



Shawnee Kennel Club

Smoke Signals

January 2009

www.shawneekennelclub.com

Officers May 2008 – May 2009

President: Sharon Howse

Vice-President: Jane West

Treasurer: Scotti Slonaker

Corresponding Secretary:

Secretary: Donna Germelman 540-995-3418 email elkies@verizon.net

Board Members: Jeanne Jackson; Regina Swygert-Smith; Anne Legge; Joyce Ragland

Webmistress: Marylou Crouch mlvc@earthlink.net Newsletter: Noreen Dunlap Noreen.dunlap@wildblue.net

General Membership Meeting

Disclaimer

The Shawnee Kennel Club is not responsible for, nor does it necessarily agree with, the opinions in this newsletter.

Inside this issue.....

President's Message

Announcements

Meeting Minutes

Of Interest to All

Braggs

Litterbox

President's Message

A New Year and New Beginnings

Happy New Year to everyone! All in all, 2008 was a good year for our club. We didn't do quite as well at our 2008 shows as we had hoped, but some clubs in our area were down 200 dogs or more with their entries from the previous year. In that respect, we were lucky as it could have been much worse. The day of our supported Lab entry, our entries were up from the previous year, and the next day, our entries were about the same or maybe down a few dogs. There were 17 brave souls who got out on that cold, blustery day to come to our Christmas party. We had a very nice selection of food for our meal. Thank you to Ellen Rivers for getting the nice community room at the Frederick County Public Safety Building at such short notice. She brought tablecloths, decorated the tables, brought coffee, etc. Ellen brought everything that we would need at the party and more. Thank you to Donna Germelman for having the wonderful idea to have an auction and white elephant sale. Jerry and I brought home a nice crate, good books to read, and the cutest pink plaid collar for one of our puppies. It was fun watching Gary and Jamie trying to out bid each other for a blue leash. The gift exchange is always fun, and several of the gifts ended up being retired during the gift exchange. The potted tree is still doing well, and seems to like being by the back door. Jerry has been rationing out his cookies so they are lasting a long time. You never know which gifts are going to be the gift that everyone seems to want. The meal was delicious, and thank you, Scotti for picking up the ham and bread for our dinner.

Four of our seven puppies have gone to their new homes so new beginnings for those puppies with new owners and new surroundings. We still have the girl we're keeping and two of the boys. The right homes will eventually come along for the 2 boys. I'm still trying to talk Jerry into keeping Kip. I don't think he will give in, and honestly, we don't need another puppy dog at this time. We do need another girl puppy, as our youngest girls are over 3 years old.

It was nice to go to the show down in Fredericksburg, VA on Sunday, and see the new year of dog shows going on. Jerry had fun judging junior showmanship, and one of our club members did very well in juniors that day. Hopefully, this member has sent a brag to Noreen for the newsletter. On a sadder note, Noreen has resigned as corresponding secretary. I'm sorry to see Noreen come off the board as Noreen has worked hard as corresponding secretary, and she did an excellent job of hosting the match, picnic, and September meeting at her place in 2006 and 2007. Thank you, Noreen for all that you have done for the club.

Welcome to our 2 newest members who were voted in at our December meeting during our Christmas party. Welcome to Tammy Vann who has English Setters. Also, let us all give a big welcome to Tina Parker-Craig who has German Shorthaired Pointers. Both Tammy and Tina attended our match, picnic, and the September and November meetings. We look forward to a long association with Tammy and Tina.

As the New Year starts, we have the opportunity to do great things for our club and great things with our dogs.

Sharon Howse

Announcements

**** CLASSES START JAN.14TH AT 7:30 AT UAW HALL.
GARY

The George Alston Seminar is booked for September 12 & 13, 2009. There will be room for Beginners, Advanced, and Observers. For more information, contact Anne Legge, (540) 667-2937, annelegge@comcast.net.

SEE THE ATTACHED FLYER FOR THE CLINIC.

The new Members Only section of the website is now functioning--very barebones--but at least it is now available. If someone can forward the minutes from past meetings, I will post those.

Our domain name of shawneekennelclub.com is still not fixed but the alternate works fine--so set your bookmarks at <http://shawneekennelclub.net>

When you open the front page, go to the Links and scroll down to Members Only. After you click on the link, you will be asked for a login and password.

Login username: Shawnee
Password: 2008puppy

If you need to contact me about the website, use this address:

mlvc@earthlink.net
Mary Lou Crouch

Of Interest to All

Birth Defects in Dogs.

by: Dr. P. Machwhirter B.V.Sc. (Hons) Highbury Veterinary Clinic.

Birth defects can occur because of genetic causes, adverse conditions during pregnancy or a combination of both.

NORMAL DEVELOPMENT:

Puppy development from the time of fertilization can be divided into three phases:

- " Preimplantation, day 0 to approximately day 14.
- " Embryogenesis. day 14 to day 30 approximately.
- " Foetal growth. Day 30 (approx.) to term.

