



Barry Staples



# LAB LEDGER

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PRESIDENT'S LETTER	<u>2</u>
MEETINGS	<u>3</u>
MEMBERSHIP	<u>4</u>
BRAGS	<u>5</u>
ANNOUNCEMENTS	<u>9</u>
APHIS FINAL RULE REVISING PET SELLER EXEMPTIONS AND YOU	<u>11</u>
DO'S AND DON'TS IN PET FIRST AID	<u>15</u>
TRICUSPID VALVE DYSPLASIA	<u>20</u>
AVAILABLE	<u>22</u>
DISCLAIMER	<u>23</u>



## PRESIDENT'S LETTER

This is a brief note to thank you all for allowing me to act as your president this year. We have had a very productive year. Our membership has increased; our meetings and programs have been well attended and interesting. Our specialty show well under way to being a success. These things have been due in large part to the faithful service of our Officers, Board members and Committee chairs who have all worked extra hard to make this year a successful one. Our newsletter has been carried on in the tradition set by our former editors and is a highlight of our club. To all of you who have helped and will continue to help the club be outstanding, our thanks and gratitude for a job well done. We look forward to our show and our next year in the GALRC.

Please make plans to attend our annual meeting. I have requested that it be held at the Atlanta show on Saturday rather than on Tuesday of this week. This meeting is our annual membership meeting at which we will elect officers and Board members for next year. Our show chairman, Jodi Martin will also hold a show meeting for updates on our progress at that time.

If you have not yet done so, please make plans to attend our specialty in November. It is going to be an outstanding event.

See you then,

Barry Staples.



## SEPTEMBER CLUB MEETING

OUR ANNUAL MEETING WILL BE HELD ON **SEPTEMBER 19TH.**

Only for this time it will held after the best of breed Saturday at the Atlanta shows.

Address: 3850 Jonesboro Rd., Atlanta, GA 30354



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.



# BRAGS

## SEPTEMBER 29TH 2013 MATCH



### **Best in Match**

Valcar's Midnight Rider

### **Best of Opposite in Match**

Valcar's Sweet Perfection

Congratulations to Clint Vail and Jim Carroll.





## BRAGS



### CH. SHEABOURNE'S MEDICINE MAN

(Multi Biss Ch. Paradoxs Obsidian x Multi Biss Ch. Sheabourne's Precious Angel)

Doc picked up 4 wins, 3 Majors, and 2 BOB's over 2 weekends to complete his Championship on Labor Day, the same weekend he turned 2 years old.

Doc is bred & owned by Shannon & Earl Carlton, Sheabourne Labradors.

Doc is OFA good, elbows normal, Optigen clear, EIC clear, CNM clear,  
Cardiac clear by echo/color Doppler, Bc.

[Congratulations to Shannon & Earl Carlton for finishing this handsome boy!](#)



## BRAGS

### ASHLAND'S ROAD TRIP



Our new and upcoming boy Myles took BOB over special at the GMKC show Sunday 09-29 from the BBE class.

### ELHID GAME MASTER'S EGO



Poncho goes back to back WD at the PKC in Charlotte, NC September 28 & 29.



## BRAGS

### ELHID HELLO BEAUTIFUL



Gorgie Goes WB at the Augusta, SC on October 5th.





## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

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I would like to thank the club for all the good wishes and prayers for my husband, Dan's recovery. He is doing very well and is home now recuperating. We have a long road ahead but everything so far is as well as we could have hoped for.

Sylvia Gay

Sourwood Labradors

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

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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*The Labrador Retriever Club, Inc.*



Invites you to join us in Florida for a Parent Club Regional Specialty Friday,

December 13, 2013

Orange County Convention Center

Orlando, Florida

Judge: Mrs. Marion Lyons, Chocorua Labradors

Juniors Judge: Mr. Chuck Winslow, Bartestree Labradors

Superintendent: Jack Onofrio Dog Shows, LLC

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

also, Visit our award winning Meet the Breeds Booth

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

Don't miss at the same location:

December 10<sup>th</sup> Space Coast KC of Palm Bay

December 11<sup>th</sup> Brevard KC

December 12<sup>th</sup> Central FL. KC

December 14-15<sup>th</sup> AKC/Eukanuba



## APHIS FINAL RULE REVISING PET SELLER EXEMPTIONS AND YOU

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.

