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Breaking the canine genetic code

Scientists work to build a genetic map

All the world's creatures have a code locked in their cells, a code that spells out their inherited characteristics. Everything from eye color to body shape and behavioral adaptations are quantified and qualified in the code. Appearance, diet, temperament, and health are embedded in the

DNA, a marvelous spiral-bound double helix of deoxyribonucleic acid and protein that carries the key to life. Dinosaurs and mastodons had DNA, plants have DNA, and amoebas and mosquitoes and snakes and monkeys and humans and dogs have DNA.

DNA is arranged into chromosomes, twisted ribbons of genetic material that carry the destiny of each individual, breed, race, and species. A gene is the DNA-plus-protein at a particular spot on the chromosome. Chromosomes occur in pairs, each of which has a gene for a particular trait at the same location. The genetic code is inherited when one chromosome from each pair is contributed to the offspring by each parent.



The number of chromosomes differs among species. Dogs have 78 chromosomes or 39 pairs; humans have 46 chromosomes or 23 pairs; horses have 64 chromosomes or 32 pairs, etc. Chromosomes come in different lengths and can have 100,000 genes or more in complex organisms.

A genome is a map of the chromosomes that identifies the genes for various traits. Scientists are working to build a canine genome so that structural abnormalities and diseases can be prevented through knowledgeable breeding programs. Money for the research is coming from the Ameri-

can Kennel Club and various breed clubs and breeders.

Genetic diseases in purebred dogs

In recent years, purebred dogs have been described as "genetic nightmares" in the press and by those who champion the cause of mixed breed dogs in shelters. It is true that purebred dogs have many genetic anomalies ranging from those that are innocuous (long coats or unacceptable colors in some breeds, for example) or easy to repair (entropion, the turning in of the eyelid) to those that are crippling or life-threatening, such as hip dysplasia or progressive retinal atrophy.

It is not true that mixed breed dogs are free of genetic diseases due to "hybrid vigor," a benefit of first-generation crosses between breeds that is lost in subsequent generations. Dr. George Padgett, a leading canine geneticist, wrote in *Dog World* in January 1997 that mixed breed dogs can have the same genetic diseases as the breeds crossed to produce them. Padgett said that his files include information on 102 genetic defects identified in mongrel dogs, more than double the number identified in the Cocker Spaniel, one of the country's most popular breeds.

The eradication of genetic diseases in purebreds and mixed breeds is possible, according to Padgett. However, it depends on an alliance of breeders and breed clubs to support the research, open registries to make the research available to breeders, and educational efforts to reach puppy buyers and novice breeders.

Breed clubs

Breeders and breed clubs are the first line of defense in protecting the integrity and health of purebred dogs. Breeds recognized by the American Kennel Club, the United Kennel Club, and the American Rare Breed

Association have national and regional clubs devoted to breed activities, and many of these clubs are involved in genetic research projects for breed-specific anomalies.

Discovery of genetic links and of the mode of inheritance (simple or complex, dominant or recessive) is the work of researchers, but they must have dogs to study. Breeders have made their dogs available for research in hip and elbow dysplasia; sebaceous adenitis (a skin disease); copper toxicosis; progressive retinal atrophy (an eye disease); epilepsy; cancer; and more – not only by providing study subjects but by submitting radiographs and other diagnostic tests to various health registries.

Padgett's Dog World article, one of a series about genetic disease, listed several of the clubs that are deeply involved in educating members about controlling and preventing genetic disease. Breeds represented by these clubs include Alaskan Malamutes, Newfoundlands, Golden Retrievers, Great Pyrenees, Collies, Boykin Spaniels, Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retrievers, Bedlington Terriers, Cairn Terriers, Cavalier King Charles Spaniels, Doberman Pinschers, **Labrador Retrievers**, Poodles, Portuguese Water Dogs, Bulldogs, Bernese Mountain Dogs, and English Springer Spaniels.

This is not a complete list; many clubs have joined the battle since the article was published. Clubs have also responded to the call for funds to bankroll research into specific diseases.

Registries

Health registries evaluate diagnostic tests as normal or diseased and make records available to breeders. Some registries are closed; that is, they provide only information on dogs that pass the tests. Others are open; they provide information on all dogs submitted for evaluation and on sires, dams, and siblings submitted for evaluation.

A family picture helps breeders select sires and dams that are not only free of disease but have produced puppies in the past that are free of disease. Unfortunately, some breeders are afraid to use open registries because they don't want other breeders to find out about problem dogs or litters.

The major health registries are the Orthopedic Foundation for Animals; PennHip; the Canine Eye Registration Foundation, and the Institute for Genetic Disease Control in Animals.

OFA was established in 1966 to evaluate hip radiographs in an attempt to reduce the incidence of hip dysplasia. OFA is a closed registry; it lists only those dogs that have fair, good, or excellent hips. Because it charges the same fee to read all radiographs, breeders and owners often do not send in films from dogs they think will fail to make the grade.

Today, OFA also registers dogs with elbow dysplasia, slipping patellas (knee caps), autoimmune thyroiditis, and congenital heart disease in all breeds and copper toxicosis in Bedlington Terriers. OFA also works with VetGen to screen blood tests for von Willebrand's Disease, a bleeding disorder affecting several breeds and donates money to support canine genetics programs at Michigan State University, University of Michigan, and University of Missouri.

