



The NLRC was organized in 1996 with the idea of creating a national club that would preserve and promote the Labrador Retriever. Everyone in the Labrador community is welcome...from pet owners to old timers.

We are a National Lab Club formed by the members, for the members, working together for the preservation, betterment and service to the Labrador Retriever.

THE LABRADOR CONNECTION

JANUARY 2009 ELECTRONIC EDITION

## Letter from our Secretary

Happy Holidays to Everyone! It's a wonderful new year and I'm sure everyone has high hopes and aspirations not only for 2009, but for many upcoming years to come!

It is the very nature of what we do, we each aspire to accomplish greatness, our plans for ourselves, for our 4-legged family members actually take many years, even decades to come to fruition!

With so much always ahead of us, it's understandable that we are never stopping long enough to get side-tracked....but there is something that can stop us all in our tracks or at the very least, give us serious pause.

That "something" I'm referencing is legislation in various forms being methodically introduced state by state, city by city.

Maybe you, or your home state hasn't been affected yet...or maybe you have been affected and legislation that affects you, personally has been passed....but my message today isn't a discussion of the content of that new legislation.

My message today is one that I hope is an inspiration to you, a message that will encourage you to participate in the next petition, a message that will encourage you to send that fax, mail that letter via snail mail to your state senators, a message that will prompt you to take the time to express your viewpoint on that next Assembly Bill you learn about.

When California was seemingly all standing up against recent mandatory early neuter/spay laws, my inbox was brimming daily with a new stream of informational emails, emails requesting a protest to this and a protest to that because, the emails pleaded, I was needed to please write or fax my state senators, I was urged that it was vital that I take the time to do so. Even the AKC sent emails for me to visit the AKC Law pages, urged me to use their pre-written letter. It was easy to comply, one click on the AKC provided links in order to acquire each of my state senators addresses and fax numbers, then copy, paste and print....to all intents and appearances it appeared that there was a massive stand being coordinated against this impending legislation that was up for vote.

But what was the outcome in California? First, a small handful of actual folks, breeders of all dogs small and large flew in and assembled at the steps in Sacramento to be present on the day the Assembly Bill was to be voted upon. But what happened next? On the day of the vote, the Assembly Bill was put aside for a future meeting, the folks flew home... the Assembly Bill was put on the calendar at a later date when there would be no protesters on the steps. A month later, the vote was quietly taken without fanfare and when the bill failed to pass, it was set aside to be re-written and it is planned to be presented for vote again in 2009.

Spay/neuter legislation in slightly modified verbiage has since passed in many cities and counties throughout California in the months since the failure of mandatory spay/neuter legislation AB1634.

What is a surprise is that the news cited the receipt of "several hundred faxes and letters" that had arrived which helped sway the ambivalent senators to vote against that new mandatory spay/neuter legislation.

Only several hundred faxes and letters? First off, I checked my phone bill, I was personally responsible for sending some 50+ faxes long distance to our state senators. I had used the sample letter from the AKC website, I hadn't expended any extraordinary effort at all! I then snail-mailed each of those faxes to the state senators. Yes, it took a few hours to accomplish and a couple dollars in postage....but I thought I was one of many participants, not one of few!

That means that of the several hundred faxes and letters received that were cited as the reason this legislation failed to pass, I was personally responsible for almost half of those letters? I find it impossible to believe, and I am motivated to encourage you all to take a moment to express your views when that next piece of legislation comes up...if you don't take the time today, tomorrow you might have all the time in the world on your hands.

Sincerely,

Sandra Underhill  
Secretary, NLRC

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## Adult Stem Cell Treatments Breakthrough Canine Dysplasia

by: **Christa Grunzinger**

It's profound brilliance without a doubt. It's becoming more apparent than ever before, and it's reaching extraordinary heights beyond belief. Contemporary adult stem cell innovations crusade for canines and their battles against bone disorders.

Recently, adult stem cell treatments produce striking benefits for ailing dogs; especially those struggling with arthritis and dysplasia. Although human stem cell practices have yet to plunge towards medical breakthroughs, veterinary professionals are finding its advantages significantly practical for small animals.

Maggie Mae, a beautiful, ten year-old Australian Shepherd, has a story of her own to share towards this exciting practice. She, with the support of her owner, Terry Hays, has recently undergone a stem cell treatment performed by Dr. Jaceck de Haan, with Affiliated Veterinary Specialists (AVS) in Orlando, FL.

