

KORTHALS GRIFFON CLUB OF AMERICA



Formed to preserve the
Authentic Korthals Griffon

A tribute to the family Griff



www.korthals-griffon.us

Facebook-Korthals Griffon Club of America

The club is officially a 501 (c) (6)

Issue #6 April 2014

Officers



President:
Carol Ptak



Vice President:
Katherine March



Secretary/Treasurer:
Barbara Young



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 crossbreeds 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."

President's Message

The KGCA is growing by leaps and bounds. The Facebook page currently has almost 70 members on it. Colleen Porter, a Korthals Griffon breeder from the UK, has purchased memberships for all the purchasers of puppies from her last litter. Even though the KGCA is the American group, Colleen felt strongly that the UK needed to support what is going on here to preserve the breed. If you are a breeder, would you consider doing the same?

In our last board meeting we discussed about posting litters on the Facebook page. The purpose of the KGCA is to unite people interested in preserving the breed as Korthals intended and to eliminate the impact of the outcross that was described in the last President's message. The club is contacted frequently by hunters looking for hunting dogs – not hybrids. These hunters have no interest in learning how to read a pedigree – they just want an authentic Korthals griffon. To this end, the board discussed how the KGCA could help. The idea discussed was if anyone posts a stud dog, brood bitch or a litter on the website then the KGCA would provide a rating for that litter by the degree of outcross in that litter. Posting on the KGCA list is agreement to having the rating posted with the dog. The rating system would be as simple as grades in school – A, B, C, D. The KGCA would consider only those dogs with an “A” rating to be authentic Korthals griffons. However the club also realizes how scarce these dogs are and understands the need of a breeder to possibly use breeding stock with one outcross. The KGCA does not endorse nor challenge any breeder's decision. It is the intent to provide information to the purchasing public on available litters.

- **“A” rating** would be a litter with no genetic evidence of an outcross on either the sire or dam's pedigree.
- **“B” rating** would be a litter where there is one outcross on either side within a 10 generation pedigree.
- **“C” rating** would be a litter where there is either more than one outcross on one side or there is one outcross on both sides.
- **“D” rating** would be a litter with multiple incidences of the outcross on both sides.

Several breeders have some of the wonderful historic stud dogs frozen and available through artificial insemination. The board encourages those breeders to make that known to the authentic Korthals Griffon community. The KGCA is about education – for the breeders to make good decisions and for the buyer to understand what they are purchasing.

Another thing discussed at the last board meeting was to try and get the breed separated in the conformation ring as well. The general consensus was that this could be a very difficult and expensive road that really does not benefit the breed. Unless a dog is a ky/ky genetics, it can be difficult for a judge to be able to differentiate between the hybrid Wirehaired Pointing Griffon and authentic Korthals Griffon. Since the KGCA is all about ensuring the continuance of the breed as a “ultimate foot hunting companion”, the board decided to expend time and resource on education and awareness instead.

Some significant updates to the website are planned as well. To help us understand where the interest is coming from, we will be implementing Google analytics on the website. In addition, a PayPal button is going to be added for those people wishing to become a member or just make a donation to the cause. Won't you consider making a donation to help the club continue its work? How about volunteering in a leadership position. We all realize that this is truly a labor of love. For me, I want to believe that when I am ready for my next hunting dog that I will still be able to find a 100% authentic Korthals griffon. Pass the word and make that a reality for you as well. Best wishes and happy summer!

Carol Ptak

Vice Presidents Message

Rattler Time



As I write we are in that narrow seasonal window when we neither have to worry about slipping on the ice nor stepping on a rattlesnake. Still, a major factor in choosing our Eastern Washington life is the proximity to the birds and public land on which to hunt and recreate. It's for the dogs. We finally gave in to vaccinating the dogs for rattler venom last year after one dog was bitten by the snake at left. It was a light, one fang puncture, and we spent 3 hours with the vet on a Sunday afternoon. We have an oasis in the shrub steppe—ideal snake habitat. In twenty years we have dealt with 3 dog bites, and one horse bite, giving antivenin to one dog that was at death's door. "Ah, she has not snake-trained the dog", you might think. Our dogs are taught as puppies to stay away from any snake, and they do that when they see them. However, we know that adult humans are snake-trained, but they still get bitten, and that's because like our dogs, they stumble across these beasts that move at lightening speed. If you are going to be in snake habitat, either think about somewhere else to go, or talk to your veterinarian about vaccination. We were fortunate to save one dog with antivenin, but often you cannot get it when you need it.

