

Golden Views

Official Newsletter of the Ottawa Valley Golden Retriever Club – Published Quarterly



June 2006

OVGRC Board of Directors

Officers

Deb Brunner-Walker, President

deb@trigold.ca

613-832-4193

Darwin Boles, Past President

air.bus@sympatico.ca

613-274-3562

Frances Holmes, Vice President

frances.holmes@sympatico.ca

613-795-4839

Sharlene Manderson, Secretary

spmander@cyberus.ca

613-839-3328

Pat Enright, Treasurer

manistee@sympatico.ca

613-256-2905

Directors

Darwin Boles, Obedience

air.bus@sympatico.ca

613-274-3562

Pat Enright, Conformation

manistee@sympatico.ca

613-256-2905

Ann Lambert, Agility

brackenridge@sympatico.ca

613-832-3042

Frances Holmes, Membership

frances.holmes@sympatico.ca

613-795-4839

Ginny Chafe, Field

ginnychafe@rogers.com

613-737-6967

Claudia Mai, Director At Large

claudia.mai@osfi-bsif.gc.ca

613-226-3257

David Skinner, Webmaster

djskin@rogers.com

613-727-8329

Judi Questel, eNews Editor

bonefeathers@yahoo.com

315-393-5379

Dual Champion!

by Val Ducross, assisted by Carol Cassity



Photo courtesy of Dean Dennis

Judge Michael Lanctot awards Push (DC AFTC Firemark's Push Comes to Shove, Am***) and owner/handler Val Ducross with a Group 4 at the St. Francis Kennel Club show on June 9, 2006.

History was made on June 9, 2006 at the St. Francis Kennel Club Show in Quebec. For the first time in over 25 years a Golden Retriever earned the prestigious title of "Dual Champion". We call him Push, the record books will know him as Dual Champion, Amateur Field Trial Champion Firemark's Push Comes to Shove, Am*** (US Amateur All-Age Win).



We, Val and Mike Ducross of Ambertrail Kennels, are truly blessed to have the honour of

Continued on Pg. 16 ➔

What's Inside

President's Message	2
Upcoming Events	2
Director's Reports	3
Meeting Minutes	4
Dog People are Different	5
Member Forum	6
2005 AGM	8
2005 OVGRC Title Awards	9
Health and Safety	10
What's New	11
Perspectives	12
Behavior and Training	13
South of the Border	14
Braggs	18
Views from the Doghouse	23

From the President...

By the time you read this, summer will hopefully be well under way. If you're like me, you'll be outside with your dogs enjoying everything that this all-too-brief season has to offer. Whether it be a walk in the woods, camping, swimming, hanging out at the cottage or off on the show circuit, field training, tracking, obedience trials or agility trials it is always better with one or two Golden Retrievers by your side. Remember to keep your dogs safe and be wary of heat exhaustion/stroke, allergic reactions to bug bites, hot spots or nasty ticks that may be more prevalent after a mild winter. Carry a first-aid kit for yourselves and your dogs and know how to use it.

I look forward to another productive year for the club and to seeing everyone. We held a booster at the recent Ottawa Kennel Club show in May, our annual agility trials are coming up in August, Working Certificate Tests in September and finally our Obedience Trials in October. These activities can only succeed with the help of our small but mighty core of volunteers. If you are not familiar with these activities, volunteering is a great way to get a front row seat to the action and see how much fun we all have with our dogs. You may decide one of these piques your interest to learn more. We hear comments from our companion Golden members that they would like to see more activities of interest to them. The Board is certainly willing to support member suggestions, but in order for these to succeed we need volunteers willing to make this happen. If you want to organize a weekend walk or some other activity, contact one of the Board members and we'll help you get the message out.

At the AGM, the suggestion was submitted that the Club consider hosting the Canadian Golden Retriever National Specialty again in a few years' time. The first step is to identify whether there is sufficient interest in the Club hosting another National and to put together a high level proposal for the Board to consider. A small core of interested members have expressed interest in participating in the early planning. If you are interested in participating in these early discussions, I would encourage you to get in touch with Pat Enright as soon as possible, who is coordinating the feasibility report.

Speaking of Nationals, the Canadian National is being held this year in Fredericton, NB on August 17th - 20th. Knowing Easterners, it promises to be a good time with hospitality events planned every evening. Visit www.mgrc.ca for more information.

Happy tails!

Deb Brunner-Walker



Upcoming Events...

Agility Trials - July 29/30, 2006. Four trials - Ottawa Valley Golden Retriever Club and Ottawa Valley Poodle Club. Downloadable entry form available at www.dreamfields.com - closing date July 10th or when limit of 300 runs per judge per day is reached.

Field Trials - September 16/17. Contact Ginny Chafe for more information.

Obedience Trials - October 28/29, 2006. Four trials at The Training Hall in Carp. Contact Darwin Boles for more information.

Obedience...

Darwin Boles, Director

Plans are moving ahead for the OVGRC all-breed Trial Weekend, which will take place October 28-29th, 2006 at the Training Hall. As the judging panel has been approved by the CKC, I am pleased to announce that William Yates from London, Ontario and Karen Anderson from Minnesota, USA will be judging at our October Trials. This year, the OVGRC will be the sole sponsor of the October trial weekend.

In fact, planning is going on for four upcoming trial weekends concurrently. Judges have been booked for the February 2007, October 2007, February 2008 and October 2008 trials.

It was great to see some OVGRC members competing in the Clayton, NY trials held early in June. Frances Holmes, Terry Pearce and Lisa Day were competing

in Obedience and, in addition, Lisa competed in Rally. The trials are very well run and the trial site is excellent. Now if something could be done about the rain!!! Judi Questel, our Newsletter Editor, does a great job as Trial Chair.

It was great to see two OVGRC members, i.e. Bruce Gibbons and Lisa Day, competing in the recent HIT of HITs event as part of the BDOC Trial weekend. Congratulations to both Bruce and Lisa for a job well done.

By the time the next Newsletter is published there will be more specific details about the October Trial weekend as well as some news about fund raisers and some special events in support of the trials.

Conformation...

Pat Enright, Director

We did not have a specialty show or booster this fiscal year (2005), but we are planning one with the OKC this May.

I have posted several requests in our newsletters for volunteers to stand on a committee for an Eastern Regional Specialty show in the near future. So far, I have had only one response from a member who has expressed interest - Sue Roberts, whom I thank very much. I have heard from other members who think it is a good idea; however, they have not put their names forward for the committee.

A specialty show that would be sponsored by our parent club, the GRCC, would require at least one other discipline other than a conformation show, and would require a major commitment from the club and many if its members.

SPECIAL NOTE

At this time I would like to address an issue that I have been concerned about for the last year.

Recently, we (the Board) have been aware of an undercurrent of discontent emanating from a certain segment of the membership concerning our lack of conformation activities.

All I can say in our (my) defense is that I cannot take on such a time consuming and intense activity such as a Regional Specialty by myself. Since the other Board members are more performance oriented and busy organizing their disciplines that are successful and well attended every year (much to their credit), I have repeatedly asked for help from the general membership in regards to organizing specialties and boosters in conjunction with other clubs, and have always ended up doing the "grunt" work myself.

If there are members who feel they can do a better job, or have better ideas regarding a conformation show, they are more than welcome to put those ideas forward, or better yet **run for Conformation Director**. I promise you I will not contest their nomination and will stay on the Board and committee to help organize any conformation activity.

Meeting Minutes

OVGRC Annual General Meeting - April 19, 2006

Meeting called to order at 6:45 p.m.

Opening comments by President, Darwin Boles, welcoming everyone.

Minutes of last AGM read. Motion made and seconded to accept minutes.

Reports:

President: Darwin Boles noted that although we may be a small club in membership, we are very active in the canine world with our various events. Thanks were extended to the volunteers at every event.

Field: Frances Holmes reviewed our field tests, indicating they were successful for both competing dogs and OVGRC finances. Thanks were extended to Bruce Hiscoke, Pam Martin and Donna Lahaise for their efforts in running these events. Frances noted the club purchased a small freezer for storing birds for our field trials and wingers for throwing the birds. Our next field trials will be September 16/17, 2006. Volunteer help is requested. A field fun day may also be arranged if there is sufficient interest.

Agility: Ann Lambert reported that our July 2005 trial was a very successful event. She requests help in running the July 2006 Agility Trials. Thanks were extended to Cecilia Hersey of Dreamfields for her assistance in making our trials a success.

Conformation: Pat Enright suggested that the club consider holding fun matches for agility, conformation and rally. She strongly suggested that the club consider holding a regional specialty in 2009.

Obedience: Darwin Boles reported that our decision to hold a trial weekend followed by a seminar on the Monday was a successful format. We will repeat this for future events. The CKC has approved our trials for February 2007 and October 2007.

