

DPCNA NEWS



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Chairman's message - submitted by Brian O'Connor

The DPCNA has moved into its third year and the Board of Directors has closed out its third face to face Board Meeting. At first I had wondered if we had opted to start the club too early; I suppose that only demonstrates how much more I needed to learn. Believe me, there is much more for us to do - including formalizing our hunt and confirmation assessment processes, working with the OFA to establish our own breed health survey, applying to the



Paxy showing off his good side!

AKC for at least a North American Drent judge, and re-applying for retriever testing since now the AKC has opened the doors for "cross-over" activities for sporting breeds and so much more.

Our first ever hunt assessment was a success by any measure I believe, with seven members and ten Drents participating in the day's events. We had our esteemed AKC Junior Hunter, several good practical hunting dogs, and even a few dogs who had never tried field work before the assessment day's work on chukar. Despite the heat all the dogs made good points and retrieves alike. Most of these pictures have been posted on our [Facebook page](#) and I encourage you to visit if you haven't already.

We have been invited to participate with the [Ameri-can Stabyhoun Association's](#) big show in the Philadelphia, PA area in 2013. They will be bringing over at least a pair of judges from the Netherlands for that event.

The future is bright! Thank you one and all for your continued support.

Sincerely, Brian O'Connor

From the Editor - submitted by Jenna Myers

Now that our hunting season here in Washington state is coming to a close, I've been able to dedicate a little more time to getting my first newsletter together. I'd like to thank everybody for sticking with me. This past year I feel like I dove head first into the DPCNA and all it's ongoings. I've thoroughly enjoyed becoming more familiar with our amazing breed and getting to know many of our members personally. I was able to attend the annual Board Meeting, and in April I am hoping to attend my first Breeder's Day in Barneveld in the Netherlands. Should be fun! In this issue I've included the minutes from the 2011 Board Meeting, as well as our revised North American Standard and a bunch more informative and interesting articles. Enjoy!

DPCNA Board Meeting - submitted by Jim Millington

October 17, 2011

BOARD MEMBERS:

PRESIDENT – BRIAN O’CONNOR

VICE PRESIDENT – JOHN LAMBREGTS

TREASURER – NIKKI O’CONNOR

SECRETARY – JIM MILLINGTON

**PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER &
NEWSLETTER – JENNA MYERS**

All board members were present as well as members Jack Lusk and Diane Millington. The president opened the meeting welcoming all present and introducing newest board member, Jenna Myers.



Drents in the kitchen - not unusual!

pensive to add to our website. John suggested just having a list of items for sale and assign each with a name, item #, and price, thus eliminating having to maintain a storefront. John volunteered to manage that list. Everyone agreed to this idea.

1. Old Business

- A. Pal Pal account: Our Pay Pal account will be up and running by the end of the year. People will be able to donate, buy items, and pay for memberships, etc., by using Pay Pal. This will simplify transactions greatly especially from overseas. Thanks to Nikki for getting this up and available.

2. Drent goods storefront

Discussion about having a 'Drent goods storefront' was brought up. It was noted that this would be ex-

3. Expenses

They are low. Only costs so far have been for award trophies and our hunt assessment. The hunt assessment paid for itself.

4. Treasurer’s Report

- A. We have \$1180.40 plus checks still not cashed bringing our total to \$1400.00 in our account
- B. Taxes are done for the year.

5. Open Items

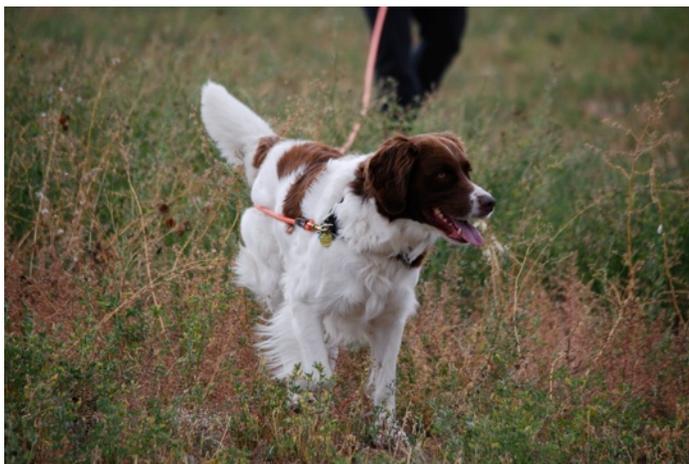
A. Pay Pal

As announced earlier by Nikki our Pay Pal account is to be up and running by the end of the year.