APHIS Final Rule Revising Pet Seller Exemptions and You

SAOVA Friends,

As you know by now, APHIS published the Final Rule September 10, 2013 which revises the definition of "retail pet store" under the Animal Welfare Act (AWA) licensing and regulations. The new definition of retail pet store means a place of business or residence where the seller, buyer, and animal are physically present in the same location. Not only dogs, but cats, rabbits, mice, small exotic animals, and other small pets will no longer be sold at retail without either public or APHIS oversight. If you cannot qualify for the retail pet store exemption in the AWA by selling only face-to-face, then you must either obtain a federal license or be limited to 4 or fewer females bred and raised on your premises. This limit of 4 is an aggregate number of females regardless of species (i.e., 2 dogs, 1 cat, 1 rabbit).

The transaction does not have to take place at the seller's home. A meeting place can be set up to transfer the animal. However, everyone needs to be aware that many municipalities have ordinances restricting sales in public places and should plan accordingly. It appears APHIS will allow a third party to be designated as the agent to stand in for the breeder or buyer in the face-to-face transaction, but this needs additional clarification.

Anyone selling dogs for hunting, breeding, security purposes, or as working dogs is excluded from the definition of Dealer and from the definition of Retail Pet Store.

APHIS held a teleconference to announce the final rule. If you could not attend, we urge you to read the transcribed call which is posted at the SAOVA website <http://tinyurl.com/nyb4s5g>

In general, APHIS says this rule is driven by purpose of breeding and method of delivery for the sale; and that their goal is only to end sight-unseen sales. However, since breeding programs do not fall into nice neat categories, and scenarios change from breeder to breeder and species to species, covering the retail sector with such a regulation creates many areas of uncertainty for the average breeder.

The list of questions is long:

Can hunting dog kennel owners sell pets

Can breeders ship sight-unseen where relationships have been well established Can litters be whelped inside the house Are rescues still exempt if they ship sight-unseen Can animals, other than rabbits, be shipped for preservation of the species Do the APHIS regulations take precedence over state license regulations How can we believe the answers from APHIS staff who do not understand the questions Does APHIS plan to offer any protection for



newly licensed breeders so that kennel photos are not added to the ASPCA “puppy mill” data base and other sensationalized uses. If you are reported to APHIS as needing a license, are investigators required to have a warrant to enter your premises? Is everyone on the same premise required to be licensed if one person must be licensed?

The rule is overly complicated, inconsistent, and certainly not easy to understand. The internet and chat groups are full of conversation about this rule with a number of interpretations and a wide variety of opinions being circulated. APHIS also posted another Question and Answer Fact Sheet with their explanations to some of the major concerns submitted during the rule making process. Again as last year, the Q&A contains many half, incomplete, or misleading answers. The reality is that the final interpretation of the rule and its definitions will be at the discretion of APHIS inspectors and staff.

Rather than attempt to analyze the rule and/or interpret how it will impact hundreds of thousands of breeders in dozens of varying situations we’ll review what we do know regarding the new rule and current AWA standards.

The Final Rule was published in the Federal Register September 18, 2013 and is effective 60 days from publication. APHIS plans a phased implementation of the rule. Kevin Shea, APHIS Director, stated in the teleconference, “We will be trying to identify the facilities that aren't currently licensed that should be licensed under the rule. We'll be doing this, using publicly available data - breed registries, advertisements that folks are doing on the internet, etc., to identify the facilities that we need to approach about getting licensed.” APHIS is still finalizing their “outreach” plan and we will share that information when it becomes available.

The AWA Standards of Care for housing, facilities, exercise, cleaning, sanitization, employees, housekeeping, and pest control will not be revised.

