

# **The Mighty Wurlitzer**

*Established 1991  
December 2006 Edition 15  
North West Group  
G.S.P.C.*



*Best Wishes For Christmas  
And The New Year*

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G.S.P.C.

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www.nwg-gspc.com

Welcome



To the 15th edition of The Mighty Wurlitzer.  
Once again after fifteen years this publication is  
packed with various items of interest including

- Working Test/Progress Test
- Show Trophy Winner
- Liz Ashton Trophy Winner
- Tracking or Retrieving!
- The weekend it all came together
- Working Gundog Certificate
- Stop Before You Can Move Forward
- What's the strangest thing your dog has eaten?
- Food for thought
- Don't get ticked off
- The Canine Working Class
- What Next?
- Training Equipment
- Recipes

**The Mighty Wurlitzer is a publication for the mem-  
bership, and cannot function properly if the mem-  
bership do not contribute!**  
**Articles should be forwarded to the editor.**  
**They can be handwritten, by quill pen, ballpoint,  
chalk, electronic, typed or anything!**  
**So lets be having them throughout the coming  
year!**

**The Editor**

(The opinions expressed in this publication are not  
necessarily those of the committee of The German  
Shorthaired Pointer Club North West Group)

## Message from the President

Brian Finan

Doesn't Christmas arrive with monotonous regularity; it really doesn't seem five minutes since I was writing my last missive to you.

My year has been what is now becoming run of the mill for me; several months in the Mediterranean, interspersed with the odd visit to Devon, either to deal with small problems or to paint something. I am at home at the moment having had an urgent recall. It was that urgent that I have now forgotten what it was all about!

A new experience for me early in the year, was to be invited to witness a "Chinghiale" (Wild boar) shoot. The day starts early, 6.0am at the farm. I still don't really understand the need for this early start because the first action didn't take place until about 9.30am when we started to load the dogs into trailers. The dogs used are a pretty mixed bunch, quite a few are Jack Russell terrier types and several would owe their ancestry to the H.P.R. breeds. Suffice it to say that breed isn't terribly important as long as the animal has hunting instincts and is prepared to face some fairly punishing cover, mostly gorse.

On the day in question, in January, it was a very wet morning indeed and I took an umbrella, to get me from my boat to where I picked up my lift. When I got into the car I explained to Marco that I would leave the brolly in the car. His answer was, "why would you do that, you'll need it for the shoot". Sure enough, although everyone was dressed much as an English shooting party would be on a wet day, they all sported a brightly coloured golfing umbrella; mine was very modest in comparison.

When the dogs were loaded, we drove further into the island (Sardinia), into the foothills of the mountains, about 15 miles from the farm. Where we stood for a further 30 to 45 minutes, under our umbrellas, hoping that the rain would ease.

When the guns were set out, it was in a bag formation, with the open end of the bag about third of a mile from where we had been stood. The dogs, each with a bell round its neck, and about 18 to 20 in all were then worked, by two handlers, from where the cars were parked into the centre of the bag. Not surprisingly in my opinion this drive produced no pigs. However when I asked about it, I was told that once wild boar are lying up during the day, noise alone won't move them. Incidentally the dog's bells are more with a view to not leaving dogs behind in the cover than moving the quarry.

The day continued in much the same way with the guns moving on to form the bag and the dogs driving

into the centre. When we did start to see pigs it became obvious that they will run in any direction, hence the bag shape. These are awesome animals, with which you wouldn't want a collision. I'm sure that broken bones would be the result and with my luck it wouldn't be the cinghiale in plaster!

The guns used twelve bores, some double barrelled and some semi autos but loaded only with two cartridges, however I've never seen anybody reload quicker than the man I accompanied. The ammunition is single ball which does some serious damage both on its way in and out.

Although there were some chances none proved fruitful for our team of guns. Which of course lead to the usual, "if you had done this or that we'd have been alright", type of discussion and in Italian it was "con passione". Certainly each individual knew that what he had done had been correct!

So after a mainly wet and certainly heavy going day it was back to the farm. After feeding and putting the dogs in their kennels, the serious business of the day started, "mangiare e bere", this is done in a building on the farm set aside for only this purpose. All the food and drink provided and prepared by the guns. Let me assure you that these people really do know a thing or two about what will make you mellow!

Although we had returned pig less, the cousins of the people that have the farm, take another shoot out from the farm. On this day they had shot their full quota of five pigs and I was taken over to view them. One was an enormous boar; two were adult sows and two juvenile boars. After the bag has been laid out for viewing, it is then butchered and divided into parcels, one for each of the party. Each parcel is then numbered and a raffle decides who has which parcel. A very fair way of doing things.

Having seen all this it was back to our side of the farm for more mellowing and then back to the boat, where I didn't need much rocking. I'm looking forward to joining up with them again this winter.

Although I managed to see some of you at the Beta Gundog Weekend, I haven't had as much contact with the Group in general as I would have wished. However I understand that things are moving still and more importantly in the right direction, which is very gratifying. It's my pleasure to hear that a few more of you have taken up Field Trialling, which can only improve your standards by having to reach higher to succeed in the Trials. Good also to hear that Eddie has judged his first trial I wish him well in that and I hope he gets as much pleasure out of it as I have had. It's one way we can put something back into the game. Another member, I hear is putting his shoulder to the wheel by becoming F.T. Sec for the Wire-haired Vizslas well done and good luck. The working test as-

pect seems to be holding it's own with several new members entering and doing well in tests up and down the country. I mustn't forget to mention the nucleus of people that have now become the old stagers, you know who you are, the ones who have turned up and keep on turning up, just getting on with it and putting the heart in the Group. Thank you all and good luck to you.

Have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Successful New Year

## Thoughts from the Chair

Geoff Saynor

It never ceases to amaze me how quickly the time arrives when I have to put down my thoughts for the Wurlitzer. For a number of reasons I seem to be leaving it later and later each year, much to the Editor's concern, but the critical time still arrives before I have made any conscious effort to prepare. Anyway here goes with my ramblings for this year.

First, an example of how, when you think you have got everything well planned, events can overtake you. In these notes last year I passed comment that I had got a new puppy (Alfie) as an eventual working replacement for Bison who at that time was eight years old. At the time I said that Bison "could not go on for ever working a full day up on the moor". Unfortunately earlier this year we unexpectedly lost both Bison and Willow to different forms of cancer. All of a sudden, from believing we were mad to have six dogs in the house, we were down to three, our original crossbreed Saffy having passed on at the end of the previous year. It brings into context that we are not working with HPR Gundogs on the basis of a single dog which will last for ever but are participating in an ongoing process, learning how to do things with one dog, even if they go wrong, so that we are better able to implement things with subsequent dogs.

Having got a new puppy I have also suffered from the problem common to many of you. It is called work. Out early, back late, long hours and lots to do at home at the weekends. This does not create an environment for careful and creative dog training. I have ended up with a young dog, plenty of faults but still with a willingness to get out and work. It is important that we remember that our dogs will not be perfect. What we have to try to get is the best we can in the circumstances and end up with a dog which can be taken out and worked. I recently took Alfie out on a shot over training day. Having started out with a clear understanding that training had not been what it should have been I was determined to see what he would do but not to put undue pressure on him. It is not Alfie's fault if I

have been unable to put in enough training.

Anyway during the day he had two runs, one on sugar beet the other on mustard. Both times he got out well, hunting quickly and enthusiastically across the ground. On the first run he came across birds in the hedge at the edge of the field. They were clearly running forward and having tracked them for about 100 yards he put up a bird and proceeded to chase across the field after it had taken off. Second run, mid hunting, he suddenly came to an almost total stop. I say almost as he was not on solid point. My thought at that moment was that this was probably residual scent and he needed to work out that there was nothing there. He was still fidgeting forwards when a hen pheasant got up (always trust your dog) and flew off across the field, closely followed by Large Munsterlander who then had to be recovered.

Days like this would ideally help to show how well your training is progressing but they also provide a good guide as to what still needs to be done. Recognising this, you must always take the best out of what you achieve. In this instance I saw quite clearly that I have a dog which is prepared to hunt (for a Munsterlander this is certainly something you should encourage), he was prepared to use the wind and use it properly and on both runs he found, acknowledged and produced game. It was very far from being a polished performance and there is still a lot of work to be done but there is certainly some potential. There is also a need to identify the bad points and take every effort to work these out of him.

During this season, with Karen taking part in several field trials, I have had the opportunity to form a view, as a spectator, of this particular activity. The first point I would like to make is that you have to be committed, or is it that you should be committed. No matter who you are or where you live you will not find a large number of HPR field trials on your doorstep. Inevitably you will end up having to do a great deal of travelling. At first this is acceptable but if, like most of the rest of us, your time is precious you will find that you start to consider carefully whether you want to be travelling four hours for the privilege of being thrown out in a couple of minutes and then having the same drive back home again. Bearing in mind that you will also have paid to take part in this.

For those of you who don't know, a field trial is aimed at recreating, as closely as possible, a real walked up shooting environment with a number of dogs being worked in turn with the aim of hunting and finding game, pointing and producing this game and then once it has been shot completing a retrieve. Sounds easy doesn't it! I would say yes it can be easy if you have the luck running with you on the day and everything falls into place. However this is not a training day and

many things can go wrong. There could be no birds on your beat on either of your runs. Unfortunate but you still won't get an award for this. You could be judged to have missed game, run in, damaged the bird, failed to retrieve, be false pointing (on old scent), be out of control etc. All of these will be determined 'in the view of the judges' and what is acceptable or unacceptable to one set of judges on one day may not be quite the same for a different set of judges on a different day.

