the poodle club of canada

The Poodle Scene

DECEMBER 2015 FALL NEWSLETTER

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the poodle club of canada

Some Recent Diversity Studies in Poodles and what they mean:

Written by; by Dr MJ Rawlings

Part 2

(Please see previous post for background)

Over the past few years, a study on a small part of the genome known as the DLA haplotype in poodles has been undertaken by Dr Kennedy at Manchester University. **This portion of the genome is known to be involved with the immune system, and the equivalent area in other species has been found to be involved with autoimmune diseases.** Thus far, 31 variations have been identified in poodles of all sizes. This test is of limited value to breeders as an estimate of diversity, partly since it concerns only one part of the genome, but also because the turnaround time is far too long, with some participants waiting more than a year for their result, and is therefore not suitable for aiding selection of pups to keep from a litter. More information is available at http://www.standardpoodleproject.com/Poodle%20Haplotypes.htm

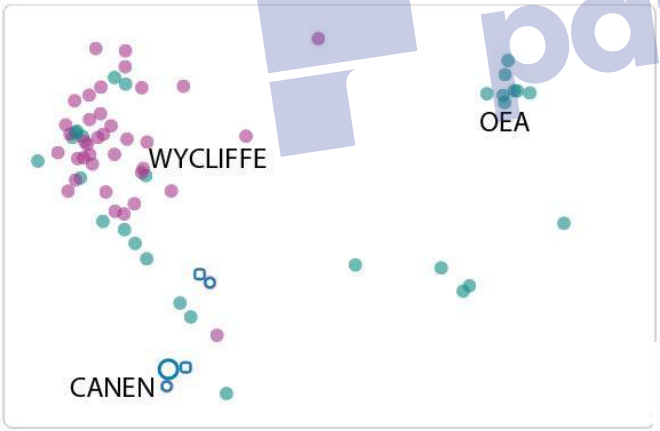
A few years ago, Genoscoper of Finland made available a test called 'mydogdna' which analyses multiple points in the genome and generates a number for heterozygosity and a position on a graph showing how the dog fits into the population based on the results. This test usually has fast enough turnaround for litter assessment, and comes with a bonus of the neonatal encephalopathy genetic test plus some tests for colours (although the colour test for B is missing one of the alleles and is thus not reliable). For persons who have purchased a test, it's possible to see how the dog compares on an interactive graph to other poodles of different sizes and colours. In terms of answering the question 'how diverse is the breed?' Genoscoper's results would suggest perhaps more diverse than naysayers might like to think. The median heterozygosity for standard poodles is given as 31.4%. The average for all dogs (all breeds and some non-breed and mixed-breed dogs) given is 28.9%. In the technical details that are included with the 'mydogdna' test, the studies the researchers did to evaluate its effectiveness are shown. One of these studies is of a breed called the Kromfohrländer (a google image search shows it is a terrier-like dog with a rough or smooth coat). The average heterozygosity of the Kromfohrländer was 21% in the study, and to see if the test could distinguish the populations, they tested a litter of Kromfohrländer x standard poodle puppies. One can only assume the litter was an accident, or carried out for the purposes of scientific enquiry, as it is not at all apparent that the poodle would be a sensible choice to increase the genetic diversity of the terrier-like breed! The mix-breed puppies came out on the graph as having a heterozygosity of 32% -- that is, purebred standard poodles are on average only 0.6% less heterozygous in this study than a mutt of a poodle and a terrier-like dog!

More information at http://www.mydogdna.com/

Poodles in 'mydogdna' standards on left (pink-red), other sizes on right

'Mydogdna' study

The third study is being carried out as an extension of an earlier study into sebaceous adenitis by Dr Pedersen at the University of California/VGL coordinated by Natalie Green Tessier, and again involves the analysis of a number of different points across the genome. These include the DLA haplotype in the earlier study by Kennedy. Initially this study was open just to poodles suspected by pedigree analysis to have unusual genetics as it was not known how much interest it would generate or whether it would be viable as a paid test. Uptake has been very good, and it has now been developed into a usable test. Although the test is still in development, early indications are that it will be more detailed than the 'mydogdna' test and should be a more functional tool for selecting puppies and evaluating relatedness of potential breeding pairs, and promises to have a decent turnaround. https://www.vgl.ucdavis.edu/services/dog/GeneticDiversityInStandardPoodles.php



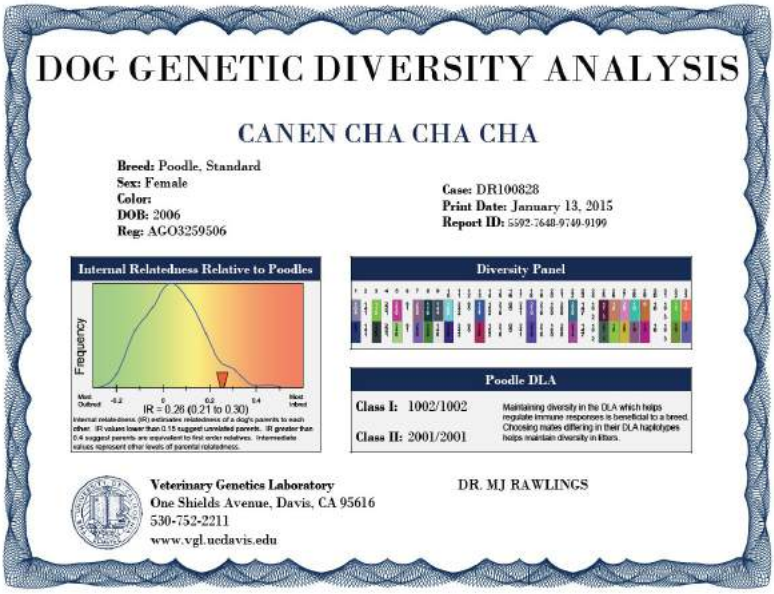
Standard poodles in 'mydogdna' -- labelled with bloodlines

One of the most interesting things about the 'mydogdna' study is that it uses the genetic data to put points on a graph that **shows how genetically related different dogs are to each other**. Looking at the scatter plot for standard poodles and using the data from my own dogs and other dogs shared with me and made public, it's possible to see different bloodlines clustering together. The largest cluster in the diagram above made of magenta data points seems to correspond to the Wycliffe-influenced bloodlines. The teal outliers and cluster seem to be mostly apricot poodles, and may relate to OEA. The three unfilled data points at the bottom labelled Canen are two siblings and a cousin derived from a bloodline with relatively low influence from both OEA and Wycliffe, and the two unfilled circles above them are my dog from mixed lines including OEA, Wycliffe, and some different obscure stuff, and his son.

In terms of making breeding decisions, however, the 'mydogdna' doesn't provide a great deal of detailed information. You can compare dogs to each other for potential matings and it gives you an estimate of the heterozygosity of puppies, and this and the scatter graph are all you get, really.

