



The Lost Coast *H O W L E R*

Editor: Barbara Stelz

www.lostcoastkennelclub.org

JANUARY 2009

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NEXT MEETING:

**TUESDAY,
JANUARY 20th**

at

The Adorni Center
1011 Waterfront Drive
Eureka

Board Mtg. - 6:30 p.m.
Regular Mtg. - 7:00 p.m.

Join us.
Everyone is Welcome!

President's Corner...

I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season. LCKC had a great holiday party at Chris Irvin's home. Thanks Chris! We had a big turnout, lots of good food, and many great gifts to exchange and steal from each other.

HumDOG's Dog Expo is coming up soon, Sunday, February 22, 2009. LCKC is in charge of the breed booths and the Parade of Breeds. Thank you to all who have signed up to host a table to represent your breed(s). If you have a dog (or dogs) that enjoys meeting people in a big crowd, you can still sign up by calling Barbara Stelz or Jill Otto. Deadline for submitting applications is January 22nd. Thanks also to the people who have agreed to do demonstrations. If you don't have a dog to bring, your participation is still welcome. We will need folks to do various jobs throughout the day.

We will be discussing the Dog Expo and our club's Code of Ethics at the upcoming meeting at the Adorni Center. Please try to attend.

See you there,

Jill Otto

**EDITOR'S NOTE: BE SURE TO RETURN YOUR COMPLETED
DOG EXPO APPLICATION ASAP!**



SPRING IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER...

As I work on this newsletter, the promise of spring is here. Despite it being January, today in Humboldt it is sunny and unseasonably warm. My Crater Lake azalea is in bloom, as is one of my rhododendrons. While we don't know how long this welcome sunshine will last, I've had thoughts of fertilizing and planting and other garden chores. I have a bag of mulch sitting in my driveway, waiting for me to get busy!

It was this bag of mulch that brought to mind information that Irene Hetrick sent to me recently regarding the danger of cocoa mulch. The toxicity of cocoa mulch to dogs has been known for awhile now, but just in case this is news to you, I thought I'd mention it. Like chocolate itself, cocoa mulch contains theobromine and caffeine. Lower doses can cause gastrointestinal upset in dogs. Higher doses can cause rapid heartbeat and arrhythmia, neurological problems such as tremors and seizures, and in the extreme, even death. For more information on the dangers of cocoa mulch, check out <http://www.snopes.com/critters/crusader/cocoamulch.asp>.

And as long as we're on the subject of things that are potentially toxic to our beloved dogs, it seems like a good time to mention some of the items/substances that can be poisonous:

AVOCADO – All parts are toxic, including leaves and bark (something to remember if you have an avocado tree in your home). The offending toxin is called persin. Interestingly, toxicity seems to vary according to the variety of avocado, with Mexican avocados seeming to be the least toxic.

CHOCOLATE – In any form, but especially unsweetened dark baking chocolate. The darker the chocolate, the more dangerous. In this age where we have recently been told that dark chocolate is almost a health food, this is something to keep in mind, as you might be more likely to have dark, rather than milk, chocolate in the house. The culprit is theobromine.

CHEWING GUM and TOOTHPASTE – Very toxic. It is actually the xylitol (artificial sweetener) in these products that are harmful. Xylitol affects the liver. There are many times more verified dog deaths from xylitol than from chocolate. Beware of xylitol in other sugar-free products. You can check this out at www.snopes.com as well.

MACADAMIA NUTS – Very toxic (and even more so if covered with chocolate!). Liver failure can result. The exact reason for their toxicity in dogs is unknown.

NUTMEG – Causes tremors and seizures and can cause permanent central nervous system damage.

ONIONS, GARLIC, and CHIVES (Allium species plants - especially onions) – Contain thiosulphate and can cause hemolytic anemia. A tiny amount of garlic will probably do no harm, but the effects of onion and garlic in any form can be cumulative. Stay away from onion and garlic powders as well.

GRAPES and RAISINS – Very toxic. One raisin or one grape may be tolerated, but why take a chance, as just a small amount can cause renal failure. As with the case of macadamia nuts, the exact reason for their toxicity is as yet unknown, although it is thought possibly to be some kind of aflatoxin (a naturally occurring mycotoxin).

