

**The next meeting is...**

**March 19th  
Dinner @ 6:30 p.m.  
Meeting @ 7:00 p.m.  
at Jimmy's Charhouse,  
Elgin, IL**

**Please RSVP to Carol  
Gingrich at  
815-335-3242**

**Midwest Vizsla Field Futurity**  
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American Field Registered Event  
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[www.vizslaclubofillinois.org/mvff.htm](http://www.vizslaclubofillinois.org/mvff.htm)



2007 MVF Winner  
Wegler Kember Kayla  
Owned & Bred by: Greg Wegler



The Vizsla Club of Illinois, Inc

March 2008

# BULLETIN

A bimonthly newsletter for the members and friends of the VCOI

## DC AFC CRIMSON'S TWENTY GAUGE RUGER JH

Ruger earned his Amateur Field Championship (AFC) at the Hawkeye Vizsla Club field trial on October 13 2007. He ran hard, held his birds and won the major he needed for his title. Ruger is the 135<sup>th</sup> Dual Champion and the 84<sup>th</sup> Dual Champion Amateur Field Champion. Ruger has been a tough competitor from the time he was 5 weeks old.



in the field trials and the conformation ring. His puppies are also passing and earning hunt test titles.

We are blessed to have Ruger as part of our family. He is truly one in a million. Thank you, to all our friends and mentors for your help and support.

Mark and Pam Spurgeon  
Crimson Sky Vizslas



Today with Ruger at a young 5 years old, we are proud of the accomplishments he has made and look forward to his future. He has been invited back in 2006, and 2007 for the second series at VCA National Amateur field trial. This year he will be competing across the Midwest, and at Nationals this fall. Ruger has puppies placing and winning

The Vizsla Club of Illinois, Inc  
Bulletin Editor  
Amy Wukotich  
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Opinions expressed in articles are those of the author and do not constitute endorsement by the editorial staff, the VCOI or it's Board of Directors. The VCOI endorses the efforts of the VCA and the OFA to eliminate hip dysplasia in dogs, and encourages it's members to use only normal breeding stock. Advertising Rates Per Issue: Half Page \$10.00 Quarter Page \$5.00 Business Card \$2.50 Color ads, any size, will require a price quote before printing. Ads are limited to one half page per family per issue. Editor may limit advertising due to space limitations. Ads CANNOT be run until payment is received. All ads must be paid in full before printing and contain the full OFA rating of the sire and the dam. Copies of the OFA certificate must be sent with the ad. Deadline for submission to the Bulletin is on the first of each even numbered month. Deadlines are non-negotiable! Cover stories are limited to one per family membership in a 12 month period. Color covers are available, please ask the editor for a price quote to cover additional printing costs. All brags, articles, and submissions must be submitted in writing either through the minutes or directly to the Editor. All photos submitted to the Bulletin must include a Self Addressed Stamped Envelope. Photos without return postage will remain the property of the VCOI. Exception to the cover photo, which will be returned at the VCOI's expense. Digital photos are preferred.

If your dog has completed a prefix title (CH, FC, AFC, CT, MACH, OTCH, etc.) and you would like to reserve a cover, please contact Amy Wukotich at amyndobes@sbcglobal.net. For 2008 we have May, July, September, and November available. As soon as your dog completes the title, please let me know if you would like a cover.

VCOI Website: www.vizslaclubofillinois.org  
Subscribe to the VCOI e-mail list: VCOIinc-subscribe@yahoogroups.com



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To 7/08

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To 11/08

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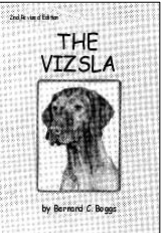


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To 11/08



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To January 2008

Interested in letting the members of VCOI know about your dogs or services?  
Please contact Amy at amyndobes@sbcglobal.net to get your ad in the next Bulletin!

# Upcoming Events

Date	Close	Event	Club	City, ST	Contact
3/29	3/12	Obedience, Rally	Decatur Obedience Training Club	Springfield, IL	Sue Zientara, (217) 677-2408
3/29-3/30	3/12	Agility	Fox Valley Dog Training Club	St. Charles, IL	Sharon Ehr, (847) 516-8207, smedachs@mc.net
3/30	3/12	Obedience, Rally	Capitol City Dog Training Club	Springfield, IL	Pamela M. Lowery, (217) 333-6855
4/5-4/6	3/19	Conformation, Obedience, Rally	Kennel Club of Yorkville	DeKalb, IL	Roy Jones Dog Shows, Inc., (260) 925-0525, rjds@royjonesdogshows.com
4/26-4/27	4/10	Agility	Dog Training Club of Champaign-Urbana	Urbana, IL	Christine Mayer, (217) 328-5795, camayer@uiuc.edu
4/26-4/27	4/10	Obedience, Rally	Rand Park Dog Training Club	Melrose Park, IL	Beth Elliott, (847) 741-7229, trinitycolies@comcast.net
5/2, 5/3, 5/4	4/11	Agility	Northwest Obedience Club	Crystal Lake, IL	Kathryn McIntyre, (847) 358-9363, kdmcmintyre@sbcglobal.net
5/9, 5/10, 5/11	4/24	Agility	Decatur Obedience Training Club	Decatur, IL	Barbara Light, (217) 468-2154, blight8416@cebridge.net
5/10, 5/11	4/23	Conformation, Obedience, Rally, Agility	Scott County Kennel Club	Rock Island, IL	Onofrio Dog Shows, L.L.C., (405) 427-8181, mail@onofrio.com
5/10, 5/11	4/23	Obedience, Rally, Agility	Lyons Township Dog Training Club	Villa Park, IL	Beth Elliott, (847) 741-7229, trinitycolies@comcast.net

