

PAWS-itively NEWS



The Official Publication for the
Pawcatuck River Labrador Retriever Club

October 2006–January 2007

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Officers 2006-2007

President	Claire White Peterson
Vice President	Kathy Cipriani
Treasurer	Julie Quigley Smith
Recording Secretary	Lee Holstein
Corresponding Secretary	Cathy Mason
	5 Hardwick Road
	Quaker Hill, CT 06375
	860-442-6372
Board Members	Wendy Ernst DVM
	Susan Barrett

President's Message

The club has been very busy in the planning stages for our upcoming events for 2007. Committee updates are enclosed in the newsletter. The club would like to welcome new members: Jack Crawford, Karen Wyatt, Carl Wyatt and Manuela Del-Rio- Burns.

Meeting Minutes: October 2006

The October 10, 2006, meeting of the PRLRC was called to order at 7:15. Attending were Susan Barrett, Lee Arsenault, Janet Huntley, Nancy Wolston, Lee Holstein, Cathy Mason, Julie Jussaume, Marilyn Meewes, Deb Scott, Cathy Straub, Lori Riley, Audrey Wolcott, Donna Kenny, Mel Losea, Claire White-Peterson, and Kathy Cipriani. Guests present were Jonathan and Mary Lowe and Manuela Del-Rio-Burns.

Membership

Jack Crawford and Karen and Carl Wyatt were voted in as Associate Members.

First reading: Michelle Johnson Associate membership, Manuela Del-Rio-Burns.

Old Business

Corresponding Secretary Cathy Mason circulated the latest issue of the LRC newsletter. She also read a letter from Andrew D'Ambrose of Bethany, CT, an Eagle Scout candidate. Andrew is holding a Breed Education Day on October 14 as part of his Eagle Scout project.

Wendy Ernst gave a report on the specialties income from Jim Rau Dog Shows. Claire White-Peterson read a preliminary report from Treasurer Julie Quigley-Smith concerning the club's income from the shows. More information will be forthcoming.

A motion was made by Janet Huntley and seconded by Cathy Mason to have the Recording Secretary cast the only vote to elect the nominated slate of officers for 2007. The motion was voted on and passed, and the secretary cast a vote for the slate. Officers and board members for 2007 are:

President—Claire White-Peterson
Vice President—Kathy Cipriani
Recording Secretary—Lee Holstein
Corresponding Secretary—Cathy Mason
Treasurer—Julie Quigley-Smith

Board of Directors—Susan Barrett and Wendy Ernst
Fun Day will be held on May 20, 2007. Volunteers are needed to head up the various activities. The club will hold a B Match in conjunction with Fun Day.

New Business

Club members discussed supporting an entry at the New England Sporting Group show on March 18, 2007 in Fitchburg, MA. The club will support the entry and then decide afterward whether to continue to do so in the future. The annual holiday party will be held on December 17, time and place to be announced.

Members discussed ideas for winter training sessions. Suggestions included Rally, handling, a field work seminar, and a conformation seminar. The sessions will begin after the holidays.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathy Cipriani
Recording Secretary

November 2006

The regular monthly meeting of the PRLRC was called to order at 7:15 pm on October 19, 2006, in North Stonington, CT. Attending were Susan Barrett, Lee Arsenault, Janet Huntley, Nancy Wolston, Lee Holstein, Cathy Mason, Julie Jussaume, Marilyn Meewes, Deb Scott, Cathy Straub, Lori Riley, Audrey Wolcott, Donna Kenny, Mel Losea, Claire White-Peterson, Wendy Ernst, and Kathy Cipriani. Guests Jonathan and Mary Lowe, and Manuela Del Rio-Burns, also attended.

Old Business

Corresponding Secretary Cathy Mason passed around the LRC newsletter and information from Eagle Scout candidate Andrew d'Ambrose, who is holding a breed information day in Bethany, CT, as part of his Eagle Scout project. Specialty show co-chair Wendy Ernst gave a report on preliminary figures from Rau Dog Shows.

A motion was made by Janet Huntley and seconded by Cathy Mason to have the Recording Secretary cast the lone vote for the nominated slate of officers for 2007. The motion was voted on and passed. Secretary Kathy Cipriani cast the vote for the nominated slate.

PRLRC officers and board of directors for 2007 are:

President Claire White-Peterson
Vice President Kathy Cipriani
Corresponding Secretary Cathy Mason
Recording Secretary Lee Holstein
Board of Directors Wendy Ernst and Susan Barrett
Fun Day 2007 will be held on Sunday May 20 at Delmyra Kennels in Exeter, RI. This year the club will hold a B Match in conjunction with Fun Day.

Membership

Second readings—Jack Crawford, Karen Wyatt, Carl Wyatt. All three were voted in as Associate Members.
First readings—Michelle Johnson, Middletown, CT, and Manuela Del Rio-Burns.

New Business

This year's Holiday Party will be December 17. Members discussed possible activities for the club's winter training sessions. Among the suggestions: Handling classes and a conformation workshop. It was also suggested that the club combine the January meeting with a training session.

The meeting adjourned at 9:15.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathy Cipriani
Recording Secretary

January 2007

The regular monthly meeting of the PRLRC was called to order at 10:15 am on January 21, 2007, at My Dogs Place in Mystic, CT. Attending were Julie Jussaume, Jen Leitao, Cathy Mason, Manuela del Rio-Burns, Cathy Straub, Janet Huntley, Marti Hendricks, Susan Barrett, Wendy Ernst, Nancy Wolston, Audrey Wolcott, Donna Crompton, Julie Quigley Smith, Cindy Field, Claire White-Peterson, Cindy Field, Anne Marie Galvin, and Kathy Cipriani. Guests attending were Jean Stanning, Chris and Lisa Manville, and Dottsie Robinson.

Old Business

The November meeting minutes were read and accepted with the following corrections: Stacy Flanders not Cooper; Julie Quigley Smith reported on Web site income, not Janet Huntley.

