The Retriever Believer - Newsletter of the PSLRA

March 1995, Issue 3, Volume 12

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The Puget Sound Labrador Retriever Association is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting the Labrador Retriever as an all-around dog. It is our belief that a show dog that will not retrieve is not a true Labrador, that there is no reason why a hunting dog should not conform to the breed standard and that both should be well-mannered family members. To these ends we hold AKC sanctioned Specialty Shows and Obedience Trails, Fun Matches, Hunting Tests, Working Certificates, sponsor educational seminars and clinics, publish a newsletter and urge our members to breed only dogs that will be sound in both type and temperament and contribute to improvement of the breed.

We encourage all our members to show their dogs and work them in the field and in obedience to develop their full potential and work toward the club's All-around Labrador Award.

Membership is open to anyone interested in Labrador Retrievers whether they have one dog, none or many.

Annual dues are $15.00 for a voting membership, $20.00 for Family membership with two votes. Junior membership is $7.50 if they are listed separately and receiving their own Newsletter.

The Retriever Believer is published monthly by the Puget Sound Labrador Retriever Association in the interest of providing information and promoting the Labrador Retriever. Non-member subscription rates are $10.00 a year. Contribution in the form of articles, letters, or money are always welcome. It is our goal to provide an open forum where members can present their views to the club. If you have an article that might benefit the club, please submit it for publication. The Retriever Believer will publish brags and litter listings free of charge for their members, non members cost is $5.00. After October 1, 1992, all litter listings must comply with the PSLRA Code of Ethics. Advertising is available at $10.00 per half-page and $20.00 per full page. Deadline for submission is the 20th of the month. Publishing an article or advertisement does not constitute endorsement or agreement by the PSLRA.

All submissions should be sent to the Editor, Joni Willing, 3602 122nd St NW Gig Harbor, WA 98332 phone (206) 858-7445.

From the desk of the President:

Puppy Series & 5-Series Singles at Cherry Valley on April 8, 1995-9:00 AM Call Fred Drennan 206-486-4293

PSLRA Hunting Test May 6-7, 1995 at Carlson's Farm.

PSLRA Tracking Test June 3rd at Wallace's Farm. 5 dog limit and need to be certified to enter. Info 206-486-4293-Fred Drennan.

PSLRA Match *pending AKC approval June 4th at Walli Roarke's Contact Brenda Manus 360-297-4637

Rose City Labrador Club Specialty-June 23-24, 1995.

Rose City HRT Test April 29-30, 1995 at Sauvie Island.
Rose City Working Certificate April 8.

PSLRA Specialty *pending AKC Approval-August 4-5, 1995-Kent, WA.

Our next board Meeting will be March 1, 1995, at Group Health Eastside Hospital, Room D112 at 7:00 P.M. Call Fred Drennan 206-486-4293 if you need further information. The next meeting after that will be March 29, 1995. Call for location.

New Members:

Kayla Brodkin
3607 47th Ave NE
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Changes in addresses:

Add to your list!

Shela Horne
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More Changes:

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Somis, CA 93066-1026
(805) 386-4736

Brag!!

R. C. Ohlin Qutropod searched the Seattle Fire Department's "Pang" fire building on Saturday, January 7, 1995. Ohlin was able to indicate spots where the firefighters lay. This played a part in the recovery of the two firefighters. Ohlin was able to pick up his 2nd leg of his CD on the Friday the 13th. He is proudly owned by A.J. Frank.

Reminder: Litters: To be published in the newsletter, the following information MUST be given to Nina Mann. The elbows and hips must be certified on both parents! The litter information must be sent to Nina, she checks the information and forwards them to me.

