



# Cambridge Minnesota Kennel Club

Official Publication of the Cambridge Minnesota Kennel Club

## HOWLER

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AKC Breeder of Merit  
Bronze

Contact Editor

## Cambridge Minnesota Kennel Club Board of Directors

PRESIDENT: JAMI MEATH

VICE-PRESIDENT: GLEN KOTHE

TREASURER: KATHY SIANKO

SECRETARY: THERESA A. GOIFFON [THERESAAGOIFFON@MSN.COM](mailto:THERESAAGOIFFON@MSN.COM)

DIRECTOR: AMY CANERO

DIRECTOR: TARA BURR

DIRECTOR: NANCY VANBUREN

DIRECTOR: KAREN ANDERSON (Temporary until April 2026)

DIRECTOR: RHONDA MEATH (Temporary until April 2026)

AKC DELEGATE: THERESA A. GOIFFON

NEWSLETTER EDITOR AND WEBMASTER: THERESA A. GOIFFON

## CMKC Meetings and Annual Dates

### 2025 BOARD MEETING DATES:

JANUARY 15

FEBRUARY 13

MARCH 13

APRIL 13TH AT LAKE ELMO (11-3 P.M. BRUNCH AT NOON)

MAY 15

JUNE DATE TO BE DETERMINED

JULY 17

AUGUST 14

SEPTEMBER 18

OCTOBER 16

NOVEMBER 14

DECEMBER 7 HOLIDAY PARTY

Board members Please  
plan to attend the following  
club meetings, second  
Thursday of each month  
at 6:00 PM



**Board Meetings by Tele  
Conference**

**By ZOOM**



For further questions or  
information about joining  
the conference calls  
please contact  
**Theresa Goiffon**  
[theresaagoiffon@msn.com](mailto:theresaagoiffon@msn.com)



# Cambridge Minnesota Kennel Club



**December 7, 2025**

**Brunch at 10:00 a.m.**

**Lake Elmo Inn Restaurant**

**It's time to RSVP by November 30th  
to Rhonda Meath  
[gsdgspgirlz@gmail.com](mailto:gsdgspgirlz@gmail.com)**

**No cost to paid members, \$15 for non members.**

# *Holiday Party*

**CMKC Board Meeting Minutes  
October 14, 2024**

6:03 p.m.

Present: Karen, Nancy, Matt, Theresa, Rhonda, Jami, Tara and Glen, Guest Andrea Bixby and Karen Anderson.

Acceptance of the Minutes from Sept 9th, 2024, Motion to accept minutes first, Nancy and Tara, all in favor, yes, any opposed no.

President Report:

Secretary Report: Fall issue of Howler sent out, website updated, new members welcomed.

Treasurer Report: Kathy sent report but was absent from meeting. No comment.

Legislation: None

Committee Reports:

Agility: Andrea reviewed trial held September 6-8 and September 20-22<sup>nd</sup>. Andrea stated a \$4,404.00 check was given to Kathy for trial income. The trial was filled, Sunday almost filled.

It went well except according to Andrea; Karen L said she would not be helping at this event nor going forward unless asked. Andrea voiced concerns regarding Karen L who she said spoke negatively about the CMKC at this trial. In response, Karen said that was not true, that she did confide in someone at a prior show, about something that was overheard, and misunderstood, Karen L apologized, but stated she said nothing controversial or negative at these events. According to Andrea, Karen was talking about the club to other people, in a negative way, where new potential members overheard such conversation, and she has witnesses. Karen denied these allegations and in fact Karen thanked Andrea for all her help. Andrea stood firm on her allegations and likewise Karen L said this is not true. This conversation was going nowhere, and Glen asked that we move on with the agenda.

Scent Work: Karen Anderson, the storage area and signage was completed. A tribute of all the people over the years to pay for those buildings. Scent work trial in June and it will be held again next June. We will be doing another event in January. Thank you to Karen for all your work on this.

Fast Cat: Rhonda Went great.

Obedience: Jami set to go Jan 31 Feb1, and 2<sup>nd</sup> judges set and another April 4, 5 and 6<sup>th</sup> at Total Recall. Mike is the secretary, and Jami will work show on site.

Hospitality:

Scholarship: Tara tomorrow she will finish up the application for Juniors and find out what other juniors are doing.



Cluster Update: Need new show chair before Nov 1, 2024, If no show chair by then Anoka will be taking over the show. Jami has a question; can someone join our club now to then apply to chair our show. Maybe a current member could accept the role until the new member could join and take over. Jami is going to contact Suzie and Donna to candidates to possibly take on the show chair position. Karen L will contact Karen Godfrey regarding these two possible show chair candidates. Each club will receive approximately \$12,000 to \$15,000 for the 2024 Solstice.

