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# PCC Spring Newsletter

MAY 2016

SPRING NEWSLETTER

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# Feeding Behavior During Gestation

**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.**

by Dr Maria Laura Mendez, \_ Royal Canin Argentina

## 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. week 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.

\*

# WHELPING

*I asked for some contribution from other breeders but I guess I will just have to share what I have experienced...*

*Prepared by Gloria Koolsbergen*

## Before Whelping:

The average pregnancy timeline for dogs is 63 days. See whelping chart on file.

REMEMBER to have the dam on a LOW calcium diet, at least 10 days before whelp, NO puppy food, no extra calcium like cottage cheese and sardines.

Last 10 days of pregnancy give the female ½ tsp. Raspberry leaf powder or even better liquid extract 2 weeks before due date, mixed with her food. This herbal remedy is supposed to give strength to the uterus.

You should start taking your dog's temperature around day 56 from the first successful breeding attempt. Do this at least once in the morning and again at night.

102.5 °F is The average temperature of a healthy dog is 101 °F or 38 °C, however, the normal temperature of a healthy dog may range from 99 °F to 102.5 °F (37.2 °C–39.2 °C). Dogs are homothermic or warm-blooded animals. The hormonal changes before Whelping makes temperature go down to around 78 F, and puppies usually arrive within 24 hours.

## WARNING

### SIGNS:

**Twitching, green discharge.**

**(Green discharge is only Normal AFTER a pup is born)**

## LABOR STAGE I

This stage can last from a few hours. (2-12 hours). to 24 hours, and go totally un-noticed

The last 24 hours of pregnancy the bitch temperature will go down to approximately 98°F. I keep a record of each female's temperature on their last week of pregnancy and I use this record as reference on future pregnancies.

Try to remember that she is confused by the pain if it's her first time.

She will want you close by and may follow you around. The experienced dam may stay in the whelping box, knowing her puppies are about to be born. A mucus discharge may be visible on her vulva area.

The previous day they tend to lay on their back and stretch trying to make more space for the puppies. The day of whelping some females feel shaky, panting, they don't eat much, the tummy looks tight and move like contracting. They go often to the yard and wanted to pee or evacuate.

If you can try to minimize noise in the area around the birthing area your dog is feeling frightened and experiencing some strange instincts. Close the door and try to keep the amount

of people in the room to a minimum. Just you and a 'helper' should be sufficient.

If you see her straining and can't deliver give her on her due date:

2 pills of **Arnica** (30) wait 20 minutes and then give her 1 pill **Caullophyllum** (blue Cohosh), it will open the uterus for delivery, every hour after due date.

## LABOR STAGE II

This stage is much quicker than the first unless complications arise.

Your dog will be panting heavier now, may display a digging/ nesting behavior looking for a place to whelp, examining her rear, will be licking her vulva frequently and rolling around or pacing back and forth. She will also start to shiver and will start having mild contractions.

When they are ready to start delivery, I chew Tums and spit it on their mouth, Also give them a dab of Glucose and offer them ice Cream to improve the contractions.

Sometimes, you can insert a gloved finger on the vagina, check if there is dilation and do some feathering, to try to get her going. It works most of the time.

## LABOR STAGE III

**Pulsatilla:** cleans uterus from placenta. Give 3 pills per week.

I also keep a Oxygen bottle close by to help the female with ore energy, if the labor takes too long.

Your dog will display extreme shivering now. Her contractions will be hard and more frequent. This will be very noticeable. As she gets closer to whelping you should be able to see a big discharge of fluid before the first puppy presents. It could be the water breaking from the first puppy OR from her cervical mucous plug passing. During contractions many dogs remain silent but it is not uncommon for them to make grunting noises as they happen. When your dog is ready to whelp she will sit up, squat or lay on her side.

You may need to syringe K-Y jelly inside her birth canal...

This is when the first puppy is moving into the birth canal and is ready to present.

You will notice a clear sac that the puppy is encased in. Sometimes it comes like a balloon, and stays there for one hour. I try not to touch it or let the female bit it, if it breaks a dry birth may be more difficult for your female. It may be visible for

up to an hour before coming all the way out, protruding further with each contraction (This varies by breed). This sac may rupture as it passes or the puppy & placenta may be pushed out together with the puppy still encased. Many times the puppy comes out and the placenta remains until further contractions. Either way it is vital remove the sac and clear the newborn's airway, with a mucus extractor, from any fluids to prevent trauma!

The puppies start coming out usually within half an hour of each other and different dogs deal with it differently some dogs take a nap between pups others just keep going.

As the puppies come out the bitch should tear the sac open and start licking the puppy. Her licking stimulates circulation and many believe that this is one of the most important parts of the birth of happy well adjusted puppies. The licking not only helps puppies breathe, it stimulates circulation as well as bonding with the puppies.

If the dog does not tear the sacs open herself you will need to intervene. Using your nails pierce the sac and rub the puppies.

Let them nurse, this will stimulate more contractions.

Normal and preferred time, to push on one puppy that is in the birth canal, is 2 to 10 minutes.

When a puppy is born breech, and is big, for the dam to do it all on her own, you may have had to pull out puppy grasping a good hold of puppy with the help of a small towel, to prevent from slipping. If this puppy was stuck 'head in' it MUST come out within 6 minutes, or the puppy WILL BE DEAD.

The pup must come out. It is also helpful to know, YOU CANNOT KILL a dead puppy, so you have nothing to loose, and everything to gain, by being aggressive and TRYING to save a stuck puppy, as if you leave it stuck, breach, then it will surely die.

A breach puppy that gets stuck in the door, is often born still born, by drowning, or a pinched cord, or ??? If your puppy is still born, try to revive him or her... Often they will come back, but often they will not. Keep trying to REVIVE for up to ½ an hour, it is not uncommon for a puppy to take 20 minutes, to come around. This puppy needs heat, and a good rubbing to make him mad.... get gently aggressive...

After the puppy is responding I tie the umbilical cord, remove the hemostat, take his



**A Dam should not push on a single puppy for more than 2 hours. If your female is struggling, occasionally pushing and more than 4 hours passes between puppies it's time for medical intervention.**

weight, identify him/her, and try to plug him on mommies breast.

I keep a warming box close by and I place the puppies there momentarily, if necessary, while I assist the mom to give birth to the other puppies.

KEEP COUNT Of your placenta's. you need ONE Out, for each puppy...

Now when you clamp the cord, you should put on 2 hemostats, and cut in the middle. One pair goes with the puppy, and one pair stays on the dam. 40% of the time the placenta comes out with the puppy, 60 % of the time, it stays inside, and follows. I like to keep a hold of the placenta, and the sterile hemostats do just that. If the placenta was retained... (BUT, I have a hold of it), to not have a retained placenta.