Glossary of abbreviations used in litter listings:
Hips: OFA 24G: OFA, 24 months in age, good rating
Elbows: OFEL 24: elbows certified at 24 months.
Eyes: CERF 43. C.E.R.F. registered at 43 months. or ACVO '93 - if you do not register with CERF
OFA: Orthopedic Foundation for Animals
CERF: Canine Eye Registry Foundation
ACVO: American College of Veterinary Ophthalmologists
CH: Champion Can CH: Canadian Champion
JH: Junior Hunter SH: Senior Hunter
MH Master Hunter
CD: Companion Dog
CDX Companion Dog Excellent UD: Utility Dog
WC Working Certificate FC: Field Champion
CGC: Canine Good Citizen TD: Tracking Dog

***** Dogs and bitches before May 1, 1987, are exempt from the elbow certification requirement and will be marked OFEL N/A. *****

New Litters

Litter due 3/7/95
Sire: Can Ch ShaRay's Royal Heir
OFA 24G, OFEL 24, CERF '94
Dam: BreLan's Her Royal Highness WC CGC
OFA 24G, OFEL 24, CERF '94
All yellows expected
Call Brenda Manus (360)-297-4637

Litter due 3/12/95
Sire: Can Ch Caorunn Quintessence
OFA 25G, OFEL 25, CERF '94
Dam: Can Ch Sunnydaze at Lakeview
OFA 24E, OFEL 24, CERF '94
Call Linda Squires (360) 398-8928

For other information on listings call Nina Mann, puppy referral chairman, (206) 483 - 5947.
Evelyn Smith (360) 569-2686 will be the South area puppy referral chairman, and Nina Mann will be the North area. New format includes a letter of Lab information and a sheet of puppy listings. Refer all potential puppy buyers to these two people first!

Rescue news from Edith Bryan Chairperson:

Statistics for January 1995
46 Labs reported: 25 adopted by SPDR or shelter clients
9 redeemed or kept by owners
1 left In shelter, disposition unknown
1 euthanized (hit by car)
6 placed by owners
4 still available for adoption

January happy endings from our foster homes!

"Connor", a handsome 8 month old yellow male, has become the mascot for a family retreat and summer camp. He is the inseparable companion of his new owner, the camp manager (fostered by Edith Bryan).

"Hannah", a lively 7 month old black female, now has a great home with another Lab to keep her company and an owner whose active life includes long walks, runs, hiking and camping (fostered by Lance & Nancy Robertson).

"Denver", a six year old black male, turned out to be a sweet, loveable, mellow gentleman. He now spends his days in a small Montessori school and his nights on his new owner's bed! (fostered by Edith Bryan).

"Rainier", an 8 month old black female, was very shaken by her shelter experience and a severe respiratory infection. But she bounced back to become a happy, friendly

More rescue News!

uppy who is enjoying life on 100 acres in Oregon. (Fostered y Fred Drennan & Edith Bryan).

"Tucker", a handsome one year old black male stray, has found happiness and cookies with his active new family including four children. His hardest job each day is deciding which bed to sleep on at night! (fostered by Edith Bryan).

"Sweetums" was very thin and injured when she came to foster mom, Walli Roarke. After surgery and months of TLC, this pretty 2 year old yellow girl has recovered her health and spirits and has found a wonderful new family to love. (fostered by Walli Roarke).

Can You Help

We need someone to visit the Kent shelter and evaluate the labs reported to us through SPDR. Even if you can only go once in awhile, it would be a great help! Foster homes are always needed- if you can keep a rescued dog overnight or help with transportation, LET US KNOW!

Edith 206-391-7141 Katie 206-483-0677

Rescue has two 7 week old black Lab puppies to be adopted - 1 Male and 1 Female. Call Edith phone is above.

Our Canine Good Citizen Test was a huge success, thanks to our Chairman, Terry Roth. We had lots of able body help and it took all of the ones there to do the test. We had Dogs entered, and they all passed. Thanks Terry for setting this up for us!

NEW TITLES!

Can Ch Interlochens Skye of Chelon CD received at Tualtin Kennel Club. She was bred by Cheryl Ostenson and is owned by Walli & Terry Roarke.

Can Ch Sunnydaze Aspenlane Just Dancin received his Canadian Championship in February. He is bred by Linda Squires and owned by Sandra Matheson-Galloway.

Justes B Laird Duckbuster CGC passed on February 5, 1995 at the age of 11 years.

Brags! Brags! Brags! Brags!

Sammamish Kennel Club:

Interlochens Lonesome Dove (Interlochens Lancer Pride X Can Ch Tabathas Aspenlane Brianna) 1st 9-12 month puppy bitch, Bred and owned by Walli and Terry Roarke.

