



Conformation · Field · Obedience

Golden Tales

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April 2012

“Adan” Takes BOB at GRCCNY Specialty



Photo courtesy of Ashbey Photography

2012 Specialty Best of Breed winner – GCH White Birch Darby Hill Light My Fire (owner, Carol Dunn)

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**On the Internet
www.grccny.org**



Can CH, Am GCH White Birch Darby Hill Light My Fire (“Adan”) took top honors for 2012 at the GRCCNY Specialty on March 31 in Syracuse, under judge Pluis Davern. Barely three years old, he has had an impressive track record including a JAM at Westminster 2012 and multiple Best of Breed placements.

No stranger to showing in Syracuse, Adan was awarded Winner's Dog during the Leatherstocking Cluster in November 2009 and Winner's Dog/Best of Winners during the Salt City Cluster in April 2010.

Adan is owned by Carol Dunn of Bloomsburg, PA.

For more Specialty coverage, please see page 6.

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Let's Be Social, Just Like Our Dogs

After the awards banquet in December, several of us sat afterward and discussed ways to bring us more together as a group. We kicked around many ideas and eventually settled on having a cookout. This will take place on Saturday, June 2nd. Just like our dogs, no matter what the weather is, we will find joy in socializing and being together. It will take place from 3:00 until whatever and will take place at Suzie McDonald's home, which is not too far from Gander Mountain.



As we get closer to the date, we will send something out to find out who will bring what as well as give more information about the cookout. Please put it on your calendar and plan on attending. At meetings and events, we just don't seem to socialize enough and just get to know each other. This will provide that opportunity and be a good time for 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.

Lynn Mickinkle, 200 Cobb Drive, Laconia, NY 13083
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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.

***Back Issues of Golden Tales
are on the Web at
[www.grccny.org/
index.asp?ID=16](http://www.grccny.org/index.asp?ID=16)***

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

Club News & Events

Meeting Highlights

- The Following Is An Unofficial Summary -

GRCCNY meeting 3/22/12

Submitted by Lynn Mickinkle

Attendance: 12 members in attendance

Minutes of 12/11/11 meeting read and accepted.

Report of the President:

1) Calendar for the year is all set. Specialty is March 31 at the Fairgrounds, CCA on April 7 at SOTC, and Field Training days set for April 15, May 6, June 30, July 28 and August 19 at Three Rivers.

2) There will be a club cook-out on Saturday, June 2 at Suzi McDonald's house. It will begin at 3 PM and everyone will bring something to share. Will send details as it gets closer.

Report of the Secretary: None.

Report of the Treasurer: Balance given for three accounts.

Reports:

Specialty: Saturday, March 31 at the Salt City Cluster at the Fairgrounds. Beth Greenfield needs someone to track the scores in obedience and rally, and deliver them to her. Kathy McCloskey and Becky Byrns volunteered to help.

CCA: Saturday, April 7 at SOTC. Will need volunteers to steward. See Beth G. to volunteer. Sallie Lennox is doing hospitality and Tom O'Connell is the official photographer. There are currently 17 entries, closing date is March 31. Test dog will start at 8:30 AM. Ribbons have been ordered.

Field:

1) Joe Martin will be holding a Beginner Retriever Training seminar on Saturdays from April 21 through May 19, to be held at the Martin residence in Tully. Will be all land training. Golden Club members will have priority.

2) Training days will be more relaxed this year. Will decide what is needed depending on who shows up to train.

3) WC/WCX will be Saturday, August 11 at Echoewood in Mexico. Joe and Marcia Martin will be the judges. 4) Maxine Clark would like the club to reconsider the vote that was taken last year on holding a hunt test this year. There was discussion on workers and borrowing equipment from Finger Lakes Retriever Club. Was decided to bench discussion until next meeting.

Golden Tales: Will be out at the end of April, after the Specialty.

Awards Dinner: Lisa Andrews does not want to coordinate the dinner any more. Looking for a volunteer to take over.

New Members: None.

Unfinished Business: Cindy Berry's foster (Sarah) has found a new home.

New Business: None.

Meeting adjourned at 7:40 PM. Next meeting June 7, 2012.

GRCA Junior Achievement Award

Each year, the GRCA gives out an award to honor a well-rounded junior who has participated in a variety of activities with their Golden. Past winners have titled dogs in obedience, the field, agility, conformation and have participated in Junior Showmanship. They have completed 4-H projects and used their Golden in school projects and papers. Others have raised money to support K-9 forces and other local dog organizations in their community.

Please look around your club, community, schools, and 4-H groups for deserving juniors to nominate! We welcome any sponsor, parent or junior to submit information outlining the junior's accomplishments. Any supporting material – transcripts, copies of ribbons, newspaper clippings, certificates, etc – that verifies the nomination is welcome.