The VGL test on the other hand provides a lot of hard data in the form of a PDF that provides a measure of **heterozygosity (internal relatedness) compared to other dogs of the same breed** plus numbered alleles for each of the 33 genetic markers sampled, and the two DLA haplotypes. To return to the card analogy, this would be each poodle having two of each card drawn from suites containing ace-33 plus a king and queen, although it's important to remember that they are markers

The example below is the dam of the two Canen siblings shown in the above 'mydogdna' plot. Her COI over 15 generations is 15%, so her higher than average IR is not unexpected, although it does not always work this way, since as explained in the previous post, COI



DOG GENETIC DIVERSITY ANALYSIS

CANEN CHA CHA CHA

Breed: Poodle, Standard
Sex: Female
Color:
DOB: 2006
Reg: AGO3259506

Case: DR100828
Print Date: January 13, 2015
Report ID: 5592-7648-9749-9199

Internal Relatedness Relative to Poodles

Frequency

IR = 0.26 (0.21 to 0.30)

Diversity Panel

Poodle DLA

Class I: 1002/1002

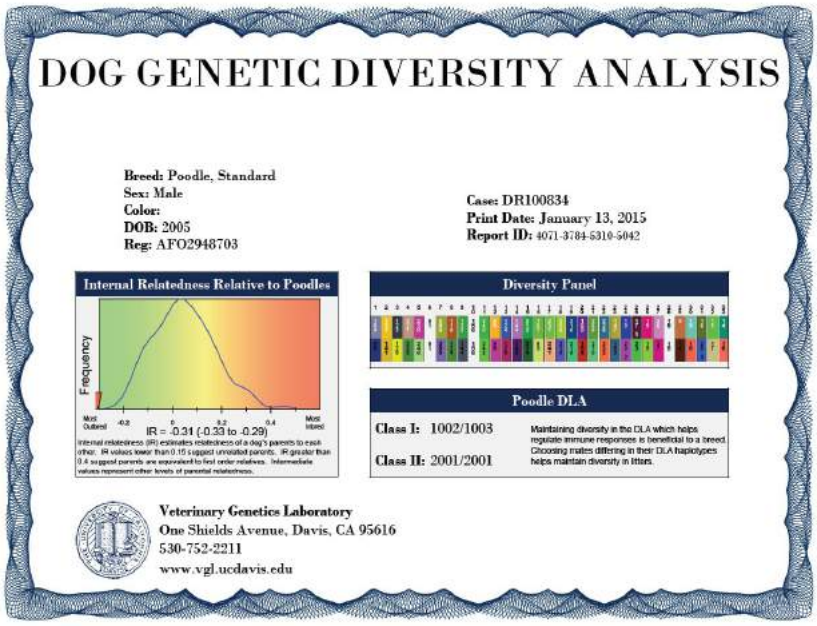
Class II: 2001/2001

Maintaining diversity in the DLA which helps regulate immune responses is beneficial to a breed. Choosing mates differing in their DLA haplotypes helps maintain diversity in litters.

Veterinary Genetics Laboratory
One Shields Avenue, Davis, CA 95616
530-752-2211
www.vgl.ucdavis.edu

DR. MJ RAWLINGS

And just to demonstrate that COI isn't always an accurate predictor of heterozygosity, the dog below may well have the lowest IR in the study. His 15-generation COI is 12%.



DOG GENETIC DIVERSITY ANALYSIS

Breed: Poodle, Standard
Sex: Male
Color:
DOB: 2005
Reg: AFO2948703

Case: DR100834
Print Date: January 13, 2015
Report ID: 4071-3784-5310-5042

Internal Relatedness Relative to Poodles

Frequency

IR = -0.31 (-0.33 to -0.29)

Diversity Panel

Poodle DLA

Class I: 1002/1003
Class II: 2001/2001

Maintaining diversity in the DLA which helps regulate immune responses is beneficial to a breed. Choosing mates differing in their DLA haplotypes helps maintain diversity in litters.

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The raw data from these certificates can then be used by third-party programs to generate analyses and run mating calculations. An extremely powerful one has already been developed as an extension to the existing Standard Poodle Database, which compares dogs' results and gives an average value for potential progeny, and in addition to this it can show you how common each of the (potentially up to) 66 markers and the four DLA haplotypes your dog has are in the breed overall. VGL provides information on the numbers of different alleles (suites) for each of the markers on its website. https://www.vgl.ucdavis.edu/services/dog/GeneticDiversityInStandardPoodlesSTRInfo.php The early results seem to suggest there is quite a lot of diversity in poodles, but that the diversity is not very evenly distributed. Most of the markers have 10+ alleles, but some have fewer, such as 16 with currently only four identified (comparable to a choice of sixteen of hearts, diamonds, clubs, or spades for each dog).

Historically line-breeding kept many bloodlines genetically distinct

So, how can these tests be used? First of all, I should like to say, there is no one breeding plan that every breeder must use. For the breed to survive, it must be diverse as a whole, and that means it has to be bred by many diverse people who have different ideas about how to do things. That said, these tests can actually be used to support many different approaches to breeding.

First of all, anyone can test their dogs or ask for dogs they are considering using to be tested. The VGL test is the most useful, but if you want a colour test and the NE genetic test, the Genoscoper test is probably worth doing as well. You can then compare a bitch to potential mates and use the results as part of your decision. This does not just have to be on the IR value range they are likely to produce, but can be based on rare markers, or DLA haplotypes. **If your poodle has anything other than 2001 in Class II, this is unusual and worth hanging on to if possible.**

The raw data from these certificates can then be used by third-party programs to generate analyses and run mating calculations

After you have chosen your mating and the puppies have arrived, you can then narrow down your choice to the pups in the litter whom you think are best suited for the purposes you are breeding for, and test them and use the test results as part of your decision process on which pups to keep or to sell to particular owners. You do not have to keep the pup that is tested as having the lowest IR, or the most unusual haplotypes/markers, or use the first dog SPD recommends in terms of compatibility, if you don't like this pup or this dog, but if more people use the test and make it part of their decision, gradually this will benefit the population as a whole. **Individual dogs do benefit from a low IR,** but the breed as a whole and the future of individuals benefits most when much diversity is evenly distributed. It does not help the breed a lot if it is swamped by heterozygous dogs who mostly have the same two suites at each locus, and this will make heterozygosity difficult to achieve in future generations. **If you have something that is unusual, IR might be less of a priority than holding on to what makes it unusual,** but if you have something that genetic analysis shows to be quite typical, low IR or adding something unusual might be more relevant.

Strategies like line-breeding may not appeal to everyone and may be currently out of political favour, but historically line-breeding kept many bloodlines genetically distinct from each other and benefited the diversity of the breed taken as a whole, and this is the case with many rare breed animals today. **These tests can be used to support a programme that involves line-breeding, by selecting a pup that is less related**

than its COI might suggest, or choosing pups most genetically different from the mainstream where **the objective is to preserve a 'different' line.**

Remember that when you breed two dogs, they split their hands randomly to give new hands to the puppies. Each puppy can only have one of each card from each parent. This means that if you have a bitch and you only ever keep one puppy from her and sell the rest as pets, you, and the breed, will automatically lose half of her hand. In practice due to no dog being completely heterozygous, you will lose less than this because some of her cards will be the same, but it is still important to recognise that this happens and it is a significant loss when working with bloodlines off the beaten track where there are unlikely to be more distant relatives being bred and keeping the genetics going. **It is a very good idea to aim to sell male puppies to trustworthy people who will allow them to be used responsibly at stud,** as in this case there is not the worry of selling a breeding prospect bitch to someone not in a good position to be responsible for having a litter, and it will help to combat the problem of popular sires and **the increasing lack of choice for those looking for someone to breed their bitch to**. It is also not useful to mate a bitch again to a dog she has already had a litter to (unless the litter died, was abnormally small, or there was no suitable puppy to be kept for breeding for whatever reason). Bitches in particular who are genetically unusual should be mated to different dogs and puppies from each mating retained as potential breeding dogs.

Popular sires (dogs who are used widely for whatever reason, and are influential on the breed in subsequent generations) **are usually to be avoided**, and it generally makes sense to try not to use over-popular dogs or allow one's own stud dog to be overused, but where a dog is shown by these tests to be unusual, allowing a dog to be used a bit more than you might otherwise might not be such a bad thing, as it helps to **rebalance diversity in the breed**.

A mating that produces a low COI is usually promoted as a good thing these days, with COI being pursued by some as a breeding objective in itself, but as discussed previously, **COI is just a probability**. These tests help to reveal if there is genetic evidence of heterosis to support a particular low-COI mating. If there is not, there might be little to recommend a mating that was chosen primarily for its COI.

