

Built for Performance, Bred with Compassion

At HuntersMoon Kennels, we don't just breed for the weekend hunt; we breed for the lifelong health, comfort, and performance of the canine athlete. Our "Prairie Proven" program is dedicated to producing high-performance gundog athletes that are as capable in the field as they are as active companions in the home.

To achieve this, we prioritize **Functional Integrity**. We choose to keep our dogs "natural," retaining physical structures that are essential for an athlete's movement and a companion's well-being.

1. The Natural Tail: Balance, Comfort, and Communication

For the high-drive Springer, the tail is far more than an aesthetic feature—it is a sophisticated biological tool.

- **The "Prairie Rudder":** When navigating uneven terrain or making sharp turns at a gallop, the tail acts as a vital counterbalance. This prevents physical strain and wipeouts, keeping the dog safer during intense activity.
- **A Voice for the Field and Home:** The tail is a dog's primary way of communicating. By keeping the tail natural, we ensure our dogs can clearly signal their emotions and intentions to their handlers and other dogs, reducing social anxiety and misunderstandings.
- **Animal Welfare First:** Modern veterinary research indicates that avoiding elective amputations in newborns prevents the risk of chronic nerve sensitivity (neuromas), ensuring a more comfortable life from puppyhood through the senior years.

2. Front Dew Claws: Tactical Stabilizers for Joint Health

While traditionally removed to prevent snags, modern sports medicine confirms that dew claws are critical for the orthopedic longevity of an active dog.

- **Protecting the "Wrist":** When a dog gallops or turns, the front leg twists. The dew claw is the only structure that touches the ground to stabilize the carpus (wrist). Retaining it prevents the joint from over-rotation.
- **Lifelong Mobility:** By stabilizing the leg during high-speed play or work, dew claws help prevent carpal arthritis and ligament strains. This is essential for a dog intended to stay active and mobile for 12+ years.
- **Natural Traction:** Whether climbing a riverbank or navigating a snowy trail, the dew claw acts like a "thumb," providing the extra grip needed for safety.

3. Elite Genetics & Compassionate Standards

Our breeding decisions are guided by a commitment to excellence in both performance and health.

- **Proven Athleticism:** We select for concentrated field-trial genetics that are world-renowned for intelligence, trainability, and a natural "off-switch" at home.
- **OFA Standards for Orthopedic Health:** Every breeding in our program is anchored in parents who have undergone rigorous health screening. This ensures that the puppies' genetic drive is supported by a structurally sound and healthy frame.
- **Total Transparency:** We prioritize the complete physical and mental profile of our dogs, ensuring that your HuntersMoon companion is structurally sound, genetically elite, and ethically raised.

At HuntersMoon, we prioritize the whole dog. We build the performance—and the partners—of the future.