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"Pre-Tetanic Eclampsia"

- A condition when your whelping bitch acts totally out of character.

No one wants to believe that their bitch might be something other than loving toward their new puppies. Occasionally, a bitch with an otherwise good and predictable temperament begins to act in a totally different manner during and after whelping. We hope that passing our experience on to other breeders so they can be well prepared when/if this happens to them that the bitch can be helped and also save puppies.

Many breeders are familiar with eclampsia, which is a calcium deficiency occurring in nursing bitches and is considered very serious.

The pre-tetanic form occurs prior to/during/just after whelping and does occur in a variety of breeds including Bull Terriers.

Symptoms that might occur in varying degrees include:

* Lazy whelping and/or inertia;

* Bitch being agitated and nervous;

* Cannibalism;

* Growling and aggression toward her puppies; and

* Hallucinating.

Certainly, there will be other conditions that cause aggression or similar symptoms. **But as a breeder, you are the person who will most likely observe whether your whelping bitch displays any of the described symptoms.**

Cause

Eclampsia is brought on by extremely low calcium levels in the blood stream. The following are potential causes of the condition:

* Poor diet or improper supplementation.

* Calcium to phosphorus ratios are out of balance. This can sometimes be caused by the introduction of too much unbalanced meat to the diet; and

* Low blood levels of Albumen.

What Can You Do?

If your bitch has displayed any of the described symptoms in the past or if you know that there is a history of whelping problems in a particular line, by all means, talk with your veterinarian. This is particularly true since **pretetanic eclampsia appears to be a little-known condition and almost unknown to the average veterinarian.**

1. Laboratory tests are available to determine your bitches blood chemistry and calcium levels.

In a Nutshell chances are slim that your average Vet will pick up the warning signs.

ALBERT VAN DER MERWE FROM MALYCWA PACKING UP...??

Latest news is that Albert Van Der Merwe from Malycwa Bull Terriers decided to call it a day. He will no more be involved in the Bull Terrier Show Scene. It is a pity and a great shame to lose someone of his calibre. We wish Albert well in his future endevears. Perhaps we should make an effort in enticing Albert to make a return to the Bull Terrier show scene. We owe it to ourselves. Albert was one of the most down to earth, pleasant guys you could ever meet and not having him around our Show Rings anymore is real sad. Why Albert decided to leave the BullTerrier Show Scene is not known at this stage? We really hope ''politics' is not the reason. If so then we in the Bull Terrier fraternity need to ask ourselves some tough, hard questions.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Inbreeding taking toll on Michigan wolves

The two dozen or so gray wolves that wander an island chain in north-western Lake Superior are suffering from backbone malformations caused by genetic inbreeding, posing yet another challenge to their prospects for long-term survival, according to wildlife biologists.

Although confirmed only recently, the problem apparently has been festering for decades in the small, isolated packs in Michigan's Isle Royale National Park. The abnormalities, also found in some domestic dogs, can cause pain and partial paralysis while limiting the range of motion so crucial for predators in the wild. The discovery raises the ethically thorny question of whether scientists should try to dilute the gene pool by introducing wolves from elsewhere, said researchers with Michigan Tech University in Houghton, which hosts a 51-year-old study of the island park's wolves and moose.

It is among the world's longest continuing observations of symbiotic relationships between predator and prey species and their natural surroundings.

Historically, biologists have taken a hands-off posture as wolf and moose numbers have risen and fallen, preferring to let nature take its course even if it meant extinction of one or both species.

But strong arguments could be made for intervening as well, project leaders now say. "This is not a decision just for scientists to make any more," said Rolf Peterson, who has taken part in the study since 1970.

The research team reported its findings this week in the current issue of the journal Biological Conservation and is soliciting public comments on its Web site.

Although part of Michigan, Isle Royale is closer to Minnesota and Ontario. Moose found their way to the island — probably by swimming the 15 miles from Canada — around 1900.

Two or three wolves arrived in the late 1940s, crossing a rare ice bridge from the mainland.

