

Barry Staples



# LAB LEDGER

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|  |                    |
|--|--------------------|
| LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT                        | <a href="#">2</a>  |
| MEETINGS   | <a href="#">4</a>  |
| MEMBERSHIP                                       | <a href="#">5</a>  |
| BRAGS  | <a href="#">6</a>  |
| ANNOUNCEMENTS                                    | <a href="#">7</a>  |
| SHOW CHAIR UPDATE                                | <a href="#">8</a>  |
| LEGISLATION                                      | <a href="#">10</a> |
| THE JOURNEY: GROWING AS A CARETAKER OF THE BREED | <a href="#">12</a> |
| EXERCISE INDUCED COLLAPSE                        | <a href="#">15</a> |
| FUN AND CUTE                                     | <a href="#">18</a> |
| DISCLAIMER                                       | <a href="#">19</a> |



## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

I was at a “local” show not long ago where several of you also were and where we saw something I found disturbing. A young lady was showing her black bitch in a class in which she was the only entry. Prior to the show she made some statements and had asked several questions which made it clear that this was her very first show. She was clearly nervous but excited to be there with her Lab that she dearly loved.

When the class was called, she was slightly late to the ring but went in to the judge who appeared to be annoyed about her tardiness. The bitch did not gait properly, jumped up on her owner and halted several times going around and on the up and back. She would not stand for inspection. It was basically the first time handler’s nightmare.

Before she left the ring, the judge had words with her, she began to cry in humiliation, left her number on the stewards table and walked alone out to the parking lot in tears. I heard later that the judge told her (among other things) words to the effect that neither she nor her lab were worthy of being in the show ring. I heard she said she would never go back in the ring.

When winners started one of our members ( to her credit) went and got her and told her it was ok and that she should come back, which she reluctantly did. Neither she nor her dog came back to the show the next day.

I don’t know for sure what was said and it does not really matter. What does matter was that an enthusiastic Lab lover felt embarrassed to the point where she will likely not come back again. Those who saw this uniformly felt bad for her and not one thought that what happened was appropriate. Maybe she was not prepared to show. Maybe her Lab was not the best in the eyes of the judge. (Opinions are like elbows- we all have them.) In her eyes I am pretty sure that her Lab was as good or better than any of the Labs there. She was good enough to pay the entry, come to the show early and do her best to show. Outside the ring, her owner was clearly excited and pleased to be at the show. At the end it was a highly unpleasant experience for her.

We have all been there and had those days- we have been told our dogs are too thin, too fat, too slow not slow enough, misbehaved, did not gait properly, etc. Some of us have even been told that we could benefit from handling lessons (on more than one occasion). In fact if you stay around long enough



you have the opportunity to hear it all. But if you stay around long enough you also get to hear all the congratulations and complements that go with winning. No matter how long we have been showing we are all still learning every time we show.

While we are all competitive to different degrees, our competitive nature wants the competition to be the best to be the fairest measure of our Labs. We all aware that on any given day there can be dogs that are better and dogs that can be worse than ours. Even in defeat we can tip our caps to a superior dog and know that our turn will come on another day. At every show we meet kind and good friends, like our member who told this lady it would all right and to come back. That is what makes this a great sport and hobby.

Hopefully this will not be the end of her show career. We all can lend a kind hand to those who need it. We all can provide constructive helpful criticism. We all can, should and often do make new exhibitors welcome and let them know we have all had days like that.

How different an experience this would have been for that lady is she got a kind and understanding word in the ring. How much better could she have been with a mentoring program? What new and different perspectives would she have brought to us all if she continued to show?

Hope to see you at the meeting.

Barry Staples



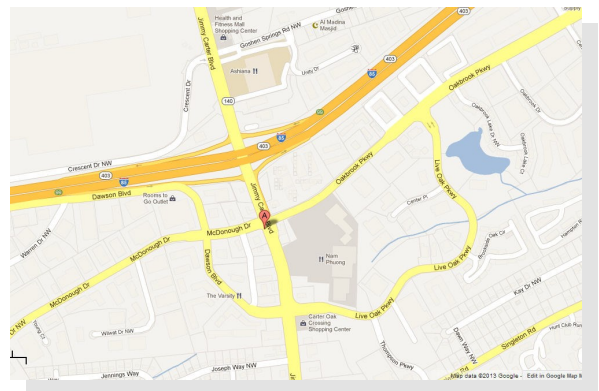
## JULY CLUB MEETING

OUR NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD ON JULY 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!



