



PHEASANTS FOREVER

CALGARY CHAPTER

www.pheasantsforevercalgary.com

August 2007

REMINDER TO REGISTER

6th Annual Youth/Novice Fall Shoot Saturday, September 22, 2007 Calgary Firearms Center, Dewinton

There are a few spaces left in the Pheasants Forever Calgary/Alberta Hunter Education Instructors' Association (AHEIA) annual fall tune-up shooting event at the Calgary Firearms Center near Dewinton, AB on Saturday, September 22, 2007.

NEW THIS YEAR

- **Youth under 18 and Novice shooters – Free!**
Due to a limited number of instructors we can accommodate the first **35** beginners only.
- **Pre-registration required for all attendees. (Please see back page for registration form.)**



Free on-site instruction for youth and novice shooters will be provided by certified AHEIA instructors. All youth younger than 18 and novice shooters will be treated to lunch. Non-shooters are welcome to attend and enjoy lunch for only \$10.00.

Youth/Novice shooters will shoot a minimum of 25 rounds, depending on their stamina and will be coached in safety, gun handling and all other aspects of the sport.

All other shooters receive 100 clays/shells, and can shoot their choice of Single Trap, Slider Trap, Double Trap, Skeet, 5 – Stand or Tower. Cost is \$75.00 and includes lunch.

Check-in is at 9:00 AM at the Calgary Firearms Centre near Dewinton

To pre-register please use the form on the back page or contact the Pheasants Forever office

Phone: 995-9960 **Fax:** 995-9920 **Email:** marketing@pheasantsforevercalgary.com

The Trouble with Knees - Part Two by Jack Wilson, DVM

"I plan to live forever. So far, so good"

In the last newsletter we discussed the nature and causes of tears of the anterior cruciate ligament (ACL).

When a vet suspects a torn ACL, there are clinical tests that can be performed that evaluate the stability of the knee. These are called the Drawer test and the Tibial Thrust test. The validity of both of these tests depends on the dog being relaxed when the test is performed. Neither test is particularly painful, but if the dog is not relaxed, it can result in a falsely negative test. This is why some dogs have to be sedated or even anesthetized to do these tests. Sedation or anesthesia also allow x-rays to be made of the injured knee to make sure there are no other conditions present such as fractures or bone tumors that could explain the instability.

It is unusual, but not impossible, for a dog with a torn ACL to be able to return to very hard athletic work. Most dogs that vets see with ACL and or cartilage damage already have some degree of degenerative joint disease (what we used to call osteo-arthritis) because the knee has been deteriorating with time. How many times have we heard of human athletes having careers cut short by ACL and knee cartilage injury? Well, it seems the same for canine athletes.

Whatever the nature of the type of tear in the ACL, surgery holds out the best chance of helping to restore a close to normal gait again.

Most dogs that have had surgery for an ACL tear are able to return to some form of work, but can't go as hard or as long as they could before the injury. I've heard the statistic quoted that 80% of legs with torn ACL's regain 80% of the strength, stability and use after surgery. The other 20 % do somewhat less well. Sometimes it can take more than one surgery to deal with this injury.

Another disheartening statistic with ACL injury is that 40-50% of dogs that tear the ACL on one stifle will eventually tear the other one. I think that that reflects the fact that if a conformational problem exists in one knee and results in a torn ACL, it is likely to exist in the other knee as well and puts that ACL at risk as well.

Surgery for the treatment of a torn ACL starts with an exploration of the knee to assess the injuries and evaluate how serious they are. As well as confirming and removing the remnants of the torn ACL, the knee cartilages have to be checked for injury or tearing, and the degree of degenerative joint disease assessed to guide the prognosis and post surgical therapy with anti-inflammatory medications like Rimadyl or Metacam and cartilage protective medications like glucosamine.

There are two basic surgical approaches to treat knees with torn ACL's.

The first category of surgical therapy is newer and much more complex than the other and as such, is usually only done by surgical specialists or by general practitioners that have had special training in the techniques. These techniques try to address the abnormal conformation of the stifle joint.

They are basically a reconstruction of the joint using bone cutting, realignment, and re-stabilization of the bones with plates and screws.

The second category of surgical therapy is older, somewhat less complex, and often done by general veterinary practitioners. This group of procedures aims to restore stability in the knee by using a synthetic materials or parts of other ligaments or tissues to tighten and support the joint.

Both procedures have a relatively long post-op rest and recuperation period of about 2 months before gradual return to activity can be started.

The choice of which procedure is "best" or recommended for any given patient is best made between the dog's owner and the family vet and maybe a surgical consultant. Both approaches have pluses and minuses.

