

The German Longhaired Pointer Club

(provisional)

NEWSLETTER



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SPRING 2005

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2004/2005

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Spring is in the air

I pen this note to you having just returned from 'the hill', chasing grouse and partridges around Inverness-shire and North Yorkshire, respectively. And a good time was had by all. We saw some outstanding dogs working in, sometimes, quite difficult conditions and are totally refreshed by the experience, which, for us at least, marks the end of spring trialling this year.

I mention it at length because German Longhaired Pointers have made significant impact. At the GSPC test at Stoke Lyne, Oxfordshire, our own Questor Eris was graded as Very Good and Madge Simon's Questor Eros at Swifthouse was graded as Good.

The next day our own Club held its first ever pointing test in the same area, but on different ground, and Rob Gould's F.T. Ch. Wamilanghaar Ashiestiel was graded Excellent for her performance, whilst Theo's Wamilanghaar Aquarius was graded Very Good. Questor Eros at Swifthouse was once again graded as Good and Sarah Bond's Wamilanghaar Meadow Pipit achieved the same grading of Good. Questor Eris, star of the previous day, was graded as Very Bad (out of control). I must also mention that our Vice Chairman Sheila Kuban with her honorary Longhair, a GSP called Tarrec Trey Victor, was also graded Excellent.

As a finale, Questor Cornacaea went with us to the Central Highlands in Scotland (GSPC Drumochter) and managed a Good grading (her first time on grouse) against a very professional card indeed. Questor Eris maintained her latest standard when five Blue Hares decided to jump up all around her at the same time, much to the amusement of everyone.

Larry Wilks ran Arany's Bootsmann in a grouse pointing test in Waitfield, Northumberland and was graded Good. At the GWP pointing Test at Basingstoke Konan V.D. Hafkesdell was graded Very Good.

So it looks like German Longhaired Pointers have, once again, made their mark in the hunting field. Whilst other breeds were also graded

at all of these trials, out of a total of 26 gradings from 109 entries, no fewer than 9 were GLP's. We have just had an email from Alison Siviter to tell us she has had a grading of Very Good with Arany's Britta at the HVC Spring Pointing Test at Blenheim. There may well be even more successes, but these are the only ones we have been told about.

Our application to the Kennel Club remains ongoing. I spoke with Caroline Hallett at Crufts and it seems that the Committee will consider our application, submitted last year, in the very near future. Due to the length of time that has passed I have sent updating information on GLP successes, but if anyone has had any significant awards, be it in field trial, working tests, pointing tests or in show, and they have not as yet told us about them, then please forward details as soon as possible.

Last year we held two very successful events; a working test in July and a training day in November. We plan the same again this year, so it is time to get those dogs out and start practicing. Continued success for GLP's will mean that we become a full-register breed sooner rather than later!

Good luck to you all. I hope to see you at the Annual General Meeting,

David Winser, Chairman.



Notice Convening The Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the German Longhaired Pointer Club will be held at Pointers, Wistow, Huntingdon, Cambs. PE28 2QH, on Sunday 29th May 2005 at 11am.

Nomination papers for the Committee and Officers of the Club must be submitted on an official Nomination Form available from the Honorary Secretary.

Completed Nomination Papers should be returned to the Honorary Secretary, Pointers, Wistow, Huntingdon, Cambs. PE28 2QH. by not later than 29th April 2005.

Resolutions in accordance with Club Rule 10 (e) must also be in the hands of the Honorary Secretary by not later than 29th April 2005.

oooooooooooo

After the AGM and Lunch we will be holding an informal retrieving test. It is intended to be fun so stay for the afternoon and have a go. Please return the form to book lunch. Entries taken on the day. £2 per dog. Rosettes for 1st 2nd and 3rd in each class.

