

The Labrador Retriever Club of Greater Boston

Otter



Tales

Winter 2015

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From the Editor

Hello fellow LRCGB members. Happy New Year everyone! I hope the holidays were kind to you all.

I hope that 2015 holds many wins, new titles, Q's, legs, and excitement or you all!

I know there are many talented and knowledgeable members in all aspects of the dog world. Otter Tales would welcome such submissions in the future.... Don't be shy! It will only enrich our newsletter by sharing our knowledge.

Cheers!

Aarone

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Events are listed on the club website at www.lrcgb.org

Education Committee Announcement



Your Education Committee at Work

General Meeting November 12th

The LRCGB Education Committee organized a wonderful general meeting on November 12th at Slater's Pizza in Bolton, MA. The meeting started at 6PM with pizza and salad provided by Slater's Pizza and the cost covered by the LRCGB. There was a short general meeting directed by our president, Ruth Solomon, which gave us a great starting point for a talk and activity.

With a theme of First Aid, Scott Shaw DVM, one of our club's veterinarians, spoke on the subject of canine first aid. He was able to cover a number of general issues we might encounter with our fuzzy friends in activities like obedience, field and agility. Jen Quinn and Nancy Wolston ordered and organized items for a "Make Your Own First Aid Kit" activity. They provided red bags embroidered with the club letters for these items. The cost of these kits was \$30. They will be available for purchase throughout the year.

A big thank you to the 30 people who attended and made this meeting a success! It was so nice to socialize with club members in an informal setting. There is nothing better than to chat with friends over a meal. We, the Education Committee, look forward to providing our members with useful information in a similar setting soon.

LRCGB Letter To The Master National Club

LRCGB Field Committee Response to Master National

The following letters were sent to the Master National Club (MNC), in response to their Request for Feedback regarding rule changes on qualification criteria. Our hope is that the MNC and the AKC will collaborate to resolve the challenges facing local clubs. If you'd like to learn more, please come to the annual Field Committee Planning meeting in January (date TBD). A shout out and big thanks to Joey Edsall, as she brought discipline and objectivity to what continues to be a very emotional topic for many of us.

Cover Letter

To the Master National and Hunt Test Advisory Committee:

In submitting our response to the questions put forward by the Master National committee, we would like to include some information from the perspective of the club. While some of these concerns are outside the scope of the Master National, we feel these issues are serious enough that they need to be considered in any plan put forth by the Master National committee and pressure should be placed on the AKC to address them.

The Labrador Retriever Club of Greater Boston is a breed club. Members participate in almost every AKC venue relevant to Labrador Retrievers. Club members are active in conformation, including several members with CH MH. Members include conformation judges and top breeders in the country. Members are active in obedience (including OTCH), tracking, and agility. The club has a very active field group, participating in both hunt tests and field trials (AFC, FC, National Amateur). Of the membership, several have participated and qualified at the master national. In making our comments, please bear in mind that the group brings perspective from other AKC venues and serves to bring people into the sport. Moreover, this club has a strong commitment to AKC events across the spectrum.

Our club held three open meetings, including a visit by Jack Combs to answer questions and concerns. During the course of the meetings, the club recognized that the hunt test issues went beyond the master national. In particular, the effect the master national growth has on the weekend tests. These must be addressed.

Our club is located in a high population area where hunting interest is dwindling. Land is scarce and workers are difficult to obtain. Our club consists of amateurs. Most of the active hunt test participants train their own dogs, typically with the support of a professional, but the dogs are trained by the amateurs. This situation creates a number of problems. First, it is very difficult to support multiple master stakes with limited land. Second, the current situation with limited entries and the associated constraints (by AKC and Entry Express) makes it impossible to ensure that workers and club members are able to enter their own test. Last, it is difficult to find bird throwers to work the tests at any reasonable cost. It is complete insanity to expect amateurs that work a full time job to spend their weekends working at a test for professionals to run their dogs. This is not why club members participate in the club. While we are not against professionals (we recognize, utilize and applaud their contribution to the sport), it is imperative that the professionals recognize the burden they place on the clubs and be willing to step up and engage in trying to fix the problem. The master national club should also recognize that these issues are in large part due to the master national and that to ignore the effects on the weekend tests may lead to many clubs withdrawing.

