



“The Versa-Tell”

This Issues Photo Contest Winner: Ken Spencer

Special points of interest:

- Election Results Pg. 6
- 2010 Kleeman Pg. 10
- 2010 Annual Meet. Pg. 7
- 2011 AM Plans Pg. 8
- Test Results Pgs. 12-14

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

President	Pg. 1
Vice President	Pg. 2
Treasurer	Pg. 3-4
Breed Warden	Pg. 5
Secretary	Pg. 6
Southeast	Pg. 9
Election	Pg. 6
Breeders Corner	Pg. 29
2010 Roster	Pg. 30-31

Articles:

[2010 Kleeman Pg. 10-11](#)

[Yarker VGP Pg. 12](#)

[Sandersville Derby Pg. 13](#)

[Demopolis Solms Pg. 14](#)

[Breeding Decisions Pg. 15-27](#)



Anna vom Blauen Gras eagerly performs a blind retrieve exercise.

Message from the President

This is my last message as your President. The election has been held and the results posted.

I finally got to meet Gary in person and it was an absolute pleasure. The annual meeting went well and the VGP at Yarker, Ontario was fantastic. Special thanks to all that contributed to the event. Al Davis was at his best.

It has been a pleasure to contribute what I could to our club. It is always about team and environment.

It is now time to pay attention to Graf and Penny. I am very lucky to have such companions!!!

Best to you all!



Ken's, Graf vom Osterberg – 7 Months Old

Vice Presidents/Director of Testing Report

The CanAm DK club has had a very successful year with several events worthy of noting. An Annual meeting was held in Michigan in August with good attendance reported. In conjunction with the Annual meeting a fund raiser gun raffle was conducted with great results. I would like to extend a special thanks to our President Ken Elliot for donating the raffle gun. Ken's generosity resulted in a huge financial boost for the club.

Three tests were sponsored by the club throughout the year including a Derby test in GA, a VGP/BTR in Canada, and a Solms/AZP in Alabama. I would like to commend all of those handlers who trained, and tested their DK's. The future of our wonderful breed of dog is dependent on your commitment to train and test your dog in the German system. A special thanks to the following Judges who donated their time and effort to judge at the tests: Dan Arndt, Dave Brewer, Martin Ryan, William English, Glen Bridges, Steve Borne, and emergency judge George Desharnais. For all of this year's test results go to the members section in the club website.

The club is in the process of publishing an updated hand held size "DK Testing and Breeding Regulations", booklet. The booklets will be available to all members before the start of the 2011 testing season. For those of you who are considering hosting a test in 2011 – please contact me as soon as possible so that we can discuss possible dates for your test.

**Special Thanks to the following
Judges that supported our club
this year:**

**Dan Arndt, Steve Boren, Dave
Brewer, Glen Bridges, William
English, Marty Ryan, and Emergency
Judge George Desharnais.**

**Do you own a DK in need of testing
in 2011? Are you planning to host a
test in 2011? If you need a test or are
planning to host a test please contact
Dan Arndt ASAP.**

Treasurers Report—December 2010



Dear Members,

I hope everyone is having a great hunting season. I myself went to South Dakota during Thanksgiving weekend. I had a great time hunting with my friends and family. We saw plenty of birds and had some incredible dog work. This fall I tested both of my dogs, one in HZP and one in VGP. Hanno received a 177 in the HZP and Cita received a 305 prize 1 in the VGP. I want to thank Gabe, Mario, Ken, Pat, Kevin, Dan, Marty, Bill, Fred and Tomas for all the help you guy's have given me over the years. Without help it's very hard to do it on your own. Thanks again guy's. At the end of this month I will be having a litter of pups; I'm very excited about this breeding. I will be posting training days and training weekend's on our website, so we can get these pups trained and tested, everyone is invited. I would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Testing expense report

This year the VCDKK held three tests; one in spring in Georgia and two in fall; one in Ontario and one in Alabama.

Georgia Test Cost \$ 785.25 Total Collected \$ 375.00 Loss of \$ 410.25

Ontario Test Cost \$ 529.15 Total Collected \$ 450.00 Loss of \$ 79.15

Alabama Test Cost \$ 175.00 Total Collected \$ 170.00 Loss of \$ 5.00

I would like to thank Gary Fleming and Kevin MacWilliams, who where the test coordinators for these test. Both of these gentleman donated a lot of their time and money out of pocket to make these tests happen. Also I would like to thank all of the judges that have helped this year,

Dan Arndt, Marty Ryan, Bill English, David Brewer, Glen Bridges, Steve Boren and Emergency judge George Desharnais; if there is anybody I missed we thank you. These gentleman have also donated a lot of there time and expenses for these test.

Membership & Finances

At this time we have 37 members. Renewal notices will be going out the first of the year. It is important that they are returned to as soon as possible.

The VCDKK would like to welcome new member Jeff Huster of Grand Rapids Michigan. Also we would like to welcome back Dave Peasley of Farmington Hills, Michigan and Glen Bridges of Jackson Alabama. Both of these men are experienced judges in the DKV testing system.

Financially we have grown this year. At are annual meeting we raised (continued)

Membership

*Renewal Notices
will be mailed in
January. Please
complete them
and return them
promptly.*

Got Photos?

We are looking for some great new photos to spruce up the VCDKK website. If you have great photos of your DK in action please e-mail them to Gary Fleming:

vectortfl@comast.net

Treasures Report Continued:

over \$ 5000.00 through raffles and auctions. At this time all our bills are paid and our insurance is paid through 2011, leaving us with \$5000.00 in our account.

There are two people in Germany that I would like to thank personally. These people have done a lot for us by helping us pay our bills and making the right contact's, they are Margitta Albertsen and Maria Lemmermohle. Thanks again for all the help!

Executive board you guys have done a great job this year, we're moving in the right direction.

Gabriel Lasala,

VCDKK Treasurer

Big Gabe Lasala and his hunting team



Breed Wardens Report:

Greetings VCDKK Members,

Happy Holidays to All Members and friends. I hope everyone has enjoyed a great Hunting Season!

The VCDKK has three up and coming litters. Please help our Breeders! Let friends and family know of the high quality puppies available to good hunting homes!

Litter 1: von der Raucherei/Michael Pauley is an Osterberg line breeding and puppies will be ready around Christmas.

Litter 2: von Springborn/Big Gabe LaSala, is a Hege- Haus line breeding and puppies will whelp the end of December.

Litter 3: von Solilo/Mario Polsinelli, is a Zista/Neuarenberg cross and puppies are due to whelp in February.

Remember the DKV is a breed club. We need to help place, hunt, and test our dogs and puppies. Without team work we will fall short of our goals. Anyone needing help or information regarding testing, HD, training, etc., please call. I'm always willing to help. Our region is in the process of planning training days and seminar(s) to help members gain more useful knowledge. Do your best to attend. If you have a need in your area regarding training, please communicate your desires and I'll do my best to help co-ordinate events in your area.

Communications with Germany are coming along. All paper work is being handled in good time. If you haven't heard already, DKV is replacing tattoos with microchips effective immediately! The cost will be 3 Euro per chip. Chip Scanners will be necessary at all VCDKK events. Details of this change will be addressed and explained as more specific information is received. Germany has mailed a detailed explanation regarding micro chips. We will continue to tattoo our puppies, at least for the time being. I understand that micro chips are an added expense to our breeders but we must stay current with DKV procedures.

This year the DKV had 1319 puppies, 627 males and 692 females.

373	Brown	28.28%
602	Brown Ticked	45.64%
65	Black	4.93%
265	Black Ticked	20.09%
14	White	1.06%

Let's continue to openly communicate and trust each other. If we're honest with ourselves and each other, we can expect more positive growth. Looking forward to the next time I see everyone!

Little Gabriel LaSala,

VCDKK Breed Warden

From the Secretary

VCDKK 2010 Election Results

Fellow Members, I would like to introduce our new Executive Board, and our Regional Directors as follows.

Executive Board

President:	Dan Arndt
Vice President:	Kevin MacWilliams
Secretary:	Mario Polsinelli
Treasurer:	(Big) Gabe Lasala
Breed Warden:	(Little) Gabe Lasala

Regional Directors

South East:	Gary Fleming
Director at Large:	Steve Waters
Canadian:	Kevin MacWilliams
Great Lakes:	(Little) Gabe Lasala

Our new executive board and directors will serve a two year term beginning January 1, 2011.

On behalf of the newly appointed Board and Directors. I would like to thank Steve Waters, Chris Fritz, and Jack Hauge for accepting their roles as this year's election committee. As we are off to the start of a new year, we will have both new and old members testing their DK's. If anyone has any questions, or different ideas they would like to address to the board, forward them to me. I will make sure they are on the agenda for the next executive board meeting. I hope everyone has had, or is having, a successful hunting season.

Happy Holidays!

Secretary,

Mario Polsinelli

2010 Annual Meeting

By: Little Gabe Lasala



Little Gabe and Big Gabe Lasala accepting awards for Distinguished Service and VGP success respectively. Left to Right: Mario Polsinelli, Gary Fleming, Little Gabe Lasala, Ken Elliott, Big Gabe Lasala, and Kevin Mac Williams.

