DEWCLAW
Published by the Briard Club of America

SUMMER, 1988
Dear Fellow Briarders,

This issue concludes my appointment as Dew Claw editor; what a year it has been! Over the course of the year, I’ve received some wonderful puppy pictures which appear in this issue for your enjoyment.

Thank you to everyone who sent material and articles for publication, as well as to the Committee Chairpersons who sent reports and articles; Mimi Long (Obedience), Meg Weitz (Eyes), and Mary Bloom (Rescue). Thanks again to Diane McLeroth for so generously sharing her expertise and experience. A heartfelt Thank You to all those who took the time and energy to write or call; your kind words and encouragement were much appreciated.

We welcome, as the new Dew Claw editor, Jeanne Zahniser. Send her your news, pictures, and articles at: 14336 Shirley Bohn Rd, Mt. Airy, MD, 21771.

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DELEGATE TO THE A.K.C.
Philip McNelis

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will be printed without charge as space permits.

SUMMER, 1988
CHAMPION UZANDER EN NOIR DE BEJAUNE C.D. (dog)

Owners: William A. Bailey
Evrice J. Bailey

Breeders: Meg W. Weitz
Michael Greenberg

Championship: May 14, 1988
Whelped: Feb. 20, 1983

Sire: Bejaune Prix Academy D'Antigo
Dam: Ch. Rubis De Bejaune

NEW CHAMPION

AM/MEX CHAMPION BIG SKY'S DON'CHA KNOW IT (dog)
"Truck"

Owners: Mark & Susan
Alexander
Breeders: Mark & Susan Alexander
& Linda Pitzing

American Championship: Nov. 22, 1987
Mexican Championship: July 19, 1987
Whelped: December 26, 1988

Sire: Am/Can Ch. Cloud Cap's Critical Acclaim
Dam: Mon Jovis Oreo of Cloud Caps

Summer, 1988
NEW CHAMPION

CHAMPION DEJA VU WOODBINE CELTIC PRIDE
"Larry Bird"

Owners: Marsha Clamp
Terry Miller

Breeders: Terry Miller, K.T. McCann, & Judy W. Odom

Championship: May 29, 1988
Whelped: April 3, 1987

Ch. Notre Rigolo of Strathcona
Sire: Ch. Aigner Take Stock in JB
Ch. Aigner Rum Toddy

Ch. Phyedeaux Luvek N Leaven CD
Dam: Ch. C'est Bonheur Woodbine Tinsel
Ch. Phyedeaux Polly Poulet

Handled by Marsha Clamp

NEW TITLE HOLDERS

CHAMPION MARADYNE'S APRES MON PERE (D) - Title: 4/17/88 - Sire: Ch. Aigner Rarin' To Go - Dam: Sophie Du Coteau D'Avranches - Breeders: Mary Frances Hicks & Patricia Ann Regal - Owner: Mary Frances Hicks.

CHAMPION JOVIS BLOU D NUAGE NOIR (B) - Title: 4/10/88 - Sire: Ch. Aigner Vandermint - Dam: Ch. Mon Jovis Mahogany V Mon Ami - Breeder: Mary E. Lopez - Owners: Denis Gough & Marsha Gough & Mary E. Lopez.


CHAMPION MES AMI CHEESE N CRACKERS (B) - Title: 5/9/88 - Sire: Ch. Fox Lair Vaudou En Noir - Dam: Ch. Radieux Until Then - Breeder/Owner: Jeanne K Zahniser.

CHAMPION PHYDEAUX ANYTHING GOES (B) - Title: 5/7/88 - Sire: Ch. Beardsanbrow's V Thriller - Dam: Ch. Panthere D'El Pastre - Breeders: Jan Standish & Mary Lou Tingley - Owners: Harry A. Willson III & Linda B. Willson.


CHAMPION RADNOR'S CAUSE 'N A COMMOTION (B) - Title: 5/29/88 - Sire: Radnor's Andy Capp - Dam: Ch Nautilus Sea Sire - Breeder: Gwen Shook & P. McNelis - Owner: Jane E. Critter.

