



April 29, 2024

As the German Wirehaired Pointer (GWP) parent club, the German Wirehaired Pointer Club of America (GWPCA) was deeply disturbed when we heard Kristi Noem's story of shooting her young German Wirehaired Pointer (14 months old) named Cricket after her first hunting trip.

German wirehaired pointers (GWPs) are a high-energy breed, with high drive to find, point and retrieve birds, and it can be challenging to manage a young dog's enthusiasm and to channel that energy into a first-class hunting dog. An electronic or E-collar isn't magic—the collar only works if the owner trains the dog so she knows what she should do and why she is receiving a correction. Training a dog takes time, and won't happen after one hunting trip; most breeders will recommend NOT taking your new pup out hunting with other dogs and hunters. Your pup will learn best when it can hunt wild birds one-on-one with its owner.

If you own a GWP and are struggling with training your dog, there are plenty of options available. Responsible breeders are a resource for information about your dog, and if the dog is more than you can handle, a responsible breeder will always take the dog back. There are also local American Kennel Club (AKC) and North American Versatile Hunting Dog Association (NAVHDA) clubs that offer training classes. And, if you decide that a GWP isn't the breed for you, GWP Rescue can take-in and rehome GWPs of all ages. But, most importantly, please know that if you're not happy with your GWP, you have options--you don't have to shoot your dog!

Helpful links:

- German Wirehaired Pointer Club of America: <https://gwPCA.com/>
- National GWP Rescue: <http://www.nationalgwPrescue.com/>

Sincerely, the GWPCA Board of Directors