



THE CHATTERBOXER

Member, American Boxer Club
Established 1945

April 2004

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Spring Show Fast Approaching

It's that time of year again—time to start gearing up for our Spring Specialty. This is our second year at our very "exhibitor friendly" location in Belleville, MI. There will be plenty of parking and hookups for RV's as well as a great outdoor show ring.

We will have our traditional complimentary luncheon served for all exhibitors and handlers, as well as our Silent Auction and 50/50 Raffle. (Note—now is the time to start gathering things together to donate to the Silent Auction. They don't have to be dog-related, just anything you think other people will want to bid on!)

Judges are:

Specialty—Mrs. Dorothy Welsh

Sweepstakes—Mr. Bob Busby

Our Sweepstakes have been dubbed the "*MB C-Note Sweeps*" to reflect our cash prize of **\$100** for Grand Sweepstakes Winner, as well as **\$75** for Best Puppy and **\$75** for Best Junior. (That is in addition to the cash prize based on entries for first place in the class!)

Also, don't miss the Toledo Kennel Club all-breed shows in Maumee, OH the following two days. Saturday judge is Mrs. Doris Cozart, Sunday judge is Mrs. Jean Fournier.

Hope to see you at the show!!

The Ins and Outs of Pedigree Analysis, Genetic Diversity, and Genetic Disease Control

by Jerold S. Bell, D.V.M.

Editor's Note: The print version of this issue contained the full text of Dr. Bell's article, with his permission. The article has been removed from the on-line version, but is available at this site:

<http://www.mbfs.com/compuped/bell.asp>

I again would like to thank Dr. Bell for allowing me to reprint his article.

April 2004

From the Editor

I am not going to question your opinions. I am not going to meddle with your belief. I am not going to dictate to you mine. All that I say is, examine, inquire. Look into the nature of things. Search out the grounds of your opinions, the for and the against. Know why you believe, understand what you believe, and possess a reason for the faith that is in you.

~Frances Wright



"Belief" seems to have been the keyword for me this month. From Mel Gibson's powerful *The Passion of the Christ*, to the controversy surrounding same-sex marriages, to heated discussions about white Boxers, black Boxers, and ear cropping, beliefs and the facts (or lack thereof) behind them have been woven throughout my life recently. Even my "escape," reading, brought belief to the forefront through Dan Brown's *Angels and Demons*—a fictional story about the long history of conflicting beliefs between science and religion.

Tied into this is animal rights legislation which seems to be multiplying at a frantic pace—it seems I can't open my e-mail without some new legislative alert coming through. People who believe that animals should not be bred, or even kept as pets, are trying to enact legislation that will prevent people who believe in being responsible for their animals from doing so—while at the same time people who believe the laws don't apply to them will continue doing what they have always been doing.

Meanwhile, those of us in the purebred dog game tend, I think, to get complacent. We believe that this legislation won't pass—that even the general public won't want to enact laws that prohibit them from having pets. The problem is, these laws are often unknown to the general public until they've already been enacted. Many of them are also insidious—they seem benign on the surface, but when you really examine them, the consequences could be severe. Jon Katz, author of *The New Work of Dogs*, has an article that touches on this, with regard to "guardian" legislation, here: <http://slate.msn.com/id/2096577>

Coincidentally—and an affirmation that I'm not the only one concerned about these issues—John Connolly's "Judgemental" column is back this month and addresses the animal rights and legislation issue, as well. An Open Letter on the subject was sent to the AKC this month—many of you may have seen it come across your mailing lists as well. I've included information this month on groups dedicated to preserving the rights of people to responsibly own, breed, and work with animals with links for further research.

Following the "belief" theme, I've added a letter sent to the *Veterinary Times*, a UK publication, regarding annual vaccinations. Revaccination is a topic based strongly on belief, as opposed to actual science—this letter addresses the science. The information is old news to many, but the fact that these vets stood together and challenged the old beliefs is a testament to the changing tide—doing what was done because "that's the way it has always been done" is no longer acceptable. Veterinarians, dog owners, breeders today are seeking the reasoning behind the way things have always been done, and making their own decisions based on facts instead of tradition.

Which, of course, brings us right back to white Boxers and ear cropping. The animal rights groups have targeted these areas—primarily ear cropping, and tail docking—and there's no doubt that at some point they will focus more energy there. As well, within

the purebred dog world there are strong opinions on both sides—even among our own breed fanciers there is no commonly-held opinion. It may be time to start examining the reasons behind our beliefs on these issues, both individually and as a group, so that we can make informed decisions when we need to.

Also included in this month's publication is a fantastic article from Dr. Jerrold Bell—*The Ins and Outs of Pedigree Analysis, Genetic Diversity, and Genetic Disease Control*. This article picks up where the educational video of last month left off, and is a must-read, in my opinion, for anyone who is breeding, considering breeding, or buying a dog from a breeder. I would like to thank Dr. Bell for giving me permission to print this article in the Chatter-Boxer. It can also be found online (and in color) at <http://www.mbf.com/compuped/bell.asp>

On the topic of breeding, I want to again mention that Dr. Hutchison (or "Hutch," as he is widely known) will be giving a seminar on Saturday, April 24 at the Leader Dogs for the Blind facility in Rochester. Details and a registration form are on the back page. Obviously, the full-day seminar will be much more in-depth, but those who can't attend may be interested to hear that Hutch will be speaking at ABC, during the hour before the general membership meeting.

