



May, 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!

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

Deadline for June newsletter is 5/24/11

Camera ready copy please.

Next Meeting

Calling all Puppies!
Board & Regular meeting is Sunday, May 29 after the Puppy Match at Columbia Park in Columbia Station
Match begins at 1100.
Please bring side dish to share along with serving utensils.

Spotted Copy

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

To Register, or Not to Register: That is the Question LUA Dalmatian Facts and Fiction

This question has bedeviled the purebred Dalmatian community for decades.

After nearly a year of debate on it at the AKC Board level, the question was kicked back to the DCA parent club to conduct a vote of its members on the issue.

That vote is scheduled for this June 2011, or thereabouts.

What side will you take?

How will you vote?

Based on what information?

How will I vote?

YES – Register them.

Why? Read on.

Let's dissect the key question first – AKC Registration. The AKC runs a registry, a studbook, which documents parentage and pedigrees. An entry in that registry documents a specific breed, sire and dam. And that is really it! Oh yes, of course other information such as breeder, owner, date of birth, coat color, and a host of other data are collected, but the key elements are BREED, SIRE and DAM.

If one knows (or can prove) the Breed, Sire and Dam, the dog is registered or register-able. Period. End of story.

What about the LUAs then?

Do we know the Breed, Sire and Dam of the dogs to be registered? **UNEQUIVOCALLY and emphatically YES!**

From the first cross done with a Pointer, through generations of backcrosses using Dalmatians, to current day matings done with LUA Dalmatians, every single LUA dog has a proven pedigree – 100% documentation of Sire and Dam.

How can I say that? Was the record keeping really accurate over 35 years? **YES!** In fact, using sophisticated molecular genetics and DNA testing techniques, Dr. Danika

Bannasch demonstrated 100% accuracy to the pedigrees (name of dog, sire and dam) for every single one of the LUAs that she tested. So the bottom line is that the LUA Dalmatian pedigrees are proven beyond a shadow of a doubt – even to a level that exceeds modern day registered Dalmatians – to be error free.

What about Breed? After 12 generations of backcrossing to Dalmatians, and after extensive DNA testing, the LUA Dalmatians are proven to within a high degree of scientific

confidence to be 99.998% Dalmatian. The percentage is even higher with current day 14th generation LUA Dalmatians. Anyone who has had their hands on these dogs can say beyond any shadow of any doubt, “they look like a duck, they walk like a duck, & they quack like a duck – so they must be a duck” – er, Dalmatian that is.

So, we know the Sire, we know the Dam and we know the Breed for each one of the LUA Dalmatians. Should they be registered? YES, YES, YES! Now a whole host of other questions surround the LUA Dalmatians. Naysayers use them to support their position, but all they really do is raise unfounded smoke and mirror doubts.

For example, “No one knows whether the LUA Dalmatians will have less <clinically evident> stone disease”. Huh? Current day AKC registered Dalmatians produce uric acid stones at a rate 9 times higher than the general canine population, and the vast majority of those stones are urate / uric acid related. If you take away the urates, you cannot make urate / uric acid stones. No bricks – no brick house. No urates – no urate stones. Period.

Or, “Stone disease is really no longer a problem in Dalmatians. It affects 1% or less of the population.” Huh? Registry after registry documents a high predilection for Dalmatians to form urate stones. The DCA’s own health survey (DCAF – Bartges) showed a rate 10 times higher than the general canine population, and approaching 20% or higher amongst male Dalmatians. The Canine Health Foundation supported study done by Dr.

Dorn showed a 9 times higher rate in Dalmatians.

Don’t believe these results?

Call your local vet and ask about urate stones in Dalmatians. I’ll bet they give you a litany of patients and experiences.

Indeed, for almost two decades a primary role of the DCA Health committee was to promote information about the occurrence, treatment and prevention of stone disease in the Dalmatian. Common sense here; if this weren’t a significant problem in the breed, why on earth would so much time, energy and financial resource be devoted to it?



And, “their spots are horrible”. Huh? Have you had your hands on the current day LUAs? Or, with all due respect, have you looked at our current day AKC registered Dalmatians? On the whole, in my opinion, the breed has a real problem with spotting patterns. They have gotten way too big – larger than the size of a half dollar – way too intermingled looking like giant splotches of color, not “spots”, and way too indistinct like “torn patches” of color.

