

KORTHALS GRIFFON CLUB OF AMERICA

2015 Year of Change



"Formed to preserve the Authentic Korthals Griffon"

www.korthalsgriffon.com

Facebook-Korthals Griffon Club of America

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

Issue #4 December 2015

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 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

Fellow KG'ers

As this newsletter goes to press, France is still coming to grips with the tragedy of the recent terrorist attack in Paris. Over the past few years I have had multiple opportunities to travel to France in the course of my job. On several trips I was invited to hunt the Amboise Forest. As the news broke about the attacks I was actually on my way to Paris. Thankfully none of my colleagues were affected. Our thoughts and prayers go to everyone affected and their families. Viva la France!

Since the formation of the KGCA, one of the most rewarding things is the global growth of the organization. Membership of the Facebook site is now at 213 but more importantly these members are from Canada, UK, Chile, France, Germany, Sweden, Finland, Holland, Italy and all across the USA. The variety of activities and insights into the everyday life is wonderful to see. From going to work with Mom to hunting in the snow to learning how to hunt bumpers it is fun to see. Educational articles have included about breeding, whelping and early spay and neuter. Facebook allows us to stay in touch around the world.

With all this activity it is important to remember that the primary functions of the KGCA are:

- to encourage and promote quality in the breeding of purebred authentic Korthals Griffons and to do all possible to bring their natural qualities to perfection;
- to urge members and breeders to accept the approved KGCA standard of the breed as the only standard of excellence by which the Korthals Griffon shall be judged;
- to do all in its power to protect and advance the interests of the breed by encouraging sportsmanlike competition at all events which the breed may qualify for.

The KGCA wants to encourage additional activity on the Facebook site to share information among members. Sharing ideas of what is working for you in the areas of training, food, breeding or other activities would be appreciated.

We especially want to hear about those genuine griffon litters and genuine griffon breeding stock that may be out there. The board continues to hear almost every week about crippling medical conditions that were previously unknown in the breed affecting our beloved breed. When the previous outcross happened in the breed we didn't have the internet and social media to stay in contact with each other. Breeders had a no way to know what genuine breeding stock was available and what litters were planned. Remember that any litter or breeding announcement that is posted on the Facebook site is subject to the KGCA rating policy. Since the only way that the hybrids can be separated from the authentic Korthals Griffon is through an inspection of a 10 generation pedigree, there is extensive research required.

As a board we look forward to the future growth of the KGCA. We remain dedicated to continued education for breeders and owners alike. We believe that this education will preserve our breed by the owners insisting on genuine griffons and breeders realizing that a well-bred griffon is a genuine griffon that lives a long life capable of doing all those fun things that we do together.

Until next time
Carol Ptak, President

Vice President's Message

AKC ALL-BREED CLUBS

Until 12 years ago, although I thought dog training classes might be fun and useful, I was not aware we have an AKC all-breed club here in a small town in central Washington, and I missed out on years of education and fun. There must be others like I was, living in the fog that cleared when I joined the club.

The Wenatchee Kennel Club began in 1960 with about 25 members and continues to grow to nearly 200. Although these clubs are listed as Conformation Clubs on the AKC website, I have participated in obedience, puppy, agility, lure coursing (which may not be the favorite of the Korthals Griffon), tracking, rally, and conformation. The club puts on AKC obedience and conformation shows, agility trials, tracking competition, CGC tests and hunt tests, as well as seminars on all the above, and even exciting training for Griffs—the barn hunt. Educational opportunities seem to be endless, and varied goals and passions of members provide the diversity to keep a dog and handler continuously entertained. Our club does not limit training to AKC registered dogs, and mix-breeds are welcome. Non-members are encouraged to take the classes.

Check out Conformation Clubs on the AKC website where you can search your area for a club. If you don't find one, consider getting a group of your dog-lover friends together to work with AKC to establish a local club. Don't be discouraged if you are not in a big city. We have people that do 4 hour

New Parasite may have come from Imports

By Brenda Goodman, MA WebMD Health News Reviewed by Brunilda Nazario, MD

Oct. 8, 2015 -- It sounds like science fiction: Your eye hurts. You look in the mirror and it has turned an angry red. You try some eye drops, but the pain doesn't go away, so you head to the eye doctor. There, under a magnifying glass, is a tiny worm squirming under the light. That's what happened to a 57-year-old man from Eugene, OR. "We took him to surgery right that day," says Annette Sims, MD, the ophthalmologist who treated him. Sims said while red, painful eyes are common at her practice, she'd never before seen one caused by a worm. And it wasn't so easy to remove.

