



The Tendermouth

Miami Valley Labrador Retriever Club, Inc.

Newsletter ~ Winter2011

Club meetings are at 7:30pm and held at Rolling Hills Baptist Church, 5742 Pleasant Ave, Fairfield, Ohio, 45014.

Meetings-

- January 17th Board Meeting @ Tavern on the Green, Fairfield
- February 14th chili supper @ Rolling Hills Baptist Church - 7:00 p.m. Annual elections held at this meeting.
- March 14th General Meeting @ church listed above
- April 11th General Meeting @ church
- May 9th General Meeting @ church

Working Certificate and MVLRC Specialty Show – May 12th, 13th, 14th



October 2010 General Meeting MVLRC

Meeting was called to order by Vice President Nadine Glaub. Motion to accept minutes as printed in newsletter was made by Gail Shearer, second by Marilyn Coffee, motion accepted

Treasurer's report - \$12,844.55 in the treasury

Membership - no new applications

Rescue - Bonnie Hall sent a note to Carol McMahon about including rescue numbers in the newsletter. Adoptions are down this year and rescue still needs fosters

Specialty 2011- Katie Maess will be the show secretary and get \$2.00 an entry. Entry fees will be \$28/20. There will be a best bred-by on Friday. Gail Shearer will sponsor in memory of Clipper. She will give a token trophy until the trophy is won out right. We will not split the 12-18 regular class. Nadine Glaub is still looking for an obedience judge.

Old Business - Finance committee met (Joyce Akred, Catherine Berberich, Pat Mitchell, and Colleen Rose). Records are in order. It was suggested that we get copies of our checks from the bank. It was also suggested that we have a form to fill out when we need reimbursement from the club. Gail Shearer made a motion to begin the use of reimbursement forms. Pat Mitchell seconded. Kurt volunteered to make the form. Chris Carroll will fill out form for the state on being a corporation. Joyce Akred filled out the paperwork for the IRS. It will need to be renewed by April 2011.

Christmas party will be at Chris Carroll's farm, 4:00 on Dec. 11th.

New Business - Discussion was held about the purpose of the June Kolp award and the timing as to when the committee is to be formed. The nominating committee was formed with members, Greg Ewen(chair), Carol McMahon, and Ron Pflum. Offices up for election are President and Treasurer and three directorships; Gail Shearer, John Federle, and Marilyn Coffee. Chris Carroll shared information about a structure and handling seminar in January. Email her for more information. It was shared that a good time was had by all at Colleen Rose's pond the weekend before. Next month the presentation on agility will be at the church.

Brags - Catherine Berberich bragged that Penny got her MX title on 10/10/10 with a third place on her 10th leg. Kurt bragged that Sizzle got her agility excellent in standard title and her jumpers title.

Kurt Glaub made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Carol McMahon. Meeting adjourned at 8:20.

Submitted by Chris Carroll, secretary.

Board Minutes October 11, 2010

Call to order by Vice President Nadine Glaub. Minutes from June Board meeting were read. Marilyn Coffee made a motion to accept minutes, second by Gail Shearer, motion passed.

Treasurer's report - 12,844.55 in the treasury. Joyce will email a copy of the detailed show report to all board members.

Finance Committee - Finance committee met and books are in order.

2011 show - It was decided to have Katie Maess be our show secretary. She will be paid \$2.00 an entry. Chris will do the show applications. We will have an early closing date again this year. It was agreed that we still wish to have obedience at our show. Joyce suggested that Katie use Kinkos for her printing. Entry fees will be \$28/20.

We will be offering Best Bred By and Gail Shearer will provide trophy in memory of Clipper. We do not want to break our 12-18 class into two classes for the regular classes.

Old business - Chris will fill out forms for both reinstatement and change of agent for the state of Ohio. There is a cost of \$25.00 for both of these forms. Joyce filled out the IRS form.

