

# SOCAL NAVHDA



## ON POINT

NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER- 2014

### IS YOUR DOG HEALTHY?

By Joe Spoo DVM [gundogdoc.com](http://gundogdoc.com)

As dog owners we often look at our dog's bowel movements as a messy inconvenience that creates work for us. And while I do not enjoy picking up leftover dog food out in the yard any more than the next person, *I do take advantage of the wealth of information provided twice daily in those little brown piles.*

**The eyes have been described as the windows into the soul,** and while that may be debatable, **there is no argument that the stools could be described as the information superhighway.** The problem is deciphering the information provided to determine if a problem is present, and if there is a problem, what is the source. A change in stools can occur with a number of conditions, ranging from parasites, infection, stress and stomach upset to more serious issues like liver disease, kidney disease and a host of internal

disorders. This doesn't mean that you have to rush your dog in on emergency every time the stools change; however, by recognizing changes and the severity of the changes, it could aid you in maintaining the overall health of your dog.

**Instead of looking at waste cleanup as an evil chore, look at this regular occurrence as instant feedback and monitoring of your dog's overall health.** With patients that do not talk there are a handful of big picture changes that we look at when trying to evaluate for disease. These include **attitude, activity, eating, drinking, urination, vomiting and stool quality.** *The one that gives us a constant look at the inside of the dog is stool quality.* Often changes in stool quality, consistency, frequency and character can be an

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early indicator of a problem. With all of that information presented daily via the feces, the vast majority of pet owners are usually unaware of their dog's bathroom habits until a full-blown problem is present.

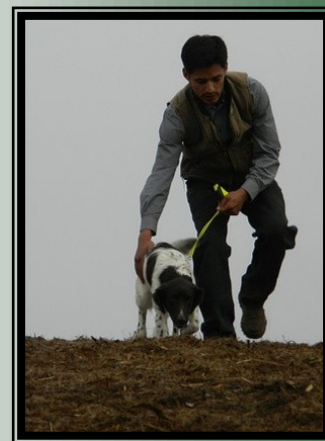
It is important to understand the function of the intestinal tract in order to fully appreciate the importance of maintaining intestinal health. Too often we look at it as a transport system for food through the body, and while this is important there are a number of other equally important functions.

A healthy, functioning intestinal tract is necessary for the breakdown and absorption of nutrients. **You may be feeding the highest quality food in the world, but if the intestinal tract is not functioning properly it won't get utilized.** In addition to nutrients, **the intestinal tract is vital to water balance and hydration.** Interestingly the colon plays an important role in water absorption, and it is for this reason that **dogs with diarrhea issues can quickly become dehydrated.**

One of the most important functions of the digestive tract is its function in the immune system. **It serves as the body's first line of defense against disease.** This can serve to protect the body from outside invaders, but when it malfunctions can also cause issues of its own with conditions like inflammatory bowel disease and food

One of the last points to consider is that the intestinal tract is also influenced by the other major systems in the body, and this is the reason why stool quality can be an indicator of internal disease. That is why it is important to determine if the cause of stool issues are related to intestinal causes (parasite, bacteria, viruses, dietary) or from outside of the intestine (liver, kidneys, etc.), because the treatment of the various conditions will vary greatly.

An important point that is often overlooked is that a dog doesn't necessarily have to be suffering from full-blown diarrhea in order to be experiencing the ill effects of poor intestinal health. Many owners look at large quantities of semi-formed stool as an inconvenience to them when they should be considering the impact this is having on their dogs. Maintaining normal stools is important in maintaining normal overall health. **If your dog is not having relatively small, firm, normal colored stools it is vitally important to find out why and remedy the problem.**



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**The discussion on diarrhea would fill a textbook**, so instead of looking at what to do with each individual problem we will take a look what to do in order to maintain digestive health and restoring normal health after minor stomach upset.

