



Conformation · Field · Obedience

**2010
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Golden Tales

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April 2010

GRCCNY Members Do Well at Salt City Cluster

The GRCCNY Specialty was held in conjunction with the North Country Kennel Club show on April 3rd as part of the Salt City Cluster, which ran from April 1st through 4th. The GRCCNY Specialty encompassed conformation, obedience and rally; agility was also held over the 4-day event but not covered by the Specialty.

Several club members participated over the four days, with all venues being represented. Many did well and new titles were earned.

Lee and Beth Painting showed Painting Look at Life in the Bred by Exhibitor Dog class, Dawn Supernault showed Hillock's Caribbean Nights in the American Bred Dog class. Both earned class placements.

The obedience and rally rings saw a lot of action from club members. Lynn Mickinkle, Kari Mickinkle, Kathy McCloskey, Gail Puzon, Maxine Clark, Judi Questel, Beth Greenfield and Sally Baritell all participated.

Lynn Mickinkle and Comet completed Rally Excellent (RE) and Companion Dog (CD) obedience titles, which also qualified Comet for the GRCA Versatility Certificate. Lynn and Tugger also completed an RE title. Kari Mickinkle and Blaze earned two second place ribbons from the Rally Novice A class – this was the

first time in the ring for both of them! Maxine Clark brought three dogs and took home four titles – Addy completed her RE and Dandelion her Rally Advanced (RA), Breeze earned both Rally Novice (RN) and CD titles. Gail Puzon and Connor earned more Utility Dog Excellent (UDX) legs, working toward a UDX7(!). Sally Baritell and Haley completed two legs toward their CD title, Kathy McCloskey and Cameo earned their first Companion Dog Excellent (CDX) leg, and Beth Greenfield and Ada earned their first RA leg “going against a lot of canine Einsteins” as Beth reports. Judi Questel and Sidra completed her RA title over the first three days, then moved up to RE and earned their first leg there as well.

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President's Message

Yesterday, our club hosted our second CCA (Certificate of Conformation Assessment). There were 27 Golden Retrievers being assessed as well as others who came to complete their CGC (Canine Good Citizen) assessment. Each Golden looked so unique. Many people were nervous to go in the "conformation" ring but our judges well played their role being educators first and calmed the nerves of most of the participants. The event was rather "low key" since only three dogs are evaluated at a time. This lends itself to also being a good social event for members as well as our guests who came from as far away as Canada, Pennsylvania and Albany.



What impressed me most, though, was the number of people who pitched in to help. This included both veteran members as well as members just voted in last month. Several people worked the full 10 hours of the event. I was impressed and humbled by everyone's efforts. Your willingness to assist must go hand in hand with people who select Golden Retrievers as their breed of choice! This attitude and teamwork is what makes for a good club. I thank you all!

Kathy

Where to Send It ... For
Golden Tales - Web Site - *Golden Retriever News*
Photos - Brags - Memorials - Letters - Stories

All members are encouraged to contribute. To save time and avoid confusion, all submissions are to be directed to Janis Tyler. Material will be published, as appropriate, to *Golden Tales*, the Web Site, and/or *Golden Retriever News*. Send via U.S. Mail or Email. Photos returned on request.

Beth Shelmidine, PO Box 4, Lorraine, NY 13659
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Membership Information

GRCCNY invites as new members, anyone with an interest in Golden Retrievers! Applications are available from the Club secretary, or at www.grccny.org/memb_app.pdf.

Membership Options:
 Individual- \$25, Household - \$30, Associate (non-voting) - \$25.

We encourage membership in the Golden Retriever Club of America. Applications and further information may be obtained from Deborah Ascher, P.O. Box 69, Berthoud, CO 80513-0069, (970) 532-3124 or from the GRCA website at www.grca.org/grca-app.htm.

Golden Tales is the official quarterly member newsletter of **The Golden Retriever Club of Central New York, Inc.** a Member club of **The Golden Retriever Club of America** and Licensed by **The American Kennel Club**.



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Inquiries, submissions and correspondence should be directed to: Judi Questel, Editor, 426 Lee Road, Ogdensburg, NY 13669 or e-mail bonefeathers@yahoo.com

Back Issues of Golden Tales are on the Web at
<http://www.grccny.org/Newsletter.htm>

From Your Best Friend

Please don't mourn for me today
My love was strong, but I couldn't stay
The Rainbow Bridge, they call this place
And God has blessed it with his grace
In His hands I am safe and sound
And you won't believe who all I've found
If some days seem too much to bear
Just close your eyes - You'll find me there

*By Permission from Sandy Rolling
Iowa City Golden Retriever Club*



Goldens Remembered
Image ©Debrah Muska, Animal Images - Modified from original

"Dudley"
Sir Dudley Braveheart
Tom O'Connell

WELCOME
New Members

Kari Mickinkle, Lacona
Individual

Paul Bookbinder, DVM and Sarah Blue,
Hamilton
Rescue Honorary

Lorraine Highers, Morrisville
Rescue Honorary

*Election Required for Individual or Household Applicants

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Are You Computer Savvy?

Our club is looking to revamp our website. Before we look to an outside source, we are hoping that maybe someone within the club might have the skills to redesign our website. If you do or know someone who does, please contact one of the club officers listed on the front of Golden Tales.

