



SHELTIE WISE

The monthly newsletter of the Shetland Sheepdog Club of No. NJ

February 2009

Club website: www.sscnj.org

Pat Marchello, editor --jetsong@comcast.net

Meeting Notice - Friday, March 13th

We will be having our March Meeting on Friday, March 13th at the **Willow Grove Presbyterian Church, 7:30 pm.** Our special guest will be Vinnie Reo from Wolf Visions. He promises to bring a special "guest."

Please feel free to invite friends and family to this educational presentation, it is open to the community (as all of our meetings). Our business meeting will follow our speaker.

Directions to the meeting site are on the last page of the newsletter and on the club website.



About our speaker --

Wolf Visions . . . Wolf Education Program With Our Lupine Friends! NJ Teacher teaches all about wolves!

We are here to dispel the myths and legends about the "Big Bad Wolf" and to teach the importance of their role in keeping a balanced ecosystem. The message the wolves howl is: "Little Red Riding Hood Lied!"

Wolf Visions' Presentations provide information to develop a basic understanding of communication within a wolf pack and the social structure of the wolf family.

Books and posters are used to supplement the discussion. A slide presentation chronicles the Yellowstone Wolf Restoration, with candid portraits further enhancing the audience's understanding of the wolf. Viewers are given the opportunity to participate in a question and answer period. The highlight of the program is the introduction of our lupine canines.

"Improving on nature is impossible. Restoring it is imperative."

Refreshment Calendar

March	Connie Deetz
April	Tina Sobers
May	Pat Marchello
June	Cathy Miller & Lisa Stoddard

Brags....

From Elaine... Meg and Abigail both took their 2nd leg on their RAE2. They have both been inducted into the Pomeranian Hall of Fame and now have the title of HOF at the end of



their names. I will be flying them to Kentucky on the 9th to show them in Rally.



At the same show my friend Edy (she was at our party) and Kyrie (her bi black rescue) got her first leg on her RN with a great score of 95. This is an accomplishment for this dog as, when she rescued her, she was very withdrawn and frightened in new circumstances.

Buddy and Ursula's champion bi-black bitch, Lana has started the year off well taking several BOB's.



From Donna....

Pinnacle White Lightning (Whitie) had a beautiful litter of 6 for my friends Terri Little

and Vicki Rolls on January 26, 2004. She was bred to MACH Belcorft Lightn Strikes (Striker) MX, MXJ, CDX, RE, HSAs, OGC, CGC and he was Best All Around Sheltie ASSA 2006.

Whitie decided we needed a choice of different blues and 2 tri colors. We have a blue M and blue F, a mostly white blue F like Mom and a cryptic blue F and a tri M and tri F.

If you have a good eye you can see the tri on left has an image of a shore bird in its collar. The beak is on the left close to top of head and the tri on left has an image of a dog sitting with breath coming out of its mouth.

Seminars...

Sponsored by the
Western Mass. Shetland Sheepdog Club

**Two Day Seminar on Practical Genetics,
open to All-Breeds
presented by
Kim Schive
March 14 & 15**

Hazardville/Enfield, Ct.

Cost: \$75 (discount available to WMSSC Club Members) includes continental breakfast and lunch starts 9 am both days. Contact Terri Rinaldi, thunder7@aol.com for additional information or to sign up.

Nancy sent us the following warning...

**PLEASE PASS IT ON ~ EVEN IF YOU DON'T
HAVE A DOG OR CAT, YOU SURELY KNOW
SOMEONE WHO DOES.**

Checked on [www. Snopes.com](http://www.Snopes.com) (see below).

**Please tell every dog or cat owner you
know. Even if you don't have a pet,
please pass this to those who do.**

Over the weekend the doting owner of two young lab mixes purchased **Cocoa Mulch** from Target to use in their garden. They loved the way it smelled and it was advertised to keep cats away from their garden. Their dog Calypso decided that the mulch smelled good enough to eat and devoured a large helping. She vomited a few times which was typical when she eats something new but wasn't acting lethargic in any way. The next day, Mom woke up and took Calypso out for her morning walk. Half way through the walk, she had a seizure and died instantly.

