

Summer 2010

Volume 3, Issue 3

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Friendly Reminders:

- Sat/Sun—5/29 & 30 OTCH Fundraiser at Thomas Square—Volunteers needed; please contact Mitch Iwanaga—372-4124
- Chili ticket checks due to M. Iwanaga in May 2010
- Sunday, June 27th—General Membership Meeting @ 10 AM, Thomas Square
- Nominating Committee volunteers needed for 2011 Officers/Board

Bladder Infections

By Jeff Grognet, DVM, BSc(Agr)
Via Packaged Goodies

In dogs, bladder infections are second in incidence only to skin infections. Unfortunately, while skin infections are easy to spot, many bladder infections go undetected. Knowing what signs to look for can lead to a faster diagnosis and help reduce complications that occur with chronic infections.

Bladder infections can be seen in any dog, but they are far more common in females. This is because of how they arise.

The bacteria involved in bladder infections are the same bacteria that inhabit the digestive tract. It's easy to imagine a bitch licking her anal area, then turning her head to lick her vulva, transferring bacteria in the process. The transplanted bacteria multiply in the bitch's vagina and, once established, simply migrate up the urethra to the bladder.

In males, it's unlikely the anus and prepuce will be licked at the same time. And, because of their longer urethras and effective flushing during urination, males are more resistant to infections.

Bacteria growing in urine produce toxins that inflame the bladder wall and urethra. This creates a burning sensation during urination, and an urgency to urinate. This is a clue there's a bladder infection—the dog urinates often, in small

amounts.

The bacteria and toxins attract white blood cells (that fight infection) into the urine. As well, red blood cells leak out of damaged blood vessels in the bladder lining. Veterinarians look for these cells in urine to diagnose a bladder infection. Sometimes, the bacteria themselves are visible under the microscope.

An infection that's missed and not treated can lead to bladder stones. The bacteria cause the urine pH to rise, which makes minerals precipitate from the urine and coalesce to form stones.

Intact males are unique in that their prostate gland, which surrounds the urethra between the bladder and the penis, can also become infected. This can be very painful and make them very sick. Blood dripping from the penis after urination is a tip-off of a prostate infection.

Prostate infections can also spread to the disks between the vertebrae of the spine. Besides pain, this diskospondylitis can cause paralysis of the hind legs. It is very hard to treat.

Bladder infections usually resolve with a course of antibiotics. Success of the treatment is assessed by doing a follow-up urine test. If an infection persists, it may

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Windward Hawaiian Dog Fancier Association Results

Windy conditions set the Windward Hawaiian Dog Fancier Association All-Breed Dog Show for a cool morning at Kaneohe Bay. Congratulations to the winners of record and sheltie Group Placements on both days!

Saturday, 4/17

BOB/BOW/WD/G3—Barwoods Bon Jovi, Breeder: B. Thompson, Owners: B. Thompson and S. Ancheta

BOS/WB—Harley's Woman of the Year, Breeders: M. Iwanaga & M. Norstrom, Owners: M. Iwanaga & M. Norstrom

RWD—Anysworth Cinnabar Moonlit, Breeder: E. Worthington, Owner: N. Chock

RWB—Barwoods GorDon Adrianna, Breeder: D. Crabtree, Owners: S& D Ancheta

Sunday, 4/19

BOB/BOW/WD/G3—Pacific Blue My Way, Breeders: S & M Kaneshiro, Owners: S & M Kaneshiro

BOS/WB—Barwoods GorDon Adrianna, Breeder: D. Crabtree, Owners: S& D Ancheta

RWD—Barwoods Bon Jovi, Breeder: B. Thompson, Owners: B. Thompson and S. Ancheta

RWB—Fortune's Trick or Treat, Breeders: K & D Young, Owners: K & D Young

Undescended Testicles (Cryptorchidism) Research

Cryptorchidism or retained testicles is the most common birth defect in purebred dogs. Two major health consequences of cryptorchidism are infertility at adulthood and significantly increased risk of testicular cancer. Due to the cancer risk, the retained testicles should be removed. Currently, there is no genetic diagnostic test to predict the risk of this disease in a dog's progeny. The main objective of this study is to develop a DNA test that may predict the risk of a dog to produce cryptorchidism in its male offspring. Blood samples or tissues samples (testicles) removed during surgery from cryptorchid dogs and their normal littermates are needed from the current DNA research sponsored by AKC CHF. The information generated by this study can be used to identify animals with the mutant gene and thus will provide breeders with informative breeding recommendations.

Samples are needed from cryptorchid shelties and their normal littermates. (Samples from normal male littermates are not required, but would be helpful).

