

# KORTHALS GRIFFON CLUB OF AMERICA



**Merry Christmas  
&  
Happy New Year!**



*"Formed to preserve the Authentic Korthals Griffon"*

[www.korthalsgriffon.com](http://www.korthalsgriffon.com)

*Facebook-Korthals Griffon Club of America*

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

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## Issue #9 December 2014

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### Officers

President:  
Carol Ptak

Vice President:  
Katherine March

Secretary/Treasurer:  
Barbara Young



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## 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."

Source: Wikipedia

## Presidents Report

### Griffons in the UK

As most of you know I travel extensively for my work and 99.9% of the time it is all work. On a rare occasion I get to combine business and pleasure and that was the case last month. I was invited by Colleen Porter – a Korthals griffon breeder in Cheshire England. Colleen is so dedicated to the Korthals Griffon and to the puppies she has bred. Colleen is a member of the KGCA and she has also signed up all her puppy buyers – hint nudge for you breeders reading this newsletter.

On this trip I was able to accept her wonderful invitation and spent the weekend in Cheshire spending a couple training days with what are called HPR in England. A HPR is a hunting pointing retriever – in our words a versatile hunting dog. I was so pleased to have the opportunity to bring the Gibbons/West training approach to England. With some trepidation of really offending the Britts with my American ways, I packed my bags with a bunch of Gibbons collars, my own e-collars, and a variety of other training paraphernalia. I can only imagine what the guys thought when they x-rayed my luggage for security. I figured I would apologize up front and hope for the best. I thought that speaking bird dog may be sufficiently international.

There were two litters of puppies there – one a Korthals griffon litter and the other wirehaired Vizsla. On a personal note the litter of griffons was especially interesting to me since their sire is my own dog Z. The dam of the litter was there and I will attest that every single puppy looked like their father. I just knew we were going to have fun the next day. If I have learned how to train dogs it is because of Z. He is the sweetest and softest boy but at the same time has great hunting tenacity. He is the easiest of our dogs to live with and the toughest to train because he can get his feelings hurt. Z is the reason I got into the Gibbons style of training. The group was rounded out by a GWP and a Drathaar.

Getting birds was a challenge for Colleen but late the night before the training her wonderful husband Arthur was driving all over England to pick up the valuable cargo of 12 bobwhite quail (they were actually white!) and 10 pigeons. I was so spoiled training at my place where birds were only a few steps away rather than driving a couple hours. With the birds safely stored for the night behind a number of barricades to keep the dogs away we enjoyed a wonderful home cooked meal.

The next morning was a typical overcast England morning and everyone came dressed for the weather. I had to dress in traditional American hunting clothes and the Britts had a great time ridiculing my blaze orange but at least I knew they would see me. We did introductions and determined what everyone wanted to do. It was no surprise that the two big things were pointing and retrieving. When I start with any dog – I don't care how old – I always start at step 1 – bird introduction. In training my absolutely favorite thing to do is bird introduction to a young puppy. That weekend I got to introduce birds to 11 puppies!



## Presidents Report Continued

What an incredible day. It was so funny to watch, as one puppy would just jump on the bird to another that was not really interested. When a puppy wasn't all that interested we would just have the owner hold them while we worked the next puppy. . In the Gibbons approach, step 1 is that the dog has to have dominion over the bird. The participants quickly saw the difference between a point and a dog that was actually afraid of the bird. I started to feel sorry for the little quail but they did their job. Arthur showed up to see how his birds were making out and the area where we were training looked like it had snowed with all the white feathers!

Some of the dogs who were not really interested in birds watched as other dogs were worked. One bird flew by the owner of one of these puppies and the dog sure had a change in heart. The dog went after the bird and pulled the owner backward out of the chair. Everyone got a good laugh. We worked through every dog until they were successful. Then the attention turned to retrieving. I really didn't want to do retrieving that early in the day because I just knew some of the dogs would be quite verbal – remember I own and trained their father. Still, I knew that if we were going to do what the participants wanted we needed to get to it. After lunch we started the force fetch. This is a very simple first step- put the bumper in the dog's mouth – simple right?



Right!



