



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

January 2012

## **2011-2012** **Board of Directors**

### OFFICERS

President

Lois Engel

[showdogs@charter.net](mailto:showdogs@charter.net)

413-323-4822

Vice President

Gretchen Boss

[cgnbboss@yahoo.com](mailto:cgnbboss@yahoo.com)

413-736-5606

Treasurer

Laura Lafreniere

[westhilllabs@aol.com](mailto:westhilllabs@aol.com)

413-623-5055

Recording Secretary

Laura Bauver

[cassiscloset@yahoo.com](mailto:cassiscloset@yahoo.com)

413-357-6424

Corresponding Secretary

Judi Dorsett

[judedors@aol.com](mailto:judedors@aol.com)

413-265-6987

### MEMBERS-AT-LARGE

Ann Burns

[paddington@charter.net](mailto:paddington@charter.net)

508-248-3618

Lauren Simpson

[laughinlab@comcast.net](mailto:laughinlab@comcast.net)

417-734-7613

Tina Stone

[chritinestone@comcast.net](mailto:chritinestone@comcast.net)

860-454-8025

Annmarie Wilson

[annmarie@wilannlabradors.com](mailto:annmarie@wilannlabradors.com)

860-668-4908

Newsletter Editor

Laura Bauver

[cassiscloset@yahoo.com](mailto:cassiscloset@yahoo.com)

413-357-6424

Webmaster

Annmarie Wilson

[annmarie@wilannlabradors.com](mailto:annmarie@wilannlabradors.com)

860-668-4908

## ***FEBRUARY BUSINESS MEETING***

*Sunday, February 12, 2012*

*Piccadilly Pub*

1506 Riverdale Road (Rte. 5) West Springfield MA

*Dinner (Optional) 5pm*

Members and guests will select from the menu

*Business Meeting 6pm*

Program presented by Meagan Treleaven from Nutramax:

**PROBIOTICS:**

- **HOW THEY WORK IN THE BODY**
- **WHY ARE THERE SO MANY DIFFERENT STRAINS**
- **WHEN TO USE**

**IMPORTANT BUSINESS TO BE ADDRESSED, INCLUDING  
ADOPTION OF PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO BYLAWS AND  
RULES & POLICIES**

If you have not received a copy in the mail, please contact Judi  
Dorsett at [judedors@aol.com](mailto:judedors@aol.com) or 413-265-6987

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

by Wednesday, February 8<sup>th</sup>

so our speaker can plan for sample packs and handouts

**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:  
Newsletter Editor, LRCPV

Laura Bauver, 43 South Lane, Granville MA 01034

Email: [cassiscloset@yahoo.com](mailto:cassiscloset@yahoo.com)

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.

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

## Canine influenza is a relatively new disease, and most dogs are susceptible



If your dog has signs of respiratory illness, contact your veterinarian for advice.

Dog Flu is Easily Transmitted from Dog to Dog  
Canine influenza virus (CIV) causes a respiratory infection in dogs that is often referred to as “dog flu.” CIV is a relatively new virus, so almost all dogs are susceptible to infection when they are newly exposed because they have not built up natural immunity. Most dogs that develop CIV infection have a mild illness, but some dogs get very sick and require treatment in a veterinarian’s office.

Canine influenza is very contagious, meaning that it is easily spread from dogs that are currently infected to healthy dogs. CIV can pass from dog to dog through virus particles in the air (eg, through coughing or sneezing) or by coming into physical contact with other dogs (touching noses). It can also be picked up if a dog touches or plays with objects that were touched by infected dogs (for example, food bowls, and toys). Humans can even transfer the virus between dogs. For example, they may spread the virus if they touch an infected dog, or even touch a toy or doorknob that the dog has contacted, and then touch another dog before washing their hands.

