



November — December 2018

Yodels

Bi-monthly newsletter of the
 Bernese Mountain Dog Club of Southeastern Wisconsin
 Website - bmdcsew.org



Companion separate DATE sensitive applications included with this Yodels e-mail:

- ◆ BMDCEW 2018 Membership Renewal Application
- ◆ BMDCEW 2017 Awards Application
- ◆ BMDCEW Awards Luncheon Reservation

Merry Christmas

2019 Board Meetings

Sat, January 19; 10:00 AM
 Thunder Bay Grill
 N14W24130 Tower Place
 Waukesha

Sun. Feb 10; 9:30 AM
 Thunder Bay Grille
 N14W24130 Tower Place,
 Waukesha

Sat., Mar 30; 9:00 AM
 Western Waukesha County
 Dog Training Club
 W1314 Cedar Drive, Ixonia

Sat, June 15; 10:00 AM
 TBD

Sat, Sept 29; 9:00 am
 Nashotah Park
 W330N5113 County Road
 C, Nashotah, WI 53058
 INCLEMENT WEATHER
 ALTERNATE: Eschweiler's
 32022 W Hwy K, Hartland

Sun, Nov, 3; 10:00 am
 St. Mary's Church
 36014 Sunset Drive
 Dousman

General Member Meetings

Awards Dinner
 Sun. Feb 10th
 Thunder Bay Grill
 1:00 pm
 N14W24130 Tower Place
 Waukesha

Spring Fling
 Sat., March 30th,
 12:30 pm
 Western Waukesha County
 Dog Training Club
 W1314 Cedar Drive, Ixonia

Waukesha 2019 KC Show
 Saturday, July 27th
 1 Hour after BMD judging
 Waukesha County
 Expo Center
 1000 North view Road

Bernerfest 2019
 Sun., September 29th
 10:00 am
 Nashotah Park
 W330 N5113 Cty Road C
 Nashotah

Annual Member Meeting
 Sunday, November 3rd
 12:30 am
 St. Mary's Church
 36014 Sunset Drive
 (Hwys 18 & 67)
 Dousman

Upcoming BMDCEW Sponsored Events for 2019

Awards Dinner
 Sunday, Feb. 10th
 Thunder Bay Grill
 Waukesha
 12:00 am lunch

Back-To-Back Specialty
 Friday—Saturday
 March 1—2
 6:00 AM—6:00 PM
 Washington Co.
 Expo Center
 3000 Pleasant Valley Rd,
 West Bend

Spring Fling
 Saturday, March 30th
 10:00 AM—4:00 PM
 Western Waukesha County
 Dog Training Club
 W1314 Cedar Drive,
 Ixonia

2019 BMDCA Specialty
 May 5—11
 Meet Us at the Lake
 Cragun's Resort and Hotel
 on Gull Lake
 11000 Craguns Drive
 Brainerd, MN 56401

Draft / Carting Workshop
 TBD
 W8521 School Section
 Road
 Darien

Draft Test
 Friday, Sept 27th
 &
 Sat. Sept 28th
 Nashotah Park
 W330 N5113 Cty Road C
 Nashotah

Bernerfest
 Sunday, Sept 29th
 Nashotah Park
 W330 N5113 Cty Road C
 Nashotah
 10:00 AM



Mark Your Calendar

Friday & Saturday, March 1st & 2nd
Washington County Fair Park
3000 Hwy. PV,
West Bend, WI
Catalog

Save the dates! **March 1, 2019 and March 2, 2019** are the dates for the BMDCEW Regional Specialty to be held in West Bend Wisconsin. Premium Lists will be coming out right after the holidays. Closing date is February 13th and Kathy Dachlet will be our Secretary again this year.

Janet Lobb and Joe Lobb from Canada will be on Conformation Judges. You still have time to get your dog ready for Rally or Obedience (especially the veterans who always like to strut their stuff, and likely just need to polish up their skills.)

We are also bringing back Junior Showmanship this year so be sure your junior is ready and entered.

Hope to see everyone there.