There will be three classes:

Beginners and Puppies - (under 18 months)

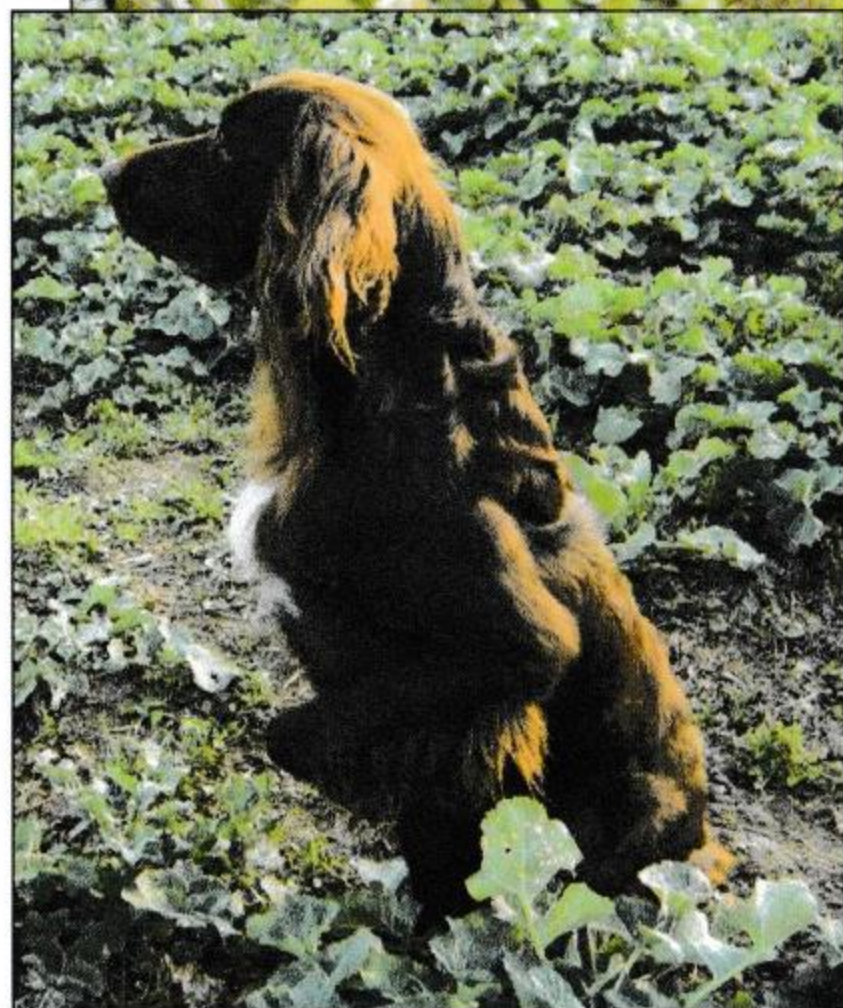
Improvers - (dogs which have not received an award in a working test or field trial)

Field Trialers - (dogs that have received an award in a field trial or working test)

The Winners Gallery

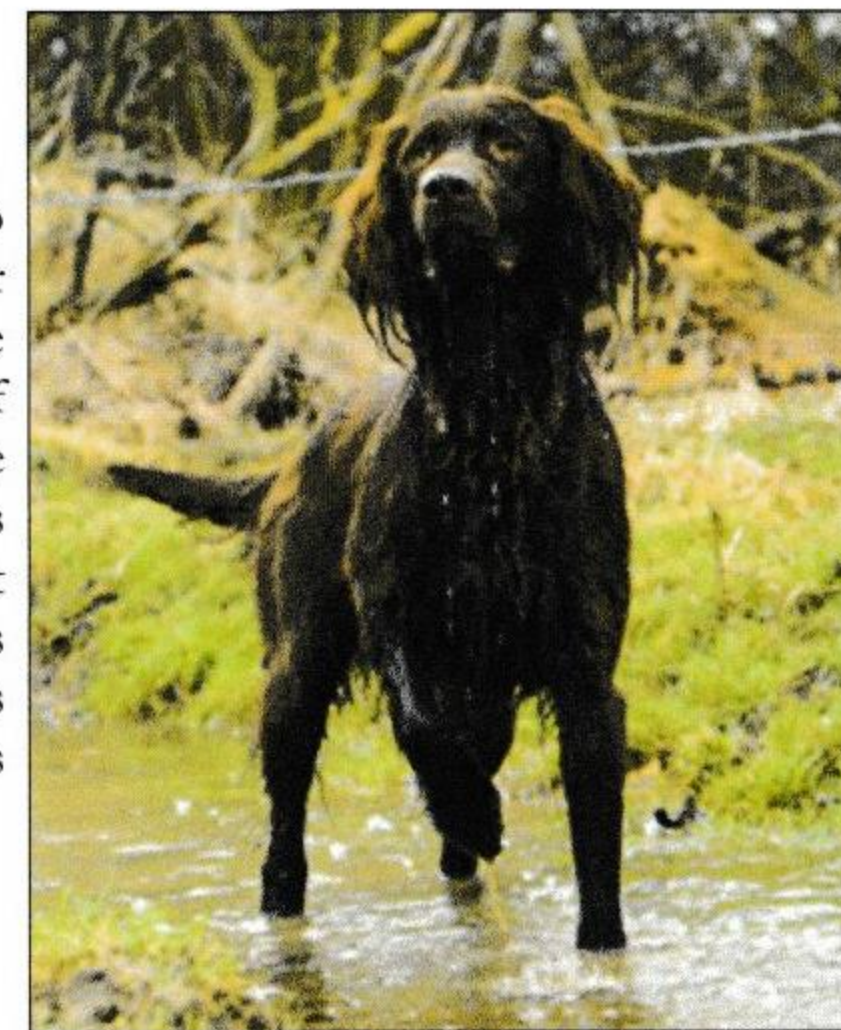
We are delighted that another Longhair has gained the title of Field Trial Champion. This time it is Rob Gould with the litter sister to Theo's dog, Field Trial Champion Wamilanghaar Ashiestiel. (better known as Morgan).