## 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.



# BRAGS

## SHEABOURNE'S MEDICINE MAN

BISS CH PARADOCS OBSIDIAN X BISS CH SHEABOURNE'S PRECIOUS ANGEL



Doc was WD, BOS under judge Robert Stein on 6/15 at Western Carolina DFA.

Doc was also WD, BOW, BOB 6/16 under judge Gerard Penta.

Doc was also RWD Sunday at RDLRC under Andrea Braxton Robertson.



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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Anyone with raffle items for our specialty should call Dale at 404-626-1835.

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## Show Chair Update - 2013 Specialty

Well - what is it that they say - "Best Laid Plans...."

Soon after my last update, we got a denial back from AKC for our show applications related to the Specialty. It was back to square one, and thanks to several folks, we've managed not to lose too much ground as far as the planning of the events go. There are a number of changes below, so be sure to re-mark your calendars.

Application:

As I mentioned above, our application to hold an event was denied based on the dates we requested. Those dates were too close to an event being held in Alabama according to the way AKC calculates distance (as the crow flies vs. actual mileage). We did contact the club in question and as that they not hold conformation for Labradors that weekend and they denied our request, so we had to find another weekend acceptable to AKC. Once new dates were identified, we checked facilities, tents, hotels, judges, etc. and a new application was submitted to AKC. As of today's date our Independent back-to-back Specialty Show and Sweepstakes has been approved.

Please view details below:

New Show Dates: Saturday, November 16th and Sunday, November 17th, 2013.

New Show Location: [Chukkar Farms Polo & Event Facility - Alpharetta, GA](#)

Host Hotel: No Change - Hyatt Place Alpharetta (Windward Parkway)

Tents: No Change - Reece Tent Rental

New Judging Panel:

|                                |                                      |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Saturday, November 16th        | Sunday, November 17th                |
| Lori Bentine - Dogs & Intersex | Lori Bentine - Bitches & Non Regular |
| Judy Heim - Bitches & NonReg   | Judy Heim - Dogs & Intersex          |
| Becky Gorton - Sweeps          | Liz Martin - Sweeps                  |

Photographer: I've reached out to Betsy Arellano and am waiting for her to committ to the dates.

Volunteers:

I want to thank all those who have volunteered to take on very important posts. Tom O'Hern has taken on publicity/advertising and the event will be published in the LQ Summer edition as well as some Fall specialty shows (ie. Huron River LRC, National, etc.) to gain maximum exposure to our new dates and location and the fact that we'll be outside once again! Oh - and Tom was able to negotiate all these ads in catalogs, in exchange for placing their announcements for upcoming shows in our in November - great job Tom!

In late August, I'll be holding a "committee" meeting for late Summer (August timeframe) to get everyone together