Mary Alice Eschweiler, Show Chair

Oconomowoc Christmas Parade Follow-up

The Oconomowoc Xmas Parade was truly a night of challenge. The brave participants walked through rain, sleet and thunder. Which had absolutely no effect on any of the dogs only the humans: Jeff Miller, Maggie, Dave Garrison, Dan & Cindy Falk, Vicki Koralewski, Keith & Kerry. There were more dogs than people. The by-standers waved, clapped and thanked us for marching in the parade.

I want to extend a huge Thank You to Dawn and Cori who arranged for a party bus at the end of the parade so we could enjoy conversation, hot chocolate and cookies out of the rain. They also gave a lap blanket to take with us. Kudos to Vicki Koralewski for the rice krispie treats and Robin Krumnow for homemade doggie treats. Unfortunately due to the heavy rain we were unable to get photos of the festive event. Looking forward to a dryer 2019 parade.

Happy Holidays to All,

Kerry & Keith Waltersdorf



FDA launches investigation into grain-free dog foods.

The FDA launched an investigation into potential links between canine heart disease and diet — specifically grain-free diets. We've compiled the information you need to know to understand this recent development.

What is the FDA Investigating?

It is easy to jump to conclusions anytime we see an FDA headline about pet food. After all, our dog's health is important to us, and we know that diet can make a big difference in a dog's wellbeing. We reached out to Dr. Jerry Klein, the Chief Veterinary Officer of the AKC, to hear his thoughts on the investigation.



"The FDA is investigating a potential dietary link between canine dilated cardiomyopathy (DCM) and dogs eating certain grain-free pet foods. The foods of concern are those containing legumes such as peas or lentils, other legume seeds, or potatoes listed as primary ingredients. The FDA began investigating this matter after it received a number of reports of DCM in dogs that had been eating these diets for a period of months to years. DCM itself is not considered rare in dogs, but these reports are unusual because the disease occurred in breeds of dogs not typically prone to the disease."

What is Dilated Cardiomyopathy?

Dilated cardiomyopathy (DCM) is a type of canine heart disease that affects the heart muscle. The hearts of dogs with DCM have a decreased ability to pump blood, which often results in congestive heart failure.

Some breeds, especially large and giant breeds, have a predisposition to DCM. These breeds include Doberman Pinschers, Great Danes, Newfoundlands, Irish Wolfhounds, and Saint Bernards. While DCM is less common in medium and small breeds, English and American Cocker Spaniels are also predisposed to this condition.

When early reports from the veterinary cardiology community indicated that recent, atypical cases in breeds like Golden Retrievers, Labrador Retrievers, Whippets, Bulldogs, and Shih Tzus all consistently ate grain alternatives in their diets, the FDA took notice.

Should you be Concerned About Grain-Free Diets?

According to Dr. Klein, "At this time, there is no proof that these ingredients are the cause of DCM in a broader range of dogs, but dog owners should be aware of this alert from the FDA. The FDA continues to work with veterinary cardiologists and veterinary nutritionists to better understand the effect, if any, of grain-free diets on dogs."

As a general rule of thumb, the best thing you can do for your dog's dietary health is to consult your veterinarian, not the internet. Together you can weigh the pros and cons of your dog's diet and if necessary, monitor your dog for signs of DCM.





Science News—Robot Dogs

As technology advances, robotics are advancing into our homes as well as industry. Earlier this year Jeff Bezos, the man behind Amazon, walked a robotic dog around an international technology conference show casing his robotic dog named "SpotMini." The robotic dog is about the size and weight of a German shepherd. SpotMini has no teeth, but can fetch several items and is undergoing training and programming for other activities or useful functions.

Boston Dynamics, the company that put SpotMini together has other robotic dogs, such as the photo below, in various sages of testing. It will be interesting to see if the AKC recognizes this "new" breed.



Pics From the Past

1912. "Edward Beale McLean with Mrs. McLean." Edward (Ned) would become publisher of the Washington Post; his wife, the mining heiress Evalyn Walsh McLean, was the last private owner of the Hope Diamond. Their tempestuous union would be the fodder for countless headlines leading up to their divorce in 1929.

Why Do Dogs Roll in Smelly Stuff?

By Anna Burke, AKC Feb 22, 2018

We've all been there. You're taking your dog for a walk, enjoying the great outdoors, perhaps breathing in the fresh air. In that moment of distraction, it happens. Your dog has found something truly repulsive and is rolling around on top of it, paws in the air, thoroughly coating himself in whatever foul substance he's unearthed.