The junior, his/her parents, or sponsor must be a member in good standing of the GRCA. The award recipient will receive a plaque and \$250.00 savings bond.

Information about the award can be viewed here: <http://www.grca.org/pdf/events/junior/juniorachievementaward/pdf>

Nominations are due June 1st and can be mailed to Stephanie Smith, 33-07 Crescent Street, Apt 3R, Astoria, NY 11106 or e-mailed to sjs7212003@yahoo.com.

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*



Activity & Event Leaders

Puppy Referral

Sallie Lennox & Carol Allen
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Licensed Specialty Show-Trial

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Carol Allen, Trophy Chair
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WC / WCX

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Annual Banquet

Lisa Andrews
315-455-6874 — quinala2@aol.com

Golden Retriever News Correspondent

Lynn Mickinkle
315-382-2861 — lcmickin@esf.edu

WELCOME

New Members

- Donna Schmidt**, Syracuse
Associate
- Andrew and Karen Klein**, Cooperstown
Rescue Honorary
- Jean Shirley**, Cazenovia
Rescue Honorary
- John Schmidt and Lisa Molinari**,
Scott Township, PA
Rescue Honorary
- Bob and Cheryl Ripley**, Marietta
Rescue Honorary
- Elmer and Marilyn Letts**, Rochester
Rescue Honorary
- Pat and Carolyn Scopelliti**, Big Flats
Rescue Honorary

** Election Required for Individual or Household Applicants*



Carol Lantiegne reports that Trixie (Adirondac Trick or Treat SH WCX CCA) has finished her Senior Hunter (SH) title.

Carol also proudly reports that Jane (Calamity Jane of Adirondac MH WCX CCA CGC) is now a Master Hunter (MH).

Becky Byrns and Trucker (Lyn-D's Keep on Truck-N CD) earned their Open obedience (CDX) title, acquiring all three legs at the Salt City Cluster with two first place and one second place ranking.

Field Training Days

GRCCNY will be holding field training days throughout the summer – come join the fun!

All training days will be held at Three Rivers Wildlife Management Area in the town of Lysander. For more information, contact Maxine Clark at maxdoglady @ aol.com.

Training dates are scheduled for:

- Sunday, May 6
- Saturday, June 30
- Saturday, July 28
- Sunday, August 19

Come One, Come All!

Mark your calendars and plan on joining the fun at a CLUB COOKOUT! Saturday, June 2nd from 3 PM until ??? the fun is going to be at Suzi McDonald's house in Clay, NY. Time to kick back and relax, be like our dogs and say "let's party!" Bring a dish to share... what's your special signature creation?

Contact Suzi at (315) 699-1573 or suzimac@twcnv.rr.com to RSVP and add your contribution to the menu, as well as for directions.

Hope to see you there!!

Certificate of Conformation Assessment

April 7, 2012

22 Dogs Entered – 22 Dogs Qualified

Cayuga Highlands Gold-Rush (Finian/Gray), Adirondac Trick or Treat SHWCX (Lantiegne), Adirondac Tea Party SHWCX (Lantiegne), Patrick's Vanilla Cameo Latte (Patrick), ShoreLine Sippin' Rum on Sawyer Key (Countryman/Binder), Painting's Winchester of Braddock Bay (Warner), Painting The Princess Bride (Painting), Storybook Tessahoc Son of Larkspur (Tyler/Desrosiers), Painting's Morning Glory (Painting/Ameele), Painting's Someone to Watch Over Me (Warner), Topflite Skye's Still on Fire (Blaskiewicz/MicKinkle), Storybook's A Toast to the Vineyard (Vassallo)



Storybook's Miss Misbehaving (Stinson), Storybook's Chewbacca's Warp Drive CD RN (Heden), ShoreLine Kickin' Back in the Islands (McDonald/Binder), Judge Janice Provenzano, MACH Voyager 32 Degrees Fahrenheit CD RN MXF (Salemi), Gazn Above and Beyond (Ryck/Haggerty), Painting Sweet Syringo (Ameele/McMahon/Painting), Rivermate's Rip-N-Romp (Baritell), Avalon's Keeper of Magic CD RE (Parks), Birch Run's Irish Rivermate CD JHCGC (Baritell), Judge Beth McCumber, Westbrook's Heart of Bramisole (Greenfield), Judge Cindy Partridge

GRCCNY Specialty

Central New York Golden Retriever Club celebrated its eleventh annual Specialty show with a supported entry in obedience and rally on March 31, 2012, in conjunction with Onondaga Kennel Association.

Pluis Davern of Royal Oaks, CA judged the regular classes and awarded Best of Breed to Can CH, Am GCH White Birch Darby Hill Light My Fire (Dunn).

