

DIXIE RECALL

Nashville Dog Training Club

May 2002

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Monday, May 13 – Board Meeting

Monday, May 20 – NDTC Member Meeting - Note early date to avoid holiday conflict!!

Monday, June 10 – Board Meeting

Monday, June 24 – NDTC Member Meeting

MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE DUE BY JUNE 30!

In keeping with last year's change from a calendar to a fiscal membership year, our membership dues for the fiscal year July 1, 2002 to June 30, 2003 will be due no later than June 30, 2002. Please submit your membership renewal forms along with your check or money order for \$50.00 to Membership Chair, NDTC, P.O. Box 292977, Nashville, TN 37229 or directly to Denise McClure, Membership Chair, at 1733 Charity Drive, Brentwood, TN 37027, or leave it in her box at the training building. Any new members joining after April 1, 2002, have already paid for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2003.

NEW VCD1 TITLES

This has truly been a year of firsts! In addition to celebrating Kip Kirby's new MACH title with her Shetland Sheepdog, Soundbite, we are now proud to announce the club's first VCD1 title.

VCD stands for Versatile Companion Dog, and the 1st level requires a dog to achieve a CD, TD, NA and NAJ. Debbie Cutter and Scottish Deerhound, Caitlyn, attained the VCD1 earlier this spring (see the BRAGS section) and are well on their way to the VCD2 (CDX, TD, OA, OAJ). Additionally, there are several members with dogs who need only a TD title or a couple of qualifying legs in agility to complete the requirements for this significant accomplishment. It is wonderful to see so many members cross-training their dogs – you know the dogs love it!

LATE BREAKING NEWS!!! Denise McClure and her Bernese Mountain Dog, Cato, earned their TD and are now the club's second VCD1 team! More details in the next newsletter!

THANK YOU, STEVE CONDURELIS!

The ladies' room now has light, thanks to Steve, an electrical engineer. Thank you also to Lynda for marrying such a handy fellow! Steve, you'd better watch out – we'll put you to work! (Note – the pay's not so hot, though!).

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

This spring has been such a whirlwind of activity, and many of our members have been actively competing in a variety of dog events while also dedicating their time and energy to ensure that NDTC activities were successful. It is impossible for me to personally thank each and every one of you, but please know every thing you do for the club is truly appreciated.

I would be remiss if I did not extend sincere thanks to Connie Womack, Deanna Levenhagen and Laura George, our 2002 Obedience Trial Chair, Secretary and Trophy Chair. These 3 individuals produced a first-rate, exhibitor-friendly obedience trial, continuing a long-standing NDTC tradition.

Additionally, these ladies managed to pull off a \$3300 profit for the weekend – unprecedented in NDTC history. WAY TO GO, LADIES!

We are still without an Obedience Trial Chairperson for next year's Obedience Trial. I don't know if people are afraid they can't do a good job, or if we are dealing with the phenomenon where everyone believes a magical person named "SOMEONE" will do it. I'm here to tell you, SOMEONE is no longer a member. SOMEONE resigned years ago. Now it's everyone's job to step in to fill SOMEONE's shoes.

This organization has held at least one obedience trial each year for more than 30 years. It will be a terrible shame if we do not have one next year simply because no one volunteered.

If you have given even a passing thought to volunteering, please give me a call at 615-297-1229 in the evenings or an email at bwatson@eceleris.com and let me fill you in on the special benefits available to our 2003 Obedience Trial organizers.

I would hate to have a Rover Retail all dressed up with no place to go!

Lastly, due to changes in his work schedule, Jimmy Sloop has had to resign his position as Property Chair. We need a volunteer to step into this position to complete the calendar year. Again, SOMEONE won't be doing it!

