



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

## February 2012

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## ***MARCH BUSINESS MEETING***

*Sunday, March 4, 2012*

*Cavalier Restaurant*

*366 Chicopee Street (Rt. 116) Chicopee MA*

*Dinner (Optional) 4:30pm*

Members and guests will select from the menu

*Program 5:30pm*

Leslie Pirnie, Field Representative for Paws with a Cause, and her Service Dog, Semper Fi, will present a program on Service Dogs, from puppy to adult. Leslie will share information on how a Service Dog is selected and trained as well as laws relating to Service Dogs and address questions from the attendees

*Business Meeting 6:15pm*

On the Agenda:

- Nominating Committee Report and nominations from the floor
  - May Specialty
  - Other business

Please RSVP to Lois Engel [showdogs@charter.net](mailto:showdogs@charter.net)

Directions from I-91:

Take Exit 12 to 391 North, then Exit 3 to Rt. 116 North

### **GUESTS AND PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND**

This newsletter is e-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, Board of Directors, or the editors.

Please address all correspondence to the Editor at:

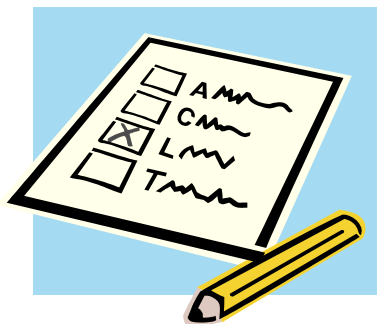
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The purpose of this newsletter is to give members of LRCPV an overview of club activities and to keep them informed on breed related issues. The newsletter is published monthly. Labrador Retriever Club of the Pioneer Valley, Inc. does not guarantee or endorse products or services advertised in the club's newsletter.

[www.lrcpv.org](http://www.lrcpv.org)



## NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Nominating Committee has selected the following slate for 2012-2013:

### Officers

- President Lois Engel
- Vice President Gretchen Boss
- Treasurer Laura Lafreniere
- Recording Secretary Laura Bauver
- Corresponding Secretary Judi Dorsett

### Board Members

- Laura Cook
- Lauren Simpson
- Tina Stone
- Annmarie Wilson

Nominations will be taken from the floor at the March Business Meeting. Election will take place at the Annual Meeting in April.

### 2012 Nominating Committee:

Laura Bauver, Chair  
Pam Burek  
Laura Cook



## West Hill Paws

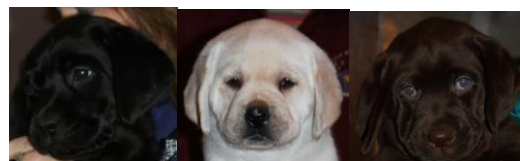
Dog Cushions & Crate Pads

Decorative Fabrics  
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Laura Lafreniere  
413-623-5055
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## PUPPY PEN

Black and Yellow Pups born February 4, 2012  
Four females: three yellow and one black  
Three males: one yellow and two black

Sire: Cedarwoods Winter Wishes, SR65624401

Eyes: CERF Clear  
Hips: Preliminary Excellent  
Elbows: Preliminary Normal  
Optigen A by parentage

Dam: Love Me Tender, SR57367605

Eyes: CERF Clear  
OFA Hips: Good  
OFA Elbows: Clear  
Cardiac Clearance  
Optigen A by parentage

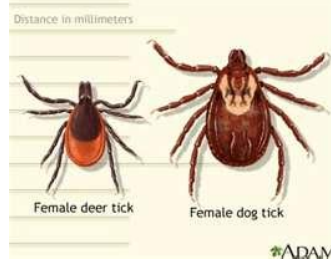
Pups are home raised, temperament tested and have their first veterinary exams and vaccinations prior to going to their forever homes.

For more information, please contact  
Laura Cook at 413-388-3657  
or email [taylor.cook@comcast.net](mailto:taylor.cook@comcast.net)

If you have a litter of Labrador Retriever pups you would like to list in our newsletter and/or on the website, please review Rule 11 in the club Rules & Policies (available in the member section of the website). Laura Lafreniere must receive confirmation of required clearances prior to publication.

If you have any further questions, please contact Laura Lafreniere, Laura Bauver, or Annmarie Wilson.

