

**CHARLES BOEGEL 1931-2005****"THE REST OF THE STORY"**

By Jim & Linda Busch

Many years ago, you may have heard Chuck before you ever saw him. He had a big, bellowing voice that could be heard from far away yelling "Simmer down Duke!" Duke was an exuberant dog. They were an odd match traveling all around the country going to field trials and Vizsla fun days: Duke, a high-powered, energetic, dynamo field trial competitor; and Chuck, a slow-moving, tall, lanky, bearded fellow with coke-bottle-thick glasses. In spite of the odd combination, they were a team with which to be reckoned. Duke was Chuck's second Vizsla. His first was a gentle female and not a competition dog. Then came Field Champion/Amateur Field Champion Willie's Russet Duke. He was a top-ten caliber bird dog. Field Champion Rebel Rouser Rex IV was third, and his fourth and last was Treat, a puppy/derby winner. Chuck's best placement with Rex was a 2nd in the National Championship in '92 or '93. There are many who thought he had won. Three of his four vizslas put trophies on his mantle. Few of us can make that claim.

Chuck was the kind of person you had to like, even when his constant questioning often got a little too close to personal. He had no reservations about asking anything. Are you married? Are you gonna get married? Do you have kids? Do you plan on having kids? If no, why not? Where do you work? Do you like your work? You always thought the next question was going to be "How much money do you make?" but, he never asked. It wasn't that he was nosy. Chuck was interested in finding out all about you. He probably cared more about finding out about your animals than you, as he seemed to remember people's animals better than them. He didn't have a mean bone in his body, but he wasn't always "politically correct." He once told an elderly waitress with her hair done in a bun that he really liked the old-fashioned hair do. Not so sure she wanted to hear exactly that, but he really did like her type of hair do. That was Chuck....saying precisely what he was thinking.

At the beginning of his competitive period, he was very interested in finding out where people came from, what type of house they had,

the type of vehicles they drove, where they worked, how much education they had, etc. He was worried he had gotten himself into a sport way beyond his financial means and stature. In asking around he came to realize everyone was just normal everyday folks

who had a passion for their vizslas, and spent money on them whether they had it or not - just like him.

Chuck's funeral was Feb. 10th. The visitation was the evening prior. It seemed as if the entire town of Mt. Morris had turned out for the visitation. It took 1-1/2 hours to get to the front of the room to see Chuck one last time and visit with Hattie, his wife. Chuck was all decked out in a new western shirt (did he own any other kind?). A picture of Duke looking out the window with the caption "Waiting for my master" was in the corner near his head. Hattie said everyday Duke would sit and look out the window just before Chuck arrived home from work.

Chuck was a very generous man even though he lived a very modest life. He had a modest home, drove a sensible truck, vacations were visiting relatives and visiting well-known dog homes/farms/plantations, etc. If he knew you were interested in something and he knew something about it, he would share that with you. If he had something that was of possible interest to you and/or your hobby, he would give it to you. He loved finding new good restaurants - especially ones you didn't know anything about and he could be the first to tell you.

NOW FOR THE REST OF THE STORY

Only a couple people know the true extent of the generosity of Chuck and Hattie. Years ago Hattie inherited a small sum of money from her father. They gave the money to an investment advisor and promptly forgot about it. Years later, the advisor called to say they



Chuck Boegel with FC AFC Willie's Russet Duke (aka "Simmer Down Duke") at VCA Nationals and attending a VCOI trial

needed to think about doing something with the money. It had grown to an amount many people could have retired on. Chuck and Hattie decided they would like to set up an educational fund for worthy students from Kentucky who could not afford college. (Hattie is from Kentucky) Their financial advisor matched their funds and later another person matched those funds. The exact amount in the foundation is not known, but it's sure to be close to if not over a million dollars. To date they have been able to provide the necessary funding for several students who have gone on to become doctors, lawyers, teachers, etc. Perhaps a more poignant story would be the time a family in town needed money for an eye operation for their child. Taking the only \$300 they had in the bank, Chuck and Hattie gave it to them.

For a man who wanted to know as much about other people as possible, it appears Chuck was the bigger mystery to us. He never divulged the secret he and Hattie shared. He did not need the awe of the crowd. Doing right was enough. Folks like this don't come along every day, and that's why we all were so fond of him without really knowing why. We will miss you "Uncle Chuck."

In Chuck's obit we were asked to make donations to two other charities in lieu of flowers. No mention was made of the educational fund. It is just like them to not bring attention to themselves and what they are doing. However, anyone wanting to donate to the Boegel Educational Foundation, please send a check to Hattie Boegel marked "for the educational foundation." Hattie Boegel, 4345 W. Route 64, Mt. Morris, IL 61054.

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NEEDS VOLUNTEER PROFICIENT WITH MICROSOFT EXCEL

Opinions expressed in articles are those of the author and do not constitute endorsement by the editorial staff, the VCOI or it's Board of Directors.

The VCOI endorses the efforts of the VCA and the OFA to eliminate hip dysplasia in dogs, and encourages it's members to use only normal breeding stock.

Advertising Rates Per Issue:

Half Page \$10.00 Quarter Page \$5.00 Business Card \$2.50 Color ads (any size) \$350 per issue to cover additional printing costs.

Ads are limited to one half page per family per issue. Editor may limit advertising due to space limitations. Half Page / Quarter Page ads may contain a three (3) generation pedigree. Business Card ads may contain the name of sire and dam only.

All ads must be paid in full before printing and contain the full OFA rating of the sire and the dam. Copies of the OFA certificate must be sent with the ad.

Deadline for submission to the Bulletin is on the first of each even numbered month. Deadlines are non-negotiable!

