



THE CHATTERBOXER

Celebrating 60 years of commitment to the breed

September 2005

Member, American Boxer Club

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**Our next meeting is
Tuesday, September 6, 2005
Livonia Civic Center Library
7:00 p.m.**

NEWS YOU CAN USE

Michigan Boxer Rescue Fourth Annual Puppy Match and Rescue Auction Match Judge Mrs. Bridget Brown

We will once again have great items for the silent auction, as well as a Special raffle for a Dannyquest piece

**This is your chance to give back to the breed.
We need your donations!!!**

All proceeds go to our Rescue program

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

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

You can bring your donated items to the meeting, the show, or mail them to:

Ginger Johson
51105 Arkona
Belleville, MI 48111
734-461-2816
rescue@michiganboxerclub.com

A QUICK NOTE

Included in this mailing is a copy of the revised Michigan Boxer Club Constitution & By-Laws. These were approved by the MBC membership in late 2004, and have now also been approved by both the AKC and the ABC.

MEMBER BIRTHDAYS

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

Member Name

Joan Johnson
Carrie Geeck
Agnes Neuendorf
Dave Stark
Charlie Beauchamp

Whelped On

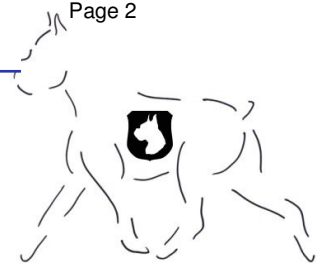
September 1
September 2
September 11
September 19
September 22



CONTEMPLATIONS

Faced with apathy, I will take action. Faced with conflict, I will seek common ground.... Faced with adversity, I will persevere. I will carry this commitment with me....

~Bill Clinton



Back in March, I wrote about perseverance—regarding my own life, the Boxer breed and breeders, and the anti-animal legislation that was being introduced at a furious pace at the time. Seven months later, I find I've come full circle and these issues are all the forefront of my thoughts again.

On the legislative front, while the California ear crop ban was defeated a second time, other issues were not as successful. The Ontario pit bull ban passed easily, and will be in effect by the time you receive this issue. Here in the State, we have the PAWS bill—I'm sure many of you are tired of hearing about it, but it is likely that there will be some action on the Hill in the next few weeks or months regarding this dangerous legislation. Few things have caused such heated debate in the purebred dog fancy, and there is a decided split between those who believe, as the AKC claims, that the legislation will not affect hobby and breeders and will not affect rescues, and those who have read the language of the bill and see nothing there to support the AKC's position.

This issue will likely be addressed when Congress comes out of recess after Labor Day, and I have included a short article on steps you can take immediately to voice your opposition to PAWS. One Senatorial Aide stated, in an e-mail she sent to help dog fanciers oppose PAWS, "Twenty contacts this week would be noticed. Once the Senate takes up the Supreme Court nomination in September, a thousand messages will be overshadowed by the tens of thousands of contacts they will receive on that issue."

I also wrote in March about the Code of Ethics, and lamented a proposed revision published in the ABC Bulletin, which largely ignored those changes approved by the membership in September 2004. I am happy to say that a considerable amount of progress has been made in this area, and at the next meeting we will be voting on a new proposed revision to the Code of Ethics. This revision incorporates the September '04 changes, streamlines and clarifies some sections, and updates some areas in keeping with current recommendations. I was very involved in this revision, so I would be happy to answer any questions anyone might have about it, either before or at the meeting.

I have reprinted the proposal in this issue, along with the cover letter explaining the changes. I have included, in boxes and italicized text, an approximation of what the current Code of Ethics with the added September '04 language would look like. (You may recall that the actual September '04 change was not formatted in a way that could be easily incorporated to the existing document—hence the need for a full revision). This is not part of the packet sent out by the American Boxer Club; I included for the benefit of the non-ABC members who did not receive ballots on the first revision, and to show that the proposed changes to not affect the content of the September '04 revision, only the structure. (I will have copies at the meeting of the documents the ABC sent.)

Finally, my personal issue. We had several things to consider before moving forward with a new prospect—whether to take a puppy, and risk it not turning out, or to take an adult, and risk it not fitting in with our existing dogs; whether to stay with UK lines, or branch out to some Continental European lines that were being bred with American and Canadian dogs; whether to make our pick

now, or wait until the breeder/sire's owner had a litter that had just what we were looking for. After several months of discussion, and a few false starts, we finally decided—in a move that many would call pure insanity—to bring in two puppies, from two very different backgrounds. This gives us not only a greater chance of having at least one puppy turn out, but a chance to pursue the combination for which we're hoping from two different angles.

The elder-by-a-month puppy, Emma, has a full UK pedigree. Her parents were both imported to the States, and in fact her sire is a dog that we had strongly considered using ourselves. She has the lovely English head, bone, substance, and nice wide bite that we admire in the UK dogs, and we're keeping our fingers tightly crossed that she will retain these traits as she matures.

That lovely English head, however, leads us into some uncharted territory, as Emma will be shown with uncropped ears. Thanks to the perseverance of those breeders who desired a choice, the standard now includes a description of an uncropped ears, so at least we don't have to overcome that hurdle. While we know it will be a challenge, we feel the ears should complement the head—and based on the UK Boxers that we've seen, and the experiences of friends who have tried cropping UK dogs, we think Emma will be best-suited by leaving her ears intact.

The younger puppy, Evie, keeps us in the safe waters of the lines that we know and love. She is a Hugo daughter, our pick puppy from a litter that is a nice linebreeding on both Hugo's sire and his maternal grandsire. (Sunny and Mike, for those of you who know the line.) Evie shows promise of retaining the traits that we appreciate in her sire and granddam—clean head, elegance and style, gorgeous side gait—while improving on other key areas as well. That safety includes the ears, of course—Evie has been cropped.