Corresponding Secretary Cathy Straub informed club members of a 2-day seminar featuring Dr. Carmen Battaglia on April 21 and 22 in Somerset, NJ. She also circulated the latest LRC Newsletter.

Julie Quigley Smith gave the Treasurer's Report. Kathy Cipriani reported on the club's winter training sessions. The club is working on a session featuring Kathi Brown who will be speaking on stud dog selection. We hope to hold it the weekend of March 31/April 1.

A suggestion was made that the club conduct a survey of members in order to find what topics/activities members are interested in.

The club will hold a B Match in conjunction with Fun Day this year. Julie Jussaume will chair the match. Fun Day will be held on May 20, 2007, at Delmyra Kennels in Exeter, RI.

Janet Huntley reported on the trophies for the Supported Entry in July and the September Specialties. Club members voted to accept the Trophy Committee's recommendations.

Trophies for the Supported Entry will be from Mainely Labs. The majority of the trophies for the Specialties will be purchased for two years and will come from Techno Logo.

The subject of guidelines for Perpetual Trophies was tabled for discussion at a future meeting.

Susan Barrett, Mel Losea, and Anne Marie Galvin have volunteered to head up Hospitality for the Supported Entry on July 28.

The AKC has approved our Judges Panel for the September shows. The club is awaiting formal approval for the shows.

Thursday Sept 20, 2007

Conformation

Marion Lyons - Dogs, Intersex, Non-Regular, Veterans
Susan Huntzinger - Bitches, Best of Breed
Jean Louis Blais, Canada-Sweepstakes

Obedience:

Alison Jaskiewicz - All regular and Non regular

Rally:

Marna Johnson - All Rally

Friday Sept 21, 2007

Conformation

Susan Huntzinger - Dogs, Veterans, Intersex, Non-Regular

Marion Lyons - Bitches, Best of Breed
Alfredo Vallejo, Columbia-Sweepstakes

Obedience

Celeste Meade - Novice A, Novice B

Susan King - Open A, Open B, Utility A, Utility B, all non-regular

Rally

Celeste Meade - All Rally

New Business

Marti Hendricks has volunteered to head up publicity for all club activities. Jen Leitao volunteered to assist her.

Julie Jussaume volunteered to once again be Secretary for the club's Working Certificate. Cathy Mason and Cathy Straub will work with Julie.

Marti Hendricks told club members that she has a large collection of dog-related books that she would be interested in donating if an appropriate space could be found for them.

The meeting adjourned at 12:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Cipriani

In Memoriam:

Mrs. Anne Rogers Clark, 1929-2006

As noted in the AKC Gazette Feb. 2007:

"One of the sport's grandest ladies" - breeder, former professional handler, AKC all-breed judge, and dog woman extraordinaire-was deeply involved in the sport for more than six decades, and was one of the most eminent authorities the dog world has ever known.

The Westminster Kennel Club paid tribute to her in February to honor her and her outstanding achievements at Westminster over the years. Mrs. Clark won Best in Show there in 1956 as the first female professional handler to do so with a toy Poodle, won BIS show in 1959 and 1961, co-bred the 2002 winner and has judged there 22 times.

"My life has been the sport, " she wrote recently, " and without the care, understanding, encouragement, mentoring, and interest bestowed upon me by the persons in the sport, I would not be the person I am today. I am at my happiest at the shows....doing the job that I like best to do: evaluating breeding stock. "

Thank you for your donation to "Cherish The Children"

I would like to express my appreciation for the donation made to this charity in my son's name.

Being a part of the PRLRC has helped me through a difficult time and I thank all of you for your thoughtfulness and friendship.

Sincerely,
Donna Kenny

PRLRC Members;

The Board, and the advisory committee of Marilyn Meewes, Janet Huntley, and Cathy Straub, have put together a thoughtful and concise new membership article proposal, to amend the PRLRC Constitution and By Laws for Article 1: Membership. Once voted on, this will replace our existing membership article section. The committee would like you to read this over as we hope to vote on the changes at the March regular meeting.

If you have any questions on the revision, please do not hesitate to contact me.

I would like to thank the committee for the time they took out of their busy schedules to research the many options we did consider, and for their advice in drawing up this document. Great Job Team!

Claire

Article I - Membership

Section 1. Eligibility. Membership shall be open to all persons 18 years of age and older who are in good standing with The American Kennel Club and who subscribe to the purposes of this club. While membership is to be unrestricted as to residence, the club's primary purpose is to be representative of the breeders and exhibitors in its' immediate area. The club offers two types of membership; Full and Associate. Associate membership will not effect quorum voting at meetings.

Section 2. Membership Requirements. All members are encouraged to work at least two club events per year. All Full members must attend at least one meeting per year and be current on their dues. In addition, a Full member must either hold an office, chair a major committee or be on two committees at two different events. In order to maintain an Associate membership one must be current on annual dues. Associate members who work at least one event per year will have the additional privilege of listing litters on the club website. Non-members may request an electronic subscription to "Pawsitively News", the club newsletter, for the cost of \$15 per year.

Section 3. Dues. Membership dues shall be established on an annual basis as approved by the Board of Directors, payable on or before the 1st day of November of each year. New members joining after September 1st will be considered paid through the following year. No member may vote whose dues are not paid for the current year. During the month of September the Treasurer shall send to each member a statement of dues for the ensuing year.

Section 4. Election to Membership. Each applicant for membership shall apply on a form as approved by the Board of Directors which shall provide that the applicant agrees to abide by the constitution, bylaws and rules of

the American Kennel Club. The application shall state the applicant's name, address and occupation and the type of member ship desired (Full or Associate). The applicant shall provide letters of endorsement from two members in good standing. A twenty-five dollar non-refundable application fee must be submitted with form and that fee will be applied upon acceptance to applicants first year of membership dues. All applications are to be filed with the Membership Chair. Each application is to be read at the first meeting of the club following its receipt provided that the applicant is present at that meeting. At the next club meeting which the applicant attends, the second reading of the application shall occur. For both Full and Associate membership, affirmative votes of 2/3 of the members present and voting by secret ballot at that meeting shall be required to elect the applicant. Applicants who have been rejected by the club may not reapply within six months of such rejection.

