



# UNLEASHED

Volume 16, Issue 1

January 2005

## Next Meetings

Wednesday, January 5, 2005  
6:45pm, Animal Hospital of Worthington  
5756 North High Street  
Topic: Puppy Socialization

Wednesday, February 2, 2005  
6:45pm, Animal Hospital of Worthington  
5756 North High Street  
Topic: Puppy Socialization

## Winter Care for Canines

Winter's cold air brings many concerns for responsible dog owners. Keep the following precautions in mind:

- ◆ Don't leave your dog outside in the cold for long periods of time. Wind chill makes days colder than actual temperature readings. Be attentive to your dog's body temperature, and limit its time outdoors.

- ◆ Adequate shelter is a necessity. Keep your dog warm, dry and away from drafts. Tiles and uncarpeted areas may become extremely cold, so make sure to place blankets and pads on floors in these areas.
- ◆ Be extra careful when walking or playing with your dog near frozen lakes, rivers or ponds. Your dog could slip or jump in and get seriously injured.
- ◆ Groom your dog regularly. Your dog needs a well-groomed coat to keep properly insulated. Short or coarse-haired dogs may get extra cold, so consider a sweater or coat. Long-haired dogs should have excess hair around the toes and foot pads trimmed to ease snow removal and cleaning. If you do the trimming, take care not to cut the pads or other delicate area of the foot.
- ◆ Feed your dog additional calories if it spends a lot of time outdoors or is a working animal. It takes more energy in the winter to keep body temperatures regulated, so additional calories are necessary.
- ◆ Towel or blow-dry your dog if it gets wet from rain or snow. It is important to dry and clean its paws too. This helps avoid tiny cuts and cracked pads. A little petroleum jelly may soften the pads to prevent further cracking.
- ◆ Don't leave your pet alone in a car. If the car engine is left on, the carbon monoxide will endanger your dog's life. If the engine is off, the temperature in the car will get too cold.

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

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- 2 Down 'N Backs, Letter from the editors, Litter Listings, Health Tips
- 3 Update on Tricuspid Valve Dysplasia?
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## Down 'N Backs

Shalane Cora Belle - RWB/BEST PUPPY Lorain  
KC -12/9

Shalane Cora Belle- 1st/6-9 puppy  
bitch Medina KC -12/10  
owner/Deb Lewis

Shalane Sister Act- 3rd Open Black Bitch- Lorain  
KC  
owner /Deb Lewis

Shalane Sister Act-1st Open Black Bitch-Richland  
KC 12/11/04  
owner: Deb Lewis

Shannon's Salt and Peppar  
WB, BOS major! Western Reserve KC 12/12/04  
owner: Jennifer Stotts

## Litter Listings

Lor-al's Direct from Tantara x  
CH Shannon's One Wild Night  
blacks and yellows whelped: 11-30-04  
contact: Jennifer/Dennis Stotts 740-828-2657

CH Lakecroft Roy Rogers x  
Shannon's Absolut Citron  
blacks and chocolates due: 1/2/04  
contact: Jennifer/Dennis Stotts 740-828-2657

At this time, COLRC Unleashed! Does not require listing of CERF or OFA information for Litter Box Listings. All breeders are encouraged to have hips and eyes certified on all breeding stock and to provide this information in litter listings. COLRC Unleashed! does not represent any litter listing as meeting any type of breeder's code or standard. Ask the breeder when inquiring about dogs listed.

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### LETTER FROM THE EDITORS

After being in dogs for a very short period of time I have heard many painful stories of having your faithful friend put to sleep. I have always said, "I don't know how you could take your dog to the vet knowing he was going to be put to sleep." Well, I now know where one gets the strength to do this dreaded task. On the day after Thanksgiving Dave and myself had to take my childhood pet, a cocker spaniel mix named "Tyrone", to be euthanized. Tyrone was 15 and lived a great, long life but was now deaf and his health was fading fast. The last week of his life he did not eat or move around much. We all knew the end was near but hoped that he would die in his sleep. I will never forget the ride to the vet's office that day—knowing in my heart it was the right thing to do but also saying goodbye to my first pet—a companion that could never be replaced. I also will never forget the feeling of pulling in the driveway and seeing our Labradors anxiously waiting to welcome us home—5 tails wagging making us smile even with tears in my eyes. The love of a dog is the greatest gift of all and helps get you through the "ruff" times.

**Tyrone**

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"If there are no dogs in Heaven, then when I die I want to go where they went."