The spot size and character of the current LUAs are much more correct in size and color. They may actually help the breed in this regard! But then, I have had my hands on the dogs, photographed and filmed them, and studied them intently. Most of the outspoken naysayers cannot credibly make the same claim.

Or, “if we allow the LUAs into the breeding programs, we will bring in those ‘Pointer’ diseases”. What Pointer diseases? As far as I can tell from research of Pointers, Health Registries and reports, the Pointers – unlike the Dalmatians – do not have any distinct health problem otherwise rare in the general canine population. Besides, and with all due respect, it is genetically and scientifically impossible to point to a single ancestor as the source of a health problem when all members of the genus – canine – share that problem. Said another way, if a LUA develops thyroid disease for example, and that is a known problem in all other breeds, how on earth can one point to the Pointer (pun intended) as the source and not the hundreds of Dalmatians in the pedigree? Answer – you can’t!

Finally, and this is the one that is really outrageous – “Well Dr. Schaible had horrible dogs. We don’t want to bring that into the general Dal population”. Double Huh Huh?? My goodness, have any one of you ever sat ringside at a dog show? I have. In fact, I have personally attended several hundred – that’s right, hundred – National Specialties spanning dozens of breeds over the last several years. Know what? Every single one of the breeds has exhibitors/owners/handlers who rip the dogs to shreds ringside, pledge to never breed to that “awful line” and bemoan those horrible dogs bred by so-and-so. Get over it! It is meaningless chatter. So what is the bottom line here? The LUAs are Dalmatians, simple as that. The AKC should register them as Dalmatians because they have

met, and indeed far exceeded, any documentation requirement for Breed, Sire and Dam of any registry any where in the world! Their pedigrees are 100% accurate, and their Breed – Dalmatian – has been proven scientifically through DNA testing that far exceeds any other purebred dog! Will the LUAs prove to be “the cure” for urate stone disease? With a high degree of confidence, YES! Why? It is simple. You just can’t make urate stones without the urates. You don’t believe me? Well look at over 150 other breeds with normal urinary uric acid levels for proof. How is it that 150 other breeds do not have a problem with uric acid stones and obstructions? Simple answer – they don’t have the urates! Do I have to breed these dogs? NO, of course not. You can make your breeding choices just like any other breeder. Don’t like “those awful dogs”? Don’t like their spots? Don’t like their breeder? Fine, no problem. Don’t get involved. Don’t breed to them. BUT, and this is my final comment, don’t DENY the opportunity of others to breed them, show them, and to develop their breeding programs using them. Please, let common sense prevail. Register the dogs and move on. It is time to put this issue to rest.

by

Irvin B. Krukenkamp,
MD, MS, FACS, FAHA

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E Dalmatians, April, 2011 issue
and Irvin Krukenkamp

To learn more about the Low
Uric Acid Dalmatians
Visit the site:

www.luadalmatians.com

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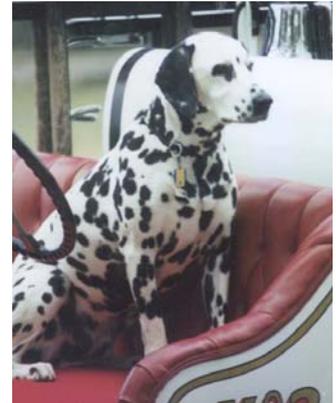


**VISIT US ONLINE AT THE
OFFICIAL WRDC WEBSITE**
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Lady Maxine's Book of Quotations



An animal’s eyes have the power to speak a great language.

Martin Buber

You will find that the woman who is really kind to dogs is always the one who has failed to inspire sympathy in men.

Max Beerbohm

I came across a photograph of him not long ago... his black face, the long snout sniffing at something in the air, his tail straight and pointing, his eyes flashing in some momentary excitement. Looking at a faded photograph taken more than forty years before. Even as a grown man, I would admit I still missed him.

Willie Morris

A dog naps so much because it loves so hard.

Anonymous

2011 Committees

Awards

Cindy Riggins & Ann Swope

Awards & Holiday Banquet

Cindy Riggins

Historian

Debbie Gotsch

Hospitality

Monthly Member Rotation

Membership

Ann Swope

Programs/Public Education

Barbara Brandon

Puppy Match

Don Gotsch

Referral Service

Betty Doyle, Pam Weisman
& Cindy Riggins

Specialty Show

Cindy Riggins

Spotted Copy

Don Gotsch, Editor
Debbie Gotsch, Co-Editor

Sunshine

Debbie Gotsch

Ways & Means

Open

Agility / Road Trial

Linda Lombardi

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.

