

DPCNA NEWS



Chairman's message - submitted by Brian O'Connor

It is starting to look like summer around here and our elections, despite getting a little bit behind the power curve have concluded with nary a comment, which means our Nominating Committee did a great job with selections. With that being said,



Duke, Jana, and Bear enjoying the sun!

there should be no surprise with who will be leading the DPCNA for these next four years. Jenna Myers, as well as, my wife and I retained our previous positions, and we graciously welcome Jack Lusk as our Secretary and Jim Millington as our Vice President. I am very excited to be given the opportunity to continue to grow and learn while doing the best I can to firmly set the foundations of the Drentsche Patrijshond in North America along with you all and our fine crew on the Board of Directors.

I'll give you a small peek under the hood on what is to come: my first goal is to complete a negotiation with a company for not just genetic identification of our dogs, but the identification of genetic disease within the breed. The more participants we can get, the cheaper each test will be, and the database will be more useful as we move forward. My second goal is to complete the OFA health questionnaire which will also enable us to compile much needed information, which can be used to help identify genetic identifiers in goal one. This is a free service provided by OFA, however setting up the questionnaire is a massive undertaking, once completed, working and available the link will be provided. The more information collected the better. Until next time, give your Drent's ear a good scratchin' for me.

- Brian

From the Editor - submitted by Jenna Myers

Summertime is now upon us and thus brings about the publishing of another newsletter. Ideally this would have happened a little earlier, but personal changes (a move to Virginia) and DPCNA business (elections) have delayed the process a little! This issue will fill you in on the goings on for the DPCNA and includes a summary of the 2012 Annual Meeting as well as some great articles and of course photos of the newest Drents to enter the world here in North America. I hope everyone is enjoying their summer so far. We have had some scorching heat and killer humidity here, but Fowler has already found his favorite river spot to swim so all is good! See you for the next issue!

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2012 DPCNA Board Meeting - submitted by Jenna Myers

October 27, 2012

Board Members:

Brian O'Connor

Nikki O'Connor

Jim Millington

John Lambregts

Jenna Myers

All board members were present with the exception of Brian O'Connor and Jim Millington. Also in attendance were members Jack Lusk, Chris Barnes, and Jared Myers.



Booker before a hunt in Idaho

1. Old Business

- A. Vote on the standard - the changes in the standard were agreed upon and sent to the Vereniging and the AKC.

2. Treasurer's Report

3. New Business

- A. Discussion about whether or not to make it mandatory for all certified breeding stock and litters born in North America to be registered with both the DPCNA and AKC. The response to this was positive, however there was some discussion about what direction it would take the club. It also brought about questions about "limited registration" and how much influence we can have on potential breeders.
- B. Question of setting a time limit for registering litters with the club. It was agreed that some time limit does need to be applied and that the penalty would be a higher registration fee. Initially thoughts were that breeders would have 4 weeks, but that doesn't allow time for pups to be microchipped and given their registered names if the breeder chooses to let the new owners decide. It was agreed that a better timeline would be no later than 3 months after the litter was whelped. However, this was not voted on and there was no discussion of what the penalty would be for violation.
- C. Topic of changing the requirement for PRA eye screening to be in line with the Vereniging. All in attendance agreed that the policy should be changed to the following. All dogs applying for certified breeding stock status must have their eyes examined before their first breeding, no earlier than 18 months of age AND must be re-examined yearly until they reach 5 years of age. The by-laws will need to be updated at the next meeting.
- D. Nominating Committee for Elections. Prior to elections in 2014, a nominating committee consisting of 3 members needed to be chosen. Jack Lusk was chosen to head up the nominating committee, with the other members being chosen at a later date.

Meeting Adjourned.

