



UNLEASHED

Volume 31 Issue 3 A publication of the Central Ohio Labrador Retriever Club March 2020

Event Date: March 4, 2020

Time: 6:30 P.M.

Location: at the home of Jan Eichensehr
BYOB and an appetizer to share!

2020 Meeting/Event Dates

March 4
April 1
May 3 Health Clinic
June 3
July 1
September 2
October 7
November 4
Christmas Party—TBA

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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/)

Health Clinic

This year's annual health clinic will once again be located at the veterinary clinic of Dr. Don Mann (same location as the last two years) the first Sunday in May (May 3).

Dr. Anne Gemensky Metzler will be doing eye exams and Dr. Karsten Schober doing heart exams. DDC Veterinary Genetics will offer DNA testing at a discounted rate

The flier is attached in this newsletter (see page 6)

Please help out by spreading the word!!

Any questions? Contact Jennifer Stotts



The Dangers of Playing with Laser Lights

Sara Reusche CBCC-KA CPDT-KSA CVT

Howie* was an adorable little teddy bear of a dog. He wiggled as I sunk my hand into his plush, soft, curly fur. A delightful Cavachon, Howie adored people and loved to meet new friends. He sat beside me on the sofa, leaning into my touch. The room was dark other than a single lamp, the curtains not just drawn but clipped shut. Howie's foster caregivers told me about his obsessions as we sat in the dim room, being careful not to move and throw shadows on the floor. I took notes, pausing occasionally to pet the little dog.

Howie was surrendered to the rescue when his self-injurious behavior became too much for his owners to handle. He was housetrained, friendly to people, and a delight with children. When he arrived at his foster caregiver's home, he sported an oozing, open wound on his muzzle and nose. Howie was obsessed with lights, and would do anything to try to catch one... including harming himself.

Howie's obsession started out, as most do, innocently enough. As a young dog with lots of energy, Howie's owners found that he enjoyed chasing a laser light. They used the light to exercise him at least twice a day and he chased after it delightedly, racing throughout their living room. They sent him up and down stairs after the elusive light, onto the sofa and under the table, around and around until he was tired out. It seemed like the perfect exercise solution on cold Minnesota days when none of them wanted to go outside.

Howie soon began to play the light game even when his owners weren't using the laser. He stalked shadows and light patterns on the floor, staring intently as he crept forward until he was close enough to pounce. He loved the reflections off his owner's watch crystals and from the prism in the window. Outside, he was entranced by the movement of the shadows from sunlight shining through the leaves of a tree or birds flying overhead. He no longer sniffed on walks, but instead searched constantly for the next light.

During laser play sessions, Howie's intensity began to concern his owners. He bit at the carpet where the laser had been and slammed into walls. They threw away the laser and attempted to dissuade him from these dangerous behaviors by putting him in his crate whenever he did them. He persisted, chasing lights and shadows in their home. Soon, Howie was spending the majority of his time in his crate, with a blanket thrown over the top to block out any light.

When he was loose, Howie damaged his owner's home. He tore chunks out of the carpet and bit at the walls. He broke a front tooth attacking the wall and chipped several others. Soon, he had an open wound on his muzzle that wouldn't heal from slamming himself into the floor, walls, and furniture in his attempt to catch the lights and shadows that taunted him. Howie's owners had a new baby, and they were concerned that his behavior put their child at risk. They surrendered him to rescue.

While extreme, Howie's story isn't unusual. **Light and shadow chasing are some of the most common obsessions found in dogs.** All breeds can develop these issues, but those who were bred for strong gazes, such as herding breeds and Pointers, seem to be especially at risk.

Light obsession most frequently develops after owners use a laser pointer to exercise their dog. Unlike toys or treats, lights cannot be caught. **This is incredibly frustrating for many dogs, who never "win" the game.** Even after you put the light away, many dogs continue to search for the elusive light. Shadow and light chasing behavior can develop soon afterwards.

For this reason, I highly recommend against using a laser light to exercise any dog. It's impossible to know which dogs will develop issues until they happen, and it's just not worth the risk. If you do decide to persist in using a laser for exercise, consider having the laser eventually lead your dog to a small pile of treats as you end the game so that he "wins" something. However, complete avoidance of the game is preferable.

