

The Kooiker Chronicle

The official publication of the Nederlandse Kooikerhondje Club of the USA

Spring 2021



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Karen Easnik
Illustrations and Photography



Photo by Benjamin Hollway at UNSPLASH



The Kooiker Chronicle

SPRING 2021

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New Members

Karen & David Alan, Virginia Beach, VA
Braden Becker, Arlington, MA
Lexy & Denny DeRita, Cherry Hill, NJ
Lori & Ken Hendricks, Granger, IN
Andriea
Hilger & Chase Sanchez, Galena, IL
Pam & Patrick McDermott, Wheaton, IL
Lisa & James McDonald, Schenectady, NY
Cheryl Mitchell, North Vancouver, BC, Canada
Chloe Partelow, Chicago, IL
Ritika Pathak & Manish Malik, Cupertino, CA
Joshua Pertzsch, Dousman, WI
William Stevenson, Oceanside, CA
Mark Vargo, Noblesville, IN
Terri VanSchyndel, Abrams, WI*
Vicky & Tom Worosz, Skowhegan, ME
Karlin Yeh, Cambridge, MA

**Joined Feb. 2020*

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From the Editor

As the Kooikerverse offers a tentative paw to Spring 2021, club members and their Kooikerhondjes are looking at the year ahead in hopeful anticipation of (socially distanced) get-togethers and a return to in-person performance events. Marilyn LeDoux and her Fast CAT 6 champion, Greta, offer an intro to a sport so ideally suited for Kooikers that they might have invented it! We bring you the scoop on the AKC's recent opening of Spaniel Hunt Testing to Kooikerhondjes, a move that not only brings training opportunities, but raises questions about the Kooiker's natural talents as gundogs. Meet Dutch Kooiker Hulphondje breeder, Roel Steenhuis (Altforsterhof Roel), who defies the common wisdom that Kooikerhondjes are not appropriate service dogs. NKCUSA junior ambassador, Gianna Burzi, shares the discoveries she and her Kooiker have made by thinking outside the box on the agility course.

This issue of the Chronicle introduces you to the club's new Board members, and to eight Kooiker siblings who are living their best lives throughout the U.S. and Scandinavia. We caught up with three of the most senior Kooikers in the club to learn how they spend their busy days--and it's not just polishing their elegant silver hairs! With this issue, the Health & Genetics Committee and the Breeders' Committee launch a regular feature on breeding, health, and genetics. Check it out!

Kudos to Dawn Lugo for the impressive results of yet another NKCUSA fundraiser auction! A big "Thanks" to Chronicle contributors Sue Van Dyke and Melanie McNaughton. We look forward to their continuing contributions, and to welcoming additional staff to the Chronicle team. If you'd like to join, drop an e-mail to Chronicle editor editor@kooikerhondjeusa.org or to Communications Committee chair Rachel Burzi, rb.director@kooikerhondjeusa.org.

Onward into Springtime!

Karen Dean



From the President

Huck wanted to write again, then Heidi ruffed in. Meko just stood back turning his head to one side. There is hope for him in the future but this time I think I should write the presidents report...

First, I want to ask how many of you got Valentine cookies for your Kooiker(s)? I didn't either. Every day is the same: Wash a load of Lenny Pads (reusable puppy pee pads) in the morning, then again in the afternoon and evening. That is the joy of having 9 new Kooikers in your home. When born they weighed 2,510 grams and 3 weeks later 9,770. Now you understand why all the laundry. What goes in one end leaves the other! Having puppies in our home is something I look forward to. It is a warm fuzzy feeling to hold a newborn puppy, but not as good as holding your own new born child.

I have been blessed to have an incredible Executive and Board of Directors this past year and want to thank them by name:

Sally Birgl, you have been spot-on in your suggestions as Director of Events. I can only say THANKS and wish you all the success as you judge our K-9 friends. Taking your place will be...

Terri Habeck VanSchyndel, you have big shoes to fill and if you are a true Dutch girl and not just through marriage, Dutch girls are born needing big shoes. I met you at our last monthly Zoom meeting, and I noticed that you were so excited about being a Board Member, that you stood up for the whole meeting.

Karen Parker. Now you and I go back a few years. I remember when you and Yesenia came into our home to get your puppies. Judi and I were each holding a puppy when you came in and I said, "If you can't pick out which is your puppy, I keep your deposit and you can sleep in the car." Each of you reached for her puppy and you got to sleep in a warm bed. Later, I served as your Vice President and when your term as President ended, I had the honor of taking over the reins. I know you are leaving the Board one year early to care for your mother, may the bond between you two grow even closer. I almost forgot to thank you for being the Director of Membership Outreach, which is now the responsibility of...

Barry Rinker. Keeping track of this bunch of rebels is a daunting task, Barry. You will be so thankful that Linda Dean is helping keep things straight. She is a computer whiz and has spent countless hours at this task. I again thank you Linda. (For those unaware, Linda is the sister of our Editor-in-Chief Karen Dean.)

Carol Chimera, as a Board Member you took the responsibility when and if there was a need to rescue a puppy. I remember in the past year someone didn't even give you a chance to rescue a puppy that was badly socialized. It was just put down. Maybe that was the right thing to do, but my heart still hurts.

Mike Malmstead, you had the responsibility of placing decimals in the right place and knowing if it was a debit or credit. I understand, because of Covid-19, your job working with software in the shipping department of Amazon has expanded rapidly. I know you have met our new Treasurer and I thank you again for your willingness to help out...

Cheryl Miedema. Welcome to the Executive Board as our new Treasurer! Knowing you for a couple years I have every confidence that Mike's work will continue par excellence.

Lee Salmon, you have had a difficult year with maddening back pain and chose not to rerun as Secretary. Lee, I know how important Kooikers are to you and I know there will be a new activity in field sports through your nudging. Your replacement is equally qualified even though she doesn't root for the Iowa Hawkeyes but instead some Michigan team. Even at that I welcome....

Rebecca Fitzell (pronounced Fit-sell). Rebecca is from Holland Michigan, which is a Dutch community, therefore being Dutch, she will be focused on the details. Rebecca and Jim got one of our puppies we had named Dozer but, and I fully understand, her two young daughters thought Skippy was a better fit.

This year we added a new function to be handled by the Board of Directors. The title is Social Media. Therefore, I welcome....

(Interruption, I have 3 Kooikers at the door who want "in" and I don't have a clue why unless they think -1 degree is a bit cold). If my mind is back on track, I'm welcoming....)

Rachael Mulnix to the Board. You came highly recommended by an Executive Board member and I am so happy to never carry this responsibility. I would have been atrocious at it and maybe one tenth of the information MIGHT have gotten out. I'm sure you'll do a much better job.

I now want to throw a humongous thank you to Dawn Lugo. You, young lady, spear headed our auction that ended Friday (2/12/21). The auction raised over \$1,700.00. It's actions like this that contribute so much to our Treasury. Looking ahead, I am hoping to organize another auction fundraiser event that will benefit research into diseases that plague our beloved Kooikerhondje breed such as Polymyositis and Von Willebrand disease, so start thinking about what you would like to donate. Let's try to top \$1,700!

Huck moved to approve this message, and Heidi seconded the motion; being there was no objection, the motion passed.

Stanley Van Hemert



Where are they now?

Catch up with the pups of Iserman Hoeve litter G

Compiled by Karen Dean
Photos provided by Dog Owners

Date of Birth: August 23, 2016
Place of birth: Ogden, IL
How many pups: 8 (5 females; 3 males)
Parents: Xena (Amazing Amerika van den Iserman Hoeve) and Max (Buko)



Xena and Max

The 8 puppies from this litter have taken different paths through life, but at age 4 ½ years, all are living with families who cherish them and were happy to share observations about their beloved Kooikers. Two now live in Scandinavia, one in Denmark and one in Sweden. The other six dogs live Louisiana, Florida, Tennessee, Pennsylvania, New York and Vermont. Four live with children and 4 live with adults only. One has pursued a “public life,” representing the Kooiker breed in numerous settings, and providing pet therapy in hospitals and nursing homes. Four live with other animals, and 4 are “only children.” They all have strong opinions about various aspects of life, and all have bosses who respect those opinions. Six enjoy swimming, and 2 prefer snow play. Of the 2 siblings who live with harmonica players, one happily sings harmony and the other protests when the boss plays indoors (but outdoors is OK!). Most, but not all, are enthusiastic travelers and intrepid hikers.

A recurring theme throughout these profiles is that these fantastically loyal dogs most love doing whatever their two-legged families are doing. Read on and meet these far-flung and lively Kooiker siblings!

Appalachian Nature Girl

Abbey Pickett

(Amazing Geertruida van den Iserman Hoeve)



Abbey lives in Kingsport, Tennessee, a city in the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains. She has two canine sisters, Anna and Sahara. Abbey loves to play with her big sister Anna (an Aussie) and their favorite adventure is a trip to the lake. Abbey isn't happy until she gets her crazies out and she loves to play fetch with her Frisbee or ball. She loves long hikes at our local nature preserve, state park, and greenbelt system. When Abbey is finally worn out, she enjoys spending time lying in her mom's lap or in front of the heater in her bed.

Brian and Natalie Pickett



Patient & Empathetic, Quirky Anja is the Boss!

Anja Johnsto

(Amazing Gerda van den Iserman Hoeve)



Our wonderful dog is named Anja. We all love her and her quirks :).

We live in a village in upstate NY. We have just under an acre, so she can roam and chase and BARK at squirrels or really anything. We have learned that she is an anxious dog so we have learned to deal with her sensitivity to sounds. However, she has the patience of a saint! Waiting for a critter under the shed, she can wait for 2 hours. It is hysterical!

One of her talents is howling, or singing along with a harmonica or other instruments! We have caught video of her carrying on and it is the funniest thing! My kids keep telling us to send it in to AFV (America's Funniest Home Videos).

Anja is not a fan of water (oddly enough); however, she LOVES the snow! She does doggie snow angels (that's what we call them), no matter what the temperature is outside. She did them when it was -10 outside. BBRR!

Our household consists of 2 kids and 2 cats and Anja. The cats are a relatively new addition to the family. Anja gets along with them both for the most part. However, her natural instinct is to "herd" them when they aren't following the "rules." She allows one of the cats to sleep with us. She definitely has shown the other cat (the one who pushes the boundaries)

who is boss, and he no longer sleeps with us. Anja sleeps with us, either between my husband and me, or at my feet.

We have learned there is a special way we need to introduce her to everyone she meets. It **MUST** include treats. There are some people and dogs she just doesn't like, for reasons we don't know.

We walk her twice a day, she loves in warmer months when we go around the park that is a 2.5-mile loop! She **LOVES** car rides!!! So much so that there are times she waits outside by the garage door in anticipation of a ride! She doesn't care if it is a 5-minute ride or a 2-hour ride, as long as she can be a part of it! We have lots of doggie nose prints on the car windows to show for it too :).

She is very attached to me. If I am watching an intense movie, she is just as on edge. I love her so much and her companionship! She has been a wonderful addition to our family and can't imagine it without her!

Nicole Johnston



Living with a Deaf Dog

Aurora Sansom

(Amazing Gabrielle van den Iserman Hoeve)



Upon getting our new puppy, Aurora, home, we found she didn't respond to our calls and was oblivious to all but the very loudest of noises. A BAER (Brainstem Auditory Evoked Response) test confirmed our suspicion that Aurora was indeed deaf except for a tiny bit of bone-conduction hearing in her left ear. Initially it was a shock knowing our adorable puppy would never be able to hear us. Other than the sheer panic I induced in her when I was learning the highest register on my clarinet in sixth grade, or the shriek of the blender at full whirl, or my Dad dropping a metal mixing bowl on the kitchen tile floor, she was really and truly deaf.

Unexpectedly though, we got used to her deafness pretty fast. Since we were first-time dog owners, we'd never had any experience training "regular" dogs. With research, sign language became our new norm. We began with simple signals such as "sit," "down," and "potty." While "sit" and "down" are pretty universal, for the sign "potty," you close your fist with your thumb through your pointer finger and your middle finger, and you shake your fist. Even though we've been doing signing with Aurora for four years now, the success of "potty" is still variable, especially in the backyard, where the intoxicating smells of fresh rabbit trails and frogs can be quite distracting. Aurora's favorite sign is "car," made using both hands gripping and turning a pretend steering wheel back and forth. After seeing "car," she will follow Mom or Dad like a hawk to the front door. Her excitement is palpable, anticipating a car ride to a favorite park

or dog class. Although Aurora is perceptive and smart and knows 30+ signs, she frequently practices "selective seeing" if there are no treats involved.

In addition to sign language, we continue to teach Aurora proper "dog etiquette." However, the combination of Kooiker nervousness and lack of hearing has always presented problems. For instance, if we're on a walk and we pass another dog on the other side of the street, she'll sometimes bark at the other dog. If she gets in a barking frenzy, sometimes the only thing that will get her attention is a water spray bottle!