Katherine

CHIC Update

What is CHIC-Canine Health Information Center, which is maintained by OFA to encourage breed specific health testing to benefit breeders, puppy buyers and researchers. Parent Clubs decide on the required testing for each breed. All the information is kept by OFA and tests are listed on its site. A CHIC number is issued with the completion of the required tests. The CHIC database is on the OFA site.

What CHIC is not-It is not a "Good Housekeeping Seal of Approval". The CHIC number only indicates the required tests have been performed, not passed. Breeders and puppy buyers should ask for copies of the test results or look at the OFA website for more detailed information on the results of the tests.

Responsible breeding requires the knowledge of the tests in the CHIC program and the specific requirements for each breed.

What are the Different Types of Health Tests? Most of the test available at this time are tests looking at the condition of the dog at a certain point in time. This means the dog meets screening criteria at the time examined.

CURRENT TESTS FOR WPG'S IN USA

Eye Examination by a boarded ACVO Ophthalmologist after the age of 12 months.

- *Results registered with OFA or
- *Results registered with CERF

Elbow Dysplasia

- *OFA Evaluation or
- *OVC Evaluation

Hip Dysplasia

- *OFA Evaluation - or
- *OVC Evaluation - or
- * PennHip Evaluation

WEB SITE: offa.org

*Note- In addition to the breed specific requirements above, a CHIC requirement across all participating breeds is that the dog must be permanently identified via microchip or tattoo in order to qualify for a CHIC number.

Secretary/treasurer Message

KGCA Meeting Minutes

GotoMeeting

March 3, 2014 9:00

Present: Carol Ptak, Barbara Young, Katherine March

President Reports:

Carol Ptak called the meeting to order and suggested items for discussion.

Secretary/Treasurer:

Barbara Young gave an update on new member applications with paid memberships, and a financial report of \$221.64 in the checking account with all bills paid.

Old Business:

1. Votes on Constitution and Breed Standard were review and confirmed. These will be posted on our web site. The final votes were to keep the size at 22-24" for males and 20"-22" for females, retain the requirement for docking tails and penalize the size if above the standard.
2. KGCA facebook was discussed with a review of the ads for puppies being placed on the site. All agreed the club should limit advertising of litters.
3. Carol provided an update on the proposed logo for the club and it was decided to expand the search. Barbara will search in the Eugene Area.
4. Katherine updated the Board on the Health website that was under construction. It was decided to add the portions of the health site to the KGCA web page. Katherine to forward to Carol for inclusion.

New Business:

1. A schedule was determined for the Newsletter with it going out to the membership in Jan-April-July-Oct around the middle of the month. All reports and information to be received by the first of the months it is to be out.
2. A recommended rating system of:
 - (A) Being clear for 10 generations of the determinable hybrid mix.
 - (B) Having one verifiable case of the hybrid mix in 10 generations.
 - (C) Having multiple cases of the hybrid mix in 10 generations breedable dogs.
 - (U) A complete pedigree unavailable to determine pure or mix.

A certificate on the dog was suggested to assist buyers and breeders.

3. The move ahead with applying for recognition to the UKC for the KG was discussed and approved. Katherine will contact the UKC and report back to the board with the requirements.

Meeting adjourned 10:30

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Young



Field Training Session- Flushing the Bird



First - I feel truly blessed to have a training group to train with. One of the members of that training group – Dr. Lily Lo – has taken it on herself to pursue her other calling – one of a videographer. She has done an absolutely AWESOME job creating a series of how to videos on training your own dog. The stars of the show are different dogs in our little group from a variety of breeds. Yes, we made sure to include as many as our beloved fuzzy faces as possible. We will be including this on our KGCA website as a resource for members. If you want to take a sneak peek go to:

http://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLlp4Vyyvw24DalvBh1f28GZE_BhV0bVbPR

The funny thing was when Lily posted this to the pointing Lab website, the first hit she got was from some griffon people in Michigan – small world!! This is not to say this is THE way to train your griffon – however it is a proven approach that does work well with our breed. The only necessary condition is that the dog likes birds.