I want to take this opportunity to give our members an abbreviated financial update. For the period January through April, 2002, NDTC has taken in approximately \$14,500 more than we have spent. Our emergency fund stands firm at \$10,000. This is quite a satisfactory position for the Club, as we are heading into the summer months when our class enrollment traditionally drops and our liability insurance is due. While this is an enviable position, we do have the matters of light replacement and matting to consider. I urge each of you to help with our marketing program and continue to drop off flyers and cards at groomers and vets offices. Since I put my NDTC bumper sticker on my car, I have had 2 people stop me and they are now taking classes. Let's keep up the marketing push so that we can continue to fill our classes. The ventilation really does help make a huge difference (thank you, Claudia Dickerson!).

HOT DIGGITY DOG WALK AT MAGGIE'S BARK PARK APRIL 20

This event was a huge success for the Bark Park and for NDTC. Special thanks to the following members who braved the heat and humidity: Vicki Roberts and Bun, David Taylor and Tyler and Jag, Jan Bachman and her husband, Beth Clark and Emma, Chessler and Knightly, Denise McClure and Kato, Kate Ruddy and Cody, Bev Watson and Smudge. We handed out lots of brochures promoting responsible pet ownership as well as NDTC marketing material and had great fun helping people on the agility course. The proceeds from this event went to provide water fountains for dogs on the course, and we are proud to have been a part of it.

Tick Tips

By Bev Watson

Everyone agrees that ticks are just yucky, nasty little varmints! However, not everyone may be aware that they also spread a number of debilitating and life-threatening diseases, including two that are called “emerging diseases.” This means that many vets and doctors are not familiar with their treatment, and may not be aware that many of these diseases are now found in every state.

Ticks carry Lyme Disease, Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever (RMSF), Erlichiosis, Tick –borne Paralysis, Babesiosis, Tularemia and Colorado Tick Fever. Of these, Lyme, RMSF and Erlichiosis present a distinct threat to you and your dog right here in Middle Tennessee. At least 2 NDTC members have experienced tick bites with subsequent cellulitis and severe inflammation around the bite, requiring medical treatment

If you should find a tick on you or your dog, PLEASE follow these suggestions:

1. Do not remove the tick with your fingers. Ticks require approximately 3 days to establish an exchange of their stomach contents with their hosts’ blood. Frontline will kill the tick within that period of time. However, if you squeeze the tick, you will cause it to regurgitate its stomach contents back into the victim, thus releasing any infective agents into the blood stream. Remove the tick by using tweezers placed as close to the tick’s head as possible and pulling straight out smoothly and firmly. Do not jerk the tick, as you may leave the head in the victim. If this should happen, use a sterilized needle to tease the head out, as you would a splinter. Dispose of the tick in a jar of rubbing alcohol; don’t try to crush it with your fingernails, as this can also spread infection. Experts also advise against using petroleum jelly, alcohol or a hot match end to “make the tick let go.” These devices actually annoy the tick, which can cause him to tighten his jaws and may also make him release stomach contents. Always swab the area with alcohol after removing the tick.
2. Note the date on the calendar. Symptoms of tick-borne diseases usually appear 1-4 weeks after the bite. The list of symptoms is long and varied, but may include a widespread rash (RMSF), a rash around the bite (Lyme), fatigue, flu-like symptoms, fever, malaise, depression, decrease in coordination, changes in reflectiveness in your dog’s eyes, vomiting, diarrhea and on and on. Erlichiosis in particular mimics a number of life-threatening diseases, and is the newest tick-borne disease to be recognized so many vets and doctors are not familiar with it and may actually tell you that it doesn’t occur in Tennessee. Don’t believe them - Researchers at Vanderbilt documented it in 1993 in Crossville, TN.
3. If you notice any 2 of the symptoms, head straight to your vet (or get you to a doctor!). Ask for a “Tick Panel or Profile.” This will include tests for antibodies to 4 or 5 of the most commonly tested tick-related diseases, and should include Lyme, RMSF, and at least 3 of the Erlichiosis variants. It may take a week for the results to return, and the recommendation is that treatment should be begun prior to definitive diagnosis if the patient is symptomatic in any way. The panel will only tell you if you or your dog have been infected with a particular agent at some point in the past, so a second test to look for any change is recommended 2-4 weeks later.
4. The treatment of choice for Erlichiosis is doxycycline, which is also valuable in treating both Lyme Disease and RMSF. However, vets will frequently treat Lyme with amoxicillin, which has no effect on Erlichiosis. When in doubt, demand a tetracycline derivative, preferably doxycycline, as it causes fewer side effects and is effective in treating all three of the most common tick diseases.