Living under USDA licensing is NOT an option for the average home-based retail seller. The average house cannot be converted to a USDA compliant facility. Federal standards for licensed facilities dictate sanitation measures not feasible in a normal home, surfaces that are impervious to moisture, ventilation, bio-hazard control, veterinary care, exercise, temperature controls, waste disposal systems, diurnal lighting, drainage systems, washrooms, perimeter fencing, as well as transportation standards for regulated animals.

We are very concerned about the Q&A section regarding use of your homes. The answer is disingenuous and we trust those who have read it do not believe they can continue utilizing their homes once they are licensed. The revised APHIS Q&A asks the question: Will regulated breeders who keep their dogs in their homes have to put them in a kennel? APHIS answers “generally not” and proceeds with a misleading explanation that APHIS will determine if your home meets their standards; and states that a number of currently licensed wholesale breeders maintain their animals in their homes.

If you can give up a room in your house and convert it to be the moisture proof, sterile environment described above, AND gain approval from an APHIS inspector, you may be able to crate or pen animals in that room. This room would then be for either adults or puppies/kittens but not both. Under the USDA standards puppies and kittens under 4 months of age cannot be housed in the same primary enclosure with adults, other than the dam/queen or foster dam/queen. Since the remainder of your house does not meet the above requirements, allowing





animals to roam freely would cause you to be in violation of the AWA. And unless your bedroom is coated in epoxy and has a floor drain, you won't be doing any whelping there.

A separate facility will be needed for females by two weeks prior to whelping. Even if you make one room in your house compliant with the AWA standards, females cannot be whelped in that room. That means an additional room will be required, plus one for each additional litter within the next 3.5 months.

Any room in your home used for whelping or birthing must meet USDA standards – impervious to moisture – meaning tile floor and vinyl-coated walls.

All surfaces touched by animals must be waterproof and sterilized every two weeks with your choice of live steam under pressure, 180 degree water and detergent with disinfectant, or a combination detergent/disinfectant product.

You must have a separate food preparation area from your kitchen.

In addition to a written exercise plan and veterinary plan you must now have an emergency plan that documents your awareness and understanding of your responsibility to protect your animals in emergency situations.

The USDA license may classify you as a commercial business. You will need to know the allowed uses for your property in the current zoning and land use regulations and whether home businesses are allowed. Your property tax status may be affected and your tax liabilities could change, depending on state and local laws.

Finally, your information, photos of your property, and inspection reports will be the subject of Freedom of Information Act requests by activists. Inspectors will always write you up for something or it looks as if they are not doing their jobs, thus giving activists something to read and complain about. Activists are not above taking the information out of context and using it to suit their purposes.

The new rule centers on shipping sight-unseen which at this time presents unanswered questions, and could target you for investigation as to whether you need a license. Until APHIS issues meaningful dialogue on their intentions and we know how inspectors should interpret the new rule, it might be best to delay use of commercial shipping if possible. If you have more than four females, rely on shipping to keep your program viable, and have no alternative options, then you will have to contact USDA and ask for an application kit and begin the licensing process.

When you contact APHIS with questions, record the answers. If you make the decision to go forward and apply for a license, record the conversations and the inspections and have a witness with you during the pre-licensing process.

It is impossible to predict the full impact and potential damage on breeders once this rule is actually in place and enforcement begins. In the meantime, please do not start reducing your kennels, catteries, and small businesses, and jeopardize the years of hard work that went into building your breeding programs. There is more to learn on



this rule and what can be done so that we can continue to pursue our hobbies, avocations, and livelihoods. Many people are working on your behalf and we will not go down quietly.

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 message above was posted to North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Tennessee, Kentucky, Louisiana and Texas residents by the Sportsmen's and Animal Owners' Voting Alliance (SAOVA).

SAOVA is a nonpartisan volunteer group working to protect Americans from the legislative and political threats of radical animal rightists. Visit our website at <http://saova.org> for this program's goals, methodology and list sign-up details.

