

DPCNA NEWS

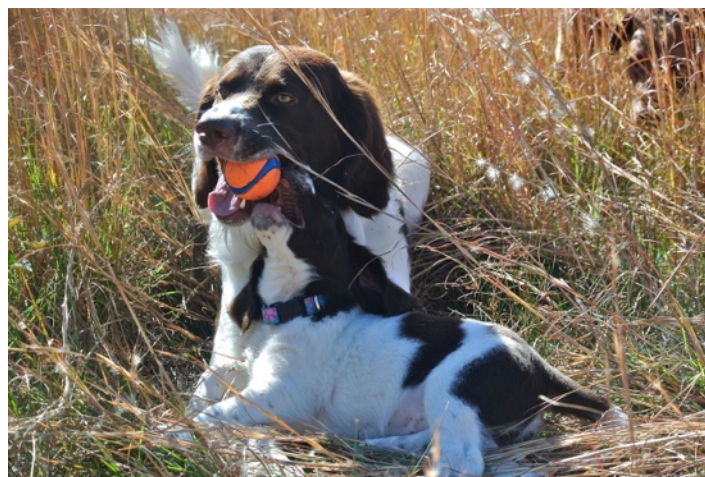


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Chairman's message - submitted by Brian O'Connor

Ladies and gentlemen, we are working to wrap up our first ever e-board meeting, and since it is taking longer than expected, and we are very late with our fall News Letter, we have opted to get this to you now. Once the minutes of the e-meeting can be compiled and



Fowler and little sister Ember

finalized, the results will be made available to you by way of a smaller "special edition" News Letter. We have some exciting things on the horizon, new shirts, a hat, and we are already talking about a face to face board meeting with conformation, hunt, and temperament test this coming September. From the bottom of our hearts, we appreciate your continued support and confidence with paving the way for the Drent in North America. Also we have a new corporate partner, which should be of interest to all members, and my book can now be ordered – more inside!

Happy Hunting,

Brian O'Connor

From the Editor - submitted by Jenna Myers

Well it's been a little while since we've put something together, but that's not because things haven't been busy! Brian's new book is out! (more info within the newsletter!) I spent a few days in the Netherlands and managed to make it back safely with 2 Drent puppies! No, they are not both ours - we are not that crazy! Our holidays included a cross-country road trip to visit family and hunt in one of our favorite places - eastern Washington state. Driving across country with 3 dogs, including a 9 week old pup is no easy feat, but we all survived and even managed to enjoy ourselves a bit! I hope this newsletter finds everyone well and that you all enjoyed the holiday season with loved ones. Enjoy!

A Holistic Diet- submitted by Sonja Geluk

I'm sharing our dog food recipe. We are not 'floaters' nor 'tree huggers', but we have our four dogs on the holistic path, which simply means that they get no chemicals into or onto their body. About 4 years ago I start hearing about 'cooking for your dogs', and after our son had to put down his 8 month old cat, I purchased the book "Natural Health for Dogs and Cats" from Dr. Pitchairn - it has changed my views completely. Ever since I started cooking for our guys they take it wonderfully, especially the oldest dog who had become grumpy, old, not wanting to eat, and slow and aging. Our dogs do not get vaccinations, as little as possible 'store made', no flea protection, no tick protection, are always free around the house in nature and in the bush here on the peninsula where it crawls of wildlife and critters and none of them is ever, ever sick. I never see a flea or tick on any of them. Their coats are shining, they are active, they are responsive and happy. Of course this whole story is just background but I just wanted to explain my enthusiasm about this recipe and this way of feeding our pack: everything raw in fact but this recipe is also good for hot, humid climates and puppies as the food is partly cooked.



Anyway, here is what I cook for them each week: 4 dogs (2 big, 2 small) and 2 cats.



Dog food recipe:

Throw 4 lbs ground beef, or ground chicken in a big pan with 3/4-1 cup of water.

Cook and stir (about 10 minutes) till it has fallen apart and no longer pink, turn the heat off!