Now onto our article for this newsletter. The assumption coming into this step is that you have completed the previous step described in the last newsletter. Your dog should be able to find a bird, establish point and when the bird is flushed watch the bird fly away without lunging or moving. It is at this point you need help from a couple of assistants. This is where training as a group really comes in handy. The goal of this step is to get you in front of the dog to flush the bird. We have conditioned our dogs that when we pass next to them that they should follow us so this is a difficult step. Adding to that motivation is a bird sitting right there. This next step requires you to quarter your dog across the scent cone as before. When the dog establishes point then drop your check cord on the ground. Have an assistant come up and stand on the check cord behind the dog. The reason for this is that you want to remove the person from the dog's sight but at the same time help the dog to be successful and make the right choice. You move forward to flush the bird. Try to not walk directly by the dog's nose. Make a small circle to the bird.

The same rules apply here for the person handling the launcher. If the dog takes a step or moves at all as you pass the dog's nose then the bird should be immediately launched into the air. If the dog attempts to chase it then the person stepping on the check cord will stop the dog. We have people just stand on the check cord to remove the inclination to pick up the check cord and put pressure on the dog's neck. The dog has to choose the correct behavior and with your team you will make this the easy choice. Also hopefully you have been working on overlaying the e-collar with the check cord and you will “nick” the dog with a very low level of stimulation so they understand the desired behavior is to stop moving. A “nick” is a very short tap on the e-collar. We typically use a level 1. Many trainers think that more is better but in the Gibbons/West world – less is more. We don't want to lose any of the excitement or style in this step. Think about how reactive a dog is when they are sleeping and a fly lands on them. They do not need to be clobbered with a high degree of electricity to get your point across. We make is a policy in our training group that before you can use an e-collar on your dog, you have to use it on your own neck. A level 1 nick is something that many people can't even feel on their bare hand and most feel when it is on the more sensitive area of the human neck. The dog has a coat between the collar and their neck – but still level 1 works. Less is more. The e-collar is there as a reminder. You teach with the leather collar.

This overlay technique will be discussed in the next column. We call it working “on” the bird or “around” the bird. Working around the bird provides excellent opportunity to build the contact point and understanding that the e-collar means the same thing as the leather pinch collar.

Field Training Session- Flushing the Bird- Continued

This can be a critical moment so timing is essential. This also reinforces why pigeons are a great training bird. If you make a mistake at least the mistake is made on a non-game bird. If the dog stands and does not require a correction then give the dog lots and lots of praise. Remember that a behavior that is rewarded will continue. They need to know they are right. When you get this response then stop your training session for the day. You don't want to do too many repetitions.

Griffons are particularly smart. If you continue to ask them over and over again in the same session for the same behavior, the dog will get confused and start offering other undesirable behaviors. Better to have a short training session and build rather than a long one and dig yourself a hole that will take many sessions to get out of. I know that we all like to see our dog on point but don't overdo it!

Next article – working on a bird versus around the bird and creating the overlay of the leather collar and the e-collar.

Basic Tick Identification



The most difficult part of identifying a tick is knowing what to look for. First is to recognize the pest is a tick, and then determine what group the tick belongs to. It sounds very simple enough but because ticks are small and difficult to see, it can be a challenge. We find ticks usually after they have fed and attached themselves to our dogs and us. One amazing thing is that ticks can enlarge in size 20-50 times when engorged with blood and look nothing like before engorgement. Each species pictured shows the female tick from normal through three levels of engorgement.

Lone Star tick female. She is easy to identify because of the white spot located on the dorsal shield, which does not change throughout the engorgement. By using the dorsal shield as the reference, you can make the identification.