**One of the most overlooked areas of dog food selection is the fiber source and amount in the food.** Too often fiber is looked at as filler and not as a functional component of the food. Unfortunately this couldn't be further from the truth. The intestinal bacteria ferment fiber and the byproducts of this fermentation process can provide an energy source for the intestinal cells. The most important products of fiber fermentation are short-chain fatty acids. These fatty acids can result in more and healthier intestinal cells, aid in gut motility, increase gut blood flow, and can help in preventing diarrhea by promoting the growth of beneficial bacteria while inhibiting the growth of bad bacteria. As with anything, all fiber sources are not created equal. A fiber source that is not fermentable will not provide any of the above benefits, while a fiber source that is too fermentable will cause problems with excess by-products. The key is to look for a moderately-fermentable fiber source. **One of the best moderately-fermentable fibers is beet pulp, which some have termed the "silver bullet" in maintaining intestinal health.**

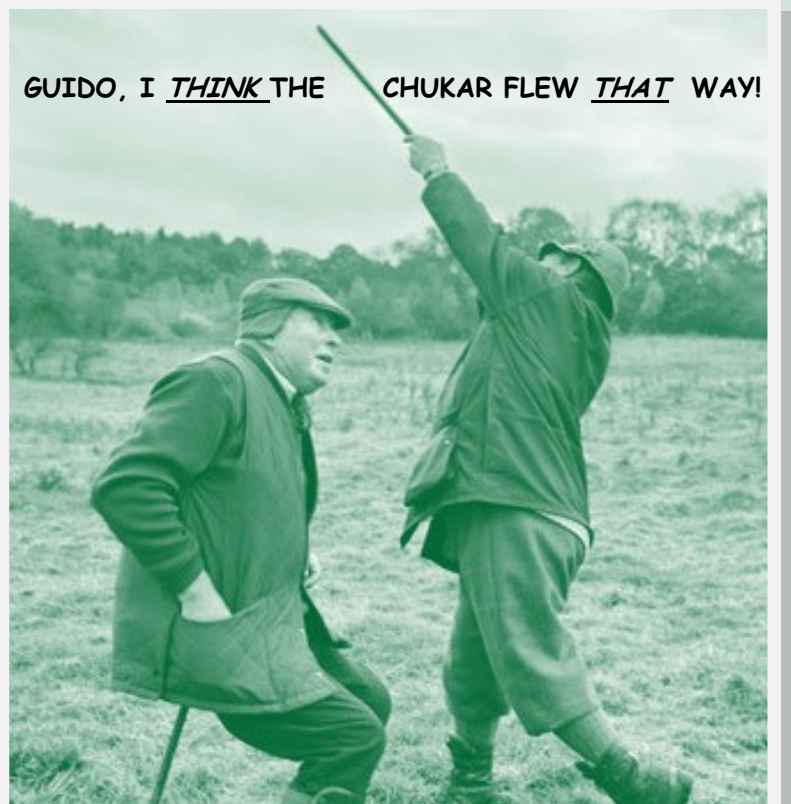


A key component of the maintenance of GI health is the balance of good versus bad bacteria, and there are two key factors in maintaining this balance. The first is fructooligosaccharides (FOS) or more commonly referred to as prebiotics. Basically FOS is a short chain of sugar molecules that is used by the good bacteria of the intestinal tract but is not used well by the bad bacteria. These are used to try to maintain intestinal balance. **In recent years probiotics have gotten a lot of interest as a way to maintain intestinal health. Essentially they are live organisms that are fed in order to help maintain or replenish healthy bacteria in the intestinal tract while outcompeting the bad bacteria. Basically the theory is that we are providing more of the good bacteria to the dog. The benefits of these products are many, and when used correctly they can markedly shorten the duration of diarrhea and help maintain and restore a healthy intestinal tract.** Unfortunately these products are also an area of much conflict, due to the quality and benefit of the products on the market. A Canadian Veterinary Journal article looked at 19 pet food diets labeled to contain probiotics. When the diets were analyzed, only seven of the diets contained at least one of the bacteria listed while NONE contained all of the bacteria listed. Similar studies have looked at over-the-counter products for humans and animals labeled to contain probiotics and found similar inconsistent results in the products.



