

MARCH/APRIL 2023 NEWSLETTER

The Atlanta Doberman Pinscher Club

The Atlanta Doberman Pinscher Club (ADPC) is a family of Georgians who are proud to be owned and loved by our Dobermans. Licensed by the American Kennel Club on November 1, 1972, the ADPC is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit Chapter Club of the Doberman Pinscher Club of America (DPCA).

Our purpose is to protect and promote the Doberman Pinscher. For well over four decades, the Atlanta Doberman Pinscher Club has strived to fulfill that mission through a variety of activities, including sponsoring specialty shows, conducting temperament testing, offering breed education programs and providing breeder referral resources.

Atlanta Doberman Pinscher Club
Email to mawils@earthlink.net
Send news, brags, etc to surochester@aol.com



Join Us for Our Meeting March 7, 2023

Hi to everyone,

I would like to welcome new Atlanta DPC member, Susan Rochester, who has accepted the position of the Atlanta Doberman Pinscher Club Newsletter. Thank you Susan!

At this time we are continuing to have electronic meetings by Zoom. The meetings are on the first Tuesday of every month at 6:30 PM EST. Hopefully you can all set aside those dates and attend. All members and guests are welcome.

We will be discussing possible locations to have some in person meetings. So if you have a favorite place that has a private room please give us the information at the next meeting.

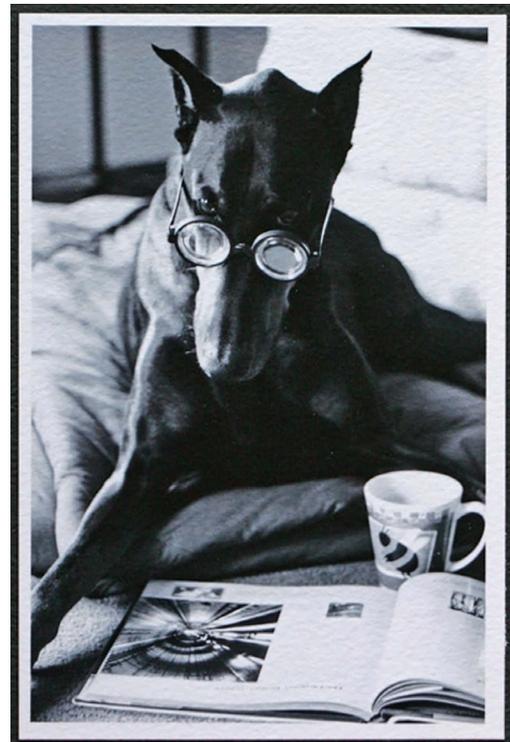
For those of you who are participating either, or both in conformation and performance events, I wish you the best of luck! Please send your brags to Susan for inclusion in the Newsletter as we are proud of all accomplishments of our members!

If there is anything anyone would like to bring up at the March meeting please let me know so it can be on the agenda. All ideas are welcome. Thank you.

In the meantime stay well and hopefully we can enjoy the warmer weather.

Best to all of you.

Sincerely,
Pamela DeHetre, President, Atlanta Doberman Pinscher Club



Updates from the AKC Canine Health Foundation

The AKC Canine Health Foundation worked diligently in 2022 to enhance the well-being of dogs everywhere.

In 2022 alone, AKC CHF invested \$3.4 million in 54 new canine health research and educational grants. These funds support studies exploring drug resistant epilepsy, chronic kidney disease, new technologies to diagnose and treat cancer, spread of vector-borne diseases, and more. Several of these studies are a continuation of previous CHF-funded work expanding the understanding of the management of congestive heart failure, early detection of various cancers, and a new treatment for bone cancer.

AKC CHF worked with seven clubs and to fund one of their largest studies ever for \$460,620. This study focuses on early detection of canine osteosarcoma and is underway at the University of Minnesota under lead investigator Dr. Jaime Modiano.

They also launched a match campaign in partnership with the Rhodesian Ridgeback Club of the United States (RRCUS) (via its RRDAF and Nancy Krupa Fund) and the Rhodesian Ridgeback Charitable Foundation (RRCF). Dedicated to advancing canine health these groups have committed \$90,000 over three years which will match donations to AKC CHF-funded cancer research up to \$30,000 per year.