B. Hunt Test Rules Translation

Tabled for now. John is working on this, not something that can be done in a short amount of time, it will take some time. To be completed at a later date.

...continued next page....



Baron “Bear” looking good in the field

DPCNA Board Meeting cont...

C. Expand Breeders commission

John has been talking with the Dutch breeders and they were favorable to sharing information. Question arose as to how to have this take place. It was discussed and decided we should approach the Dutch Commission with a formal letter/letters in Dutch and English. This would be a letter opening formal communications asking for their expertise and knowledge with a designated person on each side to communicate back and forth. John to draft a letter for board approval and after approval will translate to Dutch and send both letters to the Dutch Breeders Commission by end of year.

6. New Business

A. Breed Standard

As of 2003 there is a new Dutch standard. Our version now is not really favored by the Dutch club. In some areas our standard is stricter than theirs. A discussion was held noting these differences. We first want to let the Dutch club know that our Drents and their Drents are the same dog. We are strongly in favor of the need to maintain and promote the three pillars of the breed; Hunt dog, Watchdog, and Family dog. Brian and John agreed to work on finishing this by end of the year.

B. By-laws – changes and updates

1. By-laws need to be accepted/agreed upon and voted on. The need to include e-voting, which is what we have done for the most part in the past, was brought up. This will be encouraged in order to save time and expense. Mail votes will still be accepted and any e-votes are to come from an email account on record of each voter. Brian made a motion for this to be accepted, 2nd by John and approved by all.



Paxson and son Dutchboy's Loki at the 2011 Hunt Assessment

Pg. 16 Section 5 – Item 1

At end of last sentence add email.

Pg. 9 Section 8 – Item 1

Hunt tests will be accepted from other organizations.

Pg. 10 Section 8 – b and e

Strike the 20 and 24 months age requirements.

2. Breed Show Requirements

Strike Drent must be @ least 18 months and change in last sentence, FCI to AKC

3. Temperament Requirements

Question about doing evaluations only @ annual breed show and club meeting. Discussion was held on this with different suggestions i.e. use of video tapes, board members seeing dog in person to evaluate etc. It was decided the breeding commission, headed by John, would do a case by case evaluation. Language to be added for more details. Brian will make changes and submit for vote.

4. Hip and Elbow Evaluations

Add PennHip.

5. In-Breeding Coefficient

Strike Win Canis.

6. Breeding Requirements

Clean up language on breeding requirements and appeals process, this was agreed upon by all. Add breeding commission reserves the right to not authorize Pedigrees for pups from non-conforming matings/breedings.

7. The AKC has new rules concerning judges, should we nominate someone to the AKC to be a Drent judge? John and Brian expressed interest in being judges and it was suggested that a letter be drafted nominating the two of them. Jim nominated John and Brian to apply and Nikki volunteered to write and submit the letter to the AKC.

No further business so meeting was adjourned by Brian. Thanks to all that attended. We had great discussions and input. We all enjoyed and felt the hunt assessment was successful and a good time was had by all. Hope to see everyone next year. Good hunting!