**Does this mean all probiotic products are a scam?** Absolutely not, but it does mean that as a consumer you need to know what you are buying. You will want to identify the organism(s) in the product and the number of organisms expected in the product, often listed as CFU. The benefits of probiotics are many, and include impacting the entire body and not just the digestive tract. The important point is to make sure you are actually feeding a probiotic when you make your purchase. As you can see there are a number of things you can do daily to maintain intestinal tract health. **Too often we want to reach for the wormer or Flagyl when a problem crops up when we would be better off leaving those on the shelf and set our goals to maintaining a healthy GI tract from the beginning.**

**One of the most despised tasks of pet ownership, cleaning up feces, is actually one of the most important sources of daily information on our pets.** This article won't make it any more enjoyable, but it may make it more interesting the next time you head out to clean out the kennel or pick up the yard. **Just how healthy is your dog's intestinal tract?**







**GOODFELLAS RESTAURANT  
AFTER THE TEST**



**JUDGES DEBATE SCORES**



**GEORGE AND BIRBA**



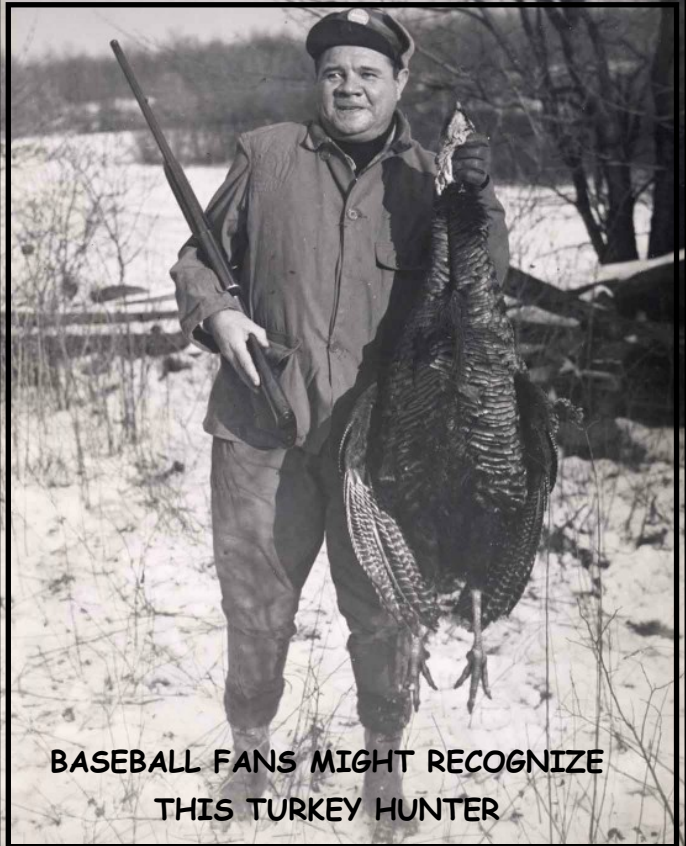


## HUNTING SEASON

### BEGINS

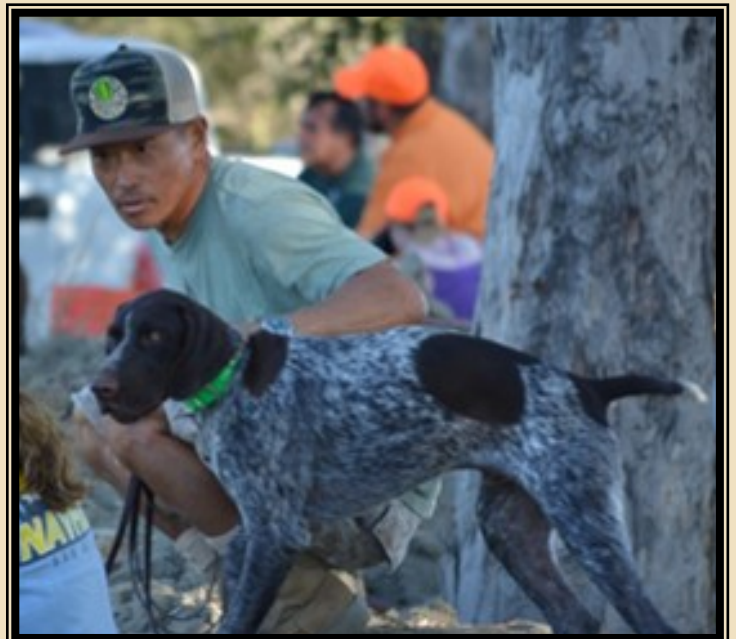
*We would love to share your hunting adventures with our members. People go hunting for many reasons: adventure, competition, friends, dogs, nature and for a simple change of pace. If you can write a few sentences (or several) about your hunt and send a few pictures of you or your dog we will try and put your story in the newsletter this winter. Please email your story and/or photos to [gary\\_johnson@busdk12.com](mailto:gary_johnson@busdk12.com)*

