



April, 2011

Opinions expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the WRDC or of the Editor. Your opinions, suggestions and comments are always welcomed!

Editor

Don Gotsch
14783 Cowley Road
Columbia Station, Ohio 44028
gotsch@glwb.net
440-926-2797

Co-Editor

Debbie Gotsch

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Subscriptions to the Spotted Copy are \$15.00 per year. Subscriptions are free to WRDC Members.

Deadline for May newsletter is 4/24/11

Camera ready copy please.

Next Meeting

Next meeting is Saturday, April 16 at the Strongsville Fire Station, 11287 Webster Road Regular meeting at 7pm We do have a speaker and program, so please be on time.

Spotted Copy

Official newsletter of the Western Reserve Dalmatian Club for members of Cleveland and Northeast Ohio. Est.- 1965

Brush Up on Preventing the Most Common Disease in Dogs

Call it "gingivitis," "periodontal disease," or another term related to gum disease, but it amounts to the same thing: if you're not paying attention to the health of your pet's mouth, the problems that arise there could come back to bite you.

Gum disease is the most common disease affecting dogs and cats, according to the Veterinary Oral Health Council. Its consequences go far beyond bad breath. In fact, left untreated, gum disease can lead to bacterial infections that spread throughout your pet's body. That's why, just like people, pets need routine cleaning and brushing to keep their teeth and mouths healthy.

How do you tell your animal has periodontal disease? Unfortunately, there aren't many overt signs, but according to Dr. Mary Buelow, a veterinary dentistry resident at the University of Illinois Veterinary Teaching Hospital in Urbana, your pet may have a diminished appetite, may suddenly prefer canned food to dry food, and may even drop pieces of food when eating. You may also notice bleeding or loose teeth. However, you may see no clinical signs at all, which is why

visits to your vet are so important.

If you do notice signs, a dental exam is in order. In addition, your pet's teeth should always be checked as part of routine visits to your veterinarian, with dental cleanings performed as needed. Although certain breeds have a predisposition for periodontal disease, including small breed dogs and greyhounds, all pets can develop periodontal disease. Regular dental cleaning is imperative to detect and prevent gum disease.

What happens in periodontal disease? First, plaque builds up on the teeth. Gradually the bacteria in the plaque invade the gingiva (gums) and other tissues. Without treatment, bone and soft tissues around the tooth can be lost to infection, and eventually the tooth itself will be lost.

In time, the bacteria can enter the bloodstream and affect the overall health of your pet. Fortunately, you can prevent tartar and plaque from building up by brushing your pet's teeth. Many styles of toothbrushes and flavors of toothpastes specifically for pets are available. Dr. Buelow notes that feeding dry

food can potentially be helpful, but that practice alone will not prevent periodontal disease. The Veterinary Oral Health Council maintains a list of special diets and other products approved for reducing plaque and tartar buildup; see <http://www.vohc.org>

For more information about your pet's dental care and oral health, speak with your local vet.

Brittany Way
Information Specialist

Lady Maxine's Book of Quotations



Nobody can fully understand the meaning of love unless he's owned a dog.

A dog can show you more honest affection with a flick of his tail than a man can gather through a lifetime of handshakes.

Gene Hill

The dog is a gentleman; I hope to go to his heaven, not man's.

Mark Twain

The bond with a true dog is as lasting as the ties of this earth will ever be.

Konrad Lorenz

Bulldogs are adorable, with faces like toads that have been sat on.

Colette

My dogs forgive anger in me, the arrogance in me, the brute in me. They forgive everything I do before I forgive myself.