Material needed for participation:

- 2—6 oz. of whole blood in purple topped EDTA tubes or

- Frozen testicular tissue removed during castration
- AKC registration number and / or pedigree
- Consent form (obtained from Dr. Agoulnik)

This should all be sent over night with a cold pack to:

Alexander I. Agoulnik, PhD
Associate Professor
Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology
Baylor College of Medicine
One Baylor Plaza
Room BCMD-207D, MS BCM612
Houston, Tx 77030
Tel: 1-713-798-6087
Fax: 1-713-798-5074
email: agoulnik@bcm.edu

Prior to collecting the samples, please notify Dr. Agoulnik to request the consent form and shipping instructions. If you explain the purpose of the blood draw, most veterinarians will draw the blood sample at no charge or for a reduced amount. The study will pay for shipping costs.

Mahalo to everyone who helps with the AKC research aimed to benefit all dog breeders.

Diatomaceous Earth □ *A Truly Safe & Organic Pesticide*

D/Earth (Diatomaceous Earth) is fossilized remains of microscopic shells created by one celled organisms of algae like plants called Diatoms. D/Earth (Diatomaceous Earth) has many protective uses, from use on household pets to spraying field crops, to stored grain, livestock or pet feed. Freshwater, food grade D/Earth (Diatomaceous Earth) can be used for internal parasites by placing in daily feed ration or external parasites when used as a natural topical dusting powder. Completely harmless to all animals, fish, birds, and the environment, it can be sprinkled on the animal, the bedding or around the kennel. About the only negative to D/Earth (Diatomaceous Earth) is when used outside it must be reapplied after a rain. D/Earth (Diatomaceous Earth) makes an extremely uncomfortable environment for any insect or arthropod that it comes in contact with.

Unlike persistent chemicals pesticides that can be harmful to your pet and the environment, D/Earth (Diatomaceous Earth) is an ORGANIC mechanical pesticide that treats infestation without harmful side effects. D/Earth (Diatomaceous Earth) is truly a safe ingredient; bugs cannot become immune to D/Earth (Diatomaceous Earth) because it kills them by PHYSICAL not chemical action. Special processed milling makes D/Earth (Diatomaceous Earth) into a product graded for particle size which is most effective for killing insects. This process makes it easier and less dusty to use. As the insect comes in contact with the powder, static electricity causes an attraction to the body. Once the powder attaches itself to the insect, the sharp edges of the particles cut through the waxy outer layer of the exoskeleton of the insect and absorb the body fluids therefore killing the parasite. It takes a day or two for the

process to take place but the end results is most effective, death by dehydration.

There are 2 types of diatomaceous earth, saltwater and freshwater. This is why it is very important that when using on animals or around livestock that you choose the freshwater, food grade D/Earth (Diatomaceous Earth). Freshwater diatomaceous earth is amorphous silica. Saltwater diatomaceous earth, the type used in pool filters, is crystalline silica. Pool filter diatomaceous earth is amorphous silica that has been heat treated forming large lump crystalline silica that makes for better filtering.

NEVER, NEVER USE POOL FILTER DIATOMACEOUS EARTH ON ANIMALS.

It simply won't be effective and is dangerous because of the many harmful side effects.

D/Earth (Diatomaceous Earth) is both a short and long-term non-toxic, effective, safe, organic pesticide. D/Earth (Diatomaceous Earth) has a remarkable repellency factor. As long as it is present, insects tend to stay away, making a serious infestation almost impossible. Also the more D/Earth (Diatomaceous Earth) is used, the more an environment is created to repel insects. If you use D/Earth (Diatomaceous Earth) on a regular basis your animal both internally and externally will have less and less problems with all types of troublesome parasites.

The materials, information and answers provided through this website are not intended to replace the medical advice or services of a qualified veterinarian or other pet health care professional. Consult your own veterinarian for answers to specific medical questions, including diagnosis, treatment, therapy or medical attention.

Bladder Infections □ *continued from page 1*

be that the bacteria were resistant to the antibiotics used. A culture to grow the organism, followed by sensitivity testing to different antibiotics, can help the veterinarian select which drug to use.

Infections also persist if there are bladder stones or a tumor. These can be detected with radiographs or ultrasound. Stones can be removed, but tumors are very difficult to treat.

REDUCING BREED DEFECTS

(as featured by Canine Chronicle Online)

by Carmen L. Battaglia, PhD

In most instances science and technology in one way or another have had a profound influence on the course of history. Both have contributed to our material progress, the evolution of our social attitudes and many of our public policies. On the other hand, folk lore and popular beliefs have also played important roles in how events have been shaped and how attitudes about progress have evolved. Given the events of the past 50 years one can not help but notice that science, technology, folklore and popular attitudes have each affected their share of events. For example, it is fair to say that a long time and common belief shared among breeders is that the majority of dogs are genetically normal, meaning that when an abnormal puppy or disease occurs there should be a reason for concern.

