



ATLANTA KENNEL CLUB DIGEST

APRIL 2012

APRIL MEETING

WEDNESDAY

APRIL 18TH*



APRIL MENU

HERB CRUSTED BREAST OF CHICKEN WITH CHUNKY MARSALA SAUCE

RICE PILAF AND SEASONAL VEGETABLE

Key Lime Pie with Fresh Whipped Cream

All Meals are served with Salad, Fresh Bread, Whipped Butter, Olive Tapenade,

Freshly Brewed Coffee, Herbal Teas and Unsweetened Iced Tea

Children's Menu Available:

Tell Hospitality Chair When Making Reservation

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APRIL 18, 2012 MEETING PROGRAM:

Guest Speaker: Angela Mees, DVM

A Graduate UGA in 1998, Angela has a small animal specialty practice limited to dentistry & oral disease. (770) 552-8777.

She will speak on the most interesting updates in dental medicine, problems to watch for, and she will also address specific problems.

***The meeting on the 18th is right after the Perry Show so be sure to call or email Kellie Holbrook for reservations by 4/15!!**

LOCATION: Villa Christina Restaurant (404) 303-0133

www.villachristina.com

4000 Summit Boulevard, Atlanta, GA 30319

(Less than 1/2 mile from I-285 & Ashford Dunwoody Rd.)

Time:

6:45 p.m. ~ Salads Served

7:15-8:00 p.m.- ~ Dinner

8:00 p.m. (Sharp) ~ Program begins

8:45-9:15 p.m. ~ Adjourn

Directions: I-285 Exit 29, Go South (Inside the Perimeter) on Ashford Dunwoody Rd. Turn Right at first street, Lake Hearn Dr. (3/10ths mile), Turn Left at Parkside Place NE, then take next Right on Perimeter Summit Blvd. **Go to Stop Sign & Turn Left** (Watch for Signs for Villa Christina). Note Perimeter Summit Blvd. Turns Left & Becomes Summit Blvd. The Restaurant is a Free-Standing Bldg & is the Last Bldg on Left - Look for Signs. Complimentary Valet Parking **and Self-Parking Past the Bldg & Turn Left**. Meeting Room Location is Upstairs on the 2nd Floor (Stairs or Elevator Access). A Map is available on the Villa Christina Website with a Link to Mapquest.

RSVP: DINNER RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED If you plan to eat with us!

You are not required to have dinner however. Join us for drinks or come shortly before 8 for the program only and short business meeting following. Please be sure to call ahead for your reservations if you plan to join us for Dinner as the Restaurant has a cut off for reservations and cancellations. Contact our **Kellie Holbrook - 770-664-5756** or email her at holbrookcc@mindspring.com **NO LATER than Sunday night (April 15th)** prior to the meeting on the following Wednesday. If you are on the standing reservation list and do not attend you will be billed for your meal. Price \$20 adults \$5 for children under 12. If you have special menu needs please mention this to the Hospitality Chair when you make your reservations. If you decide later to attend you can order food "to go" in the restaurant & bring it upstairs to eat with us. Let us know if you can & a place will be held at a table.

OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS

PRESIDENT

Mary Ellen Macke/ 404-310-5933
maryellen.macke@harrynorman.com

FIRST VICE PRESIDENT

Chuck Quinlan/770-887-4417
stnvally@bellsouth.net

SECOND VICE PRESIDENT

Jerry Cerasini/770-475-3152
ponyuru@aol.com

TREASURER

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Karen Mays
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AKC DELEGATE

Ann Wallin/770-343-8804
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BOARD MEMBERS

CLASS of 2012

Ginger Aldrich
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Mickey Koss
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Carl Vitner
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CLASS of 2013

Kathleen Steen
kathleensteen@bellsouth.net

Wayne Holbrook
wayne_holbrook@mindspring.com

Bud Hidlay
budhidlay@comcast.net

Birthdays



April Birthdays:

- Diane Pegram 4/16
- LoAnne Miller 4/17
- Dolores Russell 4/17
- Roger Brown 4/19
- Gilda Mallik 4/19
- Meghan Bassel 4/20
- Palmer Crim 4/22
- Joy Wells 4/25
- Yvonne Cooper 4/26
- Lisa Favre 4/29
- Barbara Humphery 4/29