Ms. Davern is a well respected judge who was named 2011 AKC Breeder of the Year for her Sundowners Sussex Spaniels. She has also been very involved with Golden Retrievers, obtaining a Golden shortly after coming to America in the mid 1960s which led to hunting, field and obedience training, handling in the show ring, breeding, and eventually to her becoming a performance and conformation judge. Her breeding program has produced a number of dual purpose Goldens.

In addition, Ms. Davern was the 2011 Trainer of the Year award recipient. She is the founder and owner of Sundowners Kennels, where all National Disaster Search Dog Foundation canines are trained, and she has trained more disaster search dogs than anyone in



High In Trial – OTCH One Ash Dave and Buster UDX
(owner - David Maurer)



Best Puppy – Goldenbro's C-3PO
(owner - Julie Watson)



Winners Bitch/Best of Winners – Saquish Gingerrun Last Call
(owners - Rachelle and Melanie Porter)

- March 31, 2012

the country.

Ms. Davern awarded Best Opposite Sex to CH Waynewood's Dance with the Stars (Berman). Winners Bitch/Best of Winners went to Saquish Gingerrun Last Call (Porter/Porter), while Winners Dog was Highmark's Sweet Sir Galahad (McLaughlin-Wager). Best Puppy was Goldenbro's C-3PO (Watson), from the 6-9 Month Dog class.

The Bred-By Exhibitor class was won by Painting Look at Life, bred and owned by GRCCNY members Lee and Beth Painting.

Sweepstakes judge Beth (Gerevics) McCumber of Darien Center, NY awarded Best Puppy in Sweepstakes to Waynewood's Windy at Happy Acres (Petko). Best Veteran in Sweepstakes was awarded to CH Cobrador Rustic Didyouhearthat UD (Durand).

The obedience classes saw OTCH One Ash Dave and Buster UDX (Maurer) take High Scoring Golden from the Open B class under judge Stephanie Podejko of Central Square, NY, with a score of 198.5.

Photos courtesy of Ashbey Photography



Best Puppy in Sweepstakes – Waynewood's Windy at Happy Acres (owners - Dan and Shirley Petko)



Best Veteran/Best Veteran in Sweepstakes – CH Cobrador Rustic Didyouhearthat UD (owner - Beth Durand)



Winners Dog – Highmark's Sweet Sir Galahad CD RA JH (owner - Kathleen McLaughlin-Wager)



Best Opposite Sex – CH Waynewood's Dance with the Stars (owner - Sopie Berman)

A Heart-To-Heart on Severe Subaortic Stenosis

Marley was barely eight weeks old in 2008 when his veterinarian heard a severe heart murmur in the hound-mix's chest. Marley's owner, Debbie Suttles, adoption team leader at the Gainesville (Florida) Humane Society, was referred to Herbert Maisenbacher, VMD, at the University of Florida College of Veterinary Medicine, also in Gainesville. After Maisenbacher confirmed the diagnosis of severe subaortic stenosis (SAS), a congenital heart disease, the veterinary researcher told Suttles about a new 2008-2010 study funded by an AKC Canine Health Foundation grant.

The 12-dog study had three aims: (a) to test the safety of a double balloon valvuloplasty similar to an angioplasty) on dogs with SAS; (b) to significantly decrease the heart's pressure gradient post-operatively; and (c) to determine if the cutting balloon reduced the pressure gradient and prevented re-stenosis, or re-narrowing of the area below the aortic valve. Although the study's success partially depended on no re-stenosis for at least one year after surgery, Cardiology Chief Amara Estrada, DVM, intended to track the dogs for the rest of their lives.

Common in larger-breed dogs such as Dobermans, Golden Retrievers, Boxers, Dogue de Bordeaux and German Shepherds, SAS has, in the past, been treated with beta blocker medications or a low-pressure balloon valvuloplasty. With either protocol, the dogs lived an average of only 55 months. Doctors speculated that a more aggressive approach with earlier intervention

might increase longevity and improve the animal's quality of life.

On July 2, 2009, veterinary researcher Mandi Schmidt, DVM, performed the mildly invasive two-hour procedure on Marley. Under general anesthesia and via the carotid artery in the neck, she inserted a cutting balloon with 2 mm blades followed by a strong, part-Kevlar, high-pressure balloon. The object was to inflate and dilate the abnormal area of the heart below the aortic valve.

"He still has a murmur," says Suttles about Marley, "but his systolic pressure gradient (the indicator of the heart's effort to

pump blood) was over 300 mm/hG (before surgery), and it dropped to around 190 mm/hG."

To qualify for the study, SAS-affected dogs had to have a minimum Doppler systolic pressure gradient of 80 mm/hG, be less than two years of age and not have a systemic or metabolic disease. "At between 8 and 30 months," Estrada says, "each dog had a fully developed lesion, but not a lot of secondary effects. You could see the stenotic ridge on the echocardiogram."

