



THE GUARDIAN

A Monthly Publication Of The German Shepherd Dog Club Of Atlanta, Inc

November 2007

**Congratulations Atlanta !
National Wins !!**

GSDCA
Newsletter Award
2005 1st Runner Up
2006 Best Newsletter
2007 3rd Place

Club Wins

2nd Place Regional Club Challenge

3rd Place Newsletter Award

Member Wins

GSDCA's Very First Amateur Futurity Victor

Ch Melana's Orion TC

Sel BIM Ch Greenwood's Achilles TC OFA x Ch Melana;s Pandemonium

Bred & Owned By Melissa Campbell

Handled By Rickey White

2nd 12-18 Bitch

Melana's Shakira

Sel BIM Ch Greenwood's Achilles TC OFA x Ch Melana;s Pandemonium

Bred & Owned By Melissa Campbell

Handled By Jamie Clute

3rd 12-18 Bitch

Shoal Creek's Sangria v Barick

Bred By Giovanni Middei

Sel BIM Ch Greenwood's Achilles TC OFA x Am/Can Sel Ch Megan O'Shea of Heinerberg OFA

Owned By Giovanni Middei, Barbara Stamper & Ed Farrell

Handled By Scott Yergin

Select 18

Sel BIM Ch Greenwood's Achilles TC OFA

3x Sel Ex Ch Bilmar's Here Comes Trouble OFA x Ch Helmic's Cassandra OFA

Breeders/Owners William & Denise Groenewald

Co-Owner Margaret Kurz





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* The Whole Dog Journal is a non-profit, industry magazine that tests & rates dog foods & products and reports on dog care.

THE GUARDIAN

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A View of The 2007 National

It was an interesting trip. First off, anyone who knows me, knows that I HATE flying! Well, there's only one quick way to get from Atlanta to Colorado and that's on wings. I made sure Maya & Killy would be in good hands by sending them with my handler Jamie Clute since I had stand by tickets courtesy of Suzanne Kinman. All things being what they are, Jamie's wife Jaki was past due in delivering their baby girl, so Jamie handed the dogs over to Lenny Brown and went to the hospital to wait on his baby girl to arrive. Ok, this isn't looking pretty so far but I came prepared with my CD player and two audio books. I was going to ignore those friendly skies and avoid drinking and drugs. It seems I wasn't alone though. When Peggy and I got to the airport (after my first trip in a good many years on the train), Nancy Harper, Kim McNamara and Joye Evans were there to join us on the flight. Seems that Joye isn't a big fan of flying either so she switched seats and sat by me. Peggy & Nancy swapped seats and spent the flight solving all of the world's problems while Joye and I attempted to distract ourselves from the extreme height we were at. The flight itself wasn't bad I have to admit. It is interesting how most people can't draw a straight line, yet throughout the flight, we saw that every major road, farm and city were set in perfect straight lines, squares and circles. How in heck do they do that? We landed without any trouble, went to baggage claim and around comes one of my suitcases which gets hooked on the conveyor. Of course it's out of reach and a nice Delta guy climbed up there ever so nimble and unhooked it. At least all the baggage made it. Off we go with all of our luggage to the shuttle and car rental place. It's a loooooong way from the airport, which by the way is really put together nice and traveler friendly, to the car rental place. Joye and I spotted a Hummer and felt that since snow was predicted that it would be perfect for us. Peggy disagreed and we got a Jeep wannabe which was really nice. I don't think Nancy cared. She was just ready to get on with things. By the way, Colorado is just gorgeous. Clear blue skies as far as you can see, snow capped mountains and clean clear air and the people are really friendly. We make it to the hotel, unload and attempt to find Lenny, Maya and Killy. Oh yeah and Scott and Loren had their crates, pans, treats and food. So off we went to gather up my scattered dogs n stuff and wouldn't you know that they are doing road construction on the turn we need to take into the show complex. We finally found a way to get in there and started searching for Scott and Loren's RV. After a few false starts, we found them, gathered that part of my scattered stuff and went in search for Lenny who was shopping. Finally we have everything in order, got ourselves fed and settled in for the night.

The 3 hour time difference didn't help. We had to be at the site to watch Orion show in the Amateur Futurity finals and get Maya ready for the Futurity finals. This is where I find out I only had one doubling bell. This is not good in a large arena that tends to be on the loud side. The movie Best In Show starts to play in my head. Rickey White and Orion won the very first Amateur Futurity Victor and looked darn good doing it. The quality in bitches was really nice and with me yelling above the crowd and Peggy ringing the single bell, What a cutie she was and had a blast in that ring. I was so proud of her holding her own and looking good in that competition. The rest of the day was spent chatting with old friends and meeting new people. I wasn't the only one having a less than perfect trip. The person who was supposed to bring a bitch to breed to Killy had RV problems and didn't make it in until Friday. Too late for that one. Oh well.

I spent most of Thursday looking for bells in a town I didn't know. I of course had to choose bells that were different. I chose bells that normally go on goats. They have a nice loud tingle. Colorado is NOT goat country. I went to four different places to look for that blasted bell and finally gave up on the last one. Nothing in Colorado is "close by". It's spread out forever and ever. I asked the man, who by the way was allllll cowboy, if he had a certain sized nickel plated bell. He looks down at me real funny like and takes me over to their large collection of....cow bells. I tried to explain to him that I needed a goat bell and that was dumb. He looked at me like I was an alien and said ma'am we don't have goat bells here. Ok, lesson number one is that Colorado is horse and cattle country and goats are not cool to these tall lean macho guys. So, just knowing that not only is Maya not going to hear me the next day, but that Killy wouldn't have a clue to where I was at on Saturday, I hung my head, started cursing Best In Show's Busy Bee and went back to the show grounds. This was not going to be pretty. After an hour or so Rickey came up to me and asked me what was wrong. I explained and he said to follow him, he KNEW where a place was that would have one. Taylor, our rising junior handling star tagged along with us and off we went. Ummm this store definitely was another of those macho stores. It was filled with hunting stuff including dead animals on display. Ok, hunting dogs train with bells, this is looking ok. Well lo and behold we spotted the nickel plated bell. A small one (sigh). That just won't do. Rickey runs down a salesperson who took pity on me and searched high and lo for the proper size to no avail. Well hell's bells! Okay, a few stores down is Pet Smart who never has the right size when I look for them at home, but we give it a go. Aha!!! There it is!!! They only have one, but that's okay. Rickey grabs it before anyone else could, ripped it out of the package, threw it at me and off we went with the cherished nickel plated Maya & Killy bell firmly in my grasp. Rickey tossed the empty package on the counter, I paid for it with one hand while the other clasped the bell. That bell was going nowhere! It stayed in my pocket the rest of the day.

The next day Maya shows in a really large American Bred Bitch class. The quality was just wonderful. There were a few I'd take home and feed. Maya showed very well, made all the cuts and ended up sixth in line. Yeah for proper bells and a nice cute little bitch!

We went to the Parent Club meeting. Certain things occurred which weren't cool during the past few days, so we were interested in seeing the fireworks. It seems that a former board member who was voted back in, had lawsuits delivered to board members during judging and the opposition to that had on name tags which said Nationals Not Lawsuits. Justified grievance, maybe. Style in which it was handled...none. It was standing room only and I just slunk down a wall on the side. I've never seen such a large attendance before at one of those meetings. Lew Bunch did real well and diffused the subject right off and he did it with class. Way to go Lew. There were no fireworks and everyone got along great. Atlanta won 2nd place in the Regional Challenge and our newsletter, The Guardian won 3rd place. Not a bad end to a day.

Saturday comes and I am close to tossing up everything I've eaten in the past week. This is my first time showing a special at the Nationals and self doubt is creeping up. His weight could be better. His coat could be better. I could have some sense in my head...blah blah blah. I bathed Killy and he enjoyed it at my expense in the cold water. I get him back to the stall, get hi on the table and start rubbing him down when I find out that he had too much fun and I didn't get all the suds out. Back for more cold water on a blustery cold day.

Peggy comes in, takes one look at me and banishes me.....again. For some reason, during all this time, Peggy is suddenly very thirsty and has the munchies. She dispatches me several times to wait in the long lines for food and drink. You'd think she was trying to keep me occupied. So what if I ask fifty times where her bell is.

We take a break and go watch Juniors. We have a lot of very nice handlers coming of age here. They all seems to have a wonderful way with the dogs. Our three local ladies are showing for their first time at a National and are doing really well. Jessica Bell won her class with Ria and Taylor Petry with Tina and Chelsea Ball with Dipster did extremely well in their classes. Dipster did a very nice loose lead fast out of the ring lol, but Chelsea handled it well and got him back under control. We were very proud to be able to support these young ladies who show so much promise.

