

DPCNA NEWS



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Chairman's message - submitted by Brian O'Connor

First things first, on behalf of the team I'd like to offer an apology for getting this newsletter out so late. Other than allowing life to fully occupy the driver's seat, there are no excuses. With that, it important to note the club is rolling into its fifth year and our elections



will occur shortly after this newsletter hits your in-box, which is hard to believe. Since the inception of the club Nik and I have lived in New Mexico, Spain, Idaho & United Arab Emirates, and soon we will receive notice to where we will go next: Washington, Alaska, Utah? Well we are excited none the less. If you haven't visited our main web page in a while I would like to encourage you to do so. Jenna has given us a face lift and I for one think it looks great! A few of our approved kennels also now have some very sporty web pages of their own. As always, we are interested in what you think, as we are very interested in continuing to meet the needs and hopefully expectations of our membership. So if you have an idea, or an event you would like to run or collaborate on, please let us know. Jim & Dianne Millington are already making threats to host the 2013 meeting! Just so you know we haven't forgotten it...once the minutes from the 2012 meeting have been transcribed from the recorder we will publish another newsletter and get back on track. As always I hope you enjoy the issue. Happy New Years, may 2013 bring you, and your families' good health, success, rewarding relationships and good times!

Until next time say hello in a happy voice to your Dutch counter surfer for me,

Brian

From the Editor - submitted by Jenna Myers

Well another year has come and gone - I don't know about everyone else but it seems like 2012 just flew by! The DPCNA had another successful year! Membership has grown and we had a great turnout at our Annual Meeting and Hunt Assessment. This year it even included a conformation assessment! Personally, I have many things going on in my Drent world, including the arrival of our first litter due in just over a week (pictures to come)! Good thing I'm getting this out now because I doubt I'll have much time on my hands once there are several Drent puppies running around at my feet!. Well, Happy New Year to everyone. See you for the next issue!

In Memoriam - Mark Janson (1945-2012) Lifetime DPCNA Member



On August 16th we lost a good man, and a friend of the breed. I truly believe Gary Katz has pretty well captured the essence of Mark in these words:

“A rumpled shirt, a growth of whiskers, a heart of gold and a sharp mind – these characteristics are the essential flavors of Mark in our memories. He loved his wife, his land, his friends, his dogs, his teams and his cards. He wanted to help in any way he could and loyalty was his essential strength...his unwavering devotion to Lauren. His generosity and desire to share all the things that he enjoyed made him seem tall despite his short stature and his amiable spirit made him a pleasure to be around. He was essentially a good man, a good friend, a good sport. We will miss him terribly”.

Jerome Mark Janson, known as Mark, age 67, passed away in the arms of his loving wife Lauren on Thursday morning, August 16, 2012 in Glorieta, NM. . He was a very loyal friend, a devoted husband, and a loving father and grandfather.

Mark was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania to Pauline Epstein Janson and Samuel Janson on April 22, 1945. He is survived by his wife and soul mate, Lauren, his daughters Karen Janson Herr and Kim Buchanan, son Scott Janson, sister Sandi Selk, brothers Ken and Harvey Janson, and 7 grandchildren: David, Shaunde, Anthony, Nicholas, Brett, Amanda and Jarrett.

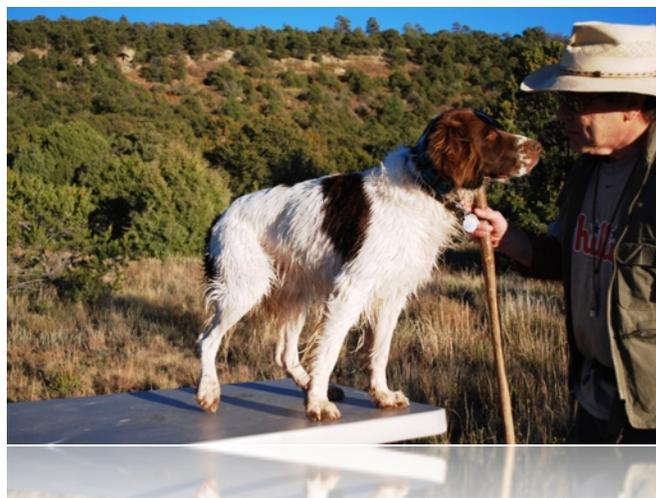
Mark was an avid sportsman, both as a participant and a spectator. He was a long-suffering and faithful fan of both the Philadelphia Phillies and the Philadelphia Eagles. He was involved in both football and baseball from a young age, organizing and playing in many different baseball leagues. Mark's physical speed was an asset in all of his sports endeavors, but was secondary to his quick wit and ready smile. If you needed a good laugh, you could hang out with Mark. He was not only gifted intellectually, but had a huge heart.