#### New Business:

ZOOM meetings would be beneficial, Jami asks that we consider, Jami first and Tara Second. All in favor, yes.

Going forward we will hold board meetings via zoom on Wednesdays at 6:00 all in favor... Tara, Jami, Matt, Theresa, Nancy, Karen, Glen. Also, we will hold a Special board meeting on October 21<sup>st</sup> at 6:00 p.m. specifically for the reading of Suzie and Donna as new CMKC members and invite them to the special meeting as well as they have indicated they would be interested in Chair and co-chairing the Cambridge show in June. November board meeting, will be set for the second Wednesday of the month at

6 p.m.

#### **Second Reading**

Tressa and Jeffrey Granrud

14289 Arbor Blvd.

Becker, Mn. 55308

612-716-5932

jfgranrud@live.com

Jami first and Glen second, all in favor I. Theresa will send a welcome message.

Adjourned: 7:00 p.m.

**CMKC Board Meeting Minutes  
November 13, 2024**

6:14 p.m.

Present: Tara, Karen, Jami Theresa and Rhonda

Approval of the October 14, 2024 minutes, motion to approve the minutes, Tara 1<sup>st</sup>, Rhonda 2<sup>nd</sup>, all in favor.

President Report: None

Secretary Report: Junior Scholarship. Website and Junior application, Karen and Rhonda said looks good, Tara and Theresa will continue to work on this project.

Treasurer Report: Kathy sent the details but was not present at the meeting.

Lisa will not be doing Kids Day, so need to find another volunteer to fill that role. She and Karen have multiple items to give away.

2nd reading for Donna Schauer, Reading 1<sup>st</sup> Theresa, 2<sup>nd</sup> Tara, All in favor. Jami said Donna attended our first Cluster Meeting. Ask Kathy to report back to board updates on the Cluster Committee meeting's. Theresa will send Donna a welcome email once Karen sends her Donna's email address.

Afghan club is leaving FastCat and Cambridge Club will be taking over their 2 days, so we will do 4 days FastCat. Afghan club has already approved and as has the cluster committee.

Adjourned: 6:34 PM

Respectfully Submitted by,

Theresa A. Goiffon  
Secretary

**General Meeting and Holiday Brunch Minutes  
December 8, 2024  
10:44 a.m.**

Present:

Greg and Barb Bedsted, Gretchen Hofheins-Wackerfuss, Mark Wackerfuss, Rich and Theresa Goiffon, Roger and Carol Wirkkunen, Sharon and Arlan Schroeder, Kathy Thaemlitz, Ann Mason, Barb Swanson, Karen Anderson, Karen Slakey, Karen Ukura, Cindy Jorgenson, Jen Johnston, Josh Moore, Jami Meath, Amy Canero, Karen and Myron Lawrence, Mathew Moore, Stephanie Warme, Lisa Nawrocki, Valerie McCann, Carol McCann, Rich and Kirsten Gendreau, Barb Tran, Suzanna Moody, Ava Rawlings, Tara Burr, Audrey Cheney, Rhonda Meath, Kathy Sianko, Grete Krause, Nancy and Rick VanBuren and Glen Kothe.

President: None

Secretary: None

Treasurer: \$69,188.54 balance in account. RV Spots have not changed for 2025 cluster.

VP: None

AKC Outstanding Sportsmanship Award presented to: Theresa A. Goiffon

Nominating Committee: Tara, Gretchen and Kirsten

Board positions due to expire in 2025 are, Board member Rhonda Meath, VP Jami Meath, Treasurer Kathy Sianko, Board member Glen Kothe.

Meeting adjourned: 11:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by,

Theresa A. Goiffon  
CMKC Secretary

**CMKC Board Meeting Minutes**  
**January 15, 2025**  
**Present: Jami, Tara, Rhonda Carol and Theresa**

Meeting began 6:38 p.m.

Approve Minutes from last meeting.

**President Report:** None

**Secretary Report:** Thank you, card, received from the kids that participated in the Isanti County 4-H Dog Project. Our financial contribution was appreciated and provided trophies for their 2024 dog show champions.

**Treasurer Report:** Our balance is \$65,139.03. Karen was removed, Kathy and Glen signers on the club account. Jami will be added in the future.