## Presidents Report Continued P-3

One dog took 42 minutes to figure that out and another was 38 minutes. As expected there was a bunch of caterwauling and noise. I was quite happy the neighbor wasn't home. Remember that the Gibbons approach uses no pain – no ear pinch, no toe hitch – just open the mouth and put in the bumper. Griffons are usually a challenge at this step until they figure out that taking the bumper is a good idea and these young dogs were no exception. Everyone hung in there and again we got through everyone successfully.



Then off to the field to start pointing. Unfortunately we were pushing darkness so we worked until we just couldn't see anymore. Whew – what a work out! We invited everyone back the next day to see what an actual training day looks like. Colleen with wonderful hospitality fed everyone and we all sat around and talked dogs for hours. There was an amazing Scottish woman – Una – who had some awesome older dogs and had been working on NAVHDA advanced material

staying overnight. It was great to compare notes since she had a dog that had run at the Invitational that year.

The next day continued the traditional English day of grey and some drizzle but it sure didn't stop us. We hiked out to the field and with the help of Colleen's son Ben we got the pigeons appropriately tethered and we worked dogs. This has to be my other favorite part of training – when the owner sees the dog point for the first time. There is nothing better than that smile! Remember that the Gibbons approach is all about the bird and the relationship between the dog and the bird. Everyone there was amazed that every single dog pointed – and held – while the bird was flushed. Each dog got lots of work on backing as well. Most amazing was that every owner worked their own dog on retrieving – even the ones that had taken such a long time the day before decided that they really did not have a choice. The smiles were amazing and so wonderful. For me – I have seen the Gibbons approach work so well so many times that I wasn't surprised. Not surprised but still very pleased. It just doesn't get any better than that. In only a couple hours we trained 9 dogs on Sunday and every dog made progress.

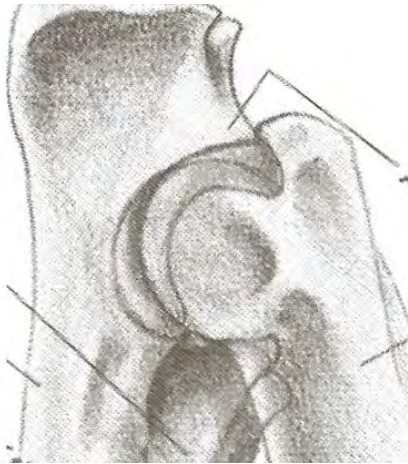


## Presidents Report Continued P-4

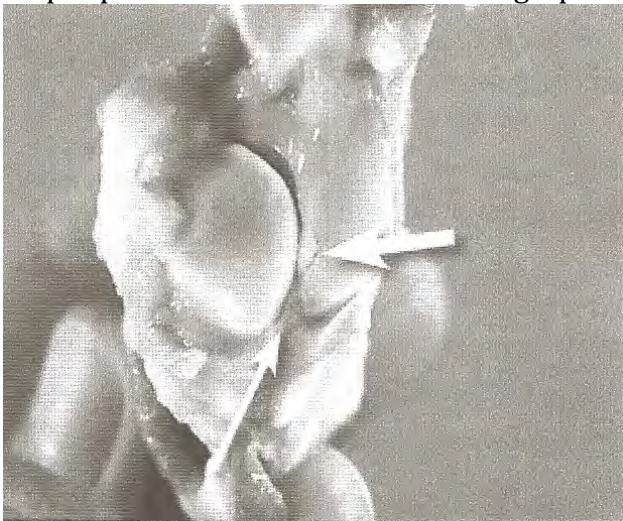
My huge thanks to Colleen for the invitation and her incredible hospitality. Now she has a pigeon loft and resident pigeons. You are welcome – you just can't train a bird dog without birds. ☺ I do hope to have the opportunity to return to see how everyone is doing and hopefully to take advantage of hunting the British way. Now for my education in British English – buck, fanny and several other common American words do not translate well to British. I will just leave it at that! It was quite interesting to be around people speaking your native language and feel like such a foreigner. Everyone there speaks so quickly that it was tough to follow but the one thing I think we all understood is what a great time the puppies had and how lucky we are to have such well bred dogs to hunt over. Until next time.



