



UNLEASHED

Volume 27 Issue 8, A publication of the Central Ohio Labrador Retriever Club October 2016

Meeting

Date: October 5, 2016

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Location: Home of John & Lori Bentine

2016 Meeting Dates

October 5

November 2

December Christmas Party

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Check out Central Ohio Labrador Retriever Club
on Facebook

[https://www.facebook.com/
groups/575516432535825/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/575516432535825/)

Specialty Information

The next COLRC meeting will be
Wednesday

October 5, 2016

at the home of John & Lori Bentine

6811 Taggart Road

Delaware, OH 43015

Lasagna Dinner

B.Y.O. B. and your donations for
the Specialty Raffle!

Agenda includes COLRC Specialty, board
member nominations, Christmas party
planning and discussion of 2017 club
events.

Specialty Dates:

Saturday, October 29

Judge: Ms. Susan Willumsen

Specialty Judge: Joe Vasalani (Valhalla)

Sunday, October 30

Judge: Ms. Elizabeth Muthard

Specialty Judge: Deb Vasalani (Valhalla)

Closing Date October 12

Neuter, Leave Intact, or What?

By Danielle N. Rastetter, DVM

For many years the decision to neuter or leave a dog intact has rested on a foundation of science, dogma, and culture. Several recent peer-reviewed studies based on large populations deserve special attention. Researchers examined how sex hormones influence risk for disease or behavior problems

A team at the University of California-Davis focused exclusively on Golden Retrievers and hip dysplasia, cranial cruciate ligament tear, lymphosarcoma, hemangiosarcoma, and mast cell tumor. The study population was divided into six groups. Each sex had three groups – those left intact, those neutered before 12 months of age, and those neutered after 12 months of age. With reference to hip dysplasia, neutering after 12 months of age was more protective than being left intact or neutering before 12 months of age. The incidence of cranial cruciate ligament tears occurred less often in dogs left intact. Female dogs left intact had a lower risk of hemangiosarcoma while for males, neutering after 12 months of age was more protective against this cancer. Lastly, male dogs that were neutered before 12 months of age and female dogs left intact had the lowest risk of mast cell tumors¹.

A University of California-Davis group was prompted, after the study above, to compare breeds – Golden and Labrador Retrievers. Several joint disorders were examined – hip dysplasia, cranial cruciate ligament tear, and elbow dysplasia. Cancers examined were lymphosarcoma, hemangiosarcoma, mast cell tumors, and mammary cancer. This study's results for the Golden Retrievers were very similar to the first study. However, there was a marked difference between the two breeds. The incidence of joint disorders after neutering at less than six months of age was greater with Labrador than Golden Retrievers. The researchers also concluded that female Golden Retrievers' cancer risks increased much more after neutering at any age compared to male Golden Retrievers and male or female Labrador Retrievers. Interestingly, no intact female Golden Retrievers in this study developed mammary cancer while 1.4% of the intact female Labrador Retrievers and 2% of the dogs neutered between two and eight years of age were diagnosed with mammary cancer.²

An older study from 1993 examining a large variety of breeds, as opposed to only one or two breeds as above, also supported that neutered dogs had a higher incidence of cranial cruciate ligament tears.³

Vizslas were the focus of another study, specifically how neutering affected risk for behavioral disorders and cancers. Results indicated that neutering at any age significantly increased risk for cancers and fear of storms.⁴

Two studies bear examination that focused exclusively on Rottweilers. Like humans, female Rottweilers live longer than males on average. However, if a female Rottweiler is spayed during the first four years of life, that survival advantage is eliminated.⁵ An earlier analysis focused on bone sarcomas and found a three to four times greater risk of bone sarcoma for Rottweilers neutered before one year of age compared to Rottweilers left intact. The authors even stated that there was a 1.4% reduction in bone sarcoma risk for each additional month a Rottweiler was left sexually intact.⁶

Older studies have also shown marked differences between neutered and intact dogs though small sample sizes and questionable methodology bring their accuracy into question. Three different studies reported a two to four times greater risk of prostatic cancer in neutered male dogs over those left intact.^{7, 8, 9} Conversely, no association was found between neuter and intact status and the development of prostatic cancer in another study.¹⁰ Urinary incontinence may occur from two to eight times more frequently in neutered female dogs compared to those left intact, though age of neutering may also be important.^{11, 12} The occurrence of hypothyroidism has also been examined with a greater risk found in neutered dogs versus intact.¹³ Two studies found more behavioral reactivity or aggression in neutered female dogs compared to intact females.^{14, 15}

Even the authors of some studies expressed cautions: that the results may not be applicable to other breeds, that neutering has greatly reduced pet overpopulation and subsequent euthanasia rates, and that there are well-done studies showing benefits of neutering with respect to other health and behavior issues.

