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Adenovirus types 1 and 2  
Bordetella bronchiseptica  
Coronavirus  
Distemper  
Leptospira canicola  
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The Kennel Spotlight Magazine
Publisher
Bob Hughes (417) 652-7540
bob@swaauction.com
Editor in Chief
Jim Hughes (417) 455-2230
jshughes1@sbcglobal.com
Editor/Ad Sales
Kathy Bettes (417) 652-7540
kathy@kennelspotlight.com
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HumaneWatch.org
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Jim Hughes

Check out the Calendar of Events on page 38 for the Upcoming Breeder Shows!
From Neosho, Missouri:
Dr. Kenton Beard of Midway Veterinary Clinic of Neosho, MO., donates 4 Pet Oxygen Mask’s to The Neosho Fire Department. Each kit is designed for the local fire department to be able to treat small, medium and large pets of all kinds that may need treatment due to smoke inhalation. We also would like to THANK the Neosho Fire Department for their Service and Dedication!!

NEWS from the NORTH! (NEMO)

Northeast Missouri Pet Professionals (NEMO) is proud to welcome the Northwest Chapter into our organization! Welcome All! The Northwest Chapter of NEMO will be holding monthly meetings on the 3rd Wednesday of each month, at the Mexican Restaurant in Gallatin, Missouri.

Meetings will commence with dinner at 6:00 pm and the educational and business section of the meeting will start at 7:00 pm.

As always, the East Group of NEMO continues to hold monthly educational meetings on the 3rd Thursday of each month, at King's Buffet in Kirksville, Missouri. Dinner at 6pm, program at 7pm.

NEMO would also like to congratulate and welcome our 2016 Board of Officers!

President: Brenda Johnson
Vice-President: Theckla Triplett
Secretary: Betty Fetter
Treasurer: Phil Hoover
Directors: Karen Highland and Ron Miller

If you would like to associate with other professional breeders, gain education, take control of your future and improve your business, please join us at one of the above locations. All are WELCOME!

Please help support OUR ADVERTISERS!
Without them, this publication would not be possible!
Let them know how much you enjoy the Kennel Spotlight so that we may continue to bring you this Educational Magazine!
BIG DOG DELIGHT

For dogs with hearty appetites!

2 medium Yams
3 cups cooked brown Rice (natural, unprocessed)
1 ½ pounds Beef Liver (or Chicken Liver)
1 ½ pounds Pork shoulder blade steak (fat & bone removed)

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees F.
2. Wash and dry the Yams. Using a fork, stab each Yam twice to produce two series of holes. Place in the oven and bake for 40 minutes, or until a fork can easily slide through the Yam.
3. In a skillet, brown the Liver on both sides. Cook until done but not overy done. It's okay if the center is a little pink. Set aside.
4. Place a little oil in a frying pan and brown the Pork shoulder blade steak on both sides. Cook until done. The center should not have any hint of pink.
5. In a food processor, combine all ingredients in three batches, using 2 parts meat to 1 part Yam and 1 part Rice. Blend until the mix has achieved a putty consistent.
6. Pat the mixture into hamburger-size patties—about 3 or 4 tablespoons per patty.
7. Place patties in resealable plastic bags or storage containers.
8. Freeze portions intended for consumption later in the week. Store servings for today and tomorrow in the refrigerator.

MUNCHIE MUTT MEATBALLS

A super treat or dinner snack!

1/2 pound ground Beef
1/3 cup grated Cheddar Cheese
1 Carrot
1/2 cup Bread Crumbs
1 Egg, whisked
1 teaspoon Garlic Powder
1 teaspoon Tomato Paste

1. Preheat the oven to 350 degrees F.
2. Combine all ingredients in a medium-sized bowl.
3. Scoop out by the spoonful and roll into mini-size Meatballs.
4. Place the Meatballs on a cookie sheet sprayed with nonfat cooking spray.
5. Bake for 15-20 minutes.
6. Cool and store in the refrigerator in a container with a lid.
WATER SOLUBLE VITAMINS-VITAMIN C, BIOTIN AND VITAMIN B COMPLEX

According to Stedman's Medical Dictionary, a vitamin is "one of a group of organic substances, present in minute amounts in natural foodstuffs, that are essential to normal metabolism." As defined, vitamins are present in very small quantities in most foods and it is this fact that leads to the manufacture of vitamin supplements for dogs and cats and people. Not only are vitamins naturally present in only small amounts, they are also essential for life.

The importance of vitamins has been known for only a short time, however their actual effects were demonstrated long ago. Around 400 B.C., the father of modern medicine, Hippocrates, first advocated using liver to cure night blindness. We now know that the essential component of the liver was vitamin A and it was the lack of vitamin A that caused the night blindness. Beriberi, the once feared paralytic disease of humans, was found to curable by feeding unpolished rice. It is now known that the unpolished rice was rich in the vitamin B1-thiamine. Low thiamine levels were the real cause of Beriberi and a simple diet change could cure the paralysis.

The primary vitamins are normally identified as vitamin A, D, E, K, C and B complex. Of these A, D, E and K are the fat soluble vitamins. Vitamin C and B complex are water-soluble. The fat-soluble vitamins are commonly stored in fat storage cells called Lipocytes, whereas the water-soluble vitamins are not stored within the body except in small amounts. It is for this reason that the fat-soluble vitamins pose the biggest threat if over-supplemented. They are stored and build up within the body.

The body tissues do not readily store water-soluble vitamins and when fed in excess, they are easily eliminated from the body via the urine. Because they do not accumulate within the tissues, there is minimal risk of toxic effects. In fact, we are not aware of a single toxicity case ever having been documented in either dogs or cats. All of the water-soluble vitamins, just as the fat-soluble ones, are inherently important for life. The lack of adequate amounts of vitamins has been well described in both pets and people.

We will outline the water-soluble vitamins: Vitamin C and B complex. Of the Vitamin B complex we will discuss Thiamin, Niacin, Riboflavin, Pantothenic acid, Pyridoxine, Folic acid, B12 and Biotin.

Vitamin C

Vitamin C has long been considered the cure for the common cold in humans. In pets, it has been thought to prevent hip dysplasia, cure feline leukemia, and prevent urinary tract infections. We doubt that its use will prevent a dog that genetically carries the trait of hip dysplasia from developing this condition. However, we have worked with several animals that had clinical hip dysplasia, that were given high levels of vitamin C, seemed to exhibit fewer signs of joint pain. It did not cure the condition but it did seem to allow the patient to better live with the problem. In the case of bladder infections, as in human medicine, we believe that vitamin C is unusual in that it is excreted unchanged totally via the kidneys, and it therefore acidifies the urine. This makes the bladder a much less hospitable place for bacteria to live. Most of the bacteria that cause Cystitis (bladder infection) survive much better in environments that have an alkaline pH. Therefore, by acidifying the urine with vitamin C, these organisms are often eliminated. This is the reason many women are told to drink large quantities of cranberry juice by their doctors when they have Cystitis.

As far as its use in viral diseases like the common cold or feline leukemia, in all honesty, there is little evidence of its value. At the same time we would readily admit that vitamin C can do no harm when used. As we stated, it is excreted unchanged via the urine.

Forms of Vitamin C: We know that vitamin C exists in two forms: as dehydroascorbic acid and as ascorbic acid. Ascorbic acid is easily hydrolyzed (mixed with water) and therefore it is readily absorbed through the intestinal wall. Likewise, it easily enters the urine to exit the body. Very little is stored within the body and the minute amount that is, is contained within the adrenal gland. Ascorbic acid can be fed or it can be manufactured within the body from glucose. Unlike dogs and cats, guinea pigs and humans cannot manufacture vitamin C so their only source is in their diet.

Therapeutic Uses: Ascorbic acid plays many important functions in bone formation. It is involved in bone growth as well as bone mineralization. Deficiencies of ascorbic acid result in the syndrome known as Scurvy. Dogs with Scurvy exhibit weak bones and swollen joints usually accompanied by severs tissue hemorrhaging. Scurvy has not been reported in cats. In young dogs, Scurvy sometimes referred to as Hypertrophic Osteodystrophy (HOD). Dogs with HOD generally exhibit swollen, painful joints especially the limbs. The swollen areas are the portions of the long bones that are growing. We might add here that a lack of vitamin C is one only factor in HOD.

There are other causes of HOD that are unrelated to a vitamin C deficiency. A puppy may have HOD, but have perfectly adequate amounts of vitamin C. With this in mind, it is easily explained that only some patients with HOD will respond to vitamin C therapy. Vitamin C is definitely justified as a supplement, especially in fast-growing puppies and in lactating bitches. It is not, however, a cure of...

Hip Dysplasia. Hip Dysplasia is a genetic conformational abnormality and vitamin C cannot alter genetics. It may help alleviate the pain associated with dysplastic hips, but hip dysplasia is genetic and not nutritional. Whether the dog is in pain or not, or whether vitamin C does or doesn't help, the dog is still dysplastic and should be treated as such.

Vitamin C has been used with varying degrees of success in helping prevent the formation of some bladder stones in dogs and cats. The vitamin C makes the urine more acidic and maintaining an acid urine helps discourage the

Continued on page 10
creation of most stone types. In conclusion, vitamin C is widely used as a supplement in growing, pregnant, lactating, stressed, and working pets. There are numerous vitamin C supplements available. There is no concern for vitamin C toxicity.

**Vitamin B Complex**

Vitamin B complex consists of a multitude of B vitamins. We will detail Thiamine, Niacin, Riboflavin, Pantothenic acid, Pyridoxine, Folic acid, B12, and Biotin. All are B vitamins and together form the water-soluble vitamin B complex. Toxicities from B vitamins generally pose no concern so we will mainly discuss their functions and the conditions that may result from deficiencies.

**Thiamin:** Thiamine, or Vitamin B1, was the very first watersoluble vitamin to be identified. It is required for the normal function of muscles and nerves because it converts glucose to energy.

Thiamin is found in plants, vegetables, fruits, milk, fish and other meats. Like all water-soluble vitamins, it is not stored within the body so it is extremely important the diet have a sufficiently high amount.

