

KORTHALS GRIFFON CLUB OF AMERICA

"Formed to preserve the Authentic Korthals Griffon"



www.korthalsgriffon.com

Facebook-Korthals Griffon Club of America

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



November 2017

Officers



President:
Carol Ptak



Vice President:
Katherine March



Secretary/Treasurer:
Newsletter
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

President's message

Hunting Season!!! This is the time that we wait for all year. This is the time to get out into the field and enjoy your Korthals Griffon. There is nothing better than those long walks watching your dog work the wind and the objectives to find those birds.

Autumn has always been my favorite season. I think maybe part of it is that it is my birthday in October and my mother still tells the story of my father sitting on the chair by the phone while she was in labor crunching one of those crisp fall apples. The crunch of those apples, the crunch of the leaves under your boot, the bite of cold in the air, the musky smell of hunting gear coming out after being stored all year – all contributes to the magic of the season.

Of course here in Arizona the day time temperatures are still in the 80's or low 90's – hard to believe it is November. We live in the area that has Gambel quail – and LOTS of them. They are like bugs around here. It is funny how we used to drive 5 hours one way in Washington State and feel lucky if we saw 2 or 3 quail. Now I drive out the road to head to town and see 2 or 3 dozen of them. I only wish I could hit those little buzz bombs and the dogs and I would be out more often. Still, I think we will get out soon.

This is the time when all your training pays off and you get to enjoy the fruits of your labor. Please let us hear from you with your favorite hunting stories and of course your favorite game recipes. We would love to get together a KGCA recipe book for distribution.

This is also the time of year for your dues to renew. The Facebook group is growing daily and that is wonderful. Facebook has allowed us to get education about the purebred authentic Korthals Griffon and the impact of the outcross into the market. Won't you consider becoming a paying member to support the objectives of the club:

- (a) to encourage and promote quality in the breeding of purebred genuine Korthals Griffons and to do all possible to bring their natural qualities to perfection;
- (b) to urge members and breeders to accept the approved KGCA standard of the breed as the only standard of excellence by which the Korthals Griffon shall be judged;
- (c) to do all in its power to protect and advance the interests of the breed by encouraging sportsmanlike competition at all events which the breed may qualify for.

100% of your dues goes to the club objectives since the entire board is 100% volunteer. Go to <http://www.korthalsgriffon.com/> to join or renew on line.

Yours in dreams of safe, successful hunting !

Carol Ptak
President

Vice President's Message

BIO

Katherine March was born in Seattle, and moved to Wenatchee, in Central Washington State nearly 25 years ago. She studied Zoology and English Literature at the University of Washington, and until an early retirement 14 years ago, worked at the University of Washington, Woodland Park Zoo, and Washington State Fish and Wildlife Department.

Through her career she worked with everything from insects to elephants, rain forests to desert, Puget Sound to ponds, but has remained partial to dogs and horses. For 40 years she has never been more than 6 months without a hunting dog. Until the first Wirehaired Pointing Griffon came to own her 15 years ago, Labrador Retrievers were, and still are one of her passions. Her management of animal populations focuses now on the Korthals Griffon. Her two Griffons are family dogs that also hunt, hike and run agility. She lives with Korthals Griffons, Coulee and Devi, her husband, a quarterhorse, and Friesian Sporthorse enthusiast.

Hypothyroidism II: testing

Our last issue summarized symptoms of primary hypothyroidism. When symptoms arise it is of utmost importance to partner with your veterinarian when evaluating the condition of your dog, and determining and interpreting necessary testing. Keeping up with technology is difficult for the veterinarian, and although most are up-to-date on testing and protocols, the owner needs to have at least an understanding of the options and the language in order to be the best advocate for the dog. This newsletter cannot be a textbook for the complicated testing and interpretation for hypothyroidism, and your veterinarian will be the ultimate person to help your dog.

A good source of information is W. Jean Dodds and Diana R. Laverdure's *The Canine Thyroid Epidemic: Answers You Need for Your Dog*, Dogwise Publishing, 2011. The internet is full of thyroid information, but you must use caution in relying on dubious sources, as well as possibly outdated ones. The Orthopedic Foundation for Animals (OFA)(www.ofa.org), which oversees a registry of thyroid testing, has recommended testing protocol, as well as a database that is particularly useful for breeders.

The OFA registry is a tool to reduce the incidence of autoimmune thyroiditis, by providing data for breeders to use in making decisions in the breeding programs. It is also useful to people in search of a dog, to see some testing results; however, not every dog that is tested for thyroid disease is entered into the OFA database. Elevated Canine Thyroglobulin Autoantibodies (TgAA) are present in the serum of dogs with autoimmune thyroiditis, which is the heritable form of hypothyroidism, which is as much as 90% of hypothyroidism. TgAA prescreening as a minimum should be conducted on all dogs used for breeding to prevent passing along thyroid disorder to the offspring. Since there is a variable onset of the presence of TgAA, OFA recommends testing once a year for the first four years, and then every other year. Of course you don't breed a dog that potentially will pass this on to its offspring, unless there are circumstances that may affect the viability of the breed.

