



The Ridgeline

Issue 1 ~ 2012

A Publication of the New England Rhodesian Ridgeback Club est 1984

President's Message:

We had our annual club event at Ulla-Britt and Don Ekengren's lovely home in Dunstable, in August and the weather was perfect for dogs and people alike. People that attended brought side dishes to share.

There was fantastic grilled food prepared by Alan Fraser and lots of great Ridgeback shopping organized by Cheryl Fraser.

After the annual meeting, Pam Shattuck and her Ridgeback Kirby gave a Rally obedience demo with a little help from a few folks who held signs for the rally stations. This looks like a fun sport that your Ridgeback may enjoy, so maybe you should give it a try.

Some of the NERRC Club members continue to keep busy with additional dog events. We had a great couple of supported shows for breed and obedience on Cape Cod in September with Trophies organized by Barbara Ferguson.

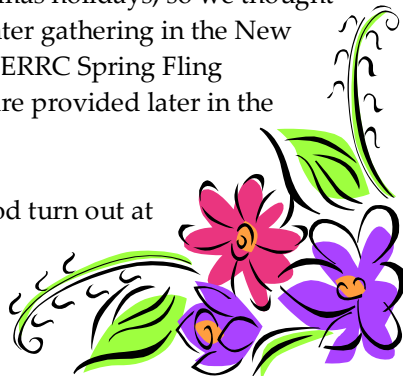
We also had Lure coursing in September and again in October coordinated by Sue Ann Leslie. I hope more of you will get involved in helping out at events in the future.

The board has decided to forgo the November holiday gathering as we have had a small turn out the last couple of years.

We know that folks get very busy around the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays, so we thought we would try to do a winter gathering in the New Year. Details about the NERRC Spring Fling planned for March 25th are provided later in the newsletter.

Looking forward to a good turn out at the Spring Fling!

Jean Gamble



New England Rhodesian Ridgeback Club Board of Directors Meeting Minutes June 25, 2011, Wrentham MA

Board Members Present were: Cheryl Fraser, Charlotte Matteson, Jean Gamble, Pamela Shattuck, Rich Brosnan and Marie LaPointe.

Guests Present were: None.

The meeting was called to order at 9:25 am.

Review of the last BOD minutes – Rich moved to accept the minutes of the last BOD meeting, Charlotte seconded, no further discussion ensued and the minutes were accepted as submitted.

Secretary's Report-

Marie LaPointe had submitted the following First Reads for new membership applications:

Korper, Erica – Killingworth, CT – Single

Voting – Sponsor: Cheryl Fraser

Clarke, Andrea –, MA – Single Voting –

Sponsor: Cheryl Fraser

Bieber, Brigid and Tom – Boxborough, MA –

Sponsor: Marie LaPointe (late renewal)

Members to be voted in:

None

There were no online motions made since last board meeting.

Treasurer's Report –

Alan Fraser provided a summary of income at \$2,064.00, expenses at \$1,965.37 and total funds of \$10,892.59. Total funds were broken out as \$3,290.24 for Rescue, \$8,232.35 in the General fund and (\$630.00) for Health & Genetics. A complete report is available upon request.



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Committee Reports –

By-Laws –

Anita Craven had nothing to report at this time.

Lure Coursing Committee – Sue Ann Leslie

Sue Ann Leslie did not submit a report for this meeting.
Lure Coursing Events:

Sept. 3, 4 & 5 – LCTS on the 3rd & 4th and LCTR on the 5th – Starkville, NY

Oct. 22 & 23 – LCTS/LCTR – Griswold, CT.

Historian Report –

Mary Wickwire had nothing to report at this time.

Mass Federation of Dogs – Jean Gamble brought to our attention the fact that Lowell, MA City Council voted to forward to a public hearing a pit bull muzzle law. City Attorney David Fenton modeled the ordinance after muzzle laws already in place in Boston and Worcester. The ordinance requires that all pit bulls that don't go through certified training programs must be on leash and wearing a muzzle when off their owner's property. The ordinance provides exemptions for dogs that go through training programs and also for dogs that are in a secure enclosure such as a dog crate. The question was raised as to how it would be known that a dog has passed a certified training program if you see the dog un-muzzled on the street and no one was sure how that would be ascertained. In Medford, MA, Officials and animal activists are currently working to iron out the logistics behind a spay and neuter ordinance for pets in their town. This ordinance would require all pet owners to spay or neuter their pets. Jean was unable to attend the Annual Lobby Day so she had nothing to report on this.

Membership Care –

Cheryl Cote has resigned from this position in May after sending welcome cards to new members. She has held this position since 1998. Jean thanked her for her years of service and it has been determined that a formal thank you card will be sent to Cheryl on behalf

of the BOD. It was also decided to present her with a thank you gift at the BBQ – likely something from Waterbury Pewter.

Ways & Means –

Linda Koch had nothing new to report this month on Ways & Means. Cheryl Fraser informed us that our inventory is all set at this time and we have recouped the cost of our current inventory over the past year. There will be special prices available at the BBQ on some items.

The Ridgeline –

Cheryl Fraser reported that issue #2 of The Ridgeline needs to go out by early July to promote the BBQ and the Cape Cod Show. This edition will include the minutes of the most recent BOD meeting as well as an article about Rally to see if we can generate some interest. Pamela has agreed to do a Rally demo at the BBQ if Barb will let us borrow the signs needed to run Rally.

Rescue –

Cheryl Fraser reported that we have the following dogs looking for loving homes at this time:
Nala – a 2 year old active and friendly girl who has been in foster care for over a year. She is currently in foster care with Ann Rezendes in Massachusetts.
Mandy – a 5 year old female who came into rescue in December 2010 and is currently in foster care with Linda and Gary Koch in New Hampshire. Mandy is blind in one eye.
Mia – a 9 year old old female who was turned over to rescue in the Spring. She is currently in foster care with Christy Baker in New Hampshire.
Sophie - the 7 month old female turned over in April has been adopted to her new forever home.
Cheryl also told us that Rescue will have some "good stuff" to sell at the BBQ such as, new mouse pads, coasters, etc.

