



Jan/Feb, 2018

Opinions expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the WRDC or of the Editor. Your opinions, suggestions and comments are always welcomed!

Editor

Don Gotsch
16943 Woodleaf Road
Strongsville, Ohio 44136
ddgotsch@gmail.com
440-268-8778

Co-Editor

Debbie Gotsch

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Subscriptions to the Spotted Copy are \$15.00 per year. Subscriptions are free to WRDC Members.

Deadline for Jan/Feb newsletter is 1/15/18

Camera ready copy please.

Next Meeting

**Next meeting is
Saturday, February 17
Board Meeting @ 6pm
Regular Meeting @ 7pm**

**Strongsville Fire Station
11287 Webster Road
Strongsville, Ohio 44136**

No January meeting

Spotted Copy

*Official newsletter of the Western Reserve
Dalmatian Club for members of Cleveland and
Northeast Ohio. Est.- 1965*

Dogs and the Aging Process

by Nancy Kay, DVM

Just like us, our dogs transition through a number of physical and functional changes as they age. This aging process is physiologic in nature, meaning alterations happening at the cellular level are responsible for the changes we observe. Some of the age-related transformations we see in our dogs aren't really problematic, and they may even feel endearing, such as the dignified graying of the muzzle or increased interest in lap time and human companionship. The changes that are of concern are those that result in impairment of normal function. Some examples are listed below.

Changes in muscle mass and body condition

Sarcopenia is the term used to describe loss of muscle mass or muscle wasting. It's common for dogs to experience sarcopenia as they age. Both the number and size of myocytes (muscle cells) decrease with age. In addition to loss of muscle mass, many older dogs develop increased fat stores. On average, the percentage of body fat in young adult dogs is between 15% and 20%, while that of older dogs is between

25% and 30%. This may be related to age-associated slowing of the basal metabolic rate.

Most dogs reduce their physical activity level as they enter their senior years, and it's estimated that a dog's total daily energy requirement (calories needed) decreases by 30% to 40% during the last third of their lives. The loss of muscle mass in combination with increased fat stores can create a typical "geriatric look," a dog who is not overtly underweight, but has a bony appearance and feel. The most significant impact of sarcopenia is weakness.



Changes in hearing

Age-related hearing impairment is caused by degeneration within the cochlea, a structure within the inner ear.

The cochlea is responsible for producing nerve impulses in response to sound vibrations. Loss of hearing is almost universal in aged dogs and can have significant impact on normal activities. For example, the dog who was always off leash on walks must now be leashed. There are no solutions for correcting the hearing loss, but positive behavioral adaptations can be a big help. A way to be proactive is to teach hand signals in conjunction with verbal commands before the hearing loss occurs.



Gastrointestinal tract changes

With advancing age, many changes occur within the canine gastrointestinal tract. Examples include decreased stomach acid production, delayed emptying of the stomach, alterations within intestinal bacterial populations, decreased motility within the colon, and alterations in cells lining the intestinal tract. All of these can translate into gastrointestinal symptoms such as vomiting, diminished appetite, and abnormal or irregular bowel movements. The liver is part of the gastrointestinal tract, and liver cells undergo changes associated with the aging process. Increased liver enzymes are commonly

discovered on blood tests results run on senior dogs.

Cardiac and vascular changes

Beginning in midlife, the amount of blood pumped out of the heart (cardiac output) gradually decreases. By the time the dog is geriatric, this cardiac output may decrease by as much as 30%. Additionally, the heart muscle loses some of its flexibility with the aging process. It becomes somewhat stiff resulting in less effective heart contractions. These changes can result in diminished activity and stamina.

Additionally, as dogs age, the lining of their blood vessels thicken and calcium may be deposited within the wall of the aorta both of which can contribute to an increased workload for the heart. For some dogs, these changes can promote the development of heart failure.

Kidney changes

The kidneys are comprised of millions of functional microscopic units called nephrons that are responsible for filtering waste from the bloodstream. With age, damage to nephrons results in a substantial decrease in number and permanent loss of function. Once there is a loss of critical nephron mass, kidney failure ensues. The older dog with mild kidney failure may not act sick, but without kidney reserve, becomes far less resilient to other illnesses or physiologic changes that may arise.

Immune system changes

The immune system is an interactive network designed to provide protection from a variety of potentially damaging agents such as bacteria, viruses, malignant cells, and environmental toxins.

Fundamental changes in immune system function occur in older dogs. Between 8 and 13 years of age dogs have decreased production of lymphocytes (white blood cells that are an integral part of the immune system) in response to various immune system stimuli. Additionally, aging is associated with changes in the distribution of lymphocytes within the body. In general, older dogs are less resistant to infection and less capable of mounting an effective immune response to vaccinations.