The hunt test program was born to provide the amateur a venue to enjoy the sport of the purebred dog in the activity for which the dog was bred. Over the years, the focus of the program has been lost and it no longer serves the amateur or provides the significance to the breed that the AKC embraces. Given that the hunt test is already a controversial sport (especially in the northeast), growth of the amateur participant and bringing new people into the sport is critical. To continue down the slippery slope of exclusion of the amateur from consideration may eventually lead to the demise of the program. We can point to the current efforts in conformation to increase participation with the amateur owner classes as perspective. Entries in conformation are down - when the amateur is not involved in the sport as a hobby, economic factors will play a much larger role. It is easy to scale back when you are just an observer.

Attached you will find our response to your questions and more importantly, a strategy that our club wishes to submit as an alternative and which we support above the other strategies presented. We have not taken this lightly and have spent considerable time crafting this response. The participants in the committee bring a broad view to the problem from the perspectives of their full time jobs, please take this suggestion with the importance we have given it.

In closing, we would ask: where is the AKC venue for the amateur who trains their own dogs?

Respectfully submitted,

The Field Committee of the Labrador Retriever Club of Greater Boston

LRCGB (Labrador Retriever Club of Greater Boston) Proposed Strategy

Over a series of meetings the field group has developed a set of proposed changes to the hunt test and Master National.

- * 2 Master Nationals a year - you can attend only one if you are a pro.
- o Official business meetings on east and west coast on alternating years.
- o If bitch comes in season - you are permitted to run the other master national test
- * For a dog to qualify it must:
 - o Obtain 6 qualifications in the first year, which can include passes for your MH title.
 - o Obtain 3 weekend passes to qualify to go to the MN (each subsequent year), with master national pass only one more is needed.
- * The dog will obtain the MNH title with 2 MN passes. Once the dog has earned the MNH title it can no longer run the MN.
- * To increase interest in the hunt test game, dogs must start at junior level and proceed through all three levels (just like in AKC obedience)
- * Add MHX title - 5 qualifications for 1, 10 for 2, etc.

Response to MN Proposal

Our vote for each of the strategies is outlined below.

Strategy A:

Overall average: 2.25

Comments:

- * System is fair to amateur.
- * 8 days was considered a plus for the amateur
- * Pros don't know how many dogs they will get, client doesn't know if dog will go.

- * Won't reduce number of dogs as people will figure a way around it.
- * As an amateur this is good
- As an amateur with a pro, this is not good

Strategy B

Overall average: 0

Comments:

- * No limitation on flights - 10 days
- * Bad option for amateur, why 10 days?
- * Doesn't solve land
- * This strategy was not considered an option.

Strategy C

Overall average: 2.5

Comments:

- * Creates two standards - participants did not like the double standard
- * Will double the numbers, won't solve the weekend test problem
- * Concern over having to offer an open and amateur at weekend hunt test
- * Does not limit number of dogs
- * Pros could provide workers?
- * The amateur only option had positive response. But defies what the whole hunt test program was about!

Strategy D

Overall average: 3.2

Comments:

- * Doesn't change anything, but needs work for fixing weekend tests.
- * Can we do two land and two water?
- * Can we run Sunday to Sunday?
- * The number of days was considered an important factor for an amateur.

Save the Dates

The LRCGB will host an All Breed Rally Event Sunday, March 1st 2015 at Master Peace Dog Training in Franklin, MA. Show Secretary is Pam Kimel, and the event offers the AKC Canine Partners Program, which includes All American Dogs/ Mixed Breeds.

