



MERRIMACK VALLEY NAVHDA NEWS

June 2012

www.mvnavhda.com



From the President



First, I would like to thank all of the people who helped out at our Spring Test. We had two full days of testing. The weather was great and the test went off without a hitch. Thank you to our Director of Testing, Suzi Moore and Test Secretary, Joanna Korte for having things ready for the Judging Team and Testers. Saturday night was great! One of our members donated his time to bring a smoker along with beef brisket and pork butt - we ate like kings! Thank you, Rob Marcotte!

We have several events planned this year for training and do hope to see you all again. My husband David received a phone call from Chip Bonde, NAVHDA Secretary and the Merrimack Chapter will be hosting the National Annual Meeting in February 2014 in Manchester, NH! This event will be fun for all to meet other members from across the country with the same interest. More information will come at a later date. David will set up the committees for this event.

In this last note, our newsletter editor needs articles to put in our publications. Please send them in. Jessica does a great job but needs more input from the members.

Thank you,
Carol



DIRECTOR OF TRAINING

What a difference a year has made in our training days, what with the weather, the birds, the dogs, and the new trailer. Weather was better for us this year.

It was nice to see some new faces and everyone pitching in to help out. Dogs ran well and the birds were performing as expected, which is due to the better weather. Last year we had the cold and snow to contend with, and it made its mark on participants, but we still made it fun.

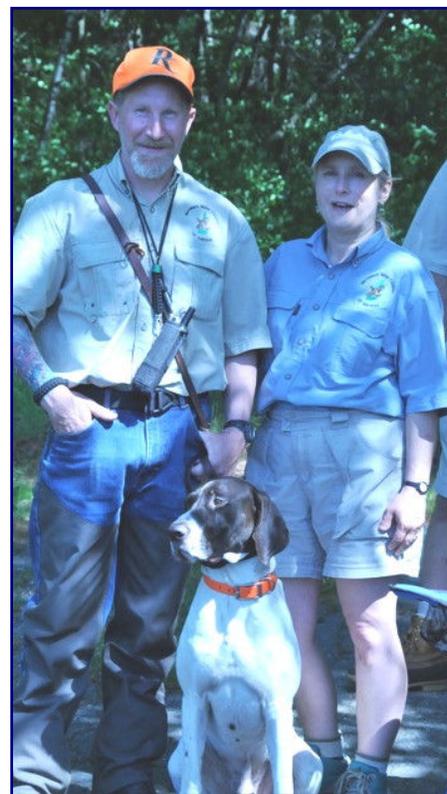
This year pheasants ran straight and dogs were able to get good tracks completed. We had hamburgers and hot dogs for both days and as always many people helped with the food to make it a successful meal.

This is the first year with the new utility trailer which made it easier to get the equipment to the site and set up faster.

There are so many people to thank for the success of the training days. You know who you are, and it is sufficed to say that I really appreciate the help of everyone from bird planters, gunners, grillers and equipment and bird haulers, for all that you do.

I am looking forward to seeing everyone again on the 23rd of June at Sharpe's Farm from 9:00a until we've had enough fun.

See you there,
Chris



A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

THANK YOU to all donors and **CONGRATULATIONS** to the winners for participating in our fundraising activities – 50/50's on Training /Test Days; Raffle Table on Test Weekend and FOOD!

THANK YOU - Casey Matthews, Director of Gunners who donated a mountain bike for a special raffle - won by Joanna Korte.

THANK YOU - MUD RIVER Dog Products for donating "The Dog Handlers Bag" <http://www.mudriverdogproducts.com/>

MEMBER NOTES & PHOTOS



Ripsnorter's Ceilidh ("K-Lee") has arrived. Registration papers went in last week. We're finally "on the board"! Dennis Swett

I just wanted to thank you for extending the info on the "whoa/training" table for me. One of the new members picked it up and, hopefully, will find it as useful as I did. I know I will miss it. Thank you, Rosemary Stanley

KOTA - Doug Ross



ABBY & KOTA - Mike Harrington



CHANCE - Doug Ross



My episode on the training day is completed and now playing on YouTube. Here's the link:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vmh4DyX30Mw>

It will also be on my website (www.birddogsafield.com) within a day or two. Whether it will be on broadcast TV this fall depends upon how many wild bird hunting episodes I create.

Enjoy! Paul Fuller

SAVE THE DATE!

The Merrimack Valley Chapter has won the bid for the 2014 annual meeting for our national members. We will be holding it in Manchester 2/6/2014 - 2/9/2014 at the Radisson Hotel.

We will start by asking for members from our chapter to volunteer and help plan for this event. I will be the chair person and will set up the various committees. If we do this right we could make our "kitty" full with funds to help us in the future.

So those who are interested call me or email me on what you think you can do for this event.

-Dave-

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**MEMBERS DAY - SAT / NOV 17, 2012**

Chukar Challenge - This is a first come first serve entry limited to ten teams - one dog; two gunners. Cost \$75 per team. Deadline for sign up is September 1st. Further information to come later on the rules of the event.

So get your dog ready and start shooting it will be fun for all! ~Dave~



MAY 2012 TEST WEEKEND



*******A Holistic Point of View*******

Susan M. Gregory

pamperedsmooch@verizon.net

Dear fellow dog lovers,

In our last issue we discussed our dog's anatomy pertaining to how they eat and digest food. In this issue we will review some commonly used ingredients contained in commercial dog foods. Please note this **does not** include raw meat food diets.