Add:

1 cup of white or brown rice, or (cooked) barley

3 cups chopped up broccoli or mixed (frozen) veggies.

half a head squeezed garlic cloves

1 tbsp. brewer's yeast

Half a cup chopped almonds

Let sit in the hot, covered pan till the veggies are soft or thawed.



You can add as much as supplements as you want: calcium, vitamins, alfalfa etc. Check for holistic brands without chemicals.

Portion it in container for each day.

For breakfast I give them each a whole raw egg, a few tbsp. with raw oats and 2-3 tbsp. cottage cheese. As snacks they get deli, carrots, boiled eggs, a little chunk frozen raw meat or a piece of cheese. And we us, both as ex-army people see no weakness or 'softy-culture' in this type of feeding. It is not more expensive as buying tons of dog kibbles.

To Spay or Neuter...the pros and cons - submitted by Brian O'Connor

Certainly “fixing” your pet is an absolute if preventing unwanted litters is desired, but is the action absolutely the right thing to do as being the most “responsible” thing to do? This topic can be charged with emotion. I can recall a time when the spay/neuter was more or less a panacea for all kinds of potential health and behavioral risks. Just as modern canine ethology has opened a window into how our dogs actually learn and perceive the world versus our perceived notion, modern health studies are beginning to debunk some of the thoughts about what we have thought about the spay/neuter, in particular early age spay/neuter. The decision is yours to make, but I have read a number of articles over the past couple of years, which has really got me to thinking.

It is important to note, like us, a dog’s gonads do more than just help procreate; they produce a myriad of different hormones which the body uses in ways we are only beginning to understand. For example a recent study using Golden retrievers found dogs neutered before reaching 12 months of age had double the risk of developing hip dysplasia (HD), than dogs left intact. Dogs neutered before 6 month of age demonstrated a 70% increased risk for developing hip dysplasia. There is a similar study which supports a somewhat similar result for females.

Interestingly there is a similar finding for cranial cruciate ligament tears. Intact dogs in the Golden Retriever study suffered no tears, but 5% of the males and 8% of the females neutered before 12 months of age did. Other studies suggest neutered dogs were twice as likely to suffer a cranial cruciate ligament rupture. Also connected is bone density, neutered dogs have been proven to have less bone mass when compared to intact animals. These are all things to consider if your dog is to be an active canine athlete, hunting or service dog.

If you have ever lost a dog to cancer, it is a tragic thing to have to go through, watching your pal waste away with virtually nothing you can do. I lost my field bred Golden retriever almost nine years ago to lymphosarcoma. He was “fixed”, which made his risk factors three times greater than if we had left him intact. Hemangiosarcoma and mast cell tumors increase three to four times when fixed. Like HD, the rates are higher when the pet the neutered before the age of 12 months, slightly less after one year of age. It does seem females are at a much higher risk of cancer once fixed, up to 6.5 times higher for all cancers, and males about 3.6 times higher. Also the younger the dog was fixed; the earlier they tended to develop their cancer. Our Shadow only made it to age eight.



Studies have now been able to link spay/neuter to behavioral issues and hypothyroidism (up to a three time increase in risk). “Fear behaviors” are more likely to develop in “fixed” dogs e.g. separation anxiety, timidity, etc. and even aggression a primary reason many choose to go through with the procedure.

I don’t know of any studies on the Drent, but I do know of a few ways spay/neutering manifests itself in our breed. Most notably it is very telling in the coat. A fixed Drent’s coat will “blow out” and “open” significantly over what their coat would have looked like naturally. In fact most fixed Drents will require trimming in order to manage their coat, in particular if they were on the wooly end of the spectrum. Most Drents are little pigs when it comes to feeding time, but managing the weight of a neutered Drent is all but impossible. They will almost always maintain a certain amount of chub that will never go away. I’m not advocating one position over another, but the evidence continues to stack up against the common belief that fixing a dog solves a multitude of health and behavioral issues. Still depending on your situation, it may be what you need to do. Even so, it is worth noting the new challenges you have signed up for.

