



From TCVESSA's President by Julie Roberts

This time of year always brings out the longing in me. The longing for spring, warmer weather, green grass and, well, you get the picture! With the melting snow, my dogs will miss their daily run on the frozen creek behind our house. I can't tell you how many times we have come upon the turkey convention that seems to congregate back there, or the pheasants or other assorted furry critters. It's funny to watch a group of dogs chase the turkeys, bound and determined to catch them, which of course they never do. But I will admit it is a joy to watch them as they have such a good time and love going for their walks. However obnoxious they are if they see me getting my coat on just to clean the kennel!

TCVESSA has much in store this spring. Our annual awards banquet is in a week, Pet Expo has probably come and gone when you get this, and finally our specialty shows in May. We have changed locations again this year do to not being able to rent the back half of the building where we were last year. We have the privilege of renting this beautiful, spacious facility in Ham Lake. It will come with a little extra care in regards to their special agility flooring, but the extra work will be worth it in the end to have so much room and such a great location and a wonderful surface to run on. Patience and understanding will be needed by everyone.

Finally, TCVESSA would like to extend our sympathy and condolences to B.A. Breese and family on the passing of her husband, Jack. B.A. has been the treasurer of TCVESSA for the past couple of years, a member for several years, as well as a beloved and very hard worker of TCVESSA.

Take care, and until next time throw your dog a bone or a dumbbell!

Julie

Board Meeting Minutes—October 20, 2009

The meeting was called to order at 6:47 PM by Julie Roberts, President.

Officers present:

Julie Roberts, President, BA Breese, Treasurer, Kathy Raidt, Secretary

Directors present:

Carmen Laing, Cyndi Myhre, Jean Dockendorf

Directors absent: Kandice Bierle, Kris Radermacher

Secretary's Report: Kathy read the notes from the September meeting. A correction was made. Then a motion to accept the minutes was made. It was seconded and approved.

Treasurer's Report: BA Breese stated that the balance in the checkbook was \$20,143.84. There is still an outstanding check from the presenter at the seminar last April.

Membership: No new membership applications.

Fun Match: Cyndi will create the invitation and Kathy will post it to TCVESSA Announce as well as email and mail it to the members.

Specialty for 2010:

Liz Pike reported on three of the judges: Dr. Dom Sturtz on Saturday, Julie Kay on Saturday (Sweeps), and Paul Husa on Sunday (Sweeps). Obedience has two judges: JJ Hamm and Donna Larson. Holding Obedience and Rally on Friday was discussed but not confirmed.

Committees: The Trophies and Awards chair will be Kris Radermacher; the Food Vendor chair will be Kris Radermacher; Grooming chairs will be Julie Roberts and Becky Hoskins; Safety chair is Cyndi Myhre; Raffle chair is Kim Slaybaugh; Grounds chair is Carmen Laing; Advertising chair is BA Breese; the judge's hospitality and transportation requires a chair.

Puppies classes will be 6-9, 9-12, 12-15, 15-18 months.

Veterans classes will be 7-9, 9-11, 11+ years.

A wine and cheese party is planned for Saturday evening.

A Showcase ad will be requested for the January and March issues. Joan Beck will design the ad. The ESSFTA newsletter and the ESS Online (March) will be used for advertising.

Other Business:

A 2-day trial later in 2010 will be considered in February

The banquet has a budget of \$500.00.

Jean confirmed that the Nominating Committee is set.

Next meeting: Noon, November 8, at the General Membership and Fun Match [C&E Training Center (New Hope)]

Motion to adjourn was made, seconded, and approved, at 8:12 pm.



TCVESSA Board

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Julie Roberts
eldamar@comcast.net

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Francie Nelson
fanfarespringers@comcast.net

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braidt@minn.net

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Board Meeting Minutes—November 8, 2009

The General Membership meeting was called to order at the C&E Training Center in New Hope, MN, at 2:29 PM by Julie Roberts, President.

Officers Present: Julie Roberts, President; BA Breese, Treasurer; Kathy Raidt, Secretary

Directors present: Carmen Laing, Cyndi Myhre, Jean Dockendorf, Kris Radermacher

Directors absent: Kandice Bierle, Francie Nelson

Secretary’s Report: The reading of last month’s board meeting note was waived.

