AIM: To present responsible information for the advancement of the Breed and the Club. Articles and comments do not necessarily represent the views of the club.

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Contribution of appropriate articles, news and viewpoints are welcomed and will be published as space permits. We reserve the right to edit articles to conform to space limitations or to avoid liability.

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ADVERTISING RATES for members:
$30 per page (one photo), $15 per half page (one photo)
Additional photos $5.00 each

Special Features, Photos of New Champions and Obedience Degrees will be printed without charge as space permits.

SUBSCRIPTIONS: $9.00 per year
Many American Briards are having a hard time finding employment herding sheep. Some, like Cargo Kandel, are successfully exploring other career possibilities.
Saturday, August 20:  B.C.A. Specialty - Judge: Richard Guevara

a.m. - Specialty Classes
Luncheon Buffet at the hotel (cost - $8.50)

Afternoon - Best of Breed
Non-regular classes
Junior Showmanship

Evening - B.C.A. Awards Banquet (buffet - cost $15)

Meal Reservations for luncheon and banquet:
Debbie Wright
3235 Hood Road, Medina, OH 44256

Sunday, August 21:
Supported Entry - Pontiac Kennel Club Show
Union Lake, MI
Briard Judge: Mr. James Moustakis
Superintendent - Moss Bow

This show will be held outdoors.

For Catalog Ads contact: Mary Bloom
53-07 Douglaston Parkway
Douglaston, N.Y. 11362
718-224-8490

Specialty Donations: Donations to the Specialty Fund for '88 will be sincerely appreciated and will help to make this a most memorable weekend. Send donations to:
Marilee Clark, Treasurer
3271 West Brewer Rd.
Owosso, MI 48867
517-723-8490

Make your check payable to The Briard Club.

******************************

TEMPERAMENT TESTING
by Jami Groce

One of the things we've most enjoyed doing with our Valeur was entering her in a temperament test several years ago. It was so much fun that when we discovered the specialty was going to be held practically in our back yard, we decided to give other club members the chance to earn a TT number for their dogs and share some of the fun. This is a very casual and relaxed event. You take your dog through a series of 10 subtests on a loose lead, while the group of testers evaluates the reaction your dog has to different stimuli. The first two stations evaluate your dog's reaction to strangers. First a neutral stranger comes out and shakes your hand ignoring your dog. The next friendly assistant will pet your dogs head. The Briards I've watched being tested, show their aloof nature and tend to ignore the testers, but I've met some that seem more receptive to strangers. It will be interesting to see how a group of Briards evaluated will do. The next subtests measure investigative behavior and are designed to show the dogs alertness and curiosity. A bucket of rocks is shaken and hopefully the dog goes forward to check out the noise. Valeur went up and looked inside the bucket, I think she was hoping to find cookies instead of rocks. When the team is 15 feet from the next assistant, shots are fired into the air. Your dog should investigate the sounds. The next test almost proved our downfall. A large black umbrella is opened into the path of the team. Valeur didn't know what to think. It took lots of encouragement for her to nose this strange obstacle. The Merz's Reny had no problems with this. He walked up and left his mark.

Next the team walks over a 6' x 15' sheet of plastic laid flat on even ground and then over a 3' x 12' exercise pen. This measures the dogs reaction to unusual footing.

The last part of the test lets you learn your dogs capacity and willingness to defend you in case of an attack. First the decoy comes out dressed in a floppy coat and hat making strange noises and moving erratically. Then he raises a riding crop and advances to within 20 feet of the team. Next he strikes the riding crop on the ground while approaching to within 10 feet then he sneaks back to his station. Jenny Birnbaum and her Silvermoon, a Kodiac Bear really impressed me here. The decoy never had a chance to get near Jenny, as Bear was at the end of his lead ready to protect her.

If you want to have your dog tested at the specialty, please use the enrollment form found here. You need to send a check for Twenty Dollars per dog made payable to the American Temperament Test Society Inc. (Checks will not be cashed until after the event). Our entry is limited to the first 50 dogs. Your check will hold an entry for any dog, you do not need to specify which one until the test.
The test starts Thursday, August 18 at 10:30 a.m. Males will be tested first. Bitches will be tested after the males are finished or 1:30 p.m. whichever comes first. Bitches in season will be tested last.

If you don't have a dog you'd like to test, come and watch. It's going to be an interesting afternoon and we can learn a lot from an event like this.

******************************************************************************

BRIARD TEMPERAMENT TEST
THURSDAY, AUGUST 18 SPECIALTY 1988

TIME: 10:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. HOWELL HOLIDAY INN

AMERICAN TEMPERAMENT TEST SOCIETY INC. RULES AND REGULATIONS GOVERN THIS TEMPERAMENT EVALUATION

DOGS PASSING THE TEMPERAMENT TEST WILL BE ISSUED A "TT" NUMBER & THE CERTIFICATE FROM THE AMERICAN TEMPERAMENT TEST SOCIETY, INC.