GRCCNY Member Directory

by Carol Allen

Over the next few weeks, Liz Moran and I will be preparing and distributing a new Club Directory. The last one was published in 2008 and we think it's time to do it again. It will include names, contact information, etc for all Individual, Household and Associate Members. We intend for this to be ready by early summer.

IF you have a change in address, email address, phone number, etc please email Liz Moran at Elizmoran@twcny.rr.com and make sure the latest is what we publish. Likely we'll have most changes but there are always several that slip by us.

Club News & Events

Meeting Highlights

- The Following Is An Unofficial Summary -

GRCCNY meeting 3/18/10

Meeting called to order by President Kathy McCloskey. Attendance included 13 members and 8 guests. Minutes from December meeting were read and approved. A sheet for recording brags was circulated.

Reports:

Treasurer: Balance total for 3 accounts given. Specialty trophy money prevailing income at this time.

Correspondence: Several pieces received and discussed. Request from Mile Hi GRC for a raffle basket donation was tabled until the June meeting.

Membership: Five applications received and had first readings: Cindy Berry of Pennelville, Becky Burns of Fulton, Janet and Tom Gray of Ithaca, Martha and Russell Sturtz of Mexico, and Kari Mickinkle of Lacona. Second reading of Donna Deuel's application, she was voted into membership.

Field: A schedule of training dates and field events was distributed. WC/WCX still pending due to judges' schedules.

Specialty: Beth Greenfield stated we were 3 trophy pledges short, also need volunteer to cover obedience. Maxine Clark warned not to leave dogs unattended due to increased activity of animal rights activists. Maxine also made us aware of several national brands that have had dealings with HSUS, which supports these activists.

CCA: Beth Greenfield reports event on schedule, 23 dogs registered to date. Volunteers recruited. CGC will

also be held, Maxine to be the evaluator.

Hunt Test: Maxine reported committees are in place for proposed event. We will have full cooperation of Finger Lakes Retriever Club. She made a motion that we go ahead and apply to hold the test on September 11/12. Motion seconded and carried.

Member Directory: Carol Allen reported should be ready around July.

Golden Tales: Judi Questel requested submissions ASAP due to her many upcoming commitments.

Rescue: Carol Allen reports intake numbers are still down compared to last year. Rescue is planning a Golden Gathering for June 19 in Brooktondale, which will be similar to Golden Fun Days. Info to follow.

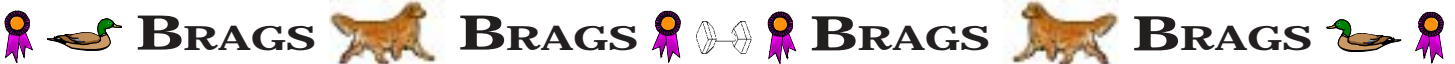
Website: No progress to report.

New Business:

Sallie Lennox reported the High Scoring Golden award we normally sponsor for SOTC has been spoken for by someone else this year. We would like to co-sponsor an ad with Rescue in the SOTC catalog as always. Motion made, seconded and carried.

Kathy McCloskey suggested we place an ad in the National Specialty catalog. Motion made, seconded and carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:25 PM. Judi Questel brought several boxes of books that formerly comprised the club library. Members were free to take home books that interested them, those remaining were taken by Beth Shelmidine to be donated to the Jefferson County 4-H Dog Club for use as they see fit.



In addition to the brags highlighted in our cover story, the following have also been reported:

Kathy McCloskey and Topflight Cameo Rose (Cameo) completed their Companion Dog (CD) title with a second place at the SOTC obedience trials in January. Cameo also earned two second place ribbons each from Novice Agility (NA) and Open Jumpers (OAJ) at the SOTC trials in February to finish each title. Kathy also reports that Adirondac Mountain Eire (Finnigan) earned a Versatility leg at the SOTC obedience trial in January.

Lynn Mickinkle reports that Adirondack Cedar Chest of Gold JH CD completed her CD title at the January SOTC trials, earning two legs with 1st and 2nd placements. Topflite Shooting Star (Comet) also earned two legs toward her CD title as well.

Sally Baritell and Haley (Rivermate's Hail Storm CCA) earned their Canine Good Citizen (CGC) at our club's CCA event. Birchrun's Heart-N-Soul (Caper) and Quinleighblu Rivermate's Diver (Diver) both earned CCA and CGC certifications.

Certificate of Conformation Assessment

GRCCNY held its second CCA event on April 10, 2010 at the SOTC training facility in East Syracuse. Evaluators were Kay Gosling, Cheryl Blair and Sandra Dunn. A full compliment of 24 dogs and 3 alternates participated, with 23 dogs qualifying and 3 receiving honorable mention. Qualifying dogs are pictured below; the four missing qualifiers are Topflite Gone With the Wind CD RN JH WC (Maxine Clark, owner), Adirondac Safari CDX RE OA OAJ WC (Maxine Clark, owner), Karnerblue Hopes 'N' Dreams CD RE (Kathy McLaughlin-Wager and Morgan Skpowski, owners), and Bonefeathers Apache Stargazer (Robert House and Judith Questel, owners). Photos courtesy Tom O'Connell.



