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Officers Board of Directors

Carol Pyne, President
mylabs@adelphia.net

Mary Kobis, Vice President
augustuslabs@yahoo.com

Michelle Sarak, Secretary
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pcorbell@rochester.rr.com

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nehringp@aol.com

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Kim Falker
advlabs@localnet.com

www.ilrc2.org

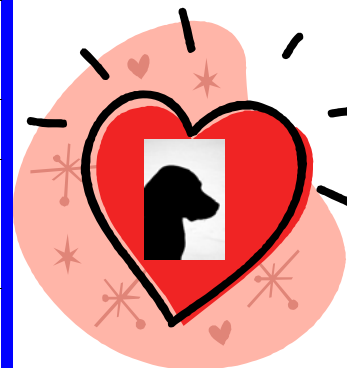


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Wayfield's Young Argos, CD, RA, TDI, CGC
© Photo by Andrew Skolnick



GOODBYE, OLD FRIENDS

Well, we all knew that this day was inevitable. As the sun rises, so it will set. Night will follow day, what goes up will ultimately come down, the tides of the ocean will continue to crash upon the shore, Kevin Costner will never make another hit movie and Newman must bid adieu to his dingle-dangles. Although I don't believe that animals feel any human emotions, I truly believe that Newman will miss "the boys", because God knows he spends enough time enjoying their company. Honestly, you would think that they were chocolate covered almonds what with the amount of time that he spends lick....well, I don't think we need the visual here. If you look at your dog right now, he's probably doing it. In three days, my poor pup will not even resemble a Christmas tree, which at least has ornamental balls. No, they cut those little bobbles right out of there, which will make Newman the Roger Clemens of his canine play group---no hits, no runs, no balls. Prior to Newman having this operation, I switched veterinarians and I'll tell you why. Dr....ummmm....let's call him Dolittle to protect the innocent, is a very nice man. A very nice, elderly gentleman who has been a vet for over 30 years. We visited him a total of three times with Newman, once for a meet and greet and then for Newman's last two sets of shots. On each occasion, Dr. Dolittle regaled us with a fascinating story. Unfortunately, it was the same story on each visit. I am now intimately aware of some poor breeder who's three female Labs all had litters at the same time and she is now caring for 28 puppies. I believe Dr. Dolittle was going to repeat the story for every pup that was born. It was as though he was meeting us for the first time every time we came into the office and I felt as though I was trapped in a bad version of "Ground Hog Day". On the first visit, he was introduced to Newman, on the second visit he asked "now who's this cute little guy?" and on the third visit he said "you know, about a month ago, I met another Newman who looks just like this one". I didn't actually want this man operating on Newman's privates and in the middle of the operation think that he was supposed to be docking his tail or something. So our new vet is Dr.....uhhh.....Ballard and I liked him instantly, mostly because he referred to the neutering as "the elimination of Mr. Planter's Nuts". Maybe he thinks it will be easier on me if I envision Newman on the operating table wearing a



top hat and monocle to give the impression that this is a formal black-tie dinner party and not a demonstration of his Ginsu knives. Personally, I am not in the least bit worried about this operation, but Dave is another story. This looming surgery is delicately referred to in our house as "The Voldemort Procedure" because it has been deemed "that which cannot be named" due to the horror and dread it incites. (For those of you who have been living in a cave for the last couple of years, go read all five Harry Potter books and then come back to this article.) I do believe that Dave is having the male equivalent of sympathy labour, because he cries out in anguish every time The Voldemort Procedure is mentioned. Dave was curiously gleeful when our cat endured the same fate and actually wanted to observe the procedure from the operating room theatre while scarfing down a bucket of popcorn and a bottomless Slurpee. But this is different – his "best friend", his little buddy, his snoring companion is scheduled for intricate slicing and dicing so "Dee, keep your voice down!" he hisses at me while covering Newman's ears with his hands. When The Voldemort Procedure is mentioned, Dave crosses his legs and makes a face as if he's just bitten into a lemon. Not only does he want to accompany Newman to the vet's that morning, but he also wants to hold his paw throughout the surgery and have the soothing tones of Enya playing on a loud-speaker while a Japanese serenity fountain gurgles in the background. When this drama is finally over, all but one of the males in our house will be calmer, less prone to cancer, less aggressive and will hopefully stop mounting the pizza delivery guy. I'm sure in time, Newman will eventually forget that he even had two built-in playmates hanging around the house. Dave is going to need a little longer to recover, I think, and will possibly require grief counselling. He's gotten into this pitiful habit of playing Bon Jovi's "Never Say Goodbye" on the stereo, while mournfully petting Newman's head. This interspecies male bonding touches my heart, but I had to draw the line and teach Dave about "boundaries" when he proposed a sentimental keepsake hanging from the rear-view mirror. I know that thousands of dogs endure this operation every single day, but it always seems more traumatic when it's happening to YOUR dog. You worry about the surgery, the anaesthetic, the stitches, his recovery and whether or not the other dogs at the clinic are laughing behind his back

because size does matter. But I know that Newman will be a courageous little trooper because, for the moment, he's still got pretty big ba....I mean, he is exceptionally brave.

Dee Clair, Calgary, Alberta, Canada

Dwarfism in Labradors

Jack Vanderwyk
LabradorNet

For many years there has been a known genetic link between eye defects known as "Focal Retinal Dysplasia" and skeletal abnormalities known as dwarfism. The particular combination of symptoms is mainly found in field trial strains of Labrador retrievers.

Retinal dysplasia is the most important retinal disease affecting Labrador Retrievers used for hunting and field trial work. Retinal dysplasia is a widespread inherited condition in the Labrador. During CERF clinics in Minnesota, there is a 10 to 20% incidence in the Labradors examined. Most dogs have the mild form of the disease. The condition is congenital and may or may not be associated with retinal detachment depending on the extent. (It is relatively uncommon in lines of Labradors used for conformation work.) It is important to be aware of this eye disease.

Retinal dysplasia involves abnormal development of several structures of the visual system. Dogs may be very mildly affected and demonstrate folds in the retina. These are areas where extra retina develops and instead of forming a thin membrane over the back surface of the eye, the extra retina develops into folds. This fold results in a blind spot. Often times the retina is also undernourished and an area of retinal degeneration will occur. Dogs with mild changes (i.e. a few retinal folds), usually have no visual compromise. Subtle changes on the part of the dog, on the positioning of the head while marking a bird, help affected Labradors make use of normal areas of the retina. Larger blind spots may cause dogs to miss a mark or miss stationary objects, while these dogs are able to perceive moving objects with less difficulty. Labradors with a more severe form of retinal dysplasia may result in blindness due to large areas of retinal folds or degeneration. Retinal detachment can also develop resulting in blindness. The more severe form of retinal dysplasia can occur with retinal separation, cataracts, and eye enlargement in dogs which inherit the gene from both the bitch and stud dogs. These dogs also may suffer

from skeletal dysplasia or dwarfism, as the same gene for retinal dysplasia (which works in a dominant fashion for the eyes) cause skeletal dysplasia (in a recessive fashion).

Retinal dysplasia in Labradors is the result of a dominant gene. Dogs with only a single dose of the genetic information usually develops the mild form of the condition with retinal folds. These folds can be seen early in life. Because retinal dysplasia is a dominant trait for the eyes, a concentrated effort should be made by dog enthusiasts, by careful selection of dogs for breeding, who do not come from lines with the condition and by using dogs who were examined at an early age and found to be clear. Examination of a two year old dog prior to breeding does not necessarily prevent the introduction of this condition into your line of dogs because very small folds noted at an early age can "straighten out" with growth, making the condition clinically impossible to diagnose in the older dog, although the dog has genetic information to produce other dogs with mild to severe forms of retinal dysplasia. Most of the dogs that are mildly affected suffer no visual compromises and can make excellent hunting dogs or pets.

