



ABOUT OUR CLUB – SYNOPSIS ON PURPOSE AND GOALS

The Sleepy Hollow German Shorthaired Pointer Club is a “not for profit” Breed Specific Dog Club. We were founded in 1988 by a small unit of very dedicated GSP people. Throughout the years, we have grown to expand our horizons as we continue to promote the health and welfare of the Versatile GSP.

The Sleepy Hollow GSPC, is an American Kennel Club Sanctioned Specialty Breed Club. SHGSPC is also a member club of the German Shorthaired Pointer Club of America. We promote the responsible breeding of the purebred GSP. We urge members and breeders to accept the standard of the breed approved by the American Kennel Club, as the only standard of excellence. The SHGSP Club conducts Sanctioned Specialty Breed Shows, Obedience Trials, and Field Events held under the Rules and Regulations of the American Kennel Club.

Our Club is about... Good Sportsmanship - Our members, their enjoyment of the sport and willingness of their dogs. Education - Learning through the exchange of knowledge within the membership.

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Next Meeting:

Zoom information will be emailed to members – stay tuned!

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE – KIMBERLY PETTS

Dear Members:

Happy New Year!

I hope your holidays were fabulous, full of love, joy and too much good food.

I am sure most are aware that the iconic Westminster Dog Show decided to reschedule their event in January, to as yet an unknown date. The show team working on our specialty were put under a lot of pressure to decide whether to postpone or carry on with our show... Unfortunately, the host hotel decided that there was no reasonable reason to cancel and the cancellation fee to the Winter Garden Specialty group was a considerable amount. The hotel forced our hand....the show must go on.

So calling all volunteers who feel safe, well and happy to attend, to be present to support our club. Our show is Sunday January 23rd and it is being held at the Hilton Hotel, 1 First Stamford Place, Stamford, CT. Please feel free to reach out to me with any questions or concerns. If you are attending and want to bring a much needed fundraiser basket it will be appreciated.

Here's to a happy and safe 2022

Kimberly



REMINDER!!!!

SHGSPC 2022 Dues are due on or before January 1, 2022.
With each new year...AKC & GSPCA require All Clubs to update their Membership Contact Lists.
Please complete ALL questions on your Dues Request Form.
Kindly return the request form with your check in the enclosed self-addressed envelope:

Sandy Clark
30 Hickory Drive
Campbell Hall NY 10916

BOARD MEETING MINUTES NOVEMBER 15, 2021

Membership Chairperson - Sue Prohaska

Welcome New Sleepy Hollow GSP Club Members!

- Ralph Matacchieri from Brewster, NY (July 2021)
- Jenifer and Sean Mott from Poughquag NY. (November 2021)

Show Committee:

Sunday January 23,2022

SHGSPC Specialty Show to be held at the Stamford Hilton, Stamford Ct.

Judges:

Sweeps – Lori Mowery

Regular Classes – Steve Herman.

Premium will be sent out by Rau.

There will be a Fund Raiser - Kim will email requests for Fund Raiser donations.

The Show committee will meet via Zoom prior to January 2022 Specialty Show to finalize details.

Obedience Chairperson - Detta Andreana

It was previously presented to the club members in an email...

SHGSPC will pursue the idea of holding an ALL- BREED Obedience and / or Rally Trial in the future.

SHGSPC Club is currently working with AKC to update our Performance event status requirements which is necessary to hold type of Event.

Corresponding Secretary – Denise Avery

2020 Membership Dues Notice will be mailed in November.

- Per SHGSPC Bylaws: “Dues are due on or before January 1st of the upcoming year”.
- Members Dues Notice will include a pre- addressed / postage paid return envelope.
- Thank you in advance for your continued support.

Going forward, I would like to use space in each newsletter to share the unique experiences of our members or share research that one of us has become aware of with the goal of making us all better owners, breeders and trainers. So please, if you've had an experience that we might all learn from, whether it's breeding, training or healthcare related please share. Share the experience, the challenges, the solutions, the positives and the negatives. If you have questions or interests and don't know where to start, please email me and I'll try to research answers and provide references.

Let's join together to give our shorthairs the best lives possible!!

For those of you who missed Denise's article in the last issue of the Shorthair Journal, I have included it here. As a life-long dog owner who spent high school and college years working with my family vet, I'd never heard of Protein Losing Enteropathy. Denise and Tiffany Card do a beautiful job of describing their experiences and the challenges posed by this devastating condition. Please take the time to read it - even if you saw it in the journal, it's worth a second read.

