

THE POODLE SCENE



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Editor: Kate Murray

Poodle Club of Canada



National Specialty 2000

The winner of the 2000 Specialty Shirt Logo Contest has been chosen. This drawing will be featured on the Poodle Club of Canada specialty shirts at our National. They will be available on T-shirts and sweatshirts at the specialty booth and are also available for order. Contact Rosemary Hagen for ordering details and colour choices at: (905) 833 - 5715
This drawing was created by Sylvie Bouchard

Poet

In April I welcomed a seven week old Standard Poodle puppy into my life. The day I went to pick up "the boy" he still didn't have a name. I like to get the essence of a puppy and pick a name to suit. This process can take up to a month! I noticed how thoughtful this puppy was, considering every word you spoke. I thought of the word "Philosopher" – no, too many syllables. Then without a thought, I said "Poet"! The cream puppy, laying sleepily in my arms, snapped his head around and looked directly at me. He approved; his name is "Poet".

In my past, I was the owner and one of the instructors of an obedience school. After a car accident, I was out of dogs for good. With great trepidation I enrolled in the Senior puppy class. My timing was now non-existent, my pain at times intolerable, my personality, on some days was tyrannical. The only way for us to survive was with a sense of humour. This six month old free spirit certainly gave me a great deal of comic relief.

Week one: We were instructed in the use of the target stick and clicker training. Puppies are taught to touch the marked end of a dowel or curtain rod. This is used in further training. Poet learned this very quickly. At the end of the week I went outside to do some retrieving with "Poet", and my Frenchie, "Coco Chanel". I realized almost all the bamboo stakes had been removed from my gardens! Poet looked at me, walked over to one of the remaining stakes, touched the end as trained, then ripped it out of the ground. After telling the instructor, she had me tell the whole class.

Week two: During one of the weeks training sessions a young neighbour stopped to watch me train "Poet". He asked me if I was using a cattle prod to train my puppy?! He saw the target stick and heard the clicker as Poet touched the end. Now I was beginning to understand. Neighbours were skulking around their houses pretending not to be looking. But were very interested in what I was doing! I told the instructor she had single-handedly, wiped out my reputation as a dog trainer.

Week three: On the way to class, I stopped at a shopping mall. As I returned to the car a man was showing his girls my puppy. I asked if they knew what type of dog he was. One of the girls was down syndrome, she said very clearly, "It's a pom pom dog!". He is in a puppy cut, no pom poms to be seen, but she knew he was a Poodle!

Week four: Last weeks lesson was to train the puppies to go to their bed. At the start of class, the instructor asked us how we used this particular exercise. Students related how their puppies stayed on their mats while dinner was being prepared, during dinner and while their children did their homework. After these useful causes I got to tell the class, Poet used his mat as a snack!

Week five: Poet has learned a great deal from mimicking people and dogs. This week when we arrived at class, Poet proceeded to climb up on the chair, turn and sit to face the instructor. This is from a dog who doesn't sit on the furniture at home!

Week six: The other dogs were wonderful at graduation. The instructor wrote excellent on every exercise Poet did, she was kind. I must admit his joy for life and his gentle spirit has made me realize I will always own a Poodle. Now, we have to survive Novice class. Who says, you can't show in conformation and train obedience. And guess what? I'm back in dogs!

Ruth Ann Miller

HEALTH

Epilepsy in Poodles: Diagnosis, Treatment, and Genetic Research

By, Barbara Licht, Ph.D., Mark Licht, Ph.D., Kathy Harper, DVM, Ph.D., Shili Lin, Ph.D., Michelle Kinard, B.S., & Elizabeth Foster, Ph.D.

We are pleased to have this opportunity to introduce ourselves to the Poodle Club of Canada and to describe the work of the Poodle Epilepsy Project. In this article, we first will provide an overview of how idiopathic epilepsy (also called "primary," "true," or "genetic" epilepsy) is diagnosed and treated. Then, we will provide a brief description of the research we are conducting on the genetic basis of epilepsy in Poodles.

Introduction:

Idiopathic epilepsy can occur in all varieties of Poodles, as well as 25-30 other breeds of dogs. When dogs (or people) have idiopathic epilepsy, it generally is assumed that they have inherited the tendency to have seizures. This is in contrast to "symptomatic" epilepsy, where the seizures are caused by another disorder besides idiopathic epilepsy. There are many disorders/diseases that are known to cause seizures. These include a wide variety of metabolic problems (such as liver disorders), infectious diseases that affect the brain (such as distemper), brain tumors, exposure to poisons, head injuries, birth defects (such as hydrocephalus, portosystemic shunt), and more. Thus, whenever a dog has seizures, we recommend that the dog receive a thorough diagnostic work-up to evaluate potential causes of the seizures. Determining the cause will insure that the dog will receive the proper treatment. In addition, determining whether the seizures are due to an underlying illness besides idiopathic epilepsy has important implications for one's breeding program.

Diagnostic Work-Up:

There is no single set of tests that is appropriate for all dogs. However, if possible, the following items are recommended by the Poodle Epilepsy Project whenever a dog has one or more seizures.

1. Complete physical examination
2. Neurological examination
3. Complete Blood Count
4. Serum Chemistry Profile (after 12-hour fast)
5. Urinalysis
6. Bile Acids: 12-hour fasting and 2-hour post-prandial (post-snack)
7. Tests for any suspected poisons (such as lead or organophosphates)
8. The owner should provide the veterinarian with a detailed description of the nature and frequency of the seizures. Owners also should provide details of any prior injuries or illnesses that are not already described in their dog's veterinary records. It also is very useful for owners to provide any information they can obtain about whether any close relatives of their dog have had seizures.
9. Further testing may be warranted if the dog shows abnormal findings on any of the above. Examples include: brain scan (CT or MRI), cerebral spinal fluid (CSF) tap, x-rays, etc.