There are two forms of retinal dysplasia found in Labrador retrievers; one (Retinal Dysplasia-complete) which is found predominantly in dogs of European descent and the other (retina Dysplasia-folds) found in dogs with predominantly American field trial bloodlines. The European form is inherited as an autosomal recessive gene and only affects vision.

The American form is inherited as an incompletely dominant trait with recessive effects on the skeleton resulting in abnormalities of limb development (short-limbed dwarfism). Dogs which receive two recessive genes for this defect (one from each parent) will exhibit retinal detachment which will result in blindness; however, dogs receiving only one recessive gene for this defect (one parent contributes the recessive gene for this defect and one parent contributes the gene for normal retinal development) will develop retinal folds of a non-progressive nature and, therefore, may have normal to slightly impaired vision. In this disease, three different ocular phenotypes are present (normal, localized retinal dysplasia (retinal folds), and complete retinal detachment) and two different skeletal phenotypes are present (normal or dwarf). This is an inherited condition, whose mode of transmission is as follows: Call N the normal gene and rd the gene for retinal dysplasia.

N x N normal eyes, normal skeleton
 + N x rd classic symptoms, retinal folds, normal skeleton + rd x rd dwarfism, eye problems/blindness, skeletal problems

The gene acts as an autosomal recessive in regards to dwarfism, but acts as though it were dominant when only one parent passes on the gene to its offspring.

If we bred NN x Nrd we would expect half of the puppies to be affected the others normal. If we bred Nrd x Nrd we would expect the following:

1/4 normal
 + 1/2 afflicted carriers, can be identified in puppies
 + 1/4 dwarf
 that the ocular and skeletal defects are inherited together, and that the skeletal effects act as a recessive trait and the ocular effects act as an incomplete dominant trait. This implies that 1) any Labrador with any type of RD is a carrier for dwarfism, and 2) at least one of the two parents of puppies with RD is a carrier for dwarfism. Retinal folds may disappear with age, so an accurate evaluation for RD requires that puppies be evaluated, ideally between 8 and 10 weeks of age. In mild cases of retinal dysplasia, sight is probably not affected much, if at all. In severe cases, skeletal abnormalities are present.

A study published by Carrig, Sponenberg, Schmidt and Tvedten in the November 1988 volume of the veterinary journal JAVMA has shown that "carriers" of the dwarfism gene can often be detected by expert eye exams. Your local veterinarian will not be able to pick this up, but the specialists who do CERF exams (widely known for PRA check-ups) can detect "folds" in the retina of a carrier dog's eye using special tools. The new findings show that an otherwise normal-looking dog that carries the dwarfism gene usually has retinal folds that are visible with these instruments. (The board that certifies ophthalmologists, ACVO, American College of Veterinary Ophthalmologists, with member addresses around the country can be obtained from the Canine Eye Registry Foundation, South Campus Courts, Building C, Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN 47907) If your pup has a normal skeleton and does not have these folds on clinical exam by a veterinary ophthalmologist, the chances are very good that he or she does not carry the dwarfism gene. It's not perfect, but in the carefully controlled scientific study only one dog out of twenty four that was a known carrier did not have clinically detectable folds.

The test can have both "false positives" and "false negatives." In general clinical observation, folds could be missed, especially if they are near a retinal blood vessel. Moreover, folds tend to fade in older dogs, so might be detected in a young dog, but missed in an older dog. Finally, folds can be present in a dog's eye for other reasons, so presence of folds is not conclusive proof that the dog carries this gene. Neither is freedom from clinically observable folds absolutely conclusive proof that the dog is free of the gene. Conclusive proof can be obtained by test breeding to a homozygous affected dog, but this involves keeping a blind dwarf dog to breed to and then "sacrificing" the puppies in order to dissect and microscopically examine the eyes. By contrast, the eye exam is a simple procedure that takes only minutes (but must be done by a specialist.) The odds of 24 to 1 are pretty good under those circumstances! Perhaps in time veterinary ophthalmologists will be able to come close to those odds in general clinical observation.

At present it appears that the most reliable eye exams for drd can be obtained on pups between the ages of 6 weeks and 6 months, with 14 weeks optimal. This will pick up cases of retinal folds that fade later in the dog's life. I do not have statistics on how many dogs will show folds as puppies and later appear clear, but I suspect that this is common. I know rumors that this has happened with some famous dogs and have seen slides of a pup with clear folds that faded to being nearly undetectable a year later. Eye exams later in the dog's life are not as accurate for drd, but are important for the detection of other late-onset eye disorders such as PRA and cataracts. So check them young, check them middle and check them at 4 or 5.

If you suspect that your dog has produced a dwarf, you might want to get a specialist opinion, exams from both an ophthalmologist and an orthopedist to confirm drd. If a pup is a true dwarf, both parents are carriers. (Retinal folds in your pups indicate drd, but are not conclusive proof.) The new findings of Carrig, et al, show that the dwarfism gene is dominant for the retinal folds that an ophthalmologist can detect. A heterozygous dog may be functionally fine and several field champions are reported to be carriers. The heterozygous gene has an "incompletely dominant effect," meaning that the extent of visual impairment varies from symptoms an owner might notice down to clinically undetectable folds. Special exams can usually detect the folds in pups. (In one case of twenty four in the study, a known carrier

had clinically undetectable folds that could be detected when the dog's eye was dissected and examined under a microscope.) Top stud dogs or brood bitches that will be bred often could still be test bred for dwarfism to obtain conclusive proof. Also, a dog that has retinal folds, which the owner suspects may come from a cause other than drd, can be test bred to rule drd out as the cause.

A homozygous drd-gene dog usually has severely affected eyes with the retina even detached and floating. They may have cataracts, persistent hyaloid remnants and severe enough additional defects that they are mis-diagnosed in the sense that their eye defects are not attributed to the drd gene. Homozygous dogs are all reported to have abnormal skeletons - dwarfism in the sense of front shoulders lower than rear - a sort of 'bulldog' appearance. In other words, drd is recessive for dwarfism. (One dwarfed dog, out of 59, had clinically normal eyes, but all homozygotes were dwarfed and no heterozygotes were.) The new findings also show that this gene is not sex linked. For years breeders have treated this condition as a recessive - and it is in the sense of its severe effects. The dominant expression of small retinal folds, often unnoticed by the dog's owner, is the new finding. Such carrier dogs may lead a successful life of retrieving, but should not be bred. Now we can find important clues before we breed. The test isn't perfect, but the good news is that eyes clear of retinal folds means that the puppy has good odds of being free of drd while retinal folds means we should suspect drd.

Some questions remain besides the practical matters of bringing the test into clinical practice. For example, there is a suspicion that carrier dogs tend to be abnormally large. This has not been proved and may never be, since probably many very large dogs are not carriers. Breeders report to me that when they have had litters with dwarfism and severe eye defects, the whole litter is affected and with many complications - stillbirths, highly varying size of the pups, difficult delivery... The study cited above suggests that some pups in these litters, the heterozygous, should have normal skeletons and only the mild eye defects of retinal folds. I would very much appreciate learning additional information of this kind from breeders. This information might not have been obtained under scientifically controlled conditions, but could help shed further light on an important genetic defect in our friend the Labrador retriever.

Do Dogs Laugh?

We know when our dogs are happy, sad or frightened, but do they laugh?

Charles Darwin, father of the theory of the evolution, once tackled this question in his book, *The Expression of the Emotions in Man and Animals*, published in 1872.

He noted that "the upper lip during the act of grinning is retracted, as in snarling, so that the canines are exposed ... but the general appearance of the animal clearly shows that anger is not felt." He concluded that though some people "speak of the grin as a smile," he personally could never verify that claim, much less actual laughter.



Blastomycosis **There could be a fungus among us** **Introduction**

--By Kathleen R. Hutton DVM--

Blastomycosis is an infection found in dogs, people, and occasionally cats. It is caused by the fungal organism *Blastomyces dermatitidis*, which is found as a mold in the soil or at room temperatures and as a yeast in tissues or at body temperatures. The mold occurs in sandy, acid soils near river valleys or other waterways. Endemic in Ohio, Mississippi, and St. Lawrence river valleys, the Great lakes region, and along the eastern seaboard, veterinarians report blastomycosis more frequently in the fall.

