



Atlanta Kennel Club

DIGEST

Atlanta Kennel Club Newsletter

August 2021

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August Meeting

Wednesday, August 18, 2021

Program

Laura Davidson will present to us on the value of volunteering, highlighting how feeding your own personal needs is even better when it serves a higher purpose. Laura is currently the Social Engagement and Impact Manager for the Project Management Institute, a national professional organization. She's a professional speaker, past President of NSA Georgia and a member of the National Speakers Association. In addition to her job at PMI, she's been a volunteer for PMI for at least 20 years and is a docent at the Georgia Aquarium, which is also a volunteer position.

Menu

Chicken parmigiana (chicken breast baked with marinara and Mozzarella cheese), salad, garlic rolls, and Tiramisu for dessert.

Location

Aldo's Italian Restaurant — Sandy Springs
6690 Roswell Rd NE, Sandy Springs, GA 30328
Phone: 770-992-9600

Time: Dinner @ 6:45 p.m., Meeting @ 8:00 p.m.

Directions: Aldo's is on the northwest corner of Roswell Rd. and Abernathy Rd. in Sandy Springs, just outside the perimeter and just west of 400. Parking is behind the restaurant in the Sandy Springs Crossing shopping center.

DINNER RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED IF YOU PLAN TO DINE WITH US!

You are not required to have dinner, but a **reservation is absolutely necessary** if you want to dine with us. Join us for dinner or come shortly before 8:00 p.m. for the program and short business meeting that follows.

You may reserve and pay via PayPal on the club website under "Events", OR contact Amy Caple by email at sassapinecorgis@yahoo.com NO LATER than Sunday evening prior to the meeting on the following Wednesday. If you make a reservation and do not attend you will be billed for your meal.

Price \$25 adults and \$10 for children under 12.

If you have special dietary needs, please mention this to Amy when you make your reservations. If you decide to attend after the RSVP deadline, you can order food "to go" from the restaurant and join us in the meeting room. Just be sure to let us know so we can hold your seat!

Birthdays

Donald Mallik - Aug 01
Susan Wise - Aug 04
Carmelita Prince - Aug 08
Marsha Greene - Aug 14
Lynette White - Aug 16
Jinnie Strickland - Aug 19
Jean Warren - Aug 20
Emery Pete - Aug 21
Elizabeth Milano - Aug 22
Juan Rojas - Aug 22
Mary Ellen Macke - Aug 23
Scarlett Johnson - Aug 24
Pam Schloemer - Aug 25

Anniversaries

Paul B. Averill DVM - Aug 6
Marleen Burford - Aug 22
Anne Carson - Aug 11
Jim Carson - Aug 11
Sandra Cook - Aug 24
Rebecca Kestle, DVM - Aug 07
James & Deborah Lovett - Aug 19
Alicia E.-Schaefer - Aug 22
Kathy & Richard Smith - Aug 18
Joy Wells - Aug 04
Barbara & Ben Zahn - Aug 18

Editor's Note: A lot of our members didn't include birthday and/or anniversary info when they joined. If you'd like your special day(s) recognized here, please send the info to me - legrandchows@gmail.com

Did You Know?

To help the public understand who we are and how we take care of our dogs, please include two hashtags when posting casual, fun, silly and sweet photos of your dogs being dogs. Use these hashtags anywhere you post pictures - Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, etc.

#secretlifeofshowdogs
#perfectfitforlife

Webmaster

Jim Macke - jimmacke@comcast.net or
Mary Ellen Macke - maryellenmacke@gmail.com, 404-310-5933
Call or email either Mary Ellen or Jim for website questions or help.



Do not forget to like us on FACEBOOK! Do you have something to post?
Tamara Brower is the Facebook Administrator for the **Atlanta Kennel Club** and the
Peach Blossom Cluster. Contact Tamara at tamarabrower@gmail.com.

Member of the Month

“Member of the Month” is selected by the Board to recognize members who have made a significant contribution to the Club in terms of time and effort.