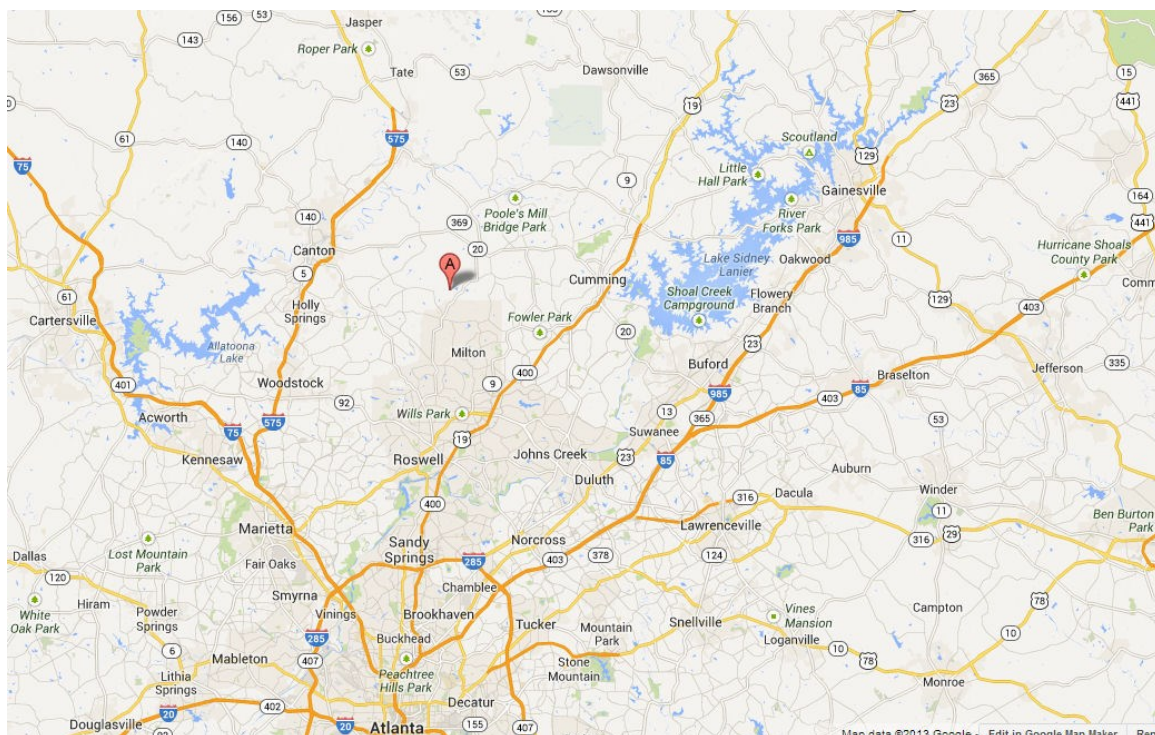
## Show Chair Update - 2013 Specialty

and talk through what specifically we still need to do to prepare as we get closer. I want to make sure everyone knows what they are responsible for, where they can get support if needed, and otherwise let them do the job they signed up for.

**We still need volunteers to be ring stewards and to take turns sitting at the club table to answer questions, sell catalogs, etc.**

I also wanted to let you know that the AKC approved our special attractions for the Specialty show - Best Veteran, Best Puppy and Best Bred-by Exhibitor. Also, we're planning on holding a B Match on Saturday after BOB judging for puppies from 4-6mo., 6-9 mo., 9-12 mo., 12-18 mo., and Open. Plan on bringing your youngsters to get them ring ready for the 2014 shows!

All in all, everything is back on track and pulling together nicely thanks to the efforts of so many. Thank you - Thank you - Thank you!!! We've still got a lot of work to do, no doubt - but we'll get there and the event will be wonderful. And I did look at the Farmers Almanac to see what we could expect weather wise in mid November - I'm voting for 65 degrees and Sunshine - how about you?





## LEGISLATION

A SAOVA message to sportsmen, pet owners and farmers concerned about protecting their traditions, avocations and livelihoods from anti-hunting, anti-breeding, animal guardianship advocates. Forwarding and cross posting, with attribution, encouraged.

Legislation Briefs and PUPS Update July 11, 2013

SAOVA Friends,

This will be a busy month for the members of Congress dealing with priority issues such as a new budget, the farm bill, student loans, and immigration laws, before returning to their districts for the August recess.

Concerns with the PUPS bill, HR847 / S395 do not need to take a backseat to any other legislation. Many of you have already written to your Congressman expressing your opposition, but please do so again. It is especially important to write to Congressmen who were newly elected last year to let them know PUPS is not the welfare bill that HSUS/ASPCA portrays.

HR847 now has 127 cosponsors with 11 added during the month of June; S395 has 21 cosponsors with one added this week. HSUS has already sent out two email blasts this year urging their minions to send form letters to Congress from the HSUS website. The HSUS synopsis is overly simplistic and misleading, stating PUPS closes a "loophole" that currently allows large, commercial breeders to sell puppies online or directly to the public and escape federal licensing and inspection requirements.

### WHAT PUPS REALLY DOES

PUPS creates the new definition high volume retail breeder. A breeder only has to have interest or custody of one breeding female dog to fall under the first criteria test. The second criterion includes anyone who sells or offers for sale, via internet, phone, or newspaper more than 50 dogs in a year. Co-ownerships and location of co-owners, age/sex/ownership of the sold dogs are not taken into consideration. Rescue is not exempt.

PUPS reverses a long-standing, court tested basis for pet business licensing and regulation in the commercial sector.

PUPS fails to consider that sight unseen sales have always existed via magazines and printed media and are not a new phenomenon created by the internet.

PUPS requires specific, excessive, and impractical space for physical exercise. It does not simply ensure that dogs have daily exercise as HSUS and supporters claim.

PUPS opens private, home/hobby breeders to be the subject of activist harassment and Freedom of Information Act requests.