Both girls have a page on our site, www.newcastleboxers.com, for those who are interested in checking them out. They will also be at the Fall Specialty—they're too young to be in the show, but they will be entered in the Puppy Match.

I've included another article in this issue from Dr. Carmen Battaglia, called "Developing High Achievers". This is an early neurological stimulation program, developed by the US military, and many breeders (including Emma's) are using it on their litters. Also in this issue is the report from our Summer Show, a note from our Rescue Coordinator, Ginger Johnson, and once again the form for requesting a Champion/SOM/DOM award. Please note that at the August meeting, it was voted to require that **the minimum \$20 trophy pledge must be received prior to the Fall Specialty** in order for an award to be given.

On a closing note, one last plea for items for the Silent Auction that benefits our Rescue program. While the Club has pledged to give \$1000 per year to the program, the success of our past fundraisers has made that unnecessary thus far. Let's continue that MBC tradition of giving generously to the breed in need.

Best~

Jen

THE CHATTERBOXER

A RESCUE NOTE

I am hoping to let you know each month what we have going on here so you have a little better idea of where our money from our yearly Fundraiser is used.

This month we picked up a one-year-old bitch that had been used as bait for young pitbull males. Dr. Frazier naturally gave her all her shots, heartworm tested her and brucellosis tested her. He also examined all of her bite wounds and the awful, wide open wounds which were actually rips across her legs.

The bitch had been bitten all over her body—actually, there was no place not bitten up. Naturally, she abscessed in many areas, especially between her shoulder blades. We worked on her for several days, cleaning the wounds and syringing the punctures. She was on a heavy antibiotic, and we slowly increased her food to start putting some weight back on her. She still needs to be spayed, but she needs to get a little more weight on her and needs more healing time.

This bitch is wonderful with people and children. She never once gave me a hard time through all the painful procedures. She is a kisser and hugger with everyone that she sees. I will have a difficult time placing her, as she can not be with any other animals, nor have any next door to her. She can't go to the park or for walks as she hates all dogs. But I am sure that in time we will find the right home for her. We call her Baby.

PLEASE, bring items for our Silent Auction Fundraiser at the fall show, and enter your puppies in the puppy match. All the money goes straight to Rescue. If you aren't coming to the show – send something with someone else, or send it to me in the mail.

Ginger

ACTION ALERT!

THE MOST IMPORTANT THING YOU CAN DO TO FIGHT PAWS (AND YOU NEED TO DO IT NOW!)

There's a lot going on in the fight against PAWS -- wearing orange ribbons, handing out flyers, talking to groups, writing articles and letters to newspapers. If there's a way to fight a bad bill, it's being done somewhere by someone against PAWS! All that helps, but the bottom line is that the way to defeat a bill is through Congress. Legislators need to know that it's a really, really bad bill and that the dog fancy, in spite of AKC's support, is not in favor of it.

There is nothing politicians hate worse than controversy, and we need to let them know that this is the controversy to end all controversies!

The way to do it is to write and call the people who pass the laws. We all do what we can. If you only have 15 minutes, you can make a difference. A couple of hours can strike a major blow.

But you need to start now. Congress will be back in session after Labor Day & PAWS could come up for a vote any time after that.

Here's what to do, geared to the amount of time you have. Go to www.pet-law.com/paws/rightnow.html and click on the column labels for instructions on the easiest ways to get the job done. Click on the column headings for step-by-step instructions. You'll be surprised at how easy it is!

Now drop a note to the Pet-Law list and let us know what you've done to stop PAWS. It helps us all keep the faith when we know that others are working hard too!

Good	Better	Best	Extra Credit
<p>Send two emails.</p> <p>1) The first goes to your own state's two senators and the Representative for your district's.</p> <p>2) The second email goes to Senator Saxby Chambliss (R/GA), chairman of the Agriculture Committee, which currently has control of the PAWS bill.</p> <p>If you possibly can, print out your emails and mail or fax them!</p>	<p>In addition to your own legislators and Senator Chambliss, send emails to the rest of the Senate Agricultural Committee</p>	<p>After emailing, print out your letters and mail or fax them.</p> <p>Mail and fax multiply the effectiveness of your communication tenfold or more.</p> <p>www.pet-law.com has the addresses and fax numbers you'll need.</p>	<p>Make phone calls to Senator Chambliss and to your own congressmen.</p> <p>Better yet, pay a personal visit to their home offices while Congress is in recess for the next two weeks.</p> <p>Legislators appreciate all feedback. But they remember visitors!</p>

Wondering if there's any large group that really gets it? If you go back to the home page you can click 'UKC's Letter To Dog Fanciers' to read one of the hardest-hitting statements I've seen on PAWS

Walt Hutchens, Pet-Law Owner, Timbreblue Whippets

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BOXER SHORTS

STRONG SIGNS YOU MIGHT NEED A VACATION FROM YOUR DOGS

1. When your spouse's shocked voice shouts from the shop, "Honey, come quick, I've had a terrible accident!", you show up breathless with a mop and scent neutralizer.
2. You wake panicked in the middle of the night when you sense you suddenly have room to move your body around the bed.
3. You can't sleep unless you hear lots of heavy breathing in your bedroom
4. The emergency number on your speed dialer is for the dog's veterinarian.
5. When someone taps you on the shoulder, you tell them firmly, "Off!", then "Down!".
6. When tempers flare among your family members, you pull out the long forefinger, pointedly raise your voice and shout, "Go to your crates, now!"
7. When someone asks what's for dinner you automatically reply, "Kibbles and Bits".
8. When you are walking a ring around the local park and someone points at you and your dog, you raise both arms over your head, whoop and go looking for a ribbon.
9. When shopping, your best friend asks you what you think of that snappy suit in the window, and you scowl and mutter, "Useless, it is the same color as my dog and it has no pockets."
10. When your neighbor points to her crawling infant and asks you what you think of her new baby, you study it for a minute and reply, "Well, a little short on coat and long in the hock, but that kid has a great topline!"
11. Dog cookies are starting to look good.
12. What's a vacation?