Your Dam could be progressing normally. Deliver 2 pups, and then shut down. So after 3 hours and no pups, and no contractions, you need to outguess as to whether every thing is Okay, and she is having a rest (which can be normal) or if there is a problem. ((Time to Call the Vet)) On a recent litter of a freind, after 3 hours of nothing, my friend went to the Vets, she got a shot of Oxytocin, and that made a small contraction. Then did another shot of Oxytocin under Vet care, and still only a small contraction. The contractions were not pushing the puppies down to the birth canal. Vet decided it was time for a C-section, Once the C-section was complete, the vet informed her that the C-section was necessary, and that her contractions had pushed 2 pups out, and 2 forward. The 2 that had moved forward, were so far up, that she would not have gotten them out. Decisions like this are sometimes hard to make, but it sure feels good in the end, when you called for professional Veterinary help. Remember, if something doesn't seem right, CALL your VET. I personally do not like Oxytocin, Calcium works much better.

It can also happen that the female looks calm, you may think they are finished... and when you least expect it, a last one is born after 3 or 4 hours...

After all the puppies have been born any left over placenta, blood and fluid is passed. Don't freak out if the color of the blood is not red and especially with her bowel movements. Bowel movements will be a different darker color for a few days.

Even after the whelping is finished, problems can come. A new Mom, may have doubts about these puppy things, especially if she had a hard whelping

The faster you get all the pups nursing the better.

They will get the needed colostrums, and the Dam will produce hormones that will actually turn her into a better loving mom.

Keep her fluids up, and give her a bowl of warm broth.

Some puppies do not take to nursing, BE PREPARED to be up around the clock. Feeding a slow starting puppy that just will not nurse. Have Canine Puppy milk replacer on hand. Hand feeding one puppy happens, but the worst one must prepare for is feeding an orphaned litter. \*

# How to Raise Puppies

by Gloria Koolsbergen

The puppies are born in my office and stay on a private room for 5 weeks, that way the mother is relaxed and happy.

I keep the temperature between 23– 26°C because a cold puppy will stop eating and then may die.

I make fitted blankets so the mother will not dig and suffocate the puppy by covering him/her with the blanket.

I place the mother and puppies on a whelping box that has a electric blanket under the fitted blanket to provide a safe warm and cozy environment for the puppies. I make a bed padded and have plenty of blankets to change every day or as often as is needed. The first day their bed may get stained with blood because the mother will bleed for a few days/weeks after giving birth.

When silvers are born, they are black with light color nails and white hair under the paws. Silver beige are born Brown and in time they change to a lovely Champagne color.

In Europe and now almost worldwide, docking tails is banned, it is a bylaw not to dock poodles. Now Canada is accepting



**Dinner time was a very messy affair, as Miss Pink found it easier to just walk around in the dish eating as she went. So Jane Beaudry introduced the babes to the Royal Canin dinner table. Only room for 6, so Jane went off to the workshop to build one for 3 more. Much more civilized! Now they all had their own dish and didn't have to share.**



show dogs with natural tails. . I don't like cruelty to animals and I will not dock tail in the future, unless there is a special request (on reservation previous to day 4) from clients.

After 2 weeks old they open their eyes, and ears... The may start walking wobbly at 3-4 weeks old, and I start showing them to go to the pee-pee pad.

I stimulate the puppies from an early age... when I start weaning the puppies, I make a play pen with mobile toys, tunnels, Hula hoops to teach them to jump, and my new toy, a home- made a teeter totter made with a cylinder and a plank of wood.

At 5 weeks old, they are transferred to our family room where they are socialized with the other dogs and humans. There, they are exposed to loud noises, like vacuum cleaner, sound system and movement.

This is the weaning period, the mother stops giving them milk and they are introduced to solids. I like to start them on a Mother and Baby mousse from Royal Canine, natural yogurt (to give them good bacteria in their intestines) some probiotics, cottage cheese and mother / puppy kibble. If the new owners decide to change food, I recommend to do it gradually, because it is better for the puppies digestion.

Fall, spring or summer, when the weather is nice we like to take the puppies outside to their playground and enjoy the sun and fresh air. They enjoy hiding in the tunnels and playing in the back yard on their own little corral over the grass. They enjoy investigating new smells and experience the ground and chasing each other on the grass. They have a little house with a cozy bed and protection from the environment.

Your poodle will be part of your family for a long time to come and no matter the color; the most important is that he or she should have the right personality to fit with your life-style... Our puppies are temperament tested at 6-7 weeks old, so that we can help you choose the right companion or show dog.

I can crate train the puppies during the last week so when they go home no-body will have any sleepless nights.

The puppies are ready to join your family after 8-10 weeks and you can be confident that he or she has had the best start in life.

# Calcium Related Issues in Dogs

## after Whelping



Baci was acting strange when she had her first puppies and I thought she was a bad mother....

by Gloria Koolsbergen

I decided to write about this because when Baci gave birth, it happened to me for the first time. I was very upset thinking that Baci was a bad mother... and I was telling myself I would not breed her again. I was ready to sell her!

When she was whelping she did not want to be with her puppies or to feed them, she would cower in a corner, and try to ignore them. I had to place them on a warming box, thinking it was just because of the pain of the contractions, and giving birth. The later she was pushing them away...

How can it be that this dog that was so loving and protective to young puppies last year, now that she had her own, she was holding them on her mouth and turning in circles?

Sometimes she would walk out of her whelping box and take them to me on her mouth, like saying take care of them I don't want them...

She was extremely restless, and was pushing the puppies away from her and rolling herself like a pretzel to prevent them from nursing.

I was very lucky to have the support of her

breeder and another friend, who told me that I should give her lots of calcium...

I always give calcium to my dogs during whelp, and glucose, to help them get better contractions.

Her puppies were very small and I was worried for them not getting enough nourishment.

I was so lucky to have another litter of puppies! Neige had her babies a few days earlier and she took over the nursing until Baci stabilized. I was even afraid she would chew them up.

I had to feed her Calcium citrate every two hours. She became calmer after a day or two, but I had to keep feeding her calcium regularly until she was completely normal.

She was very anxious to get her babies back and I started to give them back to her one by one. Now she is feeding and caring for her babies and she is a great mother.

I did some research I will share with you as well as some notes that were sent to me by my breeder friends ...

I was told that I should give her lots of calcium...

In the bitch, eclampsia can occur at any time during lactation (nursing), but it is most likely to occur during the first 3 weeks of lactation, which begins within minutes after birth. Eclampsia occurs most commonly in small dogs with large litters, but it can occur in ANY bitch after whelping (giving birth).

You need to give her calcium - that will make a big difference. Do you have any Tums at your home the other Calcium supplement should be Citracal.

**Symptoms of eclampsia** include panting, pacing, restlessness, muscle stiffness and trembling, inability to rise, seizures, and coma.

If eclampsia progresses to produce severe symptoms such as seizures and coma and is not treated immediately, death is possible."

This is where the veterinarians I have worked with have recommended supplementing calcium orally and giving more at the first sign of restlessness, etc as eclampsia can come on fast, and prevention is easier than treating full blown eclampsia.

# Eclampsia



*Oral calcium does not take days to get into the system, using calcium citrate it takes a very short time (generally less than 30 minutes) as it does not require food to be effective.*

**Small Breeds :**  
600 to 800mg of oral calcium - each dose

**Large Breeds :**  
1000- 2000mg - each dose

**Giant Breeds :**  
2000mgs each dose

When you see the symptoms described above you can use oral calcium to settle your bitch.

