

# The Labrador Retriever Club of Greater Boston

# Otter



# Tales

Spring 2015

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## From the Editor

Hello fellow LRCGB members. It's been a long winter and it looks as though spring has finally thinking about arriving!!! About time, right?

It's getting to be time to play outdoors for shows, hunt tests, field trials, agility and obedience.

Best of luck to you all!

Don't forget to wear your sunscreen, your bug spray and check for ticks!

Cheers!

Aarone

Events are also listed on the club website at [www.lrcgb.org](http://www.lrcgb.org)

# President's Message

True Grit. At the Annual Meeting I made a statement that this club runs on the true grit of a core group of workers. I am amazed at how some people seem to have tireless energy and dedication to see us through another season of events. Thank you to all of you who play a role in making our events so successful. When you attend one of our events, be it the agility trial, the specialty, the beginner field class or whatever, take a minute to look around and think about what it actually takes to make the event happen... and thank some of the hardworking club members. The members of the Board are no exception. What a talented group of people with an incredible breadth of experience.

At the Annual Meeting, we also presented a proposal to update our By Laws, Working Rules and add a Code of Ethics/Guidelines for exhibiting, breeding and good participation in club activities. As always, the Board has challenges, and this year is no exception. In addition to planning all our events, updating these documents to best fit our membership at large will be one of this Board's primary responsibilities. This Board is already working extremely hard to make this club all it can be, and we have an aggressive meeting schedule set up for Board Meetings. While members at large cannot vote at Board Meetings, every member is welcome to attend. Discussion of the By-Laws and Working Rules will drive the conversation and the plan is to consider chunks of it at a time. To give an example, at the most recent meeting we realized we need to talk about \$: how we spend it, what the philosophy of the club is, etc, which could be a meeting in and of itself. We also will have an upcoming meeting to discuss managing information, from the club, to the club, to the public, etc.

Currently, although subject to change, we are planning on meeting at the Holiday Inn in Boxborough (unless indicated otherwise) at 7 PM on the following days:

5/13

6/11\* Quick General Mtg at the Specialty before dinner

7/29

8/19

9/9

10/14 \* General Mtg Topic TBD, place TBD

11/11

1/14/16

# Club Updates

## **Helping a Fellow Labrador Enthusiast in Need**

The Board of Directors and Officers of the Labrador Club of Greater Boston have approved a sum of \$500 to Sara Greenburg of Fairlane Labradors. If you have not heard, Sara has suffered a terrible loss when her 101 year old barn caught fire and burned. In this barn were 8 of her Labradors and her Aussie all of which died in the fire. One of these Labradors was within a few weeks of whelping. Thankfully her horses were out to pasture. This terrible tragedy could happen to any of us, and have taken an opportunity to support a member of the Labrador community through a tremendously difficult time.

If you would like to donate privately, Tina Barks of Bellwether Labradors is heading an effort. Tina Barks Fairlane Labradors and mail it to 14920 Mount Nebo Rd. Poolesville, MD 20837. If you would like to make a direct deposit just PM me (Tina Barks) and I will give you the information.

## **Winter Obedience and Rally Trial Update**

The Winter Obedience/Rally Trial was a huge success on Feb 28th and March 1st at Masterpeace in Franklin Ma. First of all: NO SNOW! Special thanks to Fran Masters and Masterpeace Dog Training for getting the lots plowed so that no one was worried about parking. Our judges Tibby Chase and Frank Washabaugh were wonderful and we enjoyed having them so much.

To our wonderful volunteers: THANK YOU ALL, we could not have done it without you. Chief Steward Fran Masters and her wonderful crew that kept things moving: Sue Lindberg, Pat Gaudette, Cheryl Mandeville, Ellen Brinker, Anne Marie Wilson, Shirley Cardello, Cheryl Palmer, Jan Johnson and Deb Conroy. Another special thanks to our Hospitality Volunteers Beth Teixeira and Donna Gray. And Penny Shultz did a wonderful job with our raffle table, thanks Penny!

To my fellow Chair Gayle Abrams and my Secretary Pam Kimel who helped me out with my first trial: thanks for the team work

High in Trial on Saturday - (with a perfect score of 200!) was Lara Avery and GCH CH OTCH Holther's Racin' Bye Ewe OM1 BN RE OA OAJ PT

She also won High Combined.

High Scoring Lab was Mary Horne and Rhumblin's Rambling Dakota CDX BN RE with a 192.5 from Utility A to finish her title. She was also High Combined Lab.

On Sunday, High in Trial was Dave Maurer and OTCH One Ash Dave and Buster with a 199 from Open B. Dave and Buster also won High Combined.

High Scoring Lab was again Mary Horne with a 194.5 from Open B.

**First Aid Kits** are still available for sale. The price is \$30 contact Jen Quinn for more information. I got one as a Christmas Gift from a friend and they are really nice! They contain everything you might need to care for your dog out in the field or away from home. [jenquinn333@gmail.com](mailto:jenquinn333@gmail.com)



### **Volunteers are needed for the Spring Specialty**

Here's your chance to fulfill your volunteer obligations to your club.

Volunteers are needed for the following roles:

8 members needed for setup on Wednesday afternoon.

4 members needed for clean up after the Lobster Dinner.

8 members needed for breakdown and clean up Friday afternoon after the specialty.

2 members needed to assist Robin Magee on Wednesday and Friday on trips to the storage locker.

Please contact Elaine Capone to volunteer. [elacas@verizon.net](mailto:elacas@verizon.net)

### **Upcoming Board Meetings and General Membership Meetings**

April 15

May 13

June 11 (General Meeting-Abbreviated BOD meeting)

July 8

August 12

September 9

October 14 (General Meeting - abbreviated BOD meeting)

November 11

December 9

## **LRCGB - Minutes - March 22, 2015 Annual Meeting**

President's remarks:

"This club is about true grit..."

Treasurer's report:

We are solvent 23K+ in savings, on a plus for the year

Field committee:

4K in profit for the year. Beginner field class will have 2 sessions, due to popular demand, continues to grow, has become a tremendous program

Show committee/specialty

plans are coming along. Need workers for clean up. Lunches will be handled differently this year with bbq for all on Friday.

Obedience/Agility

obedience trial went extremely well. prizes well received. Agility trial in good shape.

Membership:

First readings (2)

Second Reading (1) did not receive enough votes to become a member

By- Laws:

The constitution, working rules and code of ethics with proposed changes were presented. Much discussion ensued regarding the changes. Code of ethics was discussed with respect to how this will affect current members. All in all, the consensus was that the addition of a COE might serve the club well. More changes to the working rules should be considered.