## 2008 Hunt Test Schedule For Des Plaines Fish & Wildlife Area

GERMAN WIREHAIRD POINTER CLUB OF ILLINOIS	March 22 & 23, 2008 <i>September 27 &amp; 28, 2008</i>
GERMAN SHORTHAIRED POINTER CLUB OF ILLINOIS	April 5 & 6, 2008 <i>September 13 &amp; 14, 2008</i>
WEIMARNER CLUB OF NORTHERN ILLINOIS	April 19 & 20, 2008 <i>October 10 &amp; 12, 2008</i>
VIZSLA CLUB OF ILLINOIS	<i>September 1, 2008</i>

## 2008 Field Trial Schedule For Des Plaines Fish & Wildlife Area

GERMAN WIREHAIRD POINTER CLUB OF ILLINOIS	March 1 & 2, 2008 <i>October 25 &amp; 26, 2008</i>
WEIMARNER CLUB OF NORTHERN ILLINOIS	March 22 & 23, 2008
GERMAN SHORTHAIRED POINTER CLUB OF ILLINOIS	April 19 & 20, 2008

Because I had had the misfortune to miss three quails successively, under his nose, the first time he had been entrusted to me. Since this awkwardness, the ungrateful fellow had withdrawn his esteem from me, and had ceased to consider me as serious; he willingly consented then to go out with me, but only to walk, and not for any other cause. Once out, he ran after larks, and seemed to take a great interest in the work of mice and moles, but no more troubled himself about partridges and quails than if that game had never existed. I have yet upon my heart the look of cold irony that he cast at me, turning his head, the time that I missed three shots in succession. He remained, perhaps, a whole minute motionless at his last set, to give me time to calculate the distance at which I had fired on his third quail; then suddenly letting down his ears and tail, he came with a slow and grave step to take his place behind me, giving me to understand that he considered his services perfectly useless for the

purpose that I made of game.

I tried many times after to make him forget his unfavorable opinions in respect to me. I presented myself at his domicile with game-bags filled to overflowing. He continued to welcome my visits with pleasure, and pretended even to give faith to my words, when I affirmed that I was indeed the murderer of all his game, but never could I persuade him to verify the assertion with his own nose. The setter is faithful only to talent, and loves to work only under the eyes of an artist capable of appreciating his work.

*@ Dogs, Horses & Men [The United States Democratic review. / Volume 40, Issue 2, August 1857] which in turn quotes "Passional Zoology; or, the Spirit of the Beasts of France" by A. Toussenel as translated by M. Edgeworth Lazarus*

# President's Message

## 2007 major accomplishments

Around the time I took office the IRS sent the club penalty letters totaling approximately \$7,000.00 for failing to file tax returns. Although the club is nonprofit, 501 (c) (7) tax exempt organization, it still has the obligation to file a tax return for all years in which gross receipts are greater than \$25,000.00. The VCOI should have filed and did not. Letters of appeal were written to the IRS which successfully avoided the penalties. An unsuccessful appeal would have nearly wiped out the club's cash. Job descriptions have been put in place to ensure that tax returns are filed each year going forward.

Events held during the year were financially successful, improving the club's cash position to approximately \$11,000.00 by the end of 2007. Thank you to everyone who helped at the club's hunt tests and field trials which provided the majority of the revenue and cash increases.

During the year the Board realized that the bylaws needed to be updated to properly reflect how the business of the club was conducted. A committee, headed by Linda Busch was commissioned to review the existing bylaws and provide the Board recommended changes early in 2008.

A second committee was established during 2007 to formalize the relationship between the club and the club's webmaster. For the benefit of the club and the webmaster, expectations need to be defined and ownership of the website clearly defined. Over the past several years the importance of the website and the demands on the webmaster has grown. As a critical communications tool, the working relationship between the club and the webmaster need to be defined and documented. Cathy Gallagher is chairing the committee.

