

“Best Hunting Dog You’ve Never Heard Of”

By Lorn Manthey

When FARM SHOW editors saw the above headline recently in a magazine ad we decided to check out their website and talk to a breeder. It turns out none of us had ever heard of the dog breed known as Deutscher Wachtelhund, and we wanted to find out what we’d been missing.

We connected with Dave Pepe, a Deutscher Wachtelhund breeder from Pelican Lake, Wis. Pepe is an Air Force veteran who learned of the Wachtelhund breed while he was stationed in Germany in the 1980’s. He bought a Wachtelhund pup in 1991 and brought his first pair of Wachtelhunds to the U.S. in 1993. In subsequent years, he became a recognized Wachtelhund breeder and worked with a Canadian breeder to gain UKC recognition for the Wachtelhund. He also established Deutscher Wachtelhund of North America (DWNA). He is currently the DWNA Chairman.

Pepe told us that Wachtelhunds originated in Germany in the 1700’s. The Wachtelhund is a medium-sized dog 17 to 21 1/2 in. tall and 48 to 64 lbs. at maturity. Animals are either dark brown or brown ticked with white, with colorations ranging from blond to red. They show extraordinary hunting and tracking abilities and have a vibrant and friendly personality.

“Less than 10 percent of the people in Germany know of the Wachtelhund, and fewer in North America,” Pepe says. “It lacks notoriety because it’s sold only to hunters. In Germany, owners are avid hunters, professional hunters or gamekeepers.”

The breed now has 8 registered kennels, 6 active breeders and about 300 registered dogs in the U.S.

Pepe told us that DWNA is affiliated with the parent breed organization, VDW, in Germany. It’s committed to the integrity of performance testing through hunt tests. Each spring and fall the DWNA has hunt tests where dogs must meet minimum requirements for breeding.

Pepe says, “there are stringent rules, 67 pages for the 4 performance tests. Each test has 3 judges from outside the DWNA, 1 VDW and 2 JGHV-USA judges. The Wachtelhund is judged on a 165-yard feathered drag and



Deutscher Wachtelhunds, which originated in Germany, have great hunting and tracking abilities as well as a friendly personality.

retrieve and a 367-yard rabbit drag and retrieve. Also in the test are a duck flush and retrieve in marsh grass and a 400 meter blood trailing test. Wachtelhunds must achieve a certain proficiency to be breedable.

Pepe says the DWNA organization is committed to a heritage of testing and breeding. “Our breeding rules are 18 pages, and breeders must meet strict standards,” he says. “Our goal is to maintain standards of quality and assure the owner they’re getting an extraordinary hunting dog and a wonderful family pet.”

Wachtelhund puppies generally cost about \$1,000 and most new owners spend more to train and test their dog for hunting or breeding. “The best part of owning a Wachtelhund is that they’re born to hunt and to love people,” Pepe says. “Our motto is ‘bred by hunters for hunters’.”

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Fence Post “Doughnuts”

Paul Wheaton and Suzy Bean came up with an electric fencing idea that eliminates the need to try to drive lightweight fence posts into hard ground. They use homemade blobs of concrete that they call fence post “doughnuts”.

“It’s an easy, quick way to set up temporary fence posts on hard ground,” they say.

To make a doughnut, they first dig a shallow bowl in a patch of dirt. They grease the bottom end of the post and stick it in the middle of the bowl. Then they pour in some concrete, wait a few days, and pull out the post (the grease keeps the concrete from sticking to the post). The concrete blob is now ready to use. Because they’re flat on top, they pull them out of the hole and put them wherever they want to set up temporary electric fence, flat side down.

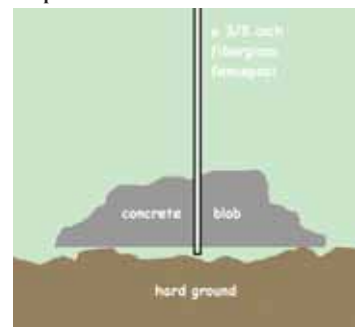
Sometimes they make two holes in the doughnut so it can support two posts. “Some of our temporary fencing has a mesh fence already attached, so where the two ends join we need two fence posts,” they explain.

They say portable fence doughnuts work so well that they’ve made dozens of them.

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Fence post “doughnuts” are blobs of concrete with a hole in them that supports the post.



Placed on its flat side, blob can be used to set up temporary electric fence wherever you want.



Wood 8-ft. “chimney” forms protection tunnel around combine’s air intake screen. Opening at the top allows dust-free air to enter engine.

Chimney Stopped His Combine Fires

“In hot and dry sunflower harvesting conditions I used to have several fires a year,” says Chester Schantz, who farms near Hebron, N. Dak. “It got to be so frustrating I was blowing off the machine every few rounds and still getting sparks that were causing small fires. I was ready to give up on growing sunflowers.”

One night, however, Schantz woke up with a “vision” to fix the problem. The next day he built an 8-ft. “chimney-like extension” out of plywood that attaches to the combine’s air intake screen. The opening at the top allows dust-free air to enter the engine.

“This really isn’t anything more than a wood box around the air intake,” Schantz says. “It eliminates a large amount of sunflower dust and tailings being pulled in around the engine, which was causing the fires.”

Schantz says he spent about \$60 in materials and a few hours labor to build his chimney stack. It’s made of 5/8-in. thick plywood, is about 2 1/2 ft. sq., and stands about 8 ft. tall. The top is 16 ft. off the ground, which allows his machine to just fit under electrical wires and inside his machine shed. After success with the chimney on his Case IH combine, Schantz built a shorter 32-in. chimney for his Deere combine. It works just as well.

One of Schantz’s neighbors has built a similar extension for a newer Case IH combine and says it also works great. “Sometimes when the dust is real thick all we can see is the chimney poking through the top of the cloud,” Schantz says. “That means the combine is getting clean air, and the amount of dust pulling by the engine is greatly reduced.”

Schantz’s wife Bonnie says the black box has attracted a lot of media attention, including a story in The Sunflower Magazine,



“It eliminates a lot of sunflower dust and tailings from being pulled in around the engine,” says inventor Chester Schantz.

calls from radio and TV stations, and a local ag magazine. “This has grown from just a simple idea to a frenzy,” Bonnie says with a laugh. “We were joking one night that since the chimney really looks like an outhouse that we should paint a door and a half moon on the back and that would really cause a stir.”

Bonnie says, “we’ve had about 10 calls from people wanting to know how to build the chimney, how to make one round, can we build one for them, and why is it painted black? Chester was just shaking his head when the fellow asked about the black paint, but he had a quick response: because that’s the only color I had in the shop.” The Schantz’s say they might draw up plans for the box and provide instructions on how to mount it on Case and Deere combines.

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Portable Fence Stile

Paul Wheaton and Suzy Bean also came up with a wooden “portable fence stile” that lets people easily climb over to the other side of an electric fence, but not animals. “It can be easily moved around as the fence is moved,” they say.

The fence stile has a triangle-shaped step and a vertical wooden post above it, with a short horizontal board extending through to the other side of the fence. You put your foot into the triangle and hold on to the vertical post to help keep your balance. Then swing your other foot over the fence and stand on the board that sticks through the fence.

“It’s stable and sets up fast and is easy to move around,” they say.

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Portable “fence stile” lets you easily climb over to other side of electric fence.