



# Sheltie Showdown



A publication of the Central Indiana Shetland Sheepdog Club

July 2015

## Club Meetings

Our membership meetings are held at 7:30 p.m. at Bark Tudor, 2122 Broad Ripple Avenue, Indianapolis, IN 46220. Bark Tudor is located in a strip mall just west of the intersection of Keystone Avenue and Broad Ripple Avenue (62<sup>nd</sup> Street). **Next Membership Meeting: September 12<sup>th</sup> - PICNIC & FUN MATCH at Pawsitive Partners Obedience Training Center.**



### 2015 Officers

President: Liz Carroll  
Vice President: vacant  
Treasurer: Doug McKee  
Recording Secretary: Cheryl Sharp  
Corresponding Secretary: Kathy McKee

### Board of Directors

Elizabeth "Babs" Beck  
Becky Hamm  
Linda Lee  
Kathy Underwood

### Standing Committees

Agility Trial: Babs Beck  
Education: Liz Carroll  
Equipment: Doug McKee  
Judges Selection: Carole Creech  
Legislative: Carole Creech  
Librarian: Karen Burton  
Membership: Kathy McKee  
Obedience Trial: Kathy Underwood  
Policies & Constitution: Cheryl Sharp  
Sheltie Info Line: Becky Hamm  
Showdown: Carole Creech  
Specialty Show: Cheryl Sharp  
Website: Carole Creech  
Website URL: <http://www.cissc.net>

## 2015 CISSC Upcoming Events

### Agility Seminar

July 11-12  
Pawsitive Partners Dog Training Center  
Beech Grove, IN

### Summer Obedience/Rally Trial

July 17  
Obedience Rent A Ring  
July 18-19  
Judges: Ronnie Bizer &  
Jeffrey Showman  
Pawsitive Partners Obedience  
Training Center  
Beech Grove, IN

### Summer Agility Trial

August 1-2  
Judge: David Hirsch  
Pawsitive Partners Dog Training Center  
Beech Grove, IN

### Meet the Breeds

August 8  
Delaware County Fairgrounds, Muncie, IN



# President's Page

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## Happy Summer Everyone!

Hope you are having a healthy and happy summer with family and friends, both the two-legged and four-legged variety. Many of you have been competing with your furry family members, congratulations on those successes! And remember, you get to define success. Since my definition of success is getting the entry in on time, I've had a reasonably successful summer.

Kudos to the folks who put our specialty show together, we run more smoothly each time we use the venue, and we got to see some beautiful representatives of the breed. At the Specialty show, I was asked to remind everyone of the importance of breed rescue and fostering dogs. Foster families are always needed. Having fostered, I know it is incredibly rewarding and is actually possible to let the dog go to its wonderful new forever home.

We missed a newsletter edition, our apologies, sometimes other commitments get in the way of volunteer activities. Because of the number of activities, we decided not to have a membership meeting at Bark Tudor in September. Instead, we'll have a membership picnic/meeting/fun match/CGC/STAR testing day at Pawsitive Partners on September 12.

Our thanks to Sheree Farber who has agreed to judge the fun match and Jennifer McNutt who will do the CGC and STAR puppy testing. Mark this date on the calendar! Last year we had two litters of sheltie puppies attend the picnic and "pass that adorable puppy" was very popular. This year, we'll get to see some of those puppies all grown up, with manners and everything.

(Other people's puppies, my puppy is still adorable, but not too mannerly).

We could use more help with the Meet the Breeds event so please let me know if you'd like to attend. You can bring your sheltie and talk to people about shelties--kind of what we all do anyway. We are also looking for representative photos of shelties to use at the event so if you have a photo, please send it to Becky Hamm.

Beginning in June, all Brags that were posted in the Showdown will now be on the CISSC Website. Send your Brags anytime to the Newsletter Editor, Carole Creech, at [sassyroo1@yahoo.com](mailto:sassyroo1@yahoo.com).

