



# THE CHATTERBOXER

Member, American Boxer Club

April 2006

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**Our next meeting is  
Tuesday, April 4, 2006  
Livonia Civic Center Library  
7:00 p.m.**

## NEWS YOU CAN USE

### Officers/Board—Redux

No idea what happened last month, somehow the published version did not include the correct Officers/Board information that was on the saved version! Sorry for the mix-up!

#### OFFICERS

<b>President</b>	Alan Dorfman
<b>Vice President</b>	Charlie Beauchamp
<b>Secretary</b>	Jennifer Walker
<b>Treasurer</b>	Dave Stark

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Mary Lou Bumpus  
Joanna Dorfman  
Dick Johnson  
Joan Johnson  
Virginia Johnson

### 2006 MEETING SNACK SCHEDULE



#### March

Joan Johnson

#### April

Joanna Dorfman

#### June

Sue Stevens-Schultz

#### August

Heather Arneil

### GET YOUR ABC RAFFLE TICKETS WHILE THEY LAST

The March meeting is your last chance to pick up raffle tickets. Remember, the member who sells the winning ticket gets a \$75 prize!

Contact Charlie Beauchamp, [beaus19@aol.com](mailto:beaus19@aol.com) for tickets. Also, now is the time to start turning in ticket stubs and money to Charlie.

# THE CHATTERBOXER

*We can most safely achieve truly universal tolerance when we respect that which is characteristic in the individual and in nations, clinging, though, to the conviction that the truly meritorious is unique by belonging to all of mankind.*

~ Johann Wolfgang Von Goethe



*(Ed. Note: I started a discussion on tolerance and it's relevance to many topics in my radar this past month, including the ever-present irresponsible breeding discussions; the Intelligent Design debates; vaccination and medication protocols; and a new white Boxer breeding discussion on the show lists that is testing the limits of many. However, there are also times when tolerance won't do, and active resistance is needed. Vermont is facing just such a situation right now, with the proposed ear cropping bill that is scheduled for a hearing before the House Agriculture Committee on March 15, 2005. The legislation is specious and deceptive—it does not prohibit anyone from having ears cropped in a neighboring state, and admits in the opening paragraphs that the procedure is not taught in vet schools and very few vets in Vermont perform the surgery. There seems to be little point at all to the bill except as an opening for future government restrictions on the rights of owners and veterinarians to make medical decisions regarding pets. So, instead of a diatribe from me, I'm including the latest Legislative Alert from the AKC on this bill, and urging everyone to call, fax, or e-mail the Vermont Legislature. Out-of-state input does have a bearing, especially on a controversial issue such as this. Also, never forget that once this sort of legislation passes in one state, it will be much easier to pass in other states!)*

## Update: VT Ear Cropping Bill Scheduled for Hearing

The Vermont Federation of Dog Clubs reports that S250, a bill to prohibit ear cropping in Vermont, has been scheduled for a hearing before the House Agriculture Committee on March 15th. Time and location are yet to be determined. Dog owners are strongly encouraged to attend the hearing and urge opposition to the bill!

Vermont legislators indicate that they have received an overwhelming number of constituent comments in support of S250. It is clear they have not heard purebred dog owners' views. Please do not underestimate the importance of your voice—you can make a difference, and we need your help! Contact your Representative today!

### What the Bill Does:

Under S250, owners who crop ears in Vermont will face a civil penalty of up to \$3,000 for a first offense. Those who commit subsequent violations or who perform the procedure without anesthesia would face criminal charges. S250 does not prohibit owning, showing, buying or selling a dog with cropped ears, nor does it prohibit licensed veterinarians from performing ear cropping procedures for "therapeutic purposes." However, according to the bill, prevention of ear infections will not be considered therapeutic. S250 does not penalize owners if they have their dogs' ears cropped in another state where the practice is legal.