In veterinary medicine, a Thiamin deficiency is generally associated with pets that are fed a large amount of raw fish. Herring, Smeat and Catfish contain large amounts of Thiaminase, an enzyme that destroys Thiamin. Pets fed these raw meats as a sole source of food become Thiamin deficient. Cooking fish prior to feeding will destroy the Thiaminase enzyme and therefore cooked fish poses no problem. A deficiency of Thiamin results in loss of appetite, weakness, loss of reflexes, loss of nerve control, and eventually death.

**Niacin:** Niacin, another B vitamin, plays a role mainly in helping enzymes to function properly. Niacin is found in adequate levels in meats and meat by-products and is very low in vegetables and grains. “Black Tongue” and “Sore Mouth Disease” are the terms used to describe a dog or cat suffering from a Niacin deficiency. A pet suffering with Black Tongue will lose weight, fail to eat, and have red inflamed gums, lips, and inner cheeks. Bloody diarrhea and death may follow.

Niacin deficiency is generally encountered when owners formulate their own diets for their pets and do not include meat as part of the ration. Be very careful when trying to convert a pet into a vegetarian. Dogs are omnivores, which means they must eat meats and vegetables. Cats are carnivores which means they must eat meat.

**Riboflavin:** Riboflavin, also known as Vitamin B2, has been proven to be essential to normal growth, muscle development, and hair coat. Riboflavin is found naturally in organ meats and dairy products. It is lowest in grains, vegetables, and fruits. The un-supplemented vegetarian pet is at extreme risk of developing a Riboflavin deficiency.

Dogs fed a diet deficient in Vitamin B2 will have poor growth, eye abnormalities, weakness in rear limbs, and eventually heart failure. Deficient patients usually have periodic episodes of fainting, and this is termed the “collapsing syndrome of dogs.” Riboflavin toxicity is rare if not non-existent; we know of no documented cases.

**Pantothenic Acid:** Pantothenic acid is another B vitamin and is found in sufficient quantities in most raw foodstuffs including meats and vegetables. Processing of foods will reduce the amount of Pantothenic acid has been well described. This acid enables the body to create usable energy from carbohydrates, fats, and proteins. The symptoms of Pantothenic acid deficiency include loss of hair, diarrhea, and gastric (stomach) upsets. It has also been associated with abnormal graying, particularly in black-coated animals. There are no known toxicities.

**Pyridoxine:** Pyridoxine, also known as Vitamin B6, is another B complex vitamin. Vitamin B6 is found in many foods, but processing easily destroys it. B6 is used by the body in the utilization of amino acids. It is absolutely essential for life. Deficiencies of Pyridoxine lead to anemia, poor growth, kidney stones, tooth cavities, skin lesions, and in advanced cases, death. There are no known toxicities.

**Folic Acid and Vitamin B12:** Folic acid and Vitamin B12 (also called Cyanocobalamin or Cobalamin) are two closely related B complex vitamins and are usually discussed together. They are necessary for the bone marrow to produce red blood cells, and a deficiency of either can lead to advanced anemia. In this type of anemia the red cells are fewer in number but are larger than normal (macrocytosis). The quality of white blood cells may also be reduced. Both vitamins are usually included in the diet and are found in organ meats. Toxicities are of no concern.

**Biotin:** Biotin is the last of the B complex vitamins that we will deal. Biotin is one of the most discussed of all vitamins, primarily because of its role in maintaining healthy skin and hair. It does much more than this, as it is necessary for growth, digestion, and muscle function. In some animals, it has been linked to litter size.

Biotin deficiencies have been reported following the ingestion of raw egg whites. Raw egg whites contain an enzyme called Avidin that acts to destroy Biotin. It is best if raw egg whites are not fed to dogs or cats. Cooking inactivates Avidin. The yolk is very high in Biotin and if the whole egg is fed, the Avidin in the white and high Biotin in the yolk cancel each other out. A patient suffering from a lack of Biotin may have poor hair, skin lesions, dried eye discharge, diarrhea, decreased litter size, and in advanced cases, a paralysis of limbs.

Biotin is found in grains, but is not always of a usable quantity. Diets rich in corn or soybeans are best, while those of wheat and barley are deficient. Beef liver supplies the richest source, with Brewers Yeast being the next highest. Biotin supplements are also available. Biotin toxicity is rare to non-existent.

Article courtesy of Midwestern Pet Foods and Drs. Foster & Smith

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WHY DO MOST OF THE TOP BREEDERS CHOOSE HUNTE?

Only Hunte will often purchase* my whole litter or multiple litters, freeing me from hours of placing ads, posting to websites, and hassling with endless calls and emails. My time is worth a lot to me, and taking my pups to Hunte makes my busy life much easier.

The puppy care program & facility are amazing. I know my puppies are cared for properly, and the Hunte Veterinarians are taking every precaution to protect my puppies’ health.

I am well rewarded for my hard work and my investment in my excellent kennel and breeding program. Hunte pays the highest prices plus everyday Hunte bonuses up to $117 per puppy. They also have weekly bonuses that are consistently the best around.

All my puppies “ride in style” on the Petex Fleet of state-of-the-art transport vehicles and arrive clean happy and healthy. I like knowing the Hunte attention to detail and caring follows my puppies all the way to their new homes.

I see the bigger picture that radical activists are trying to shut down dog breeding, and all animal-agriculture. Hunte seems to be “leading the charge” when it comes to defending our industry. I know that by taking my puppies to Hunte they are investing a portion of every dollar into actively protecting my rights as a dog breeder.

The Hunte Breeder Support Team listens and understand my challenges as a dog breeder, because most of them also raise puppies. They have the training and resources to advise me when I need it. Some fly-by-night broker is not going to help me with inspection questions or make the special effort like “my people” at Hunte.

Stability matters to me, and Hunte has been around for almost 25 years. They are the industry leader and I try to make my long-term relationships with the people I can count on to be here down the road.

Call Hunte Breeder Support: 1-888-444-4788

* All puppy purchases are subject to veterinary exam and includes breed standards criteria.
entering a facility and repeat if going from one facility to another. Using disinfecting mats at all entry points will help eliminate diseases carried on your footwear. Disposable boot covers, rubber gloves and even disposable coveralls should be readily available to anyone entering the facility. Maintaining a specific quarantine area for any new arrivals will also prove beneficial for your facility. Quarantine should last three weeks, and new arrivals should be carefully monitored for diseases and other issues.

**DISINFECTANTS**
Knowing the differences among disinfectants helps you know which one to choose. For years, we have heard that the cheapest, most effective disinfectant is bleach. A fantastic surface disinfectant, bleach allows little margin for error and can be a health hazard for puppies and kittens if handled improperly. Additionally, it does not penetrate organic matter. Virkon avoids this issue, disinfecting the surface and penetrating into any missed organic matter. This is especially important when illness is going through your facility.

**WELLNESS**
Diet often oxidize as they sit on the shelves, losing important nutritional fundamentals. One diet may become low in vitamin B, whereas another may lack vitamin D. Too many choices and formulation differences can present a daunting decision to you as a facility manager. In 2015, we saw many managers turning to the multivitamin/mineral supplement, Doc Roy’s® Daily Care. These flavored tablets cost pennies a day, are made in the United States, and will assist in filling any nutritional gaps. We now have a flavored granule available for mixing with the food you are already feeding. For minimal cost and minimal labor, you can implement overall wellness.

**DEWORMING**
Perhaps the most misunderstood part of kennel management is strategic deworming. Many of these worms have been around since the dinosaurs, so we are not going to kill them all off by giving a deworming product. The goal is to manage the worms and keep them at a low enough level that we do not see issues. Safeguard is currently the dewormer of choice as it is very broad spectrum and very safe. One of the best practices is to deworm mom with Safeguard 2 weeks prior to giving birth. This will lower the risk of worms being transferred to the offspring. When mom doesn’t give worms to puppies and kittens, you don’t have to fight to get them out. By strategically deworming you can minimize the risk of having issues from the beginning.

**CALCIUM**
Calcium was huge this year. Moms need increased calcium during birth, and supplementing prevents the issues deficiencies cause. Signs of deficiency include moms pacing, unable to get comfortable, or lying down and getting back up multiple times. We have encountered instances of moms chewing on puppies’ umbilical areas to the point of death. We recommend supplementing calcium right before whelping, and then after every other puppy is born, and have seen great success eliminating such issues. A fast-acting calcium gel like Oral Cal Plus works best as it can be hard to get a mom to take tablets during whelping.

We look forward to working with you in 2016, and helping you towards continued success!

If you need help, call us at 1-800-786-4751.
-Revival Education Team

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We take care of people who take care of pets

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Some History on the Distant Relatives of the Dog...from the Dog Atlas

The Domestic Dog, and all other members of the canine family, or Canidae, evolved to successfully pursue and capture prey in open grasslands. The domestic dog is a member of the genus Canis, one of the 10 genera of Canidae. Other members of the Canis genus—wolves, jackals, and the Coyote—are the dog's closest relatives.

Members of the other nine genera are the domestic dog's distant but living relatives. They include: 21 species of Fox, the African Wild Dog, Dhole, Maned Wolf, Bush Dog, and Raccoon Dog. All of these share a common evolutionary past and a large variety of similar behaviors.

Adaptable Opportunists

The domestic dog’s relatives vary in size from the 3lb (1.5 kg) Fennec Fox of the North African, Arabian, and Sinai deserts, to the 175lb (80kg) Gray Wolf of the Canadian tundra. Curiously, this size variation among members of the Canidae family is mirrored in the size variation of domestic dogs within the genus Canis, which ranges from the 4lb (2kg) Chihuahua to the 190lb (86kg) English Mastiff.

This is no coincidence—it is the Canidae’s elastic ability to conform to environmental circumstances that has lead it to become the world’s most successful living family of land predators, other than humans. Although they vary in size and appearance, all of the domestic dog’s distant relatives share one characteristic—opportunistic and adaptive behavior.

The Fox Family

The world’s 21 species of Fox make up the largest group within the Canidae family. The Red Fox (Vulpes vulpes) of Eurasia and North America evolved in Eurasia and crossed the Bering land bridge to the American continent. In recent history, it probably did not exist south of latitude 40 degrees in North America, but the introduction of European Red Foxes into New England in the 18th century by fox-hunting aficionados altered the natural picture. Even greater changes occurred in Australia, where the Red fox, originally introduced for sport, proliferated and became a pest.