Another speaker at ABC this year will be Dr. Jaime Modeano Modiano, with a seminar on Cancer Research and Lymphoma. This seminar will take place the afternoon before the American Boxer Charitable Foundation's annual dinner and fundraising auction. It seems to be a common belief that the ABCF is interested only in heart research—this month I've included a list of the many other projects the ABCF is either funding or considering, most if not all related to cancer research.

On-topic with our guest speaker for the April meeting, the Mt. Pleasant Michigan Kennel Club is hosting a hands-on seminar on canine massage therapy in May—I've included information on the seminar, as well as a contact for more details.

Finally, I want to extend a huge thanks to Susan Schultz. A few weeks ago there was a Working Group fun match held at Arboroad Farms, with a raffle set up to benefit Boxer Rescue. Susan was there showing her Boxer, and in her spare time she sold raffle tickets to all and sundry. In the end, we came away with \$115 for our Rescue program. On behalf of the Club and the Rescue dogs, Susan, thank you!!

That's it for this month. As usual, suggestions and contributions are always welcome, and remember I have a new e-mail address: secretary@michiganboxerclub.com

Best ~

Jen

April 2004

Judgemental

By John Connolly

Another Westminster has come and gone. Another great show.

Now we have PETA trying to rain on their and our parade. PETA is trying to get New York City to charge Westminster with cruelty to dogs because they allowed docked dogs to be shown. The charges are that cosmetic tail docking constitutes unjustifiable physical mutilation and injury. Of course, since the legal counsel wrote the brief it takes seven pages to say that. Anybody who has been around Boxers knows that tail docking is a very easy procedure and causes no more problem for the puppy than a pinch. PETA is the same organization that is behind mandatory spay and neuter laws. You talk about an invasive procedure on a young puppy.

This rise in activity has pushed me to revive the National Breed Clubs Alliance which is comprised of 28 Member Parent Clubs. I am contacting each Member Parent Club to ask them to appoint delegates and to become active again in our fight against these radical activists. We must keep telling the public and the law makers what the real goal of this groups is. Remember that the PETA Animal Rights Agenda Item Number 10 is: "We strongly discourage any further breeding of companion animals, including pedigree or purebred dogs and cats. Spay and neuter clinics should be subsidized by state and municipal governments. Commerce in domestic and exotic animals for pet trade should be abolished." What that means is that if they are successful, your grandchildren will not be allowed to have any pets. This is long range program by a well financed group of Nazi type radicals and they would impose their will on the rest of the country. They have been successful in many parts of Europe in banning cropping and docking and are now out to ban certain breeds entirely. If they succeed, they will go after any purebred or pedigree animals, not just dogs.

The National Animal Interest Alliance (NAIA) has been fighting the battle against the radicals since 1991. This group has done an outstanding job in defending our rights. NAIA is made up of more than dog people. They have included all types of animal people in their group. Several years ago the ABC and MBC were both members. I would suggest that the MBC rejoin and I will ask the ABC to rejoin. NAIA has a good newsletter that will help keep you aware of what is going on around the country.

Meanwhile, please get to know your State Senator and State Representative even before you need them to block a bill that will hurt you as dog owners. It doesn't take much time to get to know who is in power in your district and with the big election coming this year they are all looking for support. Make sure they have all the facts and are not swayed by the radical views of PETA.

HEADS UP!!!!!!

Editor's Note: You can find contact information for your Senator at <http://senate.michigan.gov/> and for your Representatives at <http://house.michigan.gov/>



New Member Spotlight

Mary Dohm, Springbrook Boxers

My uncle had two boxers when I was a child, more than ...goodness....over 40 years ago (I should tell a lie about that one). Loved them then and when my son decided he wanted a "man's dog", we found a wonderful lady in our area that had beautiful dogs and bought our first puppy. That was almost 18 years ago. Seems like yesterday. They have been a part of our life ever since and I can't imagine our lives without them.

Our dogs include the following:

Ch. Springbrook's Pursue Me Not (Olivia) is currently being shown by Sherry Canciamille. A black brindle bitch that will melt your heart the moment you look into her eyes, she is precocious and anything goes when she is out and about. Then we have Ch. Springbrook's Stars Shine (Olivia's mom), Ch. Springbrook's Uncorked (Bacchus, our new young male star), Springbrook's Deny Me Not, (our little fawn beauty), Barbary Lane Steal a Kiss, (Bacchus' mom) and the little lady that runs the show...Phoebe our French Bull Dog and three of her offspring.

MBC Educational Programs for 2004

The April education program will be Dog Chiropractic Care for Degenerative Myelopathy, presented by Annette Engler from the Animal Rehab Center of Michigan. The presentation will discuss the current treatments and prognoses for degenerative myelopathy. It will also discuss the role of physical rehabilitation and DM. This will include a basic overview of the applications for physical rehabilitation and how people can keep their boxers out of rehab.

Annette Engler is a Licensed Veterinary Technician and Certified Veterinary Practice Manager with over 20 years of experience in specialty and general medicine and over 10 years of experience in veterinary practice management. She is also certified as a DiSC behavior model trainer. She was one of the first students to venture into online education and graduated from St. Petersburg Jr. College. She is the administrator for Union Lake Veterinary Hospital and Pet Services and co-owner of the Animal Rehabilitation Center of Michigan. She is one of only a few non-veterinarians who hold a true practice administration position. Her responsibilities include leading a team of seven veterinarians and 60 support staff, establishing policies and procedures, creating and meeting budgets, and inspiring top quality patient and client care.

