The Labrador Retriever Club of the Pioneer Valley, Inc.

October 2012

2012-2013
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NOVEMBER BUSINESS MEETING

Sunday, November 4, 2012

80 Jarvis
80 Jarvis Street, Holyoke MA

5:00PM
Dinner: members and guests select from the menu

6:00PM
Business Meeting

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.

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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

LRCPV at THE BIG E

Record setting crowds attended the Big E this year, and thousands of them met our versatile labs!

Wednesday Nancy and Dick Zimmer were on hand to help bring display items into Farm-A-Rama and Deb Brunell was a big help with set up.

Thanks to the members and prospective member who gave up a part of their Wednesday to represent the club: Laura Bauver, Gretchen Boss, Deb Brunell, Pam Burek, Sandy Masek, Leslie Pirnie, Lauren Simpson, Nancy Zimmer and her husband.

Thanks to Gretchen, Lauren, Leslie and Pam for their help taking the display down and getting the stuff to the car!

Sunday morning prospective family members Karin, Jim, Liam and Fiona Bowler were on hand to help with setup.

Thanks to those who gave up their Sunday to represent LRCPV: Laura Bauver, Gretchen and Chris Boss, Karin, Jim, Fiona and Liam Bowler, Leslie Pirnie, Danette Smith and Chris Chorney, and Annmarie Wilson.

Thanks to Annmarie, Fiona, Karin, and Leslie for helping clean up and getting our display items back to the car!

We had a lot of informational brochures from AKC and several brochures about health care. All were popular with fairgoers. We also had a slide show running throughout the event, with pictures of members' dogs in action and of course adorable lab puppies!

BUYER BEWARE!

TRUE LABRADOR RETRIEVERS ARE BLACK, YELLOW, AND CHOCOLATE ONLY!

The Issue of the Silver Labrador

Frances O Smith, DVM, PhD Chair, Labrador Retriever Club, Inc. Genetics Committee

It is the opinion of the Labrador Retriever Club, Inc., the AKC parent club for the breed, that a *silver* Labrador is not a purebred Labrador retriever. The pet owning public is being duped into believing that animals with this dilute coat color are desirable, purebred and rare and, therefore, warrant special notoriety or a premium purchase price.

Over the past few years a limited number of breeders have advertised and sold dogs they represent to be purebred Labrador Retrievers with a dilute or gray coat color—hence the term "silver labs." The AKC has accepted some of

these “silver labs” for registration. Apparently, the rationale for this decision is that the silver coat color is a shade of chocolate. Interestingly the original breeders of “silver” Labradors were also involved in the Weimaraner breed.

Although we cannot conclusively prove that the silver Labrador is a product of crossbreeding the Weimaraner to a Labrador, there is good evidence in scientific literature indicating that the Labrador has never been identified as carrying the dilute gene dd. The Weimaraner is the only known breed in which the universality of dd is a characteristic.

From the website for **Vetgen**:

The D locus is the primary locus associated with diluted pigment, which results in coats that would otherwise be black or brown instead showing up as gray or blue, in the case of black, and pale brown in the case of brown. The melanophilin gene has recently been shown to be responsible, but not all of the dilute causing mutations have been identified yet.

Recognized coat colors for purebred Labradors are black, yellow and chocolate. No shadings of coat color are recognized for black or chocolate Labradors in either the Labrador Standard or the current research into genetic coat colors. The shadings recognized in yellow Labrador Retrievers do not depend on the presence of the dilute gene dd, but are modifiers acting on the ee gene. The **identified coat color genes** in the Labrador include:

A	B	C	D	E	g	in	s	i
|	|	|		|		|		
a	b	c		e		t		

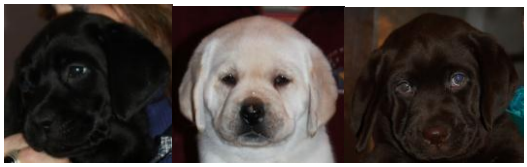
The omission of “d,” and thus the impossibility of a dd dilute gene resulting from a pure Labrador breeding, is certainly persuasive evidence that the *silver* Labrador is not a purebred.