CHAMPION SOUTHPOINTS ABSAROKEE (B) - Title: 5/16/88 - Sire: Ch Southpoints Jos'E Cuervo - Dam: Chateauabriard Odette - Breeders/Owners: Peggy Ravndal & Jack Ravndal.

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COMPANION DOG TITLES

CHAMPION BASINER GARCON DE L'HEUREUX CD (D) - Title: 5/14/88 - Sire: Beardsanbrow's Notre Joshua CD - Dam: Ch. Que Sera Sera Du Le Loup D'Or - Breeder/Owner: Theresa A. Lee.

TEMPERAMENT TEST TITLES

Debbie Morrow reports that "Ber" passed his Temperament Test on 5/1/88. "Ber" is U KNOW BERGER DE BONHEUR, TT (Ch. Richlen Steppenwolf x Ch. Abbayes Paulette de Bonheur CD). Congratulations Debbie and "Ber". On a sadder note, "Ber" has lymph cancer, and may not be with Debbie long enough to finish his CD.

THE OTHER RING

This time I thought it might be good to mention just a few specific ideas for puppy training before going on to other things in future articles.

In general, Briards are a breed of dog that needs training and a firm, consistent hand by his "top dog" master. But, you say, a puppy is a puppy and should be allowed to enjoy puppy-hood without serious training. Wrong—if that puppy is a Briard.

What is the best way to teach a pup that you are, and always will be, "topdog"? I have always taught my dogs to lay down flat on the grooming table or floor and allow me to groom, no matter what, and I have read in numerous obedience articles that the long down, practiced one or two times a day for 15 to 30 minutes will impress upon a dog that you are boss. But Dave Behren's method would seem to be the best and usable throughout the dog's life. If I understood him correctly, you must begin this training shortly after you get your new pup at seven or eight weeks. You force him to lay down flat on the floor, head flat, legs flat, even tail flat, and all parts must be absolutely unmoving. If the pup moves anything he is corrected, with force according to the infraction, until he lays perfectly still. Of course, with a very young pup the length of time is short, but as the pup gets older the time down is lengthened. This exercise is repeated frequently throughout the dog's life. Believe me, it works, and the results will be a dog who listens to you when you say something!

What about the puppy who is, even only occasionally, overly aggressive with other adult dogs in the household? (The same for a pup who shows the least aggression over his food, chew bone, dead fish or whatever you want to remove from him.) Should you chalk it off to puppy playfullness or needed self-defense on the puppy's part? Double "no". That behavior will only grow as the puppy grows. Always nip such aggressive behavior in the bud immediately by firmly shaking the pup, just like his mother would correct him, by holding on to his neck, and/or if you happen to have the pup on leash, with a quick snap away coupled by the work "NO!".

What about the pup who barges out through an open door before you're ready for him to go out, or who jumps on visitors, or who grabs the baby's cracker out of her hand? Teach the pup to do "sit-stays". This is easily done by placing the pup in a sitting position just as you are ready to give him his meal, holding him by his collar as you put the food dish down, saying "wait"—at first, as with other training, you make him wait for only an instant, gradually lengthening the time as the days go by, until you have a dog who understands what "wait" or "stay" means.

Summer, 1988
What about the pup who gets busy with something, indoors or out, and ignores you when you call him? Again, as with most training, this is easy to correct with a puppy—before the behavior becomes ingrained. Carry small dog biscuits with you when you and the pup are together, do a couple practice "comes" when you have the pup's attention so that he knows that you have the treats for him when he comes. Then wait for him to be distracted, call him and immediately; give him his treat as soon as he gets to you. You will have a pup—and later on an adult dog—who will come running when you call!

Remember, all puppy/adult dog training must be done with patience, consistency, repetition and praise, and be repeated at intervals throughout the dog's life.

I'm sure that many of you have other puppy training ideas or hints that are better than these—How about sharing them with us? I'd love to hear from you!

We have only one score to report this time—PLEASE send me your Trial results—brags are fun! Mimi Long—63 First Ave. N., Duluth, MN 55803.

BIGTREE'S BUCCANEER, "Keno", owned by Bill Hall and Susan Taylor-Hall and handled by Bill, earned his Canadian C.D. in three straight trials with scores of 189, 186, and 184. Congratulations, Bill and "Keno"!!