## Vice Presidents Message



Proper position of the elbow for radiograph



Irregularly formed medial coronoid process (thin arrow) and fracture of the articular cartilage (thick arrow).

### *Elbow Dysplasia Grades*

We all know that Elbows are something we need to include in our health clearances when we x-ray our dogs for breeding. This is actually fairly new in our breed since the past shows few cases of Elbow Dysplasia. So, what does it tell us?

We may not recognize the instability of the elbow joint due to elbow dysplasia prior to the x-ray but maybe the dog is not so keen to run and jump. He may not be as active as you think he should. So, what can cause this? There are several things that can be evaluated in determining if the joint is diseased or injured. That is where the x-ray comes in! If the x-ray comes back normal OFA will assign a number for the evaluation. If the Elbows are graded as Dysplastic there are several grades determined. **Grade I Elbow Dysplasia:** includes minimal bone change along anconeal process of the ulna (less than 3 mm).

**Grade II Elbow Dysplasia:** Additional bone proliferation along anconeal process (3-5 mm) and subchondral bone changes (trochlear notch sclerosis).

**Grade III Elbow Dysplasia:** Well developed degenerative joint disease with bone proliferation along anconeal process being greater than 5 mm.

## ***New Rules to Protect Flying Dogs***

*Under new rules announced by the U.S. Department of Transportation starting Jan. 1, 2015 airlines must file reports for lost or hurt animals that are being shipped commercially, such as by a breeder. In the past Airlines only had to report when a dog was lost, injured or died in transit if it was classified as a pet. Animals shipped by a breeder or as a research animal did not qualify. This new rule, it is hoped, will provide all consumers with a fuller picture of an airline's safety record than in the past. The availability of this information could in the future provide pet owners and shippers with data to help them determine which airlines to use when shipping. A petition was started for such a change after seven puppies died on an American Airlines flight from Tulsa to Chicago in August of 2010, as the airline did not have to report the deaths to the federal authorities. Zoo animals are not covered by this change and dogs and cats are the only research animals covered by the new rules but at least it seems to be a start in the right direction.*

## Secretary/Treasurer Report

KGCA Meeting Minutes

GotoMeeting

October 2014

Present: Carol Ptak, Barbara Young, Katherine March

President Reports:

The meeting was brought to order at 12:10

-A proposed letter was discussed from the previous month and a strategy was confirmed and approved.

-A suggestion was made to try to translate Carol's white paper into French, so that it would be informative to the European KG groups.

Secretary/Treasurer:

Barbara gave a financial report: Checking account ending balance on Aug 31, 2014 of \$547.38 with a membership of 20 members.

VP Report:

Katherine emphasized the importance of making the individuals with hybrids welcome in the KGCA. Our focus is on breeding better KG not eliminating breeders who do not have purebreds. It is important to realize the way to do this is thru education. There was a discussion on the breeding of the KG around the world and the new inherited diseases that are just starting to come to light. Carol noted that Fiston has SLO, which has caused him to loose his toenails, eliminating him from competition. A vast array of different cancers has also been the focus of discussion in the last year or so. As these are reported they will be entered in the herrenhausensportingdogs.com database.

Old Business:

1. No comments were received on the cookbook from members. We hope the membership will continue to send in new recipes so that a club cookbook can be made. This might develop into a fund raising project if there is enough interest.

New Business: None

The next board meeting was scheduled for: November

The next Newsletter will go out: November and then again in January.

Meeting adjourned

Respectfully submitted, Barbara Young



*The Officers would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!*

### Why Title A Dog?

Not just a brag, not just a stepping stone to a higher title, not just an adjunct to competitive scores, a title is a tribute to the dog that bears it, a way to honor the dog, an ultimate memorial. It will remain in the record and in memory for as long as anything in this world can remain. Few humans will do as well or better in that regard.

And though the dog itself doesn't know or care that its achievements have been noted, a title says many things in the world of humans, where such things count.

A title says your dog was intelligent and adaptable, and good-natured. It says that your dog loved you enough to do things that please you, however crazy they may have sometimes seemed.

