

barking dog express

2026

"not your normal chapter"



yankee chapter
north american versatile
hunting dog association

from our President -- Patti Carter

What a great year we Yankee Chapter members have shared. Starting with the Maine Sportsman's Show and ending with our Fall Tests, we gathered together, supported our events, each other and never stopped saying, "What can I do to help?" It truly is what makes our chapter different. As your president I have attended quarterly President's Meetings and Regional Chapter Meetings. Listening to the difficulties shared from chapter to chapter, we are so fortunate. You, as members of this chapter have made us what we are. Long time members lead by example, giving back selflessly and paying attention to member needs. Your chapter leadership welcomes all to help which in turn grows bonds between us all. I am so looking forward to 2026! Oh goodness, I have a puppy to train and test too.

We, your Board of Directors, have been busy making timely decisions for the upcoming year. Each Officer and Director will be sharing their accomplishments and goals at our Annual Meeting. Be sure to ask them any questions or concerns you have. If you are unable to attend our meeting on January 4th, each Officer's and Director's report will be posted on our website.

Historically, NAVHDA rarely has an opposition candidate in its International elections. The past two elections had just that and seemed to send a message to membership about a need for change. Terry Wilson was elected Vice President in 2022, and we now have a new President elect, Jake Bartells and Treasurer elect, Rick Holt. If you attended the Aims and Rules Clinic last Spring you got to meet Rick and felt his passion for NAVHDA!

NAVHDA's International Meeting this year is in San Antonio, Texas, and currently we have a whole bunch of Yankees headed that way the end of January. If you have never attended an International Meeting, or want/need a break from the snow, head in that direction! I will be representing the Yankee Chapter as your Delegate at this

meeting.

Motions for International Meeting - Please see page 6 in this issue for the two motions which chapter delegates will be discussing and voting on. One is from the Yankee Chapter. Comments are welcome at our meeting on Jan. 4th.

Test Prep Workshop -- Every few years we offer this educational event to members wanting tips and insights on how to best handle your dog on test day. Yankee is fortunate to have very talented trainers and NAVHDA judges willing to share their expertise. There will be no cost to chapter members. Watch for more details.

In every Barking Dog Express, there is a contact list for all Yankee Chapter Officers and Directors. If you ever have concerns or new ideas, please contact one of us. We'd love to hear from you.

Speaking of the Barking Dog Express, and its very talented editor and creator, Nancy Anisfield, you never cease to amaze... I love every part of this publication! Please contribute! She will so appreciate any and all.

At our upcoming meeting in Phippsburg, there will be an **election** of Officers and Directors. Up for election/reelection: President, Secretary, Director of Communications, Director of Youth Development, and Director of Training. All current Officers and Directors are willing to run for reelection.

I hope you had a wonderful holiday with family and friends and are excited about the year ahead. There will be lots to discuss at our Annual Meeting January 4th. Please call or email me, an officer or director with any topics you'd like to discuss. I really look forward to visiting with you.

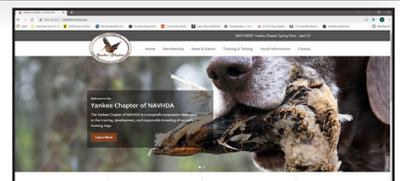
--Patti



NAVHDA
NORTH AMERICAN VERSATILE HUNTING DOG ASSOCIATION

yankeenavhda.org

ycnavhda@gmail.com



yankee updates & info

from our Test Secretary, Nick Racioppi

Cheers from the Test Secretary:

I have started the preparation for the 2026 testing season and wanted to provide some information on our tests.

The Yankee Chapter spring test is scheduled for June 5, 6 & 7, 2026 at the Green Point WMA in Dresden, Maine and our fall test is scheduled for September 11, 12 & 13, 2026 at the Wildes Road WMA in Bowdoinham, Maine. Both of these tests will be open for NA, GDT and UT and you'll be able to submit a test request starting January 5, 2026.

