* AKC Re-Unite rolls out Disaster Relief
* New Federal Regs on Imports
* Hunte BEC Highlights!
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Protect Health

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- AKC Reunite Microchip Enrollment and lifetime pet recovery service
- Lifetime Live Phone Support from AKC Dog Trainers (AKC GoodDog! Helpline)
- AKC New Puppy Handbook
- AKC Family Dog magazine – 1 year subscription
- Complimentary first office visit at a veterinary practice listed with the AKC Veterinary Network
- Complimentary 60-Day Trial AKC Pet Healthcare Plan*

These features, purchased separately, are a $217.00 value. But this package is available to you at the heavily discounted price of $33.95.

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Please contact your Breeder Relations Representative if you have any questions or when you need more resource kits:
800-252-5545 PIN 80015; dogbreeders@akc.org

For more information on free microchips, contact Joyce at AKC Reunite: 800-252-7894; microchip@akcreunite.org.

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Hunte BEC Highlights!
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LEPTO
The Risk To Your Dog Is Greater Than You Think

Leptospirosis, also known as lepto, is an infectious disease of dogs and can be transmitted in many different ways. Some of the risk factors for this disease can be found in a dog’s own backyard. It’s important to recognize that this is a water-borne disease and dogs can catch it without coming in direct contact with other sick animals. Dogs can come in contact with lepto-contaminated water sources such as:

- ponds in a city park
- water hazards at a golf course
- puddles in a backyard or along a walking trail

The water becomes contaminated with lepto from urban wildlife reservoirs such as raccoons, opossums or skunks.

Clinical Signs of Lepto

Lepto is also a great impersonator of many other infectious diseases. The clinical signs of fever, lethargy, vomiting and diarrhea are not specific to lepto and can be seen with many other diseases. Although the clinical signs may be common to other less serious diseases, lepto is a serious problem and infections with this bacteria can cause severe liver and kidney damage. In some cases it can be fatal and because it is also a zoonotic disease, it can affect both humans and animals.

The Good News About Lepto

Vaccination can aid in protecting dogs from lepto. Solo-Jec® 9 and Solo-Jec® 10 are modern lepto vaccines that now include added protection against Lepto grippotyphosa and Lepto pomona which are the two most prevalent serovars found in positive tested dogs. These lepto serovars are in addition to Lepto canicola and Lepto icterohaemorrhagiae providing up-to-date lepto protection for dogs. These vaccines can be given to all breeds of dogs as young as 6 weeks of age.

In the past some dog owners have been fearful of reactions associated with vaccination and have refrained from using lepto vaccines. Solo-Jec® 9 and Solo-Jec® 10 are improved vaccines manufactured to reduce the amount of extraneous proteins which are believed to contribute to vaccination reactions.

Dogs Can Be Protected With a Good Vaccination Schedule

Start vaccinating puppies between 6 and 8 weeks of age. Repeat the vaccine at 9 to 11 weeks of age. Once a puppy is 12 to 14 weeks its activity increases and so does its risk factor for lepto, so vaccinate with a 4-way lepto such as Solo-Jec® 9 or Solo-Jec® 10. A final 4-way lepto vaccine should be administered between 15 and 17 weeks of age. If you did not have the puppy at an early age, then start the schedule at the appropriate age as shown on the chart below. Follow through with boosters until the puppy is at least 16 weeks of age. An adult dog (at least 4 months old) that has never received a 4-way lepto vaccine should be given an initial dose and a booster in 2 to 3 weeks. Annual vaccination is recommended for all dogs.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Essential Protection</th>
<th>For Coronavirus Protection</th>
<th>For Lepto Protection</th>
<th>For Coronavirus Protection + Lepto Protection</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6-8 weeks (1st shot)</td>
<td>Solo-Jec® 5</td>
<td>Solo-Jec® 6</td>
<td>Solo-Jec® 5</td>
<td>Solo-Jec® 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9-11 weeks (2nd shot)</td>
<td>Solo-Jec® 5</td>
<td>Solo-Jec® 6</td>
<td>Solo-Jec® 5</td>
<td>Solo-Jec® 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12-14 weeks (3rd shot)</td>
<td>Solo-Jec® 5</td>
<td>Solo-Jec® 6</td>
<td>Solo-Jec® 5</td>
<td>Solo-Jec® 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15-17 weeks (4th shot)</td>
<td>Solo-Jec® 5</td>
<td>Solo-Jec® 6</td>
<td>Solo-Jec® 5</td>
<td>Solo-Jec® 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual booster</td>
<td>Solo-Jec® 5</td>
<td>Solo-Jec® 6</td>
<td>Solo-Jec® 5</td>
<td>Solo-Jec® 10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

There is a myth that indoor dogs do not need to be vaccinated for lepto. While it is true that indoor cogs have less exposure to the outside elements, sooner or later all dogs end up outside. When they do, even if it is for a short period of time, there is a risk of exposure to infectious diseases. Keeping your dog healthy is every dog owner’s mission and vaccinating your pet against disease such as lepto is the way to achieve that goal.
ZEUTERING......

An exciting new product called Zeuterin™ was announced at the Western Veterinary Conference earlier this year. Zeuterin™ Injectable Solution is a Zinc Gluconate neutralized by Arginine that allows veterinarians to sterilize male dogs without using the castration method.

The procedure is considered non-invasive and utilizes a zinc-based active ingredient that is injected directly into each testicle. In FDA clinical trials, Zeuterin™ was found to be safe, effective and permanent. The typical recommended age to sterilize a dog is from 3 to 10 months. According to the manufacturer, the common adverse reactions were vomiting, loss of appetite and lethargy.

Chemical neutering is an alternative to traditional castration that requires no anesthesia or surgery. The low cost and speed of injection makes it ideal for use at shelters and vet clinics. The procedure is simple but training is required to ensure the product is used correctly and successfully.

The procedure of chemical neutering has been used in many other countries but has been met with resistance in the United States. It seems pet owners find the idea of inserting a small needle into the testicles as dangerous, painful and even inhumane. The needle used is very small and the procedure appears to be relatively painless.

According to the manufacturer (Ark Sciences Inc), the next step is to immediately begin delivering it to the more than 400 U.S. veterinarians trained and certified by the company to use it.

The Western Veterinary Conference meets every February in Las Vegas, Nevada. This meeting is a large continuing education meeting for thousands of veterinarians who attend the show to learn about new developments in veterinary medicine and to receive their continued education credits for state license maintenance. Manufacturers, drug representatives, pet food vendors and equipment vendors from around the world also attend this show to present and sell equipment. New products such as Zeuterin™ are frequently announced at WVC and similar shows.

Now a family of vaccines to meet the needs of every dog.

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Broad. Now includes protection against coronavirus, four types of leptospirosis, distemper, hepatitis, parvovirus, and parainfluenza. Solo-Jec® vaccines meet the needs of every dog.

