



AMSCOPE

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Differentiating Between Pet Parents and Pet Owners

By Natasha Feduik

Are you a pet owner, or do you see yourself as a pet parent? For me, I emotionally see myself as a “mom” to my fur babies. I have two dogs, a cat, and three birds, and they are my world. My life revolves around my four-legged and winged children. I provide their food, shelter, safety, education, and entertainment—not to mention love.

I spend most of my free time with my pets. We travel together, and we visit their “grandparents” and doggie “cousins.” We even have family nights where all my energy is spent loving them, going for walks, playing with their toys, and snuggling on the couch.

I own many things, such as furniture, clothes, and cars, and I don’t have this type of emotional attachment to those objects. But legally, I am a pet owner, and they are my property. I am responsible for their medical care and treatment, as well as humanely caring for and protecting them from neglect and abuse.

Pet Ownership vs. Pet Guardianship

In recent years, many states have entertained the idea of changing the term pet “owner” to “guardian.” However, this would change many aspects of pet ownership. It would take certain rights away from people who have pets, and put

con’t on p.5.... Parents/Owners

**The deadline
for the November issue
is October 15**

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Minimize These 6 Common Toxins In Your Dog’s Environment

By Dr Edward Bassingthwaighte

We live in a mechanized, throwaway world. Many of the products we and our pets come into contact with are subtle, slow poisons. You’ll probably be shocked and upset to find that there is no regulation at all of the thousands and thousands of chemicals that are used in everyday items like plastics, electronics, furniture, foams, fabrics – essentially everything industry makes that isn’t food.

There’s no oversight and there has been no research done on how harmful most of these compounds are. We’re part of a grand experiment, and we and our pets are the guinea pigs. It’s becoming clear that these chemicals are deeply harmful. The epidemic rates of chronic illness in humans and our pets is a huge red flag. These chemicals upset the healthy body’s functioning in many ways.

Why BPA-Free Actually Isn’t Better

For instance, you might have noticed a move towards BPA-free plastics in the last few years. This is because BPA is a xenoestrogen; it mimics estrogen, one of the primary sexual hormones in both males and females. Exposure to BPA upsets our endocrine system.

This subtly hampers our immune system and can severely affect healthy fertility in males. This is only one of thousands of toxic chemicals that pervade our environment, many of which have had no research done on their harmful effects at all. BPA-free plastics are no healthier so don’t believe the marketing on that one! It’s already becoming obvious that these plastics contain equally harmful compounds.

It’s already becoming obvious that these plastics contain equally harmful compounds

...

“Studies on umbilical cord blood from human infants at the moment of birth show that they carry a shocking toxic load. Of 287 chemicals detected in umbilical cord

blood, we know that 180 cause cancer in humans or animals, 217 are toxic to the brain and nervous system, and 208 cause birth defects or abnormal development in animal tests.”

The dangers of pre- or post-natal exposure to this complex mixture of carcinogens, developmental toxins and neurotoxins have never been studied. If anything, our pets are likely to carry a heavier toxic load than we do because there’s even less regulation or care for the consequences of toxicity from everyday products for our pets than for humans.

I believe so many of the chronic health problems I see in pets in my veterinary practice are related to chronic toxicity from industrial chemicals.

How Pets Absorb Toxins

The skin is a primary route of absorption. Your pet’s skin is the largest organ in her body. It’s like a sponge for any chemicals that are in her environment or in products that are in direct contact with her skin. Pets can also absorb toxins in their food, especially if that food contains carbohydrates sourced from industrial farming. This includes “grain-free” food as well.

Inhalation is another route of toxin absorption – many plastics, paints and other compounds outgas volatile organic compounds (VOCs) that are extremely toxic. There are other non-physical toxic influences from our dependence on technology. Electromagnetic radiation from things like wi-fi, mobile phones and pet tracking tags have a damaging effect on biology.

Light pollution, and especially blue

con’t on p.2.... TOXINS

LOOK

Please let me know if you make a change

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TOXINS...from p. 1

heavy light from TV, computer and mobile phone screens that are used after sunset can severely upset sleep patterns. And finally, there are all the chemicals we apply to our pets for flea and tick control or by giving them conventional medicines.

All of these cause obvious adverse effects (including death) in a proportion of unlucky pets, and subtle toxic harm in others. Whenever possible, use natural alternatives to these products. If you must use the pharmaceutical versions, be especially cautious of products with a long residual activity, and don't use new products at all until they've been in the marketplace for a year or more.