Please make sure when applying for a test that you read the Test Entry Rules on the Yankee Chapter website. The rules can be found under the Training & Testing drop down and will be updated for 2026 prior to the Yankee Chapter Annual Meeting on January 4, 2026. Things to remember when submitting a test application:

- The test process is based on a lottery system and entries for the spring and fall tests will be accepted starting January 5, 2026, and end on February 6, 2026.
- The lottery drawing will be held during the week of February 9, 2026 and entries received after the lottery period will be placed on the waiting list if all test spots are filled by lottery entries.
- Yankee Chapter members will have preference, so please get your 2026 membership dues paid.
- Owners (or at least one owner of co-owned dogs) and any handler must be current NAVHDA International members in order to enter into a test and run a dog.
- All dogs must be registered with NAVHDA. Only the dog registered for a test will be able to participate. No substitutions will be allowed.

The test fees for the 2026 season are as follows:

Natural Ability: \$150 - (\$155 if paid online)

Gun Dog Test: \$155 - (\$160 if paid online)

Utility Test: \$165 - (\$170 if paid online)

Please ensure all information on your test entry application is accurate and both Yankee and International Memberships are paid. If not, your application will be placed on the waiting list until the information is corrected.

I am always available to answer questions or help with your application.

Call me at (207) 751-3133 or email me at feathersfins@comcast.net.

Yankee Chapter Elections

The following positions are up for election in 2026. The election will be held Jan. 4th at the chapter Annual Meeting.

President

Secretary

Director of Training

Director of Youth Development

Director of Communications

If anyone is interested in running for any of these positions, please contact Patti Carter asap: mmkennels@myfairpoint.net 207-725-8229

calendar

January 4, 2026
Yankee Chapter Annual Meeting
Phippsburg, Maine

January 30-31, 2026
NAVHDA International Annual Meeting
San Antonio, Texas

Yankee Chapter Annual Meeting
January 4, 2026
Phippsburg Sportsman's Association
Main Rd
Phippsburg, Maine

8 AM coffee and greeting
9 AM membership meeting

The Yankee Chapter's Annual Meeting is always a great day of friends gathering together to plan and talk about the new year. It's a day of welcoming new members, door prizes, organizing the year ahead and sharing a pot luck luncheon!

Our Treasurer Shawn will be there taking your 2026 dues. Just a FYI, last year we celebrated Yankee Chapter's 40th year. Our dues have remained the same \$20.00 (family \$25.00) for all those years. Also on your membership application there is a check off box for our Youth Fund. Again, thanks for your membership and support. Applications can be downloaded and printed from Yankee's website.

We look forward to seeing you on Sunday, January 4th and planning another busy year of training, testing and education.

from Director of Training, Blaine Carter

As our next training season approaches and before this year fades too far away, we need to ask ourselves, "What are our goals for the new year, or better yet, where and when did the wheels fall off?" After spending many hours hunting behind my dogs and those of friends and family, it's time for new adjustments.

So rather than you, I'm going to pick on myself. For you who know my dog Keepah, (yes, with an ah) her drive to hunt is a bit out of balance. She's a very honest dog on point, but she can't control her drive on the flush and shot! I have some work to do this winter. So where am I going to start? I'm going to work on high drive situations in the home, going out a door and meal time. This will take some time and consistency on my part, but that's my plan. To my benefit she is very food driven, so adding high value treats will help with her focus and compliance. I know there will be a lot of mistakes made but being consistent with my expectations comes first. I will release her and reward her only when she gives me eye contact for permission.

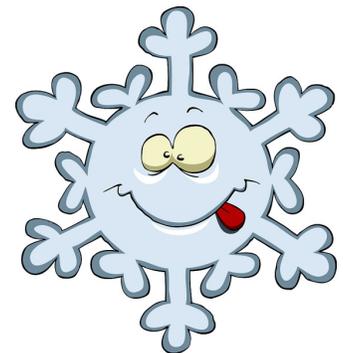
Next, we'll work on heel and whoa on our staircases. I can't express how perfect a set of stairs is for teaching those two skills. On class night, my goal is to have her stay on a dog bed while students, 2-legged and 4-legged arrive! This will be the hardest for her! As her obedience and skills improve, I will continue to introduce more and more challenges.

