

KORTHALS GRIFFON CLUB OF AMERICA

Old Dogs



Formed to preserve the
Authentic Korthals Griffon!

www.korthals-griffon.us

Facebook-Korthals Griffon Club of America

ISSUE 2 - JUNE 2013

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.”

Source: Wikipedia

President's Message

Hunting in the Amboise Forest

France

In my "other job" – the one that pays for my dog habit, I have to travel extensively. In over two decades of traveling where all I usually see is the inside of airports, taxis and hotels, I was invited to participate in a hunt in France. Specifically this hunt was in the Amboise forest – the forest that once belonged to the king of France. Never consider for a moment that this is not like our kind of hunting. We would be stag hunting following a pack of 45 French Stag Hounds sitting in an English saddle on a trotting horse for a normal hunt duration of 5 or 6 hours without stopping. Never consider for a moment that I had never actually ever sat in an English saddle, had no idea on how to post, did not have the appropriate clothes to participate or the riding skills to sit a trotting horse for 6 hours. Of course I jumped at the chance and said YES!! I packed my helmet and pieced together an outfit and off to France I went a couple days early for my normal business trip.

Of course being an American was the source of significant interest for the whole hunt club. I don't speak a word of French and most of them did not speak a word of English. Somehow we all communicated and there are insufficient words in either language to describe the experience. "Magical" is probably the closest to describing the day. We started the day with the report from the early riders on where they had seen stag. Yes, these are wild stag. Then the head of the hunt club decided where we would start from and off we went in the cars to start. After mounting, you quickly are transported back to an earlier day with the sound of the hounds and the horns. People from town follow the hunt in cars, on bikes and on foot. The whole town and many tourists turn out for one of these hunts to watch and take pictures.

This hunt club was restored just after World War II by the gentleman in the picture with me. I asked to take a picture with him and of course he was gracious.



He then asked me a question and I figured it was either "Did I ride?" or "Do I hunt?". I guessed correctly that the question was "do I hunt" and I said "oui" in my best French and then proceeded to make like a bird with my hands. Then I said "griffon" and showed him the picture of my Z (GCH Zerubabel von Herrenhausen MH) and he got very excited and immediately said "KORTHALS GRIFFON". Again I said "oui" and he nodded and said "C'est Bon" – "very good" Before we were an hour into the hunt on the horses I became known as the "lady with the griffon" and different riders would trot up and ask to see Z's picture on my cell phone. Trust me that is not a trivial thing to accomplish when you are trotting behind a pack of hounds. I figured if they could play a French horn and ride I sure could show a couple pictures. During the hunt I discovered that a couple of the hunt club members also had Korthals Griffons. The breed was well respected as the ultimate hunting dog and for not losing any game.

We were not as lucky with the stag hounds. After 5 hours of riding after the stag, the dogs lost the scent. The stag we were after pushed his way through a herd of does and confused the dogs. We circled for another 90 minutes and then the hunt master called the hunt.

President's Message Continued

During the day we had seen many does, a pack of wild pigs and some incredible scenery. Then off we rode to stable the horses and then back to the hunt club to toast the hunt with champagne and eat cheese, potted meat and generally a whole bunch of stuff that I had no idea what it was but trust me it was delicious. Once you mount up in the morning you don't stop to eat or drink. At about the 6 hour mark my blood sugar dropped and I was certain I was coming off that horse - voluntarily or involuntarily. My choice was voluntary and when I dismounted to sit down for a minute there must have been four chocolate bars pushed at me. (they did have a tough time finding a glass for water since all the available cups were full of wine - did I mention everyone turns out for the event??) The chocolate was that heavenly French dark chocolate. YUM!! When I said that if all I had to do to get chocolate was to get off the horse I would have gotten off sooner - Americans find that really funny - the French did not understand why that was funny.



The "lady with the griffon" was treated just like I had been part of the club for years. At the end of the evening I had several invitation to come back and join the hunt again. I hope the next time I will get to see some of the other Korthals Griffons as well. My hostess was very surprised and pleased to see I could walk the next morning (honestly I was VERY surprised as well!) C'est bon!



A note from the Vice President

Hybrid or Purebred: Is the dog a Korthals?

Wouldn't we all be happy if the perpetuation of the Korthals Griffon were simplified into a genetic test that would determine whether a dog was a purebred or hybrid before it is bred? This is not the case. Although there are labs that test dogs' genetic samples in order to match the material to baselines that have been carefully established for numerous breeds, and the Wirehaired Pointing Griffon is one of these, we can have no confidence of identification of purebred Korthals Griffons from that test.

