

# LAB LEDGER

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## Happy Summer!



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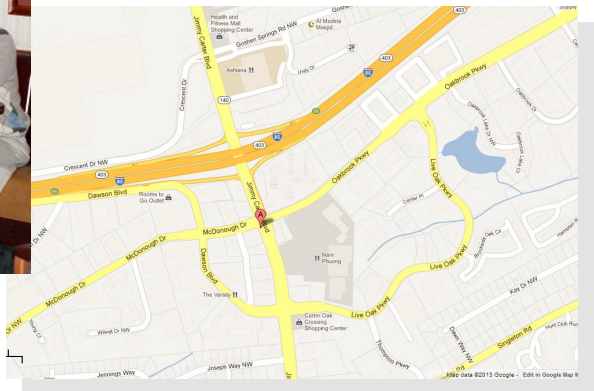
## JUNE CLUB MEETING

OUR NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD ON JULY 15TH.

**Location: Cracker Barrel 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: 6175 McDonough Dr, Norcross, GA (770) 446-1313



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 2014 will be due starting 11/1/13.

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 ~ \$15 Associate

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.



## 2014 SPECIALTY SHOW UPDATE!!

It's hard to believe that just this past weekend was the first day of Summer! The year seems to be flying by and as we get closer to our 2014 Specialty Show, I wanted to give you an update with some of the details!

Show Date: Saturday, November 15th & Sunday, November 16th, 2014

Show Location: Shannondale Farms, Alpharetta GA 30004

Host Hotel: Hyatt Place, Windward Parkway, Alpharetta

Judges: Clare Senfield - Bitches & Non Regular Saturday, Dogs/Intersex on Sunday  
Nancy Arbuckle - Dogs/Intersex on Saturday, Bitches & Non Regular on Sunday  
Nancy Chargo - Sweeps Saturday  
Dawn Nacey - Sweeps Sunday

Match Judge: TBD (If you are interested, please any of the show chairs know)

This years' show is setting up to be a tremendous success just like 2013. We've received final approvals from both AKC and LRC so we have a green light to hit the ground running.

We had an immediate response from members when we sent out our note about Trophy Donations - more than \$1600 came in within a few weeks. I've resent a reminder email recently to those members who have generously supported the club in the past and I hope that we'll exceed our donations received last year of over \$2300 for trophies. We are well on our way!! Thanks to everyone who has already given very generously.

Dale Staples has graciously agreed to Chair the Raffle/Silent Auction again this year. Please reach out to Dale and let her know how you can help - whether it means selling tickets, setting up the tables, conducting the raffle, or donating an item or two I'm sure she'd love to hear from you. The Raffle/Silent Auction was a HUGE success last year do the efforts and generosity of so many. The total received was over \$1800 - the best result from a raffle in many years. There were a number of wonderful unique breed items, health testing & handler's certificates to choose from. Come and maybe you'll find that item you just have to have!



We are still in need of a hospitality chair and co-chair. We received so much praise and gratitude last year for our wonderful Lite AM, Hot Catered Lunches (Best Mac and Cheese Ever), and Evening Hospitality. To make it all happen again this year we need some club members to step up and take on this important item. In that there are not eating establishments close to the show site, it's important that we make all exhibitors feel at home and welcome. Offering show site hospitality means they don't have to leave the show site to get a bite to eat and allows us all to visit together and grab a bite after a long day on Saturday. If you don't think you can take it all on - helping out is welcome too - whether it's setting up AM, Lunch or Evening, tearing down/cleaning up, serving lunch, picking up the catering for AM's (coffee, donuts, etc.) let any of the show chairs know how you can help out. Many hands make light work!!

In addition to taking on this year's show secretary responsibilities, Karen Arlin has also agreed to help out with our advertising. This means that she'll be making sure the word gets out (look for listings soon on Wiscoy, Facebook and the Club Website) as well as sending out a notice in the late summer about Catalog Ads. Last year's catalog had many great ads showcasing recent wins, recent titles and welcoming exhibitors to our show. Catalog Advertising is a great way to advertise your favorite Lab, an up and coming youngster or your stud dog - for a very low cost (and in color!!!) Be on the lookout for Karen's email later this summer.

