

American Bullmastiff Association Archives Committee

The Bullseye

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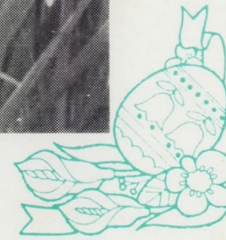
The Bullseye



NEWS FOR, OF AND BY BULLMASTIFF FANCIERS

VOLUME XVII NUMBER 5

APRIL 1994



CAME THE SPRING WITH ALL ITS SPLENDOR
.....Longfellow

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THE BULLSEYE

12131 Arroyo Avenue, Santa Ana, CA 92705

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ADDENDUM RE: HYPOTHYROIDISM, NOSE TO TAIL

By ADELE PFENNINGER

I thought I would share a few further thoughts on hypothyroidism with you. I am a layman and not a veterinarian, but dog breeders like me are "in the field" so to speak, working daily with their animals and having discourse with other breeders and owners. We are the first to spot problems before they become widely known in a breed at large or by the veterinary profession.

Veterinarians, on the other hand, are engaged in running a business which is geared to keeping the pet population healthy/ (Most vets are not oriented in reproduction, and have little interest in it, so breeders often must figure things out for themselves.)

Most breeders are at least aware of thyroid dysfunction in many breeds, if not their own.

Is hypothyroidism inherited? In the dog world and in the veterinary culture, there is a penchant to label a problem as "genetic" when there is no basis to do so. This is especially so if a malady affects a number of dogs in a breed population or many breeds.

(Hip dysplasia comes to mind as an example. HD has been described as a heritable defect polygenic in nature. Polygenic means affected by many genes. Yet is increasingly apparent that how a puppy is raised very early on influences the occurrence and severity of that orthopedic malady. Feeding practices are an environmental influence easier to control than polygenic influence. In my humble opinion, improper feeding of young puppies will probably one day be indicted as the caused of the development of HD. Even if there is a genetic predisposition, which is still a question in many quarters, perhaps more attention will be given to research on proper feeding and diet as the answer and the way to prevent the development of HD.

If selecting for breeding animals made by radiographs of their hips was really the key to eliminating HD, why is it still so prevalent in so many breeds after over 20 years of that type of selection? Why do clear dogs still produce dysplastic puppies? But, I digress.....)

I have learned to be very skeptical about offhanded pronouncements from the veterinary profession that a malady is inherited without documentation to back it up. That's an easy out for the profession, and is responsible for more "genetic wild goose chases" than I care to think about. When is the last time you spoke to a vet who was very grounded in genetics??? I say "prove it", give me the mode of inheritance. Polygenic? Nice catch-all word meaning you might as well try to control the weather.

In thinking outside of the box for a moment, since thyroid dysfunction has been found in so many breeds and mongrels at an almost pandemic rate, how can it be concluded to have a genetic basis. Have breeders in all of the breeds affected, unwittingly selected for this trait, all at the same time? And that does not explain the occurrence in mongrels. Do you honestly believe this is true? I don't have to tell you that in human medicine almost every day, some environmental causes for disease or malfunction of us homo sapiens is discovered. Offhandedly indicting genetics as cause of a malady without intensive research is a red herring.

As I mentioned in the last piece, at least our breed may have a plausible excuse. If the cell structure in the thyroid gland is abnormal in brachycephalic dogs, then they are predisposed. Since

ADDENDUM (continued):

few Bullmastiffs seem to test high to antithyroid antibodies, let's examine idiopathic atrophy as the most likely cause of low thyroid function in Bullmastiffs. Idiopathic is defined as a condition with no known cause. I have a favorite vet who defines idiopathic as "the idiots don't know". Atrophy is defined as the decrease, wasting, shrinkage, if you will, of the size of an organ or tissue. So there you have it, the idiots don't know why our dogs thyroid glands are shrinking.

If a virus or a challenge by a vaccine or exposure to cold or heat or to the Menendez Brothers could be the cause, so what? We are still left with the problem. As problems go, this is one of the easier ones to deal with.

There is one word I left out of the last article that is most important: Metabolism. According to Taber's Cyclopedic Medical Dictionary, metabolism is defined as "The sum of all physical and chemical changes that take place within an organism; all energy and material transformations that occur within living cells." When basal metabolism slows as the result of hypothyroidism, every body system suffers as a result. Metabolism occurs in two stages, anabolism, or assimilation and the building up (the use by the body for growth, energy, indeed, the process of continuing life) and catabolism, which is the breakdown and excretion of metabolites. A metabolite is the end product of metabolism; a waste product. "Metabolites" are eg. what you pick up each morning in your dog's run, what turns snow yellow, breath sweat, etc.

A number of people have experience problems with their Bullmastiffs not handling anesthetics well. We all know people who have lost their dogs to a simple procedure that required anesthesia. Why? A hypothyroid dog's system does not "metabolize" the anesthetic as quickly as a euthyroid dog's does. If a hypothyroid dog's system is already slowed down, what do you think a dose of anesthesia is going to do to him? The exchange of oxygen (osmosis) between the cells is compromised in a hypothyroid dog. The drug is not excreted by the body in a timely fashion. (The liver plays a large role in the metabolism of drugs and anesthetics from the body.)

What is the role of iodine insufficiency in the development of hypothyroidism in the dog? None. All dog foods are supplemented with iodine when they are manufactured. So feeding kelp will not ward off nor will it help correct hypothyroidism caused by Idiopathic Atrophy/ When the gland atrophies, the cells degenerate and become replaced by adipose (fatty) tissue. No amount of iodine, kelp, prayer, or stomping your feet will make such a thyroid gland function again. Exogenous thyroid supplementation must be given to the animal.

I mentioned in the earlier article about temperament being affected. In the March 1994 issue of Dog World magazine, in the Science and The Dog section, there is reference to temperament problems being associated with thyroid dysfunction. One of my personal heroes, Dr. Jean Dodds, the foremost canine hematologist, thinks hypothyroidism in dogs may be "inducing some type of physiological change at the cellular level, which leads to aberrant behavior" because of the deleterious effects on brain cells. In the same article, Dr. Richard Polsky, who is an animal behaviorist, calls for more research on this, as he also believes there may be a connection with thyroid replacement therapy and the lessening of behavioral problems.

I would strongly recommend the book, Canine and Feline Endocrinology and Reproduction, by Feldman and Nelson to the enlightened pet owner who wishes to inform himself on canine endocrinology. It is published by W. B. Saunders of Philadelphia. You can either order it from

.....

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR POTENTIAL PUPPY BUYERS

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

YOUR EXPERIENCE

Is this your first dog? _____

Have you ever owned a Bullmastiff _____

If so, from whom did you get them? _____

If not, have you spent time with the breed? _____

What kinds of previous experiences have you (and/or the members of your household) had with dogs? What breeds?

YOUR HOME

List the names and ages of the members of your household:

Do you have other pets? What kind? What age?

How big is your yard? How do you plan on containing your dog?

Where will your dog live (inside, outside, etc.)? _____

How much time during the day/night will the dog be alone? _____

Where will your dog stay during this time? _____

Can you afford the care of a large dog? (approximately \$40-\$50 per month) _____

QUESTIONNAIRE (continued):

Are you interested in any of the following? How strong an interest?

Home: Watchdog _____ Guarddog _____ Companion/Pet _____

Hobby: Obedience _____ Other _____

Competition: Show _____ Obedience _____ Other _____

Might you be willing to let another person train and show your dog? _____

Might you be interested in joining the local Bullmastiff club? _____

Might you be interested in joining the national Bullmastiff club? _____

THIS PUPPY

Do you have a preference for the sex of the puppy? Why? _____

From whom did you learn about my litter/me? _____

Are you willing to abide by a contract that includes things such as registration, health, breeding and general care requirements? _____

If you are interested in a pet would you accept a Limited Registration on your dog? (A Limited Registration is an AKC registration that does not allow offspring of the dog to be registered)?

Are you willing to take your puppy to obedience/puppy classes? _____

Why do you want a Bullmastiff puppy?

If you have had dogs previously please include the name, address, and phone number of the veterinarian you used. (or other dog related reference)

One last item: Have you considered the adoption of an older rescue Bullmastiff? Puppies are a lot of time and work. Many times an older dog is a better solution for people with a busy lifestyle. If you'd like to explore this option, I'd be happy to assist you.

* * * * *

EDITOR'S NOTE:

The above is a sample questionnaire, originally written for Weimeraner buyers, but quite adaptable to Bullmastiff people. It is a base that can be used as is, or adapted to your own requirements. People willing to fill out such a form can be considered seriously interested inquirers.

HOW TO PHOTOGRAPH A NEW PUPPY

1. Remove film from box and load camera.
2. Remove film box from puppy's mouth and throw in trash.
3. Remove puppy from trash and brush coffee grounds from muzzle.
4. Choose suitable background for photo.
5. Mount camera on tripod and focus.
6. Find puppy and take dirty sock from mouth.
7. Place puppy in pre-focused spot and return to camera.
8. Forget about spot and crawl after puppy on knees.
9. Focus with one hand and fend off puppy with other hand.
10. Get tissue and clean nose print from lens.
11. Take flash cube from puppy's mouth and throw in trash.
12. Put cat outside and put peroxide on scratch on puppy's nose.
13. Put magazines back on coffee table.
14. Try to get puppy's attention on the squeaking toy in your hand.
15. Replace your glasses on your face and check camera for damage.
16. Jump up in time to grab puppy by the neck and say, "NO, outside! NO, outside!"
17. Call spouse to clean up mess.
18. Fix a drink.
19. Sit back in Lazy-Boy with drink and resolve to teach puppy "Sit" and "Stay" first thing in the morning.

.....

SCIENCE AND THE DOG
GERIATRIC DISEASES

Reprinted from **DOG WORLD**
April 1994

Many dog owners label as normal features of their pets' aging process symptoms which are indicative of serious underlying geriatric problems. At the 23rd Annual Canine Symposium at the Veterinary Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania, Dr. Meryl Littman, associate professor and chief of medicine at VHUP, addressed some of the processes, symptoms, diagnostic tests and treatment options related to renal, hepatic and cardiac failure in older dogs.

