



The Ridgeline

A Publication of the New England Rhodesian Ridgeback Club, Inc. est 1984

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Presidents Message

Happy Spring! At least it is supposed to be spring; you couldn't tell it by the weekend weather we've been having this month but hopefully things will improve soon. We have a CAT, or Coursing Ability Test, planned for June 23-24 in Sunderland, MA coming up soon with 2 CAT tests on both Saturday and Sunday. For anyone who hasn't tried this yet, all you need is you, your dog and your dog's registration to enter – your dog will either do it or they won't but doesn't need preparation other than to be in reasonably decent shape. It is a course run on a continuous loop for 300-600 yards depending on the size of the dog where they'll chase a white plastic bag being pulled around the course to simulate prey. After 3 successful runs your dog will have earned it's CAT title. The dogs love it and it's great fun for the people to watch too. Bring yourself a snack and your dog clean water and shade and plan to hang out with us for the weekend.

Our 3rd Annual Regional specialty is coming up again in September at the Cranberry Cluster down the Cape. Barbara always needs volunteers for this event so if you're available to help out please contact her at Sahibu@comcast.net.

For many years we had our summer event and annual meeting at Ulla-Britt's home which is a pretty hard act to follow for anyone who's been there. Plans are still up in the air for this summer so if anyone has any ideas for this year please reach out to one of us. We could do Rocky Woods in Medfield again but there are no off leash dogs allowed for this. Or we could run the event indoors at a training facility again like we did last year in Franklin. Or if someone has a 5 acre fenced yard with a pond in the middle where all the dogs can play while we have a BBQ, that would be perfect! Anyway, please send some feedback if you have ideas for this summer's event and we'll put it together.

Our next meeting is after judging in Wrentham on 6/3 and I hope to see some of you there! Ridgebacks are being judged in Ring 7 at 8:00 so come early and cheer them on! The address for the show is Crackerbarrel Fairgrounds/Wrentham Developmental Center. 131 Emerald St. Wrentham MA 02093.

President: Bonnie Johnson shabanirr@comcast.net
Vice President: Barbara Ferguson sahibu@comcast.net
Secretary: Linda Hothan linda@lamingtonhouse.com
Treasurer: Alan Fraser fraser6966@verizon.net
Director: Helen McCune kanzih@comcast.net
Director: Meghan Terwilliger mterwill@gmail.com
Director: Nikki Newton nikknewton@gmail.com

Meeting Minutes

New England Rhodesian Ridgeback Club
Board of Directors Meeting
Helen McCune's Home, East Bridgewater, MA
February 25th, 2018

NERRC Vice President Barbara Ferguson convened the meeting at 12:09pm.

The Secretary took attendance via roll call:

Bonnie Johnson - arrived 12:28 pm

Barbara Ferguson - present

Alan Fraser - present

Linda Hothan - present

Helen McCune - present

Nikki Newton - arrived 12:50 pm

Meghan Terwilliger - present

Quorum present

Secretary Report: Linda Hothan summarized business since the last Board meeting:

- 5 new members voted into NERRC via email in February: Julie and Brandon Paul, Rachel Reams, Holly Oliver, and Jeff Trombetta. The Secretary will retain applications for the Club files.
- New co-editors of the newsletter, *The Ridgeline*, were appointed via email in February: Evelyn Strawn and Suzanne Cooney.
- The Board voted for Honorary Membership to be extended to Ulla-Britt Ekengren and Diana Barrie. Several Board members worked on designing such certificates highlighted in Club green; Linda wrote transmittal letters and all Board members signed them.
- Secretarial files from 2009 through 2016 are missing (eg, minutes, AKC events approvals, membership applications, etc). It does not seem probable that all Secretaries during this 7-year period forgot to file documents. It does seem probable that: committee chairs and events chairs retained their respective materials; secretaries have minutes and correspondence on their computers. At least one file from 1997-1998 is missing - Linda has a copy of the material; Board consensus was for Linda to duplicate her file and add it to the Club file. Alan asked about how long secretarial files should be kept; Barbara responded that Secretarial files are the history of the Club and should be retained; Barbara also noted that the minutes are printed in *The Ridgeline*. Linda will attempt to contact prior Secretaries (Charlotte Matheson, Maria LaPointe, Deborah Ridlon, and Teresa Conza) for missing files.

