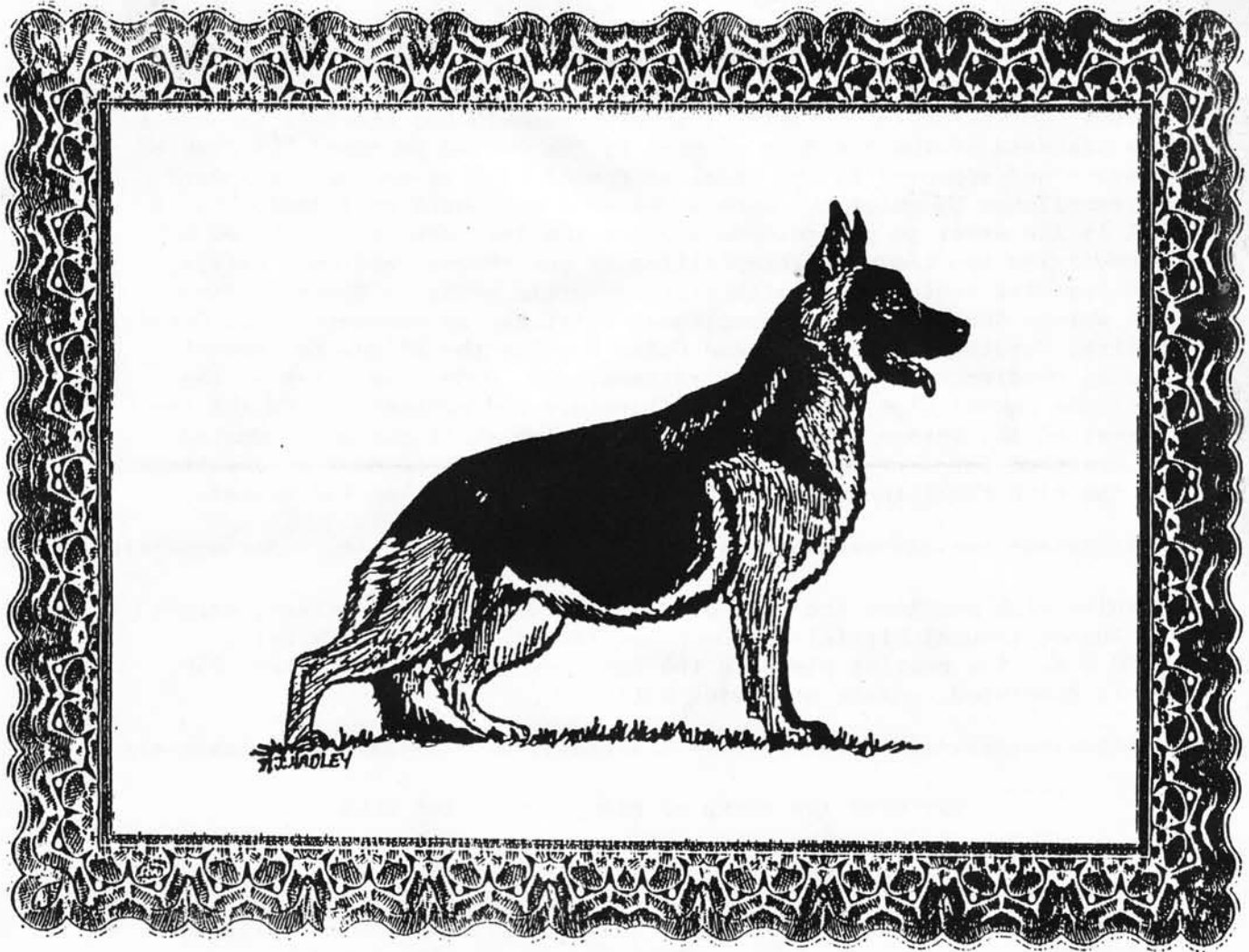


WAG 'N' TONGUE



OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE GERMAN SHEPHERD DOG CLUB OF ST. LOUIS, INC.

