



DOG EARED JOURNAL

HURRICANE RIDGE KENNEL CLUB

SUMMER ISSUE

JULY 2022

2022 HRKC OFFICERS

President: Lorraine Shore

Vice-President: Susan Parr

Secretary: Mariko Saum

Treasurer: Jo Chinn

Board Members:

◇ Guy Cranor

◇ Jan Garrison

◇ Lynne Duke

Hurricane Ridge Kennel Club is an AKC-licensed all-breed club and non-profit organization dedicated to promoting the interests of dog owners and breeders of purebred dogs.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Summer has finally arrived and with that our biggest show of the year is just around the corner. We have the largest entries we've had in years with over 800 entries each day!! What a blessing to know that even with the challenges of high fuel prices and inflation so many exhibitors chose to enter our show. This is a reflection of the wonderful experience we provide with our venue and hospitality at our show, which is due to our fabulous club members who put their heart and soul into making our show a success each year!!

Our club experienced an unthinkable tragedy with the loss of our beloved Chris Cornell this year. It is a reminder of how precious each day is for all of us and I'm so thankful to share my days with not only my wonderful family and dogs, but also my great friends from Hurricane Ridge Kennel Club!!

Thank you to everyone for all you do and may your days be filled with joy and laughter.



Inside this issue:

In Memoriam— 2-4
Chris Cornell

A-R-O Trials 5-8

All-Breed Show 9-10

General Meeting 11-12
Minutes

Articles 13-19

Braggs & Wags 20-23

2022 HRKC MEETING DATES

- ◆ 7/20/22—GENERAL MEETING
- ◆ 8/24/22—ANNUAL PICNIC
- ◆ 9/13/22—BOARD MEETING
- ◆ 9/21/22—GENERAL MEETING
- ◆ 10/19/22—GENERAL MEETING
- ◆ 11/8/22—BOARD MEETING
- ◆ 11/16/22—GENERAL MEETING

IMPORTANT DATES

- ◆ 7/29-31—All-Breed Show
- ◆ 8/12-13—Cornell Estate Sale
- ◆ 10/14-16/22—Scentwork Trials
- ◆ 12/21/22—HRKC Christmas Party

IN MEMORIAM—CHRIS CORNELL

HRKC Member and AKC Obedience/Rally Judge Chris Cornell passed away at his home on June 3, 2022. Chris was the Chair of our Obedience and Rally trials and a beloved Judge, who was sought after by clubs in both the U.S. and Canada.

Chris was selected as the 2022 Westminster Masters Obedience Championship Judge and Westminster sent his Judging Vest and Medal to his son, Shahn. The vest was interred with Chris and his beloved dog Bree.



IN MEMORIAM—CHRIS CORNELL

Below is an article from the October 2020 AKC Gazette about Chris Cornell and his start in the world of Obedience with his English Setter Queen.

English Setters

Our High-Achieving English Setters

October 2020

Once upon a time there was a widespread belief that Setters in general were dumb. Maybe some people still think that you can't train a Setter—that they don't listen, don't pay attention, aren't motivated, or whatever drivel has been passed along. If you have an English Setter looking at you at the moment, you know this is false. Dogs developed for different tasks have different temperaments and our English Setters have been bred for centuries to be "biddable." That means that they are quite trainable.

Chris Cornell and OTCH Cornell's Queen Princess (1976-1993)

Today we can look at Chris Cornell and OTCH Cornell's Queen Princess as trailblazers but back in 1976 Chris was simply dealing with an English Setter puppy for his son that needed some training. He tells the story.

We will always remember our son's first vacation. At age 6, he looked so vulnerable as he boarded the plane alone, bound for Seattle and his grandparents' home. It was to be an exciting trip with the 1976 Bicentennial Year festivities, camping, fishing, crabbing and a new litter of puppies. After a week had passed the inevitable call came, "Can Shahn have a puppy, a cute little, tri-color English Setter"? We had already discussed that it would be yes, but had a lot to do in our new house and making a yard for her. So, with the help of his grandparents, Shahn selected the perfect puppy, to be named Queen.