Current. Most dogs with leptospirosis are infected by *Leptospira grippotyphosa* and *Leptospira pomona*. Solo-Jec® 9 and Solo-Jec® 10 now include protection against four types of leptospirosis including *grippotyphosa* and *pomona*.

Easy-to-Use. Protection for up to 10 diseases in 1 vaccine including coronavirus and 4 types of leptospirosis. All Solo-Jec® vaccines are packaged in a single dose bag with syringe.
AKC Reunite Rolling Out Help with AKC Pet Disaster Relief

To help save the lives of people and their pets and increase community preparedness, the American Kennel Club and AKC Reunite introduced AKC Pet Disaster Relief in September 2013. The AKC Pet Disaster Relief program donates trailers stocked with pet sheltering supplies to local emergency management organizations in need throughout the United States.

Since the program’s creation one year ago, more than 200 AKC clubs, pet organizations, individuals, and AKC Reunite, have collected over $700,000 to donate trailers across the country.

Emergency management teams in North Carolina, Tennessee, multiple Maryland counties, Kentucky, Oklahoma, Missouri and Colorado currently have AKC Pet Disaster Relief trailers at their disposal should any disaster happen.

Ten additional trailers will be headed to Georgia, Maryland, Tennessee, California, Ohio, Texas and Massachusetts in the coming months. The “Trailer Map” is always being updated – check it out for the latest donations: https://www.akcreunite.org/relief/trailermap/.

Recent Trailer Donations to Emergency Management Team in Oklahoma and Missouri

With the help of AKC clubs and local organizations like the Orthopedic Foundation for Animals and Onofrio Dog Shows, AKC Pet Disaster Relief recently rolled out two trailers in the Midwest to the Boone County Office of Emergency Management in Missouri and to McClain County Emergency Management/ McClain County Animal Response Team in Oklahoma.

Many of the same clubs that pitched in to donate the McClain County, Oklahoma trailer also volunteered after the devastating tornadoes that hit Moore, Oklahoma, donating money and delivering supplies like bowls, crates, leashes to pet sheltering sites. The AKC Pet Disaster Relief trailer provides a safe, effective pet sheltering solution to the community should something like the Moore tornadoes happen again.

For Boone County, Missouri, “the addition of this AKC Pet Disaster Relief Trailer is another tool that will help our emergency management team remain prepared both during and after a catastrophe,” said Martina Pounds, the Public Information Officer of Boone County Office of Emergency Management.

Once a disaster is declared, trailers can be deployed immediately, before FEMA support and services are available, to a planned location equipped to set up a temporary shelter for 65 or more pets alongside their owners during an emergency evacuation.

The trailers include crates, bowls, leashes, AKC Reunite microchips and scanners, cleaning supplies, lighting and a generator – bringing peace of mind to pet owners because they can now safely evacuate with their pets. Or, when a disaster strikes with no warning to plan for an evacuation, first responders have a place to secure displaced pets until their owners can be found, all without cost to taxpayers.

With AKC Pet Disaster Relief, pet owners will no longer need to put themselves in harm’s way or lose their pet during a disaster. To learn more, visit www.akcreunite.org/relief.
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Fatty Liver Syndrome

Any condition that is labeled a syndrome has multiple causes, and we usually do not know why it occurs in one kitten or puppy and not in another. However, this does not mean we do not know how to prevent it from happening!

Causes

Although there are multiple causes, there is a primary cause of the disease! Fatty liver syndrome is strongly related to anorexia, often occurring after a stressful event or illness. Anything that causes a lean puppy to go off food can cause mobilization of fat and the accumulation of fat inside the liver cells. Once the body mobilizes fat faster than the liver can process, the liver becomes stuffed with fat and can’t function. Fatty liver syndrome is the result.

Hypoglycemia is very common in small toy breeds and lean muscle breeds where the liver is small and muscle stores are limited. Yorkies and Maltsees are overrepresented with fatty liver syndrome, but all lean small breeds can develop fatty liver syndrome if they go off feed. Undersized kittens of any cat breed are at risk of fatty liver syndrome.

Clinical Signs and Diagnosis

Puppies and kittens are lethargic and slow to respond. As it progresses they may vomit, have mental dullness and drink lots of water. These babies are often weak and anemic.

Diagnosis is determined through liver biopsy or postmortem; neither is a good option. If your babies are off food, it’s worth your time to take steps to prevent fatty liver syndrome.

Treatment

Although there is no specific treatment for fatty liver, we can save them if we get the nutrition right!

Supportive Care

- If the cause is known, treating or removing that cause is important for success.
- Fatty liver babies usually drink lots of water when recovering. Give them “Puppy Gatorade” instead of water to correct their electrolyte balance and give them a small amount of energy. Works great in kittens as well! To make “Puppy Gatorade” add one 2.26 oz packet (both sides) of RE-SORB® to one gallon of water.
- Modify nutrition to a high energy, protein rich diet. This will prevent fasting hypoglycemia and resulting lipodystrophy. Tube feeding is helpful but begin with smaller amounts of high digestible food. All-meat baby food goes through an oral syringe and is easy to feed.
- Often the first feeding is 1 cc of “Puppy Gatorade” per pound (i.e. if the pet weighs 2 pounds, then the dose is 2 cc of “Puppy Gatorade”).
- Feed no more than 1 cc of all-meat baby food per pound every 30 minutes at first; then double the dose after six feedings and feed every two hours, working them into eating again.
- 1 cc of WEAN HELP three times a day improves digestion of food being given. Treatment is twice the labeled dose.
- By day three we want to get them eating — most are ready! By now they are usually developing an appetite. If they won’t eat baby food, try cat food. Try canned first, then move to dry kitten food between feedings. High fat, high protein in your puppy or kitten is key to recovery.

Prevention

The key to raising babies is to get them eating and keep them eating! Using high calorie, high protein diets like kitten food whenever they back off food is helpful. Supplementing WEAN HELP® to tiny babies during weaning can help with fat metabolism.

Fatty liver syndrome kills puppies and kittens that are off food for any reason. Correcting the cause and getting and keeping them digesting high calorie, high protein food is the cure!

- Dr. B
  Don Branlage, DVM, Director of Veterinary Services at Revival Animal Health

The materials, information and answers provided through this article are not intended to replace the medical advice or services of a qualified veterinarian or other pet health care professional. Consult your own veterinarian for answers to specific medical questions, including diagnosis, treatment, therapy or medical attention. Not to be used without permission of Revival Animal Health.

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Stop the stall

If you have ever experienced a litter that appeared to stop growing after you started the weaning process, you know about puppy stall. Puppy stall is frustrating because even though the puppy is healthy and continues to grow, it begins to look thin and unhealthy. It generally takes 4-5 weeks for puppies to catch back up. **WEAN HELP is the solution to this frustrating problem!**

- Reduces the risk of puppy stall, making weaning more successful
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INQUIRING MINDS WANT TO KNOW.......

