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Animal Crackers

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Rare Breeds

The Greater Swiss Mountain Dog ("Grosser Schweizer Sennenhund") will be eligible to compete in the Miscellaneous Class at AKC dog shows, obedience trials, and tracking tests as of October 1, 1985. This dog is believed to be a descendant of Mastiff-type dogs brought by the Romans during their invasion of Helvetia. For centuries this was the most common working breed in Switzerland. His willingness to work made him a companion for the Alpine herdsman, and he was called upon to perform many farm chores in addition to herding and guarding. At one time, he probably was the best-known draft dog in the world. As industrialization took over, the need for his services diminished, and the breed nearly vanished. In the early 1900s, concentrated efforts by Swiss breeders "rescued" this Alpine herding dog. The first Greater Swiss Mountain Dogs were imported into the United States in 1968.

Dogs competing in the Miscellaneous Class at AKC shows do not receive championship points, and they must have an ILP number before competing in AKC events.

Other breeds presently eligible for the Miscel-



laneous Class are Australian Kelpies, Border Collies, Cavalier King Charles Spaniels, Finnish Spitz, Miniature Bull Terriers, and Spinoni Italiani. After February 1, 1986, Chinese Cresteds will be eligible.

The United Kennel Club has opened its registry to Chinese Shar-Pei. This breed has existed for centuries but its survival was threatened in the 1940s when keeping dogs was forbidden, since it was a sign of the leisure class. Most dogs of all breeds in China were destroyed. A few Shar-Pei were smuggled into Hong Kong, and in the 1970s the breed became established in the United States. The breed has very loose skin with profuse wrinkles, especially on puppies. The dogs also may be registered with the Chinese Shar-Pei Club of America, Inc., which maintains a registry and stud book. This Club has over 40 affiliated regional clubs and is working for AKC recognition. This requires a viable national club which maintains a registry and stud book and promotes the breed through match shows and obedience trials. At the present time, the Chinese Shar-Pei is not recognized by AKC.

Teeth

Canine dentistry is receiving much publicity of late. Dog show judges are expected to know how to count teeth, especially in those breeds (Doberman Pinschers and Rottweilers) where missing teeth are a disqualifying fault.

A puppy has twenty-eight teeth (twelve incisors, four canines and twelve premolars). From about three months up to about six months, these "milk teeth" are gradually replaced by a full set of forty-two permanent teeth. The lower jaw has six incisors, two canines, eight premolars and six molars. The upper jaw is the same except that there are only four molars.



At about six months of age, it is important to check the mouth and be sure the puppy teeth have been shed. It might be necessary to remove them to prevent incorrect placement of the permanent teeth.

Regular brushing of the teeth is recommended to prevent accumulation of tartar and subsequent gum disease.

All breeds should have the same number of teeth. In breeds with long faces, there may be

Animal Health Technician Program

Harcum Junior College's Animal Health Technician Program hosted a dinner for the University of Pennsylvania faculty and staff who train Harcum's animal health technician nurses. During the dinner, Dr. Norma Furst, president of the College, announced that Dr. Nadine Hackman (V'80) was appointed director of the Animal Health Technician Program.



Left to right: Dr. Leonard Krawitz (V'39), Advisory Board member; Dr. Fred Petrone, Harcum Junior College, Dean of Instruction; Mr. Barry Stupine, Veterinary Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania Business Manager; and Dr. Nadine Hackman (V'80), Director of Animal Health Technician Program.



Left to right: University of Pennsylvania staff nurses Karen Biesinger; Carol Eisenlohr; Nina Sobel; Carole Contel, Small Animal Practicum Coordinator; Doona Oakley; Sharon Swift; Ellen Trost.

Sixteenth Annual Symposium

Our Sixteenth Annual Symposium, *Your Veterinarian and Your Dog*, will be held on Saturday, January 25, 1986, at the Veterinary Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania (VHUP), 3850 Spruce St., Philadelphia, PA.

A Veterinarian's Observations on the Airline Transport of Dogs will be the topic of our visiting speaker, Walter M. Woolf, V.M.D., Practitioner and Secretary of Air Animal, Inc., Tampa, FL.

Update on Blood Diseases will be discussed by W. Jean Dodds, D.V.M., Adjunct Associate Professor of Medicine (Hematology); Chief, Laboratory of Hematology, New York State Department of Health, Albany.

National Brands, Generics and Specialty Dog Foods will be the topic of David S. Kronfeld, Ph.D., D.Sc., M.V.Sc., M.R.C.V.S., Elizabeth and William Whitney Clark Professor of Nutrition; Acting Chairman, Department of Clinical Studies (New Bolton Center).

Commonly Encountered Skin Problems in Dogs will be discussed by Robert M.

Schwartzman, V.M.D., M.P.H., Ph.D., Professor of Dermatology and Chief, Section of Dermatology.

The program will begin at 9:30 a.m. with adjournment scheduled for 4:00 p.m. There will be a question-and-answer session after each presentation. Questions may be submitted in advance. The cost, including lunch and parking, is \$25. Attendance is limited to 200.

For further information and reservation forms, contact M. Josephine Deubler, V.M.D., 3850 Spruce St., Philadelphia, PA 19104-6010. Telephone 215-898-8862.

spaces between premolars which may give the mistaken impression that teeth are missing. In the short-faced breeds, teeth may appear crowded and out of place.

