



# DPCNA NEWS

DRENTSCHE PATRIJSHOND CLUB OF NORTH AMERICA

## Chairman’s Message – Jenna O’Connor

DPCNA Members—

I hope this newsletter finds you well. What can I say about 2020?...well, parts of it were amazing, but I’m sure most of us are wondering why we celebrated ringing in this year back in January! Because of health and travel regulations, we decided to not attempt any sort of in-person meet up with the club this year. We did manage to put together a virtual meeting via Zoom that was highly successful. We had a great turnout, so thank you again to everyone who took the time to tune in. We are going to try to do those types of meeting bi-annually, so be on the lookout for something this upcoming Spring. In this edition you will find the minutes for said virtual meeting as well as some cute puppy photos and exciting Drent stories. As always, anyone is eligible to contribute to the DPCNA News, so if you have a photo or story you want to share, please reach out.

Until next time,

Jenna O’Connor  
DPCNA President



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### Special Holiday Deal!

- 25% off of mugs and khaki hats!
- Shirts: Only \$1.00! (+shipping)

Visit the DPCNA Store soon to purchase DPCNA products for you and as gifts for your friends. This is a great way to support the club and brag about your Drent.

Visit the Merchandise page at <http://www.dpcna.org/dpcna-merchandise.html>

For DPCNA Members only. Valid until 12/31/2020.

### The DPCNA is on Instagram

Follow the DPCNA on Instagram at [drent\\_club\\_north\\_america](https://www.instagram.com/drent_club_north_america). If you have Drent-related news to share, pass it along to Kathryn Keen at [knkeen@gmail.com](mailto:knkeen@gmail.com).

# A Journey into the Higgins Gun Dog Training Method

- John How

On a warm, sunny October afternoon near Yerington, Nevada I watched my 1.5 year-old male Drent, Mosley, transform from a driven dog that would bust birds and chase them relentlessly, to a dog that held point, was steady to wing, shot and fall and retrieved to hand. One would think this process took months to accomplish; yet most of his transformation occurred in three short days working with Brad Higgins of Higgins Gun Dogs.

The first thing you should know about Brad is that he doesn't train dogs. That may seem counterintuitive but I can testify that Brad's method is not traditional training in the sense of obedience commands and repetitious drills. Rather, the Higgins' Method focuses on the handler and teaching humans to read and react to their dog. Most trainers I have worked with in the past would say the handler needs to be in charge at all times; or that we – as handlers – need to control the situation as best we can. Brad takes a 180 degree different approach. As Brad would say, "The bird is in control. Not the dog and certainly not the handler."

Brad's method teaches handlers how to read subtleties in our dog to establish a trusting relationship whereby the dog and handler work as a team, trusting each other to do their respective part. The dog's job is to search, find, point, hold and retrieve the birds. Our job is pretty simple: shoot the bird so the dog can retrieve it. We both need each other to be successful. While it sounds simple, as any bird hunter knows, multiple things are occurring simultaneously in the field. Brad teaches you to slow down and focus on the important items such as a handler's consistency (everything is black and white; you either did it or you didn't) and the dog's intent. Is the dog stalking or creeping? There is a difference! Did the dog chase or was he turning to see where the birds landed? Is the pup bumping dogs early or is she learning to scent birds? The answer to these is intent.

A handler's main responsibility is to read and react to – not control – what the dog does and do the right thing every time. Brad spends a lot of time helping those of us unlearn bad habits we've developed and to recalibrate our brains. A great example is approaching a dog when it has zeroed in on a bird's location. Brad teaches handlers to move when the dog is still and to hold when the dog is moving. Wait, what?! That seems counter-



intuitive, or at least it was to me. I had been taught to "walk in boldly" and "don't dilly dally, get up to the dog and be ready to shoot." Brad would say, "What happens between the bird and the dog is between them. We'll get there when we get there." A good dog will learn to hold the birds as long as it takes for his partner – the handler – to arrive to complete our part of the process.



I'll admit, at first I was skeptical Higgin's Method would be as transformational as I was led to believe. I mean, what trainer could rehabilitate a dog in only a couple days? At best, I thought I'd come away with

some new skills and drills to work with Mosley back home. How sweet it was for me to be wrong, dead wrong!

