

# PAW PRINTS

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Maizy needs a home  
Pgs. 15 & 16



Dasher pgs. 19 & 20



Sweetbriar's One Last  
Time (Maddie) &  
brother Miles on right  
Pg. 22

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**No-kill shelters spotlighted on national stage  
San Francisco SPCA shows it can be done**

**Introduction**

In the midst of agony over euthanasia of adoptable pets comes the national debate between no-kill shelters and so-called “kill” shelters. The success of the San Francisco SPCA’s no-kill program and the establishment of the Duffield Family Foundation project to extend that success to a “No-kill Nation” bring the discussion to the front burner. Unfortunately, people have taken sides based more on political perspectives than on whether such a goal is feasible or even possible.

There are basically two schools of thought about shelter euthanasia: people tend to believe either that society is to blame for the deaths and therefore society must be punished with restrictive laws or they believe in education, compromise, and reason to bring about the desired goal. One perspective makes enemies of people, the other brings out the best.

When the San Francisco SPCA dropped its contract as the city’s animal control agency and began its quest to save all adoptable cats and dogs in the city, it was criticized by some other California shelters that questioned its definition of “adoptable” and complained that no-kill facilities merely shift the burden of killing to other shelters. But the SPCA turned a deaf ear to the criticism and plowed on. It soon became obvious that only the very old, very ill, severely injured, or aggressive dogs were to be euthanized at the SPCA and that no animals would die for lack of space or because they had treatable diseases or behavior problems.

**No-kill shelters**

Most nonprofit no-kill shelters are privately run. They are not associated with any government, operate on donations and fund-raising projects, work closely with

rescue organizations, and try a variety of innovative programs to reduce the numbers of stray animals in the community. They often spay or neuter every animal before it leaves the premises, check for heartworm, treat dogs with minor illnesses or injuries, organize feral cat care colonies, conduct obedience training classes or work out training agreements with private instructors or membership clubs, and offer pet care education programs to schools. Some no-kill shelters work with service dog organizations to provide dogs for training as helpers for handicapped owners. Many offer spay-and-neuter assistance and vaccination clinics for low-income and indigent pet owners.

Volunteers often flock to private shelters because people are more likely to work with a dog if they know the end result is a chance at a good life, not euthanasia. No-kill shelters do euthanize some dogs – old, chronically ill, severely injured, and aggressive dogs that cannot safely be put in new homes do die to make room for more adoptable animals. They also keep waiting lists so that needy animals can get in as soon as space is available and prospective dog owners can be referred to those who have a dog of a specific breed or type to give up.

**Public shelters**

Most states have laws regarding the incarceration of stray dogs, vicious dogs, and dogs that are impounded pending outcome of court cases. In many areas, these laws are carried out through contracts with private, nonprofit humane societies; since the contracts require that stray dogs be picked up and held for a minimum number of days, these societies are placed in the untenable position of killing some dogs to make room for others. Thus many healthy, adoptable dogs are euthanized.

Many of these societies also accept dogs and cats surrendered by their owners. These animals are also likely to be euthanized to make room for others if they

are not adopted quickly.

Some public shelters are run by city or county governments. They are generally supported by tax dollars and dog licenses and their programs are limited by government budget allotments.

Since space is a problem in public shelters, the dividing line between adoptable dogs and unadoptable dogs is easy to cross. A dog that rebels at a dose of intranasal kennel cough vaccine, one that develops kennel cough or has ear mites, one that comes into heat, cowers in the corner, or growls at the kennel attendant is likely to be euthanized to make way for the next truckload of strays or group of owner-surrendered pets.

Public shelters also offer many of the same programs and services as private shelters. They work with rescue groups, offer some type of sterilization service, vaccinate adoptable animals, check for heartworm, and microchip outgoing dogs and cats. Some even provide counseling services for adopters and obedience classes for adoptees.

All shelters – public and private – need volunteers and funds if they are to reduce euthanasia of adoptable dogs.

### **Carrots or sticks?**

The opposing shelter philosophies often boil down not to a kill vs no-kill modus operandi, but to a competition between those who would drive people to responsibility and those who would bribe people to do the right thing. Despite the fact that euthanasia of dogs has declined dramatically in the past dozen years through voluntary efforts, the former group often blames breeders for producing too many puppies and proposes breeding restrictions and mandatory sterilization of pets to end the killing in shelters. The latter group foregoes legislative solutions in favor of education and services that increase adoptions, help people sterilize their pets, make good pet selections, and

keep the pets they own. They, too, promote spaying and neutering of pets, not as a voluntary means to reduce unwanted litters, not as matter of law.

### **Some programs that work**

1. Landlord agreements: Since many dogs are given up when owners move into apartment, shelters can work with apartment managers to establish contracts for pet owners that require the dog to be obedience-trained, house-trained, and quiet. The contracts can require references from a veterinarian and from previous landlords. These agreements can broaden housing opportunities for pet owners, keeping some dogs from being surrendered to shelters and allowing more adoptions by apartment-dwellers.
2. Behavior counselors or obedience instructors: Many dogs are surrendered because the owners are frustrated with behavior problems that may be nothing more than failure to train or lack of understanding of normal dog behavior. An on-staff behavior counselor or obedience instructor or an agreement with a private trainer or obedience club can help keep these dogs in their homes or get them ready for new homes.
3. Prison programs: Allowing prisoners to foster and train shelter dogs has benefits for both – the dog learns manners and thus becomes more adoptable and the prisoner gets the opportunity to bond with the dog and learn responsibility.
4. Puppy transfers: People want puppies, but spay and neuter programs have been so successful in some areas of the country that puppies are in short supply. Some shelters therefore import puppies from areas in which they are plentiful.
5. Campaigns to promote older dogs: In spite of much evidence to the contrary, people still hold on to the

old adage that says “You can’t teach an old dog new tricks.” Nonsense. With a bit of extra care and commitment, older dogs can adapt to new circumstances and bring years of pleasure to families and individuals. Shelters can promote adoptions of older dogs through community campaigns that emphasize the advantages of a house-trained pet with good manners.