Skipper Update - submitted by Karen James

Skipper has been in our family for just over a year now and it is amazing how much he has changed during that time. Of course, he is very intelligent and quite clever. He is learning to communicate with us - or we are learning to understand him. For the first few months, we noticed a little separation anxiety and that he really did not like certain men (or men with a certain look). With love and a little training, he has overcome these difficulties and interacts very well with everyone. Skipper is so very gentle with children. Our 3-year old granddaughter likes to use him as a pillow. He definitely likes being a part-time house dog and sharing dominion over the yard and the kennel with Scout. He has gained a little weight and has a start on a beautiful winter coat. True to Drent characteristics, Skipper sounds a single-bark alarm when a stranger approaches our home. That bark cannot be ignored. It has a rich baritone tonal quality and volume like an air horn. He is a BIG boy! We feel very blessed to have Skipper in our family. He is well-loved and appreciated by all of us (including his adopted brother, Scout). Thank you, again, Jack and the DPCNA, for rescuing Skipper and helping him find a home with us.



Breeder's Handbook - Coming soon!!!

We will soon be releasing a Breeder's handbook on our web page. The guide will cover: The breeding and registration requirements of the club, recommended and required limitations on breeding for Sires and Dams, an abbreviated timeline, the Club's role in helping you to determine good pairing choices and evaluating the coefficient of inbreeding, discuss the pros and cons of Artificial Insemination versus live mating, the estrous cycle and proper timing, and includes a few tips on raising a litter. Yes, it's a lot, but what we will offer will be pretty simplified and easy to get your head wrapped around. Still this isn't meant to prevent you from sending any of us an e-mail or picking up the phone. Also, we will be looking for your feedback, to help us to make this guide a resource everyone can use.



The Drentsche Patrijshond for the North American Fancier - submitted by Brian O'Connor



The long awaited all English Drent book is here! With a forward written by Gun Dog Magazine's "On Point" columnist, Dave Carty and photography contributions from Craig Koshyk and others, its been said the book will be the face of the single breed book, if they are to remain in print. In short, there are basically two ways of writing a breed book. One requires effort and It involves researching a breed in detail, interviewing long-time breeders, owners, hunters and club members, seeing and photographing the dogs in the flesh, traveling to the breed's native land etc. etc. The other requires virtually no effort. All you need is access to wikipedia, a delusion that you can make a quick buck selling cheap, print-on demand-books about dog breeds and, most importantly, a complete lack of scruples. The Drentsche Patrijshond for the North American Fancier is not a product of the 'no effort' method; it is however an excellent example of doing it the right way! Well that is what my publisher had to say about it.

The book is available on Amazon, but fees make it most expensive there. You can get an autographed copy by visiting the author's web page directly (www.twogunkennels.com) or by visiting www.DPCNA.org where he will make a charitable donation to the club from each book sold. The print run isn't terribly large, so be sure to get a copy while the getting is good.



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The Ins and Outs of Importing - submitted by Jenna Myers

Recently I made my first trip abroad to pick up 2 puppies from a breeder in the Netherlands. Our Fowler is an import, but was picked up by my husband during a visit to his parents who lived in Germany at the time. I've helped several people make arrangements to bring a puppy home, but this was the first time that I would be taking my own advice and making the trip myself. I get so many emails asking about puppies and what the best way to get one is. Should you wait for a North American litter? How do I find a puppy in the Netherlands? Will the quality be better? Can breeders just ship puppies here? Is it more expensive? Is there a language barrier? Is the travel hard? Are there health requirements? While each situation is different, the process of importing a puppy is actually quite simple. I've decided to outline my answers to these questions here so that maybe the process doesn't seem so daunting.



meeting a friend and her Drent, Saku, at Schiphol airport!



nothing better than a litter of sleeping Drent pups

the DPCNA as a resource will most likely greatly reduce the frustration and heartache that one might face going it alone.

Will the quality be better?

