



April/May/June 2010

Club Purpose

The objectives of the ArkLaTex GRC are to:

1. To do all that is possible to promote the natural abilities and qualities of the Golden Retriever as described in the standard approved by GRCA and AKC.
2. To urge members and breeders to accept the standard of the breed as approved by the American Kennel Club as the only standard of excellence by which the Golden Retriever shall be judged.
3. To do all in its power to protect and advance the interests of the breed by encouraging the adherence to both the Golden Retriever Club of America Code of Ethics and the American Kennel Club Sportsman's Code of Ethics.
4. To achieve our goal to conduct sanctioned matches and to become licensed for Specialty Shows, Companion and Performance Events under the rules and regulations of the American Kennel Club.
5. To educate the Public about the Golden Retriever and responsible ownership of the Golden Retriever.
6. To provide continuing education opportunities related to Golden Retrievers and the sport of dog competitions for our membership.

ArkLaTex Golden Retriever Club Newsletter

The ArkLaTex Golden Retriever Club Newsletter is published quarterly

For information about the club, club events, new puppy referrals, and membership, visit the ArkLaTex GRC website at www.arklatexgrc.org

ArkLaTex GRC General Membership Meeting

Saturday, May 8th

Show hours are 7 am until 7 pm.

**Marshall City Arena
3310 Poplar Street
Marshall, TX
(903) 935-4504**

We will have the club meeting after Golden judging occurs or at a specified time in the afternoon and it will be in the grooming area. We will meet up at the Golden Retriever Ring. Alan will post the approximate meeting time the week earlier once the judging program is published by the superintendent.

Directions: From I-20, exit 167 59 North. Go 5 miles right on 43. Arena is ½ mile on left. From 49, turn on 43 (beside Lowe's). Arena is ½ mile on left.

Ask the Doctor

Submitted by Renee Smith, DVM

Those of us with responsibility for the health of canine companions need to continually evaluate the most appropriate care of our dogs. We should revisit the standard protocol in which all dogs that are not intended for breeding are spayed and neutered at or before 6 months of age.

Orthopedic Considerations

The sex hormones promote the closure of the growth plates at puberty, so the bones of dogs neutered or spayed before puberty continue to grow. Dogs that have been spayed or neutered well before puberty can frequently be identified by their longer limbs, lighter bone structure, narrow chests and narrow skulls. This growth frequently results in significant alterations in body proportions and particularly the lengths (and therefore weights) of certain bones relative to others. For example, if the femur has achieved its normal length at 8 months when a dog gets spayed or neutered, but the tibia, which normally stops growing at 12 to 14 months of age continues to grow, then an abnormal angle may develop at the stifle. In addition, with the extra growth, the lower leg below the stifle likely becomes heavier (because it is longer), and may cause increased stresses on the cranial cruciate ligament. These structural alterations may be the reason why spayed and neutered dogs had a higher incidence of CCL rupture.

Cancer Considerations

There certainly is evidence of a slightly increased risk of mammary cancer in female dogs after one heat cycle, and for increased risk with each subsequent heat. However, evidence also exists that spayed and neutered dogs have a higher incidence of hemangiosarcoma and bone cancer.

Other Health Considerations

For dogs that were spayed or neutered at 24 weeks or less as opposed to those at more than 24 weeks, there is an increase in the incidence of female urinary incontinence in dogs spayed and neutering also has been associated with an increased likelihood of urethral sphincter incontinence in males. This problem is an inconvenience, and not usually life-threatening, but nonetheless one

that requires the dog to be medicated for life. Spayed or neutered dogs are also more likely to develop hypothyroidism.



Our practice of routinely spaying or neutering every dog at or before the age of 6 months is not a black-and-white issue. There are significant concerns with spaying or neutering dogs before puberty. But of course, there is the pet overpopulation problem. How can we prevent the production of unwanted dogs while still leaving the gonads to produce the hormones that are so important to canine growth and development? I believe it is important that we assess each situation individually. For **responsible** owners, I recommend dogs be spayed or neutered after 14 months of age.