Webmaster –

Cheryl Fraser reported that the website is up to date with club events and she will be removing the



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password restriction from the website as approved by the BOD.

Supported Show Committee –

Barbara Ferguson reported as follows on the Cranberry Cluster Shows:

Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 17th and 18th. Due to the death of Lester Mapes, Cape Cod Kennel Club has hired Raymond Filburn to cover assignments for Sunday.

RRCUS has lifted all suspensions in regards to Supported Shows thanks to a motion by Ross Jones. Supported Shows can now also be sent via the internet – which is not foolproof but at least you will know sooner if your report was not received.

Betty Lewis is the sweeps judge for Saturday. Betty has been breeding and showing under the Waccabuc Great Dane kennel name since 1969. She has been active over the years in conformation, obedience/rally, tracking, freestyle (dancing with dogs) and therapy work. Her dogs have had multiple titles to prove their versatility and she also added Whippets to her resume in 1996. Betty's Whippets are involved in lure coursing and other Whippet activities.

Nancy Barrett is the sweeps judge for Sunday. Nancy has exhibited Dobermans and Chinese Cresteds for 20 years. She has bred/exhibited Top 20, BIS, BISS, BPIS Dobermans. Upon her retirement from teaching High School English in 2006 Nancy decided to pursue a career as an AKC Judge. She has always admired the Rhodesian Ridgeback and its similarity to the Doberman, both being strong, muscular and symmetrically balanced in nature. Nancy has said that she is sincerely honored to be invited to judge this Sweepstakes.

Barb has asked to be informed of who is available to bring their tents and/or tables and for which day(s). Because NERRC is supporting both days, this will

require significantly more work so Barb will be counting on assistance from more members in order to make this a success. Barb can be emailed at sahibu@verizon.net so she has asked that anyone willing to volunteer please let her know. Jean said she can attend Saturday and will bring a tent and tables that day. Rich has said he is available to be the catalog marker for one day.

Jean was going to read the contract template to determine what sort of amendment was needed to insert a specific timeframe for submission of reimbursements by judges for their expenses. It was agreed by the BOD that 60 days was a reasonable deadline. The BOD will need to approve the revision wording before finalization.

Unfinished Business

Policy and Procedures committee – Barb provided some historical information from Cathy Ford on this committee. This was originally a requirement in order to be an AKC registered club. Cheryl feels that we can shape this committee into whatever is best for the club going forward and it doesn't necessarily have to be exactly what it was in the past. This committee is responsible for establishing the nuts and bolts of what the club can do – responsibility-wise – in terms of documenting committees, positions, events, etc. The BOD feels that a good place to start is with documentation of the Supported Show and Lure Coursing. Feedback is needed from Barb on the Supported Show for discussion at the next meeting.

Cheryl confirmed that she is going to remove the “members only” section of the club website.

Upcoming dates for NERRC BOD meetings:

August 6/7 in conjunction with the BBQ

October 2 at Waters Farm in Sutton, MA

November 20 at the Holiday party – location to be determined

New Business –



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Replacement of Cheryl Cote as the Membership Care chairperson – Teresa Conza and Lillian Ho were recommended by Cheryl Cote as possible replacements. Jean is going to ask Cheryl Cote to write up a “job description” for this position. The BOD also discussed the possibility of splitting responsibilities between Teresa and Lillian if they are interested in co-chairing.

Prizes for members who have hit membership milestones such as five year anniversary? We had recognized these milestones in the past but did not do last year. Do we still want to do this? BOD agreed that this was something we wanted to continue with recognition at the BBQ. Pamela agreed to take care of printing certificates of recognition and handing them out at the BBQ.

The BOD approved a \$100 budget for awards to be spent by Pamela and Cheryl said that Ways and Means would contribute mouse pads and/or coffee mugs for the baskets as well. It was also suggested to recognize Sue Ann and Clay Leslie as volunteers of the year for all the work they do with Lure Coursing.

Charlotte agreed to chair the nominating committee and the following members were suggested to participate in the nominating committee with Charlotte: Linda Brosnan, Cheryl Cote, Helen McCune and Lillian Ho. The positions to be filled this year are Secretary, Vice President and two BOD spots.

Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 10:41 am.



New England Rhodesian Ridgeback Club General Meeting Minutes August 6, 2011 at the Ekengren's home, Dunstable, MA.

Board Members Present were: Cheryl Fraser, Charlotte Matteson, Jean Gamble, Pamela Shattuck, Alan Fraser. Members and guests signed in at the gate when entering the grounds.

The meeting was called to order at approximately 12:10 pm.

President Jean Gamble thanked Ulla-Brit and Don Ekengren for hosting the event.

Jean Also thanked Alan and Cheryl Fraser for coordinating everything, including purchasing the food, getting the grill and cooking.

Secretary's Report provided by Marie LaPointe was read by Jean Gamble

First Reads for membership were announced:

Phillips, Michele ~ Andover, MA
Single Voting ~ sponsor: Evelyn Strawn

New Members to be voted in shortly were announced:

Korper, Erica ~ Killingworth CT ~ Single
sponsor: Cheryl Fraser
Clark, Andrea ~ MA ~ Single
sponsor: Cheryl Fraser
Bieber, Brigid & Tom ~ Boxborough MA ~ Family
sponsor: Marie LaPointe (late renewal)

Treasurers Report-Alan Fraser

A summary of NERRC funds is as follows:

Rescue Funds = \$3172.12
General Funds = \$6678.21
Total All Funds = \$9220.33



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Committee Reports

Lure Coursing-SueAnn Leslie provided a report on upcoming events read by Jean Gamble:

There are two days of QC's and JC's being offered on Sept 3 and 4 with a trial on the 5th. Everything is all set for the trials. Sue Ann needs to ask Alan for the insurance binder.

