

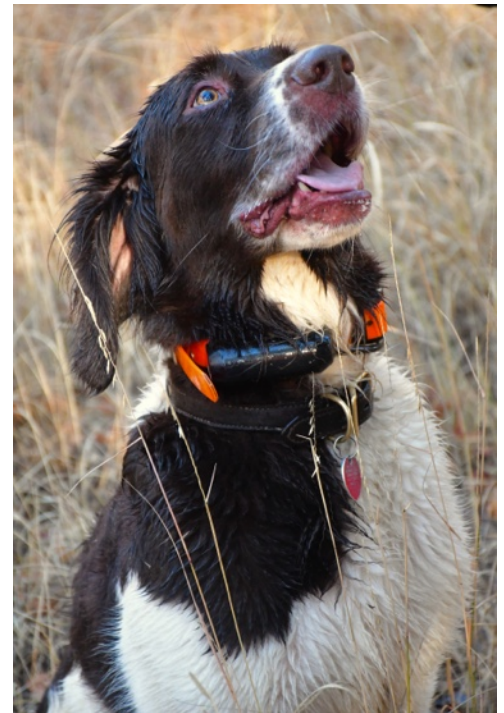


# DPCNA NEWS

DRENTSCHE PATRIJSHOND CLUB OF NORTH AMERICA

## Chairman's message - submitted by Nikki O'Connor

Spring is in the air. I hope everyone is able to get out with their dogs and enjoy the lovely weather. I know that there may be a couple of litters in the works. Make sure to check the website [www.dpcna.org](http://www.dpcna.org) for more information. I look forward to new members and new ideas for the club with every new Drent. This year we celebrate the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the club and that's something to be proud of. I also want to take a moment to let everyone know that Brian and I have decided to part ways. I hope that this in no way impacts the club. My passion for the breed has not changed. I was there in the beginning, and I would like continue being a part of the future of the DPCNA. Thank you everyone for your support of the breed and the club.



Have you hugged your Drent today?

## From the Editor - submitted by Jenna Myers

Is it really 2018 already?! Apparently so because that is what the calendar is saying! This year looks to be a big year for the DPCNA - we have a handful of litters planned and hope to have some turnout for the annual meeting later on this year! As always we appreciate the support of our membership and hope that everyone is off to great start this year with their Drents.

### At a glance:

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## 2017 DPCNA Meeting Minutes

### 1. ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS AND MEMBERS

Nikki, Brian, Jenna, Jack, Marc via phone

### 2. FINANCIAL REPORT

Wells fargo \$387.38

Paypal \$6269.62

### 3. REPORT OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES REPORT

#### A. SOCIAL ACTIVITIES.

Had a great plan for a fall meet and meeting only had Board plus one interested. So we canceled it.

#### B. MERCHANDISE

Sold a lot at the beginning faded off. Send email to let members know what we have. Coffee mugs sold out in a week. Maybe more? Different style. After the first of the year

### 4. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. 1. Lifetime achievement awards done by next meeting. Nikki motioned and Jack Seconded.

#### A.OFA & Penn Scores, Mixed Result & our By-Laws:

OFA:

Key assumptions were made when drafting our by-laws. OFA published a correlation between their scores and the FCI Standard ([http://www.ofa.org/hd\\_grades.html](http://www.ofa.org/hd_grades.html)). At the time OFA had only one “B” score clearly differentiating Fair and Borderline. The OFA now no longer posts a radio graph of Borderline, and even their own description has become less clear. Initially our by-laws were established to be slightly more stringent than the Dutch standard, but with this change, it seems our standard may be more qualitative than quantitative.

Penn Hip:

has also changed their scoring methodology, which drives the need to re-educate ourselves and make facts based adjustments to the by-laws.

#### Mixed Results:

What to do when, we have a dog with a “failing” OFA grade, but a “passing Penn Hip score? E.g. XXXXXXXXXX, Mild & Only Left side Subluxation. Penn Hip 70% w/ Left hip at .4 (optimal under .3, close to .3 low risk, close to .7 higher risk).