Interlochens Light Brigade (Am/Can Ch Chelons Vallivue Mr Levi X Can Ch Interlochens Skye of Chelon CD) 1st 6-9 month puppy dog, Bred & owned by Walli & Terry Roarke.*

Puyallup Valley Dog Fanciers Association:

Can Ch Interlochens Skye of Chelon (Ch. Boradors Danny Boy X Ch. Chelons Satin McCoy) 1st open yellow bitch, RWB, Bred by Cheryl Ostenson; owned by Walli & Terry Roarke.

Tualtin Kennel Club:

Interlochens Lonesome Dove (Interlochens Lancer Pride X Can ChTabathas Aspenlane Brianna) 1st 9-12 month puppy bitch, Bred & owned by Walli & Terry Roarke.

Greater Clark County Kennel Club:

Can Ch Interlochens Skye of Chelon CD (Ch Borodors Danny Boy X Ch Chelon Satin McCoy) 1st open yellow bitch and WB for 3 point major, Bred by Cheryl Ostenson and owned by Walli & Terry Roarke.*

Dog Fanciers Association of Oregon, Inc.:

Interlochens Lonesome Dove (Interlochens Lancer Pride X Can Ch Tabathas Aspenlane Brianna) 1st 9-12 puppy bitch, Bred and owned by Walli & Terry Roarke.

ShaRay's Toastin Pinot Noir CD JH WC received her 1st leg on her CDX on 1/29/95 at the Umpqua KC show. She placed 3rd with a score of 191. The night before she won Open A and was High in Match. At Longview-Kelso KC she earned her 2nd leg on her CDX. Bred by Sharon Edwards and owned by Mary Beth & Sherman Lamb.

MORE AND MORE BRAGS!

Toastin's Pinot Gris WC took RWB from the 12- 18 month class at the Umpqua KC show on 1/29/95. Judge: Jeannette McGinnis.
Earlier in the month she placed 1st in Novice B in two matches. At Longview-Kelso KC Gris won the 12-18 month class. She is owned by Mary Beth & Sherman Lamb.

Blythmoor's Archangel (Mikey) on Sunday, February 12, 1995, at Umpqua KC he took BOW, BOB (over a special), and a Group 4 –from the Bred by Class–and he is only 15 months old. Prelim hips, elbows good, Cerf. Owned by Margie & Camille Douma.

Column goes to the dogs

By BETH MULLALLY
Ottaway News Service

MIDDLETOWN, N.Y. — My parents were both Labrador retrievers. I'm a Democrat myself, I think.

My name is Max, and my woman said I could write her column today as I am very communicable and I have something of the uppermost impaction to report to you.

It's about New York's Offi-cial State Dog.

The state doesn't have one. But an Assemblyman from Long Island — which I am told is part of New York even though dogs there bark with a lungisland accent — wants to name the Labrador retriever the Official State Dog.

That's why I'm writing this, on account of I want to come out in favor of being the state dog. The Assemblyman is a Republican, but I want to give the bill bi-species support.

I have had a lot of experience being a Labrador, which is because I am one, so on the behalf of all Labradors, I hearby say why this bill should be supported.

First, as you can probably tell, I am very intelligible. I speak clear and direct, which is more than can be said for most of the people in politics. No one ever has to wonder where I stand on an issue. When I'm in favor of eating, I say one word — usually "bark" — and the people know my feelings. No doublebark.

Plus, I am very kind. I am so kind that one time I was visiting the little girl across the street and she had an ice cream cone. And I took turns with her licking the ice cream. We shared!

That's what state government is all about. If you have something, then the government takes some of it! It's called sharing! As you can see, I have a very sophistible understanding of how things work in government.

Also, I am very earnest and sincere. I earnestly and sincerely want what's best for all of us, which can be seen in my platform:

■ Zero population growth. I did my part when I went to the hospital and had the operation. I don't know what they call the operation, but it's the one that makes the boys and the man feel symphony for me, and they cross their legs whenever they talk about it.

■ A clean environment. By this I mean a scooper for every pooper.

■ An end to the tax on dog food. What is this, a sin tax? A dog's gotta' eat, you know. It's humancentric to think that biscuits aren't one of life's necessaries.

There could be some fur flying over this. Some people might think that, what with New York City, maybe the Official State Dog should be a rottweiler or a pit bull, who might bite your face off.

Call me a cockeared optimist, but I think with the Labrador, people might come to think of New York as a kinder, gentler state.