## Signs of Canine Influenza Infection

Be alert for the following signs, which are common in dogs with canine influenza:

- Mild, low-grade fever (103°F)
- Lethargy (tiredness)
- Loss of appetite
- Cough, which may be dry or may bring up sputum
- Runny nose with clear secretions at first, but may later change to a thick and yellow and/or pink-tinged color

If your dog shows any of these signs, contact your veterinarian and avoid taking the dog anywhere that other dogs may be exposed (other than the veterinarian's office, if so instructed) until it has made a full recovery

## Disease Course

Of those dogs exposed, the following statistics regarding the general course of illness have been reported:

- Between 80 to 90% will develop clinical infection
- About 10 to 20% will become infected but will not show any signs; however, these dogs can still pass the virus to other dogs
- Most dogs will have a mild disease course
- Up to 20% of dogs may develop a more severe form, with a high fever (104-106°F) and pneumonia; these dogs must usually be admitted to the veterinary clinic for treatment
- Up to 8% of dogs may die from complications of CIV infection

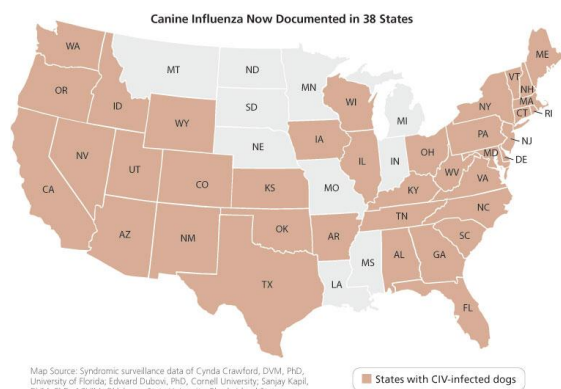
## Spread of CIV

The first confirmed outbreak of CIV infection occurred in Florida at a Greyhound racing facility in 2003. Since that time, the incidence of CIV infection has increased, and outbreaks have been reported in dog-racing facilities, shelters, kennels, veterinary offices, and pet stores. Based on recently compiled data, CIV

infection has been documented in at least 38 states in the US. Keep in mind that these statistics are based on samples sent in voluntarily, and in no way reflect the scope of dogs affected in each state.

- Canine influenza is easily spread.
- Canine influenza has now been documented in a variety of breeds throughout the United States.

The map of the United States below highlights the states in which canine influenza has been documented.



Map Source: Syndromic surveillance data of Cynda Crawford, DVM, PhD, University of Florida; Edward Dubovi, PhD, Cornell University; Sanggye Kapil, DVM, PhD, ACVIM, Oklahoma State University; Rhode Island State Veterinarian's office; and IDEXX Laboratories. September 2011.

Because of the increased risk of exposure, dog flu is more likely to be transmitted between dogs in locations where dogs are in groups, such as dog parks, kennels, and shelters. However, experts working on canine influenza suggest that there is no need to panic, and there is no need to change your everyday routine with your dog, unless he or she is exhibiting signs of respiratory illness. You can still take your dog to play in dog parks, board the dog in kennels, and take your dog for routine appointments at the veterinarian or groomer. Reputable businesses that provide care for dogs should already be taking all precautions to prevent spread of infectious diseases such as canine influenza. You can help prevent the spread of canine influenza by vaccinating your dog, since an effective vaccine is now available. The vaccine has been shown to control the spread and decrease the impact of canine influenza. If your dog has any of the signs of CIV infection, you should consider the following:

- Keep him or her home and avoid activities where other dogs can be exposed while the dog is coughing or exhibiting other signs of respiratory disease, usually for about 2 weeks.
- Keeping your dog's toys and food and water bowls clean with soap and water can also help prevent spread of the disease. You should disinfect your hands (with soap and water or an alcohol-based hand sanitizer) and wash clothing after exposure to dogs that have signs of respiratory disease to avoid transmitting infection to other dogs.
- Knowledge and common sense are your best defenses against canine influenza, so be aware of any information about outbreaks of canine influenza in your area, and take appropriate precautions.