This year's Annual Meeting was a great success! We had 30 plus members, family and friends in attendance. Dr. Byron Hagedwood's seminars on breeding and nutrition were very informative. Thank You so much for volunteering your time! The silent Auction and raffle were both a great success. A Big thanks to everyone who sold tickets and participated in the auction and raffle. Congratulations to Auction winner, Kevin MacWilliams, enjoy the Beretta shotgun!

The Banquet took place at Golden Hawk Golf Club. The food and service were excellent, a special thanks to the staff at Golden Hawk. Looking forward to seeing everyone attend the 2011 Annual Meeting this year.



Ken Spencer - top, Thomas Busch, and Ken's girl friend Jennifer.



Pat and Denise Riley

2011 Annual Meeting Preview

Preview 2011 VCDKK Annual Meeting and Banquet

April 29 thru May 01, 2011.

In attendance at the 2011 Meeting will be Distinguished guest **Dr. Albert Lemmer** of DKV/ Germany and vom Osterberg DK Kennel.

The Annual Meeting will be accompanied by a **Derby and Zuchtschau.**

There will be Seminar and informational discussion to further educate VCDKK members.

For information regarding the Annual Meeting contact:

Gabriel LaSala - gabrielp@peoplepc.com

From the Southeast Director/News Letter Editor

Greetings VCDKK Membership,

It's been a great year for our club and much has been accomplished. I could not begin to list all of those that have worked hard to make this year a success.

As we move forward we will continue to make improvements that will be positive and helpful to our members.

We've held two test in the southeast region this year, a Derby in Sandersville, GA and a Solms in Demopolis, AL. On behalf of our executive board and all of our members I would like to give a special thanks to Jeff Leonard and his family for allowing us to hold a Derby on his family property in Sandersville, GA.

I would also like to thank Chris Smith and Bill Mason of the State of Alabama Forever Wild Field Trial Area for making the Demopolis, AL test site available for our use. The fields and facilities were excellent and the accommodations unsurpassed.

We were lucky to have access to both sites and hope to maintain our good relationship with everyone involved.

We should not forget that without open land and the permission and cooperation of land owners we would have no place to test our dogs and fewer places to hunt as well.

I think it also bares mentioning that we have several new members in our midst. It's always great to have new folks come into the fold and on behalf of all of us I would like to welcome all of our new members. I am especially excited because several of our newest members are judges. Glen Bridges, Dave Peasley, and Marty Ryan are all seasoned capable JGHV judges that have recently joined the club, and we're lucky to have them on board.

Part of my responsibilities this past year were to organize and coordinate the 1st ever VCDKK raffle.

Our outgoing President, Ken Elliott donated a fine Beretta 12 gauge for the raffle, and I'm happy to say the proceeds from it have put us in the black.

Ken has been a dedicated DK man for sometime and was instrumental in maintaining balance and direction in our club over the past couple of years.

His leadership style was exactly what the club needed during that time, and we all appreciate his service to the DK and the VCDKK.

Without the leadership, cooperation, and dedication of all of the folks I've mentioned above, we would not be able to pursue our passion.

Waidmannsheil,

Gary Fleming

On behalf of our executive board and all of our members I would like to give a special thanks to Jeff Leonard and his family for allowing us to hold a Derby on his family property in Sandersville, GA.

I would also like to thank Chris Smith and Bill Mason of the State of Alabama "Forever Wild Field Trial Area" for making the Demopolis, AL test site available for our use.

2010 Kleeman–Zisterdorf, Austria

By: Kevin MacWilliams

This year's running of the 39 Kleeman was an excellent exhibition of field dog work. The breed show or Zuchtschau was an all-day event. The judging panel examined over 160 males and females finally leaving only the top ten females and the top ten males. Of those top ten males and females it is reduced to the top five DK's in each class. This examination took all day with the top five in each group revealed at 1830 hours. Anyone that thinks this is a walk in the park think again. The completion is great with everyone wanting at the very least a V rating. The Zuchtschau is extremely hard to watch as there may be three rings going at once. The tension mounted as the day when on and the announcement of the last five males and females was very exciting.

Day two was a field day with all the DK's divided into groups. We were given an address with a grid for your GPS and told to meet there the next morning at 0800 hrs. We drove 60 kms to a parking lot in the country which was a mere 30 kms from Vienna. Everyone started arriving after 0730 hours. The logistics of this undertaking is enormous. There was over 50 judges involved. Each team had at least two locals that knew where the game was and would scout ahead to find the game the judges were looking for. Our group had 4 DK's. In the morning we were working on European hare. The dog is to point and relocate on command. It would seem to us watching that the dog was working a ghost. The hares run in the crops following the drills and remain unseen by the spectators. After some time we did get to see the hares running in an open area. The dog must work with the leader and must be able to be stopped by the whistle command. The handlers did an excellent job of controlling all the DK's in our group.



In the afternoon the group was working on birds. I will not attempt to name all the game we were working on but suffice to say the game was very plentiful. The dogs were to point and remain on point as the birds were flushed and a shot fired in the bird's general direction. No game was killed.

Day three we went to the water. The water is similar to North America but in most cases somewhat smaller. The judging team made good use of a pond with a river system running through it of approximately 4-5 acres. The Forest Miester showed me the satellite view of the entire body of water while one of the DK's was searching. The both dogs searched without the duck and then with the duck. Both dogs demonstrated excellent water work with Wallie receiving a 4h in water. Inga should have also had an h only for some tuff luck. She actually followed the duck down the river which was flowing at a tremendous rate. She ended up approximately 1.5 kms from the water site, down river. The Forest Miester picked her up with his truck and returned her to the test. After much deliberation the judging team allowed her to continue with the test. The rest of her performance was flawless. (Continued)

2010 Kleeman

By: Kevin Macwilliams

Saturday night was a night to remember. We proceeded to the huge church in the town square for a Kleeman church service to give thanks to our Lord for the game and the fine dog work of the past three days. The priest actually joked that it took a group of dogs to fill his church to the rear doors. There was not even standing room as some watched from outside the church. After church we walked up the hill to the banquet hall and the orchestra began playing as we approached. The banquet and the proceedings were outstanding and I am sure I will not due the evening justice with my humble writings.

The orchestra moved inside to entertain us as dinner was placed for a buffet style supper. We dined on wild Bore, hare and pheasant to name just a few of the dishes.

The stage was over flowing with golden trophy's for each DK that had passed the Kleeman test. To properly describe the entire evening would take many pages please look at some of the pictures we have provided. It was an excellent evening to share with people of like interests.

Day four is the mandatory day that all new Kleeman DK's show us their best field searches. They brace two dogs and give them approximately 400 meter left to right and another 300-900 meters forward for each dog to demonstrate their best search. The judges watched as each handler and dog do their best to show an outstanding search. We walked approximately 15 kms that day through beautiful farm country with game abounding in each field we used. Some dogs were excused after each performance and some were asked to carry on when they were again called upon. Some braces both dogs were excused. The saying I like to use to describe this event is "you need all go with a lot of show"! In the end another Osterberg dog, KS Yanosch vom Osterberg bested all challengers. The day ended in another parking lot with a big party for all who attended. Everyone was most appreciative of the excellent field event we had just taken part in.

We had made a lot of new like minded friends who truly put the interest of the Deutsch-Kurzhaar first.



Yarker, Ontario VGP and BTR

By: Dan Arndt

FIRST EVER CANADIAN-VGP/BTR

The CanAm Deutsch Kurzhaar Klub sponsored the first ever Canadian VGP/BTR test in September. The test was coordinated by Canadian member Kevin MacWilliams and was hosted by Al and Kim Davis of Yarker.

The testing grounds, weather, and hospitality, were fantastic. All three dogs entered in the VGP were very well prepared and successfully completed the test.

Congratulations to Gabe LaSala, Kevin MacWilliams, and Mario Polsinelli - you and your dogs have passed the master utility test.

Kevin MacWilliams and his DK, Vito vom Osterberg successfully completed the BTR test.

Members can view all of this years test results in this newsletter and detailed results are available in Members section of the club website.



Gracious Hosts Kim Davis and Al Davis left, along with Test Coordinator Kevin MacWilliams



Judges Bill English, Dan Arndt, and Marty Ryan



From Left to Right:

Cathy vom Holtvogt

Handler: Mario Polsinelli

Prize 3, 286 pts.

Vito vom Osterberg

Handler: Kevin MacWilliams,
Prize 1, 301 pts.

BTR—Pass

Cita vom Holtvogt

Hander: Gabriel Lasala, Prize 1,
305 pts.

Sandersville, Georgia Derby

By: Gary Fleming

The Sandersville Georgia Derby was held on May 5, 2010 at the property of VCDKK member Jeff Leonard. Judges included Senior Judge, Dan Arndt, Dave Brewer and emergency judge, George Desharnais.

Fortunately dense overcast kept the temperature down and that held for the entire test. Four pups were entered, all receiving Prize I. Three of the four pups were only seven months old and received the J designation for successful completion of the test in their breed year.