Treasurer’s Report: BA Breese reported that the balance in the checkbook was \$18,574.14.

Membership: The first reading for a membership applicant, Stacy Dahl, was read by Kathy Raidt.

Nominating Committee: The following slate was nominated for the next election

Julie Roberts, President

Francie Nelson, Vice President

Kathy Raidt, Secretary

Directors:

Jean Dockendorf

Carmen Laing

Kris Radermacher

Liz Pike

Maryevelyn Monty

No nominations were offered from the floor. A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously passed to close nominations.

There was a motion to adjourn the meeting at 3:30PM and the motion was seconded.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Raidt

TCVESSA Secretary

Please save the date for the 2010 TCVESSA SPECIALTY

Judging Panel:

Saturday, May 15:

Sweepstakes/Veteran Sweepstakes ~ Ms. Julie Kay
Regular classes/Junior handling ~ Dr. Donald Sturz Jr.
Obedience/Rally ~ Mr. J.J. Hamm

Sunday, May 16:

Sweepstakes/Veteran Sweepstakes ~ Mr. Paul Hussa
Regular classes/Junior handling ~ Mrs. Ruth Kirby
Obedience/Rally: ~ Ms. Donna M. Larson

May 15 – 16, 2010
New Location !!!
On The Run Canine Center
Ham Lake, MN 55304
www.ontheruncaninecenter.com

- Lots of Grooming Space
- Catered lunch
- Hospitality party
- Indoor facility
- Fun trophies



TCVESSA-The land of 10,000 lakes

Twin Cities Voyageur English Springer Spaniel Assn.

Springers

“Ring Ready” Grooming Tips by Sarah Kraft

It always boosts my confidence walking into the show ring knowing my dogs coat is at its best. If you've been diligent about your pre-show grooming and bathing, your ring-ready grooming should be pretty straight-forward.

You will need to allow about 1 to 1.5 hours for prepping your dog – depending on how much coat you are dealing with, how many dogs you need to get ready, etc. For the very best results, I recommend doing a full bucket-bath on the grooming table. For this you will need:

- A medium sized bucket or dish pan
- Self-rinsing shampoo (I like Show Off and #1 All Systems)
- 1 tsp. to 1 Tbsp. light anti-static conditioner (Vellus, Coat Handler, or Crown Royale are nice)
- A sponge

I mix both the self-rinse and the conditioner into the bucket, or you can use separate buckets for each if you prefer. Some dogs coats are very sensitive to the amount of product used, and will become stringy very quickly. If your dog has a tendency to do this, use less conditioner in the water. This may require some experimentation ... Also remember, dogs coats are affected by weather the same way our hair is. If it is very dry out, it may take more conditioner to combat static – if humid, the coat may feel gunky quicker.

Using the self-rinse/conditioner mixture, thoroughly bathe all of your dogs furnishings including the ears. I try to start at the front and work back to the rear of the dog so that you aren't creating dirty water to wash the chest and ears with by washing out sticky pants on girls, or “pee” areas on the boys.

Once the dog is bathed, use a towel to SQUEEZE excess water out of the coat. Never use the towel to rub the featherings dry as this will break and damage the coat.

You can use either a high velocity dryer like a Metro or K-9, or a hand dryer to blow out the coat. I prefer starting with a high velocity dryer, as it quickly dries the legs and feet, as well as being warm air which is less damaging than a hot dryer. Completely dry one area at a time – especially if your dog has a wavy or curly coat. Dampness will only encourage curl! You can leave the short hair on the legs slightly damp if you are using chalk, but the coat should appear dry – and only be slightly damp to the touch. As you are drying it is a good idea to use a spray on leave-in conditioner such as Plush Puppy Blow Dry Crème, Isle of Dogs Strengthening Spray, or Crown Royale Magic Touch to prevent any damage from heat or brushing and to help eliminate static. I recommend using either a pin brush or Mason Pearson to blow the featherings straight.

Once your dog is completely dry, you can add chalk to the short coat on the legs for added body, or if you have a bitch that is out of coat, mousse or hairspray is a good way to improve the look bone in the legs. Be sure to use a product that has a natural feel so that you





“Ring Ready” Grooming Tips, continued

have a touchable dog. It is very undesirable to have a sticky, hard feeling coat. Be sure to completely brush out the chalk, and to brush through the mousse or hairspray. I like to use a small slicker brush for this as it separates the coat really well. Brush the hair up, against the grain, to get the most body in the short coat of the legs and hocks. This is also the best time to put the finishing touches on the hocks if needed.

