



VHDF News

A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE
VERSATILE HUNTING DOG FEDERATION

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Chairman's Message - Submitted by Jeff Funke

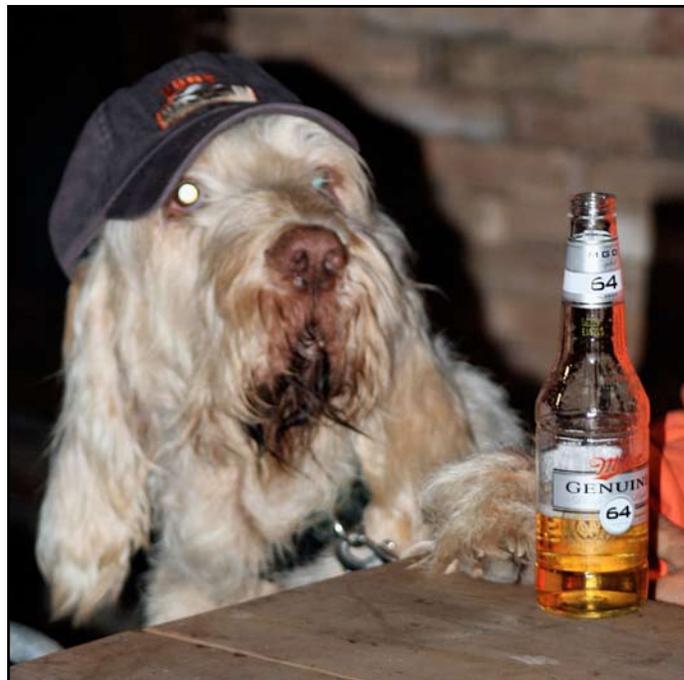
Our very successful spring testing season is now complete and I am sure many of you are already preparing for fall tests and then on to hunting season. Clubs in Idaho, Washington, and Minnesota hosted VHDF HAE tests as they have the last several years and we had a number of new handlers and youngsters involved. You can read more about these tests in this and future issues of the VHDF News. We also added two new groups with spring tests this year: Allison Schultz with the Wisconsin Italian Spinone Club and Tim Lintz with the Michigan Hunting Dog Federation both hosted very successful spring tests. I attended the Spinone Club test in Wisconsin and I have to say what a pleasure it was to work with them. This club is 95 percent new to hunting and testing, but they have a passion for their dogs and want to learn how to train them for upland and waterfowl hunting. It was refreshing to see a group jump in without hesitation and host a test simply to learn about themselves and their dogs. As I write this, the preliminary reports are just coming in on the Michigan test and it appears to have been a great event for all involved.

We have many great events to look forward to this fall. In addition to the usual fall tests in Idaho, Washington, Minnesota, and Saskatoon, we have added a new group in Montana, and the German Longhaired Pointer Club of North America will host their first VHDF test in conjunction with their annual meeting and breed show in Oregon later this fall. Some of these events might be of special interest to you.

Chuck and Blanche Johnson, Dave Girtman, Dawna Miller, and the Montana Bird Dog Federation will host a test in the middle of August near Great Falls, MT,

combined with a mid-year meeting and Conformation Evaluation Seminar. You are all invited to attend this event to test dogs, meet with the officers and board members, or to enjoy the many expert conformation speakers that will be doing hands-on demonstrations. You will find more information on this event later in this issue, or on our web site at www.vhdf.org.

If you would like to learn more about training, running, or judging the higher level Federation tests, the Minnesota



Allison Schultz's eight-year old Spinone, Augie, celebrating his first swim at the Wisconsin Italian Spinone Club's VHDF test.

Chairman's Message (cont. from page 1)



2008 Minnesota PE test. Pia Castaline with her large Munsterlander, "Kira" Akira vom Staatsforst with the blind retrieve.

test in August, the Idaho test in early September, or the Saskatoon test in late September would be a great place to start. Each of these events will feature PE dogs and good numbers of AHAE dogs. The Idaho event appears to be three days with two groups, with an opportunity to see six or eight PE dogs.

