

DOT to DOT

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE DALMATIAN CLUB OF SAN DIEGO COUNTY

Volume I Number 6

December 1991

Meeting Notice

dcscdc annual meeting and holiday party

Saturday, December 21, 1991
5:00 PM

at The Petit's

2677 Kauana Loa
Escondido, CA 92029
(619) 741-5012

Please RSVP with your choice of
either hors d'oeuvres or dessert

*bring a gift of \$10 or under if you would like
to participate in the gift exchange*

The President's Spot

It's been one year since we got together at the Petit's for some holiday cheer and now it's time to do it again. Looking back on our first year, we've had some amazing progress. We have:

- approved a Constitution, Bylaws, and Standing Rules;
- had our first "doggie event";
- done our first community service project; and we are already planning our first club educational seminar, this one on handling. On my wish list to Santa for the club next year are:
 - a match;
 - agility lessons;
 - a bunch of spots in the Mother Goose parade;
 - a community service/education project;
 - educational programs for members;
 - lots of wins (and other important things) for members to brag about.

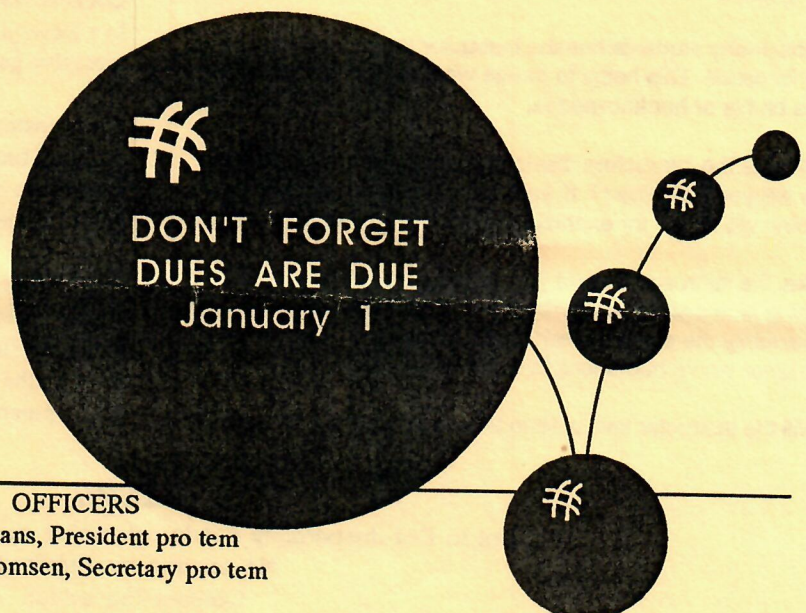
Some of these things are in the works, others are not. If any of these or others appeal to you, let the Board know ... and decide which activity you'd like to volunteer for!

happy holidays!

Coming up ...

... how would you like 10 to 15
crazed Dalmatian people
invading your home?

Hosts are needed for next year's
meetings. There will be a sign-up
sheet at the Annual Meeting. We
promise to try to behave
ourselves.



OFFICERS

Lisa Means, President pro tem
Sharon Thomsen, Secretary pro tem

DOT to DOT editor: Lisa Means, 1020 Daisy Avenue, Carlsbad, CA 92009-4820

obedience: Choosing an Instructor for Competition

(by Lisa Means, first published in *The Splatter*)

There are three basic ways to learn obedience training. One is by reading a lot of books, another is by group lessons led by an experienced trainer, and the third is by private lessons. The best training plan includes elements of all three. For those of us still learning how to train a competitive dog, the cornerstone to success is often a private instructor.

Where do you find a good instructor? One way to find instructors is by recommendations of people whose dogs perform well. Obedience clubs are a wonderful place to start as they are full of people training and competing at all levels. Go to obedience trials and watch the competition. After the scores are announced, talk to the owners of the higher scoring dogs that live in your area. They probably work with private instructors. Gather names and addresses.