Because most breeders believe that dogs are genetically normal, when an abnormal gene expresses itself in the form of structural defect, heart abnormality, cataract, missing pre-molar or something else, most avoid talking about it because it is considered to be an admission that those affected are less than average or are abnormal. According to geneticist, Dr. George Padgett, it is these beliefs which are passed along from one breeder to another that provides one of the major reasons why disease have not been easy to breed out. According to Padgett (1991) "Most humans carry 3-5 defective genes and most dogs carry at least the equivalent number, perhaps more." Since reliable estimates have not yet been developed for each breed, health histories have become the best alternative until other methods become available. One of the by-products to health histories is that they also serve as a good technique for calculating the differences that exist between breeds, and means for understanding how diligent breeders have been in their own efforts to interpret and use information about recessives and diseases. By observing the number, kind and frequency of serious faults found in litters, one can estimate the skills of breeders and the problems within their breed.

FOLKLORE AND SCIENCE

At the root of the problem is the misguided belief that most dogs are without defective genes, and it is that notion which causes most breeders to be secretive about abnormalities, health and temperament problems when they occur. In other words, it gives them a reason to hide their problems or to correct them by means of cosmetic applications or surgical procedures. After years of this kind of behavior the impact upon some breeds becomes predictable.

National Clubs with few exceptions have not addressed these issues or problems involving defective genes, health histories, structural problems or weak temperaments and unfortunately there has been an absence of strong educational programs with the increasing number of novice breeders who rely primarily on outdated trial and error breeding methods, the number of carriers continues to increase along with the number of recessives that are being passed into the breed's gene pool. As the frequency of carriers begins to increase, more dogs become affected until the problem becomes so prevalent that it is recognized as "another major problem with the breed".

Because there is a widespread belief that most dogs are normal, it has become difficult for veterinarians to convince breeders that carriers are on the increase or that defects need to be addressed. Coupled with the lack of leadership, ignorance and apathy, the opportunity for novice breeders to learn about problems and possible solutions has been closed out. This combination of events, in part, also supports the tendency to avoid talking about breed weaknesses, disease or recessives when they occur. Such a scenario has proven to be the best way to hide rather than solve problems and it also reduces the chances that breeders will address problems in their own breeding programs. The net effect is that breed problems continue to grow at the expense of the breed.

FOUR TIERS

Understanding a breed's dilemma means that attention must be given to its genetic history. Such a task includes understanding how popular and unpopular stud dogs and brood bitches affect the future. It can easily be demonstrated that

the better dogs in any breed including the superior ones, are those that have influence over future generations. At the same time these animals also can be shown to have contributed a disproportionately higher number of defective genes into the gene pool of their breed. In the case of a major stud dog, that is, one who has sired 200 puppies (30 or more litters), there are four reasons to explain why they have produced higher numbers of defective genes. First, stud dogs become popular because they have several winning offspring which are observed by many exhibitors and breeders. Within such a large group of youngsters which are being exhibited, it is hard to keep problems a secret, and gossip usually spreads quickly about the faults, qualities, or the lack of them. On the other hand, there are other stud dogs of lesser popularity that will be used less, and thus produce fewer litters. Their offspring will be fewer in numbers and they will be seen less. These less popular studs may well have produced the identical number of defective genes and health problems as the popular studs, but the gossip about them is controlled and minimized because fewer breeders are involved and there are less offspring that become competitive. A second reason persists which is related to the first. For a genetic disease or a recessive to exist in a breed there must be three kinds of dogs. Those that are affected, the carriers, and the normals. Suffice it to say that the dogs which are widely used, have a better chance to come in contact with carrier bitches and hence, a better chance to produce genetic problems than dogs only bred a few times. This is true even if the popular and the less popular stud dogs were both bred to an equal number of carriers.

The point here, is that once a dog has produced an abnormal defect, each puppy thereafter has a 50-50 chance of being a carrier for that particular defect. Therefore, within each breed there will always be a few popular stud dogs that are used more than others, and they will be called the dogs of influence because they will have more puppies born than others. For these reasons breeders and exhibitors will always be able to point to them as the one that are known to produce recessive traits. While this may be true, a better explanation is that because they are popular and being they are used more often than the others of lesser status, they will have produced more winning offspring. The facts suggest that those sires who produce large numbers of winning progeny are the ones that generally add quality to their breed which again explains why they have become so popular. Anyone who doubts this should be reminded that stud dogs only become popular because the owners of the bitches choose to use them. If many of the offspring of certain stud dogs are of poor quality, or if they should turn out to be abnormal, the bitch owners will learn to avoid them and sharing of the information even on a small scale will soon leak out to others who will also avoid using them. When this happens the offspring of these stud dogs will soon be excluded in future breedings.