**Legislation:** None

**Committee Reports:**

**Obedience and Rally:** February closed today. Next 4-6 April. Send to membership needed stewards Jennifer Nutter Stewards needed for both dates. St. Croix Falls Kennel club approved standing dates for trial.

**Agility:** April 25-27<sup>th</sup>

**Scent Work:** February

**Fast Cat:** Paperwork presented

**Hospitality:** Lisa and Rhonda to coordinate banquet proposed date April 13<sup>th</sup>.

**Scholarship:** Tara nothing new. Tara waiting for 4-H information. We will be offering discounts for Juniors.

**Old Business:**

**Cluster Update:** Hoping to get premium list this next week.

**New Business:**

Banquet date proposed for April 13<sup>th</sup>

**Other:**

It was decided by majority, monthly Board Zoom meetings will be **Changed beginning in February, to the second Thursday of the month at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom**

Tara motion to adjourn 2<sup>nd</sup> Rhonda

Adjourned at 7:02 p.m.  
Respectfully Submitted,  
Theresa Goiffon, Secretary

**CMKC Board Meeting Minutes****February 13, 2025****Present: Jami, Tara, Rhonda, Donna(guest) Carol and Theresa**

Approve Minutes from last meeting. Motion Tara, Second Carol

President Report: None

Secretary Report: None

Treasurer Report: \$66,601.34. Nose work \$1,402.06. Waiting for obedience and agility trial funds. Will be paying our insurance for the year. Last year was \$600 sounds like it may increase by \$100 based on our increased membership.

Legislation: None

Committee Reports:

Jami to send a card to Mike and his wife on the new baby.

Cluster Update: Donna and Karen are working closely. Still working with AKC to get the specialties approved. But Onofrio has the paperwork from us. Donna is sending AKC messages to get the Carrie Tolzin will do ringside for the cluster all four days. Donna is also looking into getting a second photographer for ringside because it is a lot for one photographer. Judges are hired and assigned all set there. Just getting finalized. Thank you, Donna, for chairing this committee.

Agility: Last weekend in April.

Scent Work: No update

Obedience and Rally:

Fast Cat: No update

Old Business:

Scholarship: Tara No updates no one has requested any funds for events.

Nominating: Committee Update: Tara and Gretchen and Kirsten talked about how to vote on this next election.

Vote via online could be an option. Jami said they used it in the GP club and it was not a success. Tara ran a trial run using a program online and it was pretty confidential. Mail in ballot option might be too late to mail out to members.

New Business:

Annual Awards and Banquet: April 13, 11-2 p.m. Lake Elmo. RSVP to Rhonda. Jami will purchase some raffle items up to \$1,000. All in favor.

Other: None

Adjourned at: 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Theresa Goiffon, Secretary

**CMKC Board Meeting Minutes**  
**March 13, 2025**

Present: Jami, Tara, Kathy, Rhonda, Nancy, Glen, Matt, Carol and Theresa

Approve Minutes from last meeting. Motion Carol Second Rhonda, all in favor.

President Report: None

Secretary Report: None

Treasurer Report: \$66,265.53. Outstanding expenses \$1,153.03.

Legislation: Refer to AKC emails and updates.

Delegate: Will send minutes as soon as they are posted.

Committee Reports:

Cluster Update: Donna spoke to Jami, AKC is still holding up cluster due to two specialties. Next meeting March 24<sup>th</sup> hope to have it resolved.

Agility: April 25-27<sup>th</sup> at On the Run. Ribbons have been ordered, premium is out and should be added to our website.

Scent Work: No update

Obedience and Rally: Looking for Stewards. Secretary to send reminder to Membership we could use help and to reply to Jennifer Nutter.

Fast Cat: All set. Ken grounds keeper for Isanti is retiring. He was a Police Officer and Sherrif of Isanti County. We will have a new person working with us this year.

Old Business:

Membership: We have 75 members, 40 paid in 2024.

Scholarship: Tara No updates no one has requested any funds for events.

Nominating: Nominations are as follows:

Jami Meath, President

Glen Kothe, Vice President

Kathy Sianko, Treasurer

TWO Open Board positions:

Rhonda Meath

Amy Canero

Emily Wood (nominated from the floor)

Voting will be done online, we will look into a program to assist in this.

New Business:

Junior Seminar Free to Juniors 3 hours, ½ obedience and ½ agility April 12<sup>th</sup> 3-6 at Total recall.

Annual Awards and Banquet: April 13, 11-2 p.m. Lake Elmo. RSVP to Rhonda. 20 people RSVP'd so far, secretary to send reminder.

