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Field Spaniel

February/March 2021

Volume 30, Number 4

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## From the Publisher's Desk

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

Every few years a good number of companies decide to freshen things up and reinvent themselves. It's about time we do so too. To that end I have decided to decrease the size of the state news during non-season time and bring you more writers and content. Sometimes the state news seems like it is in only to fill the space allotted for state news.

One feature I have added this issue is some of the debates that happens online. With the changing of power in Washington many of us are concerned about Gun Control. Maybe I'm a bit excessive but if there is a window to buy guns for my under 5 year old grandkids I want to make sure I don't miss it.

Ellen & I have taught 1000 kids hunter safety and all graduated, but I don't know all the mechanics of the gun buying process. A process I thought was cast in stone and easy to understand... Boy was I wrong. For an entertaining read, turn to page ten and read the discussion about a simple question: Is there a list so the government knows what guns I have? The debate absolutely amazed me!

It looks like we are pulling out of Covid so hopefully we will get our shows & events back. But call before you drive there just in case.

On the cover and the story to the right is the last of the spaniels that has yet to be on the cover of BD&RN The Field Spaniel. I think we are down to 4-5 sporting breeds left that we have yet to feature, look for them on the cover soon.

I guess I'm out of space!

See you next issue!

Dennis Guldan

**Publisher Bird Dog & Retriever News**

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## The Breeds

# The Field Spaniel: The Vanishing Little Brown Dog

By Dennis Guldan

The Field Spaniel is one of the classiest of all spaniels. Yet as a hunting dog it never really caught on. Initially it was bred as a black spaniel for the sporting ring in the late 1800s when the first breeds were being established.

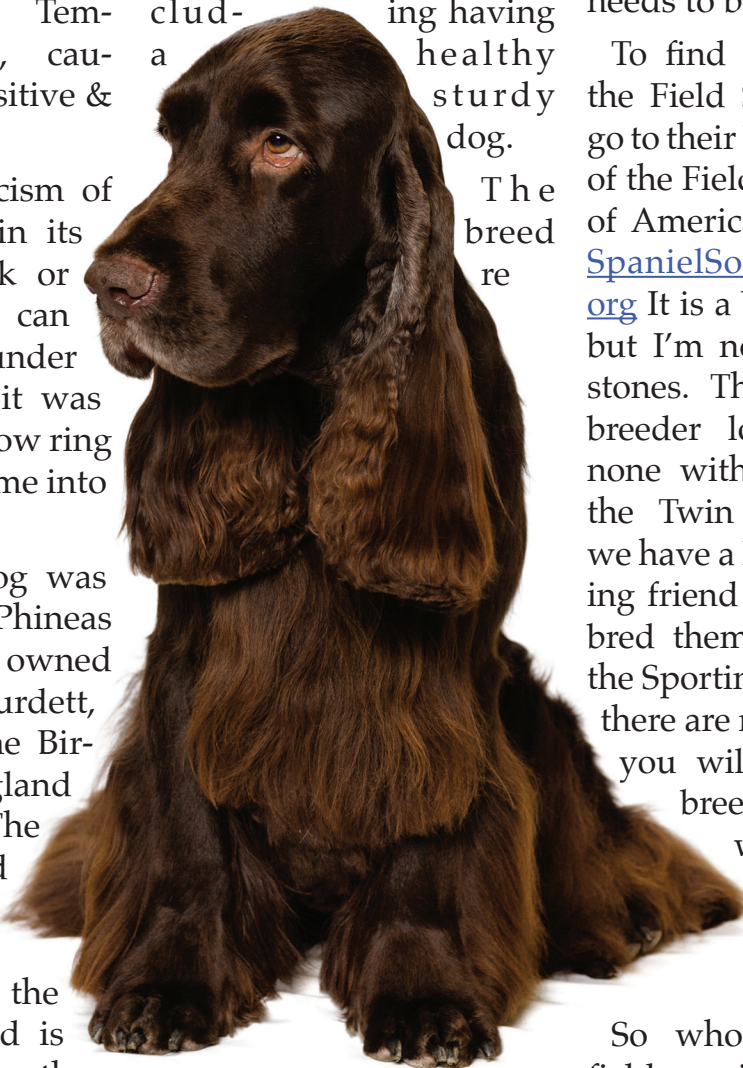
The breed dimensions are 17" - 18" tall, 35-44 lbs, colors: Black, Liver, Black & tan, Liver roan, blue roan, Liver & tan. Temperament: Docile, cautious, sociable, sensitive & adaptable.

