# KORTHALS GRIFFON CLUB OF AMERICA

## *Breeding Issue*

**ISSUE #1 JANUARY 2015**

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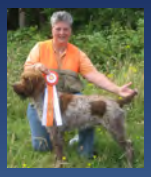

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*"Formed to preserve the Authentic Korthals Griffon"*

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## What is a Purebred Dog?

"It is commonly accepted that a purebred dog is a dog with known and documented ancestry from a breed's foundation stock. A hybrid is not considered purebred, although crossbreds from the same two breeds of purebreds can have "identical qualities". The difference is that hybrids do not breed true (meaning that progeny will show consistent, Replicable and predictable characteristics), and can only be reproduced by returning to the original two purebred breeds. Only documentation of the ancestry from a breed's foundation stock determines whether or not a dog is a purebred member of a breed."

Source: Wikipedia

# President's Message

Griffons in the UK

As most of you know I travel extensively for my work and 99.9% of the time it is all work. On a rare occasion I get to combine business and pleasure and that was the case last month . I was invited by Colleen Porter – a Korthals griffon breeder in Cheshire England. Colleen is so dedicated to the Korthals Griffon and to the puppies she has bred. Colleen is a member of the KGCA and she has also signed up all her puppy buyers – hint hint nudge nudge for you breeders reading this newsletter.

On this trip I was able to accept her wonderful invitation and spent the weekend in Cheshire spending a couple training days with what are called HPR in England. A HPR is a hunting pointing retriever – in our words a versatile hunting dog. I was so pleased to have the opportunity to bring the Gibbons/West training approach to England. With some trepidation of really offending the Britts with my American ways, I packed my bags with a bunch of Gibbons collars, my own e-collars, and a variety of other training paraphernalia. I can only imagine what the guys thought when they x-rayed my luggage for security. I figured I would apologize up front and hope for the best. I thought that speaking bird dog may be sufficiently international.

There were two litters of puppies there – one a Korthals griffon litter and the other wirehaired Vizsla. On a personal note the litter of griffons was especially interesting to me since their sire is my own dog Z. The dam of the litter was there and I will attest that every single puppy looked like their father. I just knew we were going to have fun the next day. If I have learned how to train dogs it is because of Z. He is the sweetest and softest boy but at the same time has great hunting tenacity. He is the easiest of our dogs to live with and the toughest to train because he can get his feelings hurt. Z is the reason I got into the Gibbons style of training. The group was rounded out by a GWP and a Drathaar.

Getting birds was a challenge for Colleen but late the night before the training her wonderful husband Arthur was driving all over England to pick up the valuable cargo of 12 bobwhite quail (they were actually white!) and 10 pigeons. I was so spoiled training at my place where birds were only a few steps away rather than driving a couple hours. With the birds safely stored for the night behind a number of barricades to keep the dogs away we enjoyed a wonderful home cooked meal.

The next morning was a typical overcast England morning and everyone came dressed for the weather. I had to dress in traditional American hunting clothes and the Britts had a great time ridiculing my blaze orange but at least I knew they would see me. We did introductions and determined what everyone wanted to do. It was no surprise that the two big things were pointing and retrieving. When I start with any dog – I don't care how old – I always start at step 1 – bird introduction. In training my absolutely favorite thing to do is bird introduction to a young puppy. That weekend I got to introduce birds to 11 puppies! What an incredible day. It was so funny to watch as one puppy would just jump on the bird to another that was not really interested. When a puppy wasn't all that interested we would just have the owner hold them while we worked the next puppy. In the Gibbons approach, step 1 is that the dog has to have dominion over the bird. The participants quickly saw the difference between a point and a dog that was actually afraid of the bird. I started to feel sorry for the little quail but they did their job. Arthur showed up to see how his birds were making out and the area where we were training looked like it had snowed with all the white feathers!

Some of the dogs who were not really interested in birds watched as other dogs were worked. One bird flew by the owner of one of these puppies and the dog sure had a change in heart. The dog went after the bird and pulled the owner backward out of the chair. Everyone got a good laugh. We worked through every dog until they were successful.

# Vice President's Message

*From:*

*Katherine March*

These great dogs do not stay forever. A new one must step in to fill the void when the old one has done as much as it can do with us.

We usually have a "backup dog", trying to keep our dogs about 5 years apart in age. Our latest puppy is about to turn 7, and while our girl is soon to hit 12, I wonder where you can get a puppy these days. A friend suddenly lost his 11 year old, and he is quite the researcher, exhausting the possible sources of puppies, but will most likely get a dog in late winter, and will probably be only as close to a purebred as possible.

One can quickly narrow down the list of breeders, and then go to Barbara's website: herrenhausensportingdogs.com

A purebred Korthals is like a needle in a haystack. Think about what you can do to sustain this breed. I am not the only one that is going to be lost in the search if things continue as they are.

Diseases & Conditions

Health & Genetics, Nutrition, More

## Canine Distemper Rages in Texas
## The Daily Vet Blog 12.22.14

When I was in veterinary school and learning about canine distemper virus (CDV), the "sound bite" that I filed away in my memory was "respiratory and GI signs in a poorly vaccinated dog — don't forget distemper." I figured this knowledge would be sufficient since preventative vaccination has been so effective that distemper seemed to be becoming a relic of the past. Not so fast.

