1-1-1982

Animal Crackers

M. Josephine Deubler
University of Pennsylvania

This paper is posted at ScholarlyCommons. http://repository.upenn.edu/bellwether/vol1/iss2/14
For more information, please contact libraryrepository@pobox.upenn.edu.
Heartworm infestation in dogs was described in 1856 by Joseph Leidy before the Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia. It was not until 1955 that the life cycle was completely documented. The next year it was shown that two different microfilariae may be found in the circulating blood—the one produced by the heartworm Dipetalonema reconditum and the other by a harmless subcutaneous parasite Crickatula canis. Few veterinarians are usually aware of the potential problem. It may take up to a month in the mosquito vector. It is open twenty-four hours a day, every day of the year. There seems to be a tendency to use this service for convenience rather than because attention is urgently needed.

A true emergency arises when any dog is injured or so ill that immediate therapy is instituted, irreversible bodily damage or death will result. Problems requiring prompt attention include collapse, convulsions, uncontrolled bleeding, and accident injuries.

If your veterinarian refers you to VHUP because special services are required, be sure to have your veterinarian telephone and give essential information.

Often, help can be given over the telephone and arrangements made for the animal to be seen during regular hours.

The number to call for information is 215-243-4685.

**Parvovirus Update.** New vaccines containing a live, attenuated canine parvovirus are now available commercially. These are available either with canine parvovirus alone or in combination with distemper, hepatitis, parainfluenza, and leptospirosis. It is believed that the canine parvovirus will provide better and longer-lasting protection than the feline parvovirus used in vaccines first produced. The delay in getting these new vaccines on the market has been caused by the extensive safety testing required before the product can be federally licensed.

Maternal antibodies neutralize vaccine virus, so vaccination before sixteen weeks may not be effective. Therefore, puppies vaccinated earlier than sixteen weeks of age should be re-vaccinated at sixteen weeks and yearly thereafter.

An effective vaccination program for kennels has not yet been determined. In a kennel situation, it may be necessary to vaccinate puppies weekly beginning until the puppies are sixteen weeks of age. Unfortunately, these antibodies neutralize vaccine virus, so vaccination before sixteen weeks may not be effective. Therefore, puppies vaccinated earlier than sixteen weeks of age should be re-vaccinated at sixteen weeks and yearly thereafter.

An effective vaccination program for kennels has not yet been determined. In a kennel situation, it may be necessary to vaccinate puppies weekly beginning until the puppies are sixteen weeks of age. Unfortunately, these antibodies neutralize vaccine virus, so vaccination before sixteen weeks may not be effective. Therefore, puppies vaccinated earlier than sixteen weeks of age should be re-vaccinated at sixteen weeks and yearly thereafter.

An effective vaccination program for kennels has not yet been determined. In a kennel situation, it may be necessary to vaccinate puppies weekly beginning until the puppies are sixteen weeks of age. Unfortunately, these antibodies neutralize vaccine virus, so vaccination before sixteen weeks may not be effective. Therefore, puppies vaccinated earlier than sixteen weeks of age should be re-vaccinated at sixteen weeks and yearly thereafter.

**Pet vs. Show Quality.** A number of people ask, "What is the difference between a pet and a show dog?" The question usually comes up after a visit to a breeder to see a litter of puppies.

Reputable breeders follow planned programs, using the best specimens available. They make every effort to eliminate hereditary and other undesirable faults. It's an educated guess as to whether or not a puppy will become a show dog. Usually the only difference between a puppy described as "pet quality" and one considered a "show prospect" is the opinion of the person who has graded the litter. Unless there are malformations or disqualifying faults, the difference may never be noticed except by one familiar with the breed.

Most people with show dogs resent a reference to "your pet." The males are dogs and the females are bitches. This is a question of semantics with some snobbery thrown in.

If you are considering a show career for your puppy, the American Kennel Club's breed standard is your guide. In addition to faults which disqualify any breed (blind, deaf, lame, castrated, spayed, or not having two normally-located testicles), individual breeds may have disqualifications such as the wrong color, an over- or under-shot bite, too large or too small (as an adult over one year of age), etc. There's always the chance that an extremely promising "show prospect" as a puppy may become just another dog after it matures.

If you are looking for a member of the family, personality should be the first requirement, followed closely by adaptability.

Send your pet care questions to Josephine Deubler, Animal Crackers, 601 School of Veterinary Medicine, 3600 Spruce Street, Philadelphia, PA 19104.

**Outreach.** Five Philadelphia minority high school students spent the 1981 summer working in the laboratory of Dr. Bernard Shapiro, Associate Professor of Biochemistry in the School of Veterinary Medicine, under the auspices of STEP-UP—Student Training Employment Program—University of Pennsylvania. The students spent three hours daily working on a project designed to determine why male and female mice metabolize drugs differently. They were taught how to inject mice with hormones, how to prepare tissue samples by using an ultra centrifuge, and how to measure the metabolism of tagged drugs using a liquid scintillation counter. Students also studied basic English and math skills.

Dr. Shapiro reports that the students enjoyed the laboratory atmosphere and that "...while we worked they really put their minds to it." STEV-UP is sponsored at the University by Dr. Janis Somerville, Vice Provost for Student Life and Dr. Louise Shoemaker, Dean of the Graduate School of Social Work.

Bellwether 12

Animal Crackers.