CERTIFICATION

PERMISSION HAS BEEN GRANTED BY THE AMERICAN TEMPERAMENT TEST SOCIETY INC. FOR THE HOLDING OF THIS EVENT UNDER THE RULES AND REGULATIONS OF THE AMERICAN TEMPERAMENT TEST SOCIETY INC. ATTS INC.

ENTRY FEE: U.S. $20 CANADIAN $25

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO "ATTS, INC."

MALES will be tested first BITCHES when males are done or at 1:30

BITCHES in season will be tested last. Limited entry 50 BRIARDS

For more information or to reserve your entry, contact: JAMI GROCE 625 E. Ash Mason, MI 48854 517-676-1444

Name
ADDRESS
PHONE
DOG'S NAME
AGE
SEX

Spring 1988

TO:

ALL MEMBERS AND APPLICANTS

FROM: RESCUE CHAIRMAN - MARY BLOOM

The Briard Memorial fund was established to provide Briarders with a special way in which to express your condolences to a friend or relative in the loss of their beloved Briard - whether it is a recent loss or one that occurred some time ago. You may also wish to commemorate the loss of one of your own Briards.

When a contribution is made to the Briard Memorial Fund an "In Memoriam" card will be sent to the individual you name acknowledging the contribution to the BCA Rescue Program in memory of their Briard.

In addition when contributions of twenty dollars are made in a Briard's name, a satin brass plate, engraved with the Briard's name, year of birth and year of death, will be permanently affixed to a walnut plaque which will be displayed each year at the BCA Specialty.

This tribute to the loss of a beloved Briard will mean a new life and a second chance to a Briard in need.

Please make checks payable to Briard Rescue and mail with the following information to:

Mary Bloom
53-07 Douglaston Pkwy
Douglaston, NY 11362

Information to be enclosed:

1) Complete registered name of the Briard with titles (if any).
2) Year of birth - Year of death
3) Names of all owners and addresses
4) Names of donor and donor addresses

Please print or type all information so there will be no errors in engraving. Thank you.

******************************************************************************

BCA
The following poem was written by Elizabeth Schery following the death of their beloved Tiffany. Elizabeth's father, Capt. Schery had been attending a naval training program two thousand miles away from home for several months. Tiffany had accompanied Capt. Schery to 'keep him company' during this long separation from his family. It was during this separation that Tiffany became ill, was rushed to the veterinary hospital late at night with the feared diagnosis of 'bloat'. Elizabeth was twelve years old when she composed the following:

Ch. Tiffany de Chateaubriard C.D.

We got home from church that Sunday, I began to cry but that was OK
My sister cried also.

Tiffany got through surgery nicely,
She recuperated (according to plans) precisely
Tiff died two hours later.

Mom got the call late Saturday night,
She didn't want to tell us, it would be a horrible sight,
We would never see Tiffany again.

I wished it was a dream, everything would be fine,
But it wasn't, Tiff's face would never shine, Tiffy was gone,
She was the greatest who ever lived.
1) HARTZ BLOCKADE SPRAY REMOVED FROM MARKET

Since its introduction one year ago, Hartz Blockade spray has been blamed for the injuries and deaths of hundreds of dogs and cats. It is currently being investigated for toxicity by the Environmental Protection Agency. Hartz has stopped supplying the product to stores, but has not yet issued a recall. According to a statement released by the company, "Those pet owners who have used Blockade successfully on their pets may continue to use it, but anyone having any doubts should feel free to return the Blockade to Hartz with a proof of purchase for a full refund." The address is Hartz Mountain Corp., 700 E. Rodgers Blvd., S., Harrison, N.J. 07029-9987.

Merrimac Dog Training Club, Inc.
Newsletter, May-June, 1988

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2) TOXICOLOGY HOTLINE

The National Animal Poison Control Center is located at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign campus. The emergency telephone service has a veterinary Toxicologist available at all times to answer questions about known or suspected cases of poisoning or chemical contamination involving any species of animal. Over half of the calls are about dogs, and many calls were received last year regarding Blockade. The top five toxic substances for dogs are: rodenticides (two types), caffeine (as in chocolate and stimulant medications), theobromine (chocolate again!), and ibuprofen.

There is no charge to the caller for the services, but the number is not toll free: 217-333-3611.

Merrimac Dog Training Club, Inc.
Newsletter, May-June, 1988

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3) Dr. Davis, of Southampton, N.Y., (who treats Carol Ann Guildi's Briards) believes that Butazolidin ("Bute") may be implicated in triggering autoimmune disease

*************************************************************************

4) FILARIBITS PLUS

If you have recently started to use Filaribits Plus as a heartworm preventative and noticed any changes in your dog's appetite and activity - contact your veterinarian.

Spring 1988

EYE COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

On August 20, 1987, the BCA sponsored an eye clinic in conjunction with the National Specialty and Reassembly week. We were fortunate to have Dr. Gretchen Schmidt of Riverwoods, Illinois as our examiner. Dr. Schmidt examined 66 Briards between the hours of 10 and 2, and informed us that all dogs examined were free of abnormalities which would preclude certification at this time.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those individuals who participated in this year's eye clinic both by offering able assistance in all ways, and by submitting their dogs for examination. We are appreciative of Dr. Schmidt for her presence and considerate handling of the dogs. Everyone involved helped make the clinic a success.

