

MID OHIO NAYHDA SEPTEMBER 2010 NEWSLETTER



My, oh my.....it seems like just yesterday that I was sitting here writing the August MON newsletter, but time still flies by in spite of my efforts to slow it down. Don't ask how.....I'm wingin' it! With this said, time is quickly approaching our test dates of October 9th and 10th. It's a Saturday and Sunday and according to our test secretary extraordinaire Andrew Hopkins, it's a full test with more UT dogs and handlers running than we have done in the recent past. I am excited about the tests and look forward to getting some nice shots of the dogs and handlers. In order for a test to flow seamlessly, we need and count on our membership and/or others to volunteer for necessary test positions and to volunteer food items for our lunches. I've had many ask about the 'head count' for food. To be on the safe side, I would count on lunches for 24 to 30 appetites. The bagels and fruit don't seem to fly off the table with the speed of the lunches, but that is never a safe given. I assume the donations are for both Saturday and Sunday. If that is not the case and you plan on being only at one day or the other, please note that in your offering to bring food. I am missing many food items and we are missing many volunteers for positions during the tests. Please email me about the food and Andrew and me about the positions you would like to help with during the tests. None of the positions are hard and none are without much laughter and camaraderie. Here is what I have for both the lunch and "positions" as of this 'printing':

- **Gunners:** Saturday/Sunday.....Barry Sprague, both days and Stu Smith, just Saturday(?)
- **Bird Planters (4):** Saturday- Sunday-
- **Field Marshall:** Saturday/Sunday
- **Judges' Marshall:** Saturday- Sunday-Andrew Hopkins
- **Duck Winger:** Saturday/Sunday
- **Lunch Coordinator:** Saturday/Sunday makes sure money is collected and everything is 'displayed' and accessible
- **Raffle Coordinator:** Saturday/Sunday
- **Pick up dog/handler:** Saturday/Sunday
- **Griller:** Saturday/Sunday....Matt K.

The birds shot will be used either as a lunch option or for people to take home for meals and/or training. I can help with the dressing of the birds. All will be used in some capacity. Also, when I am not taking pictures, I will help with what is needed. hh You can see **we need many spots filled!!!!**





Mid-Ohio Chapter NAVHDA menu for October 9/10, 2010 tests

We will again prepare tacos and add the option for quesadillas for our chapter's tests on October 9th and 10th. Please be advised that our tests are full and therefore assume to feed the handlers, judges, friends, workers, chapter members.....The following suggestions for donations are, but not excluded to:

- bagels and cream cheese for breakfast
- donuts, as an option
- coffee and cream and sugar/sweet and low
- soda, diet and full throttle

- water
- small bags and one large bag of Fritos for walking tacos
- hard tacos shells
- soft taco/flour tortilla for tacos/quesadillas
- ground meat mixture
- shredded chicken as an option for tacos/quesadillas
- shredded cheese...white/yellow
- taco sauces
- guacamole
- sour cream
- vegetables to grill for tacos/quesadillas
- chopped onions
- vegetables and dip
- bags of chips/pretzels
- a few bananas and a few apples
- grapes
- cookies/brownies

I think this should cover it! And Matt K., consider yourself volunteered for the cook. [Stu/Bill, would you supply the 'fire'?](#) It would be appreciated._

- Heather: chopped onions, bag of carrots, bag of soft, flour tortillas (I think there are a dozen/bag) –both days
- Myron: bagels/cream cheese-both days
- **Matt: to cook-both days**
- Chris/Thom Hale: homemade mild salsa, cookies and brownies-both days
- We have plates, utensils, napkins



Training hints:

It was a good lesson with Ron Behnke and his faithful companion Andrew H. on the blind retrieve. Make it fun. Make sure it's understood. Make sure you vary the drill in different settings and always on the ground first before you add the water component. Thanks Ron and Andrew!



Your Dog magazine/April 2010

How they're able to understand us..Their special senses give them an edge in interpreting our behavior...Edie Jarolim

Our dogs have a remarkable ability to gather data about us through their senses—their eyesight, hearing, sense of smell—and they're expert at interpreting the data they collect.

One of our dogs' advantages over us lies in their superior eyesight. They have more rods than cones in their retinas, the opposite of what is true for humans. This means that their color vision isn't as good as ours—they don't see red, for example, and are in effect re-green color blind—but they can discern movement far better than we can.

