

Dog Bytes

W/VESSA Newsletter

June 2010

2010 W/VESSA Specialty

We are about a month away from the 2010 W/VESSA Specialty. The show will be held indoors at the Portland Exposition Center in conjunction with the other Stumptown Specialties. Premium lists can be found on-line at Onofrio.com, they should be in your mailbox soon.

Judges for the Specialty are:

- Breed Judge and Junior Handling: Judy Webb
- Sweepstakes: Bonnie Watts
- All Specialty Obedience and Rally: Pam Weaver

Saturday and Sunday will be the Portland Kennel Club's all breed show. Both Saturday and Sunday are supported entries by W/VESSA. There will be no sweepstakes on Saturday or Sunday. The breed judges are:

- Saturday: Paul H. Robinson
- Sunday: Carolyn Cederman

There will also be food service available at the Expo Center and restaurants within a 5 minute drive of the show site.

Please review the Premium List for hotels that accept well behaved pets.

We hope you will join us!

For more information, contact:

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2010 ESSFTA Specialty

October will be here before we know it, and we will be gathered in Albany for the National Specialty. We will need all the help we can get, we are a small club.

Before the specialty begins we will need volunteers to help fill the Welcome Bags. Hopefully the bags will show up before the W/VESSA Specialty, and we can make quick work of them after the show.

Kevin Griffith is looking for volunteers for the Hunt Test. Please contact Kevin at flightlineess@comcast.net



Future Meetings

June Meeting

Saturday, June 26 at Clackamas County Fairgrounds. The meeting will be held at 12:45, place TBD.

July Meeting

A July meeting will be held after the 2010 Specialty at the Portland Expo Center. Time and place TBD.

Braggs & Wags

- Coffel's Tracking You Down TDX earned his American Championship on April 24th in Lewiston, ID. Quincey is owned by Linda Coffel.

Show Results

Chintimini KC, 4/3

BOB CH Oxbow's Gold Medal
BOS CH Mar-Ric Kayndee Legacy
BOW/WB Oxbow's Mum's The Word
WD Ramblewood My Way At Gleneire
RWD Ramblewood Reason To Believe
RWB Ramblewood Luck Be A Lady II

Chintimini KC, 4/4

GP3/BOB CH Oxbow's Gold Medal
BOS CH Mar-Ric Kayndee Legacy
BOW/WD Ramblewood My Way At Gleneire
RWD Ramblewood Reason To Believe
WB Ramblewood Make A Memory
RWB Oxbow's Mum's The Word

Timberland DFA, 4/10

BOB CH Oxbow's Gold Medal
BOS CH Kismet Pirate Treasure
BOW/WB Ramblewood Hello Darlin'
WD Ramblewood Reason To Believe
RWD Mar-Ric Sir Jackson Stonewall
RWB Ramblewood Luck Be A Lady II

Timberland DFA, 4/11

BOB/BOB/WB Ramblewood Hello Darlin'
BOS CH Darkover Don'T Dream It's Over
BOW/WB Ramblewood Hello Darlin'
WD Ramblewood Reason To Believe
RWD Mar-Ric Sir Jackson Stonewall
RWB Majic Azumawilbec Holiday Connection

Ephrata-Moses Lake KC, 4/17

GP3/BOB CH Darkover Don'T Dream It's Over
BOS CH Mar-Ric Kayndee Legacy
WD Coffel's Tracking You Down RN TDX NAJ
RWD Vanity Fair's Malfeasance

Ephrata-Moses Lake KC, 4/18

BOB CH Darkover Don'T Dream It's Over
BOS CH Mar-Ric Kayndee Legacy
WD Mar-Ric Sir Jackson Stonewall
RWD Ramblewood Don'T Stop Believin

Palouse Hills DFI, 4/23

GP3/BOB CH Darkover Don'T Dream It's Over
BOS CH Mar-Ric Kayndee Legacy
BOW/WD Coffel's Tracking You Down RN TDX NAJ
RWD Vanity Fair's Malfeasance
WB G&J's Apache Spirits
RWB Oxbow's Sweet Dreams

Palouse Hills DFI, 4/24

BOB CH Darkover Don'T Dream It's Over
BOS CH Mar-Ric Kayndee Legacy
BOW/WD Coffel's Tracking You Down RN TDX NAJ
RWD Mar-Ric Sir Jackson Stonewall
WB Ramblewood Walking On Sunshine
RWB Alynn's Solitaire TD MH AX AXJ