Recognizing the importance of the Field Trial Clubs of Illinois (FTCI), I attended the last three meetings in the Springfield area. The FTCl unites all of the clubs in Illinois to concentrate our influence on matters that are vital to our sport. VCOI club member Mark Johnson is the President of the FTCl.

At the January meeting of the FTCl, I gave a presentation on the IRS rules and regulations governing what a 501 (C) (7) can and cannot do. The rules have been provided to the VCOI Board to ensure we understand and comply with their requirements.

Many of our activities take a lot of work behind the scenes. Hunt tests and field trials take significant help from volunteers to make them run. I was the spring field trial secretary in 2007 and learned first hand what was required. I also observed that with a redistribution of the activities, events could run much smoother and with less required of any one person. I asked everyone at our club meetings to seek out the event secretary and ask them "What can I do to help?" At our December Walking Trial, event Chairman Jon Peck said to me several times, "Everyone at the event has asked me what can I do to help?" Not only was Jon thankful for the help, he volunteered to chair the walking trial in 2008. Great progress demonstrated in a great club.

Finally, I would like to express my thanks and that of the club's to Cheryl Lykowski and Michel Berner for their outstanding service to the VCOI. We will miss them on the Board, but hope they will both stay active in the club. Replacing Cheryl is Linda Busch, and replacing Michel is Tom Grekowicz. Thanks to Linda and Tom for stepping forward to help the club.

The club's last two meeting were well attended and hopefully a sign of things to come. Much was accomplished in 2007, but only the beginning of what the club can do in 2008.

## 2008 Goals

Updated bylaws will be submitted to the club members for review in the Bulletin and voted on at a subsequent club meeting.

The contract and guidelines governing the VCOI website will be defined and formalized.

Increase attendance at club meetings.

The process of data submission for the Bulletin and dates of publication will be done according to a Board approved schedule.

A process to identify and secure more judges for hunt test and field trials will be a high priority during 2008.

A committee will be staffed to draft a set of operating guidelines for the Board to review and the membership to approve.

Committees will be established to run, oversee and ensure the proper execution of the club's activities.

Club meetings will change from reviews of committee and officer reports to training and educational opportunities for club members. Beginning in 2008, the May and November meetings will be held on Saturdays and focus on member training. More to come in future Bulletins.

## Future

Organizations normally establish Vision Statements, Mission Statements and Strategic Plans to ensure their annual Goals are consistent with the direction of the organization. The Board will work to define the extent to which we feel all three are appropriate for the VCOI during 2008.

The success of the VCOI depends on your involvement in club activities. The Board is considering the establishment of new committees to provide opportunities for more members to contribute to the club. The only way that will work is if members step forward to participate in the committees. The roles will be limited in time and effort requirements. As the Board defines the committee assignments, please consider taking on one or more of the opportunities to help our club.

Thank you all for the opportunity to lead this club in 2008.

Jim Gingrich  
President, VCOI

# Membership Meeting Minutes

## January 19, 2008—The Fisherman's Inn

President Jim Gingrich called the meeting to order at 754pm.

Approval of minutes – The membership was unable to approve the minutes as they were not published as of the meeting date.

Guests and new members – Guests Mike & Vicki Jones of Freeport, IL were introduced. They have two vizslas, one of which they rescued a few years back. New members Mic (Michael) and Michelle Miklas of Plainfield, IL were attending their first club event.

Awards – Cheryl Peterson announced the club's 2007 award winners and distributed plaques and plates. The full list of recipients will be published in the next newsletter.

President's Report – AKC is discussing a retrieving certification test. More details in the next Bulletin. Linda Busch is chairing a by-laws committee. Updates to our by-laws have not been made since 1970! The membership will have a chance to read proposed changes and vote on them before anything is implemented. Robert's Rules of Order will be used to conduct meetings and a "Cliff's Notes" version is available to all board members. The club's state Charter, by-laws, operating procedures, etc should be available on the club's website, as well as this year's accomplishments and goals/objectives.

Secretary's Report – Feb Hunt Test paperwork has been received by AKC and judges panel approved. Mar Field Trial paperwork has been received by AKC and judges panel approved. A letter from AKC dated 1/9/08 stated that we need an application filed for event #2008167605 on July 12 (specialty show). If we don't get that filed ASAP, the club will be fined. The letter was sent by Tabitha Sheppard, Event Operations Manager 919.816.3579 or [event-plans@akc.org](mailto:event-plans@akc.org). Rodney and Anne Albin's father passed away two weeks ago – the club sent flowers as a memorial. MOTION TO APPROVE: Pam Spurgeon SECONDED: Dennis Nowak

Treasurer's Report – Linda Busch reported for Cheryl Lykowski. The winter walking field trial netted \$414.96. We already have income for the 2008 Futurity of \$854.14 and \$315 for the 2009 Futurity. The 2007 tax return (990EZ) was delivered on 1/8/08. All treasury records were transferred to Linda Busch on 1/11/08 for a smooth transition of the treasurer's position. The bank account balance has barely changed since 11/14/07. "The club is solvent", says Cheryl! MOTION TO APPROVE: Sharon Simpson SECONDED: Mike Dalby

Bulletin Report – Cathy Gallagher and Amy Wukotich are working on getting the newsletter out in a more timely fashion.