### **Upcoming Shows and Events**

**LRCGB Agility Trial is coming Saturday May 16th in North Smithfield RI.**

**We are also holding a Match Friday night after set up. If you'd like to come check out agility contact Chair Jen Quinn at [jenquinn333@gmail.com](mailto:jenquinn333@gmail.com)**

**Ladies Dog Club—Wrentham, MA— May 30 and 31st**

**2 days of Breeder Judges!! Faith Hyndman and Janet Farmilette**

**Entries close May 13th!!**

**Labrador Club Of Greater Boston Spring Specialty- June 11th and 12th**

**2 Days of Breeder Judges!! Laura Dederling and Elizabeth Wenner**

**Obedience and Rally too! Lobster Dinner!!**

**LRCGB Working Certificate Test—July 19th— Hopkington, NH**

**LRCGB Hunt Test— August 8th & 9th— West Thompson, CT**

**Chris Zink Seminar at Masterpeace Training Center— Oct 24 & 25**

# **The Labrador Retriever Club of Greater Boston Specialty**



*June 11 & 12, 2015*

*Middlesex County 4-H Grounds, South Chelmsford, Rd. Westford, MA*

## **Thursday**

*Laura Dederling-Folklaur: Dogs, Breed, and Best*

*Dr. Elizabeth Wenner-Surry: Bitches and Non Regular*

*Nancy Chargo-Banner: Sweeps*

*Sue Willumsen-Willcare: Beginner Puppy Lynda Moore:*

*Breed Obedience Robin Botelho: Breed Rally*

*All Breed Rally and Obedience to be held Thursday PM Lynn Deprizio and*

*William Craig*

## **Friday**

*Dr. Elizabeth Wenner-Surry: Dogs, Breed, and Best*

*Laura Dederling-Folklaur: Bitches and Non Regular*

*Tina Banks-Bellwether: Sweeps*

*Lynda Moore: Breed Obedience*

*Robin Botelho: Breed Rally*

**Thursday: Lobster and Chicken Dinner with Entertainment to follow**

[Questions? Contact Elaine Capone \(elacas@verizon.net\)](mailto:elacas@verizon.net)

## Getting Ready for Puppies -Whelping Supplies

By Susan Patterson, Fenwyck Labradors

Not much in a breeder's life is more exciting, or scarier, than whelping a litter of puppies. Whether this is your first litter, or your 50<sup>th</sup>, almost everyone I know has moments of panic. Like anything else you do in life, the best thing you can do is be prepared, so I am glad to share with you what is in my whelping kit and how I use it.

The first thing that I do approximately 1-2wks before whelping is to set up my whelping area so that my girl is comfortable with the change of scenery, and then I review my supplies. By reviewing my kit 2 wks prior to the predicted whelping date it gives me enough time to order, or shop for anything that I am missing.

**Whelping box** – I make sure it is re-bleached using a 1:30 bleach to water mixture to wipe it down. This ratio is sufficient to kill Parvo as well as other organisms that could be lingering, or have attached themselves to the box since your last litter.

**Whelping pads** – I personally really like using the recycled hospital pads as a base, with sheets or towels on the top in layers during whelping. This allows me to strip out the dirty laundry as needed but still have something absorbent below. I also use the recycled hospital pads as base with fleece on top once the whelping is done. The fleece allows liquid to flow through to the hospital pads, keeping babies and mom dry.

**Heat Source** – I am not a heating lamp fan personally, instead I recommend using seedling mats with a rheostat, snuggle discs, which can be re-heated, or a Kane waterproof livestock mat with rheostat. Puppies need to have a heat source for the first few weeks, and a chilled puppy can go downhill fast so you want to avoid that at all costs. I do not have my heat source under the entire box, but just half of it so that the Mom can be off of it and stay comfortable too.

**Towels** – I really like the rough textured bar towels that you can buy at Sam's or Costco in large packages. For me they are just the right size for rubbing down a puppy and you can use multiples, quickly discarding the used ones without having a big towel getting in your way. They are also absorbent and easily bleached. I do use regular towels for other purposes during whelping, including in the whelping box.

**Laundry Basket** – 1-2 large plastic or wicker laundry baskets. One for the laundry and one to hold the puppies so you can strip out the whelping box, and another for when you need to keep puppies together and out of the way as Mom is having another puppy. I also use snuggle discs in the laundry basket for warmth as they retain heat for up to 12 hrs and do not need a plug, just in case we have to quickly go to the vet.

**Oxygen** – I have a small oxygen tank that I get from the local welding supply. I have a converter that lets me regulate the exact flow of oxygen to do a blow by for Mom if she needs it, or have it directed through tubing into a baby puppy face bell which puts it directly to the neonate puppy face, making every breath count. It also allows me to have oxygen in case I need to quickly make an incubator out of a plastic shoebox or larger plastic container.

**SubQ Fluids and Sterile needles/syringes** – I have not had to use this often, but I feel better having it on hand. A bitch can get dehydrated during a long whelp, and the ability to administer fluids can make a difference. It can also come in handy if you have a struggling puppy after whelping.

**Hair Dryer** – I know a funny thing to have for whelping, but if you have a really challenging puppy to get going, drying it off in front of the hair dryer keeps it warm and stimulated while you rub.

**Scale** – for whelping I have a small portable battery operated food scale that goes just to 5lbs. It is very exact, weighing in either grams or pounds.

**Hemostats & Surgical Scissors, Dental Floss** – I have both large hemostats and mosquito hemostats, approximately 10 total. I do not want to have a fast whelping and run out of hemostats! I find that 2 pair of surgical scissors is sufficient for my kit. I use them to cut the umbilical cord after I have attached the hemostat securely. I then tie off the cord with dental floss, trimming it so Mom does not try to chew it off.

**Betadine liquid and shot glass** – I use betadine liquid (not scrub as that contains soap) to dip every single umbilical cord in after I remove the hemostat and tie with floss. I pour betadine into the shot glass and ‘dip’ the cord all the way up to the belly. I do this because bacteria can enter the umbilical cord, even when there is no sign or symptom of redness or infection at the cord stump. Doing this reduces the chance of fading and dying because of possible bacteria entering through the umbilical cord. I also dry it with the hair dryer. I dip and dry daily until the cord falls off, usually in 48hrs when you use this method.

**DeLee Suction Catheters and Baby Suction Bulbs** – I used to only use the baby suction bulbs, but have since changed over to pretty much exclusively using the DeLee Suction Catheters. They are more flexible, more efficient and you can see exactly what and how much you are pulling out of the newly born puppy. I sterilize them after each whelping and store in a ziplock bag until next time.

Many times you will have a situation where you need to aggressively intervene in order to save a puppy. This can be due to a ‘stuck’ puppy, or perhaps a poorly positioned puppy. The following is my list of items I use often in these situations.

**Sterile Lubrication, 5cc syringe with rubber feeding tube size14 or AI tube/rod, exfoliation gloves, non-latex exam gloves** – when presented with a stuck puppy it is often necessary to ‘grease the slide’ in order to help the puppy. In this case I will use non-latex exam gloves to feel up inside the bitch and determine how the puppy is presenting and where I need to get the lubrication in order to assist the sliding out of the puppy. I will then load the syringe with lubrication, attach the tubing and squirt the lubrication up into the bitch around the puppy. Doing my best to get the tube between the puppy and the birth canal wall. After that is done I put on the exfoliation gloves so that I have maximum traction for gently pulling and working with the bitches contractions to deliver the puppy. Remember to only pull gently down towards the ground, not up and not out, but a slow consistent pressure working with the bitch down letting gravity help too.

A poorly presented puppy can also be repositioned using the Woods Maneuver – lay the bitch on her back and slowly manipulate her back legs apart, drawing them up to her ears. This flattens the pelvis and often will help clear a puppy through the pelvis. Or if you have a situation with a possible transverse presentation you can use a Wheelbarrow technique where you grasp the rear legs lifting them up to your waist, and walking your bitch forward using gravity to slide the puppy back for better presentation. I have also walked bitches up and down a long set of stairs to the same effect. Yes, these are more challenging to do with a Labrador than with a Cavalier, I have used each of these myself much to the amusement of my husband!