"It had, I'm going to call them barbs or hooks or something -- it didn't want to let go. It had something it was attaching to the actual iris," says Sims, who eventually got the worm out and shipped it to a lab. There, it was partially identified as a relative of the same worm that causes river blindness in Africa. But the man hadn't been to Africa or any other part of the world where parasitic infections are common. Instead, experts say, the worm likely came to him, brought to this country by one of thousands of dogs that are imported each year. As international pet adoptions become more common, so too are the exotic diseases they can bring with them.

This week, doctors attending IDWeek, the annual meeting of the Infectious Diseases Society of America, will hear about the first six human infections in the U.S. of a worm that goes by the scientific name *Onchocerca lupi*. All the patients live in the Southwest -- including three cases in Arizona, two in New Mexico, and one in Texas. The Oregon man isn't officially counted as one of the six cases, because researchers were only able to partially identify the worm that was removed from his eye. But the partial ID pegs it as the same family as the other cases.

Secretary/Treasurer's Message

What a year 2015 has been !

The Clubs news:

- 1. We started off the year searching for a Logo for the club, which resulted with the beautiful artwork you see on the cover. It was very tastefully done by one of the Art Students at the UofO.*
- 2. Since receiving many Old German Studbooks, I have been slowly adding them to the online database on my website for public use. Some of these go back to some of the original dogs of Korthals and other breeders of the time. In the future I will add the remaining studbooks that I have which will update the information to more recent litters.*
- 3. The club pursued the task of asking for permission from the French Griffon Club to publish a translation of Jean Castaing's book on the breed. It is universally recognized as the bible of the breed and contains much information that would be invaluable to breeders worldwide. No response was received. Carol then took on the task of tracking down the copyright thru her contacts. This apparently is held by the family of Castaing, however this also proved unsuccessful. The project was put on hold.*
- 4. The bylaws requires an annual meeting, which was held electronically on July 28, 2015. A constitution update was voted on and passed at that time.*
- 5. The formation of an International Korthals Griffon Association was proposed. Several conference calls with Europeans identified a difference in pedigree standards used as definition of Purebred. KGCA decided not to change the policy definition of Purebred and remain independently as KGCA.*

Minutes November 11, 2015

President Reports:

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

Secretary/Treasurer:

Barbara gave an update on move and reported that no new deposits were made during the time of her move to ID. A complete update will be made at next month's meeting. Barbara also reported on her new litter of 100% genuine Korthals Griffon puppies.

Old Business:

1. KGCA Facebook was discussed with a growing number of individuals joining the site.
2. Carol will provide information on the web site at the next meeting with numbers of hits of people viewing the information.
3. The question was asked regarding the filing of the corporation in Oregon and whether the move of the signatory would hinder the next filing. Barbara will explore this and get back to the board at the next meeting.

New Business:

1. Barbara reported that she would get back to the regular schedule for the newsletter, which was delayed, with her move. The next newsletter will go out in a few weeks.
2. A growing concern on the health of the KG is coming to light with more cases of SRM. This is a devastating and expensive disease for owners to go thru with their young dogs. Barbara will include something in the coming newsletter on it for general information. At this time all reported cases to the 22,0000 dog International Herrenhausen database can be traced back to pedigrees with the hybrid mix.

Meeting adjourned 11:00am

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Young

A Journey in Retirement

As many of you know, I have taken the task in the last year of selling my home in Eugene, OR. This was a move motivated by many things: Safety with the increase in crime associated with a more liberal administration of the state, higher cost of living, and the necessity to move on with my life after being married for 30 years and divorcing. Many people have asked how I chose Nampa, ID as my destination. This was a fairly logical decision on my part. It was close enough for me to manage alone. The State is one of the top states in the nation to retire in. The state has the reputation as a pro gun and hunting environment, which I hope I can contribute to with my knowledge in the field of sporting dogs.

