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**Spaniels**

Al Gadoury 586-3806

Jeff Squire 587-1840

*MHGDG EVENTS 2009*

**Board Meetings**

Aug 18, Oct 20, Dec 15

**Flushing dog Picnic,**

Evaluations the 2nd Saturday of the month.

Jul 11, Aug 8

**Pointing dog Picnic**

Evaluations the 3rd Saturday of the month.

Jul 18, Aug 15

**Training days**

**Spaniels**

**Saturday morning**

**Retrievers  
Wednesday**

**evenings**

**Pointers**

**Thursday**

**Evenings**

**HRC TEST**

July 25 & 26,

Bill Totten's

Twin Bridges

**Snake Break with  
Butch Nelson Aug**

13th 6:00pm Training grounds

**Spaniel Hunt  
Test**

Aug 22/23 Training Grounds

**SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST**

- Foxtail
- Overheating and
- Hypoglycemia
- July's HRC Test
- Information on some animal rights issues
- AKC Pointer Hunt Test Info

*There will be an AKC Pointer Hunt Test Judging Seminar on Thursday August 20th to be taught by AKC Rep Tom Maneely. This is the seminar needed to become an AKC pointing dog judge. The seminar is prior to the Montana Brittany Club and Montana German Shorthaired Pointer Club Hunt Tests and Walking Field Trial on August 21,22 &23, 2009 at the Conner Ranch west of Three Forks. For more information on the seminar and entry form's for the events please contact Bob Myers hunt test secretary.  
**Bobmyers@bresnan.net***

## MHGDC Board Meeting Minutes

6/1/09

The meeting of the MHGDC Board of Directors was called to order at 7:10 PM.

**Board Members Present:** Al Gadoury, Randy Setzer, Jeff Squire, Dale Spartas, David French, Julie Kirkland, Pat Dillon; Members present: Tracey Setzer

**President's Report:** None

**Secretary's Report:** Minutes from the 4/21/09 meeting were approved.

**Treasurer's Report:** Income/expense statement for month and year-to-date was presented. Balances: checking - \$9,623, savings - \$13,241. Bird deposits - \$3,019. The Board discussed the best way to account for fun events. The Chairperson from each fun event shall submit a profit/loss statement to the Treasurer after each event. This shall include bird costs. Net proceeds or loss from fun events shall be logged as bird income or loss for that dog group.

The Board approved a 50% deposit to Take Flight for Spaniel birds for 2010. The Board approved a requirement of needing two signatures on club checks over \$1,000.

**Pointers:** The Board approved the purchase of two 10'x10' pop-up tents @ \$198 each to be used for fun events. Fun events held the third Saturday of the month at training grounds-see calendar in Newsletter. Training on Thursday evenings at Training Grounds.

**Spaniels:** Al's report to be published in newsletter. MHGDC AKC ESS field trial to be held April 3-4, 2010. Greg Johnson will be event chairman. The fall AKC Spaniel hunt test will be held August 22-23, 2009 at the training grounds. Approved judges are Olivia Steele-Mortimer, Bryan Dunn, Buzz Benson (Bismark) and Rod Beck (Bismark). Chairman is Scott Benowitz. Fun events held second Saturday of the month at the training grounds-see calendar in Newsletter. Training on Saturday mornings at Training Grounds (except third Saturday of month).

**Retrievers:** HRC event July 25-26, 2009 at Bill Totten's south of Whitehall. Four judges from out of state. Tailgate event on Saturday evening July 25, including raffle. All approved HRC test equipment except guns have been purchased. Gun purchases will hold off and re-evaluated next year. Retrievers train on Wednesdays @ 5:00 PM at training grounds.

**Unfinished Business:** The bridge across the creek at Training Grounds is in the process of being replaced by Jordan Squire and some of his Boy Scout associates, and Jeff Squire. Thanks to them for this effort. They are also going to install a new bridge downstream at the behest of FWP, who is paying for the costs of the new bridge.

The Board voiced their support to have Randy continue to be the sole liaison between the Club and FWP concerning our FWP Special Use Permit.