Guy de la Valdene

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VISIT US ONLINE AT THE OFFICIAL WRDC WEBSITE
<http://www.westernreservedalclub.com>

EMAIL ADDRESS
gotsch@glwb.net

2011 Committees

Awards
Cindy Riggans & Ann Swope

Awards & Holiday Banquet
Cindy Riggans

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Debbie Gotsch

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Monthly Member Rotation

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Betty Doyle, Pam Weisman & Cindy Riggans

Specialty Show
Cindy Riggans

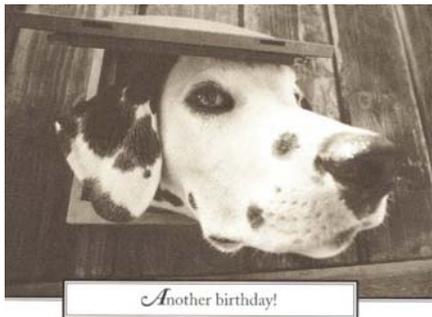
Spotted Copy
Don Gotsch, Editor
Debbie Gotsch, Co-Editor

Sunshine
Debbie Gotsch

Ways & Means
Open

Agility / Road Trial
Linda Lombardi





April, 2011

Cassiopea's More Than Just A
Wyn

4/1/2002 – Bob & Diana Smith

Sitka

4/4/2004 – Barbara Brandon

Ch Folklore's Sparkling Star

4/24/2005 – Pam & Steve
Weisman

Ch Cassiopea's Summer in the
Spring

4/29/2005 – Bob & Diana Smith

NON-SPOTTED BIRTHDAYS

Diana Smith – April 9

Alan & Joanee Shupp –
April 23, 1988

Send your birthday/anniversary
information to the editor

Dog Show People

A Newcomers Field Guide

Continuing from last month, the '**Spotted Copy**' will be running a very tongue in cheek look at dog shows. The author picks on everyone, so don't be offended.

Ms. Lewin divides dog show people into two categories, those with and those without dogs. We appreciate Ms. Lewin's generosity in sharing her observations and wit. Ms. Lewin is a Dalmatian owner, breeder, DCA judge and handler.

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To a novice, a dog show can be a daunting experience. The initial impression is often one of a single-purpose county fair where many grim-faced people run about with numbers on their arms and dogs in tow, and where, if one can judge by their facial expression, only about 1 in 20 of them is actually having fun.

Professional Handlers:

Professional Handlers (PHs) are those who show dogs for a fee, so the dogs' owners are spared the joys of kneeling in the mud in their own business suit, or having their last pair of pantyhose split on the second day of a 10-day circuit. PHs can be discerned from other exhibitors by several methods. One is their somewhat officious and aloof manner around ringside (which is difficult to master when you

have muddy knees and/or split pantyhose). Outside the ring, PHs rarely acknowledge anyone except the judge (whom they know personally), other PHs (whom they know personally), and their own kennel help (whom they either know rather too personally, or who are from foreign countries and have unpronounceable names, or both).



Kennel help, by the way, are those nubile young men and women who race back and

forth from the grooming area to ringside like orbiting comets, bringing dogs to their PH to show and taking already-been-shown dogs back to their crates in a never-ending cycle. This, along with cleaning said crates and scooping poop, is called "learning the business". Meanwhile, the PH stands there, dogless, squinting at the competition and deciding whether to get his or her armband the usual half-second before going into the ring, or give the steward a real shock and get it a whole minute ahead of time. PH plumage is among the nicest seen at the dog show, besides that of the judges and the junior handlers (q.v.), because the kennel help are the ones who do the dirty work outside the ring. PHs have no reliable call, but do sometimes change color abruptly in the ring when they don't receive the award they expected. Generally speedier in motion when leaving the ring than when entering it.

Owner-Handlers:

Owner-Handlers (OHs) are people who show their own dog(s), rather than hiring a PH. They are roughly divided into two groups: Experienced OHs (EOHs) and Novice OHs (NOHs). We will discuss them separately.

At first glance, EOHs may be difficult to differentiate from PHs. Their plumage is similar and their general look of competence, control and 'cool' is the same. The way to tell them apart is outside the ring.

