



Admiral Perry Obedience Training Club, Inc.  
Airedale Terrier Club of Greater Philadelphia  
Allentown Dog Training Club, Inc.  
Anthracite Brittany Club  
Back Mountain Kennel Club  
Bald Eagle Kennel Club  
Berks County Dog Training Club  
Berks County Kennel Club  
Bernese Mountain Dog Club of Watchung  
Borzoi Club of the Delaware Valley  
Bucks County Kennel Club Inc.  
Bull Terrier Club of Philadelphia Inc.  
Bulldog Club Of Philadelphia  
Bulldog Club of Pittsburgh  
Bushy Run Kennel Club  
Butler Dog Training Association  
Cavalier King Charles Spaniel Club of Delaware Valley  
Chambersburg Area Kennel Club  
Chester Valley Kennel Club  
Colonial Rottweiler Club  
Dachshund Fanciers Assoc. of Berks County  
Delaware County Kennel Club Inc.  
Delaware Valley Bullmastiff Club  
Delaware Valley Cardigan Welsh Corgi Association  
Delaware Valley Chinese Crested Club, Inc.  
Delaware Valley Dalmatian Club  
Delaware Valley German Shepherd Dog Club  
Delaware Valley Havanese Club  
Delaware Valley Manchester Terrier Club  
Delaware Valley Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier Club  
Delaware Valley Toy Dog Fanciers  
Delaware Valley Weimaraner Club  
Delaware Valley Yorkshire Terrier Club  
Devon Dog Show Association  
Doberman Pinscher Rescue of PA, Inc.  
Dog Training Club Of Chester County  
Dog Training Club Of York  
Erie Kennel Club  
Great Dane Club Of Lehigh Valley LLC  
Great Dane Club Of Pennsylvania Inc  
Greater Philadelphia Dog Fanciers Assoc.  
Greater Pittsburgh Golden Retriever Club  
Greater Pittsburgh Labrador Retriever Club  
Greater Valley Forge Rhodesian Ridgeback Club  
Harrisburg Kennel Club  
Hatboro Dog Club  
Hilltown Dog Training Club  
Huntingdon Valley Kennel Club, Inc.  
Interstate Shetland Sheepdog Club  
Irish Wolfhound Association Of Delaware Valley  
Keeshond Club of the Delaware Valley Kennel Club Of Philadelphia  
Kerry Blue Terrier Club of Greater Pittsburgh, Inc.  
Keystone Cocker Spaniel Club  
Keystone Collie Club  
Keystone English Springer Spaniel Club  
Lancaster Kennel Club  
Laurel Highlands Kennel Association  
Lebanon County Kennel Club

# Dogs are Barking About...

PA Federation of Dog Clubs Newsletter

Summer 2015

## Is Leishmaniasis the canine disease of the twenty-first century?

*Due to the growing threat to our breeds of purebred dogs and the canine population at large, we feel that it is vital that everyone be made aware of the current level of Leishmaniasis in the United States.*

*The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) now states that Leishmaniasis is epidemic in the U.S. with positive tests in 21 states. The following information is a condensed version of the Masters of Foxhounds Association's Guide to Leishmaniasis, the entirety of which can be seen on their web site. They are funding the current study and development of treatment and vaccines. The closing note on vaccine development in Europe is from an article in Le Club du Griffon Vendéen's publication Number 88, April 2014.*

**Visceral Leishmaniasis (VL)** is a slow wasting disease caused by a Leishmania parasite. In Europe and the United States, the species found in dogs is *Leishmania infantum* (Duprey et al., 2006). In tropical areas of the world, this infection is due to bites from sand flies which suck blood from infected dogs or people and then bite an uninfected dog or person, leading to spread of the parasite. Leishmania parasites enter white blood cells underneath the skin after a bite, get into the blood stream and multiply within these cells in the spleen and liver, resulting in a chronic condition characterized by weight loss, tiredness, decreased appetite, and anemia (Petersen, 2009). The spleen, liver and lymph nodes become enlarged and blood work abnormalities appear. Bleeding disorders resulting in bloody noses or blood in the stool are not uncommon. In later stages of disease, kidney failure and other more severe problems occur. Crusty skin disease is also not uncommon in infected, symptomatic dogs. This appears as non-itchy, raised reddish bumpy areas near the eyes, or on the face, ears, axillary region (armpits or feet). Dogs also can develop abnormally long, brittle nails. Co-infection with other diseases such as intestinal worms, tick-borne diseases and additional stresses such as pregnancy, poor nutrition, overexertion, and being lower in the kennel pecking order can trigger appearance of clinical signs. Anderson et al published the first account of VL in American foxhounds in Oklahoma in 1980. It is thought that the disease was most likely introduced by acquiring hounds from hunts in Southern Europe. VL was more recently recognized in the US Foxhound in 1999, when one kennel of New York hounds was found to have significant numbers of hounds infected with canine VL. There are kennels across the US, including the Midwest, which currently harbor VL. In endemic areas all breeds of dogs are susceptible to VL. Within the US, due to the parasite's ability to be transmitted from dam to pup, other breeds of dogs which originate from endemic areas, including Neapolitan Mastiffs, Corsicas and Italian Spinones, have also been found to be infected with the VL parasite.

