

Sleigh Courier

Publication of The Samoyed Club Inc

Spring 2010



Ch Zaminka Power Sunrise ~ Best in Show SCI Open Show

Owner: Maggie Asplet Breeder: Gary and Lyn Carleton
Handler: Gary Carleton



Spring brings...

- SCI Open Show photos and results
- Snow Dogs Match Day schedule
- PennHip vs OFA

See index on page 3

Officials and Committee Members 2010

Life Members:

Gary Carleton Una Gibson
Lyn Carleton Paddy Watts

Patron:

Noel Wilson

Vice Patrons:

Irene Allison Lauren de C James

President:

Lynne Barr, 4 Christopher Way, Paparangi, Wellington
(04) 477 1097, lynne@angara.co.nz

Vice President:

Jo-Anne Hawkins, (06) 876 6560, kimchatka@xtra.co.nz

Secretary:

Anita Shugg, 136 Waitohu Valley Road, RD 3,
Otaki 5583, (06) 364 5785, k.a.shugg@clear.net.nz

Treasurer:

Simeon Copsey, PO Box 9730, Te Aro, Wellington
(04) 477 9975, simeon@copsey.co.nz

SamCare Coordinator:

Anita Shugg, (06) 364 5785, k.a.shugg@clear.net.nz

Committee:

Kathryn Biggs Millie Hayward
Lorraine Fothergill Bronwyn Weir
Jo-Anne Hawkins Noel Wilson

Committee Assistant:

Anita Fraser

Sponsorship and Prizes:

Jo-Anne Hawkins, (06) 876 6560, kimchatka@xtra.co.nz
Lynne Bar, (04) 477 1097, lynne@angara.co.nz

Award Shields:

Kathryn Biggs, (06) 329 3541, superstreet@clear.net.nz

Cups, Sashes:

Anita Shugg, (06) 364 5785, k.a.shugg@clear.net.nz

Points Steward:

Lynne Barr, (04) 477 1097, lynne@angara.co.nz

Magazine Editor:

Lauren de C James, 11 Kiwi Crescent, Tawa,
Wellington 5028,
(04) 232 4091, kievams@hotmail.com

Hon. Veterinarian:

Ian Schraa, Rappaw, 224 Main Road, Tawa, Wellington
(04) 232 8382

Hon. Auditor:

Gordon Conning, Naenae

Membership Fees 2010

Subscriptions are due annually on 1st January each year.

Single	\$20.00
Double	\$24.00
Junior (under 17)	\$10.00

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A copy of the magazine is available to members via email. Please contact the Editor for details.

**Deadline for next issue:
Friday, 10 December 2010**

Advertising Rates

Full Page (black & white)	\$15
Half Page (black & white)	\$ 8
Sam Ads	\$ 5
Breeders/Stud Directory	\$ 5
Mating and Litter Notifications	\$ 5
Vales	Free

NOTE:

*Colour advertising is available on request.
Please contact the Editor for prices.*

Clubs and Groups

Auckland Provincial Samoyed Association

Secretary:
Sharon Kelly
1893 Hunua Road
RD3, Papakura
Auckland 2583
(09) 292 4451
kelljass@ihug.co.nz

The Dominion Samoyed Club

Secretary:
Julie Wells
87 Walkers Road
RD7, Christchurch 7677
(03) 347 2406
kursharn@ihug.co.nz

The Spitz Breeds Club

Secretary:
Vivian Douglas
471 Muhunua East Road
Ohau, Levin
(06) 367 3327
nuiinu@xtra.co.nz



ANZSAMS

Australia / NZ Samoyed email group
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ANZSAMS>

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Championship Show

Photos

A DVD of all photos taken at the 2010 Championship show is available for purchase.

Price: \$20

Photos of previous shows available also.

Contact Simeon Copsey

simeon@copsey.co.nz

Guess Who



Can you identify the dog and handler?

Send answers to the editor ~
kievsams@hotmail.com

Christmas is coming



Seasons greetings messages are free
Please send your message to the editor by
Friday, 10 December 2010

Small graphics welcome

President's Report

Sorry this Spring magazine is a wee bit late but folk have been rather busy or unwell since the last issue. Hopefully summer will see an improvement on the health issues and we may even be lucky enough to have some lazy hazy summer days when we can all just relax and have a break. Hopefully the after shocks in Canterbury will also take a break. Sounds like not too much damage but lots of folk weary on the after shocks and pets still rather shaken.

Our Open show has been and gone. Not the usual fun and relaxed event, as we had to squeeze the show in on the afternoon before BIS not the twilight event as planned. Congratulations to all the winners - I hope you liked the prizes and sponsorship.

We have been lucky over the years to have good sponsorship and prizes for our championship and open shows but it is getting hard to maintain the standard and run the shows at break even or a slight loss. It seems to be the same folk over and over who come to the party and help with sponsorship. Thanks guys for helping in

this way – your sponsorship is very much appreciated. The idea is for the shows to break even and not eat into Club funds. If we are to continue to have judges of exceptional calibre then I think an increase in entry fees will be required next year just to cover the judges.

I was disappointed to not receive any feedback on the questions asked in the last magazine about Club activities and working in with the other clubs. I had thought the feedback could have been summarised in this magazine to continue what could be a healthy discussion. I can only assume you have either been too busy to send in your ideas or are happy to leave the decisions up to the elected committee who try hard to provide a variety of events and activities for the entire membership.

Plans for the 2011 championship show are coming along nicely. Anita has been busy sorting out the arrangements with the judge. The show will be held Queens Birthday Monday at Porirua in conjunction with the Wellington Kennel Club and Non Sporting and Utility Championship show with the annual

awards to follow.

The finger food went down well this year so we will see if we can do something similar again. Anyone who wants to help with the catering or has a suggestion for the prizes please let me know. We try to make the theme something useful. We are also currently thinking about an open show judge for 2011 and Championship show judge for 2012 so suggestions on this front as also welcome.

We will be having the annual Snow Dogs match at the end of November in conjunction with the Manawatu Kennel Club ribbon parades. This match is all about Samoyeds vs Malamutes vs Siberian Huskies so the more Samoyed entries the better. It is a nice day out for the family and your Samoyed can be a family pet that has been desexed. We are also planning a fun day which will also be for pet Samoyeds and their families.

Cheers

Lynne Barr
President



Secretary's Report

Our next event is our 'ANNUAL SNOW DOG MATCH' to be held in Ashhurst again this year at the end of November.

See the schedule on page 15 of this magazine.

This is a great day out with your pet. We have got a Dog Food company to sponsor the show, and will have prizes for all classes and stakes. Lots of room for children to run around so bring your umbrella and chairs, and picnic lunch. So come along and enjoy

a relaxing day out. It will be held rain or shine because we can not change the date.

Our Champ show for 2011 is organised for Monday morning of Queens Birthday weekend. There will be NO critiques this time because our judge has not bred or owned Samoyeds. Because there will be critique being done I would expect the show to be finished earlier than in past years.

Anita Shugg
Secretary



Editorial

Spring 2010 will long be remembered by Cantabrians for the September 4 earthquake and the many after-shocks.

Hopefully those will soon be just a memory.

I too was disappointed that not one member provided feedback on the questions raised in the Winter issue. I had considered developing a short questionnaire to circulate with the winter magazine but decided against that as electronic communication is probably most members preferred method of communication.

Nor has there been any interest expressed in the editorship of this publication. The Christmas issue will be my last in the role. Maybe it's time the three breed clubs banded together to produce one publication rather than three clubs each producing newsletters. There must be many members who belong to all three breed clubs.

The editor is elected at the Annual General Meeting in March each year.

I was premature in announcing the Vanda kennel interview for this issue but the earthquake and a visit to Australia are understandable reasons for

the delay. Margaret hasn't forgotten -so watch this space.

Some months back Lynne suggested hip dysplasia and the PennHip (USA) method of scoring as a topic for the magazine. Thanks go to F Lynann Stuby for allowing me to publish her personal story of PennHip vs OFA on page 22. Permission has been sought from several other authors to reproduce their reports but no luck yet.