Of the 66 dogs examined, the age groups of 65 of them are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Number Checked</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Under 1 year</td>
<td>8</td>
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<tr>
<td>One year</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two years old</td>
<td>18</td>
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<td>Three years</td>
<td>6</td>
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<td>Four years</td>
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<td>Five years</td>
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<td>Seven years</td>
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<td>Eight years</td>
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<td>Nine years</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ten years</td>
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You will note that the highest percentage (over 50%) are two years old and under. The next highest bracket is in the 3-6 year old range. In the next few years we would want to see follow-up exams on all young dogs, and to follow the 3-6 year old dogs into old age. In light of the above, I would like to request from the owners of examined Briards that they not only certify their dogs, but send that number on to BCA such that we may start to compile a list of Briards who are eye-certified. A list such as this would be helpful to all, as is the OFA list. Because of the nature of the eye exam, which gives you a result then and there (unlike OFA where a consensus opinion of three vets is necessary before determination of the result is made and a number issued) many people have, in the past, examined their dogs but not certified them. There was also a period of time when the C.E.R.P. registry was not in operation. BCA kept a record of those dogs whose exams they were notified of, but many of you who are now involved with the breed may not be aware of this information because it has not appeared in consolidated form. Not only do I hope to have a list of eye-certified dogs, but also a list of dogs who were examined and cleared, but were not certified for whatever reason. If you are an old-timer who has always examined but not certified, please xerox a copy of your records and send it on to us. If you had dogs who were not

by Meg Weitz
used for breeding or were sold as pets, but were examined, their
statistics are just as important. Every dog examined is another
element to plug into the big picture. Encourage all puppy
buyers to have their dogs examined yearly, and then make sure
you receive the information on the results for your records.
Then, in turn, you can pass it on to BCA either in the form of a
report or C.E.R.F. number. One must also realize that the
regular ophthalmoscopic exam cannot determine Stationary night
blindness, and that unless another problem is present, that dog
can receive a CERF number.

One of the rewarding things for me ahead of this year's eye
clinic was the response I got when I asked people if they had
dogs to be examined. There was a lot of affirmative responses,
"yes", but there was also the response of "No, thank you. I
just had all my dogs done." This is truly a step in the right
direction! It means we are actively searching out eye clinics
and private clinics to get the dogs examined. Some individuals
also cycle their eye exams with our BCA eye clinics. There are
two publications worthy of note in which you may find eye
clinics listed. One is the Match Show Bulletin, (a monthly
publication) and the other is The Canine Chronicle, (a weekly
publication). Both of these publications have space devoted to
clinics, seminars, and the like. Also feel free to contact a

responsible BCA member who can put you in touch with an ACVO
(American College of Veterinary Ophthalmologists) diplomat. The
breeder of your dog should also be able to assist you in finding
someone to examine your dogs.

It is my plan to have regular articles in Briard
publications so that we can all keep in touch on the goings on -
on the eye front. We made a pledge to ourselves to get as many
dogs examined as possible in the coming year, so let's get those
dogs examined and record the results with CERF and BCA.

******************

Our thoughts are with the following members who have recently
lost Briards:

Sonya Gray - "Bijou"
Kelter Family - "Linda"
Alia Keiss - "Jackpot"

Bill & June Shew,
K & Gerard Baudet - "Gusty"

Grace & Tony Gilmore - "Magie"

******************
I've been meaning to write for the longest time to tell you about Bijou and Beau Geste. In short, they are wonderful and I'm so very glad to have two Briards rather than just one. It's certainly more lively! There's more to report about each than I can possibly write, so I'll try to refine it down.

Bijou is fairly small, about 70 pounds, inclined to heftiness, so is always on short rations, much to her grief. But, she's such a Briard, and very much the boss. If Beau does something she doesn't approve of, she'll scold him.

They've pretty well settled their debate on dominance, with only an occasional flare-up, and those are very infrequent.

Bijou fairly reeks self-confidence. When I began working with them both in obedience, the trainer said Bijou's take-control-of-the-world attitude is a hindrance, but we're working on it and she's coming to love the training sessions.

The most descriptive thing I could say of Bijou is that she's, somehow, a very "meat-and-potatoes" dog: solidly built, forthright and full of life. It's summed up by an experience I had with her last winter.

It was very cold and I took her over to the University green, where there are no cars. She was having the time of her life, running and running. A man stopped dead in his tracks to watch her, saying over and over, "Wow, what a dog!"

Beau is totally different, just about Bijou's opposite, except they are both black. Last time I measured him he was 28 inches at the shoulder and a lean, hard 100 pounds. With the elegant tail and the rest of his structure, he's just a very handsome dog.

Beyond that, like Bijou, he's very bright. But, he's also incredibly sensitive. I've found with both of them, but particularly with Beau, that trying to force them in training is simply no good at all! Specifically, while trying to teach Beau the "down" command, the trainer, who'd never worked with Briards before, suggested I pull one front leg one way, push the shoulder the other, etc. Beau totally resisted and hated it.

