

Sleigh Courier

The Samoyed Club Incorporated

Autumn 2011



Some photos from the Sammy Fun Day in March. For more see pages 14 to 17.

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Membership Fees 2011

Subscriptions are due annually on 1st January each year.

Single	\$22.00
Double	\$26.00
Junior (under 17)	\$12.00

\$5.00 per year postage surcharge for non-NZ addresses.

The "Sleigh Courier" is published four times a year:
Autumn, Winter, Spring and Summer.

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

**Deadline for next issue:
Friday, 10 June 2011**

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.*

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Welcome to new members

Jeff & Sarah Gardner

Joni Hollows

May your memberships be long and enjoyable.

Championship Show Sponsorship

Please let us know if you are interested in sponsoring a class for the Championship Show. This is an expensive event for the club to put on so all sponsorship is greatly appreciated. The prizes are Samoyed plates and mugs.

Editorial

Hello! My name is Sarah Piper and I am the new editor of the Sleigh Courier after our previous editor Lauren decided to hand it on to someone else after doing it for so long. She has been a huge help in showing me how the magazine works and was the one who organised the Fred Lanting article (as well as a few other bits and pieces) and I'm very grateful for all her help.

I first got into Samoyeds as my mum had always loved the breed so our first (and so far only) family dog was to be a Samoyed. When I was 9 we got Lui (Angara Lord Luibek) from Lynne at Angara Samoyeds as a crazy fluffy puppy and he eventually matured into the charming lovely old man he is today, having just turned 11 earlier this year. He's a fantastic dog who I feel honoured to have spent so many years with and the breed as a whole, I have learned, despite being not-so-common, is a truly wonderful breed. I plan to always have at least one Sammy in my life and I'm hoping that Lui will be around for a few more years yet.

As always, if you have any submissions for the magazine, be it articles, stories or photos, please send them in. Everything is welcome and it definitely brings more variety into the magazine.

I hope you enjoy this issue and I'm sure everyone is looking forward to seeing each other for both the Championship and Open Shows next month.

Sarah Piper
Editor



Dates to remember

Champ and Open Show Entry Deadline	Saturday 16th May
Championship and Open Shows	Monday 6th June
Samoyed Walks (Hutt River)	Sunday 31st July Sunday 2nd October
Snow Dogs Match Day	Sunday 27th November