After 4 plus hours judging bitches and then the Juniors, it was finally time for the dogs to come in. Peggy freaks me out because she only has Killy half done and says it's fine ????? Where's my handler at ????? I was told once again to get lost. There was no need to fully groom him when he was going to merely walk into the ring with 50+ other males, get counted, cut into groups and come back out for only Ed Barritt knew how long. Ok, ok fine. I'll get lost. Jamie thinks I am funny when I am nervous. Uh huh, where's my Tums at. Killy's back in his crate in fifteen minutes and I go get a few smokes. It's getting cold and windy as heck out there and the sun is glaring. Snow is forecast in the morning and isn't that just dandy for a southerner. Orion is the first to go in with his group. Rickey says he just wants to make one good pass with him and he does. Then Taylor takes Curfew in for Helen Chamblee who isn't faring any better than I am at this point. Ed makes notes in his little book and gets the groups in and out Ed fashion. Ed likes to take his time and make sure of what he's doing. Finally it's time for group number six which Killy is in. Jamie tells me to chill out mama and stay at the end of the ring. Now why, I don't know since it really isn't a good spot for me to be, but he's the boss he thinks. By the way, he and his wife Jaki have a beautiful baby girl and Jamie is on cloud nine already. Nothing can rock his boat. After the first pass, his mind has changed and he looks like he is guiding a 747 in as he uses hand signals and shouts to move me to the other end of the ring where Killy will actually be coming straight on at me. No time to kick off the shoes, I just haul butt down through the crowds to what seemed half a mile away. Killy has a very good individual even if the judge saw Peggy peeking through the rails on the side of the ring. He went around beautifully this time (thank you bells) and had a lot of crowd support. Atlanta people can and will be heard no matter how noisy the crowd ! In no time at all his group is done and we play the waiting game again. Finally, Ed has finished the groups and he calls everyone back in at the same time. Boy was that ring crowded. But Ed had his list and if he walked by your dog, that wasn't a good sign. He cut really deep the first time, sending out 10 + dogs. I held my breath when he walked near Killy, then breathed again when he gave Jamie the thumb over. Unfortunately Orin and Curfew didn't make the first wave, but they looked great while they were out there. For the next few hours we went half a lap, cut, half a lap, cut and half a lap cut. I never did figure out what happened on that short trip between cuts but we hung in there. 5 hours later, Ed is down to twenty dogs and moves up his first 10 picks. Killy was 18th in line and hadn't been moved. The only dogs Ed really moved around position wise were the first five. By now, we are hoarse from yelling, worn out from running back and forth and the bells were even quivering in exhaustion. I leapt over people's legs, got Dan Smith and Frank Fasano moving, answered questions about Killy from people in the crowd on the run and basically looked like a crazed woman. But hey, my dog was still in there. Ed walked up to Killy a few times and paused, even nearly walking by him at one point during a cut session and Peggy and I held our breath. Ed still gave Jamie the thumb over and by now we were ready to dial 911. During bitches , two exhibitors did fall ill and had to have medical attention. I was envisioning myself joining them there for a while but was praying I'd be able to hold off until the end. Finally everything stops, Ed looks around and looks some more and says that we all went select and after the first ten it didn't matter what place you were in because he liked them all. My jaw dropped and Jamie laughed at me and said that yes Killy is going Select. During the next few hours while we were getting photos done and cleaning up, I'm not sure where I was. It just wouldn't sink in. Ed gave out so many Selects that he ran out of rosettes, so ours had to be mailed to us. I probably would have gotten arrested anyway trying to hold that sucker on the plane with the bells clutched in my hands. We went to what was probably the best food we've ever had at a Victory dinner, got some trinkets and a cool blanket and got ready to go home the next day. Someone was supposed to take the crates back for us to get another time to avoid paying 100.00 extra baggage charge, but they forgot and left, so Helen was kind enough to squeeze them in. We made it to the airport, got the rental car turned in, after Jamie picked the dogs up for me. Everyone boarded the plane.....except me. The plane was full so while I waited for the next flight, Peggy along with my luggage and dogs took off. Great, Ms don't like to fly is winging it alone. Of course I get stuck in a three seater with a jerk in the middle who takes up all the armrests the whole flight. But we all make it, get dogs and luggage out of there in one piece and head home.

One thing I will always remember about this trip is the view from our hotel window in the morning. Beautiful blue skies (except for Sunday when big snow flakes were falling) , a colorful sunrise with snow capped mountains all along the ridge. Wings or not, I look forward to going back there again just for the morning view.

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Club Hospitality

Volunteers needed to provide refreshments for club meetings. Refreshments need not be elaborate. Chips, cookies and other finger food and drinks is all that's needed. No cooking necessary!

e-mail:
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Hurry and get your Christmas cards, greetings and ads in for the December Issue.

E-mail or call for pages available.



Our Next Club Meeting is
January 14 , 2007

The Misuse of Health Testing

Most breeds have seen an increase in the amount of health testing done in the last decade. Many factors are involved in this increase. Scientific research has advanced, availability of testing has increased, breeders have become more educated, and puppy buyers have become more sophisticated. This is a good trend, right? For the most part, the answer is yes. The information gained from health testing can enable breeders to make wiser breeding decisions, and (hopefully) as a result breed healthier dogs.

Unfortunately, health testing can also be misused. There is a disturbing trend among some breeders to use health testing as a weapon in their crusade to become the "breeding police." They decide what health testing is appropriate (and what results are "acceptable" for breeding.) Anyone that does not share their views is then castigated. The breeding police refuse to make allowances for differing priorities in individual breeding programs. This attitude does not foster a spirit of sharing and cooperation, which is important in the quest to reduce the overall incidence of genetic diseases in our breeds. For example, a breeder may occasionally choose to use dogs whose thyroid results are equivocal, or even dogs that "fail." After being vilified multiple times by the breeder police, they may choose to continue the same practice and just not authorize OFA to disclose any results except normal (or quit using OFA at all.)

Is the breed in question better off? In my opinion, the answer is a resounding "no." The ideal situation would be for every breeder to test every dog (including "pets") and to disclose all results. People could use this information intelligently to make better breeding decisions, and breeders would have a much better idea about the true status of the disease in the breed. I don't believe this will happen in most breeds as long as we have people that stand ready to use any less than favorable results to bludgeon breeders and trash individual dogs and breeding programs.

So what is the solution to this particular problem? As breeders we need to stand up against the people who appoint themselves as the breeder police. We must understand that one of the keys to lowering the incidence of genetic diseases is information, and the responsible use of that information! As long as people are afraid of the breeder police, they will be reluctant to share data, and in many cases justifiably so. Peer pressure can be an effective tool, but we need to make sure that our actions are encouraging people to test and share results, not scaring them into silence. We must remove the stigma that accompanies producing a dog with a problem!

A disturbing corollary to the breeder police attitude is the breeder who will castigate other breeders for using dogs that don't "pass" a particular health test, yet continue to breed dogs themselves that have not even been tested for that same condition! I am of the opinion that it is better to breed with knowledge of the health issues in one's dogs, than it is to blindly breed

hip dysplasia, it might be a wise course of action to continue to breed affected dogs while striving for overall improvement (removing all affected dogs from the gene pool in one fell swoop could have devastating consequences.) A breeder might decide to breed a mildly affected dog, if their breeding partner was rated good or better. Some people seem to prefer the "head in the sand" method, by which it is perfectly acceptable to breed affected dogs, as long as one doesn't know they are affected.

Another misuse of health testing that has become more common recently is the use of results as a marketing tool. There are some commercial breeders on the internet that have become cognizant of the fact that consumers are becoming more educated. Puppy buyers are asking about health clearances on parents. This is another good thing, but we need to go further in our education efforts. For example, CERF will issue a number on a dog of any age. In many breeds, eye diseases are not juvenile-onset in nature. A breeder might CERF their bitch as a puppy and breed her young (say at a year), do the same with a male and then be able to advertise puppies from "PRA clear" parents. It is good marketing, but what is the true value? In many breeds, there is no value. If the average onset of a breed's most common eye problem(s) is 3-6 years, the puppy CERF does nothing but give buyers a false sense of security. In this case, one must carefully weigh the health testing advertised along with the totality of the breeding program. Is the testing (and breeding) done at a meaningful age, considering the age of onset of the most common problems? Is follow-up testing done?

The final point I would like to discuss is the misuse of direct DNA testing results. One of the greatest boons for a breed is when a direct DNA test is developed for a disorder. Even this information can be misused! The value of a direct DNA test is that it allows the greatest possible inclusion of dogs in the gene pool, but unfortunately it is often used to exclude dogs from the gene pool. The direct DNA test allows one to determine the dog's genotype (not just phenotype) as clear, carrier or affected. One can then use the results and never produce another affected dog (in the absence of a mutation or testing mistake.) It is not necessary to exclude any category of dogs. One can still breed carriers and even affecteds as long as the breeding partner is clear, and affected puppies will not be born. (There might be other reasons why one might not want to breed an affected, for example a bitch that is a clinical bleeder.) A great tragedy can occur if people instead use the test results to exclude all carriers and affected dogs from breeding. This can severely diminish the gene pool, which can have serious, unplanned consequences.

