

Rice Creek Hunting Dog Club



Volume 1, Issue 4

April/May 2011

Letter from the President

Spring has finally arrived! Rice Creek is available for all members to train at, we will be getting a group together for Saturday mornings, if you are interested you can contact me by email or phone if you are planning on being there. We will be meeting at club house at 9 am and going to the training field. Reminder that when you are training at Rice Creek stop by the club house and let them know that you are there. TK has volunteered to chair the spring retriever test and will be looking for volunteers to work, please help out! TK does not do computers so please phone him. We wish everyone a good training and successful testing season. Gary Lee



Our Web site is :

<http://www.ricecreekhuntingdogclub.com>

If you have any Photos you would like to share and have put on the web site please contact Travis Lund at:

WANTED!!

We are still looking for people to
Chair and be the Secretary for the fall
Retriever Hunt Test August 13 & 14

Please Respond to
Diane Pfipson
bdpflip2@albanytel.com

Or
Gary Lee
jlee@hutchtel.net

Safety Tips for Hunting Dogs

Hunting Season is fast approaching - Tips from Pet Poison Helpline to Help Keep Your Dog Safe!

By Justine A. Lee, Associate Director of Veterinary Services

As you and your Labrador retriever, GSP, or GWP prepare for hunting season, it's important to make sure that you're keeping your dog out of harm's way. Be aware of potential hazards to your hunting dog to help ensure a safe, enjoyable and bountiful hunt.

Toxin alert: Hunting dogs encounter risks that backyard pets do not. Here are some toxins you should know about.

Blue-green algae (cyanobacteria): Each year, hunting dogs in the US die as a result of drinking from water contaminated with blue-green algae. Toxic blue-green algae contain liver and/or neurotoxins and often occur during hot, dry weather and give the water a "pea soup" appearance. Signs of poisoning show up immediately, and include vomiting, diarrhea, weakness, collapse, tremors, seizures, and jaundice (yellow skin and gums). Death from the neurotoxin can occur within minutes while death from the liver toxin may take several days. Because treatment is often unsuccessful, prevention and immediate veterinary attention is key. Providing fresh water for your dog is imperative.

Lead Shot/Bullets: Aside from the trauma caused by gunshot wounds (GSW), the lead found in pellets and bullets may lead to lead poisoning if left in the body. If your dog is shot, seek veterinary care immediately. If the bullet fragments or pellets cannot be removed, check blood lead levels to ensure that chronic lead poisoning does not occur. Signs of lead toxicity include behavioral changes, gastrointestinal signs (i.e., vomiting, diarrhea), and neurologic problems (including walking drunk, seizing, and blindness.)

Clay Pigeons: These contain coal tar and heavy metals such as lead, zinc, copper, and nickel, and can result in toxicity if ingested. If you have a "mouthy" hunting dog known to ingest toys or rocks, beware. Make sure they are not eating scattered pieces of clay pigeons, as poisoning can result in liver, brain and kidney damage.

Mushrooms: Being that hunting dogs are exposed to the great outdoors, they're more likely to ingest a mushroom in the field than a couch potato dog. While most mushrooms are generally non-toxic, certain types can be very dangerous. One of the most dangerous is the plain looking *Amanita phalloides* or death cap mushroom, found throughout the United States. Because proper identification of mushrooms is extremely difficult and often only done by experts, consider all ingestions of unidentified mushrooms as toxic until proven otherwise. Depending on the type of mushroom ingested, symptoms include vomiting, diarrhea, abdominal pain, depression, tremors, and seizures, with ingestion usually leading to liver and kidney damage.



Safety Tips

□ As hunting dogs are more likely to run through barbed wire or lacerate themselves by running through dense brush, it is important to keep your dog in a blaze orange chest protector vest. Not only does this protect vital organs from injury, but also it saves on expensive vet bills.

□ For dogs that do not have an electronic shock collar on, the excited hunting dog can take off after a scent, resulting in hours of searching for your companion. Make sure identification tags are well secured onto your dog's collar to ensure a happy reunion.