He graduated from Philadelphia's Olney High School in 1963 and from the Temple University School of Pharmacy.

Mark and Lauren moved to the Santa Fe area from Pennsylvania in 2003. They moved to their rural paradise, atop Glorieta Mesa, in 2005. Mark loved the land he shared with Lauren, and felt peaceful there, and whole. He enjoyed hiking their land in all seasons with Lauren and their dogs, their family, and their friends. He finally felt at home.

Mark was a true adventurer, who lived life to the fullest. He loved piloting small planes and had traveled the world in huge ones. He enjoyed equally adventures in the outdoors and playing poker indoors. He was considering another career, in poker. Mark was a model train enthusiast, and had a giant, always-under-construction model train setup in his home. Mark deeply loved animals, especially his favorite dog breed, Drentse Patrijshond, Dutch partridge hounds. He and Lauren have six of this mid-size, friendly breed.

His life ended so quickly, but in his life he managed to touch many people and accomplish many goals. He will be deeply missed and never forgotten.



North American Breed Standard - submitted by Brian O'Connor



The 18th of November 2012 is a date for our North American Drentsche Patrijshond history book. Here are the exact words from Mr. Bart van der Pol, Secretary of the breeding committee, VDPH sent to me after a rather special meeting held on the 15th of November:

“Regarding the breed standard: we think you have done a great job translating. The additional historical information and judging points are very accurate. We understand American judges must have some supplemental information because of the fact the Drent is a very rare breed in the USA. Dutch judges are very familiar with the breed and are trained and informed by the “Vereniging”. There are only a few things we want to comment on. In the breed standard the color “liver” is mentioned. We think it is better not to use this word.

Liver is a genetically different color as the brown in Drentsche Patrijshonden. Liver can be seen in English Springer Spaniels and many other breeds. On the last page it is considered a fault when the root of the tail where it joins the dogs rump is white instead of brown. It is better to call that less desirable. Those were all the comments!”

So with those words at the forefront of my mind, I set to making the few edits we have been asked to make. This updated standard is what has been included in this issue for your review. We circuited the “original” North American standard in January of 2012, without comment. If you have concern or comment reference this updated and VDPH approved version, please contact me soonest. Otherwise, our standard, a labor of love for the past three years, will be sent to the AKC to be recorded and will open the next series of doors for being able to participate in AKC activities, using the most current, up to date, historically accurate, and only VDPH approved breed standard. Yeah, it’s kind of a big deal.



The North American Breed Standard cont...(2/4)

ENGLISH- De Vereniging Std of Jan 2004 - Standard, US

The North American Standard N° 1/ 19. 11. 2012 in American prose.

TRANSLATION: Mr. J. A. D. Lambregts

ORIGIN: The Netherlands

DATE OF PUBLICATION OF THE ORIGINAL VALID STANDARD: 25.03.2003.

NORTH AMERICAN EXPANSION: Mr. J. A. D. Lambregt and Mr. B. P. O'Connor, with assistance and approval from the Vereniging "De Drentsche Patrijshond"

UTILIZATION: Pointing Dog

CLASSIFICATION F.C.I.: Group 7 Pointing Dogs
Section 1.2 Continental pointing dog, spaniel type, with working trial.

Short Historical Overview

The breed developed from pointing dogs originating in Spain (Spioenen) and arrived in The Netherlands via France in the 16th Century. In The Netherlands, these dogs were referred to as Partridge dogs. In the eastern parts of the country, principally in the Province of Drenthe, these Partridge dogs were bred among themselves and not mixed with foreign breeds, as occurred elsewhere. Throughout its history, the breed stood on three equally important pillars: versatile hunting dog, farm yard dog, and playmate to the children. It is fundamental to the Drent breed that he hunts all upland game and water fowl, announces visitors to the home or farm (without showing aggression or fear), and is an excellent family companion. These three pillars continue to serve as guiding parameters as to what define what a Drent is today. The breed was recognized by the Dutch Kennel Club on May 15, 1943.

