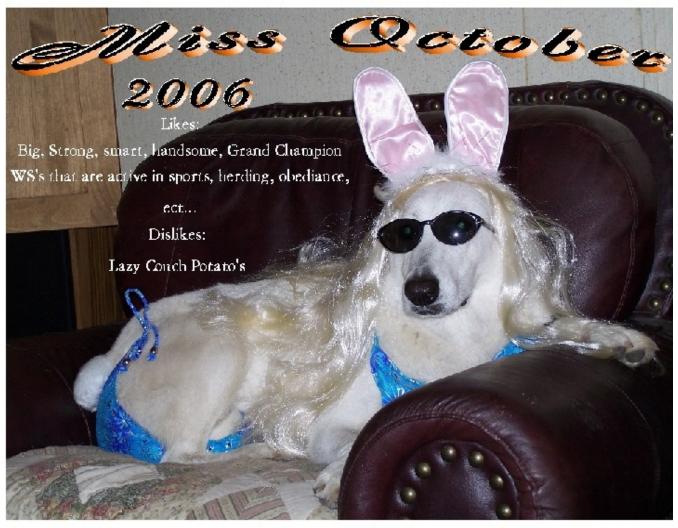


# White Shepherds in the news!

Editor: Scarlett Sanders Volume 2 Edition 5 October 2006



UWSC WS Howl-O-Ween Photo Contest Winner
"Best Costume"

UKC/GRCH Surefire Lil' Miss Tasz of FS, CGC, TDI, MDR1
"Missy" is owned by Scarlett & Tim Sanders of
Foxhunt White Shepherds

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<u>Cover photo</u>: UKC/GRCH Surefire Lil' Miss Tasz of FS, CGC, TDI, MDR1 - Winner of the "Best" catagory in the UWSC WS Howl-O-Ween Photo Contest "Missy" is owned & loved by Scarlett & Tim Sanders of Foxhunt White Shep herds and

was bred by SureFire Shepherds

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## NOTES FROM THE EDITOR

Hi Everyone,

Most of us are getting ready for the busy holiday season so before the big rush gets here please take a moment to renew your membership for 2007. Don't forget our wonderful President has again this year offered a free full page ad to those who renew by Dec. 15, 06.

Our first WS specialty show here in the southeast went well, with 9 entries! We're looking forward to an even better show in 2007.

The Hamlet, IN. shows were a success with 15-17 White She pherd entries per show! Go White Dogs!!

Don't for get to get your fur babies photos entered into the UWSC WS Christmas Photo Contest! We have already received several really nice entries. Keep them coming! All entries will be published in the UWSC New sletter and the winning photo will be the official UWSC holiday greeting card. I hope everyone joins in the fun!!

We had several WS birthdays in this issue, Happy Birthday to each of you!

As most of you know Monica & Jacob's Kizes would have turned 1 year old on Oct. 20th had it not been for his resent untimely death. Please remember to keep them in your thoughts and prayers during this difficult time in their lives.

Please everyone... remember to send in show results, new titles, WS Birthdays, New Arrivials, WS brags ect... and don't for get your photos! Thanks for supporting your UWSC Newsletter!!; o)

Your new sletter editor,

Scarlett



Hello All,

In early September, our club's UKC All Breed Shows (less BSD) went off without a hitch. The Hamlet, Indiana, fairgrounds has most definitely turned out to be a perfect show site. Notably, our success was primarily due to the exceptional efforts of Miranda Reeves and her family – Thank-you! And, as a result, I was able to remain calm and cool the entire weekend as the Event Secretary.

Our club is also hosting a UKC White Shepherd Specialty show "down south" in Perry, Georgia, this October 1st. We'll look forward to hearing more about this event from Scarlett.

I have received an update from the Nestle Purina Petcare Company. As of the end of August, the UWSC has 44 members and, of them, 8 members have submitted Purina weight circles resulting in a total of \$67.65 accumulated for the 2006 program. I encourage everyone to solicit weight circles from their family and friends. For each weight circle submitted to Purina by members designating the United White Shepherd Club as their parent club, the White Shepherd Genetics Project will ultimately benefit which can only be a good thing for this incredible breed that we so love.

Lastly, Hoflin Publishing has "The White German Shepherd Annual" in the works. The annual is a beautiful book all about White Shepherds, featuring Greats from the Past, Specialty Results, Outstanding special features by breeders and owners, Lengthy interviews with top breeders, a Breeders' Directory and Advertising from the leading kennels and fanciers. An early October date has been set as the deadline but if you call or write Hoflin today, I'm sure they'll consider accepting your submissions. (Phone 303-420-2447 or email cindyk@hoflin.com)

Yours for the White Shepherd,

Diana L. Updike





~ Perry, GA. ~

# Middle Georgia Kennel Club & United White Shepherd Club Sept. 30 - Oct. 1, 2006



New Champion UKC/CH Vschrader Blue Sky Ahead of FS



Best of Breed Winner UKC/CH Surefire Lil' Miss Tasz of FS



New Champion UKC/CH Starr SureFire SuperHero of FS



3td Place MGKC Multi Breed Puppy Match Foxhunt's Luck of the Draw



1st Place Pee Wee Showmanship class Sydney Morabit and her WS Veruca



Group 1 Winner UKC/CH Surefire Lil' Miss Tasz of FS

The 1st United White Shepherd Club show in the southeast region was held in Perry, GA. The show went well. A special Thank you goes out to the Middle Georgia Kennel Club and Sharon Yates for allowing us to hold our show at their show site and for all her help making our show a success. We would also like to Thank Eleanor Main for judging our white dogs. We had 9 entries, not to bad for our first show! 2 of Scarlett Sanders WS's earned their UKC Championships over the weekend and a 9 wk.old WS puppy named "Lucky" won 3td place in the MGKC's Multi Breed Puppy Match. UKC/CH Reeves Royal Veruca Salt won the Best Altered Class. We also had several Jr. Showmanship entries, our 1st place Pee Wee Jr. Showman was little Sydney Morabit showing her WS, Veruca (with mom's help). Everyone had a nice time socializing and are looking forward to our next UWSC show here in the south.