6. Innovative sentencing: Public shelters can champion innovative sentencing for dog owners who violate animal control laws. Instead of fining owners and waiting for the next time Rover gets loose (or is turned loose), they can work with the courts to require that owners attend a responsible dog ownership session or take Rover to obedience school. (In some areas, fines are so high that owners cannot afford to bail out their pet; programs that instill responsibility rather than simply costing money are more likely to result in a reclaimed dog.)
7. Identification programs: Shelters are in good position to adopt identification programs as means to return dogs to their owners. Insertion of a microchip in every dog that leaves the shelter (adopted or reclaimed) along with an offer to chip all dogs in the community could go a long way towards ending euthanasia of stray dogs.

Dog lovers concerned about euthanasia statistics have an unparalleled opportunity to make a difference by calling a local shelter – public or private – and offering their services to help with fund-raising, cleaning kennels, walking or grooming dogs, training dogs, fostering dogs, helping with education programs, etc. Shelters differ in their needs and programs, but most welcome assistance.

**By Norma Bennett Woolf**

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## EPILEPSY RESEARCH

*By Joan McEnnis*

In September 2008, my friend Maggie Black and I were driving home from the Huron River LRC specialty show when Maggie said, “I’m going to be show secretary next year, and YOU are going to do something.”

That would be the 2009 Mid-Jersey specialty. Well I had a major case of burnout after 2003 when I had run a health clinic, a match show, a Hutch seminar, and finished up my 2<sup>nd</sup> year as treasurer. I had been sitting on my hands since then and only attended a couple of meetings when compelling programs were given.

So, my reply was, “I am not!”

“Yes you are!”

“No, I’m not!”

“You are too!”

That’s what you think!”

“Yes you are. Just let me know what you are going to do.”

Maggie was going to be out of luck, and that is all there was to it. A couple of weeks later as I was straightening up the garage, I stood looking at the five flying saucer puppy pans when suddenly it popped into my head. That’s it! A garage sale to benefit epilepsy research! I could ask club members and exhibitors to bring their unwanted dog items and I could sell them at the specialty.

Epilepsy has been a problem for me. In the ‘90’s I produced two back-to-back litters with the same stud almost one year apart. When the first litter turned 18 months, the pup I kept had a seizure. A couple of months later, I got a call from a distraught owner, telling me her dog started having seizures too. If you have ever seen a dog

seizure, you know what a terrible experience it is. And the worst is when a child has to see his or her dog seizing. With two dogs seizing and knowing there was a second litter out there, I was in a panic. But there was nothing I could do at this point. I didn't want to frighten the owners of the other pups, so I had to wait it out. Every year on their birthdays, I called all the owners to say "happy birthday" and ask how the dogs were. In time I was to learn that 5 out of the 17 puppies had seizures. Ten years later, seizures struck again. The original bitch was not in this pedigree. It seemed, in spite of all my efforts, the epilepsy gene had come back to haunt me.

I felt so helpless all those years, now maybe there was something I could do. I went online and started looking to see what I could learn. One thing that I knew I wanted to do was to give the proceeds of the garage sale directly to the researchers. I did not want one penny to be spent on administrative costs. There were a number of teams doing research, and some of them at different vet schools seemed to be cooperating. They were asking for help from the dog community. That sounded good to me.

I picked up the phone and called the number for Gary Johnson, DVM, PhD, at the University of Missouri College of Veterinary Medicine. My call was answered by Liz Hansen. Liz is the Project Coordinator.

Liz was very helpful and willing to answer my questions. Could they accept direct contributions? "Yes." That was a good start. I was absolutely amazed by the rest of what Liz had to say.

As a minimum to initiate a mapping study, UM needs to have 25 sibling pairs in which one sibling has seizures and the other does not. Family groups are also important, so wherever an epileptic dog has appeared, it is useful to send samples from the

affected, plus as many of the normal siblings, parents, and grandparents as possible. The funding needed to conduct the initial mapping study runs between \$15,000-20,000. Currently UM has DNA from 38 seizing labs, but very few with DNA from their normal siblings. Samples from random normal dogs are not needed, because UM has DNA from over 5000 Labradors through work with Guide Dogs for the Blind and Guiding Eyes for the Blind. Sibling pairs and family groups where epilepsy has appeared are the key to being able to map epilepsy in this, or any breed. There are likely to be many forms of inherited epilepsy in dogs. There have been over 30 different forms identified in humans and laboratory mice. Liz said, when they started the epilepsy research project, they assumed there would be many samples from the popular Labrador Retriever. To their surprise, that was not to be the case.

The Greater Swiss Mountain Dog breeders have gotten behind epilepsy research. By March, 2009 they had blood from over 1200 dogs, 63 of which are affected. An initial mapping run has already been completed for GSMD's, and the data is in the process of being analyzed.

The researchers at University of Missouri are cooperating with other researchers in the USA and also in Finland, France, and England. Most of the mapping has been done in Finland and France so far, but in July (09)UM will have the new SNP chip and will be capable of doing the mapping studies on campus. Other breeds that have some mapping data already being analyzed include Saint Bernards, Standard Schnauzers, and Chinooks. Ten other

breeds are ready to map, and will be evaluated in the coming months.

If the Lab community, with our huge number of dogs, gets behind this we could have well more than the initial 25 pairs in no time at all. Twenty-five pairs is next to nothing. As with everything else, the trick is to do it!

After our conversation, I had to wonder why they had so few blood samples submitted. That is when I read the literature they have online. I didn't have to read very far before one thing jumped right out at me: *"Complete families are critical to locating specific genes and markers. Wherever possible, submit samples from all siblings, both parents, and all available grandparents."* Good grief! A typical litter would have 8 puppies, 2 parents, and 4 grandparents. 14 dogs! I figure, if I hadn't talked to Liz first, I probably would have stopped right there. Can you imagine rounding up all those dogs, collecting the blood, and shipping it to Missouri? I can't. I think only very, very few people would be able to do that. While it might be the ideal, it is not something most people could or would do.

