

A.G.R.C. Rug Rag

January, 2006

Special Interest Articles:

- Christmas party highlights
- Member Spotlight: The Carlson Family
- Don't forget about the wine and cheese party!

Photos with Santa Highlights



Not just your average afternoon swim...read about Irie's injury and intense rehabilitation.



From Sports Injury through Rehabilitation:

Our Journey By Christina Murphey

Our field bitch "Irie" competed in her very first hunt tests in the spring of 2005. Months of training and a myriad of retriever games yielded two AKC titles; Canine Good Citizen (CGC) and JH (Junior Hunter) and one UKC/HRC title, SHR (Started Hunter Retriever) all before she turned a year old. As spring turned to summer we looked forward to a month of R&R before returning her to the trainer/handler for advanced training and fall competition.

We picked up Irie from the trainer, loaded her up with our dog "Reggae" and headed to the river for a Fourth of July celebration weekend with friends. My husband and I thought that this weekend would provide an opportunity for the dogs to "just be dogs"-no training! But just as our namesake implies Murphy's Law kicked into full swing-"Anything that can go wrong will go wrong"!

Continued on Page 3 (Rehabilitation)

MEETING
01/18/06

Brick Oven
10710 Research
Boulevard

Meetings start at 7pm, please arrive at 6:30 if you wish to order dinner!

See you there!

Meeting Notes – November 16th 2005

All Members Present:

Linda James
Helen Dorrance
Debby Gower
Fred & Marsha Spreeuwiers
Diane Senterfitt
Geoff Weisbart
Judi Hollenbeck
Donna Tarbox
Ming Chase
Jane Fish
Terri Post
Stacey Robinson
Adam and Shannon Casto
Roger and Kaye Fuller
Kathie Cool
Joellyn and Mark Brelsford
Sherri Carlson
Lindsey Carlson
Terri Post
Mia Nieman

Guests:

Jerry & Linda Reitzel

The meeting was called to order by Debby Gower, President. Debby made a motion that the club vote to approve new members Linda and Jerry Reitzel and the motion was passed. Welcome, Linda and Jerry!

Debby noted that the Specialty show went well, but we needed more members to help. A special thanks to all of those who helped make the show a success!

Veterinarian Kaye Fuller braved the chilly weather and darkness to do

blood draws from several member's dogs during the meeting. These DNA samples will be used to create a research database for future health studies of Golden Retrievers. Many thanks, Kaye!

Geoff Weisbart gave us an update on his trip to this years' Nationals and the various activities and seminars he able to attend. He reports that even for the novice spectator, the events were very enjoyable. Of special interest to Geoff were Dr. Breen's seminar on Golden Retriever cancer research and all the good work being done in that field.

Roger Fuller explained the GRCA health survey that he and some others have worked very hard to put together and encouraged every one who can to participate by answering detailed health questions for up to 5 dogs. The goal is to provide the GRCA with direction for where its' research money can be best spent. The survey is planned to go through the end of January 2006. The current count of participants is approximately 375, but the goal is 2000+. Roger states participants should plan to spend approximately 20 minutes to 1 hour per dog, depending on individual health history and the speed of the user's Internet connection. For more information, contact Roger Fuller or

see the GRCA newsletter or website.

Several members had questions regarding hunt tests and field trials. Roger Fuller and Adam Casto gave us an overview as well as some detailed information regarding both. Roger suggested that in the spring the club might like to have a "Fun Day" at the Fuller ranch for both dogs and people to play a little with field work and see if perhaps any of the dogs exhibit some interest/instinct in that area.

Diane Senterfitt brought copies of Dr. Catherine Nairn's vaccination protocol. Dr Narin spoke at our July club meeting. Anyone wishing to obtain a copy can contact Marsha Spreeuwiers.

It was mentioned again that there are continuing problems with our club's website, AusitnGoldens.com, and that we seem to have trouble getting a response from the technician responsible for maintaining our website. Linda James volunteered to check into the possibility of getting Clay Chase to handle our website.

Joellyn Brelsford asked members to think about changing some of the trophy awards to incorporate more performance titles. She states that many of the trophies are retired or unused do to lack of notification. To aid in this process, Joellyn intends to place a form in the Rug Rag to be used by members for "win" notifications. Also, some of the trophies are unused because no one can remember what they are for.

Braggs and Wags.....