Health testing is a wonderful tool when used properly. Like many of the advances in our modern world, it is also subject to abuse/misuse. As breeders, let's all strive to avail ourselves of the valuable information provided by health testing, without misusing it!

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Inflammatory Bowel Disease

Inflammatory Bowel Disorder (IBD) is a chronic problem, and its primary symptom is recurring diarrhea that may be accompanied by some vomiting.

Indefinite Beginnings

Richard Goldstein, DVM, an internal medicine specialist at the Cornell University Hospital for Animals, speculates there are various causes for the disorder, not one, and that IBD may represent a collection of differing digestive disorders since it is idiopathic, meaning from unknown causes.

Goldstein, who is board certified by the College of Veterinary Internal Medicine, describes the disorder as an inflammatory process of the intestines, involving immune system cells. These cells are sent to intestinal walls in their role of fending off invasions by antigens (foreign substances evoking an immune response), although what these antigens are, what fosters them, or if any are actually present is usually unknown.

Still, the disorder exhibits characteristic signs even if the conditions causing them are not yet understood. Dogs are often uncomfortable when eating because the stomach empties slowly into the intestines, leaving them feeling prematurely full. Severity of this disorder covers a wide range. When the inflammation centers on the small bowel (intestine), the signs are usually more severe and include poor appetite and weight loss.

When IBD is located in the large bowel, frequent diarrhea, which sometimes contains blood or mucous, can occur and ranges from periodic soft stools to constant, liquidy diarrhea. Dogs with IBD in the large bowel usually retain good appetites and appear otherwise normal. More severely affected dogs are at significant risk of anorexia (loss of appetite), and the diarrhea quickly can become trying to dog and human alike.

Scoping Out the Source

To diagnose inflammatory bowel disorder, one must see signs for at least a few weeks.

Diagnosis starts with testing for other sources of intestinal inflammation. Blood tests and fecal exams are performed. At this point, a temporary switch to a new diet may be prescribed since it is the most common treatment to rule out a food allergy. When other disorders are ruled out, a biopsy is conducted, and an endoscope is used to take a surface sample of intestinal tissue for examination.

Although rarely called for, a surgical biopsy may be chosen instead of endoscopy for a fuller tissue sample, a procedure dogs handle considerably better than do most humans, notes Goldstein. A pathologist examines the tissue sample, looking for excessive numbers of inflammatory cells from the immune system. The pathologist then identifies the prevalence and type of such cells. This helps determine the treatment.

The most typical immune system cells triggering inflammatory bowel disease are lymphocytes and plasma cells. These are normally present in intestinal tissues, with high numbers associated with inflammation. If eosinophils are the most prevalent cells, the inflammation is more likely due to an allergic response. Least commonly found are neutrophils that may arise in response to bacterial infection.





If an early diagnosis is not made, a dog's tolerance to invading antigens and his capacity to digest nutrients may become compromised, and the dog's health will deteriorate. As a dog begins to lose weight and resistance fades, other diseases can take hold in the weakened pooch and complicate recovery. Early diagnosis is therefore important, and quickly moving toward biopsy is wise.

Prognosis is Good

Treatment focuses on three tracks.

The first is the most widely useful and involves decreasing exposure to those antigens that are believed to be causing the immune system to react. One possible culprit is the dog's diet, in particular the protein source. Accordingly, a diet is chosen using a protein the dog is unlikely to have ever consumed, such as fish, duck, venison, even Kangaroo, all of which are available in commercial preparations. Some dogs will require a diet composed of component (hydrolyzed) peptides. The new diet may be given for several months or for the life-span of the dog.

The second option involves treatment with medication. Often, antibiotics will be used to bring the overall gastrointestinal-tract bacterial load back to normal.

If the above options don't work, an immunosuppressive drug, such as a steroid, may be given to lower inflammation. Medications may only be used for weeks or months. While the treatments may sound complex, they can all be performed at many veterinary practices, and all treatments have a relatively high success rate. If inflammatory bowel disease is diagnosed early, Goldstein reports that prognoses are good in most cases.

Article courtesy of The [American Rottweiler Club](#)

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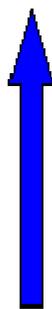
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10



Got a favorite recipe you want to share ?

E-mail and let me know



Dog Cook Ease Meal :

- 6 chicken thighs
- 4 cups frozen vegetables (NO onions)
- 3 tsp. garlic minced
- 3 cups oatmeal
- 3 cups flour
- 3 eggs

Boil chicken pieces, de-bone, puree w/food processor, set aside (use broth from chicken as needed) Puree vegetables add with chicken (use broth from chicken as needed)
 Preheat oven 350

Add garlic, eggs, and hand mix well Add oatmeal, flour hand mix well Coat baking pan with non-stick oil (Pam) (first coating only, not needed for next batch) Drop by large heaping tablespoon on cookie sheet (Flatten the dough out a little with spoon)

Bake for 15 min. for chewy 20 min. for brown bottom (they are not made to be real hard)

Smokey Chicken and Mushroom Quesadillas

- 1 (6-ounce) package sliced portabella mushrooms
- 1 teaspoon roasted garlic
- 1 teaspoon mesquite seasoning
- 4 (1-ounce) slices Deli smoked Gouda cheese
- 4 (10-inch) flour tortillas
- 1 (10-ounce) can chunk white chicken (drained)
- 1/2 cup shredded Cheddar cheese
- butter cooking spray

1. Preheat 2-sided tabletop grill. Combine mushrooms, garlic, and mesquite seasoning in microwave-safe bowl. Cover and microwave on HIGH 3 minutes or until thoroughly heated.
2. Cut Gouda cheese slices in half. Assemble quesadillas, two at a time, by placing 2 cheese slices on one half of each tortilla (leaving other half empty). Layer one fourth of each ingredient, in this order, over top of cheese slices: chicken, shredded cheese, and mushroom mixture. Fold empty half of tortilla over filling and press down lightly.
3. Coat grill with cooking spray; grill 2 quesadillas at a time 2–3 minutes or until crisp. Repeat with remaining quesadillas. Cut into wedges and serve.

CALORIES (per 1/4 recipe) 384kcal; FAT 17g; CHOL 87mg; SODIUM 1000mg; CARB 25g; FIBER 3g; PROTEIN 34g; VIT A 3%; VIT C 4%; CALC 25%; IRON 11%

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"MENDEL'S PUZZLE"**DESIRED TRAITS CAN BE PRODUCED BY DIRECTION.****BY DR. CARMEN L. BATTAGLIA**

In one way or another technology has had a profound effect on our history. It has also contributed to our material progress and effected the evolution of our social attitudes and many of our public policies. Folklore has also played an important role by affecting how we think and what we believe. Combined, technology and folklore have both had a profound influence on the way we live and the breeding of purebred dogs. Over the past half-century there have been an endless number of changes and technological breakthroughs that have affected us. Many of these changes began when the science of genetics began to redefine what was important. History suggests that most of these changes occurred after World War II when human health problems such as polio and smallpox were still considered life-threatening diseases. As these new technologies began to address the old problems, they also began to improve the quality of our lives and what we considered important. Emphasis shifted from treatment protocols to the prevention of viral and parasitic diseases. By the end of the 1960's these new technologies had eradicated most of the diseases with new immunizations. Soon to follow would be the mechanisms necessary to control the other dreaded childhood diseases and some of the animal diseases that had persisted during the past several centuries.

While advancements to improve human life moved with remarkable speed, the same pace did not take place in the dog world. The scientific community ignored the faults of conformation and many of the defects common to most breeds because they were not considered worthy research projects. In retrospect, most of the accomplishments can be attributed to one monk who in the 1850's thought he had uncovered the answer to heredity.

MENDEL

Today, we know that the basis for this science began in the early 1790's when a British farmer, T.A. Knight crossed a garden pea that had purple flowers with one that had only white flowers. Everyone expected that the two flower colors would blend and produce lavender flowers. To everyone's amazement they produced only purple flowers. Knight's experiment puzzled everyone for years. Then came the Austrian monk named Gregor Johann Mendel who showed a keen interest in science. In 1843, he entered the Augustinian Monastery in Old Brno where he lived as an ordained priest. In 1851, he became a member of the Natural Science Society. Membership in the society provided him the opportunity to lecture about his experiments and the ideas he was developing. His wonderful discovery of the principles of heredity draws attention to the fact that one individual working with little outside help could carry out many historic experiments. Because his ideas were new and not well understood they were not accepted. His experiments (1856-1864) on the genetics of inheritance involved the principles of dominant and recessive traits. Mendel's famous lecture in 1865 was not published until 1866. His experiments led him to propose a new way to think about inheritance and how traits are passed down from one generation to the next. For example, he suggested that each parent equally contributes to the makeup of their offspring based on their own inheritance. It was this idea that departed from the popular thinking of the 1800's. Mendel enlightened the world about many things, which oftentimes are overlooked by breeders. One of his greatest discoveries was to prove that a desired trait can be produced by direction instead of by chance.