Membership: Frances Holmes reported that we have approximately 60 members.

Secretary: Sharlene Manderson reported that the year's activities were status quo - checking the club mailbox, redirecting mail to the appropriate recipients, taking minutes and posting them on the website.

Treasurer: Deb Brunner-Walker reported every event we held was financially successful this year. This is thanks to our hard-working volunteers. We spent money to maintain the website and made a donation to Golden Rescue. A detailed report is on file.

Director-At-Large: Ginny Chafe organized the volunteer appreciation dinner. The recognition was greatly appreciated by our volunteers.

New Business:

Achievement Awards: Plaques were given to members to honour the various achievements of their dogs this past year. These included titles earned in field, obedience, rally, conformation and Canine Good Neighbour qualifications.

Junior Handling: In response to a letter from Jim Thompson, CKC Zone Rep for Junior Handling, a motion was made and seconded that OVGRC make a financial contribution to support Junior Handling.

Membership Support of a Charity: A motion was made and seconded that the membership vote via the website as to which dog-related charitable organization they would like to give some financial support. Frances Holmes will post three organizations, at the Board's discretion, on the website for the membership to vote on.

Webmaster: Thanks were extended to our webmaster, Dave Skinner, for the excellent job he does in maintaining our website. The club truly appreciates his professional expertise.

Specialty: At the conclusion of a lively discussion regarding the feasibility of holding a specialty, a motion was made and seconded that the club instruct the Board to strike a committee to investigate the feasibility of holding a national specialty in 2010. This committee should report their findings to the Board by June 30, 2006. Motion carried.

Election of Board Members: Nominations were requested via the website and at the general meeting. The following Board members were accepted by acclamation:

President - Deb Brunner-Walker

Past President - Darwin Boles (also Obedience Director)

Vice President - Frances Holmes (also Membership Director)

Secretary - Sharlene Manderson

Treasurer - Pat Enright

Directors - Ann Lambert (Agility)

Ginny Chafe (Field)

Claudia Mai (Director-At-Large)

Motion made and seconded for meeting to be adjourned at 9:00 p.m. - motion carried.

OVGRC Board Meeting - April 19, 2006

9:15 p.m. - meeting called to order.

Present: Deb, Darwin, Frances, Sharlene, Pat, Ann, Ginny and Claudia.

Frances will connect with Dave Skinner to change names of Board members on the website.

Discussion items - tabled to next Board meeting:

- 1) Use of OVGRC membership on personal websites.
- 2) Ability of non-members to post adoption notices on website.
- 3) Posting of a committee to investigate the feasibility of a specialty in 2010.

Next Board meeting - Sunday, May 7 at 4:30 p.m. at The Cheshire Cat.

Motion made and seconded that the meeting be adjourned at 9:27 p.m. - motion carried.

Continued on Pg. 21 →

Poop, The Scoop -

by Scotty Richardson

Once again the succulent subject of canine crap eating has reared its ugly head. Having spent many good years with our departed Peggy Sue - known worldwide as "The Fecal Gourmet" - I feel this is a subject I can get my teeth into. Now, Peggy Sue was not your average turf taco nibbler. She was unique given the fact that she only ate her OWN lawn offerings. When you have three dogs, that's an important fact. She was discriminating in her tastes. Those of you having been on the lists long enough surely remember our experiments designed to discourage Peggy Sue from poop noshing. We even went so far as to take her to a doggie psychiatrist. I'll never forget her words (at roughly \$5 each!)... "Poop is to a dog as chocolate is to a human. You wouldn't leave a bunch of Hershey Kisses laying next to a trail, would you?"

OK, the question I was afraid to ask remains - HOW did this woman come by this, er, nugget she shared with us? Think about it if you want. Personally, I don't want to go there.

Now, with a dog like Peggy Sue it was easy to try trapping her in the act, find ways to discourage her gourmet garbage gut. So we read up on "coprofilia." I'm not sure if I spelled it right but it's a nice sounding term for crap eating. Ah, yes, leave it to the scholars! They DO know, er, well, you know. Ah, the many so-called cures we tried. Habenero pepper sauce. This stuff will eat holes in your tile floors, it's so hot. Watch where Piggers pooped and sneak out and season the turd with hot sauce. Stand around the corner and watch her sneak up on the berm burrito! The look on her face as she proceeded to eat the whole pile said "Oh wow! Mexican!" Then there was the meat tenderizer sauce. Just made for tender lawn tacos. Spinach. Loved it, made her strong like Popeye! My all-time favorite was the experiment with "flying feces"! Take one large rat trap - not a mouse trap, a RAT trap. Set it carefully and place it upside down on the lawn. Now, this next part is tricky. Wear rubber clothes. I didn't. The trick is to camouflage the trap while carefully placing the latest leavings on top of it. If you're not careful this can - backfire. It's important to know that a rat trap set upside down can hurl a gob of flying feces roughly 60 feet. I know, because

Continued on Pg. 21 ⇨

The Nose Knows

by Dave Skinner

Notwithstanding the recent heat wave and time being available, I decided to do some heavy duty yard work clearing the English Ivy from our cedar hedge on the rear border of our backyard. The ivy was choking and killing the hedge and a major job was required to uproot a million shoots and vines. This cedar jungle is located directly behind a four-foot steel chain link fence.

Mostly this required me to bury my upper body into a dense thicket of both living and dead cedar branches interspersed with a tropical tangle of ivy vines whilst being suspended over and semi-decapitated by the chain link fence bordering the whole mess. Once so buried I could then yank, pull, uproot and curse.

After an hour or so of this torture, now dripping with sweat, arms torn up by the thorns on the ivy, I suddenly became aware that my eyeglasses were gone. Most likely they had been snagged by a branch and propelled somewhere into the thicket. This was a major crisis since I have no backups except for an old lens prescription from 1992!

I had no idea exactly when they disappeared, nor where in this jungle I might have lost them. My wife and I spent a couple of hours laboriously hunting the hedge not to mention going through the mountain of already bagged yard waste. No luck.

Fast forward to four days later. I'm out playing tennis ball with Roxanne, our three year old Golden who has just started serious scent discrimination training for her Utility obedience title. On a silly whim I ask

her in my best "articles" voice..."Rox...Find It." Puzzled, she stands and stares at me. Of course she has no idea what "it" is, nor why I might want "it" found.

Again I plead, "Rox...Find It." Then, as if the scent discrimination God had whispered in her ear, she



Continued on Pg. 8 ⇨

Tattle's Miracle

by Barbara Savary, OVGRC member

January 31, 2006 began the way most Tuesdays do for us, volunteering and visiting patients at our local hospital with one of our Golden Retrievers. We finished this happy task and headed home because I had booked an appointment for one of our dogs at the Village Veterinary Clinic in Russell. Tattle (One Ash Speak No Evil CDX) was due to have puppies within the next couple of days and I was going to have an x-ray taken to tell me how many puppies to expect. The roads were bare and damp when I left Morewood, traveling at 75 km/hr, as I made my way to Russell, approximately 15 km away. About halfway along road conditions deteriorated and I reduced my speed further. A minute later I hit a clump of frozen slush and took a diagonal path down the road for some distance before becoming airborne. No time for any defensive or corrective measures – all were in vain. I do recall missing a telephone pole as I did a forward somersault, coming to rest on the roof against the far bank of the ice-water filled ditch. With the sound of breaking glass and metal, I was sure Tattle was dead. How could she survive that? But as I realized that I was all right, warm, sweet kisses covered my face and there was Tattle beside me, letting me know that she was all right, too! I had decided not to crate Tattle for the trip because of her enormous girth and obvious discomfort with even simple effort. Instead, I put the back seat up to make it easier for her to get into the car. Unknowingly I was also providing a padded, contained space that protected her and probably saved her life. My first thought, of course, was to thank our Heavenly Father for the fact that I was ABLE to!

Hanging upside down in my seatbelt I could reach the door handle, but as I opened the door a few inches the cold water came rushing in. I remember thinking what a terrible sight it must be and started beeping the horn, to let anyone stopping know that we were alive. Kind, capable hands were soon extracting us, and I can still picture half a dozen people all on their cell phones calling 911! I didn't think that was necessary. I was fine, and they couldn't do much for Tattle. She was shaking violently and somebody got her into a warm vehicle while we waited for my husband, Tom, to come. As soon as I had been rescued,

I called him. Before leaving the house he had handed me our cell phone and I put it into my pocket. Normally it rests in the console between the seats, where it would have been floating! Then I called our veterinarian's office to let them know we were still coming, and why we were late. The staff was wonderful, and after checking Tattle over and taking the x-ray they suggested that I leave her there for the rest of the day. They would watch her while I got checked out, too.