I've now shared my goals for Keepah. Make yourself a set of goals and challenges for you and your dog. Try to be consistent with your drills and expectations. Let's stay in touch. -- Blaine



Yankee Chapter Schedule of Events 2026

January 4	Annual Meeting, Phippsburg Sportsmans Association, Phippsburg, Maine
January 25	Winter Kids Day, Phippsburg Sportsmans Association, Phippsburg, Maine
Jan 29- Feb 1	International Annual Meeting, San Antonio, Texas
February 14	Indoor Clinic, Hawkes Tree Service, Phippsburg, Maine
March 27-29	State of Maine Sportsmans Show, Augusta, Maine
April 10-12	Women's Apprentice Hunter Program, Phippsburg, Maine
April 25	Training Clinic, Green Point WMA, Dresden, Maine
May 16	Training Clinic, Green Point WMA, Dresden, Maine
May 17	Test Prep Workshop, Merrymeeting Kennels, Brunswick, Maine
May 30	Pre Test Clinic, Green Point WMA, Dresden, Maine
June 5-7	Spring Test, Green Point WMA, Dresden, Maine
July 18	Water Clinic, Sugarfoot Kennels, Burnham, Maine - tentative
August 22	Pre Test Clinic, Wildes Point WMA, Bowdoinham, Maine
Sep 11-13	Fall Test, Wildes Point WMA, Bowdoinham, Maine
Sep 24-27	NAVHDA Invitational, Albuquerque, NM



from our Secretary, Dani Murphy

A YEAR IN REVIEW

The Christmas hustle of shopping is over. As I write this my three grand daughters are all playing with the new things received from Santa. I love their excitement, so innocent and full of joy. The reaction of the dogs makes me smile. Each dog responds a little differently to the little temporary additions to our home. Ember likes to lay beside them casually and calmly observing what is going on from her perch on the couch. Asha, the smiley one, will smile from behind the couch but avoid getting too close (these little people move a little fast for her, so she prefers a place of observation a bit removed with an escape route nearby). Then there is Cinder... she is the Energizer bunny, her tail never stops wagging, she loves them all, but is most drawn to the smallest one, chasing her, playfully spinning, picking up a toy here and there and then giving it to her; she likes the little beings who exist so close to her level.

The dogs are not particularly different from our members, a variety of personalities and talent working together for the greater good.

I am reflecting on all that Yankee did this year. While many of you know what the Executive Board does during our meetings when minutes are sent out, there are so many things that occur behind the scenes. There are emails strings with exchange of ideas, committees meeting, and events planned and organized. Here is a summary of the year in review. Wasting no time, the board kicked off in January....

JANUARY

January 8, 2025 - A quote was obtained from SRI Trailers in Manchester and with the approval already granted by the membership at the annual meeting the trailer was ordered. That spring the Trailer committee worked hard with donations of money, materials, and time building out the trailer. The new trailer was up and running in time for the spring clinic.

Jan 13, 2025 - The board discussed if a bylaw change was needed in order to approve the new life members. Research was done and the board determined that the life membership was already covered in Section 6 and several members received a lifetime membership, following 25 years of Yankee Membership.

Between the dates of Jan 16 and Jan 21 the vision and mission statements for the Women's Apprentice Hunting Camp were drafted and adopted. The annual report was sent to the state.

FEBRUARY

A copy of the annual report was provided to the treasurer Shawn Mowers, so she could be added to an account.

2/15/25 A board meeting was held at the indoor clinic, minutes are on file.

2/27/25 The porta potties were ordered for all Yankee events.

MARCH

3/06/25 - The invoice from Ideal Porta Potty was received by the secretary and sent to the treasurer for payment.

3/29/25 - A Board Meeting was held at the Maine Sportsman Show in Augusta. The minutes following this meeting were filed, however highlights of the topics covered are

- *Gun Raffle

- * Women's Apprentice Hunting Camp

- * AIMS and Rules Clinic

- * Motion was made and carried to establish a finance committee consisting of 3 members one of which must be the treasurer, the other two being appointed by the president. The committee must meet quarterly to review the finances of the Yankee Chapter.

APRIL

Women's Apprentice Hunting Camp held
AIMS and Rules clinic hosted by Yankee

MAY

Spring Clinic and Pretest clinics held

JUNE

Spring Test held



-continued on next page-

JULY

7/21/25 - The board voted virtually to obtain stand signs for our sponsors for Yankee events

AUGUST

8/4/25 - Water clinic held at Sugarfoot. Board meeting held. PJ stood in and took notes in my absence. Minutes on file. Highlights include the following:

- A motion was made and carried to use only chapter birds at Yankee sanctioned events.
- A motion to have the trailer committee price out and build a second bird trailer.

