



DIVISION SIX BCA NEWSLETTER



A newsletter published for the members of BCA Division Six from the great states of North Dakota, South Dakota, Minnesota, Iowa, Nebraska, Kansas, and Missouri!

Please send all submissions to the editor, Karen Zimny, karen@pantheonbulldogs.com.
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Division VI Officers:

President: Linda Shelburg
Vice President: Russ Schuveiller
Treasurer: Stacey Gann
Secretary: Jo Hanson

Governors:

Randy Banta
Dean Dickey
Rick Hart
Bev Larrick
Kym Thew

Councilors:

Randy Miller
Marilyn Burdick
Patsy Hart
Darlene Stuedemann.

Division VI Clubs and Secretaries:

Bulldog Club of Central Iowa - Linda Shelburg - 515-225-8743 lshelbrg@mchsi.com

Bulldog Club of Greater St. Louis - Chris Hirschi - clshirschi@yahoo.com

Heart of America Bulldog Club - Shannon Jennings - Mr2gr8@aol.com

St. Paul / Minneapolis Bulldog Club, Inc. - Jackie Bergeron donderosadaisy@hotmail.com

Hello!

Our resident quilt lady, Judy Robey, has an idea for a quilt to raffle at our show in Sept. and she would like to include fun bullie pictures.

One or more pictures can be submitted for consideration. Please send them to Judy Robey, 305 Laurel, Waukee, IA 50263 by the end of January.

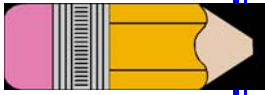
This is not a contest! Judy will choose the photos that fit her theme. You can send photos with people in them, but only the portion showing the dog will be used.

If you put your name and address on the back of the picture(s), they will be returned.

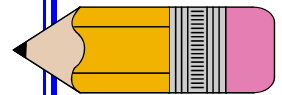
If you have any questions, let me know! Thanks!

Linda Shelburg, Bulldog Club of Centra Iowa





Div VI Minutes



President Linda called the meeting to order: 11/07/06, Conference Call

Roll Call: Marilyn Burdick: Darlene Stuedemann: Patsy Hart: Stacey Gann: Jo Hanson: Dean Dickey: Russ Schuveiller: Rick Hart: Randy Miller: Linda Shelburg: Kym Thew: Randy Banta: Bev Larrick

Treasurers Report: Stacey gave a report on bills paid, and balance of checking, and CD's. Motion by Jo, second by Kym to approve. Motion carried.

Secretaries Report: Motion to approve as submitted by Russ, second by Randy. Carried

Report of Board: No Report

Report of Officers: No Report

Report of Councilors: No Report

Correspondence: Received a letter from Al Breckley, Div. III, President of the Charitable Fund, asking for support from Divisions and clubs to raise funds for research and programs for our beloved breed. Division III has elected to send \$1.00 for each entry from their Specialty show to the fund. It has been suggested that all specialty clubs do the same. A fund raiser specified for the Charitable Fund was another suggestion. After much discussion, Dean suggested that when Stacey sends out renewal forms, a letter asking for donations for the Charitable Fund be included as not all BCA members belong to clubs. A motion by Russ, seconded by Kym, carried. Stacey will create the letter.

Unfinished Business Dean asked for permission for Heart of America to hold the second Division Specialty in 2008 there being no other club wanting to. Approved.

Jo reported that she has not heard anything yet regarding Tmre Nyulas from Budapest Hungry, requesting BCA membership in our Division. She will follow up.

Election of New Members Glynn Brooks, Columbus, NE; Marlan Minicks, Waukon, IA Motion by Jo, second by Rick, to approve all carried.

Linda thanked Rick Hart for accepting the Long Range Planning Committee position for Div. VI.

New Business: Jo received a phone call from Kevin Riley, Chairman of Breeder Referrals, requesting that Division Board, Officers and Councilors urge members to join the breeder referral program so that when people look for breeders in their area there are reputable breeders to choose from and less of a chance of buying from a puppy mill. Applications for approval: Dean Dickey: Duwayne & Caroline Miller. A motion by Randy, seconded by Stacey to approve both requests, carried.

Linda asked Stacey if she had been sending the welcome letter to new members. Stacey was not aware of the letter but will go through the boxes she got from Michael to see if she can find it.