THE PUZZLE

What made Mendel's approach so significant can be found in the strength of his experimental design and his interest in qualitative analysis. He used both to produce his postulates about inheritance. What Mendel found ultimately explained Knight's puzzle. Until his experiments were published there was no understanding of dominant and recessive traits and why they could appear and then disappear. For example, Mendel found that when tall plants were bred to short plants, only tall plants were produced. After years of experiments using mathematics to calculate the frequency with which traits would appear he concluded that tallness was dominant over shortness. He also furthered the notion that there was something that could produce a non-dominant trait, which could linger in the background. Later the world would call it a recessive gene. His efforts resulted in the discovery that each trait is produced by one or more particles ("factors") and that each offspring receives its genetic instructions for their own make-up directly from the particles of their parents.

Club News & Brags



Our thoughts and prayers are with Andrea Washburn on the recent loss of her mother



Our thoughts and prayers are with Mary Gattone on the recent loss of her sister

Club Meetings

Meetings are held on the 2nd Monday of each month, except July and December, at The Atlanta Humane Society, 981 Howell Mill RD, Atlanta, GA at 8:00PM.

The German Shepherd Dog Club of Atlanta, Inc., encourages visitors to attend.

Club Meeting Minutes

Club meeting minutes can be found in the members only section of the club website at www.gsdcatlanta.org

GSDC of Atlanta's Christmas Party will be held at Lake Laurel Club House on December 08, 2007

Socializing begins at 6:30 PM and dinner starts at 7:00 PM

Suzanne Kinman is coordinating the food, so give her a call and let her know what you want to bring. Also, we will have our fun gift exchange. Bring a wrapped unsigned gift to put under the tree.

**Keep it fun, simple, stealable
(we make that a word for this occasion)
and at a cost of around \$5.00.**

Melissa Campbell says

10/17/07 - Ch. Melana's Orion TC and Rickey White win the very first GSDCA Amateur Futurity Victor under Bob Kish & Best In Amateur Futurity under Carmen Battaglia.

10/7/07—Melana's Shakira wins a Major Reserve from 12-18 at the Augusta GSDC under Dan Smith

10/18/07—Melana's Shakira wins GSDCA National 2nd 12-18 Bitch

10/17/07—Ch Melana's Orion TC and Rickey White win the very first GSDCA Amateur Futurity Victor under Bob Kish and Best In Amateur Futurity under Carmen Battaglia

10/20/07—Melana's Porter wins a 3 point Major from 12-18 class and Melana-Greenwood's Maya wins Major Reserve at the Kennesaw Kennel Club show

10/21/07—Melana-Greenwood's Maya wins a 3 point Major at the Kennesaw Kennel Club Show

10/21/07—Barick's Comet of Melana-Jolin wins a 3 point Major at the Kennesaw Kennel Club Show

Congratulations to all the owners and breeders of Shoal Creek's Sangria v Barick . Ria was 3rd 12-18 Bitch at the 2007 GSDCA Nationals. Ria also won Winners Bitch, Best of Winners and Best Of Breed over Specials at the Kennesaw Kennel Club Show 10/18/07. She then went on to win Group 3.

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continued from page 10

Mendel died on June 1, 1884 not knowing the significance of his discoveries. After his death, his writings, experiments and materials were stored in the school's library where they remained virtually unnoticed. His research, which was decades ahead of its time, would be ignored until they were duplicated and then cited by Carl Correns, Hugo de Vries and Eric von Tschermak in 1900. It is interesting that researchers in Germany and Holland would independently find and use Mendel's experiments to launch their own studies. What is more interesting is that they would discover that their results were very much like those Mendel had discovered forty years earlier.

Today, we know that what Mendel called the "factors" or "particles" of inheritance were actually the genes. He did not know that they were the structures contained within the chromosomes. That would come later. What he proved was that genes travel in pairs and that they seemed to be packaged in one of two distinct types or alleles. To better understand this idea and for the sake of convenience letters are used to represent the alleles. The lower case letters (b, w, l) represent the recessive alleles. The dominant alleles are represented by upper case letters (B, W, and L).

Mendel learned that if both of the alleles are different, they are said to be heterozygous (Ww) for the trait. If they are both the same, they are called homogenous (ww). It was this discovery that led Mendel to his "First Law" of genetics, which works for all animals. What is more interesting is that he developed his ideas using only the garden pea plants. Mendel proved that genes do not blend together, instead they retain their individual character even when a recessive gene is present and masked by a dominant gene. It took from 1790 to 1866 before the solution to this puzzle was found. Today, we know that the breeders who do not understand Mendel's Law of Genetics will continue to think about the occurrence of defects and recessives traits using folklore rather than science.

Figure 1 represents Mendel's First Law, which involves dominant and recessive traits. Imagine that you have bred two black dogs. One is black because it carries two dominant genes for black (BB). The other is black because it carries one dominant gene for black and one recessive gene (Bb) for the recessive color liver, which sometimes is called chocolate.

FIGURE 1 TWO-BLACK DOGS THAT ARE CARRIERS

	B	b
B	BB	Bb
b	Bb	bb

Notice that breeding two carriers does not improve a breeding program because the number of carriers is increased. Notice in Figure 2, what happens when a carrier (Bb) is bred to a dog that is dominant (BB) for its color. Carrier to a non-carrier breedings produce 50% carriers and 50% dominant for their color.

FIGURE 2 CARRIER X DOMINANT

	B	B
B	BB	Bb
B	BB	Bb

In addition to color, breeders can also apply Mendel's Law to other traits such as coat length. In this regard, the reader should note that breed standards use different words to mean similar things. For example, the word for a normal coat in one standard is sometimes called short or smooth coat in another standard. The short or smooth coat is dominant over the recessive coat, which might be called long, fluffy, feather or powder puff. Since Mendel's first law applies to many traits, let's take as our next example coat length since it can easily be seen and appreciated. In Figure 3, a long coat (ll) is bred to a short coat (Ll) that is a carrier for the recessive long coat. Notice that the recessive gene (l) is retained in every puppy.

FIGURE 3. LONG COAT X NORMAL COAT

	L	I
I	LI	II
I	LI	II

Now notice in Figure 4 what happens when two carriers for the recessive coat are bred.

FIGURE 4. NORMAL COAT (CARRIER) X NORMAL COAT (CARRIER)

	L	I
L	LL	LI
I	LI	II

The breeding of two carriers will produce carriers in 75% of the offspring. This same principle was illustrated in Figure 1 for color. The problem for most breeders is that they do not know if their dogs are carriers for recessive traits and many times, the traits in the puppies can be confusing if they do not think about Mendel's First Law of Genetics. For example, in Figure 4, suppose that only two pups were born instead of four, they could both have been two short coats (normal or smooth) or depending on the breed, they might both have long, shaggy, feathered or powder puff coats. However, when just one pup occurs with a long coat or a recessive color the breeder will know that both parents were carriers. The ratios seen in these figures are the mathematical frequencies a breeder should expect if the breedings were repeated several times. Breeders can learn about their pedigrees and the carriers by keeping a record of what they produce. Breeders will sometimes over look the obvious unless they remember that a recessive trait can remain in the background for several generations. A quick glance at the AKC breed standards show that many breeds have coat and pigment faults. To avoid them, a breeder must develop a record system that captures the traits produced in each generation. Mendel's experiments demonstrated that breeders could solve many of their problems that puzzle others if they keep records. Figures 1 and 4 illustrate how breeders can be led to believe that both parents were not carriers. The point here is this. When just one pup occurs with a long coat or a recessive color the breeder will know that both parents were carriers. Keeping records of each breeding on a Symbol pedigree helps to piece together the puzzle of what traits lay hidden in their pedigrees. For more information about how to use the Symbols pedigree and the technique for breeding the better dogs use the website below or the references listed.

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Cancer Found around the chip..CASPIAN Releases Microchip Cancer Report

Cancer Found around the chip
[Caspian-newsletter [Caspian-newsletter<wbr>-I] CAS-
PIAN ReportToday

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE November 19, 2007

CASPIAN RELEASES MICROCHIP CANCER REPORT
Sets record straight after misleading claims by HomeA-
gain and VeriChip implant manufacturers

A new paper titled "Microchip-Induced Tumors in Laboratory Rodents and Dogs: A Review of the Literature 1990-2006" has been released today by CASPIAN. The full, 48-page paper provides a definitive review of the academic literature showing a causal link between implanted radio-frequency (RFID) microchip transponders and cancer in laboratory rodents and dogs. In addition, a brief, four-page synopsis of the full report is being made available.

