President’s Report,  by Pauline Mortier

We missed some of you at our annual Puppy Match last Saturday July 12th at the Norgrens’ home! For those who didn’t make it, the company of fellow club members, guests, and Labbies was as expected—WONDERFUL! A big thank you to our show chairs, Sheila Norgren & Cathy Culpert, as well as to Norm Norgren who made the grounds manicured and shady. To our annual chef, Ron Cogo, thanks for grilling and to all those who brought their goodies for us to enjoy, merci beaucoups And to our judges, Shari & Steve Kirschner, a job well done.

To those of you who have not yet paid your dues, which were actually due last May 15th, please check the newsletter and if you are not listed, kindly remit your dues ASAP.

Much was accomplished at our General Membership & Board Meeting, including the upcoming special program on acupuncture, being organized by our committee headed up by Cathy Culpert. Guidelines for future Sweepstakes judges’ expenses have been set as well. An update on our calendar and meeting places can be found in the newsletter as well.

It was mentioned that some members find it challenging to go online and read the newsletter. If you need help electronically speaking, let us know so that we can get you up to speed.

See you at our next General Membership meeting at Pat Murray’s!

Moving?

If you change your address, phone number or email address, please notify the Membership Chairperson, Jeanine Asch, so she can update the records. Changes will be published in the next newsletter, so that everyone can update their membership directories. Contact Jeanine at (586) 582-0740 or via email at ansileram@yahoo.com

Eye Clinic Update!  The Eye Clinic held on July 10th at the Norgren’s was a great success. We had lots of participants and great conversation. The HRLRC thanks Dr. Ramsey for his time, patience, and willingness to educate us during our exam. If you missed out, the good news is that we’ll hold another eye clinic in 2004. Stay tuned for future updates in early 2004.
Another Membership Dues Notice . . .

Membership Dues were due on May 15th, 2003. Memberships which will soon lapse must be paid no later than August 30th. Once a membership has lapsed, you must re-apply for HRLRC membership. Yearly Membership Dues are as follows:

- Family $40
- Single $30
- Newsletter only $25
- Website Breeders Directory $25

Membership Dues must be submitted to the Treasurer at:

HRLRC Treasurer,
c/o Al Reich
5558 Sunkist
Oxford, MI 48371

The following members have paid their dues for 2003-2004. Names printed in italics indicates that the member has also paid the Breeder Directory Dues.

Mark & Cindy Adler, Jeanine Asch, Ruth Achterhoff-Aust, Katherine Almirall (newsletter only), Cassandra Barrett, Stella Blair, Karen Brines, Helen Bronson, Kim Bryson, Terry Bryson, Nancy Chargo, Annie & Ron Cogo, Gary Cooper, Cathy Culpert, Jeff & Theresa DePorter, Mary Evans, Angela Ewald, Mark Foster, Kristi Fruchey, William Gardner, Carrie Gati, Carol Lynn Johnson, Nancy Manning, Steve & Mary MacLean, Mike & Judy Merians, Laura Michaels, Pauline & Maurice Mortier, Pam Nichols, Sheila Norgren, Freida Paison, Matt & Sandy Pius, Stacy Quake, Mike & Deborah Rathsburg, Laura & Al Reich, Dolores Richards, Heath Roy, Michael Sapienz, George & Beverly Schnell, Larry & Roseanne Seiler, Gail & Tom Shearer, Cindy Skiba, Pam Smith, Marsha Standler, Janet Stolarevsky, Nancy Todd, Judy Trevino, Michelle VeuCasovic, Lorry Wagner, Patty Wayne, Cheryl Wellnitz, Patricia & Jeffrey York Sr., Madge Ziessow

Donations Are Still Needed

The Club continues to accept donations for our annual Fall Specialty Trophy Fund and Raffle. Any member who would like to donate items should make arrangements for delivery to our Trophy or Raffle Coordinators prior to the September show date. Donations can also be given to our coordinators at the July Picnic. Items and monetary donations can be mailed to the Coordinators at the following addresses:

Nancy Chargo — Trophy Coordinator
5171 Field Rd.
Clio, MI 48420  (810)686-0987

Cassandra Barrett — Raffle Coordinator
(269)795-2250
ckkennel@iserv.net
Mail all items to Stacy Quake, as Cassandra will be moving into a new home in the near future.

Stacy Quake — Raffle Coordinator
55342 River Road
Three Rivers, MI 49093  (269)278-1034
huntmorlabradors@earthlink.net

Doggie Facts

Humans have 5 million cell receptors for smelling while most dog breeds exceed 100 million cell receptors.

The original reason behind the Poodle’s “haircut” was to improve their swimming abilities as a retriever. The pom-poms were left to keep their joints warm.

Best in Show was NOT awarded in 1923 at Westminster, nor at any other dog show in the United States that year, because the American Kennel Club put a moratorium on the judging of this prize until a uniform process and regulations could be adopted to insure that the Best in Show of each dog show was determined in the same fashion.

The world’s first ever space astronaut was a dog named Laika. The Russian Government sent Laika into space in an artificial earth satellite in 1957.

The first dog show was held in England in 1859.

