



THE POODLE SCENE

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Poodle Club of Canada

Quarterly Newsletter

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Up Coming Events

PCC Puppy Match

May 17, 2006

Please call or email Donna Crispi

905-642-5002

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2006 National Specialty

Sunday, June 4, 2006

Conformation & Obedience

Premium list on Website

2006 WC/WCI/WCX Tests

Thursday, June 1, 2006

Premium list on Website

Comedy Corner

Pet's diary

As seen in a dog's diary:

7 am - Oh boy! A walk! My favorite!
8 am - Oh boy! Dog food! My favorite!
9 am - Oh boy! The kids! My favorite!
Noon - Oh boy! The yard! My favorite!
2 pm - Oh boy! A car ride! My favorite!
3 pm - Oh boy! The kids! My favorite!
4 pm - Oh boy! Playing ball! My favorite!
6 pm - Oh boy! Welcome home Mom! My favorite!
7 pm - Oh boy! Welcome home Dad! My favorite!
8 pm - Oh boy! Dog food! My favorite!
9 pm - Oh boy! Tummy rubs on the couch! My favorite!
11 pm - Oh boy! Sleeping in my people's bed! My favorite!

As seen in a cat's diary:

Day 183 of my captivity... My captors continued to taunt me with bizarre little dangling objects. They dine lavishly on fresh meat, while I am forced to eat dry cereal. The only thing that keeps me going is the hope of escape, and the mild satisfaction I get from clawing the furniture. Tomorrow I may eat another house plant. Today my attempt to kill my captors by weaving around their feet while they were walking almost succeeded – must try this at the top of the stairs. In an attempt to disgust and repulse these vile oppressors, I once again induced myself to vomit on their favorite chair -must try this on their bed. Decapitated a mouse and brought them the headless body in an attempt to make them aware of what I am capable of, and to try to strike fear in their hearts. They only cooed and condescended about what a good little cat I was. Hmmm, not working according to plan...

There was some sort of gathering of their accomplices today. I was placed in solitary throughout the event. However, I could hear the noise and smell the food. More important, I overheard that my confinement was due to my powers of inducing "allergies." Must learn what this is and how to use it to my advantage. I am convinced the other captives are flunkies and maybe snitches. The dog is routinely released and seems more than happy to return. He is obviously a half-wit. The bird, on the other hand, has got to be an informant and speaks with them regularly. I am certain he reports my every move. Due to his current placement in the metal room, his safety is assured. But I can wait, it is only a matter of time...

New Title Holder

Ch. Embertone Fire in my Eyes



(Ch. Shalun Mishka ex Ch. Embertone Playing With Fire)

Shown here winning Best of Opposite Sex
the day after finishing her championship

Owned and shown here by Sara Leanne Barbadoro

Embertone Poodles

Pamela A. Barbadoro

79 Louisa St., Meaford, ON

519-538-0877

Minister of Culture gets first-hand look at Story Dogs

by. Janis Ramsay

THE ALLISTON HERALD – Alliston, ON February 1, 2006 page 9

Dogs, kids and a government official gathered at the D.A. Jones branch of the New Tecumseth Public library last Wednesday.

It was to celebrate and promote Family Literacy Day Jan. 27 and Madeleine Meilleur, minister of culture, listened as the children in the Story Dogs program did their best to read to her.



VERY UNUSUAL INDEED

Madeleine Meilleur, Ontario Minister of Culture, was at the D.A. Jones branch of the New Tecumseth Public Library to celebrate Family Literacy Week last Wednesday. She listened to children Reading to their Story Dogs, then handed out a book called A Very Unusual Dog to the children. – Janis Ramsay photo



POODLE TALES

Nicole Watts, nine, reads to toy poodle Meghan and Norm Murphy of the D.A. Jones branch of the New Tecumseth Public Library. She was in Beeton to read to Madeline Meilleur, provincial minister of culture, to celebrate Family Literacy Day. – Janis Ramsay photo



Story Dogs is a special program where children with reading difficulties read to therapy dogs in the library. The dogs usually listen and don't judge the child's reading ability.