The move has been an adventure! Just the task of moving household and dogs from one state to another was an insane thing to do at my age! But where there's a will, there's a way. At least it was not a move involving multi states. I can say the task was probably larger than I anticipated with 2 moving vans full of household goods, which I had to place in storage, and the inability to locate a house with a yard suitable for my two dogs immediately. However, after 6 weeks in a motel, the perfect house came on the market with 3/4 acre of yard and a workable house large enough to hold my furniture. In the last few months, I have been undertaking some repairs and updates to make the house seem more like home. With possible snow moving in, the timing for completion can't be soon enough. The last project involves the replacement of the furnace.

As most of you know, my involvement in the Korthals Griffon Club of America speaks of my long-term commitment to breeding only 100% pure dogs. This has been developed thru 35 years of involvement in all parts of the purebred dog world. This is why it is heart breaking to hear of the devastation now affecting this breed. As I sit hour after hour, recording breeding records of dogs from around the world, it is only too clear how few of the pedigrees lack the

hybrid mix genetics. This has been devastating to the breed with wide spread health problems, shortened life spans, and a complete lack of leadership on the part of the International community to reduce the hybrid breeding.

Moreover the American fancy has continued to justify breedings with multiple cases of hybrids in the pedigrees. Our breed as Korthals developed it will soon come to an end! Historically, the Griffon has been recognized as a healthy breed. That now has changed and the market will fall with time. People looking for puppies are already starting to ask about the health of the breed. The moral and ethical part of dog breeding has been lost recently in the quest for profit and trophies.

It is my hope that the breed can retain enough 100% pure dogs to continue into the future with healthy dogs with strong hunting instinct. We need to band together. I stopped breeding 2 years ago, but under consideration of the critical situation, did a final breeding with the only female I have. The information is below. In retirement I do not anticipate continuing to breed. I can contribute in many other ways.

2 Females & 2 Males - 4 weeks old



Sire: Int. Ch Simon von Herrenhausen JH

Dam: Ch Diva von Herrenhausn JH

New Phone: 208-467-4460

grifhh@yahoo.com

Parasites Continued

And eyes aren't the only places these worms can show up. Five of the 6 cases being presented this week were in people with innocent-looking lumps or bumps under their skin. When doctors cut into the bumps, they found worms inside.

Most of the new cases are children. They include a toddler and a 5-year-old who each went to the doctor with a strange bump on the back of the neck where a worm had burrowed. In those cases, the worm was pregnant, so doctors are giving those kids regular treatments with ivermectin, an antiparasitic drug that helped researchers in the U.S. and Japan win a Nobel Prize this week. The ivermectin is a precaution to make sure no new worms hatch and reinfect them.

Also, a 10-year-old had a bump on the scalp. Another 10-year-old had an eye infection. A 13-year-old had a mass on the back of the neck. The only adult, a 50-year-old, had a lump on the forearm. Those patients were treated with the antibiotic doxycycline, which also kills the parasite, says Paul Cantey, MD, a medical epidemiologist at the CDC.

Symptoms varied by the location of the lumps. Kids who had them on their neck or scalps said they had neck pain and headaches. People report eye pain when the worms burrow there.

More Questions Than Answers for Now

Onchocerca lupi is also known to infect the eyes of dogs and cats. Since 1991 in the U.S., there have been about 12 cases documented in pet dogs and 2 in cats.

Researchers aren't sure how it gets to people yet. So far, none of the infected people caught it from a pet, Cantey says.

But tests of biting black flies in California have found that about 3% carry the youngest stage of the worm. It's thought that the flies may bite infected dogs, then bite people, spreading the infection. That's the same way people catch river blindness.

Tests of worms removed from dogs in the U.S. found they were genetically similar to the species that infects dogs in Europe, suggesting the infection was brought into this country -- though researchers can't be sure how recently that happened.

And right now, researchers say they have far more questions about the infections than answers. "We don't know how common it is," says Scott Weese, DVM, a veterinary infectious disease specialist at the

Weese studies infections, like these worms, that can be passed from animals to people.