May Birthdays:

- Jasmine Lyon 5/5
- Tim Dorn 5/7
- Jerry Smith 5/11
- Ethel Oller 5/11

Anniversaries



- Susan & Gregory Benkiser 4/19
- Lara & James Spears 4/22
- Jacqueline & Robert Morgan 4/25
- Linda Jett 4/25
- Walter & Sheila O'Brien 5/3

Attention members - when the dues renewal forms come in the mail soon please be sure to fill out the member information forms that will be included so we can update our birthday anniversary list. We are missing a lot of them still. Of course you are not required to give us your dates if you do not wish to be included but we always want to remember everyone's special dates.

**Anyone Missing?
Please let us know so we can get our lists up to date!!
Contact: Ginger Aldrich
snofire@aol.com**

**REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE
MARCH 6, 2012**

The nominating committee met at Alpha Soda on February 27, 2012 to discuss candidates for officers and board of directors for the Atlanta Kennel Club and to put forth a slate of candidates to the membership. The guidelines for the Nominating Committee were distributed. These guidelines were approved by the Board of the Atlanta Kennel Club in April, 2011.

Mary Ellen Macke, Chairperson, gave the committee a list of the current board and highlighted those positions which would be open for election this year. She also highlighted those individuals who could not serve another term in their current position as the three year rule stands.

Members were asked whether they received any suggestions from the membership and those names were put on the table.

THE FOLLOWING WAS THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE:

PRESIDENT	Jerry Cerasini
1ST VP	Ginger Aldrich
2ND VP	Mary Ellen Macke
RECORDING SEC	Karen Mays
CORRES. SEC	Carol Simmons
TREASURER	Beth Hawthorne

BOARD MEMBERS
Carl Vitner
Chuck Quinlan
Vicki Allenbrand

AKC DELEGATE Ann Wallin

Respectfully Submitted,
MARY ELLEN MACKE

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**NOMINATIONS FROM THE FLOOR WILL BE TAKEN AT THE APRIL MEETING PER THE BY LAWS
ARTICLE 4, SECTION 4
THE ELECTIONS WILL BE HELD AT THE MAY ANNUAL MEETING**

(c) Additional nominations may be made at the April membership meeting by any member who is in good standing and in attendance. The proposed candidate must accept in person, or if the proposed candidate is not in attendance at this meeting, the proposer shall present to the Recording Secretary a written statement from the proposed candidate indicating his/her willingness to be a candidate. No person may be a candidate for more than one position, and the additional nominations which are provided for herein may be made only from among those members who have not accepted a nomination by the Nominating Committee.

(d) A Board Member may be nominated for another office while his/her term is still in effect. The Board Member must, however, resign from his/her present Board Position if elected to the new office. The vacancy created shall be filled according to Article III, Section 6. Nomination can not be made at the Annual Meeting or in any manner other than as provided in this Section.

MEMBERSHIP:

MEMBERSHIP:

VICKI ALLENBRAND - BLACKJACKDOGS@EARTHLINK.NET - 678-429-4609



NEW MEMBERS:

ELECTED MARCH 21, 2012

LINSEY TOBEY

1233 Long Meadow Drive, Kennesaw, GA 30144

Phone: 770-218-3634

Email: l.tobey@yahoo.com

SIBERIAN HUSKIES

Sponsored by Liz Demartino and Diane Spendle



DIGEST COORDINATOR:

GINGER ALDRICH - SNOFIRE@AOL.COM - 770-380-9404

Send any brags or articles of interest to Ginger. Mail Address: P.O. Box 242, Murrayville, GA 30564.



CARDS AND FLOWERS:

MARY SECHLER, CHAIRPERSON - 770-446-8889 OR 678-371-9226

If you know of someone needing a little extra cheer, contact Mary at 770-446-8889 (Home) or 678-371-9226 (Cell).