The most experience you will get from a field trial will be a couple of runs, maximum approx twenty minutes in total plus one water retrieve. That is if all goes well. If it doesn't you may cast your dog off and immediately bump a bird. You can be put out regardless of how short a time you have been running. Dogs have to be silent and I have seen a dog as it is cast off give a short yip and be immediately put out.

The main message from all this is that field trialling may be for you, can help to raise your credibility in the HPR environment and can be of benefit if you are a breeder, but unless you have an abundance of wealth and time and don't care about the outcome you should make sure you are up to an acceptable standard before you even try. Even then think carefully about why you are entering field trials and what you hope to get out of them.

As a step towards this route we have had experience of a number of training days but these again tend to be few and far between. The group last year ran a training day for a limited number of dogs on the grouse moor. The day was a great success but it must be stressed that this has to be limited to those handlers and dogs which are considered to be at a reasonable level of experience and control to work in these conditions. This type of day allows experience to be built up without the risk of being eliminated. There are not that many opportunities and you don't have a god given right to participate. A number of these training days, run by other groups or individuals will be by invitation only and unless you have brought yourself to a position where you are considered suitable you will generally not even find out about them. In general you need to be seen on the circuit of working tests to get to know people and for them to be aware that you exist.

One of the main benefits of this type of training day is that you cannot be thrown out. Karen has done a couple with Inca recently. On one of these on Humberside we arranged personally with a farmer for him to come out with us and shoot any birds off the point. To us this was £100 well spent (when compared with the cost of a field trial). A full day working one dog, four complete HPRs, and no risk of being put out for any minor indiscretion. Another day just completed was six dogs running in turn on excellent ground at a cost of £45 each. Inca ended up with a solid point on a covey of partridge

(which unfortunately were missed by the guns), an HPR on a hen pheasant and a point on a small covey of grouse. To me this sort of day helps to develop the level of experience necessary to have a successful working dog and at the same time provides an extremely enjoyable day out. In my opinion this is far more worthwhile and enjoyable than any field trial.

For those of you who don't know, when I refer to an HPR I mean that the dog has hunted and found a bird, has pointed that bird and then flushed it on command, it has been shot and then the dog has retrieved that same bird. This is the standard the HPR breeds, including all your dogs, should be aiming to achieve.

So what of the group this year. We have seen a couple of the long standing committee members, John Burns and Geoff Woods stand down this year although they have still maintained an active involvement with the Group. Our thanks must go to them for their past (and ongoing) assistance and input.

Yet again we held a successful working test at Watergrove with active involvement from a number of the group members. We put on a couple of small displays, one at Castleton and the other at Peover. Whilst these help to demonstrate what we do as part of our normal training I feel that there was little interest, in particular at Peover where we were shoved into a corner as far away from the main activities as was possible. This is not our main activity and, with the pressures we all have on our time, we, the Committee, will only be agreeing future displays where we feel that there is a specific benefit for the Group.

It is noticeable that a number of the Group members have been participating in working tests during the past year and with a good degree of success. Our congratulations and support goes to them with a reminder that their points should be submitted for inclusion for the award of the Liz Ashton Trophy.

Two points I have noted during the year which I suppose come from experience ranging from our group training classes, through working training days and into the working environment are connected with handling your dogs. At our training classes we tend to focus very much on instilling the basic levels of control, whistle commands, voice commands and visual commands. As you progress however, you need to give this some consideration. All of these should be thought of as tools, to be kept in your tool box and available for use when you need them. When you are out in the field or up on the moor and you set your dog off and follow this with continual loud whistling and bellowed commands, you may maintain rigid control of your dog but you will also have a sure-fire way of ensuring that any game is given plenty of notice to get out of the way. In these working conditions the aim must be for the handler to be as quiet as possible and for commands to be used

in a limited fashion and only when they are needed. The aim of our training is that you get to a position where your dog will obey these commands straight away and not have to be given a continual barrage of noise.

The second point is one of teamwork. A successful day in the shooting field is based on the experience and co-operation of a group of people. There will be occasions where you may be out with a group of guns who have never worked with HPR dogs. In these circumstances you may need to explain to them how our dogs work and what is the best approach for the guns when they are working with them. Even the basics sometimes need to be clearly identified as some will never have seen a dog come on point and will not understand what it is doing and the importance of it providing an opportunity for them to prepare for a shot. In the same way there will be other occasions where you will effectively be the guest of a shoot. The regular guns will have a much better understanding of the ground and will have their view of what they want to do. In these circumstances it is important to listen to their views, by all means make suggestions, but accept that it is their day and we are only there to help them.

Anyway I think I have now rambled on for long enough and I should let you read on with the rest of the Wurlitzer. All that remains for me is to wish you a very happy Christmas, a successful New Year and to extend our welcome for all of you to continue as part of the North West Group throughout 2007.

## Secretary's Ramblings

Eddie Kania

What a great year,  
Competing in Pointing Test, Working Test and Field Trials

Hard work and dedication has been rewarded with success in all disciplines. Awards are listed on the North West Group Website

Our conservation work has continued with even more landowners asking the group to undertake Grouse counts. Keepers and Landowners rely on accurate counts to determine the number of birds they should take from the moor. Maintaining a viable breeding stock is vital, undershooting; as the worm burden is increasing can seriously damage the health of the grouse population on the moor. I don't think I need to explain what overshooting can do to the Grouse on a moor.

Nestle Purina have again asked me to thank those members who helped at the BETA Gundog Working Test. Cirencester Park was the venue for the 2006 Working Test. Once again this event was a huge suc-

cess; members again stewarded the main tests and looked after the registration process.

Claydon House Oxfordshire will be the venue for the 2007 Working Test which it is hoped will see even further growth.

Training classes are busier than ever, quality training grounds and trainers who listen to the membership seem to be key to the success of the group. The Progress test was again held in October more details can be found later in the Wurlitzer

Dunscar Farm, National Trust & Cheshire Game and Angling Fair- Peover. Members gave a demonstration on HPR Training following the format we have developed over the last few years both events we really successful with visitors and organisers thanking the group for adding another dimension to their event.

On a sadder note several members have lost dogs this year. Such a difficult time!! I'm not mentioning any names, suffice to say we are all sorry to lose good friends and companions; it's a privilege having been out in the field with them, a joy to have watched them learn, and in turn teach us a thing or two about our sport

Finally, I would like take this opportunity to thank those who help and provide support for the group, land owners who allow us to use their ground, committee members who work tirelessly and more often than not their wives and partners who provide support, Thanks to you all for your continued support.

Have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy Peaceful New Year

## The Liz Ashton Memorial Trophy Eddie Kania

The Trophy is to be awarded annually at the Group AGM to the handler and dog partnership who gain the most points in field events during the year. The purpose of the scheme is to encourage members of the North West Group to improve as handlers and to enter more competitive events.

Handlers running more than one dog may submit separate claim forms for each dog.

Points can only be gained from competition at Pointing Tests, Working Tests, Field Trials LICENCED BY THE UK KENNEL CLUB and the NWG Progress Test. From May 1<sup>st</sup> to April 30<sup>th</sup>. Points can only be claimed in one class per Working Test i.e. Puppy or Novice, which ever is the higher. Eligibility, Handlers shall be fully paid up members of the GSP Club for the period that points are being claimed within and must attend a minimum of 4 Group-training events other than the July Working Test, and October Progress Test, between May 1<sup>st</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> April each year. The GSP Club membership number must be included on the claim form and all claims will be verified. In the event of a tie, the committee will decide the award.

### POINTING TEST

Excellent	4 points
Very Good	3 points
Good	2 points

### WORKING TEST

1 <sup>st</sup>	4 points
2 <sup>nd</sup>	3 points
3 <sup>rd</sup>	2 points
4 <sup>th</sup>	1 point

### FIELD TRIAL

1 <sup>st</sup>	20 points
2 <sup>nd</sup>	15 points
3 <sup>rd</sup>	12 points
4 <sup>th</sup>	10 points
C of M	8 points

### GROUP PROGRESS TEST

Excellent	3 points
Very Good	2 points
Good	1 point

Only the highest points for ONE test in Each category of the Progress Test - Hunting, Retrieving / Tracking, Obedience/ Steadiness, Water – will be awarded, regardless of the number of tests entered. A maximum of 12 points therefore can be gained in the Progress Test during the year.

Gaining of Field Trial Champion Status 30 points

The German Shorthaired Pointer Club cannot accept any responsibility for any injury, damage or loss to person, dog or property whilst taking part in the competition.

Please forward completed claim forms by 30<sup>th</sup> April 2007 to:

Wendy Lovell – 01254 727329  
E Mail - ayitagundogs@ntlworld.com

## North West Group Show Dog of the Year Trophy Eddie Kania

A trophy is to be awarded annually at the Group AGM, to the dog, which has gained the most points at Open and Championship shows during the previous year. The purpose of the scheme is to encourage members of the North West Group to participate in showing events, and therefore help preserve the dual-purpose nature of HPR breeds.

Points can only be gained from Breed competition at OPEN & CHAMPIONSHIP Shows LICENCED BY THE UK KENNEL CLUB.

From January 1<sup>st</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> December.

Points can only be claimed from ONE BREED class per show.

<b>OPEN SHOWS</b>	1 <sup>st</sup>	3 points
	2 <sup>nd</sup>	2 points
	3 <sup>rd</sup>	1 point

PLUS Best of Breed 1 point  
Best Puppy in Breed 1 point

<b>CHAMPIONSHIP SHOWS</b>	1 <sup>st</sup>	10 points
	2 <sup>nd</sup>	9 points
	3 <sup>rd</sup>	8 points

PLUS Challenge Certificate 2 points  
Reserve Challenge Certificate 1 point  
Best Puppy in Breed 1 point

Gaining Show Champion Status 30 points

### ELIGIBILITY

The registered owner of the dog must be a fully paid up member of the GSP Club for the period, during which the points are claimed. Additionally the Dog (accompanied by its registered owner) must have attended a minimum of 4 Group-training classes other than the progress test and working test, between January 1<sup>st</sup> and December 31<sup>st</sup>.