Tom got Tattle early in the evening and she began labour that night. The following afternoon six live puppies were born, as well as three stillborn. Very sad, but for a time I wasn't sure there'd be a Tattle, let alone puppies! Remarkably it was a classic "textbook" whelp, with Tattle very much her wonderful self, being a wonderful mother!

Several months have passed and our 'Miracle' litter is doing just fine, in homes from Kingston to Halifax. We have replaced our car, and based on this experience I think that seatbelt cutters should be standard equipment for all vehicles. Doggy restraints wouldn't be a bad idea, either. As for Tattle, she took it all in stride and is a happy Golden girl, glad that life is back to normal!



Barbara's car at the scene of the accident.

Photo courtesy of Barbara Savary

Therapy Dogs Helping Children

by Ann Lambert

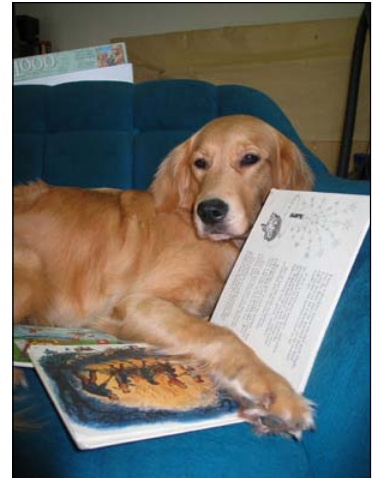
Have you heard of R.E.A.D.? Reading Educational Assistance Dog. This is a programme for children who have difficulty reading and involves Therapy Dogs. It was started in the United States and is moving to Canada.

We have four teams in Ottawa. One of my Golden Retrievers, Lia, visits a school in Kinburn. The idea is that the child reads to the dog, who doesn't judge them. The child is made to feel special. We put a sign on the door asking people not to enter as Lia is having her reading session. There are paw prints on the floor leading to a quilt on the floor. The child brings a pre-selected book and sits down with Lia between us. The teacher is out of sight. The child spends ten to fifteen minutes reading to Lia. Sometimes Lia will help with a hard word. If they say a wrong word it doesn't matter. They have a frequent reader card which is stamped every time they read to Lia. After reading five times they get a new book to keep. Lia puts her paw print in it! They also get bookmarks with Lia's picture on it.

Lia started in January. In the five months she has been doing this we have seen many improvements. Not necessarily in the reading itself – the child's self esteem has improved. Shy, unsure children are now the first to want to read. The children set up the room themselves and plan the order of reading. They are planning a party for Lia for the last session before school ends. One little boy told me she will have her own loot bag!! Lia is known in the school as the "reading dog"!!

To become a member of R.E.A.D. the dog has to be a registered Therapy Dog. A Therapy Dog is very special. They give a lot of pleasure to many people. Hospitals, senior residences, schools and long term facilities all allow Therapy Dogs to visit and are recognizing the positive effect a visit has for the patients and staff.

Any breed of dog can be a Therapy Dog as long as it has the right temperament. There are no special classes to become a Therapy Dog. A good basic obedience class is essential. The dog has to pass a special test which involves control and stability of the dog. The dog has to be under control at all times and listen to what the handler tells it.



Lia is all ready with a book – now where is someone to read to her?

Photos courtesy of Ann Lambert



A youngster with Lia and her book.

**Zinger Winger coupons
available on a first-come,
first-serve basis - contact
Pam Martin to get yours!**

2005 Annual General Meeting

The OVGRC Annual General Meeting (AGM) was held at the Cheshire Cat Pub on April 19, 2006. Discussions were lively and several business items were discussed. A reporting of the AGM minutes may be viewed on page 4.

A major item of discussion centered around conformation, and the possibility of hosting a Specialty. Should we do Regional or National? What should our target date be? What events would be hold in addition to conformation? This is certain to be an issue that will be revisited in upcoming Board meetings as well as future AGM sessions.

New officers were elected for the upcoming year. Darwin Boles has stepped down as President after two years of service and will remain on the Board of Directors in the position of Past President. Deb Brunner-Walker is now at the Club helm, Frances Holmes remains as Vice President. Pat Enright now assumes position as Club treasurer, Sharlene Manderson remains Club secretary.

Title awards were presented at the AGM. A complete listing of the award recipients, not all of whom were present at the meeting, may be found on page 9.



Several club members attended the AGM in April.



2005 OVGRC Award recipients Nathalie Lafleur, Tom Questel, Pam Martin, Deb Brunner-Walker, Judi Questel, Diana Davison and Ginny Chafe.

⇒ The Nose Knows (Cont from Pg. 5)

took off at warp speed towards the hedge fence, sniffed its length and then rather fiercely began to paw at a spot on the fence.

My profound skepticism kicked in. Given the tiny metal eyeglass frames, four elapsed and sometimes rainy days and the overriding odors from the steel chain link fence intervening I don't for a moment credit this behavior. She probably has found an old tennis ball or stale training cookie. Laughing, I ask her again to "Find It" and I get the same response but this time she gives me a look that says, "...Are you humans totally stupid! Can't you smell it?" So to humor her, I part the branches at that spot.

A good two feet inside the steel chain link fence, in a thicket of dead cedar branches, near ground level exactly where she indicated, are my glasses hanging on a branch.

As a good friend remarked on hearing this tale, "How amazing. We can never really understand that part of their being. It just is."

Lest you have any doubt, the nose knows!

FOR SALE: One A-frame with wheels - \$140. Contact Deb Brunner-Walker at 832-4193.

2005 OVGRC Title Awards

Owners of the following dogs were presented with title awards on April 19th at the Annual General Meeting. Congratulations to all recipients!

**Goldencol's Come Fly With Me Am/Can WC, JH, AG.N,
NA
"Flyer"**
Deb Brunner-Walker/Doug Walker
Awards: WC, JH, AG.N 2005

**Brackenridge Buckwheat Honey CDX, CCGC, RN, MCL
"Bucky"**
Diana Davison
Awards: CDX 2005

**Can CH Hollymere's As You Like It Can CDX, AG.X, WC,
VCX, Am AX, OAJ, CD, AADC, MSDC, MSJC
"Devon"**
Deb Brunner-Walker/Doug Walker
Awards: AG.X, CDX, WC 2005

**Ambertrail's I Am A Wild Party Can WCX
"Bizzy"**
Donna LaHaise
Awards: WCI, WCX 2005

**Bridgeton's Too Hot To Handle JH, Am/Can CDX, Am/
Can TD
"Cajun"**
Pam Martin/Bruce Hiscoke
Awards: WC, WCI, WCX, JH, AKC TD, GRCA WC, WCX
2005

**Can CH Skilfor's Quite A Gold Mine Am/Can CDX, NA,
OAP, OJP, AG.X, VMGDC, VAtChC
"Dawson"**
Ginny Chafe
Awards: AKC OAP, OJP 2005; AG.X, VMGDC, VAtChC
2005

**Can CH Belcanto T'N'E Kira CGC
"Kira"**
Marie Nadeau
Awards: CH, CGC 2005

**Shaynedoro Winner Take All VMADC, VMGDC,
VMSDC, VMTRDC, AG.X, CGN
"Winnie"**
Samantha Hayward
Awards: AG.X 2004; VMADC, VMGDC 2005

**Ambertrail's Put On The Redlight CDX
"Roxie"**
Dave Skinner/Ellie Beals
Awards: CDX 2005

**Miss Daisy Bonefeathers CD, RN, CGC
"Daisy"**
Tom Questel
Awards: RN 2005

**Can CH Quapaw's I Believe N' Miracles
"Brent"**
Judy Stewart
Awards: CH 2005

**Bonefeathers Flags A' Flyin Am/Can CD, RN, CGC
"Lexi"**
Judi Questel
Awards: RN 2005

**Topbrass Little Elle CGN
"Ellie"**
Judy Stewart
Awards: CGN 2005

**Bonefeathers Farscape Moya Am/Can CDX, RE, NA, NAJ,
CGC
"Moya"**
Judi Questel
Awards: Can CD, CDX 2005; AKC CDX, RN, RA, RE, NA,
NAJ 2005

**Can CH Blueheron's Simply The Best WCI, JH, CGN
"Tess"**
Judy Stewart
Awards: CH, WCI, JH, CGN 2005

**Bonefeathers Its All About Me RA, CGC
"Diva"**
Judi Questel
Awards: RN, RA 2005

**Rockhurst Kodak CGDC, ADC
"Kodak"**
Nathalie Lafleur
Awards: SGDC, ADC 2005

The parasite coccidiosis can wreak havoc with your dog's health

by Jeff Grognet, DVM

From a simple episode of soft stool to a persistent case of liquid feces, diarrhea is a common complaint that, in any form, stresses both dogs and their caregivers. The most common reason for canine diarrhea is a change in diet, but it can also be caused by infectious organisms. Though most puppy owners are familiar with and fear the life-threatening potential of parvovirus, few are aware of the insidious effects of coccidia. As a parasite, coccidia is far less dramatic than parvo, but because it is so difficult to manage, it does demand special attention.