Chronic renal failure which plagues many dogs entering the middle and upper years, typically creeps up slowly and gradually, and is marked by impairment of the kidney's mechanism for filtering and excreting the waste products of metabolism. The salt-water balance in the blood may be disrupted, and acidic waste products may accumulate in the blood, resulting in blood acidosis. Polyuria (excessive urination) and polydipsia (excessive thirst) are usually the first signs.

Dogs suffering from impaired renal function should be properly hydrated, either through a plentiful supply of drinking water or with subcutaneous fluid injections. Aluminum hydroxide may be administered to decrease serum phosphorus, sodium bicarbonate to neutralize acid in the blood and antibiotics if infection is present.

Hepatic failure interferes with detoxification of the blood. Liver failure in older dogs, which may be due to chronic active hepatitis, cirrhosis, nodular growth and liver shrinkage, may present with such vague symptoms as weight loss, lethargy and decreased appetite. "This may be all the dog shows", Littman says.

It is therefore necessary to have an older dog checked when such relatively commonplace symptoms are present, because they may be indicative of more than the normal aging process. Fevers, vomiting, diarrhea, ascites, edema, jaundice, polydipsia and polyuria are among the clinical signs of liver failure.

Other manifestations include decreased tolerance to drugs, and impaired mental function resulting from the accumulation of toxins in the brain. Dogs suffering from this may experience lethargy, restlessness, and/or seizures. Dietary changes are a key element in the management of both kidney failure and liver disease. Consult your veterinarian for instructions.

The heart, critical to nutrient delivery and waste uptake, may also be affected in older dogs. Rhythm disturbances, impaired cardiac muscle contractility and abnormal blood flow resulting from faulty valves are a few problems an older canine may experience. Decreased cardiac output and retarded fluid circulation may result in fluid leakage outside of the vascular system and into the chest and abdomen. Plueral effusion (fluid accumulation around the lungs) may occur, and is marked labored breathing and cyanosis, manifested as a bluish tinge to the tongue and gums. Ascites may cause gastrointestinal problems and enlargement of the liver and spleen. Edema in the legs may also be present. Other signs include fainting, renal failure and general lethargy, caused by inadequate perfusion of oxygen and other blood nutrients throughout the body.

If symptoms of any of these diseases are noticed in your older dog, consult your veterinarian for diagnosis.

Preventative geriatric care should begin when a dog enters "middle age," Littman says, which is about 7 or 8 years of age in large breeds and about 10 in small breeds. Visits to the veterinarian should be stepped up to twice annually, baseline blood and urine levels should be established, and every owner should be observant of changes in his or her dog's appetite, thirst, excretion, weight and stamina. Owners should watch carefully for the symptoms of any problems to which his or her breed might be predisposed.

The final word for geriatric care is "finality". The dog owner should protect the quality of life when caring for a geriatric dog and should discern when the quality of life has deteriorated, and make decisions accordingly. (Bellwether, University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine, Spring/Summer 1993).

Wild West Bullmastiffs



In Loving Memory
Wild West's Barbary Coast
10-26-91 to 2-9-94

BARBY died very unexpectedly. We are completely at a loss without our playgirl. Never was there a dull moment with her around. Rest in peace my wild girl.

OWNERS/BREEDERS

Brian & Tracy Ferrick

15455 Rockwood Road, Escondido, CA 92027

619-745-5756

BULLZ

CH. ALLSTAR'S TOM CRUISE

BMF1042G27



CRUISE finished under Bill Shelton, handled to his championship by Phyllis Shurzinske. CRUISE has also been making his mark as a stud dog. Watch for his babies in the show ring this year - BULLZ SIERRA SUNRISE, BULLZ LEXIS LUXOR, CRISLIN'S BO KNOWS, CRISLIN BONNIE, and his newest children out of CH. BLACKHAWK'S MINNIE DE MOOSE.

AT STUD TO LADIES OF MERIT:

CH. ALLSTAR'S TOM CRUISE

CH. BLACKSLATE'S ORLANDO MAGIC

BULLZ

BRENDA GERE

9211 Cayuga, Sun Valley, CA 91352
818-504-2604

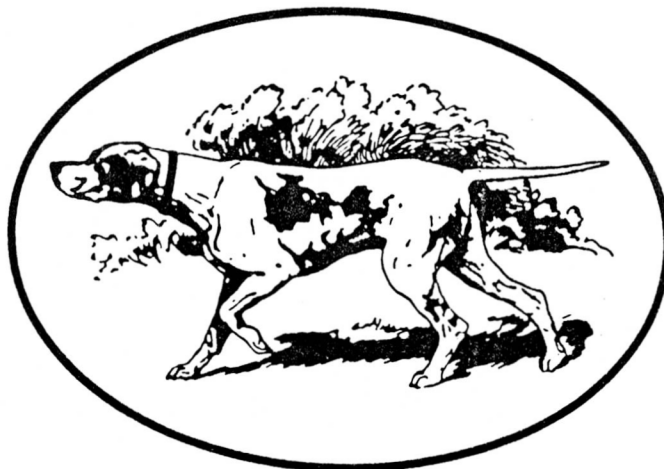
Ch. Blazin's Panzer

Award

Of

Merit

Westminster Kennel Club

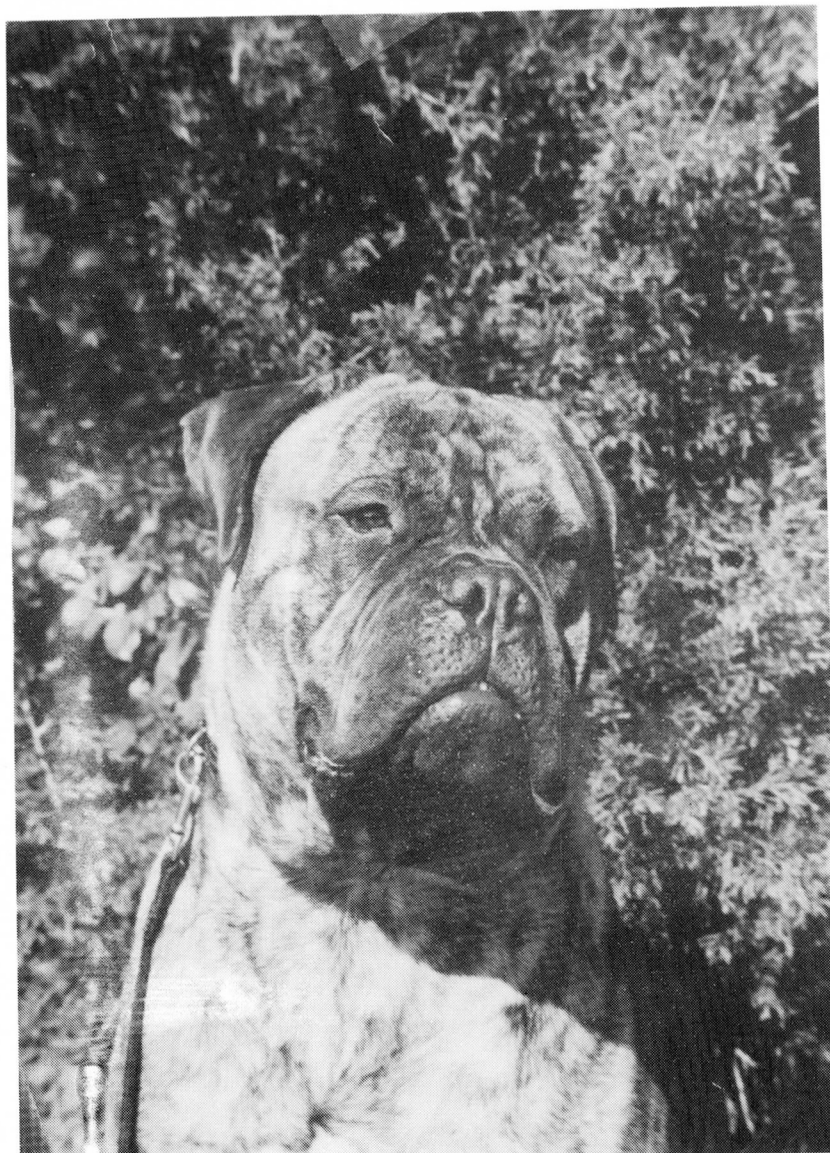


OWNED BY:
Peter Kozel
Malinda Raby
415-731-7319

BRED BY:
Blazin' Bullmastiffs
Churchville, MD
410-836-2211



Champion DanJ's K.C. - Case-um



Brookhaven's Huggy Bear, CD, ROM linebreeding produced this beautiful red brindle, who at 4 years of age has both power and grace, which belie his size.