Search online for adverse reactions before trying them. Do your research, then make an informed choice. This is an extremely important point. When we minimize our own exposure to toxic chemicals, we minimize our pets' exposure to toxic chemicals. This is because our pets have to live in our environment, it's not their choice.

6 Ways To Minimize Toxins

It's practically impossible to completely escape toxic background smog in our environment, but there are many steps you can take to minimize your pet's exposure.

1. Do Away With Plastics

Get rid of all the plastics that your pet comes into contact with. This may include carpets and your furniture! It also includes all plastic food bowls and toys, and plastic food storage containers. Invest in stainless steel bowls, glass storage containers and natural fiber toys.

2. Eliminate Artificial Products

Remove from your home products that have artificial fragrance or perfume. These compounds are extraordinarily poisonous because most are made from the same family of chemicals as pesticides, and they are readily absorbed through your dog's skin. They include, but are not limited to: fragrances in cleaning and personal products such as air fresheners, floor cleaners, cleaning sprays, perfumes (yes, even really expensive ones), laun-

dry liquids, shampoos, conditioners, deodorants, soaps, detergents, car fresheners – and the list could go on forever. To deal with this one, you'll need to become an avid reader of labels, and you will quite likely have to throw out a lot of products.

Don't worry, we aren't telling you to never wash your dog! You can safely bath him with this great bath recipe from Dr. Dee ...

3. Don't Use Pesticides

Remove all pesticide or insecticide sprays from your home and stop using them altogether. Use fly paper and sticky traps or bait traps to control insect pests instead. Don't use herbicide or pesticide sprays in your yard, on your lawn or in your garden. If you live in an area with a lot of spraying of pesticides or herbicides, you might want to consider moving to a new area.

4. Don't Feed Commercial Pet Foods

Stop feeding your pets commercial pet foods altogether. The carbohydrates are sourced from industrial farms and contain Roundup (glyphosate). Roundup attacks the metabolic pathways in plants that are also in your pet's good gut bacteria, and poisons them, which leads to all sorts of gut problems and ill health in your dog.

These foods are also packed in plastic, and are often moldy and contain mold toxins (which can cause fatal liver damage), not to mention the artificial flavors and colorings which are also toxic. Feed your dog only organic, whole foods.

5. Cut Back On Electronics

You could consider removing wi-fi from your home entirely and return to hard-wired internet access. There are some good products available to protect against electro-magnetic frequencies (EMFs). I'm particularly sensitive to EMFs and I find the Blushield devices to be really effective.

6. Use Natural Bedding

Artificial fibers in fabrics are toxic too. Use natural fibers or products (leather) in your dog's bedding, collars and clothing. Be sure to wash all bedding and collars or clothing before you put them on your dog, even if they are made of natural fibers.

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Help Your Pet ... Help Your Family

Now, following some of the above recommendations might seem impossible, but it's really not. The kicker here is that everything you do to help your dog on this front is helping you and your family to be healthier, too!

Pick one of the points at a time, and then do what is needed to deal with it. It can be a huge help to have a friend buddy up with you for this process. It's always easier to clean out other people's stuff, after all.

And if it seems too hard, ask yourself, "Would I rather keep using this thing and continue poisoning myself, my family and my pets, or get rid of it and find something new that's healthy?"

If you're going to start anywhere after dealing with your pet's personal products and food, make it a priority to get rid of all artificial scents from your life. They're extremely poisonous and they're everywhere. If I ever have to go to a home visit where they have artificially fragranced air fresheners, I feel really ill for days afterwards.

You'll notice this too, but not until you've been free of these chemicals for a month or two. Our bodies adapt as best they can to the toxic load. It's like not having a coffee for a month, then having an espresso!

Good luck with detoxing your environment, your life and your pet's life too!

About the Author

Dr Edward Bassingthwaighte

Dr Edward Bassingthwaighte is a holistic home visit vet living in Australia. He also offers phone consults. He came to the holistic way of treatment through needing to explore alternatives to heal himself from chronic fatigue syndrome. You can read many entertaining and informative veterinary stories at his website thehealingvet.com

The Nose Knows: Put Your Dog's Amazing Sense of Smell to Work in a New AKC Sport

Penny Leigh



A high school stadium, three sets of bleachers, and one Q-tip dipped in the scent of birch.