If none of the examinations, laboratory tests, or dog's history shows anything abnormal, then by process of "exclusion," the dog most likely will be diagnosed as having idiopathic epilepsy. Although the term "idiopathic" means "of unknown cause," it generally is assumed that the seizures are due to an inherited predisposition.

For many dogs (and people) with idiopathic epilepsy, specific environmental factors may "trigger" the seizures, such as stress, brightly flashing lights, or very mild pesticides that normally are safe. However, these "triggers" are not considered to be the sole cause of the seizures because environmental factors such as stress or very mild pesticides would not cause seizures unless the dog also has inherited a genetic predisposition to have seizures.

Although seizures can be terribly frightening and heartbreaking, the prognosis for dogs with idiopathic epilepsy generally is very good. With proper care, the majority of these dogs can live long and happy lives. Sadly, there is a small percentage of dogs with idiopathic epilepsy that are severely affected, and many of these are put to sleep after their owners have tried all possible means of treatment. The prognosis for seizures due to other disorders varies depending on the particular disorder and how early it is diagnosed.

Treatment:

For some dogs with epilepsy (regardless of whether the diagnosis is idiopathic or symptomatic), the seizures will be sufficiently infrequent (one or two per year) that no anti-seizure medication is required, unless the seizures are extremely long (completely unresponsive for more than 5 minutes) or the dog is having more than one seizure in the same day. Currently, there is no consensus concerning when treatment should begin. Some veterinarians suggest that treatment should begin when the dog is having one or more seizures per month. However, others strongly recommend treatment for dogs whose seizures are less frequent than one per month (for example, if the dog is having one seizure every 3 or 4 months). Recent research shows that the long-term prognosis is better when treatment is started early. So specialists are likely to recommend that owners do not wait until the seizures occur as frequently as once per month. Although most seizures do not appear to cause brain damage (unless they are extremely long or occur in clusters), the brain does "get used to" having seizures. This means that the brain will start to seize more easily and that the seizures will be more difficult to control when you do start treatment.

For those who require medication, there are two drugs that are highly effective in controlling seizures in dogs: Phenobarbital (PB) and Bromide. Bromide is either administered as Potassium Bromide (KBr) or Sodium Bromide (NaBr). For years, phenobarbital has been the medication of choice, and KBr was either added or substituted when a dog did not get adequate seizure control with phenobarbital alone or when a dog had liver problems. Phenobarbital is metabolized by the liver, so it can cause liver problems in some dogs. However, monitoring the liver regularly, preferably every 6 months, generally will catch problems before they become serious. Currently, some veterinarians prefer to use KBr first because it does not affect the liver. Researchers currently are comparing the two drugs to see which is best overall, but the results are not yet in. Regardless of which medication is used, it is important to regularly monitor the blood to determine if the level of the drug is within the "therapeutic range" (that is, high enough to control seizures, but not too high to cause serious side effects). There are

many other drugs that are effective with humans. However, most of these drugs do not work well on dogs because the dog's liver metabolizes them too quickly.

A number of owners and veterinarians prefer to try non-traditional ("alternative") approaches to controlling seizures. These include restricted diets, herbal remedies, vitamins, acupuncture, gold bead implants (a permanent form of acupuncture), etc. Some owners and veterinarians report that some of these remedies help a lot, but others report that they do not. Unfortunately, there are no controlled scientific studies on any of these to support or refute their effectiveness. Like traditional drugs, some of these alternative treatments can have negative side effects. So whether you chose traditional medication or alternative treatments, careful monitoring is necessary.

Research being conducted by the Poodle Epilepsy Project:

The overall goal of our research is to understand the genetic and non-genetic causes of seizures in all varieties of Poodles. Presently, we are focusing on idiopathic epilepsy in Standard Poodles, and we are trying to determine the mode of inheritance. More specifically, we are trying to determine whether idiopathic epilepsy is a "simple recessive disorder," a "simple dominant disorder," or a more "complex disorder." The term "simple" means that only one gene pair is involved. One member of the gene pair is passed on from the sire and one from the dam. With a simple recessive disorder, both parents must pass on a defective gene in order to produce an offspring who is affected with the disorder. However, neither parent needs to be affected with the disorder themselves. With a simple dominant disorder, at least one of the parents must be affected with the disorder to produce an affected offspring, and only one parent needs to pass on the defective gene. Complex genetic disorders are likely to result from the combination of multiple genes, and these genes also may interact with the environment to influence the disorder.

Our research is endorsed and funded by the Poodle Club of America, Inc. and the American Kennel Club Canine Health Foundation. Currently, a number of Canadian breeders and owners are participating in our research, and we are hoping that more will help us in the fight against epilepsy. Importantly, all information that owners and breeders provide is completely confidential. No names (of Poodles, breeders, owners, veterinarians, etc.) are released to anyone.

At this point in our research, it is most important that we obtain participation from everyone who owns or who has bred a Standard Poodle with seizures or who owns a Standard Poodle who is related to one with seizures. However, in the future, we also will focus on Miniatures and Toys, so we would like owners of the smaller varieties to provide some "preliminary" information.

Participation involves first filling out a very brief (5 minutes) "preliminary" questionnaire and sending us a photocopy of the Poodle's pedigree and AKC or CKC registration certificate. Also, if you have any information about relatives of your Standard Poodle who have seizures, that information would be greatly appreciated. Afterward, we will contact you to complete a more extensive "Life History Questionnaire" which asks about your Poodle's medical history, lifestyle and vaccinations. It also requests permission to contact the veterinarians who have examined your Poodle. The questionnaire should take about an hour and a half to complete. After you complete the Life History Questionnaire, we will schedule a telephone interview. The interviewer (either an assistant or myself) will ask for descriptions of your Poodle's seizures, conditions under which they occur, their frequency, and

treatments. The interview takes between 1.5 and 2 hours. Last, we may request a small sample of your poodle's blood so that we can search for the actual gene(s) that cause epilepsy.

