

# To The Point



American Pointer Club

August 2019

## Officers and Board of the American Pointer Club

President – Diane Townsend  
Vice President – Karen Spey  
Recording Secretary – Allen Armistead  
Corresponding Secretary – Patti Newton  
Treasurer – Kelley Cheek

Directors 2018/2019  
Dennis Brown  
Anthony Cantor  
Debra Freidus  
Richard Rogers  
Delegate to AKC – Danny Seymour

Directors 2019/2020  
Angela Schillereff  
Maggie Platt  
Lisa Merki  
Katherine Shorter



## Welcome to the following new members

Thomas Bradley

Camella Abascal & Michael Gwaltney

Lisa Starr

### The following motion was passed at the August Board Meeting

Pay AKC for an approved judges list on a yearly basis in the future. -- [20190808-20-BM](#)

### The following motions were passed at the July Board Meeting

Increase the Parade of Champions entry fee at the National to \$25.00 [20190711-14-BM](#)

No longer to accept any new Challenge Trophies [20190711-15-BM](#)

APC will no longer accept any Perpetual Trophies [20190711-17-BM](#)

Once a Challenge Trophy has been won by the primary owner three times, that trophy is retired.

[20190711-16-BM](#)

Susan Bleckley to supply photos from the Judges Education Power Point to AKC for their website

[20190711-18-BM](#)

2020 National Specialty be dedicated to Karen Blasche [20190711-19-BM](#)

### The following motions were passed at the June Board Meeting

Sponsor the medallion award for conformation only at the AKC Royal Canin National Dog Show. [20190613-10-BM](#)

Accept Susan Bleckley as the APC nominee for the AKC Lifetime Achievement Award for 2019 [20190613-11-BM](#)

Use the current Performance Pointer money to help pay for the cost of the 2019 Companion events (Agility, Obedience, & Rally) [20190613-12-BM](#)

## *AMERICAN POINTER CLUB FACEBOOK CHAT GROUP*

***For those members, new and old, who are not aware that the club has the Facebook Chat group that is closed to members only we welcome you joining and participating in club discussion.***

The Chat Group is: **A space to facilitate discussion for members of the American Pointer Club, for those members who are on Facebook and would like to discuss issues, concerns, and ideas. This group is not meant to be exclusive of those members who are not on Facebook, only to facilitate a space for discussion for those members who are on Facebook and would like to discuss APC. Official communication with the APC board is through the Corresponding Secretary**

To become of member of the chat group open Facebook and in the Search bar type: American Pointer Club Chat Group. Click Join One of the administrators of the site will approve your request.

**Marjorie Martorella – Chair of the Legislative Liaison Committee posted the following on the American Pointer Club Chat Group**



### **USDA RELEASES KEY REPORT ON CANINE IMPORTS**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has released a key report finding that over 1 million dogs are imported into the U.S. each year. And, of those one million, less than one percent are subject to thorough health screenings that ensure they are healthy and free of disease before entering the country.

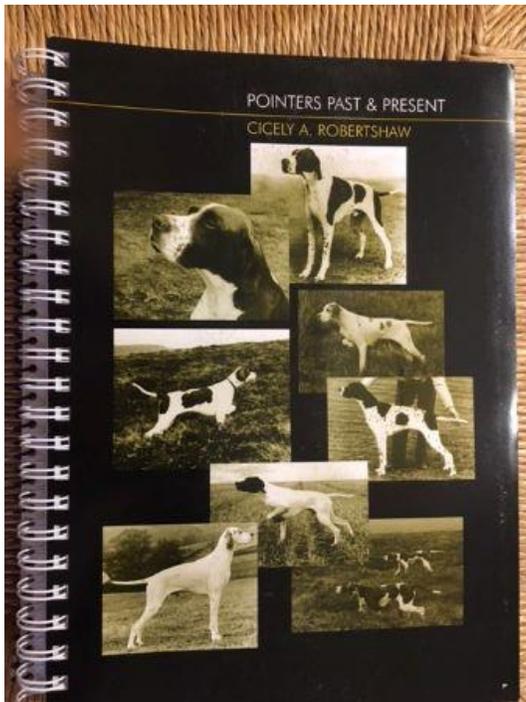
The 2018 Farm Bill provision, which was strongly supported by the National Animal Interest Alliance, directed USDA to coordinate with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) to estimate the number of dogs entering into the U.S. each year. All three agencies share some jurisdiction over canine imports; however, the data released today demonstrates little to no oversight exists for 99% of these imports.