While any dog may contract blastomycosis under the right circumstances, certain populations are at greater risk. These include the hunting and sporting breeds since their use involves exposure to soil in wet areas, and young adult dogs, which are more likely to be used in hunting or field trials than old dogs or pups. For unknown reasons, male dogs are more likely to contract blastomycosis than females. One study found that, while female dogs may have better survival rates with therapy, they are more likely to suffer relapses than males.

So, while all dogs are susceptible to blastomycosis, those at greatest risk for infection are two-to-four

year old intact males of hunting or sporting breeds that weigh 50-75 pounds and are exposed to river valleys or lakes during late summer or fall.

The disease process

Dogs usually acquire blastomycosis by inhaling the spores from the soil into the lungs, where it induces a self-limiting pulmonary infection. Direct inoculation of the spores into the skin through puncture wounds may cause local cutaneous infection. By far, the most common form of blastomycosis seen by veterinarians is the generalized or disseminated form, which spreads via the bloodstream or lymphatic system from the lungs to involve the eyes, brain, bone, lymph nodes, urogenital system, skin, and subcutaneous tissues. The clinical signs of blastomycosis may vary with the target organs affected and may include one or all of the following: anorexia, depression, weight loss, fever (103 degrees or higher) that doesn't respond to antibiotics, coughing, shortness of breath, exercise intolerance, enlarged lymph nodes, eye disease, or skin lesions that drain bloody or purulent material.

Diagnosis

Diagnosis of blastomycosis involves finding the yeast organism in samples from draining skin lesions or a lymph node. Chest x-rays and a complete blood count (CBC) are important tests but are not diagnostic by themselves. Serum chemistries are usually within normal limits. Fungal titers confirm the diagnosis and help differentiate blastomycosis from histoplasmosis, a related fungal condition with similar signs and geographic distribution.

About 65 percent of dogs diagnosed with blastomycosis do survive. Because the treatment is long, complicated, and expensive with the potential for serious side effects, some owners elect to euthanize affected pets. In treated dogs, survival rates are approximately 85 percent, with up to 25 percent suffering relapses. Dogs with brain or eye involvement have a worse prognosis, and dogs with poor liver or kidney function may not be able to tolerate the necessary medications that must be metabolized by these organs. If an eye is involved, it usually must be removed since eyes don't respond well to therapy and serve as a source of infection.

Treatment

For many years, the standard therapy for blastomycosis has been amphotericin B. It is still the best choice for acute, life-threatening illness, and treated dogs show improvement in three to five

days. Amphotericin must be given as an intravenous injection, either as a slow IV drip over several hours or as rapid IV bolus injections, one to three times weekly until a maximum cumulative dose is reached. Rapid injections increase the potential for acute drug reactions, and the drug has a toxic effect on kidney function, which requires close monitoring. The veterinarian may temporarily delay therapy while the kidneys recover from the injury.

Ketoconazole given orally twice a day has been effective against blastomycosis. Although it may take 10-14 days to see clinical improvement with this drug, it may be useful in a dog with poor kidney function and a mild form of the disease. Given alone, ketoconazole has a lower cure rate than amphotericin, but when given together, the two drugs work synergistically, allowing veterinarians to use lower doses of amphotericin and minimize the risk of kidney failure as well as promoting a more rapid and complete cure. The side effects of ketoconazole are related to liver toxicity and include anorexia, nausea, and vomiting. It can be harmful to pregnant dogs and may also affect the fertility of male dogs.

Itraconazole is the newest drug used to treat blastomycosis. It is given orally twice a day at first, then once daily for 60-90 days. Like amphotericin, it takes effect quickly, and has the same cure rate as the amphotericin-ketoconazole combination. The side effects are related to liver toxicity, like ketoconazole, with the addition of ulcerative skin lesions and swelling of the legs at the higher dose. The biggest drawback to itraconazole is the cost, about \$10 per day for a 40-pound dog for the medication alone, about twice the cost of ketoconazole. Because these drugs are dosed on body weight, larger dogs will have comparably larger drug costs. Blood tests and other veterinary services must also be considered in the cost of treatment. Total fees of \$1000 or more would not be unusual.

Blastomycosis is not generally considered a zoonotic disease, meaning one that is potentially contagious to people. If you have a pet with this infection, it indicates that you may be at risk for contracting the disease through a common environmental source such as contaminated soil near a waterway. Since it is the mold form that releases infective spores through the air, you cannot get blastomycosis from the air around your dog who is infected with the yeast form of the fungus. Recent studies indicate some risk of exposure through penetrating wounds with sharp contami-

nated objects such as a sharp stick or a dog bite, so good safety and hygiene precautions are indicated. Needless to say, persons with deficient immune systems should not be handling infected dogs.

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Norma Bennett Woolf

(<http://www.canismajor.com/dog/>)

Dr. Michael Fox's Homemade 'Natural' Dietary Supplement for Dogs

- 2 cups uncooked whole grain rice (or barley, rolled oats, or pasta noodles)
- Pinch of salt
- 1 T. vegetable oil (flax seed oil* or safflower oil)
- 1 T. wheat germ
- 1 T. cider vinegar
- 1 t. brewer's yeast
- 1 t. calcium carbonate/citrate/ or lactate
- 1 t. dried kelp
- 1 lb. lean hamburger, or ground lamb, mutton, or one whole chicken or half of a small turkey.

Combine all above ingredients. Add water to cover ingredients, simmer, stir, and add more water as needed until cooked. De-bone chicken parts and do not feed cooked bones since they can splinter and cause internal injury. The recipe should be thick to be molded into patties (add oat bran or meal to help thicken). Mix well into the stew while it is still very hot, a cup full of raw, grated carrots, sweet potato or yam.. Serve 1 cup full of this recipe for a 30 lb. dog with the rest of his/her rations, and freeze the rest into patties and store in the freezer. Serve thawed, or frozen to gnaw on outdoors in hot weather.

For variation, you can use cottage cheese, plus well-cooked lentils, chick peas (garbanzo beans), lima beans or other pulses, or a dozen eggs as meat alternatives. Don't forget, lightly cooked, or if organically certified, raw calf and beef liver, heart and kidneys are good sources of animal protein. All pet food ingredients, ideally, should be organically certified. (Note: some dogs are allergic or hypersensitive to some foods, especially soy, beef, eggs, wheat and dairy products.).

T = Tablespoon

t = teaspoon

* Add flax seed oil after the cooked food has cooled down to room temperature.

For dogs under 30 lb, and for over-weight and less active dogs, use 1 cup of uncooked rice in the recipe.

--THE ABOVE RECIPE CAN ALSO BE FED AS A COMPLETE MEAL RATHER THAN AS A SUPPLEMENT.---MIX INCREASING AMOUNTS OF YOUR DOG'S NEW FOOD WITH DECREASING AMOUNTS OF THE OLD FOOD OVER A 7-DAY PERIOD TO ENABLE ADAPTIATION AND AVOID POSSIBLE DIGESTIVE UPSET.--- IT IS ADVISABLE TO VARY THE BASIC INGREDIENTS TO PROVIDE VARIETY AND TO AVOID POSSIBLE NUTRITIONAL IMBALANCES, AND TO MONITOR THE ANIMAL'S BODY CONDITION SO AS TO AVOID EITHER OVER-FEEDING OR UNDER-FEEDING, BASED ON THE AVERAGE DOG CONSUMING ONE CUPFULL OF THE FOOD TWICE DAILY PER 30 POUNDS BODY WEIGHT.

--NOTE: DIFFERENT ANIMALS HAVE SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT NUTRITIONAL NEEDS ACCORDING TO AGE, TEMPERAMENT, AMOUNT OF PHYSICAL ACTIVITY AND HEALTH STATUS.