Breed of Year Points as at 12 April 2011

Breed Of Year Points as at 12 April 2011			
Baby Puppy - Dog			
Puppy - Dog			
Zaminka Man On A Mission (Carleton / Bello)	46		
Junior - Dog			
Lealsam Logans Allure (Reeve)	36		
Sunshine Tri Teddy (Shugg)	18		
Ch Mezen Justa StormTrooper (Imp Aust) (Carleton / Bello)	17		
Intermediate - Dog			
Ch Blue Aegean Leventis From Snowsapphire (Imp UK) (Yau)	39		
Ch Oscarbi Im'A Bark Star (Barzey / Clark)	26		
Ch Zaminka Finest Hour (Carleton / Bello)	5		
NZBred - Dog			
Sunshine Tri Teddy (Shugg)	8		
Open - Dog			
GR Ch Lealsam Hugo Boss (Reeve)	40		
Ch Kalaska Astro Boy At Oscarbi (Barzey / Clark)	28		
Ch Wytekloud Flash Zam N Kabam (McRae)	23		
Ch Zaminka Power Sunrise (Asplet)	14		
CAN/USA/ENG Ch Vanderbilts One Cool Cat (Imp Can) (Carleton)	8		
Best Dog			
GR CH Lealsam Hugo Boss (Reeve)	38		
Ch Blue Aegean Leventis From Snowsapphire (Imp UK) (Yau)	28		
CH Kalaska Astro Boy At Oscarbi (Barzey / Clark)	27		
Ch Wytekloud Flash Zam N Kabam (McRae)	13		
Ch Mezen Justa StormTrooper (Imp Aust) (Carleton)	12		
Lealsam Logans Allure (Reeve)	8		
Ch Oscarbi Im'A Bark Star (Barzey / Clark)	8		
Sunshine Tri Teddy (Shugg)	8		
CAN/USA/ENG CH Vanderbilts One Cool Cat (Imp Can) (Carleton)	8		
Zaminka Man On A Mission (Carleton / Bello)	3		
Ch Zaminka Finest Hour (Carleton)	2		
Ch Zaminka Power Sunrise (Asplet)	2		
Best Representative			
GR Ch Lealsam Hugo Boss (Reeve)	90		
Ch Kalaska Astro Boy At Oscarbi (Barzey / Clark)	19		
Ch Zaminka Diamonds Forever (Carleton / Bello)	15		
Lealsam Miss Cover Girl (Reeve)	12		
Lealsam Logans Allure (Reeve)	10		
Zaminka Man On A Mission (Carleton / Bello)	10		
Ch Blue Aegean Leventis From Snowsapphire (Imp UK) (Yau)	9		
Ch Mezen Justa StormTrooper (Imp Aust) (Carleton / Bello)	8		
Ch Lealsam Diamond Oceans (Reeve)	6		
CAN/USA/ENG Ch Vanderbilts One Cool Cat (Imp Can) (Carleton)	6		
Ch Zaminka Power Ball (Carleton / Bello)	4		
CH Wytekloud Flash Zam N Kabam (McRae)	2		
Snocozy Voyage To Beyond (Imp Aust) (Yau)	2		
Ch Oscarbi Im'A Bark Star (Barzey / Clark)	2		
Sunshine Tri Teddy (Shugg)	2		
Zaminka Belle O Th Ball (Carleton / Bello)	2		
Best Baby Puppy Rep			
Baby Puppy - Bitch			
Puppy - Bitch			
Lealsam Miss Cover Girl (Reeve)	38		
Snocozy Voyage To Beyond (Imp Aust) (Yau)	30		
Zaminka Belle O Th Ball (Carleton / Bello)	19		
Zaminka Kiwi Kisses (McRae)	14		
Junior - Bitch			
Ch Zaminka Diamonds Forever (Carleton / Bello)	58		
Oscarbi Just Astronomical (Clark & Barzey)	7		
Intermediate - Bitch			
Ch Sunshine BJ's Dream (Shugg)	22		
NZBred - Bitch			
Ch Lealsam Diamond Oceans (Reeve)	36		
Ch Wytekloud Ambers-Burn-For-Eva (McRae)	4		
Open - Bitch			
Ch Zaminka Power Ball (Carleton / Bello)	37		
Ch Angara Dancing With The Stars (Barr)	22		
Ch Lealsam Grand Aurora (Reeve)	6		
Ch Zaminka Magic Moments (Swetman)	6		
Best Bitch			
Ch Zaminka Diamonds Forever (Carleton / Bello)	26		
Ch Lealsam Diamond Oceans (Reeve)	21		
Ch Zaminka Power Ball (Carleton / Bello)	18		
Ch Sunshine BJ's Dream (Shugg)	15		
Snocozy Voyage To Beyond (Imp Aust) (Yau) -	13		
Ch Wytekloud Ambers-Burn-For-Eva (McRae)	3		
Lealsam Miss Cover Girl (Reeve)	3		
Ch Zaminka Magic Moments (Swetman)	3		
Ch Lealsam Grand Aurora (Reeve)	2		
Ch Angara Dancing With The Stars (Barr)	2		
Oscarbi Just Astronomical (Clark & Barzey)	2		
Best Bitch Rep			
Ch Zaminka Diamonds Forever (Carleton / Bello)	15		
Lealsam Miss Cover Girl (Reeve)	12		
Ch Lealsam Diamond Oceans (Reeve)	6		
Ch Zaminka Power Ball (Carleton / Bello)	4		
Snocozy Voyage To Beyond (Imp Aust) (Yau) -	2		
Zaminka Belle O Th Ball (Carleton / Bello)	2		

Point Systems for Of Year Awards

The points year for all three award types runs from 1st January to 31st December.

The rules for the points systems for :

- Breed of Year Awards;
- Agility of Year Award; and
- Obedience of Year Award

are published on the Club web site

<http://www.thesamoyedclubinc.orcon.net.nz>

REMINDER

Results must be received by the Lynne Barr within one month of the show (electronically or by post).

Points for Breed of Year will only be awarded for all breed championship shows.

Points Claims to:

Lynne Barr,
4 Christopher Way, Paparangi, Wellington 6004
lynne@angara.co.nz



Una Gibson

Life Member of The Samoyed Club Inc, Mrs Una Gibson, passed away on the 4th of April 2011. She founded her kennel with the bitch Babette of Middlemarch (Ch Christiana Natzka ex Ch Damka of Rydal Mount) who went to her as an adult bitch in 1967. She also owned the dog Taz of Rydal Mount.

