



THE CHATTERBOXER

Member, American Boxer Club
Established 1945

October 2004

Officers 2004

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734-427-9781

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ProHeart 6 Recalled

"Serious Health Concerns" prompt FDA to act

FDA Talk Paper

T04-37

September 3, 2004

Media Inquiries: 301-827-6242

Consumer Inquiries: 888-INFO-FDA

Fort Dodge to Comply with FDA's Request to Recall ProHeart 6 Injectable Heartworm Product from the Market Due to Serious Health Concerns

Fort Dodge Animal Health, of Overland Park, Kansas, at FDA's request, has agreed to immediately cease production and recall its heartworm medication ProHeart@6 from the market until the FDA's concerns about adverse reaction reports associated with the product can be resolved. FDA is requesting that the firm continue to conduct research to determine the cause of related adverse reactions and develop a strategy to help prevent such problems in the future before the product is marketed again. The FDA will convene an independent scientific advisory committee to thoroughly evaluate all available data.

ProHeart@6 is an approved injectable sustained-release heartworm prevention product for dogs. Heartworm disease is a serious and potentially fatal condition of dogs, cats, and other species of mammals. The parasite that causes heartworm disease is transmitted through the bite of a mosquito.

FDA is also advising veterinarians to avoid administering this product to dogs until further notice. Pet owners should consult their veterinarians regarding their pet's health care needs.

Since the product was approved in June 2001, Fort Dodge Animal Health has cooperated with FDA to investigate numerous adverse event reports. As a result, Fort Dodge has voluntarily changed the label to include post approval safety information including rare reports of death and a caution to practitioners that dogs should have a negative test for heartworm before administration.

Despite these label changes, FDA is still receiving unexplained adverse event reports, some of them severe. FDA's concern is based on voluntary self-reporting to FDA by veterinarians and owners whose dogs have suffered adverse drug experiences (ADEs) to ProHeart@6 (which contains the drug moxidectin) as well as the mandatory reporting of adverse events by Fort Dodge Animal Health.

Fort Dodge Animal Health has agreed to recall any product that has already been distributed to veterinarians.

As of August 4, 2004, FDA's Center for Veterinary Medicine (CVM) had received 5,552 adverse event reports for ProHeart@6. The actual number of adverse events is likely even higher because studies show that only a fraction of actual ADEs are reported.

The Agency has observed an increase in the number of cases associated with liver and bleeding abnormalities followed in some cases by death.

RELATED LINKS:

Talk Paper online: <http://www.fda.gov/bbs/topics/ANSWERS/2004/ANS01312.html>

FDA letter to veterinarians about recall: <http://www.fda.gov/cvm/index/safety/proheart6091304.html>

The American Heartworm Society: <http://www.heartwormsociety.org>

AHS information about the epidemiology, transmission and treatment of heartworm infections (hint—Michigan weather does not justify year-round heartworm medication!):

<http://www.heartwormsociety.org/AHS%20Guidelines-Canine.htm#canine>

From the Editor

*There is a harmony
In autumn, and a lustre in its sky,
Which through the summer is not heard or seen,
As if it could not be, as if it had not been!*
~ Percy Bysshe Shelley

The American spring is by no means so agreeable as the American autumn; both move with faltering step, and slow; but this lingering pace, which is delicious in autumn, is most tormenting in the spring.
~ Frances Trollope



Autumn has arrived, and with it the sights and smells that instantly bring to mind memories of days gone by. The clear blue sky, crisp air, and turning leaves invariably take me back to the first days of school; a fresh start, the odors of new paper and just-sharpened pencils, the excitement that hasn't yet faded into the dark monotony of winter schooldays. The smell of burning leaves reminds me of the cheap fun of jumping in leaf piles—before I knew or cared about the slugs and insects that often hide in piles of leaves. One of the true treats of autumn, of course, is a visit to the local cider mill for spice donuts and apple cider that can never be matched by a store-bought container.

By far, autumn is my favorite time of year. Typically, people consider spring the season of rebirth, of starting anew, of waking after a long sleep. And of course this has its own truth—while I do like spring, and the smell of newly-mowed lawns and damp earth, for me, there is no comparison. Autumn is the best time to begin new projects, to make changes, to refresh and revitalize and renew. This is when I do my “spring cleaning” - this is when I begin projects, to keep me occupied through the long, cold winter. While the rest of the world sees the death of summer, I see the birth of endless possibilities and infinite opportunities.

