



"Formed to preserve the Authentic Korthals Griffon"

www.korthalsgriffon.com

Facebook-Korthals Griffon Club of America

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

Officers



President:
Carol Ptak



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Katherine March



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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 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."

President's Message

So What is Old?

We have three griffons ages 12 ½, 10 and 8. According to the AKC all three dogs are veterans but when is a dog old? When we just moved into our new home, I went to visit a neighbor. Out came this large white dog with a matted coat and hairy toes. The dog clearly was having difficulty getting around. My reaction was to think, "Awww, what a good old farm dog. Clearly this dog was at the end of a long life." So I asked the age. The owner nodded and said that yes, this was a very old dog. He had just turned 6! Six?? I thought to myself that six is not old but this dog was clearly very old. That made me think about what is old.

Old is not a chronological number. Old is when function decreases. A few weeks ago I had the opportunity to run our 12 ½ year old (when you have a dog over 10 it is funny how the halves start coming in) in an AKC hunt test. People were amazed at her age and yet she stayed right there with her brace mate. After a 2-year hiatus due to the move this was our first hunt test in Arizona and she qualified for her 5th MH leg. One more leg for her to earn her MH title. Unfortunately, that was the last hunt test of the season in Arizona. So now we either drive to a different state or we wait until fall – but will she be too old? Do you run a 13-year-old in a hunt test? Is that too old?

We got our Sara as a retired brood bitch for my husband. One of our two boys was supposed to be for him but you know how that goes. Both boys are clearly my dog and are my constant companions except when we are hunting and then they hunt for my husband (it doesn't take the dogs long to figure out I can't hit the broad side of a barn and my husband is a crack shot). Sara has had the opportunity to hunt her whole life but in the first 6 years she had no formal advanced training. She was exposed to birds and taken hunting but no additional training to steady her to wing, shot and fall. Sara was NAVHDA evaluated for Natural Ability at five months old and earned a Prize II. In addition, she had earned her AKC JH title as well as her AKC Championship title.

Sara was bred four times starting at the age of 2 and produced a total of 44 puppies. All the puppies were healthy and she took care of her litters herself -whelping and nursing with no intervention or assistance. It took me several years to talk her breeder out of her but we successfully got her when she was done as a brood bitch. The breeder placed her with us for her "retirement". Since I love to train, Sara started her advanced formal training at almost 7 – an age that the old farm dog was clearly very old. Was Sara old? She was fit, structurally sound and had a great nose. Since there was a training group that met at our place regularly we figured, why not? It took longer because of her age but she quickly learned what was expected and earned her first 4 qualifying scores and then the move caused us to step away from training for a couple years.

On advice from a good friend, we pulled her out this year and took her to an Arizona Pointing Dog Club trial. This is a fun trial run like a NSTRA event and they have three classes – one for puppies, one for green broke and one for broke dogs. The puppy and green broke stakes can be run with an e-collar on so we entered. from the organizers that we had made an error on the entry on Sara's birthday. They were concerned that I had entered a dog that was under 2 years old in a green broke stake and that she belonged in puppy. I had to explain that she wasn't 2, she was 12. They were very concerned about running a 12 year old in 4 runs

President's Message Continued

over the weekend. I assured them if it was too much for her, we would pull out but please take our money. The event was just what we had needed. Sara had decided in competition that she did not need to back. Our last hunt tests in Washington we went 0 for 4 hunt tests because of a 0 on backing. One hunt test the judge literally had tears in his eyes because Sara had worked 5 finds perfectly during her 30-minute run. All she had to do was back and instead she went hunting. In our first AZPDC run, we got exactly the correction we needed. Yes, she pouted a bit after that but by the next morning she ran beautifully and was flawless in her work. So, back to training to get her ready for the double/double hunt test in a few weeks. She was back to the top of her game and then 3 days before the hunt test, they canceled. ARGH!! I had sacrificed my work schedule for the rest of the year to open up that weekend. Finally, we could attend one several months later and with no additional time to work her. My same good friend said, she knows what she is doing go ahead and enter her so we did and she qualified. Now our eyes are on that MH title prize. Sara's puppies are having puppies and those puppies are having puppies. She may be the oldest griffon on record in years to finish a MH title but this is not an old dog. She is fit and structurally sound.

Sara's son just turned 10 this week. Z is a Grand Champion and MHA so he was retired several years ago. He goes hunting and been used for breeding a couple litters. One of my 4H kids from Washington is now a Juniors AKC judge and she posted on her Facebook site that she was coming to Arizona to judge a show. I thought it would be fun to see her and we haven't stepped into the show ring in several years. Why go to a dog show to just visit? I emailed the superintendent and got a premium list. When it arrived I noticed the judge on Friday is a wonderful breeder judge who knows the breed standard for the griffon. Could I really take a 10-year old into the show ring for 2 days? Z's coat is harsh and only needs a trim to get ready for the ring. He still moves like a dream because he is fit and structurally sound. Why not? We can just go, enjoy the experience and enjoy the time together. He gets to stay at grandma's house and get lots of cookies. We have nothing to prove. There is nothing in the ring for us. We are going to go and just have fun. I love to show and when he decides he is in the mood – he can catch the judge's eye. It will be interesting – the show is in a couple weeks. I need to make sure he can still walk on a leash since he hasn't been on one in several years.

By chronology both of these dogs are old but are they old? One of the biggest reasons we were attracted to the breed 16 years ago was their long lives and low incidence of health issues. In the research of the breed, we watched CH Jerome von Herrenhausen win best of breed at Westminster in 2000 and then had the opportunity to see this dog in person when he won the National Specialty from the VETERANS class! Griffons were healthy working dogs that could be enjoyed for many years. We had come from Labs with all their health issues and just lost our beloved Lab to a disease that was unheard of in griffons. Griffons are versatile. A griffon could retrieve a duck or goose and be that hunting companion we had with our labs for duck hunting. Also they point and retrieve upland birds. And for good measure, they can blood trail a wounded deer. Griffons became our breed!