This summer, a wild animal sanctuary outside of Dallas was hit hard by the disease. Last I heard, 22 lions, tigers, and leopards had tested positive for CDV and 7 had died (yes, other species can come down with the virus, including big cats [not housecats], ferrets, raccoons, wolves, coyotes, skunks, and fox). That outbreak appears to be over, but now the city of Amarillo is under siege. According to newschannel10.com, an area veterinarian says he has diagnosed approximately 200 dogs with distemper since June.
"We're probably seeing 10 to 15 a week," said Dr. David Faulkner at Hope Veterinary Clinic.

## Secretary/ Treasurer Message

Here are just a few updates on the Club! Our membership is increasing with over 20 as paid members and 116 members on Facebook. We need extra support at the helm! The few running the organization cannot carry on forever without the added support of a couple more individuals to serve on the Board or as an officer. Meetings are held online or by phone so please contact me!

*A reminder that dues are due for the coming year the mail in information is at the end of the newsletter.*

We have been working on an official logo for the club for our web site and correspondence. If you have artistic abilities and would like to submit a design to be considered please send to me.

I hope that everyone had a great hunting season and will have a Happy New Year in 2015!

Barbara

## Canine Distemper Rages in Texas Continued

I can't even fathom what this must be like. Canine distemper is highly contagious, potentially fatal, and treatment is pretty much limited to supportive and symptomatic care — your basic nightmare scenario. Early symptoms look like those seen with many respiratory infections:

fever-poor appetite-runny eyes and nose-coughing-difficulty breathing

Vomiting and diarrhea tend to develop next. Then things can get really bad. The virus may invade the central nervous system. Once tremors, problems with balance, and seizures (often starting with jaw snapping) start, the chances that a dog will be able to recover dramatically decline. Some dogs also develop a characteristic thickening of the skin covering the nose and footpads.

Diagnosing canine distemper usually starts with a basic health work up (e.g., complete blood cell count, blood chemistry tests, urinalysis, and fecal examination), possibly X-rays, and often a test for canine parvovirus (CPV) since many of the symptoms of CDV and CPV are similar. Tests for the virus itself are available but are best run once a veterinarian has ruled out more common diseases and/or has a strong suspicion that a dog has canine distemper.

As I said previously, treatment for canine distemper is primarily supportive. Our goal is to keep the patient alive long enough for his or her immune system to eliminate the virus. Care may include intravenous fluids, nutritional support, antibiotics to prevent or treat secondary bacterial infections, therapies to ease breathing, and medications to control fever, vomiting, and seizures.

What I find most heartbreaking about the current situation in Texas is that dogs are becoming sick and dying from a preventable disease. Current canine distemper vaccines are extremely safe and effective. Puppies generally should be vaccinated against CDV starting around 8 weeks of age, receive boosters every 3-4 weeks until they are 12-16 weeks of age, and then get a booster one year after their last "puppy shot." Dogs over 16 weeks of age with a no vaccine history get good protection after just one CDV vaccine. After their initial vaccine(s), dogs should either be revaccinated for distemper or have their vaccine titers checked every three years.

The outbreak in Amarillo should prod us all to take a moment to confirm that our dogs are protected against canine distemper.

Dr. Jennifer Coates

**Note: Distemper can also be caused by a bad lot of vaccine.**

# President's Message Continued

Then the attention turned to retrieving. I really didn't want to do retrieving that early in the day because I just knew some of the dogs would be quite verbal – remember I own and trained their father. Still, I knew that if we were going to do what the participants wanted we needed to get to it. After lunch we started the force fetch. This is a very simple first step- put the bumper in the dog's mouth – simple right? Right! One dog took 42 minutes to figure that out and another was 38 minutes. As expected there was a bunch of caterwauling and noise. I was quite happy the neighbor wasn't home. Remember that the Gibbons approach uses no pain – no ear pinch, no toe hitch – just open the mouth and put in the bumper. Griffons are usually a challenge at this step until they figure out that taking the bumper is a good idea and these young dogs were no exception. Everyone hung in there and again we got through everyone successfully.

Then off to the field to start pointing. Unfortunately we were pushing darkness so we worked until we just couldn't see anymore. Whew – what a work out! We invited everyone back the next day to see what an actual training day looks like. Colleen with wonderful hospitality fed everyone and we all sat around and talked dogs for hours. There was an amazing Scottish woman – Una – who had some awesome older dogs and had been working on NAVHDA advanced material staying overnight. It was great to compare notes since she had a dog that had run at the Invitational that year.

The next day continued the traditional English day of grey and some drizzle but it sure didn't stop us. We hiked out to the field and with the help of Colleen's son Ben we got the pigeons appropriately tethered and we worked dogs. This has to be my other favorite part of training – when the owner sees the dog point for the first time. There is nothing better than that smile! Remember that the Gibbons approach is all about the bird and the relationship between the dog and the bird. Everyone there was amazed that every single dog pointed – and held – while the bird was flushed. Each dog got lots of work on backing as well. Most amazing was that every owner worked their own dog on retrieving – even the ones that had taken such a long time the day before decided that they really did not have a choice. The smiles were amazing and so wonderful. For me – I have seen the Gibbons approach work so well so many times that I wasn't surprised. Not surprised but still very pleased. It just doesn't get any better than that. In only a couple hours we trained 9 dogs on Sunday and every dog made progress.

My huge thanks to Colleen for the invitation and her incredible hospitality. Now she has a pigeon loft and resident pigeons. You are welcome – you just can't train a bird dog without birds. ☺ I do hope to have the opportunity to return to see how everyone is doing and hopefully to take advantage of hunting the British way. Now for my education in British English – buck, fanny and several other common American words do not translate well to British. I will just leave it at that! It was quite interesting to be around people speaking your native language and feel like such a foreigner. Everyone there speaks so quickly that it was tough to follow but the one thing I think we all understood is what a great time the puppies had and how lucky we are to have such well bred dogs to hunt over.