It's a bit of a problem when it comes to breeding because recessive traits, such as [recessives] and dilution, can remain hidden in lines for many generations, then suddenly crop up when a dog carrying the trait is bred to another with it (if the gene is very rare in the breed then it can be a long time until this happens, if it ever does). This is why breedings sometimes throw complete surprises, like silver (blue) Labrador puppies in a breed, which, to all intents and purposes, contains no *silver* at all. That one lone recessive *silver* gene (**d**, on the D locus) has been passed down from generation to generation, completely unknown to the breeders, until finally it's met another one. It might have come from a cross-breeding with another breed many years ago, which doesn't show up on the pedigrees and no longer has any effect on the look of the dog (so all the dogs in the line look exactly like normal Labradors, not a crossbred), but they still carry one gene left over from the cross-breeding). Such rare recessive traits can be impossible to eradicate from a breed, simply because you can't tell which dogs carry them. However, in recent years, genetic testing has helped to identify the carriers.

- *Reprinted with permission of the LRC Board of Directors and the author*

WELL DOG CLINIC

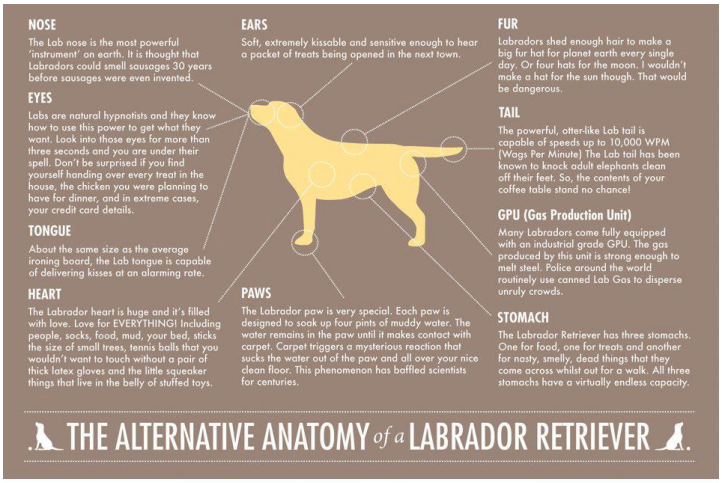
Once again, our club has provided the opportunity for breeders to complete clearances on their dogs. With the help of many members, we had a smooth event. Being that we offer so many tests, scheduling takes many, many days. However, as i held my breath, the day went without any major glitches. Our clients were co-operative and Annmarie was able to schedule enough helpers to keep things moving.
Our doctors seemed pleased with our efficiency and professionalism. They expressed interest in offering their services for the next year. Our clinic in 2013 will be Sunday, September 15. I look forward to organizing it once again.
Every year, I make minor adjustments to improve what we had. Long-time members may recall starting with just CERF exams. We've evolved a long way! Even adding cardiac exams seemed a bit frightening, but we've manage to increase those appointments. It's rewarding to know that breeders are adding those tests to their lists.
It seems we've become quite well known! Clients are spreading the word about us.
Those who were able to volunteer their time for our even, I sincerely want to thank you because you are the front line. You answer questions and make sure forms are completely filled out so that our doctors don't have to interrupt their exams. You have been able to move the clients through efficiently. The clinic was a success due to all our efforts. My sincere gratitude for your time and help.
And, as always, Dr. Ann, you are so generous with not only your time, but offering the use of SVH. It is appreciated by all of us. So, thank you for your organization for OFA's and opening and closing SVH. Thank you for being there for LRCPV.
Hope to see you all next year!
Jan Lemire, Chair Well Dog Clinic



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.



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.

ASK THE VET

"Prior to breeding, should a bitch be put on antibiotics? Which one and what dosage?"

Oh good grief. There is no responsible veterinarian that would ever suggest such blanket nonsense advice! It is not a new suggestion to me, as I hear it often, most frequently as a suggestion from the bitch owner's handler. Puh-leeze!

The vast majority of dogs have no need for drugs to assist them in reproducing. That is not to say that antibiotics are never indicated. Here are the reasons I encourage their use:

1. A history of reproductive failure and a properly harvested deep vaginal culture and sensitivity which demonstrates a significant infection.

2. A history of reproductive failure with causes other than infection having been ruled out (i.e. previous timing issues or other health conditions are absent, etc.) and the bitch is in heat already so there is not time to wait for culture results.

3. A history of reproductive failure, with other causes ruled out, and the owner really wants to try something.

4. Some stud owners refuse to breed their stud dogs to anybody unless the bitch is on an antibiotic. I feel this is misguided, but if that is the stud of choice....

