



## MERRIMACK VALLEY NAVHDA NEWS

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*Check us out on the web at the three "links" below!*

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# April-May 2017



Photo Courtesy of Cheryl Cyr

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## Two "Head -counts" needed for meals on Test Weekend!!

1. Dave Trahan needs a "head-count" for who will eat (provided) lunches and on what day to ensure we have enough for all who take advantage of the lunches.
2. He also needs a "head-count" of those who will join us at the Saturday evening cook-out (choice of steak or chicken).

***Please contact David Trahan ASAP***

**[davidt@onpointkennel.com](mailto:davidt@onpointkennel.com)**



## Message from Christopher Doherty, Director of Training

Hi all,

We entered April with uncertainty as whether or not we would be holding our first training day. It was not until just four days before the training that the Army Corps of Engineers opened up Sharps Farm. We were able to hold our clinic on schedule, training over fifty dogs. For our second clinic, we had less than desirable weather, and slightly less dogs, but the training went well. We have a lot of volunteers who sacrifice their own training time to make sure that the chapter has successful clinics. Without them our training would not be as good as it is, thanks to all who give their time. Our next clinic is the pre-test on the 20th, and hopefully we'll have better weather.

Since I became the director of training we have had many new members joining our chapter. I would like to take this opportunity to explain how we get the birds to our clinics. Some of our newer members may not be aware of the process and some of our old timers my have forgotten.

Every year, sometime around February, the bird farm we buy from, Foggy Ridge Game Bird Farm, requires an anticipated order estimate from us for the year. I provide numbers for the types and amount of birds, and delivery dates that we would like for the clinics. We are then required to make a deposit for the year, based on these numbers. From this order we are allowed to increase or decrease slightly with each delivery, but not by much. Around this time we are also required to obtain a Bird Import Permit from the N.H. Department of Agriculture to be able to bring these birds to the training site.

About nine days or so before each training day, I'll send out an email asking members to place their bird order with me no later than the Sunday before training. I then compile my list, and on Monday send Foggy Ridge our order for delivery to Dave Trahan's house on the Friday before our training. Foggy Ridge is infamous for its unpredictable delivery days and times, even when a time notification is requested. Sometimes it's mid afternoon, sometimes it's bedtime, and sometimes it's an hour before the training. Once the birds are delivered, they are taken out of the bird crate and loaded into our bird trailer, that Dave lets us store at his house. For years he has taken delivery, and loaded the trailer, sometimes someone might be there to help him transfer the birds, but oftentimes it is by himself. At times there are upwards of 175 to 200 birds to be moved. There are a few members, Gus, Casey, Terry, and Dave, (I apologize if I may be missing a name or two), that will then pick up the trailer on training day and bring it to Sharps Farm.

As you can see there are many hands involved in getting the birds to training. I would like to thank everyone who has had a hand in this process, especially Dave.

Thanks,  
Chris Doherty, Director of training

## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR “SPRING TEST” WEEKEND:**

**MEALS:** Lunches are ‘free’ to handlers who are testing , judging and volunteers helping with the test. All others = \$10.

Saturday dinner is \$20 = Dave says choice of steak or chicken. Location is at Sharpe’s Farm (Test location).

**RAFFLE:** Saturday evening, there will be a (fund raiser) raffle for “almost new”, “slightly used dog and hunting type items. (If anything is not taken in the raffle, we ask the donors to take them home for safe keeping and for the raffle in the fall test.) These are always fun!

**50/50 Raffles** will be held at lunch on Saturday and Sunday. See the folks at “sign in”.

**MERCHANDISE:** The chapter has hats, shirts, chapter decals— suitable windows, tool boxes, bicycles— plus pins, etc.

Hats are \$20 each and Sweatshirts (pullover or zip-front) are \$30 each.

The chapter merchandise will be available for sale on Saturday and Sunday. Stop by and see what ‘s there!

