



NEWSLETTER
August, 2016

Volume 13

Number 3

From our President Stephanie Fischer (ilovtrav@aol.com)

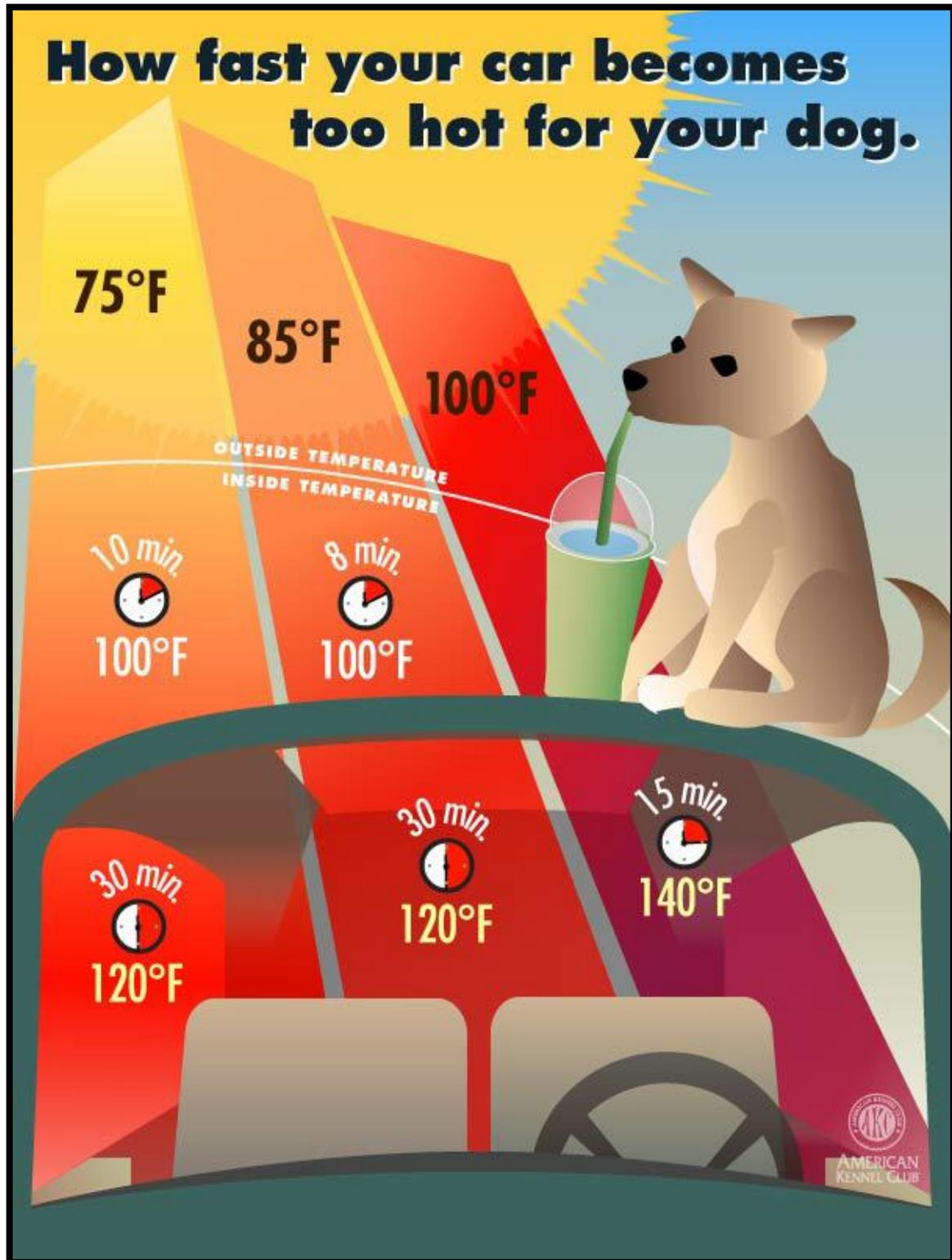
It is amazing how the seasons change every time we have a newsletter come out. This is my favorite season. You will never catch me complaining about the heat, as the alternative is snow and heavy jackets. I love being able to run my dogs in the open fields and smell the crabapple trees and honeysuckle along the way. It all just puts a big smile on my face.

Thank you to those that have paid their annual memberships. The Vizsla Fun Day is scheduled for Saturday, September 17 at Cathedral Pines Park. We will once again be doing a photo contest for our calendar. **WE NEED VOLUNTEERS** to help plan games and to help with food!!!

We have some interesting events in the works for fall. Mary K is working on a Barn Hunt intro for our club members with the local group out east. I am also trying to organize a first aid and CPR lecture for our dogs. This should keep us busy until mid-fall, when we have our after Thanksgiving hike. If anyone has other ideas or suggestions, feel free to email one of us.

See you at Fun Day,

*Warm regards,
Stephanie*



BRAGS, BRAGS, BRAGS

Everedi's Golden Nugget (aka Nugget) RAE, JH, CGC, CA completed the requirements for his rally excellent title on June 4.

