

North American Versatile Hunting Dog Southern California Chapter



# So Cal Chapter News

ClaudeTrincale, Secretary/Editor



***Bob*** the Spinone Italiano

### 1. Breed's name

The Spinone Italiano is most commonly known as the *Spinone* (pl. Spinoni Italiani), but is also known as the Italian Spinone and the Italian Griffon.

**Sal:** As you probably know, I have had Bob, a Spinone Italiano for just about two years. The Spinone is a wonderful dog protective of the home and family yet does not have a mean bone in him.

Looking at the size of the Spinone, one could not imagine how very gentle and sensitive these dogs are. They are extremely intelligent and easy to train.

As a hunter the Spinone is an all-around dog, probably the only breed that hunts to please its owner and not hunt for themselves.

They love water so much that we have a problem keeping him out of the pool.

To know a Spinone is to love them the only fault that they have is that they are droolers.

I am sending you a link to the kennel from which Bob came from [www.delsubasio.it](http://www.delsubasio.it) The breeder's name is Ezio Paglierini he is an expert on Spinoni. In his web page you will be able to read about the breed in detail, if you scroll down the images, you will find a picture of Bob when he was a baby plus all the others that Ezio has shipped throughout the world.

By the way I would like to thank our treasurer Guido for having gone to the kennel and chosen Bob for me. Guido is Bob's official Godfather.

Last year Bob went hunting for the first time. We went with Guido in Montana and the experience was memorable, Bob surpassed all of my expectations.

The best remembrance of that hunt was when I shot a Grouse that fell in high grass, Bob went searching and retrieved it, but no sooner that he gave it to me he took off again and came back with another.

Apparently it was one that Guido had wounded the day before. Needless to say that at the time I opened the shot gun to see how many times I had shot.

Although the breed and Bob have some innate qualities, I still owe Chris Gentler for obedience training Bob and Guido for all the time he has spent teaching Bob.



## 2. What is the general purpose of this breed (Feather/fur etc), origins etc

Breed Club: The Spinone is a versatile hunting dog of ancient heritage with origins in northern Italy. It has a very resistant thick skin and harsh coat well suited to the field. The breed has been characterized as a dog "...that does not hunt for themselves but for their master" and is "not too fast in their speed while searching out game". Their gentle disposition and docile temperament make them an excellent family companion as well

Although not common in the U.S., this breed has a long history of service to man. His rather uncertain heritage centers around Europe and it's gun dogs of long ago. Whether he was the basis for bringing forth other gun breeds, or whether they simply sprang from common stock is not known.

Like all Italian breeds it is ancient. In Renaissance Italy a pointer with wiry hair was already present and reached us with much difficulty, due to extraneous crossbreedings performed heedlessly. After 1950 the breed was reconstructed by a few great breeders. Its innate merits are its sense of smell, setting, retrieving, recovering, and the close ties it has with the hunter.

The breed has excelled as a pointer and retriever for centuries. Today he is still a popular hunting dog in other countries, as well as pet. The United States seem to be at last discovering this versatile dog.

The Spinone's grumpy appearance contrasts with its gentle and affectionate disposition. It has a great capacity for learning and the desire to satisfy its master most completely. Very sociable, courageous, loyal and an excellent companion. Today the breed is popular not only in Italy but is also raised in England and Scandinavia. The Spinone has a marked tendency to trot broadly and swiftly.

## 3. What are the desired conformation standards for the breed

**HEIGHT:** 22.5" to 27.5"

**WEIGHT:** 61 lbs. to 85 lbs.

**COAT:** Wire-haired, thick, slightly wavy coat, 4-6 cm long along its body, longer on the eyebrow arches, lips and chin where it forms mustache and beard which give it that typical gruff and kindly look.

**COLORS:** White; white with orange; orange roan; orange roan with orange patches; white with brown; brown roan; brown roan with brown patches. The preferred shade of brown is the color referred to as "**Capuchin Friar's Frock**". Not permitted colors are: tricolor, tan markings, black under any shape and combinations. Also see Coat Color Genetics for some examples.

**GROOMING:** This breed requires just a small amount of stripping, pulling dead hair as opposed to cutting, to neaten the coat. Other than that, just a weekly brushing will suffice. Bathe as necessary. Some say this breed grooms himself like a cat.