The general rule of thumb for using oral calcium while nursing, during lactation IF you see symptoms is as follows, every 30-60min until symptoms abate, dose again if symptoms re-appear. Remember that as long as she is nursing your bitch can be at risk for eclampsia, so always be alert to her behavior and if you are at all uncomfortable then your vet is priceless peace of mind.

Remember it is the lack of available calcium that causes eclampsia, the supplementing of calcium during whelping and nursing does not cause eclampsia. Additionally, **you cannot over dose oral calcium during this small window in time**, what ever the body does not use is excreted. Oral calcium does not take days to get into the system, using calcium citrate it takes a very short time (generally less than 30 minutes) as it does not require food to be effective. The thing to remember is if you have needed to supplement calcium that you will have to wean your bitch off of calcium slowly so that she reduces her calcium to zero when the puppies are 100% weaned.

**There are 3 types of calcium that are generally used with dogs—**

Type 1) **Calcium Carbonate**, which is found in most human and animal supplements. This type of calcium requires food in the stomach to work effectively and is used in most antacids ie. Calsorb, OralCal Plus, Tums.

Type 2) **Calcium Citrate**, which is found in some vitamin supplements and additives. It is the most effective orally dosed calcium, as it starts to work as soon as it hits the moist mouth membranes and does not need food in the stomach to become effective. You can find it in most pharmacy sections as Citrical, or you can find it in a powder form at health food stores or on line.

Type 3) **Calcium Gluconate**, which is administered IV or SubQ. It is the recommendation of the group Admins that this type of calcium is only used under strict veterinary supervision because of the potential adverse cardiac effects. It is normally done at the vets with back up monitoring due to the adverse cardiac possibilities.

You should always have some calcium readily available.

**Breeders' Edge® Oral Cal Plus** contains a unique blend of Calcium Carbonate and Milk Calcium Complex. This combination provides a fast-acting, readily absorbed calcium and a

slower absorbing calcium to help mom maintain strong, normal contractions through out labor. Vitamin D combined with two forms of Magnesium enhances calcium absorption and utilization by mom. Antioxidants are included to help her body combat the stress associated with labor. Available in a 15 ml or 30 ml dial-a-dose syringe for more accurate dosing.

It doesn't cause tummy upset and very easy to use. I just put a ribbon of the paste on your finger and she will lick it right off every couple hours at first and then start stretching it out, but always give at least twice a day till weaning.

I tried ordering this product in line, but the shipping to Canada is very expensive. Amazon does not ship to Canada, only Revival. You can find Oral Cal Plus at [www.revivalanimal.com](http://www.revivalanimal.com) they will ship to Canada. For \$53 Shipping charge and duty extra. If shipped to US To qualify for Free Economy Ground Shipping (delivery in 5-10 business days), orders must exceed \$99.00 and weigh under 10 lbs.

**The pregnant dog that has had calcium issues in the past or is at a high risk for repeat Eclampsia needs to be managed closely...**

# WHY MOMS NEED CALCIUM

***Do not give supplemental calcium before labor, and once early labor begins, you should provide balanced calcium, phosphorous, and magnesium supplements.***

*On the Revival webpage I found interesting information prepared by Dr. Don Bramlage, DVM, Director of Veterinary Services at Revival Animal Health .*

## HOW TO USE CALCIUM

Calcium is a mineral that plays a role in both muscle contraction and in building the frame we stand on. They actually work together. Calcium is stored in the bone, and when the level of calcium in the blood is too low, it's pulled out of the bone. When we have excess, it is replaced. This regulation works well, as long as we don't shut it down by supplementing at the wrong time.

Most people understand the importance of calcium in dogs during labor and milking. The short story is do not give supplemental calcium before labor, and once early labor begins, you should provide balanced calcium, phosphorous, and magnesium supplements.

We know milk production increases gradually 10 to 14 days post whelping, so milk fever or Eclampsia can happen at that time.

The big issue is quickly recognizing this set of unusual problems and then treating before babies are lost.

These calcium-related problems include:

- Four-week nursing milk fever
- Shaking or seizing
- Jitteriness; moms constantly up and down, unable to relax their bodies
- Not allowing nursing because of extreme anxiety
- Laying on their tummies instead of their sides, preventing babies from eating
- Over-protectiveness to the point of eating their babies

Ranging from frustrating to disturbing, these behaviors and symptoms need to be corrected at once. None of these calcium issues occur consistently; however, they respond to Breeders Edge Oral Cal Plus initially and then Healthy Bones daily while nursing. The big issue is quickly recognizing this set of unusual problems and then treating before babies are lost.

When you suspect a calcium issue, double the dose of oral calcium gel (Breeders Edge Oral Cal Plus) and repeat in 30 minutes if it does not appear to resolve the issue. These moms usually respond well and return to normal quickly, but dose again in 6 hours to make sure we don't relapse. Give Healthy Bones supplement or a similar calcium supplement

until nursing is stopped to prevent regression. Likely, this calcium deficiency has come on slowly and needs to be corrected over several weeks. Mom will replace the calcium stores in her bones, but that takes time.

We don't know why we are getting more issues with calcium, but always remember, good moms who milk hard are the most vulnerable to calcium deficiency.

## Calcium for Pregnant Dogs

If you supplement calcium before whelping, you shut down the pregnant dog's ability to fine tune the minute-by-minute demand needed for whelping and milk production. By staying away from calcium supplements pre-whelping, you can let her regulate and gear up for the needs of whelping and milking. This helps prevent calcium issues in the pregnant dog, such as Eclampsia or Milk Fever.

Once she starts whelping, supplementation is okay - in fact, it is desirable. Fast-absorbing calcium like Breeders' Edge® Oral Cal Plus is very helpful. Use several times during the birthing process to keep calcium levels up, and the pregnant dog will fine tune from the bone. She won't be eating at this time, so a small amount of gel orally is the only choice. She will accept it readily.

## ECLAMPSIA

The pregnant dog that has had calcium issues in the past or is at a high risk for repeat Eclampsia needs to be managed closely. Use Oral Cal Plus or an injectable Calcium Gluconate when whelping starts and 6 hours later. If you are seeing signs of ineffective labor, nervousness or muscle twitching, quickly give Oral Cal Plus orally or inject Calcium Gluconate immediately. We do not want to give these pregnant dogs the chance to become repeat Eclampsia offenders!

## POST-WHELPING

Post-whelping, all high risk moms and heavy milkers should get calcium supplements until weaning. I give the same bone supplements used for fast-growing puppies. Doc Roy's® Healthy Bones has two parts calcium to one part phosphorus, which is needed for effective absorption. Giving only calcium will make the problem worse - you must balance 2:1 calcium with phosphorus. This formula also includes Vitamin D to help with absorption and Vitamins A & C to help get the calcium out of the bone. All of these nutrients are good for the pregnant dog, and along with the puppy food the nursing mom is on, it will help ease the problems and bone loss.

# Mastitis

## Symptoms and Types

- Loss of appetite
- Lethargy
- Firm, swollen, warm, and painful mammary gland(s) from which purulent (pus-like) or hemorrhagic fluid can be expressed
- Neglect of puppies (due to pain when attempting to nurse)
- Failure of puppies to thrive
- Fever, dehydration, and septic shock with systemic involvement.
- Abscesses or gangrene of gland(s), if left untreated.

