



April 2010



**The Labrador Retriever Club of the
Pioneer Valley, Inc.**

5 Fawn Drive

Granby, CT 06035



LRCPV Member

WWW.LRCPV.ORG



The Labrador Retriever Club of the Pioneer Valley, Inc

April, 2010

Officers and Directors 2009-2010

President	Ann Burns
Vice President	Kelly Rome
Corresponding Secretary	Gretchen Boss
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Lois Engel, Andrea Newman, Annmarie Wilson, Jan Lemire

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The Newsletter is mailed to all LRCPV members at no fee. Newsletter subscriptions to non-members are \$15.00 per year. Club activity or committee reports, editorial, or general articles of interest to Labrador Retriever owners are always welcome. Any opinions or reports contained herein are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the membership, the Board of Directors or the editors. Please address all correspondence to the Editor at the address below:

Newsletter Editor, LRCPV

Kelly Rome, 5 Fawn Drive, Granby CT 06035

Email: Calsamlabs@cox.net

The purpose of this Newsletter is to give members an overview of Club activities and to keep them informed on breed related issues. The Newsletter is published 10 times per year, or whenever the editor can manage it.

Contacting the LRCPV

www.lrcpv.org

Email: LRCPV@aol.com LRCPVRESCUE@aol.com

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Newsletter Submissions

The Newsletter also welcomes articles for possible publication.

Please send submissions to

LRCPV Newsletter

5 Fawn Drive, Granby, CT 06035

E-mail Calsamlabs@cox.net

Deadline by the 10th of each month.

Labrador Retriever Club of the Pioneer Valley, Inc.

Meeting Notice

May 2nd - 6 PM at Suffield Veterinary Hospital, Suffield, CT

Agenda:

- Specialty Show
- Regular Club Meeting

Puppies Available

Note: In order to list a litter you must be in good standing with the club and work at a minimum of 2 club events during the current calendar year. Members who are unable to meet this requirement may list a litter after paying a \$50 litter listing fee. Regardless, you must submit proof of eye, hip and elbow clearances to the Treasurer before your litter can be listed in the newsletter or on the website.

**Breckin Labrador Retrievers
Yellows and Blacks**

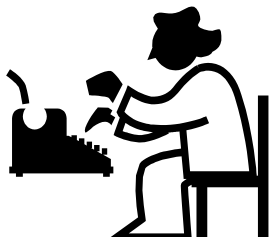
Please contact Gretchen for more information 413-736-5606

BeeHaven Labradors
Chocolate Female Puppies Available
Ready Mid- May
Parents have Clearances

**Please contact Jan Lemire for more information
Phone: 860-668-4736**

For up-to-date information on puppies & adult dogs visit

WWW.LRCPV.ORG



Newsletter Needs Your Help!!

If you have any interesting news, articles, etc.
please e-mail them to Kelly Rome at
Calsamlabs@cox.net

Up Coming Club Events

May 2: Meeting - Prep for Shows

May 14th & 15th: LRCPV Back to Back Specialties

June 25th: LRCPV supported entry in Socrates, NY

July: LRCPV supported Holyoke Kennel Club , Springfield, MA

August 15th: LCRPV Rally Match at Suffield Vet

September 12th: LRCPV Health Clinic, Suffield Vet

2011 National Specialty Show

Many of us have already volunteered to help put on the 2011 LRC National Specialty, and we thank you for that. If you have offered to help but are not yet on Claire White-Peterson's email list, I urge you send Claire an email at stonecrestlabs@comcast.net.

We are trying to expand this list to include everyone that

1. wants to actively work at organizing this event, and
2. is willing to help out as a worker, but not an organizer, and
3. may not even be able to volunteer, but wants to keep informed of the events occurring at and around the 2011 National.

I think this must cover everyone in our club! It would make me very proud if the LRCPV members all stepped up and got involved at some level. Again, send Claire an email at stonecrestlabs@comcast.net.

Thanks,
Ann H.

Seminar

**A Weekend with
Dr. Patricia McConnell and
Ken Ramirez
July 17-18, 2010**

Eager Lecture Hall in the Sullivan Academic Center
Worcester State College, Worcester,
MA

For information or questions: Contact Dana Crevling at 508/529-3568 EST, or e-mail her at Crevling@dogsofcourse.com, subject line: McConnellRamirez 2010 or visit the website at www.dogsofcourse.com

REMINDER ---- LRCPV goes GREEN.

In keeping with the drive to eliminate unnecessary paper and save trees the LRCPV had decided all future newsletters will be send via email. (Those without email will continue to receive hard copy). This allows members to read the email on their computer and only print out pages they may need. As a Club this supports efforts across the nation toward a paperless society and helps reduce the waste in landfills. As an added benefit our dogs will appreciate us saving trees.

