



Retriever Review

Issue 32, August/September 2008

September Meeting

September 19, 2008 - 7:30 PM
NO BOARD MEETING!
Elmer's Restaurant at Delta Park

~ Club Officers ~

President: Barbara Gilchrist
Vice President: Judy Chambers
Secretary: Deb Neal
Treasurer: Greg Huntzinger

Board Members

Bob Fagundes
Celeste Smith
Nikki Berthold-Illias
Dan Neal

Committee Chairs

Bob & Kathy Fagundes -
2008 B-Match
Susan Huntzinger- 2008 Specialty
Christine Crosby -
2008 Obedience/Rally
Nikki Berthold- Illias -
2008 Hunt Test

Litter Referrals

Susan & Greg Huntzinger
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Newsletter Editor

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President's Message:

Goodness the Club has been so busy! With back to back Specialties, Obedience and Rally, then our Huge HRT, with the last but not least, WC/ WCX....all those Worker Bees should take a bow! I start off with Susan Huntzinger, our Show Chair Head and all her Show Committee. Susan had a great event, with so many compliments from the Judges, about our Hospitality (which we are famous for) and just plain fun. Then we turn our attention to Nikki and Dave Illius and the absolute organization and hard work, to run a very smooth Hunt Test Event again this year. We again were visited this year at the HRT by the AKC Rep and all Nikki's work paid off with high marks...I secretly think the AKC Rep just likes coming to our HRT for the enjoyment, of a well run event and watching those Labs work! I cannot let this moment go, without one very special "nod" to Nikki, who tirelessly works for our Club, to put this very big event together! Nikki is so good at what she does that I never worry, as Club President, that Nikki can't handle the task at hand. Every Club should be so lucky as to have a "Nikki" in their midst! A special thank you also goes to Dave Illius for doing the long distance drive for birds. Well up and above the call of duty Dave and Nikki! Finally we come to the Hottest day, of the entire year and Dan and Deb Neal's efforts to run a successful W.C. and W.C.X., at the Water Foul Festival. Dan reports that, even with the heat and stresses that go with those high temps, he managed to get the tests completed with a nice turn out of 28 dogs tested.

The Rose City Lab Club gives a huge Thank you to the Illius, Huntzingers, and Neals for all their hard work....it did not go unnoticed and so again we Thank you!

We also have a unsung hero amongst us in Julie Galbraith. For years now, Julie has been solely responsible for putting our informative and artistic Newsletter together, as our Newsletter Editor. Julie has made our Newsletter interesting, with Educational articles and she has kept us all in tune with the pulse of the Club's activities and has done a timely and wonderful job. I know we all applaud her with cheers, of a job well done and all with SLOW Speed Dial up! Thank you Julie!

With Julie's retirement as Editor, we welcome our "Idaho Connection". Valerie Jones has accepted the job of RCLRC Newsletter Editor. No doubt Valerie will bring her own flavor to the Newsletter and we look forward to reading her monthly scribe. Please direct all Newsletter queries to Valerie.

Thank you,
Your Pres...Barb





2008 SPECIALTY NEWS



Hello Fellow Club members,

Well, our first Back To Back Specialty is now history! Except for being a little hot, I think everything went very smoothly. This is thanks to all the great people who helped out. First, a very big THANK YOU to Christine Crosby, who had Obedience and Rally running like clock work! Nothing but positive comments from judges and exhibitors alike.

We know set up and take down are some of the hottest jobs, so thanks to all of you who helped. Richard, thanks for getting the trailer to the park and having it so organized! Kathy had an outstanding breakfast organized all three days-THANK YOU!!

Lisa took on the job of trophies this year and did a great job! Judy did hospitality for the "I don't know how many years!" Logan Hanscom sold catalogs for us, Thanks Logan! One of the biggest jobs was transportation to and from the airport. Lili, thanks for getting Rusty back to the airport. That was a big help!

Our new ideas for raising some extra money were a hit. Bob Fagundes got the winning lottery ticket and won a cool \$265.00! The Lab Lob was really a lot of fun. We promise to have more "Labs to Lob" next year! The baskets raised over \$1,000! Thanks to all of you for your basket donation! Everyone, put your thinking caps on. This is a fun and easy way to raise some money for the Club. I know we can have some great ideas for next year! Julie, Thank you for getting the baskets all set up and running on Saturday.

Thanks to all of you who ring stewarded for us in Obedience and Conformation.

My biggest THANKS to my husband, Greg. Couldn't have done it without you!! Many trips to the airport, cleaning house, at the beck and call of his wife!!