Mastitis is a bacterial infection of one or more lactating (milk producing) glands in the breasts. It is often the result of an ascending infection, trauma to the lactating gland, or an infection that has been spread through the blood stream.

*Escherichia coli* (*E. coli*), *Staphylococci*, and  $\beta$ -hemolytic *Streptococci* are some of the main bacteria that are found to be most commonly involved. It is a potentially life-threatening infection, in some cases leading to septic shock, the direct effect of the mammary glands with systemic involvement.

This condition mainly affects postpartum bitches, but it rarely occurs in pseudopregnant lactating bitches too.

Mammary gland swelling is a thickening, proliferation of tissue or a lump in the mammary glands (breasts) and in the surrounding tissue. The mammary glands are comprised of two rows of subcutaneous (under the skin) glandular tissue around each nipple. Generally, there are five glands in each row. Swellings may occur in one or all of the glands.

Swellings of the mammary glands may be due to normal hormonal changes or be associated with disease. Normal swellings of the glands occur during the heat cycle, pregnancy and lactation. The most nutritionally stressful period in the life of a dog is while nursing a litter of puppies. Depending on the size of the litter, the bitch's nutritional needs can be 300% of her normal non-pregnant maintenance need, at the peak of lactation.

The nursing puppies are totally dependent upon the mother's milk for the first four weeks of life. It is vitally important that the quality and quantity of the bitch's milk be optimal throughout lactation. There are many factors that can directly impact lactation, both positively and negatively.

Smaller breeds tend to have four pairs of breasts, while larger breeds average five. Each teat will have eight to twenty openings on the blunt end. Each opening presents an opportunity for

bacterial contamination. Due to the nature of milk, it makes an excellent growth media for bacteria, and infection spreads quickly into the glandular tissue. Inflammation of the mammary tissue is called mastitis. A clean environment is important to help prevent mastitis, and to ensure the health of the puppies.

Interestingly, the tissue within the mammary gland that secretes the milk is present only during times of need, such as pregnancy, during lactation, and continuing for about 45 days after the pups are weaned. It is also present during pseudopregnancy, which accounts for the presence of some milk in the glands in this event. In other times, the tissue atrophies and the cells phase out. Lactation is the combined effects of the secretion of milk by the mammary tissue and the removal of accumulated milk from the glands and teats by suckling. Both are important components to

maintain lactation until the puppies can start the weaning process and gradually eat other food.

Hormones play a key role in the preparation of the mammary gland for milk production prior to whelping, and constantly throughout lactation.

Likewise, the suckling of pups empties the reservoirs of milk, and signals the brain that more production is needed. If suckling stops, or is greatly reduced, the engorgement of the teats and glands signals the brain to decrease or stop the production of milk. The interplay between these two components are vital, as neither one can maintain lactation by itself.

**There are four hormones that work to stimulate milk production and two that influence milk let-down responding to suckling behavior.**

Estrogen is produced primarily by the ovaries, and signals the mammary tissue of anticipated pregnancy. This initiates the production of glandular cells that will then secrete milk when lactation begins. If pregnancy occurs, estrogen is also secreted by the placentas. **Estrogen** also affects lactation by its interactions with prolactin, another hormone.

**Progesterone**, another ovarian hormone, also impacts mammary development during pregnancy and helps maintain active secretion of milk during lactation. Progesterone does depend on estrogenic activity to accomplish its affect in the milk glands.

**Prolactin** is a hormone that is primarily secreted by the pituitary gland, but it is believed that secondary sources are the placenta and uterine tissue. During the last half of pregnancy, prolactin supports the luteal cells in the ovary, so that the level of progesterone secreted by those cells, is maintained in order to continue the pregnancy. As whelping nears, prolactin begins to prepare the mammary gland for production, and continues this activity throughout lactation. An important role of prolactin aside from milk production is the stimulation of normal maternal behavior.

**Relaxin** is the fourth hormone involved in lactation. It is only present during pregnancy and lactation, and thus can be used for pregnancy diagnosis. Relaxin is produced by the placenta, beginning about mid-gestation. Its role is to prepare the late pregnant

## Fighting mild mastitis with cabbage

**You put them in the freezer just for a minute then you get the rolling pin and roll it to break the veins in it as that is what sucks the heat out of the breast. Then I just slap it on and take a ace bandage and wrap it around her to keep the cabbage in place for about 15-20minutes.**

## CAUSES:

- **Ascending infection via teat canals**
- **Trauma inflicted on the mammary glands by a puppy's toenails or teeth**
- **Poor hygiene**
- **Systemic infection originating elsewhere in the body**

uterus, cervix and vagina as whelping nears. In conjunction with estrogen, relaxin stimulates mammary development. The two hormones that influence milk-letdown are **oxytocin** and **prolactin**. Stimulation of the teat by rooting or suckling behavior releases both hormones. Oxytocin is the primary agent and reacts at the cellular level in the mammary gland to contract and squeeze milk down into the teats. Prolactin acts in a much more muted fashion by helping the secretory cells to release the milk into the reservoir areas.

When whelping labor begins, the puppy closest to the cervix is pressed against it. Ideally the pup is presenting nose first. **The pressure of the pup's nose into the cervix stimulates the release of prolactin, initiating milk production.**

When a bitch is delivered by cesarean surgery, especially if the surgery is prior to the onset of labor, the cervix is not pressured by contractions moving the puppies forward. This lack of cervical stimulation may account for **delayed milk, or lack of milk, following surgical delivery.** In addition, that prolactin release resulting from cervical stimulation also initiates maternal behavior. In the absence of this, bitches delivered by C-section may be slower to take care of the pups upon waking, occasionally even showing aggressive behavior towards her pups.

The first secretions from the mammary tissue are rich in immunoglobulins, transferring passive immunity to the pups for a period of time. Colostrum, present only the first few days of lactation, is slightly more viscous than regular milk, and may have a yellowish tint. Ordinarily, the cells lining the intestinal tract are too impermeable to allow absorption of intact immunoglobulins, and they would be broken down to component parts by enzymes. However, in newborns, the intestines are highly permeable for the first 24 hours, allowing them to put these intact immunoglobulins into circulation immediately. This provides the first immunological defenses to be active immediately.

The bitch's milk has all the nutrients needed to support life and growth in her pups for the first four weeks. Just as the puppies rate of growth and level of activity change during this time, so do the components of the milk. The protein portion will gradually increase from approximately 4.5% to 6.5% over six weeks. The fat content will also increase initially, from approximately 2.5% to 4.5% during the first three weeks, then returning to the original level. Calcium is another nutrient that progressively increases, matching the needs of the rapidly growing puppies.

While nutrient composition is important, the water content is

equally so. Newborn puppies experience a high rate water turnover. This constant intake of fluid maintains the puppy's blood volume and hydration status. So **the nursing bitch needs much more water than normal for the entire time that pups are suckling.** Lack of water will decrease her milk production and may cause her to dehydrate, as well as the puppies.

