

THE POODLE SCENE



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DEADLINE for

MAY issue:

April 30th 2011

*PLEASE CONTRIBUTE TO
YOUR NEWSLETTER!*

DEADLINE FOR

MAY/JUNE ISSUE :

APRIL 30th

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NEWSLETTER EDITOR

PLEASE SEND BRAGS, PHOTOS,
STORIES, ADS, RECIPES,
WHATEVER IS POODLEY!

LKGLICKMAN@VIDEOTRON.CA

THANK YOU,

MERCI !

LISA KIMBERLY GLICKMAN

FROM YOUR PRESIDENT: CHERYL INGWERSEN

Hello Poodle Club of Canada members,

I hope that you are all getting through the Canadian winter with lots of fun activities with your Poodles. I tend to huddle indoors, watching TV and eating bonbons and only venture out with my dogs for the few indoor shows and trials that are held here in Ontario.

We have our National Specialty and a Regional Specialty coming up in June.....conformation, obedience and rally.....many things are still being worked out but we will be putting out a premium list with all the details as soon as possible. We need Poodle events across the country.....please consider working with your Directors and fellow members to hold events or perhaps a special interest seminar. We have had a lot of fun and participation with Herding Instinct Tests for Poodles here in Ontario and we are hoping to have another one available this year.

Our first 2011 newsletter is posted on the PCC website for your perusal and enjoyment and the second newsletter is almost ready to go. Many thanks to Debra Drake and Vivienne Swarbreck for their expert handling of this huge chore in past years and now Lisa Kimberly Glickman from Quebec has taken on the task. I would like to encourage members to contribute to the newsletter...send your brags from across the country so we can all cheer for your accomplishments.....write an article about Poodles.....anything from the joys of having these clever dogs as part of the family to educational articles that we can all learn from. I would love to read how to train a Poodle for conformation, tracking, field, obedience.....I know that there are many Poodle service dogs....it you have one or train service dogs, please share your knowledge with us.

We have a new PCC website being prepared. It is presently going through some hiccups to get it up and running. We have had a delay in getting the new members applications posted on the website but the info will be there as soon as possible. The Poodle Club of Canada is now on Facebook and all members are invited to join. It is an excellent opportunity for members to share information back and forth which is an absolutely vital part of a National Club. Kim Glickman has set the site up for us and will continue as moderator. I believe that this will be a good forum for experienced Poodle people to share their knowledge with newcomers to the breed and a place to just 'talk Poodles'.

continued.... FROM YOUR PRESIDENT: CHERYL INGWERSEN

There are always some contentious issues within a National Club but I am hoping that we can all work together for the betterment and enjoyment of our Poodles. **Please renew your membership and be part of helping us truly be a National Club that celebrates and protects Poodles.** * I hope to hear from members who have ideas and comments about the club.....we can learn from each other and move forward when we have good communications.

Rook says it is time for me to get off the computer, put away those bonbons and come training with her.....Rook is a Poodle that must be obeyed, so I will close off for now.

Cheryl

* (bolded by enthusiastic newsletter ed)



Lovely photo submitted by Teresa Myrfield of her HR Tudorose True Blue CDX WCX JH AGN (Blue) just relaxing and feeling the breeze in her hair - just think, summer is around the corner!

CORRECTION FOR JANUARY NEWSLETTER:

Editor's Note: Angie Rea was not a Past-Member of PCC when her Brag was submitted originally.

INTRODUCING YOUR SECRETARY: ANNE BELL

I have been involved with poodles most of my life. Our family babysitter raised miniature poodles and gave our family one when I was about 10. I got my own black mini from her "Gidget's Beaujolais" when I was 14 and did show him a few times and also did some obedience. I would like to say I blame this crazy poodle habit on the babysitter but it would do me no good.

I got my first standard poodle from Helen Hamilton in 1968 and was talked into showing her. She was the grandmother of my Ch Seabonay Kelly Girl who is the top producing bitch in Canada all time. I was mentored in my early days by Susan Fraser, who has become a lifelong friend. It has sort of snowballed from there.

I have been a member of the club for many years and was secretary for about 12 years in the 80's and 90's and also show secretary for many years. I was asked last year to come back on the executive so here I am. I have also been involved with many committees over the years including the Breed Standards, Amendments, Education and Health.

I am also involved with the Miniature Poodle Club of Ontario and the newly accredited Poodle Club of Ontario. I have made many good friends over the years through my dogs.



Anne is pictured with Am Can CH. Sanvar's Rocky Mountain High "Denver"

FROM YOUR HEALTH OFFICER; MARY JANE WEIR

KEEPING UP-TO-DATE ON GENETIC RESEARCH

Genetics is an area of science today which is moving very rapidly. It is difficult for the breeder who may or may not have a scientific background to find and understand the many research papers which are being published every month. You can use Google Scholar to find papers on diseases, but it is very likely that you won't be able to understand what you read. Email lists are another source, but again, either they are targeted at the geneticists themselves, or the posters may or may not be accurate with their information.

The Tufts Canine and Feline Breeding and Genetics Conferences, held every two years, are designed to bring researchers together with veterinarians and breeders in order to promote a two-way exchange of information. The researchers are top-level: Dr. Oberbauer from UC Davis (Addisons and epilepsy), Dr. Pedersen (Sebaceous Adenitis) from the same university, Dr. Lindblad-Toh (canine genome and Addisons) from Uppsala, Sweden, and Dr. Kennedy (immune system) from Manchester University (UK) have been some of the featured presenters. The speakers are asked to address their presentations to a non-scientific audience (of course, some are more successful at this endeavour than others!). The application of the results of research into a practical breeding programme is usually done by Dr. Jerrold Bell, but Carmen Battaglia (Breeding Better Dogs) and others also speak. Those breeders with whom I have spoken have been enthusiastic about how much they have learned.

