



Summer 2009  
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#### Reminders:

- **Sun., July 19th @ 10am — SSCH General membership meeting Thomas Square; corner of King & Victoria**
- **Volunteers for the Nominating committee needed by July 2009**
- **Sun., August 9th Dog Day in the Park Celebration with a Fun Match; Judges—David & Nikki Char**
- **Contact K. Young if you are interested in participating in the upcoming SSCH Bylaws Task Force Review**



## Corporate Rates for SSCH Members at Castle Resorts

The SSCH is offering its members the SSCH corporate rate at Castle Resorts beginning June 2009. In order to maintain the SSCH corporate account, a minimum of 10 paid nights of accommodation must be completed for each calendar year.

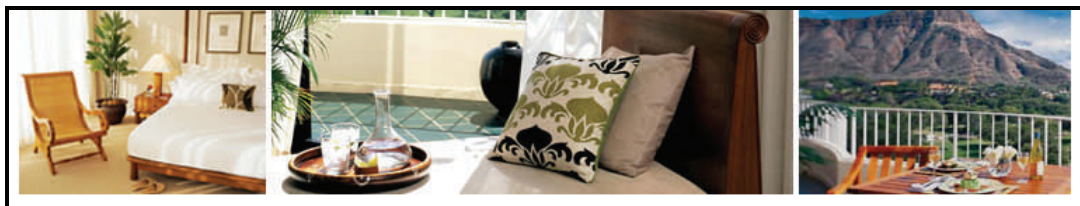
In an effort to support our local businesses in the current economic environment, maintain the corporate rate for the SSCH, and provide a 'perk' for SSCH membership, the Board is extending the corporate rate at Castle Resort properties exclusively to SSCH members only.

We welcome members to visit the

Castle Resort website at <http://www.castleresorts.com/home> to review the listing of Castle Resort properties.

Please note that some properties do not offer corporate rates. Additionally, *kama'aina* or special internet rates may be lower than the listed corporate rate.

If you are interested in utilizing the SSCH corporate rate on the outer islands or on O'ahu, please contact the SSCH Secretary who will place the reservation for you with the SSCH account, provide you your confirmation number, and request that you contact the specific Castle Resort property to hold your reservation with your credit card.



*The Lotus at Diamond Head Castle Resort Property*

## Dog Day in the Park on Sunday, August 9th

The SSCH is asking for volunteers to man the SSCH booth between 0800—1600, provide assistance with the grounds (set-up / clean-up), and assistance with the SSCH Fun Match. If you have not already signed up for the DDIP, please contact Darlene Sawamura at [darsaw9@gmail.com](mailto:darsaw9@gmail.com) or Ken Young at [fortunesbelties@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:fortunesbelties@hawaii.rr.com) to assist with the Fun Match or participate in this SSCH event. Let's do our part to promote dog breeds as well as the SSCH in Hawaii. Mahalo!

## *Canine Genetic and Reproductive Issues*

This collection of articles will run for the next couple of newsletters due to the length of the articles. This was a presentation done in March 1999 and presented by the Ohio State University College of Veterinary Medicine in cooperation with the AKC Canine Health Foundation and Ralston Purina Company.

### **Understanding Inherited Diseases in the Dog**

Kathryn M. Meurs, DVM, PhD, DACVIM (Cardiology)  
The Ohio State University

In the last five to ten years, there has been a great increase in awareness of inherited canine disease. This increase of interest in inherited disease has led to a desire to try to selectively remove these diseases from specific breeds. This is typically a four step process including: determining how the trait is inherited, collecting DNA samples from dogs that are definitively affected and definitively unaffected, developing a DNA marker that will identify affected dogs with certainty, and an educated plan to breed unaffected individuals. Today's discussion will center on understanding the pattern of inheritance. The first step in controlling inherited disease is understanding how it is inherited. This requires careful pedigree evaluation and honest documentation of the disease status of each animal.

#### **Pedigree Analysis**

In the standard scientific pedigree, female animals are represented as circles; males are represented as squares. Affected animals are represented as solid shapes, usually black.

#### **Patterns of Inheritance**

Every individual has two copies of a gene; they inherit one from each parent. Another way of thinking of this is that each parent gives only one copy of his or her gene, two genes to each puppy. The parent does not give the same copy of each gene to each puppy in the litter. They are assigned randomly, thus only some puppies in each litter may become affected. Sometimes only one copy of the gene will carry the disease (i.e. maybe only one parent was affected), sometimes both copies of the gene will carry it. The five most common patterns of inheritance include autosomal dominant, autosomal recessive, X-linked (dominant and recessive), and mitochondria.

