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## Animal Crackers

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# Animal Crackers

## Diagnostic Ultrasound

Ultrasound has greatly expanded the diagnostic imaging capabilities for detecting and monitoring diseases in dogs and cats. It provides a safe, economical and noninvasive imaging modality for defining the soft tissue architecture of organs and structures and assessing organ function (e.g., gastric and intestinal motility, echocardiography and fetal viability). Structures containing gas and bone are very difficult to evaluate with ultrasound. The ultrasound transducer converts electrical energy into a brief pulse of high frequency sound waves which are then transmitted into the animal's tissues. The transducer then functions as a receiver, detecting echoes of sound energy reflected from the tissues that are then analyzed by a computer to produce gray-scale images for interpretation by a veterinarian.

Ultrasound has reduced the need for many contrast radiographic examinations and aids in guiding diagnostic or therapeutic needle aspirations and biopsies of organs or lesions for cytological, bacteriological or histopathological preparations. No ionizing radiation hazard or other known safety consideration is present with ultrasound.

Ultrasound images may be produced in any anatomical plane by adjusting the orientation and angulation of the transducer and patient position. Ultrasound image quality is influenced by the transducer type (different sound frequencies), gain settings, focal zone location, and patient preparation. Many of the best ultrasound machines can cost as much as several hundred thousand dollars. Patient preparation for an ultrasound study includes clipping of hair over the region of interest,

wetting of the skin with water or alcohol and the liberal application of acoustic gel to ensure good contact, thereby allowing sound transmission from the transducer to the animal's tissues. The production of quality diagnostic ultrasound images requires patience, skill, and experience by those performing and interpreting the ultrasound examination.

## Zoonoses

The transmission of diseases from dogs and cats to people is a fairly rare occurrence. Unless your immune system is impaired, you are much more likely to contract diseases from other people. There are some diseases (zoonoses) that can be transmitted from dogs and cats to humans.

**Rabies** is transmitted to humans by the bite of an affected dog or cat (or other animal).

**Dog and cat bites** are a serious problem and may cause a variety of diseases, including abscesses and tetanus.

**Campylobacter enteritis**, a disease of the small intestine, may be caused by contact with contaminated feces.

**Salmonella** organisms, which are shed in discharges from the mouth and in the feces, may cause intestinal disease in humans.

An itchy skin disease called **cutaneous larva migrans** is caused by contact with litter or soil contaminated by the feces of a hookworm-infested dog or cat.

A condition called **visceral larva migrans** may result from inadvertent ingestion of roundworm eggs in the feces of an infected animal.

**Toxoplasmosis** may be transmitted by contact with the feces of an infected cat.

A bacterial agent transmitted to people via a cat scratch causes **cat scratch**

**disease.**

**Conjunctivitis** in humans can be caused by contact with the nasal and ocular discharges of cats with feline chlamydiosis.

Transmission of disease generally requires close contact between susceptible people and secretions from the mouth, eyes, nose or feces of an infected animal. Keep toddlers away from the litter box of cats and prevent them from playing in soil or sandboxes that may be contaminated with feces. Common sense and good hygiene reduce the risks.

## Jack Russell Terriers

Parson Jack Russell (1795-1883) developed this breed to hunt the fox. The dogs followed the mounted huntsmen and their hounds. If the fox went to ground, it was the terrier's job to bolt the quarry so the hunt could continue. The breed has been described as bold, friendly, athletic, clever and overwhelmingly affectionate. He should not be quarrelsome and shyness is a fault. The coat is smooth or broken and the color is all white or white with black and/or tan markings. Markings preferably are confined to the head and root of the tail. When the dog is judged, spanning the chest is required; it must be narrow and flexible so that the dog can squeeze through a narrow opening. It is a true working terrier. When properly trained, the breed excels in obedience and agility.

The breed is now eligible for competition at the AKC championship shows. It is shown as the Parson Russell Terrier in England and as the Jack Russell Terrier in this country. It is a disqualification if the dog is under 12 inches or over 15 inches in height. In Australia, two separate types are registered—the Parson Russell Terrier (12 to 15 inch) and the