Until next time.

Carol

# Training Article

Let's review our progress and where you should be at this point. Your dog should be standing steady to the flush and the bird flying away. You can add the sound of a blank pistol with the pistol being pointed away from you or the sound of a shotgun. It is really important that the dog is very steady to point. Do NOT start shooting birds for your dog until they have learned what you are asking. If you have someone to train with you are also working around the bird and working on your dog standing still when the bird flies away for another dog.

By now you are allowing the dog to run free dragging a checkcord but still in full dress. Full dress is having both the pinch collar on and the e-collar. Use the e-collar to remind not to punish. Never ever ever ever use the e-collar on the dog while the dog is pointing and the bird scent is in their nose. This is a guaranteed way to get a dog to start flagging or worse to start to blink birds.

If you are at this level then get someone who can hit a bird. This may sound like a simple task but you would be surprised. People who are quite good at hunting can be absolutely terrible when having to hit a bird under pressure with everyone watching. I have been through more than one hunt test where the gunners have missed every bird but I digress. Allow the dog to run free and establish its own point. At that point you walk forward to flush the bird and have the gunner walk forward with you. Have someone stand on the checkcord behind the dog. The dog should be sufficiently steady to allow everyone to get to their desire position. You should have your e-collar transmitter in your hand set on a low level ready to go.

You never want the gunner shooting over you or your dog. Always bring the gunner forward with you. Watch the wind because the bird will usually take off into the wind. Of course if you are in a gale force wind they will quickly go with the wind. That is yet another interesting hunt test story. When the bird flies have the gunner shoot the bird dead with one shot. Just the sound of the shotgun is exciting for the dog. You have introduced this already. However when there is a shot and the bird suddenly drops from the sky, a dog that has been previously 100% steady will likely forget all about it and run towards the bird. This is where timing comes in. Remember you have your assistant standing on the check cord so that dog will not self reward by getting the bird. If the dog does run forward it will be quickly stopped both by the check cord and by the nick on the neck from the e-collar. If the dog does not run forward to go after the bird then you walk forward and pick up the bird and bring it to the dog and toss it to them as a reward. Keep your finger on the e-collar and make sure the assistant does not step off the check cord. You want to establish the correct behavior.

This is very important that you do NOT allow the dog to run to the bird. Remember for every 10 birds you work around the dog gets to point ONE. For every 10 birds pointed you shoot ONE. For every 10 birds shot they get to retrieve ONE. This will eliminate the anticipation of allowing the dog to get every bird shot for them. Tossing the bird to them still gives them the reward of feathers in their mouth. These are bird dogs – they want the bird. As you toss the bird give the dog an "**OKAY"** or **"GOOD DOG**" so that they know they are doing well.

This process usually does not take very long. They pretty quickly figure it out if you are consistent what the desired behavior is and what the reward will be. Again don't overdo it – especially with a griffon. We love to see them work but at this point it is better to leave them wanted more and doing things correctly. Do not deliver failure from the jaws of success! Griffons do not do well with a high number of repetitions. Better to do it once correctly and then quit and train another day. Too many times repetitions will get the dog to do things incorrectly and now you have dug yourself a training hole.

At the same time at home you have been working with your retrieving. Hopefully by now your dog is force fetched and consistently retrieving whatever you are sending it for. Do NOT send your dog for a retrieve at this point. Make sure they are 100% in their job of standing still before sending for the retrieve.

Putting the two things together too quickly can really dig a big training hole. If the dog is not fully force fetched or the dog is not fully steady can cause confusion on what the reminder is for coming from the e-collar. Don't be in a big hurry. This is the time to go slow to go fast later on. Happy training. Hope you are enjoying your hunting season.

# Artifical Insemination

Artificial Insemination: Endoscope-Assisted Transcervical Catheterization- the way forward.

I have personal experience of both sides of the AI spectrum having had a Surgical Intrauterine Insemination (SIU) and Endoscope-assisted Transcervical Catheterization (EIU) or Transcervical Insemination (TCI) performed on my bitch. The SIU failed but the EIU was successful the first time producing 6 robust pups. I undoubtedly will be accused of being biased towards EIU for this reason. Not so. The minute I received Maggie from the Vet after her SIU, I regretted it profoundly even though at that time I was unaware it would not produce a pregnancy. On the contrary, I fully expected it to take based on its reputation in the US. But Maggie was sore, she had a wound, she was groggy and confused and I was directly responsible for her suffering.

The EIU on the other hand was remarkably easy for her and myself albeit the 2 hour drive to reach the clinic. Maggie was placed on a grooming table an endoscope was passed into her vagina and then a very thin catheter was passed directly into her uterus all whilst we watched on camera. The opening to her cervix (the os) was slightly lateral so it took approximately 30 min to get in, but I held her head on the table and she tolerated it well requiring only my sweet talking as her sedation. The repeat insemination 24 hours later only took the Vet 5 minutes to gain access to her os as she now knew her anatomy and we were off the table in 15 minutes total. The catheter in the uterus stimulates contractions of the uterus to draw the semen up into the fallopian tubes where the eggs are waiting to be fertilized. Because the animal is asleep during a surgical insemination there is nothing to hold the semen in the uterus. Also of interest is that to date there are no studies done on the effects of wound healing from surgical inseminations on fertilization.It is illegal to perform a SIU in Sweden, Norway and Germany and has been for over 30 years citing the ethical considerations associated with jeopardizing the welfare of the bitch to produce a litter. In the absence of a specific national regulation, most European Kennel Clubs follow the FCI (Fédération Cynologique Internacionale) Regulation for Breeding which does not stipulate whether the AI is EIU or SIU (http://www.fci.be/circulaires/102-2010-annex-fr.pdf). FCI recommends ensuring that ethical issues are minimised, AI should only be done in healthy dogs with proven fertility (article number 13). In addition, in the introductory section of this regulation, the FCI specifically limits the use of dogs presenting with diseases which would be transmitted to following generations and those presenting major, eliminatory defects in regard to the breed standard.