Although participation in this research is somewhat time-consuming, we will spread it out so that you do not have to do everything at once. Also, as you probably know, epilepsy is very complex, and we need a lot of information from the owners, breeders, and veterinarians of these dogs to reach accurate conclusions.

If you are willing to participate, please contact Dr. Barbara Licht. Also feel free to contact her with any questions that you may have about the diagnostic work-up that was recommended earlier in this article or about epilepsy in general. She can be reached by phone (850-644-6272), FAX (850-644-7739), email <blicht@psy.fsu.edu>, or regular mail (Department of Psychology, Florida State University, Tallahassee, FL 32306-1270).

We look forward to continuing communications with our Canadian friends and to a bright future for the health of this fantastic breed!

This article has been prepared by the Poodle Epilepsy Project at Florida State University. This Project is supported jointly by the Poodle Club of America Foundation Inc. and the American Kennel Club Canine Health Foundation. This project also has received donations from The Dalmatian Club of America, The Ralston Purina Company, Panhandle Pet Supply, and private individuals. The contents of this handout are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the views of the financial sponsors.

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In the Spotlight!

Do you have or know of a Poodle that you feel deserves to be 'In the Spotlight' ?
Send us a picture and short article and your Poodle may be featured in an article
of THE POODLE SCENE.

Send all correspondence to:

THE POODLE SCENE
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Recipe Corner

food for the canine companion

Good Dog Biscuits

Serving size: about 12 large bones or 24 small bones.

Ingredients

1 3/4 cup	Whole wheat flour	1/2 cup	Oatmeal
1/2 cup	Cornmeal	1/4 cup	Liver powder
2 tbsp	Brewer's yeast powder	1/4 cup	Bone meal powder
3 tbsp	Powdered milk	2	Eggs, tightly beaten
3 tbsp	Wheat germ oil (you may Substitute bacon drippings Or vegetable oil).		
1/2 cup	Water		

Preheat oven to 325°F. In a large bowl or a food processor, combine the flour, oatmeal, cornmeal, liver powder, brewer's yeast, bone meal and powdered milk. Stir in the eggs, oil and water and mix thoroughly. The dough will be very stiff and dry. Remove the dough to a lightly floured surface or pastry cloth. Roll or pat it into a rectangle 1/4 to 1/2" thick. Cut into bone shaped biscuits with a small knife, or use a cookie cutter. Re-roll the leftover scraps of dough and reshape, until all the dough is used. Place on a lightly greased cookie sheet and bake for 40-50 minutes until brown and dried through. Cool on a rack.

**Upcoming Events****Alberta**

PCC Regional Specialty.....Fri. August 4, 2000

Poodle Club of Alberta Specialty.....Sun. August 6, 2000

B.C.

PCC Booster, Vernon & District K.C.....Sat. July 8, 2000

Ontario

PCC Fun Match at Rosemary Hagen's - 7PM.....Wed. May 17, 2000

PCC National Specialty Show.....Sun. June 4, 2000

U.S.A

PCA National Specialty Show.....Wed. June 14 - Fri. June 16, 2000

Contact either Michelle Scott, Secretary - (519) 763-1689 e-mail BRIELLE@netcom.ca or Rosemary Hagen, President - (905) 833-5715 for more information on all PCC events. If you would like your poodle related event posted here contact Kate Murray, Editor - (519) 763-1689 e-mail bryson@netcom.ca

ALTERNATIVE HEALTH

Immune Problems, Vaccines and Cancer in Animals

Presented by Cheryl Schwartz

I have been a veterinarian for 18 years, and during this time I have seen an alarming increase in chronic disease. Since the immune system is supposed to protect the individual from disease, apparently a breakdown is occurring.

It used to be that one would see arthritis and thyroid problems in older dogs, but now it is not uncommon to see this in animals under one year of age. There are breed predilections, especially in our small genetic pools of purebreds, but mixed breeds also appear to be affected. The Feline Leukemia Virus (FeLV) appears to be declining in frequency, only to be replaced by the Feline Immune Virus (FIV) in cats. And both hyperthyroid and irritable bowel syndrome is on the rise in the cat population.

Why is this occurring? Many veterinarians, especially holistic ones, are looking at the panacea of pollutants that our bodies are bombarded with. But in addition to the physical assault on the immune system, a major contributor to the scenario is stress.

As one of the passwords of the 90s, *stress* has been shown to produce a myriad of effects in the body from anxious eating habits with vomiting and diarrhea to skin breakouts, to inhalant allergies of pollen and molds. Because our companion animals' life spans are shorter than our own, they can act out immune disorders at a much faster rate than we can.

Pollutants in the air, water systems and foods stress our immune systems. Cats and dogs are similarly affected by the pollutants. They live much closer to the ground than humans do and are exposed up close to many of the toxins in the environment. Additionally, they are bombarded with medications on a regular basis to prevent parasites.

The hole in the ozone layer in the Antarctic which has now reached a stable low level, thanks to an international phaseout of the use of fluorocarbons, may be responsible for the increase in UV light entering the atmosphere causing skin cancer. White cats, especially, are susceptible to skin cancer of the ears by UV exposure. Skin cancer has been on the rise during the last 15 years in humans and animals.

Global warming effects from the burning of fossil fuels can also fuel a surge in organisms transmitting disease. For example, the Lyme disease outbreak on the East Coast in 1994 or the cholera outbreak in Latin America may be linked to heat waves and rising temperatures that spurred an increase in ticks and mosquitos. Many urban water supplies have been contaminated with giardia, a protozoal parasite causing diarrhea, weight loss and pain in both animals and humans.

Animals are given yearly vaccinations that can irritate the immune system. They are also given regular medications to prevent heart worm disease or flea infestations. These medications can cause toxic buildup and need to be cleared through the liver on a regular basis.