Una's kennel name was Townsend and the first litter from "Taz" and "Babette" was bred in 1969. A repeat mating in 1970 produced the bitch Cosette of Townsend who was to found the Kaipoi kennel of Maree Sharpin where she produced three litters. In 1976 Cosette returned to Una and she later bred a litter from her sired by Alfonso of Santa Lena. Una retained a bitch from the litter "Britt of Townsend" who was later bred to Kavik of Wintermere to produce the last "Townsend" litter in 1978. During this period Una mostly lived in Huntly.

Babette is the first dog on the left with another handler, and Una is with Taz second from the left, in the Line-up of Veterans at The Samoyed Club Inc Open Show on the 25th of July, 1971.



The Samoyed Club Inc Championship Show

To be held at the NZKC Building, Prosser Street, Porirua.
The same weekend as the Wellington Kennel Champ show.

Monday 6 June 2011

Judging commences: 9.00 am

Judge: Gael Morison - South Africa

		Breed Classes	
Dog			Bitch
1	Baby Puppy	3 to 6 months	1a
3	Puppy	6 to 12 months	3a
5	Junior	12 to 24 months	5a
6	Intermediate	24 to 36 months	6a
7	Limit	4 Challenge Certificates or less	7a
8	NZ Bred	Bred in New Zealand	8a
10	Veteran	Over 7 years old	10a
11	Open	Any dog over 6 months	11a

Stakes

12 Dog Head, **13** Dog Coat, **14** Bitch Head, **15** Bitch Coat,
16 Movement under 12 months, **17** Movement over 12 months, **18** Feet, **19** Tail

Entries: Breed : \$15
Stakes: \$5 Catalogue: \$5

Catalogue Ad: \$15 per page. Black and white.

Perpetual trophies will only be awarded to financial members of our club.

The clubs 'Of Year' awards will be presented at the conclusion of the show.

Free tea and coffee will be available.

We plan to have a shared lunch at lunchtime.

Our Open Show is to follow after lunch.

Please make cheques payable to The Samoyed Club Inc.

Entries to the Secretary: Anita Shugg, 136 Waitohu Valley Road, RD 3, Otaki, 5583

Email: k.a.shugg@clear.net.nz

Phone: (06) 364 5785

Entries close: Monday 16 May 2010



The Samoyed Club Inc

Open Show

To be held at NZKC Building, Prosser Street, Porirua.
In conjunction with our Championship show.

Monday 6 June 2011

Judging to start after Lunch

Judge: Carla Walsh - Wellington

	Breed Classes		
Dog			Bitch
1	Baby Puppy	3 to 6 months	1a
3	Puppy	6 to 12 months	3a
5	Junior	12 to 24 months	5a
6	Intermediate	24 to 36 months	6a
7	Limit	4 Challenge Certificates or less	7a
8	NZ Bred	Bred in New Zealand	8a
10	Veteran	Over 7 years old	10a
11	Open	Any dog over 6 months	11a

Stakes

12 Dog Head, 13 Dog Coat, 14 Bitch Head, 15 Bitch Coat,
16 Movement under 12 months, 17 Movement over 12 months, 18 Feet, 19 Tail

Entries: Breed : \$7
Stakes: \$3.50 Catalogue: \$3

Advertising available in catalogue.

Desexed dogs and bitches can be entered in Breed and Stake Classes. They need to be registered with NZKC as desexed and have a 'D' after their registration number on the entry form.

Please make cheques payable to The Samoyed Club Inc.

Entries to the Secretary: Anita Shugg, 136 Waitohu Valley Road, RD 3, Otaki, 5583

Email: k.a.shugg@clear.net.nz

Phone: (06) 364 5785

Entries close: Monday 16 May 2010



Give your pets the best

Notices!

Licorice - From RJ's Licorice Factory
1kg bag of All Sort off cuts - \$4
Black or Red Plain Logs - approx. 1kg - \$8
Chocolate Black or Red logs - approx 1kg - \$12
Don't miss out - order from Anita

We are planning some Samoyed Walks for this year. Let your pet owners/any Sammy owners know (dates on page 3).



Noel Wilson—after a long stay in hospital Noel is now living in the Stokeswood Rest Home in Stokes Valley. He is looking forward to catching up with you all Queen's Birthday Weekend.

Events—Any ideas and offers to organise are always welcome!

Nutrience Bar Codes—Thanks for all the bar codes to help with product sponsorship—special thanks to Jacl Boud, Maggie Asplet, Lorraine Fothergill, Anita Shugg and Kathryn Biggs.