Other: Jami will ask Committee Chairs to either call into our board meetings or send the secretary an email with an update prior to the meetings.

Adjourned at: 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Theresa A. Goiffon

Secretary

**CMKC Minutes****April 13, 2025**

Present: Stephanie Warme, Lisa Nawrocki, Amanda Olson, Cathy Greninger, Rich Goiffon, Theresa Goiffon, Nancy Van Buren, Rick Van Buren, Josh Moore, Levi Moore, Mike Teh, Alyssa Teh, Michelle Wiberg, Audrey Cheney, Tara Burr, Ava Rawlings, Sue Kothe, Glen Kothe, Grete Krause, Kathy Sianko, Rober Wirkkunen, Carol Wirkkunen, Amy Canero, Karen Anderson, Amelia Greninger, Deanna Levenhagon, Amy Ross, Rhonda Meath, Greg Bedstead, Barb Bedsted and Brenda Miska

**General Meeting and Banquet began at 12:50 p.m.**

President Report: None

Secretary Report: None

Treasurer Report: Kathy presented details from the entire year ending balance \$63,218.59.

Legislation: Gretchen stated there is a bill circulating regarding shelters can no longer sell their dogs at pet shops. More to come.

Delegate: Minutes emailed to membership

Committee Reports:

Cluster Update: CMKC needs to step up and work the cluster so it's not only Anoka volunteers.

Agility: April 25-27<sup>th</sup> at On the Run. Ribbons have been ordered, premium is out and was added to the website.

Scent Work: June 7 and 8 changing the location to the Cambridge Schools Primary and secondary schools.

Obedience and Rally: Financials done, full trial.

Fast Cat: Ribbons ordered, premium coming out soon.

Old Business:

Membership: We have 77 members, 10 are life-time members.

Vote: 40 ballots were cast and the following will hold board positions:

Jami Meath President

Glen Kothe: V.P.

Kathy Sianko: Treasurer

Amy Canero: Board member

Emily Wood: Board member

Motion to adjourn at 1:00 p.m.

**Board Meeting began at 1:00 p.m.**

Minutes from March were approved, Rhonda, and Tara second, all in favor.

Scholarship: Tara reported 2 juniors requested scholarships. Ava Rawlings and Josh Moore. We approved giving each junior \$1,000 toward events pertaining to dog shows and trials. In return each junior will provide our Treasurer with a receipt reflecting the use of said scholarship. Both Ava and Josh presented their requests and over-view to the membership.

New Members:

Michelle Celebucki, First reading, Amy Ross, and Rhonda 2<sup>nd</sup>, all in favor.

Adjourned at: 1:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Theresa A. Goiffon

Secretary Board Meeting

**Board Meeting CMKC Minutes May 15, 2025 via Zoom****Present:****Jami, Amy, Kathy, Tara, Nancy, Theresa**

Called to order by President Jami 6:45

Presidents report Jami: nothing to report

Secretary minutes were approved, Motion by Nancy, seconded by Tara passed

Treasurer, Kathy: made deposits of 3624.99. Balance is 65606.12

Legislation – Donna – nothing to report

Old Business: Tara reported there are no new applicants for the Junior Scholarship. Josh used his for Nationals trip and Ava is competing in Agility in Portugal. Kathy was given receipts.

New Business:

Fast Cat is ready to go at Summer Solstice. It had been left off the premium but corrected.

New Member supplication: Heather Bodin – motion by Amy to accept first reading, seconded by Tara, passed Michelle Salabucky second reading of membership application. Motion to accept by Amy, seconded by Tara, passed.

7:01 PM Motion to adjourn by Tara, seconded by several voices, passed

Submitted (as best as I could) by Kathy Sianko

**CMKC Board Meeting Minutes****July 17, 2025****6:40 p.m.**

Present: Jami, Kathy, Amy, Nancy, Matt and Theresa

President Report: None

Secretary Report: None

Treasurer Report: Kathy presented details from the entire year ending balance \$76,278.36.

Legislation: None

Delegate: None

Committee Reports:

Cluster Update: Trial is set September 5-7th

Agility:

Scent Work: Done for the year.

Obedience and Rally: None

Fast Cat: None

Old Business:

Membership: Glen not present

New Business:

Hospitality: Rhonda Meath to coordinate Holiday Party and pick a few dates in December.

K-9 Donation requested: Tabled for now.

Motion to adjourn at 7 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by,

Theresa Goiffon

Secretary



**CMKC Board Meeting Minutes**  
**August 14 2025 6:30 p.m.**  
Present: Jami, Amy, Nancy, Matt and Theresa

Approved minutes from July Nancy 1<sup>st</sup>, Tara 2<sup>nd</sup> all in favor.