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

Our thoughts are with the following Briarders in their recent losses:

Ruth and Clyde Gass: "Erie"
Lynn and Brian Lowell: "Sidney"
Jill Carruthers: "Thunder" and "Sabrina"

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

TWO SPECIAL BRIARDERS

If you went to the the 1986 Specialty, and watched Christine Genari and her Briard in the obedience ring, or talked to her mother, Nancy, in the Hospitality Room, you already know that these are two very special people in the Briard World. Besides their involvement with their own Briards, champions to rescue dogs, they are both involved in Guide Dogs For The Handicapped in Johnstown, Ohio. Ohio, as well as a number of other states, has enacted laws which give dogs aiding the physically handicapped the same rights as Seeing Eye and Hearing Ear dogs.

Guide Dogs For The Handicapped can make life easier for individuals in wheelchairs, on crutches, walkers, and canes, by providing (free of charge) specially trained dogs to help their owners in a variety of functions. Dogs have been trained to pick up dropped objects, turn on/off appliances, counterbalance as a walking aid, assist in negotiating stairs, open doors, assist in getting up from the floor or a chair, carry items in saddlebags, and assist negotiating steep ramps and curves.

Many physically disabled individuals have found new independence through their dogs, and some have become more employable, as well as more confident and outgoing. Guide Dogs For The Handicapped trained the dogs for a number of National Easter Seal Poster Children. These dogs change lives, and Christy and Nancy Genari are where the action is—training dogs step-by-step to perform miracles in the lives of individuals, by assisting in daily tasks that most of us take for granted.

Christy began training dogs as a hobby, and then met the Maxwell's, Pamela (Sam) and Joe, who founded Guide Dogs For The Handicapped. Joe, a quadriplegic and his wife "Sam" started out by wondering why a dog couldn't be trained to pick up things that Joe dropped. From there, it continued to grow. When Christy saw what The Maxwell's were doing with their dogs, she immediately became interested, and joined Guide Dogs For The Handicapped as a trainer. Christy's mother, Nancy, became interested in The Maxwell's project, and has been involved, herself, for more than six years.

The philosophy at Guide Dogs is to save a dog and help a person at the same time, so most dogs in the program are from Humane Societies. Christy and Nancy use their love and knowledge of dogs to change lives, proving that these two Briarders ARE special people!
Thoughts to Ponder

The following "Open Letter to Breeders" was submitted by an individual who rescued an adolescent aged Briard from the S.P.C.A. during the past year. The dog was found to be painfully thin with a complete covering of matted coat. The dog cowered and barked when approached. The S.P.C.A. personnel verified the owner had signed permission for the dog's destruction if not adopted.

Open Letter to Breeders

Yesterday while walking on the beach with my rescue Briard I was watching him run, jump, and play in a sporadic puppy-like manner across the shoreline - when my eyes were drawn to his pawprints in the sand. I found myself overcome by intense diametrical feelings of sorrow and joy.

Eleven months earlier due to a chance of good fortune; a seemingly Divine intervention, this dog was observed by a woman who was 400 miles from her home visiting her daughter and touring the community's local S.P.C.A.. There were physical characteristics of this large animal which reminded her of her relatives pampered Briards. Sure enough, a close look at the identifying card on the crate verified it was a Briard. A phone call to her relatives resulted in the dog's rescue - and for me, now that I am owned by this dog, a continual confrontation with emotions. Many of these feelings are simply joy, as I have grown to cherish and savour each moment I spend with this once insecure animal; my other feelings are best described as sorrow, anger and disappointment. The latter two are felt toward you.

How many Briards have been needlessly destroyed - their existence erased as easily as pawprints in the sand due to the Breeder's lack of feeling responsible for involvement with the puppy long after placement? Remember - when the puppies left you - they were capable of impressing their footprints in the sand - but did the destiny assigned by you - the breeder - meet with disaster after you lost interest or became too busy?

I want to simply ask you the following - Can you look at this second photograph and honestly say to yourself that not any of your puppies pawprints have needlessly been washed away without your continued involvement and interest? Or did you become part of the perpetual motion of the sea - and your apathetic attitude increased the washing action of the waves?