With the increase of unscreened dog imports, the U.S. has seen diseases from rabies, to canine influenza, to leptospirosis brought into the country. The publication of this report represents a critical first step in the process to update the current statutory and regulatory framework for dog imports to ensure animal and public health is protected.

NAIA applauds Secretary Sonny Perdue, Under Secretary Greg Ibach, Administrator Kevin Shea, and others at the Department of Agriculture for releasing this critical data to the House and Senate Agriculture Committees. And we are grateful to Representatives David Rouzer of North Carolina, Jim Costa of California, Kurt Schrader of Oregon, Ted Yoho of Florida, Ralph Abraham of Louisiana and Senators David Perdue of Georgia and Bob Casey of Pennsylvania for their efforts on this important issue.

We look forward to working with Congress and the Department of Agriculture to advance federal policies that enhance our import laws and regulations in order to adequately protect our country from foreign disease introduction.

## WAYS AND MEANS



Only one copy of Cicely Robertshaw's "Pointers Past & Present" is left..

Price is \$50.00 plus \$5.00 for shipping

You may pay through PayPal or send a check made out to APC and send to Kelley Cheek, 19303 S Old Highway 88, Claremore, OK 74017. If paying through PayPal please send copy of receipt or check to susietemple@yahoo.com.

### APC Yearbooks

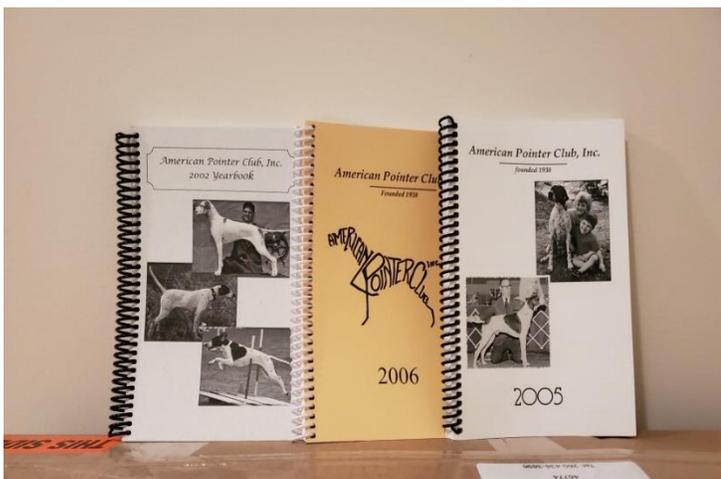
Old Members and new here is your chance to fill in missing years of yearbooks or get a complete set. The following years are available

2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007-2008-2009, 2010-2011

Single copies are \$3.00 ea. + \$2.00 for shipping

Complete Set is \$20.00 + \$5.00 for shipping

Email Diane Townsend your choice of yearbook. Please refer to payment instructions noted above.



*Enjoy reading an APC newsletter from September 1961*

AMERICAN POINTER CLUB

Incorporated

September 1961

Dear Members:

Where the summer has gone, I'll never know, but here it is September with a Newsletter long overdue. It seems like such a short time since our wonderful 1961 Specialty at Trenton, but plans are already well underway for our 1962 Specialty.

As a result of the cards mailed out in June, you voted to hold the 1962 Specialty in Wellesley, Mass., in conjunction with the Ladies' Dog Club Show on Saturday, June 2. Mr. Charles M. Siever of Springdale, Arkansas, was your choice as judge and was very pleased to accept the assignment. I realize that the location may come as a shock to some of you who find it difficult to travel so far afield, but those of us who live in this area are planning a really bang-up weekend for you, and I sincerely hope that with notice so well in advance you can all arrange to come. It really isn't as long a drive as you may think. We made Wilmington, Delaware, in one day easily, and reached Trenton in plenty of time, having stopped for coffee twice and taking time out for a leisurely lunch and exercising dogs.

The Ladies' Dog Club Show is unbenchd on the most beautiful grounds imaginable. Parking is all under large shade trees, and my idea is to reserve a parking area for the Pointer exhibitors where we may all be together and see each other's dogs. Tentative plans call for a dinner for members Friday night at a local Inn, a free picnic lunch in the parking area after the Pointer judging, and an invitation to you all for drinks and dinner at our house Saturday night. This will be an informal shoes-off affair where we can relax and talk it all over.

