



# The Hunter's Blind

## About NEFHRC Newsletter

This monthly newsletter is to help members keep updated on our club events, achievements, or other announcements that may be of interest. Please call or e-mail Karen VanDonsel at (828) 877-3254 or [karenavandonsel@gmail.com](mailto:karenavandonsel@gmail.com) if you have anything you would like to submit. Alternatively, you may contact Tom Gaddis at (904) 699-3084 or [President@nefhrc.net](mailto:President@nefhrc.net).

Please feel free to submit pictures, announcements of events, brags, sale of dog or training equipment, litters, or any other

announcements for club members! The deadline for submissions is the 15th of each month.

If you have an idea for a recurring feature article, please let us know. This newsletter is for you, our members. We want to include what

you want. So, please help make this a great newsletter. Submit your articles, pictures, stories and ideas. We want to hear from you!



Kim w/Rowdy, Jenny w/Tony, Betsy w/Kite, Barry, Carolyn, w/Buck

## Merry Christmas!

### Dog and

Please take the time to send your dog/puppy points to our Webmaster, Karen VanDonsel. You can send the information to Karen via e-mail at [karenavandonsel@gmail.com](mailto:karenavandonsel@gmail.com). Be sure to include the following information in the e-mail: owner's name, dog's call name, dog's date of birth,

points earned only in the current calendar year and total points earned in all years. Alternatively, you can fill out the form on the club website at <http://www.nefhrc.net/club-information/submit-your-dog-points/>.

NEFHRC recognizes the top dog and top puppy

each year. In this context, a "puppy" is defined as a dog aged 24 months and younger.

**As of this publication, no points have been submitted for any dog or puppy!**

### Coming Events

- 12/10-12/11/2016 Central Florida HRC Hunt Test
- 12/17/2016 NEFHRC Training Day
- 12/25/2016 Christmas
- 01/01/2017 New Year's
- 01/07/2017 Carolina Boykin Spaniel Upland Test
- 01/21/2017 NEFHRC Training Day

### Inside this issue:

Arthritis	2
Club Officers	3
NEFHRC 2017 Spring Hunt Test	3
Calendar	4

## Arthritis (Degenerative Joint Disease, Osteoarthritis)

Depending upon whom you talk to, the terms 'arthritis,' 'osteoarthritis' and 'degenerative joint disease' may or may not be used to describe the same thing. In this discussion, we will use the terms interchangeably.

### What is degenerative joint disease (DJD)?

Degenerative joint disease is characterized by the loss of the smooth cartilage that covers and protects the end of the bones in a movable (*synovial*) joint. The cartilage has no nerves so when it touches the cartilage of another bone, there is no pain. When the cartilage wears away, the bone is exposed. The bone does have nerves so when the two bone ends in a joint touch each other it results in pain and *inflammation* - signals that arthritis is present. In degenerative joint disease we also see small bony projections (*osteophytes*) form on the bone that is close to the joint. This adds to the pain. This type of arthritis is progressive, meaning it continues to get worse.

### What causes degenerative joint disease?

Degenerative joint disease can occur as a result of wear and tear on an otherwise normal joint and occurs as the dog ages. This is called *primary degenerative joint disease*. Osteoarthritis may also occur as a result of another condition affecting the joint such as *hip dysplasia* or *elbow dysplasia*. Then it is called *secondary degenerative joint disease*.

### Which dogs are at risk of developing degenerative joint disease?

Certainly any dog with a *congenital* joint problem, like *dysplasia* or *patella luxation* is going to be more prone to developing degenerative joint disease. Dogs who have had injury to a joint such as a fracture involving the joint, or a *ruptured anterior cruciate ligament* in the knee will be more likely to develop arthritis.

### What are the symptoms of degenerative joint disease?

The symptoms of arthritis will vary as to which joints are involved, the age of the dog, and the severity of the disease. In general, the first symptoms may be an altered *gait* since the dog will try to put more of his weight on the unaffected limbs. There may be muscle atrophy (reduction in the size of the muscle) in the affected limb because the dog is using it less, or at least putting less weight on it. For instance, in a dog with hip dysplasia involving both hind limbs, the muscles of the hind limbs may be thin, whereas, the muscles of the chest and shoulders may be increased in size because the dog is putting more weight on the front legs.

