



Seward County Kennel Club

A CLUB FOR PERSONS INTERESTED IN DOGS AND THE SPORT OF DOGS.

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Information for the newsletter, including brags, needs to be submitted by the first week of the month to be included in the next newsletter. Please email submissions to the editor.

PROGRESSIVE RETINAL ATROPHY (PRA) IN DOGS



Progressive retinal atrophy (PRA) is a group of inherited, degenerative eye conditions that affect the retina of the eye. The retina is a layer along the back of the eye that is composed of two different types of light-sensitive cells, rods and cones, which send signals to the brain for processing. Rod cells detect movement, and are especially important for low-light vision. Cone cells detect color, but are not as sensitive to light as rods.

When a dog has PRA, these retinal cells deteriorate and die prematurely, eventually causing blindness.

There are two types of PRA - early onset (also known as retinal dysplasia) and late onset. Puppies with early onset PRA may have signs of vision loss by two to three months of age, and often the retinal cells did not ever fully develop. Dogs with late-onset PRA are typically diagnosed between 3 and 9 years of age, when cell function begins to deteriorate.

Signs of vision loss in dogs due to PRA

Rod cells often are affected first, and dogs may first have problems with night vision. Gradually, they also lose vision in bright light. Signs of vision loss in dogs include reluctance to use stairs or enter dark rooms. Because vision loss occurs slowly,

NEXT MEETING April 18, 2024

Pizza Kitchen - 411 First St, Milford, NE 68405
No Special Program - General Meeting 7:30pm

MEETING MINUTES

Seward County Kennel Club
 Awards banquet
 La Carretta Mexican Restaurant, Seward
 February 15, 2024

Members present: Tabitha & Troy Dvorak, Kayla & Jon Thomas, Kathy Jackson, Vicki Nolte, Linda Soukup, Tanya Williams, Diane & Gerold Nitz, Maurice & Shelene Costello, Mary Bristol and Morgan Ehlers.

Meeting called to order at 7:20 by President Tabitha Dvorak

Review of the December minutes. Motion made by Jon to accept minutes with correction. Kayla 2nd. Motion approved.

Report of the President: Professional handlers as of July 31st, 2024, will be able to show 4-6month puppy.

Report of the Secretary: Garden City Kennel Club is putting on a clinic “Intro to dog sports pet partner program” Saturday Feb 17 9a-3p. Offering Fast Cat April 19-21 and Moderated Judges Panel Discussion meal included with registration April 20, 2024.

AKC announced a pilot NOHS regional event program. From September 19, 2024, through September 17, 2025. AKC is approving up to eight All breed clubs that would like to participate must submit request by March 31, 2024. Clubs would be selected by proposal, club’s history of holding NOHS events, date, location and how they intend to make their NOHS regional spectacular.

Companion Dog Club Barn Hunt May 10-12th Entries open March 1st.

Report of Treasurer: Balance read. Quartey and yearly reports for 2023 provided. Motion made by Tanya to approve balance and reports until audited. 2nd by Troy, motion passed.

President Tabitha and Kayla with conducted audit before the March meeting.

SCKC Founder’s Award: 2023 winner of the Founder’s Award is Troy Dvorak. Congratulations Troy! Thank you for all that you do for the club.

Report of Committees
Awards & Trophies: No report

Legislation Kathy: Reported about Kansas new law they are trying to pass.

Chief Ring Steward Troy: No report

Fun Match Tabitha: No report

Show Tabitha: Judges are all approved by AKC for 2024

Membership Linda: No applications

Newsletter/ Website Cindy: No report

Nominating Committee Tanya: All officers agreed to continue current positions. Diane and Linda do not want to continue to be on the board. New board members are Jon Thomas and Troy Dvorak. Diane made motion to cease nominations. 2nd by Linda.

