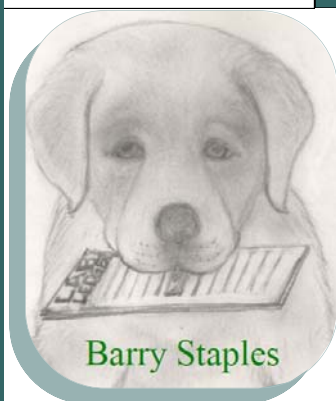


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Barry Staples

LAB LEDGER



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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

The spring showing season is well underway. Congratulations to those who travelled to the Potomac last week, did well and a great time. Congratulations to those who went to other closer shows (such as Perry, Ga.) and did well and had a great time.

Our fall specialty is starting to take shape under the sure hands of show chair Jodi Martin and all of those who are helping her. Our judge's contracts are back for this year, and the entire board has already voted on the judges for the 2014 show. These judges have been contacted and have all agreed to judge next year so we are ahead of the game there.

At our monthly meeting April 16th, (at Denny's on I 85 at exit 99) we will be having an update on this year's show and how things went at the Potomac for those (like me who did not get to go). Please plan to attend if you can.

The specialty shows like ours, the Potomac, the Piedmont, Miami Valley Raleigh and others are always a celebration of the Labrador retriever. They are a great chance to see old friends that you don't see for a time, "to see and be seen", to learn something, see some mighty fine Labradors and to have some fellowship with the best breeders in the world.

That seems to be the real reason we all do this – we all really like these special dogs and the people that own, show and breed them. The competitions in conformation, obedience, agility and field work are just an excuse to get together with people of like mind. We hope you will continue to go when you can and enjoy.

We have some new features in the newsletter and on the website. Hope you will check them out. As always if you have any questions or suggestions please let any board member know.

Barry Staples

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MEMBERSHIP

Membership DUES Reminder

Our membership dues for 2013 will be due starting 11/1/12.

Please completely fill out this form and return it with your check so that we can keep our records up to date.

\$20.00 individual \$25.00 family

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____

Please make checks out to GALRC and mail to:

Jim Griffin

130 Hickory Pointe Dr.

Athens, Ga. 30605

Member's breeder directory

To be included in the breeder's directory of the club's website, please e-mail the following information to our Website master: [Jean McLain](#)

Kennel name, Contact person, Website URL address, e-mail address, phone number and a brief description of your practices. You may include any updated information about current litters.

New Members

Carl and Lundi Johnson have been named honorary members for the club for all the years of hard work that they put into the club.

Our President, the board of directors, and the members of the club welcome the following new members:

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BRAGS

CH SHEABOURNE'S UNSTOPPABLE
(Larkspur Lynx x BBE CH Sheabourne's Genesis)

NEW CHAMPION!!!!



Rascal finished his AKC Championship at the West Palm Beach Dog Fanciers Association under judge Sue Goldberg in March.

Rascal was also RWD at the Eukanuba Classic in December.

He is bred by Shannon & Earl Carlton/ Owned & loved by Cathy Springer.

SHEABOURNE'S GRIZZLY ADAMS
(CH Paradocs Obsidian x CH Sheabourne's Precious Angel)

In March 24th at Fayetteville KC Griz went WD, BOW, BOS for a major under Dr Cynthia Skiba.

Griz is owned & bred by Shannon & Earl Carlton.



VAN DALEN JOIN THE JOY
(CH Adventure's Pull The Trigger & van Dalen Storm N Diamond's Affair)

J.J. went WB and OS on Sunday 3/28/2013 at the Columbia Kennel Club show under judge Mr. Jerry M. Watson, and then repeated last Saturday 4/12/13 at The Valdosta Kennel Club under judge James A Moses.

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BRAGS

TAMERLANE'S JALAPEÑO POPPER AT OAKDALE

Tamerlane's Jalapeño Popper at Oakdale our 11 month old puppy took WB and BOS April 4 in Columbiana.

UPLAND'S QUICK PICK

Brooks won WD/BOW at Columbiana show last weekend which was his first major under Judge Steve Keating. Also, Brooks won WD under Judge Paul Averill at the Perry Dog Show last weekend.

CH WHISPERWOOD SPCLOCASN TYME UP

Owned by Cheryl Little, Ty was first in Veteran Sweepstakes 11 and over, just a couple months shy of 13 years old at Potomac under judge Rusty Howard.

CORNERSTONE'S STILL SMOLDERING

Ember placed 4th in a very nice class of 35 Open Yellow bitches at this year's Labrador Retriever Club of the Potomac specialty. Ember is owned by Carol Quaif and Sheree Paskert and shown by Carol.

CARRIAGE HILL'S LYING EYES

RWB Newnan (1st show)
2nd Sweeps/2nd Regular LRCP

CARRIAGE HILL'S ALL DECKED OUT

WD/BOW Newnan

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BRAGS

CH. CARRIAGE HILL'S WHOOPS A DAISY

Select Bitch Newnan (both days)

JAM LRCP with BOB entry of 100+

CH. CARRIAGE HILL'S HOME GROWN

Select Dog Newnan

2 cuts in BOB at LRCP with dog entry of 70+

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2012 TITLE HOLDERS

CH SHEABOURN'ES PRECIOUS SON

(CH Belgairn Polo x BISS CH Sheabourne's Precious Angel).