There is yet a third explanation that adds to the complexity of this problem. While many exhibitors may win show ribbons and championship points, only a fraction of them will win enough points to become a champion. Therefore, as the number of shows increase, so do the numbers of breeders, exhibitors and losers. Since the object of the show is to compete and win, there sometimes develops an attitude that winning is everything. Such an attitude grows in its intensity when the numbers of show entries begin to increase, the number of exhibitors who win decreases. Too often the "winning at all cost" attitude develops as a result of frustration. In the show ring, judges award ribbons to the first four placings. They do not critique or provide evaluations and none of the remaining entries are ranked. Because the judging process does not provide feedback to the exhibitor except at the specialty show, the exhibitor enters to win points toward the championship which becomes the goal. In such an environment the primary motivation of breeders and exhibitors shifts to winning rather than the betterment of the breed. Out of this scenario comes an unspoken form of peer pressure which leads breeders to forgive more than they should when it comes to the selection of sires and dams. As these events begin to repeat themselves, breeders see the clock as their enemy in their race to win. They begin to cut corners in order to produce their next litter and hopefully their next winner. The fourth reason is related to the first three. It is the false notion that breeders have about most dogs and that is the belief that most are normal, and not the carriers of defective genes, health problems or structural weaknesses. Because these owners have invested large amounts of money in their sires and dams, they do not wish to discover any defects in their investment which has become part of their breeding program. As these attitudes begin to prevail and become widespread, the results become predictable. The pattern of behavior that they practice can be found in the scenario which Padgett calls, the "Code of Silence", meaning it becomes unethical to discuss the defects, health or temperament problems found in the pedigrees of their sires or dams or in their progeny. Consequently, breeders who openly discuss the defects in their dogs are anathema and unfortunately their openness has a price to pay. It usually results in their being labeled by others as "poor breeders". This labeling process eventually affects their reputation, and their breeding stock becomes known as inferior. Too often, those who choose to share information about the defects or health problems they have produced are hounded by others no matter the quality of their better dogs. This sequence of events, over many years, results in what breeders do best to one another, they LIE TO EACH OTHER or they prevaricate.

Today, there is an overcrowding of inexperienced breeders, exhibitors and dog lovers who are all trying to practice the art of breeding owning and showing dogs. Because of their circumstances they avoid at any cost talking about the sires and dams that have produced health, structural or temperament problems. Hence, when the opportunity presents itself to notice one or more trends that may be occurring in their own pedigrees, the results are kept secret. When this occurs the carriers of the defective genes continue to be bred. In effect, they are ignored but more often they just go unnoticed. While the knowledgeable breeders select against those who are carriers, they work in isolation. The result is that little or no impact is made on their breed outside of their own kennel.

DILEMMA

Most professional dog people agree that the major share of responsibility will be shouldered by the owners of the bitches since they control the matings that make stud dogs popular. As a group they will also produce most of the puppies that will influence the future generations of their breed. The first dilemma comes when they try to find out what a stud dog or brood bitch has produced. In an environment of secrecy, it is at best difficult to learn about breed problems, unless one is willing to invest time in contacting the owners of the bitches who breed to the popular sires. Some have tried to sue show catalogs which identify the owners of the offspring who are being exhibited as a means to find their names and addresses, the greatest dilemma comes in finding the pet puppy buyers who do not show or exhibit their dogs. Experience breeders who attempt to gather this kind of information have found that there are generally three kinds of questions that should be asked:

1. Were you satisfied with the puppies?
2. Did the litter have any health problems?
3. Would you repeat the breeding?

The owners of bitches and those purchased the promising pups have everything to gain and nothing to lose by sharing this kind of information about the progeny produced. As a group they are usually the most willing to share information. Put into practice the process of searching for the breeders, and those who are the puppy buyers only produces a limited and ineffective form of openness and in the end, only a small amount of pressure occurs to improve the breed. The worst dilemma facing breeders is the fact that there is no easy way to determine who among the stud dogs and brood bitches are the carriers. Sometimes the only way to know which dog is in a pedigree is through laboratory tests available to detect them. Unfortunately, even when these techniques are used, the results are not shared with others who have a need to know. But even if the results are made known, there is not a central place for this kind of information to be collected. Therefore, in the absence of a central data system, the problem of knowing the carriers continues and little progress is made to improve the breed. After years of breeding blind and without a sufficient amount of information, we have a situation in which it is virtually impossible to find a major sire in any breed that had not produced some or all of the defects known to affect his breed.