Congratulations and thank you to our Member of the Month for August, **Dr. Anita Tate!**

Braggs

Got braggs? Nice show wins? New performance titles? Something exciting in your life that isn't dog related? Get them to Digest editor Lynette White – legrandchows@gmail.com

Cards and Flowers

Condolences to the families and friends of Susan Roman who died on June 14, 2021. Susan was a lifetime member of the Atlanta Kennel Club. She bred Cocker Spaniels using the Ridgecrest kennel name. Susan showed in conformation as well as companion and performance events. The Kennesaw Kennel Club is hosting a celebration of life on August 18, 2021, from 6:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. at The Brickyard, 129 E Church St., Marietta, GA.

If you know of a member who's going through a tough time, please let Jerry Cerasini and Sandy Weaver know. Email them at ponyguru@aol.com and golfndogs@att.net

New Volunteer Coordinator

Welcome to Warren Frazier, our new Volunteer Coordinator. As you know, it takes a lot of people to put on the conformation shows, and the obedience, rally, scent work, and agility trials, and seminars and health clinics and monthly meetings, and training, and everything that we do as a Club. Warren will help with recruiting people and arranging training for volunteers as needed. So when he contacts you, please respond!

If you are interested in helping with particular events, feel free to contact Warren at 661-269-3815.

“Neutering your pet makes them less nuts” – All you need to know about spaying & neutering—By Dr. Haley McNulty (presentation from June 2021 club meeting)

Hello, my name is Dr. Haley McNulty. I am a new graduate from Auburn University College of Veterinary Medicine, with I graduated with an interest in small animal general practice and small animal theriogenology. I grew up in Kennesaw, GA and went to the University of Georgia where I received my bachelors in Avian Biology. Being a veterinarian has been a life-long dream of mine, and my third year in veterinary school after taking an extensive reproduction class, I found my love for small animal theriogenology.

I currently work at Cliftwood Animal Hospital in Sandy Springs, GA. At Cliftwood, we are a small animal general practice that specializes in breeding. Services we offer include semen collection and analysis, breeding timing, insemination (artificial, surgical, transcervical), c-sections, PennHipp, OFA, and more! I am thankful each day for this career, and I am excited to present to you today, “Neutering your pet makes them less nuts- All you need to know about spaying and neutering.”

In the U.S., the practice of neutering and spaying has become a routine procedure and is increasingly being performed at or before 6 months of age in pets. Today, I am going to discuss spaying and neutering to provide additional information and insight for future dog owners that decide they do not want to breed their dog.

Primary Reason for Spaying & Neutering?

100 Veterinarian’s and 100 pet owners were randomly surveyed asked to provide a reason for spaying and neutering pets. The most common answers said by veterinarians include population control, neoplasia (or cancer), unwanted behaviors (such as male aggression), or halting the heat cycle. Similarly, pet owners answered with prevention of pregnancy and unwanted behaviors. However, a much different answer by pet owners was that they said, “my vet told me to do it.” This response emphasizes the impact of veterinarians on their clients. Veterinarians influence their clients in decision making such as information about spaying and neutering. As a veterinarian, it is my job to educate the public on the pros and cons of spaying and neutering, and if age does really matter?

Important Terminology

I will go over some important terminology before beginning the presentation. For female animals, spaying or ovariectomy are the most appropriate terms when describing the process of removing the female reproduction tract. For male animals, castration, orchiectomy, and neutering are used to describe the removal of the male reproductive tract organs. For both sexes, gonadectomy and neuter can be used. Neuter is a term that can be used for both males and females to describe this process.

Neoplasia and Neutering

Overall, cancer is the main cause of death in 15-30% of dogs and 26% of cats. Neutering can prevent some types of cancer, but may increase the incidence of others. A study of over 40,000 dogs utilizing the Veterinary Medical Database found that neutered males and females were more likely to die of cancer than intact dogs. The most common breeds that have seen to be at risk for cancer related to neutering include Rottweilers, Vizsla, golden retrievers, Labrador retrievers, and German shepherds.

Neutering decreases the risk of...