Sonny finished his CH in style at the Canfield Ohio Supported Entry & Specialty Cluster going WD BOW (4 point major) under Vonnie Russell (Hyspire) and WD, BW, BOB (4 point major) under breeder judge Judy Heim (Hyspire).

On Saturday he won 4 Select points under breeder judge Cheryl Curtis, and Sunday BOB under Sally Sasser.

Sonny is bred/owned by Shannon & Earl Carlton

CH. CARRIAGE HILL'S HOME GROWN

(Carriage Hill's Nemo & Carriage Hill's Mae West)

As a puppy, Tater was Best of Opps Sweeps at the Maryland Sporting Dog show (S. Patterson),

Best of Opps Sweeps at MVLRC (K. Schooler) and was in the ribbons in his classes at LRC Potomac .

Tater was WD at the 2012 Coastal Carolina SE shows in Charleston (V. Russell). Tater finished last

November with 3 majors including two 5 point majors. Tater is loved, bred & owned by Neil & Jodi

Martin of Carriage Hill Labradors.



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2012 TITLE HOLDERS

CH. CARRIAGE HILL'S WHOOPS A DAISY

(Ch. Dovetail's Boomerang x Carriage Hill's Miss Lizzy).



Daisy was shown only a few times as a puppy and young adult. She was WB/BOW at the GALRC specialty

in 2012 for her first points, took back to back 4/5pt majors two weeks later and finished with another 5pt. major

the day after Thanksgiving (same day Tater went WD and finished his Championship!). Daisy is loved, bred &

owned by Neil & Jodi Martin of Carriage Hill Labradors.

UPLAND'S PERFECTLY WRAPPED

(CH Upland's Sundance x CH UPLAND'S UPTOWN GIRL)

Christie finished her championship in Atlanta on October 20, 2012 with a 4 point major under Judge Sally Sasser.



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2012 TITLE HOLDERS

Upland's Tannenbaum

(Upland's Sundance - Ch Upland's Uptown Girl)



Tanner finished his championship in Raleigh under Judge Michael Weist.

Congratulations to all these fine examples of the breed, to their breeders, to their owners, and to their handlers for earning the American Championship



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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Carl and Lundi Johnson have been named honorary members for the club for all the years of hard work that they put into the club.

The Club's by laws have been uploaded to the Club's website <http://www.galrc.com/>

Do you have any suggestions for the newsletter? Is there something you would like to see? e-mail your suggestions to [Laura van Dalen](#)

The semi-annual meeting of the Georgia Canine Coalition will be held on April 29 at the Gwinnett Place Golden Corral restaurant and will begin around 7:30. The private dining area is reserved for us beginning around 6:30 so that you can enjoy the buffet ("Dutch treat") before the meeting and so that we can have a short GCC Board meeting before dinner.

If you or anyone you know might be interested in serving on the Board of the GCC or becoming more active with us, please let us know.

Our dues notice is attached in case any of you need one.

Sincerely,

Jody Allgood

Georgia Canine Coalition, Inc.

404 291 3321

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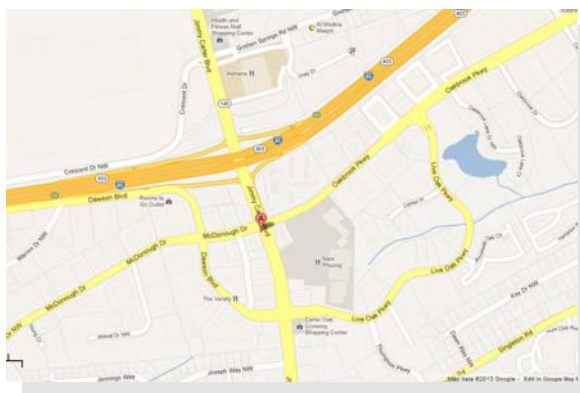
APRIL CLUB MEETING

OUR NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD ON APRIL 16th.

Location: Denny's restaurant at Jimmy Carter Boulevard (exit 99) off I-85.

Directions: Going North on I-85 it is to the right and coming south you turn left cross over 85 and it is on the right.

Address: 5534 Jimmy Carter Blvd, Norcross, GA (770) 448-8762



The regular monthly meeting of the Club will be held on the third Tuesday of each month. Board members will commence their meeting at 7:00 p.m. and membership will meet immediately following at 7:30 p.m. As always members are invited to the Board meeting.

We hope to see you there!

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EASTER SEALS CANINE PROGRAMS

As a brief explanation, we donate pups or teen dogs to the Easter Seal Canines for Kids program. The dogs are sent to Jacksonville Woman's Prison in Florida to be trained by the inmates (under the direction of professional trainers) for various service dog duties. In this video, Piper and Princess, two of the dogs we donated, are shown with their trainers. One is a DAD (diabetes alert dog) and the other is going to a child with spinal bifida. Anyone interested in the program can contact me or Frances McGowin, Director DOGS ON CALL, [K-9s 4 Kids](http://dogsoncall.com) Easter Seals Canine Programs <http://dogsoncall.com>
Linda Braun
Jalin Labradors

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IHqwZ0-9NQ>



AKC CODE OF SPORTSMANSHIP

PREFACE: The sport of purebred dog competitive events dates prior to 1884, the year of AKC's birth. Shared values of those involved in the sport include principles of sportsmanship. They are practiced in all sectors of our sport: conformation, performance and companion. Many believe that these principles of sportsmanship are the prime reason why our sport has thrived for over one hundred years. With the belief that it is useful to periodically articulate the fundamentals of our sport, this code is presented.

