

## From the Publisher's Desk

Welcome to the Feb/March issue of Bird Dog & Retriever News. Thank you: subscribers, advertisers, organizations and others.

It looks like we are coming out of Covid FINALLY. There are some events on the calendar, about half of normal. We hope by this fall things will start to get things back to normal.

If we can help by getting your event listed on our calendar here and online get a hold of us. My email and cell number is on www.Bdarn.com.

I just got done subscribing to about twenty five magazine from all the dog & hunting organizations so as they come back online we'll keep you informed. I hope also to pick up some great writers and articles for our readers.

So what do we have in this issue? Our usual myself and Frank Neumayer and a return of a writer who wrote for us for years Jerry Thoms. We have a article from Brad Varney about hunting Ruffed Grouse with Shorthairs in Maine.

The Nebraska Game & Parks has great plans for nice Wood Duck houses that also work for the squirrels. I have 4-5 in back of my place and am going to build a few more. Find a kid and build some.

This issue we have five pages of state news. Expect that to shrink to one or two pages with the June/July issue, but we will fill in with training articles.

If you know of a shooting preserve, trap & skeet range or advertiser that should be in Bird Dog & Retriever News drop us a line and get them more business.

I guess I'm out of space!

See you next issue!

Dennis Guldan

**Publisher Bird Dog  
& Retriever News**  
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read hunting/dog publication  
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## Breeders

### The Cost of a Litter

By Dennis Guldan

Every year about this time I get inquires from first time breeders looking into advertising their potential litters. Thankfully after doing a little research most never have that first litter.

So I thought as a public service I would run down the numbers of "The Cost of a Litter." So hopefully the next time someone decides to have just one litter to show the kids the birthing process or to get another great dog, they make think twice or so.

First of all the myths: Breeding my great dog will create another dog exactly like my great dog. Did you ever go to a litter reunion? That's when all the dogs from the same breeding get together. The variation of dogs of the exact same genetics and bloodlines, with the SAME parents will amaze you. In the same litter you will have shy and aggressive dogs. You will have fat & skinny dogs. You will have dogs with great hunting skills and others that prefer butterflies.

So this theory that you are going to duplicate your current dog is a misnomer. Further lets look at your genetics. If you return to your breeder for another pup you will get a dog with similar genetics & surroundings and breeding techniques.

You on the other hand start with one generation off the original breeding and that is only HALF of the equation. Add to that another half you may know little about.

As far as showing your kids the magic of life... rent a video. Unless you are also fine showing them the "HORRORS of life TOO!" Litters go bad especially for inexperienced breeders and first time bitches.

And if you are breeding just for the \$1000 a pup you might be getting read further what

goes into that \$1000 before you continue.

Total up the expenses before you put your dog or family through the possible horror of a litter.

Let's start with the stud fee, what some think is the only fee. Stud fees are typically \$1000 - \$1500 or one pup. But you can drop that price if you have a buddy that has a nice dog. But when people ask about the champions in the bloodlines, as most do, you will need to show them a few generations in the pas.



If you are breeding to a reputable breeder, most will not by the way.

Certifications you will need before most breeders will breed with you: OFA for hips & CERF for eyes: \$400.

OH and a Brucellous and health check for the bitch \$125.

Finding a sire or bitch might involve a few day trips to trials and tests and a few overnights with travel and food. We are only allotting \$500 for that. But I forget you have that buddy.

Now the stud fee \$1500 or a pup. That is assuming you have more than one pup lives and the breeding takes.

So exactly on what date do

you setup the breeding? What do you mean you don't know. For about \$400 you can have a Progesterone test to tell you the exact right day for breeding. We'd hate for you to pay for a breeding that didn't take.

Oh I forgot \$100 for the ultrasound to verify the breeding and how many pups. You can NOW start taking deposits.

Where are these deposits coming from? Who knows you have a litter. Time to start advertising. Add \$200 to that bill which is now at about \$3000 and you have no guarantee of any pups that will make it to selling age.

Let's assume all goes well with no issues and the birth is a great one. Let's start tallying the post birth expenses though we probably left \$1000 of the price of the mating on the table.

Post birth expenses include: Additional food to feed mom & pups \$200. Did you plan on going to work while she is birthing or having issues with the litter add \$500 to the bill. Did you want papers on the pups? \$45.

You may have a puppy vet bill. Worming \$300, Parvo & Distemper shots for the litter \$400. Are you going to do dew claws and tails, people expect it \$300.

Did you plan on going anywhere while you are having the litter or until the puppies are placed? That's 60 days of your life you wont be planning much.

But think of the money you will score with most backyard breeders getting \$500 a pup or \$4000 if you get a litter of 8 to their new owners that all the checks are good.

Well not if you have HALF the expenses that most breeders have with litters. Most expect a \$8000 - \$9000 bill after endless years at shows, trials, tests and club meetings.

Moral of the story: Leave the breeding to the pros, a \$1500 quality dog is CHEAP by any standard.

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