



The Labrador Retriever Club of the Pioneer Valley, Inc.
November 2012

**2012-2013
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CHRISTMAS PARTY

Saturday, December 8, 2012

*Ann Huntington's home
2800 Mountain Road
West Suffield, CT*

5:00PM Social Hour

6:00PM Pot Luck Dinner

**Please email Laura Lafreniere
to let her know what you'll be bringing**

followed by Yankee Swap

bring a wrapped regifted item if you'd like to participate

**MEMBERS AND GUESTS
ARE 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

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



LRCPV January Breed and Obedience Match

Sunday, January 6, 2013

**Exercise Finished
Chicopee MA**

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

To make our club event a success, it takes the participation of our member. Please contact Tina Stone if you can help with any of the following:

- Set up – plan to arrive early to help
- Take down – members needed to clean up and get everything back into the trailer
- Raffle - Laura Bauver is coordinating this year's raffle. We need one more member to help her
- Entry table - need 3 to 4 members
- Handling class – Lois Engle will conduct the handling class for first time breed handlers
- Breed stewards - need 2 members
- Obedience stewards - Cindy Stone, Annmarie, Kristen H., still need 2 more members
- Pick up coffee and munchkins in the morning – to be set up before participants arrive
- Take care of lunch - will be delivered, just need a member in charge

RAFFLE PRIZES NEEDED!

Our raffle traditionally provides a large portion of the income from our January Match. To be successful, we need your help! We are looking for a variety of items, both dog related and “general” items.

Members who are able to attend are encouraged to bring you contributions with you. If you are unable to attend the Match (or will be arriving later in the morning) you may bring your items to the Christmas Party or contact Laura or Tina and we will arrange to pick up your contribution.

If you have something to contribute but are not sure it is “enough”, please make sure Laura has it before the Match and she'll combine items to make fun prizes!

REGISTRATION

Tina recently sent all members an email that included the Match flier. It is also available on the club website, in the “public” area.

Pre-registration is encouraged!

This Match is open to the public, so please help spread the word!

- Print the attached mini poster and take it with you while you are out shopping – ask to post it anywhere you see other fliers hanging!
- Contact people who purchased puppies from you – share the flier with them and encourage them to participate
- Share the flier and registration form with others at your training facility

Any questions or comments?

Contact Tina Stone at
chritinestone@comcast.net or 860-454-8025

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Laura Lafreniere
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ASK THE VET

I just heard from a friend that she lost her beloved lab to megaesophagus. What is it? What causes it? Can it be prevented/cured?

Megaesophagus is a failure of food to pass normally from the mouth to the stomach when a dog swallows. The esophagus becomes big and flabby, and the food pools there rather than entering into the stomach where digestion begins.

This condition can be congenital due to certain heart malformations or a condition called achalasia, or it can be acquired. When it develops in an adult dog, it may be a sign of other diseases such as myasthenia gravis, cancer or injury causing narrowing of the esophagus,

Addison's disease or thyroid disease. And despite this long list of possible underlying causes, most cases with adult onset have no known cause.

Labs are one of the breeds known to carry the congenital form, but in my experience it is more often acquired in our breed.

The diagnosis is made with X-rays, sometimes requiring the dog be fed a meal mixed with barium to clearly delineate the condition. Once diagnosed in an adult dog, further tests are run to rule the above listed diseases in or out, and if the tests are positive that condition is treated when possible. When diagnosed in puppies it is usually clear from the X-ray whether it is related to a heart malformation or is the congenital form.

The most common cause of death in megaesophagus dogs is pneumonia. When food pools in the esophagus it is frequently aspirated into the lungs, setting up an infection. For this reason, one method of managing these dogs is to teach them to eat their food in a gruel form standing on their back legs, then remaining upright for another 5 minutes or so. For example, the food dish might be on a table and the dog's front feet on a chair. This allows gravity to help the food complete its journey into the stomach.

I know of no prevention other than not breeding dogs that have produced the puppy form. When acquired as an adult with an identified underlying cause, it can sometimes be controlled. Puppies that have the congenital form caused by a heart malformation can have that corrected surgically with good results. (Our SVH technician Kathy had a Lab that underwent that surgery as a puppy who lived into her teens.). Puppies with the non-cardiac form, when fed as described above, may go on to live a normal life as often as 30% of the time according to some studies, eventually becoming able to eat normally.

- **Ann Huntington, DVM**



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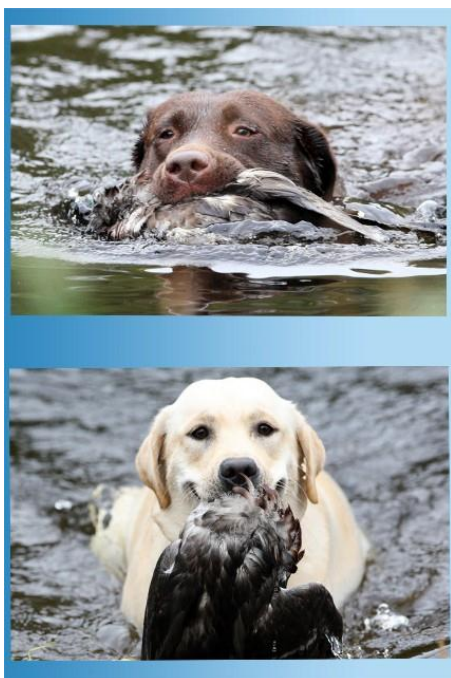
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LAB BRAGS

Congratulations Annmarie Wilson

Wilann Labradors had a wonderful fall!



In October Wilann's Candy Cane RA CC CGC and Calsam Wilann's Pecan Double Delight earned their Working Certificates at the Pawcatuck Labrador Retriever Club event. DeeDee earned this Certificate at the tender age of 9 Months!



In November Candy earned her Rally Excellent title at the American Bullmastiff Association Obedience Show and a couple weeks later completed her Companion Dog title at the Charles River Dog Training Club Show. Her name is getting longer: Wilann's Candy Cane CD RE CC WC CGC

Has one of your labs completed a title or had another achievement? Please let us know! We're proud of our members' accomplishments! Please send an email to Laura Bauver at cassiscloset@yahoo.com so we can recognize you in our newsletter. We'll publish all notices received, in order of receipt, as space is available. Photos are always welcome!

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SPECIAL EDITION

We're planning to publish a "YEAR IN REVIEW" issue of the newsletter toward the end of the year.

Please send Laura Bauver (email is preferred) any photos of LRCPV events, members participating in other events, and all brags (including pictures) for the 2012 calendar year. Be sure to provide names, dates, etc.!



PUPPY PEN

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.



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DATES TO REMEMBER

Jan 6 LRCPV Match, Exercise Finished,
Chicopee MA
Feb 3 LRCPV Business Meeting
March 3 LRCPV Business Meeting
April LRCPV Annual Meeting

ADVERTISING

The Board of Directors has established 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.

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR CONTRIBUTORS

**Laura Bauver, Editor
Ann Huntington
Tina Stone
Annmarie Wilson**

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

Please submit by the 10th of the month to:
LRCPV Newsletter Laura K Bauver, Editor
43 South Lane, Granville MA 01034
cassiscloset@yahoo.com