Some Kennel Clubs have no regulations which, again, may mean that everything is allowed, or that registration of litters by imported semen is not officially allowed. However, the lack of regulations generally means that there are no restrictions, or that there are no controls made of whether the bitch has been abroad to be mated, or the semen has been imported and the bitch artificially inseminated. Most national Kennel Clubs request that the semen donor should be registered by an officially recognized Kennel Club. Italy and, Hungary do not permit AI but there is no legal control. Denmark requires a special certificate in order to register an AI litter whilst The Netherlands, Finland and Switzerland appear to have no registration requirements.The French Kennel Club registers AI litters provided that the insemination is performed by a veterinarian who has followed a special course at one of the veterinary schools in Lyon, Maisons-Alfort or Nantes. Germany follows the FCI standard but allows the specific breed clubs to determine the restriction or ban on AI ie the Pudelpointer and Korthals Griffon Clubs do not permit AI.

In the UK, where I now reside, SIU is permitted but only with prior Kennel Club Committee approval and only if the benefits accrued outweigh the welfare debt to the bitch. The rarity of the breed here and small gene pool combined with the exemplary genes I would be introducing into the UK were the reasons cited for granting me permission for the SIU.

Continued next page

# Artifical Insemination Continued

All litters resulting from EIU here are granted registration and do not require prior permission, however, any progeny resulting from AI must go on to have a natural mating before any subsequent AI litters can be registered.

OK, but what about the science? The pioneering work by Dr Catharina Linde Forsberg of Uppsala Sweden -a leader in the field of canine semen freezing has the best published current (2013) success rate of frozen semen inseminations = 70-85%. This result comes from the analysis of over 4000 intrauterine inseminations submitted to the Swedish Kennel Club. A recent (2014) excellent retrospective study as been published which looked at 118 inseminations between 2009 and 2011 determining that the EIU technique for insemination of frozen-thawed canine semen results in greater pregnancy rates when compared with the SIU technique.

| Parameter | TCI | Surgical AI |
|---|---|---|
| Ethics | Minimally invasive | Illegal in some countries. Is surgery justified just to get a pregnancy when there is an alternative? |
| Success rates | Published Data | NO Published Data |
| Cost of Equipment | Expensive | Already have equipment in general practice |
| Training | Steep learning curve | Simple procedure |
| Repeatability | Repeatable | Not repeatable |
| Sedation/GA | <1% require sedation only | GA required |
| Surgery | No tissue trauma | Wound healing required |
| Client Involvement | Client present and involved in procedure; see what they are paying for | No client involvement |
| Uterine Contractions | Catheter in uterus stimulates uterine contractions | No uterine tone or contractions |
| Visualisation of Lumen of Uterus | Able to scope and visualise interior of uterus in many cases | Can't visualise interior of uterus |
| Visualisation of Ovaries and Uterus | Not possible, however can be easily checked via ultrasound at the start of the season | Gross visualisation of surfaces possible |
| Pain | Minimal discomfort | Severe pain, and limitations on analgesic use |
| Tissue healing | None | Unknown affect on fertility |

. I encourage anyone who is considering SIU insemination to read this very important study. (http://www.icsbgrassvalley.com/articles/TCI%20Vs%20SI%20Mason%20article.pdf) I have also attached a chart which basically outlines the pros and cons of each procedure.

It goes without saying that many factors have to be considered regardless of what method of AI is performed: operator expertise, quality of the semen, precise progesterone testing and of course timing- the most crucial aspect of all.

Ironically, Maggie's failed SIU was managed and performed by a Vet who most in the UK consider to be *the* expert in the field of canine reproduction. This Vet lectures at Cambridge and has published extensively on the subject.

The EIU insemination on the other hand was performed by a reproductive specialist Vet who does not perform SIU and received all her EIU training in the US.

Colleen Porter

## *Breeding Responsibility*

*Breeding dogs is a great responsibility. It involves art, science, and total devotion. It will show you the best in the human-canine bond and the result of absolute commitment by responsible breeders. The responsible breeders seek to improve their breeds with every litter. To reach this goal they must devote hours to continually learning as much as they can about their breed, including health and genetics concerns, termperament, huntng instinct, appearance, and type. They have their breeding stock tested for and certified free of diseases like hip dysplasia, hypothyroidism, and eye problems. They also need to know about general dog behavior, training, and health care. They nurture the puppies, and place them wisely. Before buying always get a written contract and understand the guarantees.*

*Barbara*

# So Whats this AI stuff all about?

## Methods of Artificial Insemination and Their Usage

by Robert Van Hutchinson, DVM

Veterinary Outreach
An American Kennel Club Program

Historically, if multiple attempts for a natural breeding did not succeed, a last ditch effort of depositing semen in the vaginal tract was performed. Occasionally puppies resulted, often a smaller than average litter, but more often than not, the bitch did not conceive, and the artificial insemination was blamed.

