



# THE RIDGELINE

Newsletter of the New England Rhodesian Ridgeback Club

Issue 4—December 31, 2019

## President's Message

Another year about in the books – hoping you and your Ridgies made it a good one. We lost some great people and dogs this year but some new ones joined us and life moves on. Quiet time for the club but we will be planning some activities for the spring and summer soon. We've got a Board meeting anyone is welcome to attend coming up next month at Helen's, watch for the notice if you just need to get out and see some fresh faces for a day.

I've personally been thinking a lot about the state of puppy mills and the effects they have had on different parts of the country and their rescue programs. We've been fairly insulated here in New England but that seems to be changing. The internet allows people that are less than ethical to build these fancy websites, with pictures of cute puppies but no meaningful information about health, pedigrees or show/performance accomplishments. They're very effective especially when undercutting RRCUS breeders by a couple hundred bucks. We seem to have a pipeline coming from the south to New England as well these days. They'll sell to anyone and ultimately we'll all be cleaning up the mess when the dogs need to be rehomed after the cuteness wears off or worse. What can be done? Educate the public is the best we can do – and we need to do better at it. Think about the Geico commercials, repetition, regardless of how pointlessly stupid it is, works to alter how people shop. Wouldn't be hard to replicate some educational messaging online about why it matters where your puppy comes from. Some food for thought – ideas are welcome – it worked to eliminate most store front puppy sales now we need to teach the same about the internet store fronts.

And on that happy note, Happy New Year to you all!

Bonnie Johnson

[www.shabani.com](http://www.shabani.com)

C: 508-951-2989

## Inside This Issue:

CBD Oil and Your Dog's Health	2
BOD Minutes 11/17/19—Middleboro MA	3
Ask Dr. Stillman	6
2019-2020 Officers, Directors and Committees	7
Welcome New Members!	8



You live life looking forward,  
you understand life looking backward.

~Soren Kierkegaard

# CBD Oil and Your Dog's Health

By Dr. Jessica Meade

In the past few years, many states have allowed research into the medicinal properties into both of the active ingredients in *Cannibus sativa*, the marijuana plant, *Tetrahydrocannabinol*, or *THC*, and *cannabinol*, or *CBD*. Both ingredients are useful together, but can be separated to isolate the effects desired. This article will briefly explain the difference between the two and will explain the benefits shown for supplementing with *CBD* for dogs.

Mammals all have receptors on their cells that are uniquely made for responding to marijuana. Researchers tried making synthetic marijuana for a while, but the cell receptors did not respond as well as they would to the natural plant. We have two systems of receptors called *CB1* and *CB2* (cannabinoid 1 and cannabinoid 2). *CB1* receptors are largely in our brain and nervous system while *CB2* receptors are in our immune system, gastrointestinal organs, and also in the brain. *CB2* receptors are involved in inflammatory responses in those tissues. Each individual differs in their concentration of these receptors, which will determine their sensitivity to *THC* and *CBD*. The dosage that is therapeutic is then dependent on this individuality. *THC* is the part of the plant responsible for the psychoactive effects, such as a high feeling, along with stress reduction, decreased nausea, reduced tremors, decreased spasms, and decreased pain. *CBD* is the part of the plant with high anti-inflammatory effects, reduced convulsions, reduced nausea. Taken together, they amplify each others effects.

An example of this variation was shown in studies on Crohn's Disease. Since this disease is genetic, it was found that individuals with this disease had a decreased number of *CB2* receptors in their GI systems upon testing. Generally, most people with Crohn's required a slightly higher level of oral *THC* and *CBD* combined to reach therapeutic benefit.

What about dogs?

Dogs benefit specifically from *CBD* oil because they too have *CB1* and *CB2* receptor systems in their bodies. Dogs of all ages can benefit from decreased stress and anti-inflammatory action from this oil. Older dogs will most likely get a little spring in their step. Dogs with destructive behaviors may cease those behaviors. Research says it can take up to 2 weeks to get up to that benefit as it takes time to build up to a therapeutic level.

