

The Whoa Post



July 2020

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The July Issue

In my attempts to remain covid free, I have not been in contact with groups I would normally volunteer with. Partially because they were closed and partially because I did not want to come in contact with Miss Rona..

Restrictions have opened up around the State and I have been out more and helping when I can. By isolating I found out I am not as antisocial as I thought and missed friends that I usually see a lot more than in the last three months. I also missed giving back and am glad to be able to do my part again.

So how do you give back? Do you have special talents that you share. Maybe you are an experienced dog trainer, do you share your knowledge with the local dog club? At no charge? Do you supply training birds for people? Have you moved supplies for groups when traveling from one town to the next? These are all examples of giving back. While it doesn't seem like much, all these things listed above are what makes a local dog club run.

Giving back doesn't have to be a grand gesture, but something simple. It could be supplying snacks for the next meeting or taking notes or even sending out an email to club members. Simple things that don't take much time.

I also know if you join a dog club you may be afraid of becoming over extended. It happens and it happens before you know it. And then you are left trying to figure out what happened to you summer.

If you join a dog club, decide what you want from the club. Is it training advice, a training location, dog companionship or something else. There really isn't a wrong reason. Be clear with the club how much time you are prepared to give. The last thing you should do is buy a membership. Clubs don't operate in a vacuum. They have supplies to purchase, insurance and event fees, for starters. The money has to come from somewhere.

If you have not purchased a 2020 membership for the BSEBGDC, now is the time. Membership forms are on the last page. It's a bargain and it will help to support our fall wild field trial

Sherry Niesar
Whoa Post Editor



Pigeon Breeders Lung “Hypersensitivity Pneumonitis”

By Peter Wax

Up early. Not feeling well. It was the morning after collecting pigeons. Big government bin. Full. Full of beautiful square fliers. Mostly bars, checks and blacks. We took a hundred plus birds and left as many behind for seed.

My mind is foggy. Packing up the supplies and getting the dogs ready is difficult. Stop often to rest. Coming back into the house and She asks, “You okay?” “Sure.”

“Just a little tired.” Heading into the living room the couch looks inviting. A 15-minute power nap will fix me right up. I lay down.

She is standing over: “I think you should go to the hospital”. “Nope - I am just a little tired.” Her right eyebrow goes up and She says: “You are going with me to the walk-in clinic or I am calling an ambulance.” We go to the Walk-in. She drives. Strange day as I should be training.

After an initial triage, they send me to a narrow bed in a large room. I sit on the edge. The nurse says I must lay down. I lay down. I few minutes later a tall doctor appears. He looks me over than says he has a pair of pants just like mine, but he usually wears matching shoes with them. I look down and I have my marine dress wool pants on, one boot, and one dress shoe. I pull on my shirt tails and it is my pajama top. A couple hours later I am in a medical bed with IV-antibiotic flowing. Diagnosis is double pneumonia.

It was is not pneumonia. It is Pigeon Breeders Lung or Hypersensitivity Pneumonitis. It takes three more episodes of acute reaction before Dr. Larsen, an allergist properly diagnoses it. It is a disease to take seriously. It wiped out 13% of my lung capacity. Mine will never come back due to scaring. What is 13%? Thirteen percent is suffering at 10,000 feet and no kick after a 2-mile jog. It is huffing up steep grades and an annoying cough when the weather or humidity changes. It is noticeable every day when training dogs.

Pigeon Breeders Lung (PBL) is properly called hypersensitivity pneumonitis. It is an allergic reac-



Pigeon Breeders Lung - Continued from page 2

tion to protein in pigeon dander, and feathers. A pulmonary disease with delayed symptoms (hours or weeks). It is manifested by inflamed lung tissue and the formation of granulomas. Prior sensitization is required. Think dog trainers.

Acute Symptoms: Four to 8 hours after exposure to dry feathered birds (i.e., pigeons, parrots, gulls) or dander and droppings you spike a fever with chills, shortness of breath and cough that lasts several days. Your Doctor might call this delayed acute hypersensitivity pneumonitis.

Subacute Form: Shortness of breath and cough are manifested gradually over several weeks or months. It can progress to severe respiratory impairment (both obstructive and restrictive).

Chronic: The chronic form of PBL has no fever, but causes shortness of breath, malaise, weakness, weight loss, and cough. Pulmonary function abnormalities range from diffusion defects with restrictive dysfunction to varying degrees of obstructive dysfunction, and severe form of the disease, fibrosis and eventual death.

All forms are easily misdiagnosed. Getting it right early is everything. Early diagnosis means no permanent lung damage.