Regarding gun safety at all Club licensed and sanctioned events: the Board requires that the event's Gun Captain to hold a gun safety meeting for the gun team at the beginning of each day of an event. This is in addition to the other duties of the Gun Captain as required by the event rules.

Regarding gun safety at all Club fun events and training sessions: the Board requests that all Club members re-familiarize themselves with MHGDC gun safety rules, which are posted on the Club's website.

### New Business:

The Board invited Bill Warden to address the Board and interested members about legislative affairs as they pertain to the Club. If Bill can't attend the next Board meeting, then we'll find out when he can attend.

King Tool has been sold. It is likely we will need to find another location to hold our annual meeting and banquet.

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 PM.

## Spaniel Report

Under the pitiless eye of observer Jeff Squire a field of 4 Labrador Retrievers and six English Springer Spaniels pursued chuckars and pheasants in our June Flushing Dog Evaluation. Spot handled by Jack Weiss and Kyle Barners Chase tied for first place. Al Gadoury's Labrador placed second. Always a contender, Greg Johnson's springer Niki was third. Iron chef Keri Payne placed first in the flushing dog bake off with home made Rhubarb crisp and brownies. The dogs ate Al's signature dish of Costco cookies. The club made \$22.

The next flushing dog evaluation will be July 11. Greg Johnson is the chairman. If you would like to run a dog or can help please let Greg know as soon as possible.

Jack Weiss will chair the August 8 Flushing Dog Evaluation. If you would like to run a dog or can help please contact Jack.

If you see the gate open at the horse pasture **please** close it, no excuses, no exceptions.

The Spaniels are training Saturdays at 9 A M. If you would like to train please call Randy the day before to let him know how many birds you will need.

Al Gadoury

# Overheating and Hypoglycemia

*By Joe Spoo DVM*

Overheating, or heat stroke, is a common problem in hunting dogs, and as we found out during South Dakota's pheasant opener last year, a deadly problem as well. Overheating is a condition that develops from the body's inability to regulate temperature. Basically, the heat being produced by the body is greater than the heat being dissipated.

The causes of heat stroke in hunting dogs are numerous, but at the top of the list is a lack of conditioning. Too many guys take their dogs from the couch or the kennel straight into the field without any thought about the dog's level of conditioning. This would be akin to taking most of us on a given day and demanding us to run a marathon...at the drop of the hat. The difference is that we're able to say no and are in tune with our bodies enough to know when to stop. These dogs love to hunt and love to perform, and by the time they are showing signs of a problem it is often too late.

Other causes of overheating include lack of acclimatization, high humidity and high temperatures. A rule of thumb used by many dog trainers down south is that if the ambient temperature when added to the humidity is greater than 150, you probably shouldn't be running your dogs. You can still have heat stroke develop at lower temps, but this is when it becomes particularly dangerous. You'll also see heat problems with too much exercise too soon. Also an obese animal is going to be much more prone to overheating than one running at a lean body weight. Previous episodes of overheating will also predispose a dog to overheating again, because overheating can cause the body's internal thermometer to become "out of whack" and make the dog more susceptible to future episodes.

It's also important to know a dog in water can still have heat stroke. This is particularly true in the summer months and early fall when many of the shallow bodies of water have had time to heat up. At these times it can be like swimming the dog in a hot tub. Just because they're wet doesn't mean they're cool. Basically, you should always try to be smart when working your dog in any type of heat.

Signs that your dog may be getting close to overheating include panting and/or extreme hyperventilation. These dogs aren't just hot; they are trying to move as much air as possible in an often futile attempt at removing heat. Many of these dogs will also be hypersalivating. They'll come back with long ropes of drool coming out of their mouths, or puddles of saliva around them. They also will have an altered mental state and appear glassy-eyed. Often when you look at these dogs

Over heating & hypoglycemia continued  
they look like they are in trouble, almost as though no one is home when you look them in the eyes. Many will become ataxic (i.e. stumbling and in coordination) and show muscle weakness. Often, but not always, you will see vomiting and diarrhea develop. From here it may progress to total collapse.