While individual breeders can make progress in their own breeding program there is little they can do to improve the problems of their breed. Out of this strange set of events comes a breed's greatest dilemma which can be stated in the form of a three part question.

Who is responsible for a breeds':

1. Direction?
2. Priorities?
3. Plan for the future?

History shows that if a breed is to make progress, their national breed club must eventually face these three issues. No matter what the reputation is that a breed has earned, sooner or later there comes the reality that each must address their defects and seek to find ways to identify the carriers of defective genes with health problems and the producers of poor temperament.

The answers needed to solve these problems are not in having information about the carriers, but rather the reluctance to approach problems in an open manner, with a plan and a set of priorities.

THE IDEAL SITUATION

Even if the ideal situation could be created, and if every breeder were given absolute and complete control over all of the genes, it would still take several generations of about 20 years to reduce the incidence of a disease by as much as 75% (Padgett 1991). For some breeds, health problems and structural weaknesses might take less time. This of course assumes that nothing else occurs to interrupt the process such as the introduction of a mutation. If all of the information needed were known about those who are affected, which ones were normal and who were the carriers and if all of this information were shared, total control would be possible. In this situation the rate of change would still be slow because of the time it takes to breed out genes that are undesirable, and the time it would take to educate all of the new breeders who enter a breed each year. As a group, the novice breeders slow down the process because of the errors and omissions they make in the learning process. However, as information is shared, and as the novice becomes trained, the results become deliberate and predictable, and over time the breed improves.

EDUCATION

In the final analysis, it is the owners of the bitches that control the destiny of each breed, not the owners of stud dogs, not professional handlers and not the judges. Because the bitch owners select the stud dogs to be used on their brood bitches, they control the future of the breed.

There is a time-tested principle which states that the strength of one's breeding program is based on the quality of its bitches. Time and again this principle has again been supported by many notable researchers. (Hedhammer, Swanson, Brass) and more recently in a study of over 400 litters of GSD pups the principle was demonstrated in yet another way. In this study it was reported that the dam plays a greater role for improving structural soundness of hip joints by as much as ten percent. This principle might also be expanded to include other muscular skeletal improvements. Their findings and the information presented, which are based on Stein's work, Principles of Human Genetics, and Hutt's book, "Genetic for Dog Breeders" demonstrate that the research is now available to support placing emphasis on the quality of the dams in a breeding program.

The principle suggests that the qualities of the dam and her littermates are of great importance in establishing a sound breeding program, and they are central to making improvements. Unfortunately, this concept has been overlooked by the growing number of novices who continue to use trial and error breeding methods. They do so because they have been taught to believe the notion that if the newly acquired female doesn't turn out to be a show dog they can always breed her. This kind of misinformation and the folklore that it gathers has been passed along from one novice to another. Coupled with a lack of training and understanding, the growing number of poor quality dogs being bred continues.

MAGNITUDE OF THE PROBLEM

Many alternatives and quick fix proposals have been suggested to solve the health, genetic and temperament problems of a breed involving those associated with the pet population. Proposals to solve breeding problems and those of unwanted pets usually begin with some form of restrictive dog legislation, and all seem to typically come from those who do not understand the complexity of the problem. Too often these quick fix proposals have come from the impatient or those with political ambitions. Sometimes because progress is slow and time consuming or because other problems develop which impact a breed, short cut methods are proposed to hurry things along. The most popular ones have placed limits or bans on breeders and owners. The facts suggest that those who have tried to solve what some consider to be social problems through limitations or mandates typically have used restrictive proposals which in the end have not solved their problems. Instead they have caused breeders and pet owners to hide their animals. In general, the bans against breeding and ownership have traditionally been resisted because most of them have been punitive and unreasonable. History shows that rules and mandates when proposed on the surface, offer simple solutions to complex problems. In the end, however, it requires more bureaucracy to manage them, and large expenditures of time, money and other valuable resources, there are no good

measures or estimates regarding the number of ongoing and related problems. Thus, it is fair to say that the number of defective genes in a breed probably has increased over the past decade as high as fourteen "defectives" (Padgett). When taken by itself, an average of 14 defects does not seem to be of concern to most breed clubs, however, this figure will take on more meaning when comparisons are made with other breeds. For example, The German Shepherd Dog has at least 7 defects, while the Beagles are known to have 31 reported defects, which is more than twice the average, but is slightly less than the highest, which are the Cocker Spaniels with 52 and the Bulldogs with 44 reported defects.