### What You Can Do:

Attend the hearing on March 15th. For details about time and location as they become available, please contact the Vermont Federation of Dog Clubs (802-229-2345, [rifrug@vermontel.net](mailto:rifrug@vermontel.net)).

If you cannot attend the hearing and are a constituent of a member of the House Agriculture Committee (listed below), please contact your representative and politely express your concern with S250. Find out who represents you in the Vermont State Legislature. Be sure to include your name and address in your correspondence to verify that you are a constituent.

Even if your representative does not sit on the House Agriculture Committee, please contact him or her directly to express your concerns.

Purebred dog owners should also contact their veterinarians and urge them not to support S250. Point out that veterinarians should

be concerned about allowing the government and public opinion too much control over their practices.

Share this information with other fanciers and dog clubs. We need everyone's voice!

### Points to Consider:

The American Kennel Club strongly supports the humane care and treatment of all dogs. We recognize that ear cropping, as described in certain breed standards, is an acceptable practice integral to defining and preserving breed character and/or enhancing good health. Appropriate veterinary care should be provided.

Passage of S250 may set a precedent for all veterinary practices in the state of Vermont. Once legislators determine they can ban certain elective procedures, they may be just a short step away from removing veterinarians' and owners' rights to make informed decisions about animal care and treatment.

Responsible dog owners and breeders, in close consultation with their veterinarians, should make informed decisions about their pets' health care—not the government.

S250 could create serious animal cruelty risks if owners who cannot obtain veterinary care for ear cropping procedures irresponsibly choose to seek less-qualified sources.

### House Agriculture Committee

State Capitol  
115 State St Drwr 33  
Montpelier, VT 05602  
Phone: 802/828-2231

Rep. David Zuckerman [Chair] [dzuckerman@leg.state.vt.us](mailto:dzuckerman@leg.state.vt.us)

Rep. William F. Johnson [Vice Chair]

Rep. Philip E. Bartlett [pbartlett@leg.state.vt.us](mailto:pbartlett@leg.state.vt.us)

Rep. Bill Botzow [bbotzow@leg.state.vt.us](mailto:bbotzow@leg.state.vt.us)

Rep. Sarah Copeland-Hanzas [scopelandhanzas@leg.state.vt.us](mailto:scopelandhanzas@leg.state.vt.us)

Rep. Brian C. Dunsmore [bdunsmore@leg.state.vt.us](mailto:bdunsmore@leg.state.vt.us)

Rep. Mitzi Johnson [mjohnson@leg.state.vt.us](mailto:mjohnson@leg.state.vt.us)

Rep. Richard Lawrence [rlawrence@leg.state.vt.us](mailto:rlawrence@leg.state.vt.us)

Rep. John W. Malcolm [jmalcom@leg.state.vt.us](mailto:jmalcom@leg.state.vt.us)

Rep. Scott A. Orr [scottorrforhouse@yahoo.com](mailto:scottorrforhouse@yahoo.com)

Rep. Harvey T. Smith [hsmith@leg.state.vt.us](mailto:hsmith@leg.state.vt.us)

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## Recent Boxer Health Research

*There is some interesting Boxer-specific research taking place in The Netherlands. Included here are the two most recent abstracts from a long-term study which was recently concluded. Emphasis is mine.*

### **Incidence, risk factors, and heritability estimates of hind limb lameness caused by hip dysplasia in a birth cohort of Boxers.**

American Journal of Veterinary Research, 2005 Feb;66(2):307-12.

van Hagen MA, Ducro BJ, van den Broek J, Knol BW.

Department of Clinical Sciences of Companion Animals, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Utrecht University, P.O. Box 80154, 3508 TD Utrecht, The Netherlands.

**OBJECTIVE:** To determine incidence, risk factors, and heritability estimates of hind limb lameness caused by hip dysplasia in a birth cohort of Boxers.