The biggest criticism of the breed comes in its color. An all black or dark colored dog can get lost in the under brush. And since it was created with the show ring in mind it never came into great popularity.

The long low dog was developed by Phineas Bullock from dogs owned by Sir Frances Burdett, the secretary of the Birmingham England Kennel Club. The breeding involved Cocker, Clumbers and English Water Spaniels of the 1870s. The breed is almost exactly like the Sussex Spaniel with the exception of the head and the color. In the early 1900

basset hound was introduced to the breed to elongate it.

The breed was having health issues so English Spring bloodlines were added to the mix to eliminate some of the health issues. As we have always seen many show people breed for three things: Coat, Coat & Coat the filed people have many more requirements including having a healthy sturdy dog.



The breed re

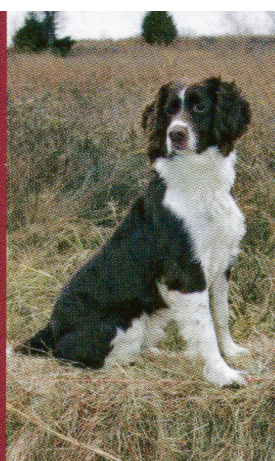
mains rare even in the UK in 2009 there was only 51 Field Spaniels regis-

tered. The have gotten the classification of Vulnerable Native Breed from The Kennel Club. At the same time English Springers are getting registration numbers of 12,000+ and English Cocker 22,000+. One of the problems with growing the breed is litter size. Litters basically cost about the same if you have one pup or thirteen, as Wirehairs have been commonly known to do. With an average litter size of four and the Field Spaniel being a small dog the economics of owning and breeding Field Spaniels are in a word against success. Compare \$20,000 versus \$6000 for a litter of Wirehairs versus Field Spaniels. Not that price should be a deciding factor on your breed but it needs to be figured in.

To find out more about the Field Spaniel you can go to their National website of the Field Spaniel Society of America at [www.Field-SpanielSocietyofAmerica.org](http://www.Field-SpanielSocietyofAmerica.org) It is a bit dated to 2017 but I'm not throwing any stones. They also have a breeder locator; I found none within 100 miles of the Twin Cities. Though we have a local wine drinking friend that at one time bred them. As typical for the Sporting breeds though there are no regional clubs you will find most the breeders in the Midwest and North East Great Lakes Region.

So who should get a field spaniel? I would suggest a young family who want an unusual dog that they can take hunting. But understand it could take some research to find one. I looked online and the nearest breeder was 300 miles away and the websites I went to had a 2012 litter advertised. But lets hope the Field Spaniel Gods keep the breed around it's a classy looking little spaniel.

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# Shooting

## Back to Basics

By: Frank Neumayer

**A**s an instructor, I've had the distinct pleasure of working with students whose abilities range from that of being a complete novice - who had never handled a shotgun, to A-AA class experienced Trap and Skeet shooters. I always try to tailor my instruction around the experience level of the shooters, with specific focus on any problems or issues that they may be having. For the novice, I'll cover all the basics, starting with gun and range safety, etiquette, and safe gun handling, all the way up through the learning and application of the five key elements needed to successfully break each and every target presented.

What's really interesting is that when an experienced shooter comes to me with a problem or issue they just can't seem too resolved, most every time the solution will present itself when we go back and work through the basics and fundamentals involved. It doesn't matter if we're focusing on Trap or Skeet, the solution lies in returning to the basics! So... let's take a minute and review some of the basics and fundamentals involved in clay target shooting, and if you're having some problems, hopefully with a little self-analysis you'll be able to get yourself back onto a winning track.

The first major factor for accurate and consistent clay target shooting success is proper gun fit. Check to make sure your stock is the right length, not too long - not too short. Length of pull (LOP) for factory shotguns is about 14.5", but the key measurement is the distance between the base of your thumb that grips the stock and the tip of your nose, that distance should be about 1.5". Also, make sure that you're keeping the gun vertical and not canted. You also need to keep the gun snug into your shoulder pocket and your forward hand centered on the forearm, allowing for optimal gun swing and control.