□ Rarely, a genetic abnormality in Labrador retrievers called "hunting dog hypoglycemia" can result in an acute drop in blood sugar, resulting in the collapse of a normally active dog. Making time for frequent water and snack breaks throughout the day is important. Dogs exhibiting hunting dog hypoglycemia should not be bred, so the trait is not passed on genetically to their offspring.

□ Heat stroke is always a big risk early in the hunting season – dogs are excited and combined with the higher air temperatures, this can increase chances of heat exhaustion. Keeping a canine first aid kit handy, along with a thermometer, is important in case of emergency. If you notice your dog constantly panting, make sure to take frequent water breaks and water dips (in ponds without blue-green algae!) When in doubt, always play it safe and give your dog a break to cool off.

□ Hunting dogs are more predisposed to tick infestation when out hunting – using a veterinary prescribed flea and tick preventative is key to prevent transmission of infectious diseases like Lyme disease and Ehrlichia.

□ Make sure to scope out the area where you are hunting and have the phone number for a local veterinarian, emergency veterinarian and Pet Poison Helpline programmed into your phone in the event of an emergency.

The best thing any hunter can do is to be educated about the common hazards or toxins, which predominantly effect hunting dogs. When in doubt or if you think your pet has been poisoned, please call your veterinarian or Pet Poison Helpline's 24-hour animal poison control center at **800-213-6680** immediately.

About Pet Poison Helpline: Pet Poison Helpline is a service available 24 hours, seven days a week for pet owners, veterinarians and veterinary technicians that require assistance treating a potentially poisoned pet. Staff can provide treatment advice for poisoning cases of all species, including dogs, cats, birds, small mammals, large animals and exotic species. As animal poison controls do not receive any state or federal funding the way human poison controls do, there is a small per incident fee of **\$35.00** per case, but this includes free follow-up with both you and the veterinarian treating your dog during the duration of the poison case. Pet Poison Helpline is the most cost-effective option for animal poison control care in North America. Pet Poison Helpline is available in North America by calling **800-213-6680**. Additional information can be found online at www.petpoisonhelpline.com.

Calendar of events 2011

AKC Pointing Dog Hunt Test

7-8 May

Rice Creek Hunting Recreation

Little Falls, MN

Test Secretary: Dianne Pfipsen



More information can be found at :

www.entryexpress.net

AKC Retriever Hunt Test

21-22 May

Master, Senior, Double Junior

Rice Creek Hunting Recreation

Little Falls, MN

Test Secretary: Margaret Grondahl



More information can be found at :

www.entryexpress.net

AKC Retriever Hunt Test

13-14 August

Master, Senior, Double Junior

Rice Creek Hunting Recreation

Little Falls, MN

Test Secretary:



More information can be found at :

www.entryexpress.net

AKC Spaniel Hunt Test

27-28 August

Master, Senior, Junior

Rice Creek Hunting Recreation

Little Falls, MN

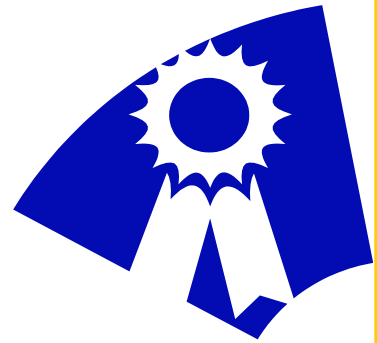
Test Secretary: Sandy Resch



Hall Of Fame

Let us know when your dog and taken a placement or a leg towards it title so we can let everyone know. Pictures are welcome. Send the information to Mark Monson at:

monso020@usfamily.net



MEMBERSHIP

There is currently only one category of membership. \$35.00 includes individuals and families. Your membership must be current in order for you to be eligible to vote at the annual meeting. (There is one vote per paid membership.)Membership renewals can be sent to:

Dianne Pflipsen 30397 Clear Lake Rd. Albany, MN 56307

RICE CREEK HUNTING DOG CLUB MEMBERSHIP, year 2010

Name _____ Renewal _____ New _____ (check one)

Address _____ Email Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (day) _____ (evening) _____

Family members names (spouse and children under 18)

Breed of Dog/s _____

RCHDC NEWSLETTER



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