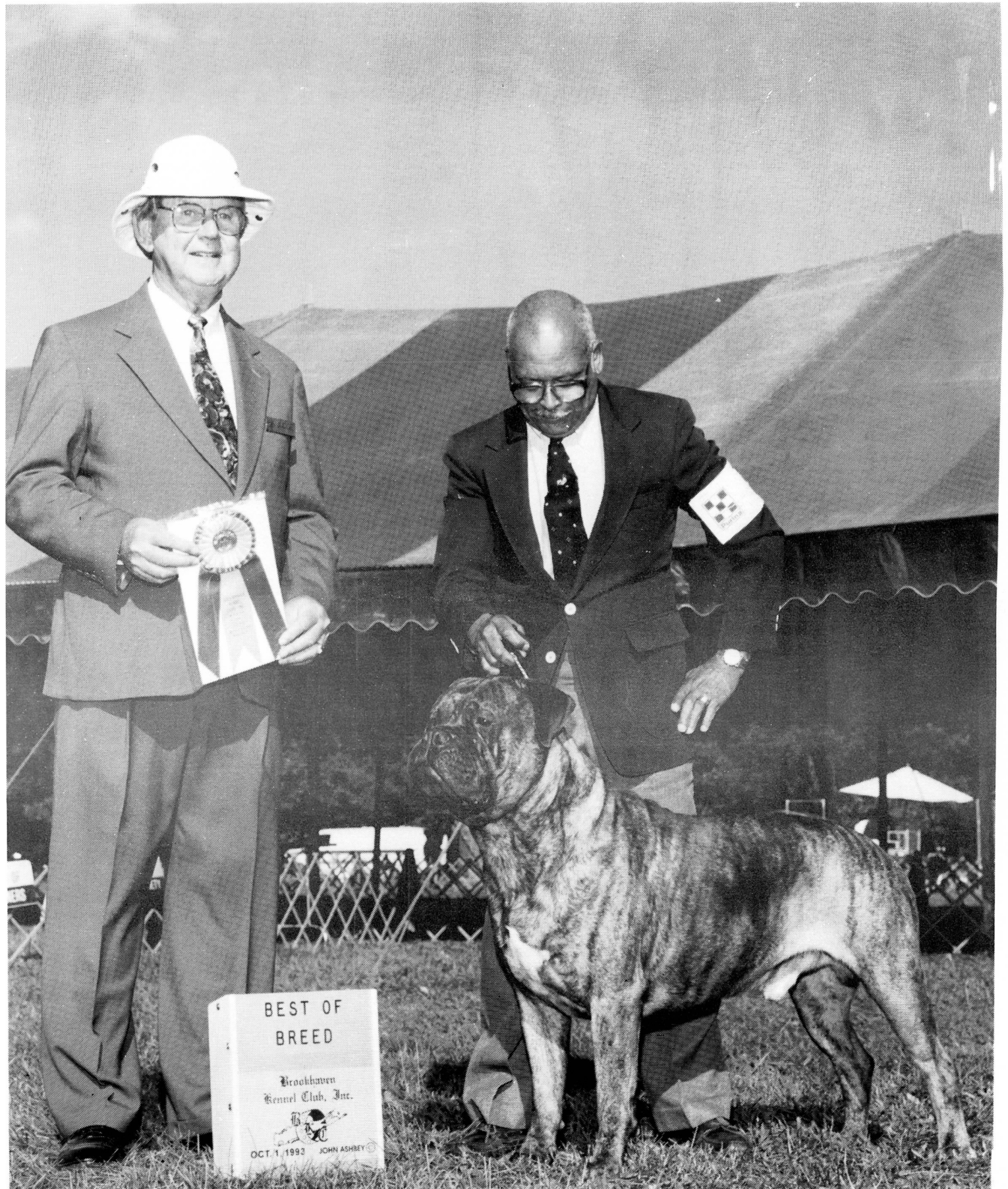
K.C. is currently working on his Companion Dog degree and loves to work. We are very proud of our first Bullmastiff and offer this head study and, on the opposite page, an accompanying show result photograph.

HOME RUN KENNELS

Ed & Linda Silva

15 Woodland Lane, Smithtown, NY 11787

516-361-4736



Sherwood's Believe In My Cassandra



Thank you Mary Frazier for our beautiful foundation bitch, Cassie, shown here winning Best of Opposite out of the 9-12 months class for the second consecutive show in as many days.

HOME RUN KENNELS

Ed & Linda Silva

15 Woodland Lane, Smithtown, NY 11787

516-361-4736

FLASH:

Valiant Bullmastiffs

presents



Topper's Pride And Joy of Torous CH. TOP GUN OF TOROUS x MOUNTAIN MAMA OF TOROUS

JOY is pictured taking BW for a 5 point major at the Golden Gate Kennel Club Supported Entry show. JOY offers intelligence, exceptional movement, sound body and temperament. Thank you Mr. Eugene Haupt for recognizing JOY's qualities. JOY is handled superbly by Mr. Augie Panelli.

We also want to thank Mr. & Mrs. Bud & Pauline Smith for producing such a wonderful bitch, that we ar so proud of.

Valiant Bullmastiffs

Walt R. & Kathy A. Miranda

1231 Vernon Terrace, San Mateo, CA 94402

415-570-4317 (leave message)

Hey, I haven't been monkeyin' around!



This is my breeding program:

I am linebreeding to Ch. Tailwynde's J. Paul Get 'Em, BMF-359, ROM and this is what I mean. Look at the inbreeding analysis for Fogarty and Padre, and you will see over twenty years of selective breeding that produced them. They are linebred to J. Paul:

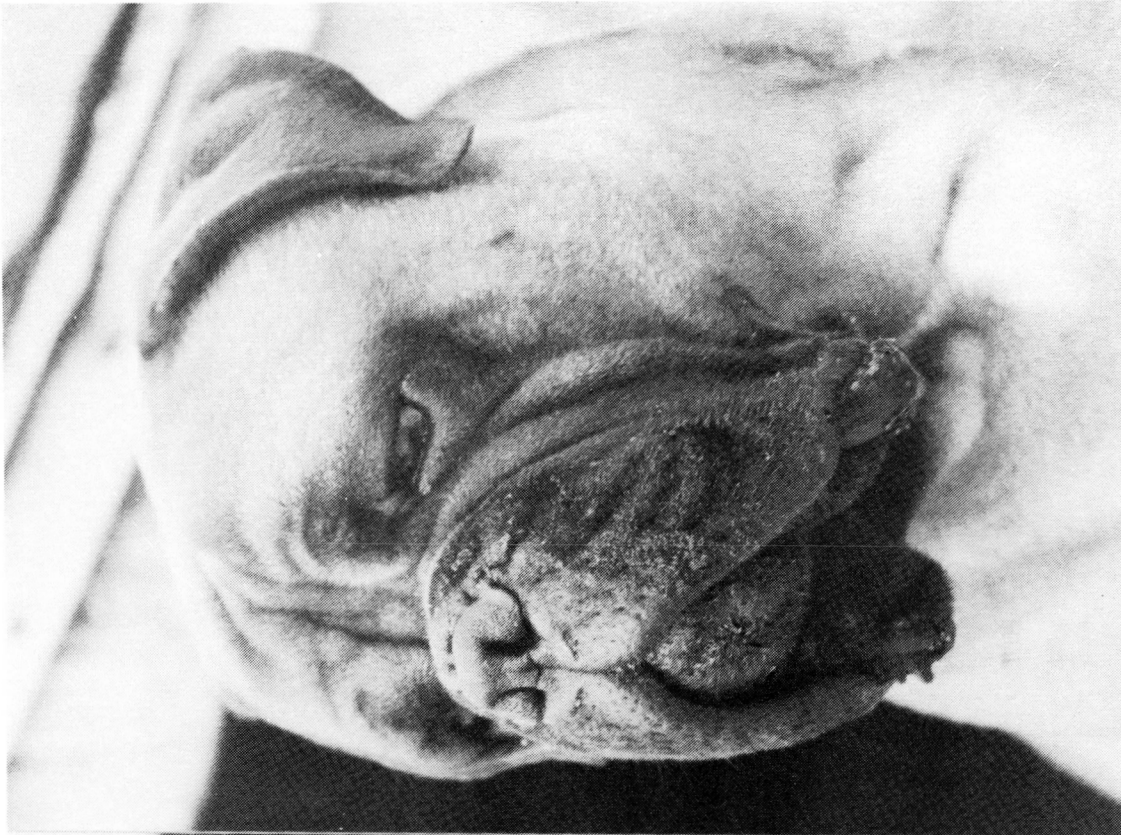
Padre is more closely bred to J. Paul than his sire is. This is an example of "planned" breeding. Inbreeding coefficients are important when you are choosing a breeding animal. Unless you want to take 25+ years to do something similar, you don't have to: we have the genetic depth for the type of dog we are breeding, and if you need "numbers" to prove it, peruse the tables for these two dogs. They are the result of planned breeding for homozygosity. If you want to augment your program with a carefully bred outcross sire, these dogs have something to offer to you.

Those of you who have Bullmastiffs with J. Paul in their pedigrees who wish to emphasize that leg, any of these young dogs will get you closer to him. He was the only sire in the history of the breed to produce two all-breed Best In Show sons, a National Specialty BOB winner, a feat repeated by Ch. Tailwynde's Double Dutch, ROM, who is 68.7500% inbred to J. Paul. Those genetics are still available to you today, here at Penny Lane Farm.

Bullmastiffs of Tailwynde, Reg'd.

Dick & Adele Pfenninger

Penny Lane Farm, 249 Hickory Corner Road
Milford, NJ 08848
908-996-4769



*Tailwynde's Nine One One
at age three years old*



*Tailwynde's Godfather
at age 8 Months old*

Tailwynde's Nine One One, "Fogarty"
Tailwynde's Stormin' Norman x Tailwynde's Just Deserts

