



# OtterTails

## LABRADOR RETRIEVER CLUB OF THE PIEDMONT

### Summer 2013 Issue

“OtterTails” is the newsletter of LRC Piedmont. Membership dues are \$15 for an individual, or \$25 for a family. Contributions, Brags, and Photos are welcome! Please send all newsletter submissions Traci Burden - email: [ottertails@piedmontlabclub.com](mailto:ottertails@piedmontlabclub.com). We publish 4 times per year. Please send all Website submissions to our Web Mistress: Tammy Aghjayan: Email: [tammy@everoaklabs.com](mailto:tammy@everoaklabs.com). The articles and commentary printed in OtterTails are not necessarily the opinion of, or endorsed by, the Officers and Board of LRC Piedmont or the Editor, but are presented here for the readers’ consideration.

### LRC Piedmont Event photos May 2013 Hunt Test

Courtesy of ReneeWillis



### 2012/2013 Officers

President:	Libby Flowerree	makasi@gmail.com
Vice President:	Coleen Kincaid	elhid@email.msn.com
Treasurer:	Pete Mayo	336-492-2578 mayopete@msn.com (Treasurer’s Address: 3653 US Hwy 601 North, Mocksville NC 27028)
Secretary:	Elizabeth Mayo	336-492-2578 mayopete@msn.com (Secretary’s Address: 3653 US Hwy 601 North, Mocksville NC 27028)
Newsletter Editor:	Traci Burden	704-485-5093 ottertails@piedmontlabclub.com
Web Mistress:	Libby Flowerree Tammy Aghjayan	makasi@gmail.com tammy@everoaklabs.com
Board Members:	Sallie Wright, Bit Jordan, Bruce Kincaid, Nancy Poplin, Deborah Thomas	
Activity Committee:	Tammy Aghjayan, Phil Aghjayan, Joy Gabriel, and Nancy Poplin	

\*\*\* Web site address \*\*\*  
[www.piedmontlabclub.com](http://www.piedmontlabclub.com)

## Message from our President: Libby Flowerree

### Chasing the "Cayote"

I recently received an email from one of my wonderful Aunts. Responding to the need to master a new operating system for her next computer, she wrote, "My (and Michelangelo's) motto, Ancora imparo--'I still learn,' may be difficult to believe much longer. I am like Mark Twain's hound trying to catch a coyote. Still, tongue hanging out, I will continue to try a bit." Quoting Michelangelo and Mark Twain in the same paragraph was humbling enough that I immediately went off to find the Twain reference. I am ashamed to say I would find it easier to quote the coyote's pop culture offspring, Wile E. Coyote's nemesis The Roadrunner ("beep beep!") but found Twain's excellent Roughing It a wonderful summertime read and have included a passage in this newsletter. I can certainly relate to that poor hound, especially in our sport. How often do we get "almost" there...the elusive advanced title, the perfect puppy, the great-on-paper breeding...only to have the goal zip away over the horizon when a knee gives out, a breeding misses or an unexpected new health issue crops up?

Still, tongue hanging out, I will continue to try a bit. Ancora imparo!

Happy Summer!

Libby

## **2013 Club Awards** **Labrador Retriever Club of the Piedmont**

### **The James Bond Award**

- GCH CH Hawk-n's Secret Masterpiece
- Owned by Debbie Winn
- Murray's total 2012 BOB wins:
- 7 for a total of 20 points with TWO 5pt Majors, ONE 4pt Major & ONE 3pt Major
- Defeated 173 Labradors in 2012

### **The Khan Award**

- Duckback Armbrook's Indigo MH
- Owned by Ellison Armfield and Willisia Holbrook
- Tiger had nine Master passes in 2012.

### **The Promise Award**

- There were no applicants for this award again this year.

### **The Bridget Award**

- MACH2 OTCH Liberty's Remington Special JH, RE, MXF, MXG, MJG, OM3, UDX2, VER
- Owned by Bit and Will Jordan
- Remi's obedience scores averaged 195.917 in 2012.

### **The Echo Award**

- MACH2 OTCH Liberty's Remington Special JH, RE, MXF, MXG, MJG, OM3, UDX2, VER
- Owned by Bit and Will Jordan
- Remi's 2012 Utility scores averaged 195.75.

All award requirements can be found on the LRPCPiedmont website:

<http://www.piedmontlabclub.com/event-calendar>

### **\*\*\*BRAGS\*\*\***

We have been a very active and winning club over the last several months! Congratulations to all the winners, qualifiers, Breeders, and Owners!!