Section 5. Termination of Membership. Memberships may be terminated:

- (a) By resignation. Any member in good standing may resign from the club upon written notice to the Secretary; but no member may resign when in debt to the club. Dues obligations are considered a debt to the club and they are incurred on the first day of each fiscal year.
- (b) By lapsing. A membership shall be considered as lapsed and automatically terminated if such member's dues remain unpaid ninety days after the first day of the fiscal year; however, the Board may grant an additional ninety days grace to such delinquent members in meritorious cases. In no such case may a person be entitled to vote at any club meeting whose dues are unpaid as of the date of that meeting.
- (c) By expulsion. A member may be terminated by expulsion as provided in Article VI of these bylaws.

* * * * *

Upcoming Club Meetings:

March 13, 2007 @ Wheeler Public Library, Main St., N. Stonington, CT @ 7 p.m.

May 8, 2007 @ 7 p.m.

June 12, 2007 @ 7 p.m.

July 10, 2007 @ 7 p.m.

Committee Reports

Fun Day Committee - Sunday, May 20, 2007

Fun Day Event Chair: Anne Hassett (Labtrax@aol.com)
AKC "B" Match Chair & Secretary: Julie Jussaume (jjussaume@sbcglobal.net)
Optigen Clinic: Cathy Straub (cabinlabs@snet.net) and Wendy Ernst DVM (wenernst@aol.com)
Raffle: Julie Jussaume (jjussaume@sbcglobal.net)
Advertising Committee: Marti Hendricks (Belgianlabs@aol.com) and Jen Leitao (jenifur32574@yahoo.com)

Fun Day by Anne Hassett:

Labrador Fun Day is our public service and education event. Along with introducing the public to the many activities that Labrador Retrievers can do well, it is also a chance for us to chat one on one with people who are curious about all aspects of owning, showing and breeding Labrador Retrievers. Our volunteers set up stations for people to try Agility, Rally and Field Work. We also provide demonstrations of these activities from experienced members of our club. In addition to the performance activities, we have an "informal" library provided by members' own collection of books on training, performance events, Labradors etc.. There are also demonstrations of basic training techniques, and demonstrations of some of the new "no pull" training harnesses available. The club has also provided a nail trimming clinic, a micro-chip clinic. We try to make sure that everyone who attends, finds something they can try with their Labrador, and that all their basic questions about the breed are answered.

Food will be available at the site and the Fun Day Committee members are working on the details.

[Please volunteer to help at this event. No experience necessary :\) A great way to meet your fellow club members and Labrador lovers alike.](#)

Fun Day AKC "B" Match Update:

AKC approval was received on January 29, 2007
Match Date: May 20, 2007
Site: Delmyra Kennels, 191 Ten Rod Rd., Exeter, RI 02822
Judges: PRLRC club members, Paul MacLean (Oceanspray), regular classes and Marilyn Meewes (Danbridge), sweepstakes
Steward: Jen Leitao
Raffle ticket sales: A few members would be needed to sell raffle tickets. The raffle items that Julie J. will be donating = (1) exercise pen, (1) soft crate and (1) dog show chair painted with a Labrador scene on the back.

Providence County K.C. Supported Entry—July 28, 2007

Site: East Providence High School
Regular judges: Wendy McNaughton (pending AKC approval) and Sweepstakes, Lois Engel

Janet Huntley is looking for someone to stand in for her

the day of the show. Please contact Janet if you are interested (moonstone_baby@yahoo.com)
The club has a hospitality tent at the show and members are needed to help.

PRLRC 3rd Back to Back Specialties— Thursday , September 20 and Friday September 21, 2007 @ The North Stonington Fairgrounds

2007 Specialty Show Chair: Cathy Mason (huntsbrook@Myeastern.com)
Catalog Sales & Publicity: Marti Hendricks (Belgianlabs@aol.com)
Catalog Advertising: Marilyn Meewes (wandavp@aol.com)
Trophies: Janet Huntley (moonstone_baby@yahoo.com)
Ring Decorations: Pat Dunn
Concessions: Julie Quigley Smith (hollyridgelabs@aol.com)
Raffle Chair:
Judge's Hospitality:
BOB Hospitality: Beth Volle

Positions needed to be filled: Raffle Chair and Judge's Hospitality

Raffle chair would include set up on Wednesday & ticket sales, and recruiting a few helpers and Judges Hospitality would include set up for the judge's lunch and meeting them during their lunch break, contact Sue Barrett (swb@wiredwaters.com) for more info on the judge's hospitality position.

PRLRC 's Working Certificate Test (WC)

September 15, 2007 at Millstream Preserve in Hebron, CT
Marlene Lendrim is the WC Chair (MLendrim@att.net)

PRLRC Winter Training Sessions

This year's Winter Training sessions have been a big success. We started in January with a Field Training Seminar featuring professional trainer Paul Botelho. Paul covered everything from selecting a "birdy" puppy to setting standards for training. Attendees watched as Paul worked with puppies and more seasoned dogs. He demonstrated how to begin retrieving work with young pups, including introducing them to the canoe, and went on to show how to introduce multiple marks with older dogs. Paul shared his concepts of training balance and the importance of maintaining a positive attitude.

Barb Burri presented a very informative and entertaining Introduction to Rally Obedience the following weekend. Barb set up a Novice Rally course and helped attendees and their dogs through it.

The following weekend, professional handler Jen Leitao conducted a handling session and generously shared her tips and tricks for better handling with participants. Anne Hassett followed Jen's presentation with an Introduction to Tracking. Anne showed a video and made arrangements for a follow-up outdoor session for all those interested. On Sunday, January 21, Wendy Ernst DVM presented a wonderfully informative talk about tick borne diseases, check page 8 of this newsletter for the text of Wendy's presentation.

February started with a Loose-Leash Walking and Positive Hold Training session conducted by Anne Hassett. By the end of the session, participants' dogs were walking quite happily on loose leads.

