



PAW PRINTS

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ILRC pumpkin carved by Lisa Hanley



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HOW STUPID CAN YOU BE?

Today's column will be about stupidity. Not my dog's, not Dave's, not even those poor, misguided people who purchase their dogs from pet stores. No, this will be an exclusive about MY stupidity. Aren't you glad you're a subscriber and you get the scoop on this first? And when I say "subscriber", I mean an unsolicited, "how do I get off this damn list?", reluctant reader.

When you first bring home a puppy, one of the first things you are taught is to "puppy proof" your home. This typically means to remove anything that is within the height at which your puppy can stand on his back legs like a bear. Depending on your breed of dog, this can sometimes mean the height of your baseboards or the height of the Brad Pitt poster on your wall....I mean the height of your light switches. If you don't want it to be eaten, frayed, slimed, pooped on, worn as a puppy fedora, or buried in the backyard as a future food supply, PUT IT AWAY. There are some items, though, that you just don't think of or that you SWEAR your fingerless pup can't possibly open, untie, unwrap, or disengage in any way, shape or form. I swear that even without fingers, Newman could make an origami ship-in-a-bottle.

I keep, shall we say, a prescription on my bedside table. I shan't name these diminutive, little pills because my father reads these childish epistles and, endearingly, he still suffers from "Daddy's Little Girl/Head in the Sand" syndrome. Let's just saaaay that they're green, they're encased in a 21-day circular pattern and that my father also suffers from "I'm Never Going to be a Grandpa" syndrome. These...ummm...placebos are tucked under the ledge

of my table and usually covered up by a book (in much the same manner that us gals will hide our bras from our doctors, even though he is about to give us our yearly naked physical).

I awaken to start another day by scratching Dave and kissing Newman. (It's still bloody early and I will rectify that reversal of affections after a sugar doughnut and some coffee.) I commence my morning ablutions with a shower and am belting out Broadway show tunes in no time. I exit the shower and hear that Dave has already started

showering in the ensuite bathroom. After toweling off, I walk back into our bedroom and I freeze in my footsteps with that horrified, "what am I looking at and why won't my brain register it?" expression. My "placebos" and their packaging have mysteriously left a hurricane trail across our bedroom and, as I follow this estrogen map, it predictably leads me to a very proud and pleased chocolate lab puppy-from-hell in the corner. He's making that same repetitive motion with his tongue that he makes when he has peanut butter on it. You know, that constant "aacking" you do when your tongue is trying to escape your mouth, as if it were merely attached by Velcro. After some quick math, I discover that, of a 21-day package that I had just started, about 10 were missing. Jiminey Crickets....what does one do? Do I call my vet or do I call my ob-gyn? Is this a harmless digestion or is Newman going to turn into Ru Paul and sign an endorsement contract for M*A*C Cosmetics?

It should come as no surprise that our vet's telephone number is the first speedcall button programmed into our abundance of phones. Our home phone, my cell, Dave's cell, my work phone and I also rewired that Roadside Assistance button in our car to dial Dr. Carter instead of the AMA. I frantically explained to Dr. Carter's animal health technician what Newman had done, while craftily outlining that I had not moronically left the pills out, but that Newman had mastered pulling open my drawer, popped all the teeny pills through the tinfoil backing with his dew claw and washed them down with bottled water from the fridge. Labs are brilliant creatures and she unquestioningly accepted this explanation.

It may one day be helpful for you to know that this particular

type of drug can indeed harm your puppy in the form of stunted bone development. It can also take on the form of your pup wanting to hear more Elton John and Michael Bolton, but I digress. I am told by the technician that I have to make Newman throw up and outside of forcing him to watch the Liza Minnelli/David Gest wedding video, I don't know how to do this. But you may some day thank me for this truly helpful tip: One teaspoon of salt down your puppy's throat will have him throwing up things back from when he was still sucking on a teet. For a brief moment, I



thought Newman was part bovine and that he was expelling from all six of his stomachs, but it turns out that he had merely been eating Wally's food for a week as well.

Please rest assured that Newman is perfectly fine, although he understandably won't eat French fries, potato chips, or salted peanuts anymore. And he tries to hide in the crawl space under the stairs when he sees that I have a spoon in my hand. But more importantly, I learned a valuable lesson from this distressing experience, because I would never have forgiven myself if something untoward had happened to my little Labradorable. And the lesson is this: Never, EVER allow anything to transpire in your home that will result in Michael Bolton music being played on your stereo. Oh, and even if you live a long and prosperous life and bear a football team of children, always tell your dad that those little green pills-in-a-disk are iron supplements.

Dee Clair
Calgary, Alberta

DROWNING AND SUFFOCATION

Conditions that prevent oxygen from getting into the lungs and blood cause *asphyxiation*. They are carbon monoxide poisoning, inhalation of toxic fumes (smoke, gasoline, propane, refrigerants, solvents), drowning and smothering (which can happen when a dog is left too long in an airtight space). Other causes are foreign bodies in the airways and injuries to the chest that interfere with breathing.

The symptoms of lack of oxygen are straining to breathe, gasping for breath (often with the head extended), extreme anxiety and weakness progressing to loss of consciousness as the dog begins to succumb. The pupils begin to dilate. The tongue and mucus membranes turn blue, which is a reflection of insufficient oxygen in the blood. One exception to the blue color is carbon monoxide poisoning, in which the membranes are a bright red.

Treatment:

The most important consideration is to provide your dog with fresh air to breathe. (Better yet, give oxygen if available.) If respirations are shallow or absent, begin immediately by giving mouth-to-

nose respiration.

If there is an open wound in the chest, which you can diagnose if you hear air sucking in and out as the dog breathes, seal off the chest by pinching the skin together over the wound.

When the situation is one of drowning, turn the dog upside down, suspended by the legs, and let the water run out of the dog's windpipe. Then position the dog with the head lower than the chest (on a slope, or with a roll beneath the chest) and begin artificial respiration. Mouth-to-nose forced respiration may be required. With heart stoppage, heart massage should be attempted. Continue efforts to resuscitate until the dog breathes naturally or until no heartbeat is felt for five minutes. Once the immediate crisis is over, veterinary aid should be sought. Pneumonia from inhalation is a frequent complication.

How to Give Canine CPR

By Lori S. Mohr (as referenced by First Aid For Dogs by Tim Hawcroft)

CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation) is the process of breathing life back into an unconscious human. A similar technique can also work effectively on dogs.

The signs that indicate the need for CPR include unconsciousness, lack of arousal, lack of physical movement, or eye blinking. These symptoms can occur from drowning, choking, electrical shock, or a number of other situations.

The key to canine CPR is remembering the ABCs:

Airway, Breathing, and Cardiac compression.

To perform the three techniques, follow these steps.

Lay the dog on a flat surface on its right side and extend the head back to create an airway.

Open the jaws to check for obstructions, and if any exist and are not easily removed, do one of two things, depending on the size of the dog.