Lauren de C James
Editor

Summer is coming ~ so they say

Let's make the Christmas/Summer "Sleigh Courier"
a bumper issue.

Please send your ads, poems, stories, litter notices, news etc to
the editor by Friday, 10 December.

Photos of Samoyeds at play, in unusual situations etc., always
welcome.



Some recent Samoyed/Spitz collectibles on ebay



A lady from the Hamilton Pound emailed me in October about a three year old male Samoyed that they had been looking for a home for, for sometime.

A few weeks earlier, a lady from Taranaki had been telephoning different breeders, looking for a Samoyed. She didn't want a veteran and couldn't afford to pay much for the dog.

I explained to her that I felt she would need to be prepared to pay the cost of "De-sexing", but agreed that the people advertising Samoyeds that were over a year old for more than \$800 were wrong. The owner should care more about "getting the dog into a nice home". But I don't know if these Samoyeds sell at that price or not.

Anyway, the good news was, the lady from Taranaki was still looking for a Samoyed so she contacted the Pound and then drove to Hamilton to see the boy, liked him and took him home.

When I last talked to her things were going well with him.

So the boy should be fine.

I had been looking for a new home for one of my seven year old female Samoyeds in October. I wanted a home in the lower North Island, that I could go and visit before deciding where she could go and live.

I was not happy about people trying to get \$800 for an older Samoyed so advertised her on Trade me for \$100 to show people that they do NOT need to pay \$800 for a mature Samoyed.

I also wondered if I could find some good homes for older Samoyeds.

Some replies just seem to be 'time wasters'. I think they just thought that they could afford \$100. to buy a cute fluffy dog. I think I educated a few!

But I did find a few good homes - people who asked questions and had put some thought into re-housing an older Samoyed.

The other week I received another email from Hamilton. This time from a family that had got a three year old

de-sexed male Samoyed from Auckland, took him home to be a mate for their six year old male Samoyed, but the three year old did not want to share his new home with another dog! Both Andrew and his daughter had been hurt trying to stop the male Samoyeds from fighting (so there was a bit of urgency to getting this boy into a new home).

This poor dog was at the Humane Society in February at 22 kg, went to his new home (where the child is meant to be allergic to the Samoyed, so couldn't keep him). Dog looks like he is now 35kg!!! a big round barrel with skinny legs sticking out! We don't know how many homes he had before February.

But still likes to be groomed, he is happy to be with cats and children, just doesn't like other dogs!

I was told his name is 'Bullet' but not sure when he was given this name.

It looks like we have a home sorted for this boy - see picture below.

I have to thank Andrew and his family for taking the time to try to re-house this boy correctly, grooming him, putting him on a diet.

There have been other people who have contacted me with help advice about different Samoyeds, thank you.

I do not have time to check Trade Me ad's or Lost dog notices, pound listings etc., so if you see a Samoyed that needs help, you are welcome to contact me and I will see what I can do.

Anita Shugg
SamCare



Samoyeds advertised on Trade Me

Occasionally I check Trade Me for Samoyeds and save photos of those looking for homes. Lo and behold I had saved photos of "Bullet" when he was advertised by the Humane Society earlier this year.

Just look at the difference six or seven months of overfeeding, lack of exercise and grooming has made to this dog.

Lauren James
Editor

Photos right and below are of Bullet dated February 2010



Addendum

Pearlonna kennel interview
Part 2, Autumn 2010

Noel reports that Eischiedandi Pearlonna had attained his New Zealand title prior to export to Australia but the Export Certificate was granted prior to the championship being attained.

That is probably the reason why it does not show on NZKC records.



Left:

The three year old Samoyed in Hamilton Pound in October who has since gone to a home in Taranaki.

Photo taken from video so not of great quality.

The Samoyed Club (Inc) Open Show ~ 21 August 2010

Judge: Robynne Trainor

Dog Classes

5 Junior (2 entered)

- 1st SUNSHINE TRI TEDDY (Ken & Anita Shugg)
2nd CH OSCARBI IM-A BARK STAR
(Rob Barzey & Helen Clark)

6 Intermediate (1 entered)

- 1st ZAMINKA FINEST HOUR (Gary & Lyn Carleton)

7 Limit (1 entered)

- 1st ANGARA LORD LUIBEK (Lynne Barr)

8 New Zealand Bred (1 entered)

- 1st CH SUNSHINE IN A GLASS (Ken & Anita Shugg)

11 Open (3 entered)

- 1st CH ZAMINKA POWER SUNRISE (Maggie Asplet)
2nd NZ CH KALASKA ASTRO BOY AT OSCARBI
(IMP AUST) (Rob Barzey & Helen Clark)
3rd NZ AUST CH ANAKY ITS PARTY TIME (IMP
AUST) (Lynne Barr)

Best Dog: CH ZAMINKA POWER SUNRISE

Reserve Dog: ZAMINKA FINEST HOUR

Bitch Classes

3a Puppy (2 entered)

- 1st ZAMINKA DIAMONDS FOREVER
(Gary & Lyn Carleton)
2nd OSCARBI JUST ASTRONOMICAL
(Rob Barzey & Helen Clark)

5a Junior (1 scratched)

6 Intermediate (2 entered, 1 scratched)

- 1st ANGARA SNEAKING ME KISSES (Lynne Barr)

7a Limit (1 entered)

- 1st RANGI OF MAGADAN (Kathryn Biggs)

8a New Zealand Bred (4 entered, 1 scratched)

- 1st OSCARBI GIRL U THINK YOU'RE IT
(Rob Barzey & Helen Clark)
2nd CH ANGARA DANCING WITH THE STARS
(Lynne Barr)
3rd CH OSCARBI FUTURE EXCITEMENT AT
CARRIDENE (Rob Barzey, Helen Clark, &
Caroline Matheson)



*Left, best dog Ch Zaminka Power Sunrise,
right, reserve best dog Zaminka Finest Hour*



*Left, best bitch, **Zaminka Diamonds Forever**,
right, reserve best bitch, **Oscarbi Girl U Think You're It***



Give your pets the best

*Right, Best Puppy in Show,
Zaminka Diamonds Forever*



The Samoyed Club (Inc) Open Show continued

10a Veteran (1 entered)1

1st CH ANGARA TAIZA TALE (Lynne Barr)

11a Open (1 entered, 1 scratched)

Best Bitch: ZAMINKA DIAMONDS FOREVER
Reserve Bitch OSCARBI GIRL U THINK YOU'RE IT

Best in Show:	CH ZAMINKA POWER SUNRISE
Reserve in Show:	ZAMINKA DIAMONDS FOREVER
Best Dog in Show:	CH ZAMINKA POWER SUNRISE
Best Bitch in Show:	ZAMINKA DIAMONDS FOREVER
Reserve Best Dog in Show:	ZAMINKA FINEST HOUR
Reserve Best Bitch in Show:	OSCARBI GIRL U THINK YOU'RE IT
Puppy in Show:	ZAMINKA DIAMONDS FOREVER
Junior in Show:	SUNSHINE TRI TEDDY
Intermediate in Show:	ZAMINKA FINEST HOUR
Limit in Show:	RANGI OF MAGADAN
New Zealand Bred in Show:	OSCARBI GIRL U THINK YOU'RE IT
Veteran in Show:	CH ANGARA TAIZA TALE
Open in Show:	CH ZAMINKA POWER SUNRISE



*Best Junior in Show **Sunshine Tri Teddy***



*Left, Best Intermediate in Show , **Zaminka Finest Hour**,
right, best intermediate bitch, **Angara Sneaking Me Kisses***



*Left, Best limit dog, **Angara Lord Luibek**, right Best Limit in Show, **Rangi of Magadan***

The Samoyed Club (Inc) Open Show continued



Left, best New Zealand bred dog, **Ch Sunshine In A Glass**,
right, Best New Zealand Bred in Show, **Oscarbi Girl U Think You're It**

STAKES

Dog Head (3 entered)