Deer Tick-This group includes the Western black-legged, Black legged, Deer tick and many others. They all look alike and transmit the same variety of disease like Lyme disease. In the nymphs stage they are very tiny, about the size of this period “,” while engorged they are about the size of the “o”.

Brown dog Tick- Can be at times mistaken for the Deer tick in later stages of engorgement because of the dark spot of the dorsal shield. The most noticeable difference between the two is that the mouthparts are shorter on the Brown dog tick. Attachment of humans is very uncommon.

American dog Tick-It looks very much like the Gulf Coast tick and the Rocky Mountain Wood tick. It is located basically along a line drawn from Montana to South Texas. The American dog tick favors the east while the Rocky Mt. wood tick favors the west.

Additional information can be found at www.tickinfo.com

Worldwide Hip Scores

ORTHOPEDIC FOUNDATION FOR ANIMAL-USA

Evaluations fall into seven different categories:

NORMAL
Excellent
Good
Fair

BORDERLINE

DYSPLASTIC
Mild
Moderate
Severe

There are three independent evaluations with each classifying the hips in one of the above 7 categories.

The final hip grade is decided by a consensus of the 3 independent outside evaluations.

The hip grades of Excellent, Good and Fair are within normal limits and are given OFA numbers. These numbers are listed in the public domain.

Radiographs of Borderline, Mild, Moderate and Severely dysplastic hip grades are not made public or available without the owners consent.
See: offa.org for more information.

BRITISH VETERINARY ASSOCIATION HIP SCHEME

British evaluations fall into the following ratings:

0-4 total score: perfect or near perfect hips.
5-10 total score: borderline changes that are unlikely to worsen with age.
11-20 total score: mild changes that may worsen with age, sometimes developing into osteoarthritis
21-50 total score: moderate to marked hip dysplasia in which osteoarthritis is already a prominent feature, or severe hip dysplasia before arthritic change.
Above 50: severe to very severe osteoarthritis secondary to hip dysplasia.
A Scoring of each hip is done, with a joint certificate issued with totals.
Two examiners assess the radiographs, and agree on a score using 9 anatomical features.

For specific detailed information go to:
www.bva.co.uk/public/documents/interpretation-and-use-of-BVA-KC_Hip-Scores.pdf

GERMAN HIP SCHEME

The German hip rating from x-rays, fall into the following levels:

A1 & A2 HD-Free
(Breedable)

B1 & B2 Transitional or borderline.
(May still breed)

C1 & C2 Light HD
(Breeding Ban)

D1 & D2 Moderate or Medium HD
(Breeding Ban)

E1 & E2 Severe HD
(Breeding Ban)

These score are recorded in their Hunde-Stammbuch and with their field testing scores.

At the time of printing I have not determined if they are located on their pedigrees.

FRENCH HIP SCHEME

The Evaluation of hips used in France depends upon the severity of the disease. There are 5 levels of evaluation certifications.

A-Normal Hips

B-Intermediate stage (almost normal hips)

C-Mild Dysplasia (stage I)

D-Average dysplasia (stage II)

E-Severe Dysplasia (stage III and stage IV without dislocation with dislocation is invalid)

Dogs must be 1 year of age and will be interpreted by an official reader.

Professor Lignereux or Dr Legeard

A certificate will be issued which will be sent with the pedigree for registration.

The rating will appear on the pedigree of the descendants.

How About that Vacation!



Spring is here, and it's vacation time for many of us. The airplane trip to Hawaii could be a daunting trip for your dog; the leash law in Federal parks, and in most State parks greatly reduces the outdoor experience for your pal; grandma has six cats, etc. So you need a pet sitter. That word drives me to shiver, lose my appetite, and think about vacationing at home, which I do every day anyway. Let's see why I just skipped a trip to Tanzania, and turned down an invitation to raft the Grand Canyon for two weeks:

