



MERRIMACK VALLEY NAVHDA NEWS

MARCH 2012

www.mvnavhda.com



Introducing our NEW ADDITION!



The Merrimack Valley Chapter of NAVHDA is now a proud owner of a NEW UTILITY TRAILER! Purchased at REP Enterprises out of Greenland NH, it is a 6x10 "Challenger" by Homesteader Trailers.

The Challenger series is the workhorse of our enclosed trailer lines. The Challenger is an affordable alternative for those who demand versatility, and quality, at a competitive price.

Thank you to Casey's negotiation skills we came in under budget. Thank you to Casey, Dave & Carol for picking it up!

The Trailer will debut at our first Training Day on April 28th.

2012 Events Calendar

Day	Date	Event	Location
Saturday	April 7, 2012	HELDCA Cleanup Day	Sharpe's Farm
Saturday	April 28, 2012	Training Day	Sharpe's Farm
Saturday	May 19, 2012	Pre-Test Clinic	Sharpe's Farm
Friday	May 25, 2012	Spring Test NA/UPT/UT	Sharpe's Farm
Saturday	May 26, 2012	Spring Test NA/UPT/UT	Sharpe's Farm
Sunday	May 27, 2012	Spring Test NA/UPT/UT	Sharpe's Farm
Saturday	June 23, 2012	Training Day	Sharpe's Farm
Saturday	August 4, 2012	Water Clinic	Sharpe's Farm Dam
Saturday	August 18, 2012	Pre-Test Clinic	Sharpe's Farm
Friday	August 31, 2012	Fall Test NA/UPT/UT	Sharpe's Farm
Saturday	September 1, 2012	Fall Test NA/UPT/UT	Sharpe's Farm
Sunday	September 2, 2012	Fall Test NA/UPT/UT	Sharpe's Farm
Saturday	November 17, 2012	Members Day	Sharpe's Farm

2012 INTERNATIONAL ANNUAL MEETING ~David Trahan~

Well, I want to first thank everyone for letting me represent the Merrimack chapter this year in San Diego.

I presented our paperwork for the bid for the 2014 Int'l Annual Meeting in our location. It would be a great opportunity for our chapter to host and for our members to meet other chapter members from afar. We should know in the next few months if we have won the bid. I will set up a meeting for volunteers to help out.

Our first open meeting started at 1:30p Friday where members could ask question to the board about any topic. The first question, "why are there few people testing in UPT". The UPT test is not giving much though so few people do it. Many of us said that it should be the chapters that encourage new people to try it especially if you are a first time handler. Second question, "why was the blind retrieve put into the VC test". Bob West stated it was a test to simulate a wounded duck that crawls up a bank and died. A third question was, "why we do not have a system to identify dogs that have entered a test". The person said that he witnessed dogs that ran and was not the right dog. We informed him he should have spoken to the judging team and reported it. The cost of is high for breeders to pay for. Not many people agreed that we needed it. The meeting ended at 5:00p with a cocktail hour for the group.

Saturday meeting started at 8:00a with the general minutes report from last year's meeting. All of the boards gave their reports from testing, promotion to budgets. Our testing programs were up from the last previous year. All the motions were voted on and the votes went this way.

Kettle Moraine Chapter: Breeder award did not pass. Most people feel that the breeders are important but felt national should address the issue. Delaware Valley Chapter: Rule changes to be effective Jan 1st did not pass. If we have a rule in place it should be followed. Big Sky Chapter: Fee for paying apprentice judges did not pass. Basically there was not enough information to vote on.

We held 2,000+ tests last year! 1,343 NA; 47 UPT; 646 UT - not counting the Invitational. Top three breeds tested first GS, second GW and third GR. Bob England was put forth for judgeship. Promotion committee would like all email address from all members to keep people informed about new things in NAVHDA.

Topics

Bird Dog Hall of Fame in Grand Junction, TN, has an updated NAVHDA display.

New judges - Yankee Chapter's Bob England is a newly appointed judge!

Use of 209 primers for tests-denied

Word change in Rules Book

Litter size change from motion of 2011-denied

Insurance- NAVHDA's policy is a liability only policy. NAVHDA is covered only if we are found negligent.

The San Diego Chapter presented the following Seminars for the weekend.

Dr Katie Kangus, CVA (acupuncture)

Joe Nunez, Quail Unlimited

Dr Brian Denny, Veterinary Chiropractic Care

Rick Smith, Silent Command System

Thank you,
Dave

In 2010, I shot a pheasant along the bank of Pemigewasset River. My 13 year old Jacob went to retrieve it and delivered a fish to hand. I guess he was in the beginning stages of doggy dementia.
-Terry Long-



Gus was all ready in case Gronkowski couldn't play.



-Paul Bruk-



-Joanna Korte-

RABBIT HUNTING

~TERRY LONG~

December 31st is one of the most depressing days of the year. Besides the 16 hours of darkness, hunting season is over. Another 9 months until we can hit the fields and woods. I know we can still train but it is not the same. Everything changed for me a couple of weeks ago. While getting gas, I saw a beagle in a truck next to me. I asked the guy if he hunted. "Yes", he said, "I am heading out now. The rabbit season ends March 31st". He told me he was a logger and was heading for a spot that was loaded with rabbits. He even told me where and invited me along. I declined.

I did some research and found out; we can hunt Snowshoe Hares until March 31. Cottontail season ended December 31. I also found out Snowshoe Hares turn white in the winter and cotton tails stay brown. I figured even I could tell the difference.

Decision Time

Do I hunt rabbits with my bird dog? I do know that in the German test there is a rabbit tracking phase. I also have a versatile hunting dog and I am a member of NAVHDA. In Germany they hunt hares with Small Munsterlanders. Why not give it a try? I called my hunting friend Gus and off we went. We tried the area the logger told us about with no luck. Before giving up entirely, we tried another spot. Shortly after we arrived, Nara went on point on a brush pile. I pushed my way through to her. The question was how I was going handle this? I sent Nara into the pile and out ran a rabbit with her on its heels. I took a quick shot which I had to pull up on so I wouldn't shoot my dog. Something that I had read popped into my mind "hunt rabbits if you want to shoot your dog"! Thank God I missed both. Shortly after that Nara was out of site in deep cover when I heard her growling and barking. I thought that Nara was fighting with a raccoon or whatever else could be in the thick brush so I called her off. No blood, no foul.

Later Tuck, Gus' dog, goes on point. Gus releases Tuck, and off goes the rabbit right in front of me. Bang, I got it! My first rabbit! Nara went to retrieve it and again barking and growling and then the cry of the rabbit. I figured that the time before Nara had cornered a rabbit.

The next rabbit encounter was when Tuck got on a scent and the chase was on again! Tuck barked at the rabbit the whole time, unfortunately Gus hit the tone on her collar and she gave up the chase.

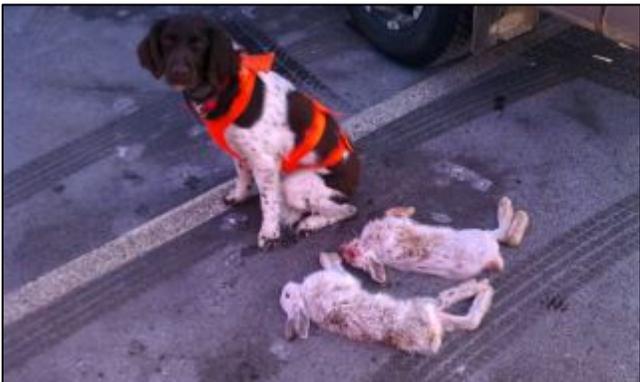
On our way back to the truck, Nara went on point again. I didn't see anything, so I let her go. Off goes Nara and Tuck. It is true that rabbits circle when being chased. Unfortunately, when I saw the rabbit coming I yelled to Gus, "here it comes!" and the rabbit went in the other direction. I guess that is why they have big ears. We got 1 rabbit and saw several others. We figured it was a good day for rookies.

A week later after a foot of snow, Dave Trahan and I went out rabbit hunting. He brought his Pup Fanny along to expose her to rabbits. I was wondering how it would be to hunt a white rabbit in the snow. No problem. Nara pointed two, and I shot one and Dave got the other.

Again on the way out we had a point in the open. By the time I got to Nara through very thick cover, the rabbit was gone. "Go find it!" I commanded, and the chase was on. The Rabbit circled but I was too exhausted to even lift my gun and shoot it. I also was worried about where Nara was. "Hunt rabbits and you'll shoot your dog" came to mind again!

Well, friends my hunting season is now 6 months long. My dog is truly a versatile hunter. We have a lot to learn about rabbit hunting, but didn't do too bad for beginners.

I am really glad I made the decision to rabbit hunt with my versatile hunting dog, Nara. I hunt because I love working with my dog and watching her work. The count after 4 days of rabbit hunting is Nara 7, me 4, good solid points on 5 grouse, and 3 woodcock. Oh! Another benefit is no other hunters to worry about and the season isn't over yet.



N
A
R
A



Q&A - Being a first-time owner of a "male" dog, I decided to send a question to Dr. Lisa Boyer who is the author of "Veterinary Advice for hunters and their dogs" in our VHD publication. ~Jessica Barker~

Q. I am reading my VHD and it has prompted me to ask you a question. I have a 3 yr old male that will probably not be bred. But we do not want to neuter. I have heard pros and cons. Any advice? Do you have a previously written article on this? Or can you cover this in an upcoming issue? Thank you for your thoughts.

A. Hi Jessica,

Thank you for the inquiry. If your boy is not having any behavioral issues and is not roaming around, then a neuter is not something that I recommend.

Unneutered males have a higher risk of being hit by a car as they roam more. Unneutered males have an increased risk of prostate issues and testicular cancer. The cure for these issues is usually neutering along with perhaps antibiotics (for prostate, not cancer).

If you keep him intact, then make sure to get annual exams including a rectal examination to check for prostate issues.

For female dogs however, a spay is a different issue as female dogs are at high risk for Pyometra, a life threatening disease which does not happen if the dog is spayed.

Let me know if you have other questions. Most vets will push for a neuter for political reasons, but if your boy is well behaved and not making unwanted pups then leave him be.

Regards,
Lisa Boyer, DVM onpointvet@aol.com

Here are a few recipes given to me from a friend who received a "Jerky Cookbook" for Christmas. I have not tried either, but still wanted to share with you. ~Jessica Barker~

Pheasant Jerky

pheasant breasts cut into strips about 3/8 inch thick
teriyaki sauce
sake, sherry or dry vermouth

Put strips into a nonmetallic container add teriyaki sauce and sake. Toss to coat. Marinate in fridge for several hours. Arrange strips on dehydrator tray and dry at 140degrees for 6 hours OR dry for several hours on very low heat in the oven.

Venison Jerky

lean venison
garlic powder
hickory-smoked salt

Cut the venison into strips about 1/2" thick. Sprinkle meat with garlic powder and hickory smoked salt. Arrange strips on pan at lowest temp and dry for 3-6 hrs (or more depending on oven).

PUPPIES FOR SALE
vom Pheasant Run Kennels

"Those who have never been owned by a sporting dog have missed one of life's greatest pleasures" - C.E.Metz

Deutsch- Kurzhaar - German Shorthaired Puppies
expected whelp date- April 25 2012

Sire: Apis KS vom Hege-Haus

D1, S1, VGPP1 (312 points/full points), VBR, HDO, HN, 2006 Dr. Kleeman Prufung,
Hips-A (excellent), Fs. (conformation) SG (ver good)

Dam: V.C. Dalia vom Hege-Hof (Garbo)

D1, S2, VGP1, (306), HD-A1 (hops excellent), Fw. (conformation) very good
NA1, UT1, VC

Apis was tested in Germany where he passed all his tests with perfect scores, 4h for the water search in all of the tests he ran, all by the time he was 28 months old. KS is the highest title a German Shorthair can achieve in the German testing system. He is an affectionate, temperamentally stable dog, still hunting hard in the woods and cannot be kept out of the water. He can move from household to household fitting in seamlessly with other dogs and people. He is black with lots of white, is 73 cm tall and weighs 73lbs.

Garbo is a powerful, bold determined hunter on both land and water; she has been relatively easy to train- always wanting more. She has a stable temperament with a great on and off switch, making for a good duck blind companion. She hunts woodcock, grouse, and pheasants in NE, Canada, and ND with a growing intelligence that is a joy to behold. She is dark liver and hot white, is 63cm tall and weighs 63lbs.

This breeding should provide dogs of size and bone and a balance of sheer desire, bid ability, and stable temperament, i.e. hunting dogs!

Please contact Suzi Moore (978) 491-7653 Newburyport, MA; tracadie@comcast.net

(Please mention this article from the MVNAVHDA News. If you purchase a puppy a donation will be made to the Chapter!)



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

Susan M. Gregory

pamperedsmooch@verizon.net



Dear Fellow Members,

For this issue our topic will cover the history and types of dog foods.

- The first processed dog food was developed by James Spratt in 1860.
- The first canned dog food was Ken-I-ration introduced after WW1 as a means of disposing of deceased horses.
- The government only began setting standards and regulations in the dog food industry in 1978.
- There are two agencies that govern the standards and regulations of dog foods.

#1) **A.A.F.C.O.** - Association of American Feed Control Officials.

#2) **N.R.C.** - National Resource Council.

Do you know that both these industries govern themselves?

Most dog food is produced in the United States. This **does not** mean that ALL the sources of the ingredients are coming from the U.S., but merely that the foods are produced and manufactured here.

- Currently there are approximately 50,000 brands of dog and cat foods on the market.
- Certain manufacturers label their foods with terms such as **Premium, Ultra Premium, Natural, and Holistic**. These terms currently have no legal definitions and are placed on dog food labels to appeal to customers with good intentions, who often dish out “big bucks” for these foods simply because the above mentioned words lead them to believe they are investing in a higher quality food. Unfortunately, this is usually not the case.
- There are primarily four types of meat used in commercial dog foods.

Dead, Dying, Diseased, Disabled.

This is commonly known as **4-d meat** and is not considered fit for human consumption.

- There are two types of dog food a company can produce.
 - #1) **Fixed Formulas** – The quality and quantities of the ingredients must always be the same.
 - #2) **UN-fixed formulas** – The quality and quantities of the ingredients can vary. For instance one month beef may be used for the main ingredient with the next month being chicken. These such companies are usually looking to “source” the cheapest of meats which is the reason for the inconsistency in their ingredients.

Dog food companies must declare whether their food is fixed or UN-fixed when being approved by A.A.F.C.O. This information does not need to be stated on the label. It is up to the consumer to contact A.A.F.C.O. Or the dog food company to find this out. Usually the fixed formulas will generally have more integrity in regards to the quality of their ingredients.

The four types of preservation.

#1) **DRY** – Kibble, biscuit, meal.

#2) **CANNED** – chunks, rations, stews, animal tissue.

#3) **SEMI-MOIST** – Of all the types of dog foods this is considered the poorest of quality and nutrition. Semi-moist foods contain mostly grains with very little (if any) meat. They contain Iron oxide which gives dog’s heartburn and gas (oops)! The coloring that makes this so-called meat look so real and attractive (to us) contains

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high amounts of color dyes that can negatively affect your dog's liver and kidneys. These foods are usually loaded with sugars to make them more appealing to our dogs. So, the next time you visit the dog food aisle in your grocery store check out the ingredients in some of the popular semi-moist treats such as “beggin’ strips” or “choice cuts”. These companies invest a great amount of time and money to produce these products to appeal to the human consumer, by looking like real bacon or prime cuts of meat. When in fact there is no meat in the product!! In truth, if these products did not contain large amounts of sugar, your dog would probably turn up his nose to such treats even though to us, it looks like a prime cut of meat. Yuck!!! This is important to state because the sugar in these foods and treats is what can make it difficult to introduce a more biologically appropriate diet to our dogs as they have become sugar junkies!! It would be like feeding your children “Apple Jacks” cereal for the majority of their childhood and then deciding to feed a healthier breakfast such as “Wheaties” (without the sugar). Chances are your kids would turn up their noses as well.