Find more talking points to download for your letters to Congress at the SAOVA website: <http://www.saova.org/PUPS.Campaign.html> Please do this now! Flyers are also available to use next month when members of Congress are back at local offices.

The world not only belongs to those who show up, it's controlled by the best informed and most motivated. Follow SAOVA on Facebook for more news!

Cross posting is encouraged.

Susan Wolf

Sportsmen's & Animal Owners' Voting Alliance Working to Identify and Elect Supportive Legislators

[saova@earthlink.net](mailto:saova@earthlink.net)



## THE JOURNEY: GROWING AS A CARETAKER OF THE BREED

### Part 1

#### Looking Forward, Looking Backward by Denise Hamel

I always find Pat Trotter's columns in the AKC Gazette thought-provoking, so it really set me to thinking when she talked in a recent column about the deep concern of longtime experts in many breeds about the lack of people coming up through the ranks with the necessary knowledge and expertise to take their turn at being the senior guardians of their breeds. In the same column, she lamented that most great lines of dogs are in the hands of aging breeders, and that the loss of lines which breed true for their consistent characteristics is a serious challenge for breeders across the board. Since the Labrador community has lost many of its great voices over the last couple of decades- Helen Warwick, Joan Read, George Bragaw, Mary Roslin Williams, and Gwen Broadley, to name a few- it started me wondering about what steps we can take to grow as breeders and exhibitors of Labradors. We all start as rank novices and pet people, and most of us go on to become fairly knowledgeable dog people and capable breeder/exhibitors, but few ever graduate into the ranks of breed experts. For what it's worth, then, here are a few thoughts on growing our expertise -- from a fellow traveler, not an expert!

#### Growing Means Looking Forward and Having Goals

There's an old saying which bears repeating: "If you don't know where you're going, any road will get you there." In other words, you must have concrete goals in order to develop a plan for reaching them, and this is particularly true in the sport of dogs. Daydreaming about what you'd like to accomplish is an important part of the process, but the next step involves serious commitment to making the dreams a reality. There are no right or wrong answers when trying to decide what you'd like to accomplish. The only absolute necessity is the ability to be completely honest with your self.

To begin with, each person needs to decide for himself where his desires fit into the spectrum of dog activities. Are you a knowledgeable pet person, who wants to love one or two Labradors as cherished companions, and possibly to train them for a little show, field, and/or obedience work, because you're so proud of them? This is a worthy goal. You can do all of these things with your special pets, and need not venture any further.

Are you a seasoned competitor, who has decided that the thrill of winning in the ring, or training for levels of achievement in every area of competition, is what turns you on? You're not necessarily interested in breeding; you really just want to get your hands on a good dog or bitch, and see how far you can take



him or her. This, too, is an excellent goal. Too often, we bring subtle pressure to bear on dedicated dog people to become breeders, but that shouldn't be the case. A person who prefers training and competition to the breeding process should be encouraged to follow his dreams, and to buy the next dog for competition when the time comes. These talented trainers and exhibitors are often a godsend to breeders who would love to showcase dogs they've bred, but whose own time is limited.

Do you want to breed on a limited basis, and are you content with showing, running HRT's, other competition in your region alone? Do you pride yourself on producing thoughtfully bred, well-socialized puppies that will go on to be wonderful pets? Would you like to upgrade the dogs in your breeding program, but have no desire to compete at the stiffest levels of competition? This is a fine objective, and upgrading one's breeding stock is an admirable one. In this instance, the only difficulty is remaining objective enough to realize that others who have committed themselves to work toward a higher level of achievement are likely to reap greater rewards.

Do you dream of specialty wins, or champion master hunters, or the next dual champion? These are, of course, more rarified goals, requiring time, dedication, patience, and skill, whether in buying or breeding. Are you prepared to wait until the right dog comes along, studying and learning all the while, so that you'll recognize the animal with that special quality when you see it? If you plan to breed those animals yourself, do you devote time, hard work and study to gaining the knowledge necessary for accomplishing that goal? Do you have a real passion for studying- animals and their offspring, pedigrees, breeding theory-- anything which helps your deeper understanding? The higher the goals, the more intense the passion and commitment needs to be.

