

SCRAPS

September 2011

Official Newsletter of the Western Province Boxer Club



WHO'S WHO

2011

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Spring is here!!



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From the Editor

Hello Everyone,

Spring is here and championship show-time in the Cape is waiting just around the corner!

Please refer to the events calendar on page 4 for details of all the Cape shows lined up for the busy weeks ahead.

Our members' Boxers did very well indeed at the cluster of Bloemfontein shows held in August. (Read about it elsewhere in this issue). I know the Boxer exhibitors who travelled from the Cape to attend these shows hugely enjoyed meeting up with Boxer and other doggy friends who had undertaken the journey from Gauteng and there was much chuckling and chatting going on at ringside. The Boxers who were lucky enough to be taken along of course also loved having some "ME-TIME" away from the rest of the pack with Mom and/or Dad!

Here in the Cape our Boxers also made their presence felt at the various Open shows, regularly being placed in the Group and BIS rings. Open shows are great fun—very relaxed and a wonderful opportunity for new exhibitors to get into the swing of things, and for more seasoned competitors to get their young 'uns to understand that showrings are not actually the place in which to turn cart wheels...

WPBC is an active and friendly club and we are always very happy to welcome new members and their Boxers at our club get-togethers and other activities. Please come along and join in!

Take care
Marlien Heystek
Editor





WHAT'S ON?

calendar of events

	CLUB	TYPE	EVENTS	CONTACT
SEPTEMBER				
11 th	Breede Rivier KC	Open	BR, DJ, AG, FLY	083 374 8422
10/11 th	Cape Handlers	CH	IPO, ITT	083 699 1415
17 th	Cape Handlers	CH	WT	083 699 1415
18/19 th	WP Boxer Club	Apt	APTITUDE, DMA	082 468 3961
24 th	Cape Handlers	CH	OB, DJ, AG, FLY	083 699 1415
OCTOBER				
8 th	WP Boxer Club	Open	OB, DJ, AG, FLY	082 468 3961
15 th	Breede Rivier KC	CH	BR, HCL	083 374 8422
15 th	WP Boxer Club	CH	BR	082 468 3961
16 th	Cape Town KC	CH	BR, HCL	021 447 7654
21 st	Working & Herding Cape	CH	BR, OB, DJ, AG,	082 824 1422
22 nd	Hottentots Holland KC	CH	BR, AG, FLY, HCL	021 852 3009
23 rd	Western Province KC	CH	BR, HCL	083 253 0266
29 th	Cape Town KC	CH	OB, DJ, CA, AG, FLY	021 447 7654
NOVEMBER				
20 th	Swartland Kennel Club	Open	BR	083 457 2659
DECEMBER				
11 th	WP Boxer Club	Club	Xmas Braai & Annual Awards	082 468 3961

Please join us at Canon Creek Independent School, cnr Nursery Way & Princess Path,
Pinelands on Sundays:

Weekly obedience training classes from 08:30.

Contact Rex Koning at 082 535 1135

Puppy Socialization and Ringcraft Get Togethers - normally first Sunday every month,
but please contact Fay Roberts at 082 783 1590 for dates and times

CONSULT OUR WEBSITE <http://www.wpbcc.co.za> or
<http://www.showdogs.co.za> for schedules of events

CHRISTMAS BRAAI AND ANNUAL AWARDS

**This will also be held at Canon Creek School in Pinelands
on 11th DECEMBER 2011**

**More details will be sent to members closer to the time, but
please put the date in your diary now!**





Eukanuba 
Make a Good Dog Great

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SCAM - BEWARE!!!

Greta Wilson, a Western Province Boxer Club member, recently stumbled upon a woman advertising on Gumtree that she was looking for a Boxer puppy. When she got in touch with her she was told that Chareen had found a pup named "Fina" which was in the Cameroon with the owner, Tania van Wyk, who had moved there from South Africa. She was so excited at the prospect of getting a pup, got all she needed ready for the pup at home, only to be told that the pup was stranded at the airport in Lusaka as the insurance had not been paid for. Chareen was asked to pay R2500 in order for the insurance certificate to be arranged. Chareen then asked if Boxer Rescue could assist by paying R1000 until she could pay it back. I immediately e-mailed the committee and after many e-mails back and forth we were not happy with the story and suggested that it was possibly a scam. I was sent e-mails forwarded from the airport itself, stating that the puppy was being held over, etc etc.

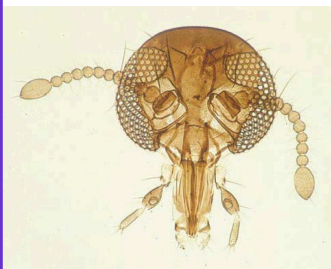
Greta then Googled for scams from Cameroon and came upon exactly the same type of scam, this time involving a Boston Terrier pup, named.... "Fina".