Someone wishing to import a dog where pedigree information is lacking can also use this test to find out if the dog is similar or different. Without doing the test, we don't know if the dog carries cards from the familiar suites of clubs and spades, or perhaps has a more exotic hand containing elephants and snakes.

With thanks to Natalie Green Tessier and Jane Rowden

The new SPD is available from http://phrdatabase.org/

Old poodle

George Earl's brother and sons were also successful artists, but his daughter Maud Earl became legendary. She painted Ch. Nunsoe Duc de la Terrace of Blakeen after he became the first Poodle to win the Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show in 1935. His influence on the breed was unmatched even though he was shown only 18 times. His owner, Sherman Hoyt, also made history as the first female handler to achieve this win. Paintings like this are considered priceless for their artistry, as well as their historical significance

Therapy Dogs

Information written by Gloria Koolsbergen

Dogs seem to know instinctively when we are sad or in need of affection. They are so tuned with their family, their owner! Sometimes they are sensitive to any other human that need complicity or understanding and they give unselfishly.

Just like they know when someone is good or bad. They know when someone needs to be loved and cared for…

When people pet them, people's blood pressure and stress go down. When you talk to them or worry about them your life becomes more pleasurable by just sharing time with them.

One of my female poodles was borrowed by a certified Zoo-therapist and she told me that Tequila is great! Now, I'm working on her Certification as a therapy dog with Blue Ribbon training school. She passed the preliminary test. She was evaluated for behaviour, and obedience. She had to be good around crutches, wheel-chairs, strange people, to be able to stay away from food, etc. Therapy dogs have to be confident, friendly, patient and gentle in all situations.

The handler also has to be trained, and have no criminal records, and he/she has to complete the orientation and volunteer training process. This way we work with our dog as a team to give comfort and love to other people that can't have a loving pet.

We are looking forward to our visits during holliday time to bring smiles to disabled children and old folks!

We all need loving!

According to Chinese medicine EMOTIONS play a big part on health and wellness... Dogs can make a profound and measurable contribution to helping people.

"Scientifically, there are lots of studies that show that factors like blood pressure, heart rate, anxiety, and depression are reduced when there is contact with a dog."

If anyone is interested to learn more about canine caregivers, to find an organization that trains Therapy dogs in your area, check out: *canadasguidetodogs.com/dogjobs.htm*

A person was diagnosed with endometrial cancer. She was introduced to a dog fostering program that involves training them to become guide dogs. She was suffering from fatigue and brain fog associated with the cancer treatment.

Dogs know when someone is good or bad... And they know when someone needs to be loved and cared for…

She states: "The dog was 24-hour therapy for me. Physical therapy, brain interaction, emotional boost; he made me laugh all the time." She says, adding that instantly she had to move more and focus on something other than her situation. "I had to watch his eyes and anticipate what he might do before he did it. This made me far more alert than I had been, and it made me want to challenge myself more, see what else the body can do."

our visits are called "ANIMAL ASSISTED ACTIVITIES" not Zootherapy.

Just wanted to make sure you know that our visits are called "animal-assisted activities" ("zooanimation" in French), not zootherapy.

Zootherapy requires a specific treatment plan and the involvement of a health professional. Zootherapists usually have degrees in the field. Although our visits may be therapeutic, they are not the same thing. We need to be careful with the terminology so that we don't mislead anyone or offend professional zootherapists. The dogs are called therapy dogs for both types of work, which is why it sometimes becomes confusing.

Juvenile Inherited Cataracts in Poodles

Hereditary cataract is one of the most common disorders in purebred dogs and is a leading cause of blindness. It is an inherited condition, which is characterized by loss of transparency in the lens. Dogs with juvenile cataracts are born with normal lenses, which then proceed to opacify over time, leading to blindness by 2-5 years of age in most cases. To obtain samples that are clinically characterized in a consistent manner, we developed a clinical research form. You can find this form at

http://www.optigen.com/doc/Inh_Cat_Res_version2.pdf.

About 6% of all Poodles are diagnosed with juvenile cataracts. The mode of inheritance for all three conditions is unclear, and there is no gene-based test available.

We are going to screen candidate genes for cataracts. Candidate genes are collected based on the reported findings about the association with the same or similar disease in other species as well as the knowledge about the gene's biological function. So far, only one gene has been identified to be associated with hereditary cataracts in the Australien Shepherd and the Boston Terrier.

Information on OptiGen website

Molecular Genetic Study of Inherited Cataracts in the Miniature* and Toy* Poodle

The Poodle Club of America Foundation, Inc and Gustavo Aguirre, VMD, PhD University of Pennsylvania and OptiGen, LLC

Background

The Poodle Club of America Foundation, Inc has funded a three year research study to be carried out at the University of Pennsylvania and OptiGen, LLC to identify the molecular genetic basis of inherited cataracts, and develop a DNA-based diagnostic test that can be used to identify dogs that are genetically normal, carriers or affected. By judiciously using the DNA test information, breeders can minimize the risk of producing affected dogs while maintaining the genetic diversity of the breed.

In the Miniature and Toy Poodle some types of cataracts are an inherited condition which is characterized by loss of transparency in the lens when dogs are young adults/adult. Although some individuals use the term 'Juvenile Cataracts" to imply a genetically inherited defect, the appropriate term for the disease is *Inherited Cataracts*. Dogs with inherited cataracts are born with normal lenses, which then proceeds to degenerate over time, leading to visual impairment and then blindness later in life. The age range generally is variable, and the disease begins sometime between 2-5 years of age, and progresses; the rate of progression and severity of the disease can vary between affected dogs. About 6% of all Poodles are diagnosed with inherited cataracts. The mode of inheritance is not known, although autosomal recessive inheritance is likely; there are no gene-based tests available. We propose to carry out a focused study on inherited cataracts in Miniature and Toy Poodles with the aim of identifying the gene/mutation responsible for the disease.

Your help is needed

To carry out this study we need the assistance of dog owners/breeders, as well as board certified veterinary ophthalmologists (ACVO, ECVO) so that samples for the research study can be definitively ascertained. We are very grateful for your interest in participating in the present research study. Please make sure that only one form is used for each study dog.

A research form for submitting samples and information for this study can be found by clicking Inherited Cataracts in Poodles Research Form. The owner should complete the first section of owner and dog information. The second section of the form requests the examining ophthalmologist to provide brief clinical descriptions and, if possible, clinical photographs. Along with the completed form, we need a copy of the dog's pedigree (5-6 generations), any current/previous eye exam records, and 3-5 ml of whole unclotted blood in EDTA to be sent to OptiGen 767 Warren Rd. Ithaca NY 14850.

Please call OptiGen 607-257-0301 or

email genetest@optigen.com

with any questions on sample submission.

NOTE: all the information provided for this study is **CONFIDENTIAL** and will **not** be disclosed.

Sample collection and pedigree analysis is ongoing. The project would greatly benefit by having additional samples from affected dogs with clinical diagnosis as well as samples from their close relatives.

***PLEASE NOTE** we have focused this study in Miniature and Toy Poodles because it is in these varieties that inherited cataracts are more frequently found. However, if there are Standard Poodles diagnosed with inherited cataracts, we would be delighted to include samples from them as well for the research work.*

OptiGen has just made available a DNA test for a severe form of dwarfism in the Miniature Poodle, known as Osteochondrodysplasia (OC). This form of dwarfism involves abnormalities in cartilage and bone development and can be seen in puppies as young as 3 weeks of age. For more information on the disease, please visit:http://www.optigen.com/opt9__oc_minpoodles.html.

