



# OtterTails

## LABRADOR RETRIEVER CLUB OF THE PIEDMONT

### Winter 2013 Issue

“OtterTails” is the newsletter of LRC Piedmont. Membership dues are \$25 for an individual, or \$35 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 Upcoming Events and Meetings Calendar

**LRC Piedmont 2013 Back to Back  
Specialty and Obedience/Rally Trials February 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup>, 2013**  
*(see inside newsletter for additional info)*

**LRC Piedmont Meeting March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2013**  
Time: 1:00 – until  
Location: Home Of Bernadette Brown - 699 Seegars Mill Rd. Camden, SC 29020  
Phone: 803-424-0196

**LRC Piedmont Meeting April - TBD**

**LRC Piedmont Hunt Test Hunt Test – Cooper Black May 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup>**

### 2012/2013 Officers

President:	Libby Flowerree	makasi@gmail.com
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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)

**\*\*\*LRC PIEDMONT 2013 DUES\*\*\***

2013 Membership Dues are due February!

\$35.00 Family ~ \$25.00 Single

Please send 'dues' to the LRC Piedmont Treasurer, Pete Mayo, at:  
3653 US Hwy 601 North, Mocksville NC 27028

**LRC Piedmont 2013 Back to Back  
Specialty and Obedience/Rally Trials**

**Saturday, February 09 and Sunday, February 10, 2013  
Piedmont Kennel Club Show Place - 13607 Choate Circle, Charlotte, NC 28217**

**REGULAR CLASSES**

**Barbara Gilchrist** – (Blackthorn Labs)

Saturday February 9<sup>th</sup>: Dogs & Intersex

Sunday, February 10<sup>th</sup>: Bitches & Non-regular classes

**Jeff Gilmore** – (Borowick Labs)

Saturday, February 9<sup>th</sup>: Bitches & Non-regular classes

Sunday, February 10<sup>th</sup>: Dogs & Intersex

**SWEEPS**

**Dan Clark** – (Everwood Labs) Saturday

**Sharene Clark** – (Everwood Labs) Sunday

**OBEDIENCE, RALLY & JR. SHOWMANSHIP**

**Judge Betsy Horn Humer** Obedience, Rally and Jr. Showmanship on Saturday

**Judge Anthony Cherubini** Obedience and Rally on Sunday

**Judge Janet Robinson Jr.** Showmanship on Sunday

**\*\*\*BRAGS\*\*\***

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

**January 2013**

From **Sallie Wright** ~ My boy, **Jusright Nikolaus via Crystal**, Nikolaus, took **Reserve Winners Dog** under Judge Pauline Mortier, Sat, January 26<sup>th</sup> at Charleston KC, from the bred-by class, behind Jill's Jack Sparrow! His mom is a granddaughter of my 1st Ch, Benn and his Dad is a grandson of Benn's sister, Mia! My dream breeding!

**December 2012**

From **Sallie Wright** ~

- **Jusright Nikolaus via Crystal**, Nikolaus, owned by Sallie and Raymond Wright, was awarded **Winners Dog**, for 3 points on Saturday, 12/8 in Winston-Salem and **Reserve Winners Dog** on Sunday. Nikolaus needs 4 more points to finish his Championship!

## November 2012

From **Sallie Wright** ~

- **Jusright Nikolaus via Crystal**, Nikolaus, owned by Sallie and Raymond Wright went **Winners Dog**, for 1 point, Friday at Concord shows. November 16. **Nikolaus had previously been awarded a 3 point major in Greenville in July. It's fun to win; it's more fun to win in front of friends!!!**
- **Jusright Nikolaus via Crystal**, Nikolaus, owned by **Sallie and Raymond Wright**, went **Reserve Winners Dog** on Thursday November 8 and **Winners Dog, for 4 points**, on Friday, November 9 at Raleigh Durham Specialty Nikolaus had previously been awarded a 3 point major in Greenville in July.

From **Coleen & Bruce Kincaid** ~ **ELHID's Boo-yah! (CH. ELHID's Average Joe X ELHID's I Am Emrie)** went **Winners Bitch** Thursday November 8 at the Raleigh-Durham Specialty for a **4 point major** and was one of three girls pulled for **Winners Bitch** on Friday. Thanks to the club and the judges for such a great show. We think Boo now has 9 AKC points! She is bred by, owned, shown and loved by Bruce and Coleen Kincaid.