President Report: None

Secretary Report: None

Treasurer Report: Kathy was not present but we read her report she had sent to the board prior to the meeting.

Approved Nancy, 2<sup>nd</sup> Amy, all accepted.

Legislation: Nancy mentioned a few items; however, it was more AKC related updates.

Delegate: None

Committee Reports:

Cluster Update: Trial is set September 5-7th

Agility:

Scent Work: Done for the year.

Obedience and Rally: None

Fast Cat: None

Old Business:

Kids Fair and 4-H representation. One of members have asked about why no one has volunteered to keep these important events going. 4-H kids we want to support, they are to contact Tara Burr, who is the coordinator. Tara asked them to help volunteer to receive funds, Tara attended a 4-H meeting. Tara did not hear back. Washington County kids do volunteer from 4-H, however no one from Anoka or Isanti or Chisago volunteer. Tara has been very active but there has been little feedback from 4-H leaders. We will keep this on the agenda and the Kids Fair the end of July, hoping to find a volunteer for that event in 2026.

Isanti Police request: Jami will contact to see if there is a need for funds to purchase a new K-9 with the death of the other K-9 officer.

Membership:

New member: Alicia Ammerman and junior Alyaih. Glen not present provide any details.

New Business:

Hospitality: Rhonda Meath to coordinate Holiday Party save the date: December 7 the 10-2 at the Lake Elmo Inn.

Newsletter Howler: Working on and want to get it out by September. Waiting for articles from Josh and Ava.

Theresa asked to write an article on the world show experience. Any other news, feel free to email

[theresaagoiffon@msn.com](mailto:theresaagoiffon@msn.com)

Motion to adjourn at 7 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by,  
Theresa Goiffon Secretary

**CMKC Board Meeting Minutes  
September 18, 2025**

6:30 p.m.

Present: Jami, Amy, Cathy, Tara and Theresa

Approved minutes from August Tara 1<sup>st</sup>, Amy 2<sup>nd</sup> all in favor, yes.

President Report: None

Secretary Report: None

Treasurer Report: Kathy reviewed financial activities, current balance in checking account not including the cluster proceeds yet is \$80,524.29. Tara 1<sup>st</sup> to accept, Amy 2<sup>nd</sup> all in favor, yes.

Legislation:

Delegate: None

Committee Reports:

Cluster Update: No meeting yet. Cathy resigned. Theresa to replace Cathy, Tara 1<sup>st</sup>, Cathy 2<sup>nd</sup> all in favor, yes, Theresa will replace Cathy on the cluster committee.

Agility:

Scent Work: Done for the year, paperwork signed, will be sometime in February.

Obedience and Rally: Jami is working on the paperwork.

Fast Cat: None

Old Business:

Membership:

New member: Alicia Ammerman and junior Alyaih, first reading Theresa 1<sup>st</sup>, Tara 2<sup>nd</sup>, all in favor, yes.

New Business:

Discussion regarding, Judging Hospitality chair, board unanimously voted to at the next Cluster meeting, Theresa was directed to make a motion for Karen Godfrey to step down as cluster chair. We cannot find volunteers to serve on the committee because she is difficult at best. Theresa was told about the cluster meeting two days prior and she was out of town, so she was unable to attend the meeting. Per the minutes sent from Karen Godfrey, not enough members attended, a meeting was not held anyway.

Hospitality: Rhonda Meath to coordinate Holiday Party save the date: December 7 the 10-2 at the Lake Elmo Inn.

Newsletter Howler: Working on and want to get it out by September. Waiting for articles from Josh and Ava.

Theresa asked to write an article on the world show experience. Any other news, feel free to email [theresaagoiffon@msn.com](mailto:theresaagoiffon@msn.com)

Motion to adjourn at 7 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by,

Theresa Goiffon  
Secretary

**October Meeting did not have a quorum. Attendance: Kathy, Theresa, Nancy and Amy**

Since we did not have a quorum at the October meeting we voted via email on new members, all board members voted yes, Matt did not reply.

Membership:

Second reading: Alicia Ammerman and junior Alyaih

First reading: Julie Heiman (Gretchen and Karen Lawrence sponsors)

First reading: Leah St. Martin Jr. handler (glen has application, no payment was made yet)  
d Jami Meath.