Then something happened. Without knowing it, the breed was changed. Longer coats starting appearing in the show ring. Different head structures were noted. Elbow dysplasia is noted. Hip dysplasia rose. Dogs were dying earlier. Reports of epilepsy, diabetes, auto immune disease, cancer and other disorders previously unheard of were becoming more

President's Message Continued

common. In the last specialty we participated it was difficult to see that these were the same breed of dogs, and then we discovered they weren't.

An outcross happened in France and without breeders in this continent knowing it these hybrids were imported and the tan point coloration appeared. Tan point is not a color that exists in the breed. In fact, Castaing calls it out specifically in his book on the griffon that "this is evidence of misalliance" – a nice way to say there is something else in there. The color is NOT the issue – it was only an indicator that something else was in there other than Korthals Griffon. Unfortunately, the hybrid dogs did have the initial hybrid vigor and did lots of winning in the show and in the field. Breeders flocked to breed to these winning dogs. The contaminated genes spread quickly and no breeder was spared. As these genes reinforced after several breeding, the health problems emerged. Everyone was affected but didn't know it at the time. Even the DNA testing databases were contaminated such that a hybrid tests as a Wirehaired pointing griffon.

The KGCA was founded to EDUCATE breeders and buyers alike on the choices available. This is not about color; this is about health. There is still some genuine Korthals Griffons in this country and around the world. We have the benefit today of communication through email, Facebook and other groups to share that information. We can import clean breeding stock. Please join the Facebook group. Let everyone know where there is genuine breeding stock. If you have genuine Korthals Griffons, please breed only to other genuine griffons or to a dog that has only one outcross in 10 generations. If you have genuine studs, consider collecting them and saving the frozen semen. Together we can recover our breed. The KGCA is about educating breeders and buyers to have dogs that are chronologically long lived and not old.

Things to Do When Your Dog Starts Losing His Hearing

If we're fortunate enough to have them live to old age, at some point, most of our canine companions begin to lose their hearing and may eventually be, for all intents and purposes, deaf. It's painful to watch a beloved dog become less and less responsive to his environment because he's unaware of what's going on around him, and even more so when it limits your ability to communicate with him. The thought of a hearing-impaired dog wandering off and not being able to hear your calls is frightening. Here are some things you can do if your dog's hearing isn't what it used to be:

Use hand signals. Every time our dogs reach the old-age-can't-hear stage I appreciate having taught them basic hand signals as well as verbal cues. Since dogs communicate primarily through body language, hand signals are easy to teach, especially if you do it when your dog can still hear well. As your dog ages, it's a great opportunity to expand your visual cue vocabulary. Some owners use American Sign Language (ASL) to communicate with their hearing-impaired dogs.

Run interference at home. This is all about management. If you have a multi-dog household, one or more of your other dogs make take offense when your geriatric pal doesn't respond quickly enough to their signals - because he doesn't hear them, and therefore doesn't look and notice their body language. Manage your household to prevent encounter that cause tension due to his lack of hearing and subsequent lack of response. This often includes keeping potential problem dogs separated when you are not home.

Vice President's Message

Is your dog carrying around extra groceries? We might refer to that as fat, but how could our athletes get fat? I use the hot and smoky excuse/reason. Last summer we had record wildfires, and high temperatures to go with that. The health department warned everyone to stay inside, and to not work our animals. As I walked to the barn with my respirator on, and the dogs gave me that look that we all know, all I could do was appease my separation anxiety with a treat for them. Coulee is a dog I am so proud of, and I had an opportunity last fall to show him off to his breeder (Barbara Young). She said something about an Old English Sheepdog, and it wasn't all hair.

I am not showing any of my dogs, and I have not been stripping them, so who would know that his broad beam was not all hair? It's like walking around in sweats all the time. They cover everything. The basic rule is you should be able to feel the ribs, but not see them, so we might deny the weight gain, telling ourselves that the dog looks fat because of all that hair. Well, what could I do but strip enough hair off Coulee to make another Griff, and go back to the exercise program? We returned to the field and mountains now, and I would be glad to have Barbara see him. A GPS tracker told me the other day that the dogs went 18 miles to my 4.5. They would have gone all day.

Whatever the reason, it's not that difficult for weight to sneak up on our dogs. We all know that a tendency to gain weight can increase with spay or neuter, age, or a sedentary life. Also, studies have shown obesity will contribute to a long list of health problems in both humans and their domestic partners. Recent studies support the theory that joint problems, that we all dread (cruciate, elbow and hip) are associated with overweight.

In the US we have a human obesity epidemic, but that should not happen with the dogs that do not have control of what they eat (except for my Lab that dug up my potato harvest). Learn from my mistake, keep your dogs fit, and donate all that savings on dog groceries to a rescue operation.

Happy hiking.

Four Surprising Signs - Your Dog Needs a Vet

- 1 **Bad breath:** Generally a sign of bacteria buildup of plaque which can affect the heart.
- 2 **Changes in behavior.** Accidents, growls at the kids and potty accidents are symptoms of urinary tract or kidney issues.
- 3 **Dandruff:** Dry, dull or flaky coat could mean diet problems or under active thyroid.
- 4 **Drinking more water:** Unless it's hot, check for: kidneys, diabetes or hyperthyroidism.

Changes Sought for Rabies Vaccinations

LAWS BASED ON SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH

The American Holistic Veterinary Medical Association (AHVMA) became the first national veterinary organization to support efforts by Kansas State Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory (KSVDL) to improve rabies testing with a modified screening test to determine if veterinary patients need to receive rabies booster vaccinations to maintain protective immunity. The AHVMA and its members have long expressed concern over animal vaccination practices. While vaccinations provide important protection against a wide number of serious diseases, they can also cause adverse effects ranging from minor discomfort, autoimmune disorders and even death on rare occasions.

