

The Whoa Post

February 2021

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The February Issue

February is National Dog Training Education month according to the National Date Calendar. With hunting season over on the northern prairie, training often gets put to aside in favor of some couch time. I like to work on obedience or small tasks that can be completed in the house. With high temperatures of 0 degrees, extended time outside is not possible. So we work on heel, retrieves, search, and honoring another dog. Since my dogs are motivated by treats, successful training sessions are reinforced by treats—cut up hot dogs, cheese or other left overs. All these treats are figured into their caloric intake for the day.

I also feed the birds. It's nice to watch birds from my office window, especially when I am on a lengthy conference call, plus the birds get extra nutrition, and the most unexpected benefit is to the dogs when they clean up under the feeders. There are a lot of calories in the waste seed. I didn't realize how much until a recent rip to the vet for Thorn. She was up six pounds since December! Better get that dog on a program.

As I think about the cold weather and my fat dog, I am reminded that these are really small things. The Covid 19 virus is still a big part of the world. I'm sure most of you know someone that has been impacted by the virus through illness or death. One of the most recent victims of the virus was Marlys Paugh. The club would like to wish our friend and club officer Karen Paugh condolences on the passing of her mother, Marlys Paugh. Marlys was a friend to the club. Helping out at field trials, sharing recipes and opening her home and for lunch and sharing her sewing gift. Marlys was a gifted seamstress and had a room dedicated to just her quilt projects. Those of you that attended the last field trial hosted by the Big Sky Club were treated to a tour of this room and a good look at all her quilt projects.

While we cannot bring back those we have lost, we can honor their memory by working to eliminate the virus and its deadly affects. Wear your mask, stay six feet apart, avoid large gatherings and get vaccinated. I look forward to seeing everyone soon. Stay safe!

Sherry Niesar
Whoa Post Editor



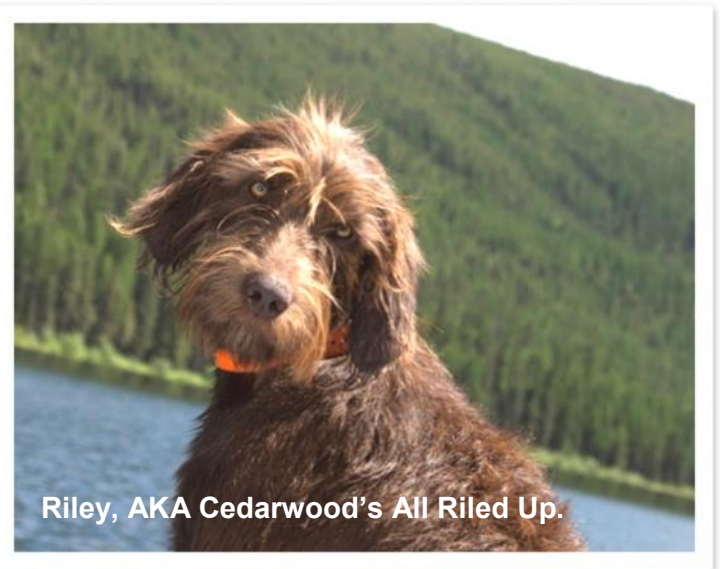
Presidents Note of Snare Traps and Bird Dogs by Ken Bruwelheide

The Whoa Post, newsletter of the Big Sky Epagneul Club is presented by bird hunters for bird hunters and their dogs. The following cautionary story will hopefully serve as an awareness/warning for all of us. We thank the authors, Jonathan and Caroline, for sharing this story and offer our condolences for their loss of Riley. Peter Wax related a story last year about his experience with dogs caught in snare traps so it is an issue to which we must pay attention.