Along with some personal projects that I will begin in the next few weeks, I will also be working to bring some changes to the Michigan Boxer Club. As noted in the minutes of the September meeting, beginning in 2005 the ChatterBoxer will be sent electronically,

as an e-mail attachment, instead of in paper form. Those who desire a paper ChatterBoxer, and those who do not have e-mail, will be able to choose the traditional format at no extra cost. Another change for 2005 is the new By-Laws, which become effective January 1. The most immediate effect of this will be that the final deadline for payment of membership dues is moved up to January 31, as opposed to March 31 as it has been in the past. These changes will serve to improve the efficiency of the Club, without compromising the traditions that have been established.

Touching on the subject of opportunity and possibility, Club President Joan Johnson mentioned some of the research the American Boxer Charitable Foundation is funding that is related to lymphoma—a common cancer in the Boxer breed. Brief information on some of these studies has been published in past issues of the ChatterBoxer, but in light of the interest expressed at the meeting I have included in this issue some expanded information on the lymphoma and other cancer research that the ABCF is currently funding, as well as some upcoming studies that the AKC Charitable Health Foundation feels may be of interest to the Boxer community.

See you at the show!!

Best ~

Jen

Member Birthdays

The Michigan Boxer Club would like to send good wishes to the following Club members who are celebrating October birthdays:

<u>Member Name</u>	<u>Whelped On</u>
Joanna Wojciechowski	October 4
Kathy Zatek	October 14
Judy Brissey	October 18
Charlie Carroll	October 25
Michelle Farless	October 25
Marge Kumar	October 27
Genine DeMaso	October 29



Boxer Shorts

Genine DeMaso, Debut Boxers

AN OLDIE, BUT A GOODIE

It was a slow day in heaven, so God phoned Satan to see what was going on down there.

"It's a slow day here, too," said Satan.

"Well," God said, "I think a dog show might be fun."

"Sounds good," said Satan, "but why are you calling me? You've got all the dogs up there."

"I know," answered God, "but you've got all the judges."



You've Seen Conformation Barbie, Now It's Time For:

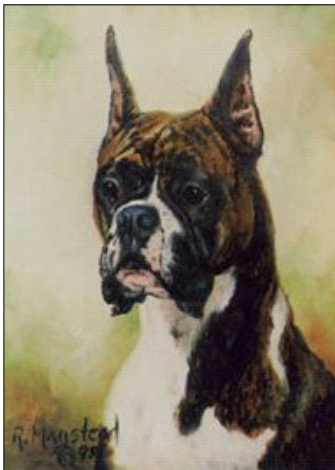
PERFORMANCE DOG BARBIES

OBEDIENCE BARBIE: Barbie comes with a training bag full of gear, a set of utility articles, a full set of regulation obedience jumps, her own lawn chair, cooler, a subscription to Front and Finish, and her very own obedience Golden Retriever "OTCh Sparklepond's Shorestepper's Heelalong Fool" better known as "Two-hundred". Accessories such as HIT ribbons and high scoring club plaques can be purchased separately.

TRACKING JUDGE BARBIE: Barbie comes with a polartec snowsuit, Gore-Tex raingear and boots, wool socks, leather tracking gloves, silk long underwear, sunscreen, bug spray, a baseball cap, a waterproof clipboard, mylar paper and space pens in three colors. She also comes with whistles in two different colors to match the snowsuit and rain gear, a complete set of tracking flags, a compass, and a set of 12 different tracking articles. Unlike most Barbies, this Barbie always has a "bad hair day" so it's best to leave a hood or the baseball cap over her hair at all times. Included in the deluxe version is Barbie's tracking dog "Pokealong's Can't Find Squat TD", or "Sniffer", Siberian Husky who comes with his own harness and rope as well as a lifetime supply of hot dogs. Sniffer has been known to eat start articles with one gulp and turn the start flag into a large toy at TDX tests, grabbing it in his mouth and running in large circles around the field (especially when there is a large audience watching). This version also comes with a case of Valium for Tracking Judge Barbie for this very reason. This is the most expensive Barbie and most collectors prefer to leave her in the original box.

EARTHDOG BARBIE: Barbie comes with her very own monogrammed shovel, a custom-built liner for training, and a cage with three live rats. Also included are several pair of jeans, flannel shirts, t-shirts, rain gear, sunscreen, bug spray, and waterproof boots. Barbie comes with several small terriers (you choose the breed) and two first aid kits (one for the dogs when they get in fights, and one for Barbie when she gets her hand in the way) as well as a .38 revolver for emergencies (don't ask). This version of Barbie can be removed from the box but some collectors prefer to leave the terriers in the original box.

HERDING BARBIE: This very popular Barbie comes with her very own authentic drover coat, Stetson cowboy hat, several pair of cowboy boots, waterproof boots for very inclement weather, silk long johns, wool socks, and an monogrammed staff. Much like Tracking Judge Barbie, this version of Barbie has perpetual "bad hair", so be prepared to leave the cowboy hat on at all times. Also included is her very own monogrammed stretcher so that she can be carried out of the arena when the sheep run over her. Barbie comes with her own Sheltie, "Round 'em Up's Chaser HI", or "Yapper". "Yapper" comes with her own gold-plated chain so that she can be hooked up to the barbed wire fence with all the Cattle Dogs and Border Collies (barbed wire fence not included). Barbie also comes with several sheep, cows, and ducks, making her one of the more expensive Barbies.