PROTEIN-LOSING ENTEROPATHY: DENISE AVERY & TIFFANY CARD

Denise: I had thought I was somewhat well versed in canine health having been involved with GSPs for over 35 years as well as having worked in the veterinary field for some time, yet I had never heard of Protein-Losing Enteropathy, or PLE, until mid-May of this year.

PLE is not a disease in itself, but rather a condition resulting from any one of several maladies that triggers the loss of protein from the intestines. I will say the biggest thing I have learned is that there are as many causes as there are symptoms as there are ways to attempt to treat. Unfortunately, though, treatment is too often not successful.

My experience with PLE began in early May. Foxy-our seemingly healthy 4-year-old spayed bitch began to exhibit a distended abdomen. She had been eating, drinking, and eliminating normally, and was as active as ever-just as she had been all her life. She initially looked to be gaining weight and began to seem just a little off. After just a day it became very obvious that she was losing her tuck up. Upon examination, our veterinarian determined she had fluid buildup in the abdomen. They did a quick ultrasound and felt there was also an abnormality in her heart. We were in the car and on our way to a specialty practice expecting to see a cardiologist before lab work had even come off the machine. Part way into the 2 hour trip the call came in with the lab results, her Total Protein and Albumen were horribly low and perhaps her problem was something other than cardiac. That was the first I had heard of Protein-Losing Enteropathy.

Foxy was admitted to the specialty practice for observation overnight and further workup the next day. She continued to have a good appetite, acted well and won over everyone's hearts in the hospital. Radiographs and ultrasound the next day were rather inconclusive. There were mild, if any, changes in the jejunum. The rest of her intestinal tract seemed fine. They had no concerns about her heart. They were surprised how well she appeared outwardly considering her values and she was discharged as she was "just acting too good to be hospitalized". She came home on HA (Hypo Allergenic with Hydrolyzed Chicken) diet and prednisone being treated as having a food intolerance or IBD. Foxy immediately improved with the ascites resolving almost spontaneously. All seemed well.

She continued on the strict hypoallergenic diet, but unfortunately started to fill up again about 14 days later. At that point I requested a multi organ ultrasound with a specialist at our local clinic. This time her small intestines were thickened, she was diagnosed with Cardiomyopathy (perhaps secondary to the PLE) and her liver appeared abnormal as well. A barrage of medications were prescribed, but unfortunately everything spiraled from there. She developed diarrhea, stopped eating and began to waste away right before our eyes. Her body became a walking skeleton with a huge potbelly. Several different drug therapies were tried. Through so much of that time her attitude was active and happy, but after about 6 weeks it became evident that she was giving up. When she suddenly started hiding, we knew we had to set her free. Necropsy indicated nothing more than results consistent with IBD. Why she did not respond to any of the treatment is a mystery.

Living through this was horrible enough but finding out a full sibling was being diagnosed with PLE was gut wrenching. How could it be to have 2 have something so rare? Surely, if it was genetic, I would have heard of PLE before. I am very familiar with several generations on the dam's side and reached out to breeders on the sire's side, no one knew any dogs in the pedigree or families to have had PLE. And most like me, had never heard of PLE.

Foxy's full brother, Samson, belongs to the Card Family. He is a year younger than Foxy and presented with very different and ongoing symptoms. Samson developed diarrhea for the first time in October 2019, at just over a year old. Since then, he has had on and off bouts of diarrhea and inability to gain weight. Tiffany was following our journey with Foxy and developed a sinking feeling for Samson as time went on. She asked her vet to pull blood and check for PLE. Sadly enough, his results indicated PLE as well. Just as his symptoms were different than Foxy's, thankfully, his response has been different as well.

Tiffany: Samson's story is much different than Foxy's, showing just how individualized PLE can be. At just over a year old, Samson presented with his first bout of diarrhea. He had just started an antibiotic for a nasty cut on his leg from working in the field, and the diarrhea was soon to follow the start of the antibiotic. This was resolved, but over the next year and a half, it began to come much more regularly, and in the absence of antibiotics. We also noticed that no matter what we fed him, or how much we fed him, he always looked thin. And the more we fed him, the worse his diarrhea would get. We had thought he had a food allergy. Based on our research, chicken is one of the most common allergies, so we fully cut that out for a month, changing from Purina Pro Plan Sport with chicken as the base, to the salmon version. There was no improvement. We spoke with the vet, who did multiple fecal testings which were always negative, and eventually placed him on a probiotic and GI Biome for his food, to try to reset his gut. It would always improve, then something would change (he would get stressed from being boarded, or we would travel for a show or hunt test, etc), and he would have diarrhea again.

