

The Gun Dog Supreme

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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Greetings:

This has been a hard issue to complete. Between personally dealing with COVID, the death of another club dog, Jim Crouse's Buckeye B of the Midnight Sun, and now the tragic fire loss suffered by club member, Greg Miyauchi, we've been a bit pre-occupied. Sorry the issue is so late.

But hey! It's October and there are some good hunting opportunities. This is what your Cesky Fousek was bred for, so get out there and hunt, but stay safe. Send me photos and stories for December.

Rem DeJong,

Editor

On the Cover:

Goodbye old friend

It is with sadness that I report the demise of **Buckeye B (Benny) of the Midnight Sun**, who passed away this month while hunting in Idaho with his owner, Jim Crouse. We shared many hunting adventures over Benny's eleven years. He was a great bird dog and one tough cookie on raccoons. He had a soft and sensitive side too. Jim and Monica will miss him sorely.

(Photo by Rem DeJong)

For information requests or to join CFNA please email Robin at:
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Or visit our web page at
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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.

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Managing a Small Gene Pool by The Breeding Committee

In 2019, the Board of Directors adopted some basic breeding principles that are described by Jeffery Bragg. This information can be found through the breeding link on our club web page (<https://www.seppalakennels.com/articles/population-genetics-in-practice.htm>). Also, please watch a short *YouTube* video that describes these principles (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=syJPhxYZBv4>). Both of these resources can help you understand the process and how our club is different from most other clubs, such as NAVHDA.

It is important to understand that we have a rare breed. The effective breeding population of the Český Fousek WORLDWIDE is around 280 dogs. Let me repeat. The worldwide effective breeding population is only about 280 dogs. Yikes! That is fewer than many endangered species. After you have watched that video and read over the Jeffery Bragg articles, you can understand that the goal of our breeding program is to broaden the genetic footprint of our dogs to keep recessive genetic diseases at bay. This is so we produce healthy dogs with the characteristics we expect in a hunting and home companion.

To accomplish this goal, we do not breed any individual dog more than two times, typically only once, and we try to breed at least two dogs from each litter. We have several major constraints: 1) we only sell dogs to hunters, so the demand is not high, 2) we expect those owners to be excellent and motivated trainers through the IHDT, 3) mating selected pairs together at the appropriate time can be logistically challenging given weather constraints for travel and geographical distance, 4) the owners of females are capable of raising a litter at the appropriate time. We plan to produce only enough puppies to fill our waiting list and not more, leaving some dogs that could be bred but are not. Therefore, we must prioritize breeding those that will bring the most diversity to our gene pool.

Now let us go back to that calculation of effective breeding population. Our club's effective breeding population number is based largely on how well our members follow through and prepare their dog for the IHDT so that they can be passed to the breeding committee for consideration. The effective breeding population in North America, including a few breeders who are not associated with the club, is about 20 dogs; this is on the upper end if we could breed every one of those dogs. Many of the dogs in this group have been bred once already, and some will not be bred because of logistical issues, leaving a realistic effective breeding population (including non-club breeders) at around 10 for North America. Our selection is not based on individual dogs per se, but on the depth and breadth of the genetic pool. If we had more dogs passed to the Breeding Committee, we could consider a more diverse set of dogs for breeding, and that would help our goal of keeping genetic diversity high. This is THE major challenge facing our club. Therefore, the Training and Judging Committees are working hard to address this issue.

The selection process begins with the judges giving the Breeding Committee a list of dogs that have passed their IHDT or have been given a special permission to enter the

breeding program. One prime example of this second case is Blue Mountain Brew. This dog did poorly in his only test and had several siblings that were poor hunters or gun-shy. However, Brew showed potential, and the risk was taken to breed him. As a result, there have been a number of excellent dogs produced by Blue Mountain Brew over the decades.

All dogs selected for breeding must pass genetic tests, as well as have good PennHIP scores. Some additional dogs are eliminated at this step. Typically, we have only five or six females available for any given breeding year, and some have already produced a litter, so are of lower genetic value to the population as a whole. The numbers of males available is a little higher than females and currently are clustered primarily in the west.

The next step is to download the most up-to-date version of the Cesky Fousek database and put it into PedScope, a program that is used by zoos for the management of endangered species. PedScope calculates a number of genetic and population parameters based on pedigrees. The better the pedigree dataset, the better the output information, hence, our constant quest for more pedigree information. Currently there are about 32,000 dogs in the database; however, we have very few with complete 10-generation pedigrees because of records lost in a fire in the Czech Republic. The parts we are missing are mostly the female lines. We do have parts of some pedigrees that can be traced back to the 1870s.