AVS is Central Florida's only specialty veterinary hospital which houses state of the art technology and board-certified orthopedic surgeons, internal medicine practitioners, radiologists, oncologists and neurologists. AVS was the first hospital in Florida to have MRI's specifically used for pets, as well. The AVS facility is remarkably equipped with some of the finest technology available to man, such as cancer radiation treatment, water therapy, CAT scans, ultrasounds, and so much more. AVS staffs approximately 30 outstanding, specialty veterinarians.

With one of the finest veterinary teams supporting her, on May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2008, Maggie Mae used adult stem cells from her own belly fat to treat the dysplasia in both of her hips as well as her arthritic elbow. Performed in two separate procedures, the belly fat was first taken from Maggie's stomach and then sent to VET STEM, one of the nation's leading stem cell regenerative laboratories, located in California. At Vet Stem, Maggie Mae's adult stem cells were extracted from her belly fat, then deposited into syringes, and returned to AVS for reinjection of the cells into Maggie Mae's three problem areas.

"The injections took a total of 15 minutes and Maggie Mae didn't need to be anesthetized for the procedure," said Dr. de Haan, who has performed 6 other stem cell treatments before Maggie Mae's.

Since the procedure, Maggie Mae shows signs of considerable improvement. The procedure was a sensational relief compared to the more conservative approaches she previously attempted, such as acupuncture, herbs, supplements like Glycoflex, and pain medications such as Deramaxx. Maggie Mae now gallops about, barking happily at the world around her.

"I truly think everything has helped in some ways," conveyed Terry Hays, "but since the procedure, she's able to get on the couch, and she couldn't ever do that before."

For the first time in quite awhile, Maggie Mae is able to express excitement through her own body language. In less than two months following the procedure, her activity levels increased and her spirits lightened.

"You can tell she's happier and in less pain, but her improvement window is still wide-open," said Hays.

"Typically, we see improvements take place within two to four weeks after the procedure, however, we sometimes see continual improvements even months later," expressed Dr. de Haan.

Compared to a more aggressive treatment alternative for animals with dysplasia, the recovery and improvement period is significantly less than that of a total hip replacement, which can take at least three to four months for recovery. Stem cell treatments are also a more cost effective option for pet owners instead of total bone replacements. At AVS, it runs approximately \$2500 for a stem cell procedure and up to \$5000 or more for a hip replacement on small animals.

(Continued page 4)

*"Members of the greyhound family are the fastest of all dogs with speeds of up to 42 mph."*

*"About 80% of dog owners buy their dog a present for holidays and birthdays."*

*"More than half of dog owners sign their letters and cards from themselves and their pets."*

## Understanding the Importance of Vaccines

(The following information is not all-inclusive and has been compiled only as basic information on the subject of vaccination protocol. Portions of this article are derived from an article written by Valerie Whalen, co-authored by Margo Carter)

I cannot emphasize enough the importance of completing the entire series of puppy inoculations. Vaccinations are vital to the health of your puppy. Please discuss a vaccination schedule with your veterinarian during the puppy's wellness checkup as vaccine protocols may vary depending on the area in which you live.

Immunity is the body's ability to cope with disease and foreign agents which are viral or bacterial.

Vaccines work by activating the immune system. Each injection introduces a carefully prepared agent called an antigen that is similar to the virus itself. Your puppy's body recognizes the antigen as a foreign agent which triggers the immune system to make antibodies or protective agents within the body that fight against the virus.

Puppies receive disease immunity while nursing with their mother. Disease immunity is in the form of antibodies passed through the milk (colostrum, or first milk). Antibodies received from mom will provide the puppy with a temporary immunity (passive immunity) to whatever mom is immune to. Because this is "passive" immunity, antibodies in the puppy's body are from mom and have not yet been produced by the puppy's own body. Mom obtains antibodies from prior vaccination or by natural exposure to the disease. If mom is immune to the common infectious canine diseases, her puppies will most likely be protected for about 6 to 16 weeks after birth, but, only if they consumed the colostrums just after birth.

At some point during this 8 to 14 week period, the protection against disease, received from mom's antibodies, will wane and the puppy will have to start making his own antibodies. There is a period of time when there aren't enough maternal antibodies to protect the puppy against disease, but just enough antibodies remaining that will cause the vaccine not to work. It is during this "window of susceptibility" when maternal antibody levels drop, and before the puppy's own immune system is competent, that they are vulnerable to many diseases. This is why breeders often times take the greatest precautions in asking you to wear clean clothes when visiting, remove your shoes at the door, don't visit kennels or places where other dogs have been prior to you visiting their home, and to please *not touch* and play with the puppies.

