CSCOC Newsletter

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June—July, 2004

VISIT OUR WEBSITE & STORE:
WWW.CSCOC.ORG
WWW.CAFEPRESS.COM/CSCOC

The following are the objectives which this Club honors and abides by:

To encourage and promote the breeding of pure-bred Cocker Spaniels and to do all possible to bring their natural qualities to perfection:

To urge members and breeders to accept the standard of the breed as approved by the American Kennel Club as the only standard of excellence by which Cocker Spaniels shall be judged:

To do all in its power to protect and advance the interests of the breed by encouraging sports-manlike competition at dog shows, obedience trials and field trials.

To conduct sanctioned and licensed specialty shows, obedience trials, and field trials under the rules of the American Kennel Club.

CSCOC Highlights .....

Membership Dues

Please remember that membership dues are due now. If they are not paid by October 1, your club membership will lapse, so please make your payment to Linda Praznik, Treasurer, ASAP. Reminder statements are included in this newsletter for your convenience.

2004 Summer Specialty

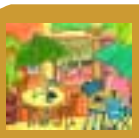
Many thanks to all our members who worked so hard in putting on this event. The casual Hawaiian dress made the day memorable. It was an enjoyable day among friends and fellow exhibitors! What a wonderful way to close up our event with the wine, fruit, and cheese spread provided by Robert & Rita Lewis!

August Potluck Dinner Meeting

It's potluck time!!! Bring your favorite recipe!! The dish should feed about 12 people and please be sure to bring serving utensils. Family and friends are welcome! Hope to see you all there!



Upcoming Meetings



Board Meeting

Tuesday, July 27, 2004

Mimi's Café

7:30pm



General Meeting

Tuesday, August 3, 2004

Lois Wilson

7:30pm

Events In August —

Date	Event	Judge
7/31 - 8/01	Mt. Palomar Kennel Club Vista, CA	Linda Riedel William Dwelly
7/31 - 8/01	Simi Valley Valley Club AKC Agility Trial Van Nuys, CA	Larry Brockett
8/07 - 8/08	South Bay Kennel Club Torrance, CA	David Flanagan Stephen Hurt
8/07 - 8/08	South Coast Agility Club AKC Agility Trial Mission Viejo, CA	Kera Holm Kylie Bourke
8/14 - 8/15	Santa Cruz Kennel Club Santa Cruz, CA	Marian Mason Hodesson Christina Hubbell
8/20 - 8/22	So Cal Port. Water Dog Club AKC Agility Trial City of Industry, CA	Ann McQuillen Randy Reed
8/27	Simi Valley Kennel Club Santa Barbara, CA	Ricardo Saldana
8/28 - 8/29	Santa Barbara Kennel Club Santa Barbara, CA	Jacqueline Quiros-Kubat Kimberly Meredith-Cavanna
8/28 - 8/29	Golden Retriever of L.A. AKC Agility Trial Ventura, CA	Melodie Sudick Sharon Kihara

CSCOC Board Members

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Julie Virosteck

Vice-President:
Mindy Donovan-Tandy

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Marleta McFarlane

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Web-site: http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile/birds&mammals.htm

WEST NILE VIRUS

Transmission Cycle

West Nile (WN) virus is amplified during periods of adult mosquito blood-feeding by continuous transmission between mosquito vectors and bird reservoir hosts. Infectious mosquitoes carry virus particles in their salivary glands and infect susceptible bird species during blood-meal feeding. Competent bird reservoirs will sustain an infectious viremia (virus circulating in the bloodstream) for 1 to 4 days after exposure, after which these hosts develop life-long immunity. A sufficient number of vectors must feed on an infectious host to ensure that some survive long enough to feed again on a susceptible reservoir host.

People, horses, and most other mammals are not known to develop infectious-level viremias very often, and thus are probably "dead-end" or incidental-hosts.

Birds

West Nile virus has been detected in dead birds of at least 138 species. Although birds, particularly crows and jays, infected with WN virus can die or become ill, most infected birds do survive. Click here for more information on species of dead birds in the U.S. in which West Nile virus has been detected.