What helped me come away as a true believer was laying witness, not only to Mosley, but to two other dogs and their handlers. Brian O'Connor and his 1.5 year-old girl, Ila, and Tyler Wall and his 7 month-old boy, Cooper, were exposed to Brad's method (granted Brian and Ila had already been to see Brad and had coaxed Tyler and myself to see what Higgins Gun Dogs was all about). Tyler put it eloquently during dinner one night as to each dog's growth and understanding. "Cooper (who had not been exposed to birds or gun fire until this trip) was in elementary school. Mosley was in junior high and Ila was on her way to graduating high school."

## A Journey into the Higgins Gun Dog Training Method

- John How

The beauty of having three dogs in different stages of development was observing how Brad approached each dog's progress. While Brad has a specific method, he curtails it to individual dogs and situations. Our group was fortunate to see Brad's work with Cooper and learning how a young dog reacts/learns as compared to Mosley, who had been exposed and trained with birds, and finally Ila, who needed a tune-up. The techniques Brad implores are the same, but the dog's ability and confidence are what dictates how Brad teaches both dog and handler to succeed.



Is the Higgins' Method right for you? As with everything, it depends. There are great trainers doing unique things that can get similar results. What sets Brad apart from others – in my opinion – is how he approaches training and the speed at which dogs learn and succeed. He doesn't use force or pressure, in fact, it's a non-starter. He also begins by showing what success looks like early on: shooting a bird and letting the dog eat it if he wants. Come again?! Yep, that's right. Even if Cooper didn't point the first couple of birds, Brad's method shows the dog what success is so the pup knows this (bird in mouth) is a good thing. He doesn't use kick traps, bird launchers or dummies because these don't exist when hunting birds in the field. However, Brad uses a plethora of live birds for training.

While Higgins Gun Dogs focuses on preparing hunting dogs for success in the field, Brad also trains pups for homes by "claiming space." Again, this is not the traditional obedience training involving repetition. Instead, he uses natural pack leader assertiveness to claim space as adult pack leader dogs do in the wild. Although it's difficult to describe exactly how this works, trust me, it works. Mosley no longer races up the stairs ahead of me; now he walks behind me no matter how slow I go. How'd I do it? Claiming of space with no shock collar, no treats and no drills.

If you'd like more information about Brad Higgins or his method, please visit <https://higginsgundogs.com/> or feel free to email me ([john.how@gmail.com](mailto:john.how@gmail.com)) or Brian O'Connor ([dpcna.gundogs@gmail.com](mailto:dpcna.gundogs@gmail.com)) as we'd be glad to share our story in more detail so that you can determine if Brad's approach is the right fit for you and your Drent.

Happy hunting!

John How

Bozeman, MT



A few of you may have realized Craig Koshyk was my publisher, for The Drentsche Patrijshond for the North American Fancier. We became acquainted years ago when he asked me to be a consultant on his Drent chapter in his amazing book, Pointing Dogs Volume One: The Continentals. We have remained in contact over the years following... So what's up with Hunting Dog Confidential? If you are a serious dog-geek, then you might know of the HDC podcast led by Craig Koshyk and Jennifer Wapenski. Craig is most likely the most knowledgeable hunting dog historian living on the planet right now!



My HDC journey started a few months ago when I happened to be driving to Wyoming, while out in the Middle of Nowhere Montana Craig messaged me to see if I could make some time to take a call from him. Yes, of course! But I needed to get someplace I'd have a stable phone signal... Later that evening when we connected, I was extended an invitation to participate in his new project, the print companion to his popular podcast: Hunting Dog Confidential. For years I've written. Mostly for my own enjoyment; the second edition of my book, the DPCNA, or fodder for my blog, but this time it would be for the Big Time - a national publication, and a dog lovers geek fest at that!

If you'd like to read about our beloved Drent hunting one of North America's most uncommon birds, along with some super cool photos, then you may want to see about getting a hold of a copy of Hunting Dog Confidential!