Field Use

Since his North American introduction, the Drent has proven to be an excellent choice as the dogs are able to switch gears quickly. This is helpful when a day of hunting may include birds from the sage grouse to chukars and terrain as varied as high-desert sagebrush to aspen thickets. Best of all, the dogs enjoy it all. He has the adaptability needed to hunt all manner of upland game and waterfowl. After the shot, he retrieves from land and water and has a reputation as a determined and efficient finder of lost game.

General Appearance

A well proportioned dog, lean muscled and with clearly delineated markings, reflecting physical strength and the ability to generate sufficient speed for a hunting dog. He has a wedge-shaped muzzle, slightly shorter than the skull, and rather dry lips without significant flew. He is slightly longer than his height at the withers, making him slightly elongated. The coat is short to medium-long on the body, but gives the impression of a longer haired dog through feathering on the legs, well haired ears, a richly haired throat and chest, and bushy, long hair around the tail.

Personality

He is the hunting dog "par excellence" for hunting a variety of terrain and game. The dog hunts under the gun. Keeping in touch with the hunter is apparently an innate desire. Many dogs, upon scenting game, move the tail in a circular motion. When the dog points, he remains motionless, awaiting the approaching hunter. If this takes a long time, the dog will often look back at his hunting partner. His adaptability makes him suitable for all manner of game in the field as well as water fowl. Moreover, his work after the shot is exceptional, and he is a good retriever. These characteristics are innate, and the dog therefore needs little field training. Due to the dog's soft nature forceful training methods are inappropriate. The dog is expected to bark to announce visitors to the home, and is often reserved towards strangers until the owner welcomes them. The dog is loyal and intelligent and, with proper upbringing and training, a pet of exceptional value on top of being a good hunting buddy.

The North American Breed Standard cont...(3/4)

HEAD

Skull: The skull is rather wide and only slightly domed. A barely perceptible groove runs from the shallow stop to halfway up the moderately developed occipital bone.

Stop: The transition from the skull to the muzzle is, from the side as well as from the front, gradual: the cheeks transition smoothly into the muzzle. The superciliary arches are sufficiently developed to be clearly noticeable.

Nose: The nose is well developed, and brown with open nostrils. ("butterfly nose": not fully pigmented exterior surface of the nose leather may be a disqualifying fault depending upon severity)

Muzzle: The muzzle is wedge-shaped, slightly shorter than the skull and blunt, with a smooth line from the eyes to the nose without a depression below the eyes. The top line is flat, neither hollow nor bowed. A very slight upward curve of the muzzle behind the nose is permitted. A ram's nose is a serious fault. (Ram's nose also known as a "roman nose" or slightly arching nose).

Lips: Rather thin and tight.

Jaws / teeth: Dentition is powerful with a proper scissors' bite.

Cheeks: Moderately developed.

Eyes: Widely separated and set in such a way to be well protected: neither protruding nor deep-set, of medium size and oval shaped. The expression is good-natured with the intelligence of a hunting dog. The desired color is amber; neither dark nor the light color of a bird of prey.

Ears: Not heavy. Set high and carried along the side of the head without a fold. When pulled snugly along the jaw, the ear should end three fingers' breadth from the nose. They are broad at the onset and end in a rounded point. The outside of the top of the ear is well appointed with preferably tightly wavy hair, not curly. The bottom of the ear is covered with shorter hair, but the edge of the inner upper inner ear is also feathered. When the dog's attention is drawn, the ears are pulled up and turn forward. Seen from the front, the ears form a triangle with a fold in the middle of the ear. The ear is mobile and part of the expression of the dog's mood.

NECK: A powerful neck of medium length, but rather short than long, smoothly transitioning the head to the body without interrupting the line of the body. Exceeding the desired length, creating an impression of elegance at the price of strength is undesirable. Dewlaps and throat folds take away from the impression of a leanly muscled, clean-cut dog and are therefore not desirable.