The reason vaccines are given in a series? The maternal antibodies temporarily afford protection from disease however, they can also block active immunization from vaccines while antibody levels may be high. If there is still adequate maternal antibodies present, the vaccine virus will be destroyed just as if it were a real infection. Since there is no way to determine exactly when mom's antibodies decline to a low enough level for the vaccination to be effective, it is necessary to give several more vaccinations at appropriate intervals during those following weeks. Remember, when puppies are between 6 and 16 weeks of age that mom's antibodies will decline, but when is the question.

By the time a puppy reaches 16 to 18 weeks of age, they should be immuno competent.

An ongoing series of vaccinations are important to insure that the puppy's maternal antibodies are low enough for the vaccine series to be effective. By giving a series of vaccines, it is hopeful that a vaccination will have been given shortly after the maternal antibodies disappeared, leaving as small as possible an unprotected "window" of time; that if maternal antibodies interfered with the early vaccinations, one of the later doses will still stimulate the puppy's immune system to produce its own antibodies.

It is important to understand that vaccines are preventive measures, nothing is guaranteed!! Despite the puppy being inoculated, the puppy is still susceptible to disease and may actually get the disease if exposed before the vaccine takes effect. Remember, vaccines are not effective immediately, so, a vaccination today does not protect overnight.

My recommendation is to wait at least one week until after completing the full series of puppy vaccinations before taking your puppy out and about to public places, especially to places where other dogs have been known to congregate. Herein lies another issue – nurture vs. nature. Common sense is paramount during this time.

It is also extremely important that you exercise caution when taking your puppy to your veterinary clinic for his appointments. Remember, dogs that are sick are in the clinic for a reason – treatment. This is the perfect place for your puppy to come in contact with the very diseases that you are trying to prevent with vaccinations.

When you visit your veterinary clinic, do not put the puppy down anywhere outside the clinic or on the floor inside the clinic. Hold your puppy on your lap until it's time for your appointment.

**(Continued page 5)**



***Distemper is common in rescue, shelter and pet store situations.***

***--www.vetmedicine.com***

***Canine Leptospirosis is caused by a spirochete and has the potential to infect humans.***

***-- www.vetmedicine.com***

## Adult Stem Cell Treatments Breakthrough Canine Dysplasia, continued from pg 2



So, what do other experts think about this new-age stem cell treatment? When we asked Dr. Derek Fox, a diplomat of the American College of Veterinary Surgeons (ACVS) and an orthopedic surgeon at the University of Missouri, he felt once conservative approaches to regenerative medicine were unsuccessful, that performing stem cell treatments are not considered harmful by any means, and can, in fact, produce terrific results for animals. Unfortunately, like any other donor procedure, stem cell treatment may not fully solve the problem for every animal. However, this is also a truth for total bone replacements.

Dr. Fox, also an expert in orthopedic disorders in animals, suggested, "It's extremely intriguing, but I think there's a lack of adequate research on stem cell treatment, which is why it's still so infrequently utilized in human medicine. I do have high hopes that it will continue to show promising results towards veterinary medicine. I don't think there's any greater risk of complication with stem cells than there is for any other surgical procedure used to address the problem."

According to the National Institutes of Health (NIH), stem cells have remarkable potential to develop into many other types of cells, and can serve as a repair system for the body. Theoretically, stem cells can continue to divide without limits. As stem cell treatments progress, we may begin to see their uses in medicine for more critical human treatments, such as cancers, diabetes, spinal cord and brain injuries, Alzheimer's Disease, Multiple Sclerosis, Huntington's Disease and Parkinson's Disease.

(Continued page 17)

Please feel  
free to forward  
our  
newsletter to  
interested  
family and  
friends

**Support TVD Research!**

Visit the [National Labrador Retriever Club Website](#) for more info!

## NLRC Membership -- Open Enrollment

Membership in the National Labrador Retriever Club, Inc. is open to all Labrador enthusiasts; however, to join you must be in good standing with the American Kennel Club, Inc. and should consider the guidelines set forth in the [NLRC Code of Ethics](#) when engaged in any activities involving the breeding, exhibiting and selling of Labrador Retrievers.