To unsubscribe from this list, exercise that option at [http://mailman.montana.com/mailman/listinfo/saova\\_south](http://mailman.montana.com/mailman/listinfo/saova_south)

SAOVA

PO Box 612, Spencer NC 28159

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[http://mailman.montana.com/mailman/listinfo/saova\\_south](http://mailman.montana.com/mailman/listinfo/saova_south)



## DO'S AND DON'TS IN PET FIRST AID

This information is meant to prepare the pet owner for a variety of situations that may require emergency care. This is not meant to take the place of veterinary care. Please consult your veterinarian regarding your pet in case of emergency. It is also a good idea to discuss first aid care with your veterinarian regarding any specific needs your pet may have. The best action in any emergency is to be well prepared.

### THE FIRST AID KIT

I recommend keeping your pet's first aid kit in a watertight container. Or if you choose to use a duffle bag type container keep medical records and other paper items in zip lock type bags for protection.

#### Items specific for your pet:

Medical records including vaccine records

Picture of pet

Veterinary contact (regular veterinarian, emergency veterinarian)

Pet poison control contact information

A few days supply of medications your pet requires on a regular basis

#### General items:

Rubber gloves

Bottled water

Instant ice pack

Scissors

Tweezers

Flashlight

Thermometer (quick read recommended)

Eye wash

Adhesive tape

Gauze

Telfa pads

Cleaning wipes

Extra leash

Pillow case, handy transport for cats in quick situations

Antibiotic ointment

Benadryl



## SPECIFIC CONDITIONS

### Heat stroke

Heat stroke occurs when a dog (or cat) loses its ability to regulate its body temperature.

A normal temperature is between 100-102.5 ° F.

Animals primarily regulate their body temperature through respiration (panting).

Once the body's temperature goes above 105° F, it can be very difficult to regulate the temperature.

Once the temperature goes above 108° F, organ damage can occur.

Contributors to heat stroke:

Warmer temperatures with less than ideal ventilation, obesity, overexertion, lack of water.

Certain breeds are predisposed (brachycephalic - i.e. pugs, bulldogs, etc.) and once your pet has suffered heat stroke the chances are increased it will happen again.

Signs of heat stroke: Muddy pink gums (instead of bright pink), heavy panting with occasional frothing at the mouth, disorientation, increased heart rate. I often see heat stroke in the spring as the warm days can sneak up on you.

Most folks seem aware in the summer not to leave their pets in the car or running around out doors too long.

What to do: Remove the pet from the heat source if possible. Increase ventilation (fan) and apply cool water or a cool towel compress. Do not apply ice, this causes blood vessels to constrict and lessens the body's ability to dissipate the heat.

Reapply the cool towels frequently. Offer but do not force water to your pet to drink water.

Get your pet to the veterinarian quickly.

### Seizures

Observing a seizure can be a very frightening experience for many people. Seizures occur when there is abnormal electrical activity in the brain causing muscles to contract and spasm involuntarily. There are many causes of seizures from epilepsy to low blood sugar.

Signs of seizure: When an animal is having a generalized seizure (grand mal) they typically fall to the ground, paddle their legs (which can be very vigorous), their eyes are usually open and they may urinate and defecate during the seizure. Fortunately seizures are not painful to the animal and they are unaware they are having them. After the seizure the pet may seem disoriented and not themselves.

What to do: Do not try to stop the seizure or move the animal unless they are in danger of hurting themselves (i.e. near a stair case). Do not offer them water or try to hold them down. Monitor the time they are in a seizure, usually 2-3 minutes or less. After the seizure, calmly try 3 to reassure the pet. However, it may take the pet a bit to recognize you and come around so do not force this issue. Contact your veterinarian and inform them of what happened.

When is the seizure an emergency? If you think the seizure was caused by a toxic substance, if your pet is having difficulty breathing or if the seizure lasts more than 5 minutes or is having repetitive seizures in the same day.

### Trauma





Trauma is a very broad category with a multitude of possible scenarios. I will try to break down the more common occurrences and what to do for each one.

Some tips for handling an injured pet:

Assume that they may try to bite or scratch you. Even the friendliest pet when hurt, scared or otherwise traumatized may act out of character.