Even though Aurora's being deaf plays a big part in our life with her, it's definitely not what defines her. She loves attention and is always trying to jump up on my mom's lap. Every night, she sleeps with my sister in her bed and always is up for playtime or petting. She also loves food! She loves cheese and meat, but also frozen blueberries and peas rolled across the floor, and broccoli stems. Aurora also likes eggs and will try to escape the kitchen with a hard-boiled egg delicately held in her mouth, initially trying to bury it somewhere in the house before finally devouring it.

Nonetheless, even though she has a disability, Aurora is just a regular dog. Being deaf may change a few things about how she interacts with other dogs and humans, but she doesn't let it get in the way of her loving her family and enjoying her life.

Below is a link to a YouTube video that my sister Alana made for a 5th grade school assignment on signing for dogs.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sWJCUw1Aze4>

Larissa Samson

Livin' Large and Lovin' It

Bandit Beckstead

(Ch. Amazing Gerard Ravenswood van den Iserman Hoeve, CGC, THN)



The irrepressible Ch Amazing Gerard Ravenswood van den Iserman Hoeve, CGC, THN – "Bandit" to his friends -has charmed his way through life, wagging his tail, going up to strangers and stealing their hearts. He lives with Rod and Marta Beckstead,

his grandfather I-Ron, and three Miniature Poodles, on top of the Pocono mountains in a rural area of Pennsylvania. The Bandit loves the trees, deer, and snow around his home, but even more he loves to travel and meet new people. His favorite activity is putting his THN (Therapy Dog Novice) accreditation to use by providing Pet Therapy in hospitals and nursing homes. He becomes very excited when Rod pulls into the respective parking lots. At home, Bandit has his own sleep arrangements in the kennel room, where he loves his memory foam bed.

The Bandit spent much of his younger years in the public eye, as an ambassador of the Nederlandse Kooikerhondje breed around the time that the AKC admitted Kooikers to the Sporting Group, which gave Kooikers eligibility to compete at major events. In November 2018, Bandit made quite a splash at the National Dog Show presented by Purina, in Oaks, PA. The organizers had installed an 8-foot- tall banner of the Bandit, and offered visitors the opportunity to take photographs of themselves and their dogs next to an oversized standing cutout of the dapper Bandit. These standing cutouts were placed in several areas around the venue.

At this show, Bandit was awarded membership into the Kennel Club of Philadelphia, National Dog Show Therapy Dog Ambassador's Team. The tickets for the event's Gala Benefit Dinner bore the welcoming image of a bow-tied Bandit. He spent most of the day representing Therapy Dogs at their booth. Toward the end of the competition, having won Best of Breed, the Bandit briefly paused his lap around the ring in the Group competition, to admire his oversized image projected by an enormous overhead screen. Two months later, Bandit was recruited to help promote the 2019 Westminster Dog Show, in which Kooikers competed for the first time. He conducted himself with graceful presence, at a major pre-Westminster press conference. When The Bandit isn't representing Kooikers in the show ring or at PR events, he continues to work as a therapy dog, visiting and delighting people in hospitals and nursing homes. He looks forward to continuing these activities, as the pandemic loosens its grip on human interactions. His next adventure will be to continue working with the Lehigh Valley Hospital in Allentown, Pennsylvania, in expanding their Pet Therapy Program in the Children's Hospital there.

Karen Dean



The Jolly Pirate of Baton Rouge Gelf

(Amazing Gelf van den Iserman Hoeve)



Handsome Gelf lives with his loving family in the City Parish of Baton Rouge, Louisiana. His boss Gerard Becnel says of his Pirate Kooiker "We love the look and it is definitely distinctive. He is very intelligent and has us trained very well. At times he 'speaks' to us with both a variety of vocal sounds and motions. He has become pretty good at communicating what he wants."

Gerard is an enthusiastic harmonica player, an activity that doesn't win favor with Gelf. When Gerard played a couple bars on his harmonica, Gelf demonstrated his finely honed communication skills by barking and whining until Gerard put his instrument away.

"He gets along well with children and people once he decides they are welcome in our home. We do not have other pets. We do take him to a local dog park where he runs with other dogs. [He loves] going to the dog park where he can run free, play with the other dogs and take a little swim in one of the ponds. He usually gets along OK with the other dogs, but every now and then there is a dog that for no apparent reason he just does not like and sometime gets in a little scuffle. He loves to walk around the subdivision on a leash, but he much prefers to run free at the dog park."

Gerard comments, "He will stand on his hind legs and dance for a treat. He is always sniffing and will

follow his nose when he's outside, and when he finds a special spot, he is likely to start digging. He also has a talent for finding mud holes."

Indoors, Gelf often assumes the "frogger" position, lying "with his belly flat on the floor and his hind legs spread out and extended backwards, with the front legs extended forward." He loves to hang his front legs over the arm of the lazy-boy chair. Gelf enjoys taking a nap on his human mom Rita's lap, but will take a nap on Gerard's lap when she is not available. If Rita is nearby but not where Gelf can sit on her lap, he will go to her and make it known that he wants her to sit down and hold him in her lap. Gelf's favorite place to sleep is curled up on his lazy-boy chair in the living room, or on a lap, or curled up on the floor near his family.

Gerard concludes, "He is part of our family and we are very blessed to have him."

KarenDean



Luna of the Lake

Luna Engle

(Amazing Geerke van der Iserman Hoeve)



Luna lives in Bennington, Vermont, with her bosses Kate and Steve Engle, and her Border Collie bestie Magic. Luna shares her home with a cat, but as they don't get along maybe it's best not to mention it. Magic is three times Luna's size, but they play well together.

Luna is a lucky girl and gets to sleep in bed with Kate, Steve, and Magic. Magic tends to take up quite a bit of space at the foot of the bed, so Luna snuggles down between Kate and Steve, usually under the covers curled up against one or the other's back or belly. She sometimes ends up a several feet down towards the foot of the bed. Kate says: "We really don't know how she manages to breathe, but she does."

As all Kooikers know, the human bosses need close supervision. Luna likes to keep Kate and Steve company when they are working on their computers or curled up in front of the TV. Luna also likes to help Steve with his floor exercises in the morning, and she snuggles him after he has finished his sit-ups. Luna and Magic both like to play underneath Steve when he is on all fours.

Luna, like many Kooikers, is reactive to new people and events. She was socialized well as a puppy, but as an adult she remains wary of new situations, people, and dogs. Once convinced with a few treats,

Luna will settle and accept visitors when they come into the house, but she prefers to be petted only by those she knows. According to Kate and Steve, once you make it inside Luna's inner circle, she is very loving: "Even though she is not confident around most people, she has never nipped or shown any sign of aggression."

Luna has an acrobatic playstyle, and tosses toys up in the air to herself and then madly chases the toy to pounce on it. She will then shake it and growl and toss it up again to start all over. Luna is a champion fetcher. Steve has taught her directions and will call out which way he will be throwing a toy before he throws it (right, left, straight, or behind). She is incredibly quick and accurate!

Being at the lake is Luna's favorite activity. She travels well and is happy to settle in the back of the car with Magic or on the floor or seat of the power boat. She especially loves to go on long kayak paddles with Steve. She sits in between Steve's legs in the kayak and is very well behaved, content to look around. Although Luna loves everything to do with the lake, she does not want to swim in it! According to Kate and Steve, Luna "will wade in and get completely wet but don't ask her to swim!" Luna is a Vermonter, so she also likes to play in snow. She will run in circles, bopping and weaving through fresh snowfall.

Melanie McNaughton

Puppy, the Danish World Traveler

Puppy Langkilde

(Amazing Grietje van den Iserman Hoeve)



Puppy started out in Washington DC, but now has the fortune of living in Hørsholm Denmark. Originally named Bailey, her family changed her name to Puppy when they had an exchange student named Bailey.

Puppy is very bonded to her family, especially the children. She is an extremely social dog within the family, and whatever the family does, she does. Puppy is protective of her family, so she is suspicious of new people and dogs.

Puppy's favorite things are food, food, and more food. Her favorites are cheese and chicken. Like many smart Kooikers, she is clever—exactly in ratio to what treats you are offering. Puppy is a lean and athletic dog, but only because her bosses keep a close eye on what she eats.

Puppy loves to play ball and to play fetch with her favorite toy, Piggy, and especially loves to chase snowballs in the winter. She enjoys swimming but prefers lakes to the ocean—the waves on Denmark beaches can be a bit intimidating for a small Kooikerhondje. Puppy is an experienced world traveler. She travels happily in a bag under the seat, and because she is so adorable, flight attendants don't mind if her



family takes her out once airborne. When her family is packing bags prior to a vacation, Puppy jumps in one of the empty suitcases before it's filled as if to say "Hey, don't forget me."

Her family asked us to keep it secret, but Puppy sleeps in the family's beds. She starts out by sleeping in Andreas' bed until he falls asleep. Then, she spends a few hours with Emilie. She finishes the rest of the night in the bosses' bed. In the morning, she is very thoughtful and tries not to wake anyone. But as soon as there are signs of life, her tail starts spinning and she crawls under the blanket to start her day with the family.

Melanie McNaughton

Swedish Family Dog Sixten

Sixten Grimelund Thomsen

(Amazing Graaf van den Iserman Hoeve)



Sixten lives in a suburb of Stockholm, in a house close to woodlands and water—habitats we know our Kooikers enjoy! Sixten is lucky to be the only pet in a house with three children who love playing tag and hide and seek with him. The first question everyone asks when they come home from school or work is: "Where is Sixten?"

Sixten's favorite activities are walks in the woods, playing fetch with a ball, and having a good cuddle with his family. He is always with one of his family members, and prefers to be physically close to them. Although Sixten likes his cuddles, he can be very independent and doesn't always want to come in when called. He does stop on command when asked to by his family. If he needs something, Sixten reaches out with his paw to touch family members and get their attention. Water bottles are a go-to source of chewing amusement (they never stop making noises). Every now and again Sixten likes to get his operatic side out, and he howls to one specific Swedish commercial.

Although car adventures are always welcome, according to his human mom, Camilla Grimelund Thomsen, Sixten is "more keen on being close to us and making sure we don't go anywhere without him." Sixten loves to keep busy with swimming, boat trips, and playing in the water. In the summer his routine is to check out the docks and boats, just in case someone might want to take him on a trip. An all-season sort of dog, Sixten thinks snow is simply the best thing ever.

A dedicated cuddler, Sixten sleeps in the family beds. Usually, he likes to sleep on top of the covers, but sometimes he likes to get cozy underneath. He typically prefers to sleep on mom's bed, at the foot of the bed, and starts his day by coming up to mom's pillow for morning snuggles.

Melanie McNaughton

OUR REVERED VETERANS

Silver Threads Among the Red

As I-Ron Beckstead approached his 13th birthday last Autumn, owner Rod Beckstead noticed that I-Ron's once deep black earrings were turning a silvery white. Rod shared some thoughts about how a dog taking on the greys, silvers, and whites of age commands human respect. Chronicle team members set out to see how other "silver earring" Kooikers of I-Ron's generation are faring. Surprisingly, we found only 2 other club Kooikers who were celebrating their 13th birthday by the end of January. In recent years, club members have said farewell to Kooikers aged 14, 15, 16, and even 17 years, as would be expected for a famously hardy, long-living breed as the Nederlandse Kooikerhondje. A quick scan of NKCUSA member records suggests that the senior population continues to replenish itself in due course.

We introduce you to the club's current crop of Kooiker Elders -- I-Ron Beckstead, Bianca Vanderpoel, and Pilot McWilliams, and encourage you to take note of when your Kooiker begins to show signs of reaching a venerable age. And remember that a dog's aches and pains of advancing age can often be reduced by massage, physical therapy, acupuncture, herbal remedies, veterinary medication, and special sleep accommodations.

Our thanks to Rod, Lesley, and Amy for sharing their observations about their dogs, who all seem to be aging very well.

FROM EBONY TO IVORY

UKC Ch, International Champion, Intercontinental Champion I-ron Ravenswood von Wichtelhaus, CGC



Time changes many things and now, at 13 ½ years old, I-Ron's ebony earrings are changing to match his face.

*Sire: Whisper Knut V.H. Runxputtenof
(Luxembourg Champion, Nederlandse
Champion)*

*Dam: Dagira Renskje van Eenthuis, Born in
Zurich, Switzerland*

As we experience more and more of life's cycles, more and more things change. I-Ron Ravenswood von Wichtelhaus (I-Ron) came to America in 2007. He grew into an adorable Nederlandse Kooikerhondje puppy, and by one year of age had a magnificent puppy face. He soon developed elegant black earrings that were often noted as being very unique and handsome.

Over the years, I-Ron's friendly and mellow nature has won him many friends and won the Kooikerhondje breed many admirers. He has been a welcome participant in a lifetime of Meet the Breeds events, where he has cheerfully lounged on a table as one child after another brushed or stroked his coat or his ears.