**Gun Raffle** tickets will also be available. Drawing will be at the Fall Test. (See next page.)

**Dunkin’ Donuts:** There is a Dunkin’ Donuts a few miles south-west of our location (towards Keene) at the intersection of Rte 127.

**One Day Youth Hunt:** Info is available at the pavilion. See copy of “flyer” on page 5. Parental permission a “must”!

### **Volunteer Assignments for the Spring Test:**

#### Friday, May 26

Jim Jiottis  
Gus  
Terry  
Crystal Randall  
Monique  
Rob Marcotte

#### Saturday, May 27

Michelle Gravely  
Chris Pope  
Dennis Fournier  
Andrew  
Connor

#### Sunday, May 28

Chris Pope  
Gus  
Terry L  
Charlie Taft  
Andrew  
Connor

#### **Raffle Item:**

Rob Marcotte says that this beautiful 1937 “Setter Calendar” is going in the raffle Saturday evening. Take a peek. (You may have seen it on the MVNAVHDA Facebook page.)

All you need is a frame!

(Thanks Rob!)





## Merrimack Valley Chapter



### 2017 Shotgun Raffle

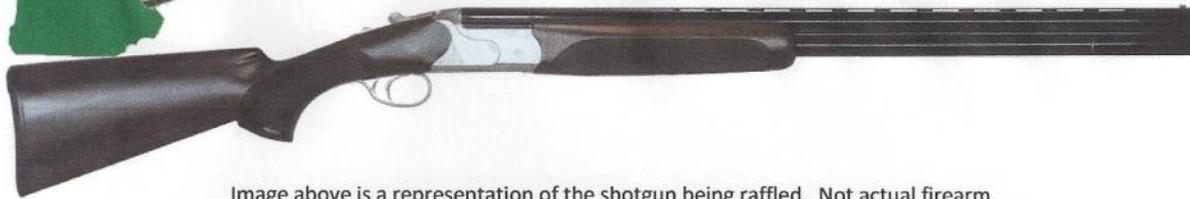


Image above is a representation of the shotgun being raffled. Not actual firearm.

### CZ "Redhead Premier" O/U 28 ga Shotgun!

Silver Satin Chrome Receiver; Single Trigger; Turkish Walnut Stock;  
28" Vent Rib Barrels; New Gun! with 5-Choke Tube Set

"The flagship of CZ's line of over/under shotguns, the tried-and-true Redhead has the NEW 1-piece CNCed receiver, laser-cut checkering, solid mid-ribs, pistol grip and a classy white bead. The Redhead Premier is a true all-purpose shotgun, it's just as comfortable to shoot at a sporting clays event as it is when chasing chukar in the mountains. With a silver receiver and extractor, the Redhead Premier is packed with features that can't be found on another shotgun in its price range". -CZ.

**Each \$10 donation gets a ticket**

### Tickets available at Chapter Events

Disclaimer: You must be a legal citizen and resident of the United States and be able to legally purchase this firearm within the state in which you reside.

### Winning ticket to be drawn at the Merrimack Valley Chapter's 'Fall Test'

(August 2017)

All Proceeds go to the Merrimack Valley Navhda Chapter



# One-day Youth Upland Hunt



Sponsored by the  
**Merrimack Valley Chapter of NAVHDA\***

(\*North American Versatile Hunting Dog Association)

**Saturday July 29<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

## DEMONSTRATIONS

*"How to train an upland dog for hunting",*

*"Correct dog handling"*

*"Proper positioning of hunters in the field"*

*Professional Guide — "Bird Hunting"*

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With adult supervision, **each youth will hunt with a trained dog.**

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*The goals of the day will be (1) to introduce the youth to hunting over a trained "bird dog", (2) to introduce them to the instruction and assistance that they can get from NAVHDA, and (3) fun!*

Event is limited to twelve (12) youth--age 13 years and older.

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There is no charge.