Kathy Fagundes is taking this job on for 2009! I know all of you will give her all the support you gave me.

Susan Huntzinger ~ 2008 Show Chairman



As the Obedience and Rally chairperson for 2008, I want to congratulate all the exhibitors, winners and new title holders! I think the trials were a success and well received!

Thank you to all my stewards and to others who helped set up and take down the rings, jumps and canopies, mowed the grass, filled in the gopher holes with sand, made sure we had beautiful flower arrangements, for our table and cool drinks, for our judges and stewards, gorgeous trophies and awards, shuttling judges to and from the airport and the hotels and so on!!!

It was definitely a team effort and I so appreciate everyone's contributions to make it a successful event.

I have received positive feedback from both the judges and the exhibitors, for our club and for a nice pair of trials. We had competitors, despite the high gas prices and the heat, come from as far as British Columbia, Alaska, Idaho, Washington and California, to compete! I think that is fantastic!

Thank you RCLRC and especially Susan Huntzinger, for entrusting me with this duty this year. I learned a LOT on the job and hope the Obedience and Rally Trials were as successful as was the rest of the Specialty!

It was a special treat, to be able to assist, in awarding High in Trial and High Scoring Non-Regular in the breed ring! I very much enjoyed working with our judges, Mr. Larry Tanner and Mr. Bill Iwamoto! Thank you for the opportunity and congratulations again to all the winners!

Christine Crosby ~ 2008 Obedience/Rally Chairman



RCLRC HRT NEWS



We had another successful HRT and a glowing report, from the AKC Rep, Wayne Bleazard. Dave and I would like to THANK all the RCLRC Members, Non Members and Judges, that have come out year after year to support our HRT. I hope we haven't forgotten anyone!

Wendy Burley
Bob Fagundes
Joanne Huntley
Jeff Kennedy

Judy Meyer
Jim Morris
Dan/Deb Neal
Marilyn/Richard Parker

~Nikki and Dave Illias, 2008 HRT Chairmen

Congratulations to: STERLING UNITED PARCEL POST, JH
~ passed Junior, for his title ~ Owner Marilyn Parker



RCLRC WC/WCX

I would like to thank all the participants and folks who helped make the WC/WCX a success. Especially our Judge Dave Illis! A very special thank you to Renee Ivy and her husband, for all the work done on the site, as well as the use of the site. Also thank you for the sandwiches!!. The heat took its toll on the dogs, coupled with the grass and hen pheasants being the same color, plus little scent and breeze, made the land a tough one, for the dogs and the number of passes. Thanks to all who participated and to the wonderful owners and handlers, who pitched in to help out.

Lesson learned - there are volunteers and then there are volunteers, that show up at 100 plus degrees!!

~Dan Neal, WC/WCX Chairman

WCX Titles Earned

WC Titles Earned

Little Dakota - owned by Don Peck
Cavello Grigio's Amazing Grace
- owned by Renee Ivy
Tidewater's Loaded with Buckshot
- owned by Deb Schalla
Sweet Temptation Elco
- owned by Stanley Huling
Gun Rivers Simply the Best-owned by Renee Ivy
Foxgrove's River Forest - owned by Chick Miller
Tidewaters Diamond R Bullet
- owned by Deb Schalla
High Noon at Gunriver
- owned by Jim and Leslie Penhollow
Mossy - owned by Kristi
Laddie - owned by Clay Penhollow
Jet Ranger - owned by George Coats
Dezzie - owned by Mike Wahl

Maggie Jean

- owned by Larry and Carla Wittkop
Mamas Bronco Boy - owned by Stanley Huling
Elway Bronco Lady - owned by Stanley Huling
Sage - owned by George Coats

Message from the Editor:

I have really enjoyed being your RCLRC Newsletter Editor these last 3 years! A cable internet connection is not available in my area of Weed, California and my slow dial-up speed has continually decreased, over the years. Since I am now only connecting at 24.0 Kbps, it has become increasingly difficult to continue as Newsletter Editor... sending out the Newsletter, in batches of 5, takes hours and hours :o)

A HUGE thank you to Valarie Jones, for coming to the rescue and volunteering to be your new RCLRC Editor. Valerie, JonValer Labradors, lives in Burley, Idaho and she will take over, beginning next month ~ October 2008 ! Thank you Valerie and thank you RCLRC, for 3 enjoyable years!

~Julie Galbraith

Your new RCLRC Newsletter Editor is: Valerie Jones jonvaler@pmt.org



UPCOMING OPTIGEN 20/20 CLINICS

**Must be present, at showsite, to be eligible for 20% discount
Pre-register online, for an additional 5% off = 25% total discount!**

September 28, 2008 - PSLRA Labrador Health Clinic

EIC, CNM, OptiGen tests and microchipping offered for all breeds. Eyes and Heart for Labradors only.