Lessons Learned From the Death of Riley

By Jonathan Haufler & Carolyn Mehl, Seeley Lake, Montana

We buried our pudelpointer Riley on the last day of 2020 to end a very bad year on an even worse note. He was our buddy and companion for the past four and a half years and he brightened every day. He was a wonderful a dog in every way and a cherished member of our family. We were bird hunting on state land in eastern Montana with Riley and Jake, our other dog. We were in a patch of ungrazed grassy riparian zone with interspersed stringers and clumps of willow that looked like it could hold some pheasant and maybe even some sharp-tail. About five minutes into our hunt, Jake was checking out the willows ahead of Carolyn and got caught in a snare set by a trapper. She and I got to Jake as quickly as possible and worked on getting him free from the snare. The snare he was in was



what some term a power snare, with a spring-loaded locking device that is designed to stay locked once the snare is tightened. It took us a few difficult minutes to get Jake stabilized and finally free from the snare. We had pliers and several multi-tools with us, which were totally worthless for cutting the snare cable, but allowed us to dismantle the spring device to free Jake. While we were doing this, I had called for Riley who had been hunting further out ahead of me. When he hadn't shown up after a few minutes and while Carolyn finished tearing the spring apart to free Jake, I searched for him and found him caught in two snares. He wasn't breathing. Carolyn helped me get the two snares off him and we performed CPR and breathing assistance for 10 minutes, but he was gone, never to brighten our days again.

We recognize hunting has risks for hunting dogs, risks that we try to minimize. We always carry first aid supplies. We train with our dogs to avoid porcupines and carry equipment to help remove quills just in case. We put them through snake avoidance training. We carry additional tools for emergencies, including pliers and multi-tools, but all of this was inadequate to keep our dogs safe in this circumstance. We had no idea we were entering an area containing snares, especially multiple snares. If Carolyn had not directly seen Jake get snared, we might not have figured it out soon enough to save him as well, especially amid the brush in the area where the snares were set. We run our dogs with locator collars, so we always know where they are and can get to them relatively quickly, but even a few minutes in a snare can kill a dog. With our attention divert-

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Lessons Learned - Continued from page 2

ed to the needs of Jake, Riley didn't have a chance. The traps in this case were legally set, and we were legally participating in bird hunting on open state lands. As we learned later, there were at least 6 snares set in this area so if we had been hunting with additional dogs, which we often do, we may have lost more than Riley that terrible day.

We knew snares presented a risk, and we thought we were prepared to handle them but we were not. There was no way for us to know that snares were located where they were until we were in the midst of them. On private lands in Montana, a trapper is required to get permission from the landowner to place any traps, so asking a landowner if there are any snares on their land can alert a bird hunter to avoid such areas. While there are some things we can do to be better prepared if we see our dog get snared, we still have to come to terms with the simple fact we may not be able to protect our dogs from a repeat of getting snared if we choose to continue to bird hunt on public land.

What can we tell others to help them be better prepared? First, we recommend all bird hunters, as well as other recreational users with dogs, carry heavy duty wire cutters capable of cutting the aircraft cable used in coyote snares. Look for wire cutters capable of cutting through at least 3/16" hard cable. Keep them with you whenever you are in the field with your dogs, as we have heard of dogs being caught in illegally set snares in areas where you might not expect them. Second, watch a video on-line on how to release your dog from a snare (non-power types) or attend a workshop if they hold one in your area. Third, coyote snares are often baited and set in clusters within a 10 to 30 yard radius of each other, so if you have more than one dog, they can be snared within seconds of each other. For us, this scenario may cause us to reconsider hunting with more than two dogs at a time. One dog per hunter may be the maximum one can handle in a multi-snare situation. Fourth, we will always be thinking about where snares are likely to be set. We are not trappers so we don't know a lot about the most likely places to catch coyotes or other target animals, but we will be looking at shrub vegetation and fence-lines as potential hazardous areas. Fifth, we will be even more vigilant about keeping visual contact with our dogs at frequent intervals, particularly in shrubby areas and dense vegetation when we are in areas where we think we might encounter a snare. And finally, should we encounter or see a snare in the field, we will assume there are more and immediately locate our dogs and get them on a leash to exit the area.