The ability to accurately time the ovulatory pattern of the bitch has shown the canine breeder that artificial insemination can be as successful as natural breeding. Semen evaluation can be performed pre-breeding to assure the owner that the semen appears viable.

The routine use of "compromised life" semen such as fresh-chilled or frozen semen required artificial insemination to become common place. The need for frozen canine semen to be placed into the uterus rather than the vaginal tract, necessitated the development of new methods for breeding the bitch.

The bitch is unique when her estrous cycle is compared to that of other domestic species. The bitch ovulates her eggs into a progesterone environment rather than estrogen as occurs in other domestic species. Estrogen measurement (vaginal smears, breeding guns), therefore, cannot be used for ovulation timing in the canine. When a natural breeding is performed, the semen is deposited in the vagina and "pumped" into the uterus by hormonal release stimulated by the tie. The lumen of the cervix in the average size bitch in estrous, is approximately the diameter of the insert in a Bic pen. The "Z"shape of the cervical lumen also prevents the insertion of even a small size catheter into the uterus.

The ova that the bitch ovulates are not ready for fertilization until a final meiotic division takes place. The time for ova maturation is a minimum of 48 hours post ovulation. This factor is especially important when short lived semen such as frozen semen is being used. Frozen semen is thought to only live 12-24 hours in the uterus after thawing and insemination. Frozen semen is only minimally effective when deposited vaginally (less than 20% conception success in one study), and not into the uterus. Is it any wonder that the initial impressions of canine frozen semen were less than spectacular!?

Currently, however, the use of frozen semen and fresh-cooled semen is every bit as effective as natural breeding. One of the main reasons for the conception success is the understanding by both breeders and veterinarians that the artificial insemination methods must be properly timed, properly performed and that certain bitches and types of semen require different methods of insemination.

If both breeding participants are present, fertile and ovulation timed ready, a natural breeding is performed. If for some reason a natural cannot be achieved, then a vaginal artificial insemination is used to breed the bitch. The technique requires specific procedures be performed.

The male's semen is collected. This is achieved by manual stimulation. The collector needs to obtain the second fraction of the ejaculate (the milky, sperm rich portion) stopping the collection when the third fraction starts (watery in appearance) which consists of prostatic fluid.

The bitch should have her rear end elevated for the artificial insemination procedure. This positioning facilitates the semen's deposition and flow to the cervical opening, a necessary for the semen being in position to be "pumped" into the uterus. The inseminator should digitally stoke the roof of the vaginal tract (also called "feathering") for 1-2 minutes after insemination. This technique simulates the tie of a natural breeding. The bitch's rear should be elevated for 2-3 minutes post-insemination.

# So Whats this AI stuff all about continued

The necessity to bypass the cervix and place the semen into the uterine lumen is beneficial in improving the conception rates in numerous situations. These include the use of frozen semen, fresh cooled semen, poor semen quality and in situations where examination of the bitch's uterus is desired.

Two methods are used to achieve the intrauterine deposition of semen, the transcervical insemination and the surgical insemination. These techniques each have their own usage guidelines and one does not replace the other as has been mistakenly represented to dog breeders.

The transcervical insemination (TCI) is performed with the bitch in a standing position. No sedation nor anesthesia is required. A fiber optic cystourethoscope is used vaginally to visualize the opening to the cervix. A flexible catheter is maneuvered through the cervix into the uterus. It is important that the breeder realize that the veterinarian is not visualizing the inside of the uterus and this technique does not allow for evaluation of the uterus.

The TCI procedure is visualized on a television monitor and does allow for examination of the vaginal tract, however. The semen is gently pushed through the catheter from a syringe. The veterinarian can visualize that the semen flows easily into the uterus and does not flow back into the vaginal tract.

The transcervical insemination does not replace the surgical insemination as it does not allow for uterine evaluation, but is a significant improvement over the vaginal method of artificial insemination. The TCI is recommended for any type semen, especially frozen and fresh-cooled and can significantly increase conception when poor quality semen and lowered sperm numbers are used. The TCI technique should be used in bitches less than 5 years of age where there is not a reason to suspect uterine changes or uterine disease.

The surgical method of artificial insemination is especially useful when breeding "middle age" and older bitches (5years of age and older). The unique biology of the bitch exposes the uterine lining to the inflammatory effects of progesterone for 60+ days, whether she is pregnant or not, accounts for the progressive changes in the uterus from a normal endometrium to cystic endometrial hyperplasia. These changes eventually render the bitch prone to such diseases as mucometrium and pyometritis. Pyometritis is a hormonal disease with a secondary infection, not a primary infection of the uterus.

The changes to the uterine lining can affect conception in many ways. The endometrial cysts can affect the semen's ability to reach the fallopian tubes where conception occurs (regardless of the method of insemination). The cystic changes can also prevent implantation of the fertilized ova, which occurs 17-18 days after ovulation and can inhibit placental development and growth.

A surgical insemination is a minor surgical procedure that allows the surgeon to inject the semen directly into the uterus. As the surgeon has the uterus in his hands, cysts, uterine wall thickness and muscular texture can be evaluated. There is no more accurate method to perform this vital examine. In many bitches, that have a surgical insemination, corrections can be made to the uterus that allow for conception to occur. A bitch's greatest chance of conception is by having a surgical semen implant.

A pre-surgical blood value examination is performed on the bitch, which is also beneficial to assure good prebreeding health. The surgical procedure is performed under sterile conditions.