There is no evidence that a person can get WN virus from handling live or dead infected birds. Persons should avoid bare-handed contact when handling any dead animals, and use gloves or double plastic bags to place the bird carcass in a garbage bag or contact their local health department for guidance.

Dogs and Cats

West Nile virus does not appear to cause extensive illness in dogs or cats. There is a single published report of WN virus isolated from a dog in southern Africa (Botswana) in 1982. West Nile virus was isolated from a single dead cat in 1999. A serosurvey in New York City of dogs in the 1999 epidemic area indicated that dogs are frequently infected. Nonetheless, disease from WN virus infection in dogs has yet to be documented.

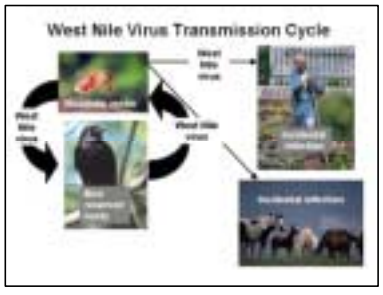
There is no documented evidence of person-to-person or animal-to-person transmission of WN virus. Because WN virus is transmitted by infectious mosquitoes, dogs or cats could be exposed to the virus in the same way humans become infected. Veterinarians should take normal infection control precautions when caring for an animal suspected to have this or any viral infection. It is possible that dogs and cats could become infected by eating dead infected animals such as birds, but this is undocumented.

There is no reason to destroy an animal just because it has been infected with WN virus. Full recovery from the infection is likely. Treatment would be supportive and consistent with standard veterinary practices for animals infected with a viral agent.

Horses

Cases of WN virus disease in horses have been documented, either by virus isolation or by detection of WN virus-neutralizing antibodies in 1999, 2000, and 2001. Approximately 40% of equine WN virus cases results in the death of the horse. Horses most likely become infected with WN virus in the same way humans become infected, by the bite of infectious mosquitoes.

In locations where WN virus is circulating, horses should be protected from mosquito bites as much as possible. Horses vaccinated against eastern equine encephalitis (EEE), western equine encephalitis (WEE), and Venezuelan equine encephalitis (VEE) are NOT protected against WN virus infection. A West Nile virus vaccine for horses was recently licensed, but its effectiveness is unknown. Horses infected by WN virus develop a brief low-level viremia that is rarely, if ever, infectious to mosquitoes. There is no reason to destroy a horse just because it has WN virus. Data suggest that most horses recover from the infection. Treatment would be supportive and consistent with standard veterinary practices for animals infected with a viral agent.



Other Vertebrates

Through December 2001, CDC has also received a small number of reports of WN virus infection in bats, a chipmunk, a skunk, a squirrel, and a domestic rabbit.

Litter loss can occur at any point of the pregnancy. Puppies may be resorbed or born dead, or they may acquire Herpes virus as they pass through the vaginal canal at birth (along with E.coli bacteria), in utero prior to birth, or by contact with infective secretions (respiratory aerosols or vaginal discharges) after birth. Bitches infected with Herpes prior to breeding or from exposure at the time of breeding simply never show as pregnant. The best way of preventing gestational loss or neonatal death is to quarantine the dam from 3 weeks prior to breeding to 3 weeks after whelping. To determine if a bitch has been freshly exposed to Herpes during gestation, and has not whelped for that reason, 2 serum samples, taken 2 weeks apart, are submitted to a lab for a Herpes titer. A changing titer (either rising or falling) indicates that Herpes infection may have caused the loss of a litter in gestation.

Herpes infection of the dam which does not result in abortion may result in low birth weight, weak or stillborn puppies. If there are surviving puppies in a Herpes litter, they may or may not have permanent damage to the nervous system, kidney, or lymphoid tissue, much in the way that puppy strangles may damage internal organs and cause problems later in life.

Once we have experienced Herpes in a litter of neonates, we are critically interested in whether or not we are likely to experience a repeat occurrence if we breed the dam again. We are also interested in whether the stud dog must be infected. Herpes in adult dogs tends to go dormant, as it does in humans, and to resurface and become acute in times of stress. Consider the stresses in play for the bitch being bred:

- Hormonal events which temporarily impair the body's ability to fight infection.
- Shipping, boarding, breeding and shipping again, should the bitch travel to the stud dog.
- Possible concurrent bacterial vaginal or uterine disease:
- In appropriate parts of the country, concurrent lyme disease.
- Showing.
- In the bitch or 5 years or older, decreased thyroid levels.
- Any other stresses, such as temperature stress.