Make sure the ears are bone dry if you are wrapping them with vet wrap – they will kink and dent otherwise; and don’t wrap them too tight. Keep a finger in the vet wrap next to the ear leather at all times to ensure you don’t inadvertently cut off the circulation in the ear.

A little bit of mousse or bodifier in the topline can be helpful if you have a dog that has dipped areas. Blow dry against the lay of the coat and then comb into place. Less is usually better – you don’t want to create a spike in place of a dip! This is especially true if you are going to a 3 or more day show. Usually by the third day, all you need is a spritz of water blow dried into the coat to revive the mousse.

Right before you head up to the ring, do a light spray of conditioner and lightly blow and brush out the coat. Stick with a pin brush if it is really static-y. A light polishing brush to the top coat can give the final bloom to the coat.

Good luck at the next shows!

—Sarah

****New opportunity:** Sarah is widely regarded as one of our breed’s most gifted groomers, and she is offering to answer TCVESSA members’ most vexing grooming questions.

Simply email Sarah your question at sarahmkraft@yahoo.com; placing “Grooming Question” in the subject line will alert her to your issue. Regardless of the nature of your question, be sure to take advantage of this opportunity to get Sarah’s well-informed advice on the matter!

Editor’s Note: Sarah Kraft is a third generation breeder/owner/handler under the kennel name “Tagalong Springers.” She has competed successfully in conformation for 17 years with Best in Specialty Show, All-Breed Best in Show, and National Specialty point and AOM winning dogs.

Truncervical Insemination (TCI) by Heidi Buytaert, DVM

The goal of breeding is puppies! The bitch's reproductive cycle is one of the most complicated (and exciting) one out there. The number one cause for infertility in the bitch is poor timing. But if the timing is correct there are several techniques that can be used to increase conception rates.

Natural breedings with a proven stud dog and correct timing give the highest conception rate and litter size. However, natural matings are not always feasible. Artificial inseminations (AI) are used in cases where distance is cumbersome, a tie is not possible due to anatomic or behavioral reasons or frozen semen is to be used. Traditional AI is performed and semen is placed in the vagina in hopes that it will travel to the uterus. If the semen is of good quality there are decent conception rates with this technique all other things being equal. However, in some cases the semen may be of poor quality due to stud dog factor, shipping or manipulation of the semen as in the case of frozen. In these cases, techniques can be used that deposit semen directly into the uterus to increase our chances of conception.

Two techniques that can be used to increase the conception rate by depositing semen directly in the uterus are a surgical insemination or a transcervical insemination. In the case of a surgical insemination, an abdominal incision is made the uterine horns are exteriorized. Semen is then injected into each horn, the uterus replaced in the abdomen and the incision line sutured. The technique is not particularly complicated and much less difficult than performing a spay, so a technique that most veterinarians can master. However, some will say that ethically you are performing an elective surgery that may not be necessary. I am not in a position to make this judgment but I will say that medically avoiding a surgery is avoiding a surgery. While our current understanding of anesthesia makes most surgeries safe, there is always a chance for complications either during or after surgery.

A transcervical insemination (TCI) technique was developed in the last few years where a trained veterinarian with the proper equipment can actually use a scoped with a working channel that can be passed through the cervix and allow insemination directly into the uterus without surgery or even anesthesia. The components of the vagina, cervix and uterus are easy to visualize for any competent veterinarian. However, the techniques does have a bit of a learning curve, as the actual passing of the catheter through the cervix requires some skill (somewhat like playing a video game!). Recently, a company called Minitube has developed add-on equipment that greatly helps in the process and I suspect that other companies will follow suit and make the whole process more user friendly in





(Trancervical Insemination, continued)

the future.