Breed: All Breeds

Location: Cascade Kennel, Woodinville, Washington

Contact: Nina Mann

Email: harbortop@netzero.net

Phone: 360 629 7619

October 17, 2008 through October 18, 2008 - Golden Gate Labrador Retriever Club 20/20 Clinic

Specialty Show, Sweepstakes, Obedience Trial and Rally Trial. Swab sample collection for OptiGen tests.

Breed: Labrador Retriever

Location: Alameda County Fairgrounds, Pleasanton, CA

Contact: Beth Wilkerson

Email: MissesWilk@aol.com

October 17, 2008 - Mid-Jersey Labrador Retriever Club 20/20 Clinic

12:00 pm - 3:00 pm in conjunction with the MJLRC Specialty Show. Pre-registration is suggested.

Registration form available at <http://mjlrc.org/specialty.html>. Blood draws - \$10.00; microchipping - \$25.00.

Breed: Labrador Retriever

Location: Days Inn, 1260 Highway 22 East, Bridgewater, NJ 08807

Contact: Sarita Gellman

Email: shastalabs@gmail.com

Phone: 917-353-1956

~ CONGRATULATIONS ~

Sterling Gorgeous Hussy CD, RA, JH

Sterling Gorgeous Hussy CD, RA, JH, also known as "Miss Lilly" and Joanne Huntley have been VERY busy!

June 15, 2008 - Auburn, Washington
Completed in Novice Agility Preferred, placing 2nd, 2nd and 1st!

June 28-29, 2008 Seattle, Washington
Completed her 3rd title in Flyball
Miss Lilly is now a Flyball Champion!

July 11-12, 2008 RCLRC Specialty
Completed in Rally Excellent, placing 4th, 2nd and 1st!

Owned, trained and handled by Joanne Huntley



~ REWARD FOR LOST COLLAR ~

Pink rope-type collar with ID tags, License, etc.
Lost at recent RCLRC Specialty
Contact: Dick Eten
360-225-5942



~ MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY UPDATE ~

Robin Fallon has a new email address:
rjfandco@gmail.com



~ NEW CALIFORNIA CELL PHONE LAW ~

Be aware, when traveling in California, as of July 1st, it is now illegal to use a hand held cell phone while driving! The fine, for first offense is \$20, \$50 the next time, then triples thereafter!

~ LITTER LISTINGS ~

UPCOMING BLACK & YELLOW LITTER

Black and Yellow Litter Due 9/3
CH Hyspire Shahli Hotter Than Blazes x
Quail Run's Jubilation RN
Contact: Cindy Freeman
360-273-7218 or cell 760-285-3906
QRLabs@hughes.net

BLACK MALE

Dickendall Daveron Amigo X
Ch. Ghoststone's Woodland Gossip)
DOB: 9/15/2007
Very sweet; has been shown. Crate trained
Will be neutered
Contact: Lisa Cruanas
360-609-4958 herclee8@msn.com

OLDER YELLOW FEMALE

Blackthorn's Charisma ~"Carrie"
(Ch Valleywood Blackthorn Brier x
Ch Timberline Blackthorn Bokay)
DOB: 10/14/2000
Very sweet, spayed female. Retired show dog
Would love to be a house frau!
Contact: Lisa Cruanas
360-609-4958 herclee8@msn.com



RCLRC 2008 BACK-TO-BACK SPECIALTY RESULTS

July 10-12,2008

ROSE CITY LABRADOR RETRIEVER CLUB

Sweepstakes
Thursday, July 10, 2008
JUDGE: MR. RUSSELL (RUSTY) HOWARD

BEST IN SWEEPS ~ MARITIME FORECAST MATILDE

10/7/2007. Breeder(s), Julie Jussaume & John Cappaellina (Ch. Hyspire Hot To Trot—MaritimeHyspire No Doubt)
OWNER(s): V. Russell, J. Heim, L. DaRoss & J. Jussaume

BEST OPPOSITE IN SWEEPS ~ NIPNTUCK FIRECRACKER

9/11/2007 Breeder(s), Rebecca Jack (Ch. Hyspire Shahali Hotter Than Blazes—Nipntuck Congeniality) OWNER: Rebecca Jack.

BEST VETERAN IN SWEEPS ~ CH. NIPNTUCK RAGING SPIRIT, CD JH

5/6/1998 Breeder(s), Rebecca Jack & Robert Ferguson (Ch. Raintree's Slippery When Wet JH—Nipntuck Felica) OWNER(s): Deborah Neal & Rebecca Jack.