Performance:

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Spring Puppy	9	No Class	4	3	10
Spring Basic	28 (Beyond 4)	No Class	8	13	32 (1 YAAP)
Fall Puppy	14	7	5	12	7
Fall Basic	19	9	9 (1 Blue River)	14	15

Ag Society is not going to give us a discount for the rental for the 4-H building. Rent will be \$700 for the 7weeks. Tanya made motion to increase the fees to \$60 for puppy and \$65 for basic. 2nd by Kathy. Motion passed. Spring class is March 18th – April 29th, 2024. Mary will lead the puppy class. Lester will teach basic class.

Scholarship: So far Tabitha has received two scholarship applications. They are due March 1st. Reading and picking of the winner will take place the March 21st meeting by members present.

Old Business: Basket raffle still need a head person to oversee this project.

Rustic Dry Goods: Morgan has been in contact and will get an order flyer early next week. Will post to Club Facebook

MEETING MINUTES

and sent out via email. Morgan will be collecting the apparel orders.

New Business: Nancy L. Roll was an active member who owned boxers. She has recently passed away. Memorial money being sent to the Blue Valley Pet Rescue. Diane made motion to send memorial from the SCKC in the amount of \$50. 2nd by Kayla. Motion passed.

Tanya made motion to adjourn meeting, 2nd by Kayla. Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 7:50pm.

Congratulations to ALL the new title winners!

Mary Bristol is the 1st winner of the new title drawing for a free meal.

Next meeting March 21st will be at the Seward Extension Office 322 S 14th Street. Meeting to start at 7:30pm.

Seward County Kennel Club
March 21, 2024
Seward Extension Office
322 S 14th St, Seward, NE.

Members Present: Diane Nitz, Mary Bristol, Troy and Tabitha Dvorak, Jon and Kayla Thomas, Cindy Hill, Linda Soukup and Morgan Ehlers. Guest: Sam and Jacob Hill.

Meeting called to order at 7:30pm by President Tabitha.

February minutes read. Motion made by to Cindy to approve minutes as read, 2nd by Jon. Minutes approved as read.

Report of President: None

Report of Secretary: None

Report of the Treasurer: Balance read and motion to approve made by Kayla, 2nd by Diane. Motion passed.

Audit: Kayla and Tabitha reported that treasures records are all in order.

Report of Committees:

Awards & Trophies: All trophies are purchased except for the tumblers. They need to be engraved yet.

Legislation: None

Chief Ring Steward: No boy scouts this year ,they have another engagement. Tabitha will get in contact with 4-H and FFA groups of Seward County.

Fun Match: Tabitha is working on judges and prizes. If any members would like to make toy or monetary donations, please contact Tabitha.

Show Tabitha: *This year Ag Society has changed the RV spots are to be paid online when spots are reserved, do to losing money by uncollected funds. The club was not responsible for collecting money for RV spots.

*RV spots reserved for FastCAT Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday \$240. Mary wrote check so Troy could make reservation.

*All judges are staying East Hill Hotel. AKC rep coming from Florida will stay in Lincoln. Hotels are all full. Stay tuned for show committee meeting.

Membership Linda: None. *Reminder that if you know anyone interested in joining the club. Applications can be found at sewardcountykennelclub.com. Search membership and it will bring up link to application.

Newsletter/Website Cindy: None



MEETING MINUTES

Performance: 13 basic and 8 puppies. In form of payment for Lester to teach basic class he will be given gas money. Tabitha made motion to pay the instructors with gas money as payment for teaching dog class going forward. 2nd by Jon. Discussion. Motion passed.

Scholarship: 4 applications were sent in for the scholarship. Applications/essays were read anonymously. 2 of the applicants didn't meet the requirements in the form of not having transcripts as stated in on the SCKC application. By vote 2 and 4. Braeden Day is the winner of the 1st Scholarship. He will receive a certificate and will announce before the best of show on Saturday.