Mary K. Chelton

The Vizsla Club of America now has a Face book page.

<http://www.facebook.com/search/top/?q=vizsla club of america>

and

The Vizsla Club of Long Island has one too.

<https://www.facebook.com/search/top/?q=vizsla club of long island>

Stephanie posts many educational articles on it, so please take a look.

Upcoming Events

The Fall Long Island dog shows are September 30 and October 1 (Suffolk County KC) and October 2 (Westbury KC). Specifics on InfoDog

http://www.infodog.com/show/state_show_details.htm?state=ny

For information on all types of upcoming events, go to:

https://www.apps.akc.com/apps/event_calendar/index_mobi.cfm

<http://vcaweb.org>

<http://www.vcli.net>

<http://www.vcnj.com/> <http://www.ctvalleyVizslaclub.org/CalendarofEvents.htm>

<http://www.thevcgny.com/Events.html>

<http://www.vccne.net/events.html>

<http://www.lipdc.com/>

<http://www.infodog.com/showinfo/state.htm>





Support Vizsla Club Of Long Island Rescue Inc. by shopping at Amazon Smile.

When you shop at Amazon Smile, Amazon will donate .5% to Vizsla Club of Long Island Rescue Inc. The items cost no more at this site than the regular amazon site.

SMILE.AMAZON.COM

[HTTP://SMILE.AMAZON.COM/CH/37-1707053.](http://SMILE.AMAZON.COM/CH/37-1707053)

Rescue Committee Report

Quite a few months ago, I received a call from a man upstate needing to rehome his dad's 7-year-old Vizsla. Why isn't your father calling, I asked. He is hard of hearing and too broken up to speak. His dad recently lost his wife, and since then, Rusty's behavior had changed dramatically. She became very anxious and developed severe separation anxiety. She destroyed the house every time he left. I very politely asked him how was I to re-home a dog that could never be left alone? I suggested certain tests to rule out a medical issue. She was already on behavioral meds. They were not working. I gave him some other suggestions for his dad, and hadn't heard from him in quite a while. His father wanted to put the dog down, but the vet wouldn't do it. Then came a frantic phone call. If we could not find a home, he was going to shoot her. That thought haunted me, even though I was not sure we could help. I put a blurb out on the Western New York Vizsla Facebook page and a senior family who recently lost their Vizsla answered the call. Rusty is happily living with Frank and Kay in Buffalo. She is no longer on any meds, loves their cocker spaniel rescue, Chloe, and has not destroyed a thing in their house. She will bark to go to sleep and Frank accompanies her to her bed and sits in the rocker until she closes her eyes. You cannot make

this stuff up! Below is the letter I received from them with their adoption application.

Dear Stephanie,

I have enclosed the signed application for the adoption of Rusty. The witness is Richard Young, Pastor of the Orchard Park Presbyterian Church and a lover of Vizslas. He was so very happy to meet her. (I tell you his name because I cannot decipher it from his signature).

I thank you for the copy of your Newsletter which I am enjoying.

I can honestly state that Rusty does NOT exhibit those lovable traits I found in the articles about other adopted Vizslas. She does not steal food, has not shown a tendency for paper products, does not get on furniture and sleeps by our bed on her bed. She will get on our bed when we are not at home. Rusty is a lady thru and thru. When we walk at Birdsong, she does not pull but keeps the leash taut. When we stop for a short rest, she waits patiently and does not try to wander off. To my mind, Rusty is a perfect loving, sweet, and kind companion. She has not received any medication in the time she has been with us.

I keep wondering what the problem (s) was/were that caused Rusty's owner to give her up. Rusty and Chloe are friendly with each other and go to the back yard together. Rusty loves to run in the back yard and loves to lay on the grass in the sun. Rusty knows when we are leaving together and often refuses to come in when called. I go out with the leash and she comes in with me. There has been no damage caused by either dog in our absence. I, We cannot thank you enough for allowing us to be Rusty's home. I think she is happy here and I know we are happy to have her.

Frank and Kay

Here is her updated story I received this week, about a month after they adopted her.

RUSTY

Rusty is a 7 year-old female Vizsla that recently was looking for a new home. My wife Kay and I had been looking for a rescue Vizsla for several months. Our last Vizsla was an 11 year-old female, Sage, whom we received from the Miami Valley Vizsla Rescue Club in Ohio. We were so happy with her that we wanted another rescue. Over the passing months, I registered with a total of 4 Vizsla rescue groups and had a chain link fence installed around the back yard. Time passed and no dog was available.

Joyce Tischler, a wonderful lady who was also a neighbor and had arranged our adoption of Sage, forwarded an e-mail from Stephanie Fischer stating that Rusty needed a foster home and then a forever home. Rusty lived in the Jamestown, New York area which is about 60 miles from our home. I immediately replied stating that that situation would be ideal for us because my wife had adopted an 8 year-old cocker

spaniel, Chloe, from a breeder who longer wanted her. We wanted to be sure that the two dogs were compatible.