Dean suggested that Division By Laws be included with the new member welcome letter. Russ so moved, with Jo seconding. Motion carried. Jo will check her files to see what she has and get the information to Stacey.

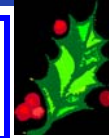
Linda asked if we should have new Division stationery made. After some discussion Randy Miller offered to create the letterhead. He can email it those who need it. Printing it from your email will save printing costs.

There being no further business to discuss, Rand moved with Kym seconding, to adjourn.

Next Meeting: BCGSL February 24th 2007



Good News for Pets



FYI

10/10/06

This past Friday at the White House, **President Bush signed the Pets Evacuation and Transportation Standards (PETS) Act into law.**

This landmark legislation, which was strongly backed by The Humane Society of the United States, requires local and state disaster plans to include provisions for household pets and service animals in the event of a major disaster or emergency. When I was in the Gulf during Hurricane Katrina, I saw the government's failure to have a plan for helping animals. Tens of thousands of animals suffered terribly and were lost or left behind because our communities and responders didn't have a plan in place.

With more than 358 million pets in the United States residing in 63 percent of American households, the PETS Act will help ensure that Americans never again are faced with the horrifying choice of abandoning their pet and finding their way to safety, or staying with their pet and remaining in a hazardous, and potentially life-threatening situation.

Some states and local communities have already engaged in disaster preparedness for animals, and with a federal law now in place, the future for you and your companion animal in a disaster is much brighter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive that reads "Wayne Pacelle".

Wayne Pacelle
President & CEO
The Humane Society of the United States

Thank you to Rita Guthmiller for passing this email along

Braggs

Heart of America's website won an award for the website competition at Nationals this year!

Jennie Brandon

Division VI's newsletter also received an honorable mention!

Karen Zimny

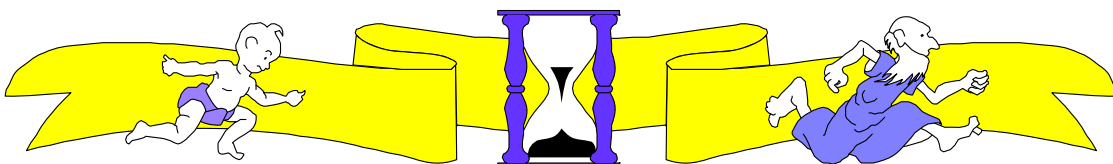


Getting A Human?

Acquiring and Training A Human

- * You should have your human fixed, even if it's a purebred human. There are too many humans, and our big cities are over populated with them to the point where we are unable to feed and shelter all of them.
- * If your human talks too much, we suggest using a shock collar.
- * If you must breed your human, even though we do not believe there are any good reasons for breeding humans, at least do genetic screening to help insure your human is a healthy one that conforms to breed standards.
- * Some humans are very hyper and will pull on their leash constantly. For these extreme cases, we recommend a choker collar.
- * If your human is aggressive and frequently starts fights, please put a muzzle on it when you take it out in public.
- * You should feed your human something better than Purina human chow.
- * If your human is sick, you should not put it down just because you can't afford the cost of surgery. You should re-arrange your budget or mortgage your dog house.
- * Don't buy a human for your puppy just to teach it responsibility.
- * You should always carry "money" treats to reward your human. Humans love money and will do almost anything for money treats.
- * If your human attacks a dog, it should be put to sleep.
- * If you already own a male & a female human, you should be careful about getting a third human. Two males will often fight very aggressively for the attention of the female, and two females will often do the same over a male human.
- * A good way to test a human for temperament is to take its money or food away from it to see if it reacts aggressively.
- * Some humans have a bad habit of peeing in the water bowl; if your human continuously goes to the bathroom in the house, we suggest you chain it outside

Thank you to Frank Podgorski for this submission.