So, the next night, after they'd had a long run, I played with them on the living room floor. I would put my arms around Beau as he lay down, repeating "down, down", over and over. I did the same thing with Bijou on
the "sit". They both understood right away and loved it. The trainer couldn't believe the progress we'd made, when I gave them their commands and they happily obeyed.

The changes in Beau, I think because of the training, have been dramatic. More than anything, he has seemed to lack self-confidence. (He was at the bottom of his litter's pecking order.) But, now I begin to see a difference. Each time we are done working, he seems to strut as though to say, "How important I am!". It's wonderful to see.

That's some different from when he first arrived, walking around the house as though on egg shells - then fighting with Bijou. Now, they adore each other, with Bijou mothering Beau. I'm fascinated by the communication that goes on between them.

Bijou isn't learning her obedience lessons as quickly as Beau, I think primarily because she's not that used to being obedient (my fault). Since she's the dominant dog, walking the two together, in terms of obedience, is a disaster! That is, I tell them both to sit and Beau will - but if he sees Bijou get up, he must also.

Another thing, while Bijou was growing up, she chewed everything she could find. Beau, however, never seemed to want to chew. So, since that somehow seems to be a basic need, a way of gathering information and of expression, I encouraged him with rawhide chews. Now he can't get enough of them.

It's as though Beau is coming into his own very slowly, while Bijou has always been there. Within the last couple of months, that wonderful Briard sense of humor is more and more evident. Sometimes the first thing in the morning, Beau will stretch, wag his tail and then, well, just vocalize. It's not a howl or a bark, just a kind of talking noise while he watches Bijou or me, wagging his tail all the time, ears up, enjoying it all enormously.

When I come home from work, both of them are almost in a frenzy of affection (and to get out into the garden). And while Bijou knows how to show her love, Beau is just learning. The result is that he tries to nibble gently, but in his eagerness, he gets carried away. I've found that if I can get my arms around him, rub his belly, scratch his ear, he too becomes gentle.

Sometimes it's discouraging how little I know about dogs, but Bijou and Beau are teaching me - and learning from them is joy and love.

Sonya Gray

Spring 1988

HOW NOT TO PHOTOGRAPH YOUR DOG

from a letter from Jane Beahan

I have been fighting the never ending battle with Briard photography. You would think by now I would be used to it. Here's how it went:

Aug: had 3 Rassemblement pictures taken & purchased all 3 = $45. They were ugly!

Got the letter saying Rassemblement photos might be replaced. Quickly took a couple rolls of film - Made anticipation-filled trips to Photo World. About $25 to find out I am not able to focus.

Got a new automatic focus camera = $200.

Took 2 more rolls with Chuck's help. Another $25 to find out Chuck can't focus (See and TOSS exhibit "A").
Had show photographer take a special picture with no judge, placards, etc. $15 (to $30 if I want to use it myself before the Club is done with it). Well, the top half of the dog isn't too bad - too bad the bottom half doesn't show!

Got daisy's show picture = $15 ($30 as above) IF I can crop out the people and other dogs.

Remembered I had a roll of film in my old camera - most likely something fantastic in there, right? Went out in a blizzard to the hour developing place. You guessed it, nothing!

I think that adds up to about the price of 1/2 puppy!!

So now I am dumping the whole thing on you. You decide and I'd like the large photos back.

Jane

Spring 1988

UKC - The Advanced Classes
by Julie Treinis

In the May 1987 issue of Dew Claw, I presented a brief introduction to UKC (United Kennel Club) obedience, and offered a description of the differences between UKC Novice exercises and those of the more familiar AKC. This article is designed to go a step further and discuss the differences in the advanced classes.

The first Open exercise is the familiar Heel Off Leash & Figure 8. While this is being executed by the first dog, he is being "honored" by the second dog. This second dog is left in the ring on a down/stay, while his handler is outside of the ring and out of sight until the first dog completes the exercise. At that time, the handler of the second dog returns to his dog and they leave the ring. This replaces the 5 minute down/stay required in AKC competition. The Heel Off Leash is identical to the AKC exercise with one exception. As soon as the dog and handler receive the Forward command from the judge, a steward in the far opposite corner of the ring also begins to walk. She mirrors the path of the dog so as to pass it twice while it is executing the heel pattern. This demonstrates that the dog will keep his mind on heeling even when distracted by the presence of another person, passing in close proximity to him. The Drop on Recall also shows a slight modification. The dog is left in a sit/stay while the handler proceeds to the far end of the ring. As he turns to face his dog, he is joined by the steward, who stands at the handler's left shoulder. Upon command from the judge, the handler calls his dog. Where indicated by the judge, he downs his dog, using a command and/or signal. While the dog is down, the steward walks forward, straight ahead, passing the dog. Upon command from the judge, the dog is recalled and the exercise completed. These are the only differences in the UKC routine. The remaining exercises, Retrieve on Flat, Retrieve Over the High Jump, Broad Jump, and 3 minute out-of-sight Group Sit, are identical to those of the AKC...with one very important exception. The high jump is once the height of the dog or 24 inches, whichever is less. The broad jump is twice the shoulder height, up to a maximum of 72 inches. When the dog qualifies at 3 trials, under at least 2 different judges, with scores of at least 170 and 50% of each exercise, he earns the title of U-CDX.

