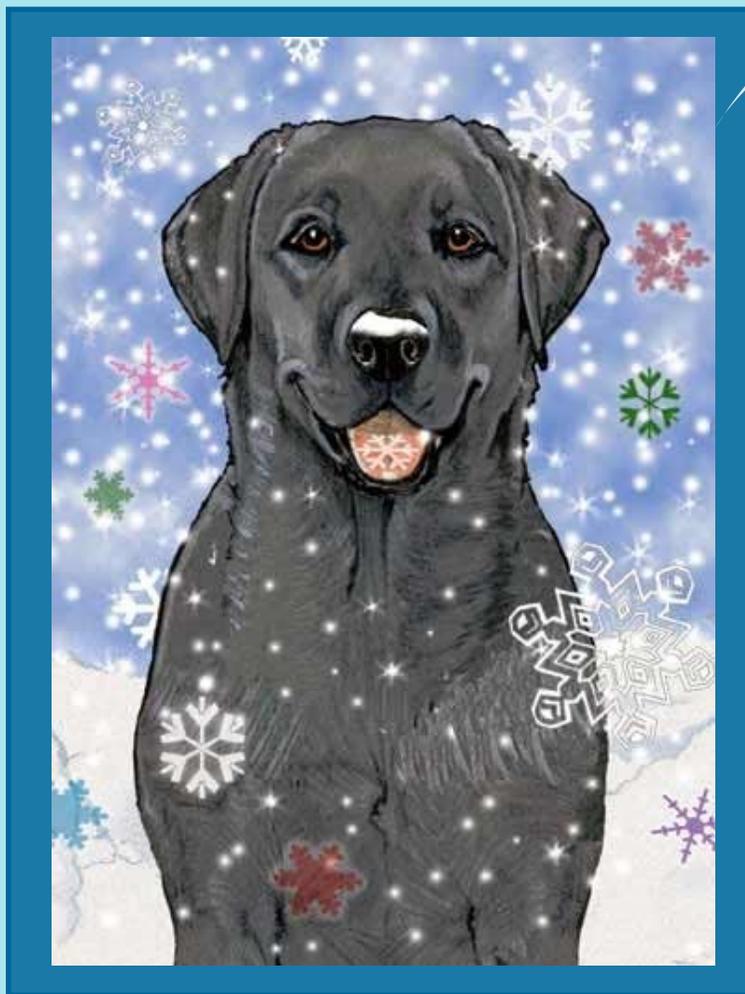


The Retriever Believer

Monthly Newsletter of the Puget Sound Labrador Retriever Association
Volume 34, Number 12, December 2017



May Your Days Be Merry and Bright

Thank you for your support throughout 2017. It's been a great year and we are proud of all that our members have been able to accomplish. PSLRA successfully hosted hunting trials, obedience and rally events, agility competitions, tracking tests, and, of course, our specialty.

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We applaud the diversity of our membership and encourage you to consider this for your new year's resolution: try something new this year. Prove the versatility of YOUR Labrador, perhaps even step outside your comfort zone, and dabble in a new event—there are so many options from which to choose!

Until 2018, we wish you the best of the holiday season and hope your homes are filled with laughter, memories, wiggly butts and wagging tails.

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PSLRA Membership and Board of Directors' Meeting

Secretary's Minutes

November 15, 2017

The meeting was called to order at 6:34pm. Officers and directors present included Stephanie Harris, Shelah Frey, Jill Mahoney, Kristen Reiter, Diane Sullenberger, Becky Dannaker, Scott Dannaker, Ramdas Vaidyanathan, Katie Somers, Brenda Hubbard, Marcy Johnson and Linda Maffett.

There were no President, Vice-President or Secretary's reports. Jill provided the Treasurer's report which is available upon request.

Acknowledgements are needed for our Fall Agility Trial at Argus Ranch. Jill will contact Kristi Clark to submit a list of volunteers to Kris for recognition in the newsletter.

Brenda will check with Edith Bryan to see if she will provide a Rescue Report for the December newsletter.

Jill reported on the Fall Agility Trial. The entries were down from past years with a total of 136 runs. Only four club members run the event, but despite this, Jill states the event is very well run. The owner of Argus Ranch sadly passed away. The venue already has our deposit for our 2018 event and they are committed to us next year, but what the future beyond that holds is unknown. A review of other agility events and entry numbers suggests we may have had greater participation if we would have held a three-day event instead of a weekend trial. A consideration would be to hold a single four-day trial instead of two weekend trials.

The Nominating Committee, consisting of Marlys Swanson and Mary Jane Sarbaugh, was hoping to have a report for the board this meeting, but not all officers and directors have returned their inquiries or shared their intents to serve another year. Stephanie stressed we need an individual to fill the position of Treasurer. Anyone who can identify an ideal candidate is encouraged to send their ideas and suggestions to the Nominating Committee.

Becky reported on the Holiday Party. The date has been clarified via LabChat and our newsletter and is December 2nd. Partygoers are encouraged to bring a dish to pass and a gift with a purchase limit of twenty dollars. The party has already been advertised in the November newsletter. Kris will remove the Dannaker's address from the advertisement so the information can be posted to our membership on Facebook. Scott is strongly encouraged to concoct his famous turkey tetrazzini.

The Junior Scholarship Committee is in need of a chairperson and members. The topic was tabled to be addressed by the incoming officers of 2018.

Jill reported on the Awards Banquet. It will be hosted at the Best Western on January 13th. The hotel has waived the fee for using an outside caterer, but there will be a charge for the use of the room. Due to issues in the past with members committing to meals and not attending or paying, meals must now be pre-paid. The banquet will consist of BBQ. There will be no host beverages from 5-6pm with dinner directly afterwards.

