



COEUR D'ALENE DOG FANCIERS

FEBRUARY 2015

Paw Prints

Physical Address:
3267 W. Industrial Loop
Coeur d'Alene, ID

Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 343
Hayden, ID



Editor: Addie Vergona

cdadogfanciers@gmail.com

DATES TO REMEMBER

MARCH NEWSLETTER
DEADLINE
MARCH 7, 2015

WINTER TRAINING CLASSES
JANUARY 12—MARCH 2

BOARD MEETING
6:00 PM
FEBRUARY 24, 2015

GENERAL MEETING
7:00 PM
FEBRUARY 24, 2015

SPRING REGISTRATION
MARCH 14

ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE
MARCH 14, 2015

CONGRATULATIONS

***Doris & Gordon
Ramsden***

ON YOUR

65TH WEDDING

ANNIVERSARY

2-12

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Friends

Be sure to read Gigi's article outlining her personal experiences dealing with Degenerative Myelopathy. We also have a guest writer from Spokane Dog Training Club, Tannis Witherspoon, who shared some very valuable information with us, including what may happen to your dog if you are in a vehicle accident.

Your contributions to the newsletter are welcomed. Perhaps you would like to host a regular column. Health and training tips are always needed. References for articles are appreciated.

Also I could use pictures of you dogs to use in the newsletter.

Addie

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24TH

7:00 PM

SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER

DR. TWILA SEEFELT

Dr. Seefelt has a mobile practice which is ideal for those of us that are unable to transport our best friends for medical treatment, breeders with puppies and canines that find a trip to a doctor's office filled with anxiety. She will discuss what procedures she offers, including titers. She will demonstrate the art of canine acupuncture and the use of Chinese herbs in treatment. Be one of the first five CDADF members to request a free acupuncture treatment during this meeting by emailing Michaelle, msande@roadrunner.com. One dog per household please.

DEGENERATIVE MYELOPATHY- A FIRST HAND EXPERIENCE TIMES 2

By GiGi Grant

Degenerative Myelopathy of dogs is a slowly progressive, non-inflammatory degeneration of the Myelin sheath around the spinal cord. In this disease the Myelin and dorsal nerves degenerate. It has been found in Chesapeake Bay Retrievers, Corgis, Bernese Mountain Dogs, Boxers and some other breeds.



I can remember my first encounter with the disease vividly. "We need to take Thud to the vet tomorrow,"

my husband told me on a Sunday afternoon in March of 2007. Thud was our 8 year old Chesapeake Bay Retriever, our first dog together. I had left him with my husband while I was gone for the day, and he had spent much of the afternoon wandering around Bob's shop. "Something is wrong with his legs or back. His feet scrape the floor as he walks. Bring him out to the shop and I'll show you." Thus began our journey.

Because it was a Sunday, I spent much of the evening researching Thud's symptoms on the Internet. One sentence relative to DM really caught my attention: "The cause has been unknown, treatments ineffective, and prognosis hopeless."

We took Thud in to Dr. Bob Erickson, at Mountain View Veterinary Clinic the next day. After a thorough exam, Dr. Erickson asked me "Do you have any thoughts on what it might be?" "DM", I said. "That's what I'm afraid it is," he replied. From the American Chesapeake Club's Health page: "Initial diagnosis rules other causes such as intervertebral disc disease, tumors of the spinal cord and infections within the spinal cord." Dr. Erickson felt that issues other than DM would cause Thud to be in some amount of pain during examination, and it was clear that he was not, so we elected not to do an MRI or CT scan.

While no treatment exists, and Thud was not in pain, I did some research and decided it couldn't hurt to put him on a natural arthritis remedy called Fresh Factors (Springtimeinc.com). I started him on it the day my husband left on a 3 week trip, and kept Thud home from field training for those 3 weeks. I have to say that after those 3 weeks, both my husband and the training group marveled at how much improved Thud seemed. I believe it gave him an improved quality of life for quite a while.

Thud's initial symptom of dragging his rear feet and knuckling progressed to muscle loss in his

hind quarters, swaying, stumbling and loss of balance. I continued to work with him in obedience and in the field, because he lived to work. He was still able to retrieve, but often fell a few times en route to the bumper. We eliminated jumping from his training, but he continue to heel, etc. Until, as a friend of mine put it "The light has gone out of his eyes," and it was time to let him go. Once Thud had been euthanized, Dr. Bob harvested spinal column tissue, which was sent to WSU to confirm that Thud had, in fact, had DM.

A few months after we lost Thud, a genetic test was developed to identify those Chesapeakes who carry one of the genes associated with DM in CBRs (Tests have been developed for other breeds as well). Ordering from OFA, we tested our other 2 CBRs and I was delighted when Kiowa came back clear, and Tomahawk, his sire, was 'merely' a carrier, as carriers were not known to develop the disease, but could pass along the gene. Life was good.