The third UKC obedience title which is available is the Utility (U-UD). The scoring requirements are as above. These exercises are the most advance (ie. most difficult) and the ones that differ most from those in the comparable AKC test. The Signal Exercise is the same, except that again there is an honoring dog doing a down/stay in the ring, while the working dog does the heeling and signal routine. The honoring dog's handler stands across the ring with his back to his dog. Upon completion of the Signal Exercise, the judge will direct the
Part II - Bone Tumours

by Dr. Martin DeForest

Bone neoplasms in dogs may be either primary, having originated at the site, or may be secondary, having spread from some other tissue of origin.

PRIMARY TUMOURS OF BONE

Osteosarcoma

The most common bone tumour in dogs is the osteosarcoma. This tumour occurs primarily in dogs weighing in the range of 40 to 70 pounds. It has been suggested by many researchers that, in changing the size and conformation of the dog to larger than the ancestral dog, inadvertently has contributed to an increased incidence of this type of canine cancer. This hypothesis further suggests that there may be a greater opportunity for neoplastic growth in a highly cellular and growth-stimulated area of bone cells which are under great compression and stress of weight.

Although the physical structure of bone tumours in man and dogs bear strong resemblance to one another, their occurrence in terms of location and relative age vary considerably. In man, bone tumours are, for the most part, an affliction of the young. They appear most frequently just prior to the closing of the growth plates. This occurs around age 16 in females and age 20 in males. And, osteosarcoma occurs predominantly in the legs of taller than average individuals.

In dogs, where growth plates tend to close between 11 and 13 months, the greatest number of bone tumours occur in mature dogs, between five and eight years of age. Males and females appear to be affected equally. Bone tumours most often arise in the long bones of the limbs and various studies indicate that osteosarcoma occurs most frequently in the Boxer, Great Dane, Saint Bernard, Irish Setter, Collie and German Shepherd.

Clinical Signs - Dogs with bone tumours generally show signs of a rapid-onset lameness, often with swelling and tenderness in the area of lesion. This may occur over a two to five day period and may cause additional signs of fever and loss of appetite.

Diagnosis - Radiographs (x-rays) of the bone tumour usually reveal areas of bony destruction (lysis) or proliferation, or both. These poorly defined lesions grow rapidly and so-called "pathologic fractures" may occur through areas of weakened bone. Radiographs of the chest usually do not show evidence of tumour spread early in the course of the disease.

Diagnosis of osteosarcoma is confirmed by biopsy of the bony lesion. Careful study of the x-ray aids the clinician in
selecting the optimal site for an accurate diagnosis. In situations where the owner of the dog does not want a biopsy of the lesion, the diagnosis can be formulated on the basis of the clinical signs, age, breed, location of the suspected tumour and x-ray results.

To the pathologist, the structure of these tumours can present a wide range of patterns microscopically. Usually, a combination of bone destruction and new bone production is evident.

**Treatment** - Although the recommended treatment of osteosarcoma is surgery, this is usually not very fulfilling. In fact, only about 10 per cent of dogs with this disorder survive longer than nine months following the amputation of the affected limb. It should be remembered that while this type of surgery will alleviate pain, it does not prolong the life of the animal to any significant degree. Other approaches to treatment include chemotherapy (various drugs), immunotherapy and radiation, either singly or in combination.

**Chondrosarcoma**

Canine chondrosarcoma is the second most common canine bone tumour and comprises about 10 per cent of all bone tumours in dogs. The average age of affected dogs is six years, with males and female dogs being affected equally.

**Location** - Canine chondrosarcoma does have a few preferred locations within the body. These include the ribs, nasal cavity and pelvis and the clinical signs vary with the site of the lesion. On the ribs, the tumour usually appears as a large, firm swelling at the costochondral junction. These lesions are usually not painful to the touch. If involving the pelvis, chondrosarcoma may produce signs of lameness, while in the nasal cavity, sneezing, swelling and nose bleeds may be encountered. The frequency of chondrosarcoma is greater in the flat bones of the body (70%), as opposed to long bones (50%).

On x-ray, chondrosarcomas may show signs of destruction of bone. These tumours have a characteristic look microscopically, with calcification of the neoplastic cartilage being unusual. The best treatment is to completely remove the tumour surgically. If this can be achieved, the prognosis is fairly good. However, it may be difficult to accomplish this in the nasal cavity and the pelvis.

**Osteosarcoma** remains as one of the most difficult cancers to successfully treat. Chondrosarcomas provide an improved prognosis if they are situated in a location which permits complete surgical removal. It is evident from the foregoing that much knowledge is still to be learned concerning effective treatment of bone cancer in dogs.