*Looking forward to your adventure!!!*



BASEBALL FANS MIGHT RECOGNIZE  
THIS TURKEY HUNTER

**WHERE  
MEMBERS  
TEACH  
OTHERS  
HOW TO  
TRAIN  
THEIR  
BIRDDOG**





## *Training Days Guidelines & Procedures*

- (1) Please keep your dog under control at all times, particularly when he/she is not working on a drill.
- (2) Everyone in the field must wear blaze orange hat, t-shirt or vest and have completed a hunter safety class or have a hunting license.
- (3) Children are to be supervised and remain in the designated parking area at all times.
- (4) No alcohol on premises.
- (5) "Boat Safety", persons under 12 years of age must wear a life jacket when in the boat.

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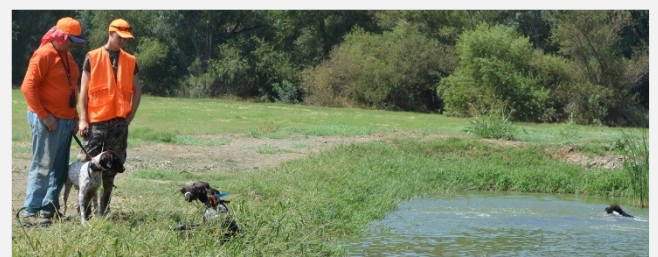
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# SOCAL NAVHDA TEST

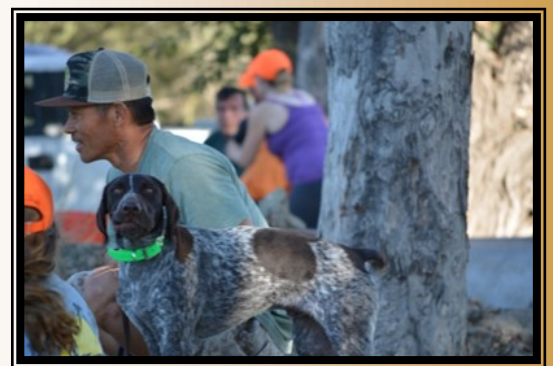


NO . . . YOU FORGOT . . . YOUR DOG!!





# WATER TESTS



DAVID HAN & OTTO

## FIELD SEARCH







After hunting or doing field-work it's a good idea to check your dog. On occasion your dog will become injured while running at full speed. Check his belly and chest area for any tenderness. Examine his head or neck area for abrasions. While running through the woods or thickets they occasionally will receive a puncture wound or scratches from a branch. It's also a good idea to check the pads of their feet. Stepping on a sharp rock or glass will tear the pad. This injury is slow to heal as it is hard to keep the dog off his feet.

