

# Ramapo Kennel Club GROWL

November 2004

Issue XCI

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## PROGRAMS

### Holiday Dinner

#### REMINDER

RUPPERTS  
92 RT 23 NORTH  
RIVERDALE, NJ

DECEMBER 8, 2004  
7:30 PM

BUFFET

\$15 PER PERSON  
CHECKS PAYABLE TO RKC

GRAB BAG \$10 MAXIMUM

SHELTER ITEMS ELAINE BARONE

Please RSVP to Gail at (973) 256-6566, [Gyinglin@aol.com](mailto:Gyinglin@aol.com), or Jeffrey at (201) 689-1323, [Jball@hpae.org](mailto:Jball@hpae.org) by November 30, 2004.

GROWL collator

Deadline is 20th of the month

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[eberlet@optonline.net](mailto:eberlet@optonline.net)

## Do Your Homework Before Giving to Charity

Most of you who own dogs treat your dogs like family and care deeply for the well being of all dogs. You want to give generously to charities that benefit dogs, but the AKC advises you to choose organizations that best serve your desired ends.

There is a difference between animal welfare organizations and animal rights organizations. Animal welfare involves providing a dog with love and proper responsible care for its entire life. Animal rights include extreme views that disapprove of and seek to eliminate companion animal ownership.

The AKC supports and encourages the best premises of animal welfare. Before making charitable donations to animal-related causes, the AKC urges you to thoroughly investigate, understand, and approve of the programs or ideals your donation will support. Ask for a written summary of the organization's goals or mission. Request and review a recent annual report. Will your funds go directly to help animals or will they be used for administrative costs? Don't be afraid to ask detailed questions about how your donation will be used, or to discontinue donations if you are not fully satisfied with the charity's work.

You may consider donating to worthwhile causes such as the parent club rescue organization of the breed of your choice, an AKC-recognized federation, a local animal shelter you've worked with, the AKC Canine Health Foundation, AKC CAR Canine Support and Relief Fund, AKC Museum of the Dog, Take the Lead, The Dog Fanciers' Fund, Inc., or the National Animal Interest Alliance, to name a few.

From: <wcaroljay1860@a...>

Date: Wed Nov 17, 2004 4:14am

Subject: UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine plant eating survey for Dogs

The Veterinary Behavior Service at the UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine is currently conducting a study investigating why dogs and cats eat plants (grass, flowers, leaves, twigs, etc.). Although many theories have been proposed, this is the first study to scientifically investigate the age-old question "Why do dogs and cats eat grass?"

We would love to have the members of your listserve participate in our on-line survey and pass the word on to their friends and family! The more information we gather, the better we will understand this behavior. Please feel free to look at our website at: <http://dogs.ucdavis.edu/> before taking the survey.

Dog Plant-eating Survey:

<http://intercom.virginia.edu/SurveySuite/Surveys/PlantDog>

Cat Plant Eating Survey:

<http://intercom.virginia.edu/SurveySuite/Surveys/PlantCat>

Once the study is complete, we will make the results available to the public. Feel free to have friends and family take the survey as well!

Thank you again for your consideration!

Karen Sueda, DVM

Clinical Animal Behavior Resident

Behavior Service

UC Davis, School of Veterinary Medicine

## VACCINES & TITERS

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I wrote this in response to an email posted to one list reporting that all the vet schools in the United States have recently adopted vaccination recommendations similar to those that Dr. Jean Dodds has been recommending for years.

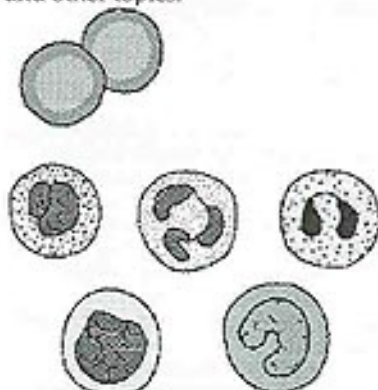
On Sept 1, 2004, Dr. Richard Ford from North Carolina State University's (NCSU) veterinary school gave a 1-day continuing education presentation for veterinarians. Dr. Ford has spent nearly 20 years studying canine and feline infectious diseases and response to vaccination. He has served on national panels reevaluating vaccination protocols and he authored the chapter on infectious diseases in the recently published book on shelter medicine.

