

VERSATILE HUNTING DOG

A Publication of The North American Versatile Hunting Dog Association • Volume XXXX • No. 2 • February 2009



40 YEARS
1969 - 2009

Heartworm Disease

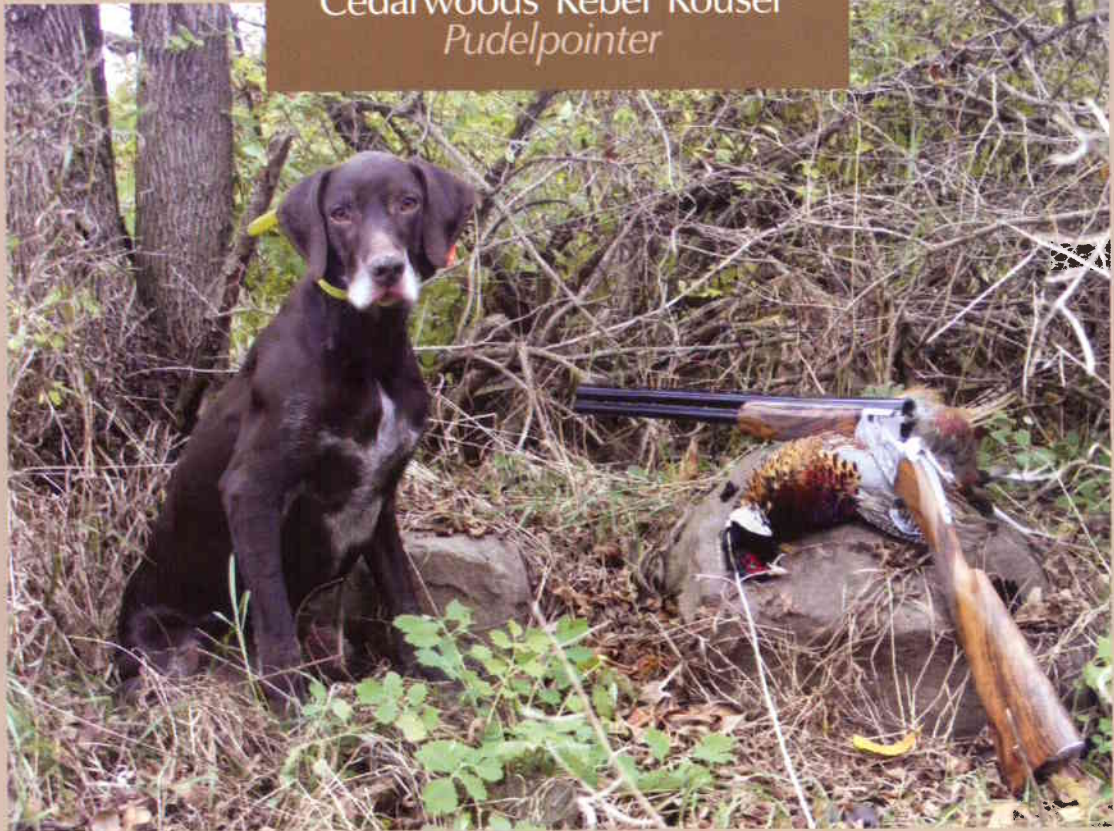
Red Dog Revolution

*Preparing for
Natural Ability*

Snowy Oaks Desi
Large Munsterlander

Chip Bonde: *A Lifetime of Dogs*

Cedarwoods Rebel Rouser *Pudelpointer*



The Whole Point of NAVHDA

Cedarwoods Rebel Rouser, (call name Maximus) joined our household early in 2003 as a future replacement for my aging wirehair. The little pup had a large collar to fill.

I didn't know it at the time but Cedarwoods kennel owner, Bob Farris, had graciously sent me a pup out of what would become a home run pairing of his prized Cedarwoods Zinfandel and Cedarwoods Quincy Dan. This pairing has gone on to create many great NAVHDA dogs.

As I hunt waterfowl extensively in upstate New York I explained to Bob that I wanted a dog that would excel at both early October swamp hunts, as well as sub-freezing, January big water hunts. Bob didn't disappoint.

That first summer Maximus and I spent a lot of time doing yard and water work. It is a great testament to his genetics that by fall Maximus was doing utility quality duck searches. Maximus's Natural Ability test was my first exposure to NAVHDA and it went flawlessly. He hit the water like a freight train, pointed each bird he encountered, and ran the track very quickly. At the end of the day Maximus had a maximum score and I had made several new friends who were in the chapter.

In hindsight, the decision to test Maximus in Natural Ability was the best decision I could have made. At that test I was introduced

to some of the nicest and most knowledgeable people one could hope to find. In the last six years several members of the Southern Tier Chapter have helped shape both Maximus's ability and increased my perspective as a dog trainer. With the chapter's help Maximus has gone on to achieve a Utility Prize II. Without a doubt, progressing through the NAVHDA system has allowed an amateur trainer to mold a raw lump of genetic talent into a well polished, versatile, canine athlete. But then, isn't that the whole point of NAVHDA?

These days Maximus spends his time living the life most versatile dogs dream of. He gets the best feed, free run of the house, full bed and couch privileges; and he gets to hunt approximately fifty days per year for snipe, giant Canada geese, and everything in between.

What does he like to hunt most? Only he knows for sure. Our bread and butter are the large amounts of native, and migrating, woodcock which call our coverts home. Grouse are a special treat for both of us as they can be quite hard to come by in our locality. Maximus seems to regard pheasants as outlaws who choose to break the rules by running, and skulking, and he takes particular delight in bringing them to "justice". If he could speak however, I would wager that Maximus's favorite activity is chas-