Weather, food availability, disease and other factors have caused the two species' populations to fluctuate over the years. The most dangerous period for the wolves came in the 1980s, when their total dropped to 12 because of a parvovirus outbreak.

Their population stood at 24 this winter, roughly the long-term average. They were divided into four packs.

Scientists had long watched for problems from inbreeding, such as poor survival rates for pups. Instead, the first solid evidence surfaced when Jannikke Raikkonen of the Swedish Museum of National History, an expert in wolf anatomy, visited Isle Royale several years ago to examine the project's bone collection.

She identified malformed vertebrae in all wolf remains found the previous dozen years. Such abnormalities show up in just 1 percent of observed populations that are not inbred.

Peterson and biologist John Vucetich found two dead wolves this winter with misshapen vertebrae. One had been killed by fellow wolves. The other had unusually severe arthritis for its age and a neck injury suggesting a moose kick. The bone malformation may have lessened its ability to dodge the lethal blow, Vucetich said.

Spinal malformation from inbreeding poses no immediate threat of extinction, Peterson said.

The biggest short-term problem is a drop-off in moose, the wolves' primary food supply, which scientists attribute to climate change. This winter's moose census turned up 530 — only about half their long-term average and a drop-off from last year's estimated 650.

But inbreeding joins the list of reasons why the wolves will always be living on the edge, one disaster away from disappearing, Vucetich said.

"It just makes everything a heck of a lot more complicated," he said.

The study team is considering whether to propose a "genetic rescue" — trapping unrelated mainland wolves and bringing them to Isle Royale, hoping they would breed and mix their genes with the existing population. The question involves competing scientific and ethical values, Vucetich said. Opponents of intervention believe humans should not tinker with wilderness systems. Even if Isle Royale's wolves die out, their loss would provide information that could save endangered species elsewhere.

Other would counter that attempting to save the wolves also could yield valuable data, while sparing individual animals from painful bone deformities.

"We have an incomplete understanding of genetic rescue — when and how and why it works," Vucetich said. "Even so, it may be an important conservation tool as more population species become rare."

"If you pick up a starving dog and make him prosperous, he will not bite you; that is the principal difference between a dog and a man."

– Mark Twain

If You're Aggressive, Your Dog Will Be Too, Says Veterinary Study

ScienceDaily (Feb. 18, 2009)

In a new, year-long University of Pennsylvania survey of dog owners who use confrontational or aversive methods to train aggressive pets, veterinary researchers have found that most of these animals will continue to be aggressive unless training techniques are modified.

The study, published in the current issue of Applied Animal Behaviour Science, also showed that using non-aversive or neutral training methods such as additional exercise or rewards elicited very few aggressive responses.

"Nationwide, the No. 1 reason why dog owners take their pet to a veterinary behaviourist is to manage aggressive behaviour," Meghan E. Herron, lead author of the study, said. "Our study demonstrated that many confrontational training methods, whether staring down dogs, striking them or intimidating them with physical manipulation does little to correct improper behaviour and can elicit aggressive responses."

The team from the School of Veterinary Medicine at Penn suggest that primary-care veterinarians advise owners of the risks associated with such training methods and provide guidance and resources for safe management of behaviour problems. Herron, Frances S. Shofer and Ilana R. Reisner, veterinarians with the Department of Clinical Studies at Penn Vet, produced a 30-item survey for dog owners who made behavioural service appointments at Penn Vet. In the questionnaire, dog owners were asked how they had previously treated aggressive behaviour, whether there was a positive, negative or neutral effect on the dogs' behaviour and whether aggressive responses resulted from the method they used. Owners were also asked where they learned of the training technique they employed.