Mastitis is a constant concern for lactating dogs. There is much opportunity for bacterial contamination of the teats from the environment as well as from the nails of the nursing puppies as they knead the breast while nursing. **Depending on the type of bacteria initiating mastitis, the milk may or may not be suitable for the pups to take in.** Not all cases of mastitis have a bacteria infection associated. Additionally, mastitis may be localized to one area, or may spread to adjacent glands. Sometimes the bitch will show symptoms of mastitis such as red-denied, inflamed mammary glands, and discomfort or pain when the pups try to nurse. Milk from mastitic glands may have a different color than normal, such as greenish tint, or blood tinged. Sometimes, mastitis can develop rapidly without symptoms, and the first that the breeder knows of a problem is **puppy deaths.** This type of development can be life threatening for the bitch as well.

The decision on whether or not to take the pups and hand-feed varies with each individual situation. Variables such as the extent of the mastitis, the health of the dam, and the cause of the mastitis will all influence the decision.

When the mammary glands don't produce milk, at all or at an inadequate level, it is usually secondary to some other problem. This lack of milk is called agalactia. One potential cause can be that the nesting area is too warm, and the bitch cannot sufficiently get away from the heat to cool down periodically. The bitch may not be getting enough food or water, or the food is not the right type (such as feeding a maintenance diet instead of a puppy or performance diet). Mastitis can decrease milk production, as can infection within the uterus (metritis). Stress from overcrowding, too much noise, or too much traffic through the maternity area can effectively shut down milk production. The first-time mom, or a nervous mom, can be stressed to the point of shutting down milk production as well. Some breeds, or familial lines within breeds, are just not good milk producers. If the dam has poor milk production, the female pups may likewise be poor producers in the future. Milk production is a genetic trait. There are some treatments that may help, depending on the initial cause. While oxytocin has been recognized for stimulating milk letdown, it is not always the answer. If the glandular cells are not producing milk, there will be no milk to let down. Drugs such as metoclopramide, domperidone, or low-dose acepromazine (in the case of nervous bitch, however will also cause sedation) may help. Many veterinarians report success with acupuncture therapy. In any event, the cause of the agalactia needs to be determined to facilitate effective treatment, if possible. It is important to seek guidance from a veterinarian for appropriate options. If infection is present, this will need to be addressed as soon as possible.

# Purslane

**Latin name:** (*portulaca oleracea*)

**Description:** has fleshy succulent leaves and stems with yellow flowers and is very resilient growing in many conditions from fertile garden soil to the poorest arid areas and can take over a rocky driveway, hence its reputation as being simple a weed. Its hardiness is demonstrated by the fact that the seeds can stay viable, buried in soil for up to 40 years.

It has its origins in Persia and India but is now common throughout the world and it is now believed that it can provide us with various health benefits.



Studies have shown that it has a higher level of beneficial antioxidants than spinach (i) and greater concentrations of omega-3 fatty acids than some fish oils whilst having the additional advantage of being suitable for vegans and vegetarians.

**Antioxidants** are hugely beneficial to our health helping to reduce heart disease, atherosclerosis, cancer, memory loss, and age-related vision loss as well as boosting our immune systems (ii).

**Omega-3 fatty acids** powerfully anti-inflammatory and recognized as playing a role in the reduced risk of rheumatoid arthritis, Alzheimer's disease and dementia, asthma, heart disease and depression (ii).

It is an extremely rich source of vitamin A, which again can protect against certain types of cancer and improve eye health. A serving of 100g of Purslane can provide as much as 44% of the recommended daily intake of **vitamin A**.

Purslane also contains **vitamins C, and B-complex including riboflavin, pyridoxine, and niacin, carotenoids, and several trace minerals including iron, magnesium, and calcium.**

Purslane starts to lose its nutritional qualities immediately after harvesting. If you don't have a big garden or if you fear that planting purslane will take over your entire vegetable garden,

try growing it indoors as a microgreen. All you need is an empty container, some potting soil, organic purslane seeds and a sunny window sill. Simply sow the seeds, keep the soil moist (but avoid over-watering), and watch your micro-purslane grow!

In the Middle East it is common to find this plant being sold in bundles in the local markets and used in many dishes. It is considered to be a 'cooling' food in hot climates.

It is also widely used in some Mediterranean dishes. For humans, you can sauté it with onions, garlic and tomatoes or make a salad with olive oil and fresh squeezed lemon juice. It makes a great health boosting ingredient to add to soups or smoothies. Suddenly it doesn't sound like a weed anymore!

With all this benefits, if you avoid onions on the preparation, this vegetable can be easily added to your dog food preparations at very low cost, if you plant it on your garden. Use the same consideration and avoid when your bitches are pregnant.

Please note that pregnant women are commonly advised to avoid eating purslane.

## SOURCES/REFERENCES:

(i) <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/1354675>

(ii) <http://www.webmd.com/cancer/features/antioxidants-omega3s>

# GARLIC FOR HUMAN AND DOG HEALTH

From: <http://www.garlicvalleyfarms.com/>

Numerous medical studies show how garlic juice reduces cholesterol and helps the heart. Worldwide people take garlic pills, eat garlic cloves and spray garlic juice on food for good health.

Remember that folk stories tale about garlic been good to scare away vampires?

They really keep away the blood sucking insects that pes-  
ter your pets...

## For dogs garlic does even more:

1. Keeps dogs from having worms and gets rid of worms that are there.
2. Keeps **fleas and ticks off** dogs by getting into the dog's system and creating: a garlic odor that fleas and ticks detect and avoid the dog altogether. (Don't worry, your dog won't smell like garlic. Humans can't detect the garlic odor on the dog but the insects sure will!)
3. Reduces a dog's cholesterol level for good heart function.

*The Culex quinquefasciatus mosquito is known to be a vector for [various diseases and viruses](#).*

Garlic Juice is easiest way to give garlic to your dog, here's how most kennels and dog owners do it:

Spray or pour garlic into the dog's food, mix well into the food.

Here's the recommended daily dosage:

5-20 lb. dogs - 4 sprays or 1/4 ounce in food daily.

21-50 lb. dogs - 6 sprays into food and mix well.

51 lbs. and over dogs 8 sprays into food and mix well.

If, for some rare reason your dog will not eat food with the garlic juice in it, mix the garlic juice with soybean oil (available in the cooking oil section at your local supermarket) and mix into food - this also helps make a very nice coat on the dog. Say goodbye to poisonous flea collars! Mother Nature has provided a safe and all-natural alternative - farm fresh garlic juice!

**Mosquitoes can't tolerate garlic- That is why there are no mosquitoes or ticks in a garden field!**

## Repellent For Grassy Areas; Yards, Parks, Athletic Fields And Golf Courses.

Just one spraying of all natural, liquid garlic-based Mosquito Barrier will keep mosquitoes, ticks, fleas, gnats, fire ants and [black flies](#) out of your yard and away from your home, 24 hours a day for nearly a month.

Being used right now by City Governments for parks, golf courses and school grounds - because it works

Mosquito Barrier is a very strong liquid garlic made from very potent garlic cloves. The garlic used in Mosquito Barrier is a very powerful variety which is much more potent than the garlic found in grocery stores (in fact, our lab people here refer to it as "super garlic"). Click here see a scientific analysis of Mosquito Barrier.