Many cat and dog food products contain preservatives which have been shown to cause cancer, especially *ethoxyquin*. Ethoxyquin is now being eliminated from pet food due to the valiant efforts of some veterinarians and an outraged public. Aside from preservatives, it may also be the lack of fresh foods in our animal friends' diet which stresses the digestion.

Lastly, the emotional stresses that our animal friends face abound. Cats and dogs are left inside for long periods of time because of our long work schedules. In an effort to assuage the loneliness that our only animal companion might suffer in our absence, we tend to bring more animals in for "company." This may

create stress in the household due to competition and poorly matched personalities.

Due to traffic and lack of yard space, many animals live totally indoors. The sun is a major source of Vitamin D. Vitamin D is necessary in the metabolism of calcium in our bodies. An indoor animal may have poor bone health if they are kept from outdoor sunlight.

Our animal companions are peaked by our own stress. Animals often act as sponges for our distress. They try to relieve our unhappiness and many times take on more than their share. Holistic medicine believes that the emotional and spiritual outlooks of individuals play a major role in wellness, and if our animal friends are not secure or happy in their living situation, the physical body may show signs of disease.

All of these factors impact the immune system. With an immune system out of balance, our defenses for battling disease and cancer can falter. Thus we need to boost it as much as we can.

The Immune System: What is It?

In Western terms, the immune system protects us from infection and toxins in the environment. It is composed of red and white blood cells, lymph nodes and their connective channels, the tonsils and the glands of the body, like the thyroid.

The immune system also includes our spleen where used red and white blood cells are broken down, recycled and stored; our liver where hemoglobin is made that helps carry oxygen in the blood, plus substances for blood clotting; our kidneys where an enzyme for producing red blood cells is secreted; and lastly the bone marrow where the initial blood cells are produced before they are circulated into the body's blood supply.

In Traditional Chinese Medicine, it is the inherited energy or qi (pronounced chi) of the kidney called kidney jing that is the basis of the immune system. The kidney jing stores the DNA and the game plan for life. It also directs how the bones grow, the bone marrow matures, and our vitality lasts or dwindles. The rest of the immune system depends on the qi or vital energy in the body. The spleen and stomach are responsible for making blood and energy from the food we eat. The lung is closely associated with the nose to give us qi from the air we breathe. It is also associated with the tonsils and the thyroid. And the liver is responsible for storing and smoothly directing the blood flow through the body.

Lastly, the Chinese believe that there is energy called Wei Qi that circulates closely to the surface of the body that acts like the first guard defense system, keeping viruses, bacteria and toxins at bay.

Therefore, it is interesting that both East and West believe that the immune system encompasses the blood and the kidney, spleen and liver. Health resides in a balance of these organs and their interactions.

An Immune System Out of Balance

If an immune system is out of balance, there is chronic or frequent illness.

Chronic problems include skin disorders, "flea allergies," scabs, odors and discharges. They include chronic ear and eye problems with recurrent infections, discharges and odor.

They include chronic sinus problems or thyroid disorders. If the problem is in the digestive system, it can cause vomiting, diarrhea, weight loss and pain. This, too, may include the thyroid.

Irritable bowel disorders have become a major problem in cats and dogs. Approximately one-third of my patients suffer from poor food assimilation and irritable gut. In the intestine, when the cells are not functioning optimally, they can leak fluid and nutrients through their cell walls. This cell wall weakening can then affect how new food is absorbed. What happens is that larger cell surface areas are exposed to food particles, and these larger particles are transported into the cells wholly rather than as small protein or

carbohydrate chains. But the body doesn't recognize whole spaghetti or potato. It only recognizes pieces such as the starch molecule that it knows how to break down. These big molecules appear as foreign substances, so the immune system sends out its own cells to rid the body of the enemy. Unfortunately, the invading agent is the food. This leads to diarrhea, gas, bloating, food allergies or poor digestion in general. The gut wall loses its absorption ability and develops scar tissue which impedes digestion further.

When an organ system is stressed and overworked, it requires more from the blood vessels circulating through its area to feed it and remove debris. The metabolism is pushed and the thyroid may become involved. Chronic eye, ear and skin disorders force white blood cells to continually clean up toxins, and red blood cells to provide oxygen for the chore. The lymph nodes and vessels serving the area will be working overtime. This work may divert them from seeing an invading pathogen.

If the immune system gets overly taxed, it can become confused and attack its own cells, thinking it is the culprit. These are called **autoimmune** problems.

Autoimmune problems include some forms of arthritis and thyroid disease, and some bleeding disorders such as hemolytic anemia. Autoimmune disorders are life threatening. Dr. Jean Dodds claims autoimmune disease involves genetics, viral infection or exposure (as through vaccine), hormonal balance and stress.

Cancer and the Immune System

Cancer is a long-term problem. It doesn't just occur. It is on a continuum of a long battling, irritated immune system. The susceptibility of the individual resides in heredity and subsequent physical, mental and emotional environment. In Traditional Chinese Medicine this includes the kidney jing, the qi and the fluids of the body. Depending upon where the weakness lies, the system can be attacked. As occurs with autoimmune diseases, exposure to a virus, a vaccine or continual stress can upset the precarious balance of the individual and cancer erupts to the surface.

Nutrition plays an important role in maintaining healthy qi, as does regular exercise. Animals need to stretch out to encourage physical and mental circulation. The Chinese believe that stagnation of the circulation is a major factor influencing the development of tumors in the body. Lastly insecurity, excessive anger, frustration, worry and lack of loving touch can stress the immune system long term to lead to cancer and tumor formation.