Our sincere congratulations to Rob.



Congratulations to Theo Gould on winning a Novice stake and a 4th in an All-Aged stake with her young dog Max (Wamilanghaar Aquarius)

Congratulations to Madge Simons for winning a Novice stake and a Certificate of Merit also in a Novice stake with Ross (Questor Eros at Swifthouse.) Ross was also awarded the Guns Award at three trials last season.



Larry Wilks was awarded a COM in an All-Aged Stake with Konan V.D. Hafkesdell Mit Arany.

In Ireland the dogs are also doing very well and the Club sends congratulations to Ray Behan and Belle of Dublin on winning an Open Field Trial.

Wim Gillissen tells me he ran Ceannacroc Xzara five times gaining awards in England of Very Good, in Holland grading of Very Good and on grouse in Ireland gaining an Excellent grading.

There are a lot of working tests organised throughout the country, not least of all ours, which will as usual, be held at Gill Mill Quarry in July. This offers lots of opportunity to get the dogs out and show just what you can do.

Eileen Winser

Working Test

We will be organising another working test at Gill Mill Quarry this year with kind permission of the owner Mr. John Smith. For those of you that have supported our working tests you will know that Gill Mill Quarry is a site that has been beautifully and sympathetically landscaped.

The tests take place around the lake with the Open quartering test on nearby set aside.