<u>Ancestor</u>	<u>Appearances</u>	<u>Inbreeding Percentage</u>
Ch. Tailwynde's J. Paul Get 'Em ROM	11	62.5000 %
Ch. Tailwynde's Double Dutch	2	50.0000 %
Tailwynde's Stormin' Norman	1	50.0000 %
Tailwynde's Just Deserts	1	50.0000 %
Ch. Scyldocga Bairn McTavish, ROM	41	36.3281 %
Tailwynde's Amy of Thor's Glen, ROM	41	36.3281 %
Ch. Tailwynde's Rinky d'Ink	17	35.9375 %
Ch. Scldocga Long John Silver, ROM	59	34.7656 %
Tailwynde's Tina Turner	11	31.2500 %
Tailwynde's Head Over Heels	5	25.0000 %
Ch. Tailwynde's Trish The Dish	3	25.0000 %
Tailwynde's Hunky Dory	2	25.0000 %
Tailwynde's CF Enforcer	2	25.0000 %
Ch. Tailwynde's Tanya Ton o'Buns	1	25.0000 %
Ch. Tailwynde's St. Pauli's Girl	1	25.0000 %
Tailwynde's Paine Webber, ROM	4	18.7500 %
Ch. Tailwynde's Nematognathi, ROM	11	15.6250 %
Ch. Tailwynde's Queen Trinket	11	15.6250 %
Bairn Fen	25	15.2344 %
Lady CAndace of Thor's Glen	24	14.8438 %
Tailwynde's Hotsy Totsy	5	12.5000 %
Ch. Tailwynde's Good Girls Don't	1	12.5000 %
Ch. Stonykill's Midnight Cowboy, ROM	5	10.9375 %
Scyldocga Lady Elaine	22	10.1563 %
Ch. Bullstaff Argus of Arancrag, ROM	22	10.1563 %
Ch. Nutiket Solitaire	6	9.3750 %
Tagkhanic Brooke of Highland	4	9.3750 %
Bounty of Bullmast	8	7.0313 %
Ch. Scldsocgs Little Joe	5	6.2500 %
Ch. Tailwynde's Amazing Grace, ROM	1	6.2500 %
Stonykill's Black Magic Mama, ROM	5	5.4688 %
Ch. Pocantico Anchorage Turk, ROM	5	5.4688 %
Scyldocga Empress Victoria	10	4.6875 %
Ch. Sultan Artay of Croydon Hall	10	4.6875 %
Tagkhanic Ms. Of Talmadge Hill	4	4.6875 %
Ch. Nutiket Nokomis	6	4.6875 %
Sandgate Cookie	10	4.6875 %
Ch. Stonykill's Red Devil, ROM	1	3.1250 %
Lady Dedlock	6	3.1250 %
Ch. Pocantico Worrysum Rameses	6	3.1250 %
Scyldocga True Grit	5	3.1250 %
Ch. Scyldocga Blackazz Ink	5	3.1250 %
Ch. Elation's Anchorage Dyna Mo	5	2.7344 %
Ch. Pocantico Worrysum Rameses	5	2.7344 %
Delilah of Little Brook	4	2.3438 %
Scyldocga Gingersnap	4	1.9531 %
Ch. Scyldocga Bairn McGregor, ROM	4	1.9531 %
Ch. Stonykill's Naughty Angelina, ROM	1	1.5625 %
Ch. Mi Buff's Baquet	4	1.5625 %
Ch. Scyldocga King Ethelwulf	4	1.5625 %
Wyaston Lady Hamilton	4	1.5625 %
Eng. Ch. Bulstaff Achilles	4	1.5625 %
Delilah of Little Brook	1	0.7813 %

Tailwynde's Godfather, "Padre"
Tailwynde's Nine One One x Tailwynde's Church Lady

<u>Ancestor</u>	<u>Appearances</u>	<u>Inbreeding Percentage</u>
Ch. Tailwynde's J. Paul Get 'Em ROM	28	63.2813 %
Tailwynde's Just Deserts	3	62.5000 %
Ch. Tailwynde's Double Dutch	5	50.0000 %
Tailwynde's Nine One One	1	50.0000 %
Tailwynde's Church Lady	1	50.0000 %
Tailwynde's Stormin' Norman	2	37.5000 %
Ch. Tailwynde's Rinky d'Ink	33	34.3750 %
Tailwynde's Tina Turner	26	31.2500 %
Ch. Tailwynde's Tanya Ton o'Buns	3	31.2500 %
Ch. Tailwynde's Trish The Dish	8	28.1250 %
Ch. Scyldocga Bairn McTavish, ROM	46	26.9531 %
Tailwynde's Amy of Thor's Glen, ROM	46	26.9531 %
Tailwynde's Head Over Heels	13	26.5625 %
Tailwynde's Hunky Dory	5	25.0000 %
Tailwynde's CF Enforcer	5	25.0000 %
Tailwynde's Bart Simpson	1	25.0000 %
Tailwynde's Paine Webber, ROM	10	18.7500 %
Ch. Tailwynde's St. Pauli's Girl	2	18.7500 %
Ch. Scldocga Long John Silver, ROM	37	16.7969 %
Ch. Tailwynde's Nematognathi, ROM	20	14.4531 %
Ch. Tailwynde's Queen Trinket	20	14.4531 %
Tailwynde's Hotsy Totsy	13	13.2813 %
Ch. Stonykill's Midnght Cowboy, ROM	12	10.5469 %
Tagkhanic Brooke of Highland	10	9.3750 %
Ch. Tailwynde's Good Girls Don't	2	9.3750 %
Ch. Nutiket Solitaire	13	8.5938 %
Bairn Fen	17	7.8125 %
Lady CAndace of Thor's Glen	17	7.8125 %
Ch. Seldsocgs Little Joe	11	6.2500 %
Bounty of Bullmast	11	5.4688 %
Ch. Tailwynde's Amazing Grace, ROM	2	4.6875 %
Stonykill's Black Magic Mama, ROM	9	4.6875 %
Ch. Pocantico Anchorage Turk, ROM	9	4.6875 %
Tagkhanic Ms. Of Talmadge Hill	8	4.2969 %
Ch. Nutiket Nokomis	7	3.1250 %
Ch. Stonykill's Red Devil, ROM	2	2.3438 %
Scyldocga Lady Elaine	6	2.3438 %
Ch. Bullstaff Argus of Arancrag, ROM	6	2.3438 %
Scyldocga True Grit	5	1.9531 %
Ch. Scyldocga Blackazz Ink	5	1.9531 %
Ch. Stonykill's Naughty Angelina, ROM	2	1.1719 %
Scyldocga Empress Victoria	3	1.1719 %
Ch. Sultan Artay of Croydon Hall	3	1.1719 %
Ch. Elation's Anchorage Dyna Mo	3	1.1719 %
Ch. Pocantico Worrysum Rameses	3	1.1719 %
Delilah of Little Brook	3	1.1719 %
Lady Dedlock	3	1.1719 %
Ch. Pocantico Worrysum Rameses	3	1.1719 %
Sandgate Cookie	3	1.1719 %
Delilah of Little Brook	1	0.3906 %
Ch. Pocantico Plameses Bruno	1	0.3906 %
Scyldocga Gingersnap	1	0.3906 %
Ch. Scyldocga Bairn McGregor, ROM	1	0.3906 %



Abbey Road Bullmastiffs



American, Canadian, Mexican
International Champion

Allstar's Hot Honey Harlow
BMF-880f24f



CH ALLSTAR'S TERRY THOMAS, ROM x CH. ALLSTAR'S MAE WEST

Our HONEY is an American, Canadian, Mexican, and International champion, a quality producer, our beloved family companion, and above all the light of my life.

Kathryn & Tim Nibley

1165 E. Mountain Street, Pasadena, CA 91104
818-794-5863

CH. MEGHAN THE GUARDMAN'S PUNCH
"MEGHAN"
10/15/90



CH. TRI-IVORY BACARDI x CH. TRU GRIT'S CRYSTAL BALL

Thank you to Mr. Bill Whaling for BOS at Mensona KC on May 8, 1993. Thank you to Mrs. Alice Downey for selecting her BOB at the Yosemite KC on November 26, 1993 over 14 other entries, including one male special.!

Thank you to Mr. E. W. Haupt for selecting **Meghan** as BOS on February 6, 1994 at the prestigious 84th annual Golden Gate KC show. With a total of 37, she won over 21 bitches, including 6 other bitch specials.

We pray the AI with **Ch. Allstar's Mugsy Malone** produces a litter, due mid-May. This promises to be an extra special litter. Inquiries gladly accepted.

Thank you Cyndi for yor expert handling.

Happy Easter!!!!!!!

GUARDMAN BULLMASTIFFS
 18200 Sycamore Avenue
 Patterson, CA 95363
 209-892-5975

Owned And Cherished By:
LARRY P. OCCHIPINTI, D.V.M.

Handled by Daughter,
CYNTHIA OCCHIPINTI

DOX Bullmastiffs

This lovely puppy proves it-----
One picture is worth a thousand words.



DOX Rowdy Roxy of Briarmoor

(CH. DOX FAST FREDDY OF SHADY OAK x CH. SHADY OAK DOX HEAVENLY HELEN)

Owned and handled by Donna Lukor.

DOX Bullmastiffs

Dr. John G. & Susan M. Crawford

505 N. Ridgeland Avenue

Oak Park, IL 60302

708-524-9788

815-673-2068

DOX Bullmastiffs

"FRIEDA"



Ch. Shady Oak DOX Fetching Freida

#1 Bullmastiff Bitch 1993
BOS at The Garden 1994

Handled by Carlos Puig

DOX Bullmastiffs
Dr. John G. & Susan M. Crawford

505 N. Ridgeland
Oak Park, IL 60302
708-524-9788
815-673-2068

Allstar is very proud of

CH. ALLSTAR'S NATHAN DETROIT

who began his special career with a big win

BEST OF BREED AT WESTMINSTER

We are hoping that this is the start of an illustrious career following in the footsteps of his father, **CH. ALLSTAR'S MUGSY MALONE**, who finished 1993 as the #1 Bullmastiff, all systems-all breed.

NED has also proven himself as a sire with two outstanding litters on the ground.

Mimi M. Einstein
ALLSTAR BULLMASTIFFS

377 Mt. Holly Road
Katonah, NY 10536
914-232-9166



Ch. Sound Off's Desperado

BMF-847G BMF-EL21



CH. SUGAREE ROSCOE T. x WINDY HILL'S LOA, ROM, BMF-587

JAKE is pictured above taking another Best of Breed win at Umpqua KC under judge Dolly Ward, handled by Tony Peruzzi.

JAKE offers a wonderful temperament, bone, size (deep red, 27" tall, 138 pounds), and soundness (OFA certified hips and elbows). He moves faultlessly. He is a proven sire.

