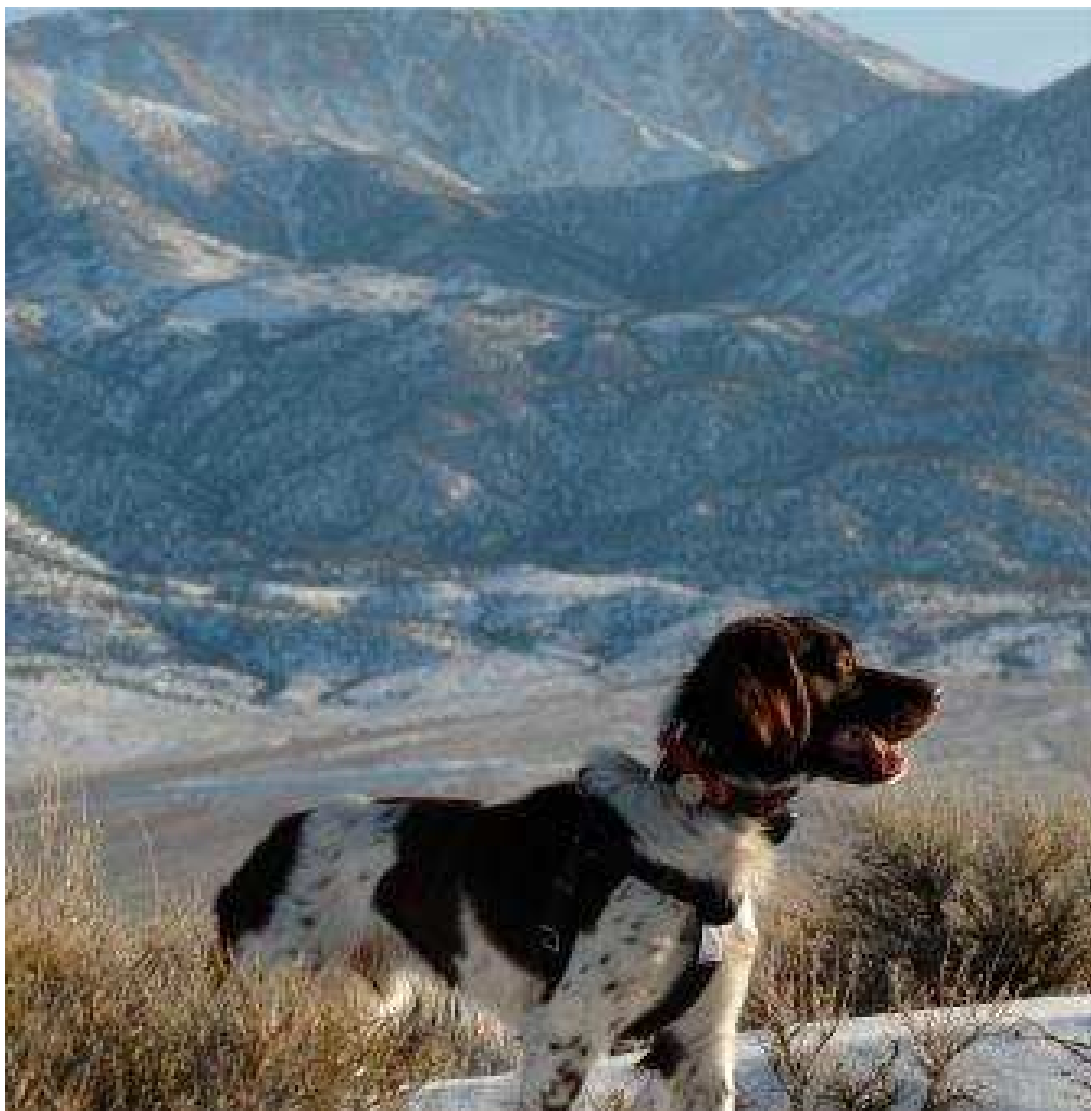


North American Versatile Hunting Dog Southern California Chapter



# So Cal Chapter News

ClaudeTrincale, Secretary/Editor



SIMON The Wonder dog

(as described by his human Steve "Esteban" Woodard)

## 1. Breed's name

Small Munsterlander or German Small Munsterlander Pointer or Kliener munstelander

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

(from Wikipedia) The **Small Munsterlander** (SM) (or Kleiner Münsterländer) is a hunting-pointing-retrieving dog breed that reached its current form in the area around Münster, Germany. The Large Munsterlander is from the same area, but was developed from different breeding stock and is not as closely related as the names would suggest. Small Munsterlanders bear a resemblance to both spaniels and setters but are rather more versatile.