New business - none

Motion to adjourn was made by Marilyn Coffee, seconded by Nick Merritt. Meeting adjourned at 7:30

November 8, 2010 General Meeting MVLRC

Program was presented by Nadine Glaub and Catherine Berberich on Agility and how to get started if someone were interested in starting Agility competition. Video showed what is involved in competing and showed our club members in competition. Great information and was very informative. Thank you to Nadine and Catherine for putting this together and sharing with us.

General Membership Meeting

The following members were in attendance: Gail Shearer, Nick & Misty Merritt, Colleen Rose, Greg & Debi Ewen, Joyce Ross, Ron & Kathy Pflum, Carol McMahon, Pat Mitchell, Nadine & Kurt Glaub, John Federle, Catherine Berberich, Kevan Langer, Anne Thornbury

Meeting was chaired by Nadine Glaub in Marti's absence. Minutes taken by Gail Shearer in Chris Carroll's absence. Called to order at 8:20 PM

Treasurer's report – 5138.92 in checking and 7223.32 in savings for a total of 12362.24.

Nominating Committee – Greg Ewen reported the following slate of officers for the 2011 election (terms ending 2013):

- President – Nick Merritt
- Treasurer – Colleen Rose
- Board Positions – Marti Couch, Ron Pflum, Gail Shearer

Catherine Berberich motioned to accept the slate as nominated. Seconded by Carol McMahon. Nominations were then closed and no additional nominations will be accepted.

Membership – No news

Programs – We need programs for March and April.

Refreshments – Reminder that next meeting is the February meeting and is the Chili supper. Refreshments for March are Chris Carroll and Joyce Ross.

Brag – Tom & Gail Shearer and Liz Martin's Jade (Clearcreek BonaVenture Topsy Turvy) was Winner's Bitch for a 4 point major at the Golden Gate Labrador Retriever Club specialty in October.

Motion by Pat Mitchell to adjourn meeting at 9PM.

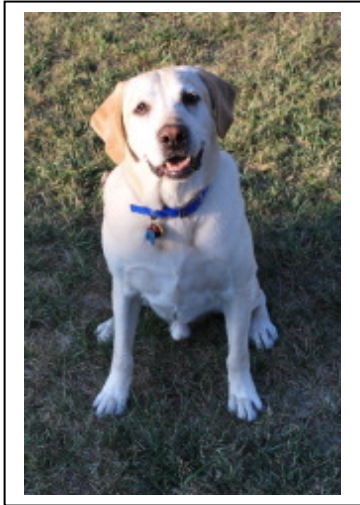
Respectfully submitted, Gail Shearer



*** please read** Here is your reminder to update the information on your dogs in case something should happen to you and someone has to step in and care for them. As I prepare each quarterly newsletter there is always new evidence to show how important this is to do. If you need an update on the steps, email me and I will send it to you. luggelabs@hotmail.com

MVLRC RESCUE REPORT

We have about 20 dogs on the website at present. A few of those are still with their owners waiting for adopters. We found adopters for about 200 dogs in 2010. There are five dogs in boarding right now waiting for available fosters. Adoptions are slow but lots of dogs being given up for adoption especially due to the economy. A local newspaper did an article in December about our rescue asking for foster caregivers but to date we haven't had any takers.



Winter 2011's Face of rescue

ZANE is a special fellow, a yellow purebred around 8 years old. He has been aptly described as a "Big Marshmallow." Zane is a gentle giant (about a 100 lbs) who would make an excellent companion. He likes to go for car rides and long leisurely walks in the park.

Zane has always been a house pet and is trustworthy indoors. Zane is on meds for mild seizures and gets along very well.