Our trial for Oct. 22 & 23 is pretty much set. Celia O'Brien will be the Field trial secretary and she is filing the AKC application. We have judges and the field is as the Kinnie Farm in Griswold, CT.

Membership Care-

Cheryl Cote was thanked by the club and given a gift for her work as Membership care chairperson for the past years.

The Membership Care Committee is responsible for a variety of tasks, the most important and consistent one being writing Welcome Notes (and sending along a club logo decal) and sending cards to members in the case of pet loss, serious pet illness, and once in a while serious owner illness. The list for the Welcome Notes comes from the Club Secretary after members are voted in. All other news for the committee comes from members of the Board of Directors.

If anyone is interested in taking over membership care, please contact anyone on the board of directors.

The Ridgeline-Cheryl Fraser

Issue #3 of The Ridgeline should go out in September. Any articles and reports for inclusion must be submitted by September 10th. This should include the nominations for the positions of Vice President, Secretary, and two board positions.

Rescue-Cheryl Fraser

Cheryl announced that the 2011 Rescue Quilt was on display at the BBQ. Raffle tickets were available for sale

for the quilt. The drawing for the quilt will be on September 15th at the RRCUS National Specialty. The winner need not be present at the drawing to win. Cheryl also reported that there is a great rescue table at the BBQ, stop by to see some new Ridgeback theme items for sale.

Supported Show- Barbara Ferguson

Jean reported for Barbara, that there were Ridgeback Supported entries at the Cape Shows scheduled for Sept 17 and 18 in Falmouth, Ma. Volunteers are needed to help at the show and bring food items for the luncheons. Please contact Barbara if you are able to help.

Annual NERRC Awards were coordinated and gifts purchased by Pam Shattuck. While Pam handed out the awards, Charlotte Matteson read aloud the award information.

The following owners had submitted information so that we could recognize their dogs for their various accomplishments during 2010:

- Marilyn Bachman and her Ridgeback Zolah
- Meghan Terwilliger and her Ridgeback Howler
- Mark Abbott and his Ridgeback Alika
- Karen Ferrante and her Ridgeback Cori

Although there were no applicants, Volunteers of the Year were selected by the board and SueAnn and Clay Leslie were recognized for their commitment to the NERRC Lure Coursing events.

Jean asked if members present wanted to see a Rally Obedience demonstration after lunch and the group agreed to meet back in the same spot at 2:30 for the Rally demo.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 12:55

Minutes submitted by Jean Gamble



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New England Rhodesian Ridgeback Club Board of Directors Meeting Minutes October 2, 2011 Waters Farm – Sutton, MA

Board Members Present were: Cheryl Fraser, Charlotte Matteson, Jean Gamble, Alan Fraser, Rich Brosnan and Marie LaPointe.

Guests Present were: None.

The meeting was called to order at 12:09 pm.

Review of the last BOD minutes – Charlotte moved to accept the minutes of the last BOD meeting, Cheryl seconded, no further discussion ensued and the minutes were accepted as submitted.

Secretary's Report-

Marie LaPointe had submitted the following First Reads for new membership applications:

- Phillips, Michele – Andover, MA – Single Voting Sponsor: Evelyn Strawn
- Beaulieu, Tom & Lori – Pepperell, MA – Family Voting Sponsor: Ulla Britt Ekengren
- Thompson, Erica & Brian – Raymond, NH – Family Voting – Sponsor: Ulla Britt Ekengren

New members voted in:

Cheryl Fraser made a motion to accept the following new members into NERRC, the motion was seconded by Jean Gamble and passed by unanimous vote.

- Korper, Erica – Killingworth, CT – Single Voting – Sponsor: Cheryl Fraser
- Clarke, Andrea –, MA – Single Voting – Sponsor: Cheryl Fraser
- Bieber, Brigid and Tom – Boxborough, MA – Sponsor: Marie LaPointe (late renewal)

The following online motions were made:

On August 8th, Cheryl Fraser moved that the club purchase \$100 worth of raffle tickets for the 2011 Rhodesian Ridgeback Rescue Quilt being raffled off at the National Specialty in Rapid City, South Dakota. The motion was seconded by Alan Fraser and passed by majority vote on August 12th.

On September 20th, Jean Gamble moved that the club reimburse Betty Lewis \$50 gas expense for judging Sweeps at our club sponsored show Saturday, September 17th on Cape Cod. The motion was seconded by Cheryl Fraser and passed by unanimous vote on September 22nd.

Nominations Committee:

On August 5th Helen McCune and Linda Brosnan agreed to serve on the Nominations Committee chaired by Charlotte Matteson. The openings that need to be filled for 2012 are: Vice President, Secretary and two Board members.

Treasurer's Report –

Alan Fraser provided a summary of income at \$2,188.00, expenses at \$1,995.53 and total funds of \$9,412.80. Total funds were broken out as \$3,428.12 for Rescue, \$6,614.68 in the General fund and (\$630.00) for Health & Genetics. A complete report is available upon request.

Alan also reported that the club lost \$287.87 on the Cape Cod Supported Show. This show historically loses \$300 - \$400 each year. The BOD had a brief discussion on how to make the show profitable for us with one suggestion being that we accept general donations to offset the cost of judges and other expenses in addition to asking for trophy sponsors.

Finally, Alan will be changing the type of account we have at our bank in order to eliminate monthly service charges.



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Committee Reports –

By-Laws –

Anita Craven had nothing to report at this time.

Lure Coursing Committee – Sue Ann Leslie

Sue Ann stated that final preparations are being made for the October 22/23 trials to be held in Griswold, CT. One of our judges pulled out but she was able to find a suitable replacement. We will need to get an insurance binder for Kinnie Farm, Sue Ann is working with Alan Fraser to get this binder in place. Sue Ann also reported that she ordered judges score sheets from Staples at a cost of \$106.32 as these forms are printed on NCR paper.

September trials in Starkville, NY went off without a hitch and we made a profit of \$300 on the three day event.

The October trials will be our final trials for 2011.

Historian Report –

Mary Wickwire had nothing to report at this time.