Improve Your Wingshooting - submitted by Brian O'Connor



I've got one word I like to use to describe my wing shooting abilities and it is, amazing. Yep, you read right, amazing. It used to mean, amazingly good or bad depending upon the phase of the moon, and the alignment of the stars, and I'm sure there were several other cosmic factors at play. Seriously, though, most of my regular hunting partners would most likely agree, over the years my shooting has improved and has become much more consistent, and I think most would consider I am a mediocre wing shot. Most of the guys I hunt with are significantly better shooters than me, and have been shooting clays or birds for most of their lives. I am a late comer to wing shooting and suffer from less than inspiring eye-hand coordination. So I am to serve as a point of reference; if I can make improvements, then it is safe to say you can too.

So you are thinking, okay Mr. Two-Gun, but you spend all kinds of time out at the skeet range. Nope, not at all and couldn't be further from the truth; in fact despite living only about a mile from a skeet range I never once used the facility. Like most of you, work and life commitments, just typically doesn't allow me the time to spend afternoons busting clays and when things do line up it never fails, my wallet will be running little light due to one thing or another. So how have I made these improvements?

I originally read about the method I will describe to you several years ago, but to be honest the tip only really made sense to me after watching American Gun Dog's "Straight Shooter" segment hosted by Nick Seifert a few of years ago now. At first I kind of laughed off the tip, and then I found myself doing the exercises and seeing benefits shortly thereafter. This is how it goes: you will need your favorite shooting tool, snap caps (if your shotgun cannot be dry fired), and a very small flashlight (optional, but very helpful). Naturally, you must observe all gun safety protocols; ensure 100% the gun is free of cartridges, and snap caps are in place (if needed). The flashlight, if used, should have its body wrapped in cotton or cloth and tapped in place. The flashlight can then be safely inserted into the end of one the barrels. The light pattern of the flashlight in most cases can be adjusted to nearly match your shot pattern at a given range if you know that bit of information. You look like a lunatic now, but this means you are fully prepared and ready to exercise.

There are two main components to this simple, cheap, and easy to do drill. I prefer to use a quiet room with a window frame, and/or pictures on the wall. For part one: practice mounting the gun with a "target" already in your eye; the corner of that window frame will do just fine. For wing shooting learning how to correctly mount your gun and be on target is a make or break skill. You can practice mounting, dismounting, and mounting repeatedly in a short time. You can even practice mounting with the target in your "mind's eye" but with your

eyes actually closed, and check your work by opening and checking your sight picture once your gun is mounted. After several mounting drills, you can start part two: leave the gun mounted and trace the wall seams, and picture frames while maintaining a correct sight picture. At first you will probably realize you are pretty sloppy. All in all you can do quite a few of these drills in a short amount of time, a few days each week. Once you begin to obtain the correct sight picture consistently and can "trace a line" you can start to add the two main components of the exercise for the complete drill. Mount and swing the gun while maintain a good sight picture on your wall seam, door frame, or what have you. In my humble opinion there isn't a lot of value in practicing your foot placement. In fact I will often times deliberately choose poor foot placement for these drills. Because unlike the skeet or trap range, when you are out in the rough wing shooting either the landscape and or the timing of events will not allow you to make corrections to your footing or body position. How do you practice sliding down a rocky slope of a coulee on your butt, getting stopped, rise, and crack a Mearns quail? You can't, but you can build your confidence with target acquisition and smoothly moving on target, which will go a long ways towards putting that bird in your bag.

Lastly don't worry about hit ratios and limits. Just get out there and enjoy the time with your four and two legged hunting buddies, the rest will come in time.

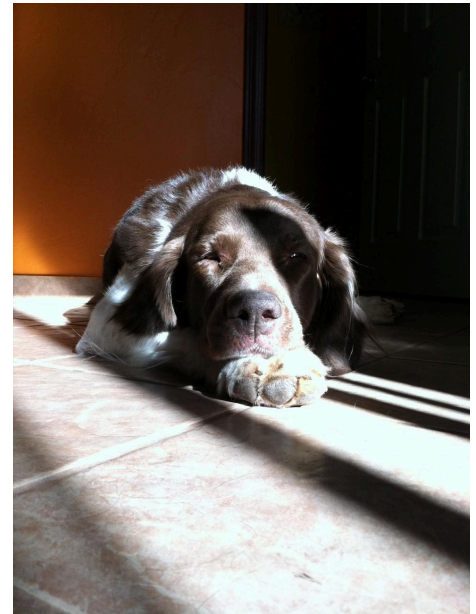
Have a Sore Dog? Here's a Tip! - submitted by Brian O'Connor

