



THE POINT

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2010

The official newsletter of
The Lone Star GSP Club

2010 Officers:

President.....Kevin Temple.....(972) 722-0166.....ktemple@cctrvl.com
Vice President.....Ray Mullen.....(903) 356-0336.....raymullen@mulleninsurance.com
Secretary.....Holly Faught.....(817) 297-1668.....onapointhf@yahoo.com
Treasurer.....David Vogelsang(817) 481-9794.....dvogelsang@advconc.com

2009 Board of Directors:

Grant Stanfill.....(972) 217-6221.....gsstanfill@ovillanet.com
Will Barbee.....(972) 839-3691.....wjbarbee@sbcglobal.net
Andy Gerdes.....(972) 539-3563.....agerdes@gha-architects.com

The Christmas Party was held December 16th at the Spring Creek BBQ in Irving. We had a very nice visit and some really good food.

A short meeting was held to elect our new Officers and Directors. Congratulations to our 2010 Officers listed above.

Meeting Notice

Our first meeting of the New Year will be held on Thursday, February 11th; 7:00pm at Simply Burgers in Arlington. We hope you all can attend.

SEMINAR

Remember Discounted Prices to attend the Myra Savant-Harris seminar expire on March 31st.

MYRA SAVANT-HARRIS, RN

Neonatal Intensive Care, Breeder of Cavalier King Charles Spaniels and author of
“Canine Repro and Whelping” and “Puppy Intensive Care”

In her books and her workshops, Myra translates her years of neonatal intensive care experience into dog/puppy terms and teaches you to function and think like an RN so you can assess and care for your bitch and puppies.

Date: JUNE 12, 2010 Time: 9:00 am TO 5:00 pm
Location: Fairfied Inn & Suites, Cascades Event Center,
5909 Stone Creek Dr., The Colony, TX. 75056
(Hwy 121 & Springcreek Pkwy)

December Hunt Test

Lone Star held its fall hunt test on December 12th & 13th in Carlton, TX. Although we only had 10 entries, we had a wonderful time. The weather cooperated greatly, which is more than I can say for it lately. With only the ten dogs entered, we elected to begin the test each day at 10:00 am. We had a non-hurried day beginning by not having to get up at the crack of dawn and drive in the dark. These tests brought back that old time dog club feeling. Everyone sat down and ate lunch together and then sat around talking dogs.

We would like to extend a huge “thank you” to Andy and Debbie Gerdes for inviting us to their farm for this test. The use of the house was an added bonus especially after the porta- potty company decided it was too far to bring the toilet out. Also, thank you for the best brisket I’ve had in a very long time. Great casserole, Debbie!! More thanks goes to Beverly Gilstrap for her help at the test and bringing us yummy cheese dip and chips. Thanks to David Vogelsang, Kevin Temple and Mark Jestes as well as our judges Andy Gerdes, Ray Mullen, Kier Albert and Carl Petrey, without you guys we couldn’t have put on such a nice test.

The feedback on the grounds has been great. I was at a hunt test this past weekend up in Alvord and they were still talking about our hunt test, great grounds and fabulous food.

I hope I haven’t forgotten anyone, it’s been almost two months and my memory isn’t what it used to be. So if I forgot you, I apologize, you are appreciated even if I forgot to list your name.

Lupoid Dermatitis/Exfoliative Cutaneous Lupus Erythematosus

A Marker Test is Now Available

Margret L. Casal, Elizabeth Mauldin, Petra Werner

Lupoid dermatosis (LD), also known as exfoliative cutaneous lupus erythematosus (ECLE), has only been reported in **one breed of dog, the German Shorthaired Pointer (GSP)**. While the disease was believed to have a familial predisposition, the genetic cause of this disorder had not been identified until our recent studies showed it to be inherited as an autosomal recessive trait in the GSP. This means that both parents need to be carriers (carrying one copy of the defective gene) to produce an affected offspring. In other words, if you have a dog with lupoid dermatosis, you know that both parents contributed to the disease.

