

# The Whoa Post

February 2020

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## The February Issue

A few years ago, a young girl was coerced into running on the cross-country team in elementary school by her friends. She was not a runner, but her friends were. In her first and last meet, she came across the finish line last. The officials gave her a participation ribbon, just like every other girl in the race. So, what did it mean to her? Not much. Even though the crowd cheered every runner across the finish line, she was not encouraged. But more importantly, what about the girl that finished first, her win was diminished.

In this day and age of participation ribbons, let's look for more accountability. Accountability is defined by Merriam Webster as *an obligation or willingness to accept responsibility or to account for one's actions*. So, where do we start looking at accountability? I'm guessing almost everyone reading this has at least one dog, so let's be accountable to our canines. This means, teaching them good manners in the house, around people, other dogs, and to lead them to become the best hunting dog they can. If you plan to run your dog in a field trial, hunt test or the show ring, you owe it to them to do some training. Because without training, even the best dog will remind you that there are no participation ribbons in the field or ring. There are only winners and also rans.

In addition to training our dogs, accountability falls on our shoulders to learn the rules of the venue as a handler. A dog will not be competitive if the handler doesn't know the rules by which he is judged. Learning the rules is good for the dog and keeps the judge accountable for his/her ruling.

Looking ahead to the training season, pick your venue, learn the rules and develop some training objectives for you and your dog to reach. But remember, have some fun along the way. Happy training.

Sherry Niesar  
Whoa Post Editor



## *More about Traps by Ken Bruwelheide*

The article in the January Whoa Post by Peter Wax, entitled “Cable Traps,” really caught my attention. Having a dog caught in a neck snare trap can have a sad ending. In the years that I have hunted both big game and upland birds I have never seen a trap of any kind. However, this does not mean that traps are not there.

If you live in a northern state that permits the trapping of Furbearers, you may wish to check the seasonal overlap of Furbearer trapping and the upland bird season. There may also be predator control trapping for coyotes that goes on all year. Montana’s Furbearer trapping season overlaps the upland bird season.

Trapping may take place on private as well as public lands such as U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management and Montana State Lands such as State School Sections. State Land requires permission to trap from the Montana Department of Natural Resources Commission.

Much of the trapping takes place on private land that is enrolled in Montana’s Block Management Program. This program is cooperative between private landowners, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks and hunters. The Block Management Program includes 1,200 landowner cooperatives and approximately 7.2 million acres. Not all of this acreage is upland bird habitat. One may conclude that there is a lot of land that given landowner permission an individual may engage in trapping.

I am not a person who is against trapping as long as regulations are followed. I AM concerned about dogs and people getting hurt with traps which are hidden or not.

### Trap Release Workshop

Coincidental to the article about cable traps from Peter, I found that a Montana organization was offering a free workshop dealing with trapping Furbearers and how to properly release a dog from a trap. This session was a two-hour workshop that included a presentation on injury by a veterinarian. The content focused on the three most common types of traps: neck snare, foot hold, and the conibear trap.

What I learned was a lot about Montana’s Trapping Regulations and the best, quickest and easiest ways to release a dog from these traps. In addition, I purchased a pair of cable cutters that work the best on the neck snare traps. From now on I will have these cutters in my bird hunting vest and an additional pair in my truck whether hunting or exercising the dogs. As Peter noted from his experience a Leatherman tool does not work well. The organization that offered the workshop is Footloose Montana and has been presenting trap release workshops since 2007. Footloose Montana has an online video of the workshop which may be viewed.

You may wish to begin the video and then fast forward to the section that demonstrates trap placement in the field and how to remove a dog from a trap.

<https://www.footloosemontana.org/>



## *Welcome! Mel Kotur—Treasurer Big Sky Epagneul Breton Gun Dog Club*

Over the years, I've had the good fortune to meet many of the members of our Big Sky Epagneul Breton Gun Dog Club. To those members whom I have not yet had the pleasure to meet, or as a point of re-introduction to those I haven't seen in a while, I'm Mel Kotur. I make this introduction because I've been recently appointed as your club Treasurer. I pledge to all our members to do my very best in that capacity.