My first antibiotic of choice is always the one suggested by the results of a deep vaginal culture. In the absence of that (numbers 2 & 3 above) I would select either Clavamox or Baytril. For number 4 I usually suggest Amoxicillin.

This subject is far more complex than I've made it here, as it also spills over into the subject of inappropriate use of antibiotics producing drug resistant strains of bacteria and threatening the health of both animals and humans. And subjects like nutrition, housing, genetic diversity and stress levels all need to be addressed. Antibiotics are an important tool in the reproductive success for some bitches, but not needed for most of them.

- Ann Huntington, DVM

"How/when do you know when snotty eyes are just allergies or warrant a trip to the vet?"

First of all, the term "snotty eyes" is incorrect. I believe the scientific name is actually "goopy eyes", or at least that is what I was taught at Cornell.
Here are the criteria I consider:

1. Is the dog off her food, or drinking either too little or too much?
2. Are the eyes squinted partially shut, or is she pawing at the eyes a great deal?
3. Are the whites of the eyes really red compared to normal? (or compared to each other?)
4. Are the 3rd eyelids protruding up from the inner corner of the eyes?
5. Is there nasal discharge? (Here the term "snotty nose" would properly apply!)
6. Is only one eye affected, and the other normal?
7. Has the goopy eyes condition lasted longer than 10 days?

If the answer to all of the above is no, it is fine to treat this at home. Gently clean away the material twice a day using cotton balls and lukewarm water. You may put a few drops of an OTC saline solution into each eye a couple of times at day as a soother. If the condition persists longer than 10 days, or any of the other conditions above develop, time to see your vet.

-Ann Huntington, DVM

"What are the causes of cleft palates?"

Cleft palates are most frequently caused by a recessive genetic trait. Labradors are one of the predisposed breeds.

Exposure to the following, especially in the second trimester of gestation may increase the risk of cleft palate:
Corticosteroids
Excessive A and D in dam
Griseofulvin
Teratogenic chemicals
Virus
Excess vitamin D supplementation

In one study of Boston terriers, a breed highly affected with this problem, supplementation with folic acid at a dose of 5 mg per day significantly reduced the incidence of cleft palate.

- Ann Huntington, DVM

"A friend of a friend has a lab, and it has "copper hepatitis" and she was told that it is generally found in labs & terriers. I never heard of this. What is it? Is there a high incidence of this problem?"

Chronic hepatitis is common in Labs. Some cases are related to copper toxicosis. The liver metabolizes absorbed copper and it stores copper, delivers copper to other organs, and excretes excess copper into the bile. Excessive copper accumulation in the liver is toxic and leads to liver cell death. This copper accumulation in the liver can result from increased uptake of copper, a primary metabolic defect in the liver's copper metabolism or a decreased excretion in the bile.

Inherited copper storage disease results in a defect in the liver's copper metabolism. It was first proven as a genetic disease in 1975 in the Bedlington terrier. It is breed associated also in West Highland Whites, Labs, Dalmations, Dobermans, and Skye terriers.

Dogs can accumulate copper for many years starting as young as 6 months old. Signs of chronic hepatitis may not be present for years. Early clinical signs may be a decreased appetite and calmer behavior intermittently. Over months to years dog may have intermittent vomiting and nausea. Excessive drinking and urinating, diarrhea and acites develop in advanced disease and cirrhosis.

Females are more commonly affected than males in the Lab. Most present about 7 years old. Clinical signs weight loss, GI signs (salivation, vomiting, diarrhea), jaundice, ascites, excess drinking and urinating and DIC.

Diagnosis is based on liver biopsy with copper quantification (measurement of copper in liver tissue). 650 to 3000 micrograms per gram of liver dry weight are common. Special stain with rubeanic acid will stain copper. Liver tests (ALT & bile acids) may be elevated.

Treatment involves a drug penicillamine (PCA) (Cuprimine) that chelates copper and removes it in the urine or trientine (Stprine). An adequate liver diet like LD is advised. A diet that is palatable, has lots of energy, high carbs, moderate fat, a highly digestible protein low copper and low iron. General liver support sam-E (Denosyl), marin (Denosyl), zinc therapy or ursodeoxycholic acid (Actigall).

Liver biopsies are repeated after 6 months to evaluate treatment. Other tests liver enzymes, bile acid and albumin are done.

The molecular genetics in Labrador family members of dogs with CACH is being studied to determine its heritability.