## THE DREADED TICK



### Canine Anaplasmosis

By [Dr. Susan Muller Esneault](#)

Has your dog suddenly developed an anemia or lameness? Have you had a problem controlling ticks this summer? Then your pet may be suffering from an infection called anaplasmosis.

Anaplasmosis in dogs is caused by a rickettsial infection with *Anaplasma phagocytophilum* or *Anaplasma platys*, which are both obligate intracellular bacteria. Both of these bacteria cause a separate disease syndrome. *A. phagocytophilum* was previously known as *Ehrlichia equi*, and *A. platys* was previously classified as *Ehrlichia platys*. Both of these bacterial species have been found to cause disease worldwide, and are endemic in the Midwest, East, and Northeastern and Western coastal regions of the United States, as well as in Europe and South America. In the United States the disease is seasonal in occurrence with the majority of clinical cases coinciding with seasonal increases in tick populations.

*A. phagocytophilum* may cause disease in dogs, horses, ruminants, white-tailed deer, and humans, as well as several species of small rodents. The primary reservoir for the organism in nature is the white-footed mouse, or *Peromyscus leucopus*.

*Ixodes scapularis*, also known as the deer tick, serves as the primary vector for *A. phagocytophilum* in the Midwest and eastern portions of the United States, while *I. pacificus* ticks, also known as the western blacklegged tick, are the primary ticks involved in canine anaplasmosis transmission in the western portions of the U.S. The lone star tick, or *Amblyomma americanum*, can also transmit anaplasmosis. In Europe, *I. ricinus* is the primary

tick involved in transmission.

Disease transmission to a mammalian host is believed to require prolonged contact with the tick, around 24 hours or more. The organism infects granulocytes (a type of white blood cell). *A. phagocytophilum* binds to a cell surface protein of the granulocyte and is taken into the cytoplasm where it resides within cell vacuoles.

Disease in the dog may be seen as an acute (disease develops quickly) or chronic (disease develops slowly), subclinical (no clinical signs of infection) and persistent infection. Clinical disease is most commonly seen with the acute infection, which typically lasts from one to several days.

Common clinical signs of canine anaplasmosis mimic those seen with Lyme disease, another tick-transmitted disease, and include high fever, depression, anorexia, lethargy, and inflammation of multiple joints (polyarthritis). Neurologic signs including ataxic seizures and neck pain may also be observed. Observed less commonly are GI symptoms such as vomiting and diarrhea, or respiratory clinical signs such as coughing and labored breathing. The most consistent finding is the presence of an immune-mediated thrombocytopenia (lack of thrombocytes involved in blood clotting), often in association with an immune-mediated hemolytic anemia.

Clinical anaplasmosis can be difficult to distinguish from Lyme disease. Most laboratory test abnormalities will be observed only in the acute phase of the infection where it is possible to observe platelet dysfunction or thrombocytopenia (low platelet counts), which usually occurs due to immune-mediated destruction of platelets as well as a degree of myelosuppression (decrease in platelet production). Despite the platelet dysfunction dogs rarely exhibit any bleeding problems with *A. phagocytophilum* infections. A mild to moderate nonregenerative anemia (low red blood cell levels are not being replaced) is occasionally exhibited. Lymphopenia (lack of lymphocytes) also occurs characteristically on hematology.

Hypoalbuminemia (low levels of albumin in the blood) is the most common serum abnormality. An increase in serum alkaline phosphatase (a liver enzyme) and amylase (a pancreatic enzyme) activity may be demonstrated on serum chemistry analysis. Chronic or subclinical disease typically results in a mild, flu-like disease that is self-limiting in people or animals.

The SNAP 4Dx® test from Idexx Laboratories can be used to test for antibodies to *A. phagocytophilum* and is easily conducted at most veterinary offices. The 4Dx® test is professed to be 99.5% effective as early as eight days after infection. Alternative methods of confirmation include demonstrating the presence of Rickettsial inclusion bodies within neutrophils (a type of white blood cell) on blood smears. An IFA test, available at regional laboratories that will demonstrate seroconversion as soon as two to five days following infection.

Treatment with doxycycline twice daily or tetracycline three times daily typically results in a favorable prognosis. Marked improvement usually occurs within 24 to 48 hours of therapy. Chronically infected dogs typically appear clinically healthy, and since there is no effective therapeutic regimen for clearance of the organism from an infected individual, treating an apparently healthy appearing pet is of questionable benefit.