AUGUST 1990

THE WAG-N-TONGUE IS THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF
THE GERMAN SHEPHERD DOG CLUB OF ST. LOUIS, INC.

EDITOR: DAPHNE SZCZUKA

The purpose of the club shall be to encourage and promote the breeding of purebred German Shepherd Dogs and to do all possible to bring their natural qualities to perfection, to urge members and breeders to accept the standard of the breed as adopted by the German Shepherd Dog Club of America and approved by the American Kennel Club as the only standard of excellence by which the German Shepherd Dog shall be judged. To do all in its power to protect and advance the interests of the breed by encouraging sportamanship competition at dog shows, obedience trials, and tracking tests to aid with every possible means in demonstrating the German Shepherd Dogs' conspicuous abilities as companion, Red Cross, Police, Herding, Rescue Dog, and Guide Dog for the Blind, to conduct shows, obedience trials, demonstrations, etc. under the rules of the American Kennel Club, to publish literature and periodicals in the interest of the German Shepherd Dog. This club shall not be conducted or operated for a profit or remainder or residue from dues or donations to the club shall inure to the benefit of any member or individual.

Regular club meetings are held every month on the third Friday, except in August (Annual Picnic) and December (Annual Christmas Party) at 8:00 P.M. The meeting place is the Brentwood Recreation Center, 2505 South Brentwood, unless otherwise noted.

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GERMAN SHEPHERD DOG CLUB OF AMERICA, INC.

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CHAIR REPORTS FOR REGIONAL CLUBS

Release #196

June 1, 1990

April Report

Internal & Anatomical

Defects (Helen Sherlock, Chps.)

Per direction of Dr. Carmen Battaglia, the "I & A" Committee has devised a format for contents of a proposed BLUE BOOK. Articles will address some of the problems and conditions of prime interest in our breed today. Topics were determined by canvassing veterinarians with large breeder-clienteles, veterinary or research specialists at Universities and - above all - a cross-section of active fanciers. Fairly consistent areas of concern surfaces, with many identical topics repeating through the Breed Challenges, etc., Committee chaired by Dick Whalen.

This BLUE BOOK's purpose would be as an educational and reference tool for the breeder and fancier and his/her veterinarian. Articles would be written in plain terms, with ample diagrams, graphs and photos illustrating important points. Inclusion of a complete bibliography for each article would aid further investigation. This feature would provide a valuable service to veterinarians and fanciers alike. Where possible, the Committee would tap professionals from the Fancy's ranks to author, or contribute, material to the table of contents. If the BLUE BOOK is approved, there are plans to contact Dr. Padgett (Michigan State) and Dr. Patterson (U. of PA), both Veterinary (med.) Geneticists who are currently working on projects for other Breed Parent Clubs. We hope to contact researchers at Kansas State U., U of Minnesota, U of California at Davis, and Colorado State, plus the O.F.A., for permission to reprint articles published in the BLUE BOOK fields of interest.

Suggestions from the Board are welcome. The proposed topics following are not inflexibly set. Space may not allow all to be included; also, other topics may be substituted.

DEGENERATIVE ELBOW DISORDERS with EMPHASIS on conditions with hereditary overtones in the Shepherd, such as UNUNITED ANCONAEL PROCESS & FRAGMENTED CORONOIDS.

PANCREATIC INSUFFICIENCY - Diagnosis and Treatment

CARPAL SYNDROME - Analysis of the most current information, plus evaluation of the questionnaires received.

TOXIC GUT SYNDROME - Update on Diagnosis and Treatment Plan, plus a discussion on TWISTING of the SMALL INTESTINE at the MESENTERY ROOT, which may be closely allied.

INTUSSUSCEPTION - Telescoped Intestine

GASTRIC TORSION - A look at the newest surgical techniques, plus a discussion on preventative measures and management of the surviving TORSION dog.

