



HURON RIVER LABRADOR RETRIEVER CLUB

JUNE 2005 NEWSLETTER

HRLRC PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello again fellow Labrador fanciers,

I hope your dogs (and maybe you too!) have had lots of opportunities to go swimming to cool off with the sweltering heat we've been experiencing. Summer is moving right along and it's the time of year again for our annual fun match and picnic. I hope to see many of you the Friday night preceding the match when we hold our July meeting, health clinic, and set up for the match. I'd like to thank the Norgren's for once again being so gracious to allow us to use their property for this event—it is much appreciated.

At the June meeting, we brainstormed ideas to make the club more useful to members. There were many wonderful suggestions tossed around but we still need more input from club members. The club can only be what WE make of it. To those that have been active in the group—THANK YOU for your time and efforts. For those of you that haven't been active in the club for some time, I urge you to ask yourselves "why haven't I been active? What would need to be done differently for me to get involved again?" Think on this a bit and let me know your thoughts.

In Labs,
Jeanine

HRLRC CALENDAR

Meetings are the 1st Friday of every month unless otherwise noted. Board Meetings begin at 6:30pm and are at the **Hartland Big Boy Restaurant**. General **Membership meetings begin at 7:30pm** and are at the Heartland Community Education Center (From US-23 take M-59 East, Heartland Road North, School Road East, building is on North side of road).

July 15, 2005

4pm- ??? Match Set Up
5pm-??? HEALTH CLINIC
CERF, CARDIAC, OPTIGEN
Home of Sheila & Norm Norgren

July 16, 2005

8:00-9:30am Registration
10am Annual Summer Fun Match
Membership/Brd Meeting to follow
Norgren's Grounds
Bring a Chair and Dish to Pass!
Judges: Patty Block-Regular, Helen
Bronson-Sweepstakes, Angela Ewald-Parts

August 12, 2005

Membership/Board Meeting

September 9, 2005

Membership/Board Meeting

September 30, 2005

HRLRC Fall Specialty
Diane Pilbin (Chucklebrook), Bitches;
Kendall Herr (Dickendall) Dogs & Intersex;
Leslie Williams DVM(Tantara) Sweeps;
Daniel Hudson, Obedience

October 7, 2005

Membership/Board Meeting

November 4, 2005

Membership/Board Meeting

December, 2005

Membership/Board Meeting
Holiday Party to follow
Location TBD

2006

January 6th, February 3rd,
March 10th, April 7th, May 5th
Membership/Board Meeting

IMPORTANT CURRENT REMINDERS

- ◆Membership dues and Breeders Directory **Dues** are now past due... Are you paid up?
- ◆Nancy Chargo is accepting **Trophy Donations** for our 2005 Specialty and Cindy Skiba is needing **Raffle donations!**
- ◆**By-Laws revision committee** Pauline Mortier, Laura Reich, Jeanine Asch, Judy Trevino are looking for input
- ◆Next meeting don't miss the **FUN- Health Day Friday, followed by a Picnic, Puppy Match, Fun Day on Saturday!**

→Please do not miss the last page of this newsletter and let your interest be heard! Complete the survey ASAP and return to Stacy Quake by July 8th for your thoughts to be expressed at our July meeting. If you don't respond, then don't fuss about the meeting topics selected by your peers.

Club NEWS...

MEMBERSHIPS:

DUES & BREEDERS DIRECTORY DUES ARE NOW PAST DUE!!! Please contact Judy Matice with dues or Q's!
The following are Paid as of 6/21/2005. **BOLD** indicates Breeders Directory fee was paid as well.

Achterhoff-Aust, Ruth; Adler, Cindy & Mark; **Asch, Jeanine**; **Barrett, Kenneth & Casandra**; Bronson, Helen; **Bryson, Kimberlee**, Bryson-Standen, Terry; **Chargo, Nancy**; **Cooper, Gary**; **Culpert, Cathy**; Evans, Mary; Foster, Mark Arthur, **Gardner, Bill**; **Gati, Carrie**; **Johnson, Carol Lynn**; Manning, Nancy Ann; Matice, Judy & Dan; **Merians, Mike & Judy**; Michaels, Laura; Misaras, Denise & David; **Mortier, Maurice & Pauline**; **Nichols, Pam**; Paison, Freida; **Todd, Nancy**; **Quake, Stacy & Tom**; **Reich, Al & Laura**; Richards, Dolores & Stella Blair; Sapienz, Michael; **Skiba, Cindy**; Trevino, Judy; Tuntland, Joyce; **Wayne, Patricia**; Wellnitz, Cheryl;

JULY Health Day/Fun Match/Picnic/Meeting!