- 1st NZ AUST CH ANAKY IT'S PARTY TIME (IMP AUST)
- 2nd CH SUNSHINE IN A GLASS
- 3rd ANGARA LORD LUIBEK

Dog Coat (4 entered)

- 1st ZAMINKA FINEST HOUR
- 2nd NZ AUST CH ANAKY IT'S PARTY TIME (IMP AUST)
- 3rd CH SUNSHINE IN A GLASS

Bitch Head (5 entered, 2 scratched)

- 1st ZAMINKA DIAMONDS FOREVER
- 2nd CH ANGARA DANCING WITH THE STARS
- 3rd ANGARA SNEAKING ME KISSES

Bitch Coat (4 entered, 1 scratched)

- 1st ZAMINKA DIAMONDS FOREVER
- 2nd CH ANGARA DANCING WITH THE STARS
- 3rd RANGI OF MAGADAN

Movement under 12 months (1 entered)

- 1st ZAMINKA DIAMONDS FOREVER

Movement over 12 months (4 entered)

- 1st ZAMINKA FINEST HOUR
- 2nd SUNSHINE TRI TEDDY
- 3rd CH ANGARA DANCING WITH THE STARS

Best Feet (4 entered)

- 1st SUNSHINE TRI TEDDY
- 2nd AUST NZ CH ANAKY IT'S PARTY TIME (IMP AUST)
- 3rd CH SUNSHINE IN A GLASS

Best Tail (4 entered, 1 scratched)

- 1st SUNSHINE TRI TEDDY
- 2nd ANGARA SNEAKING ME KISSES
- 3rd RANGI OF MAGADAN

Lucky Catalogue: Anita Shugg

Lucky Exhibitor: Lynne Barr

Consolation: Rob Barzey





*Left, Best in Show, Ch Zaminka Power Sunrise,
left, Reserve Best in Show, Zaminka Diamonds Forever*



Best Veteran in Show, Ch Angara Taiza Tale



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The Alaskan Malamute Club

The Spitz Breeds Club

The Samoyed Club

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Snow Dogs Match Day

Join us for some FUN socializing (both human & K9) & help the Samoyeds take on the other Spitz breeds

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**Sunday 28th November 2010, Reporting Time Midday
(WET OR FINE)**

**Venue: Manawatu Canine Centre, Cambridge Ave
ASHHURST**

Judge: Robert Williamson

**ENTRY FEE: \$3 PER DOG FOR THE FIRST CLASS ENTERED,
PLUS \$1 PER CLASS PER DOG THEREAFTER**

CHAMPION SHOW DOGS PLEASE NOTE: can only be entered in the stake classes

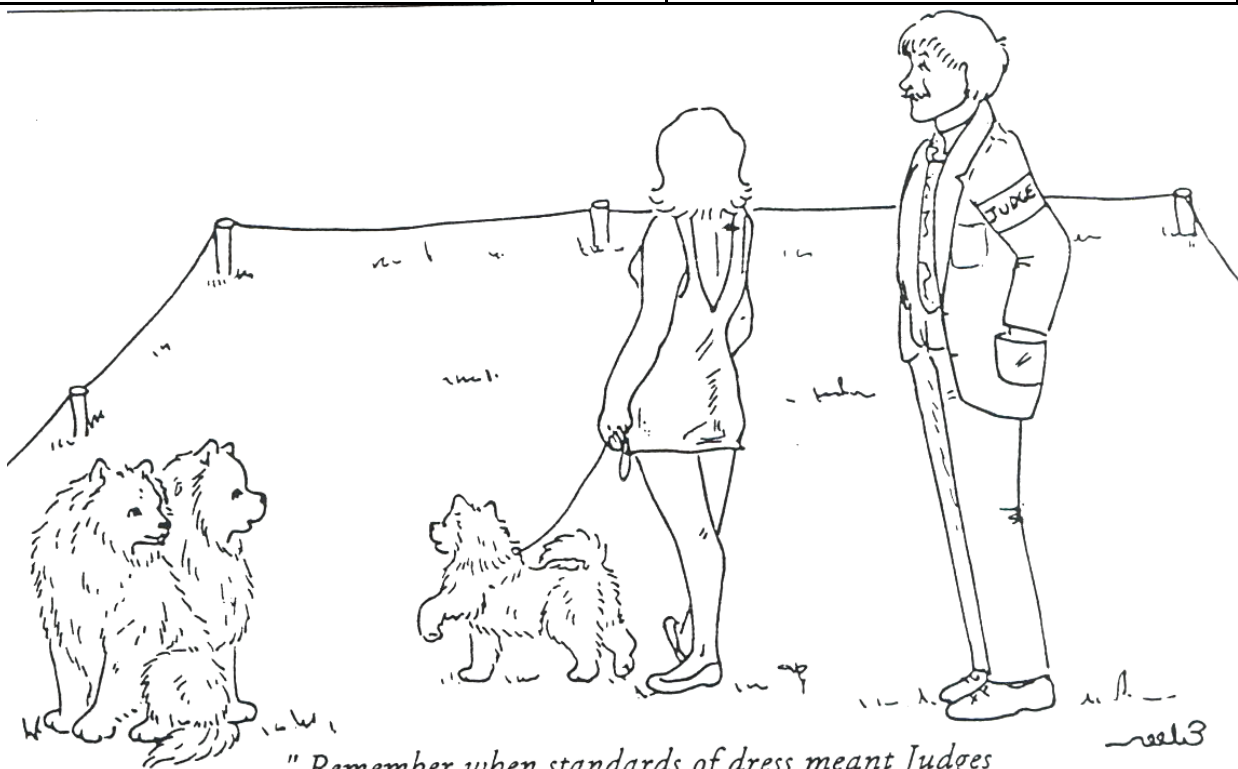
- Baby Puppy
- Best New Handler
- Best Mover Under 12 Months
- Puppy
- Best Titled Sled Dog
- Best Mover Over 12 Months
- Junior
- Best Non Titled Sled Dog
- Best Speyed/Neutered
- Intermediate
- Best Coat
- Best Champion
- NZ Bred
- Best Head
- Best Veteran
- Open
- Best Tail

Contact Persons: Heather Wald Phone: (06) 3269 269
Lynne Barr Phone (04) 477 1097