Small Munsterlanders are very intelligent, trainable, and attentive but require gentle and patient training, which provides excellent results. They are also strong-willed and an owner who is inconsistent or indecisive might find that his dog is hard to control. Both voice and hand signals are used, and an SM looks back at the hunter for silent signals at intervals when on hold or pointing. They have a very strong drive to follow their keen sense of smell, and thrive with hunting or comparably challenging exercise for an hour or more every day. They love swimming, too. Lack of regular and sufficient exercise and mental challenge will likely result in unwanted behavior, which is common in highly intelligent, driven breeds. They mature rather slowly over 2.5 to 3 years but a well-trained, mature SM is a hunter without peer, and the upland bird hunter hunting over such a dog will enjoy both the experience and great success. The Small Munsterlander is a happy, affectionate family pet when in the house, while remaining a keenly focused, even driven, hunter-pointer-retriever when in the field. They are not suited to life in a kenneled because of their sociable nature and need to interact with people—they need to live in the home of their human family. SMs will pick an individual person to bond most closely with, typically the one who hunts with the dog, but will revel in the company of the rest of the family, too. When raised with other pets in the household, such as cats, they can coexist happily though they may enjoy a game of chase and point. Unfamiliar small animals outdoors will not be tolerated in the same way.

Originally a dog bred to work with noble families' falconers before guns were used in bird and small game hunting, ancestors of the Small Munsterlander had to work in upland areas to flush prey for the falcon, then allow the falcon to keep the prey until the falconer could retrieve it while the dog pointed at the catch. To this day the Small Munsterlander has excellent close searching and pointing drive. With wider availability of guns and personal time for commoners, hunting became more popular, and the breed was further developed as a retriever that worked equally well in the field and water. Owners of the breed consider it to be uniquely effective in working as a team with the huntsman in all phases of the hunt, akin to the close cooperation between a sheep herder and Border Collie.

By the 1800s the breed had fallen into obscurity. Small Munsterlanders were little known, kept by a few families on farms around Munster. For a half century the few dogs that were bred were primarily companions, and used when hunting to feed the family rather than for sport. It developed a local reputation as the dog to have when a hunter's success or failure determined whether his family would have enough to eat. At the end of the 19th century, a concerted effort was made to re-establish the breed from the remaining lines in the Munster region. The fortunate outcome of the companion phase in the Small Munsterlander history was its excellent in-home personality.

The Small Munsterlander is rare in the United States, numbering perhaps in the hundreds, and demand from hunters outstrips the number of available dogs, so breeders typically give preference to hunters. They're especially hard to come by for nonhunters there. They are more numerous in [Germany](#), the [Netherlands](#), and the [Czech Republic](#). SMs excel in nonhunting roles as well because of their exceptional scent-tracking ability, and are used in [search and rescue](#) teams and contraband detection ("drug sniffing") roles as well.

The Small Munsterlander is rare in the United States, numbering perhaps in the hundreds, and demand from hunters outstrips the number of available dogs, so breeders typically give preference to hunters. They're especially hard to come by for non hunters there. They are more numerous in [Germany](#), the [Netherlands](#), and the [Czech Republic](#). SMs excel in non hunting roles as well because of their exceptional scent-tracking ability, and are used in [search and rescue](#) teams and contraband detection ("drug sniffing") roles as well.

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

**Esteban: Who cares can the damn dog hunt?? This one does!!!**

(from Wikipedia) The breed is often described as about 35 pounds (16 kg) and 18-20 inches (0.45 to 0.5 m) at the shoulder, but the average is somewhat larger, around 45 pounds (20 kg) with some males reaching or slightly exceeding 60 pounds (27 kg) and up to 22 inches (0.55 m). The body is lean yet powerful and not prone to becoming overweight due to an active nature and natural athleticism. Coloration is large patches of brown on a ticked or solid white background. The soft coat is medium length, requiring grooming after hunting in heavy cover or weekly otherwise. The breed is not registered with the [American Kennel Club](#), which emphasizes appearance over working ability. In the US Small Munsterlanders may be registered with the [United Kennel Club](#) or the [Small Munsterlander Club of North America](#)

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

**Esteban: I had been wanting a good bird dog since I was a kid taking care of my Gradpa's bird dogs. He had English Springer Spaniels so I was partial to those. I ran into a Large Munsterlander at a pheasant hunt and the owner mentioned there was a Small Munsterlander breed. I did some research and when I read about how good a house pet they were and about a "Versatile Hunting Dog" I was very pleased. Then by chance a friend told me about Tracy Presson of Hihon Kennels who breeds them and turns out her husband was and old friend of mine. I waited almost a year and a half for a pup.**

