

CALLBACK



The Saskatoon Retriever Club Newsletter

President's Message

Well it has been another great summer for the Retriever club. By all accounts our new dates for the events worked out very well. Perhaps the expression "working smarter not harder" might apply here. I write this comment with some considerable guilt, since Rhonda and I took the opportunity to do some traveling and missed out on a lot of the fun (and work). It never ceases to amaze me how this small group of people can consistently hold events and maintain facilities that are truly the envy of many. Thanks to all who do so much to keep our club strong and moving forward.

As the days shorten, some of us are squeezing in a few more training days before the big white blanket puts a damper on such endeavors. For the hunting crowd, these are the pay - off days when all that training gets put to practical use. Unfortunately a few deficiencies also tend to show up at this time of early mornings, sudden action, and tough conditions. Practice and training tends to slip a bit when the ducks are screaming past powered by a tail wind. Happily, Jackson has shown a great deal of patience with me. I will try harder to be worthy of him as the season winds down.

As you will read in this newsletter, a number of meetings and club events are looming on the near horizon. Be sure to clear off your schedules and make as many of these as you can. Let's get together to celebrate the year past and lay the plans for a great 2010.

- Jeff Morari

Saskatoon Retriever Club President

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

President's Message	1
2010 Events	2
SRCA Trial Results	3
Foxtail	5-6
2009 SRC Hunt Tests	7
Best Friends	8

Upcoming Events

Saskatoon Retriever Club Annual General Meeting

The AGM will be held Thursday Oct. 22nd, 2009 at 7:30 pm at Anne & Doug Hildebrand's.

SRC Annual Christmas Party and Awards Night

December 12th, 2009 at the Park Town Hotel. Happy Hour 6-7, Supper at 7. Cash bar, all you can eat Roast Beef plus another hot meat buffet, \$20.00/person. Bring a wrapped generic gift value \$5-10 for our gift exchange. Any members who achieved a Field Trial or Hunt Test title during this year please send all the info to Lynn in order to receive your award.

Sask. Retrievers Assoc. Annual Meeting

SRC Club House Sunday Nov. 1st, 2009 at 1pm

REMINDERS

- To submit your article, event notice, story or anything else for the next issue of the Callback, please send it to Dale Johnstone at dale.johnstone@sasktel.net.

2010 Event Calendar

Here are some preliminary dates for 2010.

Saskatoon Retriever Club Field Trial	June 26 th , 2010
Winnipeg Field Trail	June 19 th & 20 th , 2010
Saskatchewan Retriever Assoc. Field Trial	June 27 th , 2010
Regina Retriever Club Field Trial	July 4 th & 5 th , 2010
Saskatoon Retriever Club Hunt Test	July 31 st , August 1 st & 2 nd , 2010
Saskatoon Retriever Club WCs	To be announced

It's never too early to volunteer to help with events. Come out to the AGM on the 22nd or get in touch with the event chair to see what you can do.



Lost & Found

A great big thank you to Jazztime Trips Matte Finish for finding our training pistol. Owner Ron Adlington, Matte Finish and Ink Spot went for a walk on the road towards the dike road and Matte was scratching at the ground and there was our pistol. If not for Matte we would never have found that pistol as we thought we lost it at the north end of pond # 1 and was looking for it there.