Although the study dogs were treated gratis, the experimental

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Diagnosing Pancreatitis Before It's Too Late

Pancreatitis is almost as frustrating for doctors to deal with as it is for dog owners. It's one of those diagnoses that is incredibly difficult to make before it's too late. The symptoms are vague, and the current tests are hard to perform, unreliable, or both. That's why it's so important that researchers continue to hunt for a simple and effective way to diagnose pancreatitis.

It's not an easy task.

Diagnostic tests are evaluated on two criteria: sensitivity and specificity. The sensitivity of a test measures how good it is at detecting dogs that have the condition it's looking for. A diagnostic test for pancreatitis

with a sensitivity of 85 percent would correctly identify 85 out of every 100 dogs with pancreatitis as having the disease.

In contrast, the specificity of a test measures how well it identifies dogs who don't have the condition of interest. A diagnostic test for pancreatitis with a specificity of 90 percent would correctly identify 90 out of every 100 healthy dogs as not having pancreatitis.

Playing the Percentages

The usefulness of a test depends on not just sensitivity and specificity but how common a condition is in the population

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Attention Please!

by Liz Palika

“Successful dog training depends on attention,” says Dawn Jecs, of Puyallup, Washington, trainer and creator of the Choose-to-Heel training program. “If a dog is distracted or disengaged from the owner while training, its learning progress is slow.”

Some owners try to force their dogs to learn using any number of different training techniques. Jecs says that although the dogs might learn, an adversarial training technique can cause relationship issues, the most obvious being that neither the dog nor the owner enjoys the training. A much easier alternative is to teach the dog to pay attention to you and have fun at the same time.

Tip 1: The dog’s name is always positive.

Many people use their dog’s name any time they want to get the dog’s attention; they don’t differentiate between praising the dog and scolding it. If the dog is scolded a lot, it might begin to think its name is, “Fido, bad dog!” That negative connotation will spill into all aspects of the relationship, and the dog won’t cooperate.

To make your dog feel positive about its name, prepare some treats your dog normally doesn’t get, such as cheese or cooked chicken, and cut them into tiny pieces. With your dog on leash, ask it to sit in front of you, then say its name in a happy tone. As soon as your dog looks at you, mark the behavior with a clicker or verbal praise (“Yes!”), and pop a treat in its mouth.

Practice three or four times and then take a break; don’t let your dog become full of treats and bored. An hour later, practice three or four more times.

Tip 2: Encourage the dog to look at you.

You should be able to say your dog’s name in a happy tone and have it turn to look at you, even if the dog is distracted.

“To get the dog ready for this exercise, I ask it to sit, then mark [with a click of the clicker or verbal praise

12 ways to train for focus and build a strong dog-owner bond

followed by a treat] when its hips touch the floor,” says Becky Schultz, a long-time trainer and behavior consultant for Prairie’s Edge Humane Society in Faribault, Minnesota. “A few repetitions and we’re ready to teach attention.”

When the dog is on leash, but is distracted and looks away, Schultz says its name very sweetly. If it looks back to her, she marks (with a click or praise) and its head turns toward her. The dog then receives a treat reward. If the dog doesn’t look at her, she makes a kissing sound and again, when the dog looks at her, she marks the turning of its

head toward her with a click or verbal praise, and a treat.

When you try this at home, do it three or four times, then take a break, coming back later to practice it again.

Tip 3: Try the two-treat game.

“I teach my dogs to pay attention when I say their name so I can follow their name with another request, such as Heel, Sit or Come,” says Jan Gribble of ABC Dog Training in Socorro, New Mexico. She plays the “two-treat game” to help her teach attention.

“Put a leash on your dog and drop the leash to the floor,” Gribble says. Step on the leash so the dog doesn’t wander away.

Holding a treat in each hand, stand upright (don’t lean over your dog) and say nothing. “Your dog may try several different ways to get the treat in your hand, but don’t respond,” Gribble says. “As soon as your dog looks at you [in the face], say its name, smile, praise verbally and give the treat.” Repeat this exercise several times, alternating which hand you use to give the treat so the dog doesn’t always expect it from the same hand.

Even though you aren’t giving your dog any commands or saying anything to get its attention, the dog learns to look at you for praise and treats. In

Continued on Pg. 13 ➔

Two Research Opportunities for Golden Retrievers

Two new research studies are looking for Golden Retriever participants. Each has specific needs and goals, both aimed at improving the overall health and welfare of our beloved breed.

Golden Retriever Lifetime Study

Anyone with a Golden Retriever understands the joy these loyal, loving bundles of energy bring to their families. But if you've loved more than one Golden Retriever, you've also likely experienced the heartbreak of losing one to cancer.