“AKC Rights of Breeders and Puppy Buyers”

By Alan Meyer

The AKC has a flyer that is often available on an AKC table at All Breed shows and some Regional and National specialties. The flyer is titled: “No AKC Papers? No Puppy!” The main message of the flyer is to inform the general puppy buying public that if they are told (by the breeder / seller) that they are purchasing a purebred dog that is eligible for registration with the AKC, that they are entitled (and should expect) to receive an AKC registration application form from the seller. The flyer further informs the purchaser that if the registration application is not available at the time they acquire the dog, that the seller must provide a signed Bill of Sale / Contract and full identification of the dog in writing. The information to be included on the Bill of Sale / Contract should consist of: Breed of dog, whelp date, Sex of dog, and color (markings in some breeds), Registered name and number of both sire and dam, AKC Litter Number (if available), Name of Breeder, Date of

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Sale or Delivery, and Signature of Seller. There are many other items that should be in the contract to protect the dog, the Breeder and the Puppy owner, but that would be a topic for another column. As we all know, there are times when the AKC does get behind in processing paperwork, and the time for the puppies to go to new homes may arrive before the AKC registration papers arrive in the mail. Be sure the original contract or an addendum clearly states that the papers will be provided as soon as they are received by the Breeder / Seller.

AKC provides this flyer in an effort to protect the purchaser and educate the public and to properly set their expectations. The AKC also has rules and regulations in place to protect a Breeder and their Breeding program. AKC strongly recommends the use of Contracts and Bills of Sales to clearly establish the mutual understanding of any agreements between the purchaser and seller. In addition, AKC provides for the ability for the Breeder to flag a puppy for Limited Registration. The two key elements of Limited Registration are: 1) any offspring of this puppy may be not registered with AKC. 2) Any dog under Limited Registration may not compete in Conformation Events. However, it should be noted that any dog under Limited Registration is eligible to compete in any other AKC performance event (i.e. Obedience, Agility, Field, Tracking, Rally, etc.) In my personal opinion, the Limited Registration designation is a valuable tool by which a Breeder may protect their breeding program. By not allowing any offspring of the dog to be AKC registered, this should help prevent your Kennel name from appearing in the pedigree of a backyard breeder, Puppy Miller or irresponsible breeder. By not allowing the dog to compete in conformation events, it prevents your Kennel name from appearing in a Show Catalog for a dog that you believe is "pet quality" and is not a good representation of your breeding program. A very well respected judge once told us that a

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Good Breeder should not be measured by how many Champions they have produced, but by how many potential Champions they have sold or placed because they were not the best representatives of their breeding program. That statement has been extremely thought provoking each time I remember it.

How many of us use the Limited Registration designation at all? How many of us are happy to have show inquiries on 50% or more of the litter and sell 50% of the litter to potential homes on Full Registration? How many of us sell puppies on Full Registration (and to show homes) that we would not keep ourselves for show or as breeding stock? There are other criteria for selecting breeding stock other than purely conformation (i.e. a dog that excels in other performance areas especially field work). The point is that we have the ability to assist in the determination with the puppy owner of whether a dog (of our breeding) should be bred or not.

There have been cases quoted whereby AKC did indeed register a dog with Full Registration even though the Breeder checked off Limited. However, on the AKC website under the heading of Limited Registrations is the following: *"The AKC will not become involved in disputes concerning 'full' or 'limited' registration of a dog. These disputes must be resolved by the parties involved in the sale of the dog. The only exception to this is in cases where there is a contract, signed by all parties involved and made at the time of the dog sale that stipulates the registration status. In those cases, AKC will initiate an inquiry on the matter."* The way to protect your rights is to ensure that the designation of Full vs. Limited Registration is clearly stated within your Contract or Bill of Sale.