Treasurer Report: Alan Fraser

The check issue with Julie Viveiros has been resolved. He presented a list of about 10 members who had not renewed, and said that he will hold membership open until March 2nd, after which they would need to reapply for membership; Linda offered to call the 10 members and remind them. As of today, NERRC has 67 paid members.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Regional Specialty and Satellite Shows: Barbara Ferguson

Written report not submitted.

- Today was Barbara's birthday and the Board sang *Happy Birthday* to her.
- Barbara reviewed discussions with the Potting Shed about the Dedham Pottery trophies; a 50% deposit is required. The Regional Specialty and its 3 satellite supported shows are:

Thursday, September 13th - Nikki Newton Sponsor

Friday, September 14th - Helen McCune Sponsor

Saturday, September 15th - NERRC's Regional Specialty Show

Sunday, September 16th - Barbara Ferguson & Sheila McNamara Sponsors

Donations of items for the Silent Auction and the Raffle are wanted. Please contact Barbara at 508-477-2063.

- Tricks Class - **March 11th** at:

Sirius Fun Dog Training
88 Camelot Dr Unit 44
Plymouth, MA 02360
508-360-0133

NERRC Members \$25 and non-members \$30. Pre-registration is required; entries are limited and will close the week before.

The next NERRC Board Meeting will be held before the Tricks Class at 11am at the training facility ; the Tricks Class will begin at 1pm.

Lure Coursing Nikki Newton

Written report not submitted.

We are trying to find a location for a Memorial Day weekend (May 26-28) 3-day event with CATS (Coursing Ability Test), JC/QC (Junior Courser/Qualified Courser), and at least a Trial. There was discussion about sites: Nikki looked at a site in Branford, CT; a site in Old Salem, CT is probably not big enough; will look at Hamilton Polo field. Cost for the Dartmouth site was about \$350 for 2 days.

MASS Fed of Dog Clubs Jean Gamble

Written report submitted.

Subject: MassFed legislative updates - 02/20/18

Our "Bills To Watch" list is attached with updates. Two of the three bills below have been sent to study and are no longer active.

SB457 - Sen. Montigny, Mark (D) - An Act to provide additional funding for animal welfare and safety programming. Action: 02/20/18 - Reported favorably by Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture.

HB407 - Rep. Cantwell, James (D) - An Act protecting dogs at boarding kennels and daycare facilities. Action: 02/20/18 - Accompanied study order.

SB458 - Sen. Montigny, Mark (D) - An Act relative to privately operated animal shelters and rescue organizations. Action: 02/20/18 - Accompanied study order.

Check the MassFed website regularly for updates on late breaking news.

Click the symbol to like MassFed on Facebook

If you want a copy of Jean's 5-page report, please contact Linda Hothan at 860-684-4946 or linda@lamingtonhouse.com.

Historical Cathy Ford

No written report submitted. Bonnie reported that the committee (Cathy Ford, Chair, and Stephanie D'Agostino and Jenn Elliott) continue to scan Club records (going back to 1984) for preservation.

Membership Care Trish Hamilton

No written report submitted. Bonnie reported that the committee sends welcome letters and logo stickers to new members.

Rescue Cheryl Fraser

No written report submitted. Alan Fraser reported that the pregnant female in Rescue, Nala, had her 14 puppies, and she and 13 of her puppies have gone to new homes. The Frasers still have 14-week old 'Peanut'. If interested in her, call Cheryl at 508-393-6966.

The Ridgeline Suzanne Cooney and Evelyn Strawn

No written report submitted. Bonnie reported that she and Helen are putting together a newsletter now, and that the co-editors (Suzanne and Evelyn) can use this newsletter as a template, and that they will assume their duties with the next newsletter.

Ways and Means Rachel Reams

Written report submitted. Ways and Means has no new news to report since the last BOD meeting. Rachel

ByLaws Anita Craven

Nothing to report re By-Laws. Anita Craven

Bonnie and Alan noted that our ByLaws (last updated in 2008) needed some 'tweaking', eg: ability to have a 'virtual' BOD meeting, the mission statement should include the word 'rescue', committee chairs should be members of NERRC, etc. It is desirable that changes should be made for the Annual Membership meeting in August.

Policy and Procedure contact the Board

No written report submitted. Alan explained that this committee would capture all motions and votes. Barbara moved, Bonnie seconded to appoint the Secretary as Chair of the Policy and Procedure Committee. Approved with 6 yes and one abstention (Linda).

Social Media Meghan Terwilliger

Written report submitted after the meeting.

Social Media- waiting for some photos and final inventory count from Ways and Means so I can post what items are left for our clearance sale! Meghan

Meghan explained the difference between Social Media (eg, Facebook) and Website. She suggested we resume a Brags column (no litters).