#### **April 2013**

From **Nancy Poplin**

- 04-28-2013 - **CH. Popway's Never Say Never ~Jeter~** owned and bred by Nancy Poplin goes **Select Dog** at the Myrtle Beach Kennel Club Show under Judge Charles L Olvis to pick points towards his Grand Championship!

#### **June 2013**

From **Lori DeCarlo**

- 06-2013 – **Bit Jordan** received a well deserved "**Instructor of the year**" award from the Charlotte Dog Training Club. Congratulations!

From **Nancy Poplin**

- 06-08-2013 **CH. Popway's Never Say Never ~Jeter~** owned and bred by Nancy Poplin goes **Best Of Opposite Sex** at the Asheville Kennel Club Show under Judge Michael Faulkner to pick 2 additional points towards his Grand Championship.
- 06-09-2013 **Popway's Jumping in Feet First ~ Hannah ~** owned and bred by Nancy Poplin went Reserve Winners Bitch at the Hilton Head Kennel Club under Judge Cindy L. Partridge

From **Kate Fulkerson**

- **06-01-2013 HighGarth Mungo Park Ch HighGarth Make It Better X HighGarth Sugar Plum Fairy)** was Winners Dog from the Bred By class under Judge Sandy Gunn at the Charlottesville/Albamare KC). Mungo is 14 months old.
- **06-02-2013 HighGarth Mungo Park Ch HighGarth Make It Better X HighGarth Sugar Plum Fairy)** was Winners Dog from the Bred By class under Judge Anne Savory Bolus at the Charlottesville/Albamare KC). Mungo is 14 months old

From **Tammy Aghjayan**

- 06-09-2013 **GCH CH Epoch Banner's Chocolate Midnight Malt ~ Lucas ~owned by Tammy Aghjayan** goes **SELECT DOG** at the Asheville Kennel Club Show under Judge Cindy L. Partridge.

#### **July 2013**

From **Nancy Poplin**

- **07-26-13 Popway's The Crush On ELHID ~Tiffany ~** bred by and co-owned with Coleen Kincaid and Nancy Poplin goes **Winners Bitch/ Best of Winners/Opposite Sex** at the Hendersonville Kennel Club Show from the 12-18 month class under Judge Houston Clark to pick up her second 3 pt. major. Coleen and I are very excited about this young girl's future in the show ring.
- **07-26 & 07-27-13 Popway's Never Say Never ~Jeter~** owned and bred by Nancy Poplin went **Select Dog** at the Greenville Kennel Club & Spartanburg Kennel Club shows under judges Kathleen L. Patterson and breeder judge Sally E. Sasser respectively

### Letter from Clare Senfield:

A new disease has made its appearance in my kennel, and it is one that everyone should be made aware of, as it can affect our breeding programs. It is commonly found in 3 to 9 week old puppies. I found out about it after one of my puppies suddenly lost 90% mobility in his rear legs. One day he was a perfectly normal, robust, healthy 9 week old puppy, and the next he was dragging his rear end around, having lost all muscle strength in his back legs. The first thing that came to mind was a spider bite, but after thorough examination, I could find no sign of one. It was mystery.

After consultation with my vet and a neurologist, a diagnosis was made: Neosporosis. It is commonly found in 3 to 9 week old puppies. As you will see from the following article, this parasite, *Neospora caninum*, was first discovered about 30 years ago. Cows and various canids, including dogs, foxes, coyotes and wolves are the primary hosts. The disease spreads by ingesting stools from infected animals, or by eating raw beef products from an infected cow. In my puppy's case, the cause could have been either of these two, the diseased material having been ingested by his mother, then crossing the placenta and infecting the puppy in utero. I tend to suspect the raw beef, as that is a fairly recent addition to my dogs' diet. However, there is no way to prove that, and as far as I know, the product that I use is not tested for this particular parasite.

Treatment involves 2-4 weeks on antibiotics. My pup, his littermates and his mother are all being treated. Recovery is uncertain at this point, but the progression of the disease will hopefully be halted. Untreated, neosporosis spreads up the spine, eventually affecting the front end of the puppy, including the esophagus. Eating becomes impossible, as the paralysis eventually affects peristalsis. At this point, death is inevitable.

It would be wise for all dog owners to make themselves aware of this problem, and be extra vigilant about what their dogs eat. I hope that this information will help anyone who experiences this for the first time, as I did.

