

DPCNA NEWS

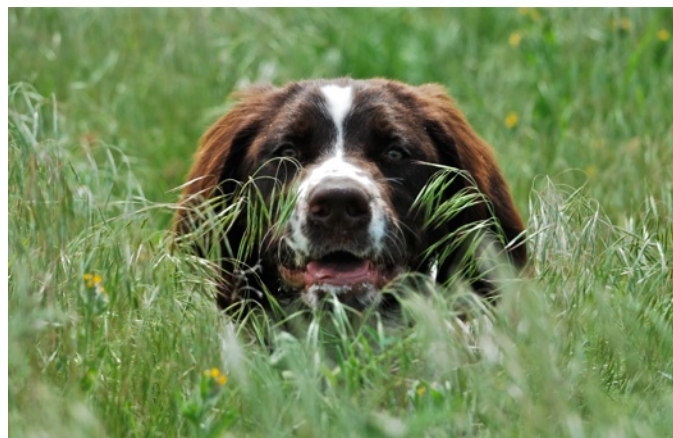


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Chairman's message - submitted by Brian O'Connor

Hello everyone!
I think it is safe to say, our DPCNA t-shirt was a huge success. We will likely offer them once a year or so, with a few slight variations in printing style, and possibly even slogan to keep everything fresh. In all, the money raised will help us with future Drent rescues. As we learned last year, these operations can go from spendy to downright expensive. As a small organization without a strong revenue stream one heavy hitting rescue operation could hurt us. Also of note, the AKC has finally accepted our North American Breed standard, and it is now posted on their Drent page.



Powder is quite the explorer

My long awaited Drent book will be released this summer, and profits will be donated to the DPCNA. The design and layout are finalized, with large high quality full color photos on almost every 8"x10" page. I cannot thank Craig Koshyk, owner of Dog Willing Publications, enough for helping me to make this project a reality.

Young Powder is turning out to be a Rock Star of a pup, which is extra great, because baby O'Connor made his debut just a few weeks ago! After 23 years of testing the waters, we decided it was time.

Enjoy the summer, your Drents, and families. Hunting season will be upon us soon enough.

- Brian

From the Editor - submitted by Jenna Myers

I hope this newsletter finds everyone well! I'm excited about this issue because we have submissions from new members and lots of puppy photos! It's now officially summer, so hopefully everyone is enjoying the sunshine. I think many of us have undergone some big changes this year. Nikki and Brian have welcomed little Robert into their family (surprise, it's NOT a puppy!). Things are a little different in my world as well as Jared is spending another year abroad and is currently stationed near Dubai. Meanwhile, we are preparing to add a pup to the family this Fall.

Anyways, a reminder for anyone who has pictures or a story they want to submit - all you need to do is send it in and we will be happy to include it in the next issue!

Summer Safety...Grass Awns - submitted by Brian O'Connor

Tis the season, in particular if you happen to live in the western states, as so many of us do. Even if you happen to not live "out west", grass awns (seeds) still pose a significant threat to your Drent. Primary offenders are: Cheat grass and meadow foxtail. Both produce barbed awns which enable the seed to penetrate your dog's skin and even travel through their body.

These barbed seeds can be found all throughout a dog's coat after a romp in the field, and though normally a good brushing will get them out, I have still found them days later. In the body fur the awns will work their way down to the skin and begin to work their way in. When the awns enter the skin, they produce raised reddened areas which range from being sensitive (if your dog is stoic) to quite painful. These bumps will turn into sores. Sometimes the awns will penetrate rapidly, and so the sore can be easily missed, while other times the sore created by the awn is very easy to find. Either way, at this point you'll need the assistance of your vet to get the awn out, as the likelihood of needing to have your dog anesthetized is very high. Please don't think your dog's system will absorb the seed, as the awn can in fact travel up legs, into the chest and abdomen, and into muscle and organ tissue.



Jared with Jorja and Fowler



This is what happens...