\*Thanks to **Andrea Newman** of Butler Schein Animal Health for submitting this valuable information. Further details can be found at [www.doginfluenza.com](http://www.doginfluenza.com)



**ASK THE VET**

*What is the appropriate age range for breeding a Labrador Retriever bitch?*

The only cardinal rule that shouldn't be broken is to wait until she has all appropriate health clearances prior to breeding. Since OFA won't issue a certification number to dogs less than 2 years old, that is the usual minimum age in my book. Bitches that come into heat just prior to that 2nd birthday might

rely on OFA preliminary readings, but the reason they are considered preliminary is that changes may develop after 18 - 20 months that might affect the interpretation of the images. That is why it is best to wait until after that 2nd birthday.

In my experience, it is wisest to get a first breeding completed prior to a fifth birthday, and certainly prior to her turning six, as bitches that haven't carried a pregnancy to term prior to that are more difficult to get pregnant than those bred at a more optimal age. The optimum age to breed a first litter is 2-3 years old.

There is no rule on how old is too old, but most of us feel that 7-8 is about the oldest that bitches can kindly be bred. In my practice I have several times successfully bred individual bitches at 9 or 10 years of age after careful assessment of the health, reproductive history and physical condition. These were situations in which the bitch was the "end of a line" and the owner had failed to keep anything from previous litters. In general, breed earlier!

***What are the long-term effects of breeding (the bitch's overall health and longevity)?***

Bitches are designed by their creators to reproduce, and aside from the risks associated with pregnancy and delivery itself, I don't think breeding has any detrimental effects. Maintaining an intact bitch throughout her lifetime will increase the risk of mammary cancers, and (if she isn't bred) uterine infections. But considering how FAT people seem to allow their spayed bitches to become, I don't think statistics would show breeding stock to be shorter-lived than pet stock.

***Over my 45 years in dogs I have often heard breeders explain lameness as "growing pains" or "growing bones" and dismiss it. Can you tell me if there is a***

***lameness in young dogs that is a non-issue growing bones syndrome or is a lame young dog something to worry about?***

A young dog with lameness can be serious and result in permanent lameness and /or arthritis especially if not treated promptly. An early, accurate diagnosis is recommended. Large breeds of dogs (over 60 lb.) often get bone diseases during their rapid growth up to 2 yr. old. If a dog is lame more than a week or two, he should be examined by a veterinarian. To diagnose the lameness an examination would include a physical including orthopedic and neurologic signs and observing the dog's gait. Often radiographs with the dog under a short-acting anesthetic.

***Developmental bone diseases:***

- **OSTEOCHONDROSIS DESSECANS** (OCD) is a defect in smooth cartilage in a joint. It can occur in the shoulder, elbow, carpus, stifle or tarsus joints. Its cause is multifactorial: genetic, nutritional and traumatic. Conservative treatment of rest & analgesics may help in young dogs (Under 7 mo.) Surgery is advised otherwise especially if the elbow or hock are affected. Prognosis may be guarded
- **ELBOW DYSPLASIA** may be caused by three boney abnormalities:
  - OCD discussed previously
  - Fragmented Coronoid Process (FCP) The coronoid process on the ulna does not unite
  - Ununited Anconeal Process (UAP) The anconeal process growth plate of the ulna does not unite.

Radiographs are necessary to differentiate these conditions. Early diagnosis is essential. Prognosis guarded.

**PANOSTEITIS** is an inflammatory condition of the long bones. In large breed dogs of 5-12 months of age it causes an intermittent shifting

leg lameness, pain, lethargy, loss of appetite & even fever sometimes. Treatment is supportive. Panosteitis is self-limiting.

**HYPERTROPHIC OSTEODYSTROPHY (HOD)** is an inflammation in the growth plates of long bones in large breed dogs 3-8 mo. old. An acute onset of lameness & pain with swollen joints & often fever & loss of appetite. Radiographs are essential to diagnose it. It may be self-limiting or cause permanent deformity. Prognosis is guarded.