Age gives us all a look of elegance and knowledge as we mature. Most humans admire and respect the greying face of a senior dog.

Owner Rod Beckstead observes that, at about 12 years, I-Ron started turning grey in the face, and his earrings started to whiten. Arthritic joints have slowed his movement, but he is still energetic. Rod has improved I-Ron's comfort with veterinary medication and a thick memory foam bed with high sides for heat retention.

I-Ron lives with his Grandson, The Bandit, and three Miniature Poodles. His favorite activity remains, as always, getting belly rubs. And lots of hugs and cuddles...

—Karen Dean

KOOIKER WITHOUT AN OFF SWITCH

Rosewood's Baroness von Bianca

Sire: Uultje-Remy Lyska v. Doralyteira

Dam: Taga's Weika Lady Elsinore, Born in Boxborough, Massachusetts

Lesley Vanderpoel didn't give Bianca her first home, but she has given Bianca her forever home. Bianca came to Lesley at the age of 9, when her heartbroken former owner was not able to take her to South America for work. A spunky little package, most people don't guess that Bianca is an elder in the Kooiker community—She's a very graceful and lively lady of 13 years. She only started to show some white hairs around her eyes in the month before her 13th birthday.

As a playmate, Bianca is a bit of a cougar—her favored companions are younger Kooiker men. Like many of her breed, she prefers to play with other Kooikerhondjes, and will often ignore dogs of other breeds.

Bianca has had many years to refine her preferences, and she knows what she likes. She is a choosy eater, but adores dried chicken strips and roasted short ribs, apples in the chilly season, and blueberries and watermelon all summer long. Of course, she really wants whatever mom is having!



Bianca may be 13, but you wouldn't know it from watching her. Her favorite activities are fetch and swimming. Mom needs to work hard to keep up—if she doesn't throw the ball fast enough, Bianca will squeal as if she's hurt (and has picked up her ball and taken it to a little boy to throw for her). As feisty in the water as she is out of it, Bianca dives like a dolphin and swims like she's getting chased by a shark. Bianca loves chasing bobbers (after all, they're brightly colored little balls), so keeping her away from fishing spots makes for a happier afternoon for everyone.

This past summer, at the age of 12, Bianca started showing her age a bit. She loves to play and chase, but she now has a harder time catching up with the younger dogs. She is just as bright, and there hasn't been any mental deterioration, but she can't see as well and so she gets nervous more easily now. Like all of us as we get older, Bianca has had a few injuries, and now struggles with arthritis in her hips. Despite these troubles, Bianca still has a sweet temperament, and is always ready with a smile.

—Melanie McNaughton

Spring 2021 15

A GENTLE SOUL WHO HAS DONE IT ALL

Manusia's Tobias "Pilot"

UKC Conformation Champion

NADAC Agility Trial Champion 3, & Versatility NADAC Agility Trial Champion 2, CGCA, Tricks Novice
(and he's not done yet!)

Sire: Ned. & Lux. Ch Yentl Sjors V.H. Runxputtehof

Dam: Manusia's Lobke-Layka, Born in Dorst, Netherlands



Pilot on his 13th birthday, January 2020.

and certainly doesn't act old, though I am more careful about overdoing things with him now."

Amy says that, while 13-year-old Pilot is slowing down a bit, he is in extremely good shape for his age. She attributes this to his healthy diet and weight, good conformation, and the fact that he stays active physically and mentally.

Pilot still runs in agility, though Amy limits the jump heights and number of runs. He has recently been introduced to nosework, which he loves. The active Kooiker, who Amy refers to as her "Gentle Soul," is very close to earning his UKC Novice Nosework title. Amy says she plans to continue to compete with her canine partner "as long as he wants to." In addition to agility and nosework, Pilot enjoys going for walks, socializing with people and the Kooiker favorite past time—sniffing.

Pilot shares his home with six-year-old Kooiker Waterbound Dory Darling "Dory," and Amy delights that both her Kooikers are very much "people" dogs.

—Susan Van Dyke

Pilot was bred by the famous Kennel Manusia, whelped on January 13, 2008, and acquired by Amy McWilliams of Calgary, Alberta, at nine weeks.

Though Amy was a long-time dog owner, Pilot was her first Kooiker. Amy, who had two Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retrievers at the time, was first introduced to Kooikerhondje in a breed book about Tollers.

Excluding 2020, Amy and her Kooikers have traveled to Montana to participate in the many activities held during Yellowstone Dog Sports' summer camps, expanding their knowledge (and fun) with barn hunt, dock diving, lure coursing and more. Pilot is always up for the challenge and Amy hopes they can get on the road again soon.

"With Pilot, everyday is a joy," enthused Amy. "He is always so happy to please,



Side view of Pilot at 1 year.

EVERYTHING

YOU WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT FAST CAT BUT WERE AFRAID TO ASK

By Marilyn LeDoux
Photos provided by the author



Most people would label 2020 as a true dumpster fire, but Kooiker Greta would strongly disagree. 2020 was a pinnacle year for Greta as she earned top awards including a FCAT 6 title for her incredible speed in Fast CAT competitions,

leading her to become the number 1 seated Kooiker in the country! Greta was kind enough to write a few paragraphs about her perspective on racing, but said she was very busy "training" (keeping her backyard clear of vermin and birds) so owner, Marilyn LeDoux has offered to explain this fast-paced dog sport in more detail as well as information on how to get your pup involved. All information and photos are provided courtesy of Marilyn LeDoux.

FAST CAT FROM KOOIKER GRETA'S PERSPECTIVE

Evan is my very best Kooiker friend, other than my pesky little sister Margo. I do love her but sometimes she is pesky! Facts are facts. When I was 5 years old Evan's mom told us about a Fast CAT race being held at a Miniature American Shepherd breed specialty show at Purina (Gray Summit, MO) in May 2018 which is close to home. I LOVE PURINA and my favorite dog game at their Pooch Playdate is "Run Like the Wind" when I have a crazy fun time chasing a lure. I think it is a piece of a white plastic bag but I don't care. It moved and I chased! So my

Mom entered me in my first real Fast CAT race where I thought I would be chasing a fast kitty cat. Well, there was no kitty cat but that white plastic bag was there and I loved the look and sound of it better than any old cat. I have chased cats out of the yard and they jump the fence. The bag could not jump the fence! I ran as fast as I could and was the fastest dog of all 75 dogs in the race!! I had the best time of my life and my Mom was so proud of me! My Dad was sick and couldn't come watch me but when we told him how it went he was so proud that he told all the friends that came to visit him how well I had done. I was happy that I could make him so happy.

I have always loved to run. I have a big fenced yard and Margo and I chase every varmint out of it plus chase the birds that fly across the sky. I have even caught two birds in my life. I love to chase balls too, especially squeaky ones. All this running keeps me in shape for Fast CAT. Margo can run almost as fast as me but she is a stubborn sister and will not chase the lure. Crazy girl just doesn't know what fun is! I love Fast CAT and when we go to the races, as soon as I see the fencing I look everywhere for that lure. If the machine is running I can hear the bag swishing through the grass and I lunge at the lure from outside the fence while other dogs are running, but Mom holds me back so I don't distract the other dogs. I have trouble being patient waiting my turn! That is the hardest part, just waiting. Mom says the worst part for her is that some places have been muddy. I don't care if I get mud covered and Mom doesn't care as long as I am having fun, but sometimes she has to clean me off some before I can get back in the car. Mom says the best part for her is seeing me so enthusiastic and happy. I am a HAPPY HAPPY girl when I run Fast CAT!



I would tell any and all Kooikers to give Fast CAT a try. Some dogs just run to the other end to their mom or dad and that is OK, but to go the fastest you can, you need to focus on the lure and run your heart out trying to catch it!

**EASIEST DOG SPORT—NO TRAINING REQUIRED!
PERFECT FOR PEOPLE AND DOGS WHO HAVE
NEVER DONE DOG SPORTS**

If your Kooiker likes to chase things and you don't have the time or inclination for training, Fast CAT is the sport for you and your dog! When Greta (Amazing Zoey Achteraf) was five years old in 2018 a friend encouraged us to sign up for a Fast CAT event. The rest is history, as they say, and we are still on the Fast CAT fast track!

My two Kooikers, Greta and Margo (Amazing Emma van den Iserman Hoeve), are both pets. With work, and caregiving for an ailing husband and elderly mother, I never had time for ongoing training like

my dog agility friends do. If this is you too, Fast CAT could be your sport. Fast CAT is a 100-yard dash for dogs, run individually, chasing a lure (usually a white plastic bag) and timed for speed. CAT stands for Coursing Ability Test. There are longer distance CAT events, thus the "Fast" designation. The course is normally completely enclosed with fencing, so your dog doesn't need perfect recall. The beauty of Fast CAT is that if your dog likes to chase and will chase a lure, no training is required. Of course, the dog's speed will be better if they are in good shape. My girls have a very large, fenced back yard to run in, almost 100 yards long. They stay in shape chasing squirrels, birds, and balls! But silly Margo will not chase a lure, so she just goes along for the ride to Fast CAT events. Even so, many dogs seem to like or love the sport, so I still highly recommend trying it.

After three qualifying runs, your Kooiker will be listed on the AKC Fast CAT Top 20 Dogs List. The list is categorized by breed and year. Greta was the fastest Kooiker in 2018 with a three-run average of 29.04





Greta taking off at the starting line. Anyone can release Greta but some dogs require a familiar person. I am at the finish area to catch her.

A small group of dedicated people are looking into the possibility of NKCUSA organizing its own Fast CAT Event. If this does happen, it will most likely be in early Fall 2021, at a central location in the eastern half of the USA.

mph and the fastest lifetime speed Kooiker so far with a three-run average of 29.18 mph (this is top three speeds, no matter the year). Greta now has an FCAT6 title (3500 points), the highest Fast CAT title so far of any Kooiker. This Fast CAT season Greta will be eight years old. She is slowing down but as long as she is having fun, we will keep on Fast CAT-ing! Seeing Greta happy makes me very happy! Even if your Kooiker isn't as fast as Greta, the sport is still fun if the dog is having fun. Titles and ribbons are easy to get too. Try it: hopefully you and your Kooiker will both like it!

FINDING FAST CAT EVENTS AND ENTRY INFORMATION

For those unfamiliar with finding or entering an AKC dog event, here are the steps for Fast CAT.

1. Go to akc.org
2. Click on Sports and Events
3. Under "Resources for Dog Sport Participants" click on Event Search
4. Click on Performance Events and check the Fast CAT box
5. Click on the state or states where you are searching for an event
6. Put in a specific date range if you wish, or just leave the default dates in place
7. Other optional categories can be ignored if desired
8. Scroll down to the bottom and click on Retrieve Events
9. All events in your time frame will come up. If you are checking far in advance, check back from time to time as more events are added.
10. If you want more information on a specific event, the Premium is the best place to find it, including

entry forms or instructions for online entries. The Premium is sometimes linked here, or if not, click on View Complete Event Details and email the secretary for the Premium.

11. Some events will have an opening date and entries will not be accepted before this date. Others do not have a date and entries can be submitted as soon as the premium is available. There is usually a closing date as well.
12. To enter you will need basic information about your dog including your AKC registration number. A dog must be at least 12 months old to enter.

A maximum of 2 Fast CAT runs/entries are allowed per day per dog. Here in the Midwest most entries are \$20 each. If time allows, some sponsoring dog clubs have fun run events along with official events and cost is typically \$5 per run. Check with the

secretary ahead of time for fun run availability because the sport has become so popular there may not be time to allow fun runs. Some events are so popular that all run slots are filled within days of the opening date.

A dog's time for the 100 yards is converted into miles per hour and points are given based upon the dog's handicap (height of dog). Kooikers typically get mph x 1.5 handicap for points. So, a 20 mph run would get 30 points. It is fun to accumulate points and get titles. First title, called BCAT, comes after only 150 points. It takes 500 total points for a DCAT, then 1000 total points for an FCAT. Each additional 500 points will give FCAT2, FCAT3 etc. Most clubs give nice rosette ribbons for titles. It is fun when your dog gets a nice ribbon!



Greta's title ribbon display. FCAT6 title (3500 points), the highest Fast CAT title so far of any Kooiker...No training needed!



The Kooiker Healthline

News you can use from the NKCUSA Health & Genetics Committee

By Nancy P. Melone, PhD (Information & Decision Science), Chair, with Committee Members: Barry Rinker, MD (Internal Medicine), Ann Knoop, BSN (Nursing), Bert Klei, PhD (Genetics)

Breeder Education: A Foundation for Healthy Dogs

The NKCUSA Health & Genetics and Breeder Education Committees are collaborating to present a canine reproduction series intended for those who are, or might be, interested in breeding Kooikers. The series provides a basic background in the science and practice of breeding dogs. Articles featured in the series are written by nationally-recognized experts in canine reproduction and theriogenology.