Fundraising—Ideas and offers to fundraise are always welcome and appreciated!

As you may have noticed, this year we're trying something new and holding the Open Show after the Championship Show on the 6th of June (Queen's Birthday weekend Monday).

Between there will be a shared lunch and the Of Year and Achievement awards will be handed out then too.

If you would like to re-gift any items for the Open Show prizes please let us know as we are collecting items now. We wrap the items in red paper so if you want to help with the wrapping too please feel free.



Points Claim—Please remember to include all show details and not include ANZSAMS in the subject line. Thanks to those who highlight their dogs and make it easier to see what is being claimed.

Samoyed Badges!
Buy a special gift you cannot buy in a shop - \$10 each



Peace

If you can start the day without caffeine,

If you can always be cheerful, ignoring aches and pains,

If you can resist complaining and boring people with your troubles,

If you can eat the same food every day and be grateful for it,

If you can understand when your loved ones are too busy to give you any time,

If you can take criticism and blame without resentment,

If you can conquer tension without medical help,

If you can relax without liquor,

If you can sleep without the aid of drugs,

Then you are probably...

The Family Dog.



And you thought I was going to get all spiritual didn't you?

PennHIP COMPRESSION/DISTRACTION STRESS RADIOGRAPHIC TECHNIQUE

© Fred Lanting

The PennHIP technique (www.vet.upenn.edu/pennhip) offers so much more knowledge about hip dysplasia than previous methods, that it is at first surprising that the country's leading orthopedic foundation had not latched onto it and absorbed it into its protocols. But there are humans involved with science and business, and that means potential personality conflicts. This is the primary if not the only sound reason (or excuse) for not accepting or copying the new knowledge. Perhaps in the coming years the political climate will change so that free exchange and discussion of scientific experiments and data will be the norm, instead of the friction and antagonism that had marked the 1990s.

Although it has been known that x-raying dogs in the standard v-d position "...can reveal abnormalities that cannot be detected in other positions", the primary indication of HD, according to some definitions, is joint laxity. This perhaps is best revealed in younger dogs by the PennHIP method employed and promoted by the University of Pennsylvania. Last realized before the mid-1980s the need for such a standardized method for applying a force that would displace femoral heads from the acetabula (demonstrate covert laxity) and give an actual measurement of that laxity or displacement. PennHIP is an objective modification of the wedge technique.

In the mid-1980s, the Seeing Eye, Inc. reached that famous plateau that others have with the hip-extended position, and started supporting research to develop a more objective measurement of hip quality, and added the distraction index a few years later. Toward the end of the 1980s in the eastern U.S., a couple of veterinary school professors had worked out that different modification or outgrowth of palpation and the wedge radiograph. Dr. Gail Smith, a veterinary surgeon with an additional PhD in Engineering, and his radiologist colleague Dr. Darryl Biery, refined the concept of the wedge in which force is used to lever the femoral heads out of the acetabula if laxity were present. Theirs is the most exquisite and precise form of stress radiography. It is known as the "Compression/Distraction" method or technique, or by its registered trademark designation, PennHIP. Seminars, training courses, and breeding suggestions are given under that name and various practitioners across the country are participating in an arrangement that could be likened to a franchise.

PennHIP was developed by the surgery and engineering professionals at the Vet School in Philadelphia. In the 1980s, older concepts were refined and perfected so that laxity (looseness of the ball-and-socket joint in the hip) could be given a mathematically precise quantitative value, something never really done before. In the succeeding decade and more, steady investigation into this technique has resulted in numerous studies reported in the veterinary journals, and replication of results at various schools. There is a distinction drawn, by the people at Penn, between true diagnosis and prediction of

HD. Diagnosis is generally defined there as the presence of abnormal changes such as shape remodeling and/or "deposits" and arthritis. Laxity, used as a definitive diagnosis of HD by OFA, is perhaps really a prediction that the degenerative joint disease (DJD) will sooner or later occur. The PennHIP people prefer to keep the distinction, saying that their measurement of laxity is actually a very valid predictor of relative *risk* for later DJD. In my experience, degeneration happens eventually and so regularly in so many breeds that for practical purposes, the dog owner can safely say that laxity *is* dysplasia. The science is sound, the data is voluminous, the evidence is clear: it is not worth it, in almost all cases, to breed any dog with excess laxity.