So many times people try to assist an injured pet and wind up in the emergency room themselves. So above all, do not make a situation worse by getting yourself injured.

When coming upon an injured pet, take a look from a distance. Are they conscious, are they visibly bleeding? Are they struggling to breathe or move? Approach slowly; call their name if you know it. If need be now is the time to apply a muzzle to the dog or have a towel ready to place around their head to help restrain. Only move the animal at this point if you are in harms way. Otherwise take a moment to assess the situation.

Perform a gentle and quick examination. Look from head to toe for anything that looks amiss: bleeding, lacerations, broken bones.

Active bleeding: Apply pressure with gauze, towel anything clean that allows you to cover the bleeding area.

Hold steady pressure (no peeking) for 5 minutes. Then recheck. Many people want to apply tourniquets to limbs. Without proper training these often will cause more harm than good.

Lacerations: Wash area with water to remove obvious debris.

Do not explore the lacerations or puncture wounds with your fingers or any other objects. You may introduce material into the wound. Gently bandage if possible afterwards.

Fractures (broken bones): Depending on where the break is will dictate what you need to do.

Breaks of the big bones (femur [thigh bone] and humerus [upper arm bone]) are difficult to splint. The purpose of a splint is to limit the movement at the site of the break. Because these bones are close to the core body you frequently cannot immobilize that area. You are better off limiting the pet's entire movement and transporting to the veterinarian on or in a secure device (crate, box etc). This is especially true for cats.

Fractures of other bones (radius, lower arm bone or tibia lower leg bone) can be splinted or bandaged for travel. First thing is to make sure you know exactly what is broken, it can be deceiving. Then using rolled cotton, a towel or even newspaper you can wrap the limb (one joint above and one joint below) and secure with tape. If there are open wounds at the break site make sure they are covered with a clean non-sticky material. The splint or bandage should apply even pressure around the limb as much as possible. It is also important that the bandage not be too tight. It should be snug but not tight. Keeping two toes out will allow you to see if swelling is starting to occur. Swollen toes indicate that the bandage is probably too tight and needs to be removed.

CPR (Cardio pulmonary resuscitation) may be required In the event of serious injury. The success rate with CPR is often low but is worth the effort in an emergency situation.

First check your pet for a heartbeat. Place your hand or your ear to your animal's chest wall (left side preferably) just behind their front leg near the elbow. It is best to try this some time before your pet is injured so that you are comfortable with the



technique.

Checking for a pulse is another method to assess heart rate. Palpating for a pulse either at the femoral artery (inside the rear leg, up towards the body wall in the middle of the limb) or the carotid artery which is on the neck just to the side of midline.

If your pet does not have a heartbeat, check for breathing. Watch to see if the chest wall rises up and down.

Performing CPR Have your pet on a level surface.

Breathing Check the mouth (again carefully do not get bitten) for any obstructions. Close the pet's mouth and breathe directly into their nose. Watch to see the chest rise. If it does not rise recheck for any visible obstruction and try again. Once you can see the chest fall and rise you want to breathe for your pet one breath every 5 seconds or so.

Compressions Lay your pet down on their right side. One hand under the pet and your dominant hand on top of the chest behind the front arm. Push down approximately 1 inch for small to medium dogs and 2 inches for larger dogs. Compress the chest approximately 100 times per minute. Alternate breathing with compressions

#### Bloat (Gastric Dilatation/Volvulus)

Gastric dilatation/volvulus (bloat) is a disorder in which the stomach accumulates gas but is unable to pass it.

As the stomach distends with gas it puts pressure on the circulatory system as well as other structures in the abdomen.

In volvulus, the stomach 'twists' on its axis. It is a disorder more commonly seen in large breed, deep chested dogs. But do not forget that the dachshund and the basset hound are considered deep-chested breeds.

Signs of bloat: Abdominal distention, trying (usually unsuccessfully) to vomit, retching and pain.

What to do: The best course of action is to get to your veterinarian or emergency provider ASAP. This is truly an emergency. Call them ahead of time to prepare them (there are things they will want to get ready for your arrival) and for any specific instructions.