2008 Awards Dinner/Banquet – A special Thank You to Carol Gingrich for arranging this year's dinner and banquet. She had some help from Karen Calandra and it went off without a hitch.

VCOI Calendar – The calendar sold out and a re-order for 25 was made. There were 2 available for sale at the meeting, but they went

fast. This might be the first time the club calendar was profitable.

Double Bubble – Jodi Cieslak still needs someone to co-chair this event. There was much discussion about changing the dates or separating this event from the Specialty. Kathy Harmer made a motion to move DB activities from the Specialty weekend, but it was not passed. Sharon Simpson volunteered to co-chair this year's events with Jodi.

Feb 2008 Hunt Test – Dennis and Patti Nowak are chair and secretary for the hunting tests on Feb 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>, 2008. Judges have been confirmed (Al Brady, Jim Ritz, John Fitzpatrick and Benny Nelson) and volunteers are needed!

Mar 2008 Field Trial – Jim Gingrich is the field trial secretary and he made another call for club members interested in apprentice judging. Dates are March 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>.

2008 Midwest Vizsla Field Futurity – Judges panel is approved (Julie Condron and Tony McGrain). Date is Friday, March 7<sup>th</sup>. Let's nominate our litters! Nomination fee is \$45.

Jun 2008 Training day/Hunt Test – Training day on Jun 7<sup>th</sup> and Hunting Test on Jun 8<sup>th</sup> at Eagle, WI. Patti Nowak is the chair and Cindy LePoudre is the secretary. Mark Spurgeon talked about the training day being a great opportunity for fun and 1-on-1 help with introducing or training dogs on birds. It should be hot though!

2008 Labor Day Hunt Test – Jeff and Kathy Engelsman stated that they need bird planters and would love to see kids brought out for the weekend, too.

Sep 2008 Field Trial – Rodney Albin is chair and Jodi Cieslak is secretary.

Dec 2008 Walking Field Trial – Jon Peck will chair. Michel Berner will secretary. The date will \*not\* be the last weekend in November, but the first in December.

By-Laws committee – Linda Busch needs volunteers to serve on the committee and she prefers those that are home or available to discuss/meet during the day. Carol Gingrich, Sharon Wegler, Pam Spurgeon, Mike Dalby were all interested and willing.

Water Trough – Dennis Nowak announced that he had purchased a new water trough to be used at Des Plaines East Grounds, but that it wouldn't be needed until Labor Day, so not delivered.

Mr. Microphone – Jim Busch purchased a wireless microphone and amplifier so it will be easier for the old farts to hear what is discussed at the meetings.

Adjourn – Jim Gingrich motioned to adjourn the meeting at 858pm and Greg Heden seconded.

# VCOI Award Recipients

Another year of hard work has gone by. We have had a number of championships earned in field and conformation this year as well as performance titles in field, agility and obedience. That certainly proves the Vizsla is truly a versatile breed! If you didn't put in for awards for 2007 contact me to see how you can catch up. It takes a lot of work to obtain these titles so don't forget to get the recognition you deserve. I expect another good showing for 2008. Keep up the great work.

Submitted by Cheryl Peterson

2007 titles in bold

**AFC** Ch. Crimson's Twenty Gauge Ruger, owned by Mark and Pam Spurgeon.

**CH** Rebel Rouser Ramblin Rose, JH, owned by Robert and Rae Ann Jones.

**FC, CH, AFC, DC** Remek's Red Storm Rising, owned by Ken and Lauren Wonnell.

**CH** Sienna Pointe's See Ya Polarkap, owned by Kathy Harmer, Sue Barnes & Cathy Gallagher. **FC** Omega, owned by Jim Busch.

Ch. Jnek's Little Miss Swing Kat, JH, "Rainbow Bridge, 5/14/98 – 4/29-07, owned by Kathy and Jeff Engelsman.

Ch Jnek's Top Command, **JH**, Rainbow Bridge 6/30/05 – 7/6/07, owned by Kathy and Jeff Engelsman.

Jnek's La Bomba, **JH**, owned by Kathy Engelsman and Ryan Pheiffer.

**CH** Jnek's Joplin, owned by Kathy and Jeff Engelsman.

**CH** Jnek's Prince Luca, owned by Kathy Engelsman and Fred Shestapal.

CH. Nordic's Hot Digits Dawg, JH, UAG-2, CGC, NAP, NJP, **AX, OAJ**, owned by Cheryl Peterson. Sparkle II, **JH**, owned by Linda Busch.