**Spread** of VL in tropical areas is primarily due to bites of sand flies transmitting the parasite between dogs and sometimes humans. In the United States, while sand flies exist in many states with demonstrated cases of canine VL, there have been no Leishmania-infected sand flies trapped in areas around kennels. The primary means of transmission is from infected dams to their offspring (Boggiatto et al, 2011 in press), as well as due to blood to blood contact through biting, wounds, and possibly sexually between infected males and females. The parasite cannot survive in the environment out of the fly or animal for more than a few seconds. There have been no cases of hound to human spread of this disease in the US.

Lehigh German Shepherd Dog Club  
 Lehigh Valley Coursing Club  
 Lehigh Valley Kennel Club  
 Lenape Golden Retriever Club  
 Liberty English Cocker Spaniel Fanciers  
 Lower Bucks Dog Training Club  
 Mid Susquehanna Valley Kennel Club  
 Middle Atlantic St. Bernard Club  
 Mifflin County Dog Training Club  
 Montgomery County Kennel Club  
 Mountain Laurel Kennel Club  
 Mt Nittany Dog Training Club  
 Nita-Nee Kennel Club  
 Obedience Training Class Of Harrisburg  
 OHA Lehigh Valley Chapter  
 Old York Road Dog Training Club  
 Penn Ridge Kennel Club  
 Penn-Dutch Great Pyrenees Club  
 Philadelphia Dog Training Club  
 Pocono Mountain Kennel Club  
 Poodle Club of the Lehigh Valley Inc.  
 Quaker City Doberman Pinscher Club  
 Saucon Valley Boxer Club  
 Schuylkill Valley German Shorthaired  
 Pointer Club  
 SE Keystone Chinese Shar-Pei Club  
 Siberian Husky Club of the Delaware Valley  
 Skycastle French Hounds  
 South Hills Kennel Club  
 Suburban Dog Training Club of Eastern  
 Montgomery County  
 Tri State Dog Obedience Club Inc.  
 Valley Forge Kennel Club  
 Waterland Retriever Club  
 William Penn Poodle Club  
 William Penn West Highland White  
 Terrier Club  
 Williamsport Dog Training Club  
 York County Dog Training Club

**Diagnostic Testing:** The effectiveness of diagnostic testing depends upon the state of disease in the animal, the source (blood, tissue biopsy, autopsy) and handling of sample(s) used and the type of test being utilized. The two most sensitive tests for infection are RT-PCR and kELISA, which can detect infection months to years prior to the development of clinical signs. The CDC IFA is an accurate indicator of soon-to-be clinical disease. There are limitations in the efficacy of all current diagnostic tests. All of these methods are useful tools in the arsenal against this disease, but all have significant gaps during the course of disease during which infected animals without any clinical signs may go undetected. Due to these gaps in testing, it is advisable to use at least two different tests to provide an accurate clinical assessment of any dog's Leishmania infection status. Visceral Leishmaniasis can remain in undetected animals for months or years before clinical disease is detected.

**Treatment** for positive dogs in the United States is available. However, while treatments improve clinical signs and reduce parasite infection temporarily, curative therapy is not currently available. A high percentage of treated dogs will relapse. Transmission from treated dogs to uninfected animals is still possible. Treatment is generally not recommended due to the likelihood of further spread of the disease within an infected kennel. The most common treatment in the United States is oral Allopurinol used daily for 3-24 months duration. Please consult your veterinarian for further details.

