



Newsletter

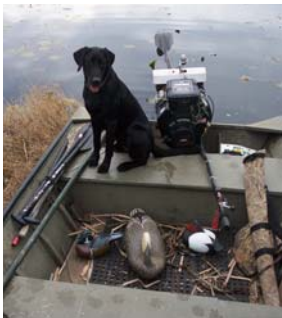
February-March 2006

Message from the Presidents

Thank you for a great few years at Tallahassee Hunting Retriever Club. I have had an enjoyable time being the president and will continue to stay active on the board while having more free time to spend working with Bull.

This month, in my last address as president, I just wanted to share a memorable trip with you that I started the New Year off with. I

met a number of you when I started running my first dog, Colonel. As some of you may remember he ran in the



Bull, Cap, Colonel and Mc

Tallahassee Master National but was not very healthy at the time, and we then lost him in September. In November, I picked him up from a decoy carver, who took Colonel's ashes and put them inside of a working decoy. In January, I loaded up the whole Ferguson family, including Colonel's decoy and two other dogs I have had put into decoys, for a great day of hunting. We had canvas backs and redheads circling our decoys but even though we didn't get a shot, it was just nice to have the old guys lying in the boat with everyone together. It is nice to be able to hunt and work with my dogs as much as I do and I think we should all appreciate the time spent enjoying the Club and sport itself.

I would now like to congratulate all of our new board members and officers for 2006. Bill Patterson, Clint Beckham, Sallie Sullivan, Fred Rigsby, Lori Williams and Wayne Dotson are our returning board members. Mike Peters and Cory Butler are our brand new board members. Jim Branning and Bear Strickland were re-elected as treasurer and secretary. Becky Malphus is our new vice-president and Jerry Perkins will be the brand new presi-

dent. Thank you again for such a great experience. I hope you all have a great new year and I am looking forward to seeing each of you out there preparing for our spring test. Happy Training!

~ Sam



Dear Club Members,

I am very pleased to be the new president of the Tallahassee Hunting Retriever Club. If you did not already notice, the new THRC logo can be spotted at the top of this newsletter. It looks great and we hope you all like the new look that we've been promising.

It has been a fantastic hunting season for me as the Perkins family had three generations out in Mississippi.

It certainly makes you proud to see your own grandchildren enjoying this spectacular sport. I



think my grandson might have shot

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Message from the President (Continued)

as many ducks as I did. I would like to remind you that if you have not paid your membership dues yet they are to be paid as soon as possible. We put a 2006 label on your newsletter if we have received your dues. THRC has working (\$35) and non-working (\$70) member dues. I saw on some of the membership renewals that many of you were interested in working this year. We would like to encourage any of you that are available to work to please contact the

appropriate people that we put in the newsletter instead of us trying to figure out who can and who cannot work. Listed is the Hunt Test Committee and where they can be contacted:

◆ Chairman: Sam Ferguson
850.877.6974/sam.ferguson@fldoe.org

◆ Head Marshal: Becky Malphus
229.225.1844/mhvet@rose.net

◆ Game Steward: Jim Branning
850.877.9411/jbrann7565@aol.com

◆ Gun Captain: Wayne Dodson
229.574.5776 or 229.221.0403

At our January board meeting and

in an email about the premium, we accidentally put out the wrong dates for the Fall 2006 Hunt test. The correct dates are **October 20, 21, and 22**. Sorry for this error. Florida State will be playing Boston College at home that weekend which means you should still book your rooms ASAP.

If you have any questions, concerns, etc. please do not hesitate to contact me at 850.539.5030 or WJPERKIN@GAPAC.com.

Labrador Retriever Leads the Pack According to AKC's 2005 Registration Statistics

[Wednesday, January 11, 2006]

-- *Tiny Terrier Poised to Overtake the Great Golden Retriever as Second Most Popular Dog in U.S.--*



New York, NY — For the 16th consecutive year, the Labrador Retriever is the most popular purebred dog in America, according to AKC® registration figures released today. The Golden Retriever held onto the number two spot and the Yorkshire Terrier made significant gains — beating the German Shepherd Dog and Beagle — to become the third most popular dog in the country.

Dog lovers will have the opportunity to watch these popular breeds and many others compete at the AKC/Eukanuba National Championship, which airs live January 14 and 15, 2006 on Animal Planet and The Discovery Channel at 8pm both nights.

"This may be the Year of the Dog in China, but in this

country it's the 'Year of the Yorkie'," said Gail Miller, AKC spokesperson. "The Lab may still reign supreme, but the petite and often-pampered Yorkshire Terrier has taken the coveted number three spot for the first time since becoming AKC -recognized in 1885. Considering the increasing popularity of small dogs in the past decade—perhaps due to their exposure as celebrity companions — I'm not surprised to learn that this precious and portable canine may slip into the number two slot in 2006."