DogShow Terminology

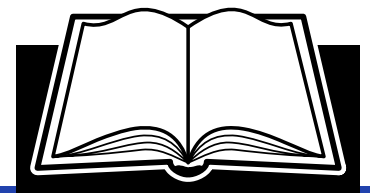
HUMORIST'S DICTIONARY OF DOG SHOW TERMINOLOGY

- ANGULATION** - Degree to which dog handlers will bend over backwards to impress the judges.
- BALANCE** - How to arrange the checkbook so your husband won't know how much money you spent on dog shows last month. Usually done in the bathroom with the door locked.
- BITCH** - A. Name for a lady dog. B. name often overheard at dog shows, not always to describe a lady dog.
- COAT** - The hairy covering of a dog that usually falls out about one week before the Specialty show.
- DAM** - A. A lady dog with children. B. Expression frequently overheard at dog shows as losers leave the ring.
- ELBOW** - Method of getting to ringside when late.
- EXPRESSION** - "Sweet" look adopted by dogs while staring ravenously at chunks of liver.
- FANCIER** - Degree to which some gentlemen handlers dress more than others.
- FEATHERING** - What winners are accused of doing to judges' nests.
- FRONT** - Part of the dog often stacked toward the outside of the ring.
- HEEL** - A. you feel like when your dog beats the one you had just sold to an eager novice. B. Expression often screamed to attract the attention of deaf dogs.
- HEIGHT** - As in "Maximum Allowed", a measurement which all champions fall under by AT LEAST 1/8 of an inch.
- HOCK** - A way of financing your dog shows by the use of jewelry such as wedding rings.
- KENNEL** - Where you go when the kids fight and your husband yells at you.
- LITTER** - Trash left all over the building and parking lot after a dog show.
- MASK** - What to wear when you have to show the pet you sold six months ago.
- MUZZLE** - What to put on your kids at a dog show to prevent them from calling your competition what they overheard you call him last night.
- NOSEPRINTS** - Cute marks left all over your French doors.
- OUTCROSSING** - What your husband tells the minister you are doing out in the kennel with the dog and the bitch.
- POINTS** - Minute, invisible awards for winning which you cannot convince your spouse are more important than cash prizes.
- PUPPIES** - Small, doglike food-processing machines with the ability to stink up an entire house and collectively deafen a band of magpies. (These creatures have not yet been perfected, as they come with a leaky system, and can also be dangerous to weak hearts and bank accounts).

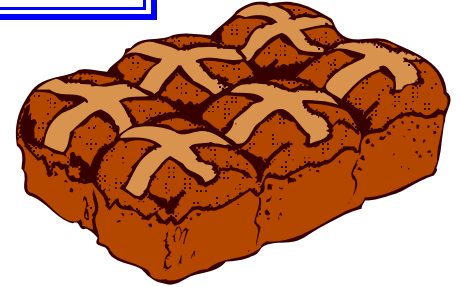
ThaThank you to Darlene Studemann for this submission!



DICTIONARY



Gracee's Goodies



Christmas Morning Buns

- 1 loaf frozen bread dough, thawed and cut into 12 pieces
- 1 (4-ounce) package butterscotch instant pudding
- 1/2 cup margarine (or butter)
- 3/4 cup brown sugar, packed
- 3/4 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1/2 cup chopped pecans

1. Butter a bundt pan and arrange rolls in bottom. Sprinkle pudding mix over.
2. Cook remaining ingredients over low heat until bubbly. Pour mixture over rolls. Cover tightly with foil wrap. Allow to rise overnight.
3. Bake next morning for 30 minutes at 350°F (175°C). Let stand for 5 minutes in pan. Invert onto serving plate and remove pan.

Makes 12 servings.

Thanks to Kym Thew for this submission.

Quotes

The reason a dog has so many friends is that he wags his tail instead of his tongue. -Anonymous

Don't accept your dog's admiration as conclusive evidence that you are wonderful. -Ann Landers

There is no psychiatrist in the world like a puppy licking your face. -Ben Williams

A dog is the only thing on earth that loves you more than he loves himself. -Josh Billings

The average dog is a nicer person than the average person. -Andy Rooney

We give dogs time we can spare, space we can spare and love we can spare. And in return, dogs give us their all. It's the best deal man has ever made. -M. Acklam

Dogs love their friends and bite their enemies, quite unlike people, who are incapable of pure love and always have to mix love and hate. -Sigmund Freud

I wonder if other dogs think poodles are members of a weird religious cult. -Rita Rudner

A dog teaches a boy fidelity, perseverance, and to turn around three times before lying down. -Robert Benchley