Photos courtesy of Tom O'Connell

From left: Ann Lynn with Gaylan's Roddenberry ala Mode JH WC, judge Cheryl Blair, Joan Kogut with Adirondac Mountain Royal-Tee CD SH WCX TDI, judge Kay Gosling, Kathy McCloskey with Adirondac Lass Mckenzie UDT RAE AX OAJ JH WCX, Pamela Martin with Gaylan's High Roller, judge Sandra Dunn, Ann Wood with Tessahoc Bear Mountain Touch of Gold CD, Carol Lantiegne with Calamity Jane of Adirondac SH and Adirondac Morning Mist CD SH WCX, Judi Questel with Bonefeathers Sidra Caliente RA.



From left: Kelly Mueller with Waynewood's You've Got a Friend, Deb Brunner-Walker with Goldencol's Come Fly With Me UD MX MXJ XF, Janet Gray with Gold-Rush Orianna of Atholl, judge Cheryl Blair, Pamela Cox with Rivermate's Ice Dancer AX AXJ RN, Harold Baritell with QuinleighBlu Rivermate's Diver, Sally Baritell with Birch Run Heart-N-Soul, judge Kay Gosling, Rachel Countryman with Bonefeathers Best of Both Worlds, Tom Questel with Bonefeathers Its All About Me CDX RE NA NAJ, Susan Hoffman with Bonefeathers Native Son, Donna Schmidt with Wildwood's Ain't She Sweet UD MX MXJ OAP OJP OF, judge Sandra Dunn, Karen Ann Fukes with Schuyler Dora Where R U Going.

GRCCNY Specialty – April 3, 2010

Each year, GRCCNY holds a Specialty show during the Salt City Cluster of shows held at the NYS Fairgrounds in Syracuse. The Salt City Cluster consists of four all-breed clubs which rotate which day of the cluster they host; the GRCCNY Specialty is held in conjunction with the club hosting the Saturday show. This year that was North Country Kennel Club from Watertown, NY.

The Specialty consists of special sweepstakes classes for puppies between the ages of 6 and 18 months as well as veterans 8 years of age and older. There are also supported entries for Golden Retrievers during the regular

show schedule on Saturday. The judge for the Sweepstakes classes was Robyn Haskins of Bainbridge, NY; the regular class judge for Golden Retrievers was Janice Provenzano of Hatfield, PA.

GRCCNY also supports entries for Golden Retrievers in the regular obedience and rally classes as well.

In lieu of trophies, monetary donations are made in the recipient's honor to the Golden Retriever Foundation. Certificates are presented to the recipients denoting this donation.

Photo coverage cont on Pg. 14 ⇨



Best of Breed – CH Sunjoe's Woodland Any Way U Slice It (Sharon Shilkoff and Joyce Adams, owners; Cindy Collins Booth, handler).



Best Opposite Sex – CH Golden Sands Lethal Seduction (Joan Stalusis, owner).



Best of Winners and Winners Bitch – Rainyday's My Cup of Tea (Indya Sheehan, owner).



Winners Dog – Clarkcreek Ocean's El-even (Melissa and Stephen Johnston, owners).

Photos courtesy of Ashbey Photography

⇒ Specialty (Cont from Pg. 9)



Best Puppy – Highlight's Morning Thunder (Patricia Loves, owner).



Best Puppy in Sweepstakes – Lazydaze Party'n at Tangleloft (McDowell, Dunn and Doyle-Winslow, owners).



High in Trial from Open B (score 198.5) – OTCH Tanbark's Always UDX2 OM3. Owner, Yvonne Piefer.



Best Veteran and Best Veteran in Sweepstakes – CH Glenwan's Southern Saranade (Diane Blossom, owner).

*Golden Tales is available
DIGITALLY
Delivered right to you via e-mail
Contact Judi Questel at
bonefeathers@yahoo.com
and sign up today!*

Back to the Drawing Board: Hemangiosarcoma

by Tracy Libby

While researchers across the country are working hard to learn more about the causes and potential treatments of cancer, hemangiosarcoma remains one of the more frustrating cancers in dogs. Its aggressive and highly malignant nature remains particularly challenging to researchers and veterinarians because it has usually metastasized by the time it's diagnosed. Equally frustrating, the symptoms are often subtle or nonexistent until the final stages, with some dogs succumbing to the disease within days of the initial diagnosis.

What seemed to be a simple, albeit aggressive disease is much more complex in both origin and biology than what researchers originally thought. What they have learned in 40 years of assumptions about hemangiosarcoma may not be entirely correct, and a "back to the drawing board" approach is likely to be the most efficient way to find this cancer's Achilles' heel, says Jaime Modiano, DVM, PhD, Perlman professor of oncology/comparative medicine, College of Veterinary Medicine and Masonic Care Center, University of Minnesota.

"We believe that hemangiosarcoma arises from a specialized cell that originates in the bone marrow and may have multipotential – meaning it can give rise to more than one type of cell, i.e., has stem-cell properties – or perhaps one that contributes to blood-vessel formation but is not, strictly speaking, the 'endothelial' cell we recognize in normal vessels," Modiano says. "While we remain fairly certain the cells that give rise to hemangiosarcoma come from the bone marrow, we do not know if the transforming events take place there or in the target origins."