Morris Animal Foundation, a nonprofit organization, is asking the Golden Retriever community to partner with them on a nationwide scientific effort to identify genetic, nutritional and environmental risk factors for cancer and other diseases in Golden Retrievers. As part of their Canine Lifetime Health Project, the Foundation has launched the largest and longest observational study ever undertaken to improve the health of dogs. The Golden Retriever Lifetime Study will enroll up to 3,000 dogs and is projected to last 10 to 14 years.

"This is truly the biggest scientific effort that Morris Animal Foundation has ever undertaken," says David Haworth, DVM, PhD, Foundation president and CEO. "And the most important study ever conducted for advancing canine health."

The Golden Retriever Lifetime Study is expected to provide valuable information for identifying prevention strategies, methods for early diagnosis and new treatments for cancer and other diseases. Although this study involves only Golden Retrievers, the information collected will improve the health of all dog breeds.

The study's success depends on highly committed Golden Retriever owners who are willing to participate for the life of their dog. In March, Morris Animal Foundation began actively recruiting Golden Retriever owners who are older than 18 years and live in the contiguous United States. To be eligible for enrollment, dogs must be healthy, under 2 years of age and have a three-generation pedigree.

To register for the Canine Lifetime Health Project and learn more about the Golden Retriever Lifetime Study, visit www.CanineLifetimeHealth.org. If your dog meets the initial qualifications for the Golden Retriever Lifetime Study, you will be asked to complete a

comprehensive screening process that includes an extensive owner questionnaire and a visit to your veterinarian. If your dog is approved for enrollment in the Golden Retriever Lifetime Study, you and your dog will become part of an unprecedented, nationwide effort to improve the health of all dogs.

Mason Golden Retriever Study

The Mason lab at the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine is investigating the possibility that a gammaherpesvirus can infect dogs and may contribute to lymphoma. The virus is thought to be highly similar to Epstein-Barr Virus that infects the majority of humans.

In most humans, infection is asymptomatic (no clinical signs), but in a very small subset of people, the virus is associated with lymphomas. Mason's lab has shown that some dogs (like people) can be infected with an EBV-like virus and that this appears to be associated with lymphoma in some cases (Evidence of an oncogenic gammaherpesvirus in domestic dogs. Huang et al. *Virology*. 2012 Mar 7).

Using a relatively simple blood test, Mason's lab can determine whether dogs have been exposed to an EBV-like virus. They now aim to screen approximately 500 healthy Golden Retriever dogs between 6 and 8 years of age to determine whether they are infected with the virus.

Participating dogs will be evaluated every 6 months for 2 years to determine whether the presence of increasing amounts of virus and antibodies to the virus predicts which dogs may go on to develop lymphoma.

The study aims to provide very important information about a possible environmental cause of cancer and may lead to future anti-viral therapies for cancer. This study is supported by the National Institutes of Health.

All owners of healthy Golden Retrievers are invited to participate in an unprecedented study to investigate the possibility that a particular virus (a

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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.

An Update on Lilly

Time flies. Lilly-Belle was a 9-month-old pup when Golden Retriever Rescue was asked to accept her by an overwhelmed owner. That was September 2002. Our rescue program immediately saw potential in this pup and offered her as a donation to the National Disaster Search Dog Foundation in California. Our offer was quickly accepted.

Time flies and so did Lilly. Just about my proudest moment in rescue was handing her over that September 2002 day to an American Airlines flight attendant. This young woman and young dog, until minutes before unknown to each other, flew 1st class from Syracuse to San Francisco. At that time flight attendants were making these trips in their off-duty hours in memory of their colleagues that had perished on 9/11. Many of the NDSDF-trained dogs searched endlessly at the World Trade Center.

Since then flying is a lot of what Lilly has done. A dog that has been taught so much, has accomplished so much, has traveled so far, has searched so diligently, has stood by in readiness so many times, has also

watched the years fly by. Lilly turned 11 on 11/11/11.

I keep in touch with her dedicated handler, Julie Padlford-Jansen, a member of the City of Miami Fire and Rescue Department. Recently Julie wrote to me the following:



Lilly at the 9/11 Memorial

Photo courtesy of Julie Padlford-Jansen

"I wanted to give you an update on your favorite red head. Her face has turned pretty white and she has a little tendonitis in her shoulders but she still searches with enthusiasm, has fun and gets the job done. She took her FEMA re-certification test on February 19 (2012) and kicked some serious butt. She will be certified for the next 3 years. I won't be taking her on any long deployments but she will still work local call out and such. She is one of the oldest SDF dogs to re-certify. The picture of Lilly I am attaching is from the 9/11 Memorial held at the NSDF Training Site in Santa Paula, CA."

Lilly, you have made us all proud to be "part of the search."