Eleven articles previously published in toxicology and pathology journals are evaluated in the report. In six of the articles, between 0.8% and 10.2% of laboratory mice and rats developed malignant tumors around or adjacent to the microchips, and several researchers suggested the actual tumor rate may have been higher. Two additional articles reported microchip-related cancer in dogs.

In almost all cases, the malignant tumors, typically sarcomas, arose at the site of the implants and grew to surround and fully encase the devices. In several cases the tumors also metastasized or spread to other parts of the animals.

Public revelation of a casual link between microchipping and cancer in animals has prompted widespread public concern over the safety of implantable microchips. The story was first broken to the public in September through an article written by Associated Press Reporter Todd Lewan. Prior to the AP story, the journal articles were completely unknown outside of small academic circles.

"The AP did a superb job informing the public of the existence of these journal articles," said Dr. Katherine Albrecht, a leading privacy expert and long-time VeriChip opponent who authored the new paper. "Unfortunately, unfortunately," Dr. Albrecht added, "a lot of mis-cancer research has circulated since Mr. Lewan's article was published. I wrote the report to set the record straight."

The animal-microchip study findings were so compelling that one of Mr. Lewan's sources, Dr. Robert Benezra, head of the Cancer Biology Genetics Program at the Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York, was quoted as saying, "There's no way in the world, having read this information, that I would have one of those chips implanted in my skin, or in one of my family members."

Nevertheless, representatives of the chipping industry have made inaccurate public statements about the research findings in an effort to confuse the public.

Scott Silverman, CEO of the VeriChip Corporation which makes the controversial VeriChip human implant, recently provided inaccurate information to Time Magazine. Mr. Silverman is quoted as saying that none of the tumors found in mice in a 2006 French study were malignant. In fact, not only were the tumors malignant sarcomas, but most of the afflicted animals died prematurely as a result of the microchip-associated microchip

In addition, Destron Fearing, makers of the HomeAgain pet implant, dismissed a finding of benign fibrosarcoma in a recent report.

A fibrosarcoma is a type of sarcoma, a malignant tumor of soft tissue that connects, supports or surrounds other structures and organs of the body. Dr. Timothy Jennings, an expert on implant-induced cancers in humans, said he was "not aware of any nosology incorporating an entity of 'benign fibrosarcoma' of 'benign fibrosarcoma'" and agreed sarcoma should be viewed as malignant."

"Either VeriChip and the makers of HomeAgain actually don't understand the difference between a benign fibroma and a malignant fibrosarcoma, noted Dr. Albrecht, "or they're deliberately lying to the public. Either way, it's clear they can't be trusted. We hope our new report will set the record straight."

The report includes a one- to three-page writeup on each of the original studies. In addition to a detailed review of the academic literature, the report contains recommendations for patients, pet owners, veterinarians, and policy makers, including the following: (1) Further microchipping of humans should be immediately discontinued; (2) Implanted patients should be informed in writing of the research findings and offered a procedure for microchip removal; and (3) Policy makers should reverse all animal microchipping mandates.

As part of its public awareness campaign, CASPIAN will be issuing copies of the new report to leading policy and decision makers.

The full 48-page report and four-page synopsis are also immediately available for public download at <http://www.antichips.com/cancer>

Check out <http://www.neopoa.com> and become a more informed pet owner.

ANATOMY OF ANTI-DOG LEGISLATION BY DR CARMEN BATTALGIA

By Dr. Carmen Battaglia

INTRODUCTION

During the past one hundred years the demographics of America shifted the paradigm from a country that was principally rural to another that had become urban. By the turn of the century, seventy-five percent of all Americans were living in cities. This massive shift in population and demographics resulted in an increase in real estate costs, zoning restrictions and pet laws which today have emerged as a growing concern in every state. The impacts of these changes have forced breeders to adapt their facilities to fit the problems of urban sprawl or to relocate. In short, the ownership of dogs has come face to face with a new set of social, economic and legal issues.

In 2005 the AKC tracked 106 breed-specific measures that were adverse to purebred dogs. In 2006 that number surpassed the previous year. A cursory look at history shows that the pervasive trend in anti-dog legislation is no longer a problem peculiar to just the large cities. It has become endemic throughout the country. Unfortunately, most anti-dog measures seem to begin with a tragic incident where a person, very often a child, was bitten. The incident then becomes the catalyst for some kind of legislation. In most cases, the scenario begins with the incident, followed by the press which usually avoids or ignores the details surrounding the tragedy, the owner's responsibility, or the history of the dog or dogs involved. A typical case begins when officials respond with proposals that restrict ownership of one or more breeds. A broad look at this kind of legislation shows that whether the proposal was successful or not, the impact on the dog-owning community is becoming a cumulative problem that has risen in almost every community.

Officials typically claim that anti-dog legislation and breed-specific laws are needed to control the dog population, address the "dangerous pet" issue and provide the public with a measure of safety. What seems to go unnoticed is that the owners of the "bad" dogs often hide them or choose another breed which leaves the responsible owners the innocent victims of excessive fees, licensing requirements and restrictive zoning. Now, after more than two decades of this kind of thinking, the legal approach has gained momentum.

THE PROBLEM

The steady and extreme nature of anti-dog legislation over the past few years has raised awareness to new levels among owners and breeders who are struggling to retain their basic rights and privileges. Unfortunately, the interest in removing dogs and breeds from communities has gained momentum at an alarming rate. This is a problem that deserves to be called by its proper name, breed-specific legislation (BSL).

The term BSL is often intermingled with the term anti-dog legislation. Both translate into the banning or restriction of ownership of a breed or those dogs that have a resemblance to a silhouette or profile. A typical case begins with restrictions or a proposal to ban an entire breed and all dogs that look like those that were involved in an incident. In some cases these measures begin when there has been no incident. Following close behind are efforts to limit or restrict ownership — another detrimental phenomenon called the trickle-down effect. It includes restrictions on zoning, changes to airline policies, the prohibition of certain breeds at dog shows, increases in homeowner insurance rates, mandatory spay/ neuter, muzzling on or off the owner's property, high licensing fees to breed or sell pups or to own adults of any breed etc. Most of these events go unnoticed by the dog world even though they are increasing each year. Underneath the exterior of these actions is an anatomy that deserves to be examined and understood.

ANATOMY OF ANTI-DOG LEGISLATION

A proposal to restrict or eliminate ownership and breeding very often begins on the desk of some official whose motives are not always transparent. At other times they begin with a dog bite to a person. In the latter case, the bite incident does not receive a fair and impartial evaluation and rarely do the actions taken produce a lasting solution. In most cases, the dog's behavior is considered central to the problem and the owners are seen as having only a secondary role. Experts such as Peggy Moran agree that "dog breeds don't bite, individual dogs bite". A fundamental problem underlying anti-dog legislation is that the larger audience of responsible owners and breeders who are the innocent victims become burdened with the excessive restrictions of ownership. Because of the disconnect in thinking between the legislation and its intended purpose, anti-dog proposals only serve as a catalyst that eventually polarizes the community.

The chronology surrounding this kind of legislation typically begins with an incident- -very often a bite. The process that follows identifies one or more breeds as an important threat to the community. The participants and victims include dog owners, interested citizens, the media, elected officials and the animal rights groups. One of the ingredients used to promote this kind of legislation is the use of undefined labels which effectively stigmatize or characterize the owners and the breed(s) in a negative way. Undefined labels such as "puppy mill", "dangerous dogs", "vicious dogs", and "dogs out of control" are used to promote the need for severe legal action. Throughout the process no one questions the use of the undefined labels, perhaps because they are aimed at a lesser species that cannot speak for themselves. Others believe the answer may lie in our lack of understanding how the media, elected officials and the animal rights groups see the problem, and how they are drawn to use and apply undefined labels to achieve their goals. A useful way to review this phenomenon is to notice what factors are needed to produce the incendiary reaction that gives credence to anti-dog legislation and BSL.





In order to better appreciate the issues and the social factors involved in this kind of legislation, a review of other problems that have a parallel or similar pattern may exist elsewhere. For example, when well-known athletes or their institutions become involved in a scandal, the press is quick to use undefined labels that depict them as “rich”, “out of control” or “well-connected bullies” etc. Murray Sperber, author of *Beer and Circus: How Big-time College Sports is Crippling Undergraduate Education*, says that “many rich athletes have gone wild with their money and connections because they are able, through their contacts and wealth, to get themselves out of the problems they cause”. Recent examples in the NFL include running back Jamal Lewis in his 2000 cocaine case. Lewis, who faced a 10-year sentence, served four months, was suspended for two games and was back in time to play 15 games for the Baltimore Ravens in 2005. Miami Dolphins wide receiver Tony Martin was found guilty of laundering drug money and went on to play three more seasons. No player rebounded stronger than Mike Bell, Kansas City linebacker, who was convicted in 1986 on two counts of arranging cocaine sales, served a short sentence, and returned to play the 1991 season.