Luckily this story has a good ending in that Chareen has shown interest in the two 2-year old females, Abby and Lexi, that Boxer Rescue was trying to home and they will soon be on their way to her in Potchefstroom, once the home checks and flights have been arranged.

Michelle Martin

Genus: LEPTOCONOPS (Day-biting midges)

FACT FILE: TINY CREATURES THAT MAKE LIFE MISERABLE FOR US AND OUR DOGS IN SPRING



Unlike *Culicoides*, these midges feed mainly during the daytime. They are particularly troublesome in spring and form swarms round one's head, getting in and biting wherever possible. The main species responsible is *Leptoconops kerteszi* which in the Western Cape is particularly troublesome on the West Coast.

Fertilised females, after their blood meal, lay their 60-70 eggs in moist, salty sand (500-600 ppm salt) bordering saline ponds, streams or along beaches.

Egg development period is 10-12 days.

Larvae feed on organic matter near the surface of the moist sand over a long period of 8-10 months.

They pupate near the soil surface.

Adults emerge from the pupae, mainly in spring, and mate.

Females disperse 1-2 km in search of a blood meal.

Controlling these midges is difficult. Nothing seems very effective in preventing them from biting you. Drainage of breeding areas or using chemical control methods in the breeding areas can be helpful, provided these are fairly localised, which is not normally the case.

PET—FRIENDLY ACCOMMODATION

VIOLA & OWL COTTAGES



Bloubergrant / Table View, Cape Town

Two tastefully furnished and equipped Pet Friendly Cottages, situated totally separate from each other in a quiet residential area just 5 minutes from the beach overlooking Table Mountain and Robben Island and close to local amenities.

Each Cottage has its own private and walled garden with braai, table, chairs and loungers – 100% secure for pets.

Gated access to Pool, for owners' peace of mind.

Secure off road parking area for cars and trailers.

Bedding and towels are provided and changed during stay.

There is a Veterinary Clinic at the bottom of the road.

PET POLICY:

All pets are welcome.

Pets may sleep inside – please bring your own beds and bowls.

Pets must be free of Ticks and Fleas and must be disease free – eg Kennel Cough. Pets stay FREE. No Doggie damage deposit required, but any damage incurred by pets will be charged.

Contact Helen by phone on 021 557 2899 or 082

698 1244 or via email :

helen@violacottage.co.za



Please visit our website:

www.violacottage.co.za

for further information and to view the photographs in our image gallery.



SHOW RESULTS - OPEN SHOWS



**DEXTER GOES BEST IN SHOW!
CAPE TOWN KC**

**BONNY IN ACTION
HOTTENTOTS HOLLAND KC**



**BEST PUPPY IN SHOW
MACDUFF
WORKING & HERDING**



**1ST PUPPY GROUP
JAMIE
LIESBEEK KC**



**BEST JUNIOR IN SHOW
DEXTER
BREEDE RIVIER KC**

KENNEL ASSOCIATION OPEN SHOW – 10 JULY 2011 – JUDGE: MARIA HENEKE

AWARD	BOXER	OWNER
BEST JUNIOR BEST OF BREED 2 nd JUNIOR GROUP 3 rd WORKING GROUP	Tortuga Jumpin Jack Flash of Stanwix (Dexter)	Jacqui Verrinder
RESERVE BEST OF BREED BEST PUPPY 2 ND PUPPY GROUP	Polgara Curtain Call for Jakkalsdans (Macduff)	Marlien Heystek

CAPE WORKING & HERDING OPEN SHOW – 24 JULY 2011 – JUDGE: EILEEN ASHTON

AWARD	BOXER	OWNER
BEST JUNIOR BEST OF BREED	Tortuga Jumpin Jack Flash of Stanwix (Dexter)	Jacqui Verrinder
RESERVE BEST OF BREED BEST PUPPY 1 ST PUPPY GROUP BEST PUPPY IN SHOW	Polgara Curtain Call for Jakkalsdans (Macduff)	Marlien Heystek

CAPE TOWN KC – 07 AUGUST 2011 – JUDGE: ALARD BOESSENKOOL

AWARD	BOXER	OWNER
BEST OF BREED 1 ST WORKING GROUP BEST IN SHOW	Tortuga Jumpin Jack Flash of Stanwix (Dexter)	Jacqui Verrinder
RESERVE BEST OF BREED	Wincasley Gosh I'm Posh of Hartwell (Bonny)	Ruth Truebody
BEST PUPPY 1 ST PUPPY GROUP	Tanyati Headline News (Jamie)	Monique Hodgkinson
BEST CHAMPION 1 ST CHAMPION GROUP BEST CHAMPION IN SHOW	Ch Tanyati Vaguely Familiar (Maya)	Monique Hodgkinson