Neutering decreases the risk of mammary cancer in dogs. Risk increases with age and subsequent estrus cycles. If spaying occurs before the first estrus cycle, there is a 0.05% chance. If spaying after the 1st heat cycle, there is an 8% incidence. If after the 2nd heat cycle, there is a 26% incidence. Mammary neoplasia makes up 52% of the cancers seen in female dogs, however, it is very rare in male dogs. The median age is 9 to 11 years old. The most common clinical signs seen include nodules, discharge from nipple, ulceration, and enlargement during estrus. There is a 50/50 chance that mammary tumors in dogs are malignant, where 85-90% of mammary tumors in cats are malignant. The best treatment option includes surgery to removal all of the disease. Based on this information, this is a strong case for neutering pets that are not going to be used for breeding. Other cancers that neutering decreases the risk of include ovarian, uterine, and testicular neoplasia. The incidence of these is low, as well as the morbidity and mortality is low, so we will not go into further details on those.

Spaying also decreases the risk of Pyometra and Benign Prostatic Hyperplasia (or BPH). Pyometra is defined as accumulation of purulent (or “pus-like”) material within the uterine lumen immediately after a period of progesterone dominance. This is a disease of INTACT dogs and cats. The most common clinical signs of pyometra include anorexia, depression, lethargy, vulvar discharge, & possibly fever. Diagnosis is typically made on imaging of the uterus such as radiographs or ultrasound. In vet school, they taught us the top three treatment options are spaying, spaying, and spaying. However, medical management can also be used if the female needs to be used for future breeding purposes.

Neutering decreases the risk of benign prostatic hyperplastic (or BPH) by 70%. BPH is one of the most common prostatic diseases in intact male dogs. On palpation, BPH is diagnosed by symmetrical enlargement of the prostate gland. Clinical signs include trouble urinating, trouble defecating, preputial discharge, or there can be no obvious signs. The best treatment is neutering, however Finasteride(5 alpha reductase, blocks production of male hormones) is used on male dogs that would like to be continued to use for breeding.

“Neutering your pet makes them less nuts” – All you need to know about spaying & neutering (continued—page 2)

Neutering increases the risk of...

On the opposite side, neutering increases the risk of prostatic neoplasia (most commonly adenocarcinoma). Other cancers of the prostate include transitional cell carcinoma, squamous cell carcinoma, hemangiosarcoma, and lymphoma. There is a higher incidence of prostate cancer found in neutered dogs because it is non-androgen dependent, meaning that neutering is not protective. Typically, the mean survival time of dogs is rarely over 3 to 5 months, due to the high metastatic rate (meaning spread of disease to other organs). If owners elect to pursue treatment, surgical removal of the prostate is recommended, however urinary incontinence or urethral stricture is common.

Neutering as a risk factor

There are many non-neoplastic conditions influenced by neutering. Spaying and neutering large-breed dogs can put them at a higher risk for obesity. In one study, by Dr. Simpson, from the Morris Animal foundation, found that dogs that were spayed or neutered were 50 to 100% more likely to become overweight or obese in their lifetime. Obesity can be managed in many other ways, such as lifestyle changes and diet, so it does not appear to be a strong case for not neutering.

Neutering in males can increase the incidence of urinary tract infections and stones. The cause is unknown; however some studies have proven that intact males have more frequent flushing of the urethra due to marking behavior. The morbidity and mortality are low to moderate related to cystitis and urolithiasis, which also doesn't present as a strong case for not neutering.

Several studies have revealed that joint disorders increase in association with neutering. One study that did not focus on breed or age of neutering found that hip dysplasia and cranial cruciate ligament tears or ruptures were significantly more common in neutered pets than in intact dogs. Another study found that neutering was associated with a 3-fold increase in excessive tibial plateau angle, meaning an increased risk for ACL tearing. A recent report from Golden Retriever Lifetime Project found that neutering <6 months of age increases risk of CCL injury. Neutering is reported to be a risk factor for canine intervertebral disc herniation in Dachshunds and Corgi's. There are multiple causes of joint disorders due to neutering. These include delayed growth plate closures, hormonal influences on ligaments, joints, and muscles during development due to the absence of hormones.

When is the best time to spay & neuter?

