



MERRIMACK VALLEY NAVHDA NEWS

AUGUST 2012

www.mvnavhda.com



THE CHAPTER'S NEW ZINGER WINGER!



<https://www.uglydoghunting.com>

WORKERS WANTED FOR TEST WEEKEND - Suzi Moore, Director of Testing
tracadie@comcast.net

The Merrimack Valley Chapter of NAVHDA extends **HEARTFELT THANKS** to:

Terry Long & Gus Gouzoules for constructing the custom shelving inside the chapter's new utility trailer. Check it out on the next Training Day!

Lou Gagnon & John Graf for donating duck decoys.

Casey Matthews for donating the duck blind and donating/constructing the "training/whoa" boards.

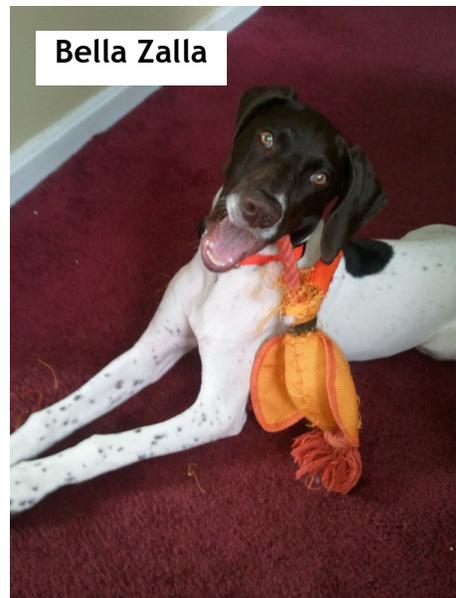
Ugly Dog Hunting for multiple raffle items & continued support.

Our **Merrimack Valley Chapter members** for support through donated raffle items, 50/50 raffle tickets, food donations, volunteers at Training & Test Days, pictures & stories for newsletter and promoting the Chapter by wearing our Chapter Hats, Shirts & T-Shirts!

"Sven" ©Colleen Kilbreath



<http://photostopvt.com/> PhotoSlam 2012 People's Choice Award



Bella Zalla



Kaiser Waiting for the Blind



Dena & Susan Fuller



"K-Lee"

Whole again.....

#Dennis Lee Swett 28 June 2012

My friends sometimes think I dig too deeply when I want to know something. When "Kid", my little Brittany approached "old age", I began what turned into a (more than) two year search looking for a "next dog". I looked at all the Continental breeds. My buddy Frank said, "Why not stick with a winner and get another Brittany?" My wife, Sylvia, was "sold" on getting another GSP as had one "two dogs ago". My friend on Martha's Vineyard thought I should just get a GWP...he has two. Of course, my wife thought that I was obsessing. My hunting buddy thought I was taking too long in making up my mind. And my friend George couldn't see any sense in what I was doing.

Regardless of what everyone else thought, I continued to look at all continental breeds.

I wanted my choice to be based on careful thought and understanding—not just an emotional jump. I forced myself to look only at adult dogs. All puppies are cute, and knew that if I looked at puppies, I would "fall in love" before I had completed my search. Besides, they're only puppies for a few months.

With the help of books, many breeders, the internet, streaming videos, countless hours of search engine time and meeting many "representative dogs", I gave the activity my best shot. I don't believe I left a stone unturned. As I neared the end of my searching, a catastrophic kidney failure took my little Brittany and suddenly I was "dog-less". A part of me was lost. I was *broken*.

The Pudelpointer characteristics seemed to "work" for me and what I considered to be my needs and desires. The next step was to get my wife to "buy into" my choice. (She really wanted a GSP!) ...*So*, I pulled up a cute PP puppy's picture on the computer and called her into the office. She looked at it and said, "That's a face I could fall in love with!" I knew then that it was "Game on!"