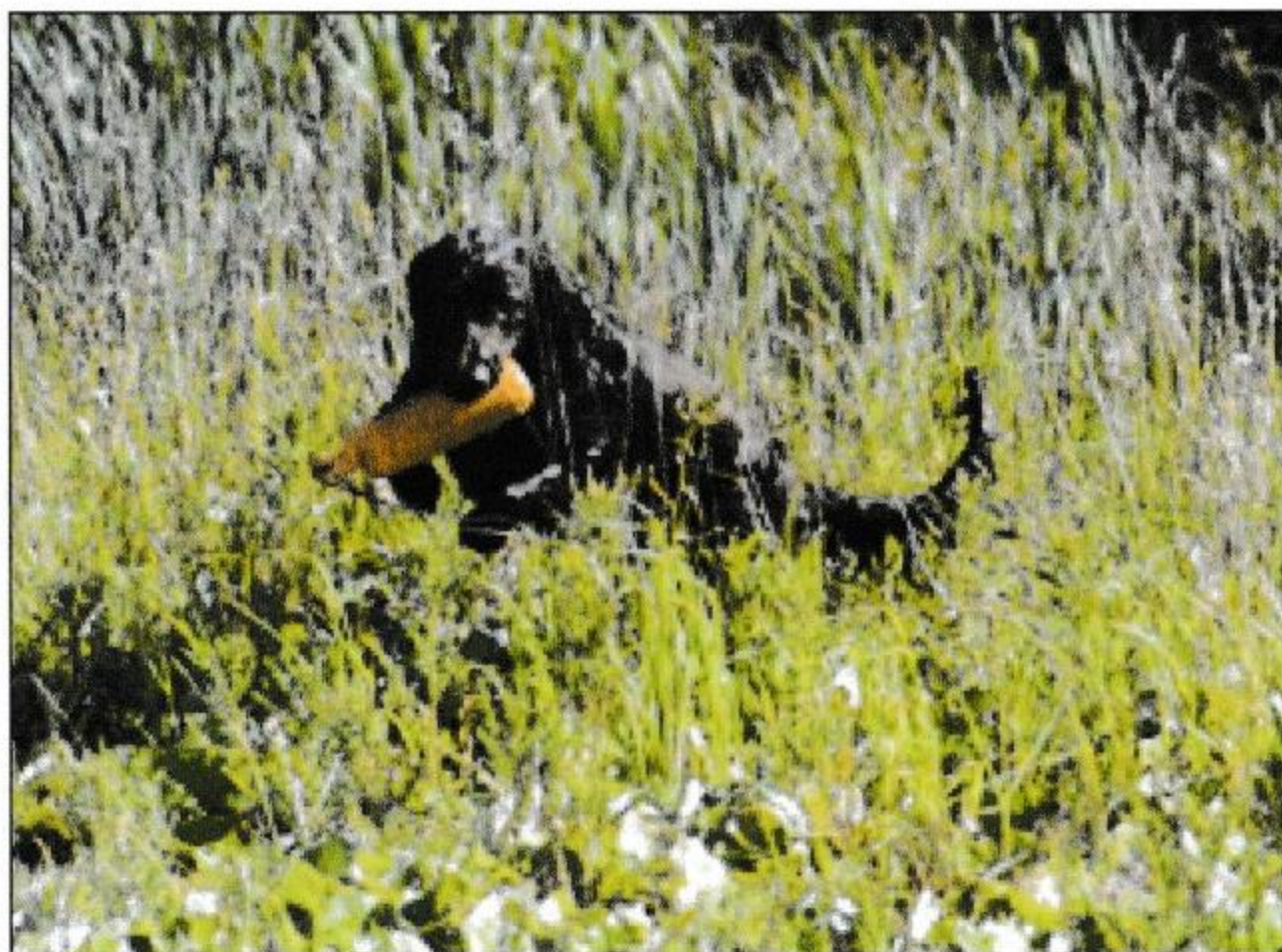
The event will be held on 10th July 2005 with a prompt 9.30am start and will be open to all hunt, point and retrieve breeds.

The judges this year will be:-

Larry Wilks - Puppy

Irmgard Alcock - Novice

Fred Alcock - Open



A schedule and entry form is enclosed with this Newsletter. Schedules will also be sent to non-members who have entered in previous years.

Skinner's have agreed to sponsor the event and there will be vouchers for 1st 2nd and 3rd prize winners in each class;

There will also be individual awards to be won outright for first 1st to 3rd placed dogs and our Club Trophy's to be held for the year by the first placed dog in each class.

There will also be a scurry (entry on the day) with a Skinner's voucher and a trophy for the winner.

Donations for the raffle and cakes for afternoon tea would be appreciated!

Training Day

The Club held a training day on 3rd November 2004 at Kings Lynn by kind permission of Dominic Symington. Our grateful thanks to Brian Botterman and Ed Booter for agreeing to be our tutors and to David Winser and Richard Beckerlegg for shooting for us.

We knew that our dear friends and Club supporters Ed and Leni Booter would be in the country for some shooting days at this time and we asked Ed an International Field Trial Judge if he would be kind enough to come along and give us the benefit of his advice and experience.

He said *"I would like to share my opinion with you"*.

We had an enjoyable day in very good company. Ed wrote an article for the Dutch Longhair Club magazine but as not many of us speak Dutch we asked Ed to write something for our newsletter and this is what he told us:



"As I was shooting two days in nearby Oxfordshire about the time the GLP training day was organised I agreed to come along and give my opinion of the dogs.

There were six dogs running 5 Longhairs and 1 Shorthair, time enough for each dog!

One of the GLP's Wamilanghaar Ashiestiel gained her Field Trial Title only the day before - this should be the perfect demonstration for the other dogs. Immediately the dog got wind of the fact that this was no trial. Maybe the handler was acting too careless or was it the big camera he was carrying? The result was a flying start with some high spirits the whistle showed her that she was wrong and then she was cast off again. She had several runs with good drive and pace and had some staunch points and positive flushes and then implemented a wonderful marked retrieve. Quite right a Field Trial Champion.