And I'm sure some uppity poodle out there might think the honor should belong to him.

Think how humilifying that would be. He'd have to go to the hair dresser every time an official function came along. Jeez. This country's had enough of top dogs getting expensive hair cuts.

Some might even argue that the Official State Dog should be a mutt. Such as my housemate Scout, the little brown dog. She is only part Labrador, which basically makes her a mutt. She doesn't even know who her father is! Are those the kind of morals we want to promote in government?

Not that I'm personally against mutts, of course. Like I said, I'm a Democrat. But it just wouldn't be befitting.

Beth Mullally writes from the Middletown, N.Y., Times Herald-Record for Ottaway News Service.

Pooch has grrrrrrreat ambitions

Cornell U. Animal Health Newsletter

Special Report

Risk factors and advances in treating gastric dilatation-volvulus in dogs

The opening comment in most veterinary medical studies of gastric dilatation-volvulus (commonly known as bloat) usually runs something like "a life-threatening disease which must be treated quickly and aggressively" . . . "by all accounts, a medical emergency; mortality estimates range from 23 to 43 percent." However, the experts balance these warnings by asserting that early recognition of the condition and prompt emergency treatment have now brought about a decrease in mortality. Best of all, new surgical techniques have finally lessened one of its most distressing aspects—the tendency to recur in affected dogs.

What happens in gastric dilatation-volvulus is quite clear. Why it happens has been the subject of any number of suggestions over the decades, although it is now considered likely that no single factor is responsible. The multifactorial nature of the disease is perhaps appropriate when the multifaceted impact of the disease on the dog's body is considered. (Gastric dilatation-volvulus is not restricted to dogs; it has also been observed in humans, horses, cattle, and swine. Cats appear to be exempt, although they too can suffer from stomach obstruction.) New understanding of risk factors for the disease in dogs and new insights into treatment should help pet owners become more alert to the problem and thereby make more certain that prompt medical care is available to save a threatened dog's life.

What happens in bloat

By definition, gastric dilatation is a distension of the stomach. Gastric volvulus occurs when the stomach twists on its axis. Gastric dilatation can occur without volvulus, but gastric volvulus is always accompanied by dilatation. With volvulus, the abnormal position of the stomach has a number of adverse consequences: rapid accumulation of gas and its inability to escape from the stomach results in increased intragastric pressure and gradual death of tissue in the stomach.

In addition, surrounding organs, especially the spleen, are displaced by the rotation of the stomach. Cardiogenic shock can follow, as can bacterial infection, including peritonitis. It is believed that the death of gastric-wall tissue, rupture of the stomach, and infection (along with seeding of bacteria in the bloodstream or sepsis) are the most common causes of death following surgery for gastric dilatation-volvulus.

One question that has puzzled veterinarians is "What comes first?" Does the dilatation or bloating come first and then lead to the stomach twisting on its axis? This has been the traditional view, but according to Dr. Gary W. Ellison at the University of Florida, many clinicians believe that gastric volvulus comes first and then leads to dilatation in most cases. In practice, says Dr. Ellison, no effort is made to distinguish between the two conditions, and an affected dog is treated as if it has both. The question remains open.

Risk factors for the disease

Precisely how many dogs are affected by the disease each year is uncertain. One recent estimate is that as many as 60,000 dogs are afflicted each year in the United States (these studies also cite a mortality rate ranging from 7 to 60 percent). But as a just published study by Dr. Lawrence T. Glickman and associates at Purdue University states, precise estimates of the incidence of the disease are simply not available. (Dr. Glickman cites a most reassuring statistic: In the Netherlands over a 13-year period, postoperative mortality dropped from 63 to 29 percent, and the recurrence rate dropped from 82 to 15 percent.)

The Glickman study focuses on the risk factors for the disease and is, in fact, the first comprehensive epidemiologic investigation to trace trends over time and case fatality rates, comparing afflicted dogs with a large control group of dogs without the disease. Cases in the study included 1,934 dogs with the disease that were admitted to 12 veterinary hospitals from 1980 to 1989. The controls were 3,868 dogs with other diagnoses. The fatality rate for gastric dilatation alone was 28.6 and for gastric dilatation with volvulus, 33.3 percent. The number of dogs involved in this study and the opportunity to compare these dogs with dogs that did not have the condition make this study valuable for the light it sheds on factors that put certain types of dogs at special risk for the disease.