Cover stories are limited to one per family membership in a 12 month period. Color covers are available for \$350 to cover additional printing costs.

All brags, articles, and submissions must be submitted in writing either through the minutes or directly to the Editor.

All photos submitted to the Bulletin must include a Self Addressed Stamped Envelope. Photos without return postage will remain the property of the VCOI. Exception to the cover photo, which will be returned at the VCOI's expense.

Bulletin Covers

May 2005
~Open

November 2005
~Open

July 2005
~Open

If your dog has completed a prefix title (CH, FC, AFC, CT, MACH etc.) and you want to reserve a cover, contact Michel Berner michel@miravizslas.com

September 2005
~Open

**Virtual Vizsla**

VCOI Website: www.vizslclubofillinois.org
Subscribe to the VCOI e-mail list:
VCOIinc-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

VCOI BOARD MEETING & ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

January 15, 2005
Milk Pail Restaurant

The Board meeting was called to order at 16:40

Directors Present:

Gina Ordonez, Cathy Gallagher, Kevin Berta, Dennis Nowak, Jeff Engelsman, Michel Berner

Directors Absent:

Mark Johnson, Mark Vitkauskas, Jeff Parise, Wanda Berner

Observers: Patti Nowak

The purpose of the Board meeting was to discuss certain agenda items for the Annual Meeting.

Treasurer: Gina Ordonez reported that a new checking account was opened with Carter One. The multiple branch locations will make deposits easier. Check Request and Deposit forms will need to be updated after the upcoming election. The new banking procedure will be to write checks and do processing on Fridays. Previously budgeted expenses will be paid without question. Unbudgeted expenses will require Board approval. A detailed report will be presented at each future membership meeting and the check register will be read aloud.

March Field Trial: Michel Berner went on record to state opposition to the omission of the Amateur Walking Derby stake in the March field trial. There was a unanimous decision by Board members present that the stake should be included in the trial.

Calendars: Cathy Gallagher presented the detailed report of sales maintained by Lisa Starbuck, showing the club earning approximately \$500 in profit. The Board decided to eliminate the pocket calendars next year, as we lost money so far on those sales. Michel Berner announced her retirement from calendar layout.

New Meeting Location: The Board discussed possible new locations for the Membership Meeting. The March 16th meeting will be held at Alexander's on the north-east corner of IL-Route 31 and the I-90 toll-way.

By-Laws: Michel Berner reported that the by-laws need to be looked at, and that we need to be working off the most recent amendments.

At 18:00 Jeff Englesman motioned to

adjourn, Kevin Berta seconded. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted
Michel Berner, Secretary.

VCOI ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

January 15, 2005
Milk Pail Restaurant

Vice President Gina Ordonez called the meeting to order at 20:00

Approval of Minutes:

Correction to November Minutes should read: *VCA Trial: Michel reported receipt of a VCA check for \$458.14. The check was written by the VCA to cover all of the loss of the Midwest VCA trial held March 20-21, 2004. The club is grateful to the VCA for allowing us to hold the event, and for their support.*

Jim Busch motioned to accept the minutes as corrected. Greg Hedien seconded. Motion carried.

Board of Directors Report:

See Board of Directors Meeting Minutes listed above.

President/VP Report:

The President is sick and tired of being sick and tired.

The meeting broke while Larry and Lindsey Lykowski presented a reading of "Ode to a Ponytail"

Secretary's Report:

AKC has filed the results for the September and December field trials.

Treasurer's Report:

Jeff Engelsman reported the Club has a favorable bank balance of \$8,910.00

Committee Reports / Old Business:

Website & Bulletin:

Webmaster/Editor Michel Berner reported that the VCOI website has had approximately 50,000 hits since January 29, 2004. Event chairs please allow at least 4 days to get running orders uploaded to the website. Apologies were said for the late issue of the Bulletin. It was returned from the printer on January 7th and got mailed the following day.

Awards Banquet:

Hostess Cheryl Lykowski announced that the dinner reservations should be in the November issues of the Bulletin in the future to help boost attendance. Different locations will be looked at for the 2006

banquet. The group thanked the Lykowski's for their hard work.

A break was taken for Cathy Gallagher to present the awards plaques in Cheryl Peterson's absence. Awards are recorded elsewhere in the Bulletin.

Sport Show:

Jeff Engelsman reported that the VCOI was there on January 13th. Volunteers were Jeff Engelsman, Kim Frank, Mike Dalby and Bob Short. Attendance was lower, but it was a week night versus weekend.

A comic performance of Winnebago Acres was given by the Lykowski minstrels

February Hunt Test:

Patti & Dennis Nowak are running the event February 19-20. They need volunteers!

MVFF Report:

Michel Berner reported in Rodney Albin's absence that this year's March 4th Futurity has 17 puppies entered out of 19 litters. Judges are Scott Stasiewicz and Dennis Sullivan. The 2006 event has 13 litters with 6 puppies nominated.

March Field Trial:

Gina Ordonez stated the March 4-6 event will be judged by Scott Stasiewicz, Dennis Sullivan, Larry Bates & Joe Marcinowski.

Pet Fair:

Tim Dyer reported the event is March 18-20th at the Arlington race track. Volunteers with dogs are needed. If you're interested, contact Cathy Gallagher, Lisa Starbuck, or Tim Dyer

FTCI:

Michel reported that the \$160 tier 3 ammo users annual dues were paid. Linda Busch attended the meeting in Springfield, Denny Doyle retired and has been replaced. The DNR budget is being cut. The American Field (Field Dog Stud Book) will accept AKC DNA information. Illinois resident handlers and scouts need a hunting license, an out of state participant waiver needs to be pulled for each event. The grounds fee is increasing to \$70 per day. There are not enough Vizsla trials to count for the DOTY award.. The annual meeting is July 16th in Jacksonville IL.