Check your eye dominance to make certain you're not having any cross-dominance

issue going on. Your eye/rib/bead alignment is critical, so be sure that the pupil of your eye is centered and resting on the base of the rib and aligning directly with the beads. When you feel everything seems to fit and align properly, go to the pattern board and determine if any minor tweaks may be needed. Make sure your pattern has good density and spread, and is set properly for rising targets. I prefer an 80-20 or 90-10 disbursement... but you must be confident that

your pattern is going exactly where your eyes are looking. You shoot with your eyes and not with your gun!

Check your set-up or foot position. Make sure that your feet are no wider than your shoulders and that you feel balanced and well anchored to the ground. Your weight should be slightly forward on your left foot (for right handed shooters) and your left foot should be slightly forward of your right. Make certain that you set-up comfortably for the worst possible break point that you could face at each post or station. Recheck your gun hold and eye hold points. For Trap singles or handicap, keep your gun hold points within the dimensions of the trap house lid.

All of your gun hold points should be about 18-24" above the forward edge of the trap house lid, and in a position right to left that allows you to see the target as clearly as

possible as soon as it appears. Your gun hold points should enable you to move to the target in the most direct and efficient manner possible. Your eyes should be looking just above the rib and focused out into the breaking zone. Remember, your eyes can come back to the target much faster than they can move out to catch it, and you always want to be breaking a rising target, and well before it tops out.

Be sure to check your vision! You need to see the target well at all times if you hope to get consistent breaks and good scores. One of the biggest problems I find is shooters peeking, or raising their heads, to see the target. Remember, lifting your head off the gun, ever so slightly, moves your pattern, and allows for the

simple... right? The fact is that with quality practice, focus, persistence, and determination, it really can become that simple.

It's a fundamental truth that when a shooter, regardless of their experience level, properly applies the basic principles and fundamentals required for every shot every time... success will follow. I see it every day, with every student, and I can't stress enough the importance of making the commitment to stay focused, work hard, and practice regularly until the basics and fundamentals become an integral part of their "every shot" routine. The truth is... breaking targets is a lot more fun than missing them!



target to slip away. Lighting is critical, so make sure you have the correct lenses for the lighting conditions presented. The right colored lenses will eliminate eye fatigue, sharpen the clarity of the target, as well as keeping your eyes relaxed and focused throughout a long day.

From set-up to follow-through, you must stay in complete control throughout the entire process of breaking the target. Once your foot position is set properly and your gun hold and eye hold points are correctly established... then and only then do you call for the target. Don't move anything until you see the target appear! It's imperative that you see the target first before you react. Once the target appears; focus your eyes on the leading edge; move smoothly through the target; apply the proper amount of lead; take the shot; stay in the gun; follow-through or chase the break. It sounds pretty

Here's my simple advice to all you shooters out there that may be struggling. Age and change is ever present, and we can't escape it. So, take the time to step back and analyze exactly what you're doing on every shot every time. Get a shooter friend to help out if need be, but always remind yourself of the proven basics and fundamentals involved, and make sure you apply them each and every time as you move from post to post. If you're still having some issues or problems, just give me a call, I'd be glad to help you out. Just remember, whether you're a novice or a World Champion shooter, sticking to the basics and fundamentals will always make you a winner!

If you'd like more information visit my website at [www.claybrakn.com](http://www.claybrakn.com), or if you have a specific question send me an email at [claybrakn@msn.com](mailto:claybrakn@msn.com) and I'll do my best to get it answered.

## Recipes

# Parmesan Pheasant Breasts with Crispy Ham

### Ingredients

- 4 pheasant breasts
- 4-6 fresh sage leaves
- 2 Tbsp of grated Parmesan
- 8 slices of prosciutto crudo or air-dried ham
- Olive oil
- Black pepper

Score the underside of each pheasant breast in a criss-cross pattern with a small, sharp knife. Lay the breasts side by side on a large chopping board and season well with black pepper.

Combine the chopped sage and Parmesan, sprin-

kle evenly over the pheasant. Lay 2 slices of prosciutto on each breast, overlapping slightly and drizzle with olive oil.

Cover the breasts and chopping board with clingfilm and "whack" them with a frying pan until they are approximately 1/2 inch thick.

Heat a non-stick frying pan, transfer the breasts into it and cook ham side down (remember to remove the clingfilm first!). Drizzle a little more oil over the top and cook for 2-3 minutes on each side to ensure the ham is crispy.

Serve with lemon wedges, salad and new potatoes.