Lewis-Clark KC, 4/25

BOB CH Darkover Don'T Dream It's Over
BOS CH Mar-Ric Kayndee Legacy
BOW/WD Coffel's Tracking You Down RN TDX NAJ
RWD Mar-Ric Sir Jackson Stonewall
WB Ramblewood Walking On Sunshine
RWB Alynn's Solitaire TD MH AX AXJ

Lewis-Clark KC, 4/26

GP4/BOB CH Darkover Don'T Dream It's Over
BOS CH Mar-Ric Kayndee Legacy
BOW/WD Ramblewood My Way At Gleneire
RWD Vanity Fair's Malfeasance
WB Ramblewood Walking On Sunshine
RWB G&J's Apache Spirits

continued on page 4

WVSSA 2011 Calendars

Coming Soon!

The latest edition of our calendar will be available at the July 23rd specialty. You can also pre-order your calendar from our website at: www.wvessa.org.

Get yours now!



Progressive Retinal Atrophy

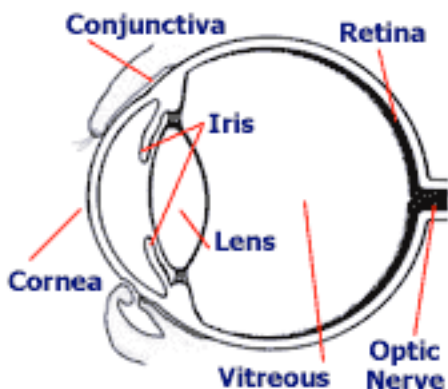
Degeneration in Dogs

by Marty Smith, DVM

Progressive retinal atrophy or degeneration (PRA or PRD) is the name for several diseases that are progressive and lead to blindness. First recognized at the beginning of the 20th century in Gordon Setters, this inherited condition has been documented in over 100 breeds, and mixed breed animals as well. PRA is not very common in cats.

Anatomy of the Eye

The eye is a very delicate, yet surprisingly durable organ. It consists of several layers. The cornea is a transparent layer that covers the front of the eye. The iris is the colored part of the eye and it is responsible for letting in more or less light. The lens gathers and 'bends' light in order to focus it on the retina. In between the cornea and lens is an area of fluid which bathes the lens and helps it focus. The retina lines the inside of the eye and converts light into signals which travel down the optic nerve to the brain. A large area between the lens and the retina contains a jelly-like fluid called 'vitreous.' The vitreous gives the eye its form and shape, provides nutrients, and removes waste products.



The Retina

The retina is the structure affected in PRA. This important part of the eye receives the light gathered and focused by the other eye structures. It takes the light and essentially converts it into electrical nerve signals that the brain, via the optic nerve, interprets as vision. The retina contains photoreceptors, called rods and cones, which help the animal see in darkness (rods) and see certain colors (cones).

What is PRA?

There are multiple forms of PRA which differ in the age of onset and rate of progression of the disease. Some breeds experience an earlier onset than others; other breeds do not develop PRA until later in life.

Normally, the photoreceptors in the retinas develop after birth to about 8 weeks of age. The retinas of dogs with PRA either have arrested development (retinal dysplasia) or early degeneration of the photoreceptors. Retinal dysplastic dogs are usually affected within two months of birth and may be completely blind by one year. Dogs with retinal degeneration are affected from one year to eight years of age and the symptoms progress slowly.

PRA worsens over time. The affected animal experiences night blindness initially because the rods are affected first. The condition progresses to failed daytime vision.

What are the signs of PRA?

Signs may vary depending on the type of PRA and its rate of progression. PRA is non-painful and outward appearance of the eye is often normal, i.e.; no redness, excess tearing, or squinting. Owners may

notice a change in personality of their dog such as a reluctance to go down stairs or down a dark hallway. This is characteristic of night blindness, in which vision may appear to improve during the daytime. As the disease progresses, owners can observe a dilation of the pupils and the reflection of light from the back of the eye. If the blindness is progressing slowly, the owner may not notice any signs until the dog is in unfamiliar surroundings and the lack of vision is more apparent. In some animals, the lens of the eyes may become opaque or cloudy.

How is PRA diagnosed?