The GLPCNA annual meeting and breed show will be in Ontario, Oregon during mid-October. They are offering a VHDF test, and they welcome spectators at their breed show. You can get more details from their website at <http://germanlonghairs.org>

We have several other new additions to the VHDF family in the Pudelpointer Club of North America and the Drentsche Patrijshond Club of North America. The PCNA has been around a long time and they have their own registry and testing program. In an effort to capitalize on existing synergies, VHDF judges worked with PCNA judges earlier this year to reconcile our testing programs. The result of these efforts is that PCNA members can now test their pups in the VHDF HAE test. PCNA requires that members test their dogs in a PCNA Breed Improvement Test before they can be considered for breeding; however, PCNA utilizes progeny testing via their Natural Ability test to provide valuable feedback to breeders. Most PCNA tests are held on the West Coast, and members from the Mid-West or East may have difficulty making it out to

test their pups. Now, PCNA members and breeders have more options available through the VHDF network of member clubs that are hosting tests all over the US and Canada.

The Drentsche Patrijshond Club of North America is a newly formed club. They have their own registry and breeding requirements/recommendations similar to a number of our other affiliated breed clubs. VHDF testing meets breeding certification requirements for Drents so, welcome aboard Drent owners. I look forward to seeing some of your dogs at Federation events. For more information on these handsome dogs, go to <http://www.dpcna.org/>

Lastly, I am happy to report that we have obtained a comprehensive insurance policy for our officers, directors, and member clubs. This insurance does not include our Canadian affiliates. Our insurance company requires that we insure each test separately and we are charged a fee for each event. Since we have to insure each event, and since we have no way to track member club insurance, we will likely require an Affiliate Club structure mandatory in the future for VHDF official tests. The annual fee would be small – \$150 or so – and the benefits would include links to our website, the ability to host a test, insurance coverage for each test, and a direct affiliation under the VHDF umbrella. Any group or individual could become an affiliate simply by paying the \$150 fee and providing the appropriate information. The directors have been discussing this idea, and we welcome input from our members. You can call or email any of the officers or directors with your thoughts.

Thanks to all of you for your efforts towards VHDF, and your commitment to your dogs and their training.



2009 Minnesota HAE field work. Etta Bernu with a large Munsterlander from the Herze and Seele Kennel's "F" litter.

Secretary's Report - Submitted by Lynda Kieres

I am happy to report that we have gained 28 new members so far this year. Thanks everyone for your support.

Ever since we decided that we needed to have memberships we have discussed the pros and cons of posting our membership list on our website. There are a number of good reasons to do this (which we have decided outweigh the "cons"). First and foremost is the benefit for test coordinators who need to verify membership in VHDF when they are processing test applications. It is just too cumbersome for them to try to contact me (often at the last minute) to find out if someone is current on their membership. Second, it is for the benefit of the members themselves. Wouldn't you like to know if there are other like-minded folks near you that you might want to get together with to train dogs or prepare for a test – or even better yet – maybe even start your own club so you can hold your own tests? Third, nonmembers interested in VHDF can find out if there are folks in their area that are members.

That being said, I would like to know how you feel about having your contact information made available on the website. What would you like to see? We think that name, city and state, and phone number would be the best choice. How would you prefer to be contacted by fellow members? Would you like to see a Members Only section on the website with email addresses available? For more information on how we protect your personal information, visit the VHDF website and view our Privacy Policy.

I also want to mention again – if you are not getting the newsletter via email – could it be because we don't have the right email for you? We try really hard to decipher email addresses, but when they are hand-written, sometimes it's difficult to differentiate between a (number) 1 and the letter L (l). Hyphens and _ underscores cause confusion too. So – if you are reading this newsletter on the website, and wondering why you didn't get an emailed copy, drop me an email. That way (for sure) I will get your correct email address.

I am really happy to say we have very few members who require a mailed hard copy of the newsletter – almost everyone has email. That really saves the club a bunch in printing and postage costs – not to mention that you get it FASTER and it doesn't get "lost" in the mail. I had a situation one time where I noticed I wasn't getting any of my "doggie magazines". Come to find out that a substitute letter carrier shared my interest in hunting and dogs Bool! So – when you get your VHDF newsletter by email – you don't have to worry about it getting "misrouted".