In fact, we have every reason to assume that the baselines established by the labs are from using samples taken from hybrids: Both the non-AKC breed with the same name that is a cross of the Korthals with the Cesky Fousek; and the hybrid now a major concern within the Wirehaired Pointing Griffon AKC breed. Number of samples, name of dog, owner of dog, and registration numbers, if even still available (labs have merged, and changed ownership), are confidential. Failure to separate out the hybrids is not through the fault of the lab. We do not know if AKC registration was required, and that would rule out the Cesky Fousek crosses. Also the tan point gene was not the red flag that now suggests a hybrid dog.

It is important to note that although tan point is known to be an indicator of a hybrid, this is the only trait that has become controversial, and that is due to the visibility. Not all hybrids show the tan point, and with the crosses, since half the genetic material comes from each parent, there are invisible traits that we cannot identify. There is anecdotal evidence from good sources that tell us that some diseases and conditions are present in the breed now, although for decades they were not. Thus simply breeding for no tan points will not make a hybrid a purebred. Any currently existing data regarding inheritable health issues is inconsistent and biased, and thus even if future data were acquired using scientific methods, there would be no way to compare the past and future sets in order to quantify the diseases or pedigrees.



So how do you know if a dog is hybrid or purebred? Based on the above, one might assume that is daunting. However, by doing some research you will find there is a way. Become familiar with basic genetics, and see that you can trace a dog's ancestry by looking at the pedigree analysis created by Carol Ptak (See below).

For more information see the following references. You will find links to these papers as well as others at:

<http://griffonhealth.com/>

Allen, Ann. The Importance of Breed History , AKC Gazette, April 2012

Perry, Colin. When is a Korthals Griffon 'Not' A Korthals Griffon, And What Would Eduard K. Korthals Say...?, March 2012.

Perry, Colin, Korthals Griffon-Understanding the French "quatr'oeille", July 2009.

Ptak, Carol, Wirehaired Pointing Griffon-Breed Improvement or Destruction? White paper, 2012.

Katherine

Secretary/Treasurer Message



Spring is here and the need for me to put the house projects to the side and get out and do so dog training has been on my mind. I was pleased with the young male (Flynn) I kept from my last litter this last hunting season. He was confident and searched well. As that confidence as grown there is a need to steady him up on his birds. What's nice is that he is a Griffon and it is an easy task. I'm sure many of you are thinking the same thing!

To KGCA business...the club is growing by leaps and bounds! If you have friends of puppy buyers that you would like to have join please send me their names & addresses and I will get information out to them. It has been a slow process but we are getting the all of the foundation work in starting a non-profit taken care of now. We are also taking historical material to develop our breed standard (keeping it as historically accurate as possible), establishing a timetable for club events, and a workable constitution. If you have something to share, please don't hesitate to get it to me, or one of the officers.

Barbara Young

Members Questionnaire

We are trying to schedule a time when we can all get together!

Carol has volunteered her ranch where we can do field events/training which is located in Centralia, WA. Please copy this questionnaire and return it to me. Thanks Barbara

Name: _____

_____ Email _____

Could you come? Yes _____ NO _____

Dates Suggested are: July 13th or July 14th Yes _____ NO _____

(Other AKC events are scheduled for this time)

Mid September 2013 Yes _____ NO _____

(A pheasant hunt might be possible!)

Is there a better time for your? Date _____ Location _____

Korthals Griffon Club of America

Board Meeting 3/26/2013

Present: All officers in attendance and meeting called to order at 9:00am through Jointomeeting.com.

President Carol Ptak called the meeting to order at 9:05

The Agenda:

1. Advertising for the Club- Several possibilities were discussed. Barbara will look into cost of Dog related Magazine Advertising and get back to the board.
2. A current financial report was given by the Treasurer.
3. A date was discussed for the clubs first Annual Meeting. The date of Saturday July 13th was selected. Carol Ptak volunteered to hold a field event at her ranch with lots of dog activities available that weekend. A full list of events will be sent to the membership. Items on the agenda will include membership approval of KGCA Constitution and Breed Standard.
4. A logo for the club was discussed with Carol providing information on a contact she has who is working on several drawings. The logo will be used for the club website and correspondence.
5. A schedule for the KGCA Newsletter was discussed. A Newsletter will be sent by email every other month. Barbara will continue until an Editor is found.
6. The historical book Le Griffon D' Arrét A Poil Dur Korthals by Jean Castaing was discussed. This book is the foundation for the material establishing the KGCA and the framework for the KGCA Standard of the breed. It gives the foundation for not allowing red or tan markings by establishing them as an indication of a hybrid mix.
7. Barbara will also research breeding stock with pure lines within the database on her web site. The KGCA does not endorse or approve any breeding stock but the suggestion has been made to add a stud dog and brood bitch database to the information provided online by the club.

The motion was made to adjourn at 10:00 am.

Respectfully Submitted,

Barbara Young

Secretary/Treasurer

New Field Training Column!

by Carol Ptak

Questions: So when should I start training?