REMINDER: TOM GREER MEMORIAL SERVICE

Tom's memorial service will be held in connection with the ORKC (Oconee River) dog show the weekend of May 5, 2012. If you have any memories, antidotes, feelings, and/or stories concerning Tom, please e-mail to: Sharleen Anderson or Bob Anderson at cardiweiler@hotmail.com (706-401-1518/Sharleen or 706-401-1517/Bob Anderson or to Rusty Morton at booker@badbooker.com). Be sure to give your name, email, and/or phone number so you can receive exact information on the upcoming memorial service for Tom.

BRAGS:

Please send any brags to Ginger Aldrich for the Digest - Snofire@aol.com, 770-380-9404, P.O. Box 242, Murrayville, GA 30564



MARY JOHNSON:

I have been negligent in posting brags for my Welsh Springer Spaniel, GCH Ivywild's Lookin' To Skeldale RN, "J-Clarke". He had an outstanding year in 2011 with his handlers, Ryan Wolfe and Lisa Bettis. J-Clarke ended the year as the #1 Welsh Springer Spaniel and #5 Welsh Springer All-Breed, had multiple group placements and earned his Bronze Grand Championship. He was also the #1 Welsh Springer in Canada for 2011 and took a Best In Show in Canada last April. Then to top everything, J-Clarke went BOB at the Westminster Kennel Club show this past February on Valentine's Day! What a great present! Gary and I had such fun being in NYC to be able to watch him win and then show in the Group. WOW! I'm still smiling over everything he accomplished.

WEBMASTER:



JIM MACKE - ATLANTAKC@COMCAST.NET *OR*
MARY ELLEN MACKE - MARYELLEN.MACKE@HARRYNORMAN.COM
404-310-5933. Call or email either Mary Ellen or Jim for website questions or help.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:



**PLEASE SEND YOUR INFORMATION FOR THE ANNUAL PROGRAM FOR
YOUR DOGS ACHIEVEMENTS FOR THE YEAR TO GINGER - SNOFIRE@AOL.COM**

(DOGS CAN BE INCLUDED THAT YOU OWN AS WELL AS THOSE YOU HAVE BRED BUT ARE OWNED BY OTHERS)

Time frame for titles earned - from April 2011 through April 2012

By using the following format it will really help with the data transfer and is very much appreciated so we do not have to totally rewrite the info for each dog. Please do not send the info in a "story format" - Thanks!

- *Name of dog with titles*
- *Breed*
- *Owners:*
- *Breeders:*
- *Title or titles earned - performance or conformation*
- *Special awards like Best in Show, National ranking, Specialty win*

SAMPLE:

- *BISS Grand Champion CAS Cobo Haul Eudora AOM*
- *Akita*
- *Owners: Cindy Smith, Robert and Chris Ann Moore*
- *Breeders: Cindy Smith & Kim Nisbet*
- *Grand Champion, BISS*
- *#2 Akita USA for 2010*

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AVCO/MERIAL IS OFFERING FREE EYE EXAMS FOR ALL SERVICE DOGS.

This includes: guide dogs, hearing dogs, dogs assisting people with disabilities other than blindness, detection dogs, police dogs, search and rescue dogs and formally trained and certified therapy dogs (through the Delta Society or similar). Dogs must be active 'working dogs' that were certified by a formal training program or organization or are currently enrolled in a formal training program to qualify.

You can find information on this wonderful program here: <http://www.acvoeyexam.org/2012/animals/main>. Please help get the word out to anyone who may have a qualified service dog so they can get a free eye exam to ensure the continued health and sight of their working canine. Thank you!

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GREAT SITE TO VIEW INFO ON PUPPY EVALUATIONS – PAT HASTINGS SEEN ON THE CONFORMATION GROUP SITE:

And from Renate Buie ... http://dharobed.com/D_Harobed/AleMalamutes/evaluations.htm

If link does not work – copy and paste it into your browser

AKC ANNOUNCES BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION RESULTS

-- Patricia M. Cruz, William J. Feeney, & Thomas S. Powers Elected --

New York, NY At the Annual Meeting of the American Kennel Club on March 13, 2012, the AKC Board of Directors Class of 2016 was elected. The three Directors elected were: Patricia M. Cruz, Delegate for Heart of the Plains Kennel Club; William J. Feeney, Delegate for Sir Francis Drake Kennel Club, Inc.; and Thomas S. Powers, Delegate for Kennel Club of Beverly Hills.