The next step was to find a breeder. I looked up Bill Athens of Killbuck Kennels in Ohio. He is also one of the founders of the North American Pudelpointer Breeders Alliance (NAPPA). I had emailed and talked to him a couple of times. I also contacted owners of Bill's dogs. When I was ready for "next steps", he advised me that since we had last communicated, his litter was "sold out". Bill referred me to Jeff George of Ripsnorter Kennels in Utica, Ohio. I liked speaking with Jeff. I appreciated his responses and easy, candid manner. I was pleased with his history as a breeder and with the "transparent" breeding relationships in NAPPA. I was especially pleased with the pedigree of the pending litter. After a "satellite peek" at his facility, (*Maybe my wife was right about me having an obsession!*) I told him that Monday there'd be a deposit check on his kitchen table. And there was.

After what seemed to be the longest of waits, the puppies were born. Sylvia and I watched with intense interest as pictures were uploaded to the Ripsnorter Kennel website. Week by week we saw the puppies change, noticed their build and coats—we poured over every picture as if we were doing forensics.

The time finally came when we were able to get our puppy. We decided to drive to Ohio and pick up the puppy rather than have her flown to New Hampshire. After a few days travel, Ripsnorter's Ceilidh ("K-Lee") is finally home.

We belonged to NAVHDA for a short time many years before. Unfortunately, we lived too far away. With business activity and other demands for our time, I couldn't sustain my activity in the Yankee Chapter. As I recently prepared for retirement, I discovered that the Merrimack Valley Chapter had been formed and was much closer to me. I joined straight away, hoping to meet the same sort of (great) people that I met in Maine. And I have to say that I wasn't disappointed in the least!

"So where's your dog?".... I started attending events "solo". It was one of the best decisions that I'd made in a long time. It allowed me to interact, to help out in some small way and to learn. What a wonderful experience! My involvement included anything from running a thermos to the field, to planting birds. I came to play and I was being allowed on the field. How fun is that!

With all the promise that a puppy brings, K-Lee and I are looking forward to more early morning walks, drills, and swims in the headwaters of the Merrimack River. What happens next? NA Testing, more new NAVHDA friendships and fun! Hopefully the future holds many "dog games" and fall days afield. But for now, it's time for our evening walk outside. Oh, it's so great to be WHOLE AGAIN!

"You can live without a dog, but it's not worth it." Heinz Rühmann

**The MERRIMACK VALLEY CHAPTER CHUKAR CHALLENGE
MEMBER'S DAY - NOVEMBER 17, 2012 AT SHARPE'S FARM Hopkinton, NH**

Want to test your hunting skills? See how all your hard work and training has paid off? Grab a partner and your dog and put together a team and join us for the first **Merrimack Valley Chukar Challenge**. Come join other members and friends for a fun day full of activities and good food.

The 30-minute hunting challenge will consist of a two-person / one-dog team. Six chukars will be planted randomly in one field. One judge will score the dog from wing to retrieve and award points for each bird encountered. Points will be awarded based on the performance and scored 1-4. The team will lose points for extra shots, lack of a "point" from the dog, and non return of game. Prizes will be awarded to the top 3 highest finishers.

The cost of a team is \$75 and includes birds and lunch. Entries must be received by September 17, 2012. Email me for payment and mailing information.

Chris Doherty, Director of Training landlubber30@myfairpoint.net

A Note from the Director of Training

It was nice to see everyone again at the Water Clinic on 8/4/12. The weather was great and the rain held off until we started to drive away. Once again, people volunteered to help out and made it a very successful training day.

From the noise that some of the dogs were making they were enjoying it also. We had everything from a young pup swimming for the first time to old timers "playing the game".

I would like to thank all those that helped out, from setting up fields and tents, as well as helping with lunch, to duck launching and breaking down and cleaning up. A special thanks goes out to Dave and Mike for bringing the bird & equipment trailers and to John for bringing his 4 wheeler. I appreciate that everyone had pre ordered their birds. Having an accurate number for the bird order helps keep the cost of training down. Our next training day is the Pre-Test on August 18th, where we will run handlers and their dogs through a mock NAVHDA test. Please email me if you plan to attend.

Looking forward to seeing all of you there and don't forget to get your entries in early for the November Chukar Challenge at Sharpe's Farm.