One of the major advantages of the TCI is that there is no surgery required. The bitch is standing and awake for the whole technique. The bitch that is in standing heat will tolerate the scope very well and in very few instances will any sedation or more than mild restraint be necessary. Another advantage to the TCI is that the veterinarian will view the vagina, cervix and uterus during the process and can gain further valuable information about the bitch's heat cycle. The information can be used along with other timing information already collected to help time the bitch more accurately. But quite possibly the biggest benefit to performing the TCI is that the procedure can be performed several times to cover a longer range of the fertile period. Your timing with TCI doesn't have to be quite as perfect as the surgical insemination where you only get one shot.

Some people will claim that the surgical procedure is just better. I am not so convinced and the current date shows that they probably have equally successful conception rates. Intuitively, it seems that placing semen in the uterus is placing semen in the uterus! The fact that TCI is non-invasive and can be used several times in the fertile period should make it the technique of the future.

Heidi Buytaert, DVM
 Heartland Animal Hospital
buytaerts@hotmail.com

Editor's Note: TCVESSA member Heidi Buytaert is a veterinarian in Owatonna, MN, where she lives with her husband Dale, children Holly (4) and Ben (2), and her dogs Kirby, Payton, Ivy, and Boris. She has a special interest in canine reproduction and dentistry.



Member Wins and Brags

CH Tagalong's Boy Oh Boy "Liam"

Owned/handled by Sarah Kraft
CESSCGA Specialty
WD/BOW/Best Bred-by
Championship Earned!

International Kennel Club—Chicago
BOB (Mr. Desmond Murphy)
BOB, Group 4 (Ms. Connie Gerstner-Miller)

Cache's Breakfast at Wimbledon

Owned/handled by Heidi Buytaert
1/23/10—Osh Kosh KC
WD/BOW/BOB
Championship Earned!

1/24/10—Osh Kosh KC
BOB

CH Woodridge's Nevgard Lead Off Man CDX SH NA AXJ WD "Wrigley"

Owned by Tim/Julie Damgaard
Handled by Sarah Salzwedel
1/09/10—Land O Lakes Show
WD—3-point major
Championship Earned!

DarTek's ILean Kode to the Treasure "Kodi"

Owners/breeders Barb DiGiovanni &
Tekla Viker
02/26/10—Blackhawk KC
WD/BOW—4-point major!

PinebendNBriarton Chasin Dreams CD RA CGC TDI "Gibbon"

Owned/handled by Kay (Esler) Glaeser
2/21/10 @ Leader of the Pack Canine
Center: Passed all tests required by
Therapy Dogs Int'l plus all requirements
for AKC CGC program!
2/27/10—MKC Rally Trial
Excellent B—Q score of 90—2nd leg

Selah's New Years Resolution "Jenny"

Owned/handled by Jack/Brenda Filipek
1/09/10 and 1/10/10—Land O Lakes
WB/BOW (Sat) and BW (Sun)
Back-to-back 3-point majors!

Felstar Saber of White Gold "Ava"

Karen Larson/Dr. Bev Felten
1/22/10—Oshkosh KC
WB/BOS

CH Cedarwood's Paragon "Peter"

Bred/owned by Pat/Wayne Welch
Handled by Sarah Salzwedel
GLESSBA Specialty
WD—5-point major

Fox Hollow All I Wanna Do OA OAJ NF "Kenna"

Breeder/owner/handler Ann Sunderman
1/22/10—Greater TC Golden Retriever
Club Trial
3rd leg AKC AXJ—1st place
AXJ Title Earned!



Congratulations Everyone!

Note:

Be sure to email your
Springer news and
accomplishments to
Kandy Bierle at
kbierle@bethel.edu
for recognition in the
newsletter.

The next deadline?
April 16, 2010

“Aspen”

January 1, 1999

-

January 19, 2010



Rainbow Bridge

by Shirley Harford

Glenhurst’s Sherwood Forest “Aspen”

CD SH RE NA NAJ NAP NJP WD CGC TDIEVA



Aspen was not only my best friend but my constant companion since the day I picked him up at 9 weeks old.

Aspen was my heart dog; there will never be another like him for me in my lifetime. He did everything I asked of him and more. He really didn’t like Obedience, loved doing Agility his own way, did Rally because I asked him to. His true love was Hunting, now that he LOVED, followed by his Therapy work. He didn’t do great at any one performance venue, but he tried, for me.

He had a large following @ The Pines Assisted Living Community in Richfield. He spent over 450 hours this year on Therapy Visits.