I don't know about you, but I'm still laying plans for late-season hunting. In the West, many states allow quail and chukar hunting through January and even early February. The combination of cold weather and hard work can do a number on a dog, so I've been researching the best way to help Manny and Buddy after a long day on the lava rock. Here's what I've learned:

Every dog has it's day, and then at night he's sore and tired. Prescription pain relievers and anti-inflammatories are an expensive and dangerous minefield, and often such solutions aren't really called for when Fido simply needs a little help getting to sleep after a hard day afield.

The solution? Plain, old, buffered aspirin. Non-buffered types can irritate a dog's stomach, so use only as a last resort. Dosage is much greater than most campfire discussions might indicate: my vet recommends 10 mg per kilogram (2.2 lbs.). A typical 70-pound dog, then, can safely take an average 325 mg. tablet twice daily. And just for the record: products containing ibuprofen or acetaminophen can be harmful to dogs, so stay away from them.

*** from the editor: Note- this is also a great tip for summer months when you might be trying to condition your dog for the upcoming season. Exercise like short runs, jogging, and swimming are great when it's warm out, but these temperatures can make a dog tire more easily and he might need more time to recover between activities!



Paxson after a day in the field

Avoid the Heat this Summer! - submitted by Jack Lusk



Scout and Fowler model what NOT to do!

With the heat of summer in full swing we need to remember to keep an eye on our dogs. Heat stroke can be very serious if left unrecognized and untreated. Be especially careful in high heat and humidity. Remember the more humid it is the less effective sweating becomes. Same is true for dogs and panting. Which is their primary method of cooling themselves. The water on their tongue can't evaporate fast enough if the humidity is too high. Some signs of heat stroke in dogs include body temps of 104f-109f, prolonged panting, sticky or dry tongue, froth at mouth, faster than normal heart beat, vomiting and diarrhea, and one of the latter signs, collapse or loss of consciousness. If you notice any of these signs its time to take action. Move your dog from the heat and direct sunlight. Begin cooling the dog by placing cool wet towels on the dogs feet and head, don't cover the entire dog with towels as it can act as

insulation and hold the heat in. It might sound like a good idea but don't use ice or ice water it can constrict the blood vessels preventing the cooler blood moving to the dogs core where it is needed. Ice or ice packs wrapped in towels are ok. Just not directly on the dog. Once the dogs temp reaches about 102f the dog should continue to cool down on its own. But continual monitoring is necessary. Offer the dog cool water but do not force it. An immediate vet visit is necessary. REMEMBER dog with thick heavy coats are more prone to heat related illness. To help prevent this from happening remember to give your dog ample amounts of water, keep activities short, and lots of shade. When you are out with your dog stay on grass or in fields. Swimming is a great activity to. Avoid gravel, concrete, and asphalt. If its too hot for you to stand on with bare feet its too hot for your dog. I cant believe I would even have to say this but I see it almost every day. **DO NOT LEAVE YOUR DOG UNATTENDED IN THE CAR.** Even with the windows down it can quickly hit temps of 120+ inside. With some simple awareness you can have a lot of fun with your dog this summer.

Spring 2013 Puppies! - submitted by Jenna Myers

This Spring the DPCNA was lucky enough to welcome 2 new litters into the world, for a grand total of 16 puppies! Yes, you read that right! I think that might be a record breaker. Below is some information about the puppies and of course, photos! Enjoy!