Old Business:

*Meeting room at the Pizza Kitchen in Milford has been reserved for the rest of 2024 monthly meetings at no cost to the club. Meetings will still take place at 7:30 as usual. Come early to have supper and socialize.
*Discussion about changing the show date in 2028. Diane

made a motion to move show to April 28-30, 2028, upon AKC approval and building rental availability. Cindy 2nd motion passed.

*Raffle discussion.

New Business:

*Discussion of getting a Debt card for the club, to make things easier to pay for hotels the judges stay at. Sending less checks in the mail.

Motion made by Kayla and 2nd by Cindy to get debit card for SCKC through Jones bank. When using the card, the treasure (Mary) must be notified before use and what it is being used for. Motion passed.

Show Committee Meeting will be held at the Pizza Kitchen in Milford at 1pm on April 14.

Motion made by Jon to adjourn meeting, 2nd by Kayla.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40pm

2023 NEW TITLES

Mary Bristol

Novice Barn Hunt - BLAKSTR's Gaby Lynn Grayson CGC TKN RATN
Farm Dog Certified - BLAKSTR's Gaby Lynn Grayson CGC TKN RATN FDC
Farm Dog Certified - BLAKSTR'S Regy Woof CGC TKN FDC
Farm Dog Certified - BLAKSTR's Miss Bobby Sue CGC TKN FDC
Rally Novice - BLAKSTR's Miss Bobby Sue CGC TKN FDC RN

Diane & Gerald Nitz:

Fit Dog Bronze - Heaven Sent KC Kirby BN RI ACT1J TKA VSWB FITB
Fit Dog Bronze - Heaven Sent With Benefits FITB
Fit Dog Bronze - Hev'N Sent Little Miss Eleven CGC TKI VSWB FITB
Barn Hunt Novice - Hev'N Sent Little Miss Eleven CGC TKI VSWB FITB RATN
Rally Noivce - Hev'N Sent Little Miss Eleven CGC TKI VSWB FITB RATN RN

Jon & Kayla Thomas:

Fit Dog Bronze - Frankie Von Rupert DCAT FITB
Virtual Home Manners Adult - Frankie Von Rupert DCAT FITB VHMA

Trick Dog Novice - Frankie Von Rupert DCAT FITB VHMA TKN
Trick Dog Intermediate - Frankie Von Rupert DCAT FITB VHMA TKI
Novice Barn Hunt - JKT's Lucy In The Sky With Diamonds CGC TKN VSWB RATI RATN
Open Barn Hunt - JKT's Lucy In The Sky With Diamonds CGC TKN VSWB RATI RATO
FastCAT BCAT - JKT's Lucy In The Sky With Diamonds CGC TKN VSWB BCAT RATI RATO
Dock Senior - JKT's Lucy In The Sky With Diamonds CGC TKN VSWB BCAT RATI RATO DS
Dock Master - JKT's Lucy In The Sky With Diamonds CGC TKN VSWB BCAT RATI RATO DS DM

Troy & Tabitha Dvorak:

Canine Good Citizen - Savoye N TNTs Deal Or No Deal CGC
Grand Champion Gold - GCHG CH TNTs Mind Your Own Biscuits
Grand Champion Silver - GCHS CH Time To Take It To The Max Lavida
Champion - CH TNTs Hakuna Matata

Vicki Nolte:

FastCAT DCAT - CH Sassy Sam's 1 Tequila, 2 Tequila, 3 Tequila, Floor DCAT

many dogs adjust to the changes in their sight and some dog owners may not be aware of the problem until their dog is almost completely blind. Some dogs may have dilated pupils, or the “shine” of their eyes (the tapetum lucidum, which causes a glowing appearance when light hits the back of the eye) may be more visible. Dogs may also develop secondary cataracts. Although PRA does lead to blindness, it is not painful.

Diagnosis of PRA in dogs

PRA is usually diagnosed after dog owners notice signs of vision loss or cataracts in their dogs. A veterinarian can conduct an ophthalmic exam, looking for signs of retinal degeneration. They may refer a client to a veterinary ophthalmologist for further evaluation.