In making plans for this weekend, you should consider seriously staying over for the Framingham District Kennel Club Show the following day. This is the biggest and one of the nicest outdoor shows in New England, and it would be wonderful to have a really large Pointer entry both days. Dr. Gordon has asked me to be Show Chairman for the Specialty with a committee so far of Mrs. Harry Hirschberger as Trophy Chairman, Mrs. William B. Long, Jr., and Mr. Ralph Del Deo.

Our 1961 Specialty at Trenton, N.J., on May 7 is now past history, but for those of you who may have missed it, we had an entry of 56 Pointers, judged by Mr. Theodore E. Gundersen, who gave top honors to Mr. Enos Phillips' lovely dog, Ch. Rementers Van-Guard, bred by Mr. Mark Bryant, Best of Opposite Sex to Ch. Tara's Wild Honey, owned by Jaimie Cornwell and Lilfred Gordon, Winners Dog and Best of Winners to the Webb's Webbwo1d's Buck of Woodcock (who has since become a champion) and Winners Bitch to WhitebrierA1lafire, owned by Fairfield P. Day.

The Field Trial the preceding day was most successful. There were 35 entries in the four stakes, and 31 entries were not accepted and numerous Field. telephone calls were answered with "entries closed", due to the entry having to be limited because of a one-day trial. There were American Pointer Club entries in all stakes except the Derby, and all three placements in the Blue Ribbon Stake went to APC pointers: First, Cho Ted of Hunt Farm, owned by Mrs. Louis White, second, Ch. Richland's Stylish Cargo, owned by Fairfield Po Day, and third, Happy Squaw, owned by John G. Laytham. One definite advantage to the 1962 Specialty being held on a weekend with two good Bench shows is that Jack Laytham may now plan a two-day Trial, the need for which is indicated by the number of entries which could not be accepted in the two previous trials.

Jack Laytham writes that plans are underway for a Fun Weekend for APC members and their friends. This will be held possibly in November at a Game Preserve near Mt. Holly, N. J., with a shoot-to-kill trial on pheasants, limited to

10 braces, and field performance and bench show conformation being considered in making awards. This should mean a wonderful time for us all, so be sure to watch for the announcement and make your entries early because of the limit.

That's all for now. You will be hearing from us again soon with the slate and plans for the Annual Meeting at Westminster. In the meantime, best wishes to President Gordon, who is off soon to judge Pointers in England. We know he will have a wonderful time and do a great job, and we'll look forward to hearing all about it when he returns.

Mrs. John G. Webb, Secretary Old Road to Nine Acre Corner Concord, Massachusetts

## *Studies Of Lyme Disease, Bartonellosis & American Canine Hepatozoonosis In Dogs Focus On Prevalence & Understanding*

Veterinarian Jon Spelke, DVM, wants to know more about Lyme disease, or borreliosis, in dogs. As the owner of Androscoggin Animal Hospital in Topsham, Maine, one of the worst states in the country for Lyme disease, Dr. Spelke realizes the challenges in diagnosing and treating affected dogs that rarely show signs of disease.

"We still don't know a lot about Lyme disease," he says. "We have been assuming that many positive dogs have no signs, but I am concerned that maybe we are just missing the signs. Most symptomatic dogs present with lameness, and some have increased body temperature and joint swelling."

This is why Dr. Spelke has been helping to enroll dogs — patients seen at his veterinary clinic — that are tested for *Borrelia burgdorferi*, the bacteria that causes the most common tick-transmitted disease in the U.S., for a study looking at disease prevalence, clinical illness and the prognosis of canine Lyme disease. The purpose is to follow healthy dogs that test positive for *B. burgdorferi* and check in with their owners at three-month and six-month intervals.

"The majority of dogs that test positive for Lyme disease, or more accurately develop antibodies against *B. burgdorferi*, never get sick," says principal investigator Jason Stull, VMD, PhD, assistant professor of veterinary preventive medicine at The Ohio State University and the University of Prince Edward Island. "This is why Lyme disease is not easy to diagnose. Results of a blood test alone do not indicate whether a dog has Lyme disease and treatment is needed."

Dr. Stull and his research team will soon complete the [three-year study funded by the AKC \(American Kennel Club\) Canine Health Foundation](#) via its Tick-Borne Disease Research Initiative. The investigation has focused on patients seen at veterinary clinics from Maine to western Pennsylvania, an area spanning the gradient of canine Lyme disease risk, explains Dr. Stull.