S. Miller

Summer, 1988
In April, 1986 Mike Schery became Commanding Officer aboard the USS CHARLESTON (LKA-113). A month later Mike left his family, (wife Mary, daughters Elizabeth and Barbara and two young Briards). The following excerpts are taken from a letter written by Captain Schery to a Naval Academy classmate. The letter, along with photos was published in the December, 1987 United States Naval Academy Alumni Association's magazine, SHIPMATE.

"I took command in April '86 and a month later was en route to the Med. Mary joined me in September for ten days R & R while the ship was in Marseilles. Most wives visiting France shop for clothes, perfume, and the like; not my Mary. Her big ticket item was a Briard puppy. Mary's had one or more Briards, French herding dogs, around the house for the past ten years and has raised two champions. They were all bred in the States, though, so she took her opportunity to get an import. The problem was that the puppy couldn't be vaccinated for rabies until he was three months old, and couldn't clear U.S. customs until a month after vaccination. That meant Mary couldn't take him back with her. Solution: I had him vaccinated at three months and kept him aboard ship so he could clear quarantine by the time we returned. Hence his name: 'Shipmate.'

"When Shipmate came aboard he was a compact 20 pounds and could fit in almost anywhere. He didn't need Surface Warfare Officer School to be a fast-track qualifier. He learned his way up and down ladders in short order. We had no disciplinary problems; he complied with the Supply Officer's out-of-bounds list (wardroom and messdecks). Shipbreaking took only a week and he adopted his own piece of non-skid deck just aft of the port bridge wing. After a two-month continuous sea tour, Shipmate received a clean bill of health from the Agriculture Department. He was discharged from active duty; and got a full-time civilian job at our house. Unlike landlubber dogs, it took a long time for grass and trees to have meaning for Shipmate. The road was the closest thing the city of Virginia Beach could come to a non-skid deck. After that, any hardwood floor seemed an acceptable substitute. When it comes to Mary's favorite little female Briard, Shipmate's sailor instincts haven't lost a step in civilian life."

"Unable to forget his salty past, Shipmate spent much of the summer of 1987 as a Reservist, going aboard the CHARLESTON for training with the Marines and making a liberty run to New York City. As Shipmate grew to over 90 pounds, his big dog bark added a new dimension to the Ship's Self Defense Force: we call it the CHARLESTON Early Warning System (CHEWS)."

Editor's note: Shipmate, perhaps the first active seagoing Briard, received an Honorable Discharge Certificate following his extended sea duty. Thank you Shipmate for representing our breed so well!"
A LETTER FROM JONAH

Dear Steve,

Hi! Remember me? I'm Jonah. Bet you never thought you'd get a letter from me. I'm writing this for my new friend Buster who lives over in Palmyra. He would write himself except he can't hold a pencil; besides, he's just a kid and he still forgets and chews up pencils. I told him I would write to you because I could use the computer, which is easier than holding a pencil, except sometimes I wish my nose weren't quite so big because I hit too many keys at once, but I'm getting better.

Anyhow, Buster has to find a new home, and he has heard about your big place where he could run a lot and not be in the way, which is not easy because he's pretty big. He's a big black shaggy dog, just like me. He's not as tall as I am yet, but he's only ten months old, so maybe he will be. The vet said he weighed 65 pounds last time, and he's grown some. He said to tell you he has had all his shots, and he's grown some. He said to tell you he has had all his shots and that other thing they did to him when he went to sleep, which he wasn't too sure about but it seems to be important to people so he thought I should mention it. And he takes his heartworm medicine every month.

Buster like everybody --even cats-- but sometimes he does chase them, if they run first. He lives with two cats and another dog and two older folks and Ted, who doesn't like him very much so he won't feed him or anything. He like children a lot, but the ones who used to live there went away. He has two kinds of barks. There's the yip-yip bark that he does when he's rolling around playing, and there's the W000000FFFFF that he does when anybody comes around the house that needs to be checked out. He says one day he scared the mailman so bad he peed on the front porch, so he really tries to be careful about that bark, but he wants you to know he can be one tough watch dog.

