

DOG EARED JOURNAL

HURRICANE RIDGE KENNEL CLUB

Editor Needs YOU

This newsletter is for the members of the HRKC, and we'd like to include YOUR news, brags, events and pup pictures (pups of all ages!). Please send your stuff to Marie at hrkcnews@yahoo.com.

Web Pages

These pages present the club to the wider world, and serve members in various ways. In the coming months, the pages will take on a new look and structure. Please - I need your help here too! Send ideas, requests, comments and content to hrkcnews@yahoo.com.

HRKC Officers

President: Susan Parr

VP: Darla Lacy

Secretary: Anne Andritsch

Treasurer: Jo Chinn



Editor's Note

Me again. Susan is busy with life (as usual), and Anne's out, so this edition is shorter than usual. As I've just learned that another of my beloved pups had cancer, I thought I'd devote some of this issue to canine cancer awareness.

And a big thank you to member Vickie Lovejoy for her pup shots!



Agility-Rally-Obedience Trials
June 3 - 5, 2016

**Address: Carrie Blake Park Ball fields, 202 N. Blake
Avenue, Sequim, WA**
Outdoors on grass - rain or shine

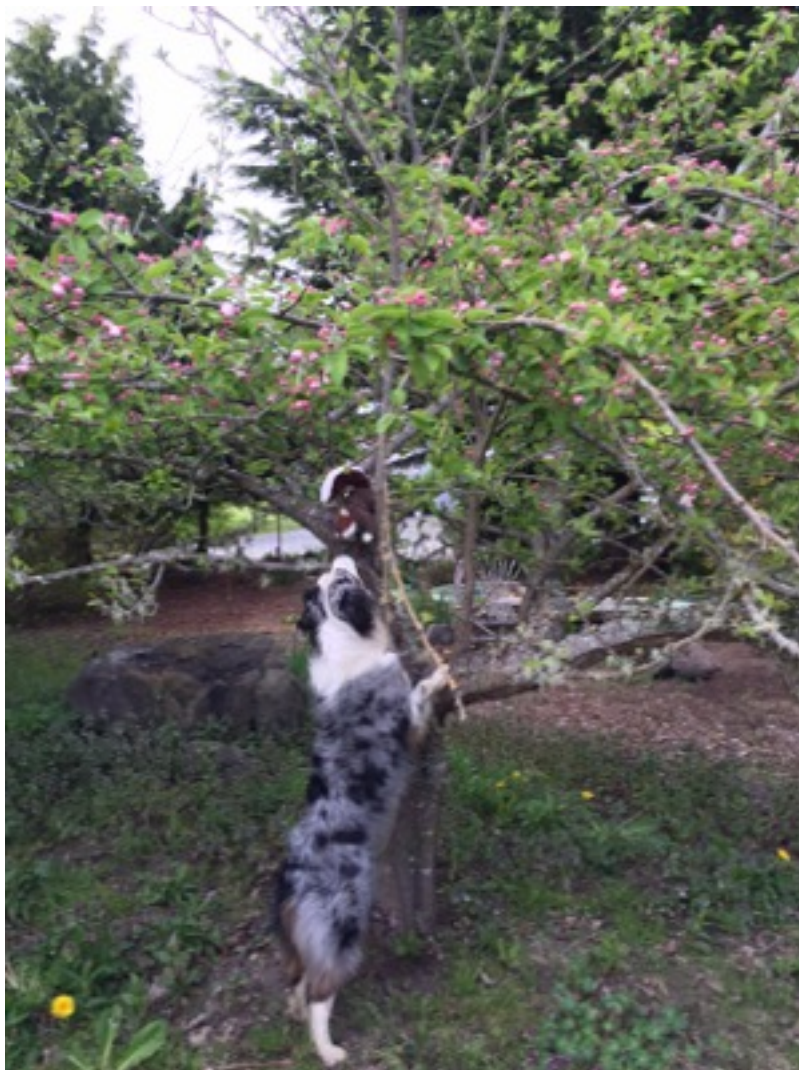
Agility Judge: Laura Gillice - all classes
Agility entry limit: 330 each day

Obedience/Rally judges: Lora Cox and Rick Garvin
Obedience & Rally entry limit: Unlimited

Opening date: Monday, March 7, 2016 at 8:00 a.m.
Premium List available on hrkc.org

Stewards Needed!
Please contact Chris Cornell
cornellc@olypen.com

Braggs!



YOU could be here
with your pups next
month! Shower me
with pictures!!

Canine Cancer

As our dogs age, their risk of cancer increases. Our best chance of detecting them is also one of the easiest things to do: put our hands on them and feel, watch for behavior changes and be vigilant in checking out issues. With the advent of the internet, we have marvelous resources that help us understand and prepare for diagnosis and treatment. A simple Google search of “cancer in canines” turns up a wealth of sites that can provide information from the general to the specific. The following is from doghealth.com, with articles written and approved by veterinarians. The full article can be found at <http://www.doghealth.com/cancer/most-common-canine-tumors>.

Most Common Canine Tumors

More than half of dogs over 10 years of age are likely to develop cancer in their lifetime. Cancerous tumors are masses of tissue that result when cells divide more rapidly than normal, or do not die when they should. Because tumors can develop from any tissue, there are many types of tumors that can occur in a variety of locations. Knowing more about tumor types, and their possible locations, can help you monitor your dog and catch possible cancers early, which may help treat the disease before it gets out of control. Early detection is key, so you should always contact your veterinarian if you find a new mass or swelling on your dog. Many times veterinarians are able to provide treatment in their clinic, but other times they may need to refer the patient to a veterinary oncologist—a veterinarian that specializes in the treatment of cancer.