We start this series on the next page with an article on ovulation timing by Melissa Goodman, DVM. Dr. Goodman is a 1979 graduate of the University of Pennsylvania, and a 1983 graduate of the University of Florida College of Veterinary Medicine. After 5 years in small animal practice she joined International Canine Genetics, Inc. where she received specialized training in small animal reproduction and became Vice President of Veterinary Services. Dr. Goodman is Board Qualified in the American College of Theriogenology (the specialty of veterinary reproduction) and maintains a specialty practice in the reproduction of dogs and cats in suburban Philadelphia, PA. She has authored numerous publications in the field of canine reproduction for both veterinarians and dog breeders, and is a regular speaker to both groups. Dr. Goodman exhibits and breeds Golden Retrievers, is active in conformation, field, agility and obedience events, is a past Director of the Golden Retriever Club of America and a past Chairman of the GRCA Health & Genetics Committee. She recently finished a term on the Board of the Society for Theriogenology.

We welcome feed back on this series and will endeavor to provide those interested in breeding clear, relevant and accurate information. If you have questions or suggestions for topics you would like to see covered, we can be reached with a click at either healthgenetics@kooikerhondjeusa.org or breeders@kooikerhondjeusa.org.

Turn the page & enjoy! →



Canine Health Information Center (CHIC) Health Test Certified Nederlandse Kooikerhondje Second Quarter, July-September 2020

Provided by Nancy Melone, PhD, NKCUSA Health & Genetics Committee



These Kooikers have been newly certified by the Canine Health Information Center (CHIC) in the fourth quarter of 2020 as having been tested for hips, eyes, patellas, hereditary necrotizing myelopathy (ENM), and von Willebrand disease. CHIC certification does **not** require that the dog test “clear” or “normal” to be certified. It is an effort to get ALL Kooikers health tested for the purpose of tracking disease in the breed. More detailed information on test results of specific Kooikers is available on the Orthopedic Foundation for Animals website at www.OFA.org/look-up-a-dog

Dog's Name	Date Certified	CHIC Certification	AKC
	Registration		
Qunack's Favor Flying Dutchman	Oct. 8, 2020	New - 152333	SS01488101
Haylee de Hemert	Oct 22, 2020	New - 152751	SS01776702
Golden Gate Saliforth Sierra	Oct. 30, 2020	New - 152997	SS06110183
Mendikan Jinger Doora	Dec. 14, 2020	New - 154112	SS011005701

DEMYSTIFYING CANINE OVULATION TIMING

by Melissa Goodman, DVM
www.VeterinaryReproductiveServices.com



Photo 37050655 © Abhijith Ar | Dreamstime.com

Left to their own behavior and responding to nature's signals, most dogs will breed at a time appropriate to result in conception. Even still, improper timing is the most common reason that breedings fail. Why? *First of all*, even though most bitches are receptive over a fairly extended period of time, and most stud dogs are interested in breeding them over this same extended period of time (a week or more), the true fertile period of the bitch is short; mature, fertilizable eggs are viable for only 48 to 72 hours. *Secondly*, sperm longevity in the female reproductive tract is usually extended (frequently 6-11 days), allowing breedings that occur considerably before the fertile period to produce pregnancy. However, if sperm longevity is compromised even slightly, or if the number of breedings is limited, matings timed by nature's

signals alone may not result in live sperm present during this critical time. As a result, identification of the true fertile period will maximize the probability of a successful breeding.

ESTROUS CYCLE

The estrous cycle of the bitch consists of four stages:

Proestrus:

Proestrus begins with the observable signs of heat, such as vulvar swelling, the onset of a bloody vaginal discharge, and attraction of males. Hormonally, proestrus is characterized by rising estrogen levels. This stage may be thought of as *a preparatory phase*, which takes the female reproductive tract from the resting phase of anestrus into a state that will be appropriate for breeding and then pregnancy. The

length of proestrus varies considerably from bitch to bitch, and even from cycle to cycle in the same bitch.

Estrus:

Behavioral estrus is the period of female receptivity, including such behavior as “flagging” and “winking”. The vulva will soften and decrease in size, and often the discharge will change from bloody to clear or straw-colored. Hormonally, estrus begins with the luteinizing hormone (LH) surge and is characterized by declining estrogen and rising progesterone levels.

Ovulation and the fertile period occur during this stage.

Diestrus:

Diestrus begins approximately 8 days (range 6-10 days) after the LH surge, and *signifies the end of the fertile period*. Progesterone levels continue to rise and remain elevated during diestrus in all normal bitches whether pregnant or not; this elevation in progesterone is necessary to maintain a pregnancy.

Anestrus:

Anestrus is *the transition period* between one cycle and the next. Progesterone levels return to baseline, either abruptly just prior to whelping, or gradually in the non-pregnant bitch. *The reproductive tract “rests”* for several months, while some hormonal changes occur to prepare the bitch for her next cycle.

IMPORTANT HORMONES

Estrogen:

During proestrus, serum estrogen levels rise slowly over a period of 10 to 14 days, peak 2 to 3 days before estrus, and then decline rapidly. Estrogen’s major role is to prepare the reproductive system for breeding; therefore peak estrogen levels are reached prior to ovulation. These changes in estrogen levels result in:

- *Behavioral changes.*
- *An increased turnover rate of vaginal epithelial cells (the cells lining the wall of the vagina). This process results in the changes seen in vaginal cytology.*
- *Progressive swelling of the female reproductive tract and bloody vaginal discharge.*

Blood estrogen levels are *not reliable for timing breedings*, however, because levels vary significantly from bitch to bitch, and there is no meaningful way to standardize the results. In addition, changes in estrogen are not directly correlated to the fertile period.

Luteinizing Hormone:

Normally LH is present in very small quantities. In early estrus, a significant increase in serum LH, followed by a return to baseline values, occurs rapidly, usually over a 24-hour period. *It is this surge in LH that triggers ovulation, and thus determines the fertile period of the bitch. All events subsequent to the LH surge are consistent between bitches.*

Therefore, *LH is the most accurate diagnostic tool for timing breedings*. Serial daily blood samples can be performed to measure luteinizing hormone and identify the LH surge and the fertile period. The LH surge also determines gestation length, with

Summary of The Estrus Cycle

PROESTRUS—Preparatory period

ESTRUS—Ovulation & fertile period

DIESTRUS—End of the fertile period

ANESTRUS—Rest

whelping taking place 65 days from the LH surge regardless of breeding date.

Progesterone:

Blood progesterone levels stay at a low baseline level during late anestrus and proestrus, and begin to rise at approximately the time of the LH surge. Progesterone then remains elevated for two to three months. These increasing levels of progesterone, together with decreasing estrogen levels, cause the reduction in swelling of the reproductive tract that occurs during estrus. Increased progesterone is also necessary to maintain pregnancy. Serial blood samples may be

Important Hormones in Canine Reproduction

Estrogen—Prepares the reproductive tract
for breeding

Lutenizing Hormone (LH)—Triggers
ovulation

Progesterone—Maintains pregnancy

performed to estimate the LH surge by identification of the initial rise in progesterone that coincides with the LH surge.

OVULATION & THE FERTILE PERIOD

Ovulation is triggered by the LH surge, which causes the ovaries to release the developing ova, or eggs.

Ovulation occurs 48 hours after the LH surge. The ova cannot be fertilized upon their immediate release from the ovaries, however. A subsequent maturation step, requiring 2 to 3 days, must occur before sperm penetration and fertilization can take place.

Once the eggs are mature, they remain viable for approximately 2 to 3 more days before they begin to degenerate. Thus, *the actual fertile period of the bitch is only 2 to 3 days long, begins 4 or 5 days after the LH surge (2 or 3 days after ovulation), and occurs just prior to the onset of diestrus.*

PROGESTERONE ASSAY

Blood progesterone levels are useful for ovulation timing when doing natural breedings or fresh semen artificial inseminations. Quantitative progesterone levels can be determined by many private laboratories and are widely available to the veterinarian in private practice. Also available are in-house canine specific tests that your veterinarian may run in the office or, in some instances, the breeder may run at home. However, these assays give only a range of progesterone, rather than an actual number value, and so are not as useful or accurate as a quantitative assay result.

Remember that progesterone levels are baseline early in the bitch's heat cycle, but begin to rise at the time of the LH surge. Therefore, if the date of the initial rise in progesterone is identified, the LH surge can be estimated. *It is important to understand that even in the most experienced hands, and with the most accurate progesterone assays, the information received is at best an estimation rather than an identification of the fertile period.* When progesterone levels are used to perform ovulation timing, the fertile period is identified with an accuracy of 1-4 days.

LUTEINIZING HORMONE (LH) ASSAY

The most accurate parameter used in ovulation timing is the actual identification of the LH surge by direct measurement, which identifies the fertile period exactly. Since the elevation in LH typically has a duration of only 24 hours, blood sampling must be performed daily to identify this surge. An in-clinic canine LH assay is available which allows practical identification of the LH surge by your veterinarian, and is recommended for breedings using frozen and/or chilled extended semen or breedings in which the fertility of either the stud or bitch is decreased. It is also useful to perform LH testing when breeding a bitch who has not conceived when ovulation timing had been done with progesterone testing alone. LH testing may also be used to accurately identify whelping date, which is necessary when medical intervention (such as elective C-section) is desired.

OVULATION TIMING- PUTTING IT INTO PRACTICE

Many diagnostic and ancillary aids are available to assist in the timing of ovulation and breedings. No single test or assay is fully reliable or completely correlates with the exact stage the bitch is in. A single examination, vaginal smear, LH or progesterone level provides very limited information. Ovulation timing is more accurate and breeding management is more successful when multiple parameters are repeatedly evaluated. Procedures should be started within the first five days of a bitch's cycle. At this time, her baseline progesterone level is established, and the preparatory phase may be staged using a combination of vaginal cytology and vaginoscopy,

if available. This staging should be repeated every 3-5 days until the preparatory phase has progressed to the point that the bitch is approaching the LH surge. At that time, serial blood samples should be performed, either every 2-3 day progesterone testing to estimate the LH surge for routine breedings, or daily LH testing to identify the fertile period exactly.

PLANNING BREEDING DATES

In routine natural breeding or fresh AI with a normal, healthy stud, sperm may be expected to live within the bitch's reproductive tract 5 or more days. Thus, breedings performed a day or two before the fertile period should still be viable at the time of peak fertility. Subsequent breedings during the fertile period will

maximize sperm numbers on the bitch's most fertile days. It is recommended to breed on days 2,4 and 6 post-LH surge if three breedings are possible. If not, perform two breedings between days 3 and 6 post-LH surge.

If using chilled or frozen semen, or performing a natural breeding or fresh AI using a stud with compromised semen or in a bitch with decreased fertility, it may be assumed that the longevity of the sperm cells in the bitch's reproductive tract are decreased and early breedings will likely be wasted, and serve only to decrease the stud's sperm count as the bitch approaches the fertile period. Therefore, these breedings should take place during the true fertile period, days 4, 5 and 6 post-LH surge.



Photo: N.Melone

Altforsterhof Roel and his Kooiker Hulphondjes

Introducing a compassionately contrarian Kooiker crusader

By Karen L. Dean

Photos provided by R. Steenhuis

Roel Steenhuis, known online as Altforsterhof Roel, is dedicated to breeding extraordinarily calm, gentle, social Kooikerhondjes, and training qualified puppies to become specialized service dogs, or Kooiker Hulphondjes. As adult dogs, these highly trained Kooikers provide expert assistance to disabled, wheelchair-bound, and emotionally challenged children, and to some adults who need the services of such a dog. Many of his dogs specialize in giving emotional support to individuals and families during times of major crisis, and others assist children on the Autism Spectrum in developing social skills. Because Roel breeds Kooikers for temperament and, to some extent, physical strength, he does not breed to the standards of the show ring, nor does he follow the strict requirements of the Dutch Kooiker Club (VHNK). As a maverick breeder on the edge of the highly regulated Dutch Kooikerhondje world, Roel has contended with years of criticism and controversy from people who accept the conventional wisdom that Kooikers are too small, too light-weight, nervous and shy to function effectively as assistance dogs.

Roel is committed to his self-appointed mission of spreading love through the greatest source of love, the Kooikerhondje. He disregards the criticisms of the naysayers: "My attitude in the world of Kooikerhondjes is mainly to sail by my own compass and respond with love to gossip and backbiting. . . I believe in the power of a dog's love, for more than just social reasons."

To the extent that Roel has focused on the selective breeding of Kooikers for a particular purpose, it would seem that he holds a contemporary position in the lineage of Dutch farmers who bred and trained their dogs to do specific tasks in an eendenkooi. Just as a Kooikerhondje's work in the eendenkooi takes advantage of the dog's ability to attract and lure ducks while following the decoyman's signals, so does the work of a Kooiker Hulphondje rely upon the dog's powerful focus on his boss, and his eagerness to please the boss.



Of the Kooiker's loyal and loving nature, Roel urges, "Use it! Make your dog a happy dog. Operant conditioning is the foundation. Reward his positive behavior. You see that the dog enjoys positive attention."