February will end with the Puppy Puzzle, featuring the video of the same name and an actual hands-on puppy evaluation for participants.

On March 31, the club will sponsor a day long seminar entitled Choosing a Stud Dog and Other Games of Chance presented by Kathi Brown.

Thank you, Kathy Cipriani

Pawcatuck River Labrador Retriever Club is sponsoring a seminar by Kathi Brown on

"HOW TO PICK A STUD DOG AND OTHER GAMES OF CHANCE"

This presentation should be of interest to all individuals including the large breeder, the small breeder, those who have yet to whelp a litter, those who are looking to purchase foundation stock and those who just want to know how a well-bred dog is produced. Some of the topics covered include:

- How to improve the chances of quality puppies in the smallest number of litters.
- The odds and probabilities of obtaining desirable characteristics through knowledge of basic genetics.
- The why's, wherefore's and cautions of linebreeding, outcrossing and inbreeding.
- Axioms of breeding and the selecting of the best stud.
- Basic genetic principles applied to dog breeding including sex determination, inheritance patterns, gene segregation

and linkage.

Ms. Brown is known for her ability to take a complex subject and make it interesting, easy to comprehend as well as a lot of fun.

The date is Saturday, March 31st Time: 10 A.M.

Location: North Stonington Grange, 21 Wyassup Road, North Stonington, CT 06359

Donation: \$25 per person for pre-registration or \$30 at the door (first come first served as space is limited)

*Cost includes luncheon provided by the PRLRC members

Guests are more than welcome. This seminar is open to all interested dog breeders and dog enthusiasts.

Pre-Registration Form -Please return this from with remittance (\$25) to Claire White-Peterson, 36 Wyassup

✍

Please RSVP by March 23, 2007

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email for confirmation:

Kathi Brown Seminar 3/31/07, \$25 Pre-registration

Rd., North Stonington, CT 06359 (check payable to PRLRC)

Our Speaker:

KATHI BROWN is a breeder-exhibitor and judge of Scottish Terriers. She is President of Ladies' Dog Club and Past President of the Scottish Terrier Club of America, the New England Terrier Club and the Scottish Terrier Club of New England as well as serving as the first President Pro-Tem of the Massachusetts Federation of Dog Clubs. Professionally Kathi is a mathematics and science education consultant and has been the Massachusetts Statewide Coordinator for Science at the Department of Education, a Staff Developer for the Cambridge Public Schools, Director of Mathematics and Science for the Hudson Public Schools and a faculty member at Lesley University. Kathi is the subject of three nationally produced videos on exemplary science teaching and has been selected as the Massachusetts Outstanding Science Educator by the Massachusetts Association of Science Supervisors. She breed, grooms and exhibits her Scottish Terriers under the Blueberry Hill prefix. Her limited breeding program has yielded top quality Scottish Terriers for over thirty years. Recently her bred and owned dogs have garnered three National Specialties including the youngest dog ever to win a national. She owns and bred the number one Scottish Terrier in breed and all-breed competition for 2004 and 2005.

Her dogs have won numerous specialties, groups and best in show awards. The STCA Handbook states, "Kathi keeps a very small number of dogs but the Scots of Blueberry Hill have proven to be very successful, particularly at specialties." As science educator she is well versed in the principles of genetics and uses visual aids to clarify her presentation as well as techniques to ensure audience participation and understanding. As an avid dog breeder, she is well-versed in how to apply these principals.

This is not just another genetics talk-at-you presentation. The focus of the presentation is on developing audience understanding of 'usable' genetics principles, pedigree analysis, and probability. This seminar goes beyond a presentation of information of genetic definitions to answer "what" we need to know, "why" it is important, and "how" can we utilize this knowledge in our own breeding programs so that it makes sense. The audience leaves the program knowing that they can make better decisions regarding breeding.

From a Beagle breeder and PHA member:

"The seminar was interesting FUN. I had attended many talks on dog breeding and genetics and this was the first one that felt...Eureka! I tried what she has preached and I have a litter of great pups."

From a Keeshond breeder:

"...Provides her audience with a learning experience with a blend of anecdotes, humor and enlightening material that generates high interest and dialogue."

From a Mastiff breeder:

"Exciting. Her advice yielded fourteen absolutely beautiful Mastiff pups."

From a Poodle breeder:

"One of the best talks I have ever attended. Imagine, having that much fun and learning so much."

...and from one of her administrators in education:

"Her ability as an effective communicator is without question. I found her to be unfailingly enthusiastic in her teaching, innovative in her approach and most knowledgeable in her subject matter. Leaves them (students) asking for more."

SOME DOG ORGANIZATIONS PRESENTED TO:

PAPILLION CLUB OF AMERICA, PHARAOH HOUND CLUB OF AMERICA, NATIONAL BEAGLE CLUB, AMERICAN WHIPPET CLUB, SCOTTISH TERRIER CLUB OF AMERICA, DANDIE DINMONT CLUB OF AMERICA, SIBERIAN HUSKY CLUB OF AMERICA, AMERICAN BRUSSELS GRIFFON ASSOCIATION, GRANITE STATE BOXER CLUB HERITAGE TRAIL KEESHOND CLUB, MERRIMACK LHASA APSO CLUB, RHODE ISLAND BOXER CLUB, YANKEE SIBERIAN HUSKY CLUB, NEW ENGLAND WEST HIGHLAND WHITE TERRIER CLUB, PALM VALLEY KENNEL CLUB, LADIES' DOG CLUB, FRAMINGHAM DISTRICT KENNEL CLUB, THE COLUMBIA KENNEL CLUB, LAKELAND KENNEL CLUB, CORPUS CHRISTI KENNEL CLUB, HOCKAMOCK KENNEL CLUB, MERRIMACK KENNEL CLUB, PIONEER VALLEY KENNEL CLUB, GREATER LOWELL KENNEL CLUB, SOUHEGAN KENNEL CLUB, VACTIONALAND KENNEL CLUB, YORK COUNTY KENNEL CLUB, PURITAN PUG CLUB, BOSTON TERRIER CLUB OF NEW ENGLAND, PILGRIM BASSETT HOUND CLUB, COLLIE CLUB OF NEW ENGLAND, MIDDLESEX BOXER CLUB, NEWFOUNDLAND CLUB OF NEW ENGLAND, POODLE CLUB OF MASSACHUSETTS, NORWEGIAN ELKHOUND MINUTEMAN ASSOCIATION, PIONEER BERNESE MOUNTAIN DOG CLUB, NORTH SHORE KENNEL CLUB, PROVIDENCE COUNTY KENNEL CLUB, SOUTH SHORE KENNEL CLUB, WACHUSETT