So let's state it one more time.

**They need 25 sibling pairs in which one dog has seizures and the other does not have seizures to run the initial mapping study.**

So what do you have to do to participate?

1. Round up a sibling pair. Owners with non-seizing dogs are usually willing to participate, but have little motivation. I had one such owner who needed a little extra help. They forgot all about it when they took their dog to the vet. I ended up going to their house, picking up the dog, and taking her to my vet

one day when my girl was going in for a progesterone test. Everyone was happy and that gave me a sibling pair. If you can get your hands on other related dogs, great.

2. Collect the blood. The ideal plan is to get two siblings plus any relatives collected at once. That way you can put all blood samples in the same package and save on shipping costs. Blood can be kept a couple of days in the refrigerator, so you can bundle blood collected a couple of days apart. So far I have heard of only one vet who charged for the blood draw and the fee was very small. Be sure to print out the sample handling page (see below) and take it with you to the vet.
3. Package the blood. Ask your vet to have a freezer pack ready when you come for the blood draw. Vets get freezer packs with vaccine shipments and always have plenty to spare. The blood is sent in several tiny purple top tubes. Each tube is labeled with the dog's call name and the owner's last name. You can wrap the tubes in a couple layers of paper toweling so they do not come in direct contact with the freezer pack. Next, start wrapping the pack and the blood with a single layer of newspaper. Keep adding layers to make a nice cocoon that will fit snugly in the box. Newspaper is an excellent insulator. Your vet may have boxes you can use. The boxes do not have to be large.
4. Shipping the blood. The blood must be sent overnight. If you don't get carried away with the box, the cost will be around \$30-40. You may not want to trust the USPS to deliver it on time. I've had really great experience with FedEx and their online tracking system gives blow-by-blow updates of a package's journey. You can give Liz's email address as the recipient so she will be informed when you drop it off and when it arrives.

One other tip – if the weather is warm, take the package to be shipped late in the day as possible. That way it will be sure to keep cool for the duration.

5. Paper work. Yes, I know. We don't really like this part very much, but you can do it. There is a simple form for each dog that is put in the package with the blood sample. There is an online form that is filled out ONLY for the dogs that have seizures. The form asks for some things only the breeder can answer and other things only the owners can answer. Because of that, I print the form and highlight the questions that only the owner could answer. I then ask the owner for that information and fill the online form out myself. I figure, as the breeder, I am the one who has most at stake in doing this. If you prefer, you can send the printed form via snail mail.
6. One last suggestion. When the blood samples from your sibling pair arrives at UM, call Liz or send her an email ( [HansenL@missouri.edu](mailto:HansenL@missouri.edu) ) alerting her to the fact that another sibling pair is in their possession.

So yes, there is some work involved, and some expense too. But what a small price to pay when a test will be developed with some help from us, the breeders. Do you have access to a sibling pair, and maybe relatives too? Please help. With your cooperation, the researchers will help us so that we need never produce seizing dogs again. This is so worthwhile. Here are the links for information you need to participate.

<http://www.canine-epilepsy.net/Docs/DNAsampl.pdf> This one is supposed to be sent in with the blood sample. I had to send it in separately for one dog and that was OK.

[http://www.canine-epilepsy.net/Srvy\\_Ins.htm](http://www.canine-epilepsy.net/Srvy_Ins.htm) This form is to be filled out

ONLY if the dog has seizures. You can complete it online or print it out and mail it to UM.

<http://www.canine-epilepsy.net/Docs/DNAhowto.pdf> This one talks about what they are looking for. Don't get hung up on the part about entire families. Think pairs. Additional family members are icing on the cake.

<http://www.canine-epilepsy.net/Docs/SampHand.pdf> This one talks about the blood collection and has the address for sending it.

<http://tulgeywoodlabs.com/pages/PackingSamples.pdf> This page gives step-by-step instructions for packing and shipping the samples.

The Mid-Jersey board gave the garage sale a big thumbs up, and it will be held at our specialty on October 15 - 16, 2009. So, while you are at it, how about holding a garage sale at your club's next specialty. You can contact me ( [jmcinnis@oncore.com](mailto:jmcinnis@oncore.com) ) and I can give you some hints about running a sale.

If we all cooperate, we can beat epilepsy. Your contribution of blood samples is what is needed. You will feel proud to have made a significant contribution to eliminating epilepsy in Labrador Retrievers.

By Joan McInnis

### **Ancient Therapy Helps Dogs with Disc Disease**

*by Andrea Lin*

In the quest to improve the health and quality of life for their patients, doctors, both medical and veterinary, are always expanding their knowledge to include technological improvements. One new technique gaining momentum in

veterinary medicine is acupuncture.

Wait a minute, you say. Acupuncture isn't new! It has been used in China for millennia. And shouldn't modern medicine be skeptical of acupuncture, with its seemingly magical needles that help patients get better?

Dr. Stuart Clark-Price, senior anesthesiologist at the University of Illinois Veterinary Teaching Hospital in Urbana, says he was a skeptic. Use of acupuncture in veterinary medicine is relatively new. But Dr. Clark-Price does keep an open mind and, while he certainly doesn't believe that it's magic, he says the results speak for themselves: acupuncture can help.

After receiving a fellowship to study veterinary acupuncture, Dr. Clark-Price now offers this technique to complement conventional approaches to pain management. Dogs with intervertebral disc disease leading to spinal nerve damage are ideal candidates for acupuncture therapy, he says.

In disc disease, the disc between the vertebrae either ruptures or deforms, pushing on the spinal cord and causing nerve damage. This causes pain and, to various degrees, the loss of both motor function and feeling.

Fixing the disc requires orthopedic surgery. Post-surgical recovery requires patience, physical therapy, and other rehabilitation techniques. Acupuncture is one of the newer techniques added to the options at the Veterinary Teaching Hospital.

How does acupuncture help? The exact mechanism is debated, but we do know that it can improve function of damaged nerves. The needles are very thin and stimulate the nerve without causing pain. Essentially, the needles manipulate the electric current signaling of nerves.