**HIP DYSPLASIA** is a heritable polygenic malformation of the hip joint which can lead to early arthritis. Common in large breed dogs & causes progressive lameness. Dogs can have weak hind legs with a swaying gait, may bunny hop, have trouble with stairs or jumping, etc. Radiographs are diagnostic. Treatment may be medical with weight control, anti-inflammatory medications, pain meds & nutraceuticals. Surgical treatments of corrective osteotomies or salvage procedures like total hip replacements or femoral head & neck excision may be done.

#### **OTHER CONDITIONS THAT COULD CAUSE LAMENESS IN YOUNG DOGS:**

- Legg Calve Perthes disease (LCPD)
- Patellar luxation
- Trauma
- Septic arthritis
- Cranial cruciate ligament tear

Since skeletal diseases are such a challenge to breeders & veterinarians, a prompt, early diagnosis is advised for young, rapidly growing large breed dogs.

DO YOU HAVE QUESTIONS FOR OUR VETERINARIANS?? Please forward them to Laura Bauver at [cassiscloset@yahoo.com](mailto:cassiscloset@yahoo.com) .

Following consideration by our vets, **Hazel Holman, VMD** and **Ann Huntington, DVM**, questions and answers will be included in a future issue of this newsletter as space is available.

## **THE BREED RING**



So, you think you have a lovely Labrador. You thought carefully before you purchased your pup, you have researched for a long time and you trust the person who bred your new pup. Now this lovely new addition to your life is past 6 months old and you think he is just the most gorgeous Labrador pup in the world. First of all, take your pup to your trusted breeder and ask for an honest opinion on the pup's structure, identify the faults, and yes they ALL have faults, mostly minor growing pains but sometimes the fault may just be a deal breaker.

You can spend a ton of money and even more emotional capital in showing a pup you love but who will never win anything due to a fault be it big or small. I will go into these things at another time.

Well the very first thing you will want to do is to take your pup to a breed handling class where both you and the pup will learn how to conduct yourselves in the breed ring. There are many excellent breed handling classes in our area, and even if you think you know how it is done, please do not skip this important step whether you are a novice or have 45 years of experience. The breed handling classes are critical for your pup to get into a situation where all different breeds of dogs are in a ring setting and there are dogs just in front and dogs right behind and they are all trotting around, then the really interesting part where a "judge" examines the dog with a lot of close hands-on touching and examining of the teeth and OMG checking the testicles.

Please attend some dog shows without your pup to learn what the classes are and exactly what the system is for showing your pup and what is required to actually win a point.

It is a whole new world for a young dog and if they are ever to go in and actually look educated enough to catch a judge's eye, they must look as though they do this every day. There is nothing sadder than seeing a green as grass dog and handler jump into the ring at a big all-breed show with no idea how it all works or see a terrified young dog who has never had a stranger open his mouth to count those teeth. If your dog is not prepared for all of this, a few bad experiences could potentially ruin him for life as far as breed showing goes.

In future submissions I will go into some of the finer details – how to dress – how to present your dog – professional handlers – ring manners and courtesy etc. and most importantly how you will survive it when your dog gets “dumped”.

For now, love your pup, take him everywhere: into stores that allow it, and parks, and kids soccer games, and lots of both breed handling classes and obedience and rally classes to give him the confidence he will need to survive a dog show.

**Lois A Engel**, 45 years of sometimes winning and often losing but still addicted.



## LRCPV AWARDS APPLICATION 2011

(Application is attached.)

It is time to submit your application for recognition at our Annual Meeting in April. This year the application form is attached in “word” format so you may easily complete and return to **Ann Huntington** by either mail or email at [ALHDVM@aol.com](mailto:ALHDVM@aol.com) by the January 31, 2012 deadline! Please contact Ann soon if you have any questions.

## Obedience/Rally



Greetings Obedience and Rally fans! My name is **Danette Smith** and I'm here to answer your questions and discuss your favorite topics relating to obedience training. I've been training my Labs for about 10 years and recently earned my first AKC Utility Dog title with my Novice A boy. I have a great time exhibiting in both Obedience and Rally, and enjoy helping others with their training challenges. So bring on your questions! Feel free to email me at [danettesmith65@gmail.com](mailto:danettesmith65@gmail.com) and I'll answer your questions in our monthly newsletter.