Stephanie announced that the board voted in favor of moving the 2018 specialty show site to Bay View State Park with a total of twelve votes. She will speak with Angela Rogalla to determine what the next steps shall include and she will also contact Enumclaw to recover our deposit reserving the fairgrounds.

The January supported entry and sweepstakes is confirmed. They have

NEWSLETTER INFORMATION

Please Submit Articles and Advertisements to:

Kristen Reiter, Editor
160 W Crescent Harbor Road, Oak Harbor, WA 98277
PSLRAnewsletter@yahoo.com.

Submissions must be received by the editor by the 20th of each month. Please use "newsletter content" in subject line.

The Retriever Believer is published monthly by the Puget Sound Labrador Retriever Association. Non-member subscriptions are \$20/year. Contributions in the form of articles, letters or money are always welcome. Letters to the editor should not exceed one page of typeset in the newsletter. It is our goal to provide an open forum where members can present their views to the club. The editor and the board of directors reserve the right to decline publication of advertising and other material submitted for publication. *The Retriever Believer* will publish brags (free) and Puppy Referral Litter Listings provided a club member owns either the sire or the dam and a \$10 listing fee has been paid to Puppy Referral. All litter listings and litter advertising must comply with the PSLRA Code of Ethics.

Membership in the PSLRA is open to anyone interested in Labrador retrievers. Annual dues are \$20 for individuals, \$25 for families. Junior memberships are \$10 (for a separate listing in the membership book and a separate newsletter). Please note that new members require the signature of two sponsors on the application form. Requests for information, applications and/or payment of dues should be addressed to: Stephanie Harris, Membership Chair 341 Cross Creek Drive Ellensburg, Washington 98926 stephanie@skyfirelabs.com



Secretary's Minutes (continued)

hired good judges and all are encouraged to support Puyallup this year.

The club still needs to identify a research project to which we can donate funds. The research must be for the betterment of the Labrador specifically and it would be preferred to be an US study as it would reflect the genetics of dogs specifically in the United States. Both Ram and Becky have some insights and will look into them before our next meeting. Kris will inquire with her veterinary sources.

Ram reported that the Boy Scouts are enthusiastic to provide assistance as volunteers at our events. They are asking Ram questions about the hunt tests that he cannot answer as he has never attended such an event. He requests the assistance of someone with experience who can make arrangements to speak to the Boy Scout troop in Puyallup as a guest lecturer. They meet every other Monday and would appreciate a fifteen to twenty minute lecture. Stephanie suggested they attend the Puyallup or Seattle Kennel Club to see a dog show and talk to breeders. We can try to set up a time so certain breeders/exhibitors can help the troop gain an understanding of Labradors and the Hunt Tests.

Jill is organizing the banquet. Cindy Smith has a conflict in her schedule, but did request that we check back with her in early December to check on her availability. Marcy will check back with her, but in the meantime, we should consider other options.

As there was no further old or new business to discuss, open discussion ensued. Stephanie reported that BaRay suggested that we appoint an event chairperson to oversee all aspects of our specialty. He/she would be responsible for the submission of the paperwork, communication with the AKC, and the organization of each area of competition at our specialty (conformation, obedience and rally). It is advised that each subcommittee be kept separate, meaning they have their own budget, work crews and planning. It would provide authority to each subcommittee, but they would still answer to the event chair. Jill volunteered to be the event chairperson for the 2018 Specialty. Angela Rogalla, Linda Maffett and Katie Somers would serve on the conformation committee, Chantel Nahoopii and Kristi Clark would serve on Obedience and Rally.

Ram inquired on current openings for chairpersons as he is interested in volunteering to help. Stephanie suggested that we allow the incoming board to set the calendar and put out a call for assistance for each event. Ram and other interested parties can let the new board know of their interest to assist.

Marcy has a table and a box of educational materials to transfer to Brenda for the breed booth. The Sportsman's show is in the third weekend of January (January 24-28) and a chairperson is needed. Kris is interested in chairing the booth, but needs to check existing events on her schedule prior to committing.

Scott revisited the Boy Scout education inquiry and suggested that Ram contact Jim Olson to see if he might be interested in speaking to the troop.

The Nominating Committee is contacting board members to learn of interest to remain on the board. Please respond to their inquiries as soon as possible so the list can be published and presented at the next meeting.

There was no further business to discuss and the meeting was adjourned at 7:29pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Kristen Reiter



Copper Toxicosis in Labrador Retrievers

Generously Shared by Author, Cary Unkelbach



Labrador Retriever breeder Kim Jacobson knew something was wrong with her seven-month-old pup when she saw his brown-colored urine that spring day in 2015. She immediately contacted her vet but had no inkling of the seriousness of Patron's condition. Months and several thousands of dollars of vet bills later, this well-respected breeder made the heart-wrenching decision to put down Patron. Diagnosed with copper toxicosis (CT), he couldn't recover. Patron was just eleven months old and our Ranger's nephew.

CT is an "inherited metabolic disease" affecting not only Labradors but other breeds and can result in liver failure, according to Casey Carl, DVM, of Paw Print Genetics (PPG) of Spokane, Washington. He explains that dogs with this disease have a decreased ability to excrete dietary copper from the body, causing excessive copper storage in tissues and organs which can result in liver damage, cirrhosis and the inability of the liver to function properly.



Patron relaxes with his littermates. Lisa Butler of Snowberry Labradors bred this litter before she knew about CT in Labradors.