Many Breeders may not be aware that it is possible to promote a dog's registration from Limited Registration to Full Registration; however it is not

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possible to demote a dog's registration from Full to Limited. There is a common practice in some other breeds for all of the dogs of a litter to be initially registered by the Breeder with Limited Registration designation. This allows the new owners to perform training and begin competition in all other performance avenues but not conformation. These breeders will then evaluate these puppies at various times within the 1st two years of the puppy's development and make a subsequent decision as whether to lift the Limited Registration designation to allow the dog to be either be shown or to be bred. These breeders typically sell their puppies (pet quality and show / performance potential) for the same initial price, however there may be an additional fee associated with the lifting of the Limited Registration status.

So remember, while the AKC educates the public and has rules and regulations in place to protect the puppy buyer, they have rules to protect the rights of Breeders also. It is up to each of us as Breeders, to educate ourselves on the rights that the AKC has in place to protect our dogs and our breeding programs.

Meeting and Event Calendar

April 23rd-24th Shreveport Kennel Club, Inc. in Bossier City, LA – Conformation, Junior Showmanship and B Match
<http://www.onofrio.com/plist/shre1pl.pdf#page=28>

April 25th-26th D'arbonne Kennel Club in Bossier City, LA – Conformation and Junior Showmanship
<http://www.onofrio.com/plist/shre1pl.pdf#page=28>

May 8th-9th Caddo Kennel Club of Texas in Marshall – Conformation, Junior Showmanship, and Obedience
<http://www.onofrio.com/execpgm/wbshwpg?SHOW=CADO140412>

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May 15th-16th Denton Kennel Club, Inc. in Denton – Conformation and Junior Showmanship
<http://www.onofrio.com/execpgm/wbshwpg?SHOW=DENT145836>

June 19th-20th Kennel Club of Texarkana, Inc. in Texarkana, AR – Conformation, Junior Showmanship, Rally and Obedience
<http://www.onofrio.com/execpgm/wbshwpg?SHOW=TEXA100034>



In the Ribbons!

At the UKC Show in Denton, TX:
Beth Maddox's Gibby (shown by Beth Maddox) – 1st in Novice Junior and Best in Breed

Jason Smith's Pepsi (shown by Jason Smith) – 3rd in Novice Junior and Reserve Female

Aubree Smith's Pixie (shown by Colleen Maddox) – Best Puppy

Billie Cannon's Lace (shown by Colleen Maddox) – 1st in class

2010 ArkLaTex Golden Retriever Club Officers

President:

Colleen Maddox
president@arklatexgrc.org

Vice President:

Alan Meyer
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Treasurer:

Renee Smith DVM
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Kelly Brown
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Jan Aadahl
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2010 ArkLaTex Golden Retriever Club Board of Directors

Member At Large:

Bille Cannon

atlarge1@arklatexgrc.org

Member At Large:

Judith Bartels

atlarge2@arklatexgrc.org

Dallas/Fort Worth Metro Golden Retriever Rescue

www.rescuegoldens.org

ArkLaTex GRC invites all prospective members to their events and meetings. If you are interested in joining our club, please contact the corresponding secretary.

Meetings are held bimonthly. Programs and locations are announced in the quarterly newsletter.

Annual dues:
 Family Voting Membership \$25
 Single Voting Membership \$20

Newsletter Editor:

Renee Smith DVM

treasurer@arklatexgrc.org

The ArkLaTex GRC Newsletter is published quarterly. Please submit show wins, event information, columns, informative articles, and other information for publication to the editor by the following deadlines (information received subsequent to the deadline will be published in the next newsletter if not time sensitive):

Newsletter Publication Date:	Deadline for Submission:	Mailing Date:
Jan/Feb/March	3/15	4/1
Apr/May/June	6/15	7/1
July/Aug/Sept	9/15	10/1
Oct/Nov/Dec	12/15	1/1

Upcoming Meetings:

May 8th in Marshall, TX

Upcoming Events:

April 23rd-26th in Bossier City, LA

May 8th-9th in Marshall, TX

May 15th-16th in Denton, TX

June 19th-20th in Texarkana, AR

ArkLaTex Golden Retriever Club

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