Garlic has a natural sulfur which repels insects, including mosquitoes, ticks, fleas and even black flies. Spraying garlic to keep insects away is not something new, farmers and master gardeners have been doing it for many generations.

Since mosquitoes are soft-bodied insects the garlic juice can be very toxic to them in increased concentrations. The juice does not harm humans or pets or plants, but to mosquitoes it can be deadly. The odor of it chases them out of the area and they stay away - for as long as they can detect the odor. While the odor of sprayed garlic juice becomes undetectable to humans within minutes, the mosquitoes will still detect it. Mosquitoes have extremely sensitive odor sensing antennae - as high as 10,000 times better than humans. They can detect the garlic extract for much longer periods of time and will stay away from the sprayed area for up to a month and more. If the mosquitoes aren't in your yard, they can't get into your house.

Additionally, Mosquito Barrier, when mixed with canola oil (available at your local grocery store) plus the water, coats any standing water in the area with a very thin film of natural oil, including some garlic oil which is present in the garlic juice. This oil suffocates the mosquito larvae which are developing in any standing water. Mosquito Barrier, unlike harmful chemicals, doesn't kill bees or butterflies and is completely safe for children, fish, birds, dogs, cats and other pets. Generally, four applications are enough for the entire mosquito and tick season. Even in the heaviest of infestations the gallon size is almost always enough for the entire year for most homes - including areas where the mosquito is the state bird.



# Mosquito Barrier®



# Is garlic safe or not?

By: Lisa S. Newman, ND, Ph.D.

When it comes to your animal's health, you want to follow facts, not fears. It's easy for rumors and misinformation to arise, and thanks to the Internet these rumors can grow and spread fast. One of the things that have come under attack recently is garlic. You've probably heard on the one hand that garlic is a safe and healthy herb for your animals, only to read somewhere next day that it's dangerously toxic and should be avoided. Which is correct?

## The onion connection

The confusion surrounding garlic arises primarily from its close ties to the onion family. Onions have a high concentration of thiosulphate, a substance that can trigger hemolytic or Heinz body anemia in dogs, a condition where circulating red blood cells burst. When it comes to onions, a single generous serving can cause this reaction.

"Onions are only one of the substances which can cause Heinz body anemia," adds Wendy Wallner, DVM. "Other substances such as acetaminophen (Tylenol) and benzocaine-containing topical preparations can also cause Heinz body anemia in the dog." Benzocaine probably accounts for many cases of the illness because it is prevalent in creams often recommended for allergy-suffering animals. It is absorbed through the skin and builds up in the bloodstream. In fact, this substance is often likely to have been involved in cases where garlic was suspect.

Garlic itself simply does not contain the same concentration of thiosulphate as onions do. In fact, it is barely traceable in garlic, and is readily excreted from the body. Despite this, garlic is falling victim to mass hysteria. There are 51,174 websites devoted to warnings about the toxicity of garlic. Yet there is little scientific data to back this claim other than those small amounts of thiosulphate. There are still over 400,000 sites proclaiming the benefits of garlic, many from reputable holistic veterinarians who have widely used it in their practice for many years.

## Garlic's health benefits

As long as humans have been using herbs, garlic has been a primary remedy. And as long as people have been using garlic, they have also been feeding it to their animals. Its properties have proven far-reaching and safe to use.



In the past 50 years, during the rebirth of holistic medicine in the United States, garlic has been in the forefront. Every text I have researched on herbal health care for animals has recommended it, especially for its incredible anti-parasitic and antiseptic properties.

In my own experience, garlic has also benefited animals with cancer, diabetes, liver, heart and kidney disease, uncontrollable staph infections and a host of other conditions. It is a staple in my recommended preventative protocols, and has been widely used in hundreds of thousands of animals with no reported negative side effects (except on breath!).

In other words, it's fine to use garlic in reasonable doses. Trust history over hysteria!

## What form is best?

Raw garlic fed daily may be hard on the GI tract and cause digestive upset or diarrhea. This means your animal can't really eat enough to get true therapeutic dosages. Dehydrated powder or cooked garlic has gone through a heat process that destroys much of its benefits, so the best form to use is a purified extract, often fed in a gel cap. This form can easily get into the intestines in concentrated amounts, benefiting the animal without digestive upset.

# Essential Oils

## Repel fleas and mosquitoes from you and your dog

Written by Gloria Koolsbergen

When I took Natural health studies, one of the most fascinating courses was the use of essential oils.

Instead of using strong chemicals that could affect your health or your pet's, I tried using essential oils on the preparations of mosquitoes repellants.

I have often problems when competing for agility, on those humid warm days of summer and my poor four legged friends were also suffering the consequences of mosquito bites. It is a concern when you think that mosquitoes can bring them heart worms.

Dirofilariosis is the heart worm, transmitted mostly to dogs by mosquitoes. The larva's will go to the lungs and fixes itself in the arteries of the lungs and heart. Not only will obstruct the arteries, it also could cause lack of red cells. It is recommended a preventive treatment as it is difficult and painful to heal.

I used plants as well which I will let stand on Which Hazzle for over 2 month making like a tincture that I will spray with an atomizer over my dog's coat. Other alternatives that seem to work better are essential oils.

Essential oils are concentrated, liquid plant extracts used for therapeutic and medicinal purposes. They are called "essential" because they contain the essence of a plant, including its aroma and health properties. Since essential oils can be taken from virtually all plants, many essential oils come from various sources, including flowers, grasses, fruits, roots, trees, and leaves.

Essential oils are pretty powerful stuff, which is why we recommend using carrier oils. Carrier oils are created from vegetable, nut, or seed oils, many of which have therapeutic properties of their own. They do not lessen the therapeutic benefits of essential oils; they spread them further and make essential oils easier on the skin. Examples of carrier oils include Olive, Jojoba, Avocado, Sweet Almond, and Fractionated Coconut Oil

**This are some interesting Essential oils that you could mix with aloe vera gel and Neem Oil**

**Cold pressed Neem Oil** (*Azadirachta Indica*) is one of nature's strongest insecticides. Neem oil lingers for a few days longer than essential oils, remaining active. You only need very

little 1% dilution. The smell can be unpleasant, but it is a good idea to mix it with some sweet smelling essential oil. Use just a little not to overwhelm the dog.

Neem oil is toxic for all insects, it affects their nervous system, but it does not affect mammals, make a spray and moist the animals coats with it. Spray before going out and after 30 min. to maximize protection.

**Formula Anti-mosquitoes:** Dilute 10% essential oils of Geranium (*Pelargonium asperum*), Eucalyptus *Citriodora*, on Neem oil. You can also add grain alcohol and lavender essential oil.

Mix it and use it to spread over your dog's coat, specially around the legs, ruff, and around the ears, every few days or when you are going out to flea infested areas.

This is a list of the most effective essential oils. However take care of buying high quality oils used for aromatherapy, because the ones sold on supermarkets are usually adulterated...

**Lavender** (*lavandula augustifolia*), it is a well known and beloved essential oil. Because of its sedative properties it calms stressed or nervous pets, and humans. It also repels fleas and other crawling bugs. It soothes irritation of flea bites, burns, .