CHILLED SEMEN AVAILABLE

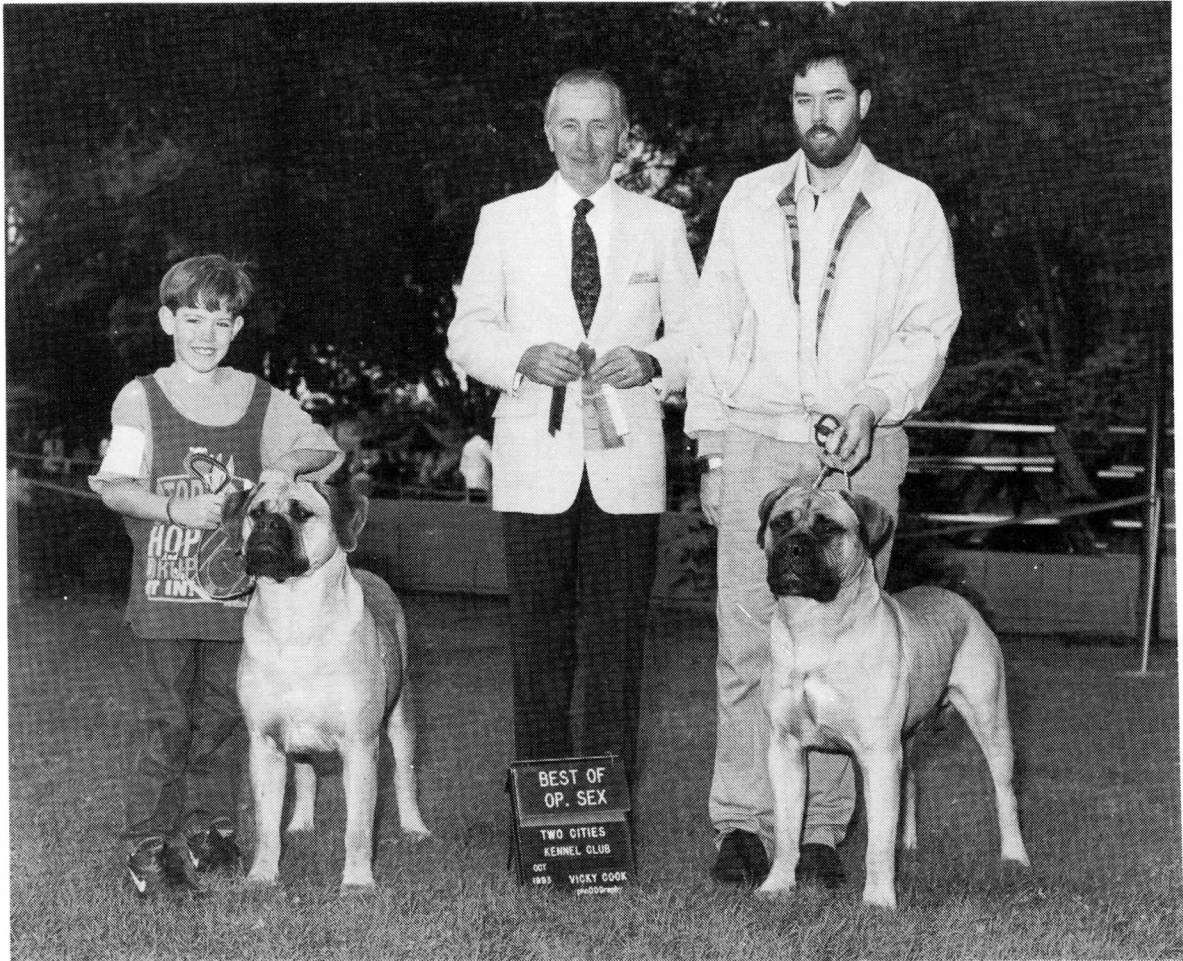
BRED AND OWNED BY
Sound Off Bullmastiffs

Lea Reuter

11605 Pythian Cave Road, Yreka, CA 96097
916-436-2578

Sound Off Bullmastiffs

proudly presents



Sire: CH. SOUND OFF'S DESPERADO, BMF-847 & EL-21

JAKE wanted to show off some of his "kids" recent wins at Two Cities KC - October 1993.

Pictured above on the left is **Doubletyme's Lil Lulu** taking Winners Bitch and BOS (handled by Tony Peruzzi) for 2 points. On the right is **Bear Mountain's Bull Durham (Dillon)** taking Winners Dog and Best of Winners for 2 points. Dillon was owner/handled by Scott Leonard. Dillon currently has 8 points, including a 4 point major in very limited showing. A big Congratulations to their owners - Scott & Gail Leonard and of course to **Jake**, their proud DAD.

OWNERS/BREEDERS

Scott & Gail Leonard
916-335-3063

BRAGGED BY:

Sound Off Bullmastiffs
916-436-2578

Ch. Leatherneck Belle of Belfast, CGC "Rosie"



AM & CAN BLACKSLATE'S BOSTON BRAHMIN x LEATHERNECK CHRISTY

Bred by Anita Lewis and Naomi Brooks

With limited showing **Rosie** has 5 BOBs as a Special and 3 Group placements. She was awarded a AWARD OF MERIT at the National Specialty under Breeder/Judge Bob Gray.

Pictured taking a Group 3, owner handled under judge Col. Jerry Weiss.

Rosie is a littermate to Ch. Leatherneck Grizzly. **Rosie** has an outstanding litter sired by up and coming Leatherneck's Axel Zeller of 4 boys and 4 girls whelped in February. Reservations are being accepted.

Olde South Bullmastiffs

Terry L. Babb

5743 St. Angela Drive, N. Charleston, SC 29418
803-552-3070

Presenting . . .

Storybook Bullmastiffs

More recognizably known as "home of" Ch. Allstar's Mugsy Malone

Our sincere thanks and appreciation to all who have supported us and Mugsy's show career over the past two years!

And to Mimi Einstein -- A very special thank you!

You've provided both an exceptional foundation and wealth of knowledge and support for us and *STORYBOOK BULLMASTIFFS*

We look forward to a "STORYBOOK" future filled with fabulous "ALLSTAR" dogs!

Debbie & Ken Vargas
449 Lantern Hill Road
Ledyard, CT 06339
(203) 572-8590

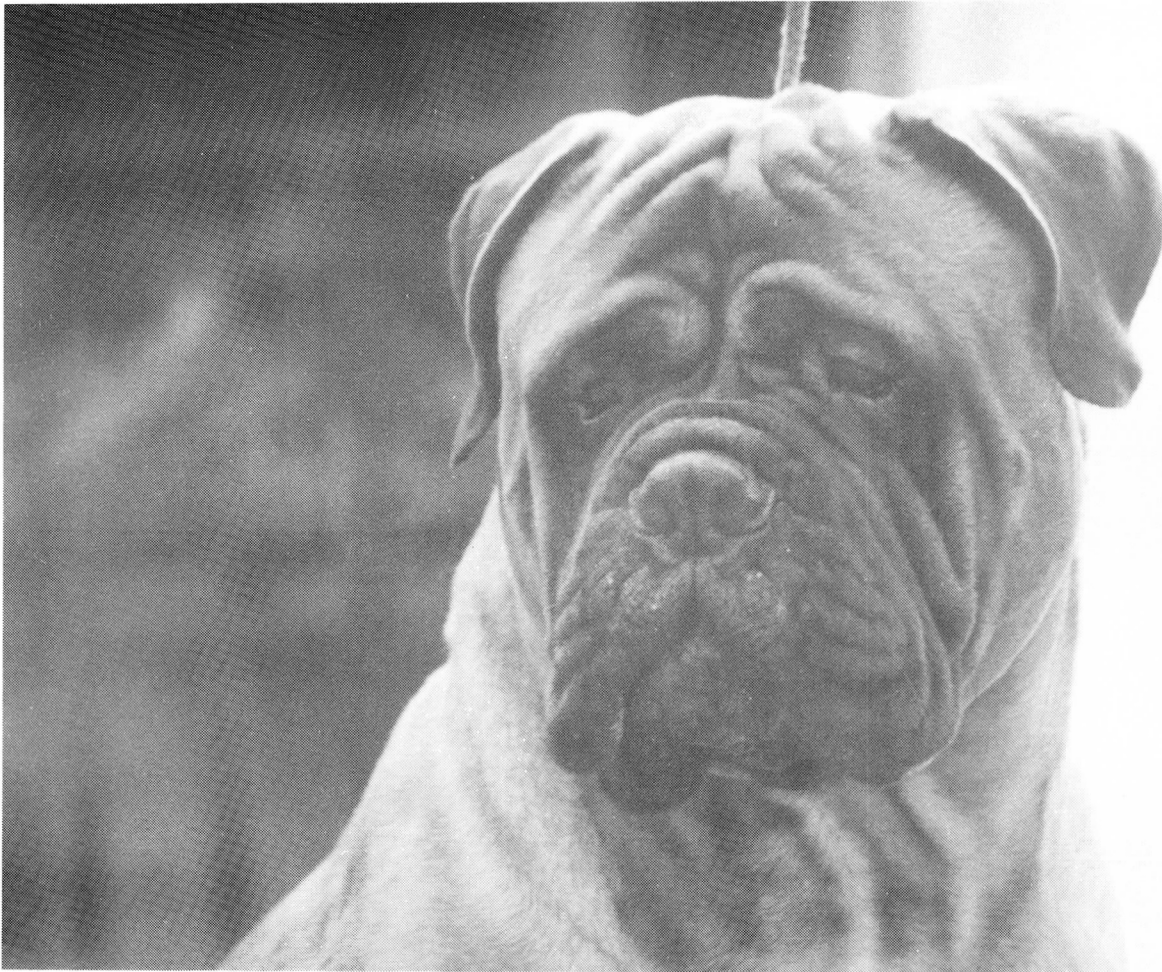
CONGRATULATIONS

Ch. Allstar's Nathan Detroit (Mugsy's first born son)

Best of Breed - Westminster Kennel Club - First time out as a Special - WOW!

