



UNLEASHED

Volume 22, Issue 1 A publication of the Central Ohio Labrador Retriever Club February 2011

Next Meeting: Animal Hospital of
Worthington Annex

Date: Wednesday, February 2

Location: 5758 North High Street
Worthington, OH 43085

2011 Meeting Dates

March 13—*Eye/Health Clinic*

April 6—*Giamarco's Restaurant*

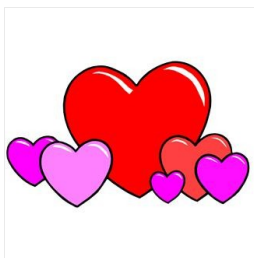
May—*Puppy Match: Saturday, May 7*

June 1—*Jan Eichensehr's home
bring dogs*

September 7

October 5

November 2



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

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Prez Notes

"A dog is not 'almost human' and I know of no greater insult to the canine race than to describe it as such." -John Holmes, American poet

Happy New Year everyone!

I hope everyone had enjoyable holidays and that you are enjoying frozen ground...at least for a few more days! The advent of the new year is the signal for some annual routines in the club. First and foremost, as I write this, you have just short of two weeks to take advantage of the discount in dues by paying before the end of January.

Secondly, plans are complete for our annual Health Clinic, to be held March 13 at Refugee Canyon West again. The flier will be on the website later this week. We have managed to hold our prices steady for this year and keep the same location and same doctors. We are going to be much more organized than last year (although I don't anticipate such a large turnout unless we have horrible weather between now and then again). I will be looking for people to do specific jobs the day of the clinic.

Thirdly, our new policy regarding litter listings goes into place this year. The club holds three major events during the course of the year: the health clinic, the puppy match and the specialty. Those folks who work in some way at two of the three of those events may post their litter listings for free. Others will have to pay \$50 per listing. Obviously, that won't kick in until after the second event of the year, which is the puppy match in May.

Also, we have several meetings scheduled that are at dog friendly sites. Winter doesn't always provide a lot of opportunity for us to get our furry friends

Prez Notes Cont:

out for socialization, so join us at the February meeting at the Animal Hospital of Worthington annex and bring dogs to socialize and interact with other people and canines.

Plans are starting to come together for our designated specialty and supported entry in October. The committee is in the process of securing judges and seeking AKC approval.

So, the board and committees have hit the ground running for 2011 and we hope to see you at the meeting in February.

- Jennifer

NEW POLICY EFFECTIVE FOR THE APRIL NEWSLETTER

After discussion at the board meeting, a new policy has been approved and will be put into place starting in 2011. Those 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. The three club events are defined as the health clinic in March, the puppy match in May and the specialty in October. There are many jobs to be completed before, during and after each of these events. For example, a person could be show secretary for the match and help coordinate people at the health clinic or make food for the specialty hospitality and organize and be in charge of food for the puppy match.

Those are just a couple examples but there are many opportunities of diverse type. We have, like many clubs, found ourselves in a situation where many members do not take an active role in the club and it is getting very difficult to manage the few events we do have with so few participating. We tossed around many ideas but this is one that many other clubs use.

News Flash!!

“Dues are now due.....and if your dues are postmarked to Steve LaVelle by January 31, 2011, you can give yourself a discount! That's right....a discount. If your dues are postmarked by JANUARY 31, family memberships will be \$40 and single memberships \$25. Take advantage and get that check in the mail to:”