### **5. How is your dog/bitch meeting your expectation for the breed**

**Esteban: He is a wonder dog!**

### **6. Did you find this dog/bitch difficult or easy to train, and what would you do differently if you could start training all over again**

**Esteban: Heck half the time he trains me! I have taught him things so quickly at times it is unreal. Then there are some things like marking, barking etc. that are always a challenge. The thing I would do differently is spend way more time in the field training and hunting.**

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)

Esteban: These are not dogs you can just put in the kennel and pull out on the first day of hunting season. They need to live in the house and be a companion. You must be prepared to put out a huge effort to dominate and challenge these dogs daily. But then that is only fair to allow a rare dog such as the Small Munsterlander to "Be all they can be"

8. Your most memorable moment with this dog/bitch in the field, or while testing or trials (good, bad, funny, not funny)

Esteban: During his N/A test out in Arizona this past April on the Tracking. His track of a live pheasant was exceptional. The rooster was out a good seventy yards with a curvy track and Simon the Wonder dog put his nose down and was on and pointing the bird in less than 45 seconds. It flushed and he snapped in out of the air and retrieved it directly to my hand. The gallery broke out in applause. I was so overwhelmed with pride that I couldn't even talk for a few minutes.

**WE HAVE A WEB SITE! As of July 1, 2008 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.**

**Dog Name, Whelp date, Achievements (ie. NA @ 7 mos., UPT @ 11 mos., UT @ 19 mos. Other Achievements (i.e. German testing, AKC testing etc.)**

**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>	

**We still have an opening for the Training day Coordinator. Bob Worrell will add this position to the President duty unless someone volunteers. If we do not have more than one person to apply for the same position, the election to be held in August will not be necessary and the Officers in the list will be confirmed.**

**If anybody has objection to the above please notify the current Officers: Robert Worrell, Garo Missakian, Mike Inglis, Guido Dei.**

**At this time we have received NO OBJECTIONS so the Nominees will be confirmed by the current Officers.**

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

## The next training day is July 20<sup>th</sup>, 2008: Location; Prado

Seems like Summer is here! Did you teach the pooch to get you a cold beer from the refrigerator yet?

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.

Last month we focused on the water and the duck search.

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 are 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 there 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. Next month training day is Sunday July 20th.

**Dr. David Hinebaugh D.V.M.** will be coming out and answering questions that you might have. He did this last year for us and everybody is still talking about how good it was. Start thinking about things you would like know and bring them down.

The August date will be Sunday 17th. We will be doing a mock test for the NAVHDA testing system. Looking forward to seeing everybody!

Keep 'em Sharp

Bob Worrell

***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)

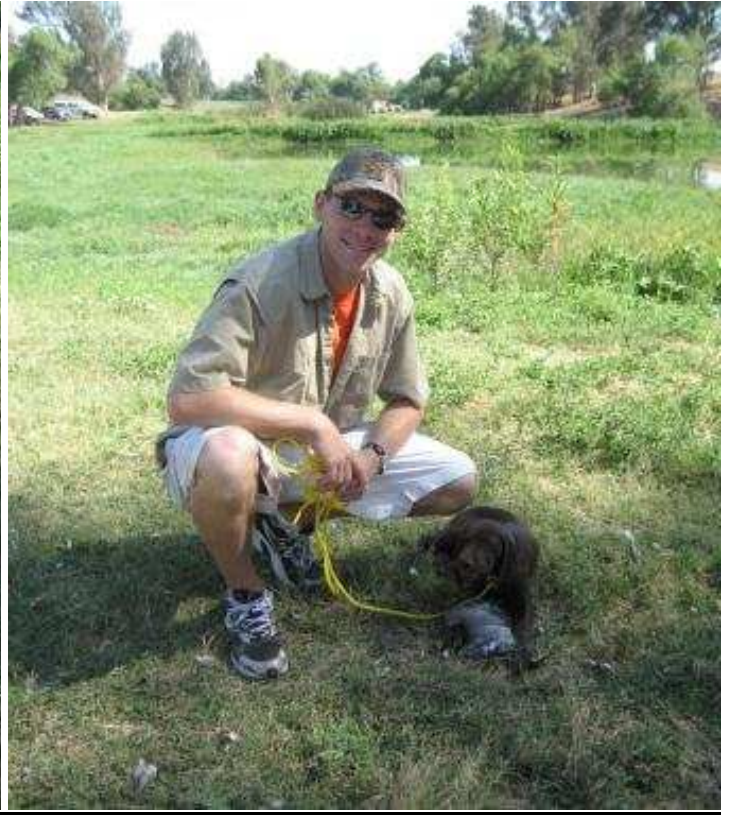
Cost: \$75

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

*Last June's Training day in review*



*San Diego Chapter guest Erika and her two beautiful Braco Italianos*



**Puppy's first bird**



*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.