- Sportsmen respect the history, traditions and integrity of the sport of purebred dogs.
- Sportsmen commit themselves to values of fair play, honesty, courtesy, and vigorous competition, as well as winning and losing with grace.
- Sportsmen refuse to compromise their commitment and obligation to the sport of purebred dogs by injecting personal advantage or consideration into their decisions or behavior.
- The sportsman judge judges only on the merits of the dogs and considers no other factors.
- The sportsman judge or exhibitor accepts constructive criticism.
- The sportsman exhibitor declines to enter or exhibit under a judge where it might reasonably appear that the judge's placements could be based on something other than the merits of the dogs.
- The sportsman exhibitor refuses to compromise the impartiality of a judge.
- The sportsman respects the AKC bylaws, rules, regulations and policies governing the sport of purebred dogs.
- Sportsmen find that vigorous competition and civility are not inconsistent and are able to appreciate the merit of their competition and the effort of competitors.
- Sportsmen welcome, encourage and support newcomers to the sport.
- Sportsmen will deal fairly with all those who trade with them.
- Sportsmen are willing to share honest and open appraisals of both the strengths and weaknesses of their breeding stock.
- Sportsmen spurn any opportunity to take personal advantage of positions offered or bestowed upon them.
- Sportsmen always consider as paramount the welfare of their dog.
- Sportsmen refuse to embarrass the sport, the American Kennel Club, or themselves while taking part in the sport.

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BARN HUNT

The New Sport of Barn Hunt

The Barn Hunt Association and the American Kennel Club are pleased to announce that as of April 1, 2013 the AKC will recognize titles earned in the new sport of Barn Hunt.

The sport of Barn Hunt is based on the hunting and teamwork skills historically used by "rat catchers" who traveled the countryside ridding farms of vermin. Dogs and handlers work as a team to locate and mark rats (safe and aerated tubes) hidden in a maze of straw or hay bales. The event is open to all dogs.

"Barn Hunt tests the nose, speed, agility, and surefootedness of dogs that have a history of above-ground vermin hunting," said Robin Nuttall, founder of the Barn Hunt Association. "We quickly found out that many breeds and mixed breeds enjoy the search and can excel at this sport."

Barn Hunt events include a pass/fail Instinct class for owners who want to familiarize their dog with the test. The AKC will recognize titles at four testing levels above Instinct. Courses are made increasingly difficult by adding more obstacles, additional diversions, and more rats to find. The BHA has developed the sport to be fun for all participants, plus easy and inexpensive to hold.

Legs, or qualifying scores, toward Barn Hunt titles are earned by the dog and handler team completing the course within maximum course time. Placements based on time are awarded, but Barn Hunt is a non-competitive event and teams do not have to beat other dogs to title.

"We are pleased to work with the Barn Hunt Association to recognize Barn Hunt titles on a dog's AKC record," said Doug Ljungren, VP for Companion and Performance Events. "Barn Hunt is another great way for dogs to test their instinct and for both owners and dogs to enjoy a fun activity together."

If owners chose to apply, Barn Hunt titles will appear on their dog's AKC pedigree. The Barn Hunt title application form and information regarding holding Barn Hunt in conjunction with AKC events can be found on the [AKC's Title Recognition Program website](#).

The BHA has been holding practice events country-wide. The first sanctioned event is scheduled for April 13-14, 2013 in Columbia, MO. For more information, including official rules and event application process, visit www.barnhunt.com.

Comments or questions can be emailed to PerformanceEvents@akc.org.

Customer Service | Phone: 919-233-9767 | Email: info@akc.org

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SILVER LABRADORS

Dear Labrador Retriever Fanciers and Club Directors,

Can we all unite to protect our breed? PLEASE! Dilute Labradors, also known as Silver Labs, Charcoal Labs, Champagne Labradors and Bi-color Labradors have now made their way to the UK, the Netherlands, Germany as well as many other Countries around the world. ALL originating from the United States. Yes, the American Kennel Club has and continues still to this very day to officially register these mongrels as black, chocolate or yellow despite the disapproval of our Parent Club, The Labrador Retriever Club, Inc. These dogs are being exported from the US to YOUR COUNTRY. We are taking drastic steps to EDUCATE the unsuspecting public. We have created a website, put together by persons on both sides of the Globe in an effort to shed light on this problem, to reach as many people (dog owners, prospective puppy buyers, breeders and clubs) as possible.

We are asking...no, BEGGING that you would please consider placing the attached banner in your club website "LINKS" page and direct the URL to www.notosilverlabradors.com. We also ask that you add this to your Clubs next newsletter so that it is brought to the attention of all your members. On the website is an ENDORSEMENT page. We urge you and everyone involved in our breed, to please go and add your personal endorsement.

The attached banner is FREE for anyone who wishes to support, to be placed on any Labrador related site (Club, Breeder, Rescue, Health, Breeding, Facebook, Twitter, Blogs, etc.).