THE LESSER-KNOWN COMMANDS

Obedience training provides a wealth of information on the basic commands used to guide canine behavior. We all learn "sit" and "stay" and "down". But, as time goes on, you begin to make your own....

"DON'T" For those of us who follow the "close enough is good enough" school of dog training, this command is indispensable. You can use it with any command, for example; "sit, sit, SIT, I SAID SIT ... or don't". Use of the powerful "or don't" command ensures that your dog is always following your orders - one way or the other.

"SETTLE DOWN" Means stop whatever you're doing and do something - anything - else. this actually works. I have no idea how. The trick is to use it until the dog accidentally complies and then praise him for hours.

"WHAT??" Means don't even think about growling/nipping/ignoring my commands! Do you think I'm STUPID? Do you think you're IN CHARGE? Do you suppose for one moment that you are not CANINE SCUM? For uppity dog behavior. Best used with a menacing voice and an alpha roll for emphasis.

"IN YOUR DREAMS" A milder variation of the popular "WHAT??" command. For use when the dog is merely contemplating an evil deed.

"SCOOT! or MOVE IT!" Move your body to anyplace other than where you are now standing/sitting. Strangely enough all dog learn this one quite easily. When they move, you shut up.

"NO HUMPING!" Good for girl and boy dogs. Discourages unsightly and comical mounting of animate and inanimate objects. A variation which always makes the neighbors peek - "No humping your brother!"

"STAY! FOR ALL ETERNITY!!!" When stay is not enough. Like when the dishwasher is being loaded and your dog is sure you really do need help pre-washing the plates.

"RIGHT NOW!" All marginally trained dogs need this command. It means you really, really, really would like them to comply - this time. As in: "Get in here, right NOW!"

"I MEAN IT!" A variation on the Right NOW theme borrowed from those who have human children.

GET OUTTA THERE! Trash / toilet / another dog's dish / a guest's crotch. A nice all-purpose command.

"UPSTAIRS/DOWNSTAIRS" Dominant dogs will rush ahead - and trip you. Submissive dogs will pause on the steps to let you pass - and trip you. Uncertain dogs will heel all the way down - and trip you nonetheless. If you make them go up or down ahead of you, you have a fighting chance.

"DON'T PEE ON THAT!" For some reason this command is always spoken too late.

From: Bob Phillips, Chair, Code of Ethics Committee
and the American Boxer Club Board of Directors

To: Members and Member Clubs of the American Boxer Club

Re: Proposed Revisions to the Code of Ethics, 2005
Approved by the ABC Board of Directors, May 2005

As you probably know, the ABC membership approved an amendment to the Code of Ethics on September 29, 2004. In anticipation of this change, then-ABC President John Connolly asked me to draft a proposed revision to the COE, incorporating those amendments as well as updating and clarifying the existing document, to be sent to members of the Board, as per ABC By-Laws, prior to their meeting in May. After meeting, the Board voted on the proposal and approved it, with the recommendation for adoption by the general membership.

The majority of changes in this revision are housekeeping changes: points of grammar, syntax, and punctuation; overall consistency of sentence structure; and clarification of some ambiguous phrasing. The changes of substance are noted in the Summary of Changes below.

The process of framing this proposed revision has taken many months and benefited from the input of many people. We appreciate the commitment that we know is required to review such a document, and we thank you in advance for taking the time to read it and vote. Your vote is ultimately the most important contribution to this project.

Summary of Changes

Preamble: Housekeeping changes.

Article I, Breeding: Item 2 has been moved from Article II to Article I. It has also removed the reference to specific health registries, and added the phrase, "**in conjunction with the current Health & Research Committee recommendations.**" This would eliminate the necessity of changing the Code of Ethics each time the health screening guidelines change.

Item 6 has replaced the prohibition against a bitch having more than one litter per year, and added the phrase, "**should not whelp more than twice in any three consecutive estrus cycles.**" This change is suggested to keep abreast of common stud contract clauses requiring a return breeding at the next season in the event of a missed litter; it also takes into account the extended time between estrus cycles for many Boxer bitches, and the belief of many prominent canine reproductive specialists that breeding/whelping on consecutive seasons is generally more beneficial to uterine health than skipping seasons between each litter.

Any other changes are housekeeping/clarification changes.

Article II, Maintenance: Item 1 has added the phrase, "**ears may be cropped or uncropped**". This change incorporates the membership-approved revision to the Breed standard.


Article III, Registration: The September, 2004 membership-approved item on Limited Registration has been changed to more clearly incorporate the placement requirements. The vote for this article will be on the language and not the content.

Article IV, Sales: No changes.

Article V, Infractions: This change streamlines incorporation of the September, 2004 membership-approved revisions. The vote for this article will be on the language and not the content.

(Editor's Note: We will be voting on this revision to the Code of Ethics at the September membership meeting.)

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Proposed Revision of the Code of Ethics
American Boxer Club

Editor's Note: Boxed, italicized text reflects the amendments approved by the membership in September 2004. I have included it here for comparative purposes only.

This CODE OF ETHICS is set forth to protect, advance the interests of, and improve the Boxer breed; to maintain sportsmanlike competition at dog shows and events; and to promote a respect for people and dogs. American Boxer Club members are to adhere to these canons when breeding, buying, selling or competing with and exhibiting their Boxers.

Members of the American Boxer Club will conduct themselves in such a manner as to reflect credit on the sport of purebred dogs and on Boxers in particular, regardless of the location or circumstances.

AKC Rules and Regulations and THE AMERICAN BOXER CLUB BY-LAWS should be known and adhered to at all times. It is important to know the current Standard of the Breed.