BODY

Top line: The line transitions from a moderately long neck smoothly to a straight back and loins and ends in a slightly sloping croup.

Back: Powerful, of medium length, not too short. The back gives the impression, with properly angulated front and rear quarters of a slightly elongated dog.

Loins: Strongly muscled

Croup: Broad and long, slightly sloping.

Chest: Deep, reaching to the elbows and, when seen from the front, wide. The first ribs should not be bent such that the movement of the front legs is hindered. A narrow, shallow ribcage is a serious fault. The ribcage is long. The rear ribs are therefore also well developed. Well sprung, not flat nor barrel shaped.

Underline: The abdomen is slightly tucked-up.

TAIL: Rather high set. The bone of the tail reaches almost to the hocks. The first half is carried downward, and then turns slightly up. When working the tail is partially stretched, with the end slightly curved upwards. Never carried curled above the back. With the exception of the root, the tail is richly haired all around, decreasing in length towards the tip.

The North American Breed Standard cont...(4/4)

LIMBS

Forequarters:

Shoulders and upper arms: Long shoulder blades, sloping and well laid back. Upper arms slope backwards to create a proper angle with the shoulder blade. As seen from the front and side the shoulder and upper arms enclose and are proportional with the front chest.

Elbows: The elbows are held close to the chest, neither turned away from the body, nor inwards in a way that would limit the dog's movement.

Forelegs: Straight and well-muscled.

Wrist (carpus): Strong with good bone

Pastern (metacarpus): Straight, neither turned in nor out, with a slight spring.

Forefeet: Round to oval, with tight, arched, strong toes and well padded.

Hindquarters: Well developed, thus broad and strongly muscled.

Upper and lower thigh: The pelvis, thigh and shin bones are properly angled. The rear legs, as seen from behind, are neither too narrow, nor too spread and are completely vertical. That is, the tarsus' neither turns in nor out.

Hocks: Hocks are low to the ground, and the pasterns (metatarsus) are therefore short.

Hind feet: Same as forefeet.

GAIT: Long striding, harmonious and driving from the rear, neither narrow nor wide tracking at a trot; without swinging and turning out of elbows or hocks; tending to converge to a single line.

COAT: A dense, well covering, non-curling coat; not long-haired, but gives that impression because of longer hair on several parts of the body. The throat and fore-chest have longer hair: the ears are covered with long, preferably tightly wavy hair. On the back, up to the tail longer, wavy hair flat to the body is appreciated. The tail is, other than the root, thickly covered with hair around, the length of which tapers off towards the tip. The feet are well haired between the toes. Coats which have a full curl are considered "open" and are not desirable and can be considered a fault depending upon the extent of coverage.

COLOR: Color may range from a rich dark mahogany brown, shades of milk-chocolate to lighter shades of brown, which can nearly appear reddish orange.

Markings: White with brown plates, with or without small spots "spikkels". Mixtures of brown and white hairs also called "schimmel", with or without plates, similar to the Kleine/Grote Münsterländer or German Shorthair/Longhair Pointer are not allowed. Mantel dogs (dogs with a large brown plate covering greater than fifty percent of the dog's body) are less desirable. Ideally, the color white should be greater than fifty percent of the dogs' coat. Areas of white fur are to be a field of white and areas of brown fur to be brown. Solid brown heads are allowed, as well as white blazes, and noses surrounded by white fur. The ears are brown, as is the hair around the eyes. Also it is considered undesirable if the root of the tail where it joins the dog's rump is not brown.

Height at the withers: Males: 23-25 inches. Females: 21.5 – 23.5 inches. Exceeding the maximum height up to an inch is acceptable if in proportion to the dog's build.

Faults: Each deviation from the standard must be noted as a fault, and the seriousness of the fault in the evaluation must be held in proportion to the extent to which the fault is present.

Disqualification: Males must have two apparently normal testicles, naturally descended into the scrotum.

2012 DPCNA Hunt Assessment - submitted by Jenna Myers

w/ photos by Nikki O'Connor

October 27, 2012 brought about another DPCNA Hunt Assessment. Once again the whole gang traveled to Malad City, ID. There were lots of Drents, birds, good food, and good friends - doesn't get much better than that!