For female dogs, prevention of two medical conditions—pyometra (infected uterus) and mammary cancer - is often cited as reason to neuter especially since 50% of mammary cancers are malignant.¹⁶ Pyometra, a potentially life-threatening infection of the uterus, is mostly eliminated with traditional neutering.¹⁷ Over 200,000 intact female dogs of various ages and breeds were the focus of a Swedish study with 23-24% experiencing pyometra by ten years of age.¹⁸ For all breeds combined, a mammary cancer incidence rate of 13% by age ten was found for intact females.¹⁷ For dogs neutered prior to 2.5 years of age, mammary cancer risk is greatly reduced by approximately two thirds.^{19, 20}

A retrospective analysis of cause of death for over 40,000 dogs without regard to breed found that sterilization was strongly associated with longevity. Infectious disease and other causes of death were decreased in neutered dogs however; some causes of death such as cancers increased with neutering. The authors evenly divided their data into small, medium, large, and giant breeds to determine if size changed the results – which it did not.²¹ This does bring to light some questions though. Are the deaths from infectious disease a reflection of a specific pet owning population that does not utilize veterinary services such as vaccination in addition to neutering? Are the increased cancer related deaths over infectious disease deaths for neutered dogs because these pet owners are providing better preventive care including vaccinations and lived longer? Longer lifespans are associated with a greater chance of developing cancer .

Other effects of sex hormones should also be considered. A neutered male dog is less likely to roam, engage in aggressive behavior toward other dogs, urine mark, and mount.^{22, 23} Traditional spay and neuter eliminate the risks of ovarian and testicular cancer respectively though both have low incidence to begin with. While testicular cancer can occur in intact male dogs, it is rarely malignant and death is uncommon. Intact male dogs will be more likely to experience benign prostatic enlargement, other noncancerous prostatic diseases, perineal and inguinal hernias, and non-malignant perineal cancers than neutered dogs. Bacterial prostatic infections, which can be life threatening, are more common in intact male dog than those neutered.²⁴ Hormone driven mating behavior can lead to sexually transmitted diseases, physical injury, and a stressed out household. And let's not forget the mess of a female dog in heat .

So how can owners make informed decisions regarding allowing their dog to keep their sex hormones or not in light of such studies? There is no one answer regarding neutering or leaving a dog intact that is applicable to every dog and every situation. One option is learning which medical and behavioral conditions a particular breed is prone and how

sex hormones influence those conditions. The decision whether to neuter should be individualized, taking into account breed, age, the intended use of the dog, sex, household environment, owner preferences, and dog's temperament. To avoid returning to previous overpopulation and euthanasia rates yet consider the benefits of sex hormones – a new option is emerging – sex hormone sparing sterilizations.

If an owner has excellent control of their male dogs at all times so as to be able to prevent roaming behaviors and the accompanying injuries that can result, a vasectomy (removal of a portion of the spermatic cord) instead of a traditional castration is an option. While an owner can leave a male dog completely intact, even one unintended pregnancy can add to a community's overpopulation problem or throw a wrench into a planned breeding program. Why not eliminate that risk through vasectomy? If this route is chosen, regular testicular and prostate examinations should be performed regularly to identify medical issues early. A small risk of spontaneous spermatic cord healing, restoring fertility, can rarely occur.

The decision for a female dog is a bit more complicated. A female dog has three options – remaining intact, traditional spay (ovariohysterectomy), or an ovary sparing spay (hysterectomy). The latter involves removing the uterus and cervix, while leaving one or both of the ovaries intact for physiologic, health, and/or behavioral reasons. One ovary will still produce the same hormones and allow the dog to cycle the same as if both ovaries remained, but halves the risk of ovarian cancers. With an ovary sparing spay, the ovary is still functional, so, while the female cannot become pregnant, heat cycle behavior and small amount of bleeding (from vaginal membranes) will still occur. She will still attract males and will stand to mate. A dog with an ovary sparing spay should still be confined away from males for the full three weeks of the heat cycle, to reduce the risk of injury from the attempted act of breeding and sexually transmitted diseases. Owners must stay alert to this possibility of mammary tumors—the only significant health risk remaining after a hysterectomy, as their dog ages, with regular examinations.

Overall, several reasons for considering an ovary sparing spay or vasectomy exist.