**ANIMALS:** 1733 Boxers from 325 litters.

**PROCEDURE:** Status of Boxers with respect to clinical signs of canine hip dysplasia (cCHD) was registered during an 8-year period. Survival analysis accounted for dogs lost to follow-up. Effective heritability for developing cCHD was estimated by use of a proportional hazard model on the basis of the Weibull distribution. Parametric survival models were developed to identify the influence of potential risk factors.

**RESULTS:** Cumulative hazard rate for cCHD from 7 weeks to 8 years of age was 8.5%. **Dogs that were kept on a floor covered with a slippery material were 1.6 times as likely to develop cCHD**, compared with dogs kept on a nonslippery floor. Risk of cCHD doubled in dogs from litters with a high preweaning mortality rate. **Dogs that were neutered at 6 months prior to a diagnosis of CHD were 1.5 times as likely to develop cCHD**, compared with sexually intact dogs. Dogs >5 years of age were 1.8 times as likely to develop cCHD, compared with younger dogs. Estimated effective heritability of cCHD was 0.11. In terms of the risk of cCHD in progeny, mean estimated breeding value (EBV) of the 10 best and 10 worst sires was -0.32 and 0.42, respectively.

**CONCLUSIONS AND CLINICAL RELEVANCE:** Registration of Boxers that develop cCHD may provide a strategy for disease prevention. In addition to diagnostic evaluation of radiographs, sire EBVs provide useful information for breeding selection decisions.

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### **Life expectancy in a birth cohort of Boxers followed up from weaning to 10 years of age.**

American Journal of Veterinary Research. 2005 Sep;66(9):1646-50.

van Hagen MA, Ducro BJ, van den Broek J, Knol BW.

Department of Clinical Sciences of Companion Animals, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Utrecht University, 3508 TD Utrecht, The Netherlands.

**OBJECTIVE:** To determine mortality rate over time, risk factors for death, and heritability of life expectancy in Boxers.

**ANIMALS:** 1,733 purebred Boxers born in The Netherlands between January 1994 and March 1995.

**PROCEDURE:** Dogs were followed up from weaning (ie, 49 days of age) to 10 years of age through use of a written questionnaire sent to owners every 6 months. Mortality rate over time, risk factors potentially associated with death, and heritability of life expectancy were examined by use of a proportional hazards model based on the Weibull distribution.

**RESULTS:** Estimated mortality rate during the 10-year study period for this birth cohort of Boxers was 45%. The **probability of surviving to 5 years of age was 88%; the probability of surviving to 10 years of age was 55%**. Estimated effective heritability of life expectancy was 0.076, meaning that in this population, an estimated 76% of the observed variation in life expectancy could be attributed to genetic differences among dogs that were passed from parents to their offspring.

**CONCLUSIONS AND CLINICAL RELEVANCE:** Results suggest that cumulative incidence of death from weaning to 10 years of age among this birth cohort of Boxers was 45%. The estimated heritability of life expectancy suggested that **life expectancy can be improved by use of selective breeding**.

*These are some of the latest studies published by Dr. Meurs from her work at Ohio State.*

**Assessment of plasma brain natriuretic peptide concentration in Boxers with arrhythmogenic right ventricular cardiomyopathy.** American Journal of Veterinary Research. 2005 Dec;66(12):2086-9.

Baumwart RD, Meurs KM.  
Department of Veterinary Clinical Sciences, College of Veterinary Medicine, The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH 43210, USA.

**OBJECTIVE:** To determine whether Boxers with a clinical diagnosis of arrhythmogenic right ventricular cardiomyopathy (ARVC) have increased plasma concentrations of brain natriuretic peptide (BNP), compared with concentrations in clinically normal dogs.

**ANIMALS:** 13 Boxers with ARVC, 9 clinically normal Boxers, 10 clinically normal non-Boxer dogs, and 5 hound dogs with systolic dysfunction.