Treatment for dogs with PRA

There is no treatment for PRA. Fortunately, it does not cause any pain for the affected dog. Dog owners may have to make some modifications to their home (similar to baby proofing) and how they interact with their dog, to ensure that the dog still experiences a good quality of life even though they have vision loss. This would include making sure that the dog has spaces that they feel safe, not moving furniture or placing items in areas where they may run into them, using scent and sound for enrichment, allowing the dog to gradually acclimate to new environments, blocking access to stairs, focusing training on verbal cues, and announcing your presence when you approach a blind dog so they aren't startled.

Are all dogs at risk for PRA?

PRA has been identified in several dog breeds, but some may be at a greater risk than others, including American Eskimo Dog, Australian Cattle Dog, Australian Shepherd, Chesapeake Bay Retriever, Chihuahua, American Cocker

BREED SNAPSHOT: THE GREAT PYRENEES

The Great Pyrenees is a large, thickly coated, and immensely powerful working dog bred to deter sheep-stealing wolves and other predators on snowy mountaintops. Pyrs today are mellow companions and vigilant guardians of home and family. Frequently described as ‘majestic,’ Pyrs are big, immensely strong mountain dogs standing as high as 32 inches at the shoulder and often tipping the scales at more than 100 pounds. These steadfast guardians usually exhibit a Zen-like calm, but they can quickly spring into action and move with grace and speed to meet a threat. The lush weatherproof coat is all white, or white with markings of beautiful shades of gray, tan, reddish-brown, or badger.

Pyrs were bred centuries ago to work with shepherds and herding dogs in the Pyrenees Mountains, the natural border between France and Spain. The Pyr's job was to watch the flock and deter predators, whether wolves, bears, or livestock rustlers. Their innate patience came in handy when sitting atop a freezing-cold mountain for days on end with nothing to do but look at sheep. Their courage when defending the flock is legendary.

Remains of the Pyrenees breed are found in the fossil



deposits of the Bronze Age (1800-1000 BC).

Call Le Grande Chien des Montagnes (“the big dog of the mountains”), Le Chien des Pyrenees (“the dog of Pyrenees”), or, as he is known in most places in England and the Continent, the Pyrenean Mountain Dog.

Spaniel, Golden Retriever, Russell Terrier, Labrador Retriever, Pomeranian, Poodles and Yorkshire Terriers (note: this list is not exhaustive).

How is PRA inherited?

In most breeds, PRA is an autosomal recessive condition, meaning that a dog needs to inherit two copies of the mutation for the condition to be expressed. This would result when both parents are either carriers or affected. Unaffected dogs who are carriers can produce affected puppies.

In some dog breeds (Samoyeds, Siberian Huskies and Miniature Schnauzers), PRA is an x-linked recessive condition, meaning that it is associated with genes on the X sex chromosome. Because males have only one X chromosome (females have two), if they inherit a copy of the harmful variant, there's no "healthy" allele to protect them. They will always inherit the condition. Females are only affected if they inherit two copies of the mutation.

English Mastiffs and Bullmastiffs are two known exceptions where PRA is inherited in a dominant fashion, meaning that inheriting just one copy of the mutated allele is sufficient to cause a dog to be affected. There are at least a dozen mutations related to PRA and genetic tests are available for several dog breeds.

Genetic Testing for PRA

There are likely multiple genes associated with PRA, and there are several known mutations. A dog testing clear for one mutation does not exclude the possibility of developing PRA. Multiple genetic companies have tests available for PRA, and many of these tests are breed-specific.

Breeding Decisions

Dogs who develop PRA should not be used for breeding. When available for a breed, dogs should be given a genetic test for PRA, and carriers should only be bred with clear dogs if clear-clear breedings are not available.

Dr. Mikel Delgado, PhD. Jan 7, 2022. <https://www.gooddog.com/health-hub/progressive-retinal-atrophy-pra-in-dogs>.

Seward County Kennel Club

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