Mixed breeds are not immune from CT. Here, Ginger, owned by Richard Gastellum, DVM practices for her upcoming Canine Good Citizen test

All breeds and mixed breeds may contract CT, says Dr. David Twedt, one of this nation's leading experts in CT for the past forty-plus years. Dr. Twedt, a professor at the Colorado State University's College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences (CSU), identifies not only Labradors but also Bedlington Terriers and Dalmatians as well as possibly Doberman Pinchers and West Highland White Terriers as breeds with a known genetic makeup for the disease.

In January 2016, Dutch researchers identified a mutation of one gene ATP7B (7B gene mutation) as associated with an increased risk of CT in Labradors. Dr. Carl says genetics only account for 42% of the overall CT risk for any given Labrador. In addition, he notes that "given that dogs without the known ATP7B mutation have been shown to develop CT, it can be assumed that there are other, undiscovered genetic mutations that also increase CT risk." Therefore, he adds, the ATP7B mutation only contributes a fraction of the overall CT genetic risk factors. Dr. Carl also says the remaining 58% of the overall risk of Labrador CT is caused by non-inherited, environmental factors including dietary intake of copper from food and water.

Two American companies now offer a DNA test for the 7B gene mutation as well as for a mutation of the ATP7A gene (7A gene mutation) which offers an unknown amount of protection from the CT disease in Labradors with the 7B gene mutation.

Experts agree that Labradors with one or two copies of the 7B gene mutation may or may not develop the CT disease. But, if a Labrador has one or two copies of the 7B gene mutation, he/she is much more at risk

Two American companies now offer a DNA test for the 7B gene mutation as well as for a mutation of the ATP7A gene (7A gene mutation) which offers an unknown amount of protection from the CT disease in Labradors with the 7B gene mutation.

Copper Toxicosis, Con't

for CT. However, studies show that Labradors may develop CT even if they don't have the 7B gene mutation.

Dr. Carl and other experts concur that a liver biopsy is the only way to know for certain if dogs have CT. They also agree that a larger database of DNA and liver biopsy results would facilitate additional research into the genetic makeup of CT in Labradors.

Dr. David Roberts, a general practitioner of veterinary medicine for the last thirty-six years in Colorado, suggests one way to create a large database for future studies of CT in Labradors. He recommends that your vet take a liver biopsy during a routine spay or neuter of a Labrador at the age of one year or older. He says the biopsy procedure can be done very easily during a spay, with a minimal charge and minimal additional anesthesia time for the biopsy. Results of the biopsy then could be sent to a database for further study of the disease. However, a separate “keyhole” or laparoscopic abdominal incision would be required for a liver biopsy on males but could be done during a neuter when the dog is under anesthesia, he adds.

PATRON

Jacobson's vet first thought Patron had a urinary tract infection. Two rounds of antibiotics later, his brown-colored urine hadn't cleared up. Next came blood tests which showed really high liver enzyme levels. Jacobson immediately changed Patron's diet from kibble to cooked turkey and rice. He only drank bottled water. His urine remained brown. Jacobson's vet suggested a deworming medicine which she'd heard might help. He seemed better for a week but then his liver enzyme levels returned to their highs.

Jacobson recalls that her cute, show prospect puppy then looked like a dairy cow, with a pot belly and backbones protruding from his yellow fur. His copper enzymes remained high and his urine became the color of benzine- a very dark reddish color. She gave the go ahead for a liver biopsy. Lab results showed the copper level in his liver was 3,500 ppm. The normal range is 120-400 ppm, according to CSU. Patron had CT.

Heartbroken, Jacobson looked for answers. She learned that PPG was collecting samples of blood and DNA swabs for a future study about CT in Labradors. Jacobson, who had been in close touch with Patron's well-respected breeder, Lisa Butler of Snowberry Labradors, suggested sending DNA samples of Patron relatives to PPG. Ranger's DNA samples were sent to PPG in November 2015 after Butler asked us to participate. She also sent samples from her Missy (Naughty's and Ranger's dam), and Naughty (Patron's dam and Ranger's sister). In addition, Butler notified the owners of the sires of

Naughty's and Missy's litters about Patron's diagnosis and recommended that they send DNA samples from those stud dogs to PPG.

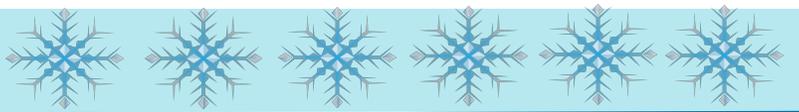


Nine-week-old Patron, registered as Snowberry's Get The Party Started at Alibi, poses in his new California surroundings.



This is a photo of Patron's liver biopsy. Experts say a healthy liver is dark red to purple in color.

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PPG TEST VALIDATION



Missy (Ch. Barcar's Mischief at Snowberry), Patron's granddam, tested clear for the 7B gene mutation.

In 2016, PPG used the Dutch research study to develop and validate two independent tests for both the 7B and 7A gene mutations, according to Blake Ballif, PhD, PPG's Laboratory and Scientific Director. For several months, his laboratory ran quality control tests on samples to ensure that there would be no false positive or negative results and that the results could be replicated. Once the tests were developed and validated for accuracy, PPG tested DNA samples submitted to its laboratory from ten Labradors diagnosed with CT by elevated copper scores from liver biopsies. In addition, about forty other Labradors that were related to these ten canines also were tested with the newly developed CT tests. Unfortunately, a sample of Patron's liver was lost in transit to PPG and his blood was mistakenly thrown out by the lab technician at Jacobson's vet's office, so his DNA was never tested.