EOHs always have a dog with them because they don't have kennel help to bring them their dog at ringside. Also, EOHs do talk to people and usually gravitate to, or form on their own, a small circle of other EOHs almost from the moment they arrive on the grounds.



(The really well-established EOHs are generally prominent breeders, and they often arrive at the show with their very own personal circle of communicants, called "disciples".) EOHs know everyone who has their breed and they know all the dogs in their breed by registered name, call name, pet name, pedigree, show record and degree of quality (which they are constantly critiquing). This allows them to chatter on freely in rarified terms about the latest breedings, wins, dogs and people without a newcomer having a clue as to what they're talking about. (By contrast, the PH might not even remember the name of the dog they have on the end of the lead at any given moment). If an unknown competitor shows up, EOHs give their dog a quick visual once-over and then talk about it behind their hands.

EOHs never buy a catalog. They arrive at the show in enormous motor homes with six ex-pens bungeed on the front, even if they're only showing one Chihuahua that day. However, they only bring their dog and a small bag of equipment to ringside. Distinctive call: "Can I see your catalog a minute?"

NOHs, on the other hand, are easily picked out. They arrive at the show three hours before they are due to go in, with their St. Bernard stuffed into the back of the family Toyota.

To ringside they bring the dog, its crate, its bowl, a water jug, a bag of dog food, a large blanket, three chairs, a Coleman cooler, four kids (two fully ambulatory, one in a stroller and one an infant), the spouse, and a portable TV. They always have their armband on three breeds before theirs is to be judged, and they always buy a catalog (which is how they meet EOHs).

For all their advance preparation, NOHs are often the last ones into the ring because by the time their class is actually called, they've passed out from exhaustion. NOHs are generally either overdressed or underdressed for the occasion, and have been known to show their dogs on flat collars and chain leashes.

For all that, their typically sweet, earnest, and somewhat addlepatented temperament is among the

best one will meet up with at a dog show, although after the eighth time one of them is late for his or her class, it starts to wear thin. The distinctive call is raucous, and usually shouted across the ring to the family: "Hey, Honey, look! We got fourth! Isn't that GREAT?!!"

Junior Handlers: JHs may be confused, at first, with kennel help. However, this is only because of the similarity in age and intensity of the facial expression. The plumage is distinctly different. While kennel help are invariably in white grooming smocks with paw prints and clots of hair stuck to them, JHs are far and away the most impeccably dressed people at the show, including the judges, the show chairman and the AKC field representative (q.v.). The average JH looks like a recent appointee to the ambassadorship of Great Britain, and a whole class of them filing into the ring evokes images of an opening session of Congress, but more dignified.



The JHs' expression and demeanor is unique in the world of dogs: In the standing line-up, they stare intently down at their stacked dogs

with a slight frown that says "I'm very constipated, and so is my dog." This effect is only interrupted by piercing glances up at the judge, at which point



the expression changes instantaneously to a disconcerting and maniacal sort of rictus which says, "All better!" This transformation is exaggerated even further when the judge has the JH gait the dog. The JH then goes into high gear, somehow running the dog around in a circle but never unpinning the judge from that death's head grin. It is a skill worth watching, but weirdly reminiscent of the scene from "The Exorcist" when Linda Blair's head creaks slowly around backward. Throughout the entire performance, their clothes never wrinkle. JHs are the only exhibitors who routinely congratulate each other on their wins, although it may be done through jaws clenched so tightly that one can almost see the child's orthodonture shifting. JHs do not have a readily identifiable call, as

custom forbids any audible reaction whatsoever. Noises are strictly the purview of the parents of the JH, who are at ringside. (They are the ones with the paw prints and clots of dog hair stuck to them.) These calls range from high-pitched screams of delight (when the child wins) to a sharp but hushed squawk of "Andrew! Bring that dog over here!" (when the child doesn't win).