In the decade from 1996 to 2016, the number of counties in the U.S. in which the tick species that transmit *B. burgdorferi* were established doubled to 45 percent of all counties, says Dr. Stull. "A combination of changes in climate, wildlife and land use are likely involved in the expansion of these ticks and *B. burgdorferi* and account for Lyme disease's classification as an important emerging infectious disease that is moving into other regions of the U.S. and Canada."

A survey of dog owners who are participating in the study indicates that only about half of respondents have taken steps to reduce ticks on their properties. "Simple effective measures can reduce the disease risk for our two-legged and four-legged family members. These include keeping grass short and building a narrow wood chip or gravel barrier between adjacent wooded areas and property grass where dogs and people spend time," Dr. Stull says.

"Thus far, in our study we have found about 11 percent of dogs test positive for *B. burgdorferi*, which is about what we expected," he says. "A high proportion — about 18 percent — of dogs that tested positive for *B. burgdorferi* also tested positive for *Anaplasma*, another tick-borne pathogen that can cause disease in dogs. This is higher than we expected. When all

the data are collected, we want to investigate if co-infection with multiple pathogens results in a greater chance for clinical signs or more severe disease for dogs.”

Among the insights Dr. Spelke hopes will come from the study is learning whether treatment is recommended for asymptomatic *Borrelia*-positive dogs. “Currently, antibiotic treatment is not used for healthy dogs with a positive Lyme antibody test and no signs of disease,” he says. “Perhaps we will learn that disease progression warrants antibiotic treatment as soon as a dog tests positive for *Borrelia*.”

## Why Bartonellosis Is Complicated

Bartonellosis is one of the most important emerging infectious diseases in dogs and humans, says Edward B. Breitschwerdt, DVM, DACVIM, the Melanie S. Steele professor of medicine and infectious diseases and co-director of the Vector Borne Disease Diagnostic Laboratory at North Carolina State University. Infections can be life-threatening in dogs, thus the importance of early diagnosis for a better prognosis.

Today, more than 44 *Bartonella* species and subspecies have been named. “Understanding this disease is complicated by the fact that bartonellosis is transmitted in myriad ways,” Dr. Breitschwerdt says. “*Bartonella* species are probably transmitted by more vectors than any other pathogenic organisms that exist on the planet. Primarily arthropod vectors such as fleas, ticks, sand flies, and lice transmit the pathogen, though spiders, bedbugs and deer keds can carry and potentially transmit these bacteria as well.”

As the principal investigator of three recent AKC Canine Health Foundation research grants studying bartonellosis in dogs, Dr. Breitschwerdt understands the challenges in diagnosing the disease. He also recognizes that *Bartonella* is known to proliferate in the endothelial cells lining the blood and lymphatic vessels of the body and induce vascular tumor-like growths in immunocompromised dogs and humans.

Along with veterinary cardiologist Kathryn Meurs, DVM, PhD, DACVIM (Cardiology), and doctorate student Erin Lashites, DVM, DACVIM, both of North Carolina State University, Dr. Breitschwerdt began [a one-year study in February 2019 that is looking at how \*Bartonella\* infection may affect Boxers genetically predisposed to arrhythmogenic right ventricular cardiomyopathy \(ARVC\)](#). The disease is triggered by degenerative myelopathy, which can cause heart arrhythmia and sudden death.

“As *Bartonella* endocarditis occurs in Boxers, it is possible that *Bartonella* can infect the heart muscle or alter cardiac conduction leading to or increasing the genetic tendency to develop ARVC,” says Dr. Breitschwerdt. “We hypothesize that chronic *Bartonella* infection may lead to ARVC in a subset of Boxers.”

The first study to investigate the role of *Bartonella* in ARVC, the research involves evaluating Boxer patients being treated at North Carolina State’s cardiology service that are suspected of having the heart disorder to see if they have been infected with *Bartonella*.

[A two-year investigation completed in December 2018](#) focused on developing a sensitive diagnostic assay to identify bartonellosis in dogs and studying disease prevalence. The [November-December 2018 issue of the \*Journal of Veterinary Internal Medicine\* published an article of the research](#) in which the lead author was Pradeep Neupane, a doctorate student in the Breitschwerdt Laboratory.

“An improved blood test would help to establish an early and accurate diagnosis and aid a dog’s prognosis for recovery,” says Dr. Breitschwerdt. “As treatment is complicated, a dog can be sick for months prior to diagnosis.