Steve LaVelle

6015 Carters Corner

Sunbury, OH 43074



Down n' Backs

Captain Nick's Beam Reach

Agathon Kennel Club

11/28/2010

WD, BOS

Owners: Paul & Christine Nickerson

Captain Nick's SunDel Sloop

Medina Swarm CPE Agility Trial

12/4/2010

CL5F CPE Agility Title

Owners: Paul & Christine Nickerson

Devanley Captain Nick's

Viking Princess Sela

Starved Rock Kennel Club

12/16/2010

Rally Novice Obedience Title

Owner: Christine Nickerson

Captain Nick's Beam Reach

Starved Rock Kennel Club

12/16/2010

1st Rally Novice Obedience Leg

Owners: Paul & Christine Nickerson



Litter Listings

CH Adventure's Pull the Trigger X Shannon's Absolut White Chocolate

Black litter born 12/4/10

Contact Jennifer Stotts

740-828-2657

shannonlabradors@yahoo.com

CH. Moonlit Drum Roll X MBlSS Ch. Shalane Cora Belle

Black litter born 12/25/10

Contact Deb Lewis

419-294-2729

Shlanelabs@yahoo.com

www.shlanelabs.com

CH JanLon's Invincible X Shannon's Sister Golden Hair

Yellow litter due 2-8-11

Contact Jennifer Stotts

740-828-2657

shannonlabradors@yahoo.com

Ashway's Gambler X Ashway's Scarlet O'Haira

Blacks & chocolates born 9/16/10

Contact Rose or Bill Ash

740-881-4326 or Ashway@columbus.rr.com

Ashway's Gambler

X

Ashway's Impressive Lily

Black female available born 10/2/10

Contact Rose or Bill Ash

740-881-4326 or Ashway@columbus.rr.com

At this time, COLRC Unleashed! Does not require listing of CERF or OFA information for Litter Box Listings. All breeders are encouraged to have hips and eyes certified on all breeding stock and to provide this information in litter listings. COLRC Unleashed! does not represent any litter listing as meeting any type of breeder's code or standard. Ask the breeder when inquiring about dogs listed.

EPILEPSY RESEARCH

In September, 2008 my friend Maggie Black and I were driving home from the Huron River LRC specialty show when Maggie said, "I'm going to be show secretary next year, and YOU are going to do something."

That would be the 2009 Mid-Jersey specialty. Well I had a major case of burnout after 2003 when I had run a health clinic, a match show, a Hutch seminar, and finished up my 2nd year as treasurer. I had been sitting on my hands since then and only attended a couple of meetings when compelling programs were given. So, my reply was, "I am not!"

"Yes you are!"

"No, I'm not!"

"You are too!"

That's what you think!"

"Yes you are. Just let me know what you are going to do."

Maggie was going to be out of luck, and that is all there was to it. A couple of weeks later as I was straightening up the garage, I stood looking at the 5 flying saucer puppy pans when suddenly it popped into my head. That's it! A garage sale to benefit epilepsy research! I could ask club members and exhibitors to bring their unwanted dog items and I could sell them at the specialty.

Epilepsy has been a problem for me. In the '90's I produced 2 back-to-back litters with the same stud, almost one year apart. When the first litter turned 18 months, the pup I kept had a seizure. A couple of months later, I got a call from a distraught owner, telling me her dog started having seizures too. If you have ever seen a dog seizure, you know what a terrible experience it is. And the worst is when a child has to see his or her dog seizing. With two dogs seizing and knowing there was a second litter out there, I was in a panic. But there was nothing I could do at this point. I didn't want to frighten the owners of the other pups, so I had to wait it out. Every year on their birthdays, I called all the owners to say "happy birthday" and ask how the dogs were. In time I was to learn that 5 out of the 17 puppies had seizures. Ten years later, seizures struck again. The original bitch was not in this pedigree. It seemed, in spite of all my efforts, the epilepsy gene had come back to haunt me.

I felt so helpless all those years, now maybe there was something I could do. I went online and started looking to see what I could learn. One thing that I knew I wanted to do was to give the proceeds of the garage sale directly to the researchers. I did not want one penny to be spent on administrative costs. There were a number of teams doing research, and some of them at different vet schools seemed to be cooperating. They were asking for help from the dog community. That sounded good to me.

I picked up the phone and called the number for Gary Johnson, DVM, PhD, at University of Missouri, College of Veterinary Medicine. My call was answered by Liz Hansen. Liz is the ----- Project Coordinator.

Liz was very helpful and willing to answer my questions. Could they accept direct contributions? "Yes." That was a good start. I was absolutely amazed by the rest of what Liz had to say.

As a minimum to initiate a mapping study, UM needs to have 25 sibling pairs in which one sibling has seizures and the other does not. Family groups are also important, so wherever an epileptic dog has appeared, it is useful to send samples from the affected, plus as many of the normal siblings, parents, and grandparents as possible. The funding needed to conduct the initial mapping study runs between \$15,000-20,000.

Currently UM has DNA from 38 seizing labs, but very few with DNA from their normal siblings. Samples from random normal dogs are not needed, because UM has DNA from over 5000 Labradors through work with Guide Dogs for the Blind and Guiding Eyes for the Blind. Sibling pairs and family groups where epilepsy has appeared are the key to being able to map epilepsy in this, or any breed. There are likely to be many forms of inherited epilepsy in dogs. There have been over 30 different forms identified in humans and laboratory mice.

Liz said, when they started the epilepsy research project, they assumed there would be many samples from the popular Labrador Retriever. To their surprise, that was not to be the case.

The Greater Swiss Mountain Dog breeders have gotten behind epilepsy research. By March, 2009 they had blood from over 1200 dogs, 63 of which are affected. An initial mapping run has already been completed for GSMD's, and the data is in the process of being analyzed.