Litter # 1: Brooke X Fowler (Rainshadow Drents) - 5 boys and 4 girls! Born February 7, 2013



Litter # 2: Jana X Bear (Meadowbrook Kennel) - 4 boys and 3 girls! Born May 13, 2013



Blue Skies and Mearns Quail - submitted by Brian O'Connor

By now, for better or worse, I think everyone here has gotten used to reading about the annual O'Connor migration to Patagonia, so this article should come as little surprise to you. Even so, every year this trip has always been a bit of an adventure and this year began not all too differently than in years past. However there was a new twist for this year's trip. First as many of you may recall, I served a remote tour in the United Arab Emirates. While I will say, if you have to be serving in Southwest Asia the location where I was, was probably the best place to be, even so spending a year away from my wife, Nikki, left a lot to be desired. So with that, this year's trip wasn't a lock; there was debate over where we should go, and how we should spend my precious R&R time. In the end we decided to meet in one of our favorite places, the former supply center for numerous now defunct mines, the quiet town of Patagonia, Arizona which is beautifully situated at the base of Red Mountain not far from the Mexican border.

During my last hunting season, prior to this deployment, I was able to spend about fifty days in the field and had the opportunity to hunt pheasant as well as multiple species of: grouse, quail, and partridge in three different states with friends, some old and some new. This 2012/13 season I would get to spend a maximum of fifteen days with my beloved wife, my glorious dogs, my all-time favorite game bird, the Mearns quail, in Arizona wine country along with a few old friends.



One thing making the hunt this year special was a blanket of snow which covered the Coronado National Forest as far as the eye could see, about four to six inches of the white stuff. In fact, if I heard it correctly, it had been about ten years since the last meaningful snow fall had occurred in the area. So it was on the first day, mostly to air the dogs out from the long trip South from Idaho, we hunted the fabled high desert quail in the snow. Booker did a great job of pointing a large covey of at least a dozen Mearns taking refuge under the branches of a fallen tree in deep cover amidst the snow only a few minutes into the hunt. He was on fire and this was going to be a great year, no matter what the experts were saying about another dismal year due to low bird numbers. Hunting high desert quail in the snow was unique, very interesting and truly something special, but being only day one of my hunting season, I made a critical lapse in judgment, and didn't boot any of my dogs up. Naturally it was Booker who tore up his feet up, and pretty badly at that, which only became evident as we wrapped up day. He approached the truck; limping, with his front left foot, like a red bingo dauber, marking the snow with each step. My good hunter score for the day was an "F". This mistake would keep my best hunter sidelined for pretty much the whole trip and I wasn't very impressed with myself at all.

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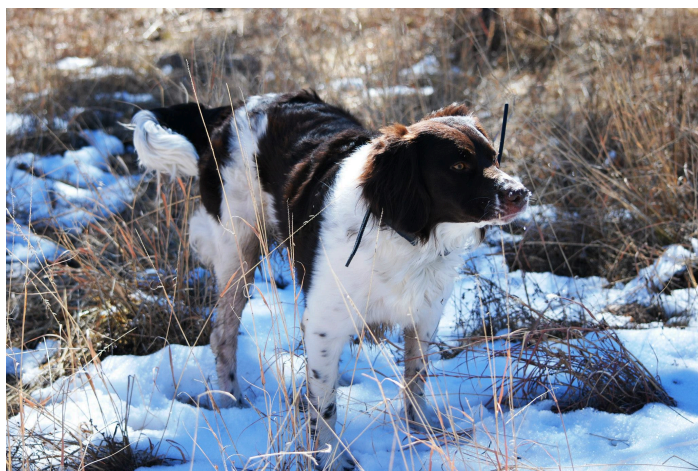
Blue Sky and Mearns Quail cont...