BEST OPPOSITE TO BEST VETERAN IN SWEEPS ~ CH. HYSPIRE GHOSTSTONE'S GLORIA, JH

2/19/1999 Breeder(s), J. Heim, V. Russell, L. DaRoss & M. Durham (Ch Ghoststone's Louie Downtown CD—Ch. Hyspire Something's Amisss)
OWNER(s): Judy Schenk Chambers & Scott Chambers.

Breed Entries
Thursday, July 10, 2008
JUDGE: MR. JEFF GILMORE

BEST OF WINNERS AND WINNERS DOG ~ NIPNTUCK YELL KING

10/25/2005. Breeder(s), Rebecca Gorton Jack (Ch. Sure Shot Hyspire Impressive—Ch. Blackwaters Nipntuck Cheerleader) OWNER(s): Rick Mullen & Cindy King

WINNER'S BITCH ~ LAURGLEN'S OSTENTATIOUS

1/11/2007. Breeder(s), Lisa Cruanas. (Ch. Sure Shot Hyspire Impressive—Ch. Ghoststone's Woodland Gossip) OWNER: Lisa Cruanas

RESERVE WINNER'S DOG ~ HYSPIRE BODACIOUS

1/11/2006. Breeder(s), J. Heim, V. Russell & L. DaRoss (Ch. Hyspire Slim Shady JH—Riverlane HyspireSavannah)
OWNER(s): J. Heim, V. Russell, L. DaRoss & M. Durham

RESERVE WINNER'S BITCH ~ HYSPIRE SHAHLI WHEN YOUR HOT YOUR HOT

11/17/2005. Breeder(s), J. Heim, V. Russell, L. DaRoss & M. Durham (Ch. SureShot Hyspire Impressive—Ch. Hyspire Pipin' Hot)
OWNER(s): J. Heim, V. Russell, L. DaRoss & M. Durham

BEST OF BREED ~ CH GHOSTSTONE HYSPIRE DRESSED TO IMPRESS

8/17/2004. Breeder(s), Judy & Scott Chambers (Ch. Sure Shot HyspireImpressive—Ch. Hyspire Ghoststone's Gloria JH)
OWNER(s): Judy Heim, Lisa DaRoss, Vonnice Russell & Jim Russell

BEST OF OPPOSITE SEX ~ CH. GHOSTONE'S RESPECT

8/17/2004. Breeder(s), Judy Schenk Chambers & Scott Chambers (Ch. Sure Shot Hyspire Impressive—Ch. Hyspire Ghoststone's Gloria JH)
OWNER(s): Judy Schenk Chambers & Scott Chambers

AOM ~ CH SKYES RIVERLANE'S TOKEN REPUBLICAN

9/30/2004. Breeder(s), Joanne Hanscom. (Ch. Lor-Al's Chuck Wagon—Ch. Orion's Riverlane Rendezvous) OWNER(s): Susan & Greg Huntzinger

AOM ~ CH HYSPIRE ADRENALINE RUSH

3/12/2006. Breeder(s), D. Leveque & V. Russell & J. Heim & L. DaRoss (Ch. Borador's ByGeorge—Hyspire Cavanaugh)
OWNER(s): Judy Heim, Vonnice Russell, Lisa DaRoss & Jim Russell.

BEST PUPPY ~ HYSPIRE GRAND SLAM

1/8/2008. Breeder(s), J. Heim, V. Russell, L. DaRoss & J. Jussaume (Ch. Blackwing Superfine—Ch. Maritime Hypspire Impress Me)
OWNER(s): J. Heim, L. DaRoss, V. Russell & J. Russell.

BEST BRED BY EXHIBITOR ~ LAURGLEN'S OSTENTATIOUS

1/11/2007. Breeder(s), Lisa Cruanas. (Ch. Sure Shot Hypspire Impressive—Ch. Ghoststone's Woodland Gossip) OWNER: Lisa Cruanas

**Sweepstakes
Friday & Saturday, July 11 - 12, 2008
JUDGE: MS CAROL HEIDEL**

BEST IN SWEEPS ~ MARITIME FORECAST MATILDE

10/7/2007. Breeder(s), Julie Jussaume & John Cappaellina (Ch. Hypspire Hot To Trot—MaritimeHypspire No Doubt)
OWNER(s): V. Russell, J. Heim, L. DaRoss & J. Jussaume.