OptiGen has archived DNA from nearly ALL samples that it has received during the 17+ years we have been providing DNA testing for inherited diseases in dogs and it is very likely that we will have a portion of the original sample from your dog still available at OptiGen for testing the OC mutation.
If you would like to have this new test done, you may simply give us a call and we will be happy to order the new test on the original sample.
We are offering an introductory 20% discount for the new test using the code "OC15". This discount code is good through December 31st on both the PRA and the OC tests. The discount code will bring the price of any online (or phoned in orders on original samples) from $95 to $71.25.
In addition, if you would like to order both the OC and the PRA mutations at the same time on a new sample, we offer an additional "combo" discount which brings the OC test price down to $57. Along with the PRA test discounted to $117, the cost of both tests when ordered together using the "OC15" discount code would be $174.

Finally, I would like to make the Miniature Poodle community aware of OptiGen's ongoing commitment to continued research aimed at identifying new mutations that cause inherited diseases in dogs. We provide FREE DNA testing to any pedigreed dog that is diagnosed by a veterinary ophthalmologist as having PRA or Canine Multifocal Retinopathy-- or a variety of other inherited diseases. Please see our research web page to learn more: http://www.optigen.com/opt9_research.html

Collaboration Aids Discovery of SLC13A1 Mutation for Dwarfism in Miniature Poodles

The recent discovery of the gene mutation that causes a crippling dwarfism in Miniature Poodles, and the subsequent development of a direct DNA test to identify carriers, represents a successful collaboration between breeders and researchers.

Mark Neff, Ph.D., director of the Program for Canine Health and Performance at the Van Andel Institutein Grand Rapids, Mich., found that partial deletion of the sulfate transporter *SLC13A1* causes the recessive inherited defect in Miniature Poodles.

Without appropriate levels of sulfate, a puppy's bones and cartilage cannot develop normally. Affected puppies appear normal at birth, but at 3 weeks of age stunted growth and abnormal movement are apparent.

The condition is known as osteochondrodysplasia (OC), which describes a broad group of cartilage and bone disorders stemming from structural, metabolic and endocrinological causes.

Affected Miniature Poodle puppies develop extended hind limbs, enlarged joints, flattening of the rib cage, shortened and bent long bones, undershot jaws, and misshapen paws resembling clubfoot. Most puppies are euthanized.

The behind-the-scenes efforts of three dedicated Miniature Poodle breeders collecting DNA samples, including from their own dogs, and canvassing breeders to find affected dogs helped to advance the research.

The eight-year initiative culminated with the discovery of the gene mutation last December.

Alison Ruhe, director of projectDOG, a recently founded nonprofit genetic testing and research organization in Albany, Calif., which offers the OC test, says the candidness with which the Miniature Poodle breeders shared their experiences of producing puppies with OC was exemplary. "They truly are models of what breeders should be about," she says. "Their focus from the beginning was discovering what causes this health disorder. They were open, proactive, practical, empathetic, and not driven by ego or profit."

The contributing Miniature Poodle breeders are Leslie Newing of Random Wind Poodles in Fairfield, Conn., Mildred Bartlett of Maestoso Poodles in Oregon, Ill., and Eva Marie Mitchell of Dreem Poodles in Granger, Ind. Several others helped support the research as well.

THE BEHIND-THE-SCENE EFFORTS OF THREE DEDICATED MINIATURE POODLE BREEDERS COLLECTING DNA SAMPLES, INCLUDING FROM THEIR OWN DOGS, AND CANVASSING BREEDERS TO FIND AFFECTED DOGS HELPED TO ADVNCE THE RESEARCH.

An Inconsistent Disorder

The first known case of OC in a Miniature Poodle was documented in Britain in 1956. Although OC has been reported in Standard Poodles, Ruhe says project DOG has not tested any affected Standard or Toy Poodles. The disorder can occur in a variety of forms and the level of disability is not consistent.

Some less affected puppies have survived into adulthood. As they age, their bones may strengthen despite an increased incidence of osteoarthritis.

"We don't know why some puppies are more affected than others," Ruhe says. "It is possible that some cases are really another condition altogether.

This is why the genetic test is valuable. We can now determine whether a dog truly has hereditary OC."

When Newing and Bartlett first contacted Neff about osteochondro - dysplasia, he was associate director of the Veterinary Genetics Laboratory at the University of California-Davis. He continued the OC project after moving to the Van Andel Institute in Michigan in 2009.

Newing, who has bred Miniature Poodles and Doberman Pinschers with her mother, Suzanne Newing, for 36 years, was aware of two dwarf puppies sired by one of her stud dogs in separate litters born many years ago.

Nine years ago, the gene mutation resurfaced in one of her own breeding. As commonly occurs, the litter appeared normal until the puppies were 3 weeks old. Then, a bitch puppy began to look different. "At 4 weeks old, this puppy stood as though she were in ballet first position," Newing says. "Her front feet pointed in opposite directions, and she couldn't support herself or sit up." Radiographs confirmed the diagnosis of OC, and the puppy was euthanized. "It

doesn't leave your mind once you've seen OC," says Newing. "You plan, set goals and look forward to a litter, and then this happens."

Her veterinarian told her about research of dwarfism at the University of Pennsylvania. Donald Patterson, D.V.M., the founder of the school's veterinary genetic clinic, the first in the country, had studied OC in white Miniature Poodles but was unable to come up with enough dogs to identify the genetic marker. Patterson had since retired and passed away. Newing wasn't sure where to turn for help, until she received a phone call from Mitchell.

Mitchell also had produced dwarfism in a litter. "There were four puppies in the litter," she recalls. "The dam ignored three of them and would keep taking the fourth out of the whelping box to care for it." Mitchell chided the dam for being a "bad mother." As the puppies developed, she began to see differences in the three puppies the dam didn't want to nurse. At 3 weeks old, the puppies were up on their legs, with their eyes open, responding to sounds and playing. However, their front feet were beginning to turn out. A few days later, the puppies appeared deformed.

"It was like they had walnuts for joints," Mitchell says. "Their joints were hard and rounded, and they yelped a lot." The puppies began to have difficulty breathing and spent most of each day lying on their sides. They had to be bottle-fed and had lost their sense of hearing. The three puppies had to be euthanized. Two were sent to the University of Minnesota for necropsy, which confirmed OC. "Their cartilage had turned to bone," Mitchell explains. "That's why they couldn't hear. Hardening of the cartilage on the ends of their rib cage made it difficult for them to breathe." The fourth puppy continued to develop normally, but Mitchell neutered and placed him in a pet home. Devastated, she felt she had to do something. She published an article about her litter, complete with pictures, in Poodle Variety.

Mitchell learned that Neff might be interested in studying OC, so she contacted him at the University of California-Davis. He agreed to take it on but would need samples of DNA from at least 10 unrelated affected dogs to do the research. "I collected cheek swabs from all my dogs, including the dam and the surviving puppy," Mitchell says.

Meanwhile, Bartlett, who had shown dogs for more than 60 years, had a litter sired by an English import that included puppies with OC. It wasn't her first experience with OC. In 1965, a veterinarian asked her to care for an 8-week-old puppy brought to him for euthanasia. Bartlett was struck by the Poodle's intelligence and disposition.

She had three veterinarians examine the female puppy. No one recognized the disorder, until radiographs confirmed OC when the puppy was older. Bartlett swam the puppy in a harness in her bathtub to strengthen her legs and eventually placed her with friends. The dwarf puppy lived to be 18 years old.

Bartlett travels to dog shows around the country with one of the affected Poodles from the litter that prompted her involvement in the OC research. "Bitzie," a 5-year-old brown female Miniature, even went to this year's Poodle Club of America (PCA) National Specialty. "She's a kind of 'show and tell.' I want everyone to see her and understand what the condition is," Bartlett says.

