



Neuter Timing and Joint Disease in Retrievers

Long-Term Health Effects of Neutering Dogs: Comparison of Labrador Retrievers with Golden Retrievers

Neutering dogs younger than 6 months is associated with an increase in joint problems and cancers in golden retrievers and Labrador retrievers, but golden retrievers are more affected, according to a study from the University of California, Davis, School of Veterinary Medicine.

ABSTRACT. Our recent study on the effects of neutering (including spaying) in Golden Retrievers in markedly increasing the incidence of two joint disorders and three cancers prompted this study and a comparison of Golden and Labrador Retrievers. Veterinary hospital records were examined over a 13-year period for the effects of neutering during specified age ranges: before 6 mo., and during 6–11 mo., year 1 or years 2 through 8. The joint disorders examined were hip dysplasia, cranial cruciate ligament tear and elbow dysplasia. The cancers examined were lymphosarcoma, hemangiosarcoma, mast cell tumor, and mammary cancer. The results for the Golden Retriever were similar to the previous study, but there were notable differences between breeds. In Labrador Retrievers, where about 5 percent of gonadally intact males and females had one or more joint disorders, neutering at <6 mo. doubled the incidence of one or more joint disorders in both sexes. In male and female Golden Retrievers, with the same 5 percent rate of joint disorders in intact dogs, neutering at <6 mo. increased the incidence of a joint disorder to 4–5 times that of intact dogs. The incidence of one or more cancers in female Labrador Retrievers increased slightly above the 3 percent level of intact females with neutering. In contrast, in female Golden Retrievers, with the same 3 percent rate of one or more cancers in intact females, neutering at all periods through 8 years of age increased the rate of at least one of the cancers by 3–4 times. In male Golden and Labrador Retrievers neutering had relatively minor effects in increasing the occurrence of cancers. Comparisons of cancers in the two breeds suggest that the occurrence of cancers in female Golden Retrievers is a reflection of particular vulnerability to gonadal hormone removal.

Full open access report at PLOS <http://tinyurl.com/kvw9by2>

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Canine Blood Donor Program

The Veterinary Health Complex at North Carolina State University is looking to expand the canine blood donor program and is offering incentives to owners whose dogs qualify as donors. NC State's veterinary blood bank is necessary to ensure an adequate blood product supply for the many sick and injured dogs that are referred for specialty care or that are admitted to the Small Animal Emergency Service.

“In order to provide advanced quality care for our patients that require blood transfusions, we strive to maintain a reserve of blood products so that this life-saving measure is quickly available,” says Dr. Sarah Musulin, clinical assistant professor of emergency and critical care who manages the Canine Blood Bank in the Randall B. Terry, Jr. Companion Animal Veterinary Medical Center. “Our trauma and surgical patients create a demand, of course, as do those dogs referred to us because they are anemic or have bleeding disorders from medical conditions.”

The need for blood donations has grown with the increase in owners requesting life-saving measures for their animal companions. As a tertiary care facility, the Terry Center cares for the most seriously sick and injured dogs that are referred by private practice veterinarians

The blood bank coordinator, Alicia Ossi and her team collect and process whole blood donations and separate some units into components such as packed red blood cells and plasma for special storage. These blood products are available for use within the hospital clinics as well by area veterinarians.

The current canine donor pool is comprised of community owned dogs as well as personal pets of faculty and staff at the College of Veterinary Medicine. The donor program provides dog owners incentives such as comprehensive health care screenings including annual physical examinations, vaccinations and blood work to ensure that donors are healthy and free of infectious disease.

To be considered, donor dogs should be of excellent temperament, weigh more than 50 pounds, must be between the ages of one to five, have a clean health history, and should have the likelihood of remaining in the area so they can serve as donors for up to three years.

Following an initial screening that can be completed by telephone, donors will be blood typed and screened for infectious diseases such as any tick borne illnesses. Those who are evaluated as universal donors will then receive a comprehensive health care screening, which will include blood count, blood chemistry profile, a urine analysis, and a physical examination.

The dog may become a donor if tests reveal a healthy pet that is not overly stressed by the experience. The donation process, which is performed approximately every eight weeks for a maximum of three years, is painless and involves a local anesthetic. A mild sedative can also be applied if appropriate. The owner may be present for the donation, wait while the donation takes place or can return later in the day to pick up the pet.