Lunch is provided

Start time 9:00 am—goes till done

**New England Upland Sporting Club**

**222 Danforth Corners Rd**

**Hillsborough, New Hampshire**

**Entries will be handled on a "first come, first served" basis.**

***Written, parental permission is required. (located on opposite side)***  
***Valley Chapter are final.***

***All decisions by Merrimack***

## Message from MV Chapter President—Carol Trahan

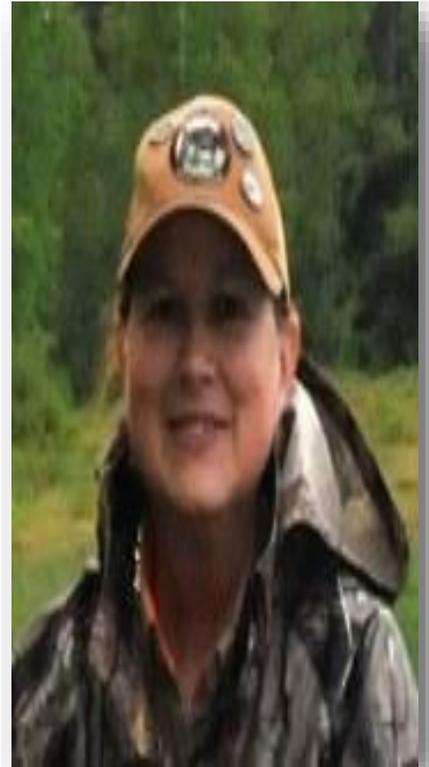
Sorry that I have not been to many training days.... Dave and I have a litter of pups on the ground and well, *someone* needs to keep an eye on them!

Well, we have been off with a big start with 4 clinics and one demonstration for the NH Fish and Game Department. I want to thank all the volunteers for stepping up and helping. We understand that the attendance was about 9,000.

We have our spring test coming in a few weeks and I am hoping for good weather! I want to wish everyone good luck at the test. For those who are testing for the first time, enjoy the moment with your dog. MV members stand behind each of you as you run your dog. We have many NA (Natural Ability) dogs running. This —the natural ability test—is just the beginning of your training to a great hunting dog. We have many more clinics planned this summer—along with a youth day!

I look forward to many days of training with you all.

Carol T



Carol Trahan

MV Chapter President

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## REPORT ON HELDCA ACTIVITIES by Chris Pope

Hello Den!

Last Sunday (May 7) HELDCA conducted our spring cleanup at Sharpe's farm. Of course we held training there the week before and we knew the Farm was in pretty good shape. None the less there was an awesome turnout by the Merrimack Valley Chapter of NAVHDA (once again!!) By my count we had 15 members representing our club. We repaired the snow fence; picked up brush and raked along the road to the pond; cleared a huge pine that had fallen between fields one and two; assisted other clubs with clearing course 1 & 2; and other necessary maintenance. I tried to keep track of the NAVHDA members there and I'm sure I missed someone (so sorry if I did!)— Crystal and Wayne Randall, Rob Marcotte, Bob Marsden, Jack and Belinda Jackopsic, Geoff Gutt, John Graf, Ryan Sullivan, Michelle Gravely, Conor Devoy, Fred Lewis and his wife, Jim Bolduc, and Dave Trahan. I believe the Jackopsic's get the award for farthest travelled from Bath NH!

In other HELDCA news- we have our new corporate papers and name which is "HELDCA" rather than the acronym all spelled out. We are close to signing a contract with the Army Corps of Engineers, who manage the Sharpe's Farm. Fish and Game has approved all of this year's dates and we have all of the permits and documents necessary for training and tests. This includes MV-NAVHDA's Insurance certificate, safety plans, bird Importation Health Certificate, the Regulated Shooting Area Permit and our field trial permits for spring and fall.