Profile of the dog at risk

Although the relative importance of the risk factors identified in the Purdue study cannot be determined, the concerned dog owner should be aware that such factors may, singly or more likely in combination, put an individual dog at risk. It should also be noted that a number of the identified risks have been considered as such for some time, even in the absence of such well-documented proof as this study now offers.

Among the most prominent (and previously accepted) risks are large breed size and a deep chest. Management and feeding patterns may also be factors: overeating, rapid eating, single daily meals, high water consumption, exercise after eating. The role certain types of foods play in gastric dilatation-volvulus has been controversial, but this study

cites consumption of processed foods containing grain and soy meal as a risk factor. Finally, stress, genetic predisposition, and delayed gastric emptying time may also be involved in the disease.

Breed, size, sex, and age

As many pet owners probably already know, purebred dogs are more likely to develop the disease than mixed breeds. But they may be surprised by the size of the risk. The Glickman study says purebred dogs were two and a half times more likely to be afflicted than other dogs.

Increasing age was confirmed as an important risk factor, but gender was not. However, neutering for females or males did convey some slight protective effect. The data gathered for the study were not sufficient to determine if there is a familial predisposition to the disease within breeds, but some evidence for such a genetic predetermination was found: Irish Setters and Gordon Setters had a similar risk for the disease, but Golden Retrievers and Labrador Retrievers were at lower risk.

Limitation of the study

The Glickman study is based on the Veterinary Medical Data Base established in 1964 at Michigan State University. As of December 31, 1991, the data base contained information on over 2.7 million hospital visits by more than 1.1 million dogs at 23 veterinary school hospitals. That's a great deal of information to base a study on, but as Dr. Glickman cautions, even such a wealth of data will not offer explanations for all the factors involved in as complex a disease entity as gastric dilatation-volvulus. For example, the data base cannot evaluate the accuracy of any given diagnosis of gastric dilatation and may lack information on such important elements as diet, exercise, and stress events.

Furthermore, because treatment at veterinary medical school hospitals is expert and expensive, owners of purebred dogs might have been more inclined to use these services for their expensive dogs than owners of mixed-breed dogs. And as a result, the number of purebred dogs in the data base may not accurately reflect the actual prevalence of the disease in the general dog population.

Despite these limitations, Dr. Glickman is confident that studies like the one he and his associates worked on are important to identify the factors in the dog's environment that might put it at risk; to develop a valid explanation for the relationship between the dog, the environment, and the disease; and ultimately to develop preventive strategies that can be acted on by dog breeders and dog owners.

Treating gastric dilatation-volvulus

Because the disease is so rapidly life-threatening, medical and surgical treatment is critical in the acute stage. The volume of gastric gas or fluid (resulting from gulping food, water, or air; overexercising; or stress) must be reduced and, when necessary, the stomach and other affected organs replaced and appropriately stabilized to prevent recurrence.

Because the distended stomach obstructs the portal and caudal veins, blood volume returning to the heart is decreased and cardiac output is lessened. The end result is lack of tissue perfusion and shock. Poor perfusion can cause damage to the tissues in the bowels, which in turn can lead to bacterial invasion and infection.

A report by Dr. Jacqueline R. Davidson (Surgical Referral Service, Riverwoods, Illinois) published in the journal *Veterinary Medicine*, states that the first steps in treatment are to relieve bloating and correct shock by administration of intravenous electrolyte fluid.

Gastric decompression, usually by a form of stomach tube or direct incision into the abdomen, is done simultaneously with treatment for shock.

Surgery to correct the stomach rotation is performed as soon as possible after the dog's condition is stabilized.

Should surgery be delayed?

In the past some experts advised that surgery to normalize the position of the stomach and other organs should be delayed for days or even weeks after the acute stage of the disease has been treated by stomach decompression and anti-shock therapy. But Dr. Ellison says follow-up studies show that this is a dangerous approach. Many dogs have died from tissue destruction in the stomach during the waiting period. Today, therefore, most veterinarians recommend surgery as soon as the dog is believed to be able to withstand anesthesia.

In any event, anesthesia is considered less of a risk for the stabilized patient than the risk inherent in vol-

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vulus itself, which includes a decrease in blood flow to the stomach and damage to the ligament linking stomach and spleen resulting from the rotation of the stomach.