A pretest clinic was held at the end of August.

SEPTEMBER

Fall Test held in Bowdoinham.

OCTOBER

All of the dogs and handlers went hunting. All work stops and we do what the dogs love to do... HUNT.

NOVEMBER

Still hunting.

DECEMBER

Some are still hunting, but the board now starts planning for the next year.

12/09/25 - Updates were received from Foggy Ridge and Tardiffs regarding bird costs.

A motion was made and carried to increase test fees for the 2026 year. The increase is due to the fact that the chapter lost money last year on tests, and the rising cost of birds. Fees will now be:

Natural Ability \$150 (\$155 if paid online)

Gun Dog Test \$155 (\$160 if paid online)

Utility Test \$165 (\$170 if paid online)

As you can see we are busy all year long hoping to provide a great experience for all members.

I am now going to sign off to go play with some toys that Santa brought to the grandkids... and hope to get one final grouse hunt in tomorrow with the crew. Happy New Year see you all next week.



from Director of Communications, Misi Knutson

We're looking for members who would like to get more involved by joining our Communications Team!

If you enjoy writing, taking photos, sharing updates, or helping tell the story of our chapter, this is a great way to contribute.

The Communications Team supports our website, social media, and newsletter, helping keep members informed and connected throughout the year.

You don't need prior experience, just an interest in sharing information and a willingness to help.

Phippsburg Sportsmen's Club Winter Kids Day January 26

The Phippsburg Sportsmen's Club holds a terrific Winter Kids Day every year which has proven to be as much fun for the grown-ups as the kids. Dog sledding, skiing, and other snowy pursuits. Let's show them some great Yankee support! Come help out! For more information contact Sarah Franklin: Sarahefrankling93@gmail.com or 207-240-4402.



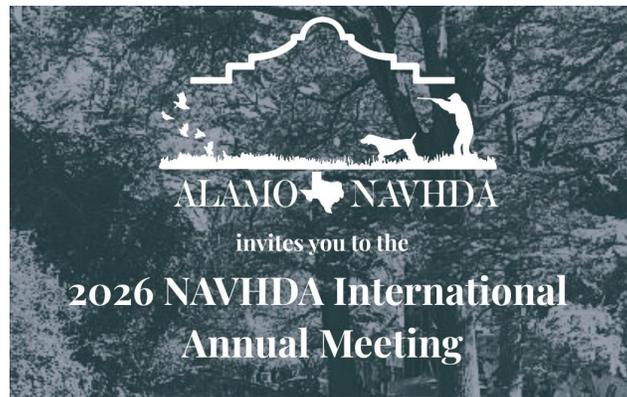
Test Prep Workshop May 17th

NAVHDA Aims and Rules Clinics focus on the NAVHDA testing and judging system, concentrating on scoring, what judges look for and what the test elements seek to accomplish. Our Test Prep Workshop focuses on handlers' actions and options in the field and at the water. We don't teach tricks or ways to beat the testing system; we simply present practical and effective handling advice for the NA, Gun Dog, and Utility tests.

This is a one-day workshop, covering NA in the morning and UT/Gun Dog in the afternoon. Participants have the option of attending both sessions or just one. The workshop features a panel of Yankee Chapter trainers and judges.

For info contact anisfield@gmavt.net.

Motions to be Presented at the NAVHDA International Annual Meeting



SUBMITTED BY THE WISCONSIN CHAPTER

The Wisconsin Chapter would like to make a motion - All "active" full time military members shall receive a free NAVHDA International Membership under 2 conditions. 1. They are actively serving our country in the following branches: Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Space Force, or Coast Guard. 2. Once they retire from military duty, they will need to pay for their membership.

Reasons: This is one way to give back something to our active duty military members who are serving our country. This is also personal to our chapter as we have one member who ran dogs in our tests and has joined the military recently. They still want to be involved when they get into regular housing where they can have dogs again. This way they can still be engaged with NAVHDA and be involved when they can.

* * * * *

SUBMITTED BY THE YANKEE CHAPTER

The current structure of the Conservation Partnerships should be reviewed and revised to best serve NAVHDA and the conservation organizations by offering the most mutual benefit to all members. In addition, NAVHDA members should have a clearly defined and recorded way of providing input on the structure of the Conservation Partnerships via survey, open discussion forums, polling, etc.