**Sept. 30, 06 - MGKC Show** 

**Show 1 - 6 entries - Judge: Ronald Sacca** 

JM, BM, BOW - Starr SureFire SuperHero of FS

Owners: Scarlett & Tim Sanders

FP, BF - Vschrader Blue Sky Ahead of FS

Owners: Scarlett & Tim Sanders

CH, BOB, GR 1 - UKC/CH Surefire Lil' Miss

Tasz of FS, CGC, TDI, MDR1

Owners: Scarlett & Tim Sanders

Owners. Scarica & Tim Sanders

R CH - Ukc/CH Zac's Diamond in the Ruff,

CGC, TDI, OFA h&e, MDR1

Owners: Scarlett & Tim Sanders

GRCH - UKC/GRCH Proud's Winslow N' Easy

of FS, CGC, TDI, OFA h&e Prelim, Pennhip,

MDR1

Owners: Scarlett & Tim Sanders

**Sept. 30, 06 - MGKC Show** 

Show 2 - 6 entries - Judge: Myrna Shiboleth

JM, BM, BOW - Starr SureFire SuperHero of FS

Owners: Scarlett & Tim Sanders

FP, BF - Vschrader Blue Sky Ahead of FS

Owners: Scarlett & Tim Sanders

CH, BOB, GR 2 - UKC/CH Surefire Lil' Miss

Tasz of FS, CGC, TDI, MDR1

Owners: Scarlett & Tim Sanders

R CH - Ukc/CH Zac's Diamond in the Ruff, CGC,

TDI, OFA h&e, MDR1

Owners: Scarlett & Tim Sanders

GRCH - UKC/GRCH Proud's Winslow N' Easy

of FS, CGC, TDI, OFA h&e Prelim, Pennhip,

MDR1

**Owners:** Scarlett & Tim Sanders

Oct.1, 06 - MGKC Show

Show 1 - 7 entries - Judge: Patrick O'Donnell

JM, BM, BOW - Starr SureFire SuperHero of FS

Owners: Scarlett & Tim Sanders

FP, BF - Vschrader Blue Sky Ahead of FS

Owners: Scarlett & Tim Sanders

CH, BOB, GR 3 - UKC/CH Surefire Lil' Miss

Tasz of FS, CGC, TDI, MDR1

Owners: Scarlett & Tim Sanders

**R CH -** UKC/CH Zac's Diamond in the Ruff,

CGC, TDI, OFA h&e, MDR1
Owners: Scarlett & Tim Sanders

**GRCH** - UKC/GRCH Proud's Winslow N' Easy of FS, CGC, TDI, OFA h&e Prelim, Pennhip,

MDR1

Owners: Scarlett & Tim Sanders

Oct. 1, 06 - UWSC Show

Show 1 - 9 entries - Judge: Eleanor Main

JM, BM - Starr SureFire SuperHero of FS

Owners: Scarlett & Tim Sanders

FP, BF, BOW - UKC/CH Vschrader Blue Sky

Ahead of FS

Owners: Scarlett & Tim Sanders

**CH, BOB -** UKC/CH Surefire Lil' Miss Tasz of

FS, CGC, TDI, MDR1

Owners: Scarlett & Tim Sanders

RCH - UKC/CH Zac's Diamond in the Ruff,

CGC, TDI, OFA h&e, MDR1

Owners: Scarlett & Tim Sanders

**GRCH** - UKC/GRCH Proud's Winslow N' Easy of FS, CGC, TDI, OFA h&e Prelim, Pennhip,

MDR1

Owners: Scarlett & Tim Sanders

AF, BA - UKC/CH Reeves Royal Veruca Salt

Owner: Susan Morabit

# ~ Denton, TX. ~

## North Texas American Pit Bull Terrier Club

Oct. 8, 2006

Oct.8, 06

Show 1 - 4 entries - Judge: Sonia Yearwood

SM, BM, BOW, BOB - Regalwise Roy Rogers V

Juel

Owner: Rhonda Beaupre

AM, RBM - UKC/CH Regalwise Reprise V Juel

Owner: Rhonda Beaupre

**AF, RBF** - UKC/CH Regalwise Renegade

Goldfield

Owner: Rhonda Beaupre BHF, BF - Regalwise Tetris Owner: Rhonda Beaupre Oct.8, 06

**Show 2 - 4 entries - Judge: Fred C. Bock** 

SM, RBM - Regalwise Roy Rogers V Juel

Owner: Rhonda Beaupre

AM, BM - UKC/CH Regalwise Reprise V Juel

Owner: Rhonda Beaupre

JF, RBF - Galahads Full of Grace Owner: Christina Eggenberger

BHF, BF, BOW, BOB - Regalwise Tetris

**Owner:** Rhonda Beaupre

# ~ Hamlet, IN. ~

# **United White Shepherd Club**

Sept. 9, 2006

Sept.9, 06

Show 1 - 17 entries - Judge: J. Ray Johnson

SM, RBM - Marikes Lil' Will VonTasz Junior

**Owner:** Christine Maluzhinsky

Sept.9, 06

**Show 2 - 16 entries - Judge: Gene Reynolds** 

**SM, RBM -** Marikes Lil' Will Von Tasz Junior

**Owner:** Christine Maluzhinsky

**BHM, BM** - UKC/CH Von Schrader Skylar Blue **Owners:** Brenda Schrader & Mona Persson **FP, BF, BOW** - UKC/CH Royal Von Brillant