All of the North American dogs approved for breeding, plus the dogs represented by frozen semen, are selected in PedScope. Then, analysis is run in a pairwise fashion to calculate the impact of each breeding pair on the gene pool. These scores are ranked by how valuable that pair is to the overall genetic diversity. We do set constraints for some parameters, such as a 10-generation coefficient of inbreeding at a 5% upper limit. Also, the information from genetic profiles are balanced at this step.

The final step, and one that we find to be the most difficult, is logistics. The club tries to do natural breeding whenever possible. Because we are often breeding females during December through February, the weather is typically not terrific for travel. Hence, we try to select the pairs highest on the list that can make reasonable travel arrangements.

Hopefully, this demystifies our breeding process. However, even though the process is quite extensive, there is the element of chance that cannot be controlled. We make decisions with the best information we have, choosing from the pool of approved dogs and as logistics with natural breedings will allow. All club members have a stake in this. We, the club members at large, are the beneficiaries of enjoying these wonderful dogs due to the collective effort of many. These dogs are not created by "accident." Behind every dog is a previous owner who properly prepared that pup's parent for testing, got the parent approved for breeding, and made the effort to travel for breeding, veterinary visits, etc. AND, somebody had to raise that litter. We ask club members to join in our effort and do their part to ensure we have a healthy population of Český Fousek in the future. As club members, we are not on the sidelines. Each of us, whether we realize it or not, is an active participant in this process once we get our new puppy to take home. Each of us is responsible for putting in the time and effort to properly prepare for the NAT and IHDT, as others have done before us, because all breeding decisions for the club and breeding committee hinge on these test results.

Northwest Chapter Natural Ability Test – Summer 2020

by

Dan Seibel

The Northwest Chapter held a Training Day followed by a Natural Ability Test from August 21-22. Despite all the COVID concerns, it was still a great weekend to see old friends and meet new ones – just like test weekends should be. Victor Woodward was generous enough to donate the use of his property in Monroe, Washington along with an easement close to his farm. Together they made an excellent testing and training site.

Tawna Skinner prepared and conducted an incredible training session on Friday morning. It was especially appreciated by the first-time owners, but even ‘us old folks’ walked away with some new techniques and insights. It was an eye-opener to watch Tawna demonstrate clicker training on the two young pups that were there. Gabriel Bettit brought 15 week-old Chester of Two Rivers Crossing and Kelly FitSimmons brought Cedar from the same litter.

We started inside with two hours of discussion and demonstrations about clicker techniques for basic obedience commands, again using Chester and Cedar as aids. We then moved outside with all the dogs in attendance for training in “Tracking a Live Bird”.



Dogs from left - Cedar of Two River's Crossing, Bonnie of Two Rivers Crossing and Axel of Buckeye Valley

(Photo by Anna Artz)

Tawna used the method of keeping the birds in the game bag, dragging the bag around 50 steps, then calming the dog at the start of the track and keeping them on lead for initial training tracks. The dogs responded to this technique exceptionally well, and it was amazing to see, as Chester and Cedar once again responded well to this training. As we always say, exposure, exposure, exposure!

Keeping COVID restrictions in mind, we decided to have an outdoor picnic for dinner at the hotel where most of us were staying. Everybody brought their own takeout, and it was refreshing to have a little bit of normalcy and socialization with friends. If you are ever in the Monroe area, you have to get the name of the Thai restaurant from Victor! But be warned...the owner will talk you into buying more than you intended!

Saturday morning, we met at Victor's farm to caravan to the easement for testing. It would be hard to find a better testing location, and we evaluated six Natural Ability dogs. The Senior Judge for the test was Steve Grieser, with Anna Artz, Tawna Skinner, and Anita Andrus rounding out the judging team and Daniel Seibel being the sole apprentice.

The testing grounds were exceptional and so were the dogs. Much credit goes to the handlers that brought their dogs to the test: Brendan Woodward (son of Victor) tested Bonnie of Two Rivers Crossing; Dennis Bays tested Brie of Two Rivers Crossing; Dennis Carlson tested Andy of Shaw Brook; Matt Stump tested Aspen of Payette River; Nick Long tested Brick of Bald Eagle; and, Pete Groeschel tested Chico Venaticus Major who is an import puppy.

Considering that every one of our NAT puppies was under 16 months old, they all demonstrated the breed characteristics that the club's Breeding Committee strives to maintain. There were some issues with pointing that the judges agreed were due to exposure, but after a full hunting season under their collar, there should be no issues with pointing at their Intermediate Hunting Test. Just like a pre-COVID dog test, the handlers were enthusiastic and ready to learn, and the dogs were just plain fun to watch in the field.