The take home advice is to do your homework in order to work with your veterinarian in the best capacity possible, and to do your research in choosing a breeder or a dog.

Katherine



Secretary/Treasurer

KGCA Meeting Minutes
GotoMeeting
October 19, 2017

Present: Carol Ptak, Katherine March, Barbara Young

President Reports: General welcome and update.

Vice President Report: Reported on the new article written for the coming newsletter on Massage and its benefits for dogs.

Secretary/Treasurer/Newsletter Editor:

1. Bank balance \$1, 239.48 (9/30/17)
2. The next newsletter was scheduled for the week of October 22-28th.

Old Business:

1. Policy of tail docking re-emphasized.

New Business:

1. A discussion was held on changes to the current standard in regards to tail length and the inclusion of tan point as a color. The KGCA has a current policy on both issues. If a change in the current AKC standard should be made by the AWPGA, the club will address the issue at that time.
2. A change has been made in the administration of the German Griffon Club with the death of the previous Director. A new direction and policies are expected with a new administrator.
3. A discussion was held on items currently affecting the health of the Griffon.
 - a. Lick lesions & hot spots- home treatments might include-Vick Vapor rub or Listerine mouthwash as a disinfectant along with Vet treatment.
 - b. Ear Problems with current recommended treatment.
 - c. Fleas- with possible home treatments of mint spray as a repellent.
 - d. Hen flea's or stick tight fleas, which are commonly found on birds- that may also attach to dogs.

Next meeting was scheduled of Nov. 21 at 10:00.

Meeting adjourned
Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Young



Fear Imprint Periods

Fear Imprint Periods

We did not have a train wreck, but two-year-old Devi panicked at her first visit to our new dog park. She has matured into a bold, confident dog, but is a bit of a country bumpkin since hiking and hunting are her passions as well as ours, and we live in a rural area. The donated acreage between the Columbia River and the railroad tracks has just opened, and we went with her pal Coulee, and three other dog friends to check it out, and introduce her to a new environment. We had the park to ourselves. They had all romped for about a half hour when Devi ran to me, jumping on me frantically (huge rule breaking). A freight train was loudly rolling by, shaking the ground under us. The other dogs ignored the train. A friend mentioned fear imprinting periods—something I had never heard of. When a new house cleaner showed up one day—a tall, hairy guy with a mop and vacuum—she bounced around and would not let him touch her. It was time to look closer at this

A shotgun over the head is a great thing for Devi, so she is not sensitive overall to loud noises. The train and vibrating ground were new and alarming. Part of her early socialization included walks on the pedestrian path that runs along the river to the dog park. Although she significantly calmed down after the train passed, she was on alert until she felt safe in the car.

Hunting dogs are bred to be reactive—always aware of surroundings, and able to respond with quick action when there is an alert called for. Rather than attempting to determine what causes these fears, or if it is a “fear imprinting period”, we need to learn how to appropriately deal with this:

- Stay calm and relaxed. Your dog picks up on everything from your voice, body language, eye movement, breathing, to the tension on the leash. Act the way you want your dog to, not the way you don't want him to. You may try a dry run on the “no big deal” attitude.
- You won't be creating a stress eater by using treats to associate that train, or whatever the boogie man is, with some goodies. Carry a favorite treat with you, and only give it when the treat comes, neither before nor after, in order to make the connection between the fearful moment and the treat. Remember that praise is a reward too.
- Don't force the dog to deal with fear by forcing him to approach it. That is a giant step backward in desensitizing. If you have the opportunity to back the item away from the dog, you may convince the dog that he is reacting to prey rather than predator. We have done this with the house cleaner. The dog is likely to step towards the source. Don't make a big deal out of this by pushing it for very long. You can always come back to it. Drilling is not something that Griffs respond well to, since it gives the impression that they have not done it right.

Never, ever, no way do you punish a dog for being fearful. That will push the panic button even harder.

Counter Conditioning, if it fits the situation, is excellent. In Devi's case, we will hang out a larger distance from the railroad tracks, and share treats as we watch the trains go by. Then we will get closer, and closer, and closer...

Your Griff may always be reactive, and you may always appreciate that, but when it comes to panic, spooking or aggressiveness, be away that there is a recipe for warming up that dog to new situations.

Katherine



Training Article

You may be wondering why there is a training article in the hunting edition of the newsletter.

Hunting season is absolutely the best training time and a great time to fix many training problems. What is the secret?? Wild birds!!! Nothing trains the dog better than the bird. The bird tells the dog when they are too close because they flush. This is the opportunity to work on your stop to flush but before we go there let's remember the three key rules of dog training.