The take home message is that a torn ACL with or without meniscus damage is a severe injury with potential long term and career threatening implications. Although rarely an emergency situation, it is an injury that deserves careful consideration before a course of therapy is taken.

Thanks to Dr. Jack Wilson of the 17th Avenue Animal Hospital. Do you have a question about your hunting dog? Send your comments to Dr. Wilson through the PF office.

CONSERVATION EDUCATION CELEBRATES THE 1,000,000TH STUDENT

Submitted by Alberta Hunter Education Instructors' Association (A.H.E.I.A.)

A significant milestone was celebrated on February 17th, 2007 at the Annual Banquet and WISE Award presentations with the graduation of the 1,000,000th student in Conservation Education. The student went through the program at our Edmonton Conservation Education Centre for Excellence on October 15th, 2006.

The Instructor that hosted the course was Len Gransch, who was certified to teach Conservation and Hunter Education in the late 70's. At the start of each class Len, asks all participants why they take these courses. Bill Sperling, a young student, explained he thought hunting was something he would like to do. The next youngster was Ed, Bill's brother, who also decided it would be a good thing to try. The next person to be introduced was Felix, who was there supporting his two sons, Bill and Ed.

During the class all three Sperlings exhibited a great interest in all aspects of the H.E. course and all three scored in the high 90s on their test. Three days later they signed up for the Firearms Safety Course so they would be well informed when purchasing their first firearms. Once again all three tested in the high 90's.

After some planning it was decided that all three would be part of the antlerless mule deer hunt hosted by AHEIA with the very able assistance of the Oyen Rod and Gun Club. The Oyen group has demonstrated incredible energy and leadership on an annual basis as they work to perpetuate the hunt and what the hunt means to all involved.

At their first hunt, Felix and Ed each harvested nice does, and although Bill was the one who started the ball rolling he did not take home a deer. Bill was still happy about the whole adventure and had a great time. As all good hunters know the object of the hunt is the total experience vs. a "full bag" and Bill clearly understood this even though this was an inaugural experience for him. This was definitely the sign of a young man with a keen sense of understanding.

Len and our hunter mentors will be hooking up with the Sperling family for more hunting opportunities in 2007.

At our annual banquet we celebrated this occasion by presenting Bill with a special framed certificate commemorating the 1,000,000 student milestone.

Bill was also presented with a brand new Browning BL 17 rifle. Deputy Minister Brad Pickering and Instructor Len Gransch were on the podium to make the presentation. Young Bill then shared some words of wisdom with the audience and made all present proud to be part of this heart-warming celebration.

The 1 Million student milestone is a phenomenal achievement indeed. While it took some 47 years to reach the first million, we are assured that it will take significantly less time to reach the next million.

With the introduction of on-line training and the significant increase in student enrollment we are sure to continue to spread the news of Conservation Education and the value of wildlife and wild places.

In 2007, we project that 55,000 students will be touched by at least one component of our program outreach. Every volunteer who has participated in the astounding record as well as those who stand ready to assist on a go forward basis need to feel a tremendous sense of pride in spreading the word and helping to make Albertans lives better by sharing this mission.

Congratulations once again to Bill Sperling and all involved in helping us celebrate this special occasion.



Upland Game Bird Spring Census Results

The Partners in Habitat Development (PHD) staff with assistance from Fish and Wildlife and ACA staff completed the 2007 spring upland game bird surveys by early May and again this years results are very encouraging.

Overall in Southern Alberta the spring pheasant numbers are up over last year. Numbers were up in all areas with the exception of a slight decrease in a couple of the survey locations in the far south of the province. The last few years the pheasant spring crowing count numbers have been strong, with this years count in the Eastern Irrigation District being approximately 70 % above the 25 year average.

Sharptail and partridge numbers were also generally up throughout most regions of Southern Alberta this year. All indications are that this fall should be a great hunting season for the upland game bird hunter.

Pheasants Forever Membership Renewal

We encourage you to renew your membership if you haven't already done so. (One year's membership is included for those who attended the 2007 Banquet and Auction.) If you're not sure when your membership expires, please call our office (403) 995-9960. Credit card payments can be accepted by phone.

Registration Form

6th Annual Youth/Novice Fall Shoot - Saturday, September 22, 2007

Participant(s): _____

Address: _____

Phone number: _____

Shooter over 18 \$75.00 (includes lunch) Youth under 18 and novice - Free (includes lunch)

Lunch only \$10.00

I would like to pay by cheque - total amount enclosed \$ _____

I would like to pay by credit card Visa MasterCard Amex

Number _____ Expiry _____

Please complete and forward to the PF Calgary office prior to September 18, 2007.

Registrations accepted by mail - PO Box 1659, Okotoks, AB T1S 1B5
Phone - 403-995-9960 or Fax - 403-995-9920