If you have any trouble with the newsletter attachment, please contact Annmarie Wilson at 860-668-4908



Go Green for Pets

The green scene has gone beyond gardens—it now includes litter boxes and doggie treats. This Earth Day, you don't need a green thumb to help the planet. If you have an animal companion who eats, sleeps, plays and poops, you've got plenty of opportunities to cut down on waste, raise your pet's quality of life and color your corner of the world green.

Spring Cleaning

Empty out the dark corners of your closets, basement and attic, but before throwing your dusty treasures away, call your local shelters and ask if they need old towels, bedding, leashes, litter boxes and pet toys. They may even be looking for unused printers and computer monitors.

Water Works

Give your pet filtered tap water instead of bottled to drink. If you must use bottled, be sure to recycle.

The Power of Poop

Scoop dog poop with biodegradable bags instead of plastic bags from the grocery store. If you're a suburbanite (or an urbanite with a lawn), do some research on doggie septic systems—they help keep your lawn free of smelly surprises and break waste down into a liquid the ground can absorb. And kitty parents, go for eco-friendly cat litters, avoiding brands with mined minerals.

Green Grooming

Use earth-friendly pet shampoos and grooming products whenever possible.

Garden of Delights

If you have space, consider growing your own garden for your fruit- and veggie- loving reptiles and small mammals. Before using insecticides, research mulching and other gardening practices that can help reduce the amount of insecticides and herbicides you might need.

Spot On

Should your furry love leave a little dribble (or more) on the carpeting or floor, don't reach for the bleach. Use vinegar instead. This environment-friendly liquid can act as an effective odor-remover and can kill mold and bacteria. Please keep in mind, though, that vinegar must be diluted correctly with water.

Cutting Back is Going Green

There are plenty of small ways to cut back on energy and materials.

Instead of using a blow dryer to dry your freshly bathed pet, towel or air dry her.

Walk your dog to the doggie park rather than driving there.

Cut down on paper products—clean up with rags or recycled paper towels.

Put light and heating bulbs in your reptile and fish habitats on timers.

Put Your Foot Down

Don't wear shoes in the house. They bring extra pesticides, fungicides and dirt inside—your pets are exposed enough when licking their paws after walking outside on treated surfaces. (Of course, you should wipe all paws before letting them back into the house!)

Green Goodies

Consider making your own healthy dog biscuits and storing them in reusable containers. If you purchase store-bought treats, buy them in cardboard packaging and be sure to recycle.

Bulk Up

Buy pet supplies in bulk or the largest available size. You'll make fewer trips to the store and cut down on packaging to discard of.

LRCPV Meeting Minutes

Submitted by Lauren Simpson

MARCH 7, 2010 Meeting minutes at Suffield Veterinary Hospital 7:00 meeting called to order by Ann Burns

Attendance: Laura Lafreniere, Kelly Rome, Hazel Holman, Cindy Stone, Annmarie Wilson, Lauren Simpson, Kenin Strout, Ann Huntington, Jan Lemire, Merri Mahoney, Lois Engel, Ann Burns, Sue Blouin, Ray Blouin, Gretchen Boss, Judy Dorsett, Laura Cook

Treasurer report: Laura L. reported and all accepted. Laura reported that we are in the best financial state in years.

Secretary report: Gretchen reported that we are waiting for a couple new members to return to a meeting to be voted in. The board will check this policy.

Awards dinner: The date was change to April 10th, Saturday evening at 5:30 at Dr. Ann Huntington's home. Please inform Laura Lafreniere, what you will be bringing: westhilllabs@aol.com

Library: books and video –all set

Big E: TBA at a later date

LRC: We will be co-hosting this back to back specialty October, 2011. Volunteers need for Friday, October 14, 2011. Sweep judge needed

Wellness Clinic: September 2010 TBA at a later date

Litters: Puppies are available contact: Judi Dorsett, Gretchen Boss, Susan B. and Lois Engel. Check the web site for up dates

January Match 2011: New co-chairs: Gretchen Boss, Tina Stone, and Cindy Stone

Logo Order: Lauren will place our 3rd order 3/9/2010 and all will be available at our May specialty.

May Specialty: Annmarie is ordering signs. Again this year Annmarie will be taking pictures. Logo gift bags will be used for judges' gifts. All jobs have been assigned & accepted. Hotels and dinner reservations (Westwood, Saturday night) will be made by Laura L.

Trophy: Majilly and toys ordered and etched glasses with logo will be ordered by Annmarie. New veterans' trophy is now available thanks to Merri & Annmarie.