The HOOSIER LABRADOR RETRIEVER CLUB

will be sponsoring both a Heart Clinic and a DNA clinic over the weekend of February 12-13th, 2011. The 2 day Specialty during the Winter Classic All breed show in Indianapolis, Indiana at the State Fairgrounds.(West Pavilion)

Heart Clinic is Sunday February 13, 2011, 9:00am - approx 4:00pm, Auscultation, Doppler, Echocardiogram Evaluation for OFA Heart Certification. Conducted by Dr Andrew Mills, DVM, of the Franklin Animal Clinic. \$85.00 a dog

Canine DNA Swab walk-in clinic Saturday and Sunday, Swabs available at show. Breed specific testing. A Show discount price offered with the CODE, **\$50.00** for First Test (\$5.00 donated to HLRC), **\$20.00** on a second test of the same dog, The Code : **HLRC2011** must be on the swab kit envelope

You can have swab kit ordered early from DDC and bring the prepared test kit to the show.

Contact Susan Halling / HLRC, sugee10@aol.com or call 317-462-1388

Or see the Roy Jones dog shows premium lists for the Winter Classic Dog Show

Member's Brags & News

Catherine Berberich - Penny got her MX title on 10/10/10 with a third place on her 10th leg.

Kurt Glaub - Sizzle got her agility excellent in standard title and her jumpers title.

Tom & Gail Shearer and Liz Martin's - Jade (Clearcreek BonaVenture Topsy Turvy) was Winner's Bitch for a 4 point major at the Golden Gate Labrador Retriever Club specialty in October

Bonnie Hall – November 26th & 27th I took Luggers' Big Ben to the UKC Dog Shows (2 shows each day) where he won Best Male and Best of Winners in 4 shows and received his UKC Champion title. He is also AKC pointed from the Bred by class.

Frostbite Symptoms, Treatment, and Prevention

Frostbite, the injury or death of tissue from prolonged exposure to freezing or subfreezing temperatures, poses a significant wintertime threat for all dogs.

Frostbite most commonly affects the tips of the ears, the tail, the scrotum, and the toes. Normally, blood flow keeps these areas warm. However, when a body area becomes extremely cold, its local blood vessels constrict to help the body conserve heat. The tissues then have even less blood supply and can eventually become as cold as the surrounding air. If the tissue freezes, it dies.

IS YOUR DOG AT RISK?

Dogs housed outdoors are extremely susceptible to frostbite. They absolutely require warm, dry housing. Indoor dogs – especially small and/or short-haired dogs – are also at risk. Seniors are especially at risk. Certain medications and medical conditions can increase susceptibility to frostbite. Protect your pet from frostbite with warm pet clothing and boots. Plus, shelter her from the wind.

FROSTBITE SYMPTOMS

Frostbitten tissue may initially appear pale or gray, as well as hard and cold. As the area thaws, it may turn red. Thawing is very painful. If frostbite is severe, tissue will eventually turn black and slough off.

VETERINARY TREATMENT

Your veterinarian will examine the affected area, although total damage may not be evident for several days, and prescribe pain relief medication and antibiotics. Your dog will also be evaluated for hypothermia. Severe frostbite may necessitate amputation. Prevent pain and suffering this winter; keep your pet warm, dry, and safe from frostbite.

IMMEDIATE TREATMENT

Treat frostbite with extreme care:

- Warm the affected area rapidly with warm (NEVER HOT) water. Apply warm, wet compresses or soak the affected area. Do NOT use a heating pad or hair dryer.
- Gently, thoroughly dry the warmed area.
- NEVER rub or massage frostbitten tissue.
- Contact your veterinarian for an immediate examination. Wrap your pet in a warm towel or blanket before transporting her.
- Do NOT warm a frostbitten area if you cannot keep it warm.
- Do not give pain medication.