The Need for a North American Breed Standard - submitted by Brian O'Connor



Jana and her chukar

Pick a breed of dog; they all have a standard from which they are judged or compared against. In many cases the standard describes a theoretical dog which never existed for a minute in life. The Drent may be somewhat special in that our breed standard was written to describe the famed Nimrod, in body, type, and temperament. This naturally leads into the question how or where does the Clovis type fit in and what importance does it play, and how can the type be allowed? Essentially the Drent is graded on a scale of desirability instead of absolutes. This approach tends to lend itself to allowing for a wider range of what is considered acceptable in the Drentsche Patrijshond, yet there are clear boundaries of what isn't acceptable. Lastly I'll talk about why we need a North American Drent standard and why our standard should be more detailed than the Dutch and/or FCI standard.

To further complicate answering the question, "what makes for a good Drent", there are two main Drent types, specifically the Nimrod and Clovis types. Because of the notoriety Nimrod gained from the historic day at Groningen, which took place at the height of WWII in the spring of 1943, his success with the subsequent hunt assessment, coupled with his ability to reliably 'throw' his type Nimrod was used extensively and it is said he sired more than four hundred offspring, singularly making Nimrod, who was born in 1940, the most influential Drent in the history of the breed.

Another well known male was Clovis, who was favored by the first chairman of de Vereniging. The chairman preferred the heavier built type of Drent and tried, unsuccessfully, to change the breed standard to fit the Clovis type. The difference between the two types can primarily be found in the head, and to a lesser extent, in the bone structure of the body. The Clovis type tends to have longer, low-set, ears with heavier and squarer heads than in the Nimrod type. Dogs from the Clovis line often have a rounder skull, giving them a gentler expression, and often times have hanging lips. Also Clovis type Drents tend to be of slightly heavier bone.

As mentioned before, the breed standard precisely describes the Nimrod type of dog, yet there are many Clovis type champions out there. So what is and what is not acceptable? Since our standard attempts to draw the word picture of a once living specimen it is likely there are no Drents alive which can actually match the standard in its entirety. Which is the wordy way of saying there are no perfect Drents! There are however many excellent Drents which come close to emulating portions of the standard. Not to say judging the Drent is a free for all as it does take a keen eye to note the subtle differences in bone structure in the



Fowler posing for the camera

body and head, joint angulation, movement, fur type and quality, color, and on and on. One can even learn what particular bloodlines a Drent is just by looking at it, as many kennels have certain trademark interpretations of what makes for a "perfect" Drent. It takes time and energy to develop an eye and objectivity for these finer points, but it doesn't take long for most people to learn what a Drent looks like and what it doesn't look like. I would dare say there are few better Drents than the one stealing holiday cookies off of your counter as you read this article. (continued on next page...)

The Need for a North American Breed Standard cont...

A little bit of history behind the Dutch breed standard was first translated to English back in the early 1990's, while the translation was mostly good, it was determined a few points were lost in translation and incorrectly described the Drent. Later on the original Dutch breed standard was revised which then clearly invalidated the original standard and its translation – this is the standard currently being used by the United Kennel Club. So in 2003 the standard was corrected, updated and translated again, this version is what can be found on the Federation Cynologique Internationale's (FCI: <http://www.fci.be/>) web page today. Why then does North America need its own Breed standard for the Drent? For a few reasons, the current standard does in



Keelin enjoying her stick

fact describe much about the Drent, however it does not adequately convey many of the historical judging points of the breed utilized in confirmation assessments in the Drent's homeland. Most of the points not addressed by the current standard relate to coat type, color, and allowable markings. Unless you have shown your Drent in the Netherlands, or are a native of the Netherlands and familiar with the Drent, it is unlikely you would know these sometimes subtle, yet important, historical judging points which help to define and separate the breed from its closest relatives the French Spaniel, the Small Munsterlander, and the German Longhaired pointer. In order for North American fanciers and breeders to be knowledgeable of these finer points, and breed for these traits, they must be a part of our standard. Additionally, the American Kennel Club requires each parent club to draft, and ratify a breed standard for each breed falling under its

preview. Lastly and possibly most importantly, John and I have both been asked to provide de Vereniging with a full American English translation of the breed standard which faithfully carries across the meaning and intent of the Dutch breed standard – why not utilize that effort as the basis for the Drent in North America. The standard which accompanies this article is the result of many months of skillful literal translation carefully balanced with many discussions with experts to deliver the fidelity of the spirit and intent of the original standard, yet deliver the greatest amount of transparency and meaning to the North American reader.