⇒ Pancreatitis (Cont from Pg. 8)

where the test is being used. After all, in the vet's office, you don't know if any dog has pancreatitis or not – that's what you're trying to find out.

But, if you know how common pancreatitis is, and the sensitivity and specificity of the test you're using, you can determine its positive predictive value – the likelihood that any positive test you get is actually accurate. That's important because you don't want to treat a dog for pancreatitis if you don't need to, but you do want to intervene if it will help. A positive predictive value of 85 tells you that 85 out of every 100 dogs who test positive are actually sick – a much more valuable statistic for the clinician than the sensitivity. In fact, it turns out that the positive predictive value

is actually far more dependent on the specificity of the test than the sensitivity in most circumstances.

All of that explains why, with support from the AKC Canine Health Foundation, researchers from the University of California, Davis, recently set out to investigate the sensitivity and specificity of a new blood test for pancreatitis and compare it to several other blood tests that might be useful in detecting the disease. The developers of the test, known as Spec cPL, had determined its sensitivity as 63.6 percent, but they hadn't figured out how specific it was. This meant it was difficult to tell how accurate any positive result might be. One previous study had investigated the same question, but more data was clearly needed.

Continued on Pg. 15 ⇒

⇒ SAS (Cont from Pg. 8)

procedure – if privately done – would cost around \$5,000, says Estrada. Furthermore if a pediatric surgeon repaired the abnormality, the surgery could easily cost \$10,000 to \$15,000. “That would be prohibitive for most owners,” Estrada says. Finding a safe, effective, affordable treatment is important – one reason Estrada is planning a second study to see if the high-pressure balloon alone can decrease the pressure gradient. Since the cutting balloon costs \$1,000 and can be used only once (while the \$600 high-pressure balloon can be used repeatedly), the savings would be significant. “We want to get the cost down to \$2,000 to \$3,000,” says Estrada.

SAS is so common that breeders regularly screen for it in their puppies. But owners who “really do their homework” often are knowledgeable about it, says Estrada. “Dogs can be asymptomatic, but it depends on the severity of the individual case.” Although Marley, for example, behaved like a typical, frisky puppy, some dogs with high pressure gradients can act lethargic. That was Moe’s problem.

After Frank and Janet Diaz purchased Golden Retrievers “Moe” and “Max” on the Internet, they discovered that compared to her littermate, Moe appeared less energetic and short of breath. “She did not run around like her sister (who has a less severe murmur),” says Frank, who knew Golden Retrievers might develop hip dysplasia but was not warned of SAS. “In hindsight, if I’d known of the condition, I would have checked the breeder more,” he says. “Goldens are such sweet wonderful dogs, it’s sad they’re cursed with this problem.

“Without any intervention,” he says, “her life expectancy and quality of life would be compromised..., so we wanted to do something if it was possible.” The couple was apprehensive about the 2009 surgery (“there’s always a chance of not making it through,” says Frank), but Moe tolerated it well and her pressure gradient dropped 30 percent. According to Moe’s owners, her “night and day” improvement enables her to complete a one-mile walk every day and play with Max in the house and backyard. “It was not guaranteed,” says Frank, “but it was what we hoped would happen if it were successful.”

Since the valvuloplasty procedure produced no complications in all 12 dogs, they went home the next

day. Six months later, they showed an average decrease of 33 percent in pressure gradient with no re-stenosis. Estrada thinks there’s a “good chance” the stenosis won’t return; long-term maintenance of the improved pressure gradient is still an unknown. If stenosis reforms, the team would probably repeat the valvuloplasty. Says Estrada, “I’ll know more when the dogs come back for their 18-month check.”

The University of Florida’s commitment to translational medicine and cooperation between the medical and veterinary colleges means the SAS study results will impact the pediatric interventional cardiology team. Says Estrada, “It (the procedure) will probably be done in newborns (with SAS) as a bridge before surgeons do open heart surgery to repair the heart or replace the valve.” In July 2010 the study was presented at the Pediatric Interventional Cardiac Catheterization Symposium in Chicago.

Meanwhile doctors prescribe the beta blocker atenolol and moderate exercise (no running or jogging) for the study dogs, including Marley and Moe, whose one-year checkups indicate neither re-stenosis nor an increase in pressure gradient. “I would have paid for a procedure to prolong her life and its quality,” says Frank. “I count my blessings.”

The above article was released on 12/1/2010 by the AKC Canine Health Foundation.



⇒ Research (Cont from Pg. 10)

gammaherpesvirus) can infect Golden Retriever dogs and that this infection contributes to the development of lymphoma in some dogs. If you have a healthy Golden Retriever that has not been previously diagnosed with cancer, and is between 6 and 8 years of age you may be eligible to participate in this study. The study involves taking a blood sample from your dog once every six months for two years.