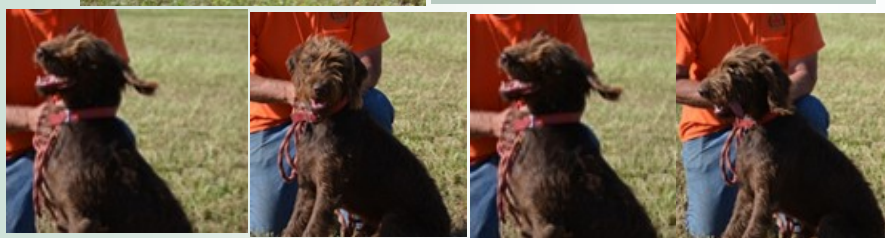


**RUFFED GROUSE**

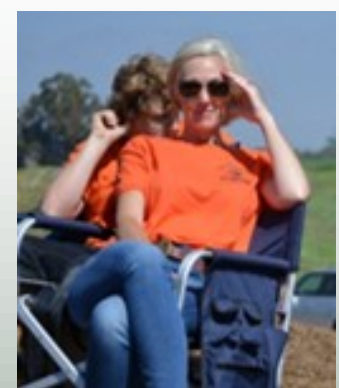
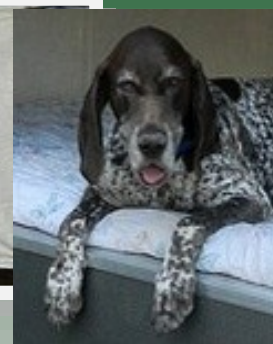


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# BREED OF THE MONTH

## *Slovakian Wirehaired* *Pointer*



This breed originated in Czechoslovakia. After the second world war a number of good working dogs were lost and the way of farming and hunting changed, this necessitated a dog that could fill this new role. **The hunters wanted a dog that was biddable and did not range too far (the Czech test rules looked for a dog seeking at 30 paces in front and 80 paces to each side). The emphasis lay on work after the shot, which meant a particular aptitude for finding shot game, being reliable on a scent trail and retrieving.**



All this led to the development of the Slovakian Rough Haired Pointer (SRP). The SRP is an amalgamation of three breeds, the Czeskey Fousek, the Weimaraner and the German Wirehaired Pointer; crosses between these breeds took place in the 1950's and entered into the Slovakian 'experimental' register. Only dogs and bitches of sound temperament and excellent hunting ability were bred from and this was under the strict control of the breed wardens.



**A mistake in the translation of the Weimaraner standard into Slovakian, was the reason for the breed being registered as a Rough Haired Weimaraner, it was not until 1975 that the mistake was identified by the German Weimaraner Club, the club did not approve, and the breed was removed from the Weimaraner classification. Until this time breeding between rough and smooth had been carried out with the approval of the breed wardens.** The dogs were then registered with the Slovakian Hunters Union, the breed was developed and was admired for its working ability. By 1981 the breed had developed and could be split into three genealogical lines and three unrelated breeding groups, by this time there where about 400 dogs registered and approval was sought from the FCI.



On 6th June 1982 approval was gained from the FCI, becoming breed number 320, by the end of 1984 there were 550 dogs registered in the studbook. Of these 260 had passed autumn tests, 30 with forest and special work tests and 26 with full utility tests. **The breed was first introduced to the UK in 1997 by Margaret Holmes and Kevin Bingham, they were Amie and Amaretto vom Kapffelsen from Germany, then Spek, Santal and Supa zo Sorosa from Slovakia, these five are the foundation of stock in the UK. The breed was included on the Kennel Clubs import register in 1998 and the first litter registered in March 1999. Nicholas Elder imported five SRP into Ireland and there have now been a few select litters.** As yet the breed can not be shown in this country, as it does not have an approved standard to judge the breed by, but its inclusion on the import register means that it may be entered into any Kennel Club Working event or Field Trial, of which its is more than capable of doing.

