



PAWPRINTS

A Bimonthly Publication of The Greater Houston Golden Retriever Club

Sept./Oct., 2011

A tremendously big THANK YOU to Mary Brownlee for taking up the club newsletter! The club has been too long without one, and it's a joy to welcome it back!

Pearls

by Anne V. McGuire

Over the years I have been fortunate to have several wonderful mentors as well as wise friends who have shared the lessons they've learned on their journeys as dog breeders. I'd like to pass along some of those pearls of wisdom they've shared with me. None are my originals and all come from the wisdom of others; but over the years it all muddles together so my apologies to all my teachers for not giving individual credits for most of these gifts. You may or may not agree with all; but hopefully in considering them, you learn something.

Above all else, find yourself a good mentor! No matter how long you've been in dogs or in the breed, there is always something new you can learn! Never

stop learning!

Be part of the solution, not part of the problem!

NO dog is perfect. None.

Breed only for the improvement of the breed. There is no other justifiable reason.

"Responsible" breeder, not 'reputable' breeder. Anyone can have a 'reputation' – some are good, some are, well, ah, well you know!



Health clearances and titles are not "tickets to breed." Just because a dog has titles and health clearances doesn't mean they are automatically breeding quality or would benefit the breed if bred.

There is no one Golden Retriever that is so outstanding that the breed would suffer if that dog were not bred. None.

Line breeding will produce the best and the worst of what is in that line.

In every breeding decision, consider what could be the **worst** produced by that breeding. If you personally aren't willing to keep and live with that dog yourself, DON'T DO THAT BREEDING.

Life is too short to stay inside. Do field work!

A "pet" puppy should never be the least quality you produce. Pet puppies should represent the very **best** you can produce.

A good pet home is worth a thousand show homes.

"Primarily a hunting dog...." It's right there up front in the breed standard.

If you've never been hunting with a dog, how do you expect to understand the physical and mental traits needed in a hunting dog? If you are going to breed Golden Retrievers, get yourself out and watch hunting dogs work in the field. Understand the job they do, before you try to breed a hunting breed.

Breed for the breed purpose. Form follows function, not *visa versa*.

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Next Meeting

Sept. 29 at 7:00 pm

Meeting followed by buffet dinner and presentation at 7:30 by Robin Robinette DVM of Veterinary Chiropractic and Rehabilitation Clinic, who will discuss her practice and her innovative combination of treatments.

**French Alliance
427 Lovett Blvd.
Houston, TX 77006**

PEARLS (continued from pg. 1)

From Mercedes Hitchcock (*in the context of field training*): “A white pigeon is a gift from God.”

If you show and/or breed, you have an obligation to give back to the sport. Mentor, steward, volunteer, chair a show, serve your club, help rescue --- GIVE BACK to the breed and the sport that gives you so very much!

Breed with a goal and a long-term program in mind. In planning a breeding, think beyond the immediate generation. Where will you go with this in the next generation, and the generation after that? How does each move you closer to your goal?

Build in your own mind, your vision of the ideal Golden Retriever...structure, temperament, working ability, the Whole Package. Then strive to produce that dog through your breeding program.

If you don't keep and live with a puppy from each of your breedings, how can you truly know what you are producing?

Don't be in a hurry to breed young dogs. Let your bitches mature. Look for mature, older stud dogs.

If you show and/or breed, you have an obligation to give back to the sport. Be a mentor, steward, volunteer...”

Would you rather be remembered as someone who bred a few champions, or someone who consistently bred fine dogs that were a joy to own and live with?

Will you be remembered? What for?

Along these last lines, I am certain that each of you possess additional “pearls” to add to this list! If you have some pearls, or come across one – something good, something worth sharing, something thought-provoking, or something just too funny not to pass it along – send it to Mary Brownlee, GHGRC Newsletter editor! Maybe Mary could start a regular feature, a “String of Pearls,” putting one or two “pearls” in each newsletter!



The “New” Newsletter

With the encouragement from the Board, I have volunteered to resurrect the club newspaper. Of course, the success will somewhat depend on you, club members. I am happy to report brags, news, upcoming events and other club related items as they are submitted. I want to thank **Anne McGuire** for her quick response when I asked her to write the feature article. **Pearls** is wonderfully insightful and should serve as “words or wisdom” for all of us. Anne was also very helpful in sharing information regarding past club publications. Also, a big thank you to **Sharon Gerdich**, who was my sounding board and editor.

The newsletter will be published bimonthly, i.e., January/February, March/April, etc. I am planning to submit the publication on or close to the first of those months. The newsletter will be distributed as an attachment to the e-mail and via personal e-mail. (Note: Please let me know if you have changed your e-mail address.) The club website is currently under construction. When completed, the website will have a link to the newsletter, as well. My e-mail is mary.brownlee@comcast.net



Heatstroke in Dogs

What is heatstroke?

In simple terms, heatstroke occurs when a dog loses its natural ability to regulate its body temperature. Dogs don't sweat all over their bodies the way humans do. Canine body temperature is primarily regulated through respiration (i.e., panting). If a dog's respiratory tract cannot evacuate heat quickly enough, heatstroke can occur.