There was an article on how to use a vertical pedigree. Dr. Bell has looked several times at how to manage multiple disease problems in a breeding programme. Currently, I am working my way through an article on nutrition and the immune system from last year's conference. I can do so, because all the lectures, proceedings and articles submitted to each conference are available online without any need for subscription or password. You can find the entry page for all four Conferences at <<http://www.vin.com/tufts/2009/>>. I heartily recommend browsing through all four years - and don't avoid the material on felines - cat breeders face many of the same problems.

The next Tufts Conference is scheduled for Sept, 2011; consider attending.

DANCING WITH DOGS PART TWO: by DEBBY DACOSTA

Dogs of all ages, breeds and levels of training can learn from and be challenged by this amazing sport called Freestyle or Dancing with Dogs. Dancing with your dog can be for fun and exercise or at a competition level.

Recently The Poodle Farm was asked to demonstrate freestyle at PetFunFest in Toronto to help raise money for Homeless Pets. What a fantastic opportunity to demonstrate the joy of freestyle. I began the day by performing a couple routines with my miniature poodles, as you can see below we even did a duet! Karen Ossachuk went on to demonstrate the basic moves with her bulldog Pudge, as you can see below Pudge is having a great time jumping over Karen while she is showing the audience the end result. To finish up we encouraged audience participation to join in for a freestyle lesson! I have attached the freestyle routine; hopefully you will give it a try!



Debby, Kallysta and P2 Dancing to Candyman at PetFunfest!



Karen and Pudge at PetFunFest Demonstrating jumping!

Breakfast Television goes to the dogs! Yes in addition to the demos at PetFunFest, they asked us to strut our stuff on Breakfast Television to promote their event. This was yet another fantastic opportunity to demonstrate the fun with freestyle.

The CITY-TV Breakfast television set was invaded on Thursday, Feb 10, 2011 by a pack of Canine Freestylers'. Actually, it was Debby & Alan from The Poodle Farm with P2, Kallysta, Cherish and Gemma, along with Mike & Karen Ossachuk and their bulldog Pudge.



We left very early and arrived at the CITY studio at Yonge-Dundas Square precisely on-time at 6:30am. Thanks to the CITY staff including the reception/security people, production crew and Dina Pugliese for welcoming us and making it as easy as possible for 5 'dancing dogs' and the entourage. The full [BT clip](#) can be found on our website www.thepoodlefarm.com . See Kallysta and Pudge perform solos, and a brace routine with P2 & Kallysta.

Now back to basics! Freestyle combines moves and skills from many different dog sports and sets them to music. Athleticism, artistry, originality and the human canine bond is exemplified in this fabulous sport.

People often ask.....what moves should I be working on? At this time I would like to provide a list of possible moves, movements, postures and orientations you can teach your dog that would compliment freestyle.

Sit	Dog sitting, backside on the ground
Stand	Dog standing, all four feet on the ground
Drop	Dog on the ground in "sphinx" position, or one rear leg rolled to one side, or "frog-legged" position
Crouched	Dog low to ground (slinking position) but not in dropped position
"Dead dog"	Dog lies on its side with head normally resting on the ground
Dog on its back	Dog lies on its back on the ground with all four feet in the air
Sit Pretty	Dog sitting, backside on the ground, front feet in the air
Walking Hind Legs	Dog standing with front feet in the air walking using the rear only

Walk	Dog moves at a walking pace (a four beat gait)
Run/Gallop	Fast paced, quick steps
Left Turn	Dog does a 90 degree turn to the left
Right Turn	Dog does a 90 degree turn to the right
Left about turn 180 degrees	Dog does a 180 degree anti-clockwise left about turn
Right about turn 180 degrees	Dog does a 180 degree clockwise right about turn
Spin Clockwise	Dog turns around, head towards right shoulder, in a small clockwise circle
Spin Counter Clockwise	Dog turns around, head towards left shoulder in a small counter clockwise circle
Wave	Dog raises either paw, keeps it up and waves it
Double Wave	Paws held together, moving quickly up and down
Jumps	Jumping outstretched arms or legs or over handler's crouched body or over a prop. Can also jump through arms or legs or over back.
Rollover	Dog lies on the ground, rolls 180 degrees and gets up on opposite side
Bow	Dog lowers front part of the body. Rear end remains upright

Freestyle has a lot to offer, why not give it a try. If you're interested in finding out what it is all about contact me at debby@thepoodlefarm.com. I would love to discuss the sport and answer any questions.

Well, I hope you enjoyed this article.....stay tuned for Part III and have Fun with Freestyle!



Written and submitted by Debby Dacosta

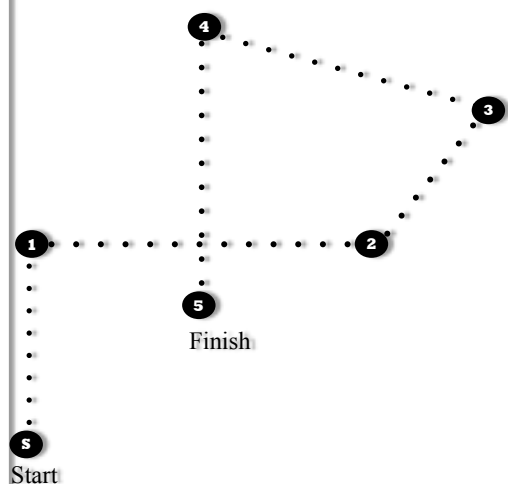
CANINE FREESTYLE

Get You Started Routine



www.thepoodlefarm.com

1. Four walks forward R L R L * 360 + 90 turn to the right.
2. Four walks forward R L R L * 360 turn to the right.
3. Four gallops right towards right corner * weave through right leg.
4. Four gallops left towards left corner * weave through left leg.
5. Handler walks backwards dog comes to front position, pose/trick



- Each segment of this routine should be 8 counts of music, but remember each handler/dog team is different: find what works for you.
- This routine may be performed on the left or right side. Complete one side then repeat on the other.
- Where you see an asterisk, try a different trick such as:
 - a spin right or left
 - a weave left and right
 - figure 8
 - dog sit/lay down and wait
 - bow
 - Anything you can think of!!!!