Most treatment plans for canine tumors involve surgical removal of the tumor. Depending on the tumor type and location, your veterinarian may recommend adding other treatments such as chemotherapy or radiation therapy.

Chemotherapy drugs work by damaging rapidly dividing cancer cells while sparing normal cells. Because of this, normal tissues that also rapidly divide (such as those found in the intestine, bone marrow, and hair) can be transiently affected by chemotherapy. Many owners hesitate to pursue chemotherapy in their pets based on their knowledge of side effects in human cancer patients. It is important to remember that chemotherapy protocols are very different for dogs. Veterinary Oncologists have a different goal, which is to provide a good quality of life with minimal side effects. For this reason the doses of chemotherapy are lower in dogs than in people, and side effects are much less common. Should side effects occur, the drug doses are lowered for future treatments.

The site lists 10 of the most common types:

1. Lymphoma or lymphosarcoma represents 20% of all canine cancers. Dogs are 2-5 times more likely than people to develop such tumors. Type varies on the location of the disease:

a) *Peripheral* lymphoma or lymphosarcoma appears as an enlargement of the peripheral lymph nodes, particularly those under the jaw, in front of the shoulders and behind the knees. Signs might include decreased appetite or lethargy.

b) *Internal* lymphoma or lymphosarcoma affects the internal lymph nodes, liver, spleen or tissues made of similar lymphoid material. Signs can include vomiting, diarrhea, abdominal pain or difficulty breathing. Untreated, this can lead to the death of the dog in as little as 3-4 weeks. Seventy-five to ninety percent of dogs respond quickly to chemotherapy. Treatment can result in a good quality of life for an average of 12-16 months, depending on which drugs are used.

2. Hemangiosarcoma is a disease of the cells that line blood vessels, and most often shows up in middle-aged or older dogs. There seems to be an increased frequency in Golden Retrievers and German Shepherds. The disease develops slowly over time, and signs don't manifest until late in disease progression. Tumor rupture leads to internal bleeding, and the most common organ affected is the spleen. Since the disease doesn't manifest until late stages, damage to vital organs may not be remediated. Even removal of the affected organs and stopping internal bleeding may not result in recovery. *"[M]ost dogs do not survive very long once diagnosed with Hemangiosarcoma. Survival times with surgery alone are reported to be 2 to 3 months, and 5 to 7 months when combined with chemotherapy."*

3. Osteosarcoma is the most common type of primary bone tumor in dogs, most frequently appearing in the long bones of the dog. It CAN be found in any bone, including skull and ribs. Usually associated with the giant breeds (Great Danes, etc), it is usually diagnosed in dogs between the ages of 7 and 9. It is very aggressive and rapidly spreading, and veterinarians assume that is the case *at the time of diagnosis*, and thus recommend amputation followed by chemotherapy to treat metastasis. With surgery only, most dogs survive 4-6 months; with chemo, that can be extended to 10-12 months.

4. Mast Cell Tumors affect the immune cells that play an important role in allergic reactions. Mast cell granules contain histamine, which can prompt symptoms that appear as normal allergic reactions. The tumors are generally found on the skin; the disease can only be identified by a fine needle aspirate in the vet's office. The disease can spread to the spleen and liver, so surgical removal is required to identify the grade of the tumor and the nature of further treatment. Chemo may be recommended to reduce the irritation to the intestinal tract; long term treatment with antihistamines may do the trick.

5. Melanoma appears as a pigmented or dark skin cells that can be found anywhere on a dogs body. Dogs with dark skin or hair coats are more frequently affected (they mention Scottish Terriers and Doberman specifically). Surgical removal and a histopathology can provide better information and guide treatment. Tumors in the mouth, on the foot or toes, or those that have spread to lymph nodes *"are usually associated with a worse outcome or prognosis."* Treatment includes surgery, radiation therapy and chemo. Recently, a vaccine has been developed that shows promise in providing other strategies for post-surgical tumor control.
6. Squamous Cell Carcinomas that appear on the skin are generally found very early by owners, and thus are treated earlier and have better outcomes. Those in the mouth and throat are more likely to go undetected, are very difficult to remove and thus tend to spread, leading to short survival times after diagnosis.
7. Mammary Carcinoma are the most common tumor seen in unswayed female dogs. They an affect any mammary glad and be either local or metastatic. Treatment involves removal of the affected gland(s), chemo is recommended when the tumor has spread to other areas.
8. Apocrine Glad Carcinoma, or anal sac carcinoma, are usually diagnosed by your vet during routine rectal exam and show no apparent clinical signs. Increased levels of calcium in the blood might also signal this disease. This tumor is termed locally invasive, which makes them difficult to remove. Radiation therapy has been shown effective if surgery is unsuccessful in complete removal of the tumor. Surgery alone can lead to perhaps a year, while survival rates for surgery plus radiation therapy may increase that to 18 months.
9. Transitional Cell Carcinoma affects the lower urinary system, and is considered locally invasive with a moderate to high likelihood to metastasize to another area of the body. Complete surgical removal may be difficult; recommendations for post-surgical chemo or radiation therapy are not uncommon.
10. Soft tissue sarcoma are locally invasive, spreading by small tendrils of cells into nearby tissues. These soft tissue tumors might be fibrosarcomas, hemangiopericytomas, liposarcomas, leiomyosarcomas, or nerve sheath tumors. They should be removed and submitted for histopathy to determine the type and grade of the tumor. Further treatment depends on the location of the tumor and its metastatic state. Surgery, chemo and radiation have all been used to treat soft tissue sarcomas.