Cognitive changes

Changes in cognition (mental capabilities) and behavior are to be expected in dogs with advancing age. Canine cognitive disorder (doggie dementia) is commonly diagnosed these days, particularly compared to a decade or so ago.

Dogs with cognitive impairment may demonstrate confusion, alteration of sleep patterns, and decreased social contact with humans. Cognitive disorders in aged dogs appear to be the result of oxidative damage (damage from oxygen-free radicals) within brain cells. Such changes can begin as early as 7 to 8 years of age. Medical therapy provides benefit for some dogs with canine cognitive disorder.



Lady Maxine's Book of Quotations



The disposition of noble dogs is to be gentle with people they know and the opposite with those they don't. How, then, can the dog be anything other than a lover of learning since he defines what's his own and what is alien.

Plato

No man can be condemned for owning a dog. As long as he has a dog, he has a friend; and the poorer he gets, the better friend he has.

Will Rogers

Don't let the dogs out.....

No matter what they tell you.

Veterinary Technician

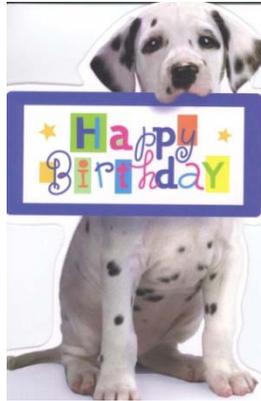
Dogs are not people dressed up in fur coats, and to deny them their nature, is to do them great harm

Jeanne Schinto

Recollect that the Almighty, who gave the dog to be companion of our pleasures and our toils, hath invested him with a noble nature and incapable of deceit.

Sir Walter Scott

Birthday Wishes



January, 2018

Whitecap Bay Colony So It Goes
1/2/2008 – Debbie Gotsch

Zdar's Southern Comfort
1/7/2005 – Cindy Riggans

Guardian Zdar Admiral Halsey
1/11/2012 – Cindy Riggans

Guardian & Saphire's Amazing Grace
1/11/2012 – Cindy Chaytor

NON-SPOTTED BIRTHDAYS

Betty Kilfoyle – January 1

Debbie Gotsch – January 4

Pam & Steve Weisman
January 9, 1983

February, 2018

Ch Cassiopeia Wayward Wind
2/24/2007 – Bob & Diana Smith

Ch Zdar & Siobahn Arizona
2/28/2012 – Cindy Riggans

Zdar's Polka Johnny
2/28/2012 – Tim & Diane
Kompier

Zdar's Remmington Arms
2/28/2012 – Scott & Tammy
Edmundson

NON-SPOTTED BIRTHDAYS

Linda Lombardi – February 3

Martha Brown – February 13

Send your birthday/anniversary information to the editor.

Taco, the Dalmatian, Supports Local Police and Breast Cancer Awareness Campaign Through AKC Sport

By Samantha Seymour AKC

Taco, a five-year-old Dalmatian, wakes up on the weekends full of energy and ready to run. This past year, Taco finished five successful runs hosted by the Tortoise and Hare Lure Coursing Club in Littlestown, PA, becoming American Kennel Club's first dog to successfully complete 350 Coursing Ability Tests (CAT).



The Coursing Ability Test is an introductory event fashioned after the sport of lure coursing. It tests a dog's basic coursing instinct or hunting-by-sight ability. Taco is not only an energetic, super speedy, title-winning dog, though; he is also an active member of his community.

Over his time participating in these runs, the Dalmatian and his owner, Linda Davis, have gained many supporters. He has a pink bucket that goes with him to the Coursing Ability Tests to collect donations in support of the Laurel Police Department's breast cancer awareness campaign. Cpl. Aaron Waddell of the Laurel Police Department initiated the Pink Patch Project in 2015 after his wife was

diagnosed with breast cancer. He purchases pink versions of the department's patches and sells them for \$10 each. The project was introduced with law enforcement and public safety organizations in California, but the Laurel Police Department is the only agency in Maryland to participate in this project. Taco wears his Pink Patch proudly during all of his runs.

Donations collected through Taco's Coursing Ability Tests totaled \$714, which was donated to the local police department's Pink Patch Program this year. Davis began collecting money to support cancer awareness in honor of her husband, Harry, who is currently battling lung cancer. Pink Patch Funds raised by the Laurel Police Department were donated to Susan G. Komen for the Cure the past two years, but in an effort to keep the money local, the department chose to donate to the Annapolis-based METAvivor nonprofit this year. The Laurel Police Department appreciates the support from Taco and the Davis' and is honored to have such an amazing dog sporting the department's Pink Patch.