Veterinarians can offer serum antibody titers, a form of blood testing which is helpful in predicting the need for revaccination. This practice is helpful to reduce the potential dangers to pets from receiving unneeded vaccinations. Currently, laws regulating rabies vaccination are set locally and statewide and may not allow for the use of blood antibody testing to avoid mandatory rabies revaccination. To comply with the law, veterinarians and pet owners vaccinate at prescribed intervals regardless of existing immunity. This practice was developed to protect public health in a time when vaccine titers were not offered by veterinarians, but it increases the risk of vaccine adverse-events for our dog and cat patients.

Recent research at the Rabies Challenge Fund suggests immunity from rabies vaccination lasts much longer than the usual one to three year interval required by current laws. This study added significant evidence that we may be over vaccinating for rabies in our pet population. Public health officials have expressed concern that reducing vaccination for rabies could increase the incidence of this deadly disease. To date legislatures and public health agencies have resisted changing rabies vaccination laws to reflect current knowledge about rabies vaccine duration of protection.

Rabies vaccinations can be associated with a number of significant, well-documented adverse effects. These include localized swelling and pain, fever, chronic hair loss, ulcerative dermatitis, encephalitis, vasculitis, seizures, vaccine-related cancer and anaphylactic shock. Pet guardians whose animals have suffered such illness are very concerned about revaccination. If they fail to keep the vaccination current based upon current legal requirements, they may be penalized in several ways depending upon existing legal statutes.

KSVDL recently announced the modification of the established rabies antibody test (Rapid Fluorescent Focus Inhibition Test) to rapidly screen immunity to rabies virus. Once properly vaccinated, such testing can be used to identify if the individual has an antibody level indicative of protection from rabies. If an animal undergoes testing and is found to have adequate protection, the AHVMA supports reform of public health laws that require automatic revaccination. Such booster vaccinations may not be medically necessary. This new testing procedure allows screening for continued rabies vaccine response. This allows veterinarians and pet guardians to effectively decide upon a path that reduces risks of an adverse effect for individual animals while protecting any public health concerns.



Rabies Vaccinations Continued

In 2015, AHVMA participated as the KSVDL Rabies Lab conducted a survey to gather data from members about their policies regarding dog and cat vaccinations, including rabies vaccination. AHVMA respondents reported: 92% gave rabies vaccinations.

- 76% routinely offered titers for core vaccines after completion of the initial vaccine series.
- 34% offered titers for rabies after completion of the initial 2-dose series.
- 75% would measure rabies titers if the Compendium changes its stance to equate out-of-date rabies vaccine status the same way as they do animals current on rabies vaccines.

Until legal changes occur, animal guardians and veterinarians must comply with existing legal statutes. Rabies serum antibody titering can be performed for information, documentation, and to satisfy export and import requirements, but this does not replace the legal requirement for rabies booster vaccinations. It is the hope of both organizations that through cooperation and advancements in science we can illustrate our dedication to better health and safety for people and animals. As science advances we must update public policy to reflect our new understandings. This new testing is a great example of such cooperative efforts.

Other Facts About Rabies and Rabies Titers

If a person or animal is bitten by a dog, cat or ferret, the animal causing the bite should be observed for 10 days. If the animal remains healthy, then one can be assured that there was no rabies virus in the saliva at the time of the bite. Whether that observation occurs at home or at a clinic should not be determined by vaccine status. Remember also that even in areas where terrestrial rabies is not active, that rabies in bats is seen nationwide.

A review of rabies challenge-studies indicates that there is a positive correlation between rabies virus neutralizing antibody (RVNA) titers and the level of protection after virus challenge. Pre-exposure vaccination coupled with a RVNA titer at or above 0.5 IU/mL indicates greater assurance of protection than does the animal's current vaccination status alone.

Because we may not know if an animal has been exposed to rabies virus, the KSU Rabies Lab recommends that rabies titers be done routinely for dogs and cats. A yearly rabies titer would provide information on the pet's rabies immunity status to guide booster decisions that would provide the best protection from unknown exposures. The circulating rabies neutralizing antibody level does not last the lifetime of the pet. In vaccine trials, as the titer falls below 0.5 IU/ml the risk of contracting rabies after challenge goes up. Thus, when rabies titers drop below 0.5 IU/ml, giving a rabies booster is the prudent, safe decision.

Significant post-rabies adverse reactions are an issue not only for dogs and cats, but also are of serious concern for horses, as they must be given rabies boosters annually. Many horses have incredibly high rabies blood antibody titers, and yet still must be revaccinated annually by law, and then can suffer a chronic disease state post-rabies vaccination. Neutralizing antibody is neutralizing antibody, no matter the species; the goal is to confirm success of the 0.5 IU/ml level in horses as well.

AVMA Health Smart Brief (Lab Modifies Rabies Titer Test; August 14, 2015)

KSVDL scientists are exploring the protection offered by rabies vaccination, and they have modified the rabies titer test for animals. If an animal's rabies titer is 0.5 international units per milliliter or more, the animal may be considered protected from rabies and might need a booster only if exposed to disease. "We are certainly not against vaccinations; we are against rabies," said researcher Rolan Davis. "We are looking for the best ways to prevent rabies in animals and humans." Rabies Challenge Fund Research Trial Studies

The Rabies Challenge Fund research trials are approaching the 7th year. Co-Founders, Kris Christine and Dr. Jean Dodds, have raised private funding for these trials, which are being conducted by Drs. Ron Schultz and Laurie Larson, University of Wisconsin School of Veterinary Medicine. W. Jean Dodds, DVM Hemopet / NutriScan

Secretary/Treasurers Report

It has been a busy time personally for all of us at the helm of the KGCA. The sale of my home in Eugene, Oregon and purchase of a home in Nampa, ID and the move that was involved took most of my time. In addition a small litter was whelped by Diva and Simon producing some exceptional pups. It is with excitement that I approach the coming year with the possibility these pups offer to the breed. The original authentic Korthals bloodlines are extremely rare world wide which was the purpose of the breeding. I have for 40 years supported the advancement of the pure Korthals Griffon.