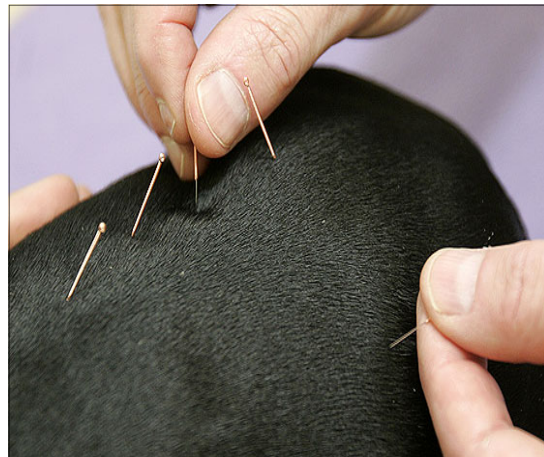
For dogs recovering from intervertebral disc disease, the hope is that the nerves in the spinal cord are not too damaged and the

signal can be re-connected. This is done by stimulating the areas that are cut-off in order to have the pathways re-connect. Acupuncture can complement efforts to stimulate and manipulate nerves.

Acupuncture is increasingly accepted in veterinary medicine. At the Veterinary Teaching Hospital in Illinois, it can be integrated into the pain management and rehabilitation therapies, and it is available for any patient whose owner is interested in this service. For more information, consult with your veterinarian or contact the Veterinary Teaching Hospital and ask to speak with Dr. Clark-Price.

Veterinary Extension/Office of Public Engagement  
University of Illinois College of Veterinary Medicine  
217/333-2907

Source: Dr. Stuart Clark-Price



### My Dog Is Sleeping in My Bed. Is that OK?

Whether or not you want your dog sleeping in your bed is a personal decision. However, if you decide to allow your dog in your bed, it should be on your rules, not his.

#### Letting Your Dog Sleep in Your Bed

Many trainers believe in strict rules such as no pets on furniture, no meals before owners, and no exiting doors before owners. However, these trainers are becoming fewer because behaviorists now know that what the rules are don't matter as long as there are rules. If you love to cuddle with your dog, allow him in bed. Make sure there are other rules. If you don't want him jumping on you, don't allow it. If you want him to sit while you prepare his food, enforce it. Consistency is the key to having a healthy relationship with your dog. If you don't want him on the furniture, enforce it every time. If you don't mind him in your bed, find another rule to enforce every time. Make sure everyone in your family is on the same page. If you want the dog in the bed but your spouse doesn't, you need to reach an agreement. It will be very hard for your dog to understand why he is allowed in the bed sometimes but others.

#### Invitation Only

Some owners want their dog on the bed only when invited. Maybe you want him up there while you read, but you want him down while you sleep. That's fine. Just teach the command.

Pat the bed and tell your dog "up." Reward. Now get off the bed and tell him "off." Use a hand gesture or pat your legs to encourage him. If he gets down, reward him. If he has trouble getting off, leave a small leash on him while you are home. Pull him off, lead him from the bedroom and close the door for a few minutes to give timeout.

#### When Not to Allow Your Dog in Bed

If your dog shows any signs of aggression, he should not be allowed in bed. If your dog snaps or growls when touched or moved from the furniture, keep a small leash on him when you are home. You do not want to get into a physical confrontation with an aggressive dog. Use the leash to remove him from the furniture calmly and reward him when he is down. Don't get angry. Remain calm.

With this type of dog, furniture is not the only problem. Hand feed your dog for at least a month, making him work for his food. Teach him commands, such as off, come, watch and down, and give him a handful of food each time he performs the command. Make him sit do a trick before you pet him or play games with him. This will help strengthen your relationship and possibly get him back in bed someday.

One of the joys of having a dog is having a companion with whom to cuddle. If you decide to allow your dog in bed, there's nothing wrong with that. However, if your dog starts to take advantage of that privilege, do a little training.



### Protect Your Child From Dog Bites

According to the **American Academy of Pediatrics**, every year, dogs bite 4.7 million Americans, with 48 percent of all reported bites to victims younger than 10 years old. Children are 300 times more likely than adults to be bitten.

*"Children are particularly vulnerable to this type of injury because of their smaller size and their inexperience with animals," says Renee R. Jenkins, MD, FAAP, former-president of the AAP. "Adults should be sure to properly choose and socialize pets, and teach their children how to be safe around dogs, both those they know and those they don't know."*

The academy also offer these tips for dog bite prevention.

Carefully consider your pet selection. Puppies should not be obtained on impulse. Before and after selection, your veterinarian is the best source for information about behavior and suitability.

Make sure your pet is socialized as a young puppy so it feels at ease around people and other animals. Gradually expose your puppy to a variety of situations under controlled circumstances; continue that exposure on a regular basis as your dog gets older. Don't put your dog in a position where it feels threatened or teased.

Because so many dog bites happen to young children, it is suggested that parents wait until their children are older than 4 years of age to get a dog .

Train your dog. The basic commands "sit," "stay," "no," and "come" can be incorporated into fun activities which build a bond of obedience and trust between pets and people. Avoid highly excitable games like wrestling or tug-of-war. Use a leash in public to control your dog.

Keep your dog healthy. Have your dog vaccinated against rabies and preventable

infectious diseases. Parasite control and other health care is important because how your dog feels directly affects how it behaves.

Neuter your pet. It's a fact: neutered dogs are three times less likely to bite.

Be a responsible pet owner. License your dog with your community as required. Obey leash laws. Dogs are social animals; spending time with your pet is important. Dogs that are frequently left alone have a greater chance of developing behavior problems.

Know your dog. Be alert to signs of illness. Also watch for signs your dog is uncomfortable or feeling aggressive.

**Be cautious around strange dogs and treat your own pet with respect.**

**Because children are the most frequent victims of dog bites, parents and caregivers should:**

**NEVER leave a baby or small child alone with a dog.**

**Be on the look out for potentially dangerous situations.**

**Start teaching young children – including toddlers – to be careful around pets.**

Children must be taught NOT to approach strange dogs. Teach children to ask permission from a dog's owner before petting the dog.