Roel's love of Kooikers started when he was a child. His first dog was a crossbreed Kooiker and his parents had a Kooiker. He has bred dogs since 1976, and says that he has learned a lot from his Kooikers-- the unconditionality, their loyalty to the boss, their forgiveness and will to please. From the earliest days of Den Altforsterhof Kennel, Roel has selectively bred for dogs that are slightly larger than the Kooikerhondje show standard, and that have a steady, friendly temperament. Roel had admired the dogs of Kennel het Wilgenbosch for these characteristics, and when the owner of that kennel retired from breeding, Roel took over his last Kooikerhondjes, making them the basis of Den Altforsterhof's breeding program. Roel clearly takes seriously his role as a major conservator of the Wilgenbosch bloodlines.

Roel pursued education in social agogics at the University of Practical Education in Nijmegen, and taught on the Faculty of Social Pedagogy at the University of Practical Education in Utrecht. Social agogics is a social science specialty that combines training in governmental services, healthcare, and

teaching of life skills to people with physical or mental disabilities.

Since Roel's retirement as an educator, he has integrated the lessons he's learned from his Kooikers and his professional experiences helping people manage disabilities or major crises. Roel's professional life had brought him in touch with individuals and families experiencing disability, suffering, and loss. He saw the pain a family suffers when a parent or child has died, and he came to feel that a dog's love could help healing better than anything he or another human could do. He is moved to see the happiness on the faces of elderly care home residents, and people suffering from dementia, when they are visited by a team of friendly Kooiker Hulphondjes or puppies. He organizes regular visits of Kooikers to care homes, rehabilitation centers, and schools. He frequently arranges a "pampering day" for a family facing the imminent or recent death of a loved one, bringing the family to his home for a day of Kooiker love, good food, and special treatment.

Roel makes the point that Den Altforsterhof is not at all a conventional kennel. All his Kooikerhondjes live inside his home and are thoroughly socialized to living with other dogs and humans, and to greeting the flow of visitors. Hospitality in this home is not a strictly human endeavor. The Kooikers do their part, too!

Roel speaks of his love of organizing a pampering day for a ". . . family where a mother dies and children are left alone with the father. In my profession I am often direct, empathetic and confrontational. I talk easily of death, an impending goodbye. But where I can, I offer help. No, my dogs give help. We place a dog in a family and give the children tasks for grooming. Or if the owner of a service dog dies, the dog can remain with the bereaved family as a comfort dog."

Roel describes a recent instance of a Hulphondje whose mission changed: Peter, a 63-year-old man with a serious lung disease, was largely dependent on his wife. Roel made Kooiker Hulphondje Lobke available for Peter. Peter and his wife, Meta, signed



a contract that if Peter died, Lobke would return to Roel. Lobke provided Peter welcome companionship and assistance, and alerted Meta when Peter needed her help. After months of deteriorating health, Peter died. Meta, in deep mourning, asked if she could keep Lobke, and Roel agreed to it.

Roel reports, "Lobke now lives with Meta and she tells me how much support she has from Lobke... Lobke became a service dog with a different mission. Lobke does what we humans cannot do. She is there 24/7. She gives Meta a goal to live on. . . Kooikerhondjes don't talk like people, they just do what they have to do: give love and comfort. They also provide structure, you take them for a walk, you feed them, you have responsibility for your dog again."

Roel comments that, after years of teaching, "I started to focus more and more on showing people their opportunities, despite their disabilities. Children in wheelchairs, especially, have had my attention."

He points out that a Dutch child who is dependent on a wheelchair often receives little support from aid sources, as parents are expected to care for the child. Commercial providers of service dogs in The Netherlands charge upwards of 45,000 euros (approximately \$54,346) for a trained dog, which means that few children or teenagers—or their parents—have the benefits afforded by a full-time assistance dog who can provide direct help (e.g., picking up things from the floor, retrieving objects from a distance, opening and closing doors and drawers, and more) and summon help if it the child needs it.

One of Roel's goals, going forward, is being able to provide well-trained Kooiker Hulphondjes to children in wheel chairs, at no or very little cost. His work of training and placing Hulphondjes is supported by a group of about 100 donors, and he has placed numerous Hulphondjes to date.

Roel describes Silvi, who has Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA), and Pandor: "Silvi is totally dependent on a wheelchair. She has had an assistance dog named Pandor for 5 years now. Pandor has had 2 years of training. He's her legs. When Silvi has to sneeze, Pandor gets a tissue. If Silvi falls, Pandor gets help. If Silvi is in pain, Pandor is there to comfort her. Unconditional love, that's Pandor."

Sylvi and Pandor have shown other children and their parents what a skilled Hulphondje can do, and, in the pre-Covid days, they made public appearances to educate people about SMA and Hulphondjes. Roel's Hulphondjes are now helping children with a variety of neuromuscular, cardiac, and other conditions, and he hopes to continue placing trained Hulphondjes with children who need them.

The training of a Kooiker Hulphondje takes about two years of shared efforts by a group of people. An "adoptant" family cares for the puppy and provides basic training, a specialized trainer works with the pup weekly, and others expose the pup to a range of experiences. Toward the end of the training period, the dog starts spending time with its permanent family, as everyone receives final training. By the time the Hulphondje is at work, he can respond to 100 commands and is fully bonded with his "boss."

Roel says of the volunteered efforts of the people who make it possible for his group to do its work, "I call that social responsibility for people with disabilities."

Roel has shared some thoughts on his life with Kooikerhondjes, and his plans, going forward: "Breeding is so much more than making puppies. It entails great responsibilities. Living with 14 dogs in the house is special and challenging. However, it is only a privilege if you do something good with it. A Kooikerhondje is a special dog with great possibilities. The fact that the dog is human- and child-oriented is a great advantage. You can make use of it. With 14 Kooikerhondjes in the house, I have 14 friends at home, 14 very social friends. If I invite 100 people to our house and I give them food and drink, I have to wait and see if there is 1 friend. That makes the Kooiker so special. I want to show the world that Kooikers are social dogs. Now that we are 70 years old, we are going to slow down. We are phasing out breeding. We want to enjoy our dogs. We are going to enjoy the last years but will help others where we can. A child's smile is our reward."

Editor's Note: This article presents the author's understanding of the innovative philosophy and practices of Den Altforsterhof kennel, which selectively breeds, trains, and places Kooikerhondjes as service dogs. The author's description is intended to illustrate the feasibility of teaching Kooikerhondjes to perform duties beyond those they traditionally handled in the eendenkooi. The article does not express the opinion of the NKCUSA Board of Directors, nor does it represent a formal endorsement of general training of Kooikerhondjes as service dogs.

Our Visit to Den Altforsterhof



In August of 2018, I had the great pleasure of meeting Roel, his partner Angelien, and—if I remember correctly—12 Altforsterhof Kooikerhondjes, one of which was Tommy, the sire of the puppy we would be bringing back to New York in a few days. A group of us, including Jac and Ann Knoop, Lucinda Paganin, my husband Nathan, our friend Yasue, and I, had converged on Amsterdam to attend the World Dog Show (WDS). Nathan and I were going to pick up a Kooiker puppy in Dordrecht, after the WDS, and the Knoop family was kind enough to join in our adventures and guide us along the unforgivingly fast intercity highways and onto the minimally identified streets through the small towns off the highway.

The six of us, in two rented automobiles, drove from Amsterdam to the village of Altforsterhof in the early afternoon, the day before the WDS main events began. We pulled off the sleek, well-maintained modern expressway and

onto the brick-paved local road, passing quiet tidy houses on both sides of the street. My first sense of entering a science fictional time slip into a parallel reality came when I noticed that the brick road through the village felt as smooth as the modern expressway we had just left.

The brick road carried us a mile or so along a quiet street of tidy houses set back behind low fences. A sprawling patchwork of summer-colored fields defined the backdrop of the village. We knew we had arrived at Roel's when the silence was broken by happily excited barking, as we pulled into parking spaces adjacent to a fenced yard around a house that looked as if it had been plucked out of a painting by Jan Steen. There was that "time slip" feeling again. . . The feeling of having stepped into a 400-year-old painting grew stronger, as we entered the house, greeted the dozen or so strong Kooiker welcoming committee, and followed Roel to the open kitchen/dining area, where an enormous table piled high with enticing cheese, bread, meats, fruit, soup, salads and cakes awaited us. My mind's eye kept bringing up old paintings of Kooiker-like



dogs hovering around a well-provisioned table, like the one where we sat.

Angelien and Roel urged us to eat, bringing one pan after the next of delicious edibles from the oven, and refilling soup bowls as soon as they were emptied. The dogs socialized politely around the table, some sitting quietly on the floor, others asking for a cuddle in someone's lap. Sitting rooms off the dining room provided cozy armchairs where a weary human or Kooikerhondje could snooze for a bit. Conversation ranged from Kooiker history to Kooiker Hulphondjes to the mini horses that Roel breeds. After lunch, some of the Den Altforsterhof Kooikerhondjes accompanied us out to visit the mini horses, some of the dogs remained inside to help with clean up, and some had an afternoon's splashdown in the koi pond out back – and, yes, Kooikerhondje and koi fish share the pond peacefully. As the magical day drew to a close, we happily accepted Roel's invitation to stop by in a few days, after we had picked up our puppy, Bosco, Tommy's son.

I recall the next few days as a blur of dog show rings, meeting people I'd only seen on Facebook, discovering the wondrous pan-nenkoek, visiting an eendenkooi, and—at last! —picking up Bosco and meeting his mother, Stella, at Kennel van de Zuidendijk. We spent the next two days cuddling Bosco and getting his final health certification signed. He was a calm and cooperative traveler in his travel bag in the car and hotel rooms, and was always happy to meet new people.



On our last afternoon in the Kooikerhondje homeland, we returned to Den Altforsterhof, where Roel had rounded up his Kooikers in the sitting rooms so they wouldn't overwhelm Bosco in the dining room area. Bosco and his sire Tommy sniffed one another indifferently, both dogs seeming more interested in food bowls than in meeting kinfolk. The resident Kooikers weren't happy about being shut away from the visitors, but they accepted the situation stoically and welcomed us when we went to see them in the other room. Roel cuddled Bosco and told him he had a great father in Tommy, as he reviewed Bosco's paperwork for the next morning's departure. Angeliën suddenly entered the house with several packages of elegant Chinese food that she and Roel quickly arrayed on the table, passing out plates and utensils

and urging us to "Eat!" I suspect no one leaves Den Altforsterhof hungry.

My original sense of having slipped back in time at Altforsterhof, it turns out, was only off by a couple of centuries. When I asked Roel how old his house was, he answered, "We live in a 200-year-old Dutch farm house with lots of space in and around the house. We like what we have and like it more to share it with others."

I have to wonder what the farmer from 200 years ago would think, to see a Chinese feast spread out at one end of the table, and Roel's computer and photographic equipment set up at the other end. . .

NATIONAL SPECIALTY UPDATE

As National Specialty Show Chairs we are sorry to inform you that we made the final decision to cancel the 2021 Shows. As NKCUSA, we made the decision to put on hold our 2021 Specialty a few weeks ago because we feared that the State of Oregon would close the Fair Ground site at the last moment. This is now the case as the State made the announcement this past week:

Received from Karen Houle, 2021 Chintimini Show Chair.

Chintimini Kennel Club must cancel our April 9, 10, & 11, 2021 AKC All Breed Shows because our show site has been declared unavailable to us by the Linn County Fairgrounds & Expo Center. This was a decision by the Linn County Board of Commissioners who will be using the site full time for COVID vaccinations through June 2021. There is no other comparable site in this area not already being used for COVID vaccinations.

We are very disappointed after all the effort AKC, Onofrio and the Club members & Specialty Clubs have put into this activity. However, we must get our vaccines first so that we can safely go on with our other activities in life.

Thank you for all your help in this endeavor!

As National Specialty Show Chairs we will keep you informed of our new plans. We will organize a ZOOM Membership Meeting similar to the meeting we held last year. We are working on an event in Ohio later this summer. It will not be a full Specialty, but it will be a very, very special event.

Karen Parker & Jac Knoop

Meet Our New NKCUSA Board Members

Cheryl Miedema - Treasurer



I am Cheryl and I would like to introduce myself a little. My husband Rich and I live in the Western suburbs of Chicago. We have three grown children that have moved out and one crazy Kooiker named Tasha (Natasha de Hemert) My Husband and I are both

from Dutch descent and I had been interested in the Kooikerhondje breed for several years.

I had the most perfect timing to this breed in the most imperfect year possible. I was so excited to bring home Tasha this past year. My husband and I made the trip to Iowa from Illinois to pick her up. I was prepared to do everything right with puppy training and then the country shut down. I found myself laid off from my job and a crazy puppy to train and socialize without any in-person classes to attend. I have had many dogs and I knew this was not going to be good for Tasha if she could not get socialized, so I took her to the park and around the neighborhood. Anyone that was willing to stop and listen got a history lesson on the Kooikerhondje breed. Tasha got some socialization even if it was touchless.