AGILITY BARBIE: Unlike most slim, attractive versions of Barbie, this Barbie is quite muscular from hauling very heavy A-Frames, Teeter-Totters, and dog walks. She can carry an A-frame panel with one arm and set up all of the contact obstacles single-handedly. Barbie comes complete with a full set of agility equipment, lawn chair, cooler, stopwatch, battery operated fans, an open-sided tent for shade, sunscreen, bug-spray, rain suit, waterproof boots, 57 different agility rule books for all occasions, and her very own courier (Ken) who can hand deliver agility entries to the most popular trials and stand in line for Barbie. Ken also helps set up the equipment. Barbie also comes with her own agility dog, Border Collie U-Atch Runaround's Speed Demon AX, AXJ, etc, etc, BFD, or "Contact". Trailer for hauling Agility equipment sold separately. (Visit Agility Barbie at <http://agilitytrials2001.homestead.com/ab.html>)

Four wheel drive Sport Utility Vehicles and Mini Vans complete with dog crates are sold separately for all versions of Barbie.

MBC Educational Programs for 2004

Over the last three years, the Michigan Boxer Club has made a concerted effort to have an educational program as part of its monthly meeting. The MBC Board and Officers felt that a monthly program added an additional benefit to Club membership and provided added incentive for members who live a distance from the metropolitan Detroit to attend monthly business meetings. We have had programs on Advances in Boxer Heart Testing, Canine First Aid, Raw Diets, Puppy Neonatal Care, Video tapes of Ch. Bang Away of Sirrah Crest, Leader Dogs for the Blind, and the Canine Rescue unit of the Michigan Technical Rescue Operations Team, to name a few.

Education Schedule:

No programs for the September or October meetings due to the Fall Specialty Show.

Future programs:

Advances in Laser Surgery for Dogs
 Current Information on Boxer Heart Issues, Video from ABC by Dr. Katherine Meurs
 Hypothyroidism in Boxers, Video from ABC by Dr. Peter Graham
 Seminar on Degenerative Myelopathy, Video from ABC by Dr. Natasha Olby
 The Key to Movement Video, Part 1, Coming and Going
 The Key to Movement Video, Part 2, Side Movement
 Show Grooming for the Boxer
 Breeding Basics
 Dog Law, Owner Responsibilities and Liabilities
 Puppy Contracts
 Canine Nutrition
 The Dog Game - Tax Implications as Business or Hobby
 Obedience Training with the Boxer
 Agility Training with the Boxer
 Human Personality and Dog Breed Preferences

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

Website Spotlight

As we don't have an Educational topic this month, I thought I'd post some sites on different topics that might be of interest this time:

BEHAVIOR & TRAINING SITES

Individual Trainers

Bill & Marian Bailey: <http://www.behavior1.com>
 Shirley Chong: <http://www.shirleychong.com>
 Suzanne Clothier: <http://www.flyingdogpress.com>
 Karen Pryor: <http://www.clickertraining.com>
 Jack & Wendy Volhard: <http://www.volhard.com>
 Gary Wilkes: <http://www.clickandtreat.com>

Organizations

American Temperament Test Society: <http://www.atts.org>
 Association of Professional Dog Trainers: <http://www.apdt.com>
 Delta Society: <http://www.deltasociety.org>
 National Association of Obedience Instructors: <http://www.nadoi.org>
 Therapy Dogs International: <http://www.tdi-dog.org>

Articles and Resources

Clicker Solutions: <http://www.clickersolutions.com>
 Doggie Door to Canine Behavior: <http://www.caninebehavior.com>
 Dr. P's Dog Training Library: <http://www.uwsp.edu/psych/dog/dog.htm>
 Pawsitive Solutions: <http://www.pawsitivesolutions.net>

Michigan Boxer Club Annual Awards Dinner
Tuesday, December 7, 2004

Weber's Inn

3050 Jackson Road
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48103

MENU

(All dinner buffets include freshly baked rolls and butter, fresh tossed salad greens or Romaine salad vinaigrette, three assorted cold salads, dessert, and Weber's Special Blend coffee, tea or milk.)