KENNEL CLUB, YANKEE ALASKAN MALAMUTE CLUB, SCOTTISH TERRIER CLUB OF NEW ENGLAND, SCOTTISH TERRIER CLUB OF NEW YORK, SCOTTISH TERRIER CLUB OF CALIFORNIA.

I Directions: From I-95, take exit 92 to Rt 2 West, at Green Onion Pizza, take right onto Main St. North Stonington to Wyassup Rd.

From I-395, take the Rt. 138/165 exit 85, follow Rt 165 toward Foxwood Casino. Left onto Rt 2 east, in North Stonington, take left onto Main St at Mobile station, to Wyassup Rd.

Or MapQuest: 21 Wyassup Road, North Stonington, Ct 06359

Upcoming Labrador Specialties:

April:

The Labrador Retriever Club of the Potomac's 32nd Specialty is April 11, 12 & 13th in Frederick, MD
A breeder's seminar is April 10th.

This is the largest Labrador specialty in the world !

For more information www.lrcp.com

Entries close 3/28

May:

Labrador Retriever Club of the Pioneer Valley
May 11 & 12 in Westfield, MA. Entries close 4/25

June:

Labrador Retriever Club of Greater Boston June 14 & 15th, in Westford, MA. Entries close 5/30

Jim Rau, superintendent.

Show Info:

www.showdays.info

www.infodog.com

www.wiscoy.com (specialties)

Hunt Test Info:

www.working-retriever.com

www.entryexpress.net

www.akc.org

The following information is a general summary of Lyme disease and a few of the other tick borne diseases as they occur in dogs. There are a couple of references sited at the end of the text for folks who might like to research the topic a little deeper. The following text may not be copied or reprinted without the consent of Wendy C. Ernst, DVM, with the exception of a single copy for personal use.

Lyme Disease:

Description:

Lyme disease is a common tick-transmitted disease. It is caused by a spirochete bacterium, *Borrelia burgdorferi*. The organism lives in the gut of the deer tick and can be transmitted from an infected tick feeding on a mammal. It is generally thought that the ticks need to be attached for 36-48 hours before they can begin to transmit the *B. burgdorferi*. The bacteria infect soft tissue and joints.

Clinical Symptoms:

There are a variety of symptoms that have been associated with Lyme disease. Some common presentations include recurrent lameness that last for a few days, often accompanied by loss of appetite and lethargy. In general you should look for sudden onset of lameness (may switch from one leg to another), stiff/painful gait or reluctance to move, warm/swollen joints, fever, loss of appetite, swollen lymph nodes, or fatigue.

*Lyme nephritis - there is currently some debate over whether or not there is a syndrome where Lyme disease specifically affecting the kidneys.

Diagnosis:

Currently we test dogs for antibodies to *B. burgdorferi*. The diagnosis of Lyme disease is made using the test result, along with the clinical findings, ruling out of other potential diagnosis and sometimes by observing a response to antibiotics.

There are a number of different types of tests to measure antibodies for *B. burgdorferi*.

-In clinic "SNAP" test. The Idexx 3DX SNAP or 4DX SNAP. This test measures the presence of a C6 antibody but is not a quantitative test (meaning it doesn't measure *how much* of the antibody, only that it is present). Presence of the C6 antibody is indicative of infection with *B. burgdorferi*

-Quantitative C6: Idexx does offer a quantitative test at their laboratory that actually measures the amount of C6 antibody. There is great debate over what the results mean.

-Western blot and the IgG/IgM antibody Elisa. In the "old days" before we had the 'in clinic' test we used the IgG/IgM ELISA test to screen for antibodies; however, dogs that were vaccinated needed to be further tested by the Western blot which can distinguish between antibodies from vaccination vs those from natural exposure. Currently the in house SNAP test is considered a stand alone test; it is not affected by vaccination status and does not need to be confirmed by either the IgG/IgM ELISA or Western Blot.

Antibodies are produced by our immune system to fight off disease. Their presence is a sign that a disease has been present (either as a naturally occurring disease or as a vaccine) and the immune system mounted a response against it. Antibodies are NOT necessarily a sign of current disease. It is expected that some dogs will continue to produce antibodies against a particular disease for months to years.

The major confusion currently has been what to do about the dogs that test positive for Lyme but are asymptomatic! In endemic areas (like New England) we KNOW there are many dogs that are exposed to the Lyme disease organism, however, many of these dogs may mount an appropriate immune response and fight off the disease. These dogs will still test positive, because their immune system has produced antibodies. The infectious disease veterinarians are opposed to treating a dog for Lyme disease simply because of a positive antibody test, when there are no associated clinical symptoms.

Treatment:

Dogs that have clinical symptoms associated with Lyme disease and have a positive antibody test should be treated with antibiotics. Most dogs respond well to antibiotic treatment. The standard antibiotic used is Doxycycline, although amoxicillin has been shown to be effective as well. Typical treatment length is 21-28 days. It is expected that treated dogs may continue to have a positive antibody response for months to years. It is currently thought that the organism is NEVER totally eliminated from the body- in both dogs who have been treated and those who recover without treatment.

Prevention:

1) Lyme vaccination

There are 2 major types of Lyme vaccine available:

-There is a killed "whole cell bacterin" vaccine where essentially the entire spirochete is ground up to make the vaccine.