Owners will submit a list of all awards gained in the qualifying period on the relevant form, (i.e. claims for the period 1<sup>st</sup> Jan 2006-31<sup>st</sup> Dec 2006 should be submitted by 30<sup>th</sup> April 2007). The GSPC membership number must be included on the claim form, and all claims must be verified. In the event of a tie the committee will decide the award.

Please forward all claim forms to:

Wendy Lovell – 01254 727329

E Mail - [ayitagundogs@ntlworld.com](mailto:ayitagundogs@ntlworld.com)

**North West Group**  
**Show Trophy Winner - 2005/6**  
**JENNALINE HATSIE POLLINGS AT DRYSIKA J.W**  
Catherine Drysdale



The winner of this year's show trophy is Jennaline Hatsie Pollings as Drysika JW who is owned by Allan and Catherine Drysdale and was bred by Mrs. Jenny Jennings.

'Hattie' (as she is more commonly known) is by Show Champion Keigame Chiff Chaff of Benachitti, a prolific stud dog in the breed and she is out of Show Champion Jennaline Peggies A' Graysin J.W. What a mouthful of names you may ask, the explanation being that Jenny Jennings the breeder, uses anagrams of certain championship show judges names for her dogs, (provided they are approved by the Kennel Club), hence Hatsie Pollings which is a turn round of Patsy Hollings of the famous 'Gunalt' Weimaraner kennels. The 'J.W.' part acknowledges that Hattie has won a specific number of classes at both championship and open shows up to being 18 months old, thus resulting in her achieving her Junior Warrant qualification.

The 'Drysika' part at the end is our affix or kennel name which will prefix a litter that we breed if we ever venture down that road!!

Hattie had a promising start to her show career, she was Runner up Top GSP puppy in 2004 but the 'icing on the cake' was qualifying for the prestigious Pup of the Year Final beating 200 other pups to get there. This event was held at an extremely salubrious hotel in London last January. What a fabulous day that was and a great excuse to buy a new outfit!

Throughout 2005 Hattie gained 5 Reserve Challenge Certificates (i.e. reserve best bitch) and won 12 Championship classes. If the Reserves had been Challenge Certificates she would now be a Show Champion (as you need 3 to become a Show Champion), but unfortu-

nately she started her career at exactly the same time as a superb bitch from a famous kennel who has now gone on to get 30 Challenge Certificates so up to press the timing hasn't been perfect! However, we have had some fun with her and she has been Best in Show twice at Open shows and Reserve Best in Show 3 times.

However, with 5 Reserve CC's under her belt at the start of 2005, we were looking forward to the 2006 season especially as we knew we had some potentially favourable judges to go under, 1 of which had put Hattie through for the Pup of the Year competition so we had high hopes of her first Challenge Certificate (one has to dream!!) With just 3 weeks to go before showing under our 'favourite' judge, Hattie obviously decided that she wanted a rest from all this showing lark and overnight in the kitchen she took a fancy to, and devoured the most obscure object you would ever think of which well and truly put paid to any more shows for the next 15 weeks!!

(See the later article to discover exactly what she ate!!) On the working front, she hasn't been totally idle although Allan wouldn't purport to her being the most compliant and willing dog he has ever trained!! She has won a Puppy and Novice Working Test and has gained Spring Pointing Test gradings on both pheasant and grouse and is a reliable beating and picking up dog for Allan.

Hattie has now returned to the ring so who knows what the future holds? Maybe we may get round to having a litter! Whatever happens, Hattie will continue to be part of our 'motley crew' of 5 GSP's and 1 GLP ranging from 15 years old to 10 months. Are we mad or what? I should have definitely listened to my Mother when she said we should have had budgies!!!!

**Liz Aston Memorial Trophy Winner**  
**2006**

Karen Saynor

This year Inca was awarded the Liz Ashton Trophy for the third year running. This is something I feel very proud about. However, at the AGM, I came away feeling dispirited and guilty. It became clear that there was a prevalent view that it was not worth anyone else trying to enter. On the basis of this I felt totally unenthusiastic about writing anything this time!

However, over the time since the AGM, my feelings of guilt have turned more to anger. Why should I feel

guilty because Inca (and Grouse before her) have done so well? The basis for awarding the Liz Ashton Trophy is clearly laid out in the Wurlitzer, and it is done purely on merit. It is based on points awarded



throughout the year, for achievement at working tests, field trials, progress tests etc. Having won the trophy I am not going to apologise for Inca having done so well. Whilst noting that she won. I cannot believe that no-one else gained any points during the year, and yet nobody else bothered to send them in. Is everyone only interested in coming first? If the points had been available, second and third could also have been announced at the AGM. If only people would take the trouble to enter.

When Peter's heart rending email asking for items for the Wurlitzer arrived, I thought that I had better write something!

Last 'season' I decided that Inca and I would try our hand at Field Trials. We had taken part in a 'mock trial' in October and she had done extremely well which did give me some confidence, knowing what she was capable of doing, but on the day of the first trial I was back to being a bag of nerves. The Judges and competitors were all very helpful and supportive, and after falling down a hole (whilst watching Inca), cutting my thumb open, and losing my whistle (which was found by one of the judges) at the end of the day we came home with a Certificate of Merit, which was brilliant. We took part in two or more in December and added two thirds and a Guns Award to our small collection. I was really pleased because, after listening to all the negative things people have said over the years about Field Trials, I had not really expected to get anything, and certainly not so quickly. Not bad for a Large Munsterlander still only two and a bit years old.

This March and now 2 ½, saw Inca winning the Open at the German Wirehaired Pointer working test – another great achievement for her (as far as I am concerned).

We have again this year taken part in various partridge and grouse counts around the country, but unfortunately, due to the lack Grouse we have only had one day's shooting up on the moor.

What we have witnessed and experienced at the few trials we have been to this year is exactly what I had expected to happen last year! In my opinion you have to be very competitive, very rich or have too much spare time on your hands, if you are prepared to drive all over the country week after week, for the privilege of spending perhaps only two minutes working your dog and then to be told that someone else thinks that your dog should or should not have done something. The more you are aware of what goes on at these events the more it seems to me that a whole day out working your dog for some guns is much more beneficial for everyone and definitely a lot more fun. We have had a few of these shooting days so far this season and the last, where Inca was given the guns award (verbal) at the end of the day was a fantastic bit of ground for HPR to work on. We had points on two coveys of partridge which were missed, a retrieve on a bird shot on another dog's run (an HPR) on a pheasant, and Inca did a lovely piece of work culminating in a point on a small covey of grouse which (unknown to me) weren't allowed to be shot! What more can you ask? It is after all, the guns who we are working our dogs for.

#### North West Group Working Test Watergrove, Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> July 2006



#### Puppy Test

Judge: Peter McCullough

1<sup>st</sup> R Irvine (HV) GUNFIELD EVITA

2<sup>nd</sup> M Herbert (HWV) AYITA INDEPENDENCE DAY

3<sup>rd</sup> D. Smith (GSP) ESSEN NAZIA VONZELL

#### Novice Test

Judge: Fred Alcock, Irmgard Alcock

1<sup>st</sup> M Herbert (HWV) AYITA INDEPENDENCE DAY

2<sup>nd</sup> S. Hastwell (GSP) MADCAP SOUTH CAROLINA

3<sup>rd</sup> D. Potter (GSP) WHISTLECRAFT BLACK MAGIC

#### Graduate Test

Judge: Suzi Burton

In temperatures of more than 30 degrees centigrade ('very hot' in old money) and intense humanity, the dogs in the Graduate class performed outstandingly on

the Lancashire moors.

I was impressed with the drive of all the dogs and concentration of the handlers in these very difficult conditions on the day.

Handlers need to work on choosing a command and sticking to it rather than switching them throughout an exercise and so confusing the dog.

The WATER retrieve was a long 'seen', around 80 metres, across a stretch of natural water with a spit of land to the left three-quarters of the way across and the wind gently bringing the scent of wildfowl in from the right! Unsurprisingly, dogs struggled to maintain concentration on the 'mark' during the long swim and several got out at the spit, others making off in pursuit of the birds on the right once they had entered the water and got a little way across. Unfortunately this was the first exercise of the day and discouraging for handlers whose dogs had to be eliminated for failing the retrieve. The SPLIT RETRIEVE was difficult with the wind behind the dogs. There was a dummy put out on the crest of a steep hill and a 'seen' thrown down the hill into reedy ground, both about 30 metres in front of the dog. The blind was asked for first.

The SEEN RETRIEVE WITH SHOT was an interesting one. The dummy was thrown a good 100 metres in front, but the dogs lost sight of the 'mark' twice while having to negotiate two very steep valleys en-route. The HUNTING was on moor land with caged quail on the beat. With the wind from behind but only very slight, we took each beat side on, so that the dogs had more chance to point the birds with a left cheek wind and which proved a successful strategy.

### **1<sup>st</sup> Jean Baldwin's I.S. FRESHETIN RIMBOMBO**

What a fantastic partnership. Strong-willed male Spinone handled quietly and with total empathy, giving and taking on both sides to achieve the tasks. A popular win when the results were given!

All retrieves were to hand.

Struggled a bit with the water, but persistently handled back on to the dummy when the dog got out at the spit. This dog tried really hard for his handler on the split, a good mix of initiative and bid ability, as well as clever use of the wind, to locate the second dummy.