Although the mulch had **NO** warnings printed on the label, upon further investigation on the company's website, this product is **HIGHLY** toxic to dogs and cats.

Cocoa Mulch is manufactured by Hershey's, and they claim that 'It is true that studies have shown that 50% of the dogs that eat Cocoa Mulch can suffer physical harm to a variety of degrees (depending on each individual dog). However, 98% of all dogs won't eat it.'

This Snopes site gives the following information:

<http://www.snopes.com/critters/crusader/cocoamulch.asp>
<<http://www.snopes.com/critters/crusader/cocoamulch.asp>
>

Cocoa Mulch, which is sold by Home Depot, Foreman's Garden Supply and other Garden supply stores, contains a lethal ingredient called 'Theobromine'. It is lethal to dogs and cats. It smells like chocolate and it really attracts dogs. They will ingest this stuff and die. Several deaths already occurred in the last 2-3 weeks. Theobromine is in all chocolate, especially dark or baker's chocolate which is toxic to dogs. Cocoa bean shells contain potentially toxic quantities of theobromine, a xanthine compound similar in effects to caffeine and theophylline. A dog that ingested a lethal quantity of garden mulch made from cacao bean shells developed severe convulsions and died 17 hours later. Analysis of the stomach contents and the ingested cacao bean shells revealed the presence of lethal amounts of theobromine.

Break Out the Bifocals

Pet Column for the week of June 30, 2008

Office of Public Engagement
2001 S. Lincoln Ave.
Urbana, Illinois 61802
Phone: 217/333-2907

Ashley Mitek
Information Specialist
University of Illinois
College of Veterinary Medicine

Putting bifocals on your elderly beagle is probably just what he needs, but don't count on him not mistaking them for a chew toy. Many dog owners have lovingly looked into the eyes of their aging four-legged companions to notice a slightly hazy, cloudy appearance. Although many owners think it's the start of a cataract, it is usually just a routine change in older dogs called nuclear sclerosis, or hardening of the lens.

"It is important to differentiate nuclear sclerosis from cataracts," says Dr. Ralph Hamor, a veterinary ophthalmologist at the University of Illinois Veterinary

Teaching Hospital in Urbana. He explains that as humans and animals age the lens fibers in our eyes continue to regenerate and the center becomes more densely packed. This causes the lens to become less flexible and is the reason why many people who start to have the condition cannot focus on objects up close. Thus, the need to run to the drug store for a pair of bifocals.

While nuclear sclerosis is caused by a hardening of the lens depicted by a cloudy appearance, cataracts look more white or crystalline, like cracked ice," notes Dr. Hamor. And "cracking" is exactly what is going on. With cataracts, the lens fibers are actually broken, and vision is much more affected.

Fortunately, "dogs with nuclear sclerosis tend to have pretty normal vision," says Dr. Hamor. This aging change, which most often starts in dogs around seven years of age, is usually found in both eyes and the cloudy appearance owners complain of is symmetrical. The changes are so consistent "you can almost age a dog by its eyes" adds Dr. Hamor. Although detailed vision of near objects may be slightly compromised in pets with the condition, their day and night vision should not be affected.

Speaking of night vision, veterinarians are commonly asked why their dog or cats eyes have that characteristic light reflection at night; the same phenomena referenced in the phrase "a deer in headlights." The tapetum lucidum, a shiny reflective layer on the back of the eye, causes this. With cataracts, ophthalmologists usually cannot see this anatomical trait, but with nuclear sclerosis the tapetum can be visualized, making for a great diagnostic tool in differentiating the two totally different diagnoses.