I feel I am the right person for this position. I have time to dedicate to be treasurer and I am detail oriented. I have worked in the healthcare system for over 25 years. I have worked with excel spreadsheets and many other electronic systems.

Becky Fitzell - Secretary



Hello! Allow me to introduce myself and share with you why I look forward to the role of Secretary NKCUSA. My husband Jim and I are parents to four wonderful daughters, Brittany 27, Katie 24, Sela 15 and Kebe 12. I am currently a

"stay at home" Mom and my husband is the CEO/ President of a tier 1 auto company. We are all avid dog lovers and enjoy living on the water and boating with our pups.

Six years ago, Jim and I began researching dog breeds in hope of finding a companion for our family. In late Spring of 2015, we were introduced to a female pup presented to us by Ann Knoop. In August of that year, we brought our Ruby (aka Amazing Froukje Van Den Iserman Hoeve) home to West Michigan! With much thought and consideration, we decided to find a male Kooiker in hopes to breed for the future. By thoughtful recommendation, we were introduced to Stan Van Hemert and late Spring 2018, we brought home our loving and handsome Skipper (aka Dozer de Hemert).

Recently after over 20 years, I decided to leave the corporate world as Director of Human Resources to spend more time with our family. Since then, I have pondered how I might become more active in the NKCUSA and it was recently brought to my attention the Secretary position would become vacant. I believe my past work and various volunteer experience, true love for the breed and belief in the mission of the club will allow me to be successful in serving this role.

Rachael Mulnix - Director



My name is Rachael Mulnix, and I'm excited to be on board! Let me tell you a bit about myself. I've been a part of the dog obedience world for many years. During that time, I've learned much about dog behavior in general,

and I like to think I understand quite a bit about how they think. I've also been involved with The Service Dog Institute, helping to raise puppies and give them the general skills that all service dogs need.

Another facet of my admiration for dogs comes from my home. My son has autism, and having dogs in our home is and always has been a must. He has cherished every dog we've had, learning from them and being loved by them, and eventually training them. He was at the Classic in Orlando the first year they opened it up to junior handlers. Connie Cleveland took a group of five juniors, and each one placed in their respective classes.

Golden Retrievers have been my breed since the 1980's. After the Classic, though, I fell in love with this red & white dog. I was waiting until the time was right to bring one home.

I'm thoroughly enjoying my 1-year-old boy, Reddington.

As a dog trainer who has put a UD on two dogs, I'm excited to have a new partner in the ring. I look forward to pronouncing the name and explaining to the other teams what Kooikers were bred for and what they're capable of. I'm a firm believer in training any puppy with manners and basic skills, but I believe this breed has a bright future in obedience!

I look forward to helping promote this relatively unknown breed to the general community. Redd has already charmed the people in his world, through

piano lessons, dog obedience classes, and much outdoor time in the community. We look forward to being a team for many years to come.

Barry Rinker - Director



Barry is a native of Nazareth, Pennsylvania, now living in Wayne, Pennsylvania near Valley Forge with his wife Veronica- a registered nurse

and known to all as Bonnie- and his 3-year-old Kooiker, the Amazing Klaas Van Den Iserman Hoeve CGC, aka Dutch. Bonnie has been working as a Clinical Home Care Liaison Nurse helping to safely transition patients home from their stays at Temple University Hospital in Philadelphia. Dutch has spent this year as a very happy and loving pandemic dog with his parents both at home, and as he has not had to put up with his dad's amateur dog handling adventures in conformation. His favorite dog sanctioned dog activity to date has been Fast CAT, where he enjoyed slowing down so he could more effectively eye and prance by the scorer's table, hence working diligently to keep his parents adequately humble. Barry recently retired, finishing a 35-year career as a primary care internist, geriatrician, hospitalist, clinician educator and Clinical Associate Professor of Medicine in both New York City and the Philadelphia area.

As a relative newcomer to the more formal dog world, Barry hopes that he can bring a fresh, if somewhat "outsider," still novice, perspective to his volunteering with NKCUSA. Newly retired at 65, he hopes to now have the time, and to still have the energy and enthusiasm needed for his new role within our club. He hopes that his past clinical and teaching experiences have provided him with the skills needed to work within teams, with people of all backgrounds- and all with the needed humility such work entails. He also hopes to continue to learn

from his roles and from the expertise within NKCUSA and to make new friends along the way.

Terri Van Schyndel - Director



I have been in the dog world for all of my adult life. I started showing farm animals in grade and high school (cattle, horses, pigs, sheep, goats, rabbits) and moved on to cats and then dogs. Showing has been in my blood since I was very young. I have been a dog

groomer, a show dog groomer, owner/handler of Keeshonden since 1987 after finding a beautiful Keeshond that the former owner never claimed. I have been in the show dog world since 1981 and never picked a breed for myself until Maxx came along. In 2020 I added a 2nd breed, my first Kooikerhondje from the Van Fogelsangh and Wexford lines.

I started in rescue before starting my life of breeding and actively showing Keeshonden. I worked for a local all-breed handler in Green Bay who specialized in Poodles, Bichon Frises, Schnauzers, Basenji among many other breeds. I have been a member of Keeshond Club of America for 25 years, currently a KCA MAPP committee member, the KCA Rescue coordinator. I am the current President and Show Chair of the Keeshond Fanciers of the Central States and a member since 2007. I held the treasurer position for 8 years prior to becoming president. I am also a member of the Keeshond Club of Canada.

I bring lots of years and experience in the world of show dogs and being on committees for many years. I am passionate about my dogs, their breeds, their well-being and the sport of dog showing. I get the most enjoyment out of being a breeder, carrying the breed into the future, keeping the breed true to its history, promoting health and genetics to produce the healthiest, well socialized puppies, so the breeds thrive.

Kooikers in the Field:

AKC Spaniel Hunt Testing

By Rachel Burzi



Photo: G. Wetzel

Just before the end of 2020, the American Kennel Club (AKC) notified the NKCUSA that Kooikers had officially been approved to participate in the lesser known sport of Spaniel Hunt Testing. Many of you may already be asking: What's a hunt test? Why would a Kooiker participate with Spaniels? Can Kooikers hunt? Can a Kooiker actually retrieve a goose? Is this good news? This article aims to shed some light on a somewhat controversial new opportunity.

In order to understand Hunt Testing, we must first understand fowl hunting with a dog. When hunting fowl in a field, the dog combs through the environment (usually grass or wetlands) in a zigzag pattern using scent tracing to find and flush out birds. "Flushing" is the act of locating and

essentially forcing the fowl out of the brush, sending them flying up in the air. If the owner/hunter needs to give directions to the dog it is usually by whistling. When the dog flushes out the fowl, the hunter (hopefully) shoots it down and the dog retrieves the bird, delivering it to the hunter using a soft mouth. The fowl should be "fit for the table" as they say in the field, with no punctures or mangling by the dog.

There are 2 different ways that dogs are measured in this sport: Field Trials and Hunt Tests. Both forms of measurement are rooted in fowl hunting and test all the skills a dog would need out in the field. The primary difference between Field Trials and Hunt Tests is the competition. In a Field Trial, dogs are competing against other dogs to be the best hunting companion. Kooikers are not allowed to

compete in Field Trials, only in Hunt Tests. In a Hunt Test, dogs are competing against a written set of standards.

According to the AKC, "A number of hunting dog breeds have been developed to hunt, find game, flush and retrieve birds in a pleasing and efficient manner. The objective of the hunting test program is to help the hunter develop a useful hunting companion by providing a means to gauge a dog's abilities against three standards of accomplishment—Junior Hunter, Senior Hunter and Master Hunter." (As stated in the Regulations for AKC Hunting Tests for Spaniels: <http://images.akc.org/pdf/rulebooks/RHTSPN.pdf>)

The Hunt Test standards delineate 3 classes that dogs can progress through to ensure they are competing fairly against dogs of a similar skill level—Junior, Senior & Master Hunter. Lee Salmon is an NKCUSA club member and a certified AKC Hunt Test Judge.

According to Lee, "There are standard things being evaluated. Trainability, marking, nose, and perseverance to name a few. The five general categories judged are:

1. Hunting Ability (this would include perseverance, independence, desire),
2. Bird Finding Ability (nose and scenting, intelligence, working cover and scenting conditions),
3. Flushing Ability (putting the birds in the air in order to give the gunner the chance to shoot, this would include a tenacity to pushing the bird enough to cause it to take flight),
4. Trained Ability (Quartering pattern and range, responding to commands, steadiness, blind work), and
5. Retrieving Ability (the retrieve, mouth habits, enthusiasm).

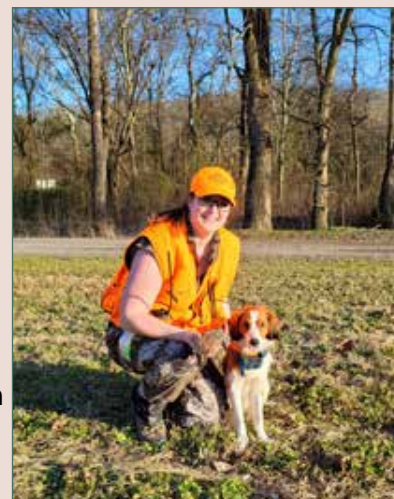
These are rated by a set of judges. A dog must average certain scores in order to pass or earn a ribbon for the stake."

Kooikerhondjes descended from the Spaniel lineage. However, unlike Spaniels, Kooikers were originally bred for the purpose of luring wild ducks into traps. They were not bred to hunt, flush, retrieve, point or swim but instead to coax them down a canal to be trapped for harvest. This is the only dog in the Sporting Group that works in front of its game. Since Kooikers always need a job, they spent their free time doing other duties such as keeping the barn free of rodents. At this point you may be thinking, "Does a Kooiker possess any of the skills necessary to participate in Hunt Tests?" The answer to that question lies firmly in the trainer's hands.

Dog sports come in many forms: Fast CAT, Agility, Dock Diving, Lure Coursing, Conformation, Disk Dog, Fly Ball, Freestyle, Rally, Scent Work and Tricks. Most of these dog sports selectively utilize a dog's natural instincts. However, all dogs need to be trained in every aspect of these sports in order to succeed on a competitive level. Spaniel Hunt Testing is no different.

"I'm sure you have seen the videos on social media of 6-week-old pointers freezing and pointing at a bird wing on a fishing pole, or tiny retriever puppies working their hardest to retrieve a dummy or a bumper. Naïve young Kooikers simply don't exhibit behaviors like this – and why would they? But this means that training a Kooiker is less about shaping and expanding existing instincts and talents – as it would be for most gundogs – as teaching each individual behavior from the ground up."

Kooikerhondjes as Bird Dogs by Gretchen Wetzel,
www.criterionkooikers.com



Gretchen Wetzel with Casper

That quote is from NKCUSA club member Gretchen Wetzel, who has dedicated many, many hours to successfully train her Kooiker, Casper, to work as a gun dog. According to Gretchen, Casper showed early-on that he was smart, eager to please and wasn't sensitive to sounds. He was her first Kooiker in 20 years that she thought could be a promising hunting companion and, although Gretchen was excited, she noted that she has a "high tolerance for failure." From there, Gretchen taught Casper everything he would need to know in order to be successful in the field. Gretchen is so proud of



John Shawcroft with Cain

the progress that Casper has made and although there are skills to work on and refine, she feels that he has turned out to be a wonderful hunting companion.

Kooikerhondje
Cain and owner/
club member John
Shawcroft were
featured in the Fall 2020

usually accompanies John and him on the hunt. John's next steps are to teach Cain the grueling task of retrieving ducks from the water.

Kooikers are one of the smallest breeds to participate in Spaniel Hunt Tests, and size should be considered in several instances. The first instance would be if your dog encounters a snake in the field. Taller dogs are more likely to be bit on the leg as opposed to the head or trunk (closer to vital organs) like on a shorter dog. A venomous snake bite on a small dog is more potent, and, when bit on the head or trunk, poses a much higher threat to their life. Another instance where size should be considered is during retrieval. Kooikers are carrying the same size fowl as the larger breeds. Handlers need to be aware that a Kooiker weighing 25 pounds carrying a 2 pound fowl is retrieving 8% of his body weight, compared to a 50 pound Field Spaniel who is only retrieving 4% of his total body weight. Caution and consideration should be taken during training and hunting sessions to ensure your Kooiker does not become injured or overworked, especially when retrieving in the water. Handlers that are more familiar with spaniel and retriever breeds should understand that Kooikers do not possess the

Chronicle article about Cain's participation in "Snake School," to learn to recognize snakes by scent, sound, and sight, and to avoid them, as they can be very dangerous where he lives. Snake School, Obedience, and Advanced Hunt Training were part of Cain's preparation to be a gun dog. Currently at 18 months of age, Cain is showing a great aptitude for flushing and retrieving Quail, Pheasants and Doves. Most of his education is happening out in the field now and he takes his cues from a Labrador Retriever that



Casper retrieving a pheasant.
Photo: G. Wetzel

webbed feet to help them swim efficiently, nor a rough coat for protection against the cold.