Jorja, Fowler, and Booker hunting in Idaho

Revised Breed Standard - submitted by Brian O'Connor with translation by John Lambregts

The North American Standard N° 1/ 01. 01. 2012.

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. Lambregts and Mr. B. P. O'Connor, to be submitted for approval by the Vereniging "De Drentsche Patrijshond" and the American Kennel Club

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 history, the breed has stood upon three equally important pillars; a versatile hunting dog: able to hunt all upland game and water fowl, a farm yard dog: announcing visitors to the home or farm (without showing aggression or fear), and a playmate to the children: having excellent qualities as a valued family companion. These attributes are innate and fundamental to the Drent, and the three pillars of hunting, farm and family dog, 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.



Dutchoy's Sofie

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.

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 and liver, 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 dogs 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 the root of the tail where it joins the dog’s rump must be 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.



Joksan Nabar the Gloucester “Booker”

Puppies! 2011 Litters - submitted by Jenna Myers

This year proved to be a great year for the North American Drent population. Along with several new imports, we are pleased to welcome the 2011 North American bred litters to the rapidly growing group. This past Spring, Dutchboy Kennels in Idaho, Huntley Hollow Kennel in New York, and Bayberry Kennels in Canada all welcomed pups. Dutchboy's Clio whelped her second litter, while Keelin (Huntley Hollow) and Dutches (Bayberry) became doggy moms for the first time. Even more exciting is that the Bayberry litter was the first Dutch Partridge Dog litter to be born in Canada! So enjoy the pictures as we pay tribute to the newest members of the Drent family!



Huntley Hollow's Magnolia and Arlo enjoying their first snow!



Skylor teaching Bayberry's Molly and Mersey how to get dirty!



Dutchboy's Loki - 6 months old



Clio's 2011 Dutchboy litter



Keelin's 2011 Huntley Hollow litter

First Dutch Partridge Dog Pups Born in Canada - article submitted by Jim Johnstone

29 JUNE 2011

THE INVERNESS ORAN

PAGE 3

First Dutch Partridge pups born in Canada

-by Rankin MacDonald

History was made in Aberdeen this month.

For the first time in Canada, a litter of Dutch Partridge dogs were born, and few things in life are more lovable than warm, tiny pups whose eyes have yet to open.

Dutch Partridge dogs, also known as a Drent or a Drentsche Patrijshond, are a loveable hunting breed from the Netherlands.

They are a versatile pointer and retriever but also make excellent family dogs.

The two female pups were born on June 18th and are the first DPCNA registered breed to be born in Canada.

The breed has strong hunting instincts, however they tend to be more relaxed at home than many other hunting breeds. Although Drents are happiest while hunting, a brisk walk or run around the park will also suffice. They are very attached to their family, loyal, love children, and have a sweet disposition.

Jim Johnstone is a lifetime member of the Drentsche Patrijshond Club of North America (DPCNA). Jim was first introduced to the Drents in 2005 and received his first female, "Dutches," from

the Netherlands in 2006. In June, 2010, Jim acquired another female, "Sofie," from Idaho Falls, USA. And finally in 2011, Jim received "Skylor," his stud male, from the Netherlands. He now has a family of three which he plans to use for future breeding, hoping to grow the breed in Canada.

The DPCNA is growing in North America and is currently recognized by the American Kennel Club (AKC). For news, events, and further information on the Drents check out <http://www.dpcna.org/>.

The origins of the Drentsche Patrijshond are in the 16th century from the Spioenen, which came to the Netherlands through France from Spain, and is related to the Small Munsterlander of Germany and France. In the province of Drenthe three hundred years ago the local mayor, landowners and farmers developed dogs for hunting small game. However, unlike many other hunting breeds, the Drents were expected to hunt game of all types, play with their children, and guard their property. The Drents have been an "all-around" breed ever since.