Ottawa/WAFTCA

Michel reported the \$50 annual dues are paid to WAFTC. Their annual meeting is 1/23 at noon in Poynette. We need a member to attend.

The Ottawa FTG Association meeting is 1/19 at 7:00

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pm in Eagle. Michel will attend.

A titillating version of "Calendar Girl" to honor Cathy Gallagher was presented by Larry Lykowski

VCOI Calendar:

Cathy Gallagher reported, showing the club earning approximately \$500 in profit. The calendars will be eliminated next year, as we lost money so far on those sales. Michel Berner announced her retirement from calendar layout. Lisa Starbuck volunteered to give it a whirl.

June Hunting Test & Training Day:

The CWVC is running the June 4th training day this year. Patti Nowak will contact him to see if they need help, etc. The Hunt Test is June 5th Kathy Englesman may have volunteered to run the event (Jeff Englesman was unsure)

Specialty Show:

Trophy donation sign-up was passed around. There is some confusion about the date this year. Kathy Harmer will check with Kishwaukee Kennel Club to verify dates.

Double Bubble:

Teresa Curtis will chair (with lots of help from others)

Labor Day Hunt Test:

September 5th is the date. Call Patti Nowak to volunteer for chair or secretary position.

September Field Trial:

September 17th. See Linda Busch to volunteer for event secretary or chair

December Field Trial:

December 3-4, 2005 See Linda Busch to volunteer for event secretary or chair

Nominating Committee:

Linda Busch presented the slate of officers and directors. Nominations were

asked for from the floor. No additional nominations were made. Mel Lloyd motioned to accept the slate as presented, Gina Ordonez seconded, no objections, no abstentions, motion carried. The new officers are as follows:

President: Cathy Gallagher
Vice President: Kevin Berta
Secretary: Michel Berner
Treasurer: Gina Ordonez

Directors:
Rodney Albin
Victor Barger
Pam Spurgeon
Mark Johnson
Jeff Parise

Gina Ordonez appointed Greg Wegler to fulfill the Director position vacated by Kevin Berta.

New Business:

We need a new Volunteer & Database Coordinator

Linda Busch was contacted about having a bunch of Vizslas walk in the Evanston 4th of July parade. Let Linda know by May 1st if you're interested.

The membership meeting is moved to Alexander's on Rte 31 and the I-90 toll-way.

Former punk rock legend Larry Lykowski performed "Should It Stay or Should It Go", dedicated to Jim's ponytail.

Adjourn:

Mark Johnson motioned to adjourn, Jim Gingrich seconded. Meeting adjourned at 21:40

Brags:

Reported on Page 10

Respectfully Submitted

Michel Berner, Secretary



2005 VCOI EVENTS

March

4 MVFF
5-6 Spring Field Trial
16 Membership Meeting

April

1 Bulletin Deadline

May

18 Membership Meeting

June

1 Bulletin Deadline
4 Hunt Training Day
5 Hunt Test

July

16 Membership Meeting
Specialty Show
17 Double bubble Fun Day

August

1 Bulletin Deadline

September

5 Hunt Test
17-18 Field Trial
21 Membership Meeting

October

1 Bulletin Deadline

November

16 Membership Meeting

December

1 Bulletin Deadline
3-4 Field Trial

EVANSTON 4TH OF JULY PARADE



Sign up to march in the Evanston 4th of July parade this year. We can have a wonderful fun time marching with our Vizslas. Theme of our group is yet to be determined so send me your ideas including a name for our group. This will be a great day to show off our dogs, have a fun time, and enjoy fireworks by the lakefront.

If you and anyone else you know wants to join us on the 4th, please contact Linda Busch at lbusch@aeroinc.net before May 10th.

Evanston's parade was voted by North Shore Magazine readers as the #1 best parade (July '03). Also Country Home Magazine rated it as one of the top five best parades in the country (Aug. 01).

Linda Busch

BREEDER LICENSING BILL INTRODUCED IN ILLINOIS

[Tuesday, February 08, 2005]

Illinois dog owners, your help is needed immediately to oppose HB707. Sponsored by Rep. Elaine Nekritz, the bill would amend the state's Animal Welfare Act by requiring licenses for all "animal caretakers." This definition includes but is not limited to anyone who sells, exchanges, or offers for adoption dogs, cats, birds, fish, reptiles, and other animals commonly kept as pets. Hobby breeders, pet stores, adoption facilities, shelters, and private individuals who sell, transfer or adopt out even one animal will therefore be subject to licensing under HB707. The Illinois Animal Welfare Act currently requires licensing for pet shops only.

Licensees will be required to:

- ◆ Provide new owners with health certificates and other information such as vaccination records, breeder's name and address, and contact information for any past owners.
- ◆ Submit to an inspection of their premises by the Department of Agriculture.
- ◆ Give animals a "stimulating, enriching environment" as a component of humane living conditions. HB707 does not define what is "stimulating and enriching" for dogs and cats.
- ◆ Violators would be charged with a Class A misdemeanor. A second or subsequent violation would constitute a Class 4 felony for every day that a violation continues.

The licensing expansion proposed in HB707 encompasses thousands of individuals, and will be extremely costly and impossible to enforce. Moreover, it will likely force many reputable hobby breeders, rescue groups and concerned owners to abandon programs that match healthy, well-socialized animals with responsible homes. These groups provide an invaluable service to the pet-buying public and to animal control departments across the state. Finally, HB707 uses broad, vague definitions that further add to enforcement challenges and leave even the most caring owner or breeder open to prosecution.

Existing Illinois law and indeed the federal Animal Welfare Act exempt hobby breeders from licensing and regulation. Congress does not believe in licensing for small-scale breeders, and neither should Illinois legislators.

