

CALLBACK



From the President's Pen

Mark Antonini

If you are like me, you must be wondering when the dead of winter will finally pass so that we can welcome much anticipated warmer weather. Unless of course you are whiling away the days in southern climates like some of our luckier members. Even the average high temperature for this time of year, minus 5, would be a godsend!

The retriever class this year will be taught by Jeff Morari with help from any able bodied volunteers who would like to come out. The classes will be held on Sunday afternoons between 2:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. starting the second weekend of March. Jeff has taught this class many times in the past, and along with the usual group of volunteers to help, the class should be a wonderful introduction to the world of retriever training.

I would like to thank Ross Campbell for teaching the retriever class for the last several years. We have heard nothing but good comments from the many people who have attended the classes over the last few years. The class turnout at our Working Certificate tests is testament to the influence that Ross has had on many of the students. I would also like to thank the many volunteers who have come out and assisted Ross with the class. Lynn Campbell, Wally Turk, Louise Thorpe, Keith Althouse, have been steady attendees, but there are many others who come out and help as well. This is much appreciated. I dropped by the Manhattan ballroom one Sunday afternoon last year to witness dogs running marks through the snow in a howling wind. Just about everybody's face was covered with balaclavas or scarves, but everybody soldiered on.

Ross and his group also held a Junior dog training session on Wednesday nights. This is a nice progression for dogs and trainers who attend the retriever class and are looking to continue their training. Again, the usual group of volunteers help out with these sessions and their willingness to share their experience and their willingness to throw marks is greatly appreciated. I talked to several retriever class attendees last year and they all mentioned how they were impressed by the many members who helped them.

This is another year where we do not have any major national events to host, so we are essentially in caretaker mode. The Land committee is the most important committee in the club and we again have our work cut out for us. The weather did not co-operate this fall, so we did not manage to spray any of the foxtail we had hoped to spray. This means that we will need to pick a lot of foxtail before our field trials and hunt tests. The foxtail is usually not an issue for the Field Trial near the end of June, but it is usually a major problem by the middle of July. I am sure we will again be looking for volunteers to pick and burn foxtail before the hunt test near the end of July.

We are also planning to add more pit run gravel to the three islands on pond one within the next few weeks. I am pretty sure the ice must be thick enough by now. The R.M. of Bradwell has been very helpful and we expect that this second year of topping up the islands should do the job.

The Working Certificate, Hunt Test, and Field Trial committees have all met to plan their events for this summer including the selection of judges. We look forward to holding as well as entering these tests as they are affirmation of all the hard work we do with training our dogs all year round.

The National Master Hunt test will be held at Wabumum near Edmonton this year. I am sure several of our club members will be training with an eye to entering this event as it is the ultimate achievement in the hunt test game. We are hoping that we will have a few extra entrants in our Master Hunt test this year from out of town as we suspect some people will need the experience to tune up for the National.

We will be having our annual spring cleanup day at the Retriever Club grounds towards the end of April. We will also hold a general meeting open to all club members on the same day right after we finish our spring cleanup work. We did this for the first time last year and we had good attendance for both the meeting and cleanup. I hope to see many of you at the club on that day. The date is yet to be confirmed.

With any luck, we will be out training our dogs at the club grounds in a few short weeks, and we hope to see you there. And if you need to get out of the house before then, come on out and help out at the Retriever Class. We can always use somebody to throw bumpers and encourage the newcomers to this great sport!

FC FTCH AFTCH GMH NMH TaylorLab's Sugar and Spice (aka CANDY)

2/16/2006 – 8/23/2018

Candy was born in February 2006 to our bitch FTCH AFTCH GMH NMH ClubMead's Autumn Breeze. We bred Breeze to FC AFC Calumet's Super Sonic (Soupy) repeating a breeding that



had previously produced several good dogs, including the 2004 top Field Trial Derby (Junior) Dog in the USA (*Taylorlabs Downtown Dusty Brown*). This time the breeding resulted in a small litter of only two pups, one male and one female. I chose the female and the male went to Soupy's owner, Sharon Gierman and in 2010 he won the 2010 Canadian National Field Trial Championship.