For small dogs, hold them upside down by their back end and shake vigorously to try removing the obstruction.

For large dogs, lay them on their side and, if necessary, use long-nosed pliers to remove the obstruction.

Cup your hands around the muzzle of the dog's mouth so that only the nostrils are clear. Blow air into the nostrils with five or six quick

breaths, again, depending on the size of the dog.

Small dogs and puppies and require short and shallow breaths.

Larger dogs need longer and deeper breaths.

Continue the quick breaths at a rate of one breath every three seconds or 20 breaths per minute.

Check for a heartbeat by using your finger on the inside of the thigh, just above the knee. If you don't feel a pulse, put your hand over the dog's chest cavity where the elbow touches the middle of the chest. If you still don't find a pulse, have one person continue breathing into the nostrils (mouth to snout), while another gives cardiac massage.

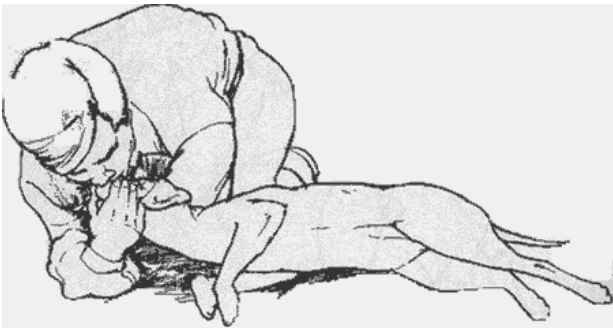
Give the dog a cardiac massage by placing both hands palms down between the third and sixth rib on the chest cavity.

For large dogs, place your hands on top of each other.

For small dogs or puppies, place one hand or thumb on the chest.

Use the heel of your hand(s) to push down for 10 quick compressions and then check to see if consciousness has been restored. If consciousness has not been restored, continue the compressions in cycles of about 10 every six seconds for 10 cycles a minute.

After each cycle of compression, the other person should give the dog two breaths of air in the nostrils. If only one person is present, this procedure can still be done successfully. Once the dog has started breathing, contact a veterinarian immediately.



EXERCISE INDUCED COLLAPSE IN LABRADOR RETRIEVERS WHAT DO WE KNOW NOW??

Susan M. Taylor, DVM, Diplomate ACVIM (Internal Medicine) Western College of Veterinary Medicine, Department of Small Animal Clinical Sciences University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada

Last year I submitted a brief description of this condition to Retriever Field Trial News and Retrievers ONLINE that was published mid-summer. In that manuscript was a call for affected dogs to participate in Phase I of our research study investigating this syndrome. I was overwhelmed by the response, receiving letters, emails and telephone calls from greater than 150 owners of affected dogs. This condition is much more common within the breed than I had anticipated when we started the study.

Phase I of our study was designed to intensively evaluate severely affected dogs at rest and then to exercise them for 10 minutes (retrieving bumpers) and evaluate physical, cardiac, neurologic and biochemical parameters during an episode of collapse. We also collected muscle biopsies for microscopic and biochemical evaluation. Phase I of the study was designed to :

- (1) Determine whether or not the results of routinely available physical, hematologic or biochemical tests could aid veterinarians in establishing the diagnosis of EIC in affected dogs.
- (2) Determine whether we could find evidence that EIC is indeed a metabolic myopathy (a problem with energy production within the muscle), and if it is, to attempt to determine the affected biochemical pathway and potential treatment options.

This portion of our study is now completed, and although we do not have the test results back from all of the laboratories involved, we have learned quite a bit about what is NOT wrong with these dogs. Dogs with EIC are normal at rest. They are usually extremely fit, muscular, prime athletic specimens of their breed. Orthopedic and cardiovascular examinations are unremarkable before and after exercise. These dogs are not lame and they do not have sore joints, muscles or bones at the time of collapse. They are not developing heart failure or heart rhythm disturbances at the time of collapse. Routine blood analysis is normal at rest and following exercise when compared with normal exercising (but not collapsing) Labradors. These dogs do not therefore have hypoglycemia (low blood sugar) or electrolyte disturbances as has been hypothesized by some veterinarians.

They also do not have a respiratory problem, as lung radiographs, ventilation, oxygenation of the blood and acid-base status are normal when compared with unaffected dogs exercised in the same manner.

Muscle biopsies from dogs with EIC are structurally normal. This helps to establish the diagnosis by eliminating other muscle diseases causing weakness such as Hereditary Labrador Retriever Myopathy, polymyositis (an immune mediated condition) and infectious myositis (such as Neosporosis). Preliminary laboratory testing of muscle has not supported a diagnosis of exercise-induced malignant hyperthermia or of exertional rhabdomyolysis in dogs with EIC. Serum testing has eliminated acquired myasthenia gravis as a possibility. Biochemical analysis of muscle and some specialized blood and urine tests are still pending. We will need those test results to determine whether or not there is evidence that EIC is a metabolic myopathy and to help identify the affected biochemical pathway.

While the results from Phase I are still pending, we have already been very involved in Phase II of the study. We are examining medical histories (obtained by questionnaire), pedigrees and DNA samples (simple blood test) from as many affected dogs as possible. We are also happy to evaluate videotapes of episodes of collapse in dogs with EIC. Phase II of the study is designed to help us to:

- (1) describe the condition so that it can be more easily recognized and diagnosed by practicing veterinarians and so that the long-term prognosis for affected dogs can be predicted.
- (2) determine the heritable basis (dominant, recessive, etc) of the condition and
- (3) develop a simple DNA test that could be used on adult dogs or puppies to determine if they have the disorder.

Participation in Phase II of the study simply involves having owners of affected dogs fill out a questionnaire and send us a pedigree and permission to access results from blood tests already done by their local veterinarians. We then request that a simple blood sample be sent to our collaborators in Minnesota for DNA analysis (our research grant pays the courier costs). All information provided is kept strictly confidential.

The following is a summary of some of what we have learned in the last year about the syndrome of Exercise Induced Collapse in Labrador Retrievers:

WHO GETS IT?

The syndrome of exercise intolerance and collapse (EIC) is being observed with increasing frequency in young adult Labrador Retrievers. Most, but not all, affected dogs have been from field-trial breedings. Signs usually become apparent in young dogs between 7 months and 2 years of age. In dogs used for field trials, this usually coincides with the age at which they enter heavy training. Dogs of either sex and any color can be affected. Littermates and other related dogs are often affected. Affected dogs are usually described as being extremely fit, muscular, prime athletic specimens of their breed with an excitable temperament and lots of drive.