PennHip provides an alternative method for evaluating hip health. OFA bases its decisions about dysplasia on a single radiograph, but PennHip x-rays the dog in three different positions to judge not only the presence of joint abnormalities but the amount of joint laxity (looseness), an indicator of future problems and of the propensity for passing bad hips along to offspring. All dogs are measured against other dogs in their breed and reports are available on all dogs.

Any veterinarian can x-ray a dog for OFA evaluation, but PennHip trains veterinarians to do it their way. The resulting films are not only read by PennHip radiologists, they are also submitted to OFA for additional appraisal.

CERF is a closed registry dealing only in eye problems. While many genetic tests must be done only once in a dog's lifetime, CERF tests must be done annually. CERF officials are considering the possibility of opening the registry to record the status of all dogs submitted for testing, not only the ones that test clear.

The Institute for Genetic Disease Control in Animals (GDC) is an open registry. All dogs submitted for the diseases it monitors are placed in the data base and records of littermates and parents are provided to those who request information about a particular dog.

Norma Bennett Woolf

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

Do senior dogs need vaccines?

After all, you or I were vaccinated, but we don't go get yearly shots any more, right?

This is a topic I'd like to address today. What vaccines does your senior dog really need?

Whether your dog is young or old, it is important that you keep him as healthy as possible. And as you may know, vaccinations (also known as immunizations or "shots") have saved the lives of millions of dogs. Before the days of effective vaccines, dogs routinely died from dis-

temper, infectious hepatitis and parvovirus.

But as our pets age, questions about vaccinations arise. Dog owners often wonder which vaccines their senior dog needs and how often he should be vaccinated.

To be honest, there are no "absolute" answers to these questions ... but there are several recommendations. I want to give you that information now.

As I mentioned before, despite the well-known benefits of vaccines, the practice of annually vaccinating senior dogs is controversial. Some veterinarians believe that annual revaccination is an important and critical part of preventative health care. There has been some research that indicates that the immune system of older dogs is not as effective as it is in younger dogs. This suggests that older dogs may be more susceptible to diseases and therefore require annual vaccinations.

Other veterinarians feel that many vaccines remain effective within the body for more than a year. These vets believe that annual vaccination of senior dogs is not worth the risk of possible allergic reaction or other immune diseases. Of course, some vaccines (rabies) are required by law and must be administered on a regular basis.

The one thing most veterinarians agree on is that dogs should only be vaccinated against those diseases for which they are susceptible. For example, if you and your dog do not live in an area endemic for Lyme disease, vaccinating for that disease is not recommended.



Rabies vaccines should be given based on local laws. In some areas, rabies vaccination must be given every year. In other areas, local law allows vaccination to be given every three

years.

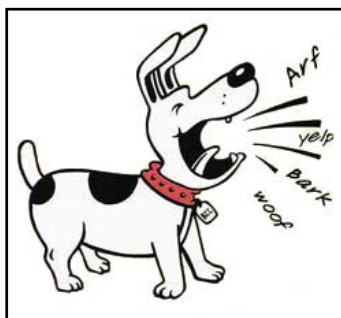
The foremost recommendation is to discuss the vaccination program with your veterinarian. Don't hesitate to ask questions about the pros and cons of vaccinations.

Dr. Jon Rapport
PetPlace.com

Solutions for dogs That Bark

The first five reasons for barking are rarely the cause of "excessive" or "annoying" barking. They are usually specific to certain situations and are short-lived.

The sixth and seventh reasons are those most likely to be considered problem barking, and they are not unrelated. Barking for companionship can turn



into barking for reward: The dog barks to get its owner's attention, the owner comes to the dog to tell it to be quiet, perhaps petting it or playing with it, and goes away again. The dog is quiet while the owner is there, but has learned that barking will bring the owner back. Thus the system of barking and reward is established.

A solution, again, is to spend more time with your dog and have it near you rather than tied up somewhere separate from you. However, if your dog is separated from you and it begins to bark to get your attention, do not immediately go to the dog. It must learn that barking will not guarantee your presence. By spending more time with the dog at regular intervals not instigated by barking, your dog will feel more assured that it will get sufficient attention from you and will not have as much inclination to bark for companionship.

How do you teach a barking dog to dis-

tinguish between friends and strangers?

The solution is to show the dog that certain individuals (garbage collectors, mailmen, milkmen) are, indeed, friends. To accomplish this, the dog has to be introduced to these people and given an opportunity to get to know them. While this is not always practical, it is nonetheless a potential solution. As you restrain your dog, stop delivery people and have a short conversation with them, letting them meet the dog for a brief period. Repeat and lengthen the process over the next few weeks. Eventually, your dog should accept these individuals and all should be well until your regular mailman is sick and another person takes his place.

What do you do with a dog that barks at guests in your house?

One solution is to take the dog to another room and give it something to do. Or, if the guest comes to your home often and you don't want to have to lock up the dog every time, work to gradually introduce one to the other. Have the guest get on his knees, pet the dog, offer it a treat, and more or less become part of the family. Let your dog establish the speed at which this relationship develops: Don't force it, or your dog may become alarmed by a "pushy" guest.

How do you deal with a dog that barks at the phone?