# So Whats this AI stuff all about continued

The bitch is given a short acting intravenous injection of Propofol. An endotracheal tube is placed and the bitch is connected to a gas anesthetic, Sevothane. Even though the total surgical time is usually no longer than 10-15 minutes the bitch is connected to surgical monitoring.

A 2-3 inch incision is made on the abdomen through the skin and underlying muscle. The uterus is isolated and evaluated. The semen, whether fresh collected, fresh chilled or frozen, is inseminated though a small hypodermic needle into the uterus. The veterinary surgeon can see and feel the uterus fill as the semen is deposited. There is no incision in the uterus proper. The incision is sutured and in most cases the bitch is sent home within an hour post-surgically.

A bitch that has had surgical inseminations is not more prone to needing a ceasarean section nor having whelping difficulties. Having a surgical insemination does not decrease the number of times a bitch can be bred. A surgical insemination should be considered anytime there is a reason to evaluate the uterus (bitches 5 years and older) or where the semen being used can benefit from intrauterine implantation.

Our whole goal when breeding a bitch is to maximize the chances for conception. The manner and method that the semen is placed into the bitch should be evaluated critically as to whether a natural breeding, vaginal insemination, transcervical insemination or surgical intrauterine implant, gives the bitch the greatest chance of conception. Ultimately this will allow us to have the litter of which we have planned and dreamed.

***O.K. so why should all this matter to the normal hunter or owner?***

*For one reason and one reason only! It is absolutely necessary to save the purebred Korthals Griffon. The sharing of bloodlines world wide can make a tremendous difference in providing fresh bloodlines around the world for breeders to work with. This may be where your next puppy comes from.*

*I can say with over 30 years in breeding dogs that I have tried both methods of artificial insemination. The United States because of its size and extremes in weather from one side to the other can make it almost impossible to breed outside of your own area. My state of Oregon is the area size of Germany. This makes it impossible to breed many states away when airlines will not accept dog shipments in extreme temperatures of cold or hot and driving is not possible. This has expended our view of the different possibilities in breeding our dogs.*

*I have had a long term experience with the International Canine Semen bank located in Oregon who is a leader in not only Canine semen collection and storage but all animals around the world. Professor Platz has 43 years of research and has produced litters from frozen semen collected and storage for 38 yrs. ICSB now has offices around the world. His insemination method is exceptional!*

*I started out with collecting my K.S. Yoli Rothenuffeln- GSP and have collected several of my later KG Stud dogs. I have used both natural breedings (when possible), Transcervical with no success on GSP or WPG, and Surgical Insemination with 100% live puppies. With one male/female we were gifted with several litters of 14 puppies with frozen semen. This was long after the male was no longer living and with no ill effects from the female or the puppies who were very healthy and robust and have gone on to produce well. I can only say my AI experience with my Griffons is a very positive one. I did not have success with transcervial. Barbara*

# The Korthals Breed today!

As we wind down somewhat from hunting season, our thoughts may turn to what we are going to do next year if our hunting buddy has started to age. The focus of the KGCA has been to educate about the dire situation the Korthals Griffon (Wirehaired Pointing Griffon) is in worldwide. The discovery of a hybrid mix in the breed has been devastating in terms of pure breeding stock to continue this wonderful breed that holds Edward Korthals name. He was a knowledgeable breeder who understood the genetics and necessity to fix the reproduction type through his breeding program. This led to a breed that would reproduce a uniform dog in size, shape, and hunting ability. A breed standard and International clubs supporting this new breed soon followed. It is a small gene pool and a rare breed, which has remained the walking gentleman's hunting dog not the large running stylish competition dog.

In the last 30 years the desire to compete against other breeds in field events and show events has fundamentally caused changes to the breed. The desire for a more competitive field dog provided an opportunity for greater puppy sales for a breeder and additional stud services for the top winners in their venues. The goal of most clubs developed as "Breed Clubs" is to protect against major changes and remain true to the established breed standard developed by the forefathers. This has taken a detour in the desire to compete for the Korthals Griffon thru the introduction of another breed into the lines whether by mistake or on purpose.

A "pure" Korthals is ***very, very, very rare*** today and becoming even more rare with the reduction of pure dogs to breed. I am saying this after entering over 20,000 dogs into my database for the pedigrees to be tracked over a 30 year period. I have an additional 2500 more from old German Studbooks soon to be available. It has commonly been thought in the United States that a pure KG could be found in Germany to prop up the bloodlines anywhere in the world. However, the entries that I have entered so far, shows this to be ***untrue***. The extremely wide use of a popular field or show Stud dog can diminish the bloodlines to the point in our case of complete elimination of the purebred if there is a hereditary defect. In our case the data can be traced back to a single litter with a popular field sire "Under du Ruisseau Du Massacre" LOF17921. His offspring brought the issue to light with the discovery of tan markings, which are not allowed in the breed and historically mentioned as a sign of an outcross. An excellent article by Carol Ptak titled "Wirehaired Pointing Griffon-Breed Improvement or destruction?" has tracked the indicator of the tan point gene back thru those dogs DNA tested. The lines and breeding can be traced back to the single litter. A link to this article can be found on the KGCA facebook page or at gryphonranch.com.