Last year saw tremendous strides in the breed by the formation of another club in England to promote the pure Korthals Griffon. The awareness of the general public is growing about the issues associated with the mixing of two separate breeds. This technique has been tried before in several breeds to try to eliminate specific defects. One very controlled one time breeding was between the Pointer and Dalmation. It was noted in the study that all the negative aspects of the breeds were passed on to the other breed in the puppies. We have found that same conclusion with our own breed with the tremendous increase in health problems, which were never an issue in the past. It really is heart breaking to get a call from an owner that after spending thousands of dollars to try and save their pup, to see it have to be put down at under a year of age. That's not how it should be! So I think it is very important for everyone to be aware that there is a problem. It is not a color problem! Color (tan point) is only an indicator that the mix took place. All the puppies in a given litter carry the same genes. If any are tested KBky they all have the possibility of carrying the same health genetics. It pays to look deeply into the pedigrees for the carriers and the cross which has been identified. Pedigrees are available on my website at: herrenhausensportingdogs.com. If yours is not there please send it to me to assist in the completion of pedigrees for others.

Additional Report

1. Our non-profit filing with the State of Oregon has been adjusted. Jocelyn Trammell has agreed to be our registered Agent for the Club since my move out of state. Also if you would like to be take an active part in the KGCA, please contact me. We have many jobs unfilled.
2. Our bank balance has remained the same with the exception of the fees paid for the club filing with the State of Oregon. The fee for filing was \$50.00, which I have donated to the club.
3. We continue to maintain a balance in our checking of \$737.73. Dues have not been billed as yet. We are a non-profit club with most of the work and time volunteered by its members. Donations are always appreciated.
4. Newsletter- please advise if you do not get your newsletters. We may not have the correct email address. Also please don't hesitate to contribute to the newsletter. Everyone loves new recipes for game, updates with pictures of recent hunts, good stories of hunts or anything else that seems appropriate. You know we are a hunting membership and we all like to see how everyone is doing.

Submitted by: Barbara Young
Secretary/Treasurer/Newsletter Editor

Heart Felt Condolences

*CH MACH Thrill Zeker V Herrenhausen
VCD1 GN RE JH MXS MJS MJP XF T2B*

The amazing accomplishments of one dog and devoted owner have made a team that will go down in the history books. We offer our condolences to Polly for the loss of Zeke recently. He was sure a dog of a lifetime! As his breeder, I can say we are very proud of both of you. Zeke accomplished every task put before him in field, show, obedience, rally, and agility. Thank you for everything you have done for the breed. My shared sorrow for your loss and condolences from the Griffon fancy.



Feeding your Dog

SWEET POTATOES VERSUS WHITE POTATOES: WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE FOR YOUR PET?

There's a famous old song with the lyrics, "You say potato, I say *potah*to; let's call the whole thing off." The songwriters obviously weren't intending to compare the nutritional characteristics of white potatoes and sweet potatoes when they penned that line, but it's not such a stretch. Navigating the white potato versus sweet potato maze can at times be confusing. So, let's get to the root of this potato mystery and explain it once and for all.

Two Potatoes: two species You might be surprised to discover that sweet potatoes are not just orange-colored white potatoes. Sweet potatoes and Russet potatoes, the most common white "baking" potato, come from completely different botanical families.

Russet potatoes are part of the Solanaceae family, which belongs to the nightshade group of plants. Many species of the Solanaceae family, including potatoes, naturally produce nitrogen-containing compounds called glycoalkaloids. Potatoes and other edible plants including eggplants, peppers and tomatoes produce glycoalkaloids as a natural defense against predators such as animals, insects and fungi. Glycoalkaloids are natural toxins that act as the plant's natural pesticide and fungicide. You know those green spots sometimes evident on white potatoes? They indicate the presence of increased levels of glycoalkaloids and should be discarded, as should white potatoes that are already sprouting or bruised.

Glycoalkaloids affect the nervous system by disrupting membranes and the body's regulation of acetylcholine, a chemical responsible for conducting nerve impulses. Signs of nightshade toxicity include headache, nausea, fatigue, vomiting, abdominal pain and diarrhea.

Some researchers believe that glycoalkaloids can damage the joints by producing inflammation and contributing to loss of calcium from bone, but this has not been proven.

In addition, studies show that glycoalkaloids in doses normally available while eating white potatoes can cause the membranes that line the intestines to become permeable ("leaky"); disrupting the intestinal barrier can initiate or aggravate Irritable Bowel Disease (IBD). This fact flies in the face of the common and successful use of potatoes that are included as a "bland" carbohydrate source, to be fed as a limited ingredient diet for animals with "leaky gut" and IBD.

Sweet potatoes are a completely different plant species than white potatoes. Sweet potatoes belong to the Convolvulaceae family and are known by the scientific name of *Ipomoea batatas*.

Since sweet potatoes are not nightshade plants, they do not produce toxic glycoalkaloids. A switch from white potatoes to sweet potatoes might be warranted if your dog suffers from a neurological, or unresolved gastrointestinal or inflammatory health issue.

Further, sweet potatoes contain many health-promoting properties.

Carotenoids, the pigments that give sweet potatoes their lovely orange hue, are powerful antioxidants with a variety of health benefits, including:

- Pre-cursors to vitamin A, which is essential for a healthy body
- Boost immune function, increasing the ability to fight infections, especially viral infections
- Increased immune function that helps protect against cancer
- Maintains healthy lining of the digestive tract, respiratory tract and skin
- Improves retinal function, particularly night vision
- Reduces inflammation

Sweet potatoes also contain more fiber than white potatoes; fiber slows the rate at which sweet potatoes break down into glucose (sugar) and are absorbed into the blood stream. Not surprisingly, white potatoes rank high on the glycemic index (GI), which measures how much a particular food raises blood sugar levels compared to pure glucose (glucose rates 100 on the glycemic index). According to Harvard Medical School, a baked white potato has a glycemic index of 111, which means that it raises blood sugar 111% as much as pure glucose! Sweet potatoes have a lower GI of 70.