- Hazel Holman, VMD

LAB BRAGS

Coming to shows with me since before she was born, my 6 year old daughter, Sydney, decided she was tired of sitting ringside and has been practicing and training all summer. She showed CJ (Cedarwood's Blazing Pursuit CDX, RE, CC) in APDT Rally doing a great job and earning her APDT Rally Pre-Jr Certificate. While she may have taken a trained dog into the ring, without teamwork there is nothing and they worked together beautifully.

- Kristen Hurwitz

In September, my 6 year-old Yellow Lab "Dewey" earned his AKC Open Agility and Open Agility Jumpers titles with 5 out of 6 first place wins. At one of our trials, Dewey was the only big dog to qualify at all of the 16", 20" and 24" classes, standard or preferred. So now he is officially Bridge City's Luv Me Dew CDX RAE OA OAJ CGC. Such a good boy!

- Danette Smith Chorney

Browncastle's Watch Out Here She Comes RN "Jazmin" recieved her GCG in May and her RN in July.

- Tina and Cindy Stone.

Cedarwood's Blazing Pursuit of the Ruthless Bandit "CJ" earned her CDX obedience title on August 28, under judge Ores Chever with a nice 195.5 and won the class. She's won all 3 legs of her open title in 1st place—I feel truly lucky to have such a wonderful partner in the ring.

- Kristen Hurwitz

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!

PEDIGREE LISTING

It's time for our cover contest for the 2013 issue of "The Directory"

Send us your photos and if we choose to use your photo for the cover, you will receive a FREE full page color ad and a copy of the book.

Deadline December 1st 2012

And if that wasn't enough, we now offer FREE with your paid ad, publication on the internet. Yes, every ad placed will not only be in a hard copy publication, but it will also be posted at http://www.pedigreelistings.com and linked to our Facebook page, and Wiscoy's Kennel Link site, giving easy access for the whole Labrador world to view.

SO DON'T DELAY, TAKE ADVANTAGE OF ALL OF THESE GREAT SAVINGS AND ADVERTISE YOUR LABRADORS WITH US IN "THE DIRECTORY" ! Send in your entries, if you are the winner we will refund your fees.

Color entry – $150 full page
B/W – $75 full page
$50 – Frozen Semen one year (online only)

http://www.pedigreelistings.com/entryform.html

Ed & Cindy Noll 845-336-6964
http://www.Glenerielabradors.com
http://www.Pedigreelistings.com

Genetic Mutations and Diseases

Clinical Testing for Genetic Mutations

There is increasing evidence that many forms of congenital and acquired diseases in veterinary medicine are of a familial origin. The significant number of familial veterinary diseases has been thought to be associated with the improved control of diseases caused by environmental factors as well as the desire to breed animals to maintain an appearance and selecting animals from a small group of popular founders (founder effect). Many forms of congenital and acquired diseases have a strong breed predisposition suggesting a familial etiology. The small animal practioner may be asked to provide consultation on genetic issues for owners of breeding animals to aid them in breeding decisions and to pet owners about etiologies of disease. Breed specific lists of known and presumed inherited diseases in the dog and cat can be found at the following web sites:

- **Cats:**fabcats.org/breeders/inherited_disorders/index.php
- **Dogs:**vet.cam.ac.uk/idid/ andupei.ca/~cidd/intro.htm

A few key points should be remembered:
Genetic diseases are most commonly observed in pure breed animals. Breed organizations have intentionally limited their gene pool by preventing breeding to other breeds. Therefore, the gene pool is of a limited, closed size and aggressive removal of breeding animals because of the identification of a defect will make the gene pool even smaller. One must CAREFULLY recommend removal of breeding animals based on severity of defect, mode of inheritance and importance of a particular animal to the breed.
Genetic mutations rarely have an all or nothing effect. For some diseases, a genetic cause has now been identified and a genetic test can be done. The presence of the mutation does NOT mean that all animals will show the trait, or the same severity of the trait, this depends on disease "penetrance", and disease "expression" which are poorly understood phenomenon that likely involve both genetic and environmental modifiers.

Identification of mode of inheritance

Although there are many documented examples of genetic diseases in small animals, the actual genetic cause in the majority of familial diseases in not yet known. However, even in the absence of knowledge of a molecular cause a great deal of information can be provided just from an understanding of the pattern of inheritance of the disease.