**PROCEDURE:** All Boxers were evaluated via 24-hour ambulatory electrocardiography and echocardiography; the number of ventricular premature contractions (VPCs) per 24 hours was assessed. Hound dogs with cardiac pacing-induced systolic dysfunction (positive control dogs) and clinically normal non-Boxer dogs (negative control dogs) were evaluated echocardiographically. Three milliliters of blood was collected from each dog for measurement of plasma BNP concentration by use of a radioimmunoassay.

**RESULTS:** Mean +/- SD plasma BNP concentration for the ARVC-affected Boxers, clinically normal Boxers, negative control dogs, and positive control dogs was 11.0 +/- 4.6 pg/mL, 7.9 +/- 3.2 pg/mL, 11.5 +/- 4.9 pg/mL, and 100.8 +/- 56.8 pg/mL, respectively. Compared with findings in the positive control group, plasma BNP concentration in each of the other 3 groups was significantly different. **There was no significant difference in BNP concentration between the 2 groups of Boxers.** A significant correlation between plasma BNP concentration and number of VPCs per 24 hours in the ARVC-affected Boxers was not identified.

**CONCLUSIONS AND CLINICAL RELEVANCE:** A significant difference in BNP concentration between Boxers with ARVC and clinically normal Boxers was not identified. Results suggest that **BNP concentration may not be an indicator of ARVC in Boxers.**

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**Clinical, echocardiographic, and electrocardiographic abnormalities in Boxers with cardiomyopathy and left ventricular systolic dysfunction: 48 cases (1985-2003).**

Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association. 2005 Apr 1;226(7):1102-4.

Baumwart RD, Meurs KM, Atkins CE, Bonagura JD, DeFrancesco TC, Keene BW, Koplitz S, Luis Fuentes V, Miller MW, Rausch W, Spier AW.  
Department of Veterinary Clinical Sciences, College of Veterinary Medicine, The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH 43210, USA.

**OBJECTIVE:** To identify clinical, echocardiographic, and electrocardiographic abnormalities in Boxers with cardiomyopathy and echocardiographic evidence of left ventricular systolic dysfunction.

**DESIGN:** Retrospective study.

**ANIMALS:** 48 mature Boxers.

**PROCEDURE:** Medical records were reviewed for information on age; sex; physical examination findings; and results of electrocardiography, 24-hour ambulatory electrocardiography, thoracic radiography, and echocardiography.

**RESULTS:** Mean age of the dogs was 6 years (range, 1 to 11 years). Twenty (42%) dogs had a systolic murmur, and 9 (19%) had ascites. Congestive heart failure was diagnosed in 24 (50%) dogs. Seventeen (35%) dogs had a history of syncope. Mean fractional shortening was 14.4% (range, 1% to 23%). Mean left ventricular systolic and diastolic diameters were 4.5 cm (range, 3 to 6.3 cm) and 5.3 cm (range, 3.9 to 7.4 cm), respectively. Twenty-eight (58%) dogs had a sinus rhythm with ventricular premature complexes (VPCs), and 20 had supraventricular arrhythmias (15 with atrial fibrillation and 5 with sinus rhythm and atrial premature complexes). Sixteen of the dogs with supraventricular arrhythmias also had occasional VPCs. Morphology of the VPCs seen on lead II ECGs was consistent with left bundle branch block in 25 dogs, right bundle branch block in 8, and both in 11.

**CONCLUSIONS AND CLINICAL RELEVANCE:** Results suggest that **Boxers with cardiomyopathy and left ventricular dysfunction frequently have arrhythmias of supraventricular or ventricular origin.** Whether ventricular dysfunction was preceded by electrical disturbances could not be determined from these data, and the natural history of myocardial disease in Boxers requires further study.