YEAST DOUGH – If ingested, not only can raw or uncooked yeast dough expand in the stomach as it rises and cause obstruction or intestinal rupture, it can form alcohol and cause alcohol poisoning as well.

You can order online a **free Pet Safety Pack** from the ASPCA which contains a pet rescue window decal and a magnet for your refrigerator with the contact info for the Animal Poison Control Center. Go to www.asPCA.org and click on "Animal Poison Control" at the left of the home page. **ALSO, NOTE THAT AS OF JAN. 1ST, THE FORMER 900 NUMBER (1-900-680-0000) FOR THE ANIMAL POISON CONTROL CENTER HAS BEEN DISCONTINUED!**

I have compiled and typed a list of many common toxic substances, along with contact numbers for animal poison control centers. It is attached as the last page of this newsletter so that you can conveniently print it off and keep it handy. Hopefully, you will never need it! - Ed.



Have you heard.....

Irene Hetrick's homebred Toy Manchester Terrier, "**Rufus**", (Trinity's Raise the Roof) got a **three-point major** for his first points by going **Best of Winners** at the Kennel Club of Palm Springs show. Rufus is 8 months old.



And from Tina Moulton...

- On Sunday at the Turkey Circuit, my Italian Greyhound, "**Wrapper**," took third in a nice, competitive class of 7 or 8 dogs and comported himself pretty well. His handler still needs lots of help (moi)!
- On Monday, Wrapper took First in his class and went **Winner's Dog** for his **second point**.
- My grand-iggy, "Lilly," is learning the ring. She showed in puppy classes both days.

A big thanks to Irene and Jill who helped with some table practice. It paid off.

(Note to Self - Do NOT wear pants that will not stay up on their own in the ring - it's a real bitch trying to gait your dog nicely with one hand while making sure your pants do not fall down with the other...) *I can well relate to Tina's dilemma, having lost a half-slip while running around the ring at the Cow Palace. With an attempt at great flair, I stepped out of it, flung it to a friend in the stands, and continued gaiting. We went BOW for a third major and finished my bitch. However, I now usually wear a pants suit! That was 20 years ago, but an indelible memory. -Ed.*

**CONGRATULATIONS TO IRENE AND TINA,
AS WELL AS TO RUFUS AND WRAPPER FOR MAKING THEIR
OWNERS PROUD!!**

The following two-part article was submitted by Irene. It originally appeared in CANINE REVIEW. Due to its length, the second part will appear in our February newsletter. Perhaps it will give you some food for thought.

Designer Genes - Genetic Management or Misery?
by
Catherine McMillan

(From CANINE REVIEW...Reprinted with permission)

In the early 1970s, Miniature Schnauzer breeders embarked on a program unprecedented and unduplicated in any popular breed: to eliminate the genetic defect that caused juvenile cataracts. Research had established that juvenile cataracts (CJC) were transmitted as autosomal recessive with complete penetrance and were present at birth. Early diagnosis permitted the use of test-breeding, sanctioned by the national breed clubs, in which certified affected dogs were paired with mates whose status was unknown. A litter of normal eyed puppies was known to generate a mathematical probability that the tested dog was clear (the more normals, the better his or her odds), while the diagnosis of a single affected puppy proved the dog a carrier.

There is no argument that the program met its goals. A breed with an estimated 40% carrier rate emerged from two decades of test breeding with show lines cleared of the defect. It was a spectacularly successful example of how a breeding community can come together to eradicate a defect... and cause devastating damage to the gene pool.

Enter Stage Left

It has been written that, as a result of the process to eliminate CJC, over 200 American Champions were retired from breeding. Important kennels quietly closed up shop, taking distinct family branches with them, and bitches were sent exclusively to test-bred stud dogs. It was a lonely time for an untested male.

Around the same time as CJC was defeated, PRA made its entrance. In a few short years, several leading sires were revealed to be carriers and retired. There was no test-breeding program for this late onset defect, so it became a lonely time for the stud dog or bitch with a carrier ancestor. The gene pool contracted again.