Hypothyroidism In Labrador Retrievers

– A Diagnosis To Keep In Mind

Here are a few scenarios:

- Your dog is getting older and is slower and lazier now, but you figure it is just due to her arthritis. Pain medications help some, but she just doesn't move around like she used to and doesn't play anymore with the other dogs in your kennel/house.
- Your dog has gained weight. You have reduced his food volume and even tried the diet food the veterinarian recommended, but the weight stayed the same. He barely eats a cup of food a day and doesn't really desire more food. You tried to exercise him more, but he doesn't want to jog/walk with you (or gives up and lies down in the middle of the walk) so you figure it is a losing battle to lose weight on him since he won't exercise due to the obesity.
- The once thick, nice coat has slowly gotten thin, especially on your dog's sides by his waist. The skin may also be flakey and has an odor. He may also be more prone to itching and allergies. The veterinarian has diagnosed seborrhea and given you a special shampoo for the skin oil and flakes. You have tried several diets from premium dog food, home-cooked diet, and raw diet, and even added omega fatty acids with fish oils in a vitamin supplement, and still the coat looks awful. You figure the dog's conformation show days are over.
- A combination of these scenarios.

If this sounds familiar about one of your dogs, there is a possibility your dog is suffering from hypothyroidism.

Hypothyroidism is a condition where the thyroid glands are not putting out enough thyroid hormone that the body needs. Dogs, like people, can develop this condition and this is not an uncommon condition in dogs. Retrievers (Goldens and Labradors) seem to have a higher incidence of hypothyroidism than some other breeds, but any breed including mix breeds, can develop this disease.

The thyroid glands are a pair of glands that sit on each side of the trachea (windpipe) in the middle of one's neck (any species). The hormone they put out influences one's metabolism, and thus energy and skin and hair health. It can also influence fertility. So when there is too little output (various reasons this happens and some of it is still speculative), metabolism is low and caloric need is lower than normal leading to weight gain and tiredness. Depending what species you are dealing with, the doctor tests either T4 levels (the circulating hormone) or a panel of T4, TSH (something the pituitary in the brain puts out to tell the thyroid to release thyroid hormone), and other precursors to the hormone. Personally I mostly screen dogs by doing a T4 level since it is cheaper than the panel and quicker. If the T4 is low and the signs match, I try supplementing with the hormone (the medicine is cheap and, if the dog is truly hypothyroid, is given and needed for the rest of the dog's life). If T4 is normal and has signs consistent with hypothyroid, I may then do the panel. There is also a condition where either certain drugs (cortisone and Phenobarbital, as examples) or diseases will suppress the thyroid hormone and you would probably not supplement since this is not a permanent condition (or the main issue), but that is something I won't go into here now (your veterinarian is aware of these issues). When putting a dog on thyroid supplementation, you are not giving some artificial drug but the hormone the body needs to function properly (I have had this conversation periodically with my clients since I practice acupuncture and Chinese Herbal Medicine along with conventional medicine). Your veterinarian will want to retest the T4 level after putting your dog on the medicine three or so weeks later to make sure the dog is at the right dosing level. There is a normal T4 range where one aims for the middle level of the range. Over supplementation (too high T4 level) is bad in that it will stress the organs over time (heart rate racing, agitation, increased drinking and urinating, ravenous appetite, getting too lean, etc) and give too little supplementation (below normal levels) and you have not resolved the dog's hypothyroid signs.

There are instances where the T4 level comes back very low normal and the signs really match hypothyroidism and there are no diseases or drugs that should be interfering with the dog's levels. Then I will do low dose supplementation (vs. the full recommended dose per weight), and recheck signs and T4 levels in three weeks. Remember any laboratory's normal T4 range is an average normal range, and not everyone falls within averages. A dog (and person as I have had some clients admit this happened with them) can be symptomatic at very low normal range because they have a greater individual need. If this is what is happening, the dog will show improvement in the concerning signs at the three week recheck and not signs of excessive supplementation. If no signs have improved at all, we stop the supplementation and look elsewhere.