*** Large dogs require less food per pound body weight, so adjust according to appetite and weight gain, and especially if deep-chested and prone to bloat, give 3-4 smaller meals per day.***
 Keep teeth clean by getting dogs, especially toy breeds, used to a daily brushing. The best and safest natural tooth-cleaner is a raw, scalded (to kill off bacteria) 3-4 inch piece of beef shank/ soup/ marrow bone.

Home-prepared foods for our animal companions, ideally with organic ingredients that were locally produced, are important because you then know what your animal is being fed if a food-related health problem such as an allergy to a particular ingredient or digestive upset were to arise. With most processed commercial pet foods containing all kinds of human food-industry by-products and ingredients considered unfit/unsafe for human consumption, many of questionable nutritional value after repeated processing, you just don't know. Aside from coloring agents that may cause problems other than saliva-staining of animals' faces, and paws, most commercial pet foods contain artificial preservatives like BHA that is linked with cancer of the bladder and stomach; BHT that may cause cancer of the bladder and thyroid gland; and Ethoxyquin, one of Monsanto's many allegedly harmful products that renderers (meat and poultry processors) add to the fat/tallow that is put into pet foods to prevent rancidity. Ethoxyquin is a recognized hazardous chemical, a highly

toxic pesticide. Most pet food manufacturers have recently phased out using BHA and BHT and now use 'mixed tocopherols' (a claimed source or form of vitamin E), citric acid, beta-carotene and Rosemary extract as preservatives.

*Michael W. Fox, D.Sc., Ph.D.,
B. Vet. Med., MRCVS*

<http://tedeboy.tripod.com/drmichaelwfox/index.html>

Early Spay-Neuter Considerations for the Canine Athlete One Veterinarian's Opinion

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Those of us with responsibility for the health of canine athletes need to continually read and evaluate new scientific studies to ensure that we are taking the most appropriate care of our performance dogs. This article provides evidence through a number of recent studies to suggest that veterinarians and owners working with canine athletes should revisit the standard protocol in which all dogs that are not intended for breeding are spayed and neutered at or before 6 months of age.

Orthopedic Considerations

A study by Salmeri *et al* in 1991 found that bitches spayed at 7 weeks grew significantly taller than those spayed at 7 months, who were taller than those not spayed (or presumably spayed after the growth plates had closed).(1) A study of 1444 Golden Retrievers performed in 1998 and 1999 also found bitches and dogs spayed and neutered at less than a year of age were significantly taller than those spayed or neutered at more than a year of age.(2) The sex hormones, by communicating with a number of other growth-related hormones, promote the closure of the growth plates at puberty (3), so the bones of dogs or bitches neutered or spayed before puberty continue to grow. Dogs that have been spayed or neutered well before puberty can frequently be identified by their longer limbs, lighter bone structure, narrow chests and narrow skulls. This abnormal growth frequently results in significant alterations in body proportions and particularly the lengths (and therefore weights) of certain bones relative to others. For example, if the femur has achieved its genetically determined normal length at 8 months when a dog

gets spayed or neutered, but the tibia, which normally stops growing at 12 to 14 months of age continues to grow, then an abnormal angle may develop at the stifle. In addition, with the extra growth, the lower leg below the stifle likely becomes heavier (because it is longer), and may cause increased stresses on the cranial cruciate ligament. In addition, sex hormones are critical for achieving peak bone density.(4) These structural and physiological alterations may be the reason why at least one recent study showed that spayed and neutered dogs had a higher incidence of CCL rupture.(5) Another recent study showed that dogs spayed or neutered before 5 1/2 months had a significantly higher incidence of hip dysplasia than those spayed or neutered after 5 1/2 months of age, although it should be noted that in this study there were no standard criteria for the diagnosis of hip dysplasia.(6) Nonetheless, breeders of pure-bred dogs should be cognizant of these studies and should consider whether or not pups they bred were spayed or neutered when considering breeding decisions.

Cancer Considerations

A retrospective study of cardiac tumors in dogs showed that there was a 5 times greater risk of hemangiosarcoma, one of the three most common cancers in dogs, in spayed bitches than intact bitches and a 2.4 times greater risk of hemangiosarcoma in neutered dogs as compared to intact males.(7) A study of 3218 dogs demonstrated that dogs that were neutered before a year of age had a significantly increased chance of developing bone cancer.(8) A separate study showed that neutered dogs had a two-fold higher risk of developing bone cancer.(9) Despite the common belief that neutering dogs helps prevent prostate cancer, at least one study suggests that neutering provides no benefit.(10) There certainly is evidence of a slightly increased risk of mammary cancer in female dogs after one heat cycle, and for increased risk with each subsequent heat. While about 30 % of mammary cancers are malignant, as in humans, when caught and surgically removed early the prognosis is very good.(12) Luckily, canine athletes are handled frequently and generally receive prompt veterinary care.

Behavioral Considerations

The study that identified a higher incidence of cranial cruciate ligament rupture in spayed or neutered dogs also identified an increased incidence of sexual behaviors in males and females that were neutered early.(5) Further, the study that identified a higher incidence of hip dysplasia in dogs neutered or spayed before 5 1/2 months also

showed that early age gonadectomy was associated with an increased incidence of noise phobias and undesirable sexual behaviors.(6) A recent report of the American Kennel Club Canine Health Foundation reported significantly more behavioral problems in spayed and neutered bitches and dogs. The most commonly observed behavioral problem in spayed females was fearful behavior and the most common problem in males was aggression.(12)

Other Health Considerations

A number of studies have shown that there is an increase in the incidence of female urinary incontinence in dogs spayed early (13), although this finding has not been universal. Certainly there is evidence that ovarian hormones are critical for maintenance of genital tissue structure and contractility.(14, 15) Neutering also has been associated with an increased likelihood of urethral sphincter incontinence in males.(16) This problem is an inconvenience, and not usually life-threatening, but nonetheless one that requires the dog to be medicated for life. A health survey of several thousand Golden Retrievers showed that spayed or neutered dogs were more likely to develop hypothyroidism.(2) This study is consistent with the results of another study in which neutering and spaying was determined to be the most significant gender-associated risk factor for development of hypothyroidism.(17) Infectious diseases were more common in dogs that were spayed or neutered at 24 weeks or less as opposed to those undergoing gonadectomy at more than 24 weeks.(18) Finally, the AKC-CHF report demonstrated a higher incidence of adverse reactions to vaccines in neutered dogs as compared to intact.(12)



I have gathered these studies to show that our practice of routinely spaying or neutering every dog at or before the age of 6 months is not a black-and-white issue. Clearly more studies need to be done to evaluate the effects of prepubertal spaying and neutering, particularly in canine athletes.

Currently, I have significant concerns with spaying or neutering canine athletes before puberty. But of course, there is the pet overpopulation problem. How can we prevent the production of unwanted dogs while still leaving the gonads to produce the hormones that are so important to canine growth and development? One answer would be to per-

form vasectomies in males and tubal ligation in females, to be followed after maturity by ovariectomy in females to prevent mammary cancer and pyometra. One possible disadvantage is that vasectomy does not prevent some unwanted behaviors associated with males such as marking and humping. On the other hand, females and neutered males frequently participate in these behaviors too. Really, training is the best solution for these issues. Another possible disadvantage is finding a veterinarian who is experienced in performing these procedures. Nonetheless, some do, and if the procedures were in greater demand, more veterinarians would learn them.

I believe it is important that we assess each situation individually. For canine athletes, I currently recommend that dogs and bitches be spayed or neutered after 14 months of age.

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**Permission to reprint given by Chris Zink
DVM, PhD, DACVP**

www.caninesports.com

Heartworm Treatments

When deciding which heartworm treatment method to use, you need to take into account the age of your dog, his level of activity, and the severity of the infestation.