Some dogs, as chronic carriers of coccidia, periodically shed this parasite in their feces. Once in the environment, coccidia can persist for months and is hard to kill with common disinfectants. For these reasons, coccidiosis is a problem in breeding kennels or anywhere multiple dogs are housed together.

The life cycle of coccidia is simple – it is passed from one animal to another through contaminated feces. Once a dog ingests an oocyst (a coccidial “egg”), it takes as little as 3 or as many as 11 days to complete its life cycle. After this short time, the next generation of oocysts is released into the feces.

When a dog becomes infected, he sheds oocysts, but once his immune system gets the parasite in check, the shedding stops. Some dogs fail to mount a complete immune response so they never eliminate it from their bodies. These dogs shed oocysts during periods of stress, when their immune systems are compromised.

When oocysts are consumed, they burrow into the mucosal cells that line the inside of the dog's intestine. They reproduce, and eventually break out of the cell to invade another. During this

process, the mucosal cells die. When a lot of mucosal cells, which play a vital role in fluid reabsorption, are destroyed, voluminous watery diarrhea results. Mucosal cells also serve as a shield on the inside of the gut. Without this natural barrier, viruses and bacteria can invade the intestinal wall, aggravating the diarrhea even further.

Though this scenario seems horrific, adult dogs with coccidia usually suffer from just a mild, self-limiting diarrhea (and sometimes vomiting), because their immune systems can get the parasite in check and clear it. This is not the case for puppies with immature immune systems. Puppies that are stressed (from food changes, cold temperatures, or dirty environments), or those with concurrent intestinal disease, are particularly susceptible to the more devastating consequences of coccidial infection.

When puppies contract coccidiosis, they develop diarrhea which ranges from mild to severe. Pups may vomit, become mildly dehydrated, and because they are unable to absorb the nutrients from their food, their growth may be stunted.

The diagnosis of coccidiosis is confirmed by finding coccidial oocysts in a fecal sample. A fecal flotation test is best performed on a formed stool sample because it is much harder to detect oocysts in fluid feces.

Treatment options

If puppies become dehydrated, they need subcutaneous or intravenous fluid therapy. Thankfully, most affected pups don't require intensive supportive care but they all need to be put on antibiotic medication to control the parasite. A sulfa drug is the preferred choice because it retards the growth of coccidial organisms. Though this antibiotic doesn't kill the coccidia outright, it will



alleviate clinical signs, and most importantly, it reduces environmental contamination by halting oocyst production.

Ultimately, infected puppies mount an immune response to coccidial organisms. Those with an effective response eliminate the parasite in a few short weeks. Others are not so lucky – they can remain carriers, shedding oocysts, for extended periods of time.

The foundation of a coccidia eradication program is sanitation. Caregivers must remove feces immediately from all surfaces to prevent spread of the parasite. Runs, cages and feeding dishes should be steam-cleaned. Alternatively, five-percent ammonia or strong sodium hydroxide can be used to destroy the organisms.

If a kennel already has a coccidia problem, control is difficult and will only be achieved through diligence. It is far easier to prevent the entry of coccidia into a facility than to eliminate it. Before allowing any new dog in, breeders should determine if that individual (or others he was housed with) had a coccidia problem.

This article first appeared in the July 2005 AKC Gazette and is reprinted with permission.

Cocoa Mulch Can Pose Risk For Pets

Ingredients for sweet-smelling yard dangerous for dogs.

by Matt McFarland
WNYT News, Albany, NY

As soon as the weather breaks again many homeowners and gardeners are sure to be outside getting their hands dirty. But veterinarians say a sweet-smelling mulch can be deadly to certain family pets.

“Cocoa mulch is a risk, especially to dogs,” said Dr. Larry Family of Aqueduct Animal Hospital.

Found in most home garden centers, cocoa mulch is known for its fine texture and the sweet smell the fresh mulch gives off.

“The weird thing is, it smells like a chocolate Pop Tart. That’s the best way I can describe it. It really does have a chocolate scent to it,” explained Shane Compton of Hewitt’s Garden Center.



Cocoa mulch is available at many garden supply stores.

Photo courtesy of Paul Munson / WNYT

But getting past the scent, Family says cocoa mulch can be dangerous if a dog starts eating it. It contains two key ingredients found in chocolate: theobromine and caffeine. Similar to eating chocolate, he says a dog that eats just a few ounces of cocoa mulch could start having stomach problems and it could get worse if it eats more.

“As time goes on they might act restless or excited, it can produce tremors and serious seizures,” Family explained.

Compton says cocoa mulch is not that popular at his store, but says it has its regular customers who every

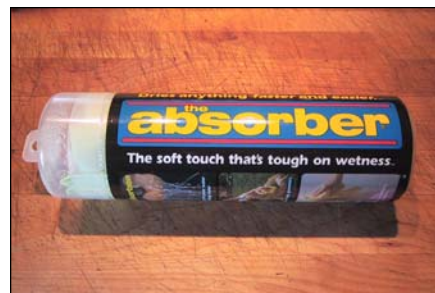
Continued on Pg. 19 ➔

What's New...



Top Tag Pet ID is a high-tech identification tag with a mini flash memory drive that stores detailed information about your pet, such as owner, vet and emergency contacts, plus health

information. Insert the tag into the USB port of any computer operating on Windows to write, organize, store and retrieve all of your dog’s important care information. The study waterproof case protects the drive from dog activities and the elements. \$39.95 (US) from Flash Drive Publishing, Inc.; (877)305-1010; www.toptagpetid.com



The Absorber is not really a “new” item - though there seems to be a number of dog people who don’t know about this product and what a great thing it is.

A super absorbent microfiber towel with a unique pore structure, The Absorber quickly and effectively wicks up water from your wet pet. Start with the towel damp, then just wring it out when saturated and use again. Machine washable, it can be reused time and time again. Your washing machine will thank you, as this product will replace a washer load of bath towels. Store damp in its plastic storage tube. While sold primarily as a car care item, many groomers have this little gem as a staple in their shops. Approximately \$10 in most car-care centers. For more information, visit Clean Tools at www.theabsorber.com or call (800)654-3933.

Old Friend, Live With Me Forever

by Sarah A. Farrell

Have you searched the clouded eyes and grizzled muzzle of a dear, elderly dog and wished for more time? We cannot indefinitely prolong out aged dog's life, but we can pledge to enhance his enjoyment of the time he has left. There is no finer solace when his time comes to die than to realize that nothing came before his comfort, his health care, and his peace of mind.

Old dogs are our friends and our protectors. Some have ensured our breeding success, our performance achievements, and have made us who we are. An honest heart demands that we give back to them in their dotage the attention they unfailingly gave us in their youth, and that we guide them gently into comfortable old age.

Old dogs like hands-on love. Carve 10 minutes from your hectic day to get your hands on your old dog. Make him comfortable in or near your lap. Gently groom him. Feel for lumps, bumps, heated areas, painful spots – any signs that a veterinary check-up could improve his health and your peace of mind. Consider acupuncture as an auxiliary therapy to ease geriatric aches and complaints.

Obsess about his nutrition and health. Although his hearing is diminished and he creaks when he rises, the elderly dog can often hoist himself up off

the floor with determined and delighted effort when he hears his food pan rattle. "Here comes the highlight of my day!" is his response to impending dinner. Ask your veterinarian about geriatric foods, supplements, and new ways to tantalize his aging palate. How much bother would it be to stir-fry lean turkey, if your veterinarian feels it could be beneficial? With a few minutes of culinary care, a lackluster appetite may experience a new lease on dinner. Be scrupulous as to whether health information actually comes from a medical or scientific source. Act upon all behaviors and discomforts that are out of the normal range for your dog. Old dogs deserve immediate care, but let your veterinarian decide if he is sick.

Take care where he sleeps. Give your venerable companion the best bed in the house – not necessarily your bed. Does he

prefer to place his head up on a bolster? Is he more comfortable in a thick, orthopedic bed? Are his old joints warm enough? Is he less restless if his bed is next to yours? When sleeping is an aged friend's primary activity, a special bed is his due.

Nourish his spirit. What does an old dog want? You, and your undivided attention. Keep an old-dog diary, where you record your thoughts about him, his responses to his bodily changes, his weight, his appetite, his toilet habits, his environment. Talk to him. Be quiet, and listen to his breathing.