Or, conversely, did you start out with a Labrador as a well-loved pet, and are you now beginning to think you might really enjoy competing with another breed more. There's absolutely no shame in admitting this- we're being totally honest with ourselves, remember? Maybe you've decided that you'd like to be involved with a breed that's smaller, or easier to finish as a champion, or whose owners seem more congenial. There's no point in working toward goals if your heart isn't in it anymore. Or, if you're involved with two breeds, maybe one is for "fun", and the other is the one you've devoted yourself to enough to become a breeder. As they say, "which language do you dream in"?

Take time to take stock. Be honest with yourself about your heart's desires before you take action. Much of the rest of these columns will be devoted to growing as a breeder, but if you've decided that your journey doesn't lie in that direction, then you're well on your way to discovering the right path for you.

### Growing Means Looking Backward

As guardians of the Labrador breed, we're indebted to those who've gone before us. For breeders, this is particularly true, because not one of us-- from the most skillful master breeder to the poorest back-



yard breeder- could practice the art of breeding without the dogs we're using in our breeding programs, and those dogs initially were purchased from others. In fact, each generation of dogs represents a testament to the minds and eyes of the breeders who produced them; the genetic potential that we work with today is part of the great, invisible tapestry of the Labrador breed, handed down from generation to generation. With that in mind, we need to remember that our growth as breeders depends on our looking backward to our history for inspiration, information, and study.

Whether we are breeders, exhibitors, trainers, or simply devoted Labrador owners, we serve our breed poorly if we don't bother to familiarize ourselves with the breeders of the past and their contributions to the development of the modern Labrador, or if we fail to study the dogs of earlier eras through lack of interest or laziness. A good starting point is reading one of the many breed books, which covers breed history; as others have said, we should do the knowing before the showing! If we want to be involved in the breed at any other level than as a pet owner, we need to be sure we're not ignorant when it comes to the great developers of the Labrador in England, and that we also know the names and kennels of the elder statesmen of the breed in America, and elsewhere in the world. To be a longstanding participant in the breed without having a rudimentary knowledge of its progenitors is an embarrassment

For the breeder of Labradors, history fulfills an essential role. We come into the breed with empty visual memory banks, and filling those memory banks with information about dogs who are no longer around requires persistence and study, a kind of visual archeology. The reminiscences of senior breeders are of great help in filling in the blanks, as are descriptions and pictures in old texts. Such in-depth, eyewitness material is the reason that books such as Richard Edwards' ~ Show Labrador in Great Britain and Northern Ireland is such an outstanding reference for breeders. Knowledge of the dogs, which appear in our pedigrees, or those of the dogs we're considering using, is essential. Structuring breeding's to line breed on animals based upon uninformed assumptions about their strengths, or something so shallow as the glamour of their kennel names, instead of concrete knowledge about them, is a recipe for disaster.

By appreciating the work of the master breeders who have gone before us, and carefully studying the dogs, which they produced, knowledge of breed history nurtures our own growth of understanding.

Next time: Part 2- Anatomy of a Breeder.

Submitted by Cheryl Little.





## EXERCISE INDUCED COLLAPSE

### The EIC gene

Research at the University of Minnesota identified a mutation in the DNM1 gene that is very highly associated with exercise-induced collapse. The DNM1 gene normally functions in maintaining nerve communication. It is very likely that this mutation causes a defect in nerve communication during intense exercise, which precipitates the EIC syndrome. Identification of the DNM1 mutation allowed us to develop a specific DNA-based test for the EIC gene.

### How to have your dog tested

The Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory can test a blood, semen, dew claw, or cheek swab sample from your dog. They will be able to provide you with a result of clear, carrier, or affected for your dog.

Results can be submitted to the Orthopedic Foundation for Animals (OFA) for publication in their open database.

### Understanding test results

The inheritance of EIC. EIC is an autosomal recessive syndrome. To be affected, a dog must have received the mutated version of the EIC gene from both parents.

- ◇ Clear. A dog that has two copies of the normal version of the EIC gene. Clear dogs will pass on the normal version of the gene to all of their offspring.
- ◇ Carrier. A dog that has one copy of the normal EIC gene and one copy of the mutated EIC gene. Carrier dogs do not show signs of EIC. On average, carrier dogs will pass on the mutated copy of the EIC gene to half of their offspring. By mating a carrier dog to a clear dog, you will, on average, produce litters that are 50 percent clear and 50 percent carriers, with no affected.
- ◇ Affected. A dog that has two copies of the mutated EIC gene. These dogs are susceptible to collapse episodes under their “trigger” conditions. An affected dog will pass on the mutated EIC gene to all of its offspring. By mating an affected dog to a clear dog, you will produce a litter that is made up of 100 percent carrier offspring —no clears, but also no affected. About exercise-induced collapse (EIC)

A syndrome of exercise intolerance and exercise induced collapse (EIC) is being observed with increasing frequency in young adult Labrador retrievers. It has also been observed in Chesapeake Bay and curly-



coated retrievers, as well as Boykin Spaniels, Pembroke Welsh Corgis, and German Wirehaired pointers.