Mass Federation of Dogs – Jean Gamble

Jean Gamble reported that there are currently over 160 bills scheduled to be considered by the joint committee with a few of the more important ones being:

House Bill 2228 seeking to establish a public registry of animal abusers. This bill would require a county sheriff to notify every residence, school, humane society, animal shelter and any other business within a half mile radius of the person's residence or location and provide them with the personal information of the abuser.

House Bill 2810 seeking to increase penalties for animal cruelty convictions with jail time up to 10 years and fines up to \$5,000.

House Bill 3682 which, like HB 2228 seeks to create an

animal abuse registry. The difference being that this bill would, if enacted, require dog breeders to check an online public list to ensure they are not selling dogs to known animal abusers.

House Bill 682 seeks to include animals in protective and restraining orders.

House Bill 876 seeks to develop a state animal abuse registry and, like HB 3682, would require dog breeders to check an online public list to ensure that dogs are not sold to those who have been convicted of animal cruelty.

Jean has urged the BOD to spread the word that additional information on these and other bills on the agenda can be found on the Massachusetts Federation of Dog Clubs and Responsible Dog Owners website or by contacting the AKC Government Relations Department at (919) 816-3720. She also urged that anyone who wishes to be heard contact your State Representative and/or Senator and let your feelings be known.

Membership Care –

Cheryl Cote has resigned from this position in May and there is nothing new to report at this time.

Ways & Means –

Linda Koch had nothing new to report this month on Ways & Means.

The Ridgeline –

Cheryl Fraser reported that she would like to get issue #3 of The Ridgeline out by mid October. The BOD needs to finalize minutes of the Annual Meeting which took place at the BBQ so they can be published in this issue of the Ridgeline.

Supported Show Committee –

Barbara Ferguson has asked that the BOD consider hosting a Regional Specialty for 2012 rather than the Supported Show at Cape Cod as we have done in the past. In order to qualify as a Regional Specialty, we



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need to incorporate an education component into the weekend.

She has tentatively proposed September 13 – 16 as the dates and has gotten a verbal commitment from RRCUS Members to support Thursday, Friday and Sunday with NERRC supporting Saturday.

Sue Ann and Clay Leslie have expressed interest in offering a Lure Coursing component in conjunction with the show. The BOD questioned where this component would be held if we were to keep the location on Cape Cod.

Barbara has spoken to Damien at the AKC, Ross Jones at RRCUS and Linda Flynn of the South Shore Kennel Club and, as long as RRCUS will serve as the Host organization, NERRC can hold a Regional Specialty. Ross Jones has approved this scenario.

Barbara has also approached a Sweeps judge and is waiting to hear back from him/her. She is also working on lining up judges for the other disciplines and days and the Potting Shed is excited about providing the trophies for us. Barbara feels that we should consider offering more trophies and is going to check with other clubs to see what they offer in terms of trophies at their shows.

The BOD is not sure this is a prudent move at this time, especially in light of the fact that we are not profitable on the two day Supported Show. The overall feeling is that a four day show will be a lot more work and the potential for an increased loss due higher expenses. We are also not sure there is enough support within the membership to take on something of this magnitude from both a monetary and voluntary aspect. Historically at the Supported Show, attendance by members who are not showing has been very low if not non-existent.

While we are open to hearing a more concrete plan with greater detail that may allay our fears, overall the BOD feels that our efforts would be better spent building up

support of our Supported Show first, finding ways to make it profitable before thinking about expanding it.

The BOD has also asked Jean to request that Barbara submit the names of prospective judges for the Supported Show to the BOD for review and approval *before* entering into any sort of contracts with them going forward.

Unfinished Business

Nominations:

Vice President – Cheryl Fraser
Secretary – Marie LaPointe
Member – Charlotte Matteson
Member – Pamela Shattuck

Resumes for above candidates need to be submitted to Cheryl Fraser ASAP for inclusion in the next edition of the Ridgeline.

Upcoming dates for NERRC BOD meetings:
November 20– Wrentham Outlets

There was some discussion about the location of the Holiday Party and the low level of attendance in recent years. The BOD is looking at moving the Holiday Party to January. Ideas for locations include: Chinese food restaurant or a hall/training facility. Barbara Ferguson had offered her facility in the past and a rental hall suggested by a new applicant with a potluck could be considered. The BOD also discussed putting the question of location to the membership for feedback. We do not want to do away with the Holiday party all together the raffle aspect of it is a good fundraiser for Rescue and we are not willing to let that fall by the wayside.

The November meeting will be held with just the BOD in attendance in Wrentham, MA.



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Replacement of Cheryl Cote as the Membership Care chairperson – Teresa Conza and Lillian Ho were recommended by Cheryl Cote as possible replacements.

Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 pm.



**New England Rhodesian Ridgeback Club
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
November 20, 2011
Joe's American Bar & Grill – Franklin, MA**

Board Members Present were: Cheryl Fraser, Charlotte Matteson, Jean Gamble, Alan Fraser, Rich Brosnan and Marie LaPointe.

Guests Present were: None.

The meeting was called to order at approximately 12:30 pm.

Review of August General meeting minutes – Rich moved to accept the minutes of the August BOD meeting, Cheryl seconded, no further discussion ensued and the minutes were accepted as submitted.

October BOD meeting minutes are to be resubmitted via email as a change needed to be made to these before being voted on.

Secretary's Report-

Marie LaPointe had submitted the following First Reads for new membership applications:

Phillips, Michele – Andover, MA – Single Voting – Sponsor: Evelyn Strawn

Beaulieu, Tom & Lori – Pepperell, MA – Family Voting – Sponsor: Ulla Britt Ekengren

Thompson, Erica & Brian – Raymond, NH – Family Voting – Sponsor: Ulla Britt Ekengren

DeJesse, Christine – Brooklyn, CT – Single Voting – Sponsor: Marie LaPointe

Sullivan, Elizabeth & Philip – Amherst, NH – Family Voting – Sponsor: Marie LaPointe

Smith, Angel – Pepperell, MA – Single Voting Sponsor: Jean Gamble

Ritenhouse, Mark & Louise – Winchester, MA Associate – Sponsor: Ulla Britt Ekengren

Our first 2012 membership renewal was received from Kathleen Tedesco.

