



Bellwether Magazine

Volume 1
Number 44 *Winter 1999*

Article 20

1-1-1999

Animal Crackers

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Animal Crackers

New Breeds

The United Kennel Club is the second largest all-breed purebred dog registry. Recently it has recognized the Teddy Roosevelt terrier, a variety of rat terrier. Rat terriers were developed in England by crossing smooth fox terriers with Manchester terriers. They came to the United States late in the 19th century with their working class owners. They were indispensable in rural and urban areas, where rats presented a serious threat to health and livelihood. The short-legged dog was developed by introducing dachshund, Corgi or short-legged Jack Russell terriers into the breeding stock. The result was a low-to-the-ground hunter, fearless, tenacious and with a high energy level. They became a

separate breed and were named for President Teddy Roosevelt, who thought so highly of their hunting ability that he took several with him on big game hunts.

U.K.C. also recognizes "cur" and "feist" breeds, descendants of the hounds and terriers used by early settlers. Their primary purpose was to locate and tree small game. The U.K.C. cur and feist program includes morning squirrel hunts and evening raccoon hunts.

The American Kennel Club has added three "new" breeds to those which can be entered in championship dog shows in 1999 — Havanaes, Löwchen, and Anatolian shepherd.

The Havanaes (Toy Group) is an old breed of the Bichon family, also known

as the Havana silk dog. They are sturdy, short-legged small dogs. The weight ranges from 7 to 13 pounds. They have a soft, profuse, untrimmed coat. The Löwchen (Non-Sporting Group) has been a distinct breed for more than 400 years. The name (from the German "little lion") comes from the traditional clip with close-cut hindquarters and a full, natural mane. The Anatolian shepherd (Working Group) is a guard dog originating in Turkey, quite probably more than 6,000 years ago. It is a large dog (110 to 150 pounds). The breed is reserved around strangers and when off its territory. The dog has an unique ability to protect livestock.

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Rosettes & Ribbons *(continued from page 11)*

the PVMA Distinguished Veterinarian Award for his many years of dedicated service to the PVMA.

Dr. Kenneth Bovee, Corinne R. and Henry C. Bower Emeritus Professor of Medicine, presented a paper "A Canine Model of Essential Hypertension" at the Royal Academy of Medicine in London, England in November. In October he chaired a three-day seminar on veterinary health care planning together with **Dr. James Wilson**. In September Dr. Bovee presented a paper at the American Heart Association, Council on High Blood Pressure.

The School sponsored the Challenge of the Breeds Show at the Keystone International Livestock Exposition in October in Harrisburg. The competitors were Pennsylvania-owned horses chosen by their respective breed associations.

Dr. Stephen Fluharty, professor of pharmacology, has been appointed to a

University committee charged to explore the "Initiative in Cognitive Neuroscience."

Dr. Kirk Gelatt, V'65, received the AKC Career Achievement Award in Canine Research at the AVMA meeting. Dr. Gelatt was honored for his research on canine glaucoma.

Dr. Suzanne Jenkins, V'66, was honored with the KF Meyer/James Steele Gold Head Cane Award at the AVMA meeting for her outstanding contributions to the field of public health.

Barry Stupine, associate dean for budget and finance and director of VHUP was appointed to the Board of Directors of Philly Paws.

Dr. Norman H. Altman, V'63, director of the Division of Comparative Pathology at the University of Miami, has been appointed vice provost for research at the institution. Dr. Altman will facilitate and coordinate the various research

programs at the university's three campuses and will develop new initiatives.

Dr. Lillian Duda, V'90, lecturer in radiology, and **Dr. Nadine Hackman, V'80**, are the first veterinarians to participate in the new Masters of Bioethics program at Penn. They tied for the highest grade in their class.

Dr. Mark M. Smith, V'82, associate professor VA-MD Regional College of Veterinary Medicine, DACVMS, is now a diplomate of the American Veterinary Dental College. That status was also attained by **Dr. Max Herman, V'59** and **Dr. Thomas K. Groves, V'82**.

Dr. Norman Peterson, research associate in laboratory animal medicine, received a grant from the American College of Laboratory Animal Medicine Foundation to develop guidelines for more humane methods applied to mice used in the production of monoclonal antibodies. 🐾

Alternative Medicine

At the moment alternative medicine is a rather controversial subject and much attention is paid to it. Alternative medicine includes acupuncture, chiropractic, physical therapy, homeopathy, botanical medicine, nutraceutical medicine and holistic medicine. The American Veterinary Medical Association defines holistic medicine as a comprehensive approach to health care employing alternative and conventional diagnostic and therapeutic modalities. Some veterinarians acknowledge that these treatments may be useful. The AVMA has issued guidelines, stating that they should be used only by licensed veterinarians educated in the modalities employed.