AKC Rally changes are coming! Recently the AKC approved a number of regulation changes and new exercises for AKC Rally which will become effective April 1, 2012. Updated Rally regulations and new signs are up and available for viewing and downloading on AKC's website [www.akc.org](http://www.akc.org). If you're planning to compete in Rally in 2012, make sure you know the changes! Did you know there is a new numbering system for the signs? There are lots of new signs – call forward to heel, send forward over jump, figure 8 with no distractions (in addition to the existing offset figure 8), halt left/right turn then forward, halt pivot left/right then forward, slow forward from sit, halt stand then forward, down while heeling, stand while heeling, double left about turn, and more. There are a couple of multi-behavior signs like “stand, leave dog, sit dog, call front, finish” and the same thing with a down instead of a sit. They've changed the wording yet again on

good ole sign #27 – now called “Down and Stop”. And the Honor station is gone-gone-gone.....replaced with a sit stay while the handler retrieves the leash and reattaches it to the dog’s collar. Be sure to read all of the updated Rally regulations (look for the parts that are underlined) and know how the new signs are to be properly executed. There are revisions to the point range for scoring minor and substantial deductions, and there is now a High Combined award for those of you working toward your RAE titles. If you have any questions on the 2012 Rally changes, just ask!

Tip of the month: Train for leashing your dog before you exit the ring! If you’re showing in Rally Advanced or Excellent, or any regular Obedience class, your dog will be off lead when you’re ready to exit. In Open and Utility classes, you are not allowed to take your dog by the collar and guide him to the ring gate to get your leash. If you do, it’s a deductible offense....judges can (and do) take points off for that. Work on exiting the ring as part of your training routine. I like to ask my dogs to down and stay while I retrieve my leash from the steward or the ring gate and then reattach it. Don’t forget that everything you do while in the ring can be scored by the judge, even after that last “Exercise Finished”. And NEVER walk your dog out of the ring without being leashed.....it’s a silly way to lose points.

Happy Training!

### **LRCPV B-OB and Obedience Match**

The LRCPV’s B-OB and Obedience Match held January 8,2012 at Exercise Finished in Chicopee, MA was a big success thanks entirely to our hard working members. Everything ran smooth and we had quite a few compliments for a terrific match and a job well done. I feel we keep improving and getting better with each match and this is all due to everyone’s hard work.

Entries were up slightly this year. We had 26 entries for Puppy Sweepstakes versus 23 last year. Entries for Regular Classes were 27 versus 24 last year. Obedience had a total of 37 entries with a total of 52 runs versus 33 entries last year. The weather definitely helped and I would love to work on bringing more entries to Breed, as this number is still significantly lower from where it was several years ago.

Our judges Ruth Soloman for Puppy Sweepstakes, Lynn Thomas for Regular classes, Anne Hassett for Novice Obedience, and **Deb Brunell** for Utility and Open Obedience did a great job. Sue Willumsen stepped in for Lois to run our breed handling class and did a terrific job showing our new comers how to show their dogs and easing some nerves among them.

A special thank you goes out to **Deb Brunell, Annmarie Wilson, and Lauren Simpson.** Deb has helped us out with judging for our last two matches and does such a terrific job. Watching Deb judge makes you see how much she enjoys herself. She always has a smile and loves to help others with their training. Annmarie took on Obedience pre-entries last minute for me. She did a wonderful job handling all the pre-entries and the issues that come along with them. She also was our head steward for the Novice ring and kept things running smoothly. Lauren did a terrific job with the raffle. Everyone loves our raffles and the work she does is not unnoticed. She even went and picked up raffle items from members who could not attend. **Laura Lafreniere** provided Lauren help during the day. The raffle is very important to this match as it offsets a lot of our expenses.

We had a lot of members show up to volunteer and thank you. It was great to have so many members show up this year to set up. It’s not fun running up and down the stairs and **Andrea Newman, Annmarie, Laura Cook, Lauren,** and perspective member **Tiffany Newman** all worked hard to get everything up and running. Our entries were handled

perfectly by **Ann Huntington, Laura C., Andrea, Judi Dorsett and Tiffany**. The rest of the match would not run smoothly if it wasn't for all of you.