The most common hemangiosarcoma tumor sites are the right atrium and spleen, with splenic tumors accounting for 51 to 66 percent of all canine splenic neoplasms. Experts note that hemangiosarcoma tumors account for an estimated 5 to 7 percent of all tumors seen in dogs. It's also highly malignant, with an estimated 80 percent or more of the dogs having metastasis at the time of diagnosis.

Any breed can be affected, but some breeds appear more susceptible, including Boxers, German Shepherd

Dogs, Portuguese Water Dogs, English Setters, Great Danes, and Pointers, among others. According to an Australian Shepherd breed-club health survey, it's the number one cancer in Aussies. A similar Golden Retriever health study published in 2002 estimated the lifetime risk for hemangiosarcoma is one in five. While dogs of any age are susceptible, it occurs more commonly in middle-aged dogs with the mean age between 8 and 13.

Clinical signs depend on the tumor size, localization, presence of metastasis, or rupture of the tumor. Dogs may have vague, nonspecific symptoms such as lethargy and weight loss, or more specific problems including shortness of breath, abdominal effusion, hypovolemic shock, or sudden death secondary to tumor rupture and hemorrhage. Once diagnosed, the prognosis is poor, with the inevitable outcome being fatal despite aggressive surgical, drug, or radiation treatment.

Despite early promise several research projects, including a therapeutic vaccine, have been sidelined. Modiano's research shows the tumors do not have consistent mutations in the target antigens they were developing. A blood test to detect the cancer in its early stages is also in hiatus because researchers have not been able to refine it to meet the standards of practice required for FDA approval of an in-vitro diagnostic test. Further development of the blood test is questionable due to the general retrenchment of R&D budget cuts.

The good news is that it's not all bad news. Researchers at universities across the country are working to define the genesis of the tumor and to explore the extent of breed-specific variation in the biology and behavior of hemangiosarcoma. In addition, researchers are conducting various hemangiosarcoma studies, including working to discover pathways or molecules essential for hemangiosarcoma proliferation and survival, and the researchers will be amenable to the targeted use of pharmacologic or immune-based strategies.

This article first appeared in the November 2009 issue of AKC Gazette and is reprinted with permission.

Understanding Canine Dementia

by Meredith Wargo

Is it natural for older dogs to gradually lose energy and interest in life? Some of these behavioral changes are predictable and may be linked to aging, but others should be attended to; they could be symptoms of canine cognitive dysfunction syndrome.

CDS is an age-related deterioration of cognitive abilities characterized by behavioral changes. It's sometimes referred to as "old dog syndrome" or "senility." The symptoms are wide-ranging and can be associated with other medical conditions, making CDS tricky to diagnose.

Many pet owners assume that nothing can be done when their dogs begin exhibiting senility. A recent study revealed that only a small percentage of dog owners who noticed behavior consistent with CDS reported it to their veterinarian. Often, behavioral changes are written off as a normal part of aging. This isn't necessarily the case.

Just because CDS is common doesn't mean it's normal. "People will often comment that their older dog is acting senile, as if it's to be expected," says Curtis Dewey, DVM, MS, associate professor and section chief of neurology/neurosurgery at Cornell University's College of Veterinary Medicine in Ithaca, NY. "It's not normal to be senile, even for a dog."

Too often dismissed as "just old age." canine cognitive dysfunction has specific symptoms and treatments.

What is CDS?

CDS is strikingly similar to Alzheimer's disease in people. It's caused by chemical and physiological changes in the brain. A cluster of symptoms may be noted, such as confusion, memory loss and personality changes. The signs of CDS are progressive and gradual, so many dog owners fail to recognize the early stages.

In a clinical study conducted in the late 1990s by the University of California, Davis,

School of Veterinary Medicine, 62 percent of 11- to 16-year-old dogs showed at least one sign of cognitive decline. In a separate pet-owner survey conducted by the drug manufacturer Pfizer Animal Health in 1998, nearly half of dogs age 8 and older showed at least one symptom associated with CDS.

Dogs with CDS show behavioral changes that are not a normal part of aging. "A lot of dogs with CDS will forget which side of the door to go to and will stand at the hinge side rather than the side that opens," Dewey says. "[Normal] dogs rarely make that mistake."

Other behavioral changes include house-training problems, apparent memory loss, wandering, becoming "stuck" in

Continued on Pg. 12 ⇨

Symptoms of CDS

The most common signs of cognitive dysfunction syndrome can be grouped under the acronym DISH: disorientation, interaction with others, sleep-cycle changes and house soiling. It's unusual to see all four symptoms in the same dog; a diagnosis can be made on the basis of only one of these categories:

Disorientation/confusion

- Not able to recognize previously familiar people or places
- Becomes "stuck" in corners or behind furniture
- Appears lost or confused in house or yard
- Forgets or stops responding to its name

Interaction with others

- Seeks attention less often
- Grows less tolerant of being petted (wanders away)
- Displays a lack of interest in surroundings or events
- Shows little familiarity upon greeting

Sleep and activity

- Sleeps more throughout the day
- Sleeps less at night
- Has reduced activity in a 24-hour day
- Increases wandering or pacing

Houstraining

- Loss of bladder and bowel control indoors
- Houstraining habits seem undone
- Signals less often to go outside
- Appears to forget reason for going outdoors

The Role of a Parent Club

by Jeffrey Pepper

I just finished reading through the wonderful September 2009 125th-anniversary issue of the Gazette. Looking at all the columns and historical anecdotes about the various breeds and their original functions brings to mind the importance of parent clubs.