Dogs typically develop clinical signs by eight months of age. However age of onset has been reported between birth and 2.75 years. No sex predilection has been reported, although we find that, in general, female GSPs are affected more severely than male GSPs. Dogs affected with hereditary LD have excessive scaling and crusting that may first occur on the face, ears and back and then may progress to a generalized form. The disease has been reported to wax and wane in some animals. Skin lesions have been described to include scales, crust, papules, pustules, erythema (redness) and/or alopecia (hairloss). Pruritus (itchiness) and pain associated with the skin lesions is variable in reported cases. The degree of lymph node enlargement is also variable in reported cases. Skin scrapings, fungal and bacterial cultures, skin biopsies, hematology, serum biochemistry, urinalysis and antinuclear antibody titers should be performed to make the final diagnosis.

Diagnosis of LD is made by histopathology (microscopic evaluation of a skin biopsy). In humans, disseminated cutaneous lupus erythematosus (DCLE) has very similar histological findings as in GSPs with LD. In human patients with DCLE, several genes and chromosomal regions have been identified that contribute to the disease but scientists have not been able to identify one single gene that causes the disease. All of the genes and regions are involved in immune processes that lead to inflammation and cell death.

Therapy for LD in GSPs is not rewarding. Fatty acid supplementation has been reported to show an initial improvement, but the animals often relapse. Retinoids have been suggested due to the excessive scaling and sebaceous gland involvement; however, little benefit has been seen.

Treatment with antiseborrheic shampoos and corticosteroids has also been attempted with little to no success. Antibiotics are often necessary with a secondary folliculitis. Our own studies have not shown long term improvement with any of the therapies. However we have demonstrated that giving hydroxychloroquine (6.25 mg/kg once daily) to GSPs with LD can halt the disease process and that the drug is safe when given at this dose. In humans with DCLE, therapy is based on broad or specific immune suppression and on trial and error, with limited success and numerous side effects. Elucidating the cause of LD in GSPs could potentially provide a new target for therapy not only in the dog, but also in humans with DCLE.

In summary, there is a limited number of published reports regarding LD in the GSP and our own paper describing different treatment trials should be available soon. Because the disease is fairly common among the field trial GSPs in Europe, the US and Australia, and there is no satisfactory treatment for this devastating disease, a marker or mutation-based test would greatly benefit the breed by helping to develop breeding programs that would eventually eliminate the disease from the GSP breed altogether.

Through generous donations from German shorthaired pointer breeders and a grant from the AKC's Canine health Foundation we have been able to develop a marker test for this disease which we now offer to all breeders and interested parties. We are currently working on finding the actual mutation, which will help understand the disease not only in GSPs but also in humans with lupus. While the marker test has been shown to be quite good at predicting affected, carrier and clear dogs, a mutation test is 100% accurate (the results are unequivocal.).

For more detailed explanations regarding the marker test, please check out the LD FAQs page. Cheek swabs can be requested to have GSPs tested for \$75 per dog. If samples from whole litters are submitted, please contact us for a discount. Requests can be sent to dogderm@vet.upenn.edu. If you think you have an affected dog, please call us at 215-898-0029. We will assist you with making a diagnosis and if possible, designing a treatment strategy to halt the disease process.

Frequently Asked Questions Regarding the Lupoid Dermatitis Linked Marker DNA Test

Q: What is a linked marker?

A: A marker is a DNA sequence that can differ between individuals of a species. It is referred to as "linked" when it is known to be on the same chromosome and close to some other DNA feature, such as another marker, or gene. In this case, the Lupoid Dermatitis (LD) linked marker DNA test assays a DNA sequence variation or "marker", that is on the same chromosome and very close to the gene that is mutated to cause LD (let's call it the LD gene). Geneticists refer to alternative forms of genes or markers as alleles. When the disease-causing allele/version of the LD gene, sometimes referred to as the "mutant" allele, is present, we see allele "2" at the LD marker. When a normal allele of the LD gene is present, we see allele "1" at the LD marker.

Q: How does the LD linked marker DNA test work?