By the way, these are great safety tips for adults, as well as your children.

*Editor's note:*

*Because of the Labrador Retriever's popularity, poor breeding, and overbreeding, the number of children being bitten by this gentle breed is increasing. Bites involving children and Golden Retrievers are similarly increasing.*

PB

## **Cognitive Dysfunction Syndrome in Dogs (CCDS)**

*by Ron Hines DVM PhD*

### **What Is Cognitive Dysfunction Syndrome?**

**Editor's Note:** Alzheimer's disease is the most common cause of dementia in humans. A similar disease, called canine Cognitive Dysfunction Syndrome (CDS), affects dogs, tragically robbing them—and their human families—of a lot of the joy of their golden years. Because dogs with CDS have the same amyloid protein deposits in their brain cells as people with Alzheimer's disease, progress towards treating or preventing canine CDS may also help human patients—and visa versa.

### **How Does CDS Affect Dogs?**

By the time CCDS affects your pet, it will already have some gray hairs on its muzzle. It will also have milky white cataracts in its eyes and its vision will not be as good as it once was. It will be sleeping more, and it probably won't get up as fast when someone knocks on the door.

Most owners tell me they have a problem with their pet when it begins to lose its house training habits or no longer recognizes family members. But some owner just complain that their pet is pacing about aimlessly, confused, distant, or no longer able to find its way around the house or yard. Other times, owners come because their pet has developed obsessive licking, barking, restlessness, separation anxiety or drooling and panting. They tell me that the problems came on slowly, steadily, and seem to be getting worse very gradually. These pets also find it harder to deal with new situations. They often wander aimlessly or in circles.

The pet may have also become more timid or aggressive than it once was. In advanced cases the pets may seem to get lost in the house or yard and become trapped in

corners or small spaces.

But all these pets do continue to eat well and enjoy their treats.

### **When Might I See These Problems?**

By the time dogs are eleven years old, a third of them have some of these signs. By the time they are sixteen years old, some of these signs are present in almost all dogs. Breeds of dogs do develop CCDS at the same rate. Toy breeds seem to develop age-related decline the slowest while the large and giant breeds develop them much sooner.

### **What Changes Account For CCDS?**

Dogs with CDS have the same amyloid protein deposits in their brain cells that humans with Alzheimer's disease do. It appears that dogs with this problem also have the same depletion of the chemical dopamine that occurs in humans with this disease. This chemical is one of a group called neurotransmitters that allow individual brain cells to communicate with one another.

### **How Can This Disease Be Diagnosed In My Pet?**

If your dog shows these signs, it should be examined by a veterinarian. This is not because we have a cure for CCDS. It is because there are other diseases, with different treatments, that can have similar symptoms and we need to rule them out. We sometimes see similar signs when a pet's liver is failing (hepatic encephalopathy) or with pancreatic tumors (hypoglycemia), kidney failure, or a sluggish thyroid gland. Blindness can cause similar signs as well. When none of these other conditions can account for your pet's behavioral changes, we diagnose CCDS.

### **What Treatments Can We Offer?**

#### **Medications:**

A drug originally developed for human Alzheimer's and Parkinson's disease called selegiline hydrochloride (L-deprenyl) and marketed for dogs under the trade name **Anipryl** has proved helpful in treating some cases of this disease. L-deprenyl prolongs the activity of your pet's remaining dopamine. Some dog owner report near miraculous positive changes in their pets behavior while on Anipryl while others note very few positive effects. Selegiline enhances the amount of chemicals within the brain that act as messengers between individual nerve cells. Selegiline is also available in generic form. It appears that dogs given this drug for the rest of their lives do live longer. It can also temporarily reverse some of the changes of CCDS. It can take up to sixty days to see an improvement so you must have patience.

In England, a medication called nicergoline is being used to treat age-related behavioral disorders in dogs. It appears to



work by enhancing blood circulation in the brain.

Other medications that might have future benefits are adrafinil, modafinil and propentofylline. which are used to enhance brain activity in humans.

#### **Nutrition:**

Many veterinarians also treat this

condition with a **supplement of omega-3 fatty acids** which scavenge free radicals because free radical compounds seem elevated in the brains of CCDS pets. Mixed tocopherols, vitamin C, beta-carotene, carotenoids, flavenoids and mitochondrial cofactors have all be used with varying success.

#### **Environmental Stimulation:**

Anything that encourages activity, curiosity and thinking in your pet will help. Environmental enrichment with things such as another pet, playing with toys daily and exposure to new learning situations improves the over-all behavior of dogs with CCDS.

#### **Leptospirosis outbreaks tough to diagnose**

#### **Disease may be caused by proximity to wildlife**

#### **Introduction**

Canine outbreaks of leptospirosis in several states are sparking discussion and controversy about vaccination practices for prevention of the disease and concern over transmission of the disease to humans. Leptospirosis is a bacterial infection caused by a genus of organisms known as *Leptospira*. Until recently, vaccines were available for only two strains (*Leptospira canicola* and *L. icterhaemorrhagiae*), but vaccines for two additional types (*L. grippityphosa* and *L. pomona*) are now on the market. Controversy has risen because some dogs are allergic to the carrier in the lepto vaccine. As a result, some veterinarians no longer use the inoculant in areas where the disease is not a problem.

Concern about side-effects are relatively new; clinical canine leptospirosis caused by *L. canicola* and *L. icterhaemorrhagiae* is rare in the US, a situation attributed to widespread administration of the vaccine. The new outbreaks are being caused by *L.*

grippotyphosa and *L. pomona*, strains that are prevalent in some species of wildlife. The theory is that the disease has entered suburban areas with populations of skunks, raccoons, opossums, deer, and small rodents and that dogs become infected by these strains through contact with the urine of these animals. Lepto can infect livestock as well, so cattle and hogs that wade or wallow in areas contaminated by the urine of carrier animals can also get the disease.