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

Going hunting should be a natural extension of your training. Let's focus on one of the key skills – when the bird is in the air, their feet stop moving. To this point you have been training with the dog "fully dressed". The e-collar is right behind the ears and the pinch collar is back towards the shoulders. The transmitter to your e-collar to this point should have been left in the truck. Now it is time to get it out and begin to use it. You have established a point of contact with the use of the leather spike collar. Now it is time to transfer that to the e-collar. Never use the e-collar to teach – only to remind. Start by walking the dog and doing a little tug with the pinch collar. The dog should stop. You should be able to walk around the dog and the dog should stay still. If you can't do that then continue to leave the e-collar transmitter in the truck until you can. Once the dog is reliably stopping on the little tug then turn the e-collar to the lowest possible setting and do the little tug and hit the e-collar nick button at the same time. The dog should stop and you should be able to walk around them. After that is successful then just do the nick with the e-collar a fraction of a second ahead of the tug on the pinch collar. Timing is critical. You want to give the dog the opportunity to stop to the nick before you do the tug. Some dogs figure this out in one session. Others are more creative in their attempt to figure it out. Do NOT do this more than 2-3 times in a session and no more than twice a week. The griffon will not tolerate repetition.

Remember that thing about griffons being really smart. Making them repeat something over and over again in the same session will encourage them to start to improvise with some undesirable behaviors.

When you start hunting, do not be surprised if they act like they never have seen a day of training in their life when they realize they are running free. Remind them of the correct behavior with a small nick on the collar. The e-collar is nothing more than check cord that reaches a mile away. If you have done the process step by step, you will be amazed at how wonderful your dog looks and how reliable they are on their birds. This is the kind of hunting partner you want to have.

Hunting season should be enjoyable for both of you – and it can be if you each know your job. Now – probably time for you to head to the shooting range to tune up on your shooting skills. Remember you have a job to do as well!



Happy Hunting!
Carol

8 Somewhat Surprising! THANKSGIVING DAY FOODS that can kill your dog.



1 Turkey Skin
High fat foods, like that delicious turkey skin, can be extremely hazardous to your dog's health. The skin holds any marinade, spices, butter and oils and is difficult to digest. High fat foods can lead to pancreatitis. Symptoms include vomiting, abdominal pain and lethargy.



2 Cooked Bones
Cooked turkey and ham bones are NOT safe for dogs. They can splinter in the dog's digestive tract and your holiday may include a pricey trip to the emergency room and worse. Dispose of bones carefully so that your pup isn't tempted to eat them.



3 Onions & Garlic
Onions and garlic contain sulfides, which are toxic to dogs, and can lead to anemia. Onions are more toxic than garlic and cooking them does not reduce their toxicity.



4 Alcohol
Many dogs love the taste of beer, but this does not mean you should share your frosty brew with your best friend. Any alcohol, and particularly the hops in beer, is toxic and in some cases can cause death in dogs.



5 Nuts
Specifically walnuts and macadamia nuts and very dangerous for your dog. They could cause a toxic reaction called, "macadamia nut toxicosis." Within 12 hours of eating them, dogs are unable to stand, vomiting, having tremors, fever, weakness and elevated heart rate. Usually symptoms go away but this can lead to deadly shock.



6 Nutmeg
Used to spice sweet potatoes and pumpkin pie, nutmeg can cause seizures and central nervous system problems if your dog ingests it. In extreme cases, it can even cause death. Both sweet potatoes and pumpkin, in moderation, are good for your dog - just make sure they don't have any nutmeg on them before you feed him any!



7 Sage
Sage contains essential oils that can cause stomach upset. Best to keep this herb out of reach from your pup's paws!



8 Chocolate, Dough, & Batter
We all know chocolate is a no-no, but did you know that dough can actually rise inside your dog's stomach, causing bloating and severe pain? Additionally, dough and batter contain raw eggs, which may contain Salmonella. Keep your furkid out of the kitchen while you bake and clean up any spills right away.

If you think that your pet may have ingested a potentially poisonous substance, call the ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center at (888) 426-4435

Massage for your dog

My older boy, Coulee, is closer to 10 than 9 years old now, has lots of miles on him, and we don't regret it. He has been remarkably healthy, and has never had a lame step, but recently became reluctant to jump into the back of the car after a hike. My veterinarian and the veterinary chiropractor/acupuncturist each said this is a sore back, muscular—not an injury, nor arthritis, just years and miles—and they referred me to Carol, who has been the best gift we have given him. Carol is a licensed massage therapist (the human kind), licensed veterinary technician, and state certified to massage small animals. Her dog clients outnumber the humans.

Coulee's first massage was at Carol's office. When we went back a week later for the second one, I dropped the leash, and Coulee ran down the hall, into the office, into the back/treatment room, and jumped up on the table. Sore back? We did 3 weekly visits (at a very reasonable price), then every other week, and now just maintenance once a month. He went back to jumping into the car after the first treatment. Some dogs are more comfortable in a familiar environment, so they get their treatments at home. For homework we have massage that Carol has taught me. Coulee is pretty good about doing his part of the homework. When animals (including humans) have sore muscles, they compensate by overworking other muscles. This can lead to more soreness, and even injury. Maintenance massage is now part of Coulee's life.



If your dog has aches and pains you should first consult your veterinarian. A massage therapist does not diagnose, and most will not work on something suspicious without knowing what it is. To find somebody that you can trust, word-of-mouth is always good, but be certain you only work with a formally trained practitioner. Some states may not require licensing for massage on dogs, but be sure to look at training, experience, and references.

Katherine