

LICKING RIVER KENNEL CLUB

NEWSLETTER



VOL 2
August, 2008

****Special Reminders****

Attention all club members!

We need your new titles. Did you finish Fido? Were Awarded an Agility title, finish your dog in Conformation or did your dog Obey Obedience? Send Lea Anne your name, dog's full name and call name and the exact title you won. You and your dog will be included in our December awards ceremony. Call Lea Anne at 740-763-0611 with full info or any questions.

I would like for club members to become active in our newsletter by writing articles for our monthly newsletter. The articles would be of topics of their choice (no length requirements) that they would like to share with fellow club members. Please think of articles you could contribute to the club. If you have an article you would like to contribute, contact Pat White at 740-763-0376 or wwgsd@windstream.net.

Club News:

Our July meeting was replaced by the club picnic on July 10th at Infirmary Mound Park on Hwy 37. The food was great and the company was unmatched. We wish all members could have joined us.

Lea Anne Broseus is still selling raffle tickets for the Huron Valley Saluki Club. They are raffling off a personal oil painting valued at \$700-\$800. The tickets are \$5.00 or 5 for \$20.00. Subject of your choice...animal or person. You can find more information at:

<http://huronvalleysalukiclub.homestead.com/raffle.html>

Be sure to get yours at the August meeting.

Quote of the month:

“Don't accept your dog's admiration as conclusive evidence that you are wonderful.”

~Ann Landers

Calendar of Events

Licking River Kennel Club Meeting

Board meeting to follow

August 14, 2008 7:30pm
Southgate Church of Christ

Breed of the month:



German Shorthair Pointer

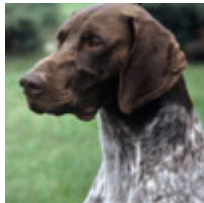
A versatile hunter and all-purpose gun dog, the German Shorthaired Pointer possesses keen scenting power and high intelligence. The breed is proficient with many different types of game and sport, including trailing, retrieving, and pointing pheasant, quail, grouse, waterfowl, racoons, possum, and even deer. A medium-sized breed, he has an aristocratic bearing and can be solid liver or liver and white in color.

The origin of the German Shorthaired Pointer is not clear, but the source of the breed seems to

have been the German Bird Dog, related to the old Spanish Pointer, and various crossings with local German scent hounds and track and trail dogs. When the Germans introduced the English Pointers to lend elegance to the German Shorthaired Pointer prototype, the result was a utility dog that combined sporting virtue with clean lines, good looks and sound temperament.

The German Shorthaired Pointer thrives as part of an active family. He is an even-tempered, intelligent and loyal family watchdog that has enthusiasm for its work. An athlete, he can adapt to his living situation, but requires consistent exercise. The GSP's short coat sheds, but grooming is minimal.

- Sporting Group; AKC recognized in 1930.
- Average size: 55 to 70 pounds and 23 to 25 inches tall at the shoulder.
- Gun dog, family pet.



Brag:

Be sure to update us at the August meeting so I can get your Brags in the next issue.

Article of the Month:

*This article is a reprint of an article in the March 2007 edition of **The German Shepherd Dog Review**. This article is longer than we would like for our newsletter, but I thought so much of the article, and its message, that I contacted the author for permission to reprint it in our newsletter. This article was written specific to the German Shepherd Dog, but its message is applicable to every breed and every breeder owes it to the offspring of his/her dogs, and the offspring's owner, to openly provide this kind of information. In addition, I believe it to be a must if we are going to rid our dogs of breed specific health problems.*

The Invaluable Importance of Health History of German Shepherd Dogs

By Barbara Lee Williams

Recently I had to see a new doctor and undergo a brief physical. He seemed quite surprised that I was enjoying such good health and activity at my advanced age of 76.

As part of the exam he asked my health history and that of my first generation relatives. After my disclosures of the heart problems in my family on both sides, he took another serious look at what he had thought of as a not uncommon problem of mine, atrial fibrillation of the heart, which I had successfully controlled with medication for many years. He suddenly grew very concerned and scheduled me for a complete check-up with a cardiologist "just to be sure all was well."

When I left his office I thought to myself, if we had the complete health history of our German Shepherd Dogs, concerning at least the first generation relatives, and hopefully on back, what a great advantage that would be to all of us to nip some of these health issues before they become serious. We could offer our vets a comprehensive overview of the health issues that are in our dog's family.

Every family has health issues, some more serious than others, but health issues that many times if caught and treated early could keep our dogs enjoying a longer healthier life!

Just suppose you took your one-year old shepherd to the vet because he or she was a picky eater and often had loose stools. Furthermore you were having trouble maintaining the dog's weight and often thought she looked a bit 'ribby' to you. The dog did not have a real shiny coat and appeared somewhat lethargic at times, in spite of an excellent diet, and good care.

Without a family history, the vet would probably give you some meds to help with the loose stools and suggest a change of diet, citing the problem as a possible allergic reaction to wheat or corn or some ingredient in the food and schedule your

dog for a follow-up exam to see how the meds and diet change were working. This could go on through many diet changes, including some of the kibble and/or canned food sold by the vet. In the meantime, your dog is just holding its own, not really improving, but not appearing to be any worse.

However if the same dog and same owner appeared before the same vet with a detailed family history for the dog that showed the sire had died from mesenteric torsion, the dam had been euthanized because of perianal fistulas and a chronic inflammatory bowel disease, all confirmed by veterinary diagnoses, your vet is going to take a totally different and hopefully life-saving approach to treating your dog.