Anybody who doesn't know what soap tastes like never washed a dog. -Franklin P. Jones

If I have any beliefs about immortality, it is that certain dogs I have known will go to heaven, and very, very few persons. -James Thurber

If your dog is fat, you aren't getting enough exercise. -Unknown

Women and cats will do as they please, and men and dogs should relax and get used to the idea. -Robert A. Heinlein

If you pick up a starving dog and make him prosperous, he will not bite you; that is the principal difference between a dog and a man. -Mark Twain

You can say any foolish thing to a dog, and the dog will give you a look that says, 'Wow, you're right! I never would've thought of that!' - Dave Barry

Dogs are not our whole life, but they make our lives whole. -Roger Caras

If you think dogs can't count, try putting three dog biscuits in your pocket and then give him only two of them. -Phil Pastoret

My goal in life is to be as good of a person my dog already thinks I am.

Thanks to Jeannine Maki for this submission.

Q&A with Dr. Hutch

This is the last piece of a lengthy article with lots of information about reproduction brought to my attention by Darlene Studemann. Hope you found it useful!--editor

Transcript: Canine Reproduction Seminar

Tuesday, January 08, 2002

DrHutch: Good evening!

PCFFasDog: Good evening and thank you all for being here! We are very excited to welcome Dr. Robert Van Hutchison to our first Canine Reproduction Seminar. This free seminar is sponsored by Veterinary Perinatal Specialties, Inc., home of the WhelpWise service. Please visit their website at <http://www.whelpwise.com>, and show your support for their sponsorship of this event!

Many of you already know Dr. Hutchison or have seen him speak in person. He is one of the leading canine reproduction experts in the world, and a favorite speaker at specialties and dog club events all over the country. It's a great honor for us to welcome him here tonight.

Dr. Hutch is a Reproduction and Genetics consultant for the Veterinary Information Network, and is co-director of the Animal Clinic Northview, Inc., in North Ridgeville, Ohio.

He is also the president of the International Canine Semen Bank of Ohio, and advisor for College of Veterinary Medicine students interested in small animal theriogenology from Ohio State University, Virginia Tech, Purdue, Tufts, and Michigan State University.

Dr. Hutch is the author of many articles on canine reproduction in various breed journals and magazines, including "Canine Frozen Semen," "Improving the Odds of Having Healthy Puppies," "Treatment of Pyometritis in the Bitch Using Prostaglandin F - a Hypo-thyroidism," and "Female Reproduction." Dr. Hutch will open with a few remarks and then he will take your questions. (instructions on how to use 'chat' removed) ... I am very happy now to turn the seminar over to Dr. Hutch!

DrHutch: What a wonderful way to spend a winter evening! I thank everyone for their interest in canine reproduction. I especially want to thank Karen Copley and Whelpwise for their sponsorship and Christie Keith from VIN for her help.

For those that do not know me, I am tall, extremely handsome with wavy dark hair. For those of you who do know me, yes, I am still short, bald and dumpy! I do want to thank those who have attended my repro/pediatric seminars for their kind words on the message posts. Your questions have been excellent and very stimulating. I hope to cover as many as possible this evening.

For us to understand canine reproduction, we must realize that the canine, and especially the bitch, is a unique individual when compared to all other domestic species. While most animals ovulate into an estrogen bath, the bitch ovulates into a progesterone environment. This fact is why we cannot use estrogen testing, vaginal smears or breeding guns for other than general timing of the bitch's estrous cycle.

The use of frozen semen and fresh-cooled semen showed us the true facts of canine breeding. Many testing methods that seemed to work only appeared so due to the extreme long life of fresh semen in the bitch.

I always pictured Mother Nature looking at us dog breeders and saying "those poor, poor fools. They don't have a clue what they are doing!" Progesterone testing has allowed us to anticipate ovulation, determine whelping dates and to schedule planned c-sections months in advance.

Interpreting progesterone levels, unfortunately is still a mystery to many veterinarians and breeders. With these facts in place let's talk about your problems, concerns and interests!

Question: When you say "The use of frozen semen and fresh-cooled semen showed us the true facts of canine breeding. Many testing methods that seemed to work only appeared so due to the extreme long life of fresh semen in the bitch," what do you mean?