2010 – VHDF Election Year

According to our by-laws, VHDF officers are elected on a three-year basis and 2010 is election year. The first election was held with the origination of the Federation in 2007. As with any new organization, over the past couple of years, there have been changes made to fill some of these offices. At the January 2009 annual meeting in Phoenix, it was noted that we actually had all new officers, except for one. The current officers serving are:

Jeff Funke – Chairman

Lester Vance – Vice-Chairman

Lynda Kieres – Secretary

John & Dawn Smith – Co-Treasurers

At the meeting, all officers expressed an interest in continuing their services for another three-year term. However, the Federation is interested in finding out if there are any other members who would like to serve in these offices. A nominating committee for the 2010 election will be formed later this summer to review any applications for these positions.

In the meantime, any member is welcome to send in an application to be considered for a position. Please include your name, address, phone number, email address, the position in which you are interested, and the reason you feel that you are qualified for the post. If you wish to nominate another member, please submit the same information, but please check with that person first to be sure that they are interested in serving a three-year term.

All applications can be sent to:

Blanche Johnson

Via email: blanche@wildadvpres.com

Via U.S. mail: c/o Wilderness Adventures Press, Inc.

45 Buckskin Rd.

Belgrade, MT 59714

Director of Judges Report - Submitted by Barry Wild

The judging crew has been busy this spring, with judges logging a lot of miles.

There were two new tests held in Michigan and Wisconsin this spring. I want to thank the test hosts for giving us the opportunity to show the VHDF in your areas. It is always hard to introduce something new and different but, after people have seen the VHDF test and have had it explained to them along with what it can do for them, it has been well received. This is what it is going to take for us to continue to grow. The judging crew has done a great job with this and I want to thank every one of you for your support and all the time you put into the VHDF. With a dedicated core like we have now, we will be very successful.

Judges, just a quick reminder: Please return emails and calls as quickly as possible when you are contacted about judging assignments. If you cannot judge the test, it is not a problem. We can move down the list and give another judge a chance. This will cut down greatly on the time we spend acquiring judges for tests. Remember, the more time we spend on the organizational end, the less time we have to put into other areas of the organization that need more attention.

Apprentices: Do not forget to get in your reports while everything is fresh in your mind. Remember to contact the host clubs to get your apprentice judging opportunities. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me.

The new Judges Requirements will be posted online soon. If you have any questions about what your reports should consist of, you can find the answers there.

A VHDF Testing and Judging Manual - Submitted by Joe Schmutz

As chair of the testing committee, I am leading the production of a manual for VHDF testing and judging. This document will contain additional detail, as needed, over and above our current VHDF test rules for HAE, AHAE, and PE.

As an added feature, the document will include expanded sections on testing, judging, and background material pertinent to versatile dogs.

The testing section will include:

- Test rules, per se
- Advice on how to organize a test
- Advice on how to expose a young dog (HAE) and train and handle an experienced hunting dog (AHAE & PE).

Judging will include:

- Tips on what judges should look for and why
- Basic short- wire- and long-haired breed standards

Managing versatile dog breeds - what has worked for others:

- A primer in behavior and genetics
- Approaches used by breed clubs and breeders to manage their breeds/lines

You can be a great help to us with this process by sending ideas of what material to include, what written sources we might cite, and what questions we might try to answer.

Editor's Note: Anyone wishing to send ideas on this project can email Joe directly at: joe.schmutz@usask.ca.

You can also email any officer or director of the Federation with your ideas. Go to www.vhdf.org and click on "Federation Officer's" in the left-hand column to find their emails, or see the last page of this newsletter.

Director of Communications Report - Submitted by Chuck Johnson

This year we have sent out a number of our four-color 11"x17" brochures that tells folks what the Versatile Hunting Dog Federation is and does. This brochure has a membership application and contact information by region. It also explains our testing program and features our web site.

If anyone would like some of these brochures to pass out, please let me know and I will be happy to send them to you. Please give me your name, address, phone number, and how many you want.

We have been successful in recruiting new members and we also have two new groups that have already held Federation tests: the Spinone group in Wisconsin and a new Michigan chapter. Rob Hopkins in Massachusetts is starting a Federation chapter and is planning to hold a test next year. If you live in the Northeast please get hold of Rob. You can reach him at Robert.Hopkins@ips.invensys.com – cell phone: 508-440-9497

We also have a new Montana chapter, the Montana Bird Dog Federation. We will be holding all three tests – HAE, AHAE, and PE – on Saturday and Sunday August 15th and 16th. On Friday afternoon, August 14th, we will hold a breed seminar. We will have Allison Schultz talk about the Spinone breed and its conformation. Dell Peterson will talk about the long-haired breeds, and we hope to have someone talk about the shorthaired and wirehaired breeds. We encourage everyone to attend. The fee for this seminar is \$20.00 per person.