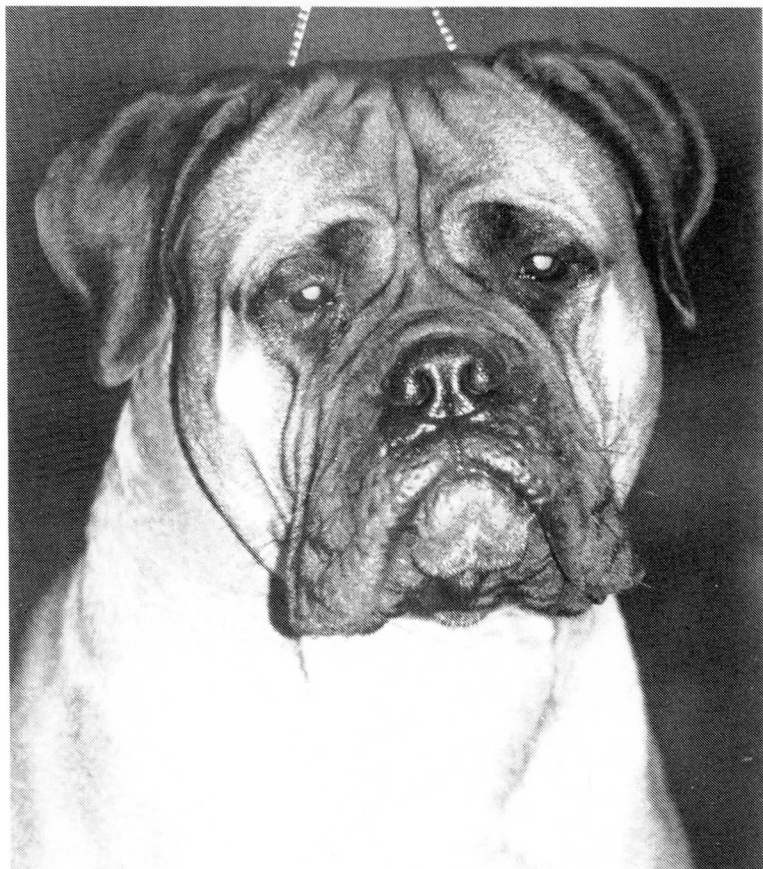
Continued . . .

Ch. Allstar's Mugsy Malone



**THE NATION'S
NUMBER 1 BULLMASTIFF
FOR 1993**

All All-Breed Systems



Allstar's Cover Girl

MAXINE will enter the show ring this Spring to compete for her championship title.

Ch. Allstar's Terry Thomas

X

Allstar's Blossom Dearie

Storybook's Molly Malone

MOLLY is pictured at 15 weeks and is every bit her father's daughter. We have great hopes for this gorgeous puppy.

Ch. Allstar's Mugsy Malone

X

Ch. Highland's Mardi Gras



TAURALAN NURSERY NEWS

These absolutely lovely red babies (2 boys, 1 girl) who are pictured at 4 1/2 weeks of age are the product of a breeding between our CH. TAURALAN TROTTIE TRUE and Tom & Monica Foster's deep red CH. TAURALAN TOMMY TRADDLES. They are sturdy, well balanced babies with beautiful legs, even bites, and totally sweet temperaments. One boy has moved to Soldotna, Alaska to the home of John and Julie Saltz. The girl is staying closer to home, going to Dan and Robin Gingold of Sherman Oaks, California. The other boy, TAURALAN LIONEL LOVE TOY will stay at Tauralan.



This very candid photo is of TAURALAN ELIZA TRUCKETTE (Sandcastle Blackhawk Nitro X Tauralan Love Triumphs). ELIZA, who lives with Jamie and Laura Beans, is a lovely cobby young lady who is expecting her first litter in mid March. She has been bred to Greg and Carin Camper's rock solid, bright red young dog TAURALAN TRUST ME (Chad), who is featured on the next page.

A breeding between CHAD and ANNABAR TAURALAN TABITHA (Witchy) has just been done and babies are expected in early May.

CH. TAURALAN THOMAS MAGNUM has been bred to a lovely, large typey bitch, SHIZAM BER AMBER owned by Peggy Robinson. These pups are due April 5th.

TAURALAN
Carol H. Beans

12131 Arroyo Avenue, Santa Ana, CA 92705
714-544-1824

TAURALAN



Tauralan Trust Me

CH. SAINT MAXIME OF TANTALON x CH. TAURALAN VELVET TOUCH

CHAD is pictured at 21 months of age at the Orange Empire showgrounds after taking his first points. He took WD for 2 pts and Best of Winners for 3 pts., all owner handled. The day before he won the open class at Rio Hondo KC. CHAD took 2 more points at Burbank KC in early March. His exceptional muscle tone, brilliant color, and exquisite movement are very impressive. In a tune up for his major win, he went Best In Match at the California Bullmastiff Fanciers Fun Match.

CHAD has been bred to TAURALAN ELIZA TRUCKETTE and ANNABAR TAURALAN TABITHA. Litters are expected in mid March and mid April. We expect all the pups to be red.

CHAD IS AT STUD TO APPROVED BITCHES

OWNERS:

Greg & Carin Camper

4010 Greenwood
Orange, CA 92669
714-532-4185

BREEDER:

Carol Beans

714-544-1824

American Canadian Champion Noland-Dox Big Jake McCandles



Big Jake is pictured going Best of Breed at Grayslake, Illinois with a new friend, Cindy Wegner.

Phyllis Dutkovich

145 Braymore Court
Barrington, IL 60010
708-381-5131

New Canadian Champions
Noland Dox Big Jake McCandles
Noland Dox Tess Trueheart



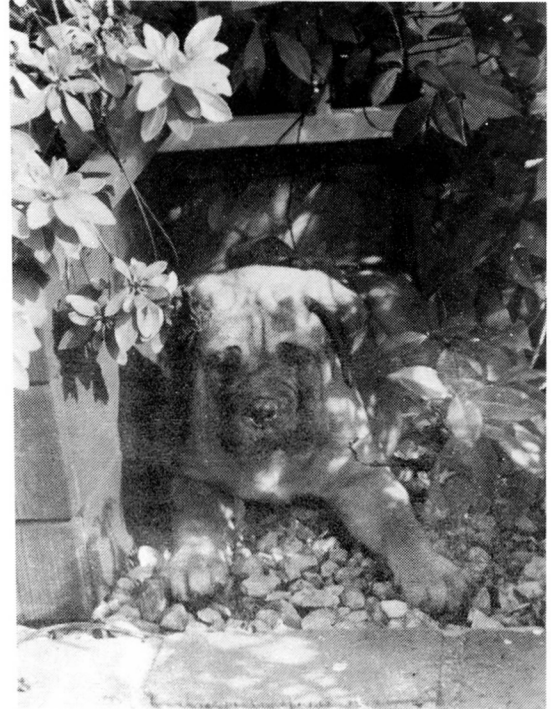
Thanks to Pam and Ginny McClintock for handling Jake and Tess in Canada. They did two terrific jobs!

Phyllis Dutkovich

145 Braymore Court
Barrington, IL 60010
708-381-5131

BULLMAST

Established 1948



Beethoven's Blaze O Bullmast

CH. BEETHOVEN'S FIFTH OF BULLMAST x BRIGALETTE OF BULLMAST

The breeding of **Baytie** and **Brigalette** produced everything we had hoped it would. It is always gratifying to produce that which the pedigree said it should.

Blaze is currently in charge of the Morse household and enjoying every minute of it. If he continues to develop as he has, he will be a credit to his sire and dam.

BREEDER:

Pat O'Brien

1012 Dolores Drive
Fullerton, CA 92633
714-870-5235

PROUD OWNERS:

The Morse Family

Saratoga, CA

1994 CRUFTS DOG SHOW

By CAROL BEANS

It's not that there aren't enough dog shows in the United States that led me back to Crufts again.

There is just something very special about a show that has over 22,000 dogs entered in 4 days of showing. This year 5247 working dogs were entered, comprised of 44 breeds and/or varieties.

The show is held at the National Exhibition Center just outside Birmingham, England. This is a self-contained set-up with vast parking areas, hotel and dining facilities, shops, banks, bus service, and a railway station right in the building and literally acres of exhibition halls set in landscaped grounds including a lake.

The show is held indoors, which is a great idea since the weather at this time of year is always cold enough to turn some of the less hardy breeds into popsicles. The drawback to indoors showing, even in this vast venue is that there is no control over smoking areas and shortly after the show opens it is obvious that no air filtration system can overcome the absolute cloud of smoke in this huge series of joined exhibition halls. (You can tell I don't smoke, right?) However, one soon becomes so involved with all that is going on one may forget fresh air for a while.

The concession booths at this show number in the hundreds. In fact, I do my shopping the day before Bullmastiffs show because it takes hours to properly visit all the booths. There is a wonderful variety of art, dog supplies, dog food, breed and rescue organization, and informational booths. The number of places selling Bullmastiff art is unfortunate only in that there are so many to choose from. I chose from all of them. You should have seen my carry on luggage at the airport.

My lucky husband had the honor of escorting Patricia O'Brien and Kathy McAlister as well as me, not only at the show but for a week of touring the countryside in southern England. Bless him, he does a marvelous job of driving on the British side of the road. For those who can't bear the thought of driving on the left side of the road, don't let that deter you from making a trip to Crufts. The British transportation system is fantastic. One can get a flight into Birmingham airport (about 5 minutes from the show site, or a train (even from Heathrow airport next to London) that takes you directly into the Exhibition center building. The hotel on the grounds is just three or four minutes walk from the train station, or the hotel has a shuttle. The hotel is expensive so staying outside the grounds is an alternative because of the readily available transportation.

This is a benched show. All breeds are benched as close as possible to their rings. Unlike this country, the show rings have no ropes or fences. Chairs are places in a square or rectangle and the dogs show inside this area. You can really get up close and personal with the entries. The attitude in the ring is far less formal than in the States. Dogs are shown on every kind of lead and collar imaginable.

The placements in the classes are not 1, 2, 3, and 4. They are 1, 2, 3, Reserve, Very Highly Commended, Highly Commended, and Commended. VHC, HC, and C awards are not mandatory. They are at the discretion of the judge. The system is good in that it recognizes a larger portion of the best dogs in each large class. A winner from each of the classes in each sex is chosen. The dog winners compete for the Dog Challenge Certificate, and the bitches for the Bitch Challenge Certificate. Champions show in Open Class, competing against non-champions before Best of Breed judging. That judging is solely between the dog and bitch CC winners.

.....