There are three conventional methods of treating heartworm: a “fast kill” method using Immiticide (Melarsomine); a “slow kill” method employing Heartgard (Ivermectin); and a surgical method in which the worms are surgically removed from the arteries. In addition, there are so-called holistic treatments such as Paratox Homeopathic or herbal preparations.

Immiticide (fast kill)

Standard treatment with Immiticide consists of giving two injections 24 hours apart, then keeping the dog strictly confined for the next four to six weeks. The injections must be given in a painful location – the muscle close to the dog’s spine in the lumbar (lower back) area. The worms start to die immediately. As their bodies begin to decompose, pieces are “shed” into the dog’s bloodstream

and filtered out through the dog’s lungs. This can cause the dog to cough and gag, or lead to a fatal pulmonary embolism.

The dog must be kept confined and his physical exertion kept to an absolute minimum. This generally means that the dog must be kept crated or penned and allowed out to potty only on a leash. Aspirin may be prescribed to lower the risk of blood clots, though this is controversial. Remember that it’s dangerous to combine aspirin with any other nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drug (NSAID) or with prednisone, and to give it only with food.

Heartgard (slow kill)

The “slow kill” method, which is a newer approach, consists of giving the dog Heartgard on a monthly basis. This heartworm preventative medication has some effect against the adult worms and should gradually eliminate them over a period of one to two years; without treatment, the worms can live up to five years. The earlier the treatment is started after infection, the more quickly it will work to eliminate the adult worms. Note that only Heartgard (Ivermectin) should be used, as Revolution (selamectin) affects far fewer adult worms, and Interceptor (Milbemycin oxime) almost none at all.

Although this method is gentler than the use of Immiticide, the danger from the dying worms is still present, and for a much longer period. A recent Italian study showed that pet dogs (as opposed to the caged laboratory dogs this method had been tested on before) did get pulmonary emboli and some of the dogs died of it. The more active the dog, the higher the risk.

Other heartworm treatments

Surgical methods of heartworm removal require specialized training and instrumentation, and are generally reserved for high-risk patients who would not otherwise be expected to survive. The surgery is followed by one of the standard treatments a few weeks later to kill any remaining worms.

So-called alternative methods to kill heartworms, such as Paratox, are no safer than conventional drugs, since they rely on the exact same action – they kill the larvae/worms in the bloodstream. It is the death of the worms that causes the greatest danger to dogs during treatment.

The decision of how to treat a heartworm-infected dog is not an easy one, and is best made after consulting with your veterinarian regarding the safest method to use for your dog.

It's the Dog's Honest Truth- Canine Facts and Myths

By Maryan Pelland

Here's a quiz. Is Sirius a Harry Potter character?

What are dog days? Which statements are dog gone true and which Fido false?

Barking dogs, says the old platitude, seldom bite. Hard to say if that's true or false, and most of us don't want to test the theory. But test yourself and see how much you know about the ways dogs have influenced our culture. The domestic bond between us and them may reach 100,000 years into history and is, indeed, very special.

- In the night sky, three stars of Orion's belt lead your eye to the dog star. Which is the dog star?
a) Canus Major b) Sirius c) Basenji d) Cerberus
- Who is the terrifying three-headed dog who guards the gates of Hell?
a) Canus Major b) Wolfen c) Cerberus d) Zooma
- What's the only breed of dog that has no ability to bark?
a) Basenji b) Alsatian c) American Hairless Terrier d) trick question
- What constellation is thought to be a huge dog following his master, Orion, across the sky?
a) Canis Major b) Canis Minor c) Canine constellation d) Wolfus Maximus
- In Australia what canine nickname is given to extremely cold weather?
a) dog days b) colder than a dog's nose c) doggone freezing d) three dog night
- About how many puppies are born in the U.S. annually?
a) 5 thousand b) 50 thousand c) 500 thousand d) 5 million
- What doggie name is given to the hottest days of August?
a) hotdog weather b) dog gone steam bath c) dog days d) doggie steam bath
- What is a "hair of the dog that bit you"?
a) cure for a hangover b) evidence for a law suit c) cure for dog bite d) none of these
- According to legend what baseball team fans were the first introduced to hot dogs?
a) Chicago Cubs b) St. Louis Browns c) Cleveland

Indians d) Washington Senators

10 In what ancient kingdom did dogs live in temples guarding ancient wisdom?

- a) Ottoman Empire b) Rome c) Incan Empire d) Egypt

11 What phrase admonishes us not to talk about troubles of the past?

- a) let sleeping dogs lie b) put on the right dog c) don't kick a dog when he's down d) put old dogs to rest

ANSWERS:

1. Sirius, located on Canis Major's shoulder. The brightest in the heavens. In Greek, Sirius means sparkling and scorching. It's closest to the sun during the height of summer. 2. Cerberus. In mythology Hercules had to kidnap this monster as his twelfth labor. 3. Trick question - most would say Basenji. A champion quality Basenji shouldn't bark, though the breed isn't mute. We don't know of a mute breed. 4. Canis Major, or, the Great Dog. 5. Three dog night because it takes three dogs to keep a shepherd warm on the coldest nights. 6. Five million. An amazing number and a good reason to spay and neuter. Different sources differ on the exact number. 7. Dog days - it was once thought the Dog Star, Sirius, caused hot days during August - the dog days of summer. 8. Cure a hangover - by drinking more. About as logical as the phrase's origin - eating the hair of a mad dog would cure rabies. 9. The Browns. In 1893, team owner Chris Von de Ahe reportedly introduced hot dogs to fans. Maybe that's where the Brown's "dog pound" came from? 10. Egypt. There are still wild, vicious dogs at the temples guarding ancient secrets. 11. Let sleeping dogs lie - don't mess with something that's likely to cause more trouble.

Scoring: 1 to 3 correct, you might be a cat person. 4-6 correct, like most of us, you've absorbed doglore through osmosis. 7-9 Wow! You really know your dog stuff. And 10 or 11 correct is totally impressive. You're either a veterinarian or you need some new hobbies!

Maryan Pelland writes for numerous print and electronic publications. Her Website is

www.digitalgrandparent.com

Please also check out these sites:

www.demystifyingdigital.com/blogs/

[digitalgrandparent](http://digitalgrandparent.com) and

www.womendaybyday.com.

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The Chino Chronicles: "Part 2A, The First Hunt"

Jason Brown

It was only as we pulled into line at the border check station between Saskatchewan and Montana in the middle of nowhere that I paused. Realizing how many times I've crossed at this little two lane highway customs building is when memories of years past started to flutter through my head. Since October of 1993, I've been blessed with the great fortune of traveling to south central Saskatchewan each year for no less than 7 days and luckily closer to 10 days of bird hunting. Other than election years, being deployed overseas, or the birth of my daughter, I've spent a solid week each fall chasing both waterfowl and upland birds. However this trip would be the first of many new hunts for *Chino* and I. My hopes were high but I knew there would be a learning curve for both of us during the upcoming week. Over the last few weeks, I had purposely intensified our training sessions and their frequency in preparation for this hunt. Geese, ducks, Hungarian Partridge, and Sharp-Tailed Grouse would make up the main course of our shot gunning diet over the next week.