Knowing that stress may activate Herpes, (which may then in 3 weeks cause early embryonic death) goes a very long way toward explaining those bitches we have been so certain were bred up to the fourth week, but failed to whelp at term, or that whelped a much smaller than anticipated litter. Where we have done thorough pre-breeding workups and have palpated normal vesicles in a bitch at 28 days of gestation, yet no puppies were delivered, we test for Herpes with paired serum samples taken 2 weeks apart, at about the time the bitch should have whelped. Where the bitch was in good health and clean of bacterial vaginal or uterine disease originally, had normal vesicles and later lost her litter, we have found positive Herpes titers in about 80% of cases. This should be an extremely valuable piece of information for breeders, especially those who show regularly, have multiple animals in their kennel, who groom or run boarding kennels, or who give obedience lessons, and so on. Remember, this disease can literally be carried home on your clothing.

What is the expectation for a bitch which has whelped a known Herpes litter (diagnosed by post mortem exam), or has been shown by titers to have lost a litter in gestation due to Herpes? If she is stressed by some of the factors above, she may be affected again. On the other hand, if she is bred at home or driven back and forth to the stud, given a complete pre-breeding medical workup, including thyroid testing, blood count, and cervical culture and sensitivity, and has any detrimental conditions cleared up, she is perfectly likely to have no problem. This also supposes that she is not traveled around during her gestation and taken to shows, that she is kept apart from those dogs coming into the kennel from outside and those traveling to shows, and so forth. It also includes not going to classes where there are other dogs as well. In a breed felt to be immunodeficient (Rottweilers, Dobermans, Boxers and possibly Pugs, Collies, and Shelties) the risk of a repeat occurrence will be greater.

If stresses are avoided, most bitches have no problem in subsequent breedings.

Nearly all dogs with any doggy contacts at all have been exposed to Herpes. It is not just or primarily a venereal disease. It is not usually or necessarily contracted through the breeding. It is usually contracted through exposure to the respiratory aerosols of other dogs. The very short-term immunity a new exposure may confer fades quickly, leaving the dog open to repeat infection as well as to dormant infections re-surfacing. In fact, it would be very hard to say that any repeat of the infection came from a dormant infection instead of a new exposure to high levels of infective particles. Just going to the stud dog's premises can be enough to expose the bitch; if there are frequent visiting bitches to the kennel, new infections may be brought with them. If the stud dog or his kennel mates are showing or training, he may be shedding high levels of particles. It is simply not possible to avoid this virus in the dog's environment. But it is possible to limit that exposure; if going to the stud dog, don't travel by air, and stay in a motel with the bitch rather than leaving her at the stud's kennel. If going to a dog show, completely change clothes and wash before encountering any bred bitches at home. If training or showing kennel mates, isolate her from them and perform her 'chores' before doing theirs, always going from "clean to dirty".

The most susceptible bitch of all, however, will be the one that lives in a pet home and has not had routine exposure to other dogs or the virus. Such a bitch upon being exposed to the virus will be more seriously affected that a bitch with routine exposure to low levels of the virus.

A stud dog bred to an infected bitch may or may not be infected, either as the animal which passed the infection to the bitch or as a recipient of an acute infection she was harboring when he bred her. Herpes testing at the time of breeding is meaningless, since almost all individuals in the bitch's environment may be in various phases of acquiring or recovering from infection. It bears repeating here, that the respiratory infection is very mild and rarely ever shows actual clinical signs in adult dogs. Only paired serum samples taken at different times to detect a rising (becoming infected) titer, or a falling (recovering from an infection) titer, can tell us anything. Obviously the information generated in this way will be too late to be of use at the time of breeding. The usefulness of these paired titers is seen chiefly as a tool to identify if a bitch has lost her litter due to Herpes after the fact. We can rule Herpes in or out as one of the several options for causes of litter resorbtion, or still born or sickly neonates.