Peritonitis is also a serious danger as the mucosa of the stomach continues to deteriorate and the stomach wall ruptures. Early surgical intervention to reposition the stomach can prevent some of these life-threatening events.

Surgical derotation

Surgery not only allows derotation and repositioning but also permits the surgeon to assess tissue damage to the stomach and the spleen, determine if the spleen can be saved (always an important consideration in view of the organ's importance in combating infection), and fixing the stomach to prevent recurrence of volvulus.

The surgeon is sometimes faced with a stomach that has turned anywhere from 270° to 360° clockwise. The organs are repositioned manually and when in their proper position are inspected for viability (assessed by noting color and by palpation) and for signs of damaged tissue, which is then excised, or impending rupture.

Gastropexy and prevention of recurrence

Gastropexy (from the words *gastro* or stomach and *pexis*, fixation) means literally the attachment of the stomach either to the abdominal wall or to one of the ribs. Four gastropexy techniques are in use today, and in general they are considered highly effective means of preventing recurrence of the disease. Faced with the expense of such a complicated surgical procedure, some dog owners are likely to ask if surgery is really necessary, especially after decompression and supportive therapy appear to have taken the dog out of danger after an acute attack of gastric dilatation-volvulus.

On this issue, Dr. Michael S. Leib and Dr. Robert A. Martin of Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, Virginia, provide some important points for owners to consider. They say that although many dogs with gastric distension appear to improve markedly after nonsurgical therapy, it is impossible to determine without surgery whether these responding animals have dilatation without volvulus or dilatation with volvulus.

Either way, these dogs are statistically prone to frequent, potentially fatal recurrences. Even radiography cannot predict when a spontaneously righted stomach will again twist. Today, gastropexy is considered so effective in preventing recurrence of the disease that, in these experts' opinion, it should even be considered for dogs that recover from an acute attack with medical management alone.

Managing the postoperative patient

An owner of a dog that has been through an attack of acute gastric dilatation-volvulus will remember the episode vividly: The patient began the day uneventfully, even ate and exercised vigorously, then suddenly became lethargic, refused to eat, and had a rapid heartbeat, labored breathing, a weak pulse, and a distended abdomen. Obviously, medical care was urgently needed.

After undergoing surgery, the dog must remain in the hospital for several days, with a slow introduction to oral feeding, usually beginning with ice cubes, small

Some possible causes of gastric dilatation-volvulus

Gastric dilatation-volvulus has been called a complex interaction of pathophysiologic events. Among the pathologic disturbances that have been studied are elevated concentrations of gastrin, the hormone secreted in the mucosa of the stomach that is essential in digestion; dysfunction of the electrical patterns of stomach muscle; abnormal mobility of the esophagus; and various dietary factors—in particular, large infrequent meals and consumption of a high volume of water.

Apparently, no single factor is in itself a satisfactory answer to the question of the cause of the disease, and no conclusion can yet be reached on the impact of any one of these possible factors.

Gastrin excess has been studied for the past decade, and according to Giselle Hosgood, BVSc, MS, of Louisiana State University, its role in the development of gastric dilatation-volvulus is still being questioned. The role of myoelectric dysfunction of the stomach is also not clear. However, there is evidence that abnormal esophageal movement may be involved in recurrent attacks of the disease. Dietary factors have also been studied at length, but Hosgood cites studies showing that dogs fed once a day displayed the same kind of gastric movement and emptying as dogs fed three times a day. So once-a-day feeding in itself apparently does not result in delayed emptying of the stomach and the risk of dilatation-volvulus. However, the most prudent course for dogs at risk from other factors (size, age, breed, body build) may be to feed small frequent meals.

amounts of water, and then small amounts of bland food. Feeding is then on a restricted amount fed four times a day. Vomiting may occur, but if it is frequent and accompanied by fever, it is possible that an infection has developed or there is leakage from the stomach. Sometimes further surgery is necessary to identify the source of the fever.

According to figures cited by Dr. Davidson, of dogs that die from gastric dilatation-volvulus, 50 percent die on the day of surgery, and another 25 percent die during the first four postoperative days, usually from infection or shock. Careful monitoring during this critical period is important, obviously, and veterinarians are alert to this time of maximum danger.

