



Merrimack Valley NAVHDA News

2019 Fall News Letter



Great news, The NAVHDA annual meeting is in



NAVHDA Annual Meeting 2020

The Westin Portland Harborview Hotel, Portland, ME

January 24 - 26, 2020

Click on the link for information

Link: https://whova.com/web/navda_202001/

Merrimac Valley Annual Meeting

Location New England Upland.

Time: 10A M

Date: Jan 11th

Reminder: Dues for chapter and NAVHDA are due January 1. You need to be caught up on dues to vote. Chapter: <http://mvnavhda.com/membership/>,

International: <http://navhdastore.org/newmemberpackages.aspx>

Offices that expire and need to be filled.

Vice President, Treasurer, Director of Gunning, Director of Training, Delegate at Large, If you are interested or know someone who is, notified club Secretary Phil Thayer and let him know.

Dennis Swett has donated his training and hunting gear to the club.

This equipment will be offered as a silent auction.

Merrimack Valley Chapter of NAVHDA (MVNAVHDA)
101 Coffeetown Road
Deerfield, NH 03037

November 7, 2019

Received as donations to MVNAVHDA from Dennis Swett, 16 Taylor Home Drive, Laconia, NH 03246:

- (3) bird launchers with charger
- (1) remote control
- (1) dummy launcher
- (3) launch dummies
- (4) ea. Boxes of launcher blank loads
- (1) khaki bird hunting coat--LLBean
- (1) leather roading (dog) harness, padded
- (2) bottles of scent (unopened)
- (1) summer shotgunners belt
- (3) quail harnesses
- (1) studded quail harness
- (4) boxes #9 20ga Federal
- (2) sets of 2, PEET Boot dryer extensions for waders
- (1) Dunn's beeper collar
- (1) field / Hunting Coat – Canvas
- (1) Cabela's belt/game bag
- (1) LLBean- Trainer's GPS/transmitter shoulder holster
- (1) Pair of Fleece Gaiters
- (1) Studded leather pinch collar
- (1) Leather Jaeger Lead



"This doesn't look good."



Yes, my dog is allowed on the bed. I don't care if it bothers you. My dog lives here, you don't

Congratulations For All

All your hard work paid off. Regardless of the score, You and your dogs have learned a lot. Remember the NA tests the dogs natural ability. Maybe you are disappointed. Remember it is just one day in your dogs life. Now it is a critical time. NA is just the beginning of a exciting journey. Training and testing from now on starts an incredible journey. Now you and your dog will be working toward a partnership. Along this journey you'll be meeting and working with great people with the same goals. My friend Gus and I started this journey 10 years ago never realizing what the results would be.

We congratulate the dogs and handlers on there accomplishments. **WE NEED TO ALSO CONGRATULATE AND THANK ALL THE CHAPTER VOLUNTEERS WHO HELPED US.** As you go further in your journey, you'll see how important the chapter team is in your accomplishment.

For those of you who are not interested in continuing your NAVHDA journey in further testing, still come to training. It is a great and inexpensive way in keeping your dogs in shape and working birds. Who knows, you may change your mind and test this fall.

An Unrealized Dream

This could be you.

September of 2019 my friend Gus traveled to Ohio to the best experience of a life time. He joined with NAVHDA's best to achieve the highest accolade NAVHDA offers. The title of "Versatile Champion".

An avid bird hunter, Gus got his first SM, April, in 1991. He saw an article in Hunting Dog Magazine on the SM. He soon found one. April.

He was sold on the breed, In a few years he wanted to breed April. He contacted Paul Jenson about breeding with his dog. Paul wouldn't breed unless Gus ran April, in a NAVHDA NA test for evaluation.

May of 1997, April got a prize 1, 110. Soon after April was bred with Paul's dog Appi. I got my first SM Jacob, from this breeding. In my ignorance I thought my dogs parents were 2 grand champions. Only NA Prize 1.

Over the next few years Gus and I bought birds and spent many hours training. Results, yah, the dogs would occasionally point- flushed better, heal-what's that, retrieve- yes, whoa—no. As hunters they were superb. Many times we were told that there were no birds in that field and then limit out. We still didn't have the partnership between us and our dogs.