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Dear Mr. and Mrs. Average Pet Owner:

Thank you for contacting us animal rescuers, shelter volunteers, and foster-homes about your inability to keep your dog. We receive an extremely high volume of inquiries and requests to accept surrendered animals (and none of us is getting paid, OK?). To help us expedite your problem as quickly as possible, please observe the following guidelines:

1. Do not say that you are "CONSIDERING finding a good home" for your pet, or that you, "feel you MIGHT be forced to," or that you "really THINK it would be better if" you unloaded the poor beast. Ninety-five percent of you have already got your minds stone-cold made up that the animal WILL be out of

your life by the weekend at the latest. Say so. If you don't, I'm going to waste a lot of time giving you common-sense, easy solutions for very fixable problems, and you're going to waste a lot of time coming up with fanciful reasons why the solution couldn't possibly work for you. For instance, you say the dog claws the furniture, and I tell you about nail-clipping and aversion training, and then you go into a long harangue about how your ADHD daughter cries if you use a squirt bottle on the dog and your congenital thumb abnormalities prevent you from using nail scissors and etc., etc. Just say you're getting rid of the dog.

2. Do not waste time trying to convince me how nice and humane you are. Your co-worker recommended that you contact me because I am nice to animals, not because I am nice to people, and I don't like people who "get rid of" their animals. "Get rid of" is my least favorite phrase in any language. I hope someone "gets rid of" YOU someday. I am an animal advocate, not a people therapist. After all, for your ADHD daughter, you can get counselors, special teachers, doctors, social workers, etc. Your pet has only me, and people like me, to turn to in his or her need, and we are unpaid, overworked, stressed-out, and demoralized. So don't tell me this big long story about how, "We love this dog so much, and we even bought him a special bed that cost \$50, and it is just KILLING us to part with him, but honestly, our maid is just awash in dog hair every time she cleans, and his breath sometimes just reeks of liver, so you can see how hard we've

tried, and how dear he is to us, but we really just can't . . ." You are not nice, and it is not killing you. It is, in all probability, literally killing your dog, but you're going to be just fine once the beast is out of your sight. Don't waste my time trying to make me like you or feel sorry for you in your plight.

3. Do not try to convince me that your pet is exceptional and deserves special treatment. I don't care if you taught him to sit. I don't care if she's beautiful. I have a waiting list of battered and/or whacked-out animals who need help, and I have no room to foster-house your pet. Do not send me long messages detailing how Fido just l-o-v-e-s blankies and carries his favorite blankie everywhere, and oh, when he gets all excited and happy, he spins around in circles, isn't that cute?

He really is darling, so it wouldn't be any trouble at all for us to find him a good home. Listen, we can go down to the pound and count the darling, spinning, blankie-loving beasts on death row by the dozens, any day of the week. And, honey, Fido is a six-year-old Shepherd-Lab mix. I am not lying when I tell you that big, older, mixed-breed, garden-variety dogs are almost completely unadoptable, and I don't care if they can whistle Dixie or send semaphore signals with their blankies.

What you don't realize is that, though you're trying to lie to me, you're actually telling the truth: Your pet IS a special, wonderful, amazing creature. But this mean old world does not care. More importantly, YOU do not care, and I can't fix that problem.

All I can do is grieve for all the exceptional animals who live short, brutal, loveless lives and

die without anyone ever recognizing that they were indeed very, very special.

4. Finally, just, for pity's sake, for the animal's sake, tell the truth, and the whole truth. Do you think that if you just mumble that your dog is "high-strung," I will say, "Okey-doke! No problemo!" and take it into foster care? No, I will start asking questions and uncover the truth, which is that your dog has not been house broken in the last six months. Do not tell me that you "can't" crate your dog. I will ask what happens when you try to crate him, and you will either be forced to tell me the symptoms of full-blown, severe separation anxiety, or else you will resort to lying some more, wasting more of our time. And, if you succeed in placing your pet in a shelter or foster care, do not tell yourself the biggest lie of all: "Those nice people will take him and find him a good home, and everything will be fine." Those nice people will indeed give the animal every possible chance, but if we discover serious health or behavior problems, if we find that your misguided attempts to train or discipline him have driven him over the edge, we will do what you are too immoral and cowardly to do: We will hold the animal in our arms, telling him truthfully that he is a good dog telling him truthfully that we are sorry and we love him, while the vet ends his life.

