

2007 Issue 4



THE AMERICAN COCKER SPANIEL CLUB OF CANADA

OFFICERS:

PRESIDENT	Mrs. Lorraine Smith Box 348, Beachville, ON, N0J 1A0	519 423-6049 calowakennels@hotmail.com
VICE PRESIDENT	Vickie Umpleby RR#4 Tottenham, ON, L0G 1W0	905 936-5399 umpleby@aol.com
SECRETARY/ MEMBERSHIP	Mrs. Olive Simmons 14 Caldwell St St. Thomas, ON, N5R 5J2	519 633-5660 lurians@rogers.ca
TREASURER	Ms. Christine Wagner 147 Pleasant Avenue Kitchener, ON N2M 4A8	519 578-7665 cwagner@golden.net
NEWSLETTER EDITOR	Ms. Christine Wagner 147 Pleasant Ave., Kitchener, ON N2M 4A8	519 578-7665 cwagner@golden.net
WEBSITE:	www.acscc.ca	
WEBMASTER:	Jackie Forchuk	callackr@telusplanet.net

DIRECTORS:

BRITISH COLUMBIA	Ms Jan James	250-260-2688 janonstage@shaw.ca
ALBERTA	Carmen Lorenz	780-942-4531 roe@3web.net
SASKATCHEWAN	Monique Malcolm	306 975-0683 malcolmcockers@shaw.ca
MANITOBA	Mrs. Geri Mozel	204-224-1614 Chrono3@mts.net
ONTARIO NORTH	Miss Judy Prouty	807-475-9622 jprouty@tbaytel.net
ONTARIO SOUTH	Mrs. Kelly Gerritsen	905-772-5725 kelgerri@sympatico.ca
QUEBEC	Mrs. Sandy Willshire Larochelle	418-876-3736 larockrs@videotron.ca
NEW BRUNSWICK & P.E.I.	Mr. Dwain McLean	506-459-5235 mcleande@nbnet.nb.ca
NOVA SCOTIA	Mr. Rod Giffen	902-477-9451 velcoff@ns.sympatico.ca
NEWFOUNDLAND	Mr. Jim Reid	709-738-1209 jreid@mboc.ca

A Message From the Editor

Christmas is once again upon us and the promise of a new and exciting New Year follows.

The American Cocker Spaniel Club of Canada and the American Cocker Spaniel Club of Central Ontario held their specialties in conjunction with the Trillium Dog Fanciers Show at the end of October. The specialties were once again a great success. Also on October 13 at the London dog show, the American Cocker Spaniel Club of Canada had their very first Regional Obedience Specialty Trial. I understand from all the participating members that this too was a huge success and they are planning for next years event. All the results and pictures can be viewed on the website at www.acscc.ca

In this edition of the newsletter you will find a very interesting article written by Sandra Lex, several brags, mostly obedience and field I may add and a article on raisin toxicity submitted by Kay Nickle.

If you find any errors or omissions in this issue, please contact me at cwagner@golden.net so I can submit the corrections.

Deadlines for the next three issues are: February 29, May 31, August 31, 2008.

Christine Wagner

New Member Applicants

New Member Applicant

The following new applicant has applied for membership in the American Cocker Spaniel Club of Canada. If you have any objections please forward in writing to the Secretary with 30 days of publication of this Newsletter.

Liz Cleroux 6 Etta St., Stittsville, ON - K2S 1X5 Phone: 613-836-6143

Valerie Mackie 7038 Tom Windsor Rd, Duncan, BC V9L 5W3 Phone 250-748-5891

Sandra L. Maday 9525 - 73 Avenue, Edmonton, AB T6E 1B1 Phone: 780-440-0290

If your personal information has changed, please fill out the attached and mail it to Olive Simmons,

Change of Personal Information

Name:		
Address:		
City:	Province:	Postal Code:
Phone Number:	Email Address:	

REMINDER FOR ALL MEMBERS

AMERICAN COCKER SPANIEL CLUB OF CANADA - BY-LAWS

Article I MEMBERSHIP

Section 7 Membership dues shall be due on the 1st of January each year for the ensuing year. If they are not paid by March 31, the membership shall be deemed to have terminated. It shall be the duty of the Membership Secretary to prepare and send out a notice of annual renewal or arrange for such notice to be published in the Club's publication.