From **Linda Wages** ~

- At RDLRC **Luna, 3rd in Am. Bred AOC. Marlo 1st in Open Chocolate Bitch** November 9
- At RDLRC **Luna, 2nd in Am. Bred AOC. Marlo 1st in Open Chocolate Bitch** November 8

From **Tammy Aghjayan**:

- **GCH Epoch Banner's Chocolate Midnight Malt, "Lucas"** ~ owned by **Tammy Aghjayan** goes **BEST OF BREED** judged by Mr. Carl Gene Liepmann at Fayetteville Kennel Club November 18 for 4 points.
- **CH Epoch Banner's Chocolate Midnight Malt, "Lucas"** ~ owned by **Tammy Aghjayan** goes **Select Dog**, judged by Mr. Ronald H. Menaker at Greater Monroe Kennel Club November 17 for 3 point major to finish his **Grand Championship!**
- **CH Epoch Banner's Chocolate Midnight Malt, "Lucas"** ~ owned by **Tammy Aghjayan** goes **Select Dog**, judged by Mrs. Betty-Anne Stenmark at Salisbury North Carolina Kennel Club November 16
- **CH Epoch Banner's Chocolate Midnight Malt, "Lucas"** ~ owned by **Tammy Aghjayan** goes **BEST OF BREED**, judged by Mr. Norman L. Patton at Furniture City Kennel Club, Inc. November 11
- **CH Epoch Banner's Chocolate Midnight Malt, "Lucas"** ~ owned by **Tammy Aghjayan** goes **BEST OF BREED**, under Judge Mrs. Stephanie S. Hedgepath at Furniture City Kennel Club, Inc. November 10
- **CH Epoch Banner's Chocolate Midnight Malt, "Lucas"** ~ owned by Tammy Aghjayan receives **Judge's Award of Merit (JAM)** at the RDLRC Specialty under Judge Judy Chambers (Ghoststone) on November 8
- **CH Epoch Banner's Chocolate Midnight Malt, "Lucas"** ~ owned by **Tammy Aghjayan** goes **Select Dog** for a **4 point major** towards GCH at RDLRC Specialty under Judge Sue Willumsen (Wilcare). The judge said she really loved Lucas and it was close between her Winner and him on November 9

From **Nancy Poplin** ~ What an amazing year we have had at Popway Labradors! I am truly blessed to be surrounded by amazing friends who have supported us this year during the rough times and the good times! I love you all!!

**Sunday 11/18/12:** Fayetteville Kennel Club All Breed Dog Shows - Judge Mr. Carl Gene Liepmann

- **Popway's Never Say Never** ~Jeter~, owned and bred by **Nancy Poplin** went **Winners Dog & Best of Winners** - Jeter needs one major to complete his AKC Championship.
- **Popway's Long Shot at Wildwood** ~Gamble~, bred by **Pete& Elizabeth Mayo** and co-owned with **Nancy Poplin**, took **Reserve Winners Dog**
- **Popway's I Gotta Feeling** ~Fergie~ owned and bred by **Nancy Poplin**, went **Winners Bitch & Opposite Sex**
- **Popway's Jumping In Feet First** ~Hannah~, owned bred by **Nancy Poplin** took **Best Puppy**

**Saturday, 11/17/12:** Hanover Kennel Club All Breed Dog Shows - Judge Mr. Ronald H. Menaker

- **Popway's Long Shot at Wildwood** ~Gamble~ bred by **Pete& Elizabeth Mayo** and co-owned with **Nancy Poplin**, took **Winners Dog/Best of Winners/Best of Breed Owner Handled** to pick up his **first major**.
- **Popway's Jumping In Feet First** ~Hannah~, bred by **Nancy Poplin** took **Winners Bitch /Opposite Sex** from the **9-12 month class** at the Hanover Kennel Club All Breed Dog Shows on Saturday, 11/17 picking up her first **2 points**

## October 2012

From **Nancy Poplin** ~ This fall has been an awesome time at the Popway household! We are truly blessed!