## 4. Why did you select this breed and this particular dog/bitch

### **PERSONALITY**

Happy, upbeat and enthusiastic, the Spinoni Italiano is a pleasant, easy-going breed. He is easily satisfied when treated as a member of the family. Although serious when at work in the field, he definitely has a clownish side that is often quite entertaining. Never bossy or whiny (unless constantly ignored), this gentle soul loves children, those he knows and those he does not. Children must be taught to treat this wonderful dog with the love and respect he deserves. His great patience should never be taken for granted--abuse is abuse, whether intentional or not. This breed gets along well with other animals, particularly enjoying the company of another dog. He wants to be with his people, whether that means at home or traveling, preferably in someone's lap!

**7. For those that may be considering this breed, what is your advice general comments about the breed, or dog (such as who should and who should not own one)**

**IS HE A BARKER?** No, a quiet breed in general. May occasionally howl along with a siren.

**CONFINEMENT:** Content within a fenced yard, this large dog is nevertheless capable of jumping very high. The occasional one is a tunneler. Talk to breeders about secure fencing.

**PROTECTIVENESS:** **Not a protection breed**, he is either unlikely to attack under any circumstance or would only do so if he or his family is directly threatened.

**ACTIVITY LEVEL:** Low to medium indoors, medium to high outdoors

**EXERCISE ACTIVITY:** A good breed to jog with, the Spinoni Italiano is not a "racy" type dog, moving more slowly and methodically than many other gun dog breeds. As such, he can do well with a small yard combined with frequent walks and play.

**WEATHER** None

**PREFERENCE:**

**LONGEVITY ON AVERAGE:** Excellent, 12 years and up

**HEALTH INTO SENIOR YEARS:**

**HEALTH INTO SENIOR YEARS:** Excellent

**APPETITE:**

**APPETITE:** Excellent

**DOES HE DROOL ?** Some do, some don't

**BLOAT:** Does occur, though not a huge problem.

**INTELLIGENCE** Extremely high.

**(PROBLEM SOLVING):**

**TRAINABILITY:** He learns fast, but is sometimes a bit stubborn about performing. The Spinoni has a mind of his own, feeling there should be a good reason for doing the task asked of him. For example, one breeder mentioned that his dog is perfectly willing to pick up downed birds, but he is reluctant to retrieve a training dummy. Nor does the breed perform in flashy style, instead being a slow, steady worker on the hunt or in the ring. Sadly, many judges

penalize this, expecting all dogs to work like a pointer (field) or a Border Collie (ring). Motivational training is the only way to go with this sensitive breed.

**APTITUDES:** Very high: obedience; lure coursing (not eligible); tracking; agility; search and rescue; hunting; backpacking; therapy dog; assistance dog; retrieving; carting; flyball; watchdog. Others are quite possible, though not as likely.

## COMMENTS

In spite of how wonderful this breed sounds, he is still not for everyone. For many active people, he would be too laid-back. For true couch potatoes, he needs too much exercise. For someone looking for a high in trial obedience dog, he lacks the flash. Some people would prefer a dog who is less needing of attention. Still, this breed does suit a great number of prospective owners. I have no doubt his popularity in this country will rise, hopefully slowly. The Spinoni may be a bit difficult to find, requiring interested parties to go on a waiting list. If this is truly the breed for you, it is worth the wait.

The Spinone can be timid if not properly socialized. The "FEAR" impressionable stage is from 4 to 10 months of age. Be cautious about purchasing, or shipping a puppy at this age. It is recommended that you pick up your puppy personally if purchased during the "FEAR" impressionable stage rather than having the puppy shipped to you. In addition, if the puppy is kennel raised, he/she will be extremely fearful of "house noises" and probably not be "potty" trained. Be sure to ask if the puppy was house raised versus kennel raised..