This can also happen in the feet, ears, eyes, and nose. Be sure to check between the toes, and carefully look in their ears and nose. Typically awns which enter through the ear, eye, or nose cause the dog a great deal of discomfort. Awns can easily penetrate these soft tissues and cause nervous system disorders, or severe sinus infections. When in doubt seek professional help, and if you found awns in your dog's coat and/or feet, remember to be observant of any pawing at the ears, eyes or nose, this is a good sign to check again, or go see your vet. In fact, we have had to have Jorja knocked out to and have awns removed from deep within her ears.

Know what these grasses look like so you can provide the appropriate after care and observation to keep your buddy happy and healthy.

Princeton - Service Dog in Training - submitted by Laura Valle



Princeton then and now...

right away that the breed had potential to do the work.

Retrievers, such as Golden Retrievers and Labradors, make great service dogs because they have a calm, soft temperament, they are biddable and open to training, and, most importantly, they were bred to work alongside humans as a team. Retrievers tend to have “off switches” and can settle down fairly well if given enough exercise; they are less reactive to strange dogs and humans than the more protective breeds; and they have sweet, easy-going dispositions. During my research on breeds, I recognized these same characteristics were part and parcel of the Drent standard. Not only that, but Drents can even have *more* drive to work and train than their retriever counterparts. On the whole, they tend to be smarter as well.

As I got to know more about Princeton, I realized that he was very intuitive and aware of my moods and my condition. This comes from centuries of living and working with humans. This trait is harder to find in less human-oriented breeds, such as livestock guardians or bulldogs, but it is crucial to the relationship between a service dog and his handler. Service dogs that aid people with episodic disabilities (like my neurological condition) are better at their job when they are aware of how their handler is feeling.

Training a Drent for service work also has a number of obstacles that don't exist with other breeds. A Drent's high prey drive can be a problem when they are out in public and expected to be at heel position while they are working. Drents are friendly and welcoming toward strangers, which is great for a pet dog, but can actually become a dangerous distraction when working. Also, Drents tend to “follow their nose” into all sorts of trouble, which is great behavior when on the hunt, but unacceptable when walking down the meat aisle in a grocery store. To overcome these obstacles, before we trained in places that were not pet-friendly, we focused highly on specialized socialization and training. (cont...)

In March, my fiancé Stefan and I took home a puppy from Rainshadow Drents in Sequim, WA. We were excited about the breed for several reasons: they are great sport dogs, biddable, and fantastic companions, but we also had bigger plans for Rainshadow's Old Nassau, a.k.a. “Princeton”. He was coming home to New Jersey with us to be trained for service work.

Many service dog programs have “puppy raising” families that take a puppy into their homes and train the pup until it is ready for advanced training at the service dog school. After the dogs finish their advanced training, they are paired with a disabled person. The new “team” goes through “team training” for several weeks until they've been acquainted and the new disabled handler knows all he or she needs to know to be a good partner to his or her service dog.

I went through this process when I got my first service dog, Daphne, who is a yellow Labrador Retriever. However, for my next dog I wanted to take on the challenge of “Owner Training”. In the United States, a disabled person is permitted to raise and train their own service dog. The US does not require any special certification for service dogs. It only requires that service dogs are trained to mitigate a disability and aren't an unreasonable nuisance to the public.

Why choose a Drent for service work?

As far as I know, if Princeton makes it through his vigorous training program, he will be the first and only Drent in North America that is also a working service dog. Even though I had never met a Drent who was a working service dog, I recognized



Princeton getting love after working hard

Princeton - Service Dog in Training cont...

Preparing for Public Access

Service dogs spend a lot of their time learning how to mitigate their handler's disabilities, but believe it or not, they actually spend much more time learning how to behave in public. Service dogs spend years in a specialized type of training called "public access training". Public access training teaches the dog how to behave when vested in a public setting that isn't pet-friendly. Service dogs learn to walk closely on a loose leash, squeeze into tight spots (like under a table at a restaurant), and work quietly without barking or whining. They also learn how to settle for long periods of time, sometimes holding a down-stay for hours. A seasoned service dog will be able to switch into "work mode" when wearing his working harness or vest.