BEST OPPOSITE IN SWEEPS ~ NIPNTUCK STOCKING STUFFER

12/16/2007 Breeder(s), Rebecca Jack. (Ch. Hypspire Shahali Hotter Than Blazes—Ch.Blackwaters Nipntuck Cheerleader) OWNER(s): Rebecca Jack.

BEST VETERAN IN SWEEPS ~ WINDFALL HYSPIRE TOWN PIPER

11/17/2000. Breeder(s), Annie & Ron Cogo (Ch. Hypspire Darktown Strutter—Ch. Windfall Black Piper)
OWNER(s): Judy Heim, Vonnie Russell, Lisa DaRoss & Jim Russell.

BEST OPPOSITE TO BEST VETERAN IN SWEEPS ~ CH. NIPNTUCK RAGING SPIRIT, CD JH

5/6/1998 Breeder(s), Rebecca Jack & Robert Ferguson (Ch. Raintree's Slippery When Wet JH—Nipntuck Felica) OWNER(s): Deborah Neal & Rebecca Jack.

**Breed Entries
Friday & Saturday, July 11-12, 2008
JUDGE: MS.WINNIE LIMBOURNE**

BEST OF BREED/BEST OF WINNERS/WINNERS BITCH ~ LAURGLEN'S OSTENTATIOUS

1/11/2007. Breeder(s), Lisa Cruanas. (Ch. Sure Shot Hypspire Impressive—Ch. Ghoststone's Woodland Gossip) OWNER: Lisa Cruanas

WINNERS DOG ~ SONGLINES DEACON BLUES

4/28/2006. Breeder(s), Colleen Doll & Lynn Stewart. (Ch. Ghoststone's Louie Downtown CD—Makaila's Mississippi Queen)
OWNER(s): Colleen Doll & Lynn Stewart.

RESERVE WINNER'S DOG ~ NIPNTUCK YELL KING

10/25/2005. Breeder(s), Rebecca Gorton Jack (Ch. Sure Shot Hypspire Impressive—Ch. Blackwaters Nipntuck Cheerleader)
OWNER(s): Rick Mullen & Cindy King

RESERVE WINNERS BITCH ~ MARITIME FORECAST MATILDE

10/7/2007. Breeder(s), Julie Jussaume & John Cappaellina (Ch. Hypspire Hot To Trot—MaritimeHypspire No Doubt)
OWNER(s): V. Russell, J. Heim, L. DaRoss & J. Jussaume.

BEST OPPOSITE SEX ~ CH. GHOSTSTONE HYSPIRE DRESSED TO IMPRESS

8/17/2004. Breeder(s), Judy & Scott Chambers (Ch. Sure Shot Hypspire Impressive—Ch. Hypspire Ghoststone's Gloria JH.)
OWNER(s): Judy Heim, Lisa DaRoss, Vonnie Russell & Jim Russell.

AOM ~ CH. NIPNTUCK HYSPIRE UNFORGETTABLE

10/25/2005. Breeder(s), Becky Jack. (Ch. Sure Shot Hypspire Impressive—Ch.Blackwaters Nipntuck Cheerleader)
OWNER(s): Judy Heim, Vonnie Russell, Lisa DaRoss & Jim Russell.

AOM ~ CH. GHOSTONE'S RESPECT

8/17/2004. Breeder(s), Judy Schenk Chambers & Scott Chambers (Ch. Sure Shot Hypspire Impressive—Ch. Hypspire Ghoststone's GloriaJH.)
OWNER(s): Judy Schenk Chambers & Scott Chambers.

BEST PUPPY ~ MARITIME FORECAST MATILDE

10/7/2007. Breeder(s), Julie Jussaume & John Cappaellina (Ch. Hyspire Hot To Trot—MaritimeHyspire No Doubt)
OWNER(s): V. Russell, J. Heim, L. DaRoss & J. Jussaume.

BEST BRED BY EXHIBITOR ~ LAURGLEN'S OSTENTATIOUS

1/11/2007. Breeder(s), Lisa Cruanas. (Ch. Sure Shot Hyspire Impressive—Ch. Ghoststone's Woodland Gossip) OWNER: Lisa Cruanas



TWO NEW DNA TESTS AVAILABLE FOR LABRADOR RETRIEVERS



New DNA Test for Inherited Dysplasia/OSD in Labrador Retrievers Now Available!

Ithaca, NY – July 25, 2008 - OptiGen is offering a new DNA test that identifies the Inherited forms of Retinal Dysplasia associated with OculoSkeletal Dysplasia (OSD) in Labrador Retrievers and Samoyeds. OSD is characterized by short-limbed dwarfism and blindness at an early age. The new OptiGen DNA test for OSD-associated Retinal Dysplasia will allow Labrador Retriever and Samoyed breeders to determine if the retinal folds that are often insignificant in many breeds are correlated to the serious condition of OSD.