We have made some fantastic progress in our quest to protect our breed against dilute breeders in just the very few months that this site has been published but in order for things to change, we need everyone of you to step up and take an active stand. Education of the public and our clubs is the FIRST STEP. I know many breeders (USA) are sticking their heads in the sand or turning a blind eye. WHY? Your guess is as good as ours. If you care about our Lovely breed, may I please have your help? If this email has reached you in error, our apologies as we have gathered all club contact info from the web. Please forward to the appropriate club officers.

Share this email, send to friends. Any suggestions or comments, please feel free to reply.

Your voice is our breeds future!

Kindest Regards,

NO TO SILVER (dilute) Labradors



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MORE ABOUT SILVER LABRADORS

Several months ago in a previous newsletter, we published information about the Dilute Labradors (Silver, Charcoal and Champagne). Here is an update:

Over the last few months we have developed a pedigree data base which traces all dilute Labradors back to TWO kennels, one of which was also breeding Weimaraners. We have thousands of searchable names and online pedigrees. We started an active campaign all over the world to make this problem well know. We are happy to report that many over-seas kennel clubs and many Labrador clubs here in the US have taken a stand as well as breeders all across the Globe. They have added our NOTOSILVERLABRADORS logo on their sites, published this info in their newsletters and have also added educational statements to not promote dilute Labradors. While many breeders just simply choose to ignore these issues because perhaps they think it would never involve them, I do want to bring something very important out in the open. I have been able to access and uncover a lot of secret information and motives of these dilute breeders. If you think it doesn't affect you or could never affect you, think again. Here are a few things that are really scary and I hope it gives you something to think about in protecting your own line. They have made agenda's and they have succeeded by fooling breeders...GOOD breeders. The following are quotes from their "inside" member newsletters.

<<<<. Sure, inbreeding is the easiest way to produce more Silvers, but breeding out to other non-silver Lab lines can be an invaluable tool for you to use to produce better Silvers and ensuring that the Silver Lab is indeed every bit a Labrador as any other Labrador, not a new breed. By using genetic understanding of the recessive nature of the dilution gene, and DNA tests

for the dilution gene if needed, breeding to non-silver lines poses no risk of losing the dilution gene. Yet, the benefit for not only your own breeding program, but the population of Silvers as a whole is immense. It behooves us all to consider the non-silver lines more heavily in our individual breeding objectives this coming year!>>>>

Many dilute breeders have taken this to heart and have went out and purchased dogs from show and field trail breeders and/or purchased semen. The end result is cleaner lines which they can go back and fourth with between each other and are now claiming that those dogs (the champion dogs) produce the dilute gene, thus making it look like the dilute genes are in ALL Labrador lines.

<<<<First and foremost, get involved with and work with others who are interested, and invested, in the future of the Silver Lab. Staying autonomous or remaining in the shadows is what the Silver-haters are counting on...apathy on our part. Keep the conversations moving toward taking action and be ready to act. Next, actively breed in the well-known and top titled lines of the BYC Labs. By doing this, the LRC cannot exclude the Silvers without excluding their own personal lines...and they are not about to do that. Lastly, title your Silvers. If Silvers are to obtain recognition by the LRC, titling (proving) our Labs in multiple venues will be essential>>>>

And again, this just shows their motives to acquire more dogs from BYC breeders and try to degrade the breed and force LRC to accept them. FACT: Dilute breeders are already showing Dilute Factored Labradors (black, yellow or choc's) that carry the dilute gene in AKC Licensed Conformation shows. Ooh...trust me, they hare being watched hot and heavy. Fortunately with AKC shows, the dogs get merely a placement and nothing more BUT most all breed judges have NO CLUE these dogs are products of Dilute Labradors and you would not either but you would stand outside the ring and gasp when you see one and wonder why the owner is showing that dog because it is devoid of breed type. Then you feel sorry for the gal that got dumped with her PET

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looking dog and maybe decided to offer to help her out with some advice (which many of us do) but you have NO idea of what her plans are....She is looking for you to take her bait. She needs people like YOU to feel sorry for her and perhaps take her under your wing and she gains your trust and you place a dog with her.Let me move on! Aside from AKC shows, many dilute Labradors are UKC champions already. I know many of you don't give a rat's a** about UKC but we do have many members that are doing UKC events and in light of everything else, UKC is becoming more popular and is much easier and enjoyable for some. There are many dilute (not dilute factored) but diluted colored that are already titled in hunting test, they plan to have several at next years Nationals and last year a silver Labrador took High in Trial (obedience) at the Potomac! Yep...the Potomac! Why not? Obedience was off-site, away from conformation people AND was judged by obedience judges. Of course you cannot prohibit a dog from competing based on coat color in any AKC sport except for conformation.

<<<. To have the ability to significantly influence LRC decisions, we as Labrador breeders would, by necessity, need to be members if the LRC. Considering that the LRC now considers the Silver Lab to be genetically impure, any Silver breeder that did somehow gain admission to the LRC would be an easy target for expulsion due to "misconduct prejudicial to the best interests of the Club or the breed" >>>>

Yes, they are trying to get into the LRC and have already made entry into all breed clubs and are working on their area specialty clubs as well.

<<<<The other suggested course of action (develop our own breed club) is no easy path either, but may presently be the one with the brighter future.>>>>

And this they have already done. Hence these quoted paragraphs above which I have taken from their clubs newsletter. And it only gets worse.....much, much worse.