Before a service dog goes out into a public place that isn't pet-friendly, 3 important steps need to be taken: temperament testing, socialization, and training.

No dog is born with the impeccable manners and reliability of a service dog. However, to a large extent, service dogs are special dogs from birth. Puppies that get chosen to go into service training need to be driven, confident, non-aggressive, and relatively calm. A temperament test is generally given when the puppy is 7 weeks old. The go-to temperament test for service dogs is the Volhard Puppy Aptitude Test.

As a service dog puppy grows and hits developmental milestones, it is very important to expose him to as many new experiences as is reasonable. By the time the puppy is 14 weeks old, it will have developed many of its ideas and attitudes about the world and any traumatic events that happened during that time will be committed to its behavioral memory. Because of this, the quality of experiences is just as important as the quantity. Not only do we expose the puppy to many different things, we do so in a positive way. The key is for the puppy to have as many positive associations with his environment as possible. Also, during this time the puppy learns how to react to his environment. Socializing a puppy helps him grow into a dog that is calm and comfortable in a variety of circumstances, even ones he has never experienced before. This is extremely important for any type of working dog, but especially for a service dog who will accompany his owner into a wide variety of environments. Here are a few of the people, places, and things that we exposed Princeton to before he was 16 weeks old:

- **Different types of people** - Princeton met old people, young people, people with different hair styles, people with different clothing, disabled people, babies, people of all races, etc.
- **Different types of food** - Princeton was exposed to all sorts of yummy treats as well as cooking smells.
- **Different surfaces** - Princeton walked on sidewalks, stairs, carpets, tiles, blacktop, gravel, marble, sand, grass, even see-through grates and manhole covers.
- **Other Dogs** - Princeton went to a puppy play-group where he met dogs of all shapes and sizes.
- **Working equipment** - Service dogs need to use a variety of different equipment. Princeton tried on vests, walking harnesses, a head collar, a pinch collar and he even got to interact with (but not wear) Daphne's heavy mobility harness. He was also crate trained during this time.
- **Moving things** - Princeton walked around an idling bus, walked on the sidewalk next to moving cars, sat while bikes, skateboards, strollers, lawnmowers, and balls rolled by, and walked next to a shopping cart.
- **Pet-friendly places** - Princeton walked around a college campus, strolled along the campus of a middle school, checked out an outdoor mall, played on playgrounds, ran through woods and fields, hung out at a bus station, and, of course, visited the vet. (cont...)



Princeton working on public access in various stores...

Princeton - Service Dog in Training cont...

- **Different sounds** - Princeton heard bowls clatter to the ground, he listened to different types of music, idling engines, and heard several different types of alarms and sirens.
- **Transportation** - Car rides, train rides, a plane ride, and a ride on the elevator.
- **Handling situations** - Princeton got baths, was combed out, and was hugged and loved-on by strangers.
- **Anything else in the environment that could be scary to a puppy** - We walked past statues, took him outside on the porch during a storm, and basically exposed him to anything and everything we could think of.



Princeton and Daphne doing down stays

Because Drents tend to have a higher prey drive than more traditional working breeds, it is also crucial to

expose a Drent service dog puppy to a variety of small animals after proofing a good “leave it”. Whenever Princeton would approach a small, fluffy animal, he was allowed to sniff the animal and interact with it in a friendly manner, but once he became more aggressive, he was told to leave it. He would receive a reward if he left the animal alone and was

removed from the situation if he kept chasing the animal. At home, we also provided him with an outlet for his prey drive that did not utilize live animals. A flirt pole, tug toys, or a rousing game of fetch is a great way to give a puppy an outlet for his prey drive.