-There is also a newer recombinant vaccine. The specific part of the spirochete that stimulates the immune response (the OspA protein) is isolated, grown in another type of bacteria and then isolated again to produce the vaccine. This type of vaccine has been associated with fewer vaccine reactions.

*vaccination for Lyme disease is only preventative if the vaccine is administered prior to any exposure to the lyme spirochetes.

2) Tick Preventatives:

Frontline, Advantix, Preventic collar

*Since it is believed that the tick cannot begin to transmit the *B. burgdorferi* for 36-48 hours after attachment, early detection and removal of ticks is important

KEY POINTS:

- The Idexx 4DX SNAP (and also 3DX SNAP) tests are very sensitive and specific for natural infection. The test is not affected by a dog's previous Lyme vaccination status. Additional "confirmatory" tests are not necessary.
- A positive Lyme test only means that the dog has been previously infected/exposed and has mounted an immune response - the test measures antibodies NOT current disease status.
- The majority of infectious disease experts strongly feel that there is no benefit to vaccinating a dog that is positive for Lyme disease
- These experts also do NOT support the treating of asymptomatic Lyme positive dogs.
- It is possible for a dog to be infected and have clinical symptoms of Lyme disease and test negative for antibodies (if the infection has occurred very recently the body may not have had time to produce antibodies yet). Retesting those dogs in 2-3 weeks would determine that.

My recommendations.... This is what I currently do for my dogs.

- Vaccinate your pups for Lyme—the Merial Recombitek Lyme vaccine is labeled for use at 9 weeks of age (it's the vaccine I use).
- Tick prevention--- take your pick, none of the options are 100% but probably better than nothing AND prevention also means check your dogs daily.
- Try to catch the disease early.... If there are symptoms and a positive test then treat for the full 4 weeks. If you have a positive dog that is asymptomatic then keep it in mind if they develop any symptoms later on.
- Stay tuned.... There is a lot that we don't know at this point, watch for new information!

Other Tick Borne Diseases:

Anaplasma phagocytophilum (previously known as *Ehrlichia equi*)

A. phagocytophilum is a bacterium transmitted by ticks and is the causative agent of canine anaplasmosis. Transmission to dogs, cats, horses and humans has been identified. *Anaplasma sp.* Infect various white blood cells. The SNAP 4DX test detects antibodies to *A. phagocytophilum* in dogs. A positive test result indicates exposure to *A. phagocytophilum*. The test may also cross-react with another anaplasma species, *A. platys*. Antibody response after infection can take 7-21 days, prior that that response it would be possible to obtain a negative test in an infected animal.

-*A. phagocytophilum* infects a type of white blood cell (mostly the neutrophils); *A. platys* primarily infects the platelets. BOTH types of anaplasma can cause thrombocytopenia. Generally, infection with *A. phagocytophilum* is acute and more severe; and *A. platys* is chronic and less severe.

Clinical symptoms can resemble those of both Lyme disease and *E. canis* infection. Fever, loss of appetite, lethargy, lameness, joint pain, and low platelets

(thrombocytopenia) are some of the possible clinical signs.

- *a positive SNAP test can be expected in dogs with previous exposure without any clinical signs present.
- *There is currently NO recommendation to treat dogs simply because of a positive SNAP test in absence of any clinical symptoms.

Ehrlichia canis

Ehrlichia are a type of bacteria that infect and live within white blood cells of their hosts. *E. canis* is carried by the brown dog tick and transmitted through the tick biting the dog. All three tick stages can transmit *E. canis* (nymph, larvae, adult).

Symptoms of *E. canis* can range from mild to more severe and include decreased appetite, fever, lethargy, and joint pain. Long standing disease can lead to blindness, autoimmune disease, and bleeding tendencies.

Three disease phases are recognized: Acute, sub-clinical and chronic. The acute phase includes fever, enlarged lymph nodes, lethargy, inappetance, weight loss. It is during this phase that many dogs will recover, either by eliminating the disease or maintaining a sub-clinical infection. The sub-clinical phase is a time when the dogs are asymptomatic. Some of these animals may have prolonged bleeding times during routine venipuncture. The chronic phase can occur months to years after initial infection. These cases are more severe and dogs present with bone marrow suppression that can lead to bleeding disorders. Diagnosis is generally made based on a positive antibody test, low platelets, high globulins and mild anemia, along with concurrent clinical symptoms. Prognosis for recovery is very good when caught early. Response to antibiotics (most commonly, Doxycycline) is generally seen within the first few days of treatment. Sometimes a steroid will also be used if there are secondary autoimmune reactions. *E. canis* can cause severely debilitating disease, including bone marrow suppression if not caught and treated.

Other Ehrlichia, RMSF, unknowns?

- There are numerous other ehrlichia species that have been identified. Some of the ehrlichia species are more likely to infect dogs while others are more likely to infect other mammals, including humans.
- Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever is another tick borne disease.
- There may be other, as of yet unidentified, organisms within ticks that can cause disease.

References:

- Idexx website (<http://www.IDEXX.com>)
- Vin- The Pet Health Library by Wendy C. Brooks, DVM, DABVP (<http://www.VeterinaryPartner.com>)

Congratulations to the Members of The Pawcatuck River Labrador Retriever Club for their Achievements in 2005-2006

AKC Breed Champions

- Ch.** Danbridge Empress Josephine - owned by Marilyn & Kenneth Meewes
- Ch.** Indiana Jones - owned by Marilyn & Kenneth Meewes
- Ch.** Hyspire Maritime Serenade – owned by Julie Jussaume
- Ch.** Maritime Hyspire Impress Me—owned by Julie Jussaume, Vonnie Russell, Lisa Daross & Judy Heim
- Ch.** Ocean Spray Heaven Sent – owned by Sandra MacLean & Pixie Lauer
- Ch.** Ocean Spray Rockefeller – owned by Sandra & Paul MacLean
- Ch.** TonMar's Shadow of Max, JH – owned by Tony Emilio