Today, many holistic veterinarians and canine nutritionalists have concluded that many health problems from allergies to cancer, even behavioral problems can stem from poor nutrition. Over the many years of caring for canines on a daily basis, I have witnessed many pet owners who unknowingly created the very problems that their animals suffered from. Becoming an educated label reader can help to insure we are feeding our hard working canines the best possible nutrition. The following is a list of only a few ingredients to try and avoid when selecting a commercial dog food.

- **Sugar** creates a blood rush which can addict a pet to a food. Returning to the same diet despite its lack of taste or nutrients is the outcome, plus diabetes, weight and behavioral problems and poor tissue repair (particularly important for our performance dogs). Also known as beet pulp "with sugar removed" (still contains it), corn gluten meal, fructose, sucrose (table sugar) or molasses. These provide empty calories which severely disrupt the body's primary functions, and inhibit proper growth of useful intestinal bacteria for assimilation of protein, calcium and other minerals.
- **Salt** can encourage pets to drink more fluid but creates a mineral imbalance which can lead to heart disease or kidney damage. It is used to hide rancid meat smell and flavor so pets will eat cheaper **4-D** meats (dead, dying, diseased or disabled animal sources).
- **Yeast** has often been suspected in immune dysfunction and can be a major threat to proper liver function and general health. Allergies, arthritis and skin problems often reverse themselves once yeast is eliminated. Yeast clogs the liver, interfering with it's primary work - detoxification.
- **By-products** A.A.F.C.O. Allows for tissues not fit for human consumption to be used in pet foods. Slaughterhouse waste materials can include moldy, rancid, spoiled meats as well as those contaminated with salmonella or too riddled with cancer, or those too high in steroid, hormone or anti-biotic testing levels to be allowed in the human food chain. The law allows for the pet food industry to use these **4 -D** meats. According to Wendall Belfield, DVM, a noted veterinarian nutritionalists, these can include urine, fecal matter, hair, pus, or meat afflicted with cancer.
- **Fillers** are hidden on the label, listed as rice, corn, etc. Potato is the worst as potato starch clogs the colon. A filler which can be fatal is soybean. It increases the protein content on the label, however, dogs cannot digest soybean so they bloat, which can cause the stomach to flip over. Any one who is familiar with "bloat" knows this is a serious and painful condition that if not treated immediately by a vet death can result (there has never been a documented case of "bloat", occurring in a dog fed a raw food diet).
- **Cellulose** is a common listing for hiding many non-nutritive and potentially harmful ingredients such as peanut or soybean hulls. These have also been heavily sprayed with anti-fungals and pesticides which can lead to cancer. Harshes on the intestinal tract, cellulose can also lead to irritable bowel syndrome. Also used in weight-loss diets to increase

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food volume without calories, non-nutritive fillers can cause the body to store fat to prevent starvation which does the exact opposite from what they claim the food to do which is weight reduction!

- **Chemical additives** are used to increase shelf life, create color, soft-chewy texture or artificial flavor. The most common offenders are ethoxyquin (a rubber stabilizer and herbicide), Propylene Glycol (similar to antifreeze), red, yellow and blue dyes and nitrates. Ethoxyquin exposure in animals has been linked to immune deficiency syndrome, cancer of the spleen, stomach and liver as well as leukemia, kidney damage, skin lesions, blindness and fetal abnormalities. The steady increase in animal cancer and serious diseases has paralleled the increase use of chemical preservatives in the pet food industry over the last 30 years. (Ethoxyquin does not need to be on the label of ingredients if the dog food company itself does not add it to the food. In other words, if they purchase an ingredient to be put into their food and it contains Ethoxyquin, they themselves did not actually put there, so by law, they do not have to state this ingredient on the bag).
- **Fad additives** sound great in marketing materials but do little to your pet's food other than to raise the price. Manufacturers do not use enough of these fad ingredients to produce the desired results that consumers are expecting. Due to their expense and lack of stability during manufacturing, they are just another marketing strategy. Glucosamine, Chondroitin, probiotics, enzymes, and supplements are commonly added to foods, even though they give best results when given separately and as needed by each individual.

“ When moist foods came out, we figured they must have a very strong preservative because they needed no refrigeration. Many of them do have a very strong preservative - Formalin. Formalin is such a good preservative, in fact, that undertakers use quite a lot of it”.

Thomas A Newland DVM.

(informative source - Azimira natural products)

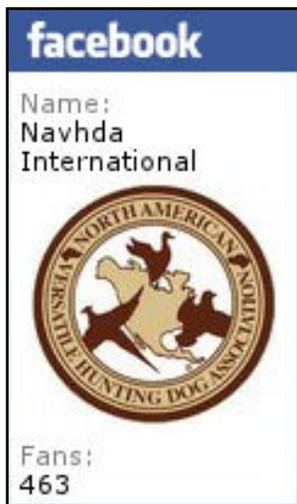
Although the above information may (and should) be disturbing as these sorts of companies are excellent in deceiving consumers into purchasing a dog food that they believe is providing their dogs with the proper nutrition. There are also quite a few very reputable dog food companies who do focus on providing the best sources of nutritional ingredients. For those of you who are not aware, there was another recent recall of many, many, brands of commercial food that not endangered the lives of many pets, but their owners were also reported to have become ill due to salmonella poisoning. For a list of these recalled foods along with more information on how to select a good dog food go to thenaturaldog.com.

In our next issue we will review heartworms from a holistic point of view. Until then, the boys and I wish you all a great summer.

-Susan and the boys-

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