



The Cavalier Chronicle



November 2012

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Presidents Message

Wow!!! The membership match on Nov 4th was a great success. Beautiful day, just a little rain, but not enough to spoil the day. The attendance was up and I did not do a count but I believe we had over 60 attendees. The heart, eye and patella clinics were well attended and we had several cavaliers get tested to be therapy dogs. I would like to personally thank Linda Whitmire for all the work she does to make this a successful event. Also, I would like to **thank everyone else who helped her to get set up, clean up, do paperwork, etc. Events like this don't just happen, it takes work and I am happy to say that we have members in the club that step up to the plate to make it happen.**

Holiday Party ...We will have our Holiday Party at Maggiano's Little Italy again this year. The date is December 2 from 1:00pm to 6:00pm. The last day to make your reservations is Nov 23. You can e-mail Vickie at CKCSCGA@aol.com Lets have a big turnout.

Our 2013 Specialty Show is fast approaching. Mark your calendars for Jan 31 for the show and Feb 1st for the banquet and auction. I hope everyone will come and support your club by attending the Banquet and Auction.

We've listened to everyone's suggestions on how to make the auction more successful and this year we will have more silent auction items and less live auction items. Also, if we get enough donations, we may have some of the silent auctions at the show on Thursday.

I am asking everyone to look around your home. I am sure you can find something to donate to the auction. We can also use money as there printing that has to be done. If you go to Ebay and look for cavalier items or just doggie items, sometimes you can get a good deal on an item that we can make money from. This is our only fundraiser as we never make any money from the show. So the more we make the more things we can do and fund for the club.

If you have not received your membership renewal package, let Vickie know. It was mailed out last week and some items in the package are time sensitive.

Hope to see everyone at the Holiday Party.

Alice Alford, President CKCSC Atlanta

Club News

As all of you know, the 2013 Specialty and Auction are just 10 weeks away. The process for contacting donors with requests for auction items has begun. I am assisting Auction Committee Chair Jeanne Deloney with sending out the donor letters. The auction is our largest fund raiser of the year and the proceeds greatly benefit American Cavalier King Charles Spaniel Charitable Trust. The success of this effort depends on all of us working as a team. One way you can join that team is to send me the e-mail address or physical address of any donor you think might be a good contact for us. You can **send that information to me at Fitchpatrick@Earthlink.net.** Also, please consider making a personal donation to this year's auction. If each club member made the donation of one nice item we would have a very successful auction. Those of you who are attending the Holiday Party can bring your donation that day. After the party we can move your item into my car. Also, those who will not be able to join us at the Holiday Party can bring their donation to the January meeting. If you need your item picked up please let me know and I will make arrangements to have the item picked up by one of the committee members. Cash donations to the auction are also a good way to contribute. With donated cash the auction committee will shop for **auction items. The only path to a successful auction is with every member's participation. Thank you so much for joining our auction committee team.** Mark Fitchpatrick, Corresponding secretary



CKCSCGA HOLIDAY PARTY &
GIFT EXCHANGE
SUNDAY -- DECEMBER 2, 2012
1 PM - 6 PM

Maggiano's Little Italy, 3368 Peachtree Rd., Atlanta (Buckhead)

We are excited to return to Maggiano's Little Italy again this year.

All of you who attended the Holiday Party in the past already know what a fabulous treat we have in store. The reservation form will be e-mailed to you and will be available on the club website to download and print.

Our regular December meeting will be held in conjunction with the holiday party. The cost of the Holiday Party will be \$25 for adults and \$15 for children under 12 years of age.

This year's Holiday Party will be an afternoon filled with fabulous food and camaraderie. We will present our Member of the Year Award, 10 Year Member Awards, and our Annual White Cavalier Gift Exchange.

We hope every member will be able to attend.

Your family and friends are invited to attend. THE MORE THE MERRIER!

Reservation deadline – Friday,

November 23, 2012





CKCSCGA HOLIDAY PARTY & GIFT EXCHANGE
SUNDAY -- DECEMBER 2, 2012 -- 1 PM - 6 PM
Maggiano's Little Italy, 3368 Peachtree Rd., Atlanta (Buckhead)

RESERVATION FORM

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Number of adults _____ X \$25 = _____

Number of children under 12 years of age _____ X\$15 = _____

Total enclosed \$ _____

Number in group participating in the White Cavalier Exchange _____

Please make checks payable to CKCSCGA and mail reservations to:

Vickie Herring, Treasurer, 97 Spivey Chase Trail, Jonesboro, GA 30236-5476.