This is simply a case of a dog that has been rewarded for barking at a ringing phone. When the dog barks, someone eventually answers the phone and it stops ringing. To stop your dog from doing this, have a friend call and let the phone ring until the dog loses interest. Continue over a period of days, and in time the dog will learn that barking at the phone accomplishes nothing.

Finally, what do you do with the dog

that barks while you are away from home?

There are several possible solutions. One is to act as if you are leaving, then stand outside the door until the dog barks. When it does, return and scold verbally. Another is to get your dog a companion - but you might end up with two barkers! A third is to use a sound-activated tape recorder. When the dog barks, the sound switch turns on the tape recorder for a minute. The tape plays your voice scolding the dog. Some systems can repeat as many as 45 times while you are away.

The best way to reduce your dog's barking is to pay attention to the reasons for the barking. If you can satisfy the dog's needs, barking will automatically be reduced. By the same token, learned barking can be extremely persistent. Internal rewards can cause the cycle to go on for years.

The best solution to barking is prevention, so be aware of the possibilities and work to stop problem barking before it starts.

Articles,

Perinton Veterinary Hospital, Victor, NY

Hemorrhagic Gastroenteritis

Hemorrhagic gastroenteritis is a potentially life-threatening intestinal condition of the dog which manifests as sudden onset bloody, watery diarrhea. It is extremely dehydrating, much more than might be expected from the amount of diarrhea, and if it is not promptly treated, the dog can go into shock. Vomiting is often part of the syndrome.

Smaller dog breeds seem to have a predisposition towards HGE though any dog can be affected. Stress and hyperactivity seem to be predisposing factors.

HOW IS THIS CONDITION DIAGNOSED?

There are no specific tests for HGE but a test called a packed cell volume (also called "pcv" or "hematocrit") is very helpful in making the diagnosis. This test can be performed in most veterinary hospitals using a few drops of blood. The percentage of the blood volume made up by red blood cells is measured. A normal packed cell volume for a healthy dog would be 37-55%, meaning 37-55% of the blood volume should be red blood cells (the rest is fluid and white blood cells). When the patient becomes very dehydrated, there is less fluid present in the bloodstream and the percentage of blood fluid drops (and consequently the percentage of red blood cells rises).

A dog with HGE will have a pcv greater than 60%.

The measurement of the pcv also usually includes some sort of measurement of total protein (sometimes called "total solids"). In HGE, the total protein measurement from the blood sample is low.

The very high pcv, low total protein and acute onset bloody watery diarrhea in a dog is generally all that is needed to diagnose HGE.

WHAT CAUSES HGE?

The actual cause remains unknown. What happens is that the intestinal lining and intestinal blood vessels become permeable to fluid. Fluid and associated proteins leak out of the blood vessels and into the intestine (though the blood cells are too big to leak and stay behind). In this way, fluid is lost into the intestine dehydrating the patient and the pcv rises.

There is some suspicion that a bacterium called *Clostridium perfringens* may be involved so treatment often includes an anti-

biotic appropriate for this organism.

TREATMENT OF HGE

The heart of therapy is aggressive fluid replacement. The idea is to get the pcv back to the normal range and keep the patient out of shock. Food is withheld for at least a day and only gradually introduced over several days after the vomiting has resolved. Symptomatic treatment for nausea is typically included as is antibiotic therapy. Several days of hospitalization are commonly required for treatment.

Prescription Glasses for Dogs

If Fido Is Bumping Into Walls, You Might Look Into Prescription Eyeglasses
By DR. MARTY BECKER
Oct. 29, 2004 --

Now dogs may face the backyard taunt of being called "four-eyes." Or you may see a blind dog walking down the street wearing stereotypical dark glasses. No, I'm not kidding.

Doggles, a manufacturer of protective eyewear for dogs, is trying out a line of canine corrective lenses for dogs that can't see far beyond the end of their noses.

First of all, dogs don't see as well as you might think. A dog's visual acuity is considerably less than that of a normal human according to Dr. Stanley Coren, author of "How Dogs Think: Understanding the Canine Mind."

The overall effect for normal dogs is something like viewing the world through a fine mesh gauze or a piece of cellophane that has been smeared with a light coat of petroleum jelly.

"If dogs drove cars, they'd have about

20/50 vision and their driver's license would say corrective vision required," Coren said.

Well, dogs don't drive cars, but they do need to see cars coming down the road. Or squirrels running around the back yard, a set of stairs or Mom holding a treat in her hand.

Just What the Doctor Ordered

For mature mutts that begin to lose their eyesight or for dogs that have lost their vision due to cataracts or unsuccessful cataract surgery, doggie glasses may be just what the doctor ordered.

Historically, there has been nothing to help dogs that were becoming blind as bats. We just let them get by as best as they could with their other senses. But now veterinary-approved canine corrective lenses can give many dogs the gift of sight again.

Dr. Michael Brinkman, a veterinary ophthalmologist in Las Vegas, said the Doggles company has worked with him to produce the corrective eyewear for dogs, which he is currently testing on some of his patients.

In particular, he said, the lenses can be used to correct the farsightedness that occurs in dogs that have had cataract surgery but could not have lens implants. A dog that has undergone cataract surgery without receiving a lens implant will be able to spot a cat across the street but perhaps not see a piece of kibble in front of its food dish. Typically, dogs without lenses are about twice as farsighted as humans without lenses.