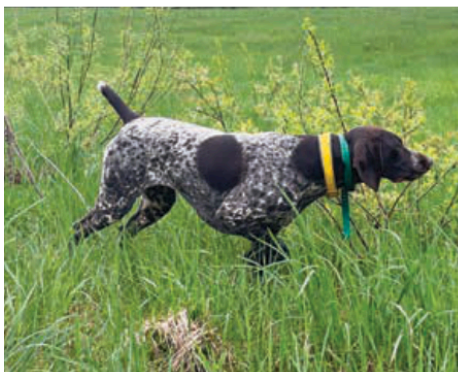


# The German Shorthaired Pointer

A STORY ABOUT THE TRULY VERSATILE HUNTING DOG



BY MICHELLE WIBERG, DVM  
CHRISHELLE GERMAN SHORTHAIRED POINTERS  
AKC BREEDER OF MERIT BRONZE



"Belle," MBISS MBISOH GCHG CHRISHELLE'S  
BEAUTY IS THE BEAST CD RM RAE MH DJ BCAT  
CGC TKN VCX

The German Shorthaired Pointer has grown in popularity in recent years. There are many reasons for this as they are generally considered great active family dogs. With appropriate exercise, most well-bred GSPs have good "off switches" in the home. They love to be close to their family and love to go for adventures such as hiking, swimming, biking, and of course, hunting. Many love to be lap dogs and some can be known as "Velcro dogs." They are also easy to care for. Their short coat requires minimal grooming, and their grooming supplies are as simple as a nail trimmer and a bottle of shampoo. They are intelligent; they can be trained for a variety of tasks, including Obedience and Rally, Search and Rescue, Scent Work/Drug Detection, Service Dog use, hunting, and a variety of fun sports including Dock Diving, Skijorring, Weight Pull, Fast CAT, Fit Dog, Fetch tests, and more. This makes them a great entry breed into AKC (American Kennel Club) sports because they can pretty much do it all.



## THE GERMAN SHORTHAIRED POINTER: A STORY ABOUT THE TRULY VERSATILE HUNTING DOG



"Tori," GCH BERBER TOUAREG AUS DEM NORDEN BN RE JH CGC VC ROMXX, pictured as a veteran with Breeder Mary Morris of Aus Dem Norden GSPs.

### THE GSP DOES IT ALL

Most importantly, the German Shorthaired Pointer is known as a versatile hunting dog. In times past they were known as "the poor man's hunting dog," not because they were a low-value dog but because they were one breed that could do it all. You didn't need a kennel full of dogs to hunt various game if you owned a GSP. They are hunters of fur and feather. They can hunt upland birds as well as retrieve waterfowl. They can track a blood trail and chase down a rabbit. As the breed grows in popularity, the versatility of the breed becomes ever more important. These dogs are no longer kept in hunting kennels. They sit on our couches and sleep on our beds. They come with us camping, on errands, and with us to work. They can be weekend warrior hunters, but ultimately, they are excellent family pets, being great with kids and adults alike.

As in any Sporting breed, there can be a large divide between those dogs bred for show and those bred for field. There are some breeders who breed specifically for one area of competition, whether that be Conformation, Field Trials, Hunt Tests, or other Performance venues. In order for the breed to remain such a well-balanced and versatile breed, I think it is important *not* to focus on one particular area but to breed for that continued versatility. After all, form follows function. A poorly built dog will not hold up in the field. Breeding a well-built hunting dog that can't hunt is not doing the breed any service. A show breeder may keep one or two puppies to show, but what happens to the rest of the large litter? Most end up in family hunting homes, so retaining their natural hunting ability is important. *Breeding is truly an art, blending the various colors of health, temperament, conformation, hunting ability, and pedigree.* Sometimes you get lucky, and you can cross two good breed examples to produce something truly excellent. Other times you may feel somewhat disappointed in the offspring not quite living up to your hopes and dreams of what you thought would be a great cross of genotype and phenotype, and that's okay! Learn from these situations and breed for something better in the next litter.

### A PERSONAL INTRODUCTION

I was fortunate in that our first GSP came to us, somewhat by accident, from a breeder who bred for that balance of health, temperament, conformation, and hunting ability. Tori came from Aus



"JJ," MBISS MBISOH GCHG CHRISHELLE'S I LOVE ROCK 'N ROLL CDX RAE RM MH CGC VCX, pictured with Master Hunter ribbon and as Best in Show Veteran.