In the Netherlands these dogs were called Partridge dogs and received formal recognition as a modern



The newborns



The comfort zone



Skylor, Sofie and Dutches



Mother and daughters

breed in 1943. In November of 2010, the AKC recognized the Drentsche Patrijshond Club of North America (DPCNA), and the Drentsche Patrijshond was added to the AKC Foundation Stock Program, allowing owners of the registered Drents to participate in AKC sanctioned events such

as hunt tests and agility competitions starting in 2011.

Breeding
Mother – Dutches Fan't Suydevelt

Born on March 26th, 2006 in the Netherlands, "Dutches" travelled to Canada at ten weeks of age.

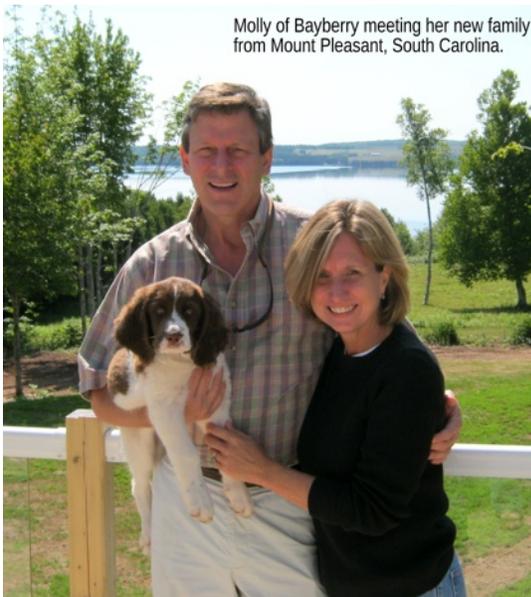
Father – Dutchboy's Arrow

Born March 7th, 2005 at Dutchboy Kennels in Idaho Falls, USA. Arrow currently lives on Long Island, NY. Jim and Dutches travelled to Long Island for the mid-April mating.

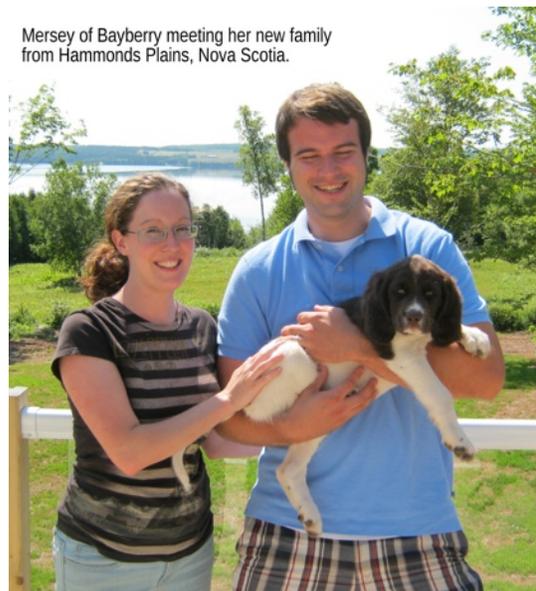
Jim Johnstone lives along Highway 105 in

Aberdeen with his partner, Heather Chapman. They run Bayberry Kennel along with Cape Escape B&B and Therapeutic Massage. Check their websites for further information, www.bbkenel.ca, www.capeescape.ca.

Molly of Bayberry meeting her new family from Mount Pleasant, South Carolina.



Mersey of Bayberry meeting her new family from Hammonds Plains, Nova Scotia.



Releasing Your Dog from a Trap - courtesy of Kevin Keyt of the German Shorthair Pointer Club of Idaho

Be prepared for the unthinkable -- it could save your dog's life!!

A regular long spring trap, coil spring trap or snare is generally easy to get an animal out of.