Signs of Heatstroke

If a dog is experiencing heatstroke, you may observe excessive panting; hyperventilation; increased salivation; dry gums that become pale, grayish and tacky; rapid or erratic pulse; weakness; confusion; inattention; vomiting; diarrhea; and possible rectal bleeding. If the dog continues to overheat, breathing efforts become slowed or absent, and finally, seizures or coma can occur.

What To Do

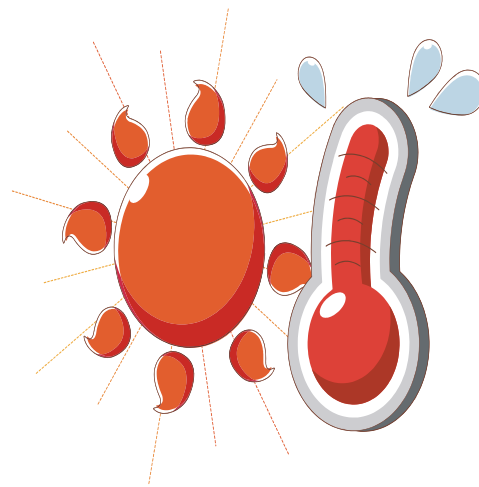
1. Pay attention to your dog. Recognizing the symptoms of heatstroke and responding quickly is essential for the best possible outcome.

2. Get into the shade. If you think your dog is suffering from heatstroke, move it into a shaded area and out of direct sunlight. Apply cool water to the inner thighs, stomach, and foot pads of

the dog.

3. Use running water. A faucet or hose is the best way to wet down your dog's body. Never submerge your dog in water, such as in a pool or tub -this could cool the dog too rapidly, leading to further complications, including cardiac arrest and bloating.

4. Use cool - not cold - water. Using ice or extremely cold water is actually counterproductive and can cause the blood vessels to constrict, which slows blood flow, thus slowing the cooling process.



5. Don't cover the dog. Increase air flow as much as possible. Sitting with the wet dog in a running car with the air conditioner blowing is an ideal cooling situation.

6. Keep the dog moving. It's important to try to encourage your dog to stand or walk slowly as it cools down. This is because the circulating blood tends to pool in certain areas if the dog is lying

down, thus preventing the cooled blood from circulating back to the core.

7. Allow the dog to drink small amounts of water. Cooling the dog is the first priority. Hydration is the next. Don't allow the dog to gulp water. Instead, offer small amounts of water that's cool, but not cold. If the dog drinks too much water too rapidly, it could lead to vomiting or bloat. If you can't get an overheated dog to drink water, try offering chicken- or beef-based broths. Do not offer human performance drinks.

8. Your dog's temperature should be allowed to slowly return to normal once cooling has begun. A dog that's cooled too quickly may become hypothermic. Even if your dog appears to be fully recovered, the dog needs to **see a veterinarian**. The effects of heatstroke can continue for 48 to 72 hours longer, even if your dog appears normal.

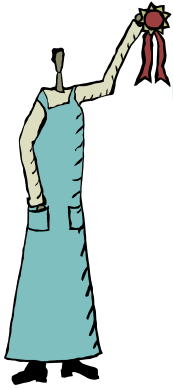
**Remember:
Prevention is the best
medicine.**

We're on the Web
[www. GHGRC.org.](http://www.GHGRC.org)

INFORMATION
RESOURCES
GRCA Web Site www.grca.org
AKC Web Site www.akc.org
Show information -- show superintendent
Jack Onofrio: www.onofrio.com
Dr. Robinette:
www.vetchiroandrehab.com
agilityevents.com

GHGRC 2011 Board
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Andrea Stringer.....Secretary
Becky McKee.....Membership
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Paula Parrish Elaine Donnell

BOWS AND WOWS



Congratulations to Sharon Gerdich and Hunter. Hunter received his Grand Championship at Reliant!!

Kudos to Melody Bacon and new Champion Logan.

Dick and Pam Sherry are celebrating! Leo is now an "OUTSTANDING SIRE".

CLASSIFIED

There are no entries for this section at this time. Currently, the board is developing guidelines for entries in the "Classified" section. As soon as the guidelines have been formulated, notice will appear on the group website.

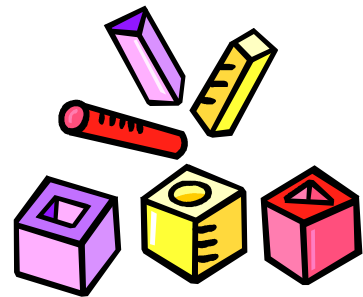


IN MEMORY

Ch Xcelerate On The Brink of Danger BOSS (July 21, 2003-August 28, 2011) . “Brinkley” was diagnosed with fibrosarcoma in March, 2011, and will be greatly missed. She was bred by Brandye Randermann, owned and loved by the Randermann family. Donations in her name may be made to the Golden Retriever Foundation or the ZEKE Cancer Research Fund.

BITS AND PIECES

Melody Bacon, chairman of the nominating committee, is beginning to formulate the nomination roster for next year’s board. If you are interested in running for an office, contact Melody: wyndstorm@sbcglobal.net



Is your dog bothered by skin irritations and/or hotspots this summer? *Traumeel Ointment*, available online and at some health food stores is a great product. Hotspots, usually very challenging to both dog and owner, show remarkable improvement within a day or two.