If your dog begins to show light or shadow chasing behavior, know that the sooner you intervene, the .

the better the prognosis becomes. Howie's case was extreme in large part because it had been going on for so long: nearly five years by the time he was surrendered to rescue. Early intervention greatly increases the likelihood that you can help your dog.

If your dog begins chasing lights and shadows, the first thing to do is to **increase his physical and mental exercise**. Oftentimes this intervention alone can be enough in the early stages. My dog Trout showed this behavior as a young dog, and will occasionally still stare at the wall near lamps if she hasn't received enough exercise. Whenever your dog begins to obsess, redirect him to an appropriate activity. Trout is usually redirected by physically getting in between her and the wall, then calmly moving her away from the area. Avoid making a big deal over the behavior – both reinforcement in the form of treats or excessive attention, or punishment in the form of any aversive can make this behavior worse. In fact, **stress can be a huge factor in many obsessive behaviors**, so any intervention that includes aversive consequences for obsessing (such as using an electronic collar or swatting your dog) can greatly increase the chances that your dog will obsess.

If your dog's obsession has been going on for a long period of time or is so severe that you're unable to easily interrupt it, it's worthwhile to discuss medication options with your veterinarian.

Howie's foster family did just that, starting him on fluoxetine (the generic for Prozac) at the advice of the rescue's veterinarian. They also began a steady behavioral modification regimen of appropriate exercise, training, and management. Howie wore a Calming Cap when he went on walks to block his ability to search for lights, and was rewarded handsomely for learning several new tricks. His foster family was gradually able to open the curtains, first on cloudy days, then at night, and finally on sunny days. They worked hard with him for months and months, helping him to cope with his former obsession.

Sadly, Howie's story does not end well. After months of hard and loving work by his foster family, the injury on his muzzle had healed over. He was taken into the vet clinic for dental surgery to repair his damaged front teeth, and stopped breathing during the operation. The veterinarian was unable to revive him.

While Howie's story was sad, there is a silver lining. He had several months of peace with his foster family, finally free of the light-chasing obsession that had so overpowered his life for so many years. He discovered the joys of using his nose and began to love the sport of nose work. He snuggled and got brushed, and got a chance to wriggle around in the grass and sleep in a bed. He was loved

If you currently use a laser light to exercise your dog, I urge you to reconsider. While Howie's story was extreme, it's not uncommon. I work with obsessive dogs much like Howie regularly. Most of these cases could have been avoided with some minor changes to the dog's routine. There are better ways to exercise and stimulate your dog. Save your laser light for powerpoint presentations, and you could save your dog from a lifetime of obsession. It's a fair trade, and Howie would approve.

*Howie's name and identifying details were changed at the request of his foster family.

Reprinted from
Sara Reusche CBCC-KA CPDT-KSA CVT
Paws Abilities Dog Training, LLC
<https://pawsabilitiesmn.com>
<https://paws4udogs.wordpress.com>

APDT Premium Professional Member #72543

USDA APHIS Restores Non-Redacted Licensee Inspection Records

By [AKC Government Relations](#)

Feb 18, 2020

Today, the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) [Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service \(APHIS\)](#) announced that it is restoring certain formerly-redacted portions of USDA dealer/breeder licensee records on its searchable online database.

In 2017, APHIS removed certain records from its database to address potential privacy concerns. APHIS then reposted most of the documents, but attempted to protect private information by redacting certain personally identifiable information. However, last year's federal agricultural appropriations legislation required those records be restored. In response, APHIS has restored those records. APHIS is also expected to post within the next 60 days non-redacted records created since the 2019 legislation passed. These records will include names, addresses, Animal Welfare Act (AWA) inspection reports (including any non-compliant items), animal inventories, teachable moments, and final AWA and Horse Protection Act enforcement records. Records will remain available on APHIS's website for a period of three years from posting.

[Click here](#) to read AKC Government Relations' (AKC GR) December 5, 2019, alert regarding publishing of private information.

[Click here](#) to read a letter from USDA APHIS to AWA licensees and registrants.

AKC GR will continue to provide information on developments on this and other dog-related legislation and regulations from the federal government. For more information, contact AKC GR at doglaw@akc.org.