Reasons: The current Conservation Partnership agreements have NAVHDA dollars directed towards just one or two specific conservation habitat projects that will only benefit members in those areas. It would be more beneficial for all members if donations from NAVHDA to PF/QF and RGS/AWS go towards programs that would benefit all NAVHDA members, such as PF's PATH (Public Access To Habitat), RGS's Conservation Directors Program, Hunting Heritage initiatives, legislative advocacy, or education outreach.

NAVHDA could also support PF and RGS through exchange of media assets, shared events, reciprocal membership options, habitat/hunting dog educational exchanges, etc.

NAVHDA's membership has had little or no say in how our organization supports habitat conservation. The EC has made these decisions on their own. Members should have a voice in how these partnerships are structured.

At the NAVHDA International meeting, motions will be presented by the submitting chapter, then discussed and voted upon by the delegates. The results of that vote will be presented to the NAVHDA Executive Council for consideration. Please look them over and bring your comments and questions to the Yankee Annual meeting to share with our delegate.

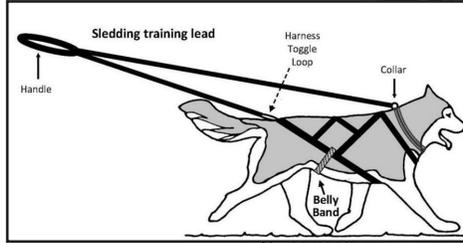
yankee youth!

from Director of Youth Development - Sarah Franklin

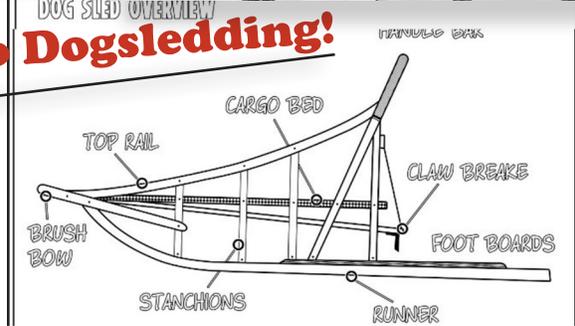
Just a few little notes from your youth director...

If you pay for a family membership we would love for you to send in your children's information with it- their ages, t shirts sizes, and if they currently have a lifetime hunting and/or fishing license. We are really looking to capture our youth involvement and this is a great way for us to keep track of everyone!

sarahefrankling3@gmail.com



Let's Go Dogsledding!



What do you think made this impression in the snow?



photo by Justin Dodge



WINTER WORD SEARCH FIND THE WORDS!



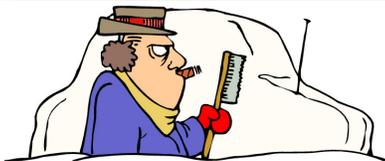
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BOOTS
COLD
FREEZING
HAT
SCARF
SLEDDING
SNOWFLAKE

CHRISTMAS
DECEMBER
FROST
ICE
SHOVEL
SNOWANGEL
SNOWMAN

COAT
FEBRUARY
GLOVES
JANUARY
SKIING
SNOWBALLS
WINTER

Member Spotlight



Don't be shy!

Scrape up a photo and some answers to these Member Spotlight questions:

Learn a little more about some of us Yankees! Send in your photo and answers to these questions, and we'll put you in the next newsletter.

1. Name? Do you have a nickname?
2. Current Job? Dream Job?
3. How many dogs and what breeds?
4. What is something we don't know about you?
5. What made you join Yankee?
6. If you could do one thing differently in your training what would that be; why?
7. What is the oldest thing in your fridge?

send to:
ycnavhda@gmail.com

Remillie Norsworthy

1. Nickname? Rem, Remi
2. Current Job Retired 33-yr HS teacher (English, French, Art, Environmental Science and Public Speaking--small school=many hats!); side business art-works. Dream job I'm living it!
3. How many dogs and what breeds? 2 females now, GWP Eureka and "oops" Gordon-Llewellyn cross Bazinga; 6 others were 2 Llewellyn setters, 1 Irish setter and 3 other GWPs
4. What is something we don't know about you? I am currently working on paintings #369 and 370 (2 structure commissions), and 2026 will be my 37th year summering in Augusta West Kampground.
5. What made you join the Yankee Chapter? Augusta Sportsmans Shows in the 90s, then getting our first Versatile in 1998.
6. If you could do one thing differently in your training what would that be, and why? Try to get the dogs out on wild birds more. Field work was always Bill's job, and my girls have been delayed on real hunting skills by my lack of getting out there more often.