Additionally, an Unbenched All Breed Obedience Event will be held on the same date, March 1, 2015 at Master Peace Dog Training. This event will also offer the AKC Canine Partners Program, which includes All American Dogs/ Mixed Breeds.

The LRCGB is pleased to announce our supported entry for the Ladies Dog Club* (Pending AKC Approval). Two Days of Breeder Judges!!

Faith Hyndman (Buckstone Labradors) on Saturday, May 30, 2015

Janet Farmilette (Mijan Labradors) on Sunday, May 31, 2015

We are striving to build entries for this breeder judge weekend, hopefully adding sweeps in the future.

Taking a Dip by Susan Seeber



Updates

**The Labrador Retriever Club of Greater Boston
The Labrador Retriever Club, In
Conformation Certificate Evaluation
Sunday July 20, 2014**

Judges:

Robin Anderson
Nancy R. Brandow
Susan Brownell

Participants enjoyed some great weather in Hopkinton, NH for the WC, WCI and WCX. Fifteen Labrador Retrievers also received the LRC, Inc. Conformation Certificate. To receive a Conformation Certificate, a Labrador is required to attain a score of 18 or better out of a possible 27. A qualifying score is an indication that the Labrador in the mind of the Judge conforms to the characteristics of the Labrador Breed as described in the AKC Breed Standard for the Labrador Retriever. Congratulations to the following certificate recipients:

1. Grampian At The Circus, SR 79478702, Yellow Female, Owned by Gerrie Owren and Robin Anderson.
2. Bayou Chopper's Chocolate Kiwi, SR 75948001, Chocolate Female, Owned by Pauline Salomon.
3. Wood Duck Man In Black, Black Male, Owned by Jeanne Charest.
4. Wood Duck Mirabelle Delemma, Black Female, Owned by Jeanne Charest.
5. HR UH Rise and Shines Loosey Goosey, SR 50460201, Yellow Female, Owned by Wes Reed.
6. Dano's Keira Knightly @ Ryanhaus, SR 66893501, Yellow Female, Owned by Dan and Paula Silva.
7. Dano's Myrlie Evers @Ryanhaus, SR76236207, Black Female, Owned by Dan and Paula Silva.
8. Chilbrook Cause An Uproar, SR 74832404, Chocolate Male, Owned by Lindsay Hill.
9. Grampian One Hot Salsa, SR 59798602, Black Female, Owned by Donna Gray.
10. MacGregor's Hollaback Girl, CD, SR 26695201, Yellow Female, Owned by Donna Gray.
11. Grampian Jelly Baby, SR 65369501, Black Female, Owned by Donna Gray.
12. Grampian Viking Aspen X-Treme! CD, RN, CGC, SR6988203, Yellow Female, Owned by Penny Shultz and Joel Wolff
13. Duckback's Gentle Current of Wildeland, SR 65037301, Black Female, Owned by Nancie Freitas.
14. Shoreline Cedarwood Kathryn at Toryhill, RN, CGC, WC, SR 70630406, Black Female, Owned by Shirley Cardello
15. Seawind Fergmar Bells And Whistles, SR73104002, Yellow Male, Owned by Johanne Ferguson.

Updates

Lab Rescue Update - By Barb Burri

Lab Rescue has a new website!! It is still www.labrescue.com but it has been totally redesigned and is now in the 21st century. Check it out.

We are always looking for volunteer help, it's not much heavy lifting.. Work an event, do a home study, drive a dog, foster a dog... there are many ways to help.

Lab Rescue has had several great success stories lately including a dog who will now be a balance dog for a wounded warrior thanks to the connection between Operation Delta Dogs and Lab Rescue! One of the responsibilities of the LRCGB as an AKC club is having a connection with rescue, please consider helping out Lab Rescue, by volunteering, donating, connecting us with people who need to surrender dogs or who want a rescue dog. To learn more check out www.labrescue.com or drop us an email at labrescue1988@gmail.com

One way to help volunteering for Lab Rescue is doing evaluations of dogs that might be incoming to rescue. It is a job that only happens a few times a year, as surrenders tend to be widely dispersed around the service area of Lab Rescue. But if anyone is interested in offering a few hours a year to evaluate dogs, that would be a great way to assist Lab Rescue.