“We made progress but continue to evaluate specific individual or combination of peptides that could be used for rapid screening of dogs. Importantly, we concluded that IFA (immunofluorescent antibody) assays, the historical ‘gold standard’ for *Bartonella* blood diagnosis, produces too many false negative results. The good news is that the test is highly specific with few, if any, false positives, so detection of IFA antibodies in a sick dog warrants directed therapy.”

Reflecting, he says, “This is information we did not know prior to this study. An ongoing objective for us is to develop a more reliable blood test to facilitate the diagnosis of *Bartonella* infection in dogs.”

In the third bartonellosis study, Dr. Breitschwerdt is working with Matthew Breen, PhD, professor of genomics at North Carolina State University, to see if dogs with hemangiosarcoma in New York, Colorado and California have a high prevalence of *Bartonella* DNA similar to what they have found in dogs in North Carolina. Potentially, this study may show that *Bartonella* contributes to hemangiosarcoma in dogs.

“It is increasingly clear that chronic infections contribute to the development of cancer in humans,” Dr. Breitschwerdt says. “If *Bartonella* infection contributes to the development of hemangiosarcoma, both early diagnosis and preventive strategies become important mechanisms to decrease the impact of this common and devastating cancer.”

## How Common Is American Canine Hepatozoonosis?

The goal of researcher Andrea Varela-Stokes, DVM, PhD, associate professor at Mississippi State University, in her two-year study of American canine hepatozoonosis is to identify Gulf Coast ticks, or *Amblyomma maculatum*, that are positive for the protozoan parasite and confirm the usefulness of a new assay. The investigation runs through January 2020.

“This disease is transmitted when dogs eat a tick carrying *Hepatozoon americanum*, the disease agent, or they may get infected by eating an animal with cyst stages of the agent in its tissues,” says Dr. Varela-Stokes.

Occasionally diagnosed in dogs in the southwestern and south central U.S., American canine hepatozoonosis until recently has only been detected via a blood test that screens dogs for infections. Although rare, this debilitating tick-borne has a poor prognosis and limited treatment options. Fever, muscle pain and body wasting are common, and some dogs have thickening of their long bones.

“We have been most interested in the role of the tick,” Dr. Varela-Stokes says. “To learn about the prevalence of infected Gulf Coast ticks, veterinary research students surveyed for the ticks in Mississippi during the summer of 2018, and then we tested the ticks to see if they were infected with the pathogen.

“Based on our survey, we found two of 129 adult Gulf Coast ticks were positive, suggesting a low prevalence of infection that year. This summer, we will target previously identified hot spots that may help us identify positive ticks. Until now the percentage of Gulf Coast ticks carrying *H. americanum* has been unknown, though the Gulf Coast tick species is known to be increasing its geographical distribution further north from its historically coastal range.”

## Learning About Dog Odors & Aiding Diagnosis of Tick-Borne Diseases

Considering that one female brown dog tick may lay 5,000 eggs, it is not hard to grasp how quickly the vector-borne diseases they carry, ehrlichiosis and babesiosis, can get out of hand. Once introduced, ticks are hard to eradicate.

The question that Emma Weeks, PhD, assistant research scientist at the University of Florida, looked at in her six-year study that was completed in February 2019 was how do brown dogs ticks — the most widely distributed tick in the world -- locate dogs. The rationale was that by identifying the chemicals ticks detect could aid tick control and disease prevention.

“Our studies showed that brown dog ticks are attracted to a blend of volatile chemicals in dog odor and this helps them find a blood meal,” Dr. Weeks says. “We wanted to identify the specific chemicals in dog odor that ticks can detect.”

Using electrophysiological techniques, the research team identified chemicals in dog odor and then tested 10 ticks against each of five dog breed samples plus a mixed-breed sample, producing consistent responses in the tick’s nose, the Haller’s organ located in the first pair of legs. The researchers then used mass spectrometry to identify the chemicals that the tick’s nose was detecting.

“The research is continuing, as we now are testing the chemicals in an olfactometer and once determined, we will test the most attractive chemicals in a tick trap,” Dr. Weeks says.

Meanwhile, a two-year study that began in February 2019 at Purdue University aims to aid the diagnosis of vector-borne disease pathogens. Principal investigator Rebecca Wilkes, DVM, PhD, assistant professor of molecular diagnostics, is using targeted next-generation sequencing (NGS) to detect and characterize the pathogens in clinical samples. She is adding primers to the NGS protocol, thereby reducing the number of sequencing reads needed to obtain results.