He is following his Grandma Dolly to the Rainbow Bridge. He was with Dolly @ her bedside for the last 9 months. We lost Dolly on January 2nd, just 17 days before Aspen.

Please, everybody, give your dogs a hug from Aspen; you never know if it will be the last. Rest well my baby boy.....

We will miss you, Mister Manners—
Mom and Dad



Rainbow Bridge

by Barb DiGiovanni

CH Eldamar's Black Mischief "Schroeder"

AX OAJ OAP OAJ CGC



"Schroeder"

July 9, 1996

-

January 26, 2010



I said good-bye to my best friend today. My buddy, who I'm quite sure loved me more than anybody, dog or human ever could. I'm fortunate in that he lived to be 13 1/2 with no medical problems in his lifetime, except for when he bloated 3 years ago. I'm so lucky to have been home when that happened, thus saving his life.

So on Tuesday morning, just like we have done thousands of times, we went for our 2-mile walk, his body slowed by age and atrophy. We walked past a woman working in her yard, and as I've heard so many times before, she said, "beautiful dog". I wanted to turn to her and say "you should have seen him in his prime, he was magnificent", but I didn't, I knew I would not be able to get the words out without breaking down.

Julie put his first specialty major on him at 7 mos. old in San Antonio, I finished the rest of the points, getting his last major one Halloween in Tulsa, OK.

He was my first true agility dog. He was the 2nd recipient of the TCVESSA's Agility Dog of the Year award. - Although speed not being his forte', we did pretty well as a team.

No one was more surprised than me when he achieved his AX in three consecutive runs. Running at a trial one time, he and I were in the middle of the course when suddenly he took off running for the fence that separated us from the audience. He stood at the fence, pawing at it so pathetically, the crowd laughing and awing. I looked past the fence and there on the other side, was Ginger H. with her b/w Springer girl, Shelly.



Rainbow Bridge

by Barb, continued

Somehow he had spotted her while we were running and decided he needed to go over and get a better look at her and maybe fall in love. Afterwards I asked Ginger if she would not have Shelly ringside when it was our turn to run tomorrow. Next day, we took off to run our course, doing pretty well, then suddenly at the top of the A-frame, he stopped and stood there gazing around the arena, oh my gosh, he's looking for Shelly. What better place to look for her than at the top of the A-frame.

I think what I will miss most, his ever-vibrating tail, his wonderful singing to the Hungry Puppy song, and his always, always having a kiss for me. When you see Lucy, give her a smooch and I will see you guys again sometime.

TCVESSA Lifetime Members

Congratulations are in order to several TCVESSA members for achieving lifetime membership status. Recognition is given to Elaine Bergquist, Barb and Jerry Ciresi, Francie Nelson, Frances Nelson, and Brion and Julie Roberts.

Thank you for your ongoing support of TCVESSA!

Time to Renew Your Membership

It's that time again—TCVESSA membership renewal, that is. The renewal form can be found on the TCVESSA website (www.tcveffa.org), and it is also included in this newsletter. It is not stapled to the newsletter, so you can more easily complete it and return it to Mary Dahl, our Membership Secretary. Renewing your membership also gives us the opportunity to update your contact information.

Membership renewal is due by April 1.

A Note from B.A. Breese

Thank you to all my Springer friends who sent words of hope, cards of condolences, and contributions to Jack's special arts interest. My husband of 36 years is now gone from my side, but never from my heart.

Again with sincere thanks, B.A. Breese.

TCVESSA Specialty: Hotel Options

As the date of our specialty draws nearer, additional information continues to become available. The event will be held at On the Run, a marvelous agility facility located just off Highway 65 in Ham Lake. Across the street from the facility is an AmericInn, which has recently been confirmed as a hotel option:

AmericInn
13440 Highway 65 NE
Ham Lake, MN 55305
(763) 755-2100

Ask for the TCVESSA rate, which will be available until 30 days prior to the show. The cost is \$69.99 for a standard room and they will waive the pet fee.



IMPORTANT NOTE: There is word that a hockey tournament will be held in the area on the same weekend as the specialty, so hotel rooms may be snapped up soon. Make your reservation at the AmericInn asap if you need overnight arrangements.



See the flyer in this edition of the Vox for additional Specialty information!