How can we be so heartless as to kill your pet, you ask? Do not ever dare to judge us. At least we tried. At least we stuck with him to the end. At least we never abandoned him to strangers, as you certainly did, didn't you? In short, this little old rescuer/foster momma has

reached the point where she would prefer you pet owners to tell her stories like this: "We went to Wal-Mart and picked up a free pet in the parking lot a couple of years ago. Now we don't want it anymore. We're lazier than we thought. We've got no patience either. We're starting to suspect the animal is really smarter than we are, which is giving us self-esteem issues. Clearly, we can't possibly keep it. Plus, it might be getting sick; it's acting kind of funny. We would like you to take it in eagerly, enthusiastically, and immediately.

"We hope you'll realize what a deal you're getting and not ask us for a donation to help defray your costs. After all, this is an (almost) pure-bred animal, and we'll send the leftover food along with it. We get the food at Wal-Mart too, and boy, it's a really good deal, price-wise".

"We are very irritated that you haven't shown pity on us in our great need and picked the animal up already. We thought you people were supposed to be humane! Come and get it today. No, we couldn't possibly bring it to you; the final episode of "Survivor II" is on tonight."

Thank you, Mr. and Mrs. Pet Owner for your cooperation.

*Reprinted courtesy of the
Heartland Dalmatian Club of
Kansas City.*

Author Unknown, but could be any animal rescue or shelter worker





WESTERN RESERVE DALMATIAN CLUB

Mark Your Calendar For Our
51st & 52nd Anniversary Back-To-Back Specialty Shows

Friday, August 12, 2011 and Saturday, August 13, 2011
Lorain County Kennel Club Park • Oberlin, Ohio

Friday, August 12, 2011

Breed: Mrs. Toby Fritsch (New York)
Puppy & Veteran Sweepstakes:
 Kathleen Barber (Connecticut)
Show Secretary: Linda Lombardi,
 6668 Manchester Rd.
 Clinton, OH 44216-9464
Entries Close: July 27, 2011

Saturday, August 13, 2011

Breed: Mr. Robert Stein (Texas)
Puppy & Veteran Sweepstakes:
 Laura Carpenter (Kentucky)
Show Secretary: Linda Lombardi,
 6668 Manchester Rd.
 Clinton, OH 44216-9464
Entries Close: July 27, 2011

Sunday, August 14, 2011 • LORAIN COUNTY KENNEL CLUB (All Breed) • MB-F, Super.
 Judge(s) To Be Announced

Western Reserve Dalmatian Club • Gudy Riggins, Show Chair (Both Days)
2746 22nd Street, NE, Canton, Ohio 44705 • 330.452.8265
 RV Camping • Security • Food Vendors • WRDC will provide lunch both days

April 16 Program & Speaker

Our program for April will be Stephanie Sivula and the discussion will be on canine nutrition. Stephanie is a registered Vet Tech, versed in emergency medicine and Practice Management. Please be on time for our April meeting as a courtesy.



Presidents Message

Our March meeting was again a very delicious and hospitable affair thanks to Pam and Steve for inviting us over for our annual pot luck dinner.

As mentioned in the past couple of meetings, I would like all members to take a moment and pull out their copies of our Bylaws and Constitution. Several areas seem to no longer reflect changes that have evolved over the past ten years or so in our club. Mostly in regards to meetings attended, notifications to members, and committee functions. I think the best method will be to print a section or two at a time in the newsletter and discuss at the next meeting without boring us to the point of meltdown.