New AKC show awards – May 2010 –Grand Champion

New business: Nominating Committee: Laura Cook and Jan Lemire

President: Ann Burns

Vice President: Lois Engel

Treasurer: Laura Lafreniere

Secretary: Gretchen Recording secretary: Lauren

Directors: Judi Dorsett, Laura Cook, and Annmarie Wilson.



Invites you to:

Back-to-Back Specialties!

May 14th & 15th, 2010
Westfield Fairgrounds, Westfield, MA

Unbenched - Outdoors

Class	Friday May 14 th	Saturday May 15 th
Sweeps & Veterans	Laura Witts <i>Minerfall</i>	Jen Leitao
Bitches & Non-Regular	Beth Sweigart	Barbara Gilchrist <i>Blackthorn</i>
Dogs & Intersex	Barbara Gilchrist <i>Blackthorn</i>	Beth Sweigart
Junior	---	Barbara Gilchrist <i>Blackthorn</i>
Obedience	Tibby Chase	Susan King
Rally	Lynda Moore	Donna Blews-Pappas

Friday, May 14 the obedience and rally trials will be held from 8 am until noon. At 12:30, the Holyoke Kennel Club will hold all-breed obedience (judge Evelyn VanUden) and rally (judge Stephanie Podejko) trials on the same site. Labradors may enter both trials, potentially earning two legs in their event in a single day, with a third leg available on Saturday.

Canine Good Citizen Test Available Both Days 11-1

Show Chairman

Ann Huntington, DVM
LRCPV
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West Suffield, CT 06093
www.LRCPV.org

Show Superintendent

MBF
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Food Idea for Finicky Eaters

Submitted by Annmarie Wilson

As Labrador owners, we may not be often faced with a finicky eater. However I found myself with a pregnant bitch that was so full of pups she refused to eat most everything I put in front of her. The recipe below tempted her to take at least a little something with each meal until whelping day. Once there was room in her belly, she ate me out of house and home☺

This isn't just for pregnant bitches, this recipe is a great way to make use of leftovers and provide a healthy treat to our faithful companions. A few personal notes on the recipe below. I bought a container of chicken livers and added it to the crock pot. I also used liquid from vegetables I cooked for dinner and put a whole fryer chicken in the Crock-pot. Be sure the bones have softened up, I almost burnt out my blender on a couple of larger bones that weren't quite soft enough. I filled sandwich baggies with the 'pudding' and froze them to use when needed. Your dogs will LOVE it and YOU!

From SUCCESSFUL DOG BREEDING The Complete Handbook of Canine Midwifery by Chris Walkowicz and Bonnie Wilcox, DVM; Prentiss Hall Press, New York 1985

Soooooper Chicken

Save all your poultry skin, bones and unwanted pieces. Place them in a Crockpot and cover with water. This is also a good way to make use of leftover broths and vegetables and their juices. Sprinkle with garlic salt or powder. Cook on high for five hours. Turn to low for another twenty hours.

Scoop broth, bones and all, into a blender. Make sure the bones are soft (large turkey bones must cook longer). Blend on high until completely liquid. Pour into containers and refrigerate or freeze, defrosting as needed. The mixture looks like chocolate pudding. Stir one heaping spoonful into regular meal .

Canine Allergies - from ASPCA Newsletter

What Are Allergies?

Just like people, dogs can show allergic symptoms when their immune systems begin to recognize certain everyday substances—or allergens— as dangerous. Even though these allergens are common in most environments and harmless to most animals, a dog with allergies will have an extreme reaction to them. Allergens can be problematic when inhaled, ingested or contact a dog's skin. As his body tries to rid itself of these substances, a variety of skin, digestive and respiratory symptoms may appear.

What Are the General Symptoms of Allergies in Dogs?

- Itchy, red, moist or scabbed skin
- Increased scratching
- Itchy, runny eyes
- Itchy back or base of tail (most commonly flea allergy)
- Itchy ears and ear infections
- Sneezing
- Vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Snoring caused by an inflamed throat
- Paw chewing/swollen paws
- Constant licking

Canine Allergies cont.

Allergic dogs may also suffer from secondary bacterial or yeast skin infections, which may cause hair loss, scabs or crusts on the skin.

Which Dogs Are At Risk for Getting Allergies?

Any dog can develop allergies at any time during his life, but allergic reactions seem to be especially common in terriers, setters, retrievers, and flat-faced breeds such as pugs, bulldogs and Boston terriers.

What Substances Can Dogs Be Allergic To?

A few common allergens include:

- Tree, grass and weed pollens
- Mold spores
- Dust and house dust mites
- Dander
- Feathers
- Cigarette smoke
- Food ingredients (e.g. beef, chicken, pork, corn, wheat or soy)
- Prescription drugs
- Fleas and flea-control products (The bite of a single flea can trigger intense itchiness for two to three weeks!)
- Perfumes
- Cleaning products
- Fabrics
- Insecticidal shampoo
- Rubber and plastic materials

Can Dogs Be Allergic to Food?

