



Ruff Notes

Lawsuit Over Veterinary Drug Settled

Jean Townsend of Johns Island, South Carolina announced today that a settlement has been reached with Pfizer, Inc. in what appears to be the first lawsuit of its kind in this country a lawsuit over injuries that led to the death of Ms. Townsend's chocolate lab, George. Ms. Townsend originally brought a class action lawsuit against Pfizer in October of 1999, two years after the tragic death of George. The lawsuit alleged that after initial approval by the FDA, the drug RimadylB., which was the subject of an unprecedented multi-million dollar advertising campaign, was marketed without a complete understanding of the serious side-effects that could result from the

drug. Ms. Townsend also alleged that neither she nor her vet were adequately warned of the potential side-effects. After administering the drug for only 14 days, George developed severe internal bleeding and ultimately liver failure. George was euthanized on October 13, 1997. In reaching the settlement, Pfizer has admitted no wrongdoing.

"It was truly horrible," said Townsend of the experience. "But the most troubling aspect of the ordeal was when I later learned that similar side-effects had been reported to Pfizer and the FDA months before I first gave the drug to my dog. Yet even after my pet became sick, I continued to give him the pills because they were supposed to make him feel better.

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From the Presidential Kennel

Summer has slipped by us, but there are still plenty of opportunities to help out at MBDTTC events: coming up this month, club members will be showing off their dogs at the Santa Cruz County Fair. Kudos to Michael Bashista for stepping up to the challenge of recruiting and organizing volunteers for yet another Fair Demo! The Demo will run Tuesday through Saturday, September 14-18. If you'd like to help out, please give Michael a call.

Kudos also go out to Luane Vidak for taking on

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Upcoming Events

Sep 13 Board Meeting

Sep 28 Watsonville Classes Start

Sep 14-18 Fair Demo

Sep 22 Ruff Notes Deadline

DEC 12 Hold this date open for our annual Christmas Dinner

Sep 25 General Membership Mtg

PETA Protests Showing Dogs

The Bravo TV station is planning a show to feature dog show breeders and all they go through. This is a show we should support. PETA, on the other hand, believes no one should breed anything! They are asking all their people to oppose showing good breeders on TV! So please write to Bravo and tell them you love the idea of a show featuring good breeders and tell them PETA is a radical group that opposes all animal breeding.

The alert below comes via NAIA from our friends in the cat fancy.

Charlotte McGowan, NAIA Trust

PERMISSION TO CROSS!
POST TO DOG AND CAT
FANCIERS AD LIB

Here's the show they are protesting

<http://www.mediasharx.com/index.php/news/2784>

Showdog Moms & Dads—Six one-hour episodes - Premieres TBA—A new six-episode series, "Showdog Moms & Dads," will take a sneak peak at what goes on behind the scenes in dog shows, and the passionate owners who sacrifice so much for the benefit of their pooch. Cameras will roll as these dedicated 'parents' take extraordinary measures to see their dogs shine

And here's PETA, saying showing dogs is bad and breeding is bad!

<http://www.peta.org/alert/Automation/AlertItem.asp?id=1104>

PETA is calling for its members to protest the Bravo Station's new series on Dog Shows and

the people involved!! Cats and the people involved in cat shows are sure to be next!!

Get involved and send Bravo a letter of support for the new series and let them know we support cat and dog shows!

There are two ways to contact them, I suggest you use both:

You can write to:
Frances Berwick, Senior Vice President
Programming & Production
Bravo
30 Rockefeller Plz., Rm. 1485E
New York, NY 10112
646-202-4038 (fax)

AND/OR you can submit a comment here:

http://www.bravotv.com/Contact_Us/

The Long Way Home for Doggie Reunited with Owner

By From 7online.com and the Eyewitness News Team

(Boise, Idaho-WABC, July 9, 2004) — Thomas Gaide thought the caller was barking up the wrong tree. An animal shelter in California couldn't possibly have his dog, Chevy. Chevy was right in front of him, 650 miles away at his Boise home.

But when the man insisted and mentioned a computer chip in the dog's neck, Gaide realized that after seven years, Chevy's predecessor had finally been

found.

The older dog disappeared from Gaide's Hayward, Calif., backyard in 1996. Calls were made to the pound, hours were spent searching the neighborhood and countless flyers were posted to no avail.

It was six years before Gaide could bring himself to buy another black lab, and name it Chevy.

Gaide and the younger dog moved to Boise last year.

The call about the original Chevy came about three weeks ago, Gaide said, after shelter officials tracked him down through his wife, who still lives in California.

Now the older Chevy is living happily with Gaide's other three dogs, including Chevy the younger.