DESCRIPTION OF COLLAPSE

Affected dogs can tolerate mild to moderate exercise, but 5 to 15 minutes of strenuous exercise induces weakness, apparent incoordination, and then collapse. Severely affected dogs may collapse whenever they are exercised to this extent - other dogs only exhibit collapse sporadically and the factors important in inducing an episode have not yet been well established. Weakness usually starts in the rear limbs, but if the dog continues to exercise, it will usually progress to the forelimbs, resulting in a generally weak, wobbly gait. Continued exercise will result in collapse and an inability to walk. Even if exercise is terminated before actual collapse is seen, some dogs will continue to deteriorate for 4-5 minutes, exhibiting progressive worsening of their weakness and an inability to rise. The dogs are not in pain during the collapse. They are conscious and usually wanting to continue exercising. After 10 to 20 minutes of rest, the dogs return to normal. NOTE: A few affected dogs have died during exercise or while resting immediately after an episode of exercise-induced collapse so the dog's exercise should ALWAYS be stopped at the first hint of incoordination or wobbliness.

Body temperature is normal at rest in dogs with EIC but is almost always dramatically increased at the time of collapse (temperature >41.5 C, >107.6F). Recently, however, a study performed at the Western College of Veterinary Medicine showed that clinically normal Labrador Retrievers had similar dramatic elevations in body temperature after 10 minutes of strenuous retrieving exercise while exhibiting no signs of weakness or collapse. Dogs with EIC will pant hard during the time of collapse, in an attempt to cool off, but this is similar to normal dogs exercised in the same manner.

The time it takes for dogs with EIC to return to their resting temperature after exercise is not different from normal dogs. Although temperature may play some role in EIC, and may contribute to the death of some affected dogs, inability to properly regulate temperature does not appear to be the underlying problem in dogs with EIC.

FACTORS CONTRIBUTING TO COLLAPSE IN DOGS WITH EIC

Temperature. Actual ambient temperature does not seem to be a critical factor contributing to collapse, but if the temperature is much warmer or the humidity is much higher than what the dog is accustomed to, collapse may be more likely. Affected dogs are less likely to collapse while swimming than when being exercised on land. There are dogs, however, who have exhibited collapse while breaking ice retrieving waterfowl in frigid temperatures .

Excitement. Dogs that exhibit the symptoms of EIC are most likely to have intense, excitable personalities, and it is apparent that their level of excitement plays a role in inducing the collapse. There are severely affected dogs who, if they are very excited, do not require much exercise to induce the collapse. Activities that have been associated with excitement and collapse include quartering for upland game, retrieving birds, balls or frisbees and excited play with other dogs.

Type of Exercise. Routine exercise like jogging, hiking, swimming , most waterfowl hunting and even agility or flyball training are not very likely to induce an episode in dogs with EIC. Activities with continuous intense exercise , particularly if accompanied by a high level of excitement or anxiety most commonly cause collapse. Activities commonly implicated include upland hunting, repetitive "happy retrieves", retrieving drills, and repetition of difficult marks where the dog is being corrected or anticipating correction.

LONG TERM OUTLOOK

Dogs with EIC do not appear to have progressive disease. Symptomatic dogs are, however, rarely able to continue training or competition. It seems that if affected dogs are removed from training and not exercised excessively the condition will not progress and they will be fine as pets. They are able to continue to live pretty normal lives, if they learn to limit their intense exercise and excitement. Many dogs will seem to "get better" as they age and slow down their activity and their excitement level. It is important that owners of dogs

with EIC be made aware that the dog's exercise should be stopped at the first hint of incoordination or wobbliness as some affected dogs have died during collapse when their owners allowed or encouraged continuing exercise.

VETERINARY EVALUATION OF AFFECTED DOGS/DIAGNOSIS

The EIC syndrome can only be diagnosed by ruling out all other muscle disorders and by observing characteristic clinical features, history and laboratory test results in affected dogs. Any dog with exercise intolerance should always have a complete veterinary evaluation to rule-out joint diseases, heart failure, anemia, heart rhythm disturbances, respiratory problems, low blood sugar , myasthenia gravis, myopathies and other systemic disorders. If the syndrome of Labrador Retriever Exercise-Induced Collapse is suspected, then further metabolic and muscle testing should be performed by a veterinarian in collaboration with a laboratory possessing expertise in metabolic disorders of canine muscle.

TREATMENT

Unfortunately, there is no effective treatment for EIC at this time. Owners of some affected dogs have reported that if they feed their dogs a higher fat diet and/or keep more weight on their dog, that the episodes may be more difficult to induce. Some dogs with EIC have had lower than normal levels of muscle carnitine. This low carnitine is most likely secondary to a metabolic defect in the muscle, rather than indicating a primary deficiency of carnitine, but some affected dogs have had a positive response to oral supplementation with carnitine (50mg/kg 2X/day), CoEnzyme Q10 (100mg/day) and Riboflavin (100 mg/day) - a standard cocktail for metabolic myopathies. The best treatment in most dogs consists of avoiding intensive exercise in conjunction with extreme excitement and ending exercise at the first sign of weakness/wobbliness.

HEREDITY

Dogs that are clearly affected by the Exercise-Induced Collapse syndrome should not be bred. Littermates and other related dogs are often affected, suggesting that the condition is hereditary, but the genetics of the condition have not been well established.

A major problem currently exists in classifying a dog as affected or unaffected by EIC. We believe that there may be many dogs who have the genetic

makeup and metabolic abnormalities underlying EIC, yet who never collapse because they do not exercise to the necessary degree. They may not be asked to do the exercise or they may pace themselves or perform the exercise without the mix of enthusiasm and excitement necessary to induce collapse.

We will not be able to identify these dogs as being affected by EIC until we have a simple, specific test for the condition. Researchers at the Western College of Veterinary Medicine, in collaboration with researchers at the University of Minnesota are currently involved in a study trying to identify the genetic mutation causing EIC. Once that is accomplished, a simple DNA test will be developed to test any adult dog or puppy for the condition. This will also allow us to establish the heritability of the condition (dominant, recessive, dominant with incomplete penetrance, etc), providing very useful information for breeders trying to prevent or eliminate the condition in their lines.

If you have an affected dog and would like to participate in Phase II of this study, please contact:

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Through the Eyes of Your Canine



*By Sarah Probst
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Owners who want to better understand their canine companions must recognize that dogs see the world from a different visual perspective. The differences begin with the structure of the eye. "We have a good idea what canines see because we know the make-up of the retina of a dog's eye," says Dr. Ralph Hamor, a veterinarian and specialist in ophthalmology at the University of Illinois College of Veterinary Medicine Teaching Hospital.

The retina, which covers the back of the inside of the eyeball, contains cones and rods—two types of

light-sensitive cells. Cones provide color perception and detailed sight, while rods detect motion and vision in dim light. Dogs, which have rod-dominated retinas, see better in the dark than humans do and have motion-oriented vision. However, because they have only about one-tenth the concentration of cones that humans have, dogs do not see colors as humans do.

"I generally explain that dogs see like a color-blind human," says Dr. Hamor. "Many people think that a person who is red/green color blind cannot see any color, but there are variations of being color blind. Most people have vision that is trichromatic (three color variations). People who are red/green color blind are dichromatic (two color variations). Dogs can pick out two colors—blue-violet and yellow—and they can differentiate among shades of gray." Dogs are unable to distinguish among green, yellow, orange, and red. They also have difficulty differentiating greens and grays.