Moment

Owners: Maggie Keller & Jean Reeves SF, RBF - Royal Von Tasz PI Swirl

Owner: Diana Updike

CH, BOB, Grp. 2 - UKC/GRCH Shylo's Red

Rocker be Proud

Owners: Anne & Dan Nowak

RCH - UKC/CH Markes Wickedly Evil Phoebe

Owner: Christine Maluzhinsky

GRCH- UKC/GRCH Royal Day of Providence

Owner: Jean Reeves

NFP, BP - Royal Emperial Cheyanne

BHM, BM - UKC/CH Von Schrader Skylar Blue

Owners: Brenda Schrader & Mona Persson FP, BF, BOW - UKC/CH Royal Von Brillant

Moment

Owners: Maggie Keller & Jean Reeves SF, RBF - Royal Von Tasz PI Swirl

Owner: Diana Updike

CH - UKC/CH Starr Hallmark Hemi

Supercharger

Owner: Mona Persson

RCH - UKC/CH Royal Day of Desire

Owner: Jean Reeves

GRCH, BOB, Grp. 1 - UKC/GRCH Royal Spasz

Von Tasz

Owner: Diana Updike

NFP, BP - Royal Emperial Cheyanne

## Sept.10, 06

Show 1 - 15 entries - Judge: Sandra Sauceda

SF, BF - Royal Von Tasz PI Swirl

Owner: Diana Updike

CH, BOB, Grp. 2 - UKC/GRCH Shewana's Wyl

"E" Kyloyote

Owner: Brenda Schrader

RCH - UKC/CH Royal Von Brillant Moment

Owners: Maggie Keller & Jean Reeves

**GRCH -** UKC/GRCH Royal Spasz Von Tasz

Owner: Diana Updike

NFP, BP - Royal Emperial Cheyanne

## Sept.10, 06

Show 2 - 15 entries - Judge: Pamela A. Moore

SF, BF - Royal Von Tasz PI Swirl

Owner: Diana Updike

CH - UKC/CH Staffords Remember Spirit

Owner: Margaret Stafford

RCH - UKC/CH Shewana's Wild Wild West

Owners: Jean Reeves & Margaret Stafford

**GRCH**, **BOB**, **Grp. 1** - UKC/GRCH Royal Spasz Von Tasz

Owner: Diana Updike

NFP, BP - Royal Emperial Cheyanne



United White Shepherd Club Ad Rates

Members: Full Page - \$5.00 / 1/2 Page - Free

Non Members: Full Page - \$10.00 / 1/2 Page - \$5.00

Send your ads to: Newsletter@UnitedWhiteShepherdClub.org

# New UKC Titles & Certificates

# ~ NEW CHAMPIONS ~



New UKC Champion
Vschrader Blue Sky Ahead of FS
Owner: Scarlett & Tim Sanders
Breeder: Von Schrader Haus Shepherds



New UKC Champion Starr SureFire SuperHero of FS Owner: Scarlett & Tim Sanders Breeder: Starr Shepherds

# ~ NEW GRAND CHAMPIONS ~



New UKC Grand Champion
RBIMBS UKC/GRCH Shylo's Red Rocker Be Proud, CGC, TDI, HIC
Owners: Anne & Dan Nowak Breeder: Arleen Ravanelli

# Congratulations New Title Holders!!

# Other New Titles & Certificates



New CGC & TDI titles
UKC/CH Surefire Lil' Miss Tasz of FS
Owners: Scarlett & Tim Sanders
Breeder: SureFire Shepherds
Tested at GPCDF - Panama City, FL.
Tester/CGC: Melissa Frye
Tester/TDI: Barbara Winge



New CGC title Foxhunt Easy's Oops E. Daisy Owners: Karen & George Stevens Breeder: Foxhunt White Shepherds Tested at GPCDF - Panama City, FL. Tester/CGC: Melissa Frye





1st Place PeeWee Showmanship - Perry, GA. Sydney Morabit and her WS Veruca



1st show Jazmin earns a 25 point major - Golden, CO. Starr Bodhi's Jazmin V Alpha Owner: Alpha Shepherds/ Breeder: Starr Shepherds



## **UWSC NEWSLETTER**



1st show Shelby earns a 25 point major - Golden, CO.
SureFire Shelby Cobra V Alpha
Owner: Alpha Shepherds/Breeder: SureFire Shepherds



Easy graduates from advanced obediance classes
UKC/GRCH Proud's Winslow N' Easy of FS, CGC,
TDI, OFA h&e Prelim, Pennhip, MDR1
Owners: Scarlett & Tim Sanders
Teacher: Liz Eckert

New CGC Title for Kole Kyra's Kin--King Kole Von Tasz, HIC/s, CGC Owner: Judy Huston/Breeder: Von Tasz Shepherds

# ~ UKC Top Ten ~

01. GRCH Royal Spasz Von Tasz	Diana L Updike	84
02. GRCH Shylo's Galaxy Star	Arleen Ravanelli	69
03. GRCH Shewana's Wyl "e" Kyloyote	Brenda J Schrader	55
04. GRCH Shylo's Red Rocker Be Proud	Dan Nowak or Betsy Anne Nowak	45
05. GRCH Royal Accelerator Of Hallmark	Mona Persson	44
06. GRCH Proud's Winslow N' Easy Of Fs	Scarlett Sanders or Timothy Sanders	42
07. GRCH Surefire Lil' Miss Tasz Of Fs	Scarlett Sanders and Timothy Sanders	34
08. CH Hollybrook's Little Bit Acharm	Nancy De Garmo	33
09. GRCH Royal's Elite Advantage	Laura Zipay and Jean Reeves	32
10. GRCH Royal Day Of Providence	Jean Reeves	29



It is time to renew your membership for our club.