For information and test entry forms for the Montana test please email me at chuckj@wildadvpress.com or call me at 406-388-0112 Ext 12.

IT Director's Report - Submitted by Richard Nugen

Puppies! Yep, wonderful puppies. This is the season we all look forward to. Either we have puppies or one of our friends just got a new one. I have eight of the ankle biters. Each holds new promise for the future. Some seem sensible, others seem fearless, and others seem very methodical. One seems hell bent on doing the opposite of everyone else. What they all have in common is the promise they hold for the future of the breed and successful hunting seasons to come. Someday, when they are veterans in the field, accomplishing some seemingly impossible task, we may reflect on these puppy days and the sheer amount of work which went into their inevitable greatness. How many times the paper was changed, the box cleaned out, the shots, the training, the sleepless nights as pup howled through the night calling to his far flung litter mates. The countless times you patiently reminded pup that shoes are to protect human feet not to assist in his teething process.

What does all this have to do with the technology report, you may ask? Simple. Right now we have a number of initiatives that seem to be running around biting our ankles. Sometimes they get out of the kennel and sometimes we get to proudly present their progress to our friends. But for the most part, they are a whole lot of work. Enjoyable work; but work none the less. The promise of the future is what we are focused on. Each of these fledgling projects holds unique potential in what it can do for VHDF and for the hunting dog community in general.

In the last report, we discussed the VHDF platform and the promise it has for tracking, comparing, and promoting test results. This project missed its beta release due to complications in the professional (read "my job") world. The hours slipped away from us. Regardless, progress is being made and we look forward to unveiling the full beta at the August meeting.

More immediately, we have migrated the VHDF.org website to a new content management system that will simplify the management and creation of content. The solution will allow separate individuals to manage specific portions of the site. The promise being that many hands will make light work with each person responsible for their own section of the site. This platform will be the basis for all future releases, including the VHDF Testing Platform; and any future endeavors such as forums, news feeds, or portlets.

We have a bright future and are presented with a unique opportunity to take advantage of technology at this stage of our organizational growth. These projects will help to deliver on that promise and someday, I am sure, we will look at what we have accomplished and perhaps remember the effort that has gone into making our organization strong.

For the moment, looking out my window, I see that the puppy my daughter named Amethyst has mastered the art of digging and begun a career as an escape artist. All the other puppies are inside the kennel whining and wishing they were so lucky to be outside the kennel like their sister. Ah, ankle biters. So much work. So much fun. So much promise.

HAE Test For My Puppy

By Jocelyn Portner



Hi, my name is Jocelyn Portner and I entered the puppy test with my puppy, Emma. I heard the puppy test is the most fun test!

One of the events is dog pointing. Emma caught a bird when she chased it, and she wouldn't let go of it. My dad, Darren, finally stepped in and got it.

In the field (track) Emma was on the trail for catching the pheasant, then a tweetie bird made a noise and Emma started chasing that. She looked back and came back to me, but she kept wandering off. She would look back and come





back to me even after chasing the tweetie bird, but the pheasant scent was not as exciting so that dropped her score a bit. The judges were very, very nice.

Another event was the pond. I had to pull my bumper out right away. You don't want that. Try to get your dog in the water "without" the bumper. If you do that, you get a ten right away. After the test was over we played cards and roasted marshmallows with the judges.

I think Emma did very well for the little training she had. The puppy test was really fun to do and I am going to do more dog tests with Emma. I hope these tests are fun too. Join the club so you can have fun doing the test, as well. Make sure you spend a lot of time with your dog so you can get higher scores.

Editor's Note: Jocelyn is 10 years old. Her father is VHDF member, Darren Temple.