To start the day off we did conformation assessments on all of the dogs present. For those of you whole might not be familiar with what this means - basically it is the same thing a judge would do if you took your dog to an AKC show. We looked at each dog and compared them to the breed standard. We note where each dog is outstanding as well as any faults he or she might have. This is a requirement for getting any North American Drent certified as "preferred breeding stock", along with the health clearances and temperament assessment. All dogs in attendance looked very good and we were excited to see how well many of the puppies had developed.

Then we moved onto the fieldwork portion of the day. Each dog got 2-3 chukar put out into the field. Each owner was allowed to work their dog how they best saw fit. We had all levels of dogs in attendance - from dogs who had never seen a bird before to dogs who were seasoned pros. We all got to see the very first point for little 6-month old Mocha. We also got to see some great points from the experienced dogs as well as some nice retrieves. Paxson, Loki, and Fowler all showed us what good training can do and everyone was very impressed.

We finished off the days with some leisure hunting. We chased after the rest of the chukar that were left out in the field. When the dogs had sufficiently covered the area, some of the group moved up the hillside to seek out the elusive sharptail grouse that live in the area. That long hike proved to be worth the trip because the dogs were able to locate 3 coveys of the spooky birds. Paxson and Fowler worked well as team and little Mocha rounded out the group. I think she just enjoyed running with the big boys and seeing those birds fly!

After a long day in the field, we all packed up and headed back to Pocatello to have dinner and hold the 2013 Annual Meeting. Although the meeting was short, we got a lot discussed and accomplished. We are currently in the process of compiling the minutes from the meeting, and those minutes will be published for all members to see in the next newsletter this Spring.

All in all, 2012 was a successful year for the DPCNA. We have more members than ever and more dogs participating in our events. We hope that 2013 proves to be just as exciting! Here's to celebrating the new year! - until next time... - Jenna Myers



Have Drent, Will Travel: Dog Travel Safety- submitted by Brian O'Connor



You can make traveling with your dogs an expensive and as complicated as you would like to make it. Mostly though, traveling safely can be done simply and on a budget, it's very likely you already have everything you need. I'll talk briefly on the various types of restraint systems and for longer trips other items you will want to consider. As many of you already know, Nik and I have our advanced degrees in long haul dog trips. My longest dog trip took place in January of 2011 when I flew with my two boys from Madrid Spain, through Atlanta Georgia, to Cincinnati Ohio, then drove all the way to Patagonia Arizona. Nik and I have done other trips taking multiple days (Fairbanks, Alaska to Cincinnati, Ohio for example) as well as many 20 and 30 hour road trips with our dogs, and may be looking forward to another very long multi-day drive in the spring of 2013 with our zoo-crew.

The two big basics of traveling safety with your canine buddy are: restraint and identification. If you haven't considered the use of some kind of restraint system, please consider the following factoid: A 60-pound dog will become a "2,700 pound" projectile in a collision at just 35 miles per hour, despite this fact only about 20% of pet owners use restraint for their pet when they travel and it is currently estimated 98% of dogs are not traveling properly restrained while in a moving vehicle – think about that for a moment. Which makes not just the use, but the correct use of some kind of restraint device/system in your vehicle make sense. There are barriers, harness/tether systems. A note on harness/tether systems if you use or are considering the use of these systems, ensure the unit you are have or are considering has passed the V9DT requirement (<http://v9dt.com/>), otherwise pass on these devices. To date there are only but a few harness/tether systems on the market which have passed the V9DT test.

Of course there are kennels; soft, wooden, wire, airline, metal-wall, semi-custom or full-custom specialty kennel systems – these can be priced well into the stratosphere and often times require a dedicated vehicle. While having such a thing would be nice, most of us cannot afford to own a specific dedicated dog hauler. The good news is, you probably already own an appropriately sized airline kennel, which is all you really need and with an absolute minimum of time and energy you can prevent your canine friend from becoming a projectile, for both of your health's sake. In fact your car's seatbelt can be used to secure a kennel on the seat, or a simple tie-down-strap can be used in the cargo area of your car or truck. Just as with small children, airbags are not your dog's friend and so dogs should not ride up front in vehicles equipped with airbags. Also of note, states are beginning to come on line, like most European nations, and being caught with an unrestrained dog on board can result in steep fines. So if you haven't thought about changing your ways, maybe it's time to start thinking.