Most Drents being bred in North America are imports, therefore the breeding stock is essentially the same as what is being used in the Netherlands. The DPCNA sanctions breeders who breed toward the same standard. The health requirements are actually more than what is required in the Netherlands. So the honest answer is no, the quality of an import is not necessarily better. But you may have more choices as there are many more litters produced there.

Can breeders ship puppies here?

Well, it is certainly possible, but not likely. There are no rules prohibiting shipping a puppy unaccompanied as long as he or she is 10 weeks old. However, every breeder I know requires a puppy-buyer to pick up in person. Every current U.S. breeder also has this requirement.

Should I wait for a North American litter?

Well that decision is a personal one and there is no guarantee either way. Sometimes the wait for a puppy here is several years and sometimes it is several months. Most breeders here have a general idea of their timeline and what their waitlist looks like.

How do I find a puppy in the Netherlands?

Though it's easy enough to put in a Google search and try to find breeders, my best recommendation is using the DPCNA to put you in contact with a breeder or breeders that might have a litter available in your timeframe. We are familiar with health and temperament in the various bloodlines and are always open to matching families with potential breeders that would accommodate exporting a puppy. The fact is that not all breeders speak English or are willing to export a puppy. Using

Ins and Outs of Importing cont...



hanging out at the airport before the long flight

Is the travel hard?

No! The flight is long, but the country is very easy to navigate. I was worried going by myself, but I managed to get around using the train. Our breeder was nice enough to drive us to the airport, but the train allows dogs. And there is always the option to rent a car. Getting the puppy home is also pretty easy. Bring a soft carrier that will fit under the seat on the plane. Most pups will sleep the whole trip. I had 2 puppies, so I had 1 in-cabin with me and 1 in a crate under the plane. Getting through customs with 2 puppies was a little harder, but very doable with a little patience.

Are there health requirements?

Puppies coming from a rabies-free country (which the Netherlands is) are only required to be 8 weeks of age and have a health certificate from a vet stating they are healthy and have not left the country. This is something the breeder will need to get within 10 days of anticipated travel. However, some airlines require pets to be at least 10 weeks of age for travel, so be sure to check that.

Is it more expensive?

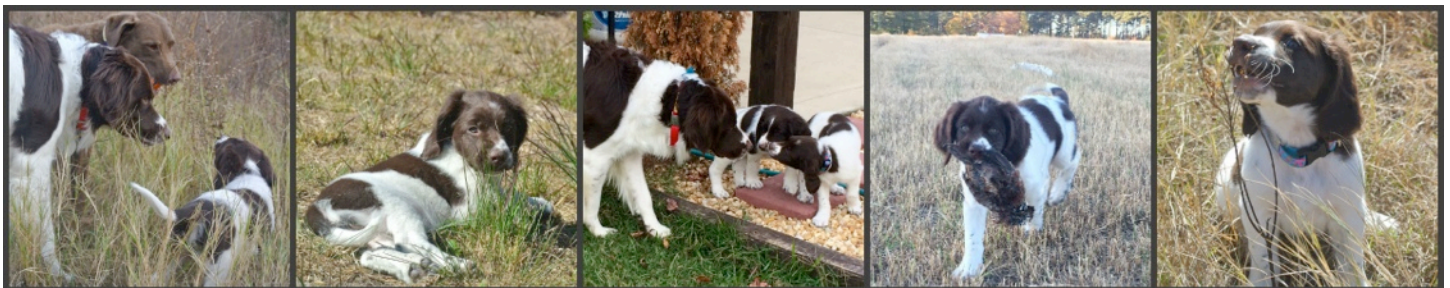
Yes and No. The cost of the puppy is the same generally. However, depending on time of year, a plane ticket can be more expensive to the Netherlands. Plan on spending at least \$1000 for a ticket to Amsterdam.

Is there a language barrier?

Again, the answer is yes and no. Most Dutch speak enough English to carry a conversation. But some don't. Fowler's breeder spoke hardly any English. He had to go next door to his neighbors house to have emails translated for him. So while that made communication a little harder, it was by no means a deal breaker.