### **General Appearance**

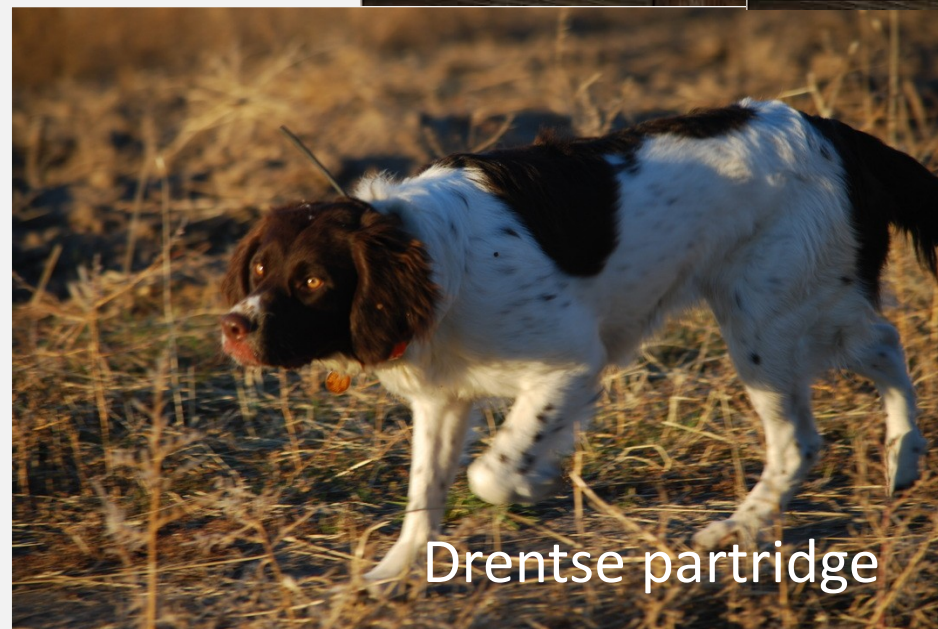
**As the breed does not have an approved breed standard in this country I can only give you a brief guide to how they should look. It is important to remember that these dogs were bred to work and hunt all day and nothing has been exaggerated, they are a sound dog with loads of working ability.** They are medium sized and strongly built, being longer in the body than height. The maximum height for dogs around 27" and the bitch's 25". **They are basically grey in colour although they are allowed white markings and may be roan or splash marked.**

The head is moderately long and lean, with a large dark nose, the eyes are almond shaped and amber in colour and they have long and smooth ears, set just above eye level. They have a moderate neck, well-laid shoulders and a level back, the ribs are well sprung and the flanks moderately tucked up. They stand on strong legs with well-arched feet that are dark in colour with dark coloured nails. **The coat is the most distinguishing feature, it has a very fine undercoat that is mostly shed in summer, the outer coat is harsh, straight hair approx. 4 CMS in length, the hair is longer on muzzle and eye brows and smooth on the ears**

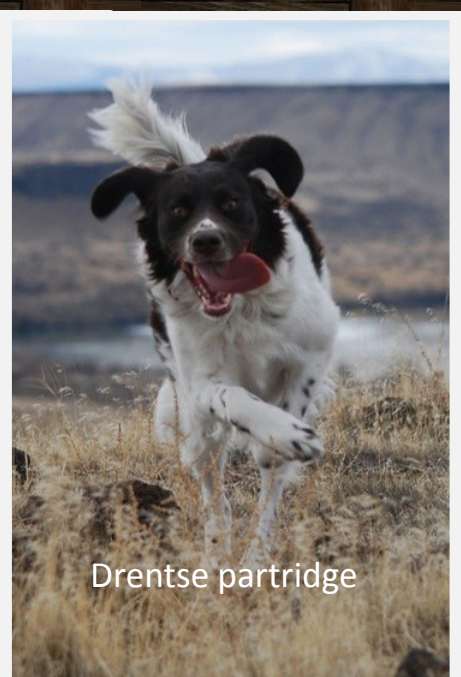
### **Temperament and working ability**

**It is hard to believe that two breeds such as The Weimaraner and the German Wire-haired Pointer could be combined and the result be so different. As I own both of these breeds I can see traits of both in the Slovakian, but they are so different, everything they do is different.** They are a very loving easy breed to live with; they are affectionate, willing to please, laid back, easy to train and amusing! They never cease to amaze me with their different approach to life and often act the fool. **However don't be fooled, this a class one working dog with an excellent nose and heaps of staying power! They will cover the ground at a good pace, they are in general an air scenting dog but I have found them to work out a ground scent before lifting there head and taking in the wind. They are good steady pointers and are excellent after the shot, being natural tracking dogs and good retrievers with lovely soft mouths, they are also good in water and have good protection from the cold.** I have owned and worked Weimaraners for a number of years and nothing has come close to my favorite breed, until now! This is a breed that will win its way into people's hearts and once you realize the unspoiled working ability that lies beneath, you will, like me, be hooked.