Thank You Matte,
Jim & Charlene Couch

2009 SRCA Trial Results

Saturday June 27, 2009

OPEN

Judges: Doug Hildebrand and John McDonald

1st : FC AFC FTCH AFTCH Runnin's Molly B

Owner: Mickey Rawlins and Brian Clasby, Handler: Mickey Rawlins

2nd: TaylorLab's Sugar and Spice MH

Owner: Garry and Sue Taylor, Handler: Sue Taylor

3rd: FTCH AFTCH NMH TaylorLab's True Blue MH

Owner: Garry and Sue Taylor, Handler: Garry Taylor

4th: Eat My Dust II MH

Owner/Handler: Jim Couch

RCM: FTCH AFTCH She's Gonna Rip

Owner/Handler: Robert Lindsay

CM: BlueGoose's Passion for Jazz

Owner/Handler: Russell Archer

CM: Telgar's Herbie Fully Loaded

Owner: Gord and Marlene Benn, Handler: Gord Benn

Sunday June 28, 2009

OPEN

Judges: Gord and Marlene Benn

1st: FTCH AFTCH NMH TaylorLab's True Blue MH

Owner: Garry and Sue Taylor, Handler: Garry Taylor

2nd: FC AFC FTCH AFTCH Runnin's Molly B

Owner: Mickey Rawlins and Brian Clasby, Handler: Mickey Rawlins

3rd: TaylorLab's Sugar and Spice MH

Owner: Garry and Sue Taylor, Handler: Sue Taylor

4th: FTCH AFTCH She's Gonna Rip

Owner/Handler: Robert Lindsay

RCM: NMH Saskquill's Prairie Thunder MH

Owner/Handler: Doug Hildebrand

CM: Pokolodi's Go Go Sally

Owner/Handler: Robert Lindsay

CM: Eat My Dust II MH

Owner/Handler: Jim Couch

Thank you to the small but mighty group of Club members that helped to host the 2009 Saskatchewan Retriever Clubs Association field trial on June 27 and 28.

Members judged, marshalled, threw birds, prepared judges suppers and lunches and hosted a great tailgate supper. Many thanks to Garry, Sue, Doug, John, Brayden, Tim, Jim, Jeff and Char. Well done!

- Sue Taylor

Thank You!

A huge THANK YOU to all the Club members who came out to work at the property on the July 4th and 5th weekend. We had a great turnout and members sprayed millfoil in the ponds, sprayed over exuberant bulrushes, trimmed points and mounds (and islands), repaired the swisher, filled in gopher holes, etc etc. The place should be in good shape for the Hunt test first weekend of August. All the hard work is definitely appreciated.

Blind Retrieves – The Dog's Perspective

Okay, okay, okay, I get to get a bird, yippee a bird a bird a bird.

HEEL. I know that one. Look at me sitting here next to him, a bird a bird a bird.

DEAD BIRD. I know that one. Sit here and look where he points I know this one, lets go already.

BACK. Okay, I'm off, running running running, where's the bird, I know its here..ditch? okay, I'll just go around this a little bit, he won't mind, it's the bird we want.

WHISTLE. What? Okay, I'll sit and look.

OVER. Into that ditch? Didn't I just leave that ditch for a reason? What's up with that? Okay, whatever, bird bird bird, running to get the bird, its all about the bird.

WHISTLE. Again? Okay, okay. He's da man, after all, and I know that little buzzy hurty thing happens if I don't. Okay, look at me sitting. Do your little arm thing and get on with it, I need that bird.

BACK. Back. Back he says. If he will recall, I WAS going back when he stopped me the first time and got all hyper over that ditch. Okay, off and running, back..bird bird need the bird.

Gosh this hill is steep, I'm gonna take the easy way up, it'll be faster to get to the bird.

WHISTLE. Forget it, I am NOT stopping. The bird is there, I need the bird, I know where the bird is, I can smell the bird, he's clueless, he has no idea where the bird is..

OUCH. Okay, I'll stop and look.

OVER. To the steep part? He has GOT to be kidding. I would have HAD that bird by now if he'd just leave me alone and let me go get it, but NO, he had to stop me and...

OUCH. okay, over it is.

WHISTLE. Yea, yea, I know, stop and look so you can do that hand thingy and tell me where the bird is when I already know where the bird is.

BACK. Okay, fine, I'm on the steep part, ya happy now? Get on with it already, I need the bird, its all about the bird, getting the bird, gotta get the bird. THE bird, I see the bird, I smell the bird, I'm getting the bird, I love the bird, gonna take the bird back to da' man...

WHISTLE. WHAT? I have the bird. Stop and look at you for what reason? I'm just gonna get the bird and bring it..