*Life was good.
Until, last January*

Continue on page 3



Until, last January, when unbelievably I heard the telltale scrape of nails from just turned 12 year old Tomahawk. He was being treated with Meloxicam

for what was believed to be arthritis since the previous fall, and seemed to be doing well. To say that my heart sank would be a huge understatement.

We said goodbye to Tommy last April. This time when the necropsy was conducted, spinal tissue was sent to Univ. of MO, where a

DM study is being conducted. As it turns out, Tommy was one of only 4 CBR DM carriers in the entire U.S. to contract the disease.

Researchers now believe there are very few lines in CBRs that do not contain the genetic predisposition to DM. Thud and Tomahawk shared a grandsire. Because ours is a very small gene pool current thinking is that carriers should be bred to DM clear dogs only, as opposed to eliminating them from breeding all together. Historically, it is difficult to know how far back DM affects often dogs were euthanized with symptoms ascribed

to arthritis, etc. Because this is a later onset disease, often not appearing until a dog is 11 or 12 years old, some dogs that may have actually had DM or carried the gene passed away due to other causes.

Many breed clubs are now very proactive in the U of M study, encouraging their members to have the necropsies conducted, and even offering financial assistance. Hopefully, in the not too distant future, all of the genes relating to DM development can be identified and eliminated. In the meantime, DM is a heart wrenching disease to experience.

UPDATE!!! *After my experiences with DM in two of our dogs, I made it my mission to convince our breed club to help those whose dogs are suspected of having DM. The necropsy is the only tool we have to participate in the U of M study, and learn more about the disease. Many people find the additional costs of the necropsy (on top of euthanasia, cremation, etc.) prohibitive. I received word on 2/1/15 that the American Chesapeake Club has agreed to set aside funds to help those individuals who request financial assistance for necropsies, as well as to publish a "what next" page in the next bulletin for individuals fearing their dogs might have the disease. Both things should take place within the next month.*

AKC NEWS

On February 16, 2015, the Montana Senate Local Government Committee is scheduled to consider Senate Bill 239, a bill that seeks to protect the rights of responsible dog owners in Montana. SB 239 would prohibit local governments from enacting or enforcing an ordinance, policy, resolution or other regulation that is specific to the breed or perceived breed of a dog. It does not restrict a local

AKC NEWS

government from enacting an ordinance that applies to all dogs.

Montana dog owners and participants in dog events held in Montana are urged to contact committee members and express support for this important, non-discriminatory legislation.

The American Kennel Club (AKC) supports reasonable laws that es-

AKC NEWS

AKC NEWS

establish a fair process by which specific dogs are identified as "dangerous" based on stated, measureable actions; impose appropriate penalties on irresponsible owners; and establish a well-defined method for dealing with dogs proven to be dangerous. The AKC strongly opposes any legislation that determines a dog to be "dangerous" based on its breed or appearance.

MAKING PROVISIONS FOR YOUR DOGS

Tannis Witherspoon

A special thank you to Tannis for allowing us to reprint her commentary authored for the Spokane Dog Training Club newsletter. Among her many achievements she is also a accomplished trainer with SDTC and a Tracking judge.

Have you told your next of kin what you would like to have happen to your dogs if you are no longer able to care for them? Your kin may not want to take care of them, so you must tell them who to contact and who should be given the dogs.

Have you told your executor what you would like to have happen to your dogs if you are no longer here? You must give your executor permission to give your dogs to those who you want to have them.

Do you have the necessary information in your vehicles about your dogs' care if you should have an accident and are incapacitated or pass away?



I was told by a State Trooper that most dogs in accidents are not in crates, have been thrown around the vehicle (like a missile) and have escaped or been injured. Crates can also become missiles if not anchored. If the dogs are in the vehicle and the troopers can safely remove them, they will put them

in the patrol car and call Animal Control. The Trooper's focus at this time is to manage traffic and to clear the road. In outlying areas, the trooper will take the dog to a shelter or vet.

What is the best method to inform the correct person that your dog is at a shelter?

Troopers will not go through a vehicle looking for information about the dog; they are focused on the road. (They will also not chase a loose dog.) Some of us have instructions in envelopes in our cars about our dogs, but the envelopes will probably not be opened. A better method would be to attach a placard on the crate near the opening that has a contact name and phone number (remove all name plates so that the placard is the only thing on the crate and easy to see).

I was told by SCRAPs that they will put a hold on the dog for five days and will release it to a family member, but not a friend. They will try to phone or mail a card to the registered owner of the vehicle. Information on the crate may not be seen by them

because witnesses to the accident may have taken the dog out of the crate. They will scan for microchips and look for tags on the dog.

The best way to help your dog in case of an accident is to register your microchip and give the microchip company multiple emergency numbers including your vet and to give your vet the name and number of a person who will guarantee any vet expenses.

In addition, when you get a pet license, you can also give animal control a number of emergency numbers. They will call those numbers so long as they can identify your dog through its license tag on its collar.