Feeding your Dog Continued

While the GI of sweet potatoes might also seem high, sweet potatoes are shown to modulate and even improve blood sugar regulation! Sweet potatoes contain adiponectin, a protein hormone produced by fat cells that modulates insulin metabolism. Low levels of adiponectin are associated with people who have poorly-regulated insulin metabolism, while those with healthy insulin metabolism tend to have higher levels of adiponectin. So, while sweet potatoes are safe for even diabetics to eat, they should avoid consuming high GI white potatoes.

Sweet potatoes and gastrointestinal health In an earlier post, we discussed the use soluble fiber in the form of pumpkin to control diarrhea in pets. As we mentioned, there are two types of fiber – soluble and insoluble – and most foods contain a combination of the two.

- Soluble fiber absorbs water from the digestive tract, forming a gel-like substance that slows down the digestive process. Soluble fiber is found in foods such as oats, peas, beans, apples, citrus fruits, carrots, barley, psyllium, pumpkin, potatoes and sweet potatoes.
- Insoluble fiber adds bulk to the stool and tends to speed up the passage of food through the digestive tract. Insoluble fiber is found in foods such as whole-wheat flour, wheat bran, nuts, beans and certain vegetables such as cauliflower and green beans. (Vorvick, 2012; University of Maryland, 2011; Mayo Clinic, 2012)

Sweet potatoes, like pumpkin, are a good source of soluble fiber that can help regulate your pet's digestive tract. However, when choosing between pumpkin and sweet potato, be aware that sweet potato contains more than double the calories than pumpkin, which can then "pack on the pounds".

The bottom line

Clearly, sweet potatoes are a superior source of nutrition for companion animals than white potatoes. Advantages of sweet potatoes:

- Boost immune function
- Lots of healthy antioxidants, including vitamin A and carotenoids
- More fiber than white potatoes
- No toxic glycoalkaloids
- Protect against disease
- Help modulate insulin regulation

Try steaming some sweet potato for a healthy and delicious addition to your pet's diet. And, remember to always introduce new foods slowly; even healthy foods can provide "too much of a good" thing if introduced too quickly to delicate stomachs!

W. Jean Dodds, DVM

[Hemopet / NutriScan](#) 11561 Salinaz Avenue Garden Grove, CA 92843

New Goose Recipe

This is a favorite at my house.

Remove breast from goose. Add one jar of salsa with two breasts. (pick your own temp, we like a medium flavor).

Place meat and salsa in crock pot for 10 - 12 hours or till meat falls apart like tender roast.

Add tortilla shells, beans, sour cream or whatever you put on tacos or burritos and enjoy!

Prevent Bad Chewing Habits from the Start

Puppies are notorious for their ability to chew on anything and everything. If you're at all dog-savvy you know when you get a new puppy that despite your best efforts to manage and supervise, you're likely to lose at least one valuable personal possession to the razor-sharp implements known fondly as puppy teeth.

Puppies chew to explore their world as well as to relieve the pain and irritation of teething. What many dog owners don't seem to realize is that while puppies sooner or later get beyond the stage where they feel compelled to put their teeth on everything they see, mature dogs also need to chew to exercise their jaws, massage their gums, clean their teeth, and to relieve stress and boredom. It comes as an unpleasant surprise to many owners that chewing doesn't end at the age of six months when all of the dog's adult teeth are grown in.

Puppies develop substrate preferences for elimination in the early months of their lives, and they similarly develop chew-object preferences. Hence the inadvisability of giving your old shoes or socks as chew toys.

If you give your baby dog the run of the house and he learns to chew on Oriental carpets, sofa cushions, and coffee table legs, you will likely end up with a dog who chooses to exercise his jaws and teeth on inappropriate objects for years to come. You'll find yourself crating him frequently even as an adult dog, or worse, exiling him to a lonely life in the backyard, where he can chew only on lawn furniture, loose fence boards, and the edges of your deck and hot tub.

Instead, focus your dog's fangs on approved chew toys at an early age and manage him well to prevent access to your stuff. In this way, he'll earn house privileges much sooner in life. By the end of his first year, you'll probably be able to leave him alone safely while you go out to dinner or shopping - or even while you're away at work.

Borrowed from a friend....

Drain the meat/birds in a strainer over at least 24 hours (in a fridge), you'll be amazed how much blood draws out the longer you leave it, make a rub, I grind up whole pepper corns, whole coriander seeds, coarse salt, oregano, turmeric and if you can find juniper berries they work the best on all game or venison, grind it all up and keep separate. Use 200ml white/red wine your preference, 100ml red vinegar, 50ml sunflower oil (softens meat) and 50-100ml olive oil, depends on how much meat, rub all the pieces with the rub and coat, put the rub inside the bird carcasses too if they're whole, add bay leaves, whole cloves, and whole cinnamon sticks to taste, also about a teaspoon of nutmeg to finish. Put in a closed container for another 24-48hrs and then cook the way you prefer, this works best as a stew, so with the stew cook with tomato paste/puree, some water and you can add carrots and celery if you like, on a low heat for about 3 hrs, depends again on the cut of meat. I use this same marinade and recipe for almost any cooking methods, from long cooking stews to roasts and even grills.

Review of Seizures/Epilepsy

DR. JEAN DODDS' PET HEALTH RESOURCE BLOG

CONSIDERED ONE OF THE FOREMOST EXPERTS IN PET HEALTHCARE, DR. DODDS FOCUSES ON VACCINATION PROTOCOLS, THYROID ISSUES AND NUTRITION.