Sizzlevilles Buckshot, **JH**, owned by Rae Ann and Robert Jones.

Sizzlevilles Lightning Lily, **JH**, owned by Robert and Rae Ann Jones.

Zoom-Zoom, **JH**, owned by James Busch. Sizzlevilles Abby Sue, **JH**, owned by Rae Ann and Robert Jones.

CH Jnek's Royal Legacy, **JH, NA, NAJ, UAG-1, UAG 2, OA, OAJ, RN**, owned by Tamara and Michael Sparks and Kathy Engelsman.

Evette, **JH** owned by Linda Busch.

**FC AFC** Rolling Rock, **MH, VCA National Gun Dog Champion**, owned by Mike Dalby.

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# Brag!

**JNEK Vizslas**  
Park Shore Kennel Club  
Winners Bitch and Best Of Winners  
~**JNEK's Empress Gidgette** ~  
4 point major win  
Bred By Bitch Class Winner

Chain O' Lakes KC  
Winners Bitch - Best of Winners - Best Of Opposite  
~**JNEK's Sweet Inspiration**~  
4 point major win  
From the 9-12 puppy class

Reserve Winners Dog to a 4 pt major win  
~**JNEK's Little Deuce Coupe**~  
From the Bred By Class  
Submitted by Kathy Engelsman

---

**Shiloh N Mira's Magdalene JH** finished off her Derby career with a bang when she went 2nd place over 22 other dogs at the NVA Derby Classic held with the National Quail Classic in October. Her only other run in 2007 resulted in a 2nd place over 30 dogs at the CWVC Open Derby in April. Maggie is co-bred/co-owned by Michel Berner and was handled by co-owner/co-breeder Robert Tomczak.

**Strider's Forecaster JH** was owner/handled to Reserve to the major by Michel Berner at the Land O Lakes show in January.  
Submitted by Michel Berner

---

**Ruby** finally finished her OA this past weekend. After taking 5 months off to retrain her contacts, she took 1st Place on Saturday and 2<sup>nd</sup> Place on Sunday with the Scott County Kennel Club in Kewanee, IL February 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>.  
Submitted by Liz Barshak

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**Vicky (Priden Joy Twilight Victoria)** finished her APDT Rally Level 3 title on January 11<sup>th</sup> under judges Linda Chiaramonte & Becky Jankowski, with placements for each leg. She qualified for the APDT Award of Excellence for level 3 (all of her scores were over 190). Vicky was also ranked the #5 dog in the country for APDT Rally Level 2 for 2007.  
Submitted by Amy Wukotich

# Positive Power-Continued

© 2008 By Randy Boggs

Gradually increasing intensity  
For any negative reaction, significantly decreasing intensity  
Combining this process with a pleasurable activity for the dog  
The most significant error that induces fear is a failure to step backwards for **any** negative reaction.

A negative reaction to gunfire is avoided by introducing gunfire while the dog exhibits extreme enthusiasm when chasing a bird. First firing at a long distance and gradually reducing the firing distance over time and occurrences. A key ingredient is that the dog associates something very pleasurable with gunfire. When this process is implemented as described, gunfire phobia is extremely remote.

Another method sometimes used is "conditioning" at the trap range. The basic premise is to take the dog to the trap range and let it get used to the gunfire. This is probably a pain tolerance test. Pointing breeds generally appear to have lower pain thresholds than retrieving breeds. **DO NOT take your Vizsla to the trap range.** There's a high likelihood he will fail the pain test and have gunfire phobia.

Instilling fear to modify behavior has few useful purposes and has a high risk of instilling the wrong fear. Therefore, instilling fear is reserved for safety scenarios such as avoiding poisonous snakes.

## LEADERSHIP

A leader has a commanding influence. Leadership is earned, not demanded. Terms such as discipline, alpha, and dominance imply force concepts that induce anxiety and elements of fear. Forget that stuff. Force concepts demand rather than earn respect. Here's what's important to define a leadership position. Do I routinely ask my dog to do things for me? Does he do them? Does the dog ask me to do things? Does he await permission before doing them? If the answers to these questions are affirmative, then you have a commanding influence over your dog. You are the leader. And if you achieve your leadership status from finesse rather than force, then your relationship is free of the "force" baggage.

A leader has a consistent calm-assertive demeanor. They are relaxed and always confident that they are in control. This demeanor is readily conveyed to the student. Anger, yelling, over corrections, emotional inconsistency etc. all convey instability, a trait that compromises leadership status.

A leader's status can be abdicated by use of pain. Training the forced fetch is an example. The dog's ear is pinched until pain causes his mouth to open. A dummy is shoved into the dog's mouth and the pain is immediately removed. This process evolves into walking the dog to the dummy with ear pinched until he grabs the dummy. The dog learns that dummy in mouth equals no pain. The dog learns to perform excellent retrieves. Behaviorists can explain why.