Humans do not have a tapetum, which is why if you take a picture of a dog and an owner together, you may see red-eye in the human, and a reflection in the dog's eye. Red-eye is caused by a reflection of blood vessels in the back of the eye, while the dog's reflection is caused from the tapetum. Since most domestic animals have a tapetum, we never see them have red eye in photographs because it is covering the blood vessels. One of the exceptions however is blue-eyed dogs and cats. They do not have the reflective material in the back of their eye.

If you notice any changes in your pet's eyes, take it to a veterinarian. It should be easy for them to differentiate between a normal aging process, and a disease process like cataracts. If your pet does have nuclear sclerosis, you shouldn't worry too much. It just means your pooch will have to hold that newspaper a little further away if it wants to read it after fetching it for you.

*This article was taken from the Univ of Illinois website:
<http://vetmed.illinois.edu/petcolumns/showsect.cfm?section=Dogs>
 Please visit this site for other interesting articles.*

Did you know...

The Pet industry is a \$43 billion-dollar industry in the US, ranked 8th largest retail industry (above movies, music and video games, btw), 39% of all homes own at least one dog, according to CNBC, who did the show prior to Westminster, and also stated that approx 3.4 million watch the Westminster airing.

You can find out with one call to AKC how many events are held in your state per year, but once you do that, you can extrapolate the economic impact in your state by using these numbers from AKC:

Per the AKC site here are the amounts of money taken into the area as per size of show-

- less than 1,000 entries \$319,200
- 1,000 to 2500 entries \$588,000
- greater than 2500 entries \$1,075,200

This came from an email from an ASSA member to the ASSA yahoo group. Permission was given by the sender to cross-post.

Sheltie Stats from the OFA site

OFA Elbow Dysplasia: Jan 1974 thru Dec 2008

# of Evaluations	% Normal	% Dysplastic	% Grade 1	% Grade 2	% Grade 3
462	97.4	2.6	2.4	0.0	0.2

OFA Thyroid: Jan 1974 thru Dec 2008

# of Evaluations	% Normal	% Autoimmune Thyroiditis	% Idiopathic Hypothyroidism	% Equivocal
504	74.7	13.2	0.2	11.9

[There is a link to the *Univ of Michigan stats for Thyroid.*

The Univ of Michigan stats are based on 14,110 evaluations thru Dec 2008. OFA's are based on 504 evaluations (Jan 74 thru Dec 08)

<http://www.offa.org/thystatbreed.html?view=2>]

OFA Hip Dysplasia: Jan 1974 thru Dec 2008

# of Evaluations	% Excellent	% Displastic
16953	26.8	4.8

For a breakdown of other breeds and Sheltie Ranking against those breeds, see www.offa.org

The next two pages...

1. The next article comes from Carol Howell's newsletter. Thank you Herb
2. Buddy and Ursula wanted to remind you to do you K9 Tax Return

Pet Insurance - Yay or Nay:

Pet health insurance, like other forms of insurance, is a gamble. You're betting your pet will need it, and the company is setting odds that it won't, in terms of limits and other fine print. There are a number of factors to consider before you buy pet health insurance. You may, in fact, decide against it, depending on your own situation, and your willingness to gamble. Here are some details to question about any pet health insurance plan before you buy it, and other considerations:

Does the company use a network or provider list?

If you are determined to stay with your own veterinarian, avoid these companies. Their approved lists of veterinarians may require extra driving time, etc. (Of course, if your veterinarian is listed, you're one step ahead). Fortunately many pet health insurance plans allow you to use any veterinarian you choose.

What are the exclusions?

All pet health insurance policies have exclusions. One of the most common is the "pre-existing condition" exclusion, which can be defined loosely as "injuries, medical conditions and symptoms" of concern that were evident prior to enrollment.

Other exclusions may include neutering/spaying, hip-dysplasia, vaccinations, flea control, heartworm medication, and dental care.

What is the deductible and the co-pay?

Some companies will charge a flat deductible of \$50 to \$100, depending on the age of the pet, for each procedure; in addition almost all policies will require a co-pay of 10% to 20% of the veterinarian's fee.