What You Can Do:

Contact the House Committee on Rules, where HB707 has been referred. Ask them to oppose this bill!

House Committee on Rules

State House #300

Springfield, IL 62701

Committee Members

Rep. Barbara Flynn Currie (D) [Chair] Phone: 217/782-8121, FAX: 217/782-1794, Email: currie@hdsml.state.il.us

Rep. William Black (R) Phone: 217/782-4811 FAX: 217/782-1873

Rep. Gary Hannig (D) Phone: 217/782-8071 Email: hannig@hdsml.state.il.us

Rep. Brent Hassert (R) Phone: 217/782-4179

Rep. Arthur L. Turner (D) Phone: 217/782-8116, FAX: 217/782-0888 Email: aturner@housedem.state.il.us

For more information, contact:
Illinois Dog Clubs and Breeders Association

AWARDS PLAQUES

Field:

JNEK's Touched by An Angel earned her JH (Owners Sheila & David Reynolds and Kathy Engelsman).

Tru Love of Life, earned his JH (Owners Jodi and Dan Cieslak)
Ch. JNEK's Sweet Charity earned her JH (Owners Kathy, Jeff and Christine Engelsman)

Ch. JNEK's Royal Elegance earned her JH (Owners Christine, Jeff and Kathy Engelsman)

Ch. JNEK's It Happened One Night earned her JH (Owners Jeff, Christine and Kathy Engelsman)

FC AFC Copper Creek Borden earned her MH title (Owner John Houck)

JNEK's Big Sir Remington earned his JH (owner Kimberly and Douglas Frank).

Sienna Pointe's Kodiak Bear earned his JH (owner Cathy & Larry Gallagher)

Obedience:

JNEK's Teacher's Pet earned her Utility Dog title (to earn 7th AKC title!) (Mel Lloyd)

Show:

JNEK's Big Sir Remington earned his CH (owner Kimberly and Douglas Frank)

Ch. JNEK's King Ralph, JH, earned his ROM, was #2 in Vizslas Defeated and #2 in All Breed Points.

Agility:

Ch. Nordic's Hot Dignity Dawg, JH, CGC, UAG-2 earned his NA, NAP, NJP titles (Cheryl Peterson owner).

UACHX CH. Mehagian's Zip-A-Dee-Doo-Dah, CD, SH, OAJ, OA, OJP, CGC, VC earned her AXP and was #3 in Open/Open Jumpers Agility for VCA (Cheryl Peterson owner)

Miskole Riot Walton, earned his NA and NAJ (Owner Tim Dyer)

Ch Foxfire PJ Buckley, JH earned his NAP and NJP (Owners Polly Poulos & Jason Waldron)

Ch. Sunnyside's Rainey Day Blues earned her NA and NAJ (owners Polly Poulos & Jason Waldron)

Ch Havoc's Kola Nut, JH earned his OA and OAJ title (Owners Cathy and Larry Gallagher)

NEW OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

President: Cathy Gallagher

V.P.: Kevin Berta

Secretary: Michel Berner

Treasurer: Gina Ordonez

Directors (2-year term)

Rodney Albin, Victor Barger, Pam Spurgeon, Jeff Parise
Mark Johnson

Greg Wegler (1-year term)

CANINE BRUCELOSIS ON THE RISE

Dr. Larry Evans and Dr. Lin Kauffman Rachel M. Cox, VM4
Iowa State University Veterinary Teaching Hospital

rs. Evans and Kauffman, reproductive specialists at Iowa State University, report an increase in telephone calls from breeders who report that dogs in their kennels, many recently acquired from kennels in Illinois and Missouri, are testing positive for *Brucella canis*.

Many breeders are asking why Iowa doesn't have laws protecting Iowa breeders from purchasing diseased dogs as they are experiencing significant financial and emotional difficulties as they deal with identifying and eliminating the disease from their kennels.

B. canis is spread through ingestion of contaminated placental material or aborted fetuses, mating-vaginal discharge of infected female/semen of infected male, mammary secretions, infected saliva, nasal secretions, or urine contaminated with semen and/or prostatic fluid.

This disease has zoonotic potential. Although rare, the disease can be transmitted to humans. Gloves should be worn when handling suspect animals. Immunocompromised individuals, pregnant women, and children should NOT handle suspect animals.

B. canis may cause lethargy, loss of libido, diskospondylitis, uveitis, abortions, still births, and weak puppies, epididymitis in males, and infertility.

Diagnosis: Rapid Slide Agglutination Test (RSAT) for screening, positive dogs should be retested using the Agar Gel Immunodiffusion Test (AGID). Negative dogs must be retested in 30 and 60 days and must be negative on both occasions before using as breeding animals.

- ◆ Recommendations for breeders:
- ◆ Test any suspect dogs with AGID test to confirm infection.
- ◆ Establish a *Brucella*-free kennel and then maintain closed-kennel status.
- ◆ Quarantine and test all new dogs for 90 to 120 days prior to introduction into a breeding kennel. It may take up to 8-12 weeks for the animal to be serologically positive even though the animal is bacteremic and able to infect other animals.
- ◆ Prior to using for breeding purposes or introducing new dogs to your kennel, all dogs should have 3 consecutive negative tests (30 days apart).
- ◆ All dogs should be tested using the screening test (RSAT).
- ◆ Separate out any positives and retest using the AGID. Dogs that test positive on AGID should be euthanized to prevent possible human exposure. *Although the risk of exposure is minimal in sexually altered and medically treated animals, once an animal is positive for this disease it needs to be considered positive lifelong. Despite the fact that antibody titers may drop, this disease is able to reoccur at any point and the potential for transmission to humans is best controlled/eliminated by euthanizing the positive dogs.