Subluxation: is fancy for “loose”, more or less. The other items to be checked off clearly highlight significant issues, and the OA is present. Thoughts?

## 2017 DPCNA Meeting Minutes cont...

Motion: Add “Mild” (FCI C) to our by-laws as allowable, based on the OFA’s updated definition set. Approval: would then end future BAP requests with regard to hips.

Motion: VP (Breeding Commission lead) to research new scoring methods/score sets, educate the board on the new process and propose an update to our standard. Approval: would drive a simple update to the by-laws.

DECISION for both items: After a lengthy discussion, it was determined that both agenda items were different but related issues. Moving forward with an appropriate action could only be done after learning more. A unanimous decision to HOLD on both items was achieved, due to the need to learn more about the updated processes of both OFA and Penn Hip. Proposal: develop a decision matrix, similar to what we already have based on the updated standards. The matrix/proposal will be reviewed and evaluated when presented. Also our breeder’s education presentation would be updated post approval. (ACTIVE / OPEN) (POC VP-Elect / Breeding Commission Chair: Jenna Myers).

Motion made to leave open made by Brian seconded by Nikki, unanimous vote for approval.

### B. Membership engagement:

Require Breeders:

- Include first year club membership (SET PRICE) item closed price was set at \$15.00 per puppy total price.
  - o New forms to be produced / possible pricing updates APPROVED: POC Brian O’Connor

### C. Create “how to videos”

- Grooming, training, and what not.
- OPEN: The club would likely need to start a YouTube channel to serve as a parking place for these videos. At this stage, no real requirements are set, other than submissions would need to be submitted to the executive council for approval to be used as an official Club “how to” video. (OPEN) keep open Brian will start DPCNA YouTube channel for how to videos.

### D. Create a password protected members only page to the website

- We can post a member directory and map so people can see who is close to them.
- Submit breedings for approval
- APPROVED – move forward, we will adapt and modify as we see our needs develop. Jenna will work with Ron to set this up.
- 

## 5. NEW BUSINESS

### A. CONSIDER MAKING AKC/FSS REGISTRATION MANDATORY BY CLUB BREEDERS.

Jenna and Brian will work together on setting up breeder education on limited registration. No way to regulate or police it.

## 2017 DPCNA Meeting Minutes cont...

### **B. CREATION OF A CLUB CONSTITUTION THAT IS IN BALANCE WITH OUR BY-LAWS.**

Marc would like a review of the By-Laws. Current bylaws limit what we can do at this point. We need more members before changes can be made.

### **C. JENNA'S FINDINGS WRT THE OFA DISCUSSION**

See above

D. PLANNING 2018 MEETING. Board of Directors Meeting/club hunt tests. Discuss in spring will work on stating what it entails

### **E. MERCH. IDEAS? MUGS, CALENDAR, ETC.**

New style coffee mug "Got Drent". New magnet calendar in works. Tapestry with our logo. Pens, shopping bags.

### **F. ENCOURAGE SOME NATIONAL DRENT MEETS**

Post current meets on facebook and in newsletters.

### **6. COMMUNICATIONS, GOOD AND WELFARE**

### **7. CLOSING**

### **A. NEXT MEETING: TBD**



## Meet the Paxbers, with a little help from Science...

Mother nature can be a funny thing - often times leaving us wondering why in the world certain things happen. That was certainly the case of the Ember x Paxson breeding this year, affectionately known as the "Paxbers."

The Paxber story started out as a plan between Two Gun and Duck Creek Kennels to combine 2 bloodlines and create a litter that would not only be beneficial to the breed here in North America, but also to create pups of a lovely and consistent type. Despite living across the country from Paxson, I had known when Ember came into heat that I was going to make the cross country trip to do the breeding, because with the hassle of shipping semen and Paxson's age, that was the best option for optimizing my chances to get a litter.



The "Paxbers" were born January 3, 2018 - Ember experienced hardly any labor signs and whelped all 6 puppies in the daylight between 6 am and noon. She had 5 little boys and just a single girl pup. They were huge at birth, weighing between 14-17 oz. A normal birth weight for a Drent is closer to 10-13 oz. What a special litter. Ember had her work cut out for her, but over the following 8 weeks she did such an amazing job with her pups.