- Pat Simpson's puppy "Ty" finished his championship at 12 months of age by winning back-to-back majors at the T.C.K.C. shows from the 12-18 class owner/handled by Diane Cooper. He finished with 3 majors, 2 major RWD and a Best Puppy/Puppy Group 1 win.
- Ty's championship made his dam Felony (Ch. Scion Tell It To The Judge WC, OD) an Outstanding Dam!
- Karen Couch reports that "Shaq" earned his Rally Novice title in Belton, with a score of 99 and a first place on his third leg.
- "Journey" (Nieman/Gower) got her 2nd point, went Winner's Bitch, Best of Winners, AND Best of Opposite Sex in Enid Oklahoma her first weekend in open! Way to go Jo!
- Club supporter, Shari Degan's bitch "Tralee" (bred by Helen Dorrance) finished her championship!

Rehabilitation (cont'd from front page)

Early Saturday morning I let the dogs out for their morning outing. As usual, Irie and Reggae began their ritual of running wild in the early morning brisk air. As I was watching the dogs run I noticed that Irie appeared to be having trouble moving as if something had grabbed her on the stifle. Struggling to free herself, she fell over on her right side and cried in pain. As I ran over to assess the situation my first thought was that she had been bitten by a snake. When I approached the area I ruled out a snake bite and realized that Irie had lodged her rear left leg in a hollow. As I palpated the stifle, pastern and hock I realized that something did not feel quite right. This injury involved more than a sprain or strain and I suspected that torn ligaments and tendons were involved. Irie spent the rest of weekend carrying her left back leg instead of bearing weight on it.

Monday morning arrived and we presented to our primary veterinarian's office. After the initial assessment and radiographs we were referred to an orthopedic specialist/surgeon. We discontinued training and attempted to confine and rest Irie until we could get an appointment with the specialist.

Our appointment with the specialist was disappointing yet hopeful:

Diagnosis: Traumatic Subluxation of Patella. The retinaculum (the retinaculum is a structure that retains an organ or tissue in place, in Irie's case the patella) was completely torn from the supporting structures as noted upon surgical findings). Thankfully, radiographic evaluation ruled out fractures and limb deformities. Immediate surgery was recommended.

Prognosis: Excellent with surgical intervention.

Rehabilitation: Eight Weeks including crate confinement progressing to 30 minute walks every day on a lead, sedation and medication will be required, no training until released (obviously), canine rehabilitation and physical therapy recommended.

The next few weeks following surgery proved to be challenging. Although we followed post op instructions completely, wound dehiscence occurred and required additional sedation and sutures.



When the surgical site healed and the sutures were removed we advanced to the rehabilitation phase. Rehabilitation consisted of a variety of basic physical therapy techniques and interventions such as:

Range of motion (ROM) assessments and strength assessments

Physio-Rolls were used to actively assist with stance, weight bearing, and weight bearing, and weight shifting

Balance boards were used to improve ankle ROM, facilitate balance and body awareness, and lead to better joint mobility and reaction skills

Diathermy and ultrasonic modalities were used to facilitate healing of tissues and to decrease discomfort and pain

-- Ultrasound: Ultrasound provides

a deep heating for pain relief and improved flexibility and extensibility of muscle, tendon, and ligament tissues.

-- Electrical stimulation: Electrical stimulation is used for a variety of reasons: to strengthen muscles, to relieve pain, and to reduce swelling.

Underwater treadmill therapy allows dogs to begin the rehabilitation process earlier than normal. Using the natural properties of water (buoyancy, resistance and heat), a low-impact treadmill workout helps the animal to increase muscle strength and endurance, and allows for a quicker transition to land-based therapy. In addition, function, gait and use of limbs are easily evaluated during this treatment.

Rehabilitation therapy was scheduled 2-3 times per week. For Irie therapy was always a welcome event as it provided some structured physical activity in a safe environment. Irie progressed beautifully. In early September Irie was released to full activity. She resumed her training and earned her UKC/HRC UH (Upland Hunter) title on November 12th in Bryan-College Station (as did her buddy Reggae). Irie continues her training and we are looking forward to competing in senior/seasoned hunt tests this spring.

Proof that you can't keep a good dog down!



Irie (with trainer Rody Best) getting her UKC/HRC UH (Upland Hunter) title!



Member Spotlight: The Carlson Family

Although they are newcomers to our club, I felt that there was a lot that could be learned from the Carlson family. I've only known them a short while, but their attitude towards our wonderful (doggy) sport, and life in general is to be admired! Sherri chose to answer the questions in story form.

