



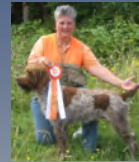
"Formed to preserve the Authentic Korthals Griffon"

www.korthalsgriffon.com

Facebook-Korthals Griffon Club of America

The club is officially a 501 (c) (6)

Officers



President:
Carol Ptak



Vice President:
Katherine March



Secretary/Treasurer:
Barbara Young

What is a Purebred Dog?

It is commonly accepted that a purebred dog is a dog with known and documented ancestry from a breed's foundation stock. A hybrid is not considered purebred, although crossbreds from the same two breeds of purebreds can have "identical qualities".

The difference is that hybrids do not breed true (meaning that progeny will show consistent, Replicable and predictable characteristics), and can only be reproduced by returning to the original two purebred breeds. Only documentation of the ancestry from a breed's foundation stock determines whether or not a dog is a purebred member of a breed."

President's Message

"But we only want a hunting dog!"

In this month's message I want to address the importance of health clearances in purchasing a genuine Korthals Griffon hunting dog. When purchasing a puppy, the price should be the last question. What you spend on that puppy will be the smallest amount you will invest in that dog over its lifetime. Consider vet bills, training bills, and food bills for comparison. When purchasing a puppy it is so important to purchase the very best you can find so that you can enjoy your hunting companion for years to come.

As many of you know I was very active in competition with my dogs and all three of my griffons are AKC champions. Two are AKC Grand Champions with each of them being a reserve best in show and one AKC Group win. All hold field titles up to the Advanced Master Hunter level and have passed the NAVHDA NA test with at least a Prize II. This is not a brag – it is another demonstration of the many things we can do with our dogs and where we spend our money. During most of these events, visitors always want to talk about your dog. How many times have we heard "I don't need a show quality dog – I don't care what it looks like – I just want it to hunt".

The reality is that the breed standard is directly tied to functionality in the field. This is where the continued breeding of the hybrids shows a significant difference. Typically, the hybrid griffons are much larger than the genuine griffons. Their coat is longer and softer and the ear set is lower. This isn't a show issue. Soft coats get caught in burrs and briars. Larger dogs just don't last as long in the field. Lower ear sets are conducive to ear infection when you use that dog for duck or geese retrieves because the ear is too close to the water. The straightness of the front reduces the reach and drive and also the lasting power in the field.

But in this column I want to talk about health testing. Personally I look for OFA hip scores. There is a great deal of discussion about OFA versus Penn Hip. There are plusses and minuses of each. I like the OFA system because the scores are public. The benefit of Penn Hip is that ALL X-rays have to be sent in but unless you are the owner nobody can find out the scores. There is no way to research what you are getting and across different breeding lines. With OFA, you can research the entire lineage of your pup before you purchase it. If I have a choice of a pup from a litter where the sire and dam are both OFA Good and all the sire's and dam's siblings are OFA good or a pup from a litter where the sire is OFA Excellent but he has a sibling that is dysplastic – my choice would be the pair of OFA Good hips. Those genes are still in there somewhere. Rather like the breeders who are testing for the ky gene and then claiming that their puppies are "authentic" Korthals Griffons because they test KBKB but sibling of the sire and dam test KBky – those hybrid genes are still in there. That ky gene is only a marker and not the problem. There is a strong correlation between hip dysplasia and the hybrid breeding.

President's Message Continued

Take advantage of the database that Barbara Young has spent her life assembling. There it is very easy to see what the siblings and multi generations of the puppy you are considering have for health clearances. The website is <http://www.herrenhausensportingdogs.com/search.html>

Once you put in one of the parents from the litter you are considering then you can click on trial pedigree and put in the other parent and see what the breeding looks like. By clicking on breeding info you can see the parents, siblings and littermates. Reverse pedigree can show you all the offspring from that dog. In all these cases, the health testing information is included. With just a few clicks you can benefit from what Barbara has dedicated her life to collecting. She has used only information that was available in the public domain such as NAVHDA testing reports, OFA reports, show catalogues and most recently pedigree books that have been published by breed clubs around the world. There are almost 24,000 griffons in this database. The database goes back to Korthals original breeding stock and contains both genuine and hybrids alike including the Cesky Fousek cross.