*If we have someone handy in the shop, we could use some new event signs. These are the signs we place at the entrance to Sharpe's on training and test days. Please call, text or email me if you are willing to volunteer to build new signs. – Chris Pope (603-545-7229 [chpope@comcast.net](mailto:chpope@comcast.net))*

Thanks! -Chris

## Shine or Showers?

Returning home from the first chapter's first May training event, I spent a little time with the dog out behind the house doing drills in the field and running in the woods. (*I walked, she ran.*) During that time, the light mist turned into a light drizzle, then into a shower.

As handlers, do we train in "bad weather"—or are we sunshine hunters...hunting only on "bluebird days"? Train only in good weather, and one stands the risk of "the wheels coming off" when we try to hunt in unsettled, uncomfortable weather. The more experienced both we and our dogs are, the more resolute and focused we can remain on the task at hand.

The language of our lives is full of opposites—"feast or famine", "wet or dry", "cold or hot"...to be good handlers, we —along with our dogs—need to be able to perform in "shine or showers".



## [EMAIL.ADDRESS@outerlimits.net](mailto:EMAIL.ADDRESS@outerlimits.net)

It's exciting to see the chapter grow and thrive as new members become part of the "body" of MV Navhda. Our own sense of "community" continues to grow. We're also proving, the old adage: "the more, the merrier!"

Lately we've been having a few problems with "contact" email addresses that were given to the Chapter. Because several addresses we had were *no longer in use*, we had several emails "bounce back" to us. Our inboxes tend to "clog up" with the automatically generated "FAILED" responses. Considering the volume of emails we are handling, it becomes a real "pain".

PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE when you change your email address, inform [mvnavhda.membership@gmail.com](mailto:mvnavhda.membership@gmail.com) (as well as [NAVHDA HQ](#)) so we can update our chapter records and keep our "ship" running as it should.

We want to do a good job for you, and we also want to be able to spend time with our families. Your help will be appreciated!

*You will notice fewer pictures in the newsletter. The bulk of our pictures are on social media (Facebook) and on Shutterfly. If you haven't signed onto the MVNAVHDA Facebook page, and the MVNAVHDA Shutterfly site you'll miss on the bulk of them. Because the large number of members and wide range of tastes, we've given up on choosing which pictures we think are best. We'll choose a representative few for the newsletter and the rest will be at the other two locations.*

**Note of interest to those who are signed p on the Shutterfly site:** Cheryl has set it up so we get an automatic "heads-up" (reminder) for training dates etc. that are on our calendar. Thanks Cheryl!

*Den*

[mvnavhda.editor@gmail.com](mailto:mvnavhda.editor@gmail.com)



Early morning visitor @ Windfall Lodge.

## WHAT'S HAPPENING IN AND AROUND THE MERRIMACK VALLEY:

- **MVNAVHDA member, Paul Fuller**, has a three-part series appearing in the June, July & August editions of *The Versatile Hunting Dog*. Titled *Understanding Scent*, the three-part series covers how a bird creates scent, the diffusion of that scent and how a dog receives the scent. Paul promises everyone will learn and benefit from these articles.
- **CONCORD, N.H.** -- Take advantage of New Hampshire's Free Fishing Day, Saturday, June 3, 2017. On Free Fishing Day, you can fish anywhere in New Hampshire -- freshwater or saltwater -- without a fishing license. See [NH Free Fishing Day](#)
- **CONCORD, N.H.** -- Remember to brake for moose when traveling New Hampshire roadways. There were 116 moose/vehicle collisions in New Hampshire in 2016; in the last five years the state has averaged 136 per year. The months May through October are high-risk months for encountering moose on the roads, as moose come out to the roads to eat salt during these months. [Brake for Moose](#) (This is much less dangerous than the "Don't Brake for Moose—It'll Fill Your Freezer" approach!)
- **CONCORD, N.H.** -- Learn to fly fish while visiting beautiful northern New Hampshire! The New Hampshire Fish and Game Department is offering a beginning fly-fishing weekend course called "Fly-fishing, A-Z" on June 3-4, 2017, at Coleman State Park in Stewartstown, NH. [Fly Fishing Workshop](#)
- **CONCORD, N.H.** -- New Hampshire's white-tailed deer population once again showed no evidence of chronic wasting disease (CWD), based on monitoring data gathered during the 2016 hunting season. [NH CWD Report](#)
- **Vassalboro, Maine** – April 27, 2017, the Maine Warden Service graduated ten new game wardens at the Maine Criminal Justice Academy in Vassalboro. The new wardens recently completed an extensive 12-week advanced academy specifically for Maine's game wardens. [Ten New Maine Game Wardens](#)
- NAVHDA International President David Trahan talks with NH Governor Chris Sununu at "Wild NH Day" about NAVHDA's "youth program" and what Merrimack Valley (in particular) is doing to promote outdoor skills, ethics and conservationism.