ENTREES

Chicken Chasseur with a sauce of mushrooms, tomatoes and white wine
Smoked Salmon Farfalle with asparagus, shallots and a white cream sauce
Turkey Scaloppine with mushrooms and white wine sauce

HORS D'OEUVRES

Domestic Cheese Tray with crackers
Raw Vegetable Tray with Jalapeno Ranch Dip

ACCOMPANIMENTS

Fresh Vegetable Medley
Herb Roasted Redskin Potatoes

DESSERT

Assorted Tarts

Cost will be \$21 per person. Weber's Inn is conveniently located in Ann Arbor's beautiful west side across from Dolph park and nature area. Easy on and off exit to I-94.

Directions:

From Metro Airport - Take I-94 west toward Jackson/Ann Arbor approximately 26 miles west, Exit 172, Jackson Avenue, turn left.

From Chicago/Kalamazoo - Take I-94 east toward Detroit/ Ann Arbor. Exit 172, Jackson Avenue, turn left into Weber's parking lot at end of exit ramp.

From Lansing/Grand Rapids - Take I-96 east towards Detroit. Take US 23 south towards Ann Arbor/Toledo. Take M14 west towards Ann Arbor. Exit at exit 2, Miller/Maple Road. Turn left on Maple Road. Go 1.5 miles to Jackson Road. Turn Right on Jackson and go 3/4 miles to Weber's.

Dances With Dogs

By Suzanne Clothier

Included in the September print issue of the ChatterBoxer was Suzanne Clothier's article, "Dances with Dogs". Suzanne's copyright does not allow electronic reproduction of her articles—which includes a .pdf file—so I have removed it from the online version. The article can be found on Suzanne's website, at www.flyingdogpress.com/dances.html.

Michigan Boxer Rescue Third Annual Puppy Match and Rescue Raffle

Judge Ms. Julie Sako

We will once again have great items for the raffle, including a

Larger-Than-Life stuffed Boxer

and, in a special raffle,

a Dannyquest piece

Last Call—We need your donations!!!

Bring them to the show!!!

All proceeds go to our Rescue program

You can bring your donated items to our August or September meetings,
or you can bring them to the show.

We had a fantastic turn out last year—let's make this year even better!

Remember, it's all for the dogs in need!!

Michigan Boxer Rescue

THE CHATTERBOXER

Michigan Boxer Club Policy Trophy—Plaque—Awards

1. Recipient must be a member in good standing of the Michigan Boxer Club.
2. Recipient must provide proof of ownership of the dog at the time of finishing by furnishing a copy of the AKC Certificate of Championship.
3. Only one award per dog will be furnished by the Club. In the case of co-ownership, any additional award can be provided at the owner's request and expense.
4. A minimum \$20.00 trophy pledge or trophy of equal value as determined by the awards chairperson must be made in the year the dog finishes.
5. Awards will be given only to Boxers whose American Championship or Obedience Title is confirmed through AKC. This information must be given (names and dates of shows, points won, etc.) to the Awards chairperson by October 15th to be verified. Additional titles, such as a champion earning an Obedience title, will be recognized with an addition to the original award. Certificates will be awarded to dogs finishing in conformation or obedience in Canada.
6. Any dog who achieves the title of Sire or Dam of Merit as defined by the American Boxer Club will be awarded a trophy equal to that of a Conformation or Obedience Champion. The names of the finishing offspring (seven for Sire, four for Dam) must be submitted by October 15th.
7. A majority of eight conformation points or one leg toward an obedience title must be won while the owner is a member of the Michigan Boxer Club in order to qualify for any award.
8. Any dog selected to participate in the American Boxer Top Twenty competition at the American Boxer Club national specialty will be awarded a trophy as determined by the Awards chairperson. Additionally, the breeder of this dog who is a member of Michigan Boxer Club will also receive a trophy.

Attendance Records

In order to be eligible for office the following year, a member must attend six Club meetings. Including the November and December meetings of 2003 (as nominations are taken in November), and taking into consideration that we have one meeting left before November of 2004, the following is a list of members who could possibly be eligible for office for 2005, along with the number of meetings they have attended through September 7, 2004. (Members in bold are currently eligible.)

<u>Member</u>	<u>Meetings</u>	<u>Member</u>	<u>Meetings</u>
Marianne Balzer	6	Steve Francis	5
Charlie Beauchamp	6	Dick Johnson	10
Liz Bistline	9	Joan Johnson	10
Mary Lou Bumpus	8	Virginia Johnson	8
Alan Dorfman	5	Dave Stark	10
Joanna Dorfman	7	Marilyn Stark	9
Christina Fleisher	5	Jennifer Walker	10
Lori Renda-Francis	5	Barry Wyerman	5

Championship Awards

It's time to be recognized for your Boxer's achievements in 2003-2004. If your Boxer has completed their American or Canadian Championship or achieved Sire or Dam of Merit Status in 2003-2004, please complete the form below and return it to Joan Johnson by **October 15.** To avoid mail delays, Canadian members should mail EARLY!