Brinkman notes that these dogs -- from Great Dane to tiny Chihuahua -- all have a fairly similar refractive prescription so you wouldn't need hundreds of types of glasses

to fit dogs. Specially trained veterinarians are able to determine a dog's prescription by performing a retinoscopy, similar to how a human ophthalmologist determines the prescription for a very small child who is too young to read the eye chart.

Roni DiLullo, president of the Doggles company, says the glasses are made to order with any prescription obtained from a veterinary ophthalmologist. The prescription dog glasses cost less than \$100.

Help for Blind Dogs

To determine if the prescription lenses really help the dog see better requires a combination of subjective observation by the owner along with asking the dog to identify familiar things like a favorite toy.

Doggles, which even makes prescription sunglasses for dogs, is also offering solid black lenses for dogs that are blind.

The opaque lenses aren't for vanity or cosmetics, but they serve a number of important services.

The black lenses comfort dogs with failing eyesight who are super-sensitive to light and they protect eyes from damage when blind dogs bump into things. The lenses also serve as a protective patch after eye surgery and they help to alert people who may interact with the dog that it is unable to see.

Doggles also makes dog goggles, which are typically used to protect the eyes of dogs who ride in cars and trucks and are in danger of having their eyes damaged by flying debris, or for certain breeds of dogs,

like German shepherds who have a dry eye condition called Keratoconjunctivitis Sicca or a condition called Chronic Superficial Keratitis, or Pannus, where the eye becomes covered with a brown covering. With KCS and Pannus, environment can be a contributing factor. Pannus is caused by exposure to ultraviolet light, and a reduction in the exposure to UV rays is recommended for the long-term care and treatment of the condition.

Doggles are also used to protect military dogs in the Middle East from blowing sand, shield the eyes of search and rescue dogs like the ones who worked at Ground Zero after 9/11, and protect police dogs from environmental hazards. Many dogs wear Doggles while riding in cars, trucks or on motorcycles, whereas others, like my wife

Teresa's little papillon/poodle/Yorkie cross, Quixote, wear them for fashion and fun.



If you require more information about healthy eyes, eye disease, treatments and correction in pets, visit the Web site of the American College of Veterinary

Ophthalmology at www.acvo.org.

Big Dogs are Predisposed to Bone Cancer

Pet Column for the week of November 14, 2005

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Kim Marie Labak
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According to Dr. Timothy Fan, veterinary oncologist at the University of Illinois Veterinary Teaching Hospital in Urbana,

large dogs (over 75 pounds) have a higher tendency to develop osteosarcoma, a type of cancer that originates in bone cells.

Large and giant breed dogs such as Newfoundlands, greyhounds, St. Bernards, **large Labradors**, and Rottweilers are predisposed for this form of cancer, which usually develops in geriatric dogs over eight years old. "Rottweilers by far are the most over-represented of the breeds that we see with this type of cancer," says Dr. Fan. "One in eight Rottweilers will develop osteosarcoma in their lifetime."

Osteosarcoma is a primary bone tumor; it originates in bone and can spread, or metastasize, to other parts of the body, especially the lungs.

Dr. Fan explains that the first sign an owner may see is sudden lameness or limping which may or may not be associated with exercise. "Sometimes an owner may notice that his dog is limping after playing, and may suspect the dog sprained its leg."

For a limp, a veterinarian may prescribe anti-inflammatory medications to reduce swelling and pain. If the pain does not go away or worsens with medical treatment, Dr. Fan says that further diagnostics can help determine if the dog has osteosarcoma. "With certain breeds, a veterinarian should suspect osteosarcoma as soon as the dog comes in with a limp."

A veterinarian can take radiographs (x-rays) to look for signs of abnormal bone growth that may indicate osteosarcoma. The characteristic sites for this abnormal growth are the leg bones, as Dr. Fans says, "away from the elbow, toward the knee." In the front leg the lesions would be in the radius (foreleg bone) toward the wrist, and in the humerus toward the armpit. In the hind limbs the lesions would be in the tibia (shin bone) and femur (thigh bone), close to the knee. Occasionally osteosarcoma is seen in the mandible, the lower jaw bone.

Osteosarcoma cannot be diagnosed with

radiographs alone, since other types of cancers and other conditions can cause bone problems. Because proper treatment of cancer requires an accurate diagnosis, a veterinarian who suspects osteosarcoma after taking radiographs should refer a patient for a cytology and/or biopsy.

A biopsy, which is the removal of a small chunk of tissue for examination under a microscope, is the standard diagnostic test for most types of cancer. Cytology is a less invasive method that involves inserting a needle into tissue to get a sample of cells. The cells are put onto a glass microscope slide and stained for examination.

Dr. Anne Barger, veterinary clinical pathologist at the University of Illinois Veterinary Teaching Hospital, has developed a new staining technique that can differentiate osteosarcoma cells from other types of cancer cells, making cytology a more accurate diagnostic tool. Cytology is less invasive, less painful, quicker and more appropriate for sampling from thin areas of bone, such as the mandible, that may be too delicate for biopsy.