AKC Hunting Titles

Junior Hunter

- Chucklebrook Black Minnow, WC, CGC, **JH** – owned by Nancy Wolston
- Danbridge Life of the Party, **JH** – owned by Marilyn & Kenneth Meewes
- Nycoma Way's Dolcissima, **JH** – owned by Michelle Howe
- Snowden Hills Mango Crazy, **JH**, CGC – owned by Robin Anderson and Gerrie Owren
- Viking Secret Garden, UD, CGC, WC, TDI, UCD, **JH** – owned by Melody & Dan Losea
- Vikings Surf's Up, WC, **JH** – owned by Melody & Dan Losea
- VikingZinka Dew, CD, **JH**, WC – owned by Gerrie Owren

AKC Obedience Titles

Companion Dog

- Graewall's Oliver Twist, **CD**, WC, RN, RA – owned by Wendy Ernst DVM, DJ Fowler & Patricia Dunn
- Graewall's Pretty As A Picture, **CD**, JH, WC, WCI, CC, CGC, TDI – owned by Marlene Lendrim Viking Zinka Dew, **CD**, JH, WC – owned by Gerrie Owren

Utility Dog

- Viking Secret Garden, **UD**, CGC, WC, TDI, UCD, JH – owned by Melody & Dan Losea

Utility Dog Excellent

- Viking Gansett Bay Watch, **UDX**, JH, WCI – owned by Gerrie Owren

Versatile Companion Dog

- Summer's Thunder Boomer, CD, Na, NAJ, TD, **VCD1**, CDX, JH, WC, CC – owned by Anne Hassett

Rally Novice

- Burri's Lofty Lady Hawke, **RN**, CGC, TDI, CC – owned by Barbara Burri
- Graewall's Oliver Twist, CD, WC, **RN**, RA – owned by Wendy Ernst DVM, DJ Fowler & Patricia Dunn
- Grampian Raptor Mystique, **RN**, CGC, CC – owned by Robin Anderson & Barb Burri
- Riverdance BeeHaven Miss Da Mina, **RN** – owned by Jan Lemire & Beth Volle
- ShadowGlen the Contender, **RN** – owned by Anne Hassett
- Ch. Stonecrest's Beauregard, CD, WC, **RN** – owned by Kathy Cipriani and Claire White-Peterson
- Stonecrests Indiana Starfire, **RN**—owned by Janet Huntley
- Snowden Hills Mango Crazy, JH, CGC, CC, **WC**, **RN** – owned by Robin Anderson, Gerrie Owren & Sarah Nolan
- Summerthyme Dory Delight, **RN**, **WC**, **CC** – owned by Robin and Bob Anderson.

Rally Advanced

- Graewall's Oliver Twist, CD, WC, RN, **RA** – owned by Wendy Ernst DVM, DJ Fowler & Patricia Dunn

Working Certificate Intermediate

- Graewall's Pretty As A Picture, CD, JH, WC, **WCI**, CC, CGC, TDI – owned by Marlene Lendrim

Canine Good Citizen

Burri's Celestial Kestrel, RN, CGC, CC – owned by Barbara Burri
Grampian Raptor Mystique, RN, CC, CGC - owned by Barbara Burri & Robin Anderson
Highmeadows Celebration, WC, CGC, CC – owned by Anne-Marie Galvin & Susan Barrett
Hyspire Impressively Charming, WC, CGC – owned by Julie Jussaume
Snowden Hill Miss Daisy Mae, WC, CC, CGC - owned by Robin Anderson

Confirmation Certificate

Burri's Celestial Kestrel, RN, CGC, CC – owned by Barbara Burri
Grampian Lola Tortola Viking, CC – owned by Robin Anderson and Gerrie Owren
Grampian Bedizened Viking, WC, CC – owned by Robin Anderson and Gerrie Owren
Grampian Raptor Mystique, RN, CGC, CC – owned by Robin Anderson and Barb Burri
Highmeadows Blackwatch Abbey, CC – owned by Susan Barrett
Highmeadows Celebration, CGC, CC – owned by Anne-marie Galvin & Susan Barrett
Highmeadows Rosemary Knight , CC, - ownce by Susan Barrett
Snowden Hills Mango Crazy, JH, RN, CGC, WC, CC – owned by Robin Anderson, Gerrie Owren & Sarah Nolan
Snowden Hills DaisyMae, WC, CGC, CC – owned by Robin Anderson, Gerrie Owren & Sarah Nolan
Summerthyme Dory Delight, RN, WC, CC – owned by Robin and Bob Anderson
Viking Hil'Die Tanzbarin, WC, CC – owned by Robin Anderson and Gerrie Owren

Working Certificate

Angelwood's Meant To Be WC - owned by Nancy Bard
Ch. Danbridge Indiana Jones, WC – owned by Marilyn and Ken Meewes
Decoy Carver At Stonecrest, CGC, WC – owned by Claire White-Peterson
Ch. Graewall;s Back In Black, WC – owned by Wendy Ernst DVM
Graewall's Oliver Twist, CD, WC, RN, RA – owned by Wendy Ernst DVM, DJ Fowler, Patricia Dunn
Grampian Bedizened Viking, WC, CC – owned by Robin Anderson & Gerrie Owren
Highmeadows Celebration, WC, CC, GCG—owned by Anne Marie Galvin & Susan Barrett
Hollyridge Legacy, WC, CC – owned by Susan Barrett & Julie Quigley – Smith
Hyspire Hot To Trot, WC – owned by Julie Jussaume, L.Daross, J. Heim & V. Russell.
Hyspire Impressively Charming, WC – owned by Julie Jussaume
Khourie Meadows First Rose, WC - owned by Nancy Bard
Mayfair Verbena, WC – owned by Julie Jussaume & Karen Pandolfi
Snowden Hills Mango Crazy, JH, CGC, CC, RN , WC – owned by Robin Anderson & Gerrie Owren.
Snowden Hills DaisyMae, CC, CGC, WC – owned by Robin Anderson, Gerrie Owren & Sarah Nolan
Stillbrook Lucy Vincent, WC – owned by Donna Kenney
Summerthyme Dory Delight, RN, WC, CC – owned by Robin and Bob Anderson
Vikings Surf's Up, WC, JH – owned by Melody Losea
Viking Hil'Die Tanzbaren, WC, CC – owned by Robin Anderson & Gerrie Owren

Outstanding Performance in AKC Breed Competition

Ch. Lobuff's Puffin at Hollyridge – owned by Julie Quigley-Smith and Lisa Weiss

#1 Labrador Retriever 2005

13 Best In Specialty Show Wins - Most Specialty Wins In Breed History

3 Best In Show

BOB at the largest Labrador show in the world – The Labrador Retriever Club of the Potomac

Best of Opposite at the Labrador National, Eukanuba Invitational & Westminster Kennel Club

2006 Award of Merit, Labrador Retriever Club National Specialty

2006 Best of Opposite Sex , Westminster Kennel Club

Puffin is enjoying her retirement.

