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# GOLD COUNTRY ENGLISH SETTER FANCIERS

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Its time to break out the "old Underwood #5" and produce the bit of prose we call the "Gold Country English Setter Fanciers Newsletter". For those of you as old as I am, you know the Underwood #5 was one of the moist reliable typewriters ever built. Of course if you are as old as I am, you qualify for the Denny's senior menu. Yep I finally qualify for senior rates in the movie theatres and all of the discounts that the big box stores offer. Yes Virginia, it's Chuck's birthday. Why for my birthday, I had a really neat Easter Dinner, a Gingerbread Birthday cake and I got some pretty neat gifts. No, nothing to add to the Gun cabinet, but a beautiful stone jewelry box with an English Setter gracing its top. That and I got to spend two visits with Crusader at the local parks. It's time to tune up for the GCESF Specialty on May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2006. There is a whole weekend of English Setter Specialty/Sweepstakes and supported shows in Woodland, Ca. There is also the Irish Setter "Fun Affair" out at Hastings Island. That is a real great time. I hope one of my days can be spent out there. The Irish Setter clubs and Paul Armbruster have really come up with a class act. I only wish they would change it 2 weekends back so I could really attend it. Now that I have a puppy, it would be fun to see what it does in the field!!!

Speaking of the field, please pay close attention to the entire Hunt Test activities coming up through the summer. You know the one major problem we all have getting out to the field with our setters and that is insuring they have "access to water while they are in the field". The large Bicycle mounted style water bottles work great plus, if you have a couple of extra bucks, consider a "Camelback system". It consists of a 50 to 100 ounce bladder, a 2-3 foot neoprene hose and a "bite tube." When the dog needs water, you merely introduce the bite tube to the dog's mouth and you squeeze the bite tube end. It puts water right where you want the dog to have. No more carrying big bottles in your hand or in butt packs.

## Trimming Toe Nails:

Trimming toenails are necessary evils. It's a part of the process of preparing the dog's foot. It does not matter whether you're prepping the dog for a walk in the park or for the Westminster Kennel Club in New York. When we lived in Oklahoma, we showed on concrete and black top. If you want to see some really great feet on a dog (or terrible feet), go to a show on hard packed dirt or black top. I cannot remember how many times we showed on grass. If you cannot prep a foot, you cannot expect a dog to be able to properly move. The nails have to be trimmed back so he or she can properly use the feet. I'm not saying that it's a very exciting occasion. Because, oh yes, my blood pressure gets right up there with the best of them. Nothing like putting off trimming nails till Saturday morning just before the big show. The first nail goes into the anvil trimmer and Oops there goes a big chunk of nail and the quick and oops, more blood than you'll see in a Freddie Kruger movie. Lord the screaming and howling, and that's just you. Darn dog never should have pulled its foot away. Right???

Instead of the old stand by Anvil cutters, have you ever considered trying out one of the battery powered "Dremel tools", or even one of the 12 volt DC plug-in Nail Grinders-Dremel tools?

The Dremel works really quite well. You should start by doing one paw a night. It's all successive approximation (simple first to more complex). You can keep the trimmer turned down to a low RPM then increase the speed when the dog becomes accustomed to the noise of the motor. Use a 60 grit sanding drum. If you get the trimmer running at a high RPM, the 60 grit band is humming at a good speed. If you happen to get too close to the quick, the high speed of the Dremel tool stops the bleeding. It heats the end of the nail and the bleeding stops pretty quick. You can get the replaceable drums (60 grit) at Home Depot. You can also save yourself a couple of bucks by buying the Dremel Commercial Hand Grinder rather than the one designed for dogs. It's like building a trash can designed for throwing tissue paper in. You limit yourself with what you can do with the tool. If you want to have dog's feet on the side of your Dremel tool, I'll come to your house and help you paint paw prints on the tool.

## **GCESF MINUTES FOR MARCH 26, 2006**

Minutes for the general meeting held on Sunday, March 26, 2006, in Vallejo, CA.

Vice President Mike Gorman called the meeting to order at 10:30.

Minutes for February meeting corrected as follows: Rescue dog, Reilly, is a field type setter not bench type.

Minutes approved as corrected.

**Treasurer:** Report will be attached to newsletter.

**Secretary:** ESAA has requested a donation to the 2006 Nationals trophy fund. Club made a motion, seconded and passed that GCESF donate \$50 to ESAA trophy fund.

**Rescue:** The Gormans are still fostering Reilly and will post his photos to our web page. They have been contacted regarding a 6 year old hunt trained field bitch that may be available for adoption. At this time, she will be fostered in her current home.

**Council of Dog Clubs:** No report

### **OLD BUSINESS**

**2006 Specialty:** Club members decided that for the 2006 specialty we do not list our perpetual trophies in the catalog but will include that BOB will receive a framed photo of the perpetual trophy.

Obedience will take place after breed in an adjacent ring with rally following obedience. The club encourages all conformation participants to support obedience by attending.

Club voted to include \$50 in MBF certificates as a raffle item.

**2006 Obedience Workshop:** Joyce has reserved park for Sunday, August 20<sup>th</sup>.

**2006 Supported Entry at Richmond Dog Fanciers (8/5 & 8/6):** Club confirmed that we will be supporting the entry at Richmond **instead** of Donner Trail.

**NEW BUSINESS:** We will be checking with Golden Gate to perhaps have back to back specialties in May 2007.

Next meeting will be ½ hour after judging at the Chief Solano show at the Solano County Fairgrounds in Vallejo on Sunday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>. Club members are encouraged to attend.

Meeting adjourned at 11:10.

## **BRAGS AND CRIES:**

Lois and Megan Gorman: Hero went WD to finish with a major on Saturday at the San Mateo Kennel Club.

Nancy Burk: Tahoe went WD for 1 point on Thursday at Santa Cruz KC.

Chuck and Joan: Gaines entered a Match in Dixon and went Best Puppy and Group 2 Sporting Group Puppy.

Maryl and Denise: Diamond went WB, BW, BOS for her first major on Sunday at Oakland KC.

Norma: Bucky passed away and will be sorely missed.

Dates for the ESAA National Specialty and the ESCNE Specialty  
Sept 24th is the H.T., 25th, 26th Agility, 27th Futurity and probably Obedience, 28th,  
29th National, 30th and Oct. 1 ESCNE

## **Old dogs, old guns and old folks**

The Upland bird hunting season has come and gone. Now it's back to the dog shows: long trips hunting for the elusive points and hoping that early in the morning trips are profitable. Just like going Hunting, but you dress differently. Bathing the dogs most likely to remove pee from the coat, not the brambles from the hunting preserve. Now with a new puppy, we change gears and prepare to hunt for the dog show points. I have put all of my guns away, wiped them down and stored them in the safe. Now the Settr Right grooming table will most likely become the most important piece of gear I will use this hunting season. I put away all of my Hunting vests. Did you know that I have as many hunting vests as I have suit coats? I have vests for hot weather, raining weather, cold weather. I have dog training vests. I have waxed cotton and Corduroy vests with built-in "Camel Back" bladders. I hope I outlive my bride. If she ever finds all of the vests I own I am sure she will haul me from the grave and give me a good butt chewing. I look forward to the summer hunting season. At least I don't have to worry about the darn ticks. And I don't have to worry about passing out all of the birds I shot. These "points" I will keep for myself. No sharing the product of this hunting season with the neighbors.

See you at the dog shows.

Chuck