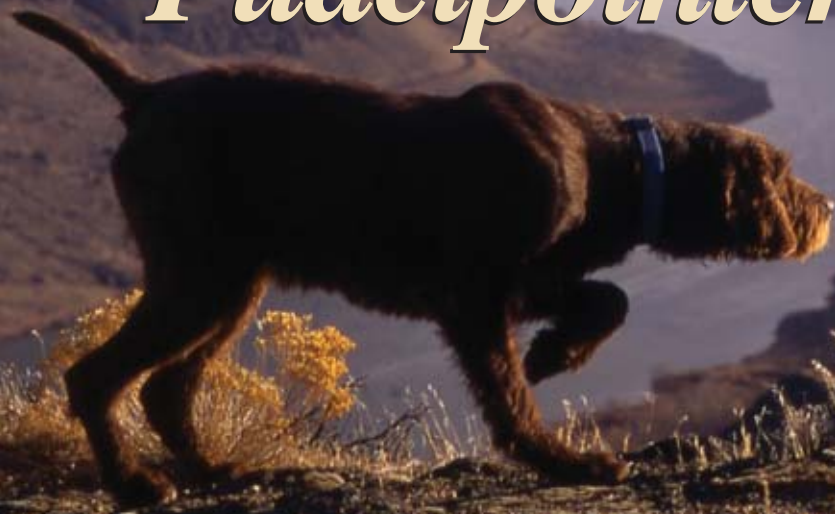




# Today's Pudelpointer



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## From 1969 to 1997 the pudelpointers of North America

were tested only in NAVHDA tests before they were qualified for breeding purposes. There was a breed club in place that represented the breed called the Pudelpointer Club of North America (PCNA). The PCNA maintained a registry for the breed and the club's breed warden gave approval for any proposed breeding and helped select appropriate mates. During this era, there were only two to four breeders in North America raising four to six litters of pups per year.

A dramatic transformation for the breed was effected in 1997, as the PCNA broke away from NAVHDA over differences viewed concerning the newly formed NAVHDA registry. The club discontinued NAVHDA testing and created a testing program and registry governed by their club and its breed warden, and began hosting an annual test in Southern California. This created some long term decisions for myself and the other pudelpointer enthusiasts across North America.

Testing in California was not geographically feasible for many of us, and the limited test entry wouldn't allow for testing of all the dogs requiring tests each year. My Cedarwood kennel was testing nearly as many dogs annually as the entire PCNA was testing, so the math wasn't adding up in my favor for seeing some 20 dogs annually tested with this group. Continuing my kennel's testing

with NAVHDA seemed to be my best option. I had also just previously been approved as a NAVHDA Judge and owned four females and two male pudelpointers qualified for breeding by passing their NAVHDA Utility Tests. The last thing I wanted was to drop out of NAVHDA, as a Judge and breeder. We had a local NAVHDA Chapter hosting three separate tests annually and five other chapters within a day's drive hosting tests; this seemed like a much better fit for my purposes and needs. I chose to stay with NAVHDA and ride out the bumpy journey that was sure to follow (dog politics can be brutal).

NAVHDA was now administrating a registry that I could endorse for registration purposes and testing locations for my dogs and their puppies sold could be accomplished throughout North America. There were several other pudelpointer breeders across the country exposed to the same dilemma I was facing.

Following communications with these various kennels that had chosen to maintain a NAVHDA relationship, a pudelpointer breeder's coalition was created to help with the issues we were all faced with: acquiring genetic diversity and maintaining a positive image for our breed and ourselves as breeders. Imported pudelpointers from Germany, The Czech Republic, and Austria were going to be essential to provide genetic diversity, and creating strict breeding regulations prior to any and all breedings would set the pathway to maintain the breed's integrity. There were and

always will be “rogue” breeders not willing to adhere to rules set forth to maintain the qualities of this breed as has been the expectation from the breed’s origin in Germany; ironically the client base these “rogue” breeders attract only compliments the inadequacy of their intent. The laurel the pudelpointers are experiencing today is a reflection of the sincere tending this breeder’s coalition has had as stewards of their breed over the past 10 years.

Today, this breeder’s coalition is represented by 16 active breeders and is called the North American Pudelpointers Breeders Alliance and can be viewed at [www.pudelpointer.org](http://www.pudelpointer.org). The alliance has strict breeding standards for it’s breeders to follow, as has always been the expectation for this breed. These alliance breeders are currently located throughout Canada and the US. Not only are these NAVHDA supported pudelpointer kennels well distributed across North America, but the breed now sees 20-30 litters of pups born annually. The difficulties in acquiring a pudelpointer and distribution of kennels raising pudelpointers are improving annually for today’s sportsmen and sportswomen attracted to this breed, especially when compared to 10 or 20 years ago when the waiting period for a puppy was possibly two or three years. Today’s wait is usually no more than 3-6 months.

