



"Howler"

The Butler County
Kennel Club, Inc.
SPRING/SUMMER
2019



THE BUTLER COUNTY KENNEL CLUB, INC. BOARD OF DIRECTORS –

President – Susan Chapin, swimfinn@zoominternet.net

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Board Members – John Namachar, namachar@zoominternet.net,
Regina Beilstein & Marty Kroll

The Butler County Kennel Club, Inc.
is dedicated to the promotion of
excellence in all-breed conformation.
Founded in 1939, we are an AKC
member club.

2019 MEETING SCHEDULE (Unless otherwise noted, all meetings are held at 7PM, the first Tuesday of the month at the Butler YMCA – Trustees Room)

(Meeting, Event & Refreshment Schedule)

June 2019 –

July 2019 –

August 2019 –

September 2019 –

October 2019 –

November 2019 –

December 2019 – Winter Recess, No meeting scheduled

EDUCATION – 2019 BCKC Handling Classes at BDTA
Building begin at 8:00PM on the following dates;

May 15, 22, 29

June 5, 12, 19

August 7, 14, 21, 28

September 4, 11

For additional information, call: Gary 724-352-9383.

NEWSLETTER PUBLICATION – The "Howler" is a quarterly newsletter. If you are aware of something that the club membership should be informed of please get that information to Heather Donley at her email address

Heather.Donley@gmail.com, or you may contact her at 412-427-4849 or send correspondence to 78 Seldom Seen Rd, Bradfordwoods, PA 15015. We would like to add photos of your dogs in each edition. Please send those pics in .jpg format. Forward articles and photos to arrive no later than 17 May 2019 for the 2019 Summer Edition.

Facebook -

Remember to visit our Facebook page and give it a "Like".
[Questions regarding posting pictures, etc. can be directed to Jean Kroll at krollj@yahoo.com.](#)

BCKC WEBSITE ACCESS –

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

In order to get to the Members Only section of the website, the username and password for this site are the same for EVERYONE in the club.

1. Go to this URL:
<http://www.butlercountykennelclub.com/membersonly.htm>
2. The Username box, type in bckcmember (this is case sensitive – all lower case!)
3. In the Password box, type in bckc2006 (also case sensitive, zeros, not the letter o)

MEMBERSHIP & CLUB DIRECTORY– Jeanette Nestor, Secretary

Remember to notify the club secretary whenever there is a change to your home address/email address and phone number.

Current Active Membership – 40



Rabies Vaccination

1. PROTOCOL. Why is a single, initial dose of killed (inactivated) rabies vaccine able to immunize a dog, whereas 2 doses (2 to 4 wk apart) are required for all other killed vaccines?

All canine rabies vaccines licensed in the United States and Canada are inactivated (killed) vaccines. Conventionally, 2 sequential doses of an inactivated vaccine, administered 2 to 4 wk apart, are required to immunize (e.g., leptospirosis, Lyme disease, canine influenza virus).

Rabies virus vaccine is an exception. Like other inactivated vaccines, the initial dose of a rabies vaccine serves as the "priming" dose. If a dog, after having received only 1 dose of rabies vaccine, is subsequently exposed to virulent rabies virus, exposure to the virulent virus then serves as the second, or immunizing, "dose." Because the onset of signs of rabies is slow (weeks to months) following exposure there is adequate time for a protective, humoral immune response to develop. For this reason, rabies infection in vaccinated dogs/cats, even among those having received a single dose, is exceptionally rare.

2. EXEMPTIONS to RABIES VACCINATION. In locations that require dogs to be vaccinated against rabies, can a licensed veterinarian exempt the requirement to administer a rabies vaccine if the patient is sick or there is a risk that doing so may result in an adverse reaction or otherwise cause injury to the patient?

Point-of-care exemptions of the rabies vaccination requirement are NOT authorized in most states (for information on your state see: www.rabiesaware.org).

Within states and jurisdictions that require rabies vaccination of dogs, unless rabies vaccination exemption authority is specifically defined by state statute or regulation, rabies vaccine must be administered at the appropriate interval regardless of the dog's age or state of health.

