

# KORTHALS GRIFFON CLUB OF AMERICA

## Old Dogs



Formed to preserve the  
Authentic Korthals Griffon!

[www.korthals-griffon.us](http://www.korthals-griffon.us)

Facebook-Korthals Griffon Club of America

## ISSUE #3 AUGUST 2013

### 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.”

Source: Wikipedia

## President's Message



*"If \_\_\_\_\_ was my main interest, I would not get a griffon"*

In thinking about this column I realized how many times in the past year I have found myself saying this. My first griffon was the ultimate versatile dog - we participated not only in field events like hunt tests, NAVHDA and NSTRA but also obedience, rally, conformation, tracking, and agility - and earned titles in each. I had no idea at the time how unique this boy really was. I also quickly learned that although we could participate in a wide variety of canine sports, having a griffon is also a bit of a challenge and you are usually the only one entered. Not only is this due to the rarity of the breed but also for each of the activities there is a breed that is a specialist. Nobody would accuse you of taking the easy way out to compete with a griffon in any of these activities.

For example, if agility were my main sport I would have a Border Collie, an Australian Shepard or a Papillion. Pigeons commonly found in agility arenas or those lovely smells in the arena prove to be interesting for a griffon. If Field trials were the main drive of course the English Pointer would be the way to go. Our griffons are bred to stay in gun range and what self-respecting field trial judge would find a griffon on point an impressive thing to watch. Even hunt test judges have to be selected carefully. For obedience a Golden Retriever would be awesome. The focus and concentration - and cooperation! For conformation shows - I think the Poodle would be the way to go. What could be flashier? In NSTRA I would take an English Setter any day. Is there anything classier than that tall head and tail on point? For hunt tests, I would also take a GSP or Brittany. Life would sure be easier from a training and competition perspective with any of these other breeds.

But instead of any of these we chose a griffon. The funny part was that my husband and I first chose a griffon because we wanted ONE dog that could do everything - upland birds and waterfowl. We wanted a dog that was a close working dog that was small enough to cuddle. I have terrible allergies so the long coated and short coated breeds were out. The wire coat was just perfect. Of course now we have THREE griffons.

The Korthals griffon is not an easy dog to train. They need exercise or else their energy turns to creative (and usually undesirable) outlets. In training several Korthals griffons I have learned they can and will outsmart you on a regular basis. I have spent 12 years trying to study and understand this unique breed. I have learned how to train first from learning what not to do and then finally figuring out how to work together with my griffons as a team rather than trying to impose my will on them by force. I have many dog friends that I am sure think I have a screw loose to stay with the breed. Nothing comes easily and we have to work twice as hard at everything we do but I would never change breeds. I guess I really like a challenge. So why get a Korthals griffon? For the ultimate hunting companion - I can't imagine anything better. And isn't that what this breed is really about?

## Greetings from the Vice President & Secretary/Treasurer Update



As always, summer hunting plans in the shrub steppe of central Washington do not include a shotgun. We do not run the dogs in rattlesnake habitat in the summer, but our yard is an oasis between the creek and the shrub. Western fence lizards are harmless, unless you are an insect. For the dogs, they are to be hunted. This establishes a well-worn path between the cool haven of the house, and the woodshed walls that display basking lizards. The dogs are obsessed, the lizards are usually safe, but the rattlers are sometimes unwelcome intruders into this hunting play. Twice my "snake-trained" dogs have shoved noses under a favorite lizard shrub, and run into a rattler. Coulee had a light, one-fang encounter recently. We had a pleasant afternoon (These are always on Sunday) with the vet, and Coulee got to go home with what looked like a bad bee sting. Guest rattlers are usually transported to a new home a few miles up the hill, and we have put in drift/reptile fences at major entries. In spite of this hazard, our Griffons must get worked, so we are exploring the nearby forest trails – only the ones with water features. All of us are aware that these dogs thrive in cooler weather, but remember that when the summer heat seems too much, these dogs demand that we get outside with them and their infectious joy, and in the end we enjoy it as much as they do.

Katherine

<http://griffonhealth.com/>

Diseases & Conditions,

Health & Genetics

Nutrition. More

The KGCA is growing by leaps and bounds! We will soon have an informative web site up and running. A notice will go out to everyone when it is live. We are still waiting to hear about our nonprofit status but I understand given the politics it could be a long slow process.

Summer has brought many new items of interest to the club. A first will be the announcement of new authentic litters on our new web site. This is not an endorsement of the breeding but verification of the pedigree not including the lines of what appears to be the hybrid cross within a 10 generation pedigree if the information is available in the database. A detailed listing of the effects on health and diseases associated with this hybrid mix will soon be on our web site.