ARTICLE I
Breeding

1. Breed only with the intention of improving the breed.
2. Breeders should encourage the certifying of hips, blood testing for thyroid function, and screening for heart defects and other abnormalities that would affect the health of their dogs or the offspring of same, in conjunction with the current Health & Research Committee recommendations.
3. Breed healthy, sound, typey dogs that display sound temperament and qualities and are free of severe faults.
4. Dogs offered at stud should be in good health. They should be free from Canine Brucellosis and other communicable diseases as well as disqualifying genetic faults. A written Stud Contract is essential. Monorchids are not considered breeding stock.
5. Bitches accepted for stud service should be at least eighteen months of age, in good health, free from communicable diseases and disqualifying genetic faults. A bitch must be accompanied by a current veterinarian's certificate stating that she is free of Canine Brucellosis. It is the responsibility of the stud dog owner to properly provide for all visiting bitches' safety and security. Each bitch must be bred only to the stud dog specified by her owner. A change of stud dog is only permitted with the express consent of the owner of the bitch and should be included as an amendment to the Stud Contract.
6. Bitches should be bred only between the ages of eighteen months and six years and should not whelp more than twice in any three consecutive estrus cycles.
7. Breeders will keep accurate breeding records, registration papers, pedigrees and contracts.

ARTICLE II
Maintenance

1. Tail docking and removal of dew claws are appropriate for the breed; ears may be cropped or uncropped. Any surgical procedures are to be performed humanely. Corrective cosmetic surgery will not be performed on Boxers. When such corrective surgery becomes a necessity, the dog will no longer be exhibited, if such alteration is not in accordance with stated AKC policies.
2. Members of The American Boxer Club will maintain their Boxers' condition, health and quarters in a manner that is above reproach.

ARTICLE III Registration

There are two ways to register puppies for the first time with the AKC registration application.

Full Registration

Boxers who are sound, healthy, typey, considered to be of breeding quality, and who are free of disqualifying faults under the Standard of the Breed may be provided with full registration.

1. LIMITED REGISTRATION

American Boxer Club Members are encouraged to indicate application for a limited registration for the following:

- a. Boxers being purchased only as registered companion pets.
- b. Boxers that are not considered sound, or not of breeding quality including monorchids.

Note: The limited registration registers the puppy; it does not allow the registration of any offspring from the mature dog. The breeder of the dog can cancel the limited registration should the puppy at maturity be considered of breeding quality.

All Boxers with disqualifying color under the American Boxer Club Standard may be placed under the following conditions. This would be strictly a voluntary action by the breeder; white puppies could be placed without Limited Registration as they are now.

1. Each puppy placed will have a contract between breeder and new owner that states:
 - a. There shall be a spay/neuter agreement and the new owner shall give to the Breeder a deposit to cover the amount of a spay/neuter. This deposit shall be returned upon presentation of a certification from a veterinarian that the procedure has taken place.
 - b. The breeder may charge veterinary expenses directly related to the puppy.
 - c. The puppy will be allowed a Limited Registration, upon completion of the spay/neuter.
 - d. Each ABC member or a member of a Member Club will provide a "Placement Contract", the contract will be signed by both parties and each will retain a copy.

2. Limited Registration

American Boxer Club Members are encouraged to provide limited registration for the following:

- a. Boxers being purchased only as registered companion pets.
- b. Boxers that are not considered sound, or not of breeding quality, including monorchids.
- c. Boxers of any color not allowed by the standard. Such a Boxer will be placed on a contract, to be signed and a copy retained by all parties, that includes the following provisions:
 - i. Limited registration will be provided upon completion of a spay/neuter.
 - ii. The new owner will give the breeder a deposit to cover the amount of spay/neuter. This deposit will be returned upon presentation of a certification from a veterinarian that the procedure has taken place.
 - iii. The breeder may charge veterinary expenses directly related to the puppy.

Buyers should be informed, where limited AKC registration is involved, that any get of their Boxer will be ineligible for AKC registration. The breeder of the dog can cancel the limited registration, should the puppy at maturity be considered of breeding quality. Providing limited registration is a voluntary action; alternatively, registration papers can be withheld entirely, and the buyer can apply to the AKC for an Indefinite Listing Privilege (ILP).

ARTICLE IV Sales

1. All sales of puppies and adults should include:
 - a. AKC registration application papers
 - b. Signed Bill of Sale
 - c. An accurate three generation pedigree
 - d. ABC Brochure and/or copy of the Standard of the Breed
 - e. Health record including shots given, diet and care information

Note: Registration papers may be withheld at the time of the sale in such cases of prior agreement in writing.

Example: Spay/neuter agreement; Breeding/Lease agreement or other similar contracted agreement, which would delay transfer of ownership until completion of contract.

2. If possible, puppies should remain in their litter environment until at least 7 weeks of age* (see note below).

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3. Purchasers should be urged to spay or neuter all pets.
4. Misleading or untruthful statements must not be used in the selling or advertising of puppies. Misrepresentation of American Boxer Club awards, AKC, and/or foreign titles must be carefully avoided.
5. American Boxer Club Members will at all times strive to be accurate and honest to the best of their ability in appraising the quality of Boxers being offered for sale or placement with reference to the Standard of the Breed.
6. All contracts must be clear and complete with any and all conditions stated. A signed copy must be provided to each party involved.
7. During the life of any Boxer sold or placed, the breeder should endeavor to help the owner in every reasonable way.
8. Prospective buyers should be screened on their desire and ultimate intent for each Boxer. Their interest and ability to provide a safe, adequate and loving home should be determined. Fenced yards and crates should be recommended.
9. American Boxer Club members and member clubs will help educate the public on the Standard of the Breed and care of the Boxer in areas where they are qualified.

*Note: Some States have laws that puppies cannot be separated from their mothers until 8 weeks of age. Check your local and state regulations.

ARTICLE V Infractions

The Boxer Standard defines the following disqualifications: "Boxers that are any color other than fawn or brindle. Boxers with a total of white markings exceeding one-third of the entire coat."

Section 1--- The following infractions are considered to be actions contrary to the best interest of the breed and/or the American Boxer Club.