Thanks to Jeff Leonard for arranging for us to test on his family property. The site was perfect for our test with onsite facilities as well as lodging and food (fried chicken) within short driving distance.

Once again our dedicated judges sacrificed to make this test successful and our hats are off to them. Dan Arndt flew in from Minnesota and then had a five hour drive to the site and back. Dave Brewer was not feeling well but still endured.

George Desharnais volunteered to act as an emergency judge when one of our regular judges could not make it to the test.



Top: Judge Dave Brewer and e-judge George Desharnais hard at work.

Bottom: Successful completion of the Wesen Test



From Left to Right:

Apple vom Schwarzen Seil—Prize I

Handler: Brandon Rhome

Autumn vom Sturmland—Prize I J

Handler: Phillipe Vander Elst

Anu vom Sturmland—Prize I J

Handler: Gary Fleming

Argus vom Sturmland—Prize I J

Handler: Gary Fleming

Demopolis, Alabama—Solms

By: Little Gabe Lasala

Greetings from Alabama!

Recently I attended a Solms/AZP in Demopolis, AL. The test took place at The Forever Wild State Field Trial Area. The site encompasses close to five thousand acres. There are ample search fields, water and numerous drag fields. The weather was perfect, sunny and warm. Great southern hospitality doesn't begin to describe how well we were treated by Bill Mason (Ground Manager) and his staff! The dogs had every opportunity to complete their testing goals. We stayed in the "White House" which was centrally located on the farm. Every morning we awoke to beautiful scenery. Big Thank you to George and Gary for making the test a success! Thank You judges, Dan Arndt, Dr. Glen Bridges and Steve Boren. We cannot continue to Breed and maintain these great dogs without the voluntary work of all judges. Congratulations to Pat Reilly and Acer (Don vom Holtvogt) on completing the AZP. Can't wait to get back to Alabama, always enjoy the great people and perfect grounds!



From Left to Right:

Don vom Holtvogt—Prize II

Handler: Pat Riley

Halla vom Sparta GR— 0

Handler: George Desharnais

Judge: Steve Boren

Judge: Dan Arndt

Judge: Glen Bridges

Breeding Decisions & AI: Navigating the Labyrinth!

By: Gary Fleming

In January of 2009 I drove from Florida to Pennsylvania for the purpose of breeding my bitch. Unfortunately the mating didn't take. I had not done any sort of testing to determine ovulation time and was relying exclusively on Mother Nature and a single cell morphology slide examination.

While waiting the six months until the bitch could be bred again, I spent a lot of time mulling over all of the potential reasons for the unsuccessful try. Both the bitch and the stud are young, in good health and the stud has produced other litters. That being the case, I began to doubt the "let nature take its course" philosophy, thus made the decision to go to the other end of the spectrum with respect to science.

After carefully reading the DKV AI protocol on the club website and hashing it over in my mind for a few days, I thought that Artificial Insemination (AI) might be a good method to use to breed my bitch successfully. Much of my decision was based on contemplation of another long round trip ride from Florida to Pennsylvania to get to the stud dog. I made that drive last cycle and wasn't looking forward to doing that again.

Additionally, I didn't want to be under pressure to pin down the exact ovulation date then take an impromptu trip; all with the prospect of possibly having to stay extra days and make the long trip back. Since I'd received word from a friend that he had just spent over a week chasing a stud dog owner and the stud dog around the country while waiting for his own dog to ovulate, AI was looking like a smart choice for me.

I began thinking I would be saving my bitch the stress of a two day trip up, being housed in an unfamiliar place, then a two day return trip. I thought by reducing the stress factor I might ward off another failed breeding. Other considerations included travel time, missed work, and travel expenses. All considered the additional costs of AI vs. natural insemination seemed justifiable and even reasonable.

I expected my bitch to come into heat some time between late July and the end of August, so in mid July I began preparing for the AI process.

First I did my home work and via the internet I was able to come up with a list of DVMs in the U.S. that have specific experience with canine AI procedures. There qualifications included expertise in storage, shipping, and handling of semen. You can view that list at: <http://www.akc.org/reg/AIstorage.cfm> or if you want a list that's formatted for printing, you can go to the articles and documents page of my website at www.vomsturmland.com.

The AI experienced veterinary hospital closest to me is located in Thomasville, Georgia. That's about 35 miles north of my home in Tallahassee, Florida. After having a phone conversation with the Vet that does AI there, it seemed obvious she has the necessary experience and is more than familiar with the entire AI process.

Reportedly, the Vet I contacted conducts AI procedures on a regular basis and is heavily involved in the training, testing, and breeding of Labrador Retrievers.

The Veterinary Hospital she works out of also stocks the appropriate chilled semen shipping containers and extender media, and can ship them directly to the stud dog owner's Vet.

I could have used my local Vet for AI, but I believe that experience counts when it comes to performing technical procedures.

From personal experience, I know that not having regular contact with sampling methods, testing processes, and especially not conducting a specific testing regime on a regular basis, can lead to poor technique. In this instant familiarity seems particularly important; that's why I chose to find a Vet with specific and regular experience performing AI.

(Continued)

Breeding Decisions & AI: Navigating the Labyrinth!

(continued)

I think that includes Veterinarians and in any case the phrase best summarizes what I was thinking when deciding what Vet to use.

I kept a record of my AI and breeding activities so that I might share them with others. I hope the chronology and information I've placed here will be of some value to those who may consider using the AI method as a breeding tool. I believe it can be a valuable tool in the right situation. Even so, just like a good mystery movie, this story begins to twist and turn and the ending may not be what you expect at this point. You'll have to read further to get the low down.

Chronology:**Phase I - Preparation**

On 7/11 Prior to the beginning of my bitch's cycle, I obtained a prescription for antibiotics from my Vet. Since my only intention is to prepare a clean environment for impregnation, a relatively mild dose of broad spectrum antibiotic is what I obtained; i.e. 500mg of Cephalexin (based on weight) given orally, with food, every 12 hours beginning with the onset of the heat cycle.

On 7/12 I ordered DNA sampling kits for the Dam and the Sire from DDC Veterinary of Fairfield, Ohio. I placed the order from their website. DDC banks DNA for the NADKC. I paid for both in order to expedite shipping. I had DDC send the collection kit for the Sire to the Stud Master.

On 7/13 I called DDC to request split shipping and to request that they send me 10 additional DNA Collection Kits for the puppies. I was not able to select split shipping via their website. I'm presuming the litter will be less than 10; if it's more I will still have plenty of time to get additional kits.

It's not required to pay for the collection kits and analysis in advance; payment can be made at the time the samples are submitted to the lab. There's no relevant shelf life on the DNA collection kits (there

just swabs in a tube), so having them on hand will save me having to place another order for collection kits after the puppies are born.

On 7/14 I ordered a Date to Mate ovulation test kit from Camelot Farms of College Station, Texas. The reagents in the kit will degrade if kept warm for very long. Because of that, I had to pay extra for overnight shipping via Fed-x. I ordered the kit in advance because I wanted to be sure to have it on hand when I need it. The Date to Mate ovulation test kit has a shelf life of one year, so theoretically, it can be used to test through two heat cycles. That's presuming only five tests are needed to narrow down ovulation each in a cycle.

After I've determined that ovulation is imminent via the Date to Mate tests, I plan to have the result confirmed by a progesterone test performed by my Vet. You can review Camelot Farms products at their website: www.camelotfarms.com



On 7/15 I am checking the Dam daily now for signs of her cycle and will begin administering the antibiotics at the first sign of her heat cycle. I received the Date to Mate Ovulation test kit today, opened it, and read the instructions. The reagents provided in the kit must be kept refrigerated. The exception is one of

Breeding Decisions & AI: Navigating the Labyrinth! (continued)

the reagents which, after mixing, must be kept frozen then thawed prior to each use. If those conditions aren't maintained the test reagents will be rendered ineffective. According the instructions, if stored correctly, the kit has a one year shelf life. Since syringes for collecting blood from the dog are not provided, I will have to purchase at least one syringe and several needles in order to collect the appropriate amount of blood from my bitch for each test. Yes; the test requires that you take blood from your dog; if you're squeamish about that sort of thing, you may want to ask someone to help you with that part of the test.

On 7/16 the stud dog owner sent me the contact information of the Vet that will be collecting and shipping the semen and also informed me that he received the DNA test kit, obtained the sample from the stud, and returned the kit to DDC for analysis. I relayed the collection Vets contact information to my Vet so she will have it in order to send the semen shipping container. The chill packs in the container only need to be frozen prior to the sperm collection, so regular postage costs are all that's necessary to get a container to the stud dog owner's Vet.

I spoke with the stud dog owner's Vet and she estimates the cost of the semen collection and shipping to be around \$280.00.

Based on industry standard that's about \$100.00 more than I planned, but since the stud dog owner seems comfortable with that Vet, I didn't question the cost other than to ask what they included.

On 7/17 I received the DNA test swabs from DDC. The process was simple; rub four separate swabs in a circular motion on the inside of the dogs cheek to collect loose tissue cells; put them in the provided envelope; label it; fill out the DNA release affidavit; then send it all back to DDC via regular mail. The turn around time on analysis results is ten days from the time DDC receives the samples. I expect to have the DNA profile by August 1st. That completes the preparation phase. As I mentioned previously, I re-

quested that DDC send enough swabs and paperwork to sample the litter as well. They did that so I put those swabs in a safe place for use when the time is near, to collect those samples.