You can cover a lot more ground in your car or truck than a dog can in a day or two. A lost dog can become disoriented and without a means of identification, he can't tell who just found him where he needs to go. Personally I use my name and Google phone number on my dog's id tags, I prefer the Google number because I can endlessly update what phone the number will ring when the number is called. I also have "needs meds daily" on their tags and do not use the dog's name. Why would I do that? Who wants to keep a sweet dog in need of some kind of random medication everyday and doesn't have a readily usable call name? In other words a dog who doesn't readily come when called. Just about no one wants a sick dog, let alone a sick dog that doesn't listen; in fact they will soon be calling to unload Muttly. Also, when was the last time you updated the information related to your Drent's microchip? You will need to bring water and bowls (preferably one for each dog), how much depends upon the temperatures, how many dogs you will be traveling with and how much they typically consume. I prefer to use either a five or seven gallon jug with spigot. I have never run out of water, which is comforting since I can use the extra to get them wet to help keep them cool.

Along with water, you will need to think about ventilation and parking choices. Cars and trucks (toppers included) heat up rapidly when parked in direct sunlight. Leaving windows cracked is very likely to not be enough, even for quick trips. Besides, how many times have you run into the WalMart for one thing and they only have 2 registers open and the line is nearly back to the tire section? Well with a dog in the car, it'll happen.

continued on next page...

Have Drent, Will Travel cont...

Recently we purchased a high flow 12v fan we will use to help draw and circulate fresh air in the camper shell of our truck. Consider screening the windshield on your car or SUV (that bad boy is a huge heat gaining green-house lens), the available shade, even the direction of the breeze so you can get a cross flow going when you must stop.

Also you will want to bring along a leash for every dog on board. You could even buy a couple of super cheap leads and just leave them under a seat. Leashes are often times left off the packing list, but if your luck is like mine, that's when your oil pressure will drop or the engine will over heat... now what do you do with your dogs? Along with the leash I always make sure I have poop bags on board. The "fancy" poop specific ones or the plastic shopping sacks will do just fine. Where ever you go, your dog will likely leave behind a calling card or two, no sense in wearing out your welcome or



making a bad name for dog owners if you don't have to.

Your logistics tail extends just as the length of your trip does. There are some fantastic First aid kits on the market these days, and most come with a little book which more or less teaches you how to make use of everything in that handy little bag. Please read the book just after purchase, figuring out how the stapler works when you need to use it, isn't the best strategy to go with – just saying. Longer trips also include food, depending on what you feed your dog; you may need to plan on packing all the food he'll eat for the whole trip. We like to use the 150% rule, even so one trip we miscalculated and had to purchase food in-route. What should have been an easy pick, turned into a three hour goat rope in Tucson with our GPS leading us from one scary neighborhood to another one even scarier. Worst case you still need to plan on bringing enough for not less than 75% of the trip even if you feed a common "easy to find" dog chow. Depending upon where you are traveling to, it may not be common at all. Another point to consider since we are on the topic of food is feeding. While on the road we feed only a minimal amount in the morning, and feed the remainder of their normal ration at the end of the day. Your dog will experience much less car sickness (meaning much less cleaning for you) and pretty much after their morning walk they have cleared their system out and can ride comfortably. Since it goes without saying if you are packing food, and first aid, if your dog actually needs meds, you'll want them on board and stowed some place cool, dry, and dog safe.

Crossing state or international borders means you should always have your dog's health records on hand. Who knows all the rules? I certainly don't. Most states have some kind of requirement, yet they are seldom enforced, better to be safe than sorry if the long arm of the law decides to make you their special case for the day. Crossing international borders is different, and seriously, you must do your homework in advance, in fact don't leave it up to your local vet (we

have stories to tell on this topic), or Mutty isn't going, worse yet, Mutty gets to go, only to get caught by customs on the other end. Sorting out these kinds of issues on the moment are the things nightmares are made of. Some countries require their form to be filled out in their language, others the customs folks aren't very well read in on their own rules, some I am sure just make it up as they go, and you need to be able to speak confidently and demonstrate to make it through. Think, Spanish rabies stamps in Atlanta Georgia – good times.