The next day, Sunday, we talked with Stephanie and she explained the need for a new home for Rusty. I was surprised to learn she lived on Long Island and asked if she was a member of the VCLI Rescue. She was and I told her she had my application for a rescue on file. Monday I received an email asking how quickly could we take Rusty. Tuesday at 10:30 Rusty arrived with her owner and his son.

Rusty had a great time running and playing in the yard. She came with a month's supply of an antidepressant. She never had another dose. What I have gathered from the father and son is that Rusty was left alone a lot of the time and was causing a little mischief. Kay and I are in our late 70's and there are only a few

hours a week when the dogs are alone.

Rusty and Chloe are good friends and Rusty has been adopted. Rusty is absolutely the sweetest dog ever. She does not bother Chloe when she is eating. She eats slowly and very "lady-like". When she takes a biscuit, it is done very gently.

Rusty likes to try and catch the squirrels and chipmunks in the yard. She loves to play catch and is quite good. Sometimes she will run circle 8's around a shed and a couple of chairs in the yard. Rusty also loves to just lay in the sun.

There is a small nature preserve not far from home and we go walking around the many ponds. She discovered her first turtle there.

Walking with Rusty is a pleasure. She does not pull on the leash or run behind you and get tangled up.

I believe that Rusty was meant for Kay and me, and we for her. She is such a wonderful addition to our lives.

Our heartfelt thanks to Stephanie for providing this wonderful gift to us.

*Frank & Kay Dickey
Orchard Park, NY*



Rusty and Chloe



Stephanie continued:

Many years ago I was introduced to a lovely couple by my breeder, Anne Denehy. They were looking for a rescue, as they had just lost their last Vizsla. I had a young dog that had come into our program from a man who bought her for hunting. She came from a breeder in Illinois, whom we all knew. I am not sure what he truly did to Grace, as she had many

quirks. I was also pretty new to my position and did not really know how to get all the answers out of people truthfully. It's an art that takes years and a good sense of intuition.

Grace was not an easy dog. Ron and Barbara stayed in touch with pictures, e-mails and phone calls. We brainstormed how to get her over her phobias, anxieties and everyday stressors. Most people would have given up. Not Ron and Barbara. Behaviorists, medications and constant training became a way of life. There were times after a situation that I deemed too dangerous; I suggested putting her to sleep for their safety. They fought on. Grace had her moments of being a lovely dog, a typical Vizsla. Not just enough of them.

The reason I added this was to show the other side of rescue. Not every dog can be saved, but Ron and Barbara did their utmost to give her a wonderful, quality life and for that, I will always be grateful! Run free, sweet girl.

Here is the email I received with Grace's final picture.

Stephanie, this is probably not something you would want to include in your newsletter. It's not the "happy ending" tale that rescues usually warrant, and deserve. But, if you think that the other side of the story might be of interest, or of use, to any of your members, here it is, along with her last official "portrait" in which you can see some of the other girls we've raised as well.

Your call. We just had to do this. For her, and for us. I can't believe how much we miss her, in spite of everything.

Barbara

Amazing Grace

On the morning of July 15th we euthanized our Grace. We rescued her when she was a year old; she had been with us for eight years.

For most of those years she was what you would have to describe as a "problem" dog.

Early on she evidenced a tendency toward resource guarding, which meant we had to eliminate all toys, bones, etc. from the house, which was very unfair to Dora, our other dog, a sweet-tempered shelter “blend” who loved to play. She had a habit of stealing things—dishtowels, kitchen sponges, eyeglasses, shoes, magazines, and so on. Once she got ahold of something it was a real trial to get her to give it up. She also suffered from fear aggression. She could become extremely fearful, distrustful, and apprehensive for no apparent reason. She was terrified of any sound that was unfamiliar, however faint or far away.

She would refuse to come out of her crate in the morning, or go out the house doors, or come for her meals. Getting her into her crate at night involved a complex ritual that put something of a pall over every evening. She frequently snapped at us, and actually bit both of us several times, seriously on three occasions.

We did everything we could to alter her behavior. We tested her for all the known

“triggers.” Over the years she was on three different anti-anxiety drugs. We consulted a highly regarded animal behaviorist, and worked with Grace regularly on a training regimen that she established. We live in a rural area on a small river, surrounded by hundreds of acres of forest. Grace had free rein, but she rarely took advantage of it, especially toward the end. After she bit Barbara again in a totally unprovoked attack, we decided we had no choice but to put her down.



Grace

All that said, she was sometimes a wonderful animal. Like all Vizslas she was a thing of beauty and true poetry in motion. It was thrilling just to watch her run. She loved people and

always greeted them enthusiastically, perhaps too enthusiastically. She could be as playful, goofy, and as much fun as any dog we ever had. We will miss that side of her immensely.

For 40 years there has always been at least one, and as many as three Vizslas, in our home. Now there are none, and we are filled with heartache because of it.

^^

Stephanie continued:
I will leave everyone on a happier note.