Candy was a small pup and even as an adult never weighed more than 48 lbs except when she was pregnant. She was intense and birdy and very stylish and fast, with a great water entry and attitude. She was an excellent marker and developed into a very good lining

dog. She loved training and drills. Each winter Candy went to Georgia to train with Lynn Troy (Claddagh retrievers) but because she hid under the truck and darted out to bite the other dogs in the yard, she got to stay in the house and became a legitimate loved member of Lynn's house dog family.

Candy competed in field trials and in Hunt tests. She quickly earned her MH title. In Candy's 2 year old summer she got a few placings in the Open competition and we were away. She had a lot of second place finishes (8) before getting a couple of wins and earning her FTCH AFTCH titles in 2011. Of course Garry's dog Blue (Breeze bred to Creek Robber) won 6 of the 8 trials she got 2nd in. Candy got an Open Double Header win at our trial in 2012 and had a very good trial career, earning 136 Canadian Open points. She was a finalist in 3 Canadian Nationals and was runner-up in the 2013 National Amateur. She was consistently in the top 10 Open dogs in Canada throughout her trialing career. Candy also introduced me to the excitement and challenge of running US trials – I love those big, big tests and the adrenalin surge of pushing the dogs to their absolute limits to see what they can do. Candy earned her American FC in 2012 and I had numerous placings with her in the Open and the Amateur stakes south of the border.

Candy was very serious and focused when it came to retrieving, and we always joked that she had no sense of humor. As she aged, however, she became more and more opinionated, consistently beat me to the mat at trials, and purposely sat in front of the mat when she brought retrieved birds back to line, in an attempt to prevent me from trying to influence her on subsequent birds. This strategy worked, and she pretty much ran the show for the last



couple of years. I still loved running her and she made me proud most days, though there may be a few trials I have blocked out of my memory.

Candy was a great pet dog and house dog. She loved to go camping with us and to accompany us on the boat just touring around or fishing. She enjoyed going for long walks and running with the quad. She even tolerated getting dressed up for trick or treating with the grandchildren and posing for Christmas card photos. She was a fixture for 12 years at the Veterinary

College, where she mostly snoozed on her bed in my office but loved her role as a demo dog and teaching laboratories to veterinary students.

When Candy was 5 years old she was bred to FC AFC Hardscrabbles Powder My Buns (Pow) and had a litter of 10 pups. Many good dogs came out of that litter, including my dog Cheeky, John McDonald's dog Nash, Tim Fahl's dog Duke and Rose Myer's dog Hottie (in USA). I see a lot of Candy's talent and drive in all her pups, though none of them seem to have inherited her serious nature.



Candy was diagnosed with an unusual form of cancer early in the summer. She spent a good summer with us camping, fishing, hanging out and being spoiled in every way we could imagine. It was obvious when her time had come and she departed us peacefully after eating every morsel of a sirloin steak grilled especially for her. We still miss her every day but happily as her daughter Cheeky has matured she has become more and more like Candy – helping to keep her memory alive.

This is the obituary published in Retriever Field Trial News:

Small but mighty, fast, intense, intelligent and opinionated – SO MUCH FUN to train and to run! Candy was a cherished member of our family. We loved this little yellow girl.

Garry and Sue Taylor

CHRISTMAS PARTY



COULD MY SUGAR FREE GUM KILL MY DOG?

Xylitol is a “natural” sugar substitute that is popular because it has less calories than sugar, has a low glycemic index and has antimicrobial properties against oral bacteria. These properties have led to xylitol being widely used in sugar free gums, candies, peanut butter, protein powders, drink powders and baked goods. That is great for us, but potentially very dangerous for our dogs. **It is important to realize that ingesting xylitol can kill your dog.**

The immediate effect when a dog ingests a toxic dose of xylitol is that they develop extremely low blood sugar (hypoglycemia). This can occur within 20 minutes or can be a delayed response if the food that they ate is absorbed slowly. Signs of low blood sugar start with vomiting and then progress to weakness, incoordination, collapse and seizures. The other very severe toxicity seen with xylitol ingestion in dogs is liver damage - usually requiring a higher dose of xylitol than that needed to



cause low blood sugar - but not all dogs with serious liver damage will have shown signs of hypoglycemia first. Liver damage from xylitol can cause a few weeks of poor appetite, vomiting and diarrhea or can cause complete liver failure resulting in icterus (yellow tissues), bleeding and death.