HOTTENTOTS HOLLAND KC - 07 AUGUST 2011 – JUDGE: Mrs PIGDEN-COETZEE

AWARD	BOXER	OWNER
BEST JUNIOR BEST OF BREED 2 ND JUNIOR GROUP	Wincasley Gosh I'm Posh of Hartwell (Bonny)	Ruth Truebody
BEST PUPPY RESERVE BEST OF BREED 3 RD PUPPY GROUP	Tanyati Headline News (Jamie)	Monique Hodgkinson
BEST CHAMPION 2 ND CHAMPION GROUP	Ch Ancory Surfin USA (Tyson)	Tammy Gilmour

LIESBEEK KC – 15 AUGUST 2011 – JUDGE: RIEKIE GOUWS

AWARD	BOXER	OWNER
BEST OF BREED BEST JUNIOR 4 TH JUNIOR GROUP	Tortuga Jumpin Jack Flash of Stanwix (Dexter)	Jacqui Verrinder
BEST PUPPY RESERVE BEST OF BREED 1 ST PUPPY GROUP	Tanyati Headline News (Jamie)	Monique Hodgkinson

BREDE RIVIER KC – 11 SEPTEMBER 2011 - JUDGE: CARINE BUITENDACH

AWARD	BOXER	OWNER
BEST OF BREED 1 ST JUNIOR GROUP 1 ST WORKING GROUP BEST JUNIOR IN SHOW	Tortuga Jumpin Jack Flash of Stanwix (Dexter)	Jacqui Verrinder
RESERVE BEST OF BREED	Ch Tanyati Broadway Debut (Brandy)	Monique Hodgkinson
BEST PUPPY 4 TH PUPPY GROUP	Tanyati Headline News (Jamie)	Monique Hodgkinson



BLOEMFONTEIN KC
1st Puppy Group
Judge: Mr Max Winch
(Australia)

NORTHERN FREE STATE KC
1st Puppy Group
Judge: Mr Carlos Quinones
(Colombia)

KUSA CHAMPIONSHIP SHOW
Best Puppy in Show
Judge: Mrs Shirley Bloomfield
(South Africa)

Tommy Smith's
MONTALA'S RAY OF LIGHT

BLOEMFONTEIN KC
Reserve Best in Show
Judge: Mr Oleg Yanchev
(Russia)

KUSA CHAMPIONSHIP SHOW
Reserve Best in Show
Judge: Mr Max Winch
(Australia)

Wayne Streak's
TITANWOLVERINE
FIRE FIGHTER OF MONTALA



KUSA CLASSIC WEEKEND
Bloemfontein 25-29 August 2011



KUSA National Boxer 2011
 Runner Up KUSA National Working Dog 2011
 Judge: Mr Oleg Yanchev (Russia)
Ch CHISWICK FRENCH SPICE BA(Ex)
 Bred and owned by Sally Young and handled by Lucy Young

NORTHERN FREE STATE KC
 2nd Working Group
 Judge: Mr Carlos Quinones
 (Colombia)

Monique Hodgkinson's
Ch TANYATI BROADWAY DEBUT





JUDGING IN IRELAND

Marlien Heystek



In June 2011 Jenny Hubbard, Carol Larkin, Lois Wilson and I met up in Dublin, Ireland, as we had all been invited to judge at the Kilkenny & District Canine Club's All Breed Championship Show. Colleen Patience went along for the ride, since they all planned to go on afterwards to the Windsor Show in the UK and then the FCI World Show in Paris.

We were met in Dublin by two amazing, very energetic ladies – Noreen Clarke, secretary of Carlow Kennel Club, and Marie Bailey, breed judge and Dalmatian breeder. They immediately proceeded to do everything possible to ensure that our visit would be absolutely unforgettable. We spent the first night in Dublin, starting with a tour on an open double decker “Green Bus”, being introduced to

many of Dublin's sights by a very witty tour guide, and ending the day with a perhaps slightly raucous meal in a pub, situated rather fortunately just around the corner from our guest house.



***Lois, Jenny and Carol
en route to Kilkenny***



Noreen

Marie

The next day we wound our way to Kilkenny via the “scenic route”, with regular stops for sightseeing, shopping and refreshments. That evening we joined all the other judges in a hotel in Kilkenny. The next day, which was fortunately dry - if not sunny - it was showtime. The breeds I had been allocated were American Akita, Boxer, Bullmastiff, Dogue de Bordeaux, Leonberger, Mastiff, Neapolitan Mastiff and Pyrenean Mountain Dog. Numerically the strongest of these were Akitas with 27 entered and the Boxers with 52 entered. The Boxers in fact were the largest breed entry of the entire

show. On the whole the Boxers I was privileged to go over were very typey, with lovely heads, dark eyes, pleasing expressions and tight cat feet. Like everywhere in the world, bites were not all equally good and shoulders and movement sometimes not ideal.