Many times the dog may find it difficult to get up after lying down and appears stiff. The dog may be unable to jump up into the car. Many dogs with DJD find it difficult to go up or down stairs.

Depending upon the amount of pain the dog is experiencing, there may be changes in appetite and behavior (e.g., the dog may go off by himself more often). The joints are generally not swollen and the pain is the dull aching type, so dogs do not often vocalize or cry out in pain. Some dogs will lick or bite at the area that is painful. Some will seek out warmth or soft places to sleep.

### How is degenerative joint disease diagnosed?

The veterinarian will obtain a good history of the dog's signs from the owner and perform a complete physical exam. Radiographs (x-rays) are taken, and further laboratory tests or more detailed exams of the affected (s) may be performed.

### How is degenerative joint disease treated?

Degenerative joint disease can be *treated* medically and surgically.

Some forms of degenerative joint disease can be treated with surgery. For example, hip replacements in dogs with hip dysplasia are becoming more common. Other procedures can also be performed but their success rests upon how many bony changes have occurred in and around the joint. Please see the article on the specific joint disease for extended discussion on the surgical treatment options for that disease.

For an extensive discussion on the medical management of arthritis in dogs, please see *Causes and Management of Arthritis and Other Joint Diseases in Dogs*.\*

What is the prognosis for dogs with degenerative joint disease?

Degenerative joint disease is progressive - it will continue to worsen. There are ways we can medically treat the disease to slow down the progression and many dogs respond well and can live comfortably for years. In more severe cases, surgery may be performed including actual joint replacements. In these cases, the recovery is usually very good.

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\* Article to appear in January 2017 issue.

We're on the web!  
<http://nefhrc.net>

NEFHRC is sanctioned by the United Kennel Club, Inc. We are a club devoted to the training of bird hunting dogs for the purposes of hunting and hunt tests. As the UKC says, we are a club "*Conceived by hunters for hunters.*"

*Always for the dogs!*

### **Club Officers and Contacts**

- ⇒ President—Tom Gaddis  
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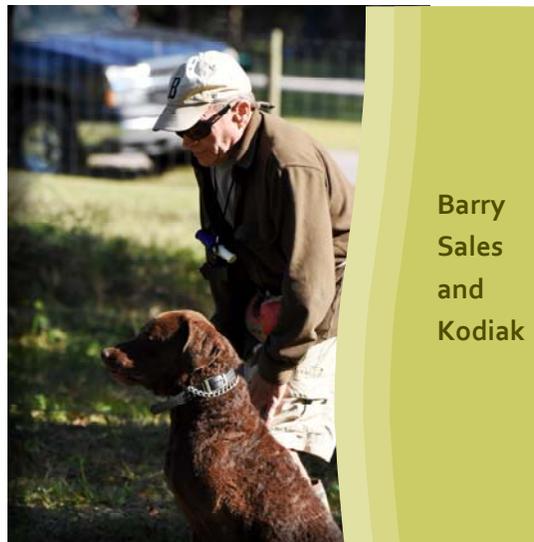


## NEFHRC Spring 2017 Hunt Test

The NEFHRC Spring 2017 Hunt Test will be held the weekend of April 08-09, 2017. It will again be held at beautiful SSJ Farm Quail Preserve in Hilliard, FL. This is where we held our Fall 2016 Hunt Test, which was a perfect location.

As of now, no further details are known (i.e., Hunt Chair, Hunt Secretary, etc.). However, we will update you as soon as details are finalized.

Please mark your calendars to hold that weekend open. And please consider how you can volunteer to help set-up/run the Hunt Test.



**Barry  
 Sales  
 and  
 Kodiak**

# DECEMBER 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				01	02	03
04	05	06	07	08	09	10 Central Florida
11 Central Florida	12	13	14	15	16	17 NEFHRC Training Day
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25 Christmas	26	27	28	29	30	31

# JANUARY 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
01 New Year's	02	03	04	05	06	07 Carolina Boykin
08	09	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21 NEFHRC Training Day
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				