### **Transmission**

Leptospirosis is contracted primarily through contact with the urine of an infected animal, but can also be transmitted through bite wounds or the ingestion of infected material. People at greatest risk of getting the disease are those who regularly clean up after animals (farmers, kennel owners, veterinarians, wildlife rehabilitators, etc.) and those who swim, wade in, or drink contaminated waters. Since dogs constantly sniff the urine spots of other dogs (and wild animals), they are at greater risk than humans.

Leptospirosis is a disease of tropical and temperate climates, so much of the US is susceptible to potential outbreaks. So far, the states of Florida, Alabama, Georgia, Massachusetts, Michigan, New Jersey, and New York have experienced lepto outbreaks and cases have been reported in many other states as well.

### **Symptoms, diagnosis, treatment**

Leptospirosis bacteria multiply rapidly after entering the body. Signs of the disease can begin as soon as two days or as long as 26 days after exposure, but generally occur within one to two weeks.

“The severity of the disease can vary widely, but it has the potential to be extremely severe, and in fact fatal,” wrote Henry Boer DVM of Pioneer Valley Veterinary Hospital in western Massachusetts. “Symptoms are typical of

kidney and liver disease, and can include, fever, loss of appetite, muscle pain, dehydration, vomiting, diarrhea and bleeding. Some dogs will have an increased water consumption and urine output while others may have a decreasing output of urine.” Jaundice may occur and the dog may have pain in the abdominal area or in the lower back. In extremely acute cases, a dog may suddenly go into shock and die.”

Toss in fatigue, depression, gastrointestinal upset, difficulty breathing, the potential for meningitis and eye inflammation, and a picture of a diagnostic nightmare emerges. To further complicate matters, veterinarians are unlikely to suspect lepto in the early stages of the disease because the symptoms are variable and lepto caused by previously implicated strains has greatly declined in most of the nation. Initial suspicions often arise from blood tests that show liver or kidney involvement. The disease is confirmed by finding the bacteria in a urine sample or in a liver or kidney biopsy.

Once diagnosed, lepto can be treated with common antibiotics such as penicillin, tetracycline, and erythromycin. In advanced cases, therapies to deal with any liver or kidney involvement may also be necessary.

A dog that has recovered from leptospirosis will be protected from disease caused by the same species in the future. However, the dog will remain susceptible to other lepto species. Vaccines to protect against the disease must attack each specific species in order to be effective. Vaccinated dogs can have mild cases of the disease that show few or no symptoms, but can shed the bacteria in their urine, thus spreading the infectious agent.

Leptospirosis vaccines may only protect dogs for six-to-eight months, so veterinarians in high risk areas recommend twice-yearly vaccination. Each dog owner should work with his pet’s veterinarian to determine whether the risk of lepto outweighs the risk of reaction to the vaccination and whether the potential for

outbreaks of *L. grippotyphosa* and *L. pomona* are of enough concern to vaccinate against them as well.

Because of the potential for the disease to cause serious illness in humans and because dog owners want their pets protected, canine and human health professionals are increasing their efforts to educate people and how to prevent, diagnose, and treat this illness. Because medical advances are continuing ask your veterinarian for the latest information about leptospirosis to determine the benefits and risks of vaccinating your pet/pets.

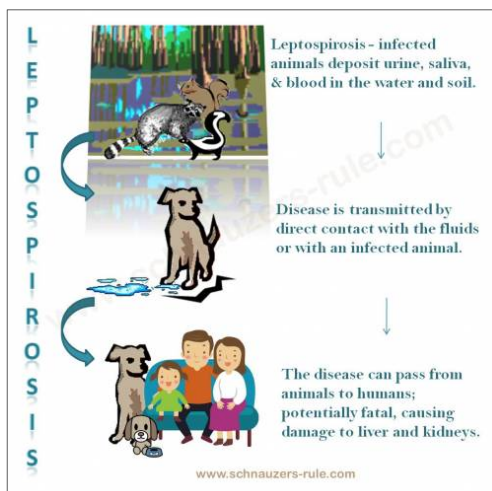
### Sources

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2. **Carole Bolin, DVM, PhD** *Research Leader National Leptospirosis Reference Center USDA, Agricultural Research Service National Animal Disease Center Ames, IA 50010;*

[cbolin@nadc.ars.usda.gov](mailto:cbolin@nadc.ars.usda.gov)

3. **US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Infectious Diseases, Division of Bacterial and Mycotic Diseases**

4. **Dr. Henry De Boer Jr.;** *Working K-9 Veterinary Consultation Service, 738 East Mountain Road, Guilford VT 05301; [info@workingk-9vet.com](mailto:info@workingk-9vet.com) [www.workingk-9vet.com](http://www.workingk-9vet.com)*



## Thank Your Dog Casserole

BY RACHAEL RAY

### INGREDIENTS:

- 1 tablespoon extra-virgin olive oil (EVOO)
- 1/4 pound ground turkey
- 1 small carrot, chopped or grated
- 1/4 cup green peas
- 1 cup unseasoned stuffing bread cubes
- 1/2 tablespoon butter
- 1/2 tablespoon flour
- 2 cups turkey or chicken stock



### Waste not

For smaller dogs, divide leftovers into single servings and freeze for later.

### DIRECTIONS:

1. In a medium skillet, heat the EVOO, 1 turn of the pan, over medium heat. Add the turkey and cook until light brown, about 2 minutes. Add the chopped carrot and cook for 5 minutes. Add the peas and lower the heat to low. Stir in the bread cubes and remove from the heat.

2. In a small skillet, melt the butter over medium heat. Whisk in the flour, then add 1 cup turkey stock and cook, whisking constantly, until the gravy thickens, about 3 minutes. Remove from the heat.

3. Soften the stuffing with the remaining 1 cup stock. Place in a bowl for your pup and let cool for about 5 minutes. Top with the gravy and let cool for another minute before serving.

1 serving

### Lab in need of a home

I rescued this dog a few months ago. It was an owner surrender and she had been tied out on a chain without shelter. I agreed to take her because I feared she would die when the weather turned cold.