Don't forget about our July meeting. To kick things off July 15th we will be having CERF exams (\$25, Dr. David Ramsey, AVCO), OFA Cardiac Exams (\$25, Dr. Brown, ACVIM, & \$7.50 OFA Submission available) and Optigen testing (\$156 or \$142.50) offered while we set up for the fun match at Sheila and Norm Norgren's home. Get your dog's Health Clearances up to date and have fun doing it!

July 16th we will have our annual fun match which registration is from 8am-9:30am and begin judging at 10am sharp. We will offer Regular classes (Patty Block, Judge), Sweepstakes classes (Helen Bronson, Judge) and parts classes (Head, Tail, Front Angles, Rear Angles, or Feet; Angela Ewald, Judge) followed by a regular membership meeting. Classes: 2-4 month, 4-6 month, 6-9 month, 9-12 month, 12-18 month, Adult & Veterans; Entry Fees: 1st entry \$8, 2nd entry or more \$6. Bring a chair, dish to pass, puppies to show, money (for a super raffle) and settle back for a fun day of socializing! Burgers, hot dogs & drinks provided by HRLRC. More Details or Question contact Cathy Culpert, match Chairperson.

HRLRC YAHOO!

Just a reminder that the club has a group email list set up for current members on the Yahoo!Groups. Have you joined??? It is the best way to get breaking information and stay informed of HRLRC happenings. Go to [http://www.hrlrc.com](#), search for HRLRC, Click on the link 'HRLRC' that will appear, then subscribe.

HRLRC WINS-N-GRINS

Miami Valley LRC Specialty

TAMERIC'S WINDFALL POPPY - Annie & Ron Cogo, Best in Sweepstakes from the 6-9 mo. class, her first show! 2nd in regular conformation

WINDFALL DALYBROOK RUSTY NAIL - Annie & Ron Cogo, 3rd in 6-9 mo. Sweeps

WINDFALL DALYBROOK SIENNA - Annie & Ron Cogo, 3rd in 6-9 mo. Sweeps

SUNRISE WINDFALL TAILOR - Annie Cogo & Sheila Norgren, 2nd Open Black Dog

CH. WIT'S END WINDFALL GRACE KELLY - Angela Ewald & Annie Cogo, BEST OF BREED

CK Hunters Bar Smokin' Gun, has earned two passes on his Junior Hunter in two consecutive runs at the Buckeye Retriever Club (6/19) and The Labrador Retriever Club Inc (6/26), handled by Kim Bryson, Owned by Tom & Stacy Quake, Bred by Casandra & Kenny Barrett. Thank you Kim for an awesome job with our boy!

THE WHELPING BOX

Disclaimer Clause: This list is of litters of our members that are in good standing with our Club and the American Kennel Club. The Huron River Labrador Retriever Club, Inc makes no warranties expressed or implied as to the condition of any dogs being offered for sale, standards or practices of any breeder, the quality of their animals or the accuracy of any of the information contained within the HRLRC, Inc listing, website or any links from the website. HRLRC, Inc. does not endorse, recommend or guarantee any kennel, breeder or dog listed. **Reminder:** Send \$10 litter ad fee per month/per ad to Laura Reich 5558 Sunkist, Oxford, MI 48371. Please indicate in the memo section of the check the month that you are paying for. These litter ad fees go towards the HRLRC Rescue Account. Please call or email the Laura Reich (laura@lor-allabs.com or 248-969-6998) to renew or update your ad. Deadline for receiving the ad is at the membership meeting of that month.