- a. *Full registration with the American Kennel Club of an individual Boxer of any color not allowed by the Standard adopted for the breed by the American Boxer Club, approved by the American Kennel Club and in force at the time of the Infraction.*
- b. *Providing a full registration application (blue slip) for a Boxer of any color not allowed by the Standard.*
- c. *Signing an application for full registration with the American Kennel Club of a litter whose sire and/or dam are of a color not allowed by the Standard.*
- d. *Selling or consigning for resale a Boxer whose sire and/or dam are of a color not allowed by the Standard.*
- e. *Selling, consigning or disposing of a puppy or an adult Boxer to a pet shop, chain of pet shops or any commercial dealer or commercial kennel for resale.*

The following infractions are considered to be actions contrary to the best interest of the breed and/or the American Boxer Club:

1. Full registration with the American Kennel Club of a Boxer of any color not allowed by the Standard adopted for the breed by the American Boxer Club, approved by the American Kennel Club and in force at the time of the Infraction.
2. Providing an application for full registration with the American Kennel Club of a Boxer of any color not allowed by the Standard.
3. Signing an application for registration with the American Kennel Club of a litter whose sire and/or dam are of a color not allowed by the Standard.
4. Selling or consigning for resale a Boxer whose sire and/or dam are of a color not allowed by the Standard.
5. Selling, consigning or disposing of a puppy or an adult Boxer to a pet shop, chain of pet shops or any commercial kennel for resale.

Charges may be brought against a member or a member club for actions listed in this Article, as defined in Article VIII, Section 2 of the By-Laws of the American Boxer Club.

Developing High Achievers

Originally published as "Early Neurological Stimulation"

By Dr. Carmen L. Battaglia

Surprising as it may seem, it isn't capacity that explains the differences that exist between individuals because most seem to have far more capacity than they will ever use. The differences that exist between individuals seem to be related to something else. The ones who achieve and out perform others seem to have within themselves the ability to use hidden resources. In other words, it's what they are able to do with what they have that makes the difference.

In many animal-breeding programs the entire process of selection and management is founded on the belief that performance is inherited. Attempts to analyze the genetics of performance in a systematic way have involved some distinguished names such as Charles Darwin and Francis Galton. But it has only been in recent decades that good estimates of heritability of performance have been based on adequate data. Cunningham (1991) in his study of horses found that only by using Timeform data, and measuring groups of half brothers and half sisters could good estimates of performance be determined. His data shows that performance for speed is about 35% heritable. In other words only about 35% of all the variation that is observed in track performance is controlled by heritable factors, the remaining 65% are attributable to other influences, such as training, management and nutrition. Cunningham's work while limited to horses provides a good basis for understanding how much breeders can attribute to the genetics and the pedigrees.

Researchers have studied this phenomena and have looked for new ways to stimulate individuals in order to improve their natural abilities. Some of the methods discovered have produced life long lasting effects. Today, many of the differences between individuals can now be explained by the use of early stimulation methods.

Introduction

Man for centuries has tried various methods to improve performance. Some of the methods have stood the test of time, others have not. Those who first conducted research on this topic believed that the period of early age was a most important time for stimulation because of its rapid growth and development. Today, we know that early life is a time when the physical immaturity of an organism is susceptible and responsive to a restricted but important class of stimuli. Because of its importance many studies have focused their efforts on the first few months of life.

Newborn pups are uniquely different than adults in several respects. When born their eyes are closed and their digestive system has a limited capacity requiring periodic stimulation by their dam who routinely licks them in order to promote digestion. At this age they are only able to smell, suck, and crawl. Body temperature is maintained by snuggling close to their mother or by crawling into piles with other littermates. During these first few weeks of immobility researchers noted that these immature and underdeveloped canines are sensitive to a restricted class of stimuli which includes thermal, and tactile stimulation, motion and locomotion.

Other mammals such as mice and rats are also born with limitations and they also have been found to demonstrate a similar sensitivity to the effects of early stimulation. Studies show that removing them from their nest for three minutes each day during the first

five to ten days of life causes body temperatures to fall below normal. This mild form of stress is sufficient to stimulate hormonal, adrenal and pituitary systems. When tested later as adults, these same animals were better able to withstand stress than littermates who were not exposed to the same early stress exercises. As adults, they responded to stress in "a graded" fashion, while their non-stressed littermates responded in an "all or nothing way."

Data involving laboratory mice and rats also shows that stress in small amounts can produce adults who respond maximally. On the other hand, the results gathered from non-stressed littermate show that they become easily exhausted and would near death if exposed to intense prolonged stress. When tied down so they were unable to move for twenty-four hours, rats developed severe stomach ulcers, but litter mates exposed to early stress handling were found to be more resistant to stress tests and did not show evidence of ulcers. A secondary affect was also noticed.

Sexual maturity was attained sooner in the littermates given early stress exercises. When tested for differences in health and disease, the stressed animals were found to be more resistant to certain forms of cancer and infectious diseases and could withstand terminal starvation and exposure to cold for longer periods than their non-stressed littermates. Other studies involving early stimulation exercises have been successfully performed on both cats and dogs. In these studies, the Electrical Encephalogram (EEG) was found to be ideal for measuring the electrical activity in the brain because of its extreme sensitivity to changes in excitement, emotional stress, muscle tension, changes in oxygen and breathing. EEG measures show that pups and kittens when given early stimulation exercises mature at faster rates and perform better in certain problem solving tests than non-stimulated mates. In the higher level animals the effect of early stimulation exercises have also been studied. The use of surrogate mothers and familiar objects were tested by both of the Kelloggs' and Dr. Yearkes using young chimpanzees. Their pioneer research shows that the more primates were deprived of stimulation and interaction during early development, the less able they were to cope, adjust and later adapt to situations as adults.