She successfully completed a series of courses on canine physical rehabilitation and became Michigan's first Certified Canine Rehabilitation Practitioner in 2003.

Her goals are to become more involved in educating, motivating and leading veterinarians, technicians and support staff. Her main areas of expertise and interest are team building and motivation, effective client communication, DiSC behavior, practice marketing and understanding basic practice management

She currently resides in Metamora on 32 acres with her husband, Aaron. She has two dogs, a basset rescue and a Labrador retriever, that enjoy daycare daily at Union Lake while she works. Her hobbies include visiting her cabin in the UP, cross country skiing, gardening, reading and work.

Future programs

May – no program, preparation for Spring Show

June – no program, meeting at show site following Spring Show

If MBC members have suggestions for programs or know speakers who can add to the club's wide interests, please contact Barry Wyerman, Education Chairperson at 248 – 344 – 7944 or e-mail: wyerbr@aol.com.

Website Spotlight

For further information on our Educational topic this month, the following sites are suggested:

American Veterinary Chiropractic Association
<http://www.animalchiropractic.org/>

PetMassage Training & Research Institute
<http://www.petmassage.com>

Chiropractic Care for Dogs
 Sandra Priest, DVM (member ACVA)
<http://www.homevet.com/petcare/chiro.html>

Holistic Chiropractic Care
 Allen M. Schoen, DVM, MS
http://www.askdrschoen.com/therapies_L2_chiro.html

Degenerative Myelopathy of German Shepherd Dogs
 R.M. Clemmons, DVM, University of Florida
http://neuro.vetmed.ufl.edu/neuro/DM_Web/DMofGS.htm

Degenerative Spinal Myelopathy Resources
<http://www.workingdogs.com/doc0159.htm>

Degenerative Myelopathy
 University of Missouri College of Veterinary Medicine
<http://www.cvm.missouri.edu/dm/>

Scientists Seek Better Understanding of Degenerative Myelopathy
 Purina Pro Club Boxer Update
<http://www.americanboxerclub.org/health/purina1.html>

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UK Vets Take Stand on Annual Vaccinations

Letter to the Editor, Veterinary Times, UK—January 2004

Dear Editor

We, the undersigned, would like to bring to your attention our concerns in the light of recent new evidence regarding vaccination protocol.

The American Veterinary Medical Association Committee report this year states that 'the one year revaccination recommendation frequently found on many vaccination labels is based on historical precedent, not scientific data'.

In JAVMA in 1995, Smith notes that 'there is evidence that some vaccines provide immunity beyond one year. In fact, according to research there is no proof that many of the yearly vaccinations are necessary and that protection in many instances may be life long'; also, 'Vaccination is a potent medical procedure with both benefits and risks for the patient'; further that, 'Revaccination of patients with sufficient immunity does not add measurably to their disease resistance, and may increase their risk of adverse post-vaccination events.'

Finally, he states that: 'Adverse events may be associated with the antigen, adjuvant, carrier, preservative or combination thereof. Possible adverse events include failure to immunise, anaphylaxis, immunosuppression, autoimmune disorders, transient infections and/or long-term infected carrier states.'

The report of the American Animal Hospital Association Canine Vaccine Taskforce in JAAHA (39 March/April 2003) is also interesting reading: 'Current knowledge supports the statement that no vaccine is always safe, no vaccine is always protective and no vaccine is always indicated'; 'Misunderstanding, misinformation and the conservative nature of our profession have largely slowed adoption of protocols advocating decreased frequency of vaccination'; 'Immunological memory provides durations of immunity for core infectious diseases that far exceed the traditional recommendations for annual vaccination. This is supported by a growing body of veterinary information as well as well-developed epidemiological vigilance in human medicine that indicates immunity induced by vaccination is extremely long lasting and, in most cases, lifelong.'

Further, the evidence shows that the duration of immunity for rabies vaccine, canine distemper vaccine, canine parvovirus vaccine, feline panleukopaemia vaccine, feline rhinotracheitis and feline calicivirus have all been demonstrated to be a minimum of seven years, by serology for rabies and challenge studies for all others.

The veterinary surgeons below fully accept that no single achievement has had greater impact on the lives and well-being of our patients, our clients and our ability to prevent infectious diseases than the developments in annual vaccines. We, however, fully support the recommendations and guidelines of the American Animal Hospitals Association Taskforce, to reduce vaccine protocols for dogs and cats such that booster vaccinations are only given every three years, and only for core vaccines unless otherwise scientifically justified.

We further suggest that the evidence currently available will soon lead to the following facts being accepted:

* The immune systems of dogs and cats mature fully at six months and any modified live virus (MLV) vaccine given after that age produces immunity that is good for the life of that pet.

* If another MLV vaccine is given a year later, the antibodies from the first vaccine neutralise the antigens from the subsequent so there is little or no effect; the pet is not 'boosted', nor are more memory cells induced.

* Not only are annual boosters for canine parvovirus and distemper unnecessary, they subject the pet to potential risks of allergic reactions and immune-mediated haemolytic anaemia.

* There is no scientific documentation to back up label claims for annual administration of MLV vaccines.

* Puppies and kittens receive antibodies through their mothers' milk. This natural protection can last eight to 14 weeks.

* Puppies and kittens should NOT be vaccinated at less than eight weeks. Maternal immunity will neutralise the vaccine and little protection will be produced.

* Vaccination at six weeks will, however, DELAY the timing of the first effective vaccine.

* Vaccines given two weeks apart SUPPRESS rather than stimulate the immune system.