Depending on the form of PRA, characteristic changes in the retina and other parts of the eye may be observed through an ophthalmic examination by a veterinary ophthalmologist. More sophisticated tests such as electroretinography may also be used. Both tests are painless and the animal does not have to be anesthetized. If no abnormalities are found during the exam by a board-certified veterinary ophthalmologist, the dog can be certified free of heritable eye disease through the Canine Eye Registration Foundation (CERF).

How is PRA treated?

Unfortunately, there is no treatment for PRA, nor a way to slow the progression of the disease. Animals with PRA usually become blind. Dogs are remarkably adaptable to progressive blindness, and can often seem to perform normally in their customary environments. Evidence of the blindness is more pronounced if the furniture is rearranged or the animals are in unfamiliar surroundings.

Continued on page 4

continued from page 3

Can PRA be prevented?

PRA has been shown to have a genetic component. Puppies from parents who have no history of the disease and have been certified free of PRA will have less risk of developing the disease. Affected animals should not be bred and should be spayed or neutered. The littermates or parents of animals with PRA should also not be bred. If your dog develops PRA, notify the breeder, if possible.

In the last several years, DNA testing is being used to identify which genes are responsible for PRA. For a list of breeds for which PRA testing is available see http://www.optigen.com/opt9_test.html

Progressive rod-cone degeneration (prcd) is one type of PRA and affects many breeds including Miniature Poodles, American and English Cocker Spaniels, Labrador Retrievers, and Samoyed. Prcd starts with night blindness and progresses to total blindness at 3 to 5 years of age. The late onset of clinical signs in prcd is particularly devastating to breeding programs because many dogs have already been bred prior to the onset of symptoms.

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Editors Note: PRA in springers is more complicated than other breeds. For more information please visit www.essfta.org/essfta/health_research.htm.

The following are the definitions for PRA DNA Status/Test results in the ESS:

Normal: This dog has tested normal (or clear) for the mutation causing the cone-rod form of PRA prevalent in this breed. It can only transmit a normal gene to offspring, and can be bred to a dog with any test result without producing affected offspring.

Carrier: This dog has tested as a carrier for the mutation causing the cone-rod form of PRA prevalent in this breed. It is very unlikely to develop this form of PRA, but it may transmit either a normal gene or an affected gene to offspring.

Affected: This dog has tested as affected for the mutation causing the cone-rod form of PRA prevalent in this breed. It is at risk for developing clinical symptoms of PRA at some point in its lifetime. We do not presently have a way to predict when symptoms may appear.

Southern Oregon KC, 5/13

GP2/BOB CH Darkover Don'T Dream
It's Over

BOS CH Mar-Ric Kayndee Legacy
BOW/WB Ramblewood High Hopes
WD Ramblewood Reason To Believe
RWD Mar-Ric Sir Jackson Stonewall

Southern Oregon KC, 5/14

GP3/BOB CH Darkover Don'T Dream
It's Over

BOS CH Mar-Ric Kayndee Legacy
BOW/WD Mar-Ric Sir Jackson
Stonewall
RWD Ramblewood Reason To Believe
WB Fairhaven Wildrose Read My Lips!
RWB Ramblewood High Hopes

Klamath DFI, 5/15

BOB CH Otein's Tommy Bahama
BOS CH Mar-Ric Kayndee Legacy
BOW/WB Ramblewood High Hopes
WD Ramblewood Reason To Believe
RWD Mar-Ric Sir Jackson Stonewall

Klamath DFI, 5/16

BOB CH Otein's Tommy Bahama
BOS CH Mar-Ric Kayndee Legacy
BOW/WB Ramblewood High Hopes
WD Mar-Ric Sir Jackson Stonewall
RWD Ramblewood Reason To Believe

Yakima Valley KC, 6/5

BOB CH Oxbow's Gold Medal
BOS CH Mar-Ric Kayndee Legacy
WD Vanity Fair's Guilty As Charged

Yakima Valley KC, 6/6

BOB CH Mar-Ric Kayndee Legacy
BOS CH Oxbow's Gold Medal

continued from page 2

Walla Walla KC, 5/1

GP1/BOB CH Darkover Don'T Dream
It's Over

BOS CH Mar-Ric Kayndee Legacy
BOW/WD Mar-Ric Sir Jackson Stonewall
RWD Tiffany's Esspecial Magic Kingdom
WB Fairhaven Wildrose Read My Lips!