**Eucalyptus** (*lemon or narrow leaf, eucalyptus citriodora or radiata*) It is very effective against flying bugs, including mosquitoes.

**Geranium** (*Pelargonium graveolens*),

**Properties:** Analgesic, Antidepressant, Antifungal, Astringent, Cicatrizing, Coagulant/Hemostatic, Diuretic \* Insect repellents, Sedative, Skin tonic, Stimulant, Vulnerary. It is a well recognized tick repellent that also works for lice and fleas. Geranium can be used as an insecticide against head lice



**Citronella** health benefits can be attributed to its properties as: an antibacterial, antidepressant, antiseptic, antispasmodic, anti-inflammatory, deodorant, diaphoretic, diuretic, febrifuge, fungicidal, **insect repellent**, stomachic, stimulant, tonic and vermifuge substance. This is one of the most commonly used properties of this essential oil, as **it kills and keeps away insects**. This is also effective on lice, body and head louse, and fleas

## An Article from Washington Post

**For me it is important to write, that first the poodles were working dogs and I am sure that it is still interesting to know for the people, that the poodle is still a real dog who is able to do many things and he is able to do many things even better than other dogs.**

With written permission of John Suter: I'd be happy to get the word out on working poodles, yes on your request to use the photos and write whatever you wish on the subject of my poodle sled dogs

### HOW TO USE CALCIUM

Most dogs can excel at something, but few breeds can Do It All! Welcome to the world of the Poodle. Few, if any, other breeds can attest to such versatility.

Maybe it was his California upbringing. Perhaps it was his bent for seeing a joke in just about anything. For whatever reason, when Alaska transplant John Suter saw a miniature poodle eagerly running to keep up with his snowmobile, an improbable thought occurred to him: Now there's a sled dog.

It was the 1970s, and the military duty that had brought Suter to Alaska, where he was a member of an army biathlon team, was over. The poodle idea gripped him. Soon, he was back in California, buying standard poodles – the big ones, because even Suter wasn't quixotic enough to use miniatures – and transporting them north to build a dog-sledding team. "No one ever did poodles before," Suter, 66, said in an interview this week from his home in Chugiak, Alaska. "I thought maybe we could get something going."

He did. By 1991, Suter had raced poofy poodles in hundreds of dog-sledding competitions, appeared on The Tonight Show with Johnny Carson — and four times completed the Iditarod with part-poodle teams. They didn't do half badly, finishing in the lower middle of the pack and earning an eternal spot in Iditarod trivia books.

But, Suter said, mushing with poodles was "far more difficult than I anticipated." And 25 years later, no one's tried it again, in part because the punishing, 1,100-mile race rules now stipulate that "only dogs suitable for arctic travel" are permitted, and that's generally believed to exclude poodles.

Suter thinks he was onto something that might someday have led to a poodle victory: He'd raise the poodle puppies alongside huskies, and the poodles "copied them," he said. Several generations of dogs in — about 80 black, white and brown poodles — he said he saw the dogs picking up a husky-like drive to dash through the snow, while retaining their poodle essence.

"If you fall off the sled, the huskies will keep running down the trail," said Suter, who's a stevedore at the port in Anchorage. "The poodles will turn around to see if you're there and do a U-turn and come pick you up."

Poodles and dog-sledding is not necessarily as ridiculous a combination as it might sound. Although it classifies standard poodles as "non-sporting" dogs, the American Kennel Club says they're "enthusiastic walkers, runners and swimmers." But they're also athletic retrievers and hunting dogs, and their thick coat provides ample protection from water when not trimmed into circus-style orbs.



Suter with his poodle team in Minnesota. (Courtesy of John Suter)



Suter with his poodle team in Minnesota. (Courtesy of John Suter)

On Suter's team, they needed that coat. The Iditarod often passes through blizzards and subzero temperatures (conditions that, among other things, cause animal rights groups to say the slog amounts to dog abuse). Suter's poodles' fur was so thick that Alaskan village kids would ask him if the dogs were sheep, he said. Sometimes he had to spray their paws with Pam to keep ice from sticking.

By 1998, he and his poodles had done hundreds of races – including a 500-miler in Minnesota that was chronicled by [Sports Illustrated](#) – and Suter entered the Iditarod.

At that time, American Susan Butcher was a top musher, and the magazine noted that Suter had inspired a new saying in dog-sledding circles: Women win the Iditarod and men mush poodles. Suter said he didn't mind; he still tells jokes that refer to him as the "Idita-idiot."

Umiat, a black poodle, led Suter's team of three poodles and six huskies across the finish line after 18 days, 1 hour and 50 mins — a full week behind the winner, but a finish nonetheless. The Washington Post editorial board praised Suter at the time for elevating the image of dogs that "don't choose to be trimmed to look like ornamental shrubbery" and inspiring other breeds "that never thought they could run with the huskies."

Suter and Umiat, her ears adorned with red ribbons, appeared that year on Johnny Carson, where Suter said he had wanted to "erase the sissy name that's on the poodle."

Suter's best Iditarod finish came the next year: 14 days and 22 hours, or about 6 days longer than Seavey's finish this year. By 1991, the poodles had taken first place in several smaller races. But Suter had taken out a second mortgage, liquidated his retirement funds and run up his credit card to fund his sport, and he'd won a total of \$2,000 in Iditarod prize money over four years.

Sponsors wanted winners, not novelty.



Today, Suter joked, only "old-timers without Alzheimer's" in Alaska remember his exploits. But he's got a legacy: His daughter is a competitive musher — of huskies. And in 2010, a California woman wrote a children's book inspired by his story. It's called "Sled Dog Poodles."

Suter said he still goes to the Iditarod start in Anchorage each year. "If you enjoy freezing cold and blowing snow," he said, he highly recommends it.

"It's just a great adventure, you know? And when you're actually on a sled doing it, it's the endless trail," Suter said. "To go that far by foot power!"



Just in case you might ever want to put the books I did inspired by John they are available at [www.flying-poodles.com](http://www.flying-poodles.com) signed and numbered copied, limited editions. He had quite a story!!

# Three Canadian Poodle Specialties in Conjunction with Erie Shores Kennel Club All-Breed Shows

4 All Breed Shows, 6 Obedience & 6 Rally Trials



Miniature Poodle Club of Ontario  
Annual Specialty  
June 3, 2016  
Judge William (Bill) Shelton  
(California, USA)

Poodle Club of Ontario  
Annual Specialty  
June 4, 2016  
Judge Robert Hutton  
(Kentucky, USA)



2016 National Specialty  
June 5, 2016  
Judge Francesca Browning-Christina  
(Gauteng, South Africa)

**Closing Date Monday, May, 16, 2016**  
Premium list at - <http://www.mjnshowservices.com/>

Also, a funny picture of BPIS Can. Int'l. Ch. Khalsa's Fire'N'Ice CD TD CGN (known as FAI) dressed to track in full show coat. She was the start of Jane's breeding program.





## *Keisha having fun at Herding*



The Ottawa Valley Poodle Club organized a day with a herding examiner last summer and we had a great time getting her herding instinct certificate. Feel free to use any (or none) of these. I really enjoyed reading the last newsletter. Thanks so much for putting in so much effort.

