



# HWA Update

June, 2023

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## 2023 Nationals Plans So Far

**HWA's 37<sup>th</sup> Airedale Field Nationals will take place on Sept. 8-10** at Elk Ridge Hunt Club in Bucyrus, Ohio. This year's event will continue last year's successful move to a long weekend of training opportunities rather than the HWA Hunt Tests of prior years. We expect our attendees will include first-timers with puppies or untrained dogs as well as those with some field experience who come to improve their dog and handling skills in order to be successful hunting teams and/or do well in AKC Hunt Tests.

**Bridget Bodine**, a professional retriever trainer who has worked with HWA for several years, did an excellent job as our workshop presenter last year. Her methods of giving individual attention to each dog/handler team differ from the "everyone do this together" approach of some clinicians, and the feedback was very positive. This year we've invited Bridget to return as our workshop presenter for a full three days of the weekend in order to devote more time for individual coaching. Those who are not working with Bridget at any given time will be able to watch her working with others, or take advantage of the free time to take part in other on-going activities.

Those activities include an **ATCA Fur Test** on Friday morning. This test involves Airedales working off-leash to following a raccoon-scented tracks of 100, 200 or 300 yards for the Junior, Senior or Master level tests. Dogs are required to find a caged raccoon suspended in a tree and bark to announce the find. Complete rules for this test can be found in the Links/Resources section of the HWA website in the document titled "HWA Hunt Test Rules." Qualifiers will receive an ATCA ribbon and a Fur Tracker title that can be recorded with the AKC in order to appear on a dog's registration papers and pedigree.

Following the ATCA's Fur Test, we take a break  
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Bridget Bodine works with Derick Brown and his Airedale Pearl at the 2022 Nationals

*(Nationals Plans, cont'd from page 1)*

with the **Barkathon**. This is a just-for-fun contest in which the live caged raccoon is moved to a site near the clubhouse so that dogs and handlers can gather around. Dogs then take turns barking and leaping at the caged raccoon, with the dog that barks the most barks in one minute declared the winner.

**HWA's Hunting Instinct Test** on Friday afternoon is an informal evaluation of the hunting instincts of puppies (from age 6 months or so) and dogs who have had no prior exposure to field training, live birds or raccoons. Pups are tested traits such as prey drive, retrieving inclinations, reaction to game and willingness to swim.

Friday afternoon concludes with **HWA's Annual Meeting**. Everyone is invited to come to learn a bit more about the workings of the club and meet the volunteers who make it work.

Saturday and Sunday brings some **pheasant hunting** for dogs and handlers who have some experience in the upland fields. You don't have to be a polished hunting team to do this, but dogs should have some prior exposure to being shot over. HWA provides the gunners, and our volunteers will be happy to do some coaching for those who are new-ish to the field.

Participants who sign up for the **Intermediate/Advanced workshops** will have some pheasants included in their workshop fee. Additional pheasants may be pre-ordered if you know that your dog will want repeated hunting sessions.

Those who sign up for **Beginner Workshops** will have live clipped-wing birds to provided in their fees to use in their introductions to game bird sessions.

HWA's traditional **Saturday evening Banquet** will be a catered dinner at Elk Ridge Game Club's club house. This will be something new for us this year, and we look forward to enjoying the relaxed atmosphere and time to relax with friends.

The Premium (entry/registration form) for the Nationals will be emailed and posted on the HWA website mid-July.

## Letter from HWA's President

Welcome to HWA 2023!

I agreed to take the position of president in order to keep this organization functioning especially in this time of transition. With all the changes that have occurred over the last few years allowing the Airedale to participate in not only the upland events but now the retriever events, the role of HWA was uncertain. We aim to continue to support those of us who want to train and work our dogs in field events and fur tracking. With that in mind we have changed our focus of the fall Nationals to include more training and field practice. At this time we are going to discontinue the formal judging we have had in the past. We did this since the Airedale is now able to enter AKC events for titles.