WITH THE HELP FROM DEDICATED BREEDERS AND OWNERS, THERE IS NO LIMIT TO WHAT CAN BE ACCOMPLISHED.

Now that the DNA test is available, Bartlett routinely screens dogs before breeding. Recently, she bred a tested carrier male, a son of the English import, to a tested clear bitch, producing clear puppies. She appropriately named one Maestoso's Leap of Faith, who already is a puppy show champion.

OC has a simple autosomal recessive mode of inheritance, meaning that a dog must have two copies of the mutation to be affected. If a carrier is bred to a clear dog, the resulting puppies may be carriers or clear, but none will be affected.

Breeders Making a Difference

Newing, Mitchell, and Bartlett agree that it wasn't easy to find the affected Miniature Poodles that Neff needed for his research. Some breeders told them that they had never seen nor heard of the condition and couldn't possibly have it in their lines. Some were angry when they were contacted, even on an informational basis. "All samples went directly to Dr. Neff," Newing says. "I didn't know or want to know who was submitting cheek swabs or what the results were.

It was hard to get people to admit there was a problem, but there's no shame in producing a dwarf puppy. The only disgrace is when you don't deal with a problem ethically." Ruhe emphasizes the need for breeder involvement. "Few, if any, researchers today maintain colonies of dogs for research," she says. "We need to obtain our DNA samples from breeders and owners. To be successful, we need an engaged breeder community."

Though it took eight years to obtain the samples, the mutation was identified based on eight affected and eight clear Miniature Poodles. "We used samples from

dogs with a common ancestor in the first three generations, but only to validate the test," Ruhe says. "The Poodles in the original study could not have a grandparent in common."

Neff's research was published in PLoS, an open access online journal, in December 2012. The article was titled "Partial Deletion of the Sulfate Transporter SLC13A1 Is Associated with an osteochondrodysplasia in the Miniature Poodle Breed."

"Dr. Neff felt that it was important for the entire article to be available online to breeders and owners at no cost," Ruhe says.

"My greatest honor was being thanked at the end of Dr. Neff's research article. I so appreciated it. His work made it possible for me to continue breeding," Bartlett says.

Along with Bartlett, Neff credited Newing, Mitchell, and Dianne Flanagan of South Holland, Ill., for their assistance in finding affected Miniature Poodles.

The DNA test for osteochondro - dysplasia is the first genetic test to be distributed by projectDOG. The testing laboratory plans to add genetic marker tests as they become available. "These are tests where we have a good idea of the genetic markers, but we are not yet ready to publish our research results," Ruhe says. "Our goal is to make accurate, affordable genetic tests available as soon as they are ready."

Donated laboratory space and equipment, plus generous private donations, allows projectDOG to test DNA for OC at no cost, though donations of $20 to $40 per test are requested. Support from the PCA Foundation allowed for the distribution of 400 test kits at the PCA National Specialty last April. About half of the tests have been returned for free testing. A campaign is planned to encourage Miniature Poodle breeders and owners to return DNA samples from the remaining tests. With more samples, a better idea of the frequency of the OC gene mutation can be determined.

"So far, it looks as though perhaps 10 percent of Miniature Poodles carry the mutation," says Ruhe. "However, the first breeders to send in tests are probably the ones most likely to have a problem, so it may not be an accurate percentage. We need more subjects to be certain."

If the DNA test had been available a few years ago, Mitchell could have selectively bred the unaffected puppy from the litter with three dwarfs. "When I swabbed him, he came back clear," she says. "But I had no way of knowing he was clear at the time, and so he was neutered."

With help from dedicated breeders and owners, there is no limit to what can be accomplished. "We should all look to better the breed and to be sure our breed has a future," Mitchell says. "DNA tests are an invaluable tool to do just that."

Read about the Research

The scientific article about the discovery of the gene mutation for osteochondrodysplasia is available on an open access online journal. To read the article on the PLoS website, go to plosone.org/article/ info%3Adoi% 2F10.1371%2Fjourn al.pone.0051917

How to Test Miniature Poodles for OC

Miniature Poodles may now be tested for the crippling dwarfism disorder osteochondrodysplasia (OC). A new genetic testing laboratory, projectDOG, offers a direct DNA test that identifies carriers of the recessive inherited disorder.

For information, go to projectdog.org and click on "get a DNA test." You also may call 510-900-3899 for information. projectDOG requests donations of $20 to $40 per test, but testing is provided free of charge upon request. Results may be listed for a fee on the website of the Orthopedic Foundation for Animals. Testing for osteochondrodysplasia is not a health requirement for Miniature Poodles to earn Canine Health Information Center (CHIC) certification. *

Cold Weather Tips

Check Their Paws: Check your pet's paws frequently for signs of damage from the cold weather ie. cracked paws or bleeding. Limit your walks to help protect your pets from getting frostbite or hypothermia. See below to learn how to make your own Pet Paw Wax to help protect your furry friend's paws!

Proper Cleaning: During walks, your furry friend may pick up antifreeze, salt or other harmful chemicals on their feet, legs and belly. Wipe down your pets after each walk to remove any unwanted chemicals from their fur and skin that could be harmful.

Check Your Vehicle: In the winter, cats often hide under vehicles to protect themselves from the cold. Before driving away make sure you check under your vehicle for animals.

Identification Tags and Chip: It is important to make sure your pets have current identification tags or have been microchipped so they will be found if they get lost. When the weather is colder many pets get lost because the snow and ice hide recognizable scents that would normally help them find their way back home.

When your poodle is a show dog it is specially useful to make them wear snow suits to protect their wool. Water proof coats with legs keep them clean, dry and untangled. When the streets are salty is a good idea to place boots to prevent paw damage.

Pet Paw Wax

What you will need:

- **Small Pot**
- **2 Tablespoons Olive Oil**
- **2 Tablespoons Shea Butter**
- **1 Tablespoon Beeswax**

Melt all the ingredients into a small pot over low heat until the ingredients are fully melted. Pour the liquid into the container. Let the wax cool in container with the lid off until it is completely hardened than cover. Perfect for keeping your pet's paws protected during the colder season and to help them from sliding on icy days!

Permission from TLC dog food From TLC News Letter.

Something fun to do when the first snow comes.. Would be nice in the front of the house before Christmas!!!

Cooking for your dogs

Written by Gloria Koolsbergen

When I started breeding dogs a few years ago, I was shocked by the horror stories of dog food recalls, and treats that were "poisoning' dogs, therefore, I started cooking for them and using what I learned on my Nutrition classes of Holistic medicine.

It is a choice! People may think I'm crazy to cook for them, but they are my babies and part of my family. For those people that agree with me, here are some tips that I use, if interested.

Dogs didn't eat kibble until the 1930s when the grain and meat industries needed a market for their rejects.

Real meat human grade, is the best food for your dog....nothing else even comes close.....but not just "muscle" meat, your dog also needs organ meat and bone.

Real food.. Real chicken, turkey, beef, bison, venison, lamb, fish. fresh vegetables and fruits. Occasionally yogurt and eggs.

I always recommend you feed your dog a well balanced, nutritious food for the right combination of protein, vitamins and nutrients. This will keep your dog's skin and coat looking its best.

I took very good care of my old dog Honey. He was diagnosed with cancer on the anal glands at 12 years old, and he lived a few more years even with that. He died at 18 years of age.

Omega-3 fatty acid is a natural anti-inflammatory and it is recom-

When studying nutrition, I learned that food can be your medicine; each food has different properties and vitamins. In Chinese medicine food even has temperature, and it has to be chosen for each individual needs. Chinese also relate flavors with seasons: sour for spring cleansing, bitter for summer (dandelions), sweet for fall (squashes), Pungent for early winter and salty for late winter. Coincidentally in Macrobiotic cooking, the way is to use seasonal foods to harmonize the body systems.