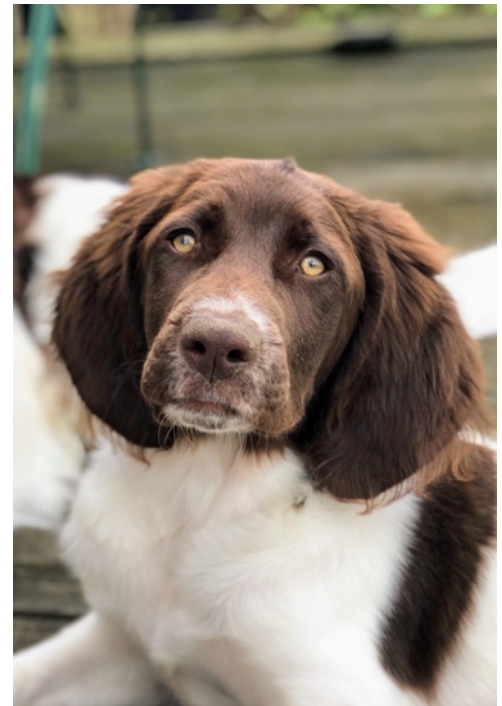


Sure enough, at the end of October 2017 Ember came into heat and we made the trip to Washington. Little did I know that that trip would lead to the first successful artificial insemination for the breed in North America. Because of some physical limitations, we realized early on that we would need some help of science. I was so nervous because there had yet to be any success getting litters without a natural breeding. Understanding it was my only chance, I went along with the process of hormone testing to optimize the perfect days for insemination. We went with what the numbers said, bred on 2 different days, and crossed our fingers that we would have pups in 9 weeks.

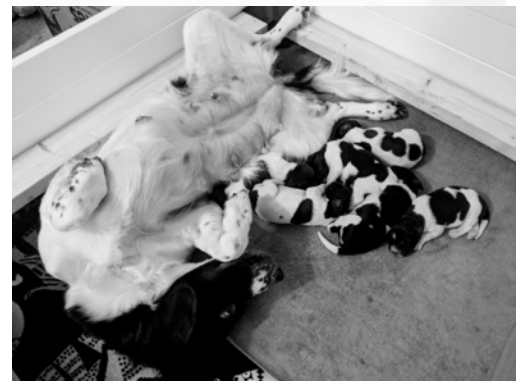


## Meet the Paxbers cont...

The process certainly wasn't what I was expecting it to be. There were many unplanned costs associated with the breeding and subsequent raising of the litter. But in the end, I got 6 amazing little puppies. Hopefully a couple will end up contributing to the North American gene pool in the future. At least that's the plan. The lesson to be learned is to always follow your dream. Make a plan and stick with it, and chances are it will work out the way it was supposed to. I'm really proud of this litter and the milestone that it represents.



**Duck Creek's Two Gun Katmai, the only girl and Brian's keeper pup**



**Ember taking comfort to the next level**

## Princeton's Education - submitted by Laura Pier

### *The quest to build the world's most versatile Drentsche Patrijshond...*

I have lived and worked beside my Rainshadow's Old Nassau aka "Princeton" for 4 years now and he has taught me so much about the breed. Since he was a pup, I've raised him with a desire to build versatility and adaptability. During this past year, after graduating school and assuming a normal schedule, I was ready to compete. Recently, Princeton has performed in 4 different sports and won titles in 3 of them. My desire for titles has led me to a grander goal: to develop the world's most versatile Drentsche Patrijshond. This article is about the beginning of that quest.

### **Princeton the Circus Dog**

Anyone who knows Drents knows they will do anything for a cookie. Since he was small, I've made a habit of playing cookie games. Through clicking and positive reinforcement, Princeton has pretty much learned how to run a small household. He does the laundry and groceries. He opens and closes doors. He finds the remote control when it's lost. If you drop something, he picks it up automatically (great for when you're just too lazy to move that extra inch). He likes to retrieve soda from the refrigerator. He even runs out the front door to get the newspaper. I lucked out this past year when the AKC developed the Trick Dog title. The Trick Dog Performer title is the highest award that an AKC Trick Dog could achieve. For the Trick Dog Performer title, we had to learn several dozen tricks and assemble them into a performance.