The primary responsibility of any parent club is to protect the breed. Each club has a constitution and bylaws under which it operates. The constitution states the reasons for the organization's existence. Most parent-club constitutions use words similar to ours, which says the club's purpose is "to do all in its power to protect and advance the interests of the breed by advocating responsible ownership and breeding of Golden Retrievers and encouraging sportsmanlike competition at competitive and performance events."

Protecting the breed's standard is one of the most critical responsibilities of any parent club. The club is the sole owner of the breed's standard of perfection, with the AKC's guidance; only the parent club can change the standard. The future of the breed depends on how well this is done.

Most clubs are run by a board and elected officers who carry out the club's purpose and handle its day-to-day operations. This special, dedicated group of breed enthusiasts usually comes to the job equipped with long-term, broad, and in-depth knowledge of the breed and its history and intended function, as well as its strengths and weaknesses. Ideally, they are also familiar with the club's history and knowledgeable in the operation of a volunteer organization that may have as few as 100 or as many as 5,000 members.

Too often, newcomers and those not actively involved in formal activities with their dogs lack the depth of experience and knowledge necessary to successfully run a parent club. Clubs that are not fortunate enough to have dedicated and knowledgeable leadership

may soon find themselves adrift as important decisions affecting both the club's and the breed's long-term legacies are not handled skillfully.

Those without experience in the running of a volunteer organization might not realize how much work is involved. It *is* a lot of work. Larger clubs like GRCA might well have a total annual budget in excess of \$500,000, especially if the costs of running the national specialty and all its attendant events are considered. Club programs can vary from running show, field, or performance events to developing and offering educational programs for the membership and for judges.

All manner of factors must be considered, from the legalities of operating a not-for-profit organization to the protection of the breed's health through funding medical studies and the operation of a rescue program for the unfortunate individuals of the breed.

Club duties can range from maintaining a budget to establishing a proper system of financial controls to protect the organization's assets, educating club members and the public

about the breed, and dealing with legislative issues threatening the breeding and exhibition of dogs. All require time and effort.

The single most important function of any parent club, however, is to protect the integrity of the breed it represents through appropriate advocacy with breeders, owners, and the public when the integrity of the breed is threatened by inappropriate changes to the breed standard or through governmental legislation. No breed can long survive if not protected by knowledgeable individuals and organizations that have its best interests foremost in mind.

The article first appeared in the January 2010 issue of AKC Gazette as the Golden Retriever breed column and is reprinted with permission.

**The
primary
responsibility
of any
parent club
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Rescue Reporter - By Carol Allen

Your Club endorses and promotes the work of Golden Retriever Rescue of Central NY and encourages your individual support through membership, donations and volunteered assistance. For more information contact Carol Allen at 315-469-7926.

Animal Rights vs. Animal Protection

(Reprinted from The Barquer, Newsletter of Golden Retriever Rescue of Central New York, Inc.)

Such simple words. Such inherently good words. Why then such a fuss over those words? The fuss is because of the way these words are being used today as labels for an entire way of thinking about animals and their treatment in our society. Just as the angry rhetoric about health care reform would make the heart of a student of democracy and how it works skip a beat, so too would the vehemence of the two opposing positions on animal legislation.

Animal Rights: this has become “code” for the radical Animal Rights groups (Humane Society of the US, People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, among others). These groups advocate no pet ownership but rather “guardianship” and even go so far as to suggest that an animal can sue its owner (with help from outside obviously). Is this not taking the wonderful word “rights” too far? They consider all intentional breeding – thus all attempts to keep a breed as it is, to a standard and distinct from other breeds for reasons of appearance, traits and temperament – as immoral. “Nazi-like”, they say, and akin to attempts in the previous century to create a master race. No breeding is ethical and responsible to them, and showing of any kind – conformation, obedience and other performance events – is immoral. And yet their tactics have been criminal and are even called terroristic. Some of their proponents are willing to sacrifice the lives of humans and animals in order to make their point. While they often say “Don’t breed or buy while others die,” they seem willing to have animals die – sometimes at their own hands – in order to make their points. Extreme? Yes.

Animal Protection: Is there a role and responsibility for government in the protection of animals? As a society we have said that there is. Anti-cruelty arrests and punishments are generally thought to be necessary and the “right” thing to do. But there are some people who have apparently been driven to the far opposite view by the “Animal Rights” positions. They feel that all legislation intended to limit the numbers or set standards for the care of companion animals is indeed “creeping legislation” and that the hobby breeder will be the next target. Apparently they are willing to

allow in their communities (or someone else’s community) the puppy mills where hundreds of puppies can be born each year, where the mother is bred at every estrus, where the adults used for breeding never leave a cage, where there is no socialization or stimulation of the newborns. Forget that health clearances protects their own breed after all. To them all legislation is wrong and threatening. Extreme? Yes.