Vaccinations and the Immune System

The purpose of vaccination is to introduce a small amount of a virulent organism into an individual to *stimulate an immune response*. The immune response is a series of cellular reactions that will help the individual recognize the invading organism the next time it sees it, and then protect the individual from infection. Vaccines have helped to eliminate some diseases from our animal population, such as Canine Distemper and Feline Panleukopenia (Cat Distemper). It has also helped to keep rabies under control, and to avoid infection between humans and animals.

In the healthy individual, vaccines are apparently tolerated well. In an individual who is having difficulties balancing her immune system, vaccinations are sometimes the last insult that the body can withstand before erupting into immune disorders. The controversy in the veterinary community centers around (1) the age for initial vaccinations for young puppies and kittens, (2) the use of modified live virus or killed virus vaccines, (3) whether to give combination or single disease vaccines and (4) the revaccination in adults. The reason for the controversy is that although vaccines can save lives, they can also have unwanted side effects. Holistic veterinarians have been linking the rise of chronic illness in our animal

friends with the use of combination vaccines and repeated yearly booster vaccines. Dr. Jean Dodds has done research showing the link in certain purebred dogs, such as Akitas, Standard Poodles, Shelties, Dobermans and Weimaraners, between vaccination and thyroid problems, arthritis with swelling and heat in the joints (immune-mediated polyarthritis), diarrhea, seizures and bleeding disorders. It seems that the vaccination or revaccination may serve as the final insult to overreach the threshold for the individual.

The side effects can be immediate, or fester and become chronic problems. The immediate reaction is an allergic anaphylactic response where the tissues swell up and we can't breathe. Death can occur within minutes. More often, we see fever, lethargy and some loss of appetite a day after vaccination as an acute reaction. The chronic response usually shows up after 10 days up to two months later. These include seizures, fever, bone marrow suppression, hemolytic anemia, thyroid imbalance, encephalitis, cancer (fibrosarcoma at injection site) and death. Holistic veterinarians also believe the chronic problems arising from overvaccination include skin, ear and digestive disorders. In my practice, if a dog has a chronic ear problem that is in remission and we vaccinate him, there is a 95% chance that there will be an ear flare-up within one week after vaccine. This goes for skin eruptions also, especially following the rabies vaccine.

One point to remember is that if we expect a helpful immune response to a vaccine to last for at least one year, why do we think we can limit the potential side effects to one day? A leading Western immunologist, Dr. Ronald Schultz of the University of Wisconsin School of Veterinary Medicine, has conducted research in vaccinations and writes in a recent leading Western textbook, *"A practice that was started many years ago and that lacks scientific validity or verification (italics added) is annual revaccinations. Almost without exception there is no immunologic requirement for annual revaccination. Immunity to viruses persists for the life of the animal . . . Furthermore, revaccination with most viral vaccines fails to stimulate an anamnestic (secondary) response as a result of interference by existing antibody."*

Most veterinarians were taught in veterinary schools that yearly vaccines were mandatory to protect the animal. Think about human vaccinations, and how often we are revaccinated. The childhood vaccinations are given during childhood only. One reason for yearly vaccines in vet practice is to insure that you, the client, will bring in your animal friend for a physical checkup. You might not do this just to get the animal examined. But you will do it if you think a vaccination will save him from infection. In my practice, I send out yearly reminder notices for physical exams and I expect my clients to comply. They do.

Studies done in Europe and this country have shown that Modified Live Virus vaccines can stimulate responses for a minimum of three years. Dr. Schultz believes that the modified live Canine Distemper Virus vaccine gives lifelong immunity. The killed rabies vaccine protects up to seven years.

Modified Vaccination Schedules

A puppy or kitten is protected from disease when he or she receives the mother's milk at birth. These "maternal antibodies" protect the young for a varying period, up to 16 weeks of age. If the mother's antibody is still working, it interferes with the child's ability to respond to vaccination. So it is necessary to time the vaccinations so that they work effectively. To do this, I recommend that the last vaccination for distemper and parvo in puppies and panleukopenia (cat distemper) in cats should be between 20 to 22 weeks of age.

Holistic practitioners believe that single vaccines are better than 3-in-1's or 5-in-1's because there is less of a chance to confuse the immune system, and still get a good response. The problem is that only some vaccines are available in single form because it is cheaper to prepare them in combinations.

The other question is whether to use modified live virus vaccine (MLV) or killed. The MLV gives

stronger protection, but it sheds organisms into the environment which may affect other animal household members. The killed vaccine has to add substances called adjuvants to strengthen the response to the entire vaccine. The adjuvants sometimes cause allergic responses. Killed vaccines also require boosters within 2 to 3 weeks to foster an adequate response.

Puppies and Adult Dogs

Modified Live Distemper, Hepatitis, Parainfluenza (DHLPP): 10 weeks, 14 weeks, 22 weeks. Leptospirosis can be added in the 14 and 22 week booster.

Parvo Virus Killed Vaccine (Preferred) or Modified Live: 12 weeks, 16 weeks, 20 weeks. Revaccination of adults with killed parvo virus vaccine can occur one year later. Parvo can be given at two- to three-year intervals thereafter if the risk is great.

An alternative to revaccination is to follow antibody titres in the blood, to see if revaccination is necessary. Antibody titres are supposed to give the level of protection that an individual will have if exposed to the disease. Rabies can be given at 18 or 24 weeks, with boosters as required by law.

It's important to keep the young puppy in a closed environment free from as much exposure to other animals as possible during the first three or four months.

Kittens and Adult Cats

Panleukopenia (Cat Distemper) Rhinotracheitis Calici Virus (FVRCP) Modified Live Virus: 10 weeks, 14 weeks, 18 weeks.

Rabies, if required by law, at 20 weeks. I do not recommend the combination rabies and FVRCP as this combination may confuse the immune system and will also require a rabies booster every year, whether the cat needs it or not. Remember, the more vaccines that are given, the greater the chance the immune system can become irritated.