The two youngsters of the remaining dogs appealed to me most. Wamilanghaar Aquarius (15 month) made in two runs a couple of very nice long points. Rock steady after positive flushes. He retrieved properly to hand after hunting in the right Longhair style. Good head and tail carriage, right gallop and an excellent ground treatment with flowing turns. If this were a youth autumn trial in Holland it would be an excellent grading. Aquarius was an already well trained young Longhair but you could not say the same of Questor Evita.

Until this very moment Evita (18 months) was only taken out in her owners shooting field. The owner, our host, was too busy with his farm and could not find the time and maybe the help to train his Longhair.

He suspected that she should not obey when he let her off the lead. And he was right!

The dog went off with a cast to the left, came on point in a beautiful posture. Waited some time and flushed. Chased the bird until she passed scent, came on point again, waited not too long and flushed. This happened several times. This all took place in a terrific Longhair style. Using the wind in a proper way with all turnings into the wind with a striking fine head and tail carriage. The positive fact is there has not been any wrong influence in the education of this dog. There is a lot to do!

I really hope that the owner or a trainer can bring in some "brake discs" and obedience. If this happens it is my opinion that she can be one of the intended champions.

All of the dogs had several runs and had the opportunity to point more than the two birds mentioned in the invitation.

I very much enjoyed the opportunity to stop the run after a good or missed point to discuss the run with the handler. Mostly the advice of both trainers had a result in the following part of the dogs work.

During tea we had interesting discussions about everything that had happened during the day.

The Dutch Longhair Club had provided me with several gifts. It was a pleasure to distribute them among those who were present. Particularly to the host and his keeper.

It is very valuable to the breed to have these contacts and the opportunity to train your dog in fields with a good occupancy of game.

I thank the GLP Club for the invitation and I hope that I could give some helpful advice. Good luck to you all in the coming trial season".

Ed Booter



Update:- you will have seen elsewhere in the newsletter our congratulations to Theo on winning a novice trial with Wamilanhaar Aquarius. And of Evita? – I took her back for a few weeks to help Dominic with her training and she is no longer chasing and enjoys doing what she loves best, but with her boss. I hope we will see her entering some competitions this year.

Eileen Winser

Health Matters

Following the article in the last Newsletter about Pets and International Travel: Imported Canine Infectious Diseases. I have followed it up with the second of the lectures from the Kennel Club Breeders Symposium that I attended last year.

OSTEOCHONDROSIS

John Houlton

Introduction

Osteochondrosis is defined as a failure of normal endochondral ossification. This means that bone growth is abnormal. It may affect either the joints or the growing bone. The shoulder, elbow, stifle and hock may all be affected although numerically it is the joints of the forelimb that are important.

The Shoulder

Osteochondrosis generally involves the articular (joint) cartilage covering the medial aspect of the caudal third of the humeral head. The under-run cartilage of the humeral head may split vertically causing flap formation when the term osteochondritis dissecans becomes appropriate. In addition, the flap may break free and form a 'joint mouse' which can absorb nutrients from the synovial fluid, grow in size and possibly become mineralised. Once the flap had become detached the defect may fill with granulation tissue, which is then converted into fibro cartilage.

The condition shows a breed predisposition with the giant breeds such as Great Danes, the Pyrenean Mountain Dog and the Irish Wolfhound, being over-represented. However, medium-sized breeds, such as the Labrador Retriever, the Golden Retriever and the Bernese Mountain Dog, are also affected, as are some smaller breeds such as the Border Collie. There is a general consensus that more males are affected clinically. The condition occurs radiographically in both shoulders in approximately 50% of dogs.

The Elbow

Three forms of Osteochondrosis occur in the elbow. Each problem usually occurs in isolation, but any combination of the three is possible in one joint, although having all three problems in one joint is unlikely.

Ununited Anconeal Process

Ununited anconeal process (UAP) as a result of failure of fusion of the separate centre of ossification, is seen predominantly in the German Shepherd Dog. It is also seen occasionally in Wolfhounds, Rottweilers, St. Bernards, Great Danes and other breeds. In certain chondrodystrophic breeds such as the Basset Hound, it occurs secondary to non-traumatic premature closure of the distal ulnar growth plate. The shortened ulna and the relatively long radius forces the humerus upwards, exerting sufficient pressure on the anconeal process at a critical stage of its development to result in its separation.