Here's a little of my background. My wife, Kim, and I live in Bozeman, Montana with our two French

Brittanys: Rosie, soon to be 12 years old and Maisie, soon to be 4 years old. Both females, both spoiled, both living in our house (or we're living in theirs – I'm not sure) and both sleeping on the furniture. They are, however, magnificent hunters so we forgive them their transgressions. We've been in Bozeman for the past 37 years, have 2 grown sons living out of State and try our very best to get the dogs out for a hike daily, knees and hips permitting.

Kim is a retired Family Nurse Practitioner from Montana State University and I am retired from NorthWestern Energy as Community Relations Manager. If you are ever in Bozeman, look us up. Maybe we can tell tall tales about our dogs. In the meantime, if you need to pay your Club dues you can send them to:

Mel Kotur  
2525 Arnica Dr.  
Bozeman, MT 59715

Otherwise, if you have Treasurer-related questions I'd be happy to help. Best wishes to you all in 2020!



*We make a living by what we get,  
but we make a life by what we give.*

**Winston Churchill**

## *Trust Your Dog by John Mooney*

A memory from my younger years. I was probably around the age of seventeen and out with my Dad's brother hunting pheasants. We were hunting near Hugo, Minnesota, a small town just north of St. Paul, the capital city -- not Minneapolis, St. Paul, but that's a whole different story.

The three of us had been hunting for quite a while, not seeing many birds, when my American Brittany, Timba, slammed in on point. (Timba looked very much like the Epagneul Bretons we have today, still having the proper look and hunting style of the true Brittany Spaniel). I remember this hunt like it was yesterday, frustrated as a young man because we worked so hard to find very few birds. Walking through cattail sloughs and willow swamps, it was very hard work. I remember thinking how hard this hunt must be on my "old" fifty-seven-year-old Dad. (That doesn't seem that old anymore).

Now a little background on me and Timba. Timba was a puppy from a male we had, Sam, who was out of Cheyenne Sam, a very famous dog among Brittany people in the sixties.

I spent many hours training Timba, starting when he was eight weeks old. He was a solid retriever and a staunch pointer. This hunt happened when Timba was a year and a half old.

Now back to the hunt. Timba on point, with my dad on my right and my brother on my left, I walked up to a very staunch Timba. I remember thinking, if it's a rooster don't miss, the opportunities being few and far between. I stepped out in front of Timba to flush the bird and a beautiful rooster exploded from the cattails. I, of course, missed on my first two shots, shooting way too fast out of excitement. The third shot hit the climbing rooster and down it fell with a puff of feathers following it's path. Hit hard, or so I thought, and Timba quickly went for the retrieve and ran directly past where the bird had fallen. Timba then came running past us going in the opposite direction where the bird had fallen. Being young and inexperienced, I started yelling and screaming at Timba to come back and hunt where the bird went down. I'm yelling and blowing my whistle at this darn dog with a very frustrated tone. My Dad, a very experienced dog guy and hunter, said, "John, stop yelling and wait." I stopped for a minute and then out of frustration I started the yelling and whistle blowing again. My dad, again, with a very calm voice said, "John .... " and in an irritated voice I said, "WHAT???" He said, "John, look down." There, standing beside me in the cattails was a very proud but confused Timba holding a live rooster in his mouth.

This story was told to many people over the years by my Dad but mostly by my brother Bruce. They weren't going to let me forget it.

The moral of this story is TRUST YOUR DOG. One of the reasons we hunt behind our dogs is to watch them show their natural ability to hunt. This is one of countless times I have experienced the amazing ability of a well-bred hunting dog.

John Mooney is the owner of L'Escarbot Kennels,  
Hampton, MN



## *Judging Ability in VHDF: A Caution.* by Joe Schmutz\*

Looking over the notes that Apprentice Judges wrote in their field books, I had the distinct impression that obedience looms high in the minds of judges, too high.

The reason VHDF was created was to return to the important priority of offering a tool for breeders over and above sport. Borrowing from the missions statement: "The Versatile Hunting Dog Federation promotes ethical hunting practices and conservation of game animals by enhancing the quality and ability of versatile hunting dogs through breeder and handler education, performance based testing ...." The words of Ed Bailey should always ring in a judge's mind, to ascertain what a dog is, not just what it does.