Remember, it is your responsibility to have made the minimum trophy pledge and to relay the information to the trophy chairperson clearly and accurately in readable form. The owner of record at the time the title was earned must request the plaque.

Record of New Champion, Sire of Merit or Dam of Merit

(Circle titles that apply)

Boxer's Registered Name _____

Boxer's Call Name _____

Boxer's Color _____

Breeder(s) _____

Owner(s) _____

Sire's Registered Name _____

Dam's Registered Name _____

Date Title Achieved USA _____

Canada _____

Title(s) _____

Whelping Date _____

Ownership from _____ to _____

Return Completed Form to

**Joan Johnson
31081 Westfield
Livonia, MI 48150**

REMINDER — Completed form is due by October 15, 2004. Any forms received after October 15 will not be accepted. Your trophy contribution for 2004 must have been a minimum of \$20.00 to qualify for a Championship plaque.

Show Wins

Cameliard's Spirit of the Wind—"Rachel"
Breeders: Virginia Johnson & Theresa Cunningham
Owners: Virginia Johnson & Mary Lou Bumpus
Handler: Genine DeMaso

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

**Winners Bitch, Best of Winners,
 Best of Opposite Sex (1 point)**
 Greater Lafayette Kennel Club - September 10, 2004
 Judge Dr. Robert D. Smith

Ch. Randolph Diamonds Are Forever—"Rita"
Breeder: Liz Bistline
Owners: Virginia Johnson & Chris Randolph
Handler: Virginia Johnson

Am/Can Ch. Full Circle's Mighty Zeus x
 Cameliard's Diamond Lil

**Winners Bitch, Best of Opposite Sex (1 point)
 ** New Champion ****
 Pontiac Kennel Club - September 5, 2004
 Judge Mr. John L. Anderson

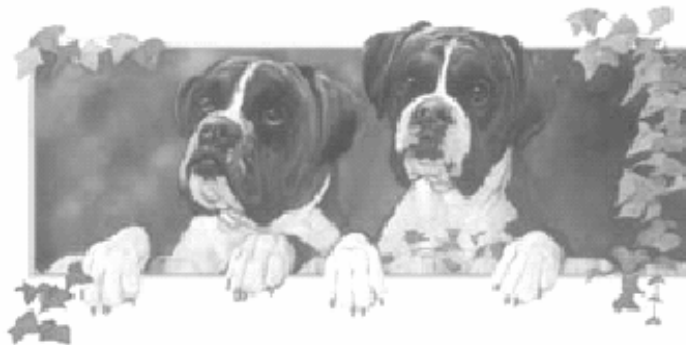
Newcastle's Global AbFab—"Patsy"
Breeders: Kti Jensen & Penny Thurman
Owners: Jennifer & Jeremy Walker
Handler: Genine DeMaso

Ch. Bix-I's Ricochet to Greyhawk x
 Riccibet Gone Global (UK Imp)

Winners Bitch, Best of Opposite Sex (1 point)
 Central Indiana Kennel Club - September 11, 2004
 Judge Mrs. Christine Hubbell

**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



Announcements

Fall Specialty Trophy Pledges Now Due

As a reminder, a Championship plaque cannot be awarded if you have not made at least one trophy pledge (Spring or Fall) of \$20 or more.

Annual Awards Dinner

Tuesday, December 7, 2004
 Weber's Inn
 3050 Jackson Road
 Ann Arbor, Michigan 48103

We Need Items for the Rescue Raffle

This is our chance to give back to the breed that gives us so much, unquestioningly.

Be sure to include the donor's name with the item.

Address Change

Joanna & Alan Dorfman
 35965 Scone
 Livonia, MI. 48154
 (734) 464-3927

AKC CHF Research Grants

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

Abstract: Lymphoma (cancer of lymph glands) and osteosarcoma (bone cancer) are two common cancers of dogs with remarkable breed predisposition. Lymphoma accounts for approximately 20 percent of all canine tumors, and > 80 percent of cancers originating from blood cells. Osteosarcoma is the most common bone tumor in dogs, accounting for 85 percent of skeletal cancers. All cancers have a genetic basis, and in effect, these conditions represent various diseases, each sharing one or few genetic abnormalities that contributes to overall risk and treatment response. However, a means does not exist to identify individuals at risk, or tumors that are likely to respond to conventional therapy. We have identified individual genes and larger regions within the genome that appear to be important in canine cancer. For this project, we propose to confirm the frequency and significance of these genetic anomalies in lymphoma and osteosarcoma of Golden Retrievers, Rottweilers, Irish Setters, and Bernese Mountain Dogs. This work will begin to determine which of these anomalies may be heritable and which may be sporadic, and pave the way to apply this knowledge for clinical benefits by providing potential targets for treatment, and tools to define individual risk to develop these types of cancer or produce cancer-prone progeny.