The Position

There are three positions utilized in PennHIP. The method *includes* the older AVMA extended-leg position because while that creates a false tightness of the soft tissues (ligaments, tendons, muscles) in the joint, it does give the best view of most DJD signs. The other two PennHIP pictures resemble a dog that looks like it is standing, but the picture is upside-down and the dog is in a knees-up position on the table. In these two, there is no longer a "winding up" of the joint capsule and the ligaments and muscles around the hip socket. The third picture does the opposite of the first, which tended to force the femoral head more tightly into the socket and make it look like a deeper seat. You can have a duplicate copy of the first (hip-extended) picture sent to OFA for their number and its advertising value.

Positioning the dog, which is the biggest problem in getting any accuracy with a hip-extended diagnosis, has much less effect on the distraction index measurement, with even close to a 15-degree tilt to one side having negligible effect. In the "standard" radiograph, the size of the dog (and cassette) introduces a couple of variables of magnification, which the distraction radiograph eliminates because the "landmarks" of femoral head edge and subchondral acetabular bone are in the same plane, so it is said that it doesn't matter how far from the cassette the joint is (how thick a dog is beneath those points). It is claimed that this indexing approach also minimizes "artifacts" on the radiograph (shadows of things that aren't in the joint).

The Technique

This is the PennHIP approach: start with a hip-extended radiograph and, while that film is developing, keep the dog in dorsal recumbency (supine, on its back). But now, the femurs, instead of being pulled parallel with the table and each other, are almost perpendicular to the table (spread just a little so they don't block the X-rays) with knees pointed up toward the radiation-generating unit. Now, if the joints were so horribly loose that the balls nearly fall out of the sockets in

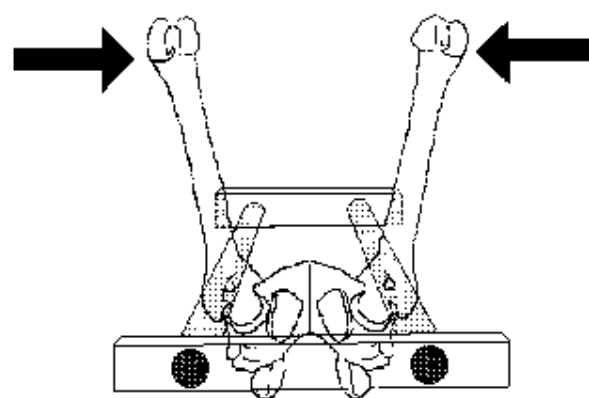
that position, you would not get a meaningful reading or comparison between dogs. Therefore, this variable is removed by pressing the femoral heads into the sockets so that all dogs' hip joints look pretty much alike in this X-ray picture. The second picture is taken with a very small medial (inward-directed) compressive force from the sides; this way, all comparisons start equally, with fully seated heads in the acetabula. In most dogs this demonstrates the normal and desirable concentricity. The design of the normal hip's ball-and-socket joint insures minimal stresses and optimal function, and there is a considerable portion of the femoral head (and consequently the congruent acetabulum) that is spherical and will cast a circular shadow on the radiographic film.

Then, while still under anesthesia, a third picture then is taken with the patented distractor unit employed to put a lateral (outward) displacement force on the femurs. This distraction force is applied by placing the device as close to the hip joints as possible and pushing/leveraging the femurs apart to reveal latent or otherwise hidden looseness — the heads are distracted (levered) out of the acetabular sockets as far as they will go. This picture shows what I have been dubbing “covert laxity” — joint space that might not be seen in the hip-extended projection. This gap now can easily be seen on the radiograph. To prevent interference from equipment, rods are made of radiolucent (clear) acrylic plastic. The radiolucent rods of the distractor are covered with a tough Neoprene sponge rubber which, in the area between the rod shadows and the femurs, must show 25-50% compression on the film, indicating that it has been squeezed enough; if it does not, the film would be rejected.