One of the other reasons that I prefer OFA is that the dog does not need to be sedated to be tested. I OFA all my dogs even if I don't plan to breed them. I just want to know because how those hips fit together make a very big difference in how long that dog is going to last in the field. Do not be confused if your dog can lie like a frog with their legs out directly behind them. It does not mean that dog has good hips. I have seen X-rays of dogs that can lay like that and basically had no hip socket.

The other reason is that the OFA scores are easy to understand – dysplastic, fair, good, excellent. Even I can wrap my brain around that. With the Penn Hip you get a number, which represents the spacing in the hip, and you get a percentile. The problem with that percentile is that it is calculated across three different breeds! The Cesky Fousek cross griffons report to Penn Hip as Wirehaired Pointing Griffons. The current hybrid griffons report to Penn Hip as Wirehaired Pointing Griffons. The genuine Korthals Griffons report to Penn Hip as Wirehaired Pointing Griffons. There is no way to know how your dog actually compares to its own breed! Secondly for health testing consider looking at thyroid testing and elbow dysplasia. Historically the griffon has not had elbow issues but recently the issue is increasing with the proliferation of the hybrid genes.

Beware of using test scores to compare litters. I admire breeders that test all their puppies but a Prize I can quickly go to a Prize III if there is an issue with the pheasant track. That doesn't mean that dog will not produce great pups. The key is that all the breeding stock has been tested and passed at the natural ability level. The higher levels of testing are an obedience and training exercise and not an indicator of the natural hunting ability. Given that most hunters do not spend the hours training necessary to achieve that level, it is far better to purchase from a breeder that has a history of their breeding stock being tested and passing at the natural ability level.

President's Message Continued

Personally I would also advice hunters to steer clear of the offspring of a VC (NAVHDA Versatile Champion) for two reasons. First, there has never been a genuine Korthals Griffon VC so that is a good indicator that the litter is a hybrid litter. Second, the temperament required to pass at that level is more energy and power than the average hunter can handle. Most hunters live with their dogs and when hunting season starts, they pick up their gun and put the dog in the truck and want to have a good time. All griffons need exercise. The dogs capable of doing VC work demand it. In the last AWPGA magazine I read there was an article in there from the rescue program asking breeders of these VC dogs to be extra careful of placement since a number of them were coming back to rescue because the owners just could not handle them.

You are probably surprised that I have not mentioned about having dogs tested for ky or the e locus gene. The reality is that testing is all about color and not about health. It is imperative to look at a 10-generation pedigree to determine if the litter is genuine Korthals Griffon. Do not assume that any breeding line is exempt from the impact of the hybrids. Breeders just didn't know when these dogs were imported. I give benefit of the doubt to the breeder who owned UNDER DU RUISSEAU DU MASSACRE that he may not have known that Under was a hybrid. A female can be bred by two different males and puppies born from two sires. We just didn't have the genetic testing back then that we do today to determine parentage.

Finally, purchasing a puppy is a very private decision. This article is from my perspective. I am certain I have ruffled some feathers and I think that is a good thing. KGCA is all about education and sharing information openly and honestly. I could not be prouder of the work the club is doing to educate breeder and buyers in an effort to try and preserve the genuine Korthals Griffons.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Genetic Testing Companies

VetGen Website: www.vetgen.com

3728 Plaza Drive, Suite 1
Ann Arbor, Michigan, 48108 USA

Phone: (734) 669-8440 **Toll Free:** (800) 483-8436 (US & Canada)