AUTO-IMMUNE DISORDERS - Emphasis on simple explanation of the A.I. diseases most common in the German Shepherd.

SPINALCORD MYELOPATHY/DEMYELINATION - Latest findings and medications.

EYE DEFECTS with HEREDITARY OVERTONES in the Shepherd.

GIARDIASIS - Malabsorption syndrome in G.I. tract after Giardia infestation.

O.F.A. HIP & ELBOW LISTINGS in ALPHA ORDER - as a reference tool
for pedigrees.

The "I & A" Committee needs Board approval at the April or July meeting if the Board wishes the BLUE BOOK available for sale at the 1991 NATIONAL. It is not feasible to produce a BLUE BOOK for 1990. According to Lois Fryslyn, who has kindly undertaken the spadework of considering alternatives on covers, page size, typesetting, paper and format, preparatory to getting bids, IT IS POSSIBLE--if the Board wishes-- to produce a relatively inexpensive PUBLICATION of the COMPLETE O.F.A. Listings as of summer, 1990, to sell at the 1990 NATIONAL in California. This booklet could be sold yearly via the Nationals and GSDCA channels. Please discuss this option with Lois. Board action would be necessary at THIS APRIL MEETING.

NOTE: The Board took no action at the April meeting.

O.F.A./ORTHOPEDIC April 1990 Helen (Scootie) Sherlock
The new ELBOW REGISTRY initiated by O.F.A. in January, 1990, is receiving good support from the Purebred Dog Fancy, with the highest number of submissions from Shepherd owners. The July Committee report will feature updated figures on Hip & Elbow submissions for our Breed. There are two Board Meetings per year held by the O.F.A., in mid-to-late April and October. Persons with observations, suggestions or criticisms should contact Drs. Corley or Keller well in advance of these meetings.

Dr. E. A. Corley -- O.F.A. Project Director

Dr. G. G. Keller -- O.F.A. Associate Project Director

Orthopedic Foundation for Animals, Inc.

2300 Nisong Rd., Columbia, MO. 65211 (314) -442-0418

Dr. Corley has discussed with Lois Fryslyn the possibility that O.F.A. may be able to provide her with discs compatible with the "Review" computer which contain the O.F.A. Hip & Elbow Registry ALPHA LISTINGS.

A Board decision regarding publishing the O.F.A. Listings should consider two alternative plans: 1) Publish O.F.A. Listing complete to summer, 1991, in the 1991 BLUE BOOK, if approved. a) Supplements could be produced yearly for sale at the Nationals and via GSDCA channels. 2) Publish O.F.A. Listings complete thru Summer, 1990, for sale at the 1990 National in California. a) Publish supplements yearly.

Not everyone at a National will buy the BLUE BOOK yearly; therefore, if cost factors are reasonable, it would be practical to produce the O.F.A. LISTINGS separately, as well as in a BLUE BOOK format; the BLUE BOOK would probably be produced every 2 to 3 years and is expensive to buy and mail for persons not actually attending a National. (which is most of the Fancy). The O.F.A. complete Listings and supplements would be inexpensive to buy and mail through "Review" channels, etc., for all fanciers interested in researching pedigrees for O.F.A. numbers as well as an in-depth study of certified littermates of dogs within a pedigree. There is a large demand for this information. To date, people have been frustrated by the numerical Listings and need to pore over back issues of the "Review" for many years to get O.F.A. numbers.

Lois Fryslyn has taken the initiative for gathering information for the Committee and the Board, in a preliminary study, pending Board decisions. Please consult her at this April Meeting.

NOTE: Board did not take action at this time.

SECRETARIES: IF YOU HAVE A CLUB NEWSLETTER, PLEASE GIVE THIS COPY TO THE EDITOR FOR PUBLICATION.