“When is the best time to spay and neuter my pet?” is one of the most frequently asked questions I receive as a veterinarian. This topic has many different opinions, so in conclusion is very controversial. The society for theriogenology believe that companion animals not intended for breeding should be spayed or neutered. They also believe that the decision to spay or neuter a pet must be made on a case-by-case basis, taking into consideration the pet's age, breed, sex, intended use, household environment, and temperament. It is best for each individual patient to have their veterinarian assess the risk and benefits of gonadectomy and to advise their clients on what is appropriate for each individual pet.

This led me to discover a research article called “Assisting Decision-Making on Age of Neutering for 35 Breeds of Dogs: Associated Joint Disorders, Cancers, and Urinary Incontinence” by Dr. Hart, to find more information about what to tell client's when they ask about spaying and neutering.

Assisting Decision-Making on Age of Neutering for 35 Breeds of Dogs

There is a study published in July 2020 in Frontiers in Veterinary Science entitled “Assisted Decision-Making on Age of Neutering for 35 Breeds of Dogs: Associated Joint Disorders, Cancers, and Urinary Incontinence” by Benjamin L. Hart, Lynette A. Hart, Abigail P. Thigpen and Neil H. Willits. The full study can be found here: <https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fvets.2020.00388/full>

The purpose of this study was to analyze the increased risks of joint disorders and cancers, mentioned earlier, that are associated with neutering male and female dogs of various ages. This article's goal is to increase the information available to pet owners and veterinarians for consideration when making decisions regarding neutering specific dogs. Thirty-five different breeds were present in this study using the same veterinary hospital database at University of California-Davis school of veterinary medicine and diagnostic criteria for the diseases. The article provides evidence-based information on breed-specific differences with susceptibility to neutering.

In the study “Table 1 - Suggested Guidelines by Breed for Age of Neutering” is a summary of the 35 breeds. The Supplemental Information includes more detailed information for each breed listed. It provides a resource to allow the reader to quickly scroll through the 35 various breeds mentioned in the study. The susceptibility to joint disorders associated with spaying and neutering is generally related to body size; for example, small breeds (Boston terrier, Chihuahua, corgi, dachshund, and more) do not appear to have an increased risk in joint disorders. The Supplemental Information to the article also contains breed by breed findings, providing a short paragraph for each breed. Two examples follow....

"Neutering your pet makes them less nuts" – All you need to know about spaying & neutering (continued—page 3)

Australian Shepherd

The study population for Australian Shepherd's contained 93 intact males, 135 neutered males, 76 intact females, and 136 spayed females for a total of 440 cases. Neutering males and females was not associated with any evident increased risk in joints disorders. The occurrence of cancers was 9% of intact males and only 1% in intact females; so neutering males did not appear to be associated with an overall increased risk of cancers above. Spaying females at 6-11mo and 2-8 years is associated with a 7-8% risk in cancers, but there was a larger sample size when compared to other breeds. Because there is no noticeable occurrence of increased joint disorders or cancers in neutered males, those wishing the neuter should decide on an appropriate age with the consultation of their veterinarian. Spaying females should be completed between 1-2 years of age to limit the risk of cancer according to this study.

Golden Retriever

The study population for Golden includes 261 intact males, 189 neutered males, 298 intact females, and 289 spayed females for a total of 1,037 cases (much larger than Australian Shepherds). For both males and females, left intact or neutered at ANY age had a noteworthy occurrence of a joint disorder. Pyometra was found in 2% of intact females. The occurrence of cancer in both intact and neutered males and females at any age was <5%. The findings of Golden retrievers indicate there is no noticeable occurrence of increased joint disorders or cancers associated with neutering or either sex, so owners wishing to neuter should consult their veterinarian and decide on an appropriate age. As a larger breed, neutering later in life (>11months of age), would be most appropriate. It is important to mention to golden retriever owners that spaying and neutering have limited influence on joint disorders, because this breed has a higher occurrence whether they are intact or not.

Conclusions

In conclusion, there are many different reasons to spay and neuter or to NOT spay and neuter. Neutering can decrease the risk of cancers such as mammary adenocarcinoma, but increase the risk of prostatic adenocarcinoma. Neutering can increase the risk of obesity, urolithiasis, urinary tract infections, and joint disorders such as cranial cruciate ligament injury. Overall, pet owners should make an appropriate decision on whether to and when to spay and neuter based on many different factors while consulting their veterinarian.