Dem Norden GSPs in North Dakota. She proved herself in the field quickly, bringing home the birds season after season for my husband who was an avid deer hunter, now learning the ropes of bird hunting. I grew up with Lhasa Apsos. My mother showed the dogs when I was young, but she had to put breeding and showing on the back burner just as I came of age to do Junior Showmanship. My exposure to the dog show world was minimal until I was in college and my mom acquired her next show dog.

Tori was my first show dog, finishing easily with me as a novice handler, and my mother assisting when I had to work. I dabbled in Obedience and Rally and earned her BN (Beginner Novice) and RE (Rally Excellent) titles with good scores. She earned her Junior Hunter (JH) title with my husband, Chris, without any formal training. She was an excellent example of

## THE GERMAN SHORTHAIRED POINTER: A STORY ABOUT THE TRULY VERSATILE HUNTING DOG

the versatility of the breed. When we decided to dabble in the breeding world, she passed all of her breed-specific health tests with flying colors, and we worked with her breeder to find a suitable stud dog that complemented her conformationally and had a pedigree to match.

### OUR BREEDING PROGRAM BEGINS

We subsequently chose to loosely linebreed back on the Aus Dem Norden lines. The cross worked well, producing several Champions, including my first special and heart dog—JJ took me to the next level. He had that “look at me” attitude, adequate conformation, and the charisma to make it as a Top 20 dog three separate years, all owner-handled. He won multiple Bests in Specialty Show, Owner-Handled Bests in Show, and now, multiple Bests Veteran in Show. He turned out to be an excellent hunter.

During COVID when there were no shows to go to, we had the opportunity to work with a friend on field training. We trained towards his Master Hunter, a title I never imagined I’d achieve. At that time, he was middle-aged and well set in his habits acquired through several seasons of wild bird hunting. The ability was there, but the obedience was lacking. It took many hours in the field, a lot of money spent on birds, quite a few Hunt Tests over several seasons, and a lot of lessons learned, but we eventually earned our sixth and final pass to complete the title on my birthday, a day I will always remember. This, combined with his Obedience and Rally titles, earned him the Versatility Certificate of Excellence, the highest level of honor the GSPCA (German Shorthaired Pointer Club of America) awards for versatility titles.

### REPRODUCING VERSATILITY

Tori ended up producing three beautiful litters. Many other puppies out of Tori went on to earn Grand Championships, Advanced Obedience and Rally titles, Master Hunter titles, and Versatility certificates. Tori was eventually awarded a Registry of Merit XX by the GSPCA, the highest level of recognition a producer can receive. This is largely due to the excellent competitive homes our puppies were placed into that titled and proved the versatility of her offspring. We are eternally grateful to those families, many of whom we now call great friends, and their efforts. Tori turns 14 this fall and is still in excellent physical condition. She earned her first Grand Champion points in nearly 10 years by going Select in Specialty Show from the 10+ Veteran class! She is not only an excellent example of a producer of versatility, but also of form to function leading to longevity.

The next generations are where we saw more diversity in our breeding program. These breedings were mostly outcrosses and we saw a variety of conformation, hunt-ability, and temperament changes, both positive and negative. We learned how much a stud dog can affect (or not affect) the offspring in certain areas, particularly temperament and natural hunting ability.

In 2022, we outcrossed a sister of JJ’s to a Springrun dog named Louie with no hunt titles himself, but he had good hunters in his pedigree along with National Specialty winners and many well-bred, versatile dogs. This cross improved conformation in the areas

we were hoping to improve, but it also brought in some excellent natural hunting ability that was apparent even as little puppies. The pups not only had a great nose and beautiful natural point, like their maternal line, they also had a natural honor and retrieve, a great affinity for water, and overall, a more biddable and trainable dog than I had experienced in my previous litters. It is from this litter we selected our current star, Belle.

### FORM & FUNCTION

Using the experience I had gained with my previous GSPs, I was able to bring out the best in Belle. She was such a natural in the field. It was much easier to follow the training path towards her Master Hunter title because of her strong natural abilities and biddability. The sharp nose, staunch flashy point, natural honor, and natural retrieve allowed me to complete her Master Hunter title at just over two years of age. I accomplished this training while also campaigning her in the show ring. We were able to achieve the ranking of No. 4 in the country in both the Breed and All-Breed stats in 2023 and 2024. She was No. 2 Owner-Handled GSP in 2023 and No. 1 in 2024. She has won several Bests in Specialty Show, including a regional specialty show, multiple Group wins, and numerous NOHS (National Owner-Handled Series) Bests in Show.