Had this been the end of the troubles, there may have been time to pause and reflect on what was happening in the big picture, but this was not to be. A novel defect appeared on the scene – a muscular disorder called myotonia congenita. This problem found a solution in short order as a DNA test was developed, allowing breeders to identify carriers with a simple blood test. Those were retired, too. My choice of the word "retired" has, of course, been deliberately inappropriate here. In the world of dogs, "retired" is usually a euphemism for "sterilized". As a device for preventing genetic defects, it must rate as one of the most destructive practices ever employed.

In a sensible dog world, quality carriers of genetic disease might be pulled from widespread use, but they'd come out of "retirement" for special occasions (i.e., for research breedings and/or the general advancement and preservation of rarer family lines). However, the dog fancy – and, by extension, breed clubs – have never been famous for our ability to apply knowledge sensibly. There is a common caution against throwing the baby out with the bathwater. In purebred dogs, there is a tendency to gather up the siblings, cousins and parents and throw them into the dustbin as well. We "improve" our breeds by killing them off one family branch at a time.

When I first began breeding nearly 30 years ago, I accepted the conventional wisdom that largely prevails to this day - that genetic defects are the exception, that carriers should be removed from the

gene pool and that health is more important than beauty. But, as John Maynard Keynes said: "When somebody persuades me that I am wrong, I change my mind. What do you do?"

Managing the Unmanageable

A few years ago, some bright bulb at the Canadian Kennel Club launched a grand scheme to create a Code of Ethics. One of the rules proposed for this set of stone tablets was "Thou shalt not breed a carrier". I recall writing to one of the Board members at the time to congratulate the CKC for devising an edict that would result in the immediate eradication of a number of breeds. For there are breeds today in which every single member is not merely a carrier, all or nearly all are affected with a genetic defect. The peculiar nature of Dalmatian urine chemistry is the most famous example.

Even in breeds with more moderate disease rates, the policy would have eventually resulted in genetic collapse and extinction. That's because every normal living being is thought to carry in the range of 5 disease mutations in their DNA. In breeds with few founders and extreme bottleneck events, that average may be much higher. As molecular genetics digs into the DNA of our four footed friends, it is revealing gene frequencies that are nothing short of staggering in some breeds. In English Springer Spaniels, for example, a mutation that elevates the risk of PRA has been identified and a DNA test developed at the University of Missouri-Columbia. Of the dogs tested, only 20% have been found to be clear of the gene while over 40% tested as affected. Dobermans have similar carrier rates for the bleeding disorder, vWD.

Time for a Change?

The purpose of this article is not to cover the ground of nuts and bolts genetics. There's simply not enough space and I don't have the right letters after my name. There are many good texts available that cover the science, as well as a number of authoritative Internet sources. It is recommended that you seek the most recent material you can find as many of the popular canine genetics books of the past are now obsolete.

What I hope to provoke is an examination of some of our traditionally held beliefs. "Thou shalt not breed a carrier" served us well enough when diagnostics were primitive, most carriers escaped detection, and conditions now known to be inherited were dismissed as environmental or simple bad luck. This is no longer the case.

Unfortunately, a little knowledge can be dangerous. The discovery of extreme carrier rates in a breed has the potential to overwhelm breeders who have always held that their primary goal was to produce healthy dogs. It's depressing to think of how many aspiring breeders accepted as an article of faith that quality foundation stock, good intentions and careful testing would result in good health - only to fail. They'd start over, fail again, become discouraged and move out of the sport. Now we know why.

The bottom line is that much of what we thought was wrong. Now, for the sake of our breeds, we need to change our minds. It is no longer a question of "eliminating" gene defects from a breed. We can only ask which ones, how quickly and should we even try? For this reason, it is imperative that breed clubs take the lead and reform outdated notions about "ethical" breeding practices and the advisability of "retiring" animals before they can leave positive contributions to the gene pool.

Diversity is Key

One of the most important factors in maintaining a healthy breed population is preserving genetic diversity. Genetic diversity is important for survival and adaptability within species, but dog breeds are not species. They are purpose-bred populations that have undergone selection for specific traits or behaviors. It is not enough to simply survive; they have a job to do. Nonetheless, within closed gene pools, genetic diversity is central to infectious disease resistance and the availability of normal alleles when mutations arise.