Old dogs are a breed's future. When you buy a puppy, ask how old all canine grandparents lived to be. When you interview breeders or consider breeding to their dogs, inquire about the health, vitality, and current life situations of the breeder's old dogs.

Releasing a elderly canine friend to death will break your heart. Grief is easier to endure if you can envision his merry old tail wagging as he watched you prove your esteem by your actions. Love him today like there is no tomorrow.



This article first appeared as the English Springer Spaniels breed column in the July 2005 AKC Gazette and is reprinted here with permission.

Conditioning the Canine Athlete

Tips from Triple Crown

The body of a canine athlete should be physically toned to enable him to perform and excel in whatever sport or task required of him. Though all dogs need daily exercise, ones that regularly work or perform need a more expansive exercise regimen to maintain top physical form.

Physical conditioning involves not only exercise, but also stretching and warm-up and cool-down exercises. Dogs do not exercise themselves with peak conditioning in mind, so it is important to make exercise a part of your dog's daily routine to maintain top body form.

Before beginning any exercise program with your canine athlete, have your veterinarian perform a full health check to detect any physical problems that could be aggravated by activity. Extra weight means extra stress on bones and joints, so make certain your dog is at his ideal weight before leading into activities that may be too strenuous.

Very young dogs must be limited in their activities to ensure that exercise will not harm still-forming bones. In general, it is best to wait until the growth plates



A Border Collie retrieves a ball during strength training.

Photos Courtesy of Triple Crown Dog Academy

have fully closed. Care also must be taken with older dogs to guard against injuries to joints. In choosing your dog's exercise program, consider his body structure and any physical limitations so as not to push him beyond his limits.

The benefits of an exercise program are many. Physically conditioned dogs perform better in sport and competition with less occurrence and severity of injury. They also are able to maintain a healthy weight more easily. Exercise is healthy psychologically for dogs as it gives them an appropriate outlet for energy and helps reduce hyperactivity, as well as behavior problems related to boredom or insufficient activity.

Where to Exercise

The environment in which you exercise your canine athlete is equally important for his safety as the exercise routine itself. Choose a securely enclosed area or keep your dog on a leash. Ideally, the ground should be grass covered to provide soft and stable footing. Avoid concrete or asphalt, as these surfaces are not only hard on joints and bones, but also can cause scrapes and abrasions on footpads.

You should also beware of temperature extremes. Take caution in exercising during warm and very cold times of the year, and avoid physical activity during the hottest parts of the day to help prevent heat exhaustion.

Warm-Up and Cool-Down

A human athlete wouldn't consider running a marathon just after waking up, and you shouldn't expect the same from your dog. Strenuous exercise performed without some kind of warm-up or stretching can lead to pulled muscles and other injuries. While a warm-up prepares your dog's body for physical activity, a cool-down is equally important to prevent muscles from getting tight afterward.



A trainer stretches a German Shepherd prior to a workout by picking up one leg and gently extending it straight out. The trainer bends the leg at the joints while supporting the knee and hock joints with her hand. The exercise should be done with each leg.

Continued on Pg. 22 ⇨

Upcoming Events

Agility

Double Q Agility Club of Western New York, Albion, NY. July 21 – 23 (closing date July 7). FMI – Denise Thomas, Event Secretary (814)756-3545 countrysideas@aol.com

Green Mountain Golden Retriever Club, Williston, VT. August 5 – 6 (closing date July 22). FMI – Janet Induni, Event Secretary (802)879-6526 induni@together.net

Ruff Riders Agility Club of Upstate New York, Cato, NY. August 17 – 20 (closing date August 4). FMI – Dee Bramble, Event Secretary (315)626-6203 overover1@aol.com

Susque-Nango Kennel Club, Chenango Forks, NY. August 25 – 27 (closing date August 5). FMI – Noreen Bennett, Event Secretary (413)283-4490 noreen@pawprinttrials.com

Kennel Club of Niagara Falls, Lockport, NY. September 15 – 17 (closing date August 30). FMI – Denise Thomas, Event Secretary (814)756-3545 countrysideas@aol.com

Conformation/Obedience/Rally

Genesee Valley Kennel Club, Hamlin, NY. July 6 & 8 (closing date June 21). Conformation, Obedience, Rally. Cardiology clinic. FMI – McNulty Dog Shows www.mcnultydogshows.com

German Shepard Dog Club of Rochester, Hamlin, NY. July 7 (closing date June 21). All-breed Obedience and Rally. FMI – McNulty Dog Shows www.mcnultydogshows.com

Kennel Club of Buffalo, Hamburg, NY. July 9 (closing date June 21). Conformation, Obedience. FMI – McNulty Dog Shows www.mcnultydogshows.com

Vermont Scenic Cluster, Essex Junction, VT. July 14 – 16 (closing date June 28). Conformation, Obedience, Rally. FMI – MB-F Inc (336)379-9352 www.infodog.com

The Adirondack Circuit, Ballston Spa, NY. August 9 – 13 (closing date July 26). Conformation. Eye clinic. FMI – MB-F Inc (336)379-9352 www.infodog.com

Tioga County Kennel Club, Owego, NY. August 19 – 20 (closing August 2). Conformation, Obedience, Rally. FMI – McNulty Dog Shows www.mcnultydogshows.com

Golden Retriever Club of Western New York, Albion, NY. August 31 (closing date August 16). Conformation, Obedience, Rally. FMI – Jim Rau Dog Shows (610)376-1880 www.raudogshows.com

Golden Retriever Club of America Eastern Specialty, Albion, NY. September 1 (closing date August 16). Conformation, Obedience, Rally. FMI – Jim Rau Dog Shows (610)376-1880 www.raudogshows.com

Tonawanda Valley Kennel Club, Albion, NY. September 2 – 3 (closing date August 16). Conformation, Obedience, Rally. FMI – Jim Rau Dog Shows (610)376-1880 www.raudogshows.com

Western Lakes Training Club of Buffalo, Hamburg, NY. September 9 – 10 (closing date August 23). Obedience and Rally. FMI – McNulty Dog Shows www.mcnultydogshows.com

Wine Country Circuit, Romulus, NY. September 28 – October 1 (closing date September 13). Conformation, Obedience, Rally. FMI – Jim Rau Dog Shows (610)376-1880 www.raudogshows.com

Tracking

Dog Obedience Training Club of Rochester, Honeoye, NY. September 17 (closing date September 7). TR. FMI – Deborah Ross (585)554-3496.

Hudson Valley Tracking Club, New Paltz, NY. October 8 (closing date September 28). TR/TX. FMI – Linda Boneck (203)881-2147.

Tracking Club of Vermont, Danby, VT. October 15 (closing date October 5). TR. FMI – Glenn Williams (802)875-3674 gwilliams@vermontel.net

Syracuse Obedience Training Club, Marietta, NY. October 15 (closing date October 5). TR. FMI – Toni Tuck (315)637-4659

Hudson Valley Tracking Club, Albany, NY. October 22 (closing date October 12). VST. FMI – Stephanie Crawford (607)775-1776

Continued on Pg. 19 →

George Alston Seminar

For Beginners, Advanced and Observers
Hosted by the North Country Kennel Club
of Watertown
September 23rd and 24th, 2006

Seminar will begin sharply at 9:00 a.m. both Saturday and Sunday and end at 5:00 p.m.

There will be between a half hour to an hour lunch break depending on time.

Classes will alternate between beginners and advanced students, one hour each.

Class that is not in the ring with George need to keep their dogs quiet in crates, out of the building or in your cars. Unfortunately we do not have separate rooms available in this building for waiting classes.

There is a restaurant on the site grounds for lunch or you may drive over to Arsenal Street for faster foods. There is a cut-over to Arsenal Street just outside the entrance to the Fair Grounds to the right, where Kinney Drugs is located, or you can brown bag your lunch.

Please bring a copy of your dog's shot record.

If you need to cancel, please call Debi Florek at (315)654-2403 by September 2nd as we anticipate a waiting list.

Dogs are required to be at least one year of age for this seminar. The seminar is too long each day for puppies.

Remember poop bags or scoopers – we need to keep the grounds clean.

We are hoping to provide hook-ups for campers. Please check regarding availability.

Cost for seminar will be \$125.00 (US funds) with dog. We are limited to 20 dogs in the beginners class and 20 dogs in the advanced class. If you cannot attend with a dog due to classes filled, you can come as an observer for \$50.00.

Questions? Contact Debi Florek at (315)654-2403

This seminar will be held at the Fair Grounds on Coffeen Street in Watertown. Enter into Fair Grounds main gate by restaurant. Drive straight through until you see sign for seminar on left.