#### **Autosomal Dominant**

Autosomal dominant is a very common form of inheritance. This form of inheritance is characterized by the appearance of the disease in multiple generations, equal occurrence of the disease in both sexes, and father to son transmission. The offspring of the affected individuals have a 50 percent chance of expressing the disease. With this form of inheritance, only one copy of the 'affected' gene is needed to display the trait. There are no silent carriers of the disease if it is inherited as an autosomal dominant.

#### **Autosomal Recessive**

If an autosomal recessive pattern is noted, two copies of the gene must be present to demonstrate the disease. Therefore, both parents have to contribute at least one affected gene. If they only have one copy of the affected gene, the parent may be a silent carrier. If the parent has two copies of the trait, they will demonstrate the trait. Silent carriers exist. Since two copies of the affected gene are needed to have the disease characteristics expressed, it often takes inbreeding (line breeding) to demonstrate the trait. Equal involvement of both sexes is noted and typically, one fourth of the offspring should be affected.

#### **X-linked**

In this pattern of inheritance, the disease gene is carried on the X chromosome. Female dogs have two copies of the X chromosome and male dogs have one X and one Y chromosome. In the X-linked inheritance, the disease can only be passed from mother to son, or mother to daughters. Fathers cannot pass the disease to their sons.

#### **Mitochondria Inheritance**

This is the rarest form of inheritance. Mitochondria inheritance only occurs from mother to offspring. Fathers cannot pass on the disease.

### **Nutritional Issues and Answers**

Sarah K Abood, DVM, PhD

The field of nutrition is filled with myth-information that often persists despite few if any scientific facts to support a given myth (even in the face of data that clearly disputes a myth). Nutrition myths are interesting to consider from two aspects. First, they are often centered on some small bit of truth. Over the years of translation and retelling, however, the truth begins to take on characteristics of myth and any truth is distorted and replaced by misinformation. Second, many nutrition myths focus on the erroneous belief that pets have a physiologic need for certain ingredients in their diets. In fact, dogs have requirements for nutrients, not individual ingredients. The important factor in the nutritional well being of a pet is whether the diet contains the correct nutrients in the right amounts in a form the dog can digest and utilize. It is not dependent on which exact ingredients are used to supply those nutrients. This presentation will briefly review the validity of some common nutrition myths, as well as address the people, dietary and animal factors involved when advising new owners on what and how to feed their dog.

## *Canine Genetic and Reproductive Issues - continued*

### **Myth #1: Excessive protein causes over-development of puppies**

Known Facts: Dr. Hazenwinkle (Ulrecht University, the Netherlands) has shown that high protein intakes in growing Great Dane pups does not cause disturbances in bone development. Low protein diets, however, were of concern in that they did not support adequate growth as evidenced by low serum albumin levels and low body weight. Scientific work conducted at the Purina Per Care Center has shown that excessive calories may cause obesity and increase the risk of orthopedic problems in Labrador Retriever dogs

*Best Nutritional Advice:* Feed a well-balanced product in amounts to support proper growth but to avoid obesity. Maintain a good body condition (feed the animal and not the food bowl!).

### **Myth #2: Puppies (and lactating bitches) need calcium supplements**

Known Facts: Adding extra nutrients does not automatically assure a healthier bitch and litter, nor does it improve the growth of puppies, and may in fact result in problems. Dr. Hazenwinkle found that 1.1 percent calcium (dry matter basis) was adequate for fast growing Great Dane pups and that 3.3 percent calcium was excessive and resulted in severe skeletal abnormalities. The AAFCO nutrient minimum for reproduction and growth is 1.0 percent calcium and the maximum is 2.5 percent calcium. Still unknown is the precise upper level of calcium at which significant problems in skeletal development may occur.

*Best Nutritional Advice:* Feed a nutritionally complete and balanced pet food. Do NOT supplement the diet except on the advice of a veterinarian who is treating a specific problem in a dog.