HAVE DOGS TESTED FOR CANINE BRUCELOSIS BEFORE BREEDING

By Linda March, Information Specialist, University of Illinois
College of Veterinary Medicine

Brucellosis is a bacterial disease that is well known by food animal producers. It causes abortions, infertility and decreased milk yield in cattle.

According to Dr. Allan Paul, small animal Extension veterinarian at the University of Illinois College of Veterinary Medicine at Urbana, "Brucellosis can infect cattle, sheep, goats, dogs and humans as well as pigs. Cats, however, seem to be somewhat resistant to the bacteria."

The major route of brucellosis transmission in dogs is through direct contact of an infected, aborted fetus, or uterine discharge. They may also become infected by eating contaminated meat, fetal membranes, aborted fetuses of livestock or drinking contaminated, un-pasteurized milk. The bacteria can also be shed in dog feces and be cultured from lymph nodes of an infected animal.

Signs of infection in dogs may include abortion, infertility, infected reproductive organs, arthritis, disc disease, fever, hind limb weakness, lethargy, and/or general lymph node swelling. Since these may be signs of many diseases, take your pet to your veterinarian if it shows any of them. He or she will need to draw a blood sample to determine if the problem is brucellosis.

Brucellosis is difficult to treat. It may take a long period of antibiotic therapy to fully rid the dog of the bacteria. Since blood samples need to be taken to monitor the progress of the drug treatment, it may also become somewhat expensive. It is also possible for humans to become infected with canine brucellosis, although transmission from dogs to people seems to be uncommon.

Since this disease is sexually transmitted, it is important for breeders to make sure all of the dogs in their kennel test negative for the bacteria. If they are not, they should not be bred. The dog may show no clinical signs, but still transmit the bacteria in semen or vaginal fluid. Female dogs should be tested a few weeks before they come into heat and males should be tested twice a year. Any new animal brought into the kennel should be isolated until it tests negative twice. The second test should be done one month after the first one.

"The bacteria is relatively easy to kill with common disinfectants, such as diluted bleach water solution," notes Dr. Paul.

There is no vaccine available for canine brucellosis at this time. Eliminating the positive animals from breeding stock is one way to help control the disease. Proper disposal of waste and wearing gloves to handle any fetal membranes or aborted fetuses, followed by thorough disinfection of the area will also help. If you have any questions about canine brucellosis, see your veterinarian.



AMPUTATION OF VIBRISSAE IN SHOW DOGS

Dr. Thomas E. McGill

Dogs of many different breeds competing in the show ring are routinely subjected to amputation of the vibrissae, organs that are commonly and incorrectly called "whiskers". This procedure is thought to give the animal's head a cleaner look, which in turn supposedly increases its chances of winning. There are several tricks involved in "whisker trimming" since the animals can retract each vibrissa at least one-quarter inch. Furthermore, they often object strenuously to the operation.

Research in the area of animal behavior has shown that we can be terrible ignorant regarding the sensory capacities of animals, capacities that can sometimes far exceed those of our own species. Consider for example the extension of the hearing range of many animals into the "ultrasonic", the fact that bees can perceive ultraviolet radiation that is beyond our limits, and the remarkable capacity of bats and porpoises to find their way around by means of echolocation. But beyond the extension of familiar sense modalities, animals possess senses that are completely absent in humans. There are fishes that produce an electric current and then detect objects that alter the electrical field that surrounds their bodies. It has recently been determined that pigeons, and probably other birds, can sense the earth's magnetic field. New discoveries in the area of animal sensory processes are occurring all the time but the progress is sometimes slow since it is difficult for us to hypothesize and then investigate sources of stimulation that we are incapable of perceiving. It is possible that vibrissae act to detect some as yet unknown stimulus. It seems more probably that they function to extend some aspect of the animal's tactile sensitivity.

A literature search was undertaken to determine what is known of the functions of vibrissae, organs that humans and most other primates do not possess but which are universal in carnivores and several other mammalian orders. Unfortunately, definitive research on the functions of these organs in common domesticated animals appears to be lacking, although many interesting speculations exist. As might be expected, we know considerably more about their functions in the familiar laboratory rodents. Therefore, in the following paragraphs I cite some of the research findings for rodents and certain other species, followed by presumptive evidence as to the importance of these organs in species as yet unstudied, particularly the dog.

Behavioral and neural approaches to the functions of the vibrissae have been summarized in an excellent review article (Psych Bull 84:477, 1977). Amputation of vibrissae in rats affects locomotor activity, depth perception, swimming ability, shock-induced fighting, emotionally tactile maze learning, equilibrium, and discrimination of surfaces. Removal of the vibrissae lowers general activity level in cats. The vibrissae of seals are sensitive to vibrations from 50 - 1000 Hz and it is thought that the animals use these organs to detect prey in dark waters (J Zool 188:443, 1979).

The length of vibrissae appears to be correlated with the ecology of the animals. Burrowing mice have vibrissae that are shorter than arboreal species. Among carnivores, the vibrissae of bears are considerably shorter than those of the hunting canines and felines. It is also interesting to note that whales, having forsaken the land for an aquatic environment, lost all body hair except the vibrissae.

While firm evidence of the importance of these organs in dogs is lacking, there is presumptive evidence of their potential significance: 1) The very ubiquity of vibrissae in carnivores suggests important sensory functions. Evolutionary theorists agree that nature is conservative and does not expend energy on the maintenance of useless organs. 2) Vibrissae are constructed differently and are much more heavily innervated

than other body hair. 3) The vibrissae in dogs are served by the largest of the twelve pairs of cranial nerves. 4) It is generally recognized that the amount of sensory cerebral cortex devoted to a particular body area is in direct proportion to the importance of that area in the sensory world of the animal. In plotting the sensory areas of the cerebral cortex of the dog it has been determined that "face representation clearly accounts for at least 50 percent of somatic area 1 and for a third or more of somatic area 2" (J Neurophysiol 19: 485; 1956). The upper jaw occupies a disproportionately larger amount of the face area.