Treatment: Prednisone is the standard treatment. It reduces inflammation and delays scarring.

Cure: Avoidance. Things that need to be removed from your life are training birds, feather pillows, down sleeping bags and outer wear. Anything and anyplace with feathers. Barns, grain bins, bird pens, chicken coups. If you train gundogs, camp, and hunt in northern climate it is basically everything.

For me, pillows, sleeping bags, and outerwear have been easy to replace with synthetics and wool but there is no replacement for birds. Introducing species back in carefully, I have found that I can maintain a few oily skinned birds like bobwhite, chukars, pheasants and ducks if I keep everything clean and rinsed down regularly and utilize a N95 mask.

Think: Think smart. If a few hours after being in the pigeon coup or handling birds, you get chills followed with being sleepy and not being able to take in a deep breath, go visit your physician. While there, explain the symptoms and your suspicions. If your suspicions are wrong that is a good thing. Note that the sleepiness is from a lack of oxygen and not being able to inhale fully is from your lungs swelling up. Take it seriously.



Ask Butch by Butch Nelson



Jim sends a question about his dog Ares; a 9 year old EB that I knew as a puppy, that he doesn't retrieve shot birds but he will retrieve a training buck wrapped with feathers.

Answer: The EB is a wonderful companion and deserves our attention. They have so much natural ability; it's the real reason why I'm retiring with this breed. I've seen many times when a young prospect comes along with lots of talent and for no reason refuses to retrieve, point, or worse, quit hunting. Now, he will always be your best friend. Why? Because you weren't the cause. A misdirected stimulation from an e-collar could have been the culprit but adding another puppy or dog to the mix and allowing too much interaction probably was the virus. Think about it. A young dog is retrieving a bird to hand when out of nowhere here comes a litter mate or a litter of puppies trying to help. Another male could have been the issue. I've worked a young male and at that time he was the very best Brittany, American or French, I had ever started. A great retriever. Two years later and two litters I saw Hoss again I hunted with him and he had quit retrieving. I mentioned to the owner that he won't fight the puppies for the retrieve so he quit. Later on he was hunted by himself and he retrieved all the birds shot for him. I believe he was tired of being harassed by all the young pups he was hunted with. Can't blame him. Hoss was a super dog to me and all who hunted him. Aggression is not an EB trait so Hoss did what was needed.

Back to Ares. I wouldn't consider force-break-to-retrieve; he's too old and if a mistake is made he might never understand why you're hurting him. Try hunting him by himself. If you have access to barn pigeons trim the flight feathers enough so a 30-40 yard flight is the most a pigeon could fly. This is very important; say nothing to him. Do not encourage him in any way. If he fails to pick it up you go pick the pigeon up. Bring it back and try again. After two attempts quit for the day. Show no displeasure. If he retrieved show him you are pleased but don't throw the pigeon until the next day.

If you allow him to go at his own pace he will be successful.

This problem is difficult because of age. Coaxing will be more successful than forcing.

Good luck...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.

Hunting Outlook

Montana: This year's upland bird season should be the most productive in several years for Montana hunters, experts say. Warm, relatively dry weather in June and July means better survival rates for upland broods, particularly sage grouse. And this year's conditions are the most favorable in several years, according to John Vore, game management bureau chief for Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks.



Blue grouse broods are being observed near Great Falls. Sage grouse researchers in central Montana, around Lewistown, are reporting good survival rates for chicks there. Vore said he expects the good news to extend to Hungarian partridge as well.

Vore said that sharptail grouse populations have taken a real hit in recent years, and the species is a little slower to recover than others. Pheasant numbers are also low statewide but may have some good localized populations.

Meanwhile, the state's wild turkey population is spreading. Even with a couple of not-so-kind winters, turkey populations are at least stable and probably increasing. Fall turkey hunts should be productive this year.

Information from helenair.com

North Dakota: North Dakota's spring pheasant population index is up 15% from the same time last year, according to the state Game and Fish Department's 2020 spring crowing count survey.

R.J. Gross, upland game management biologist, said the number of roosters heard crowing this spring was up statewide, with increases ranging from 1% to 18% in the primary regions holding pheasants.

"We entered spring with a larger breeding population compared to last year," Gross said. "Hens should be in good physical shape for nesting season and cover should be plentiful from the residual moisture left from last fall."

However, Gross said there is concern with drought conditions in the western part of the state, and whether insects will be available to chicks for brood rearing.

"I am hopeful for above-average chick survival due to the lush cover and predicted warm temperatures, but we can use some rain," Gross said. "But we don't want any severe weather events."