In my kit you will also find baby vitamin droppers, small squeeze tubes of frosting, Karo syrup, unflavored pedia-lyte, zip lock bag of ordinary sugar, a few via starbucks expresso packs, nutristat/nutrical, dexamethasone and two or more sources of calcium.



For the bitch I make a slurry of pedialyte and sugar. Sometimes I combine it with the citrical calcium pills, and sometimes I keep the pills separate. This combination given between puppies helps keep the bitches energy/ electrolytes up and the calcium contributes to efficient and productive contractions. In my experience one of the hard things to work with during whelping is a tired, worn out bitch. By using this combination, along with nutritional/ nutritat, I am able to assist in keeping her energy up so that delivery is quicker. I give +/-20cc of the sugar/ electrolyte mix plus 1000mgs calcium after each puppy.

For the struggling newborn I have found that using some frosting or Karo syrup on the tongue can be just enough energy to get them going on a nipple to start nursing. If a puppy is slow to come around, or sluggish, I make the starbucks via in a shot glass and put a drop or two under the tongue, using the caffeine to stimulate the puppy's system and energize them for nursing. In a pinch a drop or two of whiskey or brandy does the same thing.

Over the past few years I have found that having Dexamethasone in my kit has also come in very handy. A puppy with what I call wet lungs, the one that struggles to breathe, where you hear the lungs just not drying out and working well often benefits from the use of a drop or two of dexamethasone. Using this drug orally will greatly assist puppies in this situation. Additionally, some pups, even though they look full term, may have immature or compromised lungs for the first few days. The tiny air sacs in their lungs get sticky due to a lack of surfactant and each breathe can become labored. You may dismiss it, as just part of the birth process, until they start to fade. In this situation the use of dexamethasone will lubricate the lungs and allow the pup to take normal breaths until their body produces enough surfactant for efficient oxygen exchange. A puppy's lungs should naturally produce this surfactant, which lubricates the lining of the air sacs within the lungs. This allows the inner surfaces of the air sacs to slide against one another without sticking during breathing. But sometimes they do not, or the lungs become compromised and again this is when I use dex.

**Liver juice** – my miracle quick high nutrition supplement! I make this ahead and freeze in an ice cube tray. Then I thaw what I need, as I need it. This should last up to 12 months in the freezer. Use 4-6oz of beef or calves liver, and gently simmer in a small sauce pan covered with approx 1inch of water. Or bring to a boil, and once it breaks a boil quickly turn off heat, cover and let set for 10-15 minutes. When liver is cooked remove it from the water, slice for treats for mom or other adult dogs and set aside. Strain the water through a fine strainer or coffee filter and freeze in ice cube tray. Occasionally a slow to start puppy may need a few drops under the tongue, or even to be supplement tube feed this to keep them going until they have the energy to nurse properly. I use a syringe with a size 8-10 red rubber feeding tube for newborns.

The last few things in my whelping kit are a muzzle, non-stick gauze pads, Nursemate ASAP, medical glue, a thermometer, benebac plus gel and vet wrap. These are used as needed, the Nursemate if I have a struggling newborn it is one more tool, medical glue in an emergency if there is an umbilical tear by an over zealous mom, the muzzle for a stressing bitch so that both of us stay safe (fortunately I have never had to use it, but better safe than sorry), benebac gel for puppy or mom as needed.

Last but not least I keep the ingredients for homemade puppy formula handy, just in case, and the recipe plus ingredients for whelping porridge and chicken stew are also handy so I can make them once stage one labor starts. It gives me something to do, rather than stress about why stage 1 labor always seems to take so long!

I hope this helps you pull your whelping kit together for your next whelping. Remember that your vet is your best whelping partner in case of an emergency; so keeping them in the loop is always a good idea.

# Labrador Retriever Club of Greater Boston Annual Awards 2014

New titles are in bold & underlined

Gayle Abrams

**GCH** Candy Acres Private Major, **WC**, **BN**, **RA**, CGC

Robin Anderson & Gerri Owren

Grampian At The Circus, **CC**

CH Grampian Bedizened Viking, **CD**, RA, MH, WCX, CGC

GCH/UCH Grampian Lola Tortola Viking, **CD**, RA, JH, WC, CGC

Snowden Hills Miss Daisy Mae, CD, RA, SH, WCX, CGC, CC

**CH** Rockycreek Put Me in Coach for Grampian, **RN**

Rockycreek Goin' Mobile From Grampian, **CD**, BN, **PCD**, RN, CGC

Rockycreek Project Apollo, **RN**

Nancy Brandow

Cedarwood's Devil Went down to Georgia, **CC**, **WC**

Cedarwood's Having a Good Thyme, **WC**

Cedarwood's Indigo, **BN**, MH, **RE**, WC, CC

Cedarwood's Primrose, **RN**

BPIS AOM Am Can CH Cedarwood' Rollickin' Good Thyme, BN,  
CD, RE, **SH**, WC, CC

**CH** Cedarwood's Jonquil, RA, WC, CC

Barb Burri

Burri's Celestial Kestrel, CD, **PCD**, BN, RE, NA, NF, NAP,

NJP, **RATN**, **RATO**, THD, **TDIA**,

CGCA, CC

Grampian Raptor Mystique, CD, **GN**, **RAE2**, NAP, NJP, NFP,

**RATO**, WC, TDI, **CGCA**, CC

Burri's Lofty Lady Hawke, CD, BN, RE, **THDX**, TDIRVA,

CGC, CC

Shirley Cardello

Danbridge Kathryn's Emmy Award, **RAE**, UD, CGC, CC

Shoreline Cedarwood Kathryn at Toryhill, WC, RN, CGC, **CC**

Elaine Capone

Atlantic's Gunning the Grand Passage at Telluride, **BN**, **RN**, **CGC**

Jeanne Charest

Can CH Wood Duck's Mirabelle's Man in Black, **CC**

Can CH Mirabell's Wood Duck's Dilemma, **CC**

Pattie Duddy & Russell Bennett

Corbett's Pesto Italiano, **JH**

Joey Mead Edsall Twin Pine Falline Thomas, **MH**

CH Falline Telemark, **SH**

Lois Engel

**CH** Majestix Steel Magnolia

Johanne Ferguson  
CH Fergmar Edubard, WCX, UD, MH  
Seawind Fergmar Bells and Whistles, WCI, SH

Nan Foster  
Willcare Riverbenz Thelma, JH, SH, WCX, TD

Rainer Fuchs  
Ready Aim Fire, MH, CDX

Betty S. Johnston  
Long Trail's Matinee Idol, CD, JH, RN

Sue Lindberg  
HR Poplar Forest Cool Hand Luke, UDX, MH, AX, AXJ

Karen & Dick Kennedy  
Cedarwood's Always Playing at Pleasant Pine, CD, JH, WCI, CC

Fran Masters  
Augustus' MasterPeace On Earth, BN

Marilyn & Kenneth Meewes  
GCH Danbridge Ring In The New

Gerri Owren & Robin Anderson  
Grampian Viking Sophia O'Wren, WC  
Grampian VooDoo Doll, WC  
Bronze GCH/UCH Viking Hil Die'Tanzbarin, CD, RA, MH, WCX

Susan Patterson  
CH Fenwyck's Apple Brown Betty, JH

Jennifer Quinn  
Bodhi Quinn, UD, JH, RA, NA, NJP, WC, CGC

Marianne Rousseau  
CH Cedarbay's You Are Always On My Mind

Penny Schultz & Joel Wolff  
Mythago's Green Hawthorn, UD, VER, RAE2, JH, ThDX, CC, WCI, CGC  
Grampian Viking Aspen X-Treme! CD, RA, WC, CC, Th.D, CGC

Beth Teixeira  
Gwillum Macgregor's Hannah Banana Split, WC

Frederica Vecchi Fairway Labs Master Chilmark, RE, CGC, NW1, NW2

Stephanie Von Jess Handy Hill Make Mine a Double, RN  
Handy Hill One Tough Number, RN

Joel Wolff & Grampian Hickory's Crimson H2O Dragon, UD, RE, JH, CC,  
Penny Schultz Th.D, CGC

Nancy Wolston CH Chocorua Asquam Flyin Fifiella, WC

# AKC Rule Changes for Obedience

The AKC Board has approved changes to obedience. The new set of rules isn't out yet but this is the AKC Board's summary of changes.