It was a fantastic mark on the seen retrieve, out in a straight line, up hill and down dale. Return at a slower pace, but understandable given the conditions. This dog's hunting was a joy to watch. Had a stone wall down centre line of his beat, but covered the left side thoroughly with wide ranging and enthusiastic pace before hopping over the wall with the handler to run a textbook cheek wind down the right-hand length of his beat and lifting his head, roading in steadily and coming to a staunch point on the bird. It was brilliant.

### **2<sup>nd</sup> S Allerton's G.S.P. BIRKENWALD RONI OF**

**ESHALDWELL** This young bitch found it difficult to remember the marked dummy while negotiating the water, but the handler persevered and achieved the retrieve and to hand.

My notes say "hothead"! And this relates to the split retrieve where the bitch was too keen to get going without concentrating on the handler's commands. But her enthusiasm, and some tough handling, got the two dummies back.

Brilliant mark on the seen, with shot, out like a rocket. The handler should have more faith in her; the dog had it licked without the extra commands. A little erratic in her hunting, but this bitch is young and the handler made sure the ground was covered. This dog ran with great enthusiasm.

### **3<sup>rd</sup> N Davidson's G.S.P. SEEK INFRONT**

This was another enthusiastic dog. Good water retrieves, quietly handled, and retrieved nicely to hand on the split, again full of gusto in his work, with the handler putting a lot of work in to achieve the task. It was an exemplary seen retrieve with shot. With only the one command the dog motored out in a straight line. He was not penalised for momentarily putting the dummy down on the return, as it was found he had bitten his tongue, and came back to present the dummy to hand. He put on a good show in the hunting, with the handler putting the dog and himself, in the right place for the cheek wind. It was a good point on the quail.

Thanks to all the dogs and handlers, in the Graduate Class, it was a pleasure to watch all the dogs. My steward and dummy thrower/shooter, did great jobs, and were most hospitable. Thanks also to the GSPC North West Group for inviting me to their fabulous ground, the benefits of which was evident in the performance of the dogs on the day.

### **Open Test**

#### **Judge: Maureen Nixon**

The Annual Working Test was held on an extremely hot day. It is always a pleasure to attend the North West Group Working Test, whether as a competitor, or as a judge, on this, one of the last, if not the best Working Test ground in the country. As usual, the excellent organisation of the day, and the amount of work in putting out birds on the hunting ground, helped towards the success of the day. Thank you to all who helped, and all who entered. There were some very good dogs, the results showed that, there was only four points separating 1<sup>st</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> place – incidentally I do wish you would award a 4<sup>th</sup> place card especially when competition is this close.

Each dog had a separate piece of ground to hunt, and a bird to find. Some were unable to locate the bird, whilst other had really strong points. Although it was

warm, there was a light breeze. It grew hotter, and hotter, and I felt sorry for the dogs, which were hot before the exercise had started. For one or two, it was just too much.

The second exercise, the water, featured a long swim across an inlet of water, the dummy being placed diagonally across. Everyone was keen to enter, but travelled across in various ways, with only one dog actually coming out of the water, and winding the dummy straight away. This was the 4<sup>th</sup> placed dog, Sue Hastwell's GSP, BENACHITTI INDIAN SUMMER. After lunch we returned to the moor for a long 'blind', which was completed with various degrees of efficiency. This was followed by a long 'blind', down a steep bank over a stream, through a lot of bushes to a small area of open ground, on which the dummy was placed. **The winning dog was Roy Cullen's GWP (b) MAPLEHAZE GLEN LOSSIE** who performed magnificently, getting full marks. It was this retrieve that pulled it out of the bag for her.

- 1<sup>st</sup> - Roy Cullen's GWP – MAPLEHAZE GLEN LOSSIE
- 2<sup>nd</sup> - Lee Loveridge GSP – EELY RAGS POPLAR
- 3<sup>rd</sup> – Roy Cullen's GWP – BRYANTSCROFT TAMARIND
- 4<sup>th</sup> – Sue Hastwell's GSP – BENACHITTI INDIAN SUMMER

I include her because she deserves a mention. Many thanks for the invitation to judge.

## Progress Tests-15<sup>th</sup> October 2006 Syke Moor, Rochdale



Geoff Wood

Tests Judged by

### Test 12 – Single Seen Retrieve (thick cover broken ground)

5 dogs tested 1 dog withdrawn

#### Results

Good – 2

Adequate – 1

Not Graded – 2

#### Summary of Test

The purpose of this test is to assess each dog's ability

to mark the position of a fall by sight and to use its nose to find the dummy and retrieve it smartly to hand.

In general, the results from this test were disappointing (no excellent or very good) mainly due to poor marking of the position of fall, which makes the hunt for and location of the retrieve all the more difficult. One of the dogs tested did mark the fall very accurately and located the dummy in seconds, only to be let down by a sloppy return.

The result suggest a lack of experience in marking fall in difficult cover by most of the dogs, excellence only comes with practice and experience.

### Test 14 – Memory Retrieve

6 dogs tested

#### Results

Excellent – 2

Very Good – 2

Good – 2

#### Summary of Test

The purpose of this test is to assess each dog's ability to mark the position of a fall by sight and to remember the location of the dummy and retrieve it smartly to hand.

\*\*There are a couple of things to note here. First of all, as per the Progress Test instructions, there is at least a 45' turn in this test. Whether a dog goes directly or follows the exact route is neither marked up nor down. An experienced dog that can see the position of the dummy is likely to "cut the angle" A less experienced dog (or where the cover is high) it is more likely that the dog will retrace its footsteps (scent)

Secondly, as per the Progress Test booklet "after the send, no handling should be necessary in this test" – which means no "hi-lost, re-call etc) the dog knows what to do!!

The results of this test were pleasing. Once a dog has been properly trained on a memory retrieve, it invariably completes it well no matter what the location or distance, because it knows what it is supposed to be doing and requires very little in the way of handler intervention.

### Test 15 – Blind Retrieve

7 dogs tested

#### Results

Excellent – 2

Very Good – 1

Good – 0

Adequate – 1

Not Graded – 3

#### Summary of Test

The purpose of this test is to assess each dog's **training level on following a line** indicated by the handler to an unseen retrieve, and to **hunt and use its nose** to find the dummy on command, then to retrieve it smartly to hand.

The results of this test were totally split into those that can and those that can't, which are probably due to training and practice (or lack of it)

### **Test 18 – Blind Retrieve on Scent Trail of Cold Pheasant**

4 dogs tested

#### Results

Very Good – 2

Good – 2

#### **Summary of Test**

The purpose of this test is to assess each dog's ability to **follow a freshly laid scent** from a starting point indicated by the handler, **using its nose** as closely as possible to the line to find and retrieve the pheasant.

This was a very interesting and pleasing test to observe. All of the dogs used their natural instinct and nose to follow the trail to the location of the bird, including a small stream to cross (where the scent would have been interrupted)

Some of the dogs may not have done this type of test before and with more experience and practice in different situations, there is no reason why excellent results will not be achieved in future. But do not expect excellent next year if you do not put the work in!!

#### **General Summary**

On a very positive note, none of the dogs that I saw were lacking in either ability or interest in the job in hand. The lower grading were almost certainly due to poor marking or insufficient experience or training. Handlers should not let their dogs down by letting them get confused and failing.

### **Tests Judged by Allan Drysdale**

#### **Test 11-Single Seen Retrieve (light cover)**

6 dogs tested

#### **Results**

Very Good-3

Adequate-2

Not Graded-1

#### **Summary of Test**

This test required that the dog be steady to the thrown dummy, accurately mark the fall of the dummy, be positive in its outrun, pick up and return and deliver to hand.

The 'teams' that were graded Very Good made the test look easy and all that was required for the higher grade of Excellent to be awarded, was a more positive outrun (directly to the point of fall), in some instances and a

smarter delivery in others. The remainder of the results, in general, reflected a lack of understanding of what was required.

#### **Test 13-Split Retrieve**

6 dogs tested

#### Results

Excellent-4

Very Good-2

#### **Summary of Test**

This test presented very few problems and the grading clearly reflects this. The requirement was for the handler to convey to the dog the need to disregard the last dummy that was thrown and to send the dog for the first thrown. Those 'teams' that were awarded an Excellent only needed to give the initial command to retrieve, whilst the 'teams' with a Very Good grading had to give additional input to their dogs to prevent them from attempting to retrieve the last dummy thrown.

This, however, was not excessive and the results of this test were very pleasing.

#### **Test 16-Blind Retrieve (with distraction)**

6 dogs tested

#### Results

Excellent-1

Very Good-2

Good-2

Adequate-1

#### **Summary of Test**

This test required that the dog ignore a seen retrieve that was thrown at an angle of 45° from the handler's position and then follow a line indicated by the handler to an unseen retrieve, positioned directly ahead and approx 50 metres away.

The 'team' that received the Excellent grading was first up and really illustrated how this test should be executed. Clear communication from handler to dog, with the dog readily responding and displaying an understanding of the fact that there was a 'bird' out there that needed to be brought back quickly to hand. All the remainder of the 'teams' completed the test (some obviously better than others) and, in the majority of cases, all that is required in order to achieve an improved grading next year is carefully considered practice that will provide the dogs with greater understanding of what is being asked of them, thereby minimizing the confusion that was evident today.

#### **Water Test – Progress Test**

**Judge: Peter Hogg**

**"Oh Dear – Climate Change"!**

#### **Test 19 – Simple Seen Water Retrieve**

5 Dogs Tested

Results:

Excellent – 1

Good – 2  
Adequate – 1  
Not Graded – 1

**Summary of Test: To assess the dog's willingness to retrieve from shallow water.**

Due to the dry summer for the past two years, and the lack of rain, finding shallow water was not a problem. All dogs with the exception of one were keen to enter the water, without much encouragement, and returned without command. The problem appears to be releasing the dummy on leaving the water, then shaking, some picked it up and delivered to hand, others left it where they had dropped it.