Dogs use other cues (such as smell, texture, brightness, and position) rather than rely on color. Seeing-eye dogs, for example, may not distinguish whether a stoplight is green or red; they look at the brightness and position of the light. This and the flow and noise of traffic will tell the dog that it is the right time to cross the street.

The set of dog's eyes determines the amount of field of view and depth perception. Prey species tend to have eyes set on the sides of their head because the increased field of view allows them to see approaching predators. Predator species, like humans and dogs, have eyes set closer together. "Human eyes are set straight forward while dog eyes, depending on the breed, are usually set at a 20 degree angle. This angle increases the field of view and therefore the peripheral vision of the dog."

However, this increased peripheral vision compromises the amount of binocular vision. Where the field of view of each eye overlaps, we have binocular vision, which gives us depth perception. The wider-set eyes of dogs have less overlap and less binocular vision. Dogs' depth perception is best when they look straight ahead, but is blocked by their noses at certain angles. "Predators need binocular vision as a survival tool," Dr. Hamor says. Binocular vision aids in jumping, leaping, catching, and many other activities fundamental to predators.

In addition to having less binocular vision than humans, dogs also have less visual acuity. Hu-

mans with perfect eyesight are said to have 20/20 vision-we can distinguish letters or objects at a distance of 20 feet. Dogs typically have 20/75 vision-they must be 20 feet from an object to see it as well as a human standing 75 feet away. Certain breeds have better acuity. **Labradors, commonly used as seeing-eye dogs, have been bred for better eyesight and may have closer to 20/20 vision.**

Don't expect your dog to recognize you across the field by sight. He'll recognize you when you do some sort of motion particular to yourself or by smell or hearing. Because of the number of rods in the retina, dogs see moving objects much better than they do stationary objects. Motion sensitivity has been noted as the critical aspect of canine vision. "So much of dog behavior deals with posture and appropriateness. Small changes in your body posture mean a lot to your dog," Dr. Hamor adds. Dog owners need to modify training based on this fact. If you want your dog to perform an action based on a silent cue from you, Dr. Hamor suggests using a wide sweeping motion to cue your dog.

When dogs go blind, owners often wonder if the dogs' quality of life has diminished to the point where they are no longer happy. "We know that humans deal well with being blind, and humans are much more dependent on their eyes than are dogs," Dr. Hamor says. "Blind dogs lead happy lives if they are comfortable." The owner may need to make some adjustments in the pet's environment, such as having a fenced yard, taking leashed walks, and not leaving unusual objects in normal pathways. "When blind dogs are in their normal environment, most people don't know they are blind." When clients visit Dr. Hamor asking about quality of life for their newly blind dog, Dr. Hamor suggests that they take a month to see if they and their dog are happy. In the majority of cases, the owners never come back.

For further information on dog vision and problems with your dog's eyes, contact your local veterinarian.



Pet Horoscopes

24 September - 23 October

LIBRA

"A pretty pet that naturally blends in with its surroundings."

You can't say no when those big brown eyes of your Libran dog plead for food at the table.

Libran dogs are remarkably persuasive even manipulative. They enjoy the best that money can buy so throw away that old blanket and make sure his basket has the finest silk lining. Libran dogs hate being alone and will pine for you when you're away from home. They also need the company of other dogs and love peace and harmony in their environment. Their worst fault is that they can be ridiculously stubborn. If he doesn't want to go for 'walkies' you'll never budge him.



Libra

24 October - 22 November

SCORPIO

"Scorpio pets are loyal and expect absolute loyalty in return."

Scorpio dogs are either your best friend or worst enemy.

They can love or hate with a passionate intensity. If you wrong a Scorpio dog they will never forget but will also not forget when you treat them well. The sign of Scorpio governs secrets and perhaps because of this, dogs born under this sign make the best trackers. They'll sniff out even the most subtle scent trail. This is the ideal sign to be born under for bloodhounds, cocker spaniels and any dog with an acute sense of smell. Also, the sexual prowess of the Scorpio dog makes them ideal breeding dogs.



"The disposition of noble dogs is to be gentle with people they know and the opposite with those they don't know...How, then, can the dog be anything other than a lover of learning since it defines what's its own and what's alien." - Plato

LABRADOR RETRIEVER MYOPATHY

Kyle G. Braund, B.V.Sc., M.V.Sc., R.R.C.V.S., Pd.D.
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Introduction:

In 1976 Kramer and others described a condition of Labrador retriever dogs characterized by a marked deficiency of skeletal muscle mass, abnormal head posture and a stiff hopping gait. Subsequently, the condition was shown to be inherited as an autosomal recessive trait, and further reports came from the United States, the United Kingdom, and Australia.

Nomenclature:

Hereditary myopathy of Labrador retrievers (HMLR) was first described as a muscle disorder characterized by a deficiency of type II muscle fibers. It has also been referred to as muscular dystrophy, myotonia, generalized muscle weakness, polyneuropathy, and hereditary myopathy.

Clinical Signs:

This disease is seen only in Labrador Retriever dogs. It affects both males and females and has been seen in animals of black and yellow coat color. In typical cases, clinical signs become obvious at 3 to 4 months of age and include muscle weakness, abnormalities of gait and posture, and decreased exercise tolerance. Severely affected pups may have a low head posture, with ventroflexion of the neck. The back is arched, and the gait is characterized by short stilted strides in which the hind legs are often advanced simultaneously ("bunny hoppin"). The abnormality becomes more accentuated as the animal tires and, if encouraged to continue, the pup may collapse forwards with the head and neck to one side. There is no loss of consciousness or cyanosis. Exercise tolerance may be reduced to 20 yards in severely affected animals. However, mildly-affected dogs may be presented because they seem to be "slow" pups that are less playful than their littermates and less willing to exercise. These dogs may not collapse unless forcibly exercised at speed for several minutes. Rest results in some improvement, but the clinical signs rapidly recur on resumption of exercise. Joint posture is often abnormal, with affected dogs having carpal overextension, carpal valgus, splaying of the digits, and a "cow hocked" stance. As the condition progresses, generalized atrophy of skeletal muscles develops. The proximal muscles of the limbs and the muscles of the head are particularly affected, but in milder cases, the atrophy may not

be dramatic.

In most cases, the clinical signs stabilize between 6 months and 1 year of age, although signs may be exacerbated by excitement of stress and particularly by exposure to cold weather. After exposure to cold, an affected dog may be unable to stand or to lift the head. Moving the animal to a warm kennel usually results in improvement within a few hours.

A less common sequel, which has been observed in three adult dogs, is the development of megaeosophagus. One affected 18-month-old dog, in other respects, appeared to be improving. The other two dogs were both affected bitches in the eighth week of pregnancy. Other sporadic complications that have been observed include the presence of a luxating patella and clinical and radiographic evidence of degenerative joint disease in the hip of one affected dog that was allowed to become obese.