Obedience

Exhibitors: OEs are quite distinctive in appearance from conformation handlers. Priding themselves on the fact that their dogs 'have brains, not just looks', the exhibitors dress for workmanlike practicality. Jeans or chinos with cotton shirts are popular on both the males and females of the species, with tough but comfortable shoes. The fancier plumage of the conformation ring is almost never seen.

Oddly, OEs are not found in the area of the obedience rings before they are to be judged. Since they are not allowed to practice with their dogs on the show grounds, you will find most of them far from the rings, pacing seriously about like wind-up toys, dogs at heel. OEs have a peculiar, Groucho Marx-like carriage, reminiscent of someone who badly needs a back brace or is already in one.

They execute turns with military precision, and they always come to a halt with their feet exactly together. Then they lean over stiffly and praise their dog in a mechanical manner. If the dog misbehaves, the OE may erupt in a sudden display of noise and violence, but then immediately returns to that grim pacing. It's frightening. The more advanced OEs carry small baskets or pouches with them, full of dumbbells and gloves called 'articles'. These are only handled with tongs and are guarded jealously lest anyone touch them.



For all that, OEs as a group generally have affable temperament so long as one approaches them after they have shown their dog. (Not right afterwards -- give them 15 minutes or so to get their blood pressure under control). They are known for their physical stamina (all that heeling), adaptability (practicing and showing in all kinds of weather, on all kinds of terrain), helpfulness (suggesting training solutions for your dog, which they've never worked with), mental stability (surviving every sort of embarrassment from their own dog in the ring), and big hearts (those with small hearts don't survive their first 5-

Dog Show People

A Newcomers Field Guide

This last installment of the essay which has provided 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.

minute out-of-sight down stay)

The only exception to this affability is the exhibitor competing for an OTCh. OTCh.-level competitors, like African Cape Buffalo, are dangerously unpredictable and should be left strictly alone.

Superintendent's

Staff: The superintendent's staff falls into two categories - those in fancy plumage who attend to the administrative work of the show, and those in working attire who do the roustabouts' job of driving the big trucks in with the supplies and setting up the rings and tents.



The roustabout types show up the previous evening to set up. This is usually a crew of six or so burly men who only need to know where you want everything placed to have it up and done in a twinkling. It's a fascinating process to watch -- just like Barnum and Bailey, but without the inconvenience of elephants. Canny grounds chairmen know that any special favors they may wish can be effectively accomplished through the liberal application of beer. At the end of the show, the crew has the rings and tents down, folded and loaded in

no time, and the truck is often rolling off the grounds before the Best in Show winner is back in its crate.

The administrative staff is found in the superintendent's tent. They sit there, behind a high counter-like structure, writing things (no one is sure what) and looking annoyed if someone interrupts them with a request. Periodically, they make dashes to the rings to collect judges' books.

Then they return to their counter and write some more.

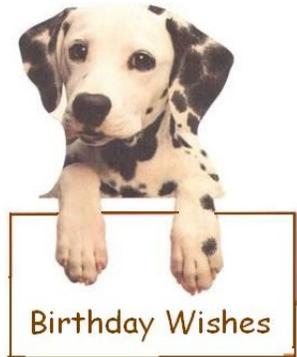
There are other people at the dog shows, but you're not as likely to see them around the rings because they're too busy working on show day.



These people include the show chairman, the hospitality staff, the officers of the club, the show secretary, catalog chairman and the parking people (you saw them when you came in). All these people have important jobs to do before, during, and after the show. Any exhausted-looking person in casual (maybe even dirty and sweaty) clothes, stumbling about, mumbling under his or her breath, is undoubtedly one of these and should not be arrested as a vagrant. They deserve a smile and a thank-you, because they, as well as

those mentioned above, make it all happen every year for their club, and the exhibitors and spectators who attend their show.