Dual infections with other tick borne diseases are not uncommon. Dogs infected concurrently with *B. burgdorferi*, or Lyme disease are nearly two times more likely to develop clinical disease than those infected with anaplasmosis alone. The administration of corticosteroids may cause the reappearance of a bacteremia with anaplasmosis, although most of these animals remain clinically normal.

*A. phagocytophilum* is not a zoonotic infection. People typically obtain infections from the same tick population infecting their dogs by frequenting the same geographical areas. To date there has never been a documented case of a direct anaplasmosis transmission between a dog and a human.

*Anaplasma platys* is also worldwide in distribution and is the only intracellular infectious agent capable of infecting the platelets of people and animals.

The ticks involved in the transmission of *A. platys* include the *Rhipicephalus* and *Dermacentor* genus. Dogs are the most commonly infected species, although *A. platys* infections have been reported in cats, impalas, and sheep.

Clinical disease with *A. platys* may be mild and inapparent to severe. The most commonly seen clinical signs include a fever, pale mucous membranes, petechial hemorrhages (small skin and gum hemorrhages), epistaxis (nose bleeds), and lymphadenopathy (enlarged lymph nodes). These animals appear lethargic, and when seen with dual infections will have more severe clinical manifestations.

The appearance of clinical signs typically occurs eight to fourteen days following infection. The organism causes a thrombocytopenia which may result in bleeding. Typically, platelet counts will rebound one to two days following the onset of clinical disease, reaching near-normal levels within three to four days. This cycle will often be repeated on a one-to two-week intervals resulting in a cyclic thrombocytopenia. The severity of the thrombocytopenia tends to decrease with each subsequent episode.

Although there appears to be a great deal of cross-reactivity between *A. platys* and *A. phagocytophilum* on the SNAP 4Dx® test from Idexx, microscopic identification of the organism within circulating platelets or an IFA test may be necessary to confirm the diagnosis.

Doxycycline is also effective in the treatment of an infection with *A. platys*. In severe cases of bleeding diathesis a blood transfusion may become necessary. Cases not responding rapidly to treatment should be tested for additional tick-borne infections.

Prevention requires strict tick control and careful screening of blood used for transfusions.



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## ADVERTISING

The Board of Directors has established new advertising opportunities for members of our Club. Ads may not be political, but do not have to be dog related.

### Newsletter:

Business Card\* (2"X3.5") \$25/Club Year  
Fee will be prorated for partial Club Year  
(\$2.50 per remaining month)  
\*You may also purchase larger ads  
4'X3.5 for \$50/yr. 6" X 3.5" for \$75/yr. etc.  
There will be a minimum of  
10 newsletters/year  
Contact Laura Bauver for more information

### Website:

\$100/Club Year  
\$50/Club Year for members in good standing  
who have worked at least four (4) hours each at  
two events in the prior Club Year, as verified by  
the event chairperson  
Fee will be prorated for partial Club Year  
(\$10/\$5 per remaining month)  
Contact Annmarie Wilson for more information

***Labrador Retriever Club of the Pioneer  
Valley, Inc. does not guarantee or endorse  
products and services advertised in the  
Club's newsletter or on the website.***



## THE BREED RING

OK- so you have decided that your self-confidence is sturdy enough to withstand taking your beloved dog into the ring and subjecting yourself to either complete humiliation and devastation or grabbing the brass ring and WINNING it all.

Let's get started on the right foot.

ATTIRE for you:

The first thing you should remember is that even though it is a dog show, it is a complete presentation of you and your dog. You should come into the ring clean and neat and organized, this shows respect for the judge. If you observe the professional handlers you will notice that they dress in what would be acceptable for working in an office, with sensible shoes!

Men wear suits, with a tie. This is proper attire in the ring and tells the judge that this person is serious about showing the dog. The men have it easy- a suit is a suit is a suit.

Women have to really think about this business of dressing appropriately. I remember when I first got into Labs and had Gerlinde Hockla for my handler, until she got older she was always immaculate and feminine without being fussy, she always wore a skirt and blouse. My ideal was Jane Anderson (Anderscroft) who maintained that the handler should dress in order to be neat and clean in colors and style that will not take away attention from the dog. Jane most usually had a khaki skirt and sporty tailored top. Her dogs were always shown to perfection.