Fax: (734) 669-8441 **Email:** vetgen@vetgen.com

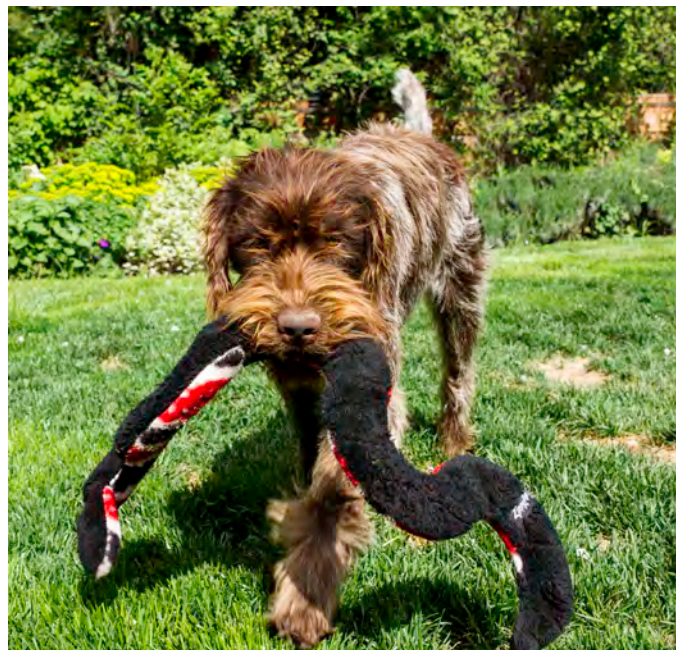
Mars Veternary Website: wisdompanel.com

Phone Support : 888-K9 Pet Test (597-3883)

7:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. PST

Monday – Friday

Vice President's Message



Again in Rattler Season

Again, the rattlesnakes are up and around for about six months here in Eastern Washington. Possibly luck is with us that for most of the other six months of the year we have ice to force us to watch where we step.

The first thing to know about rattlesnakes and your dogs is that no matter what, not time of year, size of snake, or snake vaccine, a bitten dog must always be considered an emergency. Sure, some bites are dry, but if you wait to see what happens you might carry your dog into emergency at 11:00 PM, and stand over your comatose hunting pal watching the antivenin injected into the IV, and hoping that doesn't kill him. He had been bitten while I was at a meeting, and my husband thought he looked OK—just sleeping. Sam soaked up about \$1000 that night, but lived to a ripe old age.

The second thing to know is that there are plenty of things we don't know about snakebite. Effectiveness of the vaccine is controversial because of all the variables (species of snake, size and health of the dog, recent meal for the snake, presence of antibodies from a vaccine, etc.) that render quantification next to impossible.

Anecdotal information from veterinarians tells us that they are seeing fewer serious bites, less pain, and fewer long-term effects of rattlesnake bites in vaccinated dogs. Side effects are most often uncomplicated lumps at the injection sites that resolve on their own (one of my three Griffs has had this). Although the vaccine is developed for the Northern Pacific Rattler/Diamondback, it has some effectiveness for bites of other rattlesnakes; however, although the vaccine will produce antibodies to the venom, it will not produce absolute immunity from venom of any species. Discuss the vaccine with your veterinarian because the region, your dog, its environment and its activities are major factors in the decision. In addition to that, some veterinarians do not recommend it at all.

Rattler Season Again- Cont.

There is controversy in the veterinary community regarding treatment for snakebite, particularly, prednisone, antibiotics and antihistamines. Trust your veterinarian to guide you through these choices. I have dealt with treatment of four rattlesnake bites on 3 dogs, and have been fortunate to have veterinarians that grew up in this region and have practiced here for 25+ years. I consulted one, and she asked me what I would do if I were out a few miles from a trailhead when a dog is bitten. Carrying my 45-65 pound dogs that distance is not an option. Benadryl is always with me when I am out, and she says to give that to the dog right away. What else do you do when your dog is bitten?

- Remain calm. You don't want to stress your dog. Keep the dog as quiet as possible.
- Wash the bite with clean water and soap if possible.
- Keep the wound as low as possible—at least below the heart.
- Contact your veterinarian. These events often occur after business hours, and preparing for emergency care is essential.
- Remove collars if they are restrictive, before the swelling begins.
- If you have to walk your dog, do so as calmly as possible.
- Do not use ice, a tourniquet, or electric shock, and do not try to suck out the venom.

There is no magic bullet to use to avoid this situation, but the no-brainer is to avoid snake habitat when the weather indicates snake presence. Snake aversion training is always a good idea, but remember that although we know to avoid rattlers, we can accidentally encounter them and be bitten, and dogs have the same risk. If you live in snake country, try to eliminate access to hiding places such as wood piles, hay sheds, barns, etc. Also trap out their prey, which is mostly small mammals—gophers, mice, and voles. We have an oasis in the shrub steppe, and have seen significantly fewer snakes after putting in a drift fence behind the yard. This is a strip of metal set in the ground, about 8 inches high. Snakes will take the easiest route, and most often choose to not go over the barrier.