The best rule to follow is that a kennel with an active show schedule, a stud dog which is being shown or trained, a boarding kennel, or a kennel where breedings are frequent, so that visiting bitches are frequently on the premises is likely to harbor infective particles. The worst shedders however, will be pet dogs newly exposed to a heavily trafficed environment, such as a boarding kennel. These dogs will be more seriously affected and will shed more virus particles. A visiting bitch staying in a kennel where susceptible pets are passing through will likely be more at risk than in visiting a show kennel, where all the dogs will have some resistance at all times, and shedding will be at lower levels.

Certainly fighting a uterine or vaginal infection may be stress a bitch sufficiently to produce an adverse affect on resistance to Herpes. Certainly any bitch low in thyroid would find it more difficult to resist an infection. The thyroid levels necessary for the life of a comfortable pet and those necessary for reproduction, especially in the bitch, are not the same. Nature wants our children (human) to have children as teen agers, not as 40 year olds. We, of course don't feel quite the same about children reproducing. Likewise, Nature wants dogs to whelp at 18 months, not 6 years of age. Thyroid normals represent all breeds, all ages, and all states of health. It has been said that all dogs over 5 years old show a decrease in their thyroid level - they're starting to age. To lump the thyroid samples of 6 to 12 year olds with those of 1 to 5 year olds throws the 'normal range' off considerably. Probably a good statement to make is that to ensure that thyroid doesn't contribute to infertility, it should be (T4) in the upper one third to one fourth of the normal range. When looked at in a biologic perspective, when thyroid hormone decreases, naturally the first considerations of the body are to maintain health in the individual. Only in animals who are young and healthy enough to nurture puppies will Nature encourage reproduction, as a matter of course. On the other hand, since we have created most of our breeds in the last 100 to 200 years, it is somewhat unrealistic for us, with the kinds of remedies we have at hand, to worry overly much about what Nature wants of one of

our dogs. If a bitch is in good health and over 5, and simply needs supplementation of l-thyroxin to continue to reproduce, it would be silly of us to worry about what Nature wants. Our dogs don't live in 'Nature' - except perhaps those running the Iditarod. A given animal's suitability for breeding should be determined on its thyroid as a young dog, not on its levels in when it's over 5 years of age.

Other sources of immune suppression are parvo disease, lyme disease, and vaccinations with your regular 'booster' vaccine which contains Distemper and Hepatitis (A2) virus, and which because of the combination of these two together causes about a 2 week immunosuppression. Parvo, like Herpes is endemic in our dog show population, and may be brought home from a show, and cycled by other dogs in the kennel subclinically, later affecting both the bred bitch and the young puppies in a way that it wouldn't affect the rest of the adults in the kennel. Drugs (corticosteroids, chemotherapy), emotional family situations, moving, and so on can all produce stress.

One of the chief uses of 'chilled' or 'fresh-extended' semen is to avoid the stresses of travel to breed a bitch. All of the common sense cautions we used to be aware of – don't take your pregnant bitch to shows, and don't ship her to be bred – are certainly largely explained by the conditions fostering a Herpes infection, resulting in early embryonic loss, resorbtion, still birth, weak puppies, and neonatal death.

Herpes is one of the very few things that any veterinarian can determine on a quick autopsy of a dead puppy. There is grossly visible mottling on the kidneys that is totally diagnostic for Herpes. If you have a puppy die, refrigerate the body (don't freeze it) and get your vet to look at it ASAP. Then ask the vet for directions for raising the body temperature of the remaining puppies in the litter.

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BREEDER VET

Breeder Vet and Kennel Journal appears on the

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STRESS, INFERTILITY AND HERPES INFECTION

Mary C. Wakeman, D.V.M.
Ashford Animal Clinic
Canine Fertility Center
Ashford, CT

Our most frequent discussions about Herpes in dogs occur because of neonatal puppy death. Herpes causes puppies to die in the first two to three weeks of life, when puppies cannot regulate their body temperature. After three weeks of age the puppies acquire the ability to regulate their body temperature, and to mount a fever response. At that time, the disease no longer causes death, but can cause a respiratory disease.