So, you might be wondering why, if he's such a great dog, he needs a new home. He runs with two cats and another dog and two older folks and Ted, who doesn't like him very much so he won't feed him or anything. He's about a lot, but the ones who used to live there went away. He has two kinds of barks. There's the yip-yip bark that he does when he's rolling around playing, and there's the W000000FFFFF that he does when anybody comes around the house that needs to be checked out. He says one day he scared the mailman so bad he peed on the front porch, so he really tries to be careful about that bark, but he wants you to know he can be one tough watch dog.

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But now the grandparents are sad, because their daughter died and the grandchildren are gone, except they know that's better for everybody. And then their son Ted came home, with his dog and cat, and he's working all the time and doesn't want to bother with Buster, and the grandparents can't handle him because he's so big. They say that, anyhow, but Buster thinks the real reason is that he makes them feel bad because they look at him and think of the children. The grandfather walks him every day and Buster likes him a lot, but there isn't really any place for him to run around because they live right on Main Street in Palmyra, and the other dogs they had all got hit by cars, so everybody worries about that.

Buster is really a good guy. I will vouch for his character. He has some growing up to do before he is as mature as I am, but even so, he never does #1 or #2 in the house. So what do you think? He can stay where he is until the end of August, but then the people are going away for a month, and they would put him in a kennel, but we didn't think he should have to do that, so he can come to live with us for a while.

Buster says he will send a picture if you want. Or references. Or paw prints. Or whatever. But he hopes you will think about it, because if he can't come to live with you, they will put an ad in the paper and he doesn't know where he will end up. He tries hard to be very good, but everybody around him is sad, and they aren't too patient sometimes, so he needs to know pretty soon if he can come to live with you or not. Let me know what you think.

Your friend, Jonah

P.S. When I read this back to Buster, he said I better explain about cats. He doesn't chase the cats he lives with--only the other ones in the neighborhood, when he can get loose. Actually, he like the cats he lives with, and he wouldn't want just anybody to know about it, but he actually sleeps with them sometimes and they give each other baths, so he is open to all kinds of living arrangements.

PPS. So what do you think?

This is an actual letter sent to a young couple in Virginia - via Steve's mother. We extend our thanks to them for sharing their family mail with us. A few details have been altered to provide anonymity. What a very special person Steve's mother is - so sensitive and caring. Happiest news of all - Virginia has a new rescued canine resident!!!!

*****************************-3HHHHHHE**4HF**4HHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHI

SCENT HURDLING IS FOR BRIARDS TOO

Julie Treinis

In my never ending search to find new areas to explore with WHOOKIE and TRIBBLE, I discovered the world of scent hurdle racing. Although not yet an A.K.C. event, this activity is gaining in popularity in New England, and several clubs have put together teams which compete against each other at fun matches, fairs, nursing home demonstrations, etc. The races always draw large crowds and are exciting for teams and spectators alike. The dogs themselves really enjoy the competition, and each one eagerly awaits his turn to race.

The scent hurdle races consist of two teams of four handlers and their dogs. Each team races their dogs simultaneously over a series of four hurdles spaced 10' apart, and the two lines of hurdles are set 12' away from each other. Each dog must retrieve a scented and numbered dumbbell from a square platform set 12' beyond the fourth hurdle on each line. As each dog retrieves his handler's scented dumbbell, he immediately returns over the four hurdles to his handler and the next dog on the team is sent to repeat the same performance, until the fourth dog on the team has completed his run.

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The height of the hurdles shall be no more than 18” and no less than 10”. The height of all four hurdles is the same, and is set at the shoulder height of the smallest dog on the team or the minimum 10”

The starting line is located four feet from the first hurdle, and extends the full width of both hurdle courses. The handlers must remain behind the starting line from the time the first dog is sent to retrieve, until the last dog has completed the course.

Each team’s dumbbells must be uniform in shape and size. The outside surface of the block ends of the dumbbells must display a number 2” high, corresponding to the number on the jacket worn by each dog. Each team must have 4 dummy dumbbells which conform in size and shape with the regular team dumbbells. These are identified with a 2” X instead of a number.