Proper treatment of osteosarcoma involves surgical removal of the cancerous bone as well as chemotherapy to prevent metastasis to the lungs. If the cancer is caught early, surgery may involve removing just a portion of a bone, but sometimes partial or full amputation of a limb is required. Many dogs can remain active after an amputation.

Veterinary oncologists at the teaching hospital are also investigating a treatment combination of radiation therapy, systemic chemotherapy, and a human drug called pamidronate, that may reduce the need for amputation in dogs with leg tumors.

"Pamidronate increases bone strength and reduces the destructive process associated with bone tumors," explains Dr. Fan. "From what we have seen in the clinic, this combination is likely to be an effective treatment option. We are conducting a clinical trial right now, and should have

more definitive results in about 18 months."

When considering treatment options for a pet, it's important to understand that radiation therapy and chemotherapy are used less aggressively in animals than in humans to minimize side effects and ensure that the pet has an enjoyable quality of life.

An interesting possible cause of osteosarcoma is the metal implants used for surgical repair of fractures, ligament repairs etc. Here are two excerpts from information found on the web:

<http://www.vet.uga.edu/vpp/clerk/Kramer/index.php>

Ionizing radiation, chemical carcinogens, foreign bodies (including metal implants, such as internal fixators, bullets, and bone transplants), and pre-existing skeletal abnormalities such as sites of healed fractures contribute to the development of OSA. In addition, there have been correlations with genetic predisposition to tumor development in certain family lines. Dogs with OSA have been found to have aberrations of the p53 tumor suppressor gene.¹¹ In laboratory animals, both DNA viruses (polyomavirus and SV-40 virus) and RNA viruses (type C retroviruses) have been found to induce OSA.

<http://www.natural-dog-health-remedies.com/index.html>

The exact cause of bone cancer in dogs is not known. However, previous bone fractures, bone trauma, or chronic bone infections seem to be predisposing factors. Also, gene mutations, **foreign bodies (e.g. metal implants, such as internal fixators, bullets, etc.), chemical carcinogens** can contribute to the development of canine osteosarcoma.

Canine osteosarcoma usually occurs near growth plates; therefore, factors that affect growth rates, such as diets that promote rapid growth in puppies, may also be a contributing factor to bone cancer in dogs.

To clean pet urine from a carpet, you should:

- A. Hire a pro
- B. Replace the carpet with tile
- C. Apply an odor-eater
- D. Apply ammonia

Answer: C. Apply an odor eater

Odors play an important role in signaling puppies and dogs to urinate or defecate. They have an olfactory-urination reflex which relaxes the urethral sphincter when a urine or fecal odor is detected, causing urination.

So, sop up as much as you can (a wet vac or carpet cleaner is good if you have it) and then drench with an odor neutralizer. These are commonly sold at pet supply stores. They attack the molecules that cause the odors. Although they won't totally destroy the odor, you have hope of masking the odor.

Carpet fresheners alone don't work. Dogs have too good a sense of smell for that.

Near this spot are deposited the remains of one who possessed Beauty without Vanity, Strength without Insolence, Courage without Ferocity, and all the Virtues of Man, without his Vices. This Praise, which would be unmeaning Flattery if inscribed over human ashes, is but a just tribute to the Memory of Boatswain, a Dog.
~George Gordon, Lord Byron, "Inscription on the Monument of a Newfoundland Dog"

Leo
JULY 24TH - AUGUST 23RD



Do you own a pooch that's the proverbial "pavement special", is ugly to boot, and yet has a regal bearing which outshines your costly cosseted pedigreed Afghan? I'll bet you 10 to 1 that your

Heinz 57 variety is a Leo. You see, the Leo mutt sees himself as the king of all dogs and knows that he is wonderful. Forget the silly notion that your home is your castle, in reality it's your conceited Leo's palace. Didn't you notice that the first time you brought him home, he made a beeline for your chair, claimed it as his throne and has only moved from it under duress ever since?

If you want to win a prize at your local dog show then undoubtedly your best chance lies with a Leo (tho' nothing short of supreme champion at Crufts will truly satiate his ego). His sense of showmanship can actually rival Liberace in his hey day, so for heaven's sake ensure that he looks like a dog's dinner before the great event. Watch the swaggers as he hits the parade ring, see his theatrical posing whilst in the coveted limelight - watch him deflate like a pricked balloon when he only wins second prize!

There must be some redeeming features about Leo dogs, I hear you saying. Of course there are; they are absolutely wonderful with Children... that is as long as you give them as much attention as the kids.

Best Owners: Only folks with egos bigger than Leos would ever attempt it. Stand up all you Ariens & Sagittarians.

Virgo
AUGUST 24TH - SEPTEMBER 23RD



Heave a sigh of relief if your favourite canine gives birth to a Virgo litter - you've just hit the jackpot with the easiest doggies on God's earth. The Virgo dog is born

with an innate sense of his place in this life.. UNDERDOG! Labelled "wimps of the zodiac" these dogs are reserved and shy, with the more afflicted types even suffering from irritating nervous tics. But at least Virgo's don't try to take over YOUR territory and they know their station in your household... the bottom rung.

The worst thing that you can possibly do to a Virgo is not to give him discipline. He'll wander around in a listless daze totally at sea. However, show him who is boss and he'll love you to bits. Obedience training - no problem! House training - what a cinch! With work as second nature, they make the perfect sheep dog and are ideal for working trials (though they'll need a bit of coaxing to handle being in the spotlight).