So how does that help us now? Those purebred dogs that are left need to be the source for new breeding stock for the future of the breed. For once we need to put our own interests aside and 1. Let breeders know if you have a pure male dog that can be bred and has health clearances. 2. Do you have an intact female with health clearances that can have a litter of puppies with an appropriate male? A few litters would do wonders towards establishing additional breeding dogs for the future if placed correctly. Owners need to try to save the breed with any pure pedigreed dog that may still be intact. If this is not done, that may be the last one you or your family will ever have. We all love our dogs! I have placed most of my dogs with hunters that have neutered them for better hunting and family dogs. This is a common occurrence with most breeders. That is what has placed the breed in jeopardy! We now have almost no "pure" dogs left. The KGCA can give information from my database on pedigrees that are rated under the KGCA system, so I encourage everyone that may have a pure un-neutered dog to be add. This will allow for a better selection with more pedigrees to choose from.

This really is URGENT and must be done soon to save the Pure Korthals Griffon. The hybrids have left the breed with reduced lifespans, smaller litters, increased cases of previously unknown diseases, and many rescues being dumped at shelters. Lets breed the pure back into the breed! Barbara Young

# Keeping It Spic & Span & Test

*Good Sanitation is very critical to canine health. It is commonly thought that the word kennel is believed to have originated in France as a description for a pack of hounds and the place the hounds were kept. Over the centuries, man and dog have developed an ongoing cooperative relationship. As this relationship developed man constructed special quarters for is animals and often the kennels reflected the status of the masters.*

*Today most small breeding programs are not kennels in the usual sense of the word. They are not constructed of rows and rows of dog runs with a building. However, in small operations dogs can be housed in smaller quarters where they are moved in and out to exercise areas. Regardless of the accommodations, sanitation is of the upmost importance. This of course means keeping poop picked up on a frequent basis and sanitizing the area accordingly. This is vital for the health of the dogs for it is easier to prevent disease and worms than to try to get rid of them later. Worms (Roundworms, Tapeworms and Hookworms) are the biggest issue that is spread thru lack of sanitation however more dangerous in today's world can be brucellous which if spread from one dog to another can cause sterilization. So what is it? Here is a short overview: "It is a bacterial infection which affects the reproductive organs of both male and female. The disease is spread by body fluids, with main route of transmission being by sexual means. In addition to sexual means ingesting contaminated fluids such as vaginal discharge or urine can transmit the disease. Airborne transmission is very rare but has been reported. The disease spreads quickly among dogs that are kept in closely confined areas especially during breeding times and when abortions occur."(AKC Canine Health Foundation) akccchf.org can give you a greater description of the Symptoms, Diagnosis, Treatment and Care.*

*The modern world of convenient travel to field events, dog shows and parks opens the door for this disease to be spread unless careful. In the past full kennels have been wiped out with one infected dog. Sadly the recommend treatment is euthanasia. It is recommended to always test the male and female for Brucellosis prior to breeding.*

***Barbara***

**Penn Vet** Dr.Nicola Mason Bone Cancer Vaccine update (***WPG's have been diagnosed with Osteosarcoma***)
It is now over 16 months since the first dog diagnosed with spontaneous osteosarcoma received an experimental bone cancer vaccine at the University of Pennsylvania's School of Veterinary Medicine. The vaccine is being administered to pet dogs that have been diagnosed with osteosarcoma, an aggressive tumor that affects the long bones of large and giant breed dogs. With current standard of care, that consists of amputation and follow up chemotherapy, median survival times are between 200 and 300 days. The aim of the vaccine, given to dogs after amputation and chemotherapy, is to prevent metastatic disease and prolong overall survival. Of the first 5 dogs vaccinated in this clinical trial, 4 of the dogs are still alive and have survived between 500 and 590 days; three of these dogs are tumor free. Other dogs have been vaccinated more recently so long term survival data for these dogs is not yet available. "These results are really very exciting" Dr. Nicola Mason, the lead investigator on the trial explains. "They suggest that the vaccine is able to stimulate an effective anti-tumor immune response that is able to kill microscopic metastatic cells and prevent tumor recurrence in these dogs." Importantly, the vaccine appears to be safe. Only low-grade toxicities consisting of a mild fever and occasionally one episode of vomiting the same day as vaccination have been reported. There have been no long or short-term complications observed with the vaccine. The results are highly promising and a larger phase II clinical trial is now being planned at Penn and at collaborating sites including Colorado State University and the University of Florida.
If you would like to learn more about the clinical trial, are interested in enrolling your dog, or wish to support Dr. Mason's research, visit http://www.vet.upenn.edu/…/centers-in…/canine-cancer-studies.

# Prepare for your dogs!

This past week, a well known Sheltieowner/handler had a massive heart attack and stroke, and passed away yesterday. She had 18 of her own dogs that her family and friends are doing their best for foster homes, rehoming, etc. Another Sheltie owner/handler posted the following to Facebook, and urged everyone to share the idea. I thought it had some good food for thought and discussion: Permission to share and cross post. I hope others find this helpful and USE it!

Friends, breeders, show folks, and pet families.... In light of recent events, I will offer this idea and even a challenge.

Please prepare for your animals in an emergency in the event that you can't. ....

What happens if something happens to you? What happens to your animals immediately and in the following days?

Here is an easy idea.... Select a 'buddy', someone you trust. Have a master list in the club of whom is everyone's buddy... that way one club member doesn't have all of your dog info (and everyone else's.. that would be too big of a job)... just a list of who has possession of each other's trusted buddy/friend with their info. Maybe even post the buddy list on your club roster... easy to access in an emergency. Give your buddy a list of your dogs... including pictures, names, chip #, co owners, breeders, medial info... and most importantly, who will care for each dog in the event of an emergency or your death. Post copies of the list, and who your 'buddy'/ emergency contact and their phone numbers and other contact information in your kennel building/room and post a note on your fridge directing people to this list and the name of the buddy. Remember to update the list with new dogs, ones that you place, old ones that pass away... AND visitors, etc.! Note in your wills that this document/plan is in place. Wills are nice and necessary... but animal control and emergency workers don't look for wills first... This should fill the gap if you become ill and for the time it takes to find the will.