Captions:

1. Jocelyn Portner with her dog, Emma, at the Snake River Gun Dog Club VHDF test – May, 2009
2. Ben giving Jocelyn instructions for the field work
3. Apprentice Judge Ben Chaltraw, Jocelyn, Emma, and little sister, Sierra Temple, starting field work with unexpected wet weather
4. Jocelyn says "Emma is crazy about the B.A.L.L."
5. Jocelyn and Sierra waiting their turn to run
6. Judge Barry Wild and Sierra playing Go Fish after lunch
7. Jocelyn getting Emma in the water
8. Jocelyn, Emma, and Sierra with the VHDF judges and handlers

Report on PCNA Meeting - Submitted by Keith Kehler

Jeff Funke and I left Nampa about 4:00am on a Thursday morning in March on our way to co-judge a Pudelpointer Club North America (PCNA) test with the hope of them accepting our HAE test as a substitute for their NA (Natural Ability) test. The reason this all came about is that the PCNA only has two tests per year, both of which are in the Far West. This severely limits their ability to test their dogs and advance their breed. So after many conversations between Jeff and Kristin Boren (President of the PCNA) we were on our way.

Arriving in Fresno late that afternoon we went out to the Boren's home for a barbecue, and spent much of the evening answering questions. One area that kept surfacing the entire time we were there was the question about our database and registry, as they are aggressively protective of their pedigrees and breeding. It took a lot of reassurance on our part to convince them that the VHDF is not and will not become a registry.

The first day after concluding the pre-test meeting, Jeff presented our HAE test format and outlined the differences between the two tests both in the administration of the test and the scoring. PCNA uses a 12-point system where we use a 10-point-plus system. In other words, their 12 is full performance without difficulty, so their 12 will usually be our 10. On the first day we observed two NA puppies and three BIT (breed improvement test) dogs which are comparable to our HAE and AHAE tests. The second day we observed four NA puppies.

PCNA has a very high emphasis on field work and endurance. Their puppy test has the puppies in the field for 30 minutes, and the BIT test for one hour; with birds planted in the entire test area and for the total allotted time. They run the dogs in braces at the BIT level. The bird planting and running in braces are the biggest differences between our tests. At the reading of the scores for field work the points were very similar after factoring the 2-point differential. Jeff also explained the differences between our systems of testing.

Later, we went to the tracking field where the PCNA system is the same as ours in that they release the bird and then bring the dog up to track. At this point we differ

somewhat. In the event of difficulty for the dog, the PCNA test will use multiple restarts on the same track, which tends to lead to boredom on the dog's part and a lack of focus. We, on the other hand, will move to another location and use another bird, giving the dog a better opportunity for success. We have more emphasis on tracking than PCNA does and this resulted in our tracking scores being noticeably lower than theirs were.

PCNA requires water work at the NA level. The dog must enter the water twice with the use of a bumper or some other enticement to achieve a maximum score. We require that the dog enter without enticement and minimal encouragement to achieve a maximum score. Many of the dogs we observed this day had yet to be exposed to water, and required large amounts of enticement – up to using game birds to get them into the water. Some would not go at all and others would not go to swimming depth. Our scores were skewed at the water since in our HAE, the dog can only get an 8 with a bumper and a 5 with a bird. We then had the reading of the scores. Our scores were very comparable to theirs, with reconciliation for the differences in testing standards which have mainly to do with the application of the test.

Overall I felt that the resistance to using us as a testing platform decreased over the two days we were there. We didn't win everyone over, but made good headway in that they have accepted our HAE as a substitute for their NA. Jeff and I both feel that we are probably not going to test a large number of PCNA dogs in the near future, because they simply don't have litters very often. But this is a step in the right direction, capitalizing on synergies that exist between our group and theirs. Now at least their breeders will feel more comfortable with the notion of placing a pup in Wisconsin and other far away areas that offer VHDF testing. I want to thank the PCNA for having us and their overwhelming hospitality.

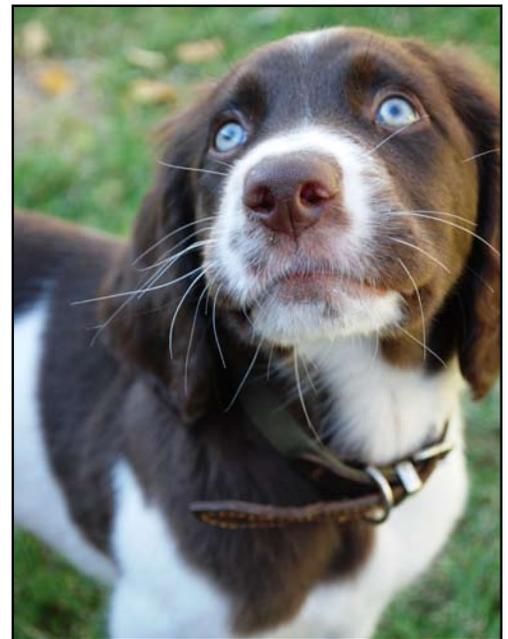
The Drentsche Partijshond - Submitted by Brian O'Connor