Reprinted from: DOGS IN CANADA
February 1986 Issue

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**CANINE COPROPHAGY - AN UPDATE**

(Mary Bloom, Secretary of the Briard Club has informed us that she has been receiving “complaints” regarding this problem. For this reason we are including the following reprint from Dog Week , 3/21/86).

Coprophagy, according to Webster's Dictionary, is the practice of “...the feeding on or eating of dung or excrement that is normal behavior among many insects, birds, and other animals but in man is a symptom of some forms of insanity.”

The blue bird of happiness certainly doesn't sit on a tree in a yard belonging to a pet owner whose dog practices canine coprophagy.

That’s one of the reasons it behoves the custodians of the pure breeds - you and I - to understand why many dogs practice this reprehensible (to us) habit and put a stop to it, whenever possible.

I wrote the award-winning story "Canine Coprophagy," (Canine Chronicle," October 20, 1984) because I wanted to find remedies to this widespread problem. There were no concrete answers in the many technical books I read. Each addressed the problem briefly in either one or two paragraph entries; none were able to offer a clear-cut remedy. Veterinarians interviewed could not supply a sure cure. As a matter of fact, may of those I spoke to were looking for answers themselves! Products, claiming to eliminate the problem, did not always prove out in testing. The outpouring of mail received following the story's appearance proved the problem was widespread. One veterinarian told me: "Eighty Percent of my clients ask me what they can do to break their dogs habit of eating their own or other dogs' stools. I can't tell them how."

Dogs are basically scavengers. All practice some form of coprophagy. Without exception, if allowed to run free in woods, dogs sample dung of other species of animals and birds. Many also eat their or other dogs droppings.

After my 1984 story "Canine Coprophagy" appeared in print, one dog owner cried out in a letter: "I used to think I purchased my dog from a dirty kennel, that she ate stools because she learned the habit in early puppyhood. But when she whelped her second litter of puppies, I couldn't believe what I saw. When one puppy started to circle and crouch to defecate, the others were there to catch its stool as it came out. I couldn't blame this on environmental conditions. I keep a very clean whelping box, but I simply couldn't clean up the output fast enough. Suffice it to say, I was repulsed. The only way I was able to keep the pups from doing this was to monitor them constantly. Since I was with them on a 24-hour basis, I began sprinkling tobacco sauce on the stools as soon as they were eliminated. As other puppies came along, they stuttered and spit out the tobacco sauce. By the time the pups left for permanent homes, I felt I had broken the awful cycle."

Another distressed breeder, who discovered her puppies ate dog droppings, told me she telephoned a large university school...
CANINE COPROPHAGY, continued

for veterinarians. A student was assigned to answer her question. "The puppies are bored," he told her. The breeder wrote: "Can you imagine! Bored at three weeks. Now, I was raised to respect doctors and priests, so I didn't correct him. I guess I should have, as he may be my veterinary someday."


But feeding high quality kibble doesn't always discourage a canine coprophagist. Many dog breeders insist that even though their dogs are fed on premium kibble with added vitamins, minerals, fresh vegetables and meat added, the dogs immediately go outside to practice coprophagy.

Several readers wrote that their veterinarians thought canine coprophagists were dogs "short on enzymes they needed for digestion." One veterinarian suggested twenty percent of a dog's diet throughout its first year of life (at least) consist of fresh fruit and vegetables.

The "short on enzyme" theory prompted one dog owner to share this information. "I discussed the problem of coprophagy with my breeder and found out that his sire suffered from the same condition. The breeder recommended papaya enzyme, which had cured his sire. This treatment also corrected the condition in my male. I presently own two dogs of other breeds in addition to the one mentioned above. Neither of these dogs suffer from coprophagy and neither 'learned the habit' when my male was afflicted. This, therefore, leads me to believe that this is a hereditary enzyme deficiency. At least it appears to be so in this particular case.

Many correspondents offered recipes which had cured the habit in their dogs. Those successful in completely or partially eliminating the problem in their puppies were unanimous in giving supplements such as cottage cheese, buttermilk, yogurt. Fresh vegetables like carrots, stringbeans, spinach, lettuce and tomatoes appeared to alleviate the problem in many cases.

Here's one breeder's recipe: "My dogs are fed once a day in the evening. Their diet includes commercial kibble topped with soup. I prepare the soup beforehand. It's made of either chicken giblets or beef bones with a variety of cooked fresh vegetables. I ladle just enough soup over the kibble to moisten it. I never make it mushy. I then add a few pieces of giblet or beef, a few bites of vegetables and garlic. Occasionally, the dogs get one hard-boiled egg each, one-half cup cottage cheese, cooked liver or cooked fish. I also have an excellent formula for mineral from my veterinarian, which I prepare and mix into the kibble. I have not seen a recurrence of this habit out of my many dogs, except for an occasional offender."

One of my friends, fellow dog writer, Helma Weeks, gave me this recipe for canine vegetable soup. Helma raises Bullmastiffs. They are healthy dogs; noncoprophagists and thrive on this addition to their commercial dog food. Helma places all her puppies on this supplement from the time they are weaned.