Knowledge of the mode of inheritance of a specific trait can be used to provide guidance about reducing the prevalence of a trait within a particular line of animals. The determination of the pattern of inheritance will be useful for determining the best recommendations for breeders and will allow the development of plans to exclude or include affected animals in breeding programs. The most common include X-linked recessive, autosomal recessive and autosomal dominant.

X-linked

X-linked traits are caused by a gene(s) carried on the X chromosome and are most commonly recessive. Therefore, males will almost always show the affected phenotype (trait) since they only have one X-chromosome. Since females have two X chromosomes, they may be silent carriers if they have the mutant copy of the gene on only one of their X chromosomes. They will show the trait/disease if both X chromosomes have the mutant copy of the gene. If you evaluate pedigrees from affected animals the following should be observed: more affected males than females, an affected male crossed with a normal female should produce silent (unaffected) females. Affected females are the result of a cross between a silent carrier female and an affected male and should be uncommon.

Example- Progressive retinal atrophy in the Akita.

Recommendation: If animals with an X-linked trait are used for breeding, they should always be bred to an unrelated line since this will decrease the presence of the trait in the line.

Autosomal recessive

Autosomal recessive traits are those carried on an autosomal chromosome. The traits (or diseases) are not generally apparent unless both copies (homozygous) of the individual's gene have the mutation. If you evaluate pedigrees from affected animals you should identify: the disease should appear to "skip" a generation (parents do not show evidence of the disease) and males and females should equally show the disease. A common observation is that the mating of two individuals that appear normal produces approximately 25% of offspring that are affected and 75% that do not demonstrate the trait (it should be remembered that these percentages are based on all litters produced by this mating, not each individual litter). This suggests that the two parents are silent carriers of a recessive trait. If both parents show the trait, all offspring should show the trait.

Example- Diabetes mellitus in Keeshond

Recommendation: If animals with an autosomal recessive trait are used for breeding, they should always be bred to an unrelated line, this will decrease the presence of the trait in the line.

Autosomal dominant

Autosomal dominant traits are those carried on autosomal chromosomes that are clinically evident even with one gene copy with a mutation (heterozygous). Evaluation of pedigrees of affected animals should show: males and females should equally show the trait and every

affected individual should have at least one affected parent. Animals that show the phenotype will be either heterozygotes (one copy of the mutation) or homozygotes (two copies of the mutation). Heterozygotes will produce approximately 50 % affected offspring and homozygotes should produce 100% affected offspring.

Example- Dilated cardiomyopathy in Doberman pinscher
Recommendation: If animals with an autosomal dominant trait are used for breeding, they will have a 50-100% chance of passing on the trait (depending on if they are heterozygous or homozygous for the trait). Therefore, one hopes that only those with the most mild form of the disease and the most positive attributes should be selected to be used.

Mutation Screening

Genetic testing is now available to test for genetic mutations for some diseases (Cats:fabcats.org/breeders/inherited_disorders/index.php, Dogs:vet.cam.ac.uk/idid/ andupei.ca/~cidd/intro.htm) by submitting a DNA sample to a reputable screening laboratory. Good quality DNA samples can be obtained either from a blood sample submitted in an EDTA tube, semen sample, hair sample or buccal swabs (swabs may be provided by the laboratory although many laboratories will even accept samples submitted on a cotton swab). Buccal swabbing is particularly helpful for testing young animals in which it may be difficult to obtain a blood sample. Additionally, an owner can perform the buccal swabbing at home without stressing a difficult adult animal and mail the swabs directly to the screening laboratory. An important aspect of obtaining a good quality DNA sample from a buccal swab is to be sure to obtain enough cells on the swab. This is best done by swabbing the inner cheek of the cat or dog rather than the gums directly above the teeth.

Once the sample is provided to the laboratory it can be analyzed in a number of ways. A common and accurate method is to perform Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) based DNA sequencing for actual visualization of the mutation. Many mutations are a single base pair change but larger deletions or insertions have also been reported.

The test results should verify that the animal is negative, heterozygous (one copy of the mutation) or homozygous (2 copies of the mutation) for the mutation. Once the results are provided, the breeders and owners should be cautioned and advised how to best use the information. The results should be carefully considered and should be weighed against the severity of the trait, the size of the breed's gene pool, the mode of inheritance of the trait and the positive traits that this individual animal brings to a breed. In some cases, strict screening and removal programs may be very detrimental to small gene pools in specific breeds; breeding recommendations should be carefully designed.