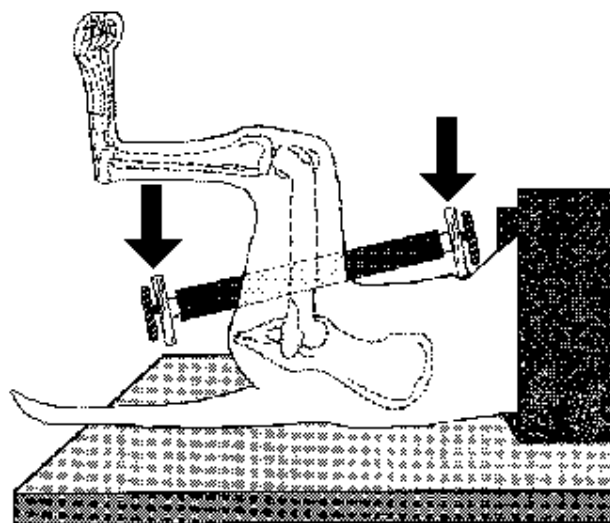
Evaluation

One dog's hips will be looser than another's, and by a specific, measurable amount. Because some heads are larger than others, a simple formula is used that divides the distance distracted (measurement of joint space, d) by the radius of the ball; the resultant quotient or ratio is called the distraction index or DI. Since you are dividing distance units by distance units, those parts of the equation cancel each other out, and you end up with a unitless ratio or index, as you will remember from high-school math class. The less the difference between fully seated and fully distracted, the lower this DI number and the lower the risk that the dog will get as many (if any) of those degenerative signs of HD. By the time they had evaluated more than 20,000 dogs, the theory had been unquestionably proven. There seems to be a threshold DI of 0.3 (equivalent to a maximum distraction of 30% out of and 70% in the socket), below which the risk for all practical purposes is zero. Look for “DI” in more breeders' ads in the future. This figure of 0.3 is not absolute (there really are no absolute thresholds in biology) but rather an approximate average. By 2002 it was discovered, or rather statistics were refined sufficiently, that different breeds had slightly different threshold levels, below which there was 100% sensitivity (negative predictive value = 0), which really means that you just don't find any DJD in dogs with DI values below that particular number. The “magic” threshold DI can be said to be 0.28 for German Shepherd Dogs, but 0.32, 0.38, and 0.35 for Golden Retrievers, Labs, and Rotties, respectively.

The PennHIP compression/distraction technique was developed to measure laxity, and to demonstrate it in hip joints that might not be thus identified in the hip-extended view. Therefore, the newer technique can discourage some who have been relying on the older method's false-negative readings, when they see actual laxity using the PennHIP technique. Young dogs with loose hip joints as shown by this



A.
Caudal perspective (looking from near the tail)
of a dog with distractor properly placed.



B.
Schematic of the dog from a lateral aspect

Use of the PennHIP distractor unit

newer method may not have readily apparent laxity with older methods and positions.

A “laxity index” scale of zero to one (or higher) is used to describe relative looseness seen in the distraction view. Zero would mean that the hips are extremely tight, and 1 (one) means they are very loose (completely, 100%, luxated). Every hip has some degree of laxity; otherwise the joint would be immobile. If there were zero difference between the compressive and distractive pictures, the films would be rejected and the veterinarian counseled to do it again. This almost never happens, because no vet wants to be put in that position, so he will make sure it is done to specifications.

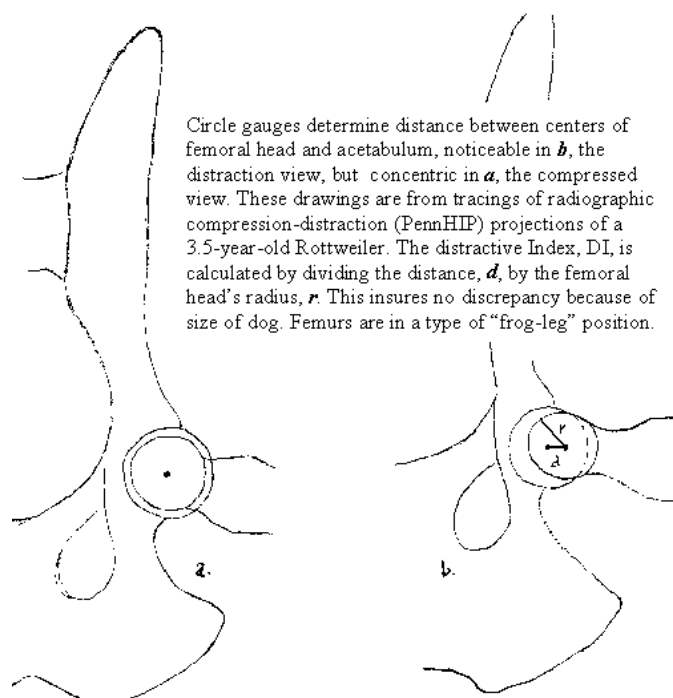
One of the advantages over the old tomato paste can or cotton roll wedge (in Figure 4-3) is that the lateral forces can be applied more proximally on the femurs (closer to the ball-and-socket joint). The distance the head is displaced (distracted) will later be compared to congruity shown on the second film of the mildly compressed stage. Whatever joint laxity is there, obvious or previously latent, can then be demonstrated and measured with the use of precisely machined steel circle gauges.