Thanks! Barb

Last year the club picked up a used canoe , and this year we configured the trailer to carry the bugger to and from field events.

Big thanks to Steve Patterson for his engineering brilliance!





Save the Date!

LABRADOR RETRIEVER CLUB
OF GREATER BOSTON SPECIALTY



**FUN IN THE SUN AND
SKINNY DIP**

JUNE 11-12, 2015

PREPERATION IS IN FULL SWING FOR
OUR SPECIALTY. KEEP YOUR EYES OPEN
FOR EMAIL MESSAGES REGARDING
SPONSORSHIP FOR BREED AND
OBEDIENCE/RALLY PRIZES

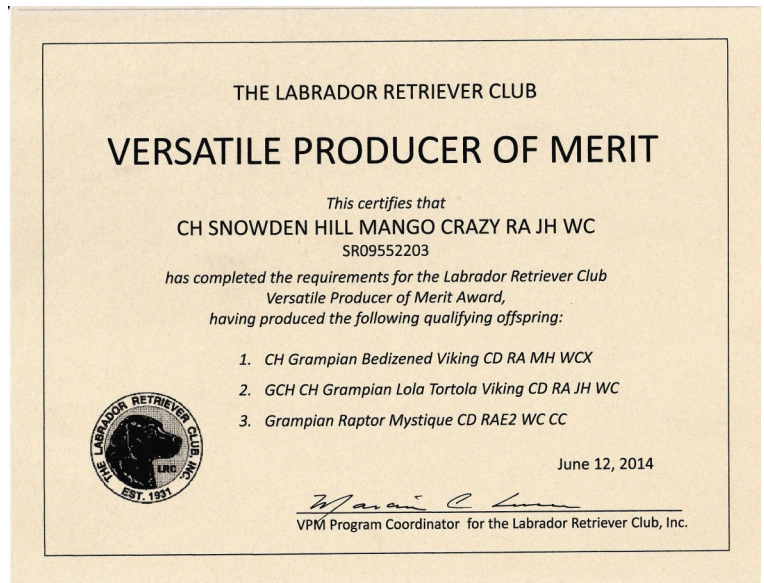
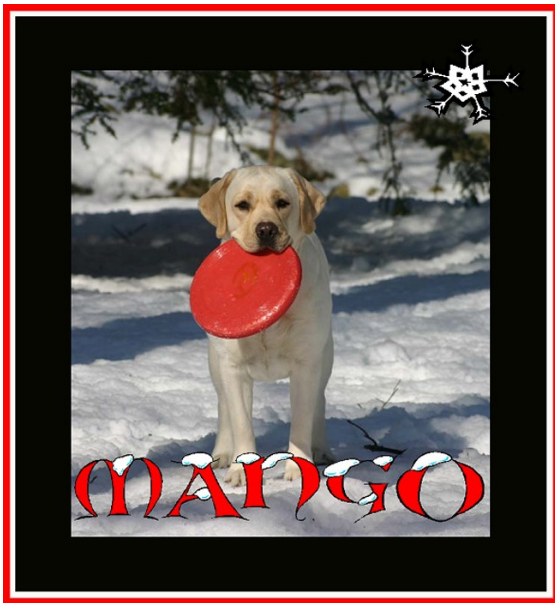


Wags and Brags

Congratulations to all our member on your placements, wins, legs, and new titles!