**Test 21 – Seen Retrieve across Water**

4 Dogs Tested

Results:

Very Good – 1

Good – 2

Not graded – 1

**Summary of Test: To assess the dog's willingness to retrieve a seen dummy on land by swimming across water, leaving the water to pick up, then re-entering the water to return to the handler.**

Due to the water being shallow, the dogs could only run across the lake to do the retrieve across water, therefore each dog that entered was given the opportunity to show that it could swim in deeper water, before the start of the test. Of the dogs that entered 2 had to be given further commands, and encouragement to get back across the water. Only one dog achieved the test with few commands.

**Test 22 – Blind Retrieve from or across Water**

5 Dogs Tested

Results:

Excellent – 1

Very Good – 2

Adequate – 1

Not Graded – 1

**Summary of Test: To assess the dog's willingness to retrieve an unseen dummy from or across water, following handlers commands.**

Again the shallow water was a problem, as the dogs were not able to swim. Only one dog achieved the test and met all the criteria, by entering the water willingly, crossing the water, hunted and found the dummy with few commands from the handler, returned and delivered to hand. The other dogs needed lots of encouragement due to the fact that once in the water they turned back, eventually all but one succeeded, one returned running back along the bank, without coming back across the water, and others let themselves down by producing a sloppy delivery.

## Are You Teaching Tracking or Retrieving?

Jean Baldwin



To teach tracking!

First get a toy, or a container holding food.

Sit your dog on its lead. Leaving your dog, walk in a straight line for a short distance, place the toy or container on the ground, turn around and walk back to your dog, over your previous footsteps. Holding the lead and following, send your dog to the article, praising it when it gets to it.

You continue to slowly increase the distance between the dog and the toy, this teaches the dog that the toy is always at the end of the track or scent of fall.

Do you recognise this training? We teach the memory retrieve in almost the same way.

I watch so many dogs at training and at competitions that have been taught to track-retrieve, and are then lost when asked to retrieve a dummy they did not see fall, or are the first to retrieve a blind. What the dog then does, is either run about hunting for the dummy or follow a track the handler does not know is there. Either the dog is then left to get on with it, and gets no help or it is repeatedly brought back to try again. But without the track, it has been tough to follow, or following the unseen track, it will get more and more confused, until it gives up trying. This is quickened by the handler losing his or her temper. The dog then loses its enthusiasm for un-seen retrieves, or very quickly turns un-seen retrieves into a hunting exercise. The handler not knowing what is happening, thinks the dog is being disobedient. We then end up with an angry handler, and a confused dog. I believe this is why most of the dogs at the Coventry test failed the retrieve that was at the other side of a path, most of the dogs either ran up and down the path, or they started to hunt, very few got past the path.

Please take this into account when you are training on blind retrieves especially, but all your long retrieves.

You can try this out!

Find a piece of ground that has been walked on. Make sure the wind is in your face, and walk forward about 10 paces, then veer off to the left, for another 10 paces. Retrace your steps, and mark the spot. Bring your dog from where it was left, out of sight. Set the dog up, as you would for a blind retrieve, and watch to see if it follows the track or goes straight on.

## The Weekend It All Came Together – in a Fashion

Andy Peers & Flake



My wife and I joined the GSP club in 2005, not knowing what to expect – green gladder men

and women in outdoor wax clothing and drinking pimps and brandy from hip flasks. How wrong we were {well almost only because were up north}

We were advised by our breeder to join the club and she gave us a phone number to ring. Phone Eddie she says, nice fellow and that's how it starts that fatal conversation.

Anyway back to the weekend –

Day 1 – Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> March – working test in Drayton in Clay, 2<sup>nd</sup>

Working test for me, great, wife goes off to Spain to see her mum, left to fend for myself and the dog no “problem’ ish.”

Just couldn't find the iron or the iron board {no surprise there the wife pips up} after a quick hour and half drive we arrive, “Flake and me”.

Goes to find my number and paper work, so files the paper work in the boot of the car and sticks number on jacket. Off we pop then, twenty puppies all looking good apart from mine, so I thought.

First test hunting, HA NO CHANCE. Flake couldn't find a stick in a wood, so I thought. Next, down to do a retrieve - not bad. I just kept telling the dog to go pinch the dummy, she's good at that {being from Liverpool you see}

Next, down to the water! No problem. Then the dreaded split retrieve, not bad, still work to do here, and last but no means least the final marks are in.

4<sup>th</sup> out of 20 puppies not bad for 2<sup>nd</sup> working test {must be the training you know}

Day 2 – Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> March – “The man's mad on the moors Sat Nav Ed”.

We set off on a footpath to the top of the moors not knowing what to expect {what a walk}, views, fresh air, no rain – just a few good men and their dogs. Plenty of grouse were spotted and Flake did her bit as well. A most enjoyable day had by all.

Flake would recommend any puppies to take their owners to a working test as a great day out – great for keeping up the training and keeping the owner happy – always a bonus for extra treats.

## Working Gundog Certificate Preliminary Assessment Day

Peter Brooks



I have been attending as many of the NWG training days as I have been able for the past 2 seasons with my Hungarian Vizsla dog 'Tag'. Some of you may have seen me the tall lanky looking bloke with a harassed look on his face!

Well believe it or not I've actually started to make some progress and get some control. In July I entered Tag in his first working test got 4<sup>th</sup> in Novice and then realised it was the end of the working test season.

I had heard about the working gundog certificate (WGC) and contacted the Kennel Club to enquire where I could take the preliminary assessment day. I was e-mailed a list of known dates and contacted the Dove Valley Working Gundog Club as they were the nearest venue at Cromford, near Matlock, Derbyshire. I spoke to Jean Gledhill the organiser of that particular day and discovered all the other dogs taking part would be Springer's and Retrievers, but was told I could attend.

The WGC is in two parts the preliminary assessment day is to assess:

- Control
- Hunting
- Retrieving
- Obedience
- Temperament

It is not a competition and each section is marked pass or 'not ready' and you have to pass each section in order to be awarded a certificate for passing the preliminary stage and be able to go on to the second stage which is to be assessed on a shoot.

On Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> September 2006 I attended at Carrwood Farm, Cromford, Matlock and there met 11 fellow participants the vast majority with working Springer's but also two labs, a flat coat and a golden retriever. I was a little nervous as Tag stuck out like a sore thumb.

The first test was just a walking the dog off lead to heel up a narrow lane. It sounds simple but I soon discovered that although the spaniels were under control they don't actually walk to heel they just spin around within a couple of feet of you.

The second test was a hunting in a Christmas tree

plantation the trees being about 3' tall. At this point Tag became an honorary spaniel as the dogs were hunted in pairs.

Whilst hunting, a shotgun was fired, and a dummy thrown - it was supposed to be a seen retrieve at this point, but the gun was about 30 yards to my left, and as Tag looked towards the shot, the dummy was launched from my right. Consequently he had a blind retrieve and although he completed it, I made it hard work for him, being nervous about the seen now being a blind.

We hunted on and a 2<sup>nd</sup> shot was fired and 2<sup>nd</sup> dummy thrown for the other spaniel hunting and Tag had to be steady and watch the other dog complete the retrieve. The third test was a blind retrieve on the edge of the plantation in long grass to about 35- 40 yards with a wooden stake as a marker for the handler. I'd calmed down a bit and Tag completed this competently.

The fourth test was a retrieve over an obstacle. A shotgun fired and a dummy thrown (the thrower hidden) over a gate. There was a fence at the right side of the gate that was only about 3 ½ feet in height and the dog was allowed to go over the gate or the fence.

The last test was a water retrieve again with a shotgun fired and a dummy thrown into a pond. The pond was only small but the entry down a steep banking.

We completed all the tests and I was extremely pleased to collect my preliminary certificate.

It was very enjoyable to participate with and to observe the spaniels and retrievers at work. Jean Gledhill and the other participants made me feel very welcome.

What's the point of the WGC? Well it's really just to get your dog accredited to the fact that it's capable of working competently on a shoot, and to many, that work on shoots regularly, you may feel it's unnecessary. But for me personally, I work 3 weekends out of every 6 and because I'm not always available on shoot days I don't currently have access to shoots close to home and I'm hoping that by achieving part 1 and if I'm successful at part 2 then it may help me to get some work closer to home.

### Stop Before You Can Move Forward

Lee Boswell & Christine Nuttall



Members have told us to treat working and progress tests as you would any training session. We have probably realised more at this year's progress test than we have at any training class.

To many members, our GSP, Beryl may appear to be disobedient, out of control and at a tad wild. Sometimes they may be right! But we have always known she knew the commands we were giving her, she knew what was expected and more often than not she would obey them.

At the progress test we knew our dog could walk to heel, we knew she could be recalled given a distraction but we were not confident she would do it all the time. When we were asked to walk the dog on a slack lead I thought to myself 'no problem'. When it came to doing it off lead I just knew she was going to run. You learn to read your dog's body language when you begin to train and I knew at the moment we were going to struggle.

I mentioned this to the judge and he said if she runs you have to stop her immediately. I don't have a chance I thought to myself. With the dog running around and me blowing furiously the stop whistle I knew this could not continue. It happens regularly when we train her but she was allowed to get away with it because we could never get hold of her to put it right. She began to learn this and whenever we would take her out into large areas she would do as she pleased.

The judge mentioned that you need to get it right in a small place first so you can get hold of it then train in larger and larger spaces. We went away disheartened that day but was keen to get back to it and to see if his theory was right.

The following day we sat down and thought of a suitable training location. I remembered an old paddock, from when I was growing up, which I had recently passed which had no horses in it. We went and had a look. It was ideal. Not too small for the dog to move freely in and not too big so when we tried to get hold of her she could get away.