Once you have the names, how do you select a good instructor? First of all, remember that the instructor's job is to train you to train your dog. Be sure you can get along and communicate well with him or her. There is little to be gained from someone you dislike even if their dogs score 200s.

Ask a lot of questions of a prospective instructor. Anyone whom you'll be paying hundreds of dollars (and you will) should welcome an informed consumer. A good list of questions should include the following:

- How many dogs has the instructor personally trained, through what titles, and with what scores? Hire a trainer whose own dogs have completed a UD and with high scores. An OTCH (Obedience Trial Champion) is even better. This is true even if you only want to train for Novice now because you may change your mind. A knowledgeable instructor will teach Novice exercises in a way that enhances Open and Utility work.
- How many students has the instructor taught and how have they scored? This helps to gauge whether the instructor can pass on his or her knowledge.
- What is the instructor's basic philosophy on training and how will you be trained? If you are adamantly opposed to training with food for example, now is the time to address it.
- Has the instructor trained your breed or a similar one? Getting high scores with a Sheltie or Golden is not necessarily the same as with most Dalmatians. Choose an instructor who's had success with many breeds.
- Will the instructor field a 15 to 20 minute phone call between

sessions if you are having problems? The answer should be "yes".

- Ask to observe the instructor training someone whose dog is at a similar level to yours.

Private instruction can range anywhere from \$20 to \$30 per hour. Some instructors offer a discount if a block of hours is reserved in advance. It's often wise to pay the single lesson rate until you are comfortable with the instructor. Although it's expensive, private instruction is the fastest, most thorough way for most people to develop high scoring dogs.

Genetics and Behavior

from Veterinary Practice Staff, May/June 1991 via Spot News

Heredity is widely accepted as an influence on physical features such as size and coat color. However, only recently has genetics been recognized as playing a role in behavior.

Behavioral scientists stress that it is the tendency to exhibit behavior that is inherited and not the actual behavior itself. Richard Polsky, PhD, of Animal Behavior Counseling Services in Los Angeles, says several methods have demonstrated the effects of genetics on dog behavior: selective breeding, cross-breeding, cross fostering and scientific comparison of behavioral differences between established breeds.

For example, cross-breeding experiments showed wildness to be controlled by a single dominant gene, normally found in the Basenji. When a Cocker Spaniel and a Basenji were crossed, offspring tended to be wild. In contrast, the calmness of the Cocker was found to be controlled by a single recessive gene. In a Basenji-Cocker cross where both parents possessed recessive genes for [calmness], the offspring tended to be calm.

Cross-fostered pups - pups placed with the dam or litter of a different breed - retained the behavior common to their breed rather than developing traits of the breed to which they were cross-fostered.

Polsky cautions that although differences between breeds have a strong genetic basis, "personality and temperamental features of a dog are shaped not only through genetic potential but also through the sum total of all experiences encountered during development.

HELP!!

Dot to Dot desperately needs columnists on any and all subjects.
No experience required.
Contact the editor.

health and nutrition news

Carol McAndrew recently submitted an article published in Canada on one breeder's problems with ethoxyquin, a feed grade antioxidant (preservative). It can be used in animal foods to prevent rancidity in fats and animal byproducts but not as an antioxidant in human foods. Some breeders feel it causes severe health problems in their animals. The following two articles on ethoxyquin taken from *The Splatter* give both sides of the story.

Reprinted from the May 1989 issue:

NEW ENGLAND OBEDIENCE NEWS

"ETHOXYQUIN, FRIEND OR FOE?"

by Elaine D. Campbell, CamBelle Kennels
96 Prospect Hill Drive
North Weymouth, MA 02191

Is there an enemy secretly hiding in our dog food? Is it lurking there, slowly eating away at your dog's health until it finally takes its toll? Are we paying high prices, and with ignorant confidence are we willing the dishes and delivering this enemy to our eagerly waiting victims?

For many years as a breeder, first of Poodles and then later Collies, I have fed a leading dog food. I do not mean grocery store food but the expensive, so called "better" brands found at your local dealers. I swore by the food and quite frankly, my dogs were doing well at least at first!