Unfortunately, the dog also learns that "you" equal "pain". In the field, if the dog is concerned about displeasing his "master", then there won't be much cognition in his search. Most field handlers have

someone else train the forced fetch. And by the way, the timing for releasing the pinch once that dummy hit's the dog's mouth is literally milliseconds. Every millisecond of pain with that dummy in his mouth teaches the dog **not** to hold it. Retrieving breeds typically have higher pain thresholds than pointing breeds, which helps to explain why retrievers generally have less downside when using this method.

## SUMMARY

Traditional training is a trial and error process that teaches the dog what **not** to do by using corrections. Corrections instill anxiety to change undesired behavior. The process evolves until the desired behavior percolates out and no corrections are required. Risk of instilling fear is high because it is difficult to predict which experiences will traumatize the dog and which experiences will just give him something to think about. Anxiety is an impediment to learning for which traditional training must continuously overcome.

Effective traditional trainers recognize that **if something doesn't change after 3 or 4 corrections, then try something else.** In addition, and perhaps more importantly, when target or near target behavior occurs, they **use praise and reward to create a fun environment.** This environment helps to rebuild self esteem that is lost to corrections. These are key elements of +reinforcement training.

+Reinforcement training / behavior shaping is a trial and error process that teaches the dog what to do. In addition, it can be used to condition a calm-submissive state of mind that is conducive to learning. No fears, anxieties, or hyper excitement. Interest is inherent, thus providing an ideal environment for learning. +Reinforcement training does not have learning impediments or risks, and that is positive power. If you are an effective traditional trainer, then you already use key aspects of positive training. Enhance your success by evolving more to positive methods. If you don't use positive methods, then give it a try. Perhaps you'll discover positive power and never look back.

## References:

[1] *Dog Training Techniques Explained*, by Rodrigo Trigoso, published 9/26/2006

[2] *Learned Helplessness*, by Duen His Yen, 1/22/1998:  
[www.noogenesis.com/malama/discouragement/helplessness](http://www.noogenesis.com/malama/discouragement/helplessness)

[3] *Wikipedia, Learned Helplessness, Foundation of Research and Theory*

[4] *Handbook of Applied Dog Behavior and Training, page 173*, by Steven R. Lindsay

[5] *Animals in Translation, page 225*, by Temple Grandin

## Editor's Message

After a long and snowy winter, most of us and our dogs are looking forward to spring. Once again members of the VCOI will be staffing a booth at the Pet Expo at the Arlington Racecourse on March 14, 15, 16. Please stop by and say hello to your fellow club members.

In addition to reporting on club business, we'd also like to present some educational articles. We'd especially like to showcase articles written by our own talented VCOI members. For March, we are pleased to present a wonderful training article by Randy Boggs. If anyone else has articles, suggestions, would like to help out with the newsletter, please contact either of the editors.

## Welcome New VCOI Members

On behalf of the entire VCOI, we would like to welcome our newest members:

Sarah Hlavacek/Patrick Metzger  
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## Double Bubble July 13 & 13

It is time to start thinking about summer! The annual VCOI Double Bubble Fun Weekend is set for July 12 & 13 at The Busch Farm. Some of our fun events include: mock Hunt Test, Locate & Point, Puppy Wing 'n String, CGC Testing, Free Steak Dinner, Rubber Ducky Race and many more events.

Keep an eye on the club website for more information.

## Outgoing Treasurer's Report

The Winter Walking Field Trial netted \$414.96. A copy of the Event Report is being circulated.

Futurity Funds Report (as of January 11, 2008):  
2008 Futurity — \$854.14  
2009 Futurity — \$315.00

The Tax materials necessary for preparation of the club's 2008 Return of Organization Exempt from Income Tax (form 990-EX) were delivered to our accountant, Jay Harris, on January 8, 2008.

The Treasurer's records and materials were all transferred to the new Treasurer, Linda Busch, on January 11, 2008. Linda was able to successfully transfer all of the club's Quicken Records for the period October 2005 to January 11, 2008, ensuring a smooth transition of the records.

The Balance of the Club funds for the period November 14, 2007 to January 11, 2008 remained essentially unchanged with a decrease for the period of \$142.98; The balance of funds as of January 11, 2008 is \$11,220.73. **The Club is Solvent!**

Respectfully Submitted,  
Cheryl Lykowski, Outgoing Treasurer

## June Training Day and Hunt Test

The VCOI will be having a training day on Saturday June 7<sup>th</sup> at Ottawa field trial grounds in Eagle, Wisconsin. Then on Sunday June 8<sup>th</sup> the VCOI will have a one day hunt test on the same grounds. Please feel free to come out on the training day. It's a great opportunity to introduce your dog to the field. There will be a pointing demonstration showing the introduction of a puppy in the field all the way up to a master gun dog. More information will come later on the website and in the next bulletin.