**Saturday, 10/20/12:** Atlanta Kennel Club All Breed Dog Shows/Supported Entry - Judge Mrs. Sally Sasser

- **Popway's Hey-Hey-Hey**, "Albert" owned and bred by **Nancy Poplin & Coleen Kincaid**, went **Winners Dog** to pick a **4 point major** and finish his **AKC Championship**.

**Saturday, 10/13/12:** Hanover Kennel Club All Breed Dog Shows - Judge Mrs. Carole A. Beattie

- **Popway's Never Say Never** ~Jeter~, owned and bred by **Nancy Poplin** went **Winners Dog & BEST of BREED**

- **Popway's Long Shot at Wildwood** ~Gamble~, bred by **Pete & Elizabeth Mayo** and co-owned with **Nancy Poplin**, took **Reserve Winners Dog**
- Sunday, 10/14/12:** Hanover Kennel Club All Breed Dog Show - Judge Ms. Rita Bell
- **Popway's Never Say Never** ~Jeter~, owned and bred by **Nancy Poplin**, went **Winners Dog & BEST of BREED**
  - **Popway's Long Shot at Wildwood** ~Gamble~, bred by **Pete & Elizabeth Mayo** and co-owned with **Nancy Poplin**, took **Reserve Winners Dog**
  - **Popway's I Said It First** ~Jynx~, owned and bred by **Nancy Poplin** took **Reserve Winners Bitch**

From **Tammy Aghjayan**:

- **CH Epoch Banner's Chocolate Midnight Malt**, "Lucas" ~ owned by **Tammy Aghjayan** at Kennesaw Kennel Club goes **BEST OF BREED**, as judged by Mr Sam Houston McDonald 10-28-2012
- **CH Epoch Banner's Chocolate Midnight Malt**, "Lucas" ~ owned by Tammy Aghjayan at Kennesaw Kennel Club goes **BEST OF BREED**, as judged by Mrs Betty Stites 10-27-2012
- **CH Epoch Banner's Chocolate Midnight Malt**, "Lucas" ~ owned by **Tammy Aghjayan** at Atlanta Kennel Club, Inc. goes **SELECT DOG**, as judged by Mrs. S E Sasser 10-20-2012
- **CH Epoch Banner's Chocolate Midnight Malt**, "Lucas" ~ owned by **Tammy Aghjayan** at Augusta Kennel Club, Inc. goes **SELECT DOG**, as judged by Mr. J E Noe 10-07-2012

## September 2012

From **Bit Jordan** ~ At the Columbia, SC agility trials on Fri., Sept. 28, **Ru** got **Q's** in **Excellent B Jumpers**, **Time 2 Beat**, and **Excellent B Standard (fourth place)**. That was her **13th QQ** and **640th** point toward her **MACH**

## WINTERIZE YOUR CANINE

<http://theapca.com/content.php?page=winterizeyourcanine>

*by Ann Yowell, DVM*

As winter sets in and the temperatures start to drop, your canine feels the difference just as you do. They will need a little more attention to stay warm, happy, healthy and safe during the winter season. Winterizing your canine can make a world of difference to both of you - it will help maintain his ability to do his job, thus keeping you both safe.

## SHELTER

Adequate shelter is probably one of the most important things you can provide to your canine - it is a necessity. Some canines are kept indoors, so for them, this is not an issue.

All outdoor canines should have adequate shelter that provides them a warm, dry, draft free environment. If you keep your canine in a garage or a basement, they need to have protection from the floor, as tile and non-carpeted areas can be extremely cold. If they are in the garage, you need to monitor the temperature, as some garages get very cold. If the garage does get cold, you will have to provide enough warmth - such as putting a doghouse in the garage.

Canines that are kept outside will need a shelter, such as a doghouse. The shelter should be free from drafts, insulated, watertight and have plenty of clean, dry bedding. The floor of the shelter should be off the ground to help preserve warmth and to prevent moisture accumulation beneath the shelter. A plastic flap should cover the entrance to help prevent drafts. The shelter should be big enough for the canine to stand up, turn around in and lay down, but small enough to retain body heat. Use of plastic tarp and zip ties to block the wind on outside kennels.