Early detection is absolutely crucial for the successful diagnosis and treatment of these insidious diseases. Unfortunately, our dogs can’t speak up and tell us that they don’t feel well! You know your dog’s usual energy level, behavior, and general attitude. Any change in those, especially in the weeks after a tick bite, warrants a trip to the vet for a checkup. Don’t wait – once these diseases have passed from their initial stages, they cause severe internal damage and may be impossible to treat. Our dogs depend on us to be vigilant for them.

CONDOLENCES

Our thoughts and prayers go out to Bonnie Davis at the loss of her Keeshond, Flak. Flak was a special little girl, and we will all miss her.

The Saga of Spud and Pickle

By Patty Block, Sumo Labradors, Atlanta, GA

Editor's note: This article was written by a dear friend of mine. I thought it would be of interest to all of us – it definitely is food for thought. As Bev stated in her article, our dogs depend on us to be vigilant for them.

This message goes to all who knew that I lost a beloved four month old VERY promising chocolate boy on my birthday while I was at LRCP this month. We had an autopsy done and the results have just come back. It is of vital importance to me that the truth be known, so here it is. If you can glean anything useful out of the following information, then my dear little boy puppy won't have died for no reason.

I preface these remarks with this statement: PLEASE DO NOT TAKE ANYTHING OUT OF CONTEXT in this message. DO pass the entire message along if you think it is helpful, but to repeat, you have permission to send along THE ENTIRE MESSAGE and not just part of it. The important thing is to learn something from this. There are implications for everyone who raises litters and keeps something to run on OR sends out information to new puppy buyers. It's much more important to tell the story IN ITS ENTIRETY (how and why it happened in the sequence it happened) than it is to take the chance that someone will misquote in part or start spreading horror rumors that will miss the point. Thank you!

THE POINT IS the need to be ever vigilant and to realize that the protocol for immunization of young pups has to be understood and followed and EVEN THEN, everything is not foolproof.

The immunization schedule for young pups usually follows this pattern: six weeks; again at nine weeks; again at twelve weeks; and, again at sixteen weeks. That's where some breeders/vets stop, but the important thing is to DO ANOTHER immunization BETWEEN EIGHTEEN AND TWENTY WEEKS.

Here's the foundation for that last statement: When a puppy drinks its first milk from its mother, she imparts passive immunity in the colostrum. We all know that. Perhaps we don't all know that although it's always there, the puppy's stomach lining changes in such a way that after the first three days or so, the important passive immunity ingredients in the colostrum don't get thru to the pup's system. That's why it's so important that a newborn has its mother's milk for the first three to four days. After that the nutrition imparted thru the mother's milk does other good things, but the chance for getting passive immunity diminishes.

From that point on, each pup's response to any "attack" by a "foreign agent" is individual and its passive immunity begins to wane gradually over a period of weeks.

Breeders normally begin giving "active" immunity with an immunization at six weeks. This shot does not automatically take over and from the moment the serum enters the pup's body it doesn't entirely arm the pup's immune system -- that takes several days if not weeks.

The general thought is that this active immunity in the first shot is probably killed off in any given pup by what is still rolling around in there from the mother's passive immunity. But we do it anyway just to be safe for each individual puppy since each one's immune system develops at a different pace. (That's also why giving a shot before the six weeks time is probably just a waste of time and money....the mother's immunity is still in there working hard.)