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### HEALTH TIPS

Dogs cannot talk to us when they are sick. As a responsible dog owner, it is important to pay special attention to your dog's well-being during the winter season. Remember the following health concerns:

- ◆ Antifreeze, which often collects on driveways and roadways, is highly poisonous. Although it smells and tastes good to your dog, it can be lethal.
- ◆ Rock salt, used to melt ice on sidewalks, may irritate footpads. Be sure to rinse and dry your dog's feet after a walk.
- ◆ Provide plenty of fresh water. Your dog is just as likely to get dehydrated in the winter as in the summer. Snow is not a satisfactory substitute for water.
- ◆ Frostbite is your dog's winter hazard. To prevent frostbite on its ears, tail, and feet, don't leave your dog outdoors for too long.
- ◆ Be very careful of supplemental heat sources. Fireplaces and portable heaters can severely burn your dog. Make sure all fireplaces have screens, and keep portable heaters out of reach.
- ◆ Like people, dogs seem to be more susceptible to illness in the winter. Take your dog to a veterinarian if you see any suspicious symptoms.
- ◆ Don't use over-the-counter medications on your dog without consulting a veterinarian.

AKC

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## UPDATE ON TRICUSPID VALVE DYSPLASIA?

Dr.s Wright-Huff and Benson have made tremendous strides in their work on TVD. Most importantly, they have determined that TBD is inherited as an autosomal recessive disease with reduced penetrance. This means that only one parent need be affected (sire or dam) to produce affected offspring, and that the affected parent or the affected puppies produced may show no signs of TVD on physical examination or a complete ultrasound exam of the heart (echocardiogram). The presence of a carrier state makes things difficult from a breeding standpoint. Interestingly, our findings support the presence of a founder effect.

This means that it is likely that a single popular dog in the past had a spontaneous TVD mutation and set up the chain reaction to spread the defect widely. Offering hope to Labrador breeders, we have narrowed the genetic defect to a segment on a single chromosome, which is a huge stride. We now need to determine the exact site or locus where the mutation lies. This will allow us to offer a blood test to determine whether a given dog is affected or not. In order to do this, we need to receive blood samples and pedigrees from confirmed affected dogs and their parents. The genetic research into this disease has slowed considerably without sufficient numbers of these samples. Strict confidentiality is maintained for all dogs.

Other interesting findings include the following. We have found many dogs with mild or even moderate tricuspid valve dysplasia exhibit no noticeable differences in behavior or exercise capacity. The majority (but not all) of these dogs will have soft to moderate intensity heart murmurs that are heard on the right side of their chest.

Given the ability of a dog's panting and wiggling to "hide" these murmurs if special maneuvers are not performed, murmurs in many of these dogs have gone undetected for variable periods of time. We have also found that dogs with severe TVD as an isolated congenital heart disease tend to do much better than the literature suggests and it can be many years before they develop clinical signs.

### **WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP ADVANCE THESE IMPORTANT STUDIES FOR LABRADOR RETRIEVERS:**

More dogs with accessory pathways are needed to map and ablate their abnormal rhythm and to study the genetic basis of the disease. Specific funding from the Morris Animal Foundation allows us to offer these very advanced procedures for trivial costs to the owner. The chance to cure these dogs of their rapid heart rates is an exciting and unique ability that we have here in Cincinnati. To enroll your dog in the study, you should contact Dr. Wright-Huff or Holly Irvin, her veterinary assistant, at 513-530-0911, [kwright9@cinci.rr.com](mailto:kwright9@cinci.rr.com), or 513-530-0811 (fax).

Dogs that are affected with TVD are needed for the TVD study. Blood tubes can be sent to your veterinarian to draw appropriate samples from the affected dog and his/her parents.

This "trio" is very important to advance the strides we have made in uncovering the genetic basis for this disease. We also are still screening Labradors (physical exam, complete echocardiography, ECG, and blood sample) with known affected family members at Cincinnati Children's Hospital at no cost to the owners. Please contact us at the listed number or e-mail if you have any questions or need additional information.

—*Newsletter, The Labrador Retriever Club, Summer 2004*

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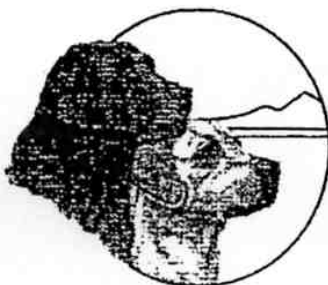


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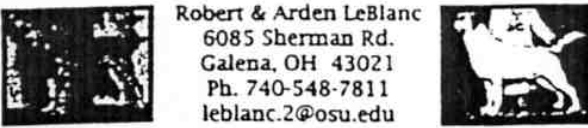
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## *General COLRC Information*

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The **UNLEASHED!** is a publication by and for the members of the **Central Ohio Labrador Retriever Club** and others interested in the betterment of the sport and advancement of cooperative communication within the fancy.

The articles and information contained in this publication have been deemed by the editor to be of interest to our readers but do not necessarily reflect the beliefs or the opinions of the editor or COLRC members. Reader input is actively solicited.

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**Meetings:** General meetings shall take place the first Wednesday of every month unless otherwise noted.

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