Bedding is extremely important. I do not like the use of blankets or shavings for winter use. If the blankets get wet, they do not dry in the house and they cannot keep your canine warm. I recommend use of cedar or shavings on the floor of the shelter and then layering hay over the shavings in the interior of the shelter. I really

like the use of hay in shelters. Yes, it is very messy but it is warm and that is what we are after-warmth. You can buy a bale of hay from a local feed store, or if you know a farmer, you can get one from them. Don't get alfalfa; it isn't very comfortable to sleep on. Use hay and not straw. Straw mats down too easily and doesn't fluff up like hay does.

Even though hay is very messy, it will help wick moisture away from the canine if they are wet when they get into the shelter and it also has the tendency to dry quicker than blankets. The best thing about hay, you can virtually fill the shelter with it and they can burrow down in the hay and be cozy and warm. You would be surprised how warm they can stay in a hay stuffed shelter. As they beat the hay down, you can fluff it up again. I fluff my outdoor canine's hay twice a day and it works well. When the hay gets beat down and you can't fluff it well, just add more. With adequate shelter, a canine can withstand some cold temperatures-wind and wet are the biggest winter enemies, so keep them dry and out of the wind.

There are several types of flooring you can provide for an outdoor canine. Concrete can be easy to clean, but can quickly develop ice issues and is not forgiving, thus hard on their joints. Stall mats, such as those used in horse stalls, are easier on their joints and are easy to clean, but can have the same issues with ice as concrete and if your dog is a chewer, he can really do some damage to them. I have a natural dirt floor in my canine's pen, but it is thickly layered with shavings with a heavy overlay of hay. It's great for his joints, dries quickly when it gets wet and is inexpensive and easy to maintain. Supplemental heat sources such as heat lamps and portable heaters are very dangerous and not recommended for use.

## HYPOTHERMIA

Hypothermia is lowering of the body temperature to less than 89.5 F. Hypothermia may occur during exposure to a cold and/or wet environment with inadequate shelter. When the body temperature lowers to 82 F or less, canines lose the ability to return their body temperature to normal, but with treatment they may survive. The extent of injuries to the body varies with the actual temperature of the body and the duration of the hypothermic condition.

- Animals may survive conditions of mild hypothermia (body temperatures of 86-90 F) for 24-36 hours.
- Animals do not survive after 4-24 hours of moderate hypothermia (72-77 F).
- The maximum survival time from severe hypothermia (less than 60 F) is 6 hours.

Signs of hypothermia vary depending on the core body temperature and the duration of the hypothermic state. Signs include:

- Body temperature less than 89.5 F
- Slowed heart rate
- Mental status varies from depression to unconsciousness
- Shivering
- Slow and shallow respiration

If your canine experiences any degree of hypothermia, wrap him in warm blankets, get him into a warm environment (such as your vehicle) and transport to a veterinarian immediately.

## FROSTBITE

Frostbite can occur after exposure to a cold environment when the body temperature is below 93 F, following the freezing of any exposed body surface or contact with cold metal, glass or liquid. Exposure to cold causes destruction of the superficial tissues due to the disruption of blood flow through the small blood vessels.

### SIGNS OF FROSTBITE

- Acute
- Pale skin
- Skin is cool to touch
- Skin may be blue

Affected body parts may lack feeling

#### SEVERAL DAYS LATER

- The affected tissue may shrink
- Discoloration of the affected tissue

### WITH THAWING

- Chronic
- Affected skin is very red, painful & may be swollen

### TWENTY TO THIRTY DAYS LATER

- Hair loss in affected areas
- Sloughing of the dead tissue

If you suspect your canine is suffering from frostbite, remove him from the source of the cold, apply warm compresses to the affected area, immerse the affected area into warm (102-104 F) water, gently dry the area (never rub the affected area) and then transport to your veterinarian. Be extremely careful when you have your dog around any bodies of water, as they can be a potential death trap in the winter.

## FOOD AND WATER

Canines that stay outdoors or are working will need additional calories during the winter. Some canines can require up to 25 percent more calories in the winter. Discuss your canine's dietary requirements with your veterinarian. Providing them with a warm meal is easy to do - just add some warm water to their regular meal and see how much they appreciate it.