We rarely find much in references about this disease in the adult dog. Where it is mentioned, it is generally in regard to future breeding advisability for a bitch that has produced a litter of puppies that had herpes, or regarding the presence of vesicles (blister like lesions) on the vulva or prepuce. Recent papers published by Dr. James Everman of Washington State University, have demonstrated that the disease as we know it in dogs is very similar to the equivalent disease in horses (Rhino). This information fills in the remainder of the picture for dogs in a very dramatic fashion.

Those of us who have owned horses are likely to be familiar with the equivalent Herpes virus infection in horses, a disease called Rhino (Rhinopneumonitis). Rhino in horses is characterized by a mild respiratory disease in most cases, and by abortion in pregnant mares. In the respiratory form of the disease, the horses have a clear nasal discharge, may snort or cough, and have reduced exercise tolerance. It is a mild condition, and unless the horse is being actively used or campaigned, or is pregnant, it is rarely vaccinated against. The vaccine, somewhat like the common cold virus, does not give a good duration of immunity, and if protection from Rhino is desired, it has been necessary to vaccinate every 4 months. Rhino in horses also causes abortion. On breeding farms, an epidemic of Rhino will cause what is called an "abortion storm" in brood-mares. That frightening phrase says it all. Rhino is highly contagious, spread through the air by aerosols or contact with secretions.

The fact that Herpes virus infection in dogs has been given such little attention by veterinarians, when its effects might well have anticipated by reproductive experts, serves as an excellent demonstration of the historical lack of interest in canine reproduction by the Veterinary establishment in general.

The respiratory form of Herpes infection in adult dogs is minimal in its signs. It is, however, extremely important in the transmission of the disease. It is not necessary for dogs to acquire Herpes as a venereal disease. A dog may acquire Herpes as an airborne aerosol, or from aerosols on your clothing, for instance, and abort or resorb a litter. I have personally heard of only two cases of adult dogs that were sneezing, in the manner of a human with a cold. Any dog may sneeze once or twice in response to inhaling an irritant. But sneezing consistently, over a protracted period, is extremely rare.

One instance of frank sneezing occurred in 6 week old puppies, who were housed near another litter in the same household. This litter was 3.5 weeks older than the younger litter. The older litter had Herpes in the respiratory form with sneezing and clear nasal secretions at 5 to 6 weeks, while the younger ones, under 3 weeks of age, had suffered a 50% mortality and were confirmed as having Herpes on post mortem examination.

The older puppies who were affected only with the sneezing were able to regulate their body temperature. Puppies die of Herpes only so long as they are unable to mount a fever response. Between 2 and 3 weeks puppies develop the ability to control their temperature. Earlier they are dependant on their surroundings for warmth -- this is called poikilothermia. Treatment of young puppies where herpes has been diagnosed by a postmortem exam of one of the dead puppies involves elevating the temperature of the surroundings. Check with your veterinarian if you think this may be the problem in your litter under three weeks of age. Refrigerate (do not freeze) dead puppies so they can be taken in for post mortem examination.

As Herpes is a virus, there is no particular reason for administering antibiotics, unless a secondary bacterial infections occurs. If there is uncertainty as to whether Herpes or a neonatal bacterial infection is causing puppy death, antibiotics are appropriate. A cervical culture and sensitivity of the bitch prior to whelping to determine the presence of E. coli will provide help in making this decision, since E.coli also causes neonatal death.

NEONATAL HERPES

(Fading puppy syndrome)

(Neonatal death syndrome)

There is in the veterinary literature much about herpes infection in dogs, many excellent articles have been published.
Anyone wishing a quick look, got to any veterinary hospital or library and ask for:

* VETERINARY INTERNAL MEDICINE
  Stephen Ettinger, Page 309

* THE ROLE OF NEONATAL CANINE HERPES VIRUS INFECTION IN MIXED INFECTIONS IN OLDER DOGS
  Continuing Education Article #1
  688 Vol. 8 No. 10, October 1986

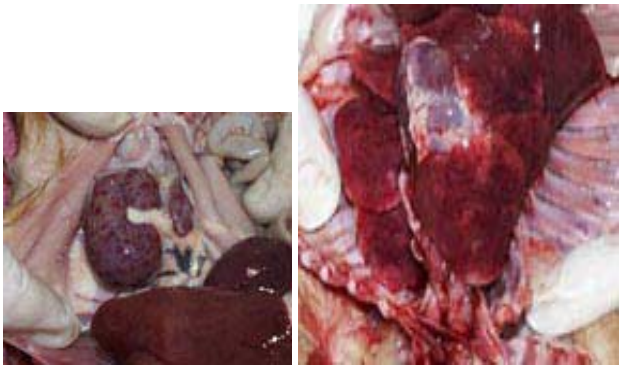
None of these or other articles addresses the problems of treatment and prevention of death!