In addition, **Alan Kalter** (American Bullmastiff Association, Inc.) was **elected as Chairman of the Board** and **Dr. Robert D. Smith** (Memphis Kennel Club, Inc.) was elected as the **Vice Chairman** of the Board at a meeting of the AKC Board of Directors, convened after the Delegates Meeting.

- ❖ **Alan Kalter**, of Ann Arbor, MI, brings a unique combination of experience in the world of purebred dogs, business, and marketing to the AKC Board. As an active breeder/exhibitor of Bullmastiffs for over 20 years, he has produced 160 champions including BIS, BISS, and five generations of Group winners under the HappyLegs registered prefix.

He serves as President and Delegate for the American Bullmastiff Association and was the Vice President and Treasurer of the Detroit Kennel Club, where he was responsible for the marketing of two benched shows that attract tens of thousands of purebred dog lovers each year. Alan was also one of the original Board members of the AKC PAC and on the three-person committee responsible for evaluating recipients of legislative donations.

Professionally, Alan was the CEO and owner of a multinational, multibillion dollar advertising agency employing 1000 people throughout 11 offices in three countries. The company developed Morris Animal Foundation's communications including the Canine Cancer Campaign, as well as AKC pro bono marketing, and originating "We're more than champion dogs. We're the dog's champion."

- ❖ **Dr. Robert D. Smith** of St. Stephens Church, VA has been involved in the sport for more than 50 years, primarily as a breeder/owner/handler of American Foxhounds. Elected to the AKC Board for the first time in 1997, he served for five years, proposing the creation of a Registered Handlers Program and the Breeders Education Program. Both initiatives were adopted and ran successfully.

He served as Huntington Kennel Club's Delegate from 1996 until 2002 and has held every office and most committee positions in kennel clubs in several states. Currently, he serves as the Delegate from the Memphis Kennel Club.

Approved by AKC to judge two breeds in 1966, Dr. Smith became an All-Breed judge in 1996. Still active today, he has judged in 49 states and many foreign countries, and presided over Best in Show at the AKC/Eukanuba National Championship in December 2008. Professionally, Dr. Smith ran highly successful small business programs for the states of Mississippi and Virginia, retiring in 1996.

AKC Board of Directors Class of 2016

- ❖ **Patricia M. Cruz**, of Coram, NY, has been part of the dog world for more than 40 years and currently serves as delegate for the Heart of the Plains Kennel Club. She is a former AKC Field Representative, a member of the Afghan Hound Club of America, Long Island Kennel Club, Morris and Essex Kennel Club and an officer of the Ladies Kennel Association of America, Riverhead Kennel Club, and Afghan Hound Club of L.I. She is also an internationally-experienced judge for over 40 years as well as one of the founders of the Owner Handler Association. **Professionally, Patricia is a journalist and Board**

member of Dog Writers Association of America. She is the former president of a civilian employee union in one of the largest police departments on the east coast and secretary of a county-wide union representing over 10,000 employees. She also served as sales manager and marketing consultant for radio stations in the number one market in U.S.

- ❖ **William J. Feeney**, of Cotati, CA, got his start in the dog world 33 years ago in Golden Retrievers. Bill and his wife Sylvia breed Goldens under the Birnam Wood prefix. He served the Golden Retriever Club of America (GRCA) from 1988-1997, initially as Chairman of the Bylaws Committee and later as a director and officer. In 1994, he was elected GRCA President and served in that capacity for two years. He is currently the Sir Francis Drake Kennel Club's Delegate to the AKC. Since 1997, Bill has devoted time to working for canine health as Vice President of the Orthopedic Foundation for Animals, Inc. In addition to his regular work as a lawyer, Bill has also judged several specialty sweepstakes and futurities.
- ❖ **Thomas S. Powers**, of Northridge, CA, is a second generation dog fancier. He has participated in the sport as a breeder, club president, show chair and delegate. He has also served on the AKC Board's Constitution and Bylaws Committee and currently sits on the Southwest Trial Board as Chairman. Thomas breeds and exhibits Irish Wolfhounds with his wife and has also exhibited and finished a number of Dachshunds, Beagles, Mastiffs and Harriers, including the number one Harrier in 1990, Ch. Powerscourt Patience DeAmo. Professionally, Thomas has practiced law in California for 35 years, with clients including major Fortune 500 companies. He has also owned and operated a chain of dry cleaners, a chain of retail pet supply stores and a veterinary hospital.