“The beauty of next-generation sequencing is the amount of sequencing data you can obtain,” says Dr. Wilkes. “We can target hundreds to potentially thousands of pathogens with a single test. For the test to work, we have to make sure the primers will detect all the different pathogens we plan to target and that the sensitivity is good and the results are valid and reproducible.”

Collectively, these studies plus others that are currently underway and those that are now completed, all part of the AKC Canine Health Foundation’s Tick-Borne Disease Research Initiative, will make a difference in advancing understanding

about ticks and the diseases they carry. Although tick-borne diseases are on the rise, knowledge about how to diagnose, treat and reduce the spread of ticks and their pathogens will pay dividends in helping dogs live long, healthy lives. n

## What Happens When a Tick Infected with *B. Burgdorferi* Bites a Dog?

The two tick species that transmit *Borrelia burgdorferi* or Lyme disease to dogs are *Ixodes scapularis*, the blacklegged tick or deer tick, and *Ixodes pacificus*, the Western blacklegged tick. Although dogs commonly do not show signs of illness until two to six months after being bitten, an infected tick can transmit Lyme disease after only 24 hours of attachment. Here's what can happen when a dog is bitten by an infected tick:

- Nothing – The dog doesn't get infected with *Borrelia* or other tick-borne organisms.
- The dog tests positive for Lyme disease on a blood test because of developing antibodies after being exposed to or infected with *Borrelia*. However, the dog does not get sick because its immune system gets rid of the bacteria.
- The dog is infected with *Borrelia* and gets sick with Lyme disease. An infected dog usually tests positive on a blood test due to exposure to *Borrelia* and making antibodies in an attempt to fight the infection.
- The dog acquires an infection with another organism that isn't detected by a Lyme-only blood test.

Source: [Lyme Disease \(Borreliosis\) Information for Dog Owners](#)

## How to Safely Remove a Tick

While tick prevention is key to protecting dogs, if you find a tick attached to a dog, it is important to remove the tick as soon as possible. Ticks only need to feed for a few hours to a day to pass on bacteria that can cause tick-borne disease. Here's how to safely remove a tick:

1. Use fine-tipped tweezers to grasp the tick as close to the skin's surface as possible.
2. Pull upward with steady, even pressure. Don't twist or jerk the tick, as this can cause the mouthparts to break off and remain in the skin. If this happens, remove the mouthparts with tweezers. If you are unable to remove the mouthparts easily with clean tweezers, leave them alone and let the skin heal.
3. After removing the tick, thoroughly clean the bite area and your hands with rubbing alcohol or soap and water.
4. Never crush a tick with your fingers. Dispose of a live tick by putting it in alcohol, placing it in a sealed bag, wrapping it tightly in tape, or flushing it down the toilet.

Source: [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) (Adapted for dogs)

## Tick-Borne Disease Research Initiative Helps Advance Canine Health

The AKC (American Kennel Club) Canine Health Foundation recognizes the importance of tick-borne diseases and thus since 2016 has sponsored the Tick-Borne Disease Research Initiative providing more than \$650,000 to fund nine research grants for canine health.

"We at the AKC Canine Health Foundation remain committed to finding and funding peer-reviewed research to address tick-borne diseases in dogs," says Dr. Diane Brown, CEO of the AKC Canine Health Foundation. "We know that the spread of ticks and tick-borne diseases is on the rise and that all dogs and their human families are at risk from these zoonotic diseases. "In particular, we are concerned about the need for accurate diagnosis and better understanding of the prevalence of chronic infections and co-infections, which occur when ticks carry and spread more than one disease agent through a tick bite. Our focus then is on effective preventive and treatment strategies that can be implemented to help dogs everywhere."

Here is a link to the [Tick-Borne Disease Research Initiative](#), including published articles from funded research, educational materials and information on how you can donate to support this research.

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## Upcoming APC and Regional Club Events

### October

American Pointer Club National Championship – October 9-13, 2019

Mingo's Sportsman Club, Bloomington, OH

Field Trial Secretary - Deb Freidus - [blackthornpt@earthlink.net](mailto:blackthornpt@earthlink.net)

Wilderness Pointer Club of Virginia– Field Trial October 24-25, 2019 Boydton, VA and

Field Trial – October 26-27, 2019 Boydton, VA

Contact – Erica Bandes – [kinnike101@gmail.com](mailto:kinnike101@gmail.com)