APPROACH TO THE FUTURE

In order to learn from the mistakes of the past we need only to look at a breed's history. Without an understanding of the past, ignorance will continue and informed judgments about the future will not develop. Surprising as it may seem, the problems for most breeds are not in teaching their goals, but in establishing them. To do this, health problems and disease must be seen as they are instead of how they could be. Hard questions must be asked such as:

- What are the problems to be solved?
- How are breeding decisions being made?
- What information and tools are available?
- What can be done to make improvements?
- What must a breed do to gain the reputation of excellence?

Popular and fashionable traits also enter into the equation for understanding problems. For example, sometimes a fashionable trait becomes popular in the show ring which would diminish the value of what enhances a breed's function. At other times, the fashionable trait coupled with the desire to win interferes with a breeder's judgment and the importance of guarding against structural weakness, faulty temperament or some disease. Set against a backdrop of years of popular fashions and relaxed attitudes about the selection of mates; and when coupled with a denial that there exists serious temperament, skeletal and health problems, many breeds have lost control of recessives. Some have ignored the reality of their breeders' problems as unimportant while waiting for research to solve their problems. One cannot help but notice that in such a climate, with only the hopes that the academic world and research will find the answers, it can take years for answers to be developed. This long delay occurs in part because one of the main functions of the academic world and its research responsibilities, is to enrich the quality of teaching. Past experience shows that those who choose to wait for research to find their solutions will further the hindrance of their breed.

PRIORITIES AND PROBLEMS

Important too, is the care that is taken to correctly frame the problems a breed should address. The issues to be considered and the setting of priorities come from the debates engaged in by breeders. In the end they will define the problems to be addressed. A key factor in this process is the generosity with which the breeders are willing to understand the problems of disease and the importance of healthy history. And finally, how they shape the future will depend in part on their appreciation and understanding of the past.

FUTURE ROLES

The experiences of the 1970's and 80's have been called the decades of the consumer and it seems likely that the decade of the 90's will promise to be an era of adjustment to the omissions of the past. Since we do not live in a world of only dog shows, obedience trials and performance events, the future of "man's best friend" most likely will be shaped by the slow but steady evolving of pressures to change in a world where survival depends on how well breeders and breed clubs define their roles. It is likely to be a time when there was clear and present danger. Those who study and predict the future of things have suggested that leisure time, health care, quality of life and environmental protection will be the driving forces that will shape national policy, public law and the social attitudes of the future. By the year 2000, dogs and other pets will in some places be seen as a luxury for those who can afford the space and taxes required to keep them. It is also likely that they will

be used with increasing success in commercials, movies, sporting and performance events. Dog events will begin to be organized into national, international and world championships. Racing, weight pulls, agility, obedience, tracking, herding and field trials will significantly increase in popularity. At the same time the healthiest will be used to support rehabilitation projects as the population continues to age. Pets of all kinds and particularly dogs, will be viewed as important health aids to suffering children, the blind and the infirm. What has been called a social problem of pet "overpopulation" will be re-labeled and called the problem of unwanted pets. Spay-neuter programs which have already proved to be successful in the control of these problems will be expanded.

The past, which has been a successful teacher for those interested in the future, suggests that what we have learned and passed along seems to be based on certain principles. Our society seems to be deeply rooted in an old saying about the future:

"We will save those things that we cherish
What we cherish will be the things that we love,
What we cherish and what we love will in the end depend on
What we understand, and in the end
What we understand, will always depend on how well we have learned from our past."

RECOMMENDATIONS

It seems fair to say that solutions to the problems rest with breeders, clubs and stud directories. How they define their roles, assess problems and develop plans for their future. Out of their efforts will hopefully come realistic plans that will shape their future and time tables so that a strategy can be developed that will target breeders and especially the novices with tutorial kinds of advice and information. Sticking to a plan and not changing it is easier said than done because of the length of time required to implement most plans. Because the show ring allows for only a few winners, other dogs in the class tend to be ignored. The show ring has not been the place for testing health, genetic or temperament problems. The future will require imaginative programs supported by leaders with the courage to see it through. Programs are needed that will encourage breeders to select sires, dams and offspring based on realistic goals and actual tests of performance.

National clubs should begin with an effort that must formally be recognized by their governing board and supported by their membership. Goals must be clear and priorities must be set with time tables for accomplishments. Few clubs have used their energy and resources widely to focus on the process needed to implement programs. Most have been concerned only with their products or the contents of the publications. However, once goals, priorities and time tables have been developed and direction given, the process by which the plan (goal, priorities, time tables) are achieved will depend on breeder and membership involvement.