The researchers at University of Missouri are cooperating with other researchers in the USA and also in Finland, France and England. Most of the mapping has been done in Finland and France so far, but in July UM will have the new SNP chip and will be capable of doing the mapping studies on campus. Other breeds that have some mapping data already being analyzed include Saint Bernards, Standard Schnauzers, and Chinooks. Ten other breeds are ready to map, and will be evaluated in the coming months.

If the lab community, with our huge number of dogs, gets behind this we could have well more than the initial 25 pairs in no time at all. 25 pairs is next to nothing. As with everything else, the trick is to do it!

After our conversation, I had to wonder why they had so few blood samples submitted. That is when I read the literature they have online. I didn't have to read very far before one thing jumped right out at me. "Complete families are critical to locating specific genes and markers. Wherever possible, submit samples from all siblings, both parents, and all available grandparents." Good grief! A typical litter would have 8 puppies, 2 parents, and 4 grandparents. 14 dogs! I figure, if I hadn't talked to Liz first, I probably would have stopped right there. Can you imagine rounding up all those dogs, collecting the blood, and shipping it to Missouri? I can't. I think only very, very few people would be able to do that. While it might be the ideal, it is not something most people could or would do.

So let's state it one more time.

They need 25 sibling pairs in which one dog has seizures and the other does not have seizures to run the initial mapping study.

So what do you have to do to participate?

1. Round up a sibling pair. Owners with non-seizing dogs are usually willing to participate, but have little motivation. I had one such owner who needed a little extra help. They forgot all about it when they took their dog to the vet. I ended up going to their house, picking up the dog, and taking her to my vet one day when my girl was going in for a progesterone test. Everyone was happy and that gave me a sibling pair. If you can get your hands on other related dogs, great.
2. Collect the blood. The ideal plan is to get 2 siblings, plus any relatives, collected at once. That way you can put all blood samples in the same package and save on shipping costs. Blood can be kept a couple of days in the refrigerator, so you can bundle blood collected a couple of days apart. So far I have heard of only one vet who charged for the blood draw and the fee was very small. Be sure to print out the sample handling page (see below) and take it with you to the vet.
3. Package the blood. Ask your vet to have a freezer pack ready when you come for the blood draw. Vets get freezer packs with vaccine shipments and always have plenty to spare. The blood is sent in several tiny purple top tubes. Each tube is labeled with the dog's call name and the owner's last name. You can wrap the tubes in a couple layers of paper toweling so they do not come in direct contact with the freezer pack. Next, start wrapping the pack and the blood with a single layer of newspaper. Keep adding layers to make a nice cocoon that will fit snugly in the box. Newspaper is an excellent insulator. Your vet may have boxes you can use. The boxes do not have to be large.
4. Shipping the blood. The blood must be sent overnight. If you don't get carried away with the box, the cost will be around \$30-40. You may not want to trust the USPS to deliver it on time. I've had really great experience with FedEx and their online tracking system gives blow-by-blow updates of a package's journey. You can give Liz's email address as the recipient so she will be informed when you drop it off and when it arrives. One other tip – if the weather is warm, take the package to be shipped late in the day as possible. That way it will be sure to keep cool for the duration.
5. Paper work. Yes, I know. We don't really like this part very much, but you can do it. There is a simple form for each dog that is put in the package with the blood sample. There is an online form that is filled out ONLY for the dogs that have seizures. The form asks for some things only the breeder can answer and other things only the owners can answer. Because of that, I print the form and highlight the questions that only the owner could answer. I then ask the owner for that information and fill out the online form out myself. I figure as the breeder, I am the one who has most at stake in doing this. If you prefer, you can send the printed form via snail mail.
6. One last suggestion. When the blood samples from your sibling pair arrives at UM, call Liz or send her an email (HansenL@missouri.edu) alerting her to the fact that another sibling pair is in their possession.

So yes, there is some work involved, and some expense too. But what a small price to pay when a test will be developed with some help from us, the breeders.

Do you have access to a sibling pair, and maybe relatives too? Please help. With your cooperation, the researchers will help us so that we need never produce seizing dogs again. This is so worthwhile!

Here are links that will give you the information you need to participate.

<http://www.canine-epilepsy.net/Docs/DNAtempl.pdf>

This one is supposed to be sent in with the blood sample. I had to send it in separately for one dog & that was OK.

http://www.canine-epilepsy.net/Srvy_Ins.htm

This form is to be filled out ONLY if the dog has seizures. You can complete it online or print it out and mail it to UM.