<p>Awards Cindy Chaytor</p> <p>Awards & Holiday Banquet Don & Debbie Gotsch</p> <p>Historian Open</p> <p>Hospitality Monthly Member Rotation</p> <p>Membership Nancy Abbott</p> <p>Programs/Public Education Tammy Edmundson</p> <p>2018 Puppy Match Open</p> <p>Referral Service Pam Weisman Cindy Riggans Rick Sinwald</p> <p>Specialty Show Cindy Riggans</p> <p>Spotted Copy Don Gotsch, Editor Debbie Gotsch, Co-Editor</p> <p>Sunshine Nancy Abbott</p> <p>Performance Linda Lombardi, Cindy Chaytor, and Debbie Gotsch</p>

**WESTERN RESERVE
DALMATIAN CLUB
REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES
November 18, 2017**

There was no meeting in December or January, so I thought a reprint of the last minutes might help. See you at the Feb. 17 meeting.

The meeting opened at 8:10p.m. Roll call was read. There were 13 members in attendance. Debbie Gotsch thanked our guest speaker Monica Callahan.

Monica spoke about the new Scent Work title offered by AKC. Monica brought along the boxes and scents. Debbie's dog Geeza demonstrated how the scent is located.

Spotted Copy. Don Gotsch announced that there will be a December issue. And then a January/February issue.

Holiday Banquet. December 3, 2017. Reservations were due November 18, 2017.

Membership. It was discussed about placing an ad in the Plain Dealer or Cle Dog. Mention something about our meetings and activities.

Specialty 2019. A question was asked if we are doing WRDC Specialties before and after the National. That is affirmative.

2018 Specialty. Veterans ribbons were discussed. Each name on it. We need to find out how much this would cost per ribbon.

Puppy Match. A chairman is needed.

Debbie Gotsch thanked the Sinwalds and Edmundsons for bringing the goodies.

A discussion was had about giving mugs for 5,15, 25-year memberships. Richard Sinwald made a motion that we really don't need to do that for the in between years. Pam Weisman seconded. Carried.

Specialty 2019. Trophies for both shows should be discussed within the membership.

Bring your ideas to the February meeting.

Nancy Abbott received a thank you letter from AKC Reunite for our donation to Hurricane relief for dogs.

New Business: 2018 dates February 17: Board meeting and regular meeting. AKC titles and what you can do with your dogs.

March 18: Regular meeting and Pot Luck at the Weisman's
 April 21: Regular meeting
 May 19: Board meeting and regular meeting
 June 16: Puppy Match and regular meeting Possibly have CGC again
 July 21: Board meeting and regular meeting
 August 10: Specialties
 September 15: Regular meeting---ideas?
 October 20: Regular meeting and Elections
 November 17: Board meeting and regular meeting
 December ? Holiday and Awards

Committees 2018

Awards - Open
 Banquet-Don Gotsch
 Membership-Tammy Edmundson
 Programs - Open
 Puppy Match - Open
 Referral-Cindy Riggins, Richard Sinwald and Pam Weisman
 Specialty-Cindy Riggins
 Spotted Copy-Don Gotsch
 Sunshine-Nancy Abbott
 Performance-Linda Lombardi and Cindy Chaytor

Announcements:

April 28/29, 2018 LCKC is hosting Fast Cats and Cats

May Pet-Tacular at the Brunswick Recreation Center

Don Gotsch moved to adjourn, Barbara Brandon seconded. Carried. The meeting ended at 9:07p.m.

Respectfully submitted
 Martha Brown, Secretary

BRAGS

Linda Lombardi bragged on Buford. He recently finished Rally Advanced and Rally Excellent.

Pam Weisman asked that everyone give her good luck showing Mia.

Don Gotsch bragged that he and Debbie have been married 45 years on November 20.

Richard and Lesley Sinwald announced that Olivia received her CGC and Therapy Dog titles. Debbie Gotsch bragged on Geeza. She now has 3 Level 1, 2 Level 2 in Scent Work.