George Alston Seminar

Hosted by the North Country Kennel Club
Watertown, New York
September 23rd & 24th, 2006

Registration Form

Date: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Country: _____

Contact Phone Number: _____

Home Club: _____

Breed: _____

Birth Date: _____ (not to be under 1 year of age). Dog/Bitch (circle)

Handler's Name: _____

Beginners Class: _____

Advanced Class: _____

Observer: _____

Registration fee \$125.00 (to be paid in US funds in form of a Bank Check or US account)
Observation fee \$50.00 (to be paid in US funds in form of a Bank Check or US account)

Makes checks payable to NCKC
Not refundable after September 2, 2006

Send registration form and fee to:
Debra Florek
4609 Favret Road
Cape Vincent, NY 13618

----- Do Not Write Below This Line -----

Name: _____

Balance Due: \$ _____

Amount Paid: \$ _____

Paid by: check _____ check # _____
cash _____

⇒ Push (Cont from Pg. 1)

owning, training and handling this incredible dog. Push came to us via his breeder, Melanie Foster, Firemark Kennels, Lodi, California in the spring of 2002. Little did we know that his 10 month old would one day turn out to be the first Golden Retriever to be accredited the prestigious title of “Dual Champion” on the North American continent in twenty-five years.

Push is one of those dogs that has it all - looks, talent, heart and attitude. A total package and in just one dog!



Photo courtesy of Sue Norrie

Push's Show Career

Push's short visit to the “breed ring” competition was magical. On October 30, 2005, at his first show weekend competing, he earned his first points under judge Mrs. Leta Bett at the Club Canin Chomedey Inc. dog show.

The next win was five show weekends later at the Ottawa Valley Kennel Club. In conjunction with these shows, on May 28, 2006, the Ottawa Valley Golden Retriever Club held a Booster. Mr. William S. (Sandy) Gunn, who judged the booster show, awarded Push

“Winners Dog”, “Best of Winners”, “Best of Breed” over specials, and pulled him out in the Sporting Group. Mr. Sandy Gunn's comments after judging Push included: *“Before me I finally had a ‘hunting dog’ shown in hard condition, balanced, strong, eager, alert and confident. I had here a Golden who exuded fitness and balance fore and aft, and strength of loin, all in proper proportions and packaged in just the right size and weight, to my eye.”* Push now had six points, with four to go.

Push's next show was the St. Francis Kennel Club on June 9, 2006. Under judge Mr. Michael Lanctot, Push demonstrated why he was in the conformation ring. He free stacked beautifully, moved like a dream and had tons of attitude and presence in the ring. Mr. Lanctot awarded Push with “Winners Dog”, “Best of Winners”, “Best of Breed” over specials, and a 4th place in the Sporting Group! After the judging, Mr. Lanctot commented saying *“He (Push) earned it. He never put a foot in the wrong place and showed his heart out. It was his day... it was his turn and I was glad it was me that was doing the pointing.”* The points earned that day were more than enough! Push had done it! A Dual Champion title was earned!



Photo courtesy of Sue Norrie

Push's Field Career

Did we mention Push is a Field Trial Champion and an Amateur Field Trial Champion? Push has excelled at the field trial level of competition in both Canada and the United States. When he was still just a “one” year old dog and just before his second birthday, Push became “Qualified All Age” and earned the title QFTR. He did this by placing 3rd in the Amateur All-Age stake at the Montreal Retriever Club field trial held on May 17, 2003. To earn All-Age points under the age of two is not a common occurrence in the field trial game. By the end of the 2003 field season, Push still only a two year old had earned five Amateur All-Age points.



Photo courtesy of Tony Zappia

In the fall of 2003, Push competed south of the border at the GRCA National Specialty in Ohio. On the way Push ran at the Buckeye Retriever Club field trial where he earned a JAM in the Amateur and a 3rd in the Qualifying stake. At the GRCA National Specialty, Push demonstrated once again his style and ability. He earned a JAM in both the Amateur and the Open All-Age stakes, and then he **WON** the Qualifying. There were 101 dogs entered in that Qualifying stake.

Continued on Pg. 17 ⇒

⇒ **Push (Cont from Pg. 16)**

Something else to take note of is that the Buckeye Retriever Club and the GRCA National Specialty field trials were run over *consecutive* days. Push completed a total of 23 series of a possible 24 *over six days straight of competition*.....! Mike and I still marvel at this!

Push's 2005 field trial record did not only have him earning his FTCH and AFTCH titles. Push went on to become Canada's Top Golden Retriever in both the Open All-Age and the Amateur All-Age categories for that year. Push was the only Golden Retriever to make "Canada's Top Ten Field Trial 'All Retriever Breed' List" in 2005. He was No. 4 on the Amateur All-Age list and No. 7 for Combined All-Age points. This amazing dog currently has a lifetime total of 38 All-Age points, 33 points in Canada and five points in the US.

Trivia

Dual Champion, Amateur Field Trial Champion Firemark's Push Comes to Shove, Am*** was amateur owner trained, amateur owner handled for each title earned. In addition, he was shown with whiskers on.

Push earned the "Dual Championship" Title in under 12 months!!! And.....along the way picked up an Amateur Field Trial Championship title!

July 1, 2005 - Push becomes an Amateur Field Trial Champion.

September 3, 2005 - Push becomes a Field Trial Champion.

June 9, 2006 - Push became a "Show Champion/Dual Champion".

What is in the future for this very special Golden Retriever is still yet to be decided. Please stay tuned in!.....For complete pedigree information and more details on Push's history and current achievements, please visit Push's page at www.ambertrail.com



**Happy
Canada Day**



Bytown Dog Obedience Club
Presents
Two days with
Connie Cleveland

'Theory/Problem Solving Seminar'

March 17 & 18, 2007
The Training Hall
162 Westcar, Carp, ON

**limited to 24 participant dog/handler spots **
unlimited observer 'no dog' spots**

Until December 31, 2006 - Participant \$250.00
/ Observer \$150.00
After January 1, 2007 - Participant \$300.00 /
Observer \$200.00
(NO REFUNDS AFTER FEBRUARY 1, 2007 -
REFUNDS SUBJECT TO \$15.00 ADMINISTRATION
FEE)

PLEASE MAKE CHEQUES PAYABLE TO B.D.O.C.
(cheques may be post dated to December 1,
2006) AND MAIL TO:

Barbara Jeffrey
39 Dow's Lake Road
Ottawa, ON K1S 4L3

mcleanjeffrey@sympatico.ca

Owner's Name:
Breed / Call Name of Dog:
Age of Dog / Current Training Level:
What are your training goals?
What problems are you encountering?
Are there other issues that you would like to
have addressed?
Owner's Address:
Owner's Telephone / Email:
Are you interested in a group dinner Saturday
evening (Connie will attend)?

*Connie lives in Fountain Inn, South Carolina where
she and her husband operate Dog Trainers
Workshop. She has attained seven American
Obedience Trial Champions, a UDT Maltese and a
CDX Shih-Tzu. She is currently competing with her
Golden 'Eli' and her Lab 'Ezra'. Connie writes a
monthly column in 'Front & Finish'.*

Lisa Day and Quiz (CH Canwins It's All Academic) had a great March weekend in Syracuse, NY as Quiz earned his American CD with an average score of 196. This was the very first time that Quiz had been in the obedience ring and Lisa was happy just to be "home" again!



Lisa and Quiz finish their AKC CD title in Syracuse.

A hearty "well done" to Lisa and Quiz who earned a HIT in Novice B at the May 13-14th BDOC Trials on Saturday, which entitled the team to go into the HIT of HITs event the same night. As this was the first time that Quiz competed in Canada, the 198.5 score was certainly celebrated. Lisa and Quiz qualified in the Novice division at the HIT of HITs. If the day was not busy enough what with the HIT and competing in the HIT of HITs, Lisa was also part of the HIT of HITs volunteer group as she was the Chief Ring Steward for the HIT of HITs.

Lisa and Quiz are still heating up the ring with their latest showing at the 1,000 Islands Cluster in Clayton, NY at the beginning of June. On Sunday, June 4th they earned first place in Novice B with a 197 as well as earning their first leg in Rally. I'm sure we will be hearing more from this team in the near future!

Samantha Hayward reports that Winnie (Shaynedoro Winner Take All) received her VATCHC in the March Dreamfields trial. She also earned the final jumpers leg she needed, which resulted in Winnie obtaining her VMJDC as well. On May 29th Winnie went three for three at the Sheltie CKC trial, she has now gone to Preferred in CKC and earned two standard Novice Standard Preferred legs and one Jumpers With Weaves Preferred leg. Samantha is hopeful that both titles will be completed at the OVGRC CKC trial in August. Samantha and Winnie also went to the AAC Regionals where Winnie had two fabulous gamblers runs earning fifth place and 70 points on Saturday as well as eighth place and an amazing 86 points on Sunday. Winnie earned 500 points over the weekend but unfortunately, because of very stiff competition in 16-inch

Veterans ("all those older Border Collies are still faster than us") she did not place in the top six but definitely was in the top ten. So far this year Winnie has had an awesome agility season and it's only June - looking forward to many more reports from this team!