The condition can occur in one or both elbows. Affected animals are presented with progressive forelimb lameness, which usually starts between 4 and 5 months of age.

There are a number of choices of treatment. Removing the anconeal process is the most straightforward and widely practised method. However following surgery all dogs will develop degenerative arthritis to a varying amount. Internal fixation with screws and/or wires has been described but the long-term results have not been well documented. If joint incongruity is implicated, cutting the ulna may result in spontaneous union of the separated anconeal process.

Fragmentation of the medial coronoid process

Currently fragmentation of the medial coronoid process of the ulna (FCP) is the commonest cause of elbow lameness in young, rapidly growing dogs of the large and giant breeds. Although this condition affects many breeds it is particularly prevalent in Rottweilers, Labradors and Bernese Mountain Dogs. Other breeds affected include German Shepherd Dogs, Golden Retrievers, St. Bernards, Chows, Rhodesian Ridgebacks and Newfoundlands, etc.

One or more fragments of bone may fracture from either the inner aspect of the medial coronoid process immediately adjacent to the radial head, or from the apex of the process. Other lesions that may be identified are softening and fissures of the coronoid process, erosion of the articular cartilage in the trochlear notch and kissing lesions of the distal humeral condyle. The end result is degenerative joint disease.

The first signs of lameness are usually noticed at about 4-5 months of age. The lameness is usually subtle at first, especially if both legs are

affected. An early sign may be outward rotation of the feet, with the elbows held close into the body, giving the dog a "duck-footed" appearance. The lameness is usually worse following rest or heavy exercise. As the condition persists the secondary changes associated with arthritis develop, resulting in a reduced range of joint movement.

The definitive diagnosis of FCP on conventional radiographs poses some problems because the location of the fragment(s) means that there is invariably superimposition of other structures. If the facilities are available the fragment can be visualized using computer axial tomography.

Early diagnosis and treatment possibly gives the dog the best chance of returning to normal. However many cases remain lame and still continue to develop arthritis after surgery.

c) Osteochondritis dissecans (OCD) of the medial condyle of the humerus.

OCD occurs with low frequency in Rottweilers and has its highest incidence in Labradors and Golden Retrievers. In common with OCD in other joints it has a high incidence of bilateral involvement.

The clinical signs are very similar to FCP. A flexed lateral radiograph will show the presence of new bone formation on the anconeal process and a cranio-caudal or cranio-caudal medial oblique projection will usually reveal a defect in the subchondral bone of the medial humeral condyle. Occasionally ossification of the cartilage flap will make it visible.

Surgical exploration of the medial aspect of the joint is the treatment of choice. The flap of cartilage is removed and the subchondral bone defect scraped to stimulate healing.

The pressures of the show-ring and the current fashionable status of large breeds of dog have contributed to an alarming increase in the incidence of orthopaedic problems in the elbow associated with abnormal development and rapid growth. It is now clear that these conditions are inherited with an inheritance that is similar to hip dysplasia. Some workers have suggested that the condition is more influenced by the maternal genes. It is strongly recommended that breeders of susceptible breeds not only subject their breeding stock to routine hip dysplasia radiographs

prior to breeding, but also to radiographs of the elbow. Successful national schemes have been in operation for some years in Europe and an International Elbow Working Group was established in 1989 to help disseminate information and to establish a uniform classification system. Currently the BVA/KC Elbow Dysplasia Scheme requires two views of each elbow and each joint is graded from 0-3. The worst score of the two joints represents the dog's overall score.

Stifle

Osteochondritis dissecans (OCD) occurs in the medial or lateral condyles of the femur. Clinical signs are generally seen from 4-6 months onwards. The disease may be bilateral.

Hock

Osteochondritis dissecans (OCD) occurs in the medial or lateral trochlear ridge of the talus, with lesions of the proximal medial trochlear ridge predominating.

Clinical signs are typically seen from 4-6 months onwards. Lameness is variable, perhaps becoming intermittently non-weight bearing. The disease may be bilateral and is often associated with an abnormally upright stifle and hock conformation.

Epiphyseal (Bone) Problems.