Invitational Score

Hunting Hills Vixie F 6-2 SM-003367

Water Field Over all nose, desire, cooperation, obedience

34302 44232 43 22 No Prize Score 142

Handler: WINSTON GOUZOULES

When retirement came , Gus and I got pups together. We decided we were going to do it right. this time.

We realized that we needed an organized approach to training to get the most out of our dogs. With new Pups we joined the Merrimac Chapter of NAVHDA.

While preparing for our NA, we saw that NA was only the beginning. We saw other dogs holding point to shot and fall, retrieve on command. Heel and stay steady at a blind while shots were fired. Do a duck search in a weed covered pond. We also met some incredible people in the chapter. We became active helping in the training and testing, we decided to expediate the training process hooking up with Dave Trahan of ON Point Kennel to help train.

Gus's dog Tuck got a NA prize 1. AT this point we realized a NA Prize 1 wasn't a champion. It was a good dog that shows potential. Far from a finished dog.

We continued on our NAVHDA journey during the UPT and UT test. Prize 2s. We got more involved in the chapter which enabled us to help others.

We began an organized training program, small things daily, heeling, whoa, come, can be done daily taking only a few minutes.

My Nara and Gus's Tuck got scores of Prize 2 in both UPT and UT. We saw a change in our dogs.

They were more obedient, they came when called, whoa, stayed, pointed rather then flushed, searches improved,

With our older SMs were getting older, Gus and I got pups.



Whether we had more training experience or our pups were exceptional , we zoomed through NAVHDA testing. I lucked out and my Seeker got prize 1 utility in 2 years and VC the 3rd.

Gus's a little longer. Gus soon saw Hunting Hill Vixie was and an exceptional dog.

Vixie in her first UT had 4s in the field and didn't do well in the duck search. Next year she had poor field results and a great duck search.

Third time was a charm. 2018 Vixie got a Prize 1, 204 on the UT test.

Vixie qualified to NAVHDA's most advanced test. The invitational !

An experience of the life time. Unfortunately, Vixie and Gus had a bad day. Who knows why, things that Vixie and Gus had down pat didn't go well. We have all been there. In spite of the bad showing, Gus wants qualify and do it again.

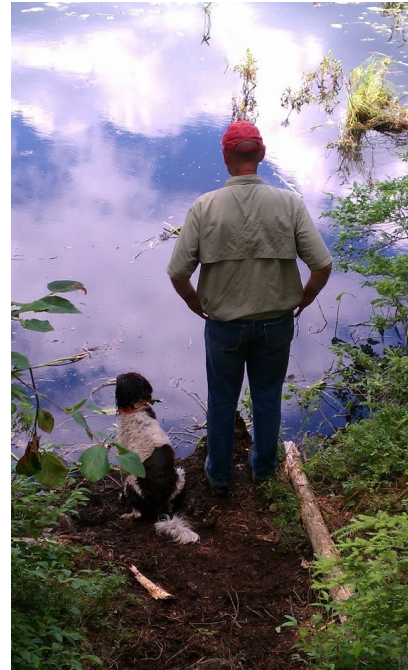
Vixie is a great hunter. She has found many birds this year . Too bad Gus, has a hard time hitting them. If he hit everyone Vixie pointed, he would be in jail.



