



Conyers Kennel Club Newsletter

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CONYERS KENNEL CLUB AUGUST 2011 NEWSLETTER

Hello Everyone, our meeting will be next Monday, August 8, 2011 at our regular time, 6:30pm to eat and the meeting will start around 7:30pm at IHOP as usual.

CONYERS KENNEL CLUB **Minutes of the July 11th, 2011 Meeting**

President Don Watson opened the meeting at 7:30 by welcoming members. Don asked if all members had received the newsletter. With no corrections or additions to the minutes a motion was made by Jan Moore to accept the minutes as published in the newsletter, seconded by Merry Carol Houchard. Motion passed.

-Treasurer Rhea Spence distributed copies of the Treasurer's Report for discussion.

-Handling Class - Anne Crum reported for Linda Jackson that the Pavilion had been reserved for eight weeks. Gaylord Cleveland, Jan Moore and Don Watson will get together to plan the Obedience and CGC classes. After discussion among the club it was decided that the Handling Class will continue as usual from 7-8 and Obedience will go from 8-8:30. Each class will be \$5.00. CGC Testing can be done at these classes also.

-Don spoke with Erin Mayfield about the RDOD event. She has requested that a committee be formed to plan the event. She will be out of town the 1st weekend of the fair. She has suggested that Mike Houchard and Steve Donahue head this committee. Mike will check the fair dates and try to get credit for the event from the AKC.

-The Cluster Meeting will be held tomorrow night at the Holiday Inn at Northlake.

Items likely to be discussed are: the way the money paid by Griffin to the Cluster for electrical upgrades was divided. The club discussed the division of these funds. A motion was made by Audrey Lycan to have the club vote that the funds to be shared equally with all clubs that funded this project. Mike Shelton seconded this motion.

The entry fees and puppy fees will be brought up for discussion. The club does not want any fees raised at this time.

-Don reported that we are being sued by the woman who fell in the restroom during the February show. The insurance will handle the issue. Don did state that a full report by the first responders was written at the time of the incident.

-More judges are requesting to stay over on Sunday night. Per Audrey, we should not pay for Sunday night if they are not judging groups. She also stated that many clubs are negotiating fees and expenses with judges.

-Don reported that the August Show Premium should be out in a few weeks. The English Setter Specialty will not have their prizes published in the premium as they did not get the information back in time to make the publishing deadline.

Don Watson, Nancy Donahue and Steve Donahue went to the Porterdale Commission meeting to discuss the proposed dog license and specific breed bans. The meeting went well and the CKC will help to support this city in its attempt to provide low cost spay / neuters' and rabies vaccines. More information will be gathered and then a decision will be made as to the involvement of the CKC. -Mike Houchard reported that Texas has passed a bill (#1541) that requires all breeders with more than 11 animals at one time will be required to have an occupational license. Which will require and inspection every year and the breeder will be required to pay for this inspection. All hobby breeders will be effected.

The AKC has a new Therapy Dog title available. The 1st year of the Grand Champion Title has showed an increased the amount of entries. Revenue is still down 1.6M due to a lower number of entries and an increase in expenses.

Starting in October the Gazette will only be available on line.

-Braggs - Renae Watson reported that 9 month old Ruby won a 4 point and 5 point Major!

Recorded by Jerri Dandelske, Secretary

SPECIAL GIFTS THERAPY DOGS BRING TO MANKIND **REFLECTED IN FIRST AKC 'ThD' TITLEHOLDERS**

-- AKC's New 'Therapy Dog' Title Program Launches --

New York, NY – Therapy dog owners, and those who have benefitted from comforting visits with these special canines, have long known this treasured expression of the canine-human bond has a healing touch like no other. On June 27th the American Kennel Club launched its AKC Therapy Dog Title program to honor those who have unconditionally given so much. To achieve AKC's Therapy Dog or "ThD" title a dog must be certified or registered with an AKC-recognized therapy dog organization, perform a minimum of 50 documented visits and be an AKC Dog through either AKC registration, PAL listing or AKC Canine Partners enrollment.