Two dogs survived the sinking of the Titanic... a Pomeranian belonging to Miss Margaret Hays (in lifeboat 7) and a Pekingese belonging to Henry Sleeper Harper (in lifeboat 3).
Disclaimer Clause: This list is for litters of our members that are in good standing with our Club and the American Kennel Club and has been made available for your assistance in finding a new puppy. But: The Huron River Labrador Retriever Club, Inc., makes no warranties, expressed or implied as to the condition of any dogs being offered for sale, standards or practices of any breeder, the quality of their animals or the accuracy of any of the information contained within the HRLRC, Inc., newsletter listing, or within the HRLRC, Inc., website or any links from the website. HRLRC, Inc., does not endorse, recommend, or guarantee any kennel, breeder or dog listed.

Reminder: Send $5 litter ad fee per month/per ad to Al Reich, 5558 Sunkist, Oxford, MI 48371. Please indicated in memo section of check the month that you are paying for. These litter ad fees go towards the HRLRC Rescue Account. Please call (248)969-6988 or email laura@lor-allas.com to renew or update your ad. Deadline is the 15th of the month. NEW POLICY: No litter ad will be published without receipt of the fee. Also beginning July 1, 2001, for ACTIVE MEMBERS fee remains the same ($5 per month/per ad). NON-ACTIVE MEMBERS fee will be $100 per month/per ad. Refer to the Minutes in the March 2001 newsletter for detailed explanation of ACTIVE and NON-ACTIVE MEMBERS.

Whelping ‘Waggin’, submitted by Laura Reich

Lor-al’s Direct Deposit
Lor-Al’s Loverboy at Nani-Loa
Ch. Saddlehill’s Tazmanian Devil
Ch. Beechcrofts Regal Air
Infinity’s Sasparilla o’Forsythe
Beechcroft Esperanza

Whelped: May 15 1 black female
Michelle VeuCasovic 734-728-8889
Westland, MI
Email: michelle@infinitylabradors.com
Web: www.infinitylabradors.com

Am/Can Ch. Inselheim Ty Breaker
Alegra Jalisco
Alegra Ciara

Oaklea Lubberline Lord Nelson
Limelites Lady of The Rings
Limelites Cloud Dancer

Due: July 18th chocolates
Bill Gardner 248-437-8016 New Hudson, MI

Epoch’s Edward of Bonaventure
Bonaventure Lubberline Viscount
Classique’s Count on Me

Dickendall Davron Anslo JH
HuntClub Clayview Popple
Bryndafydd Siranon

Whelped: June 29 1 black female, 1 black male
Pauline & Maurice Mortier 517-548-5429
Howell, MI
Email: pmortier@ismi.net
Web: www.lubberline.com

Lor-al’s Direct Deposit
Lor-Al’s Loverboy at Nani-Loa
Ch. Saddlehill’s Tazmanian Devil
Ch. Beechcrofts Regal Air
Infinity’s Sasparilla o’Forsythe
Beechcroft Esperanza

Whelped: May 15 1 black female
Michelle VeuCasovic 734-728-8889
Westland, MI
Email: michelle@infinitylabradors.com
Web: www.infinitylabradors.com

Club Meeting Schedule . . . Mark Your Calendars

August 8 — General Membership Meeting
Pat Murray’s Training Center

August 21 — Board Meeting
Held at Cathy Culpert’s home.

September 5 — General Membership Meeting
Pat Murray’s Training Center
** Acupuncture presentation **

September 18 — Board Meeting
Valley Family Restaurant (Miller and Linden Roads. in Flint)

October 3—General Membership Meeting
Pat Murray’s Training Center
Possible Guide Dog presentation

October 21—Board Meeting
Location to be determined

November 7—General Membership Meeting
Location to be determined

November 18—Board Meeting
Location to be determined

December 5—General Membership and Board Meeting
Held at Cindy Skiba’s home for a festive holiday gathering.

January 9—General Membership Meeting
Location to be determined

January 20—Board Meeting
Location to be determined

February 6—General Membership Meeting
Location to be determined

February 17—Board Meeting
Valley Family Restaurant (Miller and Linden Roads. in Flint)

March 12—General Membership
Location to be determined.

March 17—Board Meeting
Location to be determined.

April 2—General Membership Meeting & Elections
Location to be determined.

April 20—Board Meeting
Location to be determined.

May 14—General Membership Meeting
Location to be determined.

May 29—Board Meeting
Held at Cindy Skiba’s Home
Members in attendance were: Al and Laura Reich, Maurice and Pauline Mortier, Stella Blair, Dolores Richards, Frieda Paison, Mike and Judy Merians, Mary MacLean, Cathy and Mike Culpert, Michelle VeuCasovic, Stacy Quake, Cindy Skiba, Mike Rathsburn, Cheryl Wellnitz, Sheila Norgren, Annie and Ron Cogo, Gary Cooper, Angela Ewald, Sheila Norgren, Judy Trevino, Gail Shearer, Karen Brines and Marsha Standler. Guests: Greg Lemanski, Tom Quake, Bill Jameson

Meeting was called to order by president Pauline Mortier at 3:30 pm.

President’s Report

The President wishes to begin the meeting by thanking the Picnic/Match Hosts Sheila & Norm Norgren for the lovely grounds and their generous hospitality, and the Chairs of the even Cathy & Mike Culpert for all their hard work and planning. Thanks to all the members who helped set-up and clean-up, brought a delicious dish to pass, brought dogs or puppies or stewarded. Compliments to our wonderful Chef—Ron Cogo! Finally, a huge thank you to our judges, The Kirschners, for coming to join us and take on the judging assignment this year. We greatly appreciate their efforts.