Two types of annual individual memberships are offered:

Full (voting member)	\$30
Associate (non-voting)	\$20

Click the below links for NLRC Membership forms:

[NLRC Membership Application Form \(that can be printed and mailed in with your membership fee\)](#)

Or to both apply and pay online

[NLRC Membership Application](#)

Are you listed in our [NLRC Breeders Directory?](#)

NLRC Members with full membership rights can apply to participate on the NLRC website Breeder Directory by completing the applicable section on the PDF membership application and submitting a \$10 fee.

Any questions? Contact our Membership Chair:

Deb Arnold 262-849-0962  
[twin\\_cedars@prodigy.net](mailto:twin_cedars@prodigy.net)



## Understanding the Importance of Vaccines -- continued from page 3

Make sure you take a towel with you to cover the exam table. Yes, this may be stretching it but, it is highly possible that someone was busy and the table didn't get properly disinfected before your exam time. People are human and to err is human. Do not pet strange dogs and do not let another dog sniff your puppy.

Something else to think about is the weight scale. The technician may want to take your puppy to the treatment area to weigh him. It most likely won't offend anyone if you ask that they cover the scale with a clean towel before setting your puppy on the scale.

If you take all precautions, it will be much easier for you to decide where you might have been and what you were doing if your puppy gets sick. If you take all precautions, it's pretty safe to say that you don't have to worry about your puppy getting sick.

Important things to remember:

Stay on schedule with the vaccinations and complete the entire series.

Do not take your puppy to public places where dogs unfamiliar to you, have been.

Do not let your puppy interact with dogs whose health and vaccination status is unknown.

Do not let your puppy investigate any other dog's feces.

Between 8 and 14 weeks of age is a very stressful time in your puppy's life. He will have undergone the stress of weaning, moving to a new home with a new family, and housebreaking. Stress lowers resistance to disease, both in humans and in animals.

If you have had a dog or puppy with Parvo, or your yard or your home has been exposed to an animal with Parvo, please wait a minimum of one year before bringing a new puppy to your home. Parvo is a very hearty disease that survives a blanket of snow in the Winter. Contaminated clothing, shoes, blankets and crates can also spread the virus. Bleach is a very good disinfectant.

Discuss with your veterinarian, the need to vaccinate for any specific diseases in your area for which your puppy may be at higher risk.

Veterinary vaccinologists are now recommending new protocols for dogs: (Dr. W. Jean Dodds, DVM, J Am Vet Med Assoc 217:1021-1024, 2000)

Puppy vaccination series as discussed above, followed by a booster at one year of age

Administration of further boosters in a combination vaccine every three years or as split components alternating every other year until

The pet reaches geriatric age, at which time booster vaccination is likely to be unnecessary and may be unadvisable for those with aging or immunologic disorders. In the intervening years between booster vaccinations, and in the case of geriatric pets, circulating humoral immunity can be evaluated by measuring serum vaccine antibody titers as an indication of the presence of immune memory. Titers do not distinguish between immunity generated by vaccination and/or exposure to the disease, although the magnitude of immunity produced just by vaccination is usually lower.

When adequate immuno competence has been established there is little reason to introduce unnecessary antigen and preservatives by administering booster vaccines. By an annual titer, one can assess whether a given immune response has fallen below levels of adequate immune competence or immune memory. In that event, an appropriate vaccine booster can be administered.

(Dr. W. Jean Dodds, DVM, J Am Vet Med Assoc 217:1021-1024, 2000)

*"Lyme disease is very different in the dog than in humans. Weeks to months after infection, arthritis signs are noticed in dogs, sometimes there is a fever."*

--www.maristavet.com

*Lyme disease in the dog is the most easily eliminated cause of chronic joint disease.*

--www.marvistavet.com

*If a feeding tick is removed within 48 hours of attachment, the spirochete from the tick cannot be transmitted and the host will not get the disease.*

--www.marvistavet.com

## ALL BREED EYE and HEART CLINIC April 4th, 2009

An All Breed Eye (including sample collection for Optigen tests) will be held April 4, 2009 at Belquest Kennel located at 18745 Penn Shop Road, Mt. Airy, Maryland 21771 (301) 831-7507

Dr. Nancy Bromberg will be doing CERF exams and Dr. Luis Braz-Ruivo will be doing exams for OFA Cardiac clearances. Dr. Braz-Ruivo are Board Certified in their specialty fields. We will also be offering sample collection for OptiGen tests and micro-chipping for those who need to meet the OFA and CERF permanent identification requirements. Costs for CERF exam is \$35 per dog, Cardiac exam is \$40 per dog, OptiGen collection \$5 per dog, microchip \$25 per dog. (This does not include the fees for registering your dog with OFA, CERF or OptiGen). Visit [www.OptiGen.com](http://www.OptiGen.com) for test details and OptiGen submission requirements and fees. Use code LRCP949. We ask that dogs arrive 30 minutes prior to their scheduled appointment time to fill out paperwork.