Sperm can survive in the bitch's reproductive tract for over a week before fertilization occurs. Because of this, there can be an apparent variation of up to a week if these phases are timed from the time of mating, rather than from the time of actual fertilization.

The stage during which each developing tissue or organ is most sensitive to disruption is called the "critical period phase". This corresponds with roughly the second to fourth week of the bitch's pregnancy. If damage to the embryo occurs before this time (during the preimplantation period), the embryo is likely to die and be absorbed. During the foetal phase, (from roughly the thirteenth day of pregnancy onwards), resistance to harmful influences increases.

CRITICAL PERIODS IN PUPPY DEVELOPMENT:

Fertilisation; placentation; brain and spinal cord; cerebellum and cerebrum; vertebrae; tail; head and face; heart; sense organs; vision; limbs; palate; reproductive organs.

POTENTIAL CAUSES OF BIRTH DEFECTS:

Heredity. Adverse chemical or physical agents, infections and inappropriate nutrition can all result in birth defects.

HEREDITY:

All dogs carry some genes as hidden recessives. For a recessive gene to appear in a puppy, it must be passed on from both parents. With close inbreeding, the chance of both parents carrying the same genes can be desirable (such as the gene for gold colour in Golden Retrievers), or they can be for undesirable defects. Undesirable recessive defects may be immediately apparent as a birth defect, or they may not become apparent until later. Loose inbreeding will also increase the chances of undesirable polygenic characteristics emerging. A polygenic characteristic is one that is controlled by several genes. Examples include: Entropion (the turning in of the eyelids) in breeds such as Rottweillers and Golden retrievers. Blood vessel defects such as patent ductus arteriosus or persistent right aortic arch in German and Belgian Shepherds. Heart valve defects such as subaortic stenosis in Newfoundlands.

To breed top quality show dogs, it is necessary to mate closely related stock. While this technique will increase the chances of producing excellent show stock, it will unavoidably increase the chances of producing dogs with genetic defects. If steps are not taken to stop this, the occurrence of inherited defects will increase in pure-bred dogs this is particularly true. This is particularly true if the breed standard calls for a particular characteristic that encourages the development of a defect but it will also occur, even if this is not the case.

Conditions during pregnancy may also influence the development of inherited defects. Cleft palate is an example of this point. The hard palate develops in the foetus from a pair of processes that shift from being nearly vertical, extending on either side of the tongue, to being orientated horizontally above the tongue. This occurs during the fourth week of foetal development and is followed immediately by the fusion of the two processes to form the roof of the mouth. Any variation in the timing of the horizontal shift, size of the processes, size or location of the tongue, or the width of the mouth cavity, will increase the likelihood that fusion will not occur, resulting in a cleft palate. Cleft palate is a polygenetic defect that occurs across a wide range of breeds. It is also known to be caused by nutrition (excess Vitamin A) and environmental contaminants such as mercury chloride and drugs such as Griseofulvin. Genetic birth defects tend to affect only occasional puppies in a litter, as not all litter mates receive the same genes. Adverse conditions during pregnancy are more likely to affect an entire litter or the majority of puppies in it. There are exceptions to this rule.

NUTRITION RELATED DISORDERS:

Under - nutrition of the bitch during pregnancy can result in low birth weights, low brain weights, behavioural abnormalities and increased puppy mortality. However, no specific structural defects occur.

Vitamin A deficiency or excess during pregnancy can result in congenital malformation. Excess Vitamin A given to bitches from days 17 to 22 of pregnancy, produced abnormalities and kinked tails. Vitamin A deficiency in pigs, rats and rabbits has been associated with eye, heart and urinary defects.

Vitamin D deficiency during pregnancy can result in skeletal defects and abnormal dentition. Vitamin D excess has been implicated in impaired bone formation and some "swimmer" puppies.

Many other Vitamin and Minerals, if deficient or given in excess during pregnancy, have been shown to cause developmental defects in laboratory animals. Copper deficiency can cause abnormal brain development, abdominal hernias and skeletal abnormalities. Iron deficiency can cause anaemia and deaths in offspring. Manganese deficiency can cause loss of balance, due to failure of the middle ear to develop.

Teratogens:

A teratogen is an agent that disrupts the normal development process of the foetus. Examples of teratogens that have been shown to cause damage in dogs include:

Insecticides:

Carbaryl, an insecticide in flea powders such as Troy 7-dust is safe in puppies and adults but can cause birth defects when fed to bitches during pregnancy. Defects include short jaws, no tails, extra digits, skeletal malformations and fissures along the abdomen with displacement of intestines and abdominal contents. Dystocia (difficult births) from uterine atony (failure of the uterus to contract) also occurred. Other insecticides such as DDT and dichlorvos have been shown to cause birth defects in laboratory animals but have not yet been shown to cause defects in dogs.