She is BYB and I have her papers and pedigree. I had her completely vetted, wormed, vaccinated and spayed. I crate trained and house broke her. I also leashed trained her but, she still needed some work on pulling when she left.

The dog is currently in NJ with adopters (long time clients of mine with two of my own breeding already). They have agreed to hold her a bit longer as not to traumatize her yet again by moving her back here with us. She would have to go in the kennel as I cannot have her in the house with my dogs, specifically the older one who just had major surgery 3 weeks ago and almost died.

**It is an urgent situation** as she needs to be separated from their other three dogs and this is very disruptive to their otherwise happy household. These are very nice people who care about this dog despite the fact that she cannot stay with them.

Any help in finding her the right placement would be much appreciated. She can be brought back to NY if there is a pending adoption; I live between Albany and Syracuse.

Bio written by the family who has her is below.

My contact info:  
Jen Harmon  
908 230 2912  
[blkdgtrkg@yahoo.com](mailto:blkdgtrkg@yahoo.com)



### Maizy

Maizy is a 2 year old black American Labrador Retriever. She has been spayed and has all her shots. Her weight is approximately 55 pounds. She tested positive for Lyme disease, but shows no symptoms. We were advised by a vet not to commence treatment at this time (treatment is a month's regimen of antibiotics – not expensive). She tested negative for heartworm. Maizy is housebroken and understands some simple commands such as “sit” and “stay.”

The dog is very affectionate with humans, but is not suitable in a multi-dog household. She is not nasty to other dogs, but tends to play hard with them and does not seem to understand “doggie etiquette” when other dogs want her to back off. As Maizy can be very enthusiastic in expressing affection to her people, a home with small children would not be the best situation. An ideal situation would be a mature but active couple or single person who has experience with dogs and has no other pets. Maizy is a high energy dog who enjoys running and playing. It would be preferable if the adopting home has a fenced in backyard for her to run in.

Maizy was bred in upstate New York (Schenectady area) by a Christian brotherhood and then turned over to one of the parishioners. At some time last year, the parishioner decided he did not want the dog any longer and tied her to a tree on his property where she

remained for a number of months until rescued by Jen Harmon of Startop Labradors located in Fonda, NY. We have purchased two Labrador puppies from her – a black male and a yellow female and both are healthy, friendly animals – all one would expect of a Lab (we also have a Racing Greyhound from the rescue). We were considering adopting a rescue Labrador and noticed Maizy on Jen's website. Jen had her for only two months. It seemed like Maizy would fit into our home with no problem.

We want to find Maizy a good home – we will not just turn her over to anyone and will not put her in a shelter. She is a very good and affectionate dog with people and in the right environment (no other dogs) she would be a wonderful companion animal. She deserves to find a great forever home.



**ILRC General Meeting  
January 9, 2011**

*Attendance:* **Bill Bagley, Mary Bagley, Dr. Sandy Corrie, Fil Craver, Leslie Kayser, Carol Pyne, Jim Styn, Becky Underwood, Wayne Wadhams**

The meeting was called to order at 12:10 P.M.

**Minutes:**

Corrections: Under New Business, the WC/WCI chair for 2011 should be **Terry Miller**, not **Barb Corbelli; Pauline Nehring** and **Becky Underwood** will be 2011 Specialty Co-Chairpersons instead of **Mary Kobis**; a motion to accept the minutes was made by **Becky Underwood**, seconded by **Carol Pyne**, and was passed unanimously.

**President report:** by **Carol Pyne**

Unfortunately the inclement weather prevented many members from attending.

**Secretary report:** by **Leslie Kayser**

“One reason a dog can be such a comfort when you’re feeling blue is that he doesn’t try to find out why.” ...Author unknown

Two black ink cartridges were bought for club use

ILRC Club insurance was reviewed by **Carol Pyne** and was found to be adequate for our needs

Rudy’s Rescue note cards could be bought for club usage as the Labrador pictures are delightful

Constitution rewrite: **Leslie Kayser** has an AKC sample and **Carol Pyne** will send her copy of the Constitution and By-laws so work can begin on the rewrite

Mail Received:

1. Thank you from **Kim Falker**
2. Thank you note from **GVKC**; next year is their show’s 75th Anniversary
3. Thank you note from **Rudy’s Rescue** for our donation

AKC mailings:

1. AKC officers 2011 slate form was sent in December  
**Becky Underwood** sent AKC our membership list in their new format; the club will continue to use our current format as it also includes addresses

Emails forwarded to all ILRC members:

1. 12/8 ILRC information update of changes and requests
2. 12/13 DOTCORNYS Flyer
3. 12/15 Hudson Valley Flyer
4. 1/4 Reminder of meeting date and location

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

2011 dues form has been sent out, dues should be sent in by February 15

No new applications at this time.

ILRC had 45 members in 2010 including eight family and two junior members.

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

An income and expenses report was passed out and discussed. A motion to accept the report was made by **Carol Pyne**, seconded by **Leslie Kayser**, and this was passed unanimously.

After reviewing all ILRC paperwork it was decided that we do not need to confer with an accountant at this time  
Pink Puppy calendars were sold with profits going to Breast Cancer Research

### **Events for 2011:**

**Eye Clinic:** by **Carol Pyne**, 2011 Chairperson  
Arrangements and workers are finalized

**Specialty:** by **Pauline Nehring** and **Becky Underwood**, 2011 Co-Chairpersons

1. Judges report: none as **Kim Falker** is recovering from surgery
2. **Pauline Nehring** and **Becky Underwood** will discuss a ILRC contract for judges, vs. host club contracts, with Carol Srinka.
3. Notebook for Specialty chair is complete
4. Trophy and Site Chairs (TBA); **Becky Underwood** will send an e-mail to all club members explaining job responsibilities
5. ILRC will not have a supported entry in 2011