Many international pet adoptions "are rescue dogs," he says. "There are rescue operations out of places like Greece, Azerbaijan, and the Caribbean. These are kind and well-meaning groups, but they're ill-structured, and they're bringing in animals that are sick. They're bringing in diseases that we don't see here. We're seeing diseases that are foreign to North America and ones that are rare here because of vaccination."

The only requirement for bringing a dog into the U.S. is proof of a rabies vaccination. Only the state of Hawaii and Guam, a U.S. territory, require a quarantine for arriving animals.

Weese says no one is sure how many pets are imported to the U.S. each year, because there's no formal count. But some rough estimates from Canada suggest the number is in the thousands.

"Part of it is because people are thinking they're doing a good job. Part of it, I think, is the cachet. 'I've got a Peruvian rescue dog' is a little different than the mutt from down the road," Weese says.

'Nothing to Panic About'

Scientists also don't know if the *Onchocerca lupi* worm is widespread or confined to a certain region of the country, or if it's widespread in dogs and cats. In addition to domestic animals, Weese says doctors are trying to figure out if the worm is also in wild dogs like coyotes and wolves.

Aside from a decidedly high "ick" factor, the infection doesn't seem to have any dire or long-lasting consequences -- unlike its cousin, river blindness, which causes intense itching and can cause permanent vision loss.

So far, all known human patients in the U.S. have recovered with short-term drug treatment. Until more is known, "it's nothing to panic about," Weese says.

He says the most important thing people can do to help stem the infection here is to keep an eye on their pets. Dogs get lumps or nodules in their eyes, along with tearing and weeping. Symptoms like that should be checked by a vet, he says. "It's a reminder that we have emerging issues when it comes to diseases that can be transmitted from pets or companion animals to us," he says.

Master Agility

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:
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.

Master Agility Continued

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.
- 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*

Master Agility Continued



Barrett

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 weave poles, 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 trial 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*

Delta Airlines & Pets

By Morgan Durrant • posted Nov. 16, 2015

Allowable pets can still be transported in most cabins or via Delta Cargo.

Delta will no longer accept pets as checked baggage, but will continue to transport allowable pets in all cabins of service except Delta One, effective March 1, 2016.

Customers may also ship pets for travel within the United States as freight through Delta Cargo.

One notable exception to this new policy: Members of the military with active transfer orders will be allowed to transport a pet as checked baggage. Additionally, Delta will continue to accept service and emotional support animals that comply with federal regulations including proper documentation. “Many of us at Delta are pet lovers and we know that they are important members of the family,” said Bill Lentsch, Senior Vice President - Airport Customer Service and Cargo Operations. “This change will ultimately ensure that we have a high-quality, consistent service for pets when their owners choose to ship them with Delta Cargo.”

Pets that are transported via Delta Cargo are monitored closely by customer service teams during their travel. While at airports, pets are handled in temperature-controlled holding areas and vans. Also, Delta Cargo enlists professional kenneling services if overnight stays are required.

With the change effective March 1, customers will be able to travel with a pet as checked baggage through Feb. 29.

Also, Delta will contact customers with bookings after March 1 that are known to include pets as checked bags.

Guidance for customers traveling with pets can be found at delta.com, but customers choosing to ship a pet with Delta Cargo should note that:

- A separate booking from their flight itinerary is required. Additional fees and charges may apply.
- A pet shipped domestically via [Delta Cargo](#) cannot be booked until 14 days prior to departure.
- Pets are not guaranteed to be shipped on a customer’s same flight or flight schedule.
- Shipping a pet requires dropping it off at a Delta Cargo location at least three hours before departure time at a location separate from passenger check-in.
- Picking up a pet will also occur at a Delta Cargo location.
- Delta Cargo will only accept international pet shipments from International Pet and Animal Transportation Association members. International customers should visit ipata.org to find an approved member to assist with their transportation requirements.

Traveling with Dogs

<http://www.akc.org/news/cdc-flyers-requirements-entering-united-states/>

More and more people are traveling with their pets and bringing dogs into the United States from overseas. Although a pet doesn't need a passport to enter or re-enter the United States, you are required to provide certain documentation attesting to the health of your dog or cat. These rules serve to protect the U.S. pet and human populations.