The minutes of the general Membership meeting of June 6th and the Board Meeting of May 6th were read by the President, and are also in the newsletter. Correction to the General Membership Meeting Minutes: Booth Photography will be doing the Fall Specialty. The premium list and entry forms are also available on the website at this time. Everything can be entered on the computer then printed, signed and mailed to the secretary. The catalogs last year cost ($9.82 and was sold for $8. This year there will not be a spiral binding in order to save money. Cheryl will also shop for a better price for printing. There were no other corrections to the Board Meeting Minutes and they were approved as read.

Corresponding Secretary’s Report

Mary reports that the AKC has been notified of all new officers and their addresses, phone numbers and emails. The AKC has not been notified of the new editor of the newsletter because of a computer problem, but notification will take place via her husband’s work computer. Because of this problem, no response has been received from LRC regarding possible specialty dates, so this correspondence will also go from the alternate email address. There has been no other club correspondence via regular mail to report.

Field Report

There are flyers available for Wolverine’s hunt test being held in Lapeer at the end of July. Contact Kim Bryson for information.

President’s Report

Airfare for Keith Wallington has not been received from DKC. Annie Cogo has sent a letter to Eric Bergishagen requesting reimbursement for this fare.

Fall Specialty Report

Premium lists are being given to those in attendance at the today’s meeting to save on postage. Pauline Mortier has revised our mailing list to include only active participants in order to further reduce costs. Anyone desiring a list can still obtain one from the Chair or from the website. The estimated future mailing list will be around 300. Annie Cogo reports that Barbara Nowak’s ticket will be $320 round trip. Carol Coode and Jean-Louis Blais are still shopping for their airfares. Annie has not received an answer on whether we will be located under the tent near dogs with yipping problems, or whether we can have a designated Labrador area, parking etc. Annie will talk to Debra Reese, as Ken, her previous contact, did not know the answer. Gail Shearer suggested speaking to MBF. The chief ring steward is Mark Stinson, who is also working for MBF. Pauline requests that all members help in the clean-up after the specialty no matter what. There is no sweepstakes on Saturday. Wendy McNaughton (Kazorp) is judging Labradors on Saturday’s all-breed show.

Old Business Report

August, September, October general membership meetings must have a location decided upon. Cathy reports that the September meeting hosts the Acupuncture specialist, and therefore must have a location which will allow a dog. Annie did not check with the Real Estate office yet, the High School will not allow dogs inside. Pat Murray’s site does not have bathrooms, but Judy will contact member Matt Pius to see about a Porta-Potty availability for this site. She will also contact the Ann Arbor Dog Training Club to see if we could use that site for September, if their members could attend at no charge. They had previously told Judy Trevino that we could rent their building for meetings, but if they got a request for an all day event, we would be bumped for that event. Ron Cogo investigated Schoolcraft College, but doesn’t know the price or whether they’ll accept dogs. After all this discussion, it was agreed that the August meeting is scheduled for Pat Murray’s site. The September meeting is tentatively scheduled for Pat Murray’s as well. Judy Trevino will contact Ann Arbor DTC and let Cathy know by Monday night. Cathy will make the final decision and publish it’s location in the newsletter. The October meeting will be held at Pat Murray’s. The location for the next three Board Meetings are as follows: August at the home of Cathy Culpert; September and October at the Valley Family Restaurant in Fling.

New Business Report

Delores Richards suggests hand disinfectant and paper towels for the Porta-Potty. Membership agreed. No one was assigned to purchase. Mike Culpert reports that the presumed missing tent has been located. Membership expressed a collective sigh of relief. Cathy and the events committee are considering the Attorney for the February or March meetings. Cathy or Ron will investigate and visually inspect Schoolcraft College’s rooms to determine appropriateness for this event.
Meeting Minutes Continued

Fall 2004 Specialty Report

Gail Shearer suggest having the specialty in conjunction with the Monroe shows again. We would have our show on Friday, a supported entry on Saturday, and a supported entry on Sunday if the club wants. She suggested doing the weekend in a manner similar to Central Ohio. The dog, bitch and intersex judge would switch assignments on the following day. Michelle asked about costs. Pauline reports that MBF gets $11.95 per dog, with HRLRC getting the remainder like we used to at the Spring Specialty of previous years. She also reports that Central Ohio pulls more entries due to this set-up. But that we must obtain “Labrador Parking”. Suggested judges: Winnie Limbourne and Betty Bueltelman (who could also room together), and Brandy Leggett for Sweeps. Michelle suggests Ennis, Pauline suggests Kim Meredith, Angela suggests Ken Anderson, Cindy suggests Doug Johnson. If you have any further suggestions, please contact Gail via email.

Club Policy for Sweepstake Judges

Pauline requests the membership establish a policy on the amount of money to be allowed for Sweepstakes judges at specialties. Winnebago allows for 2 nights stay, food on premises and $50 towards transportation. Gail suggests room for 2 nights and $150 towards meals and transportation (inclusive) of their choice. Motion carried.