Remember that our Puppy Match has been changed this year to a Sunday, May 29 at Columbia Park. We are looking for a good turnout of young Dals.

As always, thanks to the many members who provide topics, articles and ideas for our monthly "Spotted Copy". If any member wants to contribute with a column or two during the year, please send me what you have. On previously published articles, permission is always necessary.

At our last meeting, members presented several ideas for WRDC activities, please consider how we can add to this list and have some fun at the same time.
 All the best this month,

Don

**WESTERN RESERVE
DALMATIAN CLUB
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
March 20, 2011**

Meeting opened at 3:10 p.m. by Don Gotsch with 14 members.

Secretary's Report: Flyer about Puppy Match in Dayton, Ohio on April 10, 2011, Letter from Nancy Dorian, Sugarbush Kennel Club, asking us if we can sponsor one or both of their shows 8/26 and 8/27/11. Discussion: We already support 9 shows at \$25 a show. If we supported Sugarbush, this would give us 11 shows we support.

Cindy Riggans moved to support Sugarbush . Anne Swope seconded motion. Passed. Ten trophies will be presented. Five trophies for each show will be presented.

Treasurer's Report: Given by Nancy Abbott,. Discussion concerning the placement some of our money in a six month CD. We voted to put some of our money in a six month CD.

Sunshine: June Dahn is not doing well and will be moving to another assisted living center. Betty Doyle is well but no longer drives. Martha Brown's brother passed away, our sincere condolences.

Membership: Nothing new this month.

Award's Committee: Will have a report at the next board meeting on possible policy changes.

Spotted Copy:: All members felt newsletter is pretty good.

Programs:

Programs: At April 16 meeting Stephanie Sivula will present a program on canine nutrition Program is pending for October.

Holiday Awards Banquet: Cindy Riggans in charge. Tentative date second Sunday in December (December 10) in Canton, Ohio.

Specialty: Not approved by AKC yet. Judges have accepted assignment. White with black spots step stool will be first prize for classes at our August Specialty.

DCA National: Two trophies in Nancy Bishop's name will be donated by WRDC. One is Obedience Trophy and the second one will to be decided. Moved by Debbie Gotsch. Seconded by Barb Branden. Passed.

New Business: Steve will bring a plate sample to next meeting. He will check on set up costs as well as cost for shipping and actual price of plates. Motion made to purchase plates holders by Anne Swope and seconded by Greg Brown. Passed by members.

First Aid Classes for Dogs: Discussion, probably on a Sunday

Club Activities: Possibilities a - Parade in Strongsville in July

b - Meet the Breed at puppy matches held at LKC show grounds in Oberlin during summer. Held in past on Wednesday nights.

September 17 meeting will probably be at the Gotsch's for the WRDC steak fry.

Web Site: Lesley is working with another host site.

Nominating Committee: Bob needs two more volunteers for this committee

Meeting closed at 4:30 pm. Motion made by Anne Swope and seconded by Bob Smith. Passed by members.

Respectfully Submitted,

Diana Smith, Secretary
WRDC

Dog Training Seminar

Joel Silverman, nationally recognized animal trainer and author will be at the **Medina Kennel Club**, 6162 Wooster Pike Road, in Medina, Ohio on Thursday, April 28, 2011. This free seminar will focus on training your dog with positive reinforcement and gain an understanding of your dog's needs. Call 330-725-7387 for more information. Bring a chair.

Upcoming Events

DCA National Specialty - April 28 – May 4 at the Drawbridge Inn in Ft. Mitchell, Kentucky.

Ravenna Kennel Club – Saturday and Sunday, May 14 and 15 at Summit County Fairgrounds.

Warren County Kennel Club – Friday and Saturday, May 27 and 28 at Butler County Fairgrounds

Cincinnati Kennel Club – Sunday and Monday, May 29 and 30 at Butler County Fairgrounds.