OUCH. Okay, I'm stopped. And still stopped. Waiting. Can't I bring this bird back already, I have the bird, I have the bird, its all about the bird, let me bring it back..

WHISTLE WHISTLE WHISTLE OH YEA, I get to bring the bird back, here I come with the bird, down the steep part, through the ditch, running with the bird, it's all about the bird, the bird get the bird, nothing but the bird.

- Submitted by Pat Althouse

Foxtail

RE: Foxtail hazard in dogs

Foxtail (*Hordeum jubatum* : foxtail barley) is a perennial grass that occurs world-wide. It is especially common in lowland areas with restricted soil drainage, disturbed sites, waste areas and fields. Seed is dispersed by wind, machinery and animals. Once foxtail is established, it becomes extremely difficult to eradicate. Its extensive root systems and aggressive habit, as well as its ability to tolerate poor soils make it a resilient competitor. It is considered a weed because of this competitive ability and the dangers it poses to wildlife, livestock and domestic pets.

While foxtail may be palatable for grazing animals in early spring before it flowers, its seed heads, when dry, are very harmful. The awns have sharp, upward-pointing barbs that become easily attached and embedded in the grazing animal's mouth and face, causing severe irritation, abscesses, and even blindness. The orientation of the barbs promotes migration of foxtail awns into tissues.

Foxtail are an important cause of disease in dogs. Large breed sporting dogs are especially at risk, probably because they encounter the weed in their outdoor activities. Some of the most common consequences of encounters with foxtail include:

Dacrocystitis - inflammation of the lacrimal sac and nasolacrimal duct system of the eye because of a foxtail awn foreign body. - usually requires general anesthesia to remove the awns and flush the nasolacrimal system.

Bacterial abscesses between the toes of the feet or in the subcutaneous tissue anywhere due to foxtail awn penetration and migration. Necessitates surgical drainage of the abscess, sometimes extensive exploration of the site to find the migrating foxtail awn, long term antibiotics and sometimes aggressive wound management.

Ear infections are common when foxtail awns enter the external ear canal and a secondary bacterial infection occurs. General anesthesia is required to remove the awns deep from the ear canal. If the awns are not removed quickly they may migrate through the eardrum into the middle ear, causing otitis media/interna with neurologic symptoms and requiring very extensive and expensive evaluation and surgery and sometimes causing death.

Rhinitis (nasal inflammation) occurs when the ripe foxtail awn is inhaled and lodges in the nose. Acutely it can sometimes be removed under general anesthesia by a specialist using a fiberoptic scope. If the awn remains in the nose the tissues of the nose are destroyed by the infection and quite commonly secondary fungal infection occurs with **Aspergillus** species. This further damages the nose and can even erode through the bones in the back of the nose into the brain, being fatal.

Continued on page 6...

Foxtail awns commonly get embedded in the **tonsils** of dogs, where they cause severe irritation, coughing and gagging. General anesthesia and surgery may be required to remove them and drain the resulting abscesses. Occasionally foxtail awns migrate from this site into the brain or into the retrobulbar (behind the eye) space.

Foxtail awns that are inhaled orally commonly pass directly down the trachea and into the small airways of the lung, where their structure and the constant movement of the lungs causes them to migrate deeply through the lung and into the pleural space. Sometimes there are signs of coughing or respiratory difficulties while the foxtail awn is migrating, but most often no signs are seen until the pleural space surrounding the lungs fills up with pus, making it difficult for the dog to breathe. This is a **pyothorax** (septic pleuritis), probably the most serious common manifestation of foxtail awn migration. Treatment requires intensive care, with prolonged hospitalization with chest tubes in place to flush in saline and drain out pus from around the lungs, as well as many months of antibiotics. Approximately half of the cases do not resolve with this treatment and require open chest surgery at a specialty center to remove the foxtail awn and the infected tissue. Sometimes lung lobes need to be removed. This is a very expensive and serious complication of inhaling foxtail awns - and one that is very common.