Website Cheryl Fraser and Meghan Terwilliger

Written report submitted after the meeting. Website has been updated with new board members, email addresses, and the 2018 calendar is up! Meghan

Regional Columnist Vacant

Bonnie explained that the Rhodesian Ridgeback Club of the United States, our parent club, wants information about each of the regional clubs' activities for inclusion in RRCUS' magazine The Ridgeback. Consensus of the Board was to appoint the editor(s) of NERRC's The Ridgeline.

Members

The Secretary read the applications for 2 new memberships (first reads):

Levi M. Kline Single
158 Colon Street
Beverly, MA 01915

Gregg Dionne and Barbara Glynn Household
1 Hunt Club Way
Pepperell, MA 01463

Unfinished Business

- At the 1/14 meeting, Board members voted to bestow Honorary Membership for Ulla Britt Ekengren and Diana Barrie. Board members had designed NERRC-green Certificates for Honorary Membership for both Ulla-Britt and Diana, and Linda had prepared transmittal letters (identical). All Board members signed both of the letters; Linda will mail out the packets.
- NERRC members Richard and Linda Brosnan's son, Peter, had lost his battle with cancer. Via an email vote in February, the Board authorized a donation to be sent to them/their charity. Alan reported that he had sent the donation to the St. Rosa Venerini Fund, Venerini Academy in Worcester.
- At the 1/14 meeting, the BOD voted to give Cheryl Fraser a thank you gift for all her years of service of editing and publishing NERRC's newsletter. Helen had purchased the gift, and all members of the BOD signed a card. Alan took the gift home to present to Cheryl.
- Anita Craven agreed to be Chair of the ByLaws Committee.

New Business:

- Bill Lindstrom, NERRC member since 2003, passed.
- Discussion about the difference between an all-day Bootcamp and a one- or 2-hour Judges Education program on the Rhodesian Ridgeback. To be held in conjunction with

the upcoming Regional Specialty September 15th. Barbara noted that the South Shore Kennel Club has, in the past, offered us use of a building and chairs for an event.

- The Holiday Party will be November 18th, 2018. Mark your calendars.
- NERRC is looking for a few good people to chair a summer event and the Holiday Party.

Adjourned 2:25pm

Linda

Linda G. Hothan
NERRC Secretary

New England Rhodesian Ridgeback Club
Board of Directors Meeting
Sirius Fun Dog Training, Plymouth, MA
March 11th, 2018

NERRC President Bonnie Johnson convened the meeting at 11:19am.

The Secretary took attendance via roll call:

Bonnie Johnson - Present
Barbara Ferguson - Present
Alan Fraser - Present
Linda Hothan - Present
Helen McCune - Present
Nikki Newton - Present
Meghan Terwilliger - Absent

Quorum present Guest: Cheryl Fraser

Minutes:

- Barbara moved to waive the reading of the February 25th minutes; Bonnie seconded; approved unanimously.
- Barbara moved to approve the February 25th minutes; Bonnie seconded; approved unanimously.

Secretary's Report: Linda Hothan

- The Honorary Membership transmittals and certificates were mailed to Ulla-Britt Ekengren and Diana Barrie.
- With respect to NERRC's missing files, Linda will contact Alan Fraser to get addresses for Marie LaPointe and Charlotte Matteson; Deborah Ridlon's address would be in the RRCUS membership list, and Linda has the address for Terese Conza.
- She called or emailed the 10 lapsed members to remind them that dues were due; several people did renew.
- First Reads:

Gregg Dionne and Barbara
Glynn
Pepperell, MA 01463
Family Voting
Sponsor: Bonnie Johnson

Levi M. Kline
Beverly, MA 01915
Single Voting
Sponsor: Bonnie
Johnson

Treasurer's Report: Alan Fraser

- Since the last meeting, 4 memberships renewed and one new member has submitted an application. NERRC's membership is comprised of: 21 associate, 33 single, and 18 households.
- Alan reimbursed Helen for the cost of the pewter gift.
- renewed NERRC's membership in the MASS Federation of Dog Clubs.
- Nikki moved to pay \$625 for one year Club insurance and for the first endorsement of \$50 for the lure coursing event; Barbara seconded; unanimously approved. (Director's insurance is separate and is paid later in the year).
- Alan reminded members that if someone adopts a rescue, then they are entitled to one year free membership as an associate member.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: It should be noted that no written committee reports were submitted because the Board had waived the requirement before this meeting which was to be abbreviated for the Tricks Class, immediately following.