The Red Fox’s ability to adapt its behavior ensures that its numbers will continue to multiply. The Arctic Fox (Alopex lagopus) is lighter in weight than the Red Fox, and has probably found it impossible to move out of its Arctic range into territory already occupied by the more powerful Red Fox.

The Dusicyon species of South American fox are also distributed according to size. The large Culpeo Fox (D. culpeaeus—pictured below) eats large rodents, while the smaller Argentine Gray Fox (D. argenteus) consumes smaller rodents, birds and birds’ eggs. Natives of South America domesticated these foxes and they filled the role of domestic dogs, until they were displaced by the dogs brought to South America by Europeans.

Behavioral Characteristics

Although foxes hunt on their own, they share with other members of the dog family a sophisticated variety of social behaviors. Radio-tracking studies have revealed that foxes often live in groups of three to six, consisting of a male and several related vixens. Like domestic dogs, both males and females may cock their legs to leave urine marks on vertical objects, especially near important places on their territory. They also use their anal glands to mark their feces. Although the domestic dog has only a vestigial gland on the dorsal surface of its tail, the fox’s gland is active, appearing as a black spot. Its scent is left on bushes that come in contact with the tail. Like domestic dogs, foxes yap, howl, bark, whimper, and scream.

The only fox to have largely abandoned mammalian prey is the termite and dung-beetle eating Bat-Eared Fox (Octocyon megalotis) of the African plains. It, too, has a varied social repertoire—for example, communal nursing of the young has been observed.

Other Distant Relatives

All Canidae (except the Bush Dog) have four-toed feet. All have vestiges of a first toe on their front feet (except the African Wild Dog), but only domestic dogs (including the Dingo) have vestiges of first claws, called dewclaws, on their hind feet. All Canidae have a long, thin penis bone that helps the mating pair lock together.

Although the African Wild Dog (Lycaon pictus) has these attributes, in many ways it is the most extreme of all Canidae, with a powerful and forbidding array of shearing teeth and almost vestigial last molars.

Like all the Canis species, the African Wild Dog regurgitates food for its young, hunts communally, uses urine and feces to mark territory, and has one estrus cycle per year, with gestation lasting about nine weeks. It rests, hunts, and east as a pack. The pack hunts at least once daily, kills by disemboweling prey, and feeds communally. Hunting techniques are passed on from one generation to the next.
In India, the Dhole also hunts cooperatively, but competes for food by eating quickly. The Dhole is commonly seen running from a carcass with a piece of meat, and then eating it undisturbed by other pack members. These sandy-colored hunters, averaging around 37lb (17kg) in weight, whistle in order to make contact with each other.

The Raccoon Dog (Nyctereutes procyonides-pictured right) occupies the most easterly portion of the Dhole’s Far East Asian territory and is the one member of the dog family that reputedly does not bark. Otherwise, its behavior is typically canid—it uses its tail and scent glands for communication, mates with a “lock”, and uses a toileting site, as other canids do.

The long-legged Maned Wolf (Chrysocyon brachyurus) of central and south Brazil, Paraguay, eastern Bolivia, Peru, and northern Argentina preys upon small mammals, but eats fruit too.

The Bush Dog shares the Maned Wolf’s territory in Brazil, but also extends north to Panama. Packs of these dogs hunt large animals.

With the possible exception of the South American Fox, the domestic dog’s distant relatives are too remote on the evolutionary tree to successfully mate with any members of the genus Canis.
Last winter, the Glenville, N.Y. police, assisted by animal rights informers and activists and animal rescue workers, raided the farm of a young farmer named Joshua Rockwood. They impounded his three apparently healthy horses and charged him with 13 counts of animal cruelty for having frozen water tanks and unheated barns and feed that was not stored on the premises and visible to them. They alleged that two of his many pigs had frostbitten ears and that his horses had overgrown hooves.

Hundreds of farmers and animal lovers were outraged by the accusations, the winter was the most brutal in a century, temperatures plunged to -27 for days on end. None of Rockwell’s animals died or were injured during the awful cold wave. Rockwood is a young and idealistic farmer, raising free range and pasture fed animals for food. His farm is called West Wind Acres. One of the people who rushed to support Joshua was Ken Norman, a friend and our long-time farrier. Joshua is a quiet, polite, proud and stubborn farm geek.

He is almost obsessively preoccupied with learning everything he can know about farming, studying manuals after manual about grazing, soil, light, nutrition and biology. He wishes to spend his life raising healthy animals who produce healthy food for local people. In a sane world, he ought to be going to a luncheon getting an award from the Glenville Chamber Of Commerce, rather than fighting for his very existence.

His hopes and dreams and livelihood are on the line, the people running his community are trying to put him in jail or out of business.

Joshua’s agonizing year speaks to the moral bankruptcy of many elements of the animal rights movement, who have abandoned their role as a defender of animals and in too many cases become a rogue and Orwellian militia. In this case and many others, they are simply out of control and without any rational agenda for saving animals or even helping them. They increasingly seem engaged in the business of harming and persecuting people, many completely innocent of wrongdoing. Just ask Joshua or the New York Carriage Drivers.

I have been talking with the Southern Poverty Law Center and am sorry to say the people who say they speak for the rights of animals are increasingly come to resemble a hate group, not a group with any idea about how to keep animals in our world as they are increasingly taken from us. You can read the definition of groups that promote hate and extremism here and draw your own conclusions.

Ken Norman has a far better right to speak for the welfare of animals than most animal rights organizations. He actually saves them and does not ask for money to do it. Ken and his wife Eli are life-long rescuers and caretakers for horses. They have 30 on their farm. They gave us Chloe, our pony after caring for her for years when she had no place to go.

Ken saved our donkey Simon’s life when he was found starving and near death on a farm. He helped him heal his wounds. He has treated our equines with love, skill and tenderness, kept them strong and healthy. He is worth listening to. He has devoted his life to caring for horses and to saving them when they have been mistreated. Nobody asked him to join Joshua’s cause, he came running.

Ken studied the documents and photographs relating to the case that were made public and found them to be outrageously unfair and misguided. He called them “bullshit misdemeanors.” He came with me to the first several court hearings for Joshua. He contacted Joshua and offered to help. Ken had other things to do this year, he had both knees replaced surgically last December; he has been in physical therapy for months.

When Ken saw that Joshua was looking to install a series of tire water tanks – giant heat-absorbing tractor tires with gravel or cement base and fresh water – Ken scoured neighborhood quarries for old loader tractor tires to bring to him. He would not take any money for his time and trouble. He found five and brought them out to West Wind Acres not ever comfortable taking in public.

I thought it might be useful for people for people to hear Ken Norman speak in his own voice. So I recorded a short video this afternoon at Joshua’s farm. Ken is not a seeker of the limelight, he is a man of few words but those words count. He is incapable of guile or artifice and would never assist or support anyone who harmed a horse or other animal in any way. Neither would I.

Listen to Ken Norman yourself, the video is probably the longest speech Ken has given in his life. About 20 words. Ken is, after all, a Vermonter.

He is representative of the many good and honest people who have done in recent months what should have been done in the first place – reached out to Joshua in that difficult time and offered to help rather than spy on him, inform on him in secret, and nearly ruin his life and farm.
I have been worried about Joshua, he seems exhausted to me, and overwhelmed by months of court hearings, legal conferences, and the awful arrests have done to his farm. When his face was plastered all over local TV as an animal abuser, he lost many of the happy customers who were buying his safe and healthy food.

You do not get 300 people to show up at your court hearing in support if you have behaved badly or dishonestly. Joshua needs for this to be over. He sometimes seems overwhelmed, he did today. He will not quit.

His wife is afraid to let their two children outside for fear the informers will come by and see that they are alone, and tell the police, who, she fears, may come and leave them alone. Getting to know Joshua, I know the toll it takes when you have to live in fear of every mistake, mishap or accident, knowing informers may be driving by with the power to ruin your life without much, if any, checks or due process.

Joshua has heard all of the horror stories from other farmers, as have I, and he has now lived them: farmers afraid to leave their cows out in snow, animal lovers afraid to let their horses take naps in an open field, herding dogs stolen from pastures because they are not confined or leashed. And now, trapped in this awful Catch-22. How to keep your water tanks from freezing when every water tank freezes in temperatures that cold. And now, a young and conscientious farmer is arrested and threatened with jail because his water tanks froze in Arctic temperatures.

This is the kind of fear Russians knew under Stalin, and the East Germans knew from the Stasi, who turned hundreds of thousands of citizens into informers. It is not the kind of fear Americans are supposed to know. We got rid of our secret informers long ago, we rebelled against them. Now, they seem to be back. And they are hurting people in the name of loving animals.

Joshua has spent tens of thousands of dollars on legal fees and is working feverishly to prepare his farm for the winter and make it raid-proof. People with long lenses still come by take photos of his farm, drive by at dusk or at night, eager to find evidence of abuse. They run and hide when they are spotted. He is a strong man, but how could he not live in fear? And why would we make him?

The informers are wasting their time. They won't find any evidence there, there isn't any abuse on Joshua's farm. But life happens everywhere, and now farmers and animal lovers and carriage horse drivers have to fear life. As a culture, we are losing our ability to comprehend the difference between life and abuse. We are so disconnected from farms and the real lives of animals we no longer know what they need, what is healthy, what is the unavoidable nature of life itself.

I saw the animals there on Joshua's farm days after his arrest, they were well-fed, hydrated, secure. They are still. There were no protruding ribs, sores, skittishness, sluggishness, or any signs of mistreatment, even in that awful weather. You can't hide wanton abuse in a few hours or days. Before the arrest, two veterinarians came to West Wind Acres to examine Joshua’s animals, they were pronounced healthy and hydrated and well cared for.

Ken Norman says he saw photographs of Joshua’s horses, they looked “fine.” He wonders if the police or animal rights activists had ever seen horses that were truly abused. Online, supporters of Joshua have raised thousands of dollars to help with his legal fees and his new shelters and tire water tanks. Joshua is still mired in legal preparation and negotiation, he hopes to get back the horses that were taken from him, some say stolen from him. The animal rescue farm and their veterinarian are asking for many thousands of dollars in payments for boarding and vet fees, whether he is found innocent or not.