Finding that tiny swab, planted somewhere in the arena, seemed an impossible task to Suzanne LeRoy, as she and her [Border Collie, Rain](#), faced their first nose work competition.

"It was a huge area to search," the California resident said.

But a few minutes later, Rain easily found the Q-tip under the bleachers, and LeRoy discovered the power of the canine nose.

"Now I was really impressed!" she said.

LeRoy is an [AKC Breeder of Merit](#) who produces top-winning Border Collies in the breed ring. She also is a certified dog trainer whose dogs have earned numerous titles in agility, herding, rally, and tricks. After her initial success in nose work, she became a certified K9 Nose Work Instructor, so she could share that fun with others.

"I loved that I was training my dog to do what he was born to do: use his nose. I was also training myself to observe my dog. Scent work is all about reading your dog's body language, and in this you connect with your dog. You are a team," she said. "And I love that it's all reward-based training. The dogs find the source of the odor — they get a treat!"

[Smell is a powerful sense](#) for canines — 10,000 to 100,000 times more acute than the human sense of smell. That ability has benefited man in many ways, from tracking fugitives to detecting bombs.

Dogs love to use their noses, and dog sports that put their sniffers to the test are popular, including tracking and nose work. The AKC obedience class of utility includes the scent articles exercise, in which a dog finds an item touched by its owner among a pile of similar items.



Soon dogs can earn titles in the new sport of [AKC Scent Work](#), which mimics the task of working detection dogs — such as narcotics dogs or explosives dogs — to find a specific scent and communicate to the handler that the scent has been found.

[AKC Scent Work](#) trials launch Oct. 1, 2017. Dogs will search for a hidden odor, which is either an essential oil or their handlers' scent, depending on the class. Searches will take place in a variety of environments, with classes called: containers, interiors, exteriors, and buried.

"I was thrilled when I learned that AKC was adding it as an event. I plan to pursue all levels of AKC Scent Work titles," LeRoy said. "I'm a member of a specialty club, and we've signed up to hold trials, and I hope there are many."

Any dog of any [breed](#), size, or age can be successful at scent work. LeRoy found the activity while looking for something to keep her 11-year-old Border Collie, Rain, busy.

"I felt that agility and herding were getting too hard on his bones. Okay, admittedly maybe too hard on my bones, too. I wanted a sport that wouldn't be hard on him physically."

AKC Breeders of Merit Tom and Chris Levy have produced champion [Pumik](#) for 18 years under the Abiqua kennel name and have shown dogs, including [Miniature Schnauzers](#) and [German Shorthaired Pointers](#), for 45 years.

They strive to add titles to both ends of their dogs' names and were intrigued when a puppy buyer told them about a sport her Pumi enjoyed called nose work. They decided to try it and now have several nose work titled dogs,



including one that has earned the top level K9 Nose Work-3 Elite designation.

"The part I like best is, it's a true partnership with your dog. You are giving them the boundaries of where to search; they're doing the work and communicating to you what they know," said Chris Levy. "They gain a level of

cont'd on p.5, **Scent**

Masami Uryu

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Masami is applying for Foreign Membership. Masami is a breeder and has been involved with Miniature Schnauzers for 36 years, Wire Fox Terriers for 30 years and Norfolk Terriers for 30 years. He

has bred more than 120 JKC, FCI and AKC Champions in total, some being AKC Grand Champions.

He has shown in Conformation, and is a Judge. Masami is a JKC Judge, so in Japan, he cannot show dogs by himself. Masami's dogs are shown 2 to 3 times a year. He shows them himself 2 to 3 times in the US and UK combined. Masami is President of the JKC Tokyo East Advanced Miniature Schnauzer Club. Masami owns a Grooming School and Grooming Salon.

He is interested in helping the club with Newsletter and Health.

Masami has many skills to share with AMSC, among them judging, handling and grooming.

Masami's Sponsors are: John Constantine and Barry Day

LYN FOSTER

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Lyn has been involved with Miniature Schnauzers for 10 + years. She has competed in Conformation, Agility, Rally, Obedience and Barn Hunt and has achieved many titles She attends 12 – 24 dog events per year. She belongs to the Swamp Dog Agility Club, New Orleans, LA. She is not a breeder. Lyn is retired from her own business. She is interested in assisting the club with Newsletter, Membership, Obedience, Agility and Health.

Lyn's Sponsors are: Robin Ohrt and Gay Oltjenbruns.