Their superiority in perceiving movement gives dogs an edge when it comes to observing everything from subtle shifts of human facial expressions to larger differences in stride and bearing. Dogs often give men more respect, for example, because many men have a forward stance and their movements are often more assertive when compared to those of women, who are somewhat more tentative, says Dr. Dodman, director of the Animal Behavior Clinic at Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine at Tufts University.

That's not to suggest dogs are without barriers in understanding our body language. Although they take species differences into account, especially those of humans they know, dogs generally interpret our gestures in the same way they interpret those of other dogs. That's fine when humans and dogs share the same expressions: a clenched mouth meaning tension, an open mouth indicating relaxation or side-long glances signifying distrust.

It's when our signals differ that trouble can develop. For example, a dog regards a wide-eyed stare as a threat. And if a human's smile is particularly toothy, a dog might read bared teeth as a sign of aggression, speculates Stanley Coren, Ph.D., professor of psychology at the University of British Columbia and author of several books about canine cognition.

These differences are particularly problematic when it comes to children. "Everything kids do is wrong. They stare at dogs, run at them and reach out their hands with open fingers. To a dog, an outstretched hand looks like a mouth with teeth." We shouldn't be surprised when dogs growl and snap at children. In fact, "The wonder of it all is that they don't eat our kids," Dr. Coren says.

Among the things that save them is that children tend to move in an awkward way that confuses dogs. Because dogs don't read kids as normal adults, they feel less threatened by them. Another difference that likely prevents them from being bitten more often is that they smell young, bringing out dogs' protective instincts. That leads to another way dogs that read us: scent. We know dogs pick up on fear. They might even be able to smell fear and other emotional states."

Scientists haven't yet discovered the chemical signals, but different physiological states may have distinct olfactory signatures—which dogs might be able to discern, as they have more than 220 million olfactory receptors in their noses compared to our 5 million. Studies in recent years have verified that dogs can diagnose diseases such as cancer by the way patients smell.

Auditory cues are also important in a dog's repertoire. These go beyond commands and associates of words with common objects. The dog must be able to distinguish the sound, for instance, of my car pulling into the driveway from the din of the traffic on the busy street.

Dogs are skilled at reading voice tones, too. "Low pitched sounds tend to be more threatening to them. This is another reason that men tend to command more respect from dogs than women."

Of course, all the data collection would be useless if dogs didn't have good memories. "Dogs are constantly learning." They particularly recall events that have emotional resonance. "They remember kindnesses and unpleasantness their whole lives and learn to avoid things that are bad for them."

While useful under many circumstances, dogs sometimes carry the lessons of avoidance too far. After being frightened once by a man with a goatee, for example, "A dog may take out a class action suit against men with beards." Furthermore, dogs may react to objects and people they don't like in a way that humans find socially unacceptable. "Dogs discover that the best way to make something go away is to bark and lunge at it. It works every time."

Still, if dogs sometimes misinterpret human actions, more often than not they get things right. That's not surprising. Dogs have had several millennia of coexistence with humans to hone their social skills.

The question of precisely when and how wolves parted ways with dogs-and humans' role in the process-remains open to debate. It's generally agreed that about 10,000 to 15,000 years ago, wolves began hanging around human encampments, scavenging food from garbage heaps and perhaps warming themselves at fires. The domesticated dogs who eventually emerged were enlisted to herd flocks, guard settlements and help flush out game—tasks that required them to observe humans to succeed in these roles.

While dogs who were brave enough to approach encampments would have encountered each other and naturally procreated, at some point humans began helping the selection process.

"We have been systematically and selectively breeding dogs so they read our body language. If you have two animals and one responds well to your gestures, that one is going to get preferred treatment and will be selected for breeding."

While it is clear why humans would want to breed dogs to their specifications, we may wonder about dogs' objectives. Do they still want only food and shelter from us?

No, Dr. Dodman says, although selfishness is a common characteristic of all animals, including humans. "With dogs, you have very friendly group dwellers who benefit from relationship with people. And it's not just because we feed them." In his behavior clinic, Dr. Dodman sees ample evidence that dogs enjoy our physical presence. "When we leave them, about 15 to 17 percent of American dogs have been described as having separation anxiety. They're not anxious because they don't know where their next meal is coming from. They're anxious because they're separated from their family, their humans."