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CANINE COPROPHAGY, continued

"Place a pot on the back burner of your stove," Helma says. "Call it your dog stew pot. Daily, fill it with potato peels, tired lettuce leaves, spinach, cabbage leaves, damaged stalks of celery, carrot scrapings, etc. Be sure to include in each pot a clove of garlic and, if you can spare it, an onion. If you have made a pot roast, skim the fat off and add the fat to the dog stew. Cover with water. Simmer for five minutes. For goodness sake, "Helma cautions, "don't overcook. Just barely cook. Many vitamins are destroyed by too much cooking. Cool, process in a blender, pour into ice cube trays and freeze. Daily, unfreeze several of these canine vegetable soup cubes, and add to their dinner."

"However, another breeder claims this: "It was only when I eliminated all foods except dog meat that the problem went away. Dogs don't always digest all the foods they eat - tempting morsels in my kennels always contain undigested foods."

These remarks are from a longtime breeder: "I think dog food companies suggest 'free feeding' (24-hour meal availability) to help eliminate this practice. But I'd rather feed twice a day. My dogs are kept in optimum condition on set meal times. Let them practice coprophagy."

We share the following from dog judge, Mrs. Lois Wolff White. With Lois White's permission, we quote: "...in my years as a breeder, professional handler, and operator of a boarding kennel, I have had considerable exposure to this trait. "Disagreeable to us humans, it is not at all common in the canine population. My veterinarian in those days was not only an excellent small animal practitioner, but also a zoo veterinarian. Coprophagy is not uncommon among zoo animals and his experiences there helped him when advising me on my kennel management of coprophagy.

"To solve a large problem very easily, let me give you my formula for domesticated canines. Simply add one-half cup of cottage cheese and one-half cup of tomato juice to the normal ration of the dog. This is appropriate for a medium-sized dog 30 to 40 pounds, and can be adjusted for larger or smaller canines.

"However, as with many of our dog problems, I think we need to look at our dog's heritage to understand some of his behaviour. The wild dog of centuries ago hunted and killed his food, certainly not dividing out the entrails and contents as he savored his new catch. Why then are we surprised that our domesticated varieties display this strange behavior? Also, I found that coprophagy was more common among the hound breeds in my canines."

"The dog intent on stool eating is difficult to correct. He will wait for kennel mates to eliminate, or eat his own stool so quickly that his caretaker simply can't get there soon enough. For these individuals, I found my diet addition simple and effective."

Lois Wolff White's suggestion proved an effective remedy tested on several canine coprophagists in my area. Since cottage cheese has become an expensive item in the market place, one top owner uses a food supplement called "pro-magic powdered..."
cheese” in place of cottage cheese. This product is offered in several pet catalogs. One pound of this powder is equivalent to approximately seven pounds of cottage cheese.

Special disorders in humans require special foods. There's no reason to doubt that the same holds true for special disorders, such as canine coprophagy, in dogs. Tomato juice, one of the two ingredients used in Mrs. Lois Wolff White's remedy, is high in vitamin C. It is also acidic. Perhaps dogs with this habit require more of this vitamin and more acid in their diets than is now presumed necessary. "Vitamin C," writes Wedell O. Belfield DVM in his book, "How to Have a Healthier Dog" (Doubleday & Company, 1981) is produced in dogs through an enzyme system found in the liver.

Can you train the habit away? I am a dog obedience instructor. I have used various training techniques, each designed to eliminate the habit from canine coprophagists. None proved effective when my obedience school students were out of sight of their dogs and opportunity lay at hand. I came to the conclusion that the coprophagy instinct, in certain animals, is too strong to be counteracted upon. Yes, it may be temporarily halted with training techniques. But just as I have yet to find an adult male dog who does not instinctively lift his leg to urinate, I have yet to find a canine coprophagist who quits this habit because of training techniques used to dissuade him.

In conclusion, through a layman's eye, perhaps the cure lies somewhere in between. One suggestion is to add food supplements, such as Mrs. Lois Wolff White's cottage cheese and tomato juice to the dog's daily ration. When adding to or changing a dog's diet, do remember that it takes approximately 60 days for a dog's body to assimilate a change. A second suggestion is to avoid oversupplementing. Nutritionists claim supplements over twenty percent of a dog's diet may cause deficiencies and/or non-digestion of all foods eaten. Dogs should not be given large amounts of "special" foods in the belief that what is good in small amounts is even better in bigger quantities.

Some of the recipes sent to me have obviously worked for some dogs, but not for others. I suggest owners of canine coprophagists try recipes listed above and tell me how they worked. We can then publish the results.