At this point you are probably wondering what temperature the body has to reach to fall into the category of heat stroke, and unfortunately there isn't one. The normal body temperature of dogs is 100-102.5 F, but in normal working dogs, without heat stroke, we can have temperatures during and immediately following exercise that get up around 106-107 F without causing a problem. But these are the same temperatures that we start worrying about heat damage starting to occur with heat stroke.

This is where having a thermometer in your emergency kit becomes important, because if the temperature does not begin to fall immediately, or worse it continues to climb, after the exercise is stopped, your dog is in trouble. As corny as it may sound, I would recommend taking your dog's temp after a day of hunting or while out training when you are not even close to crossing the overheating line. This will give you an idea at what temp your pup typically runs while at work and will allow some sort of baseline if you get into trouble out in the field.

Basically during heat stroke all the body systems are being affected. The tissues of the body are essentially cooking themselves. When we get these dogs into the clinic they have severe blood chemistry abnormalities, they can go into respiratory distress and this is one condition that can quickly lead to death.

As far as starting treatment in the field, the biggest thing is to get them cooled down. If there is water around get them a cool water bath or spray them down. If you are going to cool them in standing water be sure to wade in with them and hold on to them, as they could collapse and drown or get out too deep and not be able to make it back. Apply ice to the hairless portion of the belly and especially deep in the armpits and groin, as there are some very large blood vessels in these areas that help cool them down fast. You can also get them in the vehicle with the A/C on high with the fans blowing directly on the dog.

The whole while during the cooling process you need to be monitoring the dog's temp and stop cooling them when the temperature reaches 103 F. This will also allow you to make sure you are not cooling them too fast. It is very easy to over-cool these dogs and drop them down too low and end up causing hypothermia...remember the internal thermostat is no longer working correctly.

## Overheating & Hypoglycemia continued

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to cool him down while transporting them to a vet, though. Hospitalization, monitoring and supportive care are very important in order to save these dogs. Many of the dogs that survive may have long-standing problems, and the sooner you seek veterinary care the better.

Another problem that can contribute to heat stroke and may cause death all on its own is hypoglycemia or low blood sugar. It is also termed exertional hypoglycemia, hunting dog hypoglycemia, or sugar fits. We see this condition when the blood glucose levels fall below 50.

The cause of hypoglycemia is similar to heat stroke: a lack of conditioning. Hypoglycemia occurs when your dog does too much work too soon, and it occurs early in training and often with over-anxious young dogs. Many of the dogs we worry about are those dogs that are constantly trying to go. They're wild in the box, excited before they're released, and some of them have gone through an entire workout without ever getting off the truck.

Some of the signs you may see with this problem are an altered mentation where the dog just doesn't seem to be acting right and is confused and almost dazed. There can be trembling or shaking as well. Many of these dogs will have a nervousness and anxiety about them and most dogs will exhibit weakness and ataxia or stumbling, as they can no longer walk normally. In severe cases it can lead to collapse, seizures, coma and death.

Treatment consists of getting simple sugars into the dog. Oral simple sugars are absorbed from the gums and thus do not need to be forced down the dog. I recommend carrying a bottle of 50% Dextrose or Karo Syrup in the first aid kit. You can draw up a syringe of the dextrose and administer it slowly until the problem resolves. If using syrup you can just take some and rub it on the gums until the dog responds. If you do not have these items you can also use honey or *REAL* fruit juice... **the key being real fruit juice as too many juices contain artificial sweeteners the will be of no value in treating the problem.** In a pinch items like Pepsi or Gatorade could be used. Just be sure to take it slow and rub them on the gums as many of these dogs may not be able to swallow, and you don't want to pour pop down the wrong pipe. If the dog recovers uneventfully, I wouldn't send them back out to perform. I'm big on running bloodwork with any type of collapse, and although likely everything will be normal at the time of the work-up, it will allow you to rule-out other possibilities causes of collapse. Many of the emergencies we see in hunting dogs can often be prevented with preseason conditioning, nutrition and getting to know your dog. With a little education on what to do when an emergency occurs you can also prevent these problems that crop up from being a season ending, or worse yet, life ending condition.

### The Vet Summer 2007 – Foxtails

At the parent club meeting this past May, several club members brought forth concern over infections spread by plant awns. Although any dog can be affected by this syndrome, the springer spaniels used in hunting competitions are at an increased risk by virtue of working out in fields that contain high numbers of the problematic grass awns.