Arriving at our destination on a Friday afternoon after a long twenty-three hour drive from Kansas City, we were exhausted, but there was still time to hunt if we hurried. So we stopped at the local Esso station to purchase licenses, then quickly checked into our motel, grabbed our afternoon duck gear and headed out to find a pothole to gun for the evening flight. However our excitement was soon checked by the reality that we hadn't encountered in more than a decade. The drought we'd heard about was real. Driving past pothole after pothole, the sun and dust began to choke our dreams. Not only was it warmer than usual for the third week of October in Saskatchewan, but it was dry, too. My memories of more than thirteen years were fading quickly along with hopes of hunting my new partner on those very wetlands that his predecessors had spent so many hunts together with me. After driving for nearly an hour, two small but accessible potholes were acquired. Chino and I would take the one closer to the dirt road and the other two adult hunters (well at least in age) would four-wheel back to the far water returning after shooting time to pick Chino and I up. Right away I believe Chino knew what was about to happen as I donned my waders. Securing my gun, duck bag,

and a sack of decoys from the suburban, I unleashed twenty-three hours of kenneled joy onto the unsuspecting prairie. At first it was almost as if he froze, looking about. Seeing nothing but wheat fields as far as possible can affect anyone. But for Chino that moment was absorbed and passed rather quickly. While you and I may look at the landscape and become melancholy, dogs only see a never-ending backyard with no fences. And he was off. I stood there watching him run this way and that way, probably looking for a fire hydrant, tree, vehicle, building, and heck anything to hike a leg on! He finally settled on an indiscriminate piece of grass that never saw him coming. I first thought I was going to be hunting for my dog this late afternoon, but his expression quickly turned into "what are we doing boss?" as we walked toward the water. Upon bursting through the tall reeds, two things took place almost instantly. First Chino sank chest deep into a soft bottom black muck that hadn't seen the light of day in years. Then every duck within sight jumped into the air. Winging away into the warm air of sunset, their quacks left me thankful for

having made the drive again. After doing my best to convince Chino that he couldn't catch those birds and that retrieving decoys was not productive for either of us, I firmly put his leashed stake to my back left as we chose a place in the reeds to wait. Dropping two 3 1/2 inch #4's of fast steel into my O/U Berretta, I



looked back over my left shoulder while I pronounced "sit" in a deep voice. We finally got here so please pay attention, I thought to myself. While adjusting my face mask, it was about that time when I started swatting mosquitoes. Then suddenly a pair of Green-winged Teal went screaming by left to right. Of course I swung and missed with both barrels. As Chino strained to get free I had to chuckle, life does repeat itself more often than we care to admit. About 12 years ago I brought a young Chessie up here and proceeded to miss his first birds as well. Not to sell the story short, but that was the whole excitement of the first hunt in Saskatchewan. Unbelievable as it may seem, for the hundreds of ducks we had scared up originally, those were the only two that

came back. The rest of the hunt I spent explaining to Chino that it would get better. He continued to strain against his stake and leash while giving me those, “you don’t know what you’re talking about” looks. When the sun finally set, I picked up our set and began walking out to the road for pickup. On the walk out I watched Chino poke his nose into every clump of cut wheat in the field as we crossed. I silently hoped tomorrow would bring much cooler weather and another opportunity for me to keep up my half of the deal.

Saturday morning was quite a bit cooler and a strong breeze was blowing when we awoke. In reviewing the short list of available hunting options due to lack of water and taking into account the direction of the wind, the fellows and I decided to hunt a point between two big bodies of water we had previously nicknamed the Refuge. Accidentally finding this waterhole several years prior had led to some infamous shoots over the years. The sheer number of waterfowl that called this water home was almost unimaginable and our hunts had always been good regardless of weather. We usually don’t hunt big water very much, but this trip we knew it was going to be the main course of our gunning vacation.

Turning into the proper farm trail was easy. It was driving through hood high grass with my wife’s suburban pulling a trailer full of decoys, blinds, and other assorted gear that was hard. Then “follow me” turned into “No, No, No!” became my first inkling that something was wrong. Moments later I felt the rear of the SUV shift to the right and sink. As obscenities regarding who was responsible began to fly, I looked skyward and realized the glow on the eastern horizon was getting brighter now. Putting the suburban into 4WD and rocking it back and forth (please don’t tell my wife) the whole rig finally kicked out of the “rut.” With time working against us now, my flashlight holding friend ran ahead lighting the way to the appropriate point while I drove toward the blinking light as we all bounced back and forth between the ceiling and floor of the suburban. When the grass finally parted we found ourselves on a dry point of land still fifty yards from the water’s edge. After unloading everything into one big pile of equipment, I turned the vehicle around and drove away from our setup to where terrain leveled off and changed into a cut wheat field. Another 100 yards or so into a depression in the field would be the parking spot for Mrs. Brown’s suburban during this morning’s hunt.

When Chino hit the ground, he immediately threw his nose to the wind. I reassured him quietly this hunt would not be like that of last night. As I walked up to my friends, they were just finishing the decoy placement. I quickly knelt and set up our layout ground blinds. Attaching clumps of grass to complete the proper camouflage would take several more minutes but was absolutely necessary to help hide us on this barren point. Time can move slowly during the darkness, but this morning found us just finishing everything a few minutes before legal shooting. Settling into my blind with Chino once again staked to my back left, I heard the first wings of the morning cutting air as a small group of birds went feet down right into the decoys. No matter how long I hunt or how old I get, the screeching sound of those feathers cutting air will always raise the hair on the back of my neck. Turning my head to the left I asked how many minutes until shooting time. The reply quickly came “about 4 more.” This broke the silence causing the birds to lift off the water and squawk away. When the sun was just breaking the horizon behind us, a pair of big birds swung into the decoys. “Take-em!” was followed by three simultaneous shots as two big mallards fell with mighty splashes. Chino strained and barked as I turned to release him. The tie down stake was half out of the ground when I pushed down on the quick release and he jetted into the waves. His first few steps were followed by a lunge that would have parted the Red Sea if necessary. I guess he knew what he was supposed to be doing after all. Upon completing the first retrieve and heeling, I gently removed the first drake from his mouth, steadied him, lined him out with my left hand and uttered, “back”. Again the explosion from him



parted the water and he swam with precision to the second drake. Once firmly in his mouth, he promptly returned to my side dropping the bird at my feet. I placed him back into position and attached the staked lead

to his collar. Past experience has taught me that pups learn faster when the environment forces

them to stay in one spot. From within the huddled position of a blind I heard, "he might make a retriever after all." Smiling I concurred as the next flock appeared downwind winging their way toward us. The morning continued to repeat itself until about 0930 when we finally had our limit of 24 ducks and a bonus of 4 geese piled up on the shore next to our blinds. With jubilant smiles and high fives we began to gather equipment. What a beginning to a week that seemed so distant a year ago as I lay recovering from being wounded in Iraq. Giving Chino a well deserved rub on the head, my long time hunting buddy from Iowa said, "Sure beats sand and sweat doesn't it?" "Yes it does!" I replied as I extended my hand.

Over the next week this scene would repeat itself almost daily. Even though we didn't exactly shoot a three person limit every day and we had to hunt almost exclusively on big water, it was still a glorious time to be in Saskatchewan. Total retrieves for Chino would finally end at a tally of 118 for the trip. Not bad for a first year Lab. Oh, I almost forgot to tell you about the upland hunting. Guess we'll cover that part of the trip next issue.



LUCKY CHINO!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
The envy of Labs everywhere!!!!!!



22 December - 20 January

CAPRICORN

"Capricorn pets look old before their time."



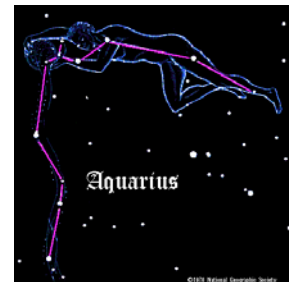
They say that Capricorn dogs look old from the moment they are born but improve with age. The sign of Capricorn favors breeds that can withstand cold climates such as St Bernards or huskies and the practical earthy nature of this sign makes them unafraid of hard work. However, because they are Saturn ruled, they may take an exceedingly long time about anything they do. Walks with a Capricorn dog can be infuriating as they forever lag behind. They are stubborn and may ignore your commands or calls.

21 January - 19 February

AQUARIUS

"If your pet is totally bonkers- it's probably an Aquarian"

"Sausages" and other smart Alec speaking parts on 'That's Life' were pioneered by Aquarian dogs for if a dog's being daft he's likely to be an Aquarian. An Aquarian dog has traits that other dogs would find strange. They'll perform in the circus, enjoy being on the TV, and may sometimes appear more human than dog. But their heart lies with their own species and they love to run with the pack albeit somewhat erratically. A happy Aquarian dog is one that is given as much freedom a possible for he just loves to be let off the leash.