<http://www.canine-epilepsy.net/Docs/DNAhowto.pdf>

This one talks about what they are looking for. Don't get hung up on the part about entire families. Think pairs!!! Additional family members are icing on the cake.

<http://www.canine-epilepsy.net/Docs/SampHand.pdf>

This one talks about the blood collection & has the address for sending it.

<http://tulgeywoodlabs.com/pages/PackingSamples.pdf>

This page gives step-by-step instructions for packing up the samples and shipping them.

The Mid-Jersey board gave the Garage Sale a big thumbs up, and it will be held at our specialty on October 15th & 16th, 2009. So, while you are at it, how about holding a "garage sale" at your club's next specialty. You can contact me and I can give you some hints about running a sale.

If we all cooperate, we can beat epilepsy. Your contribution of blood samples is what is needed. You will feel proud to have made a significant contribution to eliminating epilepsy in Labrador Retrievers.

Joan McInnis
jmcinnis@oncore.com
732 842-6961

Listings sorted by closing date.

SHOW	LOCATION	SHOW DATE	CLOSING
Medina Swarm Agility Club	Wadsworth, OH	2/19/11	Day of Show
Medina Swarm Agility Club	Wadsworth, OH	2/120/11	Day of Show
Hawaiian Kennel Club (PDF Format)	Honolulu, HI	03/05/11	02/16/11
Detroit Kennel Club (PDF Format)	Detroit, MI	03/05/11	02/16/11
Detroit Kennel Club RALLY (PDF Format)	Detroit, MI	03/05/11	02/16/11
Detroit Kennel Club PM OBED (PDF Format)	Detroit, MI	03/05/11	02/16/11
Hawaiian Kennel Club (PDF Format)	Honolulu, HI	03/06/11	02/16/11
Detroit Kennel Club (PDF Format)	Detroit, MI	03/06/11	02/16/11
Detroit Kennel Club RALLY (PDF Format)	Detroit, MI	03/06/11	02/16/11
Ashtabula Kennel Club OBED #1 (PDF Format)	Jefferson, OH	03/19/11	03/02/11
Ashtabula Kennel Club RALLY #1 (PDF Format)	Jefferson, OH	03/19/11	03/02/11
Ashtabula Kennel Club RALLY #2 (PDF Format)	Jefferson, OH	03/19/11	03/02/11
Ashtabula Kennel Club OBED #2 (PDF Format)	Jefferson, OH	03/19/11	03/02/11
Grand River Kennel Club, Inc. RALLY #1 (PDF Format)	Jefferson, OH	03/20/11	03/02/11
Grand River Kennel Club, Inc. OBED #1 (PDF Format)	Jefferson, OH	03/20/11	03/02/11
Grand River Kennel Club, Inc. RALLY #2 (PDF Format)	Jefferson, OH	03/20/11	03/02/11
Grand River Kennel Club, Inc. OBED #2 (PDF Format)	Jefferson, OH	03/20/11	03/02/11
Western Pennsylvania Kennel Association,	Monroeville, PA	04/02/11	03/16/11
Western Pennsylvania Kennel Association,	Monroeville, PA	04/03/11	03/16/11

Legislative Alerts:

* [Bipartisan “dear colleague” letter from Congressmen Dan Boren \(D-Okla.\) and Paul C. Broun, M.D., \(R-Ga.\) to their colleagues in Congress outlining concerns with federal “PUPS” legislation, H.R. 5434](#)

* http://www.akc.org/pdfs/canine_legislation/PUPSdearcolleague12022010.pdf

* **Ohio House Bill 570** <http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=128> **HB 570** Signs are Rep Cheryl Grossman is considering reintroducing the bill

* **McKenzies Law** <http://www.animallawcoalition.com/companion-animal-breeding/article/1106>

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 \$30 annually for a single membership and \$50 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.

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

OFFICERS

President.....	Jennifer Stotts	(Term expires Dec 2011)
Vice President.....	Lori Bentine	(Term expires Dec 2011)
Treasurer.....	Stephen LaVelle	(Term expires Dec 2011)
Secretary.....	Lori Wolfe	(Term expires Dec 2011)

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Newsletter.....	Christine Nickerson
Puppy Match.....	Tracey Rithaler
Show Chair.....	Susan Moseley
Eye Clinic.....	Jennifer Stotts

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Jan Eichenser	(Term expires Dec 2012)
Susan Moseley	(Term expires Dec 2012)
Tracey Rithaler	(Term expires Dec 2012)
Linda Bednarski	(Term expires Dec 2012)