"Wild barley" is scientifically known as *Hordeum murinum* but is most commonly called a "foxtail" because of the unique shape of the seed cluster. It can also be called Downey Brome grass, cheatgrass or speargrass. When the grass awns are green, they pose little threat, but as they dry out (usually around May or later) the seeds fall off the plant as animals brush past them. The seeds are "V" shaped and have a sharp point at the tip, with microscopic barbs along the "V". These barbs allow only forward movement of the awn as it pierces some part of the dog's anatomy- it can't easily be moved backwards, and very efficiently moves forward. Unfortunately, the plant awns are covered with several bacteria that can cause infection anywhere they can gain access to. The most common bacteria carried by foxtails are *Actinomyces* and *Nocardia*. Occasionally, foxtails may also spread fungal organisms.

Foxtails are found very commonly in some parts of the country, such as Southern California. It is an everyday occurrence to see a dog with a foxtail at most veterinary clinics in that part of the country. Elsewhere they are less common, but based on the discussion at the parent club meeting, many locations that are used for hunting purposes are being seeded intentionally with plant material to provide good cover for the birds. The mixture of plant seeds used to provide good ground cover has unfortunately been found to contain foxtail seeds as well, so now *Hordeum murinum* is being found more and more commonly in the Midwest and other areas that commonly hold field trials or hunt tests.

So what do grass awns do? A better question is what *don't* they do? Depending on what part of the dog they gain access to, they can cause all sorts of problems- some obvious, some extremely hard to diagnose.

## Foxtails continued

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Commonly, the grass awn will catch on hair around the dog's ears and end up in the ear canal. Usually, the owner would notice a very sudden onset of painful ears- shaking the head, pawing at the ear, whining. Examination by a veterinarian including being able to see well into the ear canal will identify the foxtail and it can be removed with forceps. An unidentified foxtail in an ear can lead to infection and/or a ruptured ear drum.

The eyes are another place foxtails commonly end up. As a dog moves through brush, the eyes are at a perfect level to come in contact with the foxtails. Usually a foxtail in the eye will end up underneath the eyelids or the third eyelid, where they cause severe pain, a scratched or ulcerated cornea and infection. Sudden onset of squinting, pawing at the eye, redness, discharge and pain are good clues that a foxtail may be in the eye. A veterinarian can remove the foxtail with the aid of topical eye anesthesia. Failure to identify and remove the foxtail could potentially lead to rupture of the eye.

One very obvious location for a foxtail is the nasal cavity. This will cause immediate and unrelenting sneezing which will become bloody very quickly. If the foxtail is not removed quickly, it can get sucked into the lungs where it can cause even more problems. Any dog suspected of having inhaled a foxtail into its nose needs emergency veterinary care immediately.

One of the more difficult places to identify and repair damage from foxtails is the skin. Very commonly, foxtails will lodge between the toes and work their way up the leg. They can also burrow into skin anywhere on the body. If caught quickly, a small wound is noted, and probing with forceps will retrieve the foxtail. However, often times the wound is not noted until the grass awn is a considerable distance up the leg. It can be nearly impossible to find a foxtail that has made it a significant distance from its entrance wound. In some cases extensive exploratory surgery is needed to remove infected tissue and to look for the grass awn. Sometimes, antibiotics are prescribed to control most of the infection, and the actual location of the plant awn can be narrowed down by locating where swelling persists after the antibiotics have had a chance to work (basically, antibiotics won't be able to eradicate infection at the level of the foxtail if it is still inside the dog). Prevention is the best cure for foxtails in the skin- check your dog's feet and coat frequently and remove all plant material before it gets a chance to migrate into the skin. Seek medical help quickly if you notice any break in the skin, especially if any drainage is present.

The throat can be affected if the dog chews on grass that contains awns, for if the dog grooms himself to remove foxtails from his coat ( another good reason to groom the dog immediately after he has been exposed to a location known to contain foxtails). If a grass awn lodges in the throat or the esophagus, you might notice gagging, choking, coughing, extension of the head and neck, reverse sneezing, and possibly vomiting or dry heaving. The risk of inhaling the foxtail in to the lungs exists, and also the risk of serious infection at the site of the foxtail is very real. A foxtail lodged in the throat needs to be removed immediately. Part of your grooming routine should be to look in the dog's mouth, especially way back in the corners and remove any foxtails noted.