A: We assay the sequence variation at the LD linked marker. When a dog has the test result 1-1, both copies of the marker are allele 1, and there is a very high probability that the dog is normal/clear, meaning that both copies of the LD gene in that dog are normal alleles. When a dog is 1-2, that dog is likely to have one normal and one mutant allele, making it a probable carrier of the disease-causing allele (carriers show NO signs of LD). Dogs that have the test result 2-2 are very likely to be affected with LD.

Q: Why isn't the test 100% accurate?

A: Because the marker variation is NOT the actual LD gene mutation that causes the disease, it is possible, but unlikely, that the test results could, in a very few cases, be incorrect. There are two different reasons for this. One source of error occurs when there was an exchange of DNA between the two copies of the chromosome that contains the LD gene in a carrier parent or other ancestor of the dog being tested.

This exchange or swapping of DNA, referred to as recombination, changes the chromosomes so that allele 2 is located on a chromosome containing the normal allele, and allele 1 is on the chromosome containing the mutant allele. The second source of error is what Optigen has termed a “false allele”. This refers to the situation when there are copies of the chromosome with allele 2 that do NOT have the LDcausing mutation in the PWD population.

Q: *Is there a false allele?*

A: We have observed one false allele to date. In our research, we have examined 35 affected dogs and 40 parents of affected dogs (obligate carriers), and have observed a false allele in a dog of which we have no history or pedigree. In addition, this dog appeared to have a slightly different form of the disease, therefore it is possible that it was caused by a different gene. We also examined about 250 additional dogs. There were no 2-2 (predicted affected) dogs, and all of the 1-2 (predicted carrier) dogs had at least one grandparent that had been known to produce one or more LD pups (obligate carrier). This does not mean that there is no false allele, just that we haven’t seen one yet, so we do not expect it to be common.

Q: *How often have you observed recombination between the marker and the LD locus?*

A: We have never observed recombination between the LD gene and the marker to date. Research done by other laboratories has detected an approximately 4% recombination rate between markers that are beyond the ends of the part of the chromosome that must contain the LD gene. From this data generated in other laboratories, we would expect a recombination frequency between 0 and 4%. That is, the test could be wrong up to 4% of the time, although we have NOT observed any recombination events to date in our research. We believe the recombination rate is close to 0% as the marker lies within the gene that we suspect causes the disease.

Q: *What can be done about the possible inaccuracies?*

A: There are two things that can be done. We need you to report to us when you have evidence that the test was wrong. For example, we need to know if any 2-2 dogs (probable affected) live beyond six months of age. We also need to know if affected dogs are produced by matings between 1-1 dogs or from matings between a 1-1 and a 1-2 dog. Also, please let us know if, as a result of this test, you discover that in the past you have performed a mating between two 1-2 dogs. In this case, we would like to know how many puppies were produced, and if there were any deaths before age 6 months. The second thing is for us to do. We need to continue our research to examine this chromosome region to find the LD gene and mutation. Any proceeds from the LD linked marker test will go directly to support this research.

Last updated 1/16/2010

Lupoid Dermatitis/Exfoliative Cutaneous Lupus Erythematosus

Forms for swab submissions are available for download on the GSP Online Chronicle website

www.gspchronicle.com

Funny Sign Of The Month:

Did I read that sign right?