The PennHIP film evaluation itself is done not at the local vet clinic, but in a central office by two or three who read all the films. The evaluators use those circle gauges to find the center of the femoral head. That is also the center of the concen-

tric, slightly larger circle tracing the acetabular border on the compression radiograph taken when the heads had been pressed into the sockets. They again use gauges on the distraction radiograph (taken when the separation force had been applied). Two dots are drawn on the film, on the center of the femoral head and the center of the acetabulum. The index is calculated by dividing the distance between those by the radius of the circle matching the femoral head curvature: $DI = d/r$. If you did not divide, and used only a millimeter measurement, you would not allow for the differences in body size between dogs. The index gives Chihuahuas the same status as Saint Bernards. See Figure 4-5.

If, in this distractive view, there is no appreciable difference from the picture taken with mild compression, the implication is that the volume of synovial fluid in the hip joint capsule is normal and that it tends to resist, like a suction cup, the effort to pull the head out of the acetabulum. If, on the other hand, there is too much fluid for a stable joint, suction plays a lesser part and perhaps not until the head is pulled a considerable distance out. In such a case, ligaments in the region will gradually (over a period of months) stretch in the growing or aging dog and, since ligaments do not recover original length the way muscle fibers do, the result is a loose capsule, a damaged teres ligament, and radiographically identifiable joint space. When I say that ligaments stretch, I am referring to an analogous mechanical-physical phenomenon known as "creep": the ligaments stretch only over a long period of repeated or continuous tensile stress. They do not stretch the way a rubber band does. But when they eventually are seen to be longer than they should, the damage is permanent.

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Circle gauges determine distance between centers of femoral head and acetabulum, noticeable in **b**, the distraction view, but concentric in **a**, the compressed view. These drawings are from tracings of radiographic compression-distraction (PennHIP) projections of a 3.5-year-old Rottweiler. The distractive Index, DI, is calculated by dividing the distance, **d**, by the femoral head's radius, **r**. This insures no discrepancy because of size of dog. Femurs are in a type of "frog-leg" position.

Circle gauges as used at PennHIP



Distraction force being applied

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Don't Forget Your Best Friends When Disaster Strikes

-By Ashley Fruno, Senior Campaigner, PETA Asia-Pacific

After PETA Asia-Pacific learned about the devastation left in the wake of last week's earthquake and tsunami, I caught the first flight into Tokyo after the airport reopened the next day and travelled by train to Niigata, where I met up with a team from a local animal shelter there and then travelled by car to Sendai. As many people have seen in images on TV, the tsunami ripped through the region with such force that cars were smashed into houses, debris was swept for miles through rice fields, and entire families drowned in their homes. Travel was extremely difficult because of miles-long lines at gas stations and the rationing of gas. There were few signs of life in the hardest-hit areas, but we encountered some citizens who refused to leave their badly damaged homes because many evacuation centres are not allowing companion animals inside.

One woman we met was carrying her dog, a young Sheltie who was terrified by the earthquake and aftershocks and the chaos that ensued. Tears came to the woman's eyes as she told us that she had risked her life for three days while staying in her still-shaking house because the evacuation centre would not allow her to take her dog with her. She was finally able to take her dog to a family member's home in an area of the city that had not been hit by the tsunami.

At one evacuation centre that was housing some animals along with people, one of the centre coordinators told me a touching story about his Akita, Shane. When the man heard the tsunami warning, he rushed to warn his neighbours after letting Shane out into the yard. He tried to get back to his house to get Shane, but the tsunami was rapidly approaching, and he was forced to go to the school on higher ground. He said he had given up hope of ever seeing Shane alive again. But six hours later, one of the people staying in the centre said that they saw a dog outside. The man went to look, and it was Shane! The dog had never been to the school before, but somehow his instincts led him there. Shane had managed to swim through deep water to be reunited with his guardian.

The man took us to see Shane, who was staying at his house, which is now dry. Shane must have clung to debris, as he had cuts on both his elbows. We instructed the man on how to clean Shane's wounds and gave him some ointment. We left with a local veterinarian who volunteered to visit more evacuation centres in Sendai, and he returned to check on Shane and provide him with antibiotics.