Dogs are also interested in observing us because they're childlike. "Dogs are unique in that they are pack animals that have been bred to look immature. They are permanently stuck in canine Peter Pan mode."

Beyond physical characteristics, dogs' behavior is childlike, too. "They are friendly, dependent, playful and smiley, and they follow our directions. And like children, they have a desire to follow the leader, to be like the adults—or in this case, humans."

The analogy with children goes even further: Recent canine cognition studies have determined that most dogs have the intelligence of a 2-year-old. According to Dr. Coren, they can experience basic feelings such as fear, anger and surprise, but they don't have complex emotions, including guilt or shame, that develops later in childhood. When an owner scolds a dog for urinating in the house, for example, the dog may hang his head, but he doesn't connect the deed with the scolding. He's reacting to the owner's misguided anger. We still have a lot to learn about them.



**For the health of your dog and your mental health too:
Gun Dog Magazine March/April/May 2010...Lisa Price**

The story of a loved dog's life almost never has a happy ending. They get cancer, they get hit by cars. They get poisoned, they bloat, they get complications from Lyme disease or they get so old that their systems fail and our veterinarians put them to sleep. When those things happen, we beat ourselves up about it; all the things we should have done while they were in our care.

But if you really want to beat yourself up about losing a dog, actually lose one.

Fewer than 20 percent of lost dogs are returned to their owners.

Licensing and ID tags

Licensing your dog within your home county is a legal requirement, but it may not help you find your dog if you lose it out of the area.

Records of dog owners and licenses are usually kept with a county treasurer's office, open only during the week. If you lose your dog on a weekend while you're hunting out of state, the person or animal shelter who finds it will have to wait until Monday to get your contact information. And if they're calling you home number, you won't be there to take the call.

When you license your dog, make sure you include a phone number that is either connected to an answering machine you can check from out of state, or the number of a cell phone that you'll be carrying.

Those same phone numbers should be written directly on the dog's collar, and on the ID tags. Also, if you'll be hunting at a lodge or staying with friends, you could include that number on a temporary tag. Cover all your bases, since cell phone coverage can be spotty on the remote grasslands where we often hunt.

Micro-chipping

Long ago scanners for micro-chipping were expensive and only a few used. Now there are several "universal" scanners which read all types of microchips. Having the chip put into your dog, a simple infection under the dog's skin, only costs from \$20-\$30 at most veterinary offices. It may be the cheapest, best and most permanent way of making sure your dog can be identified.

Through the microchip, information about the dog, including the owner's contact information, is available in a nationwide database accessible via a toll-free number 24/7. You can notify the microchip company should you lose the dog.

Worth a thousand words

Make sure you have up-to-date photographs or digital images of your dog, preferably from several angles. Take them with you when you travel. If the unthinkable happens and you lose your dog, you can include the picture on the informational fliers you plaster all around the area.

Animal shelters, rescue groups

If you lose your dog, you should notify local law enforcement personnel, members of sporting dog clubs, farmers, veterinarians, school bus drivers; really, everybody who might see or hear about your dog. And of course notify every animal shelter, but also visit the shelters. Leave pictures with everybody.

Through the AKC website (www.akc.org), notify the rescue group for your breed which is closest to the area where you lost your dog.

- o Breeds
- o Contact Us
- o Breed Rescue
- o State's abbreviation

Recipe of the month:

Pheasant and Wild Rice Casserole...serves 6-8

Note: You'll need to cook the pheasant in advance. Chicken can be substituted for the game.

Meat from 1 cooked pheasant or grouse, chopped (about 3 cups)

1 cup sliced (not slivered) almonds

½ cup (1 stick) butter

1` small green onion, chopped

2 cups sliced mushrooms, any variety

Snipped parsley

2 tbsp. sherry

1 cup uncooked wild rice

4 cups chicken broth (regular or low fat)

1 cup dried cranberries

Directions

Preheat oven to 350 degrees.

Sauté almonds in butter in large skillet or Dutch oven until light brown. Add onion, mushrooms, parsley, sherry, and wild rice. Continue sautéing until wild rice is coated with butter and sherry.

Add chicken broth and bring to gentle boil. Remove from heat and add meat. Bake in oven for 60 to 90 minutes or until rice opens. Check periodically, stir, and add water if mixture appears dry. Top with dried cranberries before serving.