Our calendar of events for the rest of the summer is as follows:

July 11 and 12 - Agility Seminar

July 17 - Obedience Rent a Ring (late afternoon/evening)

July 18-19 - Obedience and Rally trial

August 1-2 -Agility trial

August 8- Meet the Breeds in Muncie

Thanks to everyone who commits to making activities a success and I'm sure I'll get a chance to see everyone at one or more events this summer!

Sincerely, Liz Carroll



## 2015 Dog Flu Virus Q and A: Canine Influenza Still On the Rise

ThoughtsFurPaws.com

Flu season may be winding down for humans, but there have been over 1,000 reported cases of canine influenza in Chicago, causing some local vets to call the situation an "epidemic." The outbreak also spread to dogs across the Midwest, and infected many pooches right here in Cleveland. To help dog owners better understand the virus, here are some key facts from the American Veterinary Medical Association:

### What is canine influenza

Canine influenza (CI), or dog flu, is a highly contagious infection caused by an influenza A subtype H3N8 virus first discovered in 2004.

### What are common symptoms of the infection in dogs?

In the mild form, the most common sign is a cough that persists for 2-3 weeks. However, some dogs can develop signs of severe pneumonia, such as a high-grade fever (104.0 F to 106.0 F) and faster breathing. Other signs in infected dogs include nasal and/or ocular discharge, sneezing, fatigue and refusing food.

### Is every dog at risk of infection?

All dogs, regardless of breed or age, are susceptible to infection.

### How does it spread?

Canine influenza is spread from dog to dog through the air, contaminated objects (kennel surfaces, food and water bowls, collars and leashes) and people interacting with infected and uninfected dogs. On surfaces, the virus is alive and can infect dogs for up to 48 hours, on clothing for 24 hours and on hands for 12 hours.

### Can veterinarians test for canine influenza?

The most reliable and sensitive method for confirmation is serologic testing. Antibodies to canine influenza virus can appear in blood as early as seven (7) days after symptoms begin, and the virus may be identified in nasal or pharyngeal swabs during the first four (4) days of illness.

### Any treatment options?

In May 2009, the USDA approved the first influenza vaccine for dogs. Trials have shown that it can significantly reduce the duration of illness, including the incidence and severity of damage to the lungs. Dog owners should consult with their vet to determine whether the vaccine is appropriate for their dog.

### Can canine influenza infect people?

There is no evidence that the virus can be transmitted from dogs to humans. I want to note here also that both Bordetella and the influenza virus have symptoms that mimic one another. In about 20 percent of cases, more severe symptoms occur including high fever and pneumonia. A small number of dogs with the virus have died from complications of the disease.

For more information about canine influenza virus, visit the American Veterinary Medicine Association or the Center for Disease Control.



## Gardening Poses Serious Risks to Your Pet

Tracie Hotchner

This is a fabulous time of the year to be outside with your pets while you do a clean-up of your flower beds and shrubbery and put in new plantings. However, managing your garden can also present dangers to your pets which you probably don't even realize.

### Plants to Avoid at All Costs

There are a number of common garden shrubs and flowers which have no business being on a property where pets reside. Many people do not realize that amaryllis, rhododendron, chrysanthemum, dieffenbachia and lilies are all highly toxic to dogs and cats. Not only should you avoid adding them to your landscaping, you should seriously consider removing them if you already have them in the ground. Otherwise, consider fully fencing them off from pets. For more about plants toxic to dogs and cats, visit the Cornell University website.

## Embrace your Weeds and Dandelions!

In the all-American quest for a lawn that is a smooth carpet of green, you may very well be creating a chemically infused landscape. The most dangerous thing many gardeners touch is probably the "fertilizer" they spread all over the lawn, not realizing that most of the commercial products use chemicals to help grow a luscious green lawn and are also laden with poisons to kill weeds. Those toxic ingredients pose a terrible danger to pets (and small children, too) who are all over the grass, nibbling on it, getting it on their paws and then licking it off later. Dogs and cats are grazers, frequently nibbling on grass, which is unfortunately now drenched in herbicides and pesticides. Don't be afraid of weeds! Once you cut them when you mow, they don't look all that different than grass. There are many good organic fertilizers for the lawn and garden and companies that have "Safe Paws" education about natural gardening solutions for organic weed and insect control.