But even if the best of conditions were present, these well-designed plans would not be a panacea for success. Clubs and their leaders must be sufficiently trained to understand that in volunteer organizations, their officers and directors need to learn how to maintain the level of commitment. The lack of continuity from one group of officers to the next each year holds back most plans from ever being accomplished.

A small but growing number of clubs have initiated plans that include education, recognition and awards for performance. Along with these efforts they have developed a regular series of articles and education materials with guest speakers who can reinforce their goals. When period reports are used to distribute the success stories and lists the awards and recognition projects, an esprit de corps results among breeders who believe in the purpose for implementing the plan. Some clubs have established a system of awards and recognitions for those who demonstrate success. Some involve awards for breeding, obedience, performance, versatility and the management activities, others have included publishing lists of certified animals clear of a disease. The progress that has closely linked their plans to specific objectives such as those to reduce genetic,

health and temperament problems, usually have involved one or more veterinary colleges interested in conducting research for their breed.

Special incentives have also been used to encourage members to participate in these programs. The most popular programs are called the versatility awards because they promote a greater awareness and understanding among the members about a breed's multipurpose. One of the most common methods of establishing versatility criteria is to establish a point system based on a rating schedule for performance. Points are weighed in relation to the difficulty of attaining the achievement; thus, in obedience the UD, which earns more points than a CD. In tracking points are awarded based on consistency and concentration. Levels of difficulty have also been used to test a trait, and combinations of scores for two or more events have been used to determine the functional desirability of the animal.

Most versatility awards are set up in a two tier fashion so the dog must attain a minimum number of points combined for a total score such as in the working dogs trials where tracking, obedience and courage scores are combined for a total score. Clubs have developed special programs. For example, the Weimaraner Club of America's Versatility (V) and Versatility Excellent (VX) awards and the Golden Retriever Club of America which has patterned their criteria to that of the Weimaraner Club but included three areas of competition – conformation, obedience and field work. The Basset Hound Club of America has a point schedule that recognizes five areas – conformation, field trailing, obedience, tracking and hunting. Herding breed clubs such as the Pembroke Welsh Corgi Club of America which has a Versatility Corgi (VC) and the Versatility Corgi Excellent (VCX) which involves conformation, obedience, tracking and herding.

At another level there are Attainment awards which use the versatility awards as the base. Thus a point system is created from a minimum level of success in a number of areas to qualify for the award. The Gordon Setter Club of America recognizes the multipurpose Gordon with an award called Brains, Beauty, and Bird Sense Award. The Irish Water Spaniel Club of America has an All-Purpose (AKC) Irish Water Spaniel Award. The Welsh Springer Spaniel Club of America recognizes with a Versatility Certificate and Versatility Certificate Excellent which involves two levels of achievement in three areas of competition – conformation, obedience and field work. The VC is used to gauge a dog's potential and the VCX confirms a dog's well-roundedness. The Vizsla has a Versatility Certificate that has three AKC titles, obedience, conformation and field work.

Working breed clubs have also developed similar programs. The Newfoundland Club of America has the Versatile Newfoundland Certificate which includes four activities, the AKC championship, a CD, the NCA Water Rescue Dog, and the NCA Draft Dog title. The West Highland Terrier Club of America offers an award program for the Westies called the Versatile Dog award which involves four levels of competition in conformation, obedience, tracking and working. The American Fox Terrier Club offers the Cracker Jack Award (named after the first Fox Terrier [Wire] to earn three titles). The German Shepherd Dog Club of America also has added a new dimension to versatility with a program called the Award of Excellence (AOE). This is a program that awards those dogs that have certified OFA hips and elbows, and received the AKC championship title, a select rating at their national, and have earned one of the AKC performance title.

The Clumber Spaniel Club of America developed an award system designed by the Australian Jan Irving, which gives points to the dog/owner that amasses the greatest number of points. The Borzoi Club of America offers a Triathlon award at the national specialty each year in a non-regular competition class, points are given based on the individual performance in each of the three areas: conformation, obedience and lure coursing. Those that have previously earned their AKC championships in any of these activities are accordingly awarded extra points.

Another area of recognition is progeny requirements. The Field Spaniel Society of America (FSSA) awards a Hall of Fame award to only a few select dogs for their performance in three areas: conformation, obedience and field work. It differs from the versatility awards in that it is a progeny requirement. Not only does the Field candidate earn points toward the award but also his/her first-generation progeny must contribute a substantial portion of the earned points in each section.

The FSSA also awards points to owners/breeders who test their dogs for genetic health problems. Points are given for testing normal for von Willenbrand's Disease (vWD) and thyroid diseases, OFA, GDC, OVC of BVA number and a CERF number.