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## Kennel Talk

### Buster

By Ken M. Blomberg

**B**uster hit the ground running right off the bat and, despite my faults as a trainer, bucked the establishment and has performed at a high level in the field from early on. He was born in June 2010. I found him among a litter of eight-week-old puppies at Fallen Wings Kennels near Hilbert in Calumet County. There, two of the top breeders in the nation, Rumi and Mike Schroeder, introduced me to the wonderful world of field-bred English cocker spaniels.

At two months old, he entered our lives and soon became the center of attention among a kennel full of hunting dogs. By the time he reached twelve months, he stood eighteen and a half inches tall at the shoulders and weighed thirty-seven pounds—the top end of his breed's standards. Despite his stature, he was, at the time, the smallest dog among our much larger German shorthaired pointers—nearly twice his size. But his proportions did not deter his personality and ego. In his own mind, Buster was the official kennel boss.

The breed club also notes they are “merry and affectionate, of equable disposition, neither sluggish nor hyperactive, a willing worker and a faithful and engaging companion.” An understatement, I might add. Most who hunt over the breed will note “they will make you laugh.” Buster is all of that—merry, affection-

ate and bold in the woods, field and marshes.

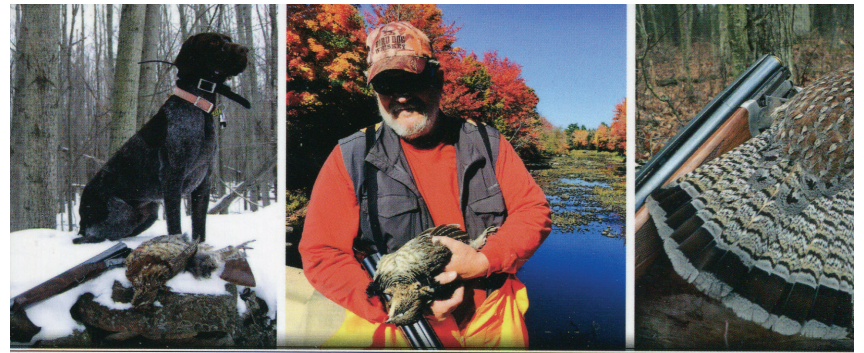
Faithful readers of my weekly outdoor newspaper column watched Buster mature over the years. He turned nine this past summer. They read about his travels with me to the Canadian prairies of Saskatch-

ewan, northwest to North Dakota and Montana, to the marshes and cornfields of Iowa and, of course, throughout Wisconsin. Together, we've put some miles behind us to get to this point.

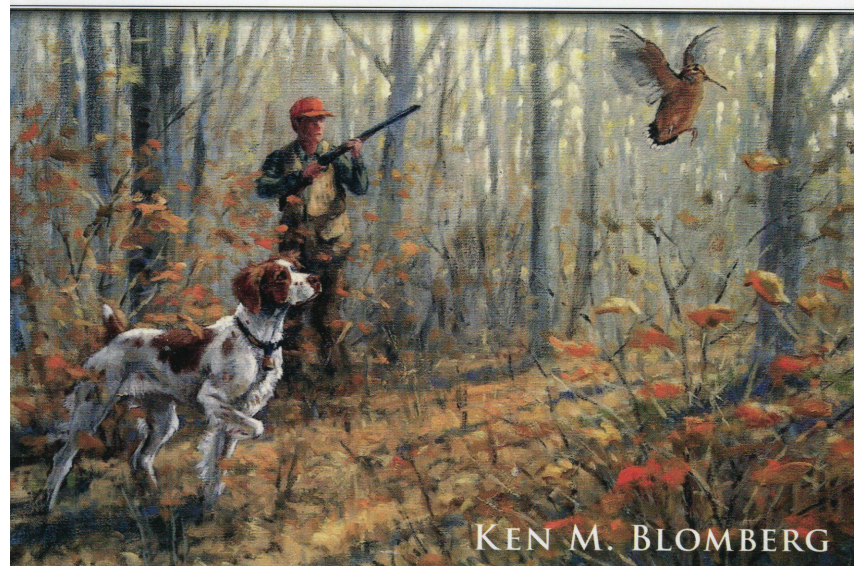
Conventional wisdom has long declared that gun dogs reach their prime between ages six through ten. Buster hit the ground running right off the bat and, despite my faults as a trainer, bucked the establishment and has performed at a high level in the field from early on. He is a flushing dog that hunts for the gun, seldom ranges out of range and quarters the woods and fields in search of his quarry like a pro. Made retrieves that took my



**Buy The Book: Thanks to Ken M. Blomberg we have an excerpt from his book Wisconsin Bird Hunting Tales, 155 pages, \$23.99 from History Press, [www.HistoryPress.net](http://www.HistoryPress.net) Copyrights 2018**



## — Wisconsin — BIRD HUNTING — TALES —



breath away. Found wounded game birds and waterfowl other dogs would have given up on. Flushed countless woodcock, grouse, pheasant and prairie game birds like Huns and sharp-tails. Now, he is, no doubt, at the top of his game.