For grain, I generally use brown rice for white meat, I prefer Barley for red meat. If they have digestive problems, it is a good idea to add oats to smooth the intestine lining.

I grind the raw vegetables with the food processor , and then I mix them with the grains/lentil cooked separate and the meat all in equal proportions. I also add some powdered vitamins for dogs, Safflower Oil, and Wild Alaskan Salmon Oil.

During the fall season you may cook a whole pumpkin on the oven, and when cool spoon the pulp into freezer bags to keep for the winter time. I like to mix some yellow/orange vegetables (sweet potatoes, carrots, squash), some greens (the cabbage family is especially good against cancer), I favor Kale or Collards which are high in vitamins and calcium. I also use Jerusalem Artichokes that I plant on my garden, and Swiss chard. I normally do not include potatoes, because they do not freeze well.

I recycle yogurt containers. I use them to store the dog's food and label them with the ingredients and date of preparation, that way I can provide my dogs with a different menu every day and I know which containers to use first.

Never use mushrooms, raisins or onions. Onions produce anemia. Raisins and chocolate block the kidneys. Mushrooms make them vomit.

If your dog accidentally eats something poisonous (like chocolate) , try to make them vomit by making them drink Oxygen Peroxide, 10%, and place them on the bath tub until they do.

WATER: When I moved to my new home, one of the first things we did, was to install a water filter. When studying Naturopathy I learned that we are recycling our neighbor's medicines on the water… I have reverse osmosis for drinking water, and all the house water is filtered out of chlorine and fluoride. My dogs have always fresh, clean drinking water readily available.

Be careful not to leave water in the heat of summer inside containers in the car, or frozen in winter. Plastic solvents are absorbed into the water. That water should not be feed to your dogs or drink it yourself... It could produce cancer.

To make a **complete nutrition** we have to make sure that all the essential nutrients, proteins, carbohydrates, lipids (fats), vitamins and minerals are well balanced. If we look at the ingredients on food labels, we may get a good idea of what to use to create a well balanced diet. Try to keep a good variety in all things.

We all know that dogs eat grass sometimes, and regurgitate it. Maybe they crave some greens on their diet…

Because I specialized on Herbal medicine, I'm also incorporating in their food the healing qualities of herbs, fruits and vegetables. The antioxidants, fiber, Omega 3 fatty-acids, other properties of different oils, the acidophilus cultures in yogurt are all beneficial for humans and dogs alike.

Dogs just like us need a variety of vitamins and minerals… They are individuals and they have different tastes and preferences. We just need to observe to realize what do they crave = need.

OILS: in many recipes I add salmon oil. Fish oil is a potent source of Omega-3 fatty acids EPA and DHA. An increased intake of Omega-3 fatty acid is a natural anti-inflammatory and it is recommended for dogs with many different diseases. For example, omega-3 fatty acids can help improve the blood flow to the kidneys in dogs with kidney disease. In dogs with Cancer or heart disease, Omega-3 fatty acids can help delay the muscle wasting condition associated with the terminal stages of these diseases. Omega-3 fatty acids may enhance cognitive function in senior dogs and growing puppies"

Depending on the dog, you may also choose to substitute an equivalent amount of Safflower oil, flaxseed oil or hemp oil for salmon on a recipe. These natural antioxidants have a proven anti-inflammatory effect helping to maintain a healthy skin and coat in dogs. Flaxseed oil and hemp oil are both rich in Omega-3 fatty acids, but primarily as ALA (alpha-linolenic acid) rather than as EPA or DHA. Safflower contains only omega 6 fatty acids. While these 3 oils are all healthy for dogs, they do not provide the same Omega-3 fatty acids found in salmon oil.

Omega-3 fatty acids have been a very effective non-prescription tool for dealing with dry skin and coat, flaking, itchiness and even joint disorders because of their anti-inflammatory aspects.

We must be vigilant about pesticides, fluoride, pollutants, hormones, and GMO. Cook fresh veggies and meats that are good enough for human consumption. If you would not eat it, do not feed it to your dogs. That principle is good, as long that we also respect what is not good for a dog's health, for example: chocolate, raisins and onions.

Good nutrition promotes good health, and coat quality with shine

I prepare their meals every few days or weeks apart in large quantity. Sometimes I prepare white meat fish, chicken or turkey, others, beef or pork. I try to use 25% meat, and the rest equal parts of yellow, green and some cereal. I try to keep it simple but well balanced and I add oils and vitamins at the end. After I place them in containers, I label them with the ingredients and date, and store them in the freezer. This way I have fresh ready meals, I can serve them chicken one day and red meat others, without

having to go out of my way to cook for them.

Fresh food provides a level of nutrition that your dog will not get from commercial dog food. It has fewer preservatives, and you know what your animal is eating.

Yeast extract is a strong palatability enhancer for dogs. Incorporating yeast into the treat will also fortify naturally occurring B-vitamins. Yeast is also a rich source of digestive enzymes, nucleotides, and many other important nutritional factors.- Yeast extract is a strong palatant for use in dog treats.

Antioxidants are the missing link in commercial dog food. They are necessary to defuse the "free radicals". These free radicals if left unchecked, have been related to some cancers, heart and lung disease, and cataracts. Antioxidants are available in many bright orange and dark green vegetables, tomato paste and berries. Many cruciferous vegetables (the cabbage family: kale, broccoli, cauliflower, Brussels sprouts) are rich in compounds that help the immune system to fight cancer. Maybe that is why my dogs love to play catch with little pieces of broccoli! They never fail to beg for them when they hear me chopping some on the cooking board.

Emphasize the foods that are at the bottom of the food chain. Do not forget that the higher a food is in the food chain, the richer in fats they are, they are also high in heavy metals, hormones and pesticides.

Fruits and vegetables are good sources of vitamins, minerals, fiber and various nutraceuticals. They offer all kinds of health benefits including antioxidant protection, antibacterial protection, cardiovascular protection and cancer prevention and therefore reduce the risk of chronic diseases and age-related macular degeneration.

It is also important to maintain a **LOW SODIUM** diet. Salt may be linked to hypothyroidism. The more salt the animal consumes, the more water is retained in the organs of the body, including the blood. The heart has to pump harder to move the blood faster, because the diluted blood has less oxygen to feed the body. It is well known that salt increases blood pressure.

Poodles are fuzzy eaters… I warm up the food for my dogs on a little pot with water, test the temperature with a finger, and stir it with kibble. Warm food tastes better, and dogs have a much more refined sense of smell and taste than humans do. Try not to heat too much add the vitamins at the end in order not to destroy them. Do not give dogs burnt food, as it is full of carcinogens.

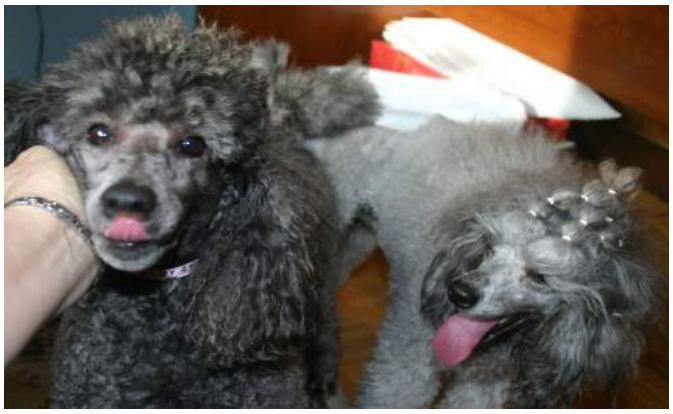
DO NOT USE MICROWAVE OVENS, this kind of heat transform fats, into trans-fats, proteins and vitamins get either transformed or destroyed. Plastics get absorbed into the food. Microwaves are not good for humans and consequently not good for dogs.