Active Grant No. 22101: Development of Anti-Canine IL-2R α Antibodies Using CpG Oligodeoxynucleotide Vaccination

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

Abstract: Despite progress in treating canine lymphoma, most affected dogs eventually develop resistance to chemotherapy and succumb to their disease. In human medicine, the α subunit of the interleukin-2 receptor (IL-2R α) has been developed as a target for immunotherapy of chemoresistant lymphoma patients. Intensively studied as a molecule present on normal lymphocytes that are activated, IL-2R α has recently been developed as a target on malignant lymphocytes that have been found to express this protein inappropriately. This has been accomplished using anti-IL-2R α monoclonal antibody (Mab) to deliver cellular toxins or radioisotopes directly to the cancer cells, a strategy that overcomes drug resistance. We would now like to develop such an antibody against the canine IL-2R α subunit that could benefit dogs with lymphoma. Our rationale for pursuing this approach stems from molecular data we generated indicating that a high percentage of canine lymphomas from Golden Retrievers and Rottweilers express IL-2R α . Having synthesized canine recombinant (cr) IL-2R α using the gene sequence we cloned, we are now ready to produce and validate Mabs against it. To accomplish these goals, 1) we will employ a novel immunization strategy to prepare murine anti-canine IL-2R α Mabs, 2) develop a test using anti-canine IL-2R α Mabs for the detection of IL-2R α shed into the blood of Golden Retriever and Rottweiler lymphoma patients, and 3) screen lymphoma biopsies from Golden Retrievers and Rottweilers for IL-2R α . Mabs generated to Canine IL-2R α will be a powerful tool in the diagnosis, prognosis, and treatment of canine lymphoma.

Active Grant No. 2025: Growth Signaling Pathways in the Pathogenesis and Treatment of Canine Cancer

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

Abstract: Hemangiosarcoma (HAS) is a common cancer in dogs that originates from cells lining the blood vessels. HAS can affect any dog, but is seen more often in German Shepherds, Skye Terriers, and Golden Retrievers. This suggests that this disease has a heritable component. Tumors arise when cells respond inappropriately to growth factors, allowing them to divide continuously in an uncontrolled fashion. Tumor suppressor genes contain or eliminate these rapidly dividing cells, but mutations in these genes can disable their ability to function correctly. Our laboratory is examining the idea that the loss of function of one of these tumor suppressor genes, PTEN, leads to the increased production of tumor growth factors. In our studies, we will examine the frequency of the mutations in the PTEN gene from dogs with HAS, and the relationship of these mutations to increased production of a specific tumor growth factor, VEGF. The results of our research could lead to tests for screening dogs for mutations in PTEN, and information could have an immediate and long-lasting impact on canine health when used judiciously for breeding decisions. We will also test the ability of a novel therapeutic approach to restore normal function within these cells as a treatment for HAS. Such work may lead the way for the further development of novel therapies for the treatment of canine hemangiosarcoma.

Pending Grant No. 2629: Clinical and Immunological Outcomes in Dogs with Osteosarcoma Treated with Intratumoral Interleukin-12 Microspheres

Stuart Helfand, DVM; University of Wisconsin

Abstract: Appendicular osteosarcoma, or bone cancer of the limbs, is an important tumor in dogs representing nearly 10% of all canine cancers. Despite progress in treating canine osteosarcoma using a combination of limb amputation and chemotherapy, life expectancy is not usually extended by more than 6-10 months compared to amputation alone. Death is due to dissemination of cancer cells beyond the leg and it is estimated that the cancer has already spread in at least 95% of dogs when it is initially diagnosed. Any pet owner who has lived through this disease can attest to the heart-break of the news that tumor masses, initially undetectable at the time of diagnosis, have been discovered on a chest X-ray. Novel treatment regimens are urgently needed to improve the lives of large breed dogs such as Golden, Labrador and other Retriever4s, Rottweilers, Irish Wolfhounds, Great Danes, German Shepherds and others that are at greatest risk for developing this cancer. Stimulating the immune system of dogs with cancer has been a goal of veterinary cancer researchers for more than 20 years and osteosarcoma is a tumor that has shown positive responses to some of these interventions. This research proposes to add a potent new form of immunostimulation to the standard treatment for canine osteosarcoma. This strategy uses a powerful stimulant of the immune system called interleukin-12 (IL-12) that has been shown to induce strong antitumor responses in experimental animal models. Stimulated by IL-12, immune cells tolerant of cancer can be triggered to kill cancer cells throughout the body, resulting in the generation of an army of deadly circulating killer immune cells specific for the cancer. What's more, this type of cell has long-term memory for the cancer, in much the same way vaccination results in long-term immunity to infectious disease. Our laboratory has shown that IL-12 enhances killing of osteosarcoma cells by immune cells from dogs with this cancer. Now, we propose that injection of IL-12 directly into limb osteosarcoma using a novel (microsphere) formulation resulting in slow IL-12 release within the tumor environment will promote active antitumor immunity in dogs with osteosarcoma and lengthen their survival time. A number of pertinent immunological questions will also be addressed.