*It seems "Nara" found a new friend in Governor Sununu*



## April 22 Training Day

I counted over 54 cars on training day. Merrimack Valley is growing! The weather was overcast and chilly. Sprinkles were few and the promised showers never appeared. There was lots of activity on the fields—new pups, utility dogs, and perhaps best of all youth and children. Here are a few photos of the day. The others will be on Facebook (MVNAVHDA) or on Shutterfly (MVNAVHDA).



More of the 'talent' for tomorrow's chapter.

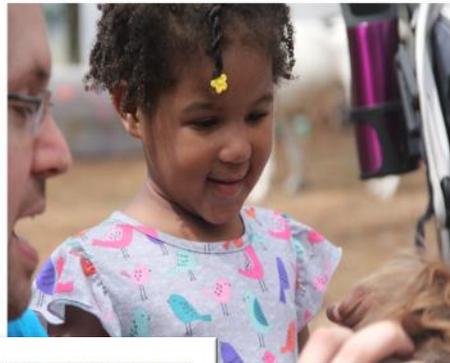
# May 6 Training Day @ Sharpe's Farm

Overcast, showers held off—mostly. Great day for training!



## WILD NH DAY "DEMO" at NH FISH & GAME HEADQUARTERS

Jessica Barker wrote to NHF&G which said that about 9,000 people attended. Many of them came through the area where we were set up! Lots of love for the dogs! Lots of "puppy love" for children of all ages!



Check out this little lad at the training table!

# PUPPIES!!! (All female)

Locust Ridge is pleased to announce the birth of 7 beautiful female GSP puppies out of Sternjaegers Whistling Dixie by Tall Timbers Living the High Life (aka Bode). These puppies were whelped on 4/24/17 and are healthy, plump little girls. Mom and Dad both hunt regularly and are field certified.



## Contact

Richard and Mary Johnson  
E. Thetford, VT 05043  
802-785-4288  
[Mej\\_1948@yahoo.com](mailto:Mej_1948@yahoo.com)



Dam: "Dixie" (NAVHDA # GS-016676)



Sire: "Bode" (Tall Timbers Doing the High Life)

*A few members had some interest in this subject last year. Here is the 2017 notice from Idaho. Interested parties should contact the Idaho Humane Society directly. Den*

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## Rattlesnake, Porcupine and Skunk Avoidance Training

Jun 03, 2017 | 08:00AM - 03:00PM

The Idaho Chukar Foundation and Idaho Humane Society offer classes each year that are designed to teach dogs to avoid the sight, sound and smell of rattlesnakes and porcupines. This year, we're adding skunk avoidance training as well.

Training sessions for 2017 will take place between 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, June 3rd, at Julia Davis Park in Boise. Experienced dog handlers will work with your dog one-on-one and focus on your dog's reaction and body language to a snake, porcupine or skunk. The avoidance behavior is taught by putting a remote controlled electronic collar on the dog. When the dog's attention is on the snake, porcupine or skunk, an unpleasant stimulation is applied to the dog. The stimulation is similar to static electricity. The session takes about 15 minutes depending on the dog, though most dogs learn the avoidance behavior quickly.