In 2007, a core group of enthusiasts began working together to form the basis for a North American breed club for the Drent. The Drentsche Patrijshond Club of North America (DPCNA) was founded in August 2008, and incorporated as a non-profit entity shortly afterwards. The purpose of the DPCNA, in broad strokes, is to develop and maintain the Drentsche Patrijshond as a field-ready, and family-oriented versatile pointing dog in North America, just as the breed is kept in its native homeland, The Netherlands. To best meet that purpose, our immediate objectives are to place a strong emphasis on establishing a sound breeding program in order to maintain a versatile gundog able to excel in the variable hunting conditions of North America, based on the Dutch standard for type, coat, and conformation. Equally as important to us are the elimination of physical defects and the continuation of developing the breed for field use in accordance with the spirit and intent of our Dutch parent club. So the DPCNA will keep a strong emphasis on the dogs' natural hunting abilities: nose, pointing, cooperation, temperament, and water work. With the future of the breed in mind, let's have a quick look into the breed's past.

The Drent is an old continental pointing breed, dating back to the 16th century in the eastern part of The Netherlands, in particular the Province of Drenthe. These dogs were kept purebred there and were not mixed with foreign breeds as done elsewhere. One of the key differences in the

early beginnings of the Drent is the rural Province of Drenthe itself. Drenthe was unusual in the way in which the common gentry had the right to hunt. Thus, the local mayor, the farmer, and the "landed" population in general needed a dog to support their pursuit of various small game. The people of Drenthe typically were not wealthy, and so they needed one dog that could do it all. For the past 500 years, the Drent was that dog. Unlike many other hunting breeds, which were developed by, and for, the "upper crust" only to hunt, the Drent was expected to hunt all game, even vermin; to pull duty as a watch dog; and to be the child's playmate. Some were even used to pull the dog carts of the day. This should help to illustrate how the development of the Drent was quite different from most of the continental pointers. Knowing this difference should also help you see the difference of the Drent from his closest relatives – the epagneul Français and the small Münsterländer – both of which are smaller in stature and of finer bone. Knowing how the Drent came to be is one thing, having an understanding of the philosophy behind its creation is another thing altogether.

One of the things most unique to the Drent as a hunting dog is the three pillars of the breeds' foundation: hunting, pet qualities, and watch dog. During the breed's long history, the Drent pulled triple duty. Not only was the dog expected to help put meat in the pot, it was expected to warn of visitors to the farm or estate, and to be a pet "par excellence" for the family. These three pillars are what make the Drent such an ideal



Left: John Lambregts (DPCNA Vice President, left) with Bowie and Clio and Brian O'Connor (DPCNA President) with Booker and Paxson at end of Sonoita, AZ January 2009 hunt. Right: Booker – Joksan the Gloucester – working his angle face. Photo by Nikki O'Connor.

The Drentsche Partijshond (Cont. from page 9)

hunting dog for us in North America. Not only are they intelligent enough to be useful in hunting a variety of game, they are also wonderful additions to the family. The Drent is a true versatile hunting dog by any definition. If you asked a Dutchman what kind of dog the Drent was he would exclaim proudly, "He is a Pointer" or affectionately refer to him as a farm dog. The Drent is both and more, so what of the Drent in North America?

Drentsche Patrijshonds have been imported and hunted over in North America for a little more than a decade, and fanciers of the breed are spread far and wide. We mostly have to thank our Dutch expats, who remembered the breed so fondly from their childhood, for importing this dog to North America. As their friends and American families have had the opportunity to meet the breed, the Drent's reputation as a fine hunter and family dog has created attention and demand. At the moment we believe there are approximately 100 Drents in North America, and most are used for practical day-to-day hunting activities of all kinds, while others are used for tracking, skijoring, canicross, agility, and just about any other canine sport you can imagine. Nearly half of all the Drents in North America are imports, nearly all from The Netherlands. One of the DPCNA's goals is to register as many of these purebred and pedigreed Drents as soon as possible. We have an established procedure for reviewing and, when appropriate, accepting these dogs for issuing a pedigree. The registration and tracking of as many of the direct imports as we can will make our job easier in

creating the genetic database our breeding program will need for the coming years. Worldwide it is estimated there are about 5,000 Drents. De Vereniging, the Dutch Breed club, is working hard to solidly establish the breed with clubs in neighboring European countries, Denmark, and Sweden within the past few years. The breed is growing in numbers outside of its native homeland, but is still largely unknown outside of The Netherlands.