To introduce myself I have had Airedales for over 35 years. I started because I wanted to have a medium size dog that didn't shed. For years all I did was household obedience. Many years ago I observed the HWA nationals at Cherry Hill. When I saw the Airedale run free in a field I knew I had to do this. The problem is the dog I had and the next one I got from rescue, were both afraid of noise but we got Junior Fur on both of them. I now have Journey my 5 year male. We enjoy all the events we participate in both field and obedience.

I hope as many of you who can make it to Nationals, Sept 8-10 this year in Bucyrus will join us. For those of you who can't actually make the events, we appreciate your continued support.  
Mary Wright, HWA President  
June, 2023



HWA President in the field  
with Journey



## New HWA Shirts & Hats Debut at Nationals

It's possible to be a serious dog trainer and an avid shopper, and over the years HWA Nationals participants have proved it. This year's Nationals' attendees will be able to purchase on-site the newly designed long-sleeved T-shirt shown here. After the Nationals, these shirts will be available on HWA's site on the Bonfire website where previous sweatshirts and T's were sold. The new long-sleeve T will also be available in children's sizes on the Bonfire website.



We'll also have a new ball cap with an embroidered Airedale and our club name to purchase at the Nationals. Plans for additional new merchandise are also underway. So bring some cash or your checkbook (sorry we don't do credit cards), and plan to do a little shopping.



Sue Zimmer with Buckwheat (left) who earned a Senior Fur Tracker (SFT) title, and Chipper, who earned a Junior Fur Tracker (JFT) title.



Sandi Cooley with Surrey qualified in the Junior Fur Tracker (JFT) test. Judge Lexi Inks is on the right.



Reeva, owned/handled by Michael Sites repeated her prior qualification in the Master Fur Test.

## HWA Nominating Committee Open to Your Suggestions

In accordance with Article IV, Section 3 of the HWA ByLaws, the HWA Board of Directors has named a Nominating Committee for the 2024 elections. That Committee is:

Susan Hogsette - [3dhogpt@gmail.com](mailto:3dhogpt@gmail.com)

Sherri Glass - [stillwatersairedales@gmail.com](mailto:stillwatersairedales@gmail.com)

Mary Wright - [2airedalelover@gmail.com](mailto:2airedalelover@gmail.com)

All HWA members are eligible to serve on the HWA Board of Directors. If you would like to be considered for an open Board position, please contact one of the Nominating Committee members by or before **June 26**. You may also put forward the name of another HWA member for an open position, but kindly check with the person first to see if he or she is interested in being considered.

The Board positions to be filled in for the 2024-2025 term is:

- Vice - President
- Treasurer
- Secretary

## Congratulations to New Fur Test Qualifiers

The Randall Cooley Memorial Hunt Test weekend, hosted by the Airedale Terrier Club of America's Hunting and Field Committee, included an ATCA Fur Test. The Fur Test took place on May 19 at the start of this event at Rock River Kennels in Beaver Dam, WI.

Congratulations to the Airedales and handlers who qualified in that test, shown in the photos below.

## An Airedale Accomplishment for the Record



Congratulations to Scott Lichty and his Airedale Tanner for making some breed history on May 20-21 at the Airedale Terrier Club of America's Cooley Memorial Hunt Test in Beaver Dam, WI .

At the AKC Upland (spaniel) Hunt Tests that weekend, Tanner earned his 9th and 10th passes in the Senior level flushing test to earn his Senior Hunter Advanced (SHA) title. To the best of our knowledge, Tanner is the first and only Airedale to earn an AKC Senior Hunter Advanced title. This is a considerable accomplishment. To earn the Senior Hunter Advanced title, a dog must first qualify in four AKC upland (spaniel) tests to earn a Senior Hunter title. Then, in order to earn the Advanced title, a dog must qualify in five more Senior Hunting Tests, earning a score of 8 or above out of a possible 10 in each test.

In addition, on the May 19<sup>th</sup> Tanner passed the ATCA Senior Retriever test that is patterned after an HRC Seasoned Hunt Test. In addition, last April Scott's wife Anita Smits handled Tanner in AKC obedience trials, in which Tanner earned his AKC Companion Dog Excellent title (CDX) in just three days by qualifying in 5 out of 6 tests, which is quite an accomplishment in its own right.