Membership fees shall be decided by a majority vote at a regular meeting

When renewing your membership for 2008, please complete and include a Membership/Renewal Application when sending in your payment of \$20.00 made out to the American Cocker Spaniel Club of Canada. This helps me to keep up-to-date records on all the members. You can download the form from our website. Thanks in advance.

**Olive Simmons, Secretary/Membership
14 Caldwell St.
St Thomas, ON N5R 5J2**

The next ACSCC National Meeting is also an Election meeting and is to be held in conjunction with the Elgin County Kennel Club show on Saturday, January 19, 2008 in London, Ontario.

On Saturday October 13th, 2007, the American Cocker Spaniel Club of Canada hosted its "1st Annual Regional Obedience Specialty Trial" held in Tillsonburg. A big thank you is noted to Olive Simmons who served as the Show Chairperson for this event. Appreciation is also extended to Carol Chalmers and Bonnie Christie for their many hours spent organizing and making this event successful. Kelly Gerritsen, Ontario South Director, did a great job arranging for the lovely rosettes and all the competitors wish to thank Dianne McKenty-Tanguay and Pat Wick, along with Purina, for the very special goodie bags which were given to each participant and dog! They were very much appreciated!

A thank you is extended to Paul Oslach for judging our 1st Specialty! Noted congratulations are extended to all the members who earned qualifying scores at our first trial. This Specialty trial was a noted success with 13 American Cocker Spaniels sporting their skills in the obedience ring. The members enjoyed supporting one another and look forward to this being an annual event with even more cocker members participating next year!

Virginia Davies, on behalf of the Specialty participants

BRAGS

Carol Chalmers & Jomardi's Kosse's Pride CD (Bentley) achieved their CDX on July 1st. at the SouthWestern Sporting Dog Specialty with a good score of 190.5 for his final leg and title under Judge Del Lunn. Bentley has a great attitude and is the best at having a great time whatever he is doing with tail wagging a mile-a-minute. He is a real joy to work with.

Ch Showtime Wickland New Dawn got her 1st leg towards her CD at our first Regional Obedience Specialty Trial for American Cocker's only held at the London show in October under Judge Paul Oslach. Dawn also was awarded the Champion of Record Award as the highest scoring Conformation Champion.

BISS, AM CAN CH Wickland's Web Browser Am CAN CD competed in the Veterans Class and qualified at the same show.

Pat and Bob Wick
Wickland Cockers

Cdn Ch. Wickland's Winter Hunt (Sprite) our little red girl finished her American Championship under Judge Bob Ennis with handler Jessica DeSanto Brickett. Sprite is out of Am Ch Skyrocket's Wings of Gold and Ch Wickland's Gin & Tonic. She is now home with her mom, Janine Kester in Indiana to work on field and obedience. Way to go Sprite.

Pat and Bob Wick
Wickland Cockers

Had a busy summer with Simon (Christycrest It's Simply Simon CGC CD RNCL) as he spent many days at both the Welland and Port Colborne Libraries with the "Sit, Stay, and Read" program (children reading to select St. John Ambulance Therapy Dogs). With its success, the program was again offered again in October and November in Welland with Simon as one of the participants. In August for fun, and to support the St. Catharines & District Kennel & Obedience Club's 'CKC Rally Obedience Sanction Match', I entered Abbey (Lurians Abbey Road RNCL CGN) in the Novice A class where she placed 1st!

On October 13th, I attended the London Canine Assoc. and the 1st American Cocker Spaniel Regional Obedience trial held in Tillsonburg and had a great time at this new venue for us! My first entry in the morning was with Abbey in Novice A where she earned her first leg towards her CD title with a 3rd place finish! Later in the morning, I was in the ring with Simon where he placed 1st "High in Class", in the Novice C class!