In addition to infection and shock, recovering dogs are also at risk for cardiac rhythm irregularities. Because of this, patients are given periodic electrocardiograms for 48 to 72 hours post-surgery. Dr. Davidson notes that most such cardiac problems resolve by the fifth or sixth day.

Throughout the medical literature on this complex and still not fully understood disease there runs a persistent note: dog owner education can be the most important element in saving the dog's life. Dilatation and rotation of the stomach can trigger many life-threatening events quickly, so the dog that receives the quickest treatment is the dog most likely to survive.

How competent is your dog?

Asking "How competent is your dog?" is not inviting a display of such things as playing dead or vocalizing. In this instance, competence refers to competence as a reservoir or source for the Lyme disease spirochete (technically, *Borrelia burgdorferi*). Indeed, the question of how competent dogs infected with the spirochete are is extremely important for controlling Lyme disease. As Dr. Thomas N. Mather of the University of Rhode Island describes it, reservoir competence means the efficiency with which feeding ticks become infected. If dogs provide a good reservoir for the Lyme pathogen, then ticks feeding on the dogs stand a good chance of imbibing the spirochetes and becoming infected themselves and, unfortunately, capable of spreading the pathogens to the next creature they feed on.

Dr. Mather conducted a study with Dr. Durland Fish of the New York Medical College, Valhalla, New York, and Dr. Richard T. Coughlin of Cambridge Biotech Company in Worcester, Massachusetts, and discovered that when ticks fed on dogs almost 80 percent of the ticks became infected. Dogs, therefore, are very competent reservoirs for the Lyme pathogen—even better than other competent reservoirs such as chipmunks, short-tailed shrews, and red foxes. Although the dogs in this study were specially raised Beagles, and therefore may not be typical of ordinary household pets, these researchers believe that dogs have the potential to become highly infected, even after exposure to a modest number of infected ticks.

The implications of this study must be taken seriously. Dr. Mather and his associates note that spirochetes transmitted to ticks by infected dogs could cause infection in other animals including humans. Furthermore, dogs infected with Lyme disease could give the disease to ticks in areas not usually inhabited by ticks, such as backyards and other places inhabited by people. However, the experts say it is not known for certain if this would increase the risk of a human being acquiring Lyme disease.

Precautions that all dog owners should take include protecting dogs from being bitten by the deer tick now called *Ixodes scapularis* (the former name was *Ixodes dammini*) and preventing infected dogs from transmitting the pathogens to ticks. Dogs should be kept out of tick-infested places such as meadows and wooded areas, and may benefit from tick collars and sprays. Dogs should be carefully inspected for tick infestation, and ticks should be removed.

As you know, ticks should never be removed by the naked hand. Instead, use tweezers that can grip the entire tick body and remove it all. The new vaccines being developed may prevent infection in dogs or at least make the dog a less competent reservoir.

Caring for the homeless

It's a dilemma, but what can you do about it? After all, the cats aren't yours, they are obviously cast-offs, left by neglect and indifference to fall into the feral or semi-wild condition in which you see them: malnourished, ill-kempt, and battered by the weather. Tragically, most abandoned cats have not been spayed or neutered and so are guaranteed to perpetuate such misery. Rounding them up periodically means probable death for most of these cats.

That is the common scenario, except when dedicated workers get together to do something about it. One such group (we will report on others from time to time) is The Albert Foundation, a nonprofit, non-government-funded volunteer organization that rescues homeless, abandoned, or abused kittens or cats.

Even small communities can be harboring several colonies of these unfortunate former "pets" or their

EVERGREEN CHESEAPEAKE CLUB, INC.
5 SERIES SINGLE TEST

SATURDAY, APRIL 29, 1995 8:30 AM
AT "CARLSON'S" (SEE DIRECTIONS ON BACK OF FLYER)
OPEN TO ALL RETRIEVER BREEDS, INCLUDING IRISH WATER SPANIEL
PIDGEON-ALL STAKES **(3 SERIES GUARANTEED)**
SPECIAL LARGE ROSETTE PRESENTED TO FIRST PLACE
ROSETTE RIBBONS TO ALL FINALISTS

BRING Your own Lunch!