Membership fees for 2007 annual memberships are due by December 31, 2006 All of our current members have a working email address and receive this new sletter. \*So this is your official reminder!\*

This year, we are tightening our record keeping. Our new membership chairman as of September, 2005, is Laurie Malony. She is asking that all renewing members this year complete the long application form usually used for new members so we can update all your information and dogs/titles/etc. There are several ways to send your \*LONG\* renewal application.

- 1. Do it all online at our web site including paying by \*PayPal\*
- 2. Print out the application from the website, complete it & mail it with your check or Money Order to Laurie Malony.
- 3.Fill in the application online and then pay by check or Money Order

Those renewing before December 15, 2006 will receive a <u>FREE FULL PAGE AD</u> in our newsletter during the 2007 calendar year!!!

Laurie Malony



mailed to:

Laurie, Malony

2740 Jewett Rd

Powell, Ohio 43065

Individual membership = \$20.00

Family Membership = \$25.00



# OH! NO! Not Again!!

Written by Nicole Johnson

Anyone who has dogs has experienced the wonderful smile a dog makes just before it decides to upchuck on your favorite carpet, or for those of us more privileged, our beds. Have you ever thought about training a dog to do it in the tub or shower? Well I have had three dogs now that I was able to do this with. My first was a rescue dog. She had a very sensitive stomach and about once a week would throw up. She was very attuned to my moods and feelings and knew that I was upset every time she would get sick. Even though I never once punished her or scolded her.

Well one day I was upstairs in my laundry room that was right beside my bathroom. I was folding laundry when I heard the tell tale sound of her gagging. I rushed into the hall quickly trying to decide if I had enough time to get her outside. Luckily I had had her only about 4 months and she was still very skinny so I was able to pick her up, something I couldn't have done when she was her healthy weight of 70 pounds. I decided the bathroom was closer and ran in there and put her in the tub. She of course got sick, but instead of sighing, I was jumping up and down getting all excited. She then gave me one of her rare tail wags. She knew for some reason I was pleased. At that moment I wondered if I could teach her to get sick in the tub instead of the floor. So much easier to clean up. So the next time she gave me the "Sick" smile I grabbed her collar and in a happy voice that I use to teach her commands I said "Tub" and rushed her into it. By this time she had put on quite a few more pounds so she jumped in herself. She quickly got sick with me getting just as excited. Her tail by now had come unglued from her tummy and was wagging madly. Over the months she got sick several times and each time I followed the same routine. Each time she seemed to catch on faster and faster till I could just say tub as soon as she got the sick look and she would rush upstairs on her own. As the years passed she seemed to get sick less and less but she always would rush to the tub as soon as I would catch her with the sick smile and give her the command. Sadly she is gone now but I tried the same training on Sheena. Except Sheena seems to have taken it a step further.



When ever Sheena would get the same smile I would use the same routine in training her for the tub as I did for my rescued dog. The only difference was Sheena was a puppy and caught on a lot faster. But I never thought that she would start to think for herself. When she was about 10 months old I had gotten up to find a small mess in the tub. Part of me thought it was the cats but another part wondered if it was Sheena. Then one night I woke up to hear Sheena's paws hit the tub. Then I heard the heaving sounds. From the looks of it she had eaten some grass when my husband had taken her out earlier that night. I

rushed out of bed and quickly praised her. Then I cleaned the tub. I was so amazed. Since then she never has to be told or supervised. And she has taught our second GSD Luca the exact some thing. I do not have to supervise him either. Sheena does though. Any time he needs to get sick she leads him into the bathroom.

This is such a convenience for me. No more cleaning up carpets or beds. No more wet spots on the floor or bed. Now it is a simple matter of disinfecting the tub after cleaning up the mess. And since they prefer to throw up near the drain it only takes a few minutes to disinfect. Give it a try. You might be pleasantly surprised.

Nicole Johnson Gift of Grace Kennels http://giftofgracekennels.com/



# White Shepherd Birthdays











White Shepherd Genetics Project

# CESAR MILLAN THE DOG WHISPERER SEMINAR

Almost \$20,000 generated for the White Shepherd Genetics



Cesar with 5 of our wonderful white dogs By Judy Huston

In August, 2006, the White Shepherd Genetics Project had the privilege of being the recipient of the proceeds from the second Cesar Millan seminar to be held in Michigan. We earned \$19,200 from the seminar and another \$560 came directly from Cesar and his wife, Ilusion.

Our first seminar (and the first one Cesar ever booked) was held on April 16, 2005, in Davisburg, Michigan, with 307 people attending. We earned \$7,000 and were able to purchase much-needed Breeder's Assistant Software that Lynda Proux and Debbie Martin used to build our database, and Progeny Software to allow us to generate Geneticist's Pedigrees. We also earned mention in Cesar's best seller, "Cesar's Way" in the section where he lists *Organizations to Turn To*.



The 2006 seminar was held in Clarkston, Michigan, and had 850 people attending, including volunteers. If they decide to return to Michigan next year and contact our group to host them again, we'll plan for 1,000 people.

Pam and Michelle Koons did a fantastic job of preparing our White Shepherd Genetics exhibit. Our ambassadors for this outstanding event included Pam and Michelle Koons' 13 year-old Luger (one of our outstanding performance dogs), two of his kids, seven-year old Lazer and Kimber, Miranda Reeves' 13 month old Adonis, and my seven-month old, King Kole. It was a proud day for all of us to watch these five dogs greeting strangers throughout the day. We all have our own stories to tell of the many times our dogs made us proud and gave people something to smile about.