For more information go to: http://www.optigen.com/opt9_rdosd.html

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

New DNA TEST for Exercise Induced Collapse/EIC Now Available, as of July 1,2008!

EXERCISE INDUCED COLLAPSE IN LABRADOR RETRIEVERS AND RELATED BREEDS
from the University of Minnesota Website:

<http://www.vdl.umn.edu/vdl/ourservices/canineneuromuscular/home.html>

Update: July 1, 2008

WHO GETS IT?

The syndrome of exercise intolerance and collapse (EIC) is being observed with increasing frequency in young adult Labrador Retrievers. Most, but not all, affected dogs have been from field-trial breedings. Black, yellow and chocolate Labradors of both sexes are affected, with the distribution of colors and sexes closely reflecting the typical distribution in field trials (black males most common). Signs first become apparent in young dogs - usually between 5 months and 3 years of age (average 14 months). In dogs used for field trials, this usually coincides with the age at which they enter heavy training. Littermates and other related dogs are commonly affected but depending on their temperament and lifestyle they may or may not manifest symptoms. Affected dogs exhibiting symptoms of collapse are usually described as being extremely fit, muscular, prime athletic specimens of their breed with an excitable temperament and lots of drive. Affected Chesapeake Bay Retrievers and Curly-Coated Retrievers have also been identified.

DESCRIPTION OF COLLAPSE

Affected dogs can tolerate mild to moderate exercise, but 5 to 20 minutes of strenuous exercise with extreme excitement induces weakness and then collapse. Severely affected dogs may collapse whenever they are exercised to this extent - other dogs only exhibit collapse sporadically.

The first thing noted is usually a rocking or forced gait. The rear limbs then become weak and unable to support weight. Many affected dogs will continue to run while dragging their back legs. Some of the dogs appear to be in-coordinated, especially in the rear limbs, with a wide-based, long, loose stride rather than the short, stiff strides typically associated with muscle weakness. In some dogs the rear limb collapse progresses to forelimb weakness and occasionally to a total inability to move. Some dogs appear to have a loss of balance and may fall over, particularly as they recover from complete collapse. Most collapsed dogs are totally

conscious and alert, still trying to run and retrieve but as many as 25% of affected dogs will appear stunned or disoriented during the episode.

It is common for the symptoms to worsen for 3 to 5 minutes even after exercise has been terminated. NOTE: A few affected dogs have died during exercise or while resting immediately after an episode of exercise-induced collapse so an affected dog's exercise should ALWAYS be stopped at the first hint of incoordination or wobbliness.

RECOVERY

Most dogs recover quickly and are normal within 5 to 25 minutes with no residual weakness or stiffness. Dogs are not painful during the collapse or after recovery. Massage of the muscles or palpation of the joints or spine does not cause discomfort. Affected dogs are not stiff or sore or limping upon recovery.

BODY TEMPERATURE

Body temperature is normal at rest in dogs with EIC but is almost always dramatically increased at the time of collapse (temperature >41.5 C, >107.6F). We have shown experimentally, however, that clinically normal Labrador Retrievers doing this type of exercise for 10 minutes routinely had similar dramatic elevations in body temperature yet exhibited no signs of weakness, collapse or disorientation. (American Journal of Veterinary Research 60(1):88-92, 1999). Dogs with EIC will pant hard during the time of collapse, in an attempt to cool off, but this is similar to normal dogs exercised in the same manner. The time it takes for dogs with EIC to return to their resting temperature after exercise is not different from normal Labrador Retrievers. Although temperature may play some role in EIC, and may even contribute to the death of some affected dogs, inability to properly regulate temperature is not the underlying problem in dogs with EIC.

FACTORS CONTRIBUTING TO COLLAPSE IN DOGS WITH EIC

Ambient Temperature. Actual ambient temperature does not seem to be a critical factor contributing to collapse, but if the temperature is much warmer or the humidity is much higher than what the dog is accustomed to, collapse may be more likely. Excessive panting (hyperventilation) in hot weather may be a contributing factor. Affected dogs are less likely to collapse in cold weather or while swimming, but some dogs have exhibited collapse while breaking ice retrieving waterfowl in frigid temperatures and some dogs have drowned when experiencing EIC-related collapse in the water.

