



The Waving Girl

Newsletter of the Savannah Kennel Club

OCTOBER 2011



NEXT MEETING: October 24th - 7:30 pm (arrive earlier to eat)
Logan's Roadhouse; 11301 Abercorn Street; Savannah, Georgia



Heartworms - Do we need to panic?

Heartworm disease is on the minds of many dog owners because of the recent reports from Merial that the medication to treat heartworm disease is temporarily unavailable.

Heartworm disease is caused by a parasite that goes by the name of *Dirofilaria immitis*. The life cycle is complex involving both a primary host (dogs) and a secondary host (various mosquito species). While dogs are the main host - heartworms have been documented to infect cats, ferrets, several wild canid species, bears, etc. Transmission occurs via the bite of an infected mosquito.

Heartworms take several months to migrate from the site of the mosquito bite to the heart and large blood vessels of the lungs. Clinical disease occurs due to inflammation of these tissues because of the worms and the mechanical interference with blood flow. Signs include coughing, shortness of breath, exercise intolerance, congestive heart failure, and, in severe cases, sudden death.

Prevention remains the primary focus for controlling heartworm disease and many monthly options exist. Treatment is much more involved and with the recent shortage of immiticide alternative methods are being explored. While the shortage of immiticide is concerning, less aggressive treatment protocols involving heartgard and doxycycline plus supportive medication are proving successful in managing heartworm disease in many cases.

So while we await the return of immiticide, there is still hope for heartworm positive dogs and no need to panic.

Club News:

The SKC June meeting will be at Logan's Roadhouse on Abercorn Street. It will be on October 24th at 7:30 pm (arrive earlier to eat).

Trophy payments are due - please settle up if you have not. See Chris Simon with any questions.

October 30th is our Match and Costume Contest. Please spread the word and plan to attend. Volunteers are always needed to help with these events!



President: Kelly Meyer **Vice-President:** Eileen Jones **Secretary:** Debbie Anderson **Treasurer:** Chris Simon
Board Members: Lisa Harmon, Eduardo Rivas, Sandy Simon, Rachel Peeples, Joyce Whittal

General Interest:

- * Our Costume Contest/Dog Match is the last Sunday in October (the 30th).
- * We are working on finalizing dates for a least 2 handling classes in November. Details at the SKC meeting or contact Rachel Peeples at rpeeples@planters.net or 912-713-4290.
- * Joyce Whittal is willing to have a formal weekly handling class if there are enough interested parties. She is also putting together obedience classes. Please contact her if you are interested in either or both of these.
- * Our Dog Show is the first weekend in December (1st-4th) . It's success depends on the help of members so please consider volunteering.
- * AKC Companion Animal Recovery (AKC CAR) recently awarded \$340,000 to organizations in 36 states through its Canine Support and Relief Fund. A majority of the more than 100 grants were earmarked for K-9 Search and Rescue (SAR) teams. More info at: http://www.akc.org/about/chairmans_report/2011.cfm?page=10
- * The American Kennel Club® (AKC) is pleased to announce the winners of the 2012 AKC® Lifetime Achievement Awards: Jean Fournier (Conformation), Patricia Scully (Companion Events) and Robert Fleury (Performance).



Upcoming Events:

- * October 21-23 - Atlanta, GA - AB/O/Rly/JH
- * October 21-23 - Charleston, SC - Agility
- * October 22 & 23 - Simpsonville, SC - O/Rly
- * **October 24th - NEXT SKC MEETING - Logan's Roadhouse @ 7:30 pm**
- * October 29 & 30 (closes 10/12) - Marietta, GA - AB/O/Rly/JH
- * **October 30th - SKC Dog Match/Costume Contest - Daffin Park**
- * November 10-13 - Priceville, AL - AB/JH
- * November 10-13 - Birmingham, AL - O
- * November 12 & 13 - Winston-Salem, NC - AB/JH
- * November 12 & 13 - Asheville, NC - Obedience
- * November 12 & 13 - Youngsville, NC - Agility
- * November 17-20 - Concord, NC - AB/JH/O/Rly/Ag/Specialty(17)
- * November 25-27 - Montgomery, AL - AB/JH/O/Rly
- * November 25-27 - Huntsville, AL - Agility
- * **November 28th- SKC Meeting Logan's Roadhouse @ 7:30 pm**

Savannah/Beaufort Dog Show - December 1-4