We share these lessons with a heavy heart in hopes it may help save other dogs in the future. Every second Riley was in the field bird hunting was pure joy for him and anyone who had the pleasure of hunting with him. We know we can't deny our current or future bird dogs that same pleasure, or ourselves for that matter, but this experience has left us doubling down on trying to be prepared for the safety of our hunting companions.

Ask Butch by Butch Nelson



Butch: Strong fur prices and increased use of lethal traps has added new concerns even with dogs that are reliable at checking in. I am wondering about GPS verses telemetry devices for locating dogs. Based on your experience which is a better device for quickly locating a dog? What about in rugged and spotty GPS signal areas? *Peter*

Peter: ...I had a lot of experience with telemetry before GPS was available or dependable. I've now used a GPS system for fourteen years and the "quick" answer is the GPS is a more pinpoint recovery system. But there are trade offs. A Battery lasted longer with my Tracker Telemetry than either my Garmin or Dogtra GPS units. The GPS units give much more information like Google Maps, directions, yards or miles and whether my dog is pointing, running, treeing and barking. It will also save a complete set of tracks of every step the dog ran. On the backside I once tracked a stolen hound over a hundred miles with telemetry. We hired a plane. The dog was stolen in Stockton, Missouri and when we reached cruising speed we bleeped the dog in Kansas City, Missouri. We called the police before landing when we got a fix then drove direct to a backyard where the dog was staked out. I'm still amazed.

I still have hound friends who use both GPS and telemetry but more bird dog owners are using GPS. I've also tried a GPS system called "Whistle". There's a list of these type systems available by googling. This unit requires a smart phone and cell towers. The one advantage to this type and as long as you have certain cell towers, you could loose him California and track him all the to New York.

Where will technology go from here? *Butch*



Put Butch Nelson's many years of dog training experience to use by submitting your training questions to the Whoa Post. Send your dog training questions to the Whoa Post at sniesar@outlook.com. Be sure to put *Ask Butch* in the subject line. We look forward to hearing from you.

Dogs and the Second Greatest Commandment by Peter Wax

Dogs. Big dogs. Little dogs. Black, brown, orange or some combination of color dog. Dogs are the model for man and womankind.

Dog loves without contemplation. Dog never weighs the outcomes. Dog damns the consequences. Eyes shining, tongues hanging, tails wagging. Dogs never make a mistake. Dog do as dog does. Want to have an unreliable dog? Punish dog for being a dog and you will have punished honesty itself.

Humankind has learned more from dog than dog from humankind. Dog is the embodiment of the second greatest commandment. Dog obeys the commandment as easily as humankind disobeys it.

When God made dog, he picked dog up and said: "This is good. This is the replacement for sadness, loneliness and despair. This is honesty in the flesh. This is the confessor that never talks and cannot judge". Dog can see the soul shining through the cracks in the human spirit.

Dog accomplishes things for man that exceeds the imagination. Like magic. For example, last Saturday with the sun low on the horizon the bird flushed. Dog like a statue for minutes stood. Straight into the sun came the bird. Red. Red and shining. Both shots went high. An errant pellet taps a wing and reluctantly bird relinquishes the sky.

On the ground the pheasant runs. Thirty yards of slough grass, 50 yards of hill, 150 yards down the south rut of a prairie-trail, cross the fence, to a pasture, over the hill and into the setting sun. I know this because that is where dog ran. Three-hundred yards of disappearing.

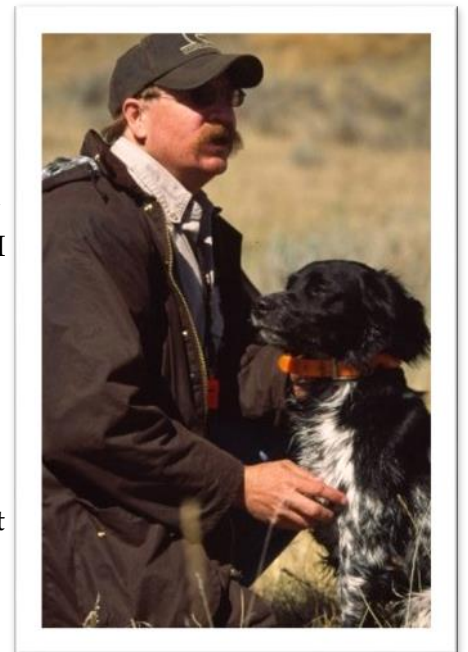
Western North Dakota. Home to steel leghold traps, cable snares, 330-Conibars and Getters. Reason to fear. Fear for dog when out of sight. Dog is out of sight.