An over-reliance on obedience in arriving at a score was particularly evident in the retrieves, both of upland bird, duck and drag retrieves. This over-reliance on obedience was also evident in the word choices of seasoned judges in previous years and bears re-consideration. Take an example of two imaginary dogs retrieving a bird shot in the field portion of AHAE, the premier test for breeders. (In PE the dog is evaluated how well it functions as a hunting-team member. Here, obedience is given more weight than in AHAE but even in PE it can be overemphasized.)

### **Dog A**

- Stands obediently to shot and fall
- Chukar landed 40 m out within sight of the dog
- Dog runs out on command
- At thirty yards the dog slows to search the ground, and expands its search circle
- Veering off-side it encounters feathers from a previous bird
- Dog investigates feathers for 30 sec. then expands its search again until it finds the bird
- Grabs the bird, repositions it slowly return to the handler.
- At 10 m dog makes eye contact and comes to sit and drops on command.

### **Dog B**

- Breaks at the shot but stops on command
- When sent, heads in a straight line veering a degree or two downwind
- Dog picks up the bird and turns immediately and heads back to handler
- Dog stands within reach and drops when the handler catches it with a quick grab.

I know perfectly well which of the two dogs I'd like a puppy from. While an element of obedience is no doubt heritable, Dog A showed primarily well-trained obedience. Wing clipped roosters like dogs that poorly mark a fall and lose concentration on the job. Dog B will give a wing-clipped rooster a 'run for its money.'

As VHDF judges we are asked to consider the age of the dog, the purpose of the test and especially value hunting ability over flare. We are asked to look deep into what a dog does and reflect what a dog is, as much as humanly possible.

\*Reprinted with author's permission from VHDF Bulletin #1, January 2020



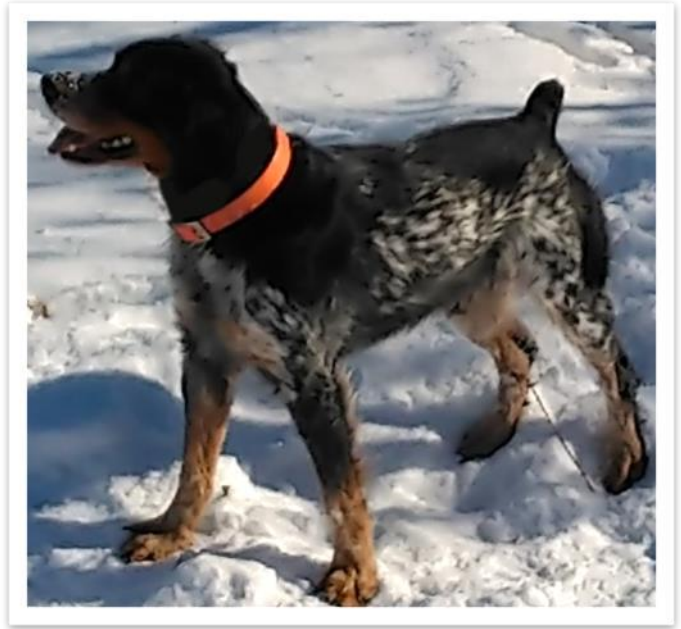
## How Long a Tail? By Peter Wax

The Epagneul Breton's Breed Standard for the tail is: **TAIL** Set high, carried horizontally (or slightly lowered), often lively when the dog is attentive or in action. The Epagneul Breton can be born tailless or with a very short tail. When the tail is docked, the ideal length is from 1.18 to 2.36 inches (3 to 6 cm). The docked tail should not exceed 3.93 inches (10 cm).

Why is there a standard for the tail? The tail needs to be long enough to cover its rear end, protecting it from insect bites and unwanted canine attention, yet short enough that it does not cause health issues related to the work the dog is bred to do. The tail is also a mode of communication. The Epagneul Breton, as are all hunting breeds, is so honest that all a trainer, handler or owner needs to do is look at the tail and know all.

What does 1.18 to 2.36 inches look like?

Smooth or no tail is the current fashion. Recognize that this is a fashion not in the breed standard (with an exception for naturally tailless dogs). This deviation from the breed standard, like pug noses and outcrosses with poodles, belongs in the AKC show ring and in designer kennels.