“We only select dogs that are easy-going and not stressed by the process,” says Dr. Musulin. “It is very important to us that the donor and owner are comfortable. We follow up each donation with a treat of choice, like peanut butter and canned food. It's a positive experience for both donor and owner. The donor receives excellent care and the owner has the satisfaction of knowing that the pet may help save the life of another dog.”

For more information:

Visit Canine Blood Bank <http://www.ncstatevets.org/bloodbank/>

Email: vhcbloodbank@ncsu.edu or call 919.513.6999.

Chewable Tablet for Dogs to Kill Fleas and Ticks

Merck : FDA Approves Bravecto Chewable Tablet

Merck Animal Health, the global animal health business unit of Merck & Co., Inc. announced that the U.S. Food and Drug Administration has approved Bravecto or fluralaner chewable tablets for dogs (112.5 mg, 250 mg, 500 mg, 1000 mg, 1400 mg).

The company noted that Bravecto is the first and only treatment that has been shown to quickly and effectively kill fleas and multiple tick species for 12 weeks in a single dose. Bravecto also is effective for eight weeks against *Amblyomma americanum* ticks.

The active substance of Bravecto, fluralaner, a new ectoparasiticide belonging to the isoxazoline group, is systemically active against fleas and ticks. Bravecto is presented as a flavored chew that dogs accept readily. The product can be used as part of a treatment strategy for the control of Flea Allergy Dermatitis or FAD as a direct result of eliminating flea infestations. The most common side effects are mild and transient gastrointestinal effects, the company noted.

Source: RTT Corporate News

Pit Bull Saves Boy from Fire

July 17, 2014. An Indianapolis pit bull named Ace has been hailed a hero after he was able to save his 13-year-old deaf owner by giving him "warning licks". Nick Lamb, who was born deaf, had fallen asleep without his hearing aids in when the fire began on Wednesday evening.

Yet, as the blaze spread and the house began to fill with smoke, the warning barks from Ace could not be heard by the hearing aid-less Lamb. Instead of running to safety, Ace then tried to wake up his owner by licking his face until he woke up. When Lamb realized the smoke billowing into his room, he quickly took action, grabbing a T-shirt to cover his nose and mouth and exiting through the back door. He called his mother and 911, and once firefighters arrived, flames were shooting out of the garage. The house had \$175,000 worth of damage, but Nick, Ace, and a cat, Pixie, are all fine.

Red Wolf Program to Undergo Review

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) has agreed to review the red wolf program, raising the possibility that the 27-year experiment to restore the rare predators in eastern North Carolina may come to an end. The N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission asked the federal agency this month to "determine the appropriateness of continuing the experimental wolf program." USFWS will decide whether a self-sustaining population of red wolves in eastern North Carolina is viable or not, given the hybridization with coyotes and other factors.

The 90 to 110 endangered wolves roaming near Albemarle Sound have been under fire for several years. The wolves are often mistaken for coyotes and a growing number of gunshot deaths threaten the group's ability to reproduce. In response to a suit filed on behalf of activists by the Southern Environmental Law Center, a federal judge in May temporarily banned hunting for coyotes in the five-county wolf territory.

Fish and Wildlife ended a seven-year effort to establish red wolves in Great Smoky Mountains National Park in 1998. The state commission said too many pups died and adults weren't able to stay within the 521,000-acre park.

Oklahoma Attorney General Subpoenas HSUS

POSTED BY HUMANE WATCH. In March, Oklahoma Attorney General Scott Pruitt announced that his office was opening an inquiry into the fundraising of the Humane Society of the United States, issuing a “consumer alert” to the public about national animal charities. Things have been fairly quiet in the news since then—until yesterday.

Speaking to the radio show “All Around Oklahoma Ag,” Pruitt offered an update of his office’s investigation of HSUS. Pruitt stated that his office has recently issued subpoenas to HSUS in light of the \$25 million settlement that major HSUS contractor and direct-mail firm Quadriga Art agreed to with the New York Attorney General earlier this month. Pruitt also revealed that his office has met with HSUS leadership, and it didn’t seem to go well. Pruitt says that HSUS’s reaction has been “in some respects, not good...there’s been denial.”

HSUS can deny that its fundraising is deceptive all it wants to, but we have its CEO Wayne Pacelle admitting last year, on audio, that “I think there is some confusion among the general public and I think there’s occasional confusion with, with donors.” You can’t play the denying game when you’ve already admitted that there’s a problem with your donors. Even for an organization with dozens of staff lawyers, it’s hard to talk your way around that one.