**A vaccine** for dogs against Leishmaniasis has been developed and marketed since October 2011 in Europe. Immunization involves an initial treatment of three injections three weeks apart and a booster before the anniversary of the third injection, followed annually. This vaccination against leishmaniasis can not be done at the same time other vaccines are given. A period gap of fifteen days must be scrupulously observed. This vaccine is not 100% effective, but a dog vaccinated is four times more likely to produce effective immunity and eliminate the parasites before they are spread in the body. Should the dog still become infected, it would be more resistant and remain in a phase without clinical symptoms much longer. This vaccine is now also under study in the United States.

## Current Legislation of Concern Being Considered in the PA House and Senate

**HB113** – Interfering with a guide or service dog. We support.

**SB22** – Updates to Puppy Lemon Law. We support.

**HB481/SB373** – Anti-Tethering Bill. We oppose.

**SB77** – Permits Relating to Hunting Dogs, Dog Training Areas – lowers acreage requirements, was SB1068 in 2014. We support.

**HB639** – Right of Dog Wardens to Carry Firearms. We do not support without more significant training requirements for handling dangerous dogs.

**HB492** – Display of health and source data for dogs in pet stores, was HB1759 in 2014. We do not oppose.

**SB78** – Kennel license revocation and blocking kennel licenses for immediate family members, was SB1107 of 2013. We do not oppose.

**SB57** - New changes to the Consumer Protection Laws addressing the publishing of a seller's return and exchange policies SB57 may affect members of our member clubs. This Bill was introduced by Senator Stewart Greenleaf on January 14, 2015 and has been referred to the Senate Committee on Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure. Please take a look and let us know what you think.

**HB281** - Should exposure to extreme temperatures and/or weather result in the death of an animal, the penalty shall be graded as a first degree misdemeanor. We support.

**HB164** - Animal Fighting Paraphernalia. We support.

**HB502/SB573** - Adds an exemption to Title 42 to allow all the Dog Law fines and penalties collected to remain in the Dog Law Restricted Account. We support.

**SB339** - Raises the charge for animal cruelty against a dog or cat from a summary offense, to a misdemeanor of the third degree. Was SB965 of 2014. We support.

## **Interstate Transfer of Animals Between Shelters**

A bill to stop the importing of unvetted puppies from out of state and unrecorded transfer of puppies for "adoption" (read "sale") between some so-called humane and rescue organizations in Pennsylvania is desperately needed. Any knowledge of such organizations doing this should be immediately reported to the Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement as a matter of public safety. These "shelters" apply for 501(c)3 status as non-profits. They are, in effect, functioning for profit as "puppy mills." Doing nothing about this directly related disgraceful problem that certainly should affect the public's perception of their honest functions and practices unfortunately casts Humane PA's and the Federated Humane Societies of PA's motives in promoting any legislation in a very self-serving light, in our way of thinking, as they avoid monitoring or policing these rogue rescues. We recommend that you be very careful about supporting their legislative agendas.

The issue about dogs and cats coming through any rescues unvetted and undocumented should not be "a thorny one" for any intelligent person, regardless of his or her affiliation, as it causes exposure of the general public's pets and people to disease from other areas, and purchase of heartbreakingly unhealthy animals as pets. And healthy animals in such shelters are obviously put at risk as well. The current lemon law can only help after the fact. The Federated Humane Societies of PA should be very strong voices to help correct this problem. It should be a much needed amendment to the PA dog laws. We of the PFDC have been trying to get these loopholes stopped for some time. Please notify USDA/APHIS at [ace@aphis.usda.gov](mailto:ace@aphis.usda.gov) or phone 301-851-3751 to complain about the transfer of dogs among shelters, especially without adequate health checks.

## **PA State Animal Response Team Financial Problems**

This is a difficult situation. Most of the money we received to start the program came from the Federal government through the Department of Homeland Security. Those grants have dried up and there is little hope of getting future grants. The budget at the state level was not any better, so there was little hope of getting money for PASART under the previous administration for administrative costs, such as the salary for its Executive Director. They were getting a nice amount for equipment and training of volunteers however.

Now the current Wolf Administration is sounding like they will be more supportive of funding PASART administration expenses, but the Commonwealth's budget is still tight. There is a huge fight looming between the GOP controlled Legislature and the Democrat Governor. We will have to continue to watch this situation to see if funding for PASART comes through as hoped.