**WE HAVE A WEB SITE! the So. Cal. NAVHDA Chapter Web Site is hosted by So. Cal. Bourbonnais please visit it and post as much as you like in the Forum let me know what Forum specific to NAVHDA or other topics you want added I'll be glad to add them.**

**Address:**

**[www.socalbourbonnais.com](http://www.socalbourbonnais.com)**

**Please join us in the Forums and by providing information the following so I can update the Accomplishment section on the So Cal NAVHDA section.**

**Organization... Organization....Organization....Organization.... Organization**

**The following members have applied to be nominees for Officer Positions during the next two years term.**

<b>Position</b>	<b>Nominee</b>
<b><i>President</i></b>	Robert Worrell
<b><i>Vice President</i></b>	Garo Missakian
<b><i>Secretary</i></b>	Claude Trincale
<b><i>Director of Publications</i></b>	Claude Trincale
<b><i>Treasurer</i></b>	Guido Dei
<b><i>Training Day Coordinator</i></b>	Chris Gentner

**The Training day Coordinator has been filled!!!  
The Officers in the list above will be confirmed since there are no other candidates or objections to their candidacy.**

*Training.... Training.... Training.... Training.... Training.... Training.... Training....*

## The next training day is August 17<sup>th</sup>, 2008: Location; Prado

Be sure to read the Aims program so you will know what to expect. You can download the Aims program from the NAVHDA web site.

### **We will be doing a mock test for the NAVHDA testing system**

Chris will keep us organized and moving. We'll need Gunners, bird planter, Judges, general helper to launch birds etc. This would be a good way to get to understand some of the work that will need to be executed during our real test in October. Garo will be coming to you and asking you to volunteer. Please do, none of this will work without you.

If you are doing NA make sure your dog will swim (twice) and able to track a live bird.

If you are doing UT, your dog should be Force broke to retrieve, delivers to hand being perfect, searching very well in the field with a very good point but maybe not steady to shot yet. Doing the drags out to 200 yards. Now we our ready for the water!

At this point we are well on the way for the U.T test. You can train a lot of the water work by using dummies but you should figure on at least 5-8 real live duck searches. I know they are a few members who are working on getting ready for N/A test so please come out as well and we will split up in small groups and help you out as well..

Looking forward to seeing everybody!

***The San Diego Chapter may be putting on a Handler's clinic. If you have not attended one and are planning to test your dog, this is a perfect opportunity to learn what to do and not to do.***

The San Diego Chapter is considering putting on a Handler's Clinic. Members who are interested please contact, Gabby via email.

When: Oct 11th-12th

Where: Possible locations (1) Julian area (2) Hemet, Four Winds Pheasant Club (3) Prado

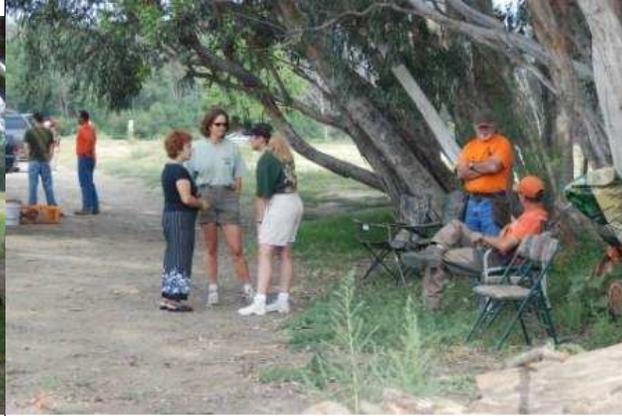
Why? Better prepare for NA, UPT, UT test in December (Grand Canyon) & March (San Diego)

Cost: \$75

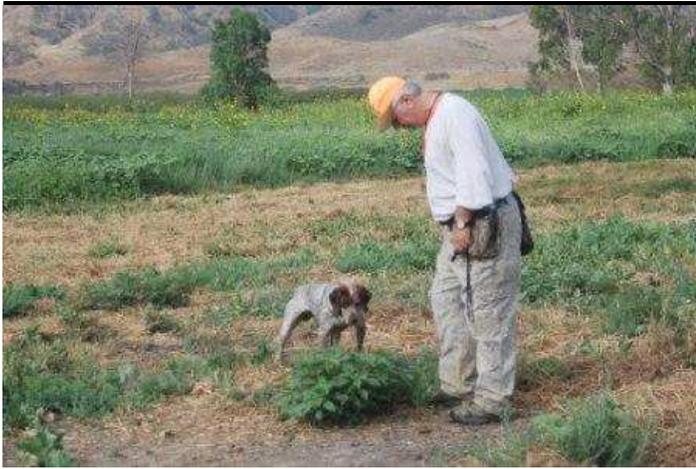
*Training.... Training.... Training.... Training.... Training.... Training.... Training....*

We have a PHOTOGRAPHER, **Darin Nohl** has volunteered to take pictures for us. I really appreciate the help. Thank you Darin.