April and May have been busy months for Sunkozi dogs. April saw them at the Champlain Kennel Club shows where Envy (Sunkozi Made U Look) in her first time out took Reserve Winners Bitch and Winners Bitch from the Senior Puppy class both days, as well as Best Puppy In Group both days. Envy also went Best In Match on Friday evening. At the same shows Victor (Kulta Sunkozi Lovem N Leavem) took a Reserve Winners Dog and Winners Dog from the 12-18 month class for his first four points. At the Arnprior Kennel Club shows in May, Envy again took a Reserve Winners Bitch and Best Puppy In Breed on Saturday. The following day Envy's litter sister Chiffon (Sunkozi Look Out Fallbrook), co-owned with Jane Paynter, took Best Puppy In Breed. Chiffon also has two Best In Group wins at matches. Not to be outdone, Victor took a Best of Breed over specials and a Group 2nd to add another five points. May continued to be a busy month when Buzz (Voyager Sunkozi Keep th'Change) won Best In Sweeps at the Golden Retriever Club of Quebec Specialty. Romeo (Creeksidefrms Foolish Pleasure) took Winners Dog and Best Of Winners from the 12-18 month class for five points - in his very first show. Romeo was bred by Sheila Standish and owned by Beverly Farquhar. Envy was also strutting her stuff at the Golden Retriever Club of Quebec Specialty where she took Winners Bitch and Best Puppy In Specialty Sweepstakes from the Senior Puppy Bitch class. In wrapping up the month, Envy and Victor made appearances at the Ottawa Kennel Club shows. Victor is now known as CH Kulta Sunkozi Lovem N Leavem after taking Best Of Winners on Saturday. On the same day, Envy took Reserve Winners Bitch and Best Puppy in Breed. On Sunday it was Envy's turn as she took Winners Bitch from the Senior Puppy class and Best Puppy in Breed at the OVGRC Booster to add another two points. Bev reports Envy will now be taking a break from the show ring to grow some coat, hopefully in time for the GRCC National.

Deb Brunner-Walker is happy to report that Flyer (Goldencol's Come Fly With Me) has started the agility season with a flying start. He earned his AKC Novice Standard and Novice Jumpers titles, two legs of his Open Standard, one Open Jumpers leg, CKC Novice Jumpers title, two Open Standard legs, AAC Starters title and three Starters Games legs - all in four weekends of trials!



⇒ South of the Border Events (Cont from Pg. 14)

Hunt Tests

Finger Lakes Retriever Club, Baldwinsville, NY. July 15 – 16 (closing date July 5). FMI – Maxine Clark (315)963-8682 maxdoglady@aol.com

Western New York Retriever Club, Wolcottsville, NY. July 21 and 23 (closing date July 12). FMI – Lynn Mayer (916)655-0252 lmayer4321@aol.com

Lake Champlain Retriever Club, Addison, VT. July 29 (closing date July 18). FMI – Jennifer Adsit (802)425-2193 lightfarm@gmavt.net

Central New York Retriever Club, Baldwinsville, NY. September 23 – 24 (closing date September 11). FMI – Jan Estes (607)539-3295

Field Trials

Western New York Retriever Club, Wolcottsville, NY. August 11 (closing date August 1). FMI – Elaine Willow (315)376-3835 bewillow28478@aol.com

Lake Champlain Retriever Club, Morrisville, VT. August 25 (closing date August 14). FMI – Katherine Simonds (802)888-3664 coppertout@aol.com

⇒ Cocoa Mulch (Cont from Pg. 11)

now and then wonder about the rumors they hear and the effect it has on man’s best friend.

“There’s always stories on the Internet, but in the 30 years we’ve been here we’ve actually never heard of anybody’s dog getting sick,” Compton said. Family adds that while pet owners might not know it, the information out there on cocoa mulch is much more than just an urban legend or Internet myth if a dog gets its paws on it.

“Puppies are very curious animals. So they’re going to be attracted to various things around the yard. It seems to be more severe in the small breeds and it depends on the amount they actually ingest,” Family said.

If you have a dog and a yard, Family says the best bet is to just stay away from cocoa mulch. If you’re still looking for a sweet-smelling mulch without the potentially hazardous effects, Compton recommends any type of cedar product.

ZINGER WINGER REMOTE BIRD LAUNCHERS
Taking gun dog training to new heights

“The UPLANDER”
Uplander: \$299.95 US (Electronics not included)
Remote receiver sits high off the ground for better reception
Safety feature on release prevents accidental release
Adjustable Arc & Throw! Choose how far and high you want the bird to go. Customize the setting to your training. Both models are free standing and require no ground stakes for stability
Sure Shot Sound™ Release Our precision engineered release on the “Uplander” & “Zinger Winger II” allows you to give attention getting “blanks” using 209 primers. Can be used with controls or manually
Launches Birds & Dummies One size fits all (Ducks, pheasants, quail, Dabblers, Bumpers, etc.). Zinger Winger launchers are designed to release live birds as well as throw marks for retriever training
Welder aluminum framing
Receiver Lock - universal remote mounting system
State of the art release mechanism

“The ZINGER WINGER II”
Super Compact! Zinger Winger bird launchers are designed small and compact for the “storage-challenged dog trainer”
Super Light! Zinger Winger bird launchers are made from lightweight aluminum. The “Uplander” weighs 8 pounds while the “Zinger Winger II” weighs 7.5 pounds
Heavy duty vinyl pouch
Welder aluminum framing
Receiver Lock - universal remote mounting system
State of the art release mechanism

Winged closures keep birds in place
Retractable extension
Open frame construction provides maximum acoustics

LIFETIME GUARANTEE

Remote Model: \$399.95 US (Electronics not included)
Manual Model: \$299.95 US

zinger winger
TAGGING OUR DOGS TRAINING TO NEW HEIGHTS

Visit our website to view animated clips of our launchers in action
WWW.ZINGERWINGER.COM PHONE: 1-800-351-8411

Zinger Winger Club Discount Program

The Zinger Winger Club Discount Program allows participating clubs and their members to purchase our full line of dog training products including our signature Zinger Winger™ remote bird launchers at discounted rates. Clubs will also receive ongoing help in their fund raising efforts. A full listing of our training supplies can be found at www.zingerwinger.com

Some of the programs main points include:

- Extra 10% off on all bird launchers manufactured by Zinger Winger Company. (Does not include specials or promotions)
- Extra 5% off on electronic training collars and remote release electronics.
- Extra 10% on all Alfa Starter Pistols in 209, .22 and .32 caliber
- Discounts cannot be combined with specials or promotions
- Contact us directly to place an order. Orders must be received by phone, fax, and mail or in person as our webstore at www.zingerwinger.com will not recognize this discount offer.
- Individuals must identify themselves as a member of a participating club to take advantage of the discount offer (Otherwise regular retail prices will apply).
- Zinger Winger Company reserves the right to review and/or discontinue this program at any time.

Exclusive Club Offer

The Alfa sets the new standard in blank firing starter pistols. Available in 22, 32 or 209 caliber, these superior blank firing guns are manufactured to the highest tolerances not seen before in starter pistols and have the feel and finish of a true firearm. We are offering an exclusive deal to clubs where you will receive a 15% discount on the ALFA when placing an order of 6 units or more. Please forward this offer to your executive or membership for their consideration.

Z-MAC Zinc-Aluminum Frame – Available in silvery nickel or gun blued finish. The superior strength of this material will ensure countless years of trouble free operation.

Heat Treated Trigger Components – All internal parts are made from high grade heat treated steel in a gun blued finish.

6 Shot Drop Down Cylinder – No parts separate or come loose from the gun while opening the cylinder.

Double-Action Trigger – The ALFA can be fired by first cocking the hammer and pulling the trigger or by simply pulling the trigger from its closed position.

Drop-Safety Lock – The trigger mechanism contains a drop safety feature that locks the cylinder and prevents free spin.

High Impact Polymer Grip and Muzzle Plug – The bright blaze orange color grip serves as a reminder to onlookers that the pistol is a blank firing gun. Also serves to easily locate the gun if misplaced while in the field.



⇒ **Minutes (Cont from Pg. 4)**

OVGRC Board Meeting – May 7, 2006

4:30 p.m. – meeting called to order.