But I hope there is room for reason and reasonable people in the middle ground. As someone quite involved in rescue work, I am often asked about my personal opinion on these matters. Obviously I have a great deal of breed loyalty. In fact, the most breed-loyal people I know are those that care for a dog of that breed until that dog goes home, often at considerable personal and financial sacrifice. The “Animal Rights Position” would consider that breed loyalty immoral. But I also abhor the mass market breeding that greed generates and the cruel ignoring of sound breeding practices. We see too much of the results of those practices in rescue work. In a perfect world, legislation on this would not be necessary. Sadly, it is necessary and I believe that legislation can be developed, passed and enforced fairly that does not infringe on the rights of the responsible dog owner and breeder while limiting the mass producers.

The middle ground is a harder position to arrive at and then defend – much easier to take an extreme position and then defend it against all comers with the same packaged rhetoric. But on this issue, like so many others, it is for me the “right” place to be.



⇒ CDS (Cont from Pg. 9)

corners, sleep disturbances and restlessness. Sometimes, the changes may seem contradictory, such as a dog that has symptoms of hearing loss, but also seems more sensitive to strange sounds.

Before any medical signs become apparent, these types of behavioral changes may indicate that something is changing in an older dog. “CDS is a diagnosis of exclusion in which all other diseases and medical conditions are ruled out,” says Melissa Bain, DVM, Dipl. ACVB, MS, of the Companion Animal Behavior Service at UC Davis. Primary and secondary behavioral problems, such as noise phobias and separation anxiety, need to be ruled out before diagnosing CDS.

If a dog is suspected of having CDS, veterinarians typically ask the owners to complete a form that details the history of their dog’s behavior and routines. The checklist collects information on the dog’s appetite, elimination patterns, cognition, recognition, social relationships, sleep-wake patterns and anxiety. This type of questionnaire, a physical and neurological exam, and diagnostic tests are necessary to make an accurate diagnosis of CDS.

Necropsies performed on dogs with CDS show their brains are frequently clogged with globs of nerve-damaging beta-amyloid plaque, similar to what is found in the brains of people with Alzheimer’s disease. “The type of amyloid [protein] is the same in both dogs and people,” says Andrew Farabaugh, DVM, staff neurologist at MSPCA-Angell Animal Medical Center in Boston. “Because of this similarity, dogs are being used as experimental models for Alzheimer’s research.”

Necropsies of dogs diagnosed with CDS also reveal increased levels of monoamine oxidase B (MAOB). Monoamine oxidases are enzymes found in different parts of the body: MAOA is found in the liver, gastrointestinal tract and placenta; MAOB is mostly found in blood platelets. Both forms break down neurotransmitters (chemicals that enable nerves to communicate), one of them being dopamine.

Because of the vital role that MAOs play in the inactivation of neurotransmitters, MAO dysfunction (too much or too little MAO activity) is thought to be responsible for a number of neurological disorders in the brain, as well as a depletion of the neurotransmitter

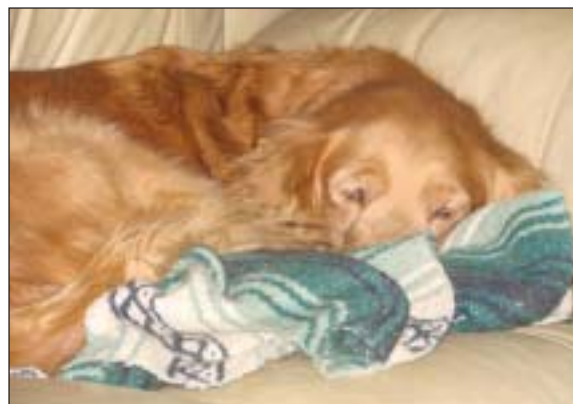


Photo courtesy of Judi Questel

Dogs with CDS often sleep more during the day and less at night.

dopamine – important because it connects thought with action, and increases cognitive awareness. All of these conditions tend to accelerate degeneration of the brain.

Available treatments

Researchers have not determined a genetic cause for canine dementia, nor can they explain why some dogs are afflicted with CDS and others are not. “Similar to people with Alzheimer’s disease, there is no way to show which dogs will eventually develop the disease,” Bain says.

CDS is incurable and usually progressive in nature. Once diagnosed, however, several options are available to manage the disease. A combination of drug therapy, dietary changes and environmental stimulation can help a dog maintain an optimal quality of life.

Anipryl (L-deprenyl), manufactured by Pfizer Animal Health, is the only FDA-approved drug currently on the US market for managing CDS. Anipryl prolongs the concentration of dopamine in a dog’s brain (by inhibiting MAOB, increasing the amount and effectiveness of dopamine), and reduces the free radicals naturally produced by the body. Some age-related behavioral changes in older dogs are thought to be caused by free-radical damage to the brain. With higher levels of dopamine, many cognitive processes are augmented.

In Pfizer and UC Davis studies, 69 to 75 percent of dogs showed some improvement on Anipryl after

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⇒ CDS (Cont from Pg. 12)

one month of treatment. Some dogs continued to show improvement for up to three months. These findings were based on observational information collected from owner-reported questionnaires. “Any observational report, though, is going to be fraught with problems because of the placebo effect,” Farabaugh says.