Recently, the Kennel Spotlight was contacted by a state licensed breeder who was having some issues with their current veterinarian and had switched to a different vet service only to have their former veterinarian turn them into the Missouri Dept. of Ag for non-compliance of program of vet care before they had a chance to get a new form signed by their new veterinarian. This all happened within just a few days so ‘inquiring minds want to know’.....isn’t it the breeder’s responsibility to notify the state that they are switching veterinarians for their program of vet care and NOT the former veterinarian? And is this just a ‘one-time occurrence’ or is this an underlying problem that needs addressed? Send your comments and suggestions to: kathy@kennelspotlight.com.

Below is the Mo Dept of Ag’s Program of Veterinary Care for all ACA Licensees:

Missouri Department of Agriculture
Animal Care Program
Enhanced Program of Veterinary Care for ACFA Licensees/Applicants

PROGRAM OF VETERINARY CARE INSTRUCTIONS

Each licensee subject to the Animal Care Facilities Act is responsible for providing necessary veterinary care to all dogs covered under 273.345, RSMo and 2 CSR 30-9.202. “Necessary veterinary care” as defined by 273.345, RSMo means, at minimum, examination at least once yearly by a licensed veterinarian, prompt treatment of any serious illness or injury by a licensed veterinarian, and where needed, humane euthanasia by a licensed veterinarian using lawful techniques deemed acceptable by the American Veterinary Medical Association.

The attending veterinarian shall establish, maintain, and supervise a Program of Veterinary Care (POVC) for dogs covered under 273.345, RSMo and 2 CSR 30-9.202. The program shall include a veterinary examination at least once yearly by a licensed veterinarian, including, at minimum, “a complete physical evaluation from head to tail of a covered dog or cat to include auscultation, palpation, and a visual inspection in which the heart rate, respiratory rate, breeding soundness and the results of the palpation are assessed and recorded as indicated on the forms provided.” The veterinarian shall consult on vaccination schedules; protocols for disease control and prevention; pest and parasite control; nutrition; and euthanasia for all covered dogs on the premises of the licensee/kennel owner. The program should include regularly scheduled visits to the premises by the veterinarian to monitor animal health and husbandry practices to occur, at a minimum, once yearly.

This form shall be used for the POVC as required by 273.345, RSMo and 2 CSR 30-9.020. The properly completed POVC should be kept as part of licensee’s records and readily available for review by an animal welfare official. In addition, a copy of the properly completed POVC must be submitted to the Animal Care Program either by fax at (573) 526-2059, by email at acfa@mda.mo.gov or by mail to P.O. Box 630, Jefferson City, MO 65102. Each licensee needs a new POVC form every year, or upon changing of attending veterinarian, or upon any significant changes in protocols. This form shall be completed by the attending veterinarian, unless otherwise stated. If the space provided is not adequate for a specific topic, additional sheets may be added. The forms are available online at www.mda.mo.gov.

The POVC must be signed by both the licensee/applicant and the licensee’s attending veterinarian. For questions related to the POVC, contact the Animal Care Program at (573) 751-3076.

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WINTER WEATHER PREPARATION

Cold winter weather is fast approaching and being prepared can go a long way to ensuring your animal’s health and well-being. Preparation begins now by ensuring animals are not deprived of their basic necessities as the cold hits. These include warm shelter, water, food, and proper vaccinations.

Any dogs that may be outside during freezing conditions must have 24/7 access to water. Dehydration during winter is not only harmful in its own right, but also decreases the body’s immune system. This problem can easily be fixed by using heated bowls that keep water from freezing by simply plugging them in. Heated mats in kennels that are exposed to the elements can also make the conditions much more tolerable. These mats can also be used for puppies as heat regulation is of utmost concern to these newborns.

Vaccines, antibiotics, and related items should be stockpiled to ensure that no doses are missed and sick animals can be treated when diagnosed and not when antibiotics are received. Winter weather can keep the best of delivery people from arriving on time, and we shouldn’t run so low as to miss doses if a winter storm hits. Lambert Vet Supply has great relations with its vendors and dating is always checked to ensure the best possible. Adding Puppy Booster to all dogs’ water can significantly increase health in both puppies and adults, especially in winter months. This additive adds probiotics while having just enough sugars to encourage extra water consumption. Water consumption is of great importance to thwart dehydration and plays a key role in immune function.

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The most important thing to remember as the seasons change and temperatures dip is to be prepared. It takes a few minutes now to save hours and animals’ lives later. You can’t predict the weather, so plan ahead with our knowledgeable sales staff at Lambert Vet Supply.
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ALL THE PET FOOD BRANDS YOU LOVE
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Life pretty much went as normal for a Midwest farm family as Billie and Lucy and Jackie grew up and were looking toward college. Billie received several packages from Oklahoma State and Northeast Oklahoma and he considered them both but his interest was slowly turning to the United States Marine Corps. He had the summer to think about it and he took the whole summer to make up his mind. Dad was proud of him and Mom was hysterical. Dad did not want to influence him in any way. It was his life and he should live it in the way he chose. Mom reminded him that Vietnam was raging and that was where he would be sent and after what she went through birthing him and then raising him to manhood, she would be furious with him if he should happen to get himself killed. He enrolled in NEO in September and started to attend classes but the Marine recruiter was still pushing him to at least go to a few marine functions and see if he thought he might like being a marine. After a couple of months, the Marines won out. Billie’s dad had served in the army and he was very proud of his son for answering the call of duty.

With Billie gone a heavier work load was settled onto Jackie. He had to learn to drive the tractor and operate the machinery to do the field work required to operate a full time farm. He put in so many hours doing farm work that basketball took a back seat. After missing too many practice sessions, he finally just dropped off the team. Jackie and his dad decided to increase the milk cow herd to 100 cows and install grade A equipment so that Jackie could stay on the farm after he graduated from high school. Mom also started saving back female puppies to increase the kennel income. Jackie was showing no interest in college so after graduation he was working full time on the farm.

The Vietnam War was escalating and the draft was causing the exodus of many young men to seek out the opportunities available in Canada. Jackie and his parents both had to consider what they would do if Jackie was drafted. Mom and Dad could not possibly operate the farm at its current level if Jackie was called up. They decided to let things ride as they were until that dreaded draft notice came and then Jackie would answer the call to duty.