If you read all the dog stars I'm sure that you will know that each zodiacal sign has its drawbacks. You will have gathered that in a Virgo dog you haven't got a fearless leader. Also you must prepare yourself for increased vet bills. In reality they don't get sick more often than other mutts, they just THINK they are sick. He'll actually allow you to wrap him in blankets and whisk him off to the clinic just to hear the vet intone the words "he's in perfect health". Do yourself a favour, avoid the expense by feeding him good wholesome food, doggy vitamins and Bob Martins.

Best Owners: Taurus, Capricorn, Pisces

Homemade Dog Treat Recipe Icy Paws

Ingredients:

2 cartons plain or vanilla yogurt (32 oz each)
1 small can tuna in water (8oz.)
2 tsp. garlic powder
24 3 oz. plastic cups (not paper)



Instructions:

Open yogurt, if they are full to the top use a spoon & scoop out one cup (these will be frozen as plain yogurt). Put half of the can of tuna in each yogurt container add the garlic powder (1 tsp. in each) & stir thoroughly.

Use a spoon & scoop the mixture into the cups. Place on a tray & freeze overnight.

Makes about 24 treats.

September ILRC Meeting

The September 6th meeting of the ILRC will be held at the Akron Animal Hospital, Akron, NY.

Club member, Dr. Sandra Corrie-Styn, will be hosting. There will be agility and other demonstrations. There is an outdoor grass ring fully enclosed by chain link fencing. Dogs and their people are welcome to play and have

fun! The meeting starts at noon. Please bring a dish to pass and enjoy the afternoon.

Directions to Akron animal Hospital:

From the east - Take I-90W to exit 48A, Pembroke. Turn Right on Rt. 77 South. Go approximately 0.8 miles to light. Turn Right on to Rt. 5 West. Go approximately 5.7 miles. Akron Animal Hospital is on the right.

From the west - Take I-90E to exit 49 (Depew). Turn Left on Rt. 78 North, Transit Rd. Go approximately 1.3 miles. Turn right onto Rt. 5 East, Main St. Go approximately 9.7 miles. Akron Animal Hospital is on the left.

Lost & Found

by Jacqueline Sheehan

Any Lab lover will completely gobble up this book.

The main character, Rocky, as she is appropriately nick-named, is dealing with a devastating loss. Her husband dies suddenly and she

takes a leave of absence from her job to move to a coastal Maine island to work as an animal control warden---a far cry from her normal career as a psychologist. It proves to be one of the best moves she has ever made. As a result, she grows both emotionally, psychologically and even spiritually due to the loving good-nature of a lost black Lab who is suffering a loss of his own.

This beautiful creature pulls at least 10 people together and splendidly puts them exactly where they should have been a long time ago: on track.

A wonderful book, a quick read and one that you will remember for a long time.



Greetings All,

You did it again! You made ILRC's Hunt Test a huge success, a very profitable event and a great deal of fun for everyone at the same time. I'm always so proud to be a part of this "very special" group of people. Not only do we love these wonderful retrievers that brought us together, take great pride in putting on a well run event, but we truly enjoy each others companionship. In my opinion, it just doesn't get any better!!

Although our hunt test was a genuine success, it wasn't as easy to pull off as it has been in the past. Many members of our team had to step-it-up to fill-in for a couple of our faith workers that where unable to attend. If I inadvertently left you off the list, I hope you will forgive me and let me know! My gratitude goes out to:

~ Jeff Worsfold for filling Launcher Larry's very big hunting boots! A very special thanks!

~ Leslie K for again feeding us so well while in the process or retiring from teaching, building a new home and moving! WOW!

~ Carol P for working a station and stewarding birds again, by far the messiest job of all !

~ Mary K for working a station, being our event Secretary and Marshall.

~ Terry M for marshaling and running Junior Lacey our Junior test dog

~ Kim F for putting on a terrific, very profitable raffle, working a popper station and bringing Dylan & Brandon

~ Mary Ellen B for canvassing every corner of Western New York in search of raffle items.

~ Becky U for serving a chief line Steward and running Junior pick-up dog

~ Jim S for working a popper station and helping with equipment.

~ Fil C and Chris C for gunning at Senior

~ Kyle for working the live station at Senior

~ Sandy C and Jim S, this year's rookies, worked a station both Sat & Sun -- nice job!

~ the two best Bird Boys on the planet, Brandon and Dylan (Kim's nephews) for working a station and planting the blinds.

~ And lastly, to my ever faithful Pete, thank you for seeing that we have the use of an ATV.

Several more thanks are owed to FLRC members: ~ Joe M, Jim S and Kerri M for filling-in as shooters,

~ Pat Kinsley for giving Leslie a hand with the judges dinner.

~ Carol L, for helping as Line Steward, running Senior test dog and pick-up dog.

~ And Barb Hoopes for being Line Marshall at Senior.

The Hunt Test Committee met the Saturday after the Hunt Test to discuss what we need to do to insure next year's test is a success as well! The Committee's consensus follows:

~ Continue to collaborate with FLRC for ILRC's 2010 HT.