Event Distance Conflicts

Reminder as you begin planning your events: The Show Conflict Distance Policy restricts clubs from holding events of the same type within a set number of miles. The distance is determined using straight line miles. In 2021 the AKC Board voted to add an option that clubs may appeal a conflict denial if the driving mileage was approximately 25% greater than the conflict distance mileage for the sport. For more information or questions about this policy, please contact eventplans@akc.org

How Do I Get My Puppy Started in Dog Shows?

By Denise Flaim

Showing dogs—the formal term for it is “Conformation”—is a sport. Like any football game or tennis match, dog shows have rules, too. But folks who sit on the sidelines can easily become bewildered if they don’t understand how guidelines apply to the game at hand.

Whether you’re taking aim at a fastball or trotting with a terrier, no one becomes an expert overnight. It takes time, exposure, and research to really understand the subtleties of any sport. So the best way to get involved in dog shows is to just go to one. Don’t be self-conscious about being a novice.

Yes, the bustle and drama of dog shows can be a bit intimidating, for some, and it can take time to find people who are willing to educate you. But your persistence will be rewarded with an ever-deepening knowledge of your dog and their breed. Don’t forget a resource you already have: your breeder! And most dog shows offer new exhibitor tours.

Even if you don’t plan on showing your current puppy, learning the ins and outs of dog shows will come in handy for any other four-leggers who might join your family down the line. And if you have children in the family, competing in Pee Wee competitions and, later, junior handling can teach them responsibility and good sportsmanship.

So, in the spirit of every journey starting with a single step, here’s a beginner’s guide for new puppy owners who are interested in learning more about dog shows.

What is a Breed Standard?

The point of dog shows is summed up in that fancy word: “conformation.” When they are evaluating dogs in the ring, judges are determining how closely each dog conforms to the written description of the breed, or its standard. Each breed is its own universe, and what is correct for one—think height, color, eye shape, or temperament—might not be for another.

But reading the standard isn’t enough: You also have to know how to interpret it, and how to prioritize its many demands. The best person to help you with that is your dog’s breeder, who can also tell you whether your puppy is a potential contender for the show ring.