CRUFTS (continued):

There were originally (not counting approximately 18 absentees) 136 dogs making up 143 entries.
The results are as follows:

SPECIAL PUPPY DOG CLASS

1. BLEAKLANDS FORMIDABLE - Mr & Mrs. N. Stannard

SPECIAL JUNIOR DOG CLASS

1. LICASSA JOLLY ROGER - Messrs B. Blunden & C. Quantrill
 2. DAYJARIS SEBASTION - Mrs. E. Leam
 3. WYBURN KASPAR - Mrs. P A Brittle
- RES. MOVERN GRENADIER - Mr. & Mrs. M R McInnes
VHC. LICASSA EDWARD BEAR OF OLDWELL - Mr. H. Colliass

SPECIAL YEARLING DOG

1. DAJEAN SHOGUN - Mr. & Mrs. S. Story
 2. KINGSREACH THE NAVIGATOR OF MURBISA - Mr J F Bisatt & Mrs. M Day
 3. PITMAN'S RED ADMIRAL - Mr. J L Leeson & Miss J Jones
- RES. FERLINES CAPTAIN BRANNIGAN - Mr & Mrs D M Fernandez
VHC. JALANATH SLEDGE HAMMER - Mr J Goodwin

POST GRADUATE DOG

1. MAXSTOKE EDWARD - Mr & Mrs C Jones
 2. KINGSREACH THUNDERCLOUD - Mr & Mrs S J Williamson
 3. LYNJON ADVENTURER - Mr F D Thomas
- RES. BOURNEVALLEY'S KING CONNOR - Mr & Mrs P J Smith
VHC. JOBULL'S FOREMAN AT THESSALY - Mr & Mrs J K Wood

LIMIT DOG

1. GUCCI SOLID GOLD - Miss T J Green
 2. COPPERFIELD CAPT BAILEY - Mr G Warren
 3. JAGOFPEEKO RAGGED ROBIN - Mr E Peeko
- RES. PHIRENE DEMPSEY - Mrs V I Cole
VHC. DAJEAN RED BEN - Miss V A Harper

OPEN

1. CH. OLDWELL TRUMPS - Mr. H Colliass
 2. CH. MAXSTOKE EIRWYN - Mr C Jones
 3. CH. DAJEAN RED DRAGON - Miss T Jukes & Mr G Slater
- RES. CH. BELATARN SIMBA AT ZARROTT - Mr & Mrs A R Evans
VHC. WRAXALLEVALE THE MOONLIGHTLIGHTER - Mr & Mrs J Clements
HC. DAMASCENE COLONEL BOGEY OF RODEKES - Mr & Mrs D Higginson
C. BRINSCALL BARNABY - Mrs L Crowley

SPECIAL VETERAN DOG

1. DAJEAN SOLID AS A ROCK -Mrs. L E Trimby
 2. DAJEAN OUR MAN FLINT - Mr & Mrs J Gunn
 3. TINA'S OTHELLO - Mr M Cole
- RES. EBULLIENT ELLIOTT - Mr & Mrs R Weale
VHC. PANDALEE VIKING KING - Mrs B Sutcliffe

.....

CRUFTS (continued):

SPECIAL PUPPY BITCH

1. MY GYPSY ROSE OF RODEKES - Mr. & Mrs. D Higginson

SPECIAL JUNIOR BITCH

1. CADENHAM CHEROKEE AT BOURNEVALLEY -Mr & Mrs A D Bowman
 2. CADENHAM BLONDE AMBITION - Mr & Mrs J B Seger
 3. MORVERN GHISLAINE - Mr & Mrs M R McInnes
- RES. DAYJARIS GOLD'N DELICIOUS - Mrs C Lawrence
VHC. DAYJARIS PENDEAN - Miss J May

SPECIAL YEARLING BITCH

1. EASTLYNN VICTORIA TO TAURLEONE - Mrs O D Fowler
 2. FLINTSTOCK LAURA - Mr & Mrs A Gunn
 3. DAYJARIS GOLD 'N DELICIOUS - Mrs C Lawrence
- RES. MARBETTE MAGIC CRYSTAL - Mrs P A Short
VHC. BOURNEVALLEY LADY LOXLEY - Mr & Mrs I Ball

POST GRADUATE BITCH

1. HERGUARDIAN LADY ANASOLO - Miss H Clayton
 2. APRICOT BELLE AT TIRASLEE - Mr & Mrs A J John
 3. FLINTSTOCK TIGER LILY - Mr & Mrs A Gunn
- RES. TEMORA ROSE - Mrs M E Sayers
VHC. JAGOFPEEKO BORAGINACAE - Mrs P F James

LIMIT DOG

1. TODOMAS NAOMI - Mr. A P Massey
 2. BEORCAN AMBROSIA - Mr. M R Goulding
 3. BRINSCALL JESSICA - Mrs. L Crowley
- RES. TARKORIAN'S DYNAMITE MISTY - Miss J Stubley & Mr M Corfield
VHC. MOONLIGHT SONATA OF BULLENCA - Mr & Mrs L Bullock

OPEN BITCH

1. CH. LEPSCO LADY ELISE OF FLINTSTOCK - Mr & Mrs J Gunn
 2. CH. DAJEAN GOLDUST THE POACHERSFOE - Mr & Mrs G Ling
 3. CH. BLAZIN'S JUBILLATION OF JOBULL (Imp) - Miss Julie Jones
- RES. NAUKEEN MORAG OF DREADNOT - Mrs M McNaught
VHC. COPPERFIELD STREAKER OF DALBRAE - Mrs L A M Lawrie
HC. BRYANY BRONYIA - Mrs C Taylor
C. CH. MURBISA SPRING TIDES AT ROSSIR - Mrs A Hannay

SPECIAL VETERAN BITCH

1. CH. MAXSTOKE BASSEY - Mr & Mrs C Jones
2. COLOM COLLETTE - Mrs W M Cox
3. MAXSTOKE NESTA (neut.) - Mr C Jones

Dog C.C. - CH. OLDWELL TRUMPS

Res. Dog C. C. - BLEAKLANDS FORMIDABLE

Bitch C. C. - CH. LEPSCO LADY ELISE OF FLINTSTOCK

Res. Bitch C. C. - CH. DAJEAN GOLD DUST THE POACHERSFOE

Best of Breed - CH. OLDWELL TRUMPS

BIRTHPLACE BRITAIN

By LYN PRATT
Originally printed in
The American Bullmastiff

During the course of doing some research and glancing over some early advertisements offering Bull-Mastiffs, I chanced on the name Thorneywood Terror and the thought occurred to me that some of our readers might be interested in seeing some of these old offerings - and the prices mentioned.

From the Illustrated Kennel News - June 11, 1911

Stud. Bull-Mastiff, weight 150 lbs., skull 25 inches, muzzle 17 inches, height 32 inches. Fee 20s. (Editor's note: s = shilling, a shilling at that time was equal to about 12 cents, twenty shillings then equalling a pound sterling).

From the Illustrated Kennel News - June 21, 1911

Bull-Mastiff bitch puppies for sale; 30s each; sire Broomspring Terror. Also handsome dark brindle brood bitch by Thorneywood Terror; price £2.

From the Illustrated Kennel News - September 15, 1911

Stapleford Pedro sires typical Bull-Mastiff; winner of two 1sts, in night dog class. Weight 160 pounds. Fee 21s.

W. Hardwick has for sale a splendid litter of Bull-Mastiffs, fawns and brindles from 21s. Those wishing protection for their property should not miss this chance. They are the finest guards living, will make very large dogs. At stud; The Terrible Turk (Fawn) 150 lbs., the largest and cheapest Bull-Mastiff living. Fee 15s.

From Our Dogs - December 15, 1911

Bendigo the Second, black-brindle Bull-Mastiff at stud. 114 pounds weight. Fee 21s.

Handsome brindle Bull-Mastiff dog. 18 months. Weight 100 lbs, height 29 inches, splendid guard; good specimen; suit gentleman's house; kind manners, straight limbs. 4 Guineas. (Editor's note: A guinea was the equivalent of 21 shillings, Britain now has a monetary decimal system.)

Game Keepers Bull-Mastiff Night Dogs for sale. Large powerful black brindle dog, 18 months, best guard living; face man or beast, under control. £3/3s.

From the Illustrated Kennel News- February 23, 1912

Large powerful Bull-Mastiff dog, 90 pounds weight, tremendous head. Cost £3/10s as a puppy, now 18 months old, pink of condition, noble dog, one of the best of protectors to person or property, under control, voice like a lion; will sell for £2/10s or poultry to the value.

From the Illustrated Kennel News - November 29, 1912

Brindle Bulldog-Mastiff, splendid condition, 14 months 70s. Pedigree.

These few advertisements will give you some idea about the variations in type, temperament, weights, etc. of some of the early dogs in the breed.

The Pros and Cons of Early Spaying or Neutering

Giselle Hosgood BVSc, MS,
 FACVSc, Diplomate ACVS
 Assistant Professor, Surgery
 Department of Veterinary Clinical
 Sciences
 School of Veterinary Medicine
 Louisiana State University
 Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Dr. Hosgood received the BVSc degree from the University of Queensland, Australia, in 1982. Currently, she is an assistant professor in small animal surgery at Louisiana State University. Dr. Hosgood has a special interest in soft tissue surgery, particularly wound healing and reconstructive surgery, and pediatric surgery. She has given lectures and published articles on these and other aspects of soft tissue surgery.

DEFINITIONS

- neoplasia—the formation of tumors
- pyometra—accumulation of pus within the uterus
- hypertrophy—the excessive development of an organ
- prostatitis—inflammation of the prostate
- brucellosis—a generalized infection caused by *Brucella* species
- vaginitis—inflammation of the vagina
- incontinence—the inability to control excretory functions
- atrophy—a wasting away of a body part or tissue

There is considerable controversy over the indications for and consequences of spaying or neutering very young, prepubescent puppies and kittens. Early spaying or neutering typically refers to performing ovariohysterectomy or castration in puppies and kittens younger than 4 months of age¹ (generally from 6 to 12 weeks of age^{2,3}). Traditionally, it had been recommended that spaying or neutering be performed between five to seven months of age.^{2,4} The need to control the pet population has resulted in investigations concerning early spaying or neutering.^{5,6} Only 40% to 60% of owners who adopt very young animals from shelters have these pets spayed or neutered (Table 1).^{5,6} From the breeder's perspective, early spaying or neutering may be beneficial in controlling the indiscriminate breeding of animals. Purchasing young animals that have been spayed or neutered may be especially attractive to the general public.