The amount of xylitol that must be eaten to cause toxicity is variable. Some flavors of some brands of gum (especially Orbit and Trident) have enough xylitol in each piece to poison a 10kg (22lb) dog. The most serious problems are seen when dogs like our always hungry Labrador retrievers eat an entire package or container of gum, a dozen xylitol-containing cookies or a few packets of xylitol sugar substitute (4 one gram packets could kill a Labrador retriever).

It is important that dog owners realize the potential toxicity of xylitol and either avoid purchasing products containing xylitol or at least keep them away from your dog. If your dog does eat a product containing xylitol take your dog and the packaging for the product to your vet right away so they can determine if your dog ingested a toxic dose, induce vomiting if necessary, and initiate emergency medical treatment.

Most owners of dogs who die from xylitol intoxication had no idea that this potential poison was in their home. **Be aware!**

Submitted by Sue Taylor

Retriever Training Class



always been essential. This will be even more important this year as we could



2019 looks like it could be a banner year for our annual Retriever Training Class. Formerly known as the Puppy Class, we will again be taking young dogs and their handlers through the fundamentals of becoming a working team. Initial interest has been strong and it has been hard to turn away people when so many have expressed interest in the class. As you may know, Ross and Lynn are taking a well deserved break from running the class, and I will once again be donning the ringmaster hat. We have built a strong program over the many years this class has been offered. The help of the general membership to assist in these

classes has

have as many as 16 dogs in the class. You may have

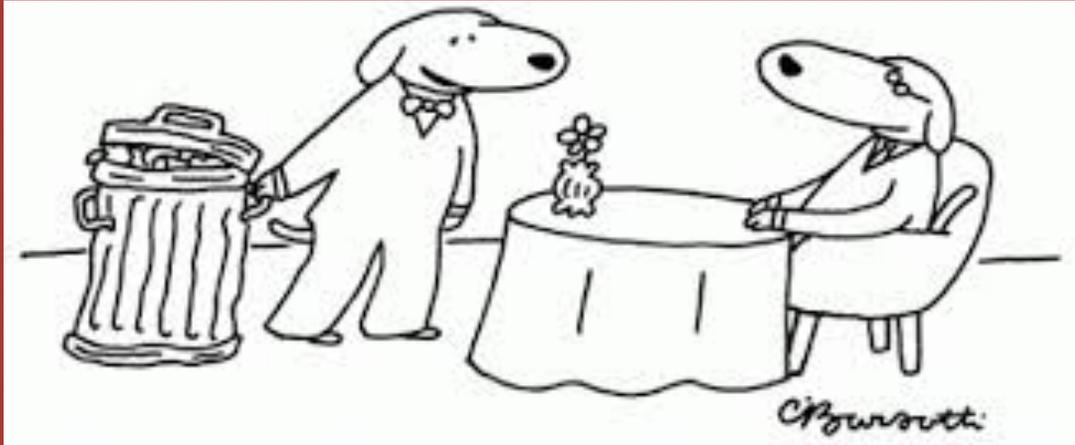


seen my request for assistance that went out a few weeks back. I thank all who responded, and invite any others who might be able to assist to feel free to come out when they can. Assistance is especially important in the early stages of the class. We will begin with indoor classes on the second weekend of March. Please look for Email reminders and come to share your experience with our new members.