- Before we knew much about pig ears I left a sitter with instructions to not feed more than one a day. Upon our return a week later the bag of 24 was gone, the floor in front of the treat stash was fashionable "distressed", and we had a dog with pancreatitis. She was also temporarily head shy.
- My dog was invited to stay with trusted friends. The minute I got home I called to say I couldn't wait to see her. "Great", said my best friend. He admitted when I showed up that his wife had been out looking for her when I called. She found her, and our friendship continues while I avoid taking care of his "pet" boa.
- Another trusted friend stayed at our house to take care of the dog he was crazy about. The pool room was a mine field of poop when we arrived home, indicating that Sadie had not been let out enough. She got out at least once to the road with the horse when the trusted friend turned the horse out on the lawn because it was growing too much, and he left the gate open because he "thought they knew to stay home", and had forgotten that "The grass is always greener..."
- Then the boyfriend was left in charge. In the days of flea collars I learned that my dog got sick from the fresh ones. Thus, I instructed the now ex-boyfriend to hang it outside for the rest of the week. He put it on immediately, and was up all night cleaning up diarrhea.
- Another dog sitter was up all night cleaning up birdseed and poop after my setter got bored, and checked out the woodshed. After a while only seed came shooting out.
- When we are home my dogs know to not go through a door to the outside without an "OK". It didn't work with the sitter when the dogs got out the front door to the unfenced portion of the yard, and went hunting on the back 40. I had been wise to show the sitter how to use the whistle.
- Preparing our dog for NAVHDA we needed to get him used to chukar. We left him at the best trainer, who does not run a kennel, and has the best ever setup where the dogs get to sleep in the house. Although he was worked on birds every day, and treated like the prince that he is, he went on a 5 day hunger strike.

While my husband does the Grand Canyon I will vacation at home, and while I go horse packing he will do the "homecation". I dread the day we head out for a trip together because it would mean we have no dogs.

The British Beat!

When I returned to the UK to live, once settled in, I began to search for a replacement for NAVHDA. I became involved with NAVHDA as a result of obtaining my first Korthals Griffon Scout, now 10 years old, who entered my life and changed it forever. Because of the encouragement from Scout's breeder Barbara Young, I got involved, learned how to shoot, and then let Scout teach me how to hunt.

I figured the best place to start was go where they sell the guns, so I went in to a 163 year old gunsmith shop looking for some information on dog and hunting activities. The first thing that was so very obvious to me was the lack of color: no fluorescence's, no blaze orange. It was all varying shades of brown and green. Tweeds, suede, leather and of course lots of waxed clothing. There were breeches with knee socks with fancy tassels on the sides, shirts and ties with tweed waist coats, all attire for the shooter. There were also side by sides and over and unders ranging from £5,000 to £20,000. You can't be serious. Where's my orange ammo vest, my blaze baseball cap, my camo cargo pants, my first \$60 Remington 20 gauge pump that I bought off the shelf at Bass Pro? Not here Madam. So I loaded up with my "British" gear; wellies and a waxed coat, essentials for dog walking in English weather and the shopkeeper and I got to chatting, as you do when you have an accent and are seen as a Yank tourist who is spending an exorbitant amount of money. He told me I should get involved with a "shoot". He explained that unless you are wealthy enough to own your own estate or have a lot of property with hunting grounds, finding an opportunity to hunt with my girl would be virtually impossible. He suggested I get involved with NOBS- the National Organisation of Beaters and Pickers Up.....what? He went on to explain that beating and picking up is an essential part of any successful shoot.

A 'beater' is a person who has the job of flushing birds such as pheasants or grouse from cover in the direction of the guns and work as part of a team normally led by the Gamekeeper or Underkeeper through woodland or other cover such as game crops to make sure that the birds fly in the desired direction. Their job is to investigate every bit of cover in the wood and flush the birds out using a stick. He then went on to explain that dogs can also be used in the beating line but need to be steady and under full control so that the birds are flushed as the keeper desires. The kind of dogs usually found in the beating line he said were mostly Spaniels and Labradors, but all kinds of dogs have been trained for the role.