Currently a small number of states do grant point-of-care rabies vaccination exemption authority to veterinarians. Some states/jurisdictions allow exemptions but only with the approval of a designated Public Health official (usually a veterinarian). Exemptions may be allowed in the event an individual dog is determined to be sufficiently ill or if rabies vaccination poses a potential threat to life. Physical examination and medical record documentation of the illness is likely to be required; it is the responsibility of the owner and the veterinarian to ensure the dog is revaccinated when or if the underlying medical condition resolves.

NOTE: Among cases in which a rabies vaccination exemption has been approved and is in effect, the "exempted" dog/cat will not be considered "currently vaccinated" (immunized) if the rabies booster interval (i.e., either 1 yr or 3 yr) has been exceeded.

Due to the potential implications associated with rabies exposure in a dog that is not "currently vaccinated" against rabies, the owner should be involved in the decision-making process of whether or not to vaccinate, and the veterinarian should document the discussion in the patient's medical record.

Veterinarians practicing in locations where rabies vaccination is required, but exemption authority is not specifically defined, should contact the state (State Public Health Veterinarian) or provincial Department of Health (Ontario) for guidance on this issue before vaccinating a dog with a medical condition that, in the veterinarian's judgment, precludes administration of rabies vaccine.

3. OVERDUE for RABIES BOOSTER. If a healthy dog is overdue for a rabies booster (and has documentation of prior vaccination), what is the appropriate protocol for revaccination?

In a majority of the states and jurisdictions that require rabies vaccination of dogs, administration of a single dose of rabies vaccine, regardless of the time that has lapsed since the previous dose was administered, is considered to be an immunizing dose.

In most states, following revaccination, a dog is considered to be immediately "currently vaccinated" against rabies. In most states, the duration of immunity of the booster dose is determined by the product label (i.e., either 1 yr or 3 yr).

Some states do require all dogs that are overdue for revaccination, even if by just one day, to receive 2 rabies vaccine doses 1 yr apart. (For your state, see www.rabiesaware.org).

4. ANTIBODY TESTING. Does a "positive" rabies antibody test result correlate with protective immunity?

No. At least not in a legal sense. IMPORTANT: In the United States and Canada, a "positive" test result for rabies virus neutralizing antibody (RVNA) is not recognized as an index of protective immunity and cannot be used in lieu of revaccination.

As of 2017, RVNA (regardless of the methodology used), denotes prior vaccination only and is predominantly limited to use in dog/cats being exported from the United States/Canada to rabies-free countries/regions of the world. Testing is a requirement imposed by the importing country/region as a means of confirming recent vaccination against rabies and is not regarded as evidence of protective immunity against rabies.

5. ANTIBODY TESTING. After receiving a single, initial dose of rabies vaccine, will a dog have a "positive" fluorescent antibody virus neutralization (FAVN) test result for a full year?

Not likely. The antibody test result (FAVN) performed in dogs that have received a single, initial dose of rabies vaccine can be expected to manifest a "positive" test result for a limited time (up to about 3 months) post-vaccination. Age of the dog, giant breeds versus smaller breeds, and individual patient response to vaccine antigen influence the amplitude and duration of serologic response following a single dose of rabies vaccine.

Dogs undergoing FAVN testing prior to exportation are more likely to have a negative ("failing") test result if they have received a single dose of vaccine versus 2 or more doses.



By: [Jan Rasmusen](#) -

Enlightened veterinarians and pet parents have become increasingly wary of the health risks, and lack of benefits, associated with repeatedly vaccinating dogs after their initial “puppy shots.”

Is titer testing the solution to the over-vaccination problem?

Here’s a crash course to help you muddle through the mire of misinformation surrounding this simple blood test, and to help you decide whether or not to test your dog’s antibody titers.

What is Titer Testing?

A titer test (pronounced TIGHT er) is a laboratory test measuring the existence and level of antibodies to disease in blood. Antibodies are produced when an antigen (like a virus or bacteria) provokes a response from the immune system. This response can come from natural exposure or from vaccination. (Note: titering is also called serum vaccine antibody titering and serologic vaccine titering.)

How is the Test Performed?

Your test result will have an explanation of what your pet’s test result means. But if you want to know more, here’s the test in a nutshell:

First, one mL of blood is drawn.

The sample is then diluted.

Titer levels, expressed as ratios, indicate how many times blood can be diluted before no antibodies are detected.