Most of the AKC breed standards will define the "bite" required for that breed. For a scissors bite, the incisors of the lower jaw must touch the inner surface of the upper incisors. If the lower jaw protrudes, the dog is "undershot." If the lower jaw is short and the lower incisors are well back of the upper incisors, the dog is "overshot." What is correct for one breed could be a disqualification in another. Check the breed standard!



Book Review

Canine Reproduction—A Breeder's Guide, by Phyllis A. Holst, M.S., D.V.M. (Alpine Publications, Inc., 214 19th St. S.E., Loveland, CO 80537—\$17.98).

This book provides sound information which should be helpful to the novice as well as the experienced dog breeder. Dr. Holst gives scientifically correct explanations which make for better breeding management. The book avoids misinformation, erroneous assumptions and "old wives tales" which have been repeated many times. It should be studied carefully by those who want the right answers. The reproductive processes in the dog are not fully understood at this time, but continuing research will fill the gaps in our knowledge.

What criteria should be used in making the decision to breed or not to breed? First is awareness of our responsibility to keep each breed pure, strong and correct. Second, we should study and learn everything possible about the breed. Third, the dogs used for breeding must be objectively evaluated and must conform as closely as possible to the standard for the breed. Fourth, the dogs used for breeding must be in

excellent health, free of hereditary defects and have an excellent temperament. A fifth consideration is your commitment to the puppies; raising dogs is a time-consuming, demanding and expensive project.

The book has chapters on the anatomy of the reproductive system of the dog and bitch, the estrous cycle, mating and whelping, puppy problems, and infertility.

The author goes into considerable detail about the correct time for mating. The "heat" period lasts approximately eighteen days—nine days of proestrus and nine days of estrus, the period during which the bitch will allow mating. In most cases, a single mating four days before ovulation until three days after ovulation (usually the tenth to thirteenth day of heat) will result in an excellent chance of conception, assuming both the dog and bitch are fertile. However, proestrus may last for one or two days to fifteen days. It begins with the first appearance of a blood-tinged vaginal discharge and ends with the bitch's first acceptance of mating. Estrus, the period during which the bitch will allow mating, may last for one or two days to several weeks. Ovulation occurs about the third day of estrus, and the puppies all will be the same age regardless of the number of matings and the number of days between matings. When the length of proestrus and estrus differ from the average, vaginal cytology and artificial insemination are helpful. Both are well-covered in the book. Record-keeping is essential. Every bitch has her own cycle. In many cases of suspected infertility, the problem is simply breeding at the wrong time.

The author discusses signs of trouble at whelping time, criteria for dystocia, what to do in case of trouble, and helping the newborn puppies. A healthy puppy is warm and will usually be quiet. Puppies are never really still while asleep. They are continuously jerking and twitching, stretching and shifting their position—this pattern is called "activated sleep."

Clear directions are given for dew-claw removal and feeding puppies by stomach tube. Instructions for tail-docking do not include a caution that breed standards must be considered: too much taken off can ruin a puppy for show purposes. Nails should be trimmed at least once a week starting with the very first week.

These brief excerpts from the book give the answers to frequently-asked questions. There is a wealth of information presented clearly and concisely. It comes very close to being "All You Need to Know About Canine Reproduction."



Cold Weather Notes

Antifreeze is very toxic to dogs. They seem to love it, and a very small amount can be fatal. Prompt veterinary attention is necessary if any is ingested.

Dogs kept in warm, usually overheated apartments, should wear a coat or sweater when they are taken out in windy, cold weather. This is advisable for any short-haired dog, especially toy breeds.

Most dogs may be kept outside in cold weather but they need a dry bed and protection from the wind. Avoid shifting between heated and unheated kennels. Different breeds have different requirements so there can be no general rule about how much heat and protection is necessary. All young puppies must be kept warm.

City dogs often walk on sidewalks which have been salted. It is advisable to wash their feet with warm water. Dry with a towel and check between the pads.

Regular grooming is a "must." Bathing usually will not be necessary if the dog is kept clean by brushing and combing. As a general rule, bathing should not be done routinely.

Haji's Treasure and Micki Bracken discharged

Haji's Treasure and Micki Bracken, two Thoroughbreds which were injured in separate incidents at Pimlico in May, were discharged from New Bolton Center, the large animal facility of the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine.

Haji's Treasure had undergone emergency surgery after breaking down in the May 18 Preakness. A team of surgeons, led by Dr. David Nunamaker, removed shattered sesamoids in the horse's right foreleg and inserted a plate to fuse the fetlock joint. Haji's Treasure was discharged in October and flown to California where he continues to recuperate.

Micki Bracken had suffered total disruption of the suspensory apparatus, complicated by the open nature of the compound wound, during the running of the Black-Eyed Susan Stakes on May 17. Dr. Nunamaker and a team of surgeons placed an external fixation device on the filly's leg. The device, developed at New Bolton Center, is used in severe breakdown injuries. It permits the animal to bear weight on the injured leg. Micki Bracken was discharged to an out-farm for recuperation prior to vaning to Florida.



Mrs. Marie A. Moore at the luncheon given in her honor at VHUP on September 18, 1985. Seated to the right of University President Sheldon Hackney is Mrs. Anne Eldredge.