200 PAGES.  
PREMIUM PAPER.  
COMING IN OCTOBER.

HUNTING DOG  
CONFIDENTIAL



## Tracking with Finn

### - Jesse Egbert

The day of Finn's first AKC Tracking Test had finally arrived. We had made the nine hour drive the day before, leaving snowy Flagstaff and arriving in sunny San Diego. Finn and I showed up at the testing grounds about an hour before sunrise. Judges, volunteers, and participants were milling around. Restless dogs could be seen through car windows. When our turn arrived, the judges explained rules I had read and heard a hundred times before. A 450 yard track had been laid about an hour ago. The tracklayer had dropped a glove to mark the beginning of the track and to give the dog a scent to memorize and follow. She had then walked roughly a quarter of a mile, following a path that included three to five abrupt changes in direction. Finn was wearing a harness with a thirty-foot leash attached. Finn would pull and I would follow, maintaining at least 20 feet of distance between us. If and when Finn reached the end of the track, there would be a second glove that he needed to identify as the tracklayer's item. Two judges would follow at a distance, carefully evaluating Finn's tracking direction and pattern compared to a map of the track.



Finn pulled toward the start of the track and fetched the glove as he nearly always did. I calmed him down, held out the glove and said "Sniff!" Then I pointed to the ground and said "Track!" He snorted twice and pulled in the direction of the start. I stumbled to feed out the leash while putting the glove in the pocket of my hoodie. Once he reached the end of the leash, I held on and leaned back while he leaned into his harness and moved as quickly as I would allow, nose glued to the grass and tail wagging intensely. After a hundred yards or so, he made an abrupt turn. I slowed him to ensure he was confident in his choice. Turn number one. Another straightaway and a second turn. This was repeated for a third turn. I guessed there would be one final turn and we would be in the home stretch. So far, Finn's tracking was focused, deliberate, and precise. It could be his best track yet. Then my worst nightmare exploded right in front of Finn's nose in the form of a jackrabbit which launched from its bed and into the field. Finn's focus immediately shifted from the track to the rabbit. He pulled violently at the end of the leash to run after the rabbit. I watched him embrace his natural prey drive, and I knew that success or failure on this tracking test hinged on what I did next.

So how did my two year-old Drent and I end up in a field in San Diego, with an AKC Tracking Dog title at stake, watching a jackrabbit bound into the distance? Our tracking journey began when Finn was just a few months old. We were doing early conditioning for the NAVHDA Natural Ability test. Finn enjoyed bird work, he tolerated water work, but he loved tracking! We also learned that his other senses shut off when he was following his nose. He would follow his nose around the kitchen and stop only after colliding with the oven door. Or he would be following his nose during a romp in the field and be completely oblivious to my shouting. He needed an outlet for his love of scentwork. It wasn't long before I was immersed in books and articles about scentwork and canine tracking. That was when I learned about the AKC Tracking titles.

## Tracking with Finn

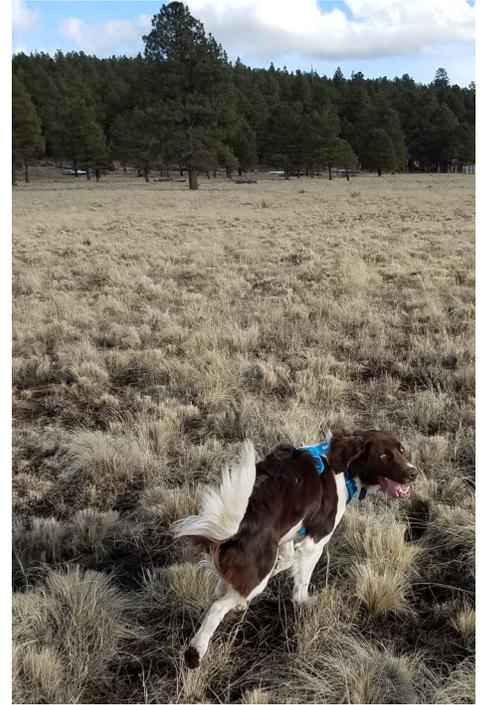
### - Jesse Egbert

I also learned, to my great disappointment, that there were no training groups in the state of Arizona who were actively preparing for tracking events. So I looked elsewhere for training mentors and companions. I ended up joining the local training events of the Coconino County Search and Rescue K-9 Unit. They welcomed us into their group and patiently taught me how to handle a tracking dog. It turns out that training and handling a tracking dog requires the same basic steps as most other types of dog training: (1) keep it positive, (2) find creative ways to encourage the dog to use their natural instincts, and (3) try to stay out of the way. These requirements are simple to understand, but almost impossible to practice!