Sonja Lund

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Sonja has been involved with Miniature Schnauzers since 1967. She is not a breeder.

She has shown in Agility for 15 years, Obedience for 16 years, Tracking for 2 years, Barn Hunt for 2 years, Pet Therapy for 3 years and Nose Work for 2 years. Sonja is also a Canine Good Citizen Evaluator. She attends 25 AKC events a year and 25

NEW APPLICANTS

other events. She belongs to Rnad Park DTC, Des Plaines, IL (Instructor/Assistant Secretary), Des Plains, IL. Windy City Agility Club, Franklyn Park, IL (Instructor/Board Member), Rainbow Animal Assisted Therapy, Morton Grove, IL. Sonja is retired. She is interested in helping the club with Obedience, Agility, Nose Work and Barn Hunt.

Sonja's Sponsors are: Nancy Banas and Dale Miller

Pamela Haigh

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Pamela has been involved with Miniature Schnauzers for 17 years and Giant Schnauzers prior to that from 1986-1999. Pamela is a breeder and has bred 6 litters. Pamela shows in Conformation, Obedience and Droving (working cattle/sheep on farms). She attends 35 – 40 events each year. Pamela belongs to the Schnauzer Club of Victoria, Australia and served as a Committee Member, Editor of "Snippets", and is currently Webmaster. Pamela has a Schnauzer Grooming Business. She is interested in helping the club with Newsletter, Public Awareness, Health, Ethics and Education. Pamela is also interested in Mentoring on Grooming and Care.

Pamela's sponsors are: Mary Paisley and Carole Alex

Vicki Day

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Vicki has been involved with Miniature Schnauzers for 14 years.

She is a breeder and has bred 3 litters. She has shown in Conformation.

She attends 5 – 7 events a year. She belongs to the Cactus State Miniature Schnauzer Club, Glendale, AZ and has served as their Board of Directors, Show Chair and Vice President.

Vicki is retired. Vicki likes to groom and show her own dogs and has 1 Champion and is currently showing 2 girls. She is interested in helping the club out with Health and Education.

She has leadership and organizational skills and a willingness to learn more.

Vicki's Sponsors are Ginny P. Fagan and Dee Ann Simpson

SCENT ...from p. 3

confidence because, for the most part, they're in charge, not just taking orders, and you're interpreting on their behalf."

Dogs can learn scent work at any age. LeRoy starts her Border Collies while they are still in the whelping box.

"You can start puppies as soon as they are born. Because puppies are born blind and deaf, they rely on smell. You can introduce them to different scents, and you can actually see them react to both good smells and the bad," she said. "As they get older, you can hide treats for the puppies and have them find them."

As the dogs mature, trainers progress to pairing the food with the odor that they want them to find. Eventually, they remove the food from the odor and then reward with food when the dog finds the odor.

"When I started my second nose work dog, I decided to train the dog that was my food thief, figuring that she'd already had several years of self-training, and she learned nose work



exceptionally fast," Chris Levy said.

AKC Scent Work is open to all dogs, including those enrolled in [AKC Canine Partners](#), Purebred Alternative Listing (PAL), and the Foundation Stock Service (FSS).

Competitions will offer four levels for each element — novice, advanced, excellent, and master — and will vary factors with the level of difficulty, such as the size of the search area, the number of hides, whether the number of hides is known or unknown to the handler, and the maximum height of the hides. The most accomplished dogs will also be eligible for the detective class, which contains many hides in a variety of environments.

"AKC Scent Work is a modern-day performance event in which bred-for traits such as working drive, concentration, and response to distractions are redeployed into roles relevant for the 21st century," said Doug Ljungren, AKC vice president of sports and events. "While the sport of scent work will not prepare your dog to be a working detection dog, we hope it serves to demonstrate to the public the value that these purpose-bred dogs can provide to the security of our nation."

For more information: <http://www.akc.org/events/scent-work/what-is-scent-work>

AMSC Annual Montgomery Reception/Meeting

with Silent Auction/Garage Sale
Sat. Oct. 7, 2017 at the host
hotel

Homewood Suites - Audubon, PA
6:30PM to 9 PM

Join us for a relaxed, casual
event offering an array of
wonderful hors d'oeuvres with a
beer and wine cash bar.

Bring your wallet and join in the
bidding fun for the garage sale
and silent auction.