As you can see above, we do plan on having a B match, 30 minutes after Best in Show again on Saturday - just before hospitality kicks off. Thanks to those who brought their youngsters (classes start at 4-6 month) and supported the club. Thanks to Jim Griffin and his flashlights which enabled one of our founding club members and judge, Cheryl Little to complete her assignment last year. We'll push to do it in the daylight this year!!! We are looking for any club members who would be interested in judging the match before we open it up to non-club members, so please let any of the show chairs know if you have an interest.

Finally, we've placed the order again for 60 degrees and sunshine. Keep your fingers and toes crossed we get it this year!

All in all this year's show is really shaping up. Please let us know how you can lend a hand and make this year's event special for everyone!

Jodi Martin, Show Chair

Julia Kuni, Co-Show Chair

Jim Griffin, Co-Show Chair



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Shannon and I are doing the Specialty Raffle in November again this year. Thanks to all of you and many generous friends and companies we had a wonderful response and it is our goal to beat that this year! So please start looking around at stores, shows and even attics and basements for items to donate. Nothing is too small - the \$1.00 table was a huge hit!!! So let's get started early and start collecting!!!! You can call Shannon or me with any questions.

Thanks so much in advance!!!!!!

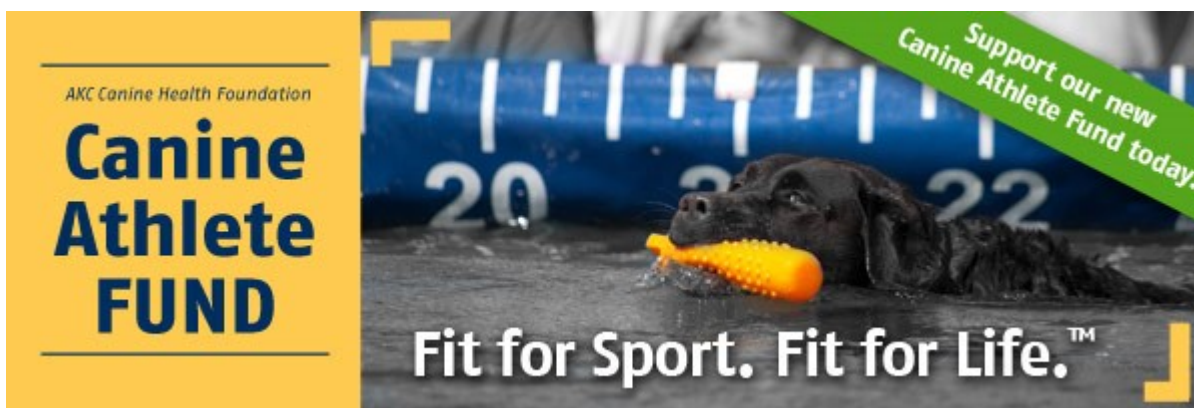
Dale

Join the Facebook page for our 2014 specialty

[Here is the page.](#)



## ANNOUNCEMENTS



Dear Julia:

In dogs, tendon injuries often progress undiagnosed and result in chronic lameness and pain. If left untreated, scar tissue may form, reducing the function of the joint and surrounding muscle tissue.

Regenerative medicine is a rapidly developing field with the potential to transform the way injuries like these are treated in dogs.

**The AKC Canine Health Foundation has just awarded research funding for a [landmark clinical trial](#) to establish evidence-based best practice for the use of regenerative medicine.**

A collaborative group of sports medicine specialists across multiple disciplines are now working to determine if regenerative medicine therapies promote healing through tissue regeneration and reduced scarring.

Researchers will conduct the first blinded, placebo-controlled clinical trial evaluating the effectiveness of platelet-rich plasma and stem cells on the most common sporting injury in dogs: supraspinatus tendinopathy, a shoulder injury that is similar to rotator cuff injury in humans.

We need your support of this important project and other [Canine Athlete Initiative](#) grants. Please give as generously as you can!

P.S. If you or someone you know has not made a donation to CHF since 12/31/2011, your donation will be match eligible through the American Kennel Club's [match challenge](#). What a great way to double the impact of your gift!