In Ireland Challenge Certificates are called Green Stars and all dogs are graded by the judge. In Boxers my Green Star Dog and Best of Breed winner was Groves & Hare's



Chelholme Bugalug of Jimbren, a deer red, very masculine yet elegant male. A good mover with a beautifully proportioned, typey head, wide straight bite, lovely arched neck and excellent, correctly balanced angulation. Green Star Bitch and Reserve Best of Breed was Mr & Mrs John Kehoe's young **Keopas Flashdance**. Just over 1½ years old, very elegant, with a lovely square outline, beautiful headpiece and melt-



Keopas Flashdance

Chelholme Bugalug of Jimbren

ing expression, she moved superbly and this was one I would definitely have liked to take home.

Next day we all attended another All Breed championship show in Deise (pronounced "Deesha") where Noreen was judging. I was happy when my Green Star boy again got the ticket and BOB under Boxer specialist Marie Kavanagh, thereby becoming an Irish Champion.

I then spent a few more fun-filled days with Noreen, her family and their pack of mischievous Samoyed. She happily carted me around to places I thoroughly enjoyed visiting, such as the Irish National (Racehorse) Stud, the beautifully restored Duiske Abbey in Graignamanagh ("village of the monks"), Kilkenny Castle and the historical Kettler's Inn in Kilkenny, to name just a few.

I was a bit downhearted when Noreen didn't seem to be unduly impressed with the large bottle of Amarula I took along as a thank-you gift, but felt much better when she was very pleased indeed with a stunning, fragrant rose I bought later for her beautiful garden!

FEEDING YOUR BOXER

Marlien Heystek

There are various schools of thought on the best way to feed dogs. Some people prefer feeding home-cooked food, many (probably because it is the most convenient) feed commercially prepared food and a growing number of dog owners now try and provide their dogs with a diet as close as possible to what they would be eating in the wild. Regardless of what you feed, however, there are certain guidelines that must be followed when feeding pregnant and lactating bitches, puppies, adults and geriatric dogs.

GUIDELINES FOR FEEDING PUPPIES:



Healthy newborn puppies are quiet, sleep in a huddle or against the dam when not nursing and gain weight steadily. Something is amiss with puppies that fail to nurse, cry incessantly, squirm a lot, have diarrhoea or look thin. Check for dehydration by pinching a fold of skin on the neck or back. The skin should bounce back immediately. Depending on the milk production of the bitch, it may be necessary to give her pups supplementary feeding, particularly when the litter is large (more than six pups) or when some pups are much smaller than their litter mates. Excellent milk substitutes for puppies are available from most vets –

this can also be used to feed orphan puppies. Cow's milk should never be used to feed puppies, as the composition is very different to bitch's milk and will result in serious diarrhoea. An ordinary baby bottle and teat can be used for feeding Boxer puppies. If the bitch has sufficient milk, pups can be introduced to solid food at about three weeks of age, a few days earlier if the milk supply is inadequate, a few days later if the pups are still getting plenty of milk from the dam.

After weaning pups should be fed at least three to four meals per day until six months old, thereafter twice a day.

All puppies grow and develop very fast during the first year and particularly the first 6 months of their lives. During this time they have higher requirements for essential nutrients and energy than later in life. The nutritional needs of small and medium breed puppies are however different to those of large and giant breed pups. Smaller breeds have higher energy needs per unit of body weight than large breeds. In large and giant breed puppies the growth rate should be slowed down to help prevent certain skeletal and developmental diseases such as hip dysplasia. This is achieved by restricting the calcium content and energy density of their diet. To ensure correct muscular and skeletal development, Boxer puppies should therefore be fed a balanced, highly digestible diet with optimum (not excessive) levels of protein and minerals formulated specifically for dogs of their expected mature size and weight.

Currently the feeding recommendations for fast growing large breed pups are based on independent university studies. Feeding controlled amounts of a diet that is specially formulated for large breeds, with carefully restricted levels of calcium and energy, will allow for optimal growth and development. The correct final body size will be attained

by this feeding strategy. In university studies (carried out in Utrecht, in the Netherlands), growing large breed dogs were raised on diets that had 50% more protein (per energy unit) than normally present in dog food. The dogs did not show any difference in skeletal development (bones and joints) when compared to dogs raised on normal protein levels. The high protein group did not grow faster, had the same height and had the same body weight curve as the normal protein group. The conclusions of these studies were clear: protein levels do not affect the frequency and the severity of skeletal conditions such as HD (hip dysplasia) and or ED (elbow dysplasia), osteochondrosis dissecans (OCD) and similar problems.