AKC Ch Snowden Hill Mango Crazy RA JH WC CGC has been awarded an LRC, Inc Versatile Producer of Merit award for producing titled get. All from one litter by Ch Hollyhills Delby's Samuel Adams WC CGC, Mango can brag about AKC GrCh/UKC Ch Grampian Lola Tortola Viking CD RA JH WC CGC, AKC Ch Grampian Bedizened Viking CD RA MH WCX CGC, ALCH UCD URO3 Grampian Raptor Mystique CD GN RAE2 NAP NJP NFP RATN CGCA CC WC and AKC Ch Grampian Sharp Shooter JH WC CGC.

Mango was bred by Gladys Rogers (retired) and is loved and was trained by Robin Anderson & Gerrie Owen. Mango is an 11 year old great grandmother and lives in a style she demands with Alex and Brianna Aucoin in West Warwick RI.



At the Junior stake of the LRCGB fall hunt test, Timber Town Turn Me Loose UD VCD2 MH38 RE (Kaya) wrapped up a very successful hunt test career by picking up all her birds for the very last time. Kaya was qualified for five Master Nationals, ran at four of them and passed two. Unfortunately, while the spirit is still willing the flesh is too weak now due to arthritis, so for her last years she will focus now on her new career as a couch dog. Kaya is owned, trained, and handled by Rainier Fuchs.

HRCH Birchangreen's Rising Tide MH MNH5 QA2 passed his 5th consecutive Master National in Corning, CA this October. He also recently completed his HRC Finished title in 7 straight passes. Tide is bred and owned by Nona King of Birchangreen Labradors. Nona's daughter Tara co-owns, trains and handles Tide.

More Wags and Brags

As you can see from the subject line of the message, Aspen (Grampian Viking Aspen X-Treme! CD, RN, CGC, WC, CC) passed her Therapy Dog test yesterday and is now a certified Therapy Dog with the Pets and People Foundation. I have to say, it's been 10 years since I took the test with Thorn (aka Mythago's Green Hawthorn, UD, VER, RAE2, JH, THDX, WCI, CC, CGC), and the test has really changed!!! Back then, we did a bit of heeling, performed a few simple obedience commands and interacted with friendly strangers (really, it was very much like the CGC test with the addition of a few dropped bed pans). Now, the test is a much better assessment of how your dog will react in commonly encountered therapy dog situations. Your dog is asked to approach people in wheel chairs and walkers and heel around a room filled with food on the floor and odd objects on chairs without touching anything (a situation we have encountered more than once in elder care facilities). The dog is also assessed to see how they react to people rushing up to (roughly) pet them. I'm happy to report that there is still some "bed pan" dropping as part of the test. However, there was even one part of the test where we had to go up to a "grumpy old man" in a wheelchair who had one leg covered in cheese and ignore the cheese while giving him therapy dog loving. Aspen did all of this w/o batting an eye! She even gave the grumpy old man a kiss! I was really proud of her.

Joel and I had joked earlier in the day that we weren't exactly sure if Thorn and Cory (Grampian Hickory's Crimson H2O Dragon, CDX, RE, JH, ThD, CC, CGC), our two Therapy Dogs Excellent, could pass the test now - and right on cue, we caught Thorn sneaking a bite of a piece of food lying on one of the chairs while he was getting loving from one of the volunteers. No, they didn't take his certification away, but geez!! All in all, I think the test has changed for the better and that the Pets and People Foundation is doing a fabulous job in preparing new therapy dog teams for the type of things they may encounter on their visits. After all, you never know what may be on the floor in the places you visit with your dog so making sure your dog knows the "leave it" command could literally save their life! I guess I better go back and refresh Thorn's memory of that one!

Cheers!

Penny Shultz



Thelma, Willcare Riverbenz Thelma earned her SH title and WCX this summer. She is now a therapy dog with Pets and People.



Murphley finished his championship in great style winning Best of Breed over an entry of 96! He is now CH. Majestx Willcare's Moonlight Resonance. He finished 1 day shy of 18 months. In limited showing, he won Best Opposite Sex puppy at the Potomac, numerous Best in Sweepstakes and Best of Opposite in Sweeps and finished with 5 majors!!!!