Yes, but it often takes some detective work to find out what substance is causing the allergic reaction. Dogs with a food allergy will commonly have itchy skin, breathing difficulties or gastrointestinal problems like diarrhea and vomiting, and an elimination diet will most probably be used to determine what food he is allergic to. If your dog is specifically allergic to chicken, for example, you should avoid feeding him any products containing chicken protein or fat.

Please note that food allergies may show up in dogs at any age.

What Should I Do If I Think My Dog Has Allergies?

Visit your veterinarian. After taking a complete history and conducting a physical examination, he or she may be able to determine the source of your dog's allergic reaction. If not, your vet will most probably recommend skin or blood tests, or a special elimination diet, to find out what's causing the allergic reaction.

How Are Dog Allergies Diagnosed?

If your dog's itchy, red or irritated skin persists beyond initial treatment by a veterinarian, allergy testing, most often performed by a veterinary dermatologist, is likely warranted. The diagnostic test of choice is an intradermal skin test similar to the one performed on humans.

The only way to diagnose a food allergy is to feed your dog a prescription or hydrolyzed protein diet exclusively for 12 weeks. The importance of not feeding your dog anything but the diet cannot be emphasized enough—that means no treats, table food or flavored medication. This diet will be free of potential allergy-causing ingredients and will ideally have ingredients your dog has never been exposed to. He'll remain on the diet until his symptoms go away, at which time you'll begin to reintroduce old foods to see which ones might be causing the allergic reaction.

Please note, many dogs diagnosed with a food allergy will require home-cooked meals—but this must be done in conjunction with your veterinarian, as it requires careful food balancing.

Canine Allergies cont.

How Can Dog Allergies Be Treated?

The best way to treat allergies is to remove the offending allergens from the environment.

Prevention is the best treatment for allergies caused by fleas. Start a flea control program for all of your pets before the season starts. Remember, outdoor pets can carry fleas inside to indoor pets. See your veterinarian for advice about the best flea control products for your dog and the environment.

If dust is the problem, clean your pet's bedding once a week and vacuum at least twice weekly—this includes rugs, curtains and any other materials that gather dust.

Weekly bathing may help relieve itching and remove environmental allergens and pollens from your dog's skin. Discuss with your vet what prescription shampoos are best, as frequent bathing with the wrong product can dry out skin.

If you suspect your dog has a food allergy, she'll need to be put on an exclusive prescription or hydrolyzed protein diet. Once the allergy is determined, your vet will recommend specific foods or a home-cooked diet.

Are There Allergy Medications for Dogs?

Since certain substances cannot be removed from the environment, your vet may recommend medications to control the allergic reaction:

In the case of airborne allergens, your dog may benefit from allergy injections. These will help your pet develop resistance to the offending agent, instead of just masking the itch.

Antihistamines such as Benadryl can be used, but may only benefit a small percentage of dogs with allergies. Ask your vet first.

Fatty acid supplements might help relieve your dog's itchy skin. There are also shampoos that may help prevent skin infection, which occurs commonly in dogs with allergies. Sprays containing oatmeal, aloe and other natural products are also available.

An immune modulating drug may also be helpful.

There are several flea-prevention products that can be applied monthly to your dog's skin.

If the problem is severe, you may have to resort to cortisone to control the allergy. However these drugs are strong and should be used with caution and only under the guidance of your veterinarian.

Are Allergies and Bronchitis Related?

Chronic exposure to inhaled irritants (including cigarette smoke) may be a cause of bronchitis in the dog. Bronchitis is characterized by a persistent cough due to inflammation of the airway and excessive mucus production. Treatment may include medication to open breathing passages, antibiotics and anti-inflammatory agents. Please remember, your pets should not be exposed to cigarette smoke.

Help Wanted!

Helpers are still needed for the May Specialty Shows. If you can help out in obedience or rally contact Annmarie Wilson annmarie4cw@snet.net

2010 LRCPV Dues Notice

Fill in the following form **PLEASE HIGHLIGHT OR CIRCLE ANY CHANGES** and send it with a check payable to LRCPV and send to:

Laura Lafreniere
P. O. Box 131
Middlefield, MA 01243

Name(s): _____

Street: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

E-Mail: _____

Phone Number: _____

Cell Phone Number (optional): _____

Single Membership (\$30) _____

Family Membership (\$35) _____

Activity Discount (\$5) _____ (2 Meetings & 1 Event)

Total Amount _____

....Do NOT send cash, send checks or M.O. only ...

Provide e-mail/website information here to be included in the Breeder Directory page of the LRCPV website.