Recommended reading:

"Keep your puppies warm, clean and fed"

http://www.akc.org/breeders/resp_breeding/steps_16.cfm

"Care for orphaned puppies"

http://www.akc.org/breeders/resp_breeding/steps_17.cfm

"Nutrition for the Growing Puppy" Virginia-Maryland Veterinary Teaching Hospital

www.vetmed.vt.edu/vth/sa/clin/cp_handouts/Nutrition_Growing_Puppy.pdf

"Large Breed Puppies: What is an Appropriate Diet?" by C Newman PHD DVM

www.newmanveterinary.com/large.html

FEEDING PREGNANT AND LACTATING BITCHES:



Avoiding malnourishment of a bitch from the pre-breeding phase to parturition is vital to the health of both the bitch and her pups. Proper care and feeding of a breeding bitch should begin long before she is actually bred and even before her oestrous cycle begins.

Basic dog food formulated for adult maintenance won't provide the extra nutrients your bitch requires, particularly if she has a large litter of puppies. The ideal solution is to feed her a high-quality diet formulated for puppies, from immediately before mating until some weeks after

birth, depending on body condition and any medical problems. Puppy diets should be richer in key nutrients, have a higher energy value and be more easily digestible and will support her through all stages of the breeding cycle.

The gestation period in dogs is approximately 9 weeks. Your vet can confirm pregnancy from 4 weeks after mating by physical examination and earlier by doing an ultrasound scan. During the first 5 weeks the gain in foetal size is less than 30% and the bitch will not need an increase in the amount fed before mating (depending on her body condition). Between weeks 3 and 4, some bitches may suffer symptoms similar to morning sickness (loss of appetite, perhaps some nausea). A pregnant bitch that suffers from diarrhoea, a marked loss of appetite, listlessness or any other signs of being unwell, must be checked out by your veterinarian. From week 5 onwards the food intake of a pregnant bitch must be increased gradually, depending on the size of her litter, until by week 9 she may be fed 15 - 25% more than her normal ration and her weight will increase due to the development of the placenta and puppies. She must however not be

allowed to gain unnecessary extra weight, as obesity may lead to complications during pregnancy and whelping. During the later stages of pregnancy she must be fed frequent small meals to ensure adequate intake, as she will not have room for large meals. If a high-quality commercial growth/lactation diet is fed supplements such as meat, milk, vitamins and minerals are generally not recommended. Excessive amounts of calcium or vitamin D can cause calcification of the soft tissues of the foetus, as well as other birth defects. Although lactation requires large amounts of calcium, supplementation during pregnancy does not prevent calcium depletion during lactation (eclampsia) and may actually compound the problem. Supplementation with meat products can affect the balance of the diet and could result in hypoglycaemia and stillbirths.

After whelping her pups, the nutritional demands of lactation on the bitch are heavy. It is essential to feed a high-quality growth-and-lactation ration that is very palatable and highly digestible, to encourage a lactating bitch to eat sufficient amounts to meet her nutritional needs. In the case of a large litter, she will need up to three times her maintenance requirements by the time of peak lactation (between 3 and 6 weeks after whelping). She may be fed either free choice or at least three times daily if meal-fed.

Recommended reading:

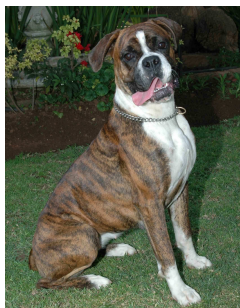
"The Care and Feeding of the Breeding Bitch – Parts One, Two and Three" by Dr Kathleen Hefner MS DVM

www.akc.org/breeders/resp_breeding/Articles/careandfeeding.cfm

www.akc.org/breeders/resp_breeding/Articles/careandfeeding2.cfm

www.akc.org/breeders/resp_breeding/Articles/careandfeeding3.cfm

FEEDING ADULT BOXERS:



To maintain optimal body condition, your adult Boxer's diet must include the correct balance of the five major nutrient groups: proteins, fats & oils, minerals, vitamins and carbohydrates. The most convenient way (but not necessarily the only way) of providing your dog with a nutritionally balanced diet is to feed a premium quality, commercially manufactured complete dog food. A wide range of commercially produced dog foods designed to cater for your dog's specific needs is available. Breed and size can make a significant difference to requirements. Smaller breeds have a faster metabolism, needing more calories per day, depending on their body condition and activity level. Larger breeds may have slower metabolisms, but larger appetites, and may require a diet designed specifically for their breed and size with a different mix of minerals and vitamins to support their joints.