With thyroid supplementation, the energy level, appetite, and weight will start to respond within the three weeks, but the skin/coat issues take months to resolve. It took months (or years) for the skin/coat to deteriorate with lack of the hormone, and so it will take time for a new coat and skin layer to grow in that benefited from the correct hormone level. Hypothyroidism can come about due to a variety of factors. Auto-immune and immune-mediated disease can damage the thyroid. Possibly chemicals and environmental factors may play a role. As with a lot of medicine, we do not understand every disease fully, yet. It is felt there can be a genetic factor in some breeds, including Labradors, so if you find down the line several puppies of a litter have been diagnosed as hypothyroid, you may want to reconsider repeating that breeding. OFA has a genetic testing/registry for hypothyroidism; I have yet to have someone send into that and I am not sure yet how well it works for screening out for the hereditary factors. It has been out for a while and not pushed in circles outside of OFA like the hip registry is, but then it took a few decades of selective breeding with the OFA screening to see less hip dysplasia now than 25 years ago (polygenetic factors, which means more than one set of genes involved, take a long time to breed out of lines). Time proves anything to either be beneficial or not. So when I see an older dog come into my clinic referred for acupuncture for arthritis or skin issue that fits one of the above scenarios, or one of my regular clients, I make sure they have had a recent thyroid level check (T4 on the thyroid panel). You would be surprised how much better a dog can deal with its arthritis if its thyroid levels are in the normal range. Clients see their pet become almost like their old playful selves again. And if their levels are normal on the test, well then we move onto that diet or other treatments for their problems. Not every dog with obesity is hypothyroid, and not every dog with a skin issue is hypothyroid, but if they are and you are not treating the hypothyroidism, you will not make good headway clearing up their issues.

Michelle Schraeder, DVM, MEd, FAAVA, Bellingham, WA

Owner of "Rollie, the Conehead in my younger years," Applejax Sir Walter Raleigh TDX, RE, and various AKC agility titles; and "Bones," Sharay Buckley Bone-A-Parte, TD, RE, and his own AKC agility titles

PS - Neither of them has developed hypothyroidism and both are 9 years of age.

For those who are setting up this year's vacation days



The Labrador Retriever Club, Inc. 2011 National Specialty Event Week

**Brooklyn Fairgrounds, Brooklyn, Connecticut & the James Dean property,
Woodstock, Connecticut
October 9—16, 2011**

The Comfort Inn, Dayville, Connecticut will be the host hotel.
Twenty RV units will also be available at the Brooklyn Fairgrounds show site.
The cost will be \$1115 for the week plus a \$500 damage deposit.

2011 Event Week Schedule

(This Schedule is Tentative)

Sunday, October 9, 2011
Tracking Test Set-up

Monday, October 10, 2011

8:30 AM Tracking Test – James Dean's property - Woodstock, CT
Agility Ring, Conformation, Obedience & Rally Rings Set-up - Brooklyn Fairgrounds, Brooklyn, CT

Tuesday, October 11, 2011

Brooklyn Fairgrounds, Brooklyn, CT

Agility Walk Thru

8:00 AM Agility Trial #1

NOON Rally #1 (indoors)

Obedience #1 (indoors)

9:00 AM – 12:00 NOON Judges' Ed (Judges Education) Meeting Room Brooklyn Fairgrounds

1:00 PM Sweepstakes Judging-Bitch Classes, followed by Dog classes

4:30 to 6:30 PM: "Meet & Greet" Welcome Gathering (light appetizers)

Wednesday October 12, 2011

Brooklyn Fairgrounds, Brooklyn, CT

8:00 AM Agility Trial #2

9:00 AM Obedience #2 (indoors)

9:30 AM Rally #2 (indoors)

9:00 AM Continue Dog Sweepstakes judging if necessary, Best in Sweepstakes

9:00 AM LRC BOD Meeting (host hotel conference room)

9:30 AM Conformation - Bitch Classes

Agility TOP 25 Special Attraction Event

6:30 PM Annual Meeting/Bufferet dinner, followed by
Educational Program, Harvest Restaurant, Pomfret, CT

Thursday, October 13, 2011

Brooklyn Fairgrounds, Brooklyn, CT

8:30 AM Conformation DOG Classes

Jr. Showmanship

NOON – LUNCH BREAK Obedience Team Judging, HIT awards

Special Event-Top 20/Parade of Title Holders

NATIONAL SPECIALTY Best of Breed competition

5:30 or 6:00 PM- Barbecue, Brooklyn Fairgrounds

Friday, October 14, 2011

"No Bells No Whistles" Conformation Show, Brooklyn Fairgrounds

8:00 AM Dog Sweepstakes Judging-followed by Bitch Sweepstakes

8:00 AM Bitch Judging

9:30 AM Dog and Intersex Judging

Take down rings, clean up grounds.