**Figure 1. At the hairline this tail is  $2\frac{3}{8}$  inches. This length is about half the maximum length in the standard and  $\frac{1}{8}$  inch inside the ideal range. If this tail was skinned, the tailbone would measure approximately  $1\frac{1}{4}$  inches. This tail is long enough to cover the anus, swish away bugs, wag in happiness, shiver in intensity, and stand at attention on point.**



The tail length in the UKC standard is for a hunting dog that lives in the home. It is the standard based on sound science and home owner experience. It ensures that there is enough bone, muscle and connective tissue to prevent a prolapsed anus or vagina, enough volume to provide feedback to the hunter, and enough length to guard the soft spots against insects and other unwanted intrusions. This tail, the wonderful instrument of communication, can do all this and not knock the china off the coffee table.

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# POETS CORNER

## *I Bite*

Sometimes I bite when I'm afraid  
 Sometimes I bite when I'm in pain  
 Sometimes I bite to protect myself  
 Sometimes I bite to show I'm in charge  
 Sometimes I bite because I don't know any  
 better  
 And Sometimes I bite because it's been  
 four hours  
 And you're still talking about last  
 night's *Dancing with the Stars*  
 Sometimes a dog can only take so much



## *Treat*

How long do you  
 Expect me  
 To Keep  
 This  
 Treat  
 On  
 My  
 Nose  
 Before  
 I can  
 GULP  
 Oh, my bad  
 Guess we better try this trick a  
 twelfth time

From: *I Could Chew on this and Other Poems by Dogs* by Francesco Marciuliano. Chronicle Books 2013  
 Special thanks to Carl Anderson for providing the poems.

## *Xylitol Products that can Poison Your Dog*

by: Dr. Nancy Kay, DVM, DACVIM  
from:pethealthnetwork.com

For some folks, the start of a new year is a catalyst to lose weight and this may mean switching from plain old sugar to lower calorie sweeteners. Xylitol is one such sugar substitute that is safe for human consumption, but is toxic for dogs. In fact, it can be deadly.

**What exactly is xylitol?** Discovered by German chemist Emil Fisher in 1891, xylitol is found in fruit and vegetable fibers. The xylitol we consume is manufactured by beginning with a product called xylan found in hardwood trees and corncobs.

Xylitol was first put to use as a sweetener in Finland during World War II when sucrose was unavailable. The growth in xylitol popularity is attributed to its many beneficial properties. To begin with, xylitol is as sweet as sucrose, but with far fewer calories. Additionally, compared to sugar, it causes very little insulin release in people and insulin is not required for it to be put to use as an energy source for the body. Lastly, xylitol has been shown to prevent mouth bacteria from producing acids that damage the surfaces of the teeth. For this reason, xylitol is commonly included in toothpastes, sugar-free gum, and other oral care products.



**Species-specific effects of xylitol** The effect of xylitol on insulin release varies dramatically between species. In people, rats, horses, and rhesus monkeys, xylitol causes little to no increase in insulin release or change in blood sugar levels. This is altogether different in dogs, cats, cows, goats, rabbits, and baboons. In these species' xylitol causes a marked increase in insulin release and drop in blood sugar and is the basis for xylitol toxicity.

**Xylitol Toxicity in dogs** After a dog consumes a significant amount of xylitol, there is a massive release of insulin from the pancreas. This, in turn, results in a dangerously low blood sugar level and symptoms such as weakness, trembling, seizures, collapse, and even death.

At higher dosages, xylitol can cause massive liver destruction (known as necrosis) in which large numbers of liver cells die abruptly. This produces an acute health crisis and, in many cases, death.

Vomiting is often the first symptom of xylitol toxicity. Other symptoms related to the low blood sugar level develop within 30 minutes to 12 hours following consumption. When xylitol-induced liver damage occurs, blood liver enzyme values typically begin increasing within 12 to 24 hours.

The dose of xylitol considered to be toxic for dogs is 0.1 gram or more of xylitol per kg of the dog's body weight.