This would give possible new guidelines as follows:

1. A series of vaccinations is given starting at eight weeks of age (or preferably later) and given three to four weeks apart, up to 16 weeks of age.

2. One further booster is given sometime after six months of age and will then provide life-long immunity.

In light of data now available showing the needless use and potential harm of annual vaccination, we call on our profession to cease the policy of annual vaccination.

Can we wonder that clients are losing faith in vaccination and researching the issue themselves? We think they are right to do so. Politics, tradition or the economic well-being of veterinary surgeons and pharmaceutical companies should not be a factor in making medical decisions.

It is accepted that the annual examination of a pet is advisable. We undervalue ourselves, however, if we hang this essential service on the back of vaccination and will ultimately suffer the consequences. Do we need to wait until we see actions against vets, such as those launched in the state of Texas by Dr Robert Rogers? He asserts that the present practice of marketing vaccinations for companion animals constitutes fraud by misrepresentation, fraud by silence and theft by deception.

The oath we take as newly-qualified veterinary surgeons is 'to help, or at least do no harm'. We wish to maintain our position within society, and be deserving of the trust placed in us as a profession. It is therefore our contention that those who continue to give annual vaccinations in the light of new evidence may well be acting contrary to the welfare of the animals committed to their care.

Yours faithfully,

Editor's Note: This letter was signed by 31 vets in the UK which, given the space constraints and their location, I've not listed here. I do have the list of names available if anyone would like to see it.

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ABCF Research

I think everyone pretty well knows that the American Boxer Charitable Foundation is funding research on Boxer heart issues, primarily with Dr. Kate Meurs at Ohio State University, and a duplication study by Dr. Matthew Miller at Texas A & M University. However, there are several other grants that the ABCF is funding that fanciers might not know about, so I thought I would highlight them here, as well as some pending grants that may be of benefit to the Boxer breed.

Active Grant No. 22101

Development of Anti-Canine IL-2R? Antibodies Using CpG Oligodesoxynucleotide Vaccination

Stuart C. Helfand, DVM, University of Wisconsin, Madison.

Sponsors: Nestle Purina Company, American Boxer Charitable Foundation, Golden Retriever Club of America, Golden Retriever Foundation

Grant No. 2214

Identification of a 5-10Mb BAC Set for the Development of an Ordered CGH Array for Cancer Studies in the Dog and for the Refinement of Human-dog Comparative Maps

Matthew Breen, PhD; Animal Health Trust, Great Britain/North Carolina State University

Elaine A. Ostrander, PhD, Clinical Research Division, Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, Seattle Washington

Sponsors: American Boxer Charitable Foundation and Nestle Purina Petcare Company

Completed Grant No. 1626

Significance of Tumor Suppressor Genes in Canine Cancer

Jaime Modiano, VMD, PhD; AMC Cancer Research Center

Sponsors: American Boxer Charitable Foundation, Golden Retriever Club of America, Golden Retriever Foundation, Great Dane Club of America, Health Trust Fund Scottish Terrier Club of America, Medallion Rottweiler Club, Rottweiler Health Foundation

Active Grant No. 2025

Growth Signaling Pathways in the Pathogenesis and Treatment of Canine Cancer

Stuart C. Helfand, DVM; University of Wisconsin, Madison

Sponsors: American Boxer Charitable Foundation, Briard Club of America, Chinese Shar-Pei Club of America Charitable Trust, Flat-Coated Retriever Foundation, Rhodesian Ridgeback Club of the United States, Rottweiler Health Foundation

Active Grant No. 2254

Heritable and Sporadic Genetic Lesions in Canine Lymphoma and Osteosarcoma

Jaime F. Modiano, VMD, PhD; AMC Cancer Research Center

Matthew Breen, PhD; North Carolina State University

Sponsors: Nestlé Purina Company, American Belgian Tervuren Club, American Bloodhound Club, American Boxer Charitable Foundation, American Rottweiler Club, Atlantic States Briard Club, Briard Club of America, Bernese Mountain Dog Club of America, Flat Coated Retriever Society of America, German Wirehaired Pointer Club of America, Golden Retriever Club of America, Golden Retriever Foundation, Irish Wolfhound Club of America, Mastiff Club of America, Medallion Rottweiler Club, Newfoundland Club of America, Portuguese Water Dog Club of America, Rhodesian Ridgeback Club of the United States

Pending Grant No. 2629

Clinical and Immunological Outcomes in Dogs with Osteosarcoma Treated with Intratumoral Interleukin-12 Microspheres

Stuart Helfand, DVM; University of Wisconsin

Pending Grant No. 2646

Characterization of Receptor Tyrosine Kinase Dysfunction in Malignant Histiocytosis

Cheryl London, DVM, PhD; University of California, Davis

Pending Grant No. 2657

Role of Circulating Endothelial Cells in Physiologic and Pathologic Angiogenesis in Dogs

Steven Dow, DVM, PhD; Colorado State University

Pending Grant No. 2667

Cellular Genomics— Molecular Cytogenetic Investigation of Canine Soft Tissue Sarcomas

Matthew Breen, PhD; North Carolina State University

Abstracts for these grants are available at <http://www.akcchf.org/research/grants/breed/b.htm#Boxer>

An Open Letter to the AKC

March 3, 2004

Dear President Sprung:

What the Hell is going on there?

The purebred dog fancy is on its way into the history books, yet the AKC is still doing 'business as usual.' There's not just no sign of urgency in our only major organization's response to the 'animal rights' onslaught, there's barely a sign that you know it's happening.