About 2 weeks ago we went out to visit Azula and her family. Azula was a senior that we had taken from Southside kennels just shy of 2 years ago. She lives on a lovely cattle farm in the middle of Pennsylvania. Last year we helped her owners Marsha and Geoff find a little sister for Azula. I am happy to report that all is well on the farm. Azula and her sister Scout are doing beautifully. What's not to love about running free on 40 plus acres? A great time was had by all the humans, and I even got to feed and hug the cows. Enjoy the pictures below.



Azula



Azula and Scout



Azula and Scout



Stephanie feeding Charcoal.

Odin Update

I thought you might enjoy hearing about Odin and his ability to help Freyja. We forgot to put up the gate into the family room this morning. Freyja went into the upstairs bathroom and could not get out. Our neighbor heard her barking and contacted me.

When our neighbor John went over to the house to check on Freyja, Odin met him at the door. Odin then took John's hand gently into his mouth and led him upstairs to the bathroom so John then let Freyja out. John said we have one smart dog!

Odin is very good at opening gates so we have to keep a bungee on it. He also opened up a large gate when we were at our Delaware house last week so we are now changing the gate locks!

Diana L. Logan



Odin contemplating mischief

+++++

I always end by asking for people to help with phone calls, foster and transport. Please reach out to me by email.

*Thanks,
Stephanie
ilovtrav@aol.com*

+++++

Focus on the Field

By Andrew Campbell



Introducing Gunfire

Over the past few years, I have had several people ask me how to 'cure' a dog that is gunshy. The first thing to figure out is why you think your dog is gunshy. Is it scared of noise? Or the very specific prospect of having a shotgun fired over its head? Or the shotgun itself because it was used (harshly) to correct a dog that moved on point? There is a basic fact involved here: whether it is a .22 acorn blank, a .22 nailgun load, a 209 primer, a .410 shotgun shell, or a 12-gauge waterfowl shell, they are all capable of producing a sound wave moving faster than the speed of sound, hence the 'crack' associated with all of these, and it is this 'crack' that is painful to both humans and to dogs.

Knowing a precise answer doesn't necessarily affect the broad strategy to helping a dog, but it can certainly influence how you go about it, and how to avoid making your dog gunshy in the first place.

Some folks will argue that some dogs are genetically more likely to be gunshy and that those pedigree lines should be avoided. In my opinion, this is only a partial answer to the question, as I do not believe that some dogs are genetically less noise resistant. However dogs that are genetically deeper in terms of their desire to hunt game will, in my opinion, be less susceptible *to being made gunshy*.

The basic algorithm to keep in mind is that *a dog has to love and want birds more than the temporary surprise or discomfort of a gunshot*. There is certainly no harm in trying the Master's Voice Gunfire CD available from GunDogSupply <http://www.gundogsupply.com/mavocatsy.html>. While it's not a full substitute for actual gunfire, if you follow the directions, it can't hurt the dog either because you gently and gradually introduce gunfire while the dog is doing something it likes, i.e. eating. The key words are 'gentle', 'gradual', and 'while doing something it likes' – which is to say that parking your truck with the dog inside next to a skeet shooting field contradicts all three of those concepts. (You might go slightly crazy, but this isn't about you.) By using the pleasure of eating to concentrate a dog's attention, the way the CD works is to desensitize your dog to the kind of noise that it will experience working birds, but it does nothing to stimulate a dog's actual prey drive. Birds make the bird dog. And birds can give your dog the self-confidence it needs to be a predator.

Until you know your dog loves to look for birds, don't introduce gunfire to them. Different folks have different opinions about how to introduce a young, novice dog to bird work. My own feeling is that, given good flying

birds and only encouragement, a novice will acquire the self-confidence and the desire to point fairly quickly. For my part, I plant quail in appropriate cover, and then encourage an otherwise free-running dog to come with me and to discover the magical aroma of *colinus virginianus* all by itself. I don't like to lead a young dog on a checkcord, I don't like to restrain it in any way, but I do want it to find the bird with its nose and have the bird be able to flush and fly once the dog is too close. And when that novice dog chases, encourage it! Maybe in one session, maybe in a few, and whether the dog catches that first bird or not, I am pretty confident a young dog will teach itself to point. Bringing a young dog along on birds is a longer topic for another time. But my point is this: however you choose to introduce your young dog to birds, you want it excited and you want it chasing before you introduce the gun shot.

Once a young dog is actively chasing down a bird with the intent of grabbing it (but ideally not after it has grabbed it) (and, as opposed to merely following a bird out of curiosity), then I like to use an emptied shotgun shell in a shotgun. By emptied, I mean that I have cut the end off it and taken out everything -- the shot, the plastic wad, and the powder -- leaving just the empty hull with a primer in it; it does

not matter at this point whether the shotgun you use is a 12ga or a .410. Why not just a 209 primer blank pistol? A blank pistol has a solid barrel to prevent use of real ammunition but as a result all the potentially harmful sound dissipates all around the gun. (Fire a blank pistol of any type up close to your pant leg and you'll see this effect in the gunpowder pattern mark on your leg.) By using an empty shell in a shotgun for this, you can direct the direction of the sound by pointing the barrel of the gun directly up in the air or simply away from the dog.