\$15.00 per person

Name _____

of reservations _____

Amount enclosed \$15 x _____ =
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Make your reservations and
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Website; link to Paypal in the
Members Only Section

OR

Mail to:

Bonnie Keyes - AMSC Treasurer
511 River Terrace - Endicott, NY
13760

Questions regarding the
reception? Email

Barbara Donahue at
barbaramd_2000 @ [yahoo.com](mailto:barbaramd_2000@yahoo.com)
(remove spaces)

or call/text 215-896-9666

In Memorium Myra Snyder



It is with heavy heart that I mention the passing of Myra Snyder of Bojangles Miniature Schnauzer. She passed August 31st from an inoperable mass in her lung. She was a good friend and a wonderful dog breeder and had many wonderful dogs. She will be deeply missed.

The photo was when she was the president of the Cincinnati MSC. Gale Schnetzer

Bouquets & Biscuits

***Am.Ch.Minuteman Dead Flowers** finished the requirements of her AKC title on August 24th, at the Topeka Kennel Club. "Bouquet" is the third champion for her sire Am.GCh.CanCh.Minuteman Underworld and second for her dam, Am.GChB.CanGChEx.Minuteman Venus Flytrap. Owned and bred by Catherine McMillan.

***Ch. Kelly's Just Something About Henry (Henry)** finished the requirements for his AKC title. He won from the classes: 2 Group 1, 2 Group 2 and a Group 3 and Reserve BIS. He was sired by Ch. Kelly's Every Day's a Holiday. He was bred by Geri Kelly.

***Am/Can CH Legacy's Time Traveler and GCH Tuxtails We've Got Magic** both won Select dog and Select Bitch respectively, at the MS Specialty sponsored by the Rideaux Terrier Club held at Dundas, Ontario on August 27, 2017. Both are owned by Heather Orr.

Parents/Owners...from p. 1

the rights into the hands (or paws) of the animal.

There are many animal rights activist organizations that would like to see the law changed. And although the goal is to always act in the best interest of the pet, the problem is that the pet owner (or parent) could lose certain rights. Medical treatment options could be questioned by anyone other than the owner, including local, self-appointed experts. In addition, people could petition courts for custody of a pet, if they don't agree with the care or treatment being provided.

Though I want what's best for my "kids," I still want the right to develop an educated decision, along with my veterinarian, as to what's in my pet's best interest. I do not want the state to have the power to tell me what's best for my pet.

Pets Are Part of the Family

I don't have human children; I choose to have pets as my family. I have had dogs, cats, birds, fish, ferrets, rabbits, you name it. I have cared for each one of them to the best of my ability, as I would a child. I see myself as their "mom," and I love them as so.

My pets are my responsibility, my right to own, and a large part of my life. Much of my time and energy is spent caring for, nourishing, and engaging my "kids." They sleep in my bed and eat off my plate. But when it comes down to it, I still own them.

I am happy that the law of animal ownership is on my side. I believe I know what's best for my pet. No one knows their needs and desires better than me, and I want to maintain the right to provide the best care that my veterinary team and I deem appropriate. And I want my property—and myself—protected by the law. In that manner, I am a proud pet owner. But I will always refer to my fur babies as my children.

Natasha Feduik is a licensed veterinary technician with Garden City Park Animal Hospital in New York, where she has been practicing for 10 years. Natasha received her degree in veterinary technology from Purdue University. Natasha has two dogs, a cat, and three birds at home and is passionate about helping people take the best possible care of their animal companions.

STRESS, INFERTILITY AND HERPES INFECTION

Mary C. Wakeman, D.V.M., Ashford Animal Clinic
Canine Fertility Center, Ashford, CT

Our most frequent discussions about Herpes in dogs occur because of neonatal puppy death. Herpes causes puppies to die in the first two to three weeks of life, when puppies cannot regulate their body temperature. After three weeks of age the puppies acquire the ability to regulate their body temperature, and to mount a fever response. At that time, the disease no longer causes death, but can cause a respiratory disease.

We rarely find much in references about this disease in the adult dog. Where it is mentioned, it is generally in regard to future breeding advisability for a bitch that has produced a litter of puppies that had herpes, or regarding the presence of vesicles (blister like lesions) on the vulva or prepuce. Recent papers published by Dr. James Everman of Washington State University, have demonstrated that the disease as we know it in dogs is very similar to the equivalent disease in horses (Rhino). This information fills in the remainder of the picture for dogs in a very dramatic fashion.