I think we are drawn to dogs because they are the uninhibited creatures we might be if we weren't certain we knew better. They fight for honor at the first challenge, make love with no moral restraint, and they do not for all their marvelous instincts appear to know about death. Being such wonderfully uncomplicated beings, they need us to do their worrying.

~George Bird Evans, *Troubles with Bird Dogs*

Hunt Test Chair Report

Our hunt test, a single Junior and Senior, is scheduled for Saturday, June 14, 2008. We will also hold a WC/WCI the next day Sunday, June 15, 2008.

The paperwork, the AKC HT Application, N.Y.S. Fish and Wildlife License and Request for Cert. of Ins., is in the process of being completed. The Senior judges will be **Tom Sanfilippo and Ken Kogut**. Our Junior judges have been contacted and we await their replies.

The Microtel at Baldwinsville has reserved a block of 15 rooms (which gave us the best possible rate) for the weekend of the HT – Arrivals June 13 and checkout June 15 (2 nights), for the rate of \$60.00 per night for 2 double beds and \$50.00 per night for 1 queen bed. If only one night is needed, please notify the Microtel when you make your reservation. There will also be a \$10.00 per night per dog charge for dogs in the rooms. Please be sure to ask specifically for a room set aside for the Iroquois Labrador Retriever Club's Hunt Test because another retriever club also has a block of rooms reserved for another HT in June. Our block of rooms will be held until May 31st.

Please contact me to volunteer to work our Hunt Test. We need HT Committee Members and workers of all descriptions. When you volunteer please update your cell phone number to be used on the day of the test.

We will again have a Gun Raffle. Thanks to Phyllis Beemer we do not have to buy a gun. Phyllis has donated the Benelli Nova she won last year back to the club for this year's raffle. We will need everyone to sell raffle tickets to make this years raffle a success.

Respectfully submitted,
HT Chair Barb Corbelli

Dear Fellow Retriever Enthusiast,

I am in the process of starting a new retriever club in Capital Area of Albany NY. The club's focus will to be help and promote retrievers for hunting, Hunt Tests, and Field Trials. We are hosting out first event, a training seminar on August 2 & 3, 2008, in Esperance New York , at Stonewall Boarding. I am extremely excited about having two great trainers of the caliber, of Bill Eckett and Bobby George from Blackwater Retrievers.

Please just take a few minutes and forward this to your fellow retriever enthusiast. It does not matter if you run hunt test or field trials, but you will come away from this seminar with a better understanding of dog training. Bill Eckett is one of the finest dog men in the country, especially gifted at reading a dog. Please join us on August 2 & 3, 2008 in Esperance NY. There is more information attached with this email. Cost, place, accommodations, it will be posted on: <http://www.stonewallboarding.com/bille.html>

Michelle Linnane



The Western New York Federation of Dog Clubs presents:

Canine Genetics & Behavioral Seminar

March 1, 2008

Batavia, NY

This is a unique opportunity to hear two outstanding speakers; both prominent professionals in their fields:

Ed Bailey – Professional Animal Behaviorist

Mr. Bailey received his B.S. and M.S. in Zoology specializing in wildlife behavior from the University of Montana. He earned his Ph.D. in Zoology specializing in animal behavior from Penn State University.

Mr. Bailey is co-author of *The Green Book (The Training and Care of the Versatile Hunting Dog)*. This is the training book used by The North American Versatile Hunting Dog Association (NAVHDA). He has authored over 75 articles for *Gun Dog Magazine* and served as Professor of Animal Behavior at Guelph University. Mr. Bailey is now retired, but has the status of Professor Emeritus in the departments of Zoology, Psychology and Population Medicine.

Mr. Bailey's presentation will include:

- How dogs learn and how to use it in training them
- Temperament
- The necessary training tools for training
- The methods and rules of training

Dr. Vicki Meyers-Wallen, V.M.D., Ph.D., Diplomate ACT

Dr. Meyers-Wallen received her B.S. in Zoology from the University of Maryland. She received her V.M.D. in Veterinary Medicine and her Ph.D. in Comparative Medical Sciences from The University of Pennsylvania.

Dr. Meyers-Wallen has worked in small veterinary practices, reproduction, genetics and small animal fertility and infertility since 1976. She is currently an Associate Professor in the Biomedical Sciences Center for Canine Genetics and Reproduction at the James A. Baker Institute for Animal Health College of Veterinary Medicine at Cornell University.

Dr. Meyers-Wallen's topics will include:

- Genetics
- Breeding
- Artificial Insemination
- Frozen semen

There will be time for questions after each speaker.

Pre-registration is required as space is limited. Please complete the registration form attached.

Please go to our web site, www.ilrc2.org for a downloadable registration form.

Recipe Corner

Gina Craver's Sausage Bread

(for two-legged creatures)

Listed below is the basic recipe. You can vary any of the ingredients to your own liking with additional cheese, mushrooms, hot peppers, etc.

Ingredients needed:

Pizza Dough - frozen or fresh for large pie
Mozzarella Cheese - 16 oz. pkg. shredded
6 Italian sausage patties or 6 links out of their skin
Parmesan cheese - ½ cup
Spices - garlic powder, oregano, salt, pepper



Lightly sauté sausage, break it up while cooking, drain, cool and set aside

Roll out dough like a jelly roll

Spread dough with sausage, cheese and spices - be sure not to go too close to the edges.

Roll up dough like a jelly roll while tucking in dough edges as you go.

Place roll on a non stick cookie sheet with the seam down.

Any sausage drippings you may have left you can lightly brush the outside of the sausage roll prior to placing in oven. You can also sprinkle with cheese or garlic powder for extra flavor.

Bake in oven on middle rack at 350 degree for approximately 30 minutes or until light golden brown and you get a hollow sound when you tap on crust.

Editor's note: This is fantastic!!!!!!!

TUNA NUGGETS

(for our 4-legged friends)

Ingredients:

3 C. Cake Flour
1 Egg
3 Tbl. Cornmeal
1 6-oz can Tuna (water drained)
1/4 C. Parmesan Cheese
2 Tbl. Oregano
1 Tbl. Vegetable Oil
3/4 C. Water



Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Blend all ingredients and roll into quarter sized balls. Place on cookie sheet sprayed with non-stick spray. Bake for 30 minutes. Cool. Should be soft after



Rudy's Rescue

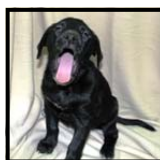
Rudy's Rescue has found forever and loving homes for 100 Labrador Retrievers since its inception in June of 2006. We are so very fortunate to have an organization like this in upstate New York. Much time and effort by volunteers is spent transporting these Labs, fostering them, spaying and neutering, getting appropriate medical care and offering basic training and temperament testing. References and homes of all applicants are checked carefully and 100 lucky families now have richer lives because of a Rudy's Rescue Lab.

Just recently a very young (10 months) mom and her 10 pups all found homes. This was a heroic and joint effort by many volunteers.

Since Labrador Retrievers are the most popular breed in the United States, they are also widely used in Puppy Mills where they are treated either very badly or like a herd of cattle in an effort to mass produce them. They also are ignored, abused, mistreated, dumped on roadsides, dumped in animal shelters and sometimes just plain tied to a stake and abandoned by their owners.

Amy Young Holtz, founder and President (and ILRC member), deserves so much credit for getting this rescue organization started. Please help support this very worthy group with donations of time, equipment, expertise and money if possible. Check the web site, www.rudysrescue.org for information on how you can help and about Labs available for adoption.

Mom, Susie, and four of her 10 pups.



Barb Corbelli, Bellburns Labradors:

On January 17, 2008, Bellburns Vannah Black JH RN WCI earned her second major at the Inverness Florida Kennel Club's show under judge Dr. Bernard E McGivern Jr. As always, she was so perfectly shown by Kathy Mines.