Reprinted from AKC.ORG; [AKC Legislative Alerts](#); <https://www.akc.org/legislative-alerts/usda-aphis-restores-non-redacted-licensee-inspection-records/>

Litter Listings

3 month old black female (11-14-19)
CH Devonshires Huckleberry Finn x
Wit's End Ellsworth Blackish at
Tremont
current on vaccines
house, lead and crate trained
contact: Jennifer
Stotts shannonlabradors@yahoo.c
om or 740-828-2657

2020 Membership Dues are due!

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.

Please mail your check to Linda
Bednarski or bring them to the March
meeting.

If you have changes from last year
please be sure to include those also.

**Unpaid dues will be dropped
from the membership list!**

Any questions, please contact Linda
at Linda@tullamorelabs.com

Down 'n Back

CH. Tremont's What Happens In
Vegas . . .

Select Bitch, Coastal Carolina
LRC Specialty

January 25, 2020

Owners: Lori & John Bentine

Captain Nick's The Ship's Belle
Medina Kennel Club

2/1/20

Rally Novice Obedience

2 qualifying legs

Owner: Christine Nickerson

Captain Nick's Rogue Wave
Medina Kennel Club

2/1/20

Rally Excellent Obedience

New Title

Owner: Christine Nickerson

Captain Nick's Rogue Wave
Medina Kennel Club

2/1/20

Rally Master's Obedience

First leg

Owner: Christine Nickerson



COLRC All-Breed

Eye, Heart & DDC Veterinary Genetics Clinic

Sunday, May 3, 2020

Don Mann DVM Veterinary Clinic

5110 Cheshire Road (at the intersection of Cheshire and Africa Roads)

Galena, OH 43021

For directions, go to their website at <https://mannvetclinic.com/>, and there is a map on the home page.

For the safety of dogs and people, dogs are to stay in owner's vehicle until exam please.

******For questions, directions or cancellations DAY OF CLINIC ONLY, call Jennifer Stotts at 740-819-1607 or the clinic at 740-548-6669. If you are not coming, be considerate of others and let us know!!!******

Eye Exam Clinic

Anne Gemensky Metzler, DVM, MS, Diplomate ACVO

NOTE: Scheduling by appointment only: 8:00-4:00; OFA forms will be provided which are accepted by CERF and OFA

Exam cost: \$40 per dog/\$7 additional charge for breeds that must be examined before and after dilation (Australian Shepherd, Basenji, Mastiff, Pembroke Welsh Corgi, Dalmation)

There is a discount for litters – call or email for info on pricing.

CONTACT: Jennifer Stotts – shannonlabradors@yahoo.com or 740-828-2657

HEART Clinic

Karsten Schober, DVM, PhD, Diplomate ECVIM (Cardiology)

Note: Scheduling by appointment only: 9:00 A.M. – 3:00 P.M.

Auscultation Exam cost: \$40

The doctor will bring OFA forms for owners to submit if desired.

PLEASE NOTE: OFA WILL NOT REGISTER HEART FORMS FOR DOGS UNDER 1 YEAR OF AGE

CONTACT: Jennifer Stotts – shannonlabradors@yahoo.com or 740-828-2657

DDC Veterinary Genetics discounted testing

The first test on a dog will be discounted to \$45 (\$13 off) and each additional test on the SAME dog will be \$20 each. Please visit www.vetdnacenter.com to see what tests are available for your breed. **Labrador folks..they now offer testing for copper toxicosis.** Testing can be done with cheek swabs provided at our clinic. Owners will be required to swab their own dogs with assistance. Ordering **must** be done **at the clinic** in order to qualify for the discount. Forms will be available at the clinic.

CONTACT: Jennifer Stotts – shannonlabradors@yahoo.com or 740-828-2657 to schedule so we have an approximate number.

NOTE: COLRC can accept credit cards with a 3% fee.

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 2021)
Vice President.....	Lori Bentine	(Term expires Dec 2021)
Treasurer.....	Linda Bednarski	(Term expires Dec 2021)
Secretary.....	Brian Tipton	(Term expires Dec 2021)

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Cindy Gerhan	(Term expires Dec 2020)
Christine Kofron	(Term expires Dec 2020)
Jennifer Stotts	(Term expires Dec 2020)
Jan Eichenser	(Term expires Dec 2020)
Sue Frazier	(Term expires Dec 2020)