## **Obedience Advisory Committee Recommendations**

The Board VOTED to approve 75 changes/additions to the Obedience Regulations, effective December 1, 2015. These recommendations originated from an Obedience Advisory Committee (OAC), and were reviewed with the Companion Events Delegate Committee.

A summary of the amendments follows:

## **JUDGES GUIDELINES, GENERAL, PERFORMANCE AND JUDGING**

### **JUDGES GUIDELINES**

1. Move relevant judges guidelines to the sections of the Regulations in which they apply.
2. Revise Exhibiting to: Judges (including provisional) may not handle dogs that are not owned or co-owned by themselves or a family member at obedience and or rally trials.

## **CLASS BRIEFINGS & START TIMES**

3. For classes with briefings, the briefing times will be listed and the class time will be stated "class to follow".
4. Shorten briefing/walkthrough time to "up to 10 minutes" (instead of 15 minutes).
5. List classes starting after noon as "After Noon" rather than "to follow."
6. If the judge and ring are available to start earlier than the stated time and all exhibitors have checked-in and agree, allow the judging to start earlier. (*May not start a 2<sup>nd</sup> trial on the same day before the published start time.*)

## **CLUBS**

7. Clarify transfer verbiage to make it clear that clubs have the flexibility of accepting transfers prior to the day of a trial (but must be completed at least 30 minutes prior to the start of each trial as it is currently worded).
8. Require clubs to publish, in the premium list, if two trials in one day will be held concurrently or consecutively.
9. Modify the emergency judge policy to allow clubs greater flexibility in finding a replacement judge when a previously approved judge cancels within 72 hours or less; allowing a judge with an event conflict to accept the emergency judge assignment without impacting future assignments.
10. No judge will be assigned to judge for more than eight hours in one day.
11. EVENT SCHEDULING: It is strongly recommended that classes with like ring set-ups are grouped together. Put in book which classes are classes with "like set-ups."

## **EXHIBITING**

12. Allow exhibitors to steward, other than table stewarding, in the same ring under the same judge they will be showing under.
13. Clearly state that a dog may be brought into and taken out of the ring on a leash that slips through the dogs collar in classes in which all the exercise are off leash.
14. Clearly state that leashes must be snapped to the collar when dogs are brought in for classes requiring on leash exercises, group exercises and awards.
15. The judge will call the qualifying handlers back into the ring without requiring the dogs to be brought back in for awards.
16. State exhibitors may leave the ring at any time by politely informing the judge they are doing so. Judges book to be marked "Handler left ring" and carry down an "NQ."
17. Remove "The judge must report to the AKC any dog that is not brought back for the group exercises."

## **NOVICE**

18. Dogs which have qualified during the individual exercise will have the option of returning for the group exercise.
19. Require exhibitors to check in for group exercises immediately after completion of the individual exercises.
20. Require leashes to be left on the dogs during the group exercise.
21. Allow judges the option of deciding if the group exercise will be conducted after "X" number of dogs in the class **or** if all the group exercises will be conducted after the last individual team is judged.

## **OPEN**

22. Dogs which have qualified during the individual exercise will have the option of returning for the group exercise.
23. Require exhibitors to check in for group exercises immediately after completion of the individual exercises.
24. Allow judges the option of deciding if the group exercise will be conducted after "X" number of dogs in the class **or** if there are more dogs than can be judged in one group, all of the group exercises will be conducted after the last individual team is judged.

## **UTILITY**

25. Scent Discrimination - Allow handlers the option of supplying two different types of sets of articles from three different allowable types of articles: leather, metal or wood.
26. Scent Discrimination - State that it is the handler's decision if they have the dog watch the articles being put out; it is not required.
27. Scent Discrimination - State when the handler may take an article to scent it.
28. Scent Discrimination – State that the dog will be sitting to begin this exercise.
29. Scent Discrimination - The scoring of this exercise will not begin until the judge gives the order "Choose an article."
30. Directed Retrieve - Substantial penalty (currently NQ) for the direction not given simultaneously or immediately following.
31. Directed Retrieve – Substantial penalty for lack of directness.
32. Directed Retrieve – Non-qualifying if the dog brings back an incorrect glove.
33. Moving Stand for Exam – Provide specific examination language to judges on how to perform the exam. (Exam verbiage adopted will be similar for Open and Utility.)
34. Post the Glove # 30-45 minutes prior to the start of the class.

## **REGULAR CLASSES – OTCH**

35. A dog that leaves the place where it was left during the first group exercise must be released from the remaining group exercise and should count as a dog defeated.

## BEGINNER NOVICE

36. Revise - Dogs with a CD, PCD or less will be eligible for this class.
37. Reduce walk through time from "15 minutes" to "up to 10 minutes."
38. Sit Stay – State one command to stay, additional command to stay substantial penalty.
39. Revise Recall scoring to clearly state how many commands/signals are they allowed and when.
40. Revise the wording about hands on the recall - not to be used as an aid.
41. State what exhibitors should do with the leash for the recall.
42. Run-Off Procedure – In case of a tie in the Beginner Novice class, the dog and handler will perform the Heel on Leash the same as it is performed in the Beginner Novice Heel on Leash exercise.
43. A dog without any AKC obedience title which was mistakenly entered in a Novice obedience class may have the entry transferred to the Beginner Novice class provided the host club allows transfers and the class and judge are available.

## GRADUATE NOVICE

44. Add scoring section for each exercise (instead of referring them to other chapters).
45. Add the dumbbell to the Recall over High Jump exercise. This exercise will be performed in the same manner as the Dumbbell Recall except that the dog must clear the high jump.
46. Change the heeling exercise "Heel on Leash" to "Heel off Leash".
47. Group Stay – Sit or Down, Judge's option, posted before starting the class, 3 minutes.