Breed Of Year Points as at 24/10/2010

Baby Puppy Dog		Baby Puppy Bitch	
Lealsam Logans Allure (Reeve)	28	Oscarbi Just Astronomical (Clark & Barzey)	40
Zaminka Man On A Mission (Carleton/Bello)	16	Snocozy Voyage To Beyond (Imp Aust) (Yau)	32
Puppy Dog		Kelljass Dancin With Da Devil (Kelly)	24
Sunshine Tri Teddy (Shugg)	71	Zaminka Laced With Diamonds For Whytekloud (McRae)	22
Mezen Justa Storm Trooper (Imp Aust) (Carleton/Bello)	29	Lealsam Graces Lady (Reeve)	15
Lealsam Logans Allure (Reeve)	28	Oscarbi Girl U Think You're It (Clark & Barzey)	8
Junior Dog		Lealsam Miss Cover Girl (Reeve)	8
NZ Ch Blue Aegean Leventis From Snowsapphire (Imp UK) (Yau)	122	Lealsam Graces Gift (Reeve)	6
Ch Oscarbi Im'A Bark Star (Barzey/Clark)	68	Zaminka Belle O Th Ball (Carleton/Bello)	6
Sunshine Tri Teddy (Shugg)	35	Puppy Bitch	
Ch Zaminka Finest Hour (Carleton/Bello)	14	Zaminka Diamonds Forever (Carleton/Bello)	64
Mezen Justa Storm Trooper (Imp Aust) (Carleton/Bello)	11	Lealsam Kiwi Fall (Reeve)	16
Intermediate Dog		Zaminka Laced With Diamonds For Wyttekloud (McRae)	16
Ch Zaminka Finest Hour (Carleton/Bello)	62	Snocozy Voyage To Beyond (Imp Aust) (Yau)	14
Ch Lealsam Hugo Boss (Reeve)	52	Oscarbi Just Astronomical (Clark/Barzey)	13
Ch Oscarbi Wild Is The Future (Clark/Barzey)	14	Oscarbi Girl U Think You're It (Clark/Barzey)	4
NZ Bred Dog		Junior Bitch	
Ch Zaminka Back To The Future (Clark)	43	Ch Sunshine BJ's Dream (Shugg)	60
Lealsam Little Bossy Boots (Reeve)	8	Lealsam Kiwi Fall (Reeve)	54
Ch Oscarbi Im'A Bark Star (Barzey/Clark)	8	Zaminka Diamonds Forever (Carleton/Bello)	27
Open Dog		Intermediate Bitch	
Ch Wyttekloud Flash Zam N Kabam (McRae)	119	Angara Sneaking Me Kisses (Barr)	65
NZ Ch Kalaska Astro Boy At Oscarbi (Imp Aust) (Barzey/Clark)	73	Ch Sunshine BJ's Dream (Shugg)	36
Ch Zaminka Power Sunrise (Asplet)	59	Kelljass A Winter's Tale (Kelly)	16
Ch Lealsam Hugo Boss (Reeve)	32	Ch Oscarbi Future Excitement At Carridene (Clark/Barzey/Matheson)	16
Ch Sunshine In A Glass (Shugg)	4	NZ Bred Bitch	
Ch Zaminka Back To The Future (Clark)	4	Ch Wyttekloud Ambers-Burn-For-Eva (McRae)	54
Best Dog		Ch Zaminka Power Strike (Carleton/Bello)	37
Ch Wyttekloud Flash Zam N Kabam (McRae)	78	Ch Lealsam Artic Oceans AD RN (Reeve)	20
Ch Lealsam Hugo Boss (Reeve)	72	Oscarbi Girl U Think You're It (Clark/Barzey)	15
NZ Ch Blue Aegean Leventis From Snowsapphire (Imp UK) (Yau)	55	Ch Lealsam Diamond Oceans (Reeve)	12
NZ Ch Kalaska Astro Boy At Oscarbi (Imp Aust) (Barzey/Clark)	47	Ch Lealsam Grand Aurora (Reeve)	8
Ch Zaminka Power Sunrise (Asplet)	34	Open Bitch	
Ch Oscarbi Im'A Bark Star (Barzey/Clark)	32	Ch Zaminka Magic Moments (Swetman)	141
Ch Zaminka Finest Hour (Carleton/Bello)	23	Ch Angara Dancing With The Stars (Barr)	32
Ch Zaminka Back To The Future (Clark)	16	Ch Lealsam Grand Aurora (Reeve)	27
Mezen Justa Storm Trooper (Imp Aust) (Carleton/Bello)	11	Best Bitch	
Lealsam Logans Allure (Reeve)	9	Ch Zaminka Magic Moments (Swetman)	81
Sunshine Tri Teddy (Shugg)	6	Ch Sunshine BJ's Dream (Shugg)	26
Ch Sunshine In A Glass (Shugg)	4	Zaminka Diamonds Forever (Carleton/Bello)	25
		Ch Lealsam Grand Aurora (reeve)	20

Best Representative continued		Best Bitch continued	
Ch Lealsam Hugo Boss (Reeve)	71	Lealsam Kiwi Fall (Reeve)	16
Zaminka Diamonds Forever (Carleton/Bello)	21	Ch Zaminka Power Strike (Carleton/Bello)	14
NZ Ch Kalaska Astro Boy At Oscarbi (Imp Aust) (Barzey/Clark)	19	Ch Wytekloud Ambers-Burn-For-Eva (McRae)	14
Ch Zaminka Power Sunrise (Asplet)	19	Angara Sneaking Me Kisses (Barr)	14
NZ Ch Blue Aegean Leventis From Snowsapphire (Imp UK) (Yau)	17	Ch Angara Dancing With The Stars (Barr)	13
Ch Oscarbi Im'A Bark Star (Barzey/Clark)	15	Ch Lealsam Artic Oceans AD RN (Reeve)	13
Mezen Justa Storm Trooper (Imp Aust) (Carleton/Bello)	14	Ch Lealsam Diamond Oceans (Reeve)	7
Ch Zaminka Finest Hour (Carleton/Bello)	12	Oscarbi Just Astronomical (Barzey/Clark)	6
Oscarbi Just Astronomical (Clark/Barzey)	8	Oscarbi Girl U Think You're It (Clark/Barzey)	6
Ch Wytekloud Flash Zam N Kabam (McRae)	6	Ch Oscarbi Future Excitement At Carridene (Clark/Barzey/Matheson)	4
Sunshine Tri Teddy (Shugg)	4	Lealsam Miss Cover Girl (Reeve)	3
Lealsam Kiwi Fall (Reeve)	2	Lealsam Graces Gift (Reeve)	2
Lealsam Little Bossy Boots (Reeve)	2	Kelljass Dancin With Da Devil (Kelly)	2
Ch Zaminka Power Strike (Carleton/Bello)	2	Snocozy Voyage To Beyond (Imp Aust) (Yau)	1
Ch Sunshine BJ's Dream (Shugg)	2	Best Bitch Representative	
Best Baby Puppy Representative		Zaminka Diamonds Forever (Carleton/Bello)	21
Oscarbi Just Astronomical (Clark/Barzey)	20	Oscarbi Just Astronomical (Barzey/Clark)	8
Zaminka Man On A Mission (Carleton/Bello)	18	Lealsam Kiwi Fall (Reeve)	2
Kelljass Dancin With Da Devil (Kelly)	4	Ch Zaminka Power Strike (Carleton/Bello)	2
Lealsam Logans Allure (Reeve)	4	Ch Sunshine BJ's Dream (Shugg)	2
Oscarbi Girl U Think You're It (Clark/Barzey)	2		
Snocozy Voyage To Beyond (Imp Aust) (Yau)	2		
Lealsam Miss Cover Girl (Reeve)	2		

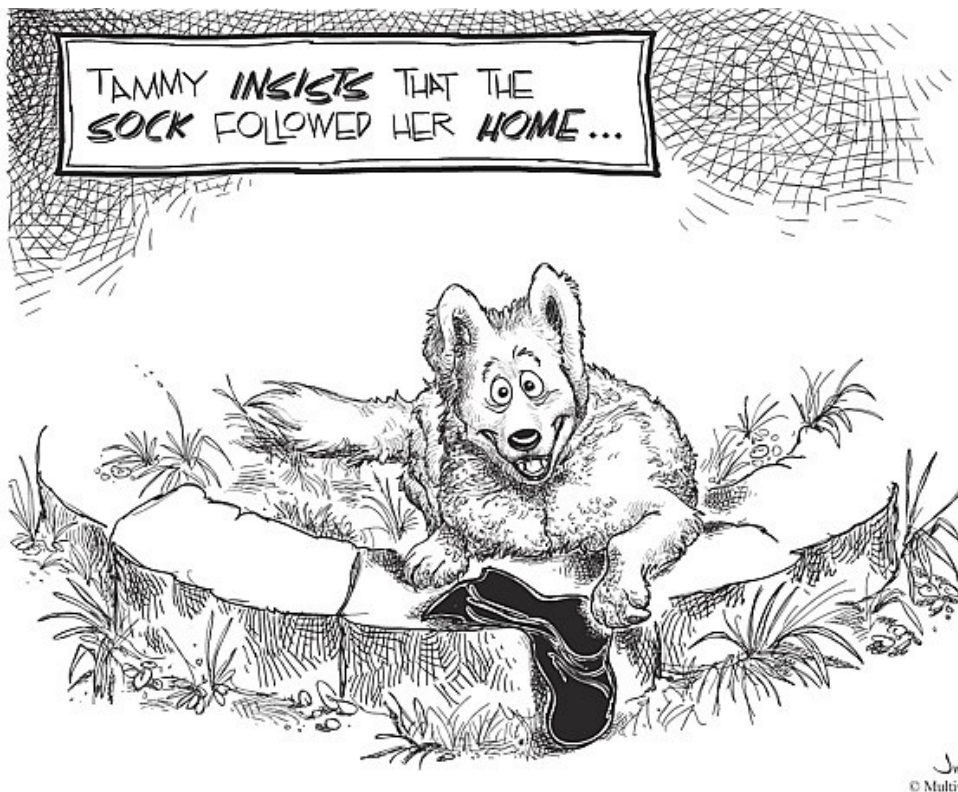


"Remember when standards of dress meant Judges took an interest in the dog's movement ..."

