: Jim Crouse (614)562-1860 jcrouse01@yahoo.com

Bellevue Iowa

August 3, 4, and 5, 2017

Contact John Pitlo at 563-599-2487 jvpitlo@iowatelecom.net

Mazomanie, WI

September with Fall Test. Specifics to be worked out.

Contact Test Chair, Dave Read for details.

PH:(616) 836-5304 Email: readgriff@gmail.com

Cesky Fousek World Cup

See Web page for details:

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

Contact person in the U.S. is Rick Sojda. Please let Rick know if you are planning to attend.

rick.sojda@gmail.com