BENEFITS OF SPAYING/NEUTERING

In addition to sterilization, spaying or neutering at five to seven months of age has several medical benefits. Mammary neoplasia is the most common tumor seen in intact female dogs⁷ (approximately 50% of these tumors are malignant). The risk of mammary neoplasia in dogs ovariohysterectomized before their first heat is very low.⁸ This protective benefit is, however, considerably reduced when ovariohysterectomy is delayed. Dogs ovariohysterectomized before their first heat have a 0.5% risk for developing mammary cancer, an 8% risk after their first heat, a 26% risk after two to three heats, and the same risk as intact dogs if they are ovariohysterectomized after four or more heats or after 2.5 years of age.⁸ Overall, an intact female dog has three to seven times the risk of developing mammary cancer than an ovariohysterectomized dog.⁹ Ovariohysterectomized females also have no risk of developing ovarian or uterine disease, such as neoplasia or pyometra.

Mammary tumors are the third most common tumor seen in female cats (nearly 90% of these tumors are malignant). At the time of presentation, many of these tumors have spread to other body organs.⁹ Although the benefits of ovariohysterectomy against mammary neoplasia are not as clearly defined in cats as they are in dogs, the risk of developing mammary cancer in intact female cats is seven times higher than that of ovariohysterectomized cats.¹⁰

In male dogs, the risk of developing prostatic disease—such as benign hypertrophy, prostatitis, and cystic disease—is reduced if castration is performed early in the animal's life. Treatment of prostatic disease is difficult and often associated with complications. Testicular tumors are the second most common tumor in male dogs. After castration, male dogs will not develop testicular disease, such as inflammation and neoplasia. In dogs that have been spayed or

Table 1
Facts Concerning the Dog and Cat Population

- Approximately 20 to 30 million dogs and cats are handled by animal control centers each year
- Ten percent of these animals are placed in homes; 90% are euthanized
- Animal control costs exceed \$500 million annually
- For every \$1.00 invested in sterilization programs, \$6.50 to \$9.79 is saved in future animal control costs
- Veterinarians have relied on surgical sterilization to control the dog and cat population

neutered, the risk of transmitted venereal diseases, such as transmissible venereal tumor and brucellosis (which affects other body systems besides the reproductive system), is reduced because sexual behavior is diminished.^{2,9,11}

AT WHAT AGE SHOULD A DOG OR CAT BE SPAYED/NEUTERED?

The current recommendation for spaying or neutering animals at five to seven months of age is arbitrary,^{3,12} and the reasons cited against spaying or neutering dogs younger than four months of age are largely unfounded.^{1,4,12,13} Early spaying or neutering has been purported to cause stunted growth, obesity, perivulval dermatitis, vaginitis, and behavioral changes.¹²

Considerations

The age at which to spay or neuter an animal requires several considerations. The pediatric animal is physiologically immature and will tolerate and respond to anesthesia and surgery differently than an adult animal.¹⁴ These factors must be taken into account before an anesthetic is selected. The animal's physiologic state must be closely watched during and after the surgery so that hypothermia, hypoglycemia, or other life-threatening conditions do not develop. With these precautions, the surgery can be performed with relatively little risk.^{2,4,14-16}

The impact of early spaying or neutering on skeletal growth has been investigated. Testosterone and estrogen, although not required, influence growth, mainte-

nance, and aging of the skeleton.² In one study, spaying/neutering at seven weeks or seven months of age did not affect the rate of bone growth in male or female dogs when compared with intact dogs.² Nonetheless, early spaying or neutering in dogs will result in a delay in the closure of the growth plate by an average of nine weeks. This delay will cause increased bone length in both male and female dogs, however. If the operation is done at seven months of age, the delay will be seen in male dogs only. Therefore, the belief that prepubertal spaying or neutering stunts growth is not true.²

In male dogs, the risk of developing prostatic disease—such as benign hypertrophy, prostatitis, and cystic disease—is reduced if castration is performed early in the animal's life.

A predisposition to obesity is often associated with early spaying or neutering. Many factors, however, influence obesity, including how the owner feeds the animal, breed, age, diet, amount of activity, and, possibly, sexual status.² In a study of 8,268 dogs, 24.3% of these animals were overweight.¹⁷ In this study, obesity was noted in twice as many ovariectomized females than in sexually intact females and castrated males tended

to be more overweight than intact males. Experimental studies have failed to confirm this predisposition, however. One study reported that weight gain and daily food consumption were not different between dogs spayed or neutered early, dogs spayed or neutered at seven months of age, and intact dogs.²

In a study of female dogs fed free-choice, ovariectomized dogs ate and weighed significantly more than intact dogs.¹⁸ When ovariectomized and intact female dogs were fed a set amount of the same diet, however, no difference in food consumption or weight gain was noted between the two groups.¹⁹ Another study also has noted a significant incidence of indiscriminate appetite in ovariectomized dogs.²⁰ Thus, if diet is controlled, weight gain should not be a problem in ovariectomized dogs.

Ovariectomy in sexually immature rats has been shown to affect body composition differently than in sexually mature rats. Whereas rats that are ovariectomized as

adults show some weight gain for a short period following surgery, rats that are ovariectomized when very young show no change in total body fat.^{21,22} Therefore, the timing of spaying or neutering will affect obesity, and animals that are spayed or neutered after sexual maturity are more likely to gain weight. Castration of male cats has not been associated with weight gain.²³

A decrease in activity, which

leads to obesity, has also been purported to be associated with spaying or neutering. Contrary to popular belief, dogs spayed or

quency has been associated with an infantile vulva or mammary glands.

In male dogs, the effect of early

has not been shown, however, to increase the risk of urinary tract infection in castrated male cats.^{23,26} One study noted that the size of the penile urethra in prepubescent male cats that had been castrated was not different from that of intact male cats.²⁶ Based on this information, the study concluded that castrated male cats are not predisposed to urethral obstruction. In another study, castrated and intact male cats fed a calculi-inducing diet showed no difference in the development or severity of urethral obstruction.²³

Urinary incontinence is another purported consequence of early spaying or neutering. Hormone-responsive or stress-induced urinary incontinence has been seen in dogs weeks to years after spaying or neutering.^{28,29} These animals are usually healthy but will leak urine when asleep. Although these dogs may respond to supplementation with estrogen or testosterone, it has not been proven that a lack of estrogen or testosterone is the cause of the problem. Other factors, such as the length of the urethra, position of the urinary bladder, the breed (e.g., Doberman pinchers), and age-associated muscular atrophy, may cause urinary incontinence.¹² If spaying or neutering is associated with the development of hormone-responsive incontinence, there is no evi-

Contrary to popular belief, dogs spayed or neutered at seven weeks or seven months of age are as active or more active than intact dogs.

neutered at seven weeks or seven months of age are as active or more active than intact dogs.² Some investigators have commented that spayed or neutered animals retain immature puppy- or kitten-like behavior.²⁴

In one study, the effects of spaying on police dogs were noted. Compared with intact female dogs, ovariectomized dogs had a decrease in aggressiveness and boldness. Nonetheless, the obedience and learning skills seen in both groups were similar.²⁵ Other studies have noted an increase in aggressive behavior in ovariectomized dogs.²⁰ Thus, the effect of spaying or neutering on behavior is not clear and may be influenced by a multitude of factors, especially environmental factors.

In animals that have undergone prepubertal spaying/neutering, changes in secondary sex characteristics of the vulva, prepuce, and penis have been noted. In one study, female dogs that were neutered at seven weeks or seven months of age had a small, infantile vulva compared with that of intact female dogs.² A reduction in mammary gland development also was noted in the dogs that were ovariectomized before puberty, which caused an infantile appearance of the mammary glands and nipples. Ovariectomy in cats causes similar changes but no clinical conse-

castration on the development of the prepuce, penis, and os penis is more striking. In one study, the prepuce, penis, and os penis of dogs neutered at seven weeks of age were much smaller than those of intact males of similar age. The prepuce, penis, and os penis of male dogs castrated at seven months of age were not as small as those castrated at seven weeks of age but smaller than those of the intact males.² In all of the neutered dogs, no clinical consequences were apparent. The penis could be easily extruded in all of these dogs.²

A similar infantile appearance of the prepuce and penis has been noted in male cats castrated before five months of age. In these cats, however, complete extrusion

In male dogs, prepubertal castration usually eliminates mounting and copulatory behavior.

of the penis may not be possible because of incomplete separation of the prepuce lining and the penis.²⁶ It has been suggested that irritation and collection of tissue debris in the prepuce possibly predisposes castrated male cats to urinary tract infections.²⁷ Castration

dence that prepubertal spaying or neutering potentiates the problem.¹²

In male dogs, prepubertal castration usually eliminates mounting and copulatory behavior.^{2,9,30,31} If castration is performed after puberty, sexual behavior will be re-

duced but mounting and urine marking may still occur.^{2,30,31}

Prepubertal castration of male cats reduces spraying behavior. Nonetheless, approximately 10% of these cats may still spray, especially if housed with female cats.³² Castration of adult cats has resulted in similar behavior.³² Approximately 5% of ovariohysterectomized cats will spray, especially if housed with other cats. The age of the cat at ovariohysterectomy does not appear to be a factor.³²

The stress associated with the surgery for early spaying or neutering has been suggested to affect an animal's immunologic response to disease. Although there is no prospective study on this aspect, the anesthesia and surgery required for spaying or neutering will not affect an animal's ability to mount a good response to vaccination.³³ Spaying or neutering is an elective procedure and can be delayed if the animal may have been exposed to an infectious agent.

SUMMARY

The effects of early spaying or neutering continue to be studied. New information suggests that the consequences associated with early spaying or neutering are not nearly as detrimental as previously thought and that many reasons against early spaying or neutering are not based on sound scientific information. Changes in secondary sex characteristics appear to be the most profound side effects of early spaying or neutering. Recent studies suggest that early spaying or neutering has very little impact on an animal's health. Currently, it appears that early spaying or neutering has significant merit in preventing disease of the reproductive organs and in controlling the pet population.

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