Those of us who have owned horses are likely to be familiar with the equivalent Herpes virus infection in horses, a disease called Rhino (Rhinopneumonitis). Rhino in horses is characterized by a mild respiratory disease in most cases, and by abortion in pregnant mares. In the respiratory form of the disease, the horses have a clear nasal discharge, may snort or cough, and have reduced exercise tolerance. It is a mild condition, and unless the horse is being actively used or campaigned, or is pregnant, it is rarely vaccinated against. The vaccine, somewhat like the common cold virus, does not give a good duration of immunity, and if protection from Rhino is desired, it has been necessary to vaccinate every 4 months. Rhino in horses also causes abortion. On breeding farms, an epidemic of Rhino will cause what is called an "abortion storm" in brood-mares. That frightening phrase says it all. Rhino is highly contagious, spread through the air by aerosols or contact with secretions.

The fact that Herpes virus infection in dogs has been given such little attention by veterinarians, when its effects might well have anticipated by reproductive experts, serves as an excellent demonstration of the historical lack of interest in canine reproduction by the Veterinary establishment in general.

The respiratory form of Herpes infection in adult dogs is minimal in its signs. It is, however, extremely important in the transmission of the disease. It is not necessary for dogs to acquire Herpes as a venereal disease. A dog may acquire Herpes as an airborne aerosol, or from aerosols on your clothing, for instance,

and abort or resorb a litter. I have personally heard of only two cases of adult dogs that were sneezing, in the manner of a human with a cold. Any dog may sneeze once or twice in response to inhaling an irritant. But sneezing consistently, over a protracted period, is extremely rare.

One instance of frank sneezing occurred in 6 week old puppies, who were housed near another litter in the same household. This litter was 3.5 weeks older than the younger litter. The older litter had Herpes in the respiratory form with sneezing and clear nasal secretions at 5 to 6 weeks, while the younger ones, under 3 weeks of age, had suffered a 50% mortality and were confirmed as having Herpes on post mortem examination.

The older puppies who were affected only with the sneezing were able to regulate their body temperature. Puppies die of Herpes only so long as they are unable to mount a fever response. Between 2 and 3 weeks puppies develop the ability to control their temperature. Earlier they are dependant on their surroundings for warmth -- this is called poikilothermia. Treatment of young puppies where herpes has been diagnosed by a postmortem exam of one of the dead puppies involves elevating the temperature of the surroundings. Check with your veterinarian if you think this may be the problem in your litter under three weeks of age. Refrigerate (do not freeze) dead puppies so they can be taken in for post mortem examination.

As Herpes is a virus, there is no particular reason for administering antibiotics, unless a secondary bacterial infections occurs. If there is uncertainty as to whether Herpes or a neonatal bacterial infection is causing puppy death, antibiotics are appropriate. A cervical culture and sensitivity of the bitch prior to whelping to determine the presence of E. coli will provide help in making this decision, since E.coli also causes neonatal death.

Litter loss can occur at any point of the pregnancy. Puppies may be resorbed or born dead, or they may acquire Herpes virus as they pass through the vaginal canal at birth (along with E.coli bacteria), in utero prior to birth, or by contact with infective secretions (respiratory aerosols or vaginal discharges) after birth. Bitches infected with Herpes prior to breeding or from exposure at the time of breeding simply never show as pregnant. The best way of preventing gestational loss or neonatal death is to quarantine the dam from 3 weeks prior to breeding to 3 weeks after whelping. To determine if a bitch has been freshly exposed to Herpes during gestation,

and has not whelped for that reason, 2 serum samples, taken 2 weeks apart, are submitted to a lab for a Herpes titer. A changing titer (either rising or falling) indicates that Herpes infection may have caused the loss of a litter in gestation. Herpes infection of the dam which does not result in abortion may result in low birth weight, weak or stillborn puppies. If there are surviving puppies in a Herpes litter, they may or may not have permanent damage to the nervous system, kidney, or lymphoid tissue, much in the way that puppy strangles may damage internal organs and cause problems later in life.

Once we have experienced Herpes in a litter of neonates, we are critically interested in whether or not we are likely to experience a repeat occurrence if we breed the dam again. We are also interested in whether the stud dog must be infected. Herpes in adult dogs tends to go dormant, as it does in humans, and to resurface and become acute in times of stress. Consider the stresses in play for the bitch being bred:

Hormonal events which temporarily impair the body's ability to fight infection.