Neurologic Examination:

Affected dogs are bright and alert, although often poorly muscled when compared with their normal littermates. Temporal muscle atrophy is often a feature, but cranial nerve functions are otherwise normal. Muscle tone may be normal or reduced. There is no muscle pain on palpation nor dimpling on percussion. Severely affected pups are obviously weak and may have difficulty wheelbarrowing or hopping, although in less severely affected pups, postural testing may indicate no abnormalities. Proprioceptive function is normal and no sensory deficits have been observed in affected dogs. Tendon reflexes are generally reduced or absent, even in mildly-affected dogs with little muscle atrophy. There is no impairment of bladder function nor other signs of autonomic nervous system dysfunction.

Diagnosis:

A diagnosis of HMLR may be suspected from the signalment data, clinical signs, and results of the neurological examination. Further procedures used in establishing the diagnosis include serology, electrodiagnosis, and muscle biopsy. Serum creatine kinase may be within normal limits or may be moderately elevated. Levels may increase following exacerbation of signs after exposure to cold weather but do not reach the levels reported in other degenerative muscle diseases, such as the inherited muscular dystrophy described in golden retrievers. Other routine hematological and blood biochemical parameters are within normal limits.

Motor nerve conduction velocities are within the normal range in affected dogs, and there is no decremental response to repetitive nerve stimulation. On electromyographic examination, there frequently is spontaneous activity, particularly in the proximal limb muscles, musculature of the head, and the thoracolumbar paraspinal muscles. The most commonly recorded abnormalities are fibrillation potentials, positive sharp waves, and bizarre high frequency discharges. Electromyographic changes may be less pronounced in mildly-affected dogs and may be difficult to detect in very young dogs. Results of electrocardiographic examination of affected adults and pups have indicated no cardiac involvement.

Despite the abnormal joint posture seen in many affected dogs, on radiography of hocks, carpi, and the vertebral column, there have been no abnormalities. However, in some cases, changes consistent with hip dysplasia have been present. A wide range of morphological features may be observed in muscle biopsies from affected dogs. The changes reported include small and large group atrophy, small angular fibers of both fiber types, and occasional fiber type grouping. All of these changes are generally considered characteristic of neurogenic disease. In other biopsies, there may be large numbers of internal nuclei, disturbances in myofiber architecture, necrosis, regeneration, and replacement of muscle fibers with fat and fibrous tissue. These changes are more commonly associated with destructive myopathies or dystrophies. Alterations in fiber type percentages are a common finding. In most muscles, there is a reduction in the proportion of type II fibers, but in others, such as the cranial tibial, an increase in the percentage of type II fibers may occur. These changes in fiber type proportions appear to become more accentuated as the disease progresses. Preliminary biochemical data indicate significantly elevated concentrations of sodium, calcium, zinc, copper, chloride, fat, and intracellular water and reduced levels of potassium and magnesium in muscles from affected adult Labrador retrievers. In addition, a significant decrease in muscle specific proteins has been identified in the biceps femoris muscle of affected dogs.

Despite the presence of some apparently "neurogenic" features, examination of the various parts of the lower motor neuron has so far failed to identify morphological abnormalities. The underlying pathophysiological mechanisms involved in this disease are, therefore, still unclear.

Prognosis:

In most cases, the clinical signs stabilize between 6 months and one year of age, and affected dogs may become acceptable house pets, although they are not suitable for work. Owners of affected dogs should be warned that stress, including exposure to low temperatures, can result in a dramatic worsening of clinical signs, even in clinically stable adults. The life span of affected dogs does not appear to be directly affected by the condition, although the prognosis for dogs with megaesophagus should be more guarded, due to the risk of developing inhalation pneumonia.

Treatment/Control:

There is no definitive treatment for this condition. **As there is as yet no way of detecting heterozygous carriers, breeders should be advised against breeding parents or siblings of affected pups.**

"The Chino Chronicles"

Jason Brown

Part #1: An Introduction of the Past and Present

I will first have to admit that I've never been a Lab man before now. My hunting dog background has always been in pointers of various lineage and those big brown dogs referred to as Chessies. If truth be known I've always been somewhat averse to Labs, but as time goes on I'm learning quickly to change. Let me back, back up for a moment and bring the reader up to speed.

March of 1998 found me, a Wirehair named Lobo and a Chessie named Storm being married to a young lady whom I somehow convinced to take a chance on this wayward hunting trio. Eight years later in March of 2006 an invitation from Uncle Sam would have me starting a 14 month tour in Iraq. This left Mrs. Brown responsible for two kids, two businesses, an election cycle, and yes those two hunting companions of mine. By the time I returned in May of 2007, my better half had done a great job with everything: the kids, the house, the businesses, my election cycle and even me when I was home on convalescence leave recovering from being wounded in action. However, both of my old hunting companions, 12 and 13 years respectfully, each went to sleep different

nights while I was gone not to stir the next morning. And so life would have it that after the fall of 2005 we were never to be afield together again. Both upland and at water's edge, 2005 had been a good season, and my longtime hunting buddies did well for their ages. It has been said that every man gets one good dog; well, I was blessed with two.

Upon my return from Iraq, it was time to get a new pup. My wife and I decided our next dog would first be considered a family dog and then hunting companion with me second. After reviewing numerous options proposed from each family member, our discussions resulted in the search for a Lab. I thought I would try to get the best of both worlds, so in late May the Brown family loaded into the suburban, made the two day trek to southern Wisconsin, found Alma Bottom Kennels and picked up our new Pointing Labrador. You see, some upland hunting habits die hard. My thought was that if I only get one dog and he is going to be an indoor dog at that, he should probably be a Pointing Lab. And so began the **"Chino Chronicles"**. By the way I will tell you that "Chino" is short for Chino State Penitentiary in Southern California, that's just how tough my dog is you see. If you ask my wife, (please don't), she'll tell you "Chino" is short for cappuccino due to her favorite drink and the dark almost black chocolate color of his coat. Without getting my wife upset, to be technically accurate, his name should of probably been "Espresso", but I'm not bringing that to her attention just yet. Right away on the drive home though, I knew I was in trouble. Our newest addition didn't ride in his new behind the third row seating that SUV's are famous for, instead he was passed back and forth between the kids and my wife wrapped up in a towel for the entire ride back to Missouri.

Fast forward to July of 2007, in a continued attempt to get us to the reason for this article. Waking early one morning in an RV park just outside West Yellowstone, Montana during family vacation. I realized that we had new neighbors. They had not one, but three big bouncing Labs running around making my little pup a bit nervous about his new neighboring canine pals. After returning from morning training with Chino in the local fishing pond, I was greeted by none other than your

editor, **Phyllis Beemer**. As luck would have it she used her canine pals and editorial ways to cajole me into doing a series of articles highlighting my newest hunting partner and our first year together.