One of the most classic and difficult to deal with infections caused by foxtails is called a Pyothorax. This occurs when a foxtail penetrates the chest cavity, either through the skin or by migrating through the lungs if inhaled or the esophagus is swallowed. No symptoms would be noted at first, but as time goes by, the foreign material containing bacteria festers and produces a tomato soup like fluid that surrounds the lungs making it hard to breath. Early signs could include a mild cough that might be overlooked in diagnosed as "kennel cough". The dog might become easily fatigued, and then grow lethargic, and might run a fever. **The symptoms can be very vague until the disease gets well established.** A chest radiograph is imperative and will show fluid in the chest cavity surrounding the lungs, and might show consolidation of a lung lobe or an area of abscess formation. Treatment of pyothorax is a huge undertaking, involving surgical placement of drainage tubes to allow removal of the tomato soup like pus (which usually contains granules of bacteria that resemble minced garlic, which are known as sulphur granules). Besides draining the pus, usually procedures are done at least daily to lavage in sterile fluid to "wash" the chest cavity, and then this fluid is drained as well. Often the chest has to be opened up to allow removal of damaged lung and to remove as much infection as possible. The dog is on antibiotics for months or longer. One "tongue in cheek" reference noted that antibiotics should be continued for "eons". Antibiotics should be based on culture and sensitivity results, but in general, penicillin type drugs and Clindamycin are a good place to start.

Other infections that can be caused by foxtails include pneumonia, diskospondylitis (infection of the bone of the spine), peritonitis (very similar to pyothorax, except the infection is in the abdomen), urinary or genital tract foreign bodies or infection, and pericardial infection (infection of the sac that surrounds the heart). Really, any part of the body that a foxtail can migrate to can be infected by the bacteria they carry.

So what can you do to cut down on the chance of having to deal with foxtail related infections? Be vigilant- obviously if the dog is out hunting, you would check frequently for plant material on the coat, in the eyes and ears and in the mouth. Be aware of where the dog goes and if there is any chance that foxtail type grasses might be present. Be aware of your dog's behavior and attitude. If the dog has been anywhere that a foxtail could have been picked up, and you note that he seems a bit quiet, or is off his food a little, or has a slight cough, etc., seek medical help! Voice your concerns to your veterinarian that the dog could have been exposed to a foxtail. Request radiographs and blood work even if the vet thinks they are not necessary. Avoid the easy syndrome of "let's try some antibiotics and see how he does". All that will do is give the foxtail more time to migrate deeper into the dog. Be prepared that you might have to spend a significant amount of money and accept referral to a specialist if your vet determines that your dog has a serious infection from a foxtail. Don't try to cut corners on treatment. Successful outcome is dependent on aggressiveness of therapy.

With aggressive care, and early detection, full recovery from foxtail induced disease, even full blown pyothorax, is possible. I speak from the experience of having my own springer "Gunther" (who had none of the risk factors for exposure to foxtails) suffer from pyothorax when he was 10 years old. He recovered fully after aggressive therapy with multiple surgeries including having a lung lobe removed.

Sadly, in recent years, the Springer Spaniel Field Trial world has become more aware of illnesses befalling some of our dogs—sometimes fatally—due to infections attributable to barbed grass awns. These seeds can penetrate a dog's body through the skin or enter by swallowing or aspiration. Once in a dog's body, the barbed seed typically migrates, all too frequently leaving a trail of infection. Diagnosis and treatment are sometimes complicated, partly due to the fact that a dog does not always show specific symptoms until seriously ill and partly due to the fact that some veterinarians are unfamiliar with the types of infections these barbed seeds produce which, in turn, leads to delays in diagnosis and treatment. Some instances of these infections have led to the deaths of some fine Springers, the incidence of which seems to have greatly increased in just the past five to eight years. The common denominator of these "mean seeds" is their barbs, which are analogous to fish hook barbs and which lead to the one-way migrations. Various species of plants entail these barbs, the most prevalent being so-called "Canadian Wild Rye," "Virginia Rye," and some varieties of foxtails.