Of the 140 surveys completed, the most frequently listed recommendation sources were "self" and "trainers." Several confrontational methods such as "hit or kick dog for undesirable behaviour" (43 percent), "growl at dog" (41 percent), "physically force the release of an item from a dog's mouth" (39 percent), "alpha roll" physically -- rolling the dog onto its back and holding it (31 percent), "stare at or stare down" (30 percent), "dominance down" —- physically forcing the dog down onto its side (29 percent) and "grab dog by jowls and shake" (26 percent) elicited an aggressive response from at least 25 percent of the dogs on which they were attempted. In addition, dogs brought to the hospital for aggressive behaviour towards familiar people were more likely to respond aggressively to some confrontational techniques than dogs brought in for other behavioural reasons.

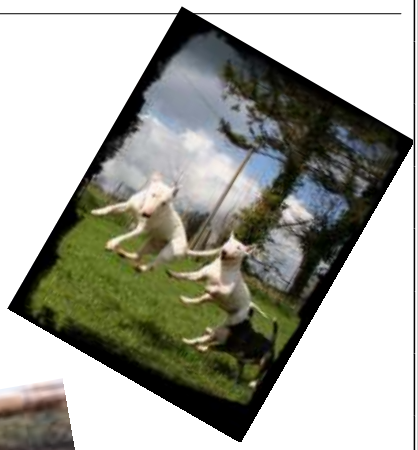
"This study highlights the risk of dominance-based training, which has been made popular by TV, books and punishment-based training advocates," Herron said. "These techniques are fear-eliciting and may lead to owner-directed aggression."

Prior to seeking the counsel of a veterinary behaviourist, many dog owners attempt behaviour-modification techniques suggested by a variety of sources. Recommendations often include the aversive-training techniques listed in the survey, all of which may provoke fearful or defensively aggressive behaviour. Their common use may have grown from the idea that canine aggression is rooted in the need for social dominance or to a lack of dominance displayed by the owner. Advocates of this theory therefore suggest owners establish an "alpha" or pack-leader role.

The purpose of the Penn Vet study was to assess the behavioural effects and safety risks of techniques used historically by owners of dogs with behaviour problems.

Some fun Photo's





Head Office
20 Kosmos Road
Kempton Park – Central
Johannesburg
Gauteng

Johannesburg (John Roodt)
Phone: +2711 975 0870
Cell: +2772 998 3493
Fax: +2711 975 0883
E-mail: john@globalreach.co.za

DURBAN (ROB WHITE)
PHONE: +2731 368 2764
CELL: +2782 497 8750
FAX: +2731 368 3822
E-MAIL: ROB@GLOBALREACH.CO.ZA

WE'RE ON THE WEB
WWW.GLOBALREACH.CO.ZA

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WHITE OR COLOURED…WHICH IS THE MORE ENERGETIC OR LIVELY?

By Espen Thygesen

Genetically every white dog is a "coloured", they all carry a colour, the only difference is that the whites has a gene that "suppress" their colour from coming through. Is this gene connected to liveliness?
From the old days we know that the colour brindle was said to be important for the Bull Terrier breed, for soundness and the fighting abilities/agility. This goes for both the coloured brindles and the whites carrying brindle.
In one of Oppenheimers books he mention a common theory of the day; that the coloureds had less angulated hind legs/less good hind action than the whites. His conclusion was that some of the most used coloured studs had this less good hind action and of course they gave this on to some of their offspring. He did not connect it to the inheritance of colour itself.
A Australian breeder has a theory that the puppies that has the same markings/colour as one of the parents will more likely look like that parent as it grow up. Like the same shaped eye patch, earmarking etc. I once heard the statement that white Bull Terriers seem to be more lively than coloured Bull Terriers. Well I don't think you will find a more lively dog in the ring, than my own brindle Emred Jack Daniels.
I don't think liveliness has anything to do with colour. Its a long time since we stopped thinking that certain abilities follow the skin colour of people too. Not all black people are musical and good singers, nor great athletes - runners/sprinters. This is some of the few arenas black people historically has had an opening for success and self development. Its not pigmentation itself. Show temperament is inherited, but I think as a single factor - not connected to colour. At least this is my experience.

NEWS LETTER COMMITTEE
Editor: John Roodt
Cell: +2772 998 3493
E-mail: john@globalreach.co.za