(Editors' Note – WRDC is very fortunate indeed to have an experienced cadre of helpers at our shows. However, new and old members alike are encouraged to learn, help steward, join the fun and help out on show days)



May, 2011

Ch TNG nZdar's Terminator Too
5/18/2001 = Cindy Riggans

Ch Zdar's The Elevator
5/23/2005 – Cindy Riggans

Ch Zdar's After the Fire CD RN
5/23/2005 – Joanne Shupp

Ch Korcula Angel for Cassiopea
5/30/2001 – Bob & Diana Smith

NON-SPOTTED BIRTHDAYS

Diane Tucker – May 4

Pam Weisman – May 9

Ken & Cindy Riggans –
May 5, 1986

Send your birthday/anniversary
information to the editor

How to React When a Neighbor Complains About Your Dog - Don't Get Defensive!

The natural thing to do when someone complains about your dog is to get defensive. "My dog? How dare you?!"

Don't go there. Defensiveness exacerbates hostilities, escalates tension, and encourages your neighbor to make a mountain out of what you perceive to be a molehill. Remember, it's all about perception, and your neighbor's perception is his reality. Instead of being defensive, try the following:

1. Listen: Unless one of you plans to move, defusing the situation is best. Listen to what your neighbor says. Assume there's some nugget of truth to his complaint. You need to find it, so you can figure out what to do with it. He says your dog barks all the time, under his bedroom window, and wakes him up. It may be an exaggeration, but chances are your dog is barking some of the time.

2. Empathize and apologize: Without admitting guilt, empathize with your complainer. "It must be frustrating to have to listen to barking dogs when you're trying to sleep." Be sincere. Tell him you're sorry he's being disturbed by barking. Reassure him that you don't want your dog to be a nuisance, and you want to help find a solution. Ask him to bear with you while you

work on the problem. Bake him chocolate chip cookies.

3. Investigate: Ask questions that won't make your neighbor defensive. "Is there a time when it's most annoying?" "Are there other dogs that are barking too?" "Other than giving up my dog, what would make you happy?" Set up a video camera or voice-activated tape recorder to document your dog's activities when you aren't home. Alternatively, take a day off and watch your own house, to see what goes on that might make your dog bark. Check the neighborhood to see if there are other dogs whose barking might be blamed on your dog. Ask other neighbors if they hear your dog, and if so, when and how much.

4. Be legal, be considerate: Insure your dog is licensed and obey all local animal control laws. Maybe your neighbor is complaining because your dog runs loose and he feels threatened, or because you don't clean up when you take her for walks. Those are legitimate grounds for complaint as is excessive nuisance barking. You don't want animal control to find you in violation of anything. Obey leash laws and scoop laws, and respect your neighbor's discomfort with your dog – don't let her off-leash even if you're just walking out to your car. If she runs over to happily greet him, you'll fuel the fires.

5. Take action: Make changes to accommodate

your neighbor and protect your dog. If his complaint is early-morning noise and she's barking when you let her out at 6:00 am while you shower, alter your routine. Get up earlier and go out with her. Let her eliminate, then play with her. Keep her quietly occupied rather than leaving her to find her own entertainment. If it's random throughout-the-day barking while you're away, bring her in and close the dog door. She doesn't have to be outside all day. If things get ugly, leaving her out unattended exposes her to great risk from an irate neighbor. If necessary, pay someone to let her out for a noon potty break. If the complaint is about barking even when you are home, behavior modification is in order. If it's something other than barking, determine how you can modify the situation to mitigate the problem.

Keep your neighbor informed of your efforts to address his concerns. Document your actions in a journal in case you do have to face animal control. Ask your neighbor to let you know if he sees improvement – and document that. Save receipts for anything you buy to modify your dog's environment. If you see your neighbor deliberately antagonizing your dog, document that with a video camera. Keep your dog safe. Be considerate. Keep baking chocolate chip cookies.

By Pat Miller



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 Frisch (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 • Gndy 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

Presidents Message

I think we had a good April meeting with many members present and a great discussion on canine diets and nutrition. There was a lot of information to digest (pun intended) on what we feed our dogs. Our speaker provided some great information on protein, carbohydrates and the variety of different diets, but it all comes down to your own Dal and the recommendations of your vet.

During the last month, our Treasurer, Nancy Abbott and I reviewed options on the March meetings' decision to try and earn interest on some of our funds.

During our investigation, for those who didn't already know, the WRDC is considered a **501,C7 status**, which is considered 'a non-profit social and recreational organization' by the IRS. As a reminder for future officers of WRDC, we need to file forms at least once every three years for the State of Ohio and I believe once each year for the IRS.

A reminder to all members to take a few minutes to read our Constitution and By-laws in the next month or so. At the Sept./Oct. meetings, I'd like to discuss what needs changing and how we want it to read that provides clear understanding and agreement. There are definitely a few areas that need revision and updating.