The dumbbell platform is painted white and divided into 4 equal sections, to be numbered 1, 2, 3, 4 in black paint.

The dogs on the winning team must retrieve the correct dumbbell, by going over each jump, and returning over each jump in faster time than their opponents, in the best two out of three heats. After each heat the dumbbell platform is rotated clockwise one quarter turn, changing the location of the dumbbell for each dog. Upon entering the competition area, the handler puts his dog on a sit/stay, in the order of his running, behind the starting line. The handlers leave their dogs and place the dumbbell on the dumbbell platform at the end of the hurdle course. Number one handler places his dumbbell on the Number 1 position, number two handler places his dumbbell on the Number 2 position, number three handler places his dumbbell on the Number 3 position, and the number four handler places his dumbbell on the Number 4 position. The handlers then return to their dogs.

At the judge’s command, “Get set,” the handler of the lead dog positions himself and his dog behind the starting line, ready for the starting whistle. At the sound of the whistle, the handler sends his dog over the course. Each dog must retrieve his handler’s scented dumbbell and return over the course. Immediately and before the next dog starts his run, the steward places on the empty space on the platform, one of the dummy dumbbells. As each dog retrieves the proper dumbbell, a dummy dumbbell is put down to take its place. In other words, all four places are always occupied by a dumbbell. The second dog is not sent until the lead dog has crossed the starting line on his return run, carrying the dumbbell. A dog that does not bring the correct dumbbell or misses a jump, either coming or going, must be sent again, after the fourth dog has completed his turn. Each handler or dog that steps over the starting line before the preceding dog, on his return run has crossed the line, is penalized by 2 seconds.

Both WHOOKIE and TRIBBLE enjoy scent hurdle racing and have served as number 1 lead dog on the Nashoba Dog Training Club’s team.

As always, I’m extremely proud of WHOOKIE and TRIBBLE’s accomplishments. Again as my first Briards, they have shown me more about the versatility of the breed. Whatever I ask of them, they do and do well. I would guess that they are two of the very few Briards competing in scent hurdle races and I would hope that this article would encourage more Briarders to try this great activity. We have a really super breed that truly blossoms when given the chance to use his working ability.
CANCER IN DOGS

Part III - Mast Cell Tumors - by Dr. Martin DeForest

A definite cause for mast cell tumors in dogs has yet to be established. Most canine mast cell tumors arise from the dermis (skin) or subcutaneous tissues (immediately below the skin). The three prime sites of mast cell tumors are: trunk and perineal area - 50%; skin of the extremities - 40%; and head and neck - 10%. In approximately 11% of cases, tumors are found in more than one location of the skin surface.

Cutaneous mast cell tumors (involving the skin) are most frequently less than 3 centimeters in diameter, raised, firm to the touch, with well-defined borders. The surface may be reddened and ulcerated; pruritis (itching) is usually a feature. A second, less common form of cutaneous tumor appears as a soft, poorly defined lesion which is covered with hair and lacks both redness and ulceration.

Extracutaneous mast cell tumors (without skin involvement) do occur, but are less common. Involvement of visceral organs, such as liver, spleen, and kidney is usually present in these cases. Less frequently reported locations have included the larynx, bone, intestinal tract, and tracheobronchial lymph nodes.

Canine mast cell tumors are commonly encountered in dogs, and may account for roughly one-quarter of all malignant skin tumors. Incidence is approximately equal for males and females, and increases with age.

To diagnose a mast cell tumor, laboratory tests are recommended in addition to biopsy of the lesion. These include a complete blood count, serum chemistry profile, urinalysis, chest and abdominal x-rays, and possibly even bone marrow biopsy and activated blood clotting times when indicated.

Establishing a prognosis is difficult in cases of canine mast cell tumors, as the growth rate may be quite erratic. A rapid increase in tumor growth rate, as well as being located in the anogenital region and bone marrow are regarded as poor prognostic signs.

Methods of treatment of mast cell tumors include surgical removal, cryosurgery (freezing the tumor), chemotherapy, radiation therapy, and immunotherapy. These may be used singly or in combination; the choice of treatment is based on the stage of tumor development.