The Alliance currently uses Breed Mate software to help identify the best possible sire for future breedings, aiding each of the alliance breeders in their selection. Determining the inbreeding coefficient and the relationship coefficient by Wright’s method is a calculation that Breed Mate offers in its software package. All NAVHDA test data, plus coat and individual dog information for these breeders’ dogs (those eligible for breeding), was introduced to this software’s database for further prediction of the best possible production of progeny. The most suitable sire for these future breedings can be calculated in advance from the wide assortment of male pudelpointers that have passed their NAVHDA Utility Test.

Having members in the Alliance able to import excellent genetics from Europe has been a real asset for the group. Bill Athens has imported many dogs from the Czech Republic that have been a great resource for the other breeders as well. Several of his imports were adult females that had been previously Czech tested prior to his importing, and came to our country pregnant. Steve Brodeur, Dany Dulac, and Dan Schwendler from Quebec have all imported excellent dogs from Germany and they have worked very cooperatively with the Alliance members, sharing the genetics from their imported dogs also with the group. Importing new genetics from Europe is necessary for continual breed improvement, but only those traveling abroad seem to have the success necessary to further the accomplishments this breed has witnessed over the past 10 years. Merely purchasing a puppy, sight unseen, doesn’t give the results expected to further a breeding program or enhance a breed. Especially with a breed having a limited gene pool, such as the pudelpointer’s, which many of the other versatile breeds also experience. The limited gene pool is certainly a bonus

to a breed as maintenance of the expected attributes can be easily achieved when compared to breeds with extremely broad based genetics. The infusion process is necessary to continually “nick” the breed’s overall chromosome variation and this is where these imports come into play.

1996, the final year the PCNA tested dogs with NAVHDA saw 69 pudelpointers tested in NAVHDA with the breeding standard and breeders primarily regulated by that breed club, the PCNA. The average (mean) Natural Ability score for pudelpointers that year was 94 points. In 2007, under the breeding expectations of the Pudelpointer Breeder’s Alliance, there were 119 pudelpointers NAVHDA tested with a Natural Ability average (mean) score of 103 points for the Alliance Breeders. Also, of interest is that there were 13 pudelpointers tested in Utility in 1996, while 2007 saw 34 tested in Utility. The breeding standards for this NAVHDA based Pudelpointer Alliance are much stricter today than those prior to 1997, which explains the higher prizing



percentages and increased average score. Also, nearly three times more dogs are currently being Utility Tested which can be explained by the mandatory breeding regulations requiring Utility prized dogs. Currently, all male pudelpointers must have earned at least 100 points in Natural Ability testing and have prized in a Utility test before they are qualified for breeding by the Alliance breeders. Females must have earned 100 points in Natural Ability and a Utility prize is recommended. Both require hip radiographs certifying them to be free of canine hip dysplasia by either PennHIP or OFA certification and must also be free of any temperament or eye disorders. These regulations can be examined in full at [www.pudelpointer.org](http://www.pudelpointer.org).

### **The Versatile Champions**

Today's pudelpointers are celebrating four dogs that have earned a NAVHDA Versatile Champion title. They are VC Cedarwoods Man O War (owned by Mike Gowe of Idaho), VC Cedarwoods Orphan Annie (owned by Tom Deckert of Iowa), VC Cedarwoods Young Tatr (owned by Tom Lochner of Wisconsin), and VC DreamWorks Daydreamer (owned by Troy Beck of Colorado). Both Tom Lochner and Tom Deckert are joining the Pudelpointer Breeders Alliance and are hopeful to pass on the attributes of their fine females to the gene pool of the breed in the near future. Troy Beck and Mike Gowe's dogs have previously been used to broaden the genetic pool for the breed. Only with an alliance of breeders working for the same goal can a breed see the profits

enjoyed over the past 10 years by the pudelpointer. Breeding only "the best to the best" and using only qualified imports for breed infusion purposes is only the beginning for a successful formula. Breeders working as a team and supporting each other in distribution of genetics from these Versatile Champions is the bliss that I find exciting, especially for our breed's future.

### **A Standout Performer**

The breed's standout performer of all time is VC Cedarwoods Man O War (aka Boca). At the 2004 NAVHDA Invitational, Boca earned a perfect 200 points on his first attempt. The next summer found him and his owner, Mike Gowe, at the Hunting Retriever Trials (primarily attended by Labradors) competing until their success gave Boca a Hunting Retriever Championship. The following summer was spent competing on the National Shoot to Retrieve (NSTRA) circuit and here Boca earned his third championship title, a NSTRA Championship. I should also note here that Boca is Mike's first hunting dog and as a credit to their commitment, they ran both Natural Ability and Utility on the same weekend at their first attended NAVHDA test. Boca earned a Prize I (112 points) in Natural Ability and a Prize I (201 point) in Utility prior to his maximum 200 point Invitational score. There are few dogs of any breed owning three different championship titles, but hunting with Mike and Boca this fall reminded me of that distinguishing bond only seen when special people own special dogs, and it makes my heart proud.



*Mike Gowe and Boca as NSTRA Champions.*