Ballif says of the CT-diagnosed Labradors tested by PPG, 40% had one or two copies of the 7B gene mutation, and 50% had one or two copies of the protective 7A gene mutation. Many of the related dogs had the 7A and 7B gene mutations. He also notes that the number of CT-diagnosed Labradors was small primarily due to the difficulty in obtaining DNA samples on CT-diagnosed dogs who also had increased copper scores identified by liver biopsy. He adds that the results on these validation samples suggested that the 7A and 7B gene mutations can clearly be identified by genetic testing but do not account for all causes of CT in CT-diagnosed Labradors.

Dogs that inherit the 7B gene mutation are at risk for increased copper storage in the liver, Dr. Carl says. Dogs with two 7B gene mutations are at a greater risk than those with only one 7B mutation. Females with the 7B gene mutation are at greater risk for the disease than males, according to studies. Dr. Carl notes that although males can only inherit one copy of the 7A gene protectant mutation, they appear to have more protection than females who inherit only one 7A gene mutation and one normal gene.

As of mid-September, PPG had tested more than 500 Labradors. Of those tested, about 36% had one copy of the 7B mutation, and 3.5%, two copies, according to Dr. Carl. He cautions that the percentages probably aren't representative of the frequency of the gene mutation in Labradors because the samples were from litters and other related dogs.

Although research so far reveals that most dogs with CT show symptoms in middle age, there were a couple of Labradors in the two-three-year age range with CT in the PPG study, according to Ballif. These symptoms may include weight loss, diarrhea, lethargy, vomiting, weakness and abdominal pain, Dr. Carl says. Late stage signs of the disease may include abdominal swelling, jaundice and neurologic problems.



Naughty (Snowberry's Mischief Maker), enjoys the snow as a seven-week-old pup. Patron was her son.

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A group of geneticists from the University of Michigan's Department of Human Genetics and Michigan State University's School of Veterinary Medicine developed a CT test for Bedlington Terriers decades ago and later formed VetGen in Ann Arbor, Michigan. The company now tests Labradors' DNA for CT. As of late July, it had tested twenty Labradors for CT, and half tested clear for the 7B gene mutation, according to a VetGen geneticist. Of the ten other dogs, eight had one copy of the 7B gene mutation but only two of these dogs had the 7A gene mutation. One of the two dogs with two 7B gene mutations had the 7A protectant gene mutation but the other didn't.

Although genes other than the 7B gene mutation probably contribute to CT in Labradors, Ballif and Carl urge breeders to use the CT DNA test as one tool to reduce the incidence of this very complex disease. Dr. Carl suggests breeding dogs clear of the 7B mutation gene to each other OR dogs with one or two 7B gene mutation(s) to clear dogs to limit the number of offspring with the gene mutation. A single parent may pass on the 7B gene mutation to his/her pups.

According to Dr. Twedt, the environment, such as water and diet, plus "maybe" genetic factors, causes CT in dogs. He recalls that in the 1990s, the type of copper used in commercial dog foods changed to a type that was more biologically available. That's when he saw an increase in cases of CT. He doesn't recommend a certain level of copper in commercial kibble for dogs but notes diets low in copper, such as homemade meals or prescription diets including Royal Canin prescription Hepatic Diet (7 mg/kg per manufacturer's website) or Hills prescription L/D Diet (4.5 ppm of copper per Hill's website) worked well for Bedlingtons after they received treatment for CT. He says human foods to stay away from include shellfish, liver, certain grains and some nuts.

Dr. Twedt notes that some well water also may have high copper levels. He's less concerned about city water because it's treated and individuals can call their city to find out copper levels in the water.

Can CT be caused solely by diet and water? Dr. Roberts says that would be "extremely rare" that a dog could ingest that much copper. "It is much more common that there is a genetic makeup component of the disease."

TIPS TO PROTECT LABRADORS FROM CT

How can Labrador owners protect their dogs from the disease? Dr. Twedt recommends an annual blood workup.

Here are some other ideas:

- Become educated about CT in Labradors. Dr. Carl welcomes questions from both breeders and owners. Email www.pawprintgenetics.com or call 509-483-5950.



Napping like Ranger (Snowberrys Mountain Ranger at Walden, RE,BN,CD,CGC) at ten weeks of age won't educate you about CT. Learn about CT to help control this awful disease.

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- Realize that your breeder probably didn't test the parents of your current Lab for CT because they didn't know about the disease and/or the CT DNA test for Labradors wasn't available.
- Submit a DNA swab from your Labrador to a laboratory that tests for CT gene mutations, such as PPG or VetGen. Excluding discounts, standard prices for CT tests are \$80 at PPG and \$98 at VetGen. Both companies now test for the 7B and 7A gene mutations even if the dog is clear of the 7B gene mutation.
- Consider authorizing your vet to take a liver biopsy of your dog when you have him or her neutered or spayed, so the sample can be checked for CT and perhaps become part of a database.
- Before buying a puppy from a breeder, ask if the parents have been tested for CT and if so, request the results. Here's Dr. Carl's breakdown of the probability, based on parentage, that a Labrador pup will have the 7B gene mutation:
 - Both parents clear of the 7B gene mutation (clear): pups all will be clear.
 - One parent with one copy of the 7B gene mutation and the other parent, clear: 50% of the pups will have one copy, and 50%, clear.
 - Both parents with one copy of 7B gene mutation: 25% of the pups will have two copies; 50%, one copy, and 25%, clear.
 - One parent with one 7B gene mutation and the other with two copies: 50% of pups will have two copies, and 50%, one copy.
 - Both parents with two copies of 7B gene mutation: all puppies will have two copies of 7B gene mutation.
- If your dog has one or two copies of the 7B mutation, consult your veterinarian to decide what steps to take to try to prevent/curtail the disease. Those steps may include:
 - feeding a lower copper content dog kibble,
 - scheduling regular blood tests to determine if the liver appears to be working correctly, and
 - feeding over the counter zinc supplements.