### **Myth #3: Beet pulp or soy causes bloat (and both are poor nutrient sources)**

Known Facts: Beet pulp is a by-product of the beet industry. It has no known nutrient value but does serve to absorb water within the intestinal tract. The potential benefit of beet pulp is that it may help to absorb water from digests and therefore help to maintain firmer stools. Soy, in its many forms, does provide usable nutrients in a diet such as protein, essential fatty acids and fiber. Based upon epidemiological studies, bloat in dogs is thought to be associated with 1) the dog's anatomy—length and depth of chest and abdominal cavities and 2) management of the dogs feeding, watering, and exercise regimens. Specific type of diet or particular ingredients has not been found to cause bloat.

*Best Nutritional Advice:* Dogs that are prone to bloat should be managed to minimize risk for bloat:

- Feed two or three smaller meals throughout the day
- Don't allow dogs to gulp water immediately after exercise or eating
- Don't run/exercise dog immediately after a meal

### **Myth #4: Excessive protein can cause kidney problems**

Known Facts: Research in dogs has not proven that this myth is true. Research has shown that for those dogs with significant kidney disease already present, reducing the level of dietary phosphorus may help prevent further kidney damage.

*Best Nutritional Advice:* Healthy dogs (regardless of age) should be fed a complete and balanced dog food that has been tested according to AAFCO feeding trials and has a claim for the appropriate lifestage. Dogs that have been diagnosed with kidney disease may benefit from a product that is restricted in phosphorus and those animals with actual clinical signs of uremia may benefit from a product with reduced amounts of protein.

### **Myth #5: Supplements are beneficial to dogs**

Known Facts: Most commercial products that are marketed as complete and balanced provide more than enough vitamins and minerals for young growing puppies and adult dogs. Supplements on the market today do not meet the AAFCO guidelines for vitamin or mineral requirements and could upset the balance of vitamins/minerals already in the dog's current diet.

*Best Nutritional Advice:* Feed a complete and balanced product that has been tested according to AAFCO feeding trials and has a claim for appropriate lifestage.

### **Myth #6: Dogs are carnivores and therefore must eat meat**

Known Facts: The gastrointestinal physiology of dogs is fully capable of digesting and absorbing plant protein sources as well as meat protein sources. Both plant and animal protein sources provide amino acids which are the substances dogs require to build protein

## Upcoming SSCH Bylaws Task Force Review

The SSCH Board welcomes membership participation in the 2009 SSCH Bylaws Task Force Review which will review, update and revise the current SSCH Bylaws. If you are interested in participating in the triennial review and revision to the SSCH Bylaws, please contact Ken Young at [fortuneshelties@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:fortuneshelties@hawaii.rr.com) for more information. The last revision to the SSCH Bylaws occurred in 2006 and is available for viewing on the SSCH website under “Members Only” at [www.shetlandsheepdogclubofhawaii.org](http://www.shetlandsheepdogclubofhawaii.org).

The SSCH Board is also soliciting revision suggestions and recommendations. A few of the suggestions being considered are as follow:

- Update Bylaws to include electronic notification to members as an additional means of notification
- Update Bylaws to reflect and delineate membership participation as a prerequisite for membership in good standing status
- Addition: Bylaws to state that the prerequisite to participation in any SSCH perk (SSCH Breeders listing, corporate rate availability) as well as voting and nominating privileges is an SSCH membership in good standing status
- Review Bylaws for membership participation and enforcement of minimal participation for membership in good standing status
- Delineate process to identify and determine when “SSCH membership in good standing status” is not met and develop process steps to assist SSCH member to reinstate membership to “good standing status”

## VetGen Clinic Planned for August 2009

Aloha SSCH members, the SSCH is interested in running a VetGen Clinic for all breeds beginning August 01, 2009 for 30 days. In order to qualify for the discounted rates provided through a VetGen clinic for our dogs, there must be a minimum of 25 VetGen packets purchased. The packets may be any VetGen test on any breed that VetGen tests for. A listing of VetGen tests will be distributed via email and at the July 19th SSCH General Membership meeting.

The current price for a vWD VetGen test is \$149, however, the discounted price with a VetGen clinic is \$99 per test; a savings of \$50. If you are interested in purchasing a VetGen vWD test for your sheltie, please contact D. Sawamura at [darsaw9@gmail.com](mailto:darsaw9@gmail.com).

Please pass on the information to your doggie friends to take advantage of the discounted prices for VetGen testing. Mahalo!