7. What is the oldest thing in your fridge? Freezer, actually: 2 marshmallow "snow-man" ornaments made way back in the 70s.

Recommended reading for long winter days

Here are links to two really interesting articles that appeared online recently.

1. The Scoop on Poop by Keith Schopp *RGS/AWS Covers Magazine*

Keith talks to a Purina vet and nutritionist about what our sporting dogs' poop tells us about their condition, with recommendations on what to do if it's not right. They even have a poop scoring chart.

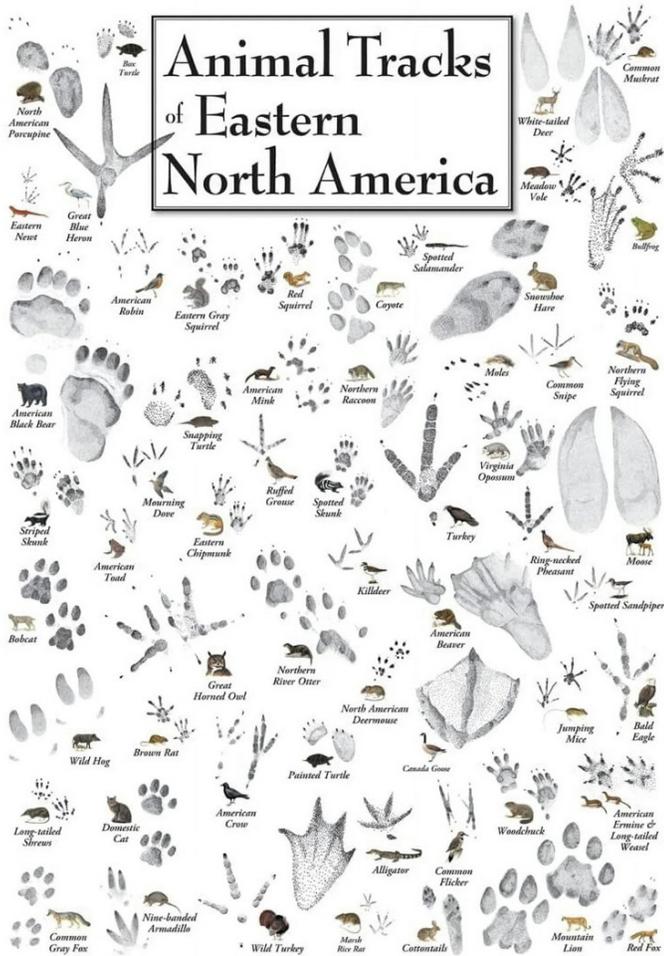
<https://ruffedgrousesociety.org/the-scoop-on-poop/>

2. Dog Aging Project Biobank by Krishna Ramanujan Cornell College of Veterinary Medicine

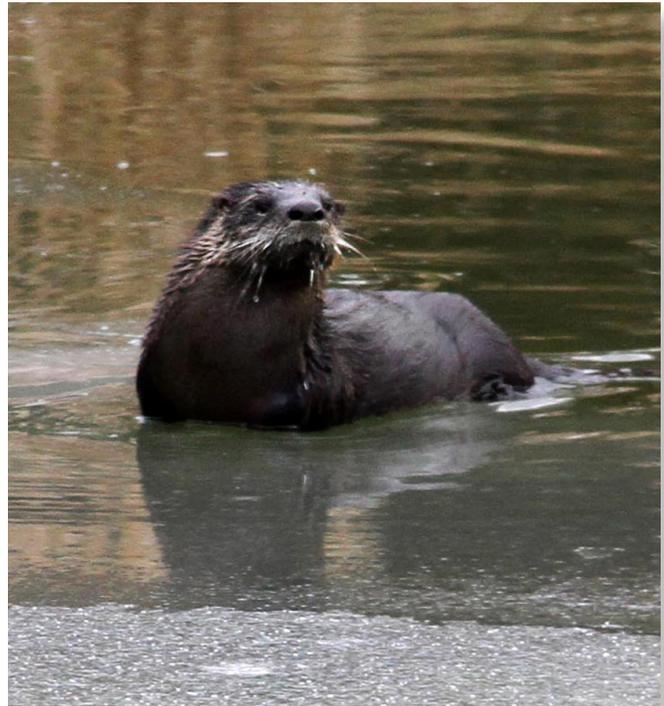
A \$2.5 million federal grant from the National Institute of Health will support processing, storing and distributing biological samples for the Dog Aging Project, a massive national effort to study aging in dogs – and humans.