In Memory Of: ~ Bridgenhaus' Ace Of Spades ~

A final whimper, the last breath is drawn
The soft eyes glaze over; your dog's life is gone
Then foolish tears spring to your eyes
"He was only a dog," you rationalize!

Then why do you feel so empty inside
As if a part of you had died?



You remember now with lack of pride
The times you were busy and pushed him aside.
When all he wanted was to let you know
That you were his God and he loved you so.

Regrets are forgotten now.... they fade away
Remember the games that he loved to play
How happy he was just to be your friend
How happy you made his life right to the end.

But you'll never forget the dog that died
Though the hurt will eventually start to subside
And you may get a puppy (A cute little kid)
Who'll need you as much as he ever did

And if that time comes it's so very plain
That you'll open your heart... and love a
'damned' dog again! _____ Author Unknown

In Loving Sympathy To Don, Helene and Sonya, From Barb

A THANK YOU NOTE

I'd like to take this time to say Thank You to alot of people.

To everyone who cared enough to support us on our loss of ACE

and

to everyone who cared and shared our losses of POLLY and CHARGER.

H.O.D.= Hypertrophic Osteodystrophy

A Special Thanks to Dr. Larry Zeis at Watson Road Vet Clinic,
for caring and for all the emotional support. Also for trying
so hard and spending so much time in helping us.

Also to Dr. R. Geisman, Kathryn at Arnold, Dr. Eckart, and
Dr. Garber.

A big Thank You to Dr. Keller, Dr. Corley and Dr. Payne in
Columbia, they are still digging to help find out more about this,
and to Dr. Padgett in Michigan .

These doctors were very helpful and all listened to me babble,
answered questions for me and are still finding out info for me.
Maybe between all of us we can find out just what does cause H.O.D.
If anyone out there knows any more about H.O.D., Please contact
me or one of the vets mentioned here, if we all pull together
maybe it will make a difference for someone else.

SINCERELY,

Don and Helene Bridges



Gloria McClain



Although I've just put this idea into one short question within the last several months, the feeling has been there for many years. It started in 1966 when I took a dog to a training class for the first time.

Thor wasn't my first dog; he was the fourth dog in my life. But he was my first dog who decided one day, to protect me from a young man who was handing me some car keys. One close call was enough. Convinced that I had a vicious dog, a few phone calls pointed me toward a tough training school run by a guard dog trainer.

The first day of class, two dogs showed some aggression toward each other. In spite of their large size, and without a word to either owner, the trainer grabbed each dog's leash and hanged them several feet off the ground, dangling in mid-air by their choke-chains until they stopped struggling. He then lowered them, nose-to-nose. One dog, his tail between his legs, probably never again attempted anything more aggressive than biting a flea. The other dog unfortunately, growled again, and was again hanged with its choke-chain until it stopped struggling. Once again lowered to the ground, it too was silent.

The trainer then handed the leashes back to the owners, and announced to the class that there were two things he would not tolerate in his class: Dogs being aggressive to other dogs; and dogs being aggressive toward people. I gulped hard. I was shocked at such harsh treatment, and scared to death he might do the same thing to Thor. But at the same time, I believed Thor was vicious, and this trainer must know what had to be done, or he would not be a trainer.

What I didn't know then (nor did that "trainer") was that dogs growl for many different reasons. Growls can be play growls, perfectly understood by another dog, as the start of a phony wrestling match, just for fun. Growls can be from fear. A way for the dog to say "I don't understand what is happening; I am scared; I'll run if I can, but if I can't, I'll try to defend myself". A mother will warn you to stay away from her puppies if she feels they are in danger. And of course, growls can mean, "OK everyone, I am top dog around here, and if anyone thinks I am not, come on and make my day". All I knew then, was that I had to get my "vicious" dog under control, and I believed that "trainer" knew how it had to be done. His second, and equally disastrous rule was that you NEVER praise your dog. If the dog is doing things right, that is no more than you expect.

