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

JULY 2017 ELECTRONIC EDITION

Inside this issue...

Reproductive Diseases by Rick Kesler, DVM Royal Canin USA

Biosecurity impacts many different aspects of breeding, and is paramount for success. If natural breeding is utilized, the male and female should undergo testing prior to breeding for infectious diseases, and a proper quarantine period should also be observed. Biosecurity also involves the environment. It's important to understand and employ proper cleaning and disinfecting of the breeding area. Additional, any handlers must also commit to proper hygiene methods for themselves and the dogs involved. Although artificial insemination eliminates the direct contact between the male and female, pre-breeding exams and testing for infectious diseases are still very important when this method of breeding is used, because infectious diseases can be transferred from male to female by sperm during artificial insemination.

An infectious disease commonly involved in canine abortions, infertility, resorptions and stillbirths is brucellosis. Brucellosis is caused by the organism Brucella canis. This disease often is devastating to the dogs involved, with the majority of positive cases leading to euthanasia. It is also a disease that becomes very expensive and difficult to eliminate from breeding stock; a kennel that is exposed must usually undergo repeated testing to confirm complete eradication. Brucellosis is a reportable disease in some states, meaning the diagnosis must be reported to the proper agencies because the disease is deemed to be a public health risk. Your veterinarian can provide more specific information on this.

Brucella canis may also cause reproductive problems in the stud dog. Common clinical signs vary, but may include the loss of libido, pain on breeding, inflammation of different parts of the male reproductive tract and infertility. There are systemic signs that can occur, such as ocular disease and spinal disk disease. In some cases, especially early in the disease, no clinical signs are apparent. Screening of the stud prior to breeding is critical to prevent transmission to the female. Testicular pain or uneven testical size due to inflammation can be suggestive of the disease. Brucella canis also affects puppies. Infected puppies that are born alive may fail to thrive and die early in life, or appear clinically normal in the early stages and show signs later in life.

Testing for brucellosis is important, but understanding the results can sometimes be difficult. Often we see false negatives or false positives depending on the specific test, so it is critical that the breeder and his or her veterinarian discuss the tests used and the interpretation of the results. It is often recommended that breeding dogs have two negative tests before being introduced in to a breeding program. Testing can be done on blood, sperm or swabs of the vagina.

Brucella canis is easily spread between dogs. It is transmitted by ingestion or contact with the bacteria through mucus membranes. continued page 8

NEW JUNIOR SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM - $500 grant for Juniors!

The National Labrador Retriever Club, Inc. (the NLRC) is pleased to announce its new Junior Sponsorship Program. The purpose of this program is to encourage participation of Juniors in conformation and performance events with Labrador Retrievers.

Juniors are the future of our sport as well as our breed. Junior participation in conformation shows and performance events helps to develop responsibility, interest, knowledge and skill in the next generation of Labrador enthusiasts.

The NLRC recognizes how important it is to support these young people to help ensure they receive a good foundation on which they can build to become responsible dog owners of tomorrow.

To encourage participation of Juniors in the sport of purebred dogs, the NLRC will sponsor one Junior each year that funds are available. The maximum amount provided per year will be $500 and will be used to reimburse the sponsored Junior for entry fees in conformation or performance events in which the Junior participates with a Labrador Retriever.

All Junior Handlers who meet the criteria for eligibility and who wish to be considered for sponsorship must submit an application to the NLRC Junior Sponsorship program coordinator. The application must be submitted and received no later than the fifteenth (15th) day of September in the calendar year preceding the Junior's anticipated participation in the program.

The NLRC Board will make the final determination of which applicant will be sponsored for the coming year by the first (1st) day of December and the Junior Sponsorship Program Chair, Gail Cayce-Adams, will notify the applicant. Results will be posted on the NLRC website no later than the fifteenth (15th) of December.

The sponsored Junior will be eligible to receive reimbursement of entry fees for conformation or performance events in which they participated with a Labrador Retriever from January 1st through December 31st of the year following their selection.

Applicants must be an eligible Junior (9 - 18 years of age) who are themselves members of the National Labrador Retriever Club, Inc. or children of active members of the National Labrador Retriever Club, Inc. and in good standing with the Club.

Applications are available at the NLRC website and should be submitted to the Junior Sponsorship Program Chair, Gail Cayce-Adams, IvySpringsLabs@yahoo.com no later than September 15th of each year.