ONLY ONE RULE Have fun, be good to your dog!!

MEMBER TO MEMBER

Book Review

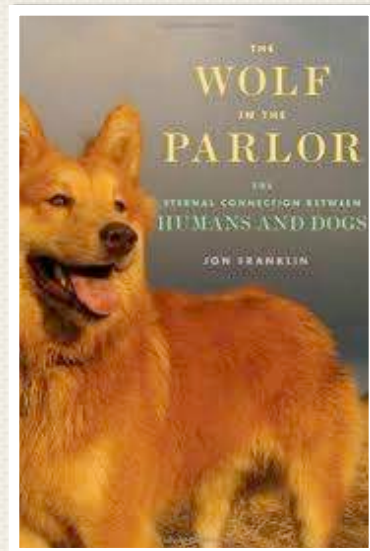
THE WOLF IN THE PARLOR

the eternal connection between humans and dogs

by Jon Franklin

New York: Holt, C2009. ISBN 978-0-8050-9077-2

Jon Franklin is a Pulitzer prize-winning science writer who has specialized in explaining research into the human brain. In the late 1970's, he was sent a photograph "that would forever change my perception of myself and set me on a journey that has consumed much of the rest of my life since". The photograph was of a 12,000-year old grave, containing a human and a dog/wolf cub. Eventually, he filed the picture under "mysteries" to be researched at a later time.



Some 10 years later, Jon Franklin married a "Poodle person" and a Standard Poodle was part of the bargain. He was not particularly interested in dogs and this book is the story of how the Poodle "Charlie" helped him solve the mystery of the photograph. It is both a scientific detective story and a heart-warming story about how a Poodle - clever, intelligent and empathic - won over and attached his human. In between, we follow the development of our current knowledge of the brain, archeology, evolution, psychology and behavioral science which have given us today a much deeper understanding of how we, as humans, tick. Specifically, Franklin asks why the dog is so much a part of human life and why are humans so important to the dog?

If you get a chance, read this book. It is engaging, thought-provoking and amusing (has to be with a Poodle involved!) In these days of anti-dog legislation, it is a support to the spirits of we who share our lives with that oldest of companions, and it explains why dog people just might be closest to their humanity.

reviewed by Mary Jane Weir

CALENDAR - UPCOMING EVENTS

O.V.P.C. Obedience and Rally Trials (closing date March 7) 26 & 27 March

P.C.A. National Specialty: April 22-29, 2011, Salisbury, Maryland

P.C.C Regional and National Specialty coming up June 4th and 5th, 2011
(in conjunction with the Erie Shores Kennel Club show)

MEMBER TO MEMBER

Hello: This is the Magic Wand Dog Training Center, we are unable to come to the phone but please press or enter the number for your request, we will return your call as soon as possible.

Press 01 to tell me your dog has been asked to leave the local obedience club because he won't sit, wait, down or come when called (even when on lead) so you thought you would try agility.

Press 02 if your Labrador is morbidly obese and you thought you would try agility.

Press 03 if you want 30 minutes of advice and have no intention of paying for it.

Press 04 if you describe your dog as 'a little bit naughty' when what you really mean is that the b*st*rd bites ... hard.

Press 05 if you want puppy training classes but your Boxer is already 12 months old.

Press 06 if you believe that just by turning up to one puppy training class and doing no work whatsoever at home, your puppy will grow up to be a well adjusted companion.

Press 07 if your nervous, aggressive GSD has bitten and hospitalized Aunt Maude, the vet, and your child and you want me to re-home it.

Press 08 if you have three children under school age, an invalid parent living at your home, a partner who works away, are pregnant with twins and want your 8 month old Dalmatian that never gets a walk to stop chewing every thing in sight.

Press 09 if you want to tell me my advice has not worked even though you have not tried it yet.

Press 10 if you want to be dog trainer and behaviorist because you like animals better than people.

Press 11 if you are 15 years old and want to do work experience with me but would faint if I asked you to pick up dog poop.

Press 12 if your dog is aggressive with other dogs but you want to join one of my groups because it will be nice for him to have some friends.

Press 13 if you cannot afford my private rates and want a discount because you only have one BMW.

Press 14 if you are cancelling your lesson that is due to start in 30 minutes and have no intention of paying the cancellation fee.

Press 15 if you do not believe in rewarding a dog and know that clicker training does not work because your friend Beryl said so.

Press 16 if you think your dog knows he has done wrong when you tell him off and that he obeys you because he respects you and acknowledges you are a superior being.

MEMBER TO MEMBER CONTINUED.....

Press 17 if you want me to wave my magic wand over your contacts/weaves/start line waits in just one session and will then tell me it did not work when you go to a show just two days later with no training in the meantime.

Press 18 if you have eleven Jack Russell bitches in a small flat and you want me to teach them not to fight each other.