**Treatment of xylitol toxicity in dogs** Emergency treatment is warranted after a dog consumes xylitol. If vomiting can be successfully induced within the first 30 minutes or so (before the xylitol leaves the stomach), the problem may be solved. Once xylitol leaves the stomach (the other way) and triggers the pancreas to produce insulin, intensive treatment is warranted in order to try to counteract the effects of hy-

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## Xylitol - Continued from page 8

poglycemia (low blood glucose) and liver damage. Treatment includes hospitalization with round-the-clock care, blood monitoring, and administration of intravenous glucose and liver-protective agents. In some cases, blood transfusions are needed to counteract the effects of blood clotting abnormalities caused by liver failure.

The prognosis for xylitol toxicity varies and depends on how promptly the dog receives treatment as well as the amount of xylitol that was consumed.

**Read labels carefully** Many foods and dental products contain xylitol. Some commonly used products that may contain xylitol include:

- Toothpaste
- Mouthwash
- Chewing gum
- Peanut butter
- Sugar-free candy
- Sugar free breath mints
- Fruit drinks
- Jellies and jams
- Cereals
- Baked goods
- Sugar-free puddings and Jello
- Over the counter vitamin supplements



Not all product labels clearly state if they contain xylitol. If a label states only, “artificially sweetened,” presume that it contains xylitol. If you opt to use xylitol-containing products in your household, be sure to keep them completely out of your clever dog’s reach.

**What to do if your dog eats xylitol** If you believe that your dog has just eaten (as in you just watched it happen) something containing xylitol, contact a veterinary hospital staff member right away. You might be advised to induce your dog to vomit at home. This is accomplished by forcing your dog to swallow hydrogen peroxide.

If you’re not really sure when the xylitol was consumed (you’ve just returned home from work and the remains of sugar-free gum wrappers are decorating the couch), transport your dog to a nearby veterinary clinic or 24-hour emergency hospital right away. Be sure to take the label of the consumed product with you. Time is always of the essence when treating xylitol toxicity.

Look around your house and see if you have any xylitol-containing products. What did you find?

*If you have any questions or concerns, you should always visit or call your veterinarian -- they are your best resource to ensure the health and well-being of your pets.*

### Resources

Xylitol Frequently Asked Questions Nature's Provision." Xylitol Products by Nature's Provision Frequently Asked Questions. Jan. 2017.



## Recipe: *Venison Shepard's Pie*

From: [www.mossoak.com](http://www.mossoak.com)

### Ingredients:

- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 1/2 pounds venison cut into 1-inch cubes
- 1/2 teaspoon roasted ground cumin
- 1/2 teaspoon kosher salt
- 1 onion, chopped
- 4 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 tablespoon tomato paste
- 2 cups beef broth
- 1/3 cup black olives
- 1/3 cup raisins
- 3 tablespoons honey
- 1/2 teaspoon ground red pepper
- 1/4 teaspoon ground turmeric
- 1/2 teaspoon cinnamon, divided
- 1 cup frozen green peas
- 4 cups sweet potatoes, peeled and chopped
- 1 large egg, lightly beaten

### Directions:

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees.
2. Heat oil in a medium-sized skillet over medium-high heat. Sprinkle venison with cumin and salt. Add venison to the pan and brown for about 1 minute on each side. Remove venison from the pan. Add onions and sauté for 3 minutes. Add garlic for about 30 seconds, and then add the tomato paste. Stir well.
3. Add broth to the pan. Bring to a boil, scraping pan to loosen the browned bits. Stir in olives, raisins, honey, ground red pepper, turmeric and one half of the cinnamon. Add venison back, to the pan. Reduce heat, and simmer 30 minutes. Remove from heat and stir in the peas.
4. Meanwhile, place sweet potatoes in a pot of boiling water until tender and drain. Sprinkle with a pinch of salt and the rest of the cinnamon. Beat potatoes with a mixer and add egg. Continue mixing until well-combined.
5. Spoon venison mixture evenly into a pie dish, and then spread potato mixture over the venison mixture. If you want to make it extra special for company, cut the end off of a gallon zip top bag, place a cake frosting tip on the end, spoon the sweet potatoes into the bag and decorate the top of the venison mixtures completely with the sweet potatoes. Place the dish on a baking sheet and bake at 350 degrees for 30 minutes until bubbly.