**DONATE NOW**



## EARLY SPAY-NEUTER CONSIDERATIONS FOR THE CANINE ATHLETE: ONE VETERINARIAN'S OPINION

© 2005 Chris Zink DVM, PhD, DACVP, DACVSMR

Extensively revised and updated - 2013

Canine Sports Productions - <http://www.caninesports.com/>

Those of us with responsibility for the health of canine athletes need to continually read and evaluate new scientific studies to ensure that we are taking the most appropriate care of our performance dogs. This article reviews scientific evidence that, taken together, suggests that veterinarians and owners working with canine athletes should revisit the current standard protocol in which all dogs that are not intended for breeding are spayed and neutered at or before 6 months of age. The results of a number of publications are briefly summarized in the areas of orthopedics, cancer, behavior, and other health considerations.

### Orthopedic Considerations

- Bitches spayed at 7 weeks had significantly delayed closure of growth plates as compared to those spayed at 7 months, and those spayed at 7 months had significantly delayed closure of growth plates as compared to those left intact.(1) In a study of 1444 Golden Retrievers, bitches and dogs spayed or neutered at less than a year of age were significantly taller than those spayed or neutered after a year of age.(2)
- In a study of 203 agility dogs, the author demonstrated that the tibia and radius and ulna were significantly longer than the femur and humerus, respectively, in dogs that were spayed or neutered at or prior to 8 months of age as compared to intact dogs.(M.C. Zink, unpublished data)
- Several studies have shown that spayed and neutered dogs have a significantly higher prevalence of CCL rupture (3–6), even when controlling for body size.(3)
- Dogs that were neutered at least 6 months prior to a diagnosis of hip dysplasia were 1.5 times more likely to develop hip dysplasia than sexually intact dogs.(7)
- Spayed/neutered dogs had 3.1 times higher incidence of patellar luxation.(8)

**Discussion:** Dogs that have been spayed or neutered at or before puberty can often be identified by their longer limbs, lighter bone structure, narrower chests and narrower skulls than intact dogs of the same breed. This differential growth frequently results in significant alterations in body proportions and particularly the lengths (and therefore weights) of certain bones relative to others. For example, if the femur has achieved its genetically determined normal length at 8 months, prior to a dog being spayed or neutered, but the tibia (which normally stops growing at 12 to 14 months of age) continues to elongate for several months after that point because of the removal of the sex hormones, then the relationship between the femur and tibia will be different than what was genetically determined. This may result in an abnormal angle at the stifle and a longer (and therefore heavier) tibia placing increased stress on the cranial cruciate ligament (of the knee or stifle joint). It is well known that spayed and neutered dogs are more likely to be overweight or obese than sexually intact dogs (9), and this can



be a contributing factor to orthopedic diseases. Thus, keeping the spayed/neutered canine athlete lean can help mitigate the increased risk of orthopedic conditions.

### Cancer Considerations

- Spayed females had more than 5 times greater risk than intact bitches of developing cardiac hemangiosarcoma and neutered males had 1.6 times higher risk than intact males had of developing cardiac hemangiosarcoma.(10)
- Spayed females had 2.2 times increased risk for developing splenic hemangiosarcoma.(11)
- Male and female Rottweilers that were neutered or spayed before a year of age had 3.8 and 3.1 times greater risk, respectively, of developing bone cancer than intact dogs.(12) In a second study, spayed/neutered dogs had a 2.2 times higher risk of developing bone cancer than intact dogs.(13)
- Neutered dogs had a 2.8 times greater risk for developing any prostate tumor than intact dogs.(14) Neutered dogs had a 4.3 times higher risk of developing prostate carcinoma.(15, 16)
- Neutered dogs had a 3.6 higher risk for developing transitional cell carcinoma of the bladder than intact dogs, and a 3 times greater risk of developing any bladder tumor.(14) Spayed/neutered dogs had more than 4 times greater risk for developing transitional cell carcinoma of the bladder than intact dogs.(17)
- In a survey of 2505 Vizslas, spayed or neutered dogs were found to have a significantly higher risk of mast cell cancer, hemangiosarcoma, lymphoma and all cancers together than intact dogs.(18)