"The first day or two he was like, 'What's up with the new guy?' but now he acts like he remembers me, responds to me and the bond is still there,"

Happy Barkday to You....

Best wishes to all our members and their furry friends with birthdays in August:

		Date	Dog	Loved by	Breed	Age
Christa Cordtz	9/2	9/6/1998	Zoë CD, NA, CGC	Stacy Thompson	Australian Shepherd	6
Marlene Majewska	9/18	9/8/1992	Joey CDX, CGC	Debbie Green	Rottweiler	12
Marion Bashista	9/19	9/10/1995	MACH Logan CD	Crissy Hastings	Shetland Sheepdog	9
Lynnette Smith	9/20					
Dale Root	9/30	09/12/	Suki	Sue Adams	Siberian Husky	
		9/15/2000	Spice NA	Pam Strametz/Dale Root	Shetland Sheepdog	4
		9/24/1993	Sidney CD, CGC	Jane Devlin	Siberian Husky	11
		9/24/1999	Ch Simon	Mary/Amanda Nie	Mini Long-Haired Dachshund	5
		9/24/1999	Ch Daisy	Mary/Amanda Nie	Mini Long-Haired Dachshund	5
		9/28/1998	Ch.Stella CD HCTs TT CGC	Bob Hupp	Samoyed	6



Wags & Brags

From Linda Harbertson

Conformation:

Santa Cruz Kennel Club Sunday August 15—
Golightly LR Chalice of Caerlin, Cholley, (Borzoi) WB/BOS over a bitch special for one more point.

From Carol Davis:

Obedience:

At the Salinas Valley DTC on 7/31 *Spirit* (German Shepherd Dog) scored 194.5 for 4th place in Utility B and a 194 in Open B for *Spirit's* 1st UDX leg.

At our own MBDTTC Obedience Trial, *Spirit* (German Shepherd Dog) earned a 190 in Utility B for 4th place and a 192 in Open B for a 2nd UDX leg

From Crissy Hastings-Baugh:

Agility:

Gracie (Shetland Sheepdog) earned seven straight Double Q's this month with placements that would require a newsletter in itself.

Logan (Shetland Sheepdog) earned 3 Double Q's and numerous singles.

Hot Dog Award

This Month's Agility Hot Dog Award goes to Crissy Hastings-Baugh and Gracie for their performance at the Napa Valley DTC trial on 8/14.

This Month's Obedience Hot Dog Award goes to Carol Davis and Spirit for their 194.5 in Utility B at the Salinas Valley DTC trial.

August 1st Obedience Raffle Draws Praise

I would like to thank everyone for their help this year in making this a great Raffle we took in almost \$ 800.00. We had a lot of great items and I heard a lot of great comments about the Trial, Awards and Raffle.

I especially would like to thank Pam Strametz, Cheryl Dalton, and Maureen Lambert, for com-

ing to my rescue when my car broke down on Friday night before the Trial. I didn't know how I was getting all of my things that I needed to set up the Raffle plus the Raffle items and some of the Awards to the Trial grounds.

I would like to Thank Noreen and Denise for helping Cheryl

with the Raffle while I was showing my Boys, also would like to thank some of the Salinas Dog Training people who help me set up the day of the Trial.

Again a great **big thank you** for all of your help.

Raffle Chairperson: Betty "BG" Garcia

Seminar for Rally Stewards Announced

The Mount Diablo DTC is sponsoring a **Seminar for Rally Stewards**. Rally will be a regular event starting in January. We will need stewards at our trial and other clubs will also need

them. Be ready.

Sunday, September 19, 2004.
Noon to 4:00 p.m.
Cost: FREE
At Mt. Diablo Clubhouse, 1027

Detroit Ave., Concord

Contact Jill if you would like to attend. 408 377 0431 or juliasaint@juno.com

From the Presidential Kennel

(Continued from page 1)

the position of Chair for our 2004 Intersession. If you'll recall, we had no volunteers for last year's event, and subsequently had to drop it from our calendar. This year the focus will be on Rally Obedience, in preparation for Rally's official addition to the AKC roster in January of 2005. Let Luane know if you'd be interested in helping out as a volunteer, as I'm sure she'll need a few helping hands. Look for more details in this issue of Ruff Notes.

So far we have a total of 12 club members signed on to the Ya-

hoogroups page. There's not much on the yahoo groups web page at this point, but I'll be trying to add on job descriptions and other documents as I can. If you missed out on the invitation to join, or misplaced it in cyberspace, let me know and I'll send another one out to you. I'm also open to any suggestions about ways to use [Monter-](#)

eyDTC@yahoogroups.com as a communication tool for the club.