## Dog Days of Summer ala Wikipedia

The phrase *Dog Days* or “the dog days of summer”, Latin: Caniculae, Caniculares dies, refers to the hottest, most sultry days of summer. In the northern hemisphere they usually fall between early July and early September whilst in the Southern hemisphere they are usually between January and early March. The actual dates vary greatly from region to region, depending on latitude and climate. Dog Days can also define a time period or event that is very hot or stagnant, or marked by dull lack of progress.

**The Name:** The term “Dog Days” was used by Greeks as well as the ancient Romans who called these days caniculares dies (days of the dog) after Sirius (the Dog Star), the brightest star in the heavens besides the Sun. The dog days of summer are also called canicular days.

Popularly believed to be an evil time “when the seas boiled, wine turned sour, dogs grew mad, and all creatures became languid causing to man burning fevers, hysterics, and phrensies” — Brady’s Clavis Calendarium, 1813

The Dog Days originally were the days when Sirius the Dog Star, rose just before or at the same time as sunrise (heliacal rising), which is no longer true owing to precession of the equinoxes. The ancients sacrificed a brown dog at the beginning of the Dog Days to appease the rage of Sirius, believing that the star was the cause of the hot, sultry weather.

## Ken's Korner

Over the past several months I have had the opportunity to speak with several board members and officers of various dog clubs. The conversation usually focuses on two areas of concern: 1) Costs associated with running an active club, and 2) Lack of participation from club members. As you may recall, these are two subjects that I too have expressed concerns about. To update you on these issues, allow me to share the following:

Financially, the Board has recommended and made decisions that ensures that the club remains solvent. If we are not making enough money to cover our costs we must choose to either increase fund raising or eliminate cost items.

Lack of participation from members is a little more challenging to address. As this is a volunteer organization we rely on the membership to provide services to allow the SSCH to flourish and continue. No one volunteers to be an officer or board member of the club to provide the majority of the labor it takes to continue a club, or hold a specialty for that matter.

In order to align the SSCH bylaws with practice, and set the next President up for success, future executive boards must be provided the tools they'll require to perform effectively. This is an opportunity for members of the SSCH to participate in the review and revision of the SSCH bylaws. I hope you will volunteer to participate in this process as part of the SSCH Bylaws Task Force as well as volunteer to assist with the upcoming October specialty. The Club is only as strong as its member's willingness to volunteer.

## AKC Launches New Canine Legislation Tracking System

The AKC has announced the launch of the new AKC Government Relations Legislation Tracking Service. This new service enables you to check the status of all 2009 canine legislation in each of the 50 states, as well as federal legislation.

To use this service, go to the AKC Government Relations web page, [www.akc.org/canin\\_legislation](http://www.akc.org/canin_legislation) and click on the large "AKC Government Relations 2009 Legislation Tracking" icon. This will bring you to a new page with a clickable map of the United States. To view federal legislation, click on

the "UA Fed" icon to the right of the map. You may also click on any state to view that state's pending canine legislation, the latest legislative developments, the progress of specific bills, and if applicable, AKC legislative alerts and messages. In addition, you may view the actual text of the bill or read a brief official legislative summary.

The AKC does not have a position on every bill posted; rather, this service is meant as a reference tool for you to see all the issues being considered in your state.

**We're on the Web!**  
[Shetlandsheepdogclubofhawaii.org](http://Shetlandsheepdogclubofhawaii.org)



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## Canine Genetic and Reproductive Issues (cont'd from page 5)

There is nothing in the scientific literature to suggest that dogs consuming meat products only will achieve greater health benefits than dogs consuming commercial dry or canned foods. Feral dogs and wolves also eat plants, berries, insects, fish, etc. When these dogs kill and eat other wild animals (caribou, deer, elk, mouse), they rip into and eat the guts first. The intestinal tract of these ruminants is full of partially digested grasses, leaves, and plants...so the feral dog is an herbivore also.

**Best Nutritional Advice:** Feed a complete and balanced product tested according to AAFCO feeding trials.

### **Myth #7: Corn or wheat is a poor source of nutrients**

**Known Facts:** Corn contains approximately 8 percent protein, 4.5 percent fat, 1.9 percent linoleic acids, and B-vitamins. Wheat contains approximately 12.5 percent protein, 1.5 percent fat, 0.9 percent linoleic acid and B-vitamins. Dogs can digest these ingredients readily and nutrients are available.

**Best Nutritional Advice:** Choose a product based on its ability to deliver 100 percent complete and balanced nutrition. Individual ingredients are not important. It's the overall content and balance of nutrients which make a product a good choice to feed your dog.