The purchase of Buster back in 2010 was not a fluke. He was, and still is, a dream of mine that dates to my teenage years. Back in the 1970s, I chanced on a hunter and his two cocker spaniels hunting woodcock in southern Wisconsin. Multiple gunshots drew my attention to an alder swale at the headwaters of a small stream bisecting a public hunting grounds named Karcher Marsh near Burlington. The hunter was kind enough to introduce this dogless hunter to his cockers. It took nearly forty years of pointing German

dogs, but I ultimately found my cockers in Buster and subsequently unrelated sisters from Ohio—namely Bingo and Belle. Those three have since produced several beautiful litters of puppies for our kennel, merry and affectionate gun dogs that have found hunting homes in seven other states and, of course, Wisconsin.

Buster has been and will continue to be my sidekick. I share our adventures wherever they may take us—for as long as we're together and eventually past both our primes.

\*This essay was part of a chapter in my second book, WISCONSIN BIRD HUNTING TALES, available at [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com). Autographed copies are available from me by emailing [eaupleinekennels@gmail.com](mailto:eaupleinekennels@gmail.com).

Medical

# How Human And Animal Cancers Compare

Texas A&M University Newswire

Experts say that treatments and drugs for animals are similar to those used in humans.

Companion animals and their owners usually face very different medical concerns, but cancer is unique in that can be developed by nearly every species.

Dr. Shay Bracha, an associate professor at the Texas A&M University College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences, says that one in three dogs and one in four cats will be diagnosed in their lifetime with cancer, compared to one in five humans diagnosed.

In addition to chemotherapy and radiation, humans may receive targeted therapies that are not widely available to animals, a result of extensive research into drugs that effectively fight specific types of cancer. However, Bracha says that veterinary researchers are working to develop similar targeted therapies for animals.

In the meantime, most pets are treated with the same chemotherapy drugs or radiation humans receive.

"We do use many of the same medications — same drugs, same chemotherapy, radiation, and so on — to treat animals that we use in human medicine," Bracha said. "So, many of the medications are pretty much the same. The differences are in the dose and the frequency that we give our animals versus humans."

Animals receive more conservative doses to reduce toxicity and side effects, since pets can't communicate with their doctor the same way a person can. Oftentimes, this lower dose leads to fewer side effects from treatment, such as decreased nausea, diarrhea, and bone marrow suppression.

Unrelated to treatment dose, Bracha says that most pets won't lose their fur during chemotherapy, as animal fur doesn't grow continuously like human hair does. However, some breeds

that grow hair instead of fur, such as poodles, might still lose their fluffy coat.

Like humans, pets may also be affected by similar mutagens, or cancer-causing agents, such as air pollution, and pets living in polluted urban areas may be at higher risk for certain types of cancers as a result of their environment.



"There's enough evidence for other cancers that are associated with mutagens. For example, specific herbicides and pesticides are known to be linked to bladder cancer in dogs," he said. "Dogs that live in rural areas and run into fields that have been sprayed with an herbicide can develop bladder cancer at a higher frequency than dogs that don't live in this environment"

Certain breeds may also carry genetic risks for certain types of cancers, as well. For example, terriers are at higher risk for bladder cancer than other breeds. Large dog breeds also tend to have higher rates of osteosarcoma, or bone cancer, than smaller breeds.

In addition to the shared phenomenon of genetic risk, canine cancer often develops very similarly to human cancer.

"The progression of osteosarcoma is very, very similar between humans and animals," Bracha said. "They start in the same locations in the body, they metastasize to the lungs, and they oftentimes have a very aggressive course of disease."

Other forms of cancer, including

bladder cancer, Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, and soft tissue sarcomas also share similarities between the animals and humans.

Canine cancers are so similar to human malignancies that the National Institutes of Health (NIH) has designated research into canine cancers a priority, using them as a model

for human cancers to improve treatment outcomes in both species.