One of the highlights of the day was a lunch like we used to do 'in the good old days'. Brendan and Crystal Woodward volunteered to do all of the heavy lifting and they provided a cornucopia of Mexican chow for everyone at the test. Don't worry, we had hand sanitizer and kept our distance, but that didn't stop us from great conversations and camaraderie while our Fouseks ran around and got to know each other. Many thanks to Brendan and Crystal for keeping that beloved tradition alive in our club considering the current situation.

Mainly due to the pointing issues, Pete Groeschel and Chico were the only dogs to prize, with a Prize III. However, every Judge agreed that the exposure of one more hunting season will flip the switch of each of these dogs heading into their IHDT next Spring.

The Northwest Chapter is alive and well and building a base of enthusiastic owners, excellent Cesky Fouseks, and a core of members that are ready, willing, and able to share the workload. Stimulated by conversations at test weekend, the Chapter held a teleconference soon after to reinforce, build, and energize their region. It is an exciting time in the Northwest, and the drive from other Regions to attend, test, or judge is definitely worth it!



Top: Chester of Two River's Crossing owned by Gabriel Betit

Bottom: Gabriel Betit and his puppy Chester get some excellent water exposure

(Photos by Anna Artz)



Why Do Dogs Get Recurrent Ear Infections?

by

Anna Ziedins-Artz, DVM, MPH

A club member recently asked me for some advice regarding his young dog having recurrent ear infections. He speculated that his youngster was just getting water into his ears because his pup loved to swim so much. We chatted a bit, and my suspicion was that something else might be going on. I gave him some ideas, and after our chat, the club member seemed happy with the information I shared, and he said he planned to follow up with his veterinarian. He also suggested that I write a short piece for the GDS so other club members could benefit from hearing this same information.

So, why do some dogs get recurrent ear infections? It's good question that I'm asked a lot in our small animal practice. Owner's come in frustrated and understandably, they just want it "fixed" so it doesn't come back. We all want that. But, rooting out the REAL cause of ongoing ear problems takes some time and effort on both sides. It is often not just "dirty" ears that need to be flushed out more often. It is often not "too much hair" in the ears that need to be plucked to allow better air circulation. And it is usually not because of getting water in the ears that's usually the culprit. In my experience, these chronic and nagging problems that will not go away, or keep coming back, are often related to some underlying allergy. Allergy to what? Good question. Often the problem is either a food allergy or an environmental allergy. Sometimes, it is a combination of both! Let's break down each type for better clarification.

When a client brings their dog to the veterinarian for an ear infection, the first thing we usually want to know is, has this happened before? If the answer is NO, we often like to keep things simple. We will use an otoscope cone to visualize down inside the ear canal to make sure nothing got stuck, like a grass seed or foxtail. Veterinarians also want to verify that the ear drum is healthy. If that all checks out, then we often do a simple lab test called cytology (sample of ear wax is taken that we look under the microscope after staining with a special dye) to see if the infection is bacteria or yeast. Once we have a diagnosis, we treat accordingly. That's the simple cases. And it usually solves the problem. A one and done.

Now comes the more common scenario. When we ask our client, has your dog had this ear problem before, the answer is often YES! That's where the real work begins. To help any dog and their owner get REAL long-term relief, veterinarians must spend considerable time getting a better history on the pet's diet and living environment. It's a lot like playing detective. We must ask a lot of questions because we never know which piece of information will hold the key. We often want to know if this ear problem has been constant, or intermittent. We ask if the first ear infection started as a puppy, or as an older dog. Did the ear infections coincide with a certain time of year (such as summer vs winter) or with a change in the environment, such as moving to a new house?

In younger dogs, I will certainly ask a lot more detailed questions about what clients are feeding their dogs. Did the owner start feeding a new type of food or training treat when the problem started? Is there a history of being "picky" with food, or have there been tummy issues in the past, such as soft stools, diarrhea, passing frequent gas, loud gurgling stomach noises or any vomiting? Then I will ask about other skin problems or itching on the body. Does their dog scoot his/her butt or seem itchy around the butt? Are they licking or chewing on their feet a lot? Any excessive shedding? History of

rashes or hot spots? Weird odor? And so on. Armed with this information, veterinarians can often gauge whether there is a high probability of a food sensitivity (especially in younger dogs) or something else.