I am a strong supporter of the use of stainless steel food and water bowls, but during the cold weather, I recommend plastic bowls. When the temperatures are low, your canine's tongue can actually stick to the metal and freeze. Provide plenty of fresh water. Canines are just as prone to dehydration in the winter as the summer. You will need to check and/or change the water several times a day to ensure that your canine's water isn't frozen. Snow is not a satisfactory substitute for water.

## TOXINS

Antifreeze often collects on driveways and roadways and is highly poisonous. It smells good and is sweet tasting to the canine and they will readily drink it. If you know or suspect your canine has ingested any antifreeze, even just a few drops, immediately take him to your veterinarian as any delay in treatment can prove to be fatal.

Salt and other de-icing chemicals ingested in large amounts can be fatal - salt will be discussed more in depth in the paw care section.

## GROOMING AND PAW CARE

Groom your canine regularly. Animals often have dry skin in the winter and brushing helps stimulate the production of oil from the skin glands. Brushing not only stimulates natural oil production, it removes irritating debris, stimulates the skin by removing dead skin cells and encourages blood flow to the skin. It also keeps the fur from matting down. Matted fur prevents the body from having its own natural insulation, thus the canine can't stay as warm if his hair is matted.

Frozen ground has no give to it; nothing to lessen the shock of impact with each step a canine takes. Icy, uneven surfaces can slash the dog's paw pads. Cuts to the pads fall into two categories: slicing wounds and horizontal cuts. Slicing wounds drive upward into the pad causing it to split into two pieces. Horizontal cuts lift part or the entire pad away from the main body of the toe. Both of these types of cuts are painful and should be checked by your veterinarian.

On any frozen surface where there is little or no vegetation, stones or sharp objects that the paw may strike will not sink into the soil as the canine's paw lands. If a canine's nail strikes an immovable stone set in icy ground, the nail may bend, break, shred, or even worse, it could cause a dislocation of one or more of the toe joints. Another danger of a canine working on frozen ground is if the canine slips and tries to regain its balance at speed. Muscles, tendons and ligaments can be easily injured. An injury may not show up at the time it occurs as a canine can be running on adrenaline, with the injury only becoming obvious the next day.

Keep their nails trimmed. Most working canines keep their nails short just due to their job. Sometimes, the nails will grow longer in the winter because they are not working as much. Long nails will make your canine's toes spread when he walks, thus giving more room for snow and ice to build up between his toes. Long nails also affect your dog's weight distribution, shifting his weight onto the back of his paws. This means he will have less traction and be more likely to slip and injure himself when he is working.

Keep the extra hair on the bottom of their paws and in between their toes trimmed. This will help prevent buildup of snow and slush between their toes. Slushy snow tends to stick to dog hair and salt and grit may be mixed in with the slush. Compacted snow, grit and salt on the bottom of their paws will make it more difficult for them to walk, run and stay on their feet. Try not to pull packed snow from between your canine's paw pads, as this can be painful. Warm the paws before you remove the packed snow.

Salt and de-icers, which are primarily made from rock salt, can cause your canine's pads to dry out and crack. Snow, grit and de-icing products can accumulate in these cracks and contribute to blisters, sore pads and infections. You can apply a thin coat of petroleum jelly to the paws daily to help prevent them from drying out and keep them supple.

Washing your canine's paws after tracking or being in snowy or icy conditions can be a little troublesome but serves several purposes - it will warm his paws up, it will dissolve any ice that has formed between his toes and if there are any de-icing chemicals or salt on the paws, it will remove them.

Dog boots can also be a good investment. Many dogs tolerate them well. They will protect their paws from salt, de-icing chemicals, grit, snow impaction, superficial abrasions and they also help retain body heat. One of the ways a dog loses body heat is through his paws as they come into contact with cold, frozen ground. When your canine gets back into your vehicle, always wipe his underbelly, legs and paws off with a towel.

A little extra effort on the handler's part to provide their canine with proper grooming, adequate shelter, adequate nutrition and the monitoring for adverse conditions can make a cold winter season easy to compensate for and allow the canine to continue to perform at his best.

## **Labrador Life Line Heart Dog Auction Starts Friday!!**

Excuse me....got a minute? I'd like to talk to you straight from the heart.