Women should dress in a sporty, not fussy, fashion: a neat skirt of a neutral color, with a neat top with a jacket is great, and remember you do need pockets. Please NEVER run

around the ring with a bait pouch flopping around, it just screams “not serious”. Please never wear a party dress. Dog showing requires sturdy sensible clothes.

Blue jeans are NOT appropriate. A nice pair of tailored slacks with a jacket is acceptable.

Watch Cassie Belli in the ring, she is always immaculate, feminine and organized and her clothes do not detract from her dogs. Our own Lauren Simpson is always immaculate and dressed appropriately.

Shoes – I know that sneakers are acceptable and give good traction but there are sneakers that have a little style, and do not look like you are about to run a marathon. I think the plain Keds are nice. Your shoes should always be chosen for SAFETY, good traction is a must before style.

Ladies, as you are choosing your dog show attire, just look in a full length mirror and think of how you will look in that WINNING picture. I do take input from judges and they will often remark that the Labrador exhibitors seem to be more casual than they would like to see.

Before we complain about the professional handlers always winning let’s take a look at them and note that they are neatly dressed, their dogs are clean and they are prepared to win. Certainly any of us can look and act just as professional, it just takes some preparation. Now all of the above refers to all breed shows. At a Labrador Specialty, all bets are off mostly but I still like to honor the judge with appropriate dress.



## OBEDIENCE/RALLY

Want to improve your heeling? Try not to “cheerlead” your dog. Lots of handlers will chit-chat with their dog during training while working on heeling....to keep them “up” and tell them they’re doing a great job....what a good dog....yes that’s it....super! But what happens at a trial is you go into the ring with your dog, and then you say nothing (because you’re not allowed). Then the dog starts lagging or sniffing or wandering away....not sure what to do....because all the happy narration cues that they think go along with heeling suddenly aren’t there. Always try to train your dog using methods that you can use or replicate in a trial. Your dog will need to learn that silence from you means they’re right, and words/sounds from you mean they’re not right. Work on it in training....start off heeling and silently treat your dog if they’re doing a great job for a couple of steps, then stop and release the dog and then tell him how brilliant he is. As soon as your dog isn’t heeling nicely, stop...use a verbal cue to ask for what you want (“ah-ah, up here watch me”), then start again. When they’re wrong, immediately stop and show them what you want, and then start up again. If they’re right, just SMILE and either treat as you go or stop and release and jackpot. Teach your dog that silence means they’re doing it right. If you’re a chatterbox type, this will take some effort on your part.....but have fun with it!

**Tip of the Month:** Remember your gate manners! Whether you’re showing in Obedience or Rally, there are basic manners that should be practiced by all exhibitors when they’re waiting to go into the ring. Rule #1: Be ready! Nothing ticks off a judge like waiting for the next exhibitor to show up, and having the stewards shout out armband numbers over and over. Know who is before you, and who is before them. Have your armband on (preferably

**Blandford Animal Hospital**

[Blandfordanimalhospital.aahavet.org](http://Blandfordanimalhospital.aahavet.org)



**Dr. Hazel Holman**  
Veterinarian  
[blandfordanimalhospital1@verizon.net](mailto:blandfordanimalhospital1@verizon.net)



Route 23, P.O. Box 769  
Blandford, MA 01008  
Phone: (413) 848-2057

right-side-up) and your pockets empty. If the exhibitors before you are not ready when called, then it becomes your turn! If you're competing in Open or Utility, make sure you have your retrieval dumbbell or scent article bag & gloves with you to give to the stewards. If you're in Rally Excellent (until April) make sure you have your dog on a 6-foot leash to use for the Honor station. Be on time and be prepared! Rule #2: If the exhibitor before you is still in the ring, you will not be allowed into the ring until after they exit. There is no need for you to stand at the gate opening with your dog....stand off to the side so that the prior exhibitor and their dog can safely and calmly exit the ring first. The judge will need at least 30 seconds between exhibitors to tally their score and get the next worksheet ready on their clipboard. Be considerate and step aside to allow them to exit the ring. And for you Rally folks who love to check the ring board for scores.....remember to stand clear of the entry and exit gates.



### ASK THE VET

***One of my labs sheds significantly more than the others. She is happy, energetic and doesn't scratch much. What could be the cause? What can be done?***

Dogs shed, especially Labradors. If the dog is normal, healthy, has no skin lesions and is not itchy, it is normal. There is no magic pill for shedding. Get a shed-free dog like a Poodle, Bichon or Chinese-crested. Otherwise, hair is replaced usually twice a year in most breeds. Some dogs lose their seasonal synchronization by becoming house dwelling and shed continuously rather than in cycles.