No Ads were Submitted This Month

Jeanine Asch, *President* • Patty Wayne, *Vice President* • Judy Matice, *Treasurer* • Angela Ewald, *Corresponding Secretary* • Stacy Quake, *Recording Secretary*
Board Members: Gary Cooper • Bill Gardner • Mike Merians • Pam Nichols • Barb Reisig-Paveglio

Other Events

August 20,2005--Fun Match sponsored by the Saginaw Valley Kennel Club & the Humane Society of Bay County. Held at the Bay City Fairgrounds. Conformation registration goes from 8-9am. Obedience registration is from 8-10am. Junior Handler's classes (including one for 9 years and under) will be offered.

CONFORMATION CLASSES TUESDAYS at 7P.M. with Lindsay Strutt. Arboroads Farm is located at 3660 S. Maple Rd. in Ann Arbor I-94 to exit 175 (Saline - Ann Arbor Rd.). South about 3/4 mi. to light at S. Maple. Turn left to second drive on the right. Drive back to large building. For More Information: 734 662-6518 arboroads@aol.com or www.arboroads.com

AKC Shows

Date	Name of Show	Judge	Entries close:	Location	Comments
7/23	Greater Muskegon KC	Cherie Berger	7/6	Hudsonville,MI	
7/23	Medina KC	Kenneth A. Buxton	7/6	Medina, OH	
7/24	Richland Co. KC	Donna J. Buxton	7/6	Medina, OH	
7/29	Dan Emmett KC	Charles E. Trotter	7/13	Marion, OH	
7/30	Dan Emmett KC	Lorraine Boutwell	7/13	Marion, OH	
7/31	Marion Ohio KC	Patricia V. Trotter	7/13	Marion, OH	
8/1	Marion Ohio KC	Kathleen L. Patterson	7/13	Marion, OH	
8/4	Fort Steuben Kennel Assoc.	Connie Gerstner Miller	7/20	Canfield, OH	
8/5	Columbiana Co. KC	Linda Stebbins-Hurlebaus	7/20	Canfield, OH	
8/6	Beaver Co. KC	Jeff Gilmore	7/20	Canfield, OH	
8/7	Mahoning Shenango KC	Regular: Judy Chambers; Sweeps: Linda Bednarski	7/20	Canfield, OH	Designated specialty
8/5	Berrien KC	Geraldine R. Taylor	7/20	Marshall, MI	
8/6	Sturgis KC	Susan St. John Brown	7/20	Marshall, MI	
8/7	Jaxon KC	Bernard Schwartz	7/20	Marshall, MI	
8/14	Lorain Co. KC	Robert J. Moore	7/27	Henrietta Twp., OH	
8/27	Sugarbush KC	Douglas Windsor	8/10	Chagrin Falls, OH	
8/28	Western Reserve KC	James S. Covey	8/10	Chagrin Falls, OH	
9/2	Jersey Skylands LRC	Dogs & Intersex: Elise Nolan; Bitches: James Nolan; Sweeps: Betty Wenner	8/17	Augusta, NJ	
9/3	Jersey Skylands LRC	Dogs & Intersex: James Nolan; Bitches: Elise Nolan; Sweeps: Margaret Wilson	8/17	Augusta, NJ	
9/2	Marquette KC	James R. White	8/17	Marquette, MI	
9/3	Marquette KC	W. Everett Dean Jr.	8/17	Marquette, MI	
9/4	Marquette KC	Joseph E. Gregory	8/17	Marquette, MI	
9/3	Livonia KC	Dr. Harry Smith	8/17	Belleville, MI	
9/4	Livonia KC	Robert S. Forsyth	8/17	Belleville, MI	
9/5	Oakland Co. KC	Paula Nykiel	8/17	Belleville, MI	
9/10	Pontiac KC	Richard E. Beauchamp	8/24	Davisburg, MI	
9/11	Pontiac KC	Douglas A. Johnson	8/24	Davisburg, MI	
9/10	Clermont Co. KC	Maxine V. Beam	8/24	Owensville, OH	
9/11	Clermont Co. KC	Lester R. Mapes	8/24	Owensville, OH	
9/17	St. Clair KC	Pauline Mortier	8/31	Goodells, MI	
9/18	St. Clair KC	Terry Stacy	8/31	Goodells, MI	
9/24	Shawnee Mission LRC	Regular: Sally Sasser; Sweeps: Gail Shearer		Lawrence, KS	
9/25	Shawnee Mission LRC	Regular: Marion Lyons; Sweeps: Ross Burd		Lawrence, KS	
9/30	HRLRC	Dogs & Intersex: Kendall Herr; Bitches: Diane Pilbin; Sweeps: Leslie Williams	9/7	Monroe, MI	
9/30	Iroquois LRC	Regular classes & Veterans Sweeps: Marion Lyons; Puppy Sweeps: Becky Jack		Romulus, NY	

CKC Shows

Date	Name of Show	Judge	Entries close:	Location	Comments
7/22	Limestone City Obed & KC	Marilyn Foulds	7/7	Kingston, ON	
7/23-24	Eastern Ontario Lab Breeders Assoc.	Regular: Linda Vaughn; Sweeps: Roger Bannister	7/7	Kingston, ON	
8/25	Markham KC	Don Fitzsimmons	8/10	Richmond Hill, ON	
8/26	Markham KC	Geraldine Taylor	8/10	Richmond Hill, ON	
8/27	Markham KC	Neil Graves	8/10	Richmond Hill, ON	
8/28	Markham KC	Pat Fitzsimmons	8/10	Richmond Hill, ON	
9/2	Essex Co. KC	Ann Hennigan	8/16	Ruthven, ON	
9/3	Essex Co. KC	Edna Perks	8/16	Ruthven, ON	
9/4	Essex Co. KC	Avery Gaudin	8/16	Ruthven, ON	
9/5	Essex Co. KC	Fred Dewsbury	8/16	Ruthven, ON	

(Submitted by Jeanine Asch, Endeavor Labradors)

A new Agility Organization has been formed and will be up and running by April 1, 2006 with trials. Putting the Fun back in Agility for Everyone.

Dogs on Course in North America (DOCNA) recognizes today's agility enthusiast as a versatile competitor that challenges the bounds of success by training for and competing in multiple agility venues and dog sports other than agility. This competitor chooses the classes and division or level that allows them to challenge their abilities and develop their skills at their own pace, and meet their goals. In

designing our event and in our course philosophy, we have worked diligently to take these factors into account, striving to incorporate many of the techniques and challenges available, including, but not limited to, tight teamwork- oriented handling sequences, flow, distance, strategic games, and speed.

What we Offer:

- Challenging courses that require the handler /dog team to handle both work away sections and close proximately handling challenges without losing site of FLOW on course.
- Traditional Gamblers, Exciting new strategy games - Snakes 'N Ladders and Trigility
- Reasonable Course times for Standard and Jumpers (no tunnels in jumpers - because its called Jumpers)
- Multiple Divisions and Levels; Grandfathering In at Level and CH's in the works, 5'6" A- Frame; Clubs can use Slat or non-slat equipment; Rational Teeter calls
- Dogs on Course in North America will support an open line of communication for any proposed changes. This Communication will involve solicitation of and consideration of feedback and explanation of decisions.
- Competitors results available on line.

(Submitted by: Michelle VeuCasovic, Infinity Labradors)

LAST MONTH'S MEETING MINUTES

Attending: Jeanine Asch, Mike Merians, Tom & Stacy Quake, Pam Nichols, Dan & Judy Matice, Gary Cooper, Joyce Tuntland, Dave & Denise Misaras
 Guests: Leleya Tuntland, Paul & Carolyn Bilgalski

Meeting called to order at 7:37pm by President, Jeanine Asch.
 Secretary's Report- Minutes from May meeting read and approved.
 Treasurer's Report read and approved as printed
 Corresponding Secretary- absent

Old Business

Specialty Show- Diagram provided of our rings, which is along M-50. No dogs are allowed @ the Country Inn, any shared judges must stay there and we will be billed \$71 if used, RVs with Awnings will be charged for additional space used, Mock AKC Discipline Hearing Friday, September 30th, late in the day. Promedica is new ambulance service. Show insurance was discussed, Ribbons are being sought, Judges hospitality is \$25 if we utilize it, we usually take care of our own judges. Lunches- Denise checked with Tim Hortons, will check with Annie to see if she can just encompass Breakfast as well. Exact expenses will be explored. Pam Nichols is generously getting our decorations. Gary Cooper will get together a list for her.
Match Show- Optigen Clinic is set up, Gary Cooper and Pam Nichols are checking on local vet tech to draw blood from 5-7 pm at the Norgren's on Friday.

No other **meeting sites** have been explored. American Legion has fish fry night on Fridays and was packed.
Thank you's received from our donation from Baron's fund were read (included in the newsletter). The possibility of setting up donation cans at pet shops/fun match with his story was discussed.
 Gary Cooper knows of owner dying that has 3 labs if anyone has someone looking for an older dog.

New Business:

AKC Responsible Dog Ownership Day in September (month activity must be held in). Do we want to participate? Possible booth at Cabela's outdoor days, Jays Sporting Goods Puppy Parking Lot Days, Woods N Water Puppy day, Fred Trost's Puppy Days, DKC show, DU Expo to help combat the Silver, Labradoroodle, Cheap dog, take AKC Pamphlets, Breeder Directory, work on a tabletop type display and maybe an adult dog. It was agreed we as a club need to help our breed and do more community service, not just during Dog Ownership month, do more than put on a show as a club and provide a breeder directory.

Wicket for the club to purchase similar to JSLRC does. Mentioned ours is missing and we do not have one, one needed for us superintending our own specialty. Club must have one. Stacy will check with AKC and Laura Deidering on purchasing.

Solicitation of the club for **Lapel Pins**, mild interest, Jeanine will check on costs for club.
 Cake congratulating our club's recent run on new title holders was cut for everyone while we tackled a large, fun topic...

Continuing on the topic from the Dog Ownership Day and getting the club away from just putting on a show the possibility of **educational topics** offered at each meeting were discussed and consensus to move forward. These will not be fancy productions. Club member involvement will be main source of knowledge. We have some wonderful members with decades of experience, different areas of specialty/interest and approved AKC judges we are going to utilize. Sometimes we will pull an outside speaker, but monthly we don't want it to cost the club. List of suggested Topics was compiled from members attending and include: Whelping Boxes, Fronts (hands on with example dogs), Rears (hands on with example dogs), Movement (hands on with example dogs), AKC records/Inspections, Understanding Health clearances and tests available to Labradors, Understanding Agility, Obedience, Rally, CGC tests, How to Measure a Dog, Reviving Puppies (Nancy Chargo lead), Extended Semen (Pauline/Laura), Force Fetch (Kim Bryson?), Leader Dogs (possible tour of facility and talk by Bev), Handling/Showing dogs, Living with a Lab- how are they different, Puppy Evaluation, Dog Show Stories, The Long Journey to a Champion, Canine Reproduction (Dr. Schultz), Immunizations (Dr. Schultz), Internal Parasites (Stacy has presentation on). Topics that would be best in outdoor space should be arranged in summer months. The 'show' will take place after regular meeting business. It will usually be in an open/round table discussion type forum. If we can't learn from each other and the club why come to meetings? Attendance is down huge and people are tired of it being all business all the time.

Since we are all looking forward to the July meeting, this project will start at the August Meeting. Stacy will have a litter that will be 3 days shy of 8 weeks old at the August meeting she volunteered to bring if we wanted to have a discussion on puppy evaluation, what to not worry about at that age and what holds true at that age. We will need commentary and people's input.

8:39 Adjourn

Club Connection

IN OUR THOUGHTS-

Norm Norgren- Congratulations on retiring! Now take some time to enjoy the free time!

♥♥♥♥♥♥ HRLRC- THANK YOU!♥♥♥♥♥♥

Dear Officers, Board and Members,

Thank you for your generous contribution to help with the ACL surgery for Pilot Dog Baron, NOLRC has joined in the fund raising efforts for Baron and is taking the primary lead for raising the funds for Baron's surgeries. Because of generous people like you, Baron has had surgery on his right knee, and all of the expenses for the first surgery have been paid in full. Baron has completed the swim therapy sessions to strengthen the muscles in both knees and to help with recovery from the first surgery. Being a true Labrador retriever, he loved his swim therapy and will miss swimming twice a week. Dr. Fortholfer has released Baron to undergo the tibial plateau leveling osteotomy (TPLO) surgery to repair his left knee. Approximately 69% of the money needed to pay for the TPLO surgery has been raised. As soon as all of the money is in Baron's Good Samaritan fund, the TPLO surgery will be scheduled. Baron had an initial appointment with Dr. Daye at Metropolitan Veterinary Hospital, and Dr. Daye is very positive about Baron's full recovery. Baron is a very courageous dog, and even with two bum knees and on a leash, not in harness, he tries to guide Paula, his owner, around obstacles in his path.

Again, on behalf of Paula and Baron and the NOLRC, thank you for your kindness and generosity to this handsome Labrador Retriever. Sincerely, Geraldine Gaugler, President NOLRC

♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥

HRLRC-

*Thank you very much for your generous donation for Baron's surgery. He is doing wonderful!
Dr. Larry Fortholfer*

♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥

HRLRC-

It has taken me so long to write this because the words "Thank You" don't seem to be enough. The outpouring of caring and support and been enormous. My faith in the kindness of humanity has been restored. I now know there are people out there who will take the time to not only write a check or give a donation, but will tell others about Baron's needs and get them involved too. These are truly dedicated people and I will be eternally grateful for their help.

Baron is doing well. He's putting more and more weight on the leg and he is thoroughly enjoying his swim therapy.

The day the takes his first walk in harness at my side all of your time and concerns will be realized.

I thank you personally and I Thank the Lord for putting people like you on this earth and sending you to help someone you don't even know. It is appreciated more than you will ever know.

Baron is more than my dog. He's my companion, my partner, and with your help he will once again be the trusted guide who keeps me safe when we travel.

Again, Thank You and God Bless, Paula & Baron

Do you have something to add- news, birthdays, well wishes? Let's keep the Huron River family connected. Send it to the Newsletter Editor.

Important Industry News

New Mutation Test for prcd PRA Is Now Available

June 1, 2005, Press Release

Ithaca, NY: OptiGen, LLC, proudly announces identification of the gene causing canine prcd-PRA (progressive rod-cone degeneration form of Progressive Retinal Atrophy). The cause of this inherited blinding disease, occurring in at least a dozen purebreeds, is one specific mutation in the coding sequence of the gene. OptiGen now offers a direct gene mutation test (mutation test) to detect the prcd-PRA status of any dog among affected breeds.

This success results from years of extensive investigation by Dr. Gus Aguirre and Dr. Greg Acland and their research staff at Cornell University. Essential cooperation from multiple breed clubs and more recent participation by OptiGen completed the team. The research data defining this mutation are being prepared for publication in a scientific journal. Commenting on future work, Dr. Aguirre says: "Going forward, the biological action of the prcd gene in the retina will be studied, with goals of understanding the basis of this disease and searching for treatments or even, eventually, cures."

The new OptiGen prcd mutation test accurately detects the presence or absence of the mutant prcd disease gene copy. It replaces earlier OptiGen DNA-marker-based tests (marker tests) that detected changes in coding sequences of genes located near to and inherited with (linked to) the prcd gene. OptiGen henceforth defines result status based on the mutation test as "Normal/Clear" or "Carrier" or "Affected." Designation of Patterns A(A1), B(B1), and C(C1) for previous marker tests are retired.

While the basic research of Aguirre and Acland spans decades, OptiGen's prcd-PRA test evolved over the last 7 years, with the first marker test offered to Portuguese Water Dogs in 1998. Initially it detected false positive alleles. Subsequently, improved versions of the marker test analyzed coding sequence changes in more tightly linked genes and greatly reduced the frequency of false alleles. This improved marker test accuracy and gave an excellent estimate of prcd-PRA frequency within affected breeds.

A crucial set of information for proof of the prcd mutation was generated by OptiGen, according to Dr. Jeanette Felix, President. Between March 1, 2004 and May 31, 2005, OptiGen had added the potential mutation test to the standard marker test for all new samples from prcd-affected breeds in order to validate the identity of the mutation in large populations. Analysis now shows that the results are consistent between the marker test and the potential mutation test.

The prcd mutation test further improved accuracy over the marker test for Labrador Retrievers and Miniature and Toy Poodles. Only these groups will receive updated test reports by mail during June. For all other breeds, there was no difference in the outcome between marker and mutation tests. Given this match, OptiGen will not retest other breeds originally tested before March 1, 2004. All test reports that gave Pattern status can be interpreted as: Pattern (A)A1 = Normal/Clear; Pattern (B)B1 = Carrier; Pattern (C)C1 = Affected.

Statistics based on the new mutation test show that the frequency of prcd-PRA varies substantially among breeds, ranging between 4% to 20% affecteds and 20% to 50% carriers. Dr. Acland emphasizes: "Genetic testing used in informed breeding programs clearly is essential for preventing new cases of vision loss. I expect more genetic tests will be developed as canine genome research accelerates. Breeders with experience using the prcd-PRA test will be eager to make use of all new genetic information."

The prcd-PRA mutation test can be obtained following the same procedures as before - see www.optigen.com. As of June 1, 2005, the fee for the prcd-PRA test is reduced 25%, down to \$195. Opportunities for discounts for litters, through online ordering and 20/20 Clinics continue.

The Morris Animal Foundation/The Seeing Eye, Inc. is a major sponsor of research by Drs. Acland and Aguirre. Grants from the NEI/NIH, the Foundation Fighting Blindness and The Van Sloan Fund and contributions from many breed clubs, organizations and individuals are gratefully acknowledged. Many club health committees and breeders gave welcome encouragement as well as invaluable samples and information on their breed lines.

OptiGen, LLC, is a private company established to provide canine genetic tests to breeders and owners of purebred dogs, their veterinarians and other veterinary specialists. OptiGen holds an exclusive international license to the Cornell University

Jeanine Asch, President • Patty Wayne, Vice President • Judy Matice, Treasurer • Angela Ewald, Corresponding Secretary • Stacy Quake, Recording Secretary Board Members: Gary Cooper • Bill Gardner • Mike Merians • Pam Nichols • Barb Reisig-Paveglio

technology for prcd-PRA mutation testing, and exclusive and non-exclusive licenses to multiple other technologies developed at Cornell and elsewhere.

Added notes:

Price: The reduced price for the prcd-PRA mutation test is effective June 1, 2005. For samples received at OptiGen June 1st and after, credit cards will be charged the correct price, even if your online order indicated a higher price. If you sent a check and overpaid, you will receive a refund by mail. The 20/20 Clinic price now is \$US156 or \$US146.25 if ordered online. The Litter Rate price is \$US135 per pup.

Re-Testing with the prcd-PRA mutation test: You do **NOT** need to request or order a re-test if your dog was tested already. Only a sub-group of Labrador Retrievers and a subgroup of Poodles needed a re-test. These have already been done by OptiGen at no charge and re-test reports are in the mail. No other dogs require a re-test.

Labrador Retriever:

If you had Labs tested by OptiGen **PRIOR TO March 1, 2004**, at no added charge to you, we retested these dogs with the new mutation test and are issuing updated reports. These will be mailed by June 2nd. As part of the prcd mutation research, Labradors tested by OptiGen **AFTER March 1, 2004** already received reports based on the newly identified mutation. **These dogs do not need to be retested.** For reports dated March 1, 2004 through May 31, 2005, Patterns A1, B1 and C1 are equivalent to "Normal/Clear," "Carrier" and "Affected." Starting June 1, 2005, OptiGen reports define result status as "Normal/Clear" or "Carrier" or "Affected."

The PRA test for Labs has evolved over 6 years. From September 1999 to July 2003, test results were reported as Pattern A, B or C as determined by detecting DNA markers close to the prcd gene. We recognized and cautioned that there were false positives among these results. Beginning July 2003, based on an improved test with even better DNA markers, the results were reported as Pattern A1, B1 and C1. The frequency of false positives was substantially reduced with this improvement, but was not eliminated.

Another fault of DNA marker tests is the possibility of recombination between the markers and the disease gene. Recombination potentially can separate the markers from the disease gene and lead to incorrect conclusions about the dog's status. The OptiGen marker test found only three separate pedigrees in which recombination had occurred. These pedigrees were studied extensively to trace the recombination and arrive at the correct status for each dog. These pedigrees also provided information that was eventually helpful to identifying the prcd gene.