I have great news of a personal nature. I recently completed the Championship of my Male kept from my last litter between Diva and Buck. It is now Ch Flynn von Herrenhausen NAVHDA Prize I NA. We now have 2 legs of his Junior Hunter title and hope to finish it very soon. As with most young dogs, a couple weeks ago Flynn decided he would not retrieve a chukar at a hunt test. You might say on that very hot day he gave me the finger and said not today. So it's back to training because hunting season is just around the corner.

Barbara



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# Korthals Griffon Club of America

## Board Meeting 3/26/2013

Present: All officers in attendance and meeting called to order at 9:00am through Jointomeeting.com.

President Carol Ptak called the meeting to order at 9:05

The Agenda:

1. Advertising for the Club- Several possibilities were discussed. Barbara will look into cost of Dog related Magazine Advertising and get back to the board.
2. A current financial report was given by the Treasurer.
3. A date was discussed for the clubs first Annual Meeting. The date of Saturday July 13<sup>th</sup> was selected. Carol Ptak volunteered to hold a field event at her ranch with lots of dog activities available that weekend. A full list of events will be sent to the membership. Items on the agenda will include membership approval of KGCA Constitution and Breed Standard.
4. A logo for the club was discussed with Carol providing information on a contact she has who is working on several drawings. The logo will be used for the club website and correspondence.
5. A schedule for the KGCA Newsletter was discussed. A Newsletter will be sent by email every other month. Barbara will continue until an Editor is found.
6. The historical book Le Griffon D' Arrét A Poil Dur Korthals by Jean Castaing was discussed. This book is the foundation for the material establishing the KGCA and the framework for the KGCA Standard of the breed. It gives the foundation for not allowing red or tan markings by establishing them as an indication of a hybrid mix.
7. Barbara will also research breeding stock with pure lines within the database on her web site. The KGCA does not endorse or approve any breeding stock but the suggestion has been made to add a stud dog and brood bitch database to the information provided online by the club.

The motion was made to adjourn at 10:00 am.

Respectfully Submitted,

Barbara Young

Secretary/Treasurer



## August Training Article

We will continue from the last article where the dog was introduced to the bird. It is absolutely essential that the dog has dominion over the bird. Excitement about the bird is what will fuel that beautiful point to come. Personally I use automatic launchers because I live in an area with lots of trees and a fairly small place to train. Bill Gibbons, who developed this method, uses wild pigeons and cards. However, he also trains in hundreds of acres and with the advantage of spooky wild birds he doesn't need traps. I use homing pigeons that allow the dog to get too close so I prefer to use traps.

The big trick to getting a dog to point is to have the bird teach the dog. At this point the dog is on a collar and checkcord. You need to carefully control the circumstance so that you pattern the dog for success. There are three important things to consider. First is to know where the bird is located. Second is to know the wind direction. The third is the most difficult - where should you be with your dog. The dog can only smell the bird downwind. It is really surprising how close a dog can get to a bird upwind. We ran in a hunt test in 40 mph wind and had a bird pop out and hit the dog in the side on the way out before he even knew it was there! It is imperative that you come ACROSS the scent cone and not directly towards the bird. This has to be the most difficult thing in dog training. Helping people train their dogs gives me the opportunity to watch people struggle with these issues.

Bringing the dog straight up the scent cone will teach the dog to run in on birds. Having the dog cross the scent cone so that you can get a good turn of the head allows you to pop that bird exactly when it needs to fly. The dog must also be back far enough from the trap so that they trap will not snap the dog in the nose. That is the most common error when using traps. The traps scare the dog with the noise or the suddenness of the release and then the dog is afraid of the bird - exactly the opposite of what is desired.

When you bring the dog across the scent cone, look for the dog's head to turn and then take one step. I allow the one step and then pop the bird. Once the bird is in the air, then stop the dog and do not allow it to chase the bird. Another key for success is to never ever put pressure on the dog's neck while there is scent in their nose. There is never a correction done when the dog is in the scent cone. The goal is to always have the bird do the correction. This process does take two very important things - many birds and the ability to read the dog.

It is truly amazing how quickly the dog will begin to point. When that first point does happen, then call it quits for the day and go play. Probably one of the toughest lessons to learn is when to stop a training session. That will be topic of the next training column.

## \*\*\*\*Titles\*\*\*\*

First let me say, given enough time and money any dog can earn a title! Whether it is in NAVHDA, AKC, American Field, NSTRA or? However, it is truly the top dogs that go on to earn the more advanced titles. Recently we have had two of the Authentic Korthals Griffons, achieve the highest awards in their fields. I want to explain a little about what was needed for these dogs to accomplish what they did and be the first in the breed to hold these titles. They both joined an elite group of purebred dogs within the US to hold these titles.