Press 19 if you already know everything about your breed because this is the fourth one you have had and I cannot tell you anything new.

Press 20 if you want me to pick up your dear departed dog's ashes from the vets and keep them at my house because you are too upset to have them in your home (true!).

Press 21 if you could not use a Gentle Leader, indoor crate, or harness because they are cruel.

Press 22 if you will not put a muzzle on your deadly aggressive dog because you do not want people to think he is nasty.

Press 23 if you want to leave an increasingly angry message for the third time this week demanding an urgent call back and yet again forget to give your name or number.

Press 24 if, having ascertained I am out, you wish ask my engineer husband for behavioral advice about your pet.

Press 25 if you wish to fill up my answering machine tape with an incoherent rambling message.

Press 26 if want your intact male adolescent dog to spend its days lying patiently on your front step on your unfenced property because dogs shouldn't want to run away, should they.

Press 27 if you want me to teach your untrained border collie to play with sheep because you think he will like it.

Press 28 if your dog thinks its name is "NO".

Press 29 if it is before 8am or after 10pm and you want to ask how to stop your 13 week old puppy from biting your 5, 7 and 9 year old boys when they play fight with it.

Press 30 if you have taken trouble to socialize and train your pet and want to make an appointment to learn even more fun stuff. No need to hold, I'll put you right through!

SUBMITTED BY DAVID PATEMAN

Here is the link for Vet Topics, the news publication for the Western College of Veterinary Medicine's Companion Animal Health Fund:

<http://www.epaperflip.com/aglaia/viewer.aspx?docid=234f7f8b43c54e66a319bb1c83958806>

MEMBER TO MEMBER: INGEN TESTING - NOT ACCEPTED BY OFA

This is an important notice to those that may fall for the appeal of Ingen.bs BS is right!!! This lab is advertising in broad media to Poodle Fanciers that they provide "Poodle Health Testing" via DNA evaluations and people are falling for their untruths as far as what is legitimate testing offered by them that will count for posting on OFA. Hearsay is that people pay them for the testing and then results are proven incorrect in some cases reported. FACT is no Ingen test results are permitted to be posted to www.offa.org ~~<http://www.offa.org/>~~ because this lab is not an approved lab by OFA for ANY testing.

Please check OFA if you need to verify – NONE of the testing at Ingen will be permitted on OFA no matter what Ingen tells its customers. They are not approved for any database entries at OFA – here are the labs approved for DNA testing results to be published on OFA http://www.offa.org/dna_labs.html The labs listed at that link have passed the good scrutiny of the OFA. I have written this warning over and over again in this announcement because in some instances I have witnessed, people will not believe the warnings; I feel there should be more effort to reach Poodle Fanciers concerning this. In some of these cases that I have witnessed, it's not until the people spend the money and make the effort to test with Ingen and then find out the bad news that the tests are worthless as far as OFA postings that they believe the situation. It is as if the promise of test results for less money is blinding them as to the importance of proper testing by an approved lab.

If this has happened to you, please know that you are not alone. I have been reading more accounts of disappointed Poodle owners that have fallen for this lab recently and I think it is time for the clubs to make certain to inform their membership concerning this. If you knew about Ingen's problems already then good, please check to make certain all around you in the Fancy also know to avoid this pitfall.

Tell friends not to take a shortcut because of the cut prices – in the end it may cost dearly. Encourage that they follow the directions on health screening for your variety at the Canine Health Information Center (CHIC) <http://www.caninehealthinfo.org/>

Share the specifics set by the Poodle Club of America for each Variety of Poodle which are as follows (posted at CHIC):

Miniatures - <http://www.caninehealthinfo.org/brdreqs.html?breed=PO%20&variety=MIN>

Standards – <http://www.caninehealthinfo.org/brdreqs.html?breed=PO%20&variety=STD>

Toys - <http://www.caninehealthinfo.org/brdreqs.html?breed=PO%20&variety=TOY>

Please help people from being fooled into testing with the wrong company!

- J B Reed

- SUBMITTED BY ANNE BELL, Corresponding Secretary

CONGRATULATIONS ARE IN ORDER TO:



BPIS, multi BPIG, multi Group placing **Ch. Cavri BlackBerry Jack** made #5 top toy poodle in Canada for 2010.

Cavri Toy Poodles Perm Reg.

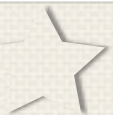
http://www.execulink.com/~csiverns/cavri_toys.htm

submitted by Cathy Siverns



Cantope Mightiness Febi Dragon has received multiple titles (on February, 19th, at two International exhibitions (CAC, CACIB) "European championship" and "World Cup"; received:

- 2xПобедитель a class of Champions;
- 2xCAC;
- 2xCACIB;
- 2xBest of male;
- 2xBest of Breed;
- "The champion of Europe";
- 2xBest in Show - owned by Tatanya & Dimitre of Russia...bred by Diane & Peter Welsh



CONGRATULATIONS PHOTOS



Versatile
Poodle Award PCC
 OTCH Ravendune
 Piping Hot RE AGN HIC
 (s) RNMCL
 From her first title
 through the rest always
 my best friend.
 'Piper' and Renee Koch
 Gardenpath Poodles -
 Kitchener, ON

Valmara's Lost in
 Translation (Davka)
 takes the points from
 the junior puppy
 class and Best Puppy
 in Group his first time
 out. Wildwood Kennel
 Club
 Owner Breeder: Marra
 Messinger,
 Handler: Jen Carr



HR Tudorose True Blue

CDX WCX JH AGN (Blue):

Blue was, I believe, the first poodle in Canada to get her HRC Seasoned Hunting Retriever (HR) title last fall at the Salt Chuck HRC Fall Hunt Tests. I was very proud of Blue and couldn't believe we actually finally got there. This field stuff has been a real learning curve for both Blue and I. ;-)

Teresa Myrfield



Can Ch. Sanvar's Air Force One. Finished his Canadian Ch. going breed over specials under Phylis Wolfish. Pilot also is on 12 pts US with both majors He won the breed over specials for 5 pts and also got his other major on the Florida circuit. submitted by a justifiably proud ANNE BELL at www.sanvar.com



CONGRATULATIONS PHOTOS

CH Bellefleet Batata of Cantope achieving his conformation title in November 2010.