Phase II – Semen Collection

On 7/18 I spoke with my Vet regarding advance shipping of the semen container and extender to the stud dog Vet. She informed me that all of the materials can be sent in advance. She also gave me a cost breakdown for the semen collection kit, container, and two way shipping. She plans to send a prepaid Fed-x label with the semen storage container to insure that there are no shipping mistakes made by the collection Vets office with respect to the correct return address.

I asked what method of insemination we might use; because I have read that there are three artificial ways to perform insemination, i.e. surgically, trans cervical utilizing an endoscope, and non trans cervical insemination. The first two require anesthesia and are generally used on dogs that have a history of reproduction troubles. Since that is not the case with my dog, she recommended going the normal, non trans cervical route. Essentially, that's just squirting the semen into the female.

I also asked questions regarding splitting the semen into two batches and doing an initial insemination, then another two day later. She indicated that splitting the batch is an option, but only recommends it if we can't nail down the exact day of ovulation. She also indicated that the semen extender she provides with the collection kit would keep the semen viable for at least five days. That's good to know just in case we decide on two inseminations.

On 7/19 I spoke with the Gabriel Lasala, the VCDKK Breed Warden regarding AI. Gabe was nice enough to check into the process with his German counter part.

(Continued)

Breeding Decisions & AI: Navigating the Labyrinth! (continued)

Gabe also gave me the name of a VCDKK member that has used AI. I was glad to know that Gabe has a sincere interest in offering VCDKK breeders assistance and helping them be successful with their breeding endeavors.

On 7/20 I called my AI Vet to request and pay for the collection kit and storage container. I gave her the stud dog Vets correct, triple checked address, to send those materials to. She took care of the entire process including contacting the semen collection Vet to let her know the shipment is coming.

On 7/22 I checked my bitch this morning for the onset of her cycle. She appears to be swelling a little, but it could be wishful thinking on my part in the wake of all the preparations I've been making. She began her last cycle on or around January 12th so I suppose it's possible.

I realized yesterday that I didn't have any syringes and needles for extracting the 3 ml of blood necessary to perform each ovulation test, so I purchased those at the local feed store. I wasn't able to purchase 5 ml syringes at the feed store so I bought 12 ml syringes. I was able to get the appropriate size needles. While I was there, I got a lesson on blood extraction from the proprietor's wife, a former veterinary assistant. She recommended that I draw the blood from the dog's jugular vein. She showed me the location using her Jack Russell Terrier as a stand in. I think, for now, I'll stick to the lower extremities for blood collection unless I have trouble. I'll probably try a practice ovulation test this evening in order to become familiar with the testing process.

I found the following method for collecting blood from the lateral saphenous vein on the internet. As it reads here, I had to make a couple of changes to the method related to volume. I also found some photos showing the location of both the saphenous vein (rear leg) and the cephalic vein (front leg). Both are potential blood collection sites.

Lateral Saphenous Vein – Have all supplies ready before handling the dog. Always wear gloves. This technique will require a handler. Shave the lateral aspect of one rear leg to expose the lateral saphenous vein. Prep the site with an alcohol swab. Have a helper hold off the vessel proximal to the blood collection site. Insert the needle (20-25 gauge needle w/5ml syringe) into the lateral saphenous vein. Collect the desired sample amount (3 ml). **Before removing the needle, have the helper release their hold on the vessel.** Place small gauze square over the collection site for approximately 1 minute or until bleeding stops. Make sure bleeding has stopped before releasing the dog.



On 7/22 continued I called my Vet to confirm that the semen collection kit and chilled semen container were sent to the collection Vet in Pennsylvania. They informed me those items were shipped yesterday. I called the collection Vet's office and confirmed they had received the shipment.

(Continued)

Breeding Decisions & AI: Navigating the Labyrinth! (continued)

On 7/23 I was surprised to receive the DNA profiles from DDC for the bitch and the stud dog this afternoon via email. The net turnaround time was 5 days. Wow! That was quick. A copy of my bitches DNA profile can be found on the last page of this article. As mentioned, her results and the stud dog's results will be reviewed in order to confirm parentage of the puppies.

I did a practice run of the ovulation test last night. I'm glad I did it. I decided to collect the blood from the cephalic vein on the dog's front right leg. Once I put the tourniquet on her the vein was easily noticeable. I plan to alternate collection locations when I continue the testing.

During the practice run, what I found was that the blood did not separate well from the serum when left to sit the prescribed length of time, i.e. 45 minutes. In fact there was barely enough serum to do the test even though I collected an extra 2 ml of blood. Also the blood coagulated completely after about 20 minutes. Also, the directions that came with the kit are not in clear step wise order with respect to which droppers, straws etc. to use for what. Again, taking the time to run thru this once before the results are critical is important. The test generated the expected result and is easy to perform.

On 7/25 my bitch has definitely begun her cycle. I guess my wishful thinking paid off as there was visible blood today. It is Saturday so I called the Vet to schedule a baseline "quantitative" progesterone test for Monday morning. I also called the Stud Dog owner and the Breed Warden to let them know.

On 7/26 I performed another Date to Mate progesterone test today and, as you might expect, no color variation again. This time it took me several needle sticks to collect the blood. I did it on the first try before but now it seems impossible. My dog was a great patient, but probably wondered what she'd done to deserve the abuse. Frankly, I'm reluctant to do it again myself.

On 7/27 I took my bitch to the AI Vet for a baseline progesterone test. On the way I thought I might opt for just a vaginal smear since it's early in the bitch's cycle and because it's cheaper. The Vet talked me out of it and described vaginal smears as somewhat useful, but a fairly inaccurate and outdated method of determining ovulation times. I went ahead with the progesterone test. Since ovulation is not likely right now, the Vet did not request same day turnaround time for analysis which saved me a few dollars. I'll have the results tomorrow. The Vet I originally spoke to regarding AI was out that day so another Vet in the office collected the blood sample for the progesterone analysis.

Based on a face to face conversation with the attending Vet, I've become a little concerned about the timing. I sensed a lack of the Vets confidence in a positive outcome as he explained all of the things that might prevent success. He seemed much less optimistic about the outcome than the original Vet I spoke to had been. Most of his concerns were related to timing but when someone starts sending the CYA message my ears perk up a little.

The biggest concern I have now is with the substitute Vets assertion that progesterone levels are reported in deciliters per milliliter as opposed to nanograms per milliliter. When I looked confused and asked him why he used the deciliter unit since all of the literature I'd read used ng/ml he insisted he was correct. "He was simply wrong" and I knew that since I have done a lot of research and already have one set of results reported in ng/ml. If I hadn't asked I guess I would've just presumed he misspoke. I came away from the conversation thinking two things - unless your lucky enough to have a quantitative progesterone test done on the exact day a bitch ovulates prior to conducting AI it could cost you a fortune in progesterone testing fees to pin it down as closely as it needs to be. Secondly, I hope the substitute Vet isn't going to be assisting with the AI procedure.

(Continued)

Breeding Decisions & AI: Navigating the Labyrinth! (continued)

Due to my now waning confidence, this evening I called the stud dog owner and made tentative plans for another trip to Pennsylvania. My confidence in timing ovulation prior to the insemination procedure has gone all but flat.

There seems to me that a significant number of progesterone tests might be required to inseminate at exactly 20ng/ml. That could end up costing a small fortune!

Stopping the process now, I will only lose the money I paid for the semen shipping container and overnight shipping: total cost, around \$120.00

On 7/28 I received the results of the baseline progesterone test. The progesterone level was .6ng/ml so we have a way to go.

At the same time I received the progesterone test results, I was told by the veterinary assistant that the AI Vet that I planned to use would be on vacation for two weeks beginning Monday. It doesn't matter now since I've already changed my mind but she would have been absent for the entire ovulation time. She might have mentioned that up front, but didn't.

My guess is that might have left me dependent on the "Deciliter Vet". All considered; now I'm feeling lucky that I changed my mind in time.

If I had not already changed my mind about going thru with the procedure yesterday, here I would be saying, "MURPHY WINS AGAIN!"

On 7/29 based on the results of Monday's test, I scheduled another progesterone test for Thursday morning and made sure to request same day turn around for analysis results. I am somewhat frustrated with using the Date to Mate ovulation kit, but not because of the kit, because I really suck at drawing blood with a syringe. I may have to ask one of my wife's nurse friends to do it if I decide to even bother again.

My inconsistent ability to collect the necessary 3 ml of blood, combined with the fact that the blood coagulates so quickly, are the two obstacles that I can't seem to overcome with respect to the kit.

I don't own a centrifuge, and even though there is an extremely small amount of liquid left on top after the entire test tube full of blood settles and coagulates; it's hard to be sure it's the right liquid and enough for the test. I need to be sure!