And a title says that you loved your dog, that you loved to spend time with it because it was a good dog, that you believed in it enough to give it yet another chance when it failed, and that, in the end, your faith was justified.

-Sandra Mowery



## Training Article

### Training Article – November 2014

Let's review our progress and where you should be at this point. Your dog should be standing steady to the flush and the bird flying away. You can add the sound of a blank pistol with the pistol being pointed away from you or the sound of a shotgun. It is really important that the dog is very steady to this point. Do NOT start shooting birds for your dog until they have learned what you are asking. If you have someone to train with you are also working around the bird and working on your dog standing still when the bird flies away for another dog.

By now you are allowing the dog to run free dragging a checkcord but still in full dress. Full dress is having both the pinch collar on and the e-collar. Use the e-collar to remind not to punish. Never ever ever ever use the e-collar on the dog while the dog is pointing and the bird scent is in their nose. This is a guaranteed way to get a dog to start flagging or worse to start to blink birds.

If you are at this level then get someone who can hit a bird. This may sound like a simple task but you would be surprised. People who are quite good at hunting can be absolutely terrible when having to hit a bird under pressure with everyone watching. I have been through more than one hunt test where the gunners have missed every bird but I digress. Allow the dog to run free and establish its own point. At that point you walk forward to flush the bird and have the gunner walk forward with you. Have someone stand on the checkcord behind the dog. The dog should be sufficiently steady to allow everyone to get to their desired position. You should have your e-collar transmitter in your hand set on a low level ready to go.

You never want the gunner shooting over you or your dog. Always bring the gunner forward with you. Watch the wind because the bird will usually take off into the wind. Of course if you are in a gale force wind they will quickly go with the wind. That is yet another interesting hunt test story.

When the bird flies have the gunner shoot the bird dead with one shot. Just the sound of the shotgun is exciting for the dog. You have introduced this already. However when there is a shot and the bird suddenly drops from the sky, a dog that has been previously 100% steady will likely forget all about it and run towards the bird.

This is where timing comes in. Remember you have your assistant standing on the check cord so that the dog will not self reward by getting the bird. If the dog does run forward it will be quickly stopped both by the check cord and by the nick on the neck from the e-collar. If the dog does not run forward to go after the bird then you walk forward and pick up the bird and bring it to the dog and toss it to them as a reward. Keep your finger on the e-collar and make sure the assistant does not step off the check cord. You want to establish the correct behavior. This is very important that you do NOT allow the dog to run to the bird. Remember for every 10 birds you work around the dog gets to point ONE. For every 10 birds pointed you shoot ONE. For every 10 birds shot they get to retrieve ONE. This will eliminate the anticipation of allowing the dog to get every bird shot for them. Tossing the bird to them still gives them the reward of feathers in their mouth. These are bird dogs – they want the bird. As you toss the bird give the dog an "OKAY" or "GOOD DOG" so that they know they are doing well.

This process usually does not take very long. They pretty quickly figure it out if you are consistent what the desired behavior is and what the reward will be. Again don't overdo it – especially with a griffon. We love to see them work but at this point it is better to leave them wanted more and doing things correctly. This process usually does not take very long. They pretty quickly figure it out if you are consistent what the desired behavior is and what the reward will be. Again don't overdo it – especially with a griffon. We love to see them work but at this point it is better to leave them wanted more and doing things correctly. Do not deliver failure from the jaws of success!

Griffons do not do well with a high number of repetitions. Better to do it once correctly and then quit and train another day. Too many times repetitions will get the dog to do things incorrectly and now you have dug yourself a training hole. At the same time at home you have been working with your retrieving. Hopefully by now your dog is force fetched and consistently retrieving whatever you are sending it for. Do NOT send your dog for a retrieve at this point. Make sure they are 100% in their job of standing still before sending for the retrieve. Putting the two things together too quickly can really dig a big training hole.



## Training Article

### Training Article Continued

If the dog is not fully force fetched or the dog is not fully steady can cause confusion on what the reminder is for coming from the e-collar. Don't be in a big hurry. This is the time to go slow to go fast later on.

Happy training. Hope you are enjoying your hunting season.