In order to raise awareness of the specific requirements for bringing dogs into the United States from Canada and Mexico, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has created posters in English and Spanish illustrating the requirements and they have asked the American Kennel Club to help get the word out about the requirements.

[US – Canada - English Version](#)

[US – Mexico - English Version](#)

[US – Mexico - Spanish Version](#)

Learn more about guidelines for bringing a dog into the United States with these other AKC blogs:

[Planning to Import a Puppy?](#)

[Poor Compliance with Rabies Rules could Result in Tougher Import Policies](#)

Please share this post and download these flyers to share!

PUPPY AND KITTEN VACCINATIONS: TIMING IS CRITICAL

Maternal antibodies are those antibodies that are transferred to the puppy or kitten when they receive colostrum milk from their dam only in the first 36 hours of life. After that, even though the breast milk contains many antibodies as well as wholesome nutrients, these antibodies can no longer cross the neonatal intestinal mucosal lining. The colostrum-derived antibodies gradually wane from birth over the three months and most are gone by the age of 14-16 weeks. Until then, what remains in their body is called "residual maternal antibodies", which are present in decreasing amounts to help protect the pup or kitten against foreign substances and infectious diseases.

Timing is Critical

Vaccinating these youngsters at too young of an age when they have plenty of residual maternal immunity just causes the vaccine antigen(s) to be partially neutralized so that full immunization is not achieved. Thus, the effect of vaccination is incomplete and the puppy or kitten is still at risk of getting one or more of these diseases until the vaccine series is completed once the maternal antibodies have disappeared.

Conversely, the period of highest vulnerability to infectious diseases is between 10-14 weeks of age. So, puppies need at least one dose of the multivalent vaccine between 9 weeks and before 12 weeks of age, even though it will only partially immunize them. For kittens, they need one dose between 8-9 weeks of age. Please review my [canine](#) and [feline](#) vaccination protocols for further information.

The "One and Done" Vaccination Protocol Premise

It has been postulated to give puppies or kittens just one dose of multivalent "combo" vaccine at 16 weeks of age, because their maternal immunity will have disappeared and not interfere with complete immunization. *It is not safe to leave them unprotected for that long.* Maternal immunity will have waned to essentially zero and these puppies will be totally vulnerable to viral diseases.

W. Jean Dodds, DVM

[Hemopet](#) / [NutriScan](#) 11561 Salinaz Avenue, Garden Grove, CA 9284

<http://drjeandoddspehealthresource.tumblr.com/post/78666367482/maternal-antibodiesvaccines#.VkOSAYQWpzU>

Changes Sought to Rabies Vaccination Laws

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

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. 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.

Changes Sought to Rabies Vaccination Laws

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)

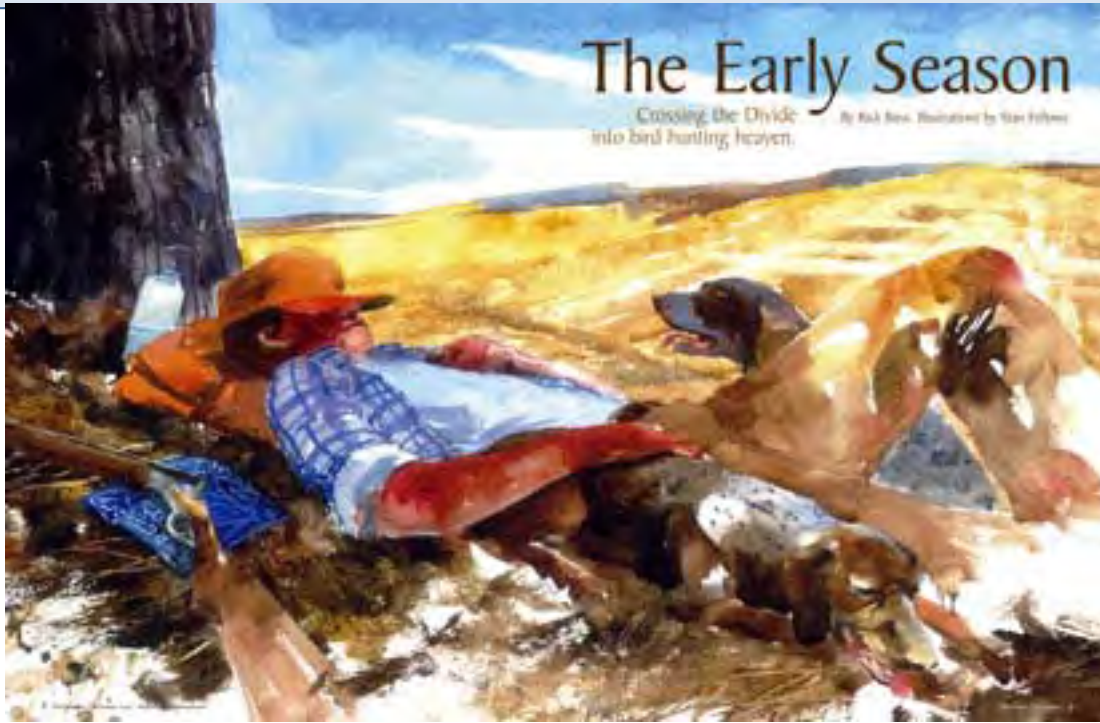
KSVDL scientists are exploring the protection offered by rabies vaccination, and they have modified the rabies titer test for animals. If an animal's rabies titer is 0.5 international units per milliliter or more, the animal may be considered protected from rabies and might need a booster only if exposed 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.