## Faultlessness vs. Virtue

Jonathan Jeffrey Kimes, Pluperfect Cardigan Welsh Corgis

Many people assume, I suspect, that technical accordance to a breed standard is the highest level of perfection a breeder should strive to achieve. To these fanciers, the aim of breeding purebred dogs is to have all these pieces of the puzzle assembled in the same animal. There are, of course, two problems with such thinking. The first problem is assuming meeting the breed standard signifies excellence or perfection of the trait. If this were the case, one could easily argue the state of purebred dogs today is quite exceptional as most show dogs meet the breed standard in most ways. To test the effectiveness to which a breed standard describes perfection, I would challenge anyone to take the written breed standard to 10 artists, none of whom have ever seen the breed, and have them provide illustrations of the written descriptions. I suspect some renderings would be unrecognizable as breed specimens.

The second issue which closely follows this thinking puts a reliance on the identification of faults as the tool of separation between the exceptional specimens and the less valuable dogs. Here I am using the term "fault" in its most classical meaning. Many breed standards specifically list out faults while the few remaining others have the rather more enlightened caveat that "departure from the standard is a fault, the degree of which is determined by the extent to which the characteristic departs from the standard." Consequently the dog must possess a specific departure from the standard in an area to be "faulty". This also literally means if two dogs possess headpieces, both of which meet the standard, then neither can be considered preferable to the other.

Odd thinking, isn't it? We know, if we are truly students of one or more breeds, that there is some invisible ideal out there, our "vision" of perfection, which is far more specific and detailed than what is described by most breed standards. It is the existence of this very specific "vision" in the mind of a judge which makes his/her opinion a valuable assessment. It also is an extremely critical understanding for one to become a successful breeder. I cannot ever recall meeting a truly successful breeder who did not carry with them a very clear mental vision of what the ideal of their breed should be.

So I think it is fair to say just meeting the physical description of a breed standard is not enough for most keen fanciers of a breed. There is something above and beyond this which is recognized as "excellence". Quite naturally, this idea of excellence may vary amongst individuals, but it is a vision which each person holds in their mind. And generally speaking, those who have something akin to an expert's knowledge of a breed will tend to agree on what these exceptional attributes look like. Think for a moment, if you will, about the front in your breed. Surely you have seen a majority of which are acceptable and totally meet the standard, but are "nothing special". But can't you also envision the front of perhaps a few specimens which were over and beyond the basic requirements and weren't they truly beautiful? Both type of fronts meet the standard but only the latter group are what you might consider truly virtuous.

If one would agree that meeting a standard is technically "fault-free" or "faultless" then I think we begin to understand what being faultless truly means. I think we can agree there is obviously a difference between being faultless and being truly virtuous. This

is not, by the way, new thinking by any regard. In fact, the late extraordinary Raymond Oppenheimer (a partner in Ormandy/Souperlative, the phenomenally successful English kennel of bull terriers) expounded on this very topic quite nicely. He once wrote, "The absence of fault in no way signifies the presence of its corresponding virtue." What he meant is what I have just written about – just because it isn't technically wrong doesn't mean it's anyone's ideal. I began reading RHO's writings when I was 13 and I still find them profoundly perceptive.

It is this thinking which supports the notion of specialist judges – those who are supposedly most likely to have in-depth knowledge of a breed to the extent they have clearly envisioned the ultimate, virtuous animal in their mind's eye. It's not quite that straightforward, of course, because experience in a breed is needed for an individual to understand how to properly weigh departures from this vision. For instance, while both small and closely-set ears may be a fault in a certain breed, the experienced judge (or breeder for that matter) may come to understand that small but properly placed ears are less threatening to correct breed type than properly sized but close-set ears.

The true reason for my essay is to understand how we breed the dogs who possess such strength of virtue. We would not breed two dogs with bad fronts together with an expectation of obtaining good fronts. We generally breed dogs based on a concept I call "complementarity". It is based on this notion that one would cross-fault one's bitch with a stud dog who complements her where she has failings, and vice versa. I fully realize dog breeding is not quite so simple or systematic, but this is the basic methodology used. So for the bitch with the poor front, one would use a stud dog with a good front in the hopes some of the puppies will have the sire's good front. We use, in fact, phenotypical attributes to help determine the genetic consequences. That is to say, we make assumptions about what a dog is likely to produce based on how s/he appears. This is the whole basis for holding dog shows at all. If examining a dog provided no insight into how s/he would produce, the point of dog shows would be not for the judging of breeding stock, but for the celebration of show dogs unto themselves – a perspective which I am certain pervades the minds of those fanciers (and here I mean judges as well as breeders!) who tolerate or participate in the coloring and ear-, bite- and tail-fixing which is endemic in some breeds today.