Shipping, boarding, breeding and shipping again, should the bitch travel to the stud dog. Possible concurrent bacterial vaginal or uterine disease:

In appropriate parts of the country, concurrent lyme disease.

Showing.

In the bitch or 5 years or older, decreased thyroid levels.

Any other stresses, such as temperature stress.

Knowing that stress may activate Herpes, (which may then in 3 weeks cause early embryonic death) goes a very long way toward explaining those bitches we have been so certain were bred up to the fourth week, but failed to whelp at term, or that whelped a much smaller than anticipated litter. Where we have done thorough pre-breeding workups and have palpated normal vesicles in a bitch at 28 days of gestation, yet no puppies were delivered, we test for Herpes with paired serum samples taken 2 weeks apart, at about the time the bitch should have whelped. Where the bitch was in good health and clean of bacterial vaginal or uterine disease originally, had normal vesicles and later lost her litter, we have found positive Herpes titers in about 80% of cases. This should be an extremely valuable piece of information for breeders, especially those who show regularly, have multiple animals in their kennel, who groom or run boarding kennels, or who give obedience lessons, and so on. Remember, this disease can literally be car-

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HERPES..from p. 6

ried home on your clothing.

What is the expectation for a bitch which has whelped a known Herpes litter (diagnosed by post mortem exam), or has been shown by titers to have lost a litter in gestation due to Herpes? If she is stressed by some of the factors above, she may be affected again. On the other hand, if she is bred at home or driven back and forth to the stud, given a complete pre-breeding medical workup, including thyroid testing, blood count, and cervical culture and sensitivity, and has any detrimental conditions cleared up, she is perfectly likely to have no problem. This also supposes that she is not traveled around during her gestation and taken to shows, that she is kept apart from those dogs coming into the kennel from outside and those traveling to shows, and so forth. It also includes not going to classes where there are other dogs as well. In a breed felt to be immunodeficient (Rottweilers, Dobermans, Boxers and possibly Pugs, Collies, and Shelties) the risk of a repeat occurrence will be greater.

If stresses are avoided, most bitches have no problem in subsequent breedings. Nearly all dogs with any doggy contacts at all have been exposed to Herpes. It is not just or primarily a venereal disease. It is not usually or necessarily contracted through the breeding. It is usually contracted through exposure to the respiratory aerosols of other dogs. The very short-term immunity a new exposure may confer fades quickly, leaving the dog open to repeat infection as well as to dormant infections re-surfacing. In fact, it would be very hard to say that any repeat of the infection came from a dormant infection instead of a new exposure to high levels of infective particles. Just going to the stud dog's premises can be enough to expose the bitch; if there are frequent visiting bitches to the kennel, new infections may be brought with them. If the stud dog or his kennel mates are showing or training, he may be shedding high levels of particles. It is simply not possible to avoid this virus in the dog's environment. But it is possible to limit that exposure; if going to the stud dog, don't travel by air, and stay in a motel with the bitch rather than leaving her at the stud's kennel. If going to a dog show, completely change clothes and wash before encountering any bred bitches at home. If training or showing kennel mates, isolate her from them and perform her 'chores' before doing theirs, always going from "clean to dirty".

The most susceptible bitch of all, however, will be the one that lives in a pet home and has not had routine exposure to other dogs or the virus. Such a bitch upon being ex-

posed to the virus will be more seriously affected that a bitch with routine exposure to low levels of the virus.

A stud dog bred to an infected bitch may or may not be infected, either as the animal which passed the infection to the bitch or as a recipient of an acute infection she was harboring when he bred her. Herpes testing at the time of breeding is meaningless, since almost all individuals in the bitch's environment may be in various phases of acquiring or recovering from infection. It bears repeating here, that the respiratory infection is very mild and rarely ever shows actual clinical signs in adult dogs. Only paired serum samples taken at different times to detect a rising (becoming infected) titer, or a falling (recovering from an infection) titer, can tell us anything. Obviously the information generated in this way will be too late to be of use at the time of breeding. The usefulness of these paired titers is seen chiefly as a tool to identify if a bitch has lost her litter due to Herpes after the fact. We can rule Herpes in or out as one of the several options for causes of litter resorption, or still born or sickly neonates.

The best rule to follow is that a kennel with an active show schedule, a stud dog which is being shown or trained, a boarding kennel, or a kennel where breedings are frequent, so that visiting bitches are frequently on the premises is likely to harbor infective particles. The worst shedders however, will be pet dogs newly exposed to a heavily trafficked environment, such as a boarding kennel. These dogs will be more seriously affected and will shed more virus particles. A visiting bitch staying in a kennel where susceptible pets are passing through will likely be more at risk than in visiting a show kennel, where all the dogs will have some resistance at all times, and shedding will be at lower levels.