Gus's Journey



Gus and Tuck in North Dakota 2009



Duck search



Munsters at MV training day



Training in the winter

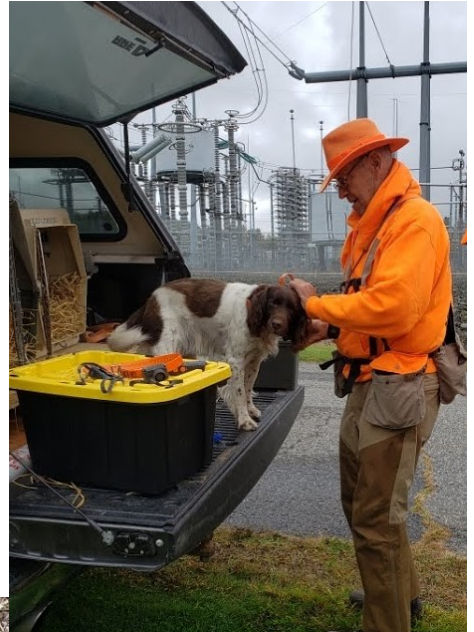


Honoring



Vixie as a puppy, Successful day

Fall Hunting



Holiday Dangers

Written by: Laurie McCarter, CVT and Sommer Aweidah of Port Cit Referral Hospital in Portsmouth, NH

Here we are – it's January and a whole new year! We've made it through the holidays and a slew of pet danger emails, facebook statuses and twitter posts. We avoided all the holiday decorations, human food toxicities, we monitored our pets around the Christmas tree, away from the menorah, out of the cookies, and made it to January. Phew!

Our pets are important and we want to include them in our holiday celebrations and our traditions, new and old, but there were dangers all along the way.

The water in Christmas tree stands can cause gastroenteritis, decorations and tinsel can cause gastrointestinal obstructions, the lights can cause electric shock and the tree itself can fall on our nosy curious pets.

Don't even get us started on the toxic plants we bring into our homes to tempt them with! Poinsettias, Holly, and Mistletoe can all cause severe gastroenteritis and potential organ damage if ingested.

Fortunately, once the holidays are over we'll start our diets, and there won't be any need to leave tasty cookies and fatty human-food on the counter, where all it takes is a good strategy, speed, and some springy back legs to get at it! Chocolate, raisins and macadamia nuts are toxic. Fatty foods (such as ham and lamb) can cause stomach dilation, pain, vomiting and diarrhea. A good tip for year-round safety is to be aware (if possible) of what types of food your pet has gotten into, how much and how long ago. Metabolic issues such as kidney, pancreatic and liver toxicities can take a few days to become apparent. Act fast when you see your pet getting into something he or she shouldn't – a quick response to this type of emergency really can save their life.

So now it's January. We're in the home stretch. Now we only have to keep an eye out for antifreeze, ice melt, arthritis and cold temperatures!

Antifreeze is sweet tasting and doesn't take very much to cause fatal kidney failure. One tablespoon can be fatal to a small pet. Symptoms show up quickly as the toxin is rapidly metabolized; look out for stumbling, vomiting and depression. Call your veterinarian or an emergency hospital immediately if you suspect your pet has ingested any antifreeze, or any product with Ethylene Glycol in the ingredients.

Ice melt used on frozen sidewalks can cause ulceration if left on the skin or feet of your pet. Licking the ice melt can cause gastrointestinal trauma, so let's get rid of it! Make sure you wipe your pet's paws clean after a winter walk. Added bonus: no muddy paw prints on those nice clean floors.

The cold weather can aggravate your older pets' arthritis. Old joints can be stiff and painful when it is cold, so keep this in mind when exercising your pet and make sure they have the opportunity to rest. If you feel like he or she is unwilling or unable to participate in family fun to their usual ability, speak to your family veterinarian. Anti-inflammatories can be prescribed to help ease the pain. Pro tip: ask for the chewables, it will make dosing your dog so much easier!!! Arthritis affects young dogs too, and any dog who had suffered a broken bone in the past may develop arthritis at the site of the break. Do not give your pet any human over-the-counter medications without first consulting your family veterinarian. One Tylenol™ tablet can be fatal to a cat.

There will always be seasonal pitfalls; your job is to keep your pets out of the trouble they so desperately want to get into. Know the general signs to look for and know your pet. Take the appropriate precautions by putting things out of reach, using pet-safe products, avoiding over exertion and keeping their curious ways under your ever-vigilant eye.

Signs of illness that may call for medical attention include: vomiting, diarrhea, lethargy, and inappetence, also any drastic change in your pet's usual behavior. Cats, in particular, will develop hiding habits when sick, so if your usually friendly kitty is under the bed more than usual, and it's not in keeping with her usual behavior, that is something to talk to your vet about.