Submitted by Clare Senfield

## **NEOSPOROSIS IN DOGS**

*The following article is from the USDA Agricultural Research Service (ARS)*

### **Parasite**

*Neospora caninum* is an obligate intracellular protozoan that infects a wide variety of mammals and causes the disease neosporosis. There are several developmental stages of the parasite which differ in size and distribution. The rapidly dividing tachyzoite stage is found within many different cells of the host and is about 6 x 2 microns in size. Tissue cysts are round to oval, about 100 microns in diameter, and found primarily in nervous tissue. The oocyst stage is round, about 10 microns in diameter, and found in feces excreted from definitive hosts of the parasite. Under the light microscope, tachyzoites, tissue cysts, and oocysts are similar in many respects to other protozoa, including *Toxoplasma gondii*.

The parasite appears to be spread by two routes, although only one has been proven so far to occur in nature. This route is congenital transfer of the rapidly multiplying developmental stage of the parasite, called tachyzoites, from the mother across the placenta, to the fetus. Although abortion can occur after tachyzoites infect the fetus, many calves are born with no clinical signs of neosporosis. Even still, these calves are infected and are capable of transmitting the parasite to their offspring. The other route of infection, which has been shown only under experimental conditions, is infection of cows with oocyst stage of the parasite. *Neospora caninum* oocysts, similar to *Toxoplasma gondii* oocysts, are very resistant to harsh environmental conditions, and can remain infectious for many months in the environment. Oocysts are shed by animals that are termed "definitive hosts". For *Neospora caninum*, the dog can serve as a definitive host, but it is possible that other canids (for example, foxes) can also produce oocysts. It is believed that, similar to the cat in toxoplasmosis, canids eat tissues of animals that have muscle stages (called tissue cysts) of *Neospora caninum*. Once in the gut digestive system, the parasites are activated and burst out of the tissue cysts to start the life cycle which leads to production of oocysts in the intestine and excretion of these stages in feces.

*It is believed that cattle ingest oocysts that contaminate feed or pastures and then become infected.*

### ***Clinical Disease***

*Neosporosis is an infectious disease primarily of dogs and cattle. Due to the similarity of *Neospora caninum* to *Toxoplasma gondii*, neosporosis for many years was misdiagnosed as toxoplasmosis. Neosporosis was first described in dogs in Norway in the mid-1980's as causing neuromuscular degeneration leading to hind limb paralysis. Neosporosis now appears to be a major cause of abortion in dairy cattle worldwide. The disease has been found in many countries around the world, but appears to be an important cause of reproductive failure in cattle in the U.S., Netherlands and New Zealand.*

### ***Prevention***

*Due to the lack of knowledge concerning both the exact life cycle of *Neospora caninum* and immunity to the parasite, no effective preventative regimen can be recommended. Research at ARS has shown that vaccination with *Neospora* tachyzoite antigens can protect against congenital transmission of the parasite in mice. One preventative treatment that may become available is vaccination of cows with parasite antigens to induce protective immunity against oocyst infection or activation of tissue cyst stages. Research at the ARS is also directed at more complete understanding of the life cycle of *Neospora caninum* so that a link in the life cycle may be broken.*

### ***Immune Response***

*The parasite causes an immune response in animals that it infects. One immune response is production of antibodies which bind to the parasite. Blood can be drawn from animals and tested by different methods, such as immunofluorescence (IFA), enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA), or an agglutination test, for antibodies to *Neospora caninum*. The parasite also elicits cellular immune responses in hosts that it infects. These immune cells, in particular, T lymphocytes, release cytokines that are involved in the response of the host against the parasite.*

### ***Detection***

*Sensitive methods to detect parasite DNA, such as the polymerase chain reaction (PCR), are also being employed to detect oocysts in the environment and to diagnose infection in dogs, cattle, and small rodents. PCR uses small pieces of DNA that recognize and bind to specific sites on genes, in this case, of *Neospora caninum*. Parasite DNA, hence the parasite itself, can be detected in DNA extracted from nervous tissue using enzymes that produce large quantities of the gene of interest. This procedure is being used to identify oocysts in environmental samples taken from dairy farms that may have experienced an outbreak of neosporosis-associated abortion.*