We may presume, then, that vibrissae are important sense organs in dogs. But what is the effect of their removal? As noted above, behavioral data are lacking. Similarly appropriate neurophysiological studies have not been conducted. But again, we can speculate on the basis of studies done with rodents. If vibrissal papillae are damaged in newborn mice, the fourth layer of the cerebral cortex exhibits permanent abnormal development (Nerosci Lett 6:151, 1977). If the damage occurs later in life, the brain is less severely affected (J Comp Neurol 187:629 1978). The investigators cut off some of the animals' vibrissae. The next day, they injected a radioactive sugar and allowed the rats 15 minutes to explore a strange environment. The animals were then killed and the radioactive levels in various parts of the brain were determined. Their findings indicated reduced metabolic activity (cellular uptake of the radioactive sugar) into those areas of the brain associated with amputated vibrissae. If similar results occur in dogs, one wonders what the effects are in animals subjected to chronic, weekly amputations when the animals are "on the show circuit".

From anatomical data on dogs themselves, and from behavioral and neurophysiological data on other mammalian species which may apply to dogs, one can hypothesize that the vibrissae are sense organs of some importance to the animal. With this possibility in mind, we may question the moral legitimacy of vibrissal amputation. Why is it done? The answer is simply for cosmetic purposes in order to compete; to have one's dog placed above others in terms of conformation. But since the practice is so common, in effect it is performed to avoid losing an advantage rather than in hopes of gaining one. Many owners and handlers would be happy not to use this particular procedure if others abstained. No one claims that vibrissal amputation helps the dog in any way. It is simply viewed as a harmless technique that is thought to improve the animal's appearance. But the research literature suggests that it may not be harmless; instead, it may be damaging. At best it is unnecessary, and at worst it may be a form of sensory deprivation, the effects of which are beyond the current state of our knowledge.

The solution to the problem is simple in conception but will doubtless prove difficult in implementation. Ideally the American Kennel Club and governing bodies in other countries should recognize the potential importance of vibrissae as sense organs and instruct judges to excuse from the ring animals whose vibrissae have been trimmed. Competition would be equalized by the universal prohibition of this entirely unnecessary procedure. At the very least, the national kennel clubs and/or individual breed clubs should explicitly state that vibrissal amputation is optional, and no dog with these organs intact should be penalized.

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CHOOSING A VETERINARIAN

Your vet should be chosen with as much care as your family doctor....

By Norma Bennett Woolf

Life is full of choices, some easy, some not so. Some choices mean little - they are merely a matter of personal preference with little or no long-term consequences. But some, like choice of a dentist, a physician, or a veterinarian, can be critical to the family health and well-being.

Veterinarians are medical doctors for animals and should be chosen with as much care as a family practitioner or specialist. Fortunately, there are many good veterinarians to choose from, so there can be no excuse for not providing a dog with top-notch preventive care or treatment of illness or injury.

Some veterinarians are equivalent to general practitioners in human medicine: they may limit their practices to dogs and cats but cover a broad range of services, including annual physicals, vaccinations, diagnosis and treatment of many illnesses and disorders, and do x-rays, some surgeries, and in-house diagnostic tests. Some small animal clinicians continue their education in areas of special interest to sharpen their knowledge and skills in orthopedics, reproductive work, skin diseases, behavior, etc. These vets do not seek certification as specialists but use their expanded knowledge to help clients and their dogs.

The number of certified specialists with practices limited to dermatology, dentistry, surgery, internal medicine, or eye problems is relatively small, and dog owners often have to travel to find a specialist if one is needed. Some specialty practices provide office space to traveling vets who spend a day or two a week seeing appointments in two or three different areas in an effort to bring the specialists to the patients. Thus the clinic may have appointments for orthopedic patients on Thursdays, dental patients on Mondays and Wednesdays, behavior consultations on Tuesdays, and allergy patients on Fridays.

Most veterinarians belong to a local medical association. Along with constantly improving their proficiency and level of education, veterinarians participate in community events designed to educate pet owners, work with area animal shelters, and keep abreast of laws that affect their profession. All veterinarians are required to attend

continuing education programs in order to maintain their licenses.

Veterinarians are as individual as the rest of us. There are those who have an easy bedside manner and those who are brusque; those who explain every detail about Rover's illness or condition and those who are too busy to do so; those who calm your fears and grieve with you and those who brush off your concerns or seem callous to the loss of a pet. There are some who are prejudiced against certain breeds, and some who refuse to do certain procedures such as ear cropping dogs or de-clawing cats. Only you know which one meets your needs as a pet owner.

Some veterinarians are higher-priced than others. Some have limited office hours and others provide 24-hour service. Some are part of multi-doctor practices and some run one-man clinics. Some are excellent diagnosticians or proficient in OFA hip x-rays; others are especially well-versed in parasitic diseases or orthopedic problems; and still others are well-versed in puppy problems or autoimmune diseases.

If you are new in town, have acquired your first puppy or dog, or are simply looking for a vet closer to home, contact a couple of clinics and ask questions. Don't hesitate to ask about prices: if money is a problem, price may be a major consideration. But find out what you'll get for the money - a \$40 or \$50 spay surgery does not generally have the same preparation, anesthesia, monitoring equipment and aftercare, as a \$90 or \$100 spay.