Jackie went to the kennel early one cold day to feed the dogs as his mother was busy helping his sister pick out a dress for her engagement party. Lucy had been dating a local boy and he had asked her to marry him. While Jackie was getting the feed cart ready, he heard a puppy whimpering. A new litter of Elkhounds had just been born and the heat lamp had burned out. Jackie found another bulb and screwed it in. He placed the puppies under the heat, but as he picked up the puppies, he discovered that one had its umbilical cord chewed too closely and was going to need a stitch. Mom was not home so he decided that he could do it. That was the day that Zero became his dog. As Zero grew stronger every day, Jackie would play with him by pulling him off the mother’s breast and listen to him growl. He could sound like a Rottweiler when he was mad. If another pup got his teat, that pup would be rutted out of the way as Zero went back to the business at hand. Possibly because Jackie spent more time on Zero than the other pups, it seemed Zero was becoming the dominate pup. By the time they were getting onto hard feed, Zero was claiming first choice at the feed bowl.

After 8 weeks, it was time for the puppies to go to the broker. Jackie loaded up the pups and took them to meet the broker at the point of pickup in southeast Kansas. There were several other breeders waiting for the buyer to check their pups over. Jackie was aware that the buyer turned down a pup every now and then. He wondered why this happened; they all looked the same to him. When it became Jackie’s turn he asked the buyer what he was looking for. The buyer told him that these pups would be going to pet shops in New York or Florida or maybe California, or anywhere else that wanted them for their customers. The puppies were checked for defects that would cause them to be shipped back to the broker; defects such as an overshot or undershot bite where the upper and lower teeth did not meet like a pair of scissors. He was also looking for hernias or loose knee joints. He had turned down the whole litter that was presented to him just before Jackie stepped up. He told Jackie that they had mange and they might infect other dogs if they were mixed together so the breeder had to take them home and dip them under a mange solution to kill the mites that were infecting them. There were many problems that required the buyer to reject the puppy. It was up to the buyer to find these problems or potential problems that might arise at a later date.

When the buyer saw the scar on Zero’s belly, he rejected him and Jackie had to bring him home. Neither Jackie nor Zero was particularly unhappy about this turn of events. They had bonded and this gave Jackie a good excuse to keep him. Every time Jackie went to the field, Zero went with him. He even learned to help with the cows. Though he was not nearly as good as a Border Collie, he learned enough to be helpful. He took to the field at Jackie’s command and rounded up those cows and headed them to the barn. He also kept the pigs at bay while Jackie filled their feeders. He killed rats every time he caught one in the feed room. He quickly learned that chickens were not there for his pleasure but barn cats were fair game. As far as doggie I.Q. goes, Zero scored genius. The boy and his dog had become an item in the county. You never see one without the other.
Chapter 4

The motors were thumping as the evacuation chopper drew near. Jackie realized that he had been daydreaming about happier times at home. Zero was standing erect and trembling with anticipation as the helicopter came into sight. He signaled for landing instructions and looked for a mark to set down.

One of the soldiers ran out to mark the spot and was immediately shot by the Viet Cong. Then all hell broke loose. The Vietnamese had been waiting for that chopper to return. One group of enemy was trying to down the chopper and the rest of them were heading back into the jungle searching for Jackie and his fellow soldiers. The chopper was leaving quickly while returning fire to keep the Viet Cong pinned down in order to help Jackie and the rest of the crew to make a safe retreat. Bullets were flying everywhere as they ran. Jackie fired his last two rounds as they ran. He never knew if they found their mark. He saw a comrade fall as he ducked behind a tree. Within a split second the tree had taken several hits and Jackie kept running.

As the chopper gained altitude, the V.C. realized that they had lost it so they concentrated on capturing the soldiers on the ground. They spread out to sweep the area with the purpose of either capturing or killing the Americans. They did not really care which they accomplished, so long as they removed the threat of enemy fire. Jackie dove into a ditch and squirmed under a tree but Zero kept running. The pursuing enemy soldier kept firing at Zero and chasing him deeper into the woods. When Zero heard the click of an empty chamber, he immediately turned and attacked the soldier. In seconds the cong soldier was on the ground with Zero at his throat. Jackie watched as the soldier pulled his knife but Zero let go of his throat to grab his knife hand. Jackie jumped up and ran to Zero’s aid. Before the Viet Cong could fully recover from the dog attack Jackie had buried his bayonet through the soldiers back. He was sick as he looked into the soldier’s eyes. The man knew he was dying and he knew Jackie was the one that had killed him.

Many thoughts ran through Jackie’s mind as he retrieved the rifle. While he knew that it was kill or be killed, he was still conscience stricken with the thought that he had just killed a man that was born and raised in Vietnam and had every right to be there while the Americans were trespassing on this man’s territory. This is not my fight. Why am I here killing the people who were trying to preserve a way of life that they thought was superior to what the Americans offered them? He thought of the old saying the drill sergeants pounded into them. “It’s not my place to reason why, it’s just my job to do or die”. He told himself to move it or die as he grabbed the rifle and all the ammo clips and ran deeper into the jungle. He heard more rifle fire as the firefight was still raging. He could hear his pursuers thrashing the jungle clumps of vegetation searching for more survivors. The captives were ordering their dogs to heel and stop threatening as the Viet Cong were simply killing the dogs. Jackie cussed a little and cried a little as he could see his comrades being led away under armed guards. He could not tell if there were any missing from a quarter of a mile away but he was sure some had been killed and he hoped some had escaped. There was only one thing to do now. Put as much distance behind him as possible.

They traveled all that day, sneaking from one clump of cover to another. He had no idea where safety was at this time. He just knew he was alone and on his own. He spotted Viet Cong patrols several times but Zero always gave him an early warning allowing him to go into hiding before the V.C. saw him. He was very uncertain as to whether he would ever get back to his unit in one piece. He wished this was just a movie, since the hero always got back safely in the movies.

After many hours the adrenalin wore down and fatigue set in. He found a secure spot and told Zero to watch for danger and then he slept. He had great faith in Zero. After all, they had both went thru K-9 combat training together. As he fell asleep, he prayed to God to see them through the night safely. Asking God for small favors had been a habit of his most of his life. As with most kids around the four-state area referred to as the 'bible belt', his relationship with God was just something he took for granted. He felt that God would protect him or that he would wake up in heaven. Either way was to his liking. He then dreamed of the combat school he had shared with Zero. To be continued......
DO YOU SEE WHAT I SEE?
By Dr. Carmen Battaglia

PROXIMITY, MOBILITY AND KNOW-HOW

INTRODUCTION

Those who judge know that faults and virtues vary in their degree of severity and in the frequency of their occurrence from dog to dog and from breed to breed. Because virtues and faults occur in all breeds the challenge is to recognize the average dog from the better and the best ones. Generally speaking, it all begins with knowing the breed standard, how to interpret it and being able to recognize what correct and incorrect structure looks like when standing and in motion. Since most dogs are nearly average in quality evaluating them requires an understanding of anatomy and the principles of good movement. Said another way, many faults and virtues can be seen by observing a dog standing but only in motion can other traits and faults be revealed.