I do not recommend the Leukemia Vaccine unless there is a leukemia positive cat in the household, or unless the human counterpart has had a cat previously infected and killed by the leukemia virus. The leukemia vaccine is not especially effective (60%) and it can have very suppressive effects on the immune system of the susceptible individual.

Booster of the initial kitten series is questionable. It can be done in one to three year intervals, except for rabies as required by law.

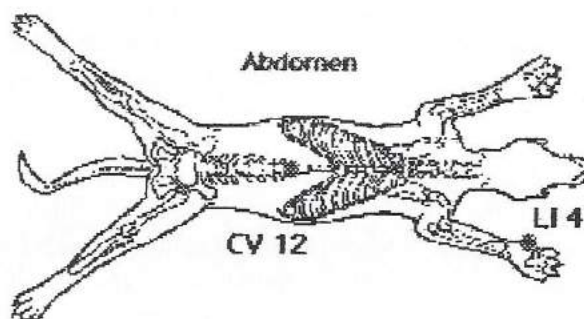
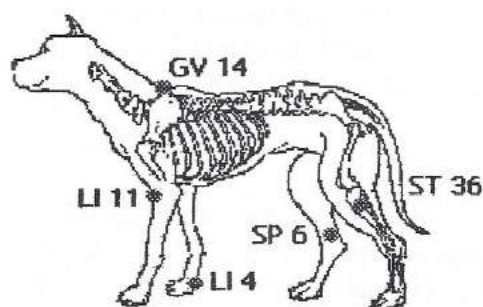
Avoid Vaccinations When . . .

- The animal is in a 30-day period before estrus, during estrus, pregnant or lactating (hormonal influences).
- There is outside emotional stress such as the animal is in a shelter or boarding or moving cross country.
- During an anesthetic procedure or when the animal is in the hospital.
- When the animal is in poor nutritional state.
- When the animal is on corticosteroids.
- When demodex mange where there is a depression of T-lymphocytes.

Directing a Healthy Immune System

I like to ask my clients to rely more on the concept of strengthening the immune system of their animal friend by acupressure, massage, regular exercise, good diet and nutritional supplementation, rather than on yearly vaccinations. Choose 1 to 3 points at a time. Technique is to "hold" the point with even pressure that is agreeable to the animal for 30 to 60 seconds. Alternately, you can use small circular motion on the points. Frequency of treatment can be twice daily.

Acupressure Certain acupoints increase white and red blood cell production and stimulate the immune response to clear toxins from the body. Choose 1 to 3 points at a time. Technique is to "hold" the point with even pressure that is agreeable to the animal for 30 to 60 seconds. Alternately you can use small circular motion on the points. Frequency of treatment can be twice daily.



Large Intestine (L.I.) 11 and Large Intestine (L.I.) 4.

These points increase white blood cell production and clear toxins. They are useful in lowering fever in viral infections and can be used preventatively to keep the lymph system functioning.

Stomach (ST) 36.

Strengthens the qi in the entire body, fosters the circulating wei qi, stimulates white blood cell production, enhances digestion and absorption.

Conception Vessel (C.V.) 12.

Stimulates appetite, helps digestion, absorption and transport of foods. It also helps to drain regional lymph nodes in the abdomen.

Governing Vessel (G.V.) 14.

Stimulates the circulation of white blood cells to help clear toxins. It reduces fevers and is good in acute infections.

Spleen (SP) 6.

It helps to balance red and white blood cell production, correct dehydration and regulate the immune system. It is good for anemia, leukemia, diarrhea and vomiting.

Herbs and the Immune System

Heat Clearing or Infection Fighting Herbs

Echinacea Purpurea and Angustifolia. It is good for mouth sores, swollen glands, tonsillitis, upper respiratory infections, bite wounds and viruses. During active infection: mix 25 to 30 drops of tincture into 1

ounce distilled water. Dosage is from 1 to 3 dropperfuls two to three times daily, depending upon the size of the animal and the intensity of the symptoms. Use up to 14 days.

For prevention between infections, use a more dilute solution of 10 drops to 1 ounce distilled water.

Cats/small dogs: 1 to 2 droppers once or twice daily

Medium/large dogs: 2 to 3 droppers once or twice daily

Calendula. This herb cleans the lymphatic system. It is good for acute and chronic infections, with and without lymph node swelling. It has affinity for the spleen, kidney, lung and heart meridians. It helps especially at strengthening the balance between the liver and spleen. Calendula helps to heal lacerations and tissue wounds, especially in the weakened patient. Mix 15 drops to 1 ounce distilled water. Use 1 to 3 dropperfuls 2 to 3 times daily depending upon the size of the animal or severity of the problem.

Milk Thistle. Helps to restore liver and gall bladder function. Especially helpful after bouts of hepatitis and toxins accumulated through fever. Milk thistle also strengthens the blood cell wall, so is recommended for ulcers and healing tissues in the body in general. Milk thistle can thus be used to fight infection and to tonify the immune system. Mix 10 drops tincture to 1 ounce of distilled water, using 1 to 3 droppers twice daily.

Herbs to Strengthen the Individual & Enhance Immunity

Astragalus. This Chinese herb contains flavones which help circulation and blood production. Because it enhances circulation, it helps prevent stagnation which can cause tumors to form. Astragalus also contains polysaccharides which help to inhibit tumor formation. It has been shown to increase strength, stamina and digestion after chemotherapy and radiation treatment, and to increase survival rates in cancer patients after these treatments. It is helpful for FeLV or FIV cats between bouts of active infection.