I intend to continue enjoying hikes with my dogs in the higher, cooler forest for the summer. Don't let the snakes control your fun, and be sure to shake your boots out.



Secretary/Treasures Report

KGCA Meeting Minutes

GotoMeeting

March 15, 2016

Present: Carol Ptak, Barbara Young, Katherine March

President Reports:

Secretary/Treasurer/Newsletter Editor:

-Barbara Young gave a financial report of Feb 29, 2016 with \$737.73 in the checking account with all bills paid. Checks were written to Carol Ptak for the Webhosting fees of \$29.98 & \$44.85. Barbara donated the \$50.00 Oregon Business Filing fee.

-Barbara has received Notification from the IRS that they have changed out mailing address to the Nampa, ID address.

-The State of Oregon Cooperation Division has acknowledged our Amended Annual Report stipulating a change of registered agent to Jocelyn Trammell in Corvallis, OR

-With the help from Carol the March 2016 Newsletter was just mailed.

Meeting adjourned

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Young

KGCA Meeting Minutes

GotoMeeting

Board Meeting 4/12/2016

The meeting was called to order by Carol Ptak at 5:00 PST
Carol is still traveling with her job.

This was a short GotoMeeting online to catch up on what was happening with each of the officers and tackle any club business that was pending. The secretary/treasurer brought the other officers up to date on club expenditures of two checks written in the amount of \$74.83 to pay for the Webpage, which gave the bank account balance of \$662.90. No other expenditures had been made since the last report.

The order of business included topics on: the newsletter, renewal of memberships, date of next meeting, topics of importance for the newsletter, which might include buying a hunting dog and more training articles.

The next meeting was scheduled for May 18th at 10:00 PT

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Young

Secretary/Treasures Report

KGCA Meeting Minutes
GotoMeeting
Board Meeting May 12th

The meeting was called to order by Carol Ptak at 11:00 PST

This again was an informal meeting to keep up to date with any club business.

Carol, gave us an update on her work schedule and when she would be in the USA.

Katherine also updated on her activities and schedule in the past month and success in training with her dogs.

Barbara reported the receipt of dues from Mimi Apple and Colleen Reiss, which increased our bank balance to \$802.73 with no expenditures since the last meeting.

A report on the online database, located on herrenhausensportingdogs.com was given. The recent uploads included the German Studbook entries for the years 1984-1987 and the years 1989 -1991. The database currently has entries over 23,000 griffons from around the world that is free and available to the public for research.

In the coming weeks the German Stud books for the years 1963, 1970, 1975 will be added to the German Studbooks already in the database from the early 1900's. This will be a great resource for the breed. If there are individuals that do not see their dogs or litters, they just need to forward the registration information to Barbara Young for entry.

Next meeting scheduled for 6/15 at 11:00 PST.
Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Young

Hunting photo from Club Member



Heart Felt Condolences



To Jim and Carol Ptak

For the loss of: Ch USARA (Sara) von Herrenhausen JH

It is never easy to loose any dog but when it is the one that daily sits on your lap and shares your bed, it is much harder to say the least. (Sara) was a remarkable Griffon that contributed much to the breed as a brood bitch, hunter, show dog, and loyal companion. She produced exceptional quality in her puppies and was the hunters dream in the field. One never lost a bird with Sara!

At 5.1 mo's she completed her NAVHDA NA with 4 Nose, 3 Search, 4 Water, 4 Pointing, 4 Tracking, 4 Desire to Work, 4 Cooperation. Finished Her AKC Championship 9/11/2005 under Judge Annie Clark Invited to the AKC Eukanuba Championships in 2006



Her Contribution to the breed in offspring include:

*Ch Diva von Herrenhausen JH NAVHDA p-III
 Dylan von Herrenhausen NAVHDA P-I 112 pts
 Doc von Herrenhausen NAVHDA P-I 112 pts
 Dane von Herrenhausen NAVHDA P-1 112 pts
 Duke Fuerte von Herrenhausen NAVHD P-1 112 pts.
 Dahlia von Herrenhausen NAVHDA P-1 112 pts
 Coulee von Herrenhausen CGC Navhda P-II
 Ch Bubba von Herrenhausen NAVHDA Utility P-1, VC
 Barrett von Herrenhausen OA, OAJ, OAF, MACH
 Ch Zeinfeld Kramer V Herrenhausen JH, NAVDA P-1
 Zara von Herrenhausen JH NAVHDA P-1
 GCH, Int Ch, Uch Zerubbabel von Herrenhausen SH, MH, MHA, CGC
 And many more!*



Training Article

I looked back to see when the last training article was written. I was so surprised to see that it was over a year ago! With our move to Arizona, I don't have my normal training group anymore and although it may sound really funny, living in the middle of the mountains of Arizona with Gambel's quail running around like bugs, it has become very difficult to train. This article is about the importance of finding and maintaining a good training group.

One of the things that really impressed me when I first got into the breed were the griffon owners from Quebec who got together regularly and trained together. I never realize how important that was until I tried to start to train my own dog. You need many hands and many eyes. We were so blessed when we were in Washington State that we had the location to train and wonderful people to train with. The birds were kept at our place but everyone pitched in to help on training day.

Having a team to train with means that there are lots of dogs around which means lots of confusion and noise. That is a great thing to have especially if you are going to compete. I went through the NAVDHA judging process and saw so many young dogs really get spooked when there were more people in the field with them than just their owner. They did not test to their full potential because they couldn't handle the noise. The same is true for AKC. We had horses on the place and before anyone ran a hunt test, we would hold a mock hunt test. Better to discover your problems early than to pay your \$50 and find out there. As an AKC hunt test judge, I saw numerous JH dogs that were absolutely terrified of horses – they had never seen one!

Having a regular training group is training GOLD. It is important that you find people who have similar goals and objectives to yours. Our group split into a few sub groups because some people just wanted to go hunting while others were training at the VC level. We would publish a schedule a month ahead of time and everyone knew what we would be working on. Come training day we would coordinate what everyone needed to work on – bird introduction, steadiness, backing, drags, duck search, water introduction – whatever. It is important that one person coordinates the effort or the group will stand around and debate about things all day.

The other big advantage of a training group is that you can put the puppies, the shy dogs and the dogs with issues on the stakeout chain. That has to be the most powerful piece of training equipment there is. One of our group had a dog that was terribly gun shy. We just put her on the stakeout chain and worked dog. At the end of the first session that dog had dug itself a hole and was as far away from the chain facing the opposite direction that it could be. Nobody said a word. The owner praised the dog and took it off the chain. The next week, that dog didn't dig a hole but laid so that she looked the opposite direction. Progress! The following week, she laid there and just watched. Another week and she was looking interested so the owner led her on a check cord behind the dogs that were working. The dog's desire for bird overcame her gun shyness. Now we were VERY careful to not shoot in her direction and it took time but she regained her confidence and the last I heard she and her owner were having a lovely time hunting.

Training Article Continued

That regular training group has to have a common set of values. Our group actually started after Bill Gibbons visited our ranch to do a training seminar. He showed us how to work together and work several dogs at the same time. We took his advice and voila – there was our training group. We grew from 4 people to almost 30 people were involved before we moved to Arizona. Since our move the group has broken into a couple different pieces based on interest level. We had a group of pointing labs and they have formed their own group while the versatile gun dogs came together in their own group.

Training a dog takes a village to be successful. Reach out to a couple people and start small. You may be surprised what it will build to. For me, we are blessed to have the Arizona Pointing Dog Club. They run a field trial in similar format to a NSTRA trial. For us this is perfect. It keeps my dogs tuned up and ready for hunting season. The best part is they even have a competition class that you can run with an e-collar on. After 8 months of failing MH tests before we moved and almost 2 years of not training due to the move, it took only one correction in competition and our Sara saw the light about backing in competition. In April this year, she earned her 5th MH leg. Unfortunately, the next hunt test for us isn't until September. Understand Sara will be 13 years old in October but she is still going strong. She and I are heading up for the next AZPDC trial in June. Our other blessing here is Bill Gibbons lives in Arizona. I used to think that people were crazy driving 3 hours to train with our training group and now I drive almost 4 hours to see Bill. It is worth every minute.