In our last board meeting, we decided it would be a good idea to start a column dedicated to training. Since we are building our club the rest of the board voted that I should start the column. The intention of the column is not that my way is the only way to train a griffon. We would love to share what is working or not working in your training program.

I train for a variety of events (agility, obedience, rally, tracking, conformation) but in this column I will stay focused on field training since that is my number one priority. My dogs teach me daily new things about field training. At the risk of alienating people, I view the NAVHDA green book as a "How NOT to" manual. It is my opinion that this approach is far too hard on the dog. I used that book and several seminars as my bible training my first griffon. To the day that dog died he never did recover his pointing style. The method negatively affected my relationship with my dog and I knew when I got my second griffon that he would never take the abuse I heaped on my first dog with whoa posts and breaking tables. Thankfully I was introduced to Bill Gibbons. Bill Gibbons is considered the Magic Man of field dogs. Bill is best known in the American Field circuit and learned on Vizsla - another tough breed to train. Generally my approach is the Gibbons/West training approach - a very soft and quiet approach. The Gibbons/West approach is a complete approach for field training. I leveraged the knowledge of other people to learn the other training approaches for things like duck search.

In this first column the subject is when do you start training. I have been fortunate to get two puppies from a breeder that starts the puppies at 5 weeks old with pheasant wings. Both of these puppies could point before I brought them home at 8 weeks old. That being said, I have also had the privilege of getting a retired brood bitch over 6 years old who had 4 litters (total of 44 puppies) and had been hunted using just natural ability with little formal training. That last puppy is now one leg shy of earning his AKC Master Hunter Advanced (MHA) and the brood bitch needs only 2 legs to get her MH (you need 6 legs when you skip senior).

I don't write this to brag but rather to show that a training method like the Gibbons/West approach works for a dog of any age with remarkable results. The goal is to have control without yelling and screaming and keep all the style that is natural to the breed. The idea that you will lose style in the steadying process is really quite outdated.

Training Continued

I have watched this remarkable process routinely steady dogs under a year old and work as effectively with older dogs that have washed out of other training approaches.

The short answer to the question posed in the title of this segment is - it doesn't matter how old they are when you start. The most important thing is the method, not the dog's age.

A requirement in either AKC MH or in NAVHDA UPT or UT is that the handler should be quiet. Yelling and screaming "whoa" will cost you in points but more importantly it will cost you birds in the field. Pheasant and quail have excellent hearing and the quieter you can be in the field the better chance you will have of finding birds.

The Gibbons approach is based on the Pavlov approach. Remember how Pavlov rang the bell and fed the dog. He rang the bell again and fed the dog again. It didn't take many repetitions for the dog to salivate when the bell was rung.

Another silent approach to training dogs was developed by Delmar Smith. I have had the honor of attending a few Rick Smith seminars. My training approach blends points from both. There are three rules in training dogs:

- 1 - be disciplined enough to be consistent
- 2 - have a clear picture of what the expected behavior is
- 3 - do not accept less

That is about it! Those three little steps will get you where you need to go in training. Noticed I never said they were easy?

Step 1 in training a bird dog is that the dog must realize they have dominion over the bird. Many dogs will look like they are pointing but looking carefully you will recognize that the dog is actually afraid of the bird. You can tell the difference because of which way the dog is leaning. If they are stopped and leaning towards the birds - the dog wants the birds. If they are stopped and rocked back in their stance, then they are afraid of the bird.

The absolutely worst thing you can do is to pick up that bird and throw it AT the dog. Imagine if you were afraid of something and somebody picked it up and threw it at you?

For this step I use small Tibetan quail. These little quail are great because they flutter and fly a few yards and settle down again. If quail are not available then we use pigeon squeaks. They make really cool noises and can get the most reluctant dog interested. We put the bird down and let the puppy inspect it. Usually there is one of three reactions. One is that the dog will jump on the bird and try to eat it. Great - you are off to step 2.

The second reaction is that the dog will be interested but rocked back. If this is the case then kick or toss the bird AWAY from the dog. Usually they will give chase. Continue this game for a couple tosses. Let them catch the bird if they want. To get out of step 1 the dog needs to WANT the bird. You are better off ending the lesson when the dog still wants to keep going. You will get more done if you quit earlier.

The third reaction is that the dog will tuck his tail and run the other direction. Don't worry - all is not lost.

At this point get a dead bird. **DO NOT SHOVE THE DEAD BIRD IN THE DOG'S FACE!!**

That is the number one error made by trainers. All you will accomplish with that approach is to make the dog like birds even less. Play with the dead bird by pulling it away from the dog and then toss it a short distance away from the dog. Repeat this game a couple times until the dog starts to chase the dead bird. When this happens then quit for the day. Next time out start with tossing the bird away from the dog. If the dog is still interested then try a live bird. You may be very surprised at a very different reaction.