Specific questions can be asked and standardized tests can be given to humans with Alzheimer’s disease to determine how a patient is progressing. With dogs, it’s different. “We judge an animal’s cognitive dysfunction by how much they move around,” Dewey says. “People will say their dogs are better simply because they seem to be more alert and more active.”

Anipryl is given in tablet form in low doses; side effects are minimal. “Overall, it’s a pretty harmless drug,” Bain says. “The earlier Anipryl is started, the better the result.” Some common side effects include gastrointestinal upset, vomiting, salivation and agitation.

Dog owners need to be aware of certain drug interactions, especially if a dog is already taking narcotics. “Tramadol is a drug that has become popular for managing pain in older dogs,” Farabaugh says. “The risk from tramadol is not particularly significant according to some veterinarians, but I would avoid [using] tramadol and Anipryl together, if possible.”

Other medications require a withdrawal period of several weeks before starting a dog on Anipryl.

Nutritional options

Some documented studies indicate that dietary changes and supplemental intake for older dogs can improve the performance of cognitive tasks, suggesting a specialized diet can be more beneficial than a regular diet.

“Diet can have a strong influence in slowing the symptoms of CDS,” Bain says. Hill’s Prescription Diet b/d Canine (the b/d stands for “brain diet”) is specially formulated to fight age-related behavioral changes in older dogs. “This particular product has a high concentration of antioxidants, essential fatty acids and mitochondrial factors,” Bain says. “Because it is a balanced diet, there is no harm in trying it.”

Farabaugh adds that the best time to start b/d Canine is before your dog shows any clinical signs. “You’re not going to undo a lot of the damage once it occurs; you’re just going to slow it down,” Farabaugh says. “Unless there are [more pressing] dietary needs to consider, starting a dog on the b/d diet once it’s 7 or 8 years old would, in theory, decrease the risk of developing dementia.”

Supplements and nutraceuticals

Other studies show that adding vitamins E and C, fish oil and DHA (docosahexaenoic acid) to the diet have varying success in slowing down the symptoms. “*Ginkgo biloba* is another supplement that’s often used because it decreases oxidative damage,” Farabaugh says. “It’s a monoamine oxidase inhibitor [MAOI] that may protect against some cell death, increases vascular flow and has an antioxidant effect.”

Nutraceuticals are another option to consider when treating canine cognitive dysfunction. The term nutraceutical was derived from the words “nutrition” and “pharmaceutical” in the late 1980s. It’s a food or part of a food that provides medicinal or health benefits, including the prevention or treatment of a disease. Several nutraceuticals to treat CDS are available without a prescription, including Senilife by Ceva Animal Health, GeriACTIVE by Centaur VA Animal Health (Canada), Senior Moment by Nutramax Laboratories and ProNeurozone by Virbac. Most of these products contain phosphatidylserine, a naturally occurring phospholipid, which is a major building block in cell membranes that improves cognitive function.

Environmental enrichment

A third approach in delaying the progression of CDS is to keep your dog mentally and physically stimulated. “Novelty and change tend to have a positive impact on dogs,” Farabaugh says. Regardless of age, it’s possible for dogs to learn new things and improve the quality of their lives.

Dogs that engage in regular exercise and extra playtime appear to have less cognitive dysfunction. “[Researchers] have found in people that it’s not so much using your memory, but learning new things that slows the progression of memory loss,” Farabaugh

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⇒ CDS (Cont from Pg. 13)

says. “Learning a new language or skill is more beneficial than just trying to memorize a list of words. The same applies to dogs. Teaching them new tricks has definite value.”

An enrichment program that includes playing with mentally challenging toys and interacting with other dogs and animals also contributes to improving a dog’s learning ability. Increased activity, curiosity and thinking will usually improve the overall behavior of dogs with CDS.

When to seek help

The population of geriatric dogs is growing steadily, mirroring the increase in the human elderly population. “What we’re finding is the more we know about our pet’s healthcare, the longer they live and the more we tend to see these age-related issues that were never really a problem 30 or 40 years ago,” Farabaugh says.

CDS is not a normal part of aging and its symptoms are not easily identified during a routine veterinary examination. Because they are most familiar with their dogs’ habits and behavior, owners of senior dogs should look for subtle signs of the disease.

“People shouldn’t just say, ‘My dog is getting old,’” Bain says. “If you see even the slightest signs of CDS,

seek treatment and advice from your veterinarian. Chances are a dog will continue to develop more severe symptoms over time.”

With a little extra care and attention, older dogs can be helped to manage their cognitive changes and spend their golden years enjoying a full and active life.

This article first appeared in the December 2009 issue of Dog World and is reprinted with permission.



⇒ Cluster (Cont from Pg. 1)

The agility rings saw action as well. Kathy McCloskey and Finn completed his Open FAST title with a first place – a wonderful finish as his final agility run. Kathy has decided to retire him from further agility competition. Kathy also ran Cameo in agility, completing their Open FAST with a second place to Finn by only one point. Cameo also earned a qualifying score in Open. Judi Questel and Moya ventured into FAST, completing their Novice title with three first place scores. Moya also completed both her Masters Agility (MX) and Masters JWW (MXI) titles as well.

Congratulations to all on a very successful cluster!