Present: Deb, Darwin, Frances, Pat, Sharlene, Ann, Ginny and Claudia.

Minutes – motion made, seconded and carried to accept minutes.

Reports:

Agility: Ann is looking for volunteers to help at our trials. She will insert a flyer asking for help into the premium list and also put a request out to the membership via bulk mailer.

Field: Ginny reports that she will be in contact with Bruce Hiscoke and Pam Martin regarding the field trials.

Membership: Frances reports that we need to update the computer programming to notify us when the one-year probationary period has been reached for new members, who can then be voted to regular membership status. A motion was made, seconded and carried that non-paid members be removed from the website.

Obedience: Darwin reports that our dates for October 2006, February 2007 and October 2007 have been approved by the CKC. The judges' panel for October 2006 has also been approved. We will not be working on conjunction with the Toller Club for the October 2006 trials but will be hosting all four trials ourselves.

Conformation: Pat suggested that we hold a booster at the Champlain Dog Club trials in April 2007 at Petawawa. A motion was made, seconded and carried to hold a booster at the 2007 Champlain Dog Club Show, giving a prize for Best of Breed and Best Puppy.

Treasurer: Deb is updating the books in preparation for passing them on to the new treasurer, Pat Enright. Deb will facilitate the procedure to change the signing power for the club – i.e. the signatures of President, Vice President and Treasurer per the CKC requirements.

Secretary: Sharlene reports that the club insurance is paid up and we are in receipt of the policy from B.F. Lorenzetti. The CKC has sent a copy of the Discipline List which Sharlene will copy and distribute to the coordinators of our various events.

New Business:

National Specialty 2010: As requested at the AGM, the Board struck a committee to investigate the feasibility of holding a national specialty in 2010. The committee is asked to report back to the Board in writing by July 9, 2006. Committee members are Pat Enright (chair), Sue Roberts, Darwin Boles, Ginny Chafe and Ann Lambert.

Zinger Winger Company: The company has offered gift certificates for wingers / 10 percent discounts to club members. In return, the company requires a link to our website and notification in our newsletter about this offer.

Adoption Notices on the OVGRC Website:

1) Frances will contact Dave about removing the capability of posting adoption notices on the website.

2) The Board has requested that this adoption option be replaced with guidelines to dog owners regarding accessing their breeder and/or Golden Rescue when needing to place a dog or wanting to adopt one. Frances will create the guidelines.

Charitable Donation: Frances to post the suggested charitable dog-related organizations as listed last year, on the website for membership to vote.

Chug 'n' Chat: A suggestion has come from the membership that our Golden owners might like to meet at a local pub for an evening of good cheer and general discussion of dog issues. Claudia Mai has been asked by the Board to investigate the possibility of having a social meeting at Wags in conjunction with the OVGRC. Claudia will report her findings at the next Board meeting.

Next meeting – July 16, 2006 at 5 p.m. at The Cheshire Cat. Motion made, seconded and carried to adjourn the meeting at 6:10 p.m.



⇒ **Poop, The Scoop - (Cont from Pg. 5)**

that's how far away the neighbor's house is. Also check for windage and trajectory if you have neighbors adjacent to you. Don't ask how I know. This is doubly important if the neighbors don't have dogs. Suffice it to say this particular experiment backfired. In the end – Peggy Sue won. The only sure thing was following her with the pooper scooper. You can't win 'em all.

Thanks to Scotty Richardson of Vancouver, WA who granted permission to reprint this story originally published to the Goldentown e-mail list.

I've seen a look in dogs' eyes, a quickly vanishing look of amazed contempt, and I am convinced that basically dogs think humans are nuts.

– John Steinbeck

⇒ Conditioning (Cont from Pg. 13)

Warm-ups and cool-downs don't have to be long – usually only two to three minutes will suffice. Begin with a rub down over the entire length of your dog's body, focusing on the areas along the spine. Next, have your dog turn one complete spin to each side. When stretching your dog, use gentle motions without forcing a movement that may be uncomfortable or even harmful. Holding one hand in front of your dog's back leg for support, guide his front end to one side and hold the position for about three seconds before switching sides.



A Pyrenean Shepherd races to retrieve a ball during strength training. Short, intense, retrieving sprints help to build full-body strength.

You may hold a piece of food slightly in front of your dog's nose to help lure him to face the proper direction. Next, stand behind your dog and have him sit facing away from you. With one hand supporting the back of his head and the other lightly holding his muzzle, gently lift his head to look upward, downward, and side to side, holding each position about three seconds.

Next, with your dog standing sideways in front of you, pick up one leg and gently extend it straight out and then bend it at the joints while supporting the knee and hock joints with your hand. Continue this motion with each leg. Once you have completed stretching, trot your dog about 50 paces for a short aerobic warm-up.

The Canine Conditioning Program

There are four basic components to a canine conditioning program: nutrition, strength training, endurance training, and event training. With any physical program, your dog will need a high-quality food to help sustain energy and a toned physique. In

each area of conditioning, it is important to start slow and gradually progress at intervals as your dog shows he is able to progress. Never push your dog beyond his physical limits, as this can cause injury.

Strength training should be conducted on nonconsecutive days three times a week for about 15 minutes per session. Some strength-training exercises include short, intense retrieving sprints on land or in water for a full-body workout and uphill running for hind leg conditioning. Endurance training is any aerobic activity several times a week for about 30 minutes per session. Exercises can include distance running on a treadmill, accompanying you on a jog, or distance swimming. These exercises are aside from retrieving for strength. Again, to avoid injury or exhaustion take care not to run or swim your dog longer than he can physically handle.

Your dog will greatly benefit in his performance in any sport through strength and endurance training, but event training is specific to the particular sport in which your dog competes. While all sports require an agile body and general soundness, you will need to determine where your dog needs the most work in his particular sport and practice in those areas.



This Golden Retriever is practicing swimming during endurance training. An aerobic activity performed several times a week for about 30 minutes per session helps to build endurance, but be sure not to run or swim your dog longer than he can physically handle.

All dogs can benefit from a physical conditioning program, but it is most apparent in the canine athlete. Through physical training you will not only see better results in competition, but also the overall health of your dog will improve by bounds.

Triple Crown Dog Academy near Austin, Texas offers training programs for trainers and dogs. Visit www.triplecrowndogs.com for information.

This article is used with permission from *Today's Breeder*, Nestle Purina PetCare Company.



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 giving me this job.

Summertime, and the Livin' is....Busy!

Ah, summertime. School kids are looking forward to long days of not sitting in classrooms, adults look forward to weekend jaunts to a beach or cottage, firing up the barbecue and cooking outdoors, planting flowers and not having to shovel snow. Dog people like to do all that stuff, too - in between activities centered around our canine contingent. Hmm, we can nix the idea of "lazy, hazy days of summer" in a hurry when you are hitting the show/trial circuits!

While we have been busy with a litter of pups this spring, they have now all gone off to new homes and it's time to crack down on serious training. The dog paddock has been mowed (again, between stretches of days-on-end rain!) and the agility equipment is making an appearance. Time to assess what new jumps I want added to the collection and make a trip to the hardware store for supplies. Gotta get those obedience jumps set up to practice for Open and Utility, too! Hmmm...where's that book on tracking I ordered? Should be here soon, a harness and treats are all ready to start with that venue.

Between Canada and the US there is no shortage of things to keep us busy on the weekends. Check out the extensive list of what's happening south of the border in the next few months. Don't forget that the GRCA Eastern will be held in western NY this year,

too! That's in conjunction with the Golden Retriever Club of Western New York AND two days of shows hosted by the Tonawanda Valley Kennel Club. GRCWNY is holding WC/WCX tests that weekend, too.

With all these activities there are lots of opportunities to start working towards new titles - and be on the list of award recipients for next year's AGM!

Speaking of the AGM, I attended my first one this past April. While several members did attend, I must say I was surprised by how many members did NOT - even some that were receiving awards. There is only ONE meeting a year that the general membership really should think about attending, the rest of the year the Board has meetings for you. Is it really that much of an inconvenience to attend just one meeting a year? This is when activities for the upcoming year - and beyond - are discussed. Yes, there are the standard items on the agenda such as the obedience trials, field trials and agility trials. However, input is really needed from factions not well represented at the meeting - conformation exhibitors and the general pet-owning populace of the club. Your input is wanted, and maybe even some help to get the ball rolling on some new things! Is that really too much to ask?

News Flash!!!!

The Golden Retriever Club of America has announced the host club for 2008 - Yankee Golden Retriever Club!! While way too early yet for details, we can start planning to spend the end of September 2008 in New England - another



wonderfully historic location to explore in conjunction with a week or so of celebrating our wonderful Goldens. Stay tuned, more details will be posted as they become available!