The nominating committee led by Bob Smith could use another member or two to select a slate of candidates for officers for the next year. Please consider giving Bob a call to offer your help.

I would like to thank Cindy Riggins for volunteering to chair the Holiday Awards Banquet. Please keep Sunday afternoon, Dec. 11 open. Banquet will be in Canton, Ohio and menu options will be provided.

Finally, I hope to see everyone at the Puppy Match at Columbia Park on Sunday, May 29. Match begins at 1115, Board and Regular meetings will follow. Enter all puppies or Dal's without Major wins.
 Have a great month, Don

**WESTERN RESERVE
DALMATIAN CLUB
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
April 16, 2011**

Meeting called to order at 8:27pm by Don Gotsch. We had 18 members and 3 guests attending. Motion made to dispense with the reading of last meeting's minutes by Barb Brandon, seconded by Greg Brown, passed.

Presidents Report – We would like to thank Stephanie Sivula for the informative and interesting discussion on canine nutrition and Barb Brandon for arranging the program.

Our thanks to Linda Lombardi and Barb Brandon for our food and drinks this evening. Board meeting in May at Match..

Secretaries Report – by Martha Brown, Correspondence read, letter from Rubber City Kennel Club on supporting entries.

Treasurer's Report – As discussed last month, a portion of our checking account funds were moved to a 'business savings account' which provides a small interest income and funds can be accessed at any time if needed. This account works out better than a Certificate of Deposit at this time.



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Membership – Letter of recommendation was read to accept Monica Callahan as the newest member of WRDC. Motion to nominate was made by Debbie Gotsch, seconded by Barb Brandon, motion carried

unanimously, Congratulations to Monica and WRDC.

Puppy Match – all puppies and members invited to attend on Sunday, May 29, 2011 at Columbia Park. Hamburgers, hot dogs provided by WRDC, members asked to share side dishes. Ring set up at 9am. Match begins at 11:15 with meeting to follow. Same pavilion as last year.

DCA – Kathy Szomoru provided a number of extra copies of the "Spotter" at the meeting. Nice to see pics of our 2010 Specialty and club activities update. This issue also had a very nice memorial page dedicated to Nancy Bishop.

Discussion to provide an Obedience Trophy at the DCA National in memory of Nancy Bishop.

Awards – Nothing to report.

Spotted Copy – Nothing to report.

Sunshine - Our deepest sympathy and condolences to Ann Swope on the passing of her mother.

August Specialty – Still waiting for AKC approval letter to arrive. Ad was in current 'Spotter' issue and will be in 'E-Dalmatians' in June edition. All judges are confirmed and committees are in place. Reminder to all members to provide help as needed.

Trophy donations are still needed, see Nancy Abbott for categories and donation.

Holiday Awards Banquet - Cindy reports that our party will be held on Sunday, December 11, 2011 at Walther's Café in Canton, Ohio. Menu choices will follow and be discussed at a later date.

Old Business – Motion made by Debbie Gotsch, seconded by Steve Weisman to proceed and order 250 license plate holders on the approved design which was presented at the meeting.

Motion carried. One holder will be provided free to each membership.

Web Page – Discussion on hosting, seems our best bet is to be commercially hosted with a cost of around \$45 per year for our new updated website.

Thanks to Lesley for her efforts.

Nominating Committee – Tim Kompier volunteered as a second individual, still need one more to help Bob Smith.

New Business – Discussion by Cindy Riggans to provide \$100 donation to a canine fun day in Stark County with all proceeds going to human cancer research. Our WRDC name and logo will appear on t-shirts and printed materials as a contributor.

Motion made by Joanne Shupp, seconded by Diane Kompier. Motion passed.



Adjourn – Motion made by Linda Lombardi, seconded by Steve Weisman to adjourn. Motion carried, meeting ended at 9:12pm.

Brags – Caitlin Brown now has a new job at Ben Venue. Linda Lombardi – Nitro earned Top Spot #2 in agility/road Trial. Debbie Gotsch – Rio earned second leg on C-Wags Rally. Rich & Lesley Sinwald – were featured in the "Sandusky Register" with pictures and story on their Therapy Dal's and making life better at Ohio Veterans Home and Stein Hospice..... nice article.

Respectfully submitted,
Martha Brown (Acting)