A common belief in Springer Field Trial circles—not yet substantiated by "hard evidence"—is that the escalation of this "mean seeds problem" in recent years is primarily attributable to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's inclusion of several varieties of the problematic plants on the approved list for CRP lands (as cover plants so as to provide protection for native grasses). Use of CRP lands has been important for decades for the running of Springer Field Trials or for training purposes; and, far more frequently than years ago, potential trial or training sites have had to be discarded because of the discovery of "mean seeds" on the sites. Indeed, sometimes such a discovery occurs at the last minute (as occurred at the 2007 Springer National Open, near Rochester, Minnesota).

Also on the basis of purely anecdotal information, there is a common belief in Springer Field Trial circles that, particularly in the Midwest, various governmental bodies are using mixtures of "CRP approved seeds" for other areas, which may account for some reports about Canadian Rye sprouting on land adjacent to highway rest stops. Practically speaking, all dogs (including pets) that romp through cover infested with the plants bearing the "mean seeds" are at risk, not merely gun dogs. So as to organize efforts to mitigate the "mean seeds problem," the Springer Parent Club in 2007 formed a "Grass Awn Committee," which is currently concentrating on educational steps. One such step has been the posting of key materials on the Parent Club's website. Included in the presentation are downloadable (a) articles providing medical information, (b) non-scientific articles focusing on heart-wrenching case studies, and (c) illustrative color photographs of some of the plants that entail the barbed seeds. This presentation is captioned the "Grass Awn Project" and can be brought up on the English Springer Spaniel Field Trial Association's website (i.e., [www.essfta.org](http://www.essfta.org)). There are, of course, various ways the AKC could be helpful in terms of mitigating this problem. In particular, the AKC could play an important role in educating the public about the problem, especially in terms of informing all concerned as to some of the available diagnostic and treatment information, as well as in terms of gathering more data relative to the incidence and nature of the problem. Ultimately, the AKC might be helpful in terms of leading a dialog with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the goal being the elimination of the "mean seeds" from the approved list for CRP lands. In all events, the Field Trial and Hunting Test Events Committee is analyzing numerous aspects of this problem, welcomes all input and questions, and will keep the Delegate Body advised of developments. Be sure to check out the dog club website on this.

USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database / Hitchcock, A.S. (rev. A. Chase).

1950. *Manual of the grasses of the United States*. USDA Miscellaneous Publication No. 200. Washington, DC.

## RETRIEVER REPORT

The retriever group is in its final stages of preparation for our upcoming Hunt Test on July 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>. We have our Judges all lined up, and our premium has been approved by the HRC. You can view the premium as well as enter your dog, by going to [www.huntsecretary.com](http://www.huntsecretary.com).

We are in need of volunteers to help with the event, so if anyone is interested and willing to help please let either Kerri or I know.

The test will be held in Twin Bridges on property owned by Bill Totten, and there will be camping available on the grounds near the house, as well as at the fairgrounds in Twin Bridges.

We will also be holding a Tailgate party on the grounds Saturday evening at the conclusion of the day's tests. We will be raffling of a number of items including a Gunners-up Winger and a Tri-Tronics Bark collar.

There will also be a puppy stake at the Tailgate for anyone wishing to bring their puppies out for a little fun.

Again, the HRC tests are open to all Purebred Gundog breeds. It would be great to see some of the "other" breeds represented at our inaugural event. We strive hard to make each event a fun family friendly environment. I'd encourage anyone who is interested to come out and see what the HRC tests have to offer.

For more information, please don't hesitate to contact either Kerri Payne ([jkpayne1@aol.com](mailto:jkpayne1@aol.com)) or David French (e-mail [davidf@ctagroup.com](mailto:davidf@ctagroup.com) or phone: 600-8428).

The Retriever Group continues to train Wednesday evenings at the Training grounds, and at various locations on the weekends. Please feel free to grab your dog and join us!