This blatant conflict-of-interest makes everyone quesy, the people deciding to take animals from people should not be the ones charging lots of money to give them back.

Joshua has said he will not plead guilty to a single thing that he did not do and he is determined to stand on principle for his reputation. He has fought so hard, he says, in the hopes that what happened to him will not happen again to any other farmer in need. Good for him, but I see the toll it is taking on him. Nothing about his arrest and persecution seems just or right to me. It is an abuse of authority and judgment.

In a just world, the police and the animal welfare people should have done just what Ken Norman did today. Knock on the door. Offer to help. And help. Joshua would have been happy to accept. The taxpayers would have been saved a lot of wasted money.

For our part, I think we can soon help Joshua again. To cross the finish line in this sad drama. I do not care to surrender to anger and cynicism. Joshua is a good person. The truth matters.

He may need assistance to get his horses back. I am happy to help with that if I can. That might make him whole, depending on the legal proceedings. Stay tuned. And thanks for helping this much and for this long. Community does live, people want to do good, right is different from wrong, and can prevail.

Thank you for subscribing to bedlamfarm.com
Chapter 21

Over the next few weeks, his mother and his future mother-in-law were busy planning a wedding. Helena asked for a leave of absence until after the wedding but it had to be open ended as a date had not been set yet. When Jackie asked his supervisor for time off he was told that espionage did not have a timetable. He would just have to pick a date and take his chances. It was at this time that Jackie informed the director that he would not be taking the dogs into the field again. If an agent wanted to use dogs whenever the opportunity became available then he should come to a training session made available in Washington.

As it turned out, even though there seemed to be a lot of interest in the new dog training school, there were very few applications for early training. As it seemed to be working out, there was not enough interest to set up a special training school for dog handlers. So the date was set for the wedding to take place in ten days at the church that Helena was raised in.

All the preliminaries to the big day had been arranged and all Jackie had to do was show up. Helena had a rather large family so the invitations went out early enough to insure delivery. The big day arrived and Jackie and his family were getting into the car when Jackie called Zero to come on. Mom said “Surely you aren’t taking that dog to the church.”

“Sure am”, answered Jackie. “Billie is my best human man but Zero is going to stand on that platform with me. He has been there for every important step I’ve ever made in my adult life and this is the biggest one yet. Billie will hold the leash if Zero needs one, but I don’t expect that he will. Everything is fine mom, we got it under control.”

When the preacher said, “I now pronounce you man and wife”, bedlam broke out. There were shouts and rebel yells and Zero barking and rice flying through the air as Jackie and Helena climbed into the back seat of Billie’s car and down the street they roared. Everyone followed to the reception hall and the newly married couple did all the proper things like posing for hundreds of pictures, cramming cake into each other’s nostrils, listening to all the crude jokes, and doing the garter bit. When Helena pitched the flowers over her shoulder, Jackie drove his car to the curb and Helena jumped in and they were not seen again for a week.

When Jackie got back to Washington, he had another problem facing him. Washington street dogs did not look like African street dogs and some of the trained dogs had been killed. The terrorists were overly cautious as they were starting to hear about Jackie and his dogs. They could spot an American dog a mile away. It became clear that they would need to train some local dogs to do local jobs. The problem was that once the safe house had been identified, the special agent needed to act immediately because these terrorist people move every three days. It takes over a month to train a local dog for the work, and by then, the terrorist is gone. The director made it simple for all involved. He simply said, “Jackie, you figure it out and I will approve the plan”.

The first thing Jackie did was to send out a special request to all field agents all over the world to take pictures of mongrel street dogs living in their neighborhoods. The idea was to select a dog that looked as close to a composite drawing of all the characteristics combined from all the pictures that the agents sent in. The big question now was who had the talent to look at all those pictures and compound them into one dog and then pick the actual dog that most represented that composite picture. This job was certainly beyond the abilities of Jackie or his director or any of the CIA staff in Washington.

Jackie asked the CIA director if he could send copies of these pictures to several art or photography schools and offer the winner of the contest a cash prize to the student and to the school. Maybe in the form of a small cash prize and a scholarship for the student plus award the school several scholarships for promising students. This would make the CIA look good and Congress would love it. Maybe even the AKC would get on board to find the composite picture of the world wide dog. This would represent the dog found in most Humane shelters around the world. Even the Humane Society of the United States could not find a fault with this plan.

This idea caught on like wildfire with the schools involved and Jackie soon had his composite picture. This picture didn’t look like any dog from a back street in any town in the world but it also looked like every dog in every back street in every town in the world. Now all Jackie had to do was pick an actual dog from the hundreds of pictures he had that looked most like the composite drawing that he possessed.

This was a daunting task that caused his head to swim after looking at pictures for hours on end. He asked so many people for their opinion that he found that he was being avoided as he walked down the halls of the CIA. He got to questioning why we would entrust the security of our country to people who could not make a decision on such a trivial matter.

Many times Jackie brought his work home with him to contemplate a solution at 2 o’clock in the
morning. Sometimes he could think better in the quiet solitude of his home than around the kennel with all of the activities going on there. He brought several hundred pictures home with him after discarding the obvious ones that didn’t require any thought process. He spread them around the room and placed a blown up picture of the composite in the center of the room. As he paced the floor he accepted and then rejected several of the pictures. He felt that almost any of the dogs represented would do just fine, but he also knew that the selection he made might or might not endanger an agent’s life. He agonized over his decision until he was making himself sick.

Morning came and Helena came into the kitchen to start breakfast. As she walked through the room with the pictures laid out, she asked what he was doing. He explained the whole process to her as he needed to just talk to try to clear his mind. She could see his indecision and she could see that worry was making him sick to his stomach. She walked into the room, looked around for a few minutes, picked out three pictures and set them up beside the composite picture and turned the rest over.

She said “they all look so much alike that after you stare at them for a little while, it becomes impossible to make a selection. These three are my selections, pick one!”

There was nothing distinguishing between the pictures that made one jump out at Jackie. They were almost like peas in a pod. When he told her he could not make a selection, she informed him that he had made the important selections weeks ago. He had culled the glaring difference of the dogs from the composite long ago and in his zeal to perfect what was left, he had become brain blind to select the perfect match. There was no superior match from the samples that were left. He then called the three agents and told them to send him ten dogs each.

Chapter 22

Jackie was developing quite a reputation in the government War Dog community. His advice was sought in many technical problems in the Army and the Navy programs. He was offered a commission with the rank of Major in the army program to come over to their school to train both the recruits and their dogs. He declined the offer because he was wanting something else in his life.

He needed a little Jackie in his life. Helena was going to lose her job in the Congressman’s office and she was yearning for a return to Oklahoma to be close to her family. Jackie understood this desire as he, too, wanted to return home. He believed in the old saying, "You can take a boy out of the country, but you cannot take the country out of the boy". He longed for the cows and riding the tractor and building fence and wasting an hour at the coffee shop or the tractor company just visiting about nothing with the neighbors.

Mom wanted another grandchild and Dad wanted his family to come home.

Jackie applied for a transfer to the CIA office in Tulsa. The CIA director had a “come apart”; what was he going to do in Tulsa? Well, he could take an indefinite leave of absence and start that dog training school he had considered when he came home from Vietnam. He could start that family he and his wife and both sets of grandparents were yearning for. He and Dad could start rebuilding the cow herd on the farm. He could run for county commissioner or some other political office. He could just sit and watch Helena work around the kitchen. He did not get enough time to do that.

He could spend more time in church to thank God for all the blessings that the lord had bestowed upon him. He and the lord had gotten along pretty good lately, and he knew that he wouldn’t have been so successful with his dog training career without a lot of divine help. He felt the Lord appreciated the efforts that he had contributed to the project also. Jackie felt that he and God made a good team.

The CIA worked out a deal allowing Jackie to return to Oklahoma, but through a special contract with the agency he would continue to train for them at his training facility that he was going to build at the farm. He would also start to breed the dogs that he would use for the CIA. There would never be a class at the Westminster dog show for Jackie’s breed of the world, but even the local AKC show breeders were delighted that their “puppy mill boy” had returned home.

At the next AKC club show in Tulsa, Jackie and Zero were featured guests of Zero’s grandmother. The Humane Society was also present and Jackie received an award of recognition for creating a need for the back alley dogs of the world. Many of the commercial breeders were also present to witness the praise that their old enemies were heaping upon one of their own. It turned out to be a good day for all concerned.

To be continued next issue....
The Flock Guards...Keepers of Their Kingdoms

From the Atlas of Dog Breeds

About 8,000 years ago in what is now the Middle East, primitive people evolved into the true modern Homo sapiens. This new “thinking” person domesticated herbivores and swine, undertook crude agriculture, molded pottery and conceived the idea of community living. The domesticated flocks represented their wealth, a continual and reproducible food supply.

However, the domesticated plant eater was at constant risk. Carnivores—wolves, bears, and lions—found them easy prey. And, of course, shepherds fought the threat of raids from neighboring villages.

Early herdsman noted the natural protective qualities of some dogs. Selective breeding began, the largest specimens being chosen to confront a hungry bear or a 125-pound wolf.

Mass alone was not enough, for the job demanded agility as well as power. A flock guardian (not to be confused with a herding dog) needed courage and watchfulness, as well as wholehearted loyalty to his charges. He would stay with the flock all year, facing the same climatic extremes.

Food was not always plentiful, yet vigilance had to be maintained. Even facing starvation, he could never turn to the flock for food. Thus the group became “easy keepers,” able to survive and keep their large bodies strong with minimal food. They had to earn their keep, or they were eliminated. Flock guarding had stringent job requirements—size, dedication and toughness.

Historians tell us that Neolithic tribes migrated from the high plateaus of Turkey and Iran about 6,000 years. They spread in all directions, to Africa, Europe and the East. Accompanying them were dogs of an ancient type (called kuassa, or the horse dog) used to guard their vast herd/flock wealth.

Soon throughout the Neolithic world, primitive villages and shepherds used large dogs to help keep their food supplies safe.

Canine protection proved most beneficial in the mountainous regions.