Reservations must be made by Friday, November 23, 2012



Living With Your Aging Dog

Mark Fitchpatrick

Dogs are living longer than ever before, longer in fact than nature intended. Unlike people, who suffer from heart attacks and strokes, dogs have few causes of sudden death. Instead, mental and physical changes occur slowly as they age. Life expectancy is immutable. It is written in the genes. By providing an enriched environment for your dog, you can ensure that it enjoys its natural lifespan.

In the wild, a dog's life expectancy depends upon finding food and avoiding injury or illness. In the benign circumstances of living with us, there are few threats to life. As a consequence, dogs are now living very long lives, some becoming true geriatrics. Evolution did not plan for this, which is why, for example, female dogs do not undergo menopause. Under natural circumstances, quite simply, they died young. Unneutered elderly females continue to cycle, although their heat periods become more erratic and the incidence of womb infection in late life is very high.

Natural Physical Changes –

Professor Jacob Mosier at Kansas State University studied the natural physical changes of aging and found some of the most significant modifications in the brain. In its prime, a dog depends on the swiftness of its mental as well as physical reflexes. Messages travel along the nervous system at approximately 6,560 yds. per second. In the elderly dog these messages slow down to about 1,420 yds. per second. Other changes also affect brain function. Blood vessels in the brain lose their elasticity and the lungs become less efficient. **The brain doesn't receive as much oxygen and this affects memory and learning. At the same time, tiny hemorrhages** sometimes occur in brain tissue. Consequently, elderly dogs can become irritable when disturbed.

What Controls Aging? -

With time dogs become, like us, both wiser and sillier. Aging is ultimately controlled by a genetic biological **clock, located in the brain, which in turn controls the body's hormone system.** Professor Ben Hart at the University of California has studied the behavior changes of aging. He found that the natural aging changes dogs experience are very similar to the changes we go through, including the changes that in humans are called senile dementia. Professor Hart found that loss of brain function was natural in most dogs by the time there were 16 years old. Typical signs of old age involve increasing disorientation, changes in social relationships with the family, alterations in housetraining, and modification in sleep and wake times.

More specifically, by 16 years of age, about 20 percent of dogs passed urine or feces in the house, with little or no signaling, for no medical or acquired behavioral reason. Twenty-five percent of dogs this age change their sleep-wake cycles, sleeping more in the day but less at night, when they are more restless but not because they needed to eliminate. A majority of dogs this age, 60 percent, involved themselves less with their family. They greeted less, followed their owners less, and solicited less attention. An earlier natural aging change involves following the owners more – not letting them out of sight.

Finally, over 70 percent of 16 year old dogs become naturally more disoriented as they aged, going to the wrong side of the door when asking to go out, getting stuck in corners, staring into space, and barking for no reason. Another curious phenomenon of aging is that while neutered females become more aggressive, neutered males get less aggressive as they grow older.

Natural Aging –

At a chemical level, elderly dogs have more trouble turning off their stress response. Even when relaxed, elderly dogs secrete more stress-related hormones. Technically, the ultimate cause of death is an excess of these hormones, called glucocorticoids. Training your dog to relax can control its stress response and, at least in theory, could prolong life. As aging progresses, the chemical factory in the brain and nervous system produces

fewer chemicals called neuroendocrine. Specifically, production of the brain chemical called dopamine drops. **This is the brain's master chemical. If dopamine production is maintained, a dog probably lives longer.**

How You Can Influence Aging –

You can actively slow down natural aging by providing your dog with routine mental and gentle physical stimulation. Massaging your dog does more than help loosen stiff joints. It improves the circulation of blood to all parts of the **body. Extensive studies in the 1980's showed that with mental stimulation the brain grows in size. It does not produce more cells, but instead the cells already there grow more connections with other cells.** With mental stimulation a single brain cell might develop lost connections with up to 2,000 other cells. You can slow the natural decay of memory by providing your dog with mental activities.

Feed your dog a well-balanced diet that contains the increased levels of vitamins and antioxidants that older dogs need. Until recently, veterinary nutritionists thought it was wise to reduce the protein level in diets for older dogs in order to take the strain off the kidneys. However, recent evidence suggests that, as long as the kidneys are healthy, protein helps the hemorrhage process rather than hinders it. Finally, accept the fact that your dog ages faster than you would like. Do not over exercise your companion: it does more harm than good. Let your dog set its own pace in later life but make sure that life remains stimulating.