TOILET OUT OF ORDER. PLEASE USE FLOOR BELOW

Upcoming Events

- 02/11 – 12 Lone Star Brittany Club Field Trial; Ardmore, OK
Mary Karbiner ~ 940/928-2315 ~ txbritts@sbcglobal.net
- 02/12 – 14 GSP Club of San Antonio Field Trial; Freer, TX
Georgia Brown ~ 830/964-3123 ~ gtgtg@gvtc.com
- 02/20 – 21 Gulf Coast GSP Club Field Trial; Freer, TX
Sarah Messer ~ 281/515-5878 ~ sarahkmesser@yahoo.com
- 02/19 – 21 Texas Panhandle Pointing Breed Dog Club; Hardesty, TX
Burnie Stokes Jr ~ 806/676-1947 ~ tazvizslas@yahoo.com
- 02/20 – 21 Indian Nations Brittany Club Field Trial; Pierce, OK
Regan Kimbro ~ 405/535-5483 ~ jnridgebck@msn.com
- 02/27 – 28 GSP Club of San Antonio Club Hunt Test; Cibolo, TX
Mark Kuykendall ~ 830/606-9663 ~ brumar@gvec.net
- 03/06 – 07 Gulf Coast GSP Club Hunt Test; Cibolo, TX
Nancy Ward ~ 281/489-4011 ~ newpointgsp@peoplepc.com
- 03/06 – 07 Hill County Pointing Dog Club Field Trial; Hubbard, TX
Nancy Gramm ~ 830/227-5512 ~ ngrams@satx.rr.com
- 03/13 – 14 Texas Gulf Coast Vizsla Club Field Trial; Caldwell, TX
Amy Barnes ~ 940/648-0414 ~ amyandhershey@hotmail.com
- 03/20 – 21 Lone Star GSP Club Hunt Test; Carlton, TX
Mark Jestes ~ 972/783-1477 ~ mjestes@atsnational.com
- 04/10 – 11 Irish Setter Club of America Field Trial; Adair, OK
Anna Vaughn ~ 918/832-0612 ~ anna@cme-usa.com
- 04/23 – 25 Trinity Valley Weimaraner Club Field Trial; Ardmore, OK
Rosemary Carlson ~ 405/850-8020 ~ darocaweim@sbcglobal.net

2009 AKC FIELD TRIAL STANDINGS (from Jan 2010 AKC Awards thru Nov 30, 2009 trials)

Puppy/Derby Standings By Dogs Defeated

- #2 Free Flights Moon Struck (86); O: Ronnie Sale
- #8 Spare Time's Pat Hand (68); O: Grant Stanfill

Open Limited Gun Dog Standings By Dogs Defeated

- #9 FC Timberland Savanna Chip (104); O: Don & Ginger Kidd

Open Gun Dog Standings By Dogs Defeated

- #7 FC Timberland Savanna Chip (89); O: Don & Ginger Kidd

CANCER RESEARCH

The Van Andel Research Institute, a world class human cancer research institute, recently received a Federally fund grant through the National Institutes of Health/National Cancer Institute, to study five types of cancer that occur in both dogs and humans. The ultimate goal is to develop improved diagnostics and more individualized therapies for both canines and people.

We are requesting the help of purebred dog owners, who may own a dog affected with one of these cancers. The five initial cancers we are studying are:

- 1) Hemangiosarcoma
- 2) Lymphoma
- 3) Osteosarcoma
- 4) Malignant histiocytosis
- 5) Melanoma of the mouth or toe

We are requesting fresh (NOT in formalin, NOT frozen) tissue samples from tumors, when pets have biopsies, surgeries such as splenectomies, or are euthanized. Samples may be collected post mortem, as the euthanasia solution does not affect the DNA in either the dog's blood or in the tumor cells.

Additionally, if you have a dog with one of these cancers who has already been treated (splenectomy, chemo, etc), we would still appreciate a blood sample along with a histopath report confirming the diagnosis. We need 3-5 mls of whole blood in an EDTA (purple top) tube. It can be sent priority mail, and blood can be shipped at room temperature.

If the pet is scheduled for surgery or, sadly, euthanasia, if you or your veterinarian contact us ahead of time, we can FedEx a collection kit which includes an overnight FedEx return shipping form, along with collection media and containers.

Owner consent forms and veterinary info pages can be found on our website, at:

<http://www.vai.org/helpingdogs>

I will be happy to answer any questions I can, as well. Owners, veterinarians and researchers working together will help us to unravel some of the mysteries of these nasty diseases.