**DONOVAN**

*November 6, 2001 – March 1, 2016*

**U-SHR CKC Ch MOTCh Reigate's Here Comes The Sun, TDX,  
UTD, WC, JH, AgX, Ag.XJ, CGN, AIOC-CDX, AAC ATChC,  
MSCDC, Bronze Jumpers, Silver Standard, Silver AOM, HIT,  
SDDA-SD-S SP, VIP-VCX, PCC Versatile Poodle**

I spent some of the best years of my life exploring new avenues in dog sports with Donovan, my special boy. He was up for whatever I suggested, and shone at everything we attempted. His legacy is carried on in his great grandchildren.

His breeder and co-owner, Suzanne Loblaw, was always there to cheer us on, and supported all we played at, be it agility, obedience, track, field, herding and recently nosework. Dono loved his friends and was ever the gentleman.





## \*\*\*\*\* Bellefleet Toy Poodles \*\*\*\*\*

### *New Canadian and American Champion and Grand Champion*

#### *SELECT DOG at PCA 2016*

BISS MBPISS Can.Ch. & Am.GCh.  
Bellefleet's Captain Morgan  
(by Am.Ch. Primrose Cosmopolitan  
ex Can.Ch. Bellefleet's Sugar and  
Spice)

Bred by Bellefleet Poodles. Shown  
by Kim Wendling. Photo by Jessica  
Starbuck.



## *Bellefleet Miniature Poodles*

### *New Canadian Champion*

**Can.Ch. Bellefleet Don't Stop Believin –**

**“Journey”**

**(by Am.Can.UKC.Ch.Bellefleet Dynamic Force ex  
MBIS Can.Am.GCh. Bellefleet Don't Pass Me By)**

Bred by Bellefleet Poodles. Shown by Kim Wendling.

Dr. Joanne & Alysia Reichertz j  
[joanne@bellefleet.com](mailto:joanne@bellefleet.com) [www.bellefleet.com](http://www.bellefleet.com)



\*\*\*\*\* *NEW AMERICAN CHAMPIONS* \*\*\*\*\*

*Am/Can Ch Reigate Dawin Moonshadow aka Lucas*

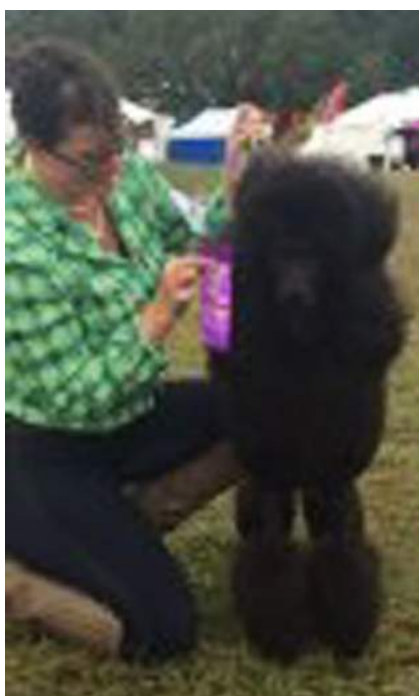
*Lucas was bred by Linda Campbell and myself and was sired by Am. Ch. Dawin Avion Over The Moon and out of Am/Can Ch. Reigate Dawin On The Move and he is owned by Linda and Suzanne Loblaw .*

What a wonderful weekend!!! Linda and I are thrilled to announce our second American Champion this weekend In Brooksville Fla. Introducing ....Am/Can Ch. Reigate Dawin Moonshadow

This was Lucas' first weekend out with Sarah and Matt Perchick and we thank you so much for this lovely finish for Lucas with 4 majors. Matt was at the helm today for the big Best of Winners major. Thank you also to, the judges that appreciated our lovely white boy! Lucas Can. Ch. and part of his US was with Jenna Lostale as a puppy last winter. Thank you all!!!!



*Am/Can Ch. Dawin Rei-gate Stole My Heart aka Cora*



*bred by Adele Kirk, Linda Campbell and myself and owned by Linda Campbell and Suzanne Loblaw .*

*She is sired by Ch. Sovereign Sir Winston out of Ch Dawin Reigate Up Up And Away CD.*

Linda and I are thrilled to announce that our lovely blue girl Cora finished her American Championship today at the Tampa Bay Kennel Club show with 4 majors. Thank you to Sarah and Matt Perchick and Tara for this lovely finish and to the judges who appreciated her quality.

Cora is now Am/ Can Ch. Dawin Rei-gate Stole My Heart Cora is 15 months old. Lisa Wright finished her Canadian Championship very quickly last June with Group placements.

## \*\*\*\*\* NEW AMERICAN CHAMPIONS \*\*\*\*\*

### *Am/Can Ch Dawin Reigate Firefox aka Foxy*

*Foxy is bred by Linda Campbell and owned by Linda and Suzanne Loblaw*

*She is sired by AmGCh/CanCh Dawin*

*Wildrose Raisin The Stakes (Alex) and out of*

*AmG Ch/CanCh Dawin Spitfire (Jetta).*

Thank you to the judges that appreciated the soundness and beauty of this young girl and to Sarah Perchick and Sarah Drake who expertly piloted her to the finish line in both countries. Foxy comes home Wednesday to start having some more casual fun!!! Yea!!!

Thank you again everyone!!



### *Am/Can Ch. Dawin Rei-gate Irresistible aka Flirt*



*Flirt is co-owned by Linda Campbell and Suzanne Loblaw and bred by Adele Kirk, Suzanne and Linda.*

*Sire: Ch Sovereign Sir Winston*

*Dam: Ch Dawin Reigate Up Up and Away CD)*

Thanks to Sarah, Matt, and Tara, and all the judges who deemed her worthy.

Flirt finished her Canadian Championship in style with Sarah Drake. Thank you.

## \*\*\*\*\* NEW GRAND CHAMPION \*\*\*\*\*

### *ELLA aka GCH Gardenpath Concours d'Elegante*

*(her name means Competition of Elegance)*

**MBIS AM GCH INT SU DK FIN CH Dacun Kaylen's He's A**

**Heartbreaker x**

**CH Canzone Bella Nina of Gardenpath TD CD RE CGN VCX)**

ELLA is bred, owned and loved by Renee and expertly presented in the show ring by Allison Cowie-Hardie.

Pictured with Judge Terill Udenberg completing her Granch Championship.

We are very excited about Ella's future!

Renee S. Koch - Gardenpath Standard Poodles - Kitchener, ON



### *Kushnivas Hoodwinked the Devil CGN RN HIC CD*

Sire: Am GCh Targa Speak of the Devil

Dam: Am/Can Ch Kushnivas Don't Just Wink

Keisha is a 3 year old standard poodle bred by Rod and Jane Beaudry.

She earned her CD title with a High in Trial at the PCC National specialty in October. We are hard at work training for Open classes. The Ottawa Valley Poodle Club organized a great day with a herding examiner last summer and she had a lot of fun earning her herding instinct certificate. This girl was born to herd sheep. Much more fun than dumbbells...







**Next News letter planned for beginning of September,  
After the summer shows...**

**Please I need our member's input!!!**

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

Please send input to your editor Gloria Koolsbergen before the last week of August

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