PURCHASING PET MEDS ONLINE – BUYER BEWARE:

- Red Flags
- NSAIDS and Heartworm Preventives
- Tips for Buying Pet Drugs Online

“DISCOUNT PET DRUGS—NO PRESCRIPTION REQUIRED” may appeal to pet owners surfing the Web, but FDA experts say it can be risky to buy drugs online from sites that tout this message and others like it. Some of the Internet sites that sell pet drugs represent legitimate, reputable pharmacies, says Martine Hartogensis, D.V.M., deputy director of the Office of Surveillance and Compliance in FDA's **CENTER FOR VETERINARY MEDICINE (CVM)**. But others are fronts for unscrupulous businesses operating against the law.

FDA has found companies that sell unapproved pet drugs and counterfeit pet products, make fraudulent claims, dispense prescription drugs without requiring a prescription, and sell expired drugs. Pet owners who purchase drugs from these companies may think they are saving money, says Hartogensis, but in reality, they may be short-changing their pet's health and putting its life at risk. CVM regulates the manufacture and distribution of animal drugs, while individual state pharmacy boards regulate the dispensing of prescription veterinary products.

RED FLAGS

Some foreign Internet pharmacies advertise that veterinary prescription drugs are available to U.S. citizens without a prescription. But, says Hartogensis, “There is a risk of the drugs not being FDA-approved.” A foreign or domestic pharmacy may claim that one of its veterinarians on staff will “evaluate” the pet after looking over a form filled out by the pet owner, and then prescribe the drug. “A veterinarian should physically examine an animal prior to making a diagnosis to determine the appropriate therapy,” says Hartogensis.

CVM is especially concerned that pet owners are going online to buy two types of commonly used prescription veterinary drugs—**NONSTEROIDAL ANTI-INFLAMMATORY DRUGS (NSAIDS) AND HEARTWORM PREVENTIVES**. “**BOTH DRUGS CAN BE DANGEROUS IF THERE IS NO PROFESSIONAL INVOLVEMENT**,” says Hartogensis. “It's not generally a concern if the owner uses a legitimate online pharmacy and mails in a prescription from their veterinarian, who is monitoring the animal. But if there is no veterinarian-client-patient relationship, it's a dangerous practice.”

NSAIDS AND HEARTWORM PREVENTIVES

Veterinarians often prescribe NSAIDs to relieve pain in dogs. NSAIDs should not be purchased on the Internet without a veterinarian’s involvement because

- dogs should undergo blood testing and a thorough physical examination before starting NSAIDs
- dogs should be monitored by a veterinarian while they are taking NSAIDs
- veterinarians should discuss possible side effects of NSAIDs with the owner
- the prescription should be accompanied by a Client Information Sheet that explains important safety information to the owner

HEARTWORM DISEASE IS A POTENTIALLY FATAL CONDITION transmitted by the bite of a mosquito that is carrying infected larvae of the heartworm parasite. Dogs, cats, and ferrets can get heartworm. Heartworm preventives, given daily, monthly, or semiannually, depending on the product, kill the larvae before they become adult worms.

The American Heartworm Society recommends

- using heartworm medication for dogs year-round, no matter where you live in the United States
- getting dogs tested yearly to make sure they’re not infected with heartworm

“Testing is important even in dogs regularly treated with heartworm preventive products due to the occasional reports of product ineffectiveness,” says Hartogensis. An Internet pharmacy veterinarian cannot draw blood from the animal to perform the test. If the test isn’t done, a pet owner could be giving heartworm preventives to a dog that has heartworms, potentially leading to severe reactions.