Queen arrived in Phoenix in mid-July, at 10-weeks-old. Since she was not accustomed to the Arizona heat, she spent her days in the kitchen, patiently waiting for her new family to come home. She was such a sweet puppy. We never imagined what an important member of the family she would become.

Every evening when the sun had nearly set, we would take Queen to the park for some exercising. She loved that so, and was so enthusiastic about being with us. However, by the time she was 4-months-old, it was becoming an adventure because she was now dragging us to the park. For a puppy, she sure was strong! It was time to start some training.

About this time we attended our first dog match and came in contact with the English Setter Club of Phoenix. Through them, we were introduced to the beautiful Laverack Setters and learned the difference between them and the Llewellyn Setters. They were also offering obedience and show handling classes, so Queen was enrolled to learn some basic manners.

More formal obedience training started later in the year. We were fortunate to have taken an unruly Labrador Retriever through some classes previously and so we knew of qualified teachers. As this was my first obedience dog, it was very beneficial to be in an atmosphere where I received guidance and good advice on how to progress. I kept the at-home training sessions very short, 15 minutes, but attempted to work with her twice a day. Being very outgoing, Queen loved the attention. I also varied the training sites from the backyard, driveway, sidewalk, street and the nearby park. When she was about nine months I entered her in some matches so that we both could get some formal ring experience. It was then on to the real shows and she earned the CD title at 11 months.

IN MEMORIAM—CHRIS CORNELL

We had already started Open training while in Novice, working on the dumbbell, retrieving, and jumping. She was a very good retriever and loved to jump. Back in 1976, dogs had to jump 1.5 times the height at the withers. She would have to jump 32 inches, but I practiced at 34 inches, which she easily cleared. Static exercises were never her strong suit, having failed a couple of times on the Novice sit. So, I knew the 3-minute sit and 5-minute down in Open were going to be a challenge. We spent a lot of time on various techniques and gimmicks to keep her up or down, but had problems with the Open sit throughout her career. It was very frustrating when high scores were negated by missing the three minutes by mere seconds. It basically came down to, if she wanted to do it, she would do it. But, her heel work started to really shape up, she earned some very nice scores and earned the CDX title in April, 1977.

Utility training was started early again. Dowels helped tremendously in the directed jumping; and tying down articles was also good. Queen was very partial to cheese but that gets messy in warm Phoenix. She absolutely loved the jumping and that posed a problem. In 1977, jumping was always the last Utility exercise, with the directed retrieve right before it. Queen knew what was coming and would get almost out of control on the glove exercise, knowing jumping was next. The stand for examination back then was a group exam that lasted a minimum of three minutes. Static exercise again, which was not her thing. She did a tap dance or two along the way and kept my heart pumping. Utility is hard, so NQs happened, but she also passed occasionally and, in the Fall of 1978, earned the UD title.

After taking a little time off, we started showing again in Arizona, Nevada, New Mexico, and Southern California. There was no UDX title back then, but the Obedience Trial Champion title was about three years old. We entered a number of shows over the next two years and, in November, 1980, she became the first English Setter to earn the OTCH at 4 years of age. It was an exciting and fun journey!

Although she often was in the ribbons with high scores, I doubt that she will be remembered for them, but rather for the unbridled and contagious enthusiasm she typically demonstrated. She often most impressed spectators when she was flying around the ring with tail flagging, although parts of some exercises might have been temporarily performed incorrectly.

She was a loved member of our family for almost 17 years.

Chris and Claire Cornell



2022 HRKC AGILITY/RALLY/OBEDIENCE TRIAL



2022 HRKC AGILITY/RALLY/OBEDIENCE TRIAL



2022 HRKC AGILITY/RALLY/OBEDIENCE TRIAL



2022 HRKC AGILITY/RALLY/OBEDIENCE TRIAL



2022 HRKC ALL-BREED SHOW INFORMATION

2022 SHOW COMMITTEE

Show Chair—Joe Larson
Obedience & Rally Chair—Camille Stephens
Conformation Chief Ring Steward—Cyndi Skinner
RV Parking—Susan Parr
All-Breed Awards—Jan Garrison
Vendors—Lorraine Shore
Judges Hospitality—Anne Andritsch
Catalogs—Marcia Whitcomb
Raffle—Lynne Duke