All 50 states can purchase Hemp based *CBD* oil as the Hemp plant is different than the marijuana plant. Hemp based *CBD* will be 100% free of *THC*. States with medical marijuana may have access to human grade *CBD* oil which may be a bit higher quality, and will also not have any psychoactive effects. Marijuana based *CBD* may have 0.3% *THC* but is not considered psychoactive. Oil may be placed right on the food, generally near the top so that you are certain the dog will eat the pieces that has the oil on it. Some of the recommended companies below make treats with *CBD* oil, but of course, our dogs are pretty picky!

Brands to Consider:

[Greenroadsworld.com](http://Greenroadsworld.com)

[Treatibles.com](http://Treatibles.com)

[CBDistillery.com](http://CBDistillery.com) for humans and pets

The author, Dr. Meade, lives in Plymouth, MA and is owned by 3 Bergamasco Sheepdogs.

# **BOD Meeting Minutes— November 17, 2019—Middleboro MA**

Meeting was called to order at 11:15 AM by Barbara Ferguson

Attendees: Barbara Ferguson, Alan Fraser, Helen McCune, Nikki Newton, Evelyn Strawn, Meghan Terwilliger

Arrived late: Bonnie Johnson

It was moved by Helen and seconded by Alan to waive the reading of the minutes from the September BOD meeting and accept them as printed. Motion was unanimously approved.

## **Secretary's Report:**

We have one new first read:

Mike Chandler, Cumberland, RI, Associate

Sponsor: Bonnie Johnson

## **Treasurer's Report: Alan Fraser**

Available upon request.

Alan stated that the club has a healthy balance as we move towards the end of the year.

## **Regional Specialty Show: Barbara Ferguson**

Barbara reviewed some of the challenges and miscommunications that took place around the Regional Specialty held in September. A representative of the South Shore Kennel Club apologized for not having made appropriate arrangements given that Ridgebacks were the largest entry and that this was a regional specialty. He assured Barbara this would not happen again. She also explained that AKC rules do not allow regional specialties to support Junior Handlers.

Alan and Barbara need to reconcile the records of expenses and income associated with the Specialty.

The board concurred with Barbara's recommendation that there should be a committee convened in January to start working on all aspects of the Regional Specialty. The responsibility for such a labor intensive project should not fall on just one person. Helen, Cheryl Fraser and Evelyn have volunteered to work with Barbara on next year's show.

## **Mass Fed – Chris Greeley**

Mass Fed is not currently following any proposed legislation.

## **Historian – Cathy Ford**

No report.

## **Membership Care – Jack and Trish Hamilton**

No report.

## **Rescue – Cheryl Fraser**

**Mara would love a home to call her own** - Mara has been in foster care for 2 years. As previously reported, Mara is a special needs Ridgeback.

She is very reactive to other animals, however is a very sweet dog to people. She does soil in the house even though she is taken out numerous times to potty. We believe it is due to her anxiety levels, Mara does take Fluoxetine for anxiety.

Mara would not work in a home with kids, too much noise and activity. She does best with routine. Mara does well with the occasional dog walker trips. Mara is fine being placed in boarding for short periods of time.

We think a great home for Mara is a home where someone is home. A fully fenced yard to keep her secure, no other animals, no kids but some could visit. Stick to a routine, and let her be.

**RRRI** is pleased to report that both **Cody** and **Hazel** have been ADOPTED!!

A young female, 2 years old, named **Lucy** has come into rescue in Vermont. She is in foster care and being evaluated. Lucy will be posted on the rescue website soon.

**FOSTER HOMES NEEDED** - Rhodesian Ridgeback Rescue, Inc. (RRRI) remains in great need for **foster homes**. We continue to scramble when a dog is in need to find a foster home willing to provide foster care. Please consider giving back to our beloved breed by volunteering to be a foster home.