**Discussion:** One study indicated a slightly increased risk of mammary cancer in female dogs after one heat cycle (8% increase), greater risk with two heats (26% increase) and increased risk with each subsequent heat.(19) However, a recent systematic review of the publications that advocate neutering to reduce the risk of mammary tumors in dogs indicated that 9 of 13 reports had a high risk of bias and the remaining 4 had a moderate risk of bias. This study concluded that the evidence that neutering reduces the risk of mammary cancer is weak and do not constitute a sound basis for firm recommendations. (20) Additionally, at the time when several of these studies were conducted (late 1960s), it was found that incidence rates for all malignant neoplasms were 453.4/100,000 female dogs. Mammary tumors accounted for half of these tumors, or 198.8/100,000. Thus, the actual overall risk at that time of any bitch getting a mammary tumor was only 0.2%.(21) In any case, the figures for increased risk of mammary cancer must be compared with the 200 to 400% increased risk of other cancers in spayed females. While about 30% of mammary cancers are malignant (22), as in humans, when caught and surgically removed early, the prognosis is very good.(23) This is in comparison to the other cancers listed, such as hemangiosarcoma and bladder cancer, which are often fatal. Given the balance of cancer risks listed above, owners of canine athletes should strongly consider leaving the ovaries intact for at least two heat cycles. In addition, the veterinary field should be developing programs for regular examinations including imaging to facilitate early diagnosis of mammary cancer in all intact female dogs, as has been performed in women for decades.

### Behavior Considerations

- Early age gonadectomy was associated with an increased incidence of noise phobias and undesirable sexual behaviors, such as mounting.(24)



- Significantly more behavioral problems in spayed and neutered bitches and dogs, with fearful behavior being most common in spayed bitches and aggression in neutered dogs.(25, 26)
- In a prospective study, German Shepherd Dogs spayed between 5-10 months of age had significantly increased reactivity.(27)

**Discussion:** A number of the early studies claiming to show positive behavioral effects of spay/neuter were significantly flawed. For example, one of the most often quoted publications to support improvements in behavior, particularly aggression, after gonadectomy does not actually provide any statistical analysis. Additionally, 88% of owners of dogs in this study stated that their reason for castrating the dog was to attempt to resolve an existing behavior problem. Owners were also surveyed regarding the dog's behavior a mean of 27 months post-castration.

These factors likely introduced a significant amount of bias.(28) Another performed statistical analysis but showed that the age when the dog was neutered was not correlated with the degree of improvement.(29) Most critically, neither of these two studies included a control group of intact dogs. One of the more important undesirable behavioral effects of spay/neuter for canine athletes was a finding of a significantly lowered energy level. This was shown in a study that was well controlled and examined over 3500 dogs.(26)

#### Other Health Considerations

- Female, and sometimes male, dogs that are spayed/neutered before puberty have an increased risk of urinary incontinence and it is more severe in bitches spayed earlier.(30-33)
- Spayed female dogs displayed a significantly higher risk of hypothyroidism when compared to intact females.(34) A health survey of several thousand Golden Retrievers showed that spayed or neutered dogs were more likely to develop hypothyroidism.(2) Neutered male and spayed female dogs had higher relative risks of developing hypothyroidism than intact females.(35)
- Neutered females had a 22 times increased risk of developing fatal acute pancreatitis (multivariate analysis) as compared to intact females.(36)
- Risk of adverse reactions to vaccines is 27 to 38% greater in neutered dogs as compared to intact.(37)
- In a study of female Rottweilers there was a strong positive association between retention of the ovaries and longevity.(38)

#### Summary

I have gathered these studies to show that the practice of routinely spaying or neutering every dog at or before the age of 6 months is not a black-and-white issue. Clearly more studies need to be undertaken to evaluate the effects of prepubertal spaying and neutering, particularly in canine athletes. After examining the risks and benefits, I have significant concerns with removal of the gonads in both males and females. It is clear that the gonads are not just important for reproduction, but play a critical role in growth, development and long-term health.

#### Preventing Procreation

If we leave the gonads intact, how can we prevent the production of unwanted dogs? For males, the obvious solution is to keep them away from bitches in heat. But if an owner needs more certainty that a dog will not be bred, the answer is to per-



form a vasectomy. One possible disadvantage is that vasectomy does not prevent some unwanted behaviors associated with males such as marking and humping. On the other hand, females and neutered males frequently participate in these behaviors too. Training is the most effective solution to these behaviors. Another potential issue is finding a veterinarian who can perform the procedure. Veterinary schools do not currently teach students how to perform vasectomies. However, the methodology has been described and any board-certified surgeon can learn the technique. For a list of veterinarians who will perform the technique, contact the author at [mczink@caninesports.com](mailto:mczink@caninesports.com).