Deductibles and co-pays (also called "co-insurance"), are intended to lessen both the number of total claims paid,

and the number of unnecessary procedures and diagnostic tests.

What are the "incident," annual, or lifetime caps?

Many companies provide a cap (maximum) amount for each covered illness or procedure (incident cap). Some companies also utilize an annual cap, over which no further coverage is provided for that calendar year. Still another cap used by pet health insurance companies is a lifetime cap.

One company that I researched has a \$12,000 lifetime cap, citing that only one in 50,000 pets ever exceeds that amount in a lifetime.

Is it a "one size fits all" policy?

Fortunately some companies offer a variety of plans, depending on the needs of your pet(s). One company even provides a policy specifically for senior pets. Another has a plan for accident coverage only. Riders are also available, for dental, extended cancer coverage, or preventive care (well-care), among others. You might be able to save premium costs through picking and choosing the plan that is right for your pet(s).

What are any other benefits and savings?

Some pet health insurance companies are very creative with additional benefits. One company offers coverage for third party property damage liability, holiday cancellation, boarding fees, and advertising your missing pets. Two companies give a 5% to 15% discount for multiple pets enrolled. One company is actively soliciting corporations to offer pet insurance to their employees as part of their benefit package.

What's the bottom line?

There is no way that anyone can advise you whether or not to buy pet insur-

ance. I originally chose not to, reasoning that the kind of coverage per pet that I'd want would probably cost more in annual premiums than my average veterinary costs. However, in 2006 after spending a massive amount of money, I enrolled all three of my dogs in a well researched plan. And, so far I have not been disappointed by the coverage and offerings of my selected program.

In my search for a reputable pet insurance company, I started by speaking to my veterinarian. However, I quickly found out that most veterinarians do not have the time to seek out and recommend pet insurance companies for many reasons. One reason is that they do not wish to be responsible for a recommendation in which a client may not be satisfied with once they enroll. Another reason is that all of the pet insurance companies (at least the countless ones that I researched) require the pet owner to pay the veterinarian for services rendered. After the paperwork is sent to the pet insurance company they in turn provide payment to the pet owner, not the veterinarian.

Should you wish to review the offerings of the various pet insurance companies, an excellent source of which I would recommend is a website entitled: *Pet Insurance Review* www.petinsurancereview.com. This site provides an unbiased overview of the various companies. In addition, you may review comments made by actual consumers who have had experiences with these companies.



Label

Use this form if there are any pets in your household.

L A B E L H E R E	Your first name and initial	Last name
	Pet's first name and initial	Pet's pet name
	Home address	
	City, town or post office, state, and ZIP code	

Pet Election Campaign ▶ Check here if you want \$1 to go to a fund to elect a dog or cat president. ▶

Income

Your Pet's Contribution to Your Household

1	How cute is your pet, on a scale of 1 to 10? ▶ <input type="checkbox"/> Multiply by 100 and enter here	1	
2	2	Number of times a day you pet, play with, or talk to your pet	2
3	3	Number of times a child has claimed your pet ate his/her homework	3
4	4	Number of times your pet has protected you or your home (from a real or imagined threat)	4
5	5	Number of times your pet has eaten food someone didn't want	5
6	6	Snookums Tax: Total number of nicknames for your pet	6
7	7	Add up the numbers in lines 1–6 and multiply by \$10,000. This is your total Pet Tax ▶	7

Adjustments

Expenses You Can Deduct

8	8	Food: Estimated yearly cost of meals, snacks, and scraps eaten by your pet	8	
9	9	9	Grooming: Number of hours you spend grooming or thinking about grooming your pet, or cleaning its cage or tank. Multiply by \$10	9
10	10	10	Number of squeaky toys, scratching posts, and hamster wheels in your home. Multiply by \$5.	10
11	11	11	Hours a week spent exercising the animal. Multiply by \$10 (or \$20 for walks when the temperature is 32°F or below)	11
12	12	12	Total amount spent on obedience training, veterinarians, therapists, and gifts for angry neighbors	12
13	13	13	Add up the numbers in lines 8–12. These are your total Pet Expenses ▶	13