**HOME CHECKS** – If you would be able to perform home checks for potential adoption applicants, please let us know. We have a checklist of questions to ask applicants while visiting them in their home. Help is always needed to vet adoption applicants.

RRRI and NERRC Ways & Means shared table space at the recent October Lure Coursing event, selling items to benefit both NERRC and RRRI. Thanks for the opportunity to benefit both groups.

**A Tisket-A-Tasket – NERRC donated a really fun Basket!! Thank You NERRC for sponsorship of the New England Treehouse Basket.** Our club offered a cooler filled with 24 cans of Treehouse beer, along with Treehouse swag, a dog collar, coffee and chocolate. The basket was won by Erin Coogan and travelled home with her to New Mexico. Erin reports she is enjoying everything, especially the beer and wants to bid on the same at next year's specialty in Texas. Since it is never too early to start planning ahead...If anyone is interested in leading a basket drive for next year, please contact Cheryl Fraser – [chaza@pobox.com](mailto:chaza@pobox.com) 508-393-6966. Transportation will be available.

The Rhodesian Ridgeback Rescue, Inc attended the 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Waters Farm Fall Festival on Saturday and Sunday October 19 & 20, 2019. We had Msaada's Take Me With You – Peanut as the Ridgeback Booth ambassador. Peanut met many people, other dogs, cows, goats, donkeys, oxen and llamas. It was a very nice event.

**NERRC Website** – Meghan Terwilliger & Cheryl Fraser

Alan reminded the board that the club domain name was renewed for 3 years.

**NERRC Policy & Procedures** – Cheryl Fraser

Nothing to report.

**Ridgeline** – Helen McCune

Helen sent out the third edition for 2019. She will send out the fourth edition before the end of the year.

**Ways and Means** – No report

Position is open. Someone needs to be recruited to take on this responsibility



New England Treehouse Basket sponsored by NERRC for this year's National Specialty

It was agreed that Bonnie should send a special message to the membership asking for someone to volunteer to take the lead. It is past time to order new merchandise and consider items that might appeal to those participating in lure coursing events.

### **By Laws – Alan Fraser**

AKC has responded to an email from Bonnie with some additional requirements for reporting changes to the club's by laws. Evelyn will forward that communication to the board and the topic will be included in the agenda for the January board meeting.

### **Social Media – Meghan Terwilliger**

Facebook has been kept up to date. The importance of publicizing events through emails as well as Facebook was discussed. It was agreed that whoever is responsible for an event should send out this email.

### **Regional News (for The Ridgeback Magazine) – Helen McCune**

Barbara will write up information on the Regional Specialty and send it to Helen so that she can submit it for publication.

### **Lure Coursing – Nikki Newton**

Nikki reported that the Fall lure coursing event was a success. Everyone seemed pleased with the event. We had help from a number of people. Over the two days we had a total of 67 entries.

Alan explained that the event cost the club approximately \$650. After a lengthy discussion it was agreed that attendance is down because there isn't a set location that potential participants could plan on far enough in advance to ensure a larger entry that would cover the costs. Additional issues include having to pay a lure operator and rent equipment.

The club needs to identify a 10 acre, mowed field that would be available twice a year. We also need to recruit a lure operator. If anyone is interested, Nikki can help them get started. Finally the club does have equipment but it needs maintenance. We also need a small trailer which can both store and transport it to events. It was agreed that these issues should be included in the special message from the president what was recommended as part of the Ways and Means discussion.

**Next Meeting:** January 26, Helen McCune's house, Noon.

Meeting adjourned at 12:00 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Evelyn Strawn

NERRC Secretary

### **Online Motions:**

On September 18, 2019 Evelyn moved to approve the minutes from the September 15 BOD meeting. Helen seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

On November 7, 2019 Evelyn moved to accept Jennifer McNeil into membership. Alan seconded the motion.

Voting in the affirmative: Bonnie, Alan, Helen, Barbara, Meghan, Evelyn Not voting: Nikki

On November 19 Evelyn moved to approve the minutes from the November 17 BOD meeting. Barbara seconded.