- When puppy contracts require sterilization yet owners desire the benefit of sex hormones;
- When performance and show dogs will not be used for breeding;
- When certain dog breeds are prone to diseases and condition that may occur more often when sex hormones are removed.

Studies have been performed on some breeds examining various disease and behavior developments. Results indicate that the health benefits of keeping sex hormones may outweigh the health risks of removing them. One should not assume that the presence of sex hormones will outweigh the benefits of traditional ovariohysterectomy or neuter for all breeds. No perfect study examining the removal of the sex organs' effects on all breeds, all medical conditions, and all unwanted behaviors can be performed. Thus, no single sterilization recommendation can fit every dog and owner however, the new sex hormone sparing sterilizations represents an exciting opportunity to individualize such medical decisions yet still prevent reproduction.

Dr. Rastetter is owner and Chief Veterinarian of Pets In Stitches which provides

experienced, caring, and affordable reproductive sterilization services to the Dayton, Ohio region for dogs, cats, and rabbits. Procedures offered include traditional spay and neuter, ovary sparing spays, vasectomies, and pediatric sterilizations. She may be contacted at drastetter@petsinstitches.com. Visit Pets In Stitches' website www.petsinstitches.com to learn more!

¹ Torres de la Riva G, Hart BL, Farver TB, Oberbauer AM, Messam LLM, et al. Neutering Dogs: Effects on Joint Disorders and Cancers in Golden Retrievers. *PLoS ONE* 2013; 8 (2): e55937. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0055937.

² Hart BL, Hart LA, Thigpen AP, Willits NH. Long-Term Health Effects of Neutering Dogs: Comparison of Labrador Retrievers with Golden Retrievers. *PLoS ONE* 2014; 9(7): e102241. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0102241.

³ Whitehair, JG, Vasseur, PB, Willits, NH. Epidemiology of cranial cruciate ligament rupture in dogs. *Journal of American Veterinary Medical Association* 1993; 203 (7):1016-1019.

⁴ Zink, M. Christine, et al. (2014) Evaluation of the risk and age of onset of cancer and behavioral disorders in gonadectomized Vizslas. *Journal of American Veterinary Medical Association*. 244 (3): 309- 319.

⁵ Walter, David J, et al. Exploring mechanisms of sex differences in longevity: lifetime ovary exposure and exceptional longevity in dogs. *Aging Cell* 2009; 8: 752-755.

⁶ Dawn M. Cooley, Benjamin C. Beranek, Deborah L. Schlittler, et al. Endogenous Gonadal Hormone Exposure and Bone Sarcoma Risk. *Cancer Epidemiology Biomarkers & Prevention* 2002; 11: 1434-1440.

⁷ Sorenmo, KU, et al. Immunohistochemical characterization of canine prostatic carcinoma and correlation with castration status and castration time. *Veterinary and Comparative Oncology* 2003; 1 (1), 48-56

⁸ Bryan, Jeffrey N, et al. A population study of neutering status as a risk factor for canine prostate cancer. *The Prostate* 2007; 67 (11), 1174-1181.

⁹ Teske, E, et al. Canine prostate carcinoma: epidemiological evidence of an increased risk in castrated dogs. *Molecular and Cellular Endocrinology* 2002; 197 (1-2), 251-255.

¹⁰ Obradovich, Joyce, Walshaw, Richard, Goullaud, Eric. The influence of castration on the development of prostatic carcinoma in the dog 43 cases (1978-1985). *Journal of Veterinary Internal Medicine* (1987); 1 (4): 183-187.

¹¹ Thursfield, MV, Holt, PE, Muirhead, RH. Acquired urinary incontinence in bitches: its incidence and relationship to neutering practices. *Journal of Small Animal Practice* 1998; 39 (12): 559-566.

¹² Spain, C. Victor, Scarlett, Janet M, Houpt, Katherine A. Long-term risks and benefits of early-age gonadectomy in dogs. *Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association* (2004); 224 (3): 380-387.