DRAW the DOG



The photo of Tammy and the sock which inspired the cartoon below





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Dog brains rotated by selective breeding

by Michael Marshall

The selective breeding of some domestic dogs has made their brains rotate forwards, and relocated one key component.

Michael Valenzuela at the University of New South Wales in Sydney, Australia, and colleagues, used a brain scanner to look at the heads of 11 dogs that had recently been put down, and two live ones. The dogs came from a variety of breeds, which have been bred over thousands of years to have – among other characteristics – snouts of different lengths.

They found that dogs with shorter snouts had brains which were rotated forwards by up to 15 degrees. They

also found that the olfactory lobe at the front of the brain, which processes the sense of smell, was shunted downwards.

Convincing glance

"As a dog's head or skull shape becomes flatter – more pug-like – the brain rotates forward and the smell centre of the brain drifts further down to the lowest position in the skull," Valenzuela says. "It's something that hasn't been documented in other species."

"This is the first evidence to suggest that selective breeding to meet specific physical characteristics in breed standards has had an

impact on brain organisation," says Lisa Collins of the Royal Veterinary College in Hatfield, UK. It might help explain why long-snouted dogs are better at scent work, such as sniffing out drugs, than short-snouted breeds, she says.

She added: "We do not know what effect, if any, such a reorganisation of the brain might have on the health of different dog breeds."

Journal reference: *PLS ONE*, DOI: 10.1371/journal.pone.0011946

Press release
30 July 2010

Great news re Retinal Folds and CERF – ability

USA News

Pam Barbe reports:

As you may know, all retinal folds in Samoyeds are not associated with the gene for dwarfism. However, because that association was possible, until now, CERF would not pass Samoyeds with any retinal folds present on their CERFexam. I just received this note today from Sue Pearce-Kelling at Optigen and have permission to share it with you.

"I am really happy to relate that the ACVO has officially adopted the recommendation to clear the Samoyeds (and Labrador Retrievers) that have fo-

cal/multifocal retinal folds if the dogs are shown to have Normal/Clear DNA test results for the RD/OSD mutation.

I attended the ACVO annual conference last week in San Diego and this was specifically discussed. The recommendation in the "blue book" i.e. the "ACVO Ocular Disorders Presumed to be Inherited in Dogs 2009" for Samoyeds with retinal folds reads as follows:

"The breeding advice for Labrador Retrievers and Samoyeds diagnosed with "retinal dysplasia - folds" will be changed from "No" to "Breeder option" if the owner

of the dog provides the CERF office with results of the DNA test for the affected dog, showing that it is not a carrier of the oculoskeletal dysplasia (OSD) mutation."

For DNA testing contact OptigenR: RD/OSD test. Optigen LLC, Cornell Business and Technology Park, 33 Thornwood Dr., Suite 102, Ithaca, NY 14850. Telephone: 607-257-0301.

E-mail: genetest@optigen.com
website: www.optigen.com
Sue Pearce-Kelling at Optigen

Samfans, 15 October 2010

Championship Certificates issued to October 2010

Congratulations to the following new titleholders:

Championship Certificates

Ch Blue Aegean Leventis From Snowsapphire (Imp UK)
Ch Kimchatka Ms Scarlet O'Hara

Pet dog survives rattlesnake attack by Megha Satyanarayana

Sightings of state's only venomous snake rare

Since a chance encounter with Michigan's only venomous snake, Kodi, a 3-year-old Samoyed, has lost control of an eyelid, drools and can't handle hot weather.

But to Brenda Lacroix of Davisburg, Kodi is a 114-pound white knight that saved her from a snake attack during a June walk in Shiawassee Basin Park in Springfield Township. And without antivenom from the Detroit Zoo, she believes she would have lost him.

"Some days, I look at him and my heart breaks, and some days I look at him and think, 'What a brave boy,' " she said.

Encounters with the Eastern Massasauga rattlesnake are rare, but anecdotally seem to be on the rise, said Jeff Jundt, curator of reptiles at the Detroit Zoo. Oakland County Parks and Recreation is holding its yearly seminar on dogs and snakes on Saturday.

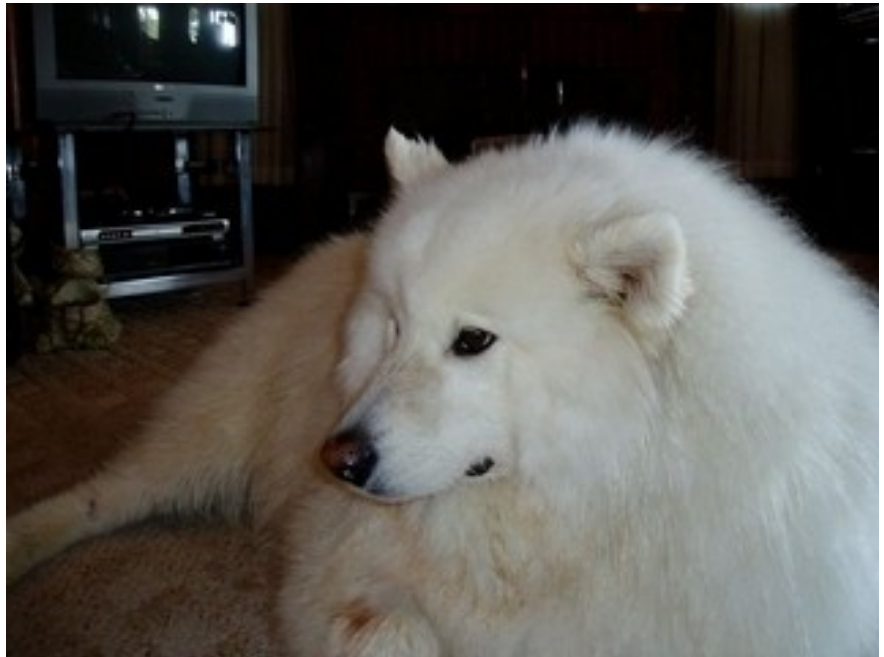
The shy, dark snake prefers wetland areas and is typically not aggressive. It's a species of concern, said Brittany Bird, Natural Resources Planner for Oakland County Parks and Recreation, and part of the seminar is helping people understand why the snake should be preserved.

Not every bite carries venom and if bitten, the victim has time to get to the hospital, Jundt said.

"If you startle a snake and it bites," he said, "it most likely is not going to inject."

Kodi wasn't so lucky. "This thing flew at his face," said Lacroix, a retired veterinary technician. "It was 3 1/2 feet long and the width of my arm."

With the help of a friend walking with them, Lacroix got Kodi's sagging body to her former employer. His face



Kodi, a Samoyed belonging to Brenda Lacroix, stood up to an Eastern Massasauga rattlesnake, and was bitten twice. Antivenom from the Detroit Zoo saved his life

started to swell.

"His eyes rolled back," she said. "We got into the room, and he collapsed. He was out."

While one veterinarian stabilized Kodi, who Lacroix got from a rescue organization, another began a round of calls for viper antivenom, which blocks the venom proteins that, over time, destroy blood vessels and cause internal bleeding.

Finally, after several calls to other veterinarians, the Detroit Zoo came through with five vials of expired antivenom, no longer usable on humans, but still effective. The zoo keeps a small stock of antivenom, said Jundt.

Over five hours, Kodi took the antivenom through an IV. Lacroix and Kodi have not been back to Shiawassee

Basin Park since the attack.