### A few tips everyone should keep in mind are:

- Keep compost in an area or container pets cannot access—decomposing organic material can seriously sicken pets while it is breaking down.
- Never put bones or other waste human food materials in compost because it is too attractive to pets, who may go to great lengths to access it.
- Never use cocoa mulch which is really appealing to dogs and has been linked to fatalities.
- Be very careful about any mulch you use to top dress garden areas. It can smell or taste good to dogs and can contain mold or bacteria if it has been bagged or piled up for long periods.
- Grass clippings can be fatal to dogs if they become moldy, depending on the type of grass and grass seeds. Disperse grass after mowing, so not allow it to pile up anywhere.
- Mow grass frequently to make it less hospitable to insect and parasite populations.
- Do not allow even small amounts of water to form a pool in pots, bird baths or wheelbarrows since standing water becomes a breeding ground for bacteria, parasites and mosquitoes.
- When fertilizing the garden with organic preparations (like fish emulsion or chicken or cow manure) be aware that they are highly aromatic to dogs and cats, who will be drawn to eat that treated soil. Monitor your pet outdoors in the early gardening period when applying these products and

try to dissuade your pet from ingesting your gardening handiwork. One way to do this is to dramatically say "Oh no!" or "Uh oh!" to interrupt their interest in the area and then say "Good girl!" and send them away from the garden by tossing a high value treat at a distance, making a game of it.

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## Is Early Neutering Hurting Pets?

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By Alice Villalobos, DVM

Early neutering has become the norm in the U.S. Some states are asking voters to pass initiatives requiring citizens to sterilize their pets no later than puberty. Overpopulation is the driver.

But what if large-scale studies found that early neutering jeopardizes the health of our pets?

What if we found enough epidemiological evidence that early neutering of pet dogs may open them to orthopedic, behavioral, immunologic and oncologic issues?

A veterinarian who treats canine athletes has raised questions about early neutering. In an opinion article, Christine Zink, DVM, Ph.D., Dipl. ACVP, weighs the advantages and disadvantages of early versus late neutering when considering the performance and health of canine athletes.

The article, "Early Spay-Neuter Considerations for the Canine Athlete: One Veterinarian's Opinion," appears on Dr. Zink's website.

Zink assembled 18 references to support her article. Some show that dogs spayed or neutered early are taller than dogs spayed at an older age. Zink notes that sex hormones have a role in bone density. She concludes that the structural and physiological differences in dogs neutered early may be the reason veterinarians are seeing a higher incidence of orthopedic disease such as CCL rupture and hip dysplasia than in dogs neutered after 5 1/2 months of age.

## 30-Year Campaign

For the past 30 years, our profession has urged the public to spay and neuter dogs and cats for a host of beneficial reasons, including population control and the avoidance of breast and testicular cancer. With client education and marketing, our profession has succeeded in making early spay-neuter programs our national custom, primarily for control of the population explosion.

Shelter medicine experts developed the concept of ultra-early neutering of kittens and puppies before adoption. This practice was embraced by thousands of rescue organizations across the nation, including the Peter Zippi Fund for Animals- founded in 1977 by yours truly-which has rescued and placed more than 11,600 animals.

Our organization looked at the data and felt that early spay-neuter was the best answer to address the horrible situation in American shelters, where animals are euthanatized because they were born feral, dumped or unwanted.

Mounting epidemiological evidence shows that we might be jeopardizing the well-being of pet dogs with the early neuter policy. The data are not persuasive for felines, but there are some issues with the size of the urethra in early neutered tom cats that may affect their health.

My special interests in practice have been cancer medicine and pet hospice. It is earth shattering to consider that some of the cancers we have been battling may have been enhanced by early neutering instead of the reverse!