"We are proud to reward therapy dogs, who provide ongoing community service to help improve the wellbeing of others, with the distinction of the AKC Therapy Dog title," said Lisa Peterson, AKC Spokesperson. "We aim to give much-deserved recognition to these hard-working therapy dogs, their dedicated owners and the therapy dog organizations for all their efforts to help mankind."

For a full list of participating therapy dog organizations, visit <http://www.akc.org/akctherapydog/organizations.cfm>.

Meet the first dogs to receive the AKC Therapy Dog "ThD" title:

"Riker," an Australian Shepherd owned by Liz Palika from Oceanside, California with Love on a Leash

Riker made his first therapy visits to retirement homes for senior citizens shortly after his first birthday. He has since visited hospice, skilled nursing and rehabilitation patients and participated in reading programs for kids.

Riker also participates in a program for special needs kids. At one day care center for children, who are in the foster system or face severe health, emotional or behavioral issues, he visited a blind and deaf young girl. She had been at the center for days and hadn't voluntarily moved from her chair, played with other kids or smiled during that time. The day care director placed the girl's hand on Riker's coat. Almost immediately, her hands began stroking him. Riker managed to sneak in a kiss on her cheek. Instead of being afraid, the girl laughed out loud, rocking in her chair. Soon, she was out on the playground and making noises, calling Riker to her!

"Riker has always been one of those dogs that was born loving all mankind," said owner Liz Palika. "I've done therapy dog work with many dogs previously, but Riker was just born to do this. Even now, at 12 years of age, when I get out his therapy dog vest, Riker wiggles and dances like a puppy. When I bring a dog in to visit someone and I see smiles and open arms greet us, well, life doesn't get any better than that!"

"Kayla," a Labrador Retriever owned by Lori and Roger Morgan from Green, Ohio with Delta Society

Kayla, a therapy dog since June 30, 1998, is the third longest-serving, active dog in the Delta Society therapy animal program out of 10,804 teams. She was found as a stray dog at about one year of age, with her collar partially grown into her neck. Since 1998, Kayla has accompanied her owner Lori Morgan to the school where Lori works as a guidance counselor. Now 14, Kayla is still working visiting Akron Children's Hospital in Ohio through the Doggie Brigade program.

Kayla and Lori are trained for crisis response through the National Organization for Victims Assistance (NOVA). They were first deployed to California in 2001 to assist a community recovering from the aftermath of a gunman who killed three people and wounded others. At one point during a large community meeting, they wandered around and Kayla approached a few people. Later, a person asked Lori if she had known that Kayla approached the mom of one of the victims as well as two other survivors. Lori had no idea, she had just followed Kayla's lead!

Kayla and Lori also assisted in the aftermath of September 11th. The pair worked in the New Jersey Family Assistance Center counseling victims and family members and also visited Ground Zero. While petting Kayla, one man shared how he had to sort through the rubble and place human remains in evidence bags. At the end of the conversation, he did not really realize he was being "debriefed" by a crisis counselor - he just saw a lady with a dog.

"We love therapy work because it makes a difference in people's lives. It follows a motto that I have hanging in my home 'we can do no great things, only small things with great love' (Mother Teresa)." said Lori. "To me, therapy dogs encompass that motto. They do so many small things with such great love and devotion."

"Murdock," a Staffordshire Bull Terrier owned by Teri Meadows of Golden, Colorado with Therapy Dogs Inc.

Murdock and Teri have made more than 1,000 visits representing Therapy Dogs, Inc. The pair makes regular weekly visits, special holiday visits and personal request visits to places like nursing homes, libraries, hospice care centers, VA hospitals, youth detention centers, Good Samaritan homes, schools and day care centers. Patients with speech problems lovingly begin to pet him, looking at him and then to Teri with smiling eyes. After a few minutes they often try to speak to him. Over time, several patients form words. Children love to sit and read to him; he will look at their books as if listening and reading with them.