## GRADUATE OPEN

48. Add scoring section for each exercise.
49. Signal Exercise – Revise to state minimum distance of 10', which will allow handlers to go further away from the dog.
50. Scent Discrimination – State the handler may choose which **type** of article is retrieved.
51. Go Out - State the handler must stand no closer than the center of the ring.
52. Change the order of the exercises to:

1. Signal Exercise
2. Scent Discrimination
3. Go Out
4. Directed Jumping
5. Moving Stand and Exam
6. Directed Retrieve

## PRE-CLASSES

53. Change the name for all "Pre" classes to "Preferred" classes.

Pre-Novice → Preferred Novice

Pre-Open → Preferred Open

Pre-Utility → Preferred Utility

## PREFERRED OPEN & PREFERRED UTILITY

54. Preferred Open - Add scoring section for each exercise.
55. Preferred Open - Clarify the Broad Jump is to be set to cover a distance to twice the height of the Pre-Open High Jump.
56. A dog must have a PCD, CD title or higher title from the Regular classes to enter Preferred Open and Preferred Utility.
57. Add a High in Trial (HIT) and High Combined (HC) award at the club's option for the Preferred title track.
58. Preferred Open – Use the same 6 orders of exercises that are used in the Regular Class without a group exercise.
59. Preferred Utility – Use the same six orders of exercises that are used in the Regular Class.
60. Preferred Utility Signal Exercise – REMOVE exception that allows the handler to use a verbal command during the signal portion.
61. Preferred Utility – Directed Retrieve. Post the Glove # 30-45 minutes prior to the start of the class.
62. Preferred Utility - Add scoring section for each exercise.
63. Preferred Utility - Scent Discrimination: Revise to 10 articles (not 8).
64. Preferred Utility - Directed Retrieve: State it is the same exercise as in Utility.
65. Change the Preferred Open and Preferred Utility classes to include the same 6 mixed order of exercises allowed in Regular Classes with the same exercises, except no group exercises; and jumps are set to ½ the height of the dog at the withers.

Dog's Score	Points Awarded	Dog's Score	Points Awarded
190	6	195.5	12
190.5	6	196	12
191	6	196.5	12
191.5	6	197	15
192	9	197.5	15
192.5	9	198	15
193	9	198.5	15
193.5	9	199	15
194	9	199.5	15
194.5	9	200	15
195		195	

71. POC – Recognized Achievement – POC multiples (POC, POC2, POC3, etc.)

**NON-REGULAR CLASSES** – Removal of these classes does not preclude a club from offering non-regular classes not described in the regulations. These may be approved by AKC by submitting a description of the class with the event application.

72. Remove the Sub-Novice class.
73. Remove the International class.
74. Remove the Advanced Teamwork class.
75. Allow Rally Judges to judge Non-Regular Classes – Wild Card, Brace, Team, Veterans.

# Wags, Brags, and Tributes



**Cascobay's OH My "Maya"** earned a new title of Big Sister. Ethan arrived on Jan 3rd, weighing in at 9lbs 6 oz and 23" long. It won't be long before Ethan is running around the show rings and schlepping ducks. As you can see, Maya is taking her job pretty seriously. Ethan is the son of Aarone and David Durocher.



**U-Ch Grampian Barnacle Bill**, handled by Norman Grenier, won Best Puppy in Sweepstakes from the 6-9 Puppy Dog class at the NE Sporting Dog Association Show on Sunday March 13, 2015. The next weekend at the Silver City K9 Dog Club, Billy won a Gun Dog Group IV and finished his UKC Championship from the Breeder/Handler class. (Grampian Johnny Ringo x Grampian Hi'llawe).

**U-Ch Grampian Barnacle Bill**, all of 8 months old, took Best of Breed in Warwick RI in two days of shows. Bred & owned by Robin Anderson and Gerrie Owren, Billy was handled by Robin at both shows. (Grampian Johnny Ringo x Grampian Hi'llawe).



**U-Ch Grampian Just Call Me ChaCha WC** won a Gun Dog Group I and finished her UKC Championship the weekend of March 21, 2015. ChaCha is AKC pointed with three majors. (Am/Can Ch Rockyreek's On The Road Again CD JH RN CGC x GrCh Grampian Lola Tortola Viking CD RA JH WC CGC).





**U-Ch Grampian Ethel Mermaid** took a Best in Breed and a Gun Dog Group III at the Silver City K9 Dog Club shows. (Ch Bigi's Lord Triston CD RN JH CGC x Grampian Lime Booful RN WC CGC)



**Grampian At The Circus CC** won a Gun Dog Group II and her second major the weekend of March 21, 2015 at the Silver City K9 Dog Club's spring shows. (U-Ch Just Call Me ChaCha WC x Ch Danbridge Indiana Jones WC).

Billy, ChaCha, Lydia & Guppy are all bred & owned by Robin Anderson and Gerrie Owren.



**Ch Snowden Hill Mango Crazy RA JH WC CGC** (Ch Dickendall Davaron Gable x Snowden Hill My Friend Irma, DOB: 07/21/03) enjoyed her week at the Potomac. In the Veterans Sweeps 11+ class Mango was honored to accept a second place. Mango was bred by Gladys Rogers, is owned and loved by Robin Anderson and Gerrie Owren, and is living with Alex & Brianna Aucoin and her granddaughter Duet. Thank you Kathy Sneider, VMD, for making this show possible for THE BEANS!



**AKC Bronze GrCh/UKC CH Viking Hil'Die Tanzbarin CD RA MH WCX** showed in the Potomac Veterans Classes and was given a third place both times. Previously Select Bitch at this show and retiring the Hunting Retriever Bitch Trophy, Hildi is ten years old and not ready for retirement. Hildi was bred by Gerrie Owren and owned by Gerrie, Zach Orcutt & Robin Anderson (Am/Can CH BIS BISS Aquarius Centercourt Delight JH WC x Viking Zinka Dew CD RA JH WCI CGC).

**Ch Grampian Bedizened Viking CD RA MH WCX CGC** took a fourth in her Potomac Veterans Class! Dazzle will be ten years old in November and is still looking for things to do since earning her CD last June 2014. (Ch Hollyhills Delby's Samuel Adams WC CGC x Ch Snowden Hill Mango Crazy RA JH WC CGC). Both Dazzle and Hildi were two out of two Champion Master Hunter bitches presented by Gerrie Owren and Robin Anderson at the 2015 Potomac, all breeder/owner trained and handled to all their performance titles.



Jen Quinn's Katniss (Stonecrest's Girl on Fire) first modeling gig was a success. She sat for Ron Schmidt of Loose Leashes as a puppy and is now called Squirt



Cash's win photo with his best friend Norman Grenier. Cash is a Morgan son. Owned and bred by Jeanne Charest.



I went to the Potomac for the first time, even though I have had labs for 30 years. I show in obedience and for the last six years, I haven't had a lab to show. My previous lab, Torque got his UDX and retired in 2009. So I had 2 years with a retired lab, 2 years with no lab, and then 2 years with a lab too young. POE (Peace On Earth) or Augustus' MasterPeace On Earth BN CD, got her CD in March and she is just awesome, so a friend convinced me, and off we went. We had a fantastic time, and now I can't wait until next year. In addition to having fun seeing all the labs, shopping the vendors, and socializing with great lab people, we did a good job in the obedience ring. On Tuesday POE got 3rd place and a Novice B bumper leg. She also got 3rd place on Wednesday and Thursday for 2 legs toward her CDX. What spectacular, sparkly yellow and green ribbons we got! The best part was that Mary Kobis, POE's breeder got to see her in the ring for the first time. I am so proud of my girl, and so happy that I went to this great show! Fran Masters

**GCh Candy Acres Private Major WC BN RA CGC** earned his Grand Championship in November at the Holyoke Kennel club show in Springfield. He earned his WC at the LRCGB test in July, and was awarded Judges Award of Merit at the PRLRC show in September, at the Specialty show before the Nationals, and at the LRC National show in PA in October. He also qualified for his WC in two more tests last year, at the PRLRC test in September and again at the LRC test in October. He will be working towards his JH in 2015.



Aimee finished her rally novice title and got her first utility obedience leg this winter season and is now Ready Aim Fire! MH CDX RN. Owned, trained, and handled by Rainer Fuchs. Both can't wait for the field training season to begin!