Fifteen minute or fifteen years it is a millennium too long. Down with the shotgun and over the fence towards the setting sun. No choice. No choice at all. Dog is a good. Dog taught me love. Dog taught me consequences be damned. Dog taught me the second greatest commandment.

Here comes dog. A tailless rooster sticking out of his mouth like a colorful cigar. Walking. Dog stops. Head low. I run and take the bird. He is blowed. I hug him. Tell him how excited I am. Eyes shine. Tongue hangs. Tail wags. Staggering dog starts out. I tag along.

The bird is heavy and lively. His spurs are clear tipped and his bill like polished ivory. I look at Bird. Bird looks back at me. Too bad he cannot talk. I would let him go in exchange for the story of his capture. Epic it must have been.

Many dogs and dog stories in my memory. Good stories. Wonderful stories. Love stories, tragedies, trilogies, illiads, and epics. You have dog stories. Better stories than mine. Better dogs then mine. True. All true stories about the dog and dogs that loved, lived and taught you the second greatest commandment. So simple. So easy for dog. Such a great gift to humankind.



The Flightless Duck/Pheasant and Other Animal Care Needs

Reprinted with permission from VHDF-Canada Bulletin No. 2, January 2021

Recently, I learned that a representative of the German JGHV attended a meeting alongside members of VDD Canada in Toronto in defense of using a duck rendered flightless in dog tests. Some people would put what we do to ducks and pheasant in the category of dog fighting, or pitting one animal against another, not being cognizant of the complex pros and cons.

I've always looked at pulling flight feathers, as NAVHDA does, with misgivings. In VHDF we've switched to taping some flight feathers on one wing in the hope that the tape comes off in time and sets the rooster or duck free later. The tapes do come off but do they all? Most?? In our 2020 training and testing I can think of four roosters that lost their tape and flew off. Two of these had laid a nice track first, so that is perfect. The other two had to be redone with a new pheasant.

In tests sanctioned by JGHV, they wrap paper around the outer flight feathers of a duck. Once the paper is wet it softens and breaks away. This is the so-called Müller-Ente method.

Ed Bailey recalls a few decades ago when an Ontario Government Attorney was inclined to support the SPCA standard of animal care and threatened to come down hard on use of birds with dogs. This threatened field trials and tests in Ontario. The Crown attorney was subsequently convinced to back off which he did.

At that time Ed and his veterinary colleagues explored a better way of making a bird temporarily flightless. They came up with an injection into the blood vessels of one wing that causes the wing muscles to fail temporarily.

These kinds of animal-care challenges will only become more severe, not less. We must heed them for the sake of hunting's future, and, increasing participation of animal-care conscious youths. Some years ago, Bodo Winterhelt was visited at his home in Bandon by representatives of the SPCA in Oregon. They questioned him about the use of a pheasant in tracking. When he told them that he was no longer involved with NAVHDA, they just left. He did not know what, if anything, came of it.

On a related hunting dog matter, the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association took a stand against tail docking even for short- and wire-haired hunting dogs



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Flightless Duck/Pheasant - Continued from page 6

www.canadianveterinarians.net/documents/cosmeticalalteration. Tail docking in short- and wire-haired hunting dogs is not cosmetic, it is functional. There would be many bloody tails in the grouse woods, some of which would need shortening later.

Where were we hunters when that decision was contemplated? I agree that a short- or wire-haired companion dog likely does not need its tail docked. For hunting dogs, it is another matter. Many European dog associations have accepted the ban on docking. In Germany, JGHV was able to negotiate an exemption for affiliated breed clubs whose members are hunters and place puppies with hunters.