DrHutch: Basically, fresh semen lasts 5-6 days. Colorado state has found live semen ELEVEN days after breeding. This made up for a lot of our mistakes. Once we started using fresh cooled and semen, which last only a few days or hours, suddenly things that seemed to work in the past no longer seemed to work. Now with prosterone testing, we can get 83 percent conception rates with FROZEN semen....

Case History, STUD DOG:

Proven stud dog who was recently diagnosed as being sterile. .He is being treated for a prostate infection using Orbax 68mg for 2 weeks. Vet found prostate normal on exam but lots of bright red blood in semen. Will we be able to restore fertility? Thoughts?

DrHutch: Male dogs age the same as human males age... with a change in the type testosterone being produced from the testicles.

One of the effects in the dog is benign prostatic hyperplasia (bigger prostate). This is a routine happening in all males over six years of age, being especially prominent in the Doberman.

Unfortunately, it is misdiagnosed as an infectious process by many veterinarians. So they often times are treated by antibiotics, often with no subsequent improvement with often the drastic suggestion that the male be neutered. The PROPER treatment is one of hormone therapy, using one of two products: either Ovaban, that dreaded product we wouldn't use in the bitch, or Proscar, which is finasteride, which is a human product.

These work by countering the change of the testosterone causing the prostate to shrink back down to a normal size, stopping the bleeding, making the dog reproductively normal. A dog with a prostate INFECTION will have PUS in the ejaculate, not blood. A dog with a true prostate infection runs a fever, or shows many of the signs of a bitch with pyometritis. Prostatic cancers do occur in the dog, but are more common in neutered dogs than in non-neutered dogs.

Question: Is is safe to breed a bitch the next season after stopping the Cheque?

DrHutch: Absolutely. It's suggested not to skip a season, because we have been preserving the uterus from the effects of progesterone; what would be the benefit of exposing her uterus to two monts of progesterone?

Progesterone's effect on the uterine lining is the reason why bitches six and over have a 33.3 percent less chance of conceiving than bitches under 6 years of age.

Back to the case study.... neutering does not cause prostatic cancer....but it does not prevent it.

I'm getting many questions on Ovaban.

Ovaban will decrease the amount of blood and prostatic fluid, not actually INCREASE sperm. The treatment is a daily treatment for 3 weeks; after that once a week indefinitely. It's a control medication countering the aging and hormonal changes of the testicle.

80 percent of a dog's sperm production is based on the size of their testicles; that's where we get the 10 million per pound of body weight. Changes can take place due to cortisol, from STRESS... we don't appreciate the effect of stress on the reproductive health of our dogs. Interestingly THYROID has little to do with the reproductive health of our dogs (males)a study at Michigan State took male dogs and completely destroyed their thyroid and found it had no effect on sperm production.

The thyroid is probably not a consideration in a dog with a low sperm count. We should look for hormonal problems in the body, infection problems in the body. And in many dogs, immune and genetic problems.

Thyroid in bitches also has very little importance in reproduction. The main sign of a reproduction problem related to female hypothyroid is they don't come in season. There is no proven benefit of giving thyroid to a normal thyroid individual, reproductively. My main concern with thyroid, depending on which of the three types of hypothyroidism it is, is the immune-mediated type has genetic implications. If they have even SOME thyroid, that is probably all that is needed to maintain a pregnancy. Studies out of Florida show bitches with even ZERO thyroid function, did have trouble maintaining a pregnancy and

had a type of dwarf puppy, but bitches with ANY thyroid function, that come into season, thyroid will probably not cause any further problems.

So once you've proven your bitch's thyroid is normal, there is no reason to be going to six different veterinarians to have her retested. Save your money, take Dr. Hutchison to lunch

Question: What about the dreaded mycoplasma?

DrHutch: Unfortunately, an article published in the early 90s blamed mycoplasma for infertility in males, bitches aborting their puppies, husbands fooling around with their secretaries.

We as dog people jumped on this like there was no tomorrow. Mycoplasma is a normal organism at all body openings. A routine culture of a bitch's vaginal tract will show strep, staph, e coli, pastuerella, and mycoplasma. The vaginal tract is not sterile so routine culturing of a normal, healthy bitch is totally unwarranted.