If one were to think about the challenge of manifesting in the flesh that vision in one's mind, there are really the same two kind of methodologies one can use. The first is to breed away from faults. If the bitch has characteristics which are considered faulty, the breeder will complement those by finding a stud dog who is not faulty in the same area. If this process is followed religiously, I suspect the eventual outcome would be dogs who possess few faults. The program might produce, dare I say it, faultless dogs! However, to the breed student, dogs who "just" meet the standard in all areas are most likely considered "common," "without quality," or "boring." The bull terrier fancy refer to these sort of animals as "faultless non-entities."

The second approach is to breed for virtues. This means to select a stud dog based on the fact he has a "gorgeous" head, or a "great" sidegait. The breeder is seeking, in point of fact, some-

thing beyond the minimum standard. For the forward thinkers, they know just meeting a baseline standard is not a very successful manner in which to expect any degree of consistent success or satisfaction. They strive for something that stands out, something that is better than the rest. So this breeder will tend to search for strength of virtues.

Quite naturally, the ideal scenario is to obtain a high proportion of virtuous characteristics with no faults. What we find in practice, though, is that the dogs who are very virtuous in some aspect or aspects sometimes are also saddled with faults. If I were the breeder who bred for lack of faults, such a dog would be sent out to a pet home for his faults. If I were the breeder who is striving for that ideal in my mind, I would hesitate and determine whether the dog, overall, was worth using despite the fault or faults. The frustrating fact is when these “phenoms” appear they not only have extreme virtues but often extreme faults as well! I euphemistically think this is Mother Nature’s way of keeping things in balance. The “house rule” I use in this instance is quite simple. I ask myself, “Can I obtain these great virtues elsewhere, in a less faulty dog?” If the answer is yes, the animal can be discarded from the breeding program. If the answer is no, there is the distinct possibility that discarding such an animal will ensure those characteristics will never be bred to such a high standard again. For the judge, the question is the same, “Have I seen such strength of virtue exhibited in this breed before?” If not, then one must ponder the value that animal has in a breeding program before deciding his/her placement amongst the competitors.

The challenge the breeder is faced with, when presented with a dog of extreme virtue and extreme fault, is to determine if such a dog can be leveraged in a breeding program successfully. It really takes considerable cleverness to accurately determine if the risk is worth the potential value. Some breeders fail at this miserably and possibly end up breeding a line of beautifully headed cripples or some other sort of ill-conceived manifestations. But given the right opportunity by the person who somehow has the ability to understand when these controversial dogs are useful, they typically make profound influences on their breed. I shall not delve further into the needed importance of a judge’s ability to possess the same talent in order for their opinion to be truly useful. Inevitably, these extreme animals have two long lines of followers – those who love the dog (for his/her virtues) and those who despise the dog (for his/her faults and sometimes virtues!) There is very little middle-ground with these guys.

Enough theorizing, I’ll now provide a couple of examples. My first example comes from the bull terrier breed. I will freely acknowledge that progressive, liberal thinking was practiced by this fancy long before such posturing was fashionable and I suspect it was largely due to Mr. Oppenheimer’s genius. He was wealthy, opinionated and generally right in his thinking – a formula for becoming a mover and shaker! So to begin, there appeared from the smoke of WWII a very impressive colored bull terrier. Notwithstanding the fact this particular dog had the gall to be colored (whites were historically considered superior in those days), he had a simply phenomenal head. Much of bull terrier breed type is in the head, so when an extreme headed dog has appeared, I have often read stories of how the judge almost fainted! being overcome but such extraordinary perfection. At any rate, this dog,