Written by Tricia Grime (Ansona)



Drentse partridge

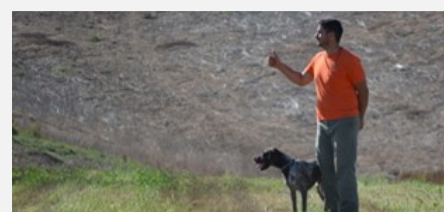
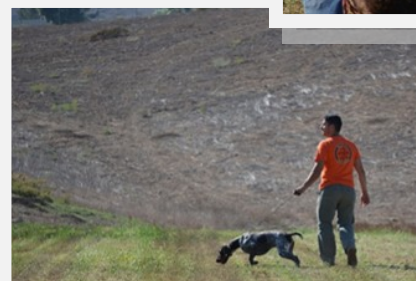
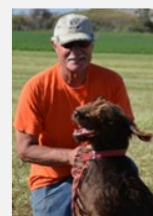


Drentse partridge



# SOCAL NAVHDA TEST

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## STOPPING ON THE FLUSH

Prior to teaching this your dog should have learned the basic obedience commands. One that is frequently overlooked that is critical . . . . is "whoa". There are many different methods of teaching this. I prefer the whoa post. However, talk to your fellow NAVHDA members for some ideas on what method they use. Your goal in teaching the stop to flush is teaching your dog that the sight of a bird flying up is a command to "Whoa". Begin by setting out a launcher with a bird in it. The launcher should be downwind and in cover because you want the first cue the dog receives to be visual (bird coming up) not the scent of the bird or sight of the launcher. **With the dog on checkcord, approach the launcher. When you are about 40 feet from the launcher and the dog is looking toward it, release the bird. As the dog watches the bird fly up, command "Whoa". Do not use the e-collar at this time to enforce the command; use your leash and voice only, but insist on a good whoa.** Repeat the procedure a couple of times without using the collar, then begin using low-level continuous electrical stimulation with your *first* whoa command. Be sure to hesitate a moment after the launch, and before you press the button and command "Whoa". When the dog becomes reliable and seems under control, you can remove your checkcord. . **After a few repetitions, the dog will "chain together" the sight of a bird coming up with the mildly unpleasant stimulation. Then he will stop on his own to avoid the collar turning on when the bird flies away. Repeat the procedure several times with the launcher in different locations , and always approach it from the upwind side.** After a few repetitions, the dog will "chain together" the sight of a bird coming up with the mildly unpleasant stimulation. Then he will stop on his own to avoid the collar turning on when the bird flies away. **Be sure to hesitate a moment each time after you launch the bird before you command "Whoa" and press the transmitter button.** This gives the dog a chance to see the bird fly up and, after a few repetitions, to stop on his own. If you stimulate and command "Whoa" too quickly after launching a bird, your dog will begin sight pointing the launcher before the bird is released. Soon you will see the dog begin stopping on his own when he sees the bird fly up, without giving you a chance to press the button. Now he's ready for more of a challenge. Begin calling him to you from about 65 feet away, with the launcher between you and him. Repeat the procedure, launch, hesitate, then press the button as you command "Whoa". The first few times, release the bird when the dog has come only about 15 feet towards the launcher, making it easier for the dog to stop. If you must repeat "Whoa", use the medium button with the second command. Once this is mastered let him get closer prior to releasing the bird. Your dog will learn this skill fairly quickly. This is a good skill to learn prior to learning to "honor". These skills are needed at the Invitational level of NAVHDA. If you are also doing the AKC testing these are skills needed to gain Master Hunter status.

*Good Luck Training!*





# TRAINING FOR NA TEST

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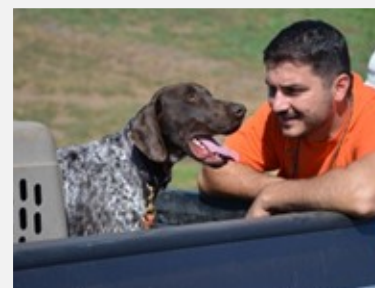
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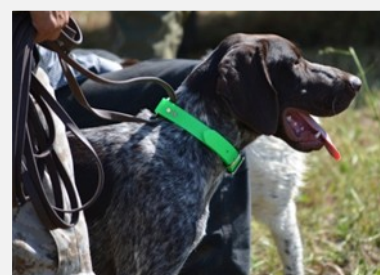