So be aware and pay a little more attention. None of us are exempt from being fooled. If you want more info, please go to www.notosilverlabradors.com email; notosilverlabradors@gmail.com Want to join forces, email notosilver and we will be happy to work with you in any way we can.



PETS AND DISASTER

Our pets enrich our lives in more ways than we can count. In turn, they depend on us for their safety and well-being. Here's how you can be prepared to protect your pets when disaster strikes.

Be Prepared with a Disaster Plan

The best way to protect your family from the effects of a disaster is to have a disaster plan. If you are a pet owner, that plan must include your pets. Being prepared can save their lives.

Different disasters require different responses. But whether the disaster is a hurricane or a hazardous spill, you may have to evacuate your home.

In the event of a disaster, if you must evacuate, the most important thing you can do to protect your pets is to evacuate them, too. Leaving pets behind, even if you try to create a safe place for them, is likely to result in their being injured, lost, or worse. So prepare now for the day when you and your pets may have to leave your home.

1. Have a Safe Place To Take Your Pets

Red Cross disaster shelters **cannot accept pets** because of states' health and safety regulations and other considerations. Service animals who assist people with disabilities are the **only** animals allowed in Red Cross shelters. It may be difficult, if not impossible, to find shelter for your animals in the midst of a disaster, so plan ahead. Do not wait until disaster strikes to do your research.

- Contact hotels and motels outside your immediate area to check policies on accepting pets and restrictions on number, size, and species. Ask if "no pet" policies could be waived in an emergency. Keep a list of "pet friendly" places, including phone numbers, with other disaster information and supplies. If you have notice of an impending disaster, call ahead for reservations.
- Ask friends, relatives, or others outside the affected area whether they could shelter your animals. If you have more than one pet, they may be more comfortable if kept together, but be prepared to house them separately.
- Prepare a list of boarding facilities and veterinarians who could shelter animals in an emergency; include 24-hour phone numbers.
- Ask local animal shelters if they provide emergency shelter or foster care for pets in a disaster. Animal shelters may be overburdened caring for the animals they already have as well as those displaced by a disaster, so this should be your last resort.

2. Assemble a Portable Pet Disaster Supplies Kit Whether you are away from home for a day or a week, you'll need essential supplies. Keep items in an accessible place and store them in sturdy containers that can be carried easily (duffle bags, covered trash containers, etc.). Your pet disaster supplies kit should include:

- Medications and medical records (stored in a waterproof container) and a first aid kit.
- Sturdy leashes, harnesses, and/or carriers to transport pets safely and ensure that your animals can't escape.
- Current photos of your pets in case they get lost.
- Food, potable water, bowls, cat litter/pan, and can opener.
- Information on feeding schedules, medical conditions, behavior problems, and the name and number of your veterinarian in case you have to foster or board your pets.
- Pet beds and toys, if easily transportable.



3. Know What To Do As a Disaster Approaches

- Often, warnings are issued hours, even days, in advance. At the first hint of disaster, act to protect your pet.
- Call ahead to confirm emergency shelter arrangements for you and your pets.
- Check to be sure your pet disaster supplies are ready to take at a moment's notice.
- Bring all pets into the house so that you won't have to search for them if you have to leave in a hurry.
- Make sure all dogs and cats are wearing collars and securely fastened, up-to-date identification. Attach the phone number and address of your temporary shelter, if you know it, or of a friend or relative outside the disaster area. You can buy temporary tags or put adhesive tape on the back of your pet's ID tag, adding information with an indelible pen.

You may not be home when the evacuation order comes. Find out if a trusted neighbor would be willing to take your pets and meet you at a prearranged location. This person should be comfortable with your pets, know where your animals are likely to be, know where your pet disaster supplies kit is kept, and have a key to your home. If you use a petsitting service, they may be available to help, but discuss the possibility well in advance.

Planning and preparation will enable you to evacuate with your pets quickly and safely. But bear in mind that animals react differently under stress. Outside your home and in the car, keep dogs securely leashed. Transport cats in carriers. Don't leave animals unattended anywhere they can run off. The most trustworthy pets may panic, hide, try to escape, or even bite or scratch. And, when you return home, give your pets time to settle back into their routines. Consult your veterinarian if any behavior problems persist.

Caring for Birds in an Emergency

Birds should be transported in a secure travel cage or carrier. In cold weather, wrap a blanket over the carrier and warm up the car before placing birds inside. During warm weather, carry a plant mister to mist the birds' feathers periodically. Do not put water inside the carrier during transport. Provide a few slices of fresh fruits and vegetables with high water content. Have a photo for identification and leg bands. If the carrier does not have a perch, line it with paper towels and change them frequently. Try to keep the carrier in a quiet area. Do not let the birds out of the cage or carrier.

About Other Pets

Reptiles

Snakes can be transported in a pillowcase but they must be transferred to more secure housing when they reach the evacuation site. If your snakes require frequent feedings, carry food with you. Take a water bowl large enough for soaking as well as a heating pad. When transporting house lizards, follow the same directions as for birds.

Pocket Pets

Small mammals (hamsters, gerbils, etc.) should be transported in secure carriers suitable for maintaining the animals while sheltered. Take bedding materials, food bowls, and water bottles.