On 7/30 I took the bitch to get another progesterone test. I won't have the results until tomorrow. I smartened up and asked the Vet to collect a little extra blood and spin it for me. That way I was able to take the serum home and do the Date to Mate test. The Date to Mate test was negative. Hopefully I should be able to detect some trend in progesterone level. I'm thinking of leaving for PA tomorrow sometime regardless since I won't be able to get any progesterone testing done over the weekend and Sunday will be day 11 after spotting. I don't want to be too early but I can't be late either.

I'm beginning to see that the Date to Mate testing I'm doing is really more to make me comfortable that I haven't missed the bitch's ovulation as opposed to determining exactly when ovulation is occurring. Today is day 10 from the onset of swelling and day 8 from the onset of spotting.

Presuming a weekend trip to the stud dog, I decided to discontinue the antibiotic that I had started the bitch on when she came into heat. I didn't think that the dog would be comfortable during the trip if the antibiotic caused her stomach to be upset. The antibiotic is supposed to be given with food and my dog doesn't eat well when traveling.

On 7/31 My wife Nancy and I left for PA. Since there could be no more progesterone testing done until Monday we decided to make it a road trip weekend and head to the NY Finger lake area and visit her mother. What a treat uh!

(Continued)

Breeding Decisions & AI: Navigating the Labyrinth! (continued)

Phase III – Insemination (Revised)

On 8/3 I implemented my phase III plan for insemination. Of course my plans no longer included AI but a phase is a phase. I took the bitch to a Vet in Canandaigua, NY for a progesterone test. I could not get same day results and decided to head to PA and see if the dog would stand for the stud. We arrived at the stud dog's location at around 6:30 p.m. The bitch seemed very receptive, flagging immediately when the stud dog sniffed her. She easily stood for the mating and we had an approximate 8 minute tie which the stud dog owner said was normal for his male. I made arrangements with the Stud dog owner to bring the bitch back again on Wednesday for another breeding contingent on the results of the last progesterone test.

On 8/4 10:00 a.m. I received the progesterone analysis results from Monday's sampling. The laboratory analysis indicated that the progesterone level had been 4.0ng/ml on 8/3 at 10:30 a.m. Based on that result and the receptiveness of the bitch I believe we timed it perfectly. My plan is to breed the bitch once more on Wednesday morning then head home. Since sperm is viable for several days that strategy will allow the eggs and sperm contact time from the time of ovulation thru maturation of the eggs.

On 8/5 Arrived at the stud dog's location at 8:00 a.m. The bitch was still receptive thought the male seemed slightly less interested. In a nut shell, it took a few more minutes of goofing around before the stud decided to mount her. We had a 10 minute tie and it was over. We put the bitch in her crate and headed back to FL arriving home at 2:00 a.m. **8/6.**

On 8/6 I marked the calendar beginning the count on 8/3 which I am confident was the first day of ovulation. Based on that beginning date, pups are due on **10/5/09**. I'm hoping to end the chronology portion of this article with (see photo below) followed by a great photo of the vom Sturmland "A" litter.

Phase IV – Whelping—On May 9 Success!



Here's a synopsis of the actual Minka x Zunder breeding event:

- Monday 8/3 @ 10:00 a.m. - progesterone level was 4.0 ng/ml
- Monday 8/3 @ 6:30 p.m. - Minka bred to Zunder
- Wednesday 8/5 @ 8:00 a.m. - Minka bred to Zunder

Based on an ovulation date beginning 8/3 puppies are due 10/5

According to most of the published data the optimal "time to breed" is when the female's progesterone level reaches 5.0ng/ml.

That's the approximate progesterone level at the time ovulation begins. Once the progesterone level reaches 2-3ng/ml they begin to double approximately every 24 hours.

According to the Vet I spoke with that does a significant number of canine artificial inseminations, she's found that the best time to inseminate is when the

Breeding Decisions & AI: Navigating the Labyrinth! (continued)

female's progesterone level reaches 20ng/ml. That makes sense because it takes the eggs a couple of days to mature after ovulation begins at 5ng/ml. Doubling daily gets the level to 20ng/ml in two days which coincides with maturity of the eggs. Since fresh sperm is viable several days after insemination, by breeding at the time of ovulation and again approximately 48 hours later you should get maximum sperm/egg exposure. Giving the stud a twenty four hour rest gives him a chance to reload so to speak.

According to the VCDKK Breed Warden, Gabriel Lasala, ovulation in our breed usually occurs between 11 and 13 days after spotting begins. Minka ovulated on day 12 of spotting. Gabriel is the go to guy for breeding questions as far as I'm concerned. His family has been breeding dogs for over 30 years. I wish I had taken the time to connect with him last cycle.

All considered, I think the reason for the previous unsuccessful breeding was simply poor timing due to me not paying close attention. I did not know the exact date of the beginning of her cycle and was relying on a cytology slide exam to tell me when she was close to ovulating. Even with progesterone testing and knowledge of all aspects of timing one may not achieve success.

Cytology slides are now considered the "old fashioned way" of determining ovulation. Old fashioned or not, the percentage of cornified cells is determined by direct examination thus accurate results are largely based on the experience of the microscopist. Refer back to the Yogi Berra thing.

What I learned from observation just prior too, and during the actual copulation event:

- A few days before ovulation the female begins to urinate frequently - I guess to put her scent out there to attract a mate.
- When the female is becoming receptive to the male (around ovulation time) she will move her tale over to the side if you stroke her back or touch her

near the swollen rear.

At the time of breeding, both the male and female urinated several times at approximately the same location, each going back to scent where the other urinated several times.

Some other things I learned:

- I found the Date to Mate ovulation kit rather useless and I lack confidence in its accuracy. The directions are poorly written and the tools they provide are not conducive to good technique. I probably would not use one again and save the money spent on that for one quantitative progesterone lab analysis. I might be convinced to try one again if both the male and female lived in close proximity. Quantitative tests are really the best way to go.
- Most Dog breeders in my area do not begin quantitative (measured at the lab) progesterone testing until 9 days after spotting. I could have saved at least one of the three testing fees I paid if I would have followed that strategy. I consider myself lucky to only have need three tests.
- The cost of progesterone tests range based on you location. For example I paid \$100 in Tallahassee, FL and \$47 in Canandaigua, NY. The sample collected in Tallahassee was shipped overnight to a veterinary lab; the sample collected in NY was sent to Cornell University. Both analysis results were available on a 24 hour turn around time.
- There are no guarantees on success or litter size even when you've done all your homework, crossed the t's and dotted the i's.

Things I improved upon this time around:

- Daily attention to the female several weeks before you expect her cycle to begin is paramount. You simple must catch the initial swelling and the first day of spotting to get an idea of when to begin progesterone testing and when to expect ovulation. In order to do that you should note the date of the

Breeding Decisions & AI: Navigating the Labyrinth!

(continued)

dogs previous cycle so you'll know when to start paying attention. I did an excellent job of that this time.

AI by Phase	Cost Each	Units	Totals AI	Vs. Natural
Phase I - Preparation				
DNA Tests, Sire and Dam	\$35.00 ea.	2	\$76.00	N/A
Postage (Dam Only) FL to OH	\$0.74 ea.	1	\$0.74	N/A
Antibiotics, 500mg Cephalexin	\$16.00 ea.	1	\$16.00	\$16.00
Vehicle Expenses (AAA 2009 SUV cost)	\$0.2028 per mile	70	\$14.20	N/A
Ovulation Test Kit -Date to Mate	\$114.95 ea.	1	\$114.95	\$114.95
Syringes and Needles	\$0.645 w/needle	4	\$2.58	\$2.58
Overnight Shipping TX to FL	\$44.95 ea.	1	\$44.95	\$44.95
Chilled Semen Shipping Container	\$81.90 ea.	1	\$81.90	N/A
Semen Collection Kit	\$3.25 ea.	1	\$3.25	N/A
Overnight Shipping FL to PA/ PA to FL	\$42.00 ea.	2	\$84.00	N/A
Phase I Cost:			\$438.57	\$178.48
Phase II - Semen Collection				
Semen Collection (Stud Dog Owners Vet)	\$220.00ea.	1	\$220.00	N/A
Semen Evaluation prior to shipping	\$30.00ea.	1	\$30.00	N/A
Phase II Cost:			\$250.00	\$00.00
Phase III - Insemination Cost				
DVM Progesterone Test/s	\$84.25 ea.	3 Minimum	\$252.75	\$252.75
Semen Evaluation prior to insemination	\$30.00ea.	1	\$30.00	N/A
Insemination	\$80.00 ea.	1	\$80.00	N/A
Vehicle Expenses (AAA 2009 SUV cost)	\$0.2028 per mile	-	\$28.40	(2022 miles) \$410.06
Lodging and Meals	\$100.00 per day	-	N/A	(4 days) \$400.00
Phase III Cost:			\$391.15	\$1,052.75
Phase IV - Litter DNA Tests				
DNA Test for Litter	\$38.00 ea.	Assuming 8	\$304.00	N/A
DNA comparison Parents to Litter	\$10.00 ea.	2	\$20.00	N/A
Postage FL to OH	\$ 5.00 ea.	1	\$5.00	N/A
Phase IV Cost:			\$329.00	\$0.00
Total AI Cost:			AI \$1,408.72*	Vs. Natural \$1,231.30*

The cost breakdown above does not take in time lost from work and assumes a total of only three (3) progesterone tests and a litter of eight (8) puppies.

