



# THE POODLE SCENE

FALL EDITION—NOVEMBER 2005

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# Poodle Club of Canada

## Quarterly Newsletter

**Newsletter Editor:** Alysia Reichertz

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**Send to:** Alysia Reichertz  
7084 Sixth Line  
Belwood, ON  
N0B 1J0  
**Phone:** 1-519-843-7728  
**Fax:** 1-519-843-7729  
**E-mail:** joanne.reichertz@sympatico.ca

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**Secretary** Carolyn Savage  
(519) 855-4903  
46 Main St  
Hillsburgh, ON, N0B 1J0  
**Directors** Tanis Waldo -AB  
Kay Murphy -ON  
Denise York -BC  
**Website** [www.poodleclubcanada.com](http://www.poodleclubcanada.com)

### Up Coming Events

**Health Clinic**  
**November 18, 2005**  
**Wellington Veterinary Services**  
**Elora, ON**

**For an appointment or more information**  
**Please call or Email**  
**Anne Bell**  
**519-848-3663**  
**[sanvar@sympatico.ca](mailto:sanvar@sympatico.ca)**

## **Comedy Corner**

### **If I Did Not Have Pets ...**

**If I did not have pets...**

- 1) I could walk around the yard barefoot in total safety.**
- 2) My house could be carpeted instead of tiled and laminated.**
- 3) All flat surfaces, clothing, furniture, and cars would be free of pet hair.**
- 4) When my phone rings, it wouldn't sound like the humane society answering.**
- 5) When the doorbell rings, I could get to the door without wading through furry bodies who either beat me there or who are running away to escape strangers.**
- 6) I could sit on the couch the way I wanted, without taking into consideration how much space several fur bodies would need to get comfortable.**
- 7) I would not have strange shaped presents under my Christmas tree like doggie bones, scented stuffed animals, catnip balls and string toys.**
- 8) I would not be on a first name basis with my vets.**
- 9) The most used words in my vocabulary would not be: "out", "sit", "down", "come", "no", "stay", and "leave him/her/it ALONE".**
- 10) My house would not be cordoned off into zones with baby gates or barriers.**
- 11) My pockets would not contain things like poop bags, dog treats and an extra leash.**
- 12) I would no longer have to spell the words O-U-T, B-A-L-L or G-O F-O-R A W-A-L-K / R-I-D-E or T-R-E-A-T-S.**
- 13) I would not have as many leaves and sand INSIDE my house as outside.**
- 14) I would not look strangely at people who think having their ONE pet ties them down too much.**
- 15) I'd look forward to Spring and the melting of the snow instead of dreading "mud season".**
- 16) I'd look forward to sleeping in and never having a cold nose pressed against my arm at 5 am with a tail wagging at the other end of it.**
- 17) I would not have to answer the question, "Why do I have so many pets?" from people who will never have the joy in their life of knowing they are loved unconditionally by something as close to an angel as they will ever get.**
- 18) How empty my life would be.**

# New Title Holder

Ch Glintondale's Red Geronimo



**Born Sept 23/04  
Tested Genetically Normal**

**Sire: Ch Bonheur Fair Trade to Glintondale  
Dam: Ch Glintondale's Pocahontas**

**Rosemary Hagen  
Glintondale Kennels  
King City, Ontario  
(905)833-5715**

# As I see it

By Dr. Joanne Reichertz DVM

First published in The Poodle Review – Jan/Feb 199 Issue

## ***“Why do I need to worm my bitch’s puppies when she has not had worms since she was a pup?”***

A question which many dog breeders commonly ask their veterinarian involves puppies and intestinal parasites - roundworms or ascarids (*Toxocara canis*) in particular. Many breeders seem to think that if their bitch is free from worms during breeding and pregnancy, then her puppies will not have worms. This is usually far from the truth! Of course it is important that a bitch start any pregnancy free from intestinal parasites, as they will compromise her nutrition. What many breeders do not realise is that the most common intestinal parasites (roundworms) have evolved a life cycle allowing them to **infect puppies** transplacentally (through the placenta) **before birth**, as well as transmammary (through the milk) after birth. In addition puppies and adult dogs become infected with roundworms by eating infective worm eggs, or by eating a paratenic (transport) host (rodents, cockroaches, earthworms, birds etc.) which is infected with the worm.