Supported Shows: Barbara Ferguson

The Regional Specialty is September 15th on the Cape, with Supported Shows on September 13, 14 and 16. Trophies for the Specialty are being made. Barbara is looking for a Sweeps Judge for puppies and veterans.

Lure Coursing: Nikki Newton

We do not yet have a field location for the tentative Memorial Day event. Nikki works and cannot make phone calls during the day to locate a venue.

NIKKI REQUESTS HELP IN MAKING PHONE CALLS TO LOCATE A COURSING FIELD. PLEASE VOLUNTEER TO HELP NERRC IN THIS ENDEAVOR. CONTACT NIKKI AT 508-245-8543 OR NIKKNEWTON@GMAIL.COM

Rescue: Cheryl Fraser

Cheryl asked about an email sent to the BOD in December alleging that Rescue “was a mess”. There was some discussion that the rescue female Nala was “bred” after entering Rescue; Cheryl made it clear that Nala entered Rescue pregnant. Linda Hothan noted that veterinarians no longer give ‘abortion meds’, but allow the female to whelp the puppies.

Policy and Procedures: Linda Hothan

A 3-ring binder was presented to show where all the motions that are not recurring would be collected. (Note: A recurring motion would be approval of minutes) Linda and Cheryl Fraser did discuss structure of contents.

ByLaws; Anita Craven

In Chair Anita Craven’s absence, Alan Fraser offered to draft language regarding electronic meetings and send a draft to Anita for review before submitting to the BOD for discussion. Due to personal reasons, Linda Hothan resigned from the committee.

Historical: Cathy Ford

In Chair Cathy Ford’s absence, Nikki Newton reported that NERRC’s historical documents continue to be scanned for historical preservation. It was noted that for \$5.00 Genius Scan can save documents as a high quality PDJ or a JPEG.

Unfinished Business

- RRCUS Bootcamp is still in the formative stages. Handler Patricia Clark has offered to teach the handling class/seminar.
- Barbara Ferguson asked about securing trophies for the 2019 Regional Specialty; consensus was to wait until after the upcoming Regional Specialty in September 2018 on the Cape.

New Business

There was some discussion about using ‘Constant Contact’ or ‘Mail Chimp’ for our mailouts.

Next Meeting: June 3rd in Wrentham, MA.

Meeting adjourned 12:19pm.

Linda G. Hothan, NERRC Secretary

TRICKS CLASS



The February 25th Tricks Class was a huge success with 6 dogs earning their AKC Novice Tricks title and 1 earning her AKC Advanced Tricks Title!
Congratulations to NERRC members;
Helen McCune and Shelby, who had previously earned her Canine Good Citizen Title, successfully performed 5 tricks.

Successfully performing 10 tricks each were;
Nikki Newton and Tia.
Erica Pritchard and Indy
Peggy Newman and Major
Diane Brown and Geo (Border Collie)
Dr. Jessica Meade and Freya (Bergamasco)

Barbara Morss and Callie (Bernese Mountain Dog) earned their AKC Advanced Trick Dog Title.

You can find more information at AKC.org

A big thank you to Barbara Ferguson for making this an outstanding and educational event.

2018 Calendar of Events

June 3 Board Meeting	Wrentham dog show after judging at 8:00 am
August 5 Summer Social/Annual Meeting	Location TBD
September 13-16 Regional Specialty and Supported Shows	Cape Cod
November 18 Holiday Party	Location TBD

First Reads

Gregg Dionne and Barbara Glynn
Pepperell, Ma
Family/Household
Sponsor: Bonnie Johnson

Levi M. Kline
Beverly, Ma
Single Voting
Sponsor: Bonnie Johnson

Additional First Reads

Rebecca and Marie Fitzpatrick
Attleboro, MA
Family/Household
Sponsor: Bonnie Johnson

Canine Cryptorchidism – Undescended testicles in dogs

Basic research on canine cryptorchidism defines the complications as a “common developmental defect in purebred dogs causes health concerns of reduced fertility and increases risk of testicular malignancies” (Zhao, et al, 2010). Dogs who go on to attempt breeding have been found to have reduced sperm count or be completely infertile. Dogs who retain the undescended testicle are the most at risk, obviously, for the cancers associated with this issue. (Zhao, et al, 2009)