VISIT HEMOPET.ORG OR NUTRISCAN.ORG FOR MORE INFORMATION.

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REVIEW OF SEIZURES/EPILEPSY IN ANIMALS

Coauthored with [Diana R. Laverdure](#) Dedicated to the memory of our dear friend and trailblazer, Joanne Carson, PhD, Founder of [Canine Epilepsy Guardian Angels](#)

Seizures are the most common neurological disorder in dogs (Wong, 2013). Witnessing a beloved dog in the throes of a seizure is terrifying; the fear that he will injure himself, that he shouldn't be left alone or that his quality of life will suffer so much that you will be forced to make a dire decision regarding his future are all enough to cause feelings of helplessness and constant stress in even the most resilient dog parent. But the good news is that seizures do not necessarily get worse over time, and there are proactive steps that can help reduce both their intensity and frequency (Canine Epilepsy Guardian Angels, 2011).

Minimizing the total number of seizures and decreasing their frequency is critical, since it's theorized that every time the brain has a seizure, it "learns" how to have the next seizure. This phenomenon is called "kindling," and essentially it means that the more seizures a dog has, the more likely he will continue to have them. It is a vicious cycle that becomes harder to break with each episode (Canine Epilepsy Guardian Angels, 2011).

Seizures result from abnormal bursts of electrical activity in the brain.

There are *three main types*:

- **Extracranial**, which are caused by outside factors that affect the brain, such as a poison or low blood sugar. Diagnosis is made via blood and urine tests.
- **Intracranial**, or **structural**, result when there is something wrong inside of the brain, such as a brain tumor. These are more worrisome and are diagnosed via MRI and spinal tap.
- **Idiopathic**, which are the most common type, result from a functional problem in the brain in which the neurons over-fire, causing the brain to become excessively excitable. Idiopathic seizures typically appear in dogs between one and five years of age and most commonly affect Cocker Spaniels, Labrador Retrievers and German Shepherds, although any breed can suffer from them (Wong, 2013).

Specific causes of seizures include:

- Brain tumors
- Certain medications
- Inflammation
- Hypoxia (inadequate levels of oxygen in the blood or tissues)
- Inherited structural problems in the skull or brain
- Metabolic diseases (e.g., diabetes mellitus, thyroid disease)
- Low blood sugar
- Meningitis
- *Strokes or clots
- *Tick-borne disease
- *Traumatic injuries
- *Viruses (e.g. distemper, rabies)
- Environmental toxins
- Infection
- Liver problems
- *Parasites
- *Sinus or ear infections
- *Stress
- *Systemic diseases (kidney/liver failure)
- * Vaccinosis (adverse effects of vaccines)

Review of Seizures/Epilepsy Continued

Eliminate Environmental Toxins and Other Exposures

Resistance to all disease involves an optimally functioning immune system, which can be damaged by environmental and food toxins. Many other types of toxins have been linked to neurological issues.

Certain flea and tick treatments are unsuitable for dogs with seizures. The topical spot-on flea and tick control products continue to raise concerns about their safety. In particular, products containing organophosphates and carbamates pose severe health risks and should not be used on pets. Organophosphates are neurotoxins that kill insects by interfering with the transmission of nerve signals in their brains and nervous systems. Like organophosphates, carbamates are toxic to the brain and nervous system. If the product label lists atropine as an antidote to poisoning, the product most likely contains carbamates.

Spot-on flea and tick products containing pyrethroids have gained popularity over the last decade, as they are considered to be less acutely toxic to birds and mammals than organophosphates and carbamates. However, these insecticides carry their own potential toxicity risks. Pyrethrins are botanical insecticides derived from certain species of chrysanthemums. They work by penetrating the nerve system and causing paralysis and eventual death of the target pests and have been linked with dizziness, headache, nausea, muscle twitching, reduced energy, changes in awareness, convulsions, loss of consciousness, hyperexcitability, tremors, profuse salivation and seizures in companion animals. Other flea and tick control products that are contraindicated for dogs prone to seizures are those containing spinosad (Comfortis®, Trifexis®), afoxolaner (NexGard™), or fluralaner (Bravecto™).

Vaccines are linked to seizures. Distemper, parvovirus, rabies and, presumably, other vaccines have been linked with polyneuropathy, a nerve disease that involves inflammation of several nerves. Symptoms of polyneuropathy include muscular atrophy (wasting away of the muscle), the inhibition or interruption of neuronal control of tissue and organ function, muscular excitation (stimulation of muscle fibers), incoordination (poor muscle control or coordination), weakness, and seizures. In addition, MLV (modified live virus) vaccines are associated with the development of temporary seizures in both puppies and adult dogs that belong to susceptible breeds or crossbreeds (Dodds, 2001).

Check Thyroid Function

Low thyroid function, known as hypothyroidism, can precipitate or aggravate existing seizure disorders. While the exact mechanism of how this works is unknown, it may relate to the important role thyroid hormones play in cellular metabolism of the central nervous system. In some cases, simply giving a hypothyroid dog the appropriate levels of thyroid medication reduces the severity and frequency of the seizures, and may even stop them altogether. If a dog has seizures, it's important that he has a full thyroid antibody test profile run including Total T4, Free T4, Total T3, Free T3, and Canine Thyroglobulin Autoantibody (TgAA). T3 Autoantibody (T3AA) and T4 Autoantibody (T4AA) can also be added. Since many veterinarians do not fully understand how to properly test for canine thyroid dysfunction, the condition often goes undiagnosed or misdiagnosed, and the dog unfortunately suffers unnecessarily. For this reason, it's critical to carry out the testing at a lab specializing in interpreting thyroid dysfunction in dogs, such as [Hemolife's diagnostics lab](#).

For more information on canine thyroid disorders, the most common endocrine dysfunction in dogs, please refer to our book, *The Canine Thyroid Epidemic*, DogWise Publishing, 2011.