BRAGS

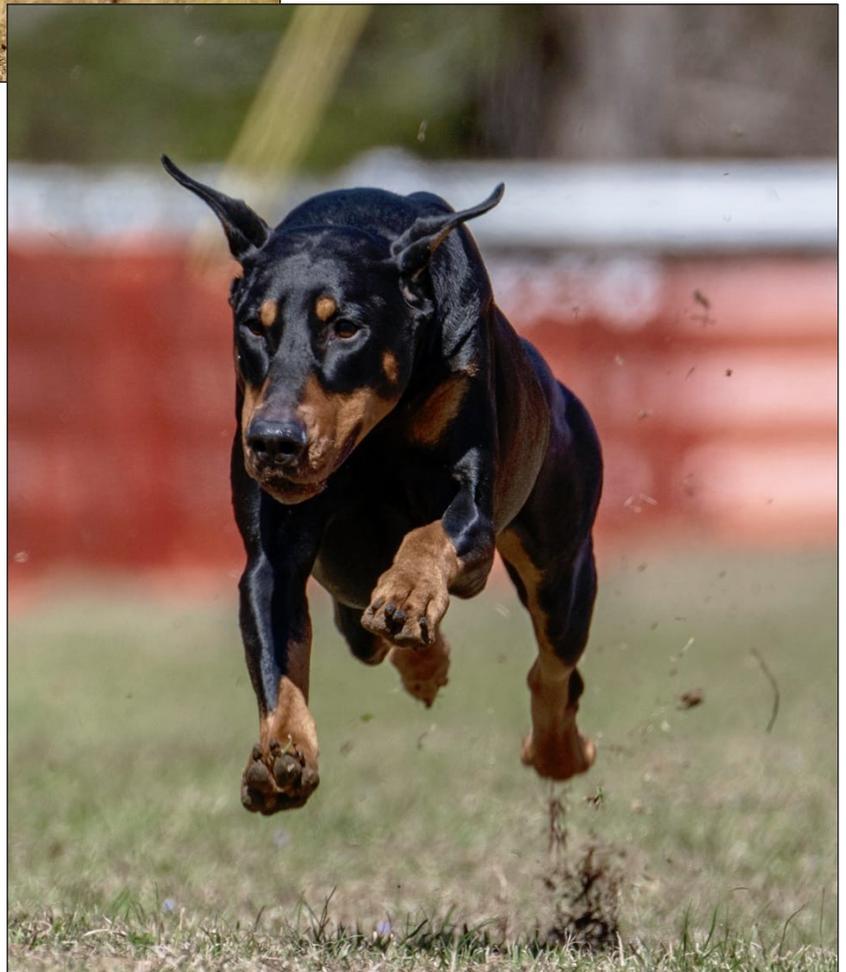


GCh Ch Sun Style's Joy In The Morning, CGC, BCAT
churning up turf as he finishes his last run to earn his BCAT title at the Greater Columbia Obedience Club event. Run, Ruffian, run!!!!
Owner:
Penny Rossiter



FASTCAT RUNS ON THE RISE!

CH Blackjack's Armed And Dangerous Monster
started working on his first title in February, running 25.10 in his initial run.
Go Stryker!!!
Owners:
Meredith Pretzie and Susan Rochester



ADPC Upcoming Shows Mark your calendar!

Our show is part of the four day (May 11 - 14) Crossroads of Georgia Cluster Dog Show with Southeast Alabama Kennel Club and Macon Kennel Club at the Georgia National Fair Grounds.

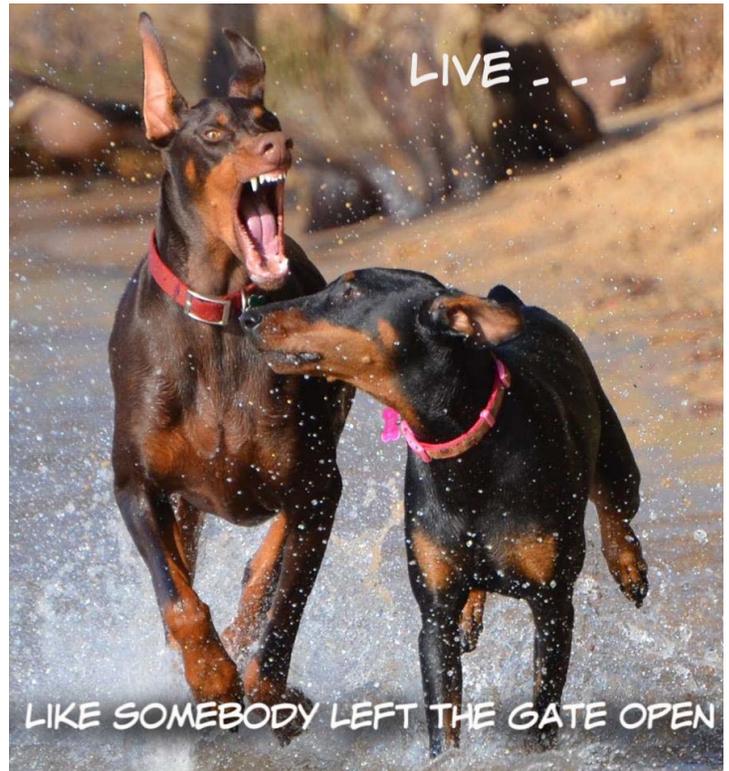
- ~ The Cluster is expected to draw over 1500 beautiful dogs of many diverse breeds
- ~ The North GA Working Group is joining the Cluster this year
- ~ There will be 2 shows per day for Dobermans
- ~ The Cluster is offering Barn Hunt all four days

Our specialty shows will be Friday and Sunday.

Ken J. Murray will judge Friday's show.

Judith Brown will judge Sunday's show.

Susan Rochester will judge sweeps on Sunday.



Diet-associated dilated cardiomyopathy: The cause is not yet known but it hasn't gone away

By: Lisa M. Freeman, DVM, PhD, DACVIM

Recently, the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) issued their fourth update on diet-associated dilated cardiomyopathy (DCM) – this time, in the form of frequently-asked questions about this serious heart disease. To make sure pet owners have the most accurate and up-to-date information, I thought this would be a good opportunity to write an update on diet-associated DCM since my last update was over a year ago. While the specific cause is not yet known, we've learned a lot since then!