Walla Walla KC, 5/2

GP3/BOB CH Darkover Don'T Dream
It's Over

BOS CH Mar-Ric Kayndee Legacy
WD Vanity Fair's Malfeasance
RWD Tiffany's Esspecial Magic Kingdom

Olympia DFA, 5/8

BOB CH Oxbow's Gold Medal
BOS CH Mar-Ric Kayndee Legacy
BOW/WD Darkover N Topsail

Tangled Up N Blue
RWD Darkover If You Can Dream
WB Oxbow's Mum's The Word
RWB Pawmarc's Dazzle Me Bright

Olympia DFA, 5/9

BOB CH Oxbow's On To Silverado
BOS CH Mar-Ric Kayndee Legacy
BOW/WD Darkover N Topsail

Tangled Up N Blue
RWD Halwendan Maquette JH
WB G&J's Apache Spirits
RWB Oxbow's Mum's The Word

Coming Events

Conformation & Obedience

June 26-27, 2010

Canby, OR
Saturday: Frank N. Summerside
Sunday: Merlin J. Van De Kinder

July 3-4, 2010

Mt. Bachelor Kennel Club
Redmond, OR
Saturday: Jean Fournier
Sunday: Carl Gene Liepmann

July 3-4, 2010

Bell Vernon Kennel Assoc.
Mt. Vernon, WA
Saturday: Willam R. Russell
Sunday: Keke Kahn

July 10-11, 2010

Coos Kennel Club
Bandon, OR
Saturday: Robert A. Verhulst
Sunday: Cecillia Ringstrom

July 17-18, 2010

Inland Empire Kennel Club
Coeur D'Alene, ID
Saturday: Carol Esterkin
Sunday: Arley D. Hussin

July 17-18, 2010

Nisqually Kennel Club
Lacey, WA
Saturday: Henry J. Williams
Sunday: Carl J. Anderson

July 23, 2010

WVESSA
Portland, OR
Breed: Judy Webb
Sweeps: Bonnie Watts

July 24-25, 2010

Portland Kennel Club
Saturday: Paul H. Robinson
Sunday: Carolyn Cederman

July 31-August 1, 2010

Hurricane Ridge Kennel Club
Saturday: Joseph E. Gregoy
Sunday: Denise Comelssen

August 19-22, 2010

Olympia Cluster (including Rainier
Sporting Assoc. & PSESSA)
Enumclaw, WA
Thursday Breed: Dianne Kroll
Thursday Sweeps: David Lewis
Friday Breed: Betty-Anne Stenmark
Friday Sweeps: Carol Hathaway
Saturday: Leta B. Graham
Sunday: Susan St. John Brown

August 29, 2010

Samamish Kennel Club
Paula Nykiel

AKC Agility

June 25-27, 2010

Albany, OR
Monroe, WA

July 2-4, 2010

Redmond, WA

July 16-18, 2010

Auburn, WA

July 23-25, 2010

Lynden, WA
Boise, ID

July 29-August 1, 2010

Central Point, OR
Auburn, WA

August 7-8, 2010

Lakebay, WA

August 13-15, 2010

Sequim, WA

August 20-22, 2010

Enumclaw, WA

August 27-29, 2010

Redmond, WA
Spokane, WA

Tracking

August 22, 2010

VST: Bellingham, WA

Hunt Tests

August 29, 2010

Gervais, WA

Just My Dog

He is my other eyes that can see above the clouds; my other ears that hear above the winds. He is the part of me that can reach out into the sea.

He has told me a thousand times over that I am his reason for being: by the way he rests against my leg; by the way he thumps his tail at my smallest smile; by the way he shows his hurt when I leave without taking him. (I think it makes him sick with worry when he is not along to care for me.)

When I am wrong, he is delighted to forgive.
When I am angry, he clown to make me smile.
When I am happy, he is joy unbounded.
When I am a fool, he ignores it.
When I succeed, he brags.
Without him, I am only another man.

With him,
I am all-powerful.
He is loyalty itself.
He has taught me the meaning of devotion.
With him, I know a secret comfort and a private peace. He has brought me understanding where before I was ignorant.
His head on my knee can heal my human hurts.
His presence by my side is protection against my fears of dark and unknown things.
He has promised to wait for me...
henever...wherever--in case I need him.
And I expect I will--as I always have.
He is just my dog.

—Gene Hill



Dog Bytes is bimonthly newsletter published by the Willamette Valley English Springer Spaniel Association.

Any questions, comments, or article submissions can be forwarded to the editor. The editor reserves the right to edit or to refuse any copy.

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