FRIDAY ENTRIES: 770 Dogs - Total Entry 818

Conformation - 695

Jr. Showmanship - 14

Beginner Puppy - 21

Obedience - 42

Rally - 46

SATURDAY ENTRIES: 844 Dogs - Total Entry 892

Conformation - 762

Jr. Showmanship - 17

Beginner Puppy - 24

Obedience - 41

Rally - 48

SUNDAY ENTRIES: 831 Dogs - Total Entry 878

Conformation - 768

Jr. Showmanship - 18

Obedience - 50

Rally - 42



2022 HRKC ALL-BREED SHOW INFORMATION

EYE CLINIC - EYE CERTIFICATIONS

Dr. Nathan Kice, DVM, DACVO

Summit Veterinary Referral Center

Eye Clinic on HRKC Show Grounds. Sponsored by HRKC.
Saturday, July 30, 2022 Time: 9:00AM to 4:00PM. Sign up
 at event, first-come, first-served.

Fee: \$40.00 per exam

Prior to clinic, create your OFA online account at <https://www.ofa.org/online>. Remember to bring your dog's Registration Papers and Microchip information in order to complete the OFA Eye Certification Form. Allow 1/2 hour prior to appointment time for application of eye drops.

AKC TRICK DOG TESTING

Saturday, July 30, about 1:30PM at obedience rings.
 Levels: Novice, Intermediate, Advanced, Performer. **Cost:**
\$10.00 per test. Evaluator: Valerie Stanert, *Email to reserve*
a spot vstanert@me.com

AKC CANINE GOOD CITIZEN (CGC) TEST

Sunday - July 31, about 1:30PM at obedience rings
Limited to 20 dogs CGC: \$5.00 (dog must be 6 mos old)
 Email Valerie Stanert to reserve a spot
vstanert@me.com, 360-477-7507

FASTCAT TESTS ON SAME GROUNDS FRIDAY - SATURDAY - SUNDAY

Friday, July 29 - Two Tests (one run per test)

Saturday, July 30 - Two Tests (one run per test)

Sunday, July 31 - One Test (one run)

Each test limited to 125 runs. Waitlist will be started when entry limits are met. More information in HRKC Premium List. *Field Secretary: Jamie Eggleston, whitewingz@aol.com 206-200-3887.*





Hurricane Ridge Kennel Club
* * * * *

THE HURRICANE RIDGE KENNEL CLUB

General Meeting Minutes

May 18, 2022

The Hurricane Ridge Kennel Club general meeting, held at the Sequim Prairie Grange, was called to order by Lorraine Shore at 7:04pm May 18, 2022.

Officers present: President: Lorraine Shore, Secretary: Mariko Saum (via Zoom) Treasurer: Jo Chinn **Directors** present Jan Garrison and Lynne Duke.

Roll Call: Joe Larson, Nancy Radich, Chris Cornell. Bruce Good, Scott Mac-Dougall, Joe Metz, Ann Ruggles, Anne Andritsch, Bill Metzger, Susan Metzger, Carolyn Money, and Glorene Hanson. Via Zoom: Rene' Fox, Lydia Samperi, Camille Stephens, Hattie Good, and Mary Kniskern.

Guests: Carole and Bob Travis and Pamela Ziemann. Via Zoom: Dean Peace and Judith Peace.

There were 22 members and 4 Guests present. There was a Quorum.

Approval of Minutes: April 20, 2022 minutes approved.

President's Report: Emailing members information on Poison Hemlock now in our area.

Secretary's Report: Contacted sign company regarding new photo backdrop.

Treasurer Report: Current Balances: Washington Federal Money Market \$9,367, Washington Federal CD \$ 31,915.26, Sound Community Bank \$ 14,296. Income & Expenses: 1) Banked Membership dues 2) Worked with Accountant on our equipment inventory and depreciation 3) Paid for our Club t-shirts and polo shirts 4) Paid for fire extinguisher servicing 5) Purchased license for trailer 6) Deposit of Trophy Fund donations. Brag cow emptied and had \$205.