For more information regarding this study and directions for enrolling your dog, please visit www.vet.upenn.edu/Research/BasicandClinicalResearch/CanineCancerStudies/GoldenRetrieverStudy/tabid/2375/Default.aspx

⇒ Attention (Cont from Pg. 9)

addition, the dog's name becomes more positive because you're combining it with a smile, praise and treats. Practice three or four times, take a break, then come back to it again later.

Tip 4: Make the two-treat game harder.

"When the dog has caught on to the two-treat game, you'll notice an increase in the number of times your dog looks at you," Gribble says. "Now increase the length of time your dog will look at you before [rewarding it]."

Follow the steps listed in Tip 3, but when your dog looks at you, say its name or "Watch me" in a happy voice, smile and count silently to five. Then praise the dog verbally and give the treat. Don't give praise or a reward if your dog looks away. If your dog cannot perform this for five seconds, try for shorter periods of time.

Over a two- to three-week period, in short training sessions, increase the time you ask your dog to watch you to 30 seconds.

Tip 5: Walk away from the dog.

"When the dog understands Watch Me, I walk almost to the end of the leash, and ask the dog to 'watch me'," says Babette Haggerty of Babette Haggerty's Dog Training in New York City. "If the dog looks away, or doesn't look toward me, I turn and walk in the opposite direction that the dog is looking." Haggerty says she doesn't turn hard or yank the dog off its feet; she just uses the element of surprise and walks away.

When the dog catches up and looks at her, she praises and rewards it. This exercise teaches the dog to pay attention while walking, which in itself is a distraction.

Tip 6: Teach your dog attention while following you.

Teaching a dog to focus on you during neighborhood walks is beneficial when other dogs are barking behind fences or kids are skateboarding down the street. If you plan on participating in a performance sport, holding your dog's attention is vital.

Once your dog knows to look at you when you say its

name or ask for a Watch Me, begin practicing the exercise while moving. Sit your dog on a leash in front of you and say its name. When your dog looks at you, praise it and back up a few steps. Encourage your dog to follow you while continuing to watch you. Praise it again and give it a treat. Keep the training sessions short and upbeat.

Tip 7: Teach attention while healing.

When you and your dog can perform Tip 6 successfully, move on to this one. Begin as you did in the previous exercise, backing away from your dog as you ask it to follow and watch you. After backing up four or five steps, turn so you and your dog are walking forward together with the dog by your left side. Praise it for paying attention to you by saying something like, "Yes, good to watch me!"

If your dog becomes distracted, turn and back away from it again, encouraging it to look at you and follow you. You can go back and forth from Heel to backing away, then to the Heel again.

Tip 8: Practice catching up.

For competitive obedience, the dog must keep its focus on the owner. The dog shouldn't watch what's happening in the other obedience rings or look at other people or dogs.

During training exercises, Jecs says, "If my dog looks away while positioned at my side, I quickly walk three steps forward. This 'walk away' ends when he catches up to me in the Heel position, where I will praise and reward him with a treat for 'catching' me."

This exercise can also be made into a game. Turn and walk away; when your dog catches up, praise it enthusiastically, then turn away in another direction and encourage it to catch up. Vary how you walk: make right turns, left turns, left-about turns, right-about turns and zigzags.

Tip 9: Add distractions.

If you're teaching your dog to focus on you in your house or on the backyard, at some point you'll need

Continued on Pg. 14 ⇒

⇒ Attention (Cont from Pg. 13)

to add distractions. Practice in the front yard – with your dog on leash, of course – or at the local park.

“Gradually add distractions by bouncing balls, squeaking toys and making funny sounds,” Schultz says. If you have a firm foundation (that is, your dog knows that you are the source of the best praise, treats and petting), gradually adding some distractions won’t be difficult.

Tip 10: Know when food treats are too stimulating.

Most trainers recommend using food treats to teach focus because food is a great motivator. Your dog will watch your hand as you move the treat to your face and say, “Fido, watch me!” The dog will also enjoy the treat when it’s given as a reward.

However, Haggerty says for some dogs, using food can actually be counterproductive. “For some dogs, the use of food is going to get the dog excited and make it more difficult for it to focus on the task at hand,” she says. “When teaching attention, it’s best that your dog is calm as opposed to active and rambunctious.”

For these dogs, try using a tennis ball or a toy as a lure and reward, or just use verbal praise and petting. Every dog will react differently, so choose something that motivates your dog.

Tip 11: Give treats randomly.

Although food rewards are effective training tools, you don’t want to be dependent on a pocketful of treats all of the time. When your dog focuses on you well and pays attention even when distracted, it’s time to start giving the treats randomly.

Instead of giving a treat every time your dog looks at you, give it when the dog looks at you immediately when a distraction appears, or as soon as the command leaves your mouth. Reward the best Watch Me rather

than every one.