Although our Ranger, Patron's uncle, has the 7B gene mutation, he still can exercise normally per Dr. Robert's advice. That means he'll continue to climb 14ers, including one of his favorites, Red Cloud Peak at 14,034 feet!

Dr. Roberts immediately recommended bloodwork for Ranger when he learned that our boy has one copy each of the 7B and 7A gene mutations. Ranger's liver enzymes tested normal but will be retested annually. Dr. Roberts cautions that if there is even a small elevation in Ranger's liver enzymes, then aggressive action must be taken. Once a dog is symptomatic, the dog can be helped but not saved, he says. If Ranger had two copies of the 7B gene mutation, he'd recommend semiannual blood testing.

Based on Dr. Robert's recommendation, we checked the copper content of Ranger's kib-

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ble because he said low-end commercial dog food often has between 25 to 30 mg/kg as fed basis of copper. The manufacturer of Ranger's Taste of the Wild Sierra Mountain kibble reported a 15 mg/kg as fed basis of copper content which Dr. Roberts thinks is acceptable for Ranger. He notes that the Association of American Feed Operators recommends only a minimum 7.3 mg/kg copper content but no maximum.

How can breeders reduce the incidence of CT in Labradors?

- Acknowledge that CT exists in Labradors.
- Share information about the disease with each other. This is being done on a closed Facebook page called Copper Toxicosis in Labradors. Ask to join if interested.
- Test dogs for the 7B and 7A gene mutations. Butler and Jacobson, who have each bred Labradors for more than twenty-five years, now test their dogs for CT.
- Follow Dr. Carl's recommendation to breed only dogs clear of the 7B gene mutation to one another, OR clear dogs to dogs with one or two 7B gene mutation(s), with one of the dogs possibly having the 7A gene mutation. Vet Gen also recommends breeding dogs with the 7B gene mutation(s) to only clear dogs.
- Educate your puppy buyers about the disease. Butler emailed an informational letter to all of her buyers of puppies from the litters that included Patron and also his mother, Naughty. Like Ranger, Naughty (Patron's dam) has one 7B and one 7A gene mutation but Patron's sire, has two 7B gene mutations and no 7A gene mutations. Missy, Patron's granddam and Naughty's and Ranger's dam, is clear. In her letter, Butler explained that she hadn't known about the disease when she bred both litters but has since tested not only both dams but also other dogs that she hopes to include in her breeding program. Butler also provided information about the disease and recommended that their dogs be tested and their veterinarian be consulted.
- Urge the Labrador Retriever Club, Inc. (LRC), the parent club of local Labrador clubs, to explore possibility of additional research of CT in Labradors. Ask that the LRC or your local club search for a public or private research facility willing to store DNA and liver biopsy results which could be used for additional research.

THE BEDLINGTON EXPERIENCE

Can the CT be reduced in Labradors? Absolutely, if Labrador breeders learn from Bedlington Terrier breeders even though the genetic inheritance of the disease is different. (Bedlington pups must inherit their deletion of the Commdt 1 gene from both parents to become CT symptomatic.)

In 1977, Lucy Heyman learned of the breed's genetic propensity for CT when she bought her first two Bedlingtons. She had both of her dogs' livers biopsied and never looked back in her decades-long fight against the disease. She's currently the Health and Wellness chair of the Bedlington Terrier Club of America, and still breeds and shows Bedlingtons. She recalls being told about forty years ago, that about 75% of her breed had the disease. That percentage has been dramatically reduced to about 10%, she estimates, thanks to careful breeding and care of Bedlingtons.

Over the forty years that she's bred Bedlingtons, she's had less than ten dogs with CT and lived with one. She always biopsied her dogs before breeding prior to when geneticists at the University of Michigan developing a blood test to identify the Bedlington CT gene. A DNA test was developed which she uses except

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when breeding to a line that may have the CT gene, and then she has a liver biopsy done of her dog to make sure it is clear of CT.

Heyman recommends feeding dogs, especially with the CT gene:

- a very high-quality dog food;
- no junk food;
- no liver or shellfish such as shrimp;
- and foods without wheat, an ingredient of many dog treats.

She also suggests testing the water in your home to see if it has a high copper content and if so, provide only bottled or filtered water to your dogs. In addition, she says, don't stress your dogs with the CT gene and that may mean not competing with your dog in the show ring, depending on the individual canine.

Heyman also notes that breeders and breed clubs can help fight CT by not being accusatory or defensive. "Transparency is essential to try to eradicate or at least control the disease in one's breed. Don't breed affected dogs or carriers to one another." And, the hardest part, she says, is to have a necropsy performed on the dogs with CT so that that they leave a legacy of information.

Experts agree that more research about the genetic component(s) of CT in Labradors is necessary. VetGen is open to more studies depending on outside interest.

If followed, Dr. Robert's suggestion to establish a database of liver biopsies and/or laboratory results of liver biopsies collected from dogs at the time they are spayed or neutered just might be another huge step towards reducing the incidence or even eliminating this heart-breaking disease in Labradors.