who became English Ch. Romany Reliance, was such an animal. He had a superb gunbarrel front, bone, substance, a lovely neck and an auspicious headpiece. What were wrong were straight shoulders, straight stifles, a high-set tail, a certain lack of body shape and an imperfect bite – he was, in short, riddled with faults. Plenty of ammunition for both sides to rally around! Suffice it to say he was an extraordinary link to vast breed improvement and is probably single-handedly responsible why the breeders of whites mutinied against their parent club to allow them free use of coloreds and color-bred whites in their breeding programs.

In Cardigan Welsh Corgis, I can illustrate such a case in which I played some part. There existed in the seventies a most beautiful brindle dog by the name of Ch. Brymore’s Taliesin. While he possessed many exceptional virtues he was not a particularly up-to-standard mover. He won well for his day, competing in the Working Group as Cardis did in those days, with two Best in Shows and two CWCCA National Specialty BBs. But he was most controversial and I very much remember overhearing much debate about his value. Being a teenager I tended to keep my mouth closed (or at least that’s how I remember it) but I always thought him of exceptional virtue without question. In the event he was, in fact, very little used at stud. When I reached a point where I was actively involved in breeding dogs, I championed his use, but by now he was nearly 12 years old. Eventually, a daughter of Taliesin was put to a dog of mine, Ch. Kennebec Ice Anchor. The bitch was a decent sort, she was long-coated, barely acceptable in movement but typical in many ways and quite obviously carried many of the good points of her sire. What came out of the litter was a rather glorious bitch by the name of Ch. Davenitch Shiloh Luca. She became the first Cardigan bitch in the world to win an all breed Best in Show and won two national specialties and was BOS to her sire at another. She was, indeed, a phenomenal specimen. Before and after the advent of Luca, I crossed the Taliesin descendants I had with the complementary Ice Anchor and they proved extremely valuable in breed improvement, counting for a large number of national specialty and all breed winners among their descendants.

The point of my essay being that truly, it is strength of virtue - intelligently recognized and utilized - which moves a breed forward, not a mad pursuit for lack of fault. Judging by faults is far easier but far less satisfactory in the end. I will insert the comment that I am by no means asserting a characteristic carried to extreme is always virtuous! But I do believe it true that as one approaches what we consider “perfection” the horizon ever recedes and our concept of perfection then alters. I do believe, with great conviction, that without the recognition and use of these rare occurrences in dog breeding, we lose momentum and great opportunities for breed advancement.

So when we come upon these phenoms and they are saddled with shortcomings, let us recognize both the good and bad and evaluate them in the light of breed improvement and not just as a static manifestation of an imperfect rendering of the breed standard.

*More of Jon Kimes’ writing can be found on his website,  
[www.jonkimes.com](http://www.jonkimes.com)*



Submitted by Genine DeMaso, Debut Boxers

**GOOD ADVICE FROM DOGS**

If a dog were your "teacher" you would learn things like.....

- .....when loved ones come home, always run to greet them.
- .....never pass up the opportunity to go for a joyride.
- .....allow the experience of fresh air and wind in your face to be pure ecstasy.
- .....when it is in your best interest, practice obedience.
- .....let others know when they have invaded your territory.
- .....take naps and stretch before rising.
- .....run, romp, and play daily.
- .....thrive on attention and let people touch you.
- .....avoid biting when a simple growl will do.
- .....on warm days, stop to lie on your back in the grass.
- .....on hot days, drink lots of water and lie under a shady tree.
- .....when you are happy, dance around and wag your entire body.
- .....no matter how often you are scolded, don't buy into the guilt thing and pout. Run right back and make friends.
- .....delight in the simple joy of a long walk.
- .....eat with gusto and enthusiasm and stop when you have had enough.
- .....be loyal and never pretend to be something you're not.
- .....if what you want lies buried, dig until you find it.
- .....when someone is having a bad day, be silent, sit close by, and nuzzle them gently!!!!