Preventive Medicine and Carpe Diem

Since the publication of the Bayer Study[(1)] in January, 2011 there have been numerous articles and discussions about the value of wellness or preventive medicine to pets, pet owners, and as a possible solution to declining pet visits being experienced by the veterinary profession. The increased compliance and visits reported by Banfield practices[(2)] as a result of over 1.4 million plans in place are impressive, to say the least. However, there is no doubt that designing and incorporating preventive medicine plans and then enthusiastically recommending those plans to pet owners is a huge task for an individual practice. A project of this magnitude requires a substantial commitment of time plus

the enthusiastic support of every practice team member.

While it is very early in the game, reports from early adopters are looking quite encouraging for forging ahead. One group of five practices utilizing the Partners in Wellness management tool have reported revenue expenditures of 81% over plan commitments for the first six months since the plans have been in effect!

While it is true that these revenue increases are from only five practices with only 112 plans in the initial study and over only a six month period, the initial trend seems to be worthy of attention. Time will tell if the revenue increases continue and expand as additional sold plans are incorporated into the study over a longer period of time. And, until more practices are offering preventive care plans, the effects of demographics will not be known.

But the efforts and results from these five practices begs the question…when will YOUR management team seize the day and examine the concept of preventive medicine as means of increasing the quality of medicine you are providing to your clients AND increasing your lagging revenues? Why not TODAY?

(1) 2011 Bayer Veterinary Care Usage Study conducted by the National Commission on Veterinary Economic Issues, Brakke Consulting and Bayer Animal Health.avmajournals.avma.org/doi/full/10.2460/javma.238.10.1275

(2) From the September 15, 2011, issue of the Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Assn.

Importance of Genetic Testing in Today's Veterinary Practice

Not very long ago, we "thought" about some diseases as being genetic in origin. A few actually were identified. Aortic stenosis in the dog and PDA's were two commonly recognized cardiac defects that were identified as having a genetic predisposition. Today there are many diseases that are genetically induced and we know in the near future many more will be identified. Now that the genome has been identified it is easier to recognize genetically linked disease.

The importance to the practicing veterinarian is to help identify when a disease is genetic. It is important for the owner, particularly if a breeder, to know so that appropriate recommendations regarding breeding can be made. Also, it is important for the owner of a new pet to know that the patient is carrying a trait that has been passed on genetically. This means careful surveillance in new animals brought to the clinic and also recognition of disease states in middle to older aged animals that have a basis for disease that we are unlikely to be able to "cure" but may be able to treat effectively with medicine.

The "go to" links in Dr. Meur's article are important to maintain because they are changing and will continue to grow as the field of genetics continues to grow. Knowing that a disease is genetic in origin today does not often help in making treatment decisions but if the owner is made aware of the basis for the disease the DVM is more likely to have a better working relationship with the owner and with the goals of appropriate therapy. The goal of gene transfer therapy and other similar devices has yet to be met clinically but the future tells us that this is something we should be aware of and looking towards as gene therapy becomes a reality. Today it is not but stay tuned, because it will be down the road and likely fairly soon!

- Submitted by Andrea Newman

Changes to Retriever Hunting Test Regulations

This is to inform you of recent changes/clarifications to the Retriever Hunting Test Regulations. These changes originated from the Retriever Hunting Test

Advisory Committee. The Performance Events Department agrees with these recommendations.

1. Distance in Master Tests. Test distances in the Master level test should not normally exceed 150 yards. (Previously 100 yards) Distances in Junior and Senior tests will remain unchanged (should not normally exceed 100 yards). Chapter 5, Section 1. Note: Clubs may no longer state in the event premium that marks and blinds may be in excess of the "should not normally exceed" clause.

2. Clarification of a Triple. In Master level tests where a dog is required to retrieve a triple mark, to clarify, the following wording has been added - "The three falls must be presented before a dog is sent to retrieve any mark or blind." Chapter 5, Section 7.

3. Apprentice Judges. To clarify, the following wording has been added –

"Apprentice judges are subject to the same restrictions as the approved judges."

This means that a dog is not eligible to be entered in a test if the apprentice judge or any member of his family has owned, sold or held under lease, boarded, trained or handled the dog within one year of the starting date of the Hunting test. Chapter 1, Section 8.