Taken from: Dogs In Canada
March, 1986

CANCER IN DOGS

Part IV - Different Tumours - by Dr. Martin DeForest

In this segment we will look at tumours of the mammary glands, nose, testicles, brain, lung, prostate gland, eyes and oral cavity, along with the hemangiosarcoma.

Mammary adenocarcinoma

Skin cancers are the most common malignancy of dogs. Mammary gland tumours or 'mammary adenocarcinoma' are second in incidence. This type of tumour is encountered most frequently in older unspayed female dogs. Between 35 and 50 per cent of these tumours are malignant. Statistics have shown that the incidence of mammary tumours is reduced dramatically if the bitch is spayed prior to her third heat cycle. This is one more good reason to recommend to puppy purchasers that pet bitches be spayed.

Detection, diagnosis and treatment

Usually, a mass or firm swelling is detected in the area of the nipples. This may be discovered by the owner or by a veterinarian during a routine examination. Generally, the best treatment is surgical removal of the mass. Biopsy of the tissue and x-rays are recommended to determine malignancy and if spread has occurred. If there is evidence of spread to another site (metastasis), chemotherapy is incorporated as part of the treatment regime. Because of the effect of hormones on mammary tumours, it is usually recommended that the bitch be spayed at the same time as the tumour is removed. This is contingent on the premise that the bitch has a good chance of survival and is not likely to be harmed by an additional surgical procedure at the time. Long term survival is possible in such cases provided that the tumour has not spread. This also depends on the degree of malignancy.

Nasal tumours

Nasal carcinoma is the most common tumour of the canine nose. Clinical signs of this neoplasm include chronic nasal discharge, often initially from one nostril (later from both), as well as sneezing and nosebleeds. Early detection and diagnosis always increase the possibility of successful treatment. Consequently, a thorough work-up to differentiate this from less serious nasal conditions, such as rhinitis, is advisable. Advanced nasal tumours usually produce marked swelling and disfiguration of the face.

Diagnosis of nasal carcinoma is established by x-rays of the nose and biopsy of suspected tumour tissue. Treatment is usually in the form of radiation therapy when there is no evidence of spread of the tumour to bone. However, when bony...

Taken from: Dogs In Canada
Summer, 1988

BCA
involvement is apparent, a combination of surgery plus radiation therapy is a more effective treatment.

Hemangiosarcoma

These malignancies arise from within the blood/circulatory system. Often, hemangiosarcoma stems from an abnormal proliferation of cells within the walls of blood vessels. Clinical signs in dogs with this disorder include pale mucous membranes, weakness, lethargy and distention of the abdomen. Laboratory analysis of a blood sample confirms the presence of anemia. The tumour, which often involves the spleen, is prone to rupture. When this occurs, the resultant internal hemorrhage rapidly creates an emergency situation.

These tumours, which occur most frequently in the large breeds, such as the German Shepherd, are highly malignant. Consequently, they must be associated with a guarded prognosis. Surgery to remove the mass (when possible), with biopsy of the mass to confirm the diagnosis, is the treatment of choice.

Lung cancer

This malignancy occurs in two forms, as in humans. It may appear as a primary tumour, originating in lung tissue, or it may spread to the chest from elsewhere in the body. Chronic coughing is an often-associated clinical sign. This may be the only sign, although shortness of breath, poor exercise tolerance and inappetance are often encountered too.

Primary lung tumours are best treated by surgical removal. When the tumour has spread from elsewhere in the body, the best treatment depends on the type of cancer involved.

Brain tumours

As with lung neoplasms these tumours may also be primary or secondary. The clinical signs are variable, depending on the area of the brain involved. Seizures, gait disturbances, visual deficits and behavioral changes have all been reported. Surgical removal of these tumours is often extremely difficult. As a result, the prognosis is very guarded.