Dr. Ford stated that modified live virus (MLV) vaccines should NEVER be given closer together than 3 weeks -- shorter intervals actually interfere with the immune system's response to the previous vaccine.

Dr. Ford strongly advocated that veterinarians give a set of core vaccines to all dogs, and give noncore vaccines based on the risk profile of individual animals. At NCSU, the core vaccines for dogs are canine distemper modified live virus (MLV), canine adenovirus-2 (MLV, for viral hepatitis), canine parvovirus (MLV), parainfluenza (MLV, not a severe health problem, but nearly all DAP vaccines come with parainfluenza in the combo), and rabies (only available as killed virus vaccine) as required by state law.

More information is available at Dr. Ford's vaccine Web site  
<<http://www.dvmvac.com/>><http://www.dvmvac.com/>

including American Animal Hospital Association (AAHA) recommendations for dogs, American Association of Feline Practitioners (AAFP) recommendations for cats, university protocols, shelter protocols for dogs and cats, hot topics, and information on recombinant vaccines and other topics.



Regarding titers (measures of antibodies circulating in the blood), the most important type of immunity to protect against viral infections is cell-mediated immunity (that is, memory cells), which cannot be measured by titers. Titers indicate that the immune system has "seen" and responded to the virus (vaccine or wild). If the immune system responds to a virus, memory cells are produced, but you can't measure memory cells readily (one study in humans documented memory cells to live for 40 years). Therefore, ANY titer, even one lower than a laboratory's threshold, indicates that the dog's immune system has mounted a response to that virus and produced memory cells. Laboratories doing titer testing have set thresholds based on research and the "comfort zone" of the laboratory director. It is important to realize that these titer thresholds are good rules of thumb, but not by any means a complete assessment of a dog's immune status.

I recommend using titers INSTEAD OF "booster" vaccination to prove -- for dog training clubs, boarding kennels, etc. -- that the dog has mounted an immune response to the virus (vaccine or wild).

It is very important to understand that a negative titer does NOT mean that the dog is not protected against the virus. Researchers have known for years that some dogs (Dobermans and Rottweilers are notorious) NEVER develop circulating antibodies in spite of numerous vaccinations, but they go through life never becoming ill with a vaccine-preventable disease.

Also, some of the new recombinant vaccines do not produce antibody titers in any dogs. They do stimulate protective cell-mediated immunity, proven in challenge tests. If you are using titers instead of giving boosters, you might want to use MLV instead of recombinant vaccines for those viruses for which you run titers (for example, parvo and distemper). Recombinant vaccines have several advantages, but recognize this potential limitation, which has nothing to do with the effectiveness of the vaccines themselves.

After I sent this post, one veterinarian reported that she has found titers on cats that have been vaccinated for rabies using only recombinant vaccines (dogs or cats exported to certain countries must show rabies titers as proof of vaccination).

By the way, Dr. Ford said to expect publication next year of a study demonstrating duration of immunity lasting 9 (yes, that's NINE) YEARS following vaccination (I assume parvo and distemper, but maybe other viruses). Unfortunately, I expect that the study will be published in a specialty veterinary journal rather than the one that the vast majority of practicing veterinarians reads, so it will take

some time for the news to disseminate.

One person who responded to the original post was skeptical about the possibility of lifetime immunity. Following vaccination, lifetime immunity to viruses that do not mutate often (which includes canine parvo and distemper) is a very real possibility.

IMO, the biggest challenge is to convince practicing veterinarians to remember the principles of immunology and follow rational recommendations of research scientists, rather than rely on representatives of drug companies -- who are selling vaccines -- for their information.

\*\* permission is granted to forward this post

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