Many thanks to Allie Cowie for the first 8 points.

Beautifully groomed and handled by his co-owner Alysia Reichertz for his last two points.

Submitted by Diane, Peter and Mary Welsh



Ch. Ormar RobinSong Persuasive, owned by Joan Harrigan finished her championship in five (5) days beautifully presented by Jenn Carr.

"Ceili" won back to back 3 pt. majors her first weekend out and finished her title today going BOW for 4 points over 13 dogs and bitches.

Ceili is a full litter sister to Multi Group Placing and BPIG winner Ch. Ormar Back'N Black ("Onyx"). Photo to follow.

Breeder: Ora Marcus (Ormar Standard Poodles, Perm. Reg'd.)

Owner: Joan Harrigan (Maine, U.S.A.)

.....more Congratulations to members!



Seven talented poodles earned PCC Versatility Awards in 2010.
Congratulations to these dogs and their owners/handlers!

All Round Poodle

CH Kandansk Don't Pass Me By CGN CD
Owned by Kathryn Albrecht

CH Cantope Too Good To Be True RN CGN PCD HIC
Owned by Dawn Nagata

Bellefleet Glicks Sarsaparilla CD RN RNCL
Owned by Lisa Kimberly Glickman

CH URO1 Wild Romance of Fauntleroy
Owned by Nancy Musters

Versatile Poodle

GCH Kandansk Front Page News CGN CD RN
Owned by Kathryn & Mogens Albrecht
CH Kandansk Lucky Charmed One CDX RE CGN
Owned by Kathryn & Mogens Albrecht

CH Bibelot Josol Cherod Silverjoy RN CD CGN
Owned by Susan Fraser and Debra Drake

Submitted by Vivianne Swarbreck



Bellefleet Glicks Sarsaparilla CD RN
RNCL says it's hard work to earn titles!

Dogs Key to Understanding Congenital Disease in Boys

By Lynne Gunville

Key information from two Western College of Veterinary Medicine scientists has helped a global research team move closer to developing a treatment for a devastating congenital muscle disease that affects infant boys.

X-linked myotubular myopathy (XLMTM) results from a genetic mutation carried on the X chromosome, meaning that females carrying the defective gene don't show any clinical signs but can pass the mutation to their male children, resulting in severe muscle weakness. Infants born with the disease often don't survive, and those who do require intensive management that usually includes being placed on a ventilator and being fed through a stomach tube.

Until recently, researchers have had only zebra fish and mice as models. Although they've been instrumental in understanding the disease at a cellular level, a larger animal model was needed to advance clinical work investigating treatments.

That's when dogs and WCVN small animal internists Drs. Sue Taylor and Liz Snead entered the picture. In 2007, Taylor examined Jake, a male Labrador retriever puppy brought in to the WCVN Veterinary Teaching Hospital with severe neuromuscular weakness.

There is a fairly common inherited muscle disorder called centronuclear myopathy that is found in male and female Lab puppies. But the rapid progression of this puppy's symptoms and the fact that multiple male littermates (but no females) were similarly affected made Taylor suspect that this pup had something else.

Taylor sent a muscle biopsy from the puppy to one of her previous research collaborators – Dr. Diane Shelton, director of the Comparative Neuromuscular Laboratory at the University of California in San Diego. Shelton confirmed that Jake (who couldn't be saved) was affected by a unique muscle disorder not previously seen in Labrador retrievers.

In 2008, a second male Lab puppy named Laramie was brought to the WCVN's teaching hospital displaying the same clinical signs. Snead sent muscle biopsies to Shelton's lab and learned that Laramie was affected by the same rare and rapidly fatal myopathy as Jake.

"Dr. Shelton established that these pups had a new type of muscle disorder that looked very similar to the human inherited myopathy – X-linked myotubular myopathy or XLMTM," explains Snead.

Next, Taylor and Snead sent muscle biopsies to Shelton from an additional affected male littermate and an unaffected female littermate. Shelton's analysis of the muscle confirmed that the muscles from affected pups were deficient in the protein myotubularin – establishing the diagnosis of XLMTM.

At this point, Snead was contacted by Dr. Alan Beggs, a researcher affiliated with Harvard Medical School who is involved in ongoing studies of human patients with XLMTM. Having heard about the puppies from Shelton, he recognized the potential for acquiring critical information that could benefit people with the muscle disorder.

Beggs and Alison Frase, the mother of a boy diagnosed with XLMTM, asked for Snead's help in locating a female known to be a carrier of XLMTM (one that had given birth to affected male puppies) with hopes of having the opportunity to study more affected

puppies. After hours of research and countless phone calls, Snead was able to locate a carrier female whose owners were willing to help with the research.

In research conducted by Beggs' research team and a group of collaborating scientists in France, the causative mutation in the myotubularin gene was identified. The mutation they found differs from each of the more than 200 described human myotubularin mutations, but the canine disorder is an excellent model for severe XLMTM with myotubularin absent from muscle tissues in affected dogs. Collaborating researchers at the University of Minnesota evaluated DNA from more than 200 healthy Labrador retrievers and none had this mutation – supporting its role as the causative mutation and suggesting that it may have arisen spontaneously in a Saskatchewan dog.