Age is like the seasons, and we should be conscious of feeding adequately for the age and needs of each canine. The weather and level of exercise influences the kind and amount of food you should feed.

Use your fingers like eyes, to check how fat or slim your dog is by feeling the ribs. If you can feel easily the ribs, maybe your dog is too slim. If you can't find the ribs, your dog is too fat.

I feed equal parts of good quality kibble and my home cooked meals. I feed my dogs twice a day, and if there is left over at lunch or breakfast, I store it on the fridge after an hour, for the next meal. Puppies get fed 3 times a day until they stop eating at certain time. Just observe their eating habits and remove un-eaten food when necessary.

Why we should test for Brucellosis before breeding?



Protect your dogs… Take precautions when breeding. Insist on testing at least 10 days before the conception date, to make sure you get the results in time for the breeding.

by Dr Rick Kesler, Royal Canin US

Permission to use granted by Dr. Emmanuel Fontaine

Brucellosis is a disease caused by *Brucella canis*, a gram negative bacterium with a worldwide distribution. **In certain areas of the world it is endemic. It is a very important cause of reproductive failure in dogs and thus an important disease for breeders and veterinarians to recognize.** Although it is a disease seen in reproducing dogs there still exist much confusion about clinical signs and the test that exist for the disease.

Brucellosis is a systemic disease that may cause a myriad of clinical signs that we need to be aware of**.**

In the female it may cause abortions, stillbirths, resorption of embryos and vaginal discharges.

In the male we may see sperm abnormalities, prostatitis and testicular inflammation and infections. It is not uncommon to see one or both testes enlarged along with the involvement of the epididymis. Other areas of the body can be affected such as infections along the spine, called discospondylitis , and infections of the eye called uveitis. With so many clinical signs Brucellosis the diagnosis is often a clinical challenge.

Transmission of *Brucella canis* takes place in the aborted fetus, placenta, fetal fluid and vaginal discharge that can persists for a few weeks after abortions. In can be shed in the sperm of the stud dog and in normal vaginal discharge seen during the heat cycle as well as in the milk of the female. It can be found in urine, saliva, ocular and nasal discharges and wounds of the skin. Shedding can also occur intermittently for years. **It usually enters the body through ingestion of the bacteria by the dog or by copulation.** Puppies can be aborted but also can be born normal and not be tested positive till later in life. In a kennel environment of high humidity and little exposure to sunlight the bacteria can be viable for months. Sources of infections in these kennels can be feces, urine, water and clothing. Outside it persists in the soil and can be a source of infection particularly in cooler temperatures.

Incubation periods of *Brucella* range from two weeks to several months. Abortions usually occur in late term, usually from day 49 thru 63 of pregnancy. Infected dogs may abort puppies during one pregnancy than have a normal pregnancy the next. Most infected dogs appear normal and may have no clinical signs while others have enlarged lymph nodes, loss of appetite, behavior changes, weight loss and inability to exercise. After being infected with the bacteria death in dogs is rare. Many dogs become chronically infected. **The disease can be transmitted during artificial insemination using fresh, chilled or frozen semen.**

Testing of all dogs used for breeding is highly recommended. Work with your veterinarian to develop a testing protocol. Since the disease has a wide range of incubation periods quarantining any new dogs is a priority. There are many tests for *Brucella canis* available with associated false negatives and positives making it important to know the tests limitations. Brucellosis has zoonotic potential so breeders and veterinarians need to take precautions when handling untested dogs. Control of Brucellosis in the environment is done with knowledge of proper sanitation practices

Feeding behavior during gestation

by Dr Maria Laura Mendez,Royal Canin Argentina

Permission to use granted by Dr. Emmanuel Fontaine

Gestation, feeding and weaning are critical periods in the life of a bitch and adequate nutritional management can make the difference in the health of the litter.

First month

Between the 2nd and 3rd gestation week, a decrease in appetite can sometimes be perceived. No big changes in the bitch general behavior are to be seen.

Towards the end of this stage, appetite starts to grow gradually. Around day 35, only 2% of the total fetal mass has developed : that is why during the first two thirds of gestation the energy requirements are similar to those of an adult in maintenance and there is no need to change to a more energy-dense diet. A maintenance diet or one made for this specific stage of gestation will be required.

Second month

Towards gestation day 42 , when the last third of pregnancy starts, the fetus growth intensifies. As a result, **the energy and nutritional requirements of the bitch increase steadily with its maximum peak between week 6 and week 8,** reaching a 50% average over the adult maintenance needs. Due to space, such fetal growth increase can limit the volume of the bitch stomach and thus require a reduction in the amount of food ingested. So it is necessary to provide a more energy-dense food (one made for growth for instance) and split the daily portions into 3 to 4 intakes

Lactation period

The lactation period is the highest in terms of energy requirements for the bitch. During this stage, the energy demand increases three to four times as the bitch will produce three times its body weight in milk throughout 6-7 weeks!.

The bitch **should obtain energy from the food** not from its reserves. So, its body weight should be the same during the breastfeeding period. If it loses weight, this will be a sign that the diet is not providing the necessary amount of energy: consider this as an alert and **consult your vet.**

At this stage, the diet of the bitch **must be rich in fat and proteins to ensure a sufficient energy input. It must also contain calcium and essential fatty acid (DHA)** to respond to the needs generated by milk production and to build the *optimal* development of the puppies.

It would be advisable to provide the mother with the same food that the puppies will be provided with in the weaning stage.

Weaning period

Weaning (to the 7th. weak approx.) -the gradual change from liquid food (mother´s milk) to solid food- signals the beginning of the separation of the puppies from the bitch and **the end of the feeding relationship that bonds them.**

As week 3 or 4 of lactation, the mother´s milk is no longer enough to cover the puppies' requirements and they must start having solid food. This implies a gradual evolution in their eating habits: the end of nursing on their mother (suckling period), they start licking (licking period) and then they learn to chew (chewing period) .

Puppies imitate their mother`s habits and this transition is better when they consume the same food their mother had during the last part of gestation and during lactation.

The importance of nutrition in gestation and lactation

Properly-fed bitches will have increased by 15%-25% their body weight by the time of delivery.

A major increase in such body weight can cause problems at delivery. Besides, bitches do not need to keep body fat reserves to obtain energy from during lactation, as they can increase their food intake during this period.

Undernourishment during gestation can produce abortions or low weight in puppies at birth, with very low survival probability. Besides, gestation obesity can provoke difficult deliveries with negative consequences on puppies.

It is important to take the nutrition of the mother into account, and provide her with adequate food according to the gestation period, so that healthy puppies with good weight can be born. At the same time, the mother should be in general good state and should be healthy enough to be able to produce the milk needed to feed the puppies adequately.

Halloween at Trillium

Saturday,October 31st it was really fun at the Trillion show! We have seen many people and dogs dressed up! Even Diana Edwards was dressed like Cleopatra! Judge Ms Elaine Withney as an Indian, etc

I wish we had taken more pictures…

That is why I added a few cute ones extra...

Neige won something SPECIAL made by a poodle!!! Neige got a painting for going Best of Opposite in OVPC Poodle Specialty. It was done by Terri Hotchkiss's Standard Poodle Sapphire. Terri was very happy to donate the painting. Sapphire enjoys painting. Terri paints the background and then hands the brush to Sapphire, who holds the brush in her mouth and does all of the painting by herself. A number of her pieces have sold. THANK YOU Sapphire

Photo of owner Rena and her puppy Lukas, 14 weeks old (Glicks Luminary) wearing her new apron with OVPC/PCC design made by L.K. Glickman M.Ed, DipEd, BFA

A fun time at October's last weekend during Halloween at the OVPC and PCC specialties. Lots of people who you can tag, also add registered names and titles. Lots of gorgeous puppies, dogs and bitches in all three sizes and most colors.