(continued on next page)

There is little disagreement on that point, but there can be great disagreement on the best means to achieve it. One camp believes in outcrossing, de-emphasis of "show ring" traits and performance standards, and even selected infusions of other breeds. Another camp holds that a healthy diversity of successful breeders who work to preserve and develop distinct family lines is the best way to preserve genetic choice. I happen to belong to the latter.

Before one begins, however, one must first define "successful". Or rather, one must understand how success is defined in any breed. It is not a matter of interpretation; it is a matter of record.

A few years after I began showing and breeding Miniature Schnauzers, I realized that no historical archives existed for champion producers in Canada, in the way they have always been catalogued in the US. So, I began gathering the data from old CKC stud books and issues of Dogs In Canada, starting with the first recorded champion in 1933.

Somewhere in the middle of the project, I had an epiphany. Everything that I had been told to believe was wrong: Health is not more important than beauty. Beauty is more important than health.

Next Issue: It isn't important that we all do the right thing, it is only important that we don't all do the wrong thing. Forcing everyone to do the same thing risks forcing everyone to do the wrong thing.



Dog Toes Clippy Thing

Upstairs in momma's secret drawer
Is kept a monster thing of terror.
It bites and tries to eat our toes.
Why it does that no one knows.

We bark and fuss and wiggle and squirm,
But our dad and momma hold us firm.
This thing of horror makes a noise.
Although it's squeaky—it's not like toys.

It's a squeaky, snippy, clippy thing.
It has sharp teeth and a big strong spring.
Sometimes after it eats our feet,
We get something good to eat.

But one day when no one is home
And we are left here all alone,
We'll sneak it out and none will know
We sent it where the odd socks go!

- Author Unknown



ON THE HOME SCREEN... (click on links for additional information)

- Saturday, January 31st - [AKC/Eukanuba National Championship](#) (Animal Planet and Discovery Channel)

Repeat Airings: February 5th, 8 PM and February 7th, 2 PM

- Saturday, February 7th - [AKC Agility Invitational](#) (Animal Planet)

Repeat Airing: Saturday, February 14th

- Monday & Tuesday, February 9th & 10th - [The 133rd Annual Westminster Kennel Club All Breed Dog Show](#)

Monday, February 9 – Hound, Terrier, Non-Sporting, and Herding Groups

Tuesday, February 10 – Sporting, Working, Toy, and Best in Show

Breed judging highlights will be available throughout the day Monday and Tuesday on the Westminster Kennel Club Web site www.westminsterkennelclub.org. These highlights will be available after the show as well.

Check it out!

HE JUST WANTS TO SAY "HI!"

by Suzanne Clothier

<http://flyingdogpress.com/savhishort.html>

This is a wonderful article. Due to the reprint policy of Flying Dog Press which prohibits their articles from being included on websites or emailed newsletters, I cannot present it here in our newsletter.

However, we are allowed to provide the above link. – Ed.

Doggie Trivia:

Ever give any thought as to the origin of the word, "pedigree"?

It is derived from pied-de-grue....

which is French for print of the foot, or as we would say, footprint.

LOST COAST KENNEL CLUB MEETING MINUTES

November 18, 2008

BOARD MEETING – 6:30 PM

In Attendance – **Jill Otto, Irene Hetrick, Michelle Dostal, Nick Mendes, Patty Mendes, Deb St Myers, Cathlyn Wright, Tina Moulton, Chris Irvin, Beverly Morgan Lewis.**

Minutes of Last Meeting – Approved **MSAC**

Report of Treasurer – Report given by **Chris Irvin.**

Unfinished Business:

- ? HumDOG Dog Expo – **Jill Otto** and **Barb Stelz** attended the HumDOG Dog Expo meeting. LCKC members suggested being tabled together if possible but not in a separate building.

New Business:

- ? Cardio Clinic – Email received suggesting a possible cardio clinic sponsored by LCKC in the future. Discussion took place on pros and cons.
- ? Gap insurance – **MSAC** not to purchase policy from Equisure.
- ? **Deb St. Myers** to contact Dr. Popkin (www.dogshowmed.com) about bringing his mobile clinic to our show.