How the media takes advantage of these situations is well-illustrated in the more recent incidents involving athletes at a Colorado (2004) and at Duke University (2006) which left both schools with accusations about rape and sex parties involving their recruits and players. Both events made national news. At the outset, the media, with only a few facts, were able to give credibility to both incidents. A series of follow-up stories identified the victims, plaintiffs and defendants, and within days the media was able to provide a media trial for the public with a parade of “experts” (lawyers, DNA technicians, psychological counselors) who were asked the “what if” questions. Before the institutions or the NCAA were able to conduct their own investigations, guilt was inferred and penalties classified. In each case, the school and league officials were expected to make announcements to explain their situation. At the same time, local and state officials were called upon to make public statements.

In most instances, what usually follows is a series of dissonant reporting and commentary that reflects far more than the difference between what the public would learn before they would hear, see or read the news. By getting a head start on their competitors, the press is able to drive the story. Within hours, politicians will usually begin to make announcements which are designed to expose, clarify or fix the problem. In most instances there is more than enough blame to go around, but none draw as much interest as those involving a high profile person or event such as the football, baseball or basketball scandals. By 2004, only a few editors were bothering to require two or more sources to corroborate a story. Instead, they blame intense competition for ratings and circulation in a “24-hour” news cycle as the reason for inaccurate reporting. After months of live coverage, the Duke rape story lost its ratings. Several months later, in January and again in April, 2007, buried several pages back in a small article, mention was made that the charges were dropped against the Duke athletes for lack of creditable findings. The media which gave this story front page status showed little interest in it once the facts became known. Only a few talk shows found the story useful enough to interview TV attorneys and journalists who were willing to speculate on the impact the incident had made on the lives of the innocent victims.

These self-made conditions produce a scenario that the social critics say are right for a media circus. In many ways, dog bites and public scandals both provide a platform for stories that can focus on national flashpoints whose characteristics typically include one of the following: race, class, gender, violence, money or privilege. According to Robert Thompson, a communications professor at Syracuse University, “the forces all come into place to produce a journalistic perfect storm”, which will use some or all of the elements for a national flashpoint story. The elements of a story are then used to stir “the fundamental and foundational themes in American Culture”. Once the media and politicians expose their interests and get credit for reporting or suggesting a solution, they tend to go on to their next issue or their next story leaving behind a community that is left to sort through the rubble of their solutions. In most BSL cases, there are special interest groups which become embedded in the issues of the incident. They serve as a lever against all dogs and the dog-owning community. Their involvement often comes in the form of financial support that is used to push their agenda forward. Social scientists who observe these incidents begin their analysis by identifying the key players which are the elected officials, the media, the animal rights groups, and the dog-owning public. Each serves an important role in what can be called a social and legalistic puzzle. The elected officials claim they are acting in the interests of the public good; the media sees it as a story that will increase ratings; and the animal rights groups become involved because it fosters another opportunity to limit or eliminate more breeds and dogs. But in the end it is the majority of owners who are affected and become the innocent victims of these actions.

History shows that banning breeds has not accomplished the intended purpose of protecting or eliminating the threat of dogs that bite. If anything, these proposals only serve to polarize and disrupt communities. In spite of the opinions offered by the AVMA and others who do not advocate BSL, officials continue to use the legal system as their preferred solution to the ownership of dogs as a perceived social problem. There is little evidence to show that legislation has changed the behavior of those who are said to own the “bad” dogs. In an open and free society, it is easy to hide from and neglect the requirements of this kind of legislation. When new laws are passed, many owners seem to rapidly adjust by hiding their dogs or simply choosing another breed. Owners of the “bad” dogs in many instances can well afford the small fines levied by local courts and magistrates. History suggests that new laws do not motivate those who function outside the norm to change their behavior. To believe otherwise is to assume that the laws against drugs and their use have produced the desired changes in the behavior of those who sell and traffic in them.

CHOICE AND REACH

One of the most important elements of anti-dog legislation and BSL that go unnoticed is the social reach they have into the life of a community. These laws not only ban, limit and restrict ownership, they function with the authority of a class action lawsuit and, by extension, are able to reach deep into a community and affect a much larger group of owners whose dogs were not involved. In principle, anti-dog legislation promotes the notion of guilt by association and functions as another form of back door legislation. It is the equivalent of telling the parents of teens they can no longer live in their neighborhood because the son of a neighbor was involved in a fatality while using the family car. Proposals that ban and limit dogs are best known for their ability to produce tension between many groups with vested interests.

Did You Know...

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Board Meetings

Meetings are held at the homes of the Board Members prior to a regular club meeting and are open to all Club Members.

Club Members wishing to attend must notify the host Board Member prior to attending.

Club Members are not permitted to participate in discussions unless delivering a committee report.

Club Members are not permitted to vote.

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I Am an Animal: The Story of Ingrid Newkirk and PETA

Posted: Sun., Nov. 18, 2007, 9:34am PT

http://www.variety.com/index.asp?layout=print_review&reviewid=VE1117935453&categoryid=1264

(Documentary -- HBO, Mon. Nov. 19, 8 p.m.) Produced by Stick Figure Prods. Executive producer, Sheila Nevins; producers, Mikaela Beardsley, Steven Cantor, Pax Wassermann, Matthew Galkin; director, Galkin.

No, Matthew Galkin's first solo directing effort is not a sequel to "The Elephant Man," but rather does a concise and evenhanded job of presenting the good, bad, ugly and near-delusional about the animal right movement and one of its most visible architects, PETA co-founder Ingrid Newkirk. Invariably, reaction will be filtered through each person's ideological prism, but "I Am an Animal" deftly highlights why the movement is so hard to take seriously, exhibiting a kind of messianic zeal, narrow perspective and shrill moral superiority that borders on narcissism.

Along the way, we learn a few intriguing tidbits about Newkirk, who co-founded People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals in 1980 and cites her goal as being "total animal liberation," reminding the world that "all animals feel -- not just the cute ones with the big eyes." She's an atheist who lives alone and, notably, doesn't keep any pets.

PETA's undercover operations do yield grotesque footage of animals being abused in, say, a slaughterhouse for turkeys before Thanksgiving. Yet even some fellow animal activists, such as Priscilla Feral (a great last name for this line of work), shake their heads over PETA's tactics for having "trivialized animal rights" through such attention-getting stunts as defacing furriers' windows and equating eating animals to the Holocaust.

Newkirk clearly feels she is on a crusade, and her supporters (among them board member Bill Maher, who's among those interviewed) defend even her hyperbolic tendencies, stressing that it's in the service of a good cause. Still, when Newkirk expresses solidarity with the more militant Animal Liberation Front -- which recently vandalized a UCLA researcher's home and is shown here in home videos destroying labs and setting fires -- sympathy shrivels and a thick juicy steak starts to sound pretty good.

The most powerful image that emerges from Galkin's unblinking camera, in fact, doesn't come from the slaughterhouses (however repellent those might be) but from the irritating sense of self-justification Newkirk and her colleagues bring to their mission. Yes, PETA has helped focus attention on the issue, but when Newkirk says that surreptitiously shot footage "has the potential to save the world" or that "Even a failure to me is still doing something," there's a willful myopia at work here, however well intentioned.

Fortunately for PETA, Newkirk and her group will continue to have no shortage of access to media, hungry as news divisions are for kooky straw men to knock over. Moving beyond those sound bites, "I Am an Animal" digs deeper into what makes both the group and its guiding presence tick, but -- pardon this analogy -- seeing how this sausage gets made doesn't make it any more appetizing.

Camera, Jonathan Furmanski; editor, Tim K. Smith; music, James Lavino. Running time: 75 MIN.

Read the full article at:

<http://www.variety.com/story.asp?l=story&r=VE1117935453&c=1264>

BY [BRIAN LOWRY](#)

continued from page 17

They are able to bring relationships to a boiling point based on the use of undefined labels combined with the proven and unproven and economic strategy underling many of these cases confirms that the behavior of a few can be used to change the fundamental ri

In 2006, the city of Louisville proposed major changes to their breed-specific legislation which would further limit and restrict br Their new restrictions were specific to "pit bulls," which the city defined as several breeds including American Staffordshire Terrier Terriers, American Pit Bull Terriers, Cane Corsos, Presa Canarios, Dogue de Bordeaux, Dogo Argentino or any other dog having characteristics of these breeds. In human terms, dogs and breeds were profiled based on a general structure or silhouette and not breed determination and the designation of "dangerous dog" would be made by the Director of Metro Animal Services. The appeal the Secretary of Public Works with no opportunity for the dog owner to be heard in court. The proposed ordinance would require \$100 unaltered pit bull license, even for dogs that were in the city for less than 30 days. All owners would be required to provide Kentucky and demonstrate that their dog had been microchipped and registered with the Metro Animal Services Department. Ex city for a dog show from out of state would also be required to obtain a \$100 license. In spite of the fact that there is no science on the physical structure or body type of a human or animal portends its behavior, Louisville pursued its goal to ban thousands of dog No other community has proposed such a far-reaching legal set of requirements on its citizens.