Ten years, that's what I tell my fellow fanciers. "No need to buy show or dog sport equipment that will last longer than ten years, because the whole works will be gone by then."

One area of our country after another is being placed under severe breeding restrictions, yet the shows go on as usual. December 4-7, 2003 the Burbank, Shoreline, Los Encinos, and Long Beach Kennel Clubs sanctioned shows were held at the Long Beach, California Convention Center. Here are a few words from the Long Beach Municipal Code:

§6.16.190 Dog breeding prohibited. No person, as principal, agent or otherwise, shall establish or maintain any dog kennel for breeding purposes, keep any dog for breeding purposes, or breed any dog in the city.

What are you thinking, sanctioning shows justified by the need to evaluate breeding stock, in locations that forbid breeding? I note that the Newfoundland Club of America and the Alaskan Malamute Club of America recently held their National Specialties at the National Western Stock Show Building, Denver Colorado. Denver County also forbids the breeding of dogs.

Dozens of locations around the country either forbid breeding or so restrict it as to make lawful breeding impractical. The AKC is doing business as usual in all of those places. Do you even have a comprehensive list? I can offer a shortcut to building one:

<http://www.helpinganimals.com/t-lawspayord.html>

Notice the name in the upper right corner of that web page [*PETA -Ed*]. The 'animal rights' movement knows what they've accomplished. One action that's not on there is the definition in various California localities of dog breeding as 'manufacturing' and thus permitted only where so zoned.

Here's a snip from a current proposal by the North Carolina House Interim Committee on the Prevention and Disposition of Unwanted And Abandoned Companion Animals:

1. Spay & Neuter All Cats and Dogs -- Require companion animals to be spay or neutered by 6 months w/ medical condition exception. Owners of unaltered animals have breeder permit - minor breeder permit (one unaltered animal) or major breeder permit (more than one unaltered animal). Breeder permit # must be displayed and given to buyers. Fine for noncompliance. [sic]

Elsewhere in the proposals it's clear that this will be a breeder's license requiring inspections, record keeping, and reports. Unless we succeed in stopping it, this will become law in the short session of the North Carolina legislature beginning in May. Does the AKC care if the state in which its Operations Center is located makes it impractical to breed dogs?

These proposals have been cropping up all over the country. We beat one in Virginia this year, ditto in Illinois, probably beat the one in Wisconsin. A back door approach to the same in New Mexico appears dead. We've acted against local measures in Lane County, Oregon and Austin Texas; no word on the outcomes there. Fanciers in your state are mobilizing and I think there's reasonable hope that we'll win there. Florida folks are getting together to fight local ordinances that would apply the federal AWA to hobby breeders who have over two litters per year in Palm Beach and Jacksonville Counties.

We have been fighting alone, we are not winning all the battles, and most of this year's wins will be refought next year. Dear AKC: This is your fight too. 'Doglaw' is nice but it is about 5% of what you should be doing. Dear AKC: *If breeding is forbidden, then we don't need a registry.*

1. Raise your prices, kill off non-paying activities, and prepare to spend whatever it takes. This is literal life or death for our hobby and your organization; emergency measures are justified. Some fanciers, and member clubs will scream. If nobody's mad at you, you're not doing enough.

2. Appoint a Vice-President for Fancier Rights with sufficient staff to do more than toss out an occasional legislative alert. Twenty people? More? You need a couple of attorneys (at least one each with litigation and legislation drafting experience), some paralegals, some people with on-the-statehouse-floor or local lobbying experience, writers, marketing skills, people with 'citizen action' experience passing and defeating laws.

3. Establish a date certain after which sanctioned shows may not be held in localities that substantially restrict the right to breed. Fanciers in these localities must act to repeal these laws but they're all in noncompliance; no one will step forward due to perfectly reasonable fears of being targeted for enforcement. You need to give entire clubs and those fanciers who attend their shows a motive for united action and their show venues something to lose from their restrictions. I suggest January 1, 2006 for the date. I further suggest that after a later date -- say January 1, 2008-- no litter registrations be accepted from localities where breeding is forbidden.

Note also what DDAL tried to do with regard to home breeding and the AWA: Places like Long Beach are one 'failure to enforce' lawsuit away from the end of their sport. It's nearly universal for 'animal rights' activists in such areas to have lists of breeders compiled from AKC referral sources, advertising, kennel club web sites, and the like; when enforcement is contemplated such lists are both handed over to authorities and used for harassment.

4. Plan and carry out a comprehensive counterattack on breeding restrictions and related fancier rights. This should include:

A. Analysis -- we need to know what's going on and what it means. Give us a public data base of laws, bills, and proposals. Mandatory spay/neuter laws have failed in (probably) a couple of dozen localities yet 'animal rights' supporters still propose them. 'Outcomes' data should be collected and a report prepared for distribution to officials considering such measures.

B. Legislative defense. In theory preventing bad laws is primarily

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the job of state federations but as I'm sure you know most of them are worthless. Will you continue hoping informal leadership will appear when needed or will you find another way?

C. Legislative offense. Where rights are restricted without a valid-public purpose, we need to remove the restrictions. *You do know that breeding restrictions don't work to reduce shelter euthanasias, right? That they will in many cases increase euthanasias?*

D. Litigation. In far too many cases around the country, untrained, incompetent, and corrupt animal control authorities supported by vague or unconstitutional laws are violating the rights of citizens to due process, freedom from unreasonable search and seizure, and freedom from cruel and unusual punishment. Individual dog fanciers rarely have the money or knowledge to defend themselves and many respond by going into hiding. Defending citizens rights vigorously in even a few of these cases would help end the abuse.