That is a way to look at it, or you could say Paxson and Jorja would get to hunt more. Wrongfully, I am guilty of calling Paxson my number two dog. His short comings in the field should rather strictly be attributed to me, truly. He was my first bird dog from pup and to prepare for him, I had read a dozen or so books on bird dog training, in addition to my more than twenty five years of dog training experience at the time, "I had this" – so I had thought. Twenty, twenty being hind sight, I now actually understand what those men had written and why. Paxson is not without sufficient intelligence, instinct or drive; he has them all in great quantity and quality. The confidence needed to be hunted with other dogs he does not have yet, and that too should be attributed to my missteps. He has classic Drent range, nothing more, and is a true "picker", working cover methodically and thoroughly. But when hunted solo, and slowly, he will not disappoint. He experienced his best day



Paxson

afield, ever, on this trip; he no-kidding pointed five coveys of Mearns one morning. On that particular day we hunted under quickly changing weather conditions ranging from; snow fall, blowing, swirling, and gusting winds, bright sunlight with a crazy face and hand numbing coldness, to a cloud cover which all but blackened the sky. Yet he hunted, and when we were done, he continued to hunt and point, putting us back in the action when we had thought we were done. Now that is what a good bird dog is supposed to do. I can't wait to work him this summer, with his intelligence and drive; he may yet overcome the mistakes of my inexperience after all.



Jorja

Don't you worry, Little Bit, Jorja, had her day too. This being her first trip to Mearns country, my expectations for her weren't too high, even though she is an excellent little hunter. As you know, it usually takes dogs some time to learn a new bird; sometimes all that is needed is to bump a covey, but sometimes to learn the smell of a new bird can be a lot more effort and time. Her first solo day turned into a bit of a death march, I so desperately wanted to get her on some Mearns – I didn't really care about bagging any, I just wanted her to point a covey. We had hiked a little over nine miles, and had only two coveys flush wild, way out in front of us, these birds had been hunted hard and I began to believe we would leave skunked on the day, for my purpose and bag. When we headed back to the truck, miles out, my morale was so low I didn't even bother to hunt my way

back. I did continually think to myself the birds could be anywhere; they could be there, as I looked on a well shaded side hill with prime oaks and cover. They could be there, as I looked at a deadfall surrounded with grass. They could even be there, laughing to myself, as I looked at a scraggly three foot high Charlie Brown Christmas tree of an oak out in the middle of some low spotty grass in the open. Two moments after my thought had cleared, Jorja, hunkered down and bolted towards the sorry looking stick-tree and sure enough a covey of Mearns erupted into flight! She gave chase but called off easily – she got Mearns in her nose, but really, she blew it. We ran up the steep hillside like idiots, each taking turns putting birds to flight. Well, she got Mearns in her nose and I got to scare a few with my finely tuned bird scaring device, a beautiful instrument made by Beretta, so the day wasn't a complete loss. Not great, but not lost. So with our spirits lifted we hunted the rest of our way back and with only about a hundred yards from the truck, Jorja went into a trance, then banked to the left, into the wind. For thirty yards or so she worked the wind, creeping cat-like, forward into the gusting wind. Then it came, the point, the covey was hunkered down just under a little lip of dirt and rock out of the wind, rock solid and steady, the point was established like I know she can - magnificent. What an awesome day.

Blue Skies and Mearns Quail cont...

Last year I had suckered my friend, Jim, to come over from New Mexico to hunt Mearns with me, I had a tough time getting him on birds then, and the one little hen bird he managed to bag was violated in its entirety by Booker. I really wanted some redemption as a guide, and I also wanted my dog to earn his redemption as well. I positioned the truck in a place where we could hunt my dogs in rotations on short hunts over a range of small coulees. The second rotation was Booker and Jorja. She managed to hard stick a single; remaining staunch enough for my GPS' "dog on point alarm" to go off repeatedly, given how poor my hearing is, for me to even notice the alarm is noteworthy, so who knows how long she actually had held that hen bird by the time we had gotten to her. Booker caught wind of the action and began to move in rapidly, I gave him a "whoa", he took about two steps and stopped. Then realizing Jorja was on point in a matter of moments, he in turn went from a dog on whoa, to a dog locked into a staunch point as well, smartly backing the little dog - pretty awesome. Jim and I just marveled in the moment before taking action. It hardly gets better than that. This year Jim got to take birds over each of my dogs on point, and his birds were returned the way they are supposed to be. Amazing how well the dogs can do, even with having eight months off.