On June 11 I flew to Memphis TN for the Hunting Retriever Clubs annual membership meeting. Having been asked to be a assistant Field Rep. for Region 14 the Executive Committee felt it was important to have all of it's field reps. there for this meeting.

One of the many things we discussed as field representatives is the need to put the hunt back in our hunt tests. Our founder Omar Driskall asked the Representatives to please insure that our judges hold his standards that he started 25 years ago this year.

That means no more white buckets at the line, more realistic duck blinds both in the field and at the line, better use of decoys, or using decoys to start with. I guess a few places have gotten away from them because of the chore of picking them back up.

The annual meeting itself took place on June 13th with a few the club board members there to vote in our new officers. Missouri Head Waters instructed me to vote Carol Ford back in as our National Secretary for 2 more years. After the votes were counted Carol was re-elected as our secretary.

Another exciting thing is the start of a National HRC training facility in SD. This is hopeful to start a chain of new training locations for HRC members and their families in different parts of the country. There is more information on this on the HRC web site.

It was inspiring for me to hear Omar talk about why he started the HRC and he gave us a little history story of how it all came together 25 years ago this year. I encourage any member of HRC to attend this meeting each year. It gives you a full understanding of how HRC works for the members and by the members.

HRC gave out 8 scholarships and 1 grant for cancer research in our retrievers this year, the recipients will be posted in the next HRC magazine, and our president David French will be receiving a full report from Carol shortly. As members of HRC you are more then welcome to view the full National meeting Minutes and reports from each of the regions, officers, and Grand Hunt committee.

Kerri Payne and myself just got back from Missoula doing a HRC mock hunt demo for the new club over there. They have already asked for their new club package and by the time we left were talking about officers and thier by-laws. I believe will have another HRC club in Montana by the end of this year or sooner. Plus I have been getting a lot of requests on how to start a new club coming out of the ID and UT areas! I would like to thank the members of Missouri Head Waters HRC club for letting me help them path the way for HRC in this great area. I promise to not let you down in any way.

Margo Ellis  
Region 14B Field Representative.

## Letters on Animals rights Issues

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Dear MHGDC Board and Members,

Enclosed within is an email I received from Tana Kradolfer regarding some of the Animal rights issues we are facing. Be assured more are sure to come. We need a notice in the News Letter In BIG BOLD LETTERS that we need someone to carry the ball in proposing and passing dog owners and breeders rights bills in the next Montana Legislative session. I wish I was retired at this time of life as I would love nothing more than to work on conservation, hunters rights, and dog rights issues which is my intent in 2015.

I strongly suggest that the club hold a special raffle in which every member is sent \$25 to \$50 worth of tickets to either sell or buy to support the proposal and passage of Legislation (Bills) that protect and assure your rights to own, raise, train and utilize working dogs in Montana. The Humane Society (HSUS) is pushing hard to make it illegal to hunt or work any kind of dog. Which is so hard to grasp, knowing how much our dogs love to hunt, herd, trial, work and race.

While on this trail I called Bill Warden who was formally the Bozeman District 63 Representative in the House about taking a proactive stance during the next legislative session. Bill who is a staunch supporter and MHGDC member strongly recommends (see his letter to MHGDC) that, "we get into the game and that the time is now!"

While I agree we form a Montana based coalition it is important that we support the Sports and animal Owners Voting Alliance known as SAOVA. I was on the SAOVA mailing list of 5 years and know they successfully defeated many bills that tried to ban hunting with dogs. Unfortunately the animal rights front is tenacious in purpose and many battles that were won had to be fought again and again and some are still being fought.

The time to be PROACTIVE is NOW! These problems are not going away. We need someone to form and chair a committee. YOU NEED TO REACH INTO YOUR POCKET AND WRITE A CHECK AND WRITE YOUR LEGISLATORS AND GET INVOLVED. Don't think it cannot happen in Montana. In Canada (right next door) there is a movement to remove the use of all game birds from Retriever Field Trials and Field Test. Bear Hunting has been banned in a number of states and hounds may not be used in California to hunt either bear or mountain lions.

When considering you donation or level of involvement consider how much you have invested in time and money in your dogs and hunting. Then consider what it will be worth if you lose your rights to run, train, trial or work your dogs.