**JUST A DOG**

From time to time, people tell me, "lighten up.....it's just a dog", or "that's a lot of money for just a dog". These people obviously don't understand the distance traveled, the time spent, or the costs involved for "just a dog".



Some of my proudest moments have come about with "just a dog". Many hours have passed and my only company was "just a dog", but I did not once feel slighted. Some of my saddest moments have been brought about by "just a dog", and in those days of darkness, the gentle touch of "just a dog" gave me comfort and a reason to overcome the day.

If you too think it's....."just a dog", then you will probably understand phrases like "just a friend", "just a sunrise", or "just a promise". "Just a dog" brings into my life the very essence of friendship, trust and pure unbridled joy. "Just a dog" brings out the compassion and patience that makes me a better person. Because of "just a dog", I will rise early, take long walks, and look longingly to the future. So, for me and folks like me, it's not "just a dog" but an embodiment of all the hopes and dreams of the future, fond memories of the past, and pure joy of the moment. "Just a dog" brings out what is good in me and diverts my thoughts away from myself and the worries of the day.

I hope that someday these people can understand that it's not "just a dog" but the thing that gives me humanity and keeps me from being "just a human". So, the next time you hear the phrase "just a dog", simply smile.....because they "just don't understand"!!

Author Unknown

# THE CHATTERBOXER

## Cameliard's Dust In The Wind

**Owner:** Virginia Johnson & Jeremy Myers  
**Breeder:** Virginia Johnson, Cameliard Boxers  
 Chris Randolph, Randolph Boxers  
**Handler:** Genine DeMaso

Ch. Raineylane's Different Drum x  
 Ch. Randolph Diamonds Are Forever

**Reserve Winners Bitch**  
 Central Indiana Boxer Club—2/10/06  
 Judge: Mr. George Murray

(from the 6-9 Puppy Bitch class)

## Cameliard's Mystic Warrior

**Owner:** Susan Boxlet & Gerald Franzen  
**Breeders:** Virginia Johnson, Cameliard Boxers  
**Handler:** Genine DeMaso

Am/Can Ch. BJay's Traveling Man x  
 Am/Can Ch. Cameliard's Color Me Gone

**Winners Dog—5-point Major**  
 Central Indiana Boxer Club—2/11/06  
 Judge: Mrs. Betty Mentzer

## CR Total Commitment

**Owner:** Cindy Walunas, CR Boxers  
**Breeder:** Rick & Cindy Walunas, CR Boxers  
**Handler:** Genine DeMaso

Ch. Bee-Mike's One Night Stand, SOM  
 x Ch. Icon Silhouette

**Winners Dog—5-point Major**  
 Central Indiana Kennel Club—2/11/06  
 Judge: Mr. Carl Anderson

## Claremont's Spring Beauty

**Owner:** Brad & Patty Okray  
**Breeder:** Clare & Julie Lodenstein, Claremont Boxers  
**Handler:** Clare Lodenstein

Ch. Golden Gloves A Cut Above x  
 Ch. Karizma's La Belle

**Best of Breed (over Specials)**  
**Winners Bitch, Best of Winners—5-point Major**  
 Central Indiana Boxer Club—2/11/06  
 Judge: Mrs. Betty Mentzer

**Winners Bitch, Best of Winners—5-point Major**  
 Central Indiana Kennel Club—2/11/06  
 Judge: Mr. Carl Anderson

## MEMBER BIRTHDAYS

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



<u>Member Name</u>	<u>Whelped On</u>
Marianne Balzer	March 7
Bill Johnson	March 10
Vicki Cope	March 13
Nicole Fisher	March 18
Cheryl Johnson	March 21
Janet Smith	March 23
Cindy Walunas	March 23
Shari Marzetti	March 28
Maggie Papesh	March 31

### Send Show Wins & Litter Announcements to

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