(Examples of abuses: Trumped-up or minor violations used as justification for seizure and impoundment at owners expense of all animals and often all records (your computer) as well, without court order or humanitarian need. Licensing laws written as though in-home hobby breeding was subject to pervasive regulation; a legal theory that is without justification. Laws simply 'invented' to serve a perceived animal control need, for example telling citizens that a locality has a pet limit law although no such law exists. Laws that permanently bar shelter adoptions following any neglect conviction. Badly written animal cruelty laws used to punish the unpopular: In Augusta Cty, VA vs. Coleman, a man was convicted of a cruelty felony for a clean-kill shooting of a dog creating a post-midnight disturbance in his yard. (While many animal control officers are excellent, there are far too many exceptions. States have steadily handed them laws with more complex and higher standards of care, and increased powers -- including in some cases no-warrant searches and the ability to bring felony charges -- but qualifications, training, and supervision remain what they were in the 'dog catcher' days. In some areas, ACOs are well on their way to becoming America's equivalent of Hitler's Brown Shirts.)

E. Model laws. It's tough to find even one well written dog law and frankly it's tough doing the search without legal training. So give

us models we can hand to our legislators. We need basic care laws, cruelty laws, animal control powers laws. Right now it all comes from HSUS.

5. Provide leadership. Local people must do most of the work because many hands are needed, we know our legislators, we vote, and this really is our fight before it's yours. But many of us don't yet see the problem and few indeed know what to do or how to do it. A few hands-on leaders able to participate on e-mail lists and coach us on citizen action to change laws could make a huge difference. You should sponsor workshops to teach these skills.

6. Give us marketing/education programs and materials. Not just promoting responsible ownership but exposing the fraud of mandatory spay/neuter laws for officials, helping them learn how to understand and resolve euthanasia rate questions, providing courses and training materials for animal control officers. You may say that these are not your problems, but HSUS and PETA are active in all such areas -- increasingly they *own* the ACOs. Even when we do get good laws passed, they are likely to mean what the people who enforce them say they mean.

You bet I'm mad. Large and small organizations openly promote a no-breeding agenda. New anti-breeder and anti-dog laws pop up every single day. When I visit your web site I read about initiatives that don't matter a row of pins -- Companion Animal Recovery (do you know how many dogs are illegally seized in a year because AC officials can get away with it?), a poster sells well at the AKC/Eukanuba Show in Long Beach (did you know that breeding dogs is illegal there?) The AKC says nothing that matters and your apologists say things like "They're a club of clubs," "The AKC is just a registry," and "It takes time to make big changes."

Fiddlesticks. An organization that can't wake up in a genuine emergency doesn't deserve to survive and if I were to make a prediction today, that would be it -- an emaciated shadow in ten years, no 140th birthday. Members of the fancy, and all American dog owners deserve better than your current lethargy. *Dear AKC: If breeding is forbidden, then we don't need a registry.*

Sincerely,

Walt Hutchens
Timbreblue Whippets

Member Birthdays

The Michigan Boxer Club would like to send good wishes to the following Club members who are celebrating their birthday in April:

<u>Member Name</u>	<u>Whelped On</u>
Margaret Ashman	April 2
Tom DeWolff	April 2
Medley Small	April 12
Judy DeWolff	April 22



April 2004

Show Wins

Ch. Kaja's Little Rascal—"Darla"

Owners: Donna & Roger George, Rodon Boxers

Breeder: Janet Smith, Kaja Kennels

Handler: Mel Holloman

By Ch. Sentry's Loud N' Proud x
Kaja's Luck of the Seventh

Best of Breed, Group 4

Decatur Alabama Kennel Club - 11/8/03

Judge - Mr. Richard M. Chashoudian

Best of Breed

Space Coast Kennel Club - 12/12/03

Judge - Mr. William Cunningham

Best of Breed, Group 2

Oskaloosa Kennel Club - 2/26/04

Judge - Mr. William Cunningham

Best in Specialty Show

Bluegrass Boxer Club - 3/11/04

Judge - Mr. Clay Coady

Best of Breed

Louisville Kennel Club - 3/12/04

Judge - Mrs. Pat Hastings

Best in Specialty Show

Bluegrass Boxer Club - 3/12/04

Judge - Mrs. Faye Strauss

Best of Breed

Evansville Kennel Club - 3/13/04

Judge - Mrs. Joan Schurr Kefeli

Weston's Cry for Freedom—"Abe"

Owner: Chris Randolph, Lacey Aarsvold, &
Virginia Johnson, Cameliard Boxers

Breeder: Virginia Johnson

Handler: Genine DeMaso

By Ch. Cameliard's Shadow Walker
x Cameliard's Satin N' Lace

Winners Dog - 5 pt major

Bluegrass Boxer Club - 3/12/04

Judge - Mrs. Faye Strauss

Cameliard's Spirit of the Wind—"Rachel"

Owner: Mary Lou Bumpus &

Virginia Johnson, Cameliard Boxers

Breeder: Virginia Johnson

Handler: Genine DeMaso

By Can. Ch. Cameliard's Noble Knight
x Am/Can Ch. Cameliard's Color Me Gone

Reserve Winners Bitch to 5 pt major

Louisville Kennel Club - 3/12/04

Judge - Mrs. Pat Hastings

Kaja's Doc Elliott—"Doc"

Breeder/Owner/Handler: Janet E. Smith, Kaja Kennels

By Ch. Winland's Epiphany x Kaja's Myaka

Winners Dog, Best of Winners

Logansport Kennel Club - 3/6/04

Judge - Mrs. Anne T. Fleming

Winners Dog, Best of Winners

Logansport Kennel Club - 3/7/04

Judge - Ms. Rita J. Biddle, Esq.