- It was a very positive experience!
- ~ Investigate the Comfort Inn for judges and club members
 - ~ buy a Tangelo Tosser (purchased – needs a test run!)
 - ~ Be sure to have and put out more signs for each test
 - ~ Provide handlers with "Title" Ribbons
 - ~ Breakfast needs "Donation" sign and jar
 - ~ Hold dinner at the club house both Fri. and Sat. nights
 - ~ Hold 2010's WC/WCI/WCX on a different date – at picnic?
 - ~ Need Chairman for 2010 - this was Becky & Beth's last WC
 - ~ Start HT the raffle planning in Jan.
 - ~ Jeff donated the Black Benelli for 2010
 - ~ Items we need to purchase (or make):
 - ~ string, weights and hookers for decoys,
 - ~ a second launcher, 2 blinds, shot, bird dryers and
 - ~ sheets for judges books and "Title" ribbons.

Respectfully submitted,

Barb Corbelli HT Chair

Minutes for July 26, 2009 Meeting

Attendance: **Kim Falker, Leslie Kayser, Mary Ellen Bittlinger, Becky Underwood, Carol Pyne, Fil Craver, Lynne Worsfold, Terry Miller**

The meeting was called to order at 11:00 by **Carol Pyne**

- **President's report:** none
- **Secretary report:** by **Leslie Kayser**

AKC Specialty letters received 5/19 and 6/22 and copies given to **Pauline Nehring**

AKC Hunt Test letter received 7/1 and copy given to **Barb Corbelli**

A thank you was e-mailed to **Pat McKinley** and **Finger Lakes members** for helping with the judges dinner at the Hunt Test

A Finger Lakes Kennel Club flyer concerning legislation was mailed to all members 6/22

Thank you notes were sent to **Sam's Club** and **Dr. Sandra Corrie-Styn** for Hunt Test donations

Notification was sent out on 6/22 that Paw Prints will no longer be mailed by ILRC as per meeting 5/3

Erie Kennel Club flyer, received 7/25 for the January show, will be sent to all members by **Becky Underwood**; a discussion was held

about supporting a Best of Breed ~ after everyone has a chance to read the flyer we will make the decision

Meeting quote by **Doris Day**, "***I have found that when you are deeply troubled there are things you get from the silent devoted companionship of a dog that you can get from no other source.***"

· **Membership report:** by **Becky Underwood**

We did a 1st read for **Jennifer Harmon**

Cynthia Page was voted in unanimously as a new member of ILRC after her 2nd read

Carol Pyne made a motion, seconded by **Mary Ellen Bittlinger**, to renew the membership of **Mark Bell and Wayne Wadhams**, which passed unanimously

· **Treasurer report:** by **Becky Underwood**

A treasures report was given to all present and explained.

The Hunt Test and WC financial report was gone over.

Becky asked and was granted permission to check out HSBC and Canandaigua National which are located closer to her.

· **Specialty September 26: Terry Miller** 2009 chairperson

General:

- AKC event approval received 6/22

-to continue to meet AKC requirements, a breed education table will be set up under the tent this year; **Pauline Nehring** is getting the materials

-setting up a Heart Test Clinic was brought up for future discussion

-the possibility of a 2 day or 4 day, verses our current 1 day, was brought up for future discussion

Hospitality:

-Ann will be accepting donations again for hospitality

-Leslie will do judges' corner and we will need volunteers to man the education table

Trophies:

-the slate for the trophies has been ordered and is being taken care of by

Pauline Nehring

-we have a sufficient inventory of ducks, ILRC wine glasses and toys

Raffle:

-an e-mail and letter from **Wendy Gladstone-Brown** was received by members about collection of items for the raffle table

Judges:

-**Kim Falker** is updating the list of judges for 2011; if you have any suggestions please contact her

-possible judges names given to Kim were **Abby Crosby of Sky Farms, Sue Williamson of Wilcare, Judy Hein of Hyspire, and Mike and Kim Silva of Shadow Brook**

-Kim will send in a suggestion list of judges to Finger Lakes and mention how judges increased the numbers for Ballston Spa

· **Hunt Test :**

General:

-**Kudos to Chairperson Barb Corbelli and everyone who helped for a successful Hunt Test and WC**

· **Old business:**

-send litter news to **Kim Falker**

-the next meeting will be on 9/6 hosted by **Jim and Sandra Corrie-Styn**; the Board meeting will be at 10:00 followed by a general meeting at 12:00, watch your e-mail for a flyer with details ~ bring your dogs for agility fun and a dish to pass

-the November 1 meeting will be hosted by **Mary Ellen Bittenger**; a WC Fun Day is planned ~ more information to follow

-**Carol Pyne** will e-mail by-laws to **Sandra Corrie-Styn**

-due to cancellation of the summer picnic the awards will be done at the Wine Country meeting on 9/26; e-mail information for awards to Carol Pyne, a reminder e-mail with details will be coming

· **New business:**

-Sunshine chairman, **Fil Craver**, sent a get well card to **Jean-Lois Blais**

-in the future speakers will be invited to speak at the meetings; we would like to invite **Jill Lange (dog massage) and Dr. Bostley (reproduction)** ~ any suggestions before the December survey please send the information to **Leslie Kayser**

-the December dues letter will include a survey for members with preferences for meeting days and times and suggestions for activities and speakers for 2010 meetings

-**Fil Craver** has suggested a social get together for club members in October; Lynne Worsfold will check Pavilions at the parks ~ stay tuned for more information

-**Fil Craver** will head the nomination committee with **Carol Pyne** and present the slate on 9/6, to be voted on 11/1

-changing the date of the WC was discussed

Meeting was adjourned at 12:15 following a motion by **Becky Underwood** and seconded by **Mary Ellen Bittlinger**



Brenda Stidfole, Brenlorr Labradors:

I still have puppies available.