The radius and ulna must grow in a synchronised manner to prevent mal-alignment of the carpus and elbow and to allow normal development of the individual bones.

Distal radial growth plate closure

In many cases the most striking clinical aspect of this problem is not deviation or deformity of the limb, but the pain and lameness that results from subluxation of the elbow and secondary degenerative joint disease. Elbow subluxation is the consequence of failure of the radius to grow normally with relative overgrowth of the ulna resulting in a trochlear notch that is too large for the distal humerus.

Distal ulnar growth plate closure

Osteochondrosis of the distal ulnar growth plate (retained cartilage core)

seen in the larger breeds of dog results in bowing of the radius, deviation of the carpus (carpal valgus) and subluxation of the elbow joint.

Aetiology

Osteochondrosis appears to be more common in rapidly growing puppies. A genetic predisposition to rapid growth and being "pushed" nutritionally to achieve rapid weight gain are thought to be important factors.

The influence of diet has been the subject of many investigations. Great Dane pups fed on a high protein diet, compared to a control group fed a normal diet, showed no differences in the occurrence or severity of osteochondrosis. Another group of Great Dane pups fed on a low protein but high carbohydrate diet showed no differences in the occurrence or severity of skeletal abnormalities but the pups were not as heavy as the control group during the first 6 months of life, nor as heavy as the previous group of pups fed on a high protein diet. In general, protein increases palatability, increases body weight but doesn't cause growth disturbances. However, Hazewinkel fed 17 Great Danes a high calcium intake and showed an increased incidence of shoulder osteochondrosis and increased growth plate problems.

He concluded a chronic intake of food rich or enriched with calcium, with or without high phosphorus, protein or energy, plays a significant role in the development and manifestation of osteochondrosis in dogs of large breeds.

This very interesting lecture was given by Mr John Houlton at the Breeders Symposium organised by the Kennel Club and the Pet Food Manufacturers' Association on Sunday 8th February 2004 at the University of Hertfordshire, Hatfield.

I am very grateful to Mr. Houlton for his permission to reproduce his notes.

Eileen Winser

I have recently received two information booklets from Interpet Publishing who are printing a series of articles on various matters relating to canine health. These are available from Eileen Winser and cost £4 each plus postage.

The first one is entitled Veterinary Advice on Hip Dysplasia in dogs by Gary Clayton Jones BvetMed, DVR, DSAO, MRCVS. A quote taken from the fly page explains the content.

'Hip Dysplasia is the scourge of many breeds and can affect a dog's mobility and quality of life. Written by an orthopaedic specialist, Veterinary Advice on Hip Dysplasia tells you everything you need to know about the condition – its causes, symptoms, and most importantly, treatments. This informative, accessible guide tells you about:

- The anatomy of the hip joint
- How the disease affects the hip
- Clinical signs of the condition
- Non-surgical treatments, such as medication
- Surgical options
- Controlling the disease, and screening schemes'

The second booklet is entitled Veterinary Advice on Skin Disorders in Dogs by Tim Nuttall BSc, BVSc, PhD, Cert VD, Cbiol, MIBiol, MRCVS. A quote taken from the back page explains the content of this publication.

'Skin disorders are among the most common group of conditions to affect dogs, and can range from mild irritation to severe discomfort. Written by a specialist veterinary dermatologist, Veterinary Advice on Skin Disorders in Dogs tells you everything you need to know about the conditions that could affect your dog – the causes, symptoms, and most importantly, treatments. This informative, accessible guide tells you about:

- Preventative, routine skin care.
- How skin problems are diagnosed
- Common skin problems and their treatments
- Allergies
- Diseases of the ears, nails and anal sacs

Whether you are interested in preventative care, or whether you have a dog that already has a skin complaint, this indispensable guide is essential reading.'