Now to the present, (finally). it's late September and soon to be October here in Missouri with the weather changing to a very pleasant fall. I can honestly say that much to my surprise and pleasure Chino has progressed very rapidly. Previously my canine hunting partners were always trained professionally with my responsibility being maintenance by keeping them in birds, which was easier before a responsible life. Now with family responsibilities being what they are, training has fallen squarely upon my shoulders and not my checkbook this time. Continuing to research who has the soundest methodology and comprehensive do it yourself training program I finally settled on a simple yet very effect book written by **Robert Milner, "Retriever Training for the Duck Hunter."** Milner doesn't cover Pointing Labs, but more on that later. What I did like is the detailed step by step, one day after the next psychology of a process based on repetition and positive reinforcement. Remember I'm an old army guy who likes the regimented discipline associated with learning from a routine. One moment please before half or more of you gets riled up and says that **Richard Wolters** is who I should be learning

from. For the record I've read that book as also. It's a good read with a lot of applicable materials too; I just disagree with the concept that by not starting at exactly 8 weeks of age your dog will never reach its potential. And now for all the rest of you I haven't of-

fended yet, I also believe that if your dog learns the command, sit, then the command, "stay," becomes unnecessary. None of my dogs have or ever will understand the command, "stay." Okay, if there is still anyone left reading this,



The new duo at a local park.

I am proud to report that even with all my mistakes in the past few months of training, Chino is actually progressing very well. We have moved from controlled land retrieves to water work. He is mastering single retrieves and hunting dead. Along with the regular obedience work, the hand held dummy launcher and cap gun firings have given him a solid exposure to gunfire. I continue to be impressed with his ease of handling and willingness to work to please. In short, he is a retrieving nut. Between the formal sessions and the racing around Mrs. Brown's house, retrieving anything anyone will throw for him, I believe he is well on his way to a successful first hunting season.

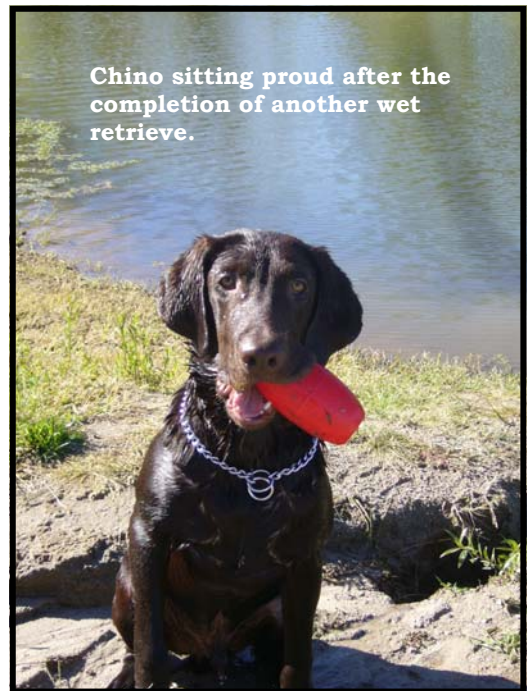
A flip rod with a wing attached to some fishing line has started the pointing work that will be tested in earnest during our annual late October hunt in Saskatchewan. Oh, did I mention that each October I and a close group of friends take seven to ten days in Saskatchewan to help control the possibility of a *Avian Flu* outbreak? This goose, duck, grouse and partridge hunting trip has been a mainstay of my hunting diet since the mid 1990's, except for when the kids were born (which I still disagree with my better about.....I should have gone), election years, and of course this previous year in Iraq. However, this fall will find me with only one dog, a first for sure but a great place to start all over. A young, inexperienced pup but nonetheless I will feel blessed to be there chasing birds. After all, it's birds that make a gun dog and the last time I checked the only ones in my office are stuffed and not moving much these days; they just hang out on my wall.

Even though this first year will be a trial of errors that will cause much learning to take place, mainly on my part) my hopes are still high that Chino can and will fill the space left by my last hunting companions. One thing is for sure, he already has space in the house that's his and a special place in our family that my former canine buddies never did. Yes, Chino sleeps inside and doesn't even know there is a kennel in the backyard.

This has been the first installment of the "**Chino Chronicles**." I will do my best to trace the first year in the life of a fella and his Pointing Lab, neither of whom expected to be where they are but find themselves there anyway. And so it begins. Training will continue and each day brings this new duo closer to Saskatchewan where birds are plentiful and dogs are made. Did I mention I never miss a shot up there in the hinterlands either? Or at least nobody is around to testify against me about that statement.

Until next time, (from Saskatchewan) be safe and God Bless.

The Author, Jason Brown, resides outside Kansas City, Missouri, with his wife and two children where they own a small construction business and he serves as a State Representative in the Missouri Legislature and as a Staff Sergeant in the United States Army Reserves. He has been an avid outdoorsman since the age of 14.



Thank you, Jason!!!!!! PB

Loyalty

You can't buy loyalty, they say,
I bought it though, the other day
You can't buy friendships, tried and true
Well just the same, I bought that too.
I made my bid and on spot
Brought love and faith and a whole job lot
Of happiness, so all in all
The purchase price was pretty small
I bought a single trusting heart,
that gave devotion from the start
If you think these things are
NOT FOR SALE
Buy a brown-eyed puppy with a wagging tail
Author unknown

Recipe Corner

Turkey Loaf for Dogs

- 2 pounds ground turkey
- 1/2 cup cooked mixed vegetables
- 1 T. garlic powder
- 1 egg, beaten
- 1/2 cup barley
- 1 cup quick cooking oats
- 1/2 cup canned low-fat gravy



Preparation :

Grease a 9" loaf pan; set aside. In a large mixing bowl, combine the ground turkey, vegetables, garlic powder, egg, barley and oats. Mix the ingredients together well and place the mixture into the prepared loaf pan. Press the mixture to flatten and level, then use a table knife to cut a few shallow slits on top. Pour the gravy over the loaf and bake in a preheated oven at 350° for 1 to 1-1/4 hours or until nicely browned on top. Cool, then cut the loaf into about six slices. Wrap in plastic wrap or foil and store in the refrigerator. To feed - Break the slices into bite-size pieces.

Pumpkin Cookies

- 1 1/2 cups whole wheat flour
- 1/2 cup pumpkin, canned
- 1 tablespoon brown sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1/2 teaspoon ground nutmeg
- 4 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 whole egg
- 1/2 cup buttermilk



Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Combine flour, cinnamon and nutmeg and cut in shortening. Beat egg with milk and pumpkin and combine with flour, mixing well. Stir until soft dough forms. Drop by tablespoons onto ungreased cookie sheet and bake for 12 to 15 minutes. Let cool and serve.

Minutes of the September meeting of the ILRC held at Sampson State Park, Romulus, NY.