It seems to me that VHDF-Canada would be the perfect organization to speak for and defend versatile dogs in Canada. Our best strategy would be to invite other groups to the table, the Canadian Chapters of NAVHDA and VDD-Canada, for example. There is strength in numbers and particularly strength in being proactive and willing to engage in constructive dialog.

How does a temporarily constrained pheasant compare to a wing-clipped rooster that is never recovered? There is no justification for causing unnecessary pain or stress to any animal. However, there is logic to suggest that the discomfort we inflict saves prolonged pain later. The use of strategically bred and capable hunting dogs is synonymous with ethical hunting.

Happy Valentines Day ❤️





Cream Braised Pheasant with Leeks and Cream provided by Denine Ackerbuer

from: <https://www.wpr.org/recipe-cream-braised-pheasant-leeks-and-cream>

Ingredients

- 2 # brined pheasant breasts (recipe follows)
- 2-3 cups heavy whipping cream
- Freshly ground pepper to taste
- 2 tablespoons butter
- 1 leek, both white and tender green parts, washed well and sliced
- 1 cup heavy whipping cream

Pepper to taste

Method: Place the pheasant breasts in a shallow sauté pan or sauce pot. Add enough of the 2-3 cups of cream to cover the meat season with pepper. Bring to a gentle boil, reduce the heat to a simmer and cook covered for 35-45 minutes or until the pheasant is fork tender. Remove from the pan and let cool a bit. Discard the cooking liquid. Slice or pull apart the cooked breasts into small pieces. Meanwhile, cook the sliced leeks with the butter in a sauté pan over medium low heat until they are soft. Add the 1 cup of cream and bring to a boil. Cook until it is slightly thicken and add the pulled or sliced pheasant. Season with pepper if needed. Serve with fine egg noodles or mashed potatoes.



Basic Brine

- 2 quarts water
- 1/3 cup table salt
- 1/3 cup sugar

Method: Combine the water, sugar and salt in a pot or bowl. Stir until all the sugar and salt has been dissolved. Warm a bit if necessary then cool before putting it with the meat. Brine 3-4 hours. Drain, rinse and cook as desired. Don't season the meat with salt before cooking it.



Send your recipes to the Whoa Post Editor at sniesar@outlook.com

Membership Matters



The Big Sky Club is the only UKC pointing dog club in Montana. The club is comprised of many unique and talented individuals that share their knowledge and passion for pointing dogs. Currently, the Big Sky Club publishes the Whoa Post ten times a year. In addition, the Club is planning social events such as barbeques and training days around the State of Montana.

There is something for everyone in the Big Sky Club. Whether you are a casual dog owner and part time hunter, a full time hunter, breeder, field trailer or just want to know more about your pointing dog, there is something here for you. So, why a membership in the Big Sky Club?

- Meet and make friends in your region with similar dog interests
- Join and participate in fun activities
- Have access to dog training professionals and mentors
- Receive advance notice of special events
- Receive and support the Whoa Post (club newsletter)
- Place ads in the Whoa Post Marketplace at no charge
- List Breeder and Stud Dog information (newsletter and web site) at no charge
- Have opportunity to participate in UKC sanctioned field trials

If you have already sent in your 2021 membership dues, thank you. However, if you enjoy the Whoa Post and want to take advantage of the above benefits, consider renewing your membership or joining the Big Sky Club!

Interested? Fill out the membership form found on page 15 and return it to Mel Kotur, Club Treasurer. If you aren't sure yet, check out the club website at: <http://montanabreton.com/index.html> or our Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/115972485114132>



UKC Judges and Handlers Seminar

Tuesday April 20, 2021, 9:00 am – 1:30 pm

Presenter: Instructor Judge Peter Wax

Host: Great North Epagneul Breton Gun Dog Club

Location: Pheasant Ridge Shooting Preserve, 1547 Imperial St, Ogilvie, MN 56358

Cost: \$60* (includes registration, all materials and lunch)