Then comes the next shot at nine weeks and then at twelve weeks and then at sixteen, when most vets also give rabies vaccine. (The several days/maybe weeks needed to develop adequate immunity holds true at each of these intervals as well; i.e., just because a pup got a rabies shot on Monday doesn't mean that if he's exposed to rabies on Tuesday he can fight it off.)

Some folks stop with these immunizations at sixteen weeks and then give again in a year as a booster.

There has been a lot of discussion lately about how we are over-immunizing our dogs. However while that may have some validity for the older ones, this may not hold true for young pups. So, the thinking is that it is vitally important that a twenty week shot be given. The sixteen week shot may not be enough for any given pup to develop the sophisticated immunity needed to fight off something if it is exposed to a disease.

Here's why: When the mother's immunity wanes, the active immunity is starting to pick up. But there's inevitably a valley. Think of it as a graph or line chart where the left side line is dropping off from top to bottom while the right side line is rising up from the bottom to top. On that chart, the two lines cross each other to form a "V" or valley, showing that the overall artillery that a pup has accumulated is at a low point and may not be sufficient to win a fight with exposure to some disease. And that "V" for any individual puppy seems to appear right around the four month time frame.

The important thing to remember here is that this is true EVEN IF ALL SHOTS HAVE BEEN GIVEN AT APPROPRIATE TIMES, especially if the last shot has been given at sixteen and not twenty weeks!!!!

Today the report came in that Spud died of sub-acute parvo, not the fastest appearing, but nearly so, form of that disease. His symptoms came on in a matter of twelve hours--he had eaten normally the night before and bounced out of his crate that morning and played in his usual fashion with his kennel mates in the yard when the kennel help let them out. By the time he was found at bedtime that night, he was almost comotose. It was too late to save him.

His sister also was affected TWO DAYS LATER, but we caught her in time because she started showing symptoms (lethargy, small amount of vomiting and diarrhea, refusal to eat) in the early morning and we got her to the vet quickly. She was put on iv fluids, antibiotics and all sorts of other remedies, and after a week's intensive care, she survived. She has been placed in a pet home where there are no young pups. She could shed some remaining virus in her feces for up to ninety days after recovery.

There is in this scenario a good illustration of how responses to any disease challenge can show up in puppies even if they are the same age. And it also points out that age can make a difference in immune response.

The two affected puppies were (as soon as they were old enough) always kenneled and played routinely with two other pups who are three weeks older. Those two older puppies DID NOT and HAVE NOT shown ONE SIGN of a problem in spite of their proximity to the other two and their probable exposure to the same organism. The latters' immune systems apparently were just sophisticated and strong enough to battle the exposure successfully.

Also, NO OTHER DOG here has shown any signs of a problem.

The unfortunate timing of the exposure is what killed Spud and made Pickle ill.

What probably happened was that although they had had their sixteen weeks shot just five days before they became ill, Spud and Pickle had already been exposed to the disease. So they were caught from behind and could not fight it off with the ammuniton they had on board at that time.

I was the vector. I brought it home from judging Sweepstakes at the Raleigh/Durham show. The incubation period of about twelve days is exactly right. The virus is easily carried from one place to another, even on one's clothing. I thought I was careful about being clean and neat, but it appears that whatever precautions I took were not enough.

So what have we done? We have replaced carpeting, bought stock in Clorox, sprayed, scrubbed, cleaned, washed and otherwise turned ourselves inside out to eliminate what we now know was parvo. Fortunately the only places where those exposed puppies have been is a limited area of one paddock and the dog porch, so we really concentrated triplefold on those areas even though we have gone over the entire four dog acres from top to bottom. Sunshine, formalyn and clorox kill parvo. We haven't used any formalyn, but we sure have spread around more than our share of sunshine and clorox.

The lesson learned here is that viruses, including parvo, are everywhere. We can only fight them in the best way we know how. The important thing is to have every puppy properly immunized, including that twenty week shot as extra insurance.