Fungicides:

Captan given to bitches during pregnancy has produced puppies with crooked tails, hydrocephalus and failure of the abdominal wall to close. Mercury chloride (a fungicide and an environmental contaminant in fish and meat) caused cleft palates, open fontanelle, extra digits, extra kidneys and umbilical hernias.

Drugs:

Griseofulvin, an anti-fungal drug, causes small, weak, short haired puppies with cleft palates. Testosterones and progesterones may cause masculinisation of the clitoris and external genitals. Corticosteroid treatment has been associated with anasarca (dead,swollen) puppies and deformed limbs. Many other drugs have been proven to cause birth defects in other species.

Physical conditions:

Foetus are particularly sensitive to high maternal body temperature, either due to high environmental temperatures or to fevers. This is because the foetus can not readily dissipate heat back into the mothers circulation. Brain tissue is the most likely site to be damaged. Foetal death, growth retardation or developmental abnormalities also occur.

Infections:

Parvovirus infections in bitches during pregnancy can cause abnormal heart development in puppies if infection occurs during the critical stage of heart development. Infections in puppies after birth attack the digestive system.

While much has been discovered about the causes of birth defects in puppies, there is still much more to learn. Steps that a dog breeder should take to prevent birth defects vary depending on the different problems.

General precautions should include:

1. Learning about different genetic causes of birth defects in particular breeds or family lines, and, where possible, adopting strategies to reduce the occurrence of these genetic problems.
2. Providing adequate, rather than excessive or deficient, levels of nutrients in the bitch's diet.
3. Keeping the bitch healthy and not exposing her to infections, drugs, environmental contaminants or extremes of temperature

during pregnancy, particularly during the critical stages of foetal puppy development. i.e., between the 14th and 30th days of pregnancy.

Brag

On January 2, Lorraine flew to Houston Texas to Judge a Dachshund Field Trial. She took our mini longhair "Darter" to run in the Field Champion Class. On Sat. January 3rd. Darter got a second place out of 25 entered in the field champion class. That was pretty good since there were 40 mph winds all day.
Lorraine and David Simmons

Gordon Setter Holly Hollow's Dream Weaver went Winner's dog at the Tallmadge, Ohio, show 1/4/09 for his second major win to earn his title as champion (awaiting official AKC notification). He was expertly groomed and handled by Mary Grill.
Owned & loved by Joyce Ragland.

Gordon Setter Holly Hollow's Earth Angel went BOB over a bitch special (her only competition) to gain another point towards her championship. She was expertly groomed and handled by Meghann Bradley. Owned & loved by Joyce Ragland.

The Noll's Rottweiler, CH. Cammcastle's Fleur De Lis ("Paris") went

- Best of Breed - North Star Working Group Show St. Paul Minn under judge Coleman Nemerov
- Best of Opposite- Land O'Lakes KC St. Paul Minn under judge Keke Kahn
- Best of Opposite Land O'Lakes KC St. Paul Minn under judge Ronald Spritzer
- Best of Opposite Winnegamie KC Oshkosh WI under judge James Noe

The Noll's Labrador Retriever, Lobuff's Max at Muckenmire ("Max") went

- Winners Dog (2 points)- Greater Fredericksburg KC under judge Everett Dean
- Best of Winners (2 points)- Chesapeake KC under judge Lee Canalizo

Jamie Lamphier, with Trixie, Ch. Erinfyr Sweet Dreams was Best Junior at the Chesapeake KC under respected judge, our own Jerry Howse. This makes her 2nd Best Junior for the new year.

Mary Lamphier

Beldachs' Sienna Seguin, ("**Sera**") who is owned and loved by Barbara M. Averitt and L. Meredith Averitt, DVM, just turned 1 year old on 01/08/09 and celebrated her birthday by going RWB at her first two shows - Greater Fredericksburg KC on 01/10/09 and the next day at the Chesapeake Kennel Club Show on 01/11/09.....**way to go "Sera"!**

Beldachs' Rosee Robiquet ("**Rosie**") traveled to the *Cleveland Crown Classic* shows just before Christmas and was WB/BW/OS on 12/11/08, WB/OS on 12/13/08 and WB/OS on 12/14/08. She also attended the Greater Fredericksburg KC show and was WB there on 01/09/09.

Meantime, Rosie's brother, CH. *Beldachs' Radiante Rosetti* ("**Dante**"), who is co-owned and loved by Clint Werner & Dr. Donald Abrams in San Francisco, picked up his **International Championship** with three Hound Group III's and one Hound Group II. We are especially thrilled as the comments from *all* the judges were extremely impressive. This is the second in our bloodline to earn an International title.

Litterbox

We are expecting Irish Setter puppies for Valentine's - red roses, so to speak.

Mary Lamphier