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Haji's Treasure and Micki Bracken Discharged

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.