Friday Hunt Test set-up

Friday PM: Hunt Test Judges dinner

Saturday, October 15, 2011

Hunting Retriever Test/WC/CC, James Dean property, Woodstock, CT

8:00 AM Junior #1

8:00 AM Senior #1

8:00 AM Master

10:00 AM Working Certificate Test

11:00 AM Conformation Certificate Evaluation

Ribbons and Tailgate to follow judging

Sunday, October 16, 2010

Hunting Retriever Test, James Dean property, Woodstock, CT

8:00 AM Master (con't)

8:00 AM Junior #2

8:00 AM Senior #2

"Dog for All Reasons" presentation. "The Challenge" presentation.

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 \$15,00-20,000.

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/DNAsampl.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. - There are 54 labrador retriever clubs listed on the Wiscoy forum. Imagine if each club published the article and ONE person per club participated.

- Better yet, if that one person knows another breeder who has had the misfortune to produce epilepsy and encourages them to participate, think how quickly the numbers would grow. Sometimes we need the support and encouragement of our fellow lab lovers to take action.

- The more help the researches get from us, the more quickly the gene(s) can be identified.

Joan McInnis

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732 842-6961

The Hartford To Offer Exclusive Auto and Home Insurance Program To American Kennel Club Dog Owners

Company will also sponsor the *AKC Canine Good Citizen®* and *S.T.A.R. Puppy™* programs

The Hartford Financial Services Group, Inc. (NYSE: HIG) today announced a program that will offer auto and home insurance to American Kennel Club® (AKC®) dog owners. Through this alliance, the company will also become the exclusive insurance sponsor of the AKC Canine Good Citizen (CGC®) and S.T.A.R. Puppy programs.

"We are proud to align with the AKC, a well-respected organization dedicated to responsible dog ownership," said Andy Napoli, president of consumer markets at The Hartford. "The AKC has a strong brand recognized by millions of loyal dog owners for more than 125 years. We look forward to meeting their insurance needs."

The Hartford and the AKC recognize the importance of responsible dog ownership. In support of this alliance, the Hartford will offer the program to owners of all AKC registered dogs. Owners with breeds historically ineligible for coverage may be eligible if they meet specific conditions demonstrating obedience and responsible dog ownership. This includes passing the AKC Canine Good Citizen test.

"We are pleased that The Hartford is leading the way to providing insurance for responsible families that own purebred dogs," said AKC President and CEO Dennis Sprung. "By promoting the AKC Canine Good Citizen and S.T.A.R. Puppy programs, The Hartford is also assisting AKC stay true to its mission of helping families have positive relationships with their dogs."

Nearly 40 percent of U.S. households own dogs and taking the AKC Canine Good Citizen test has become one of the most popular training programs offered by the AKC. As part of this program, dogs are required to pass a 10-step test, in a non-competitive environment, to evaluate the training and demeanor of the animal. The certification also confirms that the dog is under the appropriate care of a veterinarian. Each year more than 40,000 dogs take the test nationwide. The AKC S.T.A.R. Puppy program is designed to get puppies and their owners off to a positive start while building the foundation for responsible care and ownership. For more information about taking the AKC [Canine Good Citizen](http://www.akc.org) test and the AKC S.T.A.R. Puppy Program, visit www.akc.org.

The program is effective January 1, 2011. Products and sponsorship activities will roll out throughout the year.