Diet-associated DCM has been devastating both for the affected dogs and their owners. Veterinarians working closely with these patients have been impacted by the distress the diagnosis has caused owners because of the severity of the disease, cost of treatment, and sadness when a beloved dog is sick or dies. But, in addition, most owners I've worked with thought they were feeding their dogs the best food possible, only to find out that the diet may have contributed to their dogs' heart disease. While the number of cases may have decreased, it hasn't gone away. Cardiologists and other veterinarians dealing directly with these dogs and owners who have lost dogs to this disease know it's all too real.

The FDA's latest update

The most recent update from the FDA provided good background information on this ongoing issue, addressing many of the common questions that veterinarians have been getting. Of most interest to those of us actively engaged in researching or following this issue was the update on the number of reports the FDA has received. As of July, 2020, more than 1100 dogs with DCM have been reported to the FDA (and over 20 cats). In the latest update (with numbers as of November 1, 2022), another 255 dogs with DCM had been reported to the FDA, bringing the total number of dogs with DCM reported to the FDA to 1382.

Some may see the lower number of recent reports as an indication that diet-associated DCM is disappear-

ing, which could be happening due to changing diet formulations or the decreasing popularity of grain-free diets. However, I see this as another 255 dogs being reported to the FDA (that's still about one dog every three days). Not all cases of diet-associated DCM get reported to the FDA. Diagnosing DCM requires an echocardiogram (ultrasound of the heart) which is not always performed. Reporting a case to the FDA is time-consuming. Veterinarians have become busier since the pandemic and may not always report cases (and, while owners can submit reports, they may not be aware of the importance of doing so). So, while the lower rate of reports to the FDA might mean that fewer cases are occurring, it might just reflect fewer veterinarians and pet owners reporting DCM cases. What is clear about diet-associated DCM is the amount of supporting scientific evidence published on this disease since the FDA's first alert in July 2018. In the 4 ½ years since that alert, 16 peer-reviewed research articles on the topic have been published (see compiled list below). As a result of the work by many veterinarians and other scientists, more pieces of the puzzle have been added, and we are getting closer to an answer. This disease provides an excellent opportunity for scientists, industry, and trade organizations to collaborate to understand this current problem and to optimize our pets' nutrition and health.

DCM has more than one cause (and more than one outcome)

DCM is a serious disease of the heart muscle which causes the heart to beat more weakly and to enlarge. DCM is the second most common heart disease in dogs but, until recently, when veterinarians referred to DCM, they were usually talking about primary (hereditary) DCM, which is common in certain large- and giant-breed dogs, such as Doberman Pinschers, Great Danes, Irish Wolfhounds, and Boxers. Primary DCM is presumed to be a hereditary disease although only a few genes associated with DCM in different breeds have been identified so far. Primary DCM is progressive, commonly resulting in congestive heart failure (fluid buildup in the lungs or belly) or irregular heart-beat that can cause dogs to faint or even die suddenly.

However, in addition to primary DCM, dogs can also develop secondary DCM as the result of certain medications, infections, or nutritional causes. The

nutritional causes of secondary DCM can be nutrient deficiencies (such as taurine or vitamin B1 deficiency), but also can be levels of nutrients or other dietary compounds that are too high (such as heavy metal toxicity). We sometimes see secondary DCM in dogs or cats eating home-prepared diets (unless the recipe was formulated by a Board-Certified Veterinary Nutritionist® and strictly followed, home-prepared diets are nearly always nutritionally unbalanced and can put animals at risk for secondary DCM). A unique feature of these secondary forms of DCM is that they can affect any dog breed and are not limited just to those breeds affected by hereditary DCM. In addition, the hearts of dogs with secondary DCM due to nutritional causes can improve with diet change, something we don't see in dogs with primary DCM.