Thank goodness you love Labs. While not all of the cases presented to Labrador Life Line for funding assistance are urgent or life threatening, they are all heartbreaking. Despite their best intentions, owners can't always afford the treatment their best friend needs to get well. These Labs (and their owners) need some help.

Fortunately these Labs have friends like you. With your help, Labrador Life Line assists purebred Labrador Retrievers in need of emergency care or medical treatment whose owners or rescues have a financial need. Our help sometimes means the difference between life and death.

If there was just one thing you could do to help these Labs in distress, you would, wouldn't you?

The truth is, you can. Register now and participate in Labrador Life Line's Heart Dog Auction. All money raised helps Labrador Retrievers in need of medical care and treatment. With your support, Labrador Life Line helped 70 Labs in 2012. The auction begins February 1st and runs through February 15/16th.

To register go to: <http://www.labradorlifeline.org/auction1/auctionrules.html>

From all the board members and the Labs we have yet to meet, a heartfelt thanks for your continued support and participation.

## **OFA or CERF??**

Below are 2 published statements from both OFA and CERF to help you make an educated decision regarding registration of ACVO eye exam results:

### **Frequently Asked Questions Regarding The OFA's Eye Certification Registry**

[http://www.offa.org/eye\\_ecrfaq.html](http://www.offa.org/eye_ecrfaq.html)

**Is the OFA Eye Certification Registry (ECR) replacing CERF? Is CERF going away?** The OFA and CERF have always had a collaborative working relationship. However, we are two distinct organizations. The OFA cannot speak for CERF. The American College of Veterinary Ophthalmologists (ACVO) has designated the OFA's Eye Certification Registry as their endorsed registry as of November 1, 2012. ACVO diplomates (veterinary ophthalmologists) will be receiving OFA eye examination forms in mid-October, and the ACVO is encouraging their use and registration of results with the OFA going forward.

**How will this transition affect those breeds including CERF as one of their CHIC requirements?** The key element of the requirement is the exam itself, not the organization registering the result. There are no differences in the eye examination protocol whether the intent is to register with CERF or the OFA. The exam protocol and the resulting interpretation and classifications are the same. Prior to the transition date, all CHIC requirements that currently include CERF eye exams will automatically be updated. The new criteria will read, "Eye examination by an ACVO Ophthalmologist with the results registered with either the OFA or CERF". Going forward, both OFA and CERF registrations will meet the CHIC eye exam criteria.



**Will the OFA continue to display CERF results on their website?** All public domain data that CERF has previously shared with the OFA will be archived and will continue to be displayed on the OFA website.

**Is my ophthalmologist aware of the transition?** The ACVO Board of Regents communicated formally with all active diplomates in early August. The OFA has also communicated with all active diplomates regarding the implementation. Additionally, the new program will be formally rolled out at the Annual ACVO Meeting in October.

**Are there any differences between the OFA's Eye Certification Registry and CERF?** For the average dog owner, there are no significant differences. The exam protocol, interpretation of results, and fees are all the same. Eye exam results registered with the OFA will continue to generate certification numbers, and these will be forwarded to the AKC and displayed on the OFA website.

**Since there are no significant differences in registering results with the OFA or CERF, what are the benefits of one over the other?** The primary benefits of the new ACVO and OFA joint Eye Certification Registry are on the backend. The OFA has committed to more frequent and enhanced reporting of aggregate statistics regarding disease prevalence and progression by breed. Enhanced reporting will be available for ACVO diplomates and for parent breed clubs. Regularly updated aggregate statistics will be made available to the public via the OFA's website. The OFA is also establishing a Clinical Database of Ophthalmic Diagnoses to capture data from ACVO diplomates on canine eye exams in an institutional or practice setting where the dog is presenting for reasons other than a certification exam. The inclusion of this data will greatly enhance disease monitoring. As a not-for-profit organization, the OFA will be sharing a negotiated percentage of all eye registrations with the ACVO Vision for Animals Foundation to support research leading to the treatment and elimination of ocular disease. Submission of eye exams to the OFA will support all of these efforts and will maximize the value of data in a single central database.

**CERF exams are currently considered valid for one year. What about the OFA Eye Certification Registry?** OFA eye certification numbers will also be valid for one year from the time of the exam.