We Sadly say good bye to Dallas, Greenstone's Dallas at Zadora who has spent the last 10 months with us.

Dallas gave us a grand finale in a competitive Open Black Class at Potomac taking a 4th!



#### **HR Poplar Forest Cool Hand Luke,UDX,MH,AX,AXJ**

For those who don't know him....this is Luke.

Luke has taught me many, things.... lots of "Life Lessons"

Such as: Don't take myself,him, and things so seriously.

Titles will get accomplished, but in in "Lukes" time, not mine

I have enjoyed lots of "firsts" with Luke.

He was willing to try them all, and excel.

He is my first UDX, MH, and AX dog.

Luke and I hope to finish out his career with a HRCH title this year.



The Capone's and Cavicchi's are so Excited about Wade and Brewster. Best Veteran Sweeps and Best Puppy **BPB/BPG1**.

**Thank You Leah Franzen and Ch Callaway Blue**



The Capone Family is so proud of Tymber and His **FIRST POINTS**

**ATLANTIC'S GUNNING THE GRAND PASSAGE AT TELLURIDE BN RN CGC**

Winners Dog and best of Winners for TWO Points under AKC Judge **Mr. Frank J. Washabaugh**

Expertly handled by Norman Grenier

The Once In a Lifetime Dog and his travels to the Potomac

**Silver GCH Danbridge Henry J** - " Hank " ( Ch. Danbridge Indiana Jones WC X Ch. Danbridge Empress Josephine) - was in his 1st Potomac show in 2008. He made the last cut to 6 puppies in the 12-18 class. By 2009 he was a Champion competing in BOB and made the first cut under Barbara Nowak. In the year 2011 he was Best of Opposite Sex under Clair Senfield - already having earned his Grand Champion title. He was Select Dog in 2012 under Michael Woods; JAM in 2013 under Jackie Mischou and JAM in 2015 under Claire White Peterson! Hank has competed at the Potomac show each year since 2008. We are so very proud of this wonderful boy. Marilyn & Kenneth Meewes, Breeders and Owners



Potomac 2015 - Danbridge On The Road Again by Jayhawk "Sully" (GCH Danbridge Henry J X Jayhawk Golden Pippin) took a 2nd place in his 9-12 Sweeps class and 4th in Regular class.

**Danbridge Show Girl "Cheeky"** ( Ch. Liddle Leaping Leo X Ch. Danbridge American Girl ) won her AOH class

**Ch. Danbridge Empress Josephine** (Ch. Windfalls Pipe Major X Danbridge Katherine The Great) made her entertaining appearance and won her 11 years and older Veterans Sweeps class .

This year, our **GCH Danbridge Ring In The New "Eve"** (GCH Waifin's Fly Cabot to Torngat X Ch. Danbridge Empress Josephine ) was honored as one of the Specialty Winning Labradors of 2014, at the Top 20 Gala Dinner.

## Not Thinking About It

Our dogs are a major part of our lives. They're our best friends. They eat our shoes, counter surf, and jump up on our visitors who are dressed in light colors, and we don't care. Dogs are the purest source of unconditional love. They're almost perfect.

"Dogs' lives are too short. Their only fault, really. "~Agnes Sligh Turnbull

We accept the truth in this statement because we must. It's a secret, unspoken bargain that we don't talk about, and especially don't want to think about. When my beloved Ch. Mayfair Serendipity neared the end of her life, we had enjoyed almost fifteen years together. I know how fortunate I was but was still terrified at the prospect of losing her. I was worried about so many things....what to expect, how I could keep her as comfortable as possible, what difficult decisions I would have to make on her behalf, and how all of this could be done through paralyzing grief. It was around this time that I happened to discover New England Pet Hospice and Home Care.

After studying their website, it seemed like a good resource for some of my concerns so I called to set up a consultation. I scheduled a consultation/home visit with Heather Merrill, creator and owner of NEPH. Through spending time with dog and owner, Heather learns the details necessary to design a treatment plan based on the pet's needs and the owner's desires.

Upon meeting Heather, I felt instant warmth, understanding, and comfort. She has a special presence that is so kind, so pleasant and so calming to human and canine alike. It's immediately clear that this work is her passion and she's very, very good at it. Sera and I were in good hands. My first priority was to keep Sera as comfortable as possible. Heather suggested a treatment plan of gentle physical therapy, massage, as well as pharmaceutical pain management. She showed me some new ways to manage issues such as mobility that worked quite well, making things easier all around. All of the treatments were performed with the gentle care and expertise by Heather and her staff during weekly visits. Heather's background is in human hospice care, and this is what NEPH is modeled on. To have this high standard of quality care for a dog who is a family member is not only appropriate, but highly effective.

Sera's life ended a few months after Heather's first visit. I embraced her with love, exactly the same way as when she was born. I am her breeder and was honored to be with her for each of these moments. Heather's presence gave wonderful support and reassurance. I was able to treasure every moment of Sera's beautiful life with peace, love, and dignity. I think about Sera every day. Although I miss her, she is always with me. I see her sparkle in her offspring shout out to Nikki, Porter, and Bena and don't want to think about anything that takes away from the joy of living with them every day. Thanks to Heather, I don't have to. New England Pet Hospice and Home Services isn't only for end of life care. They provide a variety of therapeutic interventions that to my knowledge are unique to NEPH. This organization is a great resource to enhance and preserve the health of our dogs when their needs go beyond the usual routine veterinary care. In accordance with their philosophy, this

means taking care of you, too. No review would be complete without assessing costs. I didn't find the costs unreasonable or disproportionate, and wasn't billed for several months which I found to be an extra touch of sensitivity.

Heather Merrill and NEPH are there for you and your dog. You need them when you most desperately wish you didn't. They're kind, patient, capable, and fearless, and know what to do so that you need not face the unthinkable alone.

<http://www.nepethospice.com/>

This article is submitted in loving memory of Mayfair Portabella.

Karen Katzen Pandolfi

Mayfair Labradors

Mayfairlabradors.com

# Canine Influenza

## Facts about canine influenza

and a new vaccine that's now available to protect dogs

**Canine influenza is...** • An emerging threat to the respiratory health of dogs across the US – All breeds and ages are susceptible to infection – Because it's a new virus, dogs have no natural immunity to it • Highly contagious and easily spread through: – Direct contact (licking or nuzzling) – The air (coughing or sneezing) – Contaminated surfaces (picked up on the hands or clothing of a person and then spread when another dog is touched or petted) • Characterized by a persistent cough that may last several weeks, as well as runny nose, watery eyes, and a loss of appetite and/or energy • Usually mild, but can progress to a more severe infection or pneumonia in 10% to 20% of cases, and is fatal in up to 8% of sick dogs • A concern for owners whose dogs: – Come from a shelter, rescue center, breeder, or pet store – Board at a kennel – Attend doggie daycare or group training – Visit a groomer, dog park, or other places where dogs congregate – Participate in dog events and competitions

**Canine Influenza Vaccine, H3N8 is...** • The first vaccine available to aid in the prevention of disease associated with canine influenza • Proven to significantly reduce the coughing, severity, and spread of canine influenza infection • Proven safe; a killed virus vaccine developed, manufactured, and marketed by Intervet/Schering-Plough Animal Health and conditionally licensed by the USDA – A conditional license is issued to meet a special circumstance such as the emergence of a new virus for which there is no existing vaccine • Administered in two doses given 2 to 4 weeks apart – One annual booster injection is needed to continue protection Please contact us to schedule a vaccination for your pet. For more information on canine influenza, visit [www.doginfluenza.com](http://www.doginfluenza.com).