# SOCAL NAVHDA FALL TEST

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BEAUTIFUL



SOCAL NAVHDA



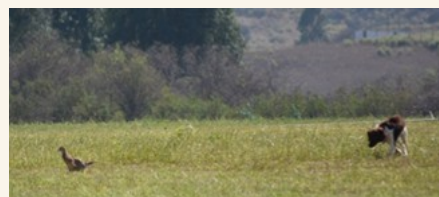
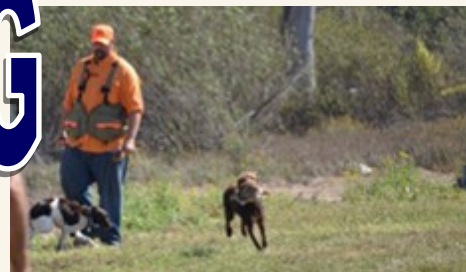
VERSATILE DOGS





# SOCAL NAVHDA FALL TEST

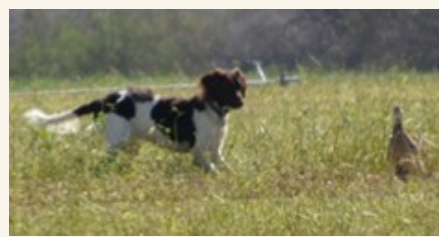
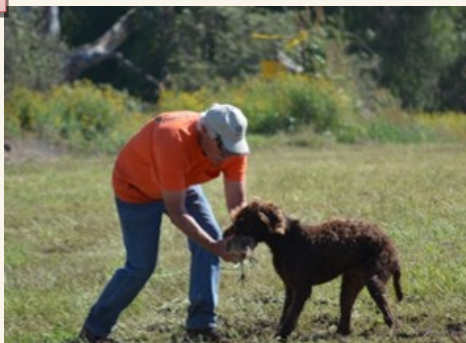
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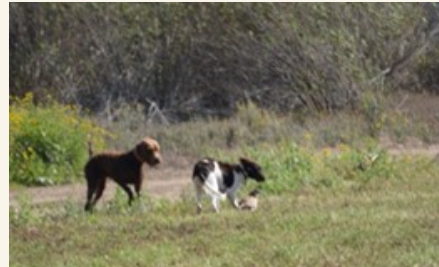
## TIKKA



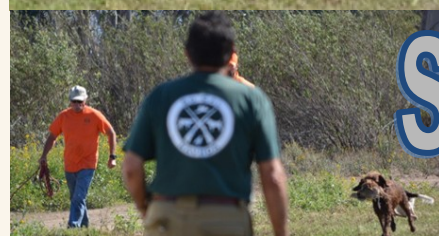
## POINTS IT



## GUNNER



## STEALS IT!





GERMAN WIREHAIR POINTER



STICHELHAAR

SLOVAKIAN  
WIREHAIR  
POINTER

# W I R E H A I R E D

# B R E E D S

CESKYFOUSEK

WIREHAIR  
POINTING  
GRIFFONWIREHAIR  
VIZSLAPUDEL  
POINTER



# SOCAL NAVHDA



**WHERE MEMBERS  
TEACH OTHERS  
HOW TO TRAIN  
THEIR BIRDDOG**

## SOCAL NAVHDA MEMBER BENEFITS

1. Receive Monthly newsletter from February to October.
2. Have your unlimited webpage site within the [www.SoCalnavhda.com](http://www.SoCalnavhda.com) website for 10.00\$/year.
3. Access to the Members Forum in the Chapter Website Password: "best dogs" with a space between the two words.
4. Choose a trainer mentor out of a list of professional and very experienced trainers.
5. Participate in a monthly training day.
6. Be first in line to enroll your dog in the Chapter's NAVHDA Tests before all other NAVHDA national members.
7. Have access to the So.Cal. NAVHDA Trailer packed with versatile hunting dog training supplies for \$20.00 key deposit, refundable if you'll leave the chapter.
8. So.Cal. NAVHDA members are covered by NAVHDA liability insurance at the Chapter's sanctioned events.

## *NAVHDA SPONSORS*