Whether it is something dead, poop, or just one of those unknown, smelly things dogs find, you've probably asked yourself—and your dog—why on earth dogs do this. After all, dogs' noses are incredibly powerful. Shouldn't strong odors be overwhelming? Does he really think of it as doggy cologne? Where did this behavior come from?

Veterinarians and behaviorists are not entirely sure why dogs roll in smelly things, but they do have a few ideas. One of the most widely known theories is that dogs do this to cover their own scent, hiding from prey or other predators.

While this sounds logical, Pat Goodmann, a researcher at Wolf Park in Indiana, has studied scent rolling in wolves and has another explanation.

Her research suggests that wolves roll in scents they find particularly interesting, not to disguise themselves, but to bring that information back to the pack. Rolling in a decaying carcass, or even fresher meat, could be a way for wolves to tell members of the pack, "look what I found." This behavior could make it easier for wolves to track down an abandoned kill, or just to trade information about their environment.

There could also be a social aspect of scent rolling. A pack of wolves may all roll in the same scent, according to canid behavior expert Simon Gadbois, perhaps to create a sense of togetherness or group smell.

Whatever the reason, one thing is certain: the last thing we want is to share the joy of our dog's disgusting discoveries.

Behaviorist Sophia Yin has a few suggestions about how to prevent your dog from rolling. According to Yin, your best chance of stopping your dog from coming back from the beach smelling like dead fish is to have a good recall. Irresistibly stinky scents are challenging to overcome, but carrying treats or a desirable toy, and working on the recall command regularly can improve your odds of escaping an odorous situation. You can also scan ahead for potentially smelly objects, like poop, and distract your dog from them with a fun game or reward.

If all else fails, keep your dog on a leash in areas with known stinky treasures.





America's first dogs lived with people for thousands of years. Then they vanished

By David Grimm



When 19th century naturalists and explorers first encountered the dogs of Native Americans, they were shocked by the canines' wolflike appearance. The animals were large and strong, and they didn't bark—they howled. "If I was to meet with one of them in the woods," remarked John James Audubon, "I should most assuredly kill it."

But today, these dogs and their kin are nowhere to be found, their genetic legacy wiped from the genomes of all living canines. Now, DNA recovered from several of these ancient animals has revealed where America's first dogs came from—and how they may have disappeared.

"It's really great research," says Jennifer Raff, an anthropological geneticist at the University of Kansas in Lawrence and an expert on the peopling of North America. The work supports emerging evidence that the first Americans did not bring dogs with them. Instead, says Raff, the animals may have come thousands of years later.

In the 1960s and 1970s, archaeologists excavated two sites in western Illinois, where ancient hunter-gatherers collected shellfish from a nearby river and stalked deer in surrounding forests. These people also appear to have buried their dogs: One was found at a site known as Stilwell II, and four at a site called Koster, curled up in individual gravelike pits.

Radiocarbon analysis of the bones reveals that they are around 10,000 years old, making these canines **the oldest dogs known in the Americas**, researchers report on the bioRxiv server. It also makes these the oldest solo dog burials anywhere in the world.

The Stilwell II dog was about the size of an English setter, whereas the Koster dogs were smaller and slendrer, says the study's lead author, Angela Perri, a zooarchaeologist at Durham University in the United Kingdom. "It wouldn't be surprising if they were all used as hunting dogs." But where did they come from in the first place?

A second study, published today in *Science*, may have the answer. A large, international team of researchers sequenced

DNA from the mitochondria, or cellular power plants, of 71 North American and Siberian dog bones—including from one of the Koster dogs—dated from about 10,000 to 1000 years ago. When they compared this material, which is passed down only by the mother, to that of 145 modern and ancient dogs, they discovered that the ancient American dogs have a genetic signature not found in any other canines.

"They form their own group that has their own story," says Perri, also a lead author on the *Science* paper. That means the wolflike dogs Audubon encountered were indeed genetically distinct from European ones.