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"Our pets live with us and, therefore, are exposed to the same toxins and environmental stressors, which makes the disease closer to their human counterparts," he said. "There are a lot of efforts to learn new therapies in the dog and try to move with that model to the human side of healing."

Although cancer is a tragic disease in both our furry friends and their human owners, veterinary and medical researchers are working hard to better understand this disease and develop a more effective fight against it. In the coming years, we can look forward to more targeted and effective therapies for humans and pets alike.

Pet Talk is a service of the College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences, Texas A&M University. Stories can be found on the Pet Talk website. Suggestions for future topics may be directed to editor@cvm.tamu.edu. By Texas A&M University College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences Staff.

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March 12 Sportsmen's Spaniel Club Of Calumet Trial Des Plaines Wildlife Area Wilmington IL Randy Burton www.akc.org/club\_search/index\_master.cfm?club\_id=3689

March 25-27 Vizsla Club Of IL Trial Jim Edgar Panther Creek Wildlife Area 10149 County Hwy 11 Chandlerville IL Charles Chadwell rodnevalbin@centurytel.net 636-358-0703 www.vizslaclubofillinois.org

March 26 Gun Show Gun Show Fairgrounds 136 Sinsinawa Ave East Dubuque IL

April 3 GSP Club Of Illinois Hunt Test Des Plaines WMA West Grounds Wilmington IL Perry Dlugie perrydlu@comcast.net 847-417-4688 www.gspci.org

April 10-11 Kennel Club of Yorkville Illinois Show Northern Illinois University Lincoln Hwy and Annie Glidden Rd De Kalb IL www.kennelclubofyorkville.org

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Feb 5-7 Gun Show Gun Show Hawkeye Downs 4400 6th St Cedar Rapids IA

Feb 19 Gun Show Gun Show Fairgrounds 1212 E. Quarry S Maquoketa IA

Feb 20-21 Cyclone Country Kennel Club of Ames Show Iowa State Fairgrounds E 30th & Grand Avenue Des Moines IA www.cckc-ames.com

Feb 26 Gun Show Gun Show River Center 136 E 3rd St Davenport IA

March 5-7 Gun Show Gun Show Mid America Center 22984 U.S. 6 Council Bluffs IA

March 12-14 Gun Show Gun Show Fair Grounds 4-H Building 3000 E Grand Ave Des Moines IA

March 19-21 Gun Show Gun Show Hawkeye Downs 4400 6th St Cedar Rapids IA

March 26-28 Gun Show Gun Show Fairgrounds 1308 E Olive St Marshalltown IA

March 27-28 Clinton Iowa Kennel Club Show Clinton County Fairgrounds 328 E 4th Ave De Witt IA www.clintoniowakc.com

April 9-11 Gun Show Gun Show Fair Grounds 4-H Building 3000 E Grand Ave Des Moines IA

April 24-25 Mason City Kennel Club Show North Iowa Fairgrounds All Seasons Highway 18 West 3700 4th St SW Mason City IA www.masoncitykennelclub.com/

April 30-2 Gun Show Gun Show Westfair 22984 U.S. 6 Council Bluffs IA

**KANSAS**

March 6-7 Gun Show Gun Show Community Building 810 S Broadway Herington KS

March 6-7 Gun Show Gun Show Century II Expo Hall 225 W Douglas Wichita KS

**Calendar**

March 12-13 Gun Show Gun Show Hartman Arena 8151 N Hartman Arena Dr Witchita Park City KS

March 20-21 Gun Show Gun Show Kansas Expo Center 1 Expocentre Dr Topeka KS

**KENTUCKY**

Feb 6-7 Gun Show Gun Show The Center 2292 South Highway 27 Somerset KY

Feb 13-14 Gun Show Gun Show Arena 500 Arena Dr Corbin KY

Feb 20-21 Gun Show Gun Show Cave City Convention Center I-65 Exit 53 Cave City

Feb 20-21 Gun Show Gun Show Sportsplex 450 Kenny Chanmpion Loop Hindman KY

Feb 27-28 Gun Show Gun Show El Hasa Temple 13450 State Route 180 Ashland KY

March 13-14 Gun Show Gun Show Farm Bureau 874 Hillcrest Dr Brandenburg KY

March 27-28 Gun Show Gun Show Cave City Convention Center I-65 Exit 53

**MICHIGAN**

Feb 4-5 Livonia Kennel Club Show Show Place 46100 Grand River Novi MI www.livoniakennelclub.com