### ***Epidemiology***

*Neosporosis has been found in both dairy and beef cattle, although most abortion outbreaks have been reported in dairy cows. The causative organism, *Neospora caninum* appears to have a world-wide distribution having been reported in North and South America, Europe, Scandinavia, Africa, the Middle East, Asia, Australia and New Zealand. In some cases, all of the cows in a herd appear to have been exposed to the parasite. *Neospora caninum* is transmitted from infected cows to offspring by congenital infection. It is thought that *Neospora caninum* can be transferred this way during pregnancy due to 'reactivation' of the cyst form of the parasite, followed by entry into the bloodstream, and transport across the placenta to infect the fetus. Although abortion is often observed, most calves are born infected with the parasite and yet show no clinical signs of disease. These calves can then*

*transmit the parasite to their own offspring during gestation. Epidemiological studies of neosporosis may provide clues on how Neospora caninum enters a dairy herd and what animals are likely sources of the oocyst stage of parasite.*

## **Announcements & Fun Stuff**

### **Litter Announcement from Deb Winn**

- Sue and I are thrilled to announce that we are expecting Black carrying Chocolate litter on July 31, 2013.
  - Co-Breeding by Sue Schultze, Balewater Labradors and Debbie Winn, SecretWinn Labradors.
  - Sire: MBISS Can. Ch/ Am. GRCH Ch. Saddlehill Late Knight Scramble, WC.
  - Dam: Hawk-NS LL Bean CGC TDI.
  - Puppies will be whelped and raised at SecretWinn Labradors, [www.secretwinnlabradors.com](http://www.secretwinnlabradors.com).
  - For more information contact Debbie Winn at [usclx@sc.rr.com](mailto:usclx@sc.rr.com) or Sue Schultze at [volleylab@att.net](mailto:volleylab@att.net).

### **Fun Stuff**

Mark Twain saw his first "cayote" while traveling to Nevada on the overland stage, and he describes this classic foot race between the wild dog with his long, soft-footed trot and a civilized dog who thinks pretty well of himself. (FYI! Twain's coyote was the inspiration for the Loony Tunes character, "Wile E. Coyote"):

"But if you start a swift-footed dog after him, you will enjoy it ever so much--especially if it is a dog that has a good opinion of himself, and has been brought up to think he knows something about speed. The cayote will go swinging gently off on that deceitful trot of his, and every little while he will smile a fraudulent smile over his shoulder that will fill that dog entirely full of encouragement and worldly ambition, and make him lay his head still lower to the ground, and stretch his neck further to the front, and pant more fiercely, and stick his tail out straighter behind, and move his furious legs with a yet wilder frenzy, and leave a broader and broader and higher and denser cloud of desert sand smoking behind, and marking his long wake across the level plain! And all this time the dog is only a short twenty feet behind the cayote, and to save the soul of him he cannot understand why it is that he cannot get perceptibly closer; and he begins to get aggravated, and it makes him madder and madder to see how gently the cayote glides along and never pants or sweats or ceases to smile; and he grows still more and more incensed to see how shamefully he has been taken in by an entire stranger, and what an ignoble swindle that long, calm, sure-footed trot is; and next he notices that he is getting fagged, and that the cayote actually has to slacken speed a little to keep from running away from him--and then that town-dog is mad in earnest, and he begins to strain and weep and swear, and paw the sand higher than ever, and reach for the cayote with concentrated and desperate energy.

This "spurt" finds him six feet behind the gliding enemy, and two miles from his friends. And then, in the instant that a wild new hope is lighting up his face, the cayote turns and smiles blandly upon him once more, and with a something about it which seems to say: "Well, I shall have to tear myself away from you, bub--business is business, and it will not do for me to be fooling along this way all day"--and forthwith there is a rushing sound, and the sudden splitting of a long crack through the atmosphere, and behold that dog is solitary and alone in the midst of a vast solitude!

"It makes his head swim. He stops, and looks all around; climbs the nearest sand-mound, and gazes into the distance; shakes his head reflectively, and then, without a word, he turns and jogs along back to his train, and takes up a humble position under the hindmost wagon, and feels unspeakably mean, and looks ashamed, and hangs his tail at half-mast for a week. And for as much as a year after that, whenever there is a great hue and cry after a cayote, that dog will merely glance in that direction without emotion, and apparently observe to himself, 'I believe I do not wish any of the pie'."

**Roughing It, Mark Twain, 1872**



Labrador Retriever Club of the Piedmont  
Traci Burden, Editor  
Nancy Poplin/Popway Labradors, Co-Editor  
13680 Five Point Road  
Locust, NC 28097  
[ottertails@piedmontlabclub.com](mailto:ottertails@piedmontlabclub.com)

Updated Membership list available upon request – [npoplin1@ctc.net](mailto:npoplin1@ctc.net)