Some foxtails (probably initially inhaled and migrate through the lung and the pleural space) end up in the muscles underneath the bones of the spine, causing a bacterial infection of the bone at the disk space (**diskospondylitis**). This causes back pain and fevers, and if not diagnosed and treated, can lead to paralysis. Treatment is with long term antibiotics, but if that is ineffective then advanced imaging (CT or MRI) will be required followed by surgery to remove the grass awn.

It is clear, then, that it is important to **avoid exposure of pet and working dogs to the mature grass awns of foxtail**. The potential hazards are many - commonly leading to disorders that are very difficult and expensive to treat or perhaps even fatal. It is important to keep fields where dogs walk, play and train as free of this weed as is possible, particularly in the late summer and fall when the seeds are ripe.

Keep our dogs safe - practice weed control.

Susan Taylor, DVM
Diplomate, ACVIM
Professor of Small Animal Medicine
Department of Small Animal Clinical Sciences
Western College of Veterinary Medicine
University of Saskatchewan

2009 SRC Hunt Tests

Greetings from the Hunt Test Committee,

As fall approaches and we take to the field in pursuit of more leisure activities I'd like to take the opportunity to thank our club members for their contribution to yet another successful year. We saw a major change to the hunt test schedule from two 2-day events to one very successful 3-day event. A total of 50, 48 and 44 dogs enjoyed some very challenging tests each respective day. Due to the overwhelming success of our August Hunt test we will continue with a three day event in 2010.

A three day hunt test takes a lot of volunteers; I'd like to thank everyone who rose to the occasion and helped with judging, throwing, marshalling, organizing preparing food for the tailgate party and the generous and talented contributions to the silent auction.

The Hunt Test committee thanks you for your help in making this year a success and we look forward to your continued support in 2010.

- Helton Fan



*Photo from the SRC 2009 Training Class
- Submitted by Doug Hildebrand*

Best Friends

A man and his dog were walking along a road. The man was enjoying the scenery, when it suddenly occurred to him that he was dead. He remembered dying, and that the dog walking beside him had been dead for years. He wondered where the road was leading them.

After a while, they came to a high, white stone wall along one side of the road. It looked like fine marble. At the top of a long hill, it was broken by a tall arch that glowed in the sunlight.

When he was standing before it he saw a magnificent gate in the arch that looked like mother-of-pearl, and the street that led to the gate looked like pure gold. He and the dog walked toward the gate, and as he got closer, he saw a man at a desk to one side.

When he was close enough, he called out, 'Excuse me, where are we?'

'This is Heaven, sir,' the man answered. 'Wow! Would you happen to have some water?' the man asked. 'Of course, sir. Come right in, and I'll have some ice water brought right up.' The man gestured, and the gate began to open.

'Can my friend,' gesturing toward his dog, 'come in, too?' the traveler asked.

'I'm sorry, sir, but we don't accept pets.'

The man thought a moment and then turned back toward the road and continued the way he had been going with his dog.

After another long walk, and at the top of another long hill, he came to a dirt road leading through a farm gate that looked as if it had never been closed. There was no fence. As he approached the gate, he saw a man inside, leaning against a tree and reading a book.

'Excuse me!' he called to the man. 'Do you have any water?'

'Yeah, sure, there's a pump over there, come on in.'

'How about my friend here?' the traveler gestured to the dog.

'There should be a bowl by the pump.'

They went through the gate, and sure enough, there was an old-fashioned hand pump with a bowl beside it. The traveler filled the water bowl and took a long drink himself, then he gave some to the dog. When they were full, he and the dog walked back toward the man who was standing by the tree.

'What do you call this place?' the traveler asked.

'This is Heaven,' he answered.

'Well, that's confusing,' the traveler said. 'The man down the road said that was Heaven, too?'

'Oh, you mean the place with the gold street and pearly gates? Nope. That's hell.'

'Doesn't it make you mad for them to use your name like that?'

'No, we're just happy that they screen out the folks who would leave their best friends behind.'