Finn was nine months old when we started training with the Search and Rescue team. We met each week at a different location. We would discuss what we were working on with our dogs and take turns laying tracks for each other. We tracked in sunshine and calm breezes, and we tracked in raging windstorms, freezing rain, and more than a foot of snow. In a year and a half, I only remember one time that we cancelled due to weather. We also varied the tracklayer. Finn has tracked dozens of different people, most of whom were strangers. Each human has a unique scent signature, and it is crucial that dogs learn to follow a specific human's scent, not just any human scent. Exposing Finn to different locations, conditions, and people helped to prepare them for anything. These changes also provided opportunities for Finn to make and learn from mistakes. It seems that dogs are like humans: they learn best when they make a mistake and piece together how it happened and how to avoid it.

I remember the day we decided Finn was ready for his test. In order to earn a Tracking Dog title, dogs must pass the test twice, once in a qualification test and again at a formal testing event. Finn aced his qualification test. The only feedback was that I was holding him back by not trusting him enough. Because the track is undetectable to any of the human senses, there must be complete trust between the handler and the dog. There were countless times when Finn wanted to make a turn, and I held him back, thinking 'No, they wouldn't have walked that way.' Even during his early training, I was wrong nine times out of ten. Later on, I was always wrong. Lesson learned.

Let's return to the field in San Diego where I was looking back and forth between a bounding jackrabbit and Finn, who was no



longer in tracking mode. I needed to help Finn get back on task and trust him to finish the job. So I gave Finn ten long seconds to watch the rabbit disappear. Then I pulled out the tracklayers glove and led him back to the last spot where I knew he was on track. I gave him the sniff command. I could see his focus returning to his incomplete task. "Track!" His nose hit the ground. I smiled as he jerked me in the direction he had been heading before the rabbit incident. He made a sudden sharp turn to the left and pulled for what I knew must be the finish line. In a single, fluid movement he picked up a second glove and trotted back toward me, where I was laying on praise thicker than cold molasses.

## Tracking with Finn

### - Jesse Egbert

The next thing I knew the judges were standing over us. Finn and I were rolling around in the grass. A hug had turned into a tummy rub. And a tummy rub had turned into a playful wrestling match. No boy has ever been more proud of his dog. And no dog has ever been more proud of himself! The rest of the morning was a blur: pictures with judges, a signed glove, and a whole lot of people who desperately wanted to know the name of this dog breed that was beautiful, well-mannered, and extremely talented. I don't remember anyone complimenting me on my good work. Finn was the star, and that's exactly the way it should have been.