When you fire this empty shell, keep a close eye on the dog. The first time around, it will probably look up from its chase -- in which case, encourage it to keep going after the flushed bird. I would probably only do this once the first time -- and I am not sure I would really do it more than a couple of times in any given session. But each time you do fire, if the dog breaks off its chase at the shot or shows any reluctance to continue pursuing the bird, then back off and continue stoking the dog's desire by letting it run up more birds without any gunfire. If after a few shot, the dog shows little or no recognition of the 209 primer in the shotgun, then graduate to a .22 blank pistol again fired at a distance. And as the dog's prey drive continues to build, fire the

gun sooner and therefore closer.

By all means encourage the dog to stand its birds longer by gently petting and praising it while it points, but wait till the dog is chasing the bird before firing. And if you are not planning to enter the dog in a hunt test, but take it hunting instead, make sure you gradually introduce your dog to the actual shotgun shell you plan to use. By the way, not all shotgun shells are the same -- if you look at the actual amount of lead, e.g. 7/8oz, and the speed with which it will be pushed, you will have a more accurate sense of how loud that shell will be than if you assume a 20ga will be quieter than a 12ga. Before you break out your 12ga 3" magnum duck loads right off the bat, consider you can get 'superlight' or even subsonic target ammunition fairly easily in 12ga and 20ga. (Winchester, for example, makes its AA12FL28 12ga target ammunition that pushes not-quite 1oz of lead shot at a mere 980fps.)

Most folks get into trouble because they want to rush things: rushing to meet a hunt test entry deadline, rushing to meet the opening day of hunting season. But it will take a lot longer and a lot more birds to fix the problem if you don't let the dog discover birds are a lot more compelling than the gunshot that goes with it.

Andrew Campbell is a licensed AKC hunt test and field trial judge -- who owns and operates a gaggle of Vizslas and a pointer. He had a good summer at home in western MA getting his 20 month-old 'puppy' ready for the field trial season and is looking forward to the fall and the VCA National Field Trial in October. The photo below is his Seabank's Archangel Run ('Mike') learning to be a broke dog this summer.



MEMBER PROFILE: ANNE MAEGLI

In 2002 I got my first Vizsla puppy. I was living in Manhattan and looking for a running partner. “Bruno” seemed to fit the bill. Bruno went everywhere with me—the park, the bank, the café that I worked at, the bar near my apartment, and the LIRR train to Montauk. He loved life. A year later, my husband (at the time) convinced me to get another Vizsla, buy a condo in Montauk and begin a “bi-coastal lifestyle” spending weekdays in Brooklyn near the East River and weekends in Montauk near the ocean. So Bruno and brother Baci landed on the scene! They were a brotherly love hit wherever they went---especially when riding in the back of the decked out '68 convertible VW bug.



Montauk tourists loved to photograph them patiently posing and kissing until 6pm when dogs are permitted to jump out of the car and run free on the beaches. During the workweek we ran over the Brooklyn Bridge, through China Town, and back over the Manhattan Bridge. Vizslas get confused when they see their park below the bridge but can't get to it!!



Happy times!

Bruno, as it turned out, had an autoimmune condition and got very sick at age 6.5 and we lost him to mast cell cancer shortly after buying a large property in Montauk. Devastated, I set out to find another “boyfriend” from a reputable breeder. After a long search, I found the perfect genetic combo when KaraJen’s “Hank” was bred to a daughter of JNEK’s King Ralph. I was thrilled to be in touch with both breeders and looking forward to my new boy.

Somehow talks turned to the idea of showing the new pup and I got curious. “Enzo” became my first show dog – what? Yup, I got hooked on seeing him run around the ring – being the silly guy that he is, he would stop and sniff the plastic flowers and do other goofy things that don’t score points, but are totally cute! He finished very quickly. Jenna (Iacobellis) called him a “push-button show dog.”

Then the fun began!—We did hunt tests, obedience classes, agility, you name it. But Enzo’s favorite times were running the trails and the beaches with brother

Baci, and then relaxing on the deck in the sun.



Both dogs also enjoyed the City where we spent time in Prospect Park – turns out squirrels are a city-Vizsla's version of rabbits, I think. There's a 3-mile loop that has a little of everything, starting with squirrels.... can make jogging a challenge.... other dogs, birds, and kids running down the street! And we lived/worked at a large music rehearsal studio so lots of noise and people and even some famous musicians who would request a dog to sit in on their rehearsal! – Marrowbones included. More good times!