Note: The ASSA voted to become part of the CHIC program. A CHIC number is given to Shelties that have four health tests on file with the OFA. These are OFA or Penn Hip, CERF, MDR1, and vWD (DNA test). Check the ASSA website www.assa.org for more information.

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Canine Health Information Center (CHIC) Program for Shetland Sheepdogs

Health problems, in general, are not common in Shelties; however, testing of breeding stock is a recommended practice to keep the incidence of certain problems as low as possible. It must be remembered that dogs are animals, not machines, and on average, every dog has 4 to 5 defective genes. Congenital and/or hereditary problems will occur no matter how conscientious a breeder is. Nonetheless, breeders should strive to breed Shelties that are a combination of beautiful breed type and good health.

The Canine Health Information Center (CHIC) www.caninehealthinfo.org/chicinfo.html is a canine health database program jointly sponsored by the AKC/Canine Health Foundation (AKC/CHF) and the Orthopedic Foundation for Animals (OFA). Its purpose is to assist breeders in breeding healthy dogs and being a central resource of health information for breeders, owners and researchers. Over 100 breed clubs participate in the program. The national club for each participating breed recommends health tests to be performed in dogs used for breeding. The number and types of tests are tailored to the needs of each breed. Dogs that have had the required tests will receive a

CHIC number, and the CHIC database can be searched for dogs having CHIC numbers. Additional health tests may be recommended, but are considered optional for that breed. Normalcy is not required for participation in the CHIC program; abnormal results of any tests are only released to the public with owner permission. As new tests become available, the list of required and optional tests may be altered. Participation in the CHIC program is voluntary.

Breed requirements for Shetland Sheepdogs are listed below and are on the CHIC Shetland Sheepdog web page: www.caninehealthinfo.org/brdregs.html?breed=ss

REQUIRED TESTS:

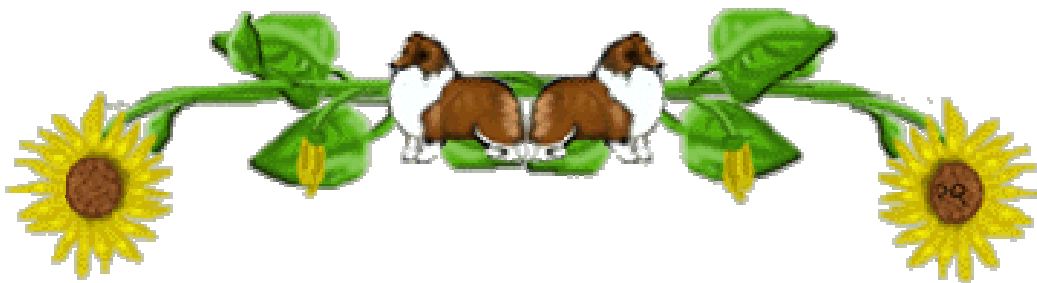
- Hip dysplasia (OFA or PennHipp)
- Eye clearance (CERF—annual)
- Von Willebrand's Disease (VetGen, test results registered with the OFA)
- Multiple drug sensitivity (MDR1) DNA test (Washington State University, results registered with the OFA)

KEN'S KORNER

Our last club event was the Pet Expo and I would like to thank everyone that helped contribute to this event. Personally, I felt good about this effort as it was a great opportunity for us to introduce our breed to the public at large. It was also wonderful to see so many people in the crowd with their Shelties. There were a couple of owners who brought older shelties that I had sold them a few years ago.

Of the Shelties that were in the crowd, I would say the vast majority of these shelties had some type of health issue that their owners needed to be reminded of or made aware of. These issues ranged from overweight dogs, dirty ears, dirty teeth or excessively long nails. It was apparent that these shelties were obviously loved and cared for. However, their owners lacked the skill, discipline or knowledge to recognize these were issues that could adversely affect the health of their beloved companions. Many of the owners I spoke with acknowledged that while they take their shelties to the veterinarian, they do not always follow the advice of their veterinarians.

I believe this reinforces both our mission as a club and our duty as responsible breeders to become more involved with the community to educate companion / pet owners about their shelties. The more we reach out to the community with educational programs, there is a potential that the health of these companion shelties will be improved. This is most important as responsible breeders to provide and mentor companion puppy owners with regard to keeping their shelties healthy and thereby increasing the longevity of their shelties. Certainly, we cannot protect or save all of the Shelties in the community. However, it behooves us as breeders and club members to make a conscious effort in providing sheltie care education and taking the time to mentor our companion dog owners to keep their shelties in the best of health possible.



Check us out on the Web!
shetlandsheepdogclubofhawaii.org

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