Food allergy in dogs is actually very common, is often overlooked, and therefore underdiagnosed. It's often seen in pets under 2 years of age. A classic example is the poor Labrador Retriever puppy who has seen the veterinarian 3 times before the age of 10 months old, each time with a new yeast infection! We treat the ears, it goes away, but then it comes right back. This is frustrating for the owner, and it is NEVER normal. It should raise the index of suspicion for a possible food allergy. Often times, there is also a history of softer stools, more frequent bowel movements, severe diarrhea after giving a new treat and finicky with eating. But every pet may present slightly different. Not all dogs have all the symptoms, but there are common themes.

If I suspect we may have a food allergy problem, I'll talk to the owner about what they are specifically feeding and any patterns they have noticed. Many owners have tried changing the food on their own with partial success. They don't know why it worked, but it worked. So, we talk specifics. The typical ingredient in dog food that causes the biggest problem is the protein. Let me repeat that. The offending antigen (molecule that upsets the immune system) is often the protein. And the #1 culprit according to our veterinary dermatologists is poultry (chicken, turkey, chicken by-product, duck, etc). Basically, any feathered fowl. It is NOT typically the grain in the diet that is creating the problems as much as clients want to believe that. Yes, grains can be promoters of inflammation in general, same as in people, however the dogs are usually reacting to the protein.

So, if a diet history yields a suspicion of food allergy, I will recommend a specific diet change, even as we work to manage and treat the current ear infection. We discuss the options, and I let my clients choose what they want to try first. They basically have 3 choices in a diet trial, but there are also some ground rules.

Client options for a diet trial

1. Change the protein – limited ingredient (over the counter brand) client chooses the diet – such as beef, lamb or fish based. Do NOT mix and match. Pick one protein and stick with it! Same for treats.
2. Change the protein – limited ingredient (prescription brand) veterinarian chooses the diet. Diets made by Royal Canin, Hill's or Purina that contain Venison, Rabbit or Fish are good examples.
3. Hydrolyzed protein diets (available only as prescription brand) – Royal Canin, Hill's or Purina – examples are RCVD Ultamino, RCVD Hydrolyzed HP, Hill's Z/ D or Purina HA diets. Hydrolyzed diets mean the protein in the food has been chemically “split” into their basic amino acid building blocks. This renders the protein allergen nearly “invisible” to the pet's immune system. Many hydrolyzed diets are in fact are made from chicken which can be confusing to pet owners. But remember, with the protein being broken down at a molecular level, the immune system doesn't react because it can't “see” the protein.

When a client switches foods, we ask them to keep the diet as strict as possible – no extra table scraps, dog treats (unless it's the same protein source!), rawhides or even flavored chewable meds ideally for 8 weeks minimum. It's tough, but the pay-off can

be huge. Basically, we want to see if the ear infection goes away and stays away on the new food. Truly food allergic dogs who have been suffering with chronic ear issues, often respond quickly to a diet change. The owners also often report a better appetite, better stools (firmer, less mushy) in as little as 2 weeks. They often find that some other mild itching signs also resolve – butt scooting or scratching at the flanks especially and the pet appears to “feel” better.

One last comment about limited ingredient diets. Be careful to avoid strictly grain free diets if you can when selecting an over-the-counter limited ingredient food for your dog. Recently, there has been some concern over a possible correlation between long-term feeding of grain free diets and a heart problem in dogs called dilative cardiomyopathy (DCM). This rapidly developing condition was seen in many canine breeds not predisposed to genetic heart disease. It raised some alarms. The culprit appears to be a relative taurine deficiency in grain free diets which often use lentils or green peas as a substitute for grains. Many affected patients, if diagnosed early enough, had complete reversal of their heart disease, once they were converted back to dog foods with grains. Please understand the jury is still out on this issue despite the FDA issued warning. The phenomenon is currently being studied intensively at several universities. Ask your veterinarian if you have any questions.

Last but not least, if we find that a dog doesn't “fit” the profile of a food allergy patient, or that we get little to no resolution with the ear issues despite a strict diet trial, then we are usually left with the “other” category of allergies. This big category is what we call seasonal allergies, or environmental allergies. In medical terms, we call it Atopy or Atopic Dermatitis. Think “hay fever” in humans, and you get the idea of the scope or magnitude of this problem. Many dogs are sensitive to the same environmental allergens that plague humans (house dust mites, cat dander, ragweed, pollen, grasses, etc.) but not all dogs suffer from it.