Ultimately, male puppies from three litters were seen with this myopathy in Saskatchewan and Alberta. “With help, we were able to trace two of the affected litters back to a common female ancestor, but there is a third litter that we can't trace back because the pedigree information isn't available,” explains Snead. “We are fairly certain that there was a spontaneous mutation in this one female who then passed the mutation on to some of her female puppies as carriers.”

The international team's work was published this summer in Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, a prestigious journal in the world of human medicine.

“It was exciting to see how fast you can go from not even knowing what the affected gene is to knowing what the mutation is and really describing the disease clinically as well as histologically and at a molecular level,” recalls Snead.

XLMTM is a very rare disorder in dogs, and although researchers suspect that this western Canadian cluster of cases was the result of a spontaneous mutation in one female, the recurrent nature of spontaneous mutations causing XLMTM in people suggests that a similar mutation could occur in another dog in the future. That's why it's important for veterinarians and veterinary pathologists to be aware of XLMTM as a potential cause of a severe, progressive myopathy in male puppies.

In terms of human research, the most important result of all these studies has been the opportunity for scientists to investigate treatments for XLMTM using dogs as a model. “They don't allow you to proceed right to clinical trials in people,” explains Snead. “You need a model of an animal that's more closely related to humans, and you have to test the treatment in that animal.”

The information provided by these trials offers hope that treatments such as stem cell therapy and gene therapy will soon be available for families affected by XLMTM – a tremendous achievement for everyone involved.

Snead is grateful that she has been able to contribute to such an important cause. “I think there are times in your life when you get to do something good, and I feel good about being able to help. Because I think that if I had a child with that disorder, I would want someone to help me and help my child.”

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The Human Side of XLMTM

In the fall of 2008, X-linked myotubular myopathy (XLMTM) gained a human side for WCVN small animal internist Dr. Liz Snead when Alison Frase called from her home in Florida.

Alison and her husband, Paul, are the parents of a boy who was diagnosed with the genetic muscle disorder when he was three months old. Most children born with XLMTM don't live past their second birthday and very few survive into their early school years. But at age 15, Joshua Frase is an exception to those tough odds.

During their phone call, Alison introduced Snead to the Joshua Frase Foundation, an organization created in 1996 to support research that focuses on myotubular myopathy and other related congenital myopathies. Dr. Alan Beggs, one of the researchers whose work is supported by the foundation, had told Alison about the WCVN clinicians' experience with the young Labrador retriever puppies that suffered from a muscular disorder bearing a lot of similarities to XLMTM.

Because the affected dogs could potentially help researchers develop a treatment or cure for XLMTM, Alison called Snead to ask for her help in tracking down a female relation of the affected puppies — a possible carrier for the disease.

"It's hard to say no when a mother calls you like that," says Snead, who worked tirelessly to find the dams or female relatives of affected litters. After tracing back pedigrees and making nearly 50 calls to dog owners and breeders across Saskatchewan and Alberta, Snead managed to find Nibs — a young chocolate Labrador retriever and a female sibling of an affected pup's dam.

At that time, Snead says the genetic mutation that causes XLMTM in dogs hadn't been identified yet and there was no genetic test. But Nibs seemed to fit the profile of a carrier for the genetic disease. From the young mother's first litter of pups, two of the male pups showed severe neuromuscular weakness between 12 and 16 weeks of age — similar to the other affected animals examined at the WCVN.

Once Snead explained the situation to Nibs' owners, Alison contacted the Saskatchewan farm family to ask if she could buy their family pet. Instead, they offered to give Nibs to her in an effort to help her son. "They said that if they had a child who had this type of disorder, they would want to help find a cure for it, too," says Snead.

Alison flew to Saskatoon in late December 2008, met Nibs' owners and returned to the U.S. with the dog. A few months later, Nibs gave birth to a litter of 12 including five female carriers of the genetic mutation. Over time, these dogs and their descendants will help researchers learn more about XLMTM and about potential treatments for this devastating disease.

"Nibs and her family — the people who agreed to let Alison breed their dog — are really the heroes of this story," says Snead, adding that Nibs was eventually reunited with her family in Saskatchewan. "And Alison, too. If she wasn't so dedicated and determined to help her son and others out there with this disease, I don't know if all of this would have happened so quickly."

Visit www.joshuafrase.org for more information about the Joshua Frase Foundation.

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Mar 5, 2008: Poodle Lilli performs tricks for photographers by jumping over cartoon characters Wallace and Gromit during a photocall to launch Crufts 2008 at the National Exhibition Centre in Birmingham. From the Mirror. submitted by Wallace & Gromit fan L.K. Glickman

<http://www.mirror.co.uk/>

MINIATURE IN NAME ONLY

by M.J. NELSON

(USED WITH EXPRESS WRITTEN PERMISSION - THIS ARTICLE FIRST APPEARED IN DOG NEWS)

Ask the average bird hunter what he or she thinks of Miniature Poodles as bird dogs and the response is likely to be hysterical laughter followed by "You are kidding, right?" When they discover you are serious, their next move may be to call for the guys wearing white coats carrying butterfly nets. To many people, especially those outside the Poodle world, Miniature Poodles are topped in the "ultimate foo-foo" rankings only by their smaller cousin, the Toy Poodle.