Send your comments on canine coprophagy to Kathryn Braund, 1616 13th Avenue SW, Great Falls, Montana 59404.
CHAMPION ST. MARY'S BONNE CHANGE (bitch)

Owner: Marty Clarke
Breeders: Jill Carruthers & Mary Ann Shaw

Championship: January 12, 1988
Whelped: October 24, 1986
Sire: BJ's Apache Brave
Chateauabriard O Cherie Amour
A/C Ch. Sirhan Courvoisier
Dam: La Tres Belle Neshamah
La Tres Belle Chien Ruffles

Handled by: Skip Raynor & Kathy Mines
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CHAMPION SKYBEAR L'BIJOU COCO CHANEL (bitch)

Owners: Linda & Rick Christie
Breeder: Nancy McManigal

Championship: February 14, 1988
Whelped: July 15, 1985
Sire: Ch. Rogue Unique du Oakleaf
Ch. Souhaite Moi Un Arc En Ciel
Ch. Nestor De L'Eminence
Dam: Ch. M & M Skybear
Chateauabriard Papillon

Handled by Nona Alley
30 BCA
NEW CHAMPION

OWNERS: Linda Carpenter & Jill Carruthers
Breeders: Karen & Robert Wells

Champion: June 7, 1987

Whelped: April 24, 1987

Sire: Byron of Dorchester
Colette Ourse de Soleil
Ch. John's Pashku de Strathcona

Dam: Talia D'Occasion
Ch. Beardsanbrow's N'est Pas

Judge: John F. Stanek
Spring 1988

NEW CANADIAN CD AND CDX; NEW T.T.

Owner: Linda Beall
Breeders: Margaret and Susan McCormick

Canadian CD: May 5, 1985 (191.5, 195.5, 194.5)
Canadian CDX: August 16, 1985 (191, 182, 193)
T.T. Title: October 5, 1986

Whelped: August 17, 1979

Sire: A/C Ch. Sirhan Drover
Sirhan Cadeau de Noel
Ch. Pa'Chick's Rebel Deux

Dam: Ch. Pa'Chick's Ms-Be-Haven, A/C CD
A/C Ch. Pa'Chick's Jezebel

Trained/Handled by Linda Beall

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BCA
CONGRATULATIONS TO NEW TITLE HOLDERS

CHAMPIONS OF RECORD


CHAMPION BRIAN BORU (D) Title: 11/22/87 - Sire: CH Johns Paakhi De Strathona - Dam: CH Radieux Urs Major. Breeders: Lorraine W. McDermott & Peter J. McDermott - Owner: Frances M. Valley & Dr. Lorraine W. McDermott.


CHAMPION PHIDEAUX BON VIVANT (D) Title: 11/22/87 - Sire: CH Aigner Take Stock In Jb - Dam: CH Vireage Vice Versa. Breeders: Mary Lou Tingley & Kathy Fitzpatrick - Owners: Roger L. Pratt Jr. & Christine Pratt.

CHAMPION VIEAGE VIF ARGENTE (B) Title: 11/28/87 - Sire: CH Beardsanbrow's Utopia - Dam: CH Phydeaux Oh Susannah CDX/TD. Breeder: Karen Farkas. Owner: Joyce C. Smith.


CHAMPION RICHLLEN VICISSISOISE (B) Title: 1/10/88 - Sire: CH Beardsanbrow's Utopia - Dam: CH Chateaubriand Nouvelle Nova CD. Breeders/Owners: Richard McDearmont & Ellen Walton.


CHAMPION MON AMI DIANA V GOLDEN BRIE (B) Title: 3/07/88 - Sire: CH Mon Jovis Golden Brie V M A - Dam: CH Jouis Cest Ce Bon V M A. Breeder/Owner: Phyllis S. Ferraro.

COMPANION DOG TITLES


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TRACKING DOG EXCELLENT

BEARDBROW BROCADE D'OCCASION TDI (B) Title: 11/29/87 - Sire: CH Pride and Joy Desoulieado - Dam: CH Figuante D'Ocasian - Breeders: Janis Mandeville & David Behrens - Owner: David Behrens.

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LOOKING FOR PUPPIES

MARYLAND
Karen Farkas, 5400 Huntington Pkwy, Bethesda MD 20814 tawnies due (1/3/88) 301 654-2059

MICHIGAN
Rob Ferber - Linda Wells, 6175 W. M-36, Pickney, MI 48169 blacks and tawnies due June (1/4/88) 313 496-2509
Paullette and Kenneth Schick, 11941 Whitehill, Detroit MI 48224 tawnies due (1/5/88) 313 526-0667

MINNESOTA
Jane Beahan, 29965 Innsbrook, Stacy, MN 55079 black male (1/3/88) 612 257-4407

NEW YORK
Barbara Lynch, 7480 Big Tree Rd, Livonia, NY 14487 blacks and tawnies due (1/5/88) 716 967-2721

OHIO
Terry Miller, 2967 Meadowbrook Blvd, Cleveland Hts, OH 44118 tawnies due (1/5/88) 216 324-3219

If you do not find just the right puppy from this listing, please let us know. We are happy to keep you informed of new litters as they are reported to the club.

Any BCA member (of at least one year) may advertise their litter for 3 months with the club's puppy referral service. Make check payable for $10.00 to BCA and forward to the BCA Secretary. Include: Sire, Dam, date of expected birth or whelping date, as well as color. For this fee, you will also be included on one of the club's publications. (Please also inform the Secretary when the pups are placed.)

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