The largest and boldest predators roamed the mountains. The forest, rocks and crevices, as well as the distances between pastures and from the village, made keeping track of the entire flock difficult work for shepherds.

Crop cultivation spread through the fertile flat ground. Domestic flocks and herds were often relegated to the poorer pastures and high mountains.

From the great high plains of Turkey and the Caucasus Mountains of southern Russia, to the rugged Carpathians of eastern Europe, through the Balkans, the high Alps, the Pyrenees range of Spain, Portugal’s Estrela Mountains, even the low Atlas chain of northern Africa—all have their flock-guarding type, bred true for four or five millennia.

Despite thousands of years and miles separation, all the breeds are amazingly similar in type. They are always large (the higher the mountains, often the larger the specimen), ranging from an economical 60 pounds to a robust 140 pounds.

These flock-guarding dogs were the stem type from which all the mastiff-type dogs developed. They were valued for their ferocity and watchfulness, independent thinking, hardness, devotion to duty and loyalty to master.

Flock guards possessed courage, speed, agility, craftiness, endurance, and stamina. They were free from wanderlust and the hunt or chase urge, attacking only when their property was threatened. The dogs belonged to the village, sleeping here and there, and feeding on scraps. They guarded their entire territory.

They were then, as well as now, great imposing beasts—tall, muscular and large-boned. Many have rear dewclaws, which are sometimes retained. The body is balanced, with a long tail carried low. The body might be a bit longer than tall, with very little tuck-up. Although large, they are not ponderous and heavy skinned like the mastiffs. The flat head, with a tendency to a deep median groove, is generous and strong, yet more refined. The stop is pronounced, accompanied by a slightly tapering muzzle. The small drop ears are in distinct opposition to dog’s enemy, the wolf.

In their native lands, the ears of working dogs were often cropped short. Sometimes tails were partially docked. The dogs were left outdoors year round, and grooming was not on the shepherd’s agenda. Docking and cropping eliminated matting and problems of sanitation. Cropping increased the visibility of the dog’s reactions when his ears raised at the base during an alert. This practice is dying out, however, and many exhibited dogs must remain natural.

An ample coat protects them from the elements—the closer coats of the Turkish plains and northern African hills, to the heavy-corded rugs in the high cold peaks. Coats are moderate in length, with thick underwool and occasionally, a slight wave to the hair.

Cont. on pg 22
2016 APRI Schedule of National Teleconference Calls

February 11th
April 7th
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June 23rd
September 8th
October 27th
December 8th

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Ph: 515-962-7552
EM: rh@aprpets.org

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Flock guards cont. from pg. 20

Although the dun or tan/gray color has been accepted by breeders in a few lower elevations, white is the preferred color for many reasons.

White distinguishes them from the wolf and allows them acceptance into the flock, as well as making them visible from distances when apart from the sheep. They are almost indistinguishable from sheep in the middle of the flock. Studies show most guarding “sheep dogs are sheep-sized, sheep colored, sheep-shaped.”

As civilization creeps into areas where the shepherd and his flock guardian have toiled secluded for centuries, the working specimens become fewer and fewer. Fortunately, the breeds are being preserved. Many countries and breed clubs have fostered an interest in saving these magnificent dogs.

Through difficult times, wars and poverty, the aristocracy of Turkey protected their purebred dogs. The Veterinary School at Brno has fostered the rebirth of the Czechoslovakian version, and several have gained recognition by the American and English Kennel Clubs.

Although the breeds have long served their native lands, they have achieved the admiration of American shepherds and cattle owners only recently. The wolf is disappearing in Europe and Asia, but it still exists in America and plagues stock, along with its cousin the coyote, causing serious financial and breeding program deprivation.

The U.S. government spends many millions a year in attempt to control this destruction, with annual losses still totaling over a million sheep. Several of the breeds have been imported to the United States for development as flock guardians.

Biologists at Hampshire College in Amherst, Massachusetts, have a study program using these dogs. In their first year they procured ten pups of three different breeds of European and Asian working stock. They bred and raised the first generations, noting behavior, and placed them all on farms and ranches.

Ray and Lorna Coppingers of the college note they brought: “two screaming, quarreling, Russian-type Ovcharka [sic] pups from eastern Turkey to Ankara by bus, while we cut at miles of red tape with dull scissors in Budapest, trying to get four Shar Planinetz [sic] pups we’d bought in southwestern Yugoslavia onto a direct flight to Boston. In Italy, we dickered in millions of lire for the great white Maremmano-Abruzzese sheepdog.”

The Livestock Dog Project at Hampshire College has monitored Great Pyrenees, Maremmanas, Russian Owchtarkas, Anatolian Shepherds, Sarplaninacs, Tibetan Mastiffs, and Castro Laboreiros. The U.S. Sheep Experiment Station in Dubois, Idaho, has also researched and trained guardian dogs against predators, using Great Pyrenees, Komondors and Akbash Dogs.

The training programs begin when pups are eight weeks old. A shelter is erected near the sheep, where the pup can see its future wards, but not harm them or be harmed. Youngsters are not left in charge of sheep until they reach about one year of age, although there are exceptions.

A future flock guard must be a natural guardian and exhibit proper behavior: non-aggression and attentiveness to sheep, as well as defense of the flock. They should never use their teeth on the sheep. These dogs are protectors rather than herdens. When young, the pups tend to play with the sheep. Care must be taken to stop rowdy galloping, harmful to both sheep and dogs. The pup may be injured, and the sheep may lose wool, suffer torn ears or be chased to death.

However, if it’s the sheep that reacts aggressively, the dog shows submissive behavior as it would towards its mother: lowering haunches, turning a back knee out, and licking the sheep’s face. Escape routes of the training pen are not blocked, and pups could easily leave the area. Therefore, they are judged by their desire to stay with the sheep.

Most of these dogs instinctively perform well. For instance, one male is recorded to have saved a wet, newborn lamb that was isolated from its mother, curling up with it to keep it warm. Charles Darwin, The Zoology of the Voyage of H.M.S. Beagle, told about these dogs: “It has no wish to leave the flock, and just as another dog will defend its master, man, so will these the sheep. It is amusing to observe, when approaching a flock, how the dog immediately advances barking, and the sheep all close in his rear [sic], as if round the oldest ram.”

As Darwin wrote in 1833 about the dogs’ stringent training in their country of origin: “The method of education consists in separating the puppy, while very young, from the bitch, and in accustoming it to its future companions. A ewe is held three or four times a day for the little thing to suck, and a nest of wool is made for it in the sheep-pen; at no time is it allowed to associate with other dogs, or with the children of the family.”

Flock-guarding dogs have been raised to think of the stock as their family. The best ones show total dedication to their charges, not to their fellow dogs, nor even to their master or master’s family unless trained for that chore. Flock guards often are raised among the sheep they will grow to protect. The dogs begin to interact, even to the point of sucking on ewes and performing sexual play as they normally would with their own kind.

As a group, the dogs are difficult to breed. First heats usually occur between one and two years. The bitch is sometimes not receptive in the first heat, and if bred, pseudopregnancy is common. They rarely have a litter until their second heat. The bitch may actually be antagonistic, so that the interested male becomes submissive. Libido in males is low, complicating matters.

The flock-guarding breeds are much more interested in the sheep or their other charges than in propagating their own species. Once in whelp, however, they become good mothers. In fact, non-breeding females sometimes allow young of other species to nurse. It is interesting to note a case where Border Collies were raised with flock guards.

Though environment was identical, the herding dogs were quicker to respond to commands and the guardians slower; the Collies “eyed” and stalked, where the guards did not. The guarding dogs were non-retrieving and not as responsive to directions. The Collies eagerly did both. As they grew older, the guardians preferred the sheep to playing with their “littermates.” Each was growing up exactly as nature
intended.

The guarding characteristics of various breeds and individuals range from mild resistance to hostility against intruders. The most aggressive dogs are assigned to remote pastures with flocks suffering high losses. Even then, posting signs and showing the dog its boundaries are suggested. Some dogs insist on guarding adjacent areas; however, they may guard the neighbor’s sheep as well!

As guarding maturity is reached, males—even some females—raise legs to urinate rather than squat, and scent marking becomes more deliberate, placed around boundaries. Barking becomes an alarm, rather than puppy yapping. They are active for longer periods and sleep less. The dogs display more interest in the sheep than their handler. Patrolling escalates and dogs stay on the job around the clock, taking advantage of any shelter when necessary.

A high-pitched, crisis bark, charging at the trespasser and tail held high in warning are indicative of typical guard dog behavior. While observing the dogs and collecting choice pups in Yugoslavia, the Coppingers reported that one of their group tested a guard by approaching the flock. The huge dog casually rose, approached, and gave alert signs of lowered head. He meant business, and no further challenge was given.

Records show that the dogs are achieving favor with the New World stock breeders. Most canid predators will not approach when there are multiple guards or one of a larger size. Even though confrontations were not always observed, statistics show fewer casualties to the flocks. In more than one case, the dog had to be removed from the flock for a period of time (such as for a veterinary visit), and kills occurred while it was away.

These dogs have shown amazing success in trial situations, winning then enthusiastic praise of stockmen! They are an attractive alternative to expensive, harmful and unappealing methods, such as poisons, traps, fences, chemicals or special guns.

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**Breed of Flock Guards**

- Akbash Dog of Turkey
- Caucasian Ovcharka of USSR
- Middle Asian Ovcharka of USSR
- Kangal Dog of Turkey
- Anatolian Shepherd Dog of Turkey
- Greek Sheepdog of Greece
- Sarplaninac of Yugoslavia
- Karst Shepherd of Yugoslavia
- Rumanian Sheepdog of Rumania
- South Russian Ovcharka of USSR
- Komondor of Hungary
- Kuvasz of Hungary
- Slovak Cuvac of Czechoslovakia
- Oewzarek Podhalanski of Poland
- Maremmana Sheepdog of Italy
- Great Pyrenees of France
- Pyrenean Mastiff of Spain
- Spanish Mastiff of Spain
- Perro de Pastor Mallorquin of Spain
- Estrela Mountain Dog of Portugal
- Cao de Castro Laboreiro of Portugal
- Rafeiro do Alentejo of Portugal
- Chien de l’Atlas of Morocco

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Congratulations to Elaine Craig at the Eukanuba National Dog Show, Saturday Dec 12th & 13th, 2015. “Sunset Acres Austin City Lights” with Agent Sharon Svoboda from Dogs Open Class. Took Reserve to Hidden Valley B R8 most days. Owner/Breeder: Elaine Craig.