Our applause to Tanner, truly a versatile Airedale, and his team of skilled owner/handlers.

*If you do not wish to stay connected through our HWA email mailing list, please contact [HWAinformation@gmail.com](mailto:HWAinformation@gmail.com) to ask to be removed.*

## New Titles for Two Littermates

Congratulations to two Airedale littermates who earned AKC Hunt Test titles at the Missouri Hunting Spaniel Club hunt test on April 22-23!

First off, Aldo, pictured with owner/handler Hailey Johnston, top photo, earned his AKC Junior Hunter title. Hailey notes: "It's the first EVER title for both of us. More to come hopefully. Thanks to the judges along the way, his breeder Michael Sites and wife Elise, and the Missouri Hunting Spaniel Club members and frequent test goers for always being so welcoming and encouraging."

In addition, Aldo's sister, Maya, passed her 3rd and 4th Senior qualification tests to complete her AKC Senior Hunter title. Maya is proudly owned, handled and bred by Michael Sites. Both dogs are pictured with AKC judges Amy Schwartz and Karen Lamb.





# Airedales as Working Service Dogs

By Priscilla Mumea

If you know the history of the Airedale Terrier, you probably already know that they are considered a very versatile breed of dogs. Teddy Roosevelt quipped, "An Airedale can do anything any other dog can do and then lick the other dog, if he has to." However, there is something Airedales are just starting to jump into - something that dogs have been doing for many years now - working as service dogs.

Service dogs are working dogs who are trained to perform specific tasks to help people with disabilities. They can be trained to do a variety of tasks, such as opening doors, picking up dropped items, and providing physical support. They can also do a range of psychological tasks, such as helping someone calm their breathing, putting pressure on a lap to help with blood flow and heart rate, assist people with autism, and more. Further, medical tasks such as sensing low blood sugar are within their range of abilities.

There is some confusion about what makes a dog a service dog. It is worth noting that to be a service dog, a dog must be trained to do special work or tasks to help a particular human. This differs greatly from therapy dogs, who have the job of helping many people feel comfortable in what could be considered to be an uncomfortable situation. Examples of where a therapy dog may work or volunteer are hospitals, nursing homes, or scenes of mass tragedy. It also differs from facility dogs, who are trained to do basically the same job as a therapy dog, but who always work in one place with their handler. Generally their handler is an employee in that workplace. A notable example of this are courtroom dogs, who calm victims and witnesses during testimony, especially those who are young or vulnerable.

The right Airedale can make an excellent service dog. Airedales are smart, personable, and concerned about their human partners. They learn quickly, and are great at intelligent disobedience (alerting their handler to a problem even when the handler is responding as if it weren't happening). They can be stoic in public spaces, and are just big enough to cause people to think twice about reaching out and touching them. In fact, ADTs tend to mind their business and not seek out the attention of strangers to the same extent as many more common breeds, such as the Golden Retriever or Labrador.

Lilac is a Psychiatric Service Dog who works with a little girl who has Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). Because of her PTSD, the little girl often freezes and dissociates in reaction to her past trauma. This happens up to several times per day, and the triggers are not always avoidable. Because humans caused her trauma, she has difficulty accepting love and attention as a way to move on from her frozen state.

However, this little girl was never harmed by a dog, and in fact did not even have any contact with dogs until after she had been out of the trauma. When the girl has an episode, Lilac has been trained to go to the girl and engage her in order to pull her back to reality. Lilac often only needs to nudge her girl as an invitation for petting, though sometimes she does need to engage in play to diffuse the situation. Lilac was initially prompted



Lilac with her girl

and shown when and how to engage, but now she often picks up on the intrinsic signals and acts on her own. She works subtly, and the interaction often looks natural and even boring. Though it is subtle, it is a huge service for a traumatized little girl who otherwise would stand in her frozen state for long periods of time.

Max is another Airedale who is a trained service dog. He helps his handler, a young college student with high functioning Autism, live on campus and participate in typical activities on her own. When she is anxious, he calms her. When she is self-harming, he distracts her. If she pushes him away and tells him to go lie down then continues to scratch at herself, Max disobeys her and stays with her, working to provide support and distraction during her time of need. Max offers his girl much more independence than she would have without him.