Voting in the affirmative: Alan, Barb, Helen, Meghan, Evelyn. Not voting: Bonnie, Nikki

## Ask Dr. Stillman

NERRC member Evelyn Strawn uses Dr. Stillman at Court Street Animal Hospital in Plymouth for her Ridgebacks' needs. Dr. Stillman often writes a column in the local Plymouth paper, The Old Colony Memorial. He has given us permission to reprint his articles that we find of interest. Below is one that is pertinent to all of us when we bring a new puppy into the family.

Dear Dr. Stillman,

I just got a puppy and want to take him walking around town. One of my friends says that it's not safe to do that yet. What's the story?

Terry O.

Hi Terry,

Congratulations on your new pup. That's very exciting. Your friend is right about your pup's vulnerability. Let me explain. When a puppy is born she has no natural immunity at all. During her first day or two of life an amazing process takes place. The puppy's mother makes a very unusual type of milk for the first day or two of lactation. This special milk, called colostrum, contains proteins called antibodies which the body uses to fight foreign invaders and infections. The puppy has the ability to absorb these proteins, or antibodies, whole from the colostrum without digesting them. In other words, antibodies from the pup's mother are transferred directly into the pup's bloodstream in their intact and active form. There, they are able to protect the pup from disease in the same way they protected her mother. Astounding!

Unfortunately, these antibodies do not last forever. They begin to wear off almost as soon as the pup acquires them but the rate at which they wear off is unpredictable. Some pups lose this "maternal immunity" very quickly and other pups will manage to hold onto it almost until their 16 week birthday. We have no way to know which pup will lose it quickly and which one slowly so for the safety of the pups we assume that they all lose it quickly. In other words, it's safest to assume that every pup has lost most of the immunity that her mother gave her at birth by the time you get her from the shelter or the breeder.

For that reason it's best to protect your pup from situations where she might be exposed to diseases that she's susceptible to until her own immune system is fully functional and able to protect her all by itself. We usually say that the age where a pup's immune system is fully functional is 16 weeks. Up until then we try not to take her places where strange dogs go or let her interact with strange dogs. They might be carrying diseases that could harm her.

Sometimes someone will ask me if it's enough that they not let their pup sniff the poop of other dogs. The answer is no. Long after poop has eroded or washed away the disease causing organisms may still be present on the ground where it was deposited. It's better to just stay away from the risk altogether.

You can, however, take her to your friend's house if she has a dog whom you know is vaccinated. You can also take her to your friend's house if she has no dog at all. After 16 weeks of age her immune system will be up and running, she'll be fully vaccinated by your vet, and you can take her anywhere you want.