Thanks again to all for helping making my job a lot easier,
Chris Doherty
Director of Training



Terry, Terry, Nara & Seeker

I brought my dogs Nara and Seeker to Conner's Farm for a run last month. The front parts of the field by the parking lot and by the sheds were mowed, but the rest had hay as tall as me.

When I got there a man was loading 3 kids into his car. When he saw me with the dogs he got them out of the car to watch. Being the show off that I am, I decided to put the dogs through their paces. I let them out the crates, tailgated them as I got stuff out of the cab, put their collars on, and brought them to a heel, after I called them off the tailgate. I heeled both of them to the road, stopped and sat them down, walked into the road to check for nonexistent traffic then released them to cross. I was really pouring it on.

I worked the field in a zig zagging style until I zigged and noticed the dogs were still zagging. Now what? They are supposed to be in front of me. I turned around and saw the dogs working the tree line. I called to them and Seeker came prancing toward me with something in his mouth. "Look what I caught daddy!" (He must have been thinking). Oh no (I thought) he has a bird in his mouth! I did not think Professional Dog Training had started as it was not the 15th yet. With horror I thought it might be a game bird and me with witnesses. As he got closer I noticed it didn't look like a bird, terrified now, I thought it was a porcupine. All I was thinking was Vet bills for both dogs, ****ouch****! I yelled DROP! Thank God he didn't follow his training. We were trying to get him to sit in front of us on his delivery. After he dropped whatever it was. He started rubbing his snout on the ground, like he was trying to rid himself of a mouth full of quills. Nara was keeping her distance. As I got closer I noticed this little white furry tail heading for the woods. "A baby skunk", I realized, a second before the smell hit.

I decided to let them run through the tall grass hoping the smell would rub off. I know wishful thinking right? Seeker kept running by me rubbing my leg. Now I smelled as bad as they did! I walked by the "gallery" who were still there, probably to report me to fish and game for bothering the wild life or training before the 15th. When they smelled us and took pity on us and left very quickly as though we were diseased. I felt like having Seeker rub the man's leg to share the wealth.

I thanked God a 2nd time for having my truck with the kennels in the bed and the cap off. I brought them to the pond behind Lowe's in Epping for a swim. Bad idea, as you know dogs love to give their masters a shower when they get out of the water. Now I was wet and smelly. I guess you get used to the smell after a while. Finally I was heading for home for a hydrogen peroxide bath. I had to swing by Walgreens for a few more bottles I didn't think my 4 quarts at home left over from a mid night run to Walgreens a few years ago would still be potent. I asked the girl at the counter where the hydrogen peroxide was explaining that my dogs were sprayed by a skunk.

The sarcastic little *&*(& said she could tell. Finally home, several hydrogen peroxide bathes later, including the kennels, truck, and me, I felt very fortunate as it cost me only a few dollars. I called the groomer and ask her if we could move up the dog's appointment. Several days later she got me in. She called telling me that Nara had a lump under her neck, I knew that thinking it was a tick bite was just too good to be true. That evening when my wife checked it, it was the size of a tennis ball and extremely hot to the touch. Off to the Emergency Vets in Portsmouth. \$557 later and the abscess drained and a pocket full of pills, I left for home. The vet said she found a small puncture wound caused probably by a bite.

I reflected back to my thoughts of a few days ago, "a huge vet bill for both dogs," at least it was for only one and I have pet insurance. Oh! Have you ever watched your vet up sell? Well! She probably doesn't need it but recommend a complete lab work up, \$110. What is this medication for? "It is a pain medication", she said. "But she is not in pain", I said. "It also takes down swelling." She said. The bill for miscellaneous drugs was \$106. Of course you get the itemized bill at the end. Oh! The labs came back fine. The important thing is Nara is fine. They did a great job, I feel the extra money spent brought me peace of mind.

On a serious note..... I would strongly recommend pet insurance for those of you that have working dogs. The cost isn't as bad as a huge Vet bill can be. It definitely has paid for itself in the long run for my family.
~Terry Long~

FISH HOOK

Hi Jess, Just read about a SM puppy that ate a fish. Owner brought her to the vet and found this. You might want to share this in the newsletter.