When chosen carefully for temperament and managed with plenty of exercise and stimulation, Airedales can make excellent service dogs. They are faithful partners, good friends, protective pack members, and hard workers.

# Things to Do in the Summer with Field Dogs

These lazy, hazy days of summer won't be boring for your hunting Airedale if you devote some time to training. Standard advice is to avoid overheating your dog by doing your most active training during the cooler early morning or evening hours. However, there's a few things that you can do without flat-out overheating your dog.



Dale Burrier gives a swimming lesson to his 6 month old puppy Havoc

**Water retrieving practice** tops the list. Or, with a pup or just-starting dog, introducing a dog to water. If you attended HWA's Fun in the Field in April, your pup would have had the assistance of volunteer Dale Burrier in waders encouraging pups to swim. If you weren't there for Dale's training tips, you can find plenty of similar training advice on the internet by googling "teaching your dog to swim." Here's a couple of good links to get you started.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XSZ7x7u\\_2vU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XSZ7x7u_2vU)

or <https://www.ducks.org/hunting/retriever-training/introduction-to-water>

Or you can work on **whistle training** your dog. The purpose of whistle training is to substitute a whistle cue for verbal commands in the field. The sound of the whistle carries farther than a voice, and using a whistle eliminates a lot of noisy shouting of commands. If you run your Airedale in AKC hunt tests, you'll be expected to use a whistle.

There are basically two types of whistles used in dog training. For upland hunting, the "spaniel whistle" is a slim tube that makes a high-pitched tone. Its preferred by many upland hunters since

it's a quieter sound rather than a big blasting sound, so birds are not disturbed by it. The whistle preferred by retriever people looks more like that used by a coach on a sports team. The sound is loud enough to carry the longer distance that dogs will be working for long retrieves.



You can use either one for an Airedale, but once you start with one type of whistle, it's wise to stick with it.

You'll find some good articles and videos online by searching for "whistle training your dog." Here's a comprehensive one to get you started:

<https://www.gundogmag.com/editorial/how-to-use-whistle-dog-training/465058>

If you're planning to come to the HWA Nationals in September, spending some time in summer **training for the ATCA Fur Test** will set your dog up for success. How to go about training for this test is explained in the document "How to Train for a Fur Test" posted in the Links/Resources section of the HWA website and available through this direct link:

<https://www.huntingworkingairedales.org/HWA%202022%20How%20to%20Train%20Fur%20Test.pdf>

As the article mentions, you can do this training with some simple household items and some raccoon scent and a pelt you can purchase online. Since the preferred terrain for laying track is in a wooded area, you'll be working your dog in the shade rather than hot sun, so summer heat won't limit your efforts.

The best bonus of summer time training is that your Airedale won't be sedentary, out of shape, and unprepared for the cooler days of hunting season.

# Caught in a Trap!

By Chad Woleslagle

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The day started out great. It was a mild January day, just a few days after the last pheasant stocking on the public hunting lands. The three of us (Chad, Liz, and Liz's 15-year-old son, Will) and Duncan (Liz's 3-year-old ADT) were looking forward to a fun day in the field. We are regulars at this field which is Pennsylvania State hunting land, and we also have permission to hunt on a private farm that is adjacent to the area.

We have used this setup to our advantage previously, as there is a small copse of trees on the private land where the pheasants usually take refuge. Duncan has hit the jackpot here a few times and was eager to head into the brush. It didn't take him long before he flushed three birds, two headed away from us, and one came right at us. Dunc took off after the two, while Chad hit the one that came our way. After he heard the shot, Dunc came hustling back and made the retrieve. So much activity!



Duncan, just before the trap

Duncan was fired up and ready to head back for more. We completed one trip around the trees and were just about to start another loop when things went south.