Very active or working dogs may require a specially formulated 'active' or 'performance' diet, providing higher levels of fat, protein and vitamins such as B12 to help release the energy from food. Less active dogs require less fat, so feeding a 'light' formula may help to avoid weight gain. If you are not sure what diet is suitable for your dog, discuss this with your vet. Always provide a bowl of fresh drinking water.

Dogs with food allergies or intolerances or medical problems could require a special

“prescription” diet. Your vet will recommend a suitable diet for your dog’s needs. If your dog maintains the correct lean body condition, the same diet can be fed from early adulthood until about the end of the sixth year or even longer. Weight loss or gain may however indicate the need to reassess his/her diet.

Boxers should be fed twice a day rather than having one large meal a day, in order to minimise the risk of bloat (gastric dilatation/volvulus) a life threatening condition caused by an abnormal accumulation of air, fluid, and/or foam in the stomach. As the stomach swells, it may rotate 90° to 360°, twisting between its fixed attachments at the oesophagus and at the duodenum (the upper intestine). The twisted stomach traps air, food, and water in the stomach. The bloated stomach obstructs veins in the abdomen, leading to low blood pressure, shock, damage to internal organs and interference with blood circulation results in necrosis of the wall of the stomach. The combined effect can kill a dog in less than an hour. It's not advisable to exercise your dog an hour before or after feeding. Large and giant breed dogs are particularly susceptible to bloating of the stomach and twisting of the gut.

Finally, never feed your dog human chocolate, onions or grapes/raisins as these can be highly toxic to dogs.

Recommended reading:

www.vetmed.vt.edu/vth/sa/clin/cp_handouts/Nutrition Adult Dog.pdf

FEEDING GERIATRIC BOXERS:



Dogs, like people, tend to slow down when they get older. The metabolic rate of geriatric dogs (older than about seven or eight years) decreases. Care should therefore be taken not to let an old dog become obese, particularly if it suffers from degenerative joint changes and arthritis. An increase in body weight is often associated with the onset of locomotory lethargy, which may start a vicious circle. Many old dogs develop teeth and gum problems, which may affect their ability to chew properly. The balance of the

organs and systems becomes more precarious. Elderly dogs tend to lose skeletal and muscle mass and also may not absorb nutrients as efficiently as younger dogs do. Their diet must therefore supply all the key nutrients, minerals and vitamins in an easily digestible form that will not overtax a digestive system or kidneys which no longer function optimally. Aging dogs need fewer calories from fat, but need high quality protein to maintain muscle and skeletal mass and should have regular but gentle, controlled, low impact exercise such as leash walking or swimming. It should however be remembered that aging dogs need to rest and sleep more and they should not be forced to perform feats they are no longer capable of.

A veterinarian should do a geriatric profile for elderly dogs every six months – this will show up any problems such as a heart or kidneys which no longer function properly. In addition to medication, this may require a change to a specialised "prescription" diet.

Recommended reading:

“Nutritional Needs of Senior Dogs” by Dr Race Foster DVM and Dr Marty Smith DVM

<http://www.peteducation.com/article.cfm?c=2+1659&aid=698>

FEEDING RAW FOOD

Monique Hodgkinson

Species Appropriate Food, Raw Feeding, Bones And Raw Food, Biologically Appropriate Raw Food, BARF... these are all terms you will come across to describe the method of feeding your dog (or cat) the way its digestive system has been designed to be fed. Not with commercial food, made up of totally inappropriate ingredients like maize, corn and so on, but with raw meaty bones, raw meat, vegetable matter and other NATURAL RAW ingredients.

The basic principal in feeding dogs raw food lies in the concept that dogs are descended from the grey wolf. A chapter in the publication *The Genetics of the Dog* (ed A Ruvinsky & J Samson, Robert Wayne at UCLA and Carles Vilá at the University of Uppsala, Sweden), confirms the wolf origin of the dog and that the difference between the DNA of dogs and wolves is only 2%, and with the Coyote, their nearest relative 7½ %. If we accept the 'wolf-dog' idea, the wolf's feeding habits offer us clues as to what 'Species Appropriate' food we can feed our dogs.

The diet is therefore based on the fact that the dog comes from the wolf, which is a wild carnivore. As such, they eat the animals that they kill. This means that everything a wolf eats is raw, and bones form a very important part of their diet. Their gut and intestines are designed to cope with raw bones, bacteria and other such things that we would turn our noses up at. Since the closer association between man and dog dates back only some 12 000 years, on an evolutionary scale not enough time has lapsed for dogs' nutritional requirements, or for his gut chemistry, to have changed.