It seems no one hunts the western portion of the Coronado National Forest, in particular the areas surrounding the Pajanita Wilderness area. From Patagonia, it means you'll need to wake to an alarm and get on the road much earlier than when hunting "local". Once out there, seemingly the only people you share this nearly endless and sprawling expanse of Mearns country with is the border patrol. Your biggest challenge becomes where to stop and strike out for a hunt - it all looks so good. I picked an area which would allow me to hunt two different drainage systems of the same smallish mountain. Either one could be productive, or of course neither. We stuck out on the first, and soon I began to hear in my head what I had been told, "the bird numbers just aren't good out there," they said. Even so, "All the better," was my answer, that means no one else will be hunting out there. So on to the second area, at first I began to think I had made a terrible decision, as the first two miles were in the open, with copious amounts loose rock, with incredibly thin sparse grass and ocotillo dominating the treacherous hillsides. To be honest I was beginning to think the joke might be on me after all. But the coulee I was hoping for came into view, and I knew there would be birds up in there, the question was would Paxson and Jorja find them? It was already hot and getting hotter and the air was as still as it gets in these areas. We had less than favorable conditions by my reckoning. Given this I opted to hunt up on one of the hillsides, with the plan to hunt the bottom of the drainage back, so the dogs would be covered in shade for as much of the return trip as was possible. We hunted to the top of the draw, where the plant life changed from Mearns country to forget-about-it and looped around, no surprise there was nothing. We were all tired and hot, but soon back in the shade Pax quickly froze and the Mearns flushed. This covey was virgin; they flushed all of ten yards into some tall grasses at the base of a terribly steep hill directly to the front, with a small draw to its left. We eased forward; Pax quickly located the covey again and made a point, but too close, directly over the birds. It was only a moment and they were flying again. Two birds flew as a pair right from in front of Pax, one heading for the draw, the other intending to make the top of the hill. Neither made it. I had my first no-kidding-true-double. A grand moment I hope to not soon forget.