### AKC Show Championship

There are a set number of dogs determined by breed and region that are required to complete an AKC Championship. 15 points must be obtained under 3 different judges with the number of points determined by the number of dogs in competition. A Show Grand Championship goes further with the accumulation of 100 Grand Championship points through additional wins over other Champions and class dogs.

### AKC Agility Championship

What is Agility? It is a dog competing in a timed event over a set course of jumps, weaves poles, or obstacles. There are many classes depending upon the experience level of the dog and handler. In the regular classes a Score of 85 or better is needed to qualify and placements are awarded by time. Once the regular title of Champion is earned the most advanced level is the Master Agility Championship. A score of 100 is needed to qualify for each run. The MACH Title is earned by qualifying ten times in the Excellent B/ Standard class and Excellent B Jumpers With Weaves class on the same day. The dog must exhibit superior performance on the agility course, Speed and consistency are the two major qualities denoting "superior performance" and are the basis for the Master Agility Championship. A dog must achieve a minimum of 750 championship points and 20 double qualifying scores obtained from the Excellent B Standard Agility class and the Excellent B Jumpers with Weaves class.

### Master Hunter Championship

A dog must receive 6 qualifying scores in the Master Hunter test or 5 if a Senior Hunter title has been earned. The Master Hunter Advanced requires 5 additional qualifying legs. A Master Hunting dog must give a finished performance and demonstrate clearly that it deserves to be qualified as such. The dog must locate game, must point staunchly, and must be steady to wing and shot on all birds. It is also required to back it brace mate on all birds. All killed birds must be retrieved to hand. Scores of 8-10 are required in all performance. It must demonstrate that it is truly a finished steady hunting dog. This is a very hard title to achieve based upon the variety of conditions the hunting dog is apt to encounter in the field.

*It is a pleasure to have two of our breed achieve the top titles recently! It is a first in the nation.*

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New Champion  
Am & Int'l Ch UCH ZERUBABEL



Congratulations  
Carol & Z  
1st for the Breed  
Master Hunter  
Advanced





**CONGRATULATIONS!**  
**1st MACH for the Breed**  
**Polly**  
**&**  
**CH Zeinfeld V**  
**Herrenhausen VCD1,GN,**  
**RE, JH, MX, MACH,**  
**NAVHDA PRIZE I**



# Art of the Griffon

The history of any breed is told in the Art displayed from the past. This can vary with the medium used but with always the same theme: *Hunting and the Korthals Griffons.*



**Korthals  
Griffons  
of the  
past**



# Art of the Griffon continued



KGCA Member  
Metal Art  
by Peter McCool  
[pnmccool1@charter.net](mailto:pnmccool1@charter.net)

# Art of the Griffon continued



WE LOVE OUR SHOTGUNS!

THIS MERKEL HAS A GRIFF ENGRAVING



## Art of the Griffon continued



*We also have personal art  
such as this beautiful  
body art  
worn by one of our members!*



### **Grass Awn Disease: Be Aware of "Mean Seed"**

A grass seed is such a small thing. Why must we worry about the when we have barbed wire, snakes, glass, etc. at the top of our lists of things to avoid in the field? Silent, invisible migration of the seed on the barbed awn (picture a porcupine quill) through your hunting partner's body can result in a huge problem, ranging from a short office visit to the veterinarian, to major surgery, months of rehabilitation, loss of use, or death.

Our Griffons are a breed that is at high risk for Grass Awn Migration Disease for several reasons:

These dogs are sporting dogs, and are worked in grass fields, wetlands, riparian areas, shrub steppe, and other habitats where the awns exist year-round, always available for transport on the fur of an animal--a method of seed dispersal for which they are adapted. Residential landscaping is not devoid of hazards from untrimmed lawns that have gone to seed, and from the fashionable ornamental grasses. Long haired dogs are the most frequent transporters of grass awns, due to the long, thick hair coat that is the ideal condition for seed attachment and dispersal. Detection of the awns is made more difficult due to this great, desirable hair coat. Add to that the character, the instincts and heart of the Griffon that keeps it working, ignoring pain, until it's time to go home.

Migration of the awns/mean seeds/foxtails begins with the ingestion, inhalation, or piercing of the skin. They are known to enter the body through the skin, ear, nose, eye, penis, anus and vulva. From there the barbs can push the awn through the body in random directions, causing infection that can be difficult to detect. The most common location of awns found in veterinary clinics is in the foot of the dog. Lameness or licking will alert the owner to the problem that can be easily resolved with early detection, usually with sedation, probing and removal of the problem, followed with antibiotics.