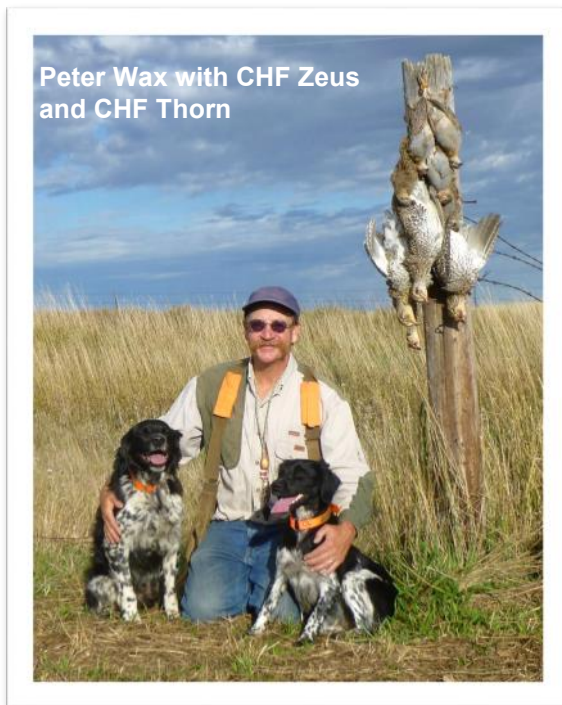
Who Should Attend: Judges, Apprentice Judges, Those considering becoming a UKC Judge, and Those who want a more complete understanding of UKC Field Trial Rules

The seminar includes a presentation on the UKC Pointing Dog Rules for Field Trials, TAN, and WRT. Each participant will have the opportunity to receive a judge’s test and submit successfully completed test to UKC. Rulebooks will be provided. If time permits, discussion and analysis of field events with dogs will move outdoors.

Peter has trained flushing and pointing dogs. Tried Epagneul Bretons to CHF status, Trained for the NAVHDA testing system and taken dogs to through Natural Ability, Utility and Invitational Tests. He is an instructor Judge with the UKC Field Trial program.

*Participants are responsible for the \$25 UKC test filing fee.

For more information: Pete Wax at sniesar@outlook.com or 701-527-6913



Judges and Handlers Seminar Registration Form

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Telephone _____ Email _____

Number of people attending _____ x \$60 = Total Amount Enclosed _____

Make Check out to: **Great North Epagneul Breton Gun Dog Club**

Return form & Registration Fee to:

Tasha Pleskac, 9610 175th St NE, Foley MN 56329



2021 Club de l'Epagneul Breton of the United States National Conclave April 20 – 24, 2021

Hosted by the Great North Epagneul Breton Gun Dog Club
Pheasant Ridge Shooting Preserve Ogilvie, MN 56358
Four Brooks Wildlife Management Area, HWY 169N, Milaca MN