- ¹³Pancieria, DL. Hypothyroidism in dogs: 66 cases (1987-1992), *Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association* (1994); 204 (5): 761-767.
- ¹⁴O'Farrell, V, Peachey, E. Behavioural effects of ovariohysterectomy on bitches. *Journal of Small Animal Practice* 1990; 31(12): 595-598.
- ¹⁵Kim, HH, et al. Effects of ovariohysterectomy on reactivity in German Shepherd dogs. *Veterinary Journal* 2006; 172 (1): 154-159.
- ¹⁶Schneider, Robert, Dorn, C. Richard, Taylor, D.O.N. Factors influencing canine mammary cancer development and postsurgical survival. *Journal of the National Cancer Institute* 1969; 43 (6): 1249-1261.
- ¹⁷Klitpean, S. et al. Breed Variations in the Incidence of pyometra and mammary tumours in Swedish Dogs. *Reproduction in Domestic Animals* 2012; 47 (Suppl. 6), 347–350.
- ¹⁸Egenvall, Agenta, et al. Breed Risk of Pyometra in Insured Dogs in Sweden. *Journal of Veterinary Internal Medicine* 2001; 15: 530-538.
- ¹⁹ Sonnenschein, EG, et al. Body conformation, diet, and risk of breast cancer in pet dogs: a case-control study. *American Journal of Epidemiology* (1991); 133 (7): 694-703.
- ²⁰Priester, WA. Occurrence of mammary neoplasms in bitches in relation to breed, age, tumour type, and geographical region from which reported. *Journal of Small Animal Practice* (2008); 20 (1): 1-11.
- ²¹Hoffman JM, Creevy KE, Promislow DEL. Reproductive Capability Is Associated with Lifespan and Cause of Death in Companion Dogs. *PLoS ONE* 2013; 8(4): e61082. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0061082.
- ²²Hopkins SG, Schubert TA, Hart BL. Castration of adult male dogs: effects on roaming, aggression, urine marking, and mounting. *Journal of American Veterinary Medical Association* 1976; 168(12):1108-1110.
- ²³Neilson, Jacqueline C, Eckstein, Robert A, Hart, Benjamin L. Effects of castration on problem behaviors in male dogs with reference to age and duration of behavior. *Journal of American Veterinary Medical Association* 1997; 211 (2), 180-182
- ²⁴Cowan, LA, et al. Effects of castration on chronic bacterial prostatitis in dogs. *Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association* (1991); 199 (3): 346-350.

Down 'n Back

Captain Nick's Compass Rose
Cuyahoga Valley Hound Association
8/26/2016

Coursing Ability Advanced Title
Owner: Christine Nickerson

Litter Listings

**Ch Zinfndel Lengley's Big Papi x
Valleywood Nor'easter**
Blacks and yellows due Oct 3
Contact: Chris Kofron
614-895-1923 or 614-906-1921

Sporting Puppies Needed!

The Fairfield County Birddog Club, 6621 Miller Siding Road, Rushville, Ohio, (15 minutes from Lancaster), is hosting a Sportman's Day, October 8 from 9 to 3 p.m.

The club is looking for sporting breed puppies to showcase so the public can meet and learn breed traits.

Puppies will NOT be for sale.

Interested persons please contact Sami Simons at 614/531-2638.

General COLRC Information



The **UNLEASHED!** is a publication by and for the members of the **Central Ohio Labrador Retriever Club** and others interested in the betterment of the sport and advancement of cooperative communication within the Labrador community and the dog fancy.

The articles and information contained in this publication have been deemed by the editor to be of interest to our readers but do not necessarily reflect the beliefs or the opinions of the editor or COLRC members. Reader input is actively solicited.

Please address or email all articles, announcements, comments and suggestions to newsletter@colrc.com. Unleashed is published ten to twelve times per year. Closing for each issue is the 20th day of the month prior to publication.

Dues are \$25 annually for a single membership and \$40 for a joint membership. Business cards will be placed on the COLRC website for the year at a cost of \$50 for members and non-members.

Club members who wish to utilize the Litter Listing Column of the newsletter and website will be required to pay \$50 per litter listing unless they have worked at two of our three club events during the course of the year.

Meetings General meetings shall take place the first Wednesday of every month unless otherwise noted.

OFFICERS

President.....	Sally Bell	(Term expires Dec 2017)
Vice President.....	Lori Bentine	(Term expires Dec 2017)
Treasurer.....	Chris Bell	(Term expires Dec 2017)
Secretary.....	Sue Frazier	(Term expires Dec 2017)

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Membership.....	Chris Bell
Newsletter.....	Christine Nickerson
Puppy Match.....	Linda Bednarski
Show Chair.....	Linda Bednarski
Eye Clinic.....	Jennifer Stotts

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Cindy Gerhan	(Term expires Dec 2017)
Christine Kofron	(Term expires Dec 2017)
Jennifer Stotts	(Term expires Dec 2016)
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Linda Bednarski	(Term expires Dec 2016)
Joni Palumbo	(Term expires Dec 2016)
Kate Volkava	(Term expires Dec 2016)