Your vet would probably schedule tests to rule out pancreatic acinar atrophy, a common genetic disease of German Shepherd Dogs, (considered an auto-immune disease where the pancreas gland is slowly and completely destroyed) that when present, causes exocrine pancreatic insufficiency, which simply means the necessary pancreatic enzymes are not in sufficient numbers for the food to digest properly in the dog's intestines.

Food does not digest in the stomach, but in the intestines, therefore if the intestines are not working properly they are prone to developing chronic inflammatory bowels or chronic irritable bowel disease, and/or SIBO, a small intestinal bacterial overgrowth.

Any of these can be life-threatening if not properly treated. PAA/EPI and the chronic bowel symptoms of SIBO and IBD, etc. are all caused by the original problem of the wasting away of the pancreas, which can be slower in some than in others. Not all dogs have the exact same time-line of destruction.

So your vet, if aware of this most valuable family health history, can instantly set about prescribing the proper tests and medications to keep your dog alive and functioning as close to normal as possible with the life-long, incurable PAA condition. Likely he or she will

recommend Viokase to replace the lost and absolutely essential pancreatic enzymes and aid the dog in digesting food normally.

The lucky ones are diagnosed early on and do not suffer the pain and deterioration in health that the undiagnosed or wrongly diagnosed ones suffer. Many veterinarians are food allergy buffs, especially if they are not familiar with the common incidence of PAA in our breed and would not even think of such an underlying medical possibility. (By the way, food allergies are not that common; they are often a catch-all diagnosis.)

All this I have written to come to the question of how can we get a better and more complete healthy history on our beloved dogs?

First we must ask the breeders...and hopefully many will be forth-coming with information, particularly in one of those they bred, who is suffering and for whom the vets cannot offer a correct informed diagnosis...

These breeders could offer life-saving information and save many months of agony and pain for both the dog and the owner by being forth-coming with the health history behind the shepherds they breed.

Which brings up the absolute necessity for full disclosure of the cause of death in memorial ads in the Review or in posts to the lists about such tragic passings. We have to know, then we can avoid making breedings which double up or triple up on certain diseases and load the genetic dice such that each breeding is one where the odds are 100 to one against the progeny enjoying good health.

It is the most common sense approach. No one wants to breed sickly pups or those whose days are numbered in days or a few years. There isn't any better way to help our breed with its health issues which have grown into monstrous problems with the continued line-breeding back again and again on the same health issues. If we knew for instance that a sire had died from a heart condition, we would not take any of our dogs, whose family history showed any heart

conditions to that dog or his first or second generation relatives, for sure.

If a dog died from the complications of an immune deficiency issue, we would not line breed on him with a line that also showed immune deficiency issues, such as severe skin allergies. Nor would we knowingly breed back into a line where the dog died from bloat/torsion, when we had bloat/torsion deaths in our bloodlines. Same with hip dysplasia and/or elbow dysplasia and degenerative myelopathy.

No one in their right mind would knowingly wish any of those conditions on any dog, much less a little baby puppy, doomed before it bloomed! I for one believe we must 'stand and deliver' for this German Shepherd Dog breed, the breed that has struggled so hard and so long to overcome the foolishness of those who breed primarily for: conformation, movement and show-ring style having long forgotten that the first three golden breeding rules are these:

Health...Reproductivity...Longivity!

Without one of these three as the most important and paramount concerns in planning or making a breeding we leave this breed naked and vulnerable to disease, pain and early death. That does not say much for those who guard this most beautiful and noble in body and heart and sole breed.

We can all do much better, so much better. Let us decide once and for all to go back to the old days where we all "talked dogs" and discussed the breed's health problems openly, who produced them and how to breed around them and eliminate them. One good place to start is with full disclosure of the cause of death when we lose one of our beloved companions. I believe with that attitude we can win this battle and eventually win this war.

About the author: Barbara Lee Williams is the chairperson for the Health and Genetics Committee of the German Shepherd Dog Club of America. She has been breeding GSDs for 54 years and was a GSD specialty judge and professional handler for many years.

2008 Club Committees:

Training: Betty Willis, Betty Brown, Carolyn Martin, Bill Revercomb, Judy Riley & Pat Smith.

Canine Good Citizen: Betty Brown & Don Butts

Show Committee:

<u>Spring</u>	<u>Fall</u>
Pat Deucher	Lea Anne Broseus
Sam Lowell	Sam Lowell
Pat Smith	Cindy Shaffer-Palur
Robert Willis	Wendy Rezendes
Betty Willis	

Hospitality: Tammy Carter, Joan Priest, Beth Uhlin & Joey Visintine

Christmas Dinner: Tammy Carter

Trophies: Connie Halliday, Lea Anne Broseus & Cindy Shaffer-Palur

Awards: Lea Anne Broseus, Pat White, Judy Riley & Joan Priest

Flowers: Lea Anne Broseus

Historian: Pat Smith

Club Programs/Public Education: Sam Lowell, Cindy Shaffer-Palur, June Suain & Pat Smith

Publicity: Judy Riley & Lea Anne Broseus

Newsletter: Sam Lowell, Joan Priest & Pat White

Web Committee: Lea Anne Broseus, Joan Priest, Pat Smith & Pat White

Notices:

Complete Grooming services provided by J & J Grooming contact Joan Priest.

We will post notices for club members here. Just contact Pat White with the specifics of what you want posted.

Canine Funny Bone:

What do you get when you cross a.....
Collie + Lhasa Apso = Collapso: A dog that folds up for easy transport.