

# *The K-9 Report*

## **Grand Island Kennel Club**

**Grand Island, Nebraska**

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July 2023



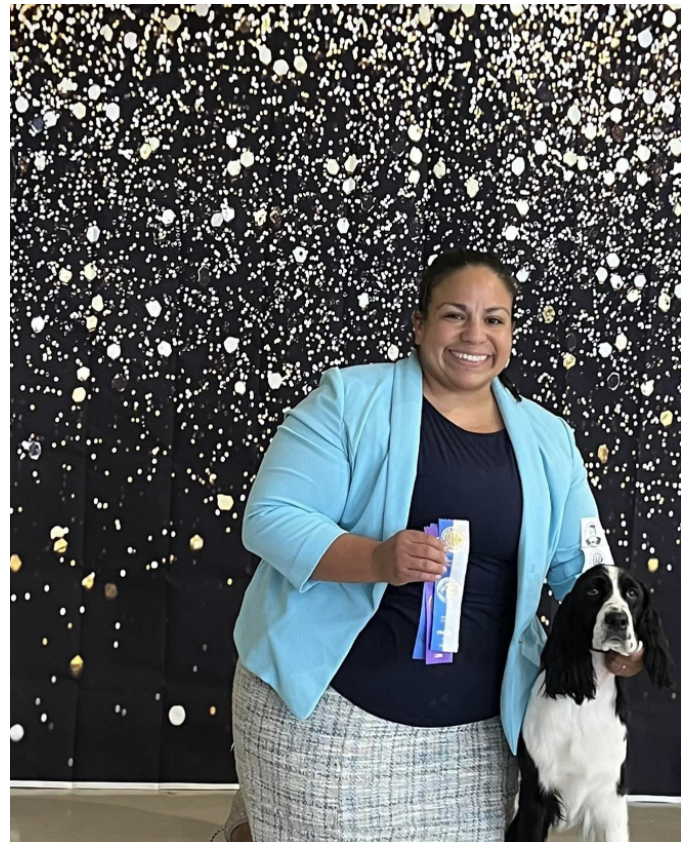
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For Class Reservations call  
The Grand Island Kennel Club (308) 385-4949  
Leave a message and we'll return your call.

### **Current Classes**

*A.K.C. Star Puppy  
Puppy Kindergarten  
Beginning Obedience  
Conformation  
Wednesdays, ongoing*

### **Member News**



Amber Alvidrez and HaPPy taking a 4 point major!  
Amber and HaPPy have been faithfully attending  
conformation class and are going far!

**Our 2024 AKC Show and Obedience Trial will be  
May 11-12, 2024 at the Pinnacle Bank Expo Center.  
Chair Tressa O'Neill.  
Plan now to volunteer!**

## Raising a Best Friend

Brynn McGuire

Raising a little puppy is really fun, but there are a lot of things that are not fun at all. I have raised three Chesapeake Bay retriever puppies, Eve, Dean, and Burke. Eve and Dean are mostly grown up now, at ages two and one, but Burke is still a young puppy. The fun things there are with a puppy is that they are cuddly, adorable, loving, and loyal. They are fun, amazing little dogs and they just love you the second they meet you. They love to play and they love to eat, but you have to make sure they get plenty of time to sleep as they are growing.

One thing that is not fun about raising puppies is that they don't sleep through the night, so you have to get up with them several times a night to potty or get a drink of water until they are at least four months old, sometimes older. Another thing is that very young puppies have a small bladder which means that during the day they have to go outside every 10-30 minutes while you're housebreaking them. While you are trying to housebreak them, they may go potty in the house if you don't get them outside fast enough. Even though they have these little puppy problems, you still love them. Throughout their lives until their death you love them and they love you. It isn't always fun raising a puppy, especially house-breaking, but it's always fun to raise your best friend!

You have to teach your new puppy basic manners and socialization. After they have had all their shots, you can do that by taking them to a pet-friendly store in a cart, to your sports practices, or to other places where people can pat your puppy. We took Eve almost everywhere we went and she loved the attention. It is very important to teach them to walk on a leash. Sometimes they will grab the leash in their mouths and walk themselves like my puppy Burke does. Sometimes puppies just don't want to go, so you just have to act excited to encourage them to walk on a leash or come to you. Learning to come when they are called is really important, and you can practice this on a long cord so you can pull them in if they don't want to come, but be sure to keep calling them in a very happy voice and then reward them with a pat and a treat when they get to you. Besides being safe, the most important thing about raising your best friend is to make sure they are happy and love to be with you.

If you want to train your puppy to be a show dog, you can start by training them to stand still, or "stack" either on the floor or on stacking blocks. I like to use small tasty treats as "bait" to help them learn to hold still. Then they will look like an amazing little show dog! After they know how to walk on a leash, you can try using a special show lead and start gaiting them like they would in the show ring. After that, you can teach them how to do a free stack, which is standing still on their own in the ring and looking proud while you smile back at them and look proud too. My girl Eve loves to do this, but Dean is still very wiggly. Eve and I finished her Grand Champion title, and my mom

and I both showed Dean who finished his Champion title. We will start showing Burke when he is older, but we trained all of them the same way.

My puppies are Chesapeake Bay Retrievers and they like to retrieve ducks and geese, and sometimes pheasants. I start to train them for this by getting a pheasant wing and throwing it down the hallway. At first I hold their collar, but after the wing has landed I let go and encourage them to go get it and bring it back to me. I put a lot of enthusiasm in my voice! As the puppy gets older, we can do this in the living room and then outside in our fenced-in yard, and we can use plastic bumpers or Dokkens, that look like ducks, for retrieving. I also train them to retrieve in the water. First I put on my bathing suit, carry them slowly into the water while telling them what a good puppy they are, and then keep my hands under them in the water until they feel comfortable swimming. Some dogs will paw the water and make bubbles to bite, but Eve never did. She loves to swim and is very fast.

My grandpa helps me train my Chesapeakes because he loves to hunt ducks and geese and sometimes pheasants, and he knows what they need to do in the field. He has given me lots of equipment too so I can keep training my dogs myself to run in hunt tests, since I haven't been able to go hunting with him yet. My dog Eve and I just finished her Junior Hunter title and I was so proud of her for doing everything she has learned just

right. I have a hope that someday grandpa and I can go hunting together and one of my Chesapeakes that we've trained gets a goose!



Dean



Eve



Burke