*NOTE: A dog can be registered for **ONLY ONE** training session – rattlesnake, porcupine or skunk. Veterinarian behavioral canine science has indicated that a second training session within the same day or week is too much stimulation for one dog.*

You can read more about each type of training on our [event page](#).

### [Register for rattlesnake avoidance training](#)

The class is \$60. A second dog owned by the same family may be added for \$50 and any additional dogs are \$30. Please note that no refunds are available.

### [Register for rattlesnake avoidance refresher training](#)

If you have participated in rattlesnake avoidance training organized by ICF and IHS with your dog in the past, the same dog(s) may sign up for a refresher course between 12 p.m. and 4 p.m. for \$30.

### [Register for porcupine avoidance training](#)

The class is \$40 per dog.

### [Register for porcupine avoidance refresher training](#)

If you have participated in the porcupine avoidance training organized by ICF and IHS with your dog in the past, the same dog(s) may sign up for a refresher course for \$25.

### [Register for skunk avoidance training](#)

The class is \$30 per dog.

If you would like to pay with a method other than credit card, you can register at the Idaho Humane Society, 4775 Dorman St. The shelter store is open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. seven days a week.

Categories { [Rattlesnake Avoidance Training](#) [Porcupine Avoidance Training](#) [Skunk Avoidance Training](#) }

# Couple shocked at 'dog lease' deal

By [Ashly McGlone](#) [Contact Reporter](#)

After Anthony and Françoise Claessens picked out a purebred bichon frise puppy and got it home, they were more than a little surprised to look closely at the financing paperwork.

They had leased a dog.

The contract required regular service and maintenance and allowed the finance company to “inspect the pet at any reasonable time.” At the end of 27 months of \$95.99 payments, they would still not own the dog, which they named Tresor.

“I have never heard of leasing a dog in my life,” Anthony Claessens said. “We were under the understanding we were purchasing a dog... I feel that we were swindled.”

The store, Oceanside Puppy, and finance company WAGS Financing of Reno, Nev., say that’s not the case.

“We call it puppy payments, and you can make payments via lease or via traditional loan program,” said David Salinas, who owns the shop on Oceanside Boulevard. “Just like any other transaction, whether you buy a car or a puppy, or jewelry, the transaction is the same when you make a payment.”

Salinas’s Oceanside store, and another in National City, offer four financing options. WAGS is just one of them.

Salinas said 90 percent of his customers choose to finance the cost of their new pet, allowing them to take home a dog they otherwise wouldn’t be able to afford.

“I think that’s very unfair that they are saying we are being fraudulent,” he said.

The Claessens were in the market for a dog because their previous bichon frise, which they had for seven years, had died.

They could not afford to pay the \$495 asking price for the dog at Oceanside Puppy, so they chose the financing option.

After 27 months of payments, they could pay a \$93.52 fee to end the lease or \$187.04 to purchase the pet — “plus official fees and taxes.”

According to the couple, no store employee mentioned that they were signing up for a lease rather than a purchase



Salinas said his employees do the best they can to explain the financing packages, but it’s the customer’s responsibility to read the terms.

“It is only a surprise to the customer if they are not reading their contract,” Salinas said. “As a courtesy, we explain it the best we can” and any questions employees can’t answer are referred to the financing company, he said.

Anthony Claessens worked as a car salesman after retiring from the Air Force and working as a captain for PSA Airlines and US Airways.

“Having sold cars and leased cars, as a salesman, I understand the disclosure that you have to do,” he said.

His pet lease contract said, “If you do not exercise your right to buy the Pet, you will return it to us at a place we identify.”

It also required “daily exercise and regular bathing and grooming” and said the lessee must “properly and immediately dispose of any waste product produced by the pet.”