Committee Reports:

Membership: Vote on new members Dean and Judith Peace. Dean and Judith were removed from the Zoom waiting room while vote taken. Unanimously approved as new members.

ARO June 3, 4, & 5: Nancy Radich reports Equestrian Team will be there to set up and tear down. She needs additional Stewards for the beginning of each day, Friday & Saturday 8:30am, and Sunday 7:30am. Need volunteers to pick up 40 chairs from her place. Scott McDougall volunteered to pick up chairs. Chris reports that the field is in good shape, mowing arranged, and has enough Stewards. He will bring ice, water, and ordered ribbons. Volunteers are always welcome to set up on Thursday at 11am. Entries for Obedience and Rally appear to be low.

HRKC.ORG



Hurricane Ridge Kennel Club
* * * * *

THE HURRICANE RIDGE KENNEL CLUB

General Meeting Minutes

May 18, 2022

All-Breed July 29, 30, & 31: Joe Larson will be looking for help next month. Waiting for BaRay to proof and send out Premium. Some Vendors have committed to coming to show, and entry form is in Premium. Eye Clinic will be held Saturday July 30th from 10 – 5pm with Dr. Kice. Dr. Kice prefers to have everyone register for the clinic on the OFA website: <https://www.ofa.org/health-clinics> There will be paper forms available for those who cannot register online. The clinic will be first come, first served.

Scent Work October 14, 15, & 16: Looking for Scentwork Chair and Secretary to put on Scent Work Trial, as Ben and Leah are unavailable due to other commitments. They are willing to train any Volunteers. Fairgrounds are reserved and Judges need to be hired. It is a popular and profitable event, and hope we can put it on this year.

Unfinished Business: None.

New Business: Lynne is requesting puppy photos for HRKC Website. Please send to GSDLVR@me.com or [Instagram@Hurricaneridgekc](https://www.instagram.com/Hurricaneridgekc).

Braggs: Bruce Good's Irish Terriers won big, with a New Champion and Group 2. Nancy Radich's Papillon has another point towards her Grand Championship. Jo's Flat-coat Retriever girl, Glory, just passed her 3rd hunt test. Lorraine's German Pinschers, Riot & Whisper, were also big winners. Riot received 3 majors at Puyallup, won BOB both days at Tacoma, and finished his Grand championship. He also now has Title in Advanced Scentwork. Whisper finished her Championship at Tacoma. Saffron is now first German Pinscher to have Master Scentwork Title and 2 legs towards Scentwork Detective Title.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm

Respectfully submitted: Mariko Saum, Secretary

HRKC.ORG

Poison Hemlock

Conium maculatum

ParsleyFamily

Identification Tips

- Tall biennial, reaching 8 to 10 feet the second year
- Bright green, fernlike leaves with strong musty smell
- First year plants form low clumps of lacy leaves with reddish or spotted stems
- Second year stems are stout, hollow, **hairless**, ribbed, with reddish or purple spotting/streaking
- Flowering plants covered with numerous small, umbrella-shaped clusters of tiny white flowers that have five petals
- Seeds form in green, ridged capsules that eventually turn brown
- In late winter, look for mounds of bright green, lacy leaves. The largest clumps are second-year plants building up energy to flower and seed later in the spring.



All parts of poison hemlock (the roots, stems, flowers, seeds, leaves) are poisonous



Biology

- Reproduces by seed.
- First year grows into a rosette; second year, develops tall stems and flowers
- Rapid growth from March to May, flowers in late spring
- Up to 40,000 seeds per plant are produced
- Seeds fall near the plant and are moved by erosion, animals, rain and human activity
- Seeds viable up to 6 years and germinate throughout the growing season; do not require a dormant period



Impacts

- Acutely toxic to livestock, wildlife, humans; causes death by respiratory paralysis after ingestion
- Aggressive growth crowds out desirable vegetation
- Early spring growth makes it more likely to be eaten by animals when there is limited forage available

Distribution

- Mainly found on the east side of Clallam county with only a few sites found west of Port Angeles; found along roadsides, riparian areas, ravines, fields, ditches and un-managed yards, vacant lots and pastures
- Prefers moist soil and sun, but can adapt to dryer soil and shadier conditions



Look-A-Likes:

There are many plants that look similar to poison hemlock including fennel, chervil, anise, coltsfoot and wild carrot. The most distinctive feature of poison hemlock is that the entire plant is hairless. In contrast, the look-a-likes have hair somewhere on the plant such as the stem or leaf surfaces. Below are photos of some look-a-like plants. If you are unsure of what you are seeing please contact our office.