Glucosamine is one nutraceutical which is being used extensively for arthritic conditions to relieve pain and help restore mobility. Herbal medicine has been used for thousands of years. Many dog breeders give raspberry tea to pregnant bitches — evidence suggests that it has an effect on the

uterus. According to folklore, garlic can be used for almost any ailment or parasite. Cascara is laxative officially recognized by the United States Pharmacopoeia.

It must be remembered that all medicines and herbal products may be toxic, even lethal, if given in improper amounts. Large doses of vitamins may have unwanted side effects. Scientific studies are necessary to establish safety, efficacy and tolerability.

Another consideration is the placebo effect — a “cure” may be psychologically induced — an inert product might give the same results as the drug.

Alternative methods should only be used after consultation with a veterinarian. He or she should have up-to-date information and give advice pro and con about treatment.

Old Age

Aging results in progressive reduction of the ability to withstand stress and disease and we see white hairs and usually reduced activity level.

In humans, an “aged person” is over 75 years. In dogs, the signs of aging appear at different ages, depending on the size of the animal. Small breeds, which mature rather fast, may be “grown up” by 12 months of age and become geriatric at 13 years. Large breeds may continue growing for two or three years, but they become “old” at 9 or 10 years.

There are only “educated guesses” when we try to translate dog or cat years to human years. It has been said that a 14-year-old dog is the equivalent of a 72-year-old human. Some say that one “people” year is the same as seven cat years, but this really isn’t correct — a better guess is that a 15-year-old cat is equivalent to a 75-year-old person.

Annual veterinary check-ups are recommended for older animals. Some exercise is a requirement — “use it or lose it.” Also, although not a proven fact, obesity probably reduces life expectancy.

Book Review

The Complete Dog Book, Revised 19th Edition. Howell Book House, \$32.95

This classic publication of the American Kennel Club contains pictures,

historical information and the official AKS standard for each of 146 breeds recognized by AKC. An excellent glossary defines terms used in the text.

There is information about registration, conformation dogs shows and the many performance events held under AKC rules. In addition to the conformation title “Ch.,” there are 33 titles for other events. These include titles in obedience, hunting tests, field trials, herding tests, tracking, agility, earthdog and lure coursing. AKC’s Canine Good Citizen program is a fun, noncompetitive way to ensure that dogs are respected members of society. It is open to all dogs, purebred and mixed, and the 10 tests are designed to show that dogs can be well-behaved at home, in public and around other dogs.

There is a short chapter on training, including the five basic commands — Heel, Sit, Stay, Down, and Come. Obedience training should begin at four to six months, although it is never too late to train an older dog. Housebreaking is explained, including the direct method and paper training if there is not ready access to a yard. Most housebreaking problems arise when a soft-hearted owner allows an untrained puppy free run of the house. Confinement in a small area or crate is necessary for success. Suggestions for regular grooming include attention to the dog’s teeth, nails, ears, eyes and anal sacs.

The section on canine health and first aid covers the most common problems. Vaccination seems to be an overlooked subject. It is mentioned briefly — (distemper as the principal cause of sickness and death in unvaccinated dogs — vaccination to control parvovirus and leptospirosis — regular rabies vaccinations imperative for the protection of humans and dogs). Although there is currently some controversy, particularly in regard to the yearly “boosters” often recommended, the control of infectious diseases in puppies requires a vaccination program. This basic information is missing. Its importance should be stressed.

The Complete Dog Book is highly recommended as a source book for the dog owner or anyone thinking about owning a dog. Of its 800 pages, just over 600 are devoted to the AKC breeds. If you want accurate information about a breed, you will find it here. 🐾

Veterinarian’s Oath

Being admitted to profession of veterinary medicine,

I solemnly swear to use my scientific knowledge and skills for the benefit of society through the protection of animal health, the relief of animal suffering, the conservation of livestock resources, the promotion of public health, and the advancement of medical knowledge.

I will practice my profession conscientiously, with dignity, and in keeping with the principles of veterinary medical ethics.

I accept as a lifelong obligation the continual improvement of my professional knowledge and competence.

Adopted by the AVMA in July 1969