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Kennel Spotlight * Feb/Mar’16 * 23
Electrolyte Administration
Dehydration Can Quickly Become Deadly in Dogs and Puppies

Your dog is dehydrated if it doesn't have enough fluid in its body. Dehydration occurs if your pet isn't taking in enough water, is losing fluids due to vomiting or diarrhea, or both, and can become a serious issue if it's not managed quickly.

When your dog is dehydrated, their blood volume decreases, reducing oxygen delivery and the subsequent hydration of tissues and organs; slowing waste removal; and throwing off the balance of vital electrolytes such as calcium, magnesium, sodium, and potassium that help keep the body functioning properly.

Puppies contain a higher percentage of water in their bodies than adult dogs, so they are more susceptible to rapid dehydration. Their kidneys don't function at the level of adult dogs, so urine will not concentrate during periods of decreased intake. Without rehydration, affected dogs and puppies can rapidly reach the brink of death. Dogs should have free access to fresh water and should be seen by a veterinarian if they stop eating or have prolonged bouts of vomiting or diarrhea. Remember that dogs left outside in hot weather and those with frozen water dishes frequently get dehydrated.

Recognizing Dehydration
We can't treat what we don't see or recognize as a problem, so we should be aware of simple signs that could point to dehydration. For puppies, we should look at the skin over the eyes. When we gently pinch the skin together and let go, it should quickly return to its normal state. Failure for the skin to return to normal within one or two seconds is a good indicator the puppy is dehydrated. This can also be done over the shoulders for puppies too small for the eyelid pinch test. The most accurate method is a daily weight measurement of the puppy. A puppy's growth should have it doubling its birth weight in the first week and gaining 5-10% of its weight daily after that.

We know how serious dehydration is and how to recognize it, so now we need to treat it. In its mildest form, dehydration can be overcome with oral electrolytes. These electrolytes replenish the losses of not only the fluids, but also much-needed electrolytes important for all body functions. Puppies should be able to drink and not be moribund. If dehydration is more serious, IV fluids are recommended. Fluids given intravenously are much more readily used and retained in the body. Organs can immediately begin to benefit from their injection and retain 80-90% of the fluid for an extended period of time. This is much different from oral administration of fluids, which retains only 30-40% of fluids.

How Much Fluid?
We must also know how much fluid is beneficial to an animal. If we notice dehydration, an animal is already 5-10% dehydrated. If their skin fails to snap back after doing the pinch test, they are 10-15% dehydrated. And if they are moribund, an animal has lost 20% or greater fluid. This becomes a simple math problem: 5 lb. (2.25 kg) puppy multiplied by the estimated 10% weight loss equals .5 lb. (225 kg) fluid loss. Using kilograms, convert fluid directly to liters .255 L or 225 ml. This dog needs an extra 225 ml of fluid on top of its normal daily needs to catch back up. Electrolytes such as Resorb or even Pedialyte are great to have on hand. If you catch symptoms quick enough, these will work, but if a puppy is getting worse or already doesn't swallow, IV fluids like Lactated Ringers must be implemented.

Thanks for reading, and remember, a healthy pet is a happy pet.
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2015 Brought More AKC Initiatives to Help Breeders Succeed

The American Kennel Club continued positive strides in 2015 to help breeders with new programs promoting health, training and education.

AKC staff worked hard to support breeders and assist them with being successful. As a result, 2015 proved another great year for AKC with dog and litter registrations showing excellent growth.


AKC Health Clinics:
The AKC sponsored 10 free health clinics in 2015, resulting in 784 dogs being screened. Every attending dog had an OFA eye examination by a board-certified veterinary ophthalmologist. Other offered screenings were OFA Cardiac, Patella and Dental. There are 15 AKC Health Clinics currently scheduled for 2016.

To check which screenings are recommended for your breeds, go to: http://www.akc.org/dog-breeders/bred-with-heart/health-testing-requirements/ and http://www.caninehealthinfo.org/breeds.html

For more information, contact 405-747-6053 or srm@akc.org.

AKC Bred With H.E.A.R.T.:
AKC is helping breeders be more successful with this new program that makes available on-line educational materials and marketing support.

H.E.A.R.T stands for Health, Education, Accountability, Responsibility and Tradition. Preparing breeders to produce healthy, excellent examples of their breeds is the program’s goal.

The Bred with H.E.A.R.T. (BWH) website features the latest information in genetics, breeding practices, and anatomy. Breeders have the great opportunity to take on-line courses of renowned breeder Claudia Orlandi Ph.D., who shared her two books, ABC’s of Dog Breeding and Practical Canine Anatomy & Movement. Breeders can choose to enroll and become an AKC Bred with H.E.A.R.T. breeder if they meet the requirements of having registered at least one litter with AKC within the past five years and being in good standing with AKC. They also must agree to the following:

- Certify that applicable health screens are performed on breeding stock as recommended by the respective AKC Parent Club and be prepared to supply proof of such compliance upon request
- Comply with the AKC Care and Conditions Policy, including inspection(s) by the American Kennel Club or its duly authorized representative
- Comply with all applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations regarding the ownership and maintenance of dogs
- Complete AKC-approved and/or AKC-provided continuing breeder education courses annually
- Complete the online application process and pay an annual fee of $25 per breed

BWH participants receive many benefits, including the BWH program logo on AKC dog registration applications; breed-specific web banners; $5 litter registration coupon; and $35 in annual credit for online reports.

For more information, visit http://education.akc.org/akcedu

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AKC Puppy Protection Package:

The AKC Puppy Protection Package was designed specifically for breeders who sell directly to puppy buyers. This package has proven very popular with breeders who send their buyers home with numerous features that assure a great start with their new puppy. The package includes:

- 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 Registration
- AKC Family Dog magazine – 1 year subscription
- Complimentary first office visit at a veterinary practice listed with the AKC Veterinary Network
- Complimentary 30 day free trial AKC Pet Healthcare Plan

These features, purchased separately, are a $217 value. But AKC offers the package to breeders for $33.95. Breeders may resell the Puppy Protection Package at any price they choose, creating added margin for themselves. For more information, contact dogbreeders@akc.org or 800-252-5545 PIN 80015.

AKC Canine Good Citizen Training:

Obedience training, to make older puppies and adult dogs more desirable to potential owners, was offered at no charge to breeders at three locations in Missouri and one in Oklahoma.

AKC Senior Breeder Relations Field Representative Stacy Mason organized and taught the classes, which also provided socialization and an enriched environment for the kennel dogs.

At the end of the 6-week courses, the breeders had the option of testing their dogs for AKC STAR Puppy and/or AKC Canine Good Citizen.

Seven puppies passed the STAR Puppy test, and four of those puppies also passed the CGC test. Twenty-nine dogs tested for CGC, and 18 dogs passed! As one participant said, “I think this is the best thing AKC has done to make area breeders more educated. The more we are offered, the better we can become.”

The passing rate would have been even higher except several people were unable to attend on the testing night(s) due to the weather, which set new snowfall records.

Mason also held a training seminar at a large kennel later in the year and has plans for more training opportunities for breeders in 2016. For more information contact Mason at 405-747-6053 or srm@akc.org.

The AKC thanks our breeders for your support and trust, which was instrumental in making 2015 a very successful year. We look forward to helping our breeders this year. Please contact us with questions and suggestions.
Preparing Puppy Buyers for Life with their New Addition with AKC Health Protection

When a family walks out the door with their puppy, breeders have prepared them for a great start with their new addition.

Breeders share feeding, grooming, vaccination and other vital information. Now there is another important item to add to their checklist: Register your puppy with the American Kennel Club quickly and take advantage of a valuable health insurance offer.

As soon as your buyers register their puppies with AKC, they receive an offer for a 30-day free trial of the AKC Pet Healthcare Plan. When owners activate their 30-Day AKC Pet Insurance Certificate, they are eligible to receive reimbursements for accident or illness related veterinarian expenses, including those related to puppies ingesting foreign objects. The plan covers up to $1,500 in claims for the first 30 days, free of charge, with no obligation and no credit card required.

"Breeders should make their customers aware of this benefit and how important it is to activate to help make sure their puppies receive adequate healthcare if needed in that transition to a new home," said John Wycoff, AKC Pet Healthcare's director.

"Puppies entering into a new environment are more susceptible to illnesses such as vomiting and diarrhea."

All AKC puppies are eligible for the free insurance offer as soon as the owner registers their puppy. There is no additional charge to the breeder or the owner; the benefit is included in the AKC registration. The policy can be used at any licensed veterinary office in the United States or Canada.

Simply registering your litter with AKC makes your puppies eligible for the free health insurance, at no additional charge. However, many breeders are opting to provide their buyers with the AKC Puppy Protection Package that includes the AKC Registration and the assurance that your puppy buyers get the free health insurance Pet Healthcare Plan, as well as many helpful features for new dog owners, including:

- 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

The Puppy Protection Pack features are a $217 value. But AKC offers the package to breeders for $33.95, and breeders can sell it to customers at any price they choose.

Melanie Moore has bred dogs, including Golden Retrievers and Rottweilers, for 22 years. Two years ago, she added the AKC Pet Healthcare Plan through the Puppy Protection Package and saw a boost in her business. She advertises the plan’s features on her website, and potential puppy buyers often reference the plan when contacting her.

"I would say my internet sales, since having this program, have doubled at least. My customers are very impressed that I offer this package," Moore said. "If choosing between one of my puppies or another breeder's, I have heard them say, 'I want to go with your puppy because of the AKC Puppy Protection Package.'"

AKC Breeder Development Executive David Roberts agrees that providing health care coverage “gives new puppy buyers peace of mind and confidence in their breeders.”

"The AKC Pet Healthcare Plan and Puppy Protection Package bring more value to puppies and set breeders who offer them apart from those who don’t," Roberts said.