Dunc yelped in pain and started trying to get at his hind leg. Chad quickly realized that he'd become ensnared in a foot hold trap and immediately tried to pin him down to keep him from rolling and possibly breaking a leg or dislocating a hip. Chad's efforts were rewarded with a nasty bite through his palm, and several up his arm. Will was paralyzed and not sure what to do, and Liz had been lagging behind taking photographs. Once Liz caught up to the group, and Duncan had calmed down after his initial scare, Liz and Chad were able to secure him safely and remove the trap without further incident. It was a sad end to what had been a fantastic day in the field, and an even sadder note to bring what had been a very successful pheasant season to a close. Chad was in pain and Dunc was hurting (just sore, no broken skin or further damage) and clearly upset by the situation.

So, what could we have done differently, and how can trappers and hunters co-exist so that they both can take advantage of the resources?

First, we have to fight that immediate instinct to grab our dog and try to help. Dunc wasn't to blame for reacting how he did. Chad was right to want to keep him from moving in the wrong direction or possibly breaking a tooth as he tried to gnaw at the restraint, but a second or two to think about how the dog was likely to react would probably have helped both the handler and the dog. After his immediate reaction, Dunc seemed to understand that he was trapped and although he was clearly unhappy, did quiet down. Covering him with a coat might have prevented the bite and calmed him down more quickly. It also would have protected his teeth from getting broken on the trap.

Secondly, it's a good thing that Chad is an experienced trapper and was familiar with how to remove the trap from Dunc's leg without causing injury to the dog. If you are hunting in an area where there are trappers, take some time to familiarize yourself with how traps work and how to release them. Having two people, one to hold the dog, and one to work the trap, made it a lot easier to get him released quickly.

If you have permission to hunt on private land, it's important to ask who else might be using the land. If trappers are using the land, what kinds of traps are they setting? Both Chad and the trapper had permission to use the same land. This particular trap was baited to attract a canine. If the trapper is any good, a trap like this will likely attract your dog's interest. In this case, the trapper used questionable judgement by placing such a trap right next to public hunting area that is heavily used by dogs. Even if you're not a trapper, it's important to know what seasons are currently in, and that may help you determine what areas to avoid.

Knowing what is in season, what kind of traps can be used, and your own State's regulations regarding the placement of traps is critical. Not all traps are as forgiving as the foothold trap. Conibear traps and some land snares are designed to dispatch the animal.

It is inevitable that trappers and bird-dogs will come in contact since most of them are sharing the same resources, especially on public hunting grounds. Trappers are actually doing bird hunters a favor by removing the animals that raid ground nesting bird nests, so it is important to maintain a healthy relationship with them. Together, we can ensure that our hunting grounds are safe and plentiful for everyone and every dog who is using them.



## All-Airedale AKC Hunt Test Entries Now Open

For the first time, the Airedale Terrier will have its own AKC National Specialty Hunt Test on Saturday, August 26th, 2023 in Stillwater, Minnesota. This test will be an Airedale-only licensed AKC event. This event is being hosted by the Airedale Terrier Club of America [ATCA] Hunting and Field Committee in conjunction with the ATCA National Breed Specialty and other club events that week. Entries for the ATCA National Specialty Hunt Test can now be made online at [www.huntsecretary.com](http://www.huntsecretary.com).

The ATCA's Specialty weekend is designed to be a showcase conformation and obedience Airedales as well as hunting Airedales. One goal of planners is to encourage the exhibitors in all types of classes to mingle and appreciate the work Airedales are doing in all venues. In fact, the Specialty conformation show on Friday, August 25<sup>th</sup> will have a new non-regular conformation class open only to Airedales with hunting titles. Entries for the Specialty obedience and conformation classes will be available through show superintendent Jack Onofrio Dog Shows at [www.onofrio.com](http://www.onofrio.com)

There's also a full schedule for Airedales in the field. The field activity schedule here shows that a retrieving training day is scheduled for Thursday of that week, and a local AKC Retriever Club will be holding an AKC Retriever Hunt Test on that Sunday. Airedales at all test levels – Junior, Senior and Master -- are expected for the National Specialty Hunt Test on Saturday.

Even if you don't have a dog in the game, come and watch. The hunt test venue is only 30 minutes away from the host hotel.