#### Choking

Signs of choking: Pawing at the mouth, blue coloration to the tongue, gums and lips and more likely than not a pet that is agitated and then possibly unconscious.

What to do: If your pet can breathe it might be best to get them to a veterinarian ASAP. If you are uncertain if your pet can or is breathing you must carefully, and I cannot stress the word carefully enough, examine your pet's mouth and oral cavity. If you can see a foreign object attempt to remove it. If you do not see anything you may take a sweep with your finger to see if you can feel something to remove.

Heimlich maneuver: You can place your hands on both sides of the pet's ribs. You want to administer quick firm pressure upwards. Otherwise you can lay your pet on its side and give a palm strike to their rib cage (3-4 times with an open hand). Repeat if needed.

#### Poisoning

There are many items around a house that can contribute to pet poisonings. Chocolate, grapes, raisins, xylitol products (gum, candy), antifreeze and rodenticides are all worth mentioning. Also remember when using flea and tick products to follow the directions closely. Many flea products safe for dogs can be lethal to a cat.



The best offense with poisonings is to limit your pet's access to them. Remember that rodenticides (rat poisons) are meant to lure an animal to eat them. Your dog or cat will be tempted as well. Many pet medications are now flavored tablets and meant to be tasty treat. These can pose a risk to your pet if they gain access to the container.

If you suspect your pet has been poisoned obtain as much information about the product as possible. Brand name, generic name, total amount in container, amount missing are some of the questions you will be asked.

I suggest contacting your veterinarian or pet poison control immediately to be guided in what to do next.

24-hour ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center hotline: 1-888-426-4435. There is a \$60 consultation fee for this service.

The ASPCA website at [www.asPCA.org/pet-care/poison-control/](http://www.asPCA.org/pet-care/poison-control/) also offers tips on toxic and non-toxic plants, snake bite safety/ prevention, and creating a poison-safe home.

I do not recommend inducing vomiting or giving any product after a suspected poisoning unless you have been instructed to do so by a veterinarian familiar with the case. Never induce vomiting if the pet is lethargic, seizing or unconscious. Also do not induce vomiting if they have ingested a caustic substance such as an acid or an alkali.

If you need to induce vomiting:

Hydrogen peroxide: 1 tsp per 5-10 lb of body weight given orally to induce vomiting.

Activated charcoal: 1 tablet per 2 tsp of water to dissolve. Then administer orally 1 tsp of the solution per 2lb of body weight.

I recommend doing this outside as charcoal will stain carpeting.

### Insect bites

Insect bites or stings are a common occurrence in the warmer months.

Signs your pet may have been bitten or stung: Acute crying or yelping with no visible reason.

Depending on where your pet was bitten, they may limp or have a swollen area on them.

What to do: Inspect the area. If you can see a stinger, try to remove it with tweezers. Cold compress the area for 5-10 minutes and repeat one half hour later if necessary.

Check with your veterinarian to see if your pet may take Benadryl®. The dose is usually 1mg per 1 lb of body weight given orally. Most tablets available over the counter are 25mg, but be certain to check your tablets size. Benadryl may be given every 8 – 12 hours as needed.

By:

Brenda J. Stevens, D.V.M.

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NC State University

College Of Veterinary Medicine.



# TRICUSPID VALVE DYSPLASIA

## Tricuspid Valve Dysplasia: An Overview

The tricuspid valve is a valve of the heart. It is located between the right atrium and the right ventricle. Normal blood flow travels from the right atrium into the right ventricle, over to the lungs to be oxygenated, back to the left atrium then into the left ventricle, and out to the rest of the body. The purpose of the tricuspid valve is to prevent the backflow of blood from the right ventricle to the right atrium. The valve consists of 3 irregular shaped flaps. During fetal development these flaps are attached to the septum. As the fetus matures these bonds, which hold the flaps open, degrade leading to a functioning valve which closes tightly when the right ventricle contracts. Failure of these bonds to degrade is commonly causes tricuspid valve dysplasia to occur. Valve dysplasia causes the heart to work less efficiently; this can lead to an enlargement of the right side of the heart and eventually congestive heart failure.