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The Early Season



Crossing the Divide into bird hunting heaven. By Rick Bass.

Illustrations by Stan Fellows.

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I love the sprawl and stretch of bird season in Montana, which begins so early, still in the grip of summer's delicious—and dangerous—heat, and runs so late into the grip of equally dangerous winter weather, where the dogs you helped keep safe from heat stroke must now be protected from frostbite. Over the years, upland bird hunting has divided, in my mind, into an Early Season and a Late Season, defined essentially by a rough midpoint of November 1. I couldn't begin to say which I love most. Whichever one is coming up next, I suppose. For most of the waiting year, that's the early season.

Even though you have been counting down since, well, perhaps April, September always catches you with its onrush, its heated surprise. Summer's been great, but now it's time to go, whether you're quite ready or not. And so with a strange mix of the old eagerness and yet reluctance, you break free of summer's embrace and head east, out of the smoking mountains, with the fires of summer still licking the ridge tops here and there, and you cross over the Divide and drop down into the flatlands, hoping to intercept the first few migrations of the season—the thinly clad stone-gray bullets of mourning doves, which race south well in advance of any hint of colder weather. And you hope also, in September, to reacquaint yourself with the ever-faithful native upland birds—the exquisitely patterned (and exquisitely delicious) sharp-tailed grouse, which are always waiting for you, as well as the immigrants of only a hundred years ago, the reddish mahogany and faster-flying Hungarian partridge.

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The country is always parched, though usually, in those first days of September, the summer ends with a purple thunderstorm, boiling up one evening, violet anvil-shaped clouds filled with gold lightning bolts, so that the next day, rather than having limited water concentrating the doves, the doves have an infinitude of puddles from which to sip. They spread wide and far across the country; but no matter, they are still out there, and for a little while, the land is cooler. (A day or two later, the water will dry up again, and it will be as if the rain never came, as if summer will never end.)

You're not ready, in September, but sometimes you manage to hit the birds anyway—shooting instinctively in front of them, in your unreadiness, as if not yet fully focused on the fact that hunting season is really here again, that the first eight months of the year have fallen away now, and that from here on everything will be fuller, and, for many of us, more deeply and sharply felt, in every way.

Somehow, a few birds accrue. The doves, with their thin feathers, are easy to pluck, and in the heat you have to keep them in a cool place. You wait for them early and late in the day, and shortly after they have come and gone you take your out-of-shape dogs and out-of-shape self a short distance away from the shade into the bright yellow, drought-anguished, windy country, the alkaline gray dust rising from your boots. The dogs gulp water at every opportunity from the offering of your cupped hand, and again, you start to realize—slowly at first, but then in a hurry—that summer is fully behind you now, this year's summer gone forever, even though it may yet be the hottest week of the year. Beware the rattlesnakes.