Testicular tumours

Testicular tumours are extremely common in male dogs. There are three main tumour types which are known to occur. They are seminomas, sertoli cell tumours and interstitial cell tumours. The presence of such tumours is usually associated with infertility, either because these tumours induce hormone production or because they compress adjacent tissue. Involvement of the immune system may cause some dogs to remain sterile, even though the testicle containing the tumour has been surgically removed. One type, the sertoli cell tumour, occurs

Prostatic neoplasms

Carcinoma of the prostate is the second most common cause of cancer deaths in male humans. Strangely enough, adenocarcinoma of the canine prostate is very rare. Some researchers have linked this apparent low incidence to the difficulties in establishing a diagnosis. It is also suspected that dogs might possess some unknown mechanisms which protect it from this type of tumour. Or perhaps the etiology of this type of tumour may be quite different in this species than man. In both man and dogs, this is a disease of old age. Most dogs with this problem are over 10 years of age. No one breed seems to experience an increased susceptibility to this form of cancer and although the exact cause has not been established, the aging process and its relationship to hormone changes appears to be highly involved.

Clinical signs

The signs of prostatic tumours are difficult to differentiate from those produced by benign hypertrophy of the gland, as may occur with prostatitis. In both cases, the gland is usually enlarged. As a result, this increased mass compresses the colon and rectum. Difficulty in urinating, passing stool and weakness and lameness of the rear limbs are commonly encountered side-effects. And, usually by the time that the signs appear, the situation is terminal. Most patients late in the course of the disease appear emaciated and have pain in the posterior, abdomen and lumbar spine. Various abnormalities of the urinary tract are usually evident too. These tumours tend to spread to other regions, such as the lumbar spine, chest, urinary bladder and kidneys.

The diagnosis

As mentioned, early diagnosis is extremely difficult. However, as the disease progresses and the prostate becomes enlarged, irregular in outline and painful, the disease becomes more detectable. Biopsy confirms the presence of disease. Radiographs of the chest and spine often reveal the presence of spread.

Treatment

Although the only reliable treatment for prostatic adenocarcinoma is surgery, the problem with this lies in the fact that, in most cases, spread to other body locations has occurred by the time the tumour is detected. As a result, surgery often is unrewarding. Some researchers suggest that castration and estrogen therapy may be effective in slowing the growth of prostatic tumours in some cases. Immunotherapy and cryosurgery (tissue-freezing) techniques have been reported to be of some benefit in selected cases.

Summer, 1988
Ocular tumours

Tumours in and around the canine eye are fairly common. Most are associated with the tiny meibomian glands which line the eyelids. These so-called meibomian adenomas are almost always benign. They grow slowly and do not spread. As a result they are best left alone, unless they enlarge to the point where they begin to irritate the eye or start to bleed. The main consideration in surgical removal of these tumours is that it be done in such a way as to not alter the configuration of the eyelid. Such an occurrence might predispose to other problems.

Other ocular tumours are much more menacing. Squamous cell carcinomas and melanomas can occur within the eye itself. While in dogs they often do not spread to other regions of the body, they do enlarge to the point where they may cause glaucoma or separation of the retina. In such events, removal of the eye is indicated.

In other situations, there may be spread of tumours to the eye from elsewhere in the body.

Oral cavity neoplasms

Although oral masses may be malignant or benign, malignant tumours occurring within the mouth account for about eight percent of all canine malignancies. Signs of oral tumours include halitosis, eating difficulties and bloody discharge. These tumours are best removed surgically, with the diagnosis being established by biopsy. The three most common malignant tumours affecting this area are melanomas, fibrosarcomas and squamous cell carcinomas. Malignant melanomas tend to spread to other areas of the body. The others tend to be more locally confined and respond well to treatment if discovered early.

CONCLUSION

The incidence of cancer in dogs is approximately the same as that in humans and there is no known single cause in either species. The oncogene theory of cancer is widely accepted today and presents the concept that there are certain genetic predispositions toward developing cancer in some individuals. These, in turn, are influenced by certain environmental factors such as diet, radiation, viruses, pollution, etc., which function to initiate the development of a malignancy.

Tremendous advances have been made in recent years in the diagnosis and successful treatment of cancer in humans. And the future is bright with promise. Our canine friends have contributed largely to this through scientific research. In turn, today we are able to offer our dogs cures or prolonged states of remission for various forms of cancer. They, too, reap benefits from the knowledge and technology that they helped to make possible.