Additional information: <https://www.pawprintgenetics.com/blog/2017/08/01/labrador-retriever-copper-toxicosis-test-interpretation-breeding-strategy-and-monitoring/>

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Bedlington Terrier breeder Lucy Heyman suggests not stressing dogs with the CT gene and that may mean not competing with them. A happy Screaming Eagle Start Dust, RE,BN,CD, a Norwegian Elkhound owned by Patty Brooks, looks stress free as he emerges from an agility tunnel.



Much more research about CT is needed to protect Labradors and their ability to live a full and happy life. Ranger is pictured at four months enjoying some Colorado snow.

Brag!



Shakira

Shakira, owned by Cheri and Mark Levine earned her Master Standard Agility Title. She now can compete with the BIG dogs! Running a very fast lab makes it a challenge yet fun every step of the way.

Brag!



UKC RBIS CH Int Honors CH in Bronze Sunnydaze For Peep's Sake, TKN, CQCA

Brach and I have been incredibly busy the past few months, collecting memories, experience, ribbons and TITLES!

In October, we spent the weekend at an IABCA show in Ridgeview where we won a Best of Breed, upgraded Brach's Championship to an Honors Champion in Bronze and grabbed a Gold Cup Bronze in the process. To kill some time between shows, we visited an evaluator on site and passed the Canine Good Citizen Advanced certification and Trick Dog Novice title. We are preparing to take the next three Trick Dog tests and hope to earn Trick Dog Performer by January.

We then followed the hoards of dogs to the Whidbey Island Kennel Club show in Monroe where Brach placed second in Beginner Novice Obedience A on both days of showing, with scores of 194 and 195 1/2 respectively. We entered Rally Novice B on a whim, figuring we were already going to be there, so "why not?" We hadn't practiced Rally since late winter last year, but the little bugger remembered everything! She placed fourth with a score of 96 the first day and earned a score of 92 (every single point lost was due to my errors, not hers), which put us fifth in scoring. I am super excited to have two legs for our BN and RN titles secured!

Finally, we attended our first United Kennel Club dog show in Longview at the end of November, gathering enough competition wins and class points to earn our UKC Championship AND taking RESERVE BEST IN SHOW on Saturday!!! I had a great time networking, making friends and watching our new event of interest...barn hunt!

All Around and Versatility? We are getting there!

Submitted by Kristen Reiter, DVM

Rescue Report



Charlotte is a star!

Charlotte the chocolate Lab had been cherished by her family for over 12 years. She was the constant companion for an elderly woman who was confined to a wheelchair, and was a favorite of everyone she met. Sadly, when Charlotte's person had to move to a nursing home, there were no family members who could take Charlotte in permanently. The family contacted SPDR in hopes of finding a wonderful home for Charlotte in her remaining years.

Charlotte was in luck! A family that had recently lost their Lab to cancer was looking for a calm, well socialized senior Lab to enrich their lives. They needed a Lab that would be comfortable with their three cats: Charlotte loves cats! A meeting was arranged and it was love at first sight all around. And best of all, her new family is able to take Charlotte frequently to visit with her previous owner; Charlotte has become a favorite among the staff and residents of the nursing home. What a star Charlotte has been for all of her life, and we hope she has many more years to enjoy her extended family circle!