Review of Seizures/Epilepsy Continued

Avoid Certain Dietary Ingredients

Dogs prone to seizures should **not** eat the following:

Foods that promote inflammation. Inflammation affects every organ in the body, including the brain, so it probably comes as no surprise that inflammation can cause seizures. Dogs prone to seizures should not consume any potentially inflammatory ingredients, including foods that trigger allergies or intolerances/sensitivities, such as chemical additives, wheat, corn, soy, beef or cow's milk products—but remember that it can also include any food that causes a problem for an individual dog. For dogs with seizures, we advise testing with [NutriScan](#) to identify any problematic food ingredients. In particular, never give products containing gluten to dogs with seizures, since gluten is specifically linked with neurological disorders, including epilepsy, and promotes autoimmune thyroiditis (Kresser, 2010; Hyman, 2013).

Foods that cause fluctuations in blood sugar. Sugars can disrupt the body's equilibrium or homeostasis, possibly leading to seizures (Wilson, 2013). Avoid giving seizure-prone dogs carbohydrates with a high glycemic index (GI), including honey, sugars, white rice, wheat, corn, white potatoes, carrots, and peas.

Foods containing glutamate and aspartate. Glutamate and aspartate are two excitatory non-essential amino acids (Stafstrom, 2004; Wilson, 2013). Foods high in these amino acids include: grains, especially wheat, barley and oats; all cow's milk products (opt instead for goat's milk, which is much lower); beans, especially soy, pinto, lima, black, navy and lentils; nuts, especially peanuts, cashews and pistachios; seeds, including sunflower and pumpkin; any food sweetened with aspartame, such as NutraSweet and Equal; rabbit; turkey; and monosodium glutamate (MSG), a glutamine salt. MSG is used in many prepared foods and can appear on pet food labels under a number of pseudonyms, including "hydrolyzed vegetable protein", "soy protein extract" and "textured vegetable protein" (Wilson, 2013). These foods should also be avoided in dogs with liver disease.

Rosemary and oregano. Rosemary is commonly added as an antioxidant and anti-inflammatory to commercial pet foods. While likely fine for most dogs, it is a neurotoxin that can promote seizures in vulnerable dogs. Oregano is also a powerful neurotoxin and should not be fed to epileptics.

Vitamin/mineral deficiencies and seizures. Many vitamins and minerals are important for normal functioning of the nervous system. Deficiencies in the minerals calcium, magnesium and sodium, for example, can affect electrical activity of brain cells and result in seizures (Schachter, 2006). Calcium and magnesium, as well as zinc, are also referred to as sedative minerals because they are calming for the nervous system (Wilson, 2013). Antioxidant vitamins (A, C and E) help boost the immune system and fight inflammation. Perhaps the most important vitamins to protect against seizures are the B vitamins.

Omega-3 Fatty Acids: Too Important to Ignore

Research on the effects of omega-3 fatty acids and epilepsy are still in the early stages, however, we believe that this important nutrient makes perfect sense to help combat seizures. Omega-3s contain potent anti-inflammatory properties, and inflammatory mediators are increased in epileptic patients. Omega-3s also increase seizure thresholds, promote optimal brain development and modulate neuronal excitability (Stafstrom, 2004; Yuen et al., 2005).

Ketogenic Diet: Proven Effective for People, but not for Dogs

A ketogenic diet contains high amounts of fat, low carbohydrates and moderate protein. Under normal circumstances, glucose broken down from carbohydrates is the primary form of dietary energy. By severely limiting carbohydrates (and thus glucose), the ketogenic diet mimics a constant state of starvation, forcing the body to burn fat for energy. The diet gets its name because the fat is converted to ketones that are utilized as energy in place of carbohydrates. Ketogenic diets are often used in people who do not respond to seizure medications, especially children. While it's uncertain why they work, about two-thirds of people on a ketogenic diet show significant improvement. But the diet can cause serious health problems, including GI tract upset, hyperlipidemia, renal calculi, stunted growth and pancreatitis (Carr, 2013).

(Additional information can be found on [Dr Jean Dodd's web site](#))

Congratulations

***“New Master Agility Champion”
Introducing
MACH Barret von Herrenhausen***



MASTER AGILITY CHAMPIONS

Wirehaired Pointing Griffons are making their mark in agility. Two years ago Polly Divens and her dog Zeke were the first pair of the breed to achieve a MACH (Master Agility Champion). Close behind is Tiffany Schmitke with her Barret, who with a recent check only needs 31 more points. Accumulation of the 750 points and the 20 Double Q's required for this title is complicated, but it requires a tremendous amount of time, travel, speed and precision. Polly and Tiffany live in Alaska, and travel from 3-6 hours one-way to compete in agility.

We asked them to provide some insight into agility and the dogs they partner with:

Agility continued

Polly Divens

"Choose a job you love, and you will never have to work a day in your life." - Confucius quote or Ancient Proverb..... I'm not sure which, but they sure seem to sum up the attitude that my dog Zeke has brought to the sport of Agility. When I asked him to WORK with me in agility, it was obvious he loved it, and made this work into our play. Agility provided quality time in our relationship, stretched both of us physically and mentally, and broadened our social circles. Zeke loves the sport as much as I do, which makes training, trailing and traveling with him all so enjoyable. Zeke has also worked with me in tracking, field, obedience, Rally, skijoring and other fun events- but his passion matches mine in agility. He obtained his AKC Masters Agility Championship and was invited to the Agility Invitational several times and qualified for Agility Nationals once. He also seemed to know that the crowds at events enjoyed watching him compete; his ears soaring out like the Flying Nun as he jumped and him comically scratching his back in the tunnels on hot days. What a Character!

I was asked to share a few of my insights on the sport of Agility - but these notes are only a fraction of what I have gained through my years of participating in the sport.