What I learned from the “Vacation Vet”:

Even though the vacation prone AI Vet would have left me stranded had I gone thru with the procedure, I am confident enough in her experience to believe the information she provided me about ovulation and progesterone levels is valid, useful and interesting.

One thing I learned from the AI Vet regarding progesterone levels, and the best time for insemination, is when the progesterone level reaches approximately 2-3ng/ml it will likely begin doubling by the day. If you've a long trip to make to get to the stud dog, like I did, when it gets to 2-3ng/ml, you need to be on your way because it will hit 5ng/ml in about 24 hours.

I also learned that the viability of sperm is greatly decreased by chilling or freezing it, reportedly fresh can live 5 to 7 days, chilled 1-3 days and frozen, once thawed < 1day. So you can see that the odds go down based on the viability of the sperm.

At 5ng/ml the eggs haven't matured yet, but since fresh sperm can live several days, you should try to breed the dog at 5ng/ml then breed the dog again two days later. The AI Vet pointed out that the highest success rate for performing AI seems to be when the progesterone level is around 20-30ng/ml. Using the doubling by day theory that make sense because it take the eggs a couple of days to mature once you hit 5ng/ml and ovulation begins, i.e. 5, 10, 20. According to the Vet, that timing strategy will insure the eggs are exposed to the semen for the maximum time.

What I learned from the “Deciliter Vet”

Zilch!

AI Topics for Discussion**DKV AI Protocol and Chain of Custody:**

Since collecting and submitting various biological and chemical samples to labs is part of what I do for

a living, during my phone conversation with the folks at the DNA lab, I asked if a chain of custody was provided by DDC along with the collection kits. They said that a chain of custody (which is nothing more than a single piece of paper with a couple of signature lines) would be an additional \$50.00; Wow! That's the first time I've ever heard of a Laboratory requesting a fee for a chain of custody and I've personally turned over custody of literally thousands of samples to labs.

Since, in this case, there's really no legal issues involved with AI, there's probably no real need for a chain of custody. None the less, a chain of custody is standard procedure for submitting samples for laboratory analysis, at least in my world, and the lack of one does seem odd to me. That said, having no chain of custody didn't seem like \$50.00 x 3 worth of odd. If you wanted the appropriate written chain of custodies it would cost a total of \$150.00 i.e., one each for the parents, one for the litter. I dismissed that \$150.00 thought and rolled without chains of custody.

On the same note, the fact that the owner of the Dam or the Sire, is allowed to collect and ship a dogs DNA sample, with no verification by a licensed DVM, creates an obvious flaw in the current published AI protocol.

Any unscrupulous breeder could submit a sample for DNA profiling of any dog they chose, since short of conducting a controlled test, there's no way to verify what dog a breeder obtained the sample from. It's left purely up to the breeder's integrity.

A better way may be to require the breeder to take the dog to a Vet, have the Vet collect the sample, then ship the sample to the DNA Bank for analysis; along with an affidavit stating the Vet collected the sample and verified the dog's identity via the tattoo number.

If you're asking why, consider the following scenario:

Breeding Decisions & AI: Navigating the Labyrinth!

(continued)

“Kurzhaar vom Sorry’s Kennel” wants to have a litter to get some extra cash, but Sorry’s old DKV registered Stud is now sterile and worn out from producing litters A-Z. However, Sorry does own a young Stud of another registry that could be bred. Sorry’s old stud has never been DNA profiled, so there’s no record of his DNA profile at DDC, the club DNA bank.

Taking advantage of that, Sorry collects a sample from his less sought after, younger stud dog, for DNA analysis and sends it to the Lab using the old worn boys name and registration numbers. Since Sorry was allowed to collect the sample himself no one will be the wiser.

Sorry advertises his old Stud for AI breeding only; understandable since the old guy has become ornery and decrepit. After receiving his normal, if not appropriate, stud fee he submits semen from the young stud to an unsuspecting, but crass, breeder that owns a DKV registered bitch. Friends that no this crass and often disgusting breeder, often, if not fondly, refer to him as Ass.

After insemination with the young stud’s semen, Ass’s bitch produces a litter of pups that everyone, excluding Sorry, thinks are the product of Sorry’s old worn out Stud and Ass’s bitch.

So you can see by not having the supervision of a licensed Veterinarian and the appropriate chain of custody, when collecting and submitting DNA samples, it’s possible that things could go awry. I believe it’s highly unlikely that a breeder in our group would be so unscrupulous, but until that portion of the AI protocol is addressed, some “Sorry-Ass” pups could be produced.

Getting Free Advice:

Over the course of this endeavor I spoke with five Vets, several Breeders, and even an Obstetrician. The down side of asking a lot of people the same questions is that you get a lot of different answers. With few exceptions, every one you ask, including

Veterinarians, experienced Breeders, inexperienced Breeders, and newbie Breeders like my self, will most likely give you a different explanation of the breeding process. Suggested breeding tactics ranged from: “Just put ’em together on day 12 and let ’em have at it” to “you should do a quantitative progesterone test every other day beginning at day 5 of the cycle”.

None of the folks I spoke with seemed to be in agreement on the best day/s to breed, what progesterone levels are optimal, or even what procedures to follow during the actual mating. Every firm assertion was usually qualified with a “but if”. The single exception is that almost everyone is in agreement that the best time to breed is when the bitch is ovulating or just after. What a novel concept! Of all of the questions I asked, that’s the one I already knew the answer to.

The science seems exact, but the interpretations of it are varied and numerous. Short of inducing ovulation with drugs, which can be done, I think you have to mix some science with advice that makes sense, and use both to formulate a good plan regarding when to breed. Be sure to check with your Breed Warden – no doubt you’ll get good, common sense advice there.

Old AI Paradigm:

When I told a friend that I was planning to use the AI tool to breed my bitch he decided to share an old paradigm with me. I’ve heard it said before, but dismissed it for reasons that at the time seemed obvious. It goes as follows:

“If two dogs are mated and produce no pups then the pair isn’t meant to have any.”

Of course that’s a rather far reaching generalization and seems a little ridiculous on its face. If one applied that logic to people it would mean that most couples aren’t meant to produce children since every time a couple procreates for purpose of having a child, the outcome is not pregnancy.

Let's all thank our lucky stars that's the case, since we're already approaching critical mass with respect to human population vs. the planet's ability to support it.

I'd like to be a fly on the wall when someone that holds to that old paradigm informs the mother of a child produced by the AI method her child was not meant to be born because it wasn't conceived naturally.

In addition to being an unqualified generalization, the old paradigm doesn't consider any of the variables that can affect a successful mating. The postulate simply implies that all breeding success is mysterious and better left in the hands of fate.

It's doubtful that those who still hold by that old philosophy would attempt to apply the same philosophy to horses, milk cows, beef cattle, and various other domestic animals.

Many breeders of those, and other domestic stock, utilize artificial insemination as an exclusive method for breeding. For them, a natural breeding would be the method considered an accidental and fateful.

Regardless of how much one wishes to hold on to of the mystery that once shrouded the process of reproduction in animals, including the human animal, be sure that the process is fairly well understood by modern science; thus when employing science as a tool for breeding, there's not much left to fate other than those variables affected by people. That's not to say that the process isn't in God's hands; he just doesn't have to work so hard at it when AI is utilized.

The **New Paradigm** could be:

"If two dogs are bred and no pups are produced, and you have a bunch of money for progesterone testing and the AI Vet is your workaholic brother or sister that never vacations, you could consider AI as a breeding tool."

Having Confidence in the Science:

Presuming a non trans cervical insemination, the science involved when using the AI process for breeding is not complicated. In fact, with the exception of the progesterone testing and actual insemination, the rest is simply logistics. After determining the date of ovulation, it really becomes the possibly more complex science of "timing, shipping, and receiving". I say that since there's no mystery involved in collecting the semen and inserting it into the bitch.

Perhaps because of my own exposure to science, confidence in the actual AI method was initially easier to develop and I do have confidence in the method. Even so, the possibility of spending a thousand dollars on progesterone testing..... and confronting Mr. Murphy at every junction pushes the scale slide towards a natural insemination in my mind.

If you want to use AI you will have to be on top of every detail and resolve yourself to the fact that you may not be able to rely on the initiative or performance of others. If you aren't tenacious and diligent you might get left holding the bag. In this case your bitches empty uterus.

In order to keep Murphy at bay, you have to be proactive, make a lot of phone calls, and check the progress of each detail in order to insure logistical success. Even though pregnancy rates for AI, using fresh chilled semen, are reportedly in line with current published pregnancy rates for natural bleedings, things may still go awry. After all, even natural bleedings are not always successful.

If you plan to breed by AI, it's best to do all you can to make the event go off without a hitch. I tried to do that during this go round and felt completely on top of things until becoming disillusioned by the remarks of the "Deciliter Vet" and finally abandoned by the "Vacation Vet".

it provides is still a function of those whom administer it i.e., people.