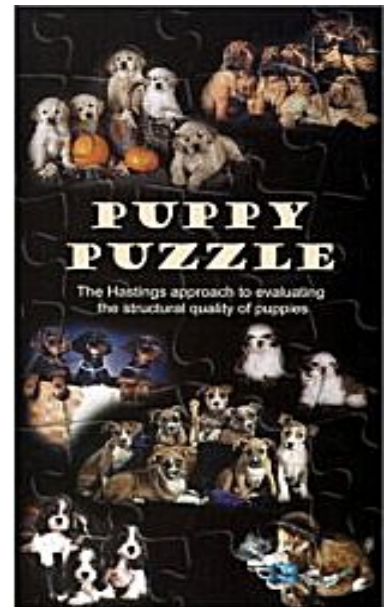
Please call 301-831- 7507 or 410-795-8395 to make your appointment.

## Puppy Puzzle, by Pat Hastings re-visited

Please feel free to **submit** your puppy selection experiences

The Puppy Puzzle Video by Pat Hastings is an in-depth look at the underlying skeletal structure of a young puppy. It has been a must-have part of our reference collection for years and is deserving of mention should anyone not be aware of it. When looking for the best in your litter, the Puppy Puzzle explains in excellent detail how to make the best possible choice amongst your puppies for that future hopeful.

Margo Carter ([McNeil Labradors](#)) emailed to say, "I've had the VHS tape for about seven years and have religiously used it. It's great and she [Pat Hastings] gives a delightful seminar. My experience with her evaluation method has been very good and what I see when I evaluate puppies is what I see as they grow into adulthood so I could definitely recommend this tape."



PUPPY PUZZLE

by: Pat Hastings

## Four Stages of the Estrous Cycle in the Bitch by: Margo Carter

Breeding is not simply putting two dogs together and having puppies 63 days later.

The science of breeding "Theriogenology" is actually quite complicated from the perspective of the Estrous cycle of the bitch - estrogen rise, first rise in progesterone, LH surge, ovulation, fertile period, breeding, waiting to confirm pregnancy or simply waiting for puppies.

The estrous cycle of the bitch consists of four stages:

**Proestrus:** visible signs of heat with swelling, bloody, bright red discharge, attraction to males. Estrogen levels begin to rise.

**Estrus:** bitch becomes receptive and exhibits behavior such as flagging and humping. The vulva softens and decreases in size and blood color becomes clear to straw-colored.

**Diestrus:** signifies the end of the fertile period. Progesterone levels continue to rise and remain elevated during diestrus whether pregnant or not.

**Anestrus:** transition period between one heat cycle and the next cycle.

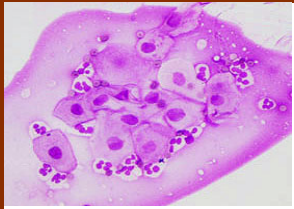
Many of us at one time or another have practiced the "poke and hope" theory of "just breed her on the 12<sup>th</sup>, 13, and 14<sup>th</sup> days" and our bitches get bred without truly knowing how we did it!

Most bitches are receptive to being bred over a period of time however, it is important to understand that the fertile period is relatively short.

The egg, ready to be fertilized, is viable for only 48 to 72 hours. Because the sperm lives for 6 – 11 days in the reproductive tract, you may actually have a breeding date that occurred well ahead of the fertile period.

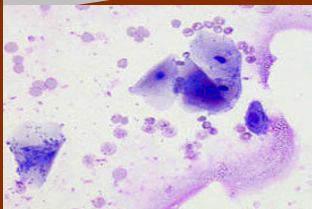
Breed timing is crucial in a well managed breeding program. Progesterone assays are useful in determining ovulation timing for natural breedings. In-clinic testing and home kits are available. Luteinizing hormone (LH) assays are useful in determining ovulation timing for frozen or chilled semen breedings. LH is also used to accurately identify the whelping date.

No test is completely reliable, however, breeding is more successful when parameters are used and evaluated.