Breed ring was stewarded by **Gretchen Boss** and **Laura C**. Obedience is always the challenge and our stewards did a fantastic job. Novice ring was run by our head steward **Anmarie**, with **Laura Bauer, Rick and Pam Burek** providing help. The Utility and Open ring was run by our head steward **Kristen Hurwitz** with **Sandy Masek** and **Sue Brownell** providing help. Thank you to our stewards who kept the rings moving along and providing help to those who entered.

**Judi** did a great job taking care of our lunch. This always becomes a last minute decision and I think this year went well. Having pizza delivered was much easier than having to send someone out in the middle of the match. **Judi** had the great idea to have a pizza delivered to let individuals buy lunch and then order another as we are getting close to finishing up to provide lunch to our hard working members and judges.

I hope everyone had a great time among the hard work. Once again thank you and a job well done. I look forward to chairing this match again next year.

**Tina Stone**  
Match Chair

## LRCPV B-OB AND OBEDIENCE MATCH RESULTS

### Sweepstakes

#### Puppy Dog

3-6 MOS  
1<sup>st</sup> Stonecrest's All-Star Ellsbury  
2<sup>nd</sup> Hawkeye  
3<sup>rd</sup> Mopar  
4<sup>th</sup> Nubble

6-9 MOS  
1<sup>st</sup> Willcare's Gee Williker  
2<sup>nd</sup> Paddington's Diable Tonuerre  
3<sup>rd</sup> Majestx Noah

9-12 MOS  
1<sup>st</sup> Paddington's Aslau Lives  
2<sup>nd</sup> Willcare's Private Reserve

#### Puppy Bitch

3-6 MOS  
1<sup>st</sup> Cabin's Jenny Jib  
2<sup>nd</sup> Caty's First Edition  
3<sup>rd</sup> Forestwood's Summer Breeze  
4<sup>th</sup> Willcare's Abenaki to the Manor Barn

6-9 MOS  
1<sup>st</sup> Jinx  
2<sup>nd</sup> Laurenglen's Putting on the Ritz  
3<sup>rd</sup> Cabin's Coco Chanel  
4<sup>th</sup> Epic

9-12 MOS  
1<sup>st</sup> Wilcare Blonde Does as Blonde Is  
2<sup>nd</sup> Cross Bays Honor and Glory  
3<sup>rd</sup> Bailey

12-15 MOS 1<sup>st</sup> Wildmont's Fern

15-18 MOS 1<sup>st</sup> Natalie

#### **Best Puppy in Sweepstakes:**

Jinx  
Owner: Julie Jussaume

#### **Best Opposite Best Puppy in Sweepstakes:**

Willcare's Gee Williker  
Owner: Sue Willumsen

### REGULAR CLASSES

#### Puppy Dog

3-6 MOS  
1<sup>st</sup> Stonecrest's All-Star Ellsbury  
2<sup>nd</sup> Hawkeye  
3<sup>rd</sup> Nubble  
4<sup>th</sup> Mopar

6-9 MOS

- 1<sup>st</sup> Willcare's Gee Williker
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Paddington's Diable Tonuerre
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Majestx Noah

9-12 MOS

- 1<sup>st</sup> Paddington's Aslau Lives
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Willcare's Private Reserve

**Puppy Bitch**

3-6 MOS

- 1<sup>st</sup> Danilyn
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Willcare's Abenaki to the Manor Barn
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Cabin's Jenny Jib
- 4<sup>th</sup> Liddle Leg to Stand On

6-9 MOS

- 1<sup>st</sup> Cabin's Coco Chanel
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Laurenglen's Putting on the Ritz

9-12 MOS

- 1<sup>st</sup> Wilcare Blonde Does as Blonde Is
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Bailey
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Cross Bays Honor and Glory