Thanks to the organizers and volunteers Sue Bowering, Donna Seguin Rosemary Euringer, Vivienne Swarbreck, Mary Jane Weir, Beverly Tufford, Debra Drake, Joanne Reichertz,Cynthia Valenti,Cheryl Ingwersen, and I am so sure I'm missing loads of people....apologies if I missed you because I didn't know your name or forgot you- these events take loads of people to pull off and I thought both events were lovely. Also fun to see so may poodle folk out

White Standard at Trillion Halloween, what a little brat! — with Michelle Scott and Peter Scott

in Lindsay, Ontario.

Is there any food for me?

Members Achievements in Versatility

Congratulations to Chantal Rioux and her miniature poodle, Mocha, (CH Adelheid's Coffeebean CGN CRAT CRXMCL SD-S-"Sp" RN CD) on earning the Working Poodle Versatility Award!

Mocha and I did lots in 2015... We continue progressing in obedience and rally, proudly earned our CKC CD, CGN and working on CKC Open and CKC rally Advanced and Excellent. We have also started competing in AKC. Working on agility but this one is taking me more time to wrap my head around, being new at it.

Agility is by far Mocha's favorite, and mine is obedience, so we negotiate and do our best in both!

Rally is our common favorite! So much fun together! Fresh off the press: we have earned our first 2 Open legs this past weekend, I'm incredibly happy!

Mocha in agility this summer

CKC trial

CKC CD title

Congratulations to CH Glicks Midsummer Breeze ADC CHIC, co-owned by LK Glickman and Carolyn Stevens, on earning the All-Round Poodle Versatility Award!

looks, smarts, and kindness,...

she's got it all!!

I'm happy to speak briefly about our sweet Midsummer Breeze. She has been such a joy to have in our family. She won all of us over quickly with her sweet and cuddly nature and even more so by her willingness to "work". Breeze is very attentive and loves to learn. We have had so much fun at agility and we can't wait to get back to the games!

We are also starting rally in Oct/Nov.

She learns very quickly and I'm sure she's going to do great at rally.

Breeze also loves to play fetch and is a great retriever,.... she is partial to her ball.... What more can I say? Looks, smarts, and kindness,... she's got it all!! "

We absolutely adore her. Carolyn Stevens

Members Achievement in Conformation

Best of Breed Miniature Poodle by famous poodle Judge Edd E. Bivin.

Neige is presently #5 Miniature Poodle in Canada!

Professionally groomed and handled by Jennifer Carr

NEW GRAND CHAMPION !!!

Glow Blanca Nieves

"Neige had a fantastic week-end at the Trillium Show!!!

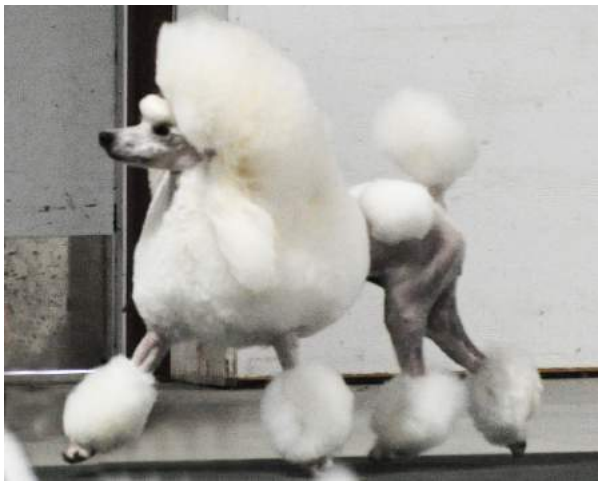
Friday on all Breeds she got a Best of Breed, and also a Group 4 under judge Mr. Charles Olvis, and making 4 GCH points completing her title. She only needed one!

Next day she competed on both trials and got BOB on the all breed and Best Miniature at OVPC Specialty. On the final combined specialties drew a well-known dog, winner at Crufts and PCA. Neige got Best of opposite against this lovely Black Standard imported from England. We were lucky to see her wins and we were very proud of her.

I was told by several people, and judges that Neige is so beautiful that she should stay in the ring; however, I think it is time to clip her hair down and let her be a dog, have new experiences, including agility and being a mom… She is going to be bred very soon to a an American GCH Logos Raise a Glass aka Aiden and we are looking forward to see their lovely white puppies early in the New Year. Both dogs have excellent health testing and Neige is Chic Certified by OFA."

Submitted by Gloria Koolsbergen

For health testing and more pictures check her page : www.poodlesglow.com



Ch Glicks Midsummer Night Nala CD RA CGN VCX Therapy Dog and Bellefleet Glicks Sarsaparrilla CD RE CGN HIC VC

Nala is now Ch Glicks Midsummer Night Nala CD RA CGN VCX Therapy Dog since she earned her last Rally Advanced leg at the Poodle Club of Canada Rally trial on October 30 2015. She had lots of fun while I was very nervous as we had not been in the ring for three years.

Sass (Bellefleet Glicks Sarsaparilla CD RE CGN HIC VC); her 11 year old mom) and Nala also went into brace class for the Ottawa Valley Poodle Club Speciality on Halloween (that's why I'm dressed up as a poodle) and did very nicely. Sass is on the outside in the photos and Nala is on the inside. You can see they were having a blast being in the ring again.

Best Brace in Specialty Show, by Judge Edd E. Bivin

L.K. Glickman M.Ed, DipEd, BFA

Submitted by
LK Glickman, Glicks Standard Poodles Regd., www.glicks.ca

CH Gardenpath Casino Royale aka "Vegas"

(Am. GCH Dacun Kaylens He's A Heartbreaker x CH Canzone Bella Nina of Gardenpath TD CD RE CGN VCX)

"Vegas" is owned and loved by Carolyne & Tyler Cybulsky, bred and co-owned by Renee Koch.

Always beautifully presented in the show ring by Carolyne, he finished quickly at just 7 months of age. Vegas is Nina's 6th Champion pup.

Submitted by
Renee S. Koch Gardenpath Standard Poodles

Decorating for Christmas

When decorating your tree there are a few things to keep in mind:

1_ Avoid using Tinsel. Tinsel can cause blockages, which requires surgery to remove.

2_ Place ornaments that could be swallowed or broken higher on your tree.

3_ Avoid placing holiday plants in areas where your pets can reach. Festive plants such as Holly, Mistletoe, Poinsettias and Hibiscus can be very harmful to your pets.

4_ Unplug decorative lights when you are not home. Use pet proof extension cords or try spraying the cords with products such as Bitter Apple or Chew Stop to help avoid chewing.

Produced for TLC News Letter

Permition granted by TLC dog food supplier.

Do it yourself !!! Dog Ornaments

What you will need:

- 1 Cup Flour
- 1/2 Cup Salt
- 1/2 Cup Warm Water
- Ribbon
- Pencil

Mixed together water, salt and warm water until the dough becomes the consistency of a pie crust. Place the dough on a floured surface and roll out to approximately ½ inch thickness. Use a cup to cut out a circle. Place shape onto a cookie sheet and press your dog's paw into the ornament. Use a pencil to create a small hole in your shape to hang on your tree. Bake the ornaments for 4 hours at 200 degrees Fahrenheit or until hardened. Once the decoration is cooled off add a ribbon to hang on your tree. Makes approximately 10 ornaments.

For Next News Letter...

the Poodle club of canada

PCC president, Joanne suggested that I do the Specialty Results and brags on next issue coming up at the end of January.

We need our member's input!!!

Pictures, Interesting Articles, Health issues, Brags, Stories, Recipes, etc.

Please send material to your editor: Gloria Koolsbergen
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HAPPY HOLLIDAYS TO EVERYONE!