These "precontact dogs," as the team calls them, are most closely related to **9000-year-old dogs from Russia's Zhokhov Island**, hundreds of kilometers north of the Siberian mainland. By assuming a relatively constant DNA mutation rate and using it as a "molecular clock," the team concludes that the two groups of dogs may have shared an ancestor nearly 16,000 years ago. It's **still unclear exactly where or when dogs arose**, but it could have been around that time.

Taken together with archaeological findings, the data suggest that **the first dogs may have come to the Americas from Siberia thousands of years after the first people**, says team leader Laurent Frantz, an evolutionary geneticist at the University of Oxford in the United Kingdom. Humans likely entered the Americas around 16,000 years ago over the Bering land bridge, which connected Siberia to Alaska. The bridge disappeared about 11,000 years ago—by which time dogs must have already made it over, Frantz says.

Dogs may have hung out with people in Alaska for a while, or a few may have traveled with humans to the interior of North America, where they ended up in sites like Koster and Stilwell II. "People were moving around a lot," Raff says. Once they saw how useful dogs were—for tracking deer, hauling supplies, and guarding camps—humans might have started bringing more of them along for the journey.



A 10,000-year-old dog burial at the Koster site in western Illinois.

"It's a tidy story that adds some grounding for what people thought was happening," says Melinda Zeder, an archaeozoologist at the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of



Natural History in Washington, D.C. But she notes that molecular clocks are just an approximation and other mysterious bones found in Siberia and the Yukon may belong to dogs, possibly pushing their arrival in the Americas earlier by thousands of years. "It's hard to draw a firm conclusion."

Additional analysis of the nuclear genome—inherited from both parents—of seven precontact dogs supports the idea that they are genetically distinct. Their closest living relatives are Arctic breeds such as Alaskan malamutes and Siberian huskies. These modern dogs may have come from the same Siberian source population as the precontact dogs, but thousands of years later. "If you have an Arctic dog, you likely have an old dog," Perri says. "If you have any other dog, it probably came from Europe or Asia a lot more recently."

That goes even for supposedly ancient dogs like the hairless Mexican Xoloitzcuintli, which is believed to have been around for thousands of years. "Today's dogs may look the same as those dogs," Frantz says. But according to the samples taken so far, "their genetics are totally different."

Indeed, the team found almost no genetic trace of precontact dogs in any modern dogs. "By and large, their genetic signature has vanished," Perri says. Both she and Frantz speculate that, just as European colonists wiped out large numbers of Native Americans with their diseases, the European dogs may have devastated American dogs even more. Europeans also may have feared these wild-looking dogs, as Audubon did, and tried to wipe them out, Perri says.

The only trace of these early dogs may survive in a sexually transmitted canine cancer, which has retained the genetic signature of the first dog it plagued. When the team compared the genomes of two of these tumors to modern and ancient dog genomes, the DNA most closely resembled that of precontact dogs, perhaps one that lived about 8000 years ago. "It's fascinating," says Frantz, "but at the moment it doesn't tell us much about the history of America's first dogs."

If people didn't bring dogs over with them right away, it could be because they didn't know how useful they would be. Or it could simply be that dogs didn't exist yet. When this alliance did form in the Americas, it likely mirrored one taking place all over the world, where dogs were used for hunting, guarding, or simple companionship. "It's insane that we would have started a relationship with an animal that could hurt us and compete with us," Perri says. "There must have been a good reason."

Article from December 2018 *Science*

PHOTOS:

DARYA PONOMARYOVA/ALAMY STOCK PHOTO

AND

DEL BASTON, COURTESY CENTER FOR AMERICAN ARCHEOLOGY



Berner Brags

Stonehill For Auld Lang Syne (Zoli) achieved three new titles recently:



AKC Trick Dog Novice on 9/28, Trick Dog Intermediate on 10/2 and Trick Dog Advanced on 11/6 at Western Waukesha County Dog Training Club. Thank you Kerry Waltersdorf for my funny boy and Joan Christensen for the classes!

Cindy Falk



NEW AKC WEBSITE

<https://www.akc.org/>

Here's a reminder of what's new on the site:

- **New and improved search**
- **New top navigation**
- **New left navigation**
- **More access to Sports and Events**
- **Improved Breed pages**

More inviting visuals and we've created a New Website Help Guide with specific FAQ sections for:

Dog Owners

Dog Breeders

Dog Sport Participants

Dog Sport Judges

AKC Club Delegates

Each includes step-by-step instructions, video tutorials, and quick links.