Murphley is bred and owned by Sue Willumsen and Lois Engel. On to more showing and training for our wonderful young dog! Thank you to all his fan club, what a great 6 months with his career!

More Wags and Brags

Danbridge Kathryn's Emmy Award RAE, UD, CGC, CC earned her RAE title at the Pawcatuck River Labrador Retriever Specialty in September. She has had a successful AKC Obedience & Rally career and at 11 ½ years old is ready for other venues ... perhaps CDSP Trials or Nosework? Her willingness to please is only surpassed by her love of food so I hope she can remain an active dog for a long time.

I owe a big thank you to Animation of Stoughton for keeping Emmy physically fit.

To my trainers: Nancy Droukas, thank you for your guidance and making obedience training so much fun. I remember the first private lesson we had when Emmy ran under the chair. Terri Arnold, thank you for training me to focus on my dog, helping me with performance details and giving me inspiration to succeed. Shirley Cardello owner/handler

It was a busy summer for us this year. CH Falline Telemark SH got her senior hunter this past summer. Not to be outdone, Twin Pine Falline Thomas MH got his MH title this summer and 4 passes for the master national in 2015. Joey Edsall

Grampian One Hot Salsa, aka Kick, had a very busy and exciting spring/summer. Kick earned one leg toward her BN title in AKC. She earned her SHR and her WC titles. She is now SHR Grampian One Hot Salsa, WC. Thank you Cassia Burris for all your help and encouragement and knowing Kick and I were a terrific team. Kick is busy training for the 2015 hunt trial season.

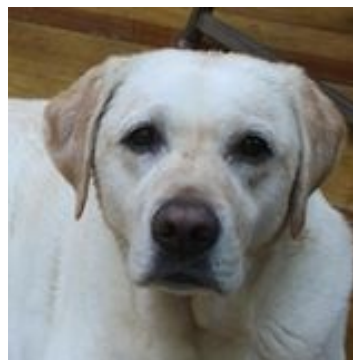
CH Fenwyck's Apple Brown Betty, JH finished her Championship with 4 majors in just over 2 months of showing. We appreciate the wonderful handling of Kathy Mines as we know what a wild child she can be! She is proudly bred by Susan Patterson, and co-owned with Dawn Glasco.

Her parents are CAN CH Fenwyck's Never Say Never and Willcare's Going GaGa at Fenwyck, JH.



In Memoriam

Macgregor's Hollaback Girl, CD, CD-C, CC, NW2, L1E, (ASCA) CD, (ASCA) RN, lost her battle with cancer on Nov 5, 2014. Gwen was loved by Donna M Gray and bred and loved by Beth Teixeira Gwillam. She was active up until the day she passed to the Rainbow Bridge, earning her Nosework Element L1E title a weekend before. My heart is deeply saddened by her passing. Gwen, I will love you to the moon and back!



Hernias - In Puppies

written by Myra Savant Harris 2012

There is much confusion regarding hernias in puppies, what they are, are they fixable and how to identify them. It will help if we run over some of the different kinds of hernias and have a generalized discussion of what they are, what causes them and what their basic prognosis is.

The word, “hernia” refers to a split in the muscle wall that allows tissue from other parts of the body to come through the split. That definition is key and will help you in your assessment. Remember in a real hernia OTHER BODY PARTS COME THROUGH THE OPENING IN THE MUSCLE. These hernias are located primarily in one of three areas of interest to dog breeders: 1. the umbilicus, 2. the groin or 3. the testicles. The most common for dog breeders is the herniated muscle surrounding the Umbilicus or Umbilical cord. These hernias occur in almost all species, most definitely in humans as well.