Certainly fighting a uterine or vaginal infection may be stress a bitch sufficiently to produce an adverse affect on resistance to Herpes. Certainly any bitch low in thyroid would find it more difficult to resist an infection. The thyroid levels necessary for the life of a comfortable pet and those necessary for reproduction, especially in the bitch, are not the same. Nature wants our children (human) to have children as teen agers, not as 40 year olds. We, of course don't feel quite the same about children reproducing. Likewise, Nature wants dogs to whelp at 18 months, not 6 years of age. Thyroid normals represent all breeds, all ages, and all states of health. It has been said that all dogs over 5 years old show a decrease in their thyroid level - they're starting to age. To lump the thyroid samples of 6 to 12 year olds with those of 1 to 5 year olds throws the 'normal range' off considerably. Probably a good statement to make is that to ensure that thyroid doesn't contribute to in-

fertility, it should be (T4) in the upper one third to one fourth of the normal range. When looked at in a biologic perspective, when thyroid hormone decreases, naturally the first considerations of the body are to maintain health in the individual. Only in animals who are young and healthy enough to nurture puppies will Nature encourage reproduction, as a matter of course. On the other hand, since we have created most of our breeds in the last 100 to 200 years, it is somewhat unrealistic for us, with the kinds of remedies we have at hand, to worry overly much about what Nature wants of one of our dogs. If a bitch is in good health and over 5, and simply needs supplementation of l-thyroxin to continue to reproduce, it would be silly of us to worry about what Nature wants. Our dogs don't live in 'Nature' - except perhaps those running the Iditarod. A given animal's suitability for breeding should be determined on its thyroid as a young dog, not on its levels in when it's over 5 years of age.

Other sources of immune suppression are parvo disease, lyme disease, and vaccinations with your regular 'booster' vaccine which contains Distemper and Hepatitis (A2) virus, and which because of the combination of these two together causes about a 2 week immunosuppression. Parvo, like Herpes is endemic in our dog show population, and may be brought home from a show, and cycled by other dogs in the kennel subclinically, later affecting both the bred bitch and the young puppies in a way that it wouldn't affect the rest of the adults in the kennel. Drugs (corticosteroids, chemotherapy), emotional family situations, moving, and so on can all produce stress.

One of the chief uses of 'chilled' or 'fresh-extended' semen is to avoid the stresses of travel to breed a bitch. All of the common sense cautions we used to be aware of - don't take your pregnant bitch to shows, and don't ship her to be bred - are certainly largely explained by the conditions fostering a Herpes infection, resulting in early embryonic loss, resorption, still birth, weak puppies, and neonatal death.

Herpes is one of the very few things that any veterinarian can determine on a quick autopsy of a dead puppy. There is grossly visible mottling on the kidneys that is totally diagnostic for Herpes. If you have a puppy die, refrigerate the body (don't freeze it) and get your vet to look at it ASAP. Then ask the vet for directions for raising the body temperature of the remaining puppies in the litter.



AMSCOPE

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UPCOMING SPECIALTIES

Greater Columbus MSC Nov. 18, 2017
Regular Classes: Kathleen Ferris
Sweeps: Andy Deer

Gateway MSC March 2, 2018
Regular Classes: Mrs. Boutwell
No Sweepstake classes offered
Obedience: Ms. Pat Kasten

AMSC SPECIALTIES

Montgomery County Oct. 8, 2017
Regular Classes: Geraldine Kelly
Sweeps: Martin G. Marks

Roving specialty-Perry GA. April 15, 2018
Regular Classes: Terry Stacy
Sweeps: Ken Allen

Great Western June 24, 2018
Regular Classes: John Constantine
Sweeps: Kim Griffin

Montgomery County October 7, 2018
Regular Classes: Joan Huber
Sweeps: Susan Atherton

Schnauza Palooza April 6, 2019
Regular Classes - David Kirkland
Sweepstakes Classes - Patricia O'Brien

Great Western 2019
Regular Classes - Steve Hayden
Sweepstakes Classes - Cheryl Coffman

Montgomery County 2019
Regular Classes - Brian Bogart
Sweepstakes Classes - Carla Nickerson

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