While the spring number is an indicator, Gross said it does not predict what the fall population will look like. Brood surveys, which begin in late July and are completed by September, provide a much better estimate of summer pheasant production and what hunters might expect for a fall pheasant population.

Pheasant crowing counts are conducted each spring throughout North Dakota. Observers drive specified 20-mile routes, stop at predetermined intervals, and count the number of pheasant roosters heard crowing over a 2-minute period during the stop.

The number of pheasant crows heard is compared to the previous year's data, providing a trend summary.

Information from the ND Game & Fish Dept.



Pressure by Sherry Niesar

According to dictionary.com pressure is defined as the use of persuasion, influence, or intimidation to make someone do something. Peer pressure is seen in middle and high school students participating in the latest fashion craze or behavior, Tide pod challenge or ice bucket challenge. Usually peer pressure is harmless, resulting in embarrassing behavior or bad clothing choices banished to the back of a closet. But what happens when you are the one putting on the pressure...on your dog.

In our excitement to get things done, be first or to be the best, we exert too much pressure on our dogs in training situations. If you are lucky, the dogs forget if you stop exerting pressure quickly, but if you exert pressure for a long enough time, it may take you a long time for your dog to get back on the training track.

Pressure in a training situation can occur at any age.

While I have observed this in the field on other's dogs, I will only talk about my dogs. My first French Brittany, Belle, was a lover and very soft. I had her signed up for a NAVHDA Natural Ability test and one of the tests was swimming. I worked hard to get that girl to swim including going in the water and calling her, hot dog treats, Cheetos, assorted other treats and even birds. She did not swim for the test, in fact, to send a message to me and the crowd, she turned her back to the water. Message received. In the end, she did swim but not for that test. Belle went on to enter the NAVHDA Utility test and earned a prize III. She was the little dog that could, but she couldn't be pushed.

Belle is an example of a young dog pushed too hard. Fortunately, we took some time off from training, went fishing, had some fun and gave her a hunting season before we started training again. The break allowed her to break habits and move forward to become a great dog in the field, test, or trial.

CHF Elegant Thorn du Coteau UT Prize 2 is nine years old. She has stunned people UKC trials and NAVHDA tests. The little black dog is a wonder in the field and a character at home. But we haven't done any serious training with her in at least two years. She is retired and a hunting dog. In an effort polish her up, we spent the last weekend working on field work as a solo dog and in braces. We were surprised to see when she quit backing or observing field manners after repetition. Then it dawned, she was feeling too much pressure. We didn't have time to take some time off, so instead, she got some solo runs with success and retrieves. On the braces, she split points and backs with the other dog. Each dog got a retrieve, pointing



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Pressure - Continued from page 6

dog first, backing dog second. We were lucky to quickly identify this pressure situation and equally lucky to overcome the situation.

Whether you have a young dog or an old dog, pressure can creep in to an intense training session. Always watch your dog's body language. If you are lucky you can modify your training plans to meet your dog's needs. While you might think you don't have time to wait or take time off, especially with a young dog scheduled for a puppy trial or test, think about how you will feel creating a problem by applying too much pressure that the dog never gets past. Once you ponder this thought, go fishing and take your dog.



Dog Facts:

According to the Washington Post, for eight months during 1990 a blind man named Bill Irwin hiked the Appalachian Trail with his guide dog, Orient helping him along the way. Dogs truly are man's best friend.