Selected Junior applicant for the $500 scholarship must have parental consent to participate in this program.

The National Labrador Retriever Club will offer one $500.00 sponsorship each year in which the Board determines there is a qualified and deserving applicant. The application process will include the completion of an essay and the completion of our questionnaire. An application and parental consent forms along with full details on our new program can be found at the website, www.nationallabradorretrieverclub.com

Labrador Retriever Fertility Studied

In 2015 the American Kennel Club Canine Health Foundation (AKCCHF) announced their need for semen samples so that researchers at UCDavis could study the abnormal semen quality noted in Labrador Retriever studs. Their work is part of CHF Grant 2123-A of which the results, here two years later...have yet to be made public at the AKCCHF webpages.

A similar study at the University of Nottingham in 2016 has concluded and published their conclusion that the fertility of dogs has suffered a sharp decline over the past 30 years. Their research, published in the Scientific Reports journal states that the sperm quality in stud dogs studied has fallen.

Concurrent studies of human male sperm also note a decline in human semen quality.

The reason?

Possibly the reasons include environmental contaminants. The research performed at the University of Nottingham found chemicals in both the dog's sperm and in the dog's testes that are also found in some commercially available pet foods.

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

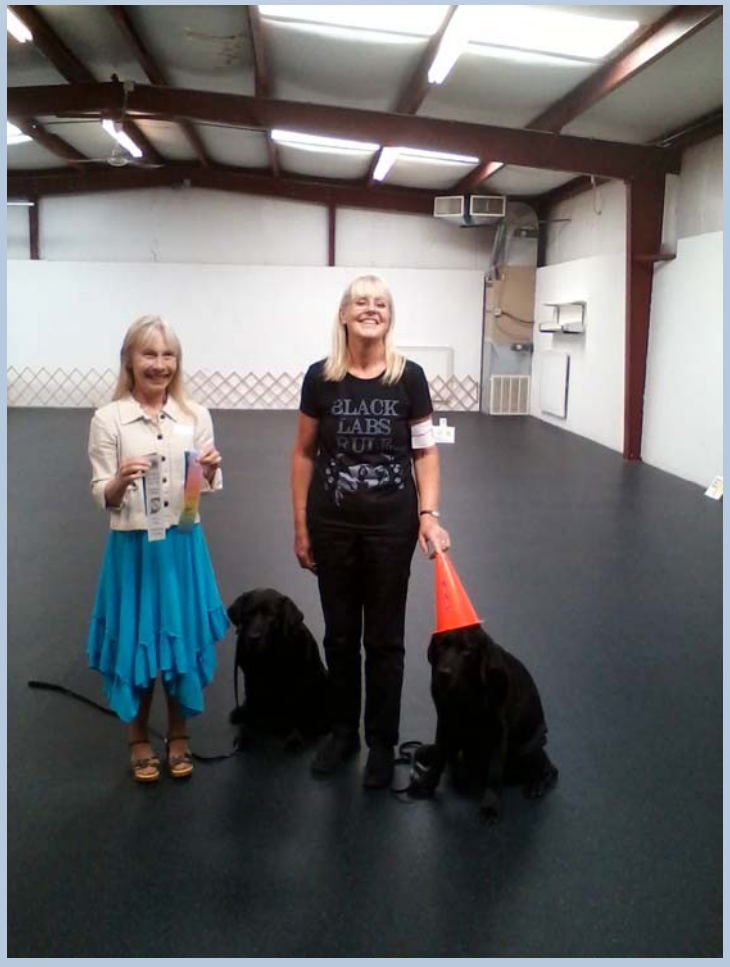
Are you listed in our NLRC Breeders Directory?

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 Interim Membership Chair:
Sandra Underhill
Sandy@LabsToLove.com

New Members Welcomed

Apply Online Today



EAGLE BAY'S CALL OF THE FARAWAY HILLS – "SHANE"

EAGLE BAY'S BODACIOUS IN BLACK – "BRODIE"

Lauren Kincaid's

Eagle Bay's Call of the Faraway Hills – "Shane" & Eagle Bay's Bodacious in Black – "Brodie"

Brodie got his Open Agility Preferred title on May 6, 2017.

Shane got his RAE 2 Title in Rally Obedience June 11, 2017.