I took the lead of her and began to walk her at heel. Straight out of the blocks she went at a million miles per hour! Straight on the stop whistle I blew. Sniff! Sniff! Sniff! I think that was a firm up yours! I then had a struggle to get hold of her. I asked Christine, my partner, to help me. We got her backed into a corner and managed to get hold of her. I got her by the scruff and marched her back to the spot we started from. This went on several times. The dog circling me, barking and charging around, almost mocking me! Because she was relatively confined she soon got the message that she could not get away with it, without

eventually being caught and being told off for her actions. We then went on to throwing dummies, sending her for them and stopping her half way, all the time strengthening the stop whistle.

After a few days training we had seen a huge improvement. She was generally more obedient. We were also pleased to see her recall and retrieving had also improved. She was listening for the instruction and guidance. What was the most pleasing was she was enjoying it.

The lesson we have learnt is that your dog must obey your stop whistle. Things will go wrong all the time but if you can stop your dog you can guide it and control it. Most of all you can get your dogs attention.

We will continue to working on this and then progress into training in larger open areas.

## Food For Thought

Alan Drysdale



There are almost as many ways to train a dog as there are to 'skin a cat', as the saying goes. Everybody has their own preferred; often tried and tested, approach to training that has brought them success over the years. The real beauty, however, of working with dogs is that there is always something new to learn. I know this only too well, having worked as an Instructor for Guide Dogs for the Blind for the past seventeen years.

Today, more than ever before, there exists a veritable wealth of knowledge contained in magazines, books and on videos, all of which highlight the benefits, both to dog and handler, of adopting a positive, reward-based approach to dog training. Certainly in my experience, this approach has proved both very effective and efficient, it's central tenet being that of communicating to the dog exactly what you want it to do and then acknowledging this through Reward (Positive Reinforcement). Furthermore, it promotes both the development and consolidation of a good relationship between handler and dog.

There are several key differences between this relatively new approach and a more traditional approach. Firstly, it recognizes that much can be done with very

young puppies and that to delay the start of training to six months of age is both unnecessary and counter productive. Puppies are easily moulded and all that is necessary in the first instance is to establish, through observation and assessment, which rewards they are motivated by. This is very often overlooked and many people think that puppies and dogs should work for praise and praise alone. This has I am certain lead to a lot of dogs being labeled as awkward, lazy, self-interested or at worst un-trainable when in fact they were simply under motivated. The rewards that all dogs are most likely to be motivated by are called Primary Rewards. These are rewards that the dog does not need to learn to work for and consist of food, water, rest and sex. Obviously, some from the list will be easier to integrate into your training than others! Food is probably the most convenient and the one that will motivate a large percentage of puppies and dogs. Using the food as a lure will facilitate so many things and especially considering my earlier point about puppies being easy to mould, many desirable behaviors' can be established using this approach.

Taking the 'sit' as an example, which as we all know is the absolute key to success with a gun-dog the requirement is to show the puppy that you have a piece of food in your hand and simply position this against it's nose and move your hand slowly backwards and upwards. Basic mechanics will ensure that the puppy places its rump on the floor, at which point you should verbally praise it and then release the food.

This can be repeated as often as required and I can assure you, will result in your puppy being a willing participant instead of a passive recipient. Another feature of this approach, as you may already appreciate, is that the command 'sit' is not required at the outset of training. The objective should be to establish desirable behaviors' first and then add the relevant command some time later. Exactly when this will be is very much dependent upon the individual dog and to describe in detail the teaching process is outside the boundaries of an article such as this. However, what I do wish to emphasize is that it is extremely important to verbally and/or physically praise your puppy just prior to releasing the food, as this will add potency to your praise. This is an investment for the future as the objective is to gradually fade the use of Primary Rewards, food in this instance, so that behaviors' can be maintained with praise and only random use of Primary Rewards. Failure to fade the food will result in a dog that will only work for the handler when

food is present. This is a classic example of the dog being bribed by the handler, which has been the main criticism from people who are adamant about not using food in their training programme.

I personally feel that the above approach is much better than a more traditional approach, which advocates the use of physical manipulation in order to gain responses. Physically pulling and pushing the dog is not effective and efficient because the dog will pay much more attention to the physical aspect than the verbal and it can have a detrimental effect on the dog both in terms of its desire to learn and its relationship with the handler.

Although I have focused on teaching the 'sit' using food, there are many other areas where its use is invaluable, retrieving and recall being just two. Perhaps I could discuss this in a future article?

Finally, this article is not meant to criticise anyone or any training approach, merely to share my experiences in the use of food when training both Guide Dogs and GSP's for fieldwork. It is also intended to encourage people to make full use of the dog training information that is now widely available, as this has a lot to offer everyone, even the most experienced gundog trainer.

## What's The Strangest Thing Your Dog Has Ever Eaten?

Allan and Catherine Drysdale

If you read the earlier article on the 'Show Dog of the Year', you can now discover what Hattie ate to totally scupper her chances in the ring throughout most of 2006!

When people talk about dogs eating various household items and objects, the most common articles seem to be socks, shoes, plastic toys, balls, kitchen lino, carpets etc, but what Hattie ate in May this year has got to take some beating, unless of course you know different!! As you'll recall somewhere back in the heady days of spring and summer, it was a very pleasant time when you could leave your back door open and listen to the birds singing whilst at the same time giving the dogs the freedom of wandering in and out of the garden enjoying the clement weather. However, good weather brings with it lots of flying insects and to help control the 'pesky varmints' we have a plastic fly curtain behind the kitchen door to dissuade the offending creatures from coming in and landing on my worktops after 'feasting' on the latest pile of 'cow poopie' from

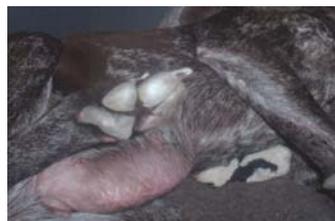
the field behind the house.

As was the normal routine in our house we left Hattie and Anya in the kitchen overnight and off we went to bed, but on coming down the following morning we realised that the fly curtain wasn't there, all that was remaining was the piece of wood that the numerous multi coloured strips of plastic has been attached to. Initially we assumed that Hattie and Anya had pulled some of them off and deposited their new 'toy' in their respective beds but after turning the kitchen upside down we then realised in horror that the only place they could be was down either Hattie's or Anya's gullet!! Oh my God!! Within a few minutes, Hattie was salivating excessively, blowing bubbles and retching. Anya meanwhile was hovering around as normal looking for her breakfast so at this point we assumed Hattie was the main culprit!

Fortunately, the vet I used to work for is a good friend of mine so we rushed Hattie in to be x-rayed and subsequently operated on. She was certainly the talking point as the vets who did the operation said that fortunately it was stuck in her stomach and hadn't made it to her intestine and it was coiled up in a ball with all the strips intertwined.

They said they'd never seen anything like it and she was going to have to be a 'tough cookie' to get through the post operative period. The next 24 hours were 'touch and go' but Hattie is in 'good order' and after 5 days at the vets came home minus the fly curtain!

Unfortunately she then developed a 'Haematoma of the Century' as the vet described it, due to having so many internal stitches, which created a mass of fluid, as her stomach was literally cut bottom to top to get the curtain out!



## HATTIE and her HAEMATOMA, 5 Weeks After Her Operation

However, all's well that ends well; Hattie made a complete recovery although it took 15 weeks for the swelling to disappear completely and to get her back to fitness. It will always be a mystery as to what ever possessed her to eat every single plastic strip especially when the curtain had been there for the previous 2 summers and she'd never bothered with it! Needless to say, we no longer have a fly curtain as

now that we're having 'senior moments' we may forget to take it down overnight!! So, if anyone out there has any 'Hattie proof suggestions for fly control please let us know before next summer!!

## Don't Get Ticked Off

Peter Hogg



You're minding your own business, absent-mindedly scratching Rover behind the ears as you read the morning paper, when something grabs your attention. Did you just feel a bump?

The possibility throws you into full tick detection mode—you paw through Rover's ruff in search of the offending protrusion. There it is—firmly attached and grossly swollen, it's sucking Rover's lifeblood right from his body.

You pause, Rover's fur carefully parted to expose the ill-fated parasite, your fingers poised. Now, wait, you can never remember... how are you supposed to get rid of these things again?

An occasional tick or two is the price your pet pays for the opportunity to frolic in the woods, sniff through the underbrush, and roll in the grass. Despite an owner's best intentions, the determined little arachnids will, inevitably, find a way to get onto your pet.

But careful surveillance on your part can prevent these ticks from ever becoming a problem. Your efforts should be twofold—first, you'll want to minimize your pet's exposure, and second, you should check the animal frequently to find and remove any ticks that have made it past your first line of defence.

Ticks aren't insects—they're arachnids, like spiders. There are several hundred different species of ticks, and the problematic species vary from region to region, but the one pet owners will most commonly encounter on dogs and cats is the brown dog tick.

A tick is a parasite—its entire mission in life is to find an unwitting host. Since its very survival is dependent upon this ability, a tick is particularly adept at it. Ticks don't jump or fly, but rather position themselves on grass, shrubbery, or underbrush so that they can snag a ride on a passing victim.

You're most likely to encounter ticks in areas with tall grass or woods. But you shouldn't be complacent if your pet's strictly an urban-dweller; even people in urban areas can experience problems with ticks, so it's best to keep a constant watchful eye on any animal.

If your dog or cat does frequent tick-prone areas, a little extra vigilance after an outdoor romp is never a bad idea. "Give [the animal] a good once-over. Ticks are found most often in and around the pet's ears, on the belly, or on the shoulders, but it is stressed that the parasites can attach anywhere.