It is for Shane and for the countless other animals whose plight so often goes overlooked in the aftermath of disasters that I beg people never to leave animals to face a disaster on their own. Shane's guardian had little choice, but making an emergency plan now can help prevent tragedies from being repeated during the next disaster.

Remember, if conditions are too dangerous for you, they are too dangerous for the dog in the backyard, the cat sleeping

on the front steps, and the caged hamster. If at all humanly possible, it is vital to take animals with you when forced to evacuate. In the wake of catastrophic earthquakes and storms, animals aren't safe at home because, even if the home itself isn't damaged, impassable roads may prevent homeowners from returning for weeks, leaving animals stranded without food and water.

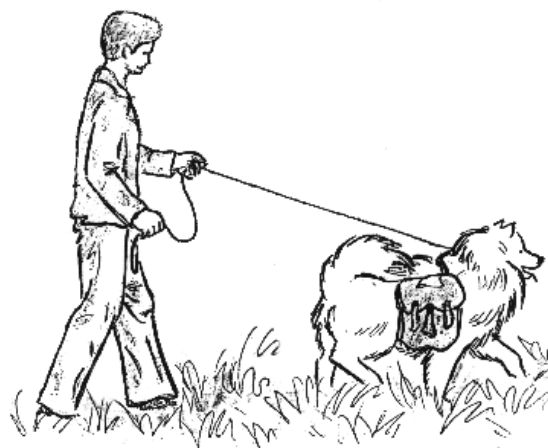
While many evacuation shelters do not allow animals, many hotels do, and others will often waive their restrictions on animal guests during disasters. If you can't afford a hotel, and you don't have friends or relatives with whom you and your animals can stay, your animal companions are still better off going with you, even if you have to camp out at a campground or in your car (although you must be careful never to leave animals alone in a car during warm weather).

If you absolutely must leave your animal companions behind, leave them inside the house, with access to upper floors and at least 10 day supply of dry food and water. Fill multiple sinks, bowls, pans, and plastic storage containers with water.

Before the next storm strikes, invest in a sturdy, roomy carrier for each of your animals that, if worst comes to worst, can serve as their temporary living quarters. Be sure that all your animals are up to date on their rabies vaccinations and are wearing collars with identification tags, and remember to pack leashes, bowls, towels, blankets, litter pans and litter, and at least a week's supply of food and medications.

We may never know how many people put themselves at risk and possibly perished in this disaster because they were afraid to leave their animals behind. Government and non-profit agencies must learn from this tragedy and include animals in future disaster planning — if not for the animals' sake, then for the sake of the people who would rather die than leave them behind.

Don't wait until the next disaster strikes—make an emergency plan today. Your animal friend might not be as lucky as Shane.



Sammy Fun Day!

The first of hopefully many Sammy Fun Days was held on the 12th of March, just before the AGM, at the Titahi Bay Canine Obedience Club. Not a huge turnout but a very enjoyable day nonetheless.

Fancy dress, food refusal, best trick and the chocolate game were just some of the fun games on offer and bar the dogs obviously not getting to eat the chocolate (though not for lack of trying!) they seemed to have a fantastic day too.

At the end an agility tunnel proved to be very entertaining for everyone as the experienced dogs showed the newbies exactly how it was done and some of the dogs had their first go down the tunnel.

A great day all round and hopefully we'll have even more Sammies and their owners at a future fun day!

A HUGE thank you to Bronwyn Weir for organising the games and donating the prizes!









Toxic Algae Warning - Waikanae River

Avoid contact with Waikanae River - Toxic Algae present (March 11, 2011)

Kapiti Coast District Council, Greater Wellington Regional Council and Regional Public Health are advising the public to avoid contact with the lower reaches of the Waikanae River from State Highway 1 bridge to Jim Cooke Park.

Potentially toxic blue-green algal mats are starting to detach from the rocks and could wash up on the river's edge.

Contact (skin contact, swallowing) can cause rashes, skin and eye irritation, allergic reactions, gastrointestinal upset, and other effects in humans.

The toxins can be fatal to dogs and they are particularly at risk because they like to scavenge near water.

Kapiti Coast District Council staff are posting warning signs in the area advising people to avoid contact recreation and dog walking in the river.

More information about toxic algae, including pictures and current warnings, can be found at www.gw.govt.nz/toxic-algae.

For more information, please contact: Duty Environmental Health Officer, Kapiti Coast District Council
Tel. (04) 296 4700



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