These changes are effective December 1, 2012 and will appear in the next reprint of the Retriever Hunting Test Regulations. Should you have any questions or comments, please e-mail huntingtest@akc.org

AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB

Don't Just Make a Point, Make a Difference

As an AKC member- or licensed-club, you have probably had to talk with your club members about the legislative threats responsible dog breeders and owners face, and pointed out how important it is for them to get involved. Now, with the 2012 Club Presidents Challenge, not only can you make a point, you can make a difference

If you have already participated in the challenge, thank you! If you haven't, there is still time to make a difference by demonstrating your leadership against anti-dog legislation. Here's how:

1. **Secure at least $100 from your club *members* for the AKC Political Action Committee.** A donation to the AKC PAC offers any individual member of an AKC member or licensed club the special opportunity to financially support candidates for elected office who will protect our rights. The AKC PAC also delivers unsurpassed value because AKC pays all administrative costs, which ensures that 100% of contributions go to support dog-friendly candidates in critical races. Here's how to contribute: First, collect contributions from individual members of your AKC dog club. (Please note that only individuals may contribute to the AKC PAC; contributions directly from club funds to the AKC PAC are not permitted under federal election law.) Next, print this Donor

Identification Form. Then, complete the form by providing the required information for each person making a contribution. Finally, submit the form along with the individual contributions, or one check for the total of the individual contributions, to the address listed below. (Please submit a separate check for contributions to the Canine Legislative Support Fund.)

2. **Secure at least $150 in support of the AKC Canine Legislative Support Fund.** All money contributed to this fund helps to defray AKC's costs in supporting legislation, securing formal representation in Congress and Statehouses, and educating legislators and the public about responsible and fair policies for dog breeding and ownership. ***Clubs may donate directly to the Legislative Support Fund.*** You may submit a check directly to the AKC Canine Legislative Support Fund at the address below, or complete your donation online by clicking here. https://classic.akc.org/governmentrelations/donations.cfm

(Do not forget to submit separate checks for contributions to the AKC PAC and the Canine Legislative Support Fund.)

Don't Just Make a Point,
Make a Difference!
Meet Your Challenge Today!

For more information, contact AKC's Government Relations Department
8051 Arco Corporate Drive, Suite 100,
Raleigh, NC 27617
Phone: (919) 816-3720,
or email doglaw@akc.org

DATES TO REMEMBER

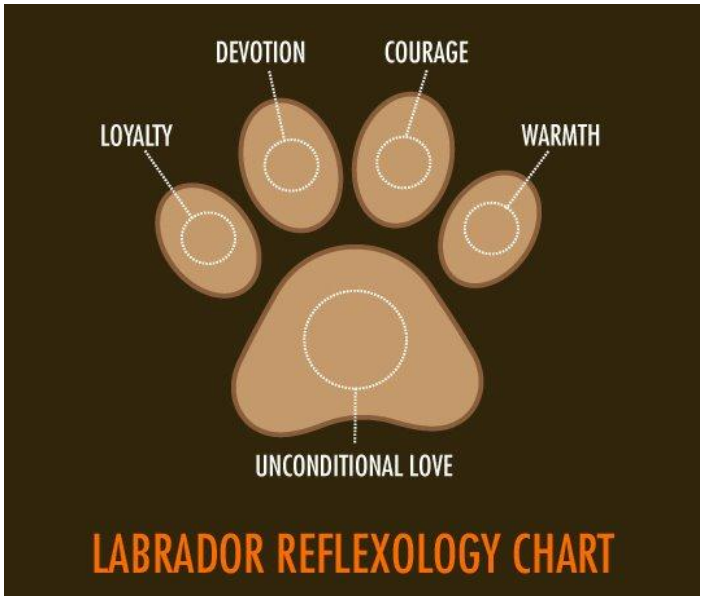
Nov 4	LRCPV Business Meeting, 80 Jarvis, Holyoke MA
Dec 8	LRCPV Christmas Party, Mountain Road, W Suffield CT
Jan 6	LRCPV Match, Exercise Finished, Chicopee MA
Feb 3	LRCPV Business Meeting
March 3	LRCPV Business Meeting
April	LRCPV Annual Meeting

CONGRATULATIONS

Cindy Clement married Dave Tourville this summer.

Danette Smith married Chris Chorney in October.

Congratulations to both couples! Please update your membership list with Cindy and Danette's new last names!



SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR CONTRIBUTORS

Laura Bauver, Editor

Karin Bowler	**Judi Dorsett**
Lois Engel	**Hazel Holman**
Ann Huntington	**Jan Lemire**
Andrea Newman	**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
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cassiscloset@yahoo.com