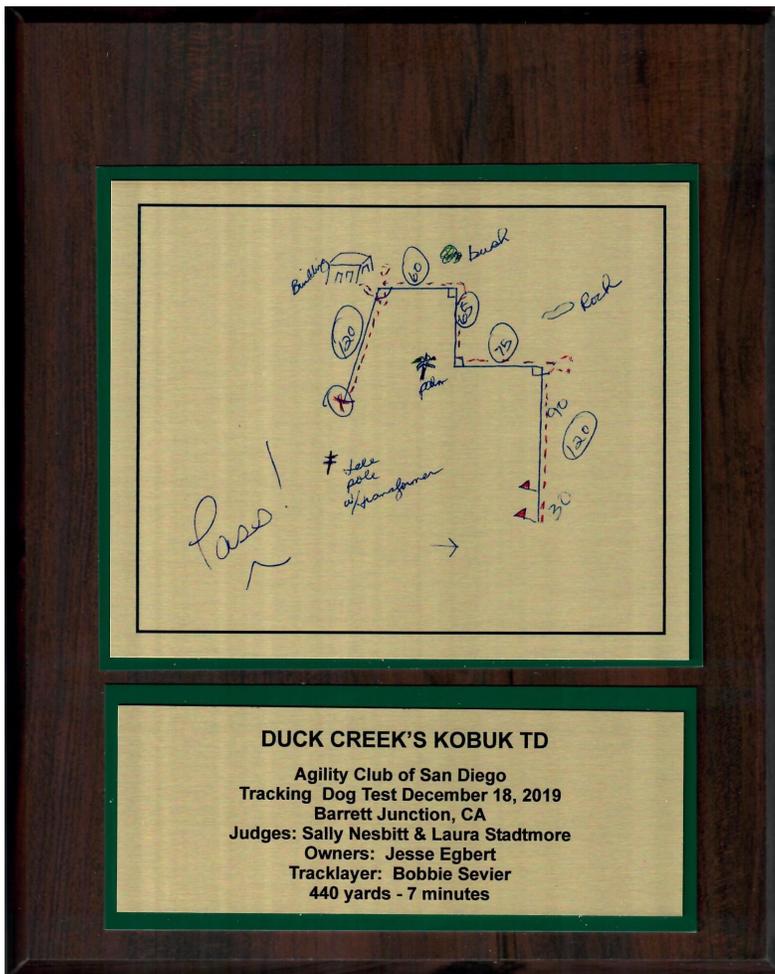


Finn was spoiled rotten the whole way home, including a December romp through the sand of the Mojave desert.

Finn is the first Drent to earn an AKC tracking title. Our journey together so far has been incredible. Tracking has strengthened our bond and given him a perfect way to use his natural instincts in a fun, challenging way. If you have any interest in getting into tracking with your Drent, please reach out to me. We would love to help you get started! We have moved on to training for the AKC Tracking Dog Excellent test. Finn is probably ready now, but we'll keep training until that 'probably' becomes a 'definitely'. And we'll enjoy every minute of training together.

Jesse Egbert

Jesse.Egbert@gmail.com



## Two Gun's Cowboy Coffee

- Brian O'Connor

Just like most everything in 2020, we all started off with one thing in mind and more or less ended up doing something else... I had plans to return to the Netherlands to use "Cooper" a prominent stud with pages of accolades who is owned by Michel van der Burg. We all know what happened, and those plans which I had spent a year and a half working on were dashed. What to

**THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN COFFEE AND  
YOUR OPINION IS**

**I ASKED FOR  
COFFEE**

do? Well, as it turned out, Jesse Egbert had recently gotten his male approved for the stud list, and I had been thinking about using him with Ila (once everything worked out, of course). Then it struck, I could use him with Powder, with a surprisingly low CoI, 14.9% all generations. Instead of producing a line breeding based on the fan't Suydevelt side of Powder's pedigree, this would be a line breeding on the Gloucester side – even better. Jesse and I reached an accord, soon after Powder and I were headed to Flagstaff Arizona! We were blessed with seven gorgeous puppies on the twenty-third of July. The three of the grandparents, Paxson, Ember, and Booker were all well represented in the pups, and grandma Brooke seemed to take a litter off this time.

Picking a litter theme can be a lot of fun, but it can also be a frustrating adventure...I've flirted with a few Litter Themes over an extended time for this litter. Well to be exact, since this time last year. I've always liked the idea of using coffee for a litter theme. I learned the joys of coffee while living in Europe as a young feller and have been a die-hard drinker of quality black coffee for the past umpteen years... In fact, you could take wine and bourbon away from me, but I'd go to jail over coffee.

So I 'Two Gun'd' the theme, meshing my fascination with 'the Old West' with a fairly common and somewhat cliché litter theme, hence Cowboy Coffee! Without further ado, here is the breakdown by birth order, their registered name, and what it means if you were to break out your Cowboy dictionary.

**1) Two Gun's Black Medicine Buzz (M)**

- Sioux Indian translated word for coffee (Kazuta Sapa/Black Medicine) = Coffee buzz

**2) Two Gun's Barefooted Fandango (F)**

- Hot black coffee dance

**3) Two Gun's Hurricane Deck Triple Shot (M)**

- A saddle on a bucking bronco w/ a triple shot of espresso

**4) Two Gun's Ace-High Legal Addiction (F)**

- First-class coffee

**5) Two Gun's Crumb Castle Arbuckle (M)**

- Chuck Wagon Coffee = Cowboy coffee

**6) Two Gun's Smoke Wagons & Morning Thunder (M)**

- Guns & Coffee

**7) Two Gun's High Plains Shot in the Dark (M)**

- Black coffee with a shot of Whiskey

# Two Gun's Cowboy Coffee

- Brian O'Connor



Duck Creek's Doughnut Litter  
- Jenna O'Connor



*Long John*



*Sprinkles*



*Fritter*



*Olie*



*Maple*



*Pip*

## 2020 DPCNA Annual Meeting Agenda Thursday, November 12th, 7:00 pm EST

### **1. Roll Call of Officers and Members**

Jenna O'Connor, President  
Brian O'Connor, Vice President  
Jesse Egbert, Public Relations Chair/Registrar  
Kathryn Keen, Treasurer  
John How, Secretary  
Marc Gorelnik  
Jim Millington  
Harrison Smith  
Beth Mello  
Dave Mello  
Bruce Smith  
Jimmy Warren  
Matt Hoye  
Mary Ellen Huetinck  
Anthony Richie  
Brian Berry & Katia Casademunt  
Candace Myers  
Kaylah Locklear