The improvement in dogs' hearts after diet change was one of the features that alerted cardiologists to the current diet-associated DCM problem. The other was the increase in DCM cases being diagnosed in dog breeds that don't usually develop DCM. Multiple studies have now shown improvement in heart size and function in dogs with diet-associated DCM after diet change (and medical treatment to control symptoms), something not seen in dogs with primary DCM. In addition, dogs with diet-associated DCM can live much longer after diet change than dogs with primary DCM. However, improvement of the hearts of dogs with diet-associated DCM can take months to years and often is not complete, especially in dogs with severely affected hearts. And sometimes dogs with this potentially reversible disease die suddenly due to an irregular heartbeat before their hearts have time to improve.

Associated diets – not just grain-free

In addition to these clinical differences in dogs with diet-associated DCM, it was identified early on that these dogs were eating diets with similar properties. Research has now shown that these diets (often termed “non-traditional diets”) are commonly grain-free commercial dry diets that contain pulses and, to a lesser extent, potatoes or sweet potatoes. Pulses are peas, lentils, chickpeas, and dry beans. While pulses are part of the legume family, soy (another legume) has not been associated with this problem. Some research suggests that peas may be most associated with this

form of DCM, but this may just reflect the fact that peas are used more commonly in dog foods compared to other pulses. In 2017, 51% of dry dog foods contained peas, while 23% contained chickpeas, and 14% contained lentils. So, while pulses – and especially peas – seem to be the most likely culprits, we have a lot more to learn about their effects on dogs eating diets high in these ingredients (for example, concentration in the diet, effects of processing, and effects of different fractions of peas such as whole peas, pea protein, pea fiber, etc).

Many have linked diet-associated DCM with grain-free diets. In fact, it appears to be more closely associated with diets containing pulses, rather than with the presence or absence of grains in a diet. In the past, it was primarily grain-free diets that included high levels of pulses and potatoes as ingredients to replace grains, but now some grain-inclusive diets contain pulses and can be associated with DCM as well. Most dogs with diet-associated DCM have been eating non-traditional diets for over one year (sometimes many years), so DCM does not seem to develop immediately after eating these diets and not every dog that eats these diets develops heart problems.

Spectrum of disease

DCM represents an advanced stage of heart disease, but it appears that the heart starts to get sick long before obvious DCM has developed. In fact, it's important to note that the FDA's numbers refer only to dogs with DCM, and not less severe forms of the disease. In its 2019 update, they stated: “We did not include in these numbers the many general cardiac reports submitted to the FDA that did not have a DCM diagnosis. However, this case information is still valuable, as it may show heart changes that occur before a dog develops symptomatic DCM.” Studies now suggest that dogs with less severe forms of the disease appear to represent the same disease process – just an earlier stage. Dogs with less severe stages of the disease have similar improvements in heart size and function after diet change. In fact, when detected early, dogs with less severe forms appear to have a better response to diet change than dogs with DCM that are having symptoms.

Even in dogs thought to be healthy, researchers have now identified negative effects of non-traditional diets on the heart, including a larger left ventricle (the main pumping chamber of the heart), weaker contraction of the heart, higher levels of a blood marker reflecting damage to the heart muscle, and more dogs with irregular heartbeats. And while studies of DCM suggest worse effects the longer dogs have been eating non-traditional diets, one study showed that in dogs eating a high pea, plant-based diet, the left ventricle increased in size after only three months. Therefore, the number of DCM cases reported to the FDA might be just the “tip of the iceberg,” representing only the most severely affected dogs.

Mechanisms

The FDA’s data and the research evidence published thus far supports an association between non-traditional diets and DCM, but the specific cause is not yet known. A number of nutritional deficiencies can cause DCM, such as thiamine, carnitine, or vitamin E, but deficiencies have not been identified in the published studies. Taurine deficiency can cause secondary DCM and was one of the first suspected causes of this current problem, but it has not been found in most dogs with diet-associated DCM (except in one study of Golden Retrievers). However, blood levels of taurine may not be the best indicator of taurine status so more research is needed.

Common toxins and excessive levels of nutrients that can be associated with DCM also have been investigated and have not been identified thus far in the dogs with DCM or in the associated diets. More unique, high-tech approaches to identifying the cause of this problem are beginning to be published (for example, our recent foodomics and metabolomics studies), and additional research is underway by many researchers. Thus far, studies suggest that high levels of peas and lentils in the diet seem to be the strongest predictor for development of diet-associated DCM, and numerous compounds are being investigated to help identify the specific cause and mechanism. While the specific cause has been challenging to identify, our current hypothesis is that compounds in these ingredients may have toxic effects on the heart.