I hope my presentation today provided you with insight regarding spaying and neutering. I also hope this can be a future resource to refer to when you are asked, "I am not going to breed my dog, so when is the best time to spay and neuter?" As a new veterinarian, it is my goal to provide clients with my honest opinion about when it is best to spay and neuter their pet. I plan to refer to the article mentioned above to assist in decision making, as well as this lecture, allowing me to provide each patient with the best care! Thank you for your time!

Resources

- Hart, Benjamin L et al. "Assisting Decision-Making on Age of Neutering for 35 Breeds of Dogs: Associated Joint Disorders, Cancers, and Urinary Incontinence." *Frontiers in veterinary science* vol. 7 388. 7 Jul. 2020
- Melissa Simpson et al, Age at gonadectomy and risk of overweight/obesity and orthopedic injury in a cohort of Golden Retrievers, *PLOS ONE* (2019).
- Wilborn, Robin. "Gonadectomy: What is known, pros and cons, and does age really matter?" Reproduction Lecture provided at AUCVM.

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Rosters

The Atlanta KC Membership Roster is available on the Atlanta KC website, www.atlantakennelclub.org, under the Members tab. An updated roster was uploaded in March 2021. Another roster reflecting the results of our annual membership renewal will be posted after membership renewals is completed. This roster is provided for **personal use only** by members of the Atlanta Kennel Club Inc.

ANY OTHER USE (i.e., BUSINESS or POLITICAL SOLICITATION) IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED by Club Policy). Any violation should be reported to the Atlanta Kennel Club Officers or Board of Directors. This is available to members only. You must have a sign in and password to access the members only section of the website. If you do not have your sign in or password email Jim Macke at jimmacke@comcast.net.

Judges' Selection Committee

Please contact committee members from the appropriate groups to suggest judges for consideration by the selection committee which meets several times during the year. Please remember not everyone "suggested" can be placed on a panel due to a variety of reasons, however, club members input is given priority. We do work with our "sister" cluster clubs and also have a policy not to hire the same judge for the same show two years in a row. Since we do share judges with the other cluster clubs, we tend to try to hire judges approved for several groups, if possible, to control expenses through judge sharing. Members provisional for any breeds are also given a priority as well as suggestions from specialty clubs for their supported entries.

Show Chair Emeritus - Kathleen Steen - 770-751-0311 - kathleensteen@bellsouth.net

Show Chair & Sporting - Mary Ellen Macke - 404-310-5933 - maryellenmacke@gmail.com

Working - Carl Vitner -404-291-0123 - samoyed@bellsouth.net

Hounds - Jerry Cerasini - 770-475-3152 - ponyguru@aol.com

Non Sporting - Lynette White - 770-801-0780 glwchows@bellsouth.net

Toys - Candy Wright - 678-851-4633 - chiggerbug@gmail.com

Herding - Dr. Carmen Battaglia - 770-998-3679 - carmenbattaglia@gmail.com

Terrier - Gilda Malik - 770-394-4098 - gilndon@comcast.net

If anyone in our club is newly provisional in new breeds or thinking you may be soon, you must let Kathleen Steen know in order to be included in a future panel. The new judges lists are not necessarily being monitored, just an FYI reminder. If you know of someone who may be provisional in their first group, non member, etc, to recommend, also let Kathleen or the group leader know as they are always seeking provisional judges for AKC requirements.

Membership

Proposed New Members (first reading membership on 7-21-2021)

Hannah Yi (Junior)

Breeds: Korean Jindo, Barbet

Sponsors: Eva Gellert and Don Mallik

New Members

Welcome to the new members voted in at the July meeting: Ann and Elizabeth Milano

Know someone who loves dogs? Invite them to attend a meeting with you. It's a great way to introduce friends to the sport that includes their furry best friend! You can also refer them to Gilda Mallik – gilndon@comcast.net

Upcoming Events—Scent Work Trial

The Atlanta Kennel Club will be hosting scent work trials on October 23-24, 2021. There will be two trials each day for a total of four trials. Novice and Advanced classes will be offered both days, and Excellent classes will be offered on Sunday. The trials will be held at our Training and Event Center, Center located at 1155-B Alpha Dr., Alpharetta, GA 30004. We will send out a notice when the premium list is available.