Schedule of Events

Tuesday April 20

UKC Judges and Handlers Seminar

Hosted By the Great North Epagneul Breton Gun Dog Club

Location: Pheasant Ridge Shooting Preserve

Time 9:00 am – 1:30 pm

Wednesday April 21

Field Trials Start Time: 7:00 Am

Open and GUN trials at Four Brooks WMA

4:00 –7:00 Social Hour, Dinner & Awards at Pheasant Ridge

Thursday April 22

Field Trials

Start Time: 7:00 AM

Open at Pheasant Ridge

GUN at Four Brooks WMA

2:30 Grouse and Woodcock 101 with Terry Petro

Location: Pheasant Ridge Shooting Preserve

4:00 –7:00 Social Hour, Dinner & Awards at Pheasant Ridge

7:30 Club de l'Epagneul Breton of the United States
Membership Meeting

Friday April 23

9:00 Confirming and Day of entries for Conformation Show

1:00: Conformation Show Begins

4:00 –7:00 Social Hour, Dinner & Awards at Pheasant Ridge

5:00 Silent Auction Begins

Saturday April 23

Field Trials

Start Time: 7:00 AM

All Competitors to meet at Pheasant Ridge

GUN at Pheasant Ridge

Open at Four Brooks WMA and compete there

2:30 Canine Chiropractic with Dr Danielle Yorek

Location: Pheasant Ridge Shooting Preserve, 1547 Imperial
St, Ogilvie, MN 56358,

4:00 –7:00 Social Hour, Dinner & Awards at Pheasant Ridge

Sunday: Clean Up and Travel Day Home

For more information on events contact

Jeff Pleskac, Trial Chairman
hhfarmsmn@gmail.com



Stud Dogs



Just Perfect Du Auburn Bretons
NAVHDA NA Prize 1, 112 Points
NAVHDA Utility Prize III
Penn Hip Lt: 0.46, Rt: 0.42
Sherry Niesar
701-527-3714
www.coteaukennel.com
sniesar@outlook.com



NBOB CH GUN Smith's Legend de Pondsides TAN WRT
OFA: GOOD
Smith's Epagneul Bretons
W. Edward Smith
574 699 6302
www.smithepagneulbretons.com



Breeders

Chantant K-3 Kennel
Norman & Judy Pope
popecpa23@gmail.com
605-572-8236, 605-572-82367

Coteau Kennel
Pete Wax & Sherry Niesar
sniesar@outlook.com
701-222-8940
www.coteaukennel.com

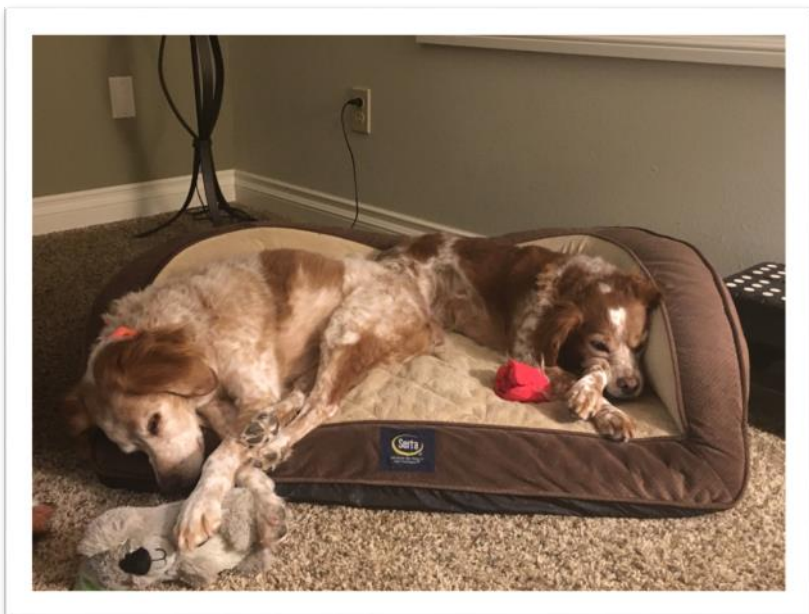
HHF Gun Dogs
Jeff and Tasha Pleskac
320 260 6202 / 320 420 2442
www.hhfgundogs.com
hhfarmsmn@gmail.com

Hyalite Kennel
Butch Nelson & Karen Paugh
406-567-4200
hyaliteknl@yahoo.com

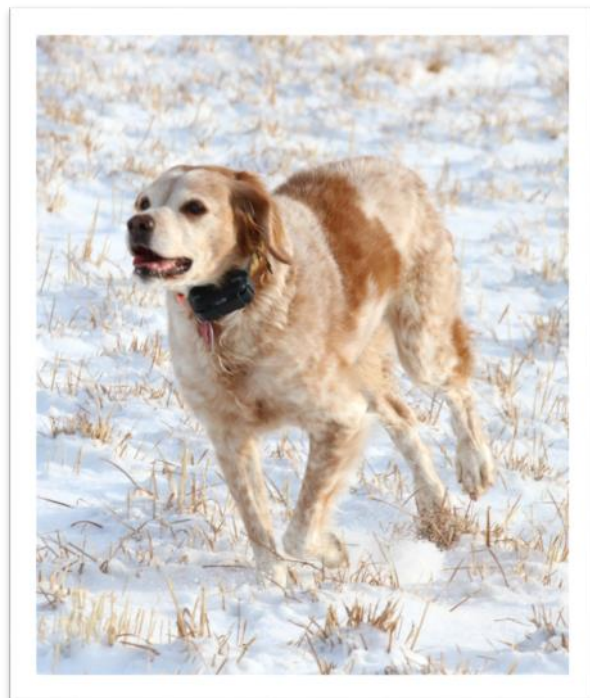
Kimmel's Epagneul Bretons
Kathleen Kimmel
517-204-3342
kimmelsepagneulbretons.net
kimmelk29@gmail.com