The following online motions were made:

On October 11th, Marie LaPointe moved that the club purchase reimburse Cheryl Fraser \$219.68 framing expense for a puppy print donated to the RRCUS silent auction at the National Specialty in Rapid City, South Dakota in September 2011 on behalf of NERRC. The motion was seconded by Jean Gamble and passed by majority vote on October 18th.

Treasurer's Report –

Alan Fraser provided a wrap up of Lure Coursing for 2011. We had gross receipts of \$300 for June, \$367 for September and \$207 for October. Our net Lure Coursing profit for the year was \$145 after all expenses, including the purchase of a new generator at the beginning of the year. A complete treasurer's report is available upon request.

Committee Reports –

By-Laws – Anita Craven



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Anita Craven had nothing to report at this time.

Lure Coursing Committee – Sue Ann Leslie

Sue Ann did not submit a written report but, in conversation with Jean Gamble, she stated that the October trials went well but we need to get the NERRC participation up at these events. We are required to have a minimum of three club members helping out at each sponsored event and we have a real problem meeting this requirement.

The BOD needs to decide if we continue to sponsor these events and, if so, how do we get club members more involved and generate interest in Lure Coursing.

There was some discussion about putting on a Lure Coursing fun day – possibly at Waters Farm – where club members can come and try it with their dogs to see how fun it can be. Another idea that was kicked around was to have a fun day in the spring and then another one in late summer, after the BBQ to get members excited and more involved.

Historian Report – Mary Wickwire

Mary Wickwire had nothing to report at this time.

Mass Federation of Dogs – Jean Gamble

Jean Gamble had nothing to report at this time.

Membership Care –

We are still looking for someone to replace Cheryl Cote in this position.

Ways & Means –

Linda Koch had nothing new to report this month on Ways & Means. Cheryl Fraser informed the BOD that Ways & Means raised \$425 in sales at the August BBQ.

The Ridgeline –

Cheryl Fraser reported that the BOD needs to finalize minutes of the Annual Meeting which took place at the BBQ so they can be published in this issue of the Ridgeline, which is currently overdue to be published.

Rescue – Cheryl Fraser

Cheryl reported that we currently have Girl, Mandy and Nala in rescue looking for forever homes.

Webmaster – Cheryl Fraser

Cheryl Fraser had nothing to report at this time.

Supported Show Committee –

Barbara Ferguson had nothing to report, however, there was some confusion if the board had confirmed interest in a supported show at the Cape for 2012. Barb also indicated that, since she was not sure we were willing to support the show, she had not yet asked anyone to judge.

The BOD discussed the statements above and reiterated that we are willing to support a one day supported show for 2012. The BOD feels that member support needs to increase before we would consider a multiple day supported show.

The BOD reiterated the fact that we need to be advised of the names of prospective judges in advance of them being put under contract to judge the show. We would like to know who is being chosen in case there are extenuating circumstances surrounding specific judges that would cause us to not want them participating in our supported show.

Jean indicated that she had found a draft of procedures put together in the past and she was going to scan the draft and send it to BOD members for review and discussion at the next meeting.



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Unfinished Business

Nominations:

Vice President – Cheryl Fraser
 Secretary – Marie LaPointe
 Member – Charlotte Matteson
 Member – ??

Charlotte is going to contact Pamela to confirm that she is not able to run again and to see if she had any suggestions for potential replacements. The nominating committee is seeking a candidate for the remaining open board position.

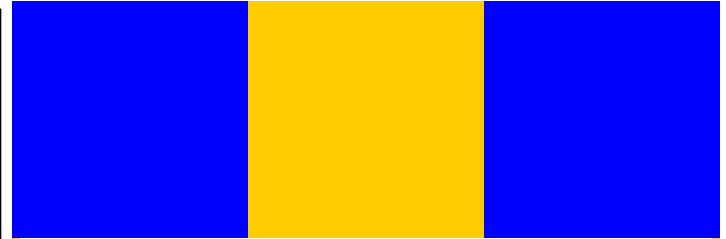
Winter gathering – the BOD is still looking for a date and location for our annual holiday party. Jean Gamble is going to contact Angel Smith to get additional information about rental of a hall in her town as a potential site for the party.

The January meeting will be held on the 29th, possibly in conjunction with the holiday party, at a location to be determined.

Jean Gamble is investigating a Chinese restaurant in Littleton, MA that was used by the Wachusett club she belongs to as a possible party site.

The club's annual report needs to be filed with the MA Secretary of State by year end.

Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 2:05 pm.



HELP WANTED !!!

**CLUB MEMBERS FOR HELP
 WITH OUR LURE COURSING TRIALS.**

~

COME OUT FOR A FUN DAY.

~

**WE NEED YOU TO STEP UP AND
 HELP!**

~

**IF YOU ARE INTERESTED,
 PLEASE CONTACT ME.**

Thank You,
 Sue Ann Leslie
sueanclay.les@snet.net
 860-848-7629





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ADDITIONAL FIRST READS

Mark & Louise Ritenhouse—Winchester, MA. Associate
Sponsor—Ulla-Britt Ekengren

Dennis & Jamie Lui—Lincoln, MA. Associate
Sponsor—Cheryl Fraser (adopted a rescue dog)

Position Opening:

Membership Care Committee Chair

The Membership Care Committee Chair is responsible for a variety of tasks, the most important and consistent one being writing Welcome Notes (and sending along a club logo decal) and sending cards to members in the case of pet loss, serious pet illness, and once in a while serious owner illness.

The list for the Welcome Notes comes from the Club Secretary after members are voted in. All other news for the committee comes from members of the Board of Directors.

If anyone is interested in taking over membership care, please contact anyone on the board of directors.