**Best Puppy in Match:**

Paddington's Aslau Lives  
Owner: Ann Burns

**Best Opposite Puppy in Match:**

Danilyn  
Owner: Gayle Abrams

**Dog**

Open 1<sup>st</sup> Apolo

**Bitch**

Bred By 1<sup>st</sup> Natalie

Open 1<sup>st</sup> Holly Farm's Music of the Night

**Best Adult in Match:**

Holly Farm's Music of the Night  
Owner: Deborah Brunell

**Best Opposite Adult in Match:**

Apolo  
Owner: Anne Hassett

**OBEDIENCE**

**OPEN A**

1<sup>ST</sup> Oreo Score: 194  
2<sup>nd</sup> Andrgius Western Gateway Archie Score: 189

**NOVICE A**

1<sup>ST</sup> Deacon Score: 181

**NOVICE B**

1<sup>st</sup> Tek Score: 185  
2<sup>nd</sup> Ancroft Jersey Girl Score: 170

**GRADUATE NOVICE**

1<sup>ST</sup> Andrgius Western Gateway Archie Score: 187.5

**HIGH IN TRIAL:** Oreo

Owned by: Henry Kaczmariski  
Score: 194



Judge Deb Brunell, Henry Kaczmariski and Oreo

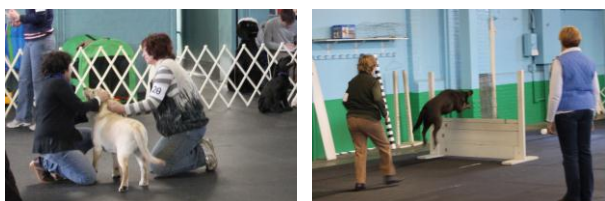
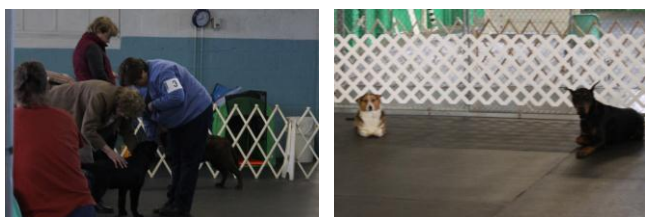
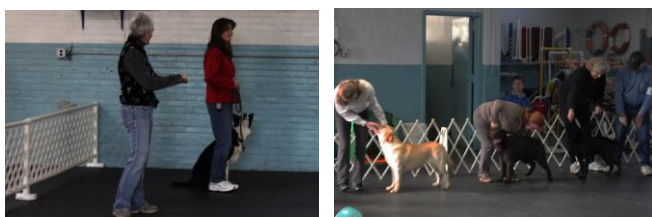
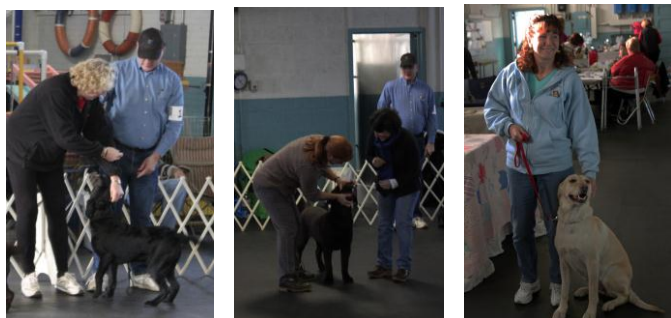
**A Huge Thank You to Deb and Jim Brunell**

My truck was in an accident and is still in the shop and I could not find another truck to pull the club trailer to the match. I was nearly frantic when Deb Brunell and her husband Jimmy came to our rescue and pulled the trailer to the match and then back home that night.

I hope I can return the favor someday.

Lois

A few random shots from the match .....



## PROPOSED AKC CHANGES

The American Kennel Club Board of Directors voted to accept and approve the report of the Group Realignment Committee. The rule changes necessary to implement going from 7 to 11 groups was read at the December, 2011 Delegate Meeting for a vote in March, 2012. The final decision on assigning breeds rests with the AKC Board, which will consider the input of the breed parent clubs. If adopted, these changes would become effective in 2015.