# Canine Influenza

## Frequently Asked Questions by Dog Owners

Dr. Cynda Crawford, Clinical Assistant Professor in the Maddie's Shelter Medicine Program at the University of Florida College of Veterinary Medicine, prepared this fact sheet to answer the 10 most popular questions from dog owners about canine influenza.

### 1. What is canine influenza?

Canine influenza is a highly contagious respiratory infection of dogs caused by a novel influenza A subtype H3N8 virus that was first discovered in 2004.

### 2. Where does canine influenza occur?

Canine influenza has been documented in 30 states and the District of Columbia. At this time, the canine influenza virus (CIV) is very prevalent in many communities in Colorado, Florida, New York, and Pennsylvania.

### 3. What type of infection does CIV cause?

Similar to influenza viruses that infect other mammals, canine influenza virus causes an acute respiratory infection in dogs. It is one of several viruses and bacteria that are associated with canine infectious respiratory disease, or what's commonly referred to as "kennel cough". CIV infection can cause respiratory disease by itself or along with other canine respiratory pathogens.

Unlike human influenza, canine influenza is not a "seasonal" infection. Infections can occur year round.

### 4. What are the clinical signs of canine influenza?

Like influenza viruses for other species, CIV causes flu-like illness consisting of cough, sneezing, and nasal discharge. Virtually all exposed dogs become infected; about 80% develop flu-like illness, while another 20% do not become ill.

Fortunately, most dogs recover within 2 weeks without any further health complications. However, some dogs progress to pneumonia, which is usually due to secondary bacterial infections. While the overall mortality rate for canine influenza is low, the secondary pneumonia can be life-threatening. There is no evidence for age or breed susceptibility for developing pneumonia during canine influenza.



## **5. Who is susceptible to canine influenza?**

Because canine influenza is due to a virus that is novel to the canine population, dogs lack preexisting immunity to the virus. Dogs of any breed, age or health status are therefore susceptible to infection. Although studies have not verified, it is likely that dogs that have recovered from infection retain immunity to re-infection for an undetermined time period.

Canine influenza is most likely to spread in facilities where dogs are housed together and where there is a high turnover of dogs in and out of the facility. Dogs in shelters, boarding and training facilities, day care centers, dog shows, veterinary clinics, pet stores and grooming parlors are at highest risk for exposure to CIV, especially if these facilities are located in communities where the virus is prevalent. Dogs that mostly stay at home and walk around the neighborhood are at low risk.

CIV does not infect people, and there is no documentation that cats have become infected by exposure to dogs with canine influenza.

## **6. How is canine influenza transmitted?**

As with other respiratory pathogens, the most efficient transmission occurs by direct contact with infected dogs and by aerosols generated by coughing and sneezing. The virus can also contaminate kennel surfaces, food and water bowls, collars and leashes, and the hands and clothing of people who handle infected dogs. Fortunately, the virus is easily inactivated by washing hands, clothes and other items with soap and water.

## **7. How is canine influenza diagnosed?**

Canine influenza cannot be diagnosed by clinical signs because all of the other respiratory pathogens cause similar signs of coughing, sneezing, and nasal discharge. For dogs that have been ill for less than 4 days, veterinarians can collect swabs from the nose or throat and submit them to a diagnostic laboratory that offers a validated PCR test for canine influenza virus. The most accurate test recommended for confirmation of infection requires the collection of a small blood sample from the dog during the first week of illness, followed by collection of another sample 10 to 14 days later. The paired serum samples are submitted to a diagnostic laboratory for measurement of antibodies to CIV that were formed in response to infection.

## **8. How is canine influenza treated?**

Since canine influenza is a viral infection, treatment consists mainly of supportive care while the virus runs its course, much like for human influenza. Dog owners should consult with their veterinarians if they think their dog has canine influenza. The veterinarian can determine what type of supportive care is needed, including whether antibiotics should be given for secondary bacterial infections. Dogs with pneumonia most likely require more intensive care provided in a hospital setting under the supervision of a veterinarian.

## **9. Is canine influenza contagious?**

Like influenza infections in other species, canine influenza is highly contagious. Infected dogs shed virus in their respiratory secretions for 7 to 10 days, during which time the dog is contagious to other dogs. Infected dogs that do not show clinical signs are also contagious. Once the virus has run its course, the dog is no longer contagious. Therefore, we recommend that dogs with canine influenza be isolated from other dogs for two weeks to err on the conservative side. CIV does not cause a permanent infection.

## 10. Is there a vaccine for canine influenza?

In May 2009, the USDA approved the licensure of the first influenza vaccine for dogs developed by Intervet/Schering Plough Animal Health Corporation. The canine influenza vaccine contains inactivated whole virus, so there is no chance that the vaccine itself can cause respiratory infections. During tests to evaluate vaccine performance, there were no side effects or safety issues in a field trial including more than 700 dogs ranging in age from six weeks to 10 years and representing 30 breeds. The vaccine is intended as an aid in the control of disease associated with CIV infection. Although the vaccine may not prevent infection, efficacy trials have shown that vaccination significantly reduces the severity and duration of clinical illness, including the incidence and severity of damage to the lungs. In addition, the vaccine reduces the amount of virus shed and shortens the shedding interval. This means that vaccinated dogs that become infected have less illness and are not as contagious to other dogs. These benefits are similar to those provided by influenza vaccines used in other species, including humans.

The canine influenza vaccine is a “lifestyle” vaccine, in that it is intended for dogs at risk for exposure to CIV, including those that participate in activities with many other dogs or are housed in communal facilities, particularly in communities where the virus is prevalent. Dogs that may benefit from canine influenza vaccination include those that are already receiving the kennel cough vaccine for Bordetella because the risk groups are the same. Dog owners should consult with their veterinarian to determine whether their dog’s lifestyle includes risk for exposure to CIV, and the protection provided by the canine influenza vaccine.

### Tips to Protect Your Dog from Dog Flu (Canine Influenza)

Between March 16 and April 1, 2015, Canine Influenza Virus (CIV) has been positively diagnosed in 89 dogs in the Chicago area. Canine influenza virus causes a respiratory infection in dogs that is often referred to as canine influenza or “dog flu.” Canine influenza virus was first isolated in Florida in 2004 at a Greyhound racing facility. Since then, the virus has been confirmed in dogs across 40 states and the District of Columbia. Since it is a relatively new virus, almost all dogs are susceptible to infection when they are newly exposed because they have not built up natural immunity.

Most infected dogs show only mild symptoms, but some dogs become very sick and require veterinary treatment. Most common clinical signs include lethargy, anorexia, low-grade fever, nasal discharge, and cough. Dogs with more severe disease can present with a high fever and pneumonia.

#### What You Need to Know and Do

- CIV is not the same as Bordetella and Bordetella is not the only pathogen that causes kennel cough.
- Canine influenza is highly infectious and the virus spreads very quickly from dog to dog.
- Canine influenza virus can be spread by direct contact with respiratory discharge from infected dogs, through the air via a cough, bark, or sneeze, and by contact with contaminated objects such as dog bowls and clothing.
- To prevent the spread of disease, wash your hands with soap and water or disinfect them with an alcohol-based hand sanitizer after contact with dogs.
- Dog owners whose dogs are coughing or showing other signs of respiratory disease should not participate in activities or bring their dogs to facilities where other dogs can be exposed to the virus.
- Call your veterinarian immediately if your dog has the following symptoms:
  - Coughing
  - Discharge from the nose or eyes
  - Loss of appetite
  - Lethargy/lack of energy

Canine influenza can be prevented through vaccination. Talk to your veterinarian about whether or not your pet is at risk. Merck Animal Health offers a Canine influenza vaccine which is available through veterinarians.