Respectfully submitted
 Martha Brown, Secretary

**2018
 CLUB OFFICERS**

PRESIDENT

DEBBIE GOTSCH

VICE PRESIDENT

LESLEY SINWALD

TREASURER

NANCY ABBOTT
 4036 Grafton Rd.
 Brunswick, OH 44212-2142
 216-702-4441

SECRETARY

MARTHA BROWN
 486 Wolcott Ave
 Kent, Ohio 44240
 330-673-0356

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PAM WEISMAN (2 YR)
 CINDY RIGGANS 2018 (3 YR)
 TAMMY EDMUNDSON 2019 (2 YR)
 BARB BRANDON – 2018 (1 YR)

DCA REPRESENTATIVE



**VISIT US ONLINE AT THE
 OFFICIAL WRDC WEBSITE**

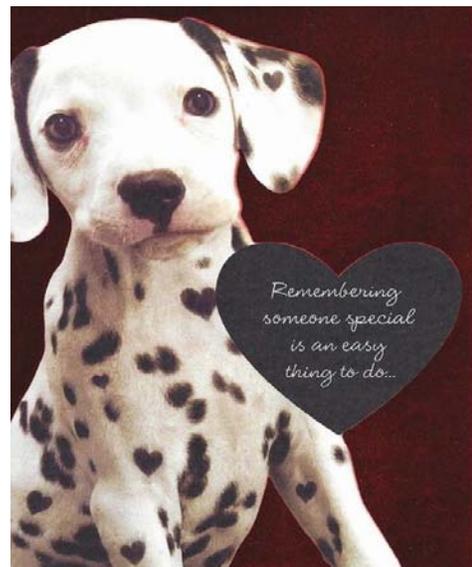
www.wrdalmatianclub.com

EMAIL ADDRESS

wrdc.ohio@yahoo.com

WRDC 2018 Schedule

January No meeting
February 17 Board meeting
 Regular meeting
 Speakers
March 18 Regular meeting
 Pot Luck Dinner
April 21 Regular meeting
May 19 Board meeting
 Regular meeting
June 16 Puppy Match
 Picnic meeting
July 21 Board Meeting
 Regular Meeting
August 10 Specialty Show
 in Oberlin
Sept. 15 Regular meeting
October 20 Regular meeting
 WRDC Election
 of Officers
Nov. 17 Board meeting
 Regular meeting
December Awards Banquet
 Holiday Party





Presidents Message

Happy New Year and welcome 2018! I hope everyone enjoyed the holidays despite the frigid temperatures outside. Seems 2017 ended and 2018 began in a deep freeze. A little sunshine and above freezing temps would be nice. Just think, each day is one closer to spring.

At our November meeting, Monica Callahan introduced us to Scent Work and Geeza showed us how it is done. Several local all-breed clubs have put in requests to hold trials in 2018. Toledo has trials on Jan. 13/14.

AKC has also added Tricks titles, if you have a CGC, you are already halfway there for level one.

There are many options open to our Dal's these days other than Conformation.

At our February meeting Linda and Cindy Chaytor will share other AKC trial options for us.

We have a start for our 2018 meeting and activity calendar, but can use some new ideas for programs.

We still need a chairperson for the Puppy Match in June. Hope to see everyone at the February meeting.

Debbie

WHAT IS A BREED CLUB?

When membership in a Breed Club is accepted, you have made a social contract with every other member in the Club to uphold and protect the Breed. A Breed Club consists of members who have no problem with their obligation or commitment towards the Breed, because it is a favored interest; that's why we are here.

There are always some, whose interests, although not altogether clear, are viewed with suspicion; with their commitment to the breed somewhat out of focus. Their reasons for wanting to belong to a Breed Club are best known to themselves. Members who use the Club for their own advantage or profit, and attempt to use the Breed or the Club as a forum to promote their own self-interest are indeed a driving, destructive force which can divide a Club.

What, then, keeps a Breed Club united? Its' people – people whose "hobby" has become a driving force in their lives – people who care.

They realize that a Breed Club must have character, and an inherent ability to remain in the focal point of ethical strength and integrity. One does not have to belong to a Club to own, train, show well or breed a dog. But, membership in a Club provides the opportunity to meet with a much wider variety of people whose experience can enrich your own, and whose acquaintance can brighten your life.

The united strength of a Breed Club can move mountains, where the efforts of one or two breeders alone, would have proved ineffective.

A united, well-run Breed Club can accomplish many things, both for the Breed it supports, and for all other Breeds as well. At their best, Breed Clubs make better breeders, and better breeders make better Breed Clubs – providing a self-perpetuating advancement for the world of dogs.

(Reprinted from "Spot News" Chicago Dalmatian Club, October 1975)



Ode to Going Reserve

To go Reserve is many things;
To aim sky-high, to walk with kings.

To win (almost), to miss the mark,
To smile and joke, (cry in the dark).

Purple for valor and truth, white as a ghost;
My sieve runneth over; together they boast.

To try your wings, and seek your deserts,
Pleasures the spirit and soothes the hurts.

The bitter and sweet, the shattered nerve,
All treasured momentos of "Going Reserve".