Additional information and background on this proposal can be seen on the AKC website at:

- [Realignment Proposal](#)
- [Realignment Judging Procedure](#)
- [Realignment Suggested Breed List](#)
- [Realignment FAQ](#)

In addition to the information provided by the AKC at the above links the Dog Show Superintendents Association (DSSA) believes there are some other factors to consider based on our direct experience in the operation and execution of dog shows.

Adding the "new" breeds in the coming years should have little impact on most shows at the Group level. Few shows have most or all breeds in the current 7 groups represented at that level. For those occasions where the Group Ring available is too small for the number of breeds the Judge can divide the dogs as they do now with a large class in a breed.

There will also be increased expense since 28 additional group rosettes and, for some clubs, additional trophies must be purchased. More multiple Group Judges must be hired which typically charge a higher fee.

The addition of 4 groups will add time to the length of a normal all-breed show day at a time when AKC is urging judging schedules be

compressed and have no delays. Since additional time will be needed to move 4 more groups in and out of the ring(s) as well as time to make the trophy/ribbon presentations to those 1st-4th placements, the DSSA as well as others think it reasonable to expect this will add approximately 1 to 2 hours. Additional time would also have to be allocated for those shows with special attraction groups such as Puppy, Bred By Exhibitor, Veteran etc. For those shows with larger entries this would certainly lengthen the day. One option to reduce the length of time would be to judge groups concurrently or to judge them as they become available throughout the day, which poses other challenges.

The DSSA would like your feedback on this proposal in order to better understand the thinking of the Fancy and possibly how best to implement the new Variety Groups.

The GROUP REALIGNMENT information and SURVEY can be found at the following location:  
<http://www.infodog.com/surveys/dssagroupsurv.htm>

Thanks to **Kelly Rome** for sharing this important information with us!

**SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR CONTRIBUTORS**

- Laura Bauver, Editor**
- Lois Engel**
- Hazel Holman, VMD**
- Ann Huntington, DVM**
- Andrea Newman**
- Kelly Rome**
- Danette Smith**
- Tina Stone**

We welcome articles from all members for possible publication.  
 Please submit by the 10<sup>th</sup> of the month to:  
 LRCPV Newsletter Laura K Bauver, Editor  
 43 South Lane, Granville MA 01034

**The Pawcatuck River Labrador Retriever Club is pleased to present Patricia Trotter "Structure In Motion" Seminar**

**Saturday, March 3, 2012  
 9:00 am-5:00pm  
 (sign-in begins 8:30am)**

Crowne Plaza Providence-Warwick  
 801 Greenwich Ave, Warwick, RI 02886

- What do judges look for when they move your dog? On the down and back? On the go-around?
- What do judges feel for when they examine your dog?
- Which is more important--**TYPE** or **SOUNDNESS**?
- This seminar is designed to answer those questions and more

Registration: \$100 (including Continental breakfast and Lunch)

**\*\*Early registration deadline February 3, 2012\*\***  
**Registration after Feb. 4, 2012 - \$125**

Please mail registration with check payable to PRLRC to:  
 Lori Riley  
 22 Maple Ave E Haddam, CT 06423

For additional information please contact  
 Lori Riley – [lorlynlabs1@yahoo.com](mailto:lorlynlabs1@yahoo.com)  
 (860) 873-1997 (or)  
 Kathleen Cipriani- [kcip@comcast.net](mailto:kcip@comcast.net)  
 (860) 887-9511  
[www.prlrc.org](http://www.prlrc.org)

**DATES TO REMEMBER**

- January 31 LRCPV Award deadline
- February 5 Super Bowl Sunday
- February 12 LRCPV Meeting
- March 4 LRCPV meeting
- April 1 LRCPV Annual Meeting
- May 11-12 LCRPV Specialty, Westfield MA
- August LRCPV Rally Fun Match, Suffield CT
- Sept LRCPV Well Dog Clinic, Suffield CT