Submitted by Dennis Nowak

# Positive Power

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Dog training is basically a stimulus-response process acting on a black box. Yes, the dog is the black box. We do not really know why dogs do what they do. We apply the inputs and the dog provides the outputs. Trial and error is used to obtain the desired response.

Traditional training uses negative reinforcement and physical punishment as the primary tools. Negative reinforcement guides the dog to the desired action in order to avoid an unwanted consequence. Physical punishment includes harsh or light “corrections” as well as discomfort. Harsh punishment instills fear. Light corrections instill anxiety. Basically, traditional training is a trial and error process that teaches the dog what **not** to do. This negativity often has collateral effects.[1]

+Reinforcement training uses reward to reinforce desired behavior. This enables a process in which the dog is reinforced for exhibiting closer and closer approximations to a desired behavior, i.e.: behavior shaping. Basically, behavior shaping is a trial and error process that teaches the dog what to do.[1]

Physical punishment and reward are two basic tools used to teach behavior. This article investigates these tools to understand their strengths and weaknesses. A discussion of fear and corrections illustrates the collateral effects and risks of traditional training. A discussion of reward, state of mind, and leadership illustrates the strength of +reinforcement training.

## STATE OF MIND

A calm-submissive state of mind is conducive to learning. No fears, anxieties, obsessions, or hyper excitement. Submissive is attentive and responsive. Add interest to this recipe, and the environment for learning is ideal.

State of mind is much easier to manipulate by use of positive methods than traditional methods. The ability to alter the dog's state of mind from anxiety, obsessiveness, or excitement into calm-submissive is often an essential key to training. For example, if the dog is obsessive and hyper excited over birds, then this state of mind must be conditioned to calm before shaping to wing and shot. Failure to recognize and mitigate this key factor often results in failure. The amount of punishment that must be administered in order to overcome these emotions can induce either fear or anger in the dog. The result is akin to that of learned helplessness. Some will blink the bird due to fear and some will “root & chase” rather than “point & stand”.

## REWARDS

A calm state of mind is conducive to learning. No fears, anxieties, or hyper excitement. Add interest to this recipe, and the environment for learning is ideal.

Interest is obtained with food treats or anything else that the dog desires. The dog gets what he wants, but only when he does something to earn the reward. Providing rewards when the dog does nothing to earn it, undermines the learning process.

The reward process can start when puppies are several weeks old and being potty trained. Puppies need to get outside to potty and then back into the desired enclosure. This behavior is shaped by allowing them to venture outside the enclosure. When time to return, food is provided inside the enclosure. This process quickly evolves to opening the exterior door, throwing food outside, and then letting the puppies scamper outside. When it's time to return, food is provided inside the puppy enclosure. Stragglers in either direction get a few kibbles dropped in front of them to lure them to the desired location. In less than a week, the herd charges to get outside and then charges to get back into their enclosure. Anyone in the way is going to get trampled! Potty training becomes a gimme.

The process of rewarding behaviors that tend toward the desired response is behavior shaping. Food is the classic reward. A lot if not all of obedience and agility training can be accomplishing using food and praise rewards. When behavior shaping for the field, food rewards will likely get trumped by more rewarding activities such as running, hunting, birds, etc. The important thing to recognize is that you can also use these activities as rewards.

The Premack principle is, “if you do what I want, then you get what you want.” Here are some examples:

Dog wants treat/food, you want dog to stand back and wait.

Dog wants out of crate, you want dog to patiently wait for head tap.

Dog wants outside, you want dog to patiently wait standing for a head tap.

Dog wants dead bird, you want dog to patiently wait standing for a head tap.

See an evolutionary process? This concept is very powerful. Not only can Premack be used to shape behavior, but it can also shape state of mind to calm-submissive.

Recall is another easy behavior to shape. When the pup comes to you, give it a treat. Ignore the pup until he wanders off and finds something else to do. Subsequently, when he comes to you on his own initiative, give him a treat. Once he sort of gets the idea that he gets reward when he comes to you, get a partner to stand 10 to 15 feet away. Clap your hands twice to get his attention and provide reward when he comes. Have partner do the same. Once the dog is running back and forth for reward (only on two clap command), elevate the degree of difficulty by increasing distance. Hiding is another degree of difficulty that makes the game fun.

The recall game can illustrate the concept of lumping and splitting. Lumping is making a step increase in the degree of difficulty that is too large for the dog to readily grasp. Once you see the lack of results in 3 or 4 attempts, the degree of difficulty must be reduced. This is called splitting. So if you step out of sight, clap twice, and the dog does not successfully come to you, you have made too big a lump. If you stand half way around the corner so the pup may still see some of you and clap, the recall will be successful. You have split the behavior. Behavior shaping is a continual process of lumping and splitting.