#4) **RAW NEAT DIETS** – these foods are either frozen or freeze-dried and do not require any methods of preservation because the method is freezing. Although they may appear to be more costly than the other types of food, if you do your research and math, pound for pound it is usually no more expensive to feed and the health benefits (which will be reviewed in our next issue) speak for themselves.

Raw, natural diets tend to be digested and leave the body in approximately four hours.

Processed commercial foods usually take approximately sixteen hours to be digested and leave the body.

For those of you who know me personally know that I am a big supporter of feeding raw, canine appropriate foods. I look forward to discussing the wonderful benefits of feeding raw foods in our next issue.

Until then, Happy Spring.

Susan and the boyz.

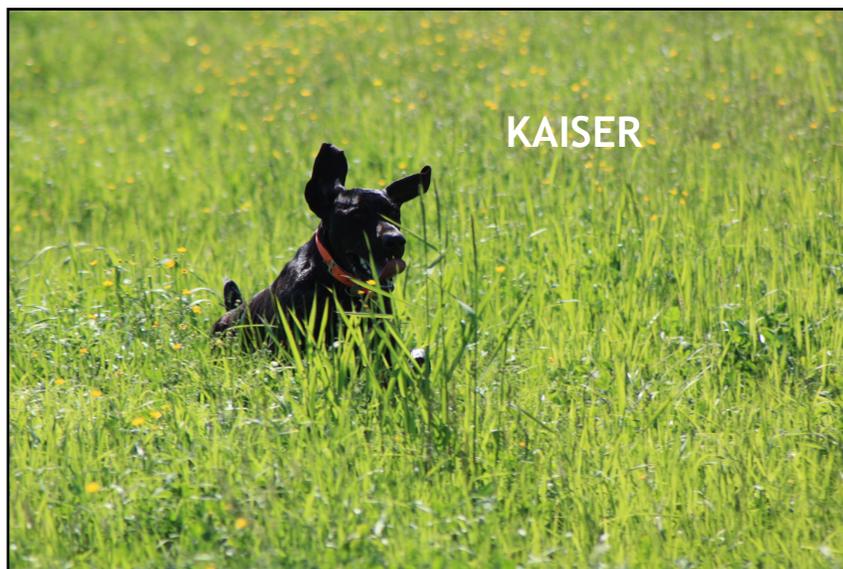
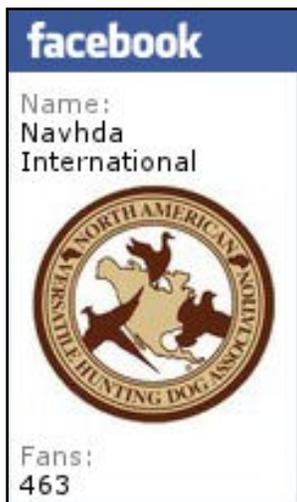
Excerpt from the PURINA website regarding NAVHDA Exclusive Sponsor Purina ProPlan
<http://www.proplan.com/proplan/ourmission.aspx/>

Pro Plan® Mission**The Pro Plan® Mission: Do More**

At Pro Plan®, our mission is to do more to help enhance the lives of pets and their owners. One way we approach that goal is by providing an array of highly nutritious, premium quality products that are specially formulated to suit the nutritional needs of dogs and cats. Our veterinarian-recommended pet foods have nutritional extras that go above and beyond the standard Association of American Feed Control Officials (AAFCO) requirements. We use real meat, poultry, or fish as our #1 ingredient in dry dog and cat food formulas*.

Officers/Board of Directors

Member	Position/Term	Email
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Mike Trull	Webmaster	webmaster@mvnavhda.com



Thank you to our Sponsors & Conservation Partners



MVNAVHDA FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENT



**CONGRATULATIONS
to
JOHN & JOANNA
KORTE**

**Married Feb 4, 2012
at their home in
Strafford, NH**

Joanna & John with Oli & Kaiser

The ceremony was performed by David Trahan - a man of many hats - NAVHDA Senior Judge; Professional Dog Trainer; and Justice of the Peace.