## Scholarships

The Anne Linn White Dean's Scholarships were awarded to **Jamie Murphy, V'01, Shelly Rodewald, V'01, and Elizabeth Agnew, V'01.** **Christina Fuoco, V'01,** received the Westminster Kennel Foundation Scholarship. The Dr. J.E. Salisbury Scholarships were awarded to **Meredith Borokove, V'01, Dorian Haldeman, V'01, Katherine Wentworth, V'01, Carrie Hutchinson, V'01, and Christine Gebert, V'01.** The recipient of the Charles S. and Phyllis H. Wolf Dean's Scholarship was **Jennifer Marsden, V'01** and the Bruce J. Heim Dean's Scholarships were awarded to **Meryl Gupta, V'01, and Jennifer Tavares, V'01.** **Steve West, V'01,** received the Ethel G. and Allen H. Carruth Dean's Scholarship. The Samuel T. and Emily Rawnsley Dean's Scholarship was awarded to **Kimberly Johnston, V'03.** **Gina Cairone, V'03,** received the Edwin J. Andrews Dean's Scholarship and **Nathan Harvey, V'03,** was awarded the Class of 67' Dean's Scholarship. The J. Maxwell Moran, Sr. Dean's Scholarship was awarded to **Jennifer Gschwend, V'02.** **Lisa Meddock, V'03,** received

The Palace H. Seitz Dean's Scholarship. Dr. M. Josephine Deubler Dean's Scholarship were awarded to **Brian Young, V'02, Heather Lyons, V'02, Carlin Jones, V'02, and Daniel Schar, V'02.** The Jack Mara/Hill's Scholarship was awarded to **Andrew Greller, V'02** and the Hill's Pet Products Dean Scholarship's recipient were **Adrienne Hancock, V'02, Angie Cheek, V'02, and Katherine Masek, V'02.** **Tracy Filler, V'02, and Jeffrey Luetke, V'02,** received W.L. Montgomery Scholarships. The Clifford F. Wright, Jr. Scholarship was awarded to **Diane Gabriel, V'01.** **Katherine Bate, V'01,** received the Dr. Ginnie Lieblein Memorial Scholarship, and **Beth Adler, V'01,** was awarded the Richard A. Dorr, Jr. Memorial Scholarship. The Anna Live Endowment Fund Scholarship was awarded to **Rene Varela, V'01.** **Cailin Galvin, V'01,** received the Iris M. McGee Scholarship and the Hill's Dean's Scholarship was awarded to **Katherine Masek, V'02.** **Carlin Jones, V'02, and Lise Lund, V'00** were awarded the Csaba Vedlik Scholarships.

Jack Russell (10 to 12 inch).

Most breed experts agree that the Jack Russell Terrier is not the right choice for a first-time dog owner. The owner must understand terriers and how to establish dominance. Take time to study the breed, talk to owners and don't let the television "actors" influence your decision to make a Jack Russell Terrier part of the family.

## Book Review

*Lowell—The True Story of an Existential Pig* by **Gay L. Balliet** (New Horizon Press. Hardcover. \$ 23.95).

This is a story of life with a Vietnamese pot-bellied pig. Lowell watches Oprah, listens to Gloria Estefan and in general has a remarkable life and relationship with his owner.

Although there are pet pigs in many households, they can become problems. When they grow up, they may not be as cute. A prospective owner should understand the care needed and proper man-

agement. Over-feeding must be avoided, many overweight pigs are abandoned. Pigs may be housebroken, even trained to use a litter box like cats. Pigs are highly intelligent. Their eyesight is poor but they have an excellent sense of smell and have been used for sniffing out drugs, locating landmines, and unearthing truffles.

Babe and Charlotte's Web are stories that have delighted many readers. Lowell is not a fictional pig and his true life story makes interesting reading.

## DNA Screening Test *(continued from page 11)*

specific. Diseases may appear the same in a number of breeds, but closer examination at the molecular level often reveals differences in the type of DNA mutation from breed to breed. Thus breed specific tests are needed.

In VHUP's clinic, particularly through the pediatrics and genetics clinic, quite a few new inherited diseases have been identified, leading to a better understand-

## Very Special Gift

For many years John and Dorothy Leonard of Berkeley Hills, CA bred and exhibited Yorkshire terriers under the Dorchester prefix. Mr. Leonard, a member of the Wharton Class of 1936, showed and handled his dogs until recently at California shows. Mr. and Mrs. Leonard made a gift to VHUP to name an examination room in memory of their Dorchester Yorkshire terriers. The Leonards have retired from breeding and exhibiting their Yorkies, though they do enjoy watching the breed from ringside.

## Join Us for the American Gold Cup

September 14-17 at the  
Devon Show Grounds,  
Devon, PA

ing of the disease and, in some cases, to tests which help breeders reduce the incidence of a particular condition. The identification also has led to new animal models of human disease, helping scientists in the study of the disease process and in the development of treatment modalities. This benefits the animal and human patients. 🐾