Remember that training should be fun and it is even more fun when you have people around you with common objectives.

Feeding Organ Meat

Organs are an important part of a raw diet. Liver and kidney in particular are nutrient-dense and provide a great deal of nutritional value. These foods should make up about 5 percent of the total diet. Note that they may cause loose stools if too much is fed at one time. It's better to feed smaller amounts daily or every other day than to feed larger amounts once or twice a week.

Heart is nutritionally more like muscle meat than organ meat, but it is rich in taurine and other nutrients. If possible, make heart another 5 to 10 percent of the diet. More can be fed; just remember that too much can lead to loose stools in some dogs.

Other organs, such as spleen, eyeballs, sweetbreads (pancreas and thymus glands), brain, etc. are nutritious and can be added to the diet in small amounts. For more information on Home-Prepared Diets for Dogs, purchase any of Whole Dog Journal's ebook on the subject:

[Home-Prepared Diets for Dogs, Part One: Introduction to Home-Prepared Diet](#)

[Home-Prepared Diets for Dogs, Part Two: Raw Diets](#)

[Home-Prepared Diets for Dogs, Part Three: Cooked Diets](#)

[Home-Prepared Diets for Dogs, Part Four: Finer Points](#)

Pesticides

Honeybees are the critical pollinators for much of the world's food crops. They are dying at an alarming rate. Nearly 1/3 of our food supply is in danger which includes nuts, fruits and vegetables. Pollinators make possible an astounding 35% of global food production. Unfortunately the number honeybee colony in the US has declined and US beekeepers have lost over 42% of their colonies. Only a few of the major retailers are removing bee killing pesticides from their store shelves. More than 20 states have passed measures to limit or ban neonicotinoids. Breeders, kennel owners and shelters that spray pesticides need to check to see if they are using bee-killing neonicotinoid pesticides. Neonicotinoid pesticides are the leading contributor behind the bee colony collapse.

Prevent Bad Chewing Habits from the Start

Puppies are notorious for their ability to chew on anything and everything. If you're at all dog-savvy you know when you get a new puppy that despite your best efforts to manage and supervise, you're likely to lose at least one valuable personal possession to the razor-sharp implements known fondly as puppy teeth.

Puppies chew to explore their world as well as to relieve the pain and irritation of teething. What many dog owners don't seem to realize is that while puppies sooner or later get beyond the stage where they feel compelled to put their teeth on everything they see, mature dogs also need to chew to exercise their jaws, massage their gums, clean their teeth, and to relieve stress and boredom. It comes as an unpleasant surprise to many owners that chewing doesn't end at the age of six months when all of the dog's adult teeth are grown in.

Puppies develop substrate preferences for elimination in the early months of their lives, and they similarly develop chew-object preferences. Hence the inadvisability of giving your old shoes or socks as chew toys.

If you give your baby dog the run of the house and he learns to chew on Oriental carpets, sofa cushions, and coffee table legs, you will likely end up with a dog who chooses to exercise his jaws and teeth on inappropriate objects for years to come. You'll find yourself crating him frequently even as an adult dog, or worse, exiling him to a lonely life in the backyard, where he can chew only on lawn furniture, loose fence boards, and the edges of your deck and hot tub.

Instead, focus your dog's fangs on approved chew toys at an early age and manage him well to prevent access to your stuff. In this way, he'll earn house privileges much sooner in life. By the end of his first year, you'll probably be able to leave him alone safely while you go out to dinner or shopping - or even while you're away at work.

For more details and advice on ways to prevent and cure destructive chewing habits, purchase Whole Dog Journal's ebook, [Simple Ways to Prevent and Cure Destructive](#)

Tick Repellents

O.K. so here is another option:

Far be it from us to tell you to put pesticides on your dog. But we've never heard of a single nontoxic preparation that was effective at keeping ticks off all dogs. For some dogs, only the potent pesticides seem to keep ticks away. There are, however, some nontoxic products - both commercially produced and homemade formulas - that work to repel ticks well enough to consider using them as part of a comprehensive Lyme disease prevention program.