While experiments have not yet produced specific information about the optimal amounts of stress needed to make young animals psychologically or physiologically superior, researches agree that stress has value. What also is known is that a certain amount of stress for one may be too intense for another, and that too much stress can retard development. The results show that early stimulation exercises can have positive results but must be used with caution. In other words, too much stress can cause pathological adversities rather than physical or psychological superiority.

Methods of Stimulation

The U.S. Military in their canine program developed a method that still serves as a guide to what works. In an effort to improve the performance of dogs used for military purposes, a program called "Bio Sensor" was developed. Later, it became known to the public as the "Super Dog" Program. Based on years of research, the military learned that early neurological stimulation exercises could have important and lasting effects. Their studies confirmed that there are specific time periods early in life when neurological stimulation has optimum results. The first period involves a win-

dow of time that begins at the third day of life and lasts until the sixteenth day. It is believed that because this interval of time is a period of rapid neurological growth and development, and therefore is of great importance to the individual.

The "Bio Sensor" program was also concerned with early neurological stimulation in order to give the dog a superior advantage. Its development utilized six exercises which were designed to stimulate the neurological system. Each workout involved handling puppies once each day. The workouts required handling them one at a time while performing a series of five exercises. Listed in order of preference the handler starts with one pup and stimulates it using each of the five exercises. The handler completes the series from beginning to end before starting with the next pup. The handling of each pup once per day involves the following exercises (see illustration at end of article):

1. Tactical stimulation (between toes)
2. Head held erect
3. Head pointed down
4. Supine position
5. Thermal stimulation.

These five exercises will produce neurological stimulations, none of which naturally occur during this early period of life. Experience shows that sometimes pups will resist these exercises, others will appear unconcerned. In either case a caution is offered to those who plan to use them. Do not repeat them more than once per day and do not extend the time beyond that recommended for each exercise. Over stimulation of the neurological system can have adverse and detrimental results. These exercises impact the neurological system by kicking it into action earlier than would be normally expected. The result being an increased capacity that later will help to make the difference in its performance. Those who play with their pups and routinely handle them should continue to do so because the neurological exercises are not substitutions for routine handling, play socialization or bonding.

Benefits of Stimulation

Five benefits have been observed in canines that were exposed to the Bio Sensor stimulation exercises. The benefits noted were:

1. Improved cardio vascular performance (heart rate)
2. Stronger heart beats
3. Stronger adrenal glands
4. More tolerance to stress and
5. Greater resistance to disease.

In tests of learning, stimulated pups were found to be more active and were more exploratory than their non-stimulated littermates over which they were dominant in competitive situations. Secondary effects were also noted regarding test performance. In simple problem solving tests using detours in a maze, the non-stimulated pups became extremely aroused, wined a great deal, and made many errors. Their stimulated littermates were less disturbed or upset by test conditions and when comparisons were made, the stimulated littermates were more calm in the test environment, made fewer errors and gave only an occasional distress when stressed.

Socialization

As each animal grows and develops three kinds of stimulation have been identified that impact and influence how it will develop and be shaped as an individual. The first stage is called early neu-

rological stimulation, and the second stage is called socialization. The first two (early neurological stimulation and socialization) have in common a window of limited time. When Lorenz, (1935) first wrote about the importance of the stimulation process he wrote about imprinting during early life and its influence on the later development of the individual. He states that it was different from conditioning in that it occurred early in life and took place very rapidly producing results which seemed to be permanent. One of the first and perhaps the most noted research efforts involving the larger animals was achieved by Kellogg & Kellogg (1933). As a student of Dr. Kellogg's I found him and his wife to have an uncanny interest in children and young animals and the changes and the differences that occurred during early development. Their history making study involved raising their own new born child with a new born primate. Both infants were raised together as if they were twins. This study like others that would follow attempted to demonstrate that among the mammals there are great differences in their speed of physical and mental development. Some are born relatively mature and quickly capable of motion and locomotion, while others are very immature, immobile and slow to develop. For example, the Rhesus monkey shows rapid and precocious development at birth, while the chimpanzee and the other "great apes" take much longer. Last and slowest is the human infant.

One of the earliest efforts to investigate and look for the existence of socialization in canines was undertaken by Scott-Fuller (1965). In their early studies they were able to demonstrate that the basic technique for testing the existence of socialization was to show how readily adult animals would foster young animals, or accept one from another species. They observed that with the higher level animals it is easiest done by hand rearing. When the foster animal transfers its social relationships to the new species, researchers conclude that socialization has taken place. Most researchers agree that among all species, a lack of adequate socialization generally results in unacceptable behavior and often times produces undesirable aggression, excessiveness, fearfulness, sexual inadequacy, and indifference toward partners.

Socialization studies confirm that the critical periods for humans (infant) to be stimulated are generally between three weeks and twelve months of age. For canines the period is shorter, between the fourth and sixteenth week of age. During these critical time periods two things can go wrong. First, insufficient social contact can interfere with proper emotional development which can adversely affected the development of the human bond. The lack of adequate social stimulation, such as handling, mothering and contact with others, adversely affects social and psychological development.

Second, over mothering can prevent sufficient exposure to other individuals, and situations that have an important influence on growth and development. The literature shows that humans and animals respond in similar ways when denied minimal amounts of stimulation. In humans, the absence of love and cuddling increases the risk of an aloof, distant, asocial or sociopathic individual. Over mothering can also have its detrimental effects. It occurs when a patient insulates the child from outside contacts, or keeps the apron strings tight, thus limiting opportunities to explore and interact. In the end, over mothering generally produces a dependent, socially maladjusted and sometimes emotionally disturbed individual.

The absence of outside social interactions for both children and pups usually results in a lack of adequate learning and social adjustment. Protected youngsters who grow up in an insulated environment often times become sickly, despondent, lacking in flexibility and unable to make simple social adjustments. Generally, they are unable to function productively or to interact successfully then they become adults.