A Final Word

If you must evacuate, do not leave your animals behind. Evacuate them to a prearranged safe location if they cannot stay with you during the evacuation period. (remember, pets are not allowed in Red Cross shelters.) If there is a possibility that disaster may strike while you are out of the house, there are precautions you can take to increase your pets' chances of survival, but they are not a substitute for evacuating with your pets. For more information, contact [The Humane Society](http://www.humanesociety.org) of the United States, Disaster Services, 2100 L Street NW, Washington, DC 20037.

In a statement of understanding, The American Red Cross recognizes The Humane Society of the United States as the nation's largest animal protection organization responsible for the safety and well-being of animals, including disaster relief. The American Red Cross is committed to transforming the caring and concern of the American people into immediate action.

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THE BASIC TOOL KIT FOR RESPONSIBLE BREEDERS

GDC (Institute for Genetic Disease Control) June 2001 [Updated 4/12]

Malcolm B. Willis, BSc, PhD. Interview by George Packard

Dr. Willis was a visiting senior lecturer (semi-retired) in Animal Breeding and Genetics, Faculty of Agriculture and Biological Sciences, The University, Newcastle upon Tyne. He died in 2011. He was involved with German Shepherds since 1953 as a fancier and a breeder, and his wife Helen breeds Bernese Mtn. Dogs. He judged German Shepherds since 1959 and Bernese Mtn. Dogs since 1991. He served as chairman of the German Shepherd Council and president of the Northern Bernese Mtn. Dog Club. He was made an Honorary Associate of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons in 1996 and analyzed hip score data for the British Veterinary Association.

Dr. Willis' books include:

The German Shepherd Dog, a genetic history; 1991 (HF & G Witherbys, London) ISBN 0-85493-207-0

The Bernese Mtn. Dog Today 1998 Ringpress, Lydney ISBN 1-86054-084-8

Practical Genetics for Dog Breeders. 1992. HF & G Witherbys, London ISBN 0-85493-218-6

"Genetics of the Dog" (H.F. & G. Witherby Ltd,) ISBN 0-85493-176-7.

GDC: In the U.K. you publish hip and elbow evaluations openly, and provide that data on a sire's progeny so that breeders can make decisions based on the quality of his puppies. How does that work?

Willis: In the UK and in other European countries there are evaluation schemes, usually run by the kennel club, a veterinary group and/or breed clubs. In Britain the British Veterinary Association/Kennel Club hip scoring scheme allows any dog aged 12 months or more to have its hips "scored." Scoring involves eight radiographic features on a scale of zero to six and one on a scale of zero to five so that a dog can score from 0/0 (ideal) to 53/53 (worst). The worst breed average is the Cumber spaniel at about 42, and the best is the Siberian Husky at about six. A similar scheme exists for testing elbows (scale 0-3) and also for testing for various eye diseases, but I am involved officially only in the hip scheme.

We publish sire figures, and, when a breed asks me, I publish records of what is happening in the breed. As soon as a dog through our scheme has ten progeny that we have scored, we publish data showing: (1) how many progeny he got; (2) how many mothers they were out of (the more the better); (3) what the best and worst progeny were; (4) the mean progeny score and how the scores were distributed in the progeny.

When I've got a dog I'm interested in, I would look at siblings, and I would get as many of them scored as possible. But once I start having enough progeny, I can throw away the siblings, I can throw away the dog's own score, and I can throw away the pedigree. If the progeny are poor, end of story. If they are good, carry on. I find a lot of good-hipped dogs who produce poor progeny, but I have never yet found a bad-hipped dog whose progeny record was wonderful. In other words if the dog is bad, stop using him now.

If we take a breed like Newfoundlands, for example, in the last 20 years they've made an improvement of about 0.73 points per year. Now that may not seem like a lot, but it means they've gone down from an average score of 37 to an average score of 22. When we publish sire data in that breed we have some who are producing mean hip scores for their progeny of around

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8 compared with the breed average in the 20s. And we have also sires who are producing averages of around 43.

Q: So a sire who is producing poor quality hips in progeny will be known to everybody?

A: That's how it works. Peer pressure forces many breeders to hip score and take note of the results. And there is no question that once I publish those progeny data, the stud careers of some of these dogs are markedly affected. And there's not much a stud owner can do about it. Because even if he stops sending his own results in, he cannot stop people who've used his dog from sending in their results.

Now for example, one top winning German Shepherd has a hip score of 13 which is better than breed average. But the average in his progeny is 30-something. As soon as that became obvious, his stud career has gone down the tube. Now, he's still being used, because people say "I don't give a damn, such a lovely dog, I'm going to use him anyway." But he isn't getting used like he would have been if he were producing good hips.

Of course, you've got to weigh hip and elbow status alongside the other merits of the dog. A Bernese Mtn. Dog with excellent hips and elbows but with a very poor character may not be worth using for breeding. In contrast, a dog with less than excellent hips, but with outstanding merit and character may be worth using if mated to a carefully chosen mate.

Q: Your book, "Genetics of the Dog," seems to be on the must-read list of many responsible breeders. So, in addition to buying your book, what does a person need to know to become a good dog breeder?

A: In my view, the first need is to know history. If one does not know history one is forced to repeat it. Read all you can on your breed. That will include some books that are rubbish and some that are good. You have to learn to sort wheat from chaff, and you also have to start to put facts and figures to dogs. Breed surveys, if you're lucky enough to find one that has been done on your breed, are also a very valuable source of information.