Princeton had a blast learning to be a circus dog. Aside from his usual household chores, he learned how to roll himself up in a blanket, hide in a box, weave between my legs, and bark on command. When it came time to make our performance tape, it took just one take to get the perfect circus dog performance.

"Trick Dog" is certainly not the first label you would put on a Drent upon meeting one. They often carry a more serious expression upon meeting strangers. However, allow a Drent room to play and his favorite treats and he becomes a professional clown. I found that Princeton's biddability and food drive made him a comedian on stage. He always wanted to please you more. If you find one of his jokes funny, he'll find a way to make it funnier. Kill him with a "bang! You're dead!" and he doesn't just play dead, he flails, falls over, and dies an agonizing death while wagging his tail.



### **Tally-ho!**

This fall I had the amazing opportunity to take Princeton lure coursing. If you've ever seen greyhounds race, you've seen lure coursing. There is an artificial "rabbit" attached to a string, which is pulled quickly across a field with a series of twists and turns. The AKC used to only allow sighthounds like greyhounds and whippets compete in lure coursing, but recently they opened up 2 additional titles that welcome all breeds and AKC-registered mixed breed dogs. The Coursing Ability Test requires the dog run a 0.25 mile course without losing interest in the lure. The Fast CAT is a speed race, where dogs are given different handicaps based on their size and ability.

## Princeton's Education cont... - submitted by Laura Pier



**Princeton on course**

instinct allows a dog to cover more ground while out on the field. For my purposes in the suburbs it is more of a nuisance than anything else, but for lure coursing it gave us an edge. He was more comfortable chasing the lure from so far away than my retriever.

Princeton's incredible prey drive also gave him an edge in the sport. While on leash, he is actually quite easy to reign in when a small animal crosses his path. When he is aware that he needs to exercise self-control, he can dampen the impulse to chase. When given the latitude to follow prey, however, he is the most driven dog I have ever seen. His keenness for the lure was unmatched at our first lure coursing trial. His enthusiasm and energy for the sport seemed to even outrank the sighthounds. For our second day of coursing, we had to bring an agitation harness, because Princeton just couldn't bear to wait in line without hitting the end of his leash.

At the end of the weekend, Princeton had been awarded his Coursing Ability Title after completing a mile of coursing tests without losing the lure. To date, he has completed another two courses. He still needs to course another mile before he achieves his Coursing Ability Advanced title.

Also, just for fun, we ran Princeton in a Fast CAT speed trial. He is currently the fastest (read: only) Drent in America. I dare you to try to beat our 2017 high score of 22.78 mph.

### Get Dat Rat

When you think of a ratter, the type of dog the mind may conjure is a terrier. Terriers, and many similar breeds, were actually bred primarily for the task of sniffing out vermin from barns and fields and quickly dispatching of them. However, many larger breeds of dogs bred for generalized farm work also have ratching instincts. I've noticed this instinct in Prince.



I'll never forget our first run. Princeton lined up next to the lure, the judge let the lure fly, and on his "tally-ho!" Princeton was on fire! He was on the heels of the lure the entire time; barking and turning on a dime. There is nothing like a Drent running flat out, joyful, and carefree. He seemed born for the chase.

Princeton's incredible talent at lure coursing came as a surprise. Generally, hunting dogs are more handler-sensitive than prey driven. What I've noticed about my own Drent is that his feel for distance from the handler is further than my Labrador, or other hunting dogs I've seen. Prince will often run up to a quarter mile away before looking back for me. I imagine this



## Princeton's Education cont... - submitted by Laura Pier

Because he was born to an owner who failed to nurture his pointing instincts, he will often point-and-pursue when he sees a small animal disappear into a bush. Much of the time he does not even point at all, but rather pursues interesting critters without second thought. My own instincts told me he was cut out for Barn Hunt.