<https://www.vet.cornell.edu/about-us/news/20200731/grant-launches-dog-aging-project-biobank-cornell>





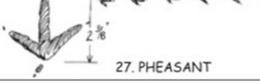
We can't smell 'em like our dogs can, but our eyes work pretty well when the tracks are fresh.



MAINE ANIMAL TRACKS



(Direction of travel of all tracks is to the right)

 1. CANADA LYNX	 8. GRAY SQUIRREL	 15. BEAVER	 22. OTTER
 2. BOBCAT	 9. RED SQUIRREL	 16. COTTONTAIL RABBIT	 23. MUSKRAT
 3. HOUSE CAT	 10. CHIPMUNK	 17. SNOWSHOE RABBIT	 24. WHITETAIL DEER
 4. RED FOX	 11. WEASEL	 18. RACCOON	 25. MOOSE
 5. DOG	 12. FISHER	 19. SKUNK	 26. WILD TURKEY
 6. COYOTE	 13. MARTEN	 20. PORCUPINE	 27. PHEASANT
 7. BLACK BEAR	 14. MINK	 21. WOODCHUCK	 28. RUFFED GROUSE



Yes! Dogs CAN get Frosbite!

Along with chapping and ice abrasions on dogs' pads and in between the toes, dogs can get frostbite on their feet. Even more susceptible, though, are the edges of the ears, bellies, tails, nipples and scrotum. Pale gray or bluish skin, blisters, cold skin, and a roughening of the surface are precursors to severe frostbite when the skin turns black. Even mild frostbite can be painful to the touch -- and often deep red-- as it thaws.

If you suspect frostbite, see a vet as soon as possible. Keep the dog warm, but don't massage the area.

It's best to be proactive if you think the outside conditions are conducive to frostbite. Put booties or a thick paw wax on your dog's feet. Coat a layer of vaseline on the underside of the ear flaps, and on the nipples or scrotum. Check for balled up ice between toes, especially on hairy-footed dogs. And be sure to dry your dog off as soon as you get inside to avoid cold wet saturation of his or her coat.

NorthEast

Pheasant Masters
GUIDE SERVICE | 207-831-0737

If you need a large field and wooded trails for your bird dog training, give us a call. We have the area, equipment, Bob White Quail, and Ringneck Pheasants available for you to train your bird dog. Blanks and live fire for junior and senior/master hunter training is permitted.

Bridgton, Maine

Birch Spring Brittanys

603-964-3779 - bsbritts88@gmail.com

The Barking Dog Express is published five times a year:

- Jan/Feb
- Mar/Apr
- May/June
- July/Aug/Sept
- Oct/Nov/Dec

We're always looking for stories, tips, recipes, info, and Member Spotlight profiles. Email to ycnavhda@gmail.com.

The Yankee Chapter is Proud to Support Conservation



NAVHDA INTERNATIONAL SPONSORS



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Newsletter	Nancy Anisfield	anisfield@gmavt.net	802-233-9158

LITTER ADS



barking dog express

Yankee Chapter of NAVHDA

1/4 PAGE -- YANKEE CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

Free for chapter members
 \$15/ per issue for non-members
 Contact: anisfield@gmavt.net



BUSINESS CARD ADS



barking dog express

Yankee Chapter of NAVHDA

**Promote your business
 in the Yankee Chapter newsletter!**

\$25 / year for chapter members
 \$35/ per issue for non-members
 Contact: anisfield@gmavt.net

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 President
 zipster@abc.org



yankee chapter local sponsors

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