Excessive shedding, itchiness or hair loss is not normal. These problems need veterinary

diagnosis. Allergy causes itchiness and dogs pull out their hair. Hormonal imbalances can cause excessive shedding like bitches going through heat cycles or dogs with low thyroid or high cortisol levels or males with testicular Sertoli cell tumors. Some drug side-effects are hair loss (prednisone, Adequan, Atopica, etc.). Poor quality diets can cause excessive shedding. A veterinary exam is needed for these conditions.

Shedding is not a medical problem but is a management problem for most of us. Brushing, swimming, bathing, adequate exercise are needed. Omega fatty acid supplements may help. Spot-on treatments from Allerderm or Duoxo may help. Sensitive skin diets may help.

***Is there a flea /tick preventative that is safe for use on pregnant bitches and/or with young pups in the house?***

Yes, Frontline & Certifect are approved for breeding, pregnant and lactating bitches as well as puppies from 8 weeks of age. Apply and let it dry before putting bitch back with puppies.

### DATES TO REMEMBER

March 4	LRCPV meeting, Chicopee MA
April 21	LRCPV Annual Meeting, Suffield CT
May 6	LRCPV Meeting
May 11-12	LRCPV Specialty, Westfield MA
June 3	LRCPV meeting
August	LRCPV Rally Fun Match, Suffield CT
Sept	LRCPV Well Dog Clinic, Suffield CT



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## PROBIOTICS

The following is some of the information shared by Meagan Treleaven from Nutramax at our February 12<sup>th</sup> meeting:

- Intestinal microbiota play a crucial role in GI health and disease
- Probiotics may be beneficial in maintaining GI health
- Probiotic effect is strain specific
- Product labels should contain the strain
- The administered dose is important
- Health benefit should be demonstrated in well-conducted controlled studies
- In vitro characteristics are not necessarily a predictor of clinical efficacy
- Select a product from a reputable manufacturer with data showing it contains sufficient numbers of viable organisms to every effect
- Probiotics are live microorganisms which, when administered in adequate amounts, confer a health benefit on the host
- Prebiotics are non-digestible ingredients added to food to enhance growth of native lactic acid bacteria and/or help the growth of probiotics
- Symbiotics are a combination of probiotics and prebiotics

A balanced intestinal ecosystem provides nutrients to the host, primes and stimulates the immune system, and aids the host in defense against intestinal pathogens. Studies in humans, dogs, and cats have shown a microbial dysbiosis in inflammatory bowel disease. Many environmental triggers such as food withdrawal, use of antibiotics, or acute GI infection will cause bacterial shifts in otherwise healthy animals. It is possible that such changes may lead to chronic GI disease in predisposed animals. Maintaining the microbial intestinal balance during such stress periods may be useful in the prevention or treatment of GI disorders.

## LRCPV ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting and Awards Dinner will be held on Saturday, April 21<sup>st</sup> at the home of Annmarie Wilson in Suffield CT. Save the date and look for additional information in the next newsletter or on the club website.

## FACEBOOK

We are now on Facebook! Our new page will serve as an additional (free) method of getting the word out about our club, meetings, and events. We've posted some pictures of recent activities and they are already getting noticed!

The page is open to the public and almost half of the "fans" are not yet members of the club. Perhaps as these prospective members learn about our programs and activities they will join us or participate in our events. There is a link to the website on the Facebook page and a link from the website to the Facebook page.

If you are on Facebook, search for Labrador Retriever Club of the Pioneer Valley Inc. then at the top of the page, click on "LIKE". You will be notified any time new information is posted or pictures are added. If you are not on Facebook but have family or friends who are, encourage them to find our page and "Like" it!

## SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR CONTRIBUTORS

**Laura Bauver, Editor**  
**Lois Engel**  
**Hazel Holman, VMD**  
**Laura Lafreniere**  
**Danette Smith**

We welcome articles from all members for possible publication and questions for the Ask the Vet column.

Please submit by the 10<sup>th</sup> of the month to:  
 LRCPV Newsletter Laura K Bauver, Editor  
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 cassisocloset@yahoo.com