The meeting was called to order at 5:08pm on September 28, 2007 under the Specialty tent by President, **Carol Pyne**.

Present were Board members **Carol Pyne, Larry and Pauline Nehring, Mary Kobis, Leslie Kayser, Becky Underwood, Barb Corbelli, and Ann Dunham**. Other members present included **Heidi Kellerman, Carolyn Kellerman, Lynne and Jeff Worsfold, Sue VanBuren, Cheryl Zielen-Ersing, Lisa Hanley, Terri Fink, Kim Falker, Mary Ellen Bittlinger, Brenda Stidfole, Ellen Shearer, Sandra Corrie-Styn, James Styn, and Kate Hodges**. **Our guests were Jolene Benzinger and Michael Rathbun.**

President's Report: none

Secretary's Report: none

Treasurer's Report: none

Committee Reports:

Nominating Committee:

Carol presented the following slate of officers and directors for 2008 and asked for nominations from the floor. The only member nominated for the secretarial position was not present to accept or decline.

- President: Carol Pyne
- Vice President: Mary Kobis
- Treasurer: Pauline Nehring
- Secretary: ??

Directors include:

- Larry Nehring
- Leslie Kayser
- Mary Ellen Bittlinger
- Kim Falker
- Barb Corbelli

A motion to accept the slate of officers and Board directors was made by Pauline Nehring and seconded by Cheryl Zielen-Ersing. The motion carried.

Specialty Committee:

Mary Kobis will be stepping down as show chairperson so we will need a show chair for the 2008 Specialty. We will also need a trophy chair.

It was decided at a previous meeting that we would move our Specialty to Saturday in 2008. However, **Mary Kobis** reported that if we hold the specialty on Friday we would have to share the tent with five other specialties. There was some discussion regarding the positives and negatives of such a move. **A motion was made by Mary Ellen Bittlinger and seconded by Kim Falker to keep the specialty on Friday and to notify the 2008 judges of this change. The motion carried.**

Members were encouraged to send future judge's names to Mary Kobis or Barb Corbelli so a list could be compiled for future judges selection committees.

Pauline Nehring also stated that our wooden duck supply has been exhausted and a new source will need to be found for next year. Members were asked to keep the awards in mind when shopping; we need something in the range of \$15.00

Hunt Test:

Chair, **Barb Corbelli**, reported that she is lining up the judging panel for the 2008 Hunt Test and ask for some discussion on the following possible selections: **Tammy Addsit, Diane and Tom Sanfilipo, and Carolyn Ranke.** Other recommendations should be made to Barb in the near future.

Barb also highlighted a group formed for the preservation of state lands and the privilege to run training and field tests on these areas with ducks. The Federation of Retrieving Dogs has already started work on some land in New York State. Clubs joining would pay a \$25.00 annual membership fee and have a club liaison to aid communication.

Membership:

The second reading of membership applications from **Michael Rathbun, Michelle Sarek, and Bob Willman** was done by Becky Underwood. Following a vote by the members present these new members were welcomed into the ILRC. Please introduce yourselves when you see them at upcoming meetings and events and add their information to your membership lists.

Michael Rathbun (single)
P.O. Box 249
Smithville Flats, NY 13841
607-656-7763

Michelle Sarek/Robert Willman (family)
11939 Parker Road
East Aurora, NY 14052
716-655-0174
metroreporting@aol.com

An application for membership was also read (first) for **Jolene Benzinger.**

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by **Leslie Kayser** and seconded by **Mary Kobis.** President **Carol Pyne** adjourned the meeting at 5:58pm

Respectfully submitted,

Becky Underwood, ILRC Secretary



Iroquois Labrador Retriever Club
 7th Designated Specialty – Wine Country Circuit
 Sampson State Park, Romulus, NY
 September 28, 2007

Sweeps Classes: Judge Ms Heidi Herman

Dogs:

6-9 months

- 1st Beechcroft's Pardon Me Sir
- 2nd Moonlits Burberry Black Bling
- 3rd Lincoln's One and Only

9-12 months

- 1st Startop's Captain Morgan
- 2nd Pembroke Good Grief
- 3rd Moonlit's Phantom
- 4th Millar's Say's It All

12-15 months

- 1st Lobuff Hollyridge Wizzard of Oz
- 2nd Moonlits King of Queens

Bitches:

6-9 months

- 1st Millmar's Truly High Lites
- 2nd Gingerbred's Sweet and Savory
- 3rd Moonlit's Mega-Hit
- 4th Canterbury's Priceless Gem

9-12 months

- 1st Endless Mt Mecca

12-15 months

- 1st Tableau's Black Storm
- 2nd Lobuff's There's No Place Like

Home

- 3rd Aquarius Evil Hearted Me
- 4th Hiview Henrietta Wilson

15-18 months

- 1st Blackwatch Temptation
- 2nd Tulgeywood's Magic Locket Key to

Serenity

- 3rd Wiscoy's Jade
- 4th Belquest Sugar Magnolia at Lobuff

**Best in Puppy Sweepstakes
 Blackwatch Temptation**

**Best of Opposite Sex to Best in Sweepstakes
 Lobuff Holleyridge Wizzard of Oz**

Veteran Sweeps – Dogs

7-9 years

- 1st CH Rocky Creek's Lincoln Storm RN

Veteran Sweeps - Bitches

7-9 years

- 1st CH Lobuff's Turtle Dove
- 2nd Brimar's Cadeau Du Diamont RN,
- OA, OAJ, OAP, NJP.
- 3RD Beechcroft Sweetbriar's Fortune

Best in Veteran Sweepstakes

CH Lobuff's Turtle Dove

Best of Opposite to Best in Veteran Sweepstakes

CH Rocky Creek's Lincoln Storm RN

Regular Classes: Judge Mr. Manuel Queijerio

Dogs:

6-9 months

- 1st Beechcroft's Pardon Me Sir
- 2nd Moonlit's Burberry Black Bing
- 3rd Cabin Creek Diesel at Labs Landing

9-12 months

- 1st Moonlit's Phantom
- 2nd Millmar's Say's It All
- 3rd Lochiel's The Miracle Continues
- 4th Startop's Captain Morgan

12-18 months

- 1st Lobuff Hollyridge Wizzard of Oz
- 2nd Moonlit's King of Queens
- 3rd Belquest Junk in the Trunk

Novice

- 1st Pirate's Black Powered Pistol

Bred-by-Exhibitor

- 1st Sasco Gibraltar CD, RN

- 2nd Lobuff Holleyridge Osprey
- 3rd Cambell Yard's Say It Ain't So
- 4th Meadowbrook's Hit The Jackpot