Qualitative vs. Quantitative Progesterone Testing

It's important to know, the Date to Mate ovulation test is a "qualitative" test since the result is based on a visual observation, i.e. a color comparison of a sample collected from the dog and the color of two standards. In order to determine the exact concentration of progesterone, hence the exact day of ovulation it's best to conduct a "quantitative" test.

A quantitative test is performed on a blood sample obtained by your Veterinarian and sent to a laboratory for analysis to determine progesterone concentration. Generally, a 5 ng/ml progesterone level constitutes the onset of ovulation. That simply means 5 nanograms or progesterone per milliliter of serum. Serum is the clear liquid on top after the red blood cells settle to the bottom of the sample. In the lab a centrifuge is used to separate serum from blood cells.

Conclusion:

While the old paradigm, "If two dogs are mated and produce no pups then the pair isn't meant to have any", is way to general; the new methods of determining ovulation, though very useful, are still just tools to help us follow nature's course. We simply can't remove all of the variables. I believe, if all goes perfectly, AI is a viable tool for a breeder to use. That said, buyers beware when it comes to depending on all of the parties that may be involved.

If I ever do use AI to breed a dog, in the future I will definitely go the route of having the insemination done transcervically, either utilizing an endoscope or surgery. After all, if you've spent a significant amount of money having semen collected and shipped and possibly more on progesterone tests, why not take it to the nth degree.

Even though there are some good tools for determining the correct time to breed, including, but not

limited to quantitative progesterone testing, ultimately it is nature that determines success. For my unsuccessful breeding attempt, I was depending on the results of direct examination of a single cytology slide to determine the time of ovulation. As the use of quantitative progesterone testing for canine breeding increases and qualitative testing methods improve, proficiency of veterinary staff in the direct examination of cytology slides may decrease, rendering results of cytology slide evaluations even less dependable.

In retrospect, though many things are possible, it's likely my own lack of attention to the initial signs that my bitch was beginning her cycle caused the unsuccessful breeding. I believe that's probably since both the bitch and stud dog are in good health and the bitch's cycle, including the day of ovulation, is exactly in keeping with the norm.

Related Articles of Interest:

"The Benefits of Artificial Insemination"

www.terrificpets.com

Hormone Levels: Determining Breeding Times and Whelping Dates www.peteducation.com

Veterinary & Aquatic Services Department, Drs. Foster & Smith

VCDKK PHOTO CONTEST



Congratulations to Ken Spencer for this issues winning photo:

Ken may select an item from our VCDKK merchandise at no charge.

If you have a great photo like Ken's (front page) or the one here please don't hesitate to send it in for entry in next issues photo contest.

Do you have a great DK photo like this one?

Enter it in the VCDKK Photo Contest.

Submit your great DK photo along with a brief caption. The winning photo will take the front page of the next Issue of "Versa-Tell" and the winner will receive one item of his/her choice from VCDKK Merchandise stock. All photos must be in jpg file digital format.

Submit photos to: Gary Fleming

vectortfl@comcast.net

Good Luck!

Breeders Corner

From: The Breed Warden's Desk

-K.-Nr.: 1255/85 Gew. am: 05.05.85 Züchter: KARL WAENNINGER, SEIDELWEG 8, 8357 WALLERSDORF

Generation	2. Generation	3. Generation	4. Generation	5. Generation										
					079066	VOCK KS VOM WASSERSCHLING	Kl. Ausl. Prfg.	D1 S1 IKP1 AZP2 SW1/1	V	MS4	16422/1			
					170371	CAKSAR KS VOM UPHUSER KOLK	Kl. Ausl. Prfg.	D1 S1 IKP2 VBR CACIB	HDO	V	MS2	20395/1		
						138367	ASTA VOM UPHUSER KOLK			V	MS4			
					106176	ELK KS VOM HEGE-HAUS	Kl. Ausl. Prfg.	D1 S1 VBR BTR CACIB	HDO	V	MS3	24042/1		
						068559	AXEL VOM WASSERSCHLING			V	MS4	10952/1		
					053870	UNDA KS VOM HEGE-HAUS	Kl. Ausl. Prfg.	D1 S1 VBR BTR	V	MS4	17784/1			
						199162	OSSA VOM HEGE-HAUS			G	MS4	13402/1		
					038278	HELPER VOM HEGE-HAUS		2XD1 D1* 3XS1 IKP1 VBR BTR	HDO	SG	MS4	26101/1		
						040757	AXEL VOM FALKENRIED			MS	10192			
						068559	AXEL VOM WASSERSCHLING			V	MS4	10952/1		
						111857	NIXE II RHEINELBE			MS	10163			
					053870	UNDA KS VOM HEGE-HAUS	Kl. Ausl. Prfg.	D1 S1 VBR BTR	V	MS4	17784/1			
						023756	LUX VOM HEGE-HAUS			MS	10164			
						199162	OSSA VOM HEGE-HAUS			G	MS4	13402/1		
						068659	ADDA VOM WASSERSCHLING			V	MS	11008/1		
					141381	BRANKO VOM LEINACHTAL		D1, 1 S1, 1 IKP1 BTR VBR SW3/1	HDO	SG	MS4	29259/1		
						051661	POLLUX KS VON BEDERKESA	Kl. Ausl. Prfg.	D1 S12X VBR BTR	V	MS	12893/1		
						103765	AMBOSS VON DER KOENIGSZINNE			SG	MS3	15304/1		
						155961	ERLE VOM SOLLING			BTR		13581/1		
					073567	QUELL KS POETTMES	Kl. Ausl. Prfg.	D1 S1 IKP1 VBR BTR	V	MS3	16434/1			
						161162	NEGUS VOM FELDHOFF			VJPI		13252		
						119465	BIENE VON OPPENHEIM			D2 VJP3		MS4	14821/3	
						008159	GISI POETTMES					11607		
					155275	CAECILIE KS VOM NONNENHOLZ	Kl. Ausl. Prfg.	2XD1 2XS1 SW2 BTR	V	MS3	23675/1			
						070861	ETZEL VOM WASSERSCHLING			MS	12193/1			
						100563	EX KS VOM OSTERBERG	Kl. Ausl. Prfg.	D1 S1 IKP1 BTR CACIT SW1	V	MS4	13661/1		
						067958	ESCHE VOM BIRKENBACH			MS	11173			
					072768	SEITI VON RICHTSBERGEN		D1 S1 IKP1 VBR BTR	SG	MS3	17355/1			
						048559	AXEL VOM WASSERSCHLING			V	MS4	10952/1		
						068659	ADDA VOM WASSERSCHLING			SG	MS4	12689/1		
											12116			
						103765	AMBOSS VON DER KOENIGSZINNE			D1 S1 AZP1 2X	SG	MS3	15304/1	
					073567	QUELL KS POETTMES	Kl. Ausl. Prfg.	D1 S1 IKP1 VBR BTR	V	MS3	16434/1			
						119465	BIENE VON OPPENHEIM			D2 VJP3		MS4	14821/3	
					188871	FARKO KS VOM PASANENPFAD	Kl. Ausl. Prfg.	D1 S1 VBR BTR SW3	V	MS3	19861/1			
						066660	CASSO VON DER BUCHT				MS			
						188368	ONDRA VOM HASLOCH			S2	SG			
						045366	LEICA VOM HASLOCH			D1				
					033578	FLOTT VOM MARTINSHUEGEL		BTR D1 S1 IKP1	HDO	SG	MS4	27086/3		
						117860	BOB VOM ISELECK			D1* S1	MS			
						165067	AMOR KS VOM MAXHOF	Kl. Ausl. Prfg.	D1 S1 IKP1 VBR CACIB	V	MS4H	15790/1		
						125862	ESCHE VON NIESTETAL			VJP3				
					091470	BIRKE VOM PERLBACH		D1 S2 AZP1 IKP1 BTR	V	MS4	19301/1			
						021962	FELS VOM BOMLITZTAL			VJP2		MS	13888	
						070466	HILMA VOM LAUTERBACH			D1 S1 IKP3	SG	MS4	16885/1	
						123860	DIA VOM WASSERSCHLING			D1	MS	12184		
					115781	BILLA VOM KOENIGSHOLZ		D2 S1 BTR VBR	V	MS4	30209/3			
						201463	MINGO KS VON HEIMERSHEIM	Kl. Ausl. Prfg.	D1 S1 IKP1 VBR CACIB	MS	14016			
						035968	HARRAS VOM SIXENHOF			D1 S1 IKP1	V	MS4	17353/2	
						002464	ERRA KS VOM SIXENHOF	Kl. Ausl. Prfg.			MS			
					015872	DIRK VOM ALTEM HOFGARTEN		D1 S1 BTR	SG	MS4	21173/1			
						100663	EX KS VOM OSTERBERG	Kl. Ausl. Prfg.	D1 S1 IKP1 BTR CACIT SW1	V	MS4	13661/1		
						184966	BRITTA VON AMTMANNLOCH			D1 S1	SG	MS4	16174/1	
					082875	ASSI VOM EICHELGARTEN		D3 AZP2	G		24041/3			
						100663	EX KS VOM OSTERBERG	Kl. Ausl. Prfg.	D1 S1 IKP1 BTR CACIT SW1	V	MS4	13661/1		
						125466	ZETTO PATRIA ZUERICH			D1 D2 S2	G	MS4		
						029059	WANDA PATRIA ZUERICH			D1 S1 IKP1	MS	11171		
					031572	ANKA VOM MARTINSHUEGEL		D1 AZP2	G	MS4	22079/1			
						165067	AMOR KS VOM MAXHOF	Kl. Ausl. Prfg.	D1 S1 IKP1 VBR CACIB	V	MS4H	15790/1		
						091470	BIRKE VOM PERLBACH			D1 S2 AZP1 IKP1 BTR	V	MS4	19301/1	
						070466	HILMA VOM LAUTERBACH			D1 S1 IKP3	SG	MS4	16885/1	



Birko was a notable Sire from the late 1980's. He affected many of today's DK's. In each News Letter I will try and show a notable Sire or Dam. If anyone would like to see a specific dog, contact me via e-mail at gabrielp@peoplepc.com.