THANK YOU.....

NERRC 2011 Club Officers & Committees:

President

Jean Gamble 978-779-6112 jean.gamble@comcast.net

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The Ridgeline

Issue 1 ~ 2012

A Publication of the New England Rhodesian Ridgeback Club est 1984

Upcoming NERRC Board Meetings

- **January 29**
- **March 25—Spring Fling Party**
- **May (TBD)**
- **August—Annual Meeting / BBQ**
- **October—(TBD)**
- **November -(TBD)**

Thank You from
Sue Ann & Clay Leslie

Clay and I would like to thank the Club and its Members for awarding us 2010's 'Volunteers Of The Year Award' along with a blanket! The blanket is very nice! We appreciate the thoughtful recognition.

NERRC 2012 CALENDAR

Check the website for updates

March 25th	NERRC Spring Fling. Littleton, MA . Contact Jean Gamble 978-779-6112(h) 978-333-9171(c) ~ jean.gamble@comcast.net
June 8/9th	Lure Coursing Fun Day & Trials. Griswold, CT. Contact Sue Ann Leslie—sueanclay.les@snet.net 860-848-7629
August 4th	BBQ & Annual Club Meeting Dunstable, MA
September 15th	NERRC Supported Show, Cape Cod. Contact Barbara Ferguson 508-477-2063 sahibu@verizon.net
September	Lure Coursing, New York. Contact Sue Ann Leslie sueanclay.les@snet.net 860-848-7629
October	Lure Coursing, Griswold, CT. Contact Sue Ann Leslie sueanclay.les@snet.net 860-848-7629

Upcoming REGIONAL Events

Wachusett Kennel Club - Annual Blood Draw
Sunday, March 11, 2012 10am-3pm - DogStarActivityCenter.com, Acton, MA

Ladies' Dog Club, Inc. Breeders' Symposium
Sunday, March 25, 2012 - DogStarActivityCenter.com, Acton, MA

Pioneer Valley Kennel Club, Inc. All Breed Health Clinic
Sunday, April 29, 2012 - North County Veterinary Clinic, Inc., Greenfield, MA



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New Law Enables Pet Owners to Better Provide for Their Furry Loved Ones

By: Christine P. Keane

On January 7, 2011, Governor Patrick signed into law "An Act Relative to Trusts for the Care of Animals," which allows pet owners to create legally enforceable "Pet Trusts" in their estate plans. The new law became effective on April 7, 2011. With this new legislation, a Massachusetts resident may create a trust for the care of one or more of his or her pets, and the trust is now enforceable under Massachusetts law. Massachusetts pet owners can now be ensured that their wishes and directions regarding their companion animals will be carried out at their incapacity or death.

Prior to the new law, pet owners were limited in how they could provide for their pets after the owners became incapacitated or died. The main option available to Massachusetts residents was to give a specific amount of money to an individual with a statement expressing his or her wishes that the individual use the funds to care for his or her pet(s). There was no way to enforce the pet owner's wishes and ensure that the individual receiving the money would use it for the care of the pet(s).

Under the new law, a pet owner may establish a trust for any pets living at the time of the owner's incapacity or death. This trust may take effect while the pet owner is living, upon his or her incapacity, or upon his or her death. The trust would terminate upon the death of the pet or, if there was more than one pet provided for under the terms of the trust, upon the death of the last surviving pet. Unless the trust provides otherwise, the assets in the trust would be held for the sole benefit of the pet(s), except for any reasonable administration expenses of the trust.

Likely influenced by the multi-million dollar Pet Trust established by Leona Helmsley in New York, the amount of property with which a Pet Trust may be funded is not unlimited. The new law allows the Court to reduce the amount in the trust if that amount substantially exceeds the amount required to care for the pet(s). Before the Court would reduce the amount in the trust, it would first have to determine that there would be no substantial adverse impact in the care, maintenance, health or appearance of the pet(s). If the Court reduces the amount of the Pet Trust, the excess assets would

pass according to the terms of the trust instrument or be returned to the original pet owner, if he or she is still alive. The reason for the inclusion of this provision may stem from the \$12 million trust that Ms. Helmsley created for her pet Maltese, Trouble, at her death. While pet lovers may not have been shocked by the affection that Ms. Helmsley had for Trouble, the Court found the amount excessive and reduced the trust assets to \$2 million. Until Trouble's death a few months ago, the reduced amount still provided him a very lavish lifestyle.

There are several advantages to creating a Pet Trust under the new law. First, a pet owner may name a reliable person to be the trustee of the trust. This person may be someone other than the caretaker of the pet(s). The trustee would ensure that the pet(s) is well cared for and that the trust assets are properly managed. Additionally, if the trustee did not fulfill his or her fiduciary obligations, then a person having custody of the pet(s), a subsequent beneficiary of the trust or a court appointed person could go to Court to enforce the terms of the trust.

Another advantage of creating a Pet Trust is that by arranging for the care of your pet(s) upon your incapacity or after your death (or after both you and your spouse become incapacitated or die), you may be removing a burden on a local animal shelter that would otherwise have been required to care for your pet. Often times, animal shelters find that the incapacity or death of a pet owner results in the abandonment or surrender of a pet.

While Pet Trusts are appropriate for any type of pet, they may be particularly well-suited for pets that are more expensive to maintain and require a high level of care. For example, Pet Trusts may be particularly useful for horse owners since horses have long life expectancies and are expensive to care for and board. A Pet Trust would enable the pet owner to dictate the proper care requirements for the animal and to fund an enforceable trust to ensure that proper care is given for the life of the animal.

In short, creating a Pet Trust would ensure that your pets are well provided for after your incapacity or death.

*Mirick O'Connell – Attorneys At Law -100 Front Street - Worcester, MA 01608-1477 www.mirickoconnell.com
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YOUR DOG IS LOST...