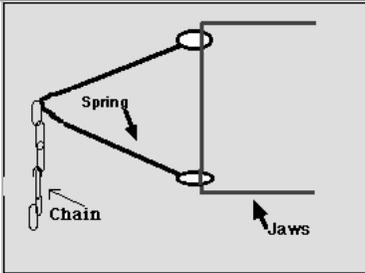
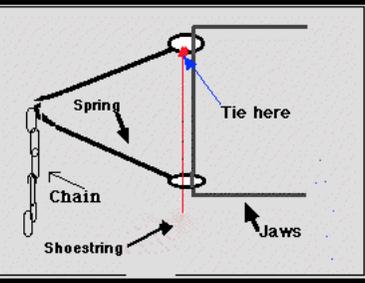
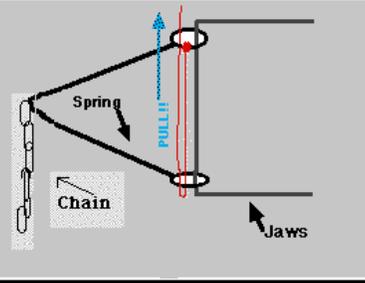
In all cases, cover the dog's head with a shirt or jacket to act as both a muzzle and to calm the dog down. Though your dog may be friendly, most dogs will bite reflexively when in pain. While the trap may not be hurting the animal, it will scare him, and when you release the springs of the trap, blood will rush back into the foot and it may sting sharply for a moment.

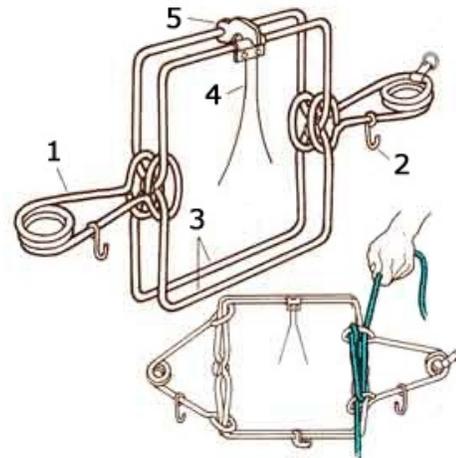


Jorja says: "This is how you avoid traps!"

	<p>This is a typical coil spring leg hold trap. The trap can be released by stepping down on the spring to the left and right of the center pan.</p>
<p>#1½ LONG SPRING</p>	<p>This is a typical long spring leg hold trap. The trap can be released by stepping down on the leaf spring to the left of the center pan. Double leaf springs will have springs on both sides -- step on both of them at once, as you would a coil spring trap.</p>
	<p>This is a conibear trap, and if your dog is caught in one, it is in <u>serious</u> trouble, as this trap is designed to kill. See instructions below on how to release an animal from this kind of trap -- it is difficult and <i>time is of the essence!</i></p>

Releasing Your Dog From a Conibear Trap

<p>The Conibear Trap- Shown in sprung position. Carry 2 long, strong, boot-type shoestrings with you at ALL times.</p>	
<p>To release the trap, tie one end of a shoestring to the top loop of the spring where it runs along the jaws, run the shoestring through the bottom spring loop and then back through the top spring loop.</p>	
<p>Then, stand on the trapchain, pinning the trap to the ground and haul up on the shoestring. This will compress the spring. Pull and take up the shoestring until both sides of the spring meet. Tie off the shoestring and repeat the process on the other side of the trap, if necessary.</p>	



In the picture at the top, the trap is set and ready to kill your dog.

#1 are the springs. They are very powerful and when they are triggered, they push the pivoted jaws closed -- the X at the pivots widens.

#3 are the jaws. They do the crushing.

#2 are simple safety catches you put on while you are setting the trap in place. They swing off once that is done -- safety off and the trap is ready to fire.

#5 is the "dog" or bit of metal that holds the jaws together. It is under a lot of pressure and has a very shallow, rounded groove in it that hold one jaw against the other.