Casper and Cain are rare but great examples of Kooikerhondje already out in the field, however owners and prospective owners should understand that hunting, flushing, retrieving and pointing are not instinctual in the Kooiker breed. Although

an individual Kooiker may show an aptitude in one specific piece of the Spaniel Hunt Testing requirements, as any dog might do, most will need significant training. If you want a hunting dog or gun dog, get a spaniel. If you enjoy the challenge of training and would like to get involved in Spaniel Hunt Testing, try a Kooikerhondje.

Casper in the field.
Photo: G. Wetzel



A Silly Point of View

By Gianna Burzi, NKCUSA Junior Ambassador

Sometimes being silly can change your perspective on things and allow you to think outside the box. This just so happens to be one of our specialties in the Burzi family. We always love to do things our own way. Sometimes without even knowing it we learn some pretty interesting things. One example is how we learned about the value of considering the dog's perspective while running agility.

When the coronavirus hit it took a toll on all of us. Bean, my two-and-a-half-year-old Kooikerhondje fell into what we call the "Covid funk." He became uninterested in agility and it took months to get him back to his normal self. We did this by spending a lot of time practicing agility at our dog sports and training club. We would go for our class and one or two extra practices a week. This helped him improve a lot but it also helped us learn a little too.

One day after we finished practicing, my stepmom and I took turns pretending to be the dog as we ran an agility course. We weren't trying to achieve anything, we were simply messing around and having fun. While running, we would give one another commands to follow, just like a dog would. We gave both physical cues and verbal commands. This turned out to be more difficult than we originally thought and opened our eyes to how skilled all of these dogs really are. Even though we both had an advantage of understanding what the other person wanted through verbal communication, it was really difficult to read all the signs correctly and fast enough.

After putting myself in Bean's shoes, I understand him a lot better. As much as our dogs may want to please us, it can become difficult for them when they just don't comprehend what we are asking them to do. Dogs expend a lot of physical and mental energy to process what us humans want, so if what you are doing does not work, try looking at it from the dog's perspective and maybe take a new approach. Dogs are very smart, observant animals and we are very lucky to have them as our teachers and our students - Let's make the most of this special relationship!



Photo: Wetzel

"Oh, How that Auctioneer Could Talk So Rapidly"

NKCUSA AUCTION FUNDRAISER Another Rousing Success

By Rachel Burzi

Beginning in December, Fundraiser Committee Chair Dawn Lugo asked the club membership to gather donations for our Auction Fundraiser event and our membership came through with great success. A full range of items including a custom pet portrait, hand-made leads, face masks and a rolling dog show bag made with a Kooiker print material, past National Specialty Event merchandise bundles, dog toys, fun poop pouches, hand painted tiles from the Netherlands, custom mugs and so much more including the ever-popular Mystery Bundles! What's in those bundles anyway?



Bidding action was enjoyable to follow over the month-long event. The early birds got right into the auction posting minimum bids. Others slow-played the action by occasionally countering with reasonable increases. Special thanks to "Blanket Bidder" Ronald Egidio who flooded the auction with bids, keeping the action interesting and the profits rising throughout the month. At the end, the hawks swooped in to steal the win, but my personal favorites were the nail-in-the-coffin bidders. They were the people who bid heavy towards the beginning, signaling that they weren't playing around and, surprisingly, most of those bids held on to the end of the auction. In the first week of bidding, member Tom Brown and Kooiker Quinci raised their bid for the embroidered Kooiker Hoodie and drove the win home by placing their size and color choice in the bid too. Their strong bid held for the last 3 weeks. Well played, Tom and Quinci! Our club President, Stanley van Hemert was so intent on winning the handmade pet feeding station that he raised the bid against himself. This was a brave but strong move on Stan's part and it paid off for the win! (Ok in all honesty, Stan loves the auction, so when no one bid against him, he jokingly outbid himself. - Bold move, Stan!)

Organizer Dawn Lugo said, "I want to thank all those who donated items and all those who bid and bid again to win their favorite items." In total, the Membership came together to raise \$1,741 to support our Annual Specialty! Thank you Dawn for putting together this fun event!

**"There was a boy in Arkansas
Who wouldn't listen to his ma
When she told him he should go to school.
He'd sneak away in the afternoon,
Take a little walk then pretty soon,
You'd find him at the local auction barn.
He'd stand and listen carefully.
Then pretty soon he began to see
How the auctioneer could talk so rapidly.
He said, "Oh my, it's do or die.
I've got to learn that auction cry.
Gotta make my mark and be an Auctioneer."**

From the lyrics to "Auctioneer" by Leroy van Dyke

Recent Titles—October 1, 2020 and December 31, 2020*

Titles as provided by the American Kennel Club

Edited by Linda Dean

* Plus an award from February 2020

Advanced Canine Good Citizen

Redgold's Christmas Belle FDC NA NAJ ACT2 SCN SIN RATS DS AJ CGCA CGCU

Owner: Julie Traver

Breeder: Dee A Nichols & Linda Culpepper

Agility Course Test 1

Redgold's Galileo FDC ACT2 SCN SIN SBN DN CGCA CGCU TKI

Owner: Julie Traver

Breeder: Dee A Nichols & Linda Culpepper

Agility Course Test 2

Redgold's Galileo FDC ACT2 SCN SIN SBN DN CGCA CGCU TKI

Owner: Julie Traver

Breeder: Dee A Nichols & Linda Culpepper

Agility Excellent

Waterbound Henry The Splash AX AXJ ACT1

Owner: Jerry Keys & Patrice Petersen-Keys

Breeder: Dr. Susanne Martin & Sheryl Fuller

Agility FAST Open

MACH2 Redgold's Chocolate Chip MXG MJS OF

Owner: Colleen Dressler

Breeder: Dee A Nichols & Linda Culpepper

BCAT

Ambermoon's Dancing In The Moonlight BCAT CGC TKN

Owner: Kathy Kimmeth & Alyssa Kimmeth

Breeder: Dee A Nichols & Linda Culpepper

Carousel The Call Let The Day Begin" BCAT TKN"

Owner: Ms. Kelley Kathleen Welch

Breeder: Deborah Bean & Joyce B Weichsl

CH Waterbound Demi Delight CDX BN GN RI BCAT CGC TKA

Owner: Sheryl Fuller

Breeder: Karen Wonders

CH Waterbound Making Waves RN BCAT CGC

Owner: Sheryl Fuller

Breeder: Sheryl Fuller

GCH CH Ambermoon Vonlin Whisper In The Dark RN BCAT CGC TKN

Owner: Alyssa-Kathy Kimmeth & Linda Culpepper

Breeder: Lavon Culpepper & Linda Culpepper

Golden Gate Alpine Ben Elegant RN BCAT TKI

Owner: Cheryl Cardwell

Breeder: Dr. Susanne Martin

Golden Gate Alpine Summit Venture Of Waterbound BCAT

Owner: Linda Osborne & Dr. Susanne Martin & Sheryl Fuller

Breeder: Dr. Susanne Martin

Waterbound Holiday Spirit RN BCAT

Owner: Caitlyn Czinder & Sheryl Fuller

Breeder: Sheryl Fuller

Waterbound Spirit Of The Cosmo BCAT

Owner: Alayna Aghazarian

Breeder: Sheryl Fuller

Canine Good Citizen

Amazing Isis Van Regenschaduw CA DCAT CGC

Owner: Mark Cohen & Patricia Cohen

Breeder: Karen Watling Parker

Hanabi Dutchman Von Singleton CGC

Owner: Carol Ann Singleton

Breeder: Marsha Hall & Mark Heimbecker

Sunshine's Wonderlijk Copper CGC

Owner: Lynn Kicinski & Mike Kicinski

Breeder: Yesenia Bravo

Waterbound Unity Makes Strength Vd Golden Gate CGC

Owner: Johannes Izak Boerhout

Breeder: Victoria M McAllister-Miller & Sheryl Fuller

Canine Good Citizen Urban

Redgold's Christmas Belle FDC NA NAJ ACT2 SCN SIN RATS DS AJ CGCA CGCU

Owner: Julie Traver

Breeder: Dee A Nichols & Linda Culpepper

Redgold's Galileo FDC SCN SIN DN CGCA CGCU

Owner: Julie Traver

Breeder: Dee A Nichols & Linda Culpepper

Champion

CH Foothills Breve Luna CGC

Owner: Yesenia Bravo

Breeder: Julie Voetberg

CH Foothills Kaia Cook Tabare BCAT

Owner: Merys Cook

Breeder: David Wiltbank

CH Golden Gate Simply True Vd Waterbound RN

Owner: Cheryl Dawn Short

Breeder: Cheryl Short & Susanne Martin

CH Sunshines Wonderlijk Boo

Owner: Ms. Vanessa E Arranz & Yesenia Bravo

Breeder: Yesenia Bravo

Coursing Ability

Amazing Isis Van Regenschaduw CA DCAT

Owner: Mark Cohen & Patricia Cohen

Breeder: Karen Watling Parker

DCAT

Carousel The Call Let The Day Begin" DCAT TKN"

Owner: Ms. Kelley Kathleen Welch

Breeder: Deborah Bean & Joyce B Weichsl

GCH CH Black Amiikos On A Carousel CA DCAT

Owner: Deborah Bean & Joyce Weichsl & Monica Garcia

Breeder: Sirpa Luoto Nykaanen

GCHB CH Black Amiikos Primadonnaa Intarsia CM4 CD BN CAA DCAT CGC

Owner: Deborah Bean & Joyce B Weichsl

Breeder: Sirpa Luoto Nykanen

Disc Dog Silver

Redgold's Christmas Belle FDC NA NAJ ACT2 SCN SIN RATS DS AJ

DDS CGCA CGCU TKI

Owner: Julie Traver

Breeder: Dee A Nichols & Linda Culpepper

Dock Junior

Hanabi Dutchman Von Singleton DJ CGC

Owner: Carol Ann Singleton

Breeder: Marsha Hall & Mark Heimbecker

Excellent Agility Jumper

GCH CH Carousel Bessie's Flight Of Fancy OA AXJ CGC

Owner: Cheryl Short

Breeder: Deborah Bean & Joyce B Weichsl

Farm Dog Certified

Redgold's Christmas Belle FDC NA NAJ ACT2 SCN SIN RATS DS AJ CGC

Owner: Julie Traver

Breeder: Dee A Nichols & Linda Culpepper

Redgold's Galileo FDC SCN SIN DN CGCA

Owner: Julie Traver

Breeder: Dee A Nichols & Linda Culpepper

Waterbound Megha Hearts United Vd Golden Gate RI FDC CGCA CGCU TKI

Owner: Bob Meagher

Breeder: Victoria M McAllister-Miller & Sheryl Fuller

FCAT

Amazing Isis Van Regenschaduw CA FCAT CGC

Owner: Mark Cohen & Patricia Cohen

Breeder: Karen Watling Parker

Duckhill Flash Ambermoon Emma BN RA MX MXJ XF FCAT

ACT1 DJ DN CGCA TKN

Owner: Debra Tervelt & Kathy Kimmeth

Breeder: Femke Van Ratingen

MACH2 Ambermoons Amazing Starfire CD BN RE MXC MJS2 NJP

MXF T2B2 FCAT CGCA TKN

Owner: Debra Tervelt

Breeder: Kathy Kimmeth & Joe Kimmeth

FCAT5

Amazing Zoey Achteraf FCAT5

Owner: Marilyn Ledoux

Breeder: M V D Heuvel

FCAT6

Amazing Zoey Achteraf FCAT6

Owner: Marilyn Ledoux

Breeder: M V D Heuvel

Grand Champion

GCH CH Haylee De Hemert FCAT CGC TKN

Owner: Christine Carroll & Ann Knoop

Breeder: Stan Van Hemert

GCH CH Kessler

Owner: Merys Cook

Breeder: H A De Heus

Photo: Don Meyer/N. Meloner



Grand Champion Bronze

*GCHB CH PACH Bree Lynn Van Crystalkooi AX MXJ MXP6 MXPS
MJP6 MJPS PAX2 CGC TKN*

Owner: Cheryl Short & Susanne Martin
Breeder: Marion Weissenbrunner

Master Agility Excellent Preferred 7

*GCHB CH PACH Bree Lynn Van Crystalkooi AX MXJ MXP7 MXPS
MJP6 MJPS PAX2 CGC TKN*

Owner: Cheryl Short & Susanne Martin
Breeder: Marion Weissenbrunner

Master Agility Excellent Preferred 9

*PACH2 Taga's Balder Ambermoon Evan BN RI FDC MX MXB MXJ
MJB MXP9 MXPG MJP10 MJPC PAX2 OF T2B SWN THDN CGCA TKN*