As you may have noticed, this type of training is not conducive to hunting training. Some service dogs may be able to switch from hunting to service work, but it is unlikely that a dog who chases small animals without abandon will be a reliable partner to a disabled person. Because of that, we made the decision early *not* to train Princeton for hunting trials.

We also did a significant amount of training before starting Princeton in public access training. We teamed up with Rebecca Fouts, a service dog trainer from Access Canine Solutions, which is a program that helps disabled individuals train their own service dogs. Service dog training generally uses a balanced method of training. The vast majority of our training is positive reinforcement, but corrections are used sparingly.

Princeton was housebroken. He learned basic obedience and how to walk on a leash. He learned how to focus on his handler as often as possible, how to heel, and how to hold a down-stay. He also learned that it was inappropriate to bark while vested. When we felt he was ready, we started bringing him on short outings to places that weren't pet-friendly.

In the past 3 weeks, Princeton has been to Staples, a shoe store, and Bed, Bath & Beyond. He even worked next to Daphne once. So far, all of our preparation is paying off. He's a delightfully well-behaved little guy when out in public. Princeton is loving his work and training so far and we have high hopes that he will complete his training sometime in the next two years. While there is a little luck involved, we also set him up to succeed by preparing him for the big, crazy world.



What a good boy!

A Special Fokdag - submitted by Arjan van Hessen and translated by Brian O'Connor

Sometime in February, I got a neat e-mail in Dutch from the United States: "I am writing this on behalf of my girlfriend who does not write Dutch. She has since several years Drentsche Patrijshond but has never seen another Drent. She comes to the Netherlands soon and would like to come attend Breeder's Day. Is that in this, possible?"

This was the beginning of an extensive email exchange with Ann Barrett. After the death of her Springer she wanted a dog that was suitable for hunting, could serve as a home dog and the yard would guard (she lives on a farm far away from everyone).

After some searching on the Internet, she came to the "Dutch Partridge Dog". Through the DPCNA she came in contact with an American Drent breeder and the deal was made, after a few weeks she could pick up the puppy at the airport. Jager as she called him, grew up to be the perfect dog and did exactly what she had hoped. But Ann longed to see another Drent in real life... with only about 100 -150 Drents in a country that is about 250x larger than the Netherlands, the chances that you will see another on a Sunday afternoon walk are unlikely.

In April she went with her sister to visit her cousin in Amsterdam and, if possible, to see another Drent. I got her out on the Breed's Day on April 12th: Better than the Championships you never see more Drent together.

Soon the appointment was made to meet at Barneveld, we would pick them up at the station of Amersfoort. I would wait at platform 2 with my Drent: which would be her second Drent ever. Sooner said than done, and with 5 adults and Drent we drove to the Breeder's Day event.

It started out in the parking lot, "hey, look what a gorgeous Drent" after which a quick picture was taken. Once inside the first half hour was spent looking around at all these beautiful dogs. Then they met with several people including Chairman Marc and explained why she was here. Actually everyone was impressed coming to Barneveld specially, all the way from America, and certainly when they heard that Ann had never seen another Drent!



Breeder's Day - always an exciting affair

A Special Fokdag cont...

They showed us the news of the 'Drentsche Patrijshond Club of North America "(DPCNA) which also had a picture of her dog Jager. The eye-catching logo did ring a bell: I had just seen somewhere else. I looked around and saw our Bart van der Pol with a T-shirt running around with exactly the same logo. How did that happen? Bart told Ann that he had received the T-shirt two weeks ago He was named a "Lifetime Honorary Member" of the American club because he has helped them with their approval of the U.S. version of the breed standard with the American Kennel Club (AKC). Moreover, he told Ann that one of his pups (Brookelyn) had emigrated to the U.S. and lives with the parents of one of the DPCNA board members (Jenna Myers). This dog has now produced two litters. Ann's highlight for the encounter where the dogs of "the Gloucester" kennel, we had thought she was meeting the grandmother of Jager but as it turned out it was the sister of the grandmother. Well, even so it was a great deal of fun. Especially when both Ann's sister and niece remarked: "it seems a copy of Jager!"