Submitted by Edith Bryan

Welcome New Members

Tami Giles-Fraser and Jon Fraser

22849—276th Avenue SE

Maple Valley, WA 98038

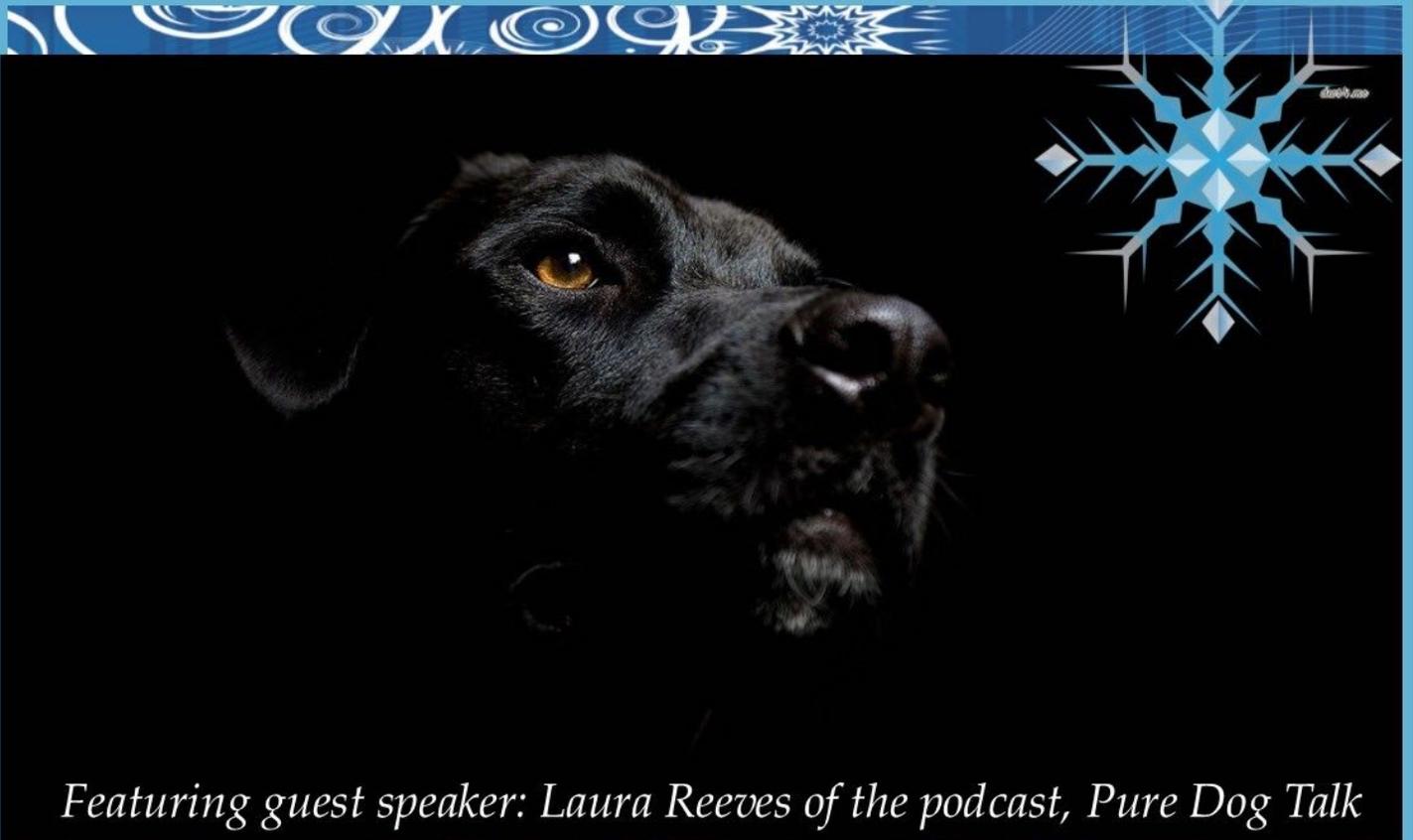
(253) 732-5765

Tami.giles@gmail.com

Sponsors: Angela Rogalla and Edith Bryan

**Update your membership booklet!*





Featuring guest speaker: Laura Reeves of the podcast, Pure Dog Talk

PSLRA Banquet and Awards Ceremony

Saturday, January 13, 2018

Best Western Premier Plaza Hotel

620 South Hill Park Dr, Puyallup, WA 98373

No Host Beverages and Paws Game 5:15-6:00pm
BBQ Style Dinner with Dessert (\$25/plate) 6:00pm
Guest speaker and awards ceremony to follow

**ALL DINNERS MUST BE RESERVED AND PRE-PAID
BY JANUARY 4TH!**

Make checks out to PSLRA or pay through club website. Submit to
Jill Mahoney, P.O. Box 7454, Covington, WA 98042
Mahoney@wwdb.org 253-630-4810

Litter Listing

LIST OF LITTERS BORN OR EXPECTED AS OF 5/18/2017 that conform to the PSLRA Code of Ethics.

Information is as submitted by owners and provided as a service to the public. Listing of litters is in no way an endorsement by PSLRA of any litter or any one litter over another. Litters are removed from the list after 12 weeks. To publish **LITTER LISTINGS** in the newsletter, the following information must be available

- ◆ Elbows and hips must be permanently certified on both the sire and dam.
- ◆ Current Eye clearances on both parents.
- ◆ At least one of each breeding pair must be tested and certified clear of EIC, CNM and RA or be shown as CBP.
- ◆ Heart and other clearances will be included in the listing at the discretion of the breeder.
- ◆ A PSLRA member must own either the sire or the dam and must submit the listing for a non-member.

Please obtain a Litter Listing form from the PSLRA web site, to be used for ALL litters. All Breeders must update their litters each week with Nina Mann via email (harbortoplabs@gmail.com) as to the sex and color of puppies you have available. The listing will be deleted after 12 weeks from the first litter listing date.

1. Mail or email the completed form to Nina Mann, 5706 312th St NW, Stanwood, WA 98292-9649. Please send the \$10 listing fee to Jill Mahoney, Treasurer, by check or PayPal.
2. Your litter notice will appear on the web site and in the next PSLRA newsletter if it conforms to the Code of Ethics.
3. If you know that the Litter Listing and the Puppy Referral programs have helped you sell your puppies, please send a donation to PSLRA (c/o Jill Mahoney, treasurer) to show your appreciation. These donations will all be used for Lab Rescue. Glossary: EIC: Exercise Induced Collapse, CNM: Centronuclear opacity, PRA: Progressive Retinal Atrophy, DD: Dilute clear, CBP: Clear by parentage.

Litter Listings:

Litter born 8/11/17 1 YM, 1YF, 1 BF, 2BM available Sire: Skyfire's Chasin The Horizon OFA24G, OFEL24, ACVO 10/2016, Cardiac Echo Normal, CNM clear, EIC Clear, HNPK Clear, PRA Clear, Dilute Clear Dam: Skyfire's Duck Duck Goose OFA24G, OFEL24, ACVO 10/2016, Cardiac Echo Normal, EIC Clear, HNPK Clear PRA Clear, Dilute Clear Contact: Stephanie Harris Email: stephanie@skyfirelabs.com Listed: 9/23/2017

Older dog listings:

Older Dogs listed do not need to conform to the PSLRA Code of Ethics. Prospective buyers are encouraged to ask about the needs of these dogs and why the breeder/ owner has decided to place them. Many of the dogs listed have basic obedience and are housebroken.

6 month old Chocolate Female

Zoey is a sweet, happy easy-going girl. She is crate trained has, loves to play and gets along with other dogs, however – she likes to chase cats. For more information contact Stephanie Harris at Stephanie@skyfirelabs.com.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS (Watch for 2018 Update!)

PSLRA Banquet and Awards Ceremony

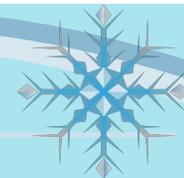
January 13,
2018

Guest Speaker:
Laura Reeves of
Pure Dog Talk

PLEASE NOTE:
Dinners are
PREPAID only!