The highlight of her competitive career so far was Memorial Day weekend 2024, and what a memorable weekend it was. I was so eager to keep her ranked, as well as complete her MH (Master Hunter) title, that I entered a local dog show and a Hunt Test on the same weekend. I was running from ring to hunt field, and back to the ring again. Belle won back-to-back Group Firsts and earned her final Master Hunter pass that weekend, making her one of the first Top 5 GSPs to hold an MH title! Belle has continued to help me achieve goals and reach dreams, and I couldn’t be more proud. We are so excited to continue to present her to the fancy, work toward more titles on the front and back of her name, hunt her in the fields and woods for pheasant and grouse, and move forward with the next generation. Belle whelped a beautiful litter of nine this spring and bounced back well enough to win a specialty just seven weeks post-whelp! She’s working her way back up in the rankings after taking four months off and we are so excited to present her pick puppies when they come of age.

### A PROVEN PARTNERSHIP

The stories of Tori, JJ, and Belle are meant to demonstrate the growth of a small, new breeding program focused on versatility. We are just one of many programs dedicated to the truly versatile GSP. We’ve been offered wonderful opportunities, from starting with a well-bred, versatile dog to good mentorship, coaching, and the good graces of the judges. I am not a hunter, but I think it is imperative to continue to breed for that truly versatile hunting dog. No single area is significantly more important than another.

My husband and I have made a good team to prove our dogs in multiple venues. I primarily do the puppy raising, training, and showing, proving the dogs in multiple venues, and placing the puppies in good homes. I am a veterinarian and have checked every box in the health testing department. He is the hunter, the gunsman,



## THE GERMAN SHORTHAIRED POINTER: A STORY ABOUT THE TRULY VERSATILE HUNTING DOG



"Belle," MBISS MBISOH GCHG CHRISHELLE'S BEAUTY IS THE BEAST CD RM RAE MH DJ BCAT CGC TKN VCX, with Chris and Michelle after back-to-back Master Hunt Passes.

and the one who does the real work with the dogs in the field. I love hearing stories at the end of his hunting days about how the dogs did. Stories of finding coveys of birds, good and bad shots, long distance blind retrieves, natural honors, and filling the limits.

Last winter, Tori, at 13 years of age, traveled with Chris down to Kansas and hunted late-season birds, with more skill and durability than dogs a fraction of her age. To be able to hunt with a skilled, sound dog over 13 seasons is truly remarkable. It all comes back to form leading to function. Correct structure leads to soundness. Natural ability leads to a good bird dog. Stable temperament leads to good family dogs, performance dogs, and show dogs. Every once in a while, with your dedication to studying the breed, the sports, the pedigrees, and making careful selections to keep the program moving forward, you get lucky and produce something exceptional. For me, Belle is that dog.

There are always areas to improve, new goals to make and meet, and we will keep moving forward in the years and generations to come. If you are reading this, I hope you find encouragement to reach for the stars, set goals, and find help and mentorship in the areas you wish to grow, and I believe you can accomplish your dreams. We never expected to be putting Best in Specialty Show titles, Master Hunter titles, and numerous Obedience titles on our dogs when we started out with our first GSP just over 13 years ago, but little successes lead to bigger hopes and dreams, and higher goals to strive for. And we are proud of where our dogs have taken us and where our program is going. May we all strive to be better artists in the art of breeding these truly versatile hunting dogs. ■



### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

**Dr. Michelle Wiberg** is a breeder-veterinarian from Minnesota who grew up with Lhasa Apsos. Dr. Michelle's primary passion and hobby growing up, and well into her adult life, was training and showing her Arabian Horses. Dr. Michelle and her husband, Chris, acquired their first German Shorthaired Pointer in early 2012. Chris used this dog to start his new upland bird and waterfowl hunting hobby. They bred their first litter in 2016 under the kennel name Chrishelle, a name obtained by combining their first names. They have produced many Champions, Grand Champions, Specialty winners, Master Hunters, Obedience, Rally, and Agility title holders and more. They will soon be eligible for their AKC Breeder of Merit Silver. The focus of their breeding program has always been versatility. "Versatility Is Our Specialty" is a slogan they use to describe their program. Dr. Michelle began her career as an equine veterinarian and transitioned to small animal with a focus on reproduction in 2022. Chris and Michelle take pride in their dogs and their journey as breeders, trainers, and handlers of their dogs in a variety of venues. For more information, visit: [ChrishelleFarm.com](http://ChrishelleFarm.com).





Any questions, corrections or if you wish to share news for the next Howler issue, contact the editor Theresa A. Goiffon at [theresaagoiffon@msn.com](mailto:theresaagoiffon@msn.com)