### **2. Financial Report**

As of November 11, 2020

Paypal: \$6,149.18  
Wells Fargo: \$2,752.63  
Cash: \$25.00  
Receivable: \$None  
Due out/Payable: \$201.78  
  
= Total: \$8,725.03

### **3. DPCNA Inventory:**

**Coffee Mug:** 9

**Hat:**

Orange: 5

Khaki: 11

**Long Sleeve:**

Green Waffle: 6(L)

Gray Waffle: 5(L)

**Short Sleeve:**

Blue: 27

Green: 22

### **4. Report of Officers and Committees Report**

a. Social Activities: **None due to COVID**

b. Merchandise: Offer current shirt inventory at cost of shipping plus \$1 to members.  
(APPROVED)

## **5. Unfinished Business**

a. Create “how-to” videos (grooming, training, whatnot).

**-We haven't had anyone with the time/willingness to invest in creating videos**

-- (BPOC - Recommend tabling or closing this has remained open for three meetings with no takers)

**-Some grooming issues are Drent-specific, such as grooming ear hair**

-- Articles have been posted in the Newsletter to this effect (BPOC - Recommend closing)

**-YouTube Channel would work, linked to webpage**

-- (BPOC - Recommend tabling or closing this has remained open for three meetings with no takers)

**-Possibly consider written training/how-to's instead**

-- Articles have been posted in the Newsletter to this effect (BPOC - Recommend closing)

**-DPCNA Instagram account**

-- K. Keen has stepped up to build and manage an account, she is looking for additional administrators. (BPOC - open/working)

### **b. Local Drent meetups?**

- Difficult with COVID, but we can start planning for post-COVID

- Marc G. to lead out on meet-ups in CA

- Matt/Melissa and Anthony to help with East Coast meet-ups

- Bruce Smith (MN) to help with Mid-West meet-ups

- New member roster to come out with the Newsletter (soon)

- Club Sponsored Events will need to meet guidelines yet to be determined. Local/

Breeder meet-ups & events will always be encouraged.

### **c. Look at new avenues to fulfill temperament requirement (AKC, NAVHDA)**

-Tabled because it's further down on the agenda

## **New Business**

### **6. Club Headquarters. Section 1 Item 3. says the Club will be headquartered with the Treasurer. There is a bit of a problem with that presently. The Club's EIN is with me, and tied to my SSN. (Brian)**

-May be easier to close Wells Fargo and re-open it. PayPal could be a challenge to transfer as well. It won't be easy but it seems do-able.

-Kathryn contacted the IRS. It appears that we can apply for a new EIN that is connected to the DPC-NA rather than to an individual. Kathryn and Brian to work through this change together. It seems pretty straightforward.

-Marc - do we need to change the by-laws? Maybe not necessary.

-Jenna - probably good to keep the location as Spokane because all physical correspondence comes from there.

-Brian - Motion for Brian and Kathryn to work together on getting a new EIN. Seconded. Affirmed that a new EIN will be sought. (OPEN, working Keen/O'Connor, B.)

## **7. (Brian) Section 8, Item 1 Hunt test requirements. Presently the club recognizes NAVHDA, VHDF, and the AKC. Higgins Gundogs Partnership Certifications submitted for consideration.**

- Jenna - how do we feel about adding an additional hunt test outlet to work with their dogs and meet the DPCNA hunt test requirements.
- Jenna - This may be worth adding to the By-laws so Higgins can be used to fulfill the DPCNA requirements.
- John H. - Should we review the approved methods for hunt tests periodically?
- Discussion of merits of Higgins methods. Several members understand and support Higgins's program.
- Jenna - motion to present the details of other programs (Higgins, NSTRA, NAHRA) to the club in writing to open up a discussion.
- Is a program that is overseen by a single individual (Brad Higgins) the same as a national organization?
- suggested to be tabled until a proposal with certification requirements can be provided. Open to publishing on website but not in bylaws yet.