Wild carrot, *Daucus carota*, otherwise known as Queen Anne's Lace is often confused with poison hemlock. However, wild carrot typically only grows to about 3 feet tall. Its plain green stems are **covered with fine hair** and have fewer branches. Wild carrot flowers later in the summer than poison hemlock.



Bur chervil, *Anthriscus caucalis*, is quite common in Clallam County and often found growing right next to or with poison hemlock. It can be distinguished from poison hemlock by its hairy stems which have purple streaks instead of purple splotches. Bur chervil blooms before poison hemlock, and its foliage is generally a lighter green than poison hemlock.



Pacific water parsley, *Oenanthe sarmentosa*, is another look-a-like. It is distinguished from poison hemlock by the lack of purple spots on the stems.



Pacific water parsley

Bur chervil

Wild Chervil, *Anthriscus sylvestris*, looks very similar to poison hemlock. The distinguishing traits are the hairy stems and the less divided leaves of wild chervil.



What You Can Do

If you find poison hemlock on your property, remove it before it goes to seed. **All parts of the plant are poisonous when eaten and even dead canes remain toxic for up to three years.** Toxins can also be absorbed through the skin and respiratory system so always wear protective clothing (gloves, glasses, mask) when handling this plant. If you suspect poisoning, call for help immediately. In both humans and animals, medical treatment can reverse the effects of hemlock poisoning.

Control Methods

Integrated Pest Management

- The preferred approach for weed control is Integrated Pest Management (IPM). IPM involves selecting from a range of manual, mechanical, chemical, cultural and biological control methods to match the management requirements of a specific site. The goal is to maximize effective control and to minimize negative environmental, economic and social impacts.
- IPM means using an adaptive approach. Control methods should reflect the available time, funding, and labor of the participants, the land use goals, and the values of the community and landowners. Management will require dedication over a number of years, and allow for flexibility of methods used as appropriate to the current situation.

Prevention:

- **Avoid** introducing soil or gravel from areas known to have poison hemlock.
- **Remove** seedlings when young because they can usually be pulled easily and they have not had an opportunity to reproduce.
- **Replant** with a desirable (preferably native) plant species, to discourage reinfestation.
- **Dispose of weeds properly;** place in a trash bag and toss into your regular trash. Do not burn poison hemlock debris, the smoke can be toxic.
- **Plant parts may not be safe for compost piles. Being left on site can also be an issue because the toxins decompose slowly, taking several years to dissipate.**
- **Monitor** the site for several years; promptly remove new seedlings.

Manual Control:

- For small sites, pull or dig up plants. Remove entire root.
- Wear protective clothing including eye protection and wash your hands thoroughly after handling plant matter.
- To be fully effective, all mature plants need to be removed so no new seeds are produced.
- Do not leave flower heads on the ground as the seeds can remain viable.

Mechanical Control:

- **Mowing does not kill poison hemlock.**
- Mowing should only be used as a form of control when trying to delay plant growth until such time that the plant can either be dug or conditions are appropriate to apply herbicide.
- If you mow, protect yourself with a dust mask to avoid inhaling toxins while mowing.



Cultural Control:

- Covering treated sites with cardboard, adding a thick layer of mulch and/or replanting with desirable vegetation will reduce germination of poison hemlock seeds present in the soil.