2005 Most Popular Dogs in U.S.

- Labrador Retriever (137,867)
- Golden Retriever (48,509)
- Yorkshire Terrier (47,238)
- German Shepherd Dog (45,014)
- Beagle (42,592)
- Dachshund (38,566)
- Boxer (37,268)

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Club MEMBERS in the News!



By the time you receive this newsletter, Ruger will have two more chemotherapy treatments. He is doing great! He is faster on three legs than most dogs on all four legs. He is working out everyday with the other dogs. They were laughing the other day because he bobs like a fishing cork when he swims. They were trying to think of a nickname that had something to do with fishing. Got any suggestions?

Congratulations to Keith and Susanna Farmer who are expecting twins. Keith may need a larger trailer so he has room for all their toys.

Raney and Julie Oven are finally real grandparents. They are enjoying their new granddaughter. Julie, are the grand puppies jealous? Do you have more pictures of the puppies or the baby?

Nancy and Ken Eisamand began wintering in the Thomasville area, so Nancy could train her dogs while the weather was pleasant for training in Pennsylvania. They liked the South so much we could not keep them away! They bought a small home outside

Whigham. You should hear them trying to say WHIGAMMM. Nancy was joking with Sam Ferguson asking where they could go to school so they could learn the southern draw.

Scott McGraw, THRC club member (and Hunt Test Secretary for the Lower Alabama Club), was diagnosed with esophageal cancer last week. He will enter the MD Anderson treatment program on Monday, January 30th. Keep Scott, Cindy and their families in your thoughts and prayers.

Congratulations to Alice and Jim Weatherly on your first grandbaby!

A Laughing Matter

Dec. 4, 2005 - Researchers at the Spokane County Regional Animal Protection Service in Washington state say sometimes a bark is just a bark -- but a long, loud panting sound has real meaning.

They say the long, loud pant is the sound of a dog laughing, and it has a direct impact on the behavior of other dogs.

"What we found is that it had a calming or soothing effect on the dogs," said Patricia Simonet, an animal behaviorist in Spokane who has studied everything from hamster culture to elephant self-recognition. "Now, we actually really weren't expecting that."

Nancy Hill, director of Spokane County Animal Protection, admits she was skeptical at first that this noise would affect the other dogs.

"I thought: Laughing dogs?" Hill said. "A sound that we're gonna isolate and play in the shelter? I was a real skeptic... until we played the recording here at the shelter."

When they played the sound of a dog panting over the loudspeaker, the gaggle of dogs at the shelter kept right on bark-

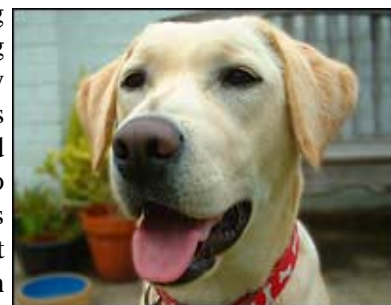
ing. But when they played the dog version of laughing, all 15 barking dogs went quiet within about a minute.

"It was a night-and-day difference," Hill said. "It was absolutely phenomenal."

Officials say it works every time, and researchers across the country are taking note.

"The laughing sound that they make is something that was not even considered a vocalization until this study was done," Simonet said.

Those who study dog behavior have varying opinions about exactly what Patricia Simonet's "dog laughing" sound really is. What they do agree on, however, is that to other dogs, it is at least a sound worth keeping quiet to listen to. ~ *Courtesy of ABC News*



Laughter may not be unique to humans



(Continued from page 2)

- Poodle (31,638)
- Shih Tzu (28,087)
- Miniature Schnauzer (24,144)

The Miniature Schnauzer, which hasn't been in the "Top 10" since 1990, wags its way into 10th place this year, displacing the popular Chihuahua, which drops to 11th place.

The trend in small dogs continues to be evident with increases in the following breeds over the past 10 years — Cavalier King Charles Spaniel (735%), French Bulldog (305%), Brussels Griffon (231%) and Papil-

lon (132%). Yet, a few larger breeds have also experienced record growth including the Wirehaired Pointing Griffon (124%) and Ibizan Hound (141%).

At the other end of the spectrum, the English Foxhound is again the least-registered purebred dog (22 registrations) followed by the Harrier (42), Otterhound (44), American Foxhound (48) and the newly AKC-recognized Glen of Imaal Terrier (49).

Surprisingly, the Otterhound, which is the third *least* registered dog in the U.S., experienced the highest percentage growth of all dogs over the past year with an increasing of 91%.

Registrations increased or remained steady in 2005 for 55 other breeds as well, including the Sussex Spaniel (73%), Ibizan Hound (56%), Black and Tan Coonhound (41%) and Bedlington Terrier (32%).

In 2005, the AKC registered 153 different breeds for a total of 920,804 dogs and 421,128 litters.

A complete listing of 2005 registration statistics is available on the AKC web site at http://www.akc.org/reg/dogreg_stats.cfm and will be published in the March issue of the *AKC Gazette*. AKC registration statistics for the top 25 U.S. cities are also available at <http://www.akc.org/reg/topdogsbycity.cfm>.