In early spring this year, it became the worst it had ever been. He would be unable to hold it during the night, and had multiple instances of uncontrolled diarrhea while he slept. He stopped having solid stool altogether, and it became straight water all the time. He had recently (maybe a month prior to it being at its worst) been to the vet for more fecal testing (which of course was negative), and been placed on antibiotics. I had hit my limit one night after he went in his sleep again, and decided that I wasn't going to keep taking a negative fecal test and antibiotics as an answer to his problem. There HAD to be a reason his body wasn't working right. There HAD to be a reason he couldn't gain weight. And there HAD to be a reason that he was starting to get grumpy. So I called the vet to schedule, but couldn't get him in for 2 weeks.

Shortly after I scheduled the vet visit, Denise had posted about Foxy and her struggles with PLE. Now, I'm a physician assistant with a very medically-minded brain, and Denise is a very close friend. So I decided to start researching PLE to try to have a better understanding of it, in hopes of putting Denise's anxiety at ease. I had never heard of it before, and had no idea what I was going to find out. And no idea that all the most common symptoms were literally sitting in my lap in the form of my Heart Dog.

Two days later, he started vomiting. I called the local vet that morning and they said to bring him in urgently. I explained to her my concerns, and she said that it's extremely unlikely that he has PLE, and it's more likely just a sensitive stomach. But given his sister's history, and his symptoms, she would be happy to work him up. She noted that no one had done any labs on him since the previous year, when he had pneumonia (his protein levels were all normal at that time, it turns out). She sent us with an antibiotic, and a powder to thicken his stools while we awaited the lab results.

Two days later she called and gave us the sad news that Samson also had PLE. We needed to start making plans to find an internist to help us manage this. While we waited to get in with the internist, our she performed an ultrasound of his abdomen which showed fluid, and a chest xray that showed patchy infiltrates in his lungs. We knew he had PLE. We just didn't know the cause. And the concern with the patchy infiltrates was PLE secondary to Histoplasmosis.

Due to very lucky circumstances and great connections, we were able to see the internist within about a week. The internist ran a battery of tests. More lab work, a more specialized abdominal ultrasound, an echocardiogram, blind

colon biopsies, rectal scrapings, etc. It was all inconclusive with the exception of Histo being ruled out. So she scheduled him as soon as she could for actual biopsies via colonoscopy and endoscopy. That was for a week and a half from his visit. Shortly after, he started coughing. She said to monitor it and to call if his respirations got to 40 or more per minute. The next night he was up all night coughing. I was monitoring his respiration rate, and he was up to 34 a minute (according to my research, the norm is around 20). I called the vet first thing in the morning, and they had us bring him into the emergency clinic. He was diagnosed with “Non-cardiogenic pulmonary edema”, or fluid in the lungs, along with a large amount of ascites, or free fluid in the abdomen. His body was creating so much extra fluid that it wasn’t just spilling into his abdomen anymore, it was now going into his lungs. He was admitted for 4 days. He was given many different medications, and an infusion of human albumin to bump his protein levels up high enough to do an urgent biopsy to try to get to the bottom of this issue. Once he was stable enough, the biopsy was completed, and of course came back inconclusive, with the exception of noted lymphangiectasia, which is a marked dilation and dysfunction of the intestinal lymphatic network, and inflamed bowel. His diagnosis then became Protein-Losing Enteropathy, secondary to Lymphangiectasia, secondary to Inflammatory Bowel Disease. But what caused the Inflammatory Bowel Disease?

Since his admission, transfusion, and discharge, we have tried multiple different foods and medications. He is currently eating a novel protein diet with Venison and Potato. He is taking an immunosuppressant medication called Atopica, along with a large dose of prednisone, an antibiotic, and blood thinner, since the low protein levels predispose him to blood clots. Through the process of elimination and his love for counter surfing (because he’s convinced we’re starving him, despite the fact that he eats twice as much food a day as recommended), we believe his Inflammatory Bowel Disease was caused by an allergy to corn, which was in all the food he had been eating up until his current one. He has been getting his blood drawn every 3 weeks, and each blood draw, despite the different meds and food, has shown a slow and steady decline in his numbers. Until last night.

We started this journey on June 30th. As I type this, it’s October 28th. Last night we got a call from the internist that his blood work is finally showing improvement! We have spent the last 4 months on a roller coaster. Always hopeful that the new medication or food would improve him, but always disappointed with his clinical picture and blood work results. But last night was really the first bit of real hope we have been given. Protein-Losing Enteropathy isn’t something that he will ever not have. It’s with him (and us) for his lifetime. The key to treating PLE is to find that magical combination of food and drugs that keeps the patient’s protein levels normal. But it is a very sensitive balancing act that is sometimes quite maddening. I’m hoping and praying that we have finally found Samson’s magical combination.