You need to appreciate the purpose of normal flora or normal bacteria: they keep the BAD bugs out so a routine culture, that shows mycoplasma, e coli, and strep, is not a cause for treatment but a cause for celebration because the bitch is normal

Question: What about bitches who did not become pregnant before antibiotics, but do afterward?

DrHutch: Putting on bitches on antibiotics pre-breeding actually makes them more prone to infectious disease by killing normal organisms, especially when we use the GOOD drugs like Baytril. Occasionally, we may see a bitch with an infection... but there will be signs of that infection - redness, abnormal discharge, smelling - just like if you have an infection in your ear, you're not going to not know it. Bacteria does not equal infection.

When we see problems with mycoplasma, for example, it is not the mycoplasma that caused the problem. Mycoplasma only took the opportunity of the infection, just the same as the staph on the skin causes a hot spot because the dog has fleas, for example. Most of the individuals that see who do have mycoplasma infection, would not have been prevented by a routine culture, as the primary problem was stress, steroids, or other types of immune deficiency. They are only secondary problems. Something like pyometritis is not caused by routine bacteria; the normal bacteria were allowed to flare up by the inflammation of the uterine lining

Question: Isn't it true that an e coli infection can be passed to the puppies in the birth canal, causing fading puppies and the loss of the whole litter?

DrHutch: In normal healthy puppies, no. Think of puppies like the lions surrounding the antelopes looking for the weak ones. If a puppy is stressed, unhealthy, otherwise compromised, then the e coli can flare up but it's not because we allowed the e coli to be there, it's because we allowed the puppy to be unhealthy.

We cannot sterilize vaginal tracts no matter how many antibiotics we give because air goes in, air goes out. Just because there is vaginal bacteria does not mean there is intrauterine bacteria (bacteria in the uterus).

I want to say I LOVE LOVE LOVE these questions!

New question: Can't these bacteria be transmitted to the stud dog?

DrHutch: The male HAS all of these organism, so no, they are NOT contagious. This is why one of the most absolute crazy things I have ever heard of, is people treating their whole kennel because they had one dog with mycoplasma. This would be the equivalent of treating your whole kennel because one dog had a hot spot. Every dog has this. It's not contagious.

Brucellosis.... is a whole other world.

Brucellosis is NOT a normal organism of the male or the female. Brucellosis is a very serious disease that all bitches should be tested for every time they are going to be bred, and males should be tested for every six months if they only breed a negative female.

Brucella bacteria can be passed through all body discharges, not just through breeding, so even individuals that have never been bred but who have been to a show, a kennel, a field trial, need to have a negative brucellosis test.

Brucellosis is not common, but because it is extremely deadly... I myself consulted with a kennel a few years ago who put down 26 dogs because of an infected male they brought in. It is a serious disease which is primarily associated in the bitches with aborting puppies, and in the male causing inflammation of the testicles and subsequent infertility.

It is at this point not curable to the point of returning to reproduction. Do not wait until the last minute to have your brucella test run because the slide test run by veterinarians in their office, actually made from sheep brucellosis, one dog out of five has a false positive.

Even with AIs, you can protect the male, but not the female, from a dog who has brucella. Because you put the prostatic fluid and ejaculate into the bitch, along with the brucella. When we freeze semen, it is critical to us to be certain the male is negative for brucellosis, so we aren't preserving these bacteria for a thousand years!

Most dogs (with brucellosis) do not have to be put down, but they must be neutered and put on antibiotics for 4-5 years. And it is transmissible to humans too.

These questions are SO GREAT... they are fabulous!

Question: Herpes?

DrHutch: Herpes is not the same as brucellosis. It is part of the kennel cough complex. Any dog who has been to a show or a training class probably has herpes virus. Herpes virus is common. That is why it is rare having a problem with it. Herpes virus is only deadly to puppies during the first three weeks of life, because a newborn puppy's average body temperature does not reach 100 degrees until 3 weeks of age. If the bitch has never been exposed to herpes, and has no antibodies to pass through the colostrum to the puppies, the puppies could be affected.

Once a bitch has a litter with herpes, she will have the antibodies to pass through the colostrum to the next puppies, so they will be protected. Many people believe that a bitch should be taken to shows etc so they are exposed and have the protection to pass on to their puppies.