If you're checking the animal immediately after an outdoor foray, any ticks you find will likely be looking out good real estate and won't yet have dug in and attached. If you find a loose tick, removal is easy—just pluck it off the pet and kill it. (Dropping it into alcohol or flushing it down the toilet are good methods of executing the notoriously hard-to-kill buggers).

But if you find a tick that's already attached to a pet's skin, the procedure is a little more involved.

Ticks feed by burying their heads in an animal's skin, leaving their bodies exposed. As the tick feeds, the body becomes engorged and swollen, making it easier to spot. Although the bulbous protrusion is certainly disgusting, your real worry is the tick's head, which is embedded in the skin.

If you pluck the tick off carelessly, you may end up merely decapitating it, leaving its head behind and leaving your pet vulnerable to an infection or abscess,

Vets recommend using a pair of tweezers for removal. "Grab hold of the tick where the head is, right near the base, and pull it out in one quick motion," he explained.

Don't jerk or twist as you pull, and after you've removed the tick, take a close look at it to see if the head is still attached. If not, it's still in your pet, and a call to the veterinarian is in order.

In addition to being incredibly disgusting, ticks also present distinct dangers to both pets and people—**Lyme disease**, **babesiosis**, **ehrlichiosis**, and **paralysis** are just some of the goodies these small pests can bestow upon their hosts.

## The Canine Working Class

Erin Harty,  
Staff Writer - VetCentric.com



For the vast majority of dogs, life is eat, sleep and play. For some, though, work is also a factor of daily life.

Dogs can have a variety of job descriptions: helping police officers on patrol, keeping a farmer's sheep or cattle in line, searching out victims of natural disasters, retrieving quarry for hunters, assisting the disabled, and even sniffing out drugs, smuggled goods, and explosives.

Being a pet dog may seem to be a lucky lot in life, but are working dogs worse off than their more coddled cousins? It turns out that, in some ways, they've got it even better.

In humans, it's a well-established fact that those of us who are active and exercise live longer, healthier lives. "It very much applies to dogs also," said Robert L. Gillette, DVM, MSE, director of the Sports Medicine Program at the Auburn University College of Veterinary Medicine. "I see a lot less problems in [working] dogs than I do in pet dogs. They're better conditioned and better able to handle the stress than under-conditioned or out-of-shape dogs."

For instance, he treats many fractures in racing greyhounds as a result of the stress they're under when they run. However, he's also treated a Lhasa apso for the same kind of injury—the dog was a hard-core couch potato, and hurt itself running to get its dinner. Because it wasn't well conditioned, it was injured much more easily.

The physical requirements for working dogs vary—herding dogs spend much of their day on the move, and require stamina. Police dogs, on the other hand, need to be fast and expend bursts of energy. Even active pet dogs probably don't approach the levels of fitness required in working dogs.

"Generally speaking, working dogs that are worked are more athletic [than pet dogs]. They are more active and as such are in better shape," said Stephen Lee, a physicist from Los Alamos, N.M. Mr. Lee is an amateur racer, or "musher," of Siberian husky sled dogs. "For

sled dogs, the activity levels are much higher than in many other dog sports, so they tend to be in excellent physical shape. Sort of like an Olympic athlete, if you will."

Mr. Lee trains his team of four dogs in the colder months of the year, usually about October through March. "In the fall, I begin training on dirt using an ATV [all-terrain vehicle]. I begin very slowly, since the dogs have not pulled all summer, and work my way up. Depending on how the dogs are doing, I begin at one mile or so runs and over a period of a couple of months work them up to five miles," he said. Early runs focus on both speed and strength training, but in later months, training focuses more on speed. By December, there's usually enough snow to train with a sled instead of an ATV.

"The other pacing factor in my training is that I am a strictly weekend trainer. My schedule does not allow me to train during the week, except very rarely, so I have to make the most of the weekends I have. This is also why it takes months for me to work the dogs up to speed and pulling power," he said. "Still, by the time the racing season rolls around, I typically have over 100 miles on my dogs."

Not all working dogs are required to perform at the athletic level of sled dogs, but almost all are on carefully crafted programs of care to optimize their health—including exercise, diet, and routine veterinary care. "[Working dogs] are exceptionally well taken care of," said Paul McNamara, DVM, DACVS, a board-certified veterinary surgeon at Veterinary Specialties Referral Center in Pattersonville, N.Y. He teaches a program of field first aid to handlers of police dogs.

"These are athletes that need to be kept trained. Every day, they need to have some sort of physical activity, above and beyond their basic training. Being fit reduces the likelihood of injuries," he said.

Owners of working dogs are often better prepared to keep their animals in good health, as well. "It's a different type of relationship. It's kind of a partnership, and each partner puts a little part into the relationship," said Dr. Gillette. "[The owners] are very much aware. They'll pick something up when most people wouldn't see a problem. They know their dogs very, very well."

Mr. Lee agreed. "I would say [working dogs'] lives are also different in terms of the care and attention they receive. This is not to imply that most pet [owners] do not take excellent care—medical and 'emotional'—of their animals, but for sled dogs, the level is extremely high by necessity of the demands of the sport," he

said. "Most sled dogs are very tough and have a high threshold for pain. A musher must learn to read each individual dog for any minor sign that might indicate a minor injury of some type that, if left untreated, would become more serious."

And Dr. McNamara said that he has not "met a [police dog] handler yet who didn't want to soak up as much information about his or her partner as they could get. They're a group of people I enjoy working with because they're so dedicated to their partners." Most police dogs live at home with their handler, and in addition to being a highly trained working dog, they're also the family pet.

"The handlers will all tell you that they spend more time with the dog than with any other person or animal, including their wives!" said Dr. McNamara.

Of course, occupational hazards also come with most canine jobs. Police dogs, particularly, often have a dangerous job description. Stab and gunshot wounds or trauma from being hit by a car during a chase are all possibilities. "It doesn't happen terribly frequently. But if one dog gets injured, that's one dog too many," said Dr. McNamara.

"Certain activities predispose certain dogs to problems we don't see in other activities," said Dr. Gillette. The stress fractures, in greyhounds, for instance, or injuries to the pads of dogs that do extensive running on hard surfaces. But proper handling also includes prevention—which is why sled dogs wear booties on their feet when they race across ice and snow, and police dogs often wear bullet-proof vests.

"Sled dog racing is an intense sport, but despite that intensity, there are remarkably few medical issues that arise as a result of the activity. The dogs are bred for running and pulling and they excel—and thrive—doing these activities," said Mr. Lee.

In fact, most working dogs relish their jobs. "The profession they're in is riskier than being a pet, but the types of dogs brought into this work all seem to enjoy it. The training all revolves around play," said Dr. McNamara. Drug-sniffing dogs are trained by searching for a toy, he explained. So a dog poring through a car in search of marijuana or cocaine experiences the same thrill it gets when searching for its favourite squeaky toy.

"We can't get into the minds of these dogs, but when I put dogs on exercise restriction [to rest an injury or other problem], they get really unhappy when 'Dad' leaves for work without them," Dr. McNamara added.

In other words, work just isn't *work* for working dogs. "[Police dogs] do a huge service most people can't appreciate, and they love their work," said Dr. McNamara. "When it comes to working dogs, there's a public misconception because they don't realize what the dogs' purposes are."

Police dogs are trained to only be aggressive on command; in fact, it would be a huge liability to have a wantonly aggressive dog that couldn't be strictly controlled, Dr. McNamara said. "They're trained to do things that can seem aggressive, but they only do it when they're commanded to do it, or when their human partner's life is in danger," he added. "They take drugs off the street, and find people that are lost... They do a huge community service."

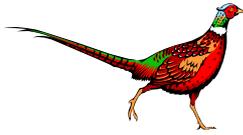
Mr. Lee retired two of his sled dogs from competition at the age of 10, not for lack of desire to do the job, but because the dogs were no longer as fast as their younger team-mates. "Both of my retired dogs to this day get very upset when they see me going out with my racing team. They still want to be in the action. Occasionally, I will hook them up for short slow runs just to keep them happy," he said. "My opinion, based on anecdotal evidence, is that sled dogs are healthier later in life [than pet dogs] with good care and conditioning occurred during their careers. They are athletic and healthy."

He added: "I have had Siberian Huskies throughout my mushing career. Some, which I got from animal shelters, never saw a sled until they were adults. Others I got from other mushers with specific Siberian Husky racing lines crossed into their kennels. In both cases, the dogs take to mushing like a fish takes to water. It is a natural act for them. Even the one I got from the animal shelter seemed to instinctively know what to do.

"This has a lot to do with why I am in the sport. I love working with these dogs in the environment and at tasks as they were bred to do," Mr. Lee added. "There is nothing quite like mushing a well-trained and conditioned team of dogs."

## Pheasant Recipes

Karen Saynor



### Pheasant with Parsnip and Apple Mash - Serves 4

#### Ingredients

##### Mash:

- 750g floury potatoes such as Maris Piper
- 225g parsnips
- 1 large Cox's or Granny Smith's apple, peeled, cored and cut into chunks
- 25g butter
- 2 tbsp crème fraiche
- 2 tbsp each chopped fresh chives and parsley

##### Pheasant:

- 15g butter, softened
- 2 tsp plain flour
- 4-6 pheasant breast fillets/supreme's
- 2 tsp olive oil
- 50ml white wine
- 200ml chicken stock
- root vegetable crisps to garnish

#### Method

1. Mash: Peel the potatoes and parsnips, cut into even size chunks. Boil in separate pans of lightly salted boiling water for 15-20 mins until tender, adding the apple to the parsnip pan for the final 5 mins drain well.
2. Return to one pan. Stir over a low heat for 1 min to drive off the excess moisture. Remove from the heat and mash with butter. Stir in the crème fraiche, herbs and seasoning. Keep hot until ready to serve.
3. Pheasant: Mix the butter and flour together in a small bowl or cup. Set aside. Heat the oil in a non stick or heavy based frying pan. Add the pheasant breasts, skin side down and fry over a medium-high heat for 1 min until golden brown. Turn over. Add the wine to the pan. Allow to boil rapidly for a few seconds until reduced by about two thirds.
4. Pour in the stock and reduce the heat. Cook at simmering point for a further 5 mins until the pheasant breasts are just cooked through, then remove from the stock and keep warm.