Chemical:

- **Read and follow all label instructions. Only use products labeled for the type of site where you intend to apply them. Herbicides should only be applied at the rates specified on the label. Always check the label for any grazing or re-entry restrictions.**
- Foliar herbicides are most effective if applied to actively growing plants in the spring, followed by another application later in the summer for late sprouts or newly germinating seedlings.
- Spray plants before they flower for best results.
- Spraying may not prevent seed production in mature plants.
- Using a selective broadleaf herbicide with the active ingredient 2,4-D will work well for lawn or pasture areas as it won't harm grasses.
- Glyphosate products (such as Roundup) are also effective, but will also kill grass as well as broadleaf plants.
- Apply the herbicide to the entire leaf and stem surface. Avoid cutting treated plants, or delay mowing as long as possible or until plants have died, to allow herbicide to move through the plant. Depending on the herbicide, plants may take more than two weeks before showing significant symptoms.
- Seeds germinate throughout the season, so repeat treatment is necessary to eliminate all plants. Chemical control options may differ for private, commercial and government agency users. For questions about herbicide use, contact our office.

Last updated February 2013



Her name is Isabel, my sweet Havanese buddy. As a young puppy, Isabel was 'dumped' over the fence of the shelter one night. A few weeks later, when she came home to me, I promised Isabel that I would never let her down. Fast forward 16 years: life has brought us to our home in Sequim, Isabel is fragile in her old age and I find myself praying that any emergency care she might need will occur during 'normal business hours.'

Enter **PEG, Pet Emergency Group for the Olympic Peninsula** with its mission statement:

To help build, grow and sustain access to after hours emergency pet care on the Olympic Peninsula.

PEG is a group of passionate pet owners who have formed a non-profit in order to establish 24/7 emergency veterinarian services to the North Olympic Peninsula. PEG understands the challenges in accomplishing emergency after hours care for the Olympic Peninsula. There is a nationwide shortage of vets and vet techs along with the financial issues to bring emergency services to the peninsula. PEG has already begun the research to determine the best business plan to accomplish this. It will take a community to tackle this problem and **we hope you will join us!**

Please go to our website at <https://www.petemergencygroup.org> to tell us how you might contribute to this urgent and worthy cause.

Or visit our Facebook page Pet Emergency Group for the Olympic Peninsula

THIS JUST IN

Pandemic Pounds

Veterinarians see increase

Nearly 75% of veterinarians believe the pandemic affected pets when it came to weight, according to Hill's Pet Nutrition. You might think pet parents at home would mean more exercise, and maybe it does for some, but it also apparently means more treats for a lot of pets.

"With people spending more time at home over the last nine months, treats are often given as a form of love, with more than half (53%) of pet parents saying they've been giving their pets treats for no reason," according to Hill's.

While 73% of owners feel they can tell if their pets have gained weight or are overweight, veterinarians feel differently. The survey reported that veterinarians only feel that about 12% of pet owners are accurate about their pets' weight.

Is there hope for pudgy pets? Fewer treats, no table scraps, and more exercise could help with weight control. Close to half the owners surveyed said they could, and would, work on their pets' diets.

Planning more exercise in the form of walking dogs is important. Monitoring food intake, including treats, can help. A third of the owners were even willing to cut back on social media screen time to help their pets return to a healthy weight. ■



©iStockphoto.com | J. O'Neil

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Cornell Margaret and Richard Riney Canine Health Center Launches.....	2
Valley Fever Is Spreading From West to East.....	2
Spontaneous, Nasty Lesions.....	4
Night Safety Tactics.....	5
Introducing a New Pet.....	6
Home Alone Time Limits.....	7
Canine Car Trouble.....	8

The Looming Concern About Copper in Dog Food

Copper overload is quietly killing our dogs

We all know good nutrition is critical for the health and longevity of our dogs, and most of us rely on commercial dog foods to help us achieve that. Now, what if we told you those complete-and-balanced diets—the quality food you've carefully chosen for your dog—may be slowly killing him?

It's true, says Dr. Sharon Center, Emeritus James Law Professor of Internal Medicine at Cornell University's College of Veterinary Medicine. Dr. Center is nationally renowned for her expertise in liver diseases of dogs and cats. She says the excess amount of the essential trace mineral copper in commercial dog food can cause a serious, potentially lethal illness called dietary-induced copper-associated hepatopathy (CAH). The incidence of CAH is increasing at a rate that's causing alarm among veterinarians and dog owners, with one study showing 30% of canine liver biopsies have evidence of CAH.