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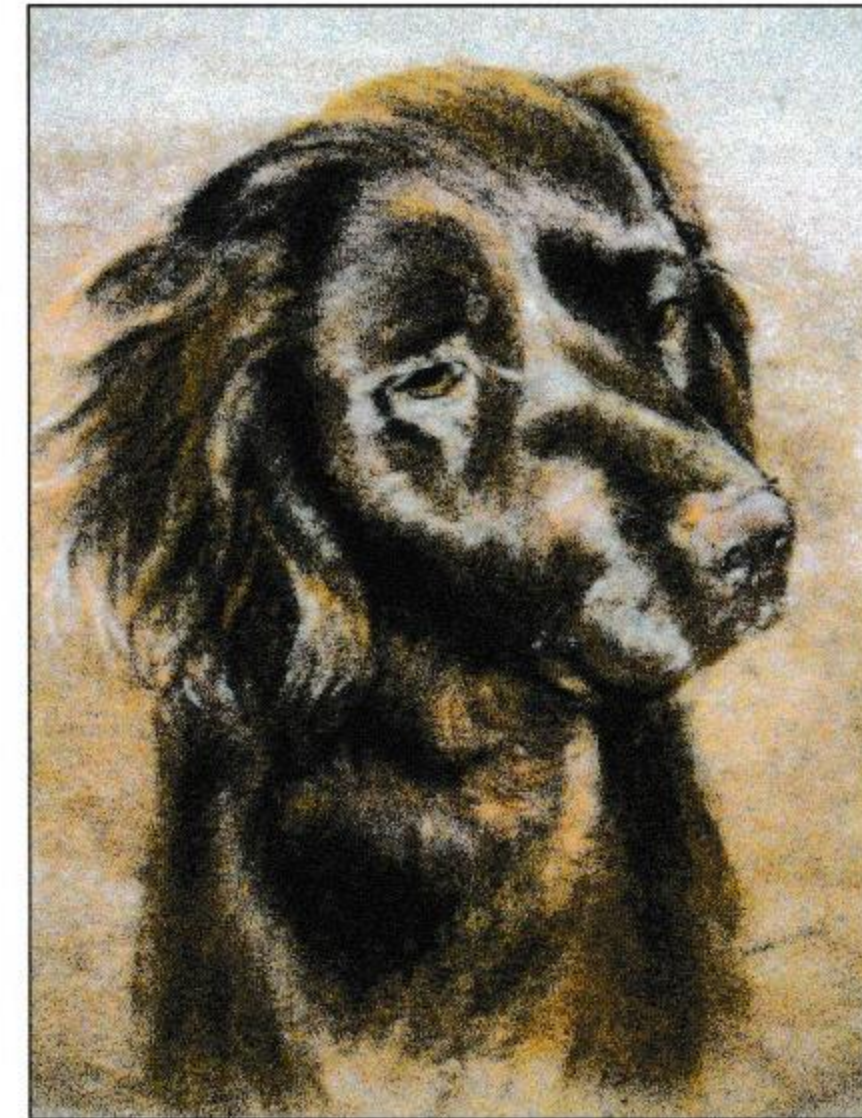
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German Longhaired Pointer Club Accounts at 1st October 2004

Income		Expenditure	
Membership Fees	710.00	Maintenance of Title	45.00
AGM	118.00	Postage	79.03
Club Shop	58.25	Newsletter	112.54
Training Day	160.00	AGM	80.00
Working Test	468.00	Training Day (birds)	160.00
Raffle	94.00	Working Test	287.83
Scurry	33.00	Shop	352.97
Advert	25.00	HPRFTA	10.00
	1,666.25	Insurance	157.50
Opening Balance	1,501.57	Seminar/Software	75.00
	3,167.82		1,359.87
		Closing Balance	1,807.95
			3,167.82

I have checked the German Longhaired Pointer Club's records and confirm that the above receipts and expenditure account accurately reflects the transactions that have been made during the year ending 30th September 2004 and the Club's financial position as at that date.

Sheila Kuban

24th February 2005

Club Items

Car Stickers	£1.50
Grooming Video	£10.00
Club Lapel Badge	£3.50
Notelet Cards	£1.50
Embroidered Blazer Badges	£6.50
Greetings Cards	£0.95

Available from the Dutch Club (on request)

Dummy Bags with G.L.P. motif	Euro 12.50
Umbrella with G.L.P. motif	Euro 12.00
Pewter GLP Brooch	Euro 4.00
Pewter GLP Key Ring	Euro 5.75

**Your next Newsletter will be due
in August 2005**

To ensure you receive your Newsletter on time
please send all material to be included to:
Sarah Bond, The Willows, Mill Road, Buxhall,
Stowmarket, Suffolk. IP14 3DW

Before Monday 4th July 2005

Any articles or letters received after this date
will be included in the Spring 2006 issue

The editor reserves the right not to publish any articles or letters submitted