WHAT DO YOU DO?

by Kim Johnson

Tips on Finding a Lost Dog

What would you do if you lost your Rhodesian Ridgeback tomorrow? Most of us have never thought about it, or if we have, perhaps we assumed we'd simply go to the local dog pound and pick him up. That would be nice, but it isn't usually that easy, especially with a hunting breed that loves to chase furry things and is aloof with strangers.

Losing a dog is very upsetting, especially if he is lost far from home, such as at a dog show in another state. So what do you do if you lose your beloved hound?

The first few hours are critical. There are a number of tried-and-true actions you need to do quickly in order to increase the likelihood that you will find your dog. To get started, follow these recommendations in order. Some recommendations are so important they are listed as Rules, and they should not be skipped or modified. However, because each lost dog case is unique, with different terrain, climate, and circumstances, you can make adjustments as necessary to the general guidance.

Rule #1: A positive attitude is key.

Don't panic. Do resolve yourself to find your dog, no matter what. Dogs do not disappear. Your dog is either alive and lost, or alive and someone has him, or... Don't think about other possibilities because a positive attitude is imperative. Your dog is alive and *you must find him* – he will not find you. Act immediately, don't wait. Carry your dog's leash and dog treats in your vehicle for when you find him!

Rule #2: Enlist the help of friends and volunteers.

You can't do it all by yourself, so build a

RULES

1. A positive attitude is key.
2. Enlist the help of friends and volunteers.
3. Post an **effective** flyer that is printed on brightly colored paper.
4. The more flyers the better.
5. Report and advertise your lost dog.
6. If your dog is not home by dark on the first night, go out in the middle of the night to look for him.
7. Go to shelters and look for your dog in person.
8. Read all "Found Dog" ads frequently.
9. Use maps and satellite photos to help your search efforts.
10. Don't give up!

team of helpers. Even people in other states can help with phone calls and internet work.

Rule #3: Post an **effective** flyer, printed on brightly colored paper.

By far, the best way to reunite lost or found

pets with their owners is through flyers and word of mouth. The best flyers have few words, a good photo, and text size large enough to be read by passing vehicles. It's better to use a good generic breed photo than to use a bad photo of your specific dog. Use



a phone number that someone will answer day or night.

Make full-size (8.5" x 11") and ¼-size flyers, printed on fluorescent colored paper. Post full-size flyers in public places and use ¼-size flyers to hand to people, put on car windshields, leave on doors, and tape on every mailbox. You'll need a staple gun, extra staples, clear packaging tape, regular adhesive tape, and plastic sheet protectors. Also buy a bottle of white shoe polish, and write on your car's rear window: LOST DOG, RED HOUND, 555-555-1234.

Rule #4: The more flyers the better.

This is the most important advice of all.

People should not be able to turn their heads without seeing one of your flyers. If your dog has been missing more than 2-3 hours, it probably won't be you who finds your dog – it will be someone who has seen your flyer. Start with 400 full size flyers and 300 pages of ¼-sheet flyers (this will be 1200 small flyers when cut into ¼-sheets).

FLYER TIPS:

Post full size flyers, starting with a 1-mile radius from where the dog was lost. If you don't get any calls within 2 days, expand your posting area to a 2-mile radius, and so forth. Try to post flyers out in front of the direction the dog is travelling, so people see your flyer before they see the dog. Carry flyer-posting supplies in your vehicle at all times.

Where to post full-size flyers:

Grocery, hardware, and convenience stores
Gas stations (on the pumps)
Bus stops
Schools
Restaurants
Dumpster enclosures
Apartment Complexes
Cemeteries, Churches, Libraries
Veterinarians
Near food and water sources

Give ¼-size flyers to the following:

Garbage collectors
Postal workers / letter carriers



Newspaper delivery people
FedEx and UPS drivers
Taxi and City Bus drivers (include night drivers)
Police, Fire, and Ambulance workers (including night shifts)
School Bus Drivers (ask them to distribute small flyers to the children on their bus)
Children (they see animals that adults don't)
Every front door and mailbox in the area
Car windshields at store parking lots

Regarding "Rewards": Offering a "Reward" is controversial, and has varying success. In one community, a reward may enlist more people to watch for your dog, or convince someone to return your dog after they fell in love with him. In another community, a reward may invite bounty hunters and ransom-seekers who may chase and frighten your dog. A reward does not cause your dog to *appear* when he is not in the area. Compassionate pet owners will call if they see your dog, whether or not you offer a reward. And you can always give a reward *after* you find your dog, without having to advertise a reward. So decide for yourself whether or not to advertise a reward.

Rule #5: Report and advertise your lost dog.

Notify every animal shelter, breed rescue group, and veterinarian in the area, by phone, fax, and email. Include a good photo. Place ads in your local newspapers and on the internet (Craigslist, Petfinder, FidoFinder,

etc.), and utilize the power of internet social networking sites such as Facebook and Twitter. For a fee, PetAmberAlert.com is a service that will telephone neighbors, shelters, and Vets to get the word out quickly. Keep your ads running and updated frequently.

Remember that many older people read newspapers, they are not internet users. They are also retired, and may be more likely to see your dog in the neighborhood. So don't overlook the importance of running a newspaper ad. Keep your newspaper ad simple, such as: Lost Dog: Red Hound, Rhodesian Ridgeback, 555-555-1234. You can ask about other details when you receive calls. For internet listings, you can include a photo and more details.

Rule #6: If your dog is not home by dark on the first night, go out in the middle of the night to look for him.

Before dark, put food outside for your dog, and even a crate with some bedding, or leave your door open about 6 inches if it is safe to do so. If your dog comes home while you are asleep or not at home, he will have food and a place to sleep, or he can come inside. You might have a surprise in the morning and he will be there!

Between 11:00 pm and 4:00 am, when it is significantly more quiet outside, drive the area in your vehicle, with windows open, no radio or other noise, and call for your dog. Make other familiar noises to catch your dog's attention, such as a familiar whistle or a squeak toy. If you have another dog, take it with you in case he can smell your missing dog. Watch your other dog's body language to see if he reacts to any smells. Drive slow and give your lost dog time to come out of hiding if he hears the sound of your voice or your vehicle. Occasionally, look behind the vehicle to see if your dog is following you.