TIPS FOR BUYING PET DRUGS ONLINE

- *Order from a Web site that belongs to a Vet-VIPPS accredited pharmacy.* Vet-VIPPS—the Veterinary-Verified Internet Pharmacy Practice Sites—is a voluntary accreditation program of the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy (NABP). NABP gives the Vet-VIPPS seal to online pharmacies that dispense prescription animal drugs and comply with NABP’s strict criteria, including federal and state licensing and inspection requirements, protecting patient confidentiality, quality assurance, and validity of prescription orders. Look for the Vet-VIPPS seal displayed on a pharmacy’s Web site or check with NABP5 (click on “Accreditation Programs”) to find out if a pharmacy is Vet-VIPPS accredited. Because this is a new program, begun in 2009, a small number of pharmacies are currently Vet-VIPPS accredited.
- *Order from an outsourced prescription management service that your veterinarian uses.* These state-licensed Internet pharmacy services work directly with the veterinarian, require that a prescription be written by the veterinarian, and support the veterinarian-client-patient relationship. Ask your veterinary hospital if it uses an Internet pharmacy service.

This article appears on FDA’s Consumer Health Information Web page 6, which features the latest on all FDA-regulated products.

Updated: March 11, 2010

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Of interest is the fact that breeds on the “**FIT FOR FUNCTION BREED WATCH**” list that include “points of concern for special attention by judges” come from right across the KC show system: the Basset and Bloodhound, Borzoi, Irish Wolfhound and Sloughi (Hound Group); Gordon Setter, Golden and Labrador Retriever, American and Clumber Spaniel (Gundogs); Bedlington, Bull, Cesky, Irish, Norwich, Staffordshire and West Highland White Terrier (Terrier Group); Bulldog, Chow Chow, French Bulldog and Shar Pei (Utility Group); Dogue De Bordeaux, Great Dane, Mastiff, Neapolitan Mastiff, Newfoundland, Siberian Husky and Saint Bernard (Working Group); Bearded, Rough and Smooth Collie, German Shepherd Dog, Old English Sheepdog, Pyrenean Mountain Dog and Shetland Sheepdog (Pastoral Group); Chinese Crested, Pekingese, Pomeranian and Pug (Toy Group).

OK, who is sweating now ?

Barb

March 24, 2012

Dear Members,

As we prepare for the upcoming semi-annual meeting, I wanted to again express the Board's appreciation for your support of the Georgia Canine Coalition. Your membership, donations, and willingness to get involved in legislation are what make the GCC one of the strongest coalitions/federations in the country.

As I write this letter to you, the Georgia General Assembly is in its final days for the 2012 Session. The main piece of legislation that the GCC has been involved in is HB 685, dangerous dog bill. This bill passed the Georgia House 170-0, and is scheduled for a vote in the Senate on Monday, March 26, 2012.

The GCC along with other stakeholders worked hard to remove the parts of the bill that infringed on our rights as responsible dog owners and breeders. The action that leads to a dog being declared dangerous or vicious under this bill must have occurred off of the dog's owner's property. Among the changes that GCC and other stakeholders were able to get in the bill are the following:

A nip, scratch, or abrasion shall not be sufficient to classify a dog as dangerous. Nor with the acts of barking, growling or showing of teeth by a dog be sufficient to classify a dog as dangerous.

When dogs that are off the owners property kills a pet animal, they will not be declared dangerous or vicious if they were working or training as a hunting dog, herding dog, or predator control dog. Other exemptions are for law enforcement, military dogs and dogs that injure a person who was committing a trespass, abusing the dog or committing or attempting to commit a criminal offense.

References to mandatory spay/neuter are also removed from the bill.

Twice the Atlanta Journal-Constitution has contacted the GCC concerning HB 685. The first article was printed on February 15, and then the AJC Opinion-Editorial Editor called and asked if I would do an article for the Editorial page on HB 685 from the Responsible Dog Owners position. This "Guest Column" ran on March 2, 2012.

Other bills that did not move this Session will be dead at the end of the Session.

The GCC continues to work with local members on legislation on the City and County level. We are seeing more negative dog legislation being introduced at the local level. We expect, unfortunately, to see this trend continue as the animal rights people change their focus from the state level, where they have been unsuccessful, to the local level. It will take all of us working together to oppose the AR agenda.

I hope to see many of you at the semi-annual meeting. If you have someone who is interested in legislation and/or the GCC, please invite them to attend the meeting.

Please remember we are always here to answer your questions and assist you on legislation.