We've also developed a series of recorded webinars to facilitate using the site with step-by-step walkthroughs. These are narrated introductions to breed pages, sports pages, search, and more, highlighting major features by explaining what they are and how they work. We hope you enjoy the new AKC.org.





Dog research at U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs gets formal review

By David Grimm Published in December Science e-magazine

(Note: due to the length of the article the narrative below is an excerpt)



Dog research at the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is going under the microscope. Yesterday, the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (NASEM) in Washington, D.C., began a formal review of studies involving nearly 100 canines at four VA facilities to determine whether the animals are being properly treated—and whether the work is necessary.

If VA decides to end its dog research, it will be the first time a federal agency has stopped working on an entire species of animals since the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service effectively outlawed all biomedical research on chimpanzees in 2015, says Cindy Buckmaster, chair of the board of directors of Americans for Medical Progress, a Washington, D.C., nonprofit that promotes the need for animals in labs. “The findings from this report will impact how science is done on dogs across the country.”

In August, VA commissioned NASEM to review its entire canine research program, at a cost of \$1.3 million. NASEM convened a committee of a dozen individuals, including experts in veterinary care, animal ethics, and biomedical studies involving dogs.

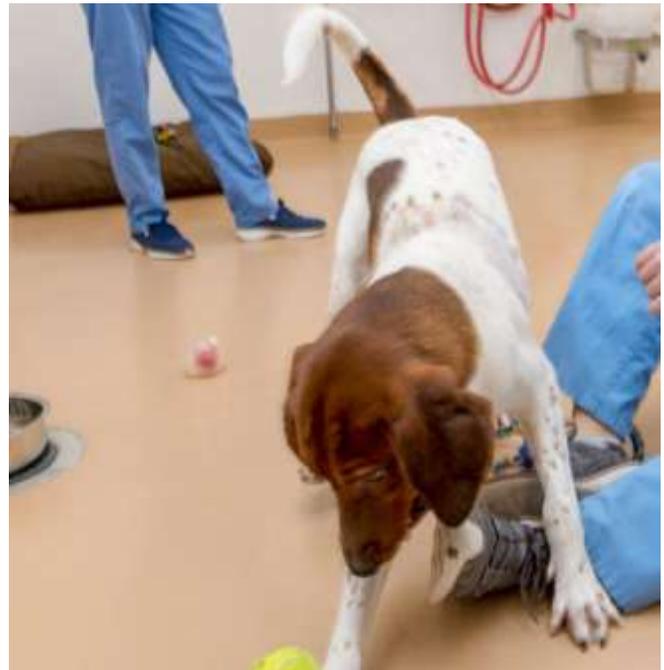
Michael Fallon, VA’s chief veterinary medical officer, spoke early in the session. “The VA doesn’t want a media debate based on emotional arguments—we want a scientific debate,” he said. “Shutting down this research would deny veterans important cures.”

Fallon noted that VA spent just \$100,000 on its canine research projects in 2018, a tiny fraction of its \$720 million research budget. (Mice and rats make up 99% of the animals used in VA’s research, he said.) He also noted that from August 2017 through August 2018, the agency euthanized 65 dogs as part of its research, compared with the nearly 800,000 dogs

U.S. shelters killed over a comparable period of time.

Soon after, Joan Richardson, VA’s assistant chief veterinary medical officer, detailed the extensive review and oversight process that goes into the agency’s dog studies. She also walked the committee step-by-step through a dog pacemaker study, showing a video of a dog running on a treadmill and a photo of it playing fetch with researchers in a lab. She said VA’s dogs were well cared for and were only used when absolutely necessary—in this case because their heart anatomy is more similar to a human’s than almost any other research animal.

During a public comment session that followed, representatives from pro-research organizations such as the American Physiological Society in Rockville, Maryland, extolled the need for dogs in finding disease cures. “There is an ethical cost to not selecting the best [animal] model,” said Alice Raanan, the group’s director of government relations.



A study dog plays ball with researchers at the Hunter Holmes McGuire VA Medical Center in Richmond.