Anne and Bart



So many Drents!

Puppies! - submitted by Jenna Myers

Yes, it's the part of the newsletter that everyone is waiting for...information and photos about this year's newest Drent additions - PUPPIES! So far this year the DPCNA has had 2 litters registered and a total of 15 pups!

Rainshadow Drents - Brookelyn v. 't Wijdseland NA1 x Esp. CH Joksan Nabar the Gloucester

** 8 pups born 15 January 2014 **



Bayberry Kennel - Dutchboy's Sofie x Skylor Silke van Holtbos

** 7 pups born 31 January 2014 **

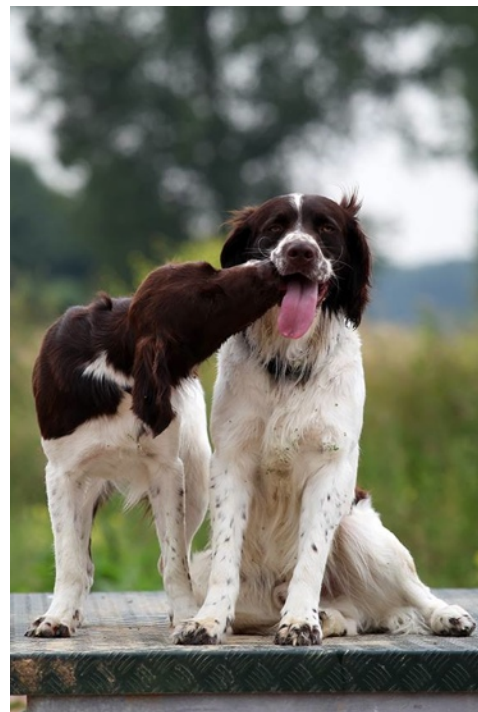


Do You Want to Breed? - submitted by Jenna Myers

Do you want to breed a litter? Should you breed a litter? Are you interested in allowing your dog to be used by another breeder? If these are questions you have asked yourself as a Drent owner, then maybe you are ready to get more involved.

Let's look at the first question - do you want to breed a litter? Having a litter of pups is a lot of work. There are always risks to both the mother and the pups. It's time consuming and expensive. It can be rather inconvenient. There is a ton of work that goes into finding and screening homes for the pups, not to mention arranging for puppy pick-up. But at the same time it can be fun and very rewarding. If done right it feels amazing to be able to contribute to the North American Drent population. So let's say you think you are ready and want to pursue this as a goal. Ask yourself the most important question - why do you want to do it? The WHY is the most important part of any breeding operation. The DPCNA promotes breeding as a positive influence to the breed. Having a litter should be done with the intent to improve upon what is already here, while maintaining genetic diversity. We don't do it to make money. We don't do it to promote the speciality of owning a rare breed. We do it because of the passion we have for these dogs. We want to see them thrive. So if this is something you feel as well, let's go to the next topic....

Should you breed a litter? We all know there are things we want to do, but maybe shouldn't. The first thing you have to look at when deciding this is your dog. Does your dog meet the breed standard? Would he/she receive the required rating from the DPCNA? Have you done all the required health testing? These are important things to research. I personally feel you should be very familiar with the breed and what is correct and desired before you embark on raising a litter. Spend some time going over the standard. Reach out to board members or other breeders to see if they would consider mentoring you. If you know what the end goal is, then it's a lot easier to decide if your dog should be bred and who a proper and complimentary mate would be for them. I could go on and on here, but would really recommend reading the DPCNA Code of Ethics and By-Laws which you can find on the website (DPCNA.org).



Love is in the air..