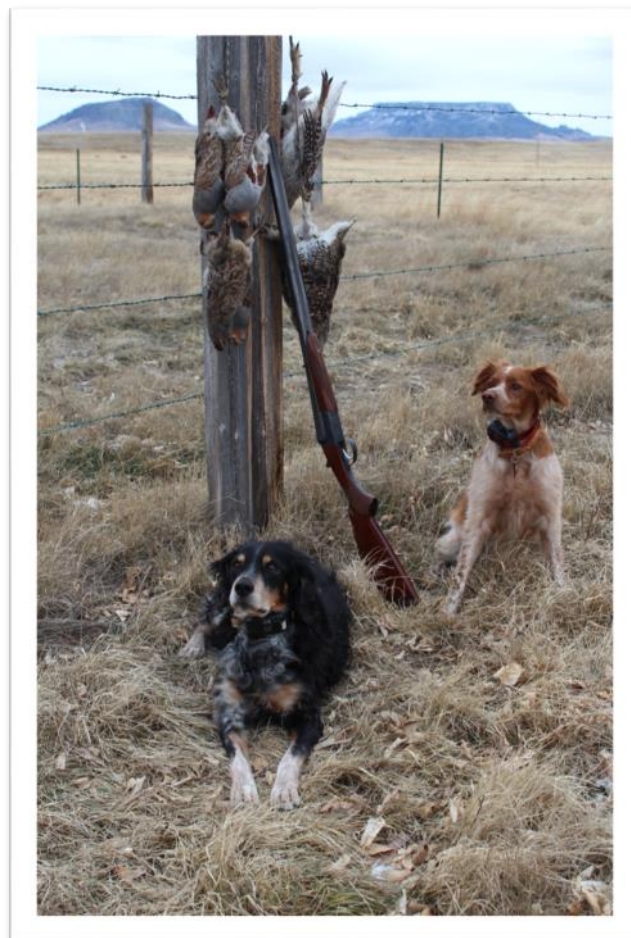


Photo Gallery



Pepsi De' L'Escarbot.
Sire: Ipso Facto du Comte de Batz Castelmore
Dam: Nanci De' L'Escarbot

Photo provided by John Mooney



Rosie and Maisie after a 2019 hunt.

Photo provided by Mel Kotour



Ipso/Lexi litter June 2020

Photo provided by John Mooney



Whoa Post Survey Results

The editors of the Whoa Post initiated a Survey Monkey tool to learn more of what our readers want to see. The survey was launched through the Whoa Post, on the club 's Facebook page and directly to our email list. We received numerous responses. The results are summarized below.

The top topics that people want to see in the Whoa Post are:

- Ask Butch and training information
- Interviews with members, trainers and breeders
- Photos and Photo Contest
- Trial Reports
- Recipes and wild game prep
- Hunting forecast and info on bird habitats

Other topics of interest to our readers:

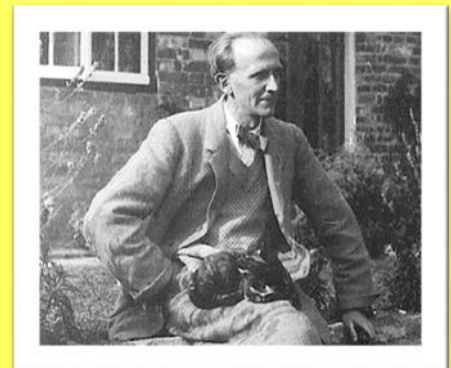
- Breeding
- History of breed and also a column on the Good Old Days of field trialing and early winning dogs
- Hunting stories
- Animal health
- Non hunting/trial activities

Thank you to everyone who completed a survey. Your input will be used to continue to meet the interests of our readers. We look forward to exploring new topics.



*"Some people talk to animals.
Not many listen though.
That's the problem."*

A.A. Milne





Recipe: *Golden Fish Cakes*

from tasteofhome.com

Ingredients

- ⊗ 1 pound flaked cooked fish
- ⊗ 1-1/2 cups soft bread crumbs
- ⊗ 3 large eggs, beaten
- ⊗ 2 to 4 tablespoons water
- ⊗ 1 medium onion, chopped
- ⊗ 2 tablespoons mayonnaise
- ⊗ 1-1/2 teaspoons ground mustard
- ⊗ 1 teaspoon dried parsley flakes
- ⊗ 3/4 teaspoon salt
- ⊗ 1-1/2 cups Italian-seasoned bread crumbs
- ⊗ 2 tablespoons vegetable oil
- ⊗ Tartar sauce and lemon wedges, option



Instructions

In a bowl, combine the first nine ingredients; mix well. Shape into 12 patties, adding additional water if needed; coat with the Italian bread crumbs. In a large skillet, cook the patties in oil for 4-5 minutes on each side or until lightly browned. Serve immediately with tartar sauce and lemon if desired.





Whoa Post Marketplace

Mud River Truck organizer with 3 shotgun holders plus 4 gear pouches. Bottom gun case can detach for individual carrying. Fits behind the front seat in most trucks and SUVs. In very good shape. \$75.00. Call Susan at 701-240-6702 or email at pottery@minot.com



Equipment

Tri-Tronics G3 Field 90 EXP dog e-collar. Transmitter and one receiver collar. Also included is the charging cradle and a holster. In good working condition. \$130.00 OBO

Call Susan at 701-240-6702 or email at pottery@minot.com



Rick Smith Foundation Level Seminar

Dates:

Meet and Greet on Friday August 7

Seminar on day Saturday August 8 and Sunday August 9. Start time is 9 am both days

Location:

924 Horse Creek Road, Circle, MT 59215

What to Expect:

This is a Foundation Level Seminar which will cover the basic levels of training a dog for the upland field. It will also cover a lot of trainer leadership and basic proper behavior concepts.