For More Information, please contact AKC Breeder Relations:
dogbreeders@akc.org or 1-800-252-5545 PIN 80015
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From Humanewatch.org...Keeping a watchful eye!

**HSUS CEO has a $1.1 Million Mansion—Which he’s hiding from donors!**

When we tell people that only 1% of the money raised by the so-called “Humane Society” of the United States goes to pet shelters, predictably people want to know where the rest of the money goes. A lot of it is spent on overhead, pension plans, and staff salaries—including a hefty pay package for CEO Wayne Pacelle. Pacelle has taken in about $4 million through HSUS, and the payout appears to have afforded him an elegant $1.1 million Tudor-style home in the uber-wealthy community of Chevy Chase, Md., just outside our nation’s capital.

According to records, the house was purchased last fall, apparently with all cash. More intriguingly, it was purchased through a legal scheme that intentionally hides the name of the buyer. It’s a system used by the rich and famous to hide the purchasers in a real-estate transaction. Pacelle’s new digs is owned by a legal entity without his name attached. The transaction was handled by David A. Deekelbaum, a Washington lawyer who specializes in this concealment system for wealthy clients. And this $1.1 million property is on top of the $800,000 apartment Pacelle owns in Washington, D.C. For all of the complaints about pork farming that Pacelle makes, he sure knows how to live high on the hog.

To be clear: We don’t begrudge anyone who is financially successful—provided that the money isn’t generated through scams or other unethical activity.

And we can’t be sure that HSUS donors may not have totally funded the Pacelle’s million-dollar mansion. It’s quite possible that his wife, who works for Al Jazeera America, could have chipped in. And who’s bankrolling her paycheck? Al Jazeera is funded by the government of Qatar—a country that funds or accommodates terrorist groups including Hamas and al Qaeda. To get an idea of what Al Jazeera thinks of America, look no further than its nasty Fourth of July video mocking Americans. And we won’t even get into HSUS’s development officer who once offered to conceal money from shady Middle Eastern interests including the Muslim Brotherhood, which is at the center of much terrorism in the world.

Wayne Pacelle’s mansion may have been funded by little old ladies who thought they were helping pets. Or maybe the upstream source of the cash is Middle Eastern terrorism backers. Hard to say. One way or the other, the head of HSUS doesn’t want you to know.

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**HSUS Gala Protested by Animal Advocates**

Last November, the Humane Society of the United States held its annual gala at the posh Cipriani on 42nd Street in midtown Manhattan. If tax records are any indicator, the event loses money; HSUS’s tax return shows a net negative income for the event last year. But it does help HSUS hobnob with NY’s socialites and wealthiest residents.

It can’t hurt, however, that a crowd showed up to protest HSUS. We’ve had a presence at the last two galas, making sure attendees know the facts about HSUS. But this year, the World Dog Alliance, a Hong Kong-based charity, showed up to tell its story to potential HSUS donors. The Alliance, as you may remember, is suing HSUS for fraud after HSUS allegedly took a $500,000 grant and didn’t make good on its promises.
**USDA / APHIS ANNOUNCEMENT!!**

Dear Stakeholders:

Today, I am announcing a new acting Deputy Administrator for our Animal Care (AC) program – Bernadette Juarez. As acting AC Deputy, Bernadette will lead the program’s many employees in protecting and ensuring the welfare of millions of animals nationwide that are covered under the Animal Welfare Act (AWA) and the Horse Protection Act (HPA). She will also oversee the collaborative work done at AC’s Center for Animal Welfare, building critical partnerships domestically and internationally, while seeking to improve regulatory practices and develop training and educational resources.

Bernadette is replacing Dr. Chester Gipson, who retired on Jan 1, after more than 13 years as AC’s Deputy Administrator.

Prior to this position, Bernadette served with APHIS’ Investigative and Enforcement Services (IES), first as Deputy Director for 4.5 years and then as Director for 2.5 years. As Director, Bernadette was responsible for leading investigations of alleged AWA and HPA violations, as well as all other APHIS-administered statutes and regulations, and pursuing enforcement actions where warranted. She also transformed the unit’s ability to complete investigation and enforcement actions nearly 50% faster by streamlining its business processes and focusing on the highest priority investigations.

Bernadette’s experience enforcing the AWA and HPA began prior to her joining APHIS as a trial attorney in USDA’s Office of the General Counsel from 2002 to 2009. In over 6 years, she represented APHIS in numerous AWA and HPA administrative enforcement proceedings.

In 1999, Bernadette completed her Bachelor in Business Administration from the University of New Mexico. She went on to earn her Juris Doctor from American University, Washington College of Law, in 2002.

I am confident that Bernadette’s accomplished leadership and management experience, her commitment to results, her extensive knowledge and enforcement of both the AWA and HPA, and her passion for AC’s mission will prove invaluable to APHIS’ efforts to ensure more humane and healthy conditions for animals, while also working to end the cruel and inhumane practice of soring.

Kevin Shea
APHIS Administrator

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**Are you telling me rescues are importing purebred dogs because there is a shortage?**

And the government is banning the sale of dogs bred by professional breeders and regulating small breeders because they do not like them!

**Where am I going to buy my puppy?**

---

People For Pet Ownership - Follow Us On Facebook
From the USDA Best Practices for Brucella canis Prevention and Control

Screening a Kennel for Brucellosis

A whole kennel screening test consists of testing all canines over six months of age at least once every 12 months. If there are any reproductive concerns within the breeding population, *B. canis* screening should be done.

If a positive result is obtained on any test, the dog should be isolated and classified as a *Brucella* suspect dog. Because of the possibility of false positives on some tests, select a different diagnostic test to validate the initial results. If the second test does not agree with the initial test, a third diagnostic test should be performed eight weeks after the second test to rule in or out Brucellosis. Because of variability in state regulations, veterinarians should check with their state veterinarian or appropriate public health official on how to handle Brucellosis positive test results.

If a female or male dog has left the kennel for any reason other than a C-section or veterinary procedure, the dog should be tested for *B. canis* eight weeks after returning to the kennel.

Testing Considerations for Brucellosis Positive Kennels

Once Brucellosis is diagnosed (two positive tests), testing and removal of all positive dogs in the kennel is the only way to gain negative status. It is highly recommended that all dog sales be stopped until negative status is achieved. Veterinarians should check with their state veterinarians or public health officials to verify if a suspect or positive kennel is placed under a strict no-sale quarantine or only a partial quarantine, in which only pups from Brucellosis positive females are prohibited from being sold, traded or bartered. Even if a state does not have regulations concerning quarantine procedures for Brucellosis positive dogs, it is still recommended that the sale, trade, or bartering of Brucella positive dog or puppies from Brucellosis positive dams be discontinued.

Test all remaining dogs and repeat every four weeks until there are two consecutive negative whole kennel tests. Two negative tests should eliminate the organism from the kennel population. Testing should be done with the knowledge of the state veterinarian and with a test recognized by the state the kennel is physically located in.

Re-Homing Considerations for Dogs Positive for *Brucella canis*.

It is important to emphasize that brucellosis is currently not considered to be a curable disease in dogs. Attempts at treatment have been very disappointing, with relapses commonly occurring. Attempted treatment can mask diagnosing testing, and it has been shown to be an important contributing factor in the spread of the disease. What this fact currently means for kennel owners is that animals infected with any of the *Brucella* species MUST be removed from the breeding population.

Because of the zoonotic potential of *Brucella*, confirmed Brucellosis-positive dogs should NOT be rehomed.

Decisions concerning the possible re-homing of Brucellosis positive dogs should only be made with the approval and knowledge of the appropriate public health official(s) within the state of origin as well as within the state of destination if being transferred across state lines.

Brucellosis positive dogs, should undergo an ovario-hysterectomy or castration and be placed on appropriate long-term antibiotics, with proper supervision by a licensed veterinarian that should include lifetime, periodic laboratory testing for *B. canis*. Brucellosis is considered a lifelong infection in dogs, and even after undergoing surgical sterilization and long term antibiotic use, both male and female dogs may continue to intermittently shed the organism. New owners should be made aware of the ongoing potential risk that these dogs carry for infecting humans, other dogs and other susceptible animal species that they come in contact with (see zoonotic section above).

Re-homing Considerations for Retired Dogs from Kennels with an Unknown *Brucella canis* Status.

Any dogs that are re-homed or transferred to any individual, entity or organization should have a negative diagnostic test for *B. canis* prior to change of ownership and tested again 8 weeks later. The new owner or organization should be educated in the possible zoonotic risks associated with the disease.
I think they found what you did on the carpet...
don’t worry, we’ll blame the little guy.

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Rabies in a Dog Imported from Egypt with a Falsified Rabies Vaccination Certificate

Case Report:

On May 30, 2015, a shipment of eight dogs and 27 cats arrived at John F. Kennedy International Airport in New York City from Cairo, Egypt. The animals were distributed to several rescue groups and one permanent adoptive home in New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland and Virginia. Four dogs from the shipment arrived in Virginia on May 31st, 2015, and were distributed to three foster homes associated with a Virginia-based rescue group (animal rescue group A).

On June 3rd, an adult female street dog imported by the animal rescue group A became ill. The dog had been imported with an unhealed fracture of the left forelimb, and 4 days after arrival at a foster home in Virginia, developed hypersalivation, paralysis, and hyperesthesia.

Because of concern about Rabies, a veterinarian euthanized the dog on June 5th and submitted brain tissue for rabies testing at DCLS. On June 8th, DCLS confirmed Rabies infection by direct fluorescent antibody testing and contacted CDC to coordinate shipment of specimens to assist with variant typing. CDC determined that the variant was consistent with canine rabies virus circulating in Egypt.

PUBLIC HEALTH INVESTIGATION

After DCLS confirmed the Rabies diagnosis, the Virginia Department of Health, the New Jersey Department of Health, the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, and CDC initiated human and domestic animal rabies exposure assessments associated with the entire animal shipment. The infectious period for dog A was considered to have begun 10 days before symptom onset and continued until death (i.e., from May 24 to June 5).

The investigation also involved the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, the Pennsylvania Dept. of Health, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, the foreign airline that transported the animals, the Egyptian Ministry of Health and Population, and U.S. Dept. of Agriculture’s Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

Potential human exposures were identified by interviewing U.S.-based airline cargo staff members, the U.S. transporter, Dog A’s caretaker, and volunteers and employees associated with animal rescue group A.