A check for \$100 earmarked for Working Dog Legislation has been sent to MHGDC by mail.

Sincerely,

Dale C. Spartas

**Dear Dale,**

**Here is a brief summary of what I am aware of in regards to this issue. I spent time writing senators, representatives and committees and testified at the hearing for HB548 which was the breeder bill. As of now HB 548(breeder bill) and SB221(hoarding bill) are dead.**

**But HB548 will be reintroduce in the next session along with some other bills, so we have 2 years to get our act together. I will tell you that these bills were defeated by narrow margins and some made it part of the way through the legislature before they were stopped so if you think this stuff isn't real you are kidding yourself. These bills are introduced by the HSUS, and they have a strong and healthy contingent in Montana with their regional director Dave Pauli living in Billings which is the regional headquarters. They showed up in force at the hearings and have a lobbyist and a lot of money to back them. Their cause has been helped out by the emotional knee jerk from the recent rescue of over 100 dogs from a facility near Billings. Currently, several of the people who worked really hard to defeat these bills including myself and Jan Breitenfeldt from the Montana Brittany Club) are forming a group to try to organize the fight. We don't have a name as of yet. There is a dog training in Billings who is trying to organize a new group to fight the HSUS and I think she is calling the group the Montana Dog Owner-Breeders Association. Her name is Helene Tiefenthaler, CDBC, CPDT, and she runs the Ritterkare Paws-s-tively Canine in Billings(406-628-6140).**

Also, some of us have considered contributing to the following groups who are fighting the war on a more national and regional basis. I am reluctant to send them money as I would like to see the money stay in Montana to pay for a lobbyist here. But these groups are doing a good job and maybe a state chapter could be formed through them: SAOVA which stands for "Sportsman and Animal Owners Voting Alliance"; American Sporting Dog Alliance, and PetPac. They all have websites so it's easy to check them out. If you want to see the volume of bills that the HSUS introduced throughout the country Google this listing: CFA State Bill Tracking. It was done by the Cat Fanciers

Assoc and is a real eye opener. Having helped fight this garbage off

at least for this session I have concluded that the only way we will fight them off next time is if we hire a lobbyist to help. We will need to organize all dog people from the sled dog guys to the cattle herding folks to gather enough interest, awareness and money to wage a respectable opposition. It's a slippery slope with HSUS and once they have their foot in the door they will go after the birds rights next and who knows after that. Bill Warden has been working as a lobbyist this session so I have been planning to contact him to see how much money it will take to fund a lobby effort. Also, many of us would like to see a bill of our own introduce to address the AR issue and our right to hunt and own animals in Montana. Tana No virus found in this incoming message.

### Pointer News

The pointers have been training on Thursday evenings. We have been having very good turnouts.

On June 20th we had our Pointing Dog Evaluation day. We had an exceptional turnout with 30 dogs entered which meant that we ran 15 braces. Jim Wuitila with Otis finished third. Larry Michnevich with Rusty and Tom Curtis with Chica tied for second. Tana Kradolfer with Hatch finished in first place.

The day was a great success even though it rained almost constantly which made it very nice to have the new canopy to give us some shelter. All of the dogs performed very well. It was impressive to see the number of birds found in each brace.

We had such a successful day because of all the help we had setting up, taking down, judging, and of course planting the birds. A special thanks to Tana for planting birds on horseback and to Al who came early and stayed late. The number of Pointing Dog members who participate proves that we are a very active group.

Participants during the day were:

Bill Shields with Missy and Heidi

Tom Eversman with Cloe and Midge

George Stewart with Reno

Larry Michnevich with Rusty

Jon Edwards with Buddy and Dixie

Glen Johnston with Asta and Trutz

Al Gadoury with Elle, Lady Bug and Seabiscuit

Darlene Donovan with Louie

Peter Bakun with Gallatin and Madi

Diane Bakun with Jeffe

Gary Bauer with Piper and Molly

Jim Wuitila with Coach, Otis, Ringo

Tom Curtis with Chica, Lulu and Birdie

Tana Kradolfer with Hatch and Boomer

Vol Steele with Windy

Mary Tucker with Neo

Stephanie with Cheta



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