

# PRAIRIE NEWS

<http://SD-PheasantHunting.com>  
1-855-SD Lodge

February 2014

35451 253<sup>rd</sup> Street  
Kimball, SD 57355

## **Pheasant Fest:**

From February 14 to 16, the annual Pheasant Fest sponsored by Pheasants Forever will be held in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. We are pleased to announce that we will be exhibiting at this convention, so we encourage everyone to visit us at booth #905. Each day we will be sponsoring a drawing for a free day of pheasant hunting when booking any three- or five-day all-inclusive package. If anyone would like to enter the drawing but cannot attend Pheasant Fest, you may send us your business card and we will include it for you.



## **Hunting Dogs:**

Everyone has heard the quote that "a dog is man's best friend", and that sentiment is especially true for hunting dogs who share the love of this sport with their owners. There is something special about spending a day in the field with your dog, both of you working hard, and finally going home with the birds that denote your success. Certainly not all our hunters bring their dogs with them, or even own hunting dogs, but we believe that hunting with your dog enhances an already amazing experience.



Three main categories are generally used to classify hunting dogs: retriever, flusher and pointer. To help any of our guests who might be interested in finding their best four-legged friend, we are developing a three-part series of informational segments about hunting dogs. Although not designed to provide an exhaustive wealth of information, we hope this helps you decide which dog is best suited for your personal situation.

## **Retrievers:**

The Labrador Retriever is the most popular registered breed in the world, probably due to their exceptional social skills and versatility. They are intelligent, have a strong work ethic, and tend to be easily trained. Their social nature makes them good companions but not guardians. For hunting, Labs are well suited to adverse weather conditions and very cold water. They are a tough and durable breed combining a sturdy build with good speed and agility.



The second most popular retriever is the Golden Retriever. With a dense outer coat that is water repellent, they are also well suited to cold hunting conditions. Golden Retrievers are a tough and durable breed with good speed and agility and a great love of water. Due to their exceptionally social nature, Golden Retrievers are one of the most popular family companions. They are generally intelligent, very eager to please and easily trained. While not aggressive, they can be good watchdogs because they will raise an alarm with the arrival of strangers.

Other popular members of the retriever family include the Chesapeake Bay Retriever, Curly-Haired Retriever, Flat-Coated Retriever, and Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever (Toller). Most of these share many of the same traits as Labs and Goldens, especially their affinity to water and excellent socialization. Most retrieving breeds will range in front of the hunter to flush upland birds within comfortable gun range. With the exception of Tollers which are a bit smaller, most retrievers range from about 55 to 75 pounds in weight and about 20 to 25 inches in height from the ground to the highest point of the shoulders.

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## **Prairie Puzzle:**

The answer to last month's question about the country of origin of ringneck pheasants was China. Congratulations to our winners: Mr. VanTilburg from Kentucky, Mr. Evans from Indiana, Mr. Campbell and Mr. Cluchey from South Carolina, Mr. Cullen from Georgia, and Mr. Harrison from Arizona.

February question: ***Although not widely used for hunting today, the poodle was originally bred to be a water retriever. In what country did the poodle originate?***

- a) Italy                      b) Germany                      c) England                      d) United States

Please submit your answer by February 15, 2013 to be included in the prize drawing for a free Dakota Prairie Lodge & Resort hunting hat. Responses will be accepted via mail, phone, or email. Good luck!