See Ad in this
Newsletter

Junior's Scholarship News



At this year's Specialty, we were pleased to announce that Katie Dotson was chosen as our Annual College Scholarship recipient for 2017. Katie and her family have been long-time members of the club, and as you can see from Katie's essay below, the Labrador has been an important staple in her life. Congratulations, Katie! We wish you all the best in your college career!

Essay on the Effects Labradors Have Had on My Life

By Katie Dotson

I have been around Labrador Retrievers my whole life. It has been almost 19 years of always having a Labrador to greet me at the door and lay at my feet. They have always been there to bug me for food at dinner and there to lick my face when I am sleeping in too long. Labradors have been many things to me throughout my life.

When I was a toddler they were my furry pillows and my very own miniature ponies. Back then all I knew them for were Chester and Annie my two lazy companions who loved me unconditionally and made sure I was playing safely. The two dogs who never cared that I've been laying on them for hours because it often meant they would be getting a snack somewhere during that time.

When I was a kid, still in Elementary school they were my gun dogs and my show dogs. To my kid eyes Annie and Jake were the king and queen of the show ring and the test grounds. I admired them both and thought that my family and I had the coolest dogs ever. My favorite thing was to watch the dogs do their things and afterwards play and celebrate the good things they did that day. Also at that time I learned what it was like to lose a Labrador. To me, Chester was my old man who was just wearing down. I knew it was time to let him go because no one could watch our first Labrador best friend live the way he was living. I learned that you have to make tough choices for your Lab friends to do the right thing for them.

As a preteen, Labs were my 4-H dogs and my junior show dogs. This was also when I got my very own Labrador. She was Annie's daughter so of course I had to have her as my dog. She was only my dog which I am very thankful for now but when I was 11 I hated her because she peed every time she got excited. Callie eventually got over it and we created a bond that would never be broken. Everything Callie knows I taught her. We spent many hours a night working on showing, obedience, and retrieving. She taught me responsibility and she loved me like I was her mama.

As a teenager going into adulthood, Labs are my children. One Labrador child grew into two Labrador children. Callie and Daisy have become my life, my best friends, and my four legged children. They are my bed buddies, backseat passengers, shadows, and also pains in my butt. I have learned what it is like to feel loved and adored by Labrador Retrievers. Since I know how it feels I now know why my mom has continued this hobby of breeding, dog shows, hunt tests, and everything between. It is like no other feeling to be loved by them.

Labrador Retrievers have been many things in my life. They have shaped my life and who I am today. They taught me many life lessons and how to be responsible. They have made me a lover of all animals and an advocate for them and their rights. I will never stop being a dog mom and I will always have a Labrador in my life. Without them I would miss everything they bring to my life. Joy, annoyance, proudness, hair bunnies, wet kisses, stinky breath, food beggars, and best friends. I will forever love this breed and I'll always be thankful for the chance to live the life I have with Labrador Retrievers trotting by my side.

PUGET SOUND LABRADORS ALL-BREED SHOW N GO

SATURDAY, JANUARY 6, 2018

Country Classic Kennels 9332 - 99th Ave. NE, Arlington, WA 98223

From I-5 North or South: Exit 199 at Marysville From SR 522 in Woodinville

Go East on SR 528 (also 4th St) Exit onto SR 9 (north) Snohomish/Arlington exit

Turn left (north) onto SR 9 Continue approximately 20 miles

Turn right (east) onto 84th St NE (0.6)

Turn left (north) onto 99th Ave. N(0.6)

Turn left into Country Classic Kennels.

The building is set back off the road

GET READY FOR PUYALLUP

Obedience - Novice through Utility

Questions? Nina Mann, harbortoplabs@gmail.com or Michelle Brown, rednmerlin@yahoo.com

Morning coffee and muffins provided, donations welcome

ONE ENTRY FORM PER DOG. PLEASE

First run with each dog: \$12, Second and third runs with same dog: \$8 each

Owner's Name _____

Address _____

Breed _____ Call Name _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Obedience : _____ # of runs

Utility _____ Jump Height _____

Open _____ Jump Height _____

Novice _____

Utility and Open Obedience will start at 10 AM - limited to 10 minutes per run. Novice will start at 8 AM.

Sits and Downs may be done outside to save time, and if you are running multiple dogs and multiple runs, every effort will be made to schedule your runs as close together as possible. Running order will be posted at pslra.org after December 31. Make all checks payable to PSLRA in US funds and mail entries and fees to:

PSLRA ShowNGo, C/o Nina Mann, 5706 312th St NW, Stanwood, WA 98292

As the owner or handler of the above dog, I agree that the above named dog has a current rabies vaccination and is, to the best of my knowledge, a healthy dog. I certify that the dog is not a hazard to persons, other dogs or domestic animals. I agree that I will abide by all the rules of the event. I agree not to hold the host club, its members, representatives or volunteers, or Julie Germano, Country Classic Kennels, their owners, employees or representatives responsible for any claim of loss during the event, and/or while on the event grounds and/or in transit to or from the event grounds. I agree to take full responsibility, financial or otherwise, for any damage or loss to property or domestic or due to the actions of a child under 18 years of age in my care. I agree that the event coordinators reserve the right to dismiss any dog or handler from the event if they deem it necessary.

Date _____ Signature _____

(Owner, handler or parent of child under 18)

We will try to add some Rally classes at the end of the day if time permits.



The Retriever Believer
Newsletter of the Puget Sound Labrador Retriever Association
Web address: www.pslra.org
Kristen Reiter Editor
160 W Crescent Harbor Road
Oak Harbor, WA 98277