**Hunt Test:** by **Barb Corbelli**, 2011 Secretary and **Fil Craver**, 2011 Chair

1. AKC has given the go ahead to exchange dates with **FLRC**; **ILRC** Hunt Test will be on Sunday, June 19th
2. Applications and paperwork are in process
3. WC/WCI date and location: no report from **Terry Miller**, Chair
4. Motel rooms have been reserved: Comfort Inn Fairgrounds (details to follow)
5. Hunt Test Match in May: tabled

### **Old Business:**

1. Dog E. Woggy's: **Leslie Kayser** has information for future reference
2. Fun Match/ Show and Go: **Becky Underwood** has information for future reference
3. May 15 meeting will be held at the home of **Cindy Page**

### **New Business:**

1. Discussion: Do we want to be a link on Rudy's Rescue? No, it was decided that we will continue to educate through Paw Prints and on our Web page, while continuing to cross post rescue information.
2. **Meals on Wheels for Pets!** ([www.vnsnet.com](http://www.vnsnet.com)) -a service of Meals on Wheels in Monroe County- has ways you can help:
  - Become a pet food delivery volunteer
  - Contribute items on the Pet Wish List
  - Make a tax-deductible financial contribution.

**Guest Speaker:** Dr. Sandra J. Corrie, DVM

Sandy is a native of Clarence, NY and now lives in Akron, NY where she is sole practitioner of the Akron Animal Hospital. It was interesting to learn that she is one of A minority of veterinarians who actually breed her dogs. She also works closely with **Rudy's Rescue**. Her presentation was useful to breeders, those thinking of breeding, and those who only have companion dogs.

Sandy passed out an information packet ***Life Stages: From Conception to Geriatrics***. She started the presentation with a video of a Chihuahua undergoing a Cesarean Section. Sandy explained the value of this procedure, the drugs used, and the role of the technical assistant.

If you are thinking of breeding, you need to do your homework as sound health, structure, temperament, and function all begin with the sound planning of a litter. The health clearances (OFA, Cerf, Penn Hip, DNA testing, Brucellosis tests, etc) are specific to the breed. Sandy then discussed female and male infertility, whelping, and Dystocia (abnormal or difficult labor). She also discussed the pediatric period and went over ***A Lifetime of Canine Wellness's*** checklist, which led to a discussion of "core" and "non-core" vaccines.

A paper from the Akron Animal Hospital titled ***Your Senior Dog*** led to a discussion of the negative health effects of overweight dogs, dental disease, and what health issues to watch for.

After many pertinent questions and anecdotes, Sandy ended with a reminder that a disease is an abnormal process rather than a normal part of aging. The earlier we find and treat them, the better for our dogs and our wallets. She also recommended we vaccinate our dogs against Lyme disease since many cases are now being reported in this area.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:52 P.M. after a motion by **Fil Craver**, seconded by **Mary Bagley**, was passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,  
**Leslie Kayser**, Secretary

## **Braggs, Wonderful Brags!**

**Linda Witkowski:**

February 6, 2011

I entered Dasher in Beginner Novice this weekend. We have not shown in obedience for 1 1/2 years. I had to take time off for the rehab of my leg. So when my club offered this new titling class I thought let's go for it. No better way to start training than to have a goal. We did a lot of heeling practice in the past month. Dasher got first place Saturday with a 198 and second today with 197.5. Entering the building and walking him around was pretty difficult on Saturday as he was totally distracted and not very well behaved. It took me a long time to settle him by bringing him out of his crate and sticking a cookie on his nose going thru the crowd. His class was later in the afternoon and by then he was starting to settle down. Once we went into the ring he was very attentive to me, ears up, tail wagging; what a good boy! Sunday he was much better with the building and getting through the crowd.

I plan to go with him to the Nationals in October. I will see how far we get in the next few months to decide in what class we will show. (The motel information for this event is posted on the National Labrador Retriever Club website)



Dasher



**Barb Corbelli, Bellburns Labradors:**

At the Kennel Club of Buffalo's show in Hamburg, NY on Friday, January 14, 2011, Bellburns Timothy Brown (Ch Bellburns Duncan CD, SH x Bellburns Queen Libby) took Winners Dog and Best of Winners under judge Howard Falberg. Timmy was beautifully handled by Hayley Soar.



Bellburns Timothy Brown

## Litter Box

### Ellen Shearer, Tableau Labs:

Savvy had a litter on Jan. 4th by Hollyridge Lobuff Taylor Made aka "Taylor." She had a total of eight puppies: four yellow girls; one black girl; two yellow boys and one black boy. The boys are available.



**Tableau Lab  
pups**



### Carol Pyne, Campbell Yard Labrador Retrievers:

Born December 21, 2010

Ten puppies; four choc girls, three black girls, two choc boys and one black boy. Dam is my chocolate girl, Campbell Yard's Muddy Waters (Mojo) and the sire is Heybern's Master of the Game (Hogan).

## Sweetbriar Labradors

*Becky & Norm Underwood*



*Sweetbriar's One Last Time (Maddie) and brother Miles (on right)*

*Maddie*



*(Thanks to Becky Underwood  
for sending these pictures!)*

### 2011 ILRC Meeting Calendar

#### **January 9**

Dr. Sandra Corrie will be the speaker at Gader Mountain in Rochester

#### **March 6**

##### **Board Meeting Only**

**Gander Mountain Store (in the Lodge Room),  
300 Jay Scutti Blvd., Henrietta, NY (South of Rochester)**

#### **April 17**

Gander Mountain Store (in the Lodge Room)  
300 Jay Scutti Blvd., Henrietta, NY (South of Rochester)

#### **May 15**

Host: Cindy Page, Manlius, NY (Southeast of Syracuse)

#### **July 10**

Annual picnic at Larry & Pauline Nehring's home  
7412 Kinne Road, Lockport, NY

#### **September 11**

Board meeting Only

#### **October 1**

Club's tent at Wine Country Specialty,  
Sampson State Park, Romulus, NY

#### **November 6**

Hosts: Mary Ellen & Spike Bittlinger  
10217 Harlow Road, Darien Center, NY  
Awards & Election

### **PAW PRINTS**

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[www.ilrc2.org](http://www.ilrc2.org)*

*Phyllis Beemer, Editor*