CAH is no longer considered just a disease of predisposed breeds like Bedlington Terriers, Labrador Retrievers, Dalmatians, Dobermans, and Westies. First, it can happen to any dog, and it is expected to happen more and more if copper levels in dog foods remain too high. Second, it can be actively happening in the liver of a dog showing no outward signs of illness.

Presentation and Progression

Your dog's dietary copper helps make red



Vira's hepatopathy was caught at her annual wellness exam when her ALT showed an ongoing increase. Liver biopsy confirmed the diagnosis.

blood cells and absorb iron. It also functions in the formation of skin and hair pigmentation and connective tissue. A deficiency, though rare, can cause muscular and skeletal problems, so we do need copper in our dog's food.

CAH occurs when the amount of dietary copper ingested exceeds a dog's tolerance level and accumulates in the liver. Once in the liver, it can cause acute, severe liver inflammation with immediate, disastrous consequences, or it can cause chronic, insidious damage over time, resulting in widespread scarring of the liver (cirrhosis) and liver failure.

Symptoms of CAH include:

- ▶ abdominal swelling
- ▶ decreased appetite
- ▶ diarrhea
- ▶ increased thirst
- ▶ jaundice
- ▶ lethargy
- ▶ vomiting

"There is certainly a rise in copper-related hepatopathies these days," says Dr. Joseph J. Wakshlag, Professor of Clinical Nutrition and Sports Medicine and Rehabilitation, and Section Chief of Nutrition, Cornell University's College of Veterinary Medicine. "It may very well be related to a lack of safe upper limits of consumption and higher than expected levels in dog foods," he says.

Right now, the recommendation for the amount of copper in a dog food is 7.3 mg/kg (milligrams per kilogram), but

(continues on page 3)

Copper, continued from page 1)

that means little to the average consumer because the copper level is rarely listed on your dog's food label (you can call your dog-food manufacturer and request it). Currently, however, there is no maximum limit for copper in your dog's food. At one point, there was, but that was eliminated when the recommended type of copper used in dog foods was changed to a more bioavailable form. Why the limit was eliminated is not clear, but the results most certainly are.

The Effects of That Decision

Meet Vira, a happy, seemingly healthy 4-year-old, spayed female Labradoodle. Routine blood work performed at her annual wellness exam showed a concerning elevation of her ALT (alanine transaminase), a liver enzyme

that increases in the presence of liver inflammation or injury. When repeat bloodwork one month later showed an ongoing increase in ALT, Vira underwent liver biopsy surgery. Her biopsies confirmed the presence of excess copper levels in her liver with associated hepatocellular damage or CAH.

Treatment for CAH usually includes administration of an oral copper-chelating agent (a compound that binds to copper to help remove it) called d-penicillamine. Dogs with CAH are also fed a copper-restricted diet to prevent further copper accumulation in the liver. Antioxidants like vitamin E and SAME (S-adenosyl-methionine) are recommended as supplements.

It can take many months of treatment for the liver damage to resolve. Repeat biopsy is the only definitive way to determine how the affected dog is doing. Because this is an expensive proposition—and most of us don't want our dogs undergoing multiple invasive surgical procedures—progress is usually monitored with sequential ALT blood tests. All affected dogs should be fed copper-restricted diets for life, and some dogs will require chronic, low-dose chelation therapy.

Vira has responded favorably to her treatment and her ALT is now normal. She eats a copper-restricted diet called "The Scoop," which is available at www.safedogfood.com. Other commercial options for copper-restricted diets

include Hill's l/d Liver Care and Royal Canin Hepatic Veterinary Diet (both require approval from your veterinarian).

Getting Help

Dr. Wakshlag says that most of the low-copper commercial foods designed for dogs with liver disease are also protein restricted, which is not appropriate for all CAH cases. "This is where I come in," says Dr. Wakshlag, who offers nutrition services at the Cornell University Hospital for Animals. "Since there are no commercial products available, a home-prepared diet is needed. We have been formulating diets for these copper-related hepatopathies in dogs for nearly 20 years." It's also wise, if you have copper water pipes in your home, to flush the lines for several minutes before filling your dog's water bowl to reduce water copper content.