Pam and Michelle Koons also honored me and my girl, Kyra, for our work for the White Shepherd. I was so moved when I arrived and saw Kyra's beautifully framed picture, a white and a red rose, and a photo CD covering her life from puppy hood through all phases of her life. The song that played in the background was Celine Dion's "Because You Love Me." I've heard stories from people from Michigan who have visited Cesar's Dog Psychology Center in Los Angeles about how when he learns they are from Michigan, he goes into his office and brings out the picture we presented him with after our 2005 seminar. That picture is of Cesar with Kyra, Luger, Lazer, and Kimber. Cesar specifically requested another picture with our dogs from the 2006 seminar to hang in his office.

The day after the seminar, Cesar, his wife, Ilusion, and their two boys, Calvin and Andre came to our home with the core group of volunteers for a relaxing picnic by Kyra's Pond. I was ecstatic that Cesar got to meet my boy, Kole, and gave me some helpful hints after commenting that, "He is a very high-drive dog and you need to keep him challenged."

Cesar usually sets up his seminars with rescue groups. We are fortunate that he picked White Shepherd Genetics to be associated with as well. The obvious reasons to be grateful for Cesar besides the Genetics Fund contributions are his commitment to dogs and his method of rehabilitating dogs and training people to be their dogs' pack leader. He is also an extremely nice, very funny, warm, and a very spiritual person I feel honored to call a friend. If you haven't had the privilege of seeing him in person, make it a priority. You will be glad you did.



# AWSA/WSCC CH, UKC GRCH, 2xBIMBS Royal's Elite Advantage Royal's Elite Advantage HIC, PennHIP, OFA h/e, vWF, MDR1, DNA CGC, HIC, PennHIP, OFA h/e, vWF, MDR1, DNA

Eli's 2005 UKC wins consist of 3 Grp. 1, which led to RBIMBS & BIMBS.

> 1 Grp. 2 & 1 Grp. 3

Owned by: Laura Zipay & Jean Reeves

~Eli~

www.RoyalEli.com

Eli's 2006 UKC wins consist of 1 Grp. , which led to BIMBS,

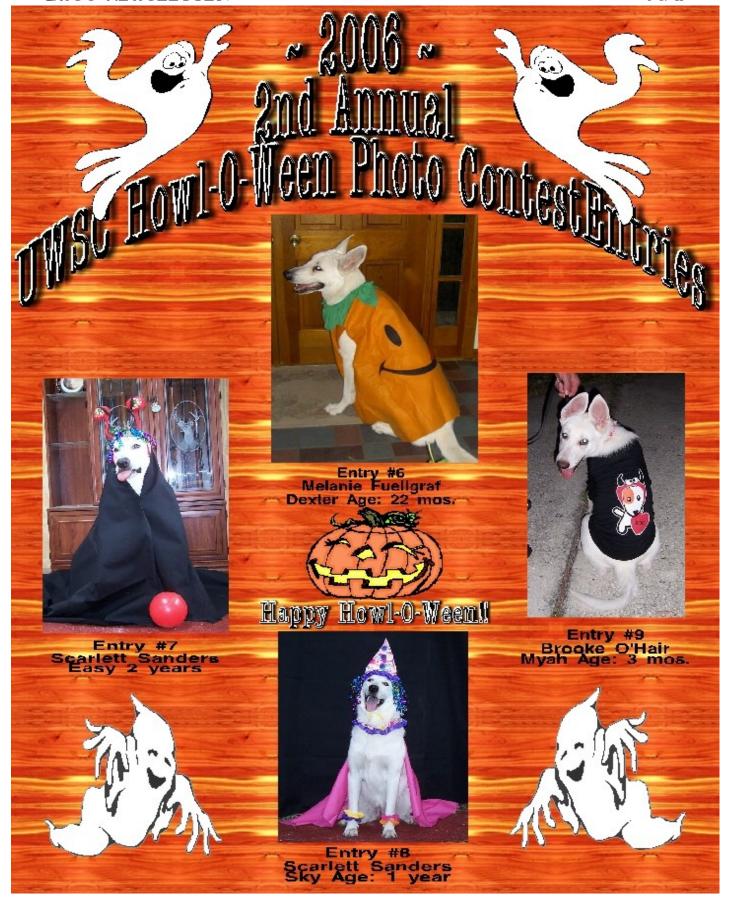
1 Grp. 2, 2 Grp. 3 &

1 Grp. 4

Bred by: Jean Reeves Reeves Royal



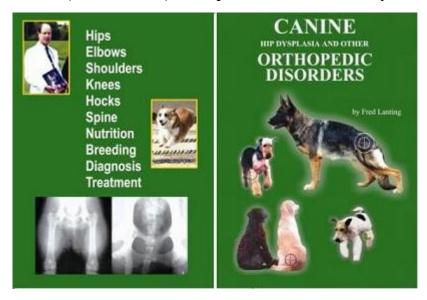






**NOW AVAILABLE:** 

The new Canine (HD and other) Orthopedics Disorders book by Fred Lanting



It's here! The long-awaited revision of the popular HD book by Fred Lanting (the first one sold 10,000 copies!) is finished. It covers all joints plus many bone disorders and includes genetics, diagnostic methods, treatment options, and the role that environment plays. \$68, plus \$4 Book Rate postage & packaging in the U.S. and another \$2 for Canada; or \$11 for overseas shipments in "M-bag" economy surface mail. This new "Hip Dysplasia and Other Canine Orthopedic Disorders" book is a comprehensive (nearly 600 pages!), amply illustrated, annotated, monumental work that is suitable as a coffee-table book, reference work for breeders and vets, and a study adjunct for veterinary students. It is equally valuable for the dog trainer and the general dog owner of any breed, as there is no breed that does not have some sort of orthopedic, bone, or spinal disorder. Do not confuse it with the out-of-print 1980 work, which was much smaller.