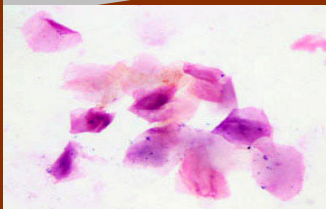
*Cells examined in early proestrus.*

--www.vet.uga.edu



*Cells examined in late proestrus.*

--www.vet.uga.edu



*Cells examined in estrus.*

--www.vet.uga.edu



## BIS CH BELQUEST LOVELY LADY LUMPS WC – “FERGIE”

Vicky Creamer's ([Belquest Kennel](#)) BIS CH Belquest Lovely Lady Lumps WC, “Fergie” is the number one Lab in Breed Points for 2008 in the country!!! This is the 6th time Vicky Creamer has owned the number one lab in the country in breed standing. Some years the number one was sired by one of Vicky's boys, but this is a first for Vicky as Fergie is her first bitch and was also bred by Vicky! Fergie is entered at Westminster.



## CH GATEWAY'S NOTHING BUT TROUBLE – "TROUBLE"

Vicky Creamer's ([Belquest Kennel](#)) CH Gateway's Nothing But Trouble, "Trouble" who was RDW in April at Potomac from the 9-18 class was Best of Opposite Sex in Sweeps at the Mid-Jersey LRC Show and the next day at Mid-Jersey LRC Show Trouble was Best in Sweeps. Trouble goes Winner's Dog, Best of Winners and receives a JAM at the LRC National Specialty. Trouble finishes his Championship in style with four majors!



## HUNT CLUB CLAYVIEW SUPER NOVA AT BELQUEST – “SUPER”

Vicky Creamer's ([Belquest Kennel](#)) Hunt Club Clayview Super Nova at Belquest, “Super” went Best Puppy at the National during the October 2008 Show.



## UCI Int'l CH LOBUFF's TIGERLILY – "TIGGER"

Barbara Meek's UCI Int'l CH Lobuff's Tigerlily, bred by Lisa Weiss-Nolechek and owned and handled by Barbara Meeks earned her UCI Int'l Championship in October. In November at the UKC show she went BOB over 2 top 10 UKC grand champion Labradors and then on to a group 2 win. Above is our Christmas picture taken at the UKC show. We are hoping for a good AKC year ahead.



## AM/CAN CH MARSHYHOPE'S SATISFACTION, CGC, WC, CD, RA – "HUDSON"

Natalie Maticka's ([Drakemoon Labradors](#)) AM / CAN CH Marshyhope's Satisfaction, CGC, WC, CD, RA - "Hudson" finished his RA at the New River Valley KC Obedience/Rally Trials and earned his WC at the LRC National Specialty.



## UKC CH NIRVANA'S BLUE LOTUS – “GINA”

Marie Zimmerman's (Domenico Labrador Retrievers) UKC CH Nirvana's Blue Lotus - "Gina" has earned her UKC Championship at the High Plains Kennel Club show on 11/22/2008. Gina has a group 3 and a group 4 placement in the Gundog Group. BISS CH Big Sky's Stone Kutter x Nirvana's Center of Bliss. Whelped 9/16/2006, owners are Marie Zimmerman, Denise Hamel and Barry Richards.



## EARTHSEA UNFORGETTABLE – “MAISEY”

Cathy Montgomery's ([Earthsea Labradors](#)) Earthsea Unforgettable - "Maisey" has earned congratulations on her first two passes towards her JH title. Bred by Earthsea Labradors, owned by Keven Rathgeber and Jeanette Donolon. Maisey is out of Windrush-N-Manora's NY NY and Killingworth's Hatteras Blue. Go Maisey!!



## CH DANBRIDGE HENRY J – “HANK”

Marilyn Meewes' ([Danbridge Labradors](#)) has a new champion! CH Danbridge Henry J - "Hank" (CH Danbridge Indiana Jones, WC x CH Danbridge Empress Josephine) owned and bred by Marilyn and Ken Meewes. Hank finished with 4 Majors under breeder judges, all owner handled.



## CH DANBRIDGE EMPRESS JOSEPHINE – “JOSIE”

Marilyn Meewes' ([Danbridge Labradors](#)) CH Danbridge Empress Josephine - “Josie” went Best in Specialty Show under Kendall Herr at the Raleigh-Durham LRC show in November 2008. Josie is out of CH Windfall's Pipe Major and Danbridge Kathryn The Great, CD, RN, CC. Owned and bred by Marilyn and Ken Meewes.