Then you have to start putting flesh on the names in your dog's pedigree or in the pedigrees of dogs you are seeing at shows and other events. You need to go to events and sit at the feet of some expert (if you can find one) to learn about the breed as it is. Going to a show is not enough if you spend it in the bar or just watching dogs go around without seeing what makes one better than another.

Ask questions and listen to answers, trying always to sort the relevant from the useless. Do not become hidebound by specific ideas; question everything, even what I'm saying and what I write in my books. Think about everything, digest it, discuss it and ask more questions. Always try to learn and advance your understanding of the breed.

More than anything, what breeders have to do is breed for themselves and to further the breed in general. They should only breed a litter when they want to carry on the line, and not because they need to update their car, etc. And from that first litter forward, a breeder also has to keep complete records on his dogs, and make contracts with his puppy buyers so that he will look after the dogs he brings into the world. A breeder who has no interest in rescue of what he has produced is of no value to anyone, and of even less value to his breed.

As a responsible breeder you need to work with others, you need to collaborate towards the same ideal, so that the number of good quality breeding animals is increased. You also have an obligation to learn as much as possible about the genetics of animal breeding because that is what you are going to indulge in. You need to know basic genetics because you must put your dogs through the necessary schemes (screening and evaluation of hips/eyes/elbows, etc.) as appropriate.

Breeders need to understand how to select for simple recessive (single gene) traits and polygenic traits like hip dysplasia. They also need to understand the concept of heritability. With polygenic traits, if the heritability is very low (litter size, for example, has low heritability), then little progress results from direct selection because the performance of an individual is not a good guide to his breeding merit. With high heritabilities (hip dysplasia has a relatively high heritability), progress is better because the animal's performance is a good guide to breeding merit.

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Even so, you must not breed only by the numbers. A good breeder goes about the job with a set aim of trying to produce functional dogs that approximate to the ideal. I see breeders who cannot see beyond a head or a light eye or a good set of hips. Such breeders are doomed to failure because they do not look at the whole dog.

And you've always got to try to select stock that is not only much better than the breed average, but much better than your kennel average. If you breed from parents that are better than average, their progeny will be better than average, but not, on average, as good as their parents. If you breed from parents that are worse than average, their progeny will also be worse than average, but not, on average, as poor as the parents. There is, in effect, a pull towards the mean. And that's why it can be so hard to improve the breed.

Finally, all breeders will produce defects if they breed long enough. Those who tell you that they do not produce defects have either stopped breeding, breed hardly at all or are being economical with the truth. There is no crime in producing a defect. The crime, if any, lies in what you do about a defect. If you bury yours quickly and keep quiet about it, and I do the same with mine, then sooner or later we may use each other's dogs and pay the penalty for not having been honest with one another and with the breed we probably profess to love.

In simple terms, breeding is all about selecting the best and then mating the best to the best. "Best" is a relative term and to a great many breeders best is what they happen to own. Sometimes they are correct in that assumption but more often than not they are wrong because they are not critical enough of their own stock.

You have to distinguish clearly between the pick of the litter and the best breeding material. Many breeders are quite capable of deciding which is the best puppy in a litter. Things can certainly go wrong with hips, mouths or other features between 8 weeks and adulthood but nonetheless pick of the litter is not very difficult to find given some experience of the breed and the bloodlines. The difficulty is in deciding whether pick of litter is an outstanding dog in breed terms. The pick in a litter may be little more than an ordinary dog when assessed against the breed standard. Breeding, if it is to be successful, requires the breeder to be able to distinguish between ordinary dogs and outstanding ones and, ideally, to be able to do this quite early in the dog's life.

Mating dogs is not dog breeding. It is the reproduction of dogs. A breeder should be seeking to mate the right dogs in the right way so that he produces the ideal (or as near to it as possible) in his kennels. That is only feasible if the breeder knows what the ideal is. END

Institute for Genetic Disease Control in Animals (GDC)

Introduction

In 1990 a group including veterinarians, scientists, dog breeders and owners created the Institute for Genetic Disease Control in Animals (GDC) as the first national and international open registry for canine genetic diseases. The GDC registry was modeled after the Swedish open registry for canine hip dysplasia that contributed to a significant reduction in that disease in Sweden during the 1980s.

GDC expanded its registries to include nearly 30 genetic diseases. In 2002 GDC merged all of its data bases with OFA except the Eye and Tumor registries. Like GDC, OFA now encourages owners to choose to openly share information about affected dogs and unaffected dogs on their website to give breeders the best information possible for making good breeding decisions.

George Packard is director of GDC, a non-profit organization devoted to providing information and special open registry services to help reduce the prevalence of canine genetic disease. In 2002 GDC closed its open registry and merged its databases with the online databases at Orthopedic Foundation for Animals.

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ON DNA TESTS AND OPEN REGISTRIES, SMART BREEDING AND MORE

GDC (Institute for Genetic Disease Control) From GDC Newsletter, 2000

DR. GEORGE PADGETT

George A. Padgett, DVM, professor of pathology at Michigan State University, was an internationally recognized researcher, writer and lecturer in the field of canine genetic disease. He was instrumental in the creation of GDC. His most recent book is *Control of Canine Genetic Diseases* (New York: Howell Book House 1998). Dr. Padgett died in 2005.

GDC: Almost two decades ago you were one of the early advocates in the U.S. for controlling canine genetic disease through open registries. Has your position changed?