His visits to nursing homes became times of laughter and joy with residents. People's sorrows seem to fade away as they remember the dogs they have had during their lifetime. Today because of Murdock's age, more than 13-years-old, visits to nursing homes has even more meaning and closeness to the residents, according to Teri.

As a Staffordshire Bull Terrier Murdock sometimes has to face unfair breed stereotypes, but his friendliness and good manners win everyone over. He has been an outstanding ambassador for the breed. Murdock's kind, loving and gentle temperament, along with his ability to sense what people need, make him a great therapy dog.

"The happiness that my dog's visit can bring to someone, even if for only a short period of time, gives me great satisfaction," she said. "They can briefly forget their problems, pain or sadness. The reward of enriching the lives of others through therapy is priceless; the feeling is indescribable."

"Lucy," a Golden Retriever owned by Debbie Hanowell from Fayetteville, NC with Therapy Dogs International (TDI)

Since June 2005, Lucy and Debbie have averaged 2-3 visits per week and have logged well over 1,000 therapy visits. Most of the team's visits take place at Fort Bragg as part of the Womack Medical Center's Wounded Warrior Program. The pair visits wounded soldiers and ill family members and spends time in clinic waiting rooms cheering up children. Lucy and Debbie also visit Moon Hall, a resident facility of returning soldiers and work closely with the Red Cross unit at Womack Medical Center.

One of the team's most memorable visits was with a toddler who wore a body cast from the armpits down, with only his toes peeking out. Once Lucy began licking the boy's toes, the change in the toddler and his family was immediate - he started giggling and laughing, showing more emotion than he had in days. The two were honored to be invited to represent the Military Therapy Dog program at the American Red Cross 125th Anniversary in Washington DC in 2006. Lucy is also a Tail Waggin' Tutor, encouraging children to learn to read and have fun!

"Therapy visits allow us to spend a moment with a wounded warrior, an elderly Veteran, a lonely spouse, a frightened child, or a hard-working hospital staff member," said owner Debbie Hanowell. "Simply put, therapy visits give Lucy and me the opportunity to give back to those who gave so much."

"Koko," an All-American Dog enrolled in the AKC Canine Partners program, owned by Steven Herz from Scotch Plains, NJ with St. Hubert's Animal Welfare Center Paws for People

Last year, Koko and her owner Steven Herz - one of the busiest teams with St. Hubert's Paws for People - logged more than 100 visits at numerous facilities, including schools, hospitals, libraries and assisted living facilities.

In her six years as a therapy dog, Koko's teddy bear qualities have touched thousands of lives. Koko and Steven "have been blessed" to see a young man persuaded to get up out of his wheelchair to "walk" Koko down the corridor of a major children's rehab hospital, to tour a large VA hospital and visit with soldiers young and old, to be among the first to greet troops returning from Iraq, to help improve the reading of inner city second graders in Newark, New Jersey, to achieve breakthroughs with severely autistic kids, and to "give some love" to medical staff, patients, police and EMTs in a busy hospital emergency department on a Sunday afternoon.

According to Steven, "People are amazed to find out that Koko is my first dog. While growing up, my mom never let me have a dog, so it would have been enough to spend these years just enjoying Koko, but to be able to work together in the many diverse places that we do as part of St. Hubert's Paws for People takes the

experience of "dog owner/handler" to an entirely different level. I store away each and every "thank you," "God bless you," and the highest payment of all, "You made my day."

"Norman," a Cavalier King Charles Spaniel owned by Susan Drastal of West Caldwell, New Jersey with The Bright & Beautiful Therapy Dogs, Inc.

Norman, a certified therapy dog since 1996, has made more than 600 therapy visits and still works today at the age of 13.