### **Adult Stem Cell Treatments Breakthrough Canine Dysplasia, continued from pg 4**

The National Academies, which advises our nation on science, engineering and medicine, created a committee of respectable representatives to focus on the topic of stem cells. They believe stem cell treatments are quite promising for debilitating illnesses, and should not be confused with issues of reproductive cloning. The National Academies also hopes for the government, as well as all of society, to give much consideration to their advice.

Even the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) supports stem cell research and therapy. The AAMC is a charter member of the Coalition for the Advancement of Medical Research (CMR). The Coalition is comprised of universities, scientific societies, patients' organizations, and other entities devoted to ensuring that federal funding is available for stem cell research.

While using embryonic stem cells for treatment is still quite a controversy, it's certainly not the same concern for those practicing with adult stem cells, such as in Maggie Mae's procedure. At present, President Bush denies financial support from the government towards stem cell research. Nevertheless, after a few more outshining occurrences, as Maggie Mae's, this notion may eventually change over time.

Despite lack of governmental support, experts continue to strive for safe experimental practices. In order to perform stem cell procedures, stem cell laboratories require doctors to also have a license and board certification in surgery, and they must complete an extensive certification course through VET STEM, or the laboratory used to assist with the process. Therefore, stem cell treatments are presumably performed by highly-trained veterinary specialists.


"I'm hopeful Maggie's story is a real influence for stem cell treatments to become more common. I think it's been more than a blessing that it was available to us at all," said Terry Hays.

There are performing stem cell specialists all over the United States, and with a referral from a primary veterinarian, anyone can seek veterinary specialist advice on stem cell treatments for their pet. Whether your pet is younger or older, doctors believe the results are ultimately worthwhile.

"Although Maggie Mae is approximately ten years old, I do believe we may have added another five or more years to her life span. So, yes, the treatment was well worth it," conveyed Dr. de Haan.

In the company of unconditional love, Maggie Mae and Terry have touched one another in unspeakable ways. Maggie Mae, once abandoned in a Florida residence without food, now has a sanctuary in Terry's, loving home. In return, complete with her favorite "Santa Moose" toy and a wagging tail, Maggie lavishes Terry with devout adoration. She displays clear evidence of her appreciations of being saved by the silly smile positioned upon her face. Maggie realizes she was rescued not only once, but twice. Together, Terry Hays and Maggie Mae make each other's lives complete.

With the facilitation of new-age medicine, stem cell treatments can contribute to the quality of life, while still allowing for natural functioning of the body. This magnificent treatment has the capability of providing new hope for our world's future. Throughout history, progression begins with one small, yet remarkable, step like Maggie Mae's, and eventually strides to create realism in what was once unobtainable to mankind. Maggie Mae's story is one of the first successes of stem cell breakthroughs. Like most pet owners, Terry Hays proves that pets are just as precious to us as our own children. Through experience, pet owners like Terry value the fact that pets are the only creatures on earth who love us more than they love themselves. As a selfless being, there isn't anyone more deserving of second chances than the pets in our lives. -- submitted by Janet Sampson



*Pictured above: Canine Stem Cells collected from Canine Bone Marrow*

*Stem Cells are currently used successfully for: Canine Osteoarthritis of the hip, elbow and knee  
Canine immune mediated rheumatoid arthritis*

*Stem Cells are anticipated to be used in the near future for cancer, sepsis and topical wounds*



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The National Labrador Retriever Club, Inc. exists for the protection and betterment of the breed, to encourage education of the general public who may want to add a Labrador to their family and to meet a social responsibility to its members, the general public, and the Labrador world in particular. To this end, we adopted a [Code of Ethics](#) to serve as a guide.

Our Newsletter, The Labrador Connection, is published by the club periodically when sufficient material is received. The Labrador Connection's newest electronic issue is emailed to members when it is published and all issues may be viewed online at any time.

Visit our website online at [www.NationalLabradorRetrieverClub.com](http://www.NationalLabradorRetrieverClub.com)



The National Labrador Retriever Club, Inc. Membership list is viewable online from our website [MEMBERS](#) link. The NLRC membership list is intended for viewing by fellow NLRC members only. To access the membership list, please enter the user name: *nlrc* and then the password: *in08doNATE2tvd*  
Once the login window is displayed, enter the password *overview* to view the membership list.