'Picking up' is vital on any shoot where a large number of birds will be shot. Pickers up are people who stand behind the line of guns on a shoot and use their dogs to retrieve all the shot game. A shoot can have any number of pickers up depending on the size and expected bag of the shoot. Many of the pickers up have more than one dog so that they can cover large areas behind the line of guns. It is important that the dog is fully trained to retrieve shot or wounded game so that it is not damaged by a hard mouthed or inexperienced dog. The dog should be able to note the positions of shot birds so that they can be picked up as soon as possible. Pickers up should be aware of how the keeper wants them to operate, both during and after the drive has finished. Sometimes the guns may have their own dogs which they would like to retrieve their birds and the picker up is asked to respect their wishes. Pickers up should be in a position well back from the guns so that not only are they safe, but they have a good view of the proceedings, where each bird lands and what is happening next.

I joined NOBS but struggled to find a shoot looking for new beaters in my area but this last season I was very, very lucky to find an estate shoot looking for beaters at Dorfold Hall a Jacobean country house built in 1616 in Nantwich, a historical market town a mere 15 minutes from my home. Blessings all around as I soon discovered in that getting on a shoot at all is very hard as the Game and Underkeepers are very selective about who they have on their shoots and if you have a decent dog and good personality you are in for life, so these opportunities are few and far between. People will often drive 2-4 hours to be part of a shoot. Convincing a group of dire hard Spaniel and Retriever people that an HPR could get the job done with better control was no small feat particularly when you are asking them to accept a breed



The British Beat Continued!



breed where there are less than 300 total registered in the country. For every gun on this shoot my Korthals was the first they had ever seen. We have a beauty of a Wirehaired Vizsla who does a cracking job, particularly as a picker upper, but she is happy to sit at the peg with the guns waiting for the retrieve. A Korthals will not enjoy this and as a result do not make good peg dogs. They will love the difficult water retrieve and pond search but quickly bore with the lack of the hunt when sitting waiting for a bird to drop. After the third beating day, where an extremely obedient and cooperative 3 year old Maggie displayed some beautiful staunch points and well controlled flushes, we earned a permanent place on the shoot. Maggie my third KG has had all the benefit of the mistakes I made with Scout, the lessons I learned through the NAVHDA program and the patience and sensitivity taught to me by Charlie my 6 year old rescue. We earned a permanent place on the shoot. There is a wonderful camaraderie between the guns, beaters and picker uppers on this shoot as well as great opportunities to train a dog, particularly on steadiness. It can get frustrating for my girl when she is held tight and an over exuberant Cocker comes up from behind and busts her point but she stays the course knowing she is the good girl and the Cocker the naughty dog but honestly, the day is always full of laughter, sportsmanship, lovely food and a few aperitifs to keep us warm in the field.

At the end of the season, in early February, the shoot hosts a 'Beater's Day' where anyone known to the members is welcome and where those beaters wishing to shoot, can do so. A day where the 'guns' beat for the beaters, thanking us for a season's job well done. The kids and friends come along and it is a great day out culminating in a gun salute to Nantwich town, and whilst I always enjoy taking a shooting post, I would not want to be a permanent gun – I love working Maggie way too much.

We get back together starting in May to begin the clean up of the bird pens and feeders where the poults have been raised in preparing them to be released. The beginning of the season begins with the dogs pushing the young birds up so they will learn to fly up and over the pen fencing. Shooting season for pheasant starts proper on October 1 and ends February 1.

I am delighted in that Maggie has actually converted a Spaniel-ite, who is having a little bitch from Maggie's first litter sired by Master Hunter Advanced and Grand Champion Zerubbabel von Herrenhausen the progeny of a great lineage introduced to a gene pool in dire straits. I am keeping a little bitch and so with Maggie that will put 3 Korthals and a total of 4 HPR's on our shoot. I would venture a guess that there are very few shoots in the UK with 4 HPR's and certainly none with 3 Korthals Griffons. Yeah. I hope we can get the word out here what wonderful working dogs these make and to help promote the breed, the pups from this litter and all future litters hopefully to come, are all going to family homes that shoot, beat or pick up.

So cheers from the UK and raise a tippie to the Korthals Griffon Ulster Lass von Herrenhausen, who clambered out of that dog crate at the airport some 10 years ago starting me on the most wonderful journey that continues in new and wonderful ways I could have only dreamt of.