New Arrivals

Breeder: Joanne Shay, The Boxer Lodge

Sire: Ch. Cinabam's Sunshine of Cameliard

Dam: Magical Mandy

Whelped: 2/21/04

- 1 plain female with black mask
- 2 flashy females
- 1 male fawn
- 3 flashy males
- 2 plain males with black masks

**Please Mail, Fax or E-Mail Show Wins and Litter
Announcements to:**

Jennifer Walker

**28423 Kendallwood Drive
Farmington Hills, MI 48334**

Phone: 248-489-1963

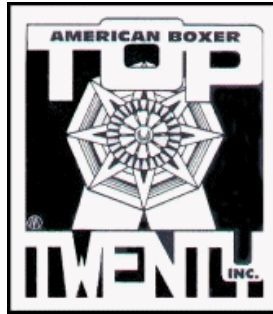
Fax: 248-489-1720

secretary@michiganboxerclub.com

American Boxer Club Top Twenty

The numbers are in, and the Michigan Boxer Club is pleased to announce that we will have a presence in the American Boxer Club Top Twenty Competition for the fourth year in a row! This year **three** Boxers will represent our Club on behalf of their breeder or owner.

The full list of Top Twenty Contenders for 2003 appears below. Congratulations to all these fine dogs, their owners and breeders.



Ch Brookwood's Mystic Warrior

Ch Misty Girl Of B.D. Star JP

Ch Brookwood's Dream Dancer***

Ch Nastinan's Love Me Tender (owner, Lori Renda-Francis)

Ch Hi-Tech's Basic Edition

Ch Capri's Woods End Spellcaster

Ch Kami-Ko N' Kini's Simply Raja

Ch Boxwood Lucky Lady

Ch Jacquet's Hercynia

Ch Skidoo's Charlie's Angel

Ch Bjays Traveling Man (owners, Rick & Cindy Walunas)

Ch Burlwood's Thunderstruck

Ch Breezewoods Lord Of Wystmont, CD (breeders, Christine Baum & Barry Wyerman)

Ch Breho I Bee Shinin'

Ch Standing O Image X Luckyjades

Ch Highrivers Taylor Made Of Backwoods

Ch Raklyns Showboat

Ch Schmidt's Midnight At Heart Acres

Ch Standing-O Galaxie Gasheran

Ch Keil's Frozen Assets

Ch Encore's Jet Setter

*** Previous Winner, not eligible to compete—Exhibition Only.



April 2004

Boxer Shorts

Genine DeMaso, Debut Boxers



Dear Dogs and Cats:

- When I say to move, it means go someplace else, not switch positions with each other so there are still two of you in the way.

- The dishes with the paw prints are yours and contain your food. The other dishes are mine and contain my food. Please note, placing a paw print in the middle of my plate and food does not stake a claim for it becoming your food and dish, nor do I find that aesthetically pleasing in the slightest.

- The stairway was not designed by NASCAR and is not a racetrack. Beating me to the bottom is not the object. Tripping me doesn't help, because I fall faster than you can run.

- I cannot buy anything bigger than a king-sized bed. I am very sorry about this. Do not think I will continue to sleep on the couch to ensure your comfort. Look at videos of dogs and cats sleeping: They can actually curl up in a ball. It is not necessary to sleep perpendicular to each other stretched out to the fullest extent possible. I also know that sticking tails straight out and having tongues hanging out the other end to maximize space used is nothing but sarcasm.

- My compact discs are not miniature Frisbees!

- And for the last time, there is not a secret exit from the bathroom. If by some miracle I beat you there and manage to get the door shut, it is not necessary to claw, whine, try to turn the knob, or get your paw under the edge and try to pull the door open. I must exit through the same door entered. In addition, I have been using bathrooms for years, so canine/feline attendance is not mandatory.

- The proper order is kiss me, then go smell the other dog's butt. I cannot stress this enough. It would be such a simple change for you.

*To pacify you I have posted the following message on our front door...

Rules for Non-Pet Owners Who Visit And Like to Complain About Our Pets:

1. They live here. You don't.
2. If you don't want their hair on your clothes, stay off the furniture.
3. I like my pet a lot better than I like most people.
4. To you, it's an animal. To me, he/she is an adopted son/daughter who is short, hairy, walks on all fours, and doesn't speak clearly.

My Final Declaration

Why Dogs and cats are better than kids: They eat less, don't ask for money all the time, are easier to train, usually come when called, never drive your car, don't hang out with drug-using friends, don't smoke or drink, don't worry about buying the latest fashions (i.e. nose rings;), don't wear your clothes, don't need a gazillion dollars for college, and if they get pregnant, you can sell the results.

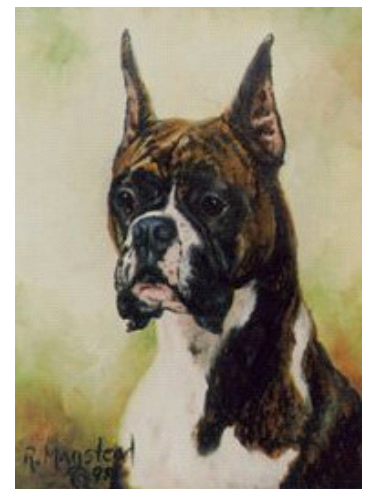
Doggie Prayer.....