Born May 28, 2009 - Black puppies -

Sire: Ch. Beechcroft Study's Top Secret - "James" and

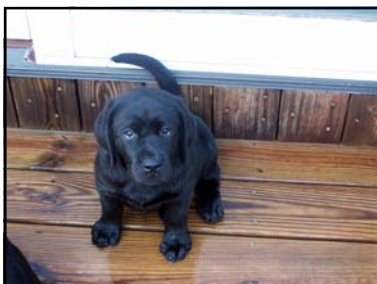
Dam: LSRK Angel's Delight Hannah - "Hannah" (Buzz daughter)

Still looking for home for 1 female and 1 male possibly 2 males. Wonderful temperments, home raised, have shots, great travelers, being crate trained. Nice broad heads, lots of bone and coat, beautiful top lines and tail sets and adorable faces.

Mifflinburg, PA 17844
(570) 966-4511

brenlorrlabs@dejazzd.com
www.brenlorrlabs.com

"Breeder of Blacks and Yellows; breeding for soundness, temperament and trainability; All stock screened by Penn Hips/OFA and CERF. Stud services, puppies, breeder owner."





Linda Witkowski:

Linda Witkowski's Lab "Lakebound Dashes to the Top" earned his WC at the ILRC WC test .



Left to right: Linda and Dasher, Mary Kobis, Judge, Beth Eckels & Sweetbriar's Molly Malone with owner, Jeff Fairbrother.

Ellen shearer, Tableau Labradors:

I have a brag from Bainbridge. Wes went WD and BOW from Open Black shown by Kathy Mines. He got 2 pts. and now is looking for the last major. It was a change of pace to watch him handled so beautifully and I enjoyed it.



Barb Corbelli, Bellburns Labradors:

Ch Bellburns Duncan JH CD WCI (BISS Can Am CH Waifin's Wing and a Prayer x Pigsaw's Emalee at Bellburns JH RN WCI), or "Major Duncan", as he has been renamed by his #1 Fan Uncle Fil Craver, finished with five 3 point Majors. Duncan, perfectly shown by Kathy Mines, earned four of his Majors in a period of 20 some days! We at Bellburns are so proud of Duncan as well as his sons, Angus and Timmy, that are off to a great start as well.



CH Bellburns Vannah Black JH RN WCX, AKA "Vannah Banana" earned another Senior leg at ILRC's Hunt Test June 13, 2009 under judges Diane and Tom Sanfilippo.

Her little sister, Bellburns Rocky Mount had quite a debut! Roxie qualified both days! She earned a Junior leg at ILRC's Hunt Tests under judges Carol and Dan Lewis and a second leg under judges Diane and Tom Sanfilippo at FLRC's Hunt Test. Roxie also qualified for a WC title under our own Beth Eckels.

The girls and I want to thank our faithful Wednesday Night Train Group for helping us get ready for the season. We couldn't have done it without you!

Barb



Barb Corbelli, Bellburns Labradors:

Cindy & Randy Page & Tim

Bellburns Timothy Brown (CH Bellburns Duncan JH CD WCI x Bellburns Queen Libby), owned by new ILRC member **Cindy Page and her husband Randy**, took Reserve Winners Dog from the 9 to 12 Puppy Class at the Genesee Valley Kennel Club's show, on July 5, 2009, under judge Joy S. Brewster.



Jeff & Lynne Worsfold & Angus:

Bellburns Laird Angus JH (Ch Bellburns Duncan JH CD WCI X Bellburns Queen Libby), the youngest dog running on that day, earned two Junior legs at the FLRC's HT on July 11 and 12. Angus then earned two more legs at Empire RC's HT on July 25 and July 26th. Angus turned 11 months old one day after he earned his Junior Hunter title. Angus was expertly field trained by Tammy and Renee Adsitt.

Duncan and Angus are both owned and dearly loved by Jeff and Lynne Worsfold.



Angus in Action!



**Tape this to
your
refrigerator!!**



2009 ILRC Meeting Calendar

(all dates are Sundays except when noted)

January 9, 2009 Hamburg Eye Clinic

March 8, 2009

May 3, 2009. 11:00 A.M.
Genesee Fairgrounds, Batavia, NY

July 26, 2009

September 6, 2009.

Noon

Hosted by Dr. Sandra Corrie-Styn

At Akron Animal Hospital

12638 Main Road

Akron, NY 14001

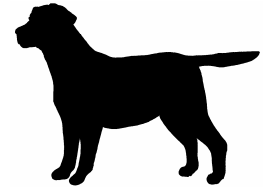
Agility Demos!

Bring a dish to pass!

November 1, 2009

Mary Ellen Bittlinger's home

More info TBA



PAWPRINTS

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FIRST CLASS

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