The Carlson family has owned five Golden Retrievers in a period of fourteen years. We bought our first pet quality golden after our friend and veterinarian, Guy Mathews, provisionally recommended the breed as the ONLY family dog (Guess what he owns!) Though, we are thrilled with Tyler's Junior's Rhodesian Ridgeback, we tease that "Miller would be perfect, if only he were a golden!" Although, Tyler had previously participated in 4-H Obedience, it was 2003 before we had the opportunity to purchase our first conformation bitch, Aimee (a.k.a. Goldrun's Amarillo By Morning). Her Colorado breeder had originally turned us down since we were not an established show home, but two years later unexpectedly changed her mind. After previewing a video and consulting with other Mile-Hi Club members, we made our decision with trepidation. The very next morning, Patricia Williams drove through a snowstorm to meet us in Amarillo. Affectionate, enthusiastic and beautiful, Aimee was worth the wait.

We are so grateful to Aimee's breeder for taking a chance on us. But, the Lord has provided even more generous relationships to help us grow. We are thankful for Debby Gower's patient answers and "hand-holding" through new experiences and for Melissa Jones's encouragement and willingness to teach the basics. Handlers David and Sherri Hurst also have been especially instrumental in the children moving forward. Without their coaching and support, we would not have been able to continue showing Aimee or be involved in Juniors. Through their mentoring, Lindsey (18) and Tyler (15) are learning all aspects of promoting golden retrievers-- from grooming and conditioning to training and presentation. Susan Line and Gary Newton have also been gracious to invest time and experience in teaching the art of dog handling.

To date, Tyler's most exciting accomplishment was a Best in Show Junior's win in Humble October, 2005. He was honored to be chosen out of the Novice class. Then, Aimee surprised everyone by getting a Group 4 placement in November at the Cypress Creek Show.

Aimee's most outrageous stunt recently was deliberately waiting for Sherri Hurst to go change clothes before digging "a hole to China" and taking a mud bath just moments before show time in Canton. She was completely unrepentant--wagging her tail and throwing her head back with a deep, insistent bark. When Sherri re-emerged from her rig, she was greeted by the image of a curly coated chocolate Labrador! (New breed?) Fortunately, Sherri has a sense of humor, though it meant her work was trashed for that day.

As for the future, we hope to be able to involve the whole family. Lindsey has been concentrating on grooming, but hopes to begin showing as an adult. Timothy (11) is also working toward showing in Juniors and Caleb (9) enjoys "socializing" all Sherri's puppies and client dogs. We hope to contribute to the breed by encouraging responsible, compassionate stewardship in addition to promoting good sportsmanship and service in and out of the ring.

When we are not being dog people, we are donkey people! We have a miniature donkey ranch in Dripping Springs and love showing our little Long Ears at the livestock shows. We also enjoy the children playing Classical, Sacred and Texas Swing on their instruments and are clumsily trying to learn Spanish in the hopes of ministering in Mexico. You can learn more about our family by visiting www.straightarrowsranch.com.

THIS FAMILY IS ON A ROLL.....

"Aimee" owned by Tyler and Lindsey Carlson surprised everyone at the Cypress Creek Show when she got a Group 4 placement from the classes!

Shortly thereafter Aimee also picked up two more points and a Best of Opposite Sex!

Tyler also picked up a Best of Breed with his Rhodesian Ridgeback, "Miller", as well as a Best Junior Handler in Show!



Lindsey showing one of the family's miniature donkeys.

Tis the Season By: Linda James

This year's Christmas party seemed to have it all...wonderful friends, good food and beautiful goldens!! We had a great turnout and spent a relaxed evening visiting with both long time members as well as some new friends that recently joined our club.

Jane Fish graciously hosted our annual holiday gathering and even served her family's world famous egg nog...delicious, but one sip and you just KNEW that you better have a designated driver for the trip home. Jane's lovely golden boy "Romeo" was also in attendance and did a fine job greeting and entertaining all the guests.

This year's auction raised a WHOPPING \$961.00 and was our most successful one ever!!! Mia Nieman and Roger Fuller teamed up as auctioneers and did an AWESOME job!! There were many beautiful items up for bid and our talented auctioneers kept the bidding lively. (Some of us suspect that the egg nog might have contributed a bit to the generosity).

Thank you again Jane...what a wonderful way to kick off the holidays!!



Romeo helping Judi with her dinner!



Pam Rabon, Diane Senterfitt & Debby Gower



Judi & Mike Hollenbeck and Mia Nieman



Romeo again, hoping to be of some assistance with the food!

Club Information

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Note: All ideas and ads are published at the Editor's and Board of Directors' discretion. Opinions expressed may not reflect the opinion of the Editor and/or Members of the Austin Golden Retriever Club.

WINE AND CHEESE PARTY

Saturday, January 14th @ 6:30 p.m.
Mary Ann Duke's House: 10071 Circleview Drive, 78733

Bring your favorite wine and cheese appetizer, and come out to enjoy some fun fellowship with club members!

MELISSA JONES
EDITOR

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