# Officers, Directors and Committees: 2019-2020

## OFFICERS

### President

Bonnie Johnson  
508-951-2989  
shabanirr@comcast.net

### Vice President

Barbara Ferguson  
508-477-2063  
sahibu@comcast.net

### Secretary

Evelyn Strawn  
508-746-3206  
edstrawn@aol.com

### Treasurer

Alan Fraser  
508-393-6966  
fraser6966@verizon.net

## DIRECTORS

Helen McCune  
774-766-1331  
kanzih@comcast.net

Nikki Newton  
508-245-8543  
nikknewton@gmail.com

Meghan Terwilliger  
508-479-5033  
mterwill@gmail.com

## STANDING COMMITTEES

### Lure Coursing

Nikki Newton, Chair  
508-245-8543  
nikknewton@gmail.com

Trish Thompson  
603-672-1293  
alphaRR@charter.net

## Regional Specialty Show

Barbara Ferguson, Chair  
508-477-2063  
sahibu@comcast.net

Evelyn Strawn  
508-746-3206  
edstrawn@aol.com

Helen McCune  
774-766-1331  
kanzih@comcast.net

## Adoption/Rescue

Cheryl Fraser, RRR, Inc.  
508-393-6966  
chaza@pobox.net

## MassFed

Christine Greeley  
978-979-9605  
cgreeley@comcast.net

## Historian

Cathy Ford, Chair  
603-672-5556  
omegarr@charter.net

Jen Elliot  
603-494-4339  
jennylyn.elliott@gmail.com

Steph D'Agostino  
603-753-6701  
tookypup@comcast.net

## Ways & Means OPEN

## Webmaster / Social Media

Meghan Terwilliger  
508-479-5033  
mterwill@gmail.com

Cheryl Fraser  
508-393-6966  
chaza@pobox.net

## Policy & Procedures Book

Cheryl Fraser  
508-393-6966  
chaza@pobox.net

## Membership Care

Trish Hamilton  
hamjack@aol.com

## Ridgeline Editor

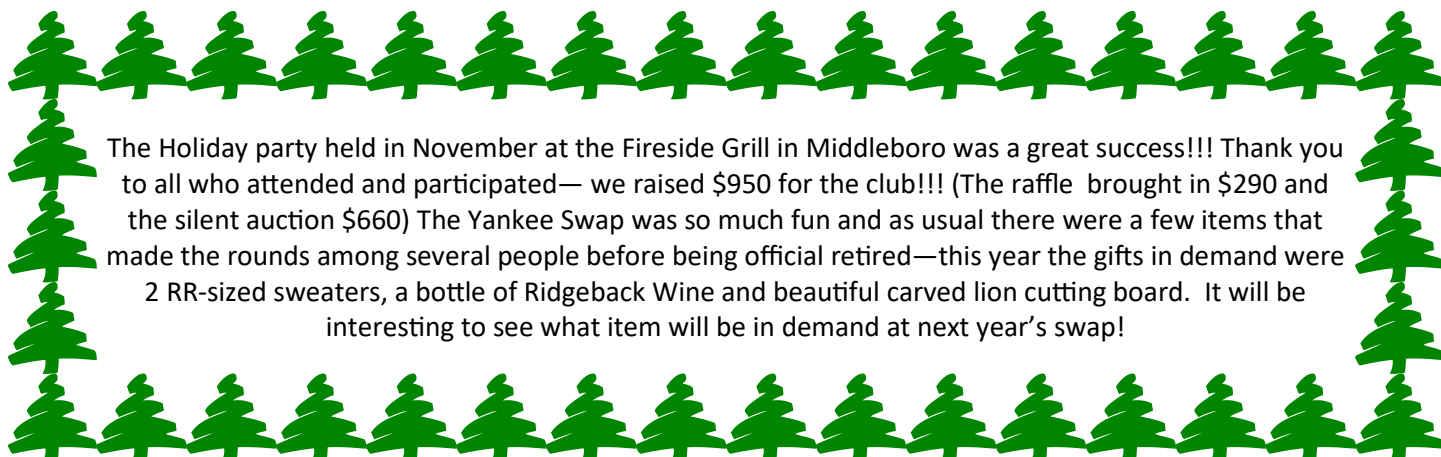
Helen McCune  
774-766-1331  
kanzih@comcast.net

## RRCUS Regional News

Helen McCune  
774-766-1331  
kanzih@comcast.net

## Membership

Evelyn Strawn  
508-746-3206  
edstrawn@aol.com



The Holiday party held in November at the Fireside Grill in Middleboro was a great success!!! Thank you to all who attended and participated— we raised \$950 for the club!!! (The raffle brought in \$290 and the silent auction \$660) The Yankee Swap was so much fun and as usual there were a few items that made the rounds among several people before being official retired—this year the gifts in demand were 2 RR-sized sweaters, a bottle of Ridgeback Wine and beautiful carved lion cutting board. It will be interesting to see what item will be in demand at next year's swap!

**Welcome New Member!!**

**Jennifer McNeil**

**NERRC wishes everyone a happy, healthy 2020 !!**

Get out with your Ridgebacks and enjoy the beautiful weather we've been having so far this winter.  
They might not like the rain but they sure do have fun in the snow!