- More information is available at <http://www.doginfluenza.com/>.

## BEGINNER RETRIEVER TRAINING

### A Rookie's Journey

by Susan Seeber

One of the joys of owning purebred dogs is watching your animal take to the task for which it was bred. Having lure coursed my sighthounds, I knew I wanted to try field work with my first Labrador. Here's a brief account of our introduction to field training.

Reading the syllabus before class is good preparation, but it doesn't necessarily give you the full picture.

*"Dogs will be introduced to dead birds..." How, you ask? It's the handler's job to do it, though the finer points are not self-evident. I approach the bird carousel where a dozen or so mallards are hanging by their necks like socks on laundry day. I brace myself for the grasp. This is a momentous time. I have never held a dead duck and very shortly will. Presumably, I am here in this remote field on a Tuesday evening with nine other teams and our unflappable instructor, Rainer Fuchs, because I want to insure a future of holding dead ducks. Right? How to pick up a duck? I consider the two-fingered beak grab but immediately discard it because a supposedly tough woman with a ballsy hunting dog is not squeamish. Do I grab it by the neck? This would leave the head lolling around and that's a bit undignified. I settle on the joint where the neck meets the head. My hand hesitates....go! It is done! I am holding the duck and my dog, Boris, is going bananas.*

The teams move off, each to their own patch of ground to test if our Labradors like dead ducks. (Evidently, some do not.) In no time, I am tossing and bowling this blessed little mallard from here to there and heaping praise on my dog when he not only noses it but also picks it up and proudly trots back to me. These are thrilling first steps!

When Rainer is satisfied that our dogs are committed, we move on to the duck blind and begin training. Helpers in the field have duck calls, popper guns, a bag of ducks, and catapults. Rather Monty Python-esque, the ducks are flung and our eager Labradors sort through various distillations of instinct to get the job done. You can see their brains realign on the spot. *"I was a house dog, but now I'm a hunting dog! I totally get this! I. Am. Retriever!"*

At the end of class, we are each given a duck to take home (think: party favor). We are taught the best method for freezer wrapping, whether to practice with a frozen or thawed duck (dog's preference), time needed to thaw bird (eight hours), useful shelf life and best eventual disposal method.

By the following week, all duck-body squeamishness is gone. After our gun safety lesson, we set up class in a long narrow field surrounded by forest to retrieve over a modest stream featuring a wide, unpleasant stretch of standing water. Two local gals out for an evening hike stumble upon our class. Alarmed, they yell, "Are you **hunting?**" *We're training dogs. "Is that a **shotgun?**" Not exactly. Each team has a go and, according to the dog's individual personality, retrieves either through the muck or around the muck. One naughty dog, mine, stops in the middle of this deep mud to have a cooling lie down before completing his task. Afterwards, to vary the marks and introduce the teams to something new, we move on to open water and bumpers. Again, all are keen. Note to self: Unless you have a full change of dry clothes in the car, release the dog before he rockets into the water.*

Next, our introduction to canoe etiquette is touch and go. Not everyone loves a wobbly platform. A Milk-bone on my fourth try gets Boris into the boat and sitting reliably well. The trick of this water exercise is for the dog to exit the canoe, swim past the decoys, and retrieve the duck, which Boris does well. On his return, within inches of my eager hands, he, instead, shoots down the shoreline bearing the mallard as a love token for Rainer's bitch, Amy, who sits in the high grass.

There is no denying it, this class is hard work for both dog and handler. There is a range of interest, too. Some have been hunting for years or plan to compete in field trials, and others, like me, just want to see what their first Labrador can do. Our teacher said, in all candor, he was impressed that our teams did so well, that he would have expected about 50% of the dogs to do what 100% did. We beamed under his praise.

The final class of the series is to simulate an AKC Junior Hunt test. We are instructed on basic rules: how to line up, when you may talk to or encourage your dog, proper leash set-up, etc. We are also given pointers on the correct sartorial deportment for the field. I am to leave my pink and yellow at home. Camouflage is *de rigueur*. *On our own, we set up the blinds, gun stands, ear protection, decoys, feed sacks full of ducks, and the ornery chucker which seemed far trickier to operate than any gun.*

It is a beautiful Spring evening at Delaney field, clear skies, slight breeze, few black flies. The call. The shot. The duck sailing overhead. Our dogs are keen, keen, keen to work, to bolt and bound over the wide scrubby plain, to dive into open water. There is nothing so beautiful as a Labrador in full gallop lit by the late-day sun who wants *that duck*. *It is a stirring sight. He returns with ears flapping, tail wagging, eyes on fire, and that big soft mouth holding the bird. "Can we go again?"*

Do these shoes make  
me look fat?



## Contacts

**Webmaster**– Ranier Fuchs

webmaster@lrcgb.org

**Puppy/ Breeder Referral Coordinator**– Barb Burri

bburri@comcast.net -603-378-0098

(Send your litter announcements to Barb)

**Otter Tales Editor**- Aarone Durocher

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## Labrador Rescue Information

### Area Lab Rescue

www.labrescue.com

24 Hour Hotline number: 978-356-2982

### National Lab Resuce

www.thelabradorclub.com/rescue/

## Publication Information

The next issue of Otter Tales will be out sometime this Summer date to be determined. Please send submissions to [aduroche@maine.rr.com](mailto:aduroche@maine.rr.com)

Brag and In Memoriam spots are free to our members. Please include the name of the dog, owner, breeder, and other pertinent information with an optional high resolution photograph.

### Would you like to advertise in Otter Tales? Here's How!

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Quarter page- \$10

Business card-\$5

Digital art is preferable, but not required. Submit your ads via email to Aarone Durocher at [aduroche@maine.rr.com](mailto:aduroche@maine.rr.com) or you can send hard copies on CD to the address below with payment.

Payments for all ads and listings should be sent to:

Aarone Durocher

51 Devon St

Portland, ME 04102

All Checks made out to LRCGB– and write Otter Tales in Memo line.



# Everyone's Talking About It

## The Labrador Retriever Club of Greater Boston's Annual Back to Back Specialties!

June 11 and 12, 2015

Middlesex County 4-H Grounds, South Chelmsford Rd., Westford, MA

### Thursday 6/11/15

Laura Dederling-Falklaur: Dogs, Breed, and Best

Dr. Elizabeth Wenner-Surry: Bitches and Non Regular

Nancy Chargo-Banner: Sweeps

Sue Willumsen-Willcare: Beginner Puppy

Lynda Moore: Breed Obedience

Robin Botelho: Breed Rally

All Breed Rally and Obedience to be held Thursday PM

Lynn Deprizio and William Craig: All Breed Rally and Obedience

### Friday 6/12/15

Dr. Elizabeth Wenner-Surry: Dogs, Breed, and Best

Laura Dederling-Falklaur: Bitches and Non Regular

Tina Banks-Bellwether: Sweeps

Lynda Moore: Breed Obedience

Robin Botelho: Breed Rally