So it's been decided you have an exceptional dog - now what? Get yourself familiar with the breeding process and the actual whelping and raising of a litter of puppies. This is where a good breeder-vet and a mentor in the breed come in handy. Read about the parts of a female's reproductive cycle. Understand what to expect during the act of breeding. Did you know that the gestation time for puppies is 63 days from ovulation? Yep, that's important too! Ask questions! I personally have no problem talking to people who want to get involved. Maybe you are really interested in doing this but you are scared of the actual puppy birth? - well, so was I the first time. But if you are informed and prepared, then it can go smoothly and be one of the most

enlightening experiences. Another important question is do you have the time and space in your home? Puppies need a lot of supervision from birth and you need to be prepared to set-up for this. Make sure you can provide a safe and proper environment, as well as socialization, vet-care and all the things they will need in the first 8 weeks of their lives. (cont...)

Do You Want to Breed? cont...



Alright, so maybe you don't want to have a litter or you own a boy and would be willing to let him be used by another breeder? We are always looking for dogs to be added to the stud list. It's really hard as a breeder to make the best choices in matches for our girls when we don't know what is out there. Don't expect people to know you have a dog you would like used if you don't let us know. If you don't know where to start, then shoot us an email or give a call. We will need to see photos of the dog and ideally a video of him moving. You will need to have all the health clearances - hips, elbows, and eyes. We will verify that he meets the breed standard and has the proper temperament. If he is an import, then he will need to be registered with the DPCNA. And then he can be listed on the DPCNA website. Again, everything I stated above can be found at DPCNA.org under the "About the Drent" tab - there is a section on breeding requirements and code of ethics.

The most paramount aspect of everything I'm trying to say here is we want to help as much as possible. Sometimes I feel like maybe people don't get involved because it seems overwhelming. Well yes, it can be. But if you have someone there to help you along the way, then it's much easier. It's ok if you feel like maybe you don't know enough. There is a first time for everybody. At the end of the day, we want to get people involved that share the same passion and love for the Drent. If breeding is something you've been interested in, then I hope this has helped you understand the process a little better or at least allowed you to see that we are a very inclusive group and have knowledge we can't wait to share as long as you are willing to learn!



Beware Blue-Green Algae - submitted by Brian O'Connor

I'll continue on with my summer safety tips, since apparently my Drents and I managed to hike through a rattlesnake infested area, without a single encounter. My point here, don't leave it up to luck if you don't have to. In particular when it's hot, and your dog will be drawn to water to drink and take a dip in to cool off.

I'm talking about Blue-Green Algae and its toxic component called cyanobacteria. Blue-green algae thrive in warm, shallow water, and stagnate waters only increase the chances. Algae may be present all year long, but it is only really dangerous when a robust "bloom" happens, and then we get problems. These tend to happen during the "dog days of summer", meaning late summer or early fall. But don't rule blooms out early in the season if the weather has been unusually warm and dry. So be on the lookout for water that looks like green paint or pea soup, or that is cloudy with a green, yellow, or blue-green hue with or without foam, scum, or mats floating on or near



Swimming is one of Fowler's favorite activities

the surface of the water. Blue-green algae often times leaves water looking like pea soup, musty/swampy smelling, or like possibly oil or gasoline has been spilt, leaving an oily sheen on top of the water.

Signs that you dog has received a toxic level of cyanobacteria typically start with lethargy, followed by vomiting and diarrhea. But tremors and seizures can occur almost immediately. Other signs to look for are: excess salivation, skin irritation, and pale gums. Severe respiratory, circulatory, or neurological disorders can also be present. Convulsions and death can occur as little as four hours after exposure. Your veterinarian will be needed to administer treatment, so if you notice the signs, don't delay care.

The best course of action is prevention. Know what to look for and keep your dog away from stagnant water in hot weather. Easier said than done, I know. If contact occurs, prevent your dog from licking his feet or coat, and wash him off thoroughly with clean water as soon as possible. This is another reason I always keep at least five gallons of water back at my truck. If you suspect problems, contact your vet immediately. If your dog becomes ill, be sure to notify authorities so that warning signs can be posted to protect other pets and people.



Saku and Lennaert (Top and Middle) & Paxson (Bottom) also really enjoy cooling off in the water during the heat of the summer!