Adjournment – 7:00 pm

REGULAR MEETING

Roll Call – All of the above plus **Deb Enns, Rose Kessler, Barb Stelz, Carol Sisemore, Kris Smith, Bayard Smith, Shirley Groom, Jim Wasetis.**

Minutes of Last Meeting – Approved **MSAC**

Report of President – **Jill Otto** says "All come to the party."

Report of Secretary – Given by **Irene Hetrick.** Donation request received from AKC Humane Fund. Club would like to keep donations local.

Report of Treasurer – Report given by **Chris Irvin.**

Report of Committees:

- ? Ring Practice – **Rose Kessler** says it's closed for winter.
- ? Newsletter – **Barb Stelz** would like candid pictures and articles for the newsletter.
- ? Website – Report by **Jim Wasetis.** He has been revamping the website and making it more simple and easy to navigate. He is putting links to members' sites instead of each person's information on the club's site.
- ? B-OB Show: need chairpersons – Hospitality report given by **Deb Enns.** She is looking into all the various motel options and amenities they offer our judges. Discussion on show. Do we want two food vendors? Discussion on letting the present food vendor know the judges must have lunches saved no matter what time they eat. **Irene Hetrick** to email **Deb Enns** judge info. **Someone** to ask **Vicki Cook** to bring her backdrop for photos. Show Chair – **Deb Enns**; Trophy Chairs – **Cathlyn Wright & Patty Mendes**; Vendor Chair – **Chris Irvin**; Show Signs – **Chris Irvin**; Grounds & RV – **Nick Mendes**; Premium List – **Cathlyn Wright**; T – Shirts – **Michelle Dostal**; Raffle Chair – **Irene Hetrick**; Parking – **Cathlyn Wright**; EMT – **Attila Gyenis** (who will help with parking if needed); CGC testing – **Beverly Morgan Lewis & Irene Hetrick**; Safety Chair – **Michelle Dostal.** Food – **Parrot Bay, Linda Hof.**
- ? **The position of Public Relations (advertising for the show) is open. We need a volunteer!!! You can do this on the phone from your house.**
- ? Agility Trial - Brief report by **Beverly Morgan Lewis.** Will have more info in January.

Election of New Members – No applications received.

Election of Officers and Board Members – No spots contested. All approved **MSAC.** New Slate:

Jill Otto – President, **Michelle Dostal** – Vice President, **Chris Irvin** – Treasurer, **Kris Smith** – Secretary, **Beverly Morgan Lewis** - Board Member, **Deb St. Myers** – Board Member, **Irene Hetrick** – Board Member.

Unfinished Business:

- ? Code of Ethics - **Barb Stelz** to send revised COE to **Jim Wasetis** so he can send it to all the members by pdf.
- ? HumDOG Dog Expo - Contact **Jill Otto, Barb Stelz, or Rose Kessler** if you would like to help at this event on Feb. 22, 2009. Vote on LCKC to subsidize booths for LCKC members. Failed. **MSAF**
- ? Future meetings - Possible speakers, Scrapbooking – Scrapbooking subject tabled for Jan. meeting. **Michelle Dostal** to contact **Dr. Jay Hight** as a possible speaker for the future. **Deb St. Myers** suggested **Myra Savant** as a speaker. Her fee is \$1000, and she would require round-trip airfare and two nights in a motel.
- ? Holiday Party – Dec. 13th at **Chris Irvin's** house. Potluck. Gift exchange valued at \$20 limit. **Deb St. Myers** will buy \$100 worth of door prizes. **Cathlyn Wright** will make up some games.
- ? Canine Donations – Report by **Michelle Dostal** on canine Kevlar vest. Given one price of \$900. She will look into the brands desired by the officers with K-9 dogs.

Adjournment 9:02 pm



ANIMAL POISON CONTROL CENTER - 1-888-426-4435 (may be a \$60 consult fee)

KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY ANIMAL POISON CONTROL HOTLINE – 1-785-532-5679 (**free!**)

The following are some of commonly found items or substances which can be toxic to your dog. This list is not complete, however, so always call your veterinarian when your dog has ingested anything that may be questionable.