Gail LaBerge
President

From the new “ AKC Syndicate” which offers articles and helpful information for Club communications

American Kennel Club Offers Tips on Dealing With a Dog Who is a Compulsive Kisser

Does your dog try to give your feet a bath every time you take off your shoes? While licking is a natural behavior in a puppy’s litter, it sometimes continues into adulthood as a greeting, show of affection, or a means of communication. If your dog is a compulsive kisser, the American Kennel Club’s (AKC®) Canine Good Citizen® Director and Certified Applied Animal Behaviorist Mary Burch, Ph.D., offers the following tips on how to help stop this behavior. Among them:

- **Don’t reinforce any licking.** Until you solve the problem, don’t happily fuss over the dog as it “gives kisses” to greet you. In many cases, the licking problem began with the dog giving you kisses.
- **Teach a new skill.** Train your dog to do a new command that does not involve licking, but does involve getting affection and attention from you. You can teach your dog to “get your brush” and then spend time brushing your dog when she completes the command. Brushing is also a great way for you to bond with your dog.
- **Try redirecting the behavior.** If your dog is a serious licker, try directing the behavior somewhere else, like going outside, throwing the ball around, or practicing some obedience skills. It’s important to remember timing. You don’t want to start a fun game with your dog while she’s in the middle of licking—that will simply reinforce the behavior you don’t want.
- **Take a time out.** In serious cases, consider giving your dog a brief, two-minute time out. If she licks you and won’t stop, say “no lick” and take her to the other side of the room. Put her in a down-stay and do not give her attention for the two minutes—having contact with you will reinforce the licking. After the time out, release your dog. If she starts to lick you again, repeat the process. Make sure that you still do plenty of positive activities and provide play and exercise with her.

Homeopathic Treatment For Hot Spots

by DOGS NATURALLY on SEPTEMBER 15, 2011

A hot spot is a localized area of skin inflammation and infection due to bacteria. Hot spots can appear anywhere but are most commonly found on the neck, chest or flank. Although they can pop up at any time of year, they are more common in the summer months, especially for dogs who are swimming in ponds. Hot spots can grow at an incredibly fast rate – you may notice a small spot in the morning and return from work to a horrid, pus filled mess the size of your fist.

In healthy dogs, hot spots can respond very quickly to the right homeopathic remedy without the need for shaving it down or applying salves and creams. Acute prescribing can be quite easy for even the most novice of homeopaths as the remedy you choose will depend on the appearance of the hot spot and the behavior of your dog.

Below is a short list of some remedies you might want to consider. This list is by no means complete, but for most dogs, one of these remedies will be a good fit.

Apis

Because *Apis* is made from the honey bee, think of a bee sting. Hot spots requiring *Apis* will be shiny and swollen with a red or white appearance. It will also be quite sensitive to touch.

Belladonna

Hot spots that require *Belladonna* will appear and grow almost instantly and the skin will be bright red, hot and relatively dry. The dog will appear restless and irritated and will move away from heat.

Graphites

Graphites is an excellent skin remedy and will be necessary if there is a sticky discharge that appears like honey. These dogs can tend toward excess weight and the itch and discharge will be worse with warmth. The surrounding skin and coat may feel greasy and the hot spot will have a cracked appearance.

Mercurius

These hot spots will also have a yellow or even greenish discharge with a yellow scab. There may also be hair loss and bleeding around the lesion. These dogs will also want to move away from heat.

Rhus tox

Like a rash from poison ivy, the hot spot that requires *Rhus tox* will be red and very itchy with a pimples rash-like appearance. There will be swelling and the hot spot will be hardened. These dogs will prefer warm and will feel better when out moving and walking.

Most of these remedies will work well with the common 30C potency. Give once and evaluate the results in your dog. Remedies will work quickly with acute, fast moving issues, so you should see a change in the hot spot within an hour or a little more. If you see improvement, then wait – do not redose.

Watch the hot spot and if it appears to worsen, then give your dog another dose. If you do not see changes, try another remedy.

You shouldn't need a topical treatment if you choose the right remedy. If you want to use a topical treatment, clean the area and apply a calendula solution. Sprays will work better than creams as the hot spot will heal quicker if it is allowed to dry.