In 2014, Enzo was bred back to a beautiful JNEK bitch, “Embry”. We met at a Red Roof Inn in Ohio – can you make this up?? The dogs were in love and the breeding was instant with 10 puppies born in June. I was in the middle of a divorce and not sure where my dogs would end up. When the puppies were on the ground at 6 weeks, my sweet Baci

died suddenly of cancer. It was a sad shock for me – but somehow I think he knew life was about to get really complicated and he took a quick exit. So I had a decision to make – do I take a puppy from the litter? The minute I landed in Indiana, I knew I would go home with a puppy. The breeder, Kathy Engelsman, insisted that I needed a girl this time. I was on the fence, as I have always had boys. I was worried that a girl wouldn't be a “mush” or she would be too bitchy or I don't know what...but I tried to only focus on the 4 girls. I came home with “Pink” girl now “Prada” and fell instantly in love.

Through the last 2 difficult years Enzo has been my comfort and Prada has been my joy. She is no doubt the naughtiest puppy ever born, but I love her to pieces! Prada has had 2 chances to reunite with her sister, Bristol.



Both girls are finished Champions and Prada also has her CGC, and probably many more titles to come. Most of all Prada and Enzo are a wonderful father-daughter team who have kept me strong. We will be leaving Montauk and going back to Brooklyn full-time soon, and that will be quite a change. But I look



forward to waking up each day to their sweet faces and unlimited kisses.

Anne Maegli



LAWN CHEMICALS

The veterinary experts recommend the following:

- 1.** Do not apply chemical pesticides or herbicides to your yard, and if you use a lawn care service, do not allow them to use them. Also be aware that a neighbor's lawn chemicals can potentially contaminate your property and pose a risk to your pet.
- 2.** Avoid lawn care and other gardening products that contain insect growth regulators (IGRs). And be aware that the chemical pyriproxyfen, an IGR, is used in certain flea/tick spot-on treatments.

3. Do not allow your pet access to any lawn unless you can confirm no pesticides or herbicides have been used.
4. Increase the number of baths and foot rinses spring through fall, when chemical application is highest along public highways, parks, schools, streets and public nature preserves.
5. If you live in a townhouse or community that applies chemicals to common areas, detoxing a patch of grass in your backyard by watering the chemicals down into the soil to reduce skin contact after application.
6. Keep your pet on a leash and on the sidewalk until you have walked to your pesticide-free destination, and consider a periodic detoxification protocol for your pet.

FROM: "Lawn Chemicals Linked to 2 Types of Cancer in Dogs"
by Paul Ebeling, *Live Trading News*, May 15, 2016



Since my puppy Gibson tested positive for 2 tick-borne diseases recently and had to undergo a month of doxycycline, I thought we might all find the following interesting.

Mary K. Chelton

Tick-borne Disease: Prevalence, Prevention, and Treatment

Introduction to Tick-borne Disease

Tick-borne disease occurs when ticks infected with a pathogen bite a dog and transmit the pathogen into the dog's body. Many of these pathogens are zoonotic, meaning they can also infect humans. Disease is not spread between dogs and humans directly because these pathogens must complete their lifecycle phase within the tick to become infectious. Therefore, while humans and other non-canine family members can also become infected, a direct tick bite is required to transmit disease. The most common

tick-borne diseases are Ehrlichiosis, Anaplasmosis, Rocky Mountain spotted fever, Hepatozoonosis, Babesiosis, and Lyme disease. The feeding time required to allow disease transmission from a tick to a dog or person varies between ticks and disease agents. Ehrlichiosis and Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever-causing bacteria can be transmitted within 3-6 hours of tick attachment, while Lyme Disease-causing bacterial transmission can require 24- 48 hours of feeding before a host is infected.

Regional Prevalence of Tick-borne Disease

Distribution of tick-borne disease is associated with the species of tick endemic to a given region. Distribution of tick species, prevalence of ticks within a region and the prevalence of infectious pathogens they carry are not stable and fluctuate on a seasonal basis depending on weather, rainfall and climate. For this reason monitoring of tick-borne disease is a dynamic, ongoing process.

There are maps showing the number of reported positive cases of Ehrlichiosis, Lyme disease, Anaplasmosis and heartworm disease in dogs. Maps are available for all regions of the United States and Canada. Because so many dogs go untested for tick-borne diseases, the actual number of dogs infected by ticks is likely many times higher than reported figures.

Keep Your Dog Safe from Tick-borne Disease

- • Learn about the ticks and diseases in your area.
http://www.dogsandticks.com/diseases_in_your_area.php
- • Use preventives, including topical medication and tick collars. Be aware that tick preventatives do not prevent disease transmission; they reduce risk by reducing the tick burden in the dog's environment.
- • If your dog spends time outdoors, check them daily for ticks. Pay close attention to the head, ears, shoulders, and upper leg areas.
- • Remove ticks immediately upon finding them, using tweezers to safely pull the tick from the dog's skin. Avoid squeezing the tick to prevent transfer of the tick's bodily fluids.
- • Never spray human tick repellent on your dog, as these chemicals are toxic if ingested.
- • Talk to your veterinarian about annual testing for tick-borne disease. Testing is fast, effective, and can save costly veterinary bills of disease is not caught in its early stages.
- • If your dog displays symptoms of tick-borne disease they may test negative at first. This is because most tests measure for the presence of antibodies against the pathogen, and antibodies take time to reach measurable levels in the blood. For that reason your veterinarian may test twice using an initial "acute" sample followed by a "convalescent" sample two weeks later.