Okay, that's the scenario. At one time in canine history anyone who admitted to having parvo on the premises became a pariah. Now we realize that it's a pervasive virus, the spread of which can be fought off, but sometimes it takes advantage of an opportunity and gives us unending grief no matter how careful we are.

I hope this message imparts some information that is useful to you. It is sent in the interest of open honesty and (re)education.

SCHEDULE OF UPCOMING CLASSES

NOTE: To avoid confusion, we have reverted to the old class names Level 1, Level 2, Level 3, and Level 4. Also, please note that puppy class is the most appropriate starting point for any young dog whose attention span has not yet matured. Even a nine-month-old of a large breed may do better in puppy kindergarten than in Level 1.

Puppy Kindergarten
 Wednesday, June 5, 7 pm
 Wednesday, July 31, 7 pm

Level 1
 Wednesday, June 5, 8 pm
 Wednesday, July 31, 8 pm

Level 2 (CGC)
 Wednesday, June 5, 8 pm
 Wednesday, July 31, 8 pm

Level 3
 Tuesday, August 27, 8 pm

Level 4
 Thursday, August 29, 8 pm

Heeling
 Wednesdays, 7 pm, ongoing

Open
 Tuesdays, 7 pm, ongoing
 Call 565-7099 within two hours
 before class starts to confirm.

Utility
 Thursdays, 7 pm, ongoing

Recreational Agility
 Monday, September 23, 8 pm

Therapy Dog Training
 Wednesday, September 25, 7 pm

Conformation
 Mondays, 7 pm, ongoing

Tracking
 May 12– contact Bev Watson

NDTC CLOTHING

At last we have prices for sportswear! All items will be Royal Blue with light yellow lettering and will have the club logo on the front and back, unless otherwise stated. Remember, we will have to order these items and it may take a couple of weeks. Please add \$5.00 for shirts/pants that are XXL or larger. Please send check with order to: Debbi Martin NDTC SHIRTS, 515 Rural Hill Road, Nashville, TN 37217-4107

Quantity	Item	Price
_____	Hanes Beefy-T 100% Cotton T-Shirt	\$15.00
_____	with pocket	\$17.00
_____	Hanes Beefy-T 100% cotton long Sleeve T-Shirt	\$18.00
_____	with pocket	\$20.00
_____	Hanes Ultimate 10oz Full Zip hooded Sweatshirt	\$33.00
_____	Hanes Ultimate Cotton Pullover hooded Sweatshirt	\$25.00
_____	Hanes Comfortblend Pullover hooded Sweatshirt	\$22.00
_____	Hanes Comfortblend Sweats	\$17.00
_____	Hanes Cotton Jersey Knit Sport Shirt w/ pocket (only logo on front)	\$17.00
_____	Hanes Ultimate cotton sweats	\$20.00
_____	Port & CO. Nylon Zip Pullover	\$38.00
_____	Port & Co. Sideline Jacket	\$30.00
_____	Augusta Zip Front hooded Coaches Jacket	\$40.00
_____	Port & CO Nylon pants	\$30.



Claudia Dickerson and Ch. Sans Brancos Oracle of Time CD HIC ("Timex", Belgian Sheepdog) earned their CD in three straight trials with two placements. The first two legs were earned at the NDTC spring trials, with a first place after a run-off. The last leg was earned at the Belgian Sheepdog National Specialty with a fourth place in the pouring rain with Timex wagging her tail in apology each time she politely declined to sit in a puddle. Timex later won first place both days at the Clarksville shows in Novice B. These were insurance legs for her.

Claudia Dickerson and Ch. Sans Brancos John Doe PT TT ("JD", Belgian Sheepdog) earned their Pretrial Tested herding title at the Belgian Sheepdog National Specialty. Both judges had very nice comments on JD's self-control and herding abilities.

Vickie Robert's Bun completed her Open Agility title in Chattanooga this April (despite her handler!).