1- [We all have to start somewhere \(but know there are some limits\)](#)

Take the time to develop cognitive/thinking skills with young pups. Encourage them to offer behaviors such as going around obstacles, stepping on items that shift under their feet, or going through hoops, tunnels or getting in boxes. Take a basic clicker class for trick training. Sign up for agility foundation classes with young pups - for dogs can learn to read handling cues and learn groundwork for agility well before they are ever introduced to agility equipment and formal agility sequences. I recommend not jumping dogs at full height or starting weave training until a dog is a year old, as you don't want to stress the joints and growth plates early on. Attend agility trials in your area to meet some of the handlers and to learn about classes in your area. HINT: If you go to a trial, you can get a front row, in the ring, observation seat if you volunteer for Ring Crew.... and you will be instantly well received by those that do a lot for agility in your area.

2 - [We all have more to learn](#)

Take classes, attend seminars, read books, subscribe to Clean Run magazine, start or join a training group. You will progress further and faster if you train with intent and welcome the suggestions of others. When given constructive criticism on your handling or tips to help you improve - don't make excuses as to why they won't work.... rather try them out and see! You'll be surprised.

3 - [Teamwork -Teamwork -Teamwork](#)

- Realize that you are the team captain and most errors in agility come from dog receiving not enough, or incorrect information from the Captain. Think first about what you did or didn't do or what you could have done differently before you blame the dog for being wrong. Dogs are incredibly skilled at reading our body cues along with motion cues, so often we have signaled incorrectly and they are being honest in their attempts to follow us.
- Set goals for your team and make strategies and plans to get you there.

Agility continued

- Be cognizant of when you need to support your teammate more, i.e. gauge how they are feeling in the heat, if they are injured, if they are nervous and need more information to feel confident, or if they need more frequent praise. Reward often in training - think of it as the dog is working for a paycheck too!
- Set goals for your team and make strategies and plans to get you there.

4- In all dog sports there is a fellowship of warm friends and support of others

- Just look at my Facebook page and you will see that over 80% of my posts are from other dog agility friends and fanatics! We are often like family to one another. When I travel to Kenai I stay with a friend there, and she with me when she heads north to Fairbanks. We share a hotel room when we meet midway!
- I have a friend that moved away from Alaska to New York, and we have made trips to the Invitational into special visits where we also shared hotels.
- We have done fundraisers to send a friend to Nationals, World Team tryouts, to support cancer treatments on a beloved dog, and to help another who suffered a tragic loss in the family.
- Those in my training group are my closest friends - and agility is not our only connection. It was the start, but now friendship and love bonds us more.

5- Keep your sense of humor, and you will enjoy agility all the more.

- There will be many times when you will be humbled.... I promise you that.
- Zeke sometimes somersaults in the tunnels and comes out the same side he entered. Meanwhile, I'm bending over the intended exit looking for him and he has his head out the other end smirking at me!
- Zeke has pointed a bird while standing on the dog-walk.
- Zeke has left the ring at the Rose City Classic to grab a treat off of the treat table outside the ring, while never breaking stride and coming back in the ring to take the next jump.
- I have fallen over backward, tripping on my own feet.
- I have gotten lost on the course too many times to count. There are always those bad video moments!!!

And to reflect one last time on #3 - Teamwork.... .know when it is time to say WELL DONE and retire. My Thrill Zeker is now 12 years old. While he would love to run agility still, I have had to regulate his agility time. He still plays in tunnels and runs through patterns with no bars on the jumps, but a broken shoulder (not an agility injury) has sidelined him from any more agility competitions. He is not lame, sore or aware of his injury, but I don't want him to develop these soreness issues. He is not one to regulate his own safety, so I must. He remains active with hiking, swimming, and some hunting in the fall. His tail, which we have labeled as his "happiness metronome" still wiggles one hundred miles a minute...even if it is just because he is being my teammate on the couch! Enjoy every moment... and it is love not work! –Polly Divens

Agility continued

Tiffany Schmitke

My griff's name is Barrett and we are SUPER close to a MACH, only need 31 points! However, Zeke is Polly's Herrenhausen griff (I think her name is Polly Divens?), and he was the VERY FIRST griff to ever get a MACH, and he was 10 years old! and that was only I think 2 years ago? Plus he's still competing!

I kind of fell into agility by desperation! At the time Barrett was a little over a year old, and our 2 year old female black lab Izzy, was just diagnosed with a torn ACL. My first thought was, how was I going to entertain this crazy young griff if his playmate is having major surgery and will be down for several months? I shot an email out to a list serve about agility trainers, and luckily found one nearby.

It was and still is SUCH hard work! We've been training now for 7 years, competing for almost 5 years. He still HATES the weavepoles, he goes really really slow and in general isn't speedy, EXCEPT the very last few jumps, he turns it on. Like he's happy to be done!

One really funny story... we were at an outdoor agility trial here in our area, there is only one local one every year. We typically travel 3-6 hours one way for trials. Anyway, there are always birds around, right? Well unfortunately while we were running the jumpers course a couple of sparrows decided to dive bomb us. Of course he came to a hard point and then took off chasing them! It was HYSTERICAL of course, but we also got whistled off! Go figure. If you have to DQ, that is the way to do it!

I think all the training and traveling we do together as a team has been life changing really. He is utterly devoted to me, and we have a really special bond. And I know all the agility training has made him that much better of a hunting dog, very well behaved, super socialized with other dogs and people, really he is a super well rounded dog. I only wish agility was as easy as hunting! We don't ever train for hunting, and we still train weekly for agility...

He was just also featured on the cover (there were 5 dogs total) of the AWPGA magazine... they were showing how versatile the griff was and had 5 differently titled dogs on the cover, he was smack dab in the middle! And he's been Agility Dog Hall of Fame with them as well a couple years ago—*Tiffany Schmitke*

Note: Barret recently completed his final run to achieve his MACH