Cats

While the majority of cases reported to the FDA have been dogs, more than 20 cats with suspected diet-associated DCM were also reported as of July 2020. DCM used to be one of the most common heart diseases affecting cats until 1987 when the landmark discovery of the link between taurine deficiency and DCM was made. However, taurine deficiency as a cause of DCM in cats has become very uncommon since taurine levels in commercial diets were increased. Just as in dogs, grain-free cat foods and cat foods containing peas and other pulses have become common (in 2017, 46% of dry cat foods contained peas). Research is ongoing but it is possible that some cats, particularly those eating high-pulse diets for long periods of time, might also develop a secondary diet-associated DCM, similar to what is being seen in dogs.

Diet-associated DCM: Where are we now?

1. The ingredients most likely at the heart of diet-associated DCM are peas and other pulses, although more research is needed on other ingredients. The presence or absence of pulses cannot be predicted based only on the diet’s name or whether the diet contains grains, so the full ingredient list of the product must be reviewed. If the diet contains pulses (for example, peas, pea protein, lentils, chickpeas, etc) in the top ten ingredients (or multiple pulses anywhere in the ingredient list), it might put some dogs at risk for heart problems.
 2. When we diagnose dogs and cats with DCM (or earlier changes, such as reduced contraction of the heart, enlarged heart chambers, or irregular heartbeats), we recommend changing their diet to a reduced sodium diet that does not contain pulses or potatoes/sweet potatoes in conjunction with appropriate medical treatment. However, it is important to work with your veterinarian to determine the best medical and nutritional treatment for each individual pet.
 3. If your dog develops DCM, please report it to the FDA to help the ongoing investigation.
- Cardiologists continue to diagnose dogs with diet-associated DCM, especially in regions where non-traditional diets are common. My colleagues and I (and many others) are working hard to solve this challenging and deadly disease affecting dogs which, unfortunately, has not gone away.

Dog Treats

1 medium (organic) banana, mashed
3 tablespoons creamy (organic) peanut butter
1 large organic brown egg
½ cup organic pumpkin
¼ cup organic extra virgin coconut oil
1 ¾ - 2 cups organic coconut flour

1. Preheat the oven to 300 degrees F.
2. In a medium bowl, mix together the banana, peanut butter, coconut oil, pumpkin and egg; mix until completely combined. Add the flour; mix. Add the wet ingredients to the dry ingredients and combine until the dough comes together.
2. Transfer dough to a piece of floured wax paper.
Note: The dough will be sticky so flouring everything (wax paper, rolling pin and cookie cutter) is important. Roll the dough to a 1/4-inch thickness and cut out the cookies using a cookie cutter of choice. Re-roll the scraps and cut out more cookies. (I used the small bone shaped cookie cutter and ended up with 30 cookies.) Transfer the cookies to a parchment-lined baking sheet. These cookies won't spread so place them close together. If you don't want to roll the dough out, alternatively, you can scoop teaspoons of dough onto a baking sheet, flattening the cookies with the ball of your palm.
3. Bake the cookies 40 minutes or until golden brown. Allow the cookies to come to room temperature on a cooling rack. Cookies will be good for up to 2 weeks in an airtight container.

Frozen Yogurt Treats

Container of whole milk organic greek yogurt
Organic blueberries
Organic strawberries
(some whole and some blended)
Mix together and spoon yogurt mixture into paw print molds or bone molds and freeze.
Dogs LOVE these treats!



There are four allowed colors of
Doberman Pinscher!



Pneumonia in Dogs

By Ned F. Kuehn, DVM, MS, DACVIM, Michigan Veterinary Specialists

Pneumonia is an inflammation of the lungs and airways that causes breathing difficulties and deficiency of oxygen in the blood. There are many possible causes. The most common cause of pneumonia is a viral infection of the lower respiratory tract. Canine distemper virus, adenovirus types 1 and 2, canine influenza virus, and parainfluenza virus cause damage to the airways and make the animal susceptible to the development of pneumonia.