Turn up the heat, whisk the butter and flour mixture into the stock in small pieces, continue whisking until the sauce boils and thickens slightly. Serve with the sliced pheasant breasts on the mash with the wine sauce and root vegetable crisps to garnish.

## Game Pate

### Ingredients

240g (8½oz) streaky bacon  
350g (12oz) pheasant minced or blitzed in a food processor  
675g (1½lb) fatty pork, eg belly, minced  
1 pheasant breast, diced  
2 tbsps brandy  
8 tbsps wine  
1 clove garlic, crushed  
Salt & pepper  
6-8 juniper berries, chopped  
2 tbsps fresh rosemary, chopped  
2 tbsps fresh thyme, chopped  
Small bunch fresh coriander, chopped  
Bay leaves for decoration

### Method

Chop half the bacon into small squares, reserving the other half, and mix together with the other ingredients. Allow to stand for an hour for the flavours to develop if time allows.  
Put into a terrine or large oven-proof baking dish, smooth the top and arrange the remaining bacon slices diagonally across. Decorate with the bay leaves. Place, uncovered, in a baking tin of hot water to come half way up the sides and cook in a slow oven for 2 to 2½ hours.  
150C, 300F, Gas Mark 2

The paté is cooked when it starts to come away from the side of the dish and the juices run clear when a skewer is inserted into the middle.

Remove from the oven and weight down (use a similar sized dish with kitchen scale weights or even a brick covered with tinfoil).

Allow to cool, then refrigerate overnight.

Serving Suggestion

Cut into slices to serve.

## Pheasant in Sour Cream

### Ingredients

4 pheasant breasts  
2 tbsp olive oil  
2 tbsp butter  
250ml (½pt) crème fraiche  
1 tbsp paprika  
2 tbsp chopped parsley to garnish  
To serve  
Boiled potatoes  
2 baby cabbages, lightly boiled and quartered  
Caraway seeds (optional)

1. Heat the oil and butter together in a heavy based fry pan. Add the pheasant breasts and cook until tender. Approx 5 minutes on either side.

2. Add the crème fraiche and paprika and stir. Leave to simmer for 8 mins.

3. Serve onto a plate and sprinkle with chopped parsley. Serve with potatoes and a quarter cabbage sprinkled with caraway seeds.

N.B. For an alternative to cabbage use fresh green beans or broccoli

## What Next?

Brian Finan



**Editor:** The below mentioned article was featured in the first edition of the "Mighty Wurlitzer", published in 1991, and again in 2003. It has been recycled for the benefit of new members to the group.

What happens when all this early training is over, your dog is reasonably obedient, can be directed to quarter ground in search of game, and can be handled onto a retrieve, whether seen or not, and whether that retrieve lies on land, or in, or across water. By now you will probably have run in a puppy or novice working test, and if the results have been encouraging, getting ready to enter in open tests.

Unfortunately in the past I have seen those for whom this is the end of the road. The purpose of this article is to try and ensure that this doesn't happen to you. This is when the school training is over, and the time has arrived to start the dog's apprenticeship, which will eventually lead to a full and satisfying career as a "master craftsman" in the field.

Only by going to the workplace can the necessary experience be gained. Our workplace is the shooting field. I fully appreciate that for some of you it may seem to be almost impossible to get the introductions needed to get you into the field. You have never been involved in field sports and don't know where to begin. Let me try to put that right by explaining one of the ways in. First and foremost all the trainers in our group are actively involved in various forms of shooting; perhaps a word there might do some good!

Of course the ideal shoot for HPR's is a rough shoot, where one or two people shoot game, which is walked up, by the guns and their dogs. The difficulty in getting into this type of shoot is that the guns will have their own dogs, and naturally prefer to shoot over them. Your only chance here is if you are friendly enough for the gun to allow you run your dog for an hour or so. The purists will aver that the beating line at a driven

shoot is not the place for an HPR. However, for those of us who for financial reasons or lack of connections fail to get into rough shooting situations, beating or picking up on a formal shoot is often our only way to any game experience at all! Reasons given for not working HPR's in beating lines will be the competition between dogs to produce birds which leads to dogs working further and further in front, and consequently becoming more and more out of control. Spaniels bumping birds which are being pointed thus discouraging pointers from pointing, and producing a tendency to flush without pointing, or even worse pegging. In fact a scene of lots of undisciplined dogs dashing about doing as they please. This does not have to be the case! Most gamekeepers of necessity are "dog men" themselves and therefore will understand the requirements of your training programme. They will understand and appreciate your need to maintain steadiness and will therefore make some allowances in what you are asked to do. Although you must understand that you are on the ground to work for the guns, and not simply train your dog. In fact at this stage the dog should be trained, and is gaining experience in the ways of game. Without exception gamekeepers would prefer to keep dogs at heel, than for them to run amok scattering birds. So if at times you see the signs that your dog is becoming a little hot, get him to heel until the circumstances become less tempting. Most shoots will have a team of picking up dogs whose job it is to retrieve birds which fall away from the immediate vicinity of the line of guns. The dogs should be experienced retrievers, and the handlers familiar with the ground knowing where wounded birds are likely to be found, also knowing which areas should or should not be entered so that subsequent drives are not disturbed. This does not mean that there will be no opportunities for beaters to have the odd retrieve; it's fairly usual for all dog handlers to assist in "hovering up" at the end of each drive. One word of caution here is that some guns will have a dog with them, and will enjoy picking their own birds, so try not to tread on anybody's toes. We are fortunate in the North West to have the Red Grouse on our doorstep. Grouse beating covers such vast areas that for much of the time beaters are so far apart as to be virtually alone with their dogs, and much useful experience in hunting can be gained, helping produce a pointer who knows he has to work for his birds.

Another advantage of grouse is that we have a six months season instead of a couple of months on a pheasant shoot.

This also brings to mind that game keeping is not a shooting season only job and keepers do appreciate help in other months. If you can help with heather-burning, butt building etc, you will not only be doing the keeper a favour, you will be doing yourself a favour, by

learning more of the way of the birds, and the ground. One job that needs to be done on a pheasant shoot is known as dogging in, which excellent training in both is pointing and steadiness. It consists of working around the boundary of the shoot to stop birds from straying, by driving them back towards the centre of the shoot. Contacting gamekeepers is not as difficult as some people would have you believe. Most keepers will keep a list of people to call on to make up a beating team. So if you know a keeper, ask, if you know someone who shoots, ask, and you all know people that work dogs, ask them. Do remember they are busy men so try to make some kind of appointment to meet. Should you be worried that your dog will not come up to scratch, don't be, you will be pleasantly surprised to find that because you are able to manage all the things mentioned in the opening paragraph of this article. That your dog will be a paragon of virtue, compared to the average shooting mans dog. So as a Royal Danish dog handler once said, "To beat or not to beat, that is the question". You may have worked out my answer to that! Matters, which are discussed in this article, have stood the test of time, and fifteen years on still hold good! In fact they will still apply in another fifteen years and beyond.

## **GUNDOG Training Equipment**

### **Loan & Sale**

Eddie Kania

The Group carries stocks of training equipment for the convenience of the members. Often using a soiled dummy can be counter productive. Keep your dummies clean and replace them when they become old and tatty. Below is a selection of training equipment that we usually have in stock. Other equipment can be purchased through the group. Please see Eddie for a quotation.

#### **Canvas Dummies**

1lb

3.lb

#### **Whistles**

210

210 ½

211½

212

Thunderer 606

#### **Bolting Hare Elastic**

**Leads Rope,** Traditional

**Rope Leads** 24" with clip

**Choke chains—** 22" or 24"

#### **Long Blanks**

#### **Short Blanks**

#### **Dummy Launcher O rings (TR)**

#### **Hand Made Leather Coat Slings**

#### **Pigeon Release Traps**

#### **Videos**

Pre-recorded Videos have been donated by members of the Group. We have 4 videos on HPR training. The above can be borrowed by members please see: Eddie Kania.

#### **Dummy Launcher**

Slightly different from the videos we need a £50.00 deposit returnable when the launcher is returned. There is no charge for the loan of the launcher. Blanks are available from Eddie

#### **North West Group Embroidered Garments.**

North West Group Polo Shirts, Fleece are available to Order only. All have the North West Group emblem embroidered on them and are Green.

Paul Dark has a couple of samples of the embroidered Polo Shirts and will take orders. Please note that we have to have a minimum number of garments embroidered

## **Hand Made Leather Dog Leads & Collars**

All items are made from top quality bridle leather & hand stitched with waxed linen thread. Metal parts are made from cast brass & will not rust.

Because of the quality of materials used, apart from neglect, the products of my work should last a lifetime.

Several patterns of collars available including plain leather with buckle & D ring, leather & brass semi-choker etc.

Various lead types – Plain leather with trigger hook, plain leather slip with brass ring, plain leather to brass & leather semi-choker, "police" training style and "German" hunting type (round leather with stag antler fittings)

Also my popular "beaters coat slings", belts & gun slings.

Other non-standard items can be made to your request.

Enquiries to Geoff Wood -

alias@maggiesfarm.plus.com or text to 07764 932773



**That's All For This Year Folks!**