June Miller, Millmar Labs:

My 10 month old puppy, Millmar's Truly High Lites, "Trudy" took BOB all 3 days from the 9-12 month puppy class at the Hamburg shows Jan 11-13th. I would like to thank everyone for all the support at the show especially while we were in the group ring.

**Kim Falker, Adventure Labradors:**

Tabatha's Adventure Score, WC, picked up his first Major at the Cleveland shows with Winners dog and Best of Winners. His littermate, Pester, went Best of Opposite. The judge was **Dr. Donald Sturz**, my newest hero!!!

**Moonlits Burberry Black Bling, "Wilson:"**

Hamburg Show - Wilson took Fil (first time Fil was in the ring) into the ring on day one - Wilson went Reserve Winner Dog -- Carol Pyne was nice enough to explain to Fil what Reserve Winner Dog was!

Thanks,

Wilson

Litter Box

BELLBURNS LABRADORS

On January 9, 2008 the puppies arrived!
7 black girls
1 black boy

Sire: BISS CH Waifin's Wing and A Prayer ~~ JAM at Potomac
(CH Dickendall Arnold x BISS CH Wiscoy Disguise the Limit)
Hips OFA Good ~ Elbows Clear ~ Eyes Clear ~ Optigen A1

Dam: Bellburns Queen Libby
(Beechcroft's Royal Heir x Beechcroft's Love'n Life Ellee CD RN WC)
Hips OFA Excellent ~ Elbows Clear ~ Eyes Cerfed ~ Optigen A1
www.bellburnslabs.com

Breeder: Barb Corbelli ~ Bellburns Labradors ~ Batavia, NY
585-343-6643 ~ pcorbell@rochester.rr.com



[Being a parent] is tough. If you just want a wonderful little creature to love, you can get a puppy.

Barbara Walters

New ILRC Secretary

A big welcome to **Michelle Sarek**, ILRC's new secretary!!!!!! We are fortunate to have someone like Michelle take over this very important position for our club.

Michelle is a self-employed court reporter, the owner of **Metro Reporting Services** for 18 years. She owns four Labrador retrievers, Lightning, 11, Storm, a little over two, Snow will be two in March and Teddy who is about 14 months. She shows Snow & Teddy. **Snow has five points towards his championship and he took two reserve wins at the Hamburg show.**

MINUTES OF THE ILRC General Meeting Held on January 12, 2007 at the Agri-Center of the Hamburg Fair Grounds, Hamburg, New York.

The meeting was called to order at 3:50 p.m. by **Carol Pyne**. Board members attending included **Carol Pyne, Michelle Sarek, Kim Falker, Mary Ellen Bittlinger, Larry Nehring, Pauline Nehring, Mary Kobis**.

Also attending were members: **Dan Pyne, Fillmore Craver, Patty Wroblewski, June Miller, Ellen Shearer, Heidi Kellerman, Carolyn Kellerman**.

Guests attending were: **Terry Miller and Spike Bittlinger**.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Carol Pyne reported that the eye clinic on the previous day (1/11/07) went very well. **82 dogs were examined by Dr. Stanz**. She thanked all members for their help especially **Pauline Nehring, Kim Falker, Mary Ellen Bittlinger, Fillmore Craver, June Miller** for helping at the desk and with eye drops.

Dr. Stanz has been secured for next year and eye clinic will also be held on the Friday of the dog show. It was also suggested that a notice should be placed in the front of the show catalog for next year for easy access.

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

Michelle Sarek, now handling secretarial duties read the Annual Secretary's Report that **Becky Underwood** prepared before she left office (Thank you - Becky!). The 2007 figures are available.

1st read membership application for **Terry Miller**. 2nd read for **Jennifer Goodman and Ashley Hosenfeld and Wayne Wadhams**.

A vote was taken and Jennifer, Ashley (Junior member) and Wayne are now club members. WELCOME!!!!

Their information is as follows:

Jennifer Goodman
204 East Elm Street - upper
East Rochester, NY 14445

Ashley Hosenfeld (same as Jennifer above)

Wayne Wadhams
13926 Allen Road
Albion, NY 14411
email: wwadhams@albionK12.org

Welcome packets will be sent.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Pauline read Treasurer's Report and gave figures for the eye clinic.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

HUNT TEST:

Barb Corbelli (not present at meeting) is working on judges for this year's hunt test. The Hunt Test will be held on June 14 and 15th, 2008.

WINE COUNTRY SPECIALTY:

Mary Kobis reports that the date and tent for the Specialty has been secured for Saturday - specialty will be held on Saturday this year. The Elmira Club will be the host club this year as the specialty will be held on Saturday.

TROPHYS:

Jeff and Lynn Worsfold will be handling trophies this year.

HOSPITALITY:

Ann Dunham will be handling hospitality.

RAFFLE:

Discussion was had about the raffle. Club will inquire as to whether or not Wendy Gladstone-Brown would be interested in running the raffle once again.

SUPPORTED ENTRIES/WINE COUNTRY:

Discussion was held regarding supporting entries for Wine Country and gifts for placements at the specialty. Thursday's entries would not be supported because of a provisional judge.

Sweeps:

Mary Kobis stated that **Beth Sweigert** was Friday's judge and **Tom Bradley** was Sunday's judge. Discussion was held regarding prizes for the Sweeps, i.e., a prize for all placements. It was agreed that all placements should get a prize. Pauline voiced concern over the expense of a supported entry.

Motion:

A motion was made to support entries for Friday's entries by Kim Falker and seconded by ME Bitt. Motion carried.

Motion:

A motion was made to support Sunday Sweeps entries with Judge Tom Bradley. Motion made by Mary Kobis and seconded by Fillmore Craver. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:**Fun Match:**

Open discussion was had regarding a fun match and when and where to have it. Discussion continued about possibly having the match in Hamburg.

A suggestion was made by **Heidi Kellerman** about possibly having and Junior's event instead of the fun match as there are many juniors interested in showing. It was also brought up that having a juniors event would fulfill the mission statement of the club.

It was decided that a committee would be formed consisting of **Heidi Kellerman, Jolene Benzinger and Patty Wroblewski** to form a committee to work on this event.

MOTION:

Motion was made by Carol Pyne to start the committee and seconded by Michelle Sarek. Motion carried.

MOTION:

Motion was made to adjourn meeting by Ellen Shearer and seconded by Pauline Nehring. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 4:35 p.m.

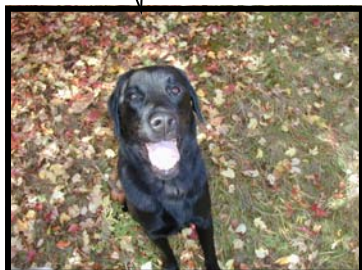
Welcome

New Members

**Jennifer Goodman &
Ashley Hosenfeld
(Junior Member)
East Rochester, NY**

**Wayne Wadhams
Albion, NY
wwadhams@albion K12.org**

**Tape this to
your
refrigerator!!**



2008 ILRC Meeting Calendar

(all dates are Sundays except when noted)

January 12, 2008.
Hamburg show Site. ****SATURDAY!!!!****

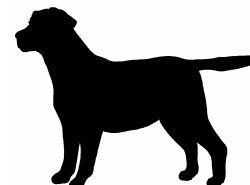
March 9, 2008 11:00 A.M.
Genesee Fairgrounds, Batavia, NY
(DATE & LOCATION MAY CHANGE!!)

May 4, 2008. 11:00 A.M.
Genesee Fairgrounds, Batavia, NY

July 13, 2008.
Genesee Fairgrounds; picnic & awards

September 27, 2008. Wine Country
SATURDAY!!!! Check back as this may
change!!

November 9, 2008. 11:00 A.M.
Genesee Fairgrounds, Batavia
Election of officers for 2009



PAWPRINTS

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Phyllis Beemer, Editor
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Leslie Kayser
7 Northwood Drive
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FIRST CLASS

PLEASE FORWARD