Half way through that series of beginners classes, the "trainer" announced "anyone whose dog still needs corrections during the heeling, should switch to a pinch collar. Your corrections aren't strong enough. So I switched. Now Thor screamed every time he dared to forge or lag. And on the recall, he got jerked

Obedience Training, con't.

all the way in to me because the "trainer" said that is how you make a dog understand that they WILL come EVERY TIME they are called.

I learned to ignore Thor as he sat in perfect heel position, except looking up at me, whimpering, with pleading eyes and one leg pawing the air, begging me to try to understand him, instead of just hurting him all the time. But no, I couldn't do that. I was learning how to train dogs and teach them to obey me.

By the end of beginners class, I knew how to do it, and although we didn't go to any more classes, from then on, when Thor didn't respond the way I wanted him to, on went the pinch collar. I yanked and screamed; he screamed and cowered, and did what I wanted him to do.

As time passed I used the pinch collar less and less and then not at all. But one day when I called him, he ignored me. I ran toward him screaming, and his tail went down, shoulders hunched, and he came. But as the years passed, gradually he began ignoring me more and more, and the pinch collar once again was used more and more on this dog who was becoming "defiant". Often, he would look at me and just keep going. On went the pinch collar. I yanked and screamed. He screamed and cowered.

It was July fourth, and as usual I stayed home with Thor, as he was terribly frightened of fire crackers, and even when the sound was a long way off, he would get very close to me for comfort. But this year, the fire crackers didn't bother him. Not even the ones that were very close and very loud. He couldn't hear them anymore. If he couldn't hear a fire cracker, how long had it been since he could hear my voice? All those times he looked at me and kept going, he wasn't being defiant. He couldn't hear me.

I loved Thor, as I've loved every dog in my life. We did have lots of good times together, but sadly, it was only toward the end of Thor's life, that I began to realize that not everyone who calls himself a "dog trainer" should be believed. It would be nice if all dog trainers today truly knew how to teach you to train your dog. But that isn't always the case. It is extremely important to read your dog in every way possible. Watch its body language. Look for submissive posture; look for aggressive posture. Know the difference. Understand that you cannot train a submissive, timid dog the same way you train an outgoing, confident dog.

At what point does obedience training stop, and animal abuse start? Is it when the training technique is not appropriate for the animal being trained? Is it when the animal receives no praise for doing things right? Is it when the handler corrects the dog hard enough to cause physical pain? Or is it simply when the dog and/or the handler are not enjoying working together? I don't know the answer. But what I have learned over the 25 or 30 years I've spent training my own dogs, is that it is very important to keep that question in mind, and constantly re-evaluate your training program.



Bone Disorders

By Bonnie Wilcox, D.V.M.

Q In September 1987, an 8-month-old male black Labrador Retriever was placed with us as a Leader Dog in training. He limped from the first day we got him, so we took him to the Leader Dog school in Rochester, Michigan, where he was diagnosed with ununited coronoid process in both elbows.

To make a long story short, he was taken out of the Leader Dog program, we kept him and he had the necessary surgery on each front elbow. He has bone screws holding his elbow joints together and has stiffness in each front elbow, with accompanying decreased range of motion. Our veterinarian says Jaime will live a normal life, although he may have a shortened life span because of the expected development of arthritis. We work Jaime in obedience (at novice levels only) and he swims a lot, which strengthens his legs.

I would just like a little more information on ununited coronoid process. The vet at Leader Dog school said it is seen quite frequently in large dogs, but we had never heard of it before.

A This little-known canine bone growth disorder—referred to now as fragmented coronoid process—is being identified more and more. The medial coronoid process is a protuberance on the inside of the top of the arm bone. This bump forms part of the elbow joint. In some dogs, despite the fact that the coronoid process bears only a minimal amount of the weight exerted on the joint, weight forces crush the coronoid process, causing it to fragment.