Lacroix believes construction and controlled burns in the area pushed the snakes' normal prey, such as mice, farther into the grasslands, forcing the snake away from the water.

While rattlesnakes may be around, Jundt said there's no need to carry antivenom. The venom proteins are large and don't move through the blood stream as quickly as the venom of other snakes.

"The best thing you can have for a bite is a pair of car keys to get to the hospital quick," he said.

Megha Satyanarayana is a Detroit Free Press Staff Writer
Posted on the Metro Detroit web site 26 September 2010

***Thought of the day...
Handle every stressful situation like a dog, if you cant eat it or hump it,
Piss on it and walk away.***

PennHip vs OFA, A Personal Story

by F Lynann Stuby

Let me begin by saying I am a member of the Health Committee of the GPCA. I spent most of my life in nursing, in specialty units in a major metropolitan hospital. I have always had an intellectual curiosity about most things, and in particular medical things.

I had heard of this new hip testing procedure for Dysplasia, and after reading their web site felt it to be potentially more beneficial for breeders. My beliefs were based on several things. First was that this procedure used several views, rather than one, of the dogs hips. Second was that it was read by a computer thus removing any "opinion" from the mix as is seen in the OFA readings. And third it could be done at a young age, long before you would have a lot of money tied up in a dog whether it was for conformation, obedience or service work. Wow, what a great thing for the dog world. I believed in this so strongly I encouraged my vet of 25 years to become certified and he did attend the seminar, after a year or so of my prodding. My vet has remained on the cutting edge of new techniques and equipment as they have come along over the years, and has a thriving practice with many "breeders" like myself who travel a distance to go to his clinic.

I had seven bitches of all ages that I wanted to PennHip.

He attended the seminar in January and I had high hopes of having all of my dogs PennHip evaluated by the end of January no later than February.

As it turned out, the certification procedure involved five "test" exams be performed by each new practitioner, each exam taking five views. These are then evaluated for their technique before a certification is awarded.

My vet had my dogs ready and waiting to be used as his first "subjects." All five had to be completed before any of them are "officially" read and numbers issued to either the vet, or the owner. I could live with this even if it might drag things out a little. I could not have foreseen that the last

result would be arriving in June. Due to a long term patient/ client relationship, I was allowed to witness every single examination performed. A great learning experience for me as well.

The premise from the PennHip research/method which has been ongoing for many years and now includes 63,000 dogs in their data base, is the laxity or "looseness" of the joint being a very accurate prognostication of potential Hip Dysplasia. The numbers have proven out and this can be done on dogs as young as 16 weeks old with good reliability. The procedure consists of three views, a extended view, (OFA view), a compression view, which simulates the dog standing, and a distracted view which pulls the hips from the socket as much the tendon and

joint capsule will allow showing "passive laxity." This distracted view has a device that is used to leverage the hips from the sockets. The dog must be totally sedated. Unlike OFA, once an exam is done and it "appears" like a potential poor reading might ensue, the practitioner is mandated to send the exam in. Thus all exams are included in their database, and the potential for the "bad" results to be removed from the figures does not occur.

Let me take this opportunity to explain a phenomenon that can occur with this examination. That is cavitation. The very best explanation of this I could find was in the following article. Here is the excerpt on cavitation from:

New Words in the HD Dictionary by Fred Lanting.

Cavitation

A word very few will come across when using the advanced PennHIP evaluation is "cavitation". The space between the acetabulum and the femoral head (the socket and the ball) has a small amount of lubricating liquid called synovial fluid that performs a function similar to that of the grease in your car's ball joints. However, it also apparently has another critical function, and that is related to the fact that it is permanently sealed in, and if you were to try pulling the ball out of its socket, there would be a vacuum-like effect. The harder you pull, the harder it resists. Of course, if you puncture that joint capsule, you would let in some air or fluid, and the "vacuum" would be lost. Likewise, if the dog had a genetic defect that allowed production of excess synovial fluid, the negative pressure would not be as significant, and you'd be able to pull the ball further out before resistance built up. In order to get a good reading of the difference between compression and distraction views, and measure the displacement to give that index, the vet has to exert a considerable force, up to the point where even more force no longer produces any more displacement. The limit to which he or she can pry the bones apart illustrates a principle of physics and mechanics known as Hook's Law. A spring or elastic material can be stretched with relative ease up to the point of its elastic limit, and will stretch no further, no matter if you add one ounce to the weight or 100 pounds. Of course, if you put a ton or so on the steel cable or spring, you might exceed the elastic limit and the steel will fail, and not regain its length the way it did when you stayed within the limit and relaxed the tension.

In distracting a dog's hip joint, a slightly similar thing happens, but you do not go past the yield point the way you can with an enormous weight on the steel test piece. Instead, something else "gives", a temporary and harmless phenomenon that is quite rare (about 4%) in the distraction procedure: voids appear in the synovial fluid and give a sudden decrease of pressure in the articulation area. Nitrogen and/or other normally-dissolved gases in the fluid are subjected to enough suction force that they vaporize, and can show up as radiolucent areas on the radiograph. When it happens, it is almost always only one hip that is involved. Within minutes to an hour, they re-dissolve and the dog can be re-tested. If it takes longer than the vet wants the dog to be under anesthesia, the PennHIP evaluators in Philadelphia

will just take the DI reading of the other hip. In the even less frequent instance of a vet causing cavitation in both sockets, that film is rejected or the vet has already realized what he did, and repeats that part a little later. A similar pop or snap happens when one cracks his knuckles, and it takes a while before it can be done again. I've been annoying family members that way for fifty years with no damage, and there is likewise no damage to the dog when cavitation occurs.

So now you know as much as I do about cavitation. Once this occurs there is not a number score given as this can drastically change the reading toward the negative. RECOGNITION of cavitation is essential for an accurate reading. Even "partial cavitation" can cause a very different reading to be given. The decision of whether to read or not to read, is done at PennHip. A human decision, whether the computer should read the film. There is not any other circumstance that can occur during the exam that can result in an inaccurate result other than inadequate distraction, that I am aware of. This is also a judgment call from those at PennHip.

I have PennHip exams on eight of my dogs. I as well have done OFA certifications or prelims on five of them at the same time. The OFA view (extended) is done in the PennHip exam, so I originally thought why not. I had also seen some websites of other breeds where both were done and the results were very inconsistent, high positive outcome using one method while negative outcome is reported with the other. I assumed it was just a bad day for the OFA viewers on those occasions, as PennHip is read by a computer, and not subject to "human opinion." I have learned this is not necessarily the case.

I received several scores that were very discouraging, like half of my bitches had hips scores in the area that I did not really want to breed them. The worst, was one of my imports with quite a sizable investment in her already. I had decided to choose one of these bitches and let the others go to pet homes, no matter what I had invested in them. There were a couple that the PennHip score coincided with OFA, as well as siblings in the litter. There were several where they did not coincide with the OFA grade, and pedigree would not have suggested poor hips. I have been

very cautious to purchase good breeding stock, with hips and eyes well documented in the pedigrees. I made the decision to take two, with unexpected poor results, to another vet who was very experienced in the PennHip method and technique.

The two that I had re PennHipped both came back better than the first exam. On one exam, PennHip phoned the vet who did the re-exam, and discussed this very different reading with her, and they felt after re-examination and comparison of the first set of films with the second, that one of the hips were at least partially cavitated. This same bitch had a Good OFA prelim. At the same time, a pet that I have, returned with a Good OFA reading, and a reading of .30 and .50, with a note attached stating that partial cavitation of the .50 hip was strongly suspected. I wondered why a reading was given at all, if it was noted to be partially cavitated. At this point I had gone from the depths of doom, looking at placing thousands of dollars worth of breeding stock, to at least seeing some light at the end of this tunnel. One bitch at this point who had two Fair OFA evaluations, and PennHip scores indicating that she was a moderate to low fair was placed.