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CONGRATULATIONS – Recent Wins & Accomplishments:

Lone Star GSP Club Hunt Test held in Carlton, TX on Dec 12th & 13th

*Junior Hunter Qualifiers – 10 starters each day (*notes qualified both days)*

Berg's Collin (Eng Setter); O: R&K Berg*

Moonshadow's Xpert Huntsman; O: M&R McDonald*

CH Newpoint Good As Gold; O: N. Ward & S. Littlefield*

CH Newpoint N Onapoint Strike Gold; O: H. Faught, R. Lara & A. Lester*

Newpoint Poetry Of Nuthatch; O: N. Ward & H. Brennan*

CH Penzance Cara of Kinnike, CD; (Pointer) O: G. Butcher*

Spare Time's Rickie; O: Grant Stanfill

Vogelsang MSR Little Man; O: David Vogelsang

Lone Star GSP Club Field Trial held in Ardmore, OK on Jan 23rd – 26th

Open Puppy Non-Ret (9 starters)

1st – Uodibar's Dandy Duke II; O: H&D Killam (2pts)

2nd – Wind Dancer's Bulldozer; O: Keith Witt

3rd – Uodiabar's Rachel Alexander; O: H&D Killam

4th – Prairie Wind Rhapsody In Blue; O: R&K Richardson

Open Derby Non-Ret (14 starters)

1st – Uodibar's Sam Brown – O: H&D Killam (3pts)

2nd – Phoenix's Li'l Lucy (Brittany) – O: J&J Hallaron

3rd – Spare Time's Pat Hand; O: Grant Stanfill

4th – Spare Time's Jim Dandy; O: Grant Stanfill

Amateur Gun Dog Retrieving (18 starters)

1st – Uodibar's Fly High Freebird; O: H&D Killam (4pts)

2nd – Uodibar's Blue Gold; O: H&D Killam (2 pts)

3rd – FC Llano's Tails Aflame; O: J. Inderman

4th – Spare Time's Cinnamon Girl; O: Grant Stanfill

Open Gun Dog Retrieving (23 starters)

1st – Uodibar's Waiting For Daylight; O: H&D Killam (4pts)

2nd – Uodibar's Ain't No Fool; O: J&J Gantt

3rd – Fieldmaster's Montauk Zephyr; O: J. Lacey

4th – Texas Hoosier Girl; O: K&T Bomer

Open Limited Gun Dog Non-Ret (28 starters)

1st – Uodibar's Texas Shadywood; O: H&D Killam (5pts)

2nd – FC Eshod's Revolution; O: E&T Moody (2pts)

3rd – FC Llano's Tails Aflame; O: J. Inderman

4th – FC Caden's Bandit; O: W. Larson

Funny Flight Announcement Of The Month:

United Flight Attendant announced, “People, people we're not picking out furniture here, find a seat and get in it!”

2009 NGSPA DOG OF THE YEAR STANDINGS - FINAL

Open All Age Dog of the Year

- #8 TH Monkey's Silver (2); H: Ronnie Sale

Amateur Shooting Dog of the Year

- #3 Vogelsangs Toby von Blitz (6); O: David Vogelsang
#4 Timberland Savannah Chip (5); O: Don & Ginger Kidd

Open Shooting Dog of the Year

- #3 Timberland Savannah Chip (7); O: Don & Ginger Kidd
#6 Free Flight's Bullwinkle (3); O: Ronnie Sale
#7 Tejas Magnum's Tequila Sunrise (2); O: Ken Tomlinson

2009 GSPCA FIELD TRIAL STANDINGS

2009 Puppy/Derby Standings *(By Dogs Defeated, GSPCA from Jan 2010 AKC Awards, Trials through Nov 30, 2009)*

- #10 Free Flight's Moon Struck – 168 points – Owner: Ronnie Sale
#15 Trueblu's BDK Ace In The Hole – 140 points – Owner: Blake Biggs
#16 Spare Time's Pat Hand – 139 points – Owner: Grant Stanfill

2009 Open Limited Gun Dog Standings *(By Dogs Defeated, GSPCA from Jan 2010 AKC Awards, Trials through Nov 30, 2009)*

- #16 FC Timberland Savanna Chip – 232 points – Owners: Don & Ginger Kidd

2009 Open Gun Dog Standings *(By Dogs Defeated, GSPCA from Jan 2010 AKC Awards, Trials through Nov 30, 2009)*

- #4 FC Timberland Savanna Chip – 281 points – Owners: Don & Ginger Kidd

NEWS FLASH

Toby won the Amateur Gun Dog at the Quail Championship again!!
Congratulations David Vogelsang!!