Cabela’s

Despite numerous complaints of breeders inside and outside of this club, Cabela’s persists in allowing the sale of puppies on site. Annie read her letter to Cabela’s to the membership. Gail explained the numerous stories that she has heard. Pauline suggests a letter on behalf of the club by the Board, which is cc’d to AKC, LRC and Labrador Breed clubs of the US. The motion to write this letter passed. Gail will get addresses of Cabela’s board and CEO. Michelle will then send electronically.

Other

There has still been no refund from Fireman’s Park, who owes the club $125 for the deposit refund. A formal letter on letterhead will be sent certified mail. Judy Trevino will contact the Oakland Co KC regarding a supported entry in January.

Meeting adjourned at 5:00 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Mary MacLean for Jeanine Asch
Labrador Life Life is pleased to announce that the Fourth Annual Labor of Love Auction will be launched in August 2003. The bidding will begin on Friday, August 29th, 2003 and will end on Saturday, September 13th, 2003. The Labor of Love Auction is one of three main fundraisers held annually that enables Labrador Life Line to keep accepting and funding qualified applications.

If you would like to help support the Labor of Love Auction, you may do so in three possible ways:

1. Donations ~ If you would like to donate an item for our auction, we would be thrilled to have it! Please fill out the form (http://www.labradorlifeline.org/auctiondonate.htm) located on the Labrador Life Line web site, and you will be contacted promptly by a LLL Board Member.

2. Banner ~ Place the LLL Labor of Love Auction banner on your web site. Just type in the following html code. There is no need to save the graphic to your own server unless you would like to!

   <p><a href="http://www.labradorlifeline.org/promo.htm" target="_blank"> <img border="1" src="http://www.labradorlifeline.org/images/promo/lol.gif" alt="Labrador Life Line's annual Labor of Love Auction" width="468" height="120"><a></p>

3. BID! BID!! BID!!! ~ Your winning bid will provide necessary funds to aid those Labradors that truly need the special assistance of Labrador Life Line.

As always, Labrador Life Line recognizes that it is through the generosity of supporters like you that allows us to help the Labradors that we all love.

Thank you for supporting Labrador Life Line.

You Are the trainer . . .

You set the stage for the successful training of your dog. Your most important tool is “positive reinforcement”—getting the dog to do what you want with praise and reward. The other two critical tools are patience and firmness (never harshness). You must be confident while training, and you must be consistent. Your goal is to get the dog to respond to your request, delivered once, in a cheerful, business-like voice. It’s up to you to set a positive, happy tone for training.

A Reminder From The Treasurer . . .

Our Specialty is just around the corner, which means the club will incur expenses to make these events successful.

Please submit original receipts for products and services purchased on behalf of the club for reimbursement. Hand written receipts will no longer be accepted. If a credit card is used for the purchase, please make a copy of the bill for submission. Use a pen to mark over purchases that are not of interest to the club.

Timely submission of your receipts is the guarantee to a timely reimbursement.
Wins –n– Grins,

Lor-al’s Direct From Tantara
Laura & Al Reich
Grand River KC, 3rd Open Yellow

Lor-al’s Direct Northmark
Laura & Al Reich
Grand River KC, 1st 12-18 mo

Windfall’s Pipe Major
Annie & Ron Cogo
Samia KC—Day1, WD, BoB, Sporting Grp 1
Samia KC—Day2, WD, BoB, Sporting Grp 2
Samia KC—Day3, WD, BoB
A New Canadian Champion!

Infinity’s Matinee
Michelle VeuCasovic
Monroe KC—Day 1, Winners Bitch & BOS
Greater Muskegon KC, Reserve Winners Bitch

Windfall’s Be-Boppin’ Bobbi Socks
Michelle VeuCasovic
Monroe KC—Day 2, Winners Bitch & BOS
Greater Muskegon KC, 2nd Open Yellow

U-GRCH Oakhavens Waynes Autumn Myst
Patty Wayne & Pam Nichols
F.KC.A, Shows 1-3, Gr. Champ Class, BOB

U-CH Jalin Waynes Fame Us Affair
Patty Wayne
F.KC.A, Shows 1-3, Res. Champ of Champions

U-CH Waynes Memories and Dreams
Patty Wayne
F.KC.A, Shows 1 &3, Reserve Best Puppy
(non-licensed show)
Pretty Darned Good for Her 1st Show!

Rozzay’s Lubberline Dory
Pauline Mortier
HRLRC Fun Match, Best in Sweeps

Way TO GO Everyone!!

Infinity’s Matinee

Other Coming Events

August 9—Ingham Co. KC Sanctioned ‘B’ Match at McCormick Park, Williamston, MI. Classes for dogs & bitches: 3-6, 6-9, 9-12, 12-18, Open; $7 entry fee. Registration to begin at 9 a.m. Judging to being 11 a.m. Schedule: Sporting followed by Hounds, Working followed by Herding, Non-sporting followed by Toys & Terriers, Jr. Showmanship. Judges to be announced. Information Mark: (517) 655-5363 or Vickie (517) 887-6310