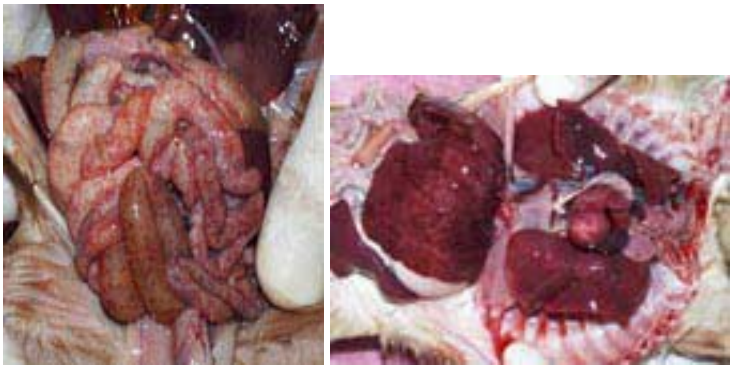
GESTATIONAL DEATHS

We cannot at this time prevent the death of prenatal pups in uterus by the virus. It seems to infect the placenta and kills the pup during the later stages of gestation. The pups are born dead, autolyzed, infected with fecal bacteria, and in some cases inclusions can be found by pathologists in the placental tissue. We hope some day to be able to address this problem.

NEONATAL HERPES PUPPIES

The usual presentation to veterinarians is with one or more puppies dead, some dying and others not yet sick or showing symptoms. All dead puppies should be autopsied. Lesions can usually be found in the lungs, kidneys, intestines, and liver (see photos below).





TREATMENT OF SICK LITTERS

Newborn puppies from suspected kennels or dams with herpes virus can be treated with a subcutaneous injection of 1c.c. of Distemper anti viral serum given to each puppy immediately after birth and repeated 24 hours later. This will dramatically reduce the death rate.

TREATMENT OF INDIVIDUAL PUPPIES ILL WITH HERPES

Until recently all puppies manifesting herpes illness died within a very short period of time, usually within a few hours of showing symptoms. There are however two techniques for the treatment of these puppies that have had considerable success.

Technique by: A.W. Sears, DVM

- Puppy should weigh between 1 and 3 pounds
- DISTEMPER ANTI VIRAL SERUM: Administer 1 c.c. subcutaneously to each puppy every 12 hours for 36 hours, (3 doses).
- Lasix: One drop orally, (To control lung edema)
- Kaon (Potassium Gluconate elixir): Administer one drop orally every hour for 3 hours, (To control loss of potassium).
- Chloromycetin: Administer 0.05c.c. orally once daily, (to control lung infection).
- Gancylovir: Administer 0.1 c.c. subcutaneously to each puppy.
- Incubator: Keep puppies in incubator at 96 degrees for 24 hours.
- Fluids: Give plenty of fluids orally, sugar water works well, as do neonatal puppy formulas.





(Photos of puppies treated with above protocol)

Ronald Bell, DVM

- Puppy should weigh between 2 and 3 pounds.

- Acyclovir powder in capsules: Mix 200 mg capsule in 10c.c. of warm water. The powder will not dissolve but is suspended. Administer 0.5 c.c. (10 mg) to each puppy every 6 hours until puppies are 3 1/2 weeks old.

- Place in incubator.

- Give fluids orally

Treatment of puppies does not guarantee that reproductive lesions will not appear before puberty. Lesions are found both in the prepuce (balanophthitis) and vagina, however, no reproductive symptoms have been observed in the treated puppies.

http://searsvet.50megs.com/Herpes1.html