Now I lay me down to sleep,
the king sized bed is soft and deep.
I sleep right in the center groove,
my human beings can hardly move.

I've trapped their legs, they're tucked in tight,
and here is where I pass the night.
No one disturbs me or dares intrude,
till morning comes and "I want food!!".

I sneak up slowly to begin,
and nibble on my human's chin.
For the morning's here and it's time to play,
I always seem to get my way.

So thank you Lord for giving me,
this human person that I see.
The one who hugs me and holds me tight,
and shares their bed with me at night.



Dogs On the Air, In the News, and Online

GONE TO THE DOGS

Detroit was overrun with canines recently for the 92nd & 93rd Annual Detroit Kennel Club shows. Best in Show honors on Saturday went to a Norwich Terrier, Ch Huntwood's First Knight; Sunday's winner was an English Toy Spaniel, Ch Loujon Backroad Adventure. On the Boxer front, Derek—Ch Hi-Tech's Basic Edition—won Best of Breed both days, with new Club member Mary Dohm's Olivia—Ch Springbrook's Pursue Me Not—taking Best of Opposite Sex both days. Another new Club member, Sherry Canciamille, was awarded Winners Bitch both days with her Can-Cia's VooDoo Mama. Congratulations to all the winners! Saturday's Group and Best in Show competition will be aired on ESPN at a yet-to-be-announced date.

THE LAST GREAT RACE

Alaskan resident Mitch Seavey won the 2004 Iditarod, with a time of 9 days, 12 hours, 20 minutes, 22 seconds—2 hours, 10 minutes ahead of his closest competition, and nearly 5 1/2 days ahead of the final team to reach Nome. Of the 87 teams that started the race, 77 finished, among some of the stiffest competition in the history of the event. Two dogs died on the trail, though necropsies determined the cause of death was not related to their care during the race.

CRUFTS CONTROVERSY CONTINUES

A whippet named Dee Dee won Best in Show at this year's Crufts—a fact that, unfortunately, has been largely overshadowed by the scandal that continues to surround the prestigious UK event. This year, accusations fly that Kerri, a Doberman Pinscher largely favored to win Best of Breed, are claiming someone slipped their dog a piece of meat laced with a sedative just before she went in the ring. Clive Evans, Kerri's owner, claims that her eyes glazed over and she became unsteady, listless, and unresponsive—enough so that he pulled Kerri from competition and took her to the show's veterinarian.

While it will probably be impossible to prove at this point, Crufts officials are investigating the matter, and say that it will be taken "very seriously" if the accusations are found to be true. They have noted, however, that drugging incidents at the show are very rare, with the last one being reported 20 years ago.

As if that were not enough uproar, one of the Crufts 2004 judges, Mrs. Catherine Gatheral, has been convicted of 83 counts of causing unnecessary suffering to animals. Along with her sister Mary, Mrs. Gatheral kept 83 dogs in her home in what RSPCA authorities describe as "atrocious conditions." Many dogs were suffering from eye, mouth, and ear problems, and several needed to have rotten teeth removed. The dogs have been turned over to the RSPCA, with the sisters required to pay a fine for their upkeep. The sisters' solicitor has said that they would consider an appeal.

Crufts will air on Animal Planet in May.

FIGHTING ANIMAL LEGISLATION—A FULL-TIME JOB?

I'd meant to replace this section with information about an on-line health forum. However, the health forum has disappeared, and with the continual bombardment of animal legislation hitting dockets across the country, it seems this topic may become a permanent feature. Several organizations have been established to track and fight this legislation—just a few of them are highlighted here.

The American Dog Owners Association preserves the special relationship between dogs and mankind by protecting and defending the rights of responsible dog ownership, opposing detrimental and supporting appropriate regulation for dog owners; educating the public and promoting standards for safe and civilized treatment of dogs.

Since 1970, ADOA has been the voice of responsible dog owners and member dog clubs across the United States. ADOA has spoken and still speaks to legislators and in courts to protect rights of responsible dog owners and their dogs. ADOA's membership is composed of member dog clubs and individual dog-owner members representing responsible dog owners from all walks of life, from all over the United States. The ADOA website is <http://www.adoa.org>

The National Animal Interest Alliance is an association of business, agricultural, scientific, and recreational interests dedicated to promoting animal welfare, supporting responsible animal use and strengthening the bond between humans and animals. Our members are pet owners, dog and cat clubs, obedience clubs and rescue groups as well as breeders, trainers, veterinarians, research scientists, farmers, fishermen, hunters and wildlife biologists. Its membership includes some of America's most respected animal professionals, advocates and enthusiasts. The NAIA website is <http://www.naiaonline.org>

The Michigan Association of Pure Bred Dogs is a non-profit corporation that works to defend dog owners and their dogs against the torrent of legislative proposals that flow from organizations that believe all animals should be free and not subject to ownership for any reason or purpose. People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA), the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS), and the Doris Day Animal League (DDAL) are a few such organizations. They are numerous, well-funded, and well-organized. THE MAPBD endeavors to identify all bills pertaining to dogs, which might adversely affect dogs, dog ownership, breeding, exhibition, and other dog activities such as obedience, agility, tracking, hunting, sledding, and companionship. The MAPBD does not currently have a website, but you can e-mail LSFC2@aol.com for more information.

And I'll mention again the e-mail group for discussing legislative issues, <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/pet-law>