September 25—Iroquois Labrador Retriever Club Seminar: "What Makes a Dog a Good Labrador Retriever?", will be sponsored by the Iroquois Labrador Retriever Club, Inc. in conjunction with its 2003 Specialty Show. This seminar offers valuable information for everyone involved with Labrador Retrievers. An understanding of correct structure and temperament is important to all Lab owners whether their Lab be active in agility, obedience, field work, conformation or “riding the couch!” Presenter: Mary A. Wiest of Beechcroft Labradors Distinguished judge and long time breeder Mary A. Wiest will incorporate slides, great handouts and live dogs in her discussion of the Labrador Retriever. Time & Date: 6:00 p.m. Thursday, September 25, 2003, evening before the ILRC Specialty, (9/26/03). Venue: Pavilion at Sampson State Park (Finger Lakes Region) The pavilion, located in the same park as the Iroquois Labrador Retriever Club Specialty Show site, is on Rt. 96A, in Romulus, New York. Also, bring your own chairs. Check ILRC’s website at www.ilrc2.com or email the Seminar Chair: Barb Corbelli at pcorbell@rochester.rr.com after June 1, 2003 for updated information. Reservations: Are a MUST! Due to limited space, reservations are required and will be taken on a first come bases. All reservations must be received by Sept.12, 2003. Make checks payable to: ILRC,Inc. and mail to Barbara A. Corbelli, 5730 E. Main St., Batavia, NY, 14020
### Coming Events—AKC, submitted by Jeanine Asch

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Name of Show</th>
<th>Judge(s)</th>
<th>Entries close</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Comments</th>
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<tr>
<td>8/23</td>
<td>Sugarbush KC</td>
<td>Bob-John Ellieff</td>
<td>8/6</td>
<td>Chagrin Falls, OH</td>
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<tr>
<td>8/24</td>
<td>Western Reserve KC</td>
<td>Mr. Darren Bowey</td>
<td>8/6</td>
<td>Chagrin Falls, OH</td>
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<td>8/29</td>
<td>Newton KC</td>
<td>D. Nightingale (bitches)</td>
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<td>Jersey Skylands LRC</td>
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<td>Newton KC</td>
<td>M. Nightingale (Breed/dogs), Valerie Walters(Ranbourne-sweeps)</td>
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<td>8/31</td>
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<td>Pontiac KC</td>
<td>Mrs. Adelene Pardo</td>
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<td>St. Clair KC</td>
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<td>9/21</td>
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<td>Huron River LRC</td>
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<td>Bitches: Barbara Nowak;</td>
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<td>Sweeps: Jean-Louis Blais</td>
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<td>LRC</td>
<td>M. Woods, J. Pepper, J. Love</td>
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<td>Allegan, MI</td>
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<td>10/1</td>
<td>Randolph, OH</td>
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<tr>
<td>9/20-21</td>
<td>Ohio Valley Retriever</td>
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<td>9/8</td>
<td>Woodbury</td>
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<td>9/20-21</td>
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<td>8/6</td>
<td>Leamington, ON</td>
<td>Dave Bauman, Event Secretary</td>
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<td>Essex Co. KC</td>
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<td>131 Wellington Rd. Aliquippa, PA 15001-5999</td>
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<td>8/13</td>
<td>Burlington, ON</td>
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<td>10/10-13</td>
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### Coming Events—CKC

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<tr>
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### Coming Events—Hunt Tests

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<td>9/13</td>
<td>Golden Ret. Club of America</td>
<td></td>
<td>9/13</td>
<td></td>
<td>submitted by Jeanine Asch</td>
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<td>Ohio Valley Retriever</td>
<td>B. Dunlap</td>
<td>9/8</td>
<td>Woodbury</td>
<td>Chris Bell</td>
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<td>9/20</td>
<td>Great Lake Lab Lovers WC, CGC</td>
<td></td>
<td>9/10</td>
<td>Howell, MI</td>
<td>Karimar Kennels</td>
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<td>9/21</td>
<td>UKC—MI HRC</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Diana Peacock, 11555 Bellman Rd Grass Lake, MI 49240 517-522-4862, <a href="mailto:dpeacock@asbg.com">dpeacock@asbg.com</a></td>
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Member Spotlight—Jeanine Asch

I have been surrounded by animals my whole life. Growing up, my family always had cats and dogs and occasionally fish, hamsters, guinea pigs, snakes, lizards, etc. I can't imagine living without a furry critter of some kind. The phrase “dogs may not be our whole lives but make our lives whole” holds true both for the dogs and for the horses in my life.

As a small child, I begged my parents for a horse for years. When I was 11 and my family moved from Sterling Heights to Canton, I got my first horse, a ¾ Arabian gelding. I think my parents may have regretted getting me started because then I was hooked! From 1987 on, I always had at least one horse and as many as three at one time. I had an assortment of breeds including Quarter Horses, Thoroughbreds and Arabians (my preferred breed). I rode western, hunt seat and dressage while participating in various activities such as parades, local shows and trail rides. I was quite active with 4-H and enjoyed the experience immensely. Being a 4-H member was such a positive experience for me that when I aged out, I founded and led a horse and pony club for several years. It was a lot of fun working with the kids teaching riding lessons and horse care. In 2002, I sold my final remaining horse to become “horseless” for the first time in 15 years.

Although I love horses dearly, I have always had an affinity for larger breed dogs. My parents always had small to medium sized dogs and I begged for a “big dog.” I even suggested we could become puppy raisers for Leader Dogs for the Blind. My parents didn’t go for that, as they didn’t want the heartbreak of giving up a puppy after more than a year of becoming attached to it. So, while I was living at home, the prospects of getting a breed of dog I wanted were slim to none.