Parasitic invasion of the bronchi can also result in pneumonia. Tuberculous pneumonia, although uncommon, is sometimes seen in dogs. Fungal pneumonia (see below) is also seen in dogs. Injury to the mucous membranes of the bronchial tubes and inhalation of irritants may cause pneumonia directly, as well as making the animal susceptible to bacterial infection. Aspiration pneumonia (see below) may result from persistent vomiting, abnormal movement of the esophagus, or improperly administered medications (for example, oil or barium) or food (forced feeding).

Signs of pneumonia include lethargy, loss of appetite, and a deep cough. Labored breathing, “blowing” of the lips, and bluish mucous membranes may be evident, especially after exercise. Body temperature is moderately increased. Complications such as pleurisy (inflammation of the lining around the lungs) or infection by additional organisms may occur.

Diagnosis usually involves a combination of history, physical examination (including listening to the lungs with a stethoscope), and appropriate tests. Your veterinarian may be able to hear wheezing sounds within the lungs. In the later stages of pneumonia, the increased lung density caused by inflammation can be seen on x-rays. Analysis of fluid used to “wash” the airways is valuable for the diagnosis of bacterial infections. Bacterial culture and drug sensitivity testing help the veterinarian to determine the best course of antibiotic treatment, if needed. A viral infection generally results in an increased body temperature.

Animals with pneumonia benefit from a warm, dry environment. If the mucous membranes are very bluish (indicating poor oxygen in the blood), the veterinarian may administer oxygen. Antibiotics are usually given, although the treatment may be modified based on the results of laboratory cultures, so that the drugs

given best match the type of infection found. Additional treatments, such as bronchodilators and nebulization (“breathing treatments”), may be necessary. The dog may need to be reexamined frequently, including periodic chest x rays, to watch for improvement or recurrence, to follow an underlying disease (if one is present), or to detect any possible complications.

Aspiration Pneumonia

Aspiration pneumonia is a lung infection caused by inhalation of foreign material. The severity of the inflammation depends on the material inhaled, the type of bacteria inhaled, and the distribution of foreign material in the lungs. A common cause of aspiration pneumonia is the improper administration of liquid medicines. Animals that breathe in vomit or attempt to eat or drink while partially choked are at risk for aspiration pneumonia as well. Disturbances in the normal swallowing mechanism, such as in anesthetized or comatose animals, or in animals with deformities such as cleft palate, may also lead to aspiration pneumonia. Dogs with disorders of the pharynx or esophagus (such as megaesophagus) are more likely to get aspiration pneumonia.

A history suggesting that a foreign substance might have been inhaled is the most important clue to diagnosing this disease. Signs include coughing, exercise intolerance, labored or rapid breathing, rapid heart rate, and fever. Other signs include bluish mucous membranes and airway spasms. A sweetish, off-smelling breath may be detected, which becomes more intense as the disease progresses. This is often associated with a nasal discharge that sometimes is tinged reddish brown or green. Occasionally, evidence of the breathed-in material (for example, oil droplets) can be seen in the nasal discharge or coughed-up material.

Fungal Pneumonia

Fungal pneumonia (also called mycotic pneumonia) is a fungal infection of the lung that leads to the development of pneumonia. A number of fungi have been shown to cause fungal pneumonia in domestic animals.

Often these fungi are found in animals with compromised immune systems, but they can cause disease in healthy animals as well. Infection is typically caused by inhalation of spores, which can spread through the blood and lymph systems. The source of most fungal infections is believed to be soil-related rather than spread from one animal to another.



Design by Tina Hicks 2018

Lake Lanier

DOG SHOW CLUSTER



Thursday, March 30, 2023
Saturday, April 1, 2023

Friday, March 31, 2023
Sunday, April 2, 2023

WEDNESDAY GROUP SHOWS - Hounds, Terriers & Toys
CGC, CGCA, TRICK DOG: Friday - Sunday
FARM DOG (separate premium list): Friday & Saturday
FCAT (separate Premium List): Thursday - Sunday
Judges' Education Breed Seminars: Thursday - Saturday
Junior Seminar: Saturday • **Pee Wee Competition:** Sunday
10 OPEN SHOWS DURING THE LAKE LANIER CLUSTER