Be aware that veterinary technicians do many procedures from preparing dogs for surgery to drawing blood for heartworm tests, so it is important that they are adept at handling dogs and putting them at ease and that they work well with the clients. A clinic that pays its technicians well will keep good ones for years, but the clinic prices will reflect the salaries and benefits paid to staff members.

Don't forget to ask about emergency care for those times when Fluffy begins to vomit blood a half-hour after the clinic closes for the day. Once you find out where your veterinarian refers patients for emergency care, it's a good idea to make a dry run to the emergency facility so you'll know where it is when you need it.

Do set up a regular program of preventive care for Spot so the

veterinarian will be familiar with and have records on the healthy dog to compare with the sick dog. If you hop from one clinic to another, skip vaccinations, or forget to tell this doctor about the medication prescribed by that doctor, the veterinarian who treats your pet for an injury or illness will be at a disadvantage and the animal may suffer.

Ask about vaccination protocols for puppies and adult dogs. Many veterinarians are getting away from automatic annual vaccinations for adult dogs because of evidence that immunization lasts longer than 12 months for some vaccines and research that links too-frequent vaccinations with immune system disorders.

If possible, make sure every vet in the practice has met your dog at least once so that both dog and doctor will know what to expect. Be prepared, though: some dogs may take a dislike to a particular vet for no discernible reason. In that case, make sure your appointments are with a vet who can put your pet at ease.

Veterinarians never stop learning. State veterinary associations host conferences that include dozens of sessions in various aspects of animal medicine; veterinarians and technicians attend these sessions to earn the continuing education credits required to maintain their licenses. In addition to state conferences, the American Veterinary Medical Association also hosts an annual conference and several regional sessions each year, and local associations often get together to discuss particular subjects or cases.

Owner responsibilities

Veterinarians and veterinary technicians have dangerous jobs. The animals that visit vet clinics are often anxious and difficult to handle. Even the sweetest dog can panic and struggle or even snap during an exam or treatment. Owners who prepare their pets for the vet visits can lower the level of anxiety for the dog, allowing the veterinarian or the technician to complete a procedure more quickly and safely.

So ...

- Socialize Poppy from puppy-hood to accept the attentions of friendly strangers;
- Teach Shasta to stand on a table for grooming or just because;
- Handle Petunia all over at least twice a week; look in her ears, open

her mouth, rub her belly, check her skin and coat, and manipulate her feet. Not only do these maneuvers prepare her for a visit to the clinic, they expose ear infections, dirty teeth, mouth tumors, skin lesions, and other problems for early diagnosis and treatment and help you build a close bond with your dog. (Make handling sessions into learning experiences by teaching commands such as "teeth" or "mouth" when opening the mouth; "foot" when handling paws, etc., then use these commands during the vet exam to remind her that it's OK for her to accept the exam.);

- **Keep Brogan on a short leash in the clinic waiting room so he doesn't bother other patients.**

LIVING WITH THE HIGH PREY DRIVE DOG

Some dogs just aren't couch potatoes

Jeff Finlay

Picture in your mind an English field line Labrador Retriever enthusiastically returning his master's downed duck from a marsh in a Canadian province. Or conjure up a young Border Collie intensely working sheep on a farm in the American west, insuring that the farmer's flock make it safely back to the corral at the end of the day. These dogs serve well the purpose for which it was bred, and it can retire at night to the company of its master and a relaxed evening at home.

Now picture the same two dogs in different scenes. Take the Lab from the side of his hunting companion and the Border Collie from the farm and move both to the suburbs. Now the dogs live with owners who work long hours in an office and have kids to haul to soccer, band practice, and school functions. Chances are neither the owners nor the dogs will have many relaxed evenings at home. Instead, the combination of owners' long hours, hectic schedule, and lack of quality time for the dog mixed with the dogs' ever-increasing high energy level will result in a long list of behavior problems that could ultimately frustrate the owner and send the dog searching for a new place to call home.

Ownership of a high energy or high drive dog has its benefits and drawbacks. Having a dog that is always

ready to work can be very enjoyable for an active person who spends time with the dog and finds ways to release the energy. Avid duck hunters may use a Labrador Retriever to bring back downed birds just as they have done for hundreds of years. High drive European-bred working dogs such as German Shepherds, Rottweilers, and Belgian Malinois are brought into the US by eager schutzhund competitors, police departments, and working dog trainers because their hardiness, sound temperaments, physical structure, and high drives make them suitable for the work required. However, it's becoming increasingly common to find owners who have very little knowledge of the requirements when owning such a dog. As a result, they are paying the price and finding the drawbacks of owning such a dog.

All dog breeds were developed with a specific purpose in mind. The retrievers and terriers bred for sporting and the herding and working breeds all retain levels of the inherent drives that made them suitable for the tasks they were bred to perform. Acquiring a dog strictly for looks or image without taking these breed characteristics into account can lead to problems.

A dog with extremely high levels of pent-up energy can become difficult to live with. Destructive behavior occurs because the dog must vent his energy. Destructive chewing is the most common avenue for release of trapped energy. Chewing soothes the dog's adrenal system in much the same way a smoker's cigarette provides relaxation to its user. Digging stimulates the dog's curiosity and helps tire the dog as well. It is not unusual to observe bursts of energy where the dog runs in what appears to be a mad frenzy around the house, leaping over furniture, bowling over anything standing in their path, and generally creating chaos in the process. Dogs with too much stored energy may also bark too much, jump fences, or mouth human body parts. Prevention is the best cure. Conscientious breeders of predictably high drive puppies carefully screen prospective buyers to determine if they can offer the puppy a suitable lifestyle. Such owners will have a fenced yard, ample time in their schedule to exercise the dog, the physical ability to handle the dog properly, and sufficient knowledge of the breed and its characteristics. Allowing a non-suitable buyer to obtain such a puppy could inevitably end in disaster. A wise breeder will refer non-suitable buyers to pet-quality breeders where high drive dogs are not so prevalent, discuss the possibility of a more suitable breed for

the client, or discourage dog ownership of any kind for those clients who lack the lifestyle for owning a dog.