KS Birko von der Weiherwiese 1255/85
D I, S I, VGP I, Sw. I, Btr., Fw. v. m. S., HD-frei

<p>Jaime Adkins 11002 Lombardia Ct Richmond, TX 77406 Ph.: 832-451-6493 Cell: 713-363-4390 James_adkins@oxy.com</p>	<p>Ken Elliott 155 Nichol Road, RR2 Baltimore, ONT KOK1CO, Canada Ph.: (905) 349-3229 kelliott@xplornet.com</p>	<p>Jeff Huster 507 Plymouth Avenue Grand Rapids, MI 49505 Ph.: (616)913-7439 Rondahuster008@comcast.net</p>
<p>Dan Arndt 765 Cardinal Drive Owantonna, MN 55060 Ph.: (507) 451-4382 Cell: (507) 338-4841 Diarnrd1@hotmail.com</p>	<p>William English 8831 Skuse Road Pittsford, MI 49271 Ph.: (517) 523-2042 jagermeister@frontier.com</p>	<p>Kirk Jones 156 Sufian Street Pembroke, ONT, K8A6W6, Canada Ph.: (613) 735-9676 Kjjones73@hotmail.com</p>
<p>Richard Beverly 440 Old Lodge Blvd. Fairhope, AL 36532 Ph.: (251) 990-0836 Cell: (251) 923-6370 rebeverly@att.net</p>	<p>Gary Fleming 1406 Avondale Way Tallahassee, FL 32317 Ph.: (850) 591-8726 vectortfl@comcast.net</p>	<p>Larry Kieft 1325 Oakes Avenue Grand Haven, MI 49417 Ph.: (616) 846-1097 Cell: (616) 846-4367</p>
<p>Glen Bridges PO Box 1135, 125 Church Jackson, AL 36545 Ph.: (251)246-9301 Cell: (251) 769-8291 glenbridges@bellsouth.net</p>	<p>Chris Fritz 2126 Germentz Fork Red Wing, MN 55066 Ph.: (651) 385-0412 Cell: (651) 380-2854 Chrisfritz@us.army.mil</p>	<p>Gabe Lasala (little Gabe) 10245 Springborn Casco, MI 48064 Ph.: (586) 716-0295 Cell: (810) 499-0733 gabriellasala1@earthlink.net</p>
<p>Scott Burns 27054 Calle Juanita Capistrano Beach , CA 92624 Ph.: (949) 248-9348 Cell: 350-4819 srsburns@cox.net</p>	<p>Heath Grewell 267 Heritage Drive Milford, MI 48381 Ph.: (248) 685-7083 Cell: (248) 345-9217 hgrewell@brinkmannpumps.com</p>	<p>Gabriel Lasala (big Gabe) 22038 Harper Lake Avenue St. Clair Shores, MI 48080 Cell: (586) 707-6705 gabrielp@peoplepc.com</p>
<p>Thomas Busch 66590 Campground Road Washington Township, MI 48095 Cell: (586) 337-3816 t_p_busch@yahoo.com</p>	<p>Jack Hague 112 Royal Oak Drive Welland, ONT, L3C5V9, Canada Ph.: (905) 737-3386 hi-brass@cogeco.ca</p>	<p>Jeff Leonard PO Box 61351 Jacksonville, FL 32236 Cell: (904) 994-6464 jeffleonard@gmail.com</p>
<p>Richard Davis 1304 Cottonwood Lane Whenton, MN 56296 Ph.: (320) 422-4085 xjrdavis@mchsi.com</p>	<p>Wesley Harding 20 Oakbrook Drive Cota De Caza, CA 92679 Ph.: (714) 904-4142 whharding@cox.net</p>	<p>Kevin Macwilliams 637 Airport Road RR6 Pembroke, ONT, K8A6W7 Canada Ph.: (613) 687-2011 Cell: (613) 639-7050 bauto@nrtco.net</p>
<p>George Desharnais 32815 Highway 84 Evergreen, AL 36401 Ph.: (251) 578-1715 Cell: (850) 291-5848 Desharnais@alaweb.com</p>	<p>Glen Harvey PO Box 430 Valdese, NC 28690 Ph.: (828) 879-8936 Cell: (614) 406-3749 glennharvey@comcast.net</p>	<p>Daniel Myshin 4800 Linglestown Road, Ste 305 Harrisburg, PA 17112 Ph.: (717) 541-5451 dmmyschin@comcast.net</p>
<p>Stacy Dimou PO Box 9 Robbinston, ME 4671 Ph.: (207) 669-2116 stacy.dimou@earthlink.net</p>	<p>Hans Henoeh PO Box 209 QA, MI 48144 Ph.: (419) 262-5022 Hhenoeh@aol.com</p>	<p>Michael Pauley 1176 Phillips Lane Franklin, KY 42134 Cell: (615) 708-0138 mdpauley@aol.com</p>

David Peasley 36423 Greenspring Street Farmington Hills, MI 48331 Ph.: (248) 661-3144 Cell: (248) 705-2549 david_peasley@att.net		
Mike A. Pittiglio 61522 Wagon Wheel Court Washington Township, MI 48094 Ph.: (586) 781-86-91 Cell: (810) 560-4141 mikepittiglio@florencecement.com		
Mike V. Pittiglio 61522 Wagon Wheel Court Washington Township, MI 48094 Ph.: (586) 781-86-91 Cell: (586) 557-5183 mupittiglio@florencecement.com		
Mario Polsinelli 100 Creek Drive Chesterfield, MI 48077 Ph.: (586) 598-8683 Cell: (586) 295-5658 mandlpolsinelli@comcast.net		
Patrick Riley 31574 Riverbend Chesterfield, MI 48077 Ph.: (586) 598-86-83 Cell: (586) 598-5658 p.d.reilly@comcast.net		
Marty Ryan 4320 East Reading Road Osseo, MI 49266 Ph.: (517) 523-2103 martyryan@dishmail.net		
Kenneth Spencer 119 Maryland Royal Oak, MI 48067 Ph.: (248) 563-4722 nut0169@gmail.com		
Phillipe Vander Elst 3564 Meridian Road Thomasville, GA 3179 Ph.: (615) 948-4968 Cell: (615) 497-7555 Pgcve22@gmail.com		
Steve Waters 32625 230 th Avenue Ollie, IA 52576 Ph.: (641) 661-4204 bigred@lisco.com		

Executive Officers

President:

Ken Elliot
157 Nichol Rd, RR2
Baltimore, Ontario K0K 1C0
905-349-3229
kelliottintc@xplornet.com

Treasurer:

Gabe (Big) Lasala
10245 Springborn
Casco, MI 48064
(586)716-0295
(810) 499-0733
gabriellasala1@earthlink.com

Vice President:

Dan Arndt
765 Cardinal Dr
Owatonna, MN 55060
507-451-4382
diarndt@bevcomm.net

Breed Warden:

Gabriel (Little) Lasala
22038 Harper Lake Avenue
St. Clair Shores, MI 48080
(586) 707-6705
gabriel@peoplepc.com

Directors

Director of Judge Development:

Stacy Dimou
PO Box 9
Robbinston, ME 04671
207-454-0666
simpledog@earthlink.net

Great Lakes Region Director:

Gabriel (Little) Lasala
22038 Harper Lake Avenue
St. Clair Shores, MI 48080
(586) 707-6705
gabriel@peoplepc.com

Director of Testing:

Dan Arndt
765 Cardinal Dr
Owatonna, MN 55060
507-451-4382
diarndt@bevcomm.net

Canada Director:

Kevin MacWilliams
637 Airport Road
RR6 Pembroke, Ontario K8A6W7
(613) 687-2011
(613) 639-7050
bauto@nrtco.net

News Letter Editor/Southeast Region Director:

Gary Fleming
1406 Avondale Way
Tallahassee, FL 32317
850-216-0513
vectortfl@comcast.net

Western Region Director:
(Vacant)

Secretary/Director at Large:

Mario Polsinelli
100 Creek Drive
Lake Orion, MI 48362
(284) 693-5273
(810) 459-5667
mandlpolsinelli@comcast.net



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