As powdered herb, use as follows:

Cats/small dogs: 1/8 to 1/4 teaspoon (#2 capsule) twice daily

Medium dogs: 1/4 to 1/3 teaspoon (#0 capsule) twice daily

Large dogs: 1/2 teaspoon (#00 capsule) twice daily

Women's Precious Pills. This is a Chinese patent herb or tincture combination available through McZand Herbals as Tang Kuei and Ginseng Eight Formula. Some health food stores as well as health care professionals carry this herbal combination. It contains blood tonics of tang kuei, rehmannia, peony, the blood activator, ligusticum, and the qi tonics of codonopsis, hoelen, atractylodes and licorice. It is helpful in fatigue, anemia, poor appetite, loose stools, weakness, recurrent infections, thirst and restlessness.

Long term usage of herbs may be beneficial, especially for tonifying purposes. I recommend using the herbs four days per week or three weeks out of every month.

Nutritional Supplements

Antioxidants are substances that help clear toxins from the body at the cellular and blood levels. They work within the cells, such as superoxide dismutase, or between the cells in the blood stream and fluids, such as Vitamins C and E. Antioxidants are helpful in the treatment of cancer.

Vitamin C, as sodium ascorbate. Doses are as high as possible, with diarrhea being the limiting factor.

Cats/small dogs: 500 mg once or twice daily

Medium dogs: 1,000 mg once or twice daily

Large dogs: 2,000 mg once or twice daily

Bioflavonoids with Quercetin. These help in the absorption of Vitamin C, and reduce allergic reactions. They are especially helpful in respiratory problems including allergic asthma and bronchitis. Use 1/3 to

3/4 of recommended human dose.

Vitamin E with Selenium. Vitamin E acts as an anti-inflammatory, decreasing swelling in the joints and pain in the muscles. It also moistens and softens the skin. Selenium helps with absorption and increases the effectiveness of E. Use once daily.

Cats/small dogs: 50 I.U. E with 5 to 10 mcg selenium

Medium dogs: 100 to 200 I.U. with 20 to 25 mcg selenium

Large dogs: 400 I.U. E with 50 mcg selenium

Vitamin A with Mixed Carotenes, Including Beta Carotene. This vitamin is especially good for the respiratory mucosa, helping in sinusitis and lung problems. Since it is a fat soluble vitamin, overdosage can be a problem if there is an unhealthy liver.

Cats/small dogs: 2,000 mg daily

Medium dogs: 5,000 mg daily

Large dogs: 10,000 mg daily

Vitamin A along with omega 3 rich oils can be found in cod liver oil, which is a good alternative to synthetic Vitamin A.

Microalgae. Algae in general is highly nutritious, containing large amounts of chlorophyll which decrease bacteria and clear toxins from the body. Cats are especially sensitive to the algae, requiring very small amounts. Dogs can tolerate larger amounts. Use between 1/16 to 1/2 teaspoon in the food.

Vitamin B Complex, Including B12. Found in nutritional yeast flakes, if the animal is not on antibiotics, or from a non-yeast source if antibiotics have been used. Use 1/4 to 1/2 human dose.

Kelp Powder or Other Seaweeds. High in trace minerals, they are essential to cell function.

Cats/small dogs: 1/8 teaspoon daily

Medium/large dogs: 1/2 teaspoon daily

Super Oxide Dismutase, Catalase, Peroxidase. These intracellular antioxidants remove toxins that are stored within the cells, especially the liver and joints.

Diet

When the immune system is weakened, it needs fresh foods to re-stimulate it. Whole grains such as cooked brown rice, corn, barley, millet, rye and oats supply fiber, magnesium and phosphorus. Cook the grains with extra water, at a 3:1 water to grain ratio for 1 1/4 hours. If whole grains are difficult to digest, use flaked varieties.

Fresh meat from organic sources is recommended. Choose from turkey, rabbit, lean beef, chicken or fresh fish. Liver once weekly (except for animals in kidney failure) is helpful.

Vegetables can be raw or steamed depending upon the digestive system's receptivity.

For dogs: Use 50 to 65% grain, 25% meat protein, 10 to 25% vegetables.

For cats: Use 50 to 60% meat, 40 to 50% grain. Add some vegetables in if cat will eat them.

Most important is to use *preservative free* foods. Eliminate ethoxyquin and red and yellow dyes

This article was taken with permission from, Frontier Natural Products Co-op - www.frontiercoop.com
Also many thanks to Dr. Catherine A Priddle for notifying us of this article

Classifieds

For Sale

Miniature

Breeder: Len Harfield

Tel: (705) 738-5707

Blue Miniature Male. Mature, Proven, has been shown

Prefer serious show home. Price Negotiable

Kennel name: Kasalland

Business Card



PUPPIES AVAILABLE IN:
SILVER-BEIGE, BROWN, BLACK, APRICOT, RED,
SILVER & WHITE
(905) 895-2157

MRS. CHERITH HEPELL
95 JULIA COURT

NEWMARKET ONT.
L3Y 4T7

Whelping Box

Standard

Breeder: Anne Bell

Tel: (905) 854-0616

Males: 4

Sire: Ch. Sanvar's Time to Fly

Notes: Bred for temperament and health. All white

Kennel name: Sanvar

D.O.B.: February 9, 2000

Females: 5

Dam: Ch. Sanvar's Time Passages

Breeder: Anne Bell

Tel: (905) 854-0616

Males: 4

Sire: Ch. Baroque Country Music Man

Notes: Bred for temperament and health. All black

Kennel name: Sanvar

D.O.B.: February 14, 2000

Females: 3

Dam: Ch. Sanvar's Mc Precious

Miniature

Breeder: Len Harfield

Tel: (705) 738-5707

Males: 2

Sire: Subria Spinnaker

Kennel name: Kasalland

Age: 8 wks.

Females: 2

Dam: Kasalland Mary Isabella

Toy

Breeder: Cherith Heppell

Tel: (905) 895-2157

Males: n/a

Sire: Ch. Deejon's Salute to Sarasota

Kennel name: Chercan Reg'd

D.O.B.: March 2000

Females: n/a

Dam: Chercan's Wee Ebony Ellie

Notes: Black or brown, should be very tiny.

