



Iowa Brittany Club Newsletter

January, 2012

Dedicated to the Dual Brittany

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Iowa Brittany Club Winter Meeting...

As noted in the October Newsletter, the Iowa Brittany Club's summer meeting will be on Sunday, January 29, 2012 from 10:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Felix & Oscar's Restaurant & Pub, 4050 Merle Hay Road in Des Moines.



From I-35 & I-80, take Exit 131 IA-28 / Merle Hay Road. Turn south onto IA-28 / Merle Hay Road. At the intersection of Merle Hay Road and Aurora Avenue you will see Bob Brown Chevrolet on your right. Proceed through the intersection and turn right (west), just before the water tower, into the strip mall area that houses Aspen Fitness, Burlington Coat Factory and Hobby Lobby. Felix & Oscars sits as the south end of the strip next mall next to Hobby Lobby; enter F&Os at the bar entrance on the south side of the building where the bartender can direct you to our meeting room. The meeting will start at 10:30.

We will be addressing important club issues including amendment of the IBC By-Laws. We will also have a terrific speaker in fellow IBC member Tom Fuller, Pheasants Forever Rep, on upland populations in Iowa...something of concern to us all. So plan to attend...it will be a great time to get together with fellow IBC members, meet new members, and enjoy terrific Felix & Oscars food! If you have any topics you'd like added to the Winter Meeting Agenda, please forward them to Marcy Beveridge or Jon St. Clair via email or phone by January 15th.

A Big Congrats To One Of Our Own!...

The Iowa Brittany Club proudly offers congratulations to one of their own with the appointment of Ken Windom as President of American Brittany Club, effective January 1, 2012!

Ken is a long time member of the Iowa Brittany Club, serving in various official capacities, most recently as Director and Horseback Field Trial Secretary. Ken has also spent numerous hours through many years assisting with various ABC events hosted by the Iowa Brittany Club, mentoring newer IBC officers and members, functioning as our unofficial Club historian, judging field events, and assisting the ABC at various levels to name a few. As a promoter of our breed and our Club...both the IBC and the ABC...Ken's involvement in both time and enthusiasm is encompassing and endless.

Again Ken, our heartiest congratulations! We're proud to have you at the helm of the American Brittany Club, and know your dedication and expertise will go a long way in leading the ABC and the breed we all love into the future!

Iowa Brittany Club New Member...

Submitted by Marcy Beveridge

Please join me in welcoming new Iowa Brittany Club member **Valerie Weaver**! Many of you know Val as a fixture at the Iowa Brittany Club field trials where she scouts for our own Bob Burchett and assists with Bob's bird dog training and handling operation. Val hails from Argyle, Iowa.

Val, we're thrilled to have you join the Iowa Brittany Club, and look forward to your involvement with the Club and ideas for the future!

Iowa Brittany Club Upcoming Events...

Get out that 2012 calendar, make note of upcoming Iowa Brittany Club spring events and plan to attend!

- March 18** IBC Spring AKC Walking Field Trial (Lee Lakosky Farm, Hillsboro, Iowa)
- April 6** IBC Spring AKC Specialty Show & Sweepstakes (Creston Alternative School, Creston, Iowa)
- April 6-12** IBC Spring AKC Field Trial (Union County Ranch, Thayer, Iowa)
- April 9** IBC Spring Ed Powell Open Limited Gun Dog (Union County Ranch, Thayer, Iowa)
- April** IBC Spring AKC Hunt Test (Steelclay Shooting Sports, Eddyville, Iowa) - **Dates to be announced**

Watch your mailbox and the IBC website for further information on these events and those dates yet to be announced. If you have specific questions on the events, contact Wes Shaffer (Walking Field Trial), Jane Windom (Specialty Show/Sweepstakes), Ken Windom (Horseback Field Trial and Ed Powell Open Limited), Roger Stowell (Hunt Test).

Don't Forget And Don't Delay!...

Iowa Brittany Club 2011 Dog of the Year Applications **must** be completed and mailed so as to be **received** by Marcy Beveridge, IBC Secretary, no later than **January 15, 2012!**...No exceptions whatsoever. Marcy will confirm receipt of all applications via email or phone. If you are planning on making a submission, get your application(s) in now via email or snail mail, and remember, postal delivery is not as timely as in the past!

Health Tip Of The Quarter...

While the information in this newsletter's "Health Tip Of the Quarter" might have seemed more appropriate before the Christmas season, we think it bears passing along to you now. Many of us extend the holiday season to celebrate with family and friends and accommodate busy schedules...holiday decorations and lights and foods remain in our world beyond the few days we traditionally mark Christmas and the New Year. The trappings of the winter holiday season have an impact on our pet's world as well. What may seem beautiful and harmless to us may pose hidden and even deadly dangers to our beloved pets. Don't let an emergency spoil the festivities. Here are some common holiday hazards for your four-legged family members, and ways to prevent them. A little knowledge will help keep your pets safe!



Holiday Hazard

How To Keep Your Pet Safe

Dangerous Foods

The following can be toxic to pets: chocolate, raisins, grapes, macadamia nuts, garlic, onion, alcohol, caffeinated beverages, bread dough, and sugar-free candy and gum containing the artificial sweetener xylitol.

Regular Foods

Despite tradition, bones should never be given to pets...even beef, ham, and other foods that are not considered toxic can cause illness in pets. If your pet is a moocher, keep a regular saucer of his regular treats available when he asks. He probably won't know the difference!

New Treats & Toys

Even pet-safe treats can cause stomach upset if it is new to your pet. Offer only one of these at a time, ideally, separated by a few days. If your pet becomes ill after eating a holiday treat it will be easier to trace the source and discontinue it. Check new toys for sharp edges, pieces that can be chewed off, and other potential hazards.

Plants

Hazardous plants include: mistletoe, poinsettia, some evergreens, and holly bushes and berries. Try to keep this plants away from pets or at least supervise pets when dangerous plants are in their environment.

Decorations

Tinsel, tree ornaments, ribbons, string, and garlands are some of the items that can be dangerous if eaten by pets...Keep all away from pets, especially when pets are unattended. Electrical can be deadly and should be kept out of reach at all times.

Fire & Carbon Monoxide

Monitor pets near fireplaces, wood-burning stoves, candles and portable heaters. Also don't forget to check smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors to make sure they are functioning properly. Space heaters, furnaces, and idling cars in garages can increase the risk of carbon monoxide poisoning for your pets and your family.

Christmas Trees

Monitor pets when they are around your holiday tree. Pets may eat needles, even from artificial trees, or drink water from the base of the tree, which can be toxic, especially if there are preservatives in it. Keep electrical cords and decorative lights out of reach.

In many cases, if your pet has eaten or drunk something toxic, warning signs will include gastrointestinal problems such as vomiting and diarrhea. Other signs may include tiredness and lack of appetite. If your pet shows any of these signs, or if you think he has eaten something dangerous but is not showing symptoms yet, contact your veterinarian right away. Treating your pet as soon as possible is essential and could be life saving!