For the recall, two claps is better than a vocal command. I don't recommend any vocal commands. The reason is quite simple. Dogs

# Positive Power-Continued

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inherently like high tones and happy demeanor. Conversely, they inherently dislike low tones and angry demeanor. Think of low tones as similar to growling. One is rewarding and the other is punishment. When using voice for recall, we humans have a personal problem. If the desired response is not obtained, then we drift towards anger. The lower and louder vocals instill anxiety. Even though the verbal command “might” indicate come here, the vocals and demeanor inherently say, “stay away” to the dog. The dog struggles with the mixed messages (cognitive dissonance). Anxiety interferes with learning the “angry recall”.

This example illustrates a natural human behavior. Most of us are highly inclined to believe that if we are sufficiently persistent & forceful, then the desired behavior will occur. If force level 1 doesn't work, then force level 2 will more likely work. Because we are naturally inclined to believe this, we spend our entire lives defaulting to this mind set, no matter how many times we are unsuccessful. All we remember are the successes, lest we forget **if something doesn't change after 3 or 4 corrections, then try something else!**

## CORRECTIONS

Traditional training instills anxiety (corrections) to change undesired behavior. Over-correcting is a risk. Too harsh a correction tends to instill fear and a cooling-off period is needed. Too light a correction fails to prevent the undesired behavior. This process is like walking a tight rope. One can fall off before reaching the intended destination. Maybe the dog can climb back onto that tightrope to try it again, and maybe it can't.

In addition, stress accumulates from the negative effects of traditional training. Imagine that each dog has a bucket for stowing stress. We neither know the bucket size nor how full it is. But once it's full, it is always at or near spilling over. This concept helps to understand that the dog can become fundamentally frustrated. Training that was thought highly instilled subsequently becomes unglued. Attempts to further the training in one area causes other trained behaviors to backslide. The bottom line is that once a dog has taken enough crap, he isn't interested in working with you. Interest, a key ingredient for learning, is destroyed. What he's learned is that you equal stress. Good luck changing your reputation. This phenomena is akin to learned helplessness.

Effective traditional trainers recognize that if something doesn't change after 3 or 4 corrections, then try something else. In addition, and perhaps more importantly, when target or near target behavior occurs, they use praise and reward to create a fun environment. This environment helps to rebuild the self esteem that is destroyed by corrections.

## TIMING

Timing of corrections and rewards is very important for effective training. Traditional training claims that timing within two or three seconds is close enough. Under +reinforcement methods, a marker for the behavior is commonly used. This marker can be an oral “cluck” or a

“click” from a clicker. In many instances, the duration of the “cluck” sound is too long for effective timing. Therefore a “click” must be used in order to obtain the correct timing. **Timing must be in milliseconds rather than seconds.** The implications of this reality on administering corrections is dramatic. The skill of the trainer must be significantly better than previously thought and the correction must be administered precisely at the start of the undesired behavior.

Counter surfing is a good example to illustrate incorrect timing. A correction must be administered when moving to get onto the counter. Once the paws have hit the counter-top, it's too late. You are then correcting for “paws on counter”, not “getting on counter”.

## LEARNED HELPLESSNESS

Pavlov demonstrated that when a bell ring is repeatedly paired with food, a dog is conditioned to salivate when only the bell is rung (classic conditioning). In 1965, Seligman and colleagues @ Univ of Penn designed a fear learning test. A dog was constrained in a hammock and a tone was paired with a harmless shock for the learning phase. Subsequently, the dog was placed in a box with two compartments, each containing room to move around. A barrier was placed between the compartments that was easily jumped. Pavlov's theory predicted that when the tone was applied that the dog would feel fear and do something such as jump into the opposite compartment. What actually happened surprised researchers. The dog did nothing. The dog learned that trying to escape the shock was futile. This behavior was defined as learned helplessness.[2]

In subsequent experiments of roughly 150 dogs, about one-third did **not** become helpless. Instead they managed to find a way out of the unpleasant situation in spite of their past experience with it. This characteristic in humans was determined to correlate highly with a type of optimism. [3]

Under ordinary circumstances anxiety and frustration promotes learning. However, under circumstances that promote learned helplessness, high levels of anxiety and frustration disturb learning.[4]

## FEAR

Humans can rationalize fear to overcome it. Dogs can not. Traumatic fears in animals last forever and can spread. An effective counter-phobic behavior program lasts for the rest of the animal's life. It's a lot of hard work, without a lot of gain. [5]

Everyday fears are different. Unless an animal is anxious by nature, an everyday run-of-the-mill fear won't wreck his life or yours. The problem is that **it's difficult to predict which experiences will traumatize an animal and which experiences will just give him something to think about.**[5]

Gun-shyness is a classic example of fear. If we assume that gunfire inflicts acoustic pain, then it is easy to understand why some conditioning procedures work better than others. The basic elements of gunfire conditioning are: