

FLAT-COAT FILES

Newsletter of the Northeast Flat-Coated Retriever Club

Spring 2017

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Sue Stillwell's puppy Joe

President's Message

The general membership passed the new Constitution and Bylaws with the significant changes in Membership, staggered terms for the Board of Directors with the general membership electing the officers for one year terms, and a new section on Discipline. Look on page 3 for the currently elected board of directors, their terms and the officers. Welcome, **Neal Goodwin** and **Lisa Foley** and welcome back, **Nancy Triou** for three year terms. Thanks go to **Don Bierer** and **Kate Horgan-Burke** for serving for so many years. Many thanks to **Susan Klein** for her hard work on this monumental task.

Check inside for the "brags" and pictures of the NEFCRC's participation in the 2017 FCRSA Specialty.

It is with regret that we announce the cancellation of the **Adele Yunck - Competition Obedience: A Balancing Act Seminar** scheduled for July 15 & 16. The NEFCRC Board of Directors, through many conversations, has determined that we cannot sponsor this seminar during this particular time period.

We will work together with Adele to hopefully announce a new date in the future for a seminar weekend. Registration requests for this year will be kept on file and those registrants will be notified personally when such a date is determined.

Many thanks for your interest in this seminar and lets all hope that the NEFCRC is able to sponsor the seminar sometime in the near future.

The field training sessions have started with an all level training day at West Thompson Dam with **Bunny Millikin** and a Flyer Day at **Becky Whitmeyer's** before the Specialty and are continuing throughout the summer, culminating in the **WC/X** with the Yankee Golden Retriever Club on **Saturday, October 7th** at West Thompson Dam in N Grosvenordale, CT, organized by **Bunny and Sally Bridges**. See Field Training sessions on our website.

Save the Date: We are hosting a social and fun day at the Thompson Rod and Gun Club in Thompson, CT on **Sunday, September 10th** from 9 am till 3 pm. Bring your dog(s) and a dish to share at the Pot Luck.

Sally Young, President

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Newsletter Advertising Rates:
Quarter-page
or litter announcement \$5.00
Half-page (no photo) \$10.00
Full-page with photo \$25.00

Calendar of Events

Field Training Sessions

Training Days at Buck Shope's all levels
July 18th, Aug. 1st, Aug. 15

End of Summer Gala

Sunday, Sept 10th at the Thompson Rod and Gun Club

WC/WCX w/ Yankee Golden - October 7, 2017 WestThompson
Dam, CT

Web

Check out our website (NEFCRC.org) for results, forms, events, and photos.

Webmaster **Kristen Sobanski** can be contacted at
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Address Changes

Please direct all address, e-mail, and phone changes to
Susan Klein at sklein1@capecod.net.

Newsletter Deadline

Summer Deadline — Sept 1, 2017

Please send newsletter submissions to the editor:

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NEFCRC Board of Directors

At this year's Annual Membership Meeting on April 30, 2017, we voted in our Board of Directors for the next 1 to 3 years. Twelve members of the Board of Directors were elected. Phasing into the new system of staggered terms, four will serve until 2018, four will serve until 2019 and four will serve until 2020, as follows —

NEFCRC Board of Directors 2017

Officers

<u>Name</u>	<u>Term</u>	<u>State</u>	
Sally Young	1 year	VT	President
Nancy Triou	3 years	CT	Vice President
Susan Klein	2 years	MA	Treasurer
			/Membership Secretary
Gary McManus	2 years	CT	Secretary

Officers were elected for one year terms in each position.

Directors

<u>Name</u>	<u>Term</u>	<u>State</u>
Beth Brock	2 years	RI
Sally Nettleton-Smilas	2 years	CT
Lisa Foley	3 years	RI
Neal Goodwin	3 years	RI
Kristen Sobanski	3 years	CT
Sue Stilwell	1 year	CT
Ruth Sumner	1 year	CT
Sherry Walker	1 year	MA

Specialty Brags

Don Bierer It sure was great seeing everyone at Specialty. What a busy week with so many friends and dogs to watch participating in such a variety of events. Here's our list of brags and ribbon picture, proof positive why we love this breed! Submitted with pride, Don and Susan.

“Rudy” BISS RBIS GCHS Blazin’s Joie de Vivre CDX JH WCX HOF

Junior Hunter bumper leg

WCX bumper pass

2nd Place Veterans 9-11 Sweepstakes

4th Place Gun Dog JH Sweepstakes

4th Place Veterans 9-11

Veteran Obedience Q

Hat Trick Award (ribbon not in picture)

Ring of Honor as 2011 Specialty Winner
and 2014 Hall of Fame inductee



“Cody” CH Victory’s Kodiak Grin and Bear It CD JH WC

Junior Hunter bumper leg

WC TITLE!

1st Place Working Dog

Theresa Kuchinos (Two Specialties)

This spring has been very busy for the Kuchinos clan. A two-week trip to the Flat-Coated Retriever Society of America's National Specialty in Clymer, NY proved to be very rewarding. After our trip to New York, we crossed the border to Canada to compete at the Flat Coated Retriever Society of Canada's National Specialty in Kitchener, Ontario.

Nina (BPIS Ch Fishercreeks Take A Chance on Me) aged into the Open class by two days and was placed second over 30 bitches at the FCRSA National. She followed up this win with a 3rd in the Open class at the FCRSC National.

From there, Nina went on to finish her Championship title at the New England Sporting Group Association shows by earning her 3rd major! The following day she was awarded Best of Opposite Sex and received some wonderful compliments from the judge!

Prior to the FCRSA National, King (UKC BIMBS Ch URO1 AKC BIS MBISOH GCHS Fishercreeks Gold, Frankincense & Myrrh RN CD CGCA) was awarded 5 back-to-back group placements.

At the American National, he was award the Second Judges Award of Merit *and* Best of Breed Owner-Handled! He followed up this great



Specialty Brags (cont.)

win across the border taking 4th in Open as a class dog.

The following weekend, he takes Back-to-Back BOBs, an Owner-Handled Group 2, and a Group 3 at the New England Sporting Group Association shows!



It's been a great spring so far and we can't wait to see what else it brings!



Always in our hearts . . .

“It came to me that every time I lose a dog they take a piece of my heart with them. And every new dog who comes into my life, gifts me with a piece of their heart. If I live long enough, all the components of my heart will be dog, and I will become as generous and loving as they are.”

~Author Unknown

BronzeGCH Bertschire Light As A Feather BN CGC

April 19 2008 — May 6, 2017

Beth Brock

It is with great sadness that I write this. Feather was a great dog, mom, companion, and love. She has left a huge void in our hearts and house. We had quite the journey together. She was the most patient dog with Sophie and they both had some amazing accomplishments in the Junior Ring winning Best Junior in 2011 at the Specialty. We are blessed that she lives on in her son Bran and the other talented kids from her 2014 litter. Cancer cut her veteran career short, we lost her 2 weeks after her 9th Birthday. She left on her terms and that is how she also lived her life. Rest well my Foofy girl, till we meet again.



Loved and very much missed by Beth, David, Sophie, Bran and Cosette.

Always in our hearts . . .

Light-Foot's The Kinks

April 16, 2008- August 14, 2016

Liam was a joyful dog. He loved his family, including our two cats, and was very gentle with them. He was my steadfast companion for eight years. He was an alert partner in the obedience classes we took together. He loved family trips and going on hikes in the woods. On one of those hikes he and I encountered two adolescent black bears from a distance of about 40 feet. We stood perfectly still and calmly regarded them. The bears regarded us for a few minutes, then walked calmly away.

Liam is the great-grandson of Ch. Rockledge Tip Top and the great-great grandson of Ch. Summerhill October Treasure, two dogs that were part of my family when I was a teenager. My daughters were 5 and 8 when Liam became part of the family. It made me very happy to see my daughters enjoying the same Peter Pan energy of the dogs I loved. My kids often involve him in their playtime, whether it was tying a scarf around his neck or playing in the snow. I have many photos of the three of them make me smile. He is deeply loved and deeply missed.

Alexis Carlson and family



Member Story

Perfect Puppies

By Henry F. Stocek Jr.



How perfect they all seem at first. Like miniature eggplants—Pat DeBree’s name for them—a gentle crowd, squeaking, rowing tiny paddle paws, squirming hither, thither and nowhere, determined, every one of them, to extract life-giving milk of their Mama. Nearby, her eyes say the real work is starting. Is she looking forward to it? We know she will do her duty.



Meanwhile, you or I, gazing at future champions from there beside the whelping box, try to imagine which little milk converters will stand out—perhaps some will be featured on the calendar someday. It is hard to tell. We must judge by the observation of only three activities—consuming, eliminating and sleeping. The consuming part involves looking for good teats. Jumbo boy finds a beauty, a gusher under the edge of Mama’s hind leg. Skinny Minnie catches a front one not as rich, and imitates an air-bound bilge pump sucking mostly wind. Adjustments will have to be made.



When they are big enough for the show ring, we the proud owners, usually awaken to wax realistic. Imagined hopes and cherished dreams edge toward the pit of doubt. Our pup, once so perfect, has the judge remarking—that’s quite an overbite. There’s more. Those paws we tickled affectionately at home strongly resemble bedroom slippers. We see it clearly here in the ring. Oh yes, and what about those front feet—they toe out. Hmmmm. Fine and dandy on a ballerina, but not so good on an FCR in front of a judge. The handler goes to work to make the little darling stand to better advantage. This is not the judge’s first rodeo, and by his eyes we see that he is marginally impressed at best. His expression says it is a lovely dog—to its owner—but defects render it at or below standards. When it comes to these and other comparisons, the precious pup your handler is working so hard to earn awards for—and if we keep at it might eventually happen—will never be Rin-Tin-Tin. Okay, not fair bringing in a really old-time famous German Shepard, but the point stands.



Which is—that the Flat Coat breed has wonderful traits! Statistically they cannot all be ring champions. So what? Everything else about them makes them the best among canine pets. Did I say that? I did—and it feels good. I am thoroughly taken in by these animals. My wife loves them, too. When visitors who have never seen the breed come, I always declare: “Watch it—they’ll go for your throats!” The only danger anyone is in, of course, is to be licked, snuffled and regaled with “pet me” schemes perpetrated by Elsa Jean and Huckleberry. Once acknowledged, however, they will allow guests the choice of freedom from dogs, or conversely, human/dog interaction if invited.

Remember the worry that circulated years ago? Too much popularity of FCRs as pets could result in puppy mills and careless breeders over producing them. It was thought to have happened because of greater demand to Golden Retrievers and Labs. How awful it would be to imagine elegant Flatties chained to doghouses, commonly fed to obesity, or running the streets and back lots in a pack of neglected or abandoned animals. Even to contemplate it is terrible. I avoid thinking about it, and trust the “society” of FCR people who work to protect the integrity of the breed. We remember and admire the safeguards we had to “pass” when we got Tupper, a rescue male from the Midwest. Adopting a child might not have been too much harder.

Member Story (cont.)

Under this “system,” our animals thrive. Without doubt, Flat Coats, when they have the qualities that bring them close to perfection, make great champions. When they do not, they make great pets. Some achieve titles with papers to prove it. Perhaps it is best to think of them this way: If a soft mouth, an elegant look, a slightly goofy personality, and a perfectly beautiful expression are appealing, then we are either thinking about Marilyn Monroe (for those who remember), or these particular dogs we love. Yes, perfect puppies, perfect pets, too.



Versatility Awards

Sally Bridges organizes this presentation each year by ordering wooden plaques or ad-on plates for each awardee. It is our club’s way to recognize and encourage versatility in our breed as our FCRs and owners achieve new levels in various, unrelated venues. Sally B. was running her versatile girl, Ditto, in a Field Trial in New Jersey on April 30th so the Versatility Awards were presented by Sally Young, President, at our Annual Meeting.

Recipients were —

Plaques

COSTALIGHT ANAHORISH QUINN UD, SH, WCX

Owner: Annie Catterson

CH VICTORY’S KODIAK GRIN AND BEAR IT CD, JH

Owner: Don and Susan Bierer

Add on plates:

CH KILLYGLASS CASH AND CARRY JH, WCX

WCX New Title

Owners: Bill and Sally Young

GCHB FISHERCREEKS GOLD, FRANKENCENSE, AND MYRH CD, RN, BN, THD, CGC
CD, THD, GCHS, CGC, New Titles

Owners: Theresa and Jill Kuchinos and Barry Harrison

Summer 2017 Litter

Strong CH / MH Blood lines



Dylan



Carrie

- SU(U) CH Inkwell's Truly Yours (COI 5.5%)
- Comics Twilight in Blue** (COI 5.9%)
 - Comics New Blue Creation (COI 2.5%)
- CH Flat Castle's Blissful Blue Ocean, CD, RE, MH, WCX** (COI 3.7%)
 - Ger/Ned/Lux/Int VDH CH, GER/Ned Vet CH, Wagging Tails Rolf Muntz B & C Cert
- Ned CH, Ned Jun CH flat Castle's Waikiki Ocean Beach** (COI 2.5%)
 - Ned CH Flat Castle's An Inky Black Ocean (COI 1.2%)
- Am CH Bolingbroke Waterwyns Sequel, Am WC, HOF (COI 18.9%)
- Am CH, Am GCH Whitland One for the Money HOF, MH, TD, WCX (COI 0.5%)**
 - Am CH Morrieland Spring HOF, MH, NAJ, OA, TD, WCX (COI 8.3%)
- CH Killyglass Cash and Carry, JH, WCX** (COI 0.6%)
 - CH, HRCH Gameskeeper's Black Hawk, HOF, MH, WCX (COI 6.8%)
- CH Bear Country Hannah's Halfpipe SH, WCX (COI 8.9%)**
 - Am CH Bear C'ntry Hob-B's Reminiscent MH, WCX (COI 8.5%)

Dylan: Owner/handler trained in all venues, he is truly dual purpose with elegant type, strong working ability and a rock solid temperament. He is moderately sized with a lovely head and expression. Dylan's character is classic flat-coat and his temperament is impeccable. Dylan won 1st place in the JH Gundog and Field Trial classes at the 2013 and 2015 FCRSA Specialties, respectively. In the field, Dylan is a strong marking dog with excellent water attitude and is known for getting "big air" on his water entries. Hips: OFA "Excellent", Elbows and Patellas "Normal", Advanced Cardiac "Normal", Thyroid "Normal", CERF:FR-EYE51/84M-VPI: "Normal with Breeders Options:E1-Cataract-Suspected Not Inherited"

Carrie: A small but well proportioned, self-stacking package of positive energy. Good, naturally flat, sleek coat. Finished her CH at age 2.5. Inherited strong marking abilities from both lines, as well as a passion for upland and waterfowl hunting. Retrieved her first pheasant at four months; JH and WC at 13 and 15 months respectively. Great with grandchildren and other dogs. Despite a significant interruption in training with her owner/handlers has two SH passes.

Hips: OFA "Good", Elbows and Patellas "Normal", Advanced Cardiac "Normal", Thyroid "Normal", CERF: FR-EYE215/68F-VPI: "Normal with Breeders Options Noted: A3 Distichiasis

This breeding will be a COI of 0.1%.

For more information please contact:

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Specialty Photo Gallery



Andy Leinoff and Ch Wyndhams
Notorious Brown BN RE SH CGC



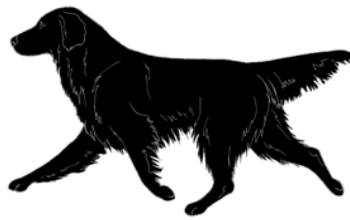
Jenn Tower and Joy



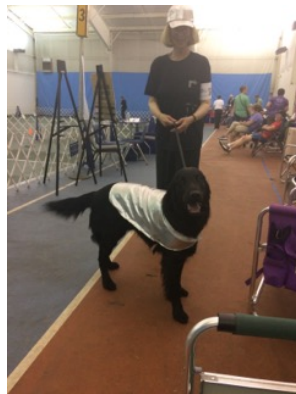
Sally Nettleton-Smilas' and George
Smilas' Ripple in Veteran's Sweeps
with Gen Dever



Neal Goodwin and Donna Gilbert



Sherry Walker and her winning
puppy



Tina Mohr and Wendy Jones preparing for Team Rally



Nancy Triou and - Ch Huntlane
Ode to Joy CD, RE, AX, AXJ



Joe Juza w/ Granite 96.5 in
Novice class winning in a
run off.



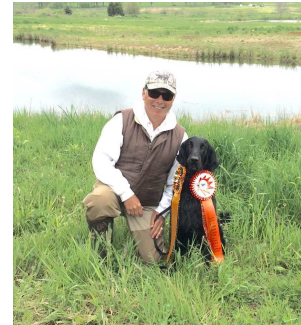
Susan Klein's 11 year old
Jett placed 2nd Agility run



Joe Juza's Granite - Agility ribbons

Specialty Photo Gallery (cont.)

Field —

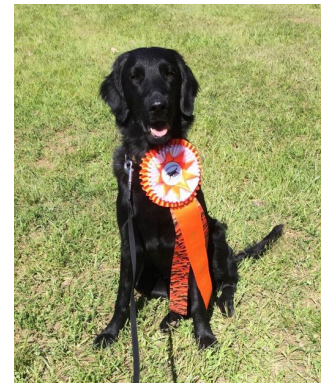


Don Bierer's Cody gets his WC and a JH leg



Joe Juzas's Granite - WC

Bunny Millikin always pitching in!



Susan Klein's Morgan earned WC - just learned to swim in Dec.!

Mitch White Seminar - Cabot, VT



The Lake Champlain Retriever Club sponsored a Mitch White Seminar held over Memorial Day Weekend in Cabot, VT. More than half of the attendees were NEFCRC members! They were Andy Leinoff, Wendy Jones, Sally and Bill Young, Kate Horgan-Burke, Ruth Sumner, Lisa Foley, Sally Nettleton-Smilas, Susan Klein and Valerie Bernhardt. It was a flat-coat weekend! Mitch certainly understands our breed specifically and the workings of the “dog brain” in general.

Mitch first evaluated the experience of each of the working dog and handler teams. He worked his way through issues and a series of drills to help the handlers with their dog’s transition from the Junior Hunter level to Senior Hunter and beyond. He started with a review of Force Fetch

and then addressed Correction vs. Attrition in training, Memory Bird Issues and multiple marks, Training Momentum, Head Swinging, Initial Lines, Reading Your Dog, No-Goes, Line Manners, Mouth Issues, Switching, Steadying, Whistle Work in Water, Holding Blind Issues, Casting – introducing Right/Left/Back, Base Ball, and Single and Double Ts.



Then Mitch demonstrated some drills, selecting a few of the working dogs for each drill. This way, each team got to try a few drills appropriate to its level and then watch others and learn from their process and progress. Participants practiced Modified T Casting, Disciplined Casting, Wagon Wheel, Influential Lining, Bird Boy Blinds, Chinese Blinds, Marking Drills, Multiple Sight Blinds, Casting Into Water, the Hunter’s Drill on Water, and two types of De-Cheating drills and some marking drills.

It was a lot to take in, almost overwhelming! Fortunately, Mitch handed out a detailed (80+ page) manual that covered all his material.

The BBQ supper on Sunday night, hosted by Sally and Bill Young and catered by Cabot’s own Back Road BBQ, was a great success. LCRC had enough leftovers to give everybody free pulled pork sandwiches on Monday to fortify us for the drive home through Memorial Day traffic.

NEFCRC attendees were unanimous in their enthusiasm. It was a very enjoyable and valuable seminar!



Coming Events

End of Summer Gathering

This year our club is sponsoring an “End of Summer Gathering”! It is going to be held on Sunday, Sept 10th at the Thompson Rod and Gun Club, the same place our Gala was held last year. The green fields and pond will be great invitations to flat-coat and family fun.

Like our 2016 Gala, there will be fun and games for people and dogs. Kristen Sobanski and Nancy Triou are already at work organizing this event. More details will follow.

Instead of offering the hot dog/hamburger food of last year’s Gala, we look forward to everyone’s contributions to our always fabulous NEFCRC member’s “Creative Potluck.” Our potlucks are always the best! This time there will be no constraints by alphabetical assignments of salads, main dishes, desserts . . . creative freedom unleashed!



Hall of Fame — Ripple

UH HR CATCH II
Grousemoor Almosteden Ripple
CD AX AXJ OF MH WCX

Black bitch bred by Helen Szostak
February 27, 2006

Owned, loved and trained by George Smilas and Sally Nettleton-Smilas



In the Spring of 2006 my husband George and I were traveling from Connecticut to St. Louis with our then six-year-old Flat Coat, Slide, to attend the national specialty. We were anxiously awaiting the arrival of an additional flat-coat to our family. We had gotten an email from Helen Szostak letting us know that the theme for this litter was “wine”, the enchanting liquid spirit that almost everyone enjoys except, George and me. Our name search began by our combing the wine list at every restaurant we stopped at throughout our trip. This process soon became futile – too complicated, too many syllables, not to our liking. Before dogs, we both enjoyed downhill skiing, mainly with a large group of friends. These friends enjoyed wine, but what were the names of these wines we asked ourselves. Perhaps we’d have a solution to our name dilemma. Blue Nun, Boone’s Farm, Gallo, Ripple. That’s it! Ripple!!

We plunged into puppy classes, family dog classes, introduction to obedience, introduction to field, agility foundation classes. We built upon her strengths, her biddability and her enthusiasm. She enjoyed all these activities, but she took field training very seriously. Ripple’s obedience career became punctuated mostly due to our time commitments and priorities given to field training and tests. Obedience training classes were great fun, enjoyable and she caught on quickly. Obedience showing, initially, were successful but eventually became a stressful situation especially the out-of-site sits and downs. We did obtain two legs towards her CDX, with placements, but a long hiatus eventually became the undoing of our completing the CDX title.

Ripple’s desire and enthusiasm in the field made her a complete hunting companion for George. It made no difference whether tramping through the woods at a nearby state forest searching out pheasant or cozying-up with George in a goose or duck blind, both searching the skies. Ripple’s trademarks are her incredible drive, style and

HOF Ripple (cont.)

excellent marking ability. She quickly passed through Junior and Started hunt tests. Senior and Seasoned test became somewhat complicated. George knew where blinds were placed, Ripple however, at times, thought she knew the best route to seek out these birds, much to her undoing and George's frustration. Shortly after George became ill and was unable to continue Ripple's training and hunt schedule a wonderful friend continued her training and handling at hunt tests. Much to George's delight and coaching from the sidelines, Ripple did achieve two Master Hunter legs prior to his death. The following Summer she achieved her Master Hunter title. At the same trial, Ripple's son, Splash, accomplished his Junior Hunter title with this novice handler. We all celebrated with a tip of our hunting caps, skyward, towards George.

Our agility career was interrupted due to George's illness but her achievements I hold very close in my heart enough to last a lifetime. At this writing she is minus two legs towards her Master Agility title. The occasional agility trial and punctuated training times brought especially sought after quality time with each other. Ripple's love of life, enthusiasm and sense of humor are endearing qualities to myself and others during a difficult time in our lives.

More than our achievements with Ripple, I will always appreciate the kindness and happiness that flows through her. She is always delighted with life, always very willing to do whatever you ask. She tries very hard in all her endeavors. She is a sweet and loving companion who is made complete by a truly joyful and loving heart. On occasion, George and I were amazed by Ripple's uncanny ability to accept any dog or cat, no matter the circumstances. She could somehow reassure them that all could be right in this crazy world. We introduce Ripple to a friend's young Border Collie puppy needing reassuring after being bullied by a large, black dog. Introducing Ripple to this frightened pup, her approach and demeanor signaling the pup that Ripple was there to reassure him that not all, large, black dogs are bullies. The pup seemed to recover and quickly began play bowing and rough housing with Ripple. How do you forget these special times with your companion?

In closing, Ripple has done nearly everything that we asked of her. Shortly before George's death, I brought both Ripple and Splash to the hospital to hopefully give George some lasting joy. She approached the situation cautiously, never having been in a hospital. I could only imagine what smells and sights she was taking in. We entered George's room approaching his bed. Ripple stood by the bed, lifted her head and began to air scent. Suddenly she quickly jumped upon the bed, waking and startling George. He was delighted to see her; Ripple began to slobber George with wet kisses and her signature Woo – Woo's! What a sendoff. A guy and his dog. Contentment and mutual love, through and through.



“Life is what happens while you are making other plans.”

Canine Influenza — A Report from AKC

This notice is being sent out to provide up-to-date and accurate information about the Canine Influenza Virus to help prevent the spread of the virus to healthy (unexposed) dogs. The information provided is not intended to alarm dog owners and handlers.

There are recently confirmed cases of the Canine Influenza Virus (H3N2 strain) that was first brought to and identified in Chicago, Illinois in the spring of 2015. The most recent outbreaks concern the following states: Florida, Georgia, and North Carolina.

Canine Influenza Virus is an extremely contagious airborne disease that is easily spread among dogs, and in rare instances, can be contagious to cats. If you believe one of your dogs may have contracted the Canine Influenza Virus, immediately isolate it from other animals and contact your veterinarian.

Here is some additional information about Canine Influenza Virus and tips for how to minimize the risk and reduce the spread of the disease:

Canine Influenza Virus

- Canine Influenza Virus is spread through:
 - o Close proximity to infected dogs (it is airborne and can travel up to 20 ft.)
 - o Contact with contaminated items (bowls, leashes, crates, tables, clothing, dog runs, etc.)
 - o People moving between infected and uninfected dogs
 - o 80% of all dogs that are exposed to the virus will contract it
 - o The virus lives up to 24 hours on soft surfaces and up to 48 hours on hard surfaces.
- Some exposed dogs will be subclinical carriers - meaning some dogs will contract and spread the virus without showing symptoms.
- Dogs show clinical signs within 24-48 hours and can shed the virus for up to 28 days from exposure.
- Most dogs will completely recover with proper treatment.
- Dogs that regularly interact with dogs outside of their own family or frequent places where many dogs gather are most susceptible to exposure to Canine Influenza Virus.

Symptoms

- Dry, hacking cough (similar to kennel cough)
- Lack of appetite
- Lethargy
- Discharge from the nose or eyes
- Fever (normal temperature is 101 – 102)

Canine Influenza — A Report from AKC (cont.)

Prevention

- The best protection is vaccination. There is now a single vaccination for both the H3N2 and H3N8 strains of the virus. The vaccination requires a booster shot two weeks after the initial vaccine. Vaccination provides the best chance of immunity within 7-14 days of booster shot.
- Isolate sick animals and keep them isolated for up to 30 days after symptoms subside.
- Practice good sanitation. Use a bleach and water mixture diluted to 1-part bleach x 30 parts water to disinfect common areas such as tables, bowls, leashes, crates, etc. Allow items to thoroughly air dry for a minimum of 10 minutes before exposing dogs to them. Bleach breaks down quickly so solution should be made daily. Keep in mind that bleach becomes inactive in UV light. If mopping use two buckets so as not to cross contaminate areas
- Wash your hands frequently, ideally between handling different dogs. At the very minimum, hand sanitizer should be used between handling dogs.
- Use disposable gowns or wipe down clothing and shoes with a bleach solution between dogs or after leaving an area where dogs congregate.
- Food/water bowls should be made of stainless steel instead of plastic because scratched plastic is hard to fully disinfect.

Treatment

- Treatment of Canine Influenza Virus requires veterinary assistance. If you believe your dog may have Canine Influenza Virus, please contact your veterinarian immediately. Untreated, the illness may progress to pneumonia or other, more serious problems. H3N2 can lead to severe secondary pneumonia which can cause extremely sick dogs with potential fatalities.
- Most dogs take 2-3 weeks to recover from the illness.

Containment

- Any dog suspected of having Canine Influenza Virus should be immediately isolated from other dogs and should not attend dog shows, day care, grooming facilities, dog parks, or other places dogs gather. Dogs are contagious for up to 30 days once they have started showing symptoms.
- Contact your veterinarian to let them know that your dog may be showing symptoms of Canine Influenza Virus. If your dog is going to a veterinary hospital or clinic, call ahead to let them know you have a suspected case of Canine Influenza Virus. They may ask you to follow a specific protocol before entering the clinic to minimize the spread of the disease, including waiting in your car until they are ready to examine your dog.
- Keep sick dogs at home and isolated from other dogs and cats until you are certain the illness has run its course (typically 3-4 weeks).

Canine Influenza — A Report from AKC (cont.)

Consideration for Event Venues

- Use a bleach and water mixture diluted to 1-part bleach x 30 parts water to disinfect common areas including show floors, grooming tables, ring gates, in-ring examination tables and ramps, and x-pens. Allow solution to completely dry (at least ten minutes in order to assure virus has been killed). Bleach breaks down quickly so solution should be made daily. Keep in mind that bleach becomes inactive in UV light. If mopping use two buckets so as not to cross contaminate areas.
- When wiping down hard surfaces paper towels are preferred over cloth.
- Consider having two exam tables at every ring so that they can be cleaned and allowed to air dry frequently in between classes.
- Provide hand sanitizer in each ring and in grooming areas.
- Exhibitors should consider grooming dogs at their cars instead of using grooming areas where dogs are in very close proximity.

Dr. Jerry Klein is a veterinarian in the emergency room at Chicago's largest veterinary emergency and specialty center. He was personally involved in treating hundreds of dogs sickened by the H3N2 virus during its initial outbreak in Chicago in spring of 2015. He is also an AKC licensed judge.