JUDGES: CHRIS CARLSON AND BOYD ULSH

PUPPY STAKES
JUNIOR PUPPY 3 TO 6 MONTHS AND 6 TO 9 MONTHS
SENIOR PUPPY 9 TO 12 MONTHS (1 LIVE SHOT FLYER FOR SENIOR PUPPIES)
JUDGES: SUSAN NICELY AND STAN STERNER

3 BIRDS ONLY

NO BITCHES IN HEAT ALLOWED ON PROPERTY
Refunds for
BITCHES IN HEAT OR INJURED DOGS ONLY AVAILABLE UNTIL 8:00 AM BY CONTACTING EVENT SECRETARY. EVENT SECRETARY WILL BE ON SITE BY 7:15 AM ON TEST DAY, APRIL 29, 1995. EVENT SECRETARY JANICE KROGSTADT 431-8088.

PRE-ENTRY FEES: MEMBERS OF ECC/ $18.00 PER DOG
NON-MEMBERS/ $20.00 PER DOG
JUNIOR PUPPY (3-6 MO. AND 6 -9 MO.) /$7.00
SENIOR PUPPY (9-12 MO.), 1 LIVE SHOT FLYER/ $10.00

PRE-ENTRIES DUE BY APRIL 26, 1995
MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO ECC
SEND TO EVENT SECRETARY, JANICE KROGSTADT
11016-17TH S.W.
SEATTLE, WA. 98146 PHONE 431-8088

Print CLEARLY

YOUR NAME----------

ADDRESS----------

PHONE----------AMT. ENCLOSED----------

NUMBER OF DOGS----------BREED/S----------

CALL NAME/S----------

******LATE ENTRIES, DAY OF EVENT AT SITE ADD $2.00 PER DOG******
(7:15 - 8:00 AM ONLY!!!!)

EVERGREEN CHESAPEAKE CLUB – 5 SERIES SINGLE TEST RULES

(1) JUDGES WILL BE APPROVED BY THE BOARD.

(2) A DOG IS NOT ELIGIBLE TO BE JUDGED IF A JUDGE OF THE TEST OR ANY MEMBER OF HIS FAMILY HAS OWNED, SOLD, HELD UNDER LEASE, BOARDED, TRAINED OR HANDLED THE DOG WITHIN ONE YEAR OF THE STARTING DATE OF THE TEST. HOWEVER A DOG COULD BE RUN "OUT OF CONTENTION".

(3) MARKS SHOULD APPROXIMATE 100 YARDS.

(4) AFTER THE FIRST 3 SERIES A SCORE OF 30 POINTS OR OVER WITHOUT A ZERO WILL CONTINUE TO THE 4TH SERIES. FOR SERIES 4 THROUGH 5, DOGS WITH A COMBINED SCORE OF 10 POINTS WILL CONTINUE TO THE NEXT SERIES.

(5) THESE ARE A **MARKING TEST. NO HANDLING**.

(6) AKC HUNTING TEST RULES WILL BE USED AS A GUIDELINE.

(7) JUDGES ARE NOT TO LOOK AT THE SCOREBOARD UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES.

(8) ONE PERSON WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SIGN-UPS AND ALL THE MONEY DOCUMENTING WHO/AMOUNT PAID.

(9) **NO BITCHES IN SEASON WILL BE ALLOWED ON THE TEST GROUNDS.**

(10) DOGS WILL BE ALLOWED TO RUN WITH A FLAT COLLAR ON, UNDER LIGHT RESTRAINT. **NO CHOKE OR PINCH COLLARS!!!!**

(11) **NO SPECIAL COMPETITON OR PRIZES FOR JUNIOR HANDLERS!!!**

N
W
E
S
EVERETT
Rte 2
I-5
SNOHOMISH
EVERGREEN STATE FAIRGROUND
MONROE
Rte 2
Dr. Greenleafs
Snohomish River
I-405
X Cherry Valley
1 mile
BOTHELL
WOODINVILLE
DUVALL
NOVELTY HILL ROAD
X - BOB PEPPER'S FIELD TRIAL GROUNDS
REDMOND
CARNATION
202
SR 202
SNOQUALMIE RIVER
203
BELLEVUE
Carlson's
FALL CITY
SEATTLE
ISSAQUAH
PRESTON
NORTH BEND
I-90
Exit 22