Shane & Brodie earned 1st place together in the Rally Obedience Pairs event at the Excellent level.

The boys work well together. Pictured above is Judge Katie Maess presenting Shane with his RAE 2 title, 4th place ribbons and a trophy cone at RallyFest 2017, Evansville Obedience Club on June 11, 2017.

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Eagle Bay's Call of the Faraway Hills – "Shane" & Eagle Bay's Bodacious in Black – "Brodie"

April 2017, at the LRC's Potomac Nationals, Shane & Brodie brought home sixteen (16) ribbons from qualifying and place ribbons between the two boys. Both earned legs towards their RAE 2 titles.

EAGLE BAY'S BODACIOUS IN BLACK – "BRODIE"

Lauren Kincaid's Eagle Bay's Bodacious in Black – "Brodie"

Brodie, pictured above with his AKC Open Agility Preferred title and 1st place ribbons awarded May 6, 2017.

“DUDE”

Lynn deVoogdt (Lone Star Lake Labs) donated Dude to Patriot Paws (Rockwall Texas)

Reproductive Disease (continued from page 1)

It can be spread by sperm, vaginal discharges, urine or other body fluids. However, in the environment, the bacteria are susceptible to many common disinfectants. The incubation period is variable, ranging from two weeks to several months, so multiple tests may be required. If a positive diagnosis is made, treatment can be difficult and outcomes are variable. There is no vaccine for this disease and it can also be spread to humans, so proper awareness is essential.

Canine herpesvirus (CHV) is a virus that has been associated with infertility, abortions, stillbirths and neonatal losses. In adult dogs clinical signs may be subtle, ranging from transient vaginal lesions to mild respiratory disease. Transmission of herpesvirus in the dog commonly occurs venereally, transplacentally or through respiratory secretions. It can also be spread by vaginal contact during the birth of puppies. Many dogs test positive for the virus, but never express any signs of reproductive disease. A positive female may deliver dead or mummified pups; often infected pups that are born alive die quickly. Puppies can also be infected after birth and then show signs such as difficulty breathing, loss of appetite, nasal discharge, excessive crying and neurologic signs. The onset of the disease is sudden and death often follows within 12-36 hours.

In the United States there is no vaccine for CHV. Various tests are available for herpesvirus, and as with all tests, interpretation of results with the assistance of a veterinarian is important.

Other viral agents associated with reproductive disease in the dog are canine distemper and canine minute disease. Canine minute virus or parvovirus type-1 may cause abortions in the bitch as well as disease in puppies that are infected. Transplacental transmission is thought to occur between days 20 - 35 of gestation. Infections may cause abortions or early pregnancy loss. Most deaths of puppies infected with minute virus occur between the first and third week of life. Puppies may exhibit signs of diarrhea or respiratory distress. Diagnosis can be made through testing by certain veterinary labs. There are many other bacteria associated with reproductive issues in the dog as well. Another disease that may cause abortions and infertility in dogs is leptospirosis. It is an organism that was once thought to be a worry for more rural dogs because of their exposure to wildlife. But it is now known that all dog populations can be at rise. Breeders should discuss vaccinations with their veterinarian to see if it is right for their situation. Bacteria such as e.coli, streptococcus, staphylococcus, salmonella and campylobacter have all been associated with reproductive disease in dogs. When determining if bacteria are indeed the cause of canine reproductive disease, it is important to be aware that most of these bacteria are often normally found in the reproductive tracts of female and male dogs. In addition to identifying these organisms, quantifying the bacteria found and ruling out other hormonal causes of infertility are critical for a correct diagnosis. Often, if abortions occur, the testing may include the aborted fetuses, as well as the bitch. Husbandry plays an important role in bacterial causes of reproductive diseases. Standard cleaning and disinfecting protocols can reduce the numbers of bacteria in the environment. Too often, biosecurity is overlooked as a factor in reproductive diseases in the canine.

There are also noninfectious diseases that cause reproductive problems. Hormonal issues, poor diet and certain medications can all lead to problems during pregnancy in females and poor sperm quantity or quality in males. While problems in breeding dogs are generally uncommon, there are diseases that can occur and their determination as the inciting cause of disease can be complicated. See your veterinarian for help with prevention strategies for infectious diseases for your kennel.

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Veterinary Consultant: Autumn Davidson

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