Affected dogs have been found in field-trial, hunt test, conformation, pet, and service lines. Black, yellow, and chocolate Labradors of both sexes are affected, with the distribution of colors and sexes closely reflecting the typical distribution in the population.

Signs first become apparent in young dogs, usually between 5 months and 3 years of age (averaging 14 months). In dogs used for field trials, this usually coincides with the age at which they enter heavy training. Littermates and other related dogs are commonly affected, but depending on their temperament and lifestyle, they may or may not manifest signs. Affected dogs exhibiting signs of collapse are usually described as being extremely fit, muscular, prime athletic specimens of their breed with an excitable temperament and lots of drive.

#### **Description of exercise-induced collapse**

Affected dogs can tolerate mild to moderate exercise, but 5 to 20 minutes of strenuous exercise with extreme excitement induces weakness and then collapse. Severely affected dogs may collapse whenever they are exercised to this extent; other dogs only exhibit collapse sporadically. The factors important in inducing an episode can vary among dogs.

The first thing noted is usually a rocking or forced gait. The rear limbs then become weak and unable to support weight. Many affected dogs continue to run while dragging their back legs. Some of the dogs appear to be uncoordinated, especially in the rear limbs, with a wide-based, long, loose stride rather than the short, stiff strides typically associated with muscle weakness. In some dogs, the rear limb collapse progresses to forelimb weakness and occasionally to a total inability to move. Some dogs appear to have a loss of balance and may fall over, particularly as they recover from complete collapse. Most collapsed dogs are totally conscious and alert, still trying to run and retrieve, but affected dogs can appear stunned or disoriented during the episode. It is common for the signs to worsen for three to five minutes even after exercise has been terminated.

Most dogs recover quickly and are normal within 5 to 25 minutes with no residual weakness or stiffness. Dogs are not in pain during the collapse or after recovery. Affected dogs are not stiff or sore or limping upon recovery.

Note: A few affected dogs have died during exercise or while resting immediately after an episode of EIC, so an affected dog's exercise should always be stopped at the first hint of incoordination or wobbliness.





### **Factors contributing to collapse in dogs with EIC**

Ambient temperature. The ambient temperature does not seem to be a critical factor contributing to collapse, but if the temperature is much warmer or the humidity is much higher than the dog is accustomed to, collapse may be more likely. Affected dogs are less likely to collapse while swimming than when being exercised on land.

There are severely affected dogs, however, who have exhibited collapse while breaking ice retrieving waterfowl in frigid temperatures, and some dogs have drowned when experiencing EIC-related collapse in the water.

Excitement. Dogs that exhibit signs of EIC are most likely to have intense, excitable personalities, and it is very apparent that their level of excitement plays a role in inducing the collapse. There are some severely affected dogs who require very little exercise to induce the collapse.

Dogs with EIC are most likely to collapse when engaging in activities that they find very exciting or stressful. This can include retrieving of live birds, participation in field trials, training drills with electric collar pressure, and quartering for upland game.

Type of exercise. Routine exercise like jogging, hiking, swimming, most waterfowl hunting, and even agility or fly ball training may not induce an episode in dogs with EIC. Activities with continuous, intense exercise, particularly if accompanied by a high level of excitement or anxiety, most commonly cause collapse. Activities commonly implicated include grouse or pheasant hunting, repetitive "happy retrievers," retrieving drills or repetition of difficult marks or blinds where the dog is being repeatedly corrected or is anticipating electric collar correction, and running alongside an ATV.

University of Minnesota Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory

1333 Gortner Avenue St. Paul MN 55108



## FUN AND CUTE



Summer Time!





## Newsletter Disclaimer

The information contained in this Newsletter is for information purposes only and does not constitute a solicitation or an offer to sell products or services.

Although GALRC believes the information on this newsletter to be correct and attempt to keep the information current, GALRC does not warrant the accuracy or completeness of any information. The information is not advice, and should not be treated as such.

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.