CHECKLIST

- Provide frequent, short walks rather than one long one.
- Groom more often. It helps circulation.
- Feed smaller meals more frequently.
- Provide your dog with soft bedding if it has calluses.
- Take your dog out after every meal, just before bedtime, and first thing each morning.
- Watch your dog's weight. It will be healthier if it is kept trim.**
- Provide warmth and comfort for sleeping and resting.
- Change the diet according to your dog's medical needs.**

Natural Aging Versus Illness –

With natural aging, dogs slow down. In the absence of good mental stimulation, the elderly dog becomes dull and lethargic. Its appetite may change. These changes also occur when a dog is not well, so it is important to **differentiate between natural aging changes and illness. The lassitude or "depression" of illness is one of the most dramatic ways in which a sick dog's body naturally responds to the stress of disease or injury. Do not assume that changes in your dog's behavior are just the changes of growing older. Elderly dogs benefit from twice-yearly medical examinations.**

Comparing Dog Years to Human Years –

Not long ago, one dog year was said to equal seven human years. This was based on the natural life expectancy of dogs and people at the time of 10 and 70 years respectively. Since then both have increased, but much more for dogs than people. A more accurate comparison today is one dog year for five-and-a-half human years.

SOME COMMON AGE-RELATED HEALTH PROBLEMS

Decline of the senses – Deafness and blindness are quite common in an aging dog. As long as you do your part to keep them out of any danger they can do just fine with these disabilities. Blindness, in particular, is a problem dogs adjust to with an ease that stuns many owners. Sight is not their primary sense; they put much greater stock **in their sense of smell. After they learn the layout of the land, they rarely bump into things (as long as you don't keep moving the furniture).**

Incontinence – The first rule of any sudden-onset behavior problem is to make sure there is not a health issue. Infection or hormone changes may be the culprit, so a visit to your veterinarian should be #1 on your list. At a certain age, a little dribbling of urine is inevitable, especially while your dog is sleeping. Place old rubber-backed bath-

Your Ageing Dog continued

mats in their favorite sleeping areas...they catch the dribble and are easily washable, keeping odor and dampness under control.

Lumps and bumps – Benign fatty tumors are common in older dogs, and the vast majority is nothing to worry about. Benign tumors are round and soft, with well-defined edges. You can usually get your fingers nearly around **them, and they don't seem well-anchored.** Showing them to your veterinarian for a more complete evaluation is important, and any changes in size or shape should be reported, especially if it happens rapidly.

Stiffness – Your veterinarian can help you determine if the stiffness is because of temporary muscle soreness or the onset of arthritis. Many dogs are worse in cold weather and first thing in the morning. Arthritis is common in **older dogs, and while no cure exists, treatments are available that can make your dog's life more comfortable.** Your vet may prescribe buffered aspirin, supplements, or anti-inflammatory medications, all of which your pet may need to take for the rest of his life. For you part, you need to be sure that your pet is not overweight and is kept consistently, but not strenuously, active.

Chef's Corner

Archie Squares

2 1/2 cups Whole Wheat Flour

1/2 cup Powdered Dry Milk

1/2 tsp. Garlic Powder

1tsp. Brown Sugar or Honey

6 tbs. Meat or Bacon drippings, cold right from refrigerator, not melted or soft!

1 Egg, slightly beaten

1/2 cup Ice Water

Pre-heat oven to 350 degrees. Lightly oil a cookie sheet. Combine flour, dry milk, garlic powder and sugar. Cut in meat drippings until mixture resembles corn meal. Mix in egg. Add enough water so that mixture forms ball. Using your fingers, pat out dough onto cookie sheet to 1/2" inch thick. Cut dough into squares appropriate for your dogs size. Prick each cookie with fork. Bake 25-30 minutes. Remove from tray and cool on rack.

Store in airtight container.



P u p p y P i c n i c P h o t o s

Even all the puppies got together for a visit and play



One of the Dog Adult classes



Look At Us!!!!



New AKC CH Brookhaven Fancy Face "Hope" -- being expertly shown by Michelle Jones.

Paula Ayers



My Marla is an official Grand Champion, she is out of my Andy Jaybas Gentlemen Quarterly. Melissa Crane

Sharon Utych showing a grand Veteran in the fun match



Holly Brookins



The Puppy Picnic winners in the fun match are Paula Ayers and Shannon Schilling



Shannon Schilling

One of the Junior classes



Melissa Crane