In females, the issues are more complex, because having a bitch in heat is inconvenient and leaving the uterus intact substantially increases the risk of pyometra (a serious, potentially fatal uterine infection). One solution might be to perform a hysterectomy (removal of the uterus), leaving the ovaries intact. Unfortunately, the effects of this technique on female dogs have never been studied. It is not known whether these dogs would continue to ovulate and perhaps show behavioral changes, although it is likely that there would be no discharge. Further, dogs that have this surgery will have intact ovaries, so veterinarians would need to establish an effective monitoring system for early detection of mammary cancer in intact bitches, as is available for women. In addition, there is the possibility of the dog developing stump pyometra if small amounts of uterine tissue are left behind during the hysterectomy. My current recommendation for performance dogs is to have them go through at least two heat cycles before spaying. Perhaps in the future hormone replacement therapy will be available for spayed females, but little is known about that at this time.

For males with retained testicles, there is a logical solution, based on fact. A large prospective study showed that the incidence of testicular cancer in cryptorchid dogs was 12.7/1000 dog-years at risk.<sup>(39)</sup> In other words, if 100 dogs with retained testicles live to be 10 years old, approximately 13 of them will develop cancer in the retained testicle. The average age at which tumors develop in undescended testes is 8.7 years.<sup>(40)</sup> These tumors are commonly benign, though they can grow quite large. Based on this study, I recommend that dogs with retained testicles have surgery to remove the retained testicle some time during the first three years of life and at that time they have a vasectomy on the remaining spermatic cord. This solution allows the dog to have the benefit of its sex hormones, but prevents passing this likely genetic condition on to offspring. Most of all, it is important that we assess each dog and its living situation individually, weighing the risks and benefits of removal of the gonads. There is no single solution that fits every dog.

**Acknowledgment:** The author is grateful for excellent in-depth discussions with Samra Zelman on the literature regarding spaying and neutering and for her careful review of this article.

## References

For a full list of references, please visit the original PDF file: [Early Spay-Neuter Considerations for the Canine Athlete: One Veterinarian's Opinion](#)



## LITTER ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Simba & Emma

Ridgeviews Katons Emma Can This Be You  
&  
Katons I Just Can't Wait to be King Simba.



Born June 21st, 2014

Yellow males available



Contact:

Jim Griffin at [katonslabradores@yahoo.com](mailto:katonslabradores@yahoo.com)



**WE ARE VERY HAPPY TO ANNOUNCE THAT  
MAC AND SIERRA  
ARE EXPECTING PUPPIES ON JULY 10th.**

**GCH CH CAER BREN MCLEOD JH**

GCH CH ROBNIE'S TWO THUMBS UP AT MOONLIT  
&  
CAER BREN MIZ MAIZIE JH

~ Hips: Excellent ~ Elbows: Normal ~ Patella: Clear ~  
~ Heart: Doppler-Echo: Normal ~  
~ CERF: Normal ~ PRA-PRCD Clear by parentage ~  
~ EIC DNA clear by parentage ~ CNM DNA Clear ~  
~ Dentition: Normal/Scissor ~



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**VAN DALEN SIERRA'S DIAMOND DUST**

INT CH van Dalen Storm N Diamonds Affair CGC RN  
&  
BISS CH Lubberline Martingale

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~ Hips: Good ~ Elbows: Normal ~ Patella: Normal ~  
~ Heart: Normal ~  
~ CERF: Normal ~ PRA Clear by Parentage ~  
~ EIC Clear by Parentage ~  
~ Dentition: Normal/Scissor ~

Laura van Dalen ~ 770-330-8841 ~ [Laura@vandalenkennels.com](mailto:Laura@vandalenkennels.com) ~ [Vandalenkennels.com](http://Vandalenkennels.com)