I had been virtually free of whelping problems. My bitches came into heat every six months like clockwork. They never missed, they gave birth easily to 8 to 10 whelps and the pups were strong and healthy with only an occasional weak puppy.

Then, a couple of years ago I noticed that my dogs' overall appearance seemed to suddenly be lacking. I really could not put my finger on the problem but they just had lost that extra bloom. Their coats appeared dry and rusty, their skin flaky and the pigmentation on the nose began to lighten in color.

I spoke to my distributor and at first, he blamed it on my drinking water; later, on my breeding program. When my customers who owned Labradors, Newfoundlands, Collies (not necessarily my breeding), a Bernese Mountain Dog and Old English Sheepdogs also began complaining of similar problems I began my search for a new dog food.

I received a call from the manufacturer asking me to promote their food in an advertising campaign. I quickly told them that I would not promote any food that was causing such problems. They assured me that they were working on the problem. (Surprise! It was no longer a problem with my breeding program.) The problem lay with a zinc deficiency in the product. I promised them that I would not wait for the results and I backed up this promise by switching foods.

In October 1987, I switched my dog food. Within one month my dogs began to respond to the change. They became more active and alert. They followed later with a total shed, but then came in with beautiful coats.

I was impressed and I immediately began promoting this product to puppy buyers and boarding clients.

Without my awareness, a change for the worse was in store for me. Suddenly, my bitches started skipping heats. I bred a bitch and she missed. Well, that happens to everyone at one time or another...I tried again. Results: two puppies, one was so weak it was unable to nurse. Even after substitute feedings, it finally died at 10 days old, only having gained 1/2 ounce.

Then tragedy struck! My blue merle stud dog, the sire of just about everything I owned, began drooling. When I checked his mouth for an obstruction I noticed that the tissue was inflamed and had a very strong odor.

A trip to the vet confirmed that he had an infection. What I was not prepared for, however, was how serious this problem really was. Three different antibiotics failed to help. He went from being inflamed to having a total breakdown of tissue involving not just the mouth but down the throat also. The drooling of saliva changed to the drooling of blood. Eating was a painful experience, yet he continued fighting for survival by never missing a meal. Every day when I gathered up the dishes, his was filled with blood.

A biopsy confirmed that he was suffering from an immune breakdown triggered by a virus or chemical. Since,

to my knowledge, he had not been exposed to any chemicals it was assumed it was virally induced.

My bitches finally came back into heat and I bred three. One was a young bitch, the other two were my better producers. The young bitch missed as did one of the better producers. The third gave birth to 6 puppies. Two were born without legs, tails or any sex organs. It was then that I became suspicious.

A friend and breeder said out loud to me what I was thinking to myself. "Ever since you changed food your dogs have had problems." The problem I was faced with now it appeared as if my dogs had been on some chemical substance. Since they were not into drugs, and as this was winter I was not using insecticides, I checked the ingredients on my bag of food.

This food was advertised as being free of preservatives and additives, however I noticed an unfamiliar ingredient called "Ethoxyquin." I immediately called my friend who believes in cooking for her dogs and asked her what she knew about the ingredient. She informed me that she had read that a Shepherd breeder had lost four Shepherds over a short period of time to liver cancer believed to have been induced by Ethoxyquin. She promised to check into it with a chemical friend of hers.

The results were frightening to say the least. Ethoxyquin was invented by Monsanto as a rubber stabilizer and is being used as an herbicide and as an insecticide as well as a preservative. It was the chemist's feeling that we were playing with fire if this ingredient was in the dog food. She informed her that this was toxic, potentially dangerous preservative with only limited research as to its safety. She felt that additional research was needed at this time.

PANIC!!! I began checking dog foods and to my horror it was in just about every dog food sold on the market.

I called the FDA to inform them of this ingredient and to tell them of my experience. The way they quickly put someone on the phone that, quote "Would want to talk to me about this," I was convinced they have had other complaints. They were interested and asked for a list of dog foods that contained Ethoxyquin. I also assured them that I would see if I could find out if other breeders have had similar problems.