The library provides the venue and resources. The program pairs a dog and handler with a child for eight weeks of half-hour reading sessions.

The program is on a short list to win an Ontario Public Library Service Award for excellence in service.

"When I heard about the program, I said I have to see it with my own eyes," said Meilleur. She noted it was a great community project, perfect for encouraging literacy.

"Literacy is a family affair, and it encourages everyone to read, grandparents, sisters, brothers, moms and dads."

Meilleur said with community support, the Story Dogs program has been successful.

"You are an example for Ontario and I hope this will be adopted by other communities," she said.

She joked that Beeton has the highest population of literate dogs in Ontario. But she was serious when talking about the province's commitment to reading and student success.

The handful of children in the upcoming program don't actually start their session for a few weeks.

"Congratulations to parents for identifying that children have challenges in reading. I hope people read to children to help us achieve our goal," said Meilleur.

As a former nurse, Meilleur said she encouraged pregnant women to read to their babies.

"When you start young, children have an easier time and are better in literacy when they start school."

Children who participate in the Story Dogs program not only are better readers, they are more confident in themselves, she said.

The New Tecumseth Public Library finds out in February if it has won the award.

As I see it

By Dr. Joanne Reichertz DVM

First published in The Poodle Review – Mar/Apr/May/Jun 2000 Issue

"The 3 'P's for Novice Breeders Pregnancy, Parturition, and Pyometra"

Since this is the Stud Issue, I thought I would discuss some topics of interest to Novice Breeders.

Pregnancy, also called the gestation period, ranges from 60 to 67 days, with an average of 63 days. Most dogs whelp between days 63 and 65. The only way to accurately determine the stage of pregnancy is to count days from the time of breeding. Breeding dates should always be recorded. Your veterinarian, or an experienced breeder should examine the bitch 3 weeks after breeding to try to confirm her pregnancy. If it is felt that she is pregnant, the bitch should be fed a puppy formulation of a premium brand dog food for the remainder of the pregnancy and through the nursing period. Puppy diets provide the extra nutrition needed for the bitch and her litter. If the mother is eating one of these diets, no calcium, vitamin or other mineral supplements are needed. I generally provide as much food as the bitch wants to eat through this period, as poodle bitches, in my experience at least, do not seem to overeat.

The second **"P"** is **parturition** or whelping. Most bitches whelp without complications; however, all bitches should be observed, and first-time mothers closely watched. Signs of impending labour generally include nervousness and panting. The bitch will often stop eating during the last 24 hours before whelping. There is usually a drop in rectal temperature below 100°F (37.8°C). The temperature drop may be intermittent for several days prior to delivery, but it will usually be constant for the last 24 hours. Delivery times vary, but a rule of thumb once the first puppy is delivered, is to wait no longer than 2 hours between puppies without seeking veterinary intervention.

Puppies are usually born head first, but a breech presentation (tail-end first) is also normal. Each puppy is enclosed in a sac that is part of the placenta or afterbirth. Placentas usually pass just after each puppy. Any that do not pass usually pass within 24 -48 hours after whelping usually disintegrate without problems, although the occasional bitch may get an infection. It is normal for the bitch to eat the placenta. If the delivery proceeds normally, a few contractions should expel the puppy. A puppy should exit the birth canal within ten minutes of being visible. If a puppy or a fluid-filled bubble is partially visible outside the vulva and no progress is made with each contraction, the owner should assist delivery. A dampened gauze or thin washcloth can be used to grasp the head or feet of the puppy. The bubble may break during this process. When a contraction occurs, firm traction should be applied in a downward direction (toward the bitch's rear feet). If reasonable traction is applied without

being able to remove the puppy or if the bitch cries intensely, the puppy may be lodged and veterinary assistance should be sought immediately.