Products with Purpose: Socking It to Hip Dysplasia

Courtesy AKC Gazette

When Lorraine Walston’s 14-year-old Rottweiler, Woodrow, developed hip dysplasia, he had trouble supporting himself on slippery floors. Walston’s vet suggested carpeting the house, and pet stores recommended bulky dog “boots” to help Woodrow get traction. Neither solution suited Walston, so she created her own: a pair of socks with traction on the soles. After helping Woodrow get around, Walston knew her ingenuity could help other dogs, too, so she brought the socks to market as Power Paws.

Some people might recognize the concept from hospitals, where patients are often given socks with rubbery material on the bottom to grip the floor and prevent slipping. Walston also ensured that the canine version has lots of elastic to help the socks stay up and on without the need for buckles, belts or Velcro (the kind of attachments most dogs find to be a nuisance).

“Power Paws give dogs the power to stand, the power to stop, and the power to go,” Walston says. She is all too familiar with the baffled reaction most dogs have when something is placed on their feet: Woodrow’s initial response was confusion, too. Walston tossed a toy for him to chase, and when he realized that he could be mobile – and later made the connection to the socks – he was happy for Walston to pop them on his paws.

Since losing Woodrow, Walston has tested the socks on more than 200 dogs. Power Paws are available in eight sizes, from XXS (Chihuahua) to XXXL (Saint Bernard). One set is \$19.99. For more information, visit www.woodrowwear.com.



Views from the Doghouse

By Judi Questel, Editor

*Opinions expressed here are not necessarily those of "management."
This column is the price y'all have to pay for stickin' me with this job.*

Reflections on a Shared Path

When we obtain a new dog, the future is always bright with promise. For those of us who compete with our dogs, a new puppy is seen as having a lifetime of potential – often only held back by our own limitations as owners and trainers. And when that puppy is one that we ourselves helped produce, seeing that potential come to fruition is all the more sweet.

Earlier this month, Moya and I accomplished something that in the not too distant past was just a wishful dream – we completed both Masters Agility and Masters Agility Jumpers with Weaves titles, and even did it over a single weekend. Five years ago when I first started competing in agility, just getting through a Novice run seemed like a huge accomplishment. Moya and I survived the Novice rings, then the Open rings, and on to Excellent where we first earned AX and AXJ titles before accumulating the required number of perfect scores to obtain those unbelievable MX and MXJ titles. Will we manage to continue on to an agility championship and add MACH to the front of Moya's name? No one can predict the future, though at 8 years old time is starting to become our enemy.

Moya has been a dog of many firsts for me, and our path has been a learning experience for both of us. Along that path we have traveled countless miles together and shared much time without the distraction of our regular daily lives. That is really at the heart of any dog/owner relationship – the bond that is forged by really, truly sharing life. Does it need to be forged while on the road, traveling to and competing in dog events? No, not at all. It only requires we really, truly share our lives with our canine companions.

Reflecting on our path brought to mind the following short essay, written by Sandy Mowery and published in *Front & Finish* magazine, a premiere resource for obedience enthusiasts:

What is an Obedience Title, Really?

Not just a brag, not just a stepping stone to a higher title, not just an adjunct to competitive scores; a title is a tribute to the dog that bears it, a way to honor the dog, an ultimate memorial. It will remain in the record and in the memory, for about as long as anything in this world can remain.

And though the dog himself doesn't know or care that his achievements have been noted, a title says many things in the world of humans, where such things count.

A title says your dog was intelligent, adaptable, and good natured. It says that your dog loved you enough to do the things that please you, however crazy they may have sometimes seemed.

In addition, a title says that you love your dog. That you loved to spend time with him because he was a good dog and that you believed in him enough to give him yet another chance when he failed and in the end your faith was justified.

A title proves that your dog inspired you to that special relationship enjoyed by so few; that in a world of disposable creatures, this dog with a title was greatly loved, and loved greatly in return.

And when that dear short life is over, the title remains as a memorial of the finest kind, the best you can give to a deserving friend. Volumes of praise in one small set of initials after the name.

An obedience title is nothing less than true love and respect, given and received and recorded permanently.

So, with the above essay in mind I challenge you – not necessarily to earn titles with your dog, but to love your dog enough to walk through life together as true companions, sharing and experiencing every day and all it has to offer.



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Meetings

All meetings at Gander Mountain's Community Room, 5864 Carmenica Drive, Cicero unless otherwise indicated. Exit #30 from I-81 (next to Cracker Barrel Restaurant).

June 10 (Thurs)
7:00^{PM} General Meeting

August 19 (Thurs)
7:00^{PM} General Meeting

September 16 (Thurs)
7:00^{PM} General Meeting

October 21 (Thurs)
7:00^{PM} General Meeting

Activities

Field Training Day - May 2
3 Rivers WMA - Baldwinsville

Field Training Day - July 3
3 Rivers WMA - Baldwinsville

Field Training Day - July 25
3 Rivers WMA - Baldwinsville

WC/WCX - August 1
Echoewood - Mexico

Eye Clinic - October 17
Village Veterinary Clinic - Wampsville

Awards Dinner - December 12
TBA

In case of inclement weather, information regarding meeting or event cancellations may be obtained by calling Kathy McCloskey - 315-233-9571