Some breeders know that worms can be transmitted in this fashion but feel that if their bitch is clear of worms during breeding and pregnancy, then the puppies cannot be infected. Unfortunately this assumption is usually wrong also! When a puppy is infected with roundworms, as the worms mature they migrate in the wall of the gastro-intestinal tract, through the liver and lungs, and in the somatic (muscle) tissues. In dogs older than 6 months of age, usually only somatic migration occurs. Many of these larvae go into a suspended life cycle (encyst) in the muscle tissue. These hypobiotic larvae stay in a bitch’s muscle tissue even after worming medication has removed all other roundworms from her body. About five weeks into a pregnancy, larvae are mobilised from the musculature of the bitch by unknown stimuli, and cross the placenta to enter the liver and lung of the developing puppies. When the pups are born, the larvae complete the tracheal migration and start to develop in the intestine of the puppies by one week of age. Not all larvae are mobilised from a bitch’s musculature in a single pregnancy; some remain for subsequent pregnancies. Some larvae are also mobilised into the mammary system of the bitch in late pregnancy. Most puppies begin passing large numbers of worm eggs in their feces at about three weeks of age and continue to shed eggs for most of early puppyhood (4 to 6 months) unless treated. Infective larvae passed in a pup’s feces can infect the mother as well, so the bitch is given worming medication along with her puppies.

Most adult dogs have light roundworm infections and are asymptomatic. In heavy infections, puppies appear unthrifty with dry skin, dull hair coats and stunted growth. There is often abdominal distension, a potbelly, and the puppy appears sickly but may be active and eat well. Puppies may have a straddling gait and whine because of the abdominal discomfort. Some puppies may be weak and lethargic. Heavily infected puppies may vomit worms and even pass worms in the feces. They may have a mucoid diarrhea. With very large numbers of worms various intestinal accidents can occur - obstruction, intussusception, perforation and obstruction of bile and pancreatic ducts. Death can occur in puppies younger than three weeks of age.

Migration of large numbers of larvae through a puppie's lungs can cause severe damage and occasionally a fatal pneumonia.

**Because most pups are born infected with roundworms, treatment is recommended at 2 weeks of age**, before eggs are first passed in the feces, and repeated at 4, 6 and 8 weeks to kill all worms. Numerous effective anthelmintics for ascarids are available. Pyrantel pamoate suspension is an excellent anthelmintic for nursing pups because it is safe and active against both hookworms and ascarids.

Toxocaral visceral larva migrans (VLM) is a serious disease of humans (especially children) produced by the invasion of visceral tissues by migrating roundworms, thus infected puppies are considered public health hazards.

Hookworms are also a common intestinal parasite of the dog. These worms are voracious bloodsuckers. Hookworms infection can occur by five routes: prenatal, milk-borne, ingestion of infective larvae, skin penetration by infective larvae, and ingestion of paratenic hosts. Ingestion and cutaneous migration are probably the most common routes of infection. Because these worms cause intestinal blood loss by sucking blood from many different spots in the intestine, an important consequence of severe hookworm infection is anemia due to blood loss. Dogs may have tarry or bloody diarrhea accompanied by pallor, weakness, emaciation and dehydration. Young puppies may die due to the rapidly progressive blood loss anemia. Treatment is begun at 2 weeks of age to eliminate these worms as well.

Whipworms can infect dogs of all ages. Although many light infections do not cause symptoms, heavier infections can result in mucoid diarrhea, sometimes with blood. Repeated fecal examinations may be required, because these worms are poor egg layers. Fenbendazole is the usual treatment for whipworms. Treat for three days, then repeat treatment at three weeks and three months, because whipworms are difficult to eradicate. Because it is virtually impossible to eradicate this parasite from infected ground, frequent reinfection is a common problem.

I hope that everyone reading this column now understands why it is important to start treating all bitches and puppies for worms when the puppies are two weeks of age. In this way we can help insure that our puppies are well grown and healthy when they go to their new homes as either companions or show dogs.