*Last July's Trainng day in review*



*More pictures from July*



*More July Pictures*



## *The Doctor is IN*

We always have an incredible turnout of members when “Doc”, David Hinebaugh DVM, is lecturing, and with good reasons. If you were not at the meeting you missed another great lecture.



We had a wonderful lecture by “Doc”. Some of the things that were discussed were topical medicines, nutrition, first aid, proper care of nails, proper way to clean out anal gland (gross, but necessary) and a myriad of other topics.

No he is not leading us in prayer, in the picture he is getting ready to demonstrate the correct use of sutures using a stapler.

Some of the things that he suggested:

Read the content of the dog food that we buy and use common sense in what you buy, these are high energy dogs and we ask them to hunt all day. During a multi-day hunt, one of the things you may want to consider is to provide a “snack” for energy such as white bread and honey.

Make sure you have, and know, what is in your 1<sup>st</sup> aid kit. Add saline solution and inject-able Benadryl (available from your Vet’s office). Rattle snake bites can be deadly and if you hunt in areas that have rattlers (most of us do) consider having your dog snake-broke and vaccinated, it could save your dog and thousands of dollars in vet bills.

There is a problem with ticks especially in some of the Midwestern states so if you hunt those areas make sure your dog is protected.

*Testing.... Testing.... Testing.... Testing.... Testing.... Testing.... Testing.... Testing....*

**So. Cal. NAVHDA Fall 2008 test event  
October 3, 4 and 5 NAVHDA TEST**

Hope this finds all fellow NAVHDANS two and four legged in great shape!

We are ready to go! Get your pups and yourself ready, October will be here before you know it. Have seen many new promising pups on our training days, this will be a great chance to see what they can do for YOU. Than of course there are the wonder dogs ready for UPT or UT, are you ready, last minute refreshing sessions? We have 4 training sessions to improve.

**FEES: NA \$120.00**

**UPT \$135.00**

**UT \$150.00**

As you all know well, entry forms can be downloaded from [www.NAVHDA.org](http://www.NAVHDA.org) web sight; it is first come first served. Please mail your entries early. Make check payable to So Cal NAVHDA, mail to Guido Dei, 2731 Copa De Oro Dr. Los Alamitos, CA 90720 or Garo G Missakian, P O B 292441, Phelan, CA 92329

As of today test will be at Finney Ramer Wildlife Refuge, our president Bob W. is working to see if we can get in Tejon Ranch. Remains to be seen.

The hard work is done, now for the fun part, we **need a lot of volunteers**, so let's all roll up our sleeves, put our shorts on and jump in !

The judges we requested for your NAVHDA test beginning 10/3/2008 have been approved.

Cheers,  
Garo HTS

***Fill out the forms and bring them with you on August 17th, along with a check, to save a spot for test day !! If you have an OFA or Pennhip certification make sure it is included with the forms.***

*Members' Corner... Members' Corner... Members' Corner... Members' Corner..*

I know some of you participate in field trials. As you may know I do a few of them as does Bob W. and Mike I. The following NAGDA event is set up especially for people/dogs that want to find out if this is something you'd be interested in doing AND it happens to be early in the hunting season so it would be a good warm-up for the dogs. Please join us if you can.

## **Tournament Hunting Seminar**

Presented by:



**September 20, 08**

**Seminar will include a 4 bird hunt in a competition format!**

**\*\*\*\* Competitive Upland Hunting\*\*\*\***

- \* Learn from the Pros how it is done
- \* A family event for all ages
- \* Who? Youth, Ladies, Amateur and Senior
- \* Your dog: Puppy, Pointers and Flushers

Pre-entry \$140.00 / \$165.00 entry at event **7am**

Dave Long 661-859-5550 visa/master card pre-entry

E mail: [davelong@wtrealor.com](mailto:davelong@wtrealor.com)

North American Gun Dog Association (NAGDA) membership \$35.00 optional.

### **4 Seasons Hunt Club**

25001 Banducci Road

Tehachapi, Ca. 93561

**Map & Directions located at: [www.4seasonshunting.com](http://www.4seasonshunting.com)**

**Info. Contact: Bryce Mann 559-779-2439**

Bryce Mann's Gun Dogs & Guide Service [www.brycemann.com](http://www.brycemann.com)

**See you on August 17<sup>th</sup> at Prado**

Be kind to your dogs, they love unconditionally.