Those individuals who acquire a high drive dog through adoption or a private party should research the breed in the library, by talking to breeders and other owners, or by browsing the internet. Being informed helps prevent problems.

Problem solving

There is hope for owners of high drive dogs that exhibit behavior problems. Success depends largely on the owner, not the dog. Daily exercise such as extended walks can do wonders to calm an energetic dog. Dogs with high drive generally also have high prey or chase instincts, so lots of play with balls, Kong toys, Frisbees, and other active toys can use up energy. Hide and seek games and tricks can be fun energy-releasing alternatives. Involvement in obedience classes where the stress associated with learning will wear out even the most energetic dog is another option. Learning to control the dog enables owners to enjoy him more.

Some training facilities also offer agility and tracking classes for those interested in harnessing their dog's athletic skill and inherent scenting ability. Both effectively expend pent-up canine energy and are enjoyable for dogs and their owners.

Breed clubs help owners learn about their dogs, keep in touch with others who have high drive dogs, and find out about activities related to the breed. In addition, crate training can prevent digging or chewing problems by keeping the dog confined when he cannot be observed.

Picture again the Labrador or Border Collie with his suburban family. The owner gets up an hour early to take the dog on a long walk. The dog is enrolled in an obedience class where the whole family attends and watches one member handle the dog and everyone learns how to control him. The children play with the dog in the backyard, throwing toys to be retrieved. The dog stays in a crate in the family room when no one is at home. Everyone is happy and content.

Now that's a picture everyone can live with!

BRAGGING RIGHTS

Crimson's Twenty Gauge Ruger got his first show points at the Grayslake show January 30 (3 point major). Owned by Mark & Pam Spurgeon and handled by Kevin Carlson and Laurie.

Strider's Amber Weiss (Amber) owned by Wanda Berner went Winners Bitch for 3 points on January 22 at Wisconsin Kennel Club under Mrs. Terry M DePietro.

Strider's Generator (Briggs) was first place in the Amateur Walking Puppy at the Tampa Bay Vizsla Club's field trial January 25-27 under judges Jim Hines and Don Bonnace. Owned by Wanda Berner & Michel Berner, handled by Michel Berner. At the same field trial, **Berry's Diamond LK Cleopatra SH (Cleo)** placed 3rd in the Open Gun Dog with Gary Jagoda, and 4th in the Amateur Gun Dog with Greg Hedien. Stu & Heidi Sherlock's **Shiloh's Seal of Approval (Sealya)** also placed 3rd in the Amateur Walking Puppy with Greg Hedien handling.

Tim Dyer's **Riot** is #7 agility Vizsla in the country.

Jeff Englesman reported **Ralph** won Best Opposite to "Billie" at Eukanuba in January, and his son **Skipfire's Mountain Milo** was given an Award of Merit.

The following brags were submitted by Kathy Engelsman: JNEK Vizslas have been very busy lately. Traveling down to Marietta Ga for the cluster of shows. Including a supported entry and sweeps event.

BIS BISS CH. JNEK's King Ralph JH was Best of Breed 3 of the 4 days. Earning a beautiful Group 2 behind the top sporting dog in

the nation. Also, our puppy **JNEK's Shooting the Breeze (Bria)** was Best in Sweeps. The beginning of December had the Sporting Dog Show down in Belleville, IL. Only Sporting dogs were entered on Fridays show. **Ralph** was awarded Best of Breed and was cut in the strong Group.

Then recently at the Chicago Christmas cluster. We had 2 new puppies making their showing debuts. The Starved Rock Shows at the DuPage Fairground, Wheaton, IL. at 6 months old. **JNEK's King of Swing (Benny)** was Reserve Winners Dog. His sister **JNEK-KITOME I Jes Own Ya Now (Jessy)** owned by Kim Frank- was Reserve Winners Bitch and Best Puppy also she earned a very deserving Sporting Puppy Group 2.

Thursday shows got even better! **Benny** was Winners Dog for 2 pts. his sister **Jessy** was Reserve Winners Bitch. Friday's show **Benny** was Reserve Winners Dog and **JNEK's Guns N Roses-** owned by Kathy Martino- earned a 3 pt major Best of Winners and Opposite.

Saturday and Sundays show moved up to the Steven Donnelly Convention center in Rosemont for the remaining 2 days. Saturday **JNEK's It was Meant To Be (Tobey)**-owned by Jenny and Jeremy Thill- was Reserve Winners Dog. Jessy again was Reserve Winners Bitch and a Ralph Daughter **Hilldale's Prnss LXS Wendin** was Winners Bitch-Best of Winners and Opposite over a special.

Sunday's show **Tobey** was Winners Dog and **JNEK Bet Your Bottom Dollar (Annie)**- owned by Kathy Martino- was Winners Bitch-Best of Winners and Opposite over a special for a 3 point major. **Tobey** and Annie are brother and sister. **Ralph** had a great weekend too going Best of Breed all 5 days and a Sporting Group 3 on Sunday.

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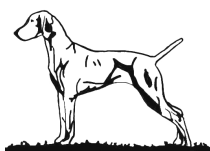
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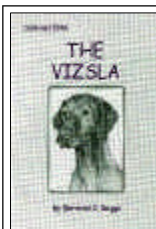
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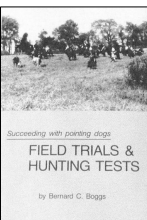
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