If blood can be diluted a 1000 times and still show antibodies, the ratio would be 1:1000.

This is a "strong" titer. A titer of 1:2 would be weak.

Should I Test for All Diseases?

The most recommended test examines antibodies for both parvovirus and distemper, the two most important viruses. Rabies titers are also often tested. Usually, for most dogs, tests for other diseases are generally not considered useful or necessary.

Why Titer Test?

The parvovirus/distemper test can help you or others (vets, groomers, kennel owners, etc.) determine if your dog requires additional vaccination, and may save your dog unnecessary shots.

It is especially useful when making a decision about vaccinating an animal with unknown vaccination history, or for determining if puppies have received immunity from vaccination.

Most experts believe strong titers are a more reliable indication of immunity than vaccination: tests show the actual immune response, not just the attempt to cause an immune response by vaccination.

Do not expect, however, that everyone will accept test results in place of proof of vaccination.

The subject of immunity is complicated, and we are programmed to think of vaccination as "the gold standard" — the more, the better. Experts who challenge the status quo are often maligned. Humans don't like change.

How Often Should I Test Titers For Parvo And Distemper?

You're going to have to decide for yourself. Some vets recommend testing yearly, but this can be expensive. Others test every three years. Still others test five to seven years after vaccination.

Why?

Challenge tests show that successful vaccination against parvovirus gives most animals at least seven years of immunity. Distemper provides immunity for at least five to seven years.*

Dr. Ron Schultz, one of the most renowned pet vaccination experts in the country, believes that once a test yields strong titers, you need not test again.

In Dr. Jean Dodd's article on vaccine reactions, she quotes Dr. Schultz on the value of testing titers: "an animal with a positive test has sterilizing immunity and should be protected from infection. If that animal were vaccinated it would not respond with a significant increase in antibody titer, but may develop a hypersensitivity to vaccine components (e.g. fetal bovine serum)."

Does A Weak Titer Mean My Dog Needs A "Booster" Shot?

Maybe not for dogs that have previously shown strong titers. Many experts, including Dr. Schultz, say the dog's immune system will have produced "memory cells" that will produce antibodies when they're needed.

Think of memory cells as reserve forces.

When known foreigners invade, they remember how to attack them. Dr. Shultz has said, "show that an animal with a positive test has sterilizing immunity and should be protected from infection.

If that animal were vaccinated it would not respond with a significant increase in antibody titer, but may develop a hypersensitivity to vaccine components (e.g. fetal bovine serum).

Read more about memory cells [here](#). Read pages 5-6 of Antibody Titers vs Annual Vaccination by Richard Ford, DVM for more information.

Should I Test My Puppy?

Yes! If so, when? Ideally, puppies should have had their last vaccination after 16 weeks of age then should be tested to see if further vaccination is necessary.

There's an excellent discussion about testing puppies in the 2006 American Animal Hospital Association (AAHA) [Canine Vaccine Task Force Report](#) (page 13) entitled "What Are The Possible Applications of Serologic Testing?" It reads, "Such titer testing is the only way to ensure that a puppy has developed an immune response after vaccinating."

What Do Titer Tests Cost?

Testing costs vary widely from practice to practice, so shop around. Some vets do in-house testing. Others use outside labs. Some mark up tests and services a little; others, a lot.

You should be able to have parvo/distemper tests done most places for less than \$100.

Rabies tests, on the other hand, can cost considerably more, in large part because they are sent overnight to a lab. (Ask your vet to have a Titer Testing Day so that they can send multiple tests in one package and save considerably on shipping costs.)

Consider contacting Hemopet, Dr. Jean Dodd's nonprofit organization, for their pricing and her excellent reading of results. When comparative shopping, make sure pricing includes blood draw and shipping.

Wait!

Before jumping to the conclusion that vaccinating is much cheaper than testing, remember that testing can be a one-time (or at least rare) expense and is no riskier than any simple blood draw. Vaccinating, on the other hand, can potentially cause a lifetime of illness.

Should I Titer Test For Rabies?

The rabies titer test will give you an indication of your dog's immunity if he or she is at particular risk for contracting rabies.

It may also be required prior to international travel. Test results will NOT be accepted by Animal Control and most others as a substitute for vaccination of healthy dogs as required by law.