This brings me to the purpose of this article. If you have had an unusual amount of bitches missing, or if you are having whelping problems; if you have noticed any immune deficiency such as skin lesions, runny eyes, scabbiness around the nostrils, or loss in pigmentation, check the ingredients on your dog food. If it contains Ethoxyquin, please contact me at 96 Prospect Hill Dr., North Weymouth, MA 02191. I need as much input as I can get in order to put pressure on the FDA to act.

Meanwhile contact your dog food company and tell them that if they do not remove this ingredient from their dog food that you intend to stop feeding it, and you will no longer recommend it to puppy buyers. Together we could put enough pressure on these companies to get them to act on this problem. The FDA could take years. Meanwhile, our dogs' lives may be at stake.

I have changed my food to a food preserved with vitamins E and C. My blue merle has begun to recover. I know it is not totally because of the food, but because he has been receiving liquid gold injections. However, until I changed my food, there had been no response to the injections.

It is still too soon to tell about the other dogs. But rest assured, you will hear more as I do not intend to rest until something is done.

I recently checked the ingredient label on my original dog food and noticed they are now adding Ethoxyquin along with BHA (another preservative) where before they had just used BHA. When I think back, I do recall them mentioning that they were changing their formula and it was shortly after that when my dogs' health began to decline. I also recall that a breeder friend of mine also had similar problems with the same food at about the same time. She also changed food in October but chose a different product than I. Her results were immediate. Her dogs began to lose all the coloring in their noses, and white hairs began appearing on their faces. Needless to say, she switched her food once again and this time with good results.

With this thought in mind, I checked the products in question. I discovered that the first product (that she had changed to) contained Ethoxyquin, the second one which was successful did not.

All of the problems I incurred could possibly be explained away, but the fact still remains that an

herbicide/insecticide does not belong in our dog food. At least, I do not want it in mine.

(Obed. News Editor's Note: I checked my dog food and found it contains Ethoxyquin. Possibly this is why Corky's nose has turned from dark black to a lighter brown.)

**Summary of "Flyers" on Ethoxyquin from
Dogfood Manufacturers &
10/25/89 Telephone Discussion
with Monsanto Product Manager**

From Nutro Products: "There have been no studies linking any problem to ethoxyquin at the levels found in dog and cat foods..." "The claim that ethoxyquin is used as a herbicide or a pesticide are now and have always been false." "...ethoxyquin is Nutro's preservative of choice [because]...it requires one-third the amount...as either BHA and BHT...It boasts 30 years of continuous safe use as the primary antioxidant in the worldwide feed industry...It has FDA approval for use in both human and animal foods." "Nutro purchased many [so-called 'all-natural' pet foods] and had them analyzed by an independent laboratory. All products tested contained... ethoxyquin and BHT...these smaller marketers are taking a risk in not declaring these antioxidants on the label." "Vitamin E...the most natural preservative...could become toxic at the high levels required to protect a typical pet food...[as compared to ethoxyquin which is present at] less than one-thousandths of an ounce per average daily ration of dog food."

From Hill's Pet Products: "...meat meals, fats and...vitamins need protection from oxidation and rancidity." "We researched the available antioxidants and determined that ethoxyquin was safe for our use. Ethoxyquin has been carefully scrutinized and approved by the U.S. Food & Drug Administration...for use in all animal feeds. It is the most widely used antioxidant in the world for animal feeds...it has enjoyed almost 30 years of successful use in feeds." "The pet food grade...is vastly purer than...was once used for other applications."

From The IAMS Company: "Ethoxyquin is an effective antioxidant because it extends fat quality thus providing better nutrition..." "...there has been no evidence that ethoxyquin was in any way related to [problems cited in article]...Pet food grade ethoxyquin is considerably purer..." From telephone discussion with their Director of

Customer Relations: IAMS started adding ethoxyquin to its dogfoods approximately one year ago, in a ratio of 150 parts per million. Only two articles [one of which is the one reprinted on the overpage] seem to be creating the national controversy on the chemical. Dr. Jim Corbin (Professor Emeritus and noted nutritionist at the U. of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign) is preparing a rebuttal article for DOG WORLD magazine.