Excitement. Dogs that exhibit the symptoms of EIC are most likely to have intense, excitable personalities, and it is very apparent that their level of excitement plays a role in inducing the collapse. There are some severely affected dogs who, if they are extremely excited, do not even require much exercise to induce the collapse. Dogs with EIC are most likely to collapse when engaging in activities that they find very exciting or stressful. This can include retrieving of live birds, participation in field trials, training drills with electric collar pressure and quartering for upland game.

Type of Exercise. Routine exercise like jogging, hiking, swimming, most waterfowl hunting and even agility or flyball training are not very likely to induce an episode in dogs with EIC. Activities with continuous intense exercise, particularly if accompanied by a high level of excitement or anxiety most commonly cause collapse. Activities commonly implicated include grouse or pheasant hunting, repetitive "happy retrieves", retrieving drills or repetition of difficult marks or blinds where the dog is being repeatedly corrected or is anticipating electric collar correction, and running alongside an ATV.

VETERINARY EVALUATION OF AFFECTED DOGS / MAKING A DIAGNOSIS

Nervous system, cardiovascular and musculoskeletal examinations are unremarkable in dogs with EIC as is routine blood analysis at rest and during an episode of collapse. These dogs do not experience heart rhythm abnormalities, low blood sugar, electrolyte disturbances or respiratory difficulty that could explain their collapse. Body temperature is remarkably elevated during collapse (average 107.1F [41.7C], many up to 108F [42.2C]), but this magnitude of body temperature elevation has been found in normal exercise-tolerant Labradors as well. Affected dogs hyperventilate and experience dramatic alterations in their blood carbon

dioxide concentration (decreased) and their blood pH (increased) but these changes are also observed in the normal exercising dogs. Testing for myasthenia gravis (ACh-R ABy) is negative.

Thyroid gland function (T 4, TSH) and adrenal gland cortisol production (ACTH Stimulation test) appear to be normal. Affected dogs are negative for the genetic mutation known to cause malignant hyperthermia in dogs (mutation of the skeletal muscle ryanodine receptor RyR1).

EIC is the most common reason for exercise/excitement induced collapse in young, apparently healthy Labrador Retrievers. Until recently, EIC could only be diagnosed by systematically ruling out all other disorders causing exercise intolerance and collapse and by observing characteristic clinical features, history and laboratory test results in affected dogs. Any Labrador Retriever with exercise intolerance should always have a complete veterinary evaluation to rule-out treatable conditions such as orthopedic disorders, heart failure, anemia, heart rhythm disturbances, respiratory problems, low blood sugar, cauda equina syndrome, myasthenia gravis, hypoadrenocorticism, and muscle disease. Genetic (DNA) testing for EIC is necessary to confirm a suspected diagnosis of EIC. .

LONG TERM OUTLOOK

Dogs symptomatic for EIC are rarely able to continue training or competition. It seems that if affected dogs are removed from training and not exercised excessively the condition will not progress and they will be fine as pets. They are able to continue to live fairly normal lives if owners limit their intense exercise and excitement. Many dogs will seem to "get better" as they age and slow down their activity and their excitement level. It is important that owners of dogs with EIC be made aware that the dog's exercise should be stopped at the first hint of in-coordination or wobbliness as some affected dogs have died during collapse when their owners allowed or encouraged continuing exercise. Not all of the EIC deaths have occurred in dogs rated as severely affected based on their number of episodes of collapse or the amount of activity required to induce an episode.

TREATMENT

The best treatment in most dogs consists of avoiding intensive exercise in conjunction with extreme excitement and ending exercise at the first sign of weakness/wobbliness. A few dogs have, however, responded to medical treatment to the degree that they can re-enter training and competition at a high level. Each of the treatments listed below has been effective in a few dogs, but none of them has been 100% effective in all dogs. Treatment as a metabolic myopathy: We initially felt that EIC was a metabolic myopathy caused by an enzyme deficiency leading to a defect in oxidative metabolism within the brain and muscle. Even though we know that EIC is not a metabolic myopathy, few affected dogs have been reported to have a positive clinical response to oral supplementation with L-carnitine (50mg/kg 2X/day), CoEnzyme Q10 (100mg/day) and Riboflavin (100 mg/day) - a standard cocktail for metabolic myopathies/neuropathies.

Treatment with 7-KETO. A few severely affected dogs have responded positively to a nutraceutical called 7-KETO. This is a breakdown product of the hormone dehydroepiandrosterone (DHEA), a steroid made by the adrenal glands and brain. The dosage used has been 100 mg twice each day. The precise mechanism of action of 7-KETO in affected dogs is unknown, but it has demonstrated positive effects on energy production in the muscle and brain as well as acting as a neuroactive steroid, with effects on several neurotransmitter receptors in the brain.