It is our responsibility to plan ahead so that our companions are taken care of should something happen to us.



COEUR D'ALENE DOG FANCIERS TRAINING PROGRAM

By Sue White

CDADF offered Tricks 101 for the first time this Winter training session – a 4 week class to train the handlers to teach their dogs a variety of ‘tricks’ for fun – companionship – and to improve training skills. Susan White, Lynne Seagraves, and Diane Brewster taught the class of 8 using clicker training methods to shape the desired behaviors. Handlers and dogs had a lot of fun – some students demonstrated tricks they had already taught.



LINDY AND GSD RUBY



ZIVA, GETTING ME A
KLEENEX FROM THE
KLEENEX BOX
AFTER I ‘SNEEZED’.



CLICK, TREAT, REWARD AT SOURCE



KOOTZ RINGING A BELL WITH HIS NOSE
FOR THE FIRST TIME. WE SHAPED THAT
BEHAVIOR IN 2 TO 3 MINUTES.

THE HEALTH BENEFITS OF COCONUT OIL FOR DOGS

By Dogs Naturally Magazine in Nutrition And Diet

Submitted by Addie

EDITOR NOTE: BECAUSE TWICE I HAVE TRIED NATURAL REMEDIES FOR HEALTH ISSUES THAT RESULTED IN BAD SIDE EFFECTS, I AM ALWAYS HESITANT TO SUGGEST SUCH THERAPIES. ALSO IT SEEMS MANY TIMES NATURAL TREATMENTS DO NOT HAVE SUFFICIENT RESEARCH TO BACK UP THEIR CLAIMS. MY DAUGHTER IS A FIRM BELIEVER OF COCONUT OIL AND I USE IT TOPICALLY. I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN THE FOLLOWING ARTICLE.. REMEMBER TO ALWAYS CHECK WITH YOUR VETERINARIAN

Although supplements can be a confusing topic for many pet owners, most dog owners have heard of the benefits of feeding fish oils. There are however, a variety of oils that you can also use to your dog's benefit, each with different actions and benefits.

Coconut oil consists of more than 90% saturated fats, with traces of few unsaturated fatty acids, such as monounsaturated fatty acids and polyunsaturated fatty acids. Most of the saturated fats in coconut oil are Medium Chain Triglycerides (MCTs). The main component (more than 40%) of MCTs is lauric acid, followed by capric acid, caprylic acid, myristic acid and palmitic. Coconut oil also contains about 2% linoleic acid (polyunsaturated fatty acids) and about 6% oleic acid (monounsaturated fatty acids).

Most of the coconut oil benefits come from the MCTs. For example, the lauric acid in coconut oil has antibacterial, antiviral, and anti-fungal properties. Capric and caprylic acid have similar properties and are best known for their anti-fungal effects.

In addition, MCTs are efficiently metabolized to provide an immediate source of fuel and energy, enhancing athletic performance and aiding weight loss. In dogs, the MCTs in coconut oil balance the thyroid, helping overweight dogs lose weight and helping sedentary dogs feel energetic.

According to Dr. Bruce Fife, certified nutritionist and naturopathic doctor, coconut oil gently elevates the metabolism, provides a higher level of energy and vitality, protects you from illness, and speeds healing. As a bonus, coconut oil improves any dog's skin and coat, improves digestion, and reduces allergic reactions.

Fed regularly to pets, coconut oil may have multiple benefits:

SKIN CONDITIONS

- Clears up skin conditions such as eczema, flea allergies, contact dermatitis, and itchy skin
- Reduces allergic reactions and improves skin health
- Makes coats become sleek and glossy, and deodorizes doggy odor
- Prevents and treats yeast and fungal infections, including candida
- Disinfects cuts and promotes wound healing
- Applied topically, promotes the healing of cuts, wounds, hot spots, dry skin and hair, bites and stings

DIGESTION

- Improves digestion and nutrient absorption
- Aids healing of digestive disorders like inflammatory bowel syndrome and colitis
- Reduces or eliminates bad breath in dogs
- Aids in elimination of hairballs and coughing

IMMUNE SYSTEM, METABOLIC FUNCTION, BONE HEALTH

- Contains powerful antibacterial, antiviral, and anti-fungal agents that prevent infection and disease
- Regulates and balance insulin and promotes normal thyroid function
- Helps prevent or control diabetes
- Helps reduce weight, increases energy
- Aids in arthritis or ligament problems

Integrative Veterinarian and Naturopathic Doctor, Dr. Karen Becker, says "Medium-chain triglycerides (MCTs) have been shown to improve brain energy metabolism and decrease the amyloid protein buildup that results in brain lesions in older dogs. Coconut oil is a rich source of MCTs. I recommend 1/4 teaspoon for every 10 pounds of body weight twice daily for basic MCT support."

Why not give coconut oil a try and introduce it to your dog? It offers many benefits for your dog and is a more sustainable and less toxic source of oils than fish.