Alternately, discuss the use of Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) diagnostic testing for the pathogens themselves.

Species of Ticks That Carry Infectious Pathogens

American Dog Tick (*Dermacentor variabilis*)
Deer Tick (or Black-legged Tick) (*Ixodes scapularis*)
Brown Dog Tick (*Rhipicephalus sanguineus*)
Gulf Coast Tick (*Amblyomma maculatum*)
Lone Star Tick (*Amblyomma americanum*)
Rocky Mountain Wood Tick (*Dermacentor andersoni*)
Spinose Ear Tick (*Otobius megnini*)
Western Black-legged Tick (*Ixodes pacificus*)

Brown dog ticks live and can infest inside and around homes and kennels where dogs are present, including in colder regions of North America such as Canada and Alaska.

Lone Star ticks, black-legged ticks and Western black-legged ticks are most commonly found in the understory or leaf litter associated with natural wooded areas frequented by wildlife. The edge habitat often found surrounding a home or yard provides ample habitat to support these ticks.

American dog ticks, Rocky Mountain wood ticks, and Gulf Coast ticks are more commonly found in tall, grassy meadows; open woods, particularly along trails; and open fields in agricultural areas.

Spinose ear ticks are found in arid areas west of the Mississippi, particularly in the south central and southwestern United States.

If My Dog Tests Positive, Does This Necessitate Treatment?

Veterinarians are able to effectively treat most tick-borne infections; however, the decision of whether to treat an asymptomatic dog remains a point of controversy. Dr. Adam Birkenheuer, DVM, PhD, DACVIM, an Internal Medicine and Infectious Disease specialist at North Carolina State University College of Veterinary Medicine recommends treatment after a positive test, followed by a complete blood cell count, serum biochemistry and urinalysis in 6 month intervals for 1 year. According to Dr. Birkenheuer "There are currently no evidence-based recommendations on whether or not to treat your pet if he or she is found to be exposed to a tick-transmitted infection like *Ehrlichia* or *Borrelia*. Some doctors may recommend treatment while others may not. The most important thing is to continue to monitor your pet for

signs of illness with examinations and laboratory testing. I recommend this yearly for the rest of the pet's life."

Ehrlichiosis

Ehrlichiosis [pronounced er-lick-ee-o-sis] is caused by Ehrlichia species of bacteria (Ehrlichia canis, Ehrlichia ewingii, Ehrlichia chaffeensis). Ehrlichia canis is transmitted by the brown dog tick; Ehrlichia ewingii and Ehrlichia chaffeensis are transmitted by the lone star tick. The highest concentration of Ehrlichia canis cases is reported in southwestern and Gulf Coast regions of the United States. The distribution and number of Ehrlichia ewingii and Ehrlichia chaffeensis cases are on the rise and can be found in states as far north as Massachusetts and as far west as central Oklahoma and Kansas.

Symptoms of Ehrlichiosis

Ehrlichia species infect white blood cells and platelets, causing symptoms associated with inflammation and problems with blood clotting. Common symptoms can include any of the following: • Depression and/or lack of energy • Loss of appetite • Runny eyes and nose/discharge • Spontaneous nose bleeds • Bruising on gums and belly • Lameness/joint pain • Spontaneous and shifting leg lameness, reluctance to move

Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever

Rocky Mountain spotted fever (RMSF) is caused by Rickettsia rickettsia bacteria. RMSF is transmitted by the American dog tick and the lone star tick. In dogs, Rocky Mountain spotted fever appears suddenly with severe illness lasting about two weeks. If not treated early enough, Rocky Mountain spotted fever can result in death. Rocky Mountain spotted fever is also a zoonotic disease, which means it can infect people as well as pets. While Rocky Mountain spotted fever is most prevalent in the Rocky Mountain States, it is also prevalent in the Southeast and can be found throughout the United States and Canada.

Symptoms of canine Rocky Mountain spotted fever

(can be moderate to severe): • Acute fever • Depression and/or lack of energy • Arthritis-like stiffness when walking • Neurological abnormalities

Lyme Disease

Lyme disease is caused by Borrelia burgdorferi bacteria. Lyme disease is transmitted by the deer tick and the western black-legged tick. Lyme disease has been found throughout the United States and Canada, but infections are most frequently diagnosed in the northeastern, mid-Atlantic and north-central states, as well as in California.

Symptoms of Lyme disease

Spontaneous and shifting leg lameness that lasts 3–4 days, recurrent lameness due to inflammation of the joints • Reluctance to move, fatigue • Loss of appetite and depression

More serious complications include damage to the kidney, and rarely heart or nervous system disease symptoms may come and go and can mimic other health conditions. Cases vary from mild to severe with severe cases sometimes resulting in kidney failure and death.