Dennis & "K-Lee"

"Questing": The Bane of Summer Dog Handling

"Questing" is a tick behavior to catch a new host. From what I've seen, they are pretty good at it! Here in New England, it seems that every outing with my dog requires time on the tailgate and later in the kitchen pulling ticks—first from her, then from me. There's a deep-seated—even primeval—feeling about ticks that we humans can't seem to shake. Many dog owners I know go into a near-panic when they feel something creeping across the back of the neck. Ticks have such an "ick" factor that they engender feelings of their presence even when there are none. As I write this, I'm starting to feel "crawly" things on me. Checking, I see that it's not so. ...Still, I'd better check again.

What is perhaps worse to handlers is to see ticks buried in the hair of their dogs. We know and sense what problems tick bites can be for them. When afield in spring and summer the contact with ticks is very high. We love our dogs and want to protect them from injury and illness, so so our reactions become vitriolic ... and in many cases, probably not suitable for print. Truly, tick "questing" is the bane of summer dog handling.

In "questing" for a new host, a tick crawls up the stem or leaves of vegetation such as grass or the edges of leaves near the ground

and waits with their front legs extended—especially if it senses a new host passing. It is believed that carbon dioxide, heat, and movement stimulate the tick into the "questing" behavior. As the front legs brush the intended host, the tick hitches a ride—and within minutes to a few hours—starts its free meal. The Illinois Department of Public Health website on environmental health (<http://www.idph.state.il.us/envhealth/pccommonticks.htm>) says that "*Ticks can only crawl; they cannot fly or jump.*" I don't believe it. I have personal experience of a tick jumping off my hand. It left like a tiddlywink! One of my friends watched a tick jump a few inches from a piece of paper. Perhaps they mean "jump like a grasshopper". Admittedly, most of my experiences have been with crawling ticks. Generally speaking, if someone finds a tick on the head or upper body area, it probably crawled there from the lower body areas.

According to the National Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), ticks are vectors for certain diseases and ailments in pets *and* humans. Therefore caution is wise. On the CDC's website, (http://www.cdc.gov/ticks/life_cycle_and_hosts.html) the CDC writes "*A tick will suck the blood slowly for several days. If the host animal has a blood-borne infection, the tick will ingest the pathogens with the blood. After feeding, most ticks will drop off and prepare for the next life stage.*

At its next feeding, it can then transmit an acquired disease to the new host." Also, the Illinois Department of Public Health says that "*Ticks are among the most efficient carriers of disease because they attach firmly when sucking blood, feed slowly and may go unnoticed for a considerable time while feeding. Ticks take several days to complete feeding.*" Most tick-borne diseases will take several hours to transmit to a host, so *the sooner a tick is located and removed, the lower the risk of disease.*

Of particular concern today is Lyme disease which is carried primarily by the deer tick, now called the black-legged tick. The deer tick looks like a dog tick but is much smaller—about the size of a sesame seed. The black-legged tick lives mostly east of the Mississippi River. However, according to National Geographic's website, (<http://animals.nationalgeographic.com/animals/bugs/deer-tick/>) the western black legged tick lives west of the Rocky Mountains and it is also a vector for Lyme disease.

There are hundreds of different kinds of ticks, but for the purposes of this article, we'll concern ourselves with the dog tick. Ticks come in a "hard" and "soft" category. Dog ticks are of the "hard tick" category. According to the Researchers at the R. B. Kimsey Laboratory of the University of California, Davis, Entomology Department, "*The American dog tick is a three host tick that feeds on rodents and lagomorphs (rabbits and hares) during its sub-adult life stages, and large mammals, frequently canids and humans, as adults. It is the most important vector of the Rocky Mountain spotted fever rickettsia in the eastern U.S. and is also able to transmit the bacteria which causes tularemia (hunter's disease).*" (<http://entomology.ucdavis.edu/faculty/rbkimsey/caticks.html>) Fortunately, most ticks are not carriers. However, the wise handler treats each one *as if* it is infected. Personally, I feel like I'm doing the world a favor when I eliminate one of them.