## **8. (Jenna) NAVHDA temperament test**

- Is a temperament evaluation from NAVHDA judges sufficient to demonstrate sound temperament?
- Recap of NAVHDA temperament guidelines (Normal, Sensitive, Shy).
- NAVHDA just passed a mandate regarding dog behavior. If a dog makes inappropriate contact with other dogs or humans during the course of the testing day then it will be put on the dog's test record. Could affect the dog's ability to test in the future.
- Motion (Jenna) to circulate new NAVHDA temperament requirements to determine whether they will be sufficient.
- Proposal: Try to establish methods for having members trained to do regional temperament evaluations. Come up with guidelines for temperament evaluation. Members can apply to be an evaluator. DPCNA Temperament Evaluator
- Breeding standards need to stay high, but accessibility to options for meeting those standards need to be broadened/increased.

## **9. (Jenna) Possible pre-order of new DPCNA shirts/merchandise**

- Need to think of a design that people will actually purchase
- Pencil sketch of a Drent (not cartoony)
- Mock up some sketches, send a survey to members

## **10. (Jenna) In person meeting for next year**

- Passed over as discussed further on

## **11. (Jenna) Frequency of e-conformations**

- How frequently can a dog be re-evaluated
- Proposal:
- Earliest is 18 months
- Can re-do it after 6 months (at 24 months)
- After that, once per year. (BPOC - Closed)

## **12. (John) Training of Board Members on e-conformations**

- Differing opinions on the process (some like it, some don't). There has been confusion on how the process takes place.
- Open discussion on the process, and the intent of ease of access
  
- Include training with pictures on the website
- Training materials have been uploaded to the Breeder's Education portal
  
- According to the By-laws, conformation judges do not have to be Board Members.
- There is a possibility of having an evaluation committee.
- New member K. Locklear has started the process of learning

-Breeder education program  
-- Training & education materials to include Webinar videos and podcast downloads have also been uploaded to the Breeder's Education portal

### **13. Member outreach ideas**

### **14. Breeding requirements**

-Not necessary to discuss

### **15. Hats for Lifetime Members. At this point in the game the Club can afford to have some hats made and sent to LTMs. Buying 35 or 40 hats would cost us most likely something in the range of \$300-500.**

-Motion to authorize funding for the purchase of these hats.  
-Try to keep unit price under \$15  
-Over-purchase by a bit to have some on hand for future LTMs (APPROVED, working O'Connor, B.)

### **16. 2021 Annual Meeting**

-Hybrid meeting  
-Zoom is really successful (largest turnout this year)  
-Regional meet-ups for the meeting  
-Meeting twice a year. We will plan to meet again in the spring. Date TBD.

### **17. Closing Remarks**

-Discussion about ways to encourage hair growth



ERROR: Image Unavailable.

Entire dish was devoured before photo could be taken.

With colder weather upon us hearty dishes are always welcome on the table, and in the belly. This recipe is a comfort-classic in our home, served on a bed of mashed potatoes, with a thick slice of rustic ciabatta on the side, and a glass of whatever the favorite wine of the moment happens to be. Live well, and enjoy.

## Ingredients:

- 3½ Lbs Pork Butt, boneless and tied
- 2 Tbs Oil
- 1 Onion, 1/6th wedges
- 6 Cloves Garlic, crushed
- 2 Cups White wine
- 3 Cups Apple cider
- ½ Cup Apple Cider Vinegar
- 4 Bay leaves
- 2 Apples, diced. Pink lady apples work well
- 2 Tsp Anise seed
- 2 Tbs Grainy Dijon Mustard
- 3 Sprigs Sage
- 1½ tsp Salt
- Salt + pepper to taste