And when a flock of September sharptails launches in front of you, with their distinctive laugh going away, and you fire and tumble one or sometimes two—the snowy-chested birds seeming even larger than ever, after the small sky-piercing torpedoes of the doves—summer is fully gone.

In its own way, the heat helps you in this adjustment. By late morning it is already too hot to hunt, and you retire to the clattering shade of cottonwoods, many of which still possess deep green leaves, but some of which already show yellowing or even browning leaves. You nap there with your dogs panting locomotive-breathed beside you, plopped down belly-cooled and early-season tender-footed in that shade, and with the shining brilliance beyond.

Your mind is still sluggish, as slow as the doves are fast. And some of the covey-birds that get up, the Huns and sharpies, are still too young to shoot, a little too unformed. It's best to ease into it. Lying in the shade reading, I encounter a passage in a short story by Eudora Welty, in which she compares the color of a faded pink rose to that of the tongue of a panting bird dog.

October, the second half of the first half. The case can be made that this is the best month, in that almost everything comes into season now—pheasants, waterfowl, even a little antelope on the side, as well as deer and elk—a lovely distraction, a crescendo of wild meat approaching later in the month. And furthering the case for October-as-peak is the incredible foliage, particularly along the river bottoms, where the birds are often to be found: crimson chokecherry, yellow cottonwood, clear blue skies, with snow dusting the distant mountains now, good hard frosts each morning, and the geese heading south, calling each night.

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It is not uncommon, in October, with an antelope iced down in the big ice chest in the back—in those years when I have been fortunate enough to find one—for me to stop in the ever-more-yellow prairie and with the colder, more northerly wind in my face, to park not far from one of the windscreens of thirsty cottonwoods that signifies the presence of an autumn-shallow riffing river and creep toward it, shotgun broken open for safety and loaded with steel shot, dog-on-a-leash (they are, after all, naughty big pointers, better at running powerfully ahead than anything else), and creep into that hedge of whippy cottonwoods—my heart pounding surely beyond its middle-aged limits as I hear a nervous gabbling of the ducks cloistered just on the other side of that screen, so close now that perhaps I could catch one with a lasso, were there room to throw. The dog is panting, coughing, frantic at being so restrained, and at hearing the birds—hopefully, they cannot hear him over the sound of the ruffles—and then we step—burst, really—through the last of that screened cover, announcing ourselves. The raft of ducks converts instantly into a tower of ducks, and then a tornado of ducks, ascending; and yet look, a small miracle, one of them is falling from the tornado, pale belly bright and downward-moving against the all-else rise of flashing emerald, earth-color, violet, and black duck-color; and then, from higher up and farther out, another one falls, hitting the water with a splash, and I unsnap the dog and he hits the river like an arrow fired by an archer.

But duck-water is rare in this country—rarer each year, in the continuing and historic drought—and the October days are more often spent following the upland birds. It's the month when pheasant season opens—the showcase-species for my pointers, the rooster pheasants being the only creature in the world, perhaps save for maybe a cheetah, that can flat outrun these dogs; and here in their seventh year of existence, my hard-headed dogs are finally just about ready to make their peace with this fact, and are learning when to run full throttle and when to skulk and sneak and pussyfoot along. It almost doesn't seem fair: Each year there's a new crop of birds—brilliant with the instinct of their long existence in the world but newcomers nonetheless—while the dogs now have seven seasons under their belts, as well as their own blue-chip databank of instinct, and by now have seen, on these same familiar fields, pretty much everything the pheasants can and cannot, and will and will not, do.

As the new snow on the tops of the distant mountains—the Beartooths, the Crazies, the Big Belts, Little Belts, Absarokas, and even the Rockies themselves—summons the blood to a wondering and joyful heart's leap, so too does that amazing moment when, after your dog has tricked the pheasant into giving up the running game and hunkering down to hide, and when, heart-thrashing, you and the dog both stand over that hidden and completely unseen bird, and yet knowing, godlike, of his certain presence, and precise location—the bird's heart thrashing as hard as your own, and with the tension so electric that anything, anything at all, will spring the bird into the sky now, and you stand there, thinking, How can my old heart take any more of this? How?