## Grass Awn Disease: Be Aware of “Mean Seeds” Continued



The migrations through the thorax and abdomen are the most difficult to detect, and the most difficult to treat. This is where the role of the owner is of utmost importance. We must always be familiar with normal behavior of our dogs, and

alert to changes that might indicate pain, infection, or lack of vigor. Also, be ready to educate your veterinarian, particularly when difficulty in diagnosis is presented. If you live in a city, but hunt elsewhere, it's possible that your city veterinarian does not have grass awns on his/her radar. The infection or awn may be detectable with x-ray or ultrasound, or you may be referred to a large hospital where CT scan and MRI are available. Sometimes the awn is found during surgery, or it could be that the diagnosis is “possible unknown foreign body”.

An often seen infection from the awns is Actinomycosis. This is caused by the *Actinomyces* bacteria, which is commonly found in the mouth where it is non-infectious. When carried along with a foreign body to other regions it can wreak havoc. Treatment can be as much as six months on antibiotics. It is important to discuss this potential with your veterinarian so that a specific culture for *Actinomyces* is done before antibiotics are started. This is a different process than the routine culture and sensitivity, and if it is positive may require change of type and duration of treatment.

Prevention is the best way to deal with this disease, and nobody is going to quit working a dog to entirely prevent exposure. After working do a thorough search of the skin, and all orifices. Watch for coughing, sneezing, shaking the head, lameness, scratching at specific areas – all are symptoms that are often seen in early stages.

Anecdotal information indicates that Grass Awn Migration Disease has increased since the introduction of awned grasses into mixes used on CRP (Crop Reduction Program) lands since the 1950's. With Federally sponsored CRP, marginal crop lands are planted to protect soil from erosion, and this usually results in the creation of prime upland bird habitat. This land is highly popular for hunting. The American Kennel Club Canine Health Foundation is currently sponsoring a study to look at this possible correlation, which may lead to working with the NRCS (Natural Resources Conservation Service), the Federal Agency which oversees CRP, to alter seed mixes to exclude barbed grasses.

For now, the hazard should be added to that list of large things to be aware of, and awareness is our best protection.

## Revisiting History "Origin of the Griffon"

(Quotes from the American Hunting Dog by Warren H. Miller 1919)

Question: Could you please tell me the origin of the pointer, griffon and foxhound? Vincent Nixon".

Answer: All three developed from the coursing hound of the Middle Ages. The early pointing hounds of 1750-1800 had the bushy tail of the modern foxhound curled on high, thin muzzle and other houndy characteristics, which changed as the breed was established as a pointer. The griffon is a French breed undoubtedly descended from the Russian wire-haired pointing hound. He resembles a shaggy pointer with wirehair and docked tail. Another breed not to be overlooked by American sportsmen is the French pointing Griffon.

In 1916, for the first time, one of them ran in one of the great field trials and gave such good account of himself that one of the best Llewellins had to stretch himself to make good against him.

This Griffon, Homere's Jack, was run in the National Capitol Field Trials. He drew a crack Eugene M. Gleam dog, Tip Top Merry Boy (Mike M. Gleam's Belle). Every one was anxious to see how the Griffon would make out in comparison with a crack Llewelin. The Frenchman did very well, for, while Merry Boy was full of class and had plenty of speed, the Griffon was right after him. Unfortunately no birds were found during the heat, so the trial was quite inconclusive. Homere's Jack is by Homere-Fileuse de Merlimont, a steel-gray pointing Griffon. I have noted these dogs carefully at bench shows and know them from puppyhood up. The logical minded French claim that their sporting dog is the best all-around field dog in the world, since he is as good a pointer and bird-finder as he is a retriever (and we all know how lots of the finding of grassed birds is often left to us by our crack pointers and setters), and his double coat makes him impervious to cold in swimming after ducks. It will probably take several generations of American breeding to develop in the French dog the combined speed and nose required of a field trial winner, but the fancy in this country is in good hands, notably Mr. L. A. Thebaud. The Griffon is not a handsome dog, compared to either pointer or setter. His head is heavy and square-lined, his coat is wire-haired and grey with black spots, and in general he looks like a cross between the Airedale and a blue belton setter. His tail is always docked for the same reason in looks that a terrier's tail is docked. The wire-haired coat is, like that of the Airedale, double, with a vest of fine downy hair underneath, making the dog able to plunge into icy water after ducks like a Chesapeake, and enabling him to withstand the rough going in briers and wet underbrush that would soon put either setter or pointer to shivering and flinching. Mr. Thebaud, who spent much of his time in France hunting with the Frenchli- American painter, Rosseau, became much impressed with the possibilities of the Griffon as the dog in our country to solve the problem of a good all-around dog on both upland game and wild fowl. There is no question that the Griffon both points and retrieves under unusual conditions, both of which the Chesapeake cannot do, and for an all-around sportsman who can afford but one dog the Griffon should claim very serious consideration.