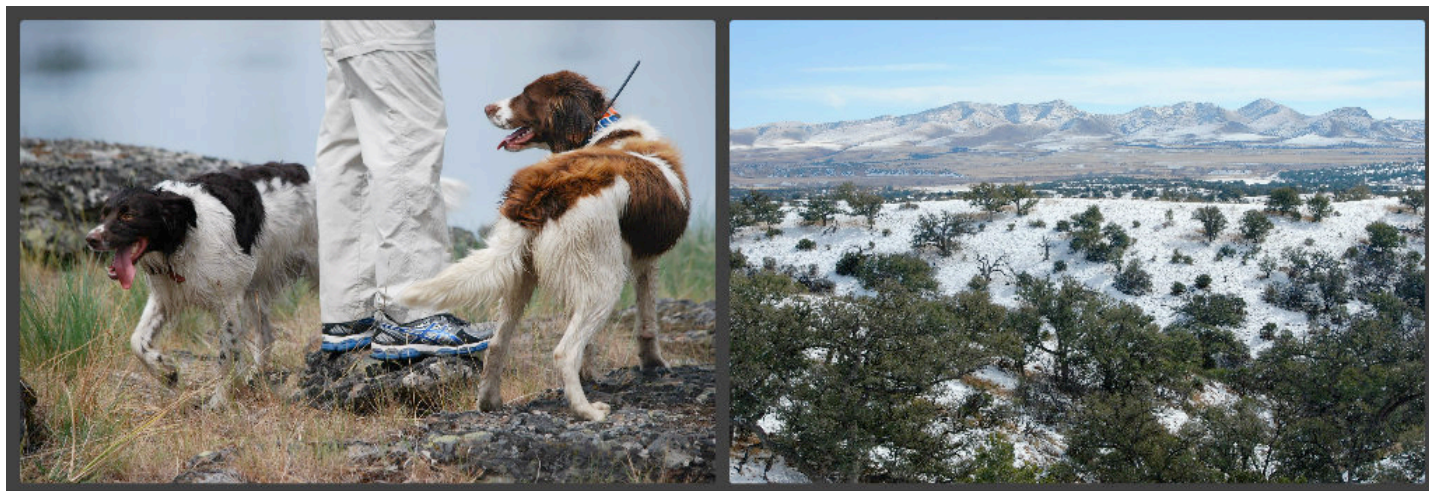


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Blue Sky and Mearns Quail cont....(and finished)

Okay, so this part isn't about a Drent, it is about my dear friend Dave's elderly dog, Powder, a female Brittany, my second all-time favorite breed of bird dog. I first met Powder a number of years ago on my first Mearns quail hunt; she is a bird hunting machine and one of the sweetest dogs you could hope to meet. She was nearly six years old then and in her prime; now Powder is looking at turning twelve. In most cases time isn't very kind or fair to our canine friends, and Powder has been granted no exceptions, and so her health has been slipping, with the past two years being particularly hard on her. Yet, she still has the strong heart of a bird dog. Dave really wanted to run her, but wanted and needed to be cautious of where, and for how long. We had run our other dogs earlier that morning, but had come up empty handed, and Dave's Hanna blew her feet out, despite being booted, putting her on the injured reserve list. Feeling confident we could turn up some birds in the next coulee over, and knowing it was a fairly short run, I persuaded Dave to put Powder down. I do love to watch that little dog work. This year, I saw Dave's redoubled concern first hand, poor Powder had lost a lot of muscle, but she was out and working, her range a good bit shorter than years past, but still serious as a heart attack about what she was doing. Unfortunately the morning was giving way, we hadn't turned anything up, and it was getting warm which renewed Dave's concern over Powder. We were getting to the point where we needed to think about heading back. Our options were to either head right back up where we had come, or swing over and head up a fresh coulee, which was also a little bit easier walking. As we deliberated, wondering where the birds were, I was feeling disappointed with my guiding abilities and sharing Dave's concern over Powder. Still, I really wanted to get both Dave and Powder on some birds, but nothing. As we talked over the options and shared our concerns, Dave happened to have his back to Powder and was politely expressing his frustration over the situation and his concern for Powder, and how this will be her one and only hunt this year. Just then, I looked past Dave to see Powder ten feet up on the super steep slope of the dried out coulee's cut bank, frozen in time and space on point, with a dozen Mearns quail walking around in front of her feeding. I don't recall exactly what I said, but it was about Powder, and just leaving it to her, she always finds the birds. Dave of course made a great shot which connected with a lovely cock bird, just like on our first hunt as a trio. Powder went on to point at least four more singles in the rough and tumble area we were in before we headed back up to the truck. Her age and health, for a time were all suspended; she was again a bird dog in her prime. Dave too was beaming, as he should, when a guy has a dog like that.

Patagonia is a place where memories are made, dreams are realized, Airmen are regenerated, families and friends are reunited, and old dogs are treated to the "fountain-of-youth-like" powers of the Mearns quail. I can't wait to return to that sleepy old miners supply town.



Introducing Your Dog to Birds - submitted by Jenna Myers

I've had a lot of people ask me this question lately, especially those getting puppies, so I thought I would do a short "how-to" piece and talk about how I do this with my own dog and puppies. I'm sure my way goes against many other traditional methods of thought, since the first step involves the puppy or dog catching a bird - but trust me - I've seen this work with my Drents as well as Vizslas, WPGs, German Shothairs, Setters, Brittanys, etc. Any many of these dogs have ended up being completely steady at less than 1 year of age. And they are enthusiastic retrievers. Now I will say this is the **ONLY** time I will encourage a pointing dog to catch a bird, but I believe it's an important step in erasing any fear that might arise later on.