## Why Title a Dog?

Not just a brag, not a stepping stone to a higher title, not just an adjunct to competitive scores, a title is a tribute to the dog that bears it, a way to honor the dog, an ultimate memorial. It will remain in record and in memory for as long as anything in this world can remain. Few humans will do as well or better in that regard.

And though the dog itself doesn't know or care that its achievements have been noted, a title says many things in the world of humans, where such things count.

A title says your dog was intelligent and adaptable, and good-natured. It says that your dog loved you enough to do the things that please you, however crazy they may have sometimes seemed.

And a title says that you loved your dog, that you loved to spend time with it because it was a good dog, that you believed in it enough to give it yet another chance when it failed, and that, in the end, your faith was justified.

A title proves that your dog inspired you to that special relationship enjoyed by so few, that in a world of disposable creatures, this dog with a title was greatly loved, and loved greatly in return.

And when that dear short life is over, the title remains as a memorial of the finest kind, the best you can give to a deserving friend, volumes of pride in one small set of initials after the name.

A title earned is nothing less than love and respect, given and received, and permanently recorded.

*Attributed to Sandra Mowrey, shared from Facebook*

## ATCA FLOATING SPECIALTY 2023

### HUNTING ACTIVITIES

DAY	TIME	ACTIVITY	VENUE	VENUE LOCATION	Sponsor	DESCRIPTION	NOTES:
Thursday August 24	TBD	Airedale Retriever Training for all levels	Kelley Land and Cattle Co. (3,000 acre cattle ranch & dog training center)	Marine on St Croix, MN - 10 mi N of MN 36 on Manning Ave (North of Stillwater, MN)	ATCA H & F Committee/TCATC	This will be a training day for dogs that want to participate in AKC retriever tests. We will set up hunt test like scenarios that will be similar to advanced tests. People with dogs that are not as advanced are also welcome as the exercises will be altered to match the dog and handler's skill levels.	We want to get conformation people involved. So, we will try to schedule this event to happen after conformation is complete. All levels of dogs are welcome, puppies to advanced. Lots of room for parking lawn chairs and watching.
Friday August 25	<b>ATCA National Specialty - The event will include a non-regular "Hunting Dog" class for dogs with hunting titles.</b>						
Saturday August 26	8:00 AM	AKC Spaniel (Upland) Hunting Test for Airedale Terriers	Good Go Ing Kennels	Baldwin, WI	ATCA H & F Committee/TCATC	This will be a fully licensed, AKC Spaniel Hunt Test with AKC judges, gunners, etc. Dogs will run on land and in water. Ribbons and AKC title legs will be offered for qualifiers. Airedale Terrier only entry.	We will be ordering special event ribbons for this event. Junior Senior and Master stakes will be run. Judges, gunners and many helpers will come from Minnesota Hunting Spaniel Club.
Sunday August 27	8:00 AM	Northern Flight Retriever Club AKC Hunt Test	Kelley Land and Cattle Co. (3,000 acre cattle ranch & dog training center) - The same venue where training will take place on Thursday.	Marine on St Croix, MN - 10 mi N of MN 36 on Manning Ave (North of Stillwater, MN)	Northern Flight Retriever Club (An AKC Retriever Club)	The Northern Flight Retriever Club is an AKC Retriever Club that trains at Kelley Land and Cattle Co. They have two hunt tests each year. This particular weekend is one of their traditionally scheduled test weekends.	The ATCA will have no involvement with this test. However, Airedales are welcome to enter. The test will likely run Friday-Sunday with Master running Friday through Saturday, Junior running Saturday and Sunday, and Senior running Sunday only. Entry will need to be arranged per NFRC test premium list methods, likely to be through Entry Express.



## Fun in the Field Photo Page

HWA's Fun in the Field took place on April 29-30 at Elk Ridge Hunt Club in Bucyrus, OH. This annual all-Airedale training weekend gave us time to practice some raccoon tracking (using a pelt and artificial scent), do some Introduction to Game Bird sessions for new dogs, and do some flushing and retrieving practice for started dogs. A good time for all, but most especially for the Airedales, who are their happiest in the field.