The family began in our country with Kob de Merlimont, imported by Mr. Thebaud, to whom were later added Homere and Fileuse de Merlimont, parents of the 1916 entry, Homere 's Jack. Of the German strain of Griffons we have Bolero von Gimbsheim, Korthals and Passe-Partout. There are but few Griffons advertised for sale.

Mr. G. Van Morgan, of Denton, N. C, maintains a kennel of Griffons, and Mr. Thebaud, of Morris- town, N. J., will occasionally part with a dog to one who is sincerely interested in advancing the name and fame of the Griffon in America.

Dr. Ilyus, of Lancaster, Pa., not only has Griffon puppies for sale, but offers two good ones at stud, Flambeau Planig (Le Capitaine Fracasse ex Anna Planig), a German Griffon, and Bolero von Gimbsheim, noted above, by Ch. Eabot ex Diana von Gimbsheim.

**Note: As one can see the idea of the KG has developed over the years. There are many different thoughts about the historical development of the breed. This is just one, taken from the early 1900's. The recognized International opinion is found in the book written by Jean Castaing titled Le Griffon Korthals.**



## GRASS AWN INFECTION

by Dr Pat McInteer

Two things you must know – first, **grass can kill your dog.** Hard to believe, isn't it? But the barbed (awned) seeds from some species of grass, likely inhaled, travel through your dog's body and create infection from bacteria they bring in with them or pick up from places like the oral cavity as they enter.

Second, **you are your dog's vest defense against this danger.** Learn to recognize threats and avoid them, and carefully observe and know your dog. Recognizing subtle changes early may make a huge difference in successful treatment should your dog fall prey to a grass awn infection.

The most common grass threats to our dogs:

- Foxtail barley- if you live, train and/or compete in the western United States or Alaska, especially, but foxtail is spreading throughout the U.S.
- Cheatgrass – a known threat in the Rocky Mountain States. Residents know that this becomes a problem when the grass begins to dry and drop its seeds, sometime around July, through the first freeze or snow.
- Canada wild rye – unlike the above, this grass is actively cultivated as an effective cover crop for other, slower to establish grasses. It features a particularly aggressive awn. Popular with state and federal conservation authorities, and bird and habitat preservation organizations due to its low cost, it has become widespread through the Midwest and Mideastern states over the past ten years.

Find a full list of known problem grass species at : <http://www.meanseeds.com>

Grass awn infections can manifest in multiple symptom patterns (or combinations thereof) :pyothorax (an infection in the chest cavity), pneumonia, and/or body wall or internal abscesses. Based on my experience and the case histories I am gathering, many infections show up as an acute illness. The dog seemed fine two

hours ago/yesterday, but now s/he has an elevated temperature, is lethargic, and has no interest in food. Note that the symptoms of a grass awn infection overlap those of other fairly common threats, such as tickborne disease. Your powers of observation may be key in making an accurate diagnosis quickly. If you have reason to suspect that your dog has been exposed to a problem grass, make your veterinarian aware of that fact and the likely manifestations. Veterinarians that do not see many working dogs in their practice may not consider the grass awn possibility in their early workup.

Treatment in most cases is costly. Even “medical management” of a pyothorax is most times not a matter of simply giving some pills. With my own dogs, treatment costs have ranged from approx. \$1,000 to \$12,000. In this tough economy, many of us may be forced to make a choice as to whether we can afford to attempt treatment. That's a heartbreaking state of affairs when the life of our best friend and hunting companion hangs in the balance. If you believe your dog is at risk, pet insurance may be a wise investment.

In most cases that I am aware of where treatment has successfully resolved the infection, the dog's health has been restored to the point of returning to the field, though for competition dogs the consequences of surgery, may affect performance to the point where retirement becomes advisable.

Sadly, the threat of grass awn infection appears to be rising. **You** are your dog's best defense.

THE GRASS AWN PROJECT

<http://www.meanseeds.com>

SUBMIT CASE HISTORY ONLINE:

<http://www.meanseeds.com/case-history/>

# 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 \_\_\_\_\_

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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**

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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.

# JOIN THE KGCA

*A Club dedicated to retaining the Authentic Korthals Griffon as a hunting dog!*



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KGCA

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2610 QUINCE STREET  
EUGENE, OREGON 97404