In 1994, botanist Arthur O. Tucker reviewed the scientific literature on herbs that repel mosquitoes, flies, fleas, ticks, and similar pests. He found that opopanax myrrh (*Commiphora erythaea*), the myrrh of ancient Egypt, has been shown to repel adults of the African brown ear, deer, black-footed, lone star, and American dog tick. Because opopanax myrrh is not widely sold, Tucker speculated that the more readily available common myrrh (*C. myrrha*) might have similar properties, but herbalists who experiment with live ticks report that of the herbs said to repel them, including myrrh, rosemary, and California laurel, only rose geranium (*Pelargonium graveolens*), palmarosa (*Cymbagopogon martini motia*), which has a similar fragrance, and opopanax myrrh truly repel deer and dog ticks.

CJ Puotinen, author of *The Encyclopedia of Natural Pet Care and Natural Remedies for Dogs and Cats*, describes an all-purpose repellent that will make pets (and people!) less attractive to ticks and other biting insects. She suggests blending 20 drops of rose geranium, palmarosa, or opopanax myrrh essential oil (or any combination) with three drops citronella essential oil (which repels mosquitoes) and enough vodka, neem tincture, or bay rum aftershave to dissolve the essential oils. Start with two tablespoons alcohol or tincture and add more as needed to make the oils dissolve completely. Do not use isopropyl (rubbing) alcohol. When there is no longer a thin film of oil on the surface, add one cup water, herbal tea, or aloe vera juice or gel. Apply frequently, avoiding the eyes.



It's no fun having to remove ticks from your dog during the spring and summer months. So here are some ways to keep your dog tick-free during this season.

**Spot-on Treatments- Oral Medications- Shampoos-
Tick Dips-Tick Collars- Tick Powders- Tick Sprays-
Treat the House and Garden**

Treating Tick Bites

A dog in the wrong place at the wrong time can be bit by dozens or even hundreds of ticks.

Deer ticks go through three stages of life (larva, nymph, and adult), and feed only once in each of these stages; a blood meal ends each stage.

Larval ticks dine on mice and other small rodents, but nymphs and adults are a threat to dogs.

Because they are small and their bites don't itch, ticks are easily overlooked, especially adult deer ticks and the nymphs of any species. Ticks prefer warm, moist conditions, so double-check under collars and around ears. If you aren't sure what a lump or bump is, inspect it with a magnifying glass. Warts, similar skin growths, and nipples can feel like feeding ticks.

Be careful when removing a tick to grasp it with tweezers firmly at the head, as close to the dog's skin as possible, and slowly pull straight back. Never twist, press, burn, or apply irritating substances like kerosene to an attached tick because doing so can cause the parasite to expel the contents of its digestive tract, creating an unwanted hypodermic effect.

Three-percent hydrogen peroxide, the common disinfectant, is recommended for tick bites because the oxygen it contains destroys the Lyme disease bacteria. Hydrogen peroxide can be liberally poured over bites on light-haired dogs (keep away from eyes and apply directly to the skin) but because it's a bleach, this method is not recommended for black or dark-haired dogs.

Using an eyedropper to apply hydrogen peroxide directly to the bite helps prevent unwanted bleaching.

How Antibody Titer Tests May Affect Your Decisions?

Antigens are any substance that the immune system identifies as an invader and responds to by producing a chemical defense: antibodies. When everything is working, as it should, your dog's immune system will recognize disease antigens that were introduced to his system via a vaccine (weakened or killed) or by natural exposure to the antigen that causes the disease (viral or bacterial).

A "titer" is a measurement of how much antibody to a certain antigen is circulating in the blood at that moment. The result is usually expressed in a ratio. A positive titer test result is strongly correlated with a good antibody response to either a recent infection or vaccination. A dog who has received "core" vaccines and who displays a positive antibody titer test result should be considered protected from the diseases for which he was vaccinated (meaning, he doesn't need vaccines at that time).

Your dog must undergo a blood draw in order to have an antibody titer test. Labs such as Antech, IDEXX, and most veterinary college laboratories offer these tests. Antibody titer testing is typically run for parvovirus and distemper, since the dog's antibody response to these two antigens is highly predictive as to the dog's immunologic competence in dealing with any other antigen to which he has been exposed.