Ember asleep on her blanket while waiting at customs



Overall I would say the whole process was very enjoyable and definitely worth the trip! Look at that face!

From the Kitchen

Quail Nuggets - submitted by Brian & Nikki O'Connor

Need to clear out your fridge? Or just want to feed a group of people some quail? Look no further, but beware, you'll never want to look at a chicken nugget again.

Ingredients:

- A limit of quail, breasted, cleaned and with the tenderloin separated.
- 1 egg beaten
- 1 cup of buttermilk
- 1-1/2 teaspoons garlic powder
- 1 cup seasoned bread crumbs
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 1 quart of oil for frying / whatever your deep fat fryer needs
- 2 Large re-sealable bags

Instructions:

Place your prepared quail into a large re-sealable bag. In a bowl mix the egg, buttermilk, and garlic powder. Pour the mixture in with the quail, seal and refrigerate an hour or so. In a second re-sealable bag mix the flour bread crumbs, salt, and baking powder. When you are ready to go, drain the quail, discarding the wet mixture, then place the quail into the dry ingredient mixture bag. Shake. Find your quail nugget and fry until GB&D (Golden Brown and Delicious).

Still not good enough for you? Then pick up some Idaho fry sauce for dipping or a make up a homemade batch...I don't think you'll regret it.

Kick butt dipping sauce:

- ¼ cup mayonnaise
- 1/8 cup ketchup
- ¼ TB (Tablespoon) plus ¼ TS (Teaspoon) Worcestershire sauce
- ¼ TS garlic powder
- Pinch of salt
- ¼ TS black pepper

Instructions

For the sauce: Gather ingredients and mix them in a small bowl



From the Kitchen - submitted by Jenna Myers

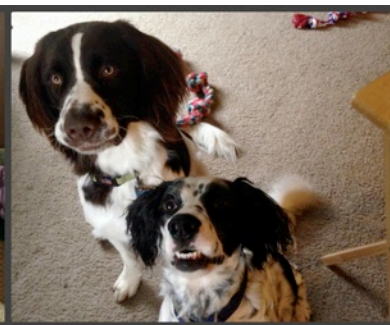
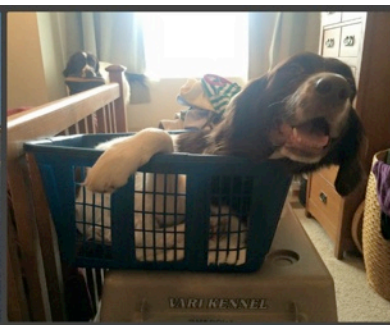
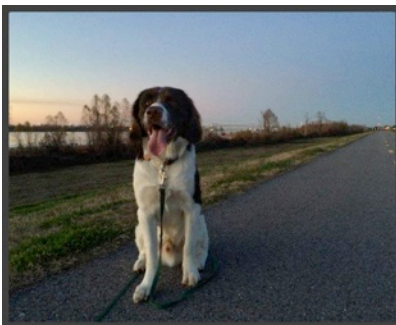
Easiest Homemade Dog Treats - only 4 Ingredients!

- 2 c. whole wheat flour (makes 60 treats)
- 1 cup milk
- 1 cup peanut butter (creamy or chunky)
- 1 tsp. baking powder

- * Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Spray baking sheet with cooking spray or line with parchment paper.
- * Combine all ingredients in large mixing bowl and mix together until you have a doughy consistency.
- * Knead dough on floured board and roll out to 1/4" thick. Cut out treats with cookie cutter of your choice.
- * place treats on pan (they can be close together because they won't rise and spread like traditional cookies).
- * Bake for 15-18 minutes, until a little brown near the edges.
- * Allow to cool for 5 minutes on baking sheet and then move to cooling rack. Cool completely before storing in airtight container.
- * Let the pups enjoy!



Parting Shots



Princeton on the Mississippi

Only Booker...

Drent Finnick and his brother Ripley

Triple Drent

DPCNA Special Thanks & Credits

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