Rule #7: Go to shelters and look for your dog.

If you haven't found your dog within 48 hours, go to every shelter and look for him in person. The average shelter worker doesn't know what a Ridgeback looks like, so he may be listed as another breed. Many Municipal Animal Control facilities ("the

dog pound”) have high kill rates, giving owners only a few days to claim lost dogs, so go to the shelters at least every 3 days to look. Search all shelters, not just the closest shelter, because someone may have picked up your dog on their way to work and dropped him off at a shelter across town.

Rule #8: Read all “Found Dog” ads frequently.

Someone may have found your dog, so read all the “Found” ads in the newspaper and on every website at least every 3 days. The finder may not know what a Ridgeback is, so call any ad that is even a possible match.

Rule #9: Use maps and satellite photos to help your search efforts.

After 2 days with no luck, don’t get discouraged. Gather all of your notes together, get a good map of the area, and map out the locations of the flyers you have posted so far. If there are holes in coverage, fill them. *If you have not received any calls with sightings, it means your flyers are not yet posted where the dog is located.* So you need to post more flyers. Expand your radius even further. Develop a plan for the next phase of your efforts. Using the map, plan where you want to post flyers.

Utilize satellite photos (e.g., Google-Maps, YahooMaps, Mapquest) to identify areas that your dog may be drawn to for water, shelter, food, and safety from traffic and noise. Your Ridgeback will probably not be drawn to people-filled areas. He may seek shelter and solitude in wooded areas, golf courses, cemeteries, and railroad corridors. Streams and drainage ditches are sources of water. The smell of food may come from restaurants, dumpsters, garbage cans, grocery stores, and residential neighborhoods where cat food may be found on back porches. Have flyers posted in all these areas.

When someone calls with a sighting of your dog, interview them to be sure it is your dog. Get details, and ask the condition of the dog. Is he thin or injured? Ask the caller to put out food and water to keep him in the area. If the caller is looking at your dog at that moment, ask him to keep the dog in sight (without chasing) while you drive to the location.

If your dog has been missing for awhile, he may bolt if you call his name loudly or suddenly. So be very calm, and talk softly rather than yelling. Approach from an angle that doesn’t cause him to run into a street or slip past you. You may be able to lure him to you by tossing bites of enticing food, like cooked bacon, fried chicken, or liver treats. Ridgebacks may be more likely to approach another dog you have on leash, especially if you feed the other dog while the Ridgeback watches! You can then loop a leash over the lost dog’s head while he sniffs noses with your other dog.



If a caller reports a sighting that is more than 24 hours old, you can try, but it is unlikely the dog will still be there when you get to the location. If you don’t find the dog, then take detailed notes on the sighting (what time of day was the dog seen, direction of travel, behavior, condition, address, etc.), and plot the sighting on your map. When you get a few sightings mapped, you may be able to identify a direction of migration, or a possible “nest” area nearby where your dog has found shelter. Post more flyers in the area of the sighting, and in front of the direction of his movement. Walk the area in the quiet of night and call for the dog.

Put out food and water in any potential nest areas. The next morning, check to see if the food has been eaten and if there are dog tracks matching your dog’s size. If the dog is eating from your feeding station, but you cannot catch your dog in a timely man-

ner, then you may need to consider using a humane box trap to catch your dog.

What if you don’t find or catch your dog within a week?

If you haven’t found your dog, or you have found but not caught your dog within a week, the search changes to tracking, which involves more advanced techniques. Hopefully, if you make a rigorous and intensive effort immediately after your dog goes missing, you will recover him quickly and you won’t need more advanced guidance. But if your search goes on longer than a week, you should seek additional advice on where and how to establish feeding stations, additional mapping tips, baiting, and humane and safe trapping.

Rule #10: Don’t give up!

Dogs have been found weeks and months after they were lost – *because the owners kept looking.* Your dog may be scared, alone, hungry, and fighting the elements. So instead of watching television from the comfort of your sofa, go out for a couple hours every night and post more flyers. Try something you haven’t tried yet, such as an animal communicator, tracking dog, or professional dog trapper. You never know which effort will pay off, but if you do nothing, you won’t find your dog. So keep focused on the hunt, like a Ridgeback on a lure, and you can find your lost hound!

Epilogue: After you find your dog:

When you find your dog, kiss him, and then have him checked by a Veterinarian immediately, *even if he looks fine.* Worms, ticks, internal injuries, shock, and poison are all potential health issues that you may not see, but a Vet look for. Have your dog micro-chipped while you are at the Vet’s office. Remove all your flyers and ads, and thank everyone who helped you in the search.

Accidents do happen, *but in most cases, dogs are lost as a result of human error.* So carefully examine what went wrong, and take action to prevent your dog from being lost in the future. You don’t want to go through this again, and neither does your hound. •



The New England Rhodesian Ridgeback Club

Join Us For A Spring Fling Lunch

Sunday, March 25th

12:30 pm—5 pm

Chinese Buffet

Yangtze River Restaurant

584 King Street, Littleton, MA

Cost : \$8.00 per person ~

children 12 and under, eat for free

RSVP - We need to let the restaurant know ahead of time how many people will be attending. The restaurant has plenty of room for us, so don't be shy.

PLEASE RSVP to Jean Gamble as soon as possible
Jean Gamble - 978-779-6112(h) / 978-333-9171(c) - jean.gamble@comcast.net

NERRC BOD meeting starts at 11:30 am

The Spring Fling will have Fundraising For Rescue

Silent Auction Table, Donations of items are encouraged and welcome. Exciting bidding on a wide assortment of Ridgeback and Dog-o-rama items. The bidding can get very competitive. Wink... Wink...Wink...

Baskets for the Raffle Table, donations of baskets of goodies or themed baskets. Dog theme, coffee theme, movie night etc. Or you may bring new items and we will create baskets on the spot.