Commercial food became BIG business a few years ago and a large amount of money has been spent by these multi-million dollar companies on 'educating' the dog-owning public about the necessity of feeding a commercial food. What does not make sense is that the basis of most of the commercial foods today is grain, rice or corn. These grains are ALIEN products that a wild carnivore would never eat. Not only that, but the commercial dog food is COOKED. We've already established that the dog has descended from the wolf and have you ever seen a wolf with a stove! The very high temperatures involved in producing dog pellets destroy vitamins such as E and C.

One of the beauties about feeding a raw food diet is that there is no need to have a different formulation for each age stage of a dog's life. As with the wolves in the wild, puppies, juveniles, adults and senior dogs all eat the same food and all get the right balance of nutrients. With the main component of a raw diet being raw meaty bones, the bulk of the dietary needs for a healthy dog are met. This includes its energy requirements, its protein requirements, its mineral requirements (and that includes the calcium it needs), and if the meat and bones are derived from chickens, most of its essential fatty acid requirements.

Eating a large raw meaty bone has several benefits for puppies, adults and senior dogs. Some dog owners are not keen to feed their dogs raw bones for a variety of reasons:

continued on p. 20 →

Raw Gold is now available in the Western Cape!



Dogs have been scientifically proven to come from wolves, who are predominantly carnivorous. As such, dogs should be fed as they have been designed - as wild carnivores.

Formulated to be as close as possible to the diet of a wild carnivore, Raw Gold is made from the freshest ingredients which includes fresh chicken (meat & bone), fresh vegetables (as the source of carbohydrates) and our special formula of vitamins and minerals, developed by an animal nutritionist to take care of potential nutrient deficiencies.

Raw Gold is available in 1kg frozen blocks, which makes feeding your dog easy and convenient.

Protein: 42%

Fat: 25.9%

Energy: 24.52MJ/kg

Calcium:Phosphorus: 2.2:1.4

Carbohydrates (from vegetables, not grain): 20.2%
(Analysis by Agricultural Research Council, Jan 2011)

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The best you can do for your wolf in dog's clothing!

the risk of dog fights, the risk of the lawn or garden suffering from the digging and burying efforts of the dog, the belief that eating bones is dangerous etc. However, this reluctance to allow their dogs to eat raw bones actually contributes to a number of health problems seen in dogs today. Bones are not dangerous for dogs as long as they are raw and of an appropriate size for the dog – the larger the better. Dogs are not designed to cope with cooked bones and so these must never be fed.

Why are bones so important? They contain minerals which are embedded in protein, and they contain fat, which in turn contains fat soluble vitamins. The marrow of the bone is a highly nutritious mix of blood forming elements, including iron, and raw bones also provide natural anti-oxidant/anti-ageing factors.

Bones contain correctly balanced calcium and phosphorus, together with all other minerals essential for your dog's normal functioning. Apart from the dietary benefits of raw meaty bones, there are psychological, dental and physical benefits as well. Dogs derive great pleasure from eating bones, the bones clean their teeth and prevent plaque and other gum diseases and almost all muscle groups are exercised when a dog gets down to the serious business of chewing on a large raw meaty bone.

Raw Feeding has a huge following around the world, with its supporters reporting phenomenal health benefits, from the disappearance of skin allergies and skin problems, disappearance of gum disease, increased health and vitality, increased fertility, maintenance of appropriate weight, reduction in joint disease and so on. The list is almost endless. Vets' visits are reduced to the necessary annual visits for Rabies jabs and the like, and vet bills for all sorts of ailments are a thing of the past.



REFERENCES

www.rawgold.co.za

Give Your Dog a Bone by Dr Ian Billingham, BVSc (Hons), BSc Agr, Dip Ed

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I HATE HEALTH TESTING!

Guest column by Beth Pariseau

Bix-L Boxers

I HATE HEALTH TESTING! There! I said it! Yes, health testing is the right thing to do. No, it isn't OK to choose not to know. Yes, we must do it. But I didn't become a Boxer breeder because I relished the anxiety of waiting for the results of a myriad of tests on my newest champion. I didn't become a Boxer breeder because I look forward to spending hundreds of hours combing the Internet for a stud dog whose health testing would complement that of my bitch without forcing me to give up on my vision of the ideal Boxer. I became a Boxer breeder because that clean, square outline combined with a mood-mirroring expression and a loving, exuberant personality captured my imagination and stole my heart.