Dr. George Padgett: I had done a paper on Malemute enchondrodystrophy (dwarfism) and then helped the western Alaskan Malemute breeders set up a registry to try to control that disease. They were one of the first local open registries in the country, and what I was saying then is the same thing I'm saying now. The only way we are going to do anything with genetic disease is to make information generally available to breeders. You have to know which dog has the genes for what disease. It's as simple as that. Even as we develop more and more DNA tests, we still have to make that information available to the people who are choosing which dogs to breed and buy.

GDC: Won't the increasing number of gene tests preclude the need of open registries?

Padgett: No, because people will need that information to make good decisions about breeding. We still have to deal with the genetic material in both dogs. First of all, you need to find out about both dogs you are breeding; testing just one dog doesn't help the breeder. The second point is that while tests for specific genes are usually 100 percent conclusive, tests for genetic markers are not. So you have to take into account the type of test. And finally, even though we have tests for single, specific genes [autosomal recessive traits] we do not have a single test for diseases like hip dysplasia that are influenced by many genes [polygenic traits]. We are slowly making headway in developing tests for single genes, but many of the most serious genetic diseases are polygenic. It is very unlikely that we will soon have DNA tests for polygenic diseases.

You can prevent autosomal recessive [single-gene] genetic diseases every time you breed if you know what genes your dogs have. Dealing with polygenic or multifactorial traits is not so straightforward, but again, if you have the information you need, within a few generations most of the genes that are severe can be diluted to the point where they do not make much of an impact.

GDC: But realistically, if I can breed a litter of puppies free of a particular disease gene for the cost of two DNA tests, one for each parent, isn't that worth it?

Padgett: It is, of course, for that trait. But every breed has dozens of diseases, and all dogs are carrying several disease genes.

We have to realize that focusing our attention on tests for single genes may give us the feeling that we are on the edge of solving the problem, but the reality is that we will always be dealing with two sets of as many as five or six disease genes in any two dogs we want to breed.

You can breed two phenotypically normal dogs who test genetically free of PRA and get a litter of puppies with no PRA, but with a range of other genetic diseases determined precisely by the genes the parents were carrying.

GDC: Won't responsible breeders try to get as much information as they can in addition to a genetic test, and gradually de-



velop a strong understanding of the approaches they need to take with their breed?

Padgett: Data from the AKC show that the average length of time a breeder operates is six years (two or so dog generations). That means that at any one time, the majority of people breeding dogs is at the bottom of the learning curve. You just get a breeder educated, and then they quit. Why do they quit? I've talked with a lot of breeders and the most common reason they give is that they get frustrated by their inability to keep genetic diseases out of their line. And when they quit, essentially everything they knew about genetic disease in the dogs they were involved with disappears unless they have registered those dogs in an open registry.

GDC: So what is the connection between gene tests and open registries?

Padgett: The first thing an open registry can do for you is show you whether or not you even need to test.

But beyond that, how will hundreds of breeders get access to all the genetic test information on thousands of dogs that's going to start coming? There will simply have to be centralized sources of information on both affected and unaffected dogs generally available to breeders.

To put it another way, we will need to have an open registry associated with every genetic test.

The issue is further obscured by the general perception that phenotypically normal dogs in closed registries like OFA and CERF are certified as "breedable."

In effect, we are trying to use information from that type of registry to breed dogs for disease control based only on phenotype. But at the same time we know that dogs can carry both single-gene and polygenic traits and still be phenotypically normal.

We can only hope that people will begin using gene tests to identify carriers among phenotypically normal dogs. As that happens, and we get direct confirmation of how many dogs are carriers, more breeders will begin to realize that the closed registry system has really almost no value in reducing genetic disease, even though that system functions very well in determining the clinical status of the dog.

So, rather than preclude the need for open registries, the more gene tests we have, the more we will see the need for open registries.

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In addition to running the Eye and Tumor registries, GDC is now devoted to developing informational material and resources for breeders.

GDC releases information in the form of a GDC KinReport™. A KinReport™ on a particular dog links it with all close relatives in the database, providing all the evaluation information for all of those dogs registered in the data base. The KinReport is available through the GDC website: www.gdcinstitute.org.

Because the KinReport™ shows the prevalence of genetic disease in a dog's parents, siblings, litter mates and offspring, breeders and owners can assess a particular dog's risk for acquiring or handing down genetic disease.

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GALRC makes no representations whatsoever about the products or prices asked in the Lab Yard Sale section. The representations are exclusively those of the seller and have not been investigated by us for accuracy. The ads are for the convenience of our members. All transactions are solely between buyer and seller.

An enthusiastic duck hunter was in the market for a new bird dog. His search ended when he found a Labrador that could actually walk on water to retrieve a duck. Shocked by his find, he was sure none of his friends would ever believe him.

He decided to try to break the news to a friend of his, a pessimist by nature, and invited him to hunt with him and his new Labrador retriever. As they waited by the shore, a flock of ducks flew by. They fired, and a duck fell. The Labrador responded and jumped into the water. The Labrador Retriever, however, did not sink but instead walked across the water to retrieve the bird, never getting more than his paws wet. The friend saw everything but did not say a single word.

On the drive home the hunter asked his friend, "Did you notice anything unusual about my new Labrador?" "I sure did," responded his friend. "Your Labrador retriever can't swim".