Simon and Abbey, St. John Ambulance Therapy Dogs now both having qualifying scores, were competing against all other Therapy Dogs entered in Trial #4 on Saturday....we now waited for the results!

In the afternoon, Abbey was entered in the Cocker Specialty in Novice A and earned her second leg and received a 2nd place! After the Judge completed the presentations for the Novice A class, he then presented Abbey and I with the

“Highest Scoring Therapy Dog” plaque (Simon was a very close 2nd in the scoring!) It was so very nice to have this award presented during the Cocker Specialty!

The Welland Branch of St. John, very proud of how its’ Therapy Dogs placed at the shows and also having one of its’ own earn the ‘Therapy Dog Award’, submitted an article to the “St. John Council for Ontario – FOCUS Magazine!”

Virginia Davies

At the first annual ACSCC Obedience Trial held Oct 13, 2007 @ London Canine Show, Jomardi’s Kosse’s Pride CDX, “Bentley” and I were privileged to place first in the Open B class with a score of 193.0. As is always evident, Bentley has a wonderful time when working in the ring, exuberantly wagging his way thru all exercises, yet able to calmly stay in the long sits and downs. Passing & placing first in an official class set us up for the HIT of the day. What a pleasure to be the HIT in the first official obedience trial of the club; all be it for a short-lived time. Re-judging of another dog after the awarded ribbons constituted the results being altered. Bentley carries on being the happy camper that he is, so it remains being a fun sport.

Humbled to be allowed to be Bentley’s handler
Carol Chalmers

My American Cocker "Summer" is now Thomas' Lil Miss Summer MH (Amer.), SH (Can) CDX. She passed her fifth & final leg this past Sept. in Michigan for her Master Hunter title. If I've got my numbers right she is only the 10th Master Hunter so far for the breed. She also qualified for her first Master leg this August in Canada so is on her way to her Can. Master title. She is currently the only Amer. cocker with a Can. hunting title (Senior) but Pat Wick's Whiskey qualified in Junior both days so is on his way to his JH title.

Summer's shining moment was when she did the water blind in Michigan. A water blind is where the bird is put out somewhere without the dog or handler seeing it & the dog has to find it. Key to the whole thing is that the dog has to have confidence in the water & that when you send them out there, there will be a bird. The pond was very large & open for a stretch but then pretty much choked with water lilies. It was a crosswind so I sent her off to the right in hopes of picking up the scent. She took the line perfectly & was just about to the water lilies & heading down an open channel when I gave her the turn whistle, she stopped, turned around to look for my direction & took my direction for over, catching the scent of the bird & going into the lily pads for it. It was all very quiet & beautiful. My judge was so pleased he told the gallery to give a hand for such a wonderful job done when she was back. Very proud of my little Amer. cocker.

Bev Bettridge

My red/white boy Liam obtained his Canadian Championship at the Brantford show and is now Ch. Christycrest Broadway Star. He also only needs three points towards his U.S. Championship having obtained three majors already with limited showing. He has done me very proud in the show ring. He was first in his class 6-9 month puppy at the Summer Nationals in Oklahoma City in July, went Winners Dog at the Niagara Cocker Club Specialty in New York on the Labor Day weekend and took a BOV in Springfield Mass over specials. Liam is expertly presented by Marlene Ness.

Christine Wagner
Christycrest Cockers

RESPONSIBILITIES

Sandra M Lex
AKC Judge

My life in the dog world has gone full circle. I've gone from being a breeder/exhibitor to a judge and back to being a breeder/exhibitor. It's the middle cycle that made me start to seriously think what our responsibilities are in terms of helping the new people to the dog game. Regardless of whether we are a breeder/exhibitor or a judge there are certain responsibilities that we need to impart to the new exhibitor and assist them to become as enthusiastic as we long term dog people are. Currently I am wearing two hats and can see both sides of this issue.