VA has credited its dog research with the development of liver transplants, hip replacements, and other treatments. But Nina Wertan, a program manager at The Humane Society of the United States in Washington, D.C., noted during the comment session that many of these developments were decades old. “Historic use is not justification for continued use.”

Buckmaster is happy the NASEM review is taking place. “There hasn’t been a lot of nuance in this debate,” she says. “It’s important that the public understands exactly what goes into these studies—and why they are needed.”





Some Websites that you may be interested in:

www.bmdca.org/ Bernese Mountain Dog Club of America Website
<http://www.bernergarde.org/home/> Berner-Garde Foundation
www.bestbeau.ca/BMD_Health_Info_Links.html BMD Health Site
www.pettravel.com Pet friendly travel accommodations
www.dogbitelaw.com Dog Bite Law
www.barcinc.net/ Bernese Auction Rescue Coalition
www.akc.org Official American Kennel Club Site
www.rallyobedience.com/ Rally obedience Site
www.uexplore.com/health/poisonplants.htm Plants that are Poisonous for Dogs
www.vet.upenn.edu/pennhip/index.html University of Pennsylvania Hip Improvement
Offa.org Orthopedic Foundation for Animals
www.vmdb.org/cerf.html Canine Eye Registry Foundation (CERF)
www.caninehealthinfo.org/chicinfo.html Canine Health Information Center
www.behaf.org/ Berner Emergency Health Assistance Foundation (Behaf)
www.bmdcni.org/index.html Bernese Mountain Dog Club of Northeastern Illinois
<http://www.accessdata.fda.gov/scripts/petfoodrecall/#Dog> U.S. Food & Drug Administration Dog Food Recalls

Pet Loss and Bereavement:

<http://www.tufts.edu/vet/petloss/> Tufts University Pet Loss hotline
http://www.petpartners.org/Pet_Loss_Websites Pet Loss web sites
<http://www.petpartners.org/page.aspx?pid=372> Pet loss references and resources

BREEDER REFERRAL 2018

The BMDCSEW is currently looking to renew and update the Breeder Referral listing for 2018. Your name, kennel name, phone number, and e-mail address will be listed on our club website. To be listed, you must have volunteered to work *at club events in the past year*. If you would like to participate please fill out the form below and mail to:

Sue Wellenstein
 5705 Saint Ives Road
 Oshkosh, WI 54904
 920-231-2881
bugziere@gmail.com

1) Please complete:

Name: _____
 Kennel name: _____
 Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
 Phone number: _____
 E-mail address: _____

2) Check one:

Would you like to be listed as a: breeder or educator

3) Please name the club event(s) in the past year that you volunteered your time at and the task or duty did you perform there:

Club event:

Task performed:

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

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Yodels

The contents of the Yodels represent the views and opinions of the authors, and not necessarily those of the BMDCSEW or its members, nor does publication constitute endorsement.

Subscriptions

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Non Member subscriptions:
· \$7.50 per year E-mail
· \$15.00 per year US Postal
Send checks, payable to BMDCSEW to: Sheldon Schall
5540 Maria Way.
Waunakee, WI 53597

Advertisements

Member advertisements may be placed at:
· \$20.00 per page copy ready / \$30 editor set-up
· \$10 per half page copy ready / \$20 editor set-up
· \$5.00 per quarter page copy ready / \$10 editor set-up
Non-Member advertising is additional 50% per ad and subject to space.

Litter announcements

The Yodels Newsletter is intended for educational and BMDCSEW related activities. The Yodels will not publish litter announcements. Please refer litter announcements to the Breeder Referral as posted in the adjoining column.

Publication is anticipated the **5th** of the second month. **Deadline** for News, Articles and Advertisements are as follows:

January 20 Jan-Feb Newsletter
March 20 Mar-Apr Newsletter
May 20 May-Jun Newsletter
July 20 Jul-Aug Newsletter
September 30 Sep-Oct Newsletter
November 20 Nov-Dec Newsletter

Articles written by members of the BMDCSEW on any topic/subject that may be of interest to Bernese members are welcome. Non copyrighted articles or those that can be reprinted with permission are welcome as well.

Send all to:

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5540 Maria Way
Waunakee, WI 53597
608-849-8175
schall59@charter.net