The Internet has made possible unprecedented learning and sharing of information. That's a good thing. Worldwide email lists let us see same day show results from many countries. Fun! The not-so-fun topic of health testing, however, tends to dominate list conversations. In an effort to get back to the reason we love the Boxer breed (while still doing the right thing for health), consider the following:

- ◆ Just as there are no fault free dogs in conformation terms, there are no perfect dogs in health terms. If you require perfection, dog breeding isn't for you.
- ◆ You should do all of the recommended testing (even for the ARVC-1 mutation), but you shouldn't expect perfection. If you are waiting for perfection, you won't breed at all. Is the breed well served if you quit because you couldn't obtain perfection?
- ◆ No one gives us absolute mandates for what we can and can't breed health wise. Guidelines? Yes. Mandates? No. We shouldn't want mandates! Get some backbone and make your own decisions based on the tools we have.
- ◆ More on the "get a spine" theme: No matter what you do, some people will disagree with you. So what! You aren't required to get their permission before doing a breeding and they aren't required to approve of your choices.

- ◆ Will we usher in a day when 90% of Boxers live to be 15? Probably not. Frankly I don't think that was ever the case in the breed as a whole—even if anecdotal accounts of individual dogs or families of dogs living that long are retold frequently .

I believe in what I call “informed consent”. You do the recommended testing on your Boxer. You ask that studs you breed your bitch to and bitches you breed your stud to do the same. NOT KNOWING ISN'T OK. Don't overemphasize any one test result, but see each test result as one factor in a balanced breeding program.

As we (correctly) try to improve our breed's health, we need to resist the tendency to focus so much on test results that we lose sight of the qualities that attracted us to the Boxer breed in the first place. Long live the ultimate canine athlete whose infectious enthusiasm and melting expression make the Boxer breed so many of us never want to live without!



No, it isn't OK to choose not to know....

A photograph of a dog, possibly a Boxer, looking upwards. A vibrant rainbow is visible in the sky, framed by the dark silhouettes of tree branches at the top and right. The dog is wearing a purple collar.

RAINBOW BRIDGE

By the edge of a woods, at the foot of a hill,
Is a lush, green meadow where time stands still.
Where the friends of man and woman do run,
When their time on earth is over and done.

For here, between this world and the next,
Is a place where each beloved creature finds rest.
On this golden land, they wait and they play,
Till the Rainbow Bridge they cross over one day.

No more do they suffer, in pain or in sadness,
For here they are whole, their lives filled with gladness.
Their limbs are restored, their health renewed,
Their bodies have healed, with strength imbued.

They romp through the grass, without even a care,
Until one day they start and sniff at the air.
All ears are pricked forward, eyes dart front and back,
Then all of a sudden, one breaks from the pack.

For just at that instant, their eyes have met;
Together again, both person and pet.
So they run to each other, these friends from long past,
The time of their parting is over at last.

The sadness they felt while they were apart,
Has turned into joy once more in each heart.
They embrace with a love that will last forever,
And then, side-by-side, they cross over.... together

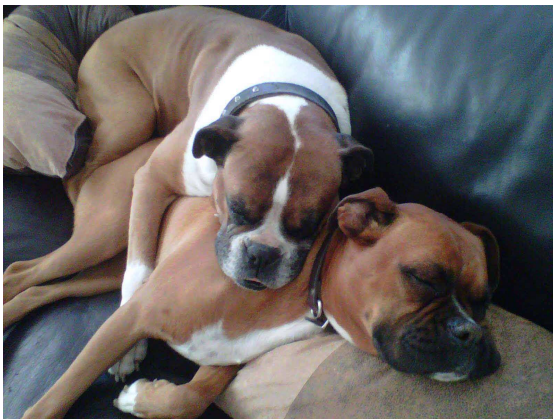
Submitted by Jacqui Verrinder

BOXER RESCUE

Over the last few weeks Rescue has been involved in looking for homes for 10 Boxers. It has been a very busy time and I'm happy to say that currently there are just 2 urgently looking for homes, Jock and Abby. Their owner was hoping to be able to keep them, but unfortunately has now been given two weeks notice to rehome them.

We recently found a home for the two white 9-month old pups, Holly and Bieber, who are hopefully flying to their new home on a 16 hectare game lodge in the Tsitsikama at the end of September.

Luke the 2-year old white male who has been on our website for a number of months has also found a home with a lady in Gauteng. She is in the process of organising a flight for him, he might be in his new home by the time you read this.



A rather desperate plea was sent out for Jake, the emaciated Boxer that was rescued by Animal Rescue Organisation. It is horrific what people can do animals. Riddled with worms, covered in sores and ticks, but this boy was one of the lucky ones to be rescued, and through our amazing networking via email and website, Jake found a home the very next day. We will report on his progress once we receive updated photos.

BOXER RESCUE
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