This idea helps ensure safety of your dogs in the event of an emergency so things like recent events within the dog community don't happen to you and your dogs. Don't let what has happened in the past, happen to your dogs. Please make plans for them now.

Hope some like this idea... just needed to get this off of my chest.


Last Will & Testaments

I just recently updated my Last Will & Testament and researched this section for my own information. What I found was that most Attorney's were not familiar with animal law and its provisions. Our pets play an extremely significant role in our lives and we would hate to have them turned into a humane society and euthanized. It would be like turning in a family member.

There are many sites online that you can use to educate yourself on the subject and I've listed a few below but don't put off making the provisions. We never know when our time will come.

Sites to explore:

- animallaw.info
- americanbar.org (this covers the 3 legal documents for pet Protection: Wills, Pet Trusts, and Pet Protection Agreements.
- pettrustlawyer.com (rather an interesting and thought-provoking article.

Barbara

# Dog Breeders-Who are they?

In my experience there are many kinds of Dog Breeders. I know how confusing it must be for someone to tackle the job of finding a puppy. I thought I would offers some definitions based upon common knowledge and my experience. These are generalized and not meant to describe any specific breeder or kennel.

A general description of what a dog breeder's goal should be is to improve the quality or merits of the breed. This is where experience and a feel for the decisions to be made often times out weights the scientific decisions made. Dog breeding can be guided by scientific information but few successful breeders will rely and follow the scientific method as their only guideline. Breeding dogs is a crapshoot with any given match between two dogs. The experienced breeder will be able to follow the success or failure thru their line and select for those genes that are most desirable. All the ancestors will not be the same or carry the desired traits, which is why most will do some breeding within close relatives to produce the desired characteristics.

So what characteristics should a buyer look for in the Korthals Griffon? This question can only be decided by what your ultimate desire is for your dog. I could say the past will determine the present use of the offspring. If you are looking for a hunting or field dog, one could assume you would look for a puppy from field parents. In the past this was a given for the Korthals Griffon, because most were used for personal hunting dogs by the walking hunter. It was called the "Gentleman's Hunting Dog" for good reason. It was meant to work closer, be more meticulous, have great desire to please, work in both field and water but be easy to live with. The older breeders cherished these characteristics and their breedings reflected the true dog established by Edward Korthals.

In my experience the dogs of the past were of two types: German bred were heavier in bone, sometimes larger with a variety of med. length coats. French bred dogs were higher in leg, not as heavy in the head and darker in color.

Fast forward to today, we have a different dog based upon the desires of a different breeder community. I'm going to do a short description on what I have seen.

*Longterm breeders of over 20 yrs with the old ideas of breeding hunting dogs. These breeders are rare and this category does not include longterm show breeders.

*Newer breeders of 10-20 yrs that are doing their best with the pedigrees they have but without historical knowledge. Decisions might be made by who might be scoring high in field events or winning big in Dog Shows.

*Profit breeders who breed just for the extra income.

*Show breeders who produce dogs based upon looks rather than field ability.

So how does one find a good dog from a breeder?

- I would suggest reading as much as possible before your search starts. In the KG read the white paper on the hybrid mix listed on the front of the newsletter and explore what this means in the breed.
- Start looking at pedigrees by entering a search at my online database for 10 generations with a dogs name or parents you might be interested in.
- Verify health clearances thru OFFA or by a copy of ratings from Pennhip.
- Ask lots of questions! Is there a written guarantee? What happens if there is a problem? Who picks my puppy? References? Transportation? Refunds?

In looking for a breeder pick someone who you feel comfortable with. Be honest about the purpose you are going to use the dog for. Look at the size of the parents if you are hunting. Check the temperament, health guarantees, and talk to as many people as possible about where they got their dog and their success or failure. Good Luck! Barbara

# Korthals Griffon Club of America

"Preserving the purebred Ultimate Hunting Companion"

## Membership Application

**$30 per year per individual $35 per year per household**

Name(s)_____

As you wish the mailing label to read.

Address_____

City_____State_____Zip Code_____

Phone Numbers: Home (___)_____ Work (___)_____

Fax (___)_____ Email address:

_____

Your interests are: _____

_____

What would you like to see, do or get from KGCA? _____

_____

Make your checks payable to: KGCA

Mail to:
KGCA
2610 Quince St
Eugene, OR 97404-2029

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL IS DUE ON OR BEFORE January 31.

By this application you agree to the club objective of maintaining and breeding only the purebred Korthals Griffon. This is defined by the pedigree of the individual dog.

## Nomination for Officers and Board 2015

*I nominate the following individual(s) for the office(s) listed:*

*Signed:*_____ *date:*_____

President: _____

Vice President:_____

Secretary:_____

Treasurer:_____

Board Member #1_____

Board Member #2_____

Board Member #3_____

I would like to serve the KGCA in the following position:

Newsletter Editor:_____

Field Committee:_____

Ways & Means Committee: _____

Other:_____

This is a small club so we need everyone's assistance in establishing a presence for the purebred Korthals Griffon. This is the breed we all love. A few people cannot ensure the success of saving this breed. Your help is essential!