Owner: Deborah L Vassar
Breeder: Ann Skudt

Master Bronze Jumper 3

MACH4 Redgold's Dream Lover MXC2 MJB3 CGC TKN

Owner: Cheryl Short & David Mattix
Breeder: Dee A Nichols

Master Excellent Jumper Preferred 7

*GCHB CH PACH2 Bree Lynn Van Crystalkooi AX MXJ MXP7 MXPS
MJP7 MJPS PAX2 CGC TKN*

Owner: Cheryl Short & Susanne Martin
Breeder: Marion Weissenbrunner

Master Gold Agility 3

*MACH10 Redgold's Bodie Always On My Mind CD BN RE MXG3 PAD
MJB4 PJD MXF T2B CA DCAT SWN SCA SIA SHDN THDN DS TKI*

Owner: Bonnie Edmond
Breeder: Dee A Nichols

Novice Agility

GCH CH Kyra BN RN NA NAJ NJP BCAT CGC TKN

Owner: Susan Jackson & Stephanie Lowe & Betty Wathne & Carol S Brown
Breeder: Annet Wolters

Novice Agility Jumper

Huxley De Hemert NAJ BCAT

Owner: Karen Parker & Lucinda Paganin
Breeder: Stan Van Hemert

Preferred Agility Champion 2

*GCHB CH PACH2 Bree Lynn Van Crystalkooi AX MXJ MXP7 MXPS
MJP6 MJPS PAX2 CGC TKN*

Owner: Cheryl Short & Susanne Martin
Breeder: Marion Weissenbrunner

Rally Advanced

*Cirtap's Hertogin Ziel V Kila-N CD BN RA NAJ NF CA RATO DS DJ
TKA*

Owner: Margaret Aldridge
Breeder: Birgitta Lindblad

Hartenzoul's Elliptical Orbit Kepler CD BN RA SHDN CGC TKP

Owner: Debra Bundschuh
Breeder: Margaret Aldridge

Rally Intermediate

*Amazing Hermina Van Den Iserman Hoeve RI SWN SCE SIA SEA
TKA*

Owner: Kim Craig
Breeder: Lucinda Paganin

Waterbound Megha Hearts United Vd Golden Gate RI CGCA CGCU

Owner: Bob Meagher
Breeder: Victoria M McAllister-Miller & Sheryl Fuller

Rally Novice

Carousel Primavera Flight RN BCAT CGC TKI

Owner: Kendra Holt & Charles Holt
Breeder: Deborah Bean & Joyce B Weichsl

CH Golden Gate Simply True Vd Waterbound RN

Owner: Cheryl Dawn Short
Breeder: Cheryl Short & Susanne Martin

GCH CH Ambermoon Vonlin Whisper In The Dark RN CGC TKN

Owner: Alyssa-Kathy Kimmeth & Linda Culpepper
Breeder: Lavon Culpepper & Linda Culpepper

MACH4 Redgold's Dream Lover RN MXC2 MJB3 CGC TKN

Owner: Cheryl Short & David Mattix
Breeder: Dee A Nichols

Waterbound Megha Hearts United Vd Golden Gate RN CGCA CGCU

Owner: Bob Meagher
Breeder: Victoria M McAllister-Miller & Sheryl Fuller

Scent Work Buried Advanced

Redgold's Galileo FDC ACT2 SWN SBA DN CGCA CGCU TKI

Owner: Julie Traver
Breeder: Dee A Nichols & Linda Culpepper

Scent Work Buried Excellent

*MACH7 Kips Valentine VCD2 UDX OM1 BN GN GO VER RI MXG2
MJG2 MFB TQX T2B BCAT SWE SCM CGCA*

Owner: Alison Studer
Breeder:

Scent Work Buried Novice

*PACH2 Taga's Balder Ambermoon Evan BN RI FDC MX MXB MXJ
MJB MXP8 MXPG MJP10 MJPC PAX2 OF T2B SCN SBN THDN
CGCA TKN*

Owner: Deborah L Vassar
Breeder: Ann Skudt

Redgold's Galileo FDC SCN SIN SBN DN CGCA CGCU

Owner: Julie Traver

Breeder: Dee A Nichols & Linda Culpepper

Scent Work Container Advanced

Amazing Prins Jeroen Van Den Iserman Hoeve SCA SIN SEN

Owner: Jim Twitchell & Lisa Twitchell

Breeder: Lucinda Paganin

***Redgold's All You Need Is Love CD BN RE MX MXJ NAP NJP XF
NFP T2B SCA SIN CGC TKI***

Owner: Bonnie Edmond

Breeder: Dee A Nichols & Linda Culpepper

Redgold's Galileo FDC ACT2 SWN SCA SIA SBA DN CGCA CGCU TKI

Owner: Julie Traver

Breeder: Dee A Nichols & Linda Culpepper

Scent Work Container Master

***MACH7 Kips Valentine VCD2 UDX OM1 BN GN GO VER RI MXG2
MJG2 MFB TQX T2B BCAT SWE SCM CGCA***

Owner: Alison Studer

Breeder: N/A

Scent Work Container Novice

Carousel Primavera Flight RN BCAT SCN SIN CGC TKI

Owner: Kendra Holt & Charles Holt

Breeder: Deborah Bean & Joyce B Weichsl

Waterbound Optimistic Spirit SCN SHDN TKN

Owner: Emma Joy Vescovo & Sheryl Fuller

Breeder: Sheryl Fuller

Scent Work Excellent

***MACH7 Kips Valentine VCD2 UDX OM1 BN GN GO VER RI MXG2
MJG2 MFB TQX T2B BCAT SWE SCM CGCA***

Owner: Alison Studer

Breeder:

Scent Work Exterior Novice

Amazing Lutcia Van Den Iserman Hoeve RI SWN SIA TKP

Owner: Alison Studer & Ann Knoop-Siderius

Breeder: Lucinda Paganin

Carousel Primavera Flight RN BCAT SCN SIN SEN CGC TKI

Owner: Kendra Holt & Charles Holt

Breeder: Deborah Bean & Joyce B Weichsl

***PACH2 Taga's Balder Ambermoon Evan BN RI FDC MX MXB
MXJ MJB MXP8 MXPG MJP10 MJPC PAX2 OF T2B SWN THDN
CGCA TKN***

Owner: Deborah L Vassar

Breeder: Ann Skudt

***Redgold's All You Need Is Love CD BN RE MX MXJ NAP NJP XF
NFP T2B SCA SIA SEN CGC TKI***

Owner: Bonnie Edmond

Breeder: Dee A Nichols & Linda Culpepper

Redgold's Galileo FDC SWN DN CGCA CGCU TKI

Owner: Julie Traver

Breeder: Dee A Nichols & Linda Culpepper

Scent Work Handler Discrimination Novice

Waterbound Optimistic Spirit SHDN TKN

Owner: Emma Joy Vescovo & Sheryl Fuller

Breeder: Sheryl Fuller

Scent Work Interior Advanced

Amazing Lutcia Van Den Iserman Hoeve RI SWN SIA TKP

Owner: Alison Studer & Ann Knoop-Siderius

Breeder: Lucinda Paganin

***Redgold's All You Need Is Love CD BN RE MX MXJ NAP NJP XF
NFP T2B SCA SIA CGC TKI***

Owner: Bonnie Edmond

Breeder: Dee A Nichols & Linda Culpepper

Redgold's Galileo FDC ACT2 SWN SIA SBA DN CGCA CGCU TKI

Owner: Julie Traver

Breeder: Dee A Nichols & Linda Culpepper

Scent Work Interior Novice

Carousel Primavera Flight RN BCAT SCN SIN CGC TKI

Owner: Kendra Holt & Charles Holt

Breeder: Deborah Bean & Joyce B Weichsl

***PACH2 Taga's Balder Ambermoon Evan BN RI FDC MX MXB MXJ
MJB MXP8 MXPG MJP10 MJPC PAX2 OF T2B SWN THDN CGCA TKN***

Owner: Deborah L Vassar

Breeder: Ann Skudt

Waterbound Optimistic Spirit SCN SIN SHDN TKN

Owner: Emma Joy Vescovo & Sheryl Fuller

Breeder: Sheryl Fuller

Scent Work Novice

Amazing Lutcia Van Den Iserman Hoeve RI SWN SIA TKP

Owner: Alison Studer & Ann Knoop-Siderius

Breeder: Lucinda Paganin

***PACH2 Taga's Balder Ambermoon Evan BN RI FDC MX MXB MXJ
MJB MXP8 MXPG MJP10 MJPC PAX2 OF T2B SWN THDN CGCA TKN***

Owner: Deborah L Vassar

Breeder: Ann Skudt

Redgold's Galileo FDC SWN DN CGCA CGCU TKI

Owner: Julie Traver

Breeder: Dee A Nichols & Linda Culpepper

Temperament Test

GCH CH Harley De Hemert TT CGC

Owner: Yesenia Bravo

Breeder: Stan Van Hemert

Tracking Dog

Hartenzoul's Magical Moonlight Patch TD ACT2 TKI

Owner: Inger Williams & David Williams

Breeder: Margaret Aldridge

Trick Dog Intermediate

Redgold's Christmas Belle FDC NA NAJ ACT2 SCN SIN RATS DS AJ CGCA CGCU TKI

Owner: Julie Traver

Breeder: Dee A Nichols & Linda Culpepper

Redgold's Galileo FDC SCN SIN SBN DN CGCA CGCU TKI

Owner: Julie Traver

Breeder: Dee A Nichols & Linda Culpepper

Waterbound Megha Hearts United Vd Golden Gate RI CGCA CGCU TKI

Owner: Bob Meagher

Breeder: Victoria M McAllister-Miller & Sheryl Fuller

Trick Dog Novice

Redgold's Christmas Belle FDC NA NAJ ACT2 SCN SIN RATS DS AJ CGCA CGCU TKN

Owner: Julie Traver

Breeder: Dee A Nichols & Linda Culpepper

Redgold's Galileo FDC SCN SIN SBN DN CGCA CGCU TKN

Owner: Julie Traver

Breeder: Dee A Nichols & Linda Culpepper

Waterbound Megha Hearts United Vd Golden Gate RI CGCA CGCU TKN

Owner: Bob Meagher

Breeder: Victoria M McAllister-Miller & Sheryl Fuller

Virtual Home Manners Adult

CH Ambermoon Abc Easy As One Two Three CGC TKN VHMA

Owner: Alyssa Kimmeth & Kathy Kimmeth

Breeder: Alyssa Kimmeth

CH Ambermoon Christmas Star CD PCD BN GN RA FDC NA NAJ NAP NJP NFP CA BCAT SIN SBN THDN RATO CGCA CGCU TKA ATT VHMA

Owner: Kathy Kimmeth & Joe Kimmeth

Breeder: Kathy Engleman-Kimmeth

GCH CH Fantasie Z Plouznicke Staje BN RI FDC NAJ NJP CAA BCAT ACT1 SCN THDN RATN CGCA CGCU TKN ATT VHMA

Owner: Kathy Kimmeth & Joseph Kimmeth

Breeder: Gabriela Bekrova

GCHB CH Island St Lucia Iz Grafstva De Gamba FDC CA BCAT ACT1 RATN CGCA CGCU TKN ATT VHMA

Owner: Joseph Kimmeth

Breeder: Gette Kishinevskeyata

Photo: M. LeDoux



NKCUSA Directory

Board of Directors

Officers

President	Stanley Van Hemert, IA	president@kooikerhondjeusa.org	641-260-0429
Vice President	Lucinda Paganin, IL	vp@kooikerhondjeusa.org	217-582-2288
Secretary	Rebecca Fitzell, MI	secretary@kooikerhondjeusa.org	616-510-0794
Treasurer	Cheryl Miedema, IL	treasurer@kooikerhondjeusa.org	630-546-4303

Directors

Communications	Rachel Burzi, PA	rb.director@kooikerhondjeusa.org	Not available
Dog Welfare	Nancy Melone, PA	nm.director@kooikerhondjeusa.org	412-401-6400
Events	Terri Habeck Van Schyndel, WI	tjv.director@kooikerhondjeusa.org	920-217-9551
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Website	Steve Douglas, VA	sd.director@kooikerhondjeusa.org	Not available

AKC Liaison	Jac M. Knoop, IL	liaison@kooikerhondjeusa.org	217-582-2288
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Committees

Awards	Open	awards@kooikerhondjeusa.org
Breeders'	Lucinda Paganin	breeders@kooikerhondjeusa.org
Communications	Rachel Burzi	rb.director@kooikerhondjeusa.org
Events	Terri Habeck Van Schyndel	events@kooikerhondjeusa.org
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Kooiker Chronicle	Karen Dean	editor@kooikerhondjeusa.org
Local Specialty Club	Open	specialtyclubs@kooikerhondjeusa.org
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Webmaster	Steve Douglas	webmaster@kooikerhondjeusa.org



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