Electing to have a routine blood chemistry run at Vira's annual wellness exam most likely saved her life. Please consider this relatively inexpensive option for your dog at his or her annual heartworm/tick test.

Dr. Center is relentlessly lobbying the FDA to immediately re-establish maximum-allowed copper levels in commercial dog foods and to reconsider current federal canine dietary copper recommendations, but we all need to make our voices heard (see sidebar) in order to make this an industry-wide change. Please consider helping. ■

The Players

AAFCO (Association of American Feed Control Officials). A non-profit organization consisting of state officials responsible for enforcing state laws regarding the safety of animal feeds. AAFCO does not test, recommend, or approve dog foods. The association has no regulatory authority, only enforcement authority. Most dog food companies include a note on the food label that the product is formulated to meet or exceed AAFCO recommendations for nutrition.

NRC (National Research Council).

This is the operating arm of the NASEM (National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine), a congressionally chartered non-profit organization whose purpose is to provide independent scientific evidence and advice for the benefit of society. Reports from the NRC are what the FDA uses to create policies and regulations regarding dog foods.

FDA (Food and Drug Administration).

A federal agency of the Department of Health and Human Services, responsible for protecting and promoting public health through the control and supervision of many marketed products, including animal foods and feed. The FDA is the only one of these three agencies with the power to change regulations regarding the nutritional content of dog foods.

What You Can Do: Contact the FDA

Dr. Center asks that if your dog has been diagnosed with copper hepatopathy, please complete the FDA questionnaire at <https://www.fda.gov/animal-veterinary/report-problem/how-report-pet-food-complaint>. Ask your veterinarian to do the same, as entries from veterinarians are taken very seriously. You can start by Selecting "Safety Reporting Portal," and identify yourself as a guest. Then select, "Start a New Report."

For a title for your FDA report, Dr. Center recommends "Dog Food Copper Over-Supplementation." Fill out the form to the best of your ability, trying not to leave any entries blank. The entry marked "Problem Summary" is the most important entry, says Dr. Center. Make it clear to the FDA that your dog was affected by copper overdose through dog food and add personal commentary regarding your experience.

For example, you might say: "My dog was impacted by copper-associated hepatopathy thought to be due to over-supplementation of copper in commercial pet food. I implore the FDA to take corrective action to lower the maximum copper concentration in commercial dog food to mitigate this avoidable and potentially fatal illness."

We recommend that you expand this entry with your personal commentary of hardship you endured. Tell them about the expenses you incurred, your dog's illness, the difficulty of the diagnosis and management, and the emotional stress to yourself and your family.

BRAGS & WAGS

SUSAN PARR—LAVENDER HILLS BERNESE

****BEST IN SHOW****

BIS RBIS MBISS GCHG CAN CH LAVENDER HILLS SIN CITY RN CGC



BRAGS & WAGS

BREEDER/OWNER—SUSAN PARR “LAVENDER HILLS”

LAVENDER HILLS TASTING ROOM “NAPA”



BRAGS & WAGS

LYNNE DUKE—MITZI



BRAGS & WAGS

BREEDER/OWNER/HANDLER—LORRAINE SHORE “IMMER TREU” AKC/INT’L GCH CH Immer Treu Quiet Riot SWA SHDN CGCUTKNVST

Riot earned the Versatile German Pinscher Award from the German Pinscher Club of America! This award recognizes German Pinschers that have completed titles in multiple venues showcasing the versatility of this great working breed.

Riot finished his AKC Championship out of the Bred-by class and was High in Trial at his very first Scentwork Trial. He is very close to completing his overall Novice and Advanced Elite titles in AKC Scentwork.

Riot completed his Canine Good Citizen and Therapy Dog testing under Judge Chris Cornell and he did a beautiful job in the testing. Watching Riot go thru the Therapy Dog Testing, which included walking up to people in wheelchairs, walkers and crutches, getting touched and petted by strangers, walking calmly by while Judge Cornell ran up banging on a clipboard as a distraction, in addition to obedience exercises with other dogs, made me very proud of my sweet boy.