It is encouraged to bring your dog with to get the most out of the seminar. We do require proof of current vaccinations including regular vaccines (dhpp and rabies), Bordatella (kennel cough) and deworming. Copies of vaccination records can be sent electronically ahead of time or a copy brought with you to the seminar.

Meals:

There will have food for sale for meals through the event provided by a local teacher and her daughter here in Circle. Profits will go to the high school BPA program. They will offer snacks/hors d'oeuvres on Friday evening, coffee and doughnuts Saturday and Sunday morning, lunch on Saturday and Sunday, as well as an evening meal on Saturday.

Where to Stay:

There is limited lodging at the Traveler's Inn Motel (406-485-3323) in Circle, there is also full hook up campground at Horse Creek RV (406-485-3286 or www.horsecreekrvpark.com). In Glendive, MT pet friendly hotels include the Astoria (406-377-6000), La Quinta (406-377-7300), Holiday Inn Express (406-377-3300), Baymont (406-414-6150). There are more hotels and motels in Glendive as well.

Cost:

The price is \$400 per adult. Folks can send checks PO Box 540, Circle, MT 59215 (Checks should be written to Rick Smith). The check will reserve a spot for the seminar, but the checks will not be cashed until after the seminar.

To Register or Questions:

Contact Todd Lehner at 406-941-3578 or tlkennels@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

Where to Find Partridge

The Gray or Hungarian Partridge is a game bird found in North America on the plains. Originally imported from Europe, it has become naturalized to many areas of the Midwest. Partridge are found or in near cultivated small grain fields that border fences, small farmsteads or prairie.

Think edge. Edge habitat is defined as any area where more than one type of cover meet.

Partridge do well when there are a lot of insects to eat but will also forage on small grains and native fruits like chokecherries and rose hips.



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

Field Trial Announcement

Mark your calendars for August 29 & 30, 2020! The Big Sky Epagneul Breton Gun Dog Club will hold a WILD type field trial in Denton, Montana*. As the field trial committee plans this event, more information including trial headquarters location, Trial Premium, meals, and lodging will be made available.

Plan to attend, run your dogs on partridge, sharp tailed grouse and pheasants, enjoy the vistas of Montana, stay awhile and fish or hunt the mountains and prairies. Hope to see you there! Field trial premium, information on location entry form, and meal package form are found at:

<https://montanabreton.com/events--news.html>

***Please note that the field trial committee is monitoring the current COVID19 health crisis and will make modifications in the event as needed.**

Regional Field Events

Montana

July 10-12, 2020

American Chesapeake Club, Inc.
Ronan, MT
FT Retriever
Contact Stephannie Beach (650) 856-0278
stephaniebeach@mac.com

July 17-19, 2020

Professional Retriever Trainers Association
Ronan, MT
FT Retriever
Contact Luann Pleasant, (209) 840-1680
redoverretrievers4@gmail.com

July 24-27, 2020

Big Sky NAVHDA
Helmville, MT
NA/UPT/UT
Contact Daniel Fultz (814) 720-9312

9/9/20 - 9/12/20

2020 Purina Endurance Classic
LEWISTOWN, MT.
Purina Endurance Classic Trial
Information: <https://www.nstra.org/trial-registration>

North Dakota

July 18-19, 2020

Red River NAVHDA
Kindred, ND
NA
Contact Steven Buck (701) 729-6483

Aug 22-23, 2020

Red River Valley NAVHDA
Erie, ND
NA/UPT/UT
Contact Steven Buck (701) 729-6483

Aug 28-30, 2020

Central Dakota NAVHDA
Bismarck, ND
NA/UPT/UT
Contact Alison Stebbins (701) 870-1961



UKC Events

July 31- August 2, 2020

EB Gun Dog Society
Summit 2020
Double Cluck Hunt Club, Canton, IL.
Contact Clint LaFary at (309) 231-8868 or
surledelavankennel@gmail.com

August 29&30, 2020

Big Sky Epagneul Breton Gun Dog Club
Wild Field Trial Open, Gun, TAN
Denton, MT
Contact Sherry Niesar 701-527-3714 or
sniesar@outlook.com

October 3 - 4, 2020

Field of Dreams EB Gun Dog Club
Liberated Field Trial OPEN, GUN, TAN, WRT
Searsboro, Iowa
Contact Matt Van Maanen buckleycreek@gmail.com
641.780.9581



Renew Your Membership

Membership to the Big Sky Epagneul Breton Gun Dog Club is due at the beginning of each 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 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