JUDGES AND STATIONARIES

As a judge, I have learned that the essential elements of evaluation depend on several things. It begins with your proximity to the dog and where you stand throughout the judging. For example, when dogs are in motion, movement is often quicker than the eye can follow and in the confined space and limited time allowed in the show ring, even the educated can be misled. This means that traits can easily be missed. For example, dogs move in different ways at different speeds, therefore, what will be seen at a walk or trot is determined by where you are standing and what you look for during the side gait and the down and back exercise.

Those who are outside the ring have many of the same problems as a judge in the ring. The difference is that those outside the ring, for the most part, are less mobile. They sit in a chair or stand in one place throughout the judging. I call this group the “stationaries”. As a group they can be described as those who are likely to miss some of the more obvious problems of structure and movement. Most everyone can see poor movement because of its apparent awkwardness. Poor top lines, pounding, steep shoulders, cow hocks, elbows out, loose shoulders and the east-west fronts are a little more difficult and will be missed if the judge or person at ringside does not move into the right place.

This problem occurs for the “stationary” because they usually find one location and watch all of the judging from that spot. They are generally not mobile during the judging which causes them to miss seeing the down and back and some, or the entire, side gait. Only a few at ringside will see the individual examination, the down and back, and the side gait. Too often the stationary becomes one of the ringside critics.

Being close to each dog during the individual examination makes a difference when looking for breed type (silhouette, head, eyes, coat and color). If a judge elected to sit in a chair or stand in one location and officiate each class, the quality of evaluations would be unacceptable and no one would respect the final decision. In addition to location and proximity to the dog it is important to develop an educated eye, one that looks for dogs with fluidity, efficiency, balance and coordination. For the judge, the process is complicated by the time allowed and the fact that not all dogs move alike. Structural variations affect how they put their feet down. For example, the massive Bulldog with its low center of gravity and wide front does not move like the Wolfhound with its long legs and muscular body.

Interpreting breed standards is another issue. All standards discuss general appearance, body proportions, virtues, faults and special traits such as height to length, shoulders and croups. Some describe a breed as “square” which is taken to mean height at the highest point of the withers is equal to the length of the body from the shoulder point to the buttoks or rump. What can complicate seeing a “square” bodied dog or one that is “almost square” or “rectangular” is the color and markings on the body, neck and feet. They can influence appearance of height and length by creating an optical illusion. Markings can make a dog look taller, longer or shorter depending on where the colors, spots and patches are located. For this reason judges will walk around a dog and look at it from both sides.

Sometimes an overly square dog will crab or side-wind because they cannot get their front feet out of the way of their rear feet. This fault can be caused by a height to length problem and it explains why judges will sometimes ask the handler to take the dog down and back more than once.

We are fortunate in that all dogs have the same number of bones which are tied together by the same number of muscles, tendons and ligaments. Collectively they influence body shape, weight, size and proportions. While all the parts are vital to movement, the articulation
of the parts and the angulation at the shoulder and hip joints determines whether the structure is balanced. The term “angulation” refers mainly to the angles formed at the hip and shoulder joints, stifle and hock. A dog with good angulation and balance tends to have a smoother stride than a less angulated dog.

Angulation and balance affects the way dogs move at different speeds. When walking, three legs will be on the ground in order to support the dog as it moves forward. This can be seen as a regular sequence. Right front, left hind, left front, right hind and so on. As the speed increases, the sequence changes and the dog moves into a trot. As the dog’s gait smooths out, judges will look for foot timing, which is another element of movement. It refers to the coordination of the parts in the front and rear assemblies.

Foot timing can be evaluated during the side gait and during the down and back. One element of foot timing is good extension of the front feet, meaning they should extend and come out well under the muzzle. A trained eye will look for stiff and inflexible action of the front assembly, back and hocks which are common faults affecting foot timing. For example, as the speed increases from a walk to the trot, the feet of most dogs begin to reach toward a center line beneath the body. Both front and rear legs should appear to fall towards a straight line. This is called the tendency to single track. It is influenced by the height and length of body and leg. There are several breeds that, because of anatomy do not or cannot single track, such as the double tracking Corgi and four tracking Bulldog. But to a greater or lesser degree, the legs of all dogs should attempt to converge as speed increases in order to maintain balance.

Observing dogs in the ring can also be complicated by the restriction and limitations placed on a dog by the handlers with their lead. When a dog is strung up on a tight lead so that its feet barely touch the ground, movement cannot be evaluated. Another related problem is that sometimes handlers think that faster is better. Speed rarely improves movement and often times it only accentuates poor structure. Too frequently, through intent or lack of attention, a handler will unknowingly confuse a dog’s movement.

The “stationary” that is sitting or standing in one place throughout the judging generally will miss these elements and much of the judging. Even if they understand the principles of structure and movement, seeing elbows out, crabbing, cow hocks, lack of reach and foot timing are traits that cannot be seen from one place. As the judge sorts through the entry and begins to move the better dogs to the front of the class, the “stationary” might begin to question the rankings and final placements without realizing they did not see the individual exercises, the down and backs or all of the side gaits.

In order to see what a judge sees depends on what you know and if you were mobile during the judging. What gives the “stationary” comfort is that most of the observers at ringside can see poor movement because of its apparent awkwardness and lack of grace, but the more subtle differences between dogs will be missed, especially if they are distracted by others in conversation.

Who will see what I see? Well it all comes down to many things beyond knowing the standard and this leads me to ask the reader one final question. Are you a “stationary”? If you are, you will not see the virtues and faults of the dogs in competition and you will not see what I see.

About the Author

Carmen L. Battaglia holds a Ph.D. and Master’s Degree from Florida State University. An AKC judge, researcher and writer, he is a respected leader in promoting ways to breed better dogs. He is the author of many articles and several books and is a popular TV and radio talk show guest. His seminars on breeding dogs, selecting sires and choosing puppies have been well received by breed clubs all over the country. Those interested in learning more about his articles and seminars should visit the website: www.breedingbetterdogs.com.

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New Federal Regulations Protect Canine Health and Restrict the Age of Puppies Imported for Resale

The United States Department of Agriculture’s Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA APHIS) just recently released new regulations, effective November 17, that will restrict the importation of puppies younger than 6 months of age into the continental United States for the purpose of resale, research or veterinary treatment. The new regulations do not restrict individuals who wish to import dogs they intend to keep for personal use, such as a pet or as part of a breeding program.

The AKC is pleased about the finalization of these regulations, which implement an amendment to the 2008 Farm Bill (Pub. L. 110-246/7 U.S.C. 2148) supported and developed by the American Kennel Club and a number of other animal welfare groups. The rule addresses public health concerns about the large numbers of puppies that are imported with little oversight into the United States for the purpose of resale or adoption. The AKC supported and provided some remarks during the rule’s public comment in September - October 2011.