Barn Hunt is a ratting sport. Several hay bales are arranged into obstacles in a barn, including tunnels and towers. Then, live rats are placed safely into PVC-pipe safety containers and hidden in the hay bales. When released into the ring, the dog is tasked with finding the concealed rat and the handler is tasked with alerting the judge when the rat has been found. Like lure coursing, it is a sport built primarily on instinct, but there is also an aspect of teamwork involved. The handler must be able to read the dog and the dog must trust the handler to guide him through the obstacles.

Princeton's first Barn Hunt weekend started off on a great foot. He entered the ring for his practice run and found the rat in less than 25 seconds. It would only get better from there. During the weekend, he would go on to qualify in 3 out of 4 of his runs and secure his RATN (Barn Hunt Novice) title. In one of his runs, Princeton sniffed out the critter in less than 3 seconds. When he missed the rat, it was because he hit first on the place where the rat had been 5 minutes before while another dog was hunting.

Barn Hunt relies on 2 crucial traits: 1) prey drive and 2) a superior sense of smell. While I had been certain that Prince had the required prey drive (after all, he was a lure coursing fiend!), I wondered how his nose would compare. At home, he has been trained to identify birch, anise, and clove essential oils and find them when they are hidden throughout the house (in the vain hope that a Baton Rouge nosework club would spring up somewhere), but getting him to pay attention to his nose had taken some time and patience.



See you soon!

Laura and Princeton (Rainshadow's Old Nassau CA RATN TKP)



### The Wide World of Dog Sports

Even though in 2018 our family schedule seems to be filling to capacity, my hope is that by the end of the year Princeton and I will have tried at least 2 more sports. He is actually obedience trained up through intermediate obedience, but his stubbornness has so far kept us out of the ring. Our local area offers opportunities in agility, tracking, and rally. I am so excited to see what he can do.

Finally, I hope to see you Drent fanciers out there in the ring or on the course. I know that Drents are superior hunting dogs, but there is so much else that they can do. I challenge you to nurture those extraordinary talents and try something new. Dog sports can help you develop an incredible bond with your animal and they are just so fun.

## No More Pulling! - submitted by Brian O'Connor

If it isn't you... you have seen plenty of people out "dog skiing", being pulled down the sidewalk by their amazing canine companion... or tangled around sign posts, tripping over irregularities in the pavement, or heaven forbid there be another dog walking towards you on the other side of the road! If you are like me, with a with a bad back, putting up with this is not acceptable. Tolerating this behavior will become a matter of riding the sofa for weeks and choking down pain meds, so it's a full stop, "no go". So how do you prevent it? And how do you become that guy (or gal) in your neighborhood who is secretly the envy of all other dog walkers with your dog neatly at heel?



**Brian with Paxson, Jorja, Booker, Powder  
and son Robert**

Showing off is one thing, but safety and security is another thing altogether and is a legitimate goal to pursue. I often walk all of my Drents together at once, so having their cooperation is quite important, as I could easily be carried away.

Safety and security, sounds pretty serious, but the health and welfare of you and your Drent are something of importance! Maybe you are accustomed to being dragged along by your dog and don't realize the implications, and that there may be a better way. A leash-puller can run the risk of breaking away from your control, which can be a danger to your dog. Things such as continuing to run into traffic, towards some unfriendly animal, and of course the danger to yourself as I've already eluded to. Furthermore, proper leash manners minimize the risk of you injuring your dog in a moment of overzealous leash yanking and will make the time spent walking your dog more about walking and less about tug-of-war, or skiing, with the typical accompaniment of cussing and fussing.

"From a relationship perspective," explains Sarah Fraser, a certified professional dog trainer and co-founder of Instinct Behavior & Training in New York City, "if your dog is walking nicely on a leash, it likely means that your dog is paying more attention to you, making it easier for you to provide direction and guidance as needed along your walk." I find this quote to be very accurate and important to take note of. Fraser goes on to say, "Teaching your dog to walk nicely on a leash allows you to take her more places and for longer walks, because it's more comfortable and enjoyable for the both of you." Few truer words have been spoken I feel.