Owners who have busy life styles with long and tiring work and social schedules often times cause pets to be neglected. Left to themselves with only an occasional trip out of the house or off of the property they seldom see other canines or strangers and generally suffer from poor stimulation and socialization. For many, the side effects of loneliness and boredom set-in. The resulting behavior manifests itself in the form of chewing, digging, and hard to control behavior (Battaglia).

It seems clear that small amounts of stress followed by early socialization can produce beneficial results. The danger seems to be in not knowing where the thresholds are for over and under stimulation. Many improperly socialized youngsters develop into older individuals unprepared for adult life, unable to cope with its challenges, and interactions. Attempts to re-socialize them when adults have only produced small gains. These failures confirm the notion that the window of time open for early neurological and social stimulation only comes once. After it passes, little or nothing can be done to overcome the negative effects of too much or too little stimulation.

The third and final stage in the process of growth and development is called enrichment. Unlike the first two stages it has no time limit and by comparison covers a very long period of time. Enrichment is a term which has come to mean the positive sum of experiences, which have a cumulative effect upon the individual. Enrichment experiences typically involve exposure to a wide variety of interesting, novel, and exciting experiences with regular opportunities to freely investigate, manipulate, and interact with them. When measured in later life, the results show that those reared in an enriched environment tend to be more inquisitive and are more able to perform difficult tasks. The educational TV program called Sesame Street is perhaps the best known example of a children's enrichment program. The results show that when tested, children who regularly watched this program performed better than playmates who did not. Follow up studies show that those who regularly watched Sesame tend to seek a college education and when enrolled, performed better than playmates who were not regular watchers of the Sesame Street Program.

There are numerous children studies that show the benefits of enrichment techniques and programs. Most focus on improving self-esteem and self-talk. Follow up studies show that the enriched Sesame Street students when later tested were brighter and scored above average and most often were found to be the products of environments that contributed to their superior test scores. On the other hand, those whose test scores were generally below average, (labeled as dull) and the products of underprivileged or non-enriched environments often times had little or only small amounts of stimulation during early childhood and only minimal amounts of enrichment during their developmental and formative years. Many were characterized as children who grew up with little interaction with others, poor parenting, few toys, no books and a steady diet of TV soap operas.

A similar analogy can be found among canines. All the time they are growing they are learning because their nervous systems are developing and storing information that may be of inestimable use at a later date. Studies by Scott and Fuller confirm that non-enriched pups when given free choice preferred to stay in their kennels. Other litter mates who were given only small amounts of outside stimulation between five and eight weeks of age were found to be very inquisitive and very active. When kennel doors were left open, the enriched pups would come bounding out while littermates who were not exposed to enrichment would remain behind. The non-stimulated pups would typically be fearful of unfamiliar objects and generally preferred to withdraw rather than investigate. Even well bred pups of superior pedigrees would not explore or leave their kennels and many were found difficult to train as adults. These pups in many respects were similar to the deprived children. They acted as if they had become institutionalized, preferring the routine and safe environment of their kennel to the stimulating world outside their immediate place of residence.

Regular trips to the park, shopping centers and obedience and agility classes serve as good examples of enrichment activities. Chasing and retrieving a ball on the surface seems to be enriching because it provides exercise and includes rewards. While repeated attempts to retrieve a ball provide much physical activity, it should not be confused with enrichment exercises. Such playful activities should be used for exercise and play or as a reward after returning from a trip or training session. Road work and chasing balls are not substitutes for trips to the shopping mall, outings or obedience classes most of which provide many opportunities for interaction and investigation.

Finally it seems clear that stress early in life can produce beneficial results. The danger seems to be in not knowing where the thresholds are for over and under stimulation. However, the absence or the lack of adequate amounts of stimulation generally will produce negative and undesirable results. Based on the above it is fair to say that the performance of most individuals can be improved including the techniques described above. Each contributes in a cumulative way and supports the next stage of development.

Conclusion

Breeders can now take advantage of the information available to improve and enhance performance. Generally, genetics account of about 35% of the performance but the remaining 65% (management, training, nutrition) can make the difference. In the management category it has been shown that breeders should be guided by the rule that it is generally considered prudent to guard against under and over stimulation. Short of ignoring pups during their first two months of life, a conservative approach would be to expose them to children, people, toys and other animals on a regular basis. Handling and touching all parts of their anatomy is also necessary to learn as early as the third day of life. Pups that are handled early and on a regular basis, generally do not become hand shy as adults.





Because of the risks involved in under stimulation a conservative approach to using the benefits of the three stages has been suggested based primarily on the works of Arskeusky, Kellogg, Yearkes and the "Bio Sensor" program (later known as the "Super Dog Program").

Both experience and research have dominated the beneficial ef-

facts that can be achieved via early neurological stimulation, socialization and enrichment experiences. Each has been used to improve performance and to explain the differences that occur between individuals, their trainability, health and potential. The cumulative effects of the three stages have been well documented. They best serve the interests of owners who seek high levels of performance when properly used. Each has a cumulative effect and contributes to the development and the potential for individual performance.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Carmen L Battaglia holds a Ph.D. and Masters Degree from Florida State University. As an AKC judge, researcher and writer, he has been a leader in promotion of breeding better dogs and has written many articles and several books. Dr. Battaglia is also a popular TV and radio talk show speaker. His seminars on breeding dogs, selecting sires and choosing puppies have been well received by the breed clubs all over the country. Those interested in learning more about his articles and seminars should visit the website <http://www.breedingbetterdogs.com>