The rule is designed to assure the health and welfare of dogs that are imported into the US from overseas. In many cases, these animals come from unknown origins (strays or street dogs) or unregulated high volume commercial breeders and may pose health and temperament risks to both the human and canine populations they come into contact with. The measure is expected to curtail the “dumping” of puppies from unknown origins or substandard breeding facilities on US markets, where in many cases they may be marketed as “rescues”.

Strong enforcement of the Animal Welfare Act is supported by the American Kennel Club and other animal welfare organizations who recognize that that a large number of puppies are being bred overseas and imported into the United States in order to bypass the welfare regulations and standards required of U.S. breeders. In many cases, irresponsibly bred and undocumented foreign puppies end up at shelters, rescues or other informal or unregulated retail venues. Diseases borne by such animals can create public health risks for both animal and human populations.

What the Rule Does:

The new regulations allow for implementation of section 18 of the Animal Welfare Act (AWA), which “prohibits the importation of dogs into the United States for resale purposes, unless the Secretary determines that the dogs are in good health, have received all necessary vaccinations, and are at least 6 months of age.”

The regulations provide guidance needed by US Customs to prevent the continued “dumping” of unregulated foreign puppies for resale onto US markets. The underlying law (7 U.S.C. 2133) defines resale to include “any transfer of ownership or control of an imported dog of less than 6 months to another person, for more than de minimis consideration.”

The new rule further clarifies that USDA considers de minimis to have “the standard dictionary meaning, which, according to Merriam-Webster is, ‘lacking significance or importance; so minor as to merit disregard.’” In most cases, adoption fees would not be considered de minimis; hence there is not a specific exemption for rescue dogs.

Similarly, the rule also clarifies that “consideration” means, “the inducement to a contract or other legal transaction; specifically: An Act or forbearance or the promise thereof done or given by one party in return for the act or promise of another.”

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The rule does not consider that dogs imported for training as working or service dogs to be imported for the purposes of resale. Therefore, the rule will not apply to the importation of those types of dogs.APHIS recognizes that not all dogs that are imported for training purposes ultimately achieve their final training goals, and some may be subsequently transferred. However, APHIS also warns that if puppies are imported for working, personal use or other exempted categories, and “it appears that a person is importing dogs for resale, research or veterinary treatment without meeting the requirements of the rule, [APHIS] may initiate an investigation and take appropriate action based on the results of that investigation.”

The new regulations do not restrict individuals who wish to import dogs they intend to keep for personal use, such as a pet or as part of a breeding program. The U.S. Centers for Diseases Control (CDC) govern importation of dog imported into the U.S. Although the CDC does not require general health certificates for pet dogs, many airlines, transporters and states do will require this information. Pets are also subject to inspection upon entry and dogs that do not have rabies certificates may be required to complete a period of confinement, demonstrate proof of rabies immunization, or obtain a rabies vaccination prior to or upon arrival. For more information about importing a pet visit the US Centers for Disease Control website.

AKC Government Relations will continue to provide information and guidance regarding the implementation and impacts of this new rule.
EX-ASPCA CEO DISOWNS ASPCA “Puppy Mill” Campaign

We announced our skepticism recently over the appointment of Ed Sayres, former CEO of the ASPCA, as head of the Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council (PIJAC), the pet industry’s trade group. Notably, Sayres’ tenure at ASPCA and his statements about pet breeding were cause for concern. Given that the PIJAC board’s vote was 9-7 to offer him the job, there was a bit of concern among members of the industry, as well. Sayres has issued an “open letter” stating the following, in part:

The current [pet store] retail bans generate theatrics, but not solutions, about how many can enjoy the benefits of dog ownership. If regulations are too stringent, they will drive breeding to the unregulated underground. If they are too lax, they will allow substandard operators to stay in business. I believe my professional experience makes me well qualified to lead the discussions around these issues and find common ground. [...] 

In retrospect, given the nature of the ASPCA’s mission, I had a rather limited view during my tenure as the organization’s CEO, responding in the field to horrific substandard operators who represent a small minority of breeders—not the majority. My view in light of those circumstances formed the basis for the statements I made during that period and campaigns that were developed under my leadership. I know now that I was misinformed about the majority of breeders who work diligently to raise puppies humanely and to find lifetime homes through retail channels. While many in the animal welfare field still want to paint all breeders with the same low standards brush, I look forward to opening their eyes to the true nature of the breeding business.

That’s a very telling comment. Sayres says the ASPCA campaign overstated the problem. (Probably for PR and fundraising purposes, we’d wager.) No doubt, he would have the same words for HSUS’s campaign.

Meanwhile, Bob Baker, formerly an ASPCA investigator and HSUS employee, is lashing out, calling Sayres a “fake animal welfare person” who wasn’t respected in the animal rights movement. Baker was a proponent of “Prop B” in Missouri in 2010, which sought to increase restrictions on dog breeders. It’s an entirely predictable reaction from the animal rights community.

Sayres has a choice. He’s not going to please the animal rights campaigners, who want to put the pet industry out of business and who Sayres now says operate with a skewed version of the facts.

If Sayres wants to be a good leader for the pet industry, then he has to prove himself and be proactive. If he is truly a convert then it will be obvious from his agenda, which should be shared with the industry. Goals will be a start but not enough to be convincing. Founders of both Greenpeace and MADD eventually broke with their organizations and have actively spoken out against their former organization agendas. Sayres has the same opportunity to lobby aggressively against HSUS and ASPCA and make his views known that they aren’t telling the full story. In particular, he also has to work to reverse the retail bans that have taken effect in some localities—not simply stop new bans.

Sayres has an “insider’s” perspective on animal-rights campaigns and could use it effectively, if he chooses to. We’ll be watching to see if he does. As Ronald Reagan said, “Trust, but verify.”

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A couple pics from the recent Hunte Corp. BEC!

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On Friday, we started at the beginning with the topic “Whelping Management.” Leading the list of BEC distinguished speakers was Dawn L. Voelkl, DVM, Dipl ACT, of the University of Missouri’s College of Veterinary Medicine, who presented her expert knowledge with clarity and authority. Later that day, world-renowned breeder, researcher and author Dr. Carmen Battaglia gave the first of two seminars on “Breeding Better Dogs.” Dr. Battaglia’s wealth of knowledge is always a tremendous draw and this year was no different.