### Tips for Better Walking Behavior

**Adjust your attitude** - First, ask yourself: "What would I like my dog to do instead?" Instead of teaching a dog to *stop pulling*, think of teaching your dog to heel as teaching your dog how to *walk nicely beside you*.

## No More Pulling! - submitted by Brian O'Connor

### Remember it's all about the rewards - sorta.

Since a Drent is nearly always hungry you can use this to your advantage! One of the easiest and most effective ways to start teaching a dog to walk properly on a leash is to reward the dog for paying attention to you and for being in the desired position (next to you or close to you) when out for a walk.

“As the dog learns that walking next to you is a pleasant, rewarding experience, she'll spend less time pulling and more time walking nicely beside you,” says Fraser. “Try using very special treats in the beginning, like small pieces of boiled chicken or roast beef, to really get your dog's attention,” Fraser advises. I'm a huge fan of raw hotdogs cut to pencil eraser sized pieces. Just have your dog sit near you, say its name, and give half once he/she looks you directly in the eyes. The better your dog gets at this, treat him less and less consistently. Sessions should only last a few minutes at most a couple of times a week. If your dog “loses the bubble” with his consistent and prompt response just go back to being more consistent with treating. Keep in mind reinforcement behaviors on your part, positive or negative, need to be within 1/3 of a second.



### Play the “follow me” game.

This is an extension on the game from above and how I prefer to teach a recall: ‘come’ or ‘here’. Doing this with a partner is ideal. Each person should have a store of high-value treats at the ready, and the pup with collar and line (you can use a 6’ lead, but a longer cord can be helpful). You both are within an arm's reach of one another. Person one (P1) has pup nearby, and Person two (P2) says the pups name in an upbeat and higher pitched tone, once pup looks them in the eyes, they take a step back and say ‘here’ (or command of choice). While P1 allows the line slack, P2 holds the treat out to help entice pup in and allows pup to have the treat once he is in close. Tell him ‘good boy’ and be enthusiastic but not overwhelming. Wash, rinse, repeat. As pup becomes more and more responsive, add distance slowly. Keep sessions short, and use the line as needed to ensure pup doesn't stray in the event he gets excited and decides to run if the game becomes too fun.

Once pup is pretty good at this, try this without an assistant. Hold on to your leash and take several backward steps away from your dog. The backward movement is inviting, so your dog is likely to turn and follow you. You don't need to use your recall command, but it can be helpful if Sparky doesn't find your step back inviting...also, he is accustomed to this from the earlier exercise. Say “yes!” as your dog approaches you, then immediately reward him or her with a treat.

## No More Pulling cont... - submitted by Brian O'Connor

“The game helps your dog focus and move with you,” says Fraser. Then back away several steps in another direction. Once again, say “yes!” as your dog approaches and reward him or her with a treat. Repeat this sequence a few times, until your dog is actively pursuing you when you move away. Remember to stay upbeat, and be sure to remain attuned to your dog’s interest in the game – better to go short than long. A few really good ones are significantly better than a bunch of so-so ones or worse yet a handful of bad ones. This lure and reward technique is very low pressure, and you can become more and more selective as to what earns a treat as pups’ performance improves e.g. getting him to sit beside you versus in front.

### Practice on your regular walks.

Once you’ve started your *stride*, each time your dog looks up at you or walks next to you, says “yes!” and immediately reward him or her with a treat. For those of you who like clickers, pop your clicker in lieu of saying ‘yes’.

### Reward often.

"Frequent rewards will help your dog figure out more quickly what behavior you’re looking for and make the learning process easier for her," Fraser goes on to explain, "The trick to making this work is using very special treats at first, and keeping your rate of reinforcement high, which just means that you are marking and rewarding often — maybe every 4-5 steps at first — for any and all ‘good’ leash behavior."

“Over time, you can thin out your rate of reinforcement, rewarding your dog less frequently throughout the course of the walk,” Fraser adds.