If your dog has documented health problems or documented adverse reactions to shots, your vet may be able to get your dog an exemption to rabies vaccination. (Learn more at www.Truth4Dogs.org.) A rabies titer test is not usually necessary when requesting an exemption but may be useful when re-applying for a denied exemption. It may also give you and others piece of mind if you're contemplating an exemption.

(Note: a French challenge study has shown rabies vaccination gives immunity for at least five years. In the U.S, the Rabies Challenge Fund is doing concurrent tests for five years and seven years to extend the period between shots. This important nonprofit study is funded solely by donations from dog lovers like you.)

Can I Titer Test Immediately After Vaccination?

To get an accurate test, you must wait at least 14 days after vaccination before testing.

What if your vet, groomer, spouse, best friend, kennel owner or day care proprietor says titer testing is "voodoo science," that your dog needs continued vaccination even if testing indicates otherwise?

Know that vets out of school longer than 10 years received little or no immunology or vaccinology training in school; they shouldn't be considered experts unless they've devoted hundreds of hours to research and training. Others who want to influence you may have no training at all and may be acting out of fear.

Do your own research and advocate for your dog.

New 2018 Champions *Congratulations!*

Nitro

Champion on 12/9/18
 CH Dancing Winds Fast & Furious of Maple Lane
 Judge: Mr. Mark Houston McMillan
 Owner: Maggie Toth



Nitro

Siberian Husky

CH. Dancing Winds Fast & Furious of Maple Lane
 12/09/18 – Best of Winners
 @ Winter Blast Cluster

Handler - Jennene Stang

Queenie

Champion on 03/01/19
 CH Dalriada's Superstitious at Gray Cottage
 Judge: Mrs. Karen S. McFarlane
 Owners: Altha Graham, Cara Campbell, and Jackie Thatcher



Queenie

Wire Fox Terrier

CH. Dalriada's Superstitious at Gray Cottage

03/01/19 – Best of Winners
 @ St. Louis Fox Terriers Club

Handler – Rebecca Cross

Braggs

Gary and Jeannette Nestor's Basset Hound Hercules got BOB and 5 point major at the West Virginia Black Diamond Cluster. He also got 2 select ribbons. They are also getting 5 year old Basset girl named Queen from Virginia. She is a grand champion and just had puppies. She will be their house dog, living a life of luxury, no more kennels and having puppies for her!

Kathie McCormick's Malamute Betsy, at the tender age of 8, passed her Canine Good Citizenship and her Therapy Dog International tests! She is now officially GCH Arctic Hope's Brave Betsy of Taiga, CGC, TDI, TT. Fantastic job both of you!

James Miller_Marquez's Argo got a Group 4 at the Shawnee Kennel Club show!
 Argo is a Belgian Tervuren Shepherd.



Misty

Rough Collie
 Nightwind's Misty Blue

11/10/2018
 Major Reserve @ Cleveland
 4 Major Reserves but no wins so far 😊

This may be my only picture ever so added it this time lol!



Brownie

13" Beagle

Jack Pine Valley Jerusalem

04/19/2019
 4th Place in his first Field Trial!

Hilltop Beagle Club, Sugarcreek, PA

News from "Dancing Winds" Siberians, by Maggie Toth –



"Talia" Dancing Winds Heavens's Mist C.G.C., T.D.I went to her first show in February, and earned several wins over the next couple of months before returning home to be a Mommy!



3-9-19 BOB under Judge Rita S. Walke Cabin

3-10-19 BOW under Judge Terry M. DePietro

August, N.J Cabin Fever Shows

3-16-19 WB under Judge Lloyd Constantine-Amedeo

3-17-19 BOW under Judge Jacqueline M. Rayner

York, PA Delaware County Shows



"Nitro" Dancing Winds Fast & Furious of Maple Lane C.G.C.,T.D.I. finished his championship in less than one month, starting at the 11/18 Philadelphia K.C. getting a 3 PT Major BOW and ending at the 12/8 and 12/9 Winter Blast Cluster with a WD on 12/8 and BOW 3 PT Major on 12/9!

Summer is finally on its way!

That means puppy time!

*Don't forget to Vaccinate your
dogs for Lime Disease! There
are lots of ticks out there
already this season!*