Peach Blossom Cluster

Mark your calendars for **April 13-17, 2022!** Please plan to VOLUNTEER to help—contact the Show Chair, Mary Ellen Macke, or any of the Show Committee, or our Volunteer Coordinator, Warren Frazier.

LOST AND FOUND

Did you lose something at the Peach? Lost & Found from our Perry shows includes one very whimsical item with a herding dog motif, one rain jacket and a few items of tack. Sound like something you or someone you know might have lost? Contact Sandy Weaver at golfndogs@att.net to see if she has your stuff.

Training Classes

Training classes are held at our Training and Event Center located at 1155-B Alpha Dr., Alpharetta, GA 30004. Classes include CGC, STAR puppy, Trick Dog, Rally, Agility, Scentwork, and Conformation (Show Training). Go to <http://atlantakennelclub.org/training-classes/> for more information and registration.

Although we will have other events at the building over the summer, training classes will be on hiatus until September after the current sessions finish..

Help Wanted — Training Class Manager

We need organized person to serve as Training Class Manager. Tasks include

- Confirm class schedule with instructor(s)
- Write or edit class description and send to Web Master for posting
- Receive registrations
- Send class list to instructors
- Attend first night of classes to review vaccinations records, confirm attendees are registered, collect class fees that weren't sent with registration

If you are interested, your club would welcome your service. Call Mary Ellen Macke 404-310-5933

Help Wanted—Archives Project

The Atlanta KC Archives project is starting soon and we would love the help of any member interested in organizing our old records and history materials stored at the training bldg. We will be setting up various dates to start going through and consolidating our important historical records. There are a lot of boxes—some dating to the 60's and 70's—so come take a trip down memory lane with us !

Contact Ginger Aldrich if you'd like to come and help. Email snofire@aol.com or call 770-380-9404

Juniors

The AKC has added a Juniors division to the 2021 National Trick Dog Competition, which is a Virtual competition. Click [here](#) to find the rules and entry forms. (Or go to AKC.org, click on Sports & Events, then click on AKC Trick Dog/Virtual Competition in the AKC Family Dog Program section.)

Got Juniors news? Send it to Digest editor Lynette White – legrandchows@gmail.com!

So, You're Thinking About Judging...

If you're thinking about becoming a conformation judge, you'll need to do some stewarding assignments as part of the application process. Luckily you belong to a club that is delighted to help you get those assignments. Atlanta Kennel Club has a long history of members steward at our shows. If you'd like an assignment, please contact Mary Ellen Macke, maryellenmacke@gmail.com, to let us know of your interest!



Atlanta Kennel Club

Our Mission

To promote, advance and protect the interests of purebred dogs and to encourage good sportsmanship at all purebred events as recognized by the American Kennel Club. To educate the fancy, government and the public regarding responsible dog ownership.

From:
Lynette White
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

TO:

DIGEST EDITOR: Lynette White, 4050 Norton Pl SE, Smyrna, GA 30082-3963, legrandchows@gmail.com

In case you did not know... Digests are now available for viewing without using a login and password. If you have a computer, go to the website: www.atlantakennelclub.org and click on the tab at the top for DIGEST – It's all there! **EXCEPT** for the minutes which remain private for members. To view those, you will still need to access the member only sections with your login. **BUT** you can read the rest of the Digests anytime you want! The past Digests are also archived there.

Anyone wanting to “review” how to access your member only info on the website, please do call us. If you have an email address in our database you should be receiving via email the meeting notices and announcements that the Digest is available online. If you are not getting the notices for any reason, please let us know if your email has changed or add atlantake@comcast.net to your address or contacts list.

VISIT US ON THE WEB @ [WWW.ATLANTAKENNELCLUB.ORG](http://www.atlantakennelclub.org)



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