### Consider additional assistance.

If your dog is already a practiced puller, there is still hope. Like nearly all training issues with dogs, going back to the beginning and using lots of treats can many times work small miracles. Sometimes you may need to consider employing more serious training aids for the job at hand. For these you may want to visit with an experienced trainer to learn how to correctly use these aids, but a properly fitted prong or JASA collar, while looking pretty rough, are generally much subtler in their employment than a traditional training (choker collar). I am not a fan of the various body-clip or head-muzzle harnesses, as most tend to give the dog leverage, or can be very dangerous to the dog. However, if your dog already pulls hard, consider working with a certified, science-based positive-reinforcement type trainer.

Finally, remember that walking on a leash is a skill that takes time and practice for everyone involved, so be sure to celebrate your incremental improvements.



## Litter Announcements - submitted by Jenna Myers

Since our last newsletter the DPCNA welcomed the first litter from Duck Creek Kennel.

### 2018 Duck Creek Litter - Jytte Quilou v.d. Smalle Ee X Paxson the Gloucester (6 pups - 5 boys and 1 girl) \* Born January 3, 2018

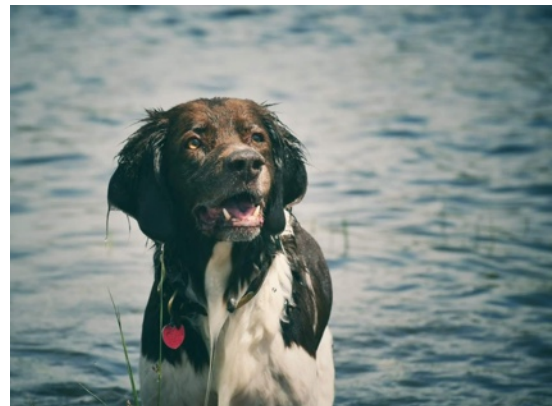


## DPCNA Calendar

This year we are hoping to put together another DPCNA Calendar. The likely cost will be around \$15 per calendar. It will be for 2019 and will be aiming for completion in October. The most important part of the calendar will be the photos that we will be using for each month. **So here is where our members can help out! If you a photo you would like considered for the calendar please submit it to Jenna - [jenna.myers227@gmail.com](mailto:jenna.myers227@gmail.com)**

Here are some tips for photo submission:

- \* please make sure the photo is high-quality. Please do not send photos taken on camera phones unless you know they can be blown up calendar size without blurring or becoming pixelated.
- \* we will choose photos based on the theme of the month, so please send a variety of choices. By theme, I mean summer will feature summer-type photos, fall will feature hunting photos, winter will feature snowy or winter themed photos, etc.
- \* there is no limit to how many photos you can send. We will try to select photos from a variety of owners, so if you send many photos, please be aware that your dog may only be printed one time in order to accommodate everyone.
- \* please make sure your dog is the main focus of the photo - the best photos are those without a lot of background clutter/distracton. Photos taken outside tend to be the best, but we will consider all photos submitted.



## \*DPCNA Decals\*

Our popular 4 inch DPCNA sticker decals are back in stock. They can be ordered at [www.dpcna.org](http://www.dpcna.org) and are only \$5 each including shipping.

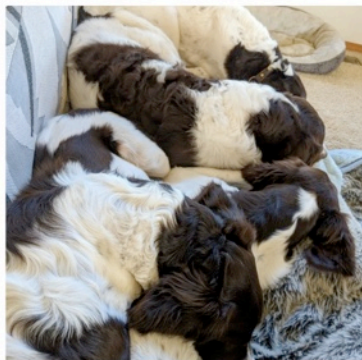
We are also looking for ideas for other merchandise you want to see come out this year! Have an idea or request? Please email Brian - [dpcna.gundogs@gmail.com](mailto:dpcna.gundogs@gmail.com).



## Parting Shots



Fowler posing



Couch of Drents



puppy Hatcher



Powder with Mearns Quail

## DPCNA Special Thanks & Credits

Photography contributions: Brian O'Connor (cover, page 13-14), Nikki O'Connor (pages 10-12), Jenna Myers (pages 4-6, 13-14), Laura Pier (pages 7-9)

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