But, according to the people who have participated in a variety of dog sports with their Minis, it's a bad rap. The Miniature Poodle is admittedly a smaller dog but they have a big heart, say their owners. "Miniature Poodles have earned great respect in agility," said Nancy Palauskas who owns Ch Songbird Rainbow Sky AX AXJ AD ("Sky"). "Their athletic build, speed and ability to keep the bars up make them formidable competition. They have drive, a desire to work and they are trainable."

"I enjoy a variety of activities with my dogs and the Poodle is one of the most versatile breeds. They are agile, athletic, fast and smart. They bring a lot of joy and animation to their work and they don't usually take things too seriously. They are quick to learn new things," said Cathi Winkles who owns a triple champion Ch OTCH MACH Ravendune Right On Q UDX RE NF WC ("Q") and Ch. MACH2 U-CD Ravendune Right on Target CDX CCD RE OF ("T")

"I am always interested in new things. My husband and I spend most of the year on the water and we need a dog that has a bright, trainable personality and is good in the water. Jib (Ch CT MACH2 Kallista's Silver Sails Aloft UD XF VCD3 RE CGC USDAA - ADCH TM-silver SCH-bronze RCH-bronze JCH-bronze SACH-bronze GM NADAC- NGC Poodle Club of America - WC/WCX bronze medal winner Versatility in Poodles - VCX UKC - Weight Pull title Wetdog/ Dog Scouts - WETX - water rescue advanced title BPJ - back packing junior title Novice Dock Dog Title) is always a willing participant no matter what I do."

"Poodles are elegant, athletic dogs. They are also very smart, funny and loving. They have wonderful eye appeal. They have a way of looking at you that just captures you with the intelligence and sparkle in their eyes. They want and need to be an active part of your life," said Debbie West who owns Ch. Baumly Annie Sez AX AXJ RN AAD ("Annie") and Ch. Westsong Stardust Memories NA OAJ RN AD ("Dusty.")

Miniature Poodles (and Standard Poodles) have historically been used for a variety of purposes. Their first job was as a retriever for waterfowl hunters where they worked with all types of hunting from gun hunters to hunters using traps to partnering with falcons and hawks when hunters used falconry as their means of harvesting game birds. They also served as

M.J. Nelson's article continued:

military dogs from the middle ages through most of World War II when they were used to guard defense plants, military installations and the U.S. coastline. Throughout the middle ages until the mid-1800s Poodles were frequently employed as "ships' dogs." They have been used as sled dogs including an all-Poodle team that finished the Iditarod in 1989, 1990 and 1991. They retrieved arrows for hunters who were less than outstanding archers in ancient times and they have been used to find truffles. Circus dog acts have been heavily populated with Poodles and they have even been successful as herding dogs where they are permitted to run in American Herding Breeds Association tests and trials. So, it is little wonder that Poodles are not only willing to try just about any new "trick" but are also frequently very good at whatever job they are asked to do.

"Jib has never had a problem in anything that didn't just disappear with time. It was always my problem. I did not understand all the rules of competition for hunt testing but he understood all that he needed to know. Instinct is an amazing thing. Agility is what we love most while obedience and rally were the toughest for me although Jib was always a willing participant. I needed to figure out what the judge wanted and then try to figure out a way to share that with Jib. His greatest asset is unlimited energy. There's no 'quit' in him and this is one of the things that makes the breed very good in performance," said Cope.

"I was lucky," said Winkles. "Q was a great dog to train, loved to work and would keep going for hours in any weather. I had to watch so he didn't overdo it. T, on the other hand, was quite a challenge. He was so slow and uninterested in training when he was young that it took a lot of work on my part to motivate him and encourage speed, especially in agility. Fortunately, he does learn quickly and ended up as a good performer. He was high in trial at the national specialty a couple of years ago with a near-perfect score. The greatest obstacles to success with a Miniature Poodle in any performance activity are the ones created by the handler. When someone says "My dog can't or won't" what they're really saying is that they, as a trainer, are unable or unwilling to train it. As long as the dog is mentally and physically sound, the only limitations are the ones placed on it by the trainer. However, in my opinion, competitive obedience takes the most effort and concentration on the part of both the dog and the handler. A lot of proofing has to be done and mastery achieved to get the level of performance needed for an OTCH. I really love agility but it takes a lot of athletic ability. I wish it had been around when I was a lot younger and fitter!"

"Annie has always been something of a worrier so the motion of the teeter bothered her in agility and we have had to work hard for her to get comfortable on it. In fact this is an ongoing thing with her. Dusty, her daughter, on the other hand, loves to run and jump. However, I find that I'm always reinforcing turning skills, good start line stays and contact behavior. I will say that working with my dogs in agility has made me learn patience and I've accepted the fact that progress, when you are working with dogs, never comes in a straight line. As far as conformation is concerned, what is most important is finding judges who will actually look at an owner-handled Poodle and then having the type of Poodle that the judge likes, always a daunting task which is why it is important to have a support system to learn from and share with," said West.

M.J. Nelson's article continued:

Despite the breed's willingness to try almost anything, it is not always easy to find a Miniature Poodle that can do many different things. "Success in both conformation and performance requires a dog that is sound in both mind and body," said Palauskas. "A dog or pup that conforms to the breed standard is an excellent place to start. Of course, the dog must have an outgoing, confident temperament and be eager to learn. There are many conformation champions but not all of these dogs possess the trainability and drive needed to successfully compete at high level performance events. However, these dual and triple titled dogs are very important to our breed. A beautiful, sound, athletic, trainable Poodle is what the breed is all about. I can't think of a better banner for the breed than a dog that excels in both the conformation ring and in performance activities."