Signs of lameness appear at about 4 to 7 months, with males exhibiting the condition more often than females. The lameness is usually mild, with the dog exhibiting a stilted gait or stiffness. Breeds with the highest incidence of the condi-

tion are Labrador Retrievers, Golden Retrievers, Rottweilers and German Shepherds; Bernese Mountain Dog owners are reporting it fairly regularly as well. Although most common in large breeds, the disorder has also been diagnosed in Shetland Sheepdogs, Beagles and even Pomeranians.

Why some dogs develop this problem and others don't is not known, but there is probably a strong genetic connection. It is often associated with osteochondritis dessicans of the elbow joint. Diagnosis is made through radiographs of several views of the patient's elbows. The disease must be differentiated from OCD and ununited anconeal process (formerly called elbow dysplasia).

Treatment for coronoid process disease involves surgical removal of the fragmented piece. Although dogs—with or without surgery—tend to develop some degree of secondary arthritis later on, early diagnosis and surgery allow a quicker return to normal function. Care involves keeping the dog lean and maintaining a good exercise program.

Q A month after I purchased my Samoyed puppy, she was diagnosed with hypertrophic osteodystrophy. Her front legs are much worse than her rear legs. The veterinarian is x-raying my puppy's legs every month and believes she may grow out of the problem. Can you tell me more about this disease?

A Hypertrophic osteodystrophy is a rather mysterious disease that affects growing puppies. It is sometimes called skeletal or infantile scurvy, Moeller-Barlow disease or metaphyseal osteopathy. HOD is not a common condition, and it is most often diagnosed in pups of large to giant breeds.

Early signs, which usually appear when the pup is 3 to 7 months old,

include painful swelling of the bones just above the hock and/or wrist, often accompanied by lameness, lethargy, lack of appetite and fever. The dog's temperature may rise to 106 degrees Fahrenheit or more, either staying persistently high or rising and falling in cycles. Most cases resolve themselves, but severe cases may progress to permanent bone deformity or even death from the high fever.

The cause of this condition is unknown. Nutritional causes, such as lack of Vitamin C or oversupplementation of Vitamin D, have been suggested, but scientists have been unable to reproduce the disease or prove the cause. A genetic factor may be involved.

Treatment for mild cases consists of rest and aspirin to control pain and fever. Severe cases may require a stronger anti-inflammatory, such as cortisone. Veterinarians who believe in the nutritional origin may prescribe Vitamin C. Puppies are usually removed from any mineral supplementation.

It sounds as if your Sammy puppy is receiving excellent care, and you can probably look forward to her complete recovery. Because of the possibility of hereditary factors and to minimize future stress, it is probably best to have her spayed when she is old enough. 🐾

Dr. Bonnie Wilcox is an award-winning writer on canine medical subjects and has run a private veterinary practice for more than 20 years. She breeds and trains champion German Shorthaired Pointers. Dr. Wilcox will answer medically related questions regarding dogs in this column. No attempt will be made, however, to diagnose your dog or to recommend specific treatments. If your dog is ill, please take it to a veterinarian immediately, as it may be several months before your question is answered. Address questions to Dr. Bonnie Wilcox, "Tell Me Why," DOG FANCY, P.O. Box 6050, Mission Viejo, CA 92690.



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Blades of grass bend
as the wind blows over them,
but when the storm has gone
they reach toward the sky
once again _____

Just as I'm sure
you will after this
difficult time
has passed.

Sincere Sympathy To Don, Helene & Sonya
On The Loss Of Your Beautiful "Polly."
With Love From,
Barb, Marcia, Gina, Judy & Marilee

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Dam: Grauenhof's All That Jazz

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Owner: GRAUENHOF/Joyce L. Gray 6004 Pierce Ln. Godfrey, IL 62035 (618) 466-8351

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OFA # GS-23402E40M

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ZEDERLAND'S CARALON BOOKER T (pointed)

OFA # GS-18542

Sire: Ch. Caralon's Nicholas of Judeen, CD, OFA Dam: Caralon's Jill of Lisark

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