

Honourary Life-Member and Field Judge of VHDF-Canada

Edward D. Bailey, the Hunting-Dog Professor



Ed Bailey was born in 1931 and grew up in southeastern Pennsylvania. Ed's connection to dogs started early, at age 2, when his grandmother gave him a Fox Terrier from one of the many litters she raised.

While no one in Ed's immediate family hunted, his Uncle always carried a shotgun in his car during grouse season. Ed told Patti Carter and Joan von Hardenberg that when he was four or five years old, they went for a car ride. "He spotted a grouse beside the road, stopped and told me to be very quiet and follow behind him. I helped him eat the bird that night for supper. The whole thing of stalking and flushing



and shooting the bird left a huge impression on me. It has never diminished.”

Patti and Joan added that when Ed was fourteen and finally able to get a hunting license, another Uncle, who had Beagles and hunted rabbits, took him on his first real hunt. A year later a man who realized how much Ed loved dogs offered him a pair of English Setters. Ed was able to persuade his parents and so began his life-long association with hunting dogs.¹

While his teenage plan was to become a veterinarian, Ed ended up earning a Master’s in Wildlife Management at the University of Montana studying behaviour of mule deer. For his Ph.D. he studied woodchucks at Penn State University. Ed wanted to study under John Paul Scott in a dog research project in Bar Harbor, Maine, but the woodchuck research had the required funding in place. Soon thereafter Ed was offered a position at Guelph University and asked to develop an undergraduate and graduate program in Animal Behaviour in the University’s Zoology Department.

During both of Ed’s graduate research projects, his Springer Spaniel Bo was constantly by his side. When Bo died, Ed obtained his first Griffon. Together with his first wife Joan, the Baileys became synonymous with griffons. They became part of the group known as griffoniers and a cornerstone in the founding of the Wire-haired Pointing Griffon Club of America.²

Ed Bailey has been a prolific writer of both scientific and of popular articles. What most of us know him best for is as co-author of NAVHDA’s so-called Green Book, “The training and care of the versatile hunting dog,” with Sigbot (Bodo) Winterhelt.

This book, originally published in 1974 is still used widely today. It is Concisely written by Ed taking the proven approach to versatile dog development, coupled with Bodo Winterhelt’s ample training experience.

When VHDF was founded at a meeting near Boise, Idaho, late in 2006, Ed was unable to attend. However, Ed was very supportive reading our documents and providing important insight as we laid a foundation for a testing organization that was to be acting squarely in the interest of versatile dog breeders and hunters. Several of Ed’s many popular articles are part of the required reading for VHDF-Canada apprentice judges.

When VHDF-Canada members were asked whether they’d support naming Ed Bailey a Honorary Life Member and Judge of VHDF-Canada, the decisions were unanimous.

We are honored to count Ed Bailey in our midst and look forward to many years of him sharing his insight with us. **Welcome aboard, Ed!**

¹ Carter, Patti, and Joan von Hardenberg (2012). "The Green Book and the Men Who Wrote It; The Training and Care of the Versatile Hunting Dog." Unpublished Article.

² Bailey, Joan (1996). "Griffon, gun dog supreme: The history and the story of how to improve a breed." Swan Valley Press, Hillsboro, Oregon, U.S.A.