Judging brings you to a first hand basis with the new exhibitor. I see so many new people struggling to understand what procedures are required. Just learning to properly groom dogs can be daunting. The experts make it look easy, but what is not seen is the years of experience behind the scene. The newbie, on the other hand, is easy to spot, they fumble and bumble, understandably, as it is the first ring experience for both dog and handler.

As a judge, this definitely sets the stage as to what my job is....it's to encourage this new exhibitor. We need to reassure them that we have all been down this road and to just relax. Reassuring them helps to calm their jitters and their dog's inability to get it together. Haven't we all been here at one time or another? I'm sure we have! I definitely take the extra time that is required to hopefully see some moment of brilliance -both in the handler and the dog. I recently had a case where the exhibitor was a raw newbie, but he had this beautiful, barely 6 month old bitch. Both were at odds with one another. I told the young man to put his lead up around the dog's neck and to take the dog down and back slowly and sure enough, they did it perfectly. I awarded her WB and BOS over a bitch special and she truly deserved this award. It could have been so easy for me to have just sloughed off the exhibit and exhibitor and put up a dog that was better presented. Our first line of responsibility is to encourage this new exhibitor.

My original breed was Cocker Spaniels and I am now a dyed-in-the wool Affenpinscher person. Both of these breeds require grooming of varying degrees. I left cockers for a variety of reasons but the one that perhaps was the deciding factor was the 2 to 3 hours of drying and the volume of hair that one had to contend with. Neither of these breeds is easy and I have to restrain myself in the ring to find a pair of scissors and clippers and change the appearance of the animal. This is where I have, from time to time, taken an exhibitor aside and told them they needed help. New exhibitors just do not have the expertise to present an exhibit to its fullest potential and I hate to say this, but presentation does count. Bringing into the ring a recently washed dog and one who has been trimmed over a period of time is something to behold. Grooming the day before the show does not count and learning the tricks of the trade can take years. Dealing with breeds that I am very familiar with, I carefully tell the people that they need help and suggest they talk to other exhibitors for help. If this isn't possible, I always tell the exhibitor to come back and chat with me later. Seeing past the poor grooming can be a leap of faith on anyone's part. I, as a judge, cannot do the work that is needed but this is, in my opinion, my responsibility to help new people conquer a very complex area in showing their dog. Whether they accept this challenge is yet another issue.

Even though I note the lack of handling and presentation in the ring, I often question myself as to what role the breeder has played in helping ensure a positive experience for the newbie? Every one of these new people bought a dog from a breeder. As a breeder, it is our responsibility to be sure that we partner

the right person with the right dog. We cannot make rash decisions and just assume that all will be well.

This is pie in the sky thinking. I feel that the breeder has a responsibility that lasts far longer than simply seeing the dog out the door and thinking the newbie will be able to deal with the challenges that lay ahead.

We have to ask ourselves, how did *we* first deal with going to shows and understanding the whole system? It was frightening and unless these people are assisted in their first venture into the ring, we are going to lose them. We cannot afford to let this happen!

We have to make a commitment to the newbie to help them as much as we can. Because they are showing a puppy from our breeding, in my opinion, they are reflecting us. What does this entail? As much as you try to guide someone with making out entry forms, helping with the grooming, getting them to understand a show schedule, I am sure that nothing prepares them for the first time they have to go into the ring and deal with a judge, along with trying to make a 6 month old puppy behave. Perhaps it is our responsibility to be there with them for the first couple of shows to calm their jitters, encourage them and help them to understand the showing process.

Grooming is a huge issue and for those with a coated breed, have a daunting task ahead of them. This alone, could be the beginning and the end of anyone's show career. I will never forget the first time that I showed an Affen at a match. Did I have a clue as to what I was doing? Not in your life! I remember this one particular handler looking at me and then looking at my dog. I should have realized then that something was terribly wrong. Our standard reads scruffy, but I was beyond that, trust me!