FOODS

Avocados
Chives
Chocolate (all forms)
Coffee (all forms)
Garlic
Grapes
Macadamia Nuts
Nutmeg
Onions & onion powder
Raisins
Xylitol (found in sugar-free foods, gum, toothpaste)
Yeast – Uncooked yeast /yeast dough

MISCELLANEOUS

Algae and Molds
Antifreeze/Coolant
Cocoa Bean Mulch
De-Icing Salts
Fabric Softener
Fertilizers
Herbicides
Pesticides
Slug and Snail Bait

PLANTS, TREES, SHRUBS, ETC.

Alocasia (Elephant Ear)	Chrysanthemum	Henbane	Peony
Aloe	Clematis	Holly	Philodendron
Amaryllis	Cordatum	Honeysuckle	Pimpernel
Andromeda (aka Pieris Japonica)	Corn Plant	Horse Chestnut	Poinciana
Apricot	Cornflower	Horsebeam	Poinsettia
Arrowgrass	Corydalis	Horsebrush	Poison Ivy
Asian Lily	Crocus	Hurricane Plant	Poison Oak
Asparagus Fern	Crown of Thorns	Hyacinth	Pokeweed
Australian Nut (Macadamia)	Cycads	Hydrangea	Poppy
Autumn Crocus	Cyclamen	Iris	Potato (leaves, stem)
Avocado (leaves, seeds, stem, skin)	Daffodil	Ivy	Pothos
Azalea	Daphne	Jack-in-the-Pulpit	Precatory Bean (rosary pea)Privet
Baneberry	Daylily	Java Bean	Red Emerald
Bayonet Plant (Yucca)	Deadly Nightshade	Jerusalem Cherry	Rhododendron
Beargrass	Death Camas	Jessamine	Rhubarb
Begonia	Delphinium	Jimson Weed	Ribbon Plant
Belladonna	Devil's Ivy	Jonquil	Rosary Pea
Bird of Paradise	Dicentra (Bleeding Heart)	Jungle Trumpet	Rubber Plant
Bittersweet	Diffenbachia	Jungle Trumpet	Sago Palm
Black Locust	Dumb Cane (Mother-in-Law)	Kalanchoe	Schefflera
Black-Eyed Susan	Easter Lily	Lantana	Scotch Broom
Bleeding Heart	Eggplant	Larkspur	Shamrock
Bloodroot	Elderberry	Laurel	Skunk Cabbage
Bluebonnet	Elephant Ears	Lily (all species)	Skunk Cabbage
Boxwood	Emerald Fern	Lily of the Valley	Snow-on-the-Mountain
Branching Ivy	English Ivy	Lily Spider	Snowdrops
Buckeye	Eucalyptus	Locoweed	Spurge
Buddhist Pine	Euonymus	Lupine	Staggerweed
Burning Bush	Euphorbia	Marigold	Star of Bethlehem
Buttercup	Ferns	Marigold	Striped Dracaena
Cactus	Ficus	Mistletoe, esp. berries	Sweetheart Ivy
Caladium	Fig	Mock Orange	Sweetpea
Calla Lily	Flax	Monkshood	Tansy Mustard
Candelabra	Florida Beauty (Spathiphyllum)	Morning Glory	Tobacco
Castor Bean (can be fatal if chewed)	Four O'Clock	Mountain Laurel	Tomato (leaves, stem)
Ceriman	Foxglove (Digitalis)	Mushrooms	Tuffroot
Cherry	Garlic	Narcissus	Tulip
Cherry, ground	Gladiolas	Needlepoint Ivy	Virginia Creeper
Cherry, Laurel	Gold Dust Dracaena	Nephythisis	Walnut (hulls)
Cherry, most wild varieties	Golden Glow	Nightshade	Water Hemlock
Chinaberry	Golden Pothos	Oleander	Weeping Fig
Christmas Rose	Gopher Purge	Onion	Wisteria
	Heavenly Bamboo	Panda	Yew
	Hellebore	Peace Lily	Yucca
	Hemlock	Peach	