It is normal for the mother to remove the sac and clean and stimulate the puppies, including severing the umbilical cord by chewing it about an inch from the abdomen.. First-time mothers may be a little surprised by the whole experience and not do this. In these cases the owner must do it for her or the puppy will suffocate within a few minutes. Remove the sac and rub the puppy vigorously with a towel, to stimulate circulation and breathing and to dry the coat. The umbilical cord should be torn by holding it between thumb and forefinger about an inch from the body and tearing with the other thumb and forefinger. In this manner the blood vessels are compressed and bleeding is minimized. Newborn puppies may aspirate (breathe in) fluid. These puppies make a raspy noise when breathing. The fluid can be removed by performing the following procedure. The puppy's face should be cradled between the first two fingers and the head and body held firmly between the hands. A downward swinging motion is used to make the puppy gasp while gravity and the movement help the fluid and mucus to flow out of the lungs. This process may have to be repeated several times until the puppy's breathing sounds better. If a puppy is getting an adequate amount of oxygen, its tongue will be pink to red in colour. If the tongue is bluish, the swinging procedure should be repeated. Never stop working on a bluish puppy unless there is no heartbeat visible just behind the elbow. A puppy who has had an extended birth may take a half hour or more to come around properly.

Veterinary assistance should be sought: if twenty minutes of strong labour occurs without a puppy being delivered, or if ten minutes of strong contractions occur without delivery of a puppy that can actually be seen, if the mother is suddenly depressed, or if more than two hours has passed since the delivery of the last puppy and no further contractions have occurred (providing there are still more puppies to be delivered). If you are not sure there are more puppies to be delivered, your veterinarian can take a radiograph.

Puppies should eat or sleep 90% of the time during the first 2 weeks. If they are crying during or after nursing, they are usually becoming sick or are not getting enough milk. Newborn puppies can die in just a few hours. For the first four days, the whelping box should be kept at 85-90°F. The temperature can be decreased to 80°F by ten days and to 75°F by 4 weeks of age.

Pyometra is an infection in the uterus, but in most cases these infections are difficult to resolve with medication only. Infection in the lining of the uterus is usually due to hormonal changes in the bitch. Following estrus or 'heat', progesterone hormone levels stay elevated and thicken the lining of the uterus in preparation for pregnancy whether the bitch has been bred or not. Usually a problem only occurs in older bitches which have not been bred or have not conceived puppies for several heat seasons. The lining of the uterus remains thickened and cysts can develop. The conditions are excellent for an infection to develop. The use of some drugs to abort pregnancy can also have this effect.

Bacteria enter from the vagina through the open cervix during estrus. If the uterine lining is normal, an infection does not develop. Thus the typical time for pyometra to develop is 1 - 2 months following estrus. Symptoms depend on whether or not the bitch's cervix is open. If it is open, pus will drain through the vagina and a discharge will be noted. Fever, lethargy, loss of appetite and depression may or may not be present. If the cervix is closed, the pus cannot drain, the abdomen may enlarge and bacterial toxins are absorbed into the bitch's blood making her severely ill. She may vomit or have diarrhea. Increased drinking and urination is usually seen with both types of pyometra. Without prompt treatment the uterus may rupture into the abdominal cavity. This is usually fatal.

Unfortunately for breeders, the best treatment is to surgically remove the uterus and ovaries (to 'spay' the bitch). However these dogs are quite ill so the surgery is not as routine as the same surgery in a healthy dog. Intravenous fluids are usually required before and during surgery and antibiotic treatment is usually necessary for several weeks. If the dog is a valuable breeding bitch, you may request hormonal treatments to open the cervix and contract the uterus, but often this is not successful, and you can lose the bitch's life. If the cervix is already open, such methods are more successful, although not without risk. In any case the chance of a successful pregnancy after such treatment is usually about 50% of normal, so veterinarians usually counsel in favour of surgery.

I hope my comments will be useful to some of you. Of course anyone starting to breed dogs should do some reading on the whole process, and should consult their veterinarian regularly.