From Dr. David Calabotta, Product Manager, Monsanto Agricultural Co.: Required for Food & Drug clearance of ethoxyquin, "Monsanto's ethoxyquin product underwent...intensive safety and efficacy studies..." So-called chronic toxicity studies extended for five years on two species (rats, dogs) and subacute toxicity studies for one year, same two species. No significant cumulative untoward effects were seen and no birth defects occurred in any of the animals in any of the generations either during the one-year or the five-year series of animals. At the deliberately (and abnormally) excessively large amounts in the subacute testings, no effect showed up which at amounts being added in dogfoods would pose a threat to animals ingesting the foods.

The chemical is most definitely **NOT** being marketed by Monsanto as either a pesticide or an herbicide, nor has it ever been. For legal reasons, only, those uses had been cited in its patent and subsequently picked up in the original 1979 published chemical index which lists newly patented compounds. No subsequent editions of that index have continued to cite it as either a pesticide or an herbicide.

In dogfood, ethoxyquin is being added at the ratio of 125-150 parts per million. As a harvest aid for human food (with its anti-oxidant action to stop scald in apples, etc.), it is being added at a ratio of 100-125 parts per million.

Approval of ethoxyquin by Food & Drug in 1956 was updated by its 1958 Food Additives Amendment in terms of ethoxyquin again being scrutinized (and passed) by that governmental agency under the guidelines of the new amendment.

DALMATIAN CLUB OF SAN DIEGO COUNTY
MEETING MINUTES
NOVEMBER 23, 1991

The meeting was called to order at 7:02PM at the home of the Goddards. Lisa Means thanked Boyd & Debbie for their hospitality and the great dinner.

Randy Thomsen moved that the minutes of the October meeting be approved as published in the newsletter. Seconded & approved.

PRESIDENTS REPORT

Lisa reminded everyone that dues for 1992 will be due the 1st of January, delinquent in February.

SECRETARYS REPORT

Sharon Thomsen reported that the Club has received it's Federal Employer ID number (33-0485876). This number will be used in the place of personal social security numbers in opening bank accounts, etc. It is also necessary to have this number before proceeding with incorporation and tax exemption filings.

COMMITTEES

Nominating Committee reported their selections (see October minutes). No nominations were received from the floor. Those nominated will meet after the December elections to determine who will serve the one, two and three year terms. Also a decision on the officers will be made at that time.

Education committee will have information at the January meeting.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Cindy Lyford presented information on agility classes being offered to members. Interested persons should contact Cindy immediately.

A handling workshop will be arranged for the 1st part of the new year, to be set up by Ed and Carol Petit.

Newsletter editor asked for articles that could be included in the newsletter as well as brags and any other type of information that members would like to see included.

NEW BUSINESS

Litters due: Petit = end of January
 Nancy Dandrea = about Dec 3

Christmas meeting was discussed. It will be at the Petits and a gift exchange will be included. Maximum expense per gift is \$10 and should be doggie related.