I already have 8 entries; we are ready for more !.

The hard work is done, now for the fun part, will 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 July 20th, along with a check, to save a spot for test day !!***

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

## Hunting in Montana By Guido Dei

For the last six years I've hunted Montana on the opening day: September 1<sup>st</sup>. My first trip was literally a blind trip. I drove to east Montana armed with a Montana hunting license and no knowledge whatsoever of the Big Sky country.

I landed in Miles City where I hunted a couple of days with very limited luck waiting for the Montana Fish, Wildlife and Park (FWP) office to open. It was on Monday when I asked the biologist of the FWP where Hungarian Partridge and Sharptail Grouse were hiding. He and all the personnel of Montana FWP were very kind and informative, they suggested going to Circle a town about 120 miles north of Miles City.

I left the FWP office armed with a lot of information, maps and telephone numbers of the local farmers that belonged to the Block Management Area.

This program is a cooperative effort between FWP, landowners, and land management agencies to provide free public hunting access to private and isolated public land.

I had a positive answer to my question to the first farmer I interviewed, there were birds in his property and I was welcome to hunt there. For the next three days my son and I limited out on sharptail and Huns!



*Geedee had a ball on sharptail and Huns!*

After six years of hunting Montana, I have developed a sense of where to find the two species of birds that are available on September 1<sup>st</sup>: Huns and Sharp-tail

Huns habitat:

Habitat consists of a mixture of cultivated and non cultivated land; grasslands interspersed with wheat fields, weed patches, and brushy cover (FWP). Optimum conditions are a cool, moderately dry climate and a mixture of cultivated and non cultivated land. Grain fields and winter wheat stubble are also used. Field edges provide escape and winter cover.

Sharp-tail Habitat:

The habitat is primarily grasslands interspersed with shrub and brush-filled coulees. They prefer stands of inter-mixed tree and shrub grasslands. With high population, they spread into islands of native grassland, usually along drainages surrounded by grain fields. Sharp-tailed Grouse persist only on native bunchgrass-shrub stands.

For the serious bird hunter Montana is a perfect solution to get your dogs in shape because the ground is not so punishing like the chucker ground.

I hunted Rene' in Montana when she was seven months old and it was an outstanding experience for her.



*Rene' and Geedee on point*



*Rene', six months old, with a few Huns*

The first thing you should do is asking the FWP for the booklets of the Block Management area for the region that you like to hunt. Montana is divided in seven regions, region 4 and 6 are my favorite.

I found region six to hold more sharptail while region 4 to hold more Huns.

Here are my suggestions if you'd like to hunt in Montana:

- 1) Get the Block Management booklets from FWP. You can ask them thru the Internet at <http://fwp.mt.gov/default.html?nfr=default.asp>. Or call them on the phone; you find all the addresses, phone numbers of the 7 different regions by clicking at the regional information on the Montana FWP home page above.
- 2) After you select the ranches that you want to hunt you need to pay a visit to the regional FWP office to get maps of the ranches, every year there are some changes: some ranches are being added and some are being deleted and some changes occur also to the maps of ranches.
- 3) The first two years I stayed in motels; but since I bought it, I've been pulling my RV trailer with me. I probably don't save any money with the additional gas by pulling the trailer, but it's certainly more convenient and relaxing to have all my stuff with me and be able to cook my food every day, including some birds to keep the possession limit under control.
- 4) When you hunt a ranch take your time and don't be frustrated. You may not find any birds for a couple of hours, then suddenly you limit out with a couple of coveys of sharptail.

Montana Daily possession for Huns is eight birds and four birds for sharp-tail. Possession limit is four times the daily limit.

Here's is the calendar if you are interested in hunting Montana:

Mountain Grouse	September 1, 2008	December 15, 2008
Partridge	September 1, 2008	January 1, 2009
Pheasant	October 11, 2008	January 1, 2009
Sage Grouse	September 1, 2008	November 1, 2008
Sharp-tailed Grouse	September 1, 2008	January 1, 2009
Turkey - fall	September 1, 2008	January 1, 2009
Turkey - spring	April 12, 2008	May 18, 2008

**Please send in your articles to [ctrincal1@verizon.net](mailto:ctrincal1@verizon.net)**

*See you on the 20<sup>th</sup> ....*

*Be kind, your dogs love you unconditionally.*