<p>1. Tactile stimulation Holding the pup in one hand, the handler gently stimulates (tickles) the pup between the toes on any one foot using a Q-tip. It is not necessary to see that the pup is feeling the tickle. Time of stimulation 3 - 5 seconds. (Figure 1)</p>	<p>Figure 1</p>
 <p>Figure 2</p>	<p>2. Head held erect Using both hands, the pup is held perpendicular to the ground, (straight up), so that its head is directly above its tail. This is an upwards position. Time of stimulation 3 - 5 seconds (Figure 2).</p>
<p>3. Head pointed down Holding the pup firmly with both hands the head is reversed and is pointed downward so that it is pointing towards the ground. Time of stimulation 3 - 5 seconds (Figure 3).</p>	 <p>Figure 3</p>
 <p>Figure 4</p>	<p>4. Supine position Hold the pup so that its back is resting in the palm of both hands with its muzzle facing the ceiling. The pup while on its back is allowed to sleep struggle. Time of stimulation 3-5 seconds. (Figure 4)</p>
<p>5. Thermal stimulation Use a damp towel that has been cooled in a refrigerator for at least five minutes. Place the pup on the towel, feet down. Do not restrain it from moving. Time of stimulation 3-5 seconds. (Figure 5)</p>	 <p>Figure 5</p>

Championship Awards

It's time to be recognized for your Boxer's achievements in late 2004-2005. If your Boxer has completed their American or Canadian Championship or achieved Sire or Dam of Merit Status in late 2004-2005, please complete the form below and return it to Joan Johnson by **October 15**. To avoid mail delays, Canadian members should mail EARLY! The Michigan Boxer Club policy for trophies, plaques, and awards is included on page 17 of this month's ChatterBoxer.

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
jodiboxer@aol.com

REMINDER — Completed form is due by October 15, 2005. Any forms received after October 15 will not be accepted. Your trophy contribution for 2005 must have been a minimum of \$20.00 to qualify for a Championship plaque.

****NOTE** As of August 2, 2005, trophy pledges ****must be received**** prior to the Fall Specialty show in order for you to receive an award for that year.**

September 2005

SHOW WINS & LITTER ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ch. Royal Palms Smarty Pants—"Smarty"

Owners: Alan & Joanna Dorfman, Boca Boxers
Jack & Gloria Bower, Royal Palms Boxers

Breeders: Jack & Gloria Bower

Handler: Guy Fisher, Murbe Boxers

Am/Can Ch. Karizma Backatcha Touchstone
x Royal Palms Gucci Gucci

Best of Breed

Sugarbush Kennel Club—8/27/05
Judge: Mrs. Lee Canalizo

Best of Breed

Western Reserve Kennel Club—8/28/05
Judge: Ms. Rita J. Biddle, Esq.

LITTER ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sire: Can. Ch. Cameliard's Noble Knight

Dam: Sparkling Jewel of Cedarville

Whelped: 7/30/05

Breeders: Jeff & Sue Stevens-Schultz
Sassy Lane Boxers

Sire: Ch Weston's Cry for Freedom

Dam: Ch Cameliard's Spirit of the Wind

Whelped: 8/25/05

Breeders: Ginger Johnson & Mary Lou Bumpus
Cameliard Boxers

2005 Trophy DONORS

The following Michigan Boxer Club members have made the minimum \$20 trophy donation required for a Championship award:

If there are any errors or omissions, please contact me at secretary@michiganboxerclub.com

Margaret Ashman	Alan & Joanna Dorfman	Phyllis Michaud
Marianne Balzer	Michele Farless	Bruce & Maggie Papesh
Pamela Barnwell	Guy & Nicole Fisher	Jeff & Sue Stevens-Schultz
Liz Bistline	Christina Fleisher	Sherryl Schultz
Mary Lou Bumpus	Steve & Lori Francis	Joanne Shay
Sherry Canciamille	Cindy Hearn	Medley Small
Charles & Barb Carroll	Dick & Joan Johnson	Janet Smith
John Connolly	Ginger Jonson	Luella Steele
Terry & Genine DeMaso	Clare & Julie Lodenstein	Jennifer Walker
Tom & Judy DeWolf	Lisa Lovasco	Rick & Cindy Walunas
Mary Dohm	Laura McKarge	Barry Wyerman

MBC Policy: TROPHIES—PLAQUES—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, **prior to the Fall Specialty**.
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.

AKC Responsible Dog Ownership Day—September 17, 2005

The AKC Communications Department is pleased to announce that we will be celebrating the third annual "AKC Responsible Dog Ownership Day" (AKC RDO Day) on September 17, 2005. We invite and encourage all dog clubs and pet-related organizations to take part by holding a community event that publicly promotes responsible dog ownership anytime during the month of September.

The AKC will be hosting our own events in Raleigh, NC on Saturday, September 10, 2005 and in New York City on Saturday, September 17, 2005. These flagship events will highlight the AKC programs and services that support responsible dog ownership and publicize to news media and the dog loving community that events are being held across the country by organizations such as yours.

Some suggestions to help commemorate AKC Responsible Dog Ownership Day include:

- ID clinic (offer microchipping, etc)
- Hold an AKC CAR microchip clinic
- Rescue information booth
- Health clinic/health screen testing/First Aid for dogs
- Meet the breeds/Find the right dog for you
- Obedience/Agility/Rally/Performance demonstrations
- Therapy/SAR Dog or Police K9 Unit demonstrations
- "AKC Safety Around Dogs" for kids presentations (in-school or for children's groups)
- A kids contest with awards for best drawings, photos or essays about dogs
- Seek sponsorships or donated items from local businesses to be raffled or for contest prizes
- Raise money to donate/dedicate needed items to local dog park/runs (pooper scoopers, bulletin boards, water fountains, etc.)
- Fundraising events for AKC Canine Health Foundation
- AKC Canine Good Citizen test (requires additional kit purchase)
- Write a letter to the editor of your local newspapers
- Obtain a proclamation from your Governor, Mayor etc.

Visit the AKC website at www.akc.org/clubs/rdod/events/ to find events in your area.

Last year, more than 400 clubs and organizations hosted events reaching millions of dog lovers and potential pet owners through extensive media coverage. We hope that you will join us by taking part in this year's AKC Responsible Dog Ownership Day. Your participation will help ensure the program's success, which will hopefully continue to gain momentum each year, benefiting dogs and dog owners everywhere!

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