It wasn’t until I met Jerry (who is now my husband) in 1998 that the possibility of getting a “big dog” became a reality. We used to spend a lot of time on Lake St. Clair so Jerry suggested we get a Labrador since they are excellent water dogs. When we decided to get a yellow female, little did we know that we chose the most difficult combination of color and sex! I began doing research into Labradors and learned about making sure that proper health clearances had been obtained for the sire and dam. In January 1999, we located a breeder that had a litter out of parents that had show/hunt titles and health clearances. We drove in a January snowstorm on unplowed roads to see the only yellow girl of the litter. Of course, we fell in love with her charming personality and easy-going attitude—Sam (Something Absolutely Magical, CD, CGC a.k.a. Samantha) is the entire reason we are involved with the Labrador breed today.

Since getting Sam, we’ve added 3 more labs to our crew—U-GRCH Lake View Rhapsody at Endeavor, CGC (Sadie), U-GRCH Lubberline Endeavor Binnacle, CGC (Nicki) and U-CH Infinity’s Dalwhinnie Endeavor, CGC (Winnie).

Obedience interested me even before I had my own dog. With several of my mom’s Yorkshire Terriers, I was able to earn CGC’s. However, I never pursued any further obedience training with them. It wasn’t until I got Sam that I felt I finally had a dog I could try competitive obedience with. We earned our CD in the fall of 2002 in 3 shows. Originally, I wasn’t going to pursue further competitive activities such as Open obedience or agility with Sam since she is dysplastic. However, friends urged me to try Sam with some light jump work and see how she fared. Well, Sam has remained sound and we are having a blast with agility with hopes to begin competing late in 2003. We may also pursue further obedience competition at a later time. I use a foundation of obedience in working with all my dogs doing show, agility and retriever training. I like to do a variety of activities to keep the interest of my dogs and me.

Shortly after acquiring Sam, my quest for additional Labrador knowledge began. Being an internet addict, I found out about HRLRC and came to my first HRLRC meeting in 2000 and became a member in 2001. I love to learn and found one of the best ways to do so is to get involved. I keep active with the club as well as various dog activities—sitting idle is not something I do well. Many of my weekends are comprised of dog competitions while non-show weekends and weeknights are usually split between training and working on schoolwork or my business. I am a perpetual student attending college on and off since 1994 taking engineering courses. Much of my time lately has been spent working on starting my own business doing custom embroidery as well as selling dog toys and supplies, crafts, and leads. In my “other free time,” I enjoy camping, reading (both fiction and non-fiction), crafts, and doing counted cross-stitch.

Just a few years ago I couldn’t have imagined I would have all these wonderful Labradors and be as active as I am. Sometimes these kinds of things kind of just happen. I’m thrilled to have met so many wonderful people and their dogs and look forward to continuing this endeavor.
Improved Test for prcd-PRA for Labrador Retrievers

OptiGen Update from Jeanette Felix, Ph.D., President & Manager

NOTE: IMPROVED TEST IN USE AS OF JULY 14, 2003

We are very pleased to announce that an improved marker test for Labrador Retrievers is now ready. Much credit for this advance goes to the LR owners and service dog organizations that participated in this research effort by supplying new eye exam reports for their dogs. While this new test is significantly improved over the original test, it is not yet the direct mutation test we all are working toward.

As you know, the original prcd-PRA test for LRs can give false allele (false positive) results for the Pattern B and Pattern C categories. Ongoing research by Drs. Greg Acland and Gus Aguirre and their research team at the Baker Institute of Cornell University focuses on discovering the actual gene and mutation causing prcd-PRA. As part of their on-going research, they also evaluate new DNA markers for prcd-PRA. Some of these markers have potential use for improving the prcd-PRA marker tests. Earlier, such effort led to significant improvement of the prcd-PRA tests for Portuguese Water Dogs, Chesapeake Bay Retrievers and English Cocker Spaniels.

Success With New LR Markers

Two new markers in particular give very reliable new information about prcd-PRA in LRs. These markers were evaluated first at the Baker Institute on their set of research samples from LR, including known PRA-affecteds. When it looked solidly promising, OptiGen tested the new markers further. Application of the new markers was tested on 462 Pattern C dogs and was correlated with their clinical status of non-affected or affected, as reported by eye exams.

Of these 462, 31 Pattern C LRs that also were PRAffected were tested with the improved markers and all were Pattern C1. (A1, B1 and C1 designate results from the improved test.) There are no LRs known to OptiGen as affected with typical symptoms characteristic of prcd-PRA that do not test as Pattern C1.

21 additional Pattern C dogs stay in the high-risk group of Pattern C1 even with the improved test. Some of these C1 dogs are under 4 years old, which usually is too young to detect development of PRA. However, some of these C1 dogs are between 4 and 12 years old and still have a normal eye exam. The explanation might be that some false alleles remain with the improved test, still to be resolved with further research. Unaffected C1 dogs should be examined annually, as usual, and report copies shared with OptiGen.

The remaining 410 LRs that were reported previously as Pattern C now test either Pattern B1 or Pattern A1.