Don't wait! Be informed. If you are in the USA and are willing to wait until your check clears, we'll take that, though postal money orders or cashier's checks are faster. If in Canada, send your U.S.-Federal-Reserve-approved money order or an international postal money order to: Willow Wood, 3565 Parches Cove, Union Grove, AL 35175-8422 USA. Other foreign buyers may prefer payment by PayPal — that can be arranged; send according to directions on <a href="www.MrGSD.com">www.MrGSD.com</a>. That Ebay company tells me that you only need the e-mail address associated with our PayPal account, <a href="mailto:support@mrgsd.com">support@mrgsd.com</a>

Your First-Edition copy will be mailed as soon as the money order or other suitable payment form arrives. Also think about getting, in the same box, "The Total German Shepherd Dog" by the same author; 17 of its 20 chapters are applicable to all breeds. Both autographed. If you want to read helpful articles on dogs, search on Google for Fred Lanting or — better yet — look at Siriusdog.com/articles/, Siriusdog.com/lanting.htm, or <a href="http://www.angelfire.com/de3/jagenstadt/vonsalixHome.html">http://www.angelfire.com/de3/jagenstadt/vonsalixHome.html</a>.



# DISEASES OF PUPPYHOOD



BY FRED LANTING AND LELAND CARMICHAEL, DVM, PhD.

Prof. at Cornell.

## Reprinted with permission from Fred Lanting. Copyright owner: Fred Lanting

Breeders' responses to early puppy deaths vary. Some expend a great deal of effort, while others "let nature take its course" and stoically hope the next breeding will be more successful. Many have discovered that neonatal puppy mortality is preventable or call be reduced through scrupulous attention to prenatal and postnatal care. These breeders, who in the past may have accepted 20 to 25 percent mortality before weaning, have learned that such losses can be reduced dramatically by simple changes in management, including veterinary checkups.

Culling, or removal from participation of poor breeding stock is an important factor in reducing puppy losses. Both the bitch and the stud should be free of disease, which would include hereditary problems as well as acquired communicable disease. Of course, the bitch should be in good condition and free of parasites so she can easily handle the stresses of gestation, whelping, and care of her pups. Another factor is an appropriate environment for birth and development of the whelps. Relative quiet is recommended, at least until the puppies' senses are fairly well developed. Cleanliness is essential, for disease obviously can be spread by cockroaches, rodents, and other vermin. Another part of good environmental management is regulation of temperature and humidity, especially in the first week after birth.

Despite remarkable progress during the past two decades in the areas of knowledge about infectious diseases of dogs and in strategies to control them (See the Sidebar, "Causes of Puppy Deaths"), there has been relatively little improvement in our understanding of the various causes of neonatal deaths. However, it has become clear that infectious diseases constitute only a small proportion of puppy death causes up to the time of weaning. Contagious diseases generally assume a prominent role only after that time when maternal antibody protection wanes. In this article, we will categorize puppy deaths into two broad areas: non-infectious and infectious causes, which roughly coincide with two time periods divided approximately by weaning at three to five weeks. Remember that there is some overlap in some of those given in the sidebar on the causes of puppy deaths, and that these percentages may arise partly from reports by people who had to make assumptions about the causes of death.

#### **Non infectious Causes**

The scientific Community has well established that there are significant physiological differences between neonatal and older pups or adults. Blood sugar, ability to regulate body temperature, and immunity or resistance to infection are among the differences to be appreciated when comparing puppies only three or four weeks apart in age. An understanding of these will lead to breeder management practices that will favor reduced death rates.

## **Causes of Puppy Deaths**

It has been well established that there are significant physiological differences between very young pups and older dogs Differences such as immaturity in the regulation of body temperature, blood sugar and resistance to infection should be considered. Appreciation of these important differences between neonatal pups and puppies only 3 to 4 weeks old helps to explain why certain management practices lead to higher death rates while others greatly reduce mortality. —LEC & FLL

## **Cause Percentage**

Chilling 16

Stillbirth 15

Trauma by bitch 13

Dystocia 11

"Disease" (sic) 10

"Undetermined" 9

Accidents 6

"Weak pups" 5

Cannibalism 3

Other (lactation failure, parasites, deformities...) 12

Source: J.F. Moiser, cited in Current Vet. Therapy VII, Kirk. ed. p.80 Saunders, Phila, 1977

The first three weeks of life are most critical. Approximately 75 percent of puppy deaths occur then, and the vast majority of these during the first week. Although the definitive cause of neonatal death is rarely determined, most seem to have a genetic, physiologic, or behavioral basis. In many cases the environment or the bitch's psyche (temperament, mainly) is flawed. The principal causes include difficulties at time of whelping. There may be prolonged labor after which the bitch "gives up"; sometimes this is keyed to her lack of exercise prior to breeding and whelping, sometimes to too small a birth canal or pelvic opening often to not having been kept in good condition through vigorous exercise. Many breeds are selected for large heads and arrow hips because of fashion, but breeders of these usually are prepared for Cesarean section. Some brachycephalic breeds have individual pups with enlarged heads; many bitches in a breed where it is common to bear six to twelve smaller pups may have one or two abnormally large pups. Poor mothering is another principal cause of high mortality, so such bitches probably should not be bred again.