Jeff Morari



Laugh of the Day



"The special, Sir. Shall I spread it out, or will you knock it over yourself"



2018 ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

Prairie storm Blizzard CD **WCX MH**, QFTR, TD owned/handled by Marg Hadley

MOTCh Rick's August Sweetgrass Spirit, MH, **QFTR**, WCX, TD, RE owned/handled by Marg Hadley

Dawnlit Blazing Star CDX RA WCX **SH** owned/handled by Jeff Thorpe

Prairielight Sweet Dreams CDX WCX **SH** owned by Hans and Margareta Berin

Prairiestorm Pretty Little PeggySue CD WCX **SH** owner Danielle Greanya and handled by Wally Turk

Smok'NGolds Snow Storm CDX **SH** owned by Jessica and Alan Davis, handled by Alan

Prairiestorm Gander the 2nd **WC JH** Natasha & Derek Wiebe handled by Natasha

GCH Biscay Faveur De La Vie CD WCI JH RA CGN CA RATS earned **WCI JH** Yvonne Dyck

Prairielight Kaboom CD **WCX** JH owned by Hans and Margareta Berin handled by Hans

TTF Silversnipe Mississippi Red Man **WC JH** owned/handled by Kristi Bowditch

Oak Lane's Bishop Of Fendawood **WC JH** owned/handled by Kristi Bowditch

TTF Oak Lane's Twitching To Go **WC JH** owned/handled by Kristi Bowditch

Oak Lane's Sporting a Special Blend **JH** owned/handled by Kristi Bowditch

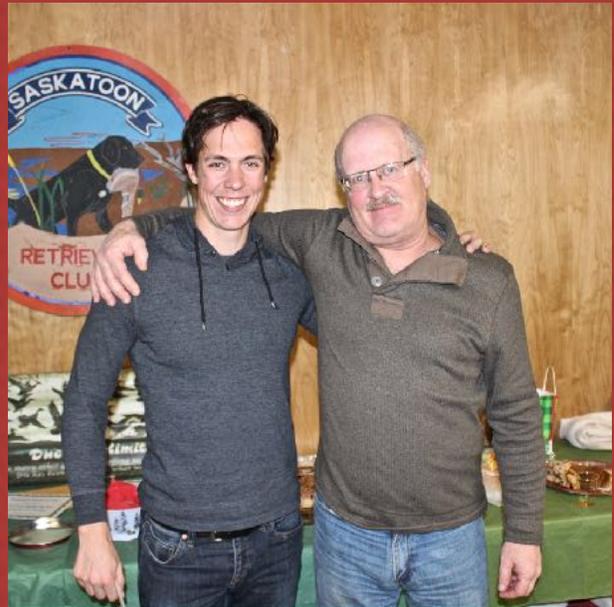
Oak Lane's Spruce Goose **WC** owned/handled by Kristi Bowditch

Gunworth On The Rocks **WC** owned/handled by Kristi Bowditch

NOTE:

Titles earned in 2018 are indicated in blue

2018 ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS



MORE ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS



UPCOMING EVENTS

2019 SRC Training Class Begins - March 10, 2 - 4 pm

2019 SRC Working Certificate Tests - June 15 & 16, 2019

2019 SRC Field Trials - June 22 & 23, 2019

2019 SRCA Field Trial - June 24, 2019

2019 SRC Hunt Tests - July 27, 28 & 29

(Saturday, Sunday & Monday) NOT the long weekend

CANINE FLU – What you should know

I have been asked a lot of questions about canine flu this year – in part because there was a suspected outbreak in Western Canada right around the time of the 2018 Canadian National. I thought it would be a good time to pass on some information to keep our membership informed.

Canine flu (canine influenza) is a highly contagious respiratory infection caused by influenza A virus. There are currently two types of canine influenza A virus (**CIV**) affecting dogs in North America: **H3N8** and **H3N2**.

H3N8 CIV was first recognized in 2004 at Greyhound Racing tracks in Florida and then spread through the country. This flu virus was a mutated version of equine flu (from horses). Although initially H3N8 infection caused hemorrhagic pneumonia and killed quite a few dogs, more recently H3N8 has only been diagnosed sporadically in pet and shelter dogs and mostly causes mild disease. **H3N2 CIV** was derived from a mutated avian (bird) flu strain that was identified in dogs in South Korea and China in 2005 and introduced to the US in 2015 when infected dogs were imported. Since 2015 H3N2 has been responsible for most of the cases of canine influenza in North America and all of the outbreaks.