#4 is the trigger. These are thin stiff wires that the animal presses into as it enters the den. Once these wires are bumped, they slip the piece called the dog (#5) loose and the four pairs of jaws come down (#3) under the crushing drive of

Important Review Tip:

A conibear trap closes with about 90 pounds of pressure, and if you try to horse the jaw of the trap open by hand (a natural reaction, as the jaws will be crushing your dog to death), you are unlikely to succeed in getting your dog out alive.

The trick is to focus on the SPRINGS to the left and right of the trap, and to follow the procedure, as outlined above, to take the pressure off the springs.

Once the springs have been compressed with a dog leash or piece of boot lace, put the safety catches on, and repeat on the other side.

Teaching a Dog to Point - submitted by John Lambregts

Training corner: Teaching a dog to point.

You know the feeling. It's like nails on a black board. For some, it's misspelled words in the news paper. For others its elbows on the table during dinner.

For me it's the question: how do I teach my dog to point? I think it's so irritating because the basic, fundamental fact of pointing behavior is that it is instinctive, inborn behavior. You simply cannot teach a dog to point. You can teach a Chihuahua to retrieve (I don't know what, maybe a Q-tip -- but I digress).



Clio showing off her point on a chukar in the truck :)

not uncommon for a one year old pup to have developed a great love for chasing anything that moves, be it on land, in the air, or under the water. Our 10 month old Patches proved that yesterday by bringing me his latest prize: a fresh muskrat. The first week of March. In Idaho. From the water. He was happy.....

This last part is critically important: the dog's instinct is to point, his experiences teach him to chase. So, we can approach pointing dog training in two ways: One, we can start very young, before six months of age, and provide experiences that enhance the pup's instinct to point, and reward him for that behavior. This is the "Wolters" approach. Start very young with sight pointing, and then transition to teaching the dog to hunt on scent. The second method is the opposite. You let the pup be a pup, let him chase, let him learn to love being in the field, and chase every grasshopper, every butterfly and every bird he comes across. Those who have talked to me will recall me describing this as "building the fire".

At about a year and a half, sometimes a little later, the average Drent will lose some of his energy and one day the lightbulb comes on: no matter how fast he is, no matter how hard or how often he tried, he's never been fast enough to catch a flying pheasant. At that point, you close the circle by presenting the dog with a bird in a controlled environment, allowing him to pause, holding him there, and then flushing a bird for the shot. When you release the dog for the retrieve he will make the connection: if I point, I will FINALLY get the BIRD! With our Bowi, it literally took one bird. With Clio, two. They are Drents, they use their heads, all the time.

Which of the two routes you choose is entirely up to you. My personal preference is to let the pup be a pup, build that enthusiasm for being out in the field and for him to have nothing but positive experiences with wild game. I am always concerned about working with a young pup, especially a strong willed, high energy Drent pup at a young age. The last thing I want to do is hinder the development of that enthusiasm, that prey drive, in the field. Or maybe I just love watching a young pup have the best time ever chasing a meadow lark for a mile and a half.....

A little background information explains why. Every canine (or every predator, for that matter) has what is called "pause-before-pounce" behavior. You can see it in your cat in the back yard, when stalking a mouse or bird. They stalk, stop, get all set, and then the final rush to the prey. Wolves have it, cats have it, bears have it.

In pointing dogs this instinctive behavior is enhanced through selective breeding. Dogs with strong expressions of the genes that cause this behavior were bred together, and voila -- a dog that doesn't move AT ALL after pausing before the pounce. This is why you will see your little, four month old brown and white fluff-ball lock up in a near-trance when a robin lands on the lawn looking for worms. His little genes are controlling his behavior.