Send your recipes to the  
Whoa Post Editor  
[sniesar@outlook.com](mailto:sniesar@outlook.com)

# Happy Valentine's Day



Smokey owned by Glen Davis wishing everyone a Happy Valentines Day!  
Photo By Audrey Todd



# Whoa Post Marketplace

## *Puppies!*

Taking Deposits Now

Dam: TR CH INDIANA DE BROUGHTON WRT

Sire: GUN CH SMITH'S LEGEND DE PONDSIDE TAN

Pups Due December 5th

Ed Smith 574 699 6302

Contact: Ed Smith at 574 699 6302

Cell: 765 432 9184 . [ejs1029@aol.com](mailto:ejs1029@aol.com)



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## ***Breeders***

**Chantant K-3 Kennel**  
Norman & Judy Pope  
[popecpa23@gmail.com](mailto:popecpa23@gmail.com)  
605-724-2533, 303-324-9972

**Coteau Kennel**  
Pete Wax & Sherry Niesar  
[sniesar@outlook.com](mailto:sniesar@outlook.com)  
701-222-8940  
[www.coteaukennel.com](http://www.coteaukennel.com)

**HHF Gun Dogs**  
Jeff and Tasha Pleskac  
320 260 6202 / 320 420 2442  
[www.hhfgundogs.com](http://www.hhfgundogs.com)  
[hhfarmsmn@gmail.com](mailto:hhfarmsmn@gmail.com)

**Hyalite Kennel**  
Butch Nelson & Karen Paugh  
406-567-4200  
[hyaliteknl@yahoo.com](mailto:hyaliteknl@yahoo.com)

**Kimmel's Epagneul Bretons**  
Kathleen Kimmel  
517-204-3342  
[kimmelsepagneulbretons.net](http://kimmelsepagneulbretons.net)  
[kimmelk29@gmail.com](mailto:kimmelk29@gmail.com)

**Smith's Epagneul Bretons**  
W. Edward Smith  
574 699 6302  
[www.smithepagneulbretons.com](http://www.smithepagneulbretons.com)

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## ***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](http://www.coteaukennel.com)  
[sniesar@outlook.com](mailto:sniesar@outlook.com)

**CH GUN Smith's Legende de Pondsider  
TAN WRT**  
OFA: GOOD  
Smith's Epagneul Bretons  
W. Edward Smith  
574 699 6302  
[www.smithepagneulbretons.com](http://www.smithepagneulbretons.com)



## **Attention: Breeders and Stud Dog Listings**

Memberships must be kept current and in good standing to be listed on *Breeder/Stud Dog* list.

***Ken Bruwelheide***  
President BSEBGDC

## Up Coming UKC Events

### February 29 & March 1, 2020

Heart of the Prairie Pointing Dog Club

Delavan, IL

Event Type: Liberated, TAN/WRT

Contact: Kevin Banasik (319) 721-2007

### March 28 & 29, 2020

Field Of Dreams Epagneul Breton Gun Dog Club

Grinnel, IA

Event Type: Wild, TAN & WRT

Contact: Dan Torrence daniel.j.torrence11@gmail.com



## Breeders, Stud Dog List and Marketplace Ads

The *Breeders, Stud Dog List and Marketplace Ads* can be placed only by paid members. If you are not a paid member, complete the membership form on the last page and return it with your payment. Memberships must be kept current or you will be removed from the *Breeder/Stud Dog* list. The Whoa Post is sent directly to over 300 unique email addresses and posted on the club web site, Facebook page and with other Facebook groups.

Provide the following information to the Whoa Post Editor: [sniesar@outlook.com](mailto:sniesar@outlook.com).

### *Breeders:*

Name of Kennel and/or Breeder

Contact Name

Phone

Email

Website

### *Stud Dog Listing:*

Name of Stud Dog

Hip Rating (OFA or Penn Hip)

Contact Name

Phone

Email

Website



Did you know that three dogs survived the sinking of the Titanic? The dogs were in first class and included a Pomeranian puppy - which her owner wrapped in a blanket to escape with, and everyone thought she was carrying a baby. Another Pomeranian and a Pekingese were also rescued.

From: <https://www.purina.co.uk/>

# Renew Your Membership

Membership to the Big Sky Epagneul Breton Gun Dog Club is due at the beginning of each January. Each member are 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 becoming a member. 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



*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