West added, "I think that most well-bred, well-raised Poodles can do it all. We have only recently been realizing this. The conformation and performance people need each other and they both need to be careful not to use such broad and usually unflattering brush strokes when talking about each other. You want brains and drive in a well-made, biddable package. With Poodles, we can have it all. First and foremost, Annie and Dusty are house dogs and pets. I'm remarkably lucky that they are also beautiful and talented."

"There are a number of breeds that are no longer capable of doing what they were originally developed to do. There are other breeds that have a split with one type for the breed ring and another type that is a field dog and in some cases, still another type that is an agility, obedience or rally dog. I hope the Poodle never loses the beauty and brains that they can and should possess. Show breeders should always keep in mind that good movement and conformation should be paramount over the current show ring fad. Keeping the working ability strong in the Poodle and not breeding for looks alone is one of the greatest challenges facing the breed," said Winkles.

Breeders who breed for a single purpose, however, are creating problems within the breed, according to Cope. "Show breeders who only breed for the ring. Pet breeders who don't test for genetic issues. It is becoming increasingly difficult to find a dog that has good conformation, good health and a good working temperament in the same package. Add to this an ignorant group of puppy buyers who think a Poodle cross is better than a Poodle, meaning that a mutt trumps a purebred Poodle and it becomes apparent that there are some significant challenges facing the breed. However, I do believe that a good conformation champion is more likely to have the kind of conformation necessary for the dog to do well in any performance activity. Good dogs produce good dogs!

Annie - Ch. Baumly Annie Sez AX AXJ RN AAD ("Annie"), one of Debbie West's Miniature Poodles, is an example of the elegance and athleticism of the breed.

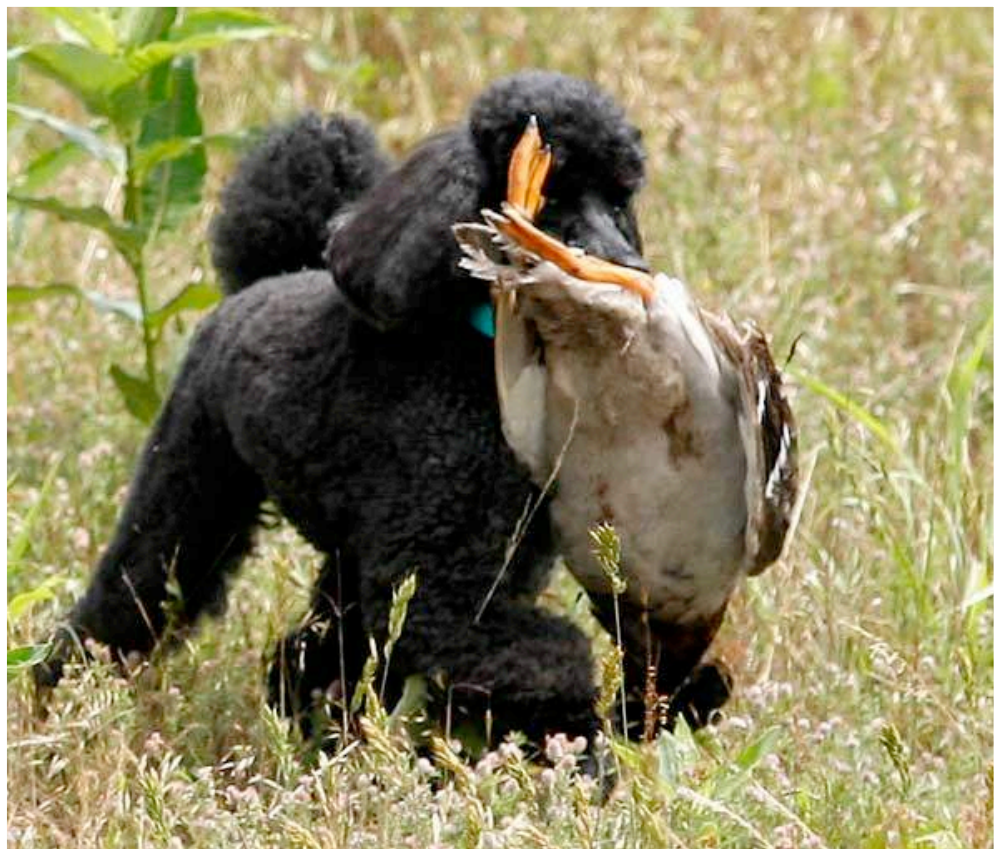


Photos for M.J. Nelson's article:



Sky - Ch Songbird Rainbow Sky AX AXJ AD ("Sky"), Nancy Palauskas' Miniature Poodle is one of the dogs that has helped earn respect for the breed's capabilities in agility.

Q in field - Ch OTCH MACH Ravendune Right On Q UDX RE NF WC ("Q"), another of Winkles' Miniature Poodles is one of six triple champions in the breed.



Photos for M.J. Nelson's article:



Jib (Ch CT MACH2 Kallista's Silver Sails Aloft UD XF VCD3 RE CGC USDAA - ADCH TM-silver SCH-bronze RCH-bronze JCH-bronze SACH-bronze GM NADAC- NGC Poodle Club of America - WC/WCX bronze medal winner Versatility in Poodles - VCX UKC - Weight Pull title Wetdog/Dog Scouts - WETX - water rescue advanced title BPJ - back packing junior title Novice Dock Dog Title) Suzi Cope's Miniature Poodle demonstrates that he can do the job for which Poodles were originally developed. (Cathi Winkles Photography)



T mini - Ch. MACH2 U-CD Ravendune Right on Target CDX CCD RE OF ("T").), one of Cathi Winkles Miniature Poodles, was slow and uninterested in working as a young dog. However, he was a quick learner and wound up being a good performer.

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