American Bred

- 1st Paradocs Hunterleigh Quinn
- 2nd Lobuff Major Yeager at Asquam JH

3rd Millmar's Cruz'n to Meadowbrook
Open Black

1st Trendmaker's Made in Sweden

2nd Camolot's Mousquetaire

3rd Pinehaven's Blackhawk

4th Bellburn's Making the Grade

Open Yellow

1st Nycoma Way Whiskey For My Man

2nd Lochiel's Umpleby at Windswept

3rd Simerdown's Pleasurethyme Rock-

starr

4th Millmar's Nor'easter Snow

Open Chocolate

1st Hedgelawn's Doc Holiday

2nd SGM Doc Anter

3rd Lochiel's Grand Slam

Winner's Dog Sasco Gibraltar CD, RN

Reserve Winner's Dog

Lobuff Hollyridge Wizzard of Oz

Bitches:

6-9 months

1st Millmar's Truly High Lites

2nd Moonlit's Mega-Hit

3rd White Spring's Simply Elegant

4th Canterbury's Priceless Gem

9-12 months

1st Endless Mt Mecca

2nd Broad Reach Brambles Dream Girl

3 Castlegar Dragonloft Celestial

12-18 months

1st Canvasback's Gotit'Goin On At

Brkhvn

2nd Tableau's Black Storm

3rd Aquarius Evil Hearted Me

4th Lobuff's There's No Place Like

Home

Novice

1st Broadway's Babe At Wayfield

2nd Windswept's Our Girl Sandra

Bred-by Exhibitor

1st Pembroke Going to California

2nd Ravenhill Black Betty

3rd Moreland's Dusk til Dawn

4th Rockycreek's Making A Splash
American-bred

1st Broadway's Ragtime At Beechcroft

2nd White Spring's Martha Kent

3 Carmella Tucci Delite

4th Campbell Yard's White Russian

Open Black

1st Meadowbrooks Legal Pursuit

2nd Carena Broad Reach Scooter

3rd Lobuff's Ol' Bailey Merlot

4th Tabatha's Rally

Open Yellow

1st Somerset All That Glitters

2 Lobuff Hollyridge First Impressions

3rd Hi View's Sophistication

4th Tabatha's Confetti

Open Chocolate

1st Mapletree Windswept Splendor

2nd Beachbrooks Day Dream Believer

3rd Gleneries Marci at Blue Mtn

4th SGM Doc Shokalata

Winner's Bitch Meadowbrook's Legal Pursuit

Reserve Winner's Bitch (bump up)

Veteran Class 7-9 Dogs

1st CH Rocky Creek's Lincoln Storm RN

Hunting Dog

1st Belburn's Duncan CD, JH

Veteran Class 7-9 Bitches

1 st Lobuff's Turtle Dove

Brood Bitch Class Class

1st Windswept's Our Girl

Best of Winners - Sasco Gibraltar

Best of Opposite -

CH Surry's Ol' Salt Surf N Turf

Best of Breed Dicroft Grace Kelly

Thank you to all the exhibitors, judges, and club workers that made our 2007 Designated Specialty such a success !!!!

ZOEV

Zoey Dynasty`s Love In The Mist AM CAN CDX, CGC, DELTA THERAPY DOG

May 17, 1991- Sept. 14, 2007

On Friday, September 14, 2007, our beloved Zoey journeyed on to Rainbow Bridge in the loving arms of our son. She passed in peace and with dignity. Even though we had 16 years and 4 months with her it is never long enough.

From the day she was born here we knew Zoey was someone special. With a daddy who was from Finland and whose name was Tweedledum Pop My Cork, that alone could make you smile. Zoey had an Obedience, Acting (she had the starring canine roles in Annie and Oliver) and most importantly, Therapy Dog career.

Zoey was the most powerful and profound teachers of life I have ever seen. She had the uncanny ability to connect with everyone. Whether it was with a Hospice patient, a blind person or someone who feared dogs, they would always accept her presence and make a lasting connection with her. She had an extraordinary impact on everyone who met her.

Her whole life Zoey gave unconditionally so much more than she ever asked for. She will always be deeply missed , loved and forever remembered.

Kathy Zipkin





Remembering Sharon



Sharon

Sharon Falker was a member of the ILRC for 10 years. In that time she, with her daughter Kim, were constant supporters of the Club. In spite of her disability, Sharon always managed to volunteer for projects and events. She was in charge of hospitality for the Clubs Specialty from 2002 to 2005. Sharon particularly enjoyed baking tasty treats, like her cheesecake that always made it to the Hunt Test!

She is fondly remembered by many as "Mother Falker" overseer of everyone's belongings at ringside.

Sharon and Kim attended many specialties and all breed shows on the East coast and I suspect she found every Wal-Mart in those towns too. She loved those Wal-Mart's !!!!!

Sharon's first Labrador was a chocolate named "Snuggles".

Her first champion was Ch. Ledgewood's Lazar Light, CD, CGC, TDI. (Lazar)

She was the overseer of the dogs but especially the puppies and she loved them all. They were adorned with one of her colorful handcrafted collars for easy identification.

Sharon has moved on and took her biggest secret with her- How to acquire a room at the host hotel for "The Potomac."

Sharon will be greatly missed by her family at home and here at the ILRC. She is at the Rainbow Bridge caring for our Labrador family who also moved on and are waiting for us.

Till Then Sharon!

Club member Sharon Falker passed away on September 15, 2007.

Sincere thanks to Mary Ellen Bittlinger for submitting Sharon's memoriam.

Braggs



Becky Underwood:

Brie (Kresland's Sweetbriar Bregan CD, JH, RA, TDI) got two Rally Excellent legs on September 20th and 21st at the Pawcatuck Labrador Retriever Club's Specialty shows. She finished first on Thursday (96) and third on Friday (92) in some very hot weather.

Linda Witkowski:

Linda Witkowski's Lab, **Stryker**, earned his Rally Novice (RN) title at Wine Country by winning his class on Sunday!
Linda

Jeff Worsfold:

At the Finger Lakes Kennel Club Show at Sampson State Park on Thursday 9/27/2007 **Bellburn's Duncan CD, JH, WC** took a WD & BOW major under judge Margaret D. Heaney. ***This is Jeff & Duncan's first win in the Conformation Ring!***



Congratulations!!!

Gail Rathbun, Windswept Labrador Retrievers

Mapletree Windswept Splendor (Hope) won the Open Chocolate Bitch at ILRC, handled by Michael Halley.



Fantastic!!!

Litter Box

No litter listings at this time.

Happiness is puppy breath!!!!



**Tape this to
your
refrigerator!!**



2007 ILRC Meeting Calendar

(all dates are Sundays)

January 14, 11:00 A.M.
Batavia Fairgrounds

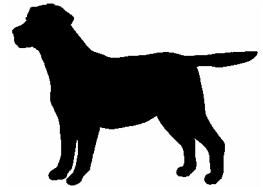
March: Syracuse Show

May 6th, 11:00 A.M.

July 22nd,
Genesee Fairgrounds; picnic & awards

September: Wine Country

**November 11th: Batavia Fairgrounds,
11:00 A.M.
Election of officers!!!**



PAWPRINTS

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FIRST CLASS

PLEASE FORWARD