If your pet has been exposed to any hazards, please don't wait to go to your veterinarian, or an emergency hospital. Your doctor will want the following information: What did he/she eat (bring the packaging if you can), how much and when. If you're unsure of whether something is toxic your best resources are your veterinarian, emergency hospital and the ASPCA poison control website. <https://www.asPCA.org/pet-care/animal-poison-control>

The difference between humans and dogs is that.



Dogs can't fake love

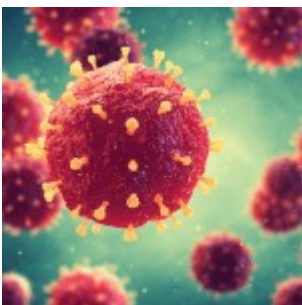
Leptospirosis: A Rising Concern for New England's Pets



Dr. Jeff Evans, Boston Animal Hospital and Red Dog Pet Resort

Over the past year, the deadly bacterial infection known as Leptospirosis or “Lepto” has been on the rise. This disease can affect all mammal species (including humans) and veterinarians have seen an increase in the number of cases over the past several years, and spiking over the past few months. With early intervention of a sick pet, survival rates rarely go above 75%. Given the seriousness of illness, it’s important to know the facts of this deadly and highly contagious disease. As a professional in this field, I’m passionate about preventing what we can, where and when we can, and there is, frankly, a lot of bad information out there right now.

Leptospirosis has a worldwide distribution, including much of the United States and particularly in the northeast where temperatures may be between 80-90 F or areas where there is reliable rainfall. Direct contact with an infected animal’s bodily fluids, or indirect contact from urine – such as contaminated water or soil – can increase your pet’s risk. The bacteria can live for long periods of time in contaminated water and soil and has the ability to penetrate intact or broken skin and mucus membranes. Within 7-10 days, the bacteria spreads systemically to the kidneys, liver, spleen, central nervous system, eyes and genital tract. This can cause jaundice (yellowing of the skin and whites of the eyes) as a result of liver damage, and excessive drinking and urination from acute damage to the kidneys. Clinical signs are highly variable and can mimic many other conditions – lethargy, anorexia, vomiting, frequent urination – and many dogs have no overt clinical signs at all, making this a particularly dangerous and deadly disease.



Since Leptospirosis is not a “core” vaccination like “Distemper” (DHPP) and “Rabies”, many pet owners may opt out of getting their pet vaccinated if they feel they are not at risk, or more often, if they don’t feel like their pet is the “outdoorsy” type. This is a common misconception with urban living that should be reevaluated by pet owners. In Boston alone, the number of leptospirosis positive dogs has increased substantially over the past few years. This is in part due to the fact that we – like anywhere, still have rodents in our old homes and buildings and any interaction with rodents, animal urine, streams, ponds and puddles can put our pets at risk.

the state. When not helping animals, Dr. Evans can be found paddle boarding, kayaking or hanging out with his fiancée, Abby, and his rescue animals – a Pit Bull named Ollie and his two rescue cats, Charlie and Jackson.

Currently, there is a perception of increased severe adverse reactions with the leptospirosis vaccines, and I've personally seen several breeders in the area discourage or even make owners sign contracts against vaccination for leptospirosis. On Facebook and Google there are countless "this vaccine will kill your dog" campaigns from seemingly reputable and well-funded websites. And while I don't know where these come from, I can confidently say I have no conflicts of interest, nor receive any payment or endorsements from any of the vaccine manufacturers when I say that this vaccine can save lives. Further, one large study showed that these vaccines were no more likely to cause adverse reactions than any other vaccine (Spiri, et al., 2017).

So what should you do? Keep an open and honest relationship with your veterinarian – many build the leptospirosis vaccine into the Distemper vaccine for either the same cost or slightly more. If you want your pet protected but have concerns about safety, ask your vet if your pet could stay a few hours after receiving their vaccine for monitoring... I'm sure they'll say yes!

Dr. Evans Biography