In our journey so far, we have found a very supportive facebook group for all breeds, as well as other GSP owners who have or are fighting the same fight. I brought this topic to the Health & Welfare committee because I want to increase awareness. I wanted others to know my experience, to know Denise’s experience, and to just be aware. Like many illnesses, early recognition can make all the difference. Had Denise not shared her experience with Foxy, I wouldn’t have pushed like I did to test for PLE, and I may have just let the vet blow his symptoms off again. Three short weeks after we found out about Foxy, he crashed and almost died. But by that time, we had already established with the internist, and knew the signs to look for, so we were able to get early intervention and save his life. I strongly believe that if we didn’t know what we did, we wouldn’t have him here now. It never hurts to be the pushy (but always polite!) advocate for your dog. No one knows him or her better than you, and always trust your gut. In terms of PLE, things to look for are inability to gain weight, uncontrolled diarrhea, irritability, loss of luster in coat, abdominal distension/bloating, etc. Don’t ever be afraid to speak with your vet about the health of your beloved pup. Foxy’s story was short, but thanks to what we learned from her, and advocating for him, Samson’s is still being written. Our hope in sharing our stories is that our experiences can help facilitate knowledge and awareness for others, and help those that may unknowingly be struggling with PLE in their beloved GSP.

Denise and Tiffany welcome you to reach out with any questions you may have regarding their experience. Denise can be reached at: gspwindheim@aol.com. Tiffany can be reached at: tiffanycard524@gmail.com.

BRAGS

Detta Andreana: **Mandy**, “Cheza's Keep the Faith, JH, CGCA, TKN, BN, SWN” - On December 11 at TSDOC's UKC Nose Work trial, Mandy came in 2nd place in Novice Interiors. On 12/5 she earned her SCN (container) & SBN (Buried) titles, finishing her SWN (AKC Scent Work Novice) title at First Dog Training Club in Westwood, NJ.

Bonnie, “Rose Mountain's Bonnie Lass, CGC, TKN, RN, BN” - On 10/16 at the Ramapo Kennel Club in Sussex, NJ, earned her BN. On December 11 at TSDOC's UKC Nose Work trial, Bonnie earned her Novice Container title.

Bonnie on the left and Mandy on the right!

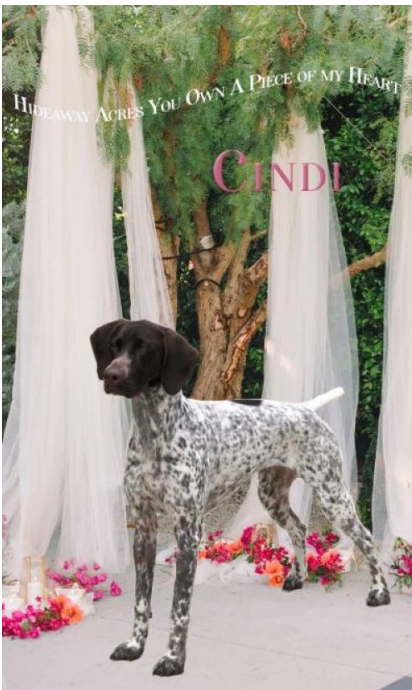


Diane Prohaska: **Ella** ended the year with a Group 4 and an Award of Merit at the Florida GSP specialty AKC/RC week.



BRAGS - CONTINUED

Susan Prohaska and Diane Prohaska: Cindi, “Hideaway Acres You Own A Piece of My Heart”- won both her majors and needs only a couple of points for her championship.



Diane Prohaska: Over in the naughty news Chloe "Hideaway Acres Naughty and I Know It" - wins her first two points, first weekend out.



Karen Reilly: Brenna, “UKC Ch Windheim’s Raven-Haired Beauty RA CAA BCAT DN TKI CGC,” - went Altered Best in Show at the North Jersey Kennel Club show in November. She also earned her Rally Advanced title in November! Brains and Beauty!

Eamon, “Ch Hideaway Acres Guardian of the Palace” RI CAX DCAT DM DS TKI CGC - took a nice Gun Dog Group 3 at the same show and earned is DCAT title in November.



Denise Avery: Brody, “Windheim ‘N DePaw’s Premium Blend” - wins 4-6 Month Puppy Sporting Group 1 his first time shown! Bred by Paul and Deborah Brooks, owned and handled by Denise and Jim Avery



SERVICES

Have a service or business you'd like to promote? Know of an organization that our members may be interested in? Here's the place to promote it. Send info in to Denise or Karen.

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