Upon the shipment’s arrival in New York, eight persons were involved in moving the dogs and cats from the plane onto a transport trailer and then into the U.S. transporter’s vehicle.

The New York City Dept. of Health and Mental Hygiene interviewed these eight persons; all reported having worn leather gloves while handling the crates and having had no direct contact with the animals. Public health investigators determined that the animals did not have contact with each other during transport except for Dog A and her puppy aged 10 weeks (Dog B), which were transported in the same crate. Both dogs had reportedly been collected off the streets of Cairo 5 days before shipment.

Among the eight dogs in the Egyptian shipment, only Dog A and two dogs aged 6 months (dogs F and G) had certificates indicating rabies vaccination at or after age 3 months and >30 days before arrival at a U.S. port of entry, as required by CDC dog importation regulations.

Following Dog A’s rabies diagnosis, rescue workers reported that the dog’s vaccination certificate had been intentionally predated in Egypt.

The Virginia investigation focused on contact with Dog A after departing the airport cargo area through the time of the veterinary assessment in Virginia. Health department personnel in Virginia evaluated 30 persons for possible rabies exposure; no bite exposures were reported.

Eighteen persons initiated rabies post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP), including 10 who were considered to have been exposed and eight who requested PEP despite reporting no clear rabies exposure. Eight of the 18 persons receiving PEP reported having previously received rabies pre-exposure prophylaxis.

Domestic animal exposure investigations revealed that all animals in the Egyptian shipment, except for Dogs A and B, had been crated individually in the airplane’s cargo hold and held separately after arriving in the United States, until delivered to their final destinations. Investigators thought it unlikely that the cats in this shipment had interacted with Dog A, even while in Egypt.

CDC’s cat importation regulations do not require that cats be vaccinated against rabies; therefore, the cats were not required under federal regulations to be confirmed, vaccinated, or re-vaccinated against rabies.

The Virginia Department of Health considered that the only dog among the animals in the Egyptian shipment to have been exposed to Dog A during the rabies infectious period was her puppy, Dog B. Dog A’s caretaker was pet sitting a neighbor’s dog and providing care within her household for eight other dogs, as well as nine other animals.

The Virginia Dept. of Health identified seven dogs in Dog A’s caretaker’s home as having been exposed to rabies. (Dog B was housed with a different caretaker.)
The local health department determined that all of the exposed dogs except Dog B had current rabies vaccination certificates from licensed veterinary hospitals.

The dogs with current certificates received a rabies booster vaccination followed by 45 days of confinement at their owners’ homes, as recommended by the Compendium of Animal Rabies Prevention and Control.

Rabies, the deadliest of all zoonotic diseases, accounts for an estimated 59,000 human deaths globally each year.

Dog B, who was aged <12 weeks at the time and had not received an initial dose of rabies vaccine, was vaccinated against rabies and placed in strict isolation for 90 days, followed by 90 days of home confinement.

To ensure that the dog was vaccinated according to the vaccine manufacturer’s label specifications (at age <3 months), another dose of rabies vaccine was administered to Dog B, one month before release from strict isolation. Dogs C and D each received a booster dose of rabies vaccine, followed by 90 days of home confinement.

The New Jersey Department of Health interviewed volunteers from a canine rescue group in New Jersey (animal rescue group B) that had received four of the eight dogs from the Egyptian shipment. All four dogs received either their initial rabies vaccination or a rabies booster vaccination and were ordered to be confined in their owners’ homes for 6 months.

The importation regulations are difficult to enforce because of limited resources at U.S. ports of entry to inspect dog shipments.

This report details the fourth known instance of a rabid dog imported from a non-U.S. territory since 2004 and the second instance of importation by a rescue organization of a rabid dog from the Middle East.

However, other cases might have gone unreported because rabies can have a variable clinical course that might not prompt animal owners or veterinarians to seek postmortem rabies testing.

CDC and state agencies have previously received reports of invalid or questionable health and rabies vaccination certificates for imported dogs; in at least one reported case, a veterinarian issued a Certificate of Veterinary Inspection for a dog that was already showing signs of rabies infection.

CDC has attempted to address mounting concerns about importation of inadequately vaccinated dogs, either resulting from inaccurate rabies vaccination certificates or from legal importation under an existing mechanism allowing exceptions to CDC’s regulatory requirement (i.e., issuance of a dog confinement agreement that serves as a legal and binding agreement between CDC and the importer and lists requirements for vaccination and confinement of the animal).

This report underscores the current difficulties in verifying any imported dog’s rabies vaccination certificate and health status. The United States also is vulnerable to an increasing risk for rabies introduction and spread from other imported domestic animals, such as cats and ferrets.

Considering the public health risk posed by importation of animals for the purposes of placing them in adoptive homes in the United States, and the current oversupply of adoptable animals already in the United States, persons and organizations involved with importing pets for the purposes of adoption should consider re-evaluating, and potentially redirecting, their current efforts.

Globally, animal welfare stakeholders should consider focusing their efforts on supporting local organizations that provide adoptive homes, along with health care services, for street animals in their own countries. In addition, although this report focuses on imported dogs and rabies, all animals pose a risk for transmission of zoonotic diseases (e.g., *Brucellosis*, *Leishmaniasis*, *Campylobacteriosis*, *Leptospirosis*, *Giardiasis*, and *cutaneous or visceral Larva Migrans*).

Documentation of overall health status, not just rabies vaccination, is critical to minimizing the risk from importing animals carrying zoonotic diseases.
Calendar of Events!

AKC Breeder Representative Dates:

February 26\textsuperscript{th} & 27\textsuperscript{th}: Iowa Pet Breeders Association (IaPBA) Conference, Altoona, IA.

February 27\textsuperscript{th}: Ohio Professional Dog Breeders Association (OPDBA), Mt. Hope, OH.

March 5\textsuperscript{th}: Pinnacle Pets St. Puppy’s Day, Neosho, MO.

March 11\textsuperscript{th} & 12\textsuperscript{th}: Missouri Pet Breeders Association (MPBA), Lebanon, MO.

March 22\textsuperscript{nd}: New York Pet Breeders Association (NYPBA), Penn Yan, NY.

March 24\textsuperscript{th}: Pennsylvania Professional Dog Breeders Association (PPDBA), East Earl, PA.

April 1\textsuperscript{st} & 2\textsuperscript{nd}: Kansas Pet Professionals (KPP), Topeka, KS.

April 15\textsuperscript{th} & 16\textsuperscript{th}: Minnesota Pet Breeders Association (MnPBA), Granite Falls, MN.

April 29\textsuperscript{th} & 30\textsuperscript{th}: Oklahoma Pet Professionals (OKPP), **Location TBD, OK.

May 6\textsuperscript{th} & 7\textsuperscript{th}: Illinois Husbandry and Animal Welfare (IHAW), Arthur, IL.

May 20\textsuperscript{th} & 21\textsuperscript{st}: Dakota Pet Breeders Association (DPBA), Sioux Falls, SD.

June 3\textsuperscript{rd}: Professional Pet Association (PPA), Moberly, MO.

September 8\textsuperscript{th} & 9\textsuperscript{th}: Missouri Animal Husbandry Association (MAHA), Springfield, MO.

September 23\textsuperscript{rd} & 24\textsuperscript{th}: Hunte Corporation Breeder Educational Conference (BEC), Goodman, MO.

September 29\textsuperscript{th}-October 1\textsuperscript{st}: Indiana Council for Animal Welfare (ICAW), Shipshewana, IN.

October 7\textsuperscript{th} & 8\textsuperscript{th}: Professional Pet Breeders of Texas (PPBofTX), Mt. Pleasant, TX.

November 5\textsuperscript{th}: Tri-State Premier Pet Association (TSPPA), Independence, KS.

November 18\textsuperscript{th}: Professional Pet Association (PPA), Moberly, MO.
MAHA OBJECTIVES

1. To develop and implement humane and educational programs within the State of Missouri that will enhance and publicize the best animal husbandry practices within the State of Missouri for the benefit of all responsible breeders and owners of animals, to include but not be limited to; dog and cat breeders, farmers who raise animals that are used for sustaining our food supply throughout the United States.

2. To develop and sustain a viable industry within the State of Missouri for the production and marketing of quality Missouri-bred animals that are used as pets; used for law enforcement and security purposes; used as service or therapy dogs; used as food sources; used for farming and agricultural purposes; used for transportation purposes, and used for sporting and exhibition purposes.

3. To promote awareness of existing and proposed laws and regulations that pertain to any and all aspects of animal husbandry, including but not limited to; breeding standards and all standards that relate to the care and welfare of all animals covered by the relevant laws and regulation.

4. To respond to all inquiries from Federal, State or Local Government Officials with respect to any existing or proposed laws or regulations, and to endeavor to ensure that all such Officials are made aware of all facts and issues that are relevant to any of the above referenced proposed and existing or proposed laws or regulations.

5. To undertake public service initiatives that will accurately reflect and will enhance a positive image of all responsible breeders and owners of animals in the State of Missouri, to include not only all MAHA Members, but all responsible breeders and owners of animals in the State of Missouri.

* Definition of Animal Husbandry: The Controlled cultivation, management, and production of domestic animals, including improvement of the qualities considered desirable by humans by means of breeding. Animals that are bred and raised for food, fur, sport, pleasure and research.

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If My Dog Could Talk.....

Dog: WAT DOING
Me: Nothing, I just stood up.
Dog: WHERE GO
Me: I'm literally walking 3 feet away. I'm not even leaving the room.
Dog: CAN I COME
Me: I mean sure but I'm literally just—
Dog: I COME TOO
Dog: WAT DOING
Me: I need to open this door.
Dog: I HALP
Me: No but you're in front of the door. Move please.
Dog: I HALP
Me: Sigh.
Dog: WHERE GOING
Me: I am going right back to the exact place I was sitting a second ago.
Dog: CAN I COME
Me: Sure.
Bob & Chadd Hughes
P.O. Box 534, 151 State Hwy 76
Wheaton, MO 64874
(417) 652-7540 Fax: (417) 652-7019
Website: www.swaauction.com
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