That's if for this time...see you all at the September General Meeting!



Play Day at Pam's Park is enjoyed by some of our members' dogs.

Lawsuit...

(Continued from page 1)

I had no idea that he was suffering from the side-effects of RimadylB.. It is devastating to live with the realization that I gave my beloved pet medicine to help him when, in fact, it was killing him." After reporting George's death to Pfizer, Ms. Townsend was offered a \$249.33 settlement, but the offer came with the condition that the settlement remain confidential. Ms. Townsend refused.

In the months following George's death, Ms. Townsend began researching this drug on the internet and soon discovered dozens of other pet owners who had similar experiences with RimadylB.. Fueled by the growing number of people whose dogs had become sick or died after taking the drug, Ms. Townsend, along with other concerned pet owners, started a campaign to raise awareness of the potential for serious side-effects with this and other veterinary medicines.

As part of that campaign, Ms. Townsend and others met with FDA officials as well as Pfizer veterinarians, urging them to step-up efforts to more thoroughly inform pet owners of the potential for serious side-effects with veterinary medicines.

Unsatisfied with the response of the FDA and Pfizer, Ms. Townsend turned to the legal system and filed a class-action lawsuit. In her suit, Ms. Townsend

sought reimbursement of the \$734.00 in veterinary expenses she had incurred trying to save George, as well as establishing a class action on behalf of the hundreds of other dog owners whose pets had become ill or died.

In the meantime, reports of adverse reactions to RimadylB. continued to rise, and in 1998, RimadylB. accounted for almost 39% of all Adverse Drug Experience Reports received by the FDA. The reports were so numerous that in December of 1999, the FDA took the extraordinary step of issuing a public statement on the drug.

Within months of Ms. Townsend's suit and the "Update on RimadylB." issued by the FDA, Pfizer announced significant changes in packaging, and that it would begin dispensing a Client Information Sheet to be included with veterinary prescriptions of RimadylB.. The Client Information Sheet, modeled after similar drug information sheets included with many human drugs, was to provide pet owners with easily understandable information about the potential side-effects and what to do if side-effects occur.

Ms. Townsend reports that as part of the settlement, Pfizer made cash offers to over 300 other dog owners across the country to settle claims for death or injury to the dog, veterinary expenses, property damage, emotional distress and punitive damages. These individual offers averaged over \$1000.00 per animal and did not include a confidentiality provision.

Speaking about the lawsuit and the settlement, Ms. Townsend said, "I am pleased that through this suit, hundreds of other pet owners will be reimbursed for veterinary expenses and the loss of their pets. Of course, no amount of money would ever replace the loss of my friend George, and the loss of so many other beloved companions." But to Ms. Townsend, (who donated her settlement proceeds to a local veterinarian to perform surgery on a pet whose owners could not afford the surgery) the issue is far more than the money paid by Pfizer.

It is the growing public awareness that the medications we give our pets can have serious side-effects. "We, as pet owners, have the right to know as much about the good and bad sides of veterinary medicines as we do the medicines we give ourselves."



Inter-session Training Program Announced

Hold the dates of Tuesday December 7. 14. 21 for our annual Intersession Training program.

Bea Moore of San Jose is a Rally Class trainer for Deep Peninsula and Town and County DTCs'. She will be filling us in on all aspects of Rally.....how to teach your critter, how to compete in the ring, how the scoring works, what it takes to get a degree and a lot more pertinent information

The timing is perfect. As of January 1, 2005 Rally becomes titling classes. Exhibitors like you will be able to compete for legs toward three Rally Titles. Novice, Advanced, and Advanced Excellent.

The venue has taken the best of obedience and agility and combined the concepts creating a low stress and fun activity. Although the deductions will appear lenient by classic obedience standards, the teams are nonetheless held to a standard that requires proper training and practice. After reading the rules, you'll see the deductions are quite similar to the deductions found in the obedience regula-

tions.

As in agility, the course changes at each trial....a walk thru familiarizes the handler with the course...time is used to break ties if necessary...cheerleading your dog thru is acceptable...repeats are acceptable.

The skills tested come from obedience.

Fliers will be out soon. The hours will be from 7-9PM at the Fairgrounds. The fee structure is: Members \$50. enrolled trainees \$55, general public \$60. Contact Luane if you have questions you would like answered

For Sale

Hazel Welborn has two sets of double bar scent articles for sale. One set is 3 1/2 inches wide and the other is 4 inches. They are priced at \$40 per set. Hazel can be contacted at 831-728-5189 for more information.



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