Puppies can be infected in utero, through the vaginal tract, or by other dogs coming to sneeze on them. Isolation is a good idea for the first three weeks.

Treatment for herpes: raise the body temperature to 100 degrees, herpes goes from being a deadly to virus to causing nothing more than a minor cough.

Question: Oxytocin (Pit shots).

Can you discuss the proper use of oxytocin injections during whelping? It seems that many breeders use oxytocin early on in the whelping process, when they feel it isn't progressing fast enough.

DrHutch: A puppy in the uterus has only two elements maintaining its oxygenation and life, one being the heart rate of the puppy, two being the blood pressure from mom to the uterus.

The whole goal in whelping is to maintain vital elements. Oxytocin I use in a very specific manner. If you've gone three hours without a puppy, I use one dose of oxytocin. My dose of oxytocin is two units per ten pounds of body weight. Oxytocin is normally 20 units per ml; I never use more than half an ml, no matter how big the bitch is.

I give one injection; if nothing happens, I give a second injection 20 minutes later. If nothing happens, I go to a C-section.

If you get too much oxytocin at a time, you will cause the puppies not to be expelled from the uterus but shrunk wrapped IN the uterus. The two injections of oxytocin actually increase the blood pressure to uterus which is beneficial to the puppies. If we keep giving them, we LOWER the blood pressure to the uterus, which robs the puppies of oxygen.

Using calcium with the oxytocin... now that we can monitor calcium levels in our practice I do not normally give calcium if the bitch is normal, because it causes the heart to slow down. If I need to give calcium I now use Calsorb, an oral gel that is absorbed almost as quickly as injectable. I can give it in small amounts more often, and don't have to worry about the side effects of injected calcium.

To clarify, my standard protocol (with oxytocin) is two injections; if two don't do it, two, four, ten, twenty, is not going to do it. In most cases I keep score by how many live puppies I deliver, not how many C-sections I avoid. I wait three hours from the last puppy.

My signs of dystocia are:

Temp just before labor readjusts back up to normal;

If I have no puppy born in four hours.

That is my definition of primary uterine inertia.

Straining hard for an hour... that is when you would NOT give oxytocin. Longer than three hours between puppies, that's when you DO give oxytocin.

Any black, red, or green discharge before any puppies are delivered indicates placental detachment and needs attention.

Ultrasounds, fetal monitoring devices, are critical to determine fetal well being. The ability to monitor the fetal heart rate is essential with WhelpWise or having an ultrasound.

I have worked and consulted with breeders using WhelpWise; it's ESPECIALLY important if a veterinarian does not have ultrasound, because there is no other way to monitor the whelps and fetal health

Question: What is WhelpWise?

DrHutch: WhelpWise is the sponsor of this event, actually... it is a fetal monitoring service. You can monitor your bitch's labor progression and fetal heart beat at home. They work well with your veterinarian. They are at <http://www.whelpwise.com>. Thank you Karen! Karen Copely, the owner and founder of WhelpWise.

I believe that we have the right to expect every puppy that our bitch carries; I am not one who believes you get a litter because you expect to throw one away. The ones we work the hardest on, often turn out to be the best!

Question: Is there any reason to suspect ultrasound causes reabsorption of puppies?

DrHutch: Ultrasounding is normally done day 26-28, when the heart starts beating on the puppy, so we can monitor viability as well as pregnancy. Absorption can occur up until around day 37-38.

Now that we are ultrasounding, we are REALIZING that absorption is not uncommon in the bitch, but ultrasound is only diagnosing it, it's not causing it. Just as x-raying a bitch at day 52 does NOT cause cataracts or whatever in the bitch; it gives us a WHALE of a lot of information about how many pups, their size, their positioning, and their health. That is an urban legend.

Absorption is most commonly caused when the uterus is not able to support the placenta and give nutrition to the puppies; genetic problems that stop the puppies from developing; there can be some viral or infectious causes; there have been some toxins identified in large animals more so than in small animals. Trauma probably plays no role, such as palpation or jumping off the porch.

Dr. Hutchison gives his permission for dog clubs to reprint this article in their club newsletters or publications provided the following statement is included:

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Back issues of the division newsletter can be found on the Division VI web site at www.bcadivision6.org/newsletter.htm

**Have a wonderful
holiday season
and a great 2007!**



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