Likewise, about half of the dogs that originally tested Pattern B now test Pattern A1 with the improved marker test.

The improved marker test also solves the status of a specific European line of LRs that produced PRA-affected offspring although the original prcd genetic test did not predict it. We discovered that this LR line (so far, less than 10 dogs are involved) has an altered combination of markers associated with prcd-PRA, and this combination is recognizable with the improved test. This new marker combination is taken into account in the improved test Patterns.

Adjusted Pattern Distributions

Use of the improved test on all of the LR samples tested by OptiGen so far shows that the number of Pattern A1’s doubled, and the number of Pattern B1’s and C1’s decreased significantly. These trends were expected based on the experience of breeders, and now the improved test reflects this expectation.

Results for OptiGen tested LR samples show the following Pattern distribution with the original and the improved tests.

Good News/Bad News

There is an important difference with the LR improved marker test compared to the original test. The original marker test was expected to be 100% certain for Pattern A results, however, the original test also had an unacceptably high proportion of false positive results. This will no longer be the case - detection of a “false positive allele” is greatly reduced.

However, there is a chance of recombination (see “NOTE” below) - or dissociation - between the new markers and the prcd gene. Such recombination generates a low but real margin of error for each result Pattern. This information is new. So far, no recombination events have been detected in LR between prcd and the markers used in the improved marker-based test. However, a possibility of such a recombination does exist, and although such events are rare, this new information must be used to interpret all results in the most cautious way. Using this more cautious interpretation as a guideline, there is now less than 100% certainty for all Patterns. This theoretical risk of recombination applies to all dogs tested, whether with the original test or with the improved test.

Margin of Error Remains

As shown in the Table at the end of this report, the improved test has a small margin of error with each result, using most conservative, that is, most cautious, interpretations. Pattern A1 dogs are statistically normal for prcd-PRA and are not expected to develop this disease or pass it to offspring. No known Pattern A1 dog has developed prcd-PRA or produced prcd-PRA-affected offspring, and no known prcd-PRA-affected dog has tested Pattern A1. However, there is a low theoretical chance that a Pattern A1 dog could have a false NEGATIVE result and therefore be a carrier (risk is less than 0.5%) or even be affected (risk is less than 0.0025%). So far, false negative results have not been observed with the current test. Significance for breeding: Pattern A1 dogs can be bred to any dog and, with at least 99.5% confidence, will not produce pups affected by the prcd form of PRA.

Pattern B1 dogs are not expected to develop prcd-PRA and are classified as carriers of PRA. There is a chance (risk is less than 0.5%) of a false NEGATIVE result, which would make this dog prcd-PRA-affected instead of a carrier. Additionally, there is a similar chance (risk is less than 0.5%) of a false POSITIVE result due to recombination of markers and the prcd gene, which would make this dog genetically normal. So far, neither of these possibilities has been observed. Additional false POSITIVES due to a “false allele” in the LR population cannot be definitely resolved until there is a mutation test that directly detects the prcd gene mutation. Until then, it is prudent to use the most conservative interpretation and consider Pattern B1 dogs as carriers. Significance for breeding: Pattern B1 dogs have a high probability (possibly as high as 99%) of being a carrier of prcd-PRA and a very low probability of being affected. They should only be bred to Pattern A1 mates in
Improved Test for prcd-PRA—Continued

Order to reduce greatly the chance of producing affected pups.

Pattern C1 dogs are homozygous for prcd-PRA markers and are at high risk for developing PRA. There is a small theoretical chance, less than 0.5%, of a false POSITIVE result due to recombination of markers and the prcd gene, meaning that a Pattern C1 dog could be a carrier, or with even lower chance, less than 0.0025%, could be normal. So far, false positive results due to re-combinations have not been observed with the current test. Additional false POSITIVES due to a “false allele” in the LR population cannot be definitely resolved until there is a mutation test that directly detects the prcd gene mutation. Until then, it is prudent to use the most conservative interpretation that Pattern C1 dogs will eventually develop prcd-PRA, if they live long enough. Cases of extremely late onset PRA in the LR are known, suggesting that some Pattern C1 dogs might not be diagnosed with PRA during their lifetime. Significance for breeding: Pattern C1 dogs should only be bred to Pattern A1 mates in order to reduce greatly the chance of producing affected pups.

Limits to All Genetic Testing

There are certain limits for any and all DNA genetic tests: whether a test is mutation or marker-based, it identifies only the specific mutation being tested or the association between a specific marker set and the disease. For example, a mutation test will detect one specific mutation in one specific gene. If there are several different mutations or several different genes that can cause the same condition, one must discover and then test for each mutation and each gene. Likewise, a marker test will use one marker or set of markers to define a specific condition. If the condition is associated with several different marker combinations, one must discover and then test for each marker combination. It can be difficult or even impossible to know how many mutations or how many marker sets exist in all the members of a specific breed. As more and more dogs are tested, previously unknown variations will come to light.

Also keep in mind that not all retinal disease is PRA and not all PRA is the prcd form of PRA. Accurate diagnosis is essential. A dog can test as Pattern A1 or B1, yet have a different type of retinal disease. Although other types of retinal degeneration occur in the LR, by far the most common is prcd. Even though the only PRA disease that has been fully defined and reported for LRs so far is the prcd form of PRA, we are interested in knowing about other retinal diseases. This information permits us to examine the samples in the research lab to determine if other genes are also involved.