**CHOCOLATE PUPPIES ARE ON THEIR WAY!**

**COPY AND LAVA**

**ARE EXPECTING PUPPIES ON JULY 14th.**

**AM GCH CH/CAN CH VENETIAN'S COPY THAT**

**CH WOODHULL'S ROGER THAT  
&  
VENETIAN'S VIDELLA DELLA**

~ Hips: Excellent ~ Elbows: Normal ~

~ Heart: Doppler-Echo: Normal ~ CERF: Normal ~

~ RD/OSD DNA Clear ~ PRA-PRCD optigen clear ~

~ EIC DNA clear ~ CNM DNA Clear ~

~ Dentition: Normal/Scissor ~



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**WILLOWBAY LAVA LUV N TEA PARTY STONE**

**BISS CH. BIG SKY'S STONE KUTTER  
&  
SUMO'S WHOLE LATTE LUV AT WILLOWBAY**



~ Hips: Good ~ Elbows: Normal ~ Patella: Normal ~

~ Heart: Normal ~

~ CERF: Normal ~ PRA Clear by Parentage ~

~ Dentition: Normal/Scissor ~

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Laura van Dalen ~ 770-330-8841 ~ [Laura@vandalenkennels.com](mailto:Laura@vandalenkennels.com) ~ [Vandalenkennels.com](http://Vandalenkennels.com)



## LITTER ANOUNCEMENTS

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### PUPPIES BORN JUNE 4TH.

Lachlan Oasis by Delian

OFA Good, OFA Elbows, EIC Clear, Cerf

By

BISS MEX & INT CH Hyspire Who Dat from Breckin

OFA Good, OFA Elbows, Optigen Clear, Cerf, OFA Heart

[www.lachlanlabs.com](http://www.lachlanlabs.com)

678-234-8841

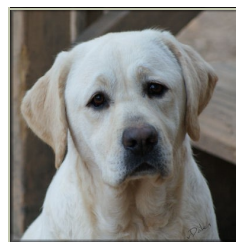
oherntc@bellsouth.net



## AVAILABLE ADULTS

3 years old yellow female available to pet home.

*"Olivia"*



DOB:04/10/2011

~ Hips: Excellent ~ Elbows: Normal ~ Eyes: OFA normal 2014 ~ Heart: OFA Normal ~ Patella: OFA Normal ~  
~ PRA: Clear by parentage ~ EIC: Clear By Parentage ~

Olivia would be the perfect pet for a family with kids, with a good size backyard and frequent access to water.

Olivia is up to date on shots and heartworm prevention. She will go with a spay contract.

Olivia is a very sweet girl with a medium and playful temperament. She is 3 years old, but still has a lot of puppy in her. She is house broken, crate trained, and walks very well on the leash.

[Click here for more info and pictures](#)

or e-mail for adoption application and fee.

e-mail: [laura@vandalenkennels.com](mailto:laura@vandalenkennels.com)



## AVAILABLE OLDER PUPPIES

6 months old Black female available



May Bee is available for placement to a pet home

May Bee is laid back and very sweet girl.

She is up to date on shots and heartworm prevention.

[Click here for more info and pictures](#)

or e-mail for adoption application and fee.

e-mail: [laura@vandalenkennels.com](mailto:laura@vandalenkennels.com)



## 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.

### YOU OWN A LABRADOR RETRIEVER IF...

You buy pizza so you can give the crusts (pizza bones) to your lab.

You wait until the last minute to get dressed for work to avoid your lab's muddy paws, drool, and fur or you put on a old overcoat to stay clean as you say good-bye.

You have every land and water retrieval known to man (and Lab).

Your yard is full of brightly colored Frisbee Pieces.

You buy underwear more often than the average person to replace what your lab has eaten.

Your children NEVER have dirty mouths and faces.

Your lips are constantly chapped from lab kisses.

You never find a full set of shoes, because your lab has moved them all over the house.

You have doggy beds covering the floor instead of area rugs.

Your end tables are really crates covered with couch throws.

You have to keep an extra keyboard for your computer around because your lab drool clogs the keys.

You clean out your fish pond for the season and the first thing you dredge up is a black Kong dropped there during last year's lab party.

You never have to mop your kitchen floor because your labs clean up every spill and crumb before you can get to it.

To Be Continued....