Pending Grant No. 2667: Cellular Genomics— Molecular Cytogenetic Investigation of Canine Soft Tissue Sarcomas

Matthew Breen, PhD; North Carolina State University

Abstract: It has been established that non-random chromosome aberrations are characteristic of specific types of many different human cancers. The knowledge of such aberrations has identified areas of the human genome to be targeted for further research. In the dog the extent and identity of chromosome aberrations associated with specific cancers is still largely unknown. In certain breeds, such as the Flat-Coated Retriever and Bernese Mountain Dog, soft tissue sarcomas account for up to 50% of all malignant tumors and thus represent a serious health and welfare issue for those breeds. These tumors are difficult to classify by conventional means and so attention is required to develop alternative approaches. Human soft tissue sarcomas have been demonstrated to be associated with specific chromosomal aberrations that have been shown to have both diagnostic and prognostic significance. This proposal will make use of major recent advances in canine molecular cytogenetics to identify recurrent chromosome aberrations associated with canine soft tissue sarcomas, in particular those of histiocytic origin. This project will identify areas of the canine genome associated with such cancers for further investigation at the sub-chromosomal level.

Critical Periods in Canine Development, Part II

Reprinted from the October 1989 issue of the Weimaraner Magazine

By Ellen Dodge

Human Socialization Period - 50 to 84 Days (7 to 12 weeks)

This is the best time to place a puppy in his new home, since he is now ready to transfer his affections from his dam to his people. Pfaffenberger says, "From now to the 16th week of the puppy's life, his basic character is set by what he is taught. This will apply especially to his attitudes toward people and toward his ability to serve them the very best he can." Socialization must be continued.

During this time the puppy is given widely varied experiences and meets as many people of all ages and walks of life as possible. Once a puppy is reasonably housebroken, I take it to the bank, hardware store, pet shop, florist, playground and everywhere possible with me. During the seventh week is a good time to send a puppy the breeder plans to keep for an overnight visit with a trusted friend. By ten weeks, puppies should have separate living quarters, or at least separate sleeping quarters if they are still in the same household.

Fear Impact Subperiod - 8 to 10 Weeks

Experiences a puppy perceives as traumatic during this time are generalized and may affect him all his life. It is a fact that a dog is most likely to develop an avoidance response if subjected to physical or psychological trauma during these four weeks.

Puppies should not be shipped during this period, elective surgery should be put off until the 12th week, and necessary visits to the vet should be made fun. Bring toys and ask the vet to play with pup for a few minutes afterward.

Seniority Classification Period - 12 to 16 Weeks

Otherwise known as the "age of the cutting' teeth and apron strings during this period, the pup is trying to figure out who is boss. If still together, there is intense competition between littermates. All tests of strength between person and pup (such as tug of war) should be discontinued. All biting of human hands, clothing, or leash should be discouraged. By 16 weeks, the puppy's emotional makeup is fully developed and cemented for life, barring desensitization.

Flight Instinct Period - 4 to 8 Months

There is a time during this period, lasting two to four weeks, when the pup will test his wings. He won't come when called, in fact will run away. Just keep pup on a leash until this passes.

Second Fear Impact Period - 6 to 14 Months

This period is otherwise known as Teenage Flakiness! In large breeds this period could extend longer since it is tied to sexual maturity. Incidents may occur more than once. This is a fear of new situations and are handled with the utmost patience. The dog is encouraged to work it out on his own. If anything, it is better to ignore the whole situation than to reinforce the fear by praising the dog or petting him while he is afraid. When you "reassure" a dog with pets and "it's okay, fella", you are telling him it is okay to be frightened and you are creating a potential problem.

Young Adulthood - 18 to 24 months

Many dogs will show a rise in their level of aggression during this time. They may become protective and territorial, and may make a new attempt to dominate owners. Incidents of teenage flakiness may recur. To produce a potential "super" dog takes a great deal of time and effort on the part of the breeder and new owner. The above is an outline which will help those who have the time and who wish to give their puppies every possible chance of preparing to take the world by the tail and achieve their greatest potential.

For those who have less time to spend with a litter, this can serve as a guide helping maximize the quality of the time spent and to pinpoint the best times during the pups' development to make the effort. The absolute, bare minimum amount of individual attention a puppy must have is as follows: Two minutes of attention two times during the fourth week; ten minutes of attention two times during the fifth week; a minimum of two ten minute sessions the sixth week; and one-half hour once per week from 7 through 16 weeks.