Now I'm sure most people have seen those photos of little 6-7 week old puppies "pointing" their first bird. Well, most of the time this is not really a point at all, but a simple pause because the pup is unsure of what it is or what it should do. True, a pause is really all a point is. It's a natural behavior you see when a predator stalks its prey. But the motivation behind a true point is not uncertainty, but rather excitement and anticipation. So that brings us to the basis for all bird introduction. This can be done with any age dog. You'll want to make sure you have the dog on a long leash or checkcord. I like to start with a

smaller bird, preferably a coturnix or bobwhite quail - something that will hop around in the grass, but most likely won't fly very far. If you don't have access to those, then a pigeon with it's main flight feathers cut would be fine. The rest of the process is really fairly easy. Bring the dog out into the field and get the dog excited. Then release the bird **AWAY** from the dog. This part is really important. You never want to throw the bird at the dog or in the dog's face. Some dogs wouldn't care and would just snatch the bird. But a more unsure dog might be afraid. The goal of this introduction is for the dog to smell **AND** see the bird. Ideally, the dog runs forward and grabs the bird. Another good reaction would be running forward and investigating. If your dog runs forward and grabs the bird and runs off shaking it, then you are good to go. If the dog is a little more hesitant, then keep repeating the exercise. Get the dog excited about the bird and then toss the bird away and in front of the dog. Each time he gets bolder, praise him. He should learn that the bird is fun and doesn't present any threat.

Now if you have a dog who really isn't showing too much enthusiasm for the live bird or is a little afraid, then you can try a dead bird. Sometimes this is less intimidating. Play a game of fetch with the dead bird until the dog is reliably picking it up. Don't worry about enforcing a retrieve. Just have fun! Then you can slowly build back up to bringing a live bird back in the picture.

The end goal to this method of thinking is that the dog establishes complete control over the bird. Therefore, when the dog encounters situations like a wounded, flapping, angry bird down the road, he won't be afraid to rush in and make the retrieve.

It's also important to remember that after this introduction, you should make sure that any future birds you put you dog on can get up and fly away. Always start off working pups or young dogs on check cord so that they don't associate every bird with catching. There is more than one way to do everything, so this way of bird introduction isn't the only way that works, however I believe it's a great foundation for creating a bird dog who is enthusiastic and fearless in his bird work.



Fowler's introduction to live birds



Happy, proud, and fearless

From the Kitchen - submitted by Jenna Myers

No Bake Coconut Dog Treats

Coconut and coconut oil has become a popular additive to dog food and treats because of its uniquely sweet taste and potential benefits. Coconut is not only appealing to the taste buds, but can improve coat and skin health, as well as boost immunity, balance metabolism, and help with digestion.

Ingredients

- 1/3 cup coconut oil
- 2 or 3 tablespoons peanut butter
- 2 1/2 cups rolled oats
- 1/3 cup finely shredded coconut

To Make

- add coconut oil, peanut butter, and rolled oats to a food processor and mix until well combined
- scoop out bite sized pieces with a spoon and roll into little balls
- toss each ball gently in the finely shredded coconut until well coated
- place on flat tray lined with baking paper and refrigerate 30 minutes. Enjoy!



Parting Shots



Magnolia and Arlo turn 2!

Loki - "Squirrel!"

Guerlac learns to swim!

DPCNA Special Thanks & Credits

Photography contributions: Nikki O'Connor (cover, pages 3,4, 5 bottom, 6-9), Jenna Myers (pages 2, 4 top, 10), Marge Governale (page 11), Jack Lusk (page 11), and Cyndi Saghatelian (page 11)

DPCNA Board Members

Brian O'Connor - President * dpcna.gundogs@gmail.com

Jim Millington - Vice President * milingtonjd@yahoo.com

Nikki O'Connor - Treasurer * nicollelyn71@hotmail.com

Jenna Myers - Public Relations * jenna.myers227@gmail.com

Jack Lusk - Secretary * uplandhunter870@yahoo.com