When handing out treats randomly, continue to mark a good Watch Me with a click or verbal praise.

Tip 12: Practice Watch Me in social situations.

When you and your dog encounter friends (dogs or people), your dog shouldn’t bark at them, try to drag you toward them, or worse yet, jump on them. Instead, use your attention command to focus your dog on you.

“Ask your dog first to pay attention to you,” Jecs says. “When it is focused on you, and no longer trying to drag you toward your friends, reward with praise and a small treat before allowing it to appropriately greet a friend.”

If your dog can’t focus on you with the distraction of friends around, practice at home again without distractions until your dog pays attention again. When you’re ready to add distractions, ask one friend or neighbor to work with you for a few minutes in your home. Make sure your dog knows that all the good stuff (treats, praise and petting) comes from you and not your friend. Ask your friend not to pet the dog or speak to it.

Continue to build these skills.

Teaching your dog to pay attention to you is an important skill. When your dog pays attention to you, it doesn’t jump on your friend, sniff another dog or steal your grandson’s ice cream cone.

Schultz says, “Although sometimes students don’t immediately understand the value of this exercise, once their dog is learns it, they find it to be one of the most valuable behaviors they use almost every day.”

This article first appeared in the July 2010 issue of Dog World and is reprinted with permission.





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.*

Public Education – A Constant Uphill Battle

Recently I attended a Sportsman's Show hosted by our local Chamber of Commerce, as a vendor. It was a vexing day, primarily because of the booth opposite mine. Their "wares"? Bulldog puppies.

This event was an all-day deal, 9 AM to 4 PM. Three pups were in a large wooden pen, the remnants of a litter of seven that had not completely sold. They started the day as seven week old pups, by the end of the day they had somehow aged to eight weeks. Selling price was \$2,500 each.

I couldn't help myself, I had to wander over and check out their table display and see what these folks were up to. They had several photo album pages spread out on a table with various home-setting pictures. With just three questions I quickly assessed their operation.

I asked, "What sort of activities do you do with your dogs?" The answer was they are pets. I asked if the sire was local. The answer was he resided in a town 35 miles away. Then I asked if they had done any health clearances on their dogs. The husband replied their vet said all the dogs were healthy. I confirmed my suspicion of no health clearances by asking if they did OFA x-rays for hips, elbows and knees. The husband replied "she doesn't have any shoulder problems, just look at her" as he motioned toward the dam, who was at the other end of his leash. Shoulders?

I never asked about shoulders. I said that having a vet look at the dogs and doing an x-ray to check structure are two completely different things. The wife then piped up and said, "I would never subject my puppies to an x-ray, they are way too young."

The husband said they give a "genetic warranty" with each pup sold. I wondered how they could offer a "genetic warranty" when the topic of health clearances was completely foreign to them.

Oh, and that \$2,500 price tag? The wife "justified" it by telling people they have to do artificial insemination and c-sections to get a litter of puppies. By the end of the day she had lowered the price to "make me an offer."

By the end of the day I really felt sorry for those pups, who were totally exhausted from being handled by strangers all day. I really hope they didn't become ill.

How do we combat this? Educate the buying public as much as possible, something we can all do. Our local all-breed club is already planning informational booths at upcoming rabies clinics, as well as next year's Sportsman's Show. If more people ask the tough questions and walk away from puppies whose "breeders" don't have the right answers with facts to back them up, then maybe they will think twice about being irresponsible "breeders."

⇒ Pancreatitis (Cont from Pg. 11)

Getting Closer

They got it.

The scientists found that Spec cPL was relatively sensitive and specific, depending on the specific cutoff values used for the tests. There was a tradeoff, as there often is, found when they chose different cut off levels – increasing the sensitivity of the test came at the expense of specificity, and vice versa. However, Spec cPL clearly provided better diagnostic results than any of the other tests they tried, giving hope that

it might one day ease the diagnosis of canine pancreatitis.

Further research is still needed, particularly as the study contained few dogs with healthy pancreases, which could affect the calculated specificities. Still, this research moves us one step closer to a reliable blood test for canine pancreatitis – a safer, easier way to start treatment and improve the quality of dogs' lives.

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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 7 (Thurs)

7:00^{PM} General Meeting

August 1 (Wednesday)

7:00^{PM} General Meeting

September 12 (Wednesday)

7:00^{PM} General Meeting

October 18 (Thurs)

7:00^{PM} General/Annual Meeting

Activities

Club Cookout - June 2

McDonald Residence - Clay

WC/WCX - August 11

Echoewood - Mexico

Eye Clinic - October 14

Village Veterinary Clinic - Wampsville

Awards Dinner - December 9

TBA

Field Training Days

See schedule on page 5

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