Anaplasmosis

Canine anaplasmosis [pronounced an-uh-plaz-moh-sis] is caused by *Anaplasma* species of bacteria, specifically *Anaplasma phagocytophilum* and *Anaplasma platys*. Both forms of canine anaplasmosis are found throughout the United States and Canada. Areas where canine anaplasmosis is more common include the northeastern, mid-Atlantic and north-central states, as well as California. *Anaplasma platys*, specifically, is more common in Gulf Coast and southwestern states *Anaplasma phagocytophilum* is transmitted by the deer tick and the western black-legged tick. These are the same ticks that transmit Lyme disease which increases the risk of co-infection with multiple tick-borne diseases. *Anaplasma phagocytophilum* is also a zoonotic disease, which means it can infect people as well as pets. *Anaplasma platys* is transmitted by the brown dog tick.

Symptoms of *Anaplasma phagocytophilum*

Anaplasma phagocytophilum infect white blood cells, causing symptoms associated with inflammation. Symptoms are often vague and nonspecific. • Loss of appetite • Lethargy • Lameness, reluctance to move • Neck pain or neurologic signs in some cases Symptoms of *Anaplasma platys* *Anaplasma platys* infects platelets, causing symptoms associated with failure of blood clotting: • Bruising on the gums and belly • Spontaneous nosebleeds

Babesiosis

Babesiosis [pronounced ba-bee-zee-oh-sis] is caused by *Babesia* species of bacteria: *Babesia gibsoni* and *Babesia vogeli*. *Babesia vogeli* organisms are transmitted by the brown dog tick, but other species like *Babesia gibsoni* can also be transmitted from dog to dog if an infected dog bites another (fighting, etc.) or a blood transfusion. Babesiosis is found throughout the United States and Canada.

Symptoms of babesiosis Babesiosis affects red blood cells, and as a dog's immune system tries to eliminate the infected blood cells, anemia, pallor and general weakness may result. • Lack of activity/lethargy • Generalized weakness • Vomiting • Loss of appetite • Weight loss

Hepatozoonosis

Canine hepatozoonosis is caused by infection with *Hepatozoon* species of parasites: *Hepatozoon americanum* is transmitted by the Gulf Coast tick, and *Hepatozoon canis* is

transmitted by the brown dog tick. Cases of canine hepatozoonosis have been reported in the eastern and middle- southern regions of the United States. Unlike other vector-borne diseases that are transmitted by tick bite, both forms of canine hepatozoonosis are transmitted when a dog ingests an infected tick.

Symptoms of Hepatozoon canis Hepatozoon canis infects white blood cells, causing vague, non-specific symptoms: • Loss of appetite • Weight loss • Lethargy
Symptoms of Hepatozoon americanum Hepatozoon americanum affects muscle cells, resulting in a debilitating and potentially fatal condition. A dog infected with Hepatozoon americanum will typically show severe symptoms that occur intermittently. These can include any of the following: • Fever/depression • Generalized pain • Loss of muscle mass with chronic weight loss • Discharge from the eye

*Reprinted with permission from the AKC Canine Health Foundation



VCLI Officers

6077

President: Stephanie Fischer
ilovtrav@aol.com 516-932-0530

Vice President: Mary K Chelton
mchelton@optonline.net 631-286-4255

Treasurer: Ray Fischer
rfischer22@aol.com 516-932-0530

Corresponding Secretary: Zelda Rendell-
zrandell@verizon.net -516-766-3991

Recording Secretary: Evelyn D'Achille
missev@verizon.net 516-825-2097

Directors:
Tim Bresko: tim.bresko@verizon.net 631-859-3441

Debbie Field dfield77@gmail.com (212) 444-8386

Kathie Amore
kamore3235@aol.com 631-360-0262

Erin Randazzo srb2819@aol.com 516-770-

Committees:

Membership: Debbie Field
dfield77@gmail.com(212) 444-8386

Rescue: Stephanie Fischer
ilovtrav@aol.com,
Mary K. Chelton mchelton@optonline.net;
Ron Jones skyblu47@optonline.net;
Debbie Field dfield77@gmail.com

Field: Tim Bresko tim.bresko@verizon.net
631-859-3441

Events: Evelyn D'Achille
missev@verizon.net
516-825-2097

Show: Kathie Amore (631) 360-0262,
KAMORE3235@aol.com

Newsletter/Education: Mary K. Chelton,
(631) 286-4255, mchelton@optonline.net

VCLI Newsletter Policy

Articles written or submitted by individual correspondents may not necessarily be in accordance with present VCLI policies.

Newsletter Ad Rates

Cover—\$22.00

1 page w/1 photo \$17.00

1 page w/ 2 photos \$22.00

1 page w/out photo \$12.00

1/2 page w/ 1 photo \$15.00

1/2 page w/out photo \$10.00

1/4 page w/out photo \$5.00

When placing ads, the OFA# is required for the subject Vizsla. If under 2 years of age, the OFA#s of the parents are required. Spayed/neutered and deceased Vizslas need no OFA number.

NEXT NEWSLETTER COPY DEADLINE: October 15, 2016