Colleen Porter



Principles of Integrity

Many Clubs and Organizations provide provisions to protect and advance the interests of the breed, and to do all that is possible to bring the breed and its qualities to perfection. Here are some items to think about in our quest to preserve the Korthals Griffon.

1. The KGCA Constitution requires that we comply with all American Kennel Club rules and regulations. Some pages for your reference include:
 - a. USDA/APHIS updates on the Farm bill and how it may affect you as a breeder: http://www.akc.org/governmentrelations/usda_aphis.cfm
 - b. AKC Code of Sportsmanship: http://images.akc.org/pdf/AKC_code_of_sportsmanship.pdf
2. Maintain a high standard of health, care and cleanliness for our dogs and dogs entrusted to our care.
3. Act in a sportsmanlike manner and not deliberately degrade other individuals or their dogs.
4. Make every effort to learn about the structure, anatomy, action, behavior and other inheritable traits of the breed. To use this information to adhere to the breed standard and produce sound, healthy dogs with good temperament.
5. To provide breeding service only to registered stock that is believed to be free of serious abnormalities, which are considered inheritable.
6. Purchase or sell with a written contract/agreement, signed by both parties, for each sale or service which includes all special conditions related to the sale or service at the time of the transaction. This would include agreements for spay and neuter if required.
7. Provide each buyer with an accurate written record on health and pedigree, for each dog purchased, leased, or used for breeding.
8. Truthfully represent the dog being sold in terms of quality, health and genetic history.
9. Refuse to sell to commercial wholesalers, retailers or to research laboratories.
10. Any dog on whose papers you are shown as the breeder or co-breeder should become a part of any breed rescue program, that upon written notification, you will assume financial responsibility for those expenses and assist the rescue in placing in a suitable home, or assume custody of the dog.



Health Topics

New Guidelines

American Heartworm Society

The American Heartworm Society (AHS) has revised its guidelines for dogs in response to changes in heartworm medication resistance. There is documented presence of a “resistant subpopulations of heartworms”. AHS recommends antigen testing as the most sensitive diagnostic method when screening. The organization recommends the microfilaria testing be done at the same time as antigen testing to determine the stage of heartworms if they are present. In addition, new guidelines recommend that administration of a macrocyclic lactone preventive coupled with a doxycyclone to suppress the growth of heartworms in the body, weaken adult heartworms and decrease post-treatment complications. Obviously, everyone should talk to their veterinarians. Additional information can be found at the website: www.heartwormsociety.org

New Parvo Test

A new test has been developed by researchers at Kansas State University to detect a newer, emerging strain of parvovirus. Canine parvovirus is a highly contagious disease that causes hemorrhagic disease, particularly in unvaccinated dogs and puppies. A new test has been developed to detect the virus strain that might be causing the disease. Veterinarians can send samples for testing to Kansas State Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory, 1800 Denison Ave, Manhattan, KS

Preventing Procreation

A new idea for male dogs! If we leave the gonads intact, how can we prevent breeding? The obvious solution is to keep them away from bitches in heat. But if not, the solution is a vasectomy. It does not prevent unwanted behaviors but does provide the hormone support for the dog. Not all Vets perform vasectomies nor are they taught this procedure. The methodology is described and any board-certified surgeon can learn the technique. Could this be the answer to a future of healthier dogs?

Blue-Green Algae Toxicosis

Although it is a bit early to think about getting the dogs out for early water work, with the warm weather we have had in some parts of the country. Dogs particularly are naturally attracted to ponds and water of all sizes, small and large. Blue –green algae are microscopic organisms that form colonies in water under favorable conditions. Stagnant water, fertilizer runoff, marshlands without access to water turnover are likely areas in which algae will thrive. There are several types of algae that can produce illness in dogs, even death in some cases. The signs of possible blue-green algae poisoning are vomiting, diarrhea, anorexia, lethargy, liver failure and death. The lethal dose of toxins produced in the dog’s body is not known and few cases of poisoning have been documented in the U.S. There are no widely available, inexpensive tests to confirm blue-green algae poisoning, but common sense would indicate that if your dog has been swimming in algae-living water it should be taken to a Veterinarian quickly and treated as if it had ingested poisonous plant materials.