There are two types of tissue events that are referred to as umbilical hernias in puppies but only one of these “tissue events” is an actual hernia. So, let’s first eliminate the one that is not an actual hernia, requires no treatment, and is not significant at all from a health point of view. It can easily be removed for cosmetic reasons if desired, but removal is not necessary and it is viewed strictly as a removal; not a repair.

From a body structure point of view the umbilical cord carries three important blood vessels that transport blood from the mom, through the placenta and into the baby’s body. Naturally there is a small, rounded hole there in the abdominal wall that allows those blood vessels to enter the baby’s body. Sometimes that naturally occurring, very small, rounded hole doesn’t close off in time and a small amount of subcutaneous fatty tissue from the abdominal wall can migrate through that little tiny but necessary little hole and get trapped between the skin and the muscle when the little hole finally seals off. This little piece of tissue is easy to identify. It is firm to the touch and when you press against it, it pops immediately back. When you gently palpate the abdominal wall, you can feel that it is sealed and you cannot place your finger well into the abdomen.

When you place the puppy on it’s back, the little piece of firm tissue remains in place and does not sink back into the body, nor can you manipulate it to make it go back into the body when puppy is in a back lying position. This is not a true hernia, does not present a danger to the health of the puppy and does not require surgery unless you want to have it removed because you do not like the way it looks. Some of these hernias “grow” as the puppy grows and some of them do not. It depends on exactly what type of tissue got trapped between the skin and the muscle wall that will determine if it experiences growth as the puppy grows. This would not be considered a repair, only a removal. It will not grow back and once it is removed, it is gone forever. Some breeders feel that this little ‘tissue event’ is due to moms who are a bit too energetic while chewing the cord. Other breeders feel that there is a genetic component to the formation of these little inaccurately named ‘hernias’. There have never been any actual studies on the cause of these types of hernias, but it is well accepted that they occur as frequently in C-section births as in free whelps so perhaps that discounts the idea that moms cause them by chewing the cord with a bit too much enthusiasm.

The second kind of umbilical hernia is entirely different; almost the polar opposite of the first kind of ‘tissue event’ that is not an actual hernia. A true umbilical hernia is most likely genetic in nature. If you have a puppy with a true umbilical hernia, you might consider not repeating that particular breeding next time around if you feel that genetics played a role. After reading the next section, you will easily be able to discern between the two umbilical tissue events. The wall of the abdomen sometimes splits open in the muscle around or near the umbilicus. This is a serious birth defect, and must be repaired. It can reoccur after it is repaired and can present a serious health risk to the puppy or adult dog at any time. This split will always be split in the direction from the head to the toe, never sideways. A portion of the intestine will protrude from the hole and can get trapped or “strangulated” leading to intestinal necrosis (dead tissue), infection and death.

It's easy to determine the difference between the two types of hernias. When you gently palpate this area, the most noticeable thing you will feel is that the stuff that is protruding from the hole in the muscle is soft...soft...soft.....so very soft that you can't imagine it until you actually feel it. Your finger can go all the way inside the puppy to the spine. The 'feel' of that protruding tissue is much softer by far than the texture of a water balloon. Just imagine how a water balloon feels and then imagine something 100% softer. If you place a stethoscope on that soft protrusion, you can hear the bowel sounds (sounds like when your stomach 'growls') clearly. If you place the puppy on its back and gently push that soooooftttt tissue back inside the abdomen, it stays inside until the puppy gets up again. Gravity will pull the intestine back and away from the split in the muscle wall. It doesn't pop back out. It stays inside the puppy and in that position you can sometimes gently palpate the actual hole in the muscle wall. You can feel the perimeters of the split in the muscle fibers.

So, in review, the first kind of 'tissue event' is not a hernia. The muscle wall is intact behind the little lump of firm tissue. You can feel the intact muscle wall and you can feel the little scar where the hole used to be that the blood vessels traveled into the puppy's body. When you push it into the stomach area, it pops right back out whether the puppy is on its four feet or on its back. This is not a hernia. Sometimes it grows as puppy does, sometimes not and can easily be removed for cosmetic reasons if you desire. You can educate your puppy buyers about this little 'tissue event' and they can have it removed at time of spay or neuter if desired for cosmetic reasons.