Congratulations to all!

SLADE VETERINARY HOSPITAL *PRESENTS*

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

When attempting to write an article discussing the value of homemade diets (raw or cooked), I found myself erasing my words in fear of people boiling over with evangelical furor if I favored one half-baked notion over another. So simmer down while I cut through the emotion & fold in the science.

- Fact: There are no ovens in the wild.

How did the ancestors survive on a raw diet not adhering to AAFCO or National Research Council nutrient profiles? The answer is not very long and not very well. They lived long enough to reproduce (2 yrs) and therefore needed a diet only good enough to achieve a goal far less than that of long life & optimal health. One definition of aging is the decreased ability to successfully defeat life's biological challenges and to recover well. The expectation that a pet will live for 10–20 years places great demands on the diet to meet every biological challenge while allowing none to gain a foothold in the body.

- Fact: The amount of nutrients lost in cooking are irrelevant

Contrary to popular rhetoric, most of the vitamin concentrations remain unchanged during the processing of commercial pet foods. Vitamin C is lost but dogs make ample quantities from glucose in their liver. Thiamin is decreased but can easily be appropriately added such that the final product is complete and balanced. We can use the raw or cooked version of the same amount of meat interchangeably because the difference in nutrients "lost" from the meat during cooking are so small and the changes are irrelevant. There is no demonstrable difference in the nutritional profile of meat raised by conventional methods vs. those raised "organically". The nutrient profile of chicken meat from a conventional grower is not different from the "free range" chickens. There may be other differences between the two methods but it is not nutritional.

- Fact: Homemade diets may or more likely may NOT be complete & balanced

When we go the grocery store, there does not exist (1) food product that is designed to be complete & balanced for our entire diet, so we are taught to strive for variety in the hopes of randomly hitting upon the optimal diet "on average". We're so good at balancing nutrition that 73% of U.S. children eat an unhealthy diet high in fat & deficient in calcium, 50 million Americans were obese in 2001 and a whopping 40% of people who rated their diet planning as "good to excellent" really had "poor" diets when reviewed by a nutritionist. And now we think we can do better & be a specialist in nutrition for our dog? Don't even. Case reports abound of stunted growth, lameness & fractures that result in puppies from calcium deficient homemade diets. Adding bones to a diet does NOT make for a diet with adequate calcium.

- Fact: There is no benefit in feeding a raw diet over any dry or canned pet food as measured by universally accepted scientific methods. The public health risk is a significant downside with no nutritional upside.

"The mystery of good health and nutrition is locked within the fresh, raw foods provided by nature" claims one raw meat processor. Well, nutrition is not a locked mystery, but a science, so here's ammunition for your gun. Be careful where you point.

- Meat products are contaminated between slaughter & the store display case. Herein lies the fundamental difference between feeding store bought meat & the "fresh kill" raw meat consumed by wild carnivores. One option for pet owners making a raw meat home-made diet would be to feed whole (not ground) meat that has a braised surface and then fed to the pet rare. Most of the food poisoning organisms are on the surface of the meat and searing the surface would significantly reduce the potential bacterial dose while preserving any imagined advantages to feeding raw meat in the interior of the slab.
- Eggs are contaminated with Salmonella during ovulation within the hen, before the shell is formed. Salmonellosis from any source is an infection estimated to cause over 1 million cases of illness & 500 deaths in the U.S. annually. My friend Marcia, who recovered from a 3 day bout of diarrhea caused by Salmonella, says that "if you want to lose 10 pounds, lick a chicken".
- Dogs & cats shedding live bacteria in their stools. Household transmission of these food borne pathogenic organisms from dogs to people has been documented. Extra precautions should be taken when there are young children in the house or people undergoing chemotherapy or using anti-inflammatory medications.
- Freezing does not kill all organisms and render the meat safe.
- Freeze-drying also does not kill all organisms and render the meat safe.
- Protozoal diseases (Neospora/Toxoplasmosis/ Cryptosporidia) can also contaminate raw diets & may cross the milk to the newborn causing neuromuscular disease.

What we eat or what we feed to our pets is not just based on science; there are emotional, religious, ethical & lifestyle issues that form our decisions.

I am not a board-certified veterinary nutritionist, but we are very fortunate in New England to have one that was gracious enough to provide most of the information in this article. Dr. Rebecca Remillard is at the Angell Memorial Animal Hospital in Boston. She will check & balance your homemade diets if you contact her at www.petdiets.com. Click on "Nutrition Consult".

This gives you a phenomenal opportunity to validate your thinking on your homemade diet & ensure that you are providing the best you can for your dog.

Anita M. Migday D.V.M., M.Sc.
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Marilyn Meewes was kind enough to speak with Anita Migday DVM and Gail Schmeider DVM of Slade Veterinary Hospital (www.sladevet.com) regarding articles for our newsletter. Both have kindly agreed to write articles and answer questions regarding health and reproduction in future newsletters. Slade Veterinary Hospital specializes in Reproduction Medicine and have been servicing breeders for years. If you have any questions or suggestions for articles that you are interested we'd love to hear from you. Please contact the Editor (jjussaume@sbcglobal.net)

PAWS-itively NEWS

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