Purely optional: some will recommend pet friendly guide books, experience has told me these guides are next to useless as they are outdated the minute they are printed. You are better off using your smart phone to look up emergency services and hotels as you bomb down the interstate. Lastly I'll mention the clean up kit. This is probably my weakest pet travel link, possibly because I travel with airline kennels and shuttle them in and out of hotel rooms with my dogs and/or rarely if ever leave my dogs unattended while traveling. So I



haven't had a big need for a cleanup kit. The other times I have just been stone cold lucky with my dogs barfing up their earlier-eaten-partially-digested-delights-of-canine-fantasy (read: gastronomical horrors) on easily cleanable surfaces. A small kit is easy to put together, and you probably have everything you need already lying about at home.

Travel Safety can be a lot to think about, but it isn't anything any of us can't do and with a little bit of thought, and energy we can save ourselves and our four legged buddies a lot of problems when the road gets bumpy.

Drents and the Dock! - submitted by Jenna Myers

When the hunting season came to an end last year, I had a dilemma - what to do with my Drent to help drain his energy?!?! Fowler had gotten very used to being the field multiple days per week and his stamina was definitely very high. After just a couple of weeks of less activity, I noticed he was becoming increasingly bored. And we all know what happens when you have a bored Drent! I was already involved in dock diving with my other dog, so I thought maybe Fowler would enjoy it also. Really it's just a natural extension of his desire to retrieve. So to the pool we went!



Dock diving is becoming an increasingly popular sport with dog owners, especially with those who own breeds who loves to retrieve. We compete in the DockDogs organization, but there are many other organizations that host similar competitions (Splash Dogs, Purina Challenge, Alpha K9, and many others). The sport involves having your dog jump off a dock (or raised platform) that sits 2 feet over the water of a pool. The dogs jump in after a toy and compete for distance. There are divisions for dogs that jump all distances - from 1 foot to 30 feet. So if your dog isn't a huge jumper, then they just compete against other dogs within "their division". For example, my other dog Scout jumps around 20 feet, which puts her in the Master division. She only competes against other dogs who jump in that same division. Fowler, on the other hand, usually only goes about 10 feet, so he competes in the Junior Division (I know, I know - he's jumping a lot further this year, but we haven't had any competitions yet).

When we first went the pool Fowler was really confused. I'm sure he was thinking "why is there a giant blue tub of water?! And why does my mom want me to jump in it?!" He soon realized that this was just like swimming in the lake and that it could be very fun. He has become increasingly more confident in himself and is now jumping off the dock without hesitating. He loves when we go to competitions. He gets to swim and socialize with other dogs. And the best part is that there is usually 2-3 competitions per month. By the end of the weekend he is usually so exhausted that he sleeps for 2 days straight! - and then wakes up just in time to get some practice in for the next weekend.

I'm really glad that I got into this sport with my dogs because it is fun for them and a good bonding experience for us. It also gives us something to do in the off-season. DockDogs hosts competitions all over the country and even a few in Europe. So there's something out there for everyone. So does your Drent love the water?!? If yes, then maybe this is something you want to try this summer. I will leave you with some photos of my Chesapeake Bay Retriever, Scout, doing what she loves best - I know she's not a Drent, but I gotta brag a little! Enjoy!



From the Kitchen - submitted by Nikki O'Connor

Awesome Quail Posole

- Cook 2-3 strips of bacon - pull Bacon and crumble for garnish
- Chop 1 medium onion and 1 red bell pepper. Lightly saute and pull & reserve
- Chop 16 oz. game bird meat (or 1 lb. chicken)
- Chop or mince 2-3 Chipotle peppers in Adobe sauce (careful - these will stain. I cut on wax paper)
- 2 heaping TBSP green chiles (optional)
- Saute meat and chipotles and chiles together
- once meat is cooked, add 2 cups chicken broth
- add 16 oz. can of hominy (rinsed)
- Bring to boil, simmer, and serve
- Served best with cornbread or corn chips, shredded cheese, and bacon bits on top
- Enjoy!



Parting Shots



Skylor makes a splash!



Brian with Booker, Jorja, and Paxson hunting quail in Arizona



Brian and Paxson pose for a photo op while hunting Mearns quail

DPCNA Special Thanks & Credits

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