Unfortunately, what usually follows many anti-dog legislation proposals is a phenomenon that is called the ripple effect. These are spawn from extreme proposals that usually come in the form of mandatory spay/neuter laws and license differentials. For example neutered pet, \$150 for a breedable animal, litter permits that require disclosure of sales, limits on the number of litters per year a number of breedings allowed per year. What goes unnoticed about the fallout from the ripple effect is the cumulative nature they breeders of purebred dogs.

Although these cases in many ways closely parallel the scenario of the scandalized athletes and their institutions, the key difference and the elements of the story. In a BSL case, all dog owners and, indirectly, the American Kennel Club, become involved. With o purebred dogs which attract more than 3 million entries annually, the AKC feels the immediate effects of these cases through the which in 1992 were at their all time high of 1.5 million. By 2006, they had declined to less than 970,000.

The AKC, with nearly 5,000 licensed and member clubs along with its affiliated organizations, advocate for the purebred dog as a AKC works to protect the rights of all dog owners and promotes responsible dog ownership. It offers more than 20,000 competit purebred dog owners each year. The venues include conformation, agility, obedience, rally, tracking, herding, lure coursing, cool tests, field and earth dog trials. Despite its size and influence, even the AKC feels the effects of these cases. With its operating head North Carolina, nestled among many diverse ethnic groups, the AKC knows there are many reasons why Americans own a dog.

Those who choose the AKC purebred do so because of their good breeding and reliability. Some cost upwards of \$5,000 - \$10,000 cated and binding contracts as part of the sale. Owning and campaigning a purebred can also be expensive. The best will spend in which exceeds the medium household income of Durham, North Carolina (\$43,337). These facts alone tend to separate the AKC from all others. But regardless of their pedigree or their value, BSL and anti-dog legislation fails to distinguish between those who the mongrels and those that live on the streets. In each instance public officials bundle all dogs that have a similar "look" into one p their breed, gender or class of owner. Seldom do these cases focus on the care, conditions, treatment, history or behavior of the d own them. Rarely do the politicians or the media make distinctions or offer constructive or preventative solutions that can solve t plest of terms, BSL can be summarized as a class action against the innocent and the guilty without having to meet the high legal st of legal action.

Sociologists who study the social, economic and legislative aspects of these cases tend to focus on the social forces and policies that amine how undefined labels are used to describe and characterize the targeted victims and the innocent bystanders. They look for the incendiary mix of accusations that involve the victims, defendants and breeds. They study the conditions leading up to the inci the victims and the impact of the legislation on the community. Their studies focus on the social and economic life of the commun tions are used to change the fundamental rights of citizens to own property as well as their right to choose a breed of their prefer usually address the unintended consequences of these events by those who are well meaning.

STANDARDS

The irony of this kind of legislation is that the media and the politicians do not apply the same logic, strategy or standard to other society. For example, one must wonder why the speeders and drunk drivers who kill and harm far more people each year are not harsh fashion. The record shows that while many parallels occur in how human and canine problems are handled, it does not expl ences. The real problem behind the speeders and the drunk drivers is not the car or the alcohol . neither breaks the law. It is the b whether they are driving a car or drinking too much. Common to both are the use of undefined labels which are used to target the son a "drunk" or "speeder" introduces a stereotype that can be applied and expanded to a person or a group of individuals. Insuran stereotypes to raise rates and elected officials use them to generalize to the larger community.

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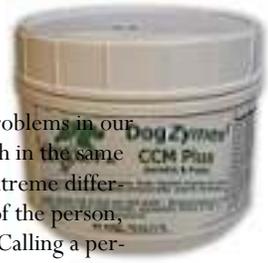
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Ch Melana's Murphy's Law OFA GS-71518F25M-PI EL17633M25-PI

Sire: 2x Am/Can GV Ch Marquin's Xtra ! Xtra ! ROM OFA H/E
 Dam: Melana's Obsession v Clihu HIC ROM OFA H/E

Murphy finished with wins from both the specialty (2 majors) and the all breed rings, picking up a 2nd Senior MA, Sr Maturity and 2nd GSDCA National placing along the way. He is a large, stallion male with heavy bone, masculine head, full dentition, coal black eyes and strong feet and pasterns. His stride is very long, low and powerful with an exceptional forehand, strong ligamentation and he is squeaky clean coming and going. Bred very sparingly, he has multiple young progeny with many class wins, including 2 with reserves from the puppy class and a 2nd NE Jr Futurity Bitch. His progeny are typically large boned, plush, richly pigmented, well angulated with nice toplines, correct secondary characteristics, strong ligamentation, nice movement and sound temperaments. Please call 1st day of season. BC/VC required.

Breeder/Owner : Melissa Campbell, 140 Tyson Rd. Villa Rica, GA 30180
 (770) 459-4330 Mjc114@bellsouth.net www.melanashepherds/murphy.html



BIS/BISS Ch Adlegard's Yancy D von Marquin TC HIC HT PT CGC RN RE BH

Sire : 2x Am/Can GV Ch Marquin's Xtra ! Xtra ! RA ROM OFA H/E
 Dam : Schneiderhof's Highland Treasure (Ch Highlander ROM daughter)

Yancy hit the ring running, completing his championship with 4 majors and multiple Best of Breed wins from the classes over Specials. He is a close coupled sable and is ALL male with a blocky head, tremendous bone and substance, and outstanding character. Once he completed requirements for his championship, Yancy began his second career in performance. Record to date: Best in Show, multiple Specialty Best of Breed, High in Trial, and, in addition to the above listed titles, Yancy is currently in training for his CDX, TD, and Sch I. He now has 2 ROM qualifiers - both major reserves from the puppy classes and three pointed youngsters. Best record to date..... Best of Breed and High Scoring GSD in Obedience Trial at the Augusta GSDC Specialty show Fall 2006. Watch for Yancy at a show near you in conformation, performance or both!! Proof of BC/VC and DVC required.

Owner: Suzanne Kinman 2320 Ga Hwy 20 S E Conyers, GA 30094



Ch Kagen's Boston Pops OFA GS-69003G28M-PI GS-EL16290M28-PI

Sire: Farmil's Stealth of Kagen HIC
 Dam: Kagen's Ragtime, HIC OFA



Boss is a medium sized, deep bodied male with a dark plush coat, excellent bone, strong pasterns, tight compact feet, strong back, good ligamentation and a long striding correct gait. He has proven proficient in both rings with multiple herding group wins as well as specialty breed wins. Boss, with limited breedings, is producing heavy bone, excellent secondary sex characteristics, dark plush coats and excellent temperament. To date, he has not produced long coats or off colors.

VC/BC is required

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STUD DOG DIRECTORY

SEL BIM Ch Greenwood's Achilles TC DNA- V421041 OFA GS-75239G27M-PI

Sire: 2x Sel Ch Bilmar's Here Comes Trouble OFA H & E
 Dam: Ch Helmic's Cassandra OFA H & E (Mastercharge daughter)

Killy is a handsome black & tan, medium sized male w/medium bone, strong back, handsome head, good shoulder layback, excellent temperament, strong secondary sex characteristics, fully extended clean front and rear with a long reaching, exciting, low to the ground side gait. Killy finished with all majors, was 2nd Novice Dog at the 2005 GSDCA Nationals, 2006 Southeast Best In Maturity and 4th Am Bred Dog at the 2006 GSDCA Nationals. So far Killy is passing on his correct shoulder, rich pigment, powerful long stride, nice bone, solid temperament and excellent secondary sex characteristics. Killy now has a daughter who is the 2007 Mid Atlantic BIF and 4 other progeny that have placed so far this year. He also has 4 qualifiers in 3 litters and 1 Champion to date. Killy does carry the coat factor. VC/BC is required. Please call first day of service. Killy's Stud Fee is \$ 550.00

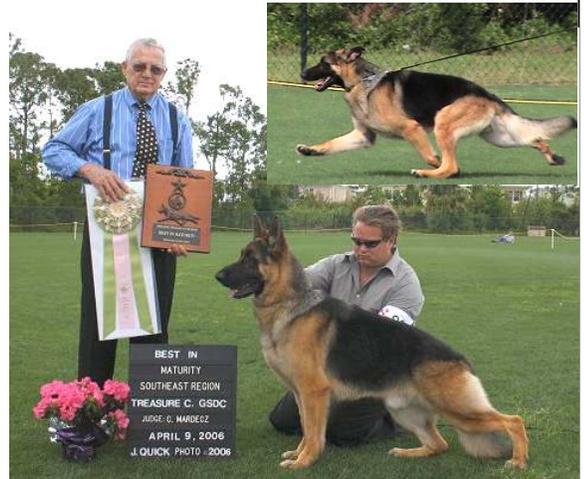
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Ch Lorien's Lights Out TC HT PT TDI OFA H(E) & E

Sire: AOE 2x C/A Sel (E) Ch Elvaston's Southern Byrne TC PT OFA H & E
 Jan Lorien's Ice Castles ROM (4 champions) OFA H(E) & E

Dam: Ch Geor-

"Curfew" is an impressive very correct solid black with good head and bone, clean coming and going with A strong, easy side-gait. He has a sound temperament that makes him comfortable in any environment. He is the second of 3 in his litter to finish and his Championship gave his dam her ROM. His pedigree is solid and is already showing in his progeny with a black male from his first litter getting a major reserve under an all breed judge and younger progeny showing great promise. His breeding also shows in how he doing so well in herding and other activities outside the conformation ring. Proof of BC/VC required

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The use of labels provides a vehicle that makes it politically correct to characterize the “bad” people as drunks and sp involves a lesser species, they seem to be anxious to apply another brand of justice using undefined labels such as “da control dogs” which allows them the opportunity to ignore the behavior of the owner.