PFDC believes that it may be possible to move PASART forward without a paid Executive Director. We have operated effectively as an all volunteer organization throughout our history. PASART currently has a Board Chairperson, Treasurer and Secretary that are elected from the members of the Board of Directors. The Executive Director was a paid employee overseen by that Board, but is now acting as a volunteer. We believe since he can no longer be paid, he should not be considered Executive Director. He should be given one of the open seats on the Board. We would then propose changes to the PASART By-Laws that would create President and Vice-President positions. The officers would then be responsible for running the day-to-day operations of PASART.

We are working on a written policy with the PASART Board to get club logos added to PASART emergency response trailers in exchange for a certain donation level. Watch for more on this soon.

## **Western PA Legislative Meeting**

The PFDC will conduct a legislative and public relations meeting in conjunction with the 2015 Memorial Day Weekend Cluster in New Castle, PA on May 22, 2015. We will have legislative updates from Julian Prager, and hope to have Dog Law Supervisor Thomas Wharry speaking again at this event. Updates on the PA State Animal Response Team and other PFDC activities will be presented as well. Immediately following these presentations, Thomas Wharry will retake the "stage" to do a Pet CPR presentation that you can't miss. One never knows when such knowledge may be vitally important. We will have some pizza and soda available while supplies last.

The cluster is held east of New Castle at the Lawrence County Farm Show Grounds. You can obtain more information and directions in the cluster premium list from Superintendent MB-F Inc.

## **Annual Delegates Meeting**

This meeting will be held at the Hoss's in the Selinsgrove area on June 25, 2015 beginning at 6 PM. Mark your calendars now, and please send a representative for your club. Feel free to get some dinner prior to the meeting. We will have legislative updates from Julian Prager and Bob Stoner, a Supervisor in Upper Paxton Township, Dauphin County, on

the agenda. Mr. Stoner is working on demands by residence in his community who want to prevent an Amish kennel from moving in.

## **Annual Dinner Meeting**

We will hold our annual dinner meeting at Caitlyn & Cody's Diner, 1907 John Fries Highway, Quakertown, PA on September 9, 2015. Pencil in the date and please send a representative for your club. We will have legislative updates and an informative speaker in addition to the great food. We will be announcing the winners of our Outstanding Club Award, and our new Outstanding Person/Dog Award.

## **Directory**

The current edition of the NJFDC Breed Information Directory is for 2015 and it is being printed now. We hope to have copies of it, including new listings from members of PFDC member organizations, for the western PA meeting on May 22, 2015. Information from this edition for the PFDC listings is in the electronic directory on our web site.

Going forward, we will work with the NJ Federation of Dog Clubs on a joint Directory. Those from PA listing in the NJFDC Directory will be included in the electronic directory on the PFDC web site. The PFDC will forward all information and one payment to the NJFDC for publication. Representatives of the PFDC and NJFDC will get together in the next year to work on integrating our Directories for 2016.

## **Outstanding Member Club**

Hello all clubs! It is coming up on annual meeting time, September 9th, 2015. Each year the PA Federation of Dog Clubs asks its clubs to enter the Outstanding Member Club contest by sending your club's qualifications to Elaine Miller. Her committee will evaluate all of your documents.

The award is to show how your club reaches out to the community. It is not about Dog shows.

In the past, for instance, clubs have had educational booths at community fairs, parks, or at schools. Many clubs have purchased oxygen masks and bullet proof vests for the working dogs, rescue dogs, and police and fire dogs. A lot of clubs have reading to the children programs with their dogs. Many have taken part in community events including the canine blood mobile.

There are so many things you can tell us about what your clubs have done in the past year.

There is a first prize of \$200, a second prize of \$100 and two honorable mentions of \$50.00, plus certificates.

Elaine Miller would like to receive all of this by regular mail only so that she doesn't have to print it off her email. Her address is: Elaine Miller, 3616 Apple Butter Road, Dublin, PA 18917. The deadline to receive this, so that the committee has time to read and judge the entries, is August 10th.

Please encourage your club to participate.

## **Outstanding Person or Dog**

This year we are trying out a form of recognition on a more individual level. We'd like for you to nominate from your club a person who has done something outstanding for dogs, or a dog that has done something outstanding. Your nomination basically needs to include the name of the nominating club, contact information for the club in case we have questions, the name of the person or the name of the owner of the dog who did something outstanding, and a couple paragraphs about what the person or dog did to deserve the award. Photographs would be great as well.