Again, the second kind of hernia has a body part (intestine) coming through it, is soft, soft, soft to the touch and would allow your finger to go well into the abdomen and stay there. This is a true hernia. If the puppy is on its back, you can push the soft tissue (intestine) back into the large sized hole and it will stay inside the body and look normal. This true hernia is much softer than a water balloon and has the sounds of a 'stomach growling', which are actually the sounds that intestines make all day as they digest and process food and fluids. This hernia requires surgical repair as soon as your vet feels that the puppy is old enough for the surgery.

Another hernia that dog breeders see is an inguinal hernia, which occurs in the area of the abdomen where the rear legs attach to the abdomen. Inguinal hernias in the muscle wall also occur in the head to toe direction versus side to side. It is usually a smaller hole in the muscle wall than the umbilicus hernia. It is not as common as the first type of umbilical tissue event that we discussed, but it is more common than a true umbilical hernia. If the hole in the muscle wall is large enough, a small portion of the intestine will protrude through the hole and the same assessment tool applies. If you gently palpate and push the intestine through the hole after you have placed the puppy on its back, and if the escaping tissue (intestine) stays in perfect position, you are safe to assume that this is a true hernia. The prognosis is more varying on the inguinal hernia. If the hole is small enough, it may disappear as the puppy grows. The muscle fibers are in a head to toe arrangement and as the puppy grows in length, sometimes the growth of those long muscle fibers allow it to close and it is no longer a problem. If it has not closed over by the time the puppy has achieved about 85% of its body growth, you should consult a vet to see if the vet recommends its surgical closure. Prior to breeding a bitch with this type of hernia, you would want to have it repaired because the pressure within the abdominal cavity that is associated with gestation could force the intestine through the hole. The presence of the full uterine horns could be severe enough that the intestine could not return to the abdomen and become 'strangulated', trapped and necrotic. This type of hernia is less likely to reoccur after repair but it can happen so it's a good idea to include a brief assessment of the area during every bath.

The last type of hernia that dog breeders could conceivably see is rare in the canine because their center of gravity is different than for a human. It is not common in humans either but because it can occur suddenly and without warning in any dog of any age, I would like to bring it to your attention. You are unlikely to see it, but it can happen. Testicular hernias occur when the muscle wall between the testicle and the abdomen has a small split that allows a portion of the intestine to travel into the scrotum. It would be evidenced by a larger, swollen look to the testicle, suddenly occurring and not particularly painful.

This would require repair immediately. It would not be likely to recur.

I hope that this little discussion on hernias is helpful to you and can be useful to you when assessing...particularly the difference between a true hernia, and a mere 'tissue event' for lack of a better term.

Article written by Myra Savant Harris and submitted by Susan Patterson with permission from the author. Please do not reproduce without permission from the author. Thank you.

Upcoming Events

Field Meeting and Trap Shoot

Saturday Jan 31st (Alternate date Feb 1)

LRCGB Board Meetings

Jan 14th and Feb 11th

Obedience and Rally Trial - Master Peace

Feb 28th and March 1st

Annual Spring Meeting

March 22nd at the Holiday Inn Boxboro, MA.

Agility Trial

May 16th and 17th in Smithfield, RI

Contacts

Webmaster– Ranier Fuchs

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Puppy/ Breeder Referral Coordinator– Barb Burri

bburri@comcast.net -603-378-0098

(Send your litter announcements to Barb)

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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 spring, date to be determined. Please send submissions to aduroche@maine.rr.com

Braggs 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!

Full page ad- \$25

Half page ad-\$15

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 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.

LRCGB
C/O Aarone Durocher
51 Devon St
Portland, Maine 04102

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