After a delicious lunch provided by The Heartland Chapter of the MPBA, attendees learned about regulations affecting Internet puppy sales and imports, as well as federal licensing and inspections issues from USDA/APHIS-AC’s Western Regional Director Robert Gibbons, DVM. The information-packed afternoon continued with a seminar on “Selecting Healthy Parents to Produce Healthy Puppies” by Jerold S Bell, DVM from Tufts Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine. Wrapping up for the day was Mr. Bob Yarnell, Jr., President of the American Canine Association. Mr. Yarnell provided valuable insight to the pet retail legislative bans and efforts spreading across the country, arming breeders with a clear understanding of how USDA inspection reports are being reviewed by the general public and presented to legislators promoting bans and restrictions to our industry. Breeders were encouraged to engage and provided with ideas on how to fight back.
On Saturday morning, Marsha Kelly, of MSK Ventures, Inc., delivered her presentation “Animal Rights Issue Management 101,” an enlightening short course on combating the radical adversaries opposing our industry by excelling at animal care. Shortly thereafter, Kelly also served before a packed house as the moderator for a question and answer session with Mr. Ed Sayres, the newly named President & CEO of PIJAC. Mr. Sayres’ history as the former leader of the ASPCA, and many years working in rescue and “no-kill” activities, had given some breeders and others in the industry cause for alarm. Mr. Sayres began with a detailed explanation of his career. He patiently explained his past activities and the background behind a variety of actions, including those targeting our industry.

Sayres also described his reasons for leaving the ASPCA and ultimately accepting the PIJAC position. To an attentive, courteous and standing room audience in the Hunte Learning Center, Mr. Sayres engaged every question put forward, answering with a straight-forward resolve, clearly explaining his past while sharing his goals and vision for the future of PIJAC. Stacy Mason of the American Kennel Club then put the final touches on a most informative day of speakers with her presentation “Health Testing Today’s Dog for Tomorrow’s Puppies.” It was well received by an extremely interested and receptive audience of breeders obviously motivated to make the most of every second here at the BEC.

As the conference was coming to a close, the still energized crowd gathered for the exciting business of the kennel make-over and other prizes. Over 40 breeders walked away with prizes at this year’s BEC. Two won $2,500 kennel makeovers and five more lucky breeders in attendance were awarded $1,000 kennel makeovers. Several more in the crowd were called to the techno-style main stage for a vacation package from Petex, a whelping box, a “KC colored” dog house, and lots of other custom built kennel products from the HunteKennels.com team. In addition to the prizes from The Hunte Corporation, the small army of BEC vendors also made generous prize donations that created an atmosphere of excitement throughout this year’s conference.

At the end of this conference, Andrew Hunte gave his closing remarks. Backed by the multicolored light-show of the main stage, Andrew’s thoughtful words were not only focused on thanking all the attending breeders, but also the many vendors, especially the BEC featured sponsors, AKC and Zoetis. Mr. Hunte wanted the crowd to know that providing priceless knowledge from the nation’s leading experts has been the singular goal of the BEC for the past 15 years. His final closing comments summed up the theme “Knowledge Is Power” by expressing his sincere hope that everyone in attendance came away with information empowering them to make positive changes for continual improvement, not only for themselves individually and collectively as a breeding community, but also for the world to see the truth about the great work breeders do for this industry we all love.
This relic, a Lassie-themed dog-training play kit, was preserved by animal behaviorist Mary Burch (AKC’s Canine Good Citizen and S.T.A.R. Puppy Director), who was gifted the game as a child. Its contents, complete with tiny agility equipment, was to be used for training a 6-inch tall plastic Lassie.

In the box is a booklet on how to train your dog. It was written in the 1950s by Rudd Weatherwax, Lassie’s trainer. Because positive reinforcement training didn’t become popular until many years later, we expected a heavy dose of advice about the need for corrections in training. We were surprised to see that while there were certainly trainers at that time giving out correction-based advice, Weatherwax’s advice isn’t all that different from the positive reinforcement methods we promote on WOOFipedia. Here are 10 training techniques of yesteryear:

1. Train on a regular schedule.

2. Keep training sessions short—not over 15 minutes.

3. Have one person teach the dog initially; gradually involve other family members.

4. Work in quiet, non-distracting surroundings.

5. Be consistent (same tone, etc.) when giving the dog commands (such as “sit”).

6. Encourage your dog when he performs correctly by petting him, speaking in a friendly tone, and rewarding him with a tidbit.

7. Don’t rush training, have patience.

8. Teach one trick or skill at a time. As you teach new ones, review what the dog has already learned.

9. If your dog is not feeling well or is out of sorts, give him a vacation from training.

10. Never shout at or strike your dog. Your patience, understanding and kindness will be rewarded.

For details on events your dog can participate in, including Canine Good Citizen and S.T.A.R. Puppy training, check out the AKC Canine Good Citizen program.

See more at: http://www.woofipedia.com/articles/training-tips-from-the-1950s?

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The Conduct of the Humane Society of the United States following Hurricane Sandy could be called unscrupulous—and that’s putting it lightly. HSUS raised over $2 million around the storm, but spent only one-third of that on Sandy relief. We know thanks to the New York Attorney General holding charities’ feet to the fire and requiring them to make public accounting of how they raised and spent money.

Thanks to the results of an open-records request, we now know even more about HSUS’s conduct after the disaster.

First, HSUS lays out how it spent money. Among its “relief” spending? Over $10,000 in professional photographer fees. That’s a lot of money spent simply taking photos. If a photographer costs $1,000 a day (a reasonable estimate), then that’s two weeks of photography.

HSUS also shot a lot of video if you watched any of its follow-up marketing pieces, but that was apparently classified as staff time.

Perhaps that’s no surprise. HSUS CEO Wayne Pacelle went up to the disaster area, and you can bet that he wanted every last shot of him hauling a pet carrier. After all, here’s a $400,000-a-year CEO who thinks so highly of himself that he went on a 100-city book tour for his first book. (Reportedly, he has another in the works.)

Second, HSUS tries to preempt criticism that it only spent one-third of the money it raised on Sandy relief by stating that it raised money for its disaster relief team generally but doesn’t raise money for specific incidents. HSUS says if donors earmarked the money themselves specifically for Sandy relief, then that was honored. Otherwise, the money went into a big pot for future “disaster relief” (and future photography).

But here’s the catch: HSUS then says it didn’t allow online donors the option of earmarking their donation for Hurricane Sandy.

There’s a word for that: Sleazy. And that word describes a lot of things about a group that recently settled a federal racketeering lawsuit, had its charity rating pulled by Charity Navigator, and is under investigation by a state attorney general. www.humanewatch.org
My name is Jim. I want to tell you about my horse. She is the best horse that was ever put on this earth. Why? Because she’s my horse, that’s why. Well, my dad said she was my horse whenever he didn’t need her. He would give her to me if I was willing to share her.

I am 10 years old and the year is 1945. I never owned a horse before. I spent summers with my uncle on his farm and he let me ride on the back of his blind work horse when he worked him in the fields. I was in blissful heaven whenever I got to ride on his horse. I begged for a pony all year but we lived in a big eastern city in a blue collar neighborhood. Ponies were not allowed. As soon as school was out I begged to go to the farm. My parents usually allowed me to do anything I wanted to do if it wasn’t dangerous or an imposition on somebody else. My uncle used to babysit me when he came to the city to look for work. Work was almost non-existent in 1937 & 1938 so he would watch me while my parents looked for work. He was not married at the time and he thought of me as his own.