Those that want to terminate the lease early incur penalties and fees. In the event of a default, the company can “take back the Pet wherever we find it and peacefully enter any property where the pet may be to do so,” it said.

Claessens found himself back at the store less than 24 hours after taking the dog home on Nov. 13. He canceled the contract.

WAGS Financing officials said their contract is clear and customers are happy to have options that usually end in dog ownership.

“It’s not our intent to repossess a pet. That is not what we envisioned when we started this company,” said Dusty Wunderlich, CEO of Bristlecone Holdings, WAGS’ parent company. “This is obviously a very sensitive situation. In no way, shape or form do we want to mislead.”

Wunderlich said in WAGS’ first year of operation, “No one has gone the full term of the contract and returned the pet,” and only a couple dogs have been “re-homed” after customers ended the lease early. About 350 pet retail stores and breeders use WAGS Financing in 40 states, he said.

As for contract enforcement, “Typically we are not going and doing regular inspections,” unless they hear about mistreatment of the animal, he said.

Wunderlich, who also offers financing for wedding dresses, cattle and furniture under other brands, said, “Over the last 10 years, lease-to-own and rent-to-own is becoming a much more common way for people and consumers to purchase goods. The structure creates a lot of flexibility that you wouldn’t see in a credit card or payment installment system.”

WAGS Financing spokeswoman Brooke Rose said, “We are giving people the opportunity to budget out the purchase of a pet... Though it’s built on a leasing model, we don’t anticipate people will return the pet.”

Claessens’ wife, Françoise, said she hopes no one else has to go through what the couple did.

“It’s a lot of trauma. When you don’t have children at home, you look at that pet as a child. This is a bad, bad disappointment, and they hurt your emotions,” she said. “What they are doing is irresponsible.”

Anthony Claessens agreed, saying, “When I was young I had the highest respect for senior citizens... The public has to know about these people.”

WAGS Financing officials said they canceled the contract after hearing from the store about the Claessens concerns, and Oceanside Puppy took the dog back.

Salinas said, “We will make it a point to educate our customers a little bit more about the financing options so there is no confusion.”

“We are actually a very legitimate moral company,” Salinas said. “We knew there was a need for purebred puppies in the stores... We do a wonderful job at being able to help customers afford puppies. We provide amazing puppies, not from puppy mills.”

**THANKS TO OUR NATIONAL SPONSORS:**



**THANKS TO OUR LOCAL CHAPTER SPONSORS:**



**AND THANKS TO OUR CONSERVATION PARTNERS:**





# Merrimack Valley Chapter Officers and Appointees E-Contact List



Member	CHAPTER OFFICERS	Email
Carol Trahan	President	<a href="mailto:carolt@onpointkennel.com">carolt@onpointkennel.com</a>
Terry Long	Vice President	<a href="mailto:longdrivered@yahoo.com">longdrivered@yahoo.com</a>
Gus Gouzoules	Treasurer	<a href="mailto:baysiderun@myfairpoint.net">baysiderun@myfairpoint.net</a>
Phil Thayer	Secretary	<a href="mailto:vtbirddogs@gmail.com">vtbirddogs@gmail.com</a>
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Member	APPOINTED CHAPTER POSITIONS	Email
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Jessica Barker	Membership	<a href="mailto:mvnavhda.membership@gmail.com">mvnavhda.membership@gmail.com</a>
Mike Trull	Webmaster	<a href="mailto:webmaster@mvnavhda.com">webmaster@mvnavhda.com</a>
Dennis Swett	Newsletter Editor	<a href="mailto:mvnavhda.editor@gmail.com">mvnavhda.editor@gmail.com</a>
Jessica Barker	Merchandise Coordinator	<a href="mailto:mvnavhda.membership@gmail.com">mvnavhda.membership@gmail.com</a>
Terry Long	NH Wildlife Federation Representative	<a href="mailto:longdrivered@yahoo.com">longdrivered@yahoo.com</a>