Congenital (at time of birth) anomalies including stillbirth, runting, and other physical abnormalities may account for up to 40 percent of early pup deaths. Most of these defects are inherited, but some may result from prenatal infection such as in the case of the heart defect called myocarditis, which can result from parvovirus. Some of the more dramatic are isolated examples of congenital problems. One dog food manufacturer inadvertently added toxic doses of vitamin D, and the suspected cause of death initially was distemper; in another case, a mercury fungicide used to treat grain was responsible.

Warmth is vital to newborn puppies. Rectal temperatures do not reach "normal" (about 101 degrees F.) until puppies are about one month old when they more efficiently metabolize food. An ambient whelping box temperature of 85 90 degrees, with a relative humidity of 55 to 65 percent is desirable during the first week, though it can be lower if the dam is present to provide body heat and warm milk.

Newborn pups generally do not recover from a few hours of chilling, so the mother's instinctive reluctance to leave the nest for any substantial time or distance is naturally understandable. In the second and third weeks the temperature can be adjusted to 80 degrees in her absence, with further reduction to 75 degrees by the fourth week Chilling can occur at higher temperatures than you would find comfortable.

What are the best ways to supplement or take the place of the dam's body heat to prevent chilling? Many breeders use a heat lamp for the few minutes that the bitch is outside relieving herself, but extended use of a lamp can bring about dehydration, especially in winter in a house that is not humidified. A puppy, which is about 80 percent water, can dehydrate rapidly; signs include rosy pink nose and feet pads and dry skin that does not "unfold" when pinched. Preferable is a heating pad on a low Setting and covered with a dish towel, or a hot water bottle that is renewed each time you remove the dam's warmth. Keep the room fairly close to the ideal whelping box temperature for safety's sake, especially for orphaned puppies.

Why is temperature so important that chilling ranks as the leading cause of early death? For one thing, there are biochemical regulatory processes that may not be efficient at lower temperatures, and pups are not able to reach a healthy 100 degrees minimum on their own until they are over three weeks old. More importantly, several studies indicate that the canine immune system does not function optimally until this body temperature is reached. Thus, infections which mature dogs are able to localize and withstand may become generalized in very young pups, affecting most of the body systems. The extent to which the immune system in neonatal pups is functionally immature is still unclear, and much has yet to be learned. It appears that proper immune function is related to the development of certain types of cells called lymphocytes, which are produced in the thymus gland and elsewhere, and circulate in the blood and lymph systems. There they do battle with foreign invaders such as microbes and other agents. A low body temperature inhibits cell division and proliferation of these infection fighters, and thus a chilled puppy may have inadequate defenses at the time they are most needed.

Practical implications of such research have not been fully explored, but we have already recognized that pups less than three or four weeks old may respond abnormally to modified live vaccines. Certain vaccines that are perfectly safe in older dogs may cause illness in very young, pups. For example, distemper virus vaccine may cause encephalitis in puppies under age four weeks. This has been seen most commonly in pups that were given combined vaccines of distemper and hepatitis (adenovirus type 1). In contrast, the type 2 (CAV 2 or simply A 2), which fully protects against hepatitis or the parvovirus (CPV) vaccines appear safe. Research at the University of Wisconsin suggests the combination of distemper and hepatitis (A 1) vaccines suppress the immune system more than when either virus is given alone. There is a need to more fully evaluate the safety and efficacy of combined vaccines, and the strains of viruses used, in young pups. This was demonstrated in a most unfortunate and dramatic manner when it was shown that a commercial live canine coronavirus vaccine caused encephalitis in most cases when it was used in combination with distemper virus vaccine. The offending vaccine was quickly withdrawn from the market.

#### Bacterial, Protozoan, and Viral

Microbial infections are generally thought of as being caused by bacteria, one celled "plants", but don't forget the one celled animals (motile) called protozoa. The plant/animal distinction is of minor practical import to the breeder except as it may influence treatment or prevention. The more common early bacterial problems include umbilical infections, generalized skin disease, and "puppy septicemia." this latter term, as well as "acid milk" or "toxic milk" have obscure meanings, though they provide the breeder or clinician with convenient categories for illnesses whose exact cause has not been

established.

Bacteria have often been blamed for "fading puppies" because they've been isolated from tissues of dead pups, but these bacteria are incidental in most cases, since microorganisms rapidly invade the blood and body tissues from the intestinal tract after death from any cause. Bacteria are rarely found if tissue cultures are prepared immediately after death. One other common bacterial attack, although it more often takes place about the time of weaning or later, is the secondary bacterial infection associated with coccidiosis, a protozoan organism.

Early infection may gain entry via the placenta or the umbilical cord, by mouth, or during passage through the birth canal. Lack of hygiene may contribute to umbilical infection with ensuing generalized septicemia and early death or polyarthritis. Much safety can be attained by frequently checking to see that umbilical cords are drying up normally. Most ill pups of the same age have similar clinical signs; too often they are found dead or dying, so autopsies are not performed as often as would be desirable for the best statistics. The most common bacteria which have been identified in dead neonates are E. coli, staphylococci, streptococci, and pseudomonas.

Nursing from bitches with mastitis or with teats contaminated by uterine discharge may produce a rapidly fatal gastroenteritis characterized by foamy vomitus and liquid feces. Such pups often exhibit severe abdominal pain, rapidly dehydrate from the diarrhea, and usually cry continuously. An entire litter may die. Antibiotic and fluids treatment are often futile. Some breeders refer to "toxic milk" in such cases, but it has not been established that the milk is abnormal, even though some veterinarians may attribute the illness to milk toxins, metritis, or failure of the uterus to involute properly. Whatever the cause really is, the pup cries, becomes bloated, has greenish diarrhea, and exhibits a red, swollen anus. You need not go so far as to "boil everything except the baby" to give it a germ-free, risk free environment, but cleanliness and care of your bitch before, during, and after pregnancy can help you avoid infections like these.