Annie's Story. On the initial five certifying tests, she was the only one that PennHip asked my vet to do over, as "there was no difference between her compression and distracted view." To toss another wrench into the mix, my vet had installed new digital system for his x-ray equipment. We did the second procedure, and fell victim to new computer equipment syndrome, they accidentally were deleted. So back again for a third set. By this time, Annie was beginning to glow in the dark. We did these and in looking at them in the office, there appeared to be a large amount of distraction. Her scores came back, .67 .65. These readings are indicative of a dog that would likely be

affected at a young age with Hip Dysplasia. Again doom has struck my kennel. I had actually talked with possible new pet owners for her.

I decided to have her reexamined when the OFA prelim reading came back GOOD. How could this be? My vet was kept aware of all of the numbers on the others I had done elsewhere. He volunteered to do yet one more set of films. When we arrived it was decided that we would do five views, the extended, the compression, and three distracted, one with a slight pressure used, a "normal" pressure used, and the last would be with enough pressure to cavitate the hips. He would contact PennHip and discuss this with them, and let them know why the extra views.

This last set returned .42 .42. A huge difference from the previous set which returned so horrible. Considering the quality of this particular bitch, this reading was acceptable to keep her in my breeding program.

My conclusions to this entire experience.

Technique is of the utmost importance, as it seems in novice practitioners, cavitation is slightly more likely to occur.

There is a human judgment element involved with PennHip, as the detection of cavitation, complete or partial, must be accurately determined before the computer is asked to read the distraction score.

I will always send in an OFA with the PennHip, if they are drastically different, there just might be a reason for it. Will I continue to PennHip? Yes, because within the three grading levels of OFA, there is a range, and PennHip gives such an exact number. It will tell you whether you have a low or high excellent, low or high good, a low or high fair. The more information available to use in our breeding decisions, the better. A graph is presented of all of these readings.

Postscript:

I recently (2010) had an OFA preliminary done on a eighteen month old dog I co-own. It came back as "mild

PennHip vs OFA, A Personal Story continued

dysplasia". This was done by a local vet, so we contacted a orthopedic specialist, and had the films done again and resubmitted. It returned as FAIR. So again this shows that these

tests, no matter which test, is totally dependent on the quality and technique of the films taken.

Lyn Stuby

Note: Lyn is a German Pinscher breeder – kennel name "Nevar"

Dog Sex	Age	Novice PH Practitioner	% Tile	Experienced PH Practitioner	% Tile	OFA Grade
F	17 weeks	L .37 R .32	80	-	-	-
F	18 weeks	L .45 R .47 (R Cv. Found later)	60	L .40 R .30	80	GOOD Prelim
F	18 months	L .45 R .40	60	L.45 R.35	60	FAIR Prelim
F	18 months	L.35 R. 35	90	-		-
F	23 months	L.47 R .53	50	-		FAIR Prelim
F	13 months	L 67 R .65	20	L .42 R .42	70	GOOD Prelim
M	23 months	-	-	L .32 R .32	90	
F	36 months	L .30 R .50 (R Cv. Suspected)	50	-		GOOD

My gratitude to Fred Lanting for the use of his article on Cavitation.

PennHIP vs OFA

A new scientific paper has just been published in the current issue of the Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association entitled "Evaluation of the relationship between Orthopedic Foundation for Animals' hip joint scores and PennHIP distraction index values in dogs" (pg 532-541). This study shows that dogs judged as "normal" by the OFA can have clinically important passive hip joint laxity as determined by the PennHIP method. The results suggest that OFA scoring can underestimate susceptibility to osteoarthritis in dogs, which may impede progress in reducing or eliminating hip dysplasia through breeding.

Here is the web site for the press release:

<http://www.vet.upenn.edu/PennVet/News/NewsReleases/tabid/287/articleType/ArticleView/articleId/233/Hip-Dysplasia-Susceptibility-in-Dogs-May-Be-Underreported-According-to-Penn-Vet-Comparative-Study.aspx>

Web site for PennHip: <http://research.vet.upenn.edu/Default.aspx?alias=research.vet.upenn.edu/pennhip>

What is PennHip: <http://research.vet.upenn.edu/pennhip/GeneralInformation/WhatisPennHIP/tabid/3232/Default.aspx>

Some other worthwhile reports:

http://www.workingdogs.com/ofa_penn.htm

<http://www.workingdogs.com/doc0090.htm>

Survey reveals a nation of pet lovers

According to a recent national survey by Purina, New Zealand's leading pet-care company, pets play a vital role in our lives and our family.

Already known as a nation of pet lovers the Purina survey exposed the dynamics that pets bring to our lives. Both male and female cat and dog owners admitted to 'cherishing pets', in fact 85% of dog owners admitted that they treat their dog like 'a member of the family', compared to 81% of cat owners.

Shivaun Statham, Purina's resident pet-care expert explains "Families have changed over the years and pets now play a more emotional role in them and subsequently this is reflected in owners feelings towards them. At Purina we regularly see the bond between cats and dogs and families deepening as more and more kiwis include their pets in all aspects of their everyday lives."

The survey also revealed the softer side to New Zealanders when it comes to their pets. Interestingly it was men who showed a more caring attitude towards their pet.

Nine out of ten New Zealand male dog owners admitted that a warm welcome from their dog helped them recover from a stressful day – proving that dogs really can be a man's best-friend! Also male dog

owners are more willing to pamper their pooches with 32% admitting to sometimes sending their dogs off to get pampered because 'they felt that it deserved a treat'. It would appear that the metrosexual male lives on in dogs too!

"Historically dogs have always been fiercely loyal to their owners but now-a-days with dogs playing a more interactive role in our lives we have seen a trend towards people showering pets with affection. We want our pets to know that we love them as much as they love us!" says Shivaun Statham.

In an effort to learn more about relationships between humans and their pets, Purina asked pet owners about the day-to-day interaction with their pets, with some interesting results. Many of the results give us an insight on how kiwis are humanizing their relationships with their pets. Of the survey respondents:

- Female cat owners admit to talking more to their cats than male cat owners! Almost half of NZ women who own a cat have told their cat about their problems (49%).
- No surprises when it comes to listening skills...31% of female dog owners agree that their dog is a better listener than their partner.
- Interestingly one in seven (14%) kiwi male dog owners believe that

their dogs show them more affection than their partner, all of the time!

- Over half of all cat owners (57%) revealed that there is nothing better than cuddling their cat.
- 72 % of male cat owners agree that their cats are affectionate.
- Almost half of female cat owners (47%) allow their cats to always sleep in their beds, compared to only a third of male cat owners.
- 51% of cat owners and 59% of dog owners consider themselves as mum or dad to their cats and dogs respectively.

"What all of this means is that pets can become as endearing as a child or a close friend to many pet owners. When people find strong companionship and affection in their pets, it is quite normal for them to begin treating their animals as important family members," says Shivaun Statham.

NOTE:

The survey was conducted by The Nielsen Company - A nationwide online study of 250 cat owners and 250 dog owners.

23 August 2010



Recently a reporter from a major newspaper interviewed me about bark softening. During the interview, I told him about the innumerable cases of dogs I saw abandoned at the animal shelter because of barking problems. I shared my professional opinion that canine bark softening can be life-saving for many dogs if performed correctly and for the right reasons, such as to prevent an animal from being separated from its owner or from being abandoned or euthanized. After the article appeared in the newspaper, people submitted questions for me to answer on the newspaper's website. The questions revealed how and why people were so confused and concerned about bark softening. To give readers a better understanding of what bark softening is, and to put it into perspective, I will describe the bark softening procedures and compare them to two of the most commonly performed elective pet surgeries, "spay and neuter".

Canine bark softening is a veterinary procedure that has been performed for decades. Although it is not commonly performed, it has gained considerable public interest this year, following recent media exposure.

Canine bark softening techniques are described in detail in veterinary surgical text books, yet few veterinarians have been trained how to do the procedure. Today, more emphasis is placed on behavioral modification, environmental management, and pharmacotherapy (behavioral medication), rather than medical procedures, to correct problem barking.