Breeder: Sylvie Bouchard

Tel: (418) 696-0918

Males: 1

Sire: Can.Am.Ch. Baladin An X File

Notes: Already neutered, housebroken little black boy with a sweet disposition.

Kennel name: Baladin

D.O.B: May 9, 1999

Females: 0

Dam: Can.Ch.Tippiton Baladin Alexandra

Advertisement Guidelines

You must be member in good standing with the Poodle Club of Canada to be allowed to advertise. If you are a member in good standing with the Poodle Club of Canada and want to advertise, Send all info and a check of the proper amount for two months of publication to:

Poodle Club Of Canada

c/o Kate Murray

RR#3, 56 Gilmour Rd.

Guelph, ON

N1H 6H9

BRIELLE@netcom.ca

Payment must be received prior to your ad appearing.

Advertisement Rates

Business Card \$20.00/year

Half Page black and white \$15.00/issue

Whelping Box \$5.00/issue

Any whelping box ad will also be published on the Poodle Club of Canada website.
www.poodleclubcanada.ca

The Whelping box page is currently being used as a breeder referral for the Poodle Club of Canada.

Congratulations! Marjorie McCarthy

Marjorie has won a free membership renewal for the year 2000 for her Toy Poodle entry in our Virtual Specialty show. Her lovely black Toy Poodle defeated all other entries, in all three varieties to win **Best In Virtual Specialty Show**

Breedlines

I own two Standard Poodles and I would like to share some of the questions I have been asked about the breed.

The most frequently asked question concerns the reputed intelligence of the breed. It fascinates me that even non-doggy people have heard that Poodles are smart. The answer to this question is a resounding, "Yes, they are very intelligent dogs that can be trained to do just about anything." However, be *aware* that outside training sessions, these dogs can take over your life! If you're not careful, you might just find yourself making decisions based on Poodle wants and needs....like buying an extra soft, king-sized mattress to accommodate Poodle sleeping habits, as opposed to the extra-firm, orthopaedic, double mattress your back requires!

"Is it true that Poodles don't shed?" My immediate response is to launch into a speech about the grooming requirements of this 'non-shedding' breed. Yes, there is very little noticeable shedding, *but* these dogs grow coats constantly and need frequent brushing, combing, bathing and clipping. My bottom line on this subject is always that if people are not prepared to handle these chores themselves, or willing to regularly send the dog to a groomer, than a Poodle is not the right breed for them.

"Are they good with kids?" Poodles are ideal, people-friendly, family pets but I always qualify this answer with a caution regarding the potential for injury to small dogs living with young children. It's been my experience that children are particularly fascinated with Poodles. Perhaps this is because Poodles are easily recognizable and their pompoms and long fluffy ears probably make them appear friendly and approachable.

The next big question comes when the public encounters a Poodle in full Continental show clip. "Why does his fur grow that way?" The subsequent conversation usually deteriorates rapidly when I confess that the fur doesn't grow that way; in fact, I have just spent many hours clipping and shaping the hair into that elaborate fashion. I have gone the route of explaining the historic, hunting origins of the show clip but believe me, the general public just doesn't buy that story at all! By the time I explain how the coat was shaved off the hindquarters to facilitate swimming, with lots of coat left on the chest for warmth and pompoms on the legs to protect the joints, I find that people are carefully backing away from me, saying soothing things like, "Really, how interesting...yes, very interesting...well, gotta go now."

Negative questions usually revolve around the fact that Poodles are perceived as 'sissy dogs'. I can often put that theory to rest by explaining that Poodles regularly compete with Retrievers in Working Certificate and Hunt Tests and have the field titles to prove it! One lesser-known fact about this amazing breed is that a team of Standard Poodles has successfully completed the gruelling Iditarod.

Written by Cheryl Ingwersen.

Secretary's Page

Change of addresses: Sharon Ciardullo, 1775 Rte. 127, Waweig, N.B., E3L 4L2

Just a reminder that membership fees were due on Jan. 1, 2000. Single - \$25.00, Couple - \$30.00, Junior - \$6.00, made payable to The Poodle Club of Canada. Send to either Dorothy Lienau, 62 Walter St., Newmarket, ON, L3Y 2T3, or Michelle Scott, 56 Gilmour Rd., Guelph, ON, N1H 6H9.

We have not recieved membership renewal fees from: Doris Grant, Beth Hilborn, Brian and Lisa LeFebvre, Dawn Lisabeth, Joan Pelly, Nancy Tarzwell, Kathie Tate, Jackie Welton. We look forward to hearing from these members, if any have sent their renewals, please accept our apologies.

We still need Trophy Donations! Please contact either Rosemary Hagen - (905) 833-5715 or Anne Bell - (905) 854-0616.

We are still looking for items for the silent auction to be held at the fun match on May 17, 2000. Please contact Rosemary Hagen - (905) 833-5715.

Entries are now being taken for the Second Annual Virtual Specialty Show. All entries must be submitted by club members (need not be owned by club members). Please send all photos to Sylvie Bouchard, 2231 de Vimy, Chicoutimi, PQ, G7G 3X3 or scan photos (no more than 75 dpi) and e-mail to baladin@royaume.com. The winner will receive a free membership for the year 2001.

Thanks. Michelle Scott, Secretary

The Poodle Scene

Deadline for June issue is May 28th, 2000

Items of intrest include:

Classifieds

In the Spotlight

Paws for Aplause

Please send all submissions to:

The Poodle Scene

c/o Kate Murray, Editor

RR#3, 56 Gilmour Rd.

Guelph ON, N1H 6H9

bryson@netcom.ca

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REMINDER

Next PCC Meeting will be:

April 11, 2000

8:00 PM

at Rosemary Hagen's

Poodle Club of Canada
c/o Kate Murray, Editor
RR#3, 56 Gilmour Rd.
Guelph ON
N1H 6H9