Re-Tests and New Tests

All LR prcd-PRA tests starting July 14, 2003 will be reported based on the improved marker test. There will be no need to request a re-test for test reports dated July 1, 2003 and later. The cost of this test will remain the same even though the testing has been expanded with new markers.

Re-test reports, and certificates where eligible, are being sent at no charge to owners who provided follow-up eye exam reports on Pattern C dogs for use in this research.

If your dog is Pattern A based on the original test, you do NOT need to request a re-test report unless you want it to show the result as Pattern A1.

For all other dogs tested before July 1, 2003, there is a charge of $25 to receive a re-test report. A certificate of normal for Pattern A1’s is included in this fee and will be mailed shortly after you receive the report. You do not need to send another blood sample.

The request form can be printed from OptiGen’s site, and mailed or faxed to OptiGen along with your payment. Turn-around for re-test reports will be about 2 weeks.

Note: Recombination of markers and the prcd gene can come about in two ways.

1. The chance is approximately one in 200 that such a dissociation event would happen for the first time during meiosis (formation of egg or sperm in the parent). In scientific terms this is called “recombination.” If that parent is a prcd carrier (heterozygous), the outcome would be that the set of normal markers recombined with the prcd disease gene, and the prcd gene therefore goes undetected. Thus, the Pattern A1 or B1 dog that has a carrier parent has a 1 in 200 chance of inheriting a newly recombined chromosome from a carrier parent. However, if a recombination occurred in a homozygous clear parent or in a homozygous affected parent, the recombination would be of no consequence. So far, one new recombination between markers and the prcd gene was found in the Toller breed and one in the mixed breed research dog colony.

2. A dog could be a false negative Pattern A1 or B1 if a recombination occurred in the distant past and the recombinant chromosome was transmitted to subsequent generations, creating a small “pool” of false negative chromosomes. Although theoretically possible, it is highly unlikely. If there were false negative dogs already existing, prcd-PRA affected Pattern A1 or B1 dogs should have been reported to OptiGen by now. So far, no LR fits this description. Currently, there are two possible instances in all 7 breeds being tested for prcd-PRA: a Labrador Retriever line in Europe and a small subset of another breed in the US. Both cases are still under study.

### Possible Results Using The OptiGen prcd Test

with most conservative interpretation

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<th>Pattern Genotype</th>
<th>Risk Group</th>
<th>Significance for Breeding</th>
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<tr>
<td>A1</td>
<td>I Normal</td>
<td>Can be bred to any dog with 99.5% confidence of producing no affected pups</td>
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<tr>
<td>B1</td>
<td>II Non Affected</td>
<td>Probably a carrier of prcd (99.0% confidence) and should be bred only to Pattern A</td>
<td>Not expected to develop prcd</td>
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<tr>
<td>C1</td>
<td>III High Risk</td>
<td>Probably homozygous for prcd (99.5% confidence) and should be bred only to Pattern A</td>
<td>Probably will develop prcd</td>
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**NOTE:** Probability risks are based on estimated frequency of recombination between the improved prcd markers and the disease gene.
Enhanced DNA Certification Test Available—August 2003

The AKC is pleased to announce that an enhanced DNA Certification Test will become available August, 2003. This test is offered in collaboration with MMI Genomics (MMIG), the AKC’s principal service provider of DNA testing. MMIG, an established leader in genomic technologies, has developed and validated a new, more advanced DNA marker system for canine testing.

The AKC DNA Certification test will now profile 14 genetic markers compared to the 10 markers previously reported on AKC DNA Certificates, producing a profile called the "SuperPlex-G." Thirteen of the genetic markers on the panel, including three new markers are a common type of inherited DNA markers -- called STRs -- used in identification and parentage testing across all breeds. The fourth new marker is a canine gender marker. It tests for a gene on the sex chromosome, and will therefore differentiate between male and female. It will allow for gender to be verified via the test results.

The new markers will not only provide additional information with every DNA profile, but will allow for enhanced quality control. The development and validation of these additional markers took nearly a year and a half to complete and used the human genome and other DNA-sequence information to discover the corresponding canine-specific genes on the X and Y sex chromosomes. There is no additional cost or fee increase for this new AKC DNA profile. The price of a prepaid DNA Kit will remain $35, and the processing fee for a regular DNA kit will remain $40.

This new enhanced DNA profile is fully compatible with the existing profiles maintained in the AKC’s DNA database because the same original 10 DNA markers used in the current AKC certificate will be included in the new SuperPlex-G panel. Those who wish to upgrade their existing 10-marker certificate with the new SuperPlex-G panel may do so for a fee without submitting a new DNA sample. Simply submit your upgrade request to AKC DNA Operations using this downloadable form (http://www.akc.org/registration/dna/DNAMarkerUpgradeForm.pdf).

The American Kennel Club through its DNA Program offers highly accurate and informative DNA testing services through DNA Certification. It is a powerful tool in ensuring reliable registration records. Tests are routinely used for individual identification, parentage testing and certification of pedigree records.

The AKC currently has a canine DNA database of over 250,000 DNA profiles, the largest of its kind in the world. For more information contact dna@akc.org or call 919-816-3508.

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