The American Veterinary Medical Association's position statement for canine bark softening is: "Canine devocalization should only be performed by qualified, licensed veterinarians as a final alternative after behavioral modification efforts to correct excessive vocalization have

failed.

http://www.avma.org/issues/policy/animal_welfare/devocalization.asp

Most people are unaware that there is a bark softening procedure, so they have not watched it be performed and have no firsthand experience with it. Understandably, when they learn of the procedure for the first time, they are confused by the term used for the procedure: *devocalization*. Devocalization is a misnomer because bark softening does not render the dog voiceless, muted, or silent. When correctly performed, there is about a 50 percent reduction in volume and a lower pitch to the bark. To add to the confusion, the misnomer, *devocalization*, is used for two very different bark softening methods: the *oral technique* and the *laryngotomy technique*.

The *oral technique* is the procedure most commonly performed in veterinary practices because it is non-invasive and the procedure and recovery time are very short.

In my professional opinion, the *laryngotomy technique*, should not be performed. The *laryngotomy technique* can have serious post-operative complications, including seroma formation, delayed healing, tissue damage, and excessive scarring. Scarring can be so extensive that the dog can have difficulty breathing for the rest of its life.

Oral technique

This bark softening procedure is non-invasive and takes one to two minutes to perform, using a short acting injectable anesthetic. No anesthesia, whether gas

or injectable, is without risk. An injectable anesthetic is used because the surgical approach is directly through the mouth and it would be very difficult to access the vocal folds if an endotracheal tube (used for gas anesthesia) was in the area where the procedure is being performed.

In the *oral technique*, the dog's mouth is opened and one or two very small pieces of tissue are taken from one or

both vocal folds using a slender biopsy instrument. The procedure usually takes less than two minutes. When correctly done, there is little to no bleeding or discomfort. Pain killers (analgesia) should always be given, however, as a precaution. Recovery from anesthesia takes a few minutes. Because there is no change in the dog's behavior or attitude and because the dog can and will continue to bark, sedatives are sometimes given to keep the animal calm and quiet for a few days to reduce vocal fold scarring while healing takes place.

Results of the *oral technique* bark softening procedure vary among individual dogs. There is no way to predict or control the volume of the bark and the bark may have a raspy sound. Results are usually permanent, although in some cases dogs may eventually regain full volume of their bark.

Laryngotomy technique

In the *laryngotomy technique*, the dog is maintained on gas anesthesia through an endotracheal tube. A two inch incision is made through the skin, on the ventral surface of the neck, above the dog's larynx. The muscles are separated, blood vessels are cauterized, the larynx is entered and most or all of the dog's vocal fold tissues are removed. The incisions are then sutured back together. This technique is invasive, painful, requires several minutes of surgical time, and has a prolonged recovery time, during which time sedatives are required to keep the dog calm and quiet. Excessive scarring can result from this technique and cause permanent breathing difficulties.

Pet owners are naturally concerned about whether their dogs would be unhappy or psychologically changed in any way as a result of a bark softening procedure. To my knowledge, there have not been any peer-reviewed, pub-

"Devocalization is a misnomer because bark softening does not render the dog voiceless, muted, or silent".

lished scientific studies that objectively measure changes in dogs' moods, before or after any medical or surgical procedure. However, people who own dogs that have had the bark softening procedure by *oral technique* assert that their dogs show no change from their previous behaviors, personalities, and attitudes. The dogs also continue to bark as much as they did previously and their owners can still hear them.

Dogs bark for many reasons, including excitement, playfulness, warning, fear, separation anxiety, and loneliness. Many barking problems can be prevented or corrected with training, social enrichment, environmental management, and behavior modification techniques. In cases of separation anxiety, pharmacotherapy (behavior medications) may be helpful. These methods require time, effort, and dedication. Because every case is different, the success or failure of behavior modification techniques varies among individual animals, trainers, counselors, veterinary behavioral specialists, and owners. Dog owners can find help through veterinary behavior specialists (www.dacvb.org).

People who object to bark softening say that animals should not be subjected to an *elective procedure* strictly for the pet owner's *convenience*. The fact is, people have been subjecting their pets to *elective procedures of convenience* for many years, the most common being "spaying and neutering". Spay and neuter surgical procedures are widely promoted as something responsible pet owners should do to help reduce the pet population. In reality, most pet owners do not want to breed their pets. They spay and neuter their pets primarily for their own *convenience*, because they do not want to deal with the problems associated with owning an intact animal: behavioral changes, which may include aggression; mounting; attempts to escape and roam; excessive, frequent urination and territorial marking; unpleasant odors; and bloody vaginal discharge during estrus that stains carpet and furniture.

"Spay and neuter" is upheld in our country as "the right thing to do", to the extent that *mandatory spay and*

neuter is now being legislated in many parts of the United States. Yet, in some countries, these procedures are considered inhumane and unnecessary. Before we perform any procedure on our pets, we should know what the procedures entail, what their long-term effects may be, and what the alternatives are. Decisions about medical and surgical procedures for any pet should be made by the animal's owner and veterinarian. Veterinary medical and surgical procedures should not be forced, mandated, banned, or legislated by politicians.

Of special note is Dr. Waters recent research on canine ovariectomy and longevity. Dr. Waters' findings indicate that dogs that keep their ovaries live longer than dogs that have had their ovaries removed. (Please see Dr. Waters study and references <http://www.gpmcf.org/respectovaries.html> for details). This very important study deserves serious consideration. During my 31 year veterinary career, I have recommended and performed thousands of canine ovariectomies. My colleagues and I must now look at ovariectomies with a different perspective, in light of these new, significant findings. We must now ask ourselves if removing a dog's ovaries and possibly shortening her life span could be considered inhumane treatment if the procedure isn't deemed medically necessary in the animal's case? And if it is indeed inhumane, how can such a procedure be mandated by state or local authorities?

Below is a comparison of the differences between the most commonly performed *elective procedures of convenience*—the widely accepted and highly promoted practice of spaying and neutering—and the seldom performed, but often criticized, practice of

bark softening:

Spaying and neutering

Spaying and neutering are invasive procedures that involve removing reproductive organs (*gonadectomy*). In the female, the procedure is considered "major surgery" because the abdomen is opened to remove the uterus and ovaries. The procedure, nicknamed a "spay", is correctly termed an *ovariohysterectomy*. In the male, the testicles are removed. Tissues and blood vessels are cut, ligated, cauterized, and stitched. The procedure is nicknamed a "neuter", but the correct term is *castration*. Ovariectomies and castrations take from ten to

thirty (sometimes more) minutes to perform, so intravenous catheters and fluids may be required. The procedures are painful, so they require a general gas anesthesia and analgesia (pain killers). Antibiotics may also be necessary. Although problems rarely occur when the procedures are correctly

performed on healthy animals, these surgeries carry the risks associated with longer anesthesia time and surgical complications, such as infection, hemorrhage, cardiac or respiratory arrest, and death. Ovariectomies and castrations may have long-term side-effects later in life, such as urinary incontinence, hormonal imbalances, and, as previously mentioned for females, a shorter lifespan.

Bark softening

Bark softening (by *oral technique*) is non-invasive and takes about two minutes to perform. A short acting injectable anesthetic is used that lasts about five to seven minutes. When correctly performed, there is little to no bleeding or discomfort. The dog is given pain medication as a precaution and sedatives are prescribed to keep the animal quiet for several days to reduce scarring of the vocal folds. If done correctly, bark softening has no side effects except that the dog has a quieter bark. In some cases, the voice can return to full volume over time.

"Dr Walters' findings indicate that dogs that keep their ovaries live longer than dogs that have had their ovaries removed".

Angara Samoyeds

Lynne Barr
4 Christopher Way
Paparangi
Wellington 6004
NEW ZEALAND

Hm 04 47710 97
Mb 021 746 361

lynne@angara.co.nz



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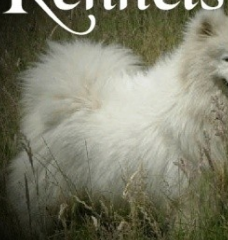
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