From the Kitchen - submitted by Jenna Myers

In the summer I love to make treats for the dogs that they can enjoy outside. Freezing things is a great way to provide a long-lasting treat that also keeps your dog cool. I freeze all kinds of things, including putting chicken broth and treats in a cupcake pan and then popping out the “frozen pupcakes” for the dogs to enjoy in the yard. But a frozen Kong is one of my favorite things to make because of the variety of things you can stuff inside. I provided a diagram released by Kong, but really just use your imagination. I always plug mine at both ends with peanut butter, but you can also use cheese or canned food. My dogs just really love peanut butter and it’s much less expensive and easier than canned food! Happy freezing! Enjoy!



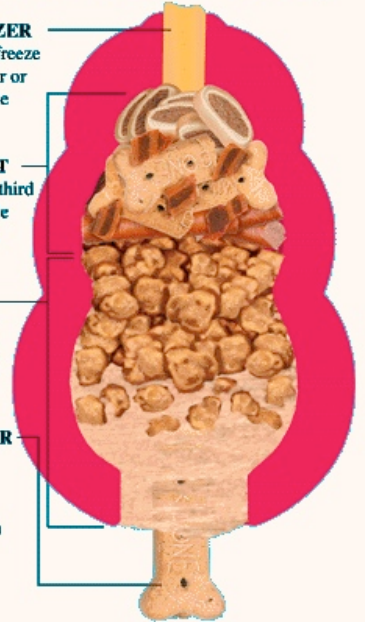
EXAMPLE - Step One: Start with a few clean Kong toys appropriately sized for the largest dog that could access them (see size chart). **NOTE:** small breeds need medium Kongs for stuffing.

Step Two: TANTALIZER
Place a little morsel of freeze dried liver, peanut butter or cheese into the little hole on top.

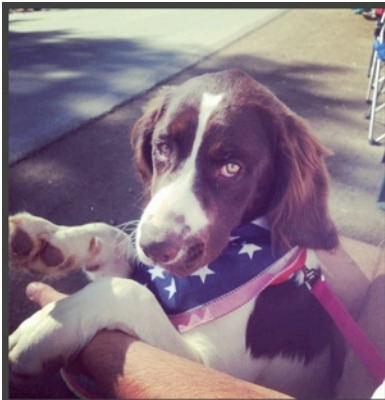
Step Three: DESSERT
Fill approximately one-third of the cavity with doggie treats such as biscuits, marrow bites, etc.

Step Four: MAIN COURSE
Fill the last two-thirds with canned food or food roll mixed with food nuggets.

Step Five: APPETIZER
Leave a nice tidbit sticking out of the opening. The “easy pickins” will provide an immediate pay off and entice your dog to “get serious” about the job.



Parting Shots



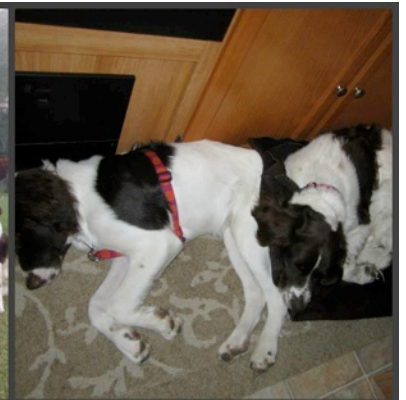
Patriotic Scarlett



Really Booker?!



4th of July Drent reunion!



Tjiek and Holly on vacation

DPCNA Special Thanks & Credits

Photography contributions: Brian O'Connor (cover, page 12), Nikki O'Connor (pages 2, 13), Jenna Myers (pages 3, 9, 10-12), Heather Chapman (page 9), Matt Carland (page 6), Laura Valle (pages 3-5), Jimmie Warren (page 13), Katy Cade (page 13), Anne Barrett (pages 7-8), Yvonne Franssen (pages 11-12), & Jeanny Wessels (page 12)

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