**If I previously submitted an eye exam to CERF, and submit follow up exam results to the OFA, will the OFA charge the initial or resubmit fee?** In the above scenario, even though it represents an initial submission to the OFA, if a previous CERF submission on the dog is documented, the reduced resubmit fee (\$8) will be applied.

**How should breed clubs that incorporate specific CERF language into their Code of Ethics, Breeder Guidelines, Advertising Requirements, etc handle the transition?** Neither the OFA nor the ACVO can dictate how clubs handle these types of changes, especially since the changes may be specifically governed by their club Constitution, By-Laws, or Operating Policies. However, since the eye exam is the key element, not the registry, the OFA recommends updating such language in line with the following..."eye examination for observable inherited eye disease by an ACVO diplomate (ophthalmologist) with the results registered with either the OFA or CERF."

**Can I submit a CERF exam form to the OFA's Eye Certification Registry?** Since the exam data is the same, the OFA will accept submissions recorded on CERF exam forms. However, so the owner's intent is clear, the OFA will require a signed note from the owner or authorized agent indicating they would like the exam results entered into the OFA Eye Certification Registry, and accompanying payment must be made to the OFA. If a submission includes a check payable to CERF, the application will be returned.

**How will OFA assign eye certification numbers and how will they differ from CERF?** The OFA will assign eye certification numbers for dogs found free of observable inherited eye disease. Dogs with observable, but passing conditions (currently known as Breeder Option Codes), will be issued notated OFA eye certification numbers. Dogs with observed eye diseases of significance will be reported as ineligible for eye certification numbers.

**What will be the OFA's policy regarding posting of eye exam results on the OFA website?** The OFA will follow its existing policy for posting of exam results. All normal/passing results are considered public domain information and will post and display on the OFA's website. Dogs with observable, but passing conditions (currently known as Breeder Option Codes) will have their results posted and released into the public domain, including the specific notation. There is no option to keep a passing observable breeder option code condition confidential while releasing the passing certification number. Non-passing results will only be posted and released if the owner authorizes disclosure.

**Will eye exam clinics continue to be held at dog shows?** Eye exam clinics are arranged independently by the show giving club and the attending ophthalmologist. There is no reason to believe that these will be discontinued.

### **Press Releases from CERF**

<http://web.vmdb.org/home/PressRelease/BreederUpdate.aspx>

**January 24, 2013**

Dear valued CERF client,

As you may already know, OFA's new registry went live on November 1<sup>st</sup>. CERF is **NOT** affiliated with their new system, nor have we partnered with them or been acquired by OFA. There is no "transition plan" in place. CERF and OFA are two different systems, and we are now competing for your valued business.

CERF will continue to operate independently as we have done in the past. We're not planning on closing the doors anytime soon. We have the longest history and greatest experience with operating an established canine eye registration database.

You still have the right to use a CERF form and submit your data to CERF, if you so choose. I sincerely hope that you continue to do so. If you sign an OFA "release form", they will attempt to add your information into the new, unproven OFA registry. It will **NOT** be added to CERF if you sign this form. There is no "combined registry" or "transition" from one registry to the other.

I urge you to request an original CERF form, make your check payable to CERF, and avoid signing any type of "release form" from OFA.

If you are given an OFA form in place of a CERF form and your intent is still to use CERF, you may still send in that form for registration into the CERF registration and statistical database. Please note on the form that you wish to add the registration paperwork to CERF's database and make the payment payable to CERF. Any OFA forms received by CERF with payment to OFA will be returned back to the owner.

CERF has not changed any procedures on our part. We still continue to send a weekly submission to OFA so our breeders can qualify for their CHIC number.

CERF is now accepting forms via email and fax for your added convenience. Please contact CERF and let us know your email address to facilitate future communications.

If you have any suggestions for how we can serve you better, please feel free to contact me at any time. Thank you for your continued support of CERF.

Check us out on Face Book and visit our website often for any further updates.

Sincerely,

Robert Malinowski, DVM, PhD  
President, VMDB/CERF

**October 25, 2012**

Dear CERF Breeder,

I would like to take this opportunity to share with you some updates on CERF. There seems to be a lot of misinformation floating around out there, so I'm hoping this letter will clarify a few things.

Despite what you may be hearing, CERF is **NOT** going away, nor have we partnered with or been acquired by OFA. We are still an independent group, having the longest history and greatest experience with operating a canine eye registration database.