I feel that once we commit ourselves to selling a puppy as a potential show prospect we have a responsibility to let people know how the dog should look when it goes into the ring. What does rolling of the coat mean? What does back coat stripping mean? What tools do we need? What sections of the body are pulled to encourage hair growth? What shampoo and conditioner are needed to ensure correct texture of hair? What parts of the body are trimmed using thinning shears? When do you ever use straight scissors on the coat.? What do you look for when the adult teeth are coming in? Will you have to make a decision to have some teeth pulled to prevent a bite from going off? What does a bite going off mean? What might you have to do to prevent a coat from breaking? What food products does a puppy require to ensure that full potential is reached? It is not simply a matter of dealing with the outside but also the inside to ensure the fullest potential is reached.

We all know that we start off showing our newest charge with the highest of expectations. Many factors determine how this will finally turn out and it may not always be what we had hoped for. We, as a breeder, need to be there for the newbie and it is our responsibility to explain how the process works. We need to enlighten them that we are not always a winner and that judging can be very subjective. We will not always come home with the purple ribbon and it is only one person's opinion and there is always another dog show and another day!

It is not the end of the world if we do not win on the day!

In showing dogs, there will be times of extreme highs and extreme lows and it is our responsibility as a judge and a breeder to help the new people make it though all of this. It is not only our future but the future of the dog world that we are entrusting with every new puppy that leaves our home.

If you have a dog... PLEASE read this and send it on. If you don't have a dog, please pass along to friends who do.

Written by: Laurinda Morris, DVM
Dan ville Veterinary Clinic
Danville , Ohio

This week I had the first case in history of raisin toxicity ever seen at MedVet. My patient was a 56-pound, 5 yr old male neutered lab mix that ate half a canister of raisins sometime between 7:30 AM and 4:30 PM on Tuesday. He started with vomiting, diarrhea and shaking about 1AM on Wednesday but the owner didn't call my emergency service until 7AM.

I had heard somewhere about raisins AND grapes causing acute Renal failure but hadn't seen any formal paper on the subject. We had her bring the dog in immediately. In the meantime, I called the ER service at MedVet, and the doctor there was like me - had heard something about it, but.... Anyway, we contacted the ASPCA National Animal Poison Control Center and they said to give I V fluids at 1 1/2 times maintenance and watch the kidney values for the next 48-72 hours.

The dog's BUN (blood urea nitrogen level) was already at 32 (normal less than 27) and creatinine! over 5 (1.9 is the high end of normal). Both are monitors of kidney function in the bloodstream. We placed an IV catheter and started the fluids. Rechecked the renal values at 5 PM and the BUN was over 40 and creatinine over 7 with no urine production after a liter of fluids. At the point I felt the dog was in acute renal failure and sent him on to MedVet for a urinary catheter to monitor urine output overnight as well as overnight care.

He started vomiting again overnight at MedVet and his renal values have continued to increase daily. He produced urine when given lasix as a diuretic. He was on 3 different anti-vomiting medications and they still couldn't control his vomiting. Today his urine output decreased again, his BUN was over 120, his creatinine was at 10, his phosphorus was very elevated and his blood pressure, which had been staying around 150, skyrocketed to 220.. He continued to vomit and the owners elected to euthanize.

This is a very sad case - great dog, great owners who had no idea raisins could be a toxin. Please alert everyone you know who has a dog of this very serious risk. **Poison control said as few as 7 raisins or grapes could be toxic. Many people I know give their dogs grapes or raisins as treats including our ex-handler's. Any exposure should give rise to immediate concern.**

Even if you don't have a dog, you might have friends who do. This is worth passing on to them. Confirmation from Snopes about the above...

A NOTE FROM YOUR TREASURER

I would appreciate if all Regional Directors would submit a year end Treasurers Report to me shortly after year end.

Please note also, that ALL MEMBERSHIP DUES are to be submitted to the secretary (currently Olive Simmons) and not to the Treasurer.

Have a safe and Happy holiday season!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Chris Wagner