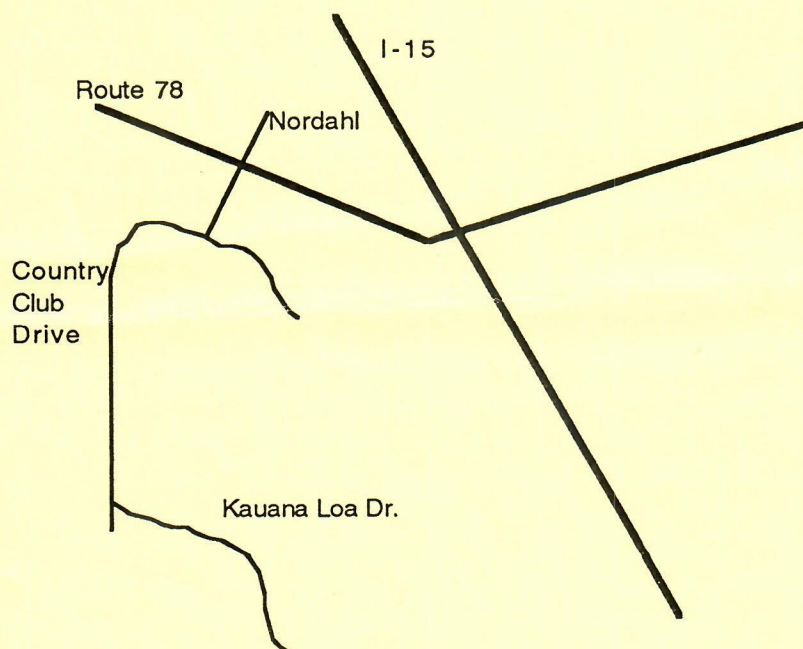
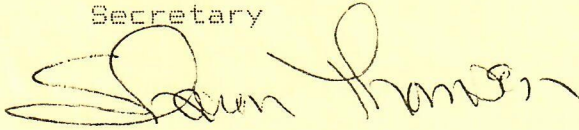
A bank account should be set up when the new officers are selected.

Discussion regarding participation in the Mother Goose Parade next year (televised Nationally). Information will be brought to the next meeting.

Next month a meeting calendar will be provided for signing up for the meetings.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:37PM.

Sharon Thomsen
Secretary



To the Petits':
2677 Kauana Loa Dr.
Escondido
741-5012

Take Route 78 to Nordahl
exit.

South on Nordahl to
Country Club Dr.

Veer to the Right on
Country Club Dr.

Left on Kauana Loa Dr.

COMING EVENTS

January 18 & 19, 1992

Obedience Seminar. All Breed Obedience Club Inc., presents Amy Ammen "Training the Average Dog to Win". Contact Suzanne Castle (619) 693-8254

January TBD

DCSDC handling critique for members. Ed and Carol Petit will videotape you handling your dog and provide constructive suggestions for improving your performance. At the Petit's. Bring a VHS tape if you want a copy. Please RSVP at (619) 741-5012.

If you know of an upcoming event that would be of interest to club members, contact the editor.

BATH TIME

How to Give a Bath To A Very Large Canine Who Has A Very Bad Attitude

by Tony Strollo from the Labrador Quarterly

Equipment Needed:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1 ea. very large canine | 1 ea. fence |
| 1 ea. bottle of flea killing shampoo | 1 ea. radio |
| 1 ea. water hose with water source | 1 ea. bottle of doggie downers |

Instructions:

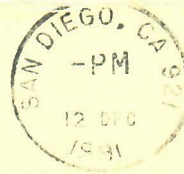
1. Be very, very sure you REALLY want to do this. If you do then:
2. Catch doggie.
3. Take a rest and try again.
4. As you lie on the ground exhausted, reach up and grab the bastard's tail as he runs by you.
5. Place collar around doggie's neck.
6. Attach leash to collar.
7. Reach out and grab fence as doggie drags you past it.
8. Attach loop end of leash to fence.
9. Give doggie a doggie downer.
10. Turn on radio and relax until doggie begins to smile.
11. Give yourself a doggie downer and wait until you begin to smile.
12. Attach hose to water source and thoroughly wet doggie's coat.
13. Turn up radio so neighbors don't hear curse words as doggie shakes off water.
14. Give yourself and doggie another doggie downer for the fun has just begun.
15. Begin at head and work down, covering body with soap.
16. Now do same to doggie. Work in well.
17. Allow soap to stay on for at least five minutes before rinsing.
18. Bend over and pick-up hose. Try again. It's amazing how elusive a hose can be after a couple of doggie downers.
19. Rinse doggie, again starting at head and working back towards tail.
20. To hell with drying him.
21. Release doggie.
22. Turn radio up louder so that the little kids next door don't hear a grown man cry when doggie rolls in the mud.
23. Lay in the mud next to doggie. Share rest of doggie downers. Nice doggie.

Mother Goose & Grimm



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