As the pups grow up, his experiences will generally become more and more important in determining his behavior. So it's



John with his youngster Patches

One Day - submitted by Brian O'Connor

I'll leave my over-under at home and only take my camera afield to do the shooting. For me bird hunting isn't so much about the body count – the filling of a guy's limit that is. For me it's about visiting interesting and oftentimes beautiful locations, meeting new people, or just spending quality time with old friends. Above all it's about the dogs; watching them learn how to work new birds, watching them perform feats we humans couldn't do on our best day – like running a full marathon in chukar country, and finding the little devil's in some of the most inhospitable or unlikely places. Then there is the pointing. Like watching a camp fire, there is something which appeals directly to some primordial vestige of our inner most psyches. Who needs two-hundred and fifty TV channels when you have a simple, pure camp fire? Being able to play witness to a gun dog work his or her magic has that very same appeal. For me the simple act of watching my dog accomplish his windshield wiper passes through the sage, or whatever habitat I am hunting, has some hypnotic quality. Like the call of the siren, to the sailors of old, enabling the many miles of hiking to pass

seemingly without effort always drawing me on further and further. The anticipation finally rises as he catches the scent of something which peaks his interest, what we so ineloquently call "getting birdy". It is amazing how just the scant scent of such a small single bird can electrify the whole dog. So much to the extent even someone who has never hunted over a pointing dog can understand something is afoot, and to be able to deduce rather clearly something special is about to happen. The suspense continues to build until the moment where the dog is confident he has homed in and pinned down the origin of those wondrous orders. And then it happens, the fabled point is established – seeing the intensity set itself throughout the dog's body is a sight to behold it is as if possibly he has possibly stepped upon a high-tension power line. Then the moment sets in on the spectator, and you act. Watching the dog work and then finally his point triggers the latent ancient hunter gatherer instincts deep from within, if for anything you only to get his hard found bird for him, after providing you with such a brilliant show of skill and ability. On day I hope to capture this moment on film, or my case, electrons flitting about on a flash drive. Until then I have the memories – grand memories that they are.



Fowler's serious look



Paxson and Jorja snuggled up

From the Kitchen - “Nikki’s Whiskey Brownies” submitted by Nikki O’Connor

Ingredients

- 1/4 cup Bird Dog Blackberry Whiskey (or hot milk)
- 1/4 cup semisweet chocolate chips
- 1 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1/2 cup unsweetened cocoa
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1 1/3 cups sugar
- 6 tablespoons butter, softened
- 1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 2 large eggs
- Cooking spray

Preparation

Preheat oven to 350°.

Bring BD BB Whiskey to a boil in a small saucepan; remove from heat. Add chocolate chips, stirring until smooth.

Lightly spoon flour into dry measuring cups, and level with a knife. Combine the flour, cocoa, baking powder, and salt, stirring with a whisk.

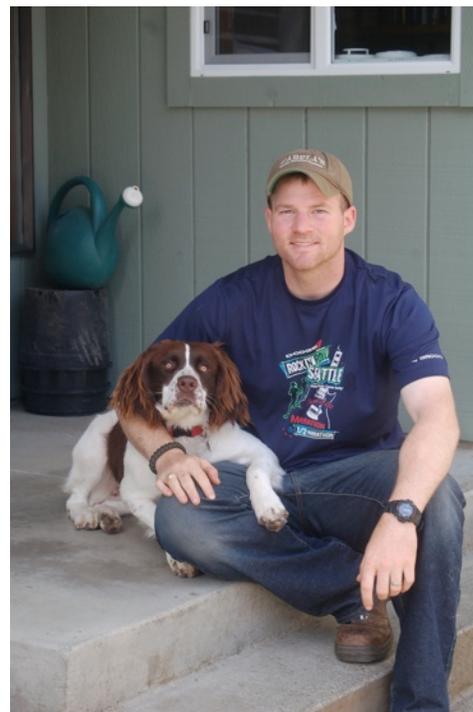
Combine sugar and butter in a large bowl; beat with a mixer at medium speed until well combined. Add vanilla and eggs; beat well. Add flour mixture and bourbon mixture to sugar mixture, beating at low speed just until combined.

Spread batter into a 9-inch square baking pan coated with cooking spray. Bake at 350° for 25 minutes or until a wooden pick inserted in the center comes out clean. Cool in pan on wire rack. Enjoy!

Parting Shots



Above: Mousie (L) & Coda (R) debate who owns the stick!



Right: Jared Myers with Brooke

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