Treatment with Phenobarbital: There are now numerous reports of severely affected dogs improving when they were treated with Phenobarbital (2 mg/kg every 12 hours or every 24 hours). The actual mechanism underlying its effectiveness in dogs with EIC is uncertain. It is possible that this drug just "takes the edge off" and decreases the dog's level of excitement, thus making it less likely that they will have an episode. This drug should only be administered with strict veterinary supervision and monitoring.

DIFFERENTIATING EIC FROM HEAT STROKE

There have been a number of good veterinary reviews of heat stroke in dogs recently and the syndrome we are seeing with EIC is very different. With heat stroke - induced collapse in dogs you expect to see a very slow

or prolonged recovery that can take hours to days, or else progression to death. Laboratory evaluation reveals a dramatic increase in CK (usually 7-11X normal). Mentation changes that are severe, progressive and persistent (for hours to days) occur in 80% of affected dogs and significant endothelial injury leads to microvascular thrombosis, DIC, thrombocytopenia and bleeding as well as acute renal failure in most patients. In contrast, dogs with EIC collapse without showing laboratory abnormalities and they recover quickly - happy and running around within 5 to 25 minutes.

DIFFERENTIATING EIC FROM MALIGNANT HYPERTHERMIA

We have also learned enough about EIC to say with certainty that it is not the same as malignant hyperthermia (MH). The Minnesota collaborators in the EIC Project (Mickelson et al) recently confirmed that in dogs as in other species MH it is caused by a mutation in the calcium release channel of the sarcoplasmic reticulum in skeletal muscle – the ryanodine receptor. All of the affected EIC dogs evaluated at the WCVM were genotyped and tested for the known ryanodine receptor mutation and for linkage to other sites on chromosome 1, eliminating this mutated gene as the cause of EIC. Dogs with collapse due to MH typically look very different from our dogs with EIC. Their muscles are rigid (not flaccid like EIC) and they have increased CK in their serum. Histologically their muscles show rhabdomyolysis (EIC dogs' muscles are normal). Dogs with MH often hypoventilate due to persistent muscular contraction so they are hypercarbic (where dogs with EIC hyperventilate).

DIFFERENTIATING EIC FROM A MITOCHONDRIAL MYOPATHY

Although our initial study of dogs with EIC was designed to detect a mitochondrial myopathy (a defect in the oxidative metabolism leading to energy production in muscle), we now know that EIC is not a metabolic myopathy. Most dogs with mitochondrial myopathies have severe exercise intolerance that can be consistently demonstrated with even mild exercise. Most develop extreme lactic acidemia with even mild exercise and an elevated lactate to pyruvate ratio. Many have “ragged red fibers” demonstrated on histopathology which are really just subsarcolemmal mitochondria as well as ultrastructural changes to the mitochondria - none of this is evident in dogs with EIC and it has become apparent that dogs with EIC suffer more from neurologic dysfunction than from muscular weakness.

DIFFERENTIATING EIC FROM EPILEPSY

Some Labrador Retrievers that we have evaluated because of collapse episodes do not have EIC but instead have an unusual form of epilepsy. The "collapse" episodes that these dogs experience typically have a very sudden onset and very sudden resolution and are sometimes very brief (less than 2 minutes) - unlike EIC where there seems to be a more gradual progression of weakness, in-coordination or collapse and a gradual recovery taking from 5 to 30 minutes. In this unusual form of epilepsy (almost exclusively seen in Labrador Retrievers) the dog maintains consciousness but exhibits a problem with gait, balance, or muscle tone. Excitement and exercise are common triggers for these seizures in affected dogs (perhaps because of hyperventilation), leading to confusion between this seizure disorder and EIC. In some dogs with this form of epilepsy the episodes do not progress further, but other dogs will develop more typical generalized seizures later in life with loss of consciousness, muscle twitches, paddling of the limbs, etc.

For more information: <http://www.vdl.umn.edu/vdl/ourservices/canineneuromuscular/home.html>



Newsletter Guidelines

This newsletter is published 10-12 times per year by the Rose City Labrador Retriever Club a non-profit organization and issued to all members in good standing. Contributions for publication and advertisements are welcome. Advertising rates are \$15.00 per half page and \$25.00 per whole page. All submissions for publication are to be mailed or emailed to the editor by the 20th of each month. Subscription rate for non-members is \$15.00 per year and does not include voting privileges. All subscription requests can be mailed to the editor along with a check made payable to RCLRC. The editor and all club members shall refrain from editorial comments pertaining to other members without prior written approval from the Board of Directors. All brags are to be current within 90 days of the event and must be submitted by the 20th of the month.

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