Surely we all want to invest more than the bare minimum on our litters of puppies whose pedigrees we have so carefully planned and whose futures are so filled with hopes of bench, obedience and field titles. Let's give our puppies a super start from the whelping pen!

References:

Clarice Rutherford & David H. Neil. MRCVS. "How to Raise a Puppy You Can Live With." Loveland, CO: Alpine Publications, 1981.

Clarence Pfaffenberger. "The New Knowledge of Dog Behavior." NY, NY: Howell, 1979.

Wendy Volhard & Gail Fisher. 'Seminar: "All You Ever Wanted to Know About Puppies and Dogs."



Dogs On the Air, In the News, and Online

PETA TAKES ON DOG SHOW TELEVISION PROGRAM

PETA—a group who in 2002 euthanized more than 50% of the dogs they “rescued” in their shelters—is now criticizing Bravo for their planned new program about show dogs and the people who love them. The following is from an “Action Alert” notice found on PETA’s website:

“On July 30, PETA shared members concerns and outrage over this plan with Bravo Senior Vice President of Programming and Production Frances Berwick. PETA reminded Ms. Berwick that our nation's shelters are forced to kill between 3 and 4 million dogs and cats annually an estimated 25 percent of whom are purebred for lack of good homes and asked her to reconsider airing the series, which will inevitably promote the breeding of dogs. We also respectfully suggested that those who irresponsibly bring more animals into this overpopulated world and often subsequently mutilate them for cosmetic purposes are not making any sort of sacrifice.

We have yet to receive a response from Ms. Berwick. Please contact her and in a kind and courteous manner ask that she exercise her power to put the brakes on this potentially disastrous plan. Please also suggest that if she is not willing to cancel the series, she should consider showing how many other, equally deserving animals die in shelters in the time it takes for a breeder's litter to be born. Advise Ms. Berwick that only that perspective would truly provide viewers with the sneak peek behind the scenes at dog shows and programming with a unique point of view that the network promises.”

The full Alert, along with a link to the letter sent to Ms. Berwick, can be found here:

<http://www.peta.org/alert/Automation/AlertItem.asp?id=1104>

Bravo’s website contains the following information on the show:

Showdog Moms & Dads

Six one-hour episodes - Premieres TBA

A new six-episode series, "Showdog Moms & Dads," will take a sneak peak at what goes on behind the scenes in dog shows, and the passionate owners who sacrifice so much for the benefit of their pooch. Cameras will roll as these dedicated 'parents' take extraordinary measures to see their dogs shine.

Of course, I encourage everyone to contact Bravo and voice their support of this show. It would be an exceptional opportunity for the network to help educate the public on the importance of buying puppies from responsible breeders, that AKC registration does not necessarily equate to quality, and that showing a dog is more than just running around the ring as part of a “beauty pageant.”

Bravo has an on-line contact form here: http://www.bravotv.com/Contact_Us/

Or you can write to Ms. Berwick herself at:

Frances Berwick, Senior Vice President
Programming & Production
Bravo
30 Rockefeller Plaza, Rm. 1485E
New York, NY 10112
646-202-4038 (fax)

BIRMINGHAM HAS GONE TO THE DOGS

The “Dog Days of Summer” took on a new meaning for the city of Birmingham in July with the opening The Community House exhibit, DogTown. Starting with 50 fiberglass sculptures of dogs, select area artists transformed each individual dog into a work of art. The decorated dogs appear throughout the city at stores, restaurants, galleries and other businesses, until they are auctioned on October 13 at The Community House’s OUR TOWN Gala. This event is sure to please all ages and offers a unique opportunity to enjoy art with the whole family

ONLINE PEDIGREE DATABASE

Tom King has created a pedigree researcher’s nirvana. With tens of thousands of dogs listed, “drillable” pedigrees for further information on ancestors, color information, inbreeding coefficients, and cross-referencing to descendants, breedings, and siblings with either common sire or common dam, this database will quickly prove invaluable to anyone interested in Boxer pedigrees. You can visit the database at <http://www.worldpedigrees.com/xBoxer.htm> - and if you like it, why not drop Tom a note of thanks for what I can only imagine as extremely time-consuming work! tomking@netzero.net

Jennifer Walker, Secretary
Michigan Boxer Club
28423 Kendallwood Drive
Farmington Hills, MI 48334



Mail To:

MICHIGAN BOXER CLUB



Our next meeting is
Friday, September 24, 2004
Monroe County Fairgrounds
15 Minutes Following Best of Breeds

The Fairgrounds are located at 3755 S, Custer Road (M-50)

www.michiganboxerclub.com