Typical atopic dogs are a little older at time of diagnosis (3-7 years old) and there is a very strong seasonal pattern to their flare ups. Each year the clinical signs seems to get worse, start earlier and last longer. Classic symptoms of atopic dogs include generalized itching (not just ears), mild redness of the skin, rashes or crusts or “dandruff”, chewing on feet or toenails, hair loss around the eyes, darkening and thickening of skin in areas of friction (armpits, crease of the elbows and inner groin areas) and of course, ear infections!

Options for clients who have atopic dogs (seasonal environmental allergies causing their ear and skin infections), may choose to go to a veterinary dermatologist. I always recommend this if the owner can afford it. Dermatologists can do specific allergy testing and offer specific treatments unavailable to the general practice veterinarian. Clients might choose to try stick with the “family vet” and try our recommendations first. Common therapies used by small animal veterinarians to alleviate atopy signs include a daily allergy pill called Apoquel or monthly injections called CADI (canine atopic dermatitis immunotherapy). Both are very effective but can be costly. So, if your dog is having a chronic or recurrent ear or skin problem, consider making an appointment with your veterinarian and talk to them about what you are seeing. Any patterns or correlations you may notice could be very helpful in sorting out WHICH allergy triggers are causing the biggest problem. With proper assessment of an individual pet's allergy problems, an effective, specific and long-term solution can often be attained.

2021 Membership Due January 1

Please pay now and don't miss out on club news and events.

Pay online here:

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

Český Fousek Club Merchandise For Sale

Due to the COVID situation, the club had to cancel most of the tests this year, and that means a lot of folks missed out on picking up club logo ball caps, T-shirts and other merchandise to show pride in the breed.

We're trying to fill the void by offering some club apparel for sale through the Heartland Chapter. Jon Coil maintains a supply of hats, shirts and miscellaneous items. On the next page you can see what's available and print off an order form. Go to the web page to download a larger form or just order these items on line from the web page. Go here:

<https://ceskyfousekna.org/buy-apparel/>

On-line payment is handled by PayPal, but don't be confused by that. You do not need to have a PayPal Account. When you get to the payment screen, you simply opt to pay by credit card. Supplies are limited. You can always check with Jon first before ordering by calling him at:

PHONE: (218) 647-8451

EMAIL: jcoil@paulbunyan.net



**Heartland Chapter
Cesky Fousek North America
Merchandise Order Form**

| Item | Size | Color | Quantity | Cost | Sub Total |
|-------------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|----------|----------|-----------|
| Current Designs | | | | | |
| Blue CFNA logo cap | adjustable | blue | | \$ 20.00 | \$ 0.00 |
| Blue CFNA witha mesh cap | adjustable | blue w/ white mesh | | \$ 20.00 | \$ 0.00 |
| Olive Cesky Fousek cap | adjustable | olive | | \$ 20.00 | \$ 0.00 |
| Olive Cesky Fousek beanie | One size fits all | olive | | \$ 20.00 | \$ 0.00 |
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| Old style shirts | | | | | |
| Blaze orange long sleeve | Large Ex-Large | Blaze orange | | \$ 10.00 | \$ 0.00 |
| Blaze orange short sleeve | Large Ex-Large | Blaze orange | | \$ 10.00 | \$ 0.00 |
| Merchandise subtotal | | | 0 | | \$ 0.00 |

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CFNA Heartland Chapter
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Kelliher, MN 56650

Make check payable to
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After completing form,(Right-click and choose "Save As")

Opportunity to Help a Club Member

Long-time Cesky Fousek North America members, Greg Miyauchi and family recently lost their home to the East Troublesome wildfire that has incinerated a large swath of Colorado West of Rocky Mountain National Park. They were able to evacuate, saving themselves, a vehicle and their dog, but lost absolutely everything.

Our Club is initiating a fund to help them in whatever small way that we can. There are two ways to donate:

1. You can send a check payable to Cesky Fousek North America to Roger Fuhrman, CFNA Treasurer, 29 Rocky Road, Horseshoe Bend, ID 83629. Include a memo "Fire Relief"
2. You can contribute via credit card at our Club's website. Simply go to this page on the website and complete the form. When you submit the form, you'll be taken to a secure site to complete the credit card transaction.

<https://ceskyfousekna.org/fire-victim-donation/>



Greg Miyauchi and Corbet of High Desert IHDT.



The East Troublesome fire burns near Granby Thursday, Oct. 22, 2020.

Thoughts and prayers are even more appropriate in times like these.

As most of you recall, Greg is one of the most dedicated members in the Rocky Mountain Chapter, is a field judge, and has been a dog breeder for our Club. All who know Greg know him as a true gentleman and dear friend.

Jim Crouse, President, CFNA

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