With the new prcd mutation test, the result for almost all retested dogs is the same as reported earlier. Some cases of false positives now improve from Pattern C1(C) to "Carrier" or "Normal/Clear" and from Pattern B1(B) to "Normal/Clear." There are no cases of false negatives and no downgrade in status based on the mutation test. Also, there had been a small group of Labs with "unresolved" status, as designated on their reports. The mutation test resolves the status of "unresolved" dogs.

The frequencies of "Normal/Clear" "Carrier" and "Affected" among OptiGen tested Labs shifts slightly based on results with the new prcd mutation test. Statistics to date show 76% of tested Labs are "Normal/Clear," 21% are "Carrier" and 3% are "Affected."

WHO does WHAT & WHERE can I find them???

Jeanine Asch	<i>President/New Membership/Bylaw/Adres Changes</i>	endeavorlabs@yahoo.com	586-582-0740
Patty Wayne	<i>Vice President</i>	patty@pathwaylabradors.com	248-625-9247
Judy Matice	<i>Treasurer/Membership Dues</i>	dmatice@voyager.net	989-224-4585
Angela Ewald	<i>Corresponding Secretary</i>	acewald@aol.com	810-686-4966
Stacy Quake	<i>Recording Secretary/Nwlster Editor</i>	HuntmorLabradors@earthlink.net	269-251-8398
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Bill Gardner	<i>Board Member</i>		248-437-8016
Mike Merians	<i>Board Member</i>	mikemerians@yahoo.com	517-546-0357
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Barb Reisig-Paveglio	<i>Board Member</i>	Inselheim@direcway.com	517-423-6374
Nancy Chargo	<i>Specialty Awards Chair</i>		810-686-0967
Cindy Skiba	<i>Specialty Raffle Chair</i>	epochlab@aol.com	989-662-9868
Annie Cogo	<i>Specialty Breakfast Chair</i>	windfall@sbcglobal.net	517-546-7722
Cathy Culpert	<i>Match Chair</i>	info@winsomelabs.com	248-634-1716
Sheila Norgren	<i>Health Clinic Chair</i>	normcc@aol.com	517-548-4037
Laura Reich	<i>Bylaw Revision/ Whelpin N Waggin</i>	Laura@Lor-AllLabs.com	248-969-6998
Pauline Mortier	<i>Bylaw Revision Committee</i>	PMortier@imsi.net	517-548-5429
Judy Trevino	<i>Bylaw Revision Committee</i>	Jalegra@aol.com	313-278-0351
Helen Bronson	<i>Sunshine Chair</i>		810-630-0515

CLUB SURVEY

Please order 10 topics that interest you 1-10 with 1 being the most desired...

- _____ Whelping Boxes
- _____ Fronts (hands on with example dogs)
- _____ Rears (hands on with example dogs)
- _____ Movement (hands on with example dogs)
- _____ AKC records/Inspections
- _____ Understanding Health clearances and tests available to Labradors
- _____ Understanding Agility, Obedience, Rally, CGC tests
- _____ How to Measure a Dog
- _____ Reviving Puppies (Nancy Chargo lead?)
- _____ Extended Semen (Pauline/Laura?)
- _____ Force Fetch (Kim Bryson?)
- _____ Leader Dogs (possible tour of facility and talk by Bev)
- _____ Handling/Showing dogs
- _____ Living with a Lab- how are they different
- _____ Puppy Evaluation (hands on with litter), Puppy Puzzle video?
- _____ Dog Show Stories
- _____ The Long Journey to a Champion
- _____ Canine Reproduction (Dr. Schultz?)
- _____ Immunizations (Dr. Schultz?)
- _____ Internal Parasites-Hookworms, Roundworms, Whipworms, Tapeworms, Heartworms, Stacy has professional presentation

_____ Fleas & Ticks – Stacy has professional Presentation

Do you have a topic that is not on the list? PLEASE don't be shy!!! Share you thoughts and mark and you would be willing to contribute as an informal speaker to (above or below), your favorite educational video may be a great place to start sharing with the club if it is short.....

Name (not mandatory) : _____

Return to Stacy Quake by Email (HuntmorLabradors@earthlink.net), Fax 269-273-1476 or Phone your thoughts 269-279-1034 or 269-251-8398- Snail Mail: 55342 River Road, Three Rivers, MI 49093