So how did I catch the "Drent virus" as it's called? In 2003 my wife and I were living near Maastricht, South Limburg, The Netherlands and on occasion we would come across one of these white and brown dogs; which rekindled an interest I had in the breed some 30 years prior, believe it or not. Being Brittany people (an ABR foster family and everything) and owners of a golden retriever from a field bloodline, we found the Drent to be a wonderful mix of the two dogs: all of the great character, energy, easy coat care, and some of the hardheadedness of the Brit, and the cooperative trainability, the wanting to please and be with his boss of the golden. Put simply, we were sold immediately. Since so little has been published in English about the breed, I think it's important to note the Drent has kept some of its spaniel heritage; using blind repetition with your training drills and being "heavy handed" with this soft-tempered breed generally doesn't work out so well with these guys. This is the best in-a-nutshell short description I can come up with for the King of the Dutch breeds. One of the biggest challenges you will face with this breed is learning how to say the name. Try saying the word "rinse" starting with a "D", slightly rolling the "r" and ending with a slight "ah"(D'rinse'ah). Patrijshond is much easier for the North American tongue to get around, (pah'Trice'hoon). The most literal translation of the name is the partridge dog of Drenthe.

However, the most common name used is Dutch partridge dog. While easy to say, this would be a lot like calling the Chesapeake Bay retriever, the American bay retriever – and that just isn't right. Reading between the lines you may have figured out the Drent is a very intelligent, high-energy dog that excels when given a purpose.

As you could imagine, this is where the VHDF is an exciting organization for us, as it allows us the ability to hunt test our breed in close fashion to the Dutch way of hunt testing. It is important to note the Drent was designed and built to be a lively foot hunter's dog, capable of adapting to hunting fields with varying terrain and available cover. Having test organizations such as VHDF gives us an outlet to test this capability. For the



Cheeky, Unique and Sheila in a Dutch cornfield. Photo by Ali VanDooren.

The Drentsche Partijshond (Cont. from page 10)



Seip van' Suydevelt on a Dutch beach. Photo by Jaap Hoeks.

Drent this is even more important than you might realize. Hunting in The Netherlands is becoming more and more strictly controlled. Potentially the only way we will be able to

keep the breed's hunting instinct intact, strong, and growing will be to have proven, tested hunters outside of The Netherlands. For example, the partridge for which the dog is named can no longer be hunted in his native homeland, and it is expected this trend will only continue. So it is likely the breed's hunting future will be left in the hands of international fanciers who have never had the opportunity to see a Drent comb a field of sugar beets or potato shoots for his quarry. I hope this helps you to see how having a vibrant testing organization, such as the VHDF, will be integral to a fledgling breed club such as ours. A forward-looking breed club and relevant testing organization are a good start for the Drent here in North America.

The Drent works hard as a water fowler in Sweden, master of the driven hunt in Belgium, a solid all-rounder at home in The Netherlands, and as a classic versatile pointer since his North American introduction. The Drent has proven to be an excellent choice for us, where a day of hunting may include birds as varied as sage grouse and chukars, or ducks and quail, and terrain as varied as high desert mesquite and sage brush to aspen thickets; the dogs are capable of switching gears as fast as needed. Best of all, they enjoy it all and for us they are a joy to keep in the house and around the family during the down time and off-season, which for most of us is far too long.

VHDF Officers and Board Members:

Jeff Funke- Chair • jefffunke@heritagewifi.com

Vance Lester - Vice Chair • vlester2@yahoo.com

Lynda Kieres- Secretary and Membership Officer • topperlyn@hotmail.com

John & Dawn Smith - Co-Treasurer • jdsmith76@comcast.net

Chuck Johnson- Communication and Webmaster • chuckj@wildadvpress.com

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