Infection of bitches with Brucella canis is associated with abortions in the last few weeks of gestation, early embryonic death, and occasionally death of whelps, though it is not a common factor in neonatal puppy death. Infected pups that survive often have retarded growth, and usually remain infected for months or years. Brucellosis is not widespread among breeders, but it is very difficult to get rid of once it gets into a kennel.

Pups with hemolytic streptococcal infections are initially vigorous and apparently healthy for the first day. Then they no longer suck avidly and they become weak and rapidly lose weight. These pups become progressively uncoordinated and develop tetanus like spasms, often showing an unnatural extension of the spine and forelimbs shortly before death. All pups in the litter might not be affected, and the bitch may produce healthy litters upon subsequent pregnancies. Since the same streptococci are commonly seen both in puppies and the dam's vaginal swabs, antibiotic treatment of such bitches during the next pregnancy may be an effective preventive measure. Chronic uterine infection is insidious and clinical signs are not generally apparent to the owner of the bitch.

Toxoplasmosis is caused by a protozoan parasite that is spread primarily from its prime reservoir, the cat. Oocysts ("eggs") in cat feces may infect rodents, man, and dogs, and you know how dogs are irresistibly drawn to litter boxes! Most infections are subclinical; that is, they produce no obviously identifiable signs of their presence or activity. If, however, an affected animal is immuno suppressed because of worms, injury, work, pregnancy, illness, or other stresses, toxoplasmosis can be manifested, even in prenatal and neonatal pups. Outbreaks in breeding kennels have been described wherein signs were abortions, stillbirths, and "fading pups". Puppies that otherwise appeared healthy developed the symptoms and died between two weeks and three months of age. In some cases, symptoms resembled

those of distemper, with central nervous system and ocular signs being common in chronically infected pups. Early diagnosis of toxoplasmosis and administration of specific anti-protozoan and antibacterial drugs can be successful, but prevention is difficult because the carriers (infected cats) are difficult to cure.

Coccidiosis is another protozoan disease but usually it only seriously affects pups immunosuppressed by worms or other parasites or stresses. Get rid of the roundworms, hookworms, fleas, and other adverse environment, and a healthy pup will probably not be bothered by coccidia. If you don't, you could lose puppies to the combination. Secondary bacterial infection is as bad or worse than the coccidiosis itself, so a veterinarian may prescribe one drug for the former and Albon for the coccidia, or one drug for both, but again the value of proper management by the breeder is a major key to avoiding serious disease.

There are several viruses that may affect young puppies, but thanks to widespread vaccination, infectious canine hepatitis and distemper, which can infect the pregnant dam, have not been significant causes of neonatal mortality With good reason, parvovirus is the most frightening to breeders. Coronavirus has been found to be of very minor significance, and the vaccine to be not worth using. Although canine herpes virus is a common killer of younger pups, death is simple to prevent if you are knowledgeable and diligent. (See the category "control" in the sidebar, "Puppy Vital Signs, A Summary") For some reason, young bitches are more likely to produce litters that suffer the effects of the canine herpes virus. Older bitches are more likely to lose their whelps for a variety of other reasons.

#### In Conclusion

Healthy newborn puppies are a delight to behold. They are warm, with good muscle tone, skin elasticity, and pink mucus membranes. Their principal activity is sleeping, which may sound like a paradox if you consider sleep to be a period of inactivity. Sleep of newborns is marked normally by twitching, and this continues (though to a decreasing degree) as the pup grows; you may face trouble if activated sleep is not evident. When awakened, healthy pups suckle vigorously. For the most part they are quiet unless separated from the dam and littermates. Birth weight should double in about ten days. If your pups don't fit this pattern, turn to experienced breeders and your veterinarian for advice. If you have properly prepared for whelping by gaining an understanding of the birth process and the management of common emergencies with the help of these people, you can probably keep your litters of newborn pups alive and healthy.

#### PUPPY VIRAL DISEASES — A SUMMARY

Parvo (CPV)

Symptoms (1st two weeks) heart (myocarditis): stops nursing, gasps for breath, dies.

(Later weeks) enteritis: severe vomiting, mucoid diarrhea may become bloody; dehydration.

Most dangerous age 5 6 weeks to 4 months, depending on when maternal antibodies "wear off" and pup can respond to vaccine.

Transmission Direct contact with feces produced between 5th and 6th day of infection; hands, feet, clothing, utensils (contamination can last weeks or months). Highly contagious. Most cases

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occur in breeding kennels or are carried home by dog show exhibitors, visitors to other dogs' homes and yards.

Prognosis Grave; very high risk. Kennel rates may be 50 percent typically, litter mortality death risk rates up to 100 percent.

Vaccine Immunity/Protection Good, once maternal antibodies no longer protect. Vaccination is not immunization.

Control Annual boosters, clean environment; change shoes and wash hands if coming home to unprotected pups after possible exposure at shows etc.

Herpes (CHV)

Symptoms Fetal death, mummified fetus; Neonates: general illness, dull, cease nursing, cry incessantly; all organs affected, speckled kidneys at autopsy. (3rd week and later): mild infections of vagina, prepuce, & upper respiratory tract.

Most dangerous age First three four weeks—(most deaths between 9 14 days age)

Transmission At birth: from saliva or vaginal discharge of dams infected up to 3 weeks before whelping. Nasal, in reactivated, "dormant" carriers.

Prognosis Very high in first couple weeks, lower in next week or two. Always and only a risk if pups are chilled.

Vaccine Immunity/Protection Most adults have been infected by one year; inactive virus in nerve cells may be "awakened" during stresses. No vaccine.

**Control Avoid chilling of pups** 



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