So far, 21 genes have been associated with the abnormality, and it is an autosomal recessive gene. This means that it is not on the sex chromosomes, but on the normal body-type chromosomes. Recessive means that generally speaking, it is the most likely to appear in a dog with lineage of both sides containing the gene. In reference for breeding, if both the dog and the bitch carry the gene, the dog will have the trait (Lopate, C., 2011). Given that the gene for cryptorchidism is not a single loci gene, it has been shown to be inherited with several other disorders such as hip dysplasia, patellar luxation, and penile issues. The breeds studied so far have been “Boxer, English Bulldog, Cairn terrier, Chihuahua, Miniature Dachshund, Maltese, Pekingese, Pomeranian, Toy, Miniature and Standard Poodle, Miniature Schnauzer, Old English Sheepdog, Shetland Sheepdog, Siberian Husky, and Yorkshire Terrier” (Lopate, C., 2011). These breeds all show the autosomal recessive pattern mentioned above. Obviously, the Bergamasco Sheepdog has not been studied or submitted sufficient DNA samples to anyone for sufficient study on any abnormality so far.

For anyone not aware of the basic anatomy and developmental issues here, this is the basic progression. Normal testicular development involves a series of steps wherein the the testes descend down from an area near the kidneys, through the abdomen, and eventually through the groin. Failure to descend properly at any of these steps is directly related to a genetic mutation so that the testes do not progress through the steps properly. Depending on where the testes are held up in descent can dictate the severity of the result for the animal. The process begins prior to birth and is finished for dogs by day 14-35. Hormones are not a contributing factor, although they were once thought to be significant. By the end of 8 weeks, if the dog does not have both descended testicles, he is considered crytorchorchid. The right testes is more common than the

left, because of where it begins in its journey down the pathway. Hormone treatments or other methods are not successful in treatment of this genetic mutation abnormality.

According to this geneticist,

“Removal of all affected males, their offspring and their parents from the breeding program is the recommended course. Waiting until puberty is fully attained is recommended before deeming any individual a cryptorchid.”

(Lopate, C., 2011).

According to 2 veterinarians,

“Cryptorchid dogs should never be bred.” (Ward, E., & Downing, R., 2018)

The reasons for this recommendation are based on the hundreds of studies done on this topic since 2009. Our genetic study abilities changed dramatically since then, because we have the ability to isolate unique SNPs - single nucleotide polymorphisms, variations between genes. This allows us to examine traits such as cryptorchidism in ways that were not possible prior to the canine genome being mapped and SNPs coming into play for breeds. Just since 2012, this mutation has been studied sufficiently to lead to all the breeds mentioned above being studied enough for us to understand this condition as an autosomal recessive disease. Not to say that it might be. We are able to say unequivocally that it is autosomal recessive. This means we can probably map this on our pedigrees fairly easily now. Even a simple google inquiry, “Should you breed a dog with cryptorchidism?” will lead you to hundreds of simple results explaining the above without too much scientific jargon.

We can certainly obtain and study our Bergamasco Sheepdog DNA and compare it to the studies that have been done, which would be a great service to the breed. Mapping the Bergamasco Sheepdog genome will only lead to greater understanding overall of all the possibilities of linked and not linked disorders. For breeding programs, why wouldn't we want to breed our healthiest, mutation-free dogs.

Resources

Lopate, C., (2011). Cryptorchidism in the Dog How it happens, How to diagnose, Whether to Treat. *Canine Genetic Reserve*. Retrieved from

<http://www.caninegeneticreserve.com/index.php/canine-reproduction-articles>

Ostrander, E. A., & Wayne, R. K. (2018). The canine genome. *Genome Research*, Retrieved from <https://genome.cshlp.org/content/15/12/1706.full>

Ward, E. & Downing, R., (2018). Retained testicles (cryptorchidism) in dogs. VCA Hospitals. Retrieved from

<https://vcahospitals.com/know-your-pet/retained-testicle-cryptorchidism-in-dogs>

Zhao, X., Zhiquiang, D., Glenn, K. and Rothschild, M.F. (2009). Candidate gene discovery in retained testicles in dogs. *Animal Industry Report*, AS 655, ASL R2426. Retrieved from:

https://lib.dr.iastate.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?referer=https://www.google.com/&httpsredir=1&article=1466&context=ans_air

Zhao, X., Du, Z.-Q. and Rothschild, M.F. (2010), An association study of 20 candidate genes with cryptorchidism in Siberian Husky dogs. *Journal of Animal Breeding and Genetics*, 127: 327–331. doi:10.1111/j.1439-0388.2010.00859.x