Zink points out a retrospective study published in 1999 by Ware, et al, that found a five times greater risk of cardiac hemangiosarcoma in spayed vs. intact female dogs.

Hemangiosarcoma is one of the three most common and devastatingly fatal cancers in larger dogs, especially German shepherds and golden retrievers. We see it most commonly as malignant growths in the spleen, but 25 percent of cases involve the heart and 25 percent appear in multiple locations.

Ware's study also found a 2.4 times greater risk of hemangiosarcoma in neutered dogs as compared to intact males.

This information has been around in journals for almost a decade, but it takes time to consider large epidemiological studies as evidence-based medicine useable in decision making.

A 2002 epidemiological study of 3,218 dogs done by Cooley and Glickman, et al, found that those neutered before age 1 had a significantly increased chance of developing osteosarcoma. Another study showed that neutered dogs were at a two-fold higher risk of developing osteosarcoma.

## Lack of Proof

We need to re-examine the common belief that neutering dogs helps reduce prostate cancer. In fact, Obradovich, et al, in 1987 reported that neutering provides no benefit in protecting dogs from prostate cancer. Neutering definitely offers protection from recurrence of androgen hormone dependant perianal tumors.

Clear epidemiological evidence exists that female sex hormones cause mammary cancer. There is a slightly increased risk of mammary cancer in female dogs allowed to endure one heat cycle and the risk is increased with each additional estrus until the dog is 2 1/2 years old.

In dogs, 30 to 50 percent of mammary tumors are malignant. In cats, the rate of malignancy is 95 to 98 percent. Therefore, all mammary tumors in dogs and especially in cats should be surgically removed and biopsied as soon as they are detected. Early detection and excision can improve the prognosis.

It is well known that the incidence of urinary incontinence in early-spayed female dogs is higher than in non-spayed female dogs. This is due to the role that ovarian hormones play in the maintenance of genital tissues and urogenital contractility.

Aron, et al, in 1996, reported that male dogs neutered early had an increased risk of developing urethral sphincter incontinence. A health survey of several thousand dogs by the Golden Retriever Club of America showed that spayed or neutered dogs had

a greater risk of hypothyroidism. In 2001, Howe and Slater reported an increase of infectious diseases in dogs spayed or neutered at or before 24 weeks of age versus over 24 weeks of age. The 2005 AKC-Canine Health Foundation reported a higher incidence of vaccines reactions in neutered dogs as compared to intact dogs.

## The Vaccine Question

It is evident that we need more information and more leadership from our academicians to clarify our positions on early neutering. This reminds me of the profession's dilemma over the issue of using certain vaccines that were known to be potentially carcinogenic in 1 in every 1,000 to 10,000 cats.

If it was your cat that got feline vaccine-associated sarcoma, it is a huge and important issue. The actual rate of disease is difficult to assess and is most likely under-reported in pet animals, given the stringent requirements of informatics reporting.

Many organizations that breed service dogs, such as Guide Dogs for the Blind and the [Morris Animal Foundation](#) are keeping records that may answer these questions.

I suspect that the abnormalities discussed above are real and underreported in the veterinary literature. The best thing we can do is to advise our concerned clients individually, looking at each animal's role (agility, sports, jogging buddy, sled dog, service dog) within the human-animal bond.

*Alice Villalobos, DVM, offers insights into the human-animal bond, animal welfare and the relationships among pets, owners and veterinary practitioners. She is a member of the American Assn. of Human-Animal Bond Veterinarians and is on the editorial review board of the Society for Veterinary Medical Ethics.*



## Attention:

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Several brands of peanut butter and other nut butters are substituting sugar to a sweetener called Xylitol.

Xylitol is extremely toxic to dogs in very small doses. Ingestion can cause rapid hypoglycemia (a dangerous drop in blood sugar levels) and can cause extensive damage to liver cells. Both conditions are potentially fatal.

Be sure to check your peanut butter labels for Xylitol. If it is on the ingredients list, be sure your dog does not consume it.