Feb 6-7 Oakland County Kennel Club Inc. Show Show Place 46100 Grand River Novi MI www.oaklandcountykennelclub.com/

April 3 Irish Setter Club Of Michigan Hunt Test Highland Recreation Area Silo Course Barn Course Highland MI Jackie Shelest jackieshelest@gmail.com 517-281-1319 irishsetterclubofmichigan.com

April 5 American Brittany Club Inc. Trial Ionia Recreational Area Ionia MI Donna Janulis ejannus@aol.com 708-738-7916 clubs.akc.org/brit

April 9 Michigan Brittany Club Trial Ionia Recreational Area Ionia MI Bob Watson bobeddiawatson@gmail.com 906-362-9472 www.michiganbrittanyclub.com

April 10-11 Fort Detroit GWP Club Trial Highland Recreation Area Barn & Silo Courses Highland MI Susan De Graw schnelliberg@comcast.net 586-781-9496 www.fdgwpc.org

April 29-30 Pontiac Kennel Club Inc. Show Fairgrounds Chesaning MI NONE

**MINNESOTA**

Feb 13-14 Gun Show Gun Show Armory 1200 Adams St SE Hutchinson MN

March 27 Gun Show Gun Show Armory 1430 23rd St NW Bemidji MN

**MISSOURI**

Feb 6-7 Gun Show Gun Show Fairgrounds 225 W Douglas Neosho MO

Feb 13-14 Gun Show Gun Show KCI Expo Center 11730 N Ambassador Dr Kansas City MO

Feb 13-14 Gun Show Gun Show Event Center 1915 N Bluff St Fulton MO

Feb 20-21 Gun Show Gun Show Convention Center 1008 E Sedalia Ave Clinton MO

Feb 27-28 Gun Show Gun Show Cowan Civic Center 500 E Elm St Lebanon MO

March 5-7 Gun Show Gun Show Show Me Center 1333 N Sprigg St Cape Girardeau

March 6-7 Gun Show Gun Show Ozark Empire Fairgrounds 3001 North Grant St Springfield MO

March 11-12 Leavenworth Kennel Club Show American Royal Complex 1701 American Royal Court Kansas City MO www.apps.akc.org/apps/club\_search/index\_master.cfm?action=refresh\_index&active\_tab\_row\_A=1&active\_tab\_col\_A=1&fixed\_tab=1&club\_id=5

March 13-14 Heart of America Kennel Club Show American Royal Complex 1701 American Royal Court Kansas City MO www.heartofamericakc.org

March 20-21 Gun Show Gun Show Missouri State Fairgrounds 2503 W 16th St Sedalia MO

March 27-28 Gun Show Gun Show KCI Expo Center 11730 N Ambassador Dr Kansas City MO

April 10-11 Bootheel Retriever Club Hunt Test Mantz WMA Millersville MO Ed Bickerstaff bickerstaffeddie@gmail.com 573-748-0560

April 17-18 Missouri Uplands NAVHDA Huntsville MO William Wundrack wundracks2016@gmail.com 573-489-2899 www.mouplands.org/

**NEBRASKA**

April 2-4 Scottsbluff Kennel Club Show Scotts Bluff County Fairgrounds 13th & 22nd Ave Mitchell NE www.scottsbluffkc.org

April 17-18 Grand Island Kennel Club Show Expo Center 700 East Stolley Park Rd. Grand Island NE gikennelclub.com

**NORTH DAKOTA**

March 6-7 Gun Show Gun Show Alerus Center 1200 S 42nd Sr Grand Forks ND

**PENNSYLVANIA**

Feb 6-7 Gun Show 540-552-9458 Convention Center 209 Mall Blvd Monroeville PA

Feb 6-7 Gun Show Split Rock Lodge 100 Moseywood Rd Harmony PA

Feb 12-14 Gun Show Center 6180 Morgantown Rd Morgantown PA

Feb 20-21 Gun Show 717-697-2470 Fairgrounds 334 Carlisle Ave York PA

Feb 20-21 Gun Show Fairground 620 W 3rd St Bloomsburg PA

Feb 26-28 Gun Show Expo Center 1601 Egypt Rd Oaks PA

Feb 27-28 Gun Show 717-697-2470 Fairgrounds 334 Carlisle Ave York PA

Feb 27-28 Gun Show Fairgrounds 1514 PA 28 Brookville PA

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