At this point of the training, be very patient. You do not want to reinforce any fear or introduce any command. Never use "NO" with a dog on a bird. Patience here will pay off later.

Until later.... Carol Ptak

Revisiting History “Origin of the Griffon”

(Quotes from the American Hunting Dog by Warren H. Miller 1919)

Question: Could you please tell me the origin of the pointer, griffon and foxhound? Vincent Nixon.

Answer: All three developed from the coursing hound of the Middle Ages. The early pointing hounds of 1750-1800 had the bushy tail of the modern foxhound curled on high, thin muzzle and other houndy characteristics, which changed as the breed was established as a pointer. The griffon is a French breed undoubtedly descended from the Russian wire-haired pointing hound. He resembles a shaggy pointer with wirehair and docked tail. Another breed not to be overlooked by American sportsmen is the French pointing Griffon.

In 1916, for the first time, one of them ran in one of the great field trials and gave such good account of himself that one of the best Llewellins had to stretch himself to make good against him.

This Griffon, Homere's Jack, was run in the National Capitol Field Trials. He drew a crack Eugene M. Glean dog, Tip Top Merry Boy (Mike M. Glean's Belle). Every one was anxious to see how the Griffon would make out in comparison with a crack Llewelin. The Frenchman did very well, for, while Merry Boy was full of class and had plenty of speed, the Griffon was right after him. Unfortunately no birds were found during the heat, so the trial was quite inconclusive. Homere's Jack is by Homere-Fileuse de Merlimont, a steel-gray pointing Griffon. I have noted these dogs carefully at bench shows and know them from puppyhood up. The logical minded French claim that their sporting dog is the best all-around field dog in the world, since he is as good a pointer and bird-finder as he is a retriever (and we all know how lots of the finding of grassed birds is often left to us by our crack pointers and setters), and his double coat makes him impervious to cold in swimming after ducks. It will probably take several generations of American breeding to develop in the French dog the combined speed and nose required of a field trial winner, but the fancy in this country is in good hands, notably Mr. L. A. Thebaud. The Griffon is not a handsome dog, compared to either pointer or setter. His head is heavy and square-lined, his coat is wire-haired and grey with black spots, and in general he looks like a cross between the Airedale and a blue belton setter. His tail is always docked for the same reason in looks that a terrier's tail is docked. The wire-haired coat is, like that of the Airedale, double, with a vest of fine downy hair underneath, making the dog able to plunge into icy water after ducks like a Chesapeake, and enabling him to withstand the rough going in briers and wet underbrush that would soon put either setter or pointer to shivering and flinching. Mr. Thebaud, who spent much of his time in France hunting with the French- American painter, Rosseau, became much impressed with the possibilities of the Griffon as the dog in our country to solve the problem of a good all-around dog on both upland game and wild fowl. There is no question that the Griffon both points and retrieves under unusual conditions, both of which the Chesapeake cannot do, and for an all-around sportsman who can afford but one dog the Griffon should claim very serious consideration.

The family began in our country with Kob de Merlimont, imported by Mr. Thebaud, to whom were later added Homere and Fileuse de Merlimont, parents of the 1916 entry, Homere 's Jack. Of the German strain of Griffons we have Bolero von Gimbsheim, Korthals and Passe-Partout. There are but few Griffons advertised for sale.

Mr. G. Van Morgan, of Denton, N. C, maintains a kennel of Griffons, and Mr. Thebaud, of Morris- town, N. J., will occasionally part with a dog to one who is sincerely interested in advancing the name and fame of the Griffon in America.

Dr. Ilyus, of Lancaster, Pa., not only has Griffon puppies for sale, but offers two good ones at stud, Flambeau Planig (Le Capitaine Fracasse ex Anna Planig), a German Griffon, and Bolero von Gimbsheim, noted above, by Ch. Eabot ex Diana von Gimbsheim.

Note: As one can see the idea of the KG has developed over the years. There are many different thoughts about the historical development of the breed. This is just one, taken from a USA magazine during the early 1900's. The recognized International opinion is found in the book written by Jean Castaing titled “Le Griffon Korthals”.

Korthals Griffon Club of America

“Preserving the purebred Ultimate Hunting Companion”

Membership Application

\$30 per year per individual \$35 per year per household

Name(s) _____
As you wish the mailing label to read.

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone Numbers: Home (____) _____ Work (____) _____

Fax (____) _____ Email address:

Your interests are: _____

What would you like to see, do or get from KGCA? _____

Make your checks payable to: **KGCA**

Mail to:
KGCA
2610 Quince St
Eugene, OR 97404-2029

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL IS DUE ON OR BEFORE January 31.

By this application you agree to the club objective of maintaining and breeding only the purebred Korthals Griffon. This is defined by the pedigree of the individual dog.

JOIN THE KGCA

A Club dedicated to retaining the Authentic Korthals Griffon as a hunting dog!



KGCA

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