Smith's Epagneul Bretons
W. Edward Smith
574 699 6302
www.smithepagneulbretons.com

Photo Gallery



Snuggled up on a cold day.
Photo by Janis Bruwelheide



Cassie on the run.
Photo by Janis Bruwelheide



Puppies!
Photo by John Mooney



Whoa Post Marketplace

Miracle de Passemarais, Born 8/2/16, 33 lbs and 46 cm tall at withers. Miracle is an accomplished hunting dog; he was originally trained by Butch Nelson of Hyalite Kennels. He is currently steady to shot and retrieves to hand. He has experience hunting the uplands of Montana as well as Minnesota. He has a great nose and is lots of drive in the field and lots of love at home. He will make a great companion and hunting buddy. He is currently owned by Lynda Kieres but is with Jeff and Tasha Pleskac at HHF Gundogs in Minnesota for the season. If you are interested, please Contact Jeff or Tasha at hfhfarmsmn@gmail.com. \$3500



*“All his life he tried to be a good person.
Many times, however, he failed.
For, after all, he was only human. He wasn’t a dog.”*

Charles M. Schulz (cartoonist, “Peanuts”)

UKC Events

March 13 & 14, 2021

Carolinas EB Gundog Club
Winston Salem, North Carolina
Event Type: Field Trial - Liberated WRT, TAN
Contact: Cynthia Castle Copeland
events@carolinasebgdc.com (803) 507-3766

March 20 & 21, 2021

Grinnell, IA
Field Of Dreams EBGDC
Event Type: Wild; Open Solo & Braces, Gun Solo
Contacts: Josh Ruiter
301.890.1060 trinitybretons@gmail.com; Matt Van Maaren
611.780.9581 buckleyreels@gmail.com

March 28 & 29, 2021

Canton, IL
Heart of the Prairie
Type of Events Held: Type L, TAN, WRT
Contact: Matt Van Maaren 641.780.9581 or buckley-creek@gmail.com

April 21 - 24, 2021

Milaca/Ogilvie, MN
CEB – US National Conclave
SAVE THE DATE!



Renew Your Membership

Membership to the Big Sky Epagneul Breton Gun Dog Club is due at the beginning of each calendar year in January. Each member is an important component to the club, adding to the newsletter with articles and photographs and at the clubs annual field trial. If you are not a member, then consider joining. Aside from becoming a part of a group of talented, friendly and likeminded dog owners, members:

- Receive the Whoa Post
- Are eligible to place ads in the Marketplace at no charge
- List Breeder and Stud Dog information (newsletter and web site) at no charge
- Have access to dog training professionals and mentors
- Receive advance notice of special events
- Have opportunity to participate in UKC sanctioned field trials
- Join a fellowship of like minded individuals

Sally says, "Hey Boss, it's time to pay our membership dues!"



Complete your membership form today and help support the UKC trial system.

Big Sky Epagneul Breton Gun Dog Club Membership Form

Name _____ 2nd Family Member _____

Address _____

Telephone _____ Email _____

Membership Category \$20 Individual _____ \$30 Family _____ \$50 Business _____

Make Check out to: **Big Sky Epagneul Breton Gun Dog Club**

Return form & dues to: Mel Kotur 2525 Arnica Dr. Bozeman, MT 59715