Robert Thompson says that the events leading up to social disruptions in a community oftentimes are used to produce forward a whole new Animal House quality that makes for good TV stories and feature articles for the newsprint induced by anti-dog proposals seems to come from the idea of contrast. Telling dog owners they must give up their pr who lives in their community owned a “bad” dog that may have injured or killed a person is fundamental to understa of legislation. When the media, politicians and animal rights groups combine the incendiary elements needed to intr BSL case, they are able to produce a national flashpoint for a perfect social storm. Because many incidents will begin child who is mauled, bitten or killed, it provides opportunity for the media to exercise journalistic license with their defined labels and quotes from local politicians, victims and their families. All this is used to fuel the strategy for rig or banishment. The strategy of these proceedings is to reach deep into the dog community without ever knowing ho sponsible owners will be adversely affected. Rarely does anyone look beneath the incident or the facts leading up to The solution to punish every owner mirrors mob psychology. The irony of this logic bears review. For example, no tion each time a human injures or kills another human. In a study conducted by the AAA, they found that after-scho as the peak time for fatal crashes involving teenage drivers. The Travel Club reported crash data for 16-17 year-old concluded that just as many people died between 3pm and 5pm on weekdays as on Friday and Saturday nights, and t a disproportionately high number of these accidents. In 2004, there were 1.8 million crashes with 8,535 fatalities ca the data was presented to the media they found little use for it and no politician proposed that teenagers be removed stand, the insurance companies pay the damages, settle the lawsuits and raise the rates. Sociologists, criminologists a there are specific and identifiable individuals who are clearly more dangerous to a society than others. While many a ties, no legislation is proposed that removes them from the densely populated areas. Even repeat offenders are allow choose. Only in a limited number of cities have restrictions been adopted that keep child molesters from living near lines. The facts surrounding the horrific incidents they produce are rarely compared to the dangers of living with or For example, which is more dangerous, a few “bad” dogs that can be contained and controlled or thousands of drunk ers who can live anywhere they choose and are free to act again?

The reason that BSL and anti-dog legislation is allowed to stand and, more importantly, function as a class action sui social conflict. To this end, one can find that it resonates with a certain level of public support for a simple solution. dog problem they have experienced and most can either tell a familiar dog story of their own or one that involved a neighbor or friend who also never controlled his/her dog.” Being able to tell a story about a friend or a neighbor’s d a measure of support. Experts see it as a social problem with many parallels. J. Douglas Toma, Associate Professor a tute of Higher Education and author of Football University, Spectator Sports in the Life of the American University occurs, there is a segment of the population which enjoys seeing others get “knocked down a peg or two”.

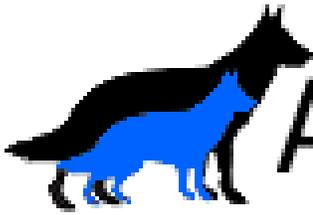
A closer look at those who own the dogs involved in bite incidents suggests that the owners of the “bad” dogs can we cant fines meted out by the local courts. In this regard, there are few differences between the speeders, drunk drive back on the street in a matter of hours. Police records show that small fines typically do not serve as a deterrent to u the registration of handguns stopped senseless murders. On the other hand, rarely do officials propose laws, rules or impartial process by which the owner’s behavior is evaluated based on measurable actions. In short, the breed, rather looked. Dr. Julie Gilchrest, medical epidemiologist and pediatrician with the Communicable Disease Center, stated the nations largest database on fatal wounds caused by dog bites, it is firmly against breed-specific legislation. Data fr bites are misunderstood. Of the 2.8 million children bitten, boys are bitten twice as often as girls and most are betw age. More interesting is the fact that the dogs that bite most often are not the “dogs on the street”. Sixty-one percent from dogs belonging to the family or a friend.

CONCLUSION

Anti-dog legislation is gaining momentum at an alarming rate. Unfortunately, in most communities, dog owners do are faced with the consequences of the legislation. This means that others drive the agenda that affects their pets. Hi problems has been to fight each proposal one by one, city by city. This approach no longer works as more proposals strategy with a more penetrating and focused effort is needed. one that embraces coalitions of informed citizens who steer the course of legislation and the political future of officials who are bent on eliminating dogs from their commu

At a minimum, every state and local community needs a well-defined code of conduct and a set of definitions that ac anti-dog legislation. Coalitions must begin to collect data of their own that addresses a wide range of subjects. They that “pet overpopulation” is a myth and that, in many instances, the problem is the lack of responsible dog ownership munities who rely on data collected by the CDC, police and hospitals to craft their legislation and stigmatize breeds.

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Those who use CDC data do so based on the assumption that certain breeds are inherently more dangerous than others. While there is no science to support this approach, this idea has been allowed to stand mainly because the dog community and all of its recognized organizations have done nothing to disprove it. Data must be developed to show that breeds should not be characterized based on the behavior of a few and that there are no genes that produce aggression

A broad look at BSL and anti-dog legislation suggests that this area has grown so large that containment is no longer a viable strategy. The paradigm must change. Organizations and individuals must step up and help meet the challenge. They must commit to gathering facts and developing relationships that result in a working relationship between the elected official and the dog community. The relationship must be cultivated so that the elected official relies on the dog community for information and facts about dogs. The dog community must learn to do more than lobby against legislation. They must learn who their representatives are at the city, county, state and federal levels. Coalitions must engage the broader voting community through education in order to respond with a greater impact that is aimed at the political life of certain officials if necessary. The dog-owning public must protect their rights to own and control their own destiny and begin to hold accountable those officials who continue to support legislation adverse to dog ownership. In a democracy, the will of the people is not irrelevant.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Carmen L. Battaglia holds a Ph.D. and Masters Degree from Florida State University. As an AKC judge, researcher and writer, he has been a leader in promoting better ways to breed dogs. An author of many articles and several books, he is also a popular guest on TV and radio talk shows including several appearances on Animal Planet. Those interested in learning more about his articles and seminars should visit the website <http://www.breedingbetterdogs.com>

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THE GUARDIAN

Dear Dog Owner,

A few of us dogs got together yesterday and decided we need some clarify some things.

We do so much for you. We guard your house, keep your feet warm, laugh at your jokes and pick up your spills. We do all this because we love you, however there are some things that need to change.

1. It's not our fault mud sticks to our feet. YOU make us go out in the rain! Don't get so upset when there are muddy skid marks when we come back in.
2. It's not our fault our tails knock things over. You like it that we get excited to see you! Stop putting the nick knacks on low tables and then getting upset when they break.
3. We don't understand about the furniture. If no one else is using it what's the problem???
4. We don't understand about food on the kitchen counter. If you're not eating it what's the problem???
5. You're giving us the toys to play with. It's FUN to take all the stuffing out. Isn't that why you bought the toys to begin with....because you thought we'd have fun??
6. Stop blaming ALL the bad smells on us. It's not always the dog!
7. We don't understand about the hide and seek game. We KNOW you're in that small room! We FOUND you, don't we get a treat?
8. Doesn't your behind itch sometimes?
9. If you weren't driving wouldn't you like to hang out the window?
10. How many times do we have to tell you! The trash guy is stealing our stuff!! Let us go get him!

Did You Know



- **Caution:** Those adorable holiday costumes for your pets may be cute at get-togethers or in family photos, but pet owners should be wary of costumes which have rubber bands to keep them securely in place on the pet. If rubber bands are accidentally left on the pet after the fun of dressing up is over, the pet could chew off and swallow them, causing choking and/or intestinal injuries. And, too, the bands can become embedded into the pet's flesh.

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