You take a deep breath. Sometimes you look away for a second, back toward those snowy mountains, and the blue sky, and the rattle of the yellow leaves, trying to remember it, trying to absorb and inhale and consume it, trying to embed it so deeply that it will be with you even after you are gone, and you, in it; and then you look back down to the moment at hand—the dog still quivering, like an arrow that has just been fired into a stump—and almost gingerly, you nudge the tuft of grass with the tip of your toe, and the giant bird appears from the grass like a

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dream created.

The bird's coal-red eyes fix on yours in the fiercest of glares as he rises, wings flapping furiously, copper-and-black banner of tail unfurling beneath him, the priestly white collar so clearly visible, and the violet-and-crimson-and-emerald head, with the bird peeling away from you now, and further confusing and discombobulating you, the rooster is crowing and cackling, daring you, challenging you and your fading old heart. But you remember to shoot in front of the bird, aiming not at the spectacle, the incredible pageant of color that is the bird, but instead a short ways into the future; and when the wings stop flapping suddenly, and the flight is no more, and the bird is falling, you praise your dog, congratulating his or her excellence, and command the retrieve.

All birds are beautiful, coming back to you in your dog's mouth, but there is no dog-gift, no present quite as beautiful as that of a pheasant, with the bright iridescent head and the long elegant sweep of tail feathers, and the joy and pride and confidence in the dog's eyes, as well as some other unnamable thing, some ancient thing. And again, out here in this open country, you are a part of it, in October.

A thirty-five-dollar-a-night hotel room, a flickering ball game on the television, and falling asleep well before nine, both dogs warming the foot of the bed, snoring quietly. The next day carries you farther into the interior, and into the paradoxical knife edge of greater contentment, and greater loneliness, deeper into the hunting season.

The dogs and I pass an abandoned school, Depression-era. What kind of adults did these children grow into, I wonder, staring around at the now completely uninhabited landscape. The chain halyard on a flagpole 70 years flagless still bangs in the wind—as if the children have only gone out to recess—and I remember with sudden clarity and surprise a childhood friend who died young, whom I have not thought of in perhaps a quarter-century. Ghosts, another of October's prairie migrants. Later in the day, the dogs and I walk up on two golden eagles sitting in the branches of a cottonwood. The eagles lunge forward into flight, breaking the rotting limbs when they lift off, and in the heat and wind I am dazzled, confused—two birds rising, and two great limbs crashing to the ground. I feel invisible, and though it is again a lonely feeling, it is one that is, I think, good for the soul, and particularly accessible, out here.

Nearer to dusk, I stop near a bench of public land I wish to hunt, a place I've never hunted before—the ground before me appears overgrazed and the creek banks eroded by cattle hooves, but with a nice chokecherry thicket on the hillside—though first I want to listen to one of the baseball playoff games. The Astros, the team of my childhood, have squeaked into the playoffs and are improbably leading the mighty Cardinals. The old man, Roger Clemens, is on the mound, injured and ancient, with a full count against a young slugger. He tries to rocket a fastball past him one more time, as he has done so many tens of thousands of times before; but this time, this one time, it doesn't quite work out, and the Cards advance to the World Series, and to their appointment with destiny and the Boston Red Sox.

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Years ago, I would never have sat there in the car, so near to day's end, with hunting still to be done, and listened so comfortably to something as fleeting and irrelevant as a baseball game. I would have been out charging the hills, pounding the hills, hunting hard all the way through the day's end.

But now the ballgame is over, and I still have twenty or so minutes. I take little speckled Point out toward those chokecherries, where he finds for me a single sharptail, which I hit with a long second shot. He retrieves it, and as we walk back toward the truck, a long skein of tundra swans passes overhead, flying low and slow, descending to open water. He lifts his head, starts to run after them, then just stops and watches, until they are too small, too far away to see, disappearing into the dusk and the velvet folds of the foothills, as if into a cave for the night.

Rick Bass is a novelist and nonfiction writer in Troy. A longer version of this essay first appeared in *The Wide Open: Prose, Poetry, and Photographs of the Prairie* (University of Nebraska Press, 2008). Used with permission. Stan Fellows of Iowa City, Iowa, has illustrated for publications including *Smithsonian Magazine*, *National Geographic*, and *The New York Times*.

Member Pete McCool with his boys at the first of Pheasant season