The tick is not an insect. It is an arachnid. Adult ticks have eight legs like a spider. The larvae have only six legs and look like a small adult. Once they get their first fill of blood, they molt and end up with 8 legs like their parents.

Ticks that haven't fed look like a flat seed. Many hard ticks can go for months without feeding if not overly stressed by environmental conditions. (We've had a couple of mild winters here in New England, and the tick population definitely seems to have flourished.)

Ticks have four stages of life: the egg, the six-legged larva, the eight legged nymph and the adult. The eggs are laid in cracks and similar places. After the egg hatches, the larva feeds on an appropriate host. Once the larva has fed, it molts and becomes the larger nymph—having eight legs. The nymph then feeds on a host, molts, and becomes an adult—which is the largest life stage of the tick. Both adult males and adult females feed on a host. There are ticks that spend their entire life on one host. Some other ticks may be a two-host parasite. Most ticks prefer to have a different host at each stage of their life.

Generally, ticks are *most* active in the spring and early summer—depending on locale—but we need to remember that we will encounter some in the fall while hunting. They have been known to be active even at 45 degrees (ground temperature) in the winter. The Brown Dog Tick –also known as the Kennel Tick (*Rhipicephalus sanguineus*) and the American dog tick (*Dermacentor variabilis*) both feed on mammals, birds, reptiles and amphibians.

If you see a tick that is swelled up to the size of a small grape, it's a good bet that it's a female. The males swell up, but not that large. Once the female is swelled up, she drops off the host and crawls under leaves or into another suitable place to lay her eggs. The eggs hatch and the cycle begins again. Depending on the type of tick, a female may lay up to 3,000 eggs. Male or female, the fed adult stage is terminal, meaning that after laying one batch of eggs the female dies, and after the male has reproduced, he dies. Ticks that change hosts with each life cycle may take 3 years to reach maturity. Many die for lack of food between life stages—which perhaps contributes to their apparently lower numbers in the fall.

The CDC says that "A tick will suck the blood slowly for several days. Ticks also can secrete small amounts of saliva with anesthetic properties so that the animal or person can't feel that the tick has attached itself. If the tick is in a sheltered spot, it can go unnoticed." Not much comfort in that thought! With all the feelings of "contamination" that comes from seeing a tick, it's hard to romanticize their "questing" behavior!

So how do we battle this "questing tick menace"?

First, we dress ourselves for the occasion and use proper personal preventative measures. There are publications and advisories readily available on this subject, so I'll leave this to the reader.

Second, we treat our dogs with *proven* preventive steps. The pet industry has recognized the problem of tick infestation, and has developed products and preventive measures for owners to employ. Some work better than others. Our Veterinarians can help us choose correctly.

Third, there must be "hands on" inspections of our dogs to remove any ticks that "hitched a ride". There are printed publications and YouTube clips showing how to properly remove an attached tick. We must also know *where* to look. Ticks often attach themselves in folds and areas with little or no hair—such as spots in and around the ears, the tender areas where the insides of the legs meet the body, or between the toes, and in crevices. (I found two ticks on my dog's eyelid the other day.) "Tailgate" and "at home" inspections can go a long ways towards preventing a lasting attachment of a tick to our dogs—and greatly reduce the risk of disease.

Most folks feel absolutely miserable when dealing with these blood-sucking little parasites. Our distaste for such an unwelcome critter can tend to over-ride our careful inspections of our canine friends. However, we mustn't fail our dogs in this regard. We owe it to them for all the "good" that they bring into our lives. Besides, the "hands on" is good training!

...Come here pup, let's check you again.



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For reference:

Most of the information was obtained through the following websites and documents:

<http://www.idph.state.il.us/envhealth/pccommonticks.htm>

<http://animals.nationalgeographic.com/animals/bugs/deer-tick/>

http://www.cdc.gov/ticks/life_cycle_and_hosts.html

<http://entomology.ucdavis.edu/faculty/rbkimsey/index.html>

Background Information on the Biology of Ticks: Larisa Vredevoe, Ph.D, Department of Entomology, University of California, Davis

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