As for other states joining in an investigation of HSUS, Pruitt offered that “I’ve been in contact with other state attorneys general. We’ve talked about this on a national basis. ... I don’t have concrete information about their involvement but we are talking about that.”

We’ll see—we’re hopeful that other offices will see the light about the deceptive fundraising of the Humane Society of the United States. As for Pruitt, he says, “Someone can sit across a table and say, ‘We’re doing it the right way,’ but when you raise literally hundreds of millions of dollars, and all that we see so far is less than 1 percent of those monies going into what would be considered local shelters, it is a very fair and right question to ask this organization nationally, are they being deceptive and unfair in their communications? ... We intend to push that issue, we intend to find out and if in fact they are engaging in what we consider deceptive practices, we will bring enforcement actions...and seek to recover damages.”

Kudos to Pruitt for doggedly attempting to hold HSUS accountable. It sounds like he’s going to see this through.

Take a Bite out of HSUS

By repeatedly and continuously raising money using deceptive and misleading practices, HSUS has demonstrated that it is incapable of conducting itself in a manner expected of nonprofit groups receiving federal tax subsidies. HSUS should not enjoy tax-exempt status similar to that of universities, houses of worship, and legitimate social service and educational organizations.



Add your name to the Humane Watch petition to urge the United States Treasury Department to cancel the tax-exempt status currently extended to Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) and its affiliated organizations under Section 501(c) of the U.S. Treasury Code.

<http://www.humanewatch.org/help-us-2/>

HSUS/McCrory Dog Breeder Plan Fails

The HSUS/McCrory dog breeder regulation plan is officially dead. The final budget bill was voted on by both the Senate and House. The ratified budget did not include the dreadful plan to transfer Animal Welfare Services from the Department of Ag to Department of Public Safety, Law Enforcement Division and set regulations for dog breeders in the state. Senate leaders showed exemplary common sense by passing the 2014 budget bill, SB744, without this plan. The HSUS/McCrory plan was inserted into the budget by a House Amendment offered by Rep. Jason Saine; however it was removed by the conference committee for the final compromise budget. Senate President Pro Tempore Phil Berger and Senate leaders deserve high praise for standing firm and protecting North Carolina sportsmen and dog owners from an animal rights inspired plan.

ONE AGENDA

HSUS claims there are 200 to 300 “puppy mills” in our state and 10,000 across the country. The term “puppy mill” has been tossed about for decades to disparage dog breeders and arouse the intense emotion needed to pass legislation. The “puppy mill” campaign always includes kennel raids in rural areas accompanied by media frenzy and warnings that the state has become a haven for unscrupulous breeders because there are no regulations. This scenario has played out in other states, including Indiana, Tennessee, Texas, and Virginia, where HSUS has introduced and lobbied for “puppy mill” legislation. The HSUS claims of rampant puppy mill breeders proved to be drastically over-stated.

HSUS tells the public that these dogs are kept for years and years in cramped confinement without human contact. Yet magically, nearly all dogs seized in raids are ready for the adoption process within days or weeks.

HSUS uses parallel quotes when speaking about dogs and other species.

“The dogs are almost always kept in small, cramped cages where they may not even be able to turn around or stand fully.” (Puppy mill fact sheet-Canada)

“American egg factory farms cram the country's 280 million egg-laying hens into barren cages so small the birds can't even spread their wings. . . animals confined in such an extreme way endure constant suffering.” (Life for America's egg-laying hens)



HSUS targeting children

In addition to a Director in every state, HSUS has developed a District Leader program for the county level. The District Leaders will connect with schools, local shelters, and rescue groups. This ambitious program is designed for HSUS to build an army in every community in the U.S.

HSUS is very busy spreading their message throughout North Carolina. Animal use groups from livestock and poultry producers to sportsmen to dog and cat breeders need to stand together against the common threat of the HSUS radical agenda. Critically important is that the true purpose of this agenda must be crystal clear to every North Carolina legislator.

North Carolina Responsible Animal Owners Alliance, Inc. (NCRAOA) is a statewide organization of animal owners and professionals dedicated to animal welfare, responsible animal ownership, and maintaining the rights of responsible citizens to breed and own animals. NCRAOA, a 501(c)3 organization, provides education and information to the public and supports reasonable and humane animal welfare laws. Permission granted to copy and distribute NCRAOA News and Views in its entirety as is.

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