## Steps:

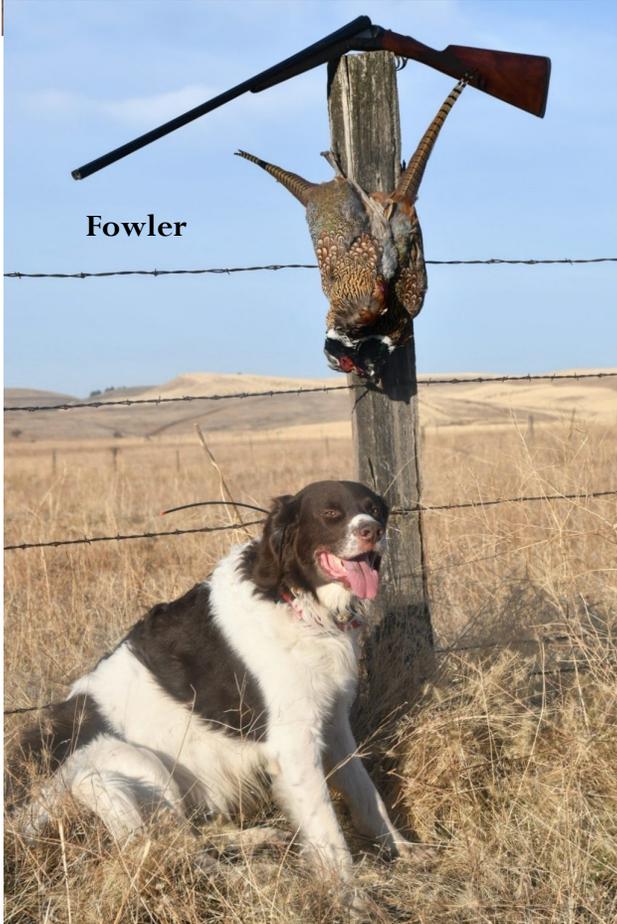
1. Season the outside of the pork butt liberally with salt and pepper.
2. Add the oil to a hot cast-iron pan and sear all sides of the pork butt to a nice golden brown.
3. Remove the pork butt; add the onions and crushed garlic to the pan and brown.
4. Deglaze with the wine and reduce by half while scraping the brown bits off the bottom of the pan.
5. Transfer the pork butt back to the pan and add the apple cider, cider vinegar, and bay leaves. The liquid should cover approximately half the pork butt.
6. Lid the pork and roast in a 350°F oven for 2½ hours.
7. Check on the pork every hour and flip the butt. If the liquid is reducing too quickly, add a touch of water to keep the liquid covering half the pork.
8. Add the diced apples, anise seed, grainy Dijon mustard, sage leaves, and salt.
9. Roast for a further 30-45 minutes or until the apples are soft.
10. Check the pork for doneness; it should be fork-tender and fall apart easily.
11. Remove the lid and brown the top of the pork butt.
12. Taste and adjust the salt and vinegar to your taste.
13. Cut the twine off the pork and serve big chunks of it with some of the sauce and diced apples.



Thiele



Jackson



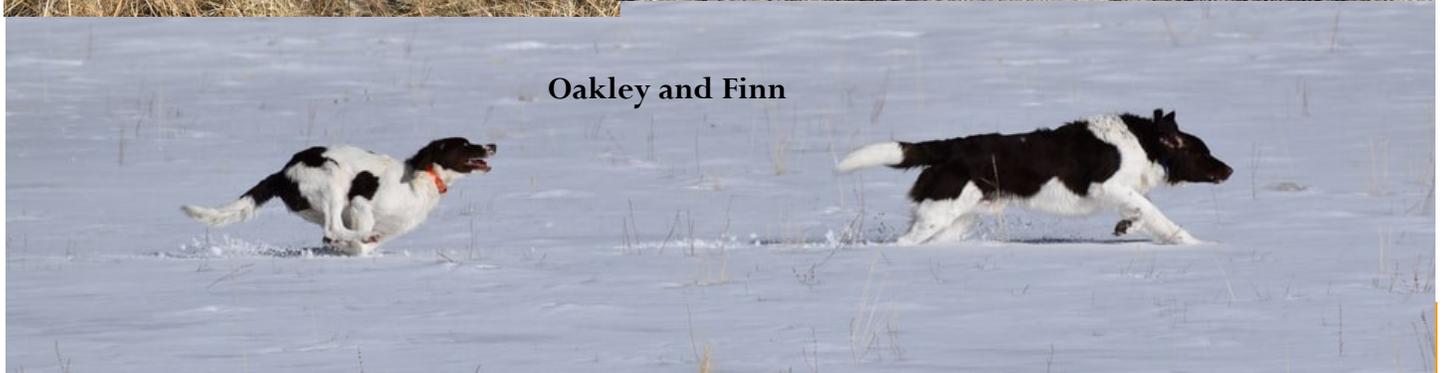
Fowler



Powder and Mosley



Ila



Oakley and Finn