Any breed of dog may be affected by tricuspid valve dysplasia but there are certain breeds in which the condition is more prevalent. These breeds include the Labrador Retriever, German Shepherd, Borzoi, Great Dane, and Weimaraner.

## Causes of Tricuspid Valve Dysplasia

Tricuspid valve dysplasia is inherited meaning it is passed down from parent to offspring. It is not uncommon for there to be multiple puppies in a litter affected by this condition. The mode of inheritance has not yet been determined.

## Symptoms of Tricuspid Valve Dysplasia

As with most diseases, the symptoms of tricuspid valve dysplasia can vary depending on the severity of the condition. Some signs which may be seen are fluid retention (usually noticed as unexplained weight gain), cool extremities, and exercise intolerance. Commonly a heart murmur can be heard on the right side of the heart. Many dogs however, will exhibit no signs until congestive heart failure occurs.

## Diagnosing Tricuspid Valve Dysplasia

There are different ways in which tricuspid valve dysplasia can be diagnosed. One method is auscultation, or listening to the heart with a stethoscope. When this is done a heart murmur can usually be heard on the right side of the heart. Another method is a chest x-ray. The radiograph can show the size and shape of the heart which can indicate problems. The most definitive method of diagnosis is an echocardiogram. An echocardiogram is an ultrasound of the heart. A cardiac specialist can see in real time the blood flow of the heart and determine if tricuspid valve dysplasia is present.





## Treating Tricuspid Valve Dysplasia

There is currently no cure for tricuspid valve dysplasia. Treatment will depend on the severity of the case. In mild cases the heart can compensate and overcome the valve dysplasia and no treatment may be necessary. For more severe cases the prescribed treatment normally consists of managing the symptoms as they arise. This normally includes diuretics, which help remove excess water from the body, and digitalis, which strengthens the contractions of the heart. A low sodium diet and activity restrictions may also be prescribed by your veterinarian. Replacement of the tricuspid valve has not proven to be a good option based on the cost of the surgery and the rates at which the surgery is successful.

## Care for Dogs with Tricuspid Valve Dysplasia

When caring for a dog with tricuspid valve dysplasia it is important to remember that their heart must work harder than normal to supply blood to the body. This means that during exercise or playing you must know when to stop so you do not overwork the dog's heart. Any instructions given by your veterinarian should be followed strictly as this will keep your dog healthier longer.

## The AKC Canine Health Foundation and Tricuspid Valve Dysplasia

The AKC Canine Health Foundation is currently funding a grant focused on identifying the genetic mutation responsible for tricuspid valve dysplasia in the Labrador. If this gene is found it will be helpful not only to Labradors but to all breeds that have been known to have this condition.

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## AVAILABLE

Litter born Sept. 16th, 2013 out of Mar-Moye's Miss Lillie White by Banbury Vincent. Yellow female available.

Contact Linda Braun

[Jalin Labradors](#)

(931) 277-5393

My girl, "Lachlans Total Eclipse at Sourwood" (hips-good, elbows-normal, PRA-clear), was bred to "GRCH CH Hyspires Texas Hold Em" (hips-good, elbows-normal, PRA-clear, Heart-clear).

10 pups born Sept. 17th, 5 girls and 5 boys all black, at this time 5 boys and 1 girl are available.



Sylvia Gay

Sourwood Labradors

[www.sourwoodlabs.com](http://www.sourwoodlabs.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.

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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.

"Did you ever walk into a room and forget why you walked in? I think that's how dogs spend their lives." -- Sue Murphy

"In order to keep a true perspective of one's importance, everyone should have a dog that will worship him and a cat that will ignore him." -- Dereke Bruce

"Ever consider what they must think of us? I mean, here we come back from a grocery store with the most amazing haul -- chicken, pork, half a cow. They must think we're the greatest hunters on earth!" -- Anne Tyler

"My dog is worried about the economy because the food is up to 99 cents a can. That's almost \$7.00 in dog money." -- Joe Weinstein