OFA is moving in their own direction, creating their own new registry that will be operational starting November 1st. CERF is **not** affiliated with this new system.

**You still have a choice!** You can continue to request CERF examinations when making appointments with your ACVO Ophthalmologist. Utilizing CERF will guarantee that your data will be added to the largest, most established registry currently available. We need your help to ensure that this valuable resource doesn't disappear.

**Beware of deceptive practices!** Signing a "release form" and making your check payable to someone other than CERF will add your data to the OFA registry. It will not be added to the CERF registry if you sign their release form. There is no "combined registry". CERF and OFA are two independent systems.

I would certainly like to continue working with everyone that has supported CERF in the past as we navigate this complicated situation. I greatly appreciate everyone that continues to support CERF. Only through your continued efforts is CERF able to collect data and provide these valuable services.

Please feel free to contact me at any time if you have any concerns or suggestions.  
Thank you for your continued support,  
Robert Malinowski, DVM, MA  
President, VMDB/CERF

### **CHF Fights Bloat in Dogs**

<http://www.akcchf.org/news-events/news/chf-fights-bloat.html>

01/15/2013

The AKC Canine Health Foundation (CHF) announces today a major effort underway to tackle the devastating condition commonly known as bloat. The Bloat Initiative will address the need for both education and research.

Gastric dilatation – volvulus, or bloat is a devastating condition that can develop in any dog, although it is particularly common in large-breed and deep-chested dogs. Bloat develops when the stomach fills with air and then twists on itself, preventing air and liquid from leaving the stomach. Over time, the stomach gets larger and larger. This cuts off circulation and prevents blood from getting back to the heart from the rest of the abdomen and the rear legs. The stomach wall itself can also be severely damaged from loss of blood flow as can the spleen. Bloat requires immediate stabilization and prompt surgical correction, and may still be fatal in some severely affected dogs.

CHF has released a Bloat Initiative Request for Proposals (RFP) to the research community. Letters of Intent (LOI) from researchers seeking funding are due on March 18, 2013. Researchers with an interest in gastrointestinal physiology are encouraged to apply for this grant at:

<http://www.akcCHF.org/research/application-process/program-area-rfps/bloat-rfp.html>

A committee of experts in the field will review the LOI and CHF will invite selected researchers to submit full proposals. Funding decisions will be announced by October 1, 2013. “Bloat is devastating for dog owners when it occurs. Through this major funding effort, researchers, for the first time, will have the resources they need to work towards establishing the causes and pre-dispositions for bloat,” said Dr. Shila Nordone, Chief Scientific Officer of CHF. “Once we understand why bloat occurs we will have better treatment options and possibly be able to prevent the syndrome from occurring in the first place.”

To help educate dog owners about bloat, CHF will launch a free webinar in mid-2013 describing possible causes of bloat, susceptible breeds, symptoms, medical intervention, and explanation of research needed. “Because bloat progresses so rapidly, part of our focus is on educating the public on the signs and symptoms to look for if they suspect their dog may have bloat,” said Nordone. The Foundation will also provide continuing education for veterinarians showing surgical procedures used for prevention during spay and neuter.

CHF is extremely grateful for the dog clubs that, as the inaugural sponsors of the Bloat Initiative, are making these education and research efforts possible.

**Champion Sponsors (\$50,000+)**

Collie Health Foundation, Irish Setter Club of America Foundation

**Lead Sponsors (\$25,000 - \$49,999)**

Basset Hound Club of America, German Shepherd Dog Club of America

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American Black & Tan Coonhound Club, American German Shepherd Dog Charitable Foundation, Briard Club of America Health and Education Trust, Gordon Setter Club of America, Greater Swiss Mountain Dog Club of America, Weimaraner Club of America

**Bloat Initiative Sponsors (\$2,500 - \$9,999)**

American Bloodhound Club, English Springer Spaniel Field Trial Association, English Springer Spaniel Field Trial Association Foundation, Flat-Coated Retriever Foundation, TarTan Gordon Setter Club, Versatility in Poodles

For more information about bloat or to donate to the effort visit [www.akcCHF.org/bloat](http://www.akcCHF.org/bloat).



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