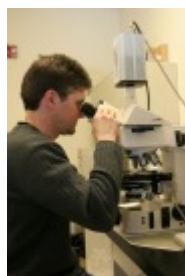
In 2001, Norman comforted families of the World Trade Center following 9/11 at Liberty State Park in Jersey City, NJ. Some families had small children and they would play with the dogs, while their parent discussed very serious issues with one of the rescue organization's staff. The dogs formed a line outside for all the family members to pet before they got on a bus that took them to the ferry that would take them into Manhattan. They were there when the family members received their loved ones' ashes from Ground Zero.

"Norman is definitely a natural when it comes to pet therapy," said owner Susan Drastal. "He seems to know which patients need a visit and will spend more time with certain people. Sometimes, patients are fearful of upcoming procedures, therapy, etc. and they will talk to Norman as if he knows what they are saying. He is small enough that I can put him in the bed or the lap of the person and he presses up against the patient. Sometimes, when we work with children, I have Norman do tricks to entertain them. Norman knows hand signals as well as verbal and the kids always want to make him do a trick. So, I let them say the command, but I am behind the child, giving a hand signal, and when Norman performs the trick, this delights the child."

For more information visit www.akc.org/akctherapydog, email akctherapydog@akc.org or call 919-816-3900.



The AKC Canine Health Foundation is looking forward to the National Parent Club Canine Health Conference sponsored by Nestlé Purina PetCare on August 12-14. We plan to return with many updates on current canine health research as well as educational resources for dog lovers. In the meantime, we hope you enjoy this latest issue of e-Barks!



Health Tracks: "Sniffing Out" Lymphoma Genes

Researchers at North Carolina State University are finding the genes involved in non-Hodgkin lymphoma by "recoding" dog genomes. Dr. Matthew Breen's team took the genetic information from dogs with the same type of cancer, and then rearranged the genomes of the dogs so that, genomically speaking, they were human. By comparing the recoded canine genomes with those of humans with non-Hodgkin lymphoma, the researchers could tell which chromosomes were involved in *both* the human and canine cancer. [Read more about Dr. Breen's research.](#)

Featured Grant: Pinpointing the Mutations for Hereditary Cataract in Northern Breeds

Researchers at the Animal Health Trust aim to pinpoint precisely causal mutations for hereditary cataract (HC) in Northern, or Arctic, breeds. They expect to find at least one causal mutation for HC that is shared by Siberian Huskies, Alaskan Malamutes and Samoyed. Due to the close ancestral relationship among Northern breeds it is likely that mutations will also be shared with more breeds. The results will be used to develop a test to identify dogs at increased risk of developing HC, thus enabling breeding decisions to reduce the incidence of the disease. [Read more about this grant.](#)

Health Tips: Determining When to Spay or Neuter

For responsible dog owners, many factors contribute to deciding when to spay or neuter your dog. Margaret Root-Kustritz, DVM, PhD of the University of Minnesota has reviewed the scientific studies on the effects of gonadectomy on dog behavior and health. This information can help to determine the right timing for you and your dog. [Read more about when to spay or neuter](#)

Recent Podcasts

[Familial Heart Disease](#)
with Dr. Kathryn Meurs

[The Advantages of Purebred Dog Research](#)
with C.A. Sharp

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Podcast on Epilepsy and Oxalate Stone Research Released July 28, 2011

In this edition of Genome Barks, we bring you an interview with Dr. Ned Patterson, a member of the faculty at the University of Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine. Funded by the AKC Canine Health Foundation for a variety of genetic disorders and epilepsy, Dr. Patterson's research interests include epilepsy, comparative medicine, genetics and molecular medicine.

Dr. Patterson discusses his research on an emergency treatment for epilepsy in dogs. He also covers another of his research projects funded by the AKC Canine Health Foundation, urinary stones composed of calcium oxalate. These stones can be a problem for any dog, but are far more problematic in Miniature Schnauzers.

[Listen to the Podcast](#)



2011 AKC/Eukanuba National Championship December 17th and 18th – Orlando, Florida

Orlando to Host AKC/Eukanuba National Championship in 2011

The American Kennel Club® is pleased to announce that the AKC/Eukanuba National Championship will be returning to Orlando, Florida. The 2011 show will take place December 17th and 18th.