Damages Incurred by Pet

14	14	14	How many times did your pet throw up or have an "accident" in your house?	14
15	15	15	How many pieces of furniture or clothing has your pet destroyed?	15
16	16	16	Piranha Credit: Number of other household pets destroyed by this pet	16
17	17	17	Add up the numbers in lines 14–16 and multiply by \$100. This is your total Damages Credit ▶	17

Calculate Your Pet Tax

18	18	18	Add up the numbers in lines 13 and 17	18
19	19	19	If line 18 is more than line 7, subtract line 7 from line 18. This is the amount of your refund ▶	19
20	20	20	Choose form of payment: <input type="checkbox"/> cash <input type="checkbox"/> equivalent in pet food <input type="checkbox"/> a new pet	20
20	20	20	If line 18 is less than line 7, subtract line 18 from line 7. This is the amount you owe ▶	20

Sign Here

For details on how to pay, see publication K9-433228B73VZ9998TP.

Your signature

Date

Your pet's signature (or paw print, nose print, or piece of dander, feather, or scale)

Date

WARNING: The penalty for falsifying information is cleaning up poop at the local pound for 300 hours a week.

3.



*Always looking for interesting things for
Sheltie Wise!*

*If you have anything for the paper, please
send it to me. Please indicate in the subject
line or somewhere in the email that it is for the
newsletter.*

*Thank you,
Pat*

Directions to the meeting site...

Willow Grove Presbyterian Church
1961 Raritan Rd,
Scotch Plains, NJ 07076

908.232.5678

Local

The Willow Grove Presbyterian Church building is located in south Scotch Plains, just south of the Shackamaxon Country Club golf course. The church building is one block east of the intersection of Raritan Road and Martine Avenue, where the Scotch Plains South Side Firehouse provides a landmark. The church is easily reached via Martine Avenue (Scotch Plains and Fanwood), Terrill Road (Plainfield, Scotch Plains, and Fanwood),

Lamberts Mill Road (Scotch Plains and Westfield) and Lake Avenue (Clark and Rahway). Please note that Raritan Road is NOT the same street as Old Raritan Road in Clark.

From Route 22

Exit Route 22 onto Terrill Road (Sears is on the corner). Take Terrill Road southeast approximately 3 miles, until it bends sharply left and becomes Raritan Road (do NOT turn right and go up the hill on Raritan Road westbound). Proceed east on Raritan Road for a bit more than ½ mile. You will pass the campus of Union County Vocational and Technical school on the right. At the traffic light at Martine Avenue and Raritan Road (South Side Firehouse on your right), go straight. Almost immediately, turn left into the church parking lot.

From the Garden State Parkway

Exit the Parkway at exit 135, Clark, and proceed north on Central Avenue, a large, multilane street with many large stores and fast food. (If you were northbound on the parkway, you will need to go around the circle and under the underpass before bearing right. If you were southbound on the parkway, Central Avenue is the first right turn off the off-ramp.) Go one long block (about 1/3 mile) on Central Avenue. At the first major intersection with traffic lights, turn left. This will put you southwestbound on Old Raritan Road, Clark. Stay on Old Raritan Road for a little over a mile, through several traffic lights, then bear right with the flow of traffic onto Oak Ridge Road. You will be on Oak Ridge Road only for a short distance. At the next traffic light (grocery/liquor store on left, doctor's office on right), turn right on Lake Avenue. After about 1/3 mile on Lake Avenue, cross an overpass over train tracks, and arrive at a traffic signal. Bear left onto the Martine Avenue Extension. Take the Martine Avenue Extension for a bit more than ½ mile, to a traffic light at Raritan Road (South Side Firehouse on right). Turn right on Raritan Road, and almost immediately, turn left into the church parking lot.