Bev Watson and Australian Shepherd, Fair Wind's Blue Smudge, got their first 2 JWW legs with clean runs at the Huntsville Obedience Training Club in Priceville, AL on May 4-5. The first, on Saturday, garnered a 3rd place with a score of 96. Their score on Sunday was 99, but behind a lot of VERY FAST dogs! Way to go, Smudge!

Denise McClure's Bernese Mountain Dog, Kato's Jester CD OA CGC, earned his OAJ May 4th at Huntsville's Agility Trial. He had a perfect 100. His other two legs were earned with a 98 at Chattanooga's Agility trial in April and a 100 at Louisville's Agility Trial last November. On to Excellent JWW! I forgot to mention that the Huntsville score was a 3rd place, the Chattanooga score was a first place and the Louisville score was a first place.

Good Golly Miss Molly XI, CDX, OA, OAJ, and Faye Head received their OA in Chattanooga, TN. Molly received her OAJ in Clarksville, TN and took first place in the 12" division!

Faye's agility success continued when CH Wynecroft Winning Ticket, CGC, known as Daphne, got her first NAJ leg in Louisville, KY with a 2nd place win in the 12" division. Daphne received her second NAJ leg in Clarksville, TN and took first place in the 12" division.

BIG NEWS FLASH – NDTC's FIRST VCD1!!!! Debbie Cutter and Caitlyn (Scottish Deerhound) finished her NAJ at the Harriman, TN agility trial under judge Peter Liu, which qualified her for the VCD1 title. She's the first Deerhound to earn a VCD1, and (Bev believes) the first NDTC member dog to do so. Caitlyn also finished her OA at the Clarksville, TN agility trial under judge Sionag Black, with a first place. She's now Ch. Highlander Annwn O'Jubalhil VCD1 CDX OA.

Sky (Wirehaired Pointing Griffon) finally earned her third UD leg under Richard Mullen at the Clarksville KC obedience trial, with a first place, and is now Fireside's Sweetbriar UD TD NA, and happily retired.

Paula Harris and Seawind's Memphis Blues CDX (Norman) FINALLY got their first UD leg at the Maury County Kennel Club Sunday show with a first place.

Paula Harris and Seawind Gracemore Blackmail (Ransom) also passed the CGC at NDTC earlier this month.

Congratulations to David Haddock, who is now fully licensed to judge novice and non-regular obedience classes. We understand that David is also now provisional to judge open obedience classes. But wait! There's more! David is also the proud Daddy of a brand new baby boy. What wonderful news, David!

Special congratulations go to Connie Womack who is the proud grandmother of triplets – 2 boys and a girl. The group was a bit early and required special care, but they are all progressing well and hope to go home from the hospital soon.

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Published monthly by the Nashville Dog Training Club, 413 Allied Drive, Nashville, TN 37209

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Contributions and suggestions welcome. All articles and information, and updates must be received by the Editor no later than the 9th day of each month to be published in that month's newsletter. All Brags must be received by the Historian no later than the 5th day of each month to be published in that month's newsletter.

NDTC Board of Directors

President:	Bev Watson	297-1229	bwatson@celeriscorp.com
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Membership Chair/ Historian	Denise McClure	309-8049	emmclure@bellsouth.net
Property Chair:	Jimmy Sloop	717-0920	sloop_j@bellsouth.net

Nashville Dog Training Club is an American Kennel Club-licensed dog club dedicated to encouraging responsible dog ownership and the conscientious training of dogs. Training classes for puppies through adult dogs are offered Monday through Thursday evenings. The Club sponsors AKC-sanctioned events such as obedience and tracking trials, and a range of activities, including Canine Good Citizenship tests, recreational agility, Show'N'Go's, and workshops. Visit <http://www.nashvilledog.com> for updates, photos, and class registration forms.

THE DIXIE RECALL

Newsletter for the Nashville Dog Training Club (NDTC)

**c/o Paula Harris
106 Collinwood Close
Franklin, TN 37069-7074**

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

THE MAY CLUB MEETING WILL BE ON MAY 20th!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!1