The 2011 show will be held at the new "state of the art" Orange County Convention Center, the second largest convention center in the nation. Situated in the heart of Orlando's tourism district and only 15 minutes away from the Orlando International Airport, the convention center is surrounded by more than 113,000 hotel rooms. Amenities on-site include full-service restaurants, multiple food courts and parking. Its prime location on International Drive will offer exhibitors hundreds of outstanding shopping, dining and entertainment options



[Read more.](#)

New Ways to Qualify

We are pleased to announce that we have added a new eligibility for the Veterans who have made a mark during their career. While the event can not offer a separate competition due to time constraints we will be sending invites to any dog over seven years on the day of the show to compete for Best of Breed and if eligible for the Best Bred-by-Exhibitor Award. A dog will need to meet one of the following criteria:

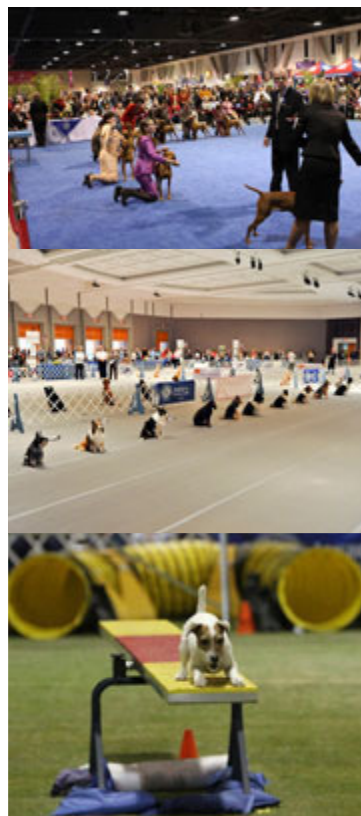
- Winner of an All Breed Best in Show
- Winner of a National Specialty
- Ranked in the Top five in Breed any given year

The AKC website will show a list of dogs who meet the above criteria and who will be between 7 and 12 years of age on the first day of the show. [View Veterans List.](#)

Thank you to all those who contacted us to included these past winners and we look forward to seeing some of these great dogs shine in the AKC/Eukanuba National Championship for many years to come.

Grand Champion Eligibility

Grand Champions completing a Bronze, Silver, Gold or Platinum level will be [invited.](#)



[Read more about qualifying for the event.](#)



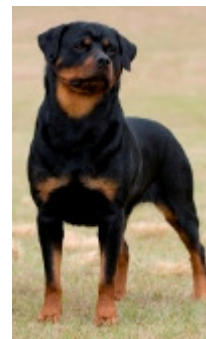
AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB
**CANINE HEALTH
FOUNDATION**
PREVENT TREAT & CURE

CHF Funded Researchers Gain Better Understanding of Bone Cancer

August 2, 2011

A new University of Minnesota discovery may help bone cancer patients fight their disease more effectively, according to new research published in the September issue of [Bone](#). Recently, a team led by Dr. Jaime Modiano, a University of Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine and Masonic Cancer Center expert in comparative medicine, discovered a gene pattern that distinguishes the more severe form of bone cancer from a less aggressive form in dogs. Dogs are the only other species besides humans that develops this disease spontaneously with any frequency.

“Our findings pave the way to develop laboratory tests that can predict the behavior of this tumor in dogs and children at the time of diagnosis,” said Modiano. “This allows us to tailor individualized therapy to meet the patient’s



needs.”

[Read the complete story on this discovery.](#)

The study was funded by AKC Canine Health Foundation [Grant 947B](#) and preliminary data was funded by the AKC Canine Health Foundation [Grant 2254A](#).

To support further canine cancer research initiatives please donate today!

DONATE NOW

-Braggs -

Rena Watson reported that 9 month old Ruby won a 4 point and 5 point Major!

Newsletter-Sandra McCurry

southforkgoldens@aol.com