After two or three years, he returned to the mountains of West Virginia and bought an old hill farm to live out his life. He married my aunt Mary and her kids were all grown, so they both looked forward to my visits. Besides me and Aunt Mary, all he had to love was his old hound dog, Bugle Ann. You all remember her, the West Virginia, could-a-been, should-a-been state champion fox hound.

My horse was named Betty. She was a light dapple grey and the most beautiful horse in the world. Why? I just told you why, because she is my horse, that’s why! Dad came home from work one day and told my mother that he had just bought a farm out in the country. He had been hunting on a creek that crossed this farm.

When the farmer came out to see why he was there without permission, dad told him that people were not expected to ask for permission to hunt in West Virginia. The farmer then informed him that he was not in West Virginia. If he thought he could trespass on a man’s place whenever he took a notion, then he should just buy his own place. Dad informed him that he had been thinking about it and the next thing dad knew, the old man was selling the farm to him.

The old farmer was 77 years old and it was time that he quit working like a dog for peanuts and he was tired of running hunters off his farm. After they dickered for about 10 minutes, dad owned the place.

In those days a handshake and a man’s word were sufficient to close a deal. Dad told the farmer he would be down next weekend with the cash. The deal included all the livestock and machinery on the farm. When mom asked him how much livestock and machinery were included, Dad had not inventoried it so he didn’t know. He simply told mom, “all of it”.

When we got there, we found out that we now owned a 146 acre farm with a four bedroom house, a huge two story barn, five outbuildings and a little three hole building with a half moon cut in the door out back of the house. We had no electricity or gas and the only running water was in the creek about 1000 yards away. We got six cows and two hogs and one hundred chickens with the deal, but what set my heart to thumping were the five horses in the barn lot. I was in heaven until I noticed mom. She was looking somewhat dismayed trying to figure out where she could plug in her washing machine and her vacuum sweeper. Dad told her not to worry; they would simply ask the electric company to turn on the electricity. After all, what can you expect for forty six hundred dollars?

Dad needed an ally to back him up, so he told me to go down to the barn lot and pick out which horse I wanted to be mine. It was an easy decision. Major was a big three year old grey with feet as big as plates, Kit was a grey mare almost as big as Major and Pat was a
bay horse bigger than any of the others. Fred and Betty was a matched pair for size but Fred was a bay and my uncle’s old blind horse was a grey. I loved that old horse so I was just naturally attracted to the grey. I picked the right horse because she would go on to make me proud when she won the county 4-H race at the county fair. She also won the first place ribbon for being the best looking horse in the show.

We moved to the farm in April of that year and dad hit the ground running. He had to start plowing the fields walking behind a team of horses. We had a riding two-bottom plow, but it took all three of the big horses to pull it. Dad was not very experienced in working a three horse team and it was not long before he was walking behind the one bottom plow being pulled by Fred and Betty. After a day in the field he then had to milk six cows by hand. It was not long before he started teaching me to milk. I was not very good at it but I could usually get one done and the second done before I gave out.

I fed the chickens and the hogs and gathered the eggs and put out the hay for the cows and the horses, plus dad had bought me 300 rabbits to feed and take care of. It did not take me long to realize that there was a lot of hard work in my little heaven on earth, but as long as I had Betty to ride whenever I wanted I was still happy. I think I told you, she was the best horse in the world. When she was in the pasture, all I had to do was call and she came running. She loved me and the small ear of corn I always gave her. I always rode her bareback because I did not own a saddle. I tied a string to her halter to tell her which way to go. Fred was just as gentle as and maybe a little more intelligent than Betty. Dad used him to grind wheat or sorghum or to pull hay into the loft with the hay hooks. Fred seemed to understand everything you showed him and did it perfect after the first time.

Dad went into town to see about getting electricity brought to the house. He found out that it was scheduled to be brought up our valley in about 15 months but it would be at least two years before it was completed. This news did not set well with mom. She put out a one acre garden plus a half acre of sweet corn and a half acre of potatoes. My job was to keep the weeds out and pick the potato bugs off the plants.

Sometimes I wished I had a brother to help with the chores but then I would have to share my horse with him. In spite of all the work I had to do, that summer was the happiest of my childhood. School started in September. I had never ridden on a school bus before. I had to get the cows from the pasture to the barn before the bus came and then ride the bus for an hour before I got to school. I was up long before daylight so I could go after the cows at the crack of dawn. I tried to sleep on the bus but I was the new kid so it was fun for the other kids to pester me. Besides, I was the smallest kid in my class. I used to think they fed those farm kids awful good to grow them that big.

When the teacher asked me why I did not have my homework done I preceded to tell her of all the chores I had to do and I couldn’t get them all done before dark. We did not have any electricity and I could not see to do homework with a coal oil lamp. I then learned all about Abraham Lincoln. I think he became president because of a coal oil lamp.

I was in the fifth grade in a four room school house. Nobody had ever heard of kindergarten or preschool in 1945. The school was divided into four rooms with two grades per room. My uncle told me I was lucky, in West Virginia they had eight grades in one room. Sometimes I would be slow to get ready and I would miss the bus. When that happened I rode my horse to school. I usually beat the bus there because I could take the back roads and stay off the main highways. The only stipulation that I had to agree to was cleaning up the ball field when Betty left her deposits behind. I piled them at the edge of the woods and at recess, all the kids would have horse turd fights. When the snow was on, we would put one inside a snowball and throw it at the other kids. The teachers would laugh and look the other way.

The 4-H club always met on the last day of the month at the school. Every kid had to have a project or an animal to show. The Hocking county fair was in Logan, Ohio, about five miles from our school. Hocking county had six schools which taught grades one through eight; then we would have to go to Logan from grades nine through twelve. We didn’t have horse trailers so we all had to ride our horses into the fairgrounds for the races. Dad always worked Betty in harness except for race day. On that day all she had to do was walk the five miles into town. Dad said that those other horses were so soft that the walk into town wore them out. All I know was Betty always crossed the finish line first. She also won the blue ribbon as the best looking horse in the show.

I learned one of life’s most important lessons from my horse, Betty. You work hard all day, do not expect too many luxuries, keep your nose pointed toward the finish line, and you will win the race. Then if you win the race, flaunt your prize in front of the girls and they will vote your horse the most beautiful horse in the show. Then you win the beauty trophy. Then you take both trophies home and put them on display and try not to brag until you become obnoxious. My family got tired of me telling and re-telling the stories about my horse. My horse shaped my life from lessons I have learned from her.

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