Canada has had several documented outbreaks of H3N2 flu, all in Ontario. The first recognized cases occurred in December 2017 in dogs brought to Canada from South Korea by a rescue group. All cases in the recent Canadian outbreaks (2018) have been linked to imported dogs rescued from China or to dogs that contracted the flu in the US.

Virus spread. Canine flu is spread through short-distance aerosol transmission (coughing, sneezing), through direct contact with nasal discharge or saliva from an infected dog, or by exposure to objects contaminated with saliva from an infected dog like dog bowls, owner's hands, toys, and potentially bumpers, retrieved ducks, etc. Infected dogs are contagious before showing any signs of illness so seemingly healthy dogs can transmit this virus. Virus is also shed for up to 28 days after recovery.

Signs of flu. The onset of cough is typically 2-5 days after exposure, but longer incubation periods (7-10 days) are occasionally reported. Most dogs are mildly affected with a dry or moist cough, runny eyes, and sometimes a nasal discharge and sneezing. This looks a lot like kennel cough, but affects dogs and puppies whether or not they have been vaccinated against the agents causing kennel cough. The real concern about canine flu is that some dogs get severely ill and may develop high fevers (104-106 F; 40-41 C), increased respiratory rate and effort, loss of appetite, and occasionally mild vomiting and diarrhea. Severe inflammation and damage to the lungs occurs in 10 to 20% of infected dogs predisposing the lung to secondary bacterial infection that can be treated with antibiotics, but occasionally the lung damage is too severe and progresses to respiratory failure and death.

Treatment. Most dogs with flu do not require treatment. Cough suppressants are sometimes administered to mildly affected dogs. Dogs with fever, rapid or difficult breathing, productive coughing or depression and loss of appetite should be evaluated and treated with antibiotics to prevent or treat bacterial pneumonia. More intensive supportive care (intravenous fluids, supplemental oxygen) may be needed for patients with severe respiratory signs. The prognosis is good for complete recovery in dogs with mild disease. Dogs with secondary bacterial pneumonia can recover if antibiotic treatment is prompt and appropriate but approximately 10% of severely affected dogs die. Even when treatment is effective the lung damage may be so severe that cough and exercise intolerance persist for 3 to 8 weeks after recovery.

Prevention. There is now a vaccine against canine influenza H3N8 and H3N2. Vaccination does not prevent infection but significantly decreases clinical signs and reduces the severity of damage to the lungs. One initial dose is recommended followed by a booster 2-4 weeks later and then annual revaccination.



Vaccination is recommended if your dog is going to be visiting an endemic area (USA) or if your dog will be competing in events against or coming in contact with dogs from the US or dogs who have recently visited the US.

Diagnosis. Veterinarians should perform testing to confirm any suspected cases of canine flu so that their practice community will know if an outbreak is occurring. Definitive diagnosis of CIV requires detection of the virus in clinically ill dogs but even early in infection (first 2-3 days of signs) when virus shedding is highest false negative test results are common.

So what about last year's outbreak? Last year's cluster of cases of cough and some severe disease (fever, pneumonia, loss of appetite) in field trial dogs around the time of the National could have originated in Montana or in Ontario – both places had a documented outbreak of contagious respiratory illness occurring at that time and we had dogs visiting Western Canadian trials from both places. Most affected dogs had been well vaccinated against kennel cough, making that disease unlikely, but canine flu could not be documented in any of the infected dogs. The 2018 outbreak in Montana affected hundreds of dogs and was very well investigated (because it was the 2nd year in a row that such an outbreak had occurred there in late summer) and no canine flu could be found there either. Some concluded that there must be either a "new infectious virus" or a new strain" of parainfluenza (kennel